

Council Highlights



Town of Aurora Corporate Communications

communications@aurora.ca

For immediate release
Thursday, July 16, 2020

Highlights of Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2020

Aquatics Feasibility Study

Aurora Town Council received a report regarding the aquatics feasibility study. The last public pool in Aurora was built at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex in 2007. The population has grown since then and the need exists for expanded swim programs, third party rentals, lane swim times and expanded time for family recreation and open swim times. Current facilities do not provide any event capabilities and home teams are unable to host events. This study shows that a new facility would meet current and future demands of the Aurora community.

Downtown Street Wall Mural Program Guidelines

Aurora Town Council received a report to implement the Downtown Street Wall Mural Program guidelines based on Council's direction of May 26, 2020. The mural program assesses the location of the murals, the selection process and a timetable for when the first mural will be completed. The Town will seek experienced artists through a call for artist's application process undertaken by a selection committee. The aim is to have the first mural installed before the end of 2020.

BIA 2020 Business Plan and Budget

Aurora Town Council received a report to approve the proposed 2020 Business Plan and budget of Aurora's Business Improvement Association (BIA). The BIA's Board of Management asked to Council to endorse the use of 2019 surplus funds for 2020 activities with no additional levy in 2020. The budget was revised due to COVID-19 and has been approved by its membership.

John West Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship

Julie Stephenson, Youth Programmer for the Town of Aurora, made a presentation to Council announcing the 2020 John West Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship recipients. This year, the awards were issued to Kiana Mirshahi and Amanda Bishop, both students from Aurora High School. The Town believes in recognizing our leaders of tomorrow, who have made a positive impact in the community. This award honours the achievements of senior students who are entering their first year of full-time post-secondary study at college, university or equivalent. The awards, valued at \$1,000 each, are distributed to two (2) applicants per year. Applicants must be a resident of Aurora or attend secondary school in Aurora.

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.

Rainbow Crosswalk at Yonge Street and Wellington Street

Aurora Town Council approved a motion put forward by Mayor Tom Mrakas to install a permanent rainbow crosswalk at the intersection of Yonge and Wellington Streets (South side) in support for Pride and the LGBTQ+ community. The permanent installation of a rainbow crosswalk is also a symbol of acceptance and support of diversity and inclusiveness. The crosswalk is scheduled to be in place by the end of August 2020.

Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)

Aurora Town Council approved a motion put forward by Councillor Sandra Humfries to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism and its illustrative examples. York Region is enriched by its thriving, active and engaged Jewish and Israeli communities.



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Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Racism Task Force

Aurora Town Council approved a motion put forward by Councillor Harold Kim and Mayor Tom Mrakas creating an Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Racism Task Force. The Town is committed to building a more inclusive society by working to identify, address and prevent systematic racism in municipal policy, program and services. The Town is also committed to taking meaningful action to address anti-Black racism and affect long-term systemic change. This taskforce will work on developing strategies that seek to eliminate Black racism and all other types of racism in our community.

Additional Council Information

On March 31, the Town of Aurora held its first virtual special council meeting to discuss matters relating to Town operations during the state of emergency. Based on the success of the meeting, Aurora Town Council will continue to meet virtually to move forward critical municipal business during the COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual meetings of Council are cancelled for August. The next virtual meetings of Council are as follows:

- General Committee Meeting - Tuesday, September 8, 2020
- General Committee Meeting - Tuesday, September 22, 2020
- Council Meeting - Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Delegations will be allowed by video conference and by phone. To delegate at a meeting, please visit aurora.ca/participation for further information. To view a live meeting, visit aurora.ca/livecouncilmeeting.

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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