



Aurora Public Library Board
MEETING
Wednesday, October 15, 2025
7:00 p.m.
MA Room

AGENDA

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
3. Minutes of:
 - .1 September 17, 2025 Meeting
 - .2 October 2, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting *(enclosure)*
4. Reports
 - .1 Third Quarter Operations Report SR2025.33 *(enclosure)*
 - .2 Third Quarter Use Indicators Report SR2025.34 *(enclosure)*
 - .3 Financial Statement as of September 30, 2025
SR2025.35 *(enclosure)*
5. Items for Consideration
 - .1 2023-2026 Draft Operating Budget Report
SR2025.36 *(enclosure)*
 - .2 Ontario Public Library Week *(verbal)*
6. Library CEO Updates
 - .1 CEO Updates Report SR2025.37 *(enclosure)*
7. General Business Information/Questions
 - .1 APL Updates *(enclosure)*
8. Member Announcements
9. Resolution to Move Into Closed Session
 - .1 Labour relations or employee negotiations and personal matters
about an identifiable individual
10. Date of Next Meeting: **Wednesday, November 19, 2025**

11. Adjournment

**** Please advise staff of regrets for attendance, by noon on October 15th by emailing mrae@aurorapl.ca.**



Aurora Public Library Board

MINUTES of MEETING

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

The Aurora Public Library Board held its regular meeting on September 17, 2025 in the MA Room.

Present: Christina Choo-Hum (Vice Chair), John Clement, Lauren Hanna (Chair), Councillor Harold Kim, Greg Smith, Councillor Michael Thompson, Terri Watman

Chief Executive Officer: Jodi Marr

Staff: Victora Dillon, Manager Collections and Access; Maida Rae, HR Coordinator/EA (recorder); Julie Rocca, Business Manager, Polly Ross-Tyrrell, Manager Customer Opportunity

The Chair called the meeting to order at 07:02 p.m.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: **25.05.51**
Moved by: J. Clement
Seconded by: T. Watman
CARRIED

THAT the agenda be approved

2. Disclosure of Interest

3. Approval of Minutes:

.1 Regular meeting of June 18, 2025

MOTION: **25.05.52**
Moved by: G. Smith
Seconded by: C. Choo-Hum
CARRIED

THAT the Minutes of the June 18, 2025 regular meeting be approved

4. Items for Consideration

.1 *Second Quarter Operations Report SR2025.25*

A staff report was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **25.05.53**
Moved by: J. Clement
Seconded by: T. Watman
CARRIED

THAT the Aurora Public Library 2025 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives Report dated June 30, 2025 be approved

.2 *Second Quarter Use Indicators Report SR2025.26*

A staff report was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **25.05.54**
Moved by: G. Smith
Seconded by: C. Choo-Hum
CARRIED

THAT the Aurora Public Library Board receives the Second Quarter Use Indicators Report to June 30, 2025 as information

.3 *Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2025 SR2025.27*

A staff report was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **25.05.55**
Moved by: C. Choo-Hum
Seconded by: Councillor M. Thompson
CARRIED

THAT the Financial Statement for Aurora Public Library for the period ending June 30, 2025 be received as information

5. Items for Consideration

.1 *Library Services Centre Update Report SR2025.28*

A staff report was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **25.05.56**
Moved by: J. Clement
Seconded by: T. Watman
CARRIED

THAT the Library Services Centre Update Report dated September 17, 2025 be received as information

.2 *Minimum Wage Increase Report SR2025.29*

A staff report was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **25.05.57**
Moved by: G. Smith
Seconded by: C. Choo-Hum
CARRIED

THAT a general wage increase effective October 1, 2025 be applied to the salary schedule for the Library Page group

.3 2026 Library Board Meeting Schedule Report SR2025.30

A staff report was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **25.05.58**

Moved by: Councillor M. Thompson

Seconded by: J. Clement

CARRIED

THAT the 2026 Library Board Meeting Schedule be approved

.4 Independent Overdrive Platform Report SR2025.31

A staff report was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **25.05.59**

Moved by: T. Watman

Seconded by: G. Smith

CARRIED

THAT the Aurora Public Library Board receives the Independent Overdrive Platform Report as information

V. Dillon, Manager Collections and Access presented a report regarding moving to an independent Overdrive platform effective January 1, 2026.

Councillor H. Kim arrived at 7:31 p.m.

.5 APLB Committee Review

A discussion regarding membership of the Board Committees occurred at the meeting.

MOTION: **25.05.60**

Moved by: J. Clement

Seconded by: T. Watman

CARRIED

THAT T. Watman be added to the Executive Committee, and

THAT C. Choo-Hum be added to the Finance Committee

6. Library CEO Updates

.1 CEO Updates SR2025.32

A staff report was provided prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **25.05.61**

Moved by: G. Smith

Seconded: C. Choo-Hum

CARRIED

THAT the Library CEO Updates be received as information

Staff shared highlights from 2025's Summer Reading Club and the Library of Things.

CEO J. Marr spoke to a letter from the Town's CAO regarding the recent Council motion supporting a 0% tax levy. This may impact how the Library's budget is presented later this year, but the Library is not being asked to alter their budget at this time. This will be discussed at the upcoming Library Board Finance Committee meeting before the budget is presented to the Board in October.

Library staff will be partnering with York Region Homelessness Community Programs to help meet community needs. The Library will work to offer programming to assist those experiencing homelessness.

7. General Business Information/Questions

.1 APL Updates

Photos and recent newspaper articles were shared prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **25.05.62**

Moved by: Councillor H. Kim

Seconded by: C. Choo-Hum

CARRIED

THAT the APL Updates be received as information

A Curriculum Collection is currently in development.

The recent Steve Paikin, Bruce Dowbiggin and Andrew Applebaum event was a great example of a partnership event with the Town.

8. Resolution to Move into Closed Session

MOTION: **25.05.63**

Moved by: Councillor M. Thompson

Seconded by: J. Clement

CARRIED

THAT the Board move into closed session to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual and labour relations

The Board moved into closed session at 8:23 p.m.

MOTION: **25.05.64**

Moved by: G. Smith

Seconded by: Councillor M. Thompson

CARRIED

THAT the Board move out of closed session

The Board moved out of closed session at 9:00 p.m.

MOTION: **25.05.65**

Moved by: Councillor M. Thompson

Seconded by: J. Clement

CARRIED

THAT the Library Board confirms the CEO receives the recommended step increase after completing their first year in the role

9. Member Announcements

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

A. Adjournment

MOTION: **25.05.66**

Moved by: G. Smith

Seconded by: T. Watman

CARRIED

THAT the meeting be adjourned
at 9 p.m.

L. Hanna
Chair

J. Marr
Chief Executive Officer



Aurora Public Library Board Finance Committee

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday October 2, 2025

The Aurora Public Library Finance Committee held a meeting on Thursday, October 2, 2025 in the MA Room.

Present: Christina Choo-Hum, Lauren Hanna, Councillor Harold Kim

Staff: Jodi Marr, Chief Executive Officer; Julie Rocca, Business Manager

The meeting was called to order at 5:11 p.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: **25.01.01**

Moved by: Councillor H. Kim

Seconded by: L. Hanna

CARRIED

THAT the agenda be adopted

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Minutes of October 8, 2024 Meeting

MOTION: **25.01.02**

Moved by: C. Choo-Hum

Seconded by: Councillor H. Kim

CARRIED

THAT the minutes of the previous meeting be approved

4. Terms of Reference

MOTION: **25.01.03**

Moved by: C. Choo-Hum

Seconded by: Councillor H. Kim

CARRIED

THAT the terms of reference be received

5. APL Operating Line Detail 2024-2026

MOTION: **25.01.04**
Moved by: C. Choo-Hum
Seconded by: L. Hanna
CARRIED

THAT the APLB Finance Committee review the Operating Line Detail

6. APL Operating Budget Summary 2024-2026

MOTION: **25.01.05**
Moved by: L. Hanna
Seconded by: C. Choo-Hum
CARRIED

THAT the APLB Finance Committee recommend the APL Operating Budget Summary 2024-2026 be forwarded to APLB at the October 15, 2025 meeting

7. APL 10 Year Capital 2026-2034

MOTION: **25.01.06**
Moved by: Councillor H. Kim
Seconded by: C. Choo-Hum
CARRIED

THAT the APLB Finance Committee recommend the APL 10 Year Capital 2026-2034 be forwarded to APLB at the October 15, 2025 meeting

8. Other Business

9. Adjournment

MOTION: **25.01.07**
Moved by: Councillor H. Kim
Seconded by: C. Choo-Hum
CARRIED

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Councillor Harold Kim
Chair, APLB Finance Committee

J. Marr
Chief Executive Officer



Aurora Public Library Board

REPORT

SR2025.33

SUBJECT: ***AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES REPORT***

FROM: Jodi Marr, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: October 15, 2025

RECOMMENDATION

That the *Aurora Public Library 2025 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives Report* dated September 30, 2025 be approved.

BACKGROUND

The Aurora Public Library 2025 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives chart was developed by the Library's management team to track their progress in achieving identified goals and objectives. With a new Strategic Plan slated for development, additional goals may be added later based on that updated planning document.

This chart will be reviewed regularly by the Library management team and shared quarterly with the Board to provide details of key accomplishments throughout the year.

ATTACHMENTS:

Aurora Public Library 2025 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

***Assisted by: Executive Leadership Team
Maida Rae, Human Resources Coordinator/EA***

Jodi Marr
Chief Executive Officer

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY 20XX GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS %	START	END	SUCCESS MEASURE	NOTES	ON TRACK/AT RISK	ACHIEVED
Strategic Direction 1. Build Community								
1.1 Expand Targeted Collections	Victoria	100%	Q1	Q1	Launch a collection of Hi-Lo and dyslexia friendly materials for the community to borrow. Add direct links to collections to the website for better access.	High Interest / Low Vocabulary (HiLo). Dyslexia – friendly. Add more titles and new content to these collections. Increase usage with direct links, and physical merchandising.		Yes
1.2 Curriculum Collection	Victoria	90%	Q1	Q4	Launch a collection of curriculum specific study-aid materials available to the community to borrow.	Content shifted from classic literature books to study-aid materials based off of community need.	On Track	
1.3 Retail Opportunities	Julie	75%	Q2	Q4	Assess the feasibility of selling APL branded goods and literary related items at the library.	Evaluate opportunity for potential revenue, and community demand. Balance operational logistics, and alignment with the library’s mission, ensuring it enhances user experience.	On track to complete Q4	
1.4 Town Square Integration	Jodi	75%	Q1	Q4	Effective MOU and programming integration. Development of SLA. Continued integration of network. Improved efficiencies. Successful grand opening. Installation of book drop. Resolve deficiencies.	Revised MOU in progress. Book drop completed. March 2025 Deficiencies identified and addressed.	Carry Over from 2024	
1.8 Restart bookings for Colleen Abbott Gallery	Jodi/Polly	100%	Q1	Q3	Create a booking submission form for on the website and assign a committee to review and book ongoing shows.	Booking form is live, committee is meeting shortly.	Carry Over from 2024	Yes

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY 20XX GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS %	START	END	SUCCESS MEASURE	NOTES	ON TRACK/AT RISK	ACHIEVED
Strategic Direction 2. Place of Possibilities								
2.1 Upgrade network hardware, servers, and software.	Mario	80%	Q1	Q4	Enhance security, performance, and user experience. Improve system reliability, reduce downtime, and ensure a future-ready IT infrastructure.	Network upgrades have begun. New servers purchased, beginning deployment. Servers have been deployed; old servers have been decommissioned. Upgrading network switches	On Track	
2.2 Discovery Passes Collection	Victoria	100%	Q1	Q4	Launch a collection of museum, art gallery, and educational centre passes available to the community to borrow.	Possible passes (ROM / AGO / Black Creek Pioneer Village)		Yes
2.3 Juvenile Collections (Launchpads / Phonics boxes / Vox books refresh)	Victoria	100%	Q1	Q4	Launch a collection of digital launch pads and phonics books available to the community to borrow.	Playaway Products: Launch Pads are educational digital tablets for juvenile learners. Phonics boxes are a set of phonics books that are borrowed as a kit.		Yes
2.4 Investigate Digitizing Local History Collection	Victoria	100%	Q1	Q1	Partner with Town of Aurora Museum and Archives to explore local history opportunities.	Inventory current collection Research human resource requirements. Relocate local history materials to Town of Aurora Museums and Archives.		YES
2.5 Introduce Satellite Collection	Jodi/Victoria/Mario	100%	Q1	Q3	Install a book kiosk in the SARC to improve service to Ward 4, 5 and 6.	RFP Developed Space at SARC secured Committee developed to meet Union requirements as per the CA Staff procedures developed Courier engaged for service Report to Board Re: Procurement		Yes

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY 20XX GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS %	START	END	SUCCESS MEASURE	NOTES	ON TRACK/AT RISK	ACHIEVED
2.6 Second Floor Entrance	Jodi/Victoria/Polly	60%	Q1	Q4	Install a service point at the entrance on the second floor of the Library connecting with ATS.	Review traffic patterns. Working with Town of Aurora to refine: Teknion desk solution	On Track	
2.7 Enhance Core Library Service through Readers' Advisory	Jodi/Polly	25%	Q1	Q3	Increase library staff's understanding and capacity for Readers' Advisory service by providing four additional genre-based RA and one children's specific RA training.	Create Niche academy modules based on current genre guides. Staff to attend NovelList and other training for RA service.	Carry Over from 2024	
2.8 Rebranding of Book Bike	Jodi	50%	Q1	Q3	Increase APL visibility and branding. Improve ad utilize existing resource.	Met with the company to do wrap the bike on November 22, 2024. Marketing and Communications Coordinator is working on the design. Estimated to be completed in early 2025		
2.9 RFID Gates	Jodi/Mario	60%	Q1	Q4	Install RFID gates at the entrance on the second floor to reduce shrink and better protect library assets.	Received quote from vendor. Met with electrician on site. Met with vendor on site. RFID gates ordered/received Electrical work to begin the beginning of October	On Track	
2.10 Seed Library	Polly/Jodi	75%	Q3	2026	Begin gathering seeds in Fall 2025 Launch partnerships with gardening/environmental organizations	Partnerships progressing, local volunteer has joined us to help develop the program.	On track	
Strategic Direction 3. Organizational Capacity								
3.1 Investigate new Partnership with Overdrive	Victoria	100%	Q1	Q2	Improved user experience with E-Books and Audiobooks. Additional control over collections purchases to suit community needs.			Yes

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY 20XX GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS %	START	END	SUCCESS MEASURE	NOTES	ON TRACK/AT RISK	ACHIEVED
3.2 Intellectual Freedom Training for Staff	Victoria	90%	Q1	Q4	Improve Intellectual Freedom Awareness and prepare staff for book / program challenges Create 1 – 2 Intellectual Freedom training modules that are mandatory for staff	Training complete, awaiting CEO approval	On Track	
3.4 Investigate reducing holds list wait time	Victoria	90%	Q1	Q4	Reduce the holds list for physical and digital material.	Digital: Transitioning to an independent Overdrive Platform will reduce wait time with more manual intervention / Implement a Lucky Day collection Physical: SARC Browse & Borrow to aid in reducing holds wait list / Reduce holds ratio for purchasing secondary copy (from 10 to 8)	On Track	
3.5 Build Leadership Capacity for Customer Opportunity Team	Polly	50%	Q1	Q4	Complete two assigned professional development courses aimed at expanding leadership abilities. Improved internal training for Building Supervisor.	Explore leadership training opportunities for staff at the Librarian and IPS levels. Building supervisor training published and assigned.	Carry Over from 2024	
3.6 Strategic Plan	Jodi	40%	Q1	Q4	Vibrant plan for the next five years.	Include equity, diversity, inclusion, Indigenous relations, mental health, marketing and communications, org review. Jodi has researched strategic planning consultants for Libraries in Ontario and completed an Introduction to Strategic planning course in order to prepare to develop the strategic plan in 2025. Jodi has reached out to several consultants to find support for this work.	Carry Over from 2024	

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY 20XX GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS %	START	END	SUCCESS MEASURE	NOTES	ON TRACK/AT RISK	ACHIEVED
3.7 Showcase the depth and variety of library programming options	Polly	50%	Q1	Q4	Menu of programming that includes at least 5 programs for various ages and demographics. Create a page on the website with information and contacts for library visits for various groups.	Create a menu that clearly outlines for teachers and outside groups what deliverable programming they can get from the library. Examples include: Intro to 3D Printing, Intro to Online Research, Library Scavenger Hunt, and Intro to the Catalogue for Elementary Schools, Storytime for Daycares etc.	Carry Over from 2024	
3.8 Value of Ontario Libraries Toolkit (VOLT)	Jodi	95%	Q1	Q3	Input 2024 Library data into the VOLT to demonstrate APL's social return on investment (SROI) Use results of VOLT to inform and advocate for the library	Collections data was entered by Victoria Dillon. VOLT Report presented to the board in May 2025 VOLT Report data added to the Budget Presentation for 2026	On Track	
3.9 Customer Service Training	Polly/Victoria	90%	Q1	Q4	At least three Customer Service Trainings completed by staff	2 trainings completed, awaiting CEO approval. Ryan Dowd Homelessness Training rolled out.	On Track	



Aurora Public Library Board

REPORT

SR2025.34

SUBJECT: *THIRD QUARTER USE INDICATORS REPORT*

FROM: Jodi Marr, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: *October 15, 2025*

RECOMMENDATION

That the *Aurora Public Library Board* receives the *Third Quarter Use Indicators Report to September 30, 2025*, as information.

BACKGROUND

Aurora Public Library is committed to remaining relevant and responsive to the needs of our community. A key strategy in fulfilling this mandate is the regular collection and analysis of quantitative data. While this does not capture the full qualitative impact of library services, it offers valuable insights into library usage patterns and trends.

APL has tracked usage indicators for many years, adapting them over time to reflect changes in usage and technology. These metrics provide critical input for program planning, service development, and collections management, while also fulfilling our annual reporting requirements to the Province of Ontario for public library boards.

Use Indicator Definitions:

Circulation

Includes physical items checked out and digital content streamed or downloaded. Item renewals are included in this metric.

In-Library Use

Counts items taken off the shelves and used within the facility without being checkout.

Holds

Includes both physical and digital materials placed on hold.

Courses

Tracks sessions accessed through online learning platforms.

Public Workstation & Wi-Fi Usage

Reflects the number of logins to public access computers and the amount of data transferred over the public Wi-Fi network.

Online Followers

This metric combines follower counts across the library's major social media platforms: Facebook and Instagram.

Library Programs

Programs refer to scheduled events offered by APL staff or partners, either: In person, in the community or virtual.

Outreach

Covers exhibits, booths, school visits and promotional appearances in the community.

Volunteer Services

Total hours contributed by high school students and Visiting Library Service volunteers.

In-Person Visits

Captured via people counters at the Yonge Street and Bridge entrances.

Library Membership

Membership refers to the number of active cardholders (used at least once in the past two years).

Quarterly Community Use Statistics – Q3 2025

In-Person Visits

- Library visits continue to grow each quarter
- In Q3 2025, visits increased by **39.3%**

Electronic Services

- Public workstation sessions **+37%**

Library membership

- Total active memberships: **27,622**
- Membership increased by **13.3%**

Programs and Events

- Q3 Library programs offered: **420**
- Total program attendance: **+28.1%**
- **Q3 Program Highlights**
 - Bluey Party
 - York Chamber Ensemble Concert
 - TD Summer Reading Club

Circulation

- Circulation **+3.2%**
- In library Use **+7.4%**

- Holds **+19.6**

Digital Engagement

- Facebook & Instagram followers: **+23.4%**
- APL monthly newsletter **13,282** subscribers

ATTACHMENTS

1. APL Third Quarter Use Indicators 2025

Assisted by Mario Baleno, Manager, Information Technology

Jodi Marr
Chief Executive Officer



Comparatives Quarter Use Indicators

Period: July - September 2025

	2025 Quarter	2024 Quarter	% chg	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	% chg
<u>Circulation</u>						
1. Print	112,558	110,832	1.6%	311,213	301,287	3.3%
2. Audio/Visual	11,264	11,307	-0.4%	33,281	33,575	-0.9%
3. Streaming & Downloads	48,364	44,640	8.3%	142,597	138,070	3.3%
4. Miscellaneous	94	81	16.0%	221	198	11.6%
Total	172,280	166,860	3.2%	487,312	473,130	3.0%
<u>In-Library Use</u>						
Holds	13,256	12,347	7.4%	36,293	32,347	12.2%
	39,529	33,053	19.6%	118,403	88,077	34.4%
<u>Electronic Services</u>						
1. Catalogue Logins	33,714	34,341	-1.8%	98,094	101,229	-3.1%
2. Electronic Database Sessions *	1,116	1,309	-14.7%	3,170	4,292	-26.1%
3. Courses **	1,500	2,442	-38.6%	4,928	6,086	-19.0%
5. Public Workstation Usage	6,316	4,610	37.0%	16,071	12,150	32.3%
6. Wireless Internet Usage (TB)	10.33	0	n/a	10.33	0	n/a
Total	42,646	42,702	-0.1%	122,263	123,757	-1.2%
<u>Website Visits</u>						
eNewsletter Subscribers	57,040	53,937	5.8%	168,928	160,277	5.4%
Online Followers ****	13,282	13,545	-1.9%	13,282	13,545	-1.9%
	5,069	4,109	23.4%	5,069	4,109	23.4%
<u>Programs & Events *****</u>						
<u>In Library</u>						
Youth	231	212	9.0%	669	608	10.0%
Adult	110	117	-6.0%	481	421	14.3%
All Ages	3	9	-66.7%	11	17	-35.3%
Subtotal	344	338	1.8%	1,161	1,046	11.0%
<u>In the Community</u>						
Youth	23	21	9.5%	84	135	-37.8%
Adult	1	5	-80.0%	6	34	-82.4%
All Ages	0	2	-100.0%	0	3	-100.0%
Subtotal	24	28	-14.3%	90	172	-47.7%
Total Live	368	366	0.5%	1,251	1,218	2.7%
<u>Virtual</u>						
Youth	20	11	81.8%	61	80	-23.8%
Adult	32	39	-17.9%	103	163	-36.8%
All Ages	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
Subtotal Virtual	52	50	4.0%	164	243	-32.5%
Total Programs & Events	420	416	1.0%	1,415	1,461	-3.1%

Comparatives Quarter Use Indicators

Period:	2025 Quarter	2024 Quarter	% chg	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	% chg
Attendance *****						
In Library						
Youth	6599	4,782	38.0%	17589	13,826	10.3%
Adult	1,173	1,089	7.7%	4,999	4,531	26.8%
All Ages	175	194	-9.8%	573	452	26.8%
Subtotal	7,947	6,065	31.0%	23,161	18,809	23.1%
In the Community						
Youth	785	479		2,395	3,413	-29.8%
Adult	6	80	-92.5%	152	454	-66.5%
All Ages	0	48	-100.0%	0	91	-100.0%
Subtotal	791	607	30.3%	2,547	3,958	-35.6%
Total Live	8,738	6,672	31.0%	25,708	22,767	12.9%
Virtual ****						
Youth	522	528	-1.1%	878	1,213	-27.6%
Adult	270	240	12.5%	883	1,600	-44.8%
All Ages	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
Subtotal Virtual	792	768	3.1%	1,761	2,813	-37.4%
Total Attendance	9,530	7,440	28.1%	27,469	25,580	7.4%
Outreach	1	1	0.0%	1	1	0.0%
Volunteer Services	1,263	1,450	-12.9%	1,844	2,256	-18.3%
In-Library Visits	93,542	67,155	39.3%	302,137	217,324	39.0%
Library Membership	27,622	24,371	13.3%	27,622	24,371	13.3%

* Metrics provided by vendors

*** Metrics provided by vendor

**** Metrics for programs & events and attendance provided by staff, facilitators and community partners

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



**Aurora Public Library Board
REPORT
SR2025.35**

SUBJECT: Financial Report for the period ending September 30, 2025

FROM: Jodi Marr, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: October 15, 2025

RECOMMENDATION

That the Financial Statement for Aurora Public Library for the period ending September 30, 2025, be received as information.

BACKGROUND

The attached Financial Statement for the period ended September 30, 2025, shows expenses at 68.1% of the annual operating budget. The significant variances are as follows:

- **Salaries and Benefits** favourable variance is due to salary gapping related to position vacancies.
- **IT Contracts, Equipment and Licenses** exceed benchmark as software licenses are paid at the beginning of the year, and actual contract fees are greater than original budget allocation.
- **Professional Fees** for legal and consulting were not anticipated at the time of budget development.
- **General revenue** exceeds budget estimates because of one-off occurrences, such as WSIB refund, ILLO postage rebate and revenue from discarded materials.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Aurora Public Library Financial Statement for the period ending September 30, 2025

Assisted by: Julie Rocca, Business Manager

Jodi Marr
Chief Executive Officer

**Aurora Public Library
Financial Statement**

For the period ending September 30, 2025	Annual Budget	Prior YTD Actuals	YTD Actuals	Balance	Actuals % of Budget
EXPENSES					
Operating Expenses					
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 3,260,000	\$ 2,002,323	\$ 2,088,301	1,171,699	64.1%
Collections	380,000	396,638	282,900	97,100	74.4%
Cataloguing and Processing Services	40,000	43,891	34,800	5,200	87.0%
IT Contracts, Equipment & Licenses	230,000	204,243	218,723	11,277	95.1%
Programs & Public Relations	33,000	36,436	22,156	10,844	67.1%
Office Supplies, Equipment & Telephone	60,000	29,837	47,077	12,923	78.5%
Staff Development & Board Training	22,000	13,889	6,293	15,707	28.6%
Professional Fees	22,000	41,538	43,387	(21,387)	197.2%
Business Plan Initiatives	5,000	3,893	2,089	2,911	41.8%
Unclassified / Contingency	3,000	380	255	2,745	8.5%
	4,055,000	2,773,068	2,745,981	1,309,019	67.7%
Contribution to Capital Reserve	220,000	165,000	165,000	55,000	75.0%
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,275,000	2,938,068	2,910,981	1,364,019	68.1%
REVENUE					
General Revenue					
Fines	1,500	1,106	433	1,067	28.9%
Fees	14,000	14,748	13,147	853	93.9%
Sales	7,000	1,566	8,008	(1,008)	114.4%
Reserves	-	-	-	0	0.0%
Interest and Other	2,500	2,714	8,126	(5,626)	325.0%
	25,000	20,134	29,714	(4,714)	118.9%
Grant Revenue					
Provincial Library Operating Grant (PLOG)	44,000	-	-	44,000	0.0%
Pay Equity Grant	1,000	-	-	1,000	0.0%
	45,000	-	-	45,000	0.0%
Total General and Grant Revenue	70,000	20,134	29,714	40,286	42.4%
Municipal Requisition	4,205,000	2,917,934	2,881,267	1,323,733	68.5%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 4,275,000	\$ 2,938,068	\$ 2,910,981	\$ 1,364,019	68.1%



**Aurora Public Library Board
REPORT
SR2025.36**

SUBJECT: APL 2026 Operating Budget and 10 Year Capital Plan Report

FROM: Jodi Marr, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: October 15, 2025

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Aurora Public Library Operating Budget for fiscal year 2026, and the Aurora Public Library 10 Year Capital Plan 2026-2035 be approved.

BACKGROUND

On Thursday, October 2, 2025, the Aurora Public Library Board Finance Committee consisting of Cristina Choo-Hum, Lauren Hanna, Councillor Harold Kim, CEO Jodi Marr and Business Manager Julie Rocca met to review the Aurora Public Library's 2026 Operating Budget and 10 Year Capital Plan.

As with all aspects of municipal budget development, the process is established by the Town of Aurora. The Library Board must formally approve the 2026 Operating Budget prior to the CEO's scheduled budget presentation to Town Council on November 10, 2025.

It should be noted that Town Council approval of the Library Board's Capital Budget is not required, since the Library Board assumed budgetary responsibility for annual contributions in 2003 to fund future capital requirements.

MULTI YEAR OPERATING BUDGETS

The 2026 Operating Budget has been carefully developed to maintain existing service levels within a cost-effective framework. The budget includes forecasted payroll and benefit deductions; collective agreement increases and operating contractual obligations.

CONCLUSION

The Library's 2026 Operating Budget includes a municipal requisition of \$4,289,000, an additional \$84,000 or a 2% increase before assessment growth. After projected assessment growth of 1.2% this is equivalent to an increase of only \$32,532.

Staff recommend the Library Board approve the 2026 Operating Budget for presentation to Council on November 10, 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Aurora Public Library Operating Budget Summary 2024-2026
2. Aurora Public Library 10 Year Capital 2026-2035

Assisted by Julie Rocca, Business Manager

Jodi Marr

Chief Executive Officer

Aurora Public Library
Operating Budget Summary
for Fiscal Years 2024-2026

	2024 Actuals	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	% change
EXPENSES					
Operating Expenses					
Salaries & Benefits	\$3,102,122	\$3,232,000	\$3,260,000	\$3,312,000	1.6%
Collections	462,744	360,000	380,000	380,000	0.0%
Cataloguing and Processing Services	54,305	30,000	40,000	45,000	12.5%
IT Contracts, Equipment & Licenses	236,382	210,000	230,000	258,000	12.2%
Programs & Public Relations	29,692	33,000	33,000	33,000	0.0%
Office Supplies, Equipment & Telephone	64,745	55,000	60,000	60,000	0.0%
Staff Development & Board Training	30,887	17,000	22,000	22,000	0.0%
Professional Fees, Initiatives & Contingency	153,530	30,000	30,000	34,000	13.3%
	4,134,407	3,967,000	4,055,000	4,144,000	2.2%
Contribution to Capital Reserve	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	0.0%
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,354,407	4,187,000	4,275,000	4,364,000	2.1%

REVENUE

General Revenue					
Fines	1,241	2,000	1,500	1,000	-33.3%
Fees	19,443	13,500	18,000	20,500	13.9%
Sales	3,018	3,000	3,000	6,000	100.0%
Reserves	159,644				
Interest and Other	3,641	1,500	2,500	2,500	0.0%
	186,987	20,000	25,000	30,000	20.0%
Grant Revenue					
Provincial Operating Grant	45,422	45,000	45,000	45,000	0.0%
Total General and Grant Revenue	232,409	65,000	70,000	75,000	7.1%
Municipal Requisition	4,121,998	4,122,000	4,205,000	4,289,000	2.0%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$4,354,407	\$4,187,000	\$4,275,000	\$4,364,000	2.1%

Additional Municipal Request	\$84,000
Less: Assesment Growth estimated @ 1.2%	\$51,468
Municipal Funding after Assessment Growth	<u>\$32,532</u>

**Aurora Public Library
10 Year Capital Budget
2026-2035**

	Project #	Actuals 2025	Planned 2025	Outlook 2026	Outlook 2027	Outlook 2028	Outlook 2029	Outlook 2030	Outlook 2031	Outlook 2032	Outlook 2033	Outlook 2034	Outlook 2035	TOTAL
<i>Collection Development</i>				100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	
<i>Book Locker</i>	17502-GN0181	50,134												
<i>RFID</i>	17502-GN0182	20,934	30,000											
<i>Service Desk</i>			30,000											
Expenditures (from DC)		71,068	60,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	1,131,068
<i>Furniture</i>				30,000										
<i>Library Equipment</i>			35,000	5,000		105,000					25,000			
<i>IT Communication System</i>				10,000	30,000		50,000		10,000	40,000		85,000		
<i>Telephone System</i>										100,000				
<i>Computer replacement</i>	17301-AM0208	21,439		75,000	5,000		20,000	30,000	75,000				35,000	
Expenditures (from Reserve)		21,439	35,000	120,000	35,000	105,000	70,000	30,000	85,000	140,000	25,000	85,000	35,000	786,439
Total Capital Expenditures		92,507	95,000	220,000	135,000	205,000	170,000	130,000	185,000	240,000	125,000	185,000	135,000	1,917,507
Reserve Funding Sources														
<i>Library DC Reserve Fund</i>		-71,068	-60,000	-100,000	-100,000	-100,000	-100,000	-100,000	-100,000	-100,000	-100,000	-100,000	-100,000	-1,131,068
<i>Library General Capital Reserve</i>		-21,439	-35,000	-120,000	-35,000	-105,000	-70,000	-30,000	-85,000	-140,000	-25,000	-85,000	-35,000	-786,439
Total Revenue Draws		-92,507	-95,000	-220,000	-135,000	-205,000	-170,000	-130,000	-185,000	-240,000	-125,000	-185,000	-135,000	-1,917,507
Revenue Contributions														
<i>Library DC estimates</i>														
<i>Operating Reserve Contribution</i>		220,000	0	220,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	
Total Revenue Funding		220,000	0	220,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	2,465,000
<i>Balance as of -></i>	Aug 30/2025													
<i>Library DC Reserve*</i>	158,814	87,746	27,746	-72,254	-172,254	-272,254	-372,254	-472,254	-572,254	-672,254	-772,254	-872,254	-972,254	
<i>Library General Capital Reserve*</i>	1,133,900	1,332,461	1,297,461	1,397,461	1,587,461	1,707,461	1,862,461	2,057,461	2,197,461	2,282,461	2,482,461	2,622,461	2,812,461	
Total Reserve Balances	1,292,714	1,420,207	1,325,207	1,325,207	1,415,207	1,435,207	1,490,207	1,585,207	1,625,207	1,610,207	1,710,207	1,750,207	1,840,207	

* doesn't include future DC contributions from the Town of Aurora or interest estimates



Aurora Public Library Board

REPORT

SR2025.36

SUBJECT: ***CEO Updates Report***

FROM: Jodi Marr, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: October 15, 2025

RECOMMENDATION

That the *CEO Updates Report dated September 17, 2025* be received as information.

BACKGROUND

The CEO Updates highlight the work completed and in progress since the previous Board meeting. Previously this had been a verbal report, but at the request of the Board in September 2024, it will now be a written summary.

Aurora Town Square Updates

- **Town Square Landscaping Improvements**

Access to the Library via the Town Square entrance was limited from October 1 to 8th, 2025 as work to complete the updated landscaping and interlock in Town Square was scheduled. During this time we rescheduled our courier service to accommodate.

- **Closure of Church St. Sidewalk and Parking**

The infrastructure work on Church St. wrapped up later than scheduled with the final work being completed on October 9, 2025. The book drop remained open during this work and we did not have any disruption of service.

Strategic Highlights

- **SARC Browse & Borrow**

Circulation statistics continue to improve at the kiosk. V.Dillon is adjusting the collection content to best meet the needs of the customers using this collection.

Operational Updates

- **Facilities & Capital Projects – RFID Gates**

The second floor RFID gates are scheduled to be installed on October 20, 2025.

- **Facilities & Capital Projects – Second Floor Desk**

J. Marr, through A. Vento, is finalizing adjustments to the second-floor service desk, which will serve as the new customer service point at that floor's entrance.

Community Engagement

- **Events/Partnerships**

College and University Fair

APL facilitated its third annual College & University Fair. We had over 40 post-secondary institutions on site and at least 1000 people in attendance.

- **Economic Development**

J. Marr met with A. Poray from the Town of Aurora Economic Development Department to showcase how the Library works in the community to support economic development and growth. We look forward to building this connection into a strong partnership that supports innovation and business development within the community.

- **Aurora Chamber of Commerce**

V. Dillon and J. Marr have been collaborating on a project to support local businesses in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. A meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2025, to discuss digital resources that the Library can offer and jointly promote through the Chamber.

Staffing and Professional Development

- **Staffing Updates – Job Postings**

At this time the Library is fully staffed. There are no job postings to report.

- **Staffing Updates – New Hires**

We are pleased to confirm the appointment of Christine Su to the Library page team.

- **Homelessness Training**

On September 22, 2025, management launched online *Homelessness Training* for all library staff. This training focuses on effective engagement with customers experiencing homelessness and provides valuable tools to strengthen overall customer service practices. Over the course of the next twelve months, staff are scheduled to complete a series of modules designed to build skills and reinforce learning in key areas.

- **Staff Development Day**

The Library's Staff Development Day will take place on November 10, 2025. This year's focus will center on a five-hour training module from *Ryan Dowd's Homelessness Training* series. The course will explore key topics including de-escalation techniques, non-verbal strategies to prevent conflict, proactive conflict prevention, and verbal tools for resolution. The training will be interspersed with team-building activities designed to enhance communication skills and strengthen our organizational culture.

Looking Ahead

- **Library Board Training**

Reminder to save the date of Saturday, October 25, 2025 for the N6 Library Board Training. This will take place at the new Queensville branch of the EGPL at the Health and Active Living Plaza. (If the construction is delayed, either Aurora or King Township with host.) The topic of this Board Workshop is Intellectual Freedom and it will be facilitated by James L. Turk from the Centre for Free Expression. Please be prepared to confirm your attendance at the October 15th Board meeting.

Assisted by: Maida Rae, Human Resources Coordinator/EA

Jodi Marr
Chief Executive Officer

https://www.pentictonherald.ca/spare_news/article_3f2bca75-fe89-501e-a2d3-cfae61e7ca6d.html

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation to be marked in Aurora with community gathering, film screenings and more

Brock Weir, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter The Auran
Sep 25, 2025

September 30 is National Day for Truth & Reconciliation and there are several opportunities for Aurorans to observe this poignant day of reflection.

A ceremony and community gathering will take place this coming Tuesday at Mirkopoulos Plateia, Aurora Town Square's outdoor gathering space, led by Anishinaabe Grandmother Kim Wheatley, Elder Pat Floody, Ancestral Knowledge Keeper Raiden Levesque, and spoken word poet Sarah Lewis.

"This evening gathering focuses on remembering the children who did not come home, those who lived as survivors and their families," says the Town of Aurora on the observance, touching upon those impacted by the residential school system. "It is important to recognize and commemorate the difficult history of residential schools, their ongoing legacy, and the trauma experienced by so many. This evening will provide the opportunity to learn, to have a safe space for meaningful reflection, and a sacred fire starting at 5.30 p.m."

Ahead of National Day for Truth & Reconciliation, the Aurora Public Library (APL) will host the first of two film screenings on Sunday, September 28 – Ninan Auassat: We, the Children.

APL describes the film, which was shot from a "child's eye view," as "powerful," representing the hopes, dreams and hardships of children from three different Indigenous Nations: Atikamekw, Eeyou Cree and Innu.

"This documentary reveals the dreams of a new generation poised to take flight."

The screening will take place in the Library's living room space from 2 – 4 p.m., and will be followed by a virtual screening on National Day for Truth & Reconciliation itself of The Stand,

which will be available for streaming throughout the day.

“Drawn from more than a hundred hours of archival footage and audio, Christopher Auchter’s riveting new feature recreates the moment when the Haida Nation took a stand for the future.”

“We very strongly feel that we have an important part to play in education for National Day for Truth & Reconciliation,” says APL’s Polly Ross-Tyrrell. “It’s a very conscious decision on our part that we’re open on that day so people can come and learn and explore. We try to create meaningful spaces where people can reflect and learn, and where they can engage with Indigenous history and learning. We want to celebrate it all together and explore the meaning together.

“It is intimidating and it is sometimes hard for us to know how to begin the journey of learning, of reconciliation, and we’re just here to try and make it a little easier.”

The programs offered by APL are part of their broader Indigenous Teachings program, which showcases many Indigenous-related programming opportunities and a curated list of Indigenous, Inuit and Metis authors whose works can be found on APL shelves.

As part of the initiative, a Reading Challenge featuring these works is an ongoing engagement opportunity for APL year-round, not just in the lead-up to September 30.

“We tried to go through multiple perspectives because you’ve got Métis perspectives which are going to differ from First Nations perspectives, which are going to differ from Inuit perspectives, like they all have such unique histories and face completely different challenges throughout Canada’s history,” says APL’s Shelby Brown on bringing the reading list together. “You want a broad spectrum because Canada’s a big country. We’ve got a lot of different cultures and just within the Indigenous communities as well, there’s so much that people can learn from and so many different perspectives.”

The perspectives offered through film as well are coming to APL courtesy of the National Film Board of Canada.

“We wanted a film that we could show in person on a weekend, and then we wanted a film that could be available all day on the actual day itself,” says Ross-Tyrrell. “We chose *Ninan Auassat – We the Children*, [as our] in-person film. It made me cry in the best possible way. It’s a child’s

point perspective of the dreams and aspirations of three children of very different Indigenous backgrounds, what they think about the world, and how they're going to change the world. It's a really, really moving film. The Stand is about a moment that many of us will remember when the Haida Nation decided to stand for the future and not give up to stand for the children who are in the other film. We very much hope people will join both experiences, because it's two very, very different perspectives. But they're both wonderful films and I highly recommend them."

Both films taken together represent the past and the future, she adds, a deliberate choice as many people see the issues related to National Day for Truth & Reconciliation as rooted in the past, but they also very much inform the future.

"There's a lot of people who maybe tend to think of Indigenous people as being in the past, and they're not. They're right here, right now, and that's what the film about the children really says," says Ross-Tyrrell. "I want people to connect with the people in these films and see that we are all human beings with dreams, with thoughts of the future. We may be very, very different, and some of the differences are not at all the responsibility of the people who are most affected by them, but we're all people hopefully working together for there to be a future for the children. I want the world to be a good place for all of them and I think both films show really clearly that Indigenous people are in many ways way ahead of us in thinking about the future generations."

Elsewhere, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation will be marked by the Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region & South Simcoe with a screening of the film *Walking Through the Fire*, by the Sultans of String.

This collaboration of Indigenous and non-Indigenous artist and musicians will unspool at Newmarket's NewRoads Performing Arts Centre on September 30 at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6.30. The free screening will be followed by a 30-minute Q&A with filmmaker Chris McKhool, and Indigenous artists Shannon Thunderbird and Marc Meriläinen.

For more information on the Town of Aurora's community gathering, visit www.aurora.ca/recreation-arts-and-culture/specialevents/truth-and-reconciliation. For a complete list of programs as part of the Aurora Public Library's Indigenous Teachings program, visit indigenousteachings.ca.

The Canadian Press. All rights reserved.

APL’s University Fair to showcase Canadian and international opportunities for students

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

As Grade 12 students look ahead to their post-secondary careers, representatives from Canadian and international colleges and universities are set to descend on Aurora to meet with students and share all the possibilities.

This Monday, October 6, the Aurora Public Library will host its third annual College and University Fair, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The fair will include representatives from universities and colleges from across Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

According to Aurora Public Library CEO Jodi Marr, the event is designed to be accessible to all area teens and their parents, provide an opportunity to have all their questions answered, and be able to make an informed decision when it comes to determining the next

chapter of their lives.

“It’s our mission to support lifelong learning and help young people kind of chart their future, and this is one of the ways we can do that,” says Marr, adding that coming out to fairs like these removes some of the guesswork on what can sometimes be a daunting application process. “It’s so much more customized to what your needs are when you go and speak to a representative in person versus viewing their website. A website is a great source of information and nothing beats going and talking to a representative from that school about the specific program [you’re interested in].

“This helps you narrow things down so that you can go further. Later in the year, you might go on a school tour or things like that to really nail down what you want your final choices to be.”

The College and University Fair is being organized by APL’s Teen Librarian Virgilio Medina who says the aim of the event is to ensure the



Last year's Fair brought a full house of students to the Aurora Public Library's living space. Photo courtesy of APL

community “has access to information about the programs, scholarships, admission requirements” each school is looking for.

“Sometimes preparing for a university application is very overwhelming; you have so many questions – the cost, the process, and other things you have to consider in order to get admitted,” he says. “Getting into a course that’s very competitive, you should be ready with everything you need because there’s a limited number of students that can be accepted. I think this is a great opportunity for high school students to just go to the Library and explore the options available.”

At press time this week, more than 40 post-secondary institutions had confirmed their attendance, and there will be additional representatives on site for resources related to scholarship coaching and other areas to make sure your admission applications are all they can be – all close to home.

“We’ve heard so much feedback that [students and families] are having a hard time going downtown just to be able to have this kind of fair, so we thought, why don’t we just bring them here and make it more accessible?” Medina adds. “I think there are so many misconceptions that teenagers have at the moment because they think there is only one course, a popular course like engineering and computer science, but one of the things I really want to emphasize through this event is there are more opportunities you can have. There are different career pathways, not just those surrounding engineering and medical. I would like to give students more opportunities to explore and give them a lot of choices

– that their choices are not limited to just those popular programs, but a lot of options where they can really be successful in their own journey.”

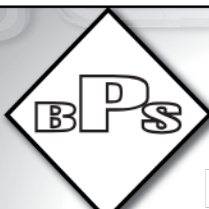
Marr adds that this upcoming Fair is just one of the many ways the APL invests in youth – and this particular initiative is an investment not only in youth, but in support of the “long-term growth and vitality of our community by making sure that the students of Aurora, our residents, get connected with the right information, so they can meet their needs and continue to grow.”

And, as students grow, APL is equipped to help them on each step of their academic journey.

“We are seeing a lot more teens using the Library,” says Marr. “Teens love using the Library; I thought maybe with moving Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School over to the other side of Town, we’d see less teens, but that hasn’t turned into that. We are a hot study spot for the youth of Aurora and we’re so happy to have them.

“It’s nice to see the Library used by teens in that way, to be seen as a place to go after school so that they can get group work done, individual study, or even just socialize. That’s been a really important part. The Library has come a long way in the last few years as with the teens using the Library, and that’s one of the reasons why our numbers are so high when we come to in-person visits.”

For more information on Monday’s College & University Fair, including a regularly-updated list of attending universities, colleges, and like organizations, visit tinyurl.com/APLFAIR.



Bob's Plumbing Service

EST. 1972

• RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

905-727-3210

www.bobsplumbing.ca

YOUR CUSTOMERS ARE ONLINE. ARE YOU? LET US BUILD YOUR WEBSITE. FOR FREE

WWW.THEFWG.COM



CUSTOM NEW KITCHENS CABINET REFACING

BATHROOMS • STONE COUNTERTOPS
BAR UNITS • CLOSETS

ONE STOP SHOPPING

- Designer Handles and Knobs
- Sinks and Faucets
- Sharp Appliances
- Kitchen Accessories
- Ceramic Tile
- Vinyl Flooring
- And much more

PROUDLY SERVING THE GTA FOR OVER

30 Years

10% OFF New Kitchens
15% OFF Refacing
20% OFF Stone Counters

**If purchased with a new kitchen or Cabinet Refacing*

The bitterness of poor quality is remembered long after the sweetness of a low price has faded from memory.

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM

**1100 GORHAM ST. UNIT #20,
NEWMARKET, L3Y 8Y8**

905-954-0967

info@cabinetmagic.ca
www.cabinetmagic.ca



Follow us



Youth Volunteer Fair will connect teens with local opportunities

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Local youth looking for volunteer opportunities here in Aurora will have all their questions answered this Wednesday, October 8, as the Town of Aurora hosts a Youth Volunteer Fair.

Set for the Treasure Hill Bridge at Aurora Town Square from 4 – 7 p.m., the event is tailored to youth between the ages of 12 and 17, with local organizations offering volunteer opportunities, and much more.

Miranda Link, Youth & Community Developer for the Town of Aurora, says the event is designed to be a “one-stop-shop” at the beginning of the school year for youth and parents alike to get organized not just for the community service hours required for high school graduation, but to simply give back.

“It’s not about taking the first [volunteer] opportunity that comes along, but really to get to know the people who are going to be running the volunteers and getting a sense of what’s going to be involved in each of the opportunities – it’s kind of like shopping around for your perfect opportunity.

“We always make sure the organizations that are coming will have valuable opportunities for youth, which is obviously the most important part because we want to match youth with an organization they’re passionate about or something they see themselves doing in the future.”

One organization participating in the Fair for the first time this year is The Career Foundation, a non-profit which supports job searching, skills training and offers many resources, including training opportunities.

“They connect multiple youth with

We always make sure the organizations that are coming will have valuable opportunities for youth, which is obviously the most important part because we want to match youth with an organization they’re passionate about or something they see themselves doing in the future

multiple organizations and they work with them to really connect them to something that maybe they’re interested in for their future,” says Link, adding the Fair will also give youth the opportunity to weigh in on what they would like to see at The Loft, the Town’s youth drop-in at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, which is currently undergoing a “refresh.”

“We want youth to come in and tell us what they would like to see in The Loft. We want to know paint colours, we want to know what you want your experience to be, but mostly we’re looking to see what activities they would like to see in The Loft. What’s something that maybe you can’t do at home...that would give a reason for you and your friends to come out?”

For more information on Wednesday’s Youth Volunteer Fair, visit aurora.ca/youth.



AURORA’S 2025

Colours of Fall CONCERT

Thursday, October 9

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Aurora Town Park, 49 Wells Street

Fiddlestix

Fiddlestix blends the energy of a rock concert with Celtic, Country and Folk music. More than just a band, they deliver a high-voltage experience that unites generations.

Free community corn roast, pumpkins and carving supplies will be provided
(while quantities last)

Food donations for the Aurora Food Pantry are greatly appreciated.

aurora.ca/FallConcert

   **#ColoursOfFall**

Proudly sponsored by:



WINDROW REMOVAL PILOT PROGRAM

Windrow clearing for seniors and people with disabilities

Program begins December 1, 2025 and runs until April 1, 2026

Applications accepted until **November 1, 2025**

What is a windrow?

A windrow is the snow left at the end of a driveway after a snowplow has cleared a road



aurora.ca/Windrow





TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING

AURORA TOWN COUNCIL will hold a Public Meeting to receive input on a proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment applications:

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 7 p.m.

Aurora Town Hall, Council Chambers, 100 John West Way, Aurora Ontario

APPLICATION: The purpose of the proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment applications is to increase the allowable diversity and establish site specific development standards to facilitate development of five (5) lots for single detached dwellings.

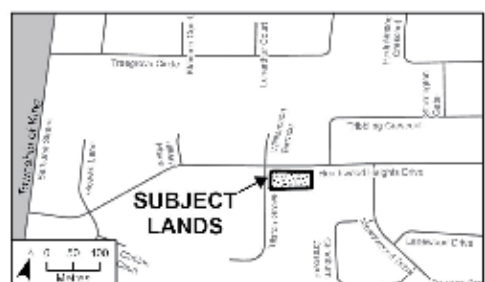
PROPERTY: 161 Heathwood Heights Drive

LEGAL DISCRIPTION: Plan 65M-2431, Lot 22

APPLICANT: Macaulay Shiomi Howson Ltd.

FILE NUMBERS: OPA-2025-04 and ZBA-2025-05

WARD: 1



PROCEDURAL INFORMATION:

Parties interested in speaking during the public portion of the meeting may attend in person or electronically. To participate electronically, pre-registration is required. For more information, visit: aurora.ca/participation

The meeting will be live streamed at: youtube.com/TownofAurora

The Planning Report will be made available the Tuesday before the Public Planning Meeting date on the Town's website, by visiting the Agendas and Minutes section, located at: aurora.ca/agendas

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Any questions regarding the proposed application can be directed to Felix Chau of the Planning and Development Services Department at 365-500-3105, or by email at fchau@aurora.ca.

Comments may also be mailed to the Planning and Development Services Department at 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON. L4G 6J1, faxed to 905-726-4736, or emailed to planning@aurora.ca prior to the meeting. Please quote the File Name and Number.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Council of the Town of Aurora on the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment application, you must make a written request to the Town to the attention of the Director of Planning and Development Services.

PERSONAL INFORMATION COLLECTION NOTICE:

The Town of Aurora collects personal information in communications or presentations made to Town Council and/or its Committees under the legal authority of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter c.P.13, as amended. Pursuant to Section 27 of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56, as amended, (the "Act") public feedback to planning proposals is considered to be public record and may be disclosed to any individual upon request in accordance with the Act. If you are submitting letters, faxes, emails, presentations or other communications to the Town, you should be aware that your name and the fact that you communicated with the Town will become part of the public record and will appear on the Town's website. The Town will also make your communication and any personal information in it, such as your address and postal code or email address available to the public unless you expressly request the Town to remove it. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Town Clerk, Town of Aurora, 100 John West Way, Box 1000, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1 905-727-3123.

AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

The Town audio and/or video records Public Planning Meetings. If you make a presentation to Town Council or its Committees, you may be audio or video recorded. Pursuant to Section 27 of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56, as amended, (the "Act") public feedback to planning proposals is considered to be a public record and may be disclosed to any individual upon request in accordance with the Act.

DATED at the Town of Aurora, this 2nd day of October, 2025

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1
aurora.ca/publicnotices • 905-727-1375

Explore all APL has to offer during Ontario Public Libraries Week

“Libraries for Life” is 2025 theme

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

October is Canadian Public Libraries Month, and local libraries are pulling out all the stops to showcase all public libraries have to offer – and what they’ve come to mean to the community well beyond the volumes on shelves.

Here at home, Ontario Public Libraries Week will take place in October 19 – 25 and, with this year’s theme being “Libraries for Life,” the Aurora Public Library (APL) is stepping forward with a series of programs and initiatives to show that the APL is here to support you every step of the way.

“We want to remind the community that we are here and we want them to all be here with us,” says APL’s Polly Ross-Tyrrell. “We want to remind the community of the things we represent – freedom

of information, diverse programming, diverse interests – and we want to make sure everybody has their perfect book and everybody has their perfect program, and that we can help them find that.

“We want to celebrate what libraries mean to society, which is quite a lot. We are that classic ‘third place’ where you can go that isn’t your home, isn’t your school or work, but a place you can go and be. It’s another place where everybody can be themselves, find the things they are interested in, and just be calm.”

Canadian Public Libraries programming began earlier this week with a university and college fair on Monday afternoon, and activities will continue throughout the month.

Initiatives include a Diwali Dance Workshop this Sunday, October 12, from 2 – 3 p.m.; a drop-in Hallowe’en themed



Aurora Public Library's Lauren and Polly are looking forward to welcoming patrons and community members alike during Ontario Public Libraries Week.
Photo by Lucy Frechette

Drag King Story Hour at Aurora Town Square from 10.30 – 11.30 a.m., featuring Gustav; a Repair Café on Saturday, October 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; while an ongoing crafting initiative is the chance to build your own “Mini-Library in a Tin.”

“The day we’ve chosen to celebrate the Week – October 18 – is a day that was already packed with an absolutely fabulous breadth of programming,” says Ross-Tyrrell, noting the community programming work of APL’s Susan Collins. “We’ll have, of course, a story time, but

Continued on page 22

SUPPORT
LOCAL
SMALL
BUSINESS

AT YOUR
Service

CENTRAL VACUUM

2414 Major Mackenzie Dr., Vaughan

CENTRAL VACUUM PROBLEMS?
We will come to you and fix it fast.

Are you experiencing any of the following?

Low or no suction

Loud or unusual noise

Won't power on/off

Burning or electrical smell

SCAN ME

(905) 832-8227

In-home service by trusted technicians

Family-owned and operated for 30+ years

All makes & models

Proudly serving Vaughan • Aurora • King • Caledon

CLEANERS

RELIABLE PROVIDERS

FREE

Call for a **FREE ESTIMATE**

Our Services: **OFFICE • MEDICAL • DAYCARE**
COMMERCIAL • JANITORIAL

647 333 3760

CONCRETE

We handle the tough stuff!

DRIVEWAYS • PORCHES • BASEMENTS • GARAGES

416-453-4654

DO YOU HAVE SUNKEN CONCRETE?

Liftec Slabjacking Inc.

“We raise sunken concrete”

DO NOT REPLACE
WE RAISE SUNKEN CONCRETE
At A Fraction Of The Cost Of Replacement

Call Today For A Free Estimate!

www.liftec.ca ~ 1-866-280-7770

CONCRETE & INTERLOCK

ALLCON
CONCRETE & HAULAGE LTD.

647-891-0937
KING CITY, ONT.

Concrete / Interlock

- Walkways - Curbs - Patios - Walls

Fiberglass Pools

- Supplied - Installed

Excavation / Demolition

FREE ESTIMATES

CREMATION

Roadhouse & Rose
FUNERAL HOME

Call us for more information

- Dignified
- Respectful
- Inexpensive

Affordable Cremation Services

www.roadhouseandrose.com | 905-895-6631

DEMOLITION SAFETY

SAFE ALLIANCE DEMOLITION LTD

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Residential | Commercial | Industrial

Health and Safety Consulting
Exterior Mechanical Demolition
Interior Selective Manual Dismantling
Fully Insured & Bonded

25 YEARS EXPERIENCE

sales@safealliancedemolition.com

P.O. Box 66, King City, Ontario L7B 1A4

437-882-5464 416-799-6994

DRIVEWAY PAVING

ONTARIO & CHIP

Tar and Chip is an economical alternative to asphalt paving with a rustic country appearance, that also provides a solid surface and is a solution to ruts washout and potholes.

Country Driveways, Tar and Chip, Recycled Asphalt, Grading and Graveling, Free Quotes.

tarandchip.ca • info@tarandchip.ca • 647.456.2010

ELECTRICIAN

DANIEL'S ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION

Electrical Lights • Chandeliers
Ceiling Fans • Tracklights • Repairs
Cable Light • Clean Chandeliers, Etc.

Established 2001

Cell: 416-456-5336 | dagwtw5@gmail.com

EXTERIOR CLEANING & WINDOWS

REX
WINDOWS & HOME

Exceptional window & eaves cleaning

interior - exterior - commercial

(647) 393 7397

info@rexwindows.ca

Contact for a free quote

EXTERIOR STUCCO

PAD STUCCO
EXTERIORS

• Custom Homes • Renovations
• Repairs/Replacements
• Licensed and Insured • 25+ Years Experience

Phone: 416-989-0417 Email: info@padexteriors.ca
www.padexteriors.ca
Serving the GTA & Southern Ontario

LANDSCAPING/RENOVATION

SUNSET BEECH TREE CARE

Pruning • Removals
Consulting • Bracing • EAB

647-989-3509
irbryant@gmail.com

LANDSCAPING HOME RENOVATION

CALL to make your appointment

416-219-4530
416-625-4441

ASA CONSTRUCTION INC.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT 905 727 3300 EXT 102

Stories Woven Through Fabric reclaims identity– one ribbon at a time

From page 11

a feeling of familial belonging.

“My mom was very strict and very disciplined with me and it took a lot for her to start talking about how she grew up and some of the things she was having a hard time doing when she was raising me,” says Rigby. “It took a lot for my mom to finally step forward and start talking to me about our history.

“When she recognized that I was on that path of going to school, being involved in the community and engaging, she started to open up. The whole concept of this Ribbon Skirt exhibition was, for many years, Indigenous people were not willing to talk, and for the same amount of years, the non-Indigenous weren’t ready to listen. What came about because of that is a lot of people trying to reclaim their culture, having grown up surrounded by trauma, and having to step forward out of that and be these strong Indigenous individuals reclaiming their histories. It’s very difficult to do, but what I was really hoping is through my artistry

and through listening to others who felt the same way I did, that by having that story on their skirt would help them find healing. Through that medium myself, I find healing as well.”

It has been a journey of healing, reclamation and growth for the family, and now Rigby’s children have continued on the path of cultural interpretation, fire-keeping, and furthering the Ojibwe language.

“My mom was overwhelmed,” says Rigby of her family’s reaction to the exhibition. “My sister-in-law was reading to her a portion of the stories that were on the skirts and my mom said something that many people came up to me and said on the opening day, ‘We recognize a similar thread through each and every story.’ For people trying to find their connection and trying to find their footing, it’s a little bit of an eye-opener and it also makes them realize they’re not the only ones.”

To see more of Stories Woven Through Fabric, visit auroraculturalcentre.ca/stories-woven-through-fabric.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From page 4

space upgrades for patients and providers at Southlake.”

At Southlake Health Foundation, holiday giving, through the months of November and December, account for nearly half of the organization’s annual fund revenue which supports urgent needs across every program of the hospital.

Donor support of Southlake in this year alone has made tangible impact for patients and providers, including bringing a new MRI to the hospital, and renewing and expanding the Emergency Department so Southlake Health can face hallway medicine head on for our communities.

The postal strike comes at a time when economic uncertainty, and the impact of tariffs have already taken a toll on fundraising revenue for charities and non-profits across Canada. Imagine Canada, the national accreditation and advocacy body of Canada’s charitable sector, reported in a May 2025 quarterly update that a recent survey by the Charity Insights Canada Project indicated 48% of responding charities were already experiencing reducing funding

“No matter what is happening in the world, the doors to Southlake Health’s emergency department never close, patients and families continue to require cancer treatment, surgical procedures, cardiac care, mental health support, and all the other ways our communities rely on Southlake Health to be there when they need us most,” said Jennifer Ritter, President and CEO of Southlake Health Foundation. “This is a critical time in our fundraising season, so we are encouraging those wishing to give back to Southlake to connect with our team, or go online to find alternative methods of giving so our incredible Southlake physicians and staff can continue to deliver leading edge care, close to home for you and your loved ones.”

Those looking for alternative methods to give to Southlake during the postal strike can contact the Foundation by phone at: (905) 836-7333, or access a dedicated page on the Foundation’s website that lists alternative giving options: southlake.ca/foundation/canada-post-service-interruption.

**Southlake Foundation
Newmarket**

Briefly

Aurora Champions Inclusion with Treat Accessibly Halloween Initiative

Aurora is committed to fostering inclusivity and is doing so this Halloween with the Treat Accessibly initiative. This program encourages all residents and businesses to help create a community where everyone can enjoy the Halloween festivities without barriers.

The initiative invites participants to make simple yet meaningful changes to how treats and Halloween experiences are offered. Whether setting up a table on your driveway, lawn, or in your garage, adding soft pathway lighting, offering non-food treats, or lowering sensory triggers like loud music and flashing lights, there are many ways to contribute to a more accessible and enjoyable Halloween for all.

“This initiative is about making small changes that create a big difference,” said Mayor Tom Mirakas. “By welcoming everyone into the celebration and removing obstacles, we strengthen our community’s spirit of inclusivity and kindness.”

Residents and businesses are encouraged to register and display a free Treat Accessibly lawn sign. This sign signals to trick-or-treaters that your home or establishment is an accessible stop and shows your commitment to making Halloween inclusive for everyone.

To register or learn more about the Treat Accessibly initiative, visit aurora.ca/TreatAccessibly.

Contributed

“Libraries for Life” is 2025 theme

From page 21

we’ll also have our philosophy club, Calm Within, which is our mantra meditation program, the Repair Café, and we’ll also have a video game program in the afternoon for children.

“I think there are also people who assume that we are there only for one viewpoint, and we are not. We are there for everybody. And we want to celebrate the diverse and we want to celebrate you if you’re not feeling so diverse, too. That’s

okay. We are still going to do our diverse things over here, but you are still welcome. We want everybody to feel welcome, and that means not turning anybody away and making sure that we have a broad reach in terms of the things we can offer.

“Please do everybody come and join us for cake at least on October 18, see what we do and how much we love to share it with you.”

For a full roster of upcoming Aurora Public Library events, visit aurorapl.ca.

SUPPORT
LOCAL
SMALL
BUSINESS

AT YOUR

Service



PAINTING



S & S PAINTING

TOP QUALITY GUARANTEED

30 YEARS EXPERIENCE • AURORA RESIDENT

416-520-6252

PAINTING & HOME IMPROVEMENTS

FOUR SEASONS PAINTING & HOME IMPROVEMENTS

*Please Inquire
About Our
Senior Services
& Discounts.*

2 professional hardworking guys

15% OFF PAINTING PROJECTS

TILING • WASHROOM / KITCHEN RENO • INTERLOCK RELEVEL
FENCES • ROOF REPAIRS/TROUGHS • FOUNDATION PARGING
ELECTRICAL/PLUMBING • CONCRETE REPAIRS

Call Claudio 416-723-4860 or, 905-727-0862
fourseasonsrenos@gmail.com



If you are reading
this ad, our
advertising works!

TO ADVERTISE CALL 905-727-3300 EXT 102

PEST CONTROL

GOT MICE?

PEST ZERRO.ca

Servicing All of Your Pest Control Needs, Call:
647.200.2687.

PROPANE

PROPANE AND APPLIANCE SALES

- RESIDENTIAL
- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL

INSTALLATIONS
SERVICE • DELIVERY



CARLING PROPANE INC.
Toll Free 1-866-952-0146 www.carlingpropane.ca

RENOVATIONS/FENCES/DECKS

SUMMER RENOVATIONS INC.

Build/Repair Fences Build/Repair Decks

BIG OR SMALL GIVE US A CALL!
(Free Estimates) **647-287-7168**

RENOVATIONS/REMODELING/LANDSCAPE

A&A IDEAL RENOVATION

Home Remodeling • Electrical Plumbing
Kitchen & Bathrooms • Finished Basement
All Flooring Tiles • Hardwood Laminate
Drywall • Painting • Deck & Fences

Fully licensed and insured. One year warranty on all labour. **NO JOB TOO SMALL!**

416-219-4530 Alex 416-625-4441



Thank You

FOR SUPPORTING A LOCAL BUSINESS

ROOFING



GUARANTEED ROOFING

The Local Roofing Experts That You Can Trust

- Family Owned & Operated for Over 30 Years
- Shingles, Flat Roofs, Repairs & More
- Fully Licensed and Insured

ASK ABOUT
ROOF REJUVENATION
SAVE UP TO
85%
OVER THE COST
OF A NEW ROOF

Located in King Township since 1994
1-877-713-6837 | www.guaranteedroofing.ca

TREE SERVICE



BORA TREE SERVICE

CLEAN TREE REMOVAL & MORE

CALL or TEXT: **(416) 820-4050**
WILL BEAT ANY QUOTE

WATER



DOES YOUR WATER SMELL OR TASTE OF CHLORINE?

OUR CHLORAMAX TWIN
SOFTENS YOUR WATER
AND REDUCES:

- Chlorine
- Chloramines
- THMs
- Pesticides & Herbicides
- Taste & Odour

Water Depot UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT!
15483 Yonge St., Aurora
905-751-0845 www.waterdepot.com



TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT 905 727 3300 EXT 102

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation to be marked with community gathering, film screenings and more

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

September 30 is National Day for Truth & Reconciliation and there are several opportunities for Aurorans to observe this poignant day of reflection.

A ceremony and community gathering will take place this coming Tuesday at Mirkopoulos Plateia, Aurora Town Square’s outdoor gathering space, led by Anishinaabe Grandmother Kim Wheatley, Elder Pat Floody, Ancestral Knowledge Keeper Raiden Levesque, and spoken word poet Sarah Lewis.

“This evening gathering focuses on remembering the children who did not come home, those who lived as survivors and their families,” says the Town of Aurora on the observance, touching upon those impacted by the residential school system. “It is important to recognize and commemorate the difficult history of residential schools, their ongoing legacy, and the trauma experienced by so many. This evening will provide the opportunity to learn, to have a safe space for meaningful reflection, and a sacred fire starting at 5.30 p.m.”

Ahead of National Day for Truth & Reconciliation, the Aurora Public Library (APL) will host the first of two film screenings on Sunday, September 28 – Ninan Auassat: We, the Children.

APL describes the film, which was shot from a “child’s eye view,” as “powerful,” representing the hopes, dreams and hardships of children from three different Indigenous Nations: Atikamekw, Eeyou Cree and Innu.

“This documentary reveals the dreams of a new generation poised to take flight.”

The screening will take place in the Library’s living room space from 2 – 4 p.m., and will be followed by a virtual screening on National Day for Truth & Reconciliation itself of The Stand, which will be available for streaming throughout the day.

“Drawn from more than a hundred hours of archival footage and audio, Christopher Auchter’s riveting new feature recreates the moment when the Haida Nation took a stand for the future.”

“We very strongly feel that we have an important part to play in education for National Day for Truth & Reconciliation,” says APL’s Polly Ross-Tyrrell. “It’s a very conscious decision on our part that we’re open on that day so people can come and learn and explore. We try to create meaningful spaces where people can reflect and learn, and where they can engage with Indigenous history and learning. We want to celebrate it all together and explore the meaning together.

“It is intimidating and it is sometimes hard for us to know how to begin the

journey of learning, of reconciliation, and we’re just here to try and make it a little easier.”

The programs offered by APL are part of their broader Indigenous Teachings program, which showcases many Indigenous-related programming opportunities and a curated list of Indigenous, Inuit and Metis authors whose works can be found on APL shelves.

As part of the initiative, a Reading Challenge featuring these works is an ongoing engagement opportunity for APL year-round, not just in the lead-up to September 30.

“We tried to go through multiple perspectives because you’ve got Métis perspectives which are going to differ from First Nations perspectives, which are going to differ from Inuit perspectives, like they all have such unique histories and face completely different challenges throughout Canada’s history,” says APL’s Shelby Brown on bringing the reading list together. “You want a broad spectrum because Canada’s a big country. We’ve got a lot of different cultures and just within the Indigenous communities as well, there’s so much that people can learn from and so many different perspectives.”

The perspectives offered through film as well are coming to APL courtesy of the National Film Board of Canada.

“We wanted a film that we could show in person on a weekend, and then we wanted a film that could be available all day on the actual day itself,” says Ross-Tyrrell. “We chose Ninan Auassat – We the Children, [as our] in-person film. It made me cry in the best possible way. It’s a child’s point perspective of the dreams and aspirations of three children of very different Indigenous backgrounds, what they think about the world, and how they’re going to change the world. It’s a really, really moving film. The Stand is about a moment that many of us will remember when the Haida Nation decided to stand for the future and not give up to stand for the children who are in the other film. We very much hope people will join both experiences, because it’s two very, very different perspectives. But they’re both wonderful films and I highly recommend them.”

Both films taken together represent the past and the future, she adds, a deliberate choice as many people see the issues related to National Day for Truth & Reconciliation as rooted in the past, but they also very much inform the future.

“There’s a lot of people who maybe tend to think of Indigenous people as being in the past, and they’re not. They’re right here, right now, and that’s what the film about the children really says,” says Ross-Tyrrell. “I want people to connect with the

people in these films and see that we are all human beings with dreams, with thoughts of the future. We may be very, very different, and some of the differences are not at all the responsibility of the people who are most affected by them, but we’re all people hopefully working together for there to be a future for the children. I want the world to be a good place for all of them and I think both films show really clearly that Indigenous people are in many ways way ahead of us in thinking about the future generations.”

Elsewhere, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation will be marked by the Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region & South Simcoe with a screening of the film

Walking Through the Fire, by the Sultans of String.

This collaboration of Indigenous and non-Indigenous artist and musicians will unspool at Newmarket’s NewRoads Performing Arts Centre on September 30 at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6.30. The free screening will be followed by a 30-minute Q&A with filmmaker Chris McKhool, and Indigenous artists Shannon Thunderbird and Marc Meriläinen.

For more information on the Town of Aurora’s community gathering, visit www.aurora.ca/recreation-arts-and-culture/specialevents/truth-and-reconciliation. For a complete list of programs as part of the Aurora Public Library’s Indigenous Teachings program, visit indigenousteachings.ca.



More than a Home. A Community

The Meadows of Aurora

A 55+ Christian Lifestyle Community

- ☒ INDEPENDENT LIVING
- ☒ ASSISTED LIVING
- ☒ MEMORY CARE

BOOK A TOUR TODAY

Contact us at:
sales@tmoa.ca
or 905-503-5560
440 William Graham Drive, Aurora

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Tuesday, September 30, 2025



MICHAEL PARSA, MPP

Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

905-773-6250
michael.parsaco@pc.ola.org