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Vol. 7 No. 20

AURORAN, Week of March 20, 2007

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Aurora Resthaven residents, Audrey Churchill, left, and Kathleen Jones, make a point to Vaughan-King-Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara Friday when he attended the rest home to pick up a petition that had been prepared by staff and residents. The petition, which sought more funding for the home, was presented in the hopes Sorbara will bring it to the attention of the provincial government in time for the upcoming provincial budget.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Town shows a pre-audit operating budget surplus

The Town of Aurora is rich...maybe.

In a report to council last week, Treasurer John Gutteridge noted that the town had an operating surplus of \$423,900 for 2006 but that this was a pre-audit year end financial statement in preparation for the auditors who are expected to show up at the end of the month.

The report was submitted to council as there is a requirement in the Municipal Act that council must account for its prior year's surplus or deficit in the current year's estimates.

Although the treasurer pointed out that it was nice to report a surplus he was not happy with the results.

As the 2007 budget would be his first budget after a year's experience with the town, changes would be

proposed to ensure that budget accounts for all revenues and expenditures of the municipality in future years a two per cent variance would be established as being an acceptable surplus or deficit result.

In order to accomplish this it will be necessary to budget for supplementary tax revenue and to increase the budget for interest income to better reflect actual results.

These two areas are major contributors to the surplus position.

He also pointed out that while it was tempting to use the surplus to reduce the 2007 levy there were consequences for doing it.

If the budget is properly done in 2007 there will not be a large surplus and if the surplus was used it would

mean transferring the tax increase to another year.

It was recommended that \$45,800 of the 2006 operating surplus be transferred to the Accessibility Advisory Committee capital project as the committee did not spend what was budgeted and there is a need to spend this in the future.

It was also recommended that the remainder of the surplus be transferred to the Municipal Capital Reserve for future capital projects.

It was pointed out that the report was subject to audit and should the auditors suggest adjustments, amendments to the transfer to the Municipal Capital Reserve would have to be made.

Briefly

Lots of eggs

The Town of Aurora, linked with the Aurora Girl Guides, will host one of the largest Easter Egg hunts in York Region, for the sixth time.

More than 14,000 eggs will be hidden and on Saturday, April 7, kids, aged two to 10, will have a chance to find them.

They'll be hidden around the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, on Industrial Parkway North, and a few eggs come with prizes.

Because of its popularity, there will be two egg hunts.

The first begins at 10 a.m. outside in the trail system with crafts and face painting from 9 a.m. in the Leisure Complex. The second hunt begins at 1 p.m. with crafts and face painting from noon.

The event happens rain or shine. Cost is \$4 per person.

For more information, visit www.e-aurora.ca or call 905-726-4762.

Youth group show

Theatre Aurora Senior Youth Group presents "And Never Been Kissed" March 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 and April 1.

Tickets are \$15 plus GST.

Interested? Call the box office at 905-727-3669.

New column

Bryan Moir, who sought a seat on Aurora Council and finished out of the money, has secured a position on the town's Economic Development Advisory Committee.

From that point of view Brian will write a monthly column for The Auroran.

This week, he looks at how local retailers can fight Wal-Mart when it arrives in Aurora.

His column is on Page 10.

2nd annual frog race set to go

The second annual Aurora Rotary Frog Race is beginning to take shape.

Slated to be held in Tannery Creek Sunday afternoon, April 22, from the bridge in Machell Park, the race will offer cash prizes to winners.

You can rent a frog from any Aurora Rotarian, at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Home Show, April 20-22 where the club will have a booth, or by calling 905-841-1352.

More than 1,000 plastic frogs are owned by the Rotary Club after they invested in the project last year.

Frogs rent for \$5 each and proceeds go towards various Rotary community and international projects.

Heading up the race committee, Rotarian Barry McDonough says this year's event is being staged in the afternoon, rather than morning, in the hopes the weather will be warmer for spectators.

The race, run in heats, will see the plastic frogs float from the bridge to a point in the river, several hundred feet to the north.

Heat winners will then compete for final prizes.

Purchasers are given a number and that corresponding number is painted on the plastic frog.

The event gets underway at 3 p.m.



Shelley Lundquist of the Women's Centre of York Region in Aurora, got into the spirit of things when a western night was held last week at the Aurora Legion.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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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. Rehearsals Sunday afternoons to April 20. Contact Aurora Opera Company at keepingsing@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.

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 Agricultural Society 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.

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. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

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, MARCH 21

Aurora Historical Society meets at Hillary House at 8 p.m. with Curator Cathy Molloy as guest speaker.

Community Living Newmarket/Aurora District is holding its 5th Annual Community Tribute Dinner honouring Vic Priestly of Aurora for his "Lifetime of Excellence in Community Service" at The Manor, Carrying Place Golf and Country Club, Weston Road, near Kettleby. Reception starts at 6.30 p.m. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$800 for a table. For information or tickets call: 905-898-3000, extension 258 or e-mail aboden@clnad.com.

MARCH 23 and various dates

Theatre Aurora Senior Youth Group presents "And Never Been Kissed" March 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 and April 1. Tickets are \$15. Call the box office at 905-727-3669.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

Trinity Anglican Church presents the return visit of The Tri-City Gospel Chorus. 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.

Kids' Gardening program, presented by the Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society, for youth, aged six to 13. One time registration fee \$10. Seven nights, continuing until November. Registration from 6.15 to 6.30 p.m. Call 905-727-6984 for further information.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29

Aurora Public Library presents "Beyond Google", from 6 to 7 p.m. Pre-register at the adult information desk or phone 905-727-9493, option 4. Mouse, keyboarding and basic web navigation experience required.

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five event at Rowan Hardwood Floors, 569 Steven Court, Unit 1, Newmarket, beginning at 5.30 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.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5

Easter Dinner at the Legion, includes an Easter egg hunt, euchre, snooker and dancing. \$10 per person. For further information, call 905-727-9932.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

Deadline for nominations for the Town of Aurora Civic Awards and Citizen of the Year. To learn more pick up a nomination package at the

Town Hall or Leisure Complex or call 905-726-4762. Civic Awards take place June 6 at 7.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five event at the Aqua Grill, Yonge Street, beginning at 5.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

Aurora Seniors visit the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake to see "Mac and Mabel" by Jerry Herman. Cost is \$103 for members and \$107 for non-members.

MONDAY, APRIL 16

From 10 to 11 a.m. at the Aurora Library, Eric Walters will do a writer's presentation for students in Grade 7. He has written a number of books for children and young adults.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

Aurora Historical Society meets at Hillary House with a Show and Tell and Pot Luck Dinner at 6 p.m.

From 10 to 11 a.m. at the Aurora Library, Ange Zhang will do a writer's presentation for students in Grade 6 and will discuss the writing of his book about China.

APRIL 20-21

Aurora United Church Spring Rummage Sale from 1 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 20, and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 21. For further information, call 905-726-1648.

APRIL 20 to 22

Aurora Home Show, Aurora Community Centre.

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.

Aurora Community Historica Heritage Fair at St. Andrews College. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. open to students and schools and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. open to the public.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

Piano favourites in the Hillary House Ballroom with Recording Artist Carol Gibson at 2 p.m. Tickets, which include light refreshments, are \$15 and are available in advance by calling 905-727-8991.

Join authors Alisa Smith and J.B. MacKinnon as they discuss their book "The 100-Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating" at the Seniors Centre from 2 to 4 p.m. presented by the Environmental Advisory Committee. No admission charge. Pre-register by calling Info Aurora at 905-727-8214. The committee needs 150 registrants to make the event happen.

MAY 9 to 13

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.

SUNDAY, MAY 13

Mother's Day Luncheon in the Hillary House Ballroom at noon and 1.30 p.m. Menu includes soup, fancy sandwiches and sweets. Tickets are \$15 per person in advance by calling 905-727-8991.

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PROUD TO BE LIVING AND WORKING IN AURORA

Phony hospital cheques are used in lottery scam

Aurora's area hospital is being used for a fraudulent lottery scam, according to notes sent out by the hospital's foundation.

Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket, is advising the public that a fraudulent lottery and cheque scam has been found to be circulating as far east as the Maritimes, using counterfeit Southlake cheques.

A letter claiming to be from La Euro Lotto Commission advises the recipient of a win up to \$85,810.

In order to receive the winnings, a recipient is asked to cash the accompanying counterfeit cheque from Southlake and then mail their own cheque

for \$1,500 to an individual in Toronto.

To date, incidents of the scam have been reported in Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

The cheque, purported to be from the Southlake Regional Health Centre included with the letter is fake.

The letter is from La Euro Lotto Commission Board, apparently a fake operation.

The case has been turned over to the RCMP for further investigation.

Meanwhile, the Southlake Foundation has sent out numerous notes advising people of the scam.

Southlake officials advise



that anyone who receives the letter is asked not to attempt to cash the cheque, rather call the RCMP at 1-888-495-8501 to report the scam and then mail the fraudulent cheque to Administration, Southlake Regional Health Centre, 596 Davis Drive, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 2P9.

Senior games in York May 8

From May 8 until June 13, Aurora seniors, who are older than 55 will have the opportunity to participate in the York Region 55+ Games.

Registration takes place at the Aurora Seniors' Centre on April 4 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Challenging games include walking, floor shuffleboard, cribbage, five-pin bowling, table tennis, bocce, bid euchre, tennis, swimming, golf, carpet bowling, slow pitch, lawn bowling and horseshoes.

The Seniors' Centre, in partnership with the Aurora Legion, will be hosting contract bridge, darts and snooker events.

In 1982, the Older Adult Centres Association of Ontario developed the concept of the Ontario Senior



Southlake Regional Health Centres Advises The Public of Fraudulent Lottery and Cheque Scam

Southlake Regional Health Centre advises the public that a fraudulent lottery and cheque scam has been found to be circulating as far east as the Maritimes, using counterfeit Southlake cheques.

A letter claiming to be from La Euro Lotto Commission Board advises the recipient of a win up to \$85,810. In order to receive their winnings, the recipient is advised to cash the accompanying counterfeit \$1,500 cheque from Southlake Regional Health Centre and then mail their own \$1,500 cheque to an individual in Toronto. To date, incidents of the scam have been reported in Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

The cheque purported to be from Southlake Regional Health Centre included with the letter is fake, as is the letter from La Euro Lotto Commission Board. The case has been turned over to the RCMP and they are investigating further.

Anyone who receives the letter is asked to:

- 1 Not attempt to cash the cheque
- 2 Call the RCMP at 1-888-495-8501 to report the scam
- 3 Mail the fraudulent Southlake cheque to: Administration, Southlake Regional Health Centre, 596 Davis Drive, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 2P9.

Heritage Fair seeks exhibits, volunteers

The Aurora Community Heritage Fair is a celebration of student work and Canadian history and heritage.

The event will be held Wednesday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m. at St. Andrew's College.

It is sponsored by the Historica Foundation of Heritage Canada, the Aurora Optimist Club, St. Andrew's College and the Newmarket-Aurora Electoral district of the Conservative Party of Canada.

Created in 1995, Historica's Heritage Fairs Program is a showcase for students from Grades 4 to 9 to tell something about Canada or its people that may have involved them or tell about their Canadian hero or a Canadian mystery or legend.

The program is designed to bring together students, teachers, businesses and community partners in a celebration of Canada's unique culture and heritage.

In 1997, the York Region Board of Education joined with the Town of Markham to hold a Heritage Fair at the Markham Museum and it provided an opportunity to about 6,000 students to see history in the making.

At that time the Board of Education hosted and funded the Heritage Fair but later withdrew their support and funding leaving it to a volunteer citizen group to organize a Community Heritage Fair in 2005.

The opportunity to participate is extended to all Grade 4 to 9 students in public, Catholic and private schools.

Some schools hold their own fair with selected exhibits going on to the Community Heritage Fair, but individual students can submit projects by registering with the Aurora Community Fair Committee.

Volunteers, as well as exhibits, are required and if you want to volunteer or if you're a student wishing to submit a Canadian heritage project contact Susan Walmer at swalmer@aci.on.ca.

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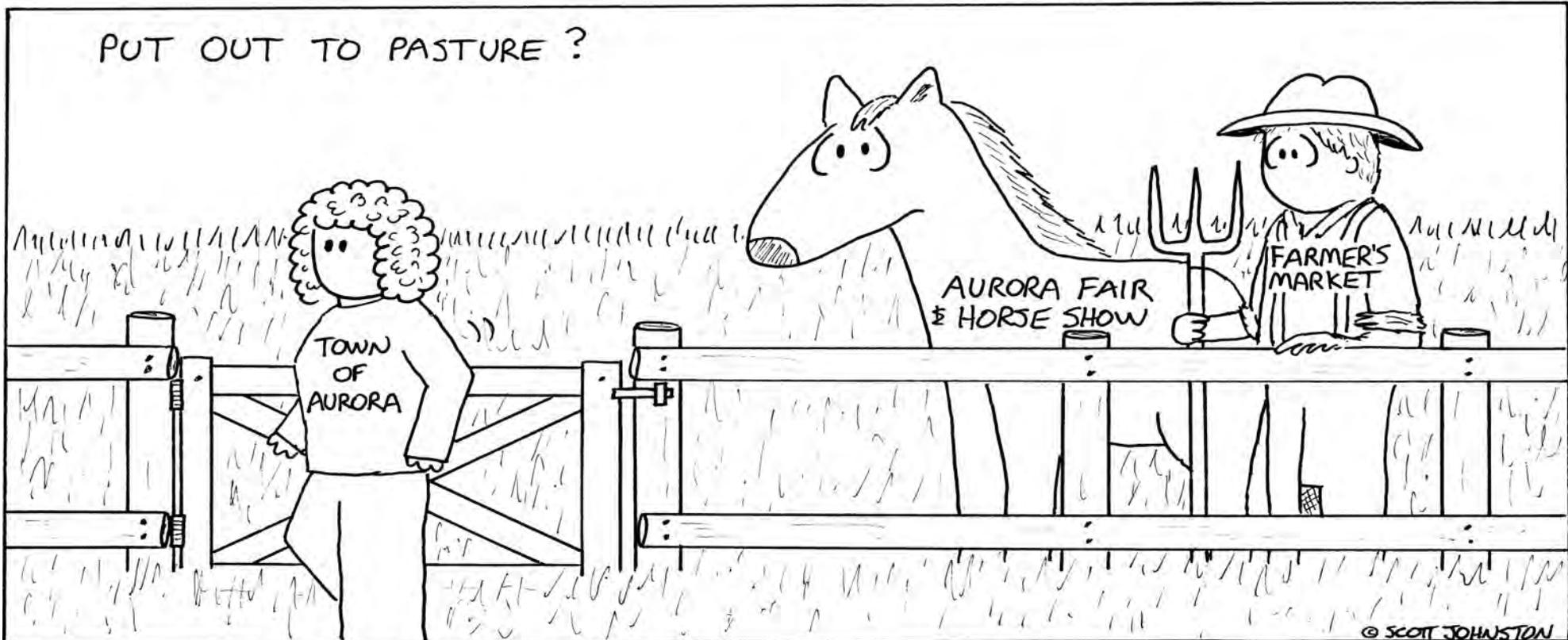
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Profiling Grace Marsh

This is the first in a series of short profiles on the members of Aurora Council. The plan is to publish one of these every month or so.

The first time I met Grace Marsh was last October. It was a Saturday morning and the weather was absolutely horrible; it was cold, extremely windy and it was raining very hard.

I had just come from the Super Centre Shopping Centre and was driving southbound along Bayview when I saw this man and woman struggling to bang in a wooden stake for a lawn sign near the intersection.

I thought to myself, "I just have to meet this couple - anyone who is outside in this weather has to be a few french fries short of a Happy Meal!"

I climbed out of my car, went over and introduced myself to Ms Marsh and her husband, Bren.

They were quite the sight - both wearing large plastic garbage bags over their jackets, and Ms Marsh's hair was quite a mess.

I should not really be casting any aspersions regarding sartorial splendour here, as I recall I was wearing track pants and a "SpongeBob Square Pants" sweater that day.

We had a nice chat - talking about the first of the public forums that were coming up and how many lawn signs she had put up.

She stated she was 'a little nervous' about speaking in front of people. I said that she would do fine. I added that as she would only have a short period to communicate her message at this first meeting, she should concentrate on informing people about her background and the main reason she was seeking a council seat.

The next time I saw Ms Marsh was at that first Town forum. After the event I said, "You clean up pretty good". She laughed and replied, "You do, too".

I then complimented her on her remarks to the audience. She sounded confident, sincere and knowledgeable in answering the questions.

She currently works for DuCharme McMillen & Associates Canada, Ltd., as the Director of Administration.

The office is located in Mississauga and the business is primarily property tax and assessment consulting.

She spent 10 years with the Town of Aurora in the Finance Department.

Most of her post secondary education has been done through night school and correspondence courses after leaving high school.

She has earned the professional designations of Certified Municipal Tax Professional (CMTF) and Certified Municipal Manager (CMMI). She also has a certificate in Records Management and Basic Accounting.

The Marsh family moved to Aurora in 1979 and they still, after 28 years, live on Spruce Street. Bren and Grace have one daughter, Robyn, who just turned 21.

Prior to being elected, Ms Marsh's community involvement was extensive, including; Royal Canadian Legion volunteer, Salvation Army kettle drive participant, Weekend to End Breast Cancer participant, a parent volunteer with Girl Guides when Robyn was involved, Canada Day volunteer for the Town, and she was also a founding staff member of the Town of Aurora Staff Charity Group known as TOAST (Town of Aurora Staff Together).

One activity she is passionate about is donating whole blood, which she has done for many years.

Now she has moved into the aphaeresis program where she donates platelets to matched patients who are undergoing cancer treatment.

In total, she has made more than 90 donations of either whole blood or platelets and says she will continue to do so "as

long as I am healthy".

Why did she seek a council seat?

"My primary reason for running was driven by my recent job change back to the private sector. I found I really missed the daily interaction with the level of government closest to the residents. I truly felt that my municipal background would bring value to council and complement the various other types of experience the other councillors have.

"There were really no surprises for me in the way council works having been employed in the municipal sector for more than 15 years. I have sat through hundreds of committee or council meetings at the Town of Aurora, the City of Vaughan and the Region of York. On top of that, I have authored many staff reports

to council, so the process is familiar.

"My biggest surprise so far, has been the sheer number of meetings. With the pressure of trying to get the budgets approved and the various orientation issues, we have been meeting an average of two to three times per week since mid December. I know this will settle down to a more predictable schedule over the next month or so, but it has been pretty hectic so far. Another surprise is the amount of reading involved, between agendas, background information and correspondence. It's quite a pile every week."

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Rough road ahead

EDITOR'S NOTE: Regular columnist Cathy Vrancic is on a sabbatical. Taking her place until she returns is Auroran cartoonist Scott Johnston.

It was a fine spring day in 1796.

In his office in the town of York, Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe sat at his desk catching up on correspondence. There was a knock at the door.

"Come."

One of Simcoe's men came in, removing his hat as he smartly came to attention in front of the Lieutenant Governor's desk.

"Yes, Ashby. What is it?"

"Sir, I have the honour to report that Yonge Street has been completed."

"Excellent," smiled Simcoe.

It had been three years since he had announced that the military would build a supply route through the wilderness northwards from York to connect with Holland Landing.

Since that time, the forest had been filled with sweating men armed with axes, saws, and shovels. It had not been easy. The terrain was both hilly and swampy, and the hot buggy summers, and cold snowy winters had not helped any.

But now it was done, and they could concentrate on other priorities.

Or so he thought.

Simcoe noticed that Ashby was shifting nervously.

"Is there anything else?"

"Well, sir...umm..."

"Come on. Out with it."

"Well, sir, we've encountered some problems in a stretch of Yonge Street in the area of Machell's Corners."

"What do you mean 'problems'? The road's just been completed. And where is Machell's Corners, anyway?"

"That's kind of an unofficial name, sir. It's really just a small hamlet clustered near the intersection of Yonge and the dirt track that you named after your friend, the Duke of Wellington."

"What sort of problems?"

"Well, apparently, there's a big dip in Yonge north of Wellington. Locals are concerned they won't be able to get their parade floats up there."

"Parade floats!"

"Yes, sir," Ashby stammered, a trickle of sweat making its way down from his hairline.

"They have a 'Father Christmas Under the Stars' event planned for November, and the hill's just too steep. They want that part levelled out. And the jog at the swampy north end of town...they want that straightened and filled in."

"Well, if that's..."

"Actually, there's more sir," Ashby continued, despite a withering stare.

"There's the intersection itself. So many carts, horses, and pedestrians already go in every direction through Yonge and Wellington that the people are demanding some sort of signalling device to control the traffic."

"Traffic signalling device! That's preposterous!"

"And there's the construction itself, sir. Now that spring is here, there are pot holes everywhere. And parking, too, sir. Buggies and carts and horses and delivery vehicles are lined up along both sides of the road.

"Between the congestion and parking and ruts, and...well...", Ashby swallowed and avoided Simcoe's gaze. "The local merchants say it's hurting their business. They want the road widened and the pot holes filled in."

Simcoe stared in amazement. This was even worse than preparing for a potential American invasion.

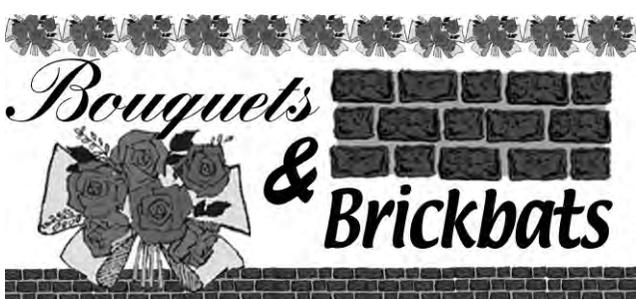
But he couldn't delay his other projects, so with a sigh, Simcoe said, "Here's what we'll do; send a crew to fill in some of the pot holes and see if they can do anything to the dips and swampy areas. And tell the locals we'll consider widening the road, and adding some east-west routes to take the pressure off Wellington."

"Brilliant, sir," smiled Ashby, as he hurried off to implement his orders. "That should take care of all of the problems".

But as Simcoe watched his assistant leave, he wasn't as easily convinced. This Machell's Corners sounded like the sort of place that no matter what repairs and improvements were done to its roads, the residents would still complain.

And 211 years later, with potholes, traffic calming, congestion, and road repairs continuing to make headlines in Aurora, one thing's for sure; Simcoe was right.

Feel free to e-mail Scott at: machellscorners@gmail.com



By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Tigers on defeating the Newmarket Hurricanes to win the semi-final series four games to two in a hard fought battle with most games going into overtime. The Tigers have also just eliminated the Stouffville Spirit in five games.

BRICKBATS to Aurora Council if they permit the 85-year Aurora Horse Show to be moved out of Aurora's Machell Park, the park members of the Agricultural Society helped create. There was no need for debate as Machell Park is their park and they should have prior rights for its use.

BOUQUETS to Ian Allison for his letter to The Auran about the various taxes imposed each year, especially on seniors, such as the education tax.

BRICKBATS to the cash-strapped Toronto District School Board for sending nine principals, a vice-principal and two supervisory officers to Holland to participate in a professional development seminar a week before the March Break at a cost of \$2,840 per person, while the schools scrimp.

BOUQUETS to Aurora Treasurer John Gutteridge for his informative reports on financial issues facing the municipality for council members, plus his efforts to bring the Finance department up to date by cleaning up outstanding odds and ends that have been left hanging far too long.

BRICKBATS to a justice system which permits a publication ban to be placed on the proceedings of more and more trials for no apparent reason. If a ban is to be imposed, the reasons should be clearly spelled out. Why the secrecy?

BOUQUETS to the Motor Vehicle Licensing Office on Mary Street for being one of the few government agencies where a real live person answers the phone during office hours rather than a computer. They might, however, consider a recorded message providing office hour information when the agency is closed.

BRICKBATS to the federal government for being hypocritical by spending taxpayers' money to promote non-smoking while at the same time providing tax relief amounting to \$500,000 to a select few tobacco processors who sort, grade and pack leaf tobacco located in a riding held by a cabinet minister who could be in trouble in the next election.

BOUQUETS to Governor General Michaëlle Jean, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, for her recent visit to Afghanistan, bringing cheer to the Canadian soldiers stationed there.

BRICKBATS to those in charge of the CN Tower for imposing a blackout ban on the daredevil crew hired to remove the ice from the 1,815 foot tower and not even alerting the fire department and other emergency services. Why all the secrecy?

BOUQUETS to the York Region Police Services Board for extending Police Chief Armand La Barge's contract for at least another two years as chief. It should have been longer!

BOUQUETS and an Aurora welcome to the operators of the new Bistro 171 which opened recently on Yonge Street in the former Trio Restaurant. Why 171? It's the last three numbers in its address, 15171 Yonge Street.

BOUQUETS to Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas for her Notice of Motion regarding the growing graffiti problem in Aurora. Evidently it is a problem across the region as police told the Crime Prevention Sub-Committee recently.

Letters to the Editor

Hard to keep Ev down: Kroon

To the editor,

I will admit, albeit grudgingly, that I, in fact, am an old guy, and as such my memory plays tricks on me from time to time, the mind not quite being what it used to be and all that.

All too often, I have a definite problem with remembering things I've seen or heard or read, to say nothing of the things I've said or done or written.

But of this I am certain, and by all means correct

me if I'm wrong, did I not read in this very paper, not more than six or so weeks ago, a promise from one of your elected representatives, that she would never write another letter to this paper again?

I'm certain I did. As I am certain you all did, too. But on Feb, 20, and the 27th, there are a couple of letters from the indomitable Evelyn Buck.

Definitely difficult to keep this girl down.

Unless she is hiding

behind the excuse of "having a senior moment" and forgot that earlier commitment, it does seem to me that when one makes promises, it is somewhat incumbent on that person to at least make some concerted effort to fulfill them.

Especially if you are a duly elected representative of the people.

I mean if you can't expect your politicians to do something as relatively simple as keep their word, what's next?

For all we know, politicians who get elected by the people who supported them, will then do exactly the opposite of what they promised to do to get elected in the first place. Like lying. All the time. Or misusing public funds. Or putting their narrow agendas before the needs of the people who they represent.

Or perhaps even jump to a party other than the one under which whose banner they were elected. Heaven knows where that will lead to.

Fortunately for us, most politicians aren't like that.

However, in this case, I believe the simple solution is in the seemingly ever-more likely event that you have no intention of keeping your promises, it is best that you don't make them in the first place, regardless of what justification you may have for doing so.

And in this circumstance the pretext for making those kind of clearly pliable pledges seems to be the intention to expose the inherent and congenial hypocrisy amongst members of Aurora Council.

Hmm...

If I was that kind of person, I may just suggest that in this case some meaning could be found in the old parable regarding the pot, the kettle and the colour black.

Except, I'm not that kind of person.

But maybe someone ought to be.

rules and respecting others.

To me, there are two types of true legends: 1) Those outstanding in their fields, and 2) Those outstanding in their own minds. Councillor Buck qualifies for Number 2.

I was truly disappointed I did not get elected but I was even more disappointed that she did.

With that in mind, I now understand the dysfunctional council.

At times I thought that perhaps it could be me who was part of that title but I rest easier now knowing that all of the time it wasn't.

I say that as the dysfunctional council continues today.

I feel sorry for those on council who have to sit and listen to her ramblings as I sip my wine.

Nigel Kean
Aurora

Hugo T. Kroon
Bethesda

To the editor,

Another poison pen letter from Evelyn Buck.

Just three weeks ago she announced she would no longer write the paper since people did not appreciate her.

Instead she would only comment on her blog.

I actually went out and bought a bottle of wine to celebrate.

But, oh no, I knew she couldn't stop herself and that poison pen from commenting in her long rambling say nothing letters.

The last letter, in last week's Auran, suggested no one could tell her anything about ethics or for that matter anything at all.

She knows it all including politics, poor people, devel-

opers, basement apartments and even how dangerous it is for children to climb hydro towers.

If her first lesson on ethics was in Grade 5 I guess they taught differently back then or else perhaps she just forgot what they taught her.

How dare she lecture anyone on ethics!

She is the one who constantly interrupts council meetings with long rambling statements that normally have nothing to do with the topic being discussed.

She shows no respect for anyone on council unless they agree with her.

Ethics does not include hitting anyone, interrupting others or calling those wonderful points of order that she always does.

It does mean following the

No intention to insult chief

To the editor,

I always enjoy reading "Letters to the Editor" but I confess I am floored by the editorial note on my recent humble contribution!

I realize one's sense of humour may vary from another person's but I honestly thought our worthy editor of The Auran would detect the tongue-in-cheek nature of my observation.

We realized there would be good purpose for the cargo but the mental picture of a human chain passing along bottles of water made us chuckle.

There was no intention to insult the intelligence of the Fire Chief or his wonderful crews whose fine work we appreciate tremendously.

Douglas Graham
Aurora

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Reviewing new council performance

To the editor,

In business and in politics, it is often the practice to review new leadership after the first 100 days as a barometer of what to expect from an incoming leader.

I thought, since we are around that mark in the new term of Aurora Council, it might be an interesting exercise.

So let's review the most newsworthy activities as reported by our trusty local

newspapers.

1. Even at its worst, the past term of council never made 680 News for poor behaviour.

Now on at least two separate occasions I have heard Aurora Council being discussed on the news.

When campaigning, Mayor Phyllis Morris pointed the finger at poor leadership by Tim Jones for being the root cause of the dysfunction. Under her new leadership things haven't gotten

better -- possibly worse.

2. Newly-elected Mayor Morris reverses her principles, deferring to the vote of council, and attends a closed meeting out of town -- an issue she fought loud and proud against while councillor because it was against her strongly held principle of transparency in government. A principle not so strongly held now she has the long coveted mayor's chair.

3. Council refuses to accept the decisions of high-

er authorities when dealing with the ACI wind turbine.

Interestingly, one of the key people driving council to ignore the higher authority was Walter Mestranero, friend of Councillor Evelina MacEachern.

How do we know he is a friend, you might ask -- well they ran on a joint ticket when Councillor MacEachern ran for her first term, as well, they were key members of SWAT (South West Aurora Taxpayers).

Regardless of your opinion on the issue, the perception of conflict of interest should be more worrisome.

4. Council retreated to a closed door meeting to discuss the appointment of the same Walter Mestranero as a member of the Committee of Adjustment. As S. Lee questions in a letter (Auroran, March 13), the concern about cosiness between councillors and citizen members of an elected body is concerning.

Is this a potential back door for council to influence an independent decision-making body?

5. Dear Richard gives a Bouquet to Aurora Council (Auroran, March 13), for finally bringing an attitude of respect to a recent Council meeting. Congratulations! However, in the very last paragraph of the article on the meeting where the ACI issue was finally put to rest it states; "Mayor Morris and Councillor Evelina MacEachern were not at the meeting." Hmm, I wonder if there is a connection.

6. Last term, while a councillor, Mayor Morris fought long and hard on two separate occasions to create an imaginary street in the Town Hall parking lot so that the Town Hall would no longer be listed on John West Way -- thus taking away an honour bestowed on long-serving local politician John West by a previous Council.

The reasoning was to prevent a sitting councillor from having an advantage in

the next election with his name on all letterhead being issued from the Town (see former Councillor Nigel Kean's letter Auroran, March 13).

Now that Mayor Morris may herself be seeking re-election, we have four-colour pictures emblazed across the bottom of all town letterhead.

Another change in principles?

7. Mayor Morris wants to update the current Code of Ethics to add more teeth. For three years she undermined the workings of a previous mayor and council to effect her own personal agenda.

Now she wants to gag others from speaking their mind.

Council's behaviour was fine until last term and this, with and without a Code of Ethics.

Surely it's not the Code of Ethics that needs to change, but the people's behaviour.

Being a strong leader is not about making your team do your bidding -- but about raising them up to achieve their best.

Our best is achieved by working together towards a common goal.

This kind of experienced leadership is lacking at the council table today -- not a Code of Ethics.

I hope our new Mayor realizes this soon and starts building a team, and starts putting the Town priorities ahead of her own.

Bill Hogg
Aurora

Group seeks donations for spring rummage sale

To the editor,

The Catholic Women's League of Our Lady of Grace parish, Aurora, is sponsoring its annual Our Lady of Grace Spring Rummage Sale Friday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 28, from 9

a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Lynett Hall, 16 Catherine Street, Aurora.

We will be happy to receive any donations of clothing (clean, usable and in good condition and no underclothing); books and videos (in good condition); jewelry and children's toys

(in good working order); household goodies, electrical kitchen appliances (complete with cords and in good working order); furniture (in good condition); linens, material and wool (please no items which are under government regulations, such as car seats); and musical

equipment (in good condition).

These items may be dropped off at the Lynett Hall Wednesday, April 25 and Thursday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

This event is open to all of the community of Aurora and surrounding areas and we look forward to making our eighth annual rummage sale successful and pleasant for everyone.

The funds derived from this sale will be used by the CWL for parish endeavours.

Refreshments will be served throughout the sale days.

Belinda Higgs
Caroline Berryman
Co-presidents
OLG Parish CWL

Bird Box project progressing well

To the editor,

The Aurora Environmental Committee's project to erect 75 bird boxes on Earth Day is progressing well.

John and Margaret Bahan of Foxley Green kindly donated pine board and Tom Crozier has made 30 boxes.

Jim Spring, who donated a large area of his farm to Ducks Unlimited to create a wildlife park in Aurora, donated three-quarter inch plywood and con-

structed kits to make 20 boxes for chickadees, house wrens and nuthatches.

Royal Woodworking and Home Depot agreed to donate several sheets of three-quarter inch plywood and other materials.

The Aurora Senior Citizens' woodworking group has agreed to cut this up to make an additional 30 bird box kits for bluebirds and tree swallows.

It is intended that a workshop will be held March 25 in the West McKenzie Room of the Aurora Seniors' Centre, 5 Municipal Drive, across from the Town Hall, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

This will enable volunteers, both young and old, to glue and nail the kits with a view to installing the completed boxes in the Aurora Wildlife Park and on other publicly owned land on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22.

Don't forget to bring a hammer.

If you require further information on building boxes or helping to erect them on Earth Day, phone me at Merlin's Hollow, 905-727-8979 or call the Project Coordinator, Catherine Marshall at 905-713-2629.

David Tomlinson
Aurora

Coincidence?

To the editor,

Re: "Subdued debate brings peace to turbine issue", Auroran, March 13.

So, according to the story "for the first time since the application by Aurora Cable Internet to install three wind turbines...the debate at council was quiet and subdued. There was no delegation of citizens opposing the application or demands from members of council for more and more staff reports..."

Is it merely a coincidence that "Mayor Morris and Councillor Evelina MacEachern were not in attendance at the meeting"? I think not.

George Williams
Aurora

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Politicians must have servant attitude: reader

To the editor,

When people get good results they feel good about themselves. They are clear on what they do.

Their relationships are sound and love those that they have in their life and their work place, including family and friends, church or the council of Aurora.

To achieve good results one must have the ability to serve.

In other words accept that a serving heart and an attitude of service is a requirement for good

results.

The post modern era requires that one has the ability to accept others as well as allow for solid relationship building and the ability to connect to others.

The personal relationship era has arrived in a major way.

Those who get elected to lead in politics, business and other organizations must have a servant attitude that empowers others.

It is no longer about power to achieve good results but about one's feelings, opportunity and hope

for all to achieve good results.

It is time Aurora councillors and other people serving the residents of Aurora understand this.

Directional management and preaching and demanding is no longer getting good results or growth.

Young people as well as those who are older wish to be real and involved and accepted for what they bring to the table at any time including our town staff and politicians at all levels.

Results large or small in any endeavour make people

feel good about themselves.

Encouraging people to get those results makes for an infusion of influence and a power to achieve.

When people in your family, organization or town council are encouraged to create solutions or bring solutions there is a great ability for people or a situation to change.

Things begin to multiply and people feel the real infusion of influence that will gain results for themselves as well as for others.

The fighting for power and the recognition era has

passed and the team approach, working with others as well as partnering with other people and organizations, becomes reality for the years ahead for good results.

We see it already happening in the airline and other industry and consumer environment.

However where one still has to gain good results is in small business, political arenas and in churches across the nation and across all denominations and ages.

The dwindling of church attendance, for example, is that it has become far too focused on organization and doing things rather than understanding the requirement of a personal relationship with their people and their God.

Within churches on average pastors/priests are trained on preaching systems and procedural focus rather than the ability to build personal relationships with real people for good results.

Politicians and pastoral individuals preach from a distance but few can relate to the personal needs of the people they serve or sit beside.

The lack of a serving

heart is the one that is not understanding the real needs of the people one serves or even the simple ability to relate to them.

In business one needs to know the needs of the customers and provide the service they require thus both get good results.

Then they become loyal and willing to develop a working relationship or even partnering to get those good results.

Many people continue to complain and be a judge over actions of their peers or people they work with or even socialize with including our political council members.

The real infusion of influence and allowing people to be encouraged in any situation with empowerment to think and enjoy the fruits of their thoughts, energies and effort makes for good results with good feelings.

Changes are inevitable but how we deal and communicate with real people is changing rapidly.

Focus on getting good results with your people and they will feel good to be with you.

Martin Mol
Aurora

Couple wonders if audit was done

To the editor,

On Easter weekend, 2004, CTV's W-5 aired a program about a chain of 17 Ontario nursing, retirement and residential homes that received nearly \$400 million over a period of 10 years from the Ontario government.

Taken from that report is the following:

Families of residents of the chain described the horrible neglect of their loved ones and the overall deplorable conditions in the facilities.

Apparently, documents showed more than 2,000 violations, cockroach infestations, "intense noxious odour" from a resident's gangrenous leg; no soap, no laundry, kitchen and other supplies.

Suppliers of food, heat, gas and electricity and garbage collection hadn't been paid.

Money meant for staff benefits through wage deductions wasn't going

where it should have.

According to a bankruptcy hearing, there was a "failure to remit to the proper authorities more than \$11 million in contributions for pension plan, vacation pay and benefits plan."

And "there was a "litany" of inappropriate transactions including the use of residents' funds for interim financing and the company was living from one MOH payout to the next, robbing Peter to pay Paul."

The story said the owners claimed to be almost broke while living in million dollar homes and driving a "fleet of expensive cars, including a Hummer and two Mercedes Benzs" and enjoying the use of a boat at an estimated worth of \$300,000.

The story went on to say that \$30 million a year of taxpayer money continued to be paid on top of the fees collected from the residents and their families.

In November, 2002, the chain went bankrupt under

a debt load of more than \$179 million.

Not only did government continue to fund this failing operation, but early on, a judge ordered the Ministry of Health to pay some of the debts.

Jim McCarter, Ontario's acting auditor general at the time said, "I would think if a nursing home had to be garnished three times, I would think from an auditor's perspective that would raise an alarm bell that this is a bit of an unusual situation."

Even two years before the collapse, "officials at the Ministry of Health had raised concerns about fraud and requested an audit, but an investigation never occurred."

In 2004, Victor Malarek of W-5 caught up with the then new Health Minister John Smitherman and was told, "hard questions need to be asked and at the end of the day, people need to be held accountable."

Canada Mortgage and

Housing Corporation guaranteed \$130 million in loans which also became part of the bankruptcy; at that time, the report stated the federal government had no plans to investigate.

All this is only part of the story.

When demands are made of government to continually increase levels of nursing home funding, it seems the public ought to at least be given answers and explanations from their elected officials, and in particular, from our Minister of Finance and MPP for Vaughan-King-Aurora, Greg Sorbara, to account for this gross misappropriation of taxpayer funds.

This extremely disturbing lack of accountability for public funds, at the very least, demands a forensic financial investigation be done.

If an audit was done, the results should be made public.

If it was not made public, why not?

If such an audit was not done, three years later, why not?

Ellen & Brad Watson
Aurora

How council should begin

To the editor,

Possibly, Aurora Council meetings should begin with the following:

1. A five-minute reading of selected passages from

the Bible.

2. A five-minute reading of selected passages from Plato's Republic.

3. A five-minute reading of selected passages from Principia Ethica by George

Edward Moore.

Having thus been sufficiently chastened and inspired, it might then be possible for members of council to attend to the legitimate business and concerns of the ordinary citizenry, whose hard won dollars pay the salaries of councillors and the operating costs of the Town of Aurora.

If certain councillors are compelled to preach about themselves they should seek a ministry for this purpose at any one of the town's churches.

George Hervey
Aurora

Councillor may be self-centred

To the editor,

I read with great interest the letter from Ms Buck regarding her ethics. Her personality came through loud and clear.

In her short note, using the word "I" exactly 19 times indicates she may be a bit self-centered.

I believe a lack of communication to be one of the ongoing problems in our council.

The residents of Aurora expect their council to interact with one another without ego or bias.

Perhaps we expect too much.

LeeAnn Keller
Aurora

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Model railroading dead? Don't tell Earle

By RON WALLACE

Word in model building circles is the art of model railroading is slowly ebbing away.

Don't tell Earle Lepofski. The Aurora resident has a basement full of model railroad equipment, from rolling stock to scratch-built buildings to a nine-foot by five-foot HO train layout.

Trouble with most of Earle's collection is it's still in boxes.

He has Lionel - that's O gauge in size for those who know about this hobby - equipment that's probably worth a small fortune, but he has nowhere to display

it.

Periodically, Earle and friend Chris Bahen, will meet in the basement, tinker on the layout, and run a few trains around the many feet of track the two of them have managed to squeeze on the small board.

Not finished, the layout - HO gauge (which is half the size of O gauge) - will boast an operating roundtable complete with two entrance tracks and a roundhouse to store locomotives and diesels.

Earle estimates he has more than 100 operating locomotives and several more which need some

repair.

A layout to display all of his equipment would likely fill the basement of his large home, although he does have a plan to run some trains from room to room on lines suspended from the ceiling.

A model railroad club in Aurora would be a great idea, Earle thinks, but he's not sure the interest is there anymore.

Once there was a huge hobby shop in the Aurora Shopping Centre, that downsized, then moved to another location, and finally closed for good.

And model railroading was probably in its hey-day

when Timothy Eaton (yes, that Timothy Eaton) had a sprawling bungalow on Old Yonge Street, with a model train in his yard that used to carry children.

In the basement, a layout that ran from room to room and covered the entire lower level, was an awesome sight.

There was a rumour floating around about that time, that Timothy wound up in the house after mother - Lady Eaton - returned from an overseas trip and found the top floor of Eaton Hall (now Seneca College) had been turned into a model train paradise.

She ordered Timothy,

trains and all, from the premises, and that's how he wound up in Aurora.

Rumours, strictly rumours.

At any rate, Earle wants to know if there are others like him in the community, who might like to start a

model railroad club that might expand to its own building.

Interested parties should e-mail RWall9999@aol.com or call 905-727-3300 during business hours.

Toot, toot.



Earle Lepofski surveys his unfinished HO model train layout that he is building in the basement of his Aurora home. *Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

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How to fight Wal-Mart

By BRYAN MOIR

Years ago, in the depths of the Cold War, there was a movie called, "The Russians Are Coming".

Fortunately, that movie was a comedy and the ominous title bore little relationship to the antics portrayed in the movie.

The coming of Wal-Mart to Aurora is an entirely different matter.

The breadth of services offered by Wal-Mart's Supercentre duplicate many of the businesses already in Aurora. The Wal-Mart Supercentre offers a clear and present danger to these businesses.

So what can local businesses do?

In order to compete, business owners need to understand how Wal-Mart wins at the retail game. Wal-Mart's greatest strengths are low prices and guaranteed stock availability.

Generally Wal-Mart offers only the top two to three national brands in a category in addition to their own "house brand". Suppliers of national brands are constantly pressured to provide the lowest price possible.

Wal-Mart has only one goal in mind and that is to offer products at the lowest price possible...and they are fanatical about this single goal.

Wal-Mart's other major competitive strength is product availability. Very seldom will key products in a category be out-of-stock. This gives Wal-Mart shoppers' confidence to return each week knowing the product will always be available, thereby saving time and money.

If your business model is built on offering the lowest price on a standard product offering closely resembling Wal-Mart's, you have already lost the battle unless you change.

So how do you win the war?

Sun Tzu, the legendary Chinese general, offered some good advice on this matter. He said "Attack him where he is unprepared, appear where you are not expected."

In other words, use your smaller business size, quickness and flexibility to your advantage.

First, offer products and services that Wal-Mart is not capable of providing.

There are many examples in Aurora of local retailers who compete on the basis of superior service rather than on price.

Local hardware, paint and decorating stores adopted this strategy when Home Depot came to Town and they have not only survived, they have thrived.

Second, extend the services that enhance your current product offerings.

Find niche markets and use specialization as your competitive shield. Ask your customers on a daily basis what other types of products and services they are looking for. Your existing customers are your best source of information.

Third, make your store a "destination". Give your customers reasons to visit, even if they do not always buy on each trip. Train your staff to be friendly, service-oriented and full of product knowledge. Offer what Wal-Mart can't. A cheery knowledgeable retail associate, and the smell of coffee in the air go a long way. And don't forget, advertise, advertise, advertise...and then advertise some more.

What role can the Town play to help businesses?

In reality, the Town can do very little. However, there are a number of steps that can be taken.

First, the Town, in co-operation with the Chamber of Commerce, could ask Wal-Mart to implement a program similar to the one initiated in Landover Hills, Maryland.

As part of its "Jobs and Opportunities Zones Program", Wal-Mart works with Chambers of Commerce, business groups, and female-owned businesses to provide support to local businesses by offering advertising inside the Wal-Mart store and by paying for advertising in local newspapers.

The Town and the Chamber are owed a favour by Wal-Mart as a result of their support. You should take advantage of it!

Second, the Town should consider implementing a policy that would loosen the bylaws for businesses in identified areas, such as the downtown core, and in retailing segments that would directly be affected by Wal-Mart.

This would allow them to quickly implement changes in their businesses that would be otherwise caught up in red tape. Red tape has consistently been identified as an impediment to business in Aurora. This would buy time and help local businesses prepare.

Third, the Town should invite interested parties to hold seminars and information sessions at the Town Hall.

This would allow businesses to gain a different perspective on how they might be able to better compete with Wal-Mart and chart a different strategic direction.

Retailing is a passion with Wal-Mart. They are constantly looking for ways to improve their game.

To prosper, so should every business in Aurora!

Bryan Moir can be reached
at moir@aci.on.ca

Aurorans - unique citizens

Aurora has had its share of unique citizens.

In June, 1980, Clayton Videan was giving a demonstration of caning a chair at the Ladies Section of the Aurora Horse Show.

The Aurora resident of 34 years caned his first chair 33 years ago for his wife's grandmother.

He explained that cane is actually grass that grows in the Far East, Hong Kong and Vietnam. He purchased a few thousand feet of three millimeter-wide cane material from a Toronto dealer.

Videan has another passion - cake decorating - which is not surprising as his first job in Aurora was with Scanlon Bakery.

After he retired he went to Chicago and took a course in cake decorating. Many young Aurora couples had their wedding cake decorated by Videan.

Bernard LeMaitre was the perfect person to win a jukebox. The Kennedy Street resident had been an avid record collector for years and had more than 1,200 in his private collection.

In a national contest in January, 1980, LeMaitre's name was one of three in Ontario selected to win spectacular jukebox prizes.

The jukebox was not your average corner restaurant model. The Seeburg micro-computerized stereo phonograph held 279 records and was valued at around \$3,000.

He had collected many original recordings over the years. He was a member of the International Association of Jazz Record Collectors and the U.S. Jazzology Group. The only problem he had with his prize was where to put it.

He was such an expert in the field that CBC Radio often consulted him and borrowed from his collection of recordings to do Great Moments in Jazz.

By 1982, Dennis James of Aurora was one of Canada's premier motocross riders.

The former Aurora High School student was looking forward to the 1982 Canadian championships riding a new Honda bike with Honda Canada as his new sponsor.

James competed out of Nielsen's Motor Sports of Aurora in partnership with long-time fellow competitor and friend, Erik Nielsen. The new team hoped to capture first place in the Canadian series.

While Honda supplied the bike and some of the expenses, Nielsen's provided the technical assistance for any repairs or modifications required.

Nielsen was also an accomplished rider, a former dirt-track Canadian champion and he planned to compete in the 1982 series riding on his Yamaha.

Fred Bullen of Aurora also had a passion for speed. He started with a 1955 Chevrolet he bought for \$50. He put bars on it and

went racing in 1966.

The Chev lasted him a month and during his first year of racing he wrote off three cars, but was determined to continue.

He entered the diamond class races in Barrie and Sutton Speedway. In 1967 he won so many trophies at Sutton Speedway that he received a silver tray as a special award.

He moved to Aurora in 1966 and was racing twice a week. Saturday he raced at Barrie Speedway and Sunday at Sutton. During the week he worked as a motor mechanic.

By 1972 he was racing four times a week in his new 1972 Chevelle 427.

He was now in the top class known as the super modifieds and he estimated his car developed more than 500 horsepower.

Retired Aurora businessman Clayton Pogue was an avid golfer and when he heard about a trip to the North Pole to play golf, he was quick to participate.

The party left Toronto to fly to Resolute, an Inuit community of 184 people located north of Baffin Island. It served as a weather station and a staging area for those heading farther north.

The base camp for the polar golf expedition was at Lake Hazen located in the centre of Ellesmere Island. Because the golfers needed a warm up before the big

event, a practice course was set up on the runway.

The flight from the base camp to the North Pole was 475 miles and took three hours. As they landed, the group sang "Sitting on Top of the World".

They carried off their artificial turf for greens and while the weather was sunny, it was a little cold for golf at minus 20 Celsius for the game.

Back at Resolute a golf ceremony took place to award the trophies with Pogue winning the Most Northern Hole-In-One.

Aurora's Heinz Hachenberg loved badges and insignias of police and fire departments from as many departments as he could find.

In September, 1985, he arranged for a badge swap and sale in the banquet hall of the Four Shields Restaurant in the Aurora Shopping Centre.

He was assisted by Wayne Cole of the York

Regional Police and about 150 collectors attended.

More than 20,000 badges were on display from departments all over the United States and Canada in what was called the first International Trade Show for Collectors of Police Insignias.

Hachenberg was once a police officer and following his retirement devoted his time to designing shoulder flashes and badges for police departments.

He started to collect badges when European forces started exchange programs in the 1950s and he worked in France, England, Spain and Italy.

By 1985 he owned 2,500 police flashes and badges from around the world and his collection was one of the highlights of the Trade Show.

He hoped to add to his collection of Aurora Police Force badges. At the time, he had obtained eight of the 14 known Aurora police forces in various parts of the world.

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Police budget needs another \$16 million to provide service

The York Region Police Services Board has approved a 2007 proposed tax levy requirement of \$180.6 million, a \$16 million increase or 9.8 per cent over last year's budget to provide police services to Aurora and the rest of the Region of York.

The numbers were presented to the Finance and Administration Committee recently, which resulted in direction to review the proposed budget and identify reductions, without any impact to the proposed staffing plan.

The proposed budget includes the addition of 67 officers and 35 civilian

members.

As a result the Service Board presented a revised budget with a tax levy impact of \$179.8 million including the additional officers and civilian staff plus a \$7.4 million contribution to the Regional Capital Reserve.

The revised budget numbers are an increase of \$15.3 million over 2006 actual figures or a 9.3 per cent hike.

The revised proposed budget will be considered by York Regional Council members prior to adoption of the regional budget.

That meeting is scheduled for later this month.



Three owners of the newly-opened Bistro 171 were on hand for their open house last week. They are, left to right, Brian Vallipuram, Omar Kelly and Richard Allardyce. Bistro 171 opened last week in the building that once housed the Trio Restaurant on Yonge Street, south of Mosley, and has been doing a booming business since.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

This committee makes town facilities accessible

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act was proclaimed in September, 2002.

It required all municipalities with a population of more than 10,000, as well as school boards, transit agencies and hospitals, to make their facilities fully accessible.

Municipalities, and Aurora was included, were required to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee of five members with one member of council, three members with disabilities and a citizen member or a stakeholder.

The purpose of the Accessibility Advisory Committee is to encourage and facilitate accessibility on behalf of all challenged persons by promoting public awareness.

The committee assists council by advising, reviewing and making comments and recommendations of interest to people with disabilities.

It also deals with community issues relevant to disabled persons within the framework of the goals and objectives of the Accessibility Plan.

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act requires all obligated organizations to prepare annual Accessibility Plans, which must be available to the

public.

Aurora Council established its committee in November, 2002.

One of its first tasks was to recommend that an audit of all municipal buildings be carried out to identify barriers and a consulting firm was engaged in March, 2005.

In May, 2005, the committee received the report of Associated Planning Consultants of the Accessibility Audit for the Aurora Public Library, Town Hall, Leisure Complex and the Community Centre.

In September, 2005, committee members were

advised that due to budget limitations, they had to focus attention only to the Leisure Complex and Town Hall.

The membership of the current Accessibility Advisory Committee includes Councillor Bob McRoberts, Ann Boden, Jane Boorman, Catherine Couchman and John Lenchak.

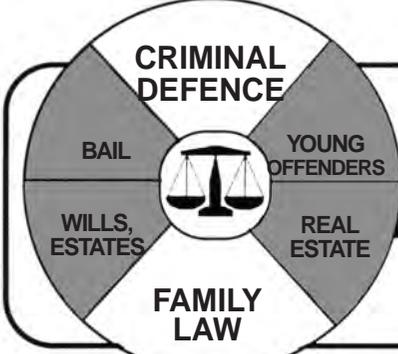
The committee meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month except for July and August, in the Leksand Room of the Town Hall or the Priestly Room at the Seniors' Centre.



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AURORAN SPORTS

Tigers win the North, meet Hamilton Friday

When you go to the Aurora Community Centre Friday night to watch the Aurora Tigers jump into their next hockey playoff round, you'll get a look at the Hamilton Red Wings.

Hamilton swept its series 4-0 over the Georgetown Raiders Saturday night, but three of the games went into overtime, including the first of the series that got all the way to double overtime.

Aurora, meanwhile, in spite of one small bump along the way, disposed of the Stouffville Spirit Friday night, by virtue of a 6-0 victory.

Skating results

The following skaters represented the Aurora Skating Club at March Mania held recently at the Georgina Ice Palace in Keswick:

FREESKATE DANCE

Introductory Men A-Gold Biathlon Dance: Matthew Rainsford 7th, Meaghan Jones/Garth Miller 2nd.

Introductory Ladies A: Sara Reynolds (Group 3) 3rd.

Pre-Preliminary Ladies A: Courtney McGrath (Group 3) 6th.

Pre-Preliminary Men B: Mathew Warner 2nd.

Pre-Preliminary Ladies B: MacKenzie Maunder (Group 7) 7th; Samantha Duncan (Group 10) 3rd; Teija Rom-Colthoff (Group 10) 4th.

Preliminary Ladies B: Courtney Tidona (Group 4) 6th; Hailey McGrath (Group 5) 1st; Alana Fabbicino (Group 6) 1st.

Preliminary Ladies C: Hailey Riggs (Group 1) 3rd; Tayler Sim (Group 4) 4th.

They ousted the Spirit four games to one, losing 4-3 in overtime in Stouffville last Tuesday night.

While it took five hard fought games on Aurora's part, the club did manage to come out of Friday's win with the Ontario Provincial Junior A's North Division title nicely secured.

Scoring two points for Aurora with a goal and assist apiece each were Joey Piccone, Andrew Favot and Doug Henderson.

Adding singles were Paul Zanette, Quinn Waller and Mark Thorburn.

Tyler Gordon stood tall in the Tigers cage stopping 25 shots to record the shutout.

Friday's opener against the Hamilton Red Wings begins at 7.30 p.m.

Last week, in Stouffville, Aurora came back from a 2-1 deficit at the end of 20 minutes, and actually led 3-2 going into the final frame.

However, Stouffville managed to knot the score then fired the winner six minutes into the first overtime from to secure their only victory in the series.

"You can't expect to beat a good team when you only play 35 minutes of hockey and get outshot by 10 shots," said Coach Jerome Dupont.

He expressed disappointment with his team's

performance.

Scoring for the Tigers were Brett Connolly, Quinn Waller and Daniel Michalsky. Alain Goulet and Joey Martin each added two assists while Mike Lalande in net for the Tigers stopped 41 of 45 shots.

A night earlier in Aurora, the Tigers were up by four goals before Stouffville finally found the mark more than half-way through the second period.

Five Tigers shared the scoring in the 5-1 victory, including Mike Dahlinger, Joey Martin, Andrew Eastman, Mark Thorburn and Colin Williams.

Game 3

Aurora 5
Stouffville 1

First period

A: Mike Dahlinger (Williams, Martin) 18:33
A: Joey Martin (unassisted) 19:04

Second period

A: Andrew Eastman (Martin, Dahlinger) 1:15
A: Mark Thorburn (Connolly, Piccone) 5:25
S: Randy Johnston (Kapolnas) 13:18

Third period

A: Colin Williams (Watts, McGill) 15:48

GAME 4

Stouffville 4
Aurora 3

First period

S: Mark Sullivan (Oliver, McIntosh) 5:29

A: Quinn Waller (Martin, Goulet) 7:44
S: Donovan Munro (Johnston, Trivino) 13:33

Second period

A: Daniel Michalsky (Dahlinger, Martin) 1:27
A: Brett Connolly (Thorburn, Goulet) 6:07

Third period

S: Randy Johnston (Smith, Sullivan) 5:29

Overtime

S: James McIntosh (unassisted) 14:23

Game Five

Aurora 6
Stouffville 0

First period
(no scoring)

Second period

A: Quinn Waller (Matt McGill) 2:05
A: Doug Henderson (Eastman, Ward) 16:42

Third period

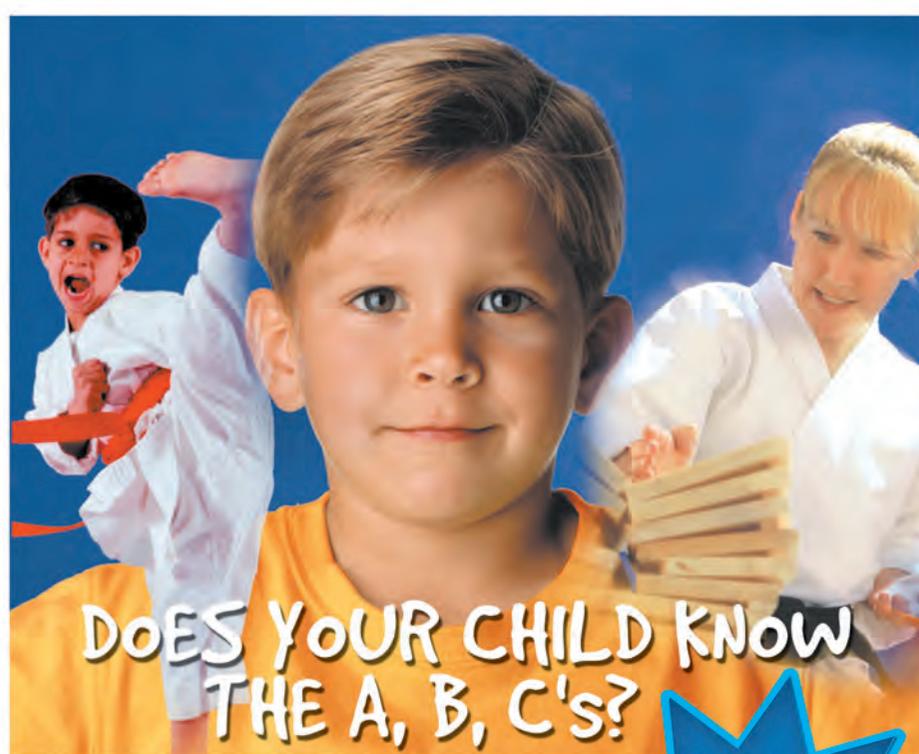
A: Mark Thorburn (Piccone, Connolly) 4:13
A: Joey Piccone (unassisted) 7:12
A: Andrew Favot (Henderson) 10:10
A: Paul Zanette (Favot) 18:23

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Bridge results

Tuesday, March 6: Oilly Dave Neil.
Smolak, James Longley;
Marg MacFarlane, Paul
MacFarlane; George
Jordan, Irma Field;
Anne Richards, John
Stewart.

Wednesday, March 7: N-S - Linda Lord, Hans
Jacobs; Shirley Hulbig,
Paul Graves; Lena
Jackson, Don Jackson;
Beth Stokell, Alex
Carpenter. E-W - Mary
Oglanby, Sandra Davey;
Jane Demers, Ross
Jenkinson; Gordon Saul,
Peter Brugger; Betty Saley,

Thursday, March 8: Novice Game - Hazel
McPhee, Terri McGuigan;
Tie - Dennis Mcfadden,
Peter Schneiders and Kris
and Phil Dontigny.

Friday, March 9: N-S -
Marg MacFarlane, Paul
MacFarlane; Shirley
Hulbig, Paul Graves; Tie -
Izhar Haque, Paul Caleb
and Rani Mahmood, Jane
Demers. E-W - Ross
Jenkinson, Wally Browne;
Don Jackson, Lena
Jackson; Gerald Heath,
Deanne Dennison.



Winners

An Aurora girls' soccer team captured the Can-Am 2007 tournament recently with a 1-0 victory over the North Meck South Carolina Reds in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The girls won the U12 Gold Division Championship. Included in the victory were, bottom row, left to right, Taylor Huculak, Michelle Minchella (call up player), Brett Hagarty, Samantha Minchella, and Rachael Wright. In the top row, left to right, are Coach Eric Wooder, Chelsea Wright (call up player), Maddy Appleby, Alexandria Kastanis, Lyndsay Batten, Molly Lowndes, Manager Judy Batten, Emily Gibillini, Taylor Wooder, Erin Simmons and Coach Frank Minchella. Absent when the photo was taken are Sara Schouten and Samantha Snedden.

Aurora Peewee team defeats Whitby club at tournament

The Aurora Peewee Hockey House League sent its regular season champions, the Tigers, to the annual Orillia tournament recently.

Placed in the "AAAA" division, the local boys played the top house league teams in the province and came away with a hard fought 4-2 victory over the undefeated Whitby Ultras.

Despite exceptional goaltending from Tommy Kerr, the Tigers fell behind 1-0 after one period on a screened point shot after Kerr made several dazzling saves to keep the Ultras at bay.

In the second frame, the Tigers found their legs, and after J.J. White fed a speeding Graham Joiner on the attack to split the Whitby defence for a scoring chance, Matt Noseworthy banged in the rebound to tie things up.

The Tigers dominated play, forcing the Whitby goalie to make several acrobatic saves, including break-away saves on hard-working Brendan Kirasack and sniper Ryan Dalcin.

The Tigers eventually took the lead with just over three minutes remaining in the second period on a heads-up chip pass from Jenner Dekkema to a streaking Andrew Curci who went top shelf for the prettiest goal of the tournament.

The scoring play started with great work in the Tiger zone by defence-

man Andrew Seguin and forward Brendan Mackenzie, who also picked up an important assist on the play.

Whitby featured several strong skating forwards but the Aurora defence, particularly Kurtis Lindner and Josh Hubble, broke up several dangerous scoring rushes.

Finally, a fortunate bounce off a referee's skate enabled the Ultras to pounce on the puck in the Aurora zone and knot the game at two with just over eight minutes remaining.

After winning a deter-

mined battle in the neutral zone, Coulton Speight was able to get the puck deep into Whitby territory with just over two minutes to play. Graham Joiner flew in from his off-wing to steal the puck from the surprised Whitby defence and deposit it between the legs of the Whitby goaltender for a 3-2 lead.

The Tigers weathered a relentless attack from the Whitby champions in the final two minutes, with Zak Toulouse-Sauve forcing a Whitby penalty and Curci scoring an empty-net goal to earn an exciting 4-2 victory.



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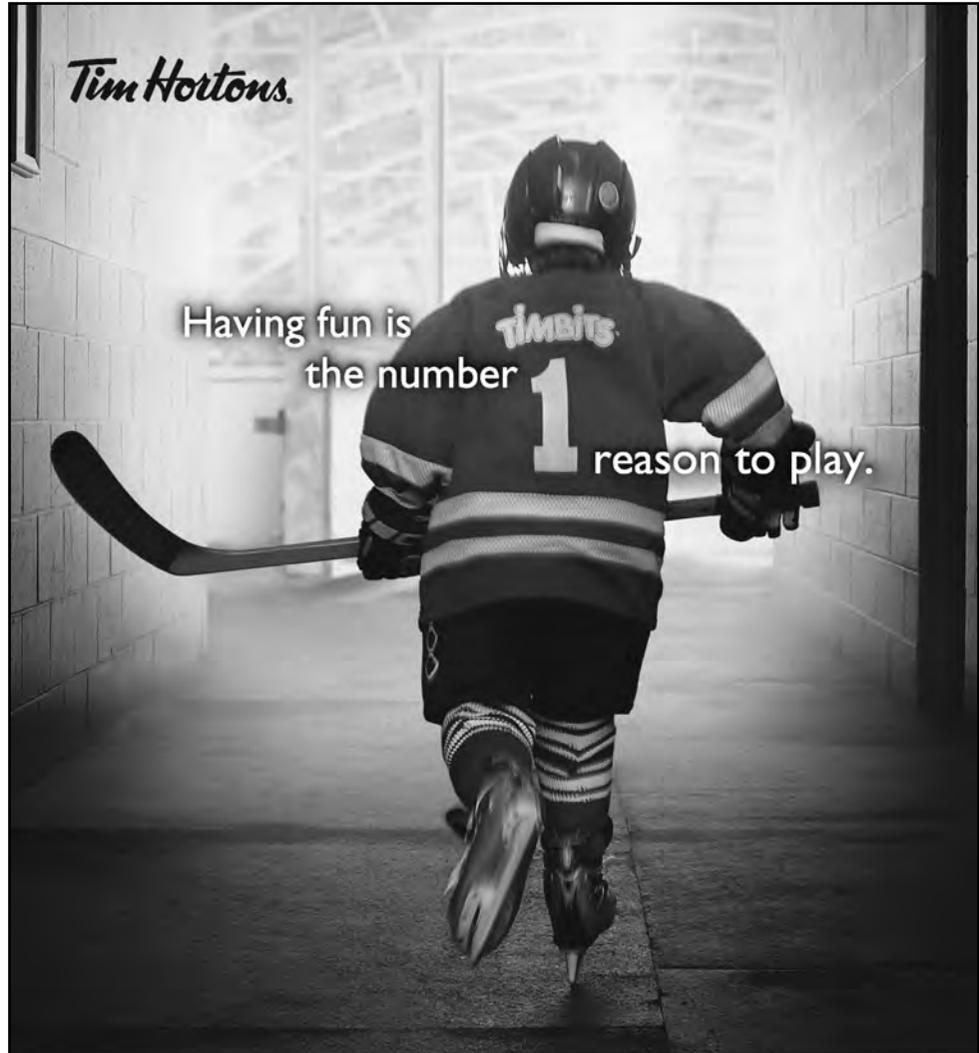
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Monday Night Hockey Standings to March 5

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PT
Tom & Jerry's	17	2	3	83	46	37
Law Insurance Brokers	15	5	2	95	49	32
Hightland Chev-Cad	11	8	3	98	74	25
Rec Cycle N' Sports	11	10	1	75	77	23
Priestly Demolition	10	11	1	86	85	21
Baldwin's	6	14	2	75	87	14
Masterclean Contracting	6	15	1	71	98	13
FPL Aggregates	5	16	1	58	114	11

Results March 5

Highlands Chev	10	Tom & Jerry's	7
FPL Aggregates	2	Masterclean	3
Rec Sports	4	Law Insurance	8
Baldwin's	3	Priestly Demolition	3

Player standings Including games March 5

NAME	TEAM	G	A	Pts.
John Archibault	Highlands	26	19	45
Steve McDonald	Law Insurance	15	20	35
Mark Sedore	Priestly	25	8	33
Steve Kavanah	Baldwin's	14	18	32
Craig McConnell	Law Insurance	21	10	31
Ed Kilroy	Rec Sports	15	14	29
John Anderson	Rec Sports	17	12	29
Bruce Chappell	Highlands	9	19	28
Kevin Brown	Rec Sports	8	16	24
John Yaremko	Law Insurance	13	11	24
Brad McMillan	Tom & Jerry's	9	14	23
Tom Hussey	Masterclean	9	14	23
Scott Crabb	Highland's	9	14	23
Darryl Thompson	Tom & Jerry's	18	5	23
Jason Muise	Priestly	11	11	22
Ken Rumble	Highlands	8	13	21
Frank Balkovec	Law Insurance	5	16	21
Steve Robertson	Highlands	9	11	20
Mark Lemmon	Law Insurance	6	13	19
Chris Neal	Highlands	12	7	19
Pat Davies	Priestly	11	7	18
Charlie Steenhorst	Rec Sports	4	14	18
Dave McQueston	FPL	10	8	18
Kevin O'Keefe	Baldwin's	10	8	18
Vince Greco	Tom & Jerry's	8	10	18
Darren Yaremko	Law Insurance	5	13	18
Pat O'Mahony	FPL	8	10	18
Mike Slimkowich	Masterclean	5	13	18
Gerald Briand	Baldwin's	8	9	17
Ed Jackson	Baldwin's	5	12	17
Doug Adair	Rec Sports	7	10	17
Joel Reeves	Tom & Jerry's	5	12	17
Bob Ince	FPL	6	11	17
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	2	14	16
Colin Leech	Priestly	4	12	16
Dave Holden	Tom & Jerry's	8	8	16
Jerome Flanigan	Priestly	5	11	16
Paul Gibson	Law Insurance	5	11	16
Dave Caverley	FPL	6	10	16
Dean Iwai	Tom & Jerry's	5	11	16
Mike Nisbet	Priestly	9	6	15
Alain Boudreau	Masterclean	8	7	15
Jerry Mackrell	Tom & Jerry's	6	9	15
Ron Van Noort	Masterclean	9	5	14
John Leeder	FPL	9	5	14
Brad Wilson	Highlands	5	9	14
Brian Horton	Baldwin's	2	12	14
Jody Matthews	Highlands	7	7	14
Andrew Dalton	Rec Sports	5	8	13
RonThieson	Tom & Jerry's	2	11	13
Bill Collins	Masterclean	4	9	13
Scott Thomas	Tom & Jerry's	1	12	13
Scott Sheppard	Rec Sports	1	11	12
Phil Podstasky	Priestly	6	6	12
Mike Caicco	Priestly	2	9	11
Mike O'Connor	Priestly	6	5	11
Mike Kensit	Masterclean	6	5	11
Peter Briand	Baldwin's	6	5	11
Les Nip	Highland's	2	8	10



Aurora Minor Hockey Association

Website: www.aci.on.ca/amha

Results as of Sunday, March 11



House League

Tyke

101 Tim Hortons Red Wings 7 - Jacob Cowl 2A, Jack Dion 2G, Liam Desouza 2A, Dimitri Mikrogiannakis 4G, Charles Peters 1G 3A, Graydon Belgue 3A, Colin Read 1A, Jacob Cann 1A. **103 Tim Hortons Senators Tyke House League 5.**

105 Tim Hortons Leafs Tyke House League 6 - Kyle Rice 3G 1A, Andrew Negri 2A, David Robertson 1A, Ty Boisseau 1G, Andrew Sutherland 1G 2A, Evan Coulter 1A, Colin McGoldrick 1G 2A, Brendon Farnum 1A, David McGee 1A. **102 Tim Hortons Bruins 1.**

106 Tim Hortons Penguins Tyke House League 9 - Reid Carpenter 1G, Jack Camplin 3G, Quest Rodin 1G 1A, Aidan Burbank 1A, Ryan Thornhill 2A, Andrew Sergejewich 2G 2A, Mark Carpenter 2G. **104 Tim Hortons Flyers 3.**

109 Tim Hortons Wild Tyke House League 12 - Owen Bourrie 1A, Joel Woodcock 4G 3A, Stewart Gable 4G, Lucas Dane 1G 4A, Jackson Clements 4A, Cameron Dyer 3G 4A. **107 Tim Hortons Lightning 0.**

108 Tim Hortons Sharks 5 - Chris Pettit 3A, Matthew Carney 2G, Jayson Perkins 1A, Kyle Wulle 1A, Jordan Torres 1G 2A, Alexander Simardone 2G, Sam Speranini 1A. **110 Tim Hortons Thrashers Tyke House League 3** - Ariz Bhimani 1G 1A, Tyler Frise 2A, Gordon Scott 1G, Ethan Brooks 1A, Brennan Young 1G, Andrew Warner 1A, Jacob LeBlanc 1A.

Novice

205 Mastermind Toys Novice House League 6 - Matthew Barnett 1G 1A, Connor Tripp 3G 3A, Tyler Williams 1G 1A, Anthony Loduca 1A, Matthew Colucci 1G 1A, Lucas Ackerman 2A, Connor Reilly 3A. **206 Chouinard Bros. Home Improvements 0.**

203 McAlpine Ford Novice House League 12 - Aidan Woolsey 1A, Lucas Bulmer 1A, Tristan Kuchar 2G 4A, Alistar Johnston 3G 4A, Spencer White 1G 1A, Daniel Cariou 1A, James Kellett 2A, Keegan Matthew 4G 2A, Adam Wilson 1G, Jordon Reeves 1G 2A. **201 Diamond Groundskeeping Services 1** - Jordi Severini 1A, Adam Caicco 1A, Collin Dyer 1G.

202 North York Heating & Plumbing 6 - Tyler Mckay 1A, Harrison Jarvis 4G, Petros Anagnostakos 1A, James Eydt 1A, Mitchell Haak 1G 1A, Charles Bennett 1A, Andrew Daniell 1A, Ben Kissack 1G, Alex Sesto 2A, Jordon Elliott 1A, Tarek Koudmani 1A. **204 Hitz Novice House League 1** - Riley Walsh 1G, Jeremy Miller 1A.

Minor Atom

301 Optimist Club of Aurora Inc. 6 - Cameron Screech 1G, Dennis Semenovych 1A, Alexander MacKinnon 1A, Matthew Hall 4A, Joey Hodgson 1G, Johnny Sherwood 4G 1A. **303 Tilemaster Minor Atom House League 4.**

302 Rec Cycle N' Sports 4 .304 HS Financial Services Inc. Minor Atom House League 1.

305 Aurora Canadian Tire 7 - Michael Walsh 3G 2A, Brendan Ruuskanen 1A, Terrel Cook 1A, Andy Butler 2A, Evan Nichols 2G, Jonathan Mohabeer 2G, Jonathan Jin 1A. **306 Danny's Boys Minor Atom House League 4.**

Atom

401 Shoppers Drug Mart Aurora 2. 406 Ab Cox

Pontiac Buick GMC Atom House League 2 - James Powell 1G, Terrence Lepore 1A, Lucas Brutto 1A, Callum Forrest 1G.

402 Orr & Forster Insurance Brokers 6 - Graham Killby 2G 1A, Ben Black 1A, Joey Stel 1A, Morgan Walker 1G 3A, Russell Johnson 3G 1A. **405 Laurion Law Office Atom House League 4** - Scotty Barker 1A, Tyler Futterer 4G, Brendan Elliott 1A.

403 Delph & Jenkins Surveyors 3 - Johannes Ekstrom 1A, Brayden Beswick 2G, Austin Coulter 1A. **404 All Pro Source For Sports Atom House League 0.**

408 Greenpoint Laser Products Atom House League 9. 407 Dr. Steiner's Drillers 1 - Ian Chappell 1A Brian Langdon 1G.

Peewee

604 Fresh Water Industries Peewee House League 3 - Kelley Hudson 2G 1A, Matthew Hart 1G 2A. **601 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre 2.**

603 Restored Sports 4. 605 Recreation Leisure Services Peewee House League 3.

Minor Bantam

702 ACI 4 - Daniel Fusco 1G, Eamon Reilly 1G, Michael Reilly 1G 2A, Egan Fennel 1G 1A, Rosario Arcuri 1A. **709 ACI Minor Bantam House League 1.**

Minor Midget

901 Emilio's Pizza 7 - Jamie Russell 1G, Will Ginther 2A, Geoff Knaack 3A, A.J. Ciccarelli 2G 1A, Chris O'Hara 1A, Jordan Brown 2G, Derek Isidoro 1G 4A, Kyle Ryan 1A. **906 Omars Shoes Minor Midget House League 2.**

901 Emilio's Pizza 2 - Geoff Knaack 1G, Jordan Brown 1A, Derek Isidoro 1G 1A, Mike Hay 1A. **905 Skaters First Minor Midget House League 0.**

905 Skaters First Minor Midget House League 4. 902 2 - Evan Campbell 1A, Scott Quagliarini 2G.

902 3 - Steven Foss 1A, Jay Lamont 1G, Cameron Smith 1A, Taylor Buxton 1G 1A, John Gardella 1G. **903 Minor Midget House League 3.**

Rep Games

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE 3 - Erick Bortolotti 1G, Jimmy Abels 1A, Jack Ellison 1A, Sandy Hudson 1A, Adam Newell 1G, Eddie Duffy 1G 1A, Torre Litke 1A. **TNT Minor Atom AE 2.**

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE 3 - Chris Klinowski 1A, Noah Spicer 1A, Jeffrey Stobo 1G, Jack Ellison 1A, Kory Wansbrough 1A, John Partland 1G, Sandy Hudson 1G, Andrew Klinowski 1A. **TNT Minor Atom AE 2.**

Aurora Tigers Peewee AE 5.
TNT PW AE Peewee AE 2.

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AE 3.
TNT Minor Midget AE Minor Midget AE 1.

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AE 4.
TNT Minor Midget AE Minor Midget AE 3.

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AE 3 - Ryan Finlay 1A, Brandon Giniotis 1A, Chris Burns 1G 1A, Brett Dutchyshen 2G, Darrell Evans 1A. **TNT Minor Midget AE 2.**

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2 WEEKS**

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Citizens lead battles in town's growth

One of the highlights of 1984 in Aurora was the strong commitment by citizens to their community.

They showed their spunk and concern on a number of controversial issues facing the municipality, as a political system is only as strong as its constituents.

By voicing their concerns, resident groups made their voices heard and caused politicians to listen.

One of the major issues was the future of Pine Ridge at the south end of town.

The issue really began late in 1982 when then Community and Social Services Minister Frank Drea announced the closure of the facility for the developmentally handicapped.

The announcement did not raise any real concerns as many agreed with the government policy of de-institutionalization of Pine Ridge patients.

They were to be placed in community facilities, which unfortunately were not prepared to accommodate them.

The big uproar came in 1983 when Minister of Government Services Keith Norton announced Pine Ridge would be converted into a juvenile detention centre.

While there was a need for a juvenile detention facility in the region no one wanted it in their backyard and Aurorans didn't want a jail with its high fences and searchlights at the southern entrance to their town.

The Ontario government backed down under such



Pine Ridge is former school, institution

pressure and challenged Aurora Council as to what the facility could be used for.

Council pointed out to all the rental space the province was using in the region and suggested the building be used as a mini-Queen's Park.

After investigation as to the structure of the former DeLa Salle College, built around 1915, the building was converted into government offices and later the OPP detachment was moved from Downsview to a new building on the site.

The smoke had barely cleared from the Pine Ridge issue before a proposal was submitted for a high-rise apartment development at Yonge Street and Golf Links Drive.

Residents claimed the apartments would ruin the environment of the existing

residential area and united to establish Conserve Aurora's Residential Environment or CARE.

The apartment plan was

scrapped but CARE lived on as a public voice for planning of development in the community. Later condominium units were built on

part of the property.

Later in the year with the hot summer months, the proposed Holland River Sports Complex, now the Family Leisure Complex, hit the headlines as Aurora residents voiced their opinion.

With a Wintario grant worth \$652,000 already approved for the construction of an ice pad in the first phase of the complex, Aurora residents demanded a swimming pool in the first phase of the \$5.4 million

project.

An unprecedented total of more than 1,000 responses to a questionnaire prepared by Councillor Martin Paivio indicated the people wanted a swimming pool and they wanted it quickly.

Once again, public opinion of the residents of Aurora swayed the original plans of the politicians, by showing their commitment to their community and their standard of living. After all, it was their town.

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Actually, Palm Sunday is something completely different.



Sunday, April 1st Palm Sunday

8:00 am Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist ~ Chapel
9:15 & 11:00 am Palms and the Passion. *Sung Eucharist. A service for all ages featuring special music, visual displays and dramatic interpretation of the powerful story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the crucifixion.* Nursery Care available.

Tuesday, April 3rd

7:30 pm Anglican Church Women Corporate Communion and Choral Eucharist.

Wednesday, April 4th

10:30 am Holy Eucharist ~ Chapel
7:30 pm Tenebrae ~ Chapel
"Tenebrae" is Latin for shadows. Increasing darkness is used to dramatize the increasing sadness of Holy Week.

Thursday, April 5th Maundy Thursday

7:30 pm Sung Eucharist
Maundy Thursday recalls the institution of the Lord's

Supper, the washing of hands and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Friday, April 6th Good Friday

10:00 am Solemn Liturgy and Dramatic Presentation
A solemn reflection on the Crucifixion of Our Lord. Nursery Care available.

10:00 am The Way of The Cross

Children journey through the last hours of Jesus' life.

12:00 pm - 12:30 pm Sacrament of Penance
(Private Confession) A Priest will be available in the Chapel.

Saturday, April 7th Easter Vigil

7:30 pm Family Choral Eucharist
This ancient Service begins in tomb-like darkness and includes the lighting of the New Fire (a symbol of Resurrection), Baptism, and the joyful celebration of the first Eucharist of Easter. A Resurrection Party will take place in the Common Room following the Service.

Sunday, April 8th Easter Day - *A great celebration of new beginnings and the promise of everlasting life!*

6:00 am Sunrise Holy Eucharist, followed by a light breakfast in Binions Hall.

8:00 am Holy Eucharist ~ Chapel

9:15 & 11:00 am Sung Eucharist *

All ages are welcome to participate in this joyous celebration of glorious music and praise. Bring a bell and ring in the Resurrection! An Easter Egg hunt will follow each service.

*Nursery Care available.

Palm Sunday was the start of the most important week in the life of Jesus. Doesn't it rate a place on your calendar? Join us. We'll provide the palms and memories that will last forever. **No batteries required.**

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Speaking up for our healthcare



"Mr. Speaker, the government has failed to address the issue of wait times in its first 100 days in office. All we have heard are vague promises and a budget with no money for them...If this is still one of its top five priorities, when will the government act?"

(House of Commons, May 18, 2006)

Belinda STRONACH
MP Newmarket-Aurora

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Senior Scape



Soon the trail will be active

By BRIAN WARBURTON

As a member of the senior community, I am looking forward very soon to a walk along the Holland Valley Trail System from one end to the other and so are other members of the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA).

The trail system includes the Aurora Community Arboretum which begins at the rear of the new seniors' centre.

Members of the ASA are very active in the Aurora Community Arboretum, which plans to plant about 200 trees in the park this year, or as many as funds will permit.

If you would like a tree of your choice planted, with a plaque to commemorate a loved one or an event, call the Arboretum at 905-727-6984 and they will be delighted to hear from you.

With the rebirth of spring almost upon us, I have a yearning to feel the sun, warm on my face and to see the trees showing their finest green leaves of a new season and to delight in flowering trees in full bloom.

The meadows in the park and the ponds and rivers are a delight when all is alive with vegetation and with birds, fish, insects and animals often unseen but abundant, nonetheless.

As you may be aware, a special General Membership meeting will be held Wednesday, March 28 at 1 p.m.

The purpose is to ratify constitutional by-law amendments.

Please plan to attend since the board of directors must have a quorum to validate and provide authority to the meeting and the proposed amendments.

Also, this is your opportunity to voice your opinion

before the members and the BoD.

The York Region '55 plus' games will take place from May 8 until June 13, and you may register at the centre Wednesday, April 4, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m.

Many of the games can be played daily at the centre, including snooker, contract bridge, darts, carpet bowling, bid euchre, table tennis and more.

So if you plan to participate, getting in a little practice will help your chances greatly, and now is the time to do it.

The computer in the reading room has been hooked up to the internet and the password is 'ACS', so now you can use it to e-mail and surf the web.

Computer maintenance will be the subject at the computer club general meeting Tuesday, March 27.

This event runs from 10 a.m. until about 11 a.m. and if you have any computer-related questions, think about them, and bring them to the meeting.

Everybody is invited including novices.

Everybody starts somewhere and listening to other members' problems often illustrates things you should know and the exercise is often extremely informative.

Incidentally, if you plan to sign up for computer classes, Tuesday after the meeting would be a good time to do it.

On Friday, March 23, the ASA will feature a Canada Revenue Seminar at 1 p.m. We will have snooker in the afternoon for ladies, and I note, many ladies play snooker with the men, and play very well.

Other activities include canasta, the very popular pickle ball, bid euchre, bingo, Tai-Chi, the sewing club and in the evening the Friday night dance.

Wells St. school's history is subject of literacy project

Want to know background about Wells Street Public School?

Just ask one of its students.

They have been involved in a school-wide literacy project focusing on the history and heritage of the school and a day of

heritage celebrations is planned for April 18.

Opening ceremonies begin at 6 p.m. and will feature special guest speaker; Jacqueline Stuart, former Aurora Museum curator who recently received the Lieutenant Governor's

Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement.

In addition, the first performance of the Wells Street school song will also take place.

Guests will be invited to browse displays in various locations throughout the school and explore a Wells

Street classroom from the past, the present and the future.

Former teachers, students and community members who may have special memories or memorabilia they might like to share should contact 905-727-4722.

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CORRECTION NOTICE

The Town of Aurora would like to correct the Telephone Contact Number on the 2007 Pet License Renewals

The correct number is (905) 726-4751.

The Town regrets any inconvenience caused by this error.



2007 AURORA FARMERS MARKET

Mayor Phyllis Morris, Members of Town Council and the Economic Development Advisory Committee are pleased to invite local vendors of fruit, vegetable and other fresh produce, plants, herbs, flowers and art and crafts to consider booking a stall for the 2007 season.

The Mayor also welcomes citizens who would like to form a committee to step forward to help make this year's local downtown market a great success.

Please email any expressions of interest to Mayor Phyllis Morris at pmorris@e-aurora.ca



RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

When Aurora was a small town

Back in 1966, Aurora had a population of about 9,000 after growing through its largest growth period with the population doubling almost overnight with the building of Regency Acres and Aurora Heights subdivisions.

That year, the administration staff of the town was increased to three members with the hiring of Carol Preston.

The other two members were Colleen Gowan in the Clerk's department and Dorothy Wardle in the Treasury Department under the direction of Clerk/Treasurer Bill Johnson.

Both Gowan and Wardle retired in 1991 each with 31 years of service with the town.

Johnson was also Justice of the Peace and dispensed justice on traffic violations.

The mayor had the title of Chief Magistrate but it was a title only.

At that time there was once only tax billing and the bills were prepared manually.

With the growth of the municipality, a new method of preparing tax bills was needed and Aurora became the first small town in the area to install an in-house computer and Carol Preston was the first computer operator.

With the aid of the computer it was possible to introduce interim tax billing so that the town's cash flow started early in the year and it was no longer necessary to borrow money from the bank for the operation of the town until the taxes became due.

The introduction of the computer and interim tax billing caused a sharp division on council as some of the oldtimers didn't want to change from the old traditional way and claimed that issuing two interim and two final tax bills would result in council being run out of town on a rail

That was Aurora back in the 1960s.

WHEN RESIDENTS BLOCKED A STREET

Back in May, 1972, residents in the Catherine Avenue/Catherine Crescent area submitted a brief to council objecting to construction trucks in their area going to Wimpey's Aston Dene subdivision on Walton Drive and an approved route was designated for the construction trucks.

But tempers flared one morning when a truck driver got lost in the Catherine Avenue district.

The driver, attempting to make a turn at Catherine Crescent and Centre Street clipped a hydro pole, snapping it in half.

The Wimpey project engineer gave the driver permission to use the prohibited Catherine Avenue route as an alternative, but the driver got lost and drove up and down the street two or three times causing one resident to block the street with his car and the police were called.

By 10 a.m. the situation had reached a point where police, residents and Councillor Illyd Harris were involved in a heated debate on the street.

The project engineer denied he had instructed truck drivers to use Catherine Avenue and there had not been three trucks but one confused truck driver.

Wimpey issued orders that all its suppliers must use Catherine Crescent only to get to its site and posted warning signs at the intersections of Yonge and Catherine Avenue, Maple Street and Mark Street.

TRYING TO GET A CROSSWALK AT HAIDA

In May, 1972, the school crossing guard at Haida Drive and Wellington Street West complained that motorists did not heed her as she tried to shepherd students to the Aurora Senior Public School.

Based on a regional traffic study that indicated

approximately 900 pedestrians, mostly students, crossed Wellington Street at Haida Drive daily between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. then Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth tried to get a pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection and more legal authority given to school crossing guards to control traffic.

The regional engineering committee claimed that a crossing guard capable of controlling pedestrians should be able to operate the crossing area without the aid of a pedestrian crosswalk, although the regional solicitor noted that the guard had only the same authority as a parent, but no legal authority.

Aurora Council maintained the pressure on the region and finally in November, 1972, was successful in obtaining a pedestrian crosswalk for the intersection.

Later, traffic signals were installed.

QUESTION ANSWERED

In The Auroran March 6, we wondered in this column whatever happened to Aurora's Syd Burstoff, the man who had a degree in "buttonology" and wore an outfit covered with some 8,500 buttons.

He was known as a Pearly King.

The answer came from Aurora's Barbara Stoecklin, who said Syd died in December, 2003.

Meanwhile, Aurora's Cliff Davies submitted some information on how the Pearlies came about.

He writes: "Londoners, born within the sound of the bells of the Bow church, in the centre of London, England, are known as Cockneys, with a slang language of their own, many of whom, called "Costermongers", made a living by selling wares from wheeled handcarts, called Barrows, hence the song "Barrow Boy".

"In the middle of the 19th Century, when these Barrow Boys or Costermongers were being harassed by thugs, they formed a security force for protection. "Members of this force distinguished themselves by sewing pearl buttons on their clothes.

"Later, in each Borough of London, these Pearlies, dressed in their pearl togs and led by Pearly Kings and Queens, formed entertainment groups and of course, their sons were Princes.

"Syd Burstoff was known as The Prince of Pimlico in the Borough of Westminster and after his father died, Syd became a Pearly King."

POLITICIANS SHOULD WEAR UNIFORMS

According to a recent survey, there is something about a uniform that instills trust.

Firefighters top the list of the most trusted and close behind are nurses, airline pilots, doctors, police officers and soldiers all with a ranking above 65.

Selected as the least trustworthy were national politicians and car salesmen tied with a ranking of seven, local politicians 12, CEOs 21, lawyers 25, journalists 26 and real estate agents 28.

Notice the last group of people don't wear uniforms.

POLITICAL STATEMENTS

In a statement to the Legislature in January, 1996, during the third reading of Bill 26 the Savings and Restructuring Act, Municipal Affairs Minister Al Leach said the legislation recognizes that municipalities had grown up.

"They have been asking us to stop treating them as children of the province. I think that Bill 26 is clear recognition that municipalities are capable of managing much more, that they can make their own decisions on matters of local interest and that they act responsibly."

Then, in February, speaking to the annual meeting of the Rural Section of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, he said that "Local decisions are better than those from Queen's Park".

Then at the August annual AMO conference, much to the consternation and objection of attending municipal delegates, the Minister implied that his position had been reversed.

His renewed "amalgamate or face the consequences" stance showed complete disrespect for local government and Bill 26 became the law.

Not much has changed over the years as municipalities are still creatures of the province.



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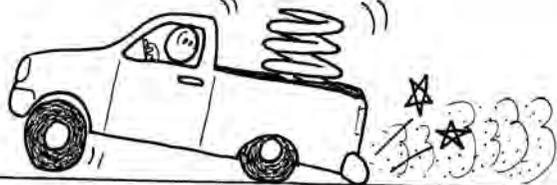
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Blood donor clinic at Legion March 29

Canadian Blood Services is asking Aurorans to celebrate spring by attending a blood donor clinic in Aurora March 29.

The clinic will be held at the Aurora Legion, from 2.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Severe weather this winter resulted in some blood donor clinic cancellations, and with the change of season Canadian Blood Services is encouraging donors to help replenish the blood supply.

"We must continue supplying blood and blood products for cancer treatments, surgeries, and accidents that happen every day in every community across Canada," said Tami Clark, CBS Clinic Recruitment Coordinator. "The need for blood is constant; that is why Canadian Blood Services is asking all eligible blood donors to honour their previously booked appointments or to act now and make a blood donation by calling 1-

888-2 DONATE. First time donors are always welcome."

The Aurora Legion building is on Industrial Parkway North.

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Chamber seeks nominations for Awards evening

Every year the Aurora Chamber of Commerce solicits nominations for the annual Business Achievement Awards in various categories.

"Celebrating Business Excellence in Aurora" will be held this year October 19 at DiNardo's The Mansion on the Industrial Parkway South.

Deadline for nominations at the Chamber office is March 30.

The Young Entrepreneur Recognition Award is for a person under 30 years of age who has developed his or her own Aurora-based enterprise.

The nominated individuals must demonstrate entrepreneurial skills/basic business concepts in any of, but not limited to the following areas: organization, management, marketing, hands-on customer experience and leadership potential.

The New Venture Award recognizes excellence in starting and operating an Aurora-based business within the past 36 months.

This year there will be three separate Business Excellence Awards, so it will be necessary to be very specific as to the number of employees when making nominations.

There will be an award for owner-operated with fewer than five employees, fewer than 25 employees and more than 25 employees.

There is also a

Franchise of the Year category.

The Business Person of the Year Award is an individual award.

The successful nominee will have provided a high standard of excellence in the Aurora business community and shown vision and leadership, innovation and achievement, business growth and development

strategy.

In addition to the above categories, the Chamber is seeking nominations for excellence in human resources, product innovation, technological advancements, research and development, marketing techniques, sales growth, etc. for New Corporate Sponsored Awards.

Nominees must be

Aurora-based businesses and do not have to be members of the Chamber of Commerce.

If they're not, they will be encouraged to join.

Nominees may be nominated in more than one category and you may nominate yourself.

Financial statements are not required and previous nominees are also eligible, however an

endorsement by your financial professional is requested..

Once the nominations are received, they will be forwarded to a judging panel of up to three independent members of the Aurora business community.

When the finalists are selected Aurora Cable Internet visits the place of business and tapes a

presentation by a company representative describing the product or service provided by the firm which is shown at the awards night.

Nomination forms are available at the Chamber office and must be returned no later than March 30.

For more information contact the Chamber office at 905-727-7262.

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CLASSES
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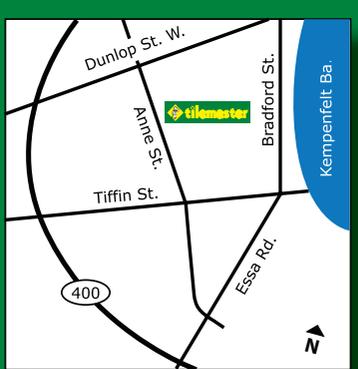
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