



Aurora Public Library Board

MEETING

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Hybrid – MA Room + Zoom

AGENDA

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
3. Presentation
 - .1 Maria Khoushnood, Lead Audit Engagement Partner,
KPMG Enterprise
Re: 2022 Audited Financial Statements SR2023.09 (enclosures)
Audit Findings Report, Management Representation Letter
4. Minutes of:
 - .1 April 19, 2023 Meeting *(enclosures)*
 - .2 May 3, 2023 Special Board Meeting
5. Items for Consideration
 - .1 Intellectual Freedom Report 2023.10 *(enclosure)*
 - .2 Board Committees discussion
6. Library CEO Updates
 - .1 CEO Updates *(verbal report)*
7. General Business Information/Questions
 - .1 APL Updates
8. Member Announcements
9. Date of Next Meeting: **Wednesday, September 20, 2023**
10. Adjournment

**** Please advise Maida Rae of regrets for attendance, by noon on June 14th, 2023 (mrae@aurorapl.ca)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87912784941>

Meeting ID: 879 1278 4941

Passcode: 109449

One tap mobile

+17789072071,,87912784941# Canada

+17806660144,,87912784941# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+1 780 666 0144 Canada

+1 204 272 7920 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

Meeting ID: 879 1278 4941

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87912784941>

Aurora Public Library Board
Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2022

Aurora Public Library Board
Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2022

	Contents
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Financial Statements	
Statement of Financial Position	3
Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus	4
Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets (Debt)	5
Statement of Cash Flows	6
Notes to the Financial Statements	7

Aurora Public Library Board
Statement of Financial Position

December 31	2022	2021
Financial assets		
Cash	\$ 67,003	\$ 20,532
Receivable from the Corporation of the Town of Aurora (note 2)	<u>803,001</u>	<u>466,064</u>
	<u>870,004</u>	<u>486,596</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	345,835	166,205
Employee benefits liabilities (note 4)	<u>129,275</u>	<u>108,848</u>
	<u>475,110</u>	<u>275,053</u>
Net financial assets	<u>394,894</u>	<u>211,543</u>
Non-financial assets		
Tangible capital assets (note 5)	3,127,982	3,331,166
Prepaid expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>5,975</u>
Accumulated surplus (note 6)	<u>\$ 3,522,876</u>	<u>\$ 3,548,684</u>

On behalf of the Board

_____ Aurora Public Library Board Chair

_____ Chief Executive Officer

Aurora Public Library Board

Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus

For the year ended December 31	Budget 2022 (note 7)	2022	2021
Revenue			
Town of Aurora funding	\$ 3,934,100	\$ 3,934,100	\$ 3,896,100
Provincial operating grants	45,425	45,422	45,422
Fines and user fees	2,600	10,437	3,267
Interest and other	1,000	22,780	31,817
	3,983,125	4,012,739	3,976,606
Expenses			
Salaries and employee benefits	3,024,515	2,940,109	2,693,155
Services and rent	234,060	184,908	237,843
Materials and supplies	355,550	384,591	382,241
Amortization	528,939	528,939	545,050
	4,143,064	4,038,547	3,858,289
Annual surplus (deficit)	(159,939)	(25,808)	118,317
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year		3,548,684	3,430,367
Accumulated surplus, end of year		\$ 3,522,876	\$ 3,548,684

Aurora Public Library Board
Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets (Debt)

For the year ended December 31	Budget 2022 (note 7)	2022	2021
Annual surplus (deficit)	\$ (159,939)	\$ (25,808)	\$ 118,317
Amortization of tangible capital assets	528,939	528,939	545,050
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(325,755)	(325,755)	(304,159)
Change in prepaid expenses	5,975	5,975	-
Change in net financial assets	49,220	183,351	359,208
Net financial assets (debt), beginning of year	211,543	211,543	(147,665)
Net financial assets, end of year	\$ 260,763	\$ 394,894	\$ 211,543

Aurora Public Library Board

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31	2022	2021
Operating transactions		
Annual surplus (deficit)	\$ (25,808)	\$ 118,317
Non-cash charges to operations:		
Amortization	528,939	545,050
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Receivable from the Corporation of the Town of Aurora	(336,937)	(426,924)
Other receivables	-	19,081
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	179,630	29,498
Employee benefits liabilities	20,427	16,320
Prepaid expenses	5,975	-
Total Operating Transactions	372,226	301,342
Capital transactions		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(325,755)	(304,159)
Increase (Decrease) in cash	46,471	(2,817)
Cash, beginning of year	20,532	23,349
Cash, end of year	\$ 67,003	\$ 20,532

December 31, 2022

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Management's Responsibility

The financial statements of the Aurora Public Library Board (the "Board") are the responsibility of management. They have been prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards established by the Public Sector Accounting Board ("PSAB") of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada. The Board is a registered charity and as such, is exempt from income tax under the Canadian Income Tax Act, and may issue income tax receipts to donors. Its primary role is to provide library services to the general public.

(b) Basis of Accounting

Revenue and expenses are reported on the accrual basis of accounting whereby revenue is recognized as it is earned and measurable; and expenses are recognized in the period that goods and services are acquired, a liability is incurred, or transfers are due.

(c) Revenue Recognition

Revenues are recognized as follows:

- a) Grants
 - Conditional grant revenue is recognized to the extent the conditions imposed on it have been fulfilled.
 - Unconditional grant revenue is recognized when monies are receivable.
- b) Fine and user fee revenue is recognized in the period in which it is collected.
- c) Interest and other income is recognized in the period it is earned.

(d) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. The principal estimates used in the preparation of these financial statements are the employee benefits liabilities, the estimated useful lives of tangible capital assets and valuation of tangible capital assets. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.

(e) Government Transfers

Government transfers are recognized in the financial statements in the period in which the events giving rise to the transfer occur, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria have been met, and reasonable estimates of the amounts can be made.

Aurora Public Library Board
Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(f) Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are non-financial assets that are not generally available to discharge existing liabilities and are held for use in the provision of services. They have useful lives extending beyond the current year and are not intended for sale in the ordinary course of operations.

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost, less accumulated amortization. Cost includes all costs directly attributable to acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the tangible capital asset including transportation costs, installation costs, design and engineering fees, legal fees and site preparation costs. Amortization is recorded on a straight-line basis over the estimated life of the tangible capital asset using the following rates:

Library collection	7 years
Equipment	4 - 10 years
Furniture	10 - 20 years

One half of the annual amortization is charged in the year of acquisition and in the year of disposal.

Tangible capital assets under construction are not amortized until such time that they are available for productive use.

Tangible capital assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that a tangible capital asset no longer contributes to the Board's ability to provide goods and services or that the value of the future economic benefits associated with the tangible capital assets is below the carrying value. Tangible capital assets to be disposed of would be separately presented in the statement of financial position and reported at the lower of the carrying amount or fair value less costs to sell, and are no longer amortized. The tangible capital assets classified as held-for-sale would be presented separately in the appropriate asset section of the statement of financial position. No impairment was identified during the year.

(g) Non-pension Post-employment Benefits, Compensated Absences & Termination Benefits

The Board accrues its obligations under employee benefit plans as the employees render the services necessary to earn employee future benefits. The Board has adopted the following valuation methods and assumptions:

- a) Actuarial cost method:
Accrued benefit obligations are computed using the projected benefit method prorated on service, as defined in PSAB 3250 and PSAB 3255. The objective under this method is to expense each member's benefit under the plan taking into consideration projections of benefit costs to and during retirement. Under this method an equal portion of total estimated future benefit is attributed to each year of service.
- b) Accounting policies:
Actuarial gains and losses are amortized on a linear basis over the expected average remaining service life ("EARSLS") (expected remaining payment period in respect of the retiring allowance) of members expected to receive benefits under the plan, with amortization commencing in the period following the determination of the gain

Aurora Public Library Board

Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

or loss. Obligations are attributed to the period beginning on the member's date of hire and ending on the expected date of termination, death or retirement, depending on the benefit value.

(h) Pension agreements

The Board makes contributions to the Ontario Municipal Employees' Retirement System ("OMERS"), a multi-employer public sector pension fund, based on the principles of a defined benefit plan, which specifies the amount of the retirement benefit to be received by the employees on the basis of predefined retirement age, length of eligible service and rates of remuneration over a fixed period of time.

Because OMERS is a multi-employer pension plan, any pension plan surpluses or deficits are a joint responsibility of all participating Ontario employers and their employees. As a result, the Board does not recognize any share of the OMERS pension surplus or deficit. Accordingly, contributions made during the year are expensed.

2. Receivable from the Corporation of the Town of Aurora

At the end of the year, the amount due from the Corporation of the Town of Aurora ("the Town") is as follows:

	2022	2021
Receivable from the Town	\$ 803,001	\$ 466,064

The Town provides the facilities, including utilities and maintenance for the Board's operations for \$NIL consideration.

3. Pension Agreements

OMERS provides pension services to almost 500,000 active and retired members and approximately 1,000 employers. Each year an independent actuary determines the funding status of OMERS Primary Pension Plan (the Plan) by comparing the actuarial value of invested assets to the estimated present value of all pension benefits that members have earned to date. The most recent actuarial valuation of the Plan was conducted at December 31, 2022. The results of this valuation disclosed total actuarial liabilities of \$130,306 million in respect of benefits accrued for service with actuarial assets at that date of \$123,628 million indicating an actuarial deficit of \$6,678 million. Because OMERS is a multi-employer plan, any pension plan surpluses or deficits are a joint responsibility of Ontario municipal organizations and their employees. As a result, the Board does not recognize any share of the OMERS pension surplus or deficit.

Contributions made by the Board to OMERS in 2022 ranged from 9.0% to 14.6% depending on the level of earnings. As a result, \$212,763 (2021 - \$212,308) was contributed to OMERS for current year services.

Aurora Public Library Board
Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

4. Employee Benefits Liabilities

	2022	2021
Post-employment benefits - accrued obligation	\$ 64,950	\$ 59,473
Accrued sick leave	64,325	49,375
	<u>\$ 129,275</u>	<u>\$ 108,848</u>

Post-employment benefits

Post-employment benefits are health and dental benefits that are provided to early retirees and employees currently on long-term disability. The Board recognized these post-employment costs as they are earned during the employee's tenure of service.

	2022	2021
Post-employment benefits accrued obligation, beginning of year	\$ 154,644	\$ 146,870
Add: Benefit expense	23,188	21,964
Interest cost	5,524	5,186
Less: Benefits paid for the period	(16,831)	(19,376)
Post-employment benefits accrued obligation, end of year	<u>166,525</u>	<u>154,644</u>
Unamortized actuarial losses	<u>(37,250)</u>	<u>(45,796)</u>
Post-employment benefits - accrued benefit liabilities	<u>\$ 129,275</u>	<u>\$ 108,848</u>

The accrued benefit obligations for the Board's post-employment benefits liability as at December 31, 2021 are based on actuarial valuations for accounting purposes as at December 31, 2019 with projections to December 31, 2022. These actuarial valuations were based on assumptions about future events. The economic assumptions used in these valuations are management's best estimates of expected rates of:

	2022	2021
Expected future inflation rates	2.00%	1.75%
Discount on accrued benefit obligations	5.00%	3.50%
Drug costs escalation	6.00%	6.75%
Other health care costs escalation	6.00%	6.75%
Dental costs escalation	4.00%	3.75%

Amortization of actuarial losses during the year was \$8,546 (2021 - \$8,546). The amount of benefits paid during the year was \$11,888 (2021 - \$11,029).

Aurora Public Library Board
Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

5. Tangible Capital Assets

	2022				
	Library Collection	Equipment	Furniture	Leasehold Improve- ments	Total
Cost					
Balance, beginning of year	\$2,598,619	\$ 783,523	\$ 971,394	\$2,077,521	\$6,431,057
Add: Additions during the year	224,413	23,403	77,939	-	325,755
Less: Disposals during the year	(352,956)	-	-	-	(352,956)
Balance, end of year	<u>2,470,076</u>	<u>806,926</u>	<u>1,049,333</u>	<u>2,077,521</u>	<u>6,403,856</u>
Accumulated amortization					
Balance, beginning of year	1,620,379	656,332	650,053	173,127	3,099,891
Add: Amortization during the year	308,264	35,965	69,292	115,418	528,939
Less: Disposals during the year	(352,956)	-	-	-	(352,956)
Balance, end of year	<u>1,575,687</u>	<u>692,297</u>	<u>719,345</u>	<u>288,545</u>	<u>3,275,874</u>
Net book value	<u>\$ 894,389</u>	<u>\$ 114,629</u>	<u>\$ 329,988</u>	<u>\$1,788,976</u>	<u>\$3,127,982</u>

Aurora Public Library Board
Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

5. Tangible Capital Assets Continued

	2021				
	Library Collection	Equipment	Furniture	Leasehold Improve- ments	Total
Cost					
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 2,719,138	\$ 733,208	\$ 964,666	\$ 2,077,521	\$ 6,494,533
Add: Additions during the year	247,116	50,315	6,728	-	304,159
Less: Disposals during the year	(367,635)	-	-	-	(367,635)
Balance, end of year	<u>2,598,619</u>	<u>783,523</u>	<u>971,394</u>	<u>2,077,521</u>	<u>6,431,057</u>
Accumulated amortization					
Balance, beginning of year	1,659,645	620,838	584,284	57,709	2,922,476
Add: Amortization during the year	328,369	35,494	65,769	115,418	545,050
Less: Amortization on disposals	(367,635)	-	-	-	(367,635)
Balance, end of year	<u>1,620,379</u>	<u>656,332</u>	<u>650,053</u>	<u>173,127</u>	<u>3,099,891</u>
Net book value	<u>\$ 978,240</u>	<u>\$ 127,191</u>	<u>\$ 321,341</u>	<u>\$ 1,904,394</u>	<u>\$ 3,331,166</u>

Aurora Public Library Board
Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

6. Accumulated Surplus

Accumulated surplus is comprised of the following:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Surpluses		
General revenue	\$ (261,859)	\$ (261,075)
Invested in tangible capital assets	3,127,982	3,331,166
Less: employee benefit liabilities	<u>(129,275)</u>	<u>(108,848)</u>
Total surpluses	<u>2,736,848</u>	<u>2,961,243</u>
Reserves		
General capital reserve	739,810	542,316
Aurora Public Library Board Donation and Bequest Reserve	<u>46,218</u>	<u>45,125</u>
Total reserves	<u>786,028</u>	<u>587,441</u>
Accumulated surplus	<u><u>\$ 3,522,876</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,548,684</u></u>

Invested in tangible capital assets

The investment in tangible capital assets represents amounts already spent and invested in infrastructure and other non-financial assets.

General Capital Reserve

The Town Council has approved any of the Board's operating surplus in a year to be returned to the Town of Aurora.

Aurora Public Library Board Donation and Bequest Reserve

The Board has approved a reserve named "The Aurora Public Library Board Donation and Bequest Reserve" ("ALB Donation & Bequest") for future specified/significant donations and bequests received to support special programs or initiatives outside of the annual operating budget. Funds are transferred from the reserve for approved expenditures. If such funds are not fully expended in the approval year, they are held as Unexpended Funds.

Library Service Development Charges

The Town levies, collects and holds development charges, a component of which is specifically to fund expansion of library services to accommodate growth. Allocations from these funds are approved by the Library Board as part of the annual budget process. Currently, the Town holds \$1,611,973 (2021 - \$1,192,847) of the Library Service related development charges in their segregated development charges accounts. This reserve fund is not reflected in these financial statements.

Aurora Public Library Board
Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

7. Budget Reconciliation

The Budget for 2022 adopted by the Board on October 20, 2021 was prepared on a basis not consistent with that used to report actual results (Canadian public sector accounting standards). The budget was prepared on a modified accrual basis, while Canadian public sector accounting standards now require financial statements to be prepared on a full accrual basis. Accordingly, the budget expensed all tangible capital expenditures rather than including an amortization expense. As a result, the budget figures presented in the statements of operations and change in net financial assets represent the 2022 budget adopted by the Board with adjustments as follows:

	Revenue	Expense	Net
Approved net operating funding from the Town of Aurora	\$ 3,934,100	\$ 3,934,100	\$ -
Budgeted grant, fines and user fees	49,025	49,025	-
Total Board approved budget	\$ 3,983,125	\$ 3,983,125	\$ -
 Less: capitalized to TCA from operating accounts	-	(189,000)	189,000
transfers to/from other funds	-	(180,000)	180,000
amortization expense	-	528,939	(528,939)
 Adjusted budget per the statement of operations	 \$ 3,983,125	 \$ 4,143,064	 \$ (159,939)



Aurora Public Library Board

**Audit Findings Report
for the year ended December 31, 2022**

KPMG LLP

Licensed Public Accountants

Prepared on May 25, 2023

Presentation on June 14, 2023

kpmg.ca/audit



KPMG contacts

Key contacts in connection with this engagement



Maria Khoushnood

Lead Audit Engagement Partner

416-228-7082

mkhoushnood@kpmg.ca



Queenia Yang

Audit Senior Manager

416-549-7973

qyang@kpmg.ca

Table of contents



Digital use information

This Audit Findings Report is also available as a “hyper-linked” PDF document.

If you are reading in electronic form (e.g. In “Adobe Reader” or “Board Books”), clicking on any item in the table of contents to navigate to that section.

4

Audit highlights

5

Status of the audit

6

Materiality

7

Audit risks and results

10

Uncorrected audit misstatements

11

Additional matters

12

Audit quality

13

Appendices


Audit highlights

Status of the audit



We have completed the audit of the financial statements ("financial statements"), with the exception of certain remaining outstanding procedures, which are highlighted on page 5 of this report.

Significant changes to auditing standards

There is a newly effective auditing standard –CAS 315 CAS 315 (Revised) *Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement* 
Refer to appendix B for further information on the new standard.

Audit risks and results – significant risks

No matters to report.

Audit risks and results – going concern assessment

No matters to report.

Uncorrected audit misstatements



Professional standards require that we request of management and the Board that all identified audit misstatements be corrected. We have already made this request of management.

A summary of the impact of the uncorrected audit misstatements is on slide 10 of this report.

Corrected audit misstatements

No matters to report.

Significant unusual transactions

No matters to report.

Control deficiencies

We did not identify any control deficiencies that we determined to be significant deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting.

Accounting policies and practices

Significant accounting policies and practices are disclosed in note 1 to the financial statements.

- There were no changes to any significant accounting policies;
- No application of new accounting pronouncements in the current year.

Other financial reporting matters

No matters to report.

Status of the audit

As of the date of this report, we have completed the audit of the financial statements, except for certain remaining procedures, which include amongst others:

- Receipt of the signed management representation letter (dated and signed upon Board approval of the financial statements);
- Completion of subsequent events procedures up to the date of approval of the financial statements;
- Completing our discussions with the Board of Directors;
- Obtaining evidence of the Board's approval of the financial statements.

We will update you on significant matters, if any, arising from the completion of the audit, including the completion of the above procedures.

Our auditor's report, a draft of which is appended to the draft financial statements, will be dated upon the completion of any remaining procedures.

KPMG Clara for Clients (KCfc)



Real-time collaboration and transparency

We leveraged **KCfc** to facilitate real-time collaboration with your team and provide visual insights into the status of the audit!

On your audit we used KCfc to coordinate requests from City employees.

[Learn more](#)

Materiality



Materiality

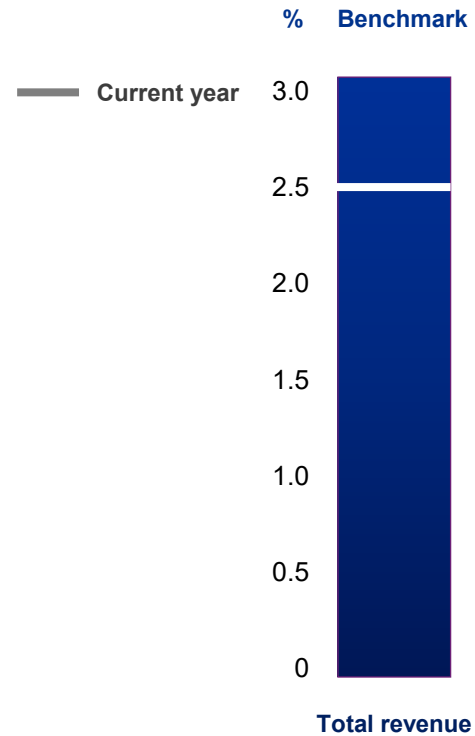
\$100,000

Total Revenue (December 31, 2022)

\$4,012,000

**Audit Misstatement Posting Threshold
(AMPT)**

\$5,000



Significant risks and results



Presumed Fraud risk from management override of controls and revenue recognition

Significant risk

Estimate?

Management override of controls:

Management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of its ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. Although the level of risk of management override of controls will vary from entity to entity, the risk nevertheless is present in all entities.

No

Revenue recognition:

This is a presumed fraud risk under the auditing standards for all audit engagements. We have rebutted this fraud risk, as revenue recognition does not involve elements of significant judgement.

No

Our response and findings

Management override of controls:

- As this risk is not rebuttable, our audit methodology incorporated the required procedures in professional standards to address this risk.
- These procedures included the testing of journal entries and other adjustments, performing a retrospective review of estimates and evaluating the business rationale of significant unusual transaction.
- We did not identify any issues or concerns regarding management override of controls.

Other findings and results



Employee benefits liability

Other significant finding

Employee future benefits represent a liability computed by management's actuarial experts. As the employee future benefits liabilities are significant and complex estimates, KPMG actuarial specialists were involved in completing the audit procedures.

Estimate?

Yes – Employee future benefits obligation/liability

Our response

- We assessed the participant data supplied by management to the actuary for completeness and accuracy.
- We obtained the actuarial valuation report and engaged our KPMG actuarial specialist team to audit the method and assumptions applied in the valuation.
- We evaluated the discount rate in comparison with rates issued by the Nexus Actuarial Consultants Ltd. ("Nexus") and KPMG LLP.
- We assessed the qualifications, competence and objectivity of the actuary as required by the Canadian auditing standards.
- We assessed the disclosures in the financial statements against the requirements of the PSAS.

Our findings

- Based on our review of the report prepared by the actuary, we noted that the method applied for the estimate is acceptable per the Canadian Institute of Actuaries and Public Sector Accounting Standards (PSAS) 3250 Retirement Benefits.
- We noted that the discount rate used by the actuary is a key assumption. Discount rates of 3.50% (2021 – 3.50%) were used for the determination of the liability. We evaluated the discount rates against the discount rate curve issued by different reliable sources including CIA, FIERA and KPMG LLP. Our actuarial specialists assessed the discount rate and other assumptions using actuarial techniques and market data. Based on this evaluation, we concluded that the discount rates used are reasonable.
- The disclosures included in the financial statements are in accordance with the requirements of the public sector accounting standards.
- Based on the audit work performed, we did not note any issues related to the calculation of the Library's employee benefits liability as at December 31, 2022.
- The employee benefit liability as at December 31, 2022 are outlined in note 4 to the financial statements.

Other findings and results



Tangible capital assets

Other significant finding

Tangible capital assets present the biggest non-financial asset for the Library. There is a risk of material misstatement related to the existence and accuracy of tangible capital assets and accuracy of timing of revenue recognition, particularly related to funds intended for tangible capital assets.

Estimate?

No

Our response and findings

- We reviewed on a sample basis the additions to tangible capital assets and noted that management has appropriately capitalized the additions. We obtained assurance related to the accuracy and existence of these additions and also assessed if these additions met the criteria for capitalization.
- We obtained amortization policy and assessed reasonableness of estimated useful lives in use and to address the requirements of new CAS540, Auditing Accounting Estimates and Related Disclosure related to useful lives.
- We reviewed financial statement note disclosure in line with the PSAS.
- There were no other significant findings as a result of our audit procedures for tangible capital assets. The amounts reported for tangible capital assets are reasonable and disclosures in the financial statements are in accordance with the Public Sector Accounting Standards.

Uncorrected audit misstatements

Uncorrected audit misstatements include financial presentation and disclosure omissions.



Impact of uncorrected audit misstatements – Not material to the financial statements

The management representation letter includes the Summary of Uncorrected Audit Misstatements, which discloses the impact of all uncorrected misstatements considered to be other than clearly trivial.

- There was one uncorrected misstatement presenting an unrecorded vacation accrual in 2021 for \$45,952. This is an out of period error and is reported as an uncorrected adjustment as immaterial out of period errors are corrected through current year. Immaterial prior period errors do not require a restatement of comparative information. Ending balances as at current year end are correct.

When we compared current year's accrued liabilities with the prior year's, we noted that the Library did not book vacation accrual in 2021. Based on both qualitative and quantitative considerations, management has decided not to correct the misstatement and represented to us that the misstatement — individually and in the aggregate — is, in their judgment, not material to the financial statements. This management representation is included in the management representation letter.

We concur with management's representation that the uncorrected misstatement is not material to the financial statements. Accordingly, the uncorrected misstatement has no effect on our auditor's report.

Significant accounting policies and practices



Initial selections of significant accounting policies and practices

None in 2022.



Description of new or revised significant accounting policies and practices

None in 2022.



Significant qualitative aspects of the Company's accounting policies and practices

Significant accounting policies are disclosed in Note 1 to the financial statements

Audit quality: How do we deliver audit quality?

Quality essentially means doing the right thing and remains our highest priority. Our **Global Quality Framework** outlines how we deliver quality and how every partner and staff member contributes to its delivery.

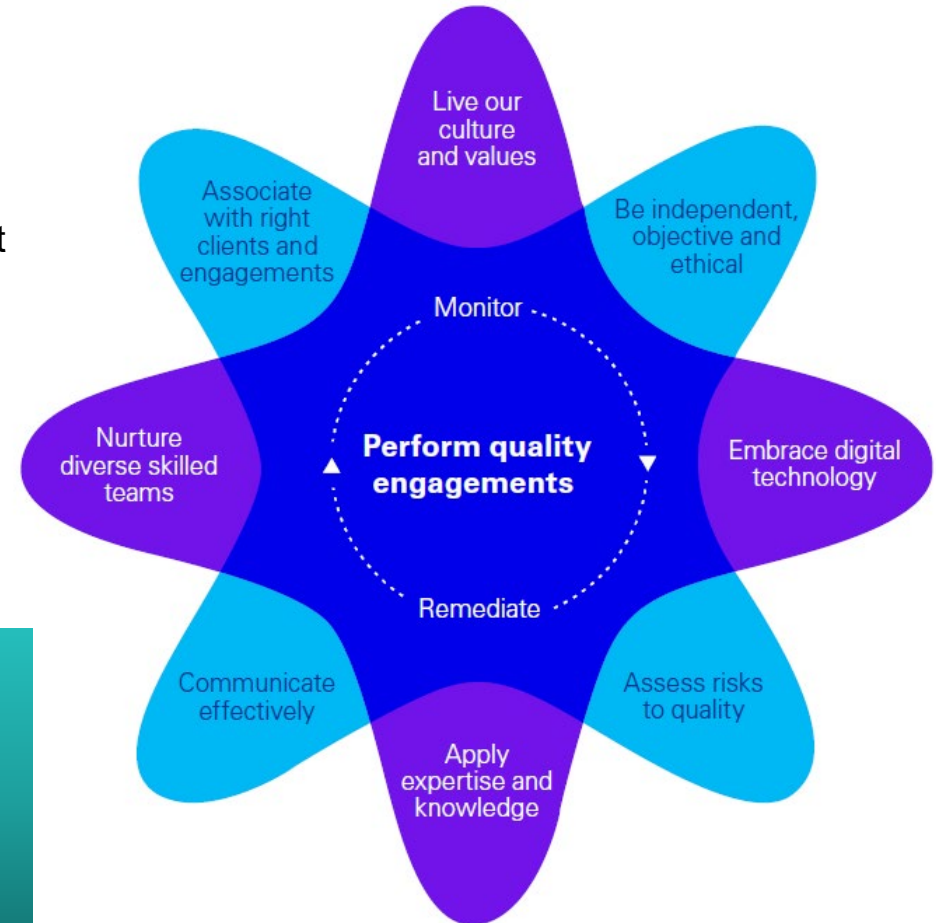
Perform quality engagement sits at the core along with our commitment to continually monitor and remediate to fulfil on our quality drivers.

Our **quality value drivers** are the cornerstones to our approach underpinned by the **supporting drivers** and give clear direction to encourage the right behaviours in delivering audit quality.

 [KPMG 2022 Audit Quality and Transparency Report](#)

We define 'audit quality' as being the outcome when:

- audits are **executed consistently**, in line with the requirements and intent of **applicable professional standards** within a strong **system of quality controls**; and
- all of our related activities are undertaken in an environment of the utmost level of **objectivity, independence, ethics and integrity**.



Appendices

A

Other required communications

B

Newly effective auditing standards

C

Changes in accounting standards

D

Environmental, social and governance (ESG)

E

Audit and assurance insights

Appendix A: Other required communications



Engagement terms

A copy of the engagement letter and any subsequent amendments has been provided to the Board.



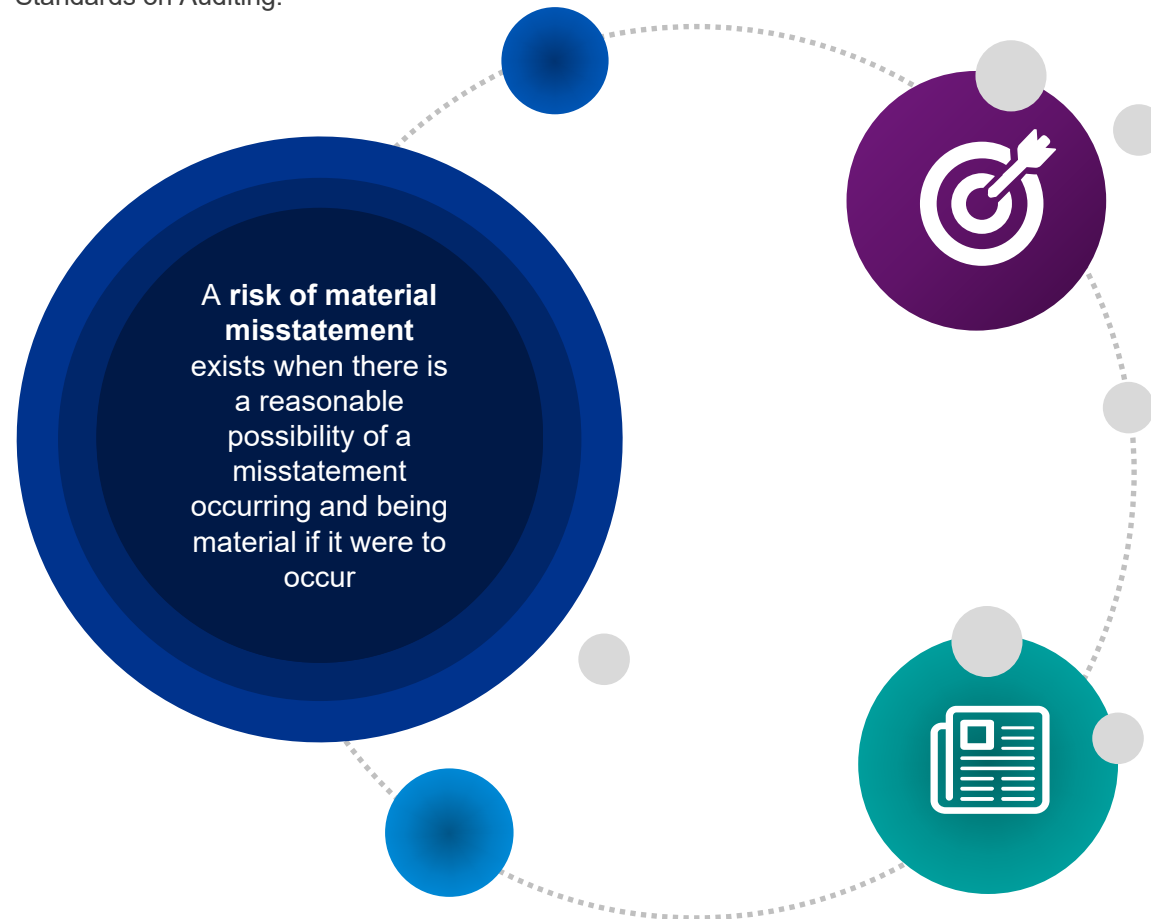
CPAB communication protocol

The reports available through the following links were published by the Canadian Public Accountability Board to inform Audit Committees and other stakeholders about the results of quality inspections conducted over the past year:

- [CPAB Audit Quality Insights Report: 2021 Annual Inspections Results](#)
- [CPAB Audit Quality Insights Report: 2022 Annual Inspections Results](#)

Appendix B: Newly effective auditing standards

CAS 315 (Revised) Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement has been revised, reorganized and modernized in response to challenges and issues with the previous standard. It aims to promote consistency in application, improve scalability, reduce complexity, support a more robust risk assessment and incorporate enhanced guidance material to respond to the evolving environment, including in relation to information technology. Conforming and consequential amendments have been made to other International Standards on Auditing.



Affects both preparers of financial statements and auditors

Applies to audits of financial statements for periods beginning on or after 15 December 2021

See here for more information from CPA Canada



We design and perform risk assessment procedures to obtain an understanding of the:

- entity and its environment;
- applicable financial reporting framework; and
- entity's system of internal control.

The audit evidence obtained from this understanding provides a basis for:

- identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- the design of audit procedures that are responsive to the assessed risks of material misstatement.

Appendix B: Newly effective auditing standards (continued)

Key change	Impact on the audit team	Impact on management
<p>Overall, a more robust risk identification and assessment process, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New requirement to take into account how, and the degree to which, 'inherent risk factors' affect the susceptibility of relevant assertions to misstatement• New concept of significant classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures and relevant assertions to help us to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement• New requirement to separately assess inherent risk and control risk for each risk of material misstatement• Revised definition of significant risk for those risks which are close to the upper end of the spectrum of inherent risk	<p>When assessing inherent risk for identified risks of material misstatement, we consider the degree to which inherent risk factors (such as complexity, subjectivity, uncertainty, change, susceptibility to management bias) affect the susceptibility of assertions to misstatement.</p> <p>We use the concept of the spectrum of inherent risk to assist us in making a judgement, based on the likelihood and magnitude of a possible misstatement, on a range from higher to lower, when assessing risks of material misstatement</p> <p>The changes may affect our assessments of the risks of material misstatement and the design of our planned audit procedures to respond to identified risks of material misstatement.</p> <p>If we do not plan to test the operating effectiveness of controls, the risk of material misstatement is the same as the assessment of inherent risk.</p>	<p>If the effect of this consideration is that our assessment of the risks of material misstatement is higher, then our audit approach may increase the number of controls tested and/or the extent of that testing, and/or our substantive procedures will be designed to be responsive to the higher risk.</p> <p>We may perform different audit procedures and request different information compared to previous audits, as part of a more focused response to the effects identified inherent risk factors have on the assessed risks of material misstatement.</p>

Appendix B: Newly effective auditing standards (continued)

Key change	Impact on the audit team	Impact on management
Overall, a more robust risk identification and assessment process, including evaluating whether the audit evidence obtained from risk assessment procedures provides an appropriate basis to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement	When making this evaluation, we consider all audit evidence obtained, whether corroborative or contradictory to management assertions. If we conclude the audit evidence obtained does not provide an appropriate basis, then we perform additional risk assessment procedures until audit evidence has been obtained to provide such a basis.	In certain circumstances, we may perform additional risk assessment procedures, which may include further inquiries of management, analytical procedures, inspection and/or observation.
Overall, a more robust risk identification and assessment process, including performing a 'stand back' at the end of the risk assessment process	We evaluate whether our determination that certain material classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures have no identified risks of material misstatement remains appropriate.	In certain circumstances, this evaluation may result in the identification of additional risks of material misstatement, which will require us to perform additional audit work to respond to these risks.

Appendix B: Newly effective auditing standards (continued)

Key change	Impact on the audit team	Impact on management
Modernized to recognize the evolving environment, including in relation to IT	<p>New requirement to understand the extent to which the business model integrates the use of IT.</p> <p>When obtaining an understanding of the IT environment, including IT applications and supporting IT infrastructure, it has been clarified that we also understand the IT processes and personnel involved in those processes relevant to the audit.</p> <p>Based on the identified controls we plan to evaluate, we are required to identify the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IT applications and other aspects of the IT environment relevant to those controls• related risks arising from the use of IT and the entity's general IT controls that address them. <p>Examples of risks that may arise from the use of IT include unauthorized access or program changes, inappropriate data changes, risks from the use of external or internal service providers for certain aspects of the entity's IT environment or cybersecurity risks.</p>	<p>We will expand our risk assessment procedures and are likely to engage more extensively with your IT and other relevant personnel when obtaining an understanding of the entity's use of IT, the IT environment and potential risks arising from IT. This might require increased involvement of IT audit professionals.</p> <p>Changes in the entity's use of IT and/or the IT environment may require increased audit effort to understand those changes and affect our assessment of the risks of material misstatement and audit response.</p> <p>Risks arising from the use of IT and our evaluation of general IT controls may affect our control risk assessments, and decisions about whether we test the operating effectiveness of controls for the purpose of placing reliance on them or obtain more audit evidence from substantive procedures. They may also affect our strategy for testing information that is produced by, or involves, the entity's IT applications.</p>
Enhanced requirements relating to exercising professional skepticism	<p>New requirement to design and perform risk assessment procedures in a manner that is not biased toward obtaining audit evidence that may be corroborative or toward excluding audit evidence that may be contradictory. Strengthened documentation requirements to demonstrate the exercise of professional scepticism.</p>	<p>We may make changes to the nature, timing and extent of our risk assessment procedures, such as our inquiries of management, the activities we observe or the accounting records we inspect.</p>

Appendix B: Newly effective auditing standards (continued)

Key change	Impact on the audit team	Impact on management
Clarification of which controls need to be identified for the purpose of evaluating the design and implementation of a control	<p>We will evaluate the design and implementation of controls that address risks of material misstatement at the assertion level as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Controls that address a significant risk.• Controls over journal entries, including non-standard journal entries.• Other controls we consider appropriate to evaluate to enable us to identify and assess risks of material misstatement and design our audit procedures	<p>We may identify new or different controls that we plan to evaluate the design and implementation of, and possibly test the operating effectiveness to determine if we can place reliance on them.</p> <p>We may also identify risks arising from IT relating to the controls we plan to evaluate, which may result in the identification of general IT controls that we also need to evaluate and possibly test whether they are operating effectively. This may require increased involvement of IT audit specialists.</p>

Appendix C: Changes in accounting standards

Standard	Summary and implications
Asset retirement obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The new standard PS 3280 <i>Asset retirement obligations</i> is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2022.• The new standard addresses the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of legal obligations associated with retirement of tangible capital assets. Retirement costs will be recognized as an integral cost of owning and operating tangible capital assets.• The asset retirement obligations (“ARO”) standard will require the public sector entity to record a liability related to future costs of any legal obligations to be incurred upon retirement of any controlled tangible capital assets (“TCA”). The amount of the initial liability will be added to the historical cost of the asset and amortized over its useful life if the asset is in productive use.• As a result of the new standard, the public sector entity will:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider how the additional liability will impact net debt, as a new liability will be recognized with no corresponding increase in a financial asset;• Carefully review legal agreements, senior government directives and legislation in relation to all controlled TCA to determine if any legal obligations exist with respect to asset retirements;• Begin considering the potential effects on the organization as soon as possible to coordinate with resources outside the finance department to identify ARO and obtain information to estimate the value of potential ARO to avoid unexpected issues.

Appendix C: Changes in accounting standards (continued)

Standard	Summary and implications
Financial instruments and foreign currency translation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new standards PS 3450 <i>Financial instruments</i>, PS 2601 <i>Foreign currency translation</i>, PS 1201 <i>Financial statement presentation</i> and PS 3041 <i>Portfolio investments</i> are effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2022. • Equity instruments quoted in an active market and free-standing derivatives are to be carried at fair value. All other financial instruments, including bonds, can be carried at cost or fair value depending on the public sector entity's choice and this choice must be made on initial recognition of the financial instrument and is irrevocable. • Hedge accounting is not permitted. • A new statement, the Statement of Remeasurement Gains and Losses, will be included in the financial statements. Unrealized gains and losses incurred on fair value accounted financial instruments will be presented in this statement. Realized gains and losses will continue to be presented in the statement of operations. • PS 3450 <i>Financial instruments</i> was amended subsequent to its initial release to include various federal government narrow-scope amendments.
Revenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new standard PS 3400 <i>Revenue</i> is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2023. • The new standard establishes a single framework to categorize revenue to enhance the consistency of revenue recognition and its measurement. • The standard notes that in the case of revenue arising from an exchange transaction, a public sector entity must ensure the recognition of revenue aligns with the satisfaction of related performance obligations. • The standard notes that unilateral revenue arises when no performance obligations are present, and recognition occurs when there is authority to record the revenue and an event has happened that gives the public sector entity the right to the revenue.

Appendix C: Changes in accounting standards (continued)

Standard	Summary and implications
Purchased Intangibles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The new Public Sector Guideline 8 <i>Purchased intangibles</i> is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2023 with earlier adoption permitted.• The guideline allows public sector entities to recognize intangibles purchased through an exchange transaction. The definition of an asset, the general recognition criteria and GAAP hierarchy are used to account for purchased intangibles.• Narrow scope amendments were made to PS 1000 <i>Financial statement concepts</i> to remove the prohibition to recognize purchased intangibles and to PS 1201 <i>Financial statement presentation</i> to remove the requirement to disclose purchased intangibles not recognized.• The guideline can be applied retroactively or prospectively.
Public Private Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The new standard PS 3160 <i>Public private partnerships</i> is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2023.• The standard includes new requirements for the recognition, measurement and classification of infrastructure procured through a public private partnership.• The standard notes that recognition of infrastructure by the public sector entity would occur when it controls the purpose and use of the infrastructure, when it controls access and the price, if any, charged for use, and it controls any significant interest accumulated in the infrastructure when the public private partnership ends.• The public sector entity recognizes a liability when it needs to pay cash or non-cash consideration to the private sector partner for the infrastructure.• The infrastructure would be valued at cost, which represents fair value at the date of recognition with a liability of the same amount if one exists. Cost would be measured in reference to the public private partnership process and agreement, or by discounting the expected cash flows by a discount rate that reflects the time value of money and risks specific to the project.• The standard can be applied retroactively or prospectively.

Appendix C: Changes in accounting standards (continued)

Standard	Summary and implications
Concepts Underlying Financial Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revised conceptual framework is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2026 with earlier adoption permitted. • The framework provides the core concepts and objectives underlying Canadian public sector accounting standards. • The ten chapter conceptual framework defines and elaborates on the characteristics of public sector entities and their financial reporting objectives. Additional information is provided about financial statement objectives, qualitative characteristics and elements. General recognition and measurement criteria, and presentation concepts are introduced.
Financial Statement Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed section PS 1202 <i>Financial statement presentation</i> will replace the current section PS 1201 <i>Financial statement presentation</i>. PS 1202 <i>Financial statement presentation</i> will apply to fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2026 to coincide with the adoption of the revised conceptual framework. Early adoption will be permitted. • The proposed section includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocation of the net debt indicator to its own statement called the statement of net financial assets/liabilities, with the calculation of net debt refined to ensure its original meaning is retained. • Separating liabilities into financial liabilities and non-financial liabilities. • Restructuring the statement of financial position to present total assets followed by total liabilities. • Changes to common terminology used in the financial statements, including re-naming accumulated surplus (deficit) to net assets (liabilities). • Removal of the statement of remeasurement gains (losses) with the information instead included on a new statement called the statement of changes in net assets (liabilities). This new statement would present the changes in each component of net assets (liabilities), including a new component called “accumulated other”. • A new provision whereby an entity can use an amended budget in certain circumstances. • Inclusion of disclosures related to risks and uncertainties that could affect the entity’s financial position. • The Public Sector Accounting Board is currently deliberating on feedback received on exposure drafts related to the reporting model.

Appendix C: Changes in accounting standards (continued)

Standard	Summary and implications
Employee benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Public Sector Accounting Board has initiated a review of sections PS 3250 <i>Retirement benefits</i> and PS 3255 <i>Post-employment benefits, compensated absences and termination benefits</i>.• The intention is to use principles from International Public Sector Accounting Standard 39 <i>Employee benefits</i> as a starting point to develop the Canadian standard.• Given the complexity of issues involved and potential implications of any changes that may arise from the review of the existing guidance, the new standards will be implemented in a multi-release strategy. The first standard will provide foundational guidance. Subsequent standards will provide additional guidance on current and emerging issues.• The proposed section PS 3251 <i>Employee benefits</i> will replace the current sections PS 3250 <i>Retirement benefits</i> and PS 3255 <i>Post-employment benefits, compensated absences and termination benefits</i>. It will apply to fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2026. Early adoption will be permitted and guidance applied retroactively.• This proposed section would result in public sector entities recognizing the impact of revaluations of the net defined benefit liability (asset) immediately on the statement of financial position. Organizations would also assess the funding status of their post-employment benefit plans to determine the appropriate rate for discounting post-employment benefit obligations.• The Public Sector Accounting Board is in the process of evaluating comments received from stakeholders on the exposure draft.

Appendix D: Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

The Importance of Sustainability Reporting



Sustainability Reporting – Who is impacted?

- **Lenders and underwriters** – increased focus on ESG considerations when making access to capital decisions
- **Investors** – ESG integration has become an investment norm
- **Employees** – ESG has become a key factor in attracting and retaining top talent
- **Consumers** – stakeholders increasingly scrutinize companies' ESG performance and transparency affecting brand acceptance and consumer demand



Importance to the Audit Committee

- **Regulatory developments** – ESG-related compliance costs and disclosure requirements continue to evolve as rules are finalized
- **Material ESG issues** – Audit Committees should understand stakeholder priorities and the company's material ESG risks and opportunities
- **Value creation** – developing a clear ESG strategy, along with a standardized reporting process can set a company apart from its competitors



Governance on ESG Data and Sustainability Reporting

- **Data collecting and reporting** – understand the ESG frameworks and reporting standards most commonly adopted in the industry and jurisdiction (benchmark to others in the industry)
- **ESG assurance** – Audit Committees are best positioned to understand which ESG metrics merit assurance. An assurance readiness assessment on Carbon is a common and often recommended first place to start



Appendix D: Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

All companies are facing climate-related risks and opportunities – and are making strategic decisions in response. The impacts of climate-related risks in the financial statements are broad, potentially complex and will depend on the industry-specific risks.

How might climate-related risks impact the financial statements?



01

Assets

Consider the useful lives and residual values of PP&E and intangible assets, cash flow projections used for impairment testing of non-financial assets, and the potential impacts on inventories.

02

Liabilities

Consider the recognition of environmental and decommissioning obligations, accounting for emissions or 'green' schemes, impact on employee-benefit arrangements, and restructuring provisions.

03

Borrowers

Consider the accounting for different forms of government assistance, potential for embedded derivatives in green bonds, lease of green technology, impacts of leasing polluting assets.

04

Lenders

Consider how climate-related risks impact operating and financing leases, the potential impact on expected credit losses, and whether green loans meet the SPPI criterion.

05

Disclosures

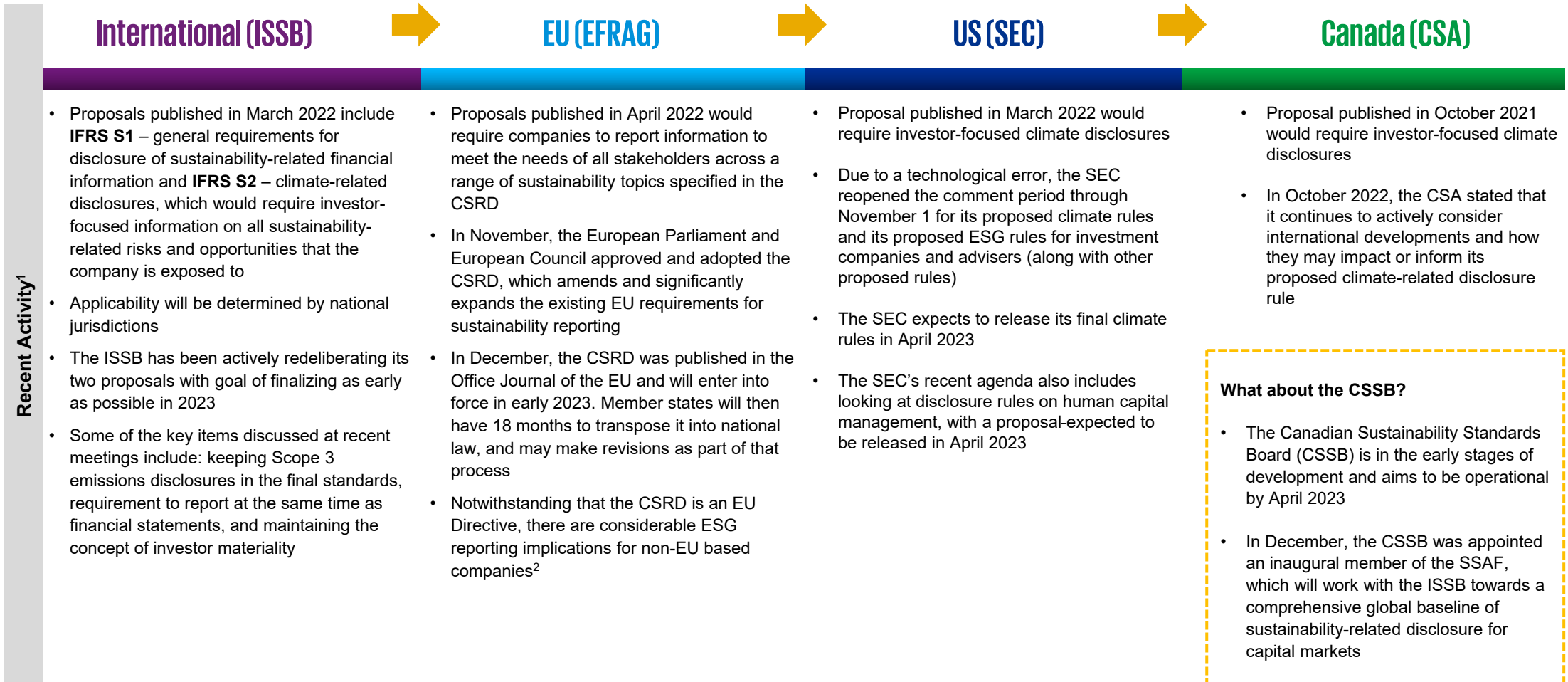
Consider the impact on the going concern assessment and related disclosures and whether the impacts of climate-related matters have been disclosed clearly.



[See here for more information](#)

Appendix D: Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

The Sustainability reporting journey: Regulatory update



1. Refer to our [Q4 2022 Current Developments – Spotlight on IFRS](#), [Q4 2022 Current Developments – Canadian Securities](#) and [Q4 2022 US Quarterly Outlook](#) publications for more details
 2. Refer to our publication [ESG in Europe – Requirements covering non-EU companies formally adopted](#)

Appendix E: Audit and assurance insights

Our latest thinking on the issues that matter most to Audit Committees, board of directors and management.

KPMG Audit & Assurance Insights

Curated research and insights for audit committees and boards.

Board Leadership Centre

Leading insights to help board members maximize boardroom opportunities

Current Developments

Series of quarterly publications for Canadian businesses including Spotlight on IFRS, Canadian Securities & Auditing Matters and US Outlook reports.

Audit Committee Guide – Canadian Edition

A practical guide providing insight into current challenges and leading practices shaping audit committee effectiveness in Canada.

Accelerate 2023

The key issues driving the audit committee agenda in 2023.

Momentum

A quarterly newsletter with the latest thought-leadership from KPMG's subject matter leaders across Canada and valuable audit resources for clients.

KPMG Climate Change Financial Reporting Resource Centre

Our climate change resource centre provides insights to help you identify the potential financial statement impacts to your business.

IFRS Breaking News

A monthly Canadian newsletter that provides the latest insights on international financial reporting standards and IASB activities.





kpmg.ca

© 2023 KPMG LLP, an Ontario limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG global organization of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. All rights reserved. The KPMG name and logo are trademarks used under license by the independent member firms of the KPMG global organization.

KPMG member firms around the world have 227,000 professionals, in 145 countries.



KPMG LLP
Vaughan Metropolitan Centre
100 New Park Place, Suite 1400
Vaughan, ON L4K 0J3
Canada

_____ (Date of approval of FS)

We are writing at your request to confirm our understanding that your audit was for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements (hereinafter referred to as “financial statements”) of Aurora Public Library Board (“the Entity”) as at and for the period ended December 31, 2022.

General:

We confirm that the representations we make in this letter are in accordance with the definitions as set out in [Attachment I](#) to this letter.

We also confirm that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

Responsibilities:

- 1) We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the engagement letter dated November 14, 2022 including for:
 - a) the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and believe that these financial statements have been prepared and present fairly in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework.
 - b) providing you with all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements (“relevant information”), such as financial records, documentation and other matters, including:
 - the names of all related parties and information regarding all relationships and transactions with related parties;
 - the complete minutes of meetings, or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared, of City Council and committees of the City Councils that may affect the financial statements. All significant actions are included in such summaries.
 - c) providing you with unrestricted access to such relevant information.
 - d) providing you with complete responses to all enquiries made by you during the engagement.

- e) providing you with additional information that you may request from us for the purpose of the engagement.
- f) providing you with unrestricted access to persons within the Entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- g) such internal control as we determined is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. We also acknowledge and understand that we are responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- h) ensuring that all transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- i) ensuring that internal auditors providing direct assistance to you, if any, were instructed to follow your instructions and that we, and others within the entity, did not intervene in the work the internal auditors performed for you.

Internal control over financial reporting:

- 2) We have communicated to you all deficiencies in the design and implementation or maintenance of internal control over financial reporting of which we are aware.

Fraud & non-compliance with laws and regulations:

- 3) We have disclosed to you:
 - a) the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
 - b) all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of that involves:
 - management;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control over financial reporting; or
 - others
 where such fraud or suspected fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
 - c) all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements, communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators, or others.
 - d) all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, including all aspects of contractual agreements, whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
 - e) all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

Subsequent events:

- 4) All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the relevant financial reporting framework requires adjustment or disclosure in the financial statements have been adjusted or disclosed.

Related parties:

- 5) We have disclosed to you the identity of the Entity's related parties.
- 6) We have disclosed to you all the related party relationships and transactions/balances of which we are aware.
- 7) All related party relationships and transactions/balances have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework.

Estimates:

- 8) The methods, the data and the significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates, and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.

Going concern:

- 9) We have provided you with all information relevant to the use of the going concern assumption in the financial statements.
- 10) We confirm that we are not aware of material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt upon the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Misstatements:

- 11) The effects of the uncorrected misstatements described in [Attachment II](#) are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole.

Other information:

- 12) We confirm that the final version of an annual report will be provided to you when available, and prior to issuance by the Entity, to enable you to complete your required procedures in accordance with professional standards.

Non-SEC registrants or non-reporting issuers:

- 13) We confirm that the Entity is not a Canadian reporting issuer (as defined under any applicable Canadian securities act) and is not a United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") Issuer (as defined by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002).
- 14) We also confirm that the financial statements of the Entity will not be included in the group financial statements of a Canadian reporting issuer audited by KPMG or an SEC Issuer audited by any member of the KPMG organization.

Employee Benefits:

- 14) The employee benefits costs, assets and obligation, if any, have been determined, accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the financial reporting framework.
- 15) All arrangements (contractual or otherwise) by which programs have been established to provide employee benefits, which include post-employment benefits, and that are funded or unfunded have been disclosed to you and included in the determination of employee benefit costs and obligations.
- 16) The set of actuarial assumptions for each plan is individually consistent.
- 17) The assumptions included in the actuarial valuation are those that management instructed Nexus Actuarial Consultants Ltd. to use in computing amounts to be used by the Entity in determining employee benefit costs and obligations and in making required disclosures in the above-named financial statements, in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework.
- 18) In arriving at these assumptions, management has obtained the advice of Nexus Actuarial Consultants Ltd. but has retained the final responsibility for them.
- 19) All changes to plan provisions or events occurring subsequent to the date of the actuarial valuation and up to the date of this letter have been considered in the determination of employee benefits costs and obligations and as such have been communicated to you as well as to the actuary.
- 20) The extrapolations are accurate and properly reflect the effects of changes and events that occurred subsequent to the most recent valuation and that had a material effect on the extrapolation.
- 21) All material events and changes to the plan subsequent to the most recent actuarial valuation have been properly reflected in the extrapolation.
- 22) Each actuarial assumption used reflects management's best estimate solely with respect to that individual assumption, determined on a basis that the plan will continue to be in effect in the absence of evidence to the contrary.
- 23) Each of the best estimate assumptions used reflects management's judgment of the most likely set of conditions affecting future events.
- 24) The discount rate used to determine the accrued benefit obligation for each plan was determined by reference to market interest rates at the measurement date on high-quality debt instruments with cash flows that match the timing and amount of expected benefit payments; or inherent in the amount at which the accrued benefit obligation could be settled.

Management's Use of Specialists:

- 25) We agree with the findings of Nexus Actuarial Consultants Ltd. as management's expert in evaluating employee benefits liabilities. We did not give or cause any instructions to be given to specialists with respect to the values or amounts derived in an attempt to bias their work, and we are not otherwise aware of any matters that have had an impact on the independence or objectivity of the specialists.

Yours very truly,

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Rachel Wainwright-van Kessel
Director, Finance / Treasurer

Attachment I – Definitions

Materiality

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material.

Information is material if omitting, misstating or obscuring it could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

Judgments about materiality are made in light of surrounding circumstances, and are affected by perception of the needs of, or the characteristics of, the users of the financial statements and, the size or nature of a misstatement, or a combination of both while also considering the entity's own circumstances.

Information is obscured if it is communicated in a way that would have a similar effect for users of financial statements to omitting or misstating that information. The following are examples of circumstances that may result in material information being obscured:

- a) information regarding a material item, transaction or other event is disclosed in the financial statements but the language used is vague or unclear;
- b) information regarding a material item, transaction or other event is scattered throughout the financial statements;
- c) dissimilar items, transactions or other events are inappropriately aggregated;
- d) similar items, transactions or other events are inappropriately disaggregated; and
- e) the understandability of the financial statements is reduced as a result of material information being hidden by immaterial information to the extent that a primary user is unable to determine what information is material.]

Fraud & error

Fraudulent financial reporting involves intentional misstatements including omissions of amounts or disclosures in financial statements to deceive financial statement users.

Misappropriation of assets involves the theft of an entity's assets. It is often accompanied by false or misleading records or documents in order to conceal the fact that the assets are missing or have been pledged without proper authorization.

An error is an unintentional misstatement in financial statements, including the omission of an amount or a disclosure.

Attachment II

Summary of uncorrected misstatements (2022)

Method used to evaluate misstatements: Income statement (Roll over)

									Impact on financial statement captions - DR(CR)								
#	Account #	Account Name	Description/ Identified During	Error Type	Amount	Income Statement DR (CR)			Balance Sheet Effect					Cash Flow Effect			Statement of Comprehen sive Income - De bit (Credit)
					DR (CR)	Income effect of correcting the balance sheet in prior period	Income effect of current period balance sheet	Income effect (Rollover method)	Equity at period end	Current Assets	Non-Curre nt Assets	Current Liabilities	Non-Curre nt Liabilities	Operating Activities	Investing Activities	Financing Activities	
					\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
1	62009990 999 54077422 003	Accu. Surplus - Library TCA VACATION PAY	To reflect unrecorded 2021 vacation accrual in current year	Projected	45,952				45,952	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
					(45,952)	-	(45,952)	(45,952)	(45,952)					45,952	-	-	-
Total uncorrected misstatements (before tax)						-	(45,952)	(45,952)	-	-	-	-	-	45,952	-	-	-
Final financial statement amounts							-	(25,808)	(3,522,876)	870,004	-	(475,110)	-	372,226	(325,755)	-	-
Percentage of uncorrected misstatements after tax financial statement amounts.								178.05%	-%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.35%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Attachment II

Summary of uncorrected misstatements (2021)

Method used to evaluate misstatements: Income statement (Roll over)

									Impact on financial statement captions - DR(CR)								
#	Account #	Account Name	Description/ Identified During	Error Type	Amount	Income Statement DR (CR)			Balance Sheet Effect					Cash Flow Effect			Statement of Comprehen sive Income - D ebit (Credit)
					DR (CR)	Income effect of correcting the balance sheet in prior period	Income effect of current period balance sheet	Income effect (Rollover method)	Equity at period end	Current Assets	Non-Curre nt Assets	Current Liabilities	Non-Curre nt Liabilities	Operating Activities	Investing Activities	Financing Activities	
					\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
1	54077422 090 52004000 409	YEAR END ACCRUALS ACCRUED LIABILITIES	To recorded 2021 vacation accrual	Projected	45,952			45,952	45,952	-	-	-	-	(45,952)	-	-	-
					(45,952)	-	(45,952)	-	-			(45,952)		45,952	-	-	-
Total uncorrected misstatements (before tax)						-	(45,952)	(45,952)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Final financial statement amounts							-	118,317	(3,548,684)	486,596	-	(275,053)	-	301,342	(304,159)	-	-
Percentage of uncorrected misstatements after tax financial statement amounts.								-38.84%	-1.29%	0.00%	0.00%	16.71%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	% 0.00	% 0.00



Aurora Public Library Board

MINUTES of MEETING

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

The Aurora Public Library Board held its regular meeting on April 19, 2023 in the Aurora Town Square (ATS) Conference Room (and via video conference).

Present: Christina Choo-Hum, John Clement, Councillor John Gallo, Lauren Hanna, Adam Mobbs (Chair), Greg Smith, Councillor Ron Weese

Regrets: Greg Smith (Vice Chair)

Chief Executive Officer: Bruce Gorman

Staff: Mario Baleno, IT Manager; Reccia Mandelcorn, Manager, Community Collaboration; Maida Rae, HR Coordinator/EA (recorder); Julie Rocca, Business Manager

The Chair called the meeting to order at 07:00 p.m.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: **23.03.19**

THAT the agenda be approved

Moved by: L. Hanna

Seconded by: Councillor R. Weese

CARRIED

2. Disclosure of Interest

3. Delegation: Yafang Shi

MOTION: **23.03.20**

THAT the delegation request be received as information

Moved by: Councillor J. Gallo

Seconded by: Councillor R. Weese

CARRIED

Yafang Shi presented to the Library Board about her experience as an artist exhibiting at Aurora Public Library. The presentation included a request to update the Public Art Policy.

4. Approval of Minutes:

- .1 Regular meeting of March 2, 2023
- .2 Special Meeting of March 17, 2023

MOTION: 23.03.21

Moved by: Councillor R. Weese

Seconded by: L. Hanna

CARRIED

THAT the Minutes of the March 2, 2023 regular meeting and March 17 2023 special meeting be approved

5. Reports

.1 APL 2023 First Quarter Operations Draft Report SR2023.05

A staff report was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: 23.03.22

Moved by: Councillor R. Weese

Seconded by: L. Hanna

CARRIED

THAT the 2023 First Quarter Operations Report to March 31, 2023 be approved

The zoom meeting disconnected due to wireless issue in the ATS Conference Room, disconnecting J. Clement at 7:35 p.m.

.2 First Quarter Use Indicators Report SR2023.06

A staff report was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: 23.03.23

Moved by: L. Hanna

Seconded by: Councillor R. Weese

CARRIED

THAT the Aurora Public Library Board receives the First Quarter Use Indicators DRAFT Report to March 31, 2023 as information

.3 2022 Revised Year End Financial Statement and Financial Statement for Period Ended March 31, 2023 Report SR2023.07

A staff report was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: 23.03.24

Moved by: C. Choo-Hum

Seconded by: L. Hanna

CARRIED

THAT the Aurora Public Library Revised 2022 Year End Financial Statement and the Financial Statement for the period ended March 31, 2023 be received

6. Items for Consideration

.1 Aurora Public Library Board Committees Terms of Reference Report SR2023.08

A staff report was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **23.03.35**

Moved by: Councillor J. Gallo

Seconded by: Councillor R. Weese

CARRIED

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

Board members are asked to consider participation in the three Board committees. These appointments will be deferred until a future meeting.

7. Library CEO Updates

.1 *CEO Updates*

A verbal report was provided at the meeting.

MOTION: **23.03.26**

Moved by: C. Choo-Hum

Seconded: Councillor R. Weese

CARRIED

THAT the Library CEO Updates be received as information

New furniture has been purchased that better fits with how customers are using the library, creating more customer friendly spaces that welcome the public to come in, connect and use their own devices. Study rooms are reopened and continue to be popular. An automated book drop is being installed by Chandos.

Business Manager J. Rocca is working with KPMG on the 2022 audit.

Library Board training with the N6 Library group is this weekend.

The management team will assume additional responsibilities while we recruit a Manager, Content and Access.

8. General Business Information/Questions

.1 *APL Updates and Aurora Town Square Stakeholder Updates*

Articles and photographs and a project update were issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **23.03.27**

Moved by: L. Hanna

Seconded by: Councillor J. Gallo

CARRIED

THAT the APL Updates and the Aurora Town Square Stakeholder Update be received as information

Newspaper articles and media coverage from late February to early April 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.

9. Member Announcements

R. Mandelcorn shared details of the Food of the Future biome installation and online presentation.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: **23.03.28**
Moved by: C. Choo-Hum
Seconded by: L. Hanna
CARRIED

THAT the meeting be adjourned
at 8:22 p.m.

A. Mobbs
Chair

B. Gorman
Chief Executive Officer



Aurora Public Library Board
MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

The Aurora Public Library Board held its special meeting on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 in the Marjorie Andrews board room of Aurora Public Library.

Present: Christina Choo-Hum, John Clement, Councillor John Gallo, Lauren Hanna, Adam Mobbs (Chair), Greg Smith (Vice-Chair), Councillor Ron Weese

Chief Executive Officer: Bruce Gorman

Staff: Reccia Mandelcorn, Manager Community Collaboration; Jodi Marr, Manager Customer Opportunity, Maida Rae, HR Coordinator/EA (recorder)

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: **23.04.29**

THAT the Agenda be approved

Moved by: J. Clement

Seconded by: Councillor R. Weese

CARRIED

2. Disclosure of Interest

3. Resolution to Move Into Closed Session

.1 Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before any Court or Administrative Tribunal, affecting the Board.

MOTION: **23.04.30**

THAT the Board move into Closed Session to discuss litigation or potential litigation, including matters before any Court or Administrative Tribunal, affecting the Board

Moved by: Councillor R. Weese

Seconded by: Councillor J. Gallo

CARRIED

At 7:02 p.m., the Board moved into Closed Session.

MOTION: **23.04.32**
Moved by: J. Clement
Seconded: C. Choo-Hum
CARRIED

THAT the Board return to Open Session

At 8:39 p.m., the Board returned to Open Session.

MOTION: **23.04.33**
Moved by: Councillor R. Weese
Seconded by: G. Smith
CARRIED

THAT the Library Board agrees with the decisions made in camera

4. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

5. Adjournment

MOTION: **23.04.34**
Moved by: Councillor J. Gallo
Seconded by: Councillor R. Weese
CARRIED

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

A. Mobbs
Chair

B. Gorman
Chief Executive Officer



Aurora Public Library Board

REPORT SR2023.10

SUBJECT: INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM REPORT

FROM: Bruce Gorman, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: June 14, 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report on *Intellectual Freedom* dated June 14, 2023 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 provide unequivocal support of intellectual freedom and equity of access, thereby strengthening intellectual discourse, civil discussion and participation. 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 CLA and OLA statements on intellectual freedom and rights in the public library. 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 and teen's rights in the public library. 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

Bruce Gorman
Chief Executive Officer



Canadian Library Association Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries

The Canadian Library Association recognizes and values the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/Const/page-15.html> 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 Library Association supports and promotes the universal principles of intellectual freedom as defined in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml>, 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 Library Association 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 Library Association affirms further that libraries have a core responsibility to support, defend and promote the universal principles of intellectual freedom and privacy.

The Canadian Library Association 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.

*Approved by Executive Council ~ June 27, 1974
Amended November 17, 1983; November 18, 1985; and September 27, 2015*

Ontario Library Association

Statement on Intellectual Freedom and the Intellectual Rights of the Individual

Introduction

The Ontario Library Association and its divisions are committed 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.

Ontario Libraries have the important responsibility to facilitate expressions of knowledge, creativity, ideas, and opinion, even when viewed as unconventional or unpopular.

The Ontario Library Association declares its acceptance of the following principles for libraries:

1. Equitable access to 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. Intellectual freedom requires freedom to critically examine and create other ideas, opinions, views, and philosophy of life, other than those currently approved by the local community or by society in general and including those ideas and interpretations which may be unconventional, uncommon or unpopular.
3. The free traffic in ideas and opinions is essential to the health and growth of a free society and that the freedom to read, listen, view, and create is fundamental to such free traffic.
4. Library governance ensures that the principles of intellectual freedom and expression of thought are upheld.

Library Service, Collections and Resources:

5. 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 including the provision of access to electronic sources of information and access to the internet. Materials are not excluded from library collections based on race, place of birth, origin, ethnic origin, ethnicity, citizenship, age, creed, disability, family structure, sex, and sexual orientation.
6. It is 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, censor or curtail access to information, the freedom to read, view, listen or participate by demanding the removal of, or restrictions to library information sources in any format.

Library Programming, Events, and Space Bookings

7. It is the responsibility of libraries to maintain the right of intellectual freedom and expression by implementing it consistently when hosting programs and events within the public space of the library including rented public space by individuals and community organizations.

8. Libraries create welcoming community spaces where community members are free from discrimination and may engage in peaceful assembly. Libraries may cancel or deny permits to individuals or organizations when speech or displays are used in a way that is unlawful.

Applicable legislation:

[Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#): Section 2(b) of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* protects “freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication”.

[Criminal Code](#): Section 63 pertains to Unlawful Assemblies and Riots. Section 297 pertains to defamatory libel. Section 318 pertains to hate propaganda.

[Ontario Human Rights Code](#): Sub-section 13 pertains to infringing on freedom from discrimination.

Revision approved at the OLA AGM, January 30, 2020



∴ ontario library association

Teen's rights in the Public Library

Goals for Library Services for Teens:

Young people are valuable members of our library community who deserve the same respect, dignity and human rights as all library members. This document provides a framework for developing library services to teens that meet the educational, informational, and cultural and leisure needs of young people in ways that are developmentally appropriate. Each public library has a different community to serve and therefore different priorities and needs.

Although specific services for teens have not been well established in all libraries, these goals are created in the belief that young adulthood is a unique life stage and that young adults are entitled to the same quality of library services offered to other age groups in the population.

(Adapted from the IFLA Guidelines for Library Services for Young Adults, 2006 and the YALSA Guidelines for Library Services to Teens, Ages 12-18, 2006.)

The goal of library services for teens is to assist with the transition from children's services to adult services and to provide access to both resources and an environment that meets the needs of young people for intellectual, emotional and social development. Specifically these needs are based on the unique seven developmental needs of adolescents and the five core values of quality service to teens:

7 Developmental Needs of Teens	5 Core Values of service to teens
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical activity,• Competence and achievement,• Self definition,• Creative expression,• Positive social Interaction with Peers and Adults,• Structure and Clear Limits,• Meaningful Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respecting and responding to unique YA needs,• Providing equal access,• Empowering Youth through participation,• Engaging Teens in active collaboration,• Supporting healthy youth development.
<small>Excerpted from: Dorman, G. (1981). The Middle Grades Assessment Program: User's Manual. Carrboro, NC: Center for Early Adolescence.</small>	<small>Core Values excerpted from Jones, P. (2002). <i>New directions for library service to young adults</i>. Chicago: American Library Association.</small>

Teens in Ontario Public Libraries have the right to:

1. Intellectual freedom

The library establishes clear policy statements concerning the right to free access by young adults to library resources and information sources; and respect for the rights of young adults to select materials appropriate to their needs without censorship. The library's teen collection, policies and services should be consistent with the concepts of intellectual freedom defined by the CLA, OLA and Ontario Human Rights code.

2. Equal access to the full range of materials, services, and programs specifically designed and developed to meet their unique needs.

The Library integrates library service to teens into the overall plan, budget and service program for the library. Library service to teens is integrated with those offered to other user groups.

3. Adequate funding for collections and services related to population, use and local community needs.

The Library incorporates funding for materials and services for teens in the library operating budget and ensures there is equitable distribution of resources to support programs and services for young adults.

4. Collections that specifically meet the needs of teens

The Library provides a wide spectrum of current materials of interest to young adults to encourage lifelong learning, literacy, reading motivation, and reader development. The library endeavors to develop collections that encourage leisure reading, support homework and school success and responds to gender and cultural diversity. The library provides unfettered access to technology including social networking, licensed databases, and other online library resources for teens.

5. A library environment that complements their physical and developmental stages.

The Library provides identifiable spaces for teens that are separate from children's spaces where possible, reflects their lifestyle and allows for teens to use this library space for leisure or study, either independently or in groups.

6. Welcoming, respectful, supportive service at every service point.

The Library promotes friendly, positive, non-biased customer interactions with teens, providing staff development and training and ensures that services for teens embrace cultural and gender diversity and economic differences. Library staff will endeavor to respect the teen's need for privacy and nonjudgmental service and assist young adults in acquiring the skills to effectively access all library resources and become information literate.

7. Library Programs and Services appropriate for Teens

The Library fosters youth development by providing programs for teens that contribute to literacy, life-long learning and healthy youth development. The library endeavors to provide volunteer opportunities for helping others through community service hours including participating on Library Advisory Boards, and other projects that help develop a sense of responsibility and community involvement. The library's teen services initiatives are effectively managed according to best practices in the field of Youth Services.

8. Trained and knowledgeable staff specializing in teen services.

Library staff is knowledgeable about adolescent development and age appropriate resources for young adults inclusive of those with special needs. The library provides services by teen specialists as well as by others who are trained to serve teens.)

9. An advocate who will speak on their behalf to the library administration, library board, municipal council and community to make people aware of the goals of teen services.

The Library works in partnership with other community agencies and organizations to support all aspects of healthy, successful youth development.

10. Library policies are written to include the needs of the youth.

Adopted at the Ontario Library Association Annual General Meeting June 2010.

THE ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
POSITION ON
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE LIBRARY

Children in public libraries have the right to:

1. Intellectual freedom.
2. Equal access to the full range of services and materials available to other users.
3. A full range of materials, services and programs specifically designed and developed to meet their needs.
4. Adequate funding for collections and services related to population, use and local community needs.
5. A library environment that complements their physical and developmental stages.
6. Trained and knowledgeable staff specializing in children's services.
7. Welcoming, respectful, supportive service from birth through the transition to adult user.
8. An advocate who will speak on their behalf to the library administration, library board, municipal council and community to make people aware of the goals of children's services.
9. Library policies written to include the needs of the child.

Adopted at the Ontario Library Association
Annual General Meeting
November 1998

Following a series of events held in the Aurora to celebrate Black History Month, representatives from the Aurora Black Community (ABC) shared the impact of February's events and thanked the Town and staff for their support.

At Council last month, Phiona Durrant, ABC founder, and Bobbie Marshall, Board Director, began the Black History Month report with a lineup of thanks to the Aurora Cultural Center and their many sponsors.

“We’re very grateful for the work that you’re doing as well, and all the sponsors that we have. We could not have done the work without them. I’ve always shared inspiring quotes, because I don’t think we need to reinvent the wheel, and one of the quotes that I love the most it says, ‘In every community, there’s work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal, and in every heart, the power to do it.’”

Key performance indicators reported 77 per cent increase in awareness and community, 37 per cent increase in equity and advocacy, and 91 per cent in appreciation.

Ward 5 Councillor John Gallo congratulated ABC for the success of their events. He also questioned how key performance indicator percentages were obtained and whether there was anything the Town could do to increase the equity and advocacy which sat at 37 per cent.

Durrant replied that equity and advocacy is not easy to do and that to assess whether equity was achieved in Aurora, ABC looked at whether there was an improvement in staffing in the Town and outside organizations, if there was a pay increase, and new employment, to provide a few examples.

“So, when we were doing the percentage, we want to really look [at] ‘what did we do?’ I don’t want it to just look good. Did we really do something?” she said.

Durrant added that seeing diverse events and new faces were important and

would be an indicator that equity was being achieved. In terms of advocacy, she noted the need for dedicated and genuine allies in Town that are passionate about Black History education and awareness.

“And advocacy is very tough, because you want to make sure you find that way that you are heard, that people can hear you. Because as an advocate, that word itself carries a lot of negative connotation and so already you’re an advocate you are frowned upon. So, you need to find your true allies; like we’ve said we have the young man [Keith] Higgins from [Central York Girls Hockey] that would be an ally that is stepping up and doing the work with us,” Durrant said.

“Those are the places where we can start to measure equity. Right now there’s not enough to properly measure to say that we’re doing enough to see advocacy and equity taking place,” she said.

As the only Black person present at many events in Aurora, Durrant said she was encouraged to see the amount of Black people attending Black History Month events.

With the help of funds from the Town and sponsors, Black History Month was celebrated with a special gala, Town Hall flag raising ceremony, movie night, Black Excellence Paint & Portrait Night and a Diversity on the Ice program.

ABC received a total of \$16,000 in financial support which included \$10,000 from the Town, \$4,000 from TD Canada, and \$2000 from sponsors.

The budget summary highlighted that about 30 per cent of expenses went to fees and honorariums, 22 per cent to the caterer, 17 per cent to programs, and the remaining to the venue, supplies, and miscellaneous items.

"We want to make sure that the month is not just choked with everything. And February's really celebrated throughout the year," said Durrant.

Acknowledging that a large part of the financial support was due to taxpayer

dollars, Durrant highlighted the impact of the ABC initiatives and the strengthening partnerships with the York Region Catholic District School Board in bringing education and awareness to young people and their engagement with the York Regional Police and the Southlake Hospital.

This year, Ron Kellman was selected as recipient to the Jean Augustine Community Builder Award, an award named after former MP Jean Augustine who worked to make Black History Month an official observance in Canada in 1995.

“Ron is actually one of our dedicated volunteers. It doesn’t matter—rain, snow, sleet, whatever—he’s one of the first people that we can always depend on to come out. So, we want to make sure that we definitely didn’t take him for granted and want to recognize him for always being here for us and everybody else,” said Marshall.

Ward 2 Councillor Rachel Gilliland said she hopes there will be many more events held in the future similar and asked how their various partnerships were going.

Durrant replied that they are working on creating a mentorship and career training program for youth with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

ABC has also been working with OPP to have flags raised “to make sure we’re constantly uplifting, and changing the history for Aurora” and with Southlake they are creating a workshop that will educate on unconscious biases and other important topics.

However, as a volunteer-based organization, lack of staff and budget makes it difficult to get things done faster, Durrant said.

Mayor Tom Mrakas said the Town will continue to work together with organizations to celebrate Black History and address racism in the community.

"I appreciate everything that you've done, the work that the group has done, as well as the Aurora Black Caucus. And so, I thank you for all that, and I'm excited for what's to come," he said.

The Aurora Black Caucus works with

leaders in politics, education and business to “erase stigma and stereotypical views” of Black people, said Milton Hart, Chair of the organization.

In response to questions proposed by Council at a previous Town Hall meeting regarding how the Town can support the organization, Hart noted that there was an Anti-Racism Task Force at the Town which has since been disbanded.

He suggested that the Aurora Black Caucus and the Aurora Black Community, otherwise referred to as the “two ABCs”, work together to craft a policy regarding anti-Black racism.

“To my mind that does not exist at this point,” he said.

Hart also suggested having a physical location where the two organizations can be found, which he believes is a necessary addition to the daily functioning of the organizations.

Lastly, Hart said he believes that the key to attracting Black-owned businesses in Aurora is to celebrate the many unprecedented things the Town has done to celebrate Black history.

“We have proclaimed August 1 as Emancipation Day in Aurora. That to my mind has never been done in any municipality. That’s a first and that is being celebrated from coast to coast in Canada, but we don’t celebrate it here. I would think that the Town’s website, the Town’s newspapers should be championing this cause and celebrating it. So, that’s something we’d like to see. And we would love to work with the Council in making that happen,” he said.

In response to a question from Councillor Gilliland about whether he has been in touch with the local Library, Hart replied that he plans to collaborate with the Library to create a space that champions Black authors and Black history.

“We have a novel that we will be using as a catalyst for our discussions going forward. And this is going to be in the fall,” he said.

HIKE FOR HOSPICE

Hike for Hospice is
less than a
month away
& we're already seeing
amazing progress!

*With the support from our
sponsors and participants, we
have raised \$24,260 to date for
hospice palliative care programs
and services! We still need your
help to reach our goal of \$80,000!*

Get involved today by visiting
hike-for-hospice-2023.raisely.com
and take part in our Hike on
May 13th, 2023
at **Fairy Lake park** in **Newmarket**

Find out more at
www.myhospice.ca/hikeforhospice
or email us at
events@myhospice.ca

Advertising generously donated by an anonymous donor. Charitable registration #896696804 RR0001
653 Queen Street, Newmarket ON L3Y 2J1 | events@myhospice.ca | 905-967-1500 ext. 632

Food of the Future challenges ideas of agriculture

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

As our population grows, our traditional methods of farming might not be able to keep up with demand. But new, innovative ideas for sustainable and “community-based indoor agriculture” have been recently highlighted by Dr. Matt Hammond and Phil Fung in a new partnership with the Aurora Public Library.

On Thursday, April 20, the duo will host Food of the Future, an Earth Day presentation, through the Aurora Public Library’s (APL) channels. The live, virtual presentation, at which the presenters will take questions from participants, has worked hand-in-hand with a model biome, which has taken pride of place in the Library Living Room since April 4 before being wrapped up this Saturday, April 22.

The biome, located near APL’s central elevator, is a mix of hydroponics and aquaculture, bringing fish into the mix.

“As Phil and Matt are so passionate about the project, they started off saying they would like to do a little sample model and then, ‘We don’t want to have a little aquarium on top of the stands? We’re going to build one that is 6.5 feet tall and we’re going to attach it to the elevator,’” explains Reccia Mandelcorn, APL’s Manager of Community Collaboration, with a chuckle. “They wanted to give people the idea that you could grow kale, microgreens, and all kinds of stuff in there. The fish are a huge draw (for visitors to APL) and we even have a contest now where kids can name the fish they’re looking at. When they go to look at the fish, the parents are talking to them about growing.”

Bringing the work of Fung and Hammond to APL is “major,” says Mandelcorn as their engineering work and work on innovation has garnered them significant recognition in recent years.

“We are getting a lot of registration not only from our local community, but from different municipalities who are really interested in this project,” she says. “I am personally really honoured that Phil and Matt decided to host this at Aurora Public Library because I think they would have been welcome in any municipality and certainly by any library and it is really big for us. I am so excited.”

Making this presentation particularly relevant for the community, she adds, is the awareness of what is happening to Ontario’s Greenbelt and to local farmlands.

“The pandemic also brought up the whole supply chain and many people are living in condos or apartments and don’t have access to community gardens. I think the whole concept of food and food instability has hit people in a way that they haven’t ever thought of before. This is a way of thinking of new ways to do agriculture that works with our changing urban environment. Even in Aurora, which is suburb, we look around us and see we are becoming more urban and we need to look at other ways of making food local and taking ownership of our food. Also, I think people are just excited about new technologies – it’s new technology

BROCK’S BANTER

From page 4

showcase for Canadian architecture and ingenuity.

It’s an interesting idea, but I can’t envision any other country contemplating either tearing down or letting fall the official residence of its Head of Government, whether it’s the White House or 10 Downing Street.

In a society where so many things are sadly built to be disposable, our landmarks, particularly those that continue to or have the potential to serve us well, deserve better – and to be seen through a more objective and less political lens.



Dr. Matt Hammond and Phil Fung are pictured with their installation in the Aurora Public Library’s Living Room space.

Photo courtesy of the Aurora Public Library

that is really meaningful and what can be more meaningful than food that sustains us?”

This week’s presentation and installation is just one of the many ways APL has supported food programs. They have partnered with the York Region Food Network on several initiatives, including the Culinary Traveller program, which has resulted in the publication of some of the best-loved recipes of Aurorans who have roots in all parts of the world, as well as gardening programs.

“We are very interested in continuing

our partnership with them and I think they are with us as well. If there are any other environmental groups in the area who are interested in partnering with the Library, we are very passionate,” says Mandelcorn. “Food is community, it’s culture, and certainly with our staff, we’re very passionate about environmental concerns and about good food and bringing people together. We’re happy to work with anybody!”

“This is a small little piece that Phil and Matt are showing as an example of something larger that a municipality can

take on as a project, but we have had people who have come through and said, ‘We can actually do this in my own space,’ so I think people are looking at this as a template for something creative they can do in their own homes. That is a very exciting side piece. We looked at it from a macro level but people are coming to say from a personal level how they can see this working within their own spaces, so I think that is very exciting, too.”

For more on Food of the Future, including registration, visit bit.ly/3Hjle8b. Showtime is 7 p.m.

Are people telling you to slow down?



COME TO KINGSWAY PLACE

where senior living doesn't mean changing the way you live.



Kingsway Place

by **FIELDGATE**
Retirement Living



Call 905-841-2777 or visit kingswayaurora.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Health care needs protection

Tommy Douglas championed universal healthcare as a fundamental right for all Canadians. We should be looking at including dental care as well, if we are indeed a progressive society.

Doug Ford has no right to undermine the health of our society. For profit healthcare leads to those who can least afford it losing the most.

Doug Ford was elected to represent the best interests of Ontarians, not private for-profit businesses in healthcare. It proved a disaster to allow for profit retirement homes to be established. The quality of care declined and the costs have skyrocketed putting it out of reach financially for so many. Allowing the same to happen to the healthcare system would be a disaster of epic proportions that would have a negative impact for generations to come.

Cara Reeves
East Gwillimbury

CORRECTION

Last week's article on the achievements of the Cygnets of St. Anne's School at the CISAA Track and Field Championships in Toronto last month misstated the surname of gold medalist Onna Okeke. Maya Walker also captured bronze in the 80m hurdles. We regret the error.

One Book | One Aurora

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

A SENSE OF PLACE

Finding Edward takes us from Jamaica to Toronto and back in time to Africville and the lumber camps of British Columbia. Inspire us with a sense of place that your photo uncovers – whether from afar or within your own community.

Submission Guidelines:

There are two categories:

Youth (Ages 14 – 17) and Adult (Ages 18 +)

Images may be digitally altered

Photographs must be high resolution for print

Winners will be announced at the OBOA grand finale on October 21, 2023

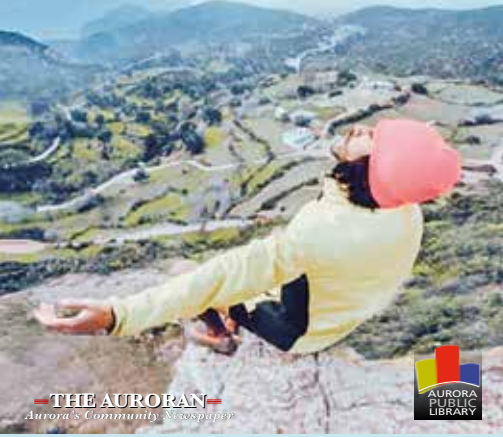
Winning photographs will be published in the Auroran

APL Employees/Board/Judges and immediate families are ineligible to win

Please send submissions to brock@lpcmedia.ca

Contest Deadline: Friday, September 29, 2023

Prizes: Winner \$150 Gift Card | Runner-Up \$100 Gift Card

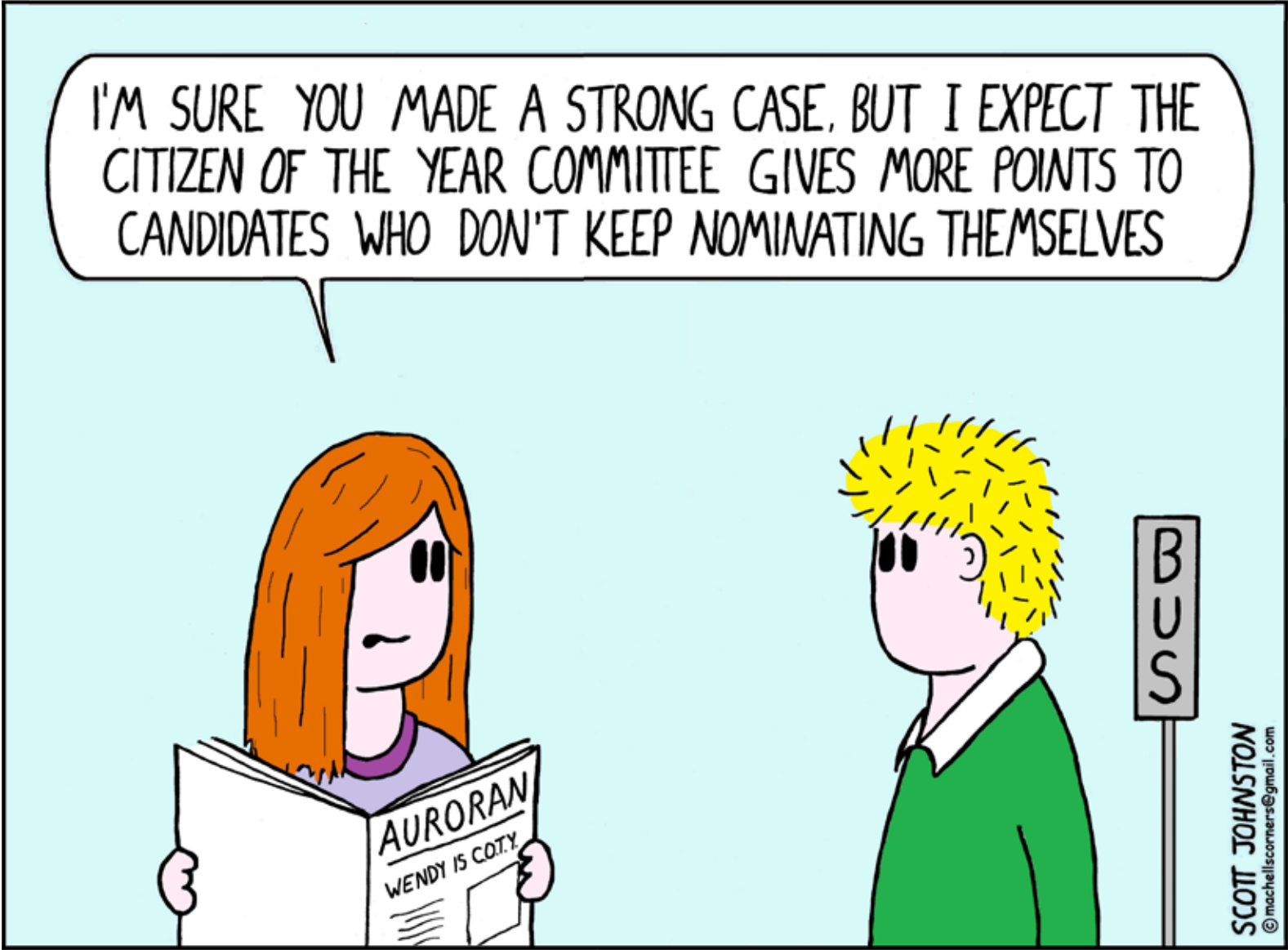


THE AURORED

Aurora's Community Newspaper

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Macell's Corners



A safe month ahead



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

Hearing and observing is one thing, but having that important lived experience is something altogether different.

Despite being in my late 30s, I like to think I have a decent handle on the basics. This job affords a lot of opportunity to interview kids and youth in their school environment, and even sometimes in their home environment, on the wonderful and often innovative ways they're striving to make a difference both in the classroom and the wider community.

Finding out what makes them tick, the causes they adopt and place close to their hearts, and just having a good ol' fashioned conversation can often provide a bit of a thumbnail about who they are and what drives them. After all, if you ask youth who they are, they'll tell you – it's just a matter of taking that important step and, most importantly, listening.

For those youth who are trailblazers in their schools, neighbourhoods and beyond, there are more similarities than there are differences and a unifying factor that binds most if not all of them is being able to identify a problem in whatever sphere they pick and brainstorm practical ways to make a real-time difference on a real-world problem.

Helping them along the way, of course, are parents who invariably encourage their kids to get out of their shells and flourish in environments that fuel their passions. They are also backed by often-underappreciated efforts of educators who, regardless of how many years they have been in the classroom, remember what it means to be a youth and, therefore, the tools they need to make the most out of these very formative years. And what it means to harness that energy for the greater good.

But, as much as youth are flourishing in these environments, it almost goes without saying there are challenges, sometimes invisible ones, that make rising to the top more difficult for some than others.

May was Mental Health Awareness Month, an observance that takes place in Canada each year, to promote education and awareness surrounding mental health, how it impacts people's lives in different ways, and promote deliberate methods which associated stigma can be reduced and ideally eliminated.

To mark the occasion, our co-op

student, Emma Chianelli, penned a very personal article on how she and her peers perceive mental health challenges.

"Growing up in today's society is not a simple feat," she wrote. "The pressure of trying to decide what post-secondary education will look like when trying to grow into adulthood has never had so many difficult passages. Technology has changed the way the world works, and where it makes something easier, the natural way to learn and make decisions has never been harder. Balancing school work, a part-time job, and extracurricular activities, while trying to navigate into your future, with little guidance leads to confusion and anxiety. The worldwide pandemic changed a lot in today's world, and for a teenager trying to find their way – after being isolated for such a long time – creates further fear and anxiety. We've been trained to learn digitally, how have we been taught to talk to people.

"Times can get difficult and we need to find our own ways to cope. My thoughts, opinions, and feelings are often kept to myself. But doing this to me isn't the smartest thing to do since I end up under a lot of strain and I start worrying about the little things and begin overthinking. This, I believe, is due to my difficulty in placing my trust in others. Despite the fact I may have known them for a significant portion of my life, I feel as though my thoughts are not important to occupy their time or that they might share the things that I would have preferred to remain private. Despite their repeated demonstrations that this is not the case."

Emma shared these thoughts as a teen who is preparing for wherever her post-secondary journey takes her, but I think in many ways the insights she provided here can also be applicable to youth of all ages – even those in elementary school who are both trying

to find their way while also learning who they are.

Yet, it sadly feels this journey of discovery is being hindered all too often.

One only needs to look at the discouraging scenes that have been beamed around the world in recent weeks primarily from south of the border in the lead-up to June's Pride Month, with drag queen story hours – a tried, tested, and popular family-friendly endeavour that encourages kids to be themselves – the scene of disheartening protests that have to be taken in by attending parents, families, and their children.

In fact, we don't even need to look south of the border for these unfortunate displays. Now that we're in June, given the heated rhetoric we've all been seeing online in sudden fits of outrage despite these events taking place for the better part of a decade, we're sadly in store for more before the month's end.

We don't even have to wait. We've already heard much of the rhetoric that has come out of recent meetings of the York Catholic District School Board over an act as simple as flying a rainbow flag.

While everyone has the right to express their views, I often wonder why some of the comments made are done so without giving a moment's consideration to how their words might affect their children, their neighbour's children, and the community writ large. (And if they are, well, that could be the subject of a deep dive that's beyond this column) That mere words don't have weight, or consequence for those who catch them. That, even as a child, if they experience the world differently, that they might have to fight extra hard to even get a place at the table.

It fosters an environment where, indeed, thoughts, opinions and feelings are in danger of being bottled up, potentially with tragic circumstances.

This month, all that can be asked in this climate, is for people to express their views in mutual respect – something which, believe it or not, can still be accomplished – and through the lens of being not only being the parent, caregiver, or looked-up-to adult you would have wanted as a child but the parent, caregiver, or looked-up-to adult your child needs today.

To those who celebrate, I wish you a happy and, most importantly, safe Pride Month.

THE AURORED

Aurora's Community Newspaper

The Auroran Newspaper Company Ltd.
15213 Yonge Street, Suite 8, Aurora, L4G 1L8

Main number 905-727-3300
Fax number 905-727-2620

Founder
Ron Wallace

Publisher Emeritus
Rosemary Schumaker

EDITOR
Brock Weir
brock@lpcmedia.ca

ADVERTISING
Zach Shoub
zach@lpcmedia.ca

ADVERTISING
Karen Nemet
karen@lpcmedia.ca

GENERAL MANAGER
Zach Shoub
zach@lpcmedia.ca

ADVERTISING
Diane Buchanan
diane@auroran.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Cynthia Proctor
cynthiap@lpcmedia.ca

TODAYS NEW HOMES
Zach Shoub
zach@lpcmedia.ca

MOTORING
Heather Erwin
heather@caledoncitizen.com

CLASSIFIEDS
905-727-3300 ex.102
cynthiap@lpcmedia.ca

PHOTOGRAPHY
Glenn Rodger
grodger@rogers.com

EDITORIAL POLICY
Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number; although number will not be published. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.

ADVERTISING POLICY
Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada

Funded by the Government of Canada

Canada

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

Subscriptions available within Canada and U.S.
email: administration@auroran.com



Welcome to Library Land

By Reccia Mandelcorn

I am proud to work in a community that continues to demonstrate itself as inclusive and caring. This is something I do not take for granted when Pride season comes around and my library hosts Drag Queen Story Hour.

At our library, we believe everyone should be able to see themselves and their community reflected in our collections and programming. In 2016, we received a request to host a Drag Queen Story Hour, and it has become a much-anticipated annual celebration.

Drag Queen Story Hour is a family-friendly event that is entertaining and educational – encouraging all children to celebrate the fabulous diversity in their families and communities. This diversity extends beyond the 2SLGBTQ+ communities and creates an opportunity to spark conversations at a child’s level about the breadth of the human experience.

Drag queens, often recruited from the local community, read books from the library’s picture book collection as in any other storytime. Stories selected for this event encourage children to love themselves and stand up for what they believe in and each other. We sing songs and dress up and dance.

These events help children develop empathy and tap into their own creativity. It is fun for all but can also be life-changing for anyone who feels different because of their identity, family structure or interests, or who may not otherwise see themselves reflected in the broader culture.

Drag has roots stretching back at least to Shakespearean times when men dressed as women to perform because women were not permitted on stage. Although Drag Queen Story Hour is designed for preschool children, all are welcome. It’s fun to see children enjoying themselves and for adults to come together in support of inclusion and diversity in our community.

This year’s Drag Queen Story Hour is hosted in partnership with Pflag York Region. We invite you to dress up in your most colourful Pride-best. Tiaras are perfect! There will be flags and balloons, Pride pins made by APL’s teen volunteers, and of course, colourful cookies.

Drag Queen Story Hour happens in the Magna Room on Saturday, June 3 at 10:30 am. Capacity limits apply. Drop in! Bring your kids or your grandma to this family-friendly event and be part of the wonderful community that can be found in Library Land.

What I’ve Been Reading:

- Greek Lessons: *a novel by Han Kang*
- Campaign Confessions: *Tales from the War Rooms of Politics by John Laschinger*
- The Private Apartments: *stories by Idman Nur Omar*
- We Are Many by Dave Cameron; *illustrated by Suharu Ogara*

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 YCDSB right to reject flying the Progress Pride flag for the month of June?

Yes No Unsure
www.theauroran.com

Previous poll results:
Should future Victoria Days be marked in Aurora with a public event?

RESULTS TO DATE	May 30, 2023	YES	NO	UNSURE
		67%	22%	11%

The Aurora Museum & Archives is wondering.... What’s your poison?

Sometimes a simple object can speak volumes. This box of unused, adhesive POISON labels (995.5.32) was printed for J.F. Willis, pharmacist, who operated out of Medical Hall on Yonge Street. Items like this tell several stories: about the London, ON, printer who no doubt supplied hundreds of businesses with labels; about the vocation of pharmacist which involved sufficient poison to require a box of labels, and about the pharmacist himself – two of them with name and degree of J.F. Willis, Phm.B., father and son, who shared the business and yes, even the labels!

Day, a time to recognize and celebrate our incredible fathers and father figures, who have had an invaluable role in our lives by always offering their unconditional love and support. This special day serves as an important opportunity to express gratitude to our fathers, who lovingly extend their guidance and mentorship to us everyday. Happy Father’s Day to all!

And finally, as we celebrate Senior’s Month in June, Ontario honours the valuable contributions made by our amazing seniors to our communities, and to our province at large. Our seniors have had a foundational role in growing businesses, raising families, and serving as mentors and community leaders. As such, we owe a debt of gratitude to our seniors for building what we all warmly regard as our beloved “home”. I’d like to extend a sincere thank you to our cherished seniors, and I wish you all a happy Senior’s Month.

Our Annual Summer BBQ is quickly approaching! Join us on Friday, June 9, 2023, from 5 – 8 p.m., at 1300 Elgin Mills Rd E, Richmond Hill, ON L4S 1M5 (Richmond Green Sports Centre and Park) for a free BBQ, outdoor activities, inflatable entertainment stations, music, and more.



Parsa’s Perspective

Michael Parsa, MPP
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

the legislative session in sight, I renew my commitment to addressing the pressing challenges relevant to both my constituency and the Ministry of Community, Children and Social Services. I look forward to returning to the legislature next fall.

As the weather gets warmer and as students receive a well-deserved break from their studies, there is no better opportunity to spend time outdoors with family and loved ones. Ontario is home to an abundance of magnificent provincial parks that offer a wide range of facilities and activities. For a list of provincial parks in Ontario and their hours of operation, please refer to this website for more information: www.ontarioparks.com.

Sunday, June 18, marks Father’s

Five Reasons to Visit the Street Festival

I’m sure one easily could come up with 105 reasons to visit the street festival this Sunday but in no particular order, here are a few.

Rediscover Yonge Street

Although Yonge Street is our main drag, how often do you travel it on foot, and really get a good look at what’s there? I expect not very often.

Apart from enjoying the public art and floral displays, this is a great time to catch up on all the local shops and restaurants. You’re bound to see a bunch you’re not familiar with and that merit further exploring, either then, or on a future visit.

It’s also a great opportunity to get an up-close look at how things are progressing on Town Square, the Library and Aurora United.

You’ll find stuff to do all year long

There’s so much going on in Aurora throughout the year that it’s hard to keep track. This is a great chance to find out about Theatre Aurora’s upcoming season, or what’s new at the arboretum, or at the Historical Society, or through a host of other local clubs and groups, all in one place.

And the timing is perfect as it’s almost summer vacation. Are you looking forward to having your children with you 24/7 claiming “there’s nothing to do”? If you could use some “me” time over the next few months, you’ll find numerous sports, music and various hobby clubs and camp options for your kids.



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

Local crafts & entertainment

Aurora has a lot of skilled artisans and crafters, many of whom will have booths set up on Sunday. Why not stop at Brainy Games for a rainy day activity at the cottage? Need a gift idea, or something to spruce up your house or wardrobe? Jewellery, pottery, knit goods, woodworking, stained glass, candy, clothes ... you’ll find all of this and much more.

If music is your thing, or you just want to pause and have a listen, there’s always a variety of live performances throughout the day at different places along Yonge. These are a great place to pause and enjoy the sounds.

There are also buskers, demonstrations, and the opportunity to try your hand at something unusual, which in recent years has included axe throwing.

Exercise & refuel

If you walk the whole street fest from Murray to Wellington that’s about 1.5 kms, which you’ll likely do both ways, if you want to return to either your car or home.

See you there.

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





Sean Herbinson
Broker

kw
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTYCENTRES
Brokerage, Independently Owned and Operated

117 Wellington St East, Aurora L4G 1M9
p: 905-895-5972 e: sean@seanherbinson.com

Not intended to solicit individuals currently under agency contract.

Beverley Varcoe 905-727-3154

Call for a SELLER or BUYER package

Highly Qualified to Handle Your Real Estate Needs with Over 25 years of Award Winning service!



BROKER, FRI, CRES, SRES
MVA Market Value Appraiser

Your Community Realty, Aurora
www.beverleyvarcoe.com
bvarcoe@royalpage.ca





COUNTER/BAR STOOLS

TAKE ONE HOME TO TEST

WHY PAY MORE ONLINE!

AMISCO • TRICA • SUNPAN
OVER 100 STYLES TO TRY IN STOCK

Barrons

905-751-0533 | 14-40 Englehard Dr.
NW. corner of Industrial Pkwy S.
www.barronshome.net

Vol. 24 No. 38 905-727-3300

TheAuroran.com

FREE

Week of June 8, 2023







Aurora-based drag queen Athena Vegas poses with a few of the young participants who came out to the Aurora Public Library (APL) on Saturday morning for Drag Queen Story Time, a morning hosted by APL and Pflag York Region.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

“It’s a wonderful way to introduce kids to other worlds”

APL’s Drag Queen Story Hour attracts more than 80 participants

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Pride Month in Aurora kicked off Saturday morning with the annual Drag Queen Story Hour hosted by the

Aurora Public Library and featuring the talents of Athena Vegas.

Held at the Library (APL) in association with Pflag York Region, more than 80 kids, parents, caregivers, and dignitaries such as Ward 1 Councillor Ron Weese, Ward 3 Councillor Wendy Gaertner, and members of the Aurora Public Library Board filled APL’s Magna Room for the occasion where Vegas read several interactive stories to children, each with a theme chosen to

encourage kids to be themselves, led the families in song and dance, and simply offered a chance to have fun.

Two lone protestors, both carrying disparaging placards and covering their faces with balaclavas, demonstrated outside the APL on the opposite side of Yonge Street. Although peaceful, given the heated rhetoric that has surrounded Drag Queen Story Hours in both Canada and the United States over the

Continued on page 19



Aurora’s Equipe Francobotique brought home top honours after taking on the world in the United States last month. Pictured here are (top row) are Danielle Northrup, Kaiah Sanderson, Milene Pilon-Zador, (front row) Madeline Northrup, Suzanne Northrup, Arabelle Sanderson, and Patrick Northrup. Absent: Amélie Hennig.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Local robotics team conquers the world at international championship

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Local students took on the world and emerged victorious at an international First Lego League competition in Arkansas last month.

Aurora’s Équipe Francobotique, which received tremendous community support ahead of

Continued on page 18

Two policies. One place.

Bundle your car and home insurance.

Call me today.



Richard Gong, Agent
905-727-6333



WHO WILL THEY BECOME?





The Country Day School
EDUCATION WITH BALANCE

Offering JK-12 on 100 acres in King.
Take the next step today!

www.cds.on.ca/visitus
905 833 1972

AURORA TIRE & WHEEL

We've Moved!

JUST 5 DOORS DOWN
NOW South of Wellington
17 Industrial Parkway South

NEW LOCATION, SAME GREAT SERVICE!

We look forward to seeing you!

17 Industrial Parkway South Just 5 doors down SOUTH OF WELLINGTON
905-727-8473



Cakes & Desserts



OPEN 9AM-6PM

All our items are made on-site using only natural products! Some gluten free options are available and simple, custom orders are welcome.

14800 YONGE ST. 104
905-503-6174

contact@mmbakeshop.ca | ig: mmbakeshop | fb: MM Bake Shop

YOUR FULL-SERVICE

GARAGE DOOR & GARAGE DOOR OPENER SPECIALISTS





AURORA OVERHEAD DOOR INC.

905-727-1382 | 40 Industrial Pkwy. S
info@auroraoverheaddoor.ca
AuroraOverheadDoor.ca



THE WINNER IS... *Oakridge's*

Oakridge’s Fashions was honoured and humbled to receive the prestigious **Good Business Award** by the Town of Aurora Recognition Awards 2023 for its unwavering dedication towards corporate responsibility and community involvement through continuous charitable initiatives.

“Shopping is fun. But Giving just makes everything better.”

~ Deb Clark
Owner, Oakridge’s

“It’s a wonderful way to introduce kids to other worlds”

From page 1

last year, Pflag was prepared for any eventuality.

In the event of loud protestors, Pflag members and families gathered outside APL ahead of the event for the debut of Pflag York Region’s Choir of Love, which sang songs ranging from Journey’s Don’t Stop Believing to Cyndi Lauper’s Girls Just Want to Have Fun.

“We have a lot of amazing parents who are part of this group,” Damian Mellin, Vice President of Pflag York Region, told The Auroran as the group sang and grew in numbers while Story Hour participants arrived. They just have this amazing energy about protecting their kids. What also comes into play is that sometimes it is important to have one vocalization, one group of people saying one thing. Part of the fun is having a message of love, caring, and a lot of music in my mind represents that. We went through and found 12 very popular songs that I even had to use ChatGPT to research songs that most people can sing without having any talent! We were able to find twelve songs that are kind of a range of everything from Lady Gaga to 80s and 70s rock. It’s very fun and kind of a bit cheeky to have a fun event.

“Part of it too is we’re unsure of how many people may show up and part of it is to have something loud enough if necessary to kind of drown out the other voices. Oftentimes, this community is very connected and engaged with the same message: care for children, make sure children are being cared for and love all. The other crowd, I think, are a bit disconnected. A bunch of them just don’t want to learn information enough to be engaged with the topic to care about it, and some people are just out here because they are bigoted.

“Considering Pflag York Region has



Pflag York Region formed a “choir of love” which stationed themselves outside the Aurora Public Library to counter any vocal protestors that might have demonstrated at APL’s Drag Queen Story Hour event. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

been in the news all this week with what has been happening with the York Catholic District School Board [and its decision not to fly the Progress Pride flag] we thought we would at least have something set up. Part of it is we’re unsure how many people are actually going to show up but we want to ensure the entrance is a safe space for people to walk into. Because it is a library, anybody who is yelling at a library has a lot of other issues going on.”

But outside of the duo on the west side of Yonge Street, it was smooth sailing and joy inside.

“My granddaughter is just turning four, but I think it’s important that she knows about diversity, that she respects all people, and enjoys everything,” said Councillor Gaertner who attended with granddaughter Hazel and Hazel’s mother, Kate. “Her mum’s a teacher, so she already has quite a background but it’s a wonderful way to introduce

kids to other worlds. It’s very important that we respect those other worlds.”

This was a view shared by Athena Vegas. The Aurora resident, who is known as Adam Barry when he’s not in drag as Athena, has been a long-time APL patron, often studying for exams in its quiet environment. For Barry, it was something of a homecoming.

“It means a lot for the simple fact you don’t see yourself in every single space of your hometown. In this space, I was just very excited to be given the opportunity to work this close with kids, make a positive impact, and [foster] a little bit more self-expression in themselves when they leave.”

Vegas, who has been doing story

hours for the last couple of years, says he’s been encouraged by seeing the events grow bigger and bigger with each passing year and, in turn, “getting better and better.”

“I have seen good triumph over evil every single time I step into one of these spaces and the organization of this program, as well as many of the others I have done, is just perfect for kids. It’s just watching them light up like this, which is proving the safe space we’re all trying to create for each other. Sometimes when you’re exposed to this positive kind of art in a safe manner, it allows you to kind of daydream a little bit... and I think [the kids] definitely saw all the glamour they needed for today!”

MP'S REPORT

From page 5

is a time to remember the importance of providing safer spaces for sexually and gender diverse people in Canada, where they can be their most true, authentic selves.

It is disappointing to see the York Region Catholic School Board’s decision to not fly the Pride flag during such a significant time of year. All students deserve to feel respected, accepted, and safe in their schools, regardless of how they identify.

On June 8, the Government of Canada is raising the Pride Flag in Ottawa, on Parliament Hill. This is an important moment for Pride Season, which encapsulates a wide range of events held around the world from June to September. It is a time for 2SLGBTQI+ communities and allies to come together to celebrate the resilience

of the Pride movement, to show the beauty and talent of the community, while also continuing to advocate for a safer and more inclusive Canada.

Aurora Street Festival

I very much enjoyed connecting with so many people at the Aurora Street Festival. It is a great event for the residents of Aurora and a significant tourism opportunity for the community and local businesses. Events such as this take a great deal of organization, commitment, and passion. The Aurora Chamber of Commerce deserves our gratitude for the incredible work put into ensuring that the festival was well run and truly enjoyable. Thank you!

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



Two protestors, covering their faces, were engaged in conversation by the Vice President of Pflag York Region. Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. CW236210 • Solution in Classifieds

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12		13			14		
15						16			17		
	18				19		20		21		
					22	23			24		
25	26	27	28	29							
30							31				
32								33	34	35	36
					38	39	40		41	42	
						43			44		
			45	46							
47	48				49			50	51	52	53
55					56			57			58
59					60			61			
62					63				64		

CLUES ACROSS

1. In a place to sleep

5. Chemical compound (abbr.)

8. A way to fish

11. Classic Linklater film “___ and Confused”

13. Legume

14. Indonesian island

15. Smooth, creamy substance

16. Arctic

17. Wood sorrels

18. Defied

20. Cattle

21. Tableland

22. Honorably retired and retaining one's title

25. Repossession

30. Danced

31. Adult males

32. A type of section
33. Type of Japanese animation

38. Satisfaction

41. Fit

43. “Ain't No Sunshine” singer

45. Failure

47. Israeli city

49. French river

50. Cavalry-sword

55. Nocturnal S. American rodent

56. Liquefied natural gas

57. Afflicted

59. Electronic counter-countermeasures

60. Popular HBO fantasy series (ε

61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

62. Large body of water

63. ___kosh, near Lake Winnebago

64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

1. Payroll firm

2. Unit of transmission

3. Rockers Better Than ___

4. Bambi is one

5. Highest parts of something

6. Correct behavior

7. Batty

8. Cyprinid fishes

9. Expression of sorrow or pity

10. Site of the famous Leaning Tower

12. American rocker Snider

14. W. African language

19. Symbol to mark for removal

23. ___ Squad

24. Resident

25. Federal savings bank

26. Paddle

27. Returned material authorization (abbr.)

28. One point south of due east

29. Winter melon
34. Last or greatest in an indefir large series

35. Anger

36. Central European river

37. First responders

39. Spanish noble

40. Persons with absence of skii pigment

41. Defunct airline

42. Small island (British)

44. The extent of something froi beginning to end

45. Capital of Bangladesh

46. Dutch cheese

47. Imitates

48. A contest of speed

51. Swiss river

52. Prejudice

53. Actor Idris

54. UNLV's are Runnin'

58. Criticize



INTERESTING FACT

Aurora celebrated Canada’s Centennial in 1967 with a street party, organized by Ron Wallace and George Timpson, that became a tradition. From 1970 to 1989, beer gardens at Aurora’s July 1st celebrations gave out commemorative mugs with the “Birthday Town” logo. Aurora was one of the only municipalities that celebrated on July 1st. Today, the Aurora Museum & Archive has a collection of commemorative mugs. The Museum is produced a limited number of commemorative mugs to celebrate Canada’s sesquicentennial in 2017.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Former YCDSB teacher
“appalled” by Board’s
Pride flag decision

I was a teacher and administrator at York Catholic District School Board from September 1980 until my retirement in June 2012.

During that time York Catholic was a beacon of inclusivity. Parents of all denominations sought to access their local school for their special needs children.

We had students, staff and administrators who were part of the LGBT community. There were no issues.

What has happened to my wonderful Board?

Now, I am appalled and ashamed to have been a member of this hate filled group of people.

If York Catholic wants to continue to exist as a publicly funded school board in the province of Ontario it needs to stop giving a reason to those who would strip us of our funding by returning to the principles that all belong, all are welcome and all are valued.

Rosemary Hopps
Toronto

One Book | One Aurora

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

A SENSE OF PLACE

Finding Edward takes us from Jamaica to Toronto and back in time to Africville and the lumber camps of British Columbia. Inspire us with a sense of place that your photo uncovers – whether from afar or within your own community.

Submission Guidelines:

There are two categories:

Youth (Ages 14 – 17)
and Adult (Ages 18 +)

Images may be
digitally altered

Photographs must be high
resolution for print

Winners will be announced
at the OBOA grand finale
on October 21, 2023

Winning photographs will
be published in the Auroran

APL Employees/Board/Judges
and immediate families are
ineligible to win

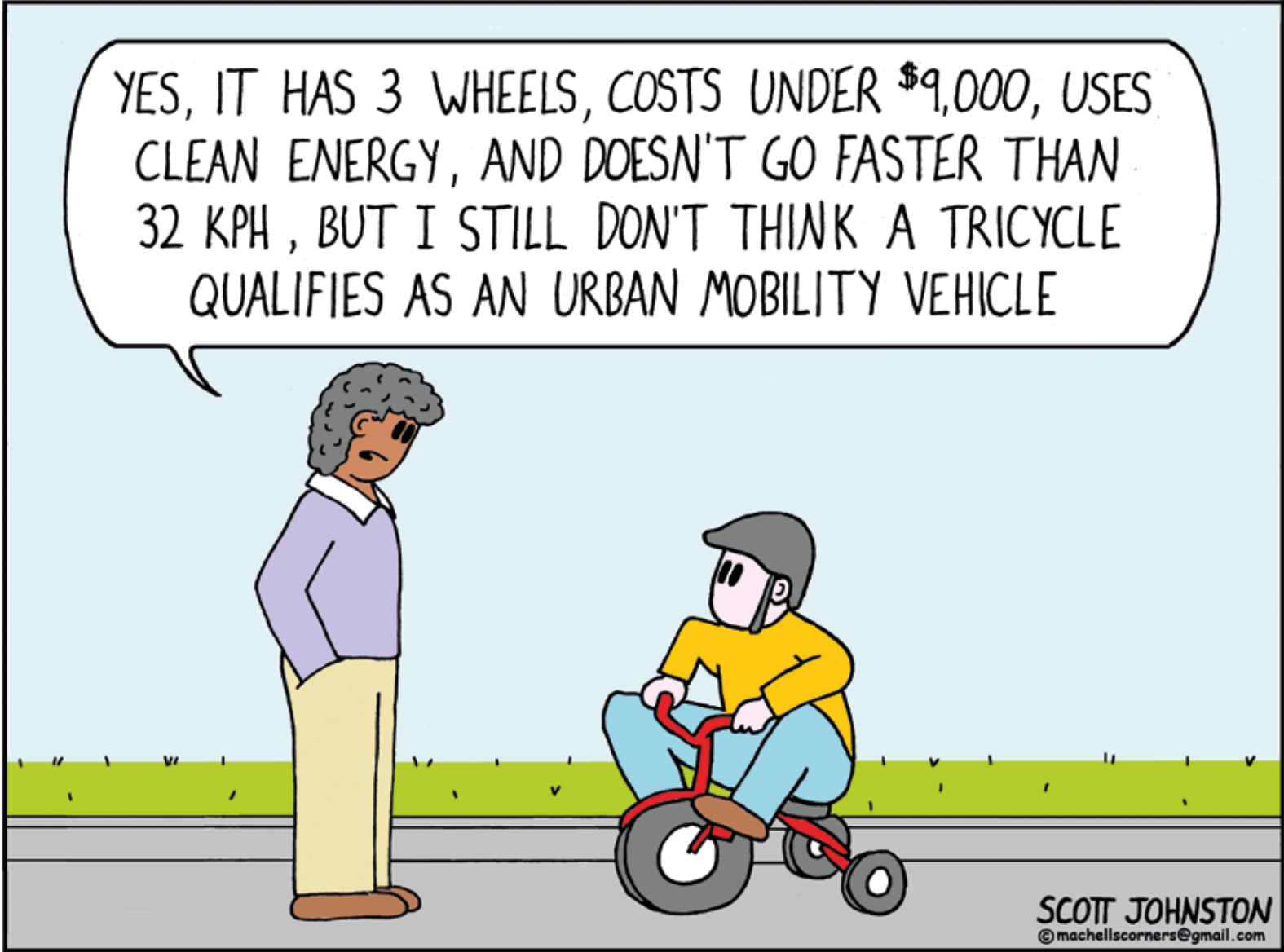
Please send submissions
to brock@lpcmedia.ca

Contest Deadline: Friday,
September 29, 2023

Prizes: Winner \$150 Gift Card |
Runner-Up \$100 Gift Card



Machell’s Corners



Not “small potatoes” anymore

When you have a chance to look back, sometimes the issues that mattered to you in your youth might seem like relatively small potatoes.

Math and numbers were never my strongest suit in my youth – and not much has changed on that front, I have to admit – and when my seemingly stellar Grade 4 record of A-s and B+s was tarnished by a C- in some generic math, at the time I felt it was the beginning of the end and all my hopes and dreams at the time of being an archeologist were being metaphorically buried in sand blowing in from parts unknown.

Yet, at the end of the day, somehow this blight on my Provincial report card didn’t haunt me for the rest of my days as I envisioned at the time. It was a bit of a quick-healing bruise – no more, no less – but go tell that to an academically-minded kid in Grade 4!

A few years later, in Grade 8, ahead of Nelson Mandela’s visit to Toronto, the most important issue in my mind was securing one of the few tickets allocated to our school for a youth rally he and his wife, Graca Machel, were holding at the SkyDome.

In order to score a place at my particular elementary school in Newmarket, our South Africa-born teacher prescribed a number of tasks and objectives, and as soon as the makeshift syllabus was available, that was the only thing that mattered to me.

Don’t get me wrong, there’s nothing wrong with having drive and ambition, but if I had a time machine I might zip back to that surprisingly competitive time just to tell my young self to “slow my roll” and calm down.

Not much changed in high school; as we worked our way up the grades, our student council decided to hold some sort of music event at school featuring a Toronto artist who was duly booked for the date – only for the principal to decide their “image” was less than appropriate for the school and the date duly cancelled.

For a couple of weeks, it was a top cause celebre, but something more important came along in which we could direct our respective energies and we moved on accordingly.

In retrospect, some of these vignettes from my own educational journey will undoubtedly spark an eyeroll or two. Energy may have been misdirected in some instances, but one thing I would never apologize for – nor, I suspect, would any of my peers – is the passion that we brought to the table.

But, as stated above, these instances



BROCK’S
BANTER

Brock Weir

were little more than small potatoes.

Much has changed since then.

Students today are more connected than ever before – to each other and the world around them. The same can be said for the teachers that are now guiding them through the heady journey that is youth.

Those embarking on or currently on that journey have a lot more to consider these days and, in turn, they are being encouraged to use their voices to advocate for the issues that matter to them. And rather than an elementary school math grade, a nosebleed section ticket for the SkyDome, or who may or may not perform in the high school “cafetorium” they are consequential indeed and should matter to all of us.

By the time you’re most likely to read this on Thursday, June 8, students within the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) are planning a walk-out in protest of the YCDSB’s decision last week to reject calls from students, along with calls from many teachers and parents, to raise the Progress Pride flag at their Catholic Education Centre (CEC), the Board’s headquarters on Bloomington Road in Aurora.

Through social media organized by students themselves, the objective, they say, is to “show the YCDSB that we need change NOW!” (Emphasis theirs)

Students prepared to walk out are encouraged to get up and out of the classroom at 1.15 p.m. and “wear rainbow colours instead of your uniform.”

“Our trustees and administration have failed us. Now we must act,” say organizers. “When we reference ‘administration,’ we specifically mean the Board’s senior administration, because principals, vice-principals, and staff have been extremely supportive. On June 8, walk out of your schools and classes in support of 2SLGBTQ+ respect, dignity, and visibility.

“The YCDSB has shown us that they

do not value their students, staff, and community members. We must act now! There is no time to wait for next year or the year after, when 2SLGBTQ+ students are suffering. We need to show [the YCDSB] that we care, and we will not be set aside.”

To those of you who did not attend or view the May 29 meeting at the CEC, the students’ position might seem hyperbolic, but, in my opinion, it is not.

Trustees who voted against flying the Progress Pride flag did not discount that more needs to be done to make students who identify as members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community feel safer and more welcome in the school environment but argued that flying the flag wouldn’t make much of a difference... despite students who walk the halls of their respective schools insisting that it would, indeed, be a good first step in the right direction.

Heck, even Student Trustees who shared their experiences and those of their peers at the Board table, as is the job assigned to them by the Board, were shut down after stating that Board members who framed those supporting the flag as viewing the pennant as a “panacea” that will solve all issues identified to the Board as “useless and a bit ignorant.”

“There is a massive campaign of hate around the western world against the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and it hurts knowing our Board is making national headlines for being a place where this hate is demonstrated,” said Student Trustee Jonah James before he was cut off.

“Students have chosen to come to this Board meeting whether in person or online to stand together and make their voices heard,” he continued. “Students, particularly those of the 2SLGBTQ+, are risking their right to a safe, equitable, fruitful and quality education just to see a little shine of light at this Board that serves them. To say no today is honestly just a slap in the face to every student here at the YCDSB.”

I look forward to seeing what comes out of the walkout this week, if it indeed, transpires – and what the Board’s response might be.

After all, a response might be only a few hundred metres west of the CEC on Bloomington Road where, as of Tuesday, ESC Renaissance, a French-language Catholic school under the jurisdiction of Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir doesn’t seem to have any problem flying an iteration of the Pride flag.

THE AURORAN

Aurora’s Community Newspaper

The Auroran Newspaper Company Ltd.
15213 Yonge Street, Suite 8, Aurora, L4G 1L8

Main number 905-727-3300
Fax number 905-727-2620

Founder
Ron Wallace

Publisher Emeritus
Rosemary Schumaker

Subscriptions available within Canada and U.S.
email: administration@auroran.com

EDITOR Brock Weir brock@lpcmedia.ca	GENERAL MANAGER Zach Shoub zach@lpcmedia.ca	PRODUCTION MANAGER Cynthia Proctor cynthiap@lpcmedia.ca	CLASSIFIEDS 905-727-3300 ex.102 cynthiap@lpcmedia.ca
ADVERTISING Zach Shoub zach@lpcmedia.ca	ADVERTISING Diane Buchanan diane@auroran.com	TODAYS NEW HOMES Zach Shoub zach@lpcmedia.ca	PHOTOGRAPHY Glenn Rodger grodger@rogers.com
ADVERTISING Karen Nemet karen@lpcmedia.ca		MOTORING Heather Erwin heather@caledoncitizen.com	

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada

Funded by the Government of Canada

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

EDITORIAL POLICY
Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number; although number will not be published. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.

ADVERTISING POLICY
Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.



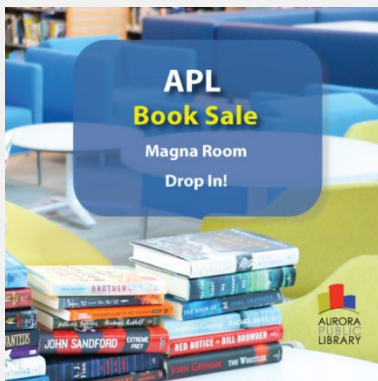
Aurora
Town
Square



Monthly News & Updates

June 2023

Town Square Partners' Corner



Drop in at the Magna Room:

June 16 | 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

June 17 | 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Aurora Public Library

Aurora Public Library Book Sale

Library staff has been busy sorting through gently used, donated books from the community in anticipation of their massive spring book sale.

Bestsellers, fiction, non-fiction, children's books, movies, music, and video games will be available at rock bottom prices! There's something for all ages and interests. Pay by cash, debit, or credit. Proceeds from the sale help generate revenue for the Library. Please bring your own bags!

Battle with Aurora Public Library continues as minority artist advocates for human rights policy

Yafang Shi accuses library of discrimination, reprisal

By Scarlett Liu, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter Aurora Banner
Tuesday, May 2, 2023



Yafang Shi, from Markham, is a journalist, photographer, poet, author and publisher with an exhibition of current affairs photo collages at the Aurora Public Library, including this one of peaceful protesting women arrested. She faced resistance to exhibiting some of her art due to political sensitivities. She persevered and is showing her work in its entirety. March 30, 2023 - Steve Somerville/Metroland

The standoff between artist Yafang Shi and the Aurora Public Library (APL) continues because Shi believes she has been treated unequally due to her public confrontation with the library and demands a formal apology from the library, while advocating for a review of their policies.

Shi's exhibition for women's rights to commemorate International Women's Day was censored by the library one day before the installation because of some "inappropriate content" criticizing Doug Ford and Donald Trump.

After two weeks of fighting, the library decided to proceed as is, but the argument did not conclude with the uncensored exhibition.

On April 17, the exhibition was taken down without an artist interview video about the exhibition, Shi said, claiming the library has erased the history of her exhibition on social movements for women's rights on its [website](#).

Normally, APL would schedule an artist interview video to promote the display during the exhibition, but according to Shi, she lost the extra exposure opportunity since she has been publicly urging the library to apologize and change its censorship practices.

"They are not only violating my constitutional right to freedom of expression, but also violating my equal rights under the Ontario Human Rights Code as a woman of colour. It is absolutely censorship, discrimination and reprisal."

Councillor Ron Weese, who is also a board member of APL, refused to comment on the issue. "This is in the hands of the Library Board Chair and CEO. Ms. Shi's objections have been noted and will be managed through the Library Board's authority in the matter," said the councillor.

However, neither the board chair nor the CEO of APL has responded to any inquiries from yorkregion.com since the end of March.

2Spirit artist Patrick Hunter lends his talents to Pflag event

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

There might be a few weeks until Pride Month begins in June, but local residents can get into the spirit early with a “fabulous” afternoon at the Aurora Public Library hosted by Pflag York Region.

On Saturday, May 6, 2Spirit Ojibwe Woodland artist Patrick Hunter, hailing from Red Lake, ON, will lead registrants through a painting class being billed as a “Fabulous Adventure.”

Hunter will lead everyone registered – and there is currently a wait list – through the fundamentals of painting techniques in a positive environment, the importance of mental health and healing through the arts, and the spiritual significance and history of the Woodland Art form in Indigenous communities.

“The intention behind the classes is just to impart on my participants the artistic confidence that they can start and finish an art piece with me in three hours and hopefully that inspires them to be more creative at home,” says Hunter. “It’s kind of like a step-by-step process taking it from a blank canvas to a very colourful feather that I have designed and they get to choose between seven different designs of feathers.”

Why feathers? That will be fully revealed at the event, but Hunter provides a teaser: “Whenever you’re given an eagle feather by a community leader or elder, it’s like a badge of honour. You have gone through something difficult and you

have come out the other side a better person.”

“There are two types of people who come into my classes and one of them is excited to be there, excited to learn, and the other person has a lot of anxiety, a lot of self-doubt, self-deprecation of their abilities, and it’s cool to see that person who is a little bit more scared to paint turn their tune around a little bit [and say] ‘I actually did something cool today.’”

Hunter’s love of art really bloomed when he got his first 100 per cent in Grade 11 on a Woodland-style painting. His mark made him think, “Maybe I have something here.” Yet, while he grew up with the Woodland style of art, he says he really didn’t have context on what he was seeking.

“I had a really great art teacher in high school who gave me the background on it: ‘Pretend you have spiritual x-ray goggles where you can see the spirit of what it is you’re looking at.’ Okay, got it,” he says. “When things sort of had that lens to look through, everything has a vibe, everything is colourful in the spirit world. Once I had that, I never stopped painting, really.”

“I have been self-employed now for the last 10 years and doing commission work and stuff like that is definitely part of the job. Teaching, I was trash in the beginning, I wasn’t very good at it, but you have to start and fail forward as much as you can to get better. Now I have taught thousands of people to paint and I have a process down on how to alleviate some of the anxiety that comes into creating art pieces.”

But, like that second type of



Patrick Hunter will lead a paint night this Saturday at the Aurora Public Library.
Photo courtesy of Patrick Hunter/Instagram

student who comes to his classes, self-realization is also an important part of Hunter’s artistic journey.

“I didn’t get truly successful until I put that out there, that I was a gay man and also Indigenous at the same time,” he says. “Once I got a little more authentic with myself and putting it out there to the social media audience, that is when things started to really kick off and resonate with people. In these classes on the last tour, I have probably taught more than 750 people, and I think it’s interesting and meaningful to younger people when they can see you can be out and accepted in the world, and also this job’s being an artist and entrepreneur – they can see it and they can see that it is something that is possible. I think when I was growing up, it wasn’t really a career option to be an entrepreneur, especially as an artist. I like to kind of fill in that gap and sort of just leave it all out on the table that this is how I did it, this is what I do now.”

For more information on the upcoming event, and to find your place on the waitlist, visit pflagyork.ca/coffee/programs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

RENDEZVOUS

AT RICHMOND HILL RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
COMPLIMENTARY IN-PERSON EVENTS FOR ACTIVE SENIORS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY



Mother's Day Afternoon Tea
Tuesday, May 9, 2023 2:00-3:00 pm

Make the time to enjoy an afternoon with the ladies to celebrate all that motherhood has to offer. Happy Mother's day to all the moms, grandmoms, foster moms, stepmoms, surrogate moms, and mother figures out there.



Senior Health & Wellness Fair OPEN HOUSE
Thursday, May 25, 2023 1:30-4:30 pm

May 25 is national seniors health and fitness day and we're celebrating with a health & wellness open house. **Join us at 1:30 pm for a presentation on Bowel and Bladder conditions by local OT Jasveen Kaur**, visit with our community health vendors, enjoy prizes, refreshments, and take a tour of our residence!



Lianne Harris presents: Royal Scandals
Tuesday, May 30, 2023 2:00-3:00 pm

Gossip, intrigue, love affairs, clandestine meetings, mystery children . . . secrets shared and confidences broken---it's all in a day's work for the royals! Tiptoe around the European courts for 1-hour with Lianne Harris and with chop-licking anticipation, uncover those true scandals that really did change history.



Soda Pop Shop Piano Jukebox with Dave Toms
Friday, June 2, 2023 2:00-3:00 pm

It's national donut day and we are celebrating with a sweet trip down memory lane with a piano performance from our favourite professional pianist, Dave Toms. Dave will be here to perform classic 50s inspired jukebox tunes while we serve sweet treats. (Don't worry, we have sugar free options available!)

DON'T DELAY! RESERVE YOUR SEAT WITH SAMRA & GIGGET TODAY

Call (905) 770-4704

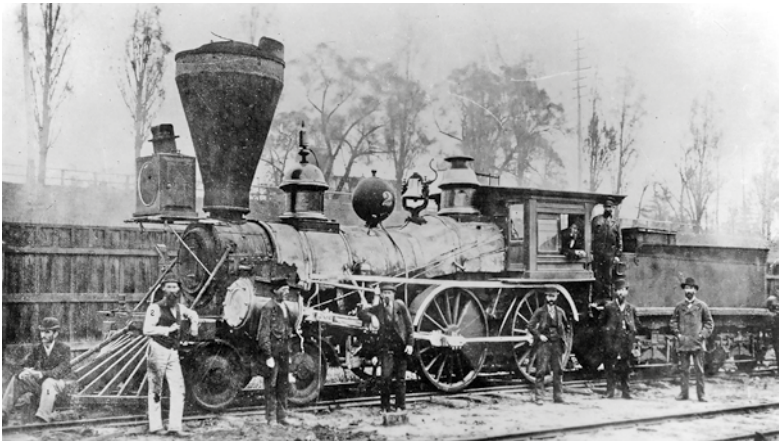
Richmond Hill Retirement Residence

70 Bernard Ave., Richmond Hill, ON L4C 0W7

www.RichmondHillRetirement.com



The Aurora Museum & Archives is remembering...



When Toronto Came to Aurora!

Neither the Big Smoke itself, nor its people; but a marvel of brass, iron, fire and water named Toronto – this photo (76.11.2) is of the first steam train to travel in Upper Canada. 170 years ago, May 16th, 1853, the train left Toronto and chugged its way North on its maiden voyage to Machell’s Corners – this was before Aurora had even been named. Toronto’s arrival heralded a new reality for our little hamlet, which would see dramatic industrial expansion thanks to the new, easy access to Lake Ontario via rail.



Welcome to Library Land

By Reccia Mandelcorn

One of the best things about living in Library Land is the serendipity every day presents. A career in this field invites ongoing learning opportunities, and working in a one-branch library often means stepping out of your comfort zone and trying something new.

This was my recent experience when I substituted for a colleague and hosted the Newcomer Book Discussion Group in collaboration with Library Settlement Partnerships. I love working with newcomers, but facilitating a book club was a new challenge.

In a previous portfolio, I helped newcomers find reading materials when they were learning English. This was a challenge – selecting interesting books at an accessible reading level for newcomer adults. What to select that would not condescend?

Our Newcomer Book Discussion Group discussed the book *Bitter and Sweet* by Sandra V. Feder. It’s a lovely, illustrated story about a young girl who has to move. Her grandmother tells her about how she felt leaving the “old country,” and how that was both bitter and sweet.

The story gently conveys the universal message, that while life can be full of challenging moments, sweeter ones can be found. But it is a picture book written for children ages 4 – 7. Would I be able to sustain interest and participation in the conversation?

I began with a few targeted questions, but soon left the more structured format to more of a conversation that drew upon the themes of the simple story. How did they feel about leaving their home countries? What foods did they enjoy? Can they buy the ingredients in Canada? How do they keep their culture alive? Do they miss home? What is the bitter and the sweet about immigrating to a new country?

We shared stories about children and grandchildren, about experiencing winters in Canada for the first time, and about the challenge of learning a new language. I learned so much about the immigrant experience, and I hope they found meaning and connection in a simple children’s book.

Likely, this is the essence of all book clubs and explains why they are so popular. Book Clubs expand our reading horizons, give us space to discuss threads from the narrative, and build community through the sharing of perspectives.

APL offers a variety of Book Clubs facilitated by our staff, sometimes in collaboration with community partners. We have book club kits so it’s easy to get multiple copies of a book for your members, and the annual OBOA (www.onebookoneaurora.com) initiative provides multiple copies of the selected book so your book club can be part of the annual community conversation. This year, we are discussing *Finding Edward* by Sheila Murray and will celebrate our community read with an in-person author visit in the fall.

I am looking forward to the upcoming Victorian Era Book Discussion Group hosted in collaboration with the Aurora Historical Society - just loving my reread of the classic, *Jane Eyre*.

What I’ve Been Reading:

Light From Uncommon Stars by Ryka Aoki
Mad Honey by Katie Welch
Theory by Dionne Brand
Funeral Songs for Dying Girls by Cherie Dimaline

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 alcohol be sold at Aurora’s Concerts in the Park events?

Yes No Unsure
www.theauroran.com

RESULTS TO DATE	YES	NO	UNSURE
May 9, 2023	50%	50%	0%

In mid-April, I along with colleagues from York Region had the pleasure of welcoming a delegation from York Region Council to Ottawa. Along with the Chair of the Municipality of York Region, the CAO, Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief of Police, were Aurora Mayor Tom Mrakas and other local Mayors who had the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue with cabinet ministers and parliamentary secretaries on a host of subjects. These discussions were an opportunity for York Region officials to share their views and insights on items such as community safety, bail reform, housing, and transit. It also provided cabinet ministers with a York Region perspective on the challenges of growth and the opportunities at hand. When federal leaders meet with local leaders, relationships develop that result in better outcomes for our communities. I look forward to many more meaningful dialogues with our York Region counterparts and the positive outcomes that happen when we work together.

Local Food Infrastructure Fund

Our government has announced \$10 million for a new phase of the Local Food Infrastructure Fund (LFIF). This initiative was created as part of the Government of Canada’s Food Policy, a roadmap for healthier and more sustainable food systems in Canada.

This new phase of LFIF will provide rapid-response funding in the range of \$15,000 to \$120,000 per project to help improve food security in communities through investments in equipment and infrastructure. Projects must be targeted and immediate, and must be directly related to addressing food security and increasing the accessibility of healthy, nutritious and ideally local foods within communities. For example, a project could help purchase and install a walk-in refrigerator or storage units for donated food.

The LFIF is a 5-year, \$70-million



MP'S REPORT

Tony Van Bynen, MP
Newmarket - Aurora

initiative, ending on March 31, 2024.

Canada Summers Jobs

Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) provides youth in Canada an opportunity to gain work experience. The Job Bank for CSJ has now been launched, meaning that jobs will continuously be posted between April 24 and July 24.

The CSJ job placements are full-time and have a duration of 6-16 weeks (eight weeks on average). Youth can apply for placements in a variety of sectors across Canada.

Over 60 organizations have been approved locally in our riding of Newmarket-Aurora, creating 328 positions for the summer with an investment of just over \$1.25 million.

Employment among youth aged 15 to 24 has more than recovered the job losses suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic, and through CSJ, we are working towards strengthening the labour force in this age range.

I encourage those aged 15 to 30 to visit jobbank.gc.ca to apply for job placements.

Veterans and Homelessness

We owe Canadian veterans our support and are committed to helping them in securing and maintaining housing. We’re providing \$79.1 million in funding for the new Veteran Homelessness Program that will provide housing supports and services to those at risk of, or who are experiencing homelessness.

A Crucial Corner



Time Travellers Diary

By Jacqueline Stuart

the hotel’s business steadily declined and in the spring of 1970 the Queen’s Hotel closed. The Toronto-Dominion Bank purchased the property in July of that year.

For some perverse reason, it recently occurred to me that it would be interesting to see the sad work of demolition in progress! The time machine was put into action.

Fortunately, December of 1970 was unusually mild so I was able to stand for a while against the wall of the Bank of Montreal, looking over to the demolition site. At one point a young man walking down Yonge from the north stopped near me and turned his gaze across the street, too. We fell into conversation. We could see that the exterior walls were about a foot thick and of solid brick: this building was not about to fall down of its own accord.

My sidewalk companion said he thought that Toronto-Dominion should have altered the hotel’s ground floor for use as the bank branch. Perhaps the upper

floors could have become rentable office spaces. Shaking our heads and sighing, we went our separate ways.

I did not come home right away. Instead, I travelled to May 1, 1973, to be present at the official opening of the new TD branch. Mayor Evelyn Buck officiated.

The new building was eye-catching with its walls of dark glass and the tall concrete buttresses. It handled its important location well: at least the Queen’s was not replaced by a nondescript box. I came back to the present.

The bank occupied that corner until 2018. The building now houses Dream Art Gallery, a furniture and accessories store. How secure is the building’s future? I hesitate to use my machine to travel forward in time to find out.

Many thanks to the young man I met at the crossroads in 1970. I believe his name was John McIntyre.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Former Mayor appreciated cartoon

(Re: Machell's Corners, April 27 – “Public Engagement in Aurora”)

Although Henny and I moved to Keswick a few years ago I still try to keep up with what is happening in Aurora. Which, of course, includes reading the Auroran – although I am often a few weeks behind. Once again, Scott Johnston nails it with his “Public Engagement in Aurora” cartoon of April 27. Spot on Scott!

Geoffrey Dawe
Former Mayor

One Book | One Aurora

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

A SENSE OF PLACE

Finding Edward takes us from Jamaica to Toronto and back in time to Africville and the lumber camps of British Columbia. Inspire us with a sense of place that your photo uncovers – whether from afar or within your own community.

Submission Guidelines:

There are two categories:

Youth (Ages 14 – 17)
and Adult (Ages 18 +)

Images may be
digitally altered

Photographs must be high
resolution for print

Winners will be announced
at the OBOA grand finale
on October 21, 2023

Winning photographs will
be published in the Auroran

APL Employees/Board/Judges
and immediate families are
ineligible to win

Please send submissions
to brock@lpcmedia.ca

Contest Deadline: Friday,
September 29, 2023

Prizes: Winner \$150 Gift Card |
Runner-Up \$100 Gift Card



THE AUROAN

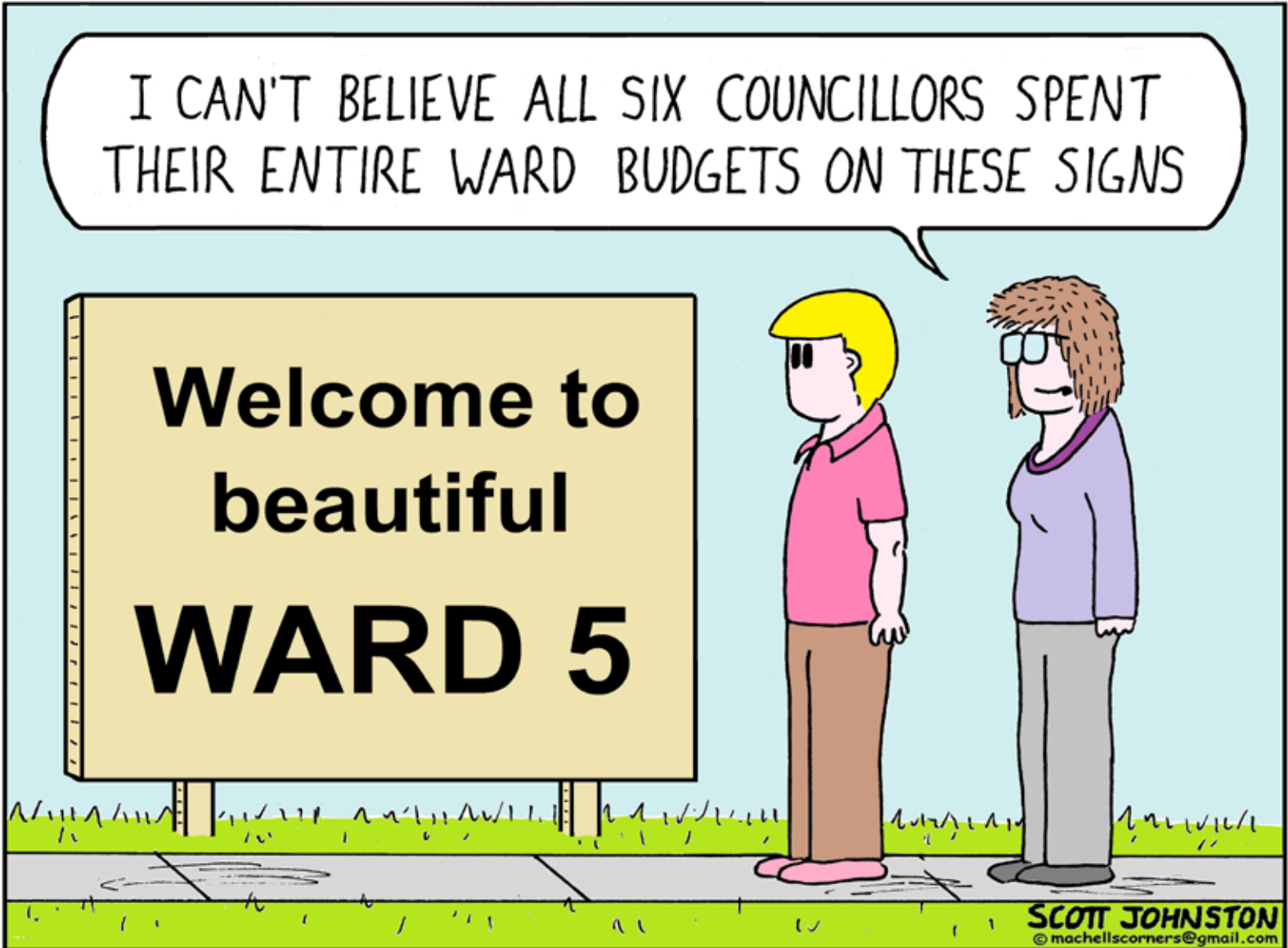
www.TheAuroran.com



@TheAuroranNews

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

Machell's Corners



“Do I hear happiness in here?” *

Since we’re all basking in the joys of spring following its unofficial Canadian start on Victoria Day this past Monday, I hesitate to write anything that might put a chill in the air, but maybe a bit of brrr! is good for us.

Let’s look at the World Happiness Report, a survey done annually since 2002 which, using a series of metrics such as social support, life expectancy, freedom, internal and external perceptions, and the always popular Gross Domestic Product, determines which nations on our fair planet happen to be the happiest.

Back in March, the Report published its yearly findings and Finland, the top-rated country of conviviality, retained its position for the sixth year running. Finland was followed, in order, by Denmark, Iceland, Israel, The Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Luxembourg and New Zealand.

“The ultimate goal of politics and ethics should be human well-being,” said Jeffrey Sachs in the report. “The happiness movement shows that wellbeing is not a ‘soft’ or ‘vague’ idea, but rather focuses on areas of life of critical importance: material conditions, mental and physical wealth, personal virtues, and good citizenship. We need to turn this wisdom into practical results to achieve more peace, prosperity, trust, civility – and yes, happiness – in our societies.”

Given that eight out of ten of the apparent happiest places on Earth are countries that are famed for either their rugged, mountainous terrain, skiing conditions, and thermal activity, I guess the chill in the air is an idea too “soft” or “vague” to point out, but it is not lost on me. And I now see the wisdom of television’s Rhoda Morgenstern relocating from New York City to Minneapolis, Minnesota, “where it’s cold and I figured I’d keep better.”

But Rhoda and I digress.

Yet, happiness is now being measured beyond national borders.

Recently, much ado was made about a Happiest Cities in Canada report published by the real estate outfit Point2 Homes.

Zeroing in on “Canada’s Largest Cities” (and, by the results, towns and townships as well), the top ten Canadian cities in which to live were deemed to be Caledon, with a “happiness index” of 67.41; Milton, ON, with 63.79; Halton Hills, ON, with 63.06; Clarington, ON, with 62.50; Burlington with 62.47; Levis, QC with 61.34; Oakville with 61.09; District of Vancouver 60.70; Saguenay,



BROCK’S BANTER

Brock Weir

QC with 60.70; and rounding out the top ten is Aurora with a rating of 60.57.

“To determine the level of happiness of the largest 100 cities in Canada, Point2 analyzed 30 happiness-related metrics to create our very own happiness index,” they said. “From median after-tax income, poverty rate, perceived health, and a sense of belonging to the simplest practical factors like commute time, rainfall and air quality, we split the metrics across four happiness-relevant dimensions: Economy & Real Estate, Location & Demographics; Health & Wellbeing; and Community & Environment.”

Now, as the editor of The Caledon Citizen, serving the top-ranking community, and The Auroran, which serves the tenth-ranked happiest “city” I read the list, and all its qualifiers, with some degree of pride, but I couldn’t help but wonder how other members of the community felt.

After all, one person’s measure of happiness is certainly not going to be the same as another.

For some, happiness is simply having a roof over one’s head and just enough to make ends meet, rather than their respective commute time or the state of the local real estate market. For others, who have been blessed with wealth and health throughout their lives, happiness will likely be measured from different goalposts.

Pointing out that the “Cities” survey was based primarily upon census data, Caledon Citizen columnist Sheralyn Roman mused last week, “If instead a survey was to ask residents directly, you might hear some different responses.”

“The report alludes to the city’s green landscapes, wellness retreats and 19th-century architecture as the reason why Caledon’s residents are happiness,” she shares from the survey, before adding her own perspective: “Sure, if you measure happiness by proximity to the

Millcroft Inn, I am about to get even happier than I already am. If, however, you measure it by my ability to afford regular visits to wellness retreats, that’s a whole different story.”

She adds: “A number of other metrics factored into the study as well including: ‘median after-tax income, poverty rate, perceived health, and a sense of belonging, as well as practical factors such as commute time, rainfall, and air quality.’ Apparently, these are ‘happiness factors.’ You may not be surprised to learn that my first question is, ‘According to whom?’ If my median after-tax income is good and I live in a community with a low poverty rate that must mean that I am relatively wealthy and thankfully not surrounded by those who are not. Ergo, I must be happy in my privileged middle-class existence. (Please, please know that I am being extremely sarcastic here) Is NIMBYism what makes people happy?”

Another benefit of asking the residents directly about their level of happiness living in Aurora or Caledon, or any community for that matter, might also shed some light on how our own markers of “happy” have changed over the years.

The global pandemic changed our perspective on many things, and I think happiness is probably one of them. As our world shrank, we had to adjust, and I found that I and many of the individuals in my friend circle came out the other side with a newfound appreciation for the smaller things in life, perhaps even the things that were around us all the time.

Rather than material wealth, I am personally seeing an increased drive to instead collect “experiences.” While that has always been a happiness element, maybe we’re making up for lost time on all the experiences and memories we could have had and made during the more challenging years of COVID.

But these experiences have also exacerbated other things, such as mental health challenges, that can sometimes make even the seemingly simplest of the aforementioned goalposts just a little bit further out of reach.

But, again, it all comes down to the individual

So, what are your own happiness factors? How do you measure it? Have they evolved over time? Send your thoughts to brock@lpcmedia.ca.

**With apologies to Annie’s Miss Hannigan*

THE AUROAN

Aurora’s Community Newspaper

The Auroran Newspaper Company Ltd.
15213 Yonge Street, Suite 8, Aurora, L4G 1L8

Main number 905-727-3300
Fax number 905-727-2620

Founder Ron Wallace | Publisher Emeritus Rosemary Schumaker

Subscriptions available within Canada and U.S.
email: administration@auroran.com

EDITOR Brock Weir brock@lpcmedia.ca	GENERAL MANAGER Zach Shoub zach@lpcmedia.ca	PRODUCTION MANAGER Cynthia Proctor cynthiap@lpcmedia.ca	CLASSIFIEDS 905-727-3300 ex.102 cynthiap@lpcmedia.ca
ADVERTISING Zach Shoub zach@lpcmedia.ca	ADVERTISING Diane Buchanan diane@auroran.com	TODAYS NEW HOMES Zach Shoub zach@lpcmedia.ca	PHOTOGRAPHY Glenn Rodger grodger@rogers.com
ADVERTISING Karen Nemet karen@lpcmedia.ca	MOTORING Heather Erwin heather@caledoncitizen.com	EDITORIAL POLICY Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number; although number will not be published. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.	

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada

Funded by the Government of Canada

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

ADVERTISING POLICY
Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.



Monthly News & Updates

May 2023



[Register](#)

Aurora Public Library

Aurora Walking Tours

Saturday, May 27 | 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

When you walk along Aurora's historic downtown core, you pass many important heritage buildings on Yonge Street that have survived, giving our town the unique and distinct character we love.

The architecture of these buildings has no shortage of stories to tell. There is no better way to learn about the history of downtown "Olde Aurora" than by taking a guided walking tour.

Learn about Yonge Street, its beginnings in the 18th century as a military road, and its evolution to meet today's diverse community needs.

In partnership with Aurora Historical Society.