

2022



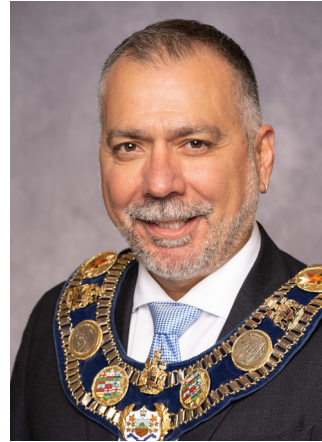
TOWN OF AURORA

ANNUAL REVIEW





A message from the Mayor and CAO



Mayor Tom Mrakas



Doug Nadorozny

On behalf of the Town of Aurora and Aurora Town Council, we are pleased to present our Annual Review.

The Annual Review highlights the innovative work that Town staff and Council have undertaken over 2022, with a particular emphasis on new programs and initiatives. As you'll see, 2022 was all about getting back to focusing on the things that matter most to Aurorans, including building safe and complete communities, strengthening core programs and services, fostering a sense of belonging and inclusiveness, protecting our natural environment, and building our economy.

Importantly, all of this great work closely aligns with the Town's 2011-2031 Strategic Plan – a plan that was created in collaboration with residents and community organizations, and that articulates a shared vision for the future of our community and the goals and actions needed to get there.

We want to thank staff and Council for their continued commitment and dedication to providing world-class services and programs to the community. And of course, we thank residents, businesses and community organizations for their support, and for providing critical feedback that has helped us strengthen the services and programs we provide.

We hope you enjoy all the great highlights in the Town of Aurora's 2022 Annual Review.

Sincerely,

Mayor Tom Mrakas

Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer

A year in review

2022 was a year of coming back together for Aurora. After two long years of the pandemic, the Town was able to refocus on the things that matter most to residents and businesses: accessible world-class programs and services, protecting the environment, fostering an inclusive sense of community, and building the infrastructure needed for a safe and healthy community.

Community

For Aurora, few things signalled a return to normal more than coming together as a community at Town events, recreational facilities, parks and natural spaces. In 2022, the Town was able to completely ramp back up its recreation and cultural offerings, while also unveiling new initiatives and programs.

26 Town-led events, spanning 45 days, attracting more than 100,000 participants.

2,151 children and youth participated in summer camps.



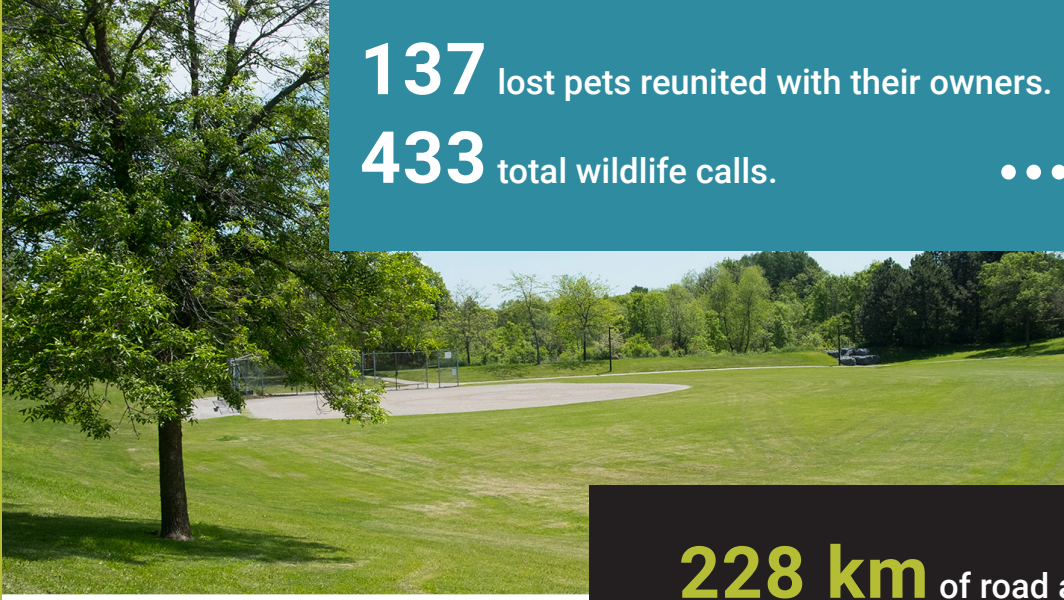
15,581 seniors participated in senior-related programs.



43 civil ceremonies performed and
119 marriage licenses issued.



137 lost pets reunited with their owners.
433 total wildlife calls. ...



228 km of road and
241 km of sidewalk serviced.
473 hectares of parkland, **49** sports fields,
48 playgrounds and splashpads, and
62 km of trails maintained.



The Municipal Election was one of the biggest Town initiatives in 2022. For months, staff worked hard to inform residents about the election and the change to the ward system. And between October 14 and 24, the Town provided residents with multiple ways to cast a ballot: through advanced voting, online voting and voting on election day. More than **11,200** Aurorans voted in the 2022 Municipal Election.



NEW in 2022!

Permanent land acknowledgements were unveiled at Town Hall and at all our public facilities to recognize Indigenous lands and to help to build a lasting and meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous communities.



NEW in 2022!

The Town of Aurora was awarded **Gold Certification** from Excellence Canada, the nation's authority on quality and healthy workplaces, demonstrating that the Town is among the best-managed organizations in Canada.

NEW in 2022!

The Towns of Aurora and Newmarket, along with Central York Fire Services, officially opened Fire Station 4-5 in Aurora, a new 23,000 square-foot headquarters and training facility servicing the needs of residents across both communities.





500+ people attended **Black History Month** events hosted by the Town in partnership with the Aurora Black Community Association. Events included a Pan-African flag raising, movie and paint night, and learn to skate event.



Community Builds Community

NEW in 2022! The Town, along with several community partners, installed a diversity and inclusion mural called Community Builds Community that celebrates and honours the many cultures and language groups within Aurora.

NEW in 2022! Unveiled the Little Free Art Gallery located in Town Park, providing an opportunity for the community to enjoy and share their artistic creations.



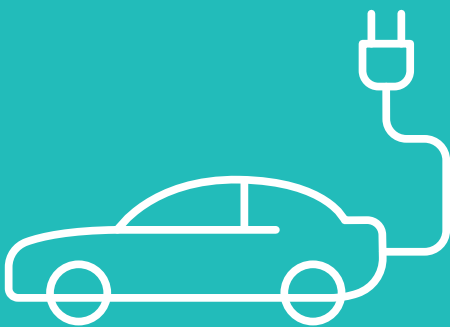
Natural Environment

While 2022 saw us overcome the worst of the pandemic, the reality is that the world is still facing a climate emergency. The encouraging news is that Aurorans care deeply about the environment, and that's why a huge priority at the Town in 2022 was strengthening and bolstering our green initiatives.

NEW in 2022! Hosted our first **Electric Vehicle Showcase** giving residents the opportunity to see a variety of electric vehicles, test drive some of the latest models, and talk to owners about their experience driving electric – part of the Town's commitment to helping reduce GHG emissions.



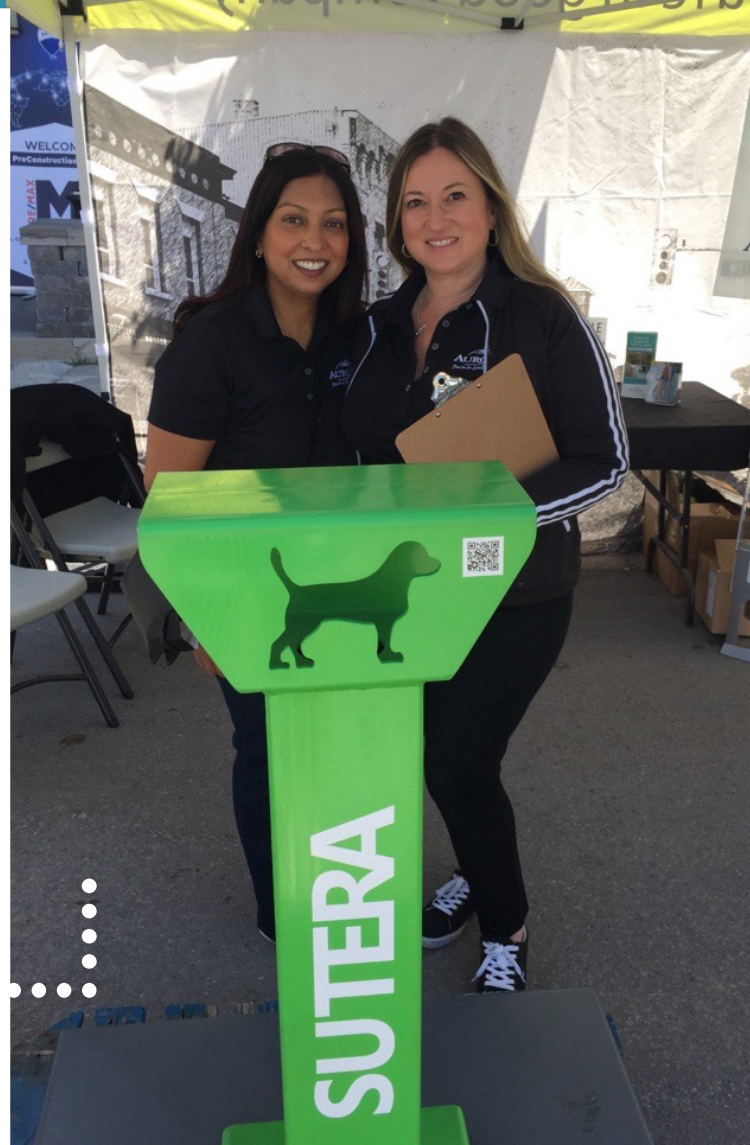
12,244 kWh of electricity used in EV charging sessions at Town-owned facilities. This is the equivalent to 22,000 km driven by an average gas-powered passenger vehicle.



Green and Growing

NEW in 2022! Introduction of **Green Development Standards** that promotes sustainable site and building designs to address energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions, water quality and efficiency, ecological health and more.

NEW in 2022! Installed **10** in-ground dog waste containers across **8** parks and trails.



117,997 tonnes
of E-Waste collected

12,582.82 tonnes
of waste diverted in 2022, almost
double the amount of 2021.

5,473.90 tonnes
of source-separated organics
diverted in 2022.

Economy

2022 posed many challenges for Aurora's economy and business owners, particularly with skyrocketing inflation caused by the pandemic and supply chain disruptions. But despite these challenges, Aurora's economy showed strong resilience, with existing businesses expanding operations, new businesses coming to town, and new residential and commercial developments built to accommodate growth.

Approximately \$565M in total construction value.

Approximately \$177M of construction value for new commercial/industrial buildings.

2,509 registered businesses, a 7% increase from 2021.

Opening of Wellington Corridor

(Highway 404 to Leslie Street), welcoming businesses such as BMW, Farm Boy, Winners and HomeSense to our community, and creating approximately 100 new jobs.



Small business openings included Suntea, Monterey Snack Bar, Sweet Dutchess Kitchen and Café, Bell and Bespoke, Oakridge's Fashion, and Bookworms and Co.

Piramal Pharma Solutions expanded its Aurora manufacturing facility, a **\$30 million** investment.

Kovatera opened a R&D facility in Aurora to focus on the development of electric vehicle powertrain and autonomous vehicle systems.

Aurora's population is currently estimated at **62,057** (2021 Census), up **11.9%** since 2016.



Community Engagement



8,600 up by 700 from 2021



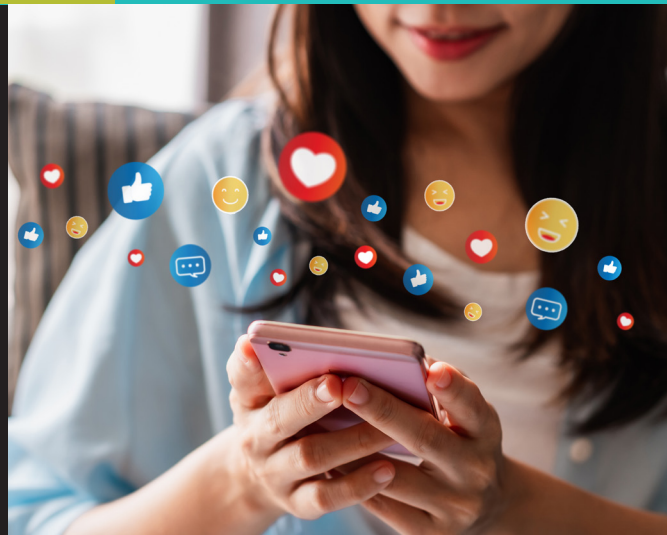
11,379 up by 1,307 from 2021



8,168 up by 545 from 2021



5,646 up by 960 from 2021



AURORA MATTERS

1,180 subscribers to the Town's Aurora Matters Newsletter.



30+ days of in-person community outreach activities to connect with residents on key issues.

ENGAGE AURORA

14 public consultations with **10,600** visitors to the Engage Aurora website. Top engagement consultations included the 2023 Budget, Active Transportation Master Plan, the Official Plan Review and Aurora Town Square.



Aurora Town Square



Construction on Aurora Town Square – the transformative arts and culture hub that is central to downtown revitalization – ramped up significantly in 2022.

Some construction updates include:

- Completion of the Aurora Public Library upgrades, with the Library opening to the public on October 21, 2022.
- New rooftop reading garden.
- Continued work on the New Museum & Cultural Centre (NMCC).
- Installation of amphitheatre seating, step forms and outdoor water feature.
- A transformed Library facade with improved accessibility off of Yonge Street.



2022 TO 2026 Aurora Town Council

Back row: Councillor Ron Weese, Councillor Wendy Gaertner, Councillor Rachel Gilliland, Councillor John Gallo
Front row: Councillor Harold Kim, Mayor Tom Mrakas, Councillor Michael Thompson

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