

2021

TOWN OF AURORA

ANNUAL REPORT



AURORA

A year in review

through the COVID-19 Pandemic

In 2021, the Town of Aurora marked one-year of fully operating under COVID-19. During this year, staff worked diligently – both remotely and in-person to bring residents the programs and services they need.

Those services included some of the following:

Issued hundreds of communications in various formats to inform residents of changing circumstances.

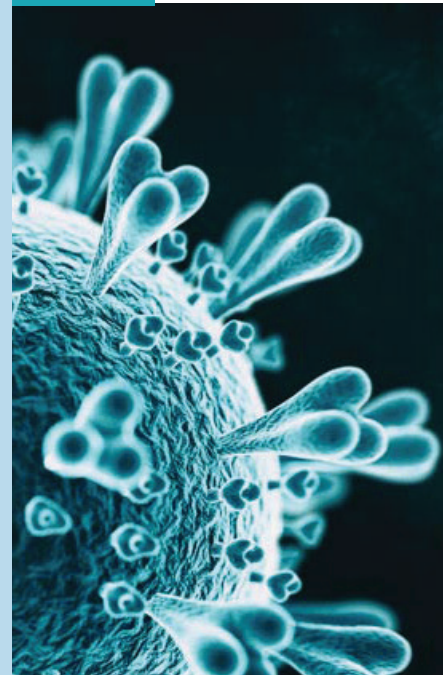
Held more than 45 internal pandemic working group meetings to manage the changing COVID-19 guidelines, community impact and changes to Town processes and procedures.

Maintained dozens of virtual programs for all age groups with overall participation in the thousands.

Created and adapted special events for in-person and virtual experiences, ensuring the safety of attendees and staff.

All municipal facilities were modified for COVID protocols, including all customer service stations and Council Chambers.

95,883 [aurora.ca/covid19](https://www.aurora.ca/covid19) webpage views.



Natural Environment

New Electric Vehicle Chargers installed in 6 locations throughout the Town in partnership with Ivy Charging Network.

Launched first Town Go Green Challenge with 58 participants.

Implemented the Anti-Idling Education Campaign.





Completed the Corporate Environmental Plan (CEP).

Implemented the 3-bag limit and Bag Tag System.

Council approved the Green Fleet Action Plan and EV Charging Station Policy.



6,377.41 tonnes
of waste diverted in 2021

5,615.50 tonnes
of Source Separated Organics (SSO)
diverted in 2021

Economy

Tax increase of **1.96%** in **2021**

Impact - Annual tax increase for a house assessed at **\$800,000** is **\$47.40**.



Approximately \$26M of water/wastewater and storm sewer billing.

The Town's patio program welcomed over **25 patios** across the Town, with the program extended into 2022 as continued support for businesses.

More than 200 jobs added from the opening of hotels and new businesses in the Addison Business Park area.*

Approximately \$131M of construction value for new commercial/industrial buildings.

The Emerging Aurora Campaign launched in December to help share the stories and success of Aurora's local businesses.

Approximately **\$672M** in total construction value in 2021.

In the 2021 StatsCan census data, the Town had approximately **2340** registered businesses, including home-based and independent-registered businesses.

The 2021 StatsCan census data shows the Town's growth rate at **11.9%** from 2016 to 2021, and the current population of people living in Aurora is **62,057**.

*Job numbers are approximate.



Community



130

Council, Standing Committee
and Advisory Committee Meetings

19

Civil Ceremonies officiated

274

Marriage Licenses processed

Introduction of Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion Strategic Plan 2021-2024

1,445,343

Town website main landing page views

224 km

of roads and **249 km**
of sidewalks maintained

473 hectares

of parkland maintained

570

Total Wildlife calls

1667

Total Animal Services calls

*Historic Downtown Aurora went from vacant storefronts to full store fronts during a pandemic, with an overall increase of 15% visitor traffic in the area.

*Report created for Economic Development by Groundlevel Insights.



7,900 up by 585 from 2020



10,969 up by 886 from 2020



7,623 up by 1,826 from 2020



4,686 up by 731 from 2020



Aurora Town Square



Coming in 2023! With two community spaces and unlimited possibilities, Aurora Town Square (ATS) is a place where all ages can come together in all seasons to enjoy art, theatre music, shopping, community events and activities.

ATS includes two key spaces – a vibrant outdoor square and a new community facility that will feature a flexible performance hall. A variety of multi-purpose programming spaces will bring life and energy to our downtown core.

ATS Features include:

- **29,000-square-foot** outdoor community square.
- **32,000-square-foot** addition to the beloved Church Street School facility that includes a flexible performance hall with seating for up to 250 patrons.
- **Environmentally-controlled** archival and storage space for the Aurora Museum & Archives' permanent collection.
- A variety of **multi-purpose** arts programming spaces, including a Performing Arts Dance Studio and Visual Arts Studio.
- A **pedestrian bridge** connecting to new programming space at the Aurora Public Library.
- A transformed Library façade with **improved accessibility** off of Yonge Street.



ATS Progress:

Significant progress made on ATS construction, including site works, commencement of the addition to the 22 Church St. Schoolhouse, near completion of the new Library façade and 2nd floor programming spaces adjoining the Library.

Installation of construction fencing around the perimeter of the Square. Phase 1 of the fencing is inspired by emphasizing the local residents and the liveliness, purpose, and vitality of the community.

Chandos erected a **130 ft tower** crane during construction of the main ATS building.

The **new name**, Aurora Town Square, was approved by Aurora Council following a public engagement process and was carefully chosen to reflect an age-old desire for communities to share a space of belonging and celebration.



Aurora
Town
Square

New logo for ATS is a versatile graphic that plays off the idea that no matter what corner of Aurora you're from, all paths lead back to Aurora Town Square.

Commencement of the ATS **Capital Campaign**, including the development of a plan and fundraising strategy.





2018 TO 2022 Aurora Town Council

Back row: Deputy Mayor Kim, Councillor Gallo
Front row: Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Gilliland
Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Humfryes, Councillor Thompson

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