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Horse Show may take a year off to regroup

It's possible Aurora will not have a horse show this year, The Auroran has learned.

However, the event that has been happening in Aurora annually for 85 years could take a year off to regroup, then return in 2008.

That decision is expected to be made this Sunday as the Aurora Agricultural Society holds its annual general meeting at the Legion at 3 p.m.

This issue erupted last November when Society members learned there were restrictions on how they could spend money raised through bingo games.

A public meeting was held late in November to get input into the future of the historic event, and to seek volunteers to help

run the activity.

Only 25 showed up for that meeting, and without volunteers, the show simply couldn't go on.

One alternative to be discussed Sunday will be to postpone the show this year, regroup, then resume activities next year.

The Show, usually held the second weekend in June, has grown over the years to a point where two weekends were needed to get everything covered.

In its heyday, the Aurora Horse Show would draw thousands of people to the Grand Prix event in Machell Park as Canada's best riders would compete.

Sponsored by a cigarette firm, that activity died when cigarette regulations forced the firm to withdraw its sponsorship.

Now, government relations covering the spending of money raised at twice-monthly bingos in Aurora threaten the life of the annual activity.

For a while, the Society was realizing between \$25,000 and \$30,000 annually from bingo coffers, but new no-smoking bylaws cut into that.

Then the Alcohol and Gaming Commission ruled the Society does not qualify to use bingo proceeds for the operation of the fair, since it was reclassified to an "Enhancement of Youth" category.

Instead, the Society is required to use the funds for direct sponsorship of youth, such as donating the proceeds to a 4H Club.

Sunday's meeting will be held at the Aurora Legion.

Remaining potential Aurora area lands up for development

The "2C" planning area of Aurora consists of 1,100 acres of which 588 acres are developable.

The site is the last remaining large potential development area within the boundaries of Aurora.

The "2C" lands in Aurora's east end – in the Leslie/St. John's area

- provide an opportunity for additional employment lands which are important locally and regionally.

The town requested the region to process an official plan amendment to bring the "2C" lands into the regional official plan urban

area subsequent to the completion of various studies.

The regional planning committee held a public planning meeting earlier in the month and heard from three Aurora citizens.

Two landowners spoke in support. **Please see page 12**



Cranes were brought in to do the heavy work as the Bell Canada building on Yonge Street in Aurora nears completion. Cranes lifted equipment to the rear of the structure, then lowered it into place. *Auroran photo by Dick Illingworth*

Bell undergoing big expansion on Yonge

Travellers on Yonge Street will notice construction underway on the east side of the street just north of Cousins Drive.

When complete it will be an expansion of Bell Canada's Automatic Telephone Exchange building.

But unseen from the street, activity is underway at the rear of the building to hoist equipment into the exchange through an opening in the fourth floor level and the roof.

Bell purchased the former residence and once home for Aurora Cable TV and demolished the building leaving the property vacant.

In April, 2006, the applicant proposed a 3,638-square foot addition to the existing 6,232 square foot one-storey building and it was in keeping with the objectives and policies of the official plan and zoning bylaw.

Given the location of the pro-

posed site plan application on Yonge Street, town staff advised that a high level of urban design was required and several recommendations were made to the applicant in order to achieve the town's urban design objectives.

They included red brick exterior to provide continuity with the existing building with a mild contrasting brick on the front of the building to provide some visual aesthetics and a higher parapet on the front portion of the addition to screen rooftop mechanicals.

Aurora's general committee approved the report and recommendations as presented without comment or discussion.

Originally, the Bell exchange was located in a small building at the southeast corner of Yonge and Mosley Streets, which later became a dentist office and still later was demolished to be added to the building complex including the former Trio restaurant.

Briefly

Students celebrate "Books Week"

Students at Aurora's St. Joseph's Catholic School are getting read to this week by some pretty impressive people.

Celebrating "Books Week", the students heard from author Rukhsana Khan Monday, then Tuesday, Kindergarten and Grade 1 students were read to by Central York fire inspector Joyce DiClemente, while York Catholic District School Board Director of Education Susan LaRosa read to Grade 2 students.

Wednesday, Grade 8 students will be entertained by York Region Police Chief Armand LaBarge, then Wednesday afternoon, The Auroran's own Dick Illingworth will read to Grade 7 students.

St. Joseph's principal, Diane Sharp, will read to Grade 3 and 4 students, while on Friday, Christie Harkin and Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris will do the reading.

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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

Aurora Opera Company is seeking 30 children (ages seven to 12) to participate in the main stage musical "Children of Eden" as animals and grandchildren in the children's chorus. No participation fee, and no experience necessary. Auditions in February.

Rehearsals Sunday afternoons from mid-February (excluding March break) to April 20. Contact Aurora Opera Company at keepsinging@look.ca.

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.

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 the first Monday of every month from 6.30 to 9 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre. New members welcome. For more information, call 905-713-6773, e-mail at info@aurorafair.ca, or visit 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 councillors' 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 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 Nature's Beauty" at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North at 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five meeting at PostNet Aurora, 150 Hollidge Blvd. 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. Free.

Blood Donor Clinic, 2.30 to 8 p.m. at the Aurora Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Aurora Agricultural Society Annual General Meeting at the Aurora Legion, Canadian Room at 3 p.m. The Society runs the Aurora Fair and Horse Show. Anyone interested in learning about how to become involved with running the Fair is cordially invited. The Legion is on Industrial Parkway North, just south of the Aurora Family Leisure Complex.

Big Bucks Progressive Euchre Tournament, Aurora Legion. Register at noon; play at 1.15 p.m. For further information, call 905-727-9932.

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

Last day for nominations to the town's Advisory Committees, including Economic Development, Environmental, Heritage, Leisure Services and Traffic Safety. Call 905-727-3123 ext. 4220 for more information.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Fish & Chips, shuffleboard and dancing at the Aurora Legion. 6 p.m. For further information, call 905-727-9932.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with Aurora Cable Internet presents the sixth of the 10-part monthly series of free computer workshops. 7 p.m. Magna Room. Register at the Adult Information Desk, on line, or phone 905-727-9493, option 4.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

A no tie dinner to celebrate Tim Jones and his 28 years of service on Aurora council will be held at DiNardo's Mansion. Tickets are \$100 each or \$700 for a table of eight with proceeds for the Southlake Regional Cancer Centre. Call 805-727-6188 for details.

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.

Roarin' Twenties Valentines Party, Aurora Legion, 7 p.m. Tickets \$10. For further information, call 905-727-9932.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Aurora Film Circuit presents the Canada-U.K. co-production "Snow Cake", starring Alan Rickman and Sigourney Weaver. Tickets are available at R&R Revisited on Mary Street in Aurora and at the Aurora Public Library, at a cost of \$10 each. Screening time begins at 6.45 p.m. with a welcome and door prizes. Movie at 7 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.

Happy Valentine's Day and happy birthday, Dorothy.

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 Ski Club in Collingwood. Space is limited to 56 people so early booking is necessary. Cost is \$110. Call the Chamber office at 905-727-7262 to reserve.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Aurora Writers' Group presents "Writing A Page Turner", a day-long seminar at St. Andrew's Church from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fee is \$38 in advance; \$42 at the door. To register, call Susan Stevenson at 905-751-1674 or e-mail brianhenry@sympatico.ca.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Aurora Public Library presents "Take A Deeper Look" with Aurora historian and former Aurora Museum curator Jacqueline Stuart. 7 to 8.30, Magna Room. Free. Pre-register at the adult information desk or phone 905-727-9493, option 4.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Pancake Tuesday at the Aurora Legion. 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. For further information, call 905-727-9932.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Aurora Historical Society annual general meeting at Hillary House at 8 p.m. Guest speaker is David Tomlinson. Call 905-727-8991 for additional information.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five meeting at Highland Chevrolet Cadillac, 15783 Yonge Street. 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Aurora Public Library presents author and independent publisher Collette Yvonne who will discuss getting self-published. 1 to 5 p.m. with a \$2 per person fee. Pre-register at the adult information desk, or phone 905-727-9493, option 4.

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.

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Committee applicants could be interviewed

The town has advertised for applicants for the various statutory and advisory committees and they are expected to be named in February.

Application deadline to the Library Board, the Committee of Adjustment and the Accessibility Advisory Committee is past, while the advisory committee deadline is Jan. 31.

Three years ago, council interviewed Committee of

Adjustment applicants only.

In Jan., 2004, a routine bylaw was prepared appointing members to the committee but council deferred action to discuss the powers of committee.

It was noted that the committee was a semi-judicial body, its decisions were binding and some of the dispositions had been questionable.

Last week, the CEO of the Library submitted a request to council asking to

interview Library Board applicants.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said citizens were volunteers who submitted resumes and information why they wanted to serve and said there wasn't a need for interviews.

It was finally agreed to adopt a motion by Councillor Al Wilson to interview candidates only if it was deemed necessary, with Councillor Buck opposed.



It was nice, fluffy powder snow that fell on Aurora over the weekend, but it still had to be cleared. Jody Matthew of Gurnett Street was one of hundreds who cranked up the snow blower for the first time this season to clear the white stuff.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

OMB pre-hearing set for area development

Aurora Council has authorized town staff to retain outside legal counsel to represent the Town before a pre-hearing conference of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) scheduled for Feb. 8 regarding the proposed Westhill development on Leslie Street north of Bloomington Road.

Last January a public planning meeting was held to consider an application from Westhill Redevelopment Company for 75 detached condominium residential units on private communal services and an 18-hole golf course on 210 acres on the east and west side of Leslie Street.

council to enact the required amendment, an appeal to the OMB was launched.

Should a full hearing be necessary, it's likely considerable time will be required and the focus on environmental issues. Staff recommended that outside counsel be retained by a firm with specialized expertise.

The cost of retaining outside counsel cannot be accurately estimated at this

time and additional funds may be necessary for technical witnesses.

Staff will advise councillors further following the pre-hearing when the issues are clear and an estimate of the anticipated costs may be possible.

The pre-hearing will be held at the Town Hall starting at 10 a.m. and the Board has set aside one day for the conference.

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Canadians fail in knowledge of the country

*It's hard to know where to go,
If you don't know where you've been;
Teaching of history is important,
But our educators aren't so keen.*
-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

It's hard to imagine any American child, after spending a few years in school, not knowing the name of the first President of the United States, the boy who couldn't tell a lie, George Washington.

It's quite easy to remember as the Americans celebrate the man by holding a birthday in his honour.

Yet it is possible for a Canadian child to attend an Ontario school and not hear the name of the First Prime Minister of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald.

Not only that, but Canadians don't celebrate his birthday, in spite of many efforts to make it a holiday.

In 1998, Oak Ridges MP Bryon Wilfert, a former history teacher, introduced a private member's bill to create a new national holiday on January 11 to celebrate the birthday of Sir John A. who served as Prime Minister from 1867 to 1873 and from 1878 to 1891.

By July, 1999, fellow Liberal MPs rejected his bill, when Heritage Minister Sheila Copps pointed out that on advice from bureaucrats in the Ministry of Finance, the statutory holiday would cost Canada's economy an estimated \$3 billion in lost business.

Not only is there not a holiday in his honour, the day passes virtually unnoticed by Parliament, the media and the people.

Granted some of Macdonald's political ethics may have been questionable, but he had real style, wit and an excellent rapport with people.

He had the imagination, the eloquence and the political skill to knit the provinces into the Dominion of Canada.

Rejecting the American model, he was determined that Canada would be a parliamentary democracy and a centralized federal system and he was the founder of Canada and the national railway system.

He guided the Charlottetown and Quebec conferences through turbulent waters, coaxed Prince Edward Island and British Columbia to join, put down a rebellion in the west and tied the country together with a transcontinental railway.

A survey revealed that 35 per cent of Ontarians aged 18 to 24 could not identify Macdonald, 35 per cent had no knowledge of the name of the first Francophone Prime Minister, Wilfred Laurier and 62 per cent did not know the date of Confederation as 1867.

A more recent survey in 2001 by the Dominion Institute was more positive as 51 per cent of respondents could identify Macdonald as Canada's first Prime Minister, while some 90 per cent of Americans could identify George Washington as their first President.

As education is a provincial responsibility, the federal government can't be blamed for the lack of knowledge about Canada's history, and they may want Canadians to forget September 13, 1759, when Wolfe defeated Montcalm in the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, after landing at Wolfe's Cove near Quebec City.

Strangely enough, although Sir John A's birthday is forgotten, Canadians remember and celebrate the birthday of another Scot on January 25, Robbie Burns' Day.

It was Burns who wrote the words and music of Auld Lang Syne and about 280 other songs that helped to form the backbone of Scotland's rich, folk song history.

Canada has a proud history and it should be highlighted in Ontario's education curriculum, rather than hidden away in a broader course outline under Personal and Social Studies or some such name.

But then, it's difficult to encourage students to learn about Canadian history when the powers that be keep changing the words to "O Canada", the national anthem.

It's too late to do anything about remembering SirJohn A's birthday this year, but maybe next year he will be remembered.

The changing face of Yonge Street



Three views of Yonge Street show the change in the road over the past 95 years. The top photo, with a "radial" car ready to turn into the Aurora station (it was located just north of Aurora United Church), was taken in 1912. In the middle, this is how Yonge Street looked in 1957. Finally, our photographer, David Falconer, captured Yonge Street, complete with its traffic and signals, Saturday morning, from a spot just south of Mosley Street. The top two photographs come from the postcard collection of Councillor Bob McRoberts.

Letter to the Editor

Casino rule riles bar owner

To the editor,

As a bar owner, I am flabbergasted at the utter disrespect Dalton McGuinty and the Liberal Party have for people in our business.

The truth is, it was never about smoking.

It has always been about money.

We have never changed our position on smoking.

If smoking is legal, then we shall - and must - reserve the right to smoke.

We must be allowed to decide for ourselves whether to allow smoking in our private businesses. Non-smokers then have the right not to patronize smoking establishments.

Why is this not so simple??

Now "the hypocritical

Liberal party" deems it quite okay for casinos to be the exception to "the smoking bylaw".

It doesn't matter to politicians that literally thousands of employees, and owners in the bar and restaurant industry have had their incomes seriously slashed, many of whom have lost their entire life savings, because of this utterly stupid law.

The elected politicians' sole responsibility is to uphold the law and rights of all Canadians, not just the casino owners and gamblers.

Please help me: "where does this hypocrisy end?"

Joe Badali
Jersey's
Aurora

AURORAN

"Aurora's
Community Newspaper"

Published weekly by The Auroran Publications Inc.
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Aurora, L4G 1G3

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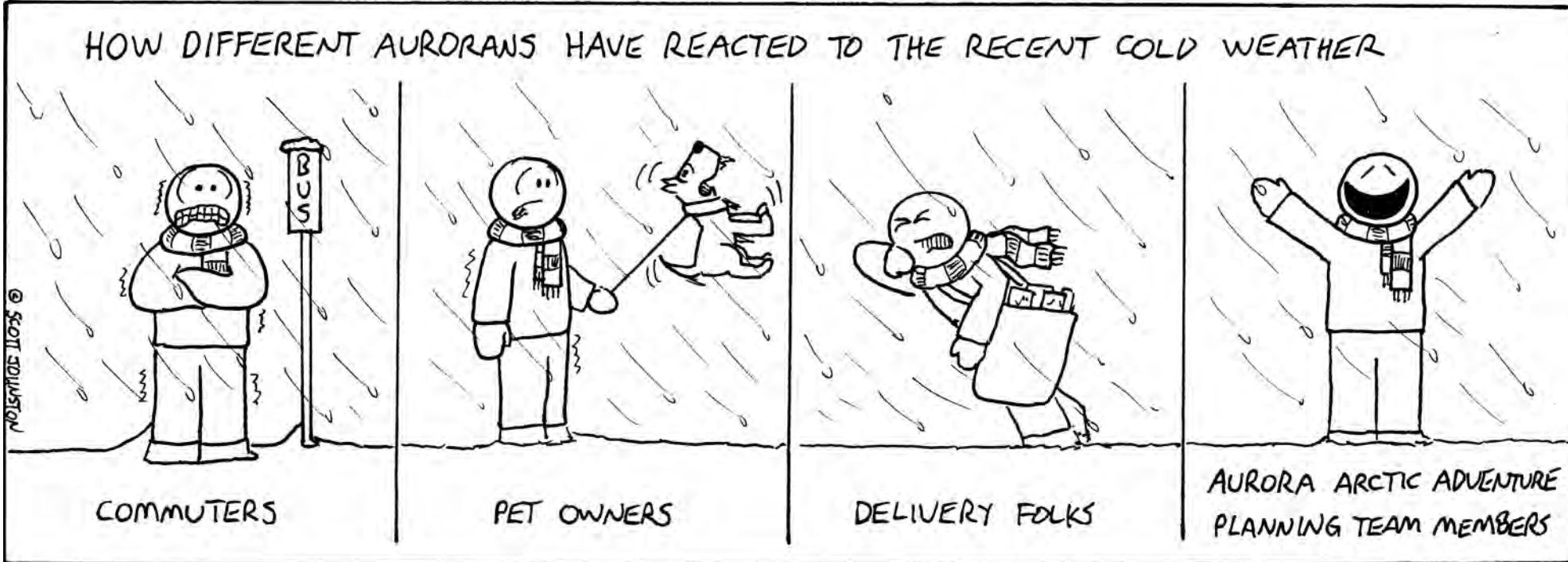
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Budget talks begin

The headline on the front page of last week's Auroran was, "First look at budget = ouch".

The story then goes on that the first draft of the initial \$20.8 million budget could represent a 12.4 per cent increase.

The one silver lining, it was noted, was that, "...when blended with the regional budget estimated to be up five percent and a zero percent increase budget for education purposes, the actual tax increase for the homeowner is 5.4 per cent".

Guess we are supposed to find solace in this fact.

Kind of like hearing about the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel – only to find that the light is really a locomotive coming your way!

While the tax increase would still be over double the rate of expected rate of inflation for 2007, it would at least be a decrease from the annual 7.8 per cent increase that we have experienced over the past few years, which is clearly not sustainable.

The mayor, council and staff are now engaged in trying to finalize the 2007 Budget. And it is quite the beast.

After looking through a bunch of the power point presentations and spreadsheets available to all and sundry via the Town web-site my head is still spinning.

Trying to gain an understanding of the numbers, the trends and the context of it all is rather confusing. A couple of basic questions come to mind.

What is the Aurora budget really comprised of? How and on what basis is our budget put together and how long does the budgeting process take? Further, as an Aurora resident, do I have any input into the process?

For starters, there are a number of pieces to the budget, some within the council's direct purview and some not.

Our total tax levy is based upon the combined budgets of the Aurora Town budget, our share of the York Region budget and our share of the York Region School Board budget.

According to Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas, out of a \$100 tax levy, approximately \$27 goes to the Aurora budget, \$43 to the York Region budget and \$30 to the school board budget.

There are then four components to the Aurora budget: Business Plans, Capital Budget, Operating Budget, Water/Sewer Budget.

According to Ms Collins-Mrakas, the budget process began in mid-December when the Chief Administrative Officer made a power point presentation to council on the capital budget.

This presentation was based upon the work of the senior management team at the Town of Aurora.

The capital projects are listed and then ranked by the senior management team ("SMT") at the Town. The capital projects document is then provided to council. The Aurora Capital Budget January 11, 2007, document notes that "this is Council's Budget process, scoring is SMT's attempt to prioritize corporately".

There are eight sub parts to the priority setting matrix – including things like legal obligation, health and safety, etc. Points are given for each.

For example, under legal obligation 25 points are awarded if the project must be done this year while zero points are awarded if the project must be done in more than five years.

The 2007 Capital Budget that is provided to council has the projects listed by scoring results.

This year the number one project – with a score of 100 points - is the Aurora Recreation Complex Debt Repayment.

The second most important project, according to the Department Heads was the Design for Engineering Services Projects with a score of 79.

At last count there were 127 capital project priorities and the list keeps growing. Councillor Al Wilson told me that council had been through the top 30. They will look at each priority one by one, and eventually vote on them.

The Capital Budget, while reviewed first, is not looked at in isolation. It is needed as input to the annual operating budget. Both

budgets will be approved together.

The goal is to have the final budget finalized by February 1. Ms Collins-Mrakas cautions me that this is "only a goal - we need to take the time. This is an important budget – with lots of competing interests".

Added Councillor Wilson, "every council member is thoroughly investigating every priority".

Council has wanted to ensure as much transparency as possible in the process and has made all meetings open to the public – a good idea. And there have been quite a few citizen delegations appearing before Council.



Cathy's Corner

Stop and smell the roses...

Amid the weeds and deadheads of my untended garden, a beacon of hope bloomed last fall: an unlikely cluster of brilliant pink roses.

The spectacle looked about as out of place amid the brown and gold and rusty red landscape of October in Aurora...as a Scottish kilt might look on my Croatian husband.

But even so, I might have missed the show if I hadn't tripped over Jennifer's shoes back in August.

After the transforming power of my ceramic floor travelled through my brain, I had to stop...and smell the roses. Yes, it took a concussion to knock the horse-power out of me – and some horse sense in.

Many years ago, my Aunt Ruza (my father's youngest sister) gave me a birthday present that I didn't really appreciate. It was a small pillow embroidered with the words "Stop and Smell the Roses".

I thought I appreciated it. But I never really got the message she has been trying to get through to me for decades.

How could I? I was raised by her brother! I didn't have a chance...

We're talking about a man whose favourite saying is: "Work is 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year. The rest of the time, you can relax and have fun!"

My father is turning 70 in a couple of months and still thinks that "retirement" is something to start thinking about when he gets old.

Growing up, the only person who could match my father's obsession with work was my mother. Double whammy!

Other people buy cottages on lakes so they can get away from work, relax and enjoy themselves. Not my parents. They bought 42 acres of farmland in Nowhere, Ontario, with a one-room schoolhouse on it. Lake? There wasn't even a swamp in the vicinity.

On summer weekends, we planted, weeded, cleared brush, pruned trees and fixed whatever needed fixing.

In the fall, we harvested, pickled and canned...and fixed whatever needed fixing.

And since the schoolhouse was a relic dating back to 1907, we often dropped in on winter weekends...to fix whatever needed fixing.

Whatever afflicted my parents must have been either contagious or genetic because I've spent most of my life either working, or thinking about work!

And I'm not the only one.

All around me, I see people rushing to try to keep up with the speed of life.

We live in the age of fast computers, fast cars, fast food and fast forgetting how to stop...and be still for a moment.

I am reminded of a story I once heard about a man who

It's worth repeating the words from Mayor Morris's inaugural address:

"I would challenge you to get involved in your government. Your involvement, your scrutiny, your challenges and your support will ensure your Council delivers. Please don't leave it to Council alone, to build a better Aurora. We'll do a better job with your participation."

Last word goes to Ms Collins-Mrakas who rightly notes, "It is your budget".

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

rolled through a stop sign.

A police officer pulled him over and the man insisted that slowing down should be good enough.

"Stop...slow down," argued the driver. "What's the difference?"

The police officer thought for a moment, then pulled out his billy club and began beating the man with it.

As the driver screamed, the officer shouted: "Now, do you want me to slow down...or do you want me to stop?"

There is a difference...

Late in November, life issued another decree on the importance of stopping.

While we were vacationing in Cancun, Damir developed a rare and serious blood clot.

There's nothing quite like a brush with death to change one's perspective and yet...like the driver who rolled through the stop sign, we all cling to the idea that slowing down is good enough.

The pillow says: STOP and smell the roses. It doesn't say SLOW DOWN and smell the roses.

Yes, injury and illness are a hazard of life. But beauty and joy always bloom among the thorns.

The difference is that injury and illness command us to stop, and beauty and joy are an invitation to stop.

Last year, my parents sold the old schoolhouse. The new owners chose to bulldoze it.

So what if we spent years fixing what needed to be fixed?

All that remains now are the sunsets and stars and fireflies that we stopped to notice; the laughter around the campfires we stopped to share with friends and family; the lingering scent of lilacs and wild roses that will continue to invite us to stop and be still for a moment in the joy and beauty of the memory.

Our lives can change – even end – in the blink of an eye.

And those moments when we stopped are what life is all about.

They are the only things that we will take with us, and they are the only things we will leave behind.

Roses bloom at the unlikely times because roses are always in bloom.

They are in the smile of a friend, or the hug of a child, but they are always there...no matter the thorns that surround them.

And when we accept life's invitation to stop and breathe them in, we become a beacon of hope for ourselves and for others.

Cathy Vrancic welcomes e-mail at:
cathyvrancic@hotmail.com
or laughingmatters@aci.on.ca

 **BOUQUETS** to Councillor Wendy Gaertner and all parent volunteers on the 15th anniversary of the very successful Friday night Hot Spot for youngsters attending Grades 6 to 8.

 **BRICKBATS** to Poor Richard for getting his dates mixed up. In a story in The Auroran he wrote that the position of Deputy Mayor was created in 1988 after John West was re-elected Mayor and former Mayor George Timpson topped the polls, when, in fact, the first bylaw appointing a Deputy Mayor was in 1980 and Timpson was elected Mayor and West topped the polls.

 **BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Tigers Peewee AA on winning the Nickel Centre tournament in Sudbury by defeating the Humberview Huskies 3-0 in the final game to win the series.

 **BRICKBATS** to Aurora Council for holding a public general committee meeting dealing with the 2007 Capital Budget in the small Holland Room where the acoustics are poor, the room crowded and no podium was available for citizens wanting to make a presentation. Meanwhile, the council chamber was empty.

 **BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce for requesting that members bring Tim Horton gift certificates to the Holiday Open House and sending the \$1,185 in certificates received to Jeffrey Hunter's Squadron in Afghanistan. Jeffrey is from Aurora and was wounded in Afghanistan and is now recovering.

 **BRICKBATS** to the labour laws in Ontario and Saskatchewan that permitted GO Transit crews to strike affecting the lives of thousands of commuters in Ontario and snowplow drivers in Saskatchewan to strike during one of the worst snowstorms of the winter. Essential workers should not have the right to strike!

 **BOUQUETS** to the more than 80 per cent of voters in Ajax, Pickering and Oshawa who voted in favour of direct election of the regional chairman in a referendum question on the recent municipal ballot, but the result is not binding on council. The results would be the same in York Region if a vote was held.

 **BRICKBATS** to the RCMP for the atrocious manner in which they handled the Mahar Arar file and then to bill the Canadian taxpayers \$860,000 for their inefficient investigation of his actions which turned out to be erroneous. Time for a full public investigation in what used to be a highly respected force. The federal inquiry cost another \$15 million!

 **BOUQUETS** to the McGuinty government for increasing the general minimum wage from \$7.75 to \$8 per hour Feb. 1, but the measly 25 cents is nowhere near the 25 per cent increase or \$22,000 the MPPs granted themselves before going on a two-month holiday.

 **BRICKBATS** to the justice system in Britain for reopening the inquest into the death of Princess Diana nearly 10 years after her death in a motor vehicle accident in Paris. Both a British and French police investigation ruled the crash was an accident. Let the poor girl rest in peace.

 **BOUQUETS** to Newmarket and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority for partnering to solve a long-standing problem for fish in Bogart Creek by building a fish ladder made of steps in the creek bed. Would a fish ladder help Tannery Creek, or is it too polluted?

 **BRICKBATS** to the Ministry of the Environment and everyone else for members of council and citizens being denied information about the contamination of Tannery Creek.

Letters to the Editor

Reader “misinformed” about wind turbines, this man says

To the editor,

The illusion of green energy and quiet wind turbines is just that – an illusion.

It's quite apparent that Mr. Orrell (Letter to the Editor, The Auroran, Jan. 9) is ill-informed of the facts and his letter urging council to do the “right thing” only confirms this.

Mr. Orrell's reference to the elegance of the wind turbines near Shelbourne is probably made from the perspective of the comfort of his car as he drives by listening to the radio. The fact is these wind turbines are in a farming community, not in a residential area.

And the neighbouring farms, which are impacted, also share in the revenue produced from the wind turbines.

Our argument is not one based on the sharing of revenue, but one that is based on an adverse impact on our lives and on the environment as the facts show.

ACI (Aurora Cable Internet) applied to the Committee of Adjustment in September, 2005, for relief from a Town bylaw that restricted further development on the Oak Ridge Moraine.

ACI was requesting permission to install three wind

turbines and a shipping container at their Ridge Road site.

As per ACI's sworn statement, the shipping container and the wind turbines were needed for power production and they represented a new use not currently present on the site. The goal of this proposal was to reduce the demand on the power grid and therefore the reduction of greenhouse gases.

Given ACI's position that both the wind turbines and the shipping container were required to produce energy, one can only concur with the Committee of Adjustment and OMB decisions that the shipping container could only be placed when all the conditions were met and the wind turbines were approved for installation.

According to ACI's sworn submissions there was no other reason to install the shipping container.

So why did ACI place the shipping container on the site in April, 2006, and connect it to the grid?

If one were to believe ACI's submissions, then one must question why the shipping container is required without the wind turbines.

Clearly they are getting a benefit other than the production of green energy.

Illingworth bias showing: reader

To the editor,

I used to look forward to reading Mr. Illingworth's pick of who's been naughty or nice, that is, until the last federal election.

Now I don't expect someone who's so obviously partisan to heap praises on a group of people that he doesn't agree with.

That said, how about occassionally giving them some credit. Let's see, what could we give the Harper government credit for, hmm, how about, trying to KEEP ITS PROMISES.

Mr. I. is entitled to his

opinion but I don't remember him ever being so mean to the previous government even when they would continually stick a wet finger in the air to find out what they were going to flip flop on next.

Like it or not, Dick, we finally have a 'leader', a man who's not afraid of making principled decisions.

Now it's not possible for the government to be perfect in all that they do because if they were, then we wouldn't need elections.

R. Leonard
Aurora

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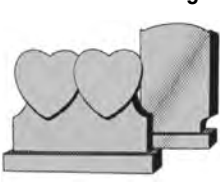
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The placement of the shipping container on the site has resulted, by ACI's own admission, in a dramatic increase in the power that they draw from the grid.

In fact, they are now using their diesel generator even when there are no power outages - presumably to supplement their power needs.

The placement of the shipping container on the site prior to the wind turbines has resulted in additional greenhouse gases, rather than a reduction, contradicting ACI's, Mr. Orrell's and many others' claims.

Further, ACI's request to the MOE for a Certificate of Approval for the wind turbines has been denied.

ACI submitted to the MOE, in June, 2006, fundamentally the same noise study it presented to the OMB in March, 2006.

That same study at the OMB hearing was shown to exceed the noise limits and did not meet them as purported by ACI.

ACI, nonetheless, submitted the flawed noise study, by the same consultant that the OMB chair had considerable difficulty qualifying as an expert witness, continuing to show compliance with the noise guidelines even though they were shown not to comply.

This noise study was rejected and ACI has

claimed that it has tried to provide the MOE with new criteria.

To date they have been unsuccessful in convincing the MOE of their Committee of Adjustment claims of extremely quiet wind turbines.

It is evident again that the residents were not over reacting and the proposal was ill founded.

One would have expected that the Town staff would have, at the very least, informed themselves as to the MOE noise limits and noted that the submissions by ACI to Committee of Adjustment exceeded those limits.

Is ACI the “good corporate citizen” that many claim or perhaps hoped for?

ACI, like all other corporations, is in the business of making money.

It just happens that ACI wants to achieve this goal at the expense of its neighbours and the environment, contrary to its claims of good intentions.

Given the facts, and his concern for the environment, even Mr. Orrell must agree that the right thing for council to do is hold ACI to its legal requirements and remove the offending shipping container from the Ridge Road site.

Walter Mestrinaro
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

Prez says thanks for the support from community

To the editor,

The Catholic Women's League of Our Lady of Grace Church held their 11th Annual Christmas Fair Saturday Nov. 18.

I wish to share my deepest appreciation and thanks to the many contributors of this event.

Publicizing our events Mr. Ron Wallace, The Auroran, thank you.

Thank you to our fabulous artisan vendors displaying their delightful wares.

A special thank you goes out to the huge and generous support from many of our local business merchants donating gifts for our

silent auction and all day draw.

Thank you to Our Lady Of Grace parishioners contributing baked goods and Rev. Father Don MacLean for his support and blessings.

A cheery Merry Christmas thank you to the Cardinal Carter High School student volunteers: Theresa Armstrong, Linda Badali, Casandra Brennan, Kyla Campo, John Cardella, Luana Cimpean, Karie Evelyn, Jenna McDermott, Laura McMurray, Jen Toth, Tala Speciale and Amanda Storey and Aurora Heights Public School student volunteer, Victoria Richardson.

I had a blast with you all

wearing reindeer hats.

Thanks to young Peter McKerracher for running the fish pond activity for children.

Delighting the many children and checking his list was Santa and his elves Miss Candy and Miss Cane.

Thank you to our Aurora citizens and former Mayor Tim Jones for attending.

Thank you to Mr. David Falconer, Auroran photographer, for capturing this event.

Thank you to the Catholic Women's League of Our Lady Of Grace Church.

Your countless hours of dedication, hosting, organizing and volunteering for this fund raising event allowed many charities to benefit.

We raised more than \$7,000.

One hundred per cent of our fundraising assists various charities including our local food bank, Southlake Regional Health Centre, St. Vincent De Paul, Father Don MacLean's Christmas fund for families in need and our own CWL Stained Glass Fund.

We provided funding for youth groups, student subsidy programs and health care.

We are truly blessed to have this opportunity in our community to assist charities in need at this time of the year.

Deborah Lynn Campo
Our Lady Of Grace
CWL President
2005, 2006

Excellent return on my survey, this reader says

To the editor,

The sidewalk votes are in.

Forty per cent of the Heritage District residents responded to the sidewalk survey that I delivered earlier this month.

Of those responding, 83 per cent chose to retain narrower widths for new sidewalks in the Heritage District rather than get the Aurora standard 1.5 metre sidewalks.

I was able to present these results to council on Saturday, January 20, so I thank the 59 folks who answered and put the forms in my mailbox.

It was an excellent demonstration of local democracy in action.

This survey was initiated to find out what the people think about two projects in the current 2007 budget review.

Each project would create new sidewalks in the new (June, 2006) Northeast Old Aurora Heritage Conservation District.

Some of us believed that the 1.5 metre wide sidewalks would be outside the spirit of the guidelines.

While delivering the forms I learned a lot.

Walking the dangerously narrow sidewalk on Centre Street, I heard that they have been requesting a fix for 16 years.

On Maple and Fleury, I heard, "Why are you doing this? Narrow sidewalks were established here five years ago."

I thank Steve Mills and G. Leslie Oliver for providing extensive details about

those years.

This is an urgent job waiting for the new Heritage Advisory Committee.

If it can work with the Community Planner and Public Works engineers to establish sidewalks that are wide enough to be comfortable plus narrow enough to meet the guidelines and the concerns of the residents, then councilors can devote their energies to more productive tasks for Aurora.

Gordon Barnes
Aurora



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Sweet winery proposal went sour in north end

With wine becoming one of the more popular drinks and with small local wineries springing up in various municipalities, there was a hope that back in 1994 Aurora residents might enjoy the fruits of the Aurora Winery.

But it was not to be. In March, 1989, an application was received for the four-acre property located at the northwest corner of the St. John's Sideroad and Yonge Street. The application was to change the designation from Rural and Environmental Protection to Commercial.

The proposal was to construct two office/commercial buildings with gross floor areas of 41,657 square feet and 33,843 square feet.

The main floor of one building was to be retail, with the remaining floor space in both buildings for offices.

The town's official plan showed the area north of the St. John's Sideroad, with the exception of the Anglican Conference Centre, between Bathurst to Bayview as rural and urban separator.

There was concern that the proposal could be the start of strip development along Yonge Street.

The regional planning committee did not support the application and suggested a secondary plan should be prepared for the whole of the Yonge Street/St. John's Sideroad area through to the town's northern boundary from Bathurst Street to Bayview Avenue.

The boundary between Aurora and Newmarket is not the St. John's Sideroad, as many believe, but actually is located hundreds of feet north of the sideroad.

As the town also deemed the application premature following a public planning meeting, the applicant requested the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to refer the matter to the Ontario Municipal Board.

As a result of inactivity, the file was closed in August, 1992.

A subsequent application was filed in May, 1993, by the Aurora Office Centre for a 29,510 square foot shopping centre but it was never processed.

A revised application was submitted in May, 1994, to permit a unique mixed use industrial/commercial devel-

1994

opment for a winery operation encompassing wine manufacturing, storage and sales, a restaurant, specialty retail shops associated with winery use, financial institutions and travel agencies.

It was proposed to construct two buildings with the most westerly building to accommodate the winery and some retail.

The easterly building would accommodate the restaurant and retail space with a restaurant patio overlooking the floodplain area.

Primary access was proposed for the St. John's Sideroad with a

right-in, right-out on Yonge Street with parking for 121 cars.

Staff was not opposed to the proposal and noted that all structures and parking areas had been contained within the developable components of the property.

However it was pointed out that due to the proximity of the Holland River Valley and related flood plains, both the

Conservation Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources had expressed concern regarding its protection from impending development.

Approval was granted in principle subject to the resolution of related issues prior to final approval, but the proposal never proceeded, and the property remains vacant.

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	\$0	\$226										
\$1,600	\$190											
\$3,000	\$159											
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	DOWN	LEASE										
	\$0	\$241										
\$1,550	\$207											
\$3,250	\$170											
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G6 2007



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SMARTLEASE \$248^{AT}1.0% PER MONTH/48 MONTHS \$3,350 DOWN PAYMENT \$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>DOWN</th> <th>LEASE</th> </tr> <tr> <td>\$0</td> <td>\$319</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$1,500</td> <td>\$287</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$4,000</td> <td>\$234</td> </tr> </table>	DOWN	LEASE	\$0	\$319	\$1,500	\$287	\$4,000	\$234	PURCHASE PRICE \$23,930*	FINANCING 1.5% UP TO 60 MONTHS*	HWY: 6.6L/100km • 43mpg CITY: 10.2L/100km • 28mpg
	DOWN	LEASE										
	\$0	\$319										
\$1,500	\$287											
\$4,000	\$234											
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FOR ONLY \$8⁺ MORE PER MONTH STEP-UP TO THE G6 SE WITH DRIVER'S PACKAGE DRIVER'S PACKAGE ADDS: Power Sunroof • Remote Vehicle Start • Spoiler • Leather-Wrapped 3-Spoke Steering Wheel with Stereo Controls • Leather-Wrapped Shifter and Parking Brake Handle • Power Adjustable Pedals												

VIBE 2007



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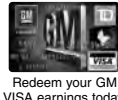
SMARTLEASE \$228^{AT}5.9% PER MONTH/48 MONTHS \$2,650 DOWN PAYMENT \$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>DOWN</th> <th>LEASE</th> </tr> <tr> <td>\$0</td> <td>\$276</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$1,500</td> <td>\$241</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$3,000</td> <td>\$206</td> </tr> </table>	DOWN	LEASE	\$0	\$276	\$1,500	\$241	\$3,000	\$206	PURCHASE PRICE \$18,998*	FINANCING 3.9% UP TO 60 MONTHS*	HWY: 5.9L/100km • 48mpg CITY: 7.9L/100km • 36mpg
	DOWN	LEASE										
	\$0	\$276										
\$1,500	\$241											
\$3,000	\$206											
STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE: • 1.8L 126 hp DOHC VVT-i Engine • Air Conditioning • CD Stereo • Fog Lights • 60/40 Split-Folding Rear Seat • 16" Wheels • 5-year/160,000 km GM Powertrain Warranty with \$0 Deductible*												
FOR ONLY \$8⁺ MORE PER MONTH STEP-UP TO THE G6 SE WITH DRIVER'S PACKAGE DRIVER'S PACKAGE ADDS: Power Sunroof • Remote Vehicle Start • Spoiler • Leather-Wrapped 3-Spoke Steering Wheel with Stereo Controls • Leather-Wrapped Shifter and Parking Brake Handle • Power Adjustable Pedals												

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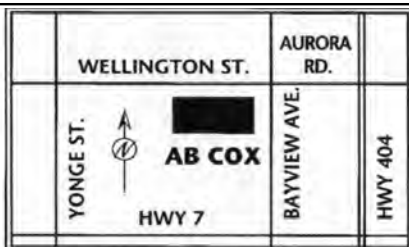


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Tigers bounce back with three wins

After a lengthy road trip in which the Aurora Tigers Provincial Junior A hockey team dropped two games in a row, they bounced back with three consecutive victories last week...two at home. Their latest was a 5-3 win over the Huntsville-Muskoka Otters Sunday afternoon at the Aurora Community Centre.

Winning wasn't all that easy, though. Huntsville needed the victory to stay in the hunt for a playoff spot.

With the game tied at three goals each and with less than five minutes

remaining in regulation time, Vince Bruni decided to take things into his own hands by driving the net with authority and getting the puck over the opposing goaltender while being tripped.

That effort resulted in the game winning goal - his first with the team - leading the Tigers to a 5-3 victory.

Daniel Michalsky added an insurance goal, his second marker of the game, on a great second effort that sealed the win.

"Two big plays when it mattered most, first by Vince then by Daniel, were

the difference today," said Tiger Coach Jerome Dupont.

Also scoring for Aurora were Alain Goulet and newcomer Jeff Grenier with his first in a Tiger uniform.

Quinn Waller added three assists while Tyler Gordon stopped a penalty shot.

On Friday night, in the comfort of the Community Centre, Aurora had little trouble handing the improved Orangeville Crushers a 6-2 setback.

Not only can Mark Thorburn protect his teammates when needed but

he can also do some damage on the scoreboard.

He was there for the big effort as he scored two goals to lead the Tigers to victory.

"When Mark is committed to the task at hand, the sky's the limit, as he can not only beat you with the physical side of his game but he can also score, just as he did tonight," said General Manager and Assistant Coach Craig Evans.

Also contributing to the goal total were Andrew Favot, Paul Zanette, Jordan Watts and Daniel Michalsky.

Alain Goulet added three assists while Mike Dahlinger and Doug Henderson contributed two each.

Mike Lalande, solid in net for Aurora, stopped 14 of 16 shots.

In Stouffville Thursday night, Aurora fired three goals in the first period and added three more in the third to skate to an easy 8-2 victory over the Spirit.

Paul Zanette led the way for the winners with a hat trick, while Joey Martin added two for himself.

Singles went to Brett Connolly, Daniel Michalsky, and Colin Williams.

The next three games will be challenging for the Tigers.

Thursday they play the

Hurricanes in Newmarket, Centre. Game time is 7.30 p.m. while on Friday they return home to face the On Sunday the Tigers Stouffville Spirit at the travel to St. Mikes to face the Aurora Community Buzzers.

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Girls' hockey team edged in the finals

The Aurora Panthers Peewee BB girls' hockey team made it to the championship game in the Orangeville Tigers Sweethearts Tournament, last week, but ran out of time.

Playing against an older and higher rated Whitby Wildcats team in the final, the Panthers put together an inspired, passionate and hard-working hockey game, but ran out of time, and lost the match 2-1.

Superb goaltending from Stephanie Giddings and solid defensive play from Taylor Plume, Kiera Dorman,

Janet Deane, Danielle McIntosh and Veronica English kept the game close.

Trailing 2-0 early in the third period, the Panthers, on a goal from Hayley Black, made the final 10 minutes of the contest more than exciting.

The Panthers came close to tying the game with excellent efforts from Bea Butcher, Taylor Pritchard, Taylor McGuckin, Maria Issaris and Olivia Phillips.

In order to reach the final, the Panthers had defeated the Kitchener Lady Rangers 3-0 with strong performances from Idanna Sortino,

Adrienne Coldwell and Holly Thompson. Their other victory was a crucial 2-1 win over the Orangeville Tigers with goaltender Tori Semple leading the way.

The staff - Head Coach Bryan Black, Assistant Coaches Rick Plume and Dave McIntosh, Trainer Shelley Dorman and Manager Cherise Sortino - expressed their pride in the girls' efforts in reaching the final, while representing Aurora with good sportsmanship and team character.

Bridge results

Tuesday Jan, 16: NS - Margaret MacFarlane, Paul MacFarlane; Sandra Hills, Glenn Hills; Paula Priestly, Peter Donnelly.

Wednesday, Jan. 17: NS - Don Jackson, Lena Jackson; Jane Demers, Ross Jenkinson; Paul Graves, Vivien, Thomas. EW - Paul Stanbury, George Jordan; Virginia Smereka, Paul MacFarlane; Rose Morrell, Mary Oglanby.

Friday, Jan. 19: NS - Ata Amiri, Zahra Jafroudi; Don Jackson, Lena Jackson; Oly Smolak, James Longley; Izhar Haque, Ibrahim El Amin. EW - Virginia Smereka, Paul Graves; Gerald Heath, Deanne Dennison; Ross Jenkinson, Karen Pepperall; Irma Field, George Jordan.

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Monday night hockey

Results as of Monday, Jan. 15

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PT
Tom & Jerry's	11	2	2	53	31	24
Law Insurance Brokers	9	4	2	63	35	20
Priestly Demolition	7	7	1	56	52	15
Highland Chev-Olds-Geo-Cad	6	6	3	57	49	15
Rec Cycle N' Sports	7	7	1	53	59	15
Baldwin's	5	8	2	55	59	12
FPL Aggregates	5	10	0	40	63	10
Masterclean Contracting	4	10	1	43	62	9

Results, Monday, Jan. 15

Baldwins Steakhouse	4	Rec Sports	6
FPL Aggregates	2	Highlands Chev	0
Tom & Jerry's	4	Law Insurance	8
Priestly Demolition	2	Masterclean	3

Player standings, Monday, Jan. 15

NAME	TEAM	G	A	PTS
Mark Sedore	Priestly	17	5	22
John Archibauld	Highland's	14	7	21
Ed Kilroy	Rec Sports	11	10	21
Steve Kavanah	Baldwins	10	10	20
John Anderson	Rec Sports	11	9	20
Steve McDonald	Law Insurance	8	10	18
Craig McConnell	Law Insurance	13	5	18
Bruce Chappell	Highland's	5	13	18
John Yaremko	Law Insurance	11	5	16
Darryl Thompson	Tom & Jerry's	13	3	16
Jason Muise	Priestly	7	9	16
Charlie Steenhorst	Rec Sports	2	13	15
Kevin Brown	Rec Sports	7	8	15
Scott Crabb	Highland's	5	9	14
Brad McMillan	Tom & Jerry's	7	7	14
Pat O'Mahony	FPL	5	8	13
Gerald Briand	Baldwins	7	6	13
Steve McDonald	Law Insurance	8	5	13
Kevin Brown	Rec Sports	6	7	13
Ed Jackson	Baldwins	3	9	12
Mike Nisbet	Priestly	6	6	12
Kevin O'Keefe	Baldwins	6	5	11
Brian Horton	Baldwins	2	9	11
Frank Balkovec	Law Insurance	2	9	11
Steve Robertson	Highland's	4	7	11
Vince Greco	Tom & Jerry's	3	8	11
Jerry Mackrell	Tom & Jerry's	5	6	11
Pat Davies	Priestly	6	5	11
Colin Leech	Priestly	3	8	11
Bob Ince	FPL	5	5	10
Mark Lemmon	Law Insurance	3	7	10
Darren Yaremko	Law Insurance	3	7	10
Dean Iwai	Tom & Jerry's	3	7	10
Jerome Flanigan	Priestly	3	7	10
Dave McQuestion	FPL	3	6	9
John Leeder	FPL	5	4	9
Peter Briand	Baldwins	4	5	9
Paul Gibson	Law Insurance	2	7	9
Chris Neal	Highland's	5	4	9
Dave Holden	Tom & Jerry's	4	5	9
Joel Reeves	Tom & Jerry's	2	7	9
Andrew Dalton	Rec Sports	3	6	9
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	0	9	9
Alain Boudreau	Masterclean	7	2	9
Scott Thomas	Tom & Jerry's	0	8	8
Scott Sheppard	Rec Sports	1	7	8
Doug Adair	Rec Sports	3	5	8
Mike Kensit	Masterclean	5	3	8
Mike Casey	Priestly	3	5	8
Dave Caverley	FPL	3	4	7
Doug McGrath	Baldwins	3	4	7
Dan Smith	Rec Sports	3	4	7
Ron Van Noort	Masterclean	4	3	7
Mike Slimkowich	Masterclean	2	5	7
Bill Collins	Masterclean	1	6	7
Jack Radecki	FPL	4	2	6
Doug Hackett	FPL	1	5	6
Ken Rumble	Highland's	5	1	6
Jody Matthews	Highland's	3	3	6
Ron Thieson	Tom & Jerry's	0	6	6
Steve Rezwick	Rec Sports	1	5	6
John Spicer	Rec Sports	1	5	6
Angelo Nasato	Masterclean	1	5	6
Tom Hussey	Masterclean	3	3	6
Mike Caicco	Priestly	1	5	6
Mike Dinner	Priestly	1	5	6
Craig McConnell	Law Insurance	4	2	6
Hal Horton	Baldwins	2	3	5
Jason Hurlbut	Baldwins	1	4	5
Gord Lee	Law Insurance	2	3	5
Les Nip	Highland's	0	5	5
Bill Hanlon	Masterclean	3	2	5
Steve Bromley	Masterclean	3	2	5
Mike O'Connor	Priestly	3	2	5
Phil Podstatsky	Priestly	4	1	5

Hydro money still baffling our politicians

Aurora Council is still having problems deciding what to do with the \$34.5 million it received from the sale of Aurora Hydro to PowerStream, Inc.

The offer to purchase was made in March, 2005, and approved by the Ontario Energy Board in November that year.

A consultant was retained in January, 2006, to advise council on proposed management of the proceeds that would be compatible with the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan.

It was pointed out that the proceeds represented a once in a lifetime significant infusion of funds and it was incumbent on council to develop criteria for the management of the funds in the best interests of the municipality.

In June, 2006, the consultant suggested that 80 to 90 percent of the proceeds be transferred from the holding investment fund to a State of Good Repair Reserve in order to keep the town's infrastructure running.

The remaining 10 to 20 per cent should be transferred to a reserve to fund new capital projects not eligible for funding from development charge revenues, the consultant recommended.

The report was not well received by council members and it was finally agreed to refer it to staff for a report to the general committee in September based on the comments from council members and the public.

At that time, council agreed 90 per cent of the hydro sale investment fund remain in the fund and the earned interest of approximately \$1.2 million annually be utilized for new initiatives identified in the Strategic Plan.

In addition, it was recommended the remaining 10 per cent be used to establish a Council

Discretionary Reserve Fund to be expended at the discretion of council.

In a report to council Treasurer John Gutteridge advised that the current financial position of the Aurora Hydro Sale Investment Fund was \$33,561,754 and the projected annual interest was \$380,000.

The Council Discretionary Reserve was \$3,592,598 with projected annual interest of \$140,000.

The Treasurer also noted that council had previously approved two projects for 2007 including Emergency Management and Conservation Building Retro Fits to improve building energy management at a cost of \$208,300.

He also noted that the annual interest was much higher and that the first \$920,000 was to be transferred to the 2007 operating budget.

It was finally agreed to refer any further discussion to budget discussion Saturday, but results of that meeting were not available at press time.

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Land to develop

From page 1
port of the proposed amendment and the third requested that walking and cycling trails be included.

Regional staff pointed out that sanitary treatment capacity to serve the lands will only be available once the Duffin Creek Plant expansion is complete scheduled for the end of 2010.

The current Master Plan Update scheduled for 2008 will review the water and wastewater infrastructure requirements and timing of construction for the full build-out of the lands.

It was also pointed out that a key aspect of the provincial policy statement is to ensure that settlement expansions are subject to a comprehensive analysis that assesses intensification opportunities and is supported by infrastructure and public service facilities that protect health and safety.

Regional criteria to be met includes consistency

with regional population and employment forecasts, demonstrated need, and the role of the new development with Aurora's growth management strategy.

After hearing the comments, the regional planning department will review all presentations and submissions and submit a report at a future committee meeting.

In a report to Aurora Council, Director of Planning Susan Seibert advised that the proposed regional official plan amendment was the first step in planning for the development of the "2C"

lands with the second step being a secondary plan to be initiated by council at a later date.

She added that the region will continue to review the proposed amendment in accordance with regional and provincial policies and it was anticipated the amendment would be brought before regional council in the spring or summer of 2007.

The actual development of the lands cannot occur until at least 2010 based on servicing capacity constraints. Her presentation was received as information by members of council.

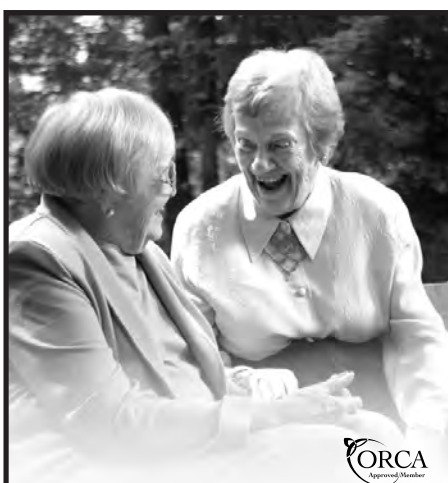


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House League

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106 Tim Hortons Penguins 5 - Reid Carpenter 1A, Filip Ekstrom 1G, Quest Rodin 1G, Aidan Burbank 2A, Ryan Thornhill 1A, Andrew Sergejewich 1A, Dan Atasiei 1G, Dylan Cowell 1G 1A, Liam Vanderploeg 1G 1A. **101 Tim Hortons Red Wings 2.**

108 Tim Hortons Sharks 3 - Austin Hendy 1G 1A, Kyle Wulle 1A, Jordan Torres 1G, Clayton Allen 1A, Alexander Simardone 1A, Sam Speranini 1G 1A. **102 Tim Hortons Bruins 2.**

103 Tim Hortons Senators 6. **107 Tim Hortons Lightning 4** - Jeffrey Crowe 1G, Casandra Srouji 1A, Andrew Lamanna 1G 1A, Mark Kalmisto 1G, Kyle Dungey 1A, Matthew Vassos 1A, Reid Ludgate 1A, Evan Knowles 1A, Mark Rossim 1G, Tyler Mckechnie 1A, Darcy Sarazin 1A.

109 Tim Hortons Wild 5 - Tyler Thomas 1A, Joshua Fallavollita 1A, Owen Bourrie 2A, Thomas Young 2A, James Samson 1A, Joel Woodcock 1G, Lucas Dane 1G, Jackson Clements 1A, Cameron Dyer 3G 1A. **104 Tim Hortons Flyers 1** - Eric Pears 1A, Mathew MacDougall 1G, Anthony Issaris 1A.

110 Tim Hortons Thrashers 4 - David Tonelli 1A, Gordon Scott 1G, Brennan Young 3G, Andrew Warner 1A. **105 Tim Hortons Leafs 1** - Ty Boisseau 1G.

Novice

203 McAlpine Ford 7 - Lucas Bulmer 1A, Tristan Kuchar 3G 2A, Alistar Johnston 2G 1A, Spencer White 1G, Keegan Matthew 1A, Adam Wilson 2A, Jordon Reeves 1G. **202 North York Heating & Plumbing 1** - Tarek Koudmani 1G.

201 Diamond Groundskeeping Services 7 - Michael Montesanti 1G 2A, Vincent Nguyen 2A, Adam Caicco 2G 1A, Blake Holtby 1A, Ryan Simmons 1A, Lucas Ruscica 1G, Justin Nisbet 2A, Conor Braund 2G 1A, Riley Callaghan 1A, Ryan D'Antimo 2A, Colin Dyer 1G 1A. **205 Mastermind Toys 5** - Max Bruckner 1A, Matthew Barnett 1A, Connor Tripp 1G 1A, Alex Carter 2G, Alex Bicego 2A, Tyler Williams 2G 1A, Anthony Loduca 1A, Lucas Ackerman 1A, Connor Reilly 1A, Will Ashton 1A.

Atom

403 Delph & Jenkins Surveyors 4 - Alex Cicchino 1A, Brayden Beswick 3G 1A, Nathan Sinclair 1G 1A, Max Brown 1A, Scott Dunlop 4A. **406 Ab Cox Pontiac Buick GMC 0.**

404 All Pro Source For Sports 2 - Chris Sanita 1G 1A, Mathew Sanita 1G. **405 Laurion Law Office 2** - Chris Downs 1A, Michael Slack 1G, Michael Liscio 1G.

402 Orr & Forster Insurance Brokers 8 - Keith Jarvis 1A, Kevin

Spiering 2G, Joey Stel 1G, Morgan Walker 2G 1A, Ben Tomlin 1A, Russell Johnson 1G 1A, Alexander McDonald 1G 2A, Mitchell Carter 1G 1A, Johnathan Read 1A. **407 Dr. Steiner's Drillers 3.**

407 Dr. Steiner's Drillers 8. **404 All Pro Source For Sports 3.**

Minor Pee wee

502 ACI 4 - Zachary Ferry 1G, Andreas Mikkelsen 1G, Christopher Kinsman 1A, Tyler Grossi 2G, Dylan Lyons 1A. **504 Rotary Club of Aurora 2** - Quinn McGowan 1A, Evan Sheridan 1G, Alexander Seto 1G, Matthew Grekula 1A, Garth McBride 1A.

503 Continental Ingredients Canada 4 - Nicholas Bertrand 1G, Sammy Fanone 1A, Chris Cherubini 1G, Tyler Indos 1G, Trevor Stephens 1G. **505 Nacora Insurance Brokers Ltd. 2.**

506 Dr. Steiner's Drillers 8 - Scott Cosentino 1A, Eric Staeuble 1G, Michael Perryman 1G, Dustin Partanen 1G 2A, Paul Louis Steiner 2G 1A, Ryan Dowling 1A, Sasha Dajia 1A, Matthew Iamonaco 1G, Luke Pizzurro 2G. **505 Nacora Insurance Brokers Ltd. 2.**

Pee wee

606 The Backyard Pool & Spa Company 2. **603 Restored Sports 1.**

605 Recreation Leisure Services 2 - Jean Paul Hudon 1A, Joseph Ariganello 1A, Graham Joiner 1G, Ryan Dal Cin 1G. **606 The Backyard Pool & Spa Company 1.**

Minor Bantam

702 ACI 4 - Branden Bortolin 1A, Eric Abel 1G, Michael Reilly 2G, Egan Fennel 1G, Rosario Arcuri 1A. **706 Cosentino Produce 3** - Trystan Nelson 1A, Lucas Cristillo 1A, Colin Sandquist 2G, Alexander Payne 1G 1A.

Minor Midget

901 Emilio's Pizza 5 - Trevor McCartney 2G, Geoff Knaack 1G 1A, Chris O'Hara 1A, Jordan Brown 2A, Derek Isidoro 1G 1A, Mike Hay 1G. **903 2.**

903 5. **904 Pizza Pizza 5** - Spenser Freeland 1G 1A, Ethan Shore 1A, Kevin Nandlall 1G 1A, James Collett 1A, Taylor Bryce 1G, Michael Shoesmith 3A, Eric Shoesmith 2G.

901 Emilio's Pizza 4 - Jamie Russell 1G, Will Ginther 2A, Chris O'Hara 1G, Jordan Brown 1G, Derek Isidoro 1G 1A. **905 Skaters First 2.**

906 Omar's Shoes 2. **901 Emilio's Pizza 2** - Geoff Knaack 1A, A.J. Ciccarelli 2G, Jordan Brown 1A, Derek Isidoro 1A, Zac Samonas 1A.

904 Pizza Pizza 5 - Ethan Shore 4G, Jacob Peart 1A, Michael Shoesmith 3A, Daniel Filippi 1G, Eric Shoesmith 2A. **906 Omar's Shoes 4.**

Wind turbines still raise residents' ire

During the "Open Forum" portion of council last week, Jim Beesley, a resident of Ridge Road complained that Aurora Cable Internet (ACI) was not living up to conditions imposed by the Ontario Municipal Board.

He pointed out that the Ministry of the Environment required the three proposed wind turbines meet the Ministry guidelines and the time limit had expired.

ACI had not re-applied, he said, therefore the container housing the batteries should be removed.

He added that the container was a safety hazard as the battery acid could escape and cause an environmental problem.

He was advised that a staff report would be included on the agenda of the next general committee meeting.

For more than an hour at the December general committee meeting members of council went round in circles as they tried to balance the opposition of three residents of Ridge Road and Aurora Cable Internet's application to develop wind power as a backup energy supply.

ACI applied to the Committee of Adjustment for a variance to permit the installation of three wind turbines and a container at their transmitter site at the west end of Ridge Road.

In spite of opposition from residents, the Committee of Adjustment approved the application resulting in the residents launching an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board who also approved the application with conditions.

The conditions included a setback from the property line for the wind turbines and the container and to meet the Ministry of the Environment's criteria on noise.

Walter Mestrinano and Jim Beesley appeared at the meeting to provide a review of issues and concerns pertaining to the project which they claimed did not meet conditions imposed by the OMB.

They asked that the town serve notice on ACI that the town's bylaws and the OMB orders were being contravened.

Peter Scott, Technical Manager of ACI, also appeared before the committee and explained that the wind power was proposed in order to reduce greenhouse gases and demand on the power grid.

He said the noise study was underway and would be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment upon completion and that it had to be carried out at night due to ambient noise during the day.

Staff reported to the committee that a meeting had been held with ACI officials and determined that ACI was proceeding with fulfilling the OMB conditions and the container was in compliance with the zoning bylaw and Building Code.

It was also pointed out that as ACI was federally regulat-

ed there was no requirement to meet local bylaws as Industry Canada was the approval authority.

The CAO stated that ACI was not contravening the OMB order and therefore

there was no enforcement issue.

In spite of that, the general committee approved by a 5-4 vote, a motion by Councillor Evelina MacEachern that staff take the necessary steps to

ensure ACI was brought into compliance with sections of the zoning bylaw and the shipping container.

When the report came to council it was lifted for discussion by Councillor Al Wilson who questioned what the next steps would be and if there was a potential cost impact.

In order for discussion to take place a motion was required and Councillor MacEachern made the same motion but directed it to the planning department.

Both Councillors Grace Marsh and Bob McRoberts noted the motion didn't make sense as staff had confirmed ACI was in compliance with the order.

Staff confirmed that ACI was in conformity with the zoning bylaw and the Ontario Building Code, with Councillor MacEachern saying she didn't agree.

Councilor Evelyn Buck who opposed the motion at the committee meeting left the council meeting prior to the vote.

When the vote was called the MacEachern motion was supported by Mayor Phyllis Morris and Councillors Wilson, MacEachern, Wendy Gaertner and Stephen Granger and opposed by Councillors McRoberts, Marsh and Collins-Mrakas for a 5-3 vote.

Donors shine

Central Ontarians, including Aurora residents, donated 12,047 units of blood and platelets between Dec. 4 and January 3 in response to Canadian Blood Services' "Brighten a Life" holiday promotion, it was learned this week.

The success of the four-week promotion enabled the organization to achieve 110 per cent of its collection target of 11,000 units.

The holiday promotion encouraged Canadians to become local 'stars': a dedicated and selfless donor that will find time (even over the holiday season) to donate blood for someone 'they will never know.'

Thanks to Aurora blood donors, among others, many patients were able to receive blood and blood products over one of the slowest times for blood collection - the holiday season.

However, there are still problems.

"Two aspects of our inventory continue to be of concern. O negative blood that is used in trauma instances and when a patient's blood type is unknown, and the blood product platelets; used primarily in the clotting of

blood and in cancer treatments," said Bill Coleman, Regional Donor Services Manager, central Ontario.

A recent Canadian Blood Services survey indicated that 52 per cent of Canadians say they have required blood or blood products for themselves or a family member.

Aurora's next clinic is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 25 at the Legion on Industrial Parkway North, from 2.30 in the afternoon.

O negative blood can be transfused into patients of any blood type, making O negative donors in particular demand. Only 7 per cent of the Canadian population has O negative blood, and Canadian Blood Services has been experiencing considerable difficulty in collecting adequate amounts of that type.

While collection levels in other types have shown encouraging progress over the past years, O negative inventory levels are consistently below target levels.

While blood of all types is needed those with O negative blood are called "Universal Donors" because their blood can be used to treat a patient of any blood type.

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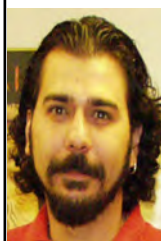
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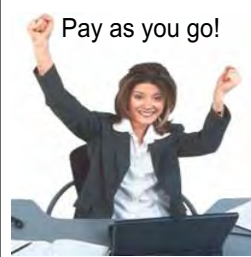


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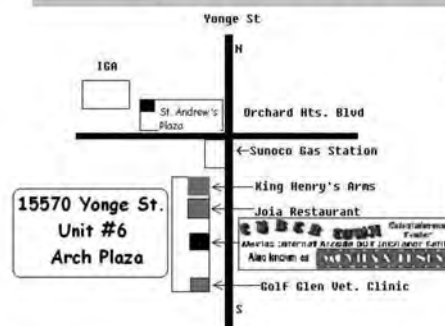
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Plenty to do at the centre

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Growth in the mind is often accompanied by a huge growth in self esteem, particularly when the progress is substantial.

When all is said and done, the mind is our centre of consciousness, and is a prized possession; why not grow the mind by adding a little extra expertise to what is there already?

An excellent venture pursued by the ASA (Aurora Seniors' Association) is the enhancement of natural ability by education, and by encouraging members to become involved with others in any of many activities of choice.

Technological growth is good and is represented in the confines of the ASA by computer training principally.

Crafts and sewing are excellent for maintaining healthy minds and making friends, while playing card games has been a pastime of royalty for many centuries.

Pool, billiards and snooker provide men and women with an entertaining game, which can be, and is, played for both amusement and fine quality of play.

Badminton, table tennis, carpet bowling and pickle ball - similar to tennis, but played inside - all have firm adherents with exercise combined with sport.

I can go on, there is a lot more, but this is a sampling of things at which seniors can excel or participate in, purely for fun and laughter, or self improvement.

Healthy aging is achieved by means of a healthy outlook on life which in turn is nourished by a healthy appetite for social intercourse and the gentle or constant pursuit - depending on your needs - of personal growth.

An existence characterized by little to stimulate the mind and nowhere to go, simply does not work for the majority of seniority.

Relentless boredom provides a quick passport to the next world, while the quick and nimble of mind celebrate daily a fiesta of amusements, organized activities and spontaneous pleasure in senior life.

Life is an everyday pleasure for those who live life as a pleasure.

So to achieve the condition or state of 'quietly happy and satisfied', the majority of us should spend time with our contemporaries who do socialize, and to join with them, and to be and feel a part of whatever is going on, and to laugh with them.

The ASA specializes in providing activity and programs suitable for seniors and time has shown that for seniors who attend regularly, physical and emotional quality of life improves greatly.

Too often, the retired person feels that any activity designed for the senior population, is for the very old and infirm only.

But many retired seniors are in excellent health, and vibrant of mind and body, and these seniors are amongst those who administrate the ASA in partnership with the Town of Aurora.

They meet as directors or as committee members and play a great part in the administration of the ASA, and in the development and promotion of activities.

There are already so many fine personalities amongst our members at this time that I believe strongly that many others, if they joined with us, would add their excellent distinguishing characteristics to our quality of life and purpose.

They would improve the essence of the ASA by adding the excellence of their particular wealth of expertise to what we already possess, which can only be good and over time, would be outstanding.

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Was he a fortune teller?

Last April, Mikoslav Prikryl, a candidate for council in the recent election, appeared before a public meeting on the proposed ward system for Aurora and suggested a question should be on the ballot about gender equality.

He pointed out that women make up more than 50 per cent of the population and should have 50 per cent of the representation on council and that Aurora should lead the way.

Although no action was taken on his proposal, his message must have got through to the electors as in the last municipal election six women candidates were nominated and six were elected, compared with 15 male candidates of which three were elected.

IS IT STILL A SECRET?

One of the best kept secrets in York Region came to light last March when Mary Jo Zwiers and Katie Toksoy, local founders of "Pretty Leaves, Roots and Shoots" appeared before council during the meeting's Open Forum session.

The explained they wanted to raise awareness of issues that affect people, animals and the environment and issued a challenge to all Aurora children, aged 5 to 9, to do something to help the community and to make a difference to the town and the planet.

They requested assistance from the town to print a booklet and promotional material and to recognize Aurora's Green Team with a Green Team badge. Their presentation was received and no action was taken by council.

Where are Pretty Leaves, Roots and Shoots today?

WEATHERMAN TRICKS PATHFINDERS

In March, 1989, the Aurora Pathfinders staged an outdoor hot dog sale on St. Patrick's Day in Machell Park to raise funds for their friendship trip to Mexico, but the weather turned cold and blustery and they raised only \$42.

It was the second time the weatherman played tricks on the Pathfinders as the poor weather brought out only a scattering of people to their winter carnival earlier in the month.

The weather was so cold even the fish pond froze. The 15 Pathfinders going to Mexico needed to raise \$1,000 each and at the time had raised \$300 each through bottle drives and baby-sitting.

Pathfinders are guiders from age 12 to 16 and there were three groups in Aurora at the time.

AURORA HIGHLANDS SETS A PRECEDENT

It was in 1964 when an Ontario Court of Appeal made a landmark ruling involving the former Aurora Highlands Golf and Country Club.

The court ruled private golf clubs exist as a service to their members and was exempt from paying business tax, while public golf clubs are operated for a profit and therefore must pay a business tax.

All clubs still had to pay property taxes. The town argued that the Highlands also acted as a social club and rented out their banquet facilities

to the general public and should be eligible for business tax, but the court ruled otherwise.

In March, 1994, Newmarket council decided to appeal the Glenway Country Club exemption from paying business tax arguing that at least part of the facility should be classified as commercial.

The town stood to lose about \$87,000 a year in business taxes and club officials wanted a refund of the \$86,800 they had paid the year before.



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DEATH NOTICE

Richardson, Douglas William (1916-2007) on Thursday January 11, 2007 surrounded by his family, Doug peacefully passed on. Doug was raised on the family farm on Bayview Avenue with his brother George. In June 1940 he joined the Irish Regiment. He transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals and served in the United Kingdom, North Africa, Italy and Europe. He married Nora Graham in 1948 and they raised their family of three children in Aurora. During this time Doug served on various Town, School and Church Committees, including Chairman of the Town Planning Board for several years. He joined Hart MFG, Aurora in 1947 and ended his working career at Eagle Electric, Toronto at the age of 73. He is survived by wife Nora, children Mary Lou, Jo Anne, Douglas and grandchildren Kenji, Jennifer, Lindsay and Lucas. Also survived by brother George, his wife Doris and their family. Visitation at the Thompson Funeral Home, 530 Industrial Parkway S., Aurora was held on Thursday January 18th from 10 a.m. until the time of the Memorial Service at 11 a.m. Donations to the charity of your choice.



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Andrea Dakin and Keith Beechey are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of their daughter

Kira Madison
on Dec. 12, 2006.

First great-granddaughter for John & Flo Connolly of Aurora and fifth for Jean Beechey of Cookstown.

Proud grandparents are Doug & Mary Anne Dakin of Aurora, George & Dale Beechey and Deb Beechey of Tottenham.

Spoiling rights go to Kira's many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

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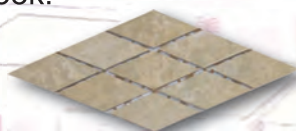
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The look of honed & filled Travertine in a porcelain tile. Available in three shades: Light, Medium and Dark. It is also available in three sizes: 20"x20"; 13"x13" & 2"x2" Mosaics.



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New diamond-shaped mosaics for a truly unique look.



Available in three colours: Sky, Moon and Earth. This series also has a matching 18"x18" porcelain floor tile.

coming soon!

AOSTA SERIES

This exciting new line of tiles from Spain is scheduled to arrive in late February.

Available in three colours: Beige, Marengo and Blanco.

This series of 10"x16" wall tiles and matching 12"x12" floor tiles will also have two distinctive, designer trim accent pieces.

VENETO SERIES

This new series of 12"x24" wall tiles will be available in 4 colours: Beige, Ocre, Marron and Negro. A 6"x 24" decor piece and a matching 12"x12" floor tile will also be available.



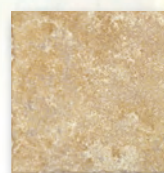
DORADO SERIES

This quality line of porcelain tiles is priced to move and is going fast.

Available in two colours, Cabo and Nogales, and two sizes: 18"x18" and 13"x13".

13"x13" - **\$1.89 sq.ft.**

18"x18" - **\$2.25 sq.ft.**



PENNE BEIGE

This quality 13"x13" porcelain tile is an excellent choice and is value priced at...

\$1.99 sq.ft.

VERDE ALPI STONE

This 16"x16" dark green porcelain tile has a tumbled stone look and is value priced at...

\$1.95 sq.ft.

PLUS MANY MORE

.99 s/f SPECIALS IN STOCK!

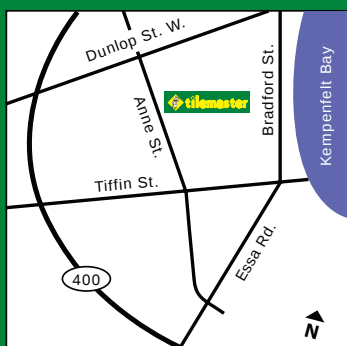
Ceramic Tiles • Porcelain Tiles • Mexican Tiles • Quarry Tiles
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* Installation of tiles is arranged by Tilemaster only. Actual installation is done by established independent contractors.