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Vol. 7 No. 21

AURORAN, Week of March 27, 2007

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One-time part owner of the Aurora Tigers junior hockey team, Aurora's Bob Montgomery, left, now a resident at Resthaven, shares a moment with Aurora's Frank Klees Friday.

Auroran photo by Rob Schuetze

Klees blasts Liberals for ignoring seniors

It wasn't a big crowd of listeners Friday at Aurora Resthaven, but it was an enthusiastic one.

Front and centre was Aurora's Frank Klees, MPP for Oak Ridges, and candidate for the Progressive Conservatives in the new riding of Newmarket-Aurora in the October provincial election.

Klees was not overwhelmed

with Ontario's budget, and called the McGuinty government's efforts an "insult to residents of long-term care homes and their families."

Klees made the statement to the small crowd at Mill Street's Resthaven, a 240-bed long term care home, at a quickly-called press conference.

Please see page 17

Town may help with school's renovations

Subject to further staff reports and approval by council, Aurora's General Committee has approved in principle sufficient funding in the 2007 capital budget to complete renovations of the Church Street School.

Members of the Aurora Historical Society want to convert the school into a heritage centre, complete with a museum.

In 2003, council approved an agreement with the society to become the sole tenant of the Church Street School for a period of 10 years with the option of two

additional five year terms.

The lease provided the society would pay all operating costs of the facility, would use the entire facility as a heritage centre and would provide public access and space to the Leisure Services Department.

In addition, the Society would have the right to sublet space to other organizations with the consent of the town and management committee provided 50 per cent of any revenue from any such transaction would be contributed to the Building Capital Fund.

The town would be responsible for the replacement costs of the exterior of the building and the costs for heating, ventilation, and air condition replacement costs for the building and would provide snow removal and grounds maintenance.

The agreement was amended in 2005 to create a Historical Society Capital Works Committee.

The terms of the agreement were also extended from 20 to 40 years.

In 2006 council approved the

Please see page 19

Pet cat dies in Aurora

retail outlets under the store's brand name.

Last week, the company recalled 60 million containers of its products but it was too late for many families.

The Grayson family of Cousins Drive purchased cat food at the Aurora No Frills store on a Friday and fed it to Calico, their black and white cat.

Saturday the family noticed the cat was ill and this continued into Sunday.

By that time they had heard about problems being experienced by other pet owners after their pets had eaten cat food.

In checking the food purchased with the list of recalled products, they found the food had been included on the list and planned to take Calico to the vet Monday morning.

But it was too late. Before the visit could happen, Calico had stopped breathing.

Peter Grayson tried to contact Menu Foods but the company wasn't accepting calls.

Latest twist in this bizarre story was a report that rat poison had been identified in some pet food.

The pet food industry in Canada is largely self-regulated and there is no government body responsible for checking that food for pets is safe for their consumption.

A \$60 million national class-action lawsuit has been launched in Ontario Superior Court on behalf of pet owners who purchased certain types of dog and cat food.

The show must go on

Even though he slipped on the ice Saturday, Dan Kuzmyk didn't miss a beat. Flat on his back, announcing the opening of a hockey event at the Aurora Community Centre, Dan kept the microphone on and kept talking to the audience.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Popular Aurora businessman, Vic Priestly, above, was honoured Wednesday night at the 5th annual Community Tribute Dinner presented by Community Living, Newmarket/Aurora District. Dinner, at the Carrying Place Golf & Country Club in King Township, drew more than 200 people.

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 keepsinging@look.ca.

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

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

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

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 fur-

ther 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 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.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

Sixth annual Bob Hartwell run, starts early in the morning from the front of Wells Street Public School. To register, visit www.hartwellchallenge.com.

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.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

Twelfth Annual Aurora Street Festival on Yonge Street. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JUNE 23-24

"More Musical Mayhem", a hilarious new musical review at the Factory Theatre with shows at 2 and 7:30 p.m. June 23 and a 2 p.m. matinee June 24, with part of the proceeds going to Breast Cancer Research. Musical is directed by Irene Ilic with choreography by Pat Wilson.



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Wal-Mart project gets committee approval

Two public planning meetings later and, despite opposition, the Wal-Mart project in Aurora is a “go”.

The application from Smart Centre, which includes a Wal-Mart at Highway 404 and Wellington East, met with considerable input from residents, mostly in opposition and concern for the development's impact on the downtown core.

At the second public planning meeting last month, council approved the bylaw amendment in principle with the amending bylaw being scheduled for approval after council had the opportunity to review and approve the site plan application.

At Tuesday's general committee meeting, after considerable discussion, approval was given to enacting the zoning bylaw and authorizing the Director of Planning to execute the site plan agreement subject to a satisfactory review by the Site Plan Committee for the development.

Representing Smart Centres, Prakash David supported the site plan which he described as a high standard design and a one-of-a-kind Wal-Mart store, with considerable landscaping, walkways and other public amenities.

He said the company was anxious to proceed as they would like to start construction by May with completion by the end of the year.

When asked if the site plan agreement coming back to council for approval would affect the target date, he replied that every week counted and delays could mean the

loss of a construction year.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner enquired about the request for additional funds which had been raised at the public meeting.

Mr. David replied that the town had negotiated with Smart Centres for a contribution to assist the downtown core and the gateway feature and any further negotiations would have to be carried out with Wal-Mart.

There were questions about trees, lighting, parking, and when the public would have the opportunity to see the plans.

It was pointed out that the landscaping plan, approved by Leisure Services, included 531 trees, 769 shrubs and 2,416

ground covers, grasses and perennials.

It was pointed out that the site plan was available on the town's website and the concept plans had been available for the public to view at both public meetings.

It was also noted that in addition to a cash-in-lieu of parkland payment of two-thirds the value of the property before the building permit stage, the development will bring in about \$3 million in development charges and \$160,000 annually in municipal taxes.

Finally, after all the questions had been asked and comments heard, many of them repeats from the public meeting, the staff report was adopted.

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Two children in this 1933 photo have been identified, but we’re not sure exactly where they are. One is Edith Anderson, who married John E. Sisman nine years later, and the other is John’s youngest sister Mavis Sisman. The picture

was taken, of course, in front of the Aurora Public School, better known today as the Church Street School. Recognize anyone else in the photo? If so, please tell us.



Poor Richard

*A municipal tax revolt is brewing,
Taxpayers can feel it in the air;
Unless they soon get tax relief,
They'll move away in despair.*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

The new Aurora Council is facing a difficult challenge in preparing and approving a 2007 budget which provides the services the people demand and at the same time stays within the taxpayers' ability to pay.

First of all, they are faced with an unreasonable, unjust property assessment system.

A recent study revealed that a house bought 25 years ago for \$90,000 would now be worth more than \$350,000.

At first glance the profit makes it look like a wonderful investment, but it's a mixed blessing.

If the house is sold to buy a new home, the new home will have increased in price at the same rate and if they don't sell, their taxes will have increased significantly as property taxes are based on assessment at current market value.

Many seniors on fixed incomes who have no intention of selling and want to live out their days in their home are finding it more and more difficult to pay their property tax bill.

A tax cap, as suggested by Conservative Leader John Tory, may help but it's a band aid measure when a new assessment system is needed.

For some reason York Region has the reputation of being a wealthy area as it is under funded by the province for social, health and other services due to its assessment base.

In addition, since 1998 the province has mandated that regional taxpayers send approximately \$85 million a year, on average, to Toronto to assist the city in paying its social assistance and social housing costs.

Next to police, it's the region's largest budget item.

There are many seniors and others in the region living on a fixed income who may no longer be able to afford to live here.

It's not just ever-increasing taxes in Aurora and the region, either.

There are increases in water and sewer rates, increases in fuel costs and hydro rates have soared.

It's hard to believe but back in 1959 the property taxes on the average assessed home in Aurora were about \$210 and this had increased to just over \$600 by 1975.

Today the average tax bill is close to \$3,000.

During the 1990s there was a tax freeze for about nine years as supplementary assessment caused by new growth covered most of the increased expenditures although some projects were deferred to future budgets.

Although the tax freeze was welcome at the time, it may have been false economy, as in the first six years of the 2000s, there was a tax increase of nearly 50 per cent.

According to a study, Aurora had the second highest tax increase in York Region and the third highest in the GTA.

Even with the tax increase, projects were deferred to future budgets and reserve funds were being depleted.

Due to lack of sewage and water capacity development had slowed down resulting in lower than anticipated supplementary assessments.

Not only that but to pay back the debentures on the new recreation complex, it is necessary to use the development charges on 400 homes a year for the next 10 years, or a total of 4,000 residential units.

If the housing market should slow down as it has

recently in the United States and it is not possible to meet the 400 units per year target, the shortfall will have to be picked up on the tax bill.

Not only that but many of the town's roads and infrastructure have reached life expectancy and will have to be replaced as the projects can no longer be deferred

Letter to the Editor

To the editor,

About a month ago I decided to venture into the City of Toronto.

I had business in the city and after that was accomplished I decided to park underground and treat myself to lunch at Montanas and some time in a bookstore.

Now parking in the big city has changed in the last few years.

You now receive a white chip after swiping your credit card. You keep the chip on you while away from your car.

It was all Greek to me, being the country chick and all.

After two hours I returned to the car park. The deal was, you settled up on the main floor so I then swiped my credit card after dropping the white chip in.

The cost was \$9.

I then looked at the white chip which had fallen below on to a stainless steel trough and debated "do I take it or leave it here – dah?"

Since I am not a big fan of reading instructions I left it!

"Big Mistake!!!!"

Upon arriving down at P2 (total desolation by the way) I discovered I did need that chip.

I parked my car again and ran upstairs hoping my chip would still be there, but alas someone had found my chip and

checked out for free!

Here is where the story gets a little hairy.

I then tried to find an attendant, which was difficult as these underground car parks are basically unmanned.

I pressed an intercom button on the main box and after a while he appeared, "the punk that failed Police Academy". He told me to "go wait in my car" as he was attending to two others who could not get any chips out of the box. When he finally came back to me, I said, "look, I am from the country and I hate the city but I did pay \$9 upstairs. I just forgot to take the chip."

He said, "well, that will cost you \$5 extra then."

I gave him all the change I had, \$2.50, and explained I hadn't worked in eight months so "please, could you give me a break, buddy?"

"No siree! Come with me, I have to verify that you were on the video camera."

As he held me hostage (without the gun), refusing to speak to my daughter on my "pay as you go phone" he searched and searched for me on the video camera to no avail. Finally as my anxiety level had maxed out I said, "okay, what is it going to take to get me out of here? Try

Being bigger is not necessarily being better

at an unknown cost.

While no one likes to be a pessimist, the situation for seniors and others on a fixed income is serious and some of the ever increasing tax increases must be stopped, both at the local and regional level.

Being bigger isn't better!

A country lady goes to the city

this card." He responded, "well, ma'am, that will be \$5 for the lost chip and another \$15 for parking."

"Fine, let's do it, I have to be at a meeting."

After signing my life away he released me (40 minutes later!).

I am a very strong woman but I was most definitely terrorized by

this ordeal and ended up with my lipstick up to my nose.

Estee Lauder, here I come!

Moral of the story "don't forget your chip and country girls just shouldn't head to the city!"

**Catherine MacGillivray
Aurora**

AURORAN

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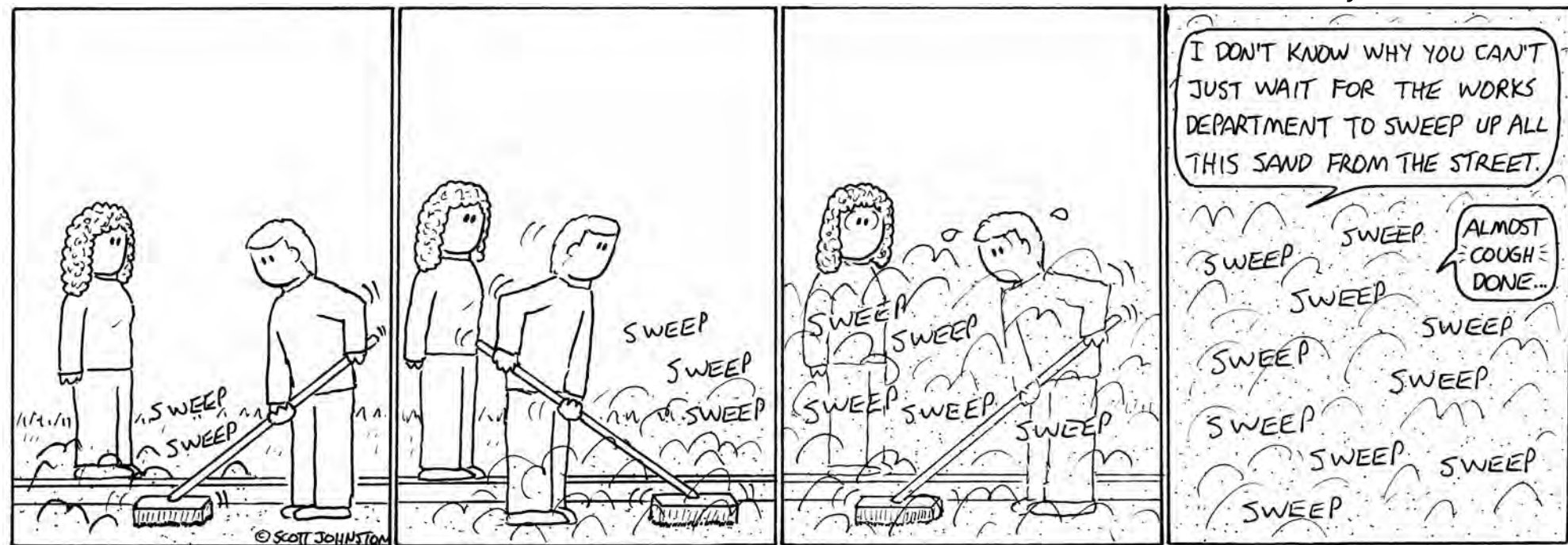
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More letters
on pages
6, 7 & 8



Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Studying the election system

We may or may not have a federal election in 2007. However, we will be having a provincial election October 10 this year.

One of the interesting sidebars to the provincial election will be the work of the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform.

This panel was formed by the provincial Liberals to look at our first-past-the-post voting system and see if it should be changed.

One hundred and three citizens - one from each riding - were selected at random by Elections Ontario from the Permanent Register of Electors for Ontario. Every registered voter was eligible to participate, with a few exceptions, such as elected officials.

According to the Assembly website, "with the Chair, 52 of the members are male and 52 are female. At least one member is Aboriginal."

Following months of consultation and deliberation, the Citizens' Assembly will announce their findings by May 15.

Should they recommend a new system, Ontarians will have the opportunity to vote on their proposal in a referendum to be held during next October's provincial election.

Any change to the existing system would require a 60 per cent "super majority" and be endorsed by more than 50 per cent of the ballots cast in two-thirds of the ridings.

Any voting changes would be in place for the 2011 provincial election.

The Citizens' Assembly regulation directs the Assembly to consider eight principles and characteristics as it evaluates electoral systems.

These principles include, legitimacy, fairness of representation, voter choice, stable and effective government, effective parliament, stronger voter participation, accountability and simplicity and practicality.

The regulation also allows the Assembly to consider any other principles or characteristics it believes are important.

The citizen representative for the provincial riding of Vaughan-King-Aurora (to become known as Newmarket-Aurora after the electoral re-distribution that will take place prior this October's election) is John Reston of Aurora.

According to the Citizens' Assembly website: "He and Gerry Lapointe have been married for 49 years and have four children (a daughter and three sons); and seven grandchildren. John says he was interested in taking part in the Assembly because he "wanted to make a worthwhile contribution to the community." A friend from his days at the University of British Columbia was on the B.C. Citizens' Assembly. John is a retired business owner, an avid golfer and a member of a local golf club. He and Gerry enjoy family gatherings, travel, and spending time maintaining and improving their grounds and gardens."

I spoke to Mr. Reston by phone last week.

He told me Elections Ontario sent out 124,000 letters at random to see who would be interested in serving on the Assembly. This number kept getting whittled down, and in the end, he was chosen as the ridings' representative.

He said he has voted in every election, and "that is a lot as I am 75 years old, but that it never occurred to me the process that I was using. I had not done anything for the community for a long time, and since I had the time - I did it."

And the process has been an "eye opener".

The first three months was basically the learning phase; meeting every second weekend to learn about the various voting systems employed throughout the world.

The second phase was the consultation phase, in which 41 public meetings were held around the province and interested parties made submissions. The last phase, the deliberation stage, began in February and will finish by the end

of April. The Assembly will then submit its recommendation.

They have reviewed - in detail - two voting systems, the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system and the Single Transferable Vote (STV).

The MMP system really is comprised of two layers. Some MPPs are elected riding by riding using the existing scheme and other MPPs are chosen according to a political party's popular vote from lists provided by the parties and not directly accountable to one area.

In the STV system, a preferential vote is employed. Instead of having 103 constituencies (soon to become 107 constituencies - to mirror the federal riding boundaries), the ridings are set up as larger districts, say 20 districts with five seats in each district.

The winner needs to reach a certain percentage of the vote. If the top place finisher does not reach the quota, the bottom place finisher drops out and his second preferences are allocated. This process continues until the first place winner achieves the quota.

The Assembly will decide which of the two voting sys-

tems they like, and then compare it to the existing first-past-the-post system.

I asked Mr. Reston if he had a personal voting preference. He politely declined to answer; stating that as a member of the Assembly it would not be right for him to comment.

I am looking forward to the Assembly Report.

I believe Aurorans owe Mr. Reston a debt of gratitude for his contribution to furthering our democracy.

On a different note: by the time that you read this column, the Quebec provincial election will have already taken place. This will not stop me today (March 23rd), however, from a favourite past time - making electoral predictions.

I hope I am wrong on this one: PQ wins 54 seats, Liberals win 52 seats and the ADQ wins 19 seats.

You heard it here first (okay, last). And by the way, the Leafs will win the Cup this June!

Next Week: My thoughts on voting systems.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Lions in winter

Bush.

Here, right in the heart of Aurora, is a great example of the type of mixed hardwood forest that supports maple sugar production.

In fact, until recently, there were demonstrations of tapping there every spring.

Today, although the tapping in Sheppard's Bush has been discontinued, the tradition of dousing pancakes with warm maple syrup has not.

For the next two weekends, our local Lions will once again be setting up their trailer in Sheppard's Bush, from which they will offer breakfasts of pancakes smothered in syrup (or syrup with pancakes in it, for those who really want a sugar rush).

And best of all, you get to eat outside.

I know; it all sounded good til that "eat outside" part.

But trust me, eating outdoors actually adds to the experience.

It's cool, but not cold. Sure you should dress warmly, but it's only pancakes, not a 12-course meal, so it won't take you too long to eat.

And it's a great time of year. With the weather warming and the days longer, Aurorans are emerging from hibernation.

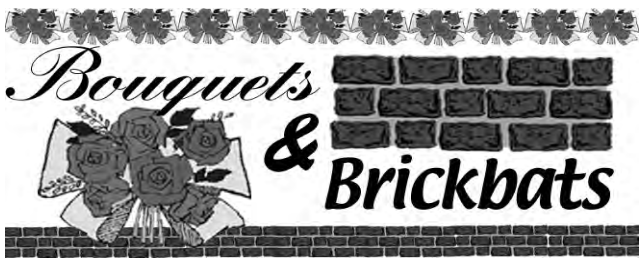
Better yet, we're emerging from hibernation before the mosquitoes, so swatting (another great Canadian tradition, by the way), is not required while you're eating - unless, of course, the dog tries to swipe a pancake when you're not looking.

It's a great chance to be outdoors without a snow shovel in your hands, sit at a picnic table and catch up with your neighbours, admire the beauty of the forest, walk the dog, and let the kids run around and burn off any of the maple syrup they managed to ingest, rather than smear all over themselves.

And while it may be an indulgence, it is only once a year.

Well, maybe twice, if you go both weekends.

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



By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BRICKBATS (submitted) to those "animal lovers" who not only do not pick up after their pets but allow them to do their duty right in the middle of the walkways. Let's keep our Sugarbush clean.

BOUQUETS to Robert Ryan for his excellent letter to The Auroran regarding the access and exit from the south and north shopping centres on Murray Drive, especially the right-in, right-out for the south plaza, which few motorists observe. Close it or make it a four-way intersection and eliminate the stop sign to the west.

BRICKBATS to council for even considering allowing the Economic Development Advisory Committee to comment on a planning application prior to the public planning meeting, as the public comes first. After the public and the applicant have their say, council and committees can comment and make a decision.

BOUQUETS to our neighbouring municipality to the north, as the Town of Newmarket was awarded the Economic Development Council of Ontario top marketing award for the their 2005/2006 Community Report. The municipality was recognized as Best in Class out of the 190 submissions.

BRICKBATS to the Aurora Post Office for returning a survey card twice addressed to Newmarket-Aurora MP Belinda Stronach in Ottawa to the sender, even though the card clearly stated "No Postage Necessary".

BOUQUETS to the staff of Aurora Resthaven for their presentation and petition to the provincial government asking for more funding.

BRICKBATS to Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor and Chief of Staff Rick Hillier for travelling to Afghanistan on separate planes just one day apart at taxpayers' expense. Don't they speak to each other?

BOUQUETS to Natasha Holland and Alice Sandiford of Regency Acres Public School for having their lovely, long locks cut off so the hair could be donated to make wigs for the Childhood Cancer Foundation.

BRICKBATS to the federal government for even considering spending \$170 million on a pilot project to reduce government waste. The project, estimated to take three years, would result in five federal departments sharing administration services and technology systems. Waste and more waste.

BOUQUETS to the Region of Halton for telling the provincial government that it will slow development and not meet the population targets set out by the province in its Places to Grow Plan, unless the province finds a way to help local government pay for it. York Region should do the same!

BRICKBATS to the RCMP for spending \$25,000 to hire a communications consultant to help former RCMP Commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli prepare for his participation in the Arar inquiry. Why is it necessary to spend money to tell the truth?

BOUQUETS to Adrienne Seggie and her family for walking from Hamilton to Ottawa to push for tougher penalties for street racers. Queen's Park has promised tougher legislation but so far no action has been taken, in spite of a Private Member's bill by MPP Frank Klees.

BRICKBATS to the Group 4 Securicor, an armoured truck firm in Hamilton, who fired two security guards following an armed robbery with \$90,000 stolen. The guards want their jobs back and they should get them.

Letters to the Editor

Don't worry...be happy

To the editor,

The other day my youngest daughter asked if I have always been happy.

I responded that I had my various days of concerns over the years but being positive and happy was always a sense and part of my life.

Coming from a positive base rather than always focused on the possible negatives has always been part of my psyche.

Recently, I was doing some office cleaning and ran into a Psychology Bulletin from the University of California on the research of Happiness which studied 225 other studies and 275,000 participants as well as some lab research on the subject, which was summarized in Alive Magazine by Galina Pembroke.

After that question I went back to read the article again.

"Happiness was described as frequent positive moods and emotions." Characteristics of happy, positive people such as smiles, being approachable and laughter boosts ones immune system, reduces stress hormones, enhances creativity and reduces blood pressure, according to the study.

While happiness can't stop illness it does provide a better environment in the body to fight serious conditions as well as supports efforts to overcome illness. One of the key factors in the study suggests that it is hard to accept happiness if we do not like or trust ourselves.

In fact, self-esteem is an essential element to being happy.

Our local politicians could learn from this.

Happiness outranks any income or age, it noted.

Self-motivated happy workers are less likely to show burnout, display absenteeism and engage

in retaliatory or hurtful actions.

Happy workers also outperformed their gloomy peers.

A happy person's comments and suggestions more likely stay with us, the research found.

Trusting in a higher authority such as God also plays a positive role for one's happiness.

It allows those with faith to share their burdens with their creator.

The study continues to suggest that happy people are more likely to get married, stay married longer and if they divorce, get married again.

Happiness seems to attract people and partners into one's life.

It noted that happiness does encourage success but success does not always encourage happiness.

Volunteers are in general happy people and get great encouragement and happiness from their volunteer work.

As I noted, the study must have been rather comprehensive.

However, I do believe strongly that some small percentage of people are having difficulty being happy through chemical or biological dysfunctions in their body. Yet through our modern medical teams and medicine one, too, has an opportunity to change oneself into a happy person and live a positive life.

Now, I am sure that we are not speaking about

times where we lose loved ones or share some trauma and are experiencing a time of grief and tears, which, to me, is also good and healthy to go through.

Mourning can be a process of happiness and share the positive joy and years that one experienced with that person even if it was a short life.

The life of Canadian Terry Fox and so many other young people come to mind and today we celebrate their life with happiness in doing good with fond memories.

To sustain happiness

one needs to learn to love.

We, as humans, need allies and friends. We need proponents and not opponents.

It is inherent that we all live for something worthwhile.

We are people of hope in a common search for peace, joy and happiness.

It is not in a happy nature to criticize and condemn but rather suggest and propose for the common good.

Marten Mol
Aurora

Much of Aurora “non-Christian”, writer maintains

To the editor,

I am writing in regard to Evelyn Buck's letter (or should I say "sermon") on ethics in the March 13 edition of The Auroran.

I wasn't sure whether to laugh or cry when I read Mrs. Buck's letter outlining what she learned from "The Master".

In addition to continuing her long established pattern of overbearing arrogance and her "I know what's best for everyone" attitude, she clearly demonstrates why we should separate Church and State.

In the many years she has lived (and served publicly) in Aurora has Mrs. Buck failed to notice that a significant proportion of the population of Aurora is now non-Christian?

While her reliance on Christian teachings may well work for her in her private life, it would seem to me that a more broadly based and inclusive Code of Ethics would be more appropriate and perhaps less offensive to those who may not share her faith.

Barry Dantize
Aurora

Actually, Palm Sunday is something completely different.

**Sunday, April 1st
Palm Sunday**

8 am Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist ~ Chapel

9:15 & 11 am Palms and the Passion. *Sung Eucharist. A service for all ages featuring special music, visual displays and dramatic interpretation.* 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 and the washing of hands.

Friday, April 6th Good Friday

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



10 am The Way of The Cross

Children journey with Jesus.

12 pm – 12:30 pm Sacrament of Penance
Private confession in the Chapel.

**Saturday, April 7th
Easter Vigil**

7:30 pm Family Choral Eucharist
This ancient Service includes the lighting of the New Fire ends with the First Eucharist of Easter. Join

the Resurrection Party 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 am Sunrise Holy Eucharist, followed by a light breakfast in Binions Hall.

8:00 am Holy Eucharist ~ Chapel

9:15 & 11 am Sung Eucharist
All ages are welcome to participate in this joyous celebration. 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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MAY I HELP “YOU”?

Unleashed dogs threat to children

To the editor,

This letter is to Aurora's irresponsible dog owners (you know who you are!).

Recently I had an altercation with two men outside of my daughter's daycare at St. Jerome School.

The men had their dogs off the leash and I approached them asking them to put the leash back on and pointed out they

were directly in front of a school/daycare and were being very irresponsible and endangering the children.

They told me that the dogs were good dogs and they would do whatever they wanted to.

I then said that dogs are unpredictable and anything could happen when around children or strange people that they don't know, even

though they think their dog could never hurt anyone.

I advised them that I had seen them previously with the animals unleashed and that I had called the Town of Aurora in the past and Animal Control to patrol the area.

They yelled at me to go ahead and call the Town because they don't care.

I said I would be watching them and calling the

Town again and they just became belligerent and more rude with me. One of the men is a previous candidate for Town of Aurora council who obviously has no regard for our bylaws and I, for one, am glad he didn't win a seat!

As I walked out of the daycare after picking up my child, they whistled and waved and taunted me from the schoolyard with

their dogs still unleashed, which just indicated their lack of regard for the citizens, and mostly the children of Aurora.

Let's work together for

the safety of our community to get these people and others caught and fined!!

K.L. White
Aurora

Some dog owners inconsiderate: reader

To the editor,

I must say how disgusted I am with some dog owners in my area!

I live in a newer area of

Aurora and like to walk my dog down the east side of Bayview.

With the warmer weather we have been having lately, the melting snow is revealing how lazy some of these

people are.

I have just returned back from a walk with my dog and had to watch his step constantly along the way!

As a dog owner, I make

sure that I pick up my dog's poop every time.

It annoys me that others do not feel that they should have to pick up after their own dogs.

Are that that lazy or just plain inconsiderate?

These people don't deserve pets as they are quite clearly incapable of looking after them.

They also ruin a nice walk for others.

I hope that these people read this letter because they know who they are.

Start picking up after your dogs, people, it's considerate and it's the law.

Responsible
dog owner
Aurora

This reader learned how to handle shredded paper

To the editor,

Last week I also put out a bag of shredded paper in a clear plastic bag.

Questions the chain

To the editor,

I have seen a number of pictures recently that have featured our new mayor wearing her chain of office at charity events or while meeting with members of the community.

Is she doing this to remind herself and others that, in fact, she is the mayor?

It takes much more than a symbolic chain of office.

To earn the right to lead, it requires a demonstration of leadership.

I suspect she is seeing now, how easy it is to throw the rocks compared with being held accountable for her actions or, in this case, inaction.

I can hardly wait to see Bill Hogg's 200-day review.

What a truthful and factual account.

S. Lee
Aurora

The truck took all my newspapers, bottles, etc., but left the shredded paper.

Just like the other "long time resident" of Aurora (letter, Auroran, March 20), I was very surprised.

The recycle truck has been taking the shredded paper for years.

I called York Region and talked to a waste management person who explained that shredded paper has always been unacceptable for recycling.

For the last month this policy has been enforced by York Region waste management services.

It was explained to me that the reason for not accepting shredded paper is that it gums up the recycling equipment.

York Region further explained that shredded paper can be dropped off at the Woodbine and Davis Depot on May 12 and 26 from 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

So save your paper and drop it off on these days.

I then asked York Region if there were going to be more drop days in the months of June, July and August.

He said that they are discussing the possibility of more days.

Starting in September, green boxes will be coming to Aurora and York Region. You will then be able to put your shredded paper in these green boxes.

Ray Matsalla
Aurora



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Begin your journey through Holy Week...



From Palms to the Passion
Raise a palm, hear a voicescape, and be moved by the Passion story.
Sunday, April 1, 10:30 a.m.

A Service of Tenebrae
Watch the light fade and the dark rise as we follow an ancient tradition.
Wednesday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Worship
Be among seekers in this intimate service marking the Last Supper.
Thursday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.

Our Minister: The Rev. Matthew McKay



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The first goal is having fun.

He wonders about councillor's word

To the editor,

Re. "Hard to keep Ev
down: Kroon",
"Councillor said she
wouldn't write letters",
"Letters to the Editor,
The Auroran, Week of
March 20.

"I shall heretofore con-
fine my efforts to my blog-
ging boudoir. I realize not
everyone is wired but if
our editor spots some-
thing he thinks might be
of interest to Auroran

readers, it shall be
yours."

These were the very
words written by Evelyn
Buck back in January,
2007, in both a "final"
Letter to the Editor in The
Auroran, and on her web-
site blog.

Two letters written to
the editor in the previous
edition of The Auroran
would seem to beg the
question as to why she
didn't keep her word.

I wondered the same
thing, as Ms. Buck's

"final" letter was written in
response to a letter I
wrote challenging her
assessment of the new
Aurora Council, and their
ability to govern based on
respect and teamwork.

Ms Buck does, howev-
er, leave the door open,
by inviting the Editor of
The Auroran to reprint
any of Ms. Buck's blog
entries if he feels they are
"of interest".

I can only guess that
this must be the case,
that the Editor of The

Auroran has taken it upon
himself to reprint her lat-
est entries, as I'm sure
Ms Buck, who spends a
considerable amount of
time preaching of her eth-
ical ways, would never go
back on her word - espe-
cially a word she gave in
print.

Or, perhaps, I'm just
too naive to believe that a
politician would ever be
less than truthful...

I'm sure we'll all find
out the truth in this edition
of The Auroran.

I expect Ms. Buck will
have a response issued,
either through an "editor-
chosen reprint", or by her
own entry, if she chooses
to disclose why she has
broken her self-imposed
blog exile.

Two other unrelated
questions while I'm on the
keyboard:

To Belinda Stronach:
Ms Stronach, do you feel
your photo ad, showing
you in the Parliament
chamber posing a ques-
tion from May, 2006
regarding wait times,
really shows you to be the
"strong voice" you claim
to be for our community?
Really. If "Speaking up for
our healthcare" means

asking a weak question
almost one year ago, then
I hope you never choose
to become "silent for our
healthcare".

To Bill Hogg: Re.
"Reviewing new council
performance", Letter to
the Editor, The Auroran,
Week of March 20, 2007:
Mr. Hogg, did you pick the
Indianapolis Colts to win
the Superbowl on
Monday, Feb. 5th?
Just wondering.

Matt Maddocks
Aurora

ED. NOTE: The editor
has not removed any-
thing from Ms Buck's
"blog"...yet.

There's a bigger audience in The Auroran, Buck says

To the editor,

Nigel Kean deserves to
be promptly pricked by a
two-pronged prod in a
prominent part of his
anatomy.

Let all here present
note that I am resisting
the temptation. It is
against my ethics to kick
a man when he is down.
Even when he is begging
for it.

LeeAnn Keller takes
the time to count the num-

ber of times I used the
personal pronoun in my
letter to suggest I might
have an ego.

Let there be no doubt,
LeeAnn.

If you show me a prac-
tising politician without an
ego, I will show you a
consummate actor.

George Hervey, Hugo
Kroon and Marten Mol
offer convoluted disserta-
tions, the meanings of
which entirely escape me.

Of them all, not one

offers a challenge to my
contention that ethics are
a personal matter.

If a person seeking
public office needs to
have a document spelling
out desirable conduct in a
position of trust, then they
are clearly lacking in a
singularly important
attribute needed for the
job and should not be
elected.

I did say I would con-
fine my communications
to my blogging boudoir.

That was then. This is
now.

I post a blog several
times a week. I thorough-
ly enjoy doing it.

But I miss the broader
stage and the footlights
The Auroran provides.

Therefore, I have
changed my mind.

I will write to my friend,
the editor, whenever I
please.

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

Temperance and Reuben corner is a dangerous intersection

To the editor,

After being almost run
into at the intersection of

Temperance and Reuben
Streets many times during
the past few months, I would
like to point out the danger of

a two-way stop on a street of
four-way stops.

North-south traffic on
Temperance Street must

stop at every intersection
and Reuben is the only
east-west street that does
not have stop signs at
Temperance.

Obviously, most
motorists travelling north or
south think that anyone
going east or west on
Reuben must also stop and,
if they are first at the inter-
section, take the right of way
when another vehicle
comes into the intersection.

Now, when I turn onto
Reuben Street from Yonge, I
approach this intersection
with extreme caution.

W. Russell
Aurora

Reader aggravated by this intersection

To the editor,

Re: Murray/Mosaics
intersection

I am so pleased to
read the recent letters
and to learn that others
are also aggravated
when entering and exit-

Spring brings
out the junk
in Aurora

To the editor,

With spring comes the
clean-up.

I regularly walk west on
McLelland from Brookside to
Bathurst.

The melted snow has left a
huge amount of plastic and
glass bottles, cans, cardboard,
and paper along the sidewalks.

This, I am sure is indicative
of all our streets in town.

So sad. Big clean-up ahead.

Bill Hack
Aurora

ing this intersection.

I live on Mosaics
Avenue and cannot
understand why we don't
have a direct
entrance/exit off Murray
Drive onto our street.

This is something that
has bothered me ever
since I moved here.

I have experienced
many close calls with
drivers who appear

unaware that cars from
Mosaics Avenue also
have to use this road-
way.

I am truly grateful that
no serious accidents
have occurred, but I do
believe it is only a mat-
ter of time before two
cars collide.

D. A. Massey
Aurora

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shampoo and detergents."

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Briefly

Pinsent? Maybe

There's a chance Gordon Pinsent will be in Aurora April 9.

He has been asked to appear at the Aurora Film Circuit's showing of "Away From Her", the Sarah Polley directed film that has been garnering rave reviews and media buzz. Pinsent is probably best known for his role in "Due South" and his many appearances on the Red Green Show. If he shows, he would answer audience questions after the film. Also of note that night, a portion of the funds raised will be donated to the Canadian Alzheimer Society, and, the screening will be coupled with a showing of Oscar Winning animated short, "The Danish Poet."

Tickets are still available at R & R Revisited and the Aurora Public Library.

Still climbing

Booth rentals for the 12th annual Aurora Street Festival June 3, topped the 400 mark last week, and committee members have no doubt the event will sell out.

There are about 550 booth spaces available along the route which closes Yonge Street from Wellington to Murray for six hours the first Sunday in June.

Wanna play ball?

The Aurora Ladies Softball league is looking for players 18 and over.

Games are played Wednesday nights at the Town Park in a competitive/recreational League.

If you're interested call Trudy Berseeth at 905-727-4683 or Sheila Tipton 905-727-8285.

Pancakes

The Aurora Lions Club will once again host pancake breakfasts in Sheppard's Bush this year.

This Saturday and Sunday, they will be serving from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and next weekend - the Easter weekend - they'll operate three days, the 6th, 7th and 8th.

And, on Easter Sunday, they're planning an Easter Egg hunt.

Park in the lot at the end of Industry Street, just south of Mary Street.

Model railroad

To the scores of people who responded to last week's Auroran story on model railroading, featuring Earle Lepofsky, please be advised he is currently on holiday.

When he returns, he will be in touch with each of you, to either thank you for your comments or discuss with you the possibility of beginning a model railroad club in Aurora.

Day care centre issue may be near conclusion

Negotiations over rent fees between Aurora and York Region Neighbourhood Services, operators of the Crescentbrook Day Care in the Jack Woods farmhouse have been ongoing for some time and it finally looks as if they had reached a conclusion.

In a letter to the municipality, the agency advised they are prepared to operate the childcare program beyond March 31 but only on a clear understanding they would no longer pay rent after that date until a new service plan is in place or until reasonable notice of closure can be provided to families.

The original five-year lease between the town and the agency expired in the fall of 2006 and the full rent as stipulated in the lease up to and including March 31 has been paid.

During the period, the agency has operated the childcare centre at a significant loss and can no longer continue to so, officials said.

Agency officials said the rent required in the past lease was beyond the capacity of the service to pay and significantly exceeded rates paid by similar programs in other municipal and publicly-owned facilities.

It was also pointed out that Aurora has a growing and critical need for not-for-profit licensed childcare and suggested arrangements be made to use other town-owned facilities that could be made available in a more appropriate and cost-effective setting.

Back in 2001 council advertised for interested parties to enter a lottery for a daycare facility at the Jack Woods farmhouse and a random draw took place in July

that year.

It resulted in the town entering into an agreement with York Neighbourhood Services for the lease of the property at an annual rental rate of \$26,400.

In 2004, the agency met with council to review the financial operations of the facility and consider options to reduce the cost.

That resulted in a report to council in 2005 recommending a reduction in the rental rates from \$26,400 a year to

\$5,480 which was received by council as information, but further information was sought.

Staff members have continued to meet with agency representatives and, as a result of the last meeting, the letter from the agency was received.

Councillor Evelyn Buck

questioned why the municipality should let them stay if the agency had no intention of paying rent.

The town solicitor said that as yet, no breach had been made to the lease and agreed to bring back advice for council, which was adopted.



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Award-winning stylists at Aurora's Yellow Orange Salon & Spa compete on the cutting edge

Aurora, Ont. — The talented stylists at Aurora's Yellow Orange Salon and Spa continue to wow the judges at Canada's most prestigious national hair styling competitions. Stylist Lana Vaisbrod, acclaimed for her fashion-forward hair designs, has been named a finalist in the prestigious Contessa 2007 Newcomer of the Year awards and the 2007 Canadian Hairdresser Mirror competition, the beauty industry's equivalent to Hollywood's Golden Globe awards.

In Montreal, Yellow Orange Salon & Spa owner Jeffery Andrew Barkley, who competed in the 2002 World Hair Championships in Las Vegas

and 2004 in Milan, out-styled 40 competitors from coast to coast to take first place in the Allied Beauty Association's national competition, Canada's most elite beauty exhibition.

"We are pleased to be recognized for all our hard work on behalf of our clients," says Mr. Barkley, owner of the salon that has become Aurora's most popular since opening in May, 2005. "It's important to stay on the cutting edge of what's hot in hair in order to produce a timely look unique to each of our clients."

Last week, Yellow Orange stylists also worked their magic on the hair of Hibebe

fashion's models for a show at Toronto's Lobby Lounge nightclub during L'Oreal Fashion Week.

Stay tuned for more Yellow Orange kudos as innovative stylists Giancarlo Cornacchia and Jennifer Kasper compete April 1 in the Allied Beauty Association's provincial competitions in Toronto. During the conversation with Jeffery he did express his interest in searching for one more member to complete his team.

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Salon@yelloworange.ca

Aurora abounds with historical sites

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Those who have lost or forgotten their past often find that life in the present day world has little meaning.

This applies not only to individuals but to communities as well.

Neglect of the past is one of the great dangers of this modern age. By remembering the past, the future is saved.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation is a government agency that has assisted municipalities in preserving heritage of all kinds, from architectural to natural.

The Ontario Heritage Act enables municipalities to designate buildings of historical, architectural, or of contextual importance.

The building may be grand in scale and design, or it may be a utilitarian building that has played an important role in the community.

It can be old or relatively new. Designation under the act does not mean that a building may never be altered or demolished, but it provides some protection.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation's provincial plaque program recognizes provincially significant people, places and events.

In Aurora, the first designated buildings included the Church Street School and Hillary House.

The Aurora Public School, known as the Church Street School was recognized as a historical building. Thomas Kennedy designed it.

Constructed in 1886, the school is considered to be one of the finest examples in Ontario of a public school designed in High Victorian style with elaborate patterned brickwork and metal and wood.

The historic school was used as a training centre in the 1950s, reactivated as an overflow public school in the 1960s, then as the headquarters for the newly

formed York Region Board of Education in 1969 and later occupied by several community groups, including the Aurora Museum.

The building is currently undergoing extensive renovations to reopen as a heritage centre by the Aurora Historical Society.

Hillary House was recognized as a National Historic Site. Built in 1862, it is one of the country's finest and most complete examples of picturesque Gothic Revival architecture.

Built by Dr. Walter Geikie, the house, located on Yonge Street was often referred to as The Manor. It was later sold to Dr. Frederick Strange and in 1876 it became the property of Dr. Robert W. Hillary and later his son, Dr. Robert Hillary.

It remained in the ownership of the family and the last member of the family, Nora Hillary, sold the home to the Aurora Historical Society in 1980 but continued to live there for another nine years.

The society started work to restore the building to its original condition and it is now open to the public as a historic site and medical museum.

The house was plaqued in 1975 as a national historic site by the National Sites and Monument Board as one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture.

Close to the Aurora railway station is a plaque commemorating the First Steam Train which in 1853 chugged its way from Toronto, then York, to Machell's Corners, now Aurora, making the little hamlet the "Head of Rail".

It was on May 16, 1853 when the Ontario Simcoe and Huron Railway operated the first steam train, the "Toronto" in Canada West.

Begun in 1851 and completed in 1855, the railroad was built to connect Lake Ontario with Lake Huron at Collingwood.



Church Street School, built in 1886, is one of many historical buildings located throughout Aurora.

The Ballymore Farmhouse built in 1877 located on the west side of Bayview Avenue just north of the St. John's Sideroad, was a well-known sight for years with its spacious lawns and landscaping and its classic Victorian accents such as gingerbread trim and ornate verandah.

The farmhouse was owned at one time by William Trent, as associate of Robert Simpson of the department store fame.

It has undergone extensive alterations since that time including the turning of every brick to expose its natural colour after someone had painted the bricks grey.

Until the passing of the Ontario Heritage Act in 1975, old houses were demolished without question. Municipalities and their citizens were concerned about their inability to protect public buildings, private residences and community districts.

Following an appeal to the provincial government for some form of a rescue program, legislation was passed in March, 1975 to "preserve, protect and conserve" Ontario's heritage.

To designate a property, the local council must notify the property owner, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and publish a

notice in the local media for three consecutive weeks. If the owner doesn't object within 30 days, council passes the designation bylaw.

Once a building has been designated as worthy of preservation, neither present nor future owners can make alterations affecting the reasons for designation without written consent.

One of the buildings so designated was the "Red House", located on Old Yonge Street just south of the St. John's Sideroad.

The interior has been completely renovated and is now the Oakland Hall

Inn, an upscale restaurant.

Reuben Burr, a Pennsylvania Quaker, acquired the property in 1804 and built a log cabin and later a Regency Cottage. In 1828 the property was sold to Thomas Cosford, a blacksmith and carriage maker.

A second floor was added and the entire building was enclosed with local handmade bricks and named "Oakland Hall" after their ancestral estate in England.

In 1928, George Leacock, bother to

humourist Stephen Leacock, purchased the property and renamed it "Sunny Lea Farm".

It was later acquired by Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure and renamed "The Red House", after which she named her art studio.

Across Yonge Street from the Red House is the Willow Farmhouse. The land was acquired by Thomas Cosford in 1827 and remained in the Cosford family until 1903.

The intersection of what is now Yonge Street and the St. John's Sideroad was then known as Cosford's Corners.

The farmhouse was an excellent example of late Georgian design embellished with decorative patterned brickwork typical of the mid-1860s construction period.

The house had several owners in the 20th century including Hugh McRae of Split Lake Gold Mines and Donald Rogers of the Elias Rogers Fuel Company.

It was later used as the head office of Kwik Kopy and is now a private residence.

These are but a few of the many designated historical structures in Aurora. Take a few minutes and visit the sites for a trip back in time to old Aurora.



Aurora's railway station, constructed in 1900, has been designated and the town became known as "head of rail", after the first locomotive arrived here in 1853.

Auroran photos by Ron Wallace

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Parking in the square gets consultant's eye

A consultant has been hired to look at downtown parking - particularly the area referred to as Library Square - but the firm will have a couple of weeks before reporting on it.

A Request for Proposals was issued recently with four consultants responding.

The contract was awarded to Marshall Macklin Monaghan.

The extensive report was

tabled at Tuesday's general committee meeting for information and staff recommended it be deferred to the April 17 general committee meeting when the consultant would be available.

The committee agreed.

In September last year, council agreed to an expenditure of up to \$30,000 from the 2006 contingency fund to

engage the services of an outside consultant to provide a report on parking solutions in and near Library Square.

Earlier, the president of the Aurora Historical Society had suggested that buildings could be demolished to provide 67 parking spaces for the Heritage Centre in the Church Street School.

A motion that no buildings be

demolished, staff members prepare a list of outstanding issues, and that an outside consultant be retained was adopted on a 9-0 vote.

With a decision made not to demolish the former library and seniors' centre and with the leasing of the former seniors centre on a temporary basis to the Providence Learning Centre for \$1,500 a month, the committee agreed that a parking solution must be found.

One resident suggested making Church Street one-way from Yonge Street and to permit angle parking or to charge for parking, while another suggested more programs be planned for the two buildings and to encourage residents to walk, which they can do in the downtown core.

Staff members noted that citizens would be encouraged to submit comments which will be referred to the consultant and included in a report to council.

Popularity of the new Aurora Library has placed a burden on traffic spaces nearby.

The area in question is bounded by Yonge, Church, Victoria and Mosley Streets, and was home to a seniors' centre and library, both of which have moved to different locations.

Aurora Armouries picked as blood donor location

There have been plenty of activities held inside Aurora's historic Armories, but this is a first.

On Good Friday, April 6, the Canadian Blood Services will run a blood donor clinic from 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

The Armouries is located on Larmont Street, and takes up the northeast corner of the Town Park.

Holidays and long weekends are traditionally a challenge for blood and especially platelet collections.

As the Easter long weekend nears, Canadian Blood Services is encouraging Aurorans to drop around the Armouries and drop a pint.

Holidays and long weekends are traditionally a time when blood and platelet dona-

tions decrease because people are away on holidays or busy with family activities.

To help meet demand over the Easter weekend, the Good Friday clinic has been arranged at the Armoury.

Call 1-888- 2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283) for more information, eligibility information or to book an appointment or visit the web site at www.blood.ca.

EDAC's minutes grilled

The minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Committee were questioned by Councillor Evelina MacEachern at Tuesday's general committee meeting although she is not a member of the committee nor did she attend the meeting.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner advised that one of the applications to be considered at this week's public planning meeting was the rezoning of 11 acres of employment lands.

This was picked up by Councillor MacEachern who said council should get input from the advisory committee to be included at the public planning meeting.

CAO John Rogers replied that it was not wise to comment prior to the public planning meeting and any council or committee comments should be withheld until after the public meeting.

Councillor MacEachern argued the committee should be allowed to comment in the same manner as the Heritage Advisory Committee.

Staff members pointed out that the Heritage Advisory Committee could comment on heritage issues in accordance with the Heritage Act, but could not comment on planning issues.

Councillor Evelyn Buck referred to the Planning Act under which the public planning meetings are authorized and said the public had the first opportunity to comment on an application and council was required to withhold comments until after the public had the opportunity to talk.

Councillor MacEachern

expressed her concern with the process.

Councillor Al Wilson, advisory committee chairman, said the issue had not been discussed as it was inappropriate prior to the public planning meeting and it was a question of timing.

Councillor MacEachern

said the concern had been raised at the committee meeting.

Councillor Wilson motioned to defer the adoption of the minutes until the audio tape had been checked for comments, which was adopted by the general committee.

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Tigers draw first blood with 5-2 win

The visiting Hamilton Red Wings made it interesting for a while Friday night, but they couldn't overcome the powerful Aurora Tigers, who fashioned a 5-2 victory at the Aurora Community Centre.

Aurora, playing its fourth playoff round this season, had opened a 3-0 lead before the second

period was five minutes old, but the Red Wings found their legs and clawed back trailing by only one goal with eight minutes left in regulation time.

Another Tiger goal and an empty-netter gave Aurora the victory.

A total of 650 fans were on hand for the contest, bringing Aurora's

home town crowd to more than 4,000 in the nine playoff games that have been played here so far.

The second game happened in Hamilton Monday night and the third was scheduled in Aurora Tuesday night.

Neither result was available at The Auroran's press time.

Tigers, getting their

first look at the Red Wings this season, were backed by the solid goal-tending of Tyler Gordon.

Joey Martin, who bounced back after a vicious hit, led the team with a pair of goals.

Also scoring for the

Tigers were Paul Zanette and Mike Dahlinger while Alain Goulet put the game out of reach with his marker into an empty net.

Andrew Favot and Mike Dahlinger each recorded two assists apiece.

The fourth game in the series is slated for Hamilton Thursday night, and a fifth contest, if necessary, will be played at the Aurora Community Centre.

Game time for that one is 7.30 p.m.

Aurora skating results

The following members of the Aurora Skating Club successfully passed high tests at a recent test day:

Junior Silver Dance

Keats Foxtrot: Hailey McGrath, Teja Rom-Colthoff.

Harris Tango: Zahra Rajan.

American Waltz: Zahra Rajan, Alessia Chiovitti.

Rocker Foxtrot: Kendall Mannella.

Senior Silver Dance

Paso Doble: Sierra Chovanec. Starlight Waltz: Jacqueline Relke.

Blues: Jennine Brunton, Katie Sutton.

Kilian: Tayler Sim, Amber Cioffe.

Gold Dance

Quick Step: Jordana Goldman.

Argentine Tango: Fayme Cockshutt.

Skating Skills

Junior Silver: Jihyun Cha, Katie Sutton.

Gold: Sierra Chovanec.

Free Skate Program

Gold: Maya Goldman.

Interpretive

Introductory: Jordana Goldman.

Bronze: Jordana Goldman.

Creative Dance

Gold: Garth Miller, Meaghan Jones.

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Monday night hockey

Final league standings

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Tom & Jerry's	18	2	3	88	48	39
Law Insurance	15	6	2	99	55	32
Highland Chev-Cad	12	8	3	104	77	27
Rec Cycle N' Sports	11	11	1	78	83	23
Priestly Demolition	10	12	1	88	90	21
Baldwin's	6	14	3	77	89	15
Masterclean	7	15	1	77	102	15
FPL Aggregates	5	16	2	60	116	12

Monday night hockey results

First playoff round

Highlands Chev	4	Priestly Demolition	4
Masterclean	1	Rec Cycle	3
Tom & Jerry's	7	Law Insurance	8
FPL Aggregates	5	Baldwin's	0



Paul Rosen, a Canadian Olympic bobsled champion, dropped the puck to officially open the Triple-A Minor Bantam OMHA championships in Aurora over the weekend. Also on hand for the event was Andy Frost, the public address announcer for Leaf games at the Air Canada Centre and Q107 radio announcer.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Aurora to host hockey's Atom AA championships

Next month, the Aurora Minor Hockey Association will host the Ontario Hockey Federation Championships for the Atom AA division, including five divisions from all over Ontario.

The event will include a dinner April 12 at DiNardos Mansion and the participating teams will stay at the Aurora Howard Johnson hotel.

The AMHA will be incurring many costs for the event with rental of ice time being the largest expense.

The Association asked the town, at last week's general committee meeting, for any support it could provide by either reducing the ice rental or waiving the ice fees of approximately \$5,000.

In addition, the Association asked the town to issue passes for players and coaching staff to the pool at the Aurora Recreation Complex as all games will be played there.

Questions were asked as to whether there were other users for the ice time if the fees were waived as many hockey teams had finished for the season.

Councillors wanted to know about sponsorships for the tournament, whether admission fees would be charged for the

games and if there was a fee for teams to enter the tournament and if there was a precedent for waiving the fees.

Staff members replied that the fee of \$471 was waived for the Big Swim and over \$5,000 for the Relay for Life for the Cancer Society.

It was not known if an admission fee would be charged.

Councillor Evelyn Buck noted the operating deficit of the pool and said coun-

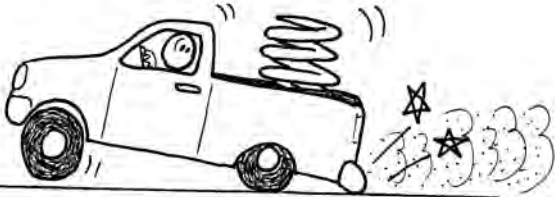
cil would have to learn to say no, rather than saddling the taxpayers with extra expenses.

Councillor Grace Marsh was critical that there wasn't a staff report accompanying the request.

Looking for background information, she added there was little comparison with the Relay for Life event, which is hosted by the Cancer Societ.

She asked if the minor hockey association was a registered charity.

The committee agreed to defer a decision until this week's council meeting when it was hoped more information would be available.



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PROPOSED NEW SIGN BY-LAWS

A report and accompanying by-laws is being presented to Council to regulate permanent and temporary signs in the Town of Aurora.

The Report and by-laws will be placed on the agenda for General Committee on April 4, 2007 and Council on April 11, 2007

A copy of the Report and the By-laws can be viewed on the Town of Aurora web site at www.e-aurora.ca

For further information on the Permanent Sign By-law, please contact Ms. Techa van Leeuwen, Director of Building Standards at (905) 727-3123 Ext. 4748 or tvanleeuwen@e-aurora.ca

For further information on the Temporary Sign By-law, please contact Mr. Chris Alexander, By-law Services Coordinator at (905) 727-3123 Ext. 4241 or calexander@e-aurora.ca



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Naming Aurora streets controversial

Forget about your street name having a history or marking some historic event as it was more likely named after a developer's granddaughter or someone's race horse.

There are exceptions as Aurora keeps a list of names from the past and names listed on the Aurora Cenotaph are among them.

Sometimes, there is confusion whether a street should be a drive, boulevard, crescent, court or gate.

The usual rule of thumb says streets, avenues, boulevards, ways or drives should be major thoroughfares.

Short streets are usually named as a court, terrace or place. Crescent is used for streets that form a crescent or circle and gate is used for a short street providing an entrance to a subdivision.

Naming streets in the old days must have been a simple task compared with today, as roads running north and south that were a mile and a quarter apart were concessions or lines and were numbered. East-west roads became sideroads.

Prior to regional government, the naming of local streets was a local responsibility and Aurora Council maintained a bank of names of former residents, veterans or well-known citizens, but with the coming of subdivisions, developers usually selected the desired names.

Even then there were

problems.

In October, 1971, pictures were published of some streets signs. One sign said "Tecumseth Drive and another "Tecunseh Drive". The same occurred with "Metcalf Street" and "Metcalf Street".

In July, 1974, when the pictures were re-published, council got the message and corrective action was taken.

With the coming of the region, naming of streets became a joint responsibility with local councils forwarding proposed names to the region's planning department to be checked to prevent duplication of names connecting with adjoining municipalities.

Problems developed in August, 1972, over the renaming of the CFRB Sideroad, so named because the CFRB radio transmission towers were located at the southwest corner of the sideroad and Yonge Street.

The region's engineering committee recommended the roadway be named Blue Hills Drive after the Blue Hills Academy located on the roadway in Aurora.

The Mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville objected claiming that the east portion of the roadway had been known as Bloomington for more than 100 years to recognize the hamlet of Bloomington and he convinced regional council that the name be Bloomington Road.

In November, 1974, the region tried to settle long-

standing confusion over a roadway which changed names as it crossed municipal boundaries.

Each municipality was asked to submit a list of preferred names for regional roads within the local municipality.

Aurora Council lost its bid to have the Aurora Sideroad renamed Wellington Street across the region, although it maintained the right to use the name within the municipality. It's the Aurora/Lloydtown Sideroad in King and the Aurora Sideroad, east of town.

Even in naming local streets, Aurora Council had its problems.

In March, 1978, Keystone Court was one of the streets named in the Markborough subdivision in the north end of Aurora over the objections of Councillor Pete Miller who claimed it was too much like the comedy Keystone Kops.

In December, 1979, council decided to change the name Industry Street and the newly constructed roadway through Sheppard's Bush to Industrial Parkway.

Then in December, 1980, council agreed to change the name of the Industrial Parkway to the Earl Steward Parkway to recognize the councillor responsible for bringing many of the new industries to the municipality.

But objections started to arrive from industries located on the street who didn't

agree with the proposed change in name.

They pointed out that they had gone to considerable expense changing invoices, catalogues, etc. when the name was changed from Industry Street to the Industrial Parkway and they didn't want to do it again.

There is still, however, an Industry Street in Aurora, and it intersects Industrial Parkway.

In January, 1984, council rejected a list of 20 street names submitted by Lakeview Estates subdivision based on the names of birds, such as Chickadee Boulevard, Hummingbird Crescent and Barnswallow Court.

The names were replaced with some of Aurora's older families, including Langman, Underhill and Ardill and a street was named after York Regional Police Constable Douglas Tribbling, an Aurora resident, who was fatally shot while investing a break-in in Markham.

In September, 2002, street names reflecting a California community were rejected by council as not being compatible.

B a l l y m o r e Developments selected names like Beverly Hills, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, etc. as a theme to be used in their marketing but council decided Aurora wasn't Hollywood and refused the request.

However in January, 2003, in response to a

request from Magna to name streets in their condominium development after race horses such as Macho Uno, Awesome Again, Glorious Song, Touch of Gold, etc. those names were approved without question.

Council adopted a street naming policy in 2001 which basically calls for the town to promote the

outstanding contributions of Aurorans past and present.

Due to controversy over the naming of streets in the Hallgrove Estates adjacent to the proposed regional police building and the change of address of the town hall, a review of the street naming policy was approved and it's expected in the near future.



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Walkway lighting issue remains in the dark

Last October, council waived the rules of procedure to hear a resident from the town houses behind the new Canadian Tire Store near Murray Drive and Yonge Street.

The resident said she had intended to speak at the "open forum" part of the meeting but had misunderstood the instructions and was still in the council chamber at midnight.

"Open Forum" gives residents a chance to address council without having to apply for "delegation" status, and the option is available to residents prior to the start of regular council meetings.

She referred to an entranceway to 86 townhouses from Yonge Street south of the Canadian Tire store which was used as a pedestrian walkway and at night it was dangerous as there were no lights.

She suggested that when the entranceway was approved that some consideration should have been given for proper

lighting and now it was up to the town to negotiate with the commercial owners to provide lighting as the residents had no authority and it was a safety issue.

Council agreed to refer her request to the Director of Public Works to follow up as soon as possible.

As a result of correspondence between the Condominium Corporation and Canada Tire Real Estate Limited dated December, 2006, and March, 2007, Councillor Stephen Granger raised the issue at Tuesday's general committee meeting.

He noted the item was listed on the council pending list as having been referred to Public Works to meet with the residents and to submit a follow-up report to council and was shown as "ongoing".

He also noted that in the letter to Canadian Tire Real Estate, the condo corporation asked

Canadian Tire to honour the street lighting requirement in the agreement that details the responsibilities of the parties using the former Sterling Drug property.

In the March letter the corporation noted the town, as the approving authority, is obliged to ensure that safety is a prime consideration and that section of the Municipal Act was quoted.

It was also noted that previous contact with Canadian Tire officials was unsuccessful and reconsideration was requested.

Director of Public Works, Wayne Jackson,

said the town had a minor role to play, except as a mediator, and so far had been unsuccessful.

Councillor Granger also referred to the agreement referenced in the letter and Jackson replied it was between Canadian Tire and the Condominium Corporation and the town was not a party to it.

The reference to the town's responsibility for safety in accordance with the Municipal Act was also questioned.

Councillor Granger received general committee support to refer the correspondence to staff to find resolution to the issue and report back to council.



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New format for elections

By BRIAN WARBURTON

On Wednesday, March 28 at 1 p.m. in the West-McKenzie room, the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) will hold a special general membership meeting to ratify new bylaws.

I ask all members to reschedule personal activities on this date, to allow attendance and participation at this important meeting.

In addition the Board of Directors has authorized a nominating committee to organize a slate of candidates to stand for election for three positions at the annual General Meeting June 28.

Major officers of the ASA are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Formerly, all directors were elected to a specific office, but this is being changed and it's expected that after the June election, the directors will elect the four principal officers for the next 12 months.

Our kitchen is looking for some help with the Budget Bistro on Wednesdays and our reception desk is looking for a volunteer for a few hours Mondays.

These positions are not onerous and volunteers tend to settle into the routine for long periods of time.

The ASA operates a group of activities at the centre and the Town operates programs of its own, which have paid instructors and therefore are not free to participants.

Yoga is among these Town programs and was developed in India more than 5000 years ago.

Today it counts many faithful adherents and is practised in the centre under the direction of Susan Weston.

Susan is certified as an instructor by the Canadian Centre for Activity and Aging and specializes in senior fitness.

Seven branches of Yoga have been developed and Hatha Yoga, which focuses on physical well being, is the branch practised in the centre.

Hatha Yoga focuses on breathing, meditation, mantras, chanting, heat, chakras, service and inner attitude.

Susan is a very strong and experienced teacher and judging by the constant attendance at her classes, very popular and respected.

The classes are every Wednesday starting at 9:30 a.m. and pre-registration is required.

For light entertainment the Friday afternoon bingo, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. attracts regular participants.

Bingo is popular and has staying power and continues to attract people of all ages all over the world.

And an addition I mentioned several weeks ago is a second carpet bowling lane.

This is another game, easy on the mind, that continues to attract members and also provides some exercise.

I note that a man who is vision impaired has taken up this game, and with the willing verbal encouragement and direction of other players, has become able to hold his own.

He informed me that he intends to improve his performance and start winning games.

No explanation, report deferred

Every year as an annual exercise, Town of Aurora departments compile statistics related to their operations.

A summary of accomplishments and initiatives from the previous year is included and the material is forwarded to the Administration Department for preparation of the annual report.

Included in the report were significant corporate initiatives for 2006 and major initiatives facing the corporation for the current year.

The report was submitted to Tuesday's general committee meeting to be received as information, but without comment or discussion, the report was deferred.



Aurora's John Parker, left, shows "The John Parker Award" to fellow singer, Paul Millard, at the Upper Canada Chordsmen's annual awards night held recently. John is the first recipient of the award, which was named for him because of his devoted efforts to make the Chordsmen "a household name" in the Aurora-Newmarket area, by arranging publicity for their shows and selling advertising in their programs.

Klees still working on street racing bill

Last June, Aurora resident and Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees, a former Transportation Minister, introduced a Private Member's Bill "An Act to Enhance Safety on Ontario Roads and to Empower Police Officers to Shut Down Street Racing".

He took up the issue following the deaths of constituents Rob and Lisa Manchester who were the innocent victims of a street race south of Aurora.

Although he was hopeful the government would implement the legislation prior to the summer recess, it refused to grant unanimous consent required to put the Bill into law.

His Bill would have empowered front line police officers to issue on the spot licence suspensions and vehicle impoundments in cases where street racing was suspected.

It would also provide for increased fines and impose licence suspensions and jail terms for anyone convicted of street racing.

Last week, Klees welcomed Adrienne Seggie to Queen's Park at a media conference on street racing. Her son, Matthew, was killed in Hamilton last year

by a street racer.

Joining her at the Queen's Park media conference was John Hickey, whose daughter Allison and her fiancé Mark Radman were badly injured in a street racing incident.

Lawyers Darcy Merkur and Michael Bennett of the Toronto law firm Thomson, Rogers who represented victims of street racing also appeared at the conference to support Klees in calling on the Liberals to implement Bill 122.

Now, the government has announced it will crack down on street racing with legislation to empower police officers to immediately impound a car and increase fines, but Klees claims the proposed Bill doesn't go far enough as police should be able to automatically suspend drivers licences.

The federal government passed amendments to the Criminal Code in December that increased the maximum penalty for street racing that causes injury to 14 years, up from 10 and up to life from 14 years for a death caused by street racing but the police would have to witness the race before a charge could be laid.

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Outstanding issues could be removed

Every month Aurora staffers prepare a list of issues that have not been resolved.

Normally the "pending list" is received for information by councillors without question.

However, at Tuesday's general committee meeting Mayor Phyllis Morris told members she had spent time reviewing the 158-page report and several of the entries were outdated or dealt with housekeeping.

In an effort to clean up the pending list and

make it more current, she listed several items that, in her opinion, were outdated.

Committee members were also asked to advise staff of any items they believed should be removed.

Her comments and the list were received as information.

At an earlier meeting Councillor Grace Marsh had noted some of the items were dated in 2004 and she asked that action be taken or the items be deleted.

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Aurora almost lost education centre

Since the formation of the York Region Board of Education in 1969, Aurora has been home to the Education Centre, first in the old Church Street School and currently located on Wellington Street West.

But back in November, 1973, an attempt was made by Newmarket members of York Regional Council to attract the board to Newmarket by giving four acres of a former county farm in Newmarket.

Both Newmarket Mayor Bob Forhan and Councillor Ray Twinney argued for the gift to the board but their arguments were to no avail as Markham Mayor Tony Roman's reasoning won the day.

He said the board should not be given the four acres until a planning report on the nearly 100-acre farm had been presented to council.

At the time a number of projects were being planned including a new courthouse, a regional headquarters and senior citizen housing.

He convinced members of council that it would be unwise to turn over four acres to the board until a comprehensive plan for the entire acreage had been presented and approved by regional council.

Council's delay and parochialism resulted in the board remaining in Aurora.

RAISING DOUGH FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS

In January, 2005, eight-year-old Michaela Cherutti decided to raise at least \$100 to help the victims of the recent tsunami disaster in south-east Asia by going on a five-day cooking mission.

Then she sold her baked goods to friends and neighbours.

More than 600 cookies later she had raised \$300 which her dad matched and her \$300 grew to \$1,200 when the \$600 was matched by the federal government.

Michaela said she did it with the help of Betty Crocker.

UNCLUTTERING THE FARM

In May, 1990, former Aurora businessman and school bus operator Ivan Daniels, who operated a farm near Ballantrae, held an auction sale of some of his prized possessions that he had acquired over the years.

He was selling the farm and planned to move into a retirement home.

Highlight of the auction was his cherished collection of 14 antique automobiles including a 1923 McLaughlin which went for \$23,600 with only 20,000 miles on it and a 1928 Overland Whippet.

He also auctioned off a large collection of farm equipment includ-

ing an 1870 threshing machine that sold for \$700.

Daniels had been a collector since 1946 and had accumulated everything from bulldozer wrenches to school bells, hand tools, rifles, roll top desks, lanterns, garden tools and just about everything imaginable.

His place of business was on the west side of Yonge Street just north of Aurora Heights Drive where a five-storey condominium is currently being constructed.

LOOKING BACK AT COUNCIL

In March, 2001, following a council debate about the sale of town-owned land on Allaura Boulevard, Councillor Evelyn Buck gave Notice of Motion that a policy on town-owned land be established.

Was the motion ever presented and a policy adopted?

In April, 2001, in an attempt to gain freedom of speech without having to worry about being taken to court for comments made, former Councillor Phyllis Morris appeared before council during Open Forum to describe legislation in B.C. to prevent lawsuits and provided examples.

Later in the meeting, Councillor Evelina MacEachern gave Notice of Motion to introduce the issue.

Was the motion ever given and if so, any action?

In October, 2003, former Councillor Ron Wallace suggested that Yonge Street be divided into three heritage districts as the five digit street addresses meant little to people in trying to find locations.

The Economic Development Committee received the presentation and referred it to staff for a report. There was lots of discussion, but was there any action?

In June, 2004, Councillor Damir Vrancic requested that the phone number residents should call when they saw a dead animal lying on the roadway be publicized.

What is the number?

AURORA IN 1969

Plans were announced to include a rapid transit line of high speed buses up and down Highway 404's central median as planners feared without some form of rapid transit, 404 traffic would clog the Don Valley Parkway.

How right they were.

Councillor Illyd Harris suggested greenbelt walkways be constructed along both banks of the creek system running through the town.

Klees slaps government budget

From page 1

"We were hopeful this budget would fund the care that residents in our long-term care homes need and deserve," he said. "But, once again, Dalton McGuinty and his Minister of Health have turned their backs on thousands of seniors and their care-givers."

Klees was referring to the more than 35,000 residents living in long term care facilities that are classi-

fied as "B" and "C" facilities.

These are homes that, because of their age and under-funding, are not able to provide the care and services residents need, or cannot structurally provide the privacy and dignity residents and their families should be able to expect.

He said it had been demonstrated that there is a need for an increase in operating funding of \$390 million this year and \$214 million next year in order to

eliminate the double standard being endured by the residents in older homes.

A further \$9.5 million is required for capital renewal, but, he noted, the budget allocated \$14 million or 50¢ a day per resident.

"This budget leaves a \$385 million shortfall in funding for our long term care homes," said Klees. "But what is much more important than the shortfall in line items in the budget is the short-sightedness of

this government when it comes to the care and respect for our seniors who depend on us for their basic needs and to ensure their comfort and dignity."

Only a week ago, Resthaven staff presented Vaughan-King-Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara with a petition seeking better conditions.

It was a good idea but it never happened.

Aurora Council asked the school board to incorporate plans for an indoor swimming pool in the new Aurora High School, then being planned.

Plans were prepared, but the project was too expensive for council at that time and no grants were available.

The Ontario Water Resources Commission, now the Ministry of the Environment, warned that the town's sewer plant was operating at capacity and improvements were needed.

A 156-bed nursing home was proposed for Kennedy Street West which was never approved.

A Kinney Shoe store was planned for a corner of the Wood farm which was approved but never built and is now the location of the Edward Plaza.

At one time the town had a Citizens' Band which later disbanded and a search was on for the missing band instruments.

The Aurora Lions Club proposed a new park by the town's outdoor swimming pool behind George Street Public School and, although the pool has gone, the park remains.

Aurora's Queen's Hotel, on the northeast corner of Yonge and Wellington, was put up for sale.

The site is now a Toronto Dominion Canada Trust branch. The operator of the Aurora Bus Lines applied for permission to establish a route to take Aurorans to Slater's Pool in Vondorf but it was rejected by the Ontario Highway Transport Board due to opposition from other bus operators.

And, named after the town, Aurora Lynn Wallace was born.

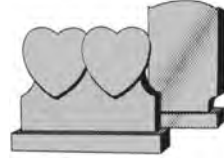
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School renovations may start again

From page 1
installation of a fire suppression system for the building and at the same time directed staff to meet with the Historical Society and investigate the overall cost of renovations at the newly named Heritage Centre.

In January, this year, the general committee considered the feasibility of the town being the primary funder of the project and staff members were directed to provide cost reports.

Town staff has continued to negotiate with the Society and the Society expressed a desire to transfer the project management, administration and design responsibilities over to the town.

Staff also discussed a new operating agreement and the Society suggested an agreement like the town has with the Seniors' Association, where the town would be responsible for the facility and the Society responsible for programming.

Staff also advised that the operating costs for the facility would be approximately \$104,000 per year in 2007 dollars which includes all utilities, operating material, service contracts and insurance.

At Tuesday's general committee meeting, Society President Helen Roberts provided a brief summary of the events to date.

During 2004 a commitment for a \$100,000 Trillium

Addition would remove 3 portables

Lester B. Pearson Public School is about to get bigger.

The York Region District School Board has submitted an application for a minor site plan approval for an expansion to the northeast corner of the school.

The addition, more than 8,900 square feet in size, will allow three portables to be removed from the school property.

The school was built in Aurora several years ago as a French Immersion facility, which took some pressure off other overcrowded schools in town.

It will be a two-storey addition providing seven classrooms on the 4.6 acre site on Odin Crescent and the proposed exterior cladding will involve colour matching the existing brick and matching the exterior style of the building.

The application was in accordance with the process approved by Aurora Council dealing with Minor Site Plan approval procedures and the staff report was received by the general committee as information.

grant was received and with \$300,000 of the Society's funds, work was started to renovate the building.

Last year it became necessary to re-group and re-examine the project.

In order not to lose the Trillium grant, work proceeded to renovate one of the galleries to be used as a model for the remaining renovations, she said.

She introduced the

architects who provided a detailed description and visual representation of the proposed uses for the basement and the two upper floors to provide more open and display space.

It was estimated that \$2.2 million would be required to complete the renovations and council support was necessary.

It was pointed out that any delay in council com-

mitment would result in the Society being unable to apply for federal and provincial grants.

That resulted in a motion by Councillor Evelyn Buck to approve the commitment in principle on the understanding that council members be kept involved in the project.

The parking problem was introduced and it was agreed to leave that issue

alone until the parking study was discussed at a future meeting.

Questions were also asked about the condition of the exterior of the building and staff advised that no work was required except for some work on the belfry.

Councillor Bob McRoberts noted that some interior work was required as there was a river in the

basement.

After further questions and discussion it was agreed that a special general committee meeting would be arranged with Society representatives.

Staff members will report on the construction administration process and the amended agreement with the Society.

Council is expected to ratify its decision this week.

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