

# Council Highlights



Town of Aurora Corporate Communications

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For immediate release  
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## Highlights of Aurora Town Council Meeting of Tuesday, July 23

### **Aurora recognizes *John West Memorial Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship* winners**

Nichole Campsall, Youth & Community Development Coordinator and Julie Stephenson, Youth Programmer presented Aurora students Nicole In and Nuscha Fathianpour with the John West Memorial Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship Awards. The award honours the achievements of two senior students who are entering their first year of full-time post-secondary study at college, university or equivalent. Each scholarship has a value of \$1,000.

This award would not have been possible without the donation of funds from former Mayor John West, who passed away in December 2013. The former Mayor and long-serving Councillor provided more than two decades of public service to The Town of Aurora between 1979 and 2006.

### **Council Approves Corridor Extension for Aurora Public Library**

Aurora Town Council approved a corridor extension that would connect from Yonge Street to the future bridge between the Aurora Public Library and the future addition to the Church Street School. The extension will include the corridor, a reading garden, two new multi-purpose rooms and an elevator to Yonge Street. Additionally, the elevator will go directly to street-level enabling the elimination of the ramp on Yonge Street while maintaining full accessibility. The extension will be funded through an increase to the budget for the project currently known as Library Square. The increase, in the amount of \$5,465,300, is proposed to be funded by two sources – Library Services Development Charges (\$3,400,000) and the hydro reserve investment proceeds (\$2,065,300).

### **Church Street Parking for Library Square**

Council voted in favour of a new design for parking on Church Street in the area of what is currently known as Library Square. Future changes to the area include an addition to the Church Street School and new town square. The new design removes the boulevard treatment and street trees on the north side of Church Street in front of the Library, and replaces it with lay-by parking. The boulevard treatment including the existing street trees in front of 22 Church Street and the plaza would continue to be maintained. On-street parking would be provided on the south-west side of Church Street mirroring the lay-by stalls on the north side of the street. This option also limits on-street parking on the south side of Church Street in front of the existing residences. In total, the approved option could see a total of 3 lay-by parking stalls, 14 on-street stalls, 3 accessible stalls, and 1 loading stall, for a total of 21 stalls.

### **Library Square Financial Update**

An update from staff regarding the proposed funding strategy for Library Square was received by Council. To account for the reduced availability of proceeds from the sale of municipal lands, staff recommend that the equivalent funding reduction be replaced with gas tax grant funding. Council has previously formally approved \$2.3 million in funding for this project. The remaining \$40.1 million in budget and funding approved to date will be finalized and formally approved by Council in the fall of 2019. Additional information regarding the proposed funding strategy for the project can be found [online](#).



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## Economic Development Strategic Plan

Council received a presentation and approved a report detailing the Economic Development Strategic Plan as presented by the Aurora Economic Development Corporation Board. In July 2018, staff presented a report outlining a series of recommendations from the Aurora Economic Development Corporation Working Group including the creation of an Economic Development Strategic Plan.

Over the past several months, the Town's consultants, McSweeney and Associates, completed a document review, statistical analysis of the economy and workforce, and a comprehensive community and economic development partner consultation. This work was complemented with a community tour of Aurora which gave the project team an understanding of the uniqueness of the community. The community consultation included a series of one-on-one interviews with businesses and economic development stakeholders, focus group sessions and a stakeholder working group session. These inputs contributed to the creation of the plan focusing on four main goals and an implementation strategy.

## Yonge Street Rail Bridge Design

Metrolinx attended the General Committee meeting to present two cladding design concepts for the Yonge Street Rail Bridge located north of Bloomington Avenue. The proposed architectural cladding work is part of Metrolinx's Barrie Rail Corridor Expansions project, which will also see an additional bridge with two new tracks added to the north side of the current Yonge Street Rail Bridge. As a result of Council's decision, Metrolinx will be advised that the double-fin curve with Aurora identity signage is the preferred architectural cladding option. The design can be found [online](#).

## Advisory Committee Chair Rotation

Council approved a motion put forward by Councillor Michael Thompson to rotate the Committee Chair for Ad Hoc/Advisory Committees and Local Boards annually and that elections be held at the start of each calendar year for the Chair and Vice Chair positions. The motion also stipulates that no citizen member may act as Chair or Vice Chair for more than two years in a single term of Council. Members of Council can serve as Chair if no citizen member puts their name forward and that members of Council will not be subject to any term restrictions.

## Stormwater Infrastructure Review

Council approved a motion put forward by Councillor Wendy Gaertner to present a report investigating the condition of Aurora's stormwater infrastructure, including suggested maintenance and enhancements as per the motion passed by Council in 2018. The report provides an audit of the existing asset management capacity and the key requirements that need to be actioned. The motion calls for the *State of Maturity Report* to be placed on a General Committee Agenda in September 2019.

## Next meeting of Aurora Town Council

The next meeting of Aurora Town Council is scheduled to take place on **September 10, 2019** at 7 p.m. in Aurora Town Hall, Council Chambers, located at 100 John West Way. Please check the Town's website for any cancellations or date changes.



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## Additional Council Information

Comprehensive Minutes of Aurora Town Council Meetings, which detail the full list of Council decisions, are available under **Agendas and Minutes** on the Town of Aurora website. Minutes are available on the Friday afternoon following Council.

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