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# AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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See Page 2

Vol. 7 No. 10

AURORAN, Week of January 9, 2007

905-727-3300



Jamie Walker, and his mom, Liz, of Aurora, were two of hundreds of participants who attended the Town's First Night celebrations on New Year's Eve. Jamie was participating in a basketball toss, one of several activities available during the evening. Special Events Co-ordinator Shelley Ware said the attendance exceeded earlier years, even though there was no snow. For another photo from the event, please see Page 13.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Part Two

# Aurora: the final six months of 2006

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

The second half of 2006 was much like the first with bickering and nit-picking among councillors and decisions made at general committee rehashed at council meetings, sometimes with a flip-flop in the action to be taken.

The sale of replica guns was an early issue with council directing staff to prepare a draft bylaw based on the Township of Scugog model and when adopted to send it to other area municipalities in the region.

It was reported that six stores in Aurora were selling replica guns.

The use of food banks in the region was continuing to increase and food donations were continuing to decline.

In a report to council the York

Region Food Network pointed out that between 2001 and 2005 the demand increased by 38 per cent and the 2006 spring food drive was 15 per cent lower than expected.

An average of 3,882 individuals used the food bank every month and the number of seniors had increased.

Back in March, 2004, Aurora and Newmarket Councils agreed to consider a merger of their hydro utilities and a consultant was engaged.

In March, 2005, it appeared the merger would take place.

Then at the last minute Aurora backed out and sold Aurora Hydro to PowerStream resulting in Newmarket accusing Aurora of bad faith negotiating and requesting \$136,575 for their con-

sulting and legal fees which Aurora refused to pay.

It had taken a long time but by July Aurora had two automated external defibrillators donated by the Mikey Network established by Heathwood Homes.

One was for the Seniors' Centre and the other for the Recreation Complex.

The town also planned to install others in the Community Centre and the Leisure Complex.

As Aurora sweltered in the heat, council approved the Winter Road and Sidewalk Maintenance Program.

The growth of the town resulted in a 20 per cent increase in sidewalks and 10 per cent in roads resulting in a \$25,000 increase in the budget to finish

out 2006.

A BMX track for young bikers was before council due to complaints about the bikers using the Case Woodlot.

The teenagers appeared before council to talk about the problem and possible solutions.

Staff presented a list of nine possible locations, not including the Woodlot and council directed staff to meet with the bikers.

Council agreed to re-advertise for citizens to sit on a committee to consider compensation for the incoming council.

Council had advertised the previous May for applications and after a private meeting decided to re-advertise without an explanation why.

Citizens have been complaining since at least 1969 about the proliferation and lack of control over the placement of newspaper and sales magazine vending boxes throughout the town.

Staff was directed to advise all companies that council planned to adopt a bylaw to control the number and placement of the vending boxes.

Citizens were alerted that fire bugs were on the loose in the municipality as between March and July a total of 17 incidents of intentionally set fires had been reported.

Most of the fires occurred in garbage bins located in school parking lots.

Please see page 9

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# COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

Until April 15, winter parking restrictions are in effect and parking is prohibited on all streets from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. daily.

\*\*\*\*\*

Aurora Opera Company is seeking 30 choral singers for an April production of the musical "Children of Eden" by Stephen Schwartz. Singers will not have to memorize music. Requirements are adults who love to sing. Stage experience not necessary. Performances will take place at Newmarket Theatre. The group is also looking for a baritone for a leading role. Rehearsals begin in January on Sunday afternoons with an occasional Saturday evening. Contact General Director Sarah Kyle at [keepsinging@look.ca](mailto:keepsinging@look.ca) if you have any questions or would like to take part.

\*\*\*\*\*

The 3rd Aurora Scouting Group has spaces available in Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers. For registration information or to volunteer call 905-726-2393 or 905-841-0556.

\*\*\*\*\*

Meet at Martha's Table, now in its second season. Every Thursday from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., you will find comfort food and a sense of community at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. A lunch of hot soup, sandwiches, and dessert will be provided.

\*\*\*\*\*

Voice is a group of aspiring writers ages 12 to 19 interested in developing writing skills, working on a magazine and embarking on creative adventures with similarly minded people. The group meets in the Marjorie Andrews Room of the Aurora Library on the last Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. Call the Library at 905-727-9493 for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*

Aurora Seniors present a movie night every Tuesday from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. Admission is \$1 for members and \$1.50 for guests.

\*\*\*\*\*

Aurora Zen Meditation Group meets weekly every Wednesday evening at Healing Hands Wellness Centre on Wellington Street East at 7.30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Aurora Agricultural Society (organizer of the Aurora Fair & Horse Show) meets on the second Tuesday of every second month, at 6.30 p.m., at the Aurora Community Centre. New members welcome. For more information, call 905-713-6773, e-mail at [info@aurorafair.ca](mailto:info@aurorafair.ca), or visit [www.aurorafair.ca](http://www.aurorafair.ca).

\*\*\*\*\*

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday evening at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members welcome. For further information, call 905-841-1352.

\*\*\*\*\*

On the first Wednesday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon, a satellite constituency office for Vaughan/King/Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara will be open in the councilors' lounge at the Town Hall. Call 1-877-880-6770 for information.

\*\*\*\*\*

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge #148 meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at 15216 Yonge Street (south of Wellington). For more information, call 905-830-9205.

\*\*\*\*\*

Masons' Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at The Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7.30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Robertson Masonic Lodge meets the third Saturday each month at 57 Mosley Street at 10.30 a.m. Coffee club at 9 a.m., lunch at noon. Call 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080.

\*\*\*\*\*

Gamblers Anonymous, every Tuesday night, Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street, 7.30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night. Aurora Legion, 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

\*\*\*\*\*

Canadian Federation of University Women has monthly meetings at the Aurora Legion with a variety of speakers. There is also a selection of interest groups. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dancing at the Legion, 8 p.m. every Friday night.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bid Euchre at the Legion, 1 p.m. every third Sunday.

\*\*\*\*\*

York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for members from Aurora and area who would like to volunteer by joining the choir. Men, 16 years of age and older, are invited to visit any Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. in committee room B, York Region Administrative Centre, 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket. For more information, call volunteer chorus supervisor Lowell McClenny at 905-727-9676.

\*\*\*\*\*

Queen's York Rangers free camps for boys and girls, 12 to 18. Aurora Squadron runs Friday evenings at the Aurora Armoury. For further information, call 905-726-8600 any Tuesday evening between 7 and 9 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Seniors Choir practice under the direction of Tom Rainsford every Wednesday from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. in the West McKenzie Hall of the Seniors Centre.

#### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10**

A public planning meeting to receive comments on Aurora's request to amend the regional official plan to expand the urban area and designate 1,100 acres from rural to urban in the area known as the 2C lands will be held in Committee Room A of the regional building at 1.30 p.m.

#### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 12**

Mayor's Blood Donor Clinic, 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. in the front lobby of the Town Office, 1 Municipal Drive.

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 14**

Roy Meacock Memorial Dart Tournament at the Aurora Legion. Register at 8.30 a.m. For further information, call Tom at 905-841-9188.

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 15**

Christmas tree pick up and residents are requested to place their trees at the curb by 7 a.m. and on Yonge Street and the Industrial Parkway by 6 a.m. This is the one and only collection date.

\*\*\*\*\*

The American Women's Club of Toronto is hosting a neighbourhood gathering in Aurora from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. Call Beverley Varcoe at 905-727-2151 for more information.

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 16**

Aurora Council meets in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 20**

Vaughan-King-Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara presents his annual community skating party at the Aurora Recreation Centre, 1400 Wellington Street East from 4 to 5 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 23**

Aurora Public Library presents "Money, Mission & Marketing" with Maxine Hyndman, author of "The Naked Millionaire" and "The Organic Entrepreneur" at 7 p.m. in the Lebovic Room. A fee of \$2 per person will be charged.

\*\*\*\*\*

Aurora Council meets as general committee in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24**

Final date for citizens to apply for membership on the Aurora Public Library Board, Committee of Adjustment and the Accessibility Advisory Committee. For more information, visit the Aurora Library or the Clerk's office in the Town Hall or call 905-727-3123 ext. 4220.

\*\*\*\*\*

Seniors' Awareness Day from 11.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch included for \$1.50 per person, members or non-members, at

the Seniors' Centre. The event is presented by the Elder Abuse Prevention Committee in partnership with York Regional Police.

\*\*\*\*\*

Aurora Horticultural Society, presents lecture on "Celebrating Natures' Beauty" at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North at 8 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 30**

Aurora Neighbourhood Watch seminar in the Magna Room at the Aurora Public Library. Captain meeting begins at 6.30 p.m., with the free general public seminar beginning at 7.10 p.m. and continuing until 9 p.m. Topic for the evening: "Is Your Home Safe?" Guest speakers include Mike Fenton and PC Mark Lawrence.

\*\*\*\*\*

Aurora Council meets in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31**

A public planning meeting will be held in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

St. Andrew's College Open House from 7 to 9 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

Aurora Seniors Association presents "A Winter Cabaret", featuring Cara Chisholm and Brian Roman. Limited tickets are available at the Centre, 5 Municipal Drive, and R & R Revisited, 75 Mary Street, Unit 3. The matinee begins at 2 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

Justin Trudeau will be guest speaker at an Aurora Chamber of Commerce luncheon. He has a message for students and the Chamber is seeking corporations to sponsor a student for the luncheon at a cost of \$40. To sponsor a student call the Chamber office at 905-727-7262.

#### **FEBRUARY 14 to 17**

Aurora's Marquee Productions presents Rogers and Hammerstein's

"Cinderella" at the Newmarket Theatre at 7.30 p.m. with 2 p.m. matinees on February 17 and 18. Call 905-713-1040 for tickets.

#### **FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16**

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Ski Day at Osler Bluffs.

#### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

Aurora Horticultural Society presents a "Question and Answer Session with Master Gardeners" at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North beginning at 8 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 25**

Trinity Anglican Church presents the return visit of The Tri-city Gospel Chorus. Come and hear this 85 voice male choir sing in four part harmony. No admission charge; however an offering will be taken up. 7 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28**

Aurora Horticultural Society presents a "Rhododendron Woods" at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North beginning at 8 p.m.

#### **FRIDAY, MARCH 30**

Deadline for the Aurora Library's Second Annual Poetry Contest for Teenagers to celebrate National Poetry Month based on the theme Murmurs. There are two categories, one for those in Grades 7 to 9 and the other for Grades 10 to 12. For more information call 905-727-9493.

#### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25**

Aurora Horticultural Society presents an "Aurora Urban Oasis-Aurora Arboretum" at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, beginning at 8 p.m.

#### **MAY 9 to 12**

Marquee Productions presents the musical "The Secret Garden" at the Newmarket Theatre at 7.30 p.m. with 2 p.m. matinees on May 12 and 13. Call 905-713-1040 for tickets.

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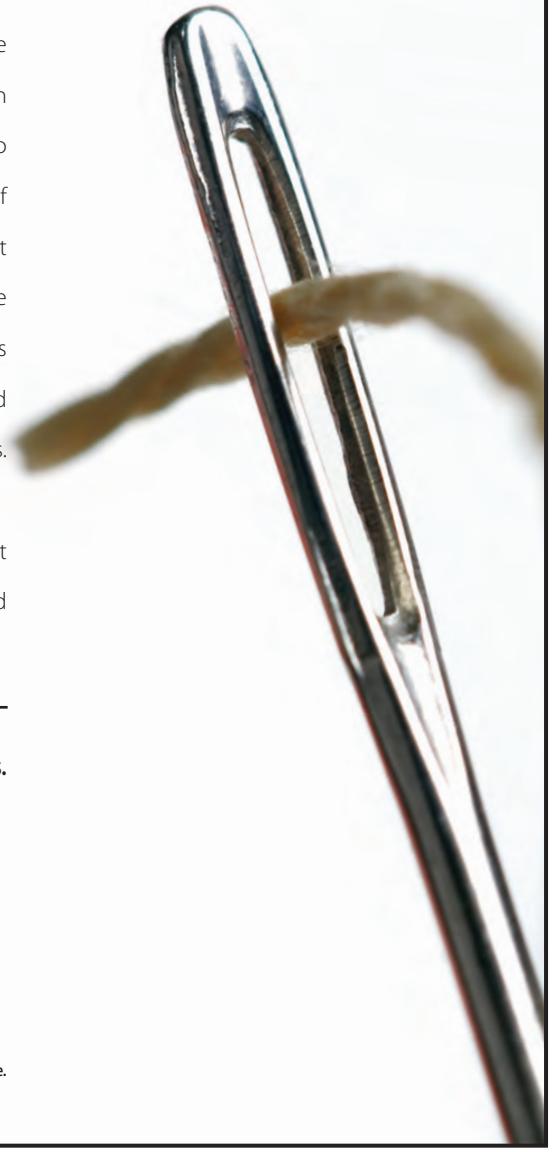
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Members of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Women's League became Santa's helpers during the 11th annual Christmas Fair and Artisans Craft Sale  
Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Farmhouse future undecided

Aurora Council couldn't decide what to do with the Jack Woods farmhouse last term and although staff was directed to report at the November 28 council meeting, no report was received so it's up to the new council to make a decision.

Previously parents with children in the Crescentbook Farm Care Centre accommodated in the former farmhouse had been advised they had no fear of immediate eviction but the long term future of the facility was still in doubt.

In 1973, the town purchased the Woods farm on what is now Edward Street for an industrial park, but kept the farmhouse and about five acres of land to permit the owner to continue to live there on a rental basis.

After the family moved out, the house was vacant for 15 months and at one time it was considered as a site for the Town Hall.

In 1988 the house was leased to the Aurora Learning Co-op Centre as a child care facility at \$9,210 per year but the centre fell on hard times and closed.

Consideration was given at that time of declaring the building and property surplus and to sell it but council decided to continue leasing the property.

In 2001 staff was authorized to advertise for interested parties to submit applications to lease the facility and following a site inspection a lease was negotiated with York Region Neighbourhood Services at \$26,400 a year for rent and utility costs.

In 2004, agency officials met with staff and the general committee to request consideration of options in reducing their costs as they were experiencing financial difficulties. Their presentation was referred to staff for a report.

After several meetings with agency officials and a review of the agency's financial statements, staff reported to the Leisure Services Advisory Committee in January, 2005, that the rent be reduced from \$26,400 to \$5,480 per year resulting in the committee seeking more information.

The staff report was discussed at a private meeting of council in May.

By September, 2006, it was learned that the agency had not paid any rent for 2005 or 2006 and after considerable discussion the general committee agreed to terminate the lease and declare the property surplus.

It was also agreed to consider legal action to recover back rent.

When the committee report came to council, Patricia Robertson, representing the agency appeared before council and dropped a bombshell when she said she had been told by the Leisure Services Director not to pay the rent until council made a decision.

She reminded council members that she had previously appeared before them to point out that the costs of maintaining the facility were much higher than expected and the agency had spent more than \$90,000 in capital costs on the farmhouse.

With this information, council hurried into a private session and later directed staff to submit a further report and that council not take any action until the report was received.

The staff report was tabled at the council meeting and recommended that the agency be asked to pay all outstanding bills within 10 days and that upon receipt of the rent, council direct staff to discuss amendments to the terms and conditions of the existing agreement to the satisfaction of both parties and report to council at the November 28 meeting.

It was also recommended that if the outstanding rent was not received within 10 days that staff be directed to terminate the agreement.

There were six delegations to speak to the report including Elizabeth Brims of the York Region Food Network, which operates the community gardens on the Woods property.

She repeated the request she had previously made to council that the garden site be severed from the property to provide a permanent garden for the town, which would be the

first in the region.

Ms Robertson told councilors a cheque in the amount of \$43,000 had been deposited with the town to clear up the back rent and asked the town to assist the agency to continue to provide a service to the 45 families with 50 plus children in the centre.

A letter was received from the legal firm representing the agency enclosing the \$43,000 cheque and stating that the agency was making the payment with the full knowledge that this level of rental payment could not be maintained as an accumulated deficit of \$121,000 had been experienced.

It was also pointed out that if the lease was terminated as suggested by council, it would be necessary for the municipality to repay the agency a total of \$126,000 that the agency had invested in capital costs in the facility.

There was a long and involved debate among councilors regarding day care rates, subsidies from the region for some children, whether the town should subsidize one day care centre and not others, the need for revenue to prevent an increase in taxes and the role of municipal government for funding day care, compared to the responsibility of parents.

It was finally agreed to direct staff to discuss amendments to the terms and conditions of the existing agreement to the satisfaction of both parties and report back at the November 28 meeting of council.

Without too much time to get their feet wet, the new council has a very controversial issue to handle as an early decision is necessary.



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## Poor Richard

# Issues aplenty for new council

*The days of glory are over,  
The work is about to begin;  
Council left some problems  
To forget them would be a sin!*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Aurora's new council faces some real problems in the coming months, some new ones and some left over from the previous council and with five brand new councillors, the public must be patient and let them catch their breath and get their feet on the ground before rushing into decisions.

The first major challenge is the preparation of the 2007 operating and capital budgets.

The public made it known during the election campaign that they are fed up with high taxes, especially when they are well above inflation.

Somehow or other council will have to produce a budget with a minimum tax increase and still retain the current level of services.

The nine-year record of no tax increases ended in 2000 and since then there have been substantial tax increases every year making it difficult for seniors and others on a fixed income to remain living in Aurora.

In addition, based on a report from the town treasurer last March, the reserve funds are not adequate to meet the needs of the capital program and by the end of 2013 there will be a shortfall of \$68 million.

The figures presented show a need over the period 2007 to 2013 to raise \$10.8 million per year over and above the current tax levy to meet the capital required for the Asset Management Program.

Also the financing arrangements for the new recreation complex included the need to receive the development charges on 400 homes a year for the next 10 years to retire the debenture payments, otherwise the cost will fall on the long-suffering taxpayers.

That's just the budget.

An early decision must be made on the future of the former hydro building, which has been sitting idle since last May.

Other than adopting a motion last September that the facility be used for municipal purposes, council failed to take action.

Council also failed to take action on what to do with the \$34.5 million proceeds from the sale of Aurora Hydro after paying \$20,000 to a consultant to provide recommendations.

The money is in a reserve account gathering interest but its future use is tied up in restrictions on council.

The whole question of what to do for adequate parking for the library and the heritage centre and museum in the Church Street School still had to be decided. Last September council approved a \$30,000 parking study of the downtown area and this may provide some assistance.

Another major challenge for the new council is to regain an assessment balance between residential and industrial/commercial.

Back in 1973, the assessment base was 75 per cent residential and 25 per cent non-residential, whereas today it is around 89 per cent residential and 11 per cent non-residential throwing an extra burden on homeowners.

Decisions still have to be made on newspaper box licensing with a report from staff, night train whistles in Aurora, and what to do with the request from Southlake Regional Health Centre for \$2.9 million to help fund the Cancer Clinic.

The future of the Child Care facility in the Jack Woods farmhouse is still in doubt and if the property is sold as has been suggested, what happens to the Community Gardens?

Council is still waiting for results from the Ministry of the Environment on the possible contamination of Tannery Creek in the vicinity of the former Collis Leather plant on Tyler Street and the contamination near the Petrocan station on Industrial Parkway South.

Young BMX riders in Aurora are still waiting for council to make a decision on where the BMX track is to be located and residents in the Henderson Drive area want to know what is happening to their request to use some of the Hydro funds to purchase a 7.8 acre greenland property on Henderson.

The question of what to do about the request for an enlarged Wal-Mart store on Wellington Street East and an extension to the Superstore at Bayview and St. John's Road still has to be decided.

There are several other pending items, but council shouldn't try to solve them all at once.

Councillors are in for four years, so there is time to think these issues through.



Two early views of Yonge Street are shown here. Both show the single line radial track that took people from the city as far north as Sutton. Aurora's radial station was located on Yonge opposite today's Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, next to the Aurora United Church. In the top photo, Yonge Street is seen looking north from about Mosley Street, while the lower photo shows the street, looking south from a point just north of Wellington Street. These two shots come from the postcard collection of Councillor Bob McRoberts.

### Letter to the Editor

## Two major issues need council's endorsement

### To the editor,

It's nice to see that the new Aurora Council has gotten a couple of meetings under their collective belts and so far, no one has been struck, kicked, defamed or otherwise abused.

However, I believe that this council has made a mistake in that they had golden opportunities to set the tone for the next four years, but instead, they are allowing the NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) factor to dictate policy and consequently set precedents.

The first issue is the North Richmond Hill water tank.

We all know that Aurora and Richmond Hill are growing in leaps and bounds.

Take a drive down Yonge Street south of King Road and see all of the new houses.

Drive out to Bayview and Wellington to see even more. How can York Region provision water for these developments (or fire services) if they cannot build the infrastructure?

Yes, the primary purpose of this tank is to serve Richmond Hill residents, however Richmond Hill and Aurora are both in York

Region and the needs of both towns are to be served by this tank.

Both towns need this tank.

Remember the water shortages?

Remember every spring when the town puts up those signs to tell us that a Stage 1 watering ban is in place?

We have a resource at our disposal in Lake Ontario.

We have the means to get that resource to us in the use of pipes and tanks and pumps.

We need it, it has to be somewhere.

Let's suck it up and let them build it where it is best.

The second issue is the proposal from ACI and their wind turbines.

Finally, we have a private enterprise wishing to make a difference and reduce the burden on the hydro system.

Every tree-hugging, Birkenstock-wearing person in Aurora should be happy.

But no, NIMBY strikes again.

We want corporations to do this as long as it doesn't impact us.

I applaud ACI's initiative to use turbines.

I find wind turbines quite

elegant personally.

Take a drive up north of Shelburne.

All you can see for miles are huge wind turbines.

From what I see, ACI has done everything that they are supposed to do.

The OMB is happy. The Town staff is happy.

I say let's get on with it and let them do it.

So, members of council, while it is the right of the Susan Walmers and Walter Mestrinaros to come before you and voice their concerns, it is your duty as town

council to listen to their concerns and then do the right thing.

In these two cases, the right thing was to politely listen to their concerns, note them, and then for the benefit of Aurora, York Region and the Ontario, enthusiastically endorse both projects.

This would set the tone for the next four years that the needs of the whole take priority.

**Bruce Orrell**  
Aurora

**AURORAN**

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Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published. Names may be withheld assuming a compelling reason to do so. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.

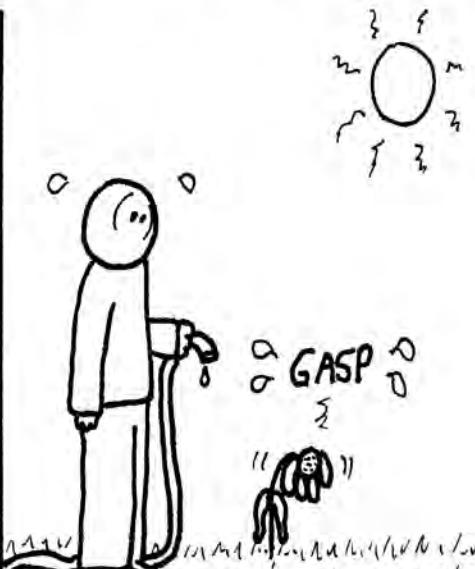
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## WHAT AURORANS CAN LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2007



ELECTION FATIGUE



ANOTHER WATER BAN



MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL WOES



YOU KNOW - THE USUAL

## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

The people at Time Magazine had it partially right. They chose, as the 2006 Person of the year, "You". On the front cover of the magazine was a plastic mirror. According to the subtitle of the article, "In 2006 the World Wide Web became a tool for bringing together the small contributions of millions of people and making them matter."

If 2006 was the year of the individual, then why shouldn't 2007 in Aurora be the year of the volunteer?

I was struck by, after watching the civic awards ceremony last summer on the local cable television channel, the impressive nature of volunteerism that goes on around us here in Aurora.

Many local groups support events such as the World's Longest Street Festival, the Aurora Home Show and the Aurora Fair and Horse Show.

It is also great to see the number of children playing organized soccer, baseball and hockey in Aurora and they would not be doing so if not for the volunteer coaches and administrators.

These selfless people are, to borrow an expression from Richard Nixon, one of the "silent majority".

Those people who quietly meet the challenges and commitments of every day life and also find time to volunteer their time to others.

They usually don't garner headlines, trophies or accolades, but their individual contributions are what make our community worth living in.

Aurora resident and Oak Ridges MPP, Frank Klees, stated it aptly in the Legislature a few weeks ago on International Volunteer Day:

"Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Leader of the Official Opposition, John Tory, and the Ontario PC Caucus, I want to acknowledge International Volunteer Day and to pay tribute to the more than 2.5 million Ontarians who freely contribute 400 million hours of their time each year to community service and to meeting the needs of others."

"And thank you to the many service clubs of our province for their volunteer initiatives through which youth are encouraged to become the best they can be and our communities are strengthened. Thank you to these and all volunteers whose hard work helps make Ontario a better place in which to live!"

What about if ALL of us, as part of our own respective New Year's resolutions, decided to do something - however small - that would contribute to making our community a better, prettier, safer or happier place in which to live?

There are a great number of folks in Aurora who do things, but as my dad likes to say, "many hands make light work".

On a grander scale, what about our community getting collectively behind some project?

It should be a 'big idea' involving some specific program or special initiative that someone would like to see the Town undertake.

This is how Aurora, as a community, becomes more than the sum of its individual citizens.

Our community could pick one special project per year and as the ad says, "Just do it".

I would kindly suggest that a committee of citizens could be struck.

This committee would review potential project ideas every November, make a decision in December and

## How about a major community project?

announce the community project via the media in early January.

The local media would then provide regular updates on the progress of the project.

As we are already in to the New Year, I will submit an idea for the readers' perusal and consideration in an

upcoming column.

Let us remember one thing; our community is simply what we make of it.

Stephen can be contacted at: [stephengsomerville@yahoo.com](mailto:stephengsomerville@yahoo.com)



## Cathy's Corner

## The art of storytelling

I love telling stories!

My grandmother (on my father's side) was a great storyteller.

All the children in the little Macedonian village where she lived her whole life would flock to hear her stories.

She told the same ones over and over again, and still the children were drawn like moths to a flame.

Apparently, I take after my grandmother.

But the children in my life have nothing in common with those who collected on my grandmother's lap. Nope!

My kids make fun of me because I tell the same stories over and over again. It isn't fair!

I try to explain that as long as there is one person in attendance who hasn't heard the story before, it simply must be told - again!

They roll their eyes.

"Mom," they whine, "we've ALL heard every story a thousand times!"

The last time it happened, we were at my sister's house for a family dinner, and I was in a storytelling mood that no amount of frowning, eye-rolling, or hissing could dissuade.

"That's not true," I said as I looked around the room for a fresh set of ears.

And who should my wandering eyes behold, but Nadia's boyfriend, James!

James hasn't been in the family long enough to tell me how he really feels, so I raised my arms in triumph and exclaimed, "James! You haven't heard this story before!"

"I don't believe I have," he mused...as he backed away slowly.

"Excellent!" I motioned to the chair next to me and pulled it up a little closer.

"It happened when the kids were really little - I think Jennifer might have been 5, Nadia 4 and, Tim 2. My parents had taken them up north for the weekend and they brought them home late on the Sunday night.

After the kids were in bed, I started unpacking their stuff and putting it away. One of the items that came back with the kids was a small bottle of apple juice, so I put it in the fridge.

The next morning at breakfast, I poured each of the kids a little cup of the apple juice.

They ate their breakfast, but not one of them drank their juice.

"Finish your juice, guys," I said.

They looked at me and shook their heads.

"What's wrong?"

"Mommy," said Jennifer in a small, I-hate-to-be-the-one-to-tell-you voice, "the juice is hot."

The other two nodded vigorously.

"Nonsense," I said, "The juice can't be hot! I just took it out

of the fridge!"

I went back to whatever I was doing, and within a couple of minutes, one of the cups of juice got spilled.

I went over to wipe it up, and that's when I realized what Jennifer meant when she said the juice is "hot".

I am probably the only mother in Aurora who has served her toddlers Canadian Club...for breakfast!"

"Couldn't you smell it when you poured it," asked James after much shocked laughter. Ah, so he hadn't heard it before...

I explained that the children had their own little table and because it was so low, I probably didn't get close enough to catch the fumes.

Then James had another question: "How did Canadian Club get into an apple juice bottle in the first place?"

"It wasn't my fault," I shouted, standing to point at the perpetrator. "My mother did it!"

Poor James! He asked just the right question to get me on a roll! I told enough stories to send all three of my kids home with migraines after that...

My mother is notorious for pouring liquids that come in large containers into smaller, more useful containers, so, of course I had to tell the "Javex Story".

When I was young, she measured bleach in shot glasses. One day, when she was doing the laundry, a friend of my father's came over, and seeing the full shot glass sitting on the wringer-washer, grinned at my mother.

"Drinking on the job, are you?"

Before she could stop him, he had slugged it!

Of course, Tommy survived (I like happy endings), so I had to tell the "Bubble Story".

That was when my mother poured industrial-strength cleaner into...a brown beer bottle.

How was my father supposed to know it wasn't beer? It was foamy and all...

He was burping bubbles for hours! But he survived, too, so I had to tell the "Off Story"...

That was when my father meant to spray himself with the insect repellent called "Off", but ended up spraying himself with oven cleaner - the one called "Easy Off".

Of course he started with his back...OUCH!!!

But I saved him, and we've all learned a lot from our almost tragedies - mainly read carefully, don't assume, and follow your nose - it always knows!

So we can all laugh now that fate gave us nothing to cry about! My father laughs about it every time I tell the story...which is a lot...according to SOME people!

But I can't help it! I love telling stories!

Cathy Vrancic welcomes e-mail at:

[cathyvrancic@hotmail.com](mailto:cathyvrancic@hotmail.com)

[or laughingmatters@aci.on.ca](mailto:cathyvrancic@aci.on.ca)

# Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

**BOUQUETS** to the members of council and the citizen volunteers totalling 40 for participating in the first weekend of Operation Red Nose and helping 24 motorists with 50 passengers and raising \$400 for a charity from those they helped.

**BOUQUETS** to Magna Golf Club head teaching professional Danny Ling on capturing his second straight Titleist and Footjoy Canadian PGA Club Championship in Florida late last year with a four under par 68, two strokes ahead of three other golfers.

**BRICKBATS** to Justice Marion Cohen for ordering the removal of a Christmas tree from the lobby of a provincial courthouse in Toronto on the grounds it alienated non-Christians, igniting a storm of protests. She should be removed, not the tree!

**BOUQUETS** to the Dr. G. W. Williams Junior Wildcats football team on winning the York Region Tier Two Championship in a nail-biting come from behind 12-10 victory over the Joan of Arc squad and to head coach Kent Ravelle and his staff.

**BRICKBATS** to the mean-spirited federal bureaucrats who sent a registered letter to a Scarborough woman to terminate her employment contract two days before the birth of her child and four months short of becoming a permanent employee. Then due to public pressure they got the Christmas spirit and reinstated her.

**BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Panthers Bantam AA Girls Hockey team for going undefeated in five games to win the title in a tournament in Pittsburgh. Aurora scored 22 goals without giving up any.

**BRICKBATS** to the TTC bus driver who failed to have the Christmas spirit by refusing to let a mother on his bus with her nine-year-old son who suffers from cerebral palsy. The TTC is investigating.

**BOUQUETS** to nine-year-old Madison Gilliland of Aurora for inviting people to a pool party with a paper bag supplied by the York Region Food Network attached to the invitation for the food bank and bringing in 300 pounds of food.

**BRICKBATS** to the federal Foreign Affairs department for spending more than \$26 million over five years to promote fringe arts groups as well as big name musicians, including the Holy Body Tattoo Society abroad. The money could better be used for priority issues like health and education.

**BOUQUETS** to the McGuinty government for finally getting around to establishing an Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion, similar to the Centre for Disease Control in the U.S. as recommended by the SARS Commission in 2003. Must be an election coming.

**BRICKBATS** to the same government for writing off \$171 million in unpaid loans and taxes in 2005 including a \$6.1 million loan to the Ottawa Senators, although the \$26.8 million loan was made to the then Corel Centre in 1994 by the former NDP government.

**BOUQUETS** to the McGuinty government for being named by the American Planning Association on winning the 2007 Daniel Burnham Award for the government's Places to Grow plan to curb urban sprawl in the GTA. It's the first time the award, which honours excellence in large-scale planning, has been given outside the United States.

**BRICKBATS** to the Big Six national banks for smashing their previous full-year earnings record with a total net income of \$19 billion in 2006 while charging exorbitant interest rates on credit card and service fees for using bank machines. Isn't anyone in government in charge?

## Letters to the Editor

# Communication lives at new seniors' centre

### To the editor,

Of all our many and fine friends from the past, unforgettable memories remain; many of those friends are no longer with us, although thankfully, some remain, and no matter how fondly the memories linger, the opportunity to meet and make new friends is ever present in the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

New members join daily, particularly in January, which starts the membership year.

They join and sign in often knowing what they intend to do; other times they find an interest which they can pursue and which provides a bond while they investigate at their leisure, what the centre offers.

Many want to feel and be a part of the team of volunteers who make the centre function, and so, they volun-

teer a few hours in the kitchen, on a committee or at the front counter. They all have or soon find one or more activities to which they turn, and find pleasure and variety of other members with whom to converse.

Getting to know people and to feel comfortable with them is really a basic, important and essential fundamental of life, and that all comes with a little time.

I believe that of all the things that occupy each of us, conversation is an essential component and among the most rewarding of leisure time pursuits, and the principal portal to rewarding friendships and an improved quality of social life.

I truly believe that of all the carefree and serious activities and programs in which we engage; the cream that rises to the top

and endures is conversation.

Good conversation preferably, but any conversation is the glue that unites and binds and with which we flourish as families and friends and without which, life would diminish and perish.

The list of senior lives nurtured and enhanced at the centre is long and while quality time cannot be quantified, for a profusion of active seniority, it is a reality which cannot be denied; the evidence is abundant and displayed daily.

Each day is the small change of time or of eternity even, but it is the small change of time in which we experience the good and the bad, and in which we have the opportunity to be captain of our own fate; to be able to grab the rudder or the steering wheel and head ourselves to that brilliant, beckoning and very enticing and reachable shore and become part of a very fine and capable group of Ontario seniors.

Time inevitably plunders the glory of youth from us, one day at a time to be sure, but does so remorselessly as it unremittingly carries our lives to the decrepitude of old age through all the nuances of infirmity of body and mind.

If you are granted the

wish of long life to its extreme, experience will leave nothing to the imagination, all that a life can experience will be unfolded exquisitely, one day at a time.

We are old and past our labour, and will be laid low into a cold grave soon enough, sleeping forever as creatures of the cold silent earth.

Over-ripe fruit must fall eventually and we the present survivors will drop soon enough and disappear into eternity. Who next among our friends will smite us with a grief ever sharper, while we, frail survivors heave a sigh of despairing acceptance?

We must somehow relinquish the past, but not forget it! And why you might ask?

Because we live for the present, and the near future, and that calls for the initiative inherent in everybody, to make effort enough to be part of the fabric of today's society.

Who in this world does not enjoy pleasure, good times, and the satisfaction of good company, or reaching for and rising above the usual limitations of life to a new level of personal achievement?

**Brian Warburton**  
Aurora

## Writer to confine her comments to website

### To the editor,

This letter is regarding the not nice letter that appeared in The Auroran last week in response to my hockey team analogy.

I have been writing letters to one editor or another in Aurora for more than 40 years.

I cheerfully admit, I always hope to have readers. Why else would one write?

I would not like my letters to have been considered dull, innocuous or mediocre.

I want to believe they may have sparked a little interest in whatever idea was being expressed... maybe even a chuckle, or a tear.

Politicians do not usually express themselves in writing. From a political perspective, it is at best unwise and at worst, definitely risky.

Generally speaking, I think risk is the spice of life.

Nevertheless, I have

been publicly shat upon once too often.

I am no longer sure I can accept abuse without succumbing to the overwhelming temptation to hurl a wheelbarrow load of the stuff right back at whatever clumsy oaf may be wielding the shovel.

But doing that runs against the grain.

It represents a terrible waste of time and space, to say nothing of the powerful impact of the malodorous emanation.

I shall heretofore confine my efforts to my blogging boudoir. I realize not everyone is wired but if our editor spots something he thinks might be of interest to Auroran readers, it shall be yours.

**Evelyn Buck**  
Aurora

**ED. NOTE:** Click on "my blog" in Ms Buck's brand new website "www.evelynbuck.com"

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**What women are wearing to church these days.**

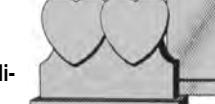
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04/02

**Letters to the Editor**

# Downtown look keeps us a town, not a suburb

**To the editor,**

The New Year is upon us and the promises of the election campaign must now become the hard work of council.

Two of the issues in the campaign were the problem of core revitalization and economic development.

We are at a "crossroads", only the crossroads are literally at Yonge and Wellington.

Many of us were drawn to Aurora by its historic small town character and charm.

While other communities rushed to replace their historic buildings with glass and steel, Aurora delayed.

This delay, (or inability to make a decision), however, provided us with an advantage - a look that makes us feel like a town instead of a suburb.

It gives us an identifiable downtown core that can become the focal point of a vibrant centre of activity.

One of the ways proven by other communities to revitalize the downtown core is

the establishment of an "evening economy" (I know what you are thinking, and I don't mean that kind of economy).

The type of economy I am referring to is a "consumption-based economy" focused on culture, entertainment and leisure.

Aurora has significant cultural assets (Theatre Aurora, Aurora Opera, among others as well as an established network of schools for aspiring actors, musicians and dancers), on par with similar centres in Burlington, Oakville, and Oshawa.

These competitive markets have effectively levered their arts and cultural assets to spur economic development through downtown revitalization, by making their urban core a dynamic, creative hub for businesses and retail through a strong arts presence and through visits by residents and cultural tourists.

Aurora, however, is lagging behind these markets because it has not similarly

levered its cultural resources as an economic engine.

Summer concerts in the park attract people into the core on Wednesday evenings.

After the concerts are over, people filter into the restaurants and shops and increase the business activity for a short period of time during the summer months.

The library creates a similar impact on Saturdays.

A broadened strategy that sees the relocation of our cultural assets into facilities within the core would create a year-round stimulus for the downtown area.

The building of a new theatre or the redevelopment of the Old Library, Old Seniors' Centre and Church Street School into a cultural centre for live theatre, opera and music as part of a larger cultural centre would create a focal point for core revitalization and economic activity.

With Church Street School's historic association with Lester B. Pearson, a permanent multi-media

museum and interpretive centre could be created to round out the cultural and tourist offering and further stimulate daytime cultural tourism.

The engine of economic development was primed with John West's vision to invest in a new library.

Investment in complimentary venues will further increase economic activity and start the process of revitalization by encouraging investment by the private sector into the construction of new buildings and the renovation of older ones to meet and enhance the demands of the evening economy.

Employment opportunities, property values and tax revenue would all be increased.

Now is the time to think outside of the box, for at stake is the future of our beloved Aurora, and the degree to which it will survive as a distinct town with its own charm and character, or become another bedroom community that serves at the bequest of the GTA.

**Bryan Moir**  
Aurora

## Chamber thanks sponsors

**To The Editor,**

This year the Aurora Chamber of Commerce "adopted" 32 veterans on the second floor of Sunnybrook Hospital - Veterans' Wing and we also had the honour of presenting 10 gift baskets to local veterans at the Royal Canadian Legion in Aurora prior to Christmas.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, I would like to thank the following companies for their very generous support of this endeavour.

Without their donations this would not have been possible.

The businesses are Aurora-Business.Com,

Ellis Studios Limited, The Partnership Network, Dr. Steve Sedore, R.C. Sherwood Sales, Sigma Promotions, Tim Hortons-Aurora, Type By Design, Van-Rob Ltd., and the Women's Centre of York Region.

**Sean Herbinson**  
Chairperson  
Visibility Committee

## Herb Lennox portrait whereabouts solved

**To the editor,**

I am answering the query about the T. Herbert Lennox portrait because Cathy Molloy, director-curator of the Aurora Historical Society, has probably never seen Herb!

As was stated in last week's Auroran, the Shaw portrait of T. Herbert Lennox was loaned to the Aurora Museum by the Town (which had the painting on loan from the City of Toronto).

The almost-life-size portrait in its ornate gilded frame graced the library area of the museum's premises in Church Street School.

At present Mr. Lennox is in an excellent storage space while the old school building is under renovation for its future as the Aurora Heritage Centre.

Another interesting point in Herb Lennox' career: after retiring as a member of the provincial legislature, he decided to enter the political fray again and to run for the federal seat in this riding.

he not only won the seat, but defeated the prime minister of the day, William Lyon Mackenzie King. (Mr. King was able to get back into the House of Commons by winning a by-election in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, where he defeated a young John Diefenbaker.)

**Jacqueline Stuart**  
Research Volunteer  
Aurora Historical Society



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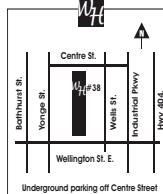
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# Aurora actress lands role in "Stone Angel"

By CHRISTINE WOODLEY

One of the most anticipated Canadian films of 2007 has a decidedly Aurora connection.

The Stone Angel, an adaptation of Margaret Laurence's novel, stars Aurora native Christine Horne as young Hagar Shipley.

Ellen Burstyn plays the same character as an old woman recounting her life, loves and regrets.

## Magna may help Russian auto maker

Aurora-based Magna International is expanding again.

Magna is already the world's third largest auto parts maker with annual sales of more than \$22.8 billion and 82,000 employees in 222 manufacturing operations and 58 product development and engineering centres in 22 countries.

An agreement has been reached with Russian auto maker OAO AvtoVAZ that could lead to Magna participating in a \$1.7 billion car factory turning out 450,000 vehicles a year by the next decade.

Magna will engineer a family of compact vehicles for AvtoVAZ, maker of the Lada, to develop a modern supply chain for the auto maker, manufacturing parts for it and possibly be a partner in the assembly plant in the southern Russian City of Togliatti.

If Magna becomes involved in vehicle assembly, it would be its first investment of that kind outside its only current manufacturing facility in Graz, Austria, which is producing about 200,000 vehicles annually.

A surging demand for cars in Russia has encouraged foreign auto makers to build production facilities in Russia, entering its ninth year of economic growth.

The casting was a surprise to Christine.

"I was working on a production for the theatre company I run with my partner," she said. "We were busy workshopping the play for its November run, when I went to an audition for The Stone Angel. I go on lots of auditions, mostly for commercials, so I didn't think much of it."

That was in July.

Christine quickly found herself on a plane to Winnipeg for a second audition.

By August, she'd been cast and was on set, working with movie veterans like Ellen Burstyn.

"She was very generous with her time. She took me out to dinner to give the "code" of making movies. I'm very grateful to her,"

Christine said.

The movie newcomer also had some very Hollywood-like perks, like a driver and her own trailer.

The six-week shooting was challenging, however, and involved Christine's portrayal of Hagar from age 15 to 43 (the actress was 24 during filming).

"I was a bit disheartened to learn that it was much easier to make me up to be 43 than to turn back the clock to 15," she smiled.

The real Christine at 15 was at Aurora High School, after attending George Street Public School until Grade 2; Aurora Heights Public School from Grade 3 to 6; and Aurora Senior Public School for grades 7 and 8.

Her proud parents are Randy, a police officer and

Cathy, a dental hygienist.

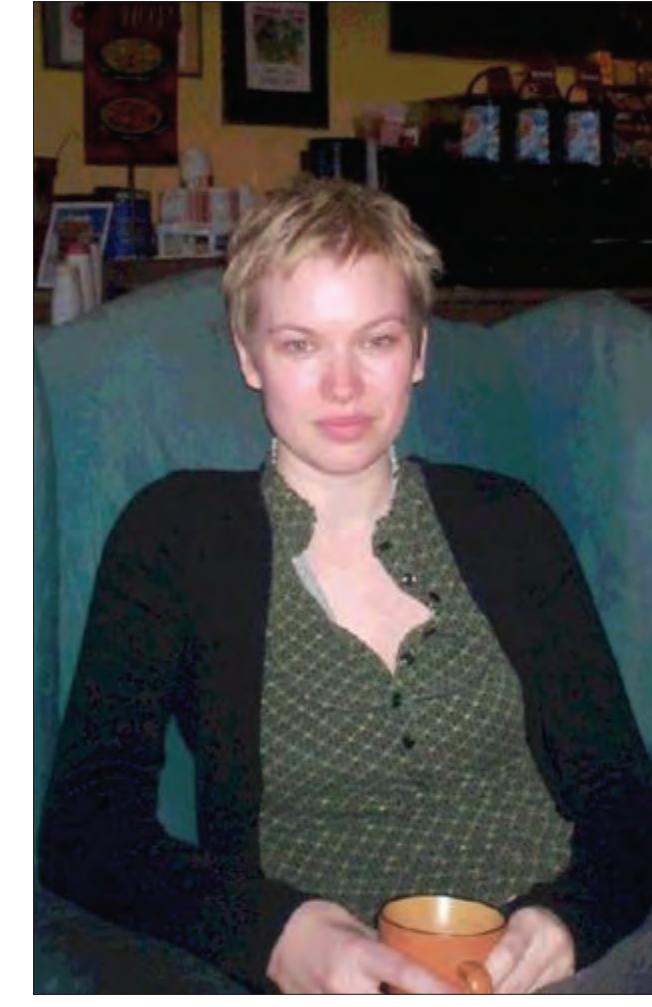
Sister Cheryl lives in Newmarket.

The Stone Angel is expected to premiere at the Cannes Film Festival this May and may also be featured at the Toronto International Film Festival come September.

Its general release date is not known as yet.

In the meantime, Christine Horne has wrapped up her first production for The Thistle Project, the theatre company she founded with fellow York University Fine Arts graduate Matthew Romantini.

Gorey Story is based on the illustrations of Edward Gorey and was rated third in Now Magazine's top 10 Toronto theatre productions of 2006.



CHRISTINE HORNE

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEWS

### Seeking Citizen Members to the Town of Aurora Board/Committees

Town of Aurora Council invites you to apply to participate as a citizen member of one of the following Boards or Committees:

#### STATUTORY BOARD OR COMMITTEES

- Aurora Public Library Board
- Committee of Adjustment /Property Standards Committee
- Accessibility Advisory Committee

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- Economic Development Advisory Committee
- Environmental Advisory Committee
- Heritage Advisory Committee of Aurora
- Leisure Services Advisory Committee
- Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

Applications, in writing, whether by mail, fax or hand delivered, should be addressed to the Town Clerk 1 Municipal Drive P.O. Box 1000 Aurora, ON L4G 6J1 and received prior to

**Statutory Board or Committees:  
Advisory Committees:**

**Wednesday, January 24, 2007  
Wednesday, January 31, 2007**

## WHAT IS THE ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEES ROLE?

Staff will conduct a drop-in information night on **Monday, January 22, 2007 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** to provide interested parties with an overview of the advisory board/committees role in the Council decision process.

To find out more about these opportunities, for a summary of terms of reference, meeting times, duties and functions for the committees or to pick up an application form, please visit the Aurora Public Library, the Corporate Services Department on the 2nd floor of Aurora Town Hall 1 Municipal Drive or the Town website at [www.e-aurora.ca](http://www.e-aurora.ca)

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# Reviewing Aurora's final six months of 2006

## From page 1

CHATS introduced a community health program called Cardiovascular Health Awareness consisting of several Aurora drug stores offering free pressure clinics over a 10-week period to raise awareness of health problems associated with high blood pressure.

The large historic home of the Hartman family located at Wellington Street and Bayview Avenue, more recently a Montessori school, was approved for demolition to make way for an auto dealership.

Southlake Regional Health Centre was recognized as one of the two high performance hospitals in Ontario, scoring above average in at least two of the four categories and below average in none.

The survey was conducted by the Ministry of Health and the Ontario Hospital Association.

It was announced that this year's edition of the Magna Hoedown was adding a search to find Canada's next country music star with arrangements made to hold auditions at the Graystones Restaurant.

The Hoedown started 19 years before as Frank's Fiesta to raise funds for local charities.

Hanging clothes on outdoor clotheslines was an issue before council as it was learned that they were prohibited in some subdivisions and staff was directed to obtain information for discussion at a future council meeting.

Council gave unanimous support to a motion by Councillor Phyllis Morris on the right of a homeowner to hang laundry outside on a clothesline as an energy conservation measure.

Hydro One launched a pilot project with 6,000 subscribers in York Region to install a thermostat in their homes that could be controlled by a website which allowed the homeowner to adjust the home temperature from anywhere, but it also allowed Hydro One to adjust the temperature without the owner's knowledge.

A campaign to stop motor idling in Aurora got bogged down in red tape as it bounced back and forth between council and committee and although Richmond Hill had issued a challenge to Aurora, council couldn't make up its mind.

The Cyclissimo Grand Prix Bike Race was held in Aurora for the first time and top cyclists from across Canada and the USA participated.

Proceeds from the event were donated to the Southlake Regional Health Centre.

Council approved a multi-way stop at the intersection of Cameron Avenue and Dunning Avenue in front of the Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School and included \$10,000 in the 2007 budget to modify the bus loop at the school.

A program that provided a safe haven for children in trouble was no longer available in York Region as the last locally run Block Parent organization was disbanded.

Block Parents came to Aurora in 1984 but was disbanded in 2006 due to

lack of volunteers.

The York Region Food Network launched a campaign to collect backpacks and school supplies for students as some parents were going without food in order to buy a backpack for their children.

When separate requests were received from residents on Spruce and Centre Streets for traffic calming measures, council engaged a consulting firm to carry out a \$30,000 study for the northeast quadrant.

Council approved the report in principle and authorized the consultant to conduct a poll of residents in the study area.

The plan was referred to the 2007 budget.

Brian Larter appeared before council to present a proposal for a new mural on the north wall of the building at Yonge and Wellington to pay tribute to Canadian Juno Music Award winners.

He estimated the cost of the mural to be \$35,000 and requested the town contribute \$5,000 as a sponsor as it had for the current mural.

Council adopted the proposal in principle and referred the funding request to the 2007 budget.

A resident appeared before council to complain about bylaw enforcement in Aurora as being complaint driven and that he had been harassed by his neighbours and he requested the town to enforce the bylaw pertaining to the parking of recreational vehicles in driveways equally and not pit neighbour against neighbour.

Council did not support a request for a permit system rather sought a legal opinion.

Fire Chief John Molyneau presented his annual report for the fourth year of operation of the Central York Fire Services.

There were 4,184 calls which included 293 fires, 906 false alarms, 560 public hazards, 1,701 medical calls with 1,542 calls in Aurora and 2,556 in Newmarket.

Council decided to take no action on a request from Southlake Regional Health Centre for a tax levy to assist in the funding for the cancer care centre due to negotiations between the province and the hospital and referred the issue to the 2007 council.

Due to the delay in finishing the renovations of the Church Street School as a Heritage and Cultural Centre, Councillor Evelyn Buck suggested that some of the proceeds from the sale of Aurora Hydro be used.

MI Developments, the real estate arm of Magna International, applied for a top-soil permit so work could be started on a new housing development on the north side of Wellington Street opposite the Magna property.

The application was denied since it violated the town's standard procedure.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner expressed concern about the number of people using food banks and gained council support to petition the government to support a food security program.

At a previous meeting council agreed to partner with the six northern municipalities for joint waste collection and the issuance of a Request for Proposals. Four bids were received and Turtle Island Recycling was awarded the contract.

The United Way of York Region 2006 fundraising campaign was set at \$8 million to help fund 40 human care agencies.

It was pointed out that about 75,000 people or about 10 per cent of the region's population live on the poverty line.

Council agreed to support the campaign and proclaimed October as United Way Month.

With regard to the day care centre renting the Jack Woods farmhouse, council agreed to terminate the lease agreement, consider legal action to collect the back rent and for staff to file a report.

In trying to decide what to do with the proceeds from the sale of Aurora Hydro, it was agreed that 90 per cent remain in the reserve fund and interest be utilized for new initiatives submitted by the public and 10 per cent be placed in a discretionary reserve fund to be spent at the discretion of council.

Mayor Tim Jones came under considerable criticism from other members of council for announcing at the Magna Hoedown that the Recreation Centre would be named the Stronach Centre without any discussion or approval by council.

A report was to be submitted to a private meeting of council.

A bombshell was dropped on council by representatives of the day care centre using the Jack Woods farmhouse when they said they had been told by Aurora staff not to pay rent for 2005 and 2006 until council had made a decision and the money had been put in trust.

Council hurried into a closed meeting and agreed to take no action until they heard from staff.

Council accepted the citizen committee report on compensation for the incoming council and adopted a bylaw setting the mayor's salary at \$48,545 and council members \$23,254 per year of which one-third was tax free plus travel allowance and a convention or special function allowance.

The BMX facility was back before council as citizens objected to the site at Bathurst Street and McClellan selected

by staff as a potential site and the issue was referred back to staff.

The proposed traffic calming study for the northeast quadrant was back before council as it was reported that a large majority of residents supported the proposed plan while others wanted minor changes.

Council adopted the plan as presented but asked staff to take another look at the Birch/Cedar intersection at Walton.

After more than a hour of heated debate a motion to rescind a previous motion by council and restore the address of the Town Hall to 100 John West Way went down to defeat on a 5-3 vote.

Officials of the York Region Food Network, administrators of the community gardens on the Jack Woods property, asked council to sever the 60 plots in the gardens in the event the remainder of the town-owned property was sold.

Whether dogs should be allowed in the War Memorial Park caused considerable debate at council and it was finally agreed to get comments from the Legion before making a final decision.

During the latter part of October and early November a series of all candidate meetings were held in hopes of informing the citizens and getting a good voter turnout.

Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees called on the Attorney General to investigate the administration of the Newmarket Courthouse due to delays in setting trial dates.

Both the Aurora Minor Ball Association and the Aurora Horse Show reported that they were in trouble due to lack of volunteers and the Horse Show may have to cancel for 2007 if volunteers do not come forward.

The Canadian Education Standards Institute Visiting Committee visited St. Andrew's College and gave it an excellent report card.

Aurora elected Councillor Phyllis Morris as Mayor and Bob McRoberts, Evelina

MacEachern, Wendy Gaertner, Stephen Granger, Grace Marsh, Alison Collins-Mrakas, Evelyn Buck and Al Wilson to council with a voter turnout of 38 per cent.

The York Catholic District School Board submitted an application for a new secondary school on Wellington Street East, east of Industrial Parkway, causing the demolition of five homes.

Council considered installing plaques for the 34 parks within the town providing a brief history of the name for each park.

The last council meeting of the outgoing council might well have been termed Tribute to Tim Jones night as a large number of citizens bid farewell to Jones and the outgoing members of council. He served a total of 28 years on council the last 12 as mayor.

The inaugural of the new council was a colourful event with a Piper, the Legion Colour Guard, and the traditional Return of the Freedom of the Town of Aurora to the Queen's York Rangers.

At their first meeting the new council started off by going round in circles for more than an hour with regard to an application from Aurora Cable Internet

to install three wind turbines and a container at their transmitter site at the end of Ridge Road.

A minor variance was approved by the Committee of Adjustment in spite of objections from residents resulting in an Ontario Municipal Board hearing which supported the application with conditions.

In spite of assurance by staff that the conditions were being fulfilled and the project was in compliance with all bylaws, council refused to approve it and requested another report because of continuing objections from residents.

Council members had a first look at the 2007 capital budget and it wasn't good news with 87 projects out of 126 above the cut-off line with an estimated expenditure of \$74 million over four years requiring a transfer from the operating budget equivalent to a five per cent tax increase.

It will be discussed later with public input.

According to a recent tradition as a result of topping the poll in the recent election. Councillor Bob McRoberts was appointed Deputy Mayor to act in the absence of the mayor.

And that was the year that was in Aurora.

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# AURORAN SPORTS



Page 10

AURORAN, Week of January 9, 2007

## Travelling Tigers dump Orangeville 6-2

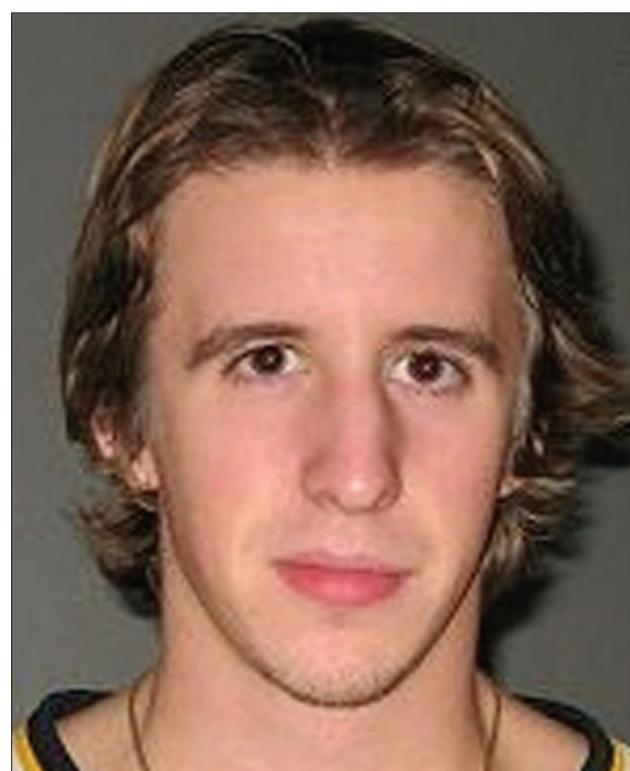
If it seems a little lonely around the Aurora Community Centre these days, it probably is.

Aurora's Provincial Junior A hockey team - the Tigers - won't be back in town for another couple of weeks.

But that doesn't mean they're not out there somewhere.

For example, Saturday night they were in Orangeville handing the Crushers a 6-2 punishment, after taking a 4-0 lead into the third period, thanks to a marker in the first and three more in the second.

Leading the way for Aurora was the solid goaltending of Mike Lalande who made several key saves early in the game to give the Tigers a chance to get on the scoreboard.



ANDREW FAVOT

And score they did...taking two periods

to match the Canadian Junior team, who took a 4-0 lead over Russia to the dressing room, then hanging on to secure a 4-2 win, and the club's third gold medal in a row.

Meanwhile, six different Tigers potted goals to contribute to the victory led by Matt McGill who played well at both ends of the ice and Paul Zanette who broke out of his scoring slump and added two assists.

Others marker were scored by Quinn Waller, Doug Henderson, Brett Connolly and Andrew Favot.

Favot's goal kept him atop the scoring race by a point. He has 25 goals and 30 assists for 55 points, one up on Joey Martin, who is one goal behind.

Henderson moved

into a tie for third place with Mike Dahlinger, and Waller's goal kept him in the race, a point back with four goals and 39 assists.

The Tigers now have a very challenging weekend ahead of them with three back-to-back road games.

On Thursday they

play the Spirit in Stouffville, Friday the Blues in Collingwood and on Saturday they travel to visit the Waxers for a tilt in Markham.

Aurora returns to the comfortable confines of the Aurora Community Centre, Friday, Jan. 19, when they host the Orangeville Crushers.

It's time to  
**CELEBRATE THE  
GOOD TIMES.**



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## 11-year-old forced from league

**1984**

In 1980, Quang Ly and his family came to Canada from Vietnam as "boat people" and settled in Aurora.

They had been sponsored by Trinity Anglican Church.

Like most refugees they were lucky to come away with their lives, let alone birth certificates and other pieces of paper.

By January, 1984, the young lad and his family were facing a shameful ordeal of mistrust because the Ontario Hockey Association wouldn't accept the boy's Canadian citizenship certificate and immigration papers as proof of age.

According to Ottawa, Quang was 11 years of age but as he was taller than other boys on his team and happened to be one of the top scorers in the Aurora minor peewee league, complaints by parents led to a ruling that Quang must play with the 13-year-olds, even though his team coach claimed it was jealously.

He was ruled ineligible by Minor Hockey Association officials during the Silver Stick Regional Qualifying Hockey

league officials.

About a week later, the OMHA officials changed their minds and decided Quang was just 11 and could return to his team.

By October, 1990, Quang, whose nickname was "Q", was

attending Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School with an ambition of going to college to prepare for a career.

He was still enjoying playing hockey and his favourite team was the Los Angles Kings.

Tournament in December.

Aurora Minor Hockey Association officials were told that if he played in any more games the coach and trainer would be suspended for life.

In the meantime Quang was playing for a minor bantam team where he was the smallest and youngest player.

The officials said they had received reports that Quang was not 11 and said the Ottawa papers were only temporary proof and more concrete evidence was required.

The parents and members of the Vietnamese Cambodian Chinese Services Association claimed by not recognizing the certificate, OHMA officials were not recognizing the Canadian government.

The parents launched a formal discrimination complaint against the OMHA at the Human Rights Commission, backed by the Vietnamese Association.

In addition, the parents sought an injunction against

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# How GO commuter train service came to Aurora

Today the operation of GO Trains from the Aurora station to Toronto is a well used commuter service with hundreds of Aurorans riding in comfort, leaving traffic problems behind. Mount Albert lawyer John Medcof can take much of the credit for getting the service started.

In May, 1969, the provincial government of the day decided it would be wrong to extend commuter rail service north. They said it wouldn't pay, that it would use expensive equipment for only four hours a day and it would encourage urban sprawl.

The provincial government decided the building of expressways was the better way to go.

Medcof pointed out that commuter transport had become a political football and a subject for political discussion rather than government action.

He decided to do something about it.

He gambled \$1,600 of his own money to charter a CN passenger train to make the run from Barrie to Toronto, with stops at Bradford, Newmarket, Aurora, King and Maple, to prove there was a demand for rail commuter service.

He invited the thousands of people who supported a drive for rail service in 1967 to ride with him, with round trip fares running from \$3.90 from Barrie and \$1.95 from Maple.

The train departed Barrie at 7:15 a.m. October 16, 1969, and arrived at Union Station, Toronto at 9 a.m.

The return trip left Toronto at 5:20 p.m. arriving in Barrie at 7:05 p.m.

His \$1,600 gamble bought him a sell out of 600 seats for the return trip.

But those who wanted to use a bar car on the return trip were disappointed, due to Ontario's archaic liquor laws. Medcof had requested the bar car on the return trip and CNR agreed subject to a payment of \$188 by Medcof providing CN kept the profits.

Medcof refused but an anonymous donor paid the \$188 and CN agreed to provide the bar car, but the Liquor Licence Board refused to issue a licence for the GO-GO Special. The reason given was the train would pass through two dry townships on the trip to Barrie.

By the time the trip took place a total of 851 people bought tickets with 270 from Barrie, 69 from Bradford, 136 from Newmarket, 155 from Aurora, 77 from King and 144 from Maple.

GO Girls distributed a questionnaire asking commuters how far they travelled to get to their respective stations and what hours they would prefer the train to operate.

Based on the success of the trip, Medcof petitioned the Ontario government to provide a commuter service for a trial period of 30 days.

The idea of a GO North commuter service was conceived in 1967 when a group of King Township residents

formed a GO North committee under the chairmanship of Bob Sillcox. The region's late MPP Bill Hodgson supported the concept and introduced a private member's bill in support, but no action was taken.

By October 1, 1969, Medcof passed the break-even point of \$1,600 with the support of the heads of council of the municipalities along the way who agreed to travel on the GO-GO Special.

Toronto Mayor William Dennison agreed to be at Union Station to greet the passengers on their arrival.

Aurora commuters lined the station waiting to board the train.

Many residents appeared at the station just to see the train stop.

While passenger trains rumbled through the station daily, it was a long time since one stopped.

In addition, two police cruisers and a fire truck were at the Aurora station to greet the train.

Medcof said the public support exceeded his wildest imagination and he could have sold as many as 1,600 tickets.

In December, 1969, Medcof turned over \$305.41 to Ontario Treasurer John White, profit from the trip.

He asked the government to put the money towards establishing a rail commuter service on the line.

It looked as if Medcof's

# 1969

experiment had been successful as a proposed Barrie to Toronto GO Train experiment was scheduled for the week of July 13, 1970.

At the last minute, however, the experiment was derailed by a combination of the provincial government, Metro Toronto and the train's organizers.

In view of the provincial action, Medcof wrote to the province and asked for the return of the \$305.41 profit from the GO-GO Special.

In March, 1972, the province made it clear it did not support a rail commuter service from Barrie to Toronto.

Provincial Treasurer Darcy McKeough said the line would not produce or reinforce the kind of development that was in keeping with the policies behind the Toronto-Centred Region Plan.

In view of that, Medcof turned his attention to the federal government and in July, 1972, the government announced a federal grant of \$100,000 to operate a demonstration project from November 1 to December 8, 1972.

On November 1, 1972, passenger trains stopped at the Aurora station once again with the start of a five-and-a-

half week trial commuter train.

At that time CN had applied to the Canadian Transport Commission to close the Aurora station and remove the agent.

Originally scheduled to terminate December 8, the trial was extended to December 22, 1972 with the support of former York-Simcoe MP John Roberts.

His meeting with the federal transport minister and CN officials resulted in the extension.

He was not optimistic that the service would continue unless the province became involved.

The commuter experiment was considered successful with 13,483 passengers carried, more than the Stouffville line, which had been running for years.

Based on that, Medcof and Sillcox applied to the Canadian Transport Commission.

Finally, the long battle came to a successful conclusion on April 1, 1974, when the first GO Train left Barrie for Toronto with stops at Bradford, Newmarket, Aurora, King and Maple.

There were 123 passengers on the inaugural run.

Today commuter trains from Aurora to Toronto are

taken for granted, but they may not have happened without the determination of John Medcof and Bob Sillcox.



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# Aurora Minor Hockey Association

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## Results as of Sunday, January 6

### House League Tyke

**101 Tim Hortons Red Wings 3** - Jack Dion 3G, Charles Peters 1A, Matthew LeClair 1A, Nolan Roy 1A. **106 Tim Hortons Penguins 1** - Andrew Sergejewich 1G.

**101 Tim Hortons Red Wings 1** - Dimitri Mikrogiannakis 1G, Graydon Belgue 1A. **109 Tim Hortons Wild 1** - Ben Langlois 1A, Lucas Dane 1G.

**101 Tim Hortons Red Wings 5** - Nathan Sherrard 2G, Jack Dion 1G 1A, Liam Desouza 1A, Dimitri Mikrogiannakis 1G, Mathew LeClair 2A, Jacob Cann 1G. **107 Tim Hortons Lightning 0**.

**102 Tim Hortons Bruins 5. 110 Tim Hortons Thrashers 2** - Ariz Bhimani 1A, Tyler Frise 1A, Ethan Brooks 1G 1A, Brennan Young 1G 1A.

**106 Tim Hortons Penguins 8** - Reid Carpenter 1A, Jack Camplin 3G, Andrew Currie 2A, Aidan Burbank 1G, Ryan Thornhill 1G 1A, Andrew Sergejewich 1G 1A, Dan Atasie 2A, Evan McKenzie 2A, Dylan Cowell 1A, Liam Vanderploeg 1A, Mark Carpenter 2G. **102 Tim Hortons Bruins 1**.

**109 Tim Hortons Wild 11** - Joshua Fallavollita 2G, Owen Bourrie 1A, Thomas Young 1A, Ben Langlois 2G 2A, Joel Woodcock 4G 3A, Stewart Gable 2G 1A, Josh Hookey 8A, Lucas Dane 1G 4A. **103 Tim Hortons Senators 3** - Troy Campbell 2A, Ian Reynolds 1A, Mathew Macdonald 3A, Thomas Kostoff 1G, Jack Liotta 2G.

**103 Tim Hortons Senators 6** - Troy Campbell 1A, Devon Browning 2A, Ian Reynolds 2G 1A, Mathew Macdonald 2A, Thomas Kostoff 1G, Jack Liotta 1G, Casey Corner 1G, Alexander Wyndham-West 1G, Colin Boorn 1A. **107 Tim Hortons Lightning 1** - Mark Kalmisto 1A, Brady Sarazin 1G, Evan Knowles 1A.

**105 Tim Hortons Leafs Tyke House League 4. 103 Tim Hortons Senators 3**.

**108 Tim Hortons Sharks 8** - Ryan Lewis 1G 1A, Matthew Minchella 1G 3A, Jayson Perkins 1G 1A, Austin Hendy 2G, Jordan Torres 2A, Alexander Simardone 2G 1A, Sam Speranini 1G 1A. **104 Tim Hortons Flyers 2** - Chris Roche 1A, Jack O'Keefe 1A, Christian Ramirez 1G, Thomas Wilson 1A, Sean Anderton 1A, Anthony Issaris 1G.

**106 Tim Hortons Penguins 3** - Reid Carpenter 1G, Filip Ekstrom 1G, Jack Camplin 1A, Aidan Burbank 1A, Andrew Sergejewich 1G, Evan McKenzie 1A. **104 Tim Hortons Flyers 1** - Mathew MacDougall 1A, Thomas Wilson 1G, Sean Anderton 1A.

**105 Tim Hortons Leafs 4** - Ryan Jamieson 1A, Kyle Rice 1G, Andrew Negri 2A, Hayden Edwards 1G 1A, Andrew Sutherland 1G, Evan Coulter 1A, Colin McGoldrick 1G 1A. **107 Tim Hortons Lightning 2** - William Morin 1G, Mark Kalmisto 2A, Brady Sarazin 1A, Evan Knowles 1G, Mark Rossi 1A.

**105 Tim Hortons Leafs 4** - Kyle Rice 2G, David Robertson 1G, Andrew Sutherland 1G, Brendon Farnum 1A. **110 Tim Hortons Thrashers 4** - Ariz Bhimani 1A, Johnathan Martin 1A, Gordon Scott 1G, Brennan Young 3G.

**108 Tim Hortons Sharks 7** - Matthew Carney 1G, Matthew Minchella 2G 1A, Jayson Perkins 1G 1A, Austin Hendy 3A, Alexander Simardone 1G, Sam Speranini 1G 1A, Adam Medeiros 1A. **102 Tim Hortons Bruins 1**.

**108 Tim Hortons Sharks 5** - Chris Pettit 1A, Ryan Lewis 1A, Matthew Minchella 2G 1A, Austin Hendy 2G, Jordan Torres 2A, Clayton Allen 1A, Alexander Simardone 1G, Adam Medeiros 1A. **110 Tim Hortons Thrashers 4** - Ariz Bhimani 1G 2A, Rhys Perry 1A, David Tonelli 1A, Tyler Frise 1A, Gordon Scott 1A, John Powell 1G, Brennan Young 2G, Jacob LeBlanc 1A.

**109 Tim Hortons Wild 4** - James Samson 2A, Ben Langlois 1G 1A, Joel Woodcock 1A, Cameron Raiton 2G, Lucas Dane 1G, Jackson Clements 1A. **110 Tim Hortons Thrashers 1** - Rhys Perry 1G, Ethan Brooks 1G 1A.

**109 Tim Hortons Wild 6. 104 Tim Hortons Flyers 3** - Eric Pears 1A, Thomas Wilson 2G, Patrick Cruickshank 1A, Carmelo Sorino 1G, Connor MacGrath 1A, Anthony Issaris 2A.

### Novice

**206 Chouinard Bros. Home Improvements 6. 204 Hitz 1.**

**203 McAlpine Ford 10** - Tristian Kouchar 3G 2A, Allistair Johnston 4G, Spencer White 1G 1A, Daniel Cariou 1A, Christian Arcuri 1G 1A, Alec Bolduc 1G. **Diamond Groundskeeping Services 5** - Michael Montesante 1G, Adam Cacico 2G 1A, Brett Diamond 1G, Ryan Simmons 1A, Justin

Nisbet 1A, Conor Braund 1G 1A, Ryan D'Antimo 2A.

**201 Diamond Groundskeeping Services 4** - Adam Cacico 1G, Blake Holtby 2A, Brett Diamond 1G 1A, Justin Nisbet 1A, Conor Braund 2G 2A, Ryan D'Antimo 2A. **205 Mastermind Toys 2** - Connor Tripp 1A, Alex Bicego 1A, Tyler Williams 1G, Anthony Loduca 2A, Carter Eby 1G.

**202 North York Heating & Plumbing 11. 206 Chouinard Bros. Home Improvements 2.**

**202 North York Heating & Plumbing 3. 204 Hitz 1.**

**203 McAlpine Ford 7. 205 Mastermind Toys 2.**

**203 McAlpine Ford 4. 206 Chouinard Bros. Home Improvements 2.**

**206 Chouinard Bros. Home Improvements 6. 203 McAlpine Ford 4.**

**204 Hitz 4** - Riley Walsh 1A, Connor Gonsalves 3G, Kristian Dimitriadis 1G 1A, Graham Dynes 1A, Jamie Finlay 1A, Michael Jollimore 1A. **201 Diamond Groundskeeping Services 2** - Vincent Nguyen 1G, Jordi Severini 1A, Adam Cacico 1G, Conor Braund 1A, Riley Callaghan 1A, Ryan D'Antimo 1A.

**202 North York Heating & Plumbing 5. 205 Mastermind Toys 1.**

### Minor Atom

**305 Aurora Canadian Tire 5** - Michael McKerracher 1G, Peter McKerracher 1G, Rory Hamilton 2A, Brendan Ruuskanen 1G, Andy Butler 1A, Evan Nichols 2G 1A. **301 Optimist Club of Aurora Inc. 1** - Cameron Screech 1G.

**303 Tilemaster Minor Atom House League 4. 301 Optimist Club of Aurora Inc. 2.**

**301 Optimist Club of Aurora Inc. 7. 305 Aurora Canadian Tire 2.**

**303 Tilemaster 7. 305 Aurora Canadian Tire 5.**

**306 Danny's Boys 4. 303 Tilemaster 2.**

**304 HS Financial Services Inc. 3. 301 Optimist Club of Aurora Inc. 2** - Cameron Screech 1G, Johnny Sherwood 1G, Anthony Georgieff 1A.

**302 Rec Cycle N' Sports 5** - Michael Imseis 2G, Christian Strilchuk 1A, Michael Fisher 2A, Bryn Burbank 1A, Matthew Neice 2A, Joshua Capodagli 1G 2A, Ryan Batten 2G. **304 HS Financial Services Inc. 3.**

**302 Rec Cycle N' Sports 8** - Michael Imseis 1G, Michael Fisher 2G, Bryn Burbank 1A, Chris Grossi 2A, Matthew Neice 1G 2A, David Kangas 1A, Liam Joyner 2G, Hunter Jones 1G 1A, Matthew MacGrath 1G. **305 Aurora Canadian Tire 0.**

**306 Danny's Boys 2. 302 Rec Cycle N' Sports 1** - Bryn Burbank 1A, David Kangas 1A, Ryan Batten 1G.

**306 Danny's Boys 6. 304 HS Financial Services Inc. 4.**

### Atom

**405 Laurion Law Office 5** - Michael Roell 1G 1A, Scotty Barker 1A, Chris Downs 1G, Tyler Futterer 1G 1A, Michael Liscio 2G. **401 Shoppers Drug Mart Aurora 3** - Zachary Cowl 2G, Rio Speller-Drews 2A, Tyler Abushinov 1G, Matthew D'Alessandro 1A, Robert Ruscica 1A.

**401 Shoppers Drug Mart Aurora 7** - Michael De Cesare 1A, Zachary Cowl 4G 1A, Oliver Jones 1A, Rio Speller-Drews 1G, Matthew D'Alessandro 1G 2A, Adam Petit 1A, Michael Tanel 1G 1A. **407 Dr. Steiner's Drillers 2.**

**401 Shoppers Drug Mart Aurora 7** - Michael De Cesare 1G 2A, Zachary Cowl 1G 2A, Oliver Jones 2G, Rio Speller-Drews 2G 2A, Tyler Abushinov 1A, Matthew D'Alessandro 3A, Michael Tanel 1G 1A. **406 Ab Cox Pontiac Buick GMC 2.**

**402 Orr & Forster Insurance Brokers 6** - Keith Jarvis 1A, Graham Killby 1A, Nicholas Romano 1A, Thomas McDonald 1A, Joey Stel 2A, Morgan Walker 2G 2A, Russell Johnson 1G 2A, Alexander McDonald 1G, Mitchell Carter 2G. **408 Greenpoint Laser Products 2** - Landon Kirby 1A, Neil Duggan 1A, Corey Young 1G.

**402 Orr & Forster Insurance Brokers 6** - Keith Jarvis 2A, Thomas McDonald 1A, Joey Stel 1A, Morgan Walker 3G 1A, Russell Johnson 1G, Jonathan Caporoso 1G, Mitchell Carter 1G. **406 Ab Cox Pontiac Buick GMC 2.**

**402 Orr & Forster Insurance Brokers 3** - Graham Killby 1G 1A, Joey Stel 1A, Morgan Walker 1A, Corey Young 1G.

1G 1A, Russell Johnson 1G, Mitchell Carter 1A. **404 All Pro Source For Sports 3** - Victor Chadarov 1G, Jake Detero 1A, Mathew Sanita 2G.

**403 Delph & Jenkins Surveyors 4** - Brayden Beswick 1A, Austin Coulter 1A, Joseph Veneziano 2A, Max Brown 1G, Joel Gouveia 2G, Jonah Blaser 1G. **407 Dr. Steiner's Drillers 4.**

**405 Laurion Law Office 5** - Michael Roell 1A, Tyler Futterer 4G, Carson Roell 1A, Michael Liscio 1G. **403 Delph & Jenkins Surveyors 4** - Alex Cicchino 2G 2A, Nathan Sinclair 1G 1A, Matthew Walker 1G 1A, Joel Gouveia 1A.

**404 All Pro Source For Sports 5** - Chris Sanita 1G, Victor Chadarov 1G, Jake Detero 2A, Charlie Stark 1G 1A, Samantha Sanita 1A, Mathew Sanita 2G. **406 Ab Cox Pontiac Buick GMC 1** - Scott Taylor 1G, Lucas Brutto 1A.

**404 All Pro Source For Sports 4** - Chris Sanita 1G 1A, Lucas Marek 1A, Nicolas Marrelli 1A, Jake Detero 1G, Charlie Stark 1A, Samantha Sanita 1A, Kevin Siery 1G, Mathew Sanita 1G, Ian Coschi 1A. **408 Greenpoint Laser Products 1** - Daniel Wochemarkt 1A, Declan Johnston 1G.

**405 Laurion Law Office 4** - Tyler Futterer 1G, Michael Slack 2G 1A, Jason Glionna 1G 1A, Brendan Elliott 1A. **407 Dr. Steiner's Drillers 1.**

**402 Orr & Forster Insurance Brokers 4** - Joey Stel 1A, Morgan Walker 1G, Ben Tomlin 2G, Russell Johnson 2G, Alexander McDonald 1G, Mitchell Carter 1A. **408 Greenpoint Laser Products 0.**

**403 Delph & Jenkins Surveyors 4** - Nathan Sinclair 1G, Matthew Walker 1G 1A, Max Brown 1G, Joel Gouveia 1A, Scott Dunlop 1G. **408 Greenpoint Laser Products 2** - Landon Kirby 1G, Declan Johnston 1G 1A, Brady Wilson 1A, Corey Young 1A.

### Minor Pee wee

**506 Dr. Steiner's Drillers 7** - Kieran Cullen 1A, Eric Staebule 1A, Michael Perryman 1G, Paul Louis Steiner 1G 1A, Ryan Dowling 2G, Sasha Dajia 1G, Matthew Iamonaco 1A, Franco Porano 1A, Luke Pizzurro 2G, Carter Hammett 1A. **501 Millennium Devils 0.**

**502 ACI 2** - James Hubay 2G, Zachary Ferry 1A, Liam Batulis 1A. **506 Dr. Steiner's Drillers 1** - Paul Louis Steiner 1A, Nic Venosa 1A, Ethan Cullen 1G.

**502 ACI 4** - Massimo Longhin 2G. **505 Nacora Insurance Brokers Ltd. 3.**

**502 ACI 7** - Matthew Roach 2A, Zachary Ferry 3G 1A, Trevor Rice 1A, Liam Batulis 1G, Andreas Mikkelsen 2G 1A, MacKenzie McIntosh 1A, Christopher Kinsman 1A. **503 Continental Ingredients Canada 2.**

**503 Continental Ingredients Canada 4. 505 Nacora Insurance Brokers Ltd. 2.**

**503 Continental Ingredients Canada 5. 501 Millennium Devils 3** - Liam Devlin 1A, Joshua Lawlor 1G, Jamie Pountney 1G, Matthew Reeves 1A, Jesse Borin 1G.

**504 Rotary Club of Aurora 6. 501 Millennium Devils 3** - David Roberts 1G, Liam Devlin 1G 1A, Joshua Lawlor 1G, Kyle DeSouza 2A, Daniel Bunder 1A.

**506 Dr. Steiner's Drillers 5** - Kieran Cullen 1G, Dustin Partanen 2A, Paul Louis Steiner 1G 1A, Ryan Dowling 2G, Sasha Dajia 1A, Kentner Arkell 1G, Mitchell Waite 1A, Luke Pizzurro 1A. **504 Rotary Club of Aurora 2.**

**505 Nacora Insurance Brokers Ltd. 4. 503 Continental Ingredients Canada 3** - Andrew Hall 1G, Cody Mulhern 1A, Chris Cherubini 1G, Justin Stevens 1G, Trevor Stephens 1A.

**505 Nacora Insurance Brokers Ltd. 5. 504 Rotary Club of Aurora 2.**

### Pee wee

**603 Restored Sports Pee wee House League 3. 601 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre 1.**

**602 Chevalier Chrysler 3** - Andrew Curci 2G, Vincent Duggan 1G, Liam Judges 1A, Carmine Bonfiglio 1A, Cameron Greig 1A. **605 Recreation Leisure Services 2** - Jean Paul Hudon 1G 1A, Ryan Dal Cin 1G, Andrew Seguin 1A.

**602 Chevalier Chrysler 5. 604 Fresh Water Industries 4.**

**603 Restored Sports 4. 605 Recreation Leisure Services 2** - Jean Paul Hudon 1G 1A, Jordan Caruso 1A, Ryan Dal Cin 1G.

**605 Recreation Leisure Services 8** - Jean Paul Hudon 1G 1A, Jonathan White 1G, Brendan

Kirasack 3G, Graham Joiner 1G 1A, Kurtis Lindner 1A, Ryan Dal Cin 3G, Matthew Noseworthy 1A, Andrew Seguin 1A. **603 Restored Sports 3.**

**606 The Backyard Pool & Spa Company 5. 603 Restored Sports 4.**

**601 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre 2. 604 Fresh Water Industries 0.**

**605 Recreation Leisure Services 6. 601 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre 2.**

**606 The Backyard Pool & Spa Company 5. 602 Chevalier Chrysler 4** - Nick Reinholdt 2A, Andrew Curci 3G 1A, Vincent Duggan 1G 2A, Liam Judges 1A.

**602 Chevalier Chrysler 2. 606 The Backyard Pool & Spa Company 0.**

**606 The Backyard Pool & Spa Company 3. 604 Fresh Water Industries 3.**

### Minor Bantam

**709 ACI 4. 701 Pharmasave 3.**

# Senior Scape



## Woodworking shop nearly ready to go

By BRIAN WARBURTON

The December and Christmas period of the year really is the time for feasting, and I have done my share.

I was prepared and ready, inasmuch as before a sumptuous meal I ensured my food intake was moderate, which is about as good as I find practical.

I enjoyed my Christmas Luncheon at the Aurora Seniors' Association (ASA) early in December and I helped serve Christmas Luncheon at the ASA the next day as we had the luncheon over two days.

I participated in the Pot Luck Luncheon the week before Christmas, and served as a bartender at the ASA New Year's Eve luncheon/dance.

And that is not counting family and friends' parties before and during Christmas.

In the meantime, the ASA continued most activities and programs until the centre closed for Christmas holidays and maintenance work.

Last week, the woodworking shop held its first public meeting chaired by Dick Douglas.

Dick is a wonderfully patient man and demonstrated very well how to control a meeting while at the same time, encouraging those present to express their particular views.

We had men and women at the meeting, at least 26 people.

The shop looks good to me – I am not an expert – and those present appeared to be impressed with machines to turn, to drill, to saw and plane and sand and anything else conceivable, including provision for wood carvers.

The dust extraction is excellent and the whole room is monitored by cameras that are watched at the reception counter.

A call for a show of hands of who is experienced with wood working machinery, showed about half of those present considered they were able.

We were informed that storage capacity is not great, so govern your projects accordingly and be prepared to take your project home.

Next is a meeting to be announced which will focus on safety, and following successful attention to the safety factor, the Town Administration, when they are satisfied all is ready and safe for use, will issue the direction allowing us to open the shop.

A woodworking shop is a complicated and highly regulated environment.

The centre belongs to the Town and the equipment, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation belongs to the ASA. Common sense and safety is a mutual concern and we have a control button in the shop that will stop every machine when the inevitable happens, and somebody decides to discard the practice of safety.

For those like me, who have minimal woodworking experience, instruction will be available.

The hours of operation potentially are Monday to Friday and Tuesday evening. This will depend on demand and on availability of approved safety personnel, and the hours of operation have not been determined yet.

If woodworking is your interest, join the ASA and become involved.

To articulate a clearer understanding of this environment, please be aware that the seniors of whom I speak are active, gregarious and able.

They are the able retired, well equipped physically and mentally, often capable, talented and prepared and eager to participate big time.

The majority are only too happy to be friendly and helpful.

The centre offers many other pursuits and pastimes and as a member you are welcome to participate.

If you are retired and find yourself with too much time wasting away, give yourself a gift, which could easily prove to be a bonanza of friends and things to occupy your mind.



## Councillors choose committee members

At an earlier general committee meeting, it was agreed three members of council would be appointed to the Joint Council Committee as the town's representatives to oversee the operation of the Central York Fire Services.

One member of council would be appointed to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority to represent the town and that staff be authorized to proceed with advertising for public members to the statutory committees, namely the Library Board, the Committee of Adjustment and the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

As a result, approval was given recently to appoint Councillor Bob McRoberts to the Accessibility Advisory Committee, Councillors Grace Marsh, Alison Collins-Mrakas and Evelyn Buck to the Library Board and Councillor Evelina MacEachern to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

Councillors Buck, Al Wilson and Marsh were appointed to the Joint Council Committee on Central York Fire Services and Councillor Wendy Gaertner was named to the Nokiidaa Trail Committee.

Advertisements were placed in the local media for citizen members to sit on the Aurora Public Library Board, Committee of Adjustment who also serve as the Property Standards Committee and the

### Accessibility Advisory Committee

Councillors Marsh and Stephen Granger were appointed to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, and Councillors Gaertner and MacEachern to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Appointees to the Economic Development Advisory Committee were Councillors Wilson, Gaertner and Granger while Councillors McRoberts and Collins-Mrakas will sit on the Heritage Advisory Committee.

Councillors Granger, McRoberts and MacEachern were appointed to the Leisure Advisory Committee.

Staff members pointed out that as council was now on a four-year term, committee members would also serve for the same period which may reduce the number of citizen applicants to sit on the advisory committees.

It was suggested council might want to revisit the Terms of Reference of the committees to perhaps reduce the term to two years and then re-advertise for new members or re-appointment for the remaining two years.

Council also authorized staff to advertise for citizen members to the advisory committees.

Terms of Reference for the advisory committees and sub-committees will be discussed at an upcoming special general committee meeting.

It was standing room only for a magic show, arranged as part of the Town's First Night Celebrations held at the Leisure Complex New Year's Eve. Event drew more people than ever, officials said.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



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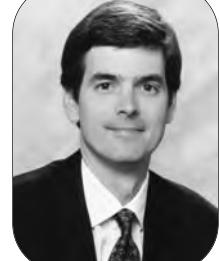
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**RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS**

# Regional government had one benefit

One of the early benefits of regional government, possibly the only one, was that the annexation of land in neighbouring townships came to a halt.

Prior to regional government, most urban municipalities, including Aurora, were at the Ontario Municipal Board trying to steal property from their neighbours.

In January, 1968, Aurora acquired approximately 100 acres from Whitchurch Township in the southeast part of the town in an April 1967 OMB decision, bringing the total area of the town to 1,700 acres.

The annexation added several operating commercial enterprises to the town including the Lawton Bros. Chrysler dealership where a Fitness Centre is now located, a Canadian Tire Store, now a Shoppers Drug Mart and a Sunoco service station north of Lawton's which was swallowed up.

**WE MAY HAVE BEEN ANOTHER WALKERTON**

No one had heard of the Walkerton water disaster back in June, 1970, when King Township Council objected to Aurora dumping its sewage sludge on King Township farms at the request of the farmers.

The town thumbed its nose at the King request claiming the York-Oshawa Health Unit said the effluent was inert material being used for agricultural purposes.

The waste from the Aurora sewage plant was spread on the farmers' fields and plowed in, but residents objected claiming the stench was terrible.

One resident said the effluent was being dumped within 200 feet of the family well.

Shades of Walkerton!

**IMPROVING AURORA'S STREETSCAPE**

One of the most notable improvements to the streetscape

of Yonge Street in Aurora's downtown core happened in 1983 and it didn't cost the town or its taxpayers a single penny.

At that time Aurora had a very active Business Improvement Area (BIA) and the BIA board of management approved an expenditure of \$35,000 to place planters and street benches on Yonge Street.

There were 246 planters and 10 benches, plus filling the planters with flowers, all paid for by the downtown merchants.

The town tried to do its share by having the street lighting poles on Yonge Street repainted.

Unfortunately, the BIA ran into personality clashes and financial disputes and faded away.

Currently efforts are being made to revive the BIA.

**BOY SCOUT BUILDING THAT NEVER HAPPENED**

It was in June, 1965, when Mayor Clarence Davis and Councillors Jack Williamson and Dick Illingworth participated in a sod turning ceremony for a Scout House in what was then Regency Acres, now Confederation Park.

More than 50 Scouts and Cubs from the 4th and 5th Scout group with their leaders Assistant Scoutmaster Fred Opansky, District Scoutmaster Ervin Jackson and Scouter K. W. Rigg watched the proceedings.

Councillor Williamson had many years experience in the Scout organization and was a former president of the South Lake Simcoe District Association.

Other than the sod tuning, nothing happened in providing the Scout's new home.

Still with Scouting, a two-week jamboree was held at the Woodland Trails Scout Camp in Whitchurch Stouffville in August, 1983.

It was the first jamboree held in Canada and scouters from as far away as Australia attended.

Irene Gerdziuans and Bronius Zinkus from Derby, England, presented a token of the camp to Aurora

Mayor Dick Illingworth who had been invited to attend the opening ceremonies.

**DID I SAY THAT?**

During 1989 there were some interesting quotes by local people that they may wish hadn't been heard and printed.

"I suggest you tell him to be careful. I've had enough guff from the little boy," Councillor Norm Weller said about Councillor George Timpson over the Yonge Street Browning property.

Weller had voted against all the planning proposals for the sale of the property prompting "disgust" from Timpson.

Weller was censured by council, the first time anyone could remember a councillor being publicly reprimanded.

"The only way we can get their attention is to hand them this kind of increase and make them sit up and pay attention," York Region Board of Education Director Bob Cressman said, telling taxpayers they deserved a 15 per cent hike in education taxes.

"She's gone to a party, I just can't believe it," Mayor John West said to the audience at a public planning meeting after Councillor Gail McIntyre slipped out of the meeting leaving council without a quorum.

It was the first time in memory that a council meeting, especially one in progress, had to be cancelled.

"The thing that disturbs me the most is I really felt Erik was on my side during the trouble. Now to read that he didn't feel I was innocent, the utter deception of the man. He never revealed those feelings to me either publicly or privately," Sinclair Stevens said during Royal Commission hearings.



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# Roadwatch Program in town seems stalled

At almost every council meeting, citizens show up to complain about speeding and traffic safety conditions on residential streets.

This has resulted in reports from the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee recommending lower speed limits, more stop signs and speed humps in hopes of slowing down the traffic in the absence of police traffic enforcement.

Looking for other ways to control speeding on residential streets, Aurora Council, in January, 1997, asked staff members to report on a Roadwatch program which had originated in Caledon.

In May, 1993, a traffic accident in Caledon claimed the lives of eight people.

Council and concerned citizens decided to establish a committee to reduce traffic accidents in Caledon.

The committee recommended a program of awareness, education and enforcement.

There was so much interest in reporting aggressive and speeding drivers that the Roadwatch Program was launched in January, 1995.

Enforcement of the program is enhanced by involving local citizens in identifying and reporting aggressive drivers to the Ontario Provincial Police or local police.

The first time a driver is reported a letter is mailed warning the motorist that his, or her, driving habits had been noted. The second time the warning is more severe and may involve a visit from a police officer.

The third time, a court summons may be issued.

The complainant is required to complete a Citizen Report Form outlining the violation, date of occurrence, vehicle licence number and a description of the vehicle.

Violations include speeding, tailgating, failure to yield the right-of-way, improper lane changes, improper passing and disobeying stop signs and traffic signals.

York Regional Police supported the program.

In February, 1999, Aurora Council received a presentation from the Traffic Safety Advisory Board (TSAB) on the Traffic Safety Study for Aurora.

The study provided recommendations, which would deal with traffic and safety related problems on municipal roads. Council sought an implementation plan and costs.

In September, 1999, the TSAB recommended to council that \$16,000 to \$20,000 be made available to implement a Roadwatch program in Aurora.

The funds were to be used for promotion, education, signage and supply of forms for civilian use in reporting speeders or aggressive drivers.

In addition, funds were to be used to acquire a radar board, which displays the speed of approaching vehicles for use on residential streets.

Council adopted the report.

As there were no regulatory steps to implement the program, TSAB members indicated a desire to administer it.

Although the program has been in force in Aurora since 1999, there apparently hasn't been a report dealing with its effectiveness.

York Regional Police advised that during the period January to October, 2003, a total of 614 driving complaints were received through the Roadwatch Program from the eight participating local municipalities (all except Markham), but there was no breakdown for Aurora.

In June, 2003, York Region Council approved the establishment of a York Region Road Watch Committee with a mandate to assist local Road Watch Committees by sharing information, promotion material and standardized forms.

In February, 2005, the committee recommended the Regional Road Watch representative be asked to review the current locations of the Road Watch drop-off boxes and identify any additional locations that should be added.

In February, 2005, council endorsed a recommendation of the Regional Roadwatch Committee that York Regional Police be asked to submit a monthly status report on the number of Roadwatch forms being submitted and the number of letters sent to residents.

Staff was also asked to investigate the cost to purchase a new Roadwatch brochure due to the town address change and report back to the TSAB.

Aurora resident Cliff Davies was appointed as the Aurora representative on the regional Roadwatch Committee.

In November, 2005, council agreed with a TSAB recommendation that funding in the amount of \$5,000 be included in the 2006 budget for the TSAB including Roadwatch.

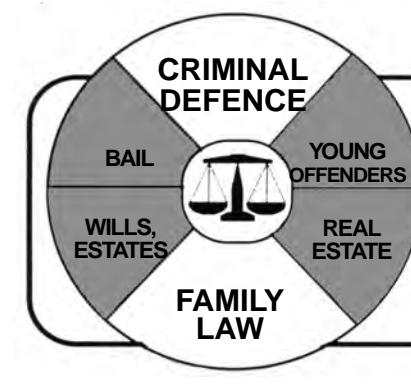
In March, 2006, Davies reported he had been advised not to attend meetings of the Traffic Safety Advisory Board unless invited and that the TSAB were no longer picking up citizen report forms.

He asked council to appoint a member to work with him on the regional committee, which met once a month.

The general committee received his presentation and agreed to follow up on his comments.

It has been some time since the TSAB or the York Regional Police have reported on the effectiveness of the Roadwatch program.

Now with a new council, possibly the Roadwatch program can be reviewed and its original mandate reactivated.





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Aurora

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Judy studied academic painting and drawing in Florence, Italy. She has appeared on City Line TV.

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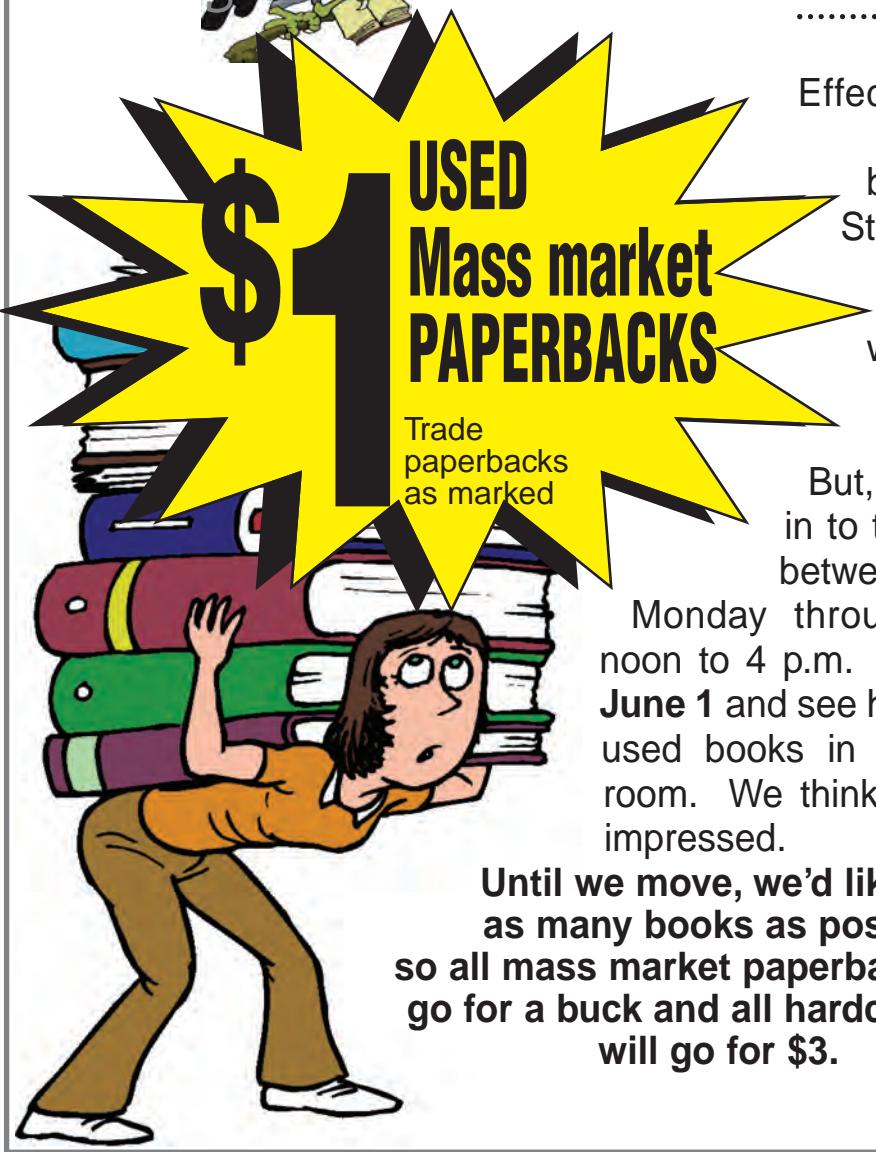
The **AURORAN**  
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# are moving

The success of Aurora's six-year-old community newspaper and the inventory of more than half a million used books have forced us to find larger accommodations.

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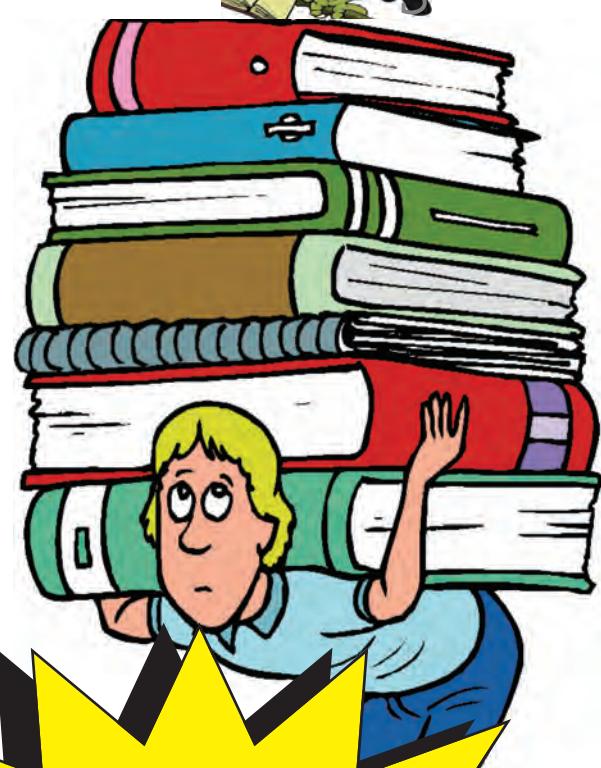
Effective June 1, the two enterprises will begin business at 95 Edward Street (See the map).

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