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# THE AUROREDAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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FREE

Week of Oct 5, 2023



**NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION** – Traditional Anishinaabe Grandmother Kim Wheatley is pictured embracing Shelley Ware of the Town of Aurora at the start of a gathering hosted at Town Park on Saturday evening to mark National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. For more on the poignant observance, see Pages 24 & 25.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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## Pledge of 8,000 housing units by 2031 approved by Council

BY BROCK WEIR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Council last week approved a new Housing Pledge which, if brought to fruition, will lead to the creation of 8,000 new housing units by 2031.

The pledge was approved on a 4-3 vote, with Councillors Ron Weese (Ward 1), Wendy Gaertner (Ward 3), and John

Gallo (Ward 5) in the opposition.

“Along with the target of 8,000 new housing units, the Housing Pledge articulates the various efforts the Town is making to address the housing crisis. These include, but are not limited to, the inclusion of new strategies and actions on affordable and attainable housing in the Town’s updated Official Plan, as well as streamlined processes to facilitate

the timely review and approval of development applications and permits,” said the Town in a statement following the September 26 Council meeting.

While Council members did not dispute the need for more residential units to address the housing crisis, the devil was very much in the details, including funding.

Continued on page 8

**Strong Mayor powers rejected by Council, but likely coming anyway**

BY BROCK WEIR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Aurora lawmakers have rejected Strong Mayor powers on paper, but the decision is not likely to change the outcome.

Last week, Council, upon a motion from Ward 1 Councillor Ron Weese, formally rejected Strong Mayor powers, which could be a significant shift in how municipal decisions could be made going forward.

This fall, Heads of Council in nearly 30

Continued on page 22



**DINNER WITH LEGENDS** – On Thursday night, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce hosted its inaugural Celebrity Sports Dinner and Auction where the star power was brought by, from left, emcee Ken Reid, and NHL icons Ray Bourque and Wendel Clark. For more on this event, which raised money for scholarships, see Page 21.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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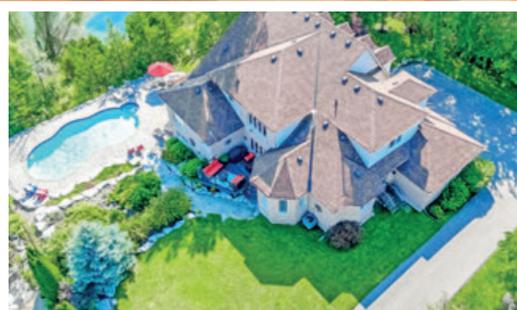
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