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# AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



AURORAN, Week of April 17, 2007

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# Jones interested in Liberal nomination

By RON WALLACE

Keep your eye on Tim Jones. The former Aurora mayor is interested in Belinda Stronach's Member of Parliament job.

"I've always been a closet Liberal," he told The Auroran hours after Ms Stronach shocked the nation with her Newmarket-Aurora riding resignation announcement Wednesday afternoon.

"I am definitely interested in letting my name stand for the nomination," he said.

Mr. Jones, who served four terms as mayor of Aurora, and a total of 28 years in municipal politics, said he would seek the nomination for the Liberal party to run in the next federal election, an election which has yet to be called.

Mr. Jones, who was defeated in the last municipal election, failing in his bid for a record-setting fifth term as mayor, has been weighing his options since.

Closest on his to-do list has been a contract position with a municipality in Simcoe County, but nothing has been finalized.

The Stronach announcement opened up a whole new avenue to follow, and he made his thoughts known to The Auroran at a Chamber of Commerce event Wednesday evening at the Aqua Grill restaurant in Aurora.

Meanwhile, the national media once again surrounded the 40-year-old Magna International heiress in Aurora Wednesday afternoon when she announced she would not seek re-election in the riding of Newmarket-Aurora, a job she has held through the last two elections.

Ms Stronach said she would return to Magna, a job she gave up when she took her first steps into politics several years ago.

She has been in the limelight ever since, surprising people with decisions like crossing the floor from the sitting Conservative party to the Liberals in 2005.

It was no secret she wasn't getting along with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, so opposition leader Paul Martin took her in, gave her a portfolio, and suggested she could have the Newmarket-Aurora riding wearing Liberal colours instead of Conservative ones.

Which caused the person she had beaten in the previous election, Martha Hall Findlay, to do a double take and push over.

Ms Hall Findlay had already declared she would run in the riding again, after nearly defeating Ms

Please see page 18

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# COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

During the month of April the Skylight Gallery in the Town Hall will feature the artwork of Beverly Simpson with a collection of paintings capturing nature. Regular viewing hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

\*\*\*\*

Until April 22 Wellington Gallery showcases North America's best nature and wildlife artists including Robert Bateman, Charles Frace, Richard Mravik, Ron Decker, Michael Pape, Michael Durman and Edward Spera. The gallery is located on Wellington Street West at Machell Avenue.

\*\*\*\*

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. Contact Aurora Opera Company at [keepsinging@look.ca](mailto:keepsinging@look.ca).

\*\*\*\*

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 \$1.50 for members and \$2 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](mailto:info@aurorafair.ca), or visit [www.aurorafair.ca](http://www.aurorafair.ca).

\*\*\*\*

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members welcome. For further information, call 905-841-1352.

\*\*\*\*

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 McClenney at 905-727-9676.

\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Seniors Choir practice under the direction of Tom Rainsford every Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the West McKenzie Hall of the Seniors' Centre.

\*\*\*\*

Budget Bistro Luncheon every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. No registration required, just drop in. Call 905-726-4767 for more information.

#### TO APRIL 26

Shadowpath Theatre Production presents York Region's first ever Playwrights' Festival at Aurora's Factory Theatre with Thursday to Saturday evening performances at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. featuring the writing talents of local playwrights. For more information call 905-727-3669.

#### 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.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora's Creative Colours Annual Spring Charity Fashion Show "Fashion Plates" will take place at DiNardo's The Mansion with proceeds to the York Region Food Network. The event features dinner, a model runway presentation of the latest in spring fashions and York Region firefighters. Call 905-967-0428 for tickets.

\*\*\*\*

Wells Street Public School celebrates heritage and the history of the school with opening ceremonies at 6 p.m. with Jacqueline Stuart as guest speaker. If you have memories to share, call 905-727-4722.

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 19

Fathers 4 Justice York Region Equal Parenting Group Monthly Meeting in Aurora at 7 p.m. For further information call 905-727-6060.

\*\*\*\*

Kinark Child and Family Services invites the community to celebrate the opening of its new office beside St. Andrew's Plaza at 24 Orchard Heights Boulevard (Unit 101A) in Aurora. The celebration, in the form of an open house, will be held from 4 until 7 p.m. For more information contact Darryl Mathers (905-474-9595 ext. 349; [darryl.mathers@kinark.on.ca](mailto:darryl.mathers@kinark.on.ca)).

\*\*\*\*

Author reading. Barbara Gowdy will be reading from her new book "Helpless" at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, 39 Dunning Avenue at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, at \$10, are available at R & R Revisited, Mary Street, or at the door. Event is presented by the Canadian Federation of University Women Aurora-Newmarket Club. Proceeds to the CFUW anniversary scholarship.

\*\*\*\*

Free mouse, keyboarding and basic web navigation required for the computer workshop at the Aurora Public Library. Pre-register at the adult information desk or phone 905-727-9493, option 4.

\*\*\*\*

Amnesty International meets at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria St. for a special presentation on women's human rights issues. Discussion, letter writing. All welcome. 7:30 p.m. For information, call 905-713-6713.

#### 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.

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 22

Aurora Rotary Club 2nd annual frog race, in Tannery Creek at Machell Park. 3 p.m.

#### MONDAY, APRIL 23

Fundraising dinner and fashion show, with proceeds to assist the fight against breast cancer, at Jonathan's Fine Foods restaurant beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets, at \$35, are available at Jonathan's. For further information, call 905-841-1807.

#### 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.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 27

Rotary Club of Aurora, with clubs from Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Bradford and Beeton, will hold an African Cultural Night to raise funds for a major water project in Africa. The event will feature dinner and African entertainment at Le Park Dining and Banquet Hall in Thornhill. Tickets are \$75 and can be ordered through the Aurora Rotary Club at 905-841-1352.

#### APRIL 27-28

Catholic Women's League of Our Lady of Grace parish sponsors its annual Spring Rummage Sale from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday in the Lynett Hall, 16 Catherine Street.

#### 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.

#### MONDAY, MAY 7

Aurora Film Circuit presents "After The Wedding", from Danish director Suzanne Bier. Nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Film, the movie is in Danish with English subtitles. Tickets, \$10, are now on sale at both R & R Revisited, Mary Street, and at the Aurora Public Library.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora Food Pantry Annual General Meeting will be held at the Pantry at 15213 Yonge Street (old Post Office building), beginning at 7:30 p.m. Anyone interested in the work of the Pantry is welcome to attend.

#### MAY 9 to 13

Aurora's Marquee Productions presents "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.

#### SATURDAY, MAY 12

Greg Foster, operator of M & M Meats on Yonge Street in Aurora, will hold a charity BBQ from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to raise funds for the Crohns and Colitis Foundation of Canada and his target this year is to raise more than \$4,000. Hamburger or hot dog, a bag of chips and a drink for \$2 will help Greg meet his target.

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# Grow house found in southern Aurora

York Region Police officers working out of the Drugs and Vice Enforcement Bureau, laid charges against an Aurora man last week in connection with a marijuana grow operation in an Aurora house.

On Wednesday, at about 11 a.m. officers executed a search warrant at an address on McClellan Way, in Aurora's south end.

Officers discovered about 500 full-grown marijuana plants and a large quantity of indoor marijuana grow operation equipment.

The street-value of the drugs is estimated at \$500,000.

Investigating officers arrested a man without incident in connection with the grow operation later that day at an address in Vaughan.

Charged is Duc Lam Nguyen, 26, of Aurora.

He has been charged with Production of a Controlled Substance; Possession of a Controlled Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking; and Theft of Electricity.

He was held in custody prior to his appearance in Newmarket Court.

Police are encouraging residents to call 1-866-876-5423 if they suspect a marijuana grow operation exists in their neighbourhood.

These homes, police said, pose potential risks, including fire and explosion, due to illegal wiring, overloading of circuits and dangerous chemicals contained within.

Children forced to live in these homes are vulnerable when exposed to these elements and police require the public's assistance to remove them to safety.



Originally, they thought the event would raise 10 grand, but a recent tribute dinner for former Aurora mayor Tim Jones actually produced \$15,000 for Southlake Regional Health Centre. The official amount was presented to the hospital Thursday morning. On hand for the event were, left to right, Aurora Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas; Dan Carriere, president, and CEO at Southlake; Tim Jones; Neila Poscente, President and CEO of Southlake's Foundation. In the background are Peter Blakely and Bruce Heffer, two of the dinner organizers. The presentation was held at Timberlane Athletic Club.

*Photo courtesy of Snap Newmarket*

## Two names entered for Green party

The dust has settled and only two candidates will battle for the right to become the Green party candidate in the Newmarket-Aurora riding.

Originally it was believed several people were going to try to the candidacy.

Past candidate Aurora's Glen Hubbers, a Professional Engineer working in the energy industry, will be go up against Eve Simpson, a

shop steward with CUPE, local 69, and a Municipal Standards Officer.

"We are pleased that the members in Newmarket-Aurora have two strong voices to choose from as they decide who will bring the Green message to the voters in the next federal election," Vanessa Long, CEO of the Local Green Party Association, said.

A federal election date has not been set, but

speculation is wild in political circles that one will be announced shortly.

Voting will take place Saturday, April 21, at 10 a.m. at the Aurora Town Hall. After the new candidate is selected, participants will be invited outside to help plant 100 trees along the Holland River.

The tree planting is being done in coordination with the Aurora

Community Arboretum and the Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority.

**Art show set to open at Town Hall Friday, May 4**

The Town of Aurora and the Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA) will present the 45th Annual Aurora Art Show and Sale early next month.

The event will be held from May 4 through May 6 at the Aurora Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive.

Based on last year's success, the show anticipates that attendees will come from Aurora, as well as from the neighbouring regions.

The kick-off to the show is the popular opening reception gala on Friday, May 4 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.e-aurora.ca](http://www.e-aurora.ca) or call the Special Events line at 905-726-4762.

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## Private street racing bill is endorsed by Liberals

Aurora resident and Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees welcomed the Liberal government's announcement that it would introduce legislation to get tough on street racing.

Mr. Klees has been calling for legislation to empower frontline police officers to issue on the spot license suspensions and vehicle impoundment ever since constituents Rob and Lisa Manchester were killed as the result of a street racing incident in May, 2006 on Yonge Street in Oak Ridges.

"I welcome this

announcement. The only regret is that it has taken the government so long to get around to taking action on this," said Mr. Klees, who attended the announcement at the Community Safety Village in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The announcement was made by Premier Dalton McGuinty and Minister of Transportation, Donna Cansfield.

Also in attendance were Police Chief Armand La Barge and members of the York Region Police Services.

In making the announcement, Premier

McGuinty acknowledged the efforts by Mr. Klees.

"I want to thank Frank, and I want to acknowledge the leadership role he has assumed," Premier McGuinty said. "He has taken a keen and active interest in this, he has put forward some very positive proposals."

Mr. Klees noted the Liberal government failed to include an important prohibition against nitrous oxide connections in vehicles driven on public streets or highways and intends to propose an amendment to the bill prior to final passage.

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## Poor Richard

# It's time for some senior tax relief

*Most seniors are overtaxed,  
And soon may lose their homes;  
Something must be done to help  
Or council will hear their moans.*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

An argument has raged over the years why seniors, aged 65 and over, are still required to pay education taxes since their children, all grown up, were no longer part of the education system.

In 1967, the province adopted the Municipal and School Tax Credit Act which permitted municipalities to defer up to half of the education portion of the property tax bill for seniors over 65 with the province reimbursing the municipality up to a maximum of \$150 of taxes levied on the property.

In December, 1967, Aurora became the 46th municipality to make the tax credit available to property owners over 65.

But it wasn't well used as the provincial legislation required the total amount of the accumulated tax credit to become payable when the property changed hands.

There was a general belief at that time that education taxes should not be part of the property tax bill, as education did not bear any relationship to property in the same sense as sidewalks, sewers and other services to property did.

Due to the slowness to act, some municipalities were successful in obtaining a Private Member's Bill to enable the municipality to provide tax relief of up to \$100 to senior homeowners.

In 1972, Aurora Council requested then York North MPP Bill Hodgson to introduce a Private Member's Bill in order that the municipality could provide some tax relief to needy seniors.

With the submission of the Aurora bill, the Progressive Conservative government of the day decided that too many municipalities had applied for private bills and announced its intention to cancel them.

After further negotiations, the Aurora bill was adopted in July, 1972, and in January, 1974, Aurora Council approved a bylaw authorizing a tax credit up to \$100 for persons 70 and over who had lived in Aurora for at least five years.

By May, 1977, it was costing the town \$9,200 to make life a little easier for 92 seniors who qualified for the \$100 credit under the town's Elderly Residents Assistance Program.

About the same time the Bill Davis Progressive Conservative government announced plans to reduce the property tax burden on seniors with a tax grant of \$300 to qualified seniors.

By 1984, the grant was increased to \$500 and in 1987, the Ontario budget increased the Seniors Property Tax Grant to \$600.

All eligible seniors received the \$600 grant on their property tax or 20 per cent of their rent up to \$600 plus a \$50 Sales Tax Grant.

In February, 1993, the government switched to tax credits to assist seniors with the cost of property and sales taxes instead of grants starting with their 1992 tax returns, providing their income was less than a certain amount.

But it was the beginning of the end for tax grants or credits and senior homeowners were required to pay their full property and sales taxes.

In March, 2003, the Ernie Eves budget included a provision to provide a full education tax reimbursement for seniors effective July 1, estimated to provide an average cheque of \$475, but it never happened, as Liberal Leader Dalton McGuinty vowed to scrap the tax break when elected.

Provincial legislation is available to provide tax relief to seniors, but it places a lien on the property so that the unpaid taxes are to be paid when the property changes hands, but few seniors use the tax deferral system.

Realizing that many citizens on a fixed income were finding it harder and harder to remain in their homes due to increasing property taxes, the City of Vaughan Council authorized a grant to qualifying seniors and requested York Region to do the same for the regional portion of the tax bill.

Vaughan asked other municipalities for support.

Aurora Council did not support the Vaughan resolution but requested staff to report on a similar program as Vaughan's prior to the summer months.

Rather than a municipal grant, it should be a provincial grant similar to the 1987 Seniors Property Tax Grant.



Above is a school board, posing for a picture taken, apparently, in the 60s. Had to be before 1969, when the York County Board of Education was formed. We will assume this is Aurora's high school board, since there was another board for elementary schools. Some of the people are familiar, some we just don't know. Do you? In the front row, left to right, are Stan Baker, Art Starr, Marvin Hunter, Dr. E.J. Henderson (a former mayor of Aurora) and Ernie Eveleigh. The first three people from the left in the back row are Mr. O'Mahoney (anyone know his first name?), Jim Urquhart and Wyatt Baldwin. We have no idea who the other two are, or if there is someone missing from that empty space.

### *Letter to the Editor*

# Artificial turf at Sheppard's waste of taxpayers' money

### To the editor,

I was disappointed to read that this current council is wasting taxpayers' hard earned money on putting artificial turf in Sheppard's Bush, a Lake Simcoe Conservation area.

The Youth Soccer Club says the move will extend the soccer season and, worst of all, our own Leisure Services Department head, Al Downey says it will save money.

What a joke.

This artificial field is costing you, the taxpayers, \$600,000 or about a 2.5 per cent tax increase. I would love to see how the savings will happen.

The field life is between 15 and 25 years.

There will be maintenance needed in the 25 years not only for repair but also to relevel the field as water seeps under and shifts.

The current field is still in good shape and with yearly maintenance it will continue to serve the needs of the soccer club.

Oh yes, I forgot that the youth soccer league will pay for 10 per cent of the \$600,000 or about \$60,000.

Wow, what a great deal for them.

They can afford to pay salaries in this non-profit association of \$250,000 a year, yet will only pay \$60,000 for a field that they will mainly use.

Aurora spends a lot on sporting facilities, includ-

ing helping with the sports bubble, so, to me, this is extravagant especially at this time when taxes will again go up by about seven or eight per cent in 2007.

We do have a great Youth Soccer Club in Aurora but there is a time when the cost is too much.

I believe our soccer clubs will be competitive without the artificial turf.

What next, plastic flowers and fake trees in Sheppard's Bush, again to save money?

I am not surprised this council passed this as most of their pictures appeared in the last youth soccer magazine, with praise from the president, supporting their bid for council during the past election.

If the soccer club wants to support any political person running for a seat, then, to me, they should not be a non-profit group, as it is my tax money and yours that helps pay part of their costs.

If you agree with me please contact the council by phone or email to stop this waste of money.

Please call the following to voice your displeasure.

Phyllis Morris, 905-841-3743; Evelyn Buck, 905-727-6457; Steve Granger, 905-727-2035; Al Wilson, 905-751-0845; Grace Marsh, 905-841-3928; Wendy Gaertner, 905-713-2880; Bob McRoberts, 905-727-4636; Evelina MacEachern, 905-727-3123; Alison Collins - Mrakas,

905-751-0845.

There are so many other things that could help Aurora if we have \$600,000 to throw at

projects such as artificial turf.

Nigel Kean  
Aurora

**AURORAN**

**"Aurora's Community Newspaper"**

Published weekly by The Auroran Publications Inc.  
At 75 Mary Street, Unit #3  
Aurora, L4G 1G3

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APRIL 10



APRIL 11



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## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville



One of the things - among many - that I like about our community is the different type of activities available to Aurora families.

Whether it is the Horse Show, RibFest, Street Festival, or my personal favourite, the annual Santa Claus parade, there is a lot to do within our town's borders.

These events increase our quality of life, strengthen our community, and bring us a bit closer together.

Two weekends ago was the sixth edition of the Town of Aurora Easter Egg hunt held at the Aurora Town Leisure Complex.

The Town, in partnership with the Girl Guides of Aurora, hosts the event, which serves as a fundraiser for the Girl Guides.

Shelley Ware, Special Events Co-ordinator for the town of Aurora, told me "that preliminary data suggest that this was the largest easter egg hunt in York region. Over six hundred and twenty children participated on the weekend."

My family attended the festivities with our friends Bob and Mercedes and their two children, Matthew, 6 and Emily, 4. Both children, along with my son Ryan, had a great time.

The event took place in two sessions on Saturday, one beginning at 10 a.m. and the second session at noon.

According to Ms Ware, "the event is done in two sessions because it has grown so big and also to accommodate the different sleeping patterns - i.e. nap times - for the little ones".

And weather does not deter the success of the event.

In fact more families attended this year than ever before, even though it was a rather cold and windy day.

The event fulfills a need in our community as it caters to all stages of young families - from the littlest tykes up to the older children.

It is also truly a great bargain at four dollars per child.

Unlike other other easter egg hunt events, this one offers the "whole experience" - with a focus on crafts, face painting, and education.

The York Region Dental Hygienist Association even offered free toothbrushes and instructional videos.

As my wife was paying the admission fee near the top of the Leisure Complex stairs, my friend Bob and I wandered in ahead of the group.

On the way in, a representative of Cadbury's was giving free chocolates away.

I told him that Bob was my 40-year-old adopted son, and also that Bob did not like chocolate so I would kindly take his allotment.

This nice young guy gave us a puzzled look, laughed and then obliged with a bunch of chocolate eggs for yours truly.

We then came across the mayor who was certainly in the spirit of things as she had her faced painted like a rabbit.

My three-year-old son excitedly came back after the egg hunt and showed me his basket full of chocolates.

I know the only person happier than Ryan was probably his dentist.

As a direct result of all the fillings in my mouth, my dentists' children are all driving Porsches.

I am pretty sure he believes Ryan will be his

retirement plan. (Here's to hoping not!)

A confession is in order here.

My neighbour Bob and I inadvertently participated in the egg hunt for the older kids.

Bob and I found a couple of chocolates in the field and when the children, the mayor or other family members weren't watching, we scooped up a few chocolates.

We couldn't help ourselves.

We will both sleep better now with that off our collective chests.

Complaints about Bob and my conduct should be forwarded, in triplicate, to both the editor of The Auroran and to the mayor's office.

Well done to all the volunteers for making the event such a success!

Can't wait until next year!

**Stephen can be contacted at:**  
**stephengsomerville@yahoo.com**



## Cathy's Corner

### The trouble with birthdays

I am NOT liking this "Birthday" thing the way I once did.

When I was a little kid, I couldn't wait to get into the "double digits".

But then I found out that "10" as an age ranks about a "1", so I set my target higher.

Then I found out why nobody likes the number 13.

Being called a "teeny-bopper" is like being cussed out in a foreign language.

No wonder teenagers rebel! Nobody takes them seriously if they don't. Trust me on this.

My father still treats me like I'm six years old with chocolate cake all over my face and I swear it's because I never dyed my hair shocking pink before my 16th birthday.

Shocking orange, yes...but I didn't mean to do that so he just laughed while I cried. It's not the same thing.

Being a teenager is life's opportunity to stamp your brain with the message: Life ISN'T fair!

And in case you still don't get it by the age of 19, there's a line-up of zits waiting to follow you into your 20's...and 30's...and 40's.

The 20's would be the decade when most, if not all of the mysteries of (your) life are uncovered.

By the time I was 27, the theory that I was going to marry a lawyer, have three children, and settle in Aurora had been proven.

In fact, the only thing I still didn't know was what I was going to be when I grew up!

I decided to hold at 29 for about 10 years because...well, I already knew too much.

I needed to stop and get me some new wonderings, a.k.a. dreams.

My new dreams involved a lot of shopping since I fantasized incessantly about appliances that worked, sheets that matched my bedspread, and oversized tupperware to get all the toys off the floor.

One day, I looked in the mirror and realized that if I plucked all the gray hairs I could see...most of my scalp would be exposed.

Really, it would have been easier to wax.

I didn't need bifocals back then, so I looked a little closer (you should never do that while you can still see, by the way) and suddenly I knew exactly what I was going to be: Middle Aged!

Middle age is the time when people stop growing taller and start getting shorter...and wider.

They call it "middle-aged spread" and it often sneaks up on you from behind. I know this for a fact.

Last week, I was applying collagen enriched body lotion and when I reached back there, I screamed! Damir came running, "What? What?"

"Oh my God," I whined. "I think my hands shrunk!"

Damir laughed - WHAT (!!!) was he thinking?

Does he not realize that study after study, the findings are the same: middle-aged women are crabby. Has he not learned this first hand? Do I have to cite the studies?

We have a low tolerance for people who don't understand and a voracious appetite for compliments.

This is why we complain about men in small groups.

And you thought we were going to the bathroom? It's a therapy session!

My friend tells me how much she loves my new copper highlights, I tell my other friend how great her shitake mushroom anti-wrinkle cream is working, and my other friend tells the first friend how well the enormous red hat suits her...and so on.

This takes about 20 minutes because we go several rounds.

Now that we're all smiling, we apply lip plumping lipstick while we complain about how the husbands didn't notice the spectacular new seven-foot feng shui fountain in the hallway that we all ordered from the same catalogue.

This takes about 20 minutes because we go several rounds.

So, what's to be happy about?

Back in my 20's and 30's, I was SOOOO happy that my lipstick even matched my nail polish and my shoes matched my purse and my husband always noticed!

I positively glowed because I was too young to realize that he only noticed because the Visa bill came in.

On the high side of 40, my armpits match my legs!

I need a primer for my make-up and everything I need to do to look good hurts, gives me a rash, and takes two weeks of recovery! And my husband doesn't mind paying for any of it!

In my early 40's, I started having trouble finding my car keys.

Now, I can't even find my car!

And the young man they send out to help me find it looks hot until he calls me "Ma'am"...after asking me if I'm sure I didn't take the bus. It's such a downer!

What's next? In a few years I'll turn 50 and suddenly my underwear will start bothering me? I'm getting hot flashes just thinking about it...

No, "Happy" is definitely not the kind of word that should come before "Birthday" during the Middle Ages.

Unless all your friends show up with wine, chocolate and anti-oxidants on your special day.

Ah...so this is why God made friends!

**Cathy welcomes e-mail at:**  
**laughingmatters@aci.on.ca**

# Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

**BOUQUETS** to Aurora Council for giving approval for road reconstruction prior to the adoption of the 2007 capital budget enabling the Works Department to call tenders early in the construction season resulting in the low tender being under budget by \$325,993.96. Shows the importance of early adoption of the budget!

**BRICKBATS** to the malfunctioning sound system in the council chambers of the Town Hall. Back in 2005 due to complaints from members of council, the media and the general public, a \$135,000 high-tech audio system was installed, but it still squeals when members activate their microphones.

**BOUQUETS** to Ingrid Kulbach and her One Chocolate Corporation on the celebration of the First Anniversary Open House in Aurora, where the tasty fraktal chocolate pieces are made.

**BRICKBATS** to the weatherman for getting the seasons mixed and giving the people a green Christmas and a white Easter. Makes you wonder what he has planned for Victoria Day?

**BOUQUETS** to W. Russell for an excellent letter to The Auroran about the dangers on two-way stops in a town of four-way stops and Temperance and Reuben is a perfect example, as Reuben is not a through street but Temperance is and the stops signs are on the wrong street.

**BRICKBATS** to the three youths who took the time recently to throw eggs at Poor Richard's home and quickly disappear in the Cousins/Gurnett area. They were witnessed by a neighbour who tried to follow them. Maybe they'll come back and clean up the mess on the windows!

**BOUQUETS** to 16-year-old Louise Facca of Aurora on being named to represent Canada at the FIVB World Under-19 Beach Volleyball Championships later this year along with partner Amanda Crowdrey of Brampton.

**BRICKBATS** to Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory for his decision to welcome Liberal defector MPP Tim Peterson into the Tory field in the riding of Mississauga and having an understanding with Peterson that he would not need to stand for nomination without consulting with the Conservative riding association. It could backfire as the riding wants a say as to who represents them.

**BOUQUETS** to members of Aurora Council who voted to retain the Trillium Horse Show in Machell Park in 2007 as the Trillium event has been part of the Aurora Show for many years and, if lost, may never return.

**BOUQUETS** to the property owners who offer to open their doors for Doors Open Aurora, 2007, August 11 and bouquets to whoever was responsible for providing the information to the Ontario Heritage Trust publication. A total of 43 Ontario municipalities will participate this year.

**BRICKBATS** to whoever is responsible for the maintenance of Canal Road near Bradford as the canal has taken one more life. There are no guardrails along the side of the roadway right beside the canal. It's dangerous and something should be done!

**BOUQUETS** to any member of Aurora Council who will request a report from PowerStream as to how and why the price for electrical power has increased since the utility took over the service from Aurora Hydro. Some of the increase is due to Ontario Power Corporation, but is that the whole story?

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## Letters to the Editor

# Time the Town stopped spending money on special interest groups

To the editor,

Stop spending tax dollars on special interest groups.

The Aurora Historical Society wants Aurora taxpayers to spend more money on the restoration of the Church Street School, and after that, pay for the operation costs, cooling-heating taxes (if any), etc.

The taxpayers of Aurora have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on this old building.

Air conditioning, elevator, windows, basement flooding, new roof.

It is time to say no more money.

The Historical Society should raise their own money if they are interested

in this old building.

I was surprised in the write up of the Church Street School to learn that the seniors new \$3,000,000 building is maintained by the town at no cost to the seniors' organization.

It must be nice to have someone build you a playpen at no cost to you.

Can no organization today raise their own money for their own entertainment?

The child-care centre - Jack Woods farm. This has been a disaster since the town purchased the property for the new town hall.

The town purchased all the Woods' land, then sold the house back to Mr. Woods.

They then purchased the house from Mr. Woods, maybe for the new town hall, for \$300,000.

This property has cost the town money ever since the old-boys club thought they could make money by renting the property.

How long has that been - 10 years?

No interest on \$300,000 for at least 10 years.

Sell the property and invest the money and do not worry about the gardens.

Now, we have the hockey organization wanting ice rental fees forgiven.

Our town is generous

with other people's money.

I thought that with a new council and Al Wilson on council we would not spend taxpayers' dollars on special interest groups that included spending \$100,000 on trees for the arboretum.

From 2000 to 2006 my taxes have gone up by 30.24 per cent.

Aurora's portion was 50.24 per cent of the increase.

The town used to blame the school taxes, but now the town is the big spender.

School taxes are less now than they were in 1998.

It is time that people pay for their recreation and that includes anything built by the town.

For example, our street was paved after 30 years - very nice, but they also replaced the sidewalk which was not necessary, a total waste of money.

The flyer the town put out as information did not mention sidewalks.

Stop spending tax dollars on special interest groups.

Let's improve on control of spending and maybe balance a budget for a few years for a change.

Other towns manage that, why can't we?

R.W. Hanes  
Aurora

## Councillor fails first test: reader

To the editor,

We, as Aurora residents, have been had again!

With all the blustering and concern expressed about redressing the tax imbalance between residential and business taxes in the last election, the man of the hour, Al Wilson, after running an entire campaign promising to fight this issue on the behalf of Aurora residents, failed in his first big test under fire.

The York Catholic District School Board purchased 11 acres of prime industrial land in the Wellington/Industrial Parkway area and sought at the March 28 Public Planning meeting to have it rezoned for institutional use in order to construct a high school.

Despite opportunities to request land in the residential developments in the Bayview and Wellington area, they came to the public planning meeting (like Wal-Mart before them) and requested a zoning

change for roughly 5 per cent of the remaining industrial zoned land in Aurora.

Councillor Wilson, (Chair of EDAC - Economic Development Advisory Committee), was the deciding vote that permitted the rezoning.

As a result of the rezoning from industrial to institutional the Town of Aurora will receive NO tax revenue from this site!

Hundreds of thousands of dollars lost to our treasury when there were alternative locations in the new residential sections of Town.

With fewer than 200 acres of industrial or employment lands left in the Town, a major opportunity to rebalance the 87 per cent residential vs. 13 per cent business tax ratio was lost..forever.

Actions speak...everything else walks.

Ireland Richardson  
Aurora

## Taxes here higher than T.O., he says

To the editor,

(\$5,585) this year.

When we first came to Aurora in the early 70s, my principal, interest and taxes were \$225 per month!

On one of the Star Trek episodes, a financial investor asks the Captain what he does with his pay.

The Captain replies that they do not get paid, the state looks after them and their needs...

I would like a wood-grained replicator.

Ian Allison  
Aurora



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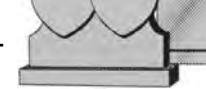
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**Letters to the Editor**

# There is life outside Aurora: Hugo

**To the editor,**

Recently, whilst perusing another newspaper, I came across a story that I had not read in The Auroran, which appeared rather odd at the time, as this story seemed to hold some import for you Aurora-ganadians.

Now first off, you can see that I do admit I read papers other than the one you are currently holding in your very hands.

This may come as a shock to some of you, not the fact that I read other papers, but the fact that there are other papers out there.

I realize that some of you lead somewhat of a sheltered life over there in Aurora, what with believing that the word ends just beyond your borders and all.

Such delusional presumptions are evidenced by the simple act of reading this paper.

The editor of this publication, for anomalous reasons of his own, believes it best to keep you all in the dark regarding the goings on beyond your sheltered frontiers.

Not a terribly beneficial course of action, I might

suggest.

Without proper information, you people might start believing some pretty strange things.

And to make matters worse, you may have no idea of the important matters you are missing.

And allow me to be the first to tell you that ignorance is certainly not bliss.

On the other hand it does go along way to explain a lot about Aurora and its populace...particularly its leaders.

At any rate, I read in a national paper (that of course would be a paper that serves the entire country of Canada, not just Aurora) that the patron saint of your fair town, Frank Stronach, was considering buying the formerly American held company, Chrysler Motors, from its current owners, Daimler Benz of Germany.

I think that would be a great idea.

To have ownership of an international automaker, as storied and significant as Chrysler, would be an important coup for the Canadian auto industry.

The retention of the jobs, wages paid, taxes generated and related peripheral

benefits will do nothing but good for the Canadian economy.

The downside, of course, is having to continue tolerating the annoyingly incessant shriekings of the perpetually frenzied Buzz Hargrove.

This potential ownership may even have some concrete benefits for the citizens of Aurora.

If not direct auto sector jobs, at least there is the likelihood that Frank may need to spend more cash locally in having to hire a few more security goons with the intent of keeping the plebeian hordes from troubling him and his buddies when they are playing a few rounds on his private links in the heavily fortified Magna compound.

Or maybe the new owner may consider getting more directly involved with day to day operations and take a larger hand in research and development.

Maybe even suggest some new models for the upcoming year.

Perchance we will witness the introduction of a brand new model called the "Belinda".

The company will, of course, have spared no

expense to outfit this model in preparation for its arrival on the market.

Initially this model may be a hit with its owners due to its good looks and fresh new lines. It will have almost every conceivable option.

This model will also be equipped with a convertible top. One that does not simply go up and down, but which has the ability to change colour of the top, and back again.

Any time it wants.

And it will do so in an effort to be taken more seriously. Unfortunately this is one option that will not be terribly well thought out.

But I think that destiny will doom the continued development or production of this model, because in spite of its predication to be a vehicle that is determined to make its presence known, owners will find the "Belinda" difficult to keep heading in one direction, owing mostly to a factory installed sense of entitlement and self-centered grandiosity.

Even though the occupants of this vehicle, having decided which direction and at what speed they wish to go, the "Belinda" will strive to go off in a direction of its own choosing regardless of the wishes of the passengers, and undertake to be always out front and leading.

But due to its lack of necessary standard equipment,

it will discover that it cannot lead, and it will then simply find it much easier to turn and go off in some other direction entirely.

Where, having now decided that this now where it wants to take its hapless riders, it will also try to get out front and lead, but sadly will fail once more, perhaps even more miserably this time.

This goes on until the Belinda decides it is no longer sufficiently amused doing what its riders want, and will then simply throw them all out and finds its own way back to the factory, where it will be installed in a

gilded showroom/board-room, which where it will pretend that it is doing something important.

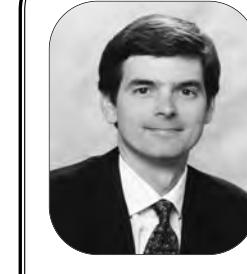
This, of course, will be a major disappointment for those consumers who had high hopes for this model, but to many of us who know a thing or two about the nature of such poor automobile design and execution, need only to shake our heads and say, "I told you so..."

Makes one glad our leaders aren't as predictable as our cars, right?

**Hugo T. Kroon**  
Bethesda

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# Group seeks yarn

**To the editor,**

I am co-coordinator of the York Region Chapter of Project Linus.

We are a 100 per cent volunteer not-for-profit registered charity that provides seriously ill or traumatized children of all ages free handmade blankets of security they can call their own.

We have been endorsed by Charles Schulz to use his trademark "Linus" from the Peanuts cartoon to help illustrate what we are all about.

Our organization started in Denver, Colorado, with a single child in the cancer unit, and grew right across the country and also across to other countries.

These security "blankies" are distributed through hospitals and care facilities.

They are used anywhere a child is in distress, such as bereavement programs, emergency rooms, pediatrics, abuse programs, eating disorders, cancer camps for kids, and the Children's Aid Society has also benefitted from our chapter.

Our blankets are made by ladies of all ages and are knitted, crocheted, or quilted.

Sometimes it can be quite expensive for our seniors to keep making these blankets, so we try to help by giving them the yarn.

I currently work at the York Region Board of Education in Aurora and was talking about raising money to buy yarn for these

seniors.

Our yarn supplies are exhausted along with any funds that we had for this purpose.

It was suggested that since our cause relies solely on private donations and generosity of people giving yarn, that we could ask The Auroran to maybe put in a request for yarn donations.

The yarn we need is new or gently used balls of 3 and 4 ply acrylic yarn, (not wool due to allergies).

The yarn can be dropped off at the York Region District School Board office at 60 Wellington St. West, in Aurora.

We have so far given almost 20,000 blankets to children in York Region since 1997 and hope to continue to give more with your help.

**Marie Lindgren**  
Coordinator  
York Region Chapter  
Project Linus

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**Letters to the Editor**

# Nothing final on school location: trustee

**An open letter to the residents of Aurora**

Over the past couple of weeks, there have been letters on these pages commenting on a feasibility project in progress about building a new high school to replace Aurora's Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School.

As your trustee, I welcome the opportunity to address this topic and highlight the process underway to arrive at a decision to serve the future needs of students and families in Aurora.

The current Williams campus has been part of our community since 1952, and there are many people

who hold fond memories of their high school days in that building.

The replacement of an institution like Williams does not happen very often.

It is happening now as the projected costs to maintain and upgrade the building over the next 10 years exceed the cost of building and maintaining a new school.

Accordingly, the Ministry has recommended to our Board and all other Boards across the province that it is financially prudent to invest in replacement schools for buildings in need of this much maintenance and upgrading.

Our Board agrees.

Because this does not

**GORD KERR**

happen very often, the Board has the opportunity to step back and reassess both the current and future needs of the community before finalizing a decision about where to locate a new school building.

The new high school building will serve students and families of Aurora for roughly the next 50 to 60 years, and the Board has a responsibility to consider options to enable it to address the needs of our growing and changing community.

There are many factors being considered.

The decision about where to locate the school is neither obvious, nor has it been made.

The two sites currently under consideration include the current site on Dunning Avenue, and a second site on Bayview Avenue across from the new Shoppers Drug Mart.

There are pros and cons

to both sites.

The Bayview Avenue site is closer to where many future students will reside, but it is 15 acres in size versus the current 19-acre site.

This would have an impact on the ability to maintain the current outdoor field space.

The Dunning Avenue site is larger, but is a greater distance from most of the future students' home addresses.

Neither site will provide a perfect solution for everyone and no matter which location is selected, there will be people who are unhappy with the decision.

I appreciate all of the emails I've received and will use them to help other members of the Board of Trustees understand the implications of the decision being made about replacing Williams.

More information is available at [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca) and still more will be available at the next community meeting taking place at the

school at 7 p.m. April 23.

Whether Dr. G.W. Williams is replaced on site or in a different location, the York Region District School Board is committed to its responsibility to serve the needs of students and families of Aurora.

The planning horizon of 10, 15 and 25 years is a demonstration of the Board's commitment to its responsibility to serve the evolving needs of a growing and changing Aurora.

A new high school building with new amenities, labs and facilities will be an exciting new addition to our community, no matter where it is placed.

If you would like to let me know how you feel about this, I would appreciate it if you would send me an email at [gord.kerr@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:gord.kerr@yrdsb.edu.on.ca).

**Gord Kerr  
Trustee  
Aurora and King  
York Region  
District School Board**

## Don't move Williams: reader

**An Open letter to Aurora School Trustee Gord Kerr**

I was very disappointed when I first learned that Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School was going to be torn down and replaced with a new school.

I like the architecture of the school. It is certainly unique compared with all the schools they are building now in York Region.

Typical of the style in the middle of the last century, it is rare in these parts as there were few schools built in York Region at that time.

It is an important landmark for Aurora. It became the high school to replace Wells Street School which was the first high school in Aurora.

It may not appear to be important architecturally now, but in another 50 years it would be just as valuable to us as Wells Street or Church Street schools are now.

When I heard this week, that not only might they replace Williams, but that they might move it also to the far northern region of the town, I was significantly more than disappointed.

There are several reasons why this is a very bad idea besides the lost heritage mentioned above.

1) The students at Williams contribute significantly to the financial health of the Yonge street merchants. These merchants are about to take a significant hit already with the construction of a new Wal-Mart on the outskirts of town. Taking away these customers will only aid in the demise of our Yonge Street commercial area.

2) One of the reasons given for possibly moving the school is that it will be closer to a lot of Aurora's new residents. What, of course, is never said is that it will be a lot farther from most of its current residents.

If they move this school as

they are proposing, then there will not be a single high school south of Wellington. (not counting Aurora High as it is right on Wellington).

Many of the people Williams currently serves live in the older part of town.

Many of these people (myself included) have some expectation of amenities being close to our homes.

That is why many of us live here and that is why many of us are actually able to get by with one or fewer cars in our households.

No offence to the people moving into new subdivisions, but they do not have that same expectation.

Now we've had the seniors' centre move away, we've had many aquatic programs move away to the new rec. centre, now we are going to have our local high school move away as well.

Slowly but surely the powers that be are forcing downtown residents to either move away themselves or pur-

chase second cars.

The town, the region, and the school board should be doing what they can to promote Aurora's downtown (both residents and merchants).

They most certainly should not be actively participating in destroying it as they have been doing to date.

Please leave Williams where it is.

Rebuild it if you must.

But it is important and necessary where it is.

Do not move it.

**Darryl Moore  
Aurora**

More information is available at [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca) and still more will be available at the next community meeting taking place at the

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## Williams must not move, reader says

**Open letter to school trustee, Gord Kerr.**

I was greatly dismayed to hear the news of the potential closing of Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School.

What short sighted thinking on the school board's part!

That high school is an integral part of the downtown community of Aurora and for the board to consider closing it and moving to Bayview area will be a death knell for the downtown core of our town.

Not only will the town be worse off, so will the students!

To consider building where there is not enough

land to have adequate playing fields for team sports is so arrogantly dismissive of students needs, that it is infuriating!

Do these bureaucrats not even read all the latest studies of the benefits of physical activities in high school and the potential dangers of obesity?

If the school cannot be repaired, then build a new one behind it and tear down the existing one when it is finished. The land on Bayview should only be for an additional school, not a replacement!

**Jane Salhani  
Aurora**

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"I saw this occur last year to two of my daughter's friends, so we wanted to try and do everything in our control to prevent this from happening to anyone else."

Since opening in August of 2004, trend-setting 5 BELOW has become the place to go for many up-to-date fashions, right here in Aurora.

Mae attended a buying trip in Los Angeles recently and when she returned, she couldn't stop carrying on about the many, one-of-a-kind fashions with eye-popping spring colours such as buttercream yellows, turquoise, blues and pinks.

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Letters to the Editor

# Are my dogs smart enough not to eat food from the can?

**To the editor,**

eventually get hungry and eat it.

They didn't.

This went on for several days until I eventually caved and made them a beef stew.

Looking back on these events I am beginning to think that they heard (even though they "pour over newspapers" - I really don't think that they can read) about the recall of canned dog food.

Surely they would know that, being the responsible pet owner I am, I had

researched the problems with some dog foods, immediately upon being advised, and found that their food was not affected.

I informed them of my research before opening a new can so what is their problem?

Okay, so I talk to my animals not thinking that they could comprehend the

complexities of a recall and how it could directly affect their health, but I am beginning to think they understand a lot more than I gave them credit for.

I have even tried opening a can of dog food, when they are not looking, putting it on a plate in the fridge like a leftover and still they know!

Now if I can only get them to grasp the fact that their canned food is safe so that I can stop making homemade food, even though I have found it is less expensive, if not as convenient, as buying dog food.

I think there is a moral here.

Don't underestimate

your pets' language comprehension and don't discuss current events, recalls, etc. in their presence (I think they know how to spell, too - they know exactly what "do you want to go for a W?" means).

**Bonnie Tiffin**  
Oak Ridges

## Soccer is played on grass, he says

**To the editor,**

With every reading of The Auroran, I never fail to mentally scribe a list of letters to the editor.

The list includes councilors, dysfunctional or otherwise, promising to only blog in the future, the tearing down of schools and rebuilding elsewhere for the betterment of the yet unborn students who supposedly will live in a selected quadrant, the rising property taxes to pay for the shortfalls of those past projects that were to not have gone into cost overides.

Added now to that list is the proposal, seemingly a done deal, to tear up grass and replace it with an artificial turf at Sheppard's Bush.

This is Aurora, where we play our soccer on grass, outside. I have seen deer graze on that soccer pitch.

Does anybody remember the sign on the way into Aurora, "Embrace Nature"? Have you seen the nature on that corner?

I wish everybody, dysfunctional or otherwise, would give their collective heads a shake.

**Mark Warburton**  
Aurora

## The Truman "S" meant nothing

**To the editor,**

Here's a little known fact about a past president of the United States of America, one Harry S. Truman.

This has been confirmed by Aurora's fount of knowledge, the Aurora Public Library, and the Metropolitan Toronto library.

When he was born, his two grandfathers were called Solomon and Shippe.

After a fairly long drawn out discussion, no one in

the Truman family liked either name, so they opted to simply use the letter "S" for Truman's middle name.

When he was born, his two grandfathers were called Solomon and Shippe.

After a fairly long drawn out discussion, no one in

Archie Milne

Aurora

## Group needs help installing nest boxes

**To the editor,**

The Environmental Advisory Committee needs your assistance to put up more than 80 nest boxes along the edge of the East Aurora Wetland Complex Wildlife Park.

Help to provide a desirable home for some of Aurora's declining bird population.

We will be meeting on Earth Day, Sunday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the

car park of the Aurora Recreational Centre on Wellington Street East.

The entrance is just west of Leslie Street, on the north side of Wellington Street.

Bring warm clothes, if last year's weather is anything to go by, and a square headed screwdriver.

A battery operated power screwdriver can also be very advantageous.

**David Tomlinson**

Aurora



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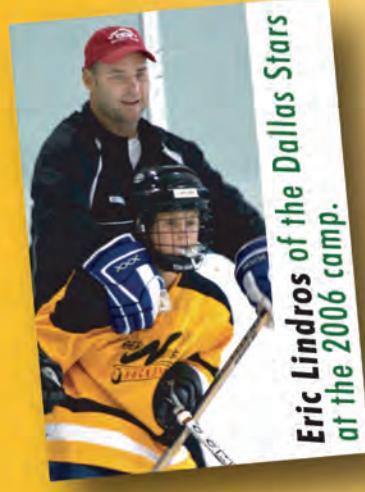


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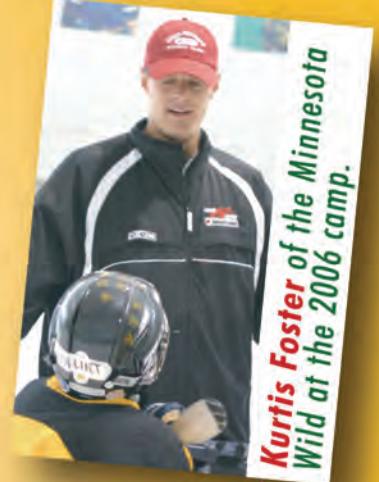
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## Eliminate Dukes in five

# Tigers return to Dudley Hewitt tourney

When Wellington, Ontario, Mayor Leo Finnegan holds his next council meeting Monday, April 23, he'll be wearing an Aurora Tigers hockey sweater.

It would have been the other way around for Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris, had the Wellington Dukes managed to overcome the aggressive hockey play of the Junior A Tigers.

But, after the Dukes fell to the Tigers in five games, thanks to a convincing 5-1 Aurora victory Friday night, the Tiger sweater was sent to Wellington for its mayor to wear.

The arrangement was made last week, after Wellington won the first game of the league championship playoff.

Perhaps that's all Aurora needed to hear as the incredible hockey team clawed its way back into contention and won the next four games to capture the title.

In the final two games, there was little doubt as Aurora won convincingly, but game three was into its second overtime period, before Aurora finally managed a 4-3 win.

That, after they trailed 2-0 after one period and 3-1 after two, in the game that Wellington desperately needed to win.

One other organization is delighted Tigers won the series so handily.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce has its annual home show opening at the Community Centre this weekend, and they needed the ice removed.

Had the series gone the limit, Tigers would have had a game there Tuesday night, still enough time to remove the ice, but timing, as they say, is everything.

Friday, the Tigers obviously wanted to wrap up the series and the team outshot the Dukes 24-6 in the first period but were still scoreless after 20 minutes.

Aurora wasn't going to be denied, however, eventually outshooting the opposition

51-19 on their way to a convincing 5-1 victory before nearly 1,000 fans.

The victory capped a challenging series against a worthy opponent with Aurora prevailing four games to one.

"For most players winning an OPJHL Championship is an experience of a lifetime and frankly this group deserves the success because they have been totally committed to the task at hand," said Coach Jerome Dupont.

He said the team is good enough to win it all if it stays focused.

Scoring for the Tigers were Mike Ward, Joey Martin, Joey Piccone, Vince Bruni and Colin Williams who scored into an empty net while Aurora was short-handed late in the game.

At that stage, it was do-or-die for Wellington as they trailed by three goals and had few chances left to win the game.

Tyler Gordon was rock solid in net stopping 18 of 19 shots, 10 of which came in the third period as the Dukes tried to fight back.

The team now moves onto the Dudley Hewitt hockey tournament in Iroquois Falls, slated to begin April 24.

The four-team tournament includes the Abitibi Eskimos who are the hosts and Aurora.

Two other teams have yet to be decided.

In the fourth game Thursday, the Tigers drove into Wellington and came away with a convincing 4-1 victory over the Dukes.

Aurora outshot the opposition 35-15 to take a stranglehold on the best of seven series.

"We played a solid two-way game and that goes for everybody who suited up," said Coach Dupont.

Scoring for the Tigers were Mike Dahlinger, Alain Goulet and Paul Zanette.

Doug Henderson scored a goal and added two assists.

### GAME THREE AURORA 4 WELLINGTON 3

First Period

W: Marc Senecal (unassisted) 3.21

W: Joe Hall (Brown) 4.19

### Second Period

A: Joey Piccone (Thorburn, Connolly) 11.18

W: Zach Morbeck (Bockmann, Franklin) 17.33

### Third Period

A: Mike Dahlinger (Waller, Martin) 5.22

A: Mike Dahlinger (Martin, Michalsky) 10.56

### First Overtime

No scoring

### Second Overtime

A: Mark Mayea (Williams, Brun) 0.21

### GAME FOUR

### AURORA 4 WELLINGTON 1

### First Period

A: Mike Dahlinger (Michalsky, Martin) 2.22

A: Doug Henderson (Bruni) 13.58

### Second Period

A: Alain Goulet (Waller, Henderson) 16.24

### Third Period

W: Glenn Belmore (Franklin) 8.48

A: Paul Zanette (Waller, Henderson) 9.20

### GAME FIVE

### AURORA 5 WELLINGTON 1

### First Period

No scoring

### Second Period

A: Joey Piccone (Thorburn) 1.43

A: Joey Martin (Connolly, Waller) 14.06

### Third Period

W: Marc Senecal (Franklin) 8.43

A: Mike Ward (Thorburn, Connolly) 9.54

A: Vince Bruni (Williams) 16.57

A: Colin Williams (Mayea) 19.00

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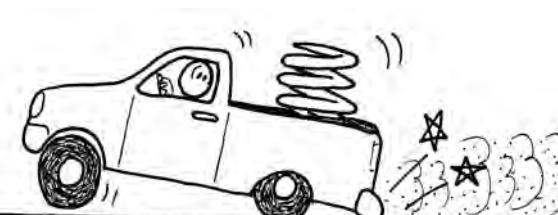
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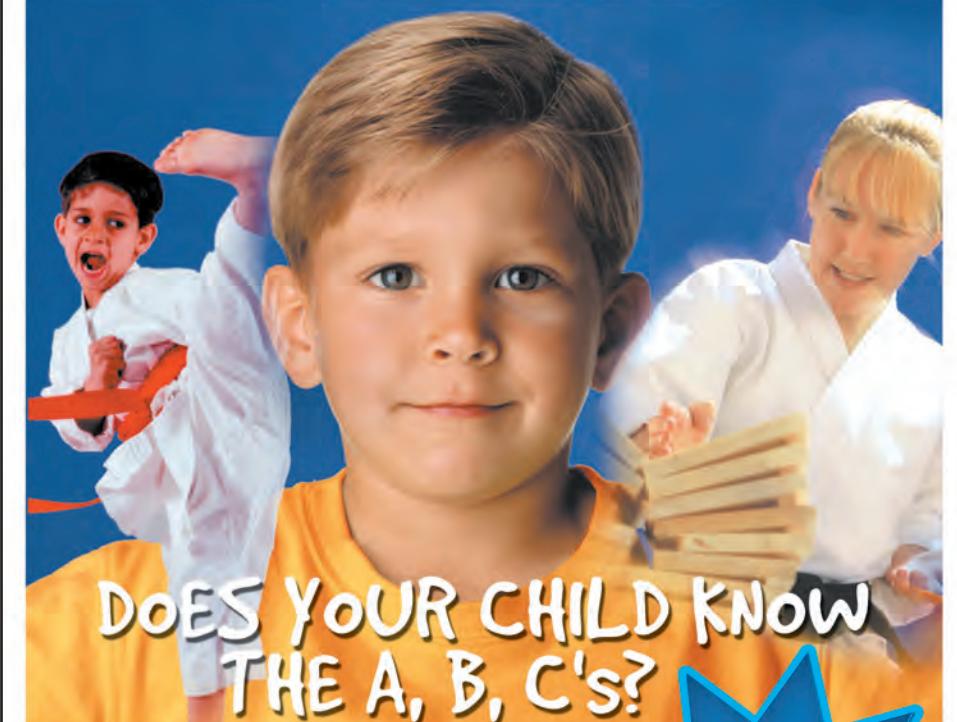
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## WESTVIEW GOLF CLUB AURORA



Members of the Monday night hockey league's champion team - Highland Chev Cadillac - are shown here. In the top row, left to right, are John Archibald, Darryl Iwai, Marty McDermott, Chris Neale, Steve Robertson, Jody Matthew, Ken Rumble and Scott Crabbe. In the front row, left to right, are Les Nip, Dennis Tonello, Brad Wilson, Bruce Chappell and Cliff Sifton. The goalie is Gary Baxter. Highland won the title after defeating Tom & Jerry's 6-2 in the championship game.

*Photo by Colin Leach*

## Decision has been made

# Horse Show will return to Machell

There will be horses in Machell Park this summer.

After a long and involved debate with comments of hostility, it was finally agreed to permit the Trillium Horse Show Association to hold a Horse Show in Machell Park as the Aurora Agricultural Society has been doing since the early 1970s.

The Agricultural Society has been sponsoring the Horse Show since 1923 following the first Horse Show in 1922 on Hazelburn Farm.

The Horse Show was

held in the Town Park for many years until Machell Park became available. Originally held on one weekend in June it was later expanded to two weekends.

At one time the Grand Prix was held at the Aurora Horse Show as a prelude to the Royal Winter Fair and a testing ground for Olympic hopefuls.

Some years ago the Society made arrangements with the Trillium Horse Show Association to sponsor a hunter and jumper event on the first weekend and the Society

presented a fair, children's events, pony show and a modified Grand Prix on the second weekend.

Last year the Society ran into problems due to a lack of volunteers and financial woes due to provincial regulations amending the rules about the use of proceeds from bingo games and it was decided to take a year off to regroup.

The Society asked the Trillium Association to carry on during the first weekend at Machell Park as had been the practice.

However, due to a shortage of playing fields,

town staff allocated the playing fields in Machell Park to the Youth Soccer Club causing the Trillium Association to seek alternative sites.

They were looking at the Magna property or possibly moving the show to Joker's Hill in King Township.

At a council meeting, town staff said they had been advised by Association officials that the Magna property was not suitable and if Machell Park was available they would run the horse show, or it would be necessary to find another

site outside Aurora.

As a result Councillor Grace Marsh recommended the Trillium Horse Show be held in Machell Park.

Councillor Bob McRoberts opposed the motion as the Society was taking a year off and the Soccer Club needed the fields.

Councillor Evelyn Buck also opposed the motion saying the Trillium Association was a commercial enterprise producing revenue, in spite of staff's comments that no fee was charged to the public for admittance to the Horse Show.

When the vote was finally called, the Marsh motion to allow the event in Machell Park was approved 6-3, with Councillors Buck, McRoberts and Al Wilson in opposition.

unexplained reason, appointments were not made to the Leisure Services Advisory Committee and staff was directed to re-advertise for citizen members.

Following a closed meeting, it was announced that John Clement, Margaret Kingski, Michael Levesque, Judy Norwell and Ken Whitehurst would be citizen members.

Appointed as youth members were Darby Piquette and Nameer Rizvi and Carol Walthers was named as the Sports Council representative.

Councillors Stephen Granger, Bob McRoberts and Evelina MacEachern were named as council representatives.

It was also agreed to amend the terms of reference to increase the overall membership to 11.

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# Tiger prospect camp opens in Richmond Hill Thursday

Even though they haven't finished playing this year, the Aurora Tigers Provincial Junior A Hockey team opens its prospect camp Thursday.

The camp, which will take place at the Elvis Stojko and Ed Sackfield Arenas in Richmond Hill, continues through Saturday.

The Tigers Friday night captured the league title ousting the Wellington Dukes in five games.

Aurora holds some awesome records.

Last year they were North Division Champs (Regular Season), in 2005,

they were the OPJHL North Division Champions, and in 2004, the team went all the way, winning the Dudley Hewitt title in Ontario, and the Royal Bank Cup, for the country.

This year's roster, to date, has generated eight American scholarships with more pending.

So far, Quinn Waller, Alain Goulet and Joey Martin will be attending the University of Omaha-Nebraska (Division 1), Paul Zanette and Andrew Eastman will be attending Niagara University (Division

1), Vince Bruni will be attending the University of Alabama-Huntsville (Division 1), Andrew Favot will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology (Division 1) and Mike Dahlinger will be attending Adrian College (Division 3).

Two to four more NCAA scholarships for Tigers are pending.

Anyone interested in trying out for the team and seeking further information should contact Coach Jerome Dupont at 905-841-3627.

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**Students at the Aurora Nursery School helped celebrate the school's 54th anniversary last week holding a "hop-a-long", to raise money for the co-op program.**

Auroran photo by Bob Ince

## Dinner theatre musical written around the music

Cindy works in a laundromat and is happily celebrating her birthday until the mailman shows up.

When he arrives, he hands her one letter, which says she must pay off a \$10,000 debt.

It wasn't the letter she wanted so she goes after the postman, grabs his mail pouch and finds her letter. Hurriedly, she rips it open, but it wasn't good news, either.

It was from her pen pal of more than three years, telling her he was calling off their love by mail romance.

In a fit of depression, Cindy tries to kill herself by plunging her head in the washer.

All this happens on the dinner theatre stage at Aurora's Howard Johnson Hotel, and the show, called "Suds" continues this week.

The show has more than 40 songs, interspersed with a radio newscaster.

Songs include "Please, Mr. Postman", "The Letter",

"Cindy's Birthday", "Birthday Party", "Walk on By", "We Can Work it Out", "You Can't Hurry Love" and others. The songs came first and the musical was written around them.

Enter the hero, a strapping young man who asks if he can post a note on the notice board. Cindy rushes over to welcome him and tells him her name is Cindy, to which he says is the name of his dog.

He asks permission to post a notice for a babysitter, which crushes Cindy again.

Several attempts are made to find a man for Cindy, including a real character who appears from the audience and makes a fool of himself, but his falls on stage were realistic.

Finally, the hero returns to see if his babysitter notice brought any results and explains he needs the babysitter for his dog "Cindy" when he is away at work.

Cindy is played by Cindy

Ashton, Marge by Christine Ford and Dee Dee by Helen-Claire Tingling. All are excellent in their roles and accomplished singers and dancers with Marge having an excellent voice.

Aaron Smaller has the challenging task of playing several roles including the postman, laundry repair man, the clown, Johnny Angel and the hero and is strong in all his roles.

"Suds" was created and written by Melinda Gilb, Steve Gunderson and Bryan Scott.

The local production was produced and directed by Mike McLay, Triz Remedios as musical director, Val Nantes as choreographer, Susan Lane as stage manager and Dave Russell on sound and lighting.

"Suds" will continue in the Queen Elizabeth Dinner Theatre April 21, 22, 27, 28 and May 4 and 13 with a Mother's Day special.

Call 905-727-1312 for details.

## Opera's big musical set to open Friday, April 20

The Aurora Opera Company is producing the largest musical production that it has done in 12 years, and it's full of people from Aurora.

Children of Eden opens at the Newmarket Theatre Friday, April 20 and continues until Sunday, April 22.

The story, based on the Old Testament, translates the nine chapters of the Book of Genesis into a joyous and enchanting family musical for the 21st century. Composer Stephen Schwartz retells the human story from the moment of creation until just after the flood.

The show traces Adam and Eve's adventures as the first couple to face the delights and heartbreaks of parenthood and journeys with Noah as he valiantly

### Auroran editor gets the nod

The Heritage Canada Foundation makes awards annually in several categories including journalism.

The Foundation believes that historic places are the cornerstones of a community, identity and sense of place.

Its National Awards Program recognizes individuals and organizations whose work gives new life to Canada's historic places.

The award is presented to a journalist whose work has brought profile to historic places in Canadian communities.

The Heritage Advisory Committee has recommended that former Councillor and Auroran editor Ron Wallace be nominated for the Award which was endorsed by members of council.

The winner is expected to be announced in June, and the award presented in Edmonton in the autumn.

sails his ark into the unknown.

Children of Eden causes the theatre-goer to ask important questions about family, love, social responsibility, and religion.

This show is now in the top 20 of musicals most frequently licensed by Music Theatre International, which is unusual for a show that never played on Broadway.

Its popularity has spread by word of mouth. The score is a favourite of many Schwartz fans and includes a vast range of styles beyond "typical" Broadway. The love song "In Whatever Time We Have" is thought to be the most popular Schwartz song performed at weddings.

The show features a huge cast of Aurora residents.

Twenty local children were chosen to participate as the animals and as the

grandchildren of Adam and Eve.

Ten teenagers were chosen and there are 30 adults from town.

Call the theatre box office for further information.

## Bridge results

**Tuesday, April 3:** J. Longley & O. Smolak; M. & P. McFarlane; M. Little & B. Saley; P. Graves & L. Lord.

**Wednesday, April 4:** R. Jenkinson & W. Browne; P. Graves & S. Hulbig; D. & L. Jackson; M. Oglanby & S. Davies.

**Friday, April 6:** M. Taylor & J. Aikman; M. & P. McFarlane; J. Demers & P. Caleb; D. & L. Jackson.

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## Jackson takes Peterborough job

**From page 1**  
for the Town's sewer relining project.

Most recently, he has continued to exemplify leadership throughout collaborative waste collection contract negotiations with the five York Region northern municipalities.

"I am delighted for Mr. Jackson as he moves to a new position in a single tier municipality that will use his tremendous talents to their fullest," said John Rogers, the Town's Chief Administrative Officer. "I am saddened, however, that the Town of Aurora is going to lose a top notch Senior Manager. He has served the Town well and we will miss his astute ability to resolve problems and to lead the way with innovative solutions."

Mr. Jackson will be leav-

ing his post April 26.

However, not everyone thinks the move is happening because of a new job opportunity.

The director has come under fire from a new council and his decisions on several issues have been second-guessed by council.

Councillor Evelyn Buck believes the outcome of several issues in town helped Jackson make his decision.

Among them, she cited a street lighting issue on a private walkway between a Canadian Tire store and the Mosaic Town House Condominium Association; a misleading article in a local newspaper about a non-existent problem with Aurora's water quality; fumes from an adhesive being used to seal material needed to re-line storm water pipes; and the issue that went on for weeks about Aurora Cable

Internet's potential use of wind turbines and a trailer.

He was, according to the councillor, repeatedly challenged, as was the Director of Planning, Sue Seibert, and to a lesser extent, solicitor Shelley Pohjola.

In the ACI issue, CAO Rogers advised the company was in compliance with an Ontario Municipal Board decision.

"Early in this melodramatic farce, I circulated an e-mail indicating that depart-

ment heads tend not to

spend any time at all com-

plaining," Councillor Buck said.

"Our world is full of prowling predators looking for good officers to steal for other municipalities.

Whether Wayne Jackson went seeking another opportunity or whether he was the one sought out is neither here nor there. My guess is that four more years of the same will not be looking very good to the rest of our management team right now."

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Even though the next provincial election isn't slated until October, Oak Ridges MPP and Aurora resident, Frank Klees, centre, has already started campaigning. Klees is seeking the new Newmarket-Aurora riding seat as provincial riding boundaries will match federal ones. Wednesday night, Klees entertained guests at Aurora's Oakland Hall, and among the standing-room only crowd were, left to right, Peter Seeman, Klees' campaign manager; Jane Twinney, Janesse McPhillips, and Ken Wakeman.

Auroran photo  
by David Falconer

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# Pot Luck event set for April 25

By BRIAN WARBURTON

We're still waiting for warmer weather this spring-time, and if this is global warming then I conclude it is overrated, in fact it is a bust or just exaggerated, or it has the dates wrong, or Aurora has been left out.

The days are getting longer and that is about all that is true.

When I mention the upcoming Spring Pot Luck and Choir Concert event Wednesday, April 25th, doesn't the very thought of this occasion make your mouth water just a tad?

I attended the last Pot Luck luncheon with my wife and brought a dish of lasagna, which I had prepared and which I was determined to taste in the hall during the event.

It had to be reheated and it was presented on a long table along with a great selection of other foods.

Lasagna must have been in favour that day because when I got to the dish it was all gone, to my chagrin and the great amusement of my wife.

However, I did not go hungry, there was no chance of that; I have to be careful with what I eat but that leaves me plenty of room to satisfy myself and I did just that; and by any standard the choice available was rich, varied and plentiful.

The last Pot Luck event was great fun and very well attended, and we are advised to sign up in advance this time at the front desk to ensure our place.

So I advise, sign up. Senior women in particular know how to handle an event like this and if they plan to attend, they will be first to sign up, so now you know!

The idea is that everybody brings an appetizer, a main course or a dessert, and enough for about five people, and declare what you plan to bring when you sign up.

This works very well and nothing goes to waste, it gets used up one way or another.

There is no charge, just bring the food and your smiling self and the choir will sing to you when everybody has eaten and is satisfied.

Now we have talked food, what about a trip somewhere? Would a trip to the Stratford Festival appeal to you?

That happens May 15 but it's nearly sold out.

A trip to Woodbine Race Track June 8 is nearer to home and a trip to the track is fun if you like horse racing, and it certainly makes an exciting change if you have never visited the track before.

If you make a bet and win, I guarantee it is a thrill you will remember for a long time.

Other trips are available and information is always available at the front counter or at the table display just past the front counter.

# 16 sites set to open doors

Doors Open is a worldwide phenomenon and it has caught on in Aurora.

Aurora joins 43 other Ontario communities from June to October for the annual event and this year Doors Open Aurora will take place August 11.

Door Open Aurora 2006 was the first year for the event here and was a success with more than 1,500 people visiting 14 sites.

On August 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aurora opens the doors of a variety of sites of heritage, cultural and community interest and everyone is welcome to explore the town's most notable buildings and tour Aurora's historic downtown core.

This year the Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA) will participate with a number of local artists who will be painting

outside some of the buildings throughout the day.

Sites agreeing to participate this year include the Grimshaw house, 15 Mosley St., Church Street School, Mary's Flower Shop at 15210 Yonge St., Odd Fellows Hall, 15216 Yonge St., St. Andrew's College, Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge St., Hillary House and barn, 15372 Yonge St., the Aurora Community Arboretum, 135

Industrial Parkway, Tomato Tasting at Barnes Garden, 11 Catherine Ave., the Sugar Shack in Sheppard's Bush and The Auroran and R & R Revisited, 95 Edward St.

Also included are the Aurora Little Theatre, 150 Henderson Dr., Seth Ashton store, 15240 Yonge St., the Hutchinson House, 14996 Yonge St., the fire hall, 220 Edward St., and Victoria Hall, 27 Mosley St.

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After 17 years' service with Aurora Home Hardware, Grace Richard retired last week. She was given a small party at the store Friday. While the staff looks on, owner Russ Barfitt offers cake to the retiree.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

## Organ donation bill may defy the odds

Private Member's Bills rarely make their way through the complicated legislative maze, but Progressive Conservative MPP Frank Klees' Organ Donation Bill may be defying those odds.

As the result of an all-party agreement, Klees' Bill 67, an Act to amend various Acts to require a declaration with respect to the donation of organs and tissue on death, has been scheduled for Public Hearings Thursday at Queen's Park and for clause-by-clause consideration April 26.

Klees is an Aurora resident who is seeking election in the upcoming October election in the new riding of Newmarket-Aurora.

"This is welcome news, not for me, but for thousands of Ontarians who are affected by the lack of availability of donor organs in this province," he said. "One person dies every three days waiting for an organ transplant in this province. I am convinced that the implementation of this Bill will significantly increase the availability of organs and save lives."

The Bill would make it

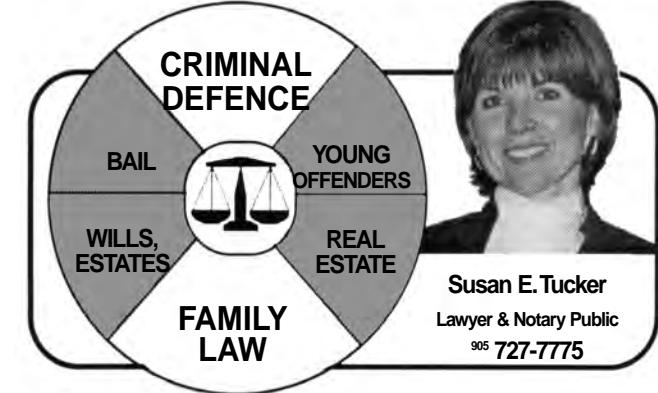
mandatory for anyone in Ontario, 16 years of age or older who applies for, or renews, a driver's license or health card, to answer an organ donation question.

The proposed question would allow for a "YES", "NO", or "Undecided" response, but key, Klees said, is that everyone, on a regular basis, would have to give serious consideration to the issue of organ donation.

"Most people when asked if they support organ donation say 'Yes,' but few ever sign a donor card," he said. "This simple administrative measure will ensure that everyone is given the opportunity to take that step and become a donor."

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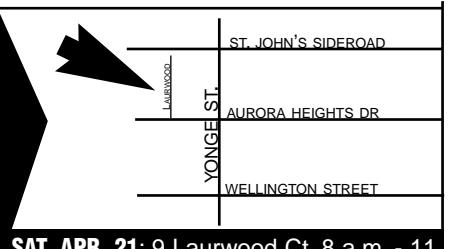
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# Belinda retires from politics

## Please see page 1

Stronach in an earlier election.

Since then, Ms Hall Findlay sought out the Liberal leadership, in a battle that saw the 47-year-old, fluently-bilingual lawyer sitting on the sidelines after the first ballot.

Ms Hall Findlay has recently accepted the nomination in the riding of Willowdale for the yet-to-be-announced federal election.

She was not available for comment following the Stronach announcement.

Meanwhile, Ms Stronach told the national media she would continue as the Liberal MP for Newmarket-Aurora until the next election is called and she will immediately rejoin her father's multibillion-dollar empire, Magna International Inc. as it heads into what could be a brisk bidding war for auto giant Chrysler.

Earlier this year, the Liberals moved the constituency office from Newmarket to Aurora.

If Jones does manage to win the nomination, and subsequently the election, he'll have to

go a long way to getting the kind of publicity Ms Stronach has been able to muster for the riding.

Her publicized romances, with Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay and hockey player Tie Domi, the rumours of a relationship with former United States president Bill Clinton, her changing hair colour and her fashionable attire kept her in the spotlight perhaps more than her political moves.

But none of that entered into her comments last Wednesday afternoon, even though several media-types tried to get her to talk about it.

"I am always assessing the best role I can play in public life, and, after being encouraged by members of the corporate leadership at Magna to return, I have decided that the timing of my return to the business should not be delayed," she said in a news release. "My father is looking to the future, the company is facing important strategic decisions, and the Canadian and global

auto sector and economy is in a period of great challenge. So I am stepping aside from elected politics for the time being and will now take part in public life in a different way."

Frank Stronach, her father, is the founder and chairman of Magna.

She also said she wants to spend more time with her children, two teenagers, and vowed to continue campaigning to end poverty and disease in Africa.

Ms Stronach becomes the 16th Liberal MP to decide not to seek re-election.

Stronach, following her father's failed attempt to get into national politics several years ago, has been an MP for three years.

And she entered at the top.

After working behind the scenes to bring about the merger of the Canadian Alliance and Progressive Conservative parties, Ms Stronach ran in 2004 for the leadership of the new Conservative party, undeterred by her political inexperience and

her inability to speak French.

She lost to Harper and, although she subsequently won in the riding of Newmarket-Aurora, she and Harper were never on the same political page.

In May, 2005, two days before a confidence vote that threatened Martin's minority Liberal government, Ms Stronach stunned political observers by crossing the floor where she was immediately sworn into Martin's cabinet as human resources minister.

After the Liberals were defeated in 2006, Ms Stronach flirted briefly with seeking the Liberal leadership, but ultimately bowed out of the race.

Not one to shirk her responsibilities, Ms Stronach made her announcement in Aurora Wednesday afternoon, flew to Ottawa for an interview, then returned to a Liberal Association meeting in Aurora Wednesday night.

Mr. Jones was also at the meeting.

## RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

The new restaurant replacing the former Trio and Wellington's is named "Bistro 171" and you may be wondering where the name came from.

Originally, the Trio was named for the three Spasopoulos brothers, Bill, Telly and Ted.

They were the owners of the Three Coins Restaurant in Richmond Hill before purchasing the former Cousin's Dairy Bar and opening it as the Trio Restaurant in January, 1970.

It became Wellingtons of Aurora in November, 2003, operated by two brothers and a sister, Nick, Jim and Anita.

It is now operated by another trio, Richard Allardyce, who was born in Aurora and says he's coming home, and his partners, Bryan Vallipuram and Omar Kelly.

They also have a restaurant in Toronto on Yonge Street near the Rosedale subway station and is named Bistro and the Yonge Street address.

Here in Aurora the restaurant is named after the last three digits of the Yonge Street address which is 15171, so it's Bistro 171.

### MONTESSORI NIXED

In August, 1988, Aurora Council received an application for an official plan and zoning amendment for a five-room Montessori school and day care centre on 4.5 acres on Elderberry Trail, just west of Yonge Street.

By a 4-2 vote council decided the school was unsuitable for the residential neighbourhood after residents objected at the public planning meeting.

The developer was so incensed at council's decision he threatened to develop the property as a pig farm as it was zoned rural.

### WHY?

If the speed limit on Canadian highways is 100 km/hr, why are car manufacturers allowed to build and sell vehicles to the general public that can travel at much higher speeds, resulting in street racing, high speed police chases and a lot of fatalities caused by excessive speed.

Other than emergency vehicles, there is no need for high speeds. Why?

One of the most frustrating experiences happens when the phone rings and is

answered only to find there is complete silence on the line and, after saying "Hello" a few times or "Is there anybody there?" you hang up in frustration.

At one time, it was explained that it was a computer activated call as the next in line, but because the previous call was longer than anticipated, there was nobody there when your phone rang, but, why?

A prime question for drivers approaching a green traffic light is how much longer it will remain that colour.

One hint comes from the flashing "walk" signal, but that's not always a good indicator as the wider the roadway the longer the flashing light.

The best indicator was the countdown signal that provided information to pedestrians how many seconds they had left before the light changed to red.

Primarily designed for pedestrians, they were of great help to motorists in providing information as to whether to prepare to stop or proceed.

The countdown signal at

Wellington and Yonge has disappeared. Why?

During recent weeks more than \$5,000 worth of chewing gum was stolen from big-chain grocery stores in Durham and York and other locations across southern Ontario.

The theft is estimated to be about 144,000 pieces of gum. Why?



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## **Belinda STRONACH**

**Member of Parliament Newmarket-Aurora**

### **A Message From Belinda Stronach, MP Newmarket-Aurora**

Dear Friends and Neighbours:

Since entering public life and becoming an elected representative in 2004, I have been proud to serve as your Member of Parliament. I have always placed the interests of our community and our country at the forefront of any decision that I have made, and I have been truly thankful for the trust and support given to me by my fellow residents.

So it is with a sense of sincere gratitude that I share with you the reasons for my recent decision to not stand for re-election as a Member of Parliament in the next federal election and to assume the position of Executive Vice-Chair at Magna International Inc., the firm where I served as President and CEO earlier this decade.

My motivation in deciding to continue in my role as M.P. until the next federal election is to best serve and promote the interests of the citizens of Newmarket and Aurora. I thought it unacceptable that you would be left unrepresented in Ottawa until the next federal election, and we don't know when that will come. I will continue to conduct myself in public life with the highest integrity, just as I have always done.

If you require assistance with a government matter, please contact the constituency office and our team will be pleased to assist you.

#### **My Reasons**

In assessing the best role that I can play in public life, and, after being encouraged by members of the corporate leadership at Magna to return, I decided that the timing of my return to Magna should not be delayed.

My father is looking to the future, the company is facing important strategic decisions, and the Canadian and global auto sectors are in a period of great challenge. So I am stepping aside from elected politics for the time being and will now take part in public life in a different way.

At Magna, I will focus on long-term strategic planning, international relationships, and employee and labour relations, among other matters. I will also continue to pursue my strong interest in education and job skills training – two key areas that are not only vital to Magna's global competitiveness, but also to the long-term competitiveness and prosperity of our country, and to the creation of jobs in our community.

I look forward to assuming these new duties at Magna, which plays an important role in the Ontario economy and which employs many people, including thousands of residents right here in Newmarket and Aurora.

There are other considerations that have also played a role in my decision. The heavy demands of public life on family time are real, and as a mother I want to spend some more time with my children.

I will also continue my work in the fight to alleviate extreme poverty and disease in Africa, which I have concluded is the greatest single threat to human dignity. I will be involved increasingly in this work through such initiatives as [www.spreadthenet.org](http://www.spreadthenet.org), a national campaign I launched last year together with Rick Mercer to help protect children in Africa against malaria.

#### **Continuing To Play An Active Role in Our Community**

I look forward to continue serving this great community that we all call home, and I will continue to play an active role in making Newmarket and Aurora a great place in which to live and work. I will also continue to lend my support to a number of community groups and charitable organizations that contribute to the quality of life of many residents.

#### **Remaining Active Within The Liberal Party of Canada**

Shortly after announcing my decision, I informed The Honourable Stéphane Dion, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, that I wish to remain active in growing and modernizing the Liberal Party in areas such as the recruitment of women into politics, fundraising and the adoption of a one-member, one-vote system.

In closing, please allow me to state once again what an honour and a privilege it has been to serve you.

During the past several years in office, I have been truly inspired by the commitment of my fellow residents to build a better community here in Newmarket-Aurora.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me.

Sincerely,

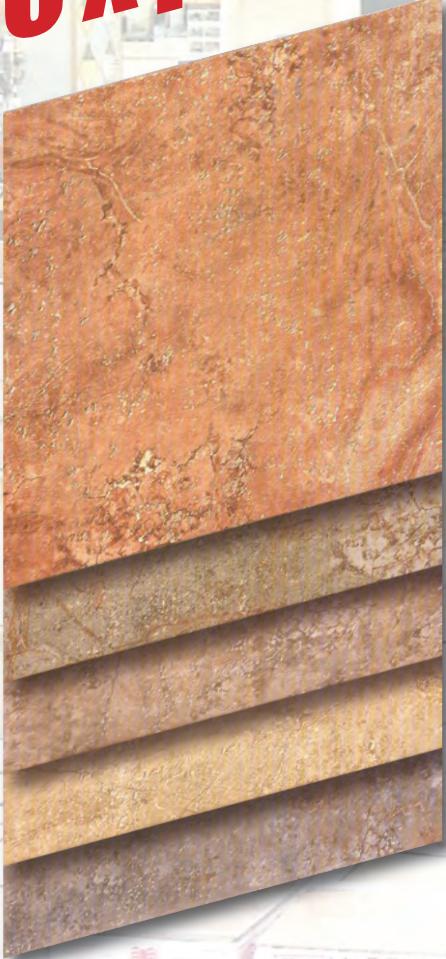
Belinda Stronach, MP  
Newmarket-Aurora



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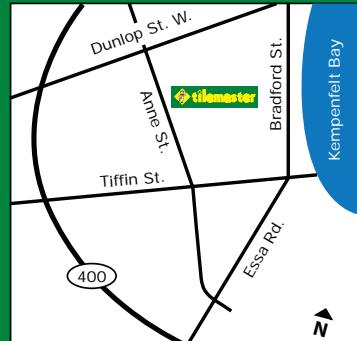
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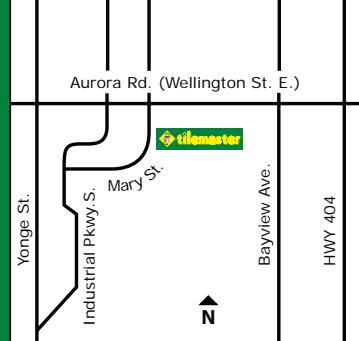


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