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AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 7 No. 25 AURORAN, Week of April 24, 2007 905-727-3300

Weather curtails crowds

What's good for the goose isn't necessarily that great for the gander.

The first nice spring weekend hit at absolutely the wrong time as crowds expected for the 21st annual Aurora Chamber of Commerce Home Show didn't materialize.

However, on Sunday afternoon, under a warm spring sun, members of the Aurora Rotary Club held a highly-successful 2nd annual Great Frog Race.

Selling almost all of their 1,000 plastic frogs, club members ran four heats in Tannery Creek at Machell Park, selected 10 winners from each heat, and ran a championship race as a small crowd enjoyed the antics.

When the last "ribbet" was heard, Aurora's Kristen Large was up a cool \$250 as her frog crossed the finish line first.

Close behind was a frog owned by Diane Buchanan of Aurora, who collected \$150, while Rotarian Jack Laurion purchased the frog that came in third, winning him \$100.

Inside the Community Centre, however, crowds were not to be seen.

Nice weather kept most people at home in their gardens, over their barbecues, or simply sucking up the sun's rays.

Nevertheless, chamber members remain undaunted and the 22nd annual Home Show planning is already underway.



Rotarian Greg Foster tends to his frogs Sunday afternoon.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



Spring arrived late this year and so did several baby chicks at Academy Baldwin. They were supposed to hatch just after Easter Sunday but waited an extra week. Children at Baldwin's have been waiting eagerly and have learned all about chicks. They are, left to right, Emily Vibien, Sammy Tsioros, Madison Schuetze, Rebecca Schuetze, Alyssa Sortino, and teacher Cheryl Thivierge.

Auroran photo by Rob Schuetze

Parking? Plenty downtown: study

In spite of complaints about the lack of parking in Aurora's downtown core, a study indicates it just isn't so.

Following discussions about the lack of parking in the area of the library and the soon to be opened cultural and heritage centre in the Church Street School, council authorized a \$30,000 parking study by Marshall Macklin Monaghan last September.

Staff members pointed out that the 2002 Master Transportation Study included a parking study which indicated there was adequate on and off-street parking in the surveyed areas although two municipal lots were full.

Since that time a number of developments have taken place including the relocation of the Thompson Funeral Home and the construction of a new transit parking lot.

Although the main area of concern has been the area in and around Library Square, council widened the study area to cover the entire downtown area.

The study area covered the area east of Yonge to Larmont and south from Wellington to Church and Metcalfe.

A representative of the consulting firm appeared before general committee last week to present results of the study. It was carried out on a Saturday between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and a Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., determined as typical days.

It was found there was a total of 1,200 on and off-street parking spaces in the study area including 77 at the library, 238 in other municipal parking lots, 463 in private parking lots, and 422 on-street spaces.

It was reported that parking

Please see page 14

Briefly

Plant right, park right

With plans for a huge tree planting coming up May 5 nearly complete, organizers discovered, and fixed, a parking problem.

The Arboretum group, which plans to plant thousands of trees that day, were advising volunteers to park on Industrial Parkway, near St. John's Sideroad.

That, they learned, would be a no-no.

So, they have acquired permission to use the Montessori School parking lot, across the street from the leash-free dog park.

"Our goal has always been to get trees planted, and to keep volunteers on the right side of the law in doing so," said spokesman John Clement.

Whines returned

Elections for the next Aurora Legion term were held at the executive meeting last week.

Returning for a third time as president is Len Whines.

Other elected officers include Rick Preston, first vice; Michelle LeBlanc, second vice; Linda Rogerson, treasurer; Carol Preston secretary (interim); and sergeant at arms, Ken White.

Executive members include Winnie Fleet, Kathy Jones, Dave Franklin, Helen Crawford-Henry, and Ken Antaya.

The new term begins June 1.

Hubbers gets the nod

The Green Party of Newmarket-Aurora is ready for a by-election or a general election - whichever comes first.

Saturday, the party again selected Aurora's Glenn Hubbers as the candidate to lead the party into the next election in Newmarket-Aurora. He's a professional engineer working in the energy industry and in the last election garnered 4.8 per cent of the local vote.

In Saturday's nomination held at the Aurora Town Hall, he grabbed 87 per cent of the vote, handily defeating Eve Simson, a shop steward for CUPE Local 79.

After the results were announced, Ms Simson pledged to work with the candidate and the local party.

Even though she said she would finish her term, Liberal MP Belinda Stronach has returned to an executive position at Magna International fuelling suspicions of a by-election in the Newmarket-Aurora riding.



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

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 Agricultural Society meets the first Monday of every month from 6.30 to 9 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre. New members welcome. For more information, call 905-713-6773, e-mail at info@aurorafair.ca, or visit www.aurorafair.ca.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Canadian Federation of University Women has monthly meetings at the Aurora Legion with a variety of speakers. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, 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.

Aurora Council public planning meeting at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the Town Hall.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

Final day to see Shadowpath Theatre Production's York Region's first ever Playwrights' Festival at Aurora's Factory Theatre featuring the writing talents of local playwrights. For more information call 905-727-3669. Showtime is 8 p.m.

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.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

Take a spin with Aurora's Rolling Thunder on the Big Bike for Stroke at 9 a.m. If you are interested in participating call 905-726-4764. Meanwhile, Aurora Chamber of Commerce members will participate by riding the Big Bike at 2 p.m. in memory of Len Leitch. Call 905-727-7262 for details.

Anti-Litter Day in Aurora. Call Info Aurora at 905-727-8214 for information.

Aurora's Great Curbside Giveaway. Take unwanted items to the curb to become someone's treasure. Left-over items must be removed by 6 p.m.

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, APRIL 30

Deadline for nominations for the Aurora Citizen of the Year. For information call Cooky Ellis the Town Hall, 905-726-4741.

TUESDAY, MAY 1

3rd Aurora Scouting Group Open House from 7.45 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. at Aurora High School. Call Pat Little at 905-727-0661 or email thirduora@aol.com for more info.

FRIDAY, MAY 4

Dance at the seniors' centre from 8 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for members and \$4 for non-members which includes snacks, light food, tea, coffee and desert.

SATURDAY, MAY 5

Old Time Square Dance at the seniors' centre will Caller Bill Hands from 8 to 10.30 p.m. in the West-McKenzie Room. Admission is \$5 which includes light refreshments.

MAY 5/6

45th Annual Juried Art Show and Sale at the Aurora Town Hall. Call 905-726-4762 for details.

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.

Aurora Seniors' Association Car Boot (Trunk) Sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot of the seniors' centre. Reserve a spot for \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members and keep the profits. White Elephant Sale and craft tables and also a cash barbecue. Call 905-726-4767 for details.

SUNDAY, MAY 13

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

FRIDAY, MAY 18

Dance at the seniors' centre from 8 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for members and \$4 for non-members which include snacks, light food, tea, coffee and dessert.

MAY 25/26

Seniors' Art Show and Sale at the Seniors' Art Centre from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

SATURDAY, MAY 26

York Chamber Ensemble marks the coming of summer with a choral concert featuring the Trinity Festival Chorus and Trinity Youth Choir. "Summer Solstice," is conducted by Aurora's Tony Browning. Concert, Trinity Anglican Church, begins at 7.30 p.m. Tickets, available at the door, cost \$15 or \$10 for students and seniors.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

Community Recognition Awards Ceremony including the Citizen of the Year presentation at the Town Hall.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

The Aurora Seniors' Association Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers in the seniors' centre at 1.30 p.m. preceded by a giant barbecue starting at 10.30 a.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12

Women's Centre of York Region in Aurora invites you to attend the 5th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Sleepy Hollow Golf Club. For more information, contact Shelley Lundquist at 905-727-5837, extension 107.

JUNE 23-24

"More Musical Mayhem", a hilarious new musical review at the Factory Theatre with shows at 2 and 7.30 p.m. June 23 and a 2 p.m. matinee June 24 with part of the proceeds going to Breast Cancer Research. Musical is directed by Irene Illic with choreography by Pat Wilson.

MONDAY, JUNE 25

Aurora Chamber of Commerce 26th Annual Golf Tournament at King Valley Golf Club. Registration at 11 a.m. a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. and dinner, entertainment, prizes and silent/live auction at 7 p.m. Call 905-727-7262 to register.

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Danish movie closes film circuit season

Capping off a season that took audiences from the snowy landscape of Wawa ("Snow Cake"), a refugee camp in Ethiopia ("Live and Become"), Al Gore's global classroom ("An Inconvenient Truth") to the fiery charm of Spain ("Volver"), the Aurora Film Circuit presents "After the Wedding" May 7.

The subscription season then breaks for the summer and continues in September.

"After the Wedding" is a 2006 Danish film which tells the story of Jacob Peterson (Mads Mikkelsen), a transplanted Dane running a struggling orphanage in one of India's poorest regions.

Jacob considers all Westerners criminally spoiled, so reluctantly returns to Denmark to meet with a wealthy entrepreneur who may be willing to save the orphanage.

Meanwhile, in Copenhagen, savvy businessman Jorgen (Rolf Lassgard) lives a near-idyllic life with his wife Helena (Sidse Babett Knudsen) and their children. After cancelling the meeting Jacob has travelled so far to attend, Jorgen insists they discuss things at his daughter Anna's (Stine Fischer Christensen) wedding the next day.

This sparks a chain of events that changes all their lives forever.

As always, the screening takes place at the Aurora Cineplex Odeon Theatres, Bayview Avenue in Aurora.

Doors open at 6.30 p.m., doorprizes are at 6.45 and the movie starts at 7 p.m. May 7 is

a different date than the one listed on subscription tickets.

Individual tickets are available for each film, at both the Aurora Public Library and R&R Revisted. Cost is \$10 cash.

A limited number of tickets may be available the night of the

screening at the Aurora Cineplex Odeon Theatre, however the Aurora Film Circuit has been presenting offerings to sold-out audiences since November, 2006, with most tickets sold at least a week prior to the screening night.

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Special guests at the Wells Street school historical event last week were Dick Illingworth, top left; Vic Parainfo (you know him as 'Vic's Shoe Repair'); Dorothy Clark McClure, bottom left, and Jacqueline Stuart.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Wells Street School now 115 years old

The auditorium of Wells Street Public School was filled with former and present students, staff, parents and friends celebrating its 115 years of history last week.

Teacher/librarian Wendy D'Angelo involved the students in a school-wide literacy project focusing on the history and heritage of the school, instead of presenting their annual play.

During the opening ceremonies, she spoke about the tradition of the school which she referred to as an old School with a Big Heart, dating back to 1892 as the Aurora High School, with J. H. Knowles as principal from 1923 to 1958.

The original school was replaced with a new school around the turn of the century, was rebuilt in 1922 and underwent extensive modifications in 1952 when it became a public school with the opening of the Aurora and District High School, now Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School.

School Principal Larry Fritz dressed in period cos-

tume welcomed the guests and introduced Trustee Gordon Kerr and former teachers.

It was also the first opportunity for parents and friends to hear the school song, "This is Our School" by the school choir assisted by songwriter and singer Glenn Marais.

Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure was introduced as she had granted permission for the school to use her drawing of the Wells Street School as the crest on a school T-shirt, which was worn by several staff members and students.

Guest speaker was Jacqueline Stuart, former Curator of the Aurora Museum.

She spoke about the history of the school and how back in the early days, John Mosley subdivided his land to include an Academy, which later became Wells Street School.

The Village of Aurora purchased 16 lots in 1867 to create a cricket grounds which later became the Town Park and a Farmer's

Market.

At one time there was a three-tier fountain in the park with the top tier for people, the middle one for horses and the bottom one for dogs.

A bandshell was built in 1892 which was replaced in 1950 and more recently with a new bandstand.

Also in the park is the old Drill Shed, believed to be the oldest facility in Canada still serving as an armoury.

She spoke about the barriers which block off Wells Street on school days.

In 1893 the provincial school inspector was critical about the lack of a playground for the school and arrangements were made for students to use a section of the park, resulting in the barriers.

Following opening ceremonies, guests were invited to view the displays of pictures and artifacts in various locations throughout the school and explore a Wells Street classroom of the past, the present and the future.

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Poor Richard

Here's a few pet peeves about drivers

*Courtesy on the highways,
Is a thing of the past;
Drivers are thoughtless,
As they drive by so fast.*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

I'm just about ready to join Beefaholics Anonymous, so I can vent my pet peeves about some of the uncaring and arrogant motorists on the roads today. The province cancelled photo radar about 10 years ago to form special police squads to combat speeders and aggressive drivers but did nothing about arrogant drivers.

You know the kind I mean - the ones who like to drive with one hand on the wheel while having a long-winded conversation on the phone, as they weave from lane to lane and make wide turns around corners.

Then there are the others who drink a coffee or enjoy a hamburger while driving, or if it's early in the morning using an electric razor to shave while driving, or in the case of a female who was seen driving while applying lipstick.

Believe it or not, I followed a blue van in Aurora recently and saw what appeared to be a small TV screen installed where the rear view mirror is located and watched the people on the screen moving around through the rear window of the van.

Then there is the driver who doesn't believe in stop signs or red lights.

He, or she, breezes through the intersection as if they had divine right, while the other motorists have to slam on the brakes to avoid a collision.

There is a traffic slowdown and the majority of drivers wait their turn to proceed only to find Mr. Arrogant using the shoulder of the roadway to breeze by and force his, or her, way in at the head of the line.

Then there is the driver who likes to drive slowly in the passing lane causing other motorists travelling at normal speeds to pass on the right, endangering other traffic.

Their attitude seems to be as I pay my taxes I can drive at the speed I want in the lane I want.

The majority of cars are equipped with turn indicators but a lot of motorists fail to use them, or if they do it's at the very last minute.

It's especially frustrating when you are waiting at an intersection to make a turn but you don't dare venture out because you don't know what the other driver plans to do.

A worst case scenario happens when an oncoming motorist signals that a right turn is planned as the signal light is flashing, so the waiting motorist starts to move forward when the oncoming car keeps coming through the intersection, regardless of the turn indicator.

Parking at a shopping centre is always a challenge as it appears rules of the road don't apply as motorists back out of a parking space without bothering to look either way and pedestrians and other motorists scramble for safety.

Then there is the motorist who doesn't know what the yellow lines in a parking lot are for as he straddles a line, effectively taking up two spots while other motorists burn gasoline and add to the pollution by driving around looking for a parking spot.

Worse than that is the motorist who uses the parking spaces set aside for the handicapped.

He, or she, parks and then gets out of the car and walks smartly into the store and it can only be assumed they are arrogant or mentally handicapped.

Then there is the tailgater.

You look out your rear view mirror and see a car or large truck crawling up on your rear and you hope and pray you don't have to stop suddenly.

Another pet peeve happens when exiting from a side street or a shopping plaza you can't see oncoming traffic in the curb lane due to an "A" or mobile sign close to the roadway blocking the view.

Still another peeve is the motorist who holds up traffic waiting to make a left turn onto Yonge Street or a similar arterial road from a side street when they could drive a block or two and make their left turn with ease with traffic signals.

Just plan ahead.

Obviously, the road to hell goes through York Region on the way to Toronto.



This minor hockey team has us stumped. First, we have never heard of the sponsor, Copper Kettle Cake Shoppe, and can't find anyone who has, and second, we don't know who's in the picture. Do you? Dozens of answers poured in last week identifying members of the Aurora High School Board. Thanks.

Letters to the Editor

Artificial turf was a done deal day after council said yes: Kean

To the editor,

As a concerned taxpayer, I am listing 10 things that \$600,000 could be used on that would better the Town, rather than artificial turf in a Conservation park.

Some of these might create an income source for the Town.

10-Better signage at Town entrances to show that Aurora is serious about attracting new business.

9-Invest in the downtown core to show that Aurora really does want to attract residents and visitors downtown.

8-Improve street signs so that residents and visitors can read them.

7-Allocate the money so that all Town buildings are accessible by physically disabled persons.

6-Invest the money in a Youth Centre so that ALL youth and not just soccer players have a place to go.

5-Invest the money in a Centre of the Arts where

Aurora can showcase its local talent and invite others to perform at the centre.

4-Invest the \$600,000 in the tree planting that was requested in the river valley behind the seniors' centre and the Leisure Centre. This will greatly help all the residents of the town by greening the community.

3-Invest the \$600,000 in the Library Square buildings so that they can be rented out to various groups and at the same time create a yearly income for the Town of \$200,000 in rent.

2-Put a clothes line in every yard. (Just joking)

1-Save the money so taxpayers don't have their taxes increased by 2.5 per cent.

These are suggestions but, unfortunately, none will happen. Council approved the rushing through of this item on Tuesday, April 10.

Imagine that at 8 a.m. Wednesday, the 11th, the bulldozers were already at work destroying the natural

field at Sheppard's Bush as if this might have already been a done deal before Council's approval.

This is shocking and I believe the residents should have been informed, and not just at the budget meeting, that this would happen overnight.

This was at least \$600,000 of your tax money destroying nature for a small group of people. Not only was the grass and soil removed but trees were damaged and cut down along Industrial Parkway.

Where are all of the environmentalists that ran in the election with the blessing of

David Tomlinson (as per his paid endorsement during the election)?

Where are the tax saving councillors who ran a campaign on not wasting taxpayers' money?

Where was the mayor who ran on so many so called great ideas to get elected?

To me, this is the worst case in many years of not listening to the majority of residents and supporting the lobbying of one group.

This is the worst case of wasting taxpayers' money!

Nigel Kean
Aurora

AURORAN

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Reasons why artificial turf better than natural

To the editor,

Ninety per cent of the money used to pay for the artificial turf comes from Reserves collected from Cash-in-lieu of parks, paid by developers.

Ten per cent will be paid by the Soccer Association.

The advantages of the material are as follows:

1. It can be used repeatedly. Natural grass can be used twice in a day, and not at all in wet weather.

2. It needs no herbicide to provide the surface needed for the game.

3. It needs no water in dry weather.

4. Annual maintenance costs for soccer fields are reduced by \$17,000 a year.

5. Snow can be swept off allowing it to be used earlier and later in the year.

6. Because of unlimited use, it takes the pressure from other fields.

The arguments in favour of using this material are both economic and practical. The argument against is artificial versus natural.

The decision allows the town to better meet the needs of young people to enjoy the sport of their choice with savings to the taxpayer.

It would have been done last year but there wasn't enough gravy in the pot.

Evelyn Buck
Councillor
Aurora



Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Stephen Granger, politician

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

I thought Stephen Granger was an excellent candidate even before I met him for the first time at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce candidate forum last October.

The reason: the brochure I found in my mailbox.

When looking for someone to support I began the process by reviewing the brochures or simple pamphlets produced by the respective candidates.

I look for information on four broad areas: education, professional/vocational background, volunteer endeavours and accomplishments and the issues and answers that the candidate have identified as important.

I try to look at the whole person. For instance, someone might not have much of a formal education or any expertise in a particular public policy area, but their professional/vocational or volunteer/community accomplishments would make up for it.

Mr. Granger's brochure was visually appealing to the eye and provided the reader with a compelling reason to vote for him.

For many candidates the campaign pamphlet is the first point of contact with the voting public and first impressions are important. Mr. Granger made a great first impression.

He graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.A., majoring in economics. He has also taken further post secondary school courses in marketing at Ryerson University.

His work has been primarily involved in the carrier transportation distribution services industry with 20 years working for major national transport carriers such as CP Express and Transport, TNT Overland, Clarke Transport and Consolidated Fastfrate Inc.

He has handled primarily senior account sales positions within this field.

Prior to seeking office, Mr. Granger had been involved with many community organizations and activities including the Optimist Club of Aurora and Highview Parent Council.

In addition, he held the chair position on development and fund raising efforts for two major fully accessible playground projects.

Further, he held the chair position for 11 years as founder of the Optimist York Regional Chess Tournament.

He also found time to serve on the Town of Aurora Leisure Services Advisory Committee and was a member of the Aurora Arboretum committee.

He has been married to Linda for 25 years and they have two boys, Michael, 16, and Ryan, 14.

They have lived in Aurora for 20 years.

Outside of work and Aurora Council meetings, Mr. Granger likes to jog to keep a "general level of fitness". He also continues his community involvement through the Aurora Optimist organization and by singing with the Aurora Trinity Anglican Church's "Unplugged".

What has surprised him about the way council works?

"The formal procedures we have to understand and follow in all aspects of the Town's business. There's been quite a learning curve attached to this new position but through the assistance of the mayor, fellow councillors, and staff it has been a lot easier! I found that when I was observing the municipal proceedings of council meetings before being elected, that this was much easier than having to actually follow and operate according to the "expected" municipal operating procedures."

How has the first couple of months on council been?

"Now that the election portion is behind us and the operational learning curve is more smooth, I feel more at ease in being able to handle the issues that we are facing in council. There was simply so much to learn and now I feel more confident and up to speed with current issues and concerns."

What are the Town's three biggest challenges/opportunities?

"Developing a strong economically sustainable Town that addresses our Strategic Plan goals. For example, we need to retain and enhance our current commercial businesses as well as

make strong advancements in getting new quality commercial/industrial business. (We must) develop an overall vision with "actions" on what needs to get done over the next four years, i.e. downtown revitalization which includes Library Square, the Heritage Centre along with the many other challenges such as controlling good planning and development. We have to ensure our residential and commercial planning is properly controlled and makes sense in the overall strategy...also, maintaining a solid financial position is key to our continued health and community benefit, which is why so much special attention is being given

towards our Town budget. This will help us lay the groundwork towards realizing key capital projects for the community such as the recent "in principle" approval for the Downtown Heritage Centre.

"I feel (that) my experience and enthusiasm can make a positive impact in assisting the other councillors and the community in achieving good things for the Town of Aurora."

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephensomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

Beware the lingo

It is important for parents to understand their children. Especially at this time of year...ah, spring!

That wondrous time of year when Aurora experiences a population explosion caused by an influx of university students coming home for the summer...or as I like to put it: when the prodigals return.

I like to think of myself as the kind of parent who understands her children and having had three of them in rapid-fire fashion, I'm pretty confident that I get the lingo.

My kids are now 22, 21 and 19-year-old full time university students, who by definition have not yet achieved my lofty maternal dream for them: the elite status known as "self-supporting".

Therefore, I have a lot of warnings.

First of all, watch out for the statement: "I'm looking for a job." Directly translated, the statement means: "I'm broke."

Immediately, the parental lobe of my brain will compute that my progeny (okay, one of them but I'm not naming names or they might start writing about me!) was too busy partying during those weekends when all the job fairs were held.

The computation will cause a financial migraine that may last several weeks or months, depending on how long the unemployment situation persists.

To ease the pain, I have 3 options:

1. Call a friend and ask for a favour;
2. Make assorted threats until I find one that works; or
3. Try an experimental new drug called "Damnitol". Take two capsules and call a friend in the morning...and damn it all, ask for a favour.

One of the side-effects of the "I'm looking for a job" statement is the "Can I borrow five dollars?" question. Here's the strategy:

You'd better have small bills in your wallet because if you don't have a five, they'll take a 10...and keep the change. If you don't have a 10, they'll take a 20...and keep the change. If you don't have a 20, they'll take your credit cards...and keep them.

And don't be offended by the word "borrow". You know they don't really mean it! They love you!

The "I love you!" statement is possibly the most dangerous trio of words in the young adult vocabulary - especially when spoken to a parent.

It is always sung in a sickly sweet childish voice that appears to be emanating from a devilishly angelic 20-something face crystallized in the eternal cuteness of the diabolical two's.

It has huge puppy dog eyes and a syrupy smile. It has the power to wipe out a parents resolve, life savings and marriage - instantly and simultaneously.

It essentially means "I want something, and dad already said no."

The way I deal with this is to ask myself a simple question. "Self," I posit, "do you want to risk marital discord and possibly growing old alone for the little imp who gave you stretch marks, sleepless nights and a second mortgage...or do you want to say no and possibly upset the she-devil so much she'll move out...and take all her STUFF with her?"

"Hmm..." I muse, scratching my head. "Is that a trick question?"

Believe it or not, IT IS! I've moved her STUFF in and out of Aurora enough times to know...and the trucks keep getting bigger and bigger.

These days, most empty nests come equipped with a revolving door. And your own kids won't be the only ones coming through.

I can't tell you how many times I've had to tip-toe around sleeping bodies strewn like land mines over my carpet with my cordless phone after telling the caller "I don't know if your son is here. Let me check."

Before I can say for sure, I wake them one by one (asking their names) until I either find the missing person or run out of bodies.

So I know for a fact that "I'm going to be out late tonight, so don't wait up, mom" means that somebody else's mom will probably be tripping over my son in the morning.

Then she'll feed him, ask him his name, and if he stays long enough, she might even do his laundry. It's an unwritten code among mothers.

We like to remind each other there is a difference between a problem and an inconvenience.

There are several young people to whom I did not give birth who come through my door and call out "Mom! I'm home!"

It melts my heart...so I do their laundry, okay?

I have learned that an inconvenience is when they go paint-balling and then come home with an entourage, strip in the garage, and proceed to set up drums, guitars and amplifiers.

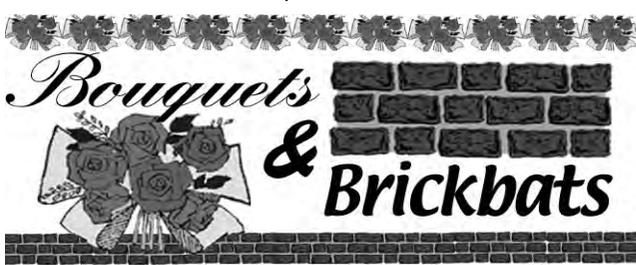
They jam for several hours in their underwear while the washer and dryer hop to the beat. They fall asleep on random spots on the floor.

Their only hope of making it to their jobs (assuming the friends came through) on time is...me! And I am NOT a morning person!

So far, no problems - only inconveniences. I have good kids (about 10 of them) and a lot of pancake mix and laundry detergent. We can make this work.

Like I said, it is important for parents to understand their children.

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



By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to all the volunteers who reported to the Aurora Recreation Centre Sunday, April 22, Earth Day, to help put up more than 80 nest boxes along the edge of the East Aurora Wetland Complex Wildlife Park and help David Tomlinson.

BRICKBATS to the York Region District School Board for even considering closing Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School on Dunning Avenue and transferring the students to a new high school on Bayview Avenue, which will be needed for new students living in the adjacent subdivisions. The town should make it very clear to the school board that they won't rezone the Dunning land from institutional.

BOUQUETS to Elder Connections for donating \$1,100 to the Aurora Seniors' Centre in support many of the computer programs. Elder Connections is a registered charitable organization that provides programs/services to all seniors.

BRICKBATS to members of Aurora Council for dragging out almost every issue on the agenda causing meetings to go on and on. While good debate is beneficial, some councillors waste time by asking questions which are answered in staff reports and refusing to accept those reports on trust. It's a good way to lose staff!

BOUQUETS to Grace Richard who is retiring after 17 years of service from Aurora's Home Hardware with her fellow employees arranging a party for her in the store.

BRICKBATS to the Ontario MPPs who have been flying high at taxpayers' expense using funds from an internal legislative fund hidden from public scrutiny. The funds are controlled by the Speaker and are not accessible to Freedom of Information requests. The trips may be worthwhile, but the public has a right to know.

BOUQUETS to Aurora's Archie Milne for his letter to The Auroran solving the mystery of what the "S" stood for in the name of U.S. President Harry S. Truman. If you really want to know, it doesn't stand for anything.

BRICKBATS to the young hoodlums who threw eggs at a residence on Glass Drive about 11:30 p.m. Easter Sunday and quickly disappeared in a car. Were these the same hoodlums who broke windows at Regency Acres Public School?

BOUQUETS to Aidan Slind, a student at Wells Street Public School who read his poem "The Monument" during the open ceremonies of Heritage Night at the school with the confidence and stage presence of a professional.

BRICKBATS to the strong gun lobby in the United States which makes it possible for anybody to go into a store and purchase semi-automatic handguns like the ones used to kill 32 people at Virginia Tech.

BOUQUETS to Councillor Stephen Granger for raising the question of agenda add-ons at committee and council meetings, which places councillors at a disadvantage as they have no time to research the new issues. Unless the item is really urgent, it should be left to a future meeting.

BOUQUETS to Councillor Evelina MacEachern for her Notice Of Motion for a study on council and general committee meetings and the possibility of going to three general committee meetings and one council meeting per month. Why not reverse the order and have three council meetings, so issues debated at committee won't be rehashed at council in front of the cameras?

Letters to the Editor

Reader wants Williams to stay where it is now

Open letter to school trustee Gord Kerr, regarding the proposed changes to Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School.

As you are aware, the current building housing Dr. G. W. Williams is an institution in the Town of Aurora and any decision to tear down the structure will be met with criticism. That being said, my concerns centre around the removal of a vibrant school community to the outskirts of town.

The proximity of Dr. G. W. Williams to Yonge Street must be noted.

Not only is this valuable land, with its many playing fields available for community and student use, but access to transportation via GO Transit, Viva and YRT cannot be overlooked.

This is the only Aurora area high school that can boast such good access to public transit, a direct result of its proximity to the Yonge Street corridor.

I would hope that the value of that land, and the potential for selling those lands for development, do not play into the decision of where the school should be located.

I recall how the old Newmarket High grounds were snapped up and developed so quickly.

It would be a sad commentary on modern society if the playing fields at 39 Dunning Avenue turned into new housing.

I suppose those new fami-

lies would be serviced by the new school on Bayview.

And how would those students get there?

The existing YRT service is inadequate, but, as there is a YRT service in place, there would be no school bus provided.

Taking the school out of the existing community, from families who purchased homes near the schools they wanted their children to attend is not right to those who live in the existing community.

Dr. Williams had a large addition recently, complete with new library and new cafeteria. I suggest that the value of the taxpayers' dollar is better served incorporating those newer elements within the existing building or a new building at the current location.

It also seems to me that the York Region District School Board is too eager to tear down and replace schools; Rogers Road in Newmarket and Woodbridge Public School being recent examples.

The aforementioned schools were built on existing sites to serve the student community and I submit the need to have the Dr. Williams school remain in place is as valuable, if not more valuable, to Aurora as leaving those schools in their neighbourhoods.

I don't buy the argument of diminishing school population, although I concede recent changes to Dr. Williams' traditional attendance areas has

certainly had an impact now that students from Oak Ridges, Gormley and even north Valhalla Heights in Aurora no longer attend Dr. Williams. Students from those areas have been directed to King High, Richmond Green, Stouffville High and Aurora High.

While there is a need to service the newer subdivisions, do not rob the older community to provide for the newer one. Too many facilities are being moved out of the Aurora core area, don't make Dr. Williams one of them.

In a public letter to The Auroran, you comment that new students for Dr. Williams will come from the Bayview Avenue area and suggest that moving the school to Bayview Avenue would serve that community for 10, 15, or 25 years. What about the existing community?

Don't the current and future residents deserve to keep the school where it is? What about their needs in the future?

Enough cannot be said about the mid-century architecture of the existing building.

One only has to look at the new Bur Oak High School in Markham to see how truly ugly modern institutional architecture can be.

Dr. Williams is distinct and different.

Even the recent addition

was careful to try and integrate the newer facilities within the existing structure.

If the Board is determined to tear the building down then why throw away all the money previously spent on the new addition?

Keep and use that addition in a new building...on Dunning Avenue.

Students of the school are better served with access to the Yonge St. corridor and its available transit to take them home, to work and to co-op placements in and around the Aurora area.

The new location doesn't provide access of that kind, nor is that likely in the future.

The new English Catholic High School planned on Wellington Street is wisely placed closer to existing amenities.

The York District Board should keep Dr. Williams where it is...39 Dunning Avenue.

With the growth of Aurora towards the east it makes sense to use the lands on Bayview for a new school, perhaps fast tracking its construction as another public High School will be needed in Aurora in the near future.

One high school will not be enough to house all the new development.

**Paddy Honey
Aurora**

Our armed forces show compassion

To the editor,

Our armed forces are not only doing a great job but have great compassion.

One of our sons passed away recently and we didn't know how to notify our grandson stationed in Afghanistan at an outpost with The Princess Pats.

It only took two phone calls and they sent a convoy of four armed vehicles on a six-hour trip to bring our grandson back to the base to tell him the sad news that his uncle had

passed away and so he could phone his family.

When the 18 alleged terrorists were arrested in Toronto, one of their training camps was four miles from my door step and as our troops are bringing democracy to Afghanistan, we won't have a Suicide Bomber blowing up innocent people in Canada.

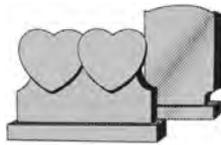
Keep up the great job, we are so proud of you.

**The Cole family
Severn Bridge**

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You get the government you deserve: Kroon

To the editor,

Re: "System, not citizens, is cause of problem", letter, April 10

I am glad to see some tentative evidence demonstrating sundry resurgence in vertebrae growth amongst citizens of Aurora.

Finally, someone is taking some responsibility for the situation in which you poor folks find yourselves regarding your somewhat farcical elected representation. George Gonsalves attempts to make amends on behalf of your politically beleaguered citizenry via his attempt to shift the blame from the citizens to the system that governs them.

However, it is positively a wonder to see how George can be so right, but so wrong, at the same time.

It is our own governmental system that somehow encourages these fatuous and mawkish half-witted characters to reach jurisdictional command, the sort of which is currently residing in your halls of power and once there is festering like a crippling gangrenous wound infecting the democratic body that governs you all.

As Winston Churchill said, "many forms of government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pre-

tends that democracy is all-perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all other forms that have been tried."

He also said, "The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter."

And he was absolutely right on both counts, because the reason we have such a lousy system, is because we have created it. We, the citizens, are to blame for this "system", because we are the system.

The only reason why these sorts of incompetent, bungling, greedy, self-centred miscreants manage to get re-elected time after time, is because we re-elect them.

Okay in the case of those running Aurora, it's all your fault not mine, because as I have said, I don't live there.

Over here in Stouffville we have had our own bouquet of blockheads holding on to the reins of power, and as a result, we were all covering our wallets with one hand and our butts with the other.

Although this latest collection seems to be on the right track for now, there's lots of time and opportunity to fall off the rails yet.

You see, George, the system belongs to us. If it is broken, it is because we

broke it, or because we allowed those we entrusted with it, to break it.

And the only way it is going to get fixed is if we fix it. That's right, us. Me and you, and everyone out there who understands how broken it is.

Fortunately some good people are actually doing something about it. Like me. However some of you folks question my methods thinking that I enjoy having to write like this.

I don't. Really.

We all need to take an active role in the governance of our towns and cities, our province and our country.

Many people don't care. And I believe it is outright criminal that about two thirds of the population doesn't even bother to get off the couch, where they are watching such intellectually challenging and compelling television like Springer, Maurey, Cops, Entertainment Tonight, or Oprah, to go out and exercise their democratic duty and vote.

But they don't vote. And you know why?

Because they don't care. And why don't they care?

Because they are stupid. And stupid people get the leadership they deserve.

Germany in the 30's got the Nazis, America in the

90's got Clinton, and last winter, the federal Liberals got Dion.

The problem is that sometimes smart folks who do know the difference, and are trying to make some changes, still end up with the same stupid leaders.

People like George, Nigel, myriad others who are tired of the lowest-common denominator terminally incompetent sort of status quo, and yes people like me, get what they don't deserve. We deserve better.

But you know what? I am not doing this because I want better representation for all citizens. I'm doing this for me, and others like me who deserve better. If in doing so helps improve representation for all citizens, then so be it.

If penning these screeds, mocking those who deserve mocking, knocking the self-important out of their ivory towers, or pulling back the curtain to expose the little minded pulling the levers,

helps to bring about better representation, then that's what I will continue to do.

It's up to you to decide what side you wish to be on. If you want democracy, free speech and decent representation, you know what to do.

If you don't know, or worse yet don't care, stick your straw in another 2 litre

bottle of diet Coke, rip open a party size of Doritos, flip open the latest issue of the National Enquirer and park your flabby butt on the sofa and your equally flabby mind in front of the TV, because your leader, Dr. Phil, will be on soon.

Hugo T. Kroon
Bethesda

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Jackson's reasons for leaving "far-fetched", councillor says

To the editor,

Out of respect for Wayne Jackson and all those who have worked with Mr. Jackson, I would like to clarify the misinformation created and spread by Councillor Evelyn Buck, through e-mail and an article in The Auroran.

Councillor Buck has alleged that Mr. Jackson is leaving, as a result of the treatment he received from members of council.

Having worked with Mr. Jackson from 2000 - 2003 and a short period this term, I found the allegations to be far fetched.

I called Mr. Jackson to discuss the matter.

Without any hesitation, he confirmed he was not leaving the Town of Aurora for the reasons provided by Councillor Buck.

He further added, he was not in search of a new job and that he had been contacted by a "head hunter", he was offered more money, more vacation, life style change, more responsibility and Peterborough being a single tiered municipality, a challenge. It is very unfortunate

that such a kind, caring and respectful individual leaves the Town of Aurora after many years of wonderful service in a manner that casts a false

black cloud, created by one individual.

Evelina MacEachern
Councillor
Aurora

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School grad wants Williams to remain

Open letter to Gord Kerr, school board trustee, Aurora and King.

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal to relocate Dr G.W. Williams Secondary School.

I believe that this proposal represents a major change in the Aurora community.

I understand that the school community has been informed about the need to

replace the school because 20.5 million dollars in repairs, over a period of five years, are required.

I pose several questions:
1) Why did the school maintenance schedule not account for the ongoing maintenance and necessary repairs? Why has the school been allowed to fall into such a state of disrepair and neglect that it now requires replacement?

2) What is the estimated cost of building a replacement structure in the northeast quadrant of Aurora? Does this not exceed 20.5 million dollars?

3) If, in fact, three high schools are required to meet the education needs of secondary school students in Aurora, then why not simply build the new school and maintain the current Dr G.W. Williams Secondary School?

4) I see no consideration to the historical feature of the position of Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School in the central core of the community. Is the YRDSB willing to neglect the historical significance and community fabric of the location school?

5) It is my understanding that the land on which Dr G.W. Williams is currently located was donated for the purpose of building the

school. Is the YRDSB willing to be disrespectful to the generosity of its benefactors?

6) Will the proposed new high school site be able to accommodate the fields necessary for sports such as track and field, football, soccer, rugby, football, baseball and field hockey?

7) I believe that school represents a building of historical, architectural significance. Has there been any consultation

with the local historical society and Town of Aurora with respect to this issue?

I believe that the current location is optimal because of the proximity to the public transit networks, public library facilities, and other centrally located services. Students can walk to the school and public transportation is available. Given the current mandate to reduce the reliance on the automobile and ensure that excess resources are not wasted on tearing down an existing building, I believe that a plan to restore and maintain the current structure is one of environmental and fiscal responsibility.

I suspect that the 19 acres of prime real estate will be redeveloped with no consideration or care for students, the local neighbourhood or the larger community of the Town of Aurora.

As a lifelong resident, Dr G.W. Williams Alumnus, and taxpayer of the community, I strongly disagree with this proposal.

I believe that the current school location of Dr G.W. Williams should be maintained.

I am not happy with the proposal to relocate Dr G.W. Williams.

It does not represent the interests of sustainability of the environment, the fabric of the Aurora community, and most importantly the interests of the students.

I look forward to your reply.

**Susan Jenkins
Aurora**

the Arboretum promised to buy and plant one tree for every renewing or new member.

We believe trees are important to our environment and help to offset greenhouse gases.

Each tree planted is a promise to the future.

Of course, all these trees will need looking after as they grow.

The Arboretum is always looking for more volunteers.

If you agree that trees and nature are important we'd love to see you at the planting day or to hear from you about your interest in helping.

More information about the Arboretum is on our web site: www.auroraarboretum.ca.

You may also phone us at 905-727-6984.

See you May 5.

**John Clement
Community Arboretum
Aurora**

Tree planting day happens May 5th

To the editor,

Many fellow nature lovers may have gone out to the Earth Week and other recent tree plantings and

enjoyed them so much they're looking for more.

Or, perhaps they may be wishing they'd been part of the fun and to help at one of these events.

Whichever description applies, there is another chance to get in on some Spring tree planting May 5 in Aurora.

People who love trees

are invited to help us plant hundreds of young trees and shrubs in the Aurora Arboretum.

Planting day is May 5, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Location is Industrial Parkway, just south of St. Johns Sideroad.

Shovels will be provided, but you will need footwear suitable for ploughed ground.

This is part of a program of planting which will see more than 2000 new trees and shrubs in the Arboretum over the next few weeks.

Thanks to our partners, Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority and the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation for providing most of the trees, and to the Town of Aurora for making it all possible.

Some of the trees to be planted come from the public showing of "An Inconvenient Truth", when

Aurora Tigers deserve reception, reader says

To the editor,

Re: Aurora OHA Junior A Aurora Tigers

This group of young men have brought a lot of honour and recognition to Aurora.

This club has been rated #1 all across Canada this year.

Their total season consisted of 49 games (home and away). They won 47 of them, lost one and tied one, which is a record to be admired.

They have also played five series of playoffs, above the regular season and have emerged as winners.

A good percentage of these young men are not from this area, but they are proud to honour the name of Aurora.

Fifteen of these fellows will not be back next year, due to scholarships or other choices they have made.

This week, the Aurora Tigers will be in Iroquois Falls representing the Town of Aurora.

I am confident that our team will come home with the Dudley Hewitt Cup in hand.

Then, their biggest challenge will be the RBC games in Prince George, B.C.

They are again representing this municipality so it is my sincere desire that our council and community should have a welcome home reception for these young men, to show our appreciation for their dedication.

The RBC last game is May 13, so I would request a reception be organized to be held two to three days later, as after that, the players will depart to their homes.

Let's show these young men our appreciation for a job well done.

**Dorothy Wardle
Aurora**

ED. NOTE: Not to take anything away from this incredible hockey team, but during the season, the Aurora Tigers lost four games...only one at home, however. Their final record was 44 wins, four losses and a tie.

Board members identified

To the editor,

Re: Auroran editorial page photo, week of April 17.

The last two people in the back row are Mr. J.C. Dew and Dr. R.H. Kenney (veterinarian from Nobleton).

The photo was the Aurora District High School Board 1965/66.

The missing person was Dr. J.S. Webster (veterinarian from Schomberg).

He passed away that year and my picture had a inserted photo of him.

I do not know Mr. O'Mahoney name but his initials were J.L.

Hope this helps.

**Carolyn Huson
Aurora**

Here's his first name

To the editor,

Re: Page 4 photo in Auroran, week of April 17.

The first name is John (O'Mahoney).

He was the Catholic School Board Trustee when I moved to Aurora in 1980.

**Rosalyn Gonsalves
Aurora**

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Artificial turf paid by developers

To the editor,

Reading Nigel Kean's letter published in The Auroran April 17 begs me to violate my father's advice.

I think he borrowed it from scriptures but it is apt here.

"It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt."

I am compelled by my duty to the Aurora Youth Soccer Club (AYSC) and not remain silent.

Let me first say that the corrections to be made regarding the waste of taxpayer's money is the Town's to correct, not the AYSC's.

However, from following this issue from the beginning I have been assured that taxpayers' money has not been used for these capital costs as funding has been through development charges that come from levies charged to developers, not taxes.

I also have seen the Town's cost-recovery figures on this field and the maintenance cost savings are significant.

The impetus for the artificial turf was not the AYSC's.

This came from a careful evaluation of field turf by the Leisure Services Department, diligent research and more than a year of feasibility study and approvals.

The AYSC supported it as did other field users in the Town.

The Leisure Services Advisory Committee, on which Kean served, actually approved it for Council's consideration last year.

As for playability and safety, these fields are approved for play at the highest level of soccer in the world (FIFA) and by our Provincial Sport Governing Body, the Ontario Soccer Association (OSA).

The OSA is adding another field to the one they already operate in Vaughan. The BMO facility and Rogers' Centre has them, as do other municipalities.

School Boards are also now including them in plans for new school and field

development.

The Leisure Services Department and the council should be congratulated on sensible decision-making.

The taxpayers of Aurora were well served by this council listening to the professionals they hire to advise them.

The inference of rainwater damage and maintenance cost after installation is conjecture.

This field is engineered and constructed to industry standards and the drainage system will remove more than eight inches of rain per hour.

For the conservation people, it is worthy to note that there will be no fertilizer, pesticides or herbicides used on this field and the precious and often scarce water we all need in the summer will not be used for irrigation on this pitch. Worthy to note is that the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority was consulted and approved of the construction.

Also, I was asked if the whole of Sheppard's Bush was being covered...only one field is being converted.

This field does extend play during the spring, summer and fall which is why the Club chose to donate funds when asked.

It gives us an "extra" field which is welcomed because the Town is sadly lacking in this regard.

We have been turning away kids who want to play soccer at a record pace this year...since February.

We have no fields for them...this helps.

As for Kean's contention that the Club can certainly afford to donate funds because we can afford to pay our employees their salaries, let me first say that his numbers are wrong.

Salaries at the AYSC are less than 20 per cent of our total revenue.

This is remarkable considering what other businesses in this kind of service industry report for competent people to staff their organizations.

If the Town was to take over soccer and pay for the supervision that our staff and more than 700 volunteers provide, the costs would be astronomical and prohibitive.

Since he brought up our business, let me refer you to page 28 of our most recent "Get Stung" news-magazine (the cost of which by the way is 100 per cent supported by our advertisers) that shows that the AYSC fees are the lowest of our neighbours to the North and South.

It certainly isn't because

our field use fees paid to this Town are the lowest, as they are not.

It is our second highest expense and we have paid the Town an average of \$52,000 for the use of these fields for the last five years.

Regarding inference that the Club is partisan because it published interviews with potential councillors last summer, let me first thank him for considering this publication so widely read and influential.

But I will point out that all

but one were new candidates who declared by the June Festival date...and only three of the seven interviewed were actually elected to council.

The interviews were conducted because these potential councillors were new to the political "scene" and were newsworthy.

Secondly, they came to support our Club at our June Festival.

All of them volunteered to flip burgers in the hot sun and took the time to meet our

membership and discuss the issues.

In my opinion they have acted with the best interests of the Town in mind, not out of any obligation.

I can only hope that more responsible research is undertaken on issues before information is published or distributed in the future.

Ron Weese
On behalf of the Board and membership of the Aurora Youth Soccer Club



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<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">2003 Cadillac CTS 3.2</p>  <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">\$531/MTH 36 MTH SMARTLEASE LOADED W/ WAS \$22,900 SUN ROOF & NOW \$21,900 LEATHER</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">2006 CHEVROLET HHR LT</p>  <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">\$408/MTH 48 MTH SMARTLEASE 4 CYL., ALLOYS, WAS \$19,900 FOG LIGHTS... NOW \$18,500 COOL CAR!</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">2005 Chevrolet Corvette C6</p>  <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">\$1105/MTH 48 MTH SMARTLEASE CONVERTABLE! WAS \$61,900 NAV, 6-SPEED NOW \$59,900</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">2006 Pontiac Pursuit</p>  <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">\$295/MTH 48 MTH SMARTLEASE AUTO, AM/FM/CD WAS \$14,900 4 CYL, AIR</p>
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<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">2006 Ford E250 Cargo Van</p>  <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">\$557/MTH 60 MONTHS FOR CARGO + WAS \$23,900 GREAT NOW \$22,900 WORK VAN!</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">2004 Cadillac SRX V8</p>  <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">\$359 BI-WEEKLY 60/MOS AWD, DVD, WAS \$33,500 HUGE SUNROOF, NOW \$32,900 SEATS 7!</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">2004 Pontiac Grand AM SE1</p>  <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">\$235/MTH 48 MTH SMARTLEASE 6 CYL, AM/FM, CD WAS \$10,900 PW, PL, PM NOW \$9,900</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">2006 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD 4x4</p>  <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">\$663/MTH 48 MTH SMARTLEASE V8 DIESEL... WAS \$38,500 GREAT WORK NOW \$37,500 TRUCK</p>

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Relay for Life team

On The Beaton Track!

To Ruth Beaton, the word "inspire" means to encourage through kindness, motivate by example and provoke enthusiasm, and if you were to ask any of her family, friends, or co-workers, they will tell you...Ruth does exactly that.

She inspires. Ruth was first diagnosed with breast cancer in September, last year and she felt her world come to a screeching halt. Like many who are faced with such a diagnosis, Ruth's first memories were of feeling both shocked and numb with those feelings giving way to fear as the reality of her situation became clear.

Being mom to Laura, 18, Josh, 13, and wife to husband Greg, Ruth's thoughts quickly focused on her family and what this was going to mean for them.

It didn't take long for Ruth to realize that instead of reinforcing the fear and grief, she wanted to inspire confidence and determination so that together they could battle this disease

head-on, and win.

Growing up in Aurora as a child of Portuguese immigrants, both Ruth and her younger sister, Margaret, had the importance of family support impressed on them by their parents. As a first generation Canadian, and the oldest in the family, Ruth learned that family always comes first and a large part of her current values have been defined by the lessons she learned as a child.

Over her 20-year career with the Town of Aurora's Building Department, Ruth has shown her desire to grow and learn by earning a Master's Certificate from York while working full-time.

Ruth's determination, value of responsibility, loyalty and perseverance has served to enhance the Town of Aurora.

Ruth believes that early detection of the disease by a mammogram has given her the best chances in beating it.

She has shown immense strength and willpower while going



It's a big team, this group of Town of Aurora staff members, who will participate in Aurora's first Canadian Cancer Society Relay For Life evening in June. Putting their support behind 20-year Town of Aurora veteran Ruth Beaton, the team will spend the night in Lambert Willson Park June 8. Left to right, they are Carrie Eastwood, Cindy Jansen, Kristen Yemm, Team Captain Heather Green, Carol Clark, Karen Ewart, Judy Sherin, Margaret Campbell, Debbie Sparks, Azilda Robinson, Angie Roylance and Zella Phillips. Bill Chatwell is the man at the back, and the two in the front are Janet Van Scheyndel and Ruth Beaton. Missing from the team are Laura Beaton and Chris Alexander.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

through chemotherapy and radiation and as a testament to her determination, her co-workers at the Town of Aurora have banned together to support both Ruth and the other staff who have been affected by this disease.

A number of staff members from various departments within the Town will participate in the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life as part of a team called "The Beaton Track". In order to raise funds,

"The Beaton Track" has organized several activities that will be open to residents and visitors in the Town of Aurora.

The first event, a bake sale and silent auction, took place Saturday at the Aurora Recreation Complex.

On Thursday, April 26, the Team will be hosting a barbecue and silent auction at the Town Hall.

Tickets purchased in advance will get you a beef burger or chicken on a bun

with a bag of chips and a bottle of pop or water for \$5.

For tickets, contact Bill Chatwell at 905-727-3123 ext. 4246. All proceeds raised from these events will go to supporting the fight against cancer.

Inspiring not only the relay team, Ruth has demonstrated to everyone who knows her that she is a pillar of strength and courage for her family, friends and co-workers.

Her will to succeed and

beat cancer exemplifies her stamina and courage.

For more information or if you would like to donate an item for the auction or financially support the team, please contact Heather Green, Team Captain at 905-727-3123 ext. 4244.

"The Beaton Track" team has The Auroran as its major sponsor.

Relay for Life will be held in Aurora's Lambert Willson Park, overnight beginning June 8.

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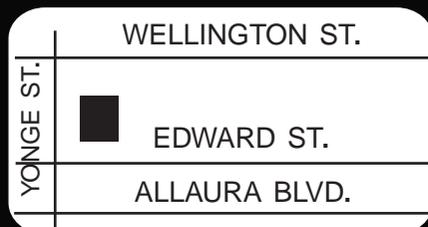


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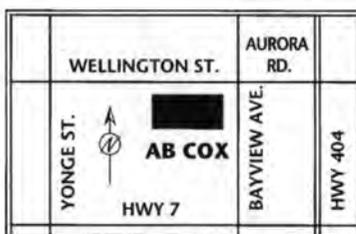
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Eight Tigers (so far) awarded scholarships

Even though there are still two major hurdles to overcome, some Provincial Junior A Aurora Tigers have already decided on their future.

Having eliminated the difficult Wellington Dukes in

five games, the Tigers currently are in Iroquois Fall, Ontario, battling for the Dudley Hewitt trophy, an award they won in 2004.

The four-team tournament continues until this weekend.

Winner advances to the Royal Bank Cup playoffs, to determine the best junior hockey team in Canada.

Tigers also won that honour in 2004.

This year, the RBC play-

offs are slated for Prince George, British Columbia.

"The Aurora Tigers Hockey Club provides hockey players the opportunity to develop skills both on and off the ice," said coach Jerome Dupont. "Many former players have gone on to play U.S. College hockey (NCAA), in the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) and even in the National Hockey League (NHL), while an

even larger number are now upstanding members of our community."

This year's crew is no exception.

To date, the roster has generated eight United States scholarships with more pending.

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.

Group wants fees lowered to use James Lloyd Park

Nicolina Caccamo, a parent committee member of Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School, appeared before Aurora's general committee last week hoping to reduce or eliminate the permit cost for use of James Lloyd Park on Stone Road.

She'll have to wait for a report.

This June Holy Spirit will be celebrating the school's 10th anniversary, the end of the school year and the Second Annual "Blast Off to Summer".

In recognition of the anniversary, the school parent committee will be purchasing ornamental benches for the schoolyard and there will be a ceremonial tree planting.

Invitations have been forwarded to community leaders, the mayor and members of council, members of the Catholic School Board and Member of Parliament, Belinda Stronach.

The day will be celebrated with several other events including games and activities for students, parents and friends of the school community.

The school council and some community partners are assisting, by either donating a

product or funds to help offset the costs.

She pointed out that one of the major costs incurred for the day is the permit fee for use of the James Lloyd Park, adjacent to the school property, and she asked the town committee to assist by either waiving the fee of \$225, or reducing the cost of the permit.

In response to a question, staff members said the fee was for dropping off and picking up picnic tables, garbage containers, etc. and was in accordance with the poli-

cy adopted by council.

Councillor Evelyn Buck was quick to point out the fee for ice time had been waived for the recent minor hockey tournament and the swimming pool for the Arthritis Society, and it had been done of a regular basis.

She asked why this request was different.

Staff members replied the town policy set the fees and staff didn't have the ability to make changes.

It was finally agreed to refer to staff for a report.

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Members of the Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE hockey team got to mingle with their counterparts, the Junior A Aurora Tigers during a recent playoff game at the Aurora Community Centre.



Minor Atom AE Tigers end successful season with tournament victory

The Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE team closed out its season last weekend winning the East Gwillimbury Spring Fling hockey tournament.

The Tigers went undefeated in the tourney, including three straight shutouts,

the last of which was a 7-0 victory over the TNT Tornados in the final game on Sunday.

The tournament win capped a marvellous season for this team of nine-year-olds, which sported an overall record of 44-13-5,

finishing in first place and leading the York-Simcoe league with the most goals scored and fewest allowed. They easily defeated Stouffville, Richmond Hill, and TNT in the playoffs before being eliminated in back-to-back overtime games in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association final series.

The Minor Atom AE team was the only one of Aurora's 27 boys' rep teams to

advance to the OMHA finals this year.

To recognize the achievement, the Tigers Junior A team invited the Minor Atom AE players and coaches onto the ice before their own playoff game against the Wellington Dukes recently.

The team received a round of applause from the Junior A players and nearly 1,000 fans as they held up their finalists' trophy.



Sign of Spring

Spring definitely arrived in Aurora last weekend, and evidence of it occurred at Aurora's Canadian Tire gas station. The lineup was steady Sunday afternoon as residents waited their turn to purchase propane for the barbecue.

Photo by Angie Thurston



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Registration and Information: Laurie Mueller
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 OSA "Child" course
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 8 – 6 pm

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National Coaching Certification Program



One more willow tree goes into the bank of the East Holland River. Paul Cottenden, above, forest technician from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and his crew have begun the spring planting in cooperation with the Aurora Community Arboretum. Residents can join the Earth Day celebration Saturday, May 5, when these organizations have a Community Planting Day along the north end of Industrial Parkway. This will be a record year with more than 2,700 trees and shrubs being planted increasing the leaf cover of the Arboretum between St. John's Sideroad and Wellington Street.

Study says parking available

From page 1
 demands related to occupancy of vacant floor space could be readily accommodated within the existing available parking supply except in the library lot.

It was noted there were 142 to 168 vacant on-street parking spaces within two blocks of the library when the peak parking demands occur.

It was suggested that more effective use of available on-street parking, particularly on Yonge, could be achieved by increasing time limits from one to two hours, providing more prominent and frequent signage along Yonge and notifying library visitors of the availability of on-street parking.

Another option was to demolish the former library which would yield an additional 50 spaces.

Space could be gained by relocating the parking required by library employees to another lot to maximize the number of spaces available at the library.

As sufficient on-street parking was available to address not only the needs of the library, but also more intensive use of the other three municipal buildings, it was suggested more effective use be made of the available parking supply.

Councillors Grace Marsh and Bob McRoberts said they had driven around some of the streets in the study area and questioned some of the on-

street parking spaces listed in the consultant's study such as the area around the Armouries and Wells Street School when the gates were lowered.

Although staff had recommended the report be received as information, Councillor Evelina MacEachern suggested the parking limit on Yonge Street be extended to two hours, on-street parking spaces be marked, better signage and consideration

of a reduction of speed on Yonge Street.

She said staff members were comfortable with the report and there was no reason to doubt it.

Her recommendations were adopted on a 5-4 vote.

It was also recommended the consultant have the opportunity to review notes made by Councillors Marsh and McRoberts as to whether any changes should be made.



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Aurora Skating Club results

The following skaters represented the Aurora Skating Club at the 2007 Skate Canada - Central Ontario Fun Competition held recently at the Thornhill Community Centre.

FREESKATE

CanSkate Ladies - Red - Introductory C Ladies: Isabella Greco-Daniels (Flight 2), 5th; Sarah Reynolds (Flight 4), 6th; Aluisa Greco-Daniels (Flight 3), 7th; Jasmine Biasi (Flight 5), 2nd; Karlee Mannella (Flight 4), 2nd; Rachel Glynn (Flight 7), 6th; Julia Steiner (Flight 7), 2nd.

CanSkate Ladies - Purple: Amanda Incognito (Flight 8), 1st;

Andrea Christakakos (Flight 3), 2nd; Erin Forster (Flight 9), 5th; Ashleigh Calvert (Flight 12), 1st.

CanSkate Men - Green: Emma Smith (Flight 13), 2nd; Max Goldman 1st; Dylann Miller (Flight 14), 5th; Alicia Alberton (Flight 15), 4th.

CanSkate Ladies - Green: Nicole McCausland (Flight 16), 5th; Annabelle Alberton (Flight 4), 2nd; Monica Churchill (Flight 17), 4th; Caroline Kewley (Flight 4), 8th; Jackieanne Abbey (Flight 21), 2nd; Gaenor Laverty (Flight 5), 4th; Shelby Olesovskey (Flight 21), 6th.

CanSkate - Burgundy - Pre-Preliminary A Men: Paige Dutchyshen (Flight 6), 7th; Matthew Warner, 3rd; Rachel Kennedy (Flight 7), 8th; Jacqueline Lavergne (Flight 7), 6th. Pre-Preliminary A Ladies: Sabrina Brochu (Flight 8), 3rd.

Introductory A Men: Mackenzie Maunder (Flight 15), 4th; Matthew Rainsford (Flight 1), 2nd; Alyssa Simon (Flight 20), 1st; Samantha Duncan (Flight 22), 1st.

Introductory A Ladies: Kaitlin VanWinckle (Flight 23), 3rd; Megan Bailey (Flight 5), 4th; Alicia Saunders (Flight 28), 8th; Taylor Pearson (Flight 5), 5th; Megan Howe (Flight 6), 7th.

Pre-Preliminary B Ladies: Molly Brenzel (Flight 8), 3rd; Savannah Hendy (Flight 1), 4th; Madison Jakubas (Flight 8), 4th; Marilena Perri (Flight 1), 2nd; Cassandra Ciciarella (Flight 11), 8th; Shannon Lacombe (Flight 5), 6th; Alana Wise (Flight 13), 6th; Kailee O'Connor (Flight 5), 7th; Sarah Blois (Flight 16), 2nd; Molly Oulahan (Flight 5), 2nd; Teija Rom-Colthoff (Flight 5), 4th.

Introductory B Ladies: Carley Steiner (Flight 5), 5th; Stephanie Morawietz (Flight 4), 1st.

SOLO DANCE SHOWCASE

Pre-Preliminary: Paige Dutchyshen (Flight 5), 6th; Stephanie Morawietz (Flight 8), 3rd; Jacqueline Lavergne (Flight 6), 6th; Alyssa Simon (Flight 11), 1st; Rachel Kennedy (Flight 7), 4th; Shannon Lacombe (Flight 12), 1st; Carley Steiner (Flight 12), 2nd.

Preliminary: Nicole McCausland (Flight 5), 1st; Dylann Miller (Flight 5), 6th; Katherine Morawietz (Flight 2), 1st; Monica Churchill (Flight 6), 6th; Kaitlin VanWinckle (Flight 3), 7th.

Junior Bronze: Katherine Morawietz (Flight 3), 2nd; Shauna O'Connor (Flight 3), 5th; Alyssa Simon (Flight 3), 7th; Kaitlin VanWinckle (Flight 5), 1st; Shelby Olesovskey (Flight 6), 7th; Rebecca O'Malley (Flight 6), 3rd.

FAMILY ICE DANCE- FIESTA

Stephanie Morawietz/Richard Morawietz, 6th.

TEAM ELEMENTS

Pre-Preliminary I: The Aurora Bloopers - Emma

Smith, Nicole McCausland (Flight 5), 1st; Shooting Stars - Monica Churchill, Stephanie Morawietz, Dylann Miller (Flight 5), 2nd.

Pre-Preliminary II: Ice Divas - Shelby Olesovsky, Alicia Saunders, Alyssa Simon (Flight 2), 3rd.

Preliminary: Ice Bunnies - Katherine Morawietz, Rebecca O'Malley, Kaitlin VanWinckle (Flight 1), 3rd.



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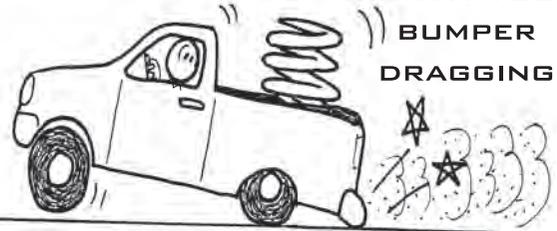
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PLAYERS BORN IN 1999						
Day	Arena	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length	Team
Sun	ARC E	29-Apr-07	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	1.5	Novice AA
Mon	ARC E	30-Apr-07	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Novice AA
Wed	ARC E	2-May-07	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Novice AA
Fri	ARC E	4-May-07	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Novice A
Sat	ARC W	5-May-07	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	1.5	Novice A
Mon	ARC E	7-May-07	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Novice A
Wed	ARC E	9-May-07	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Novice AE
Fri	ARC W	11-May-07	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Novice AE
Sun	ARC E	13-May-07	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	1.5	Novice AE

PLAYERS BORN IN 1996						
Day	Arena	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length	Team
Sun	ARC E	29-Apr-07	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	1.5	M Pee wee AA
Tue	ARC W	1-May-07	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	1.5	M Pee wee AA
Thu	ARC W	3-May-07	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	1.5	M Pee wee AA
Sat	ARC E	5-May-07	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	1.5	M Pee wee A
Sun	ARC W	6-May-07	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1.5	M Pee wee A
Tue	ARC W	8-May-07	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	1.5	M Pee wee A
Wed	ARC W	9-May-07	7:30 PM	8:45 PM	1.25	M Pee wee AE
Fri	ARC E	11-May-07	6:30 PM	8:15 PM	1.75	M Pee wee AE
Sun	ARC E	13-May-07	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	1.5	M Pee wee AE

REP TRYOUTS 2007/2008 HOCKEY SEASON

PLAYERS BORN IN 1998						
Day	Arena	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length	Team
Sun	ARC E	29-Apr-07	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	1.5	M Atom AA
Tue	ARC E	1-May-07	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	M Atom AA
Thu	ARC E	3-May-07	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	M Atom AA
Sat	ARC E	5-May-07	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	1.5	M Atom A
Sun	ARC W	6-May-07	8:30 AM	10:00 AM	1.5	M Atom A
Tue	ARC E	8-May-07	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	M Atom A
Thu	ARC W	10-May-07	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	M Atom AE
Sat	ARC W	12-May-07	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	1.5	M Atom AE
Mon	ARC W	14-May-07	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	M Atom AE

PLAYERS BORN IN 1995						
Day	Arena	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length	Team
Sun	ARC W	29-Apr-07	5:00 PM	6:45 PM	1.75	Pee wee AA
Mon	ARC E	30-Apr-07	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	Pee wee AA
Wed	ARC W	2-May-07	7:30 PM	8:45 PM	1.25	Pee wee AA
Fri	ARC E	4-May-07	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	Pee wee A
Sat	ARC W	5-May-07	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	1.5	Pee wee A
Mon	ARC E	7-May-07	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	Pee wee A
Wed	ARC E	9-May-07	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	Pee wee AE
Fri	ARC W	11-May-07	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	Pee wee AE
Sun	ARC E	13-May-07	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	1.5	Pee wee AE

PLAYERS BORN IN 1993						
Day	Arena	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length	Team
Sun	ARC W	29-Apr-07	6:45 PM	8:30 PM	1.75	Bantam AA
Mon	ARC W	30-Apr-07	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	1.5	Bantam AA
Wed	ARC W	2-May-07	8:45 PM	10:00 PM	1.25	Bantam AA
Fri	ARC W	4-May-07	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	1.5	Bantam A
Sat	ARC W	5-May-07	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	1.5	Bantam A
Mon	ARC W	7-May-07	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	1.5	Bantam A
Thu	ARC E	10-May-07	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	1.5	Bantam AE
Sat	ARC W	12-May-07	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	1.5	Bantam AE
Tues	ARC W	15-May-07	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	Bantam AE

PLAYERS BORN IN 1997						
Day	Arena	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length	Team
Sun	ARC E	29-Apr-07	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	1.5	Atom AA
Mon	ARC W	30-Apr-07	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	1.5	Atom AA
Wed	ARC E	2-May-07	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	Atom AA
Fri	ARC W	4-May-07	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	1.5	Atom A
Sat	ARC W	5-May-07	2:30 PM	4:00 PM	1.5	Atom A
Mon	ARC W	7-May-07	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	1.5	Atom A
Thu	ARC E	10-May-07	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	1.5	Atom AE
Sat	ARC W	12-May-07	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	1.5	Atom AE
Tues	ARC W	15-May-07	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Atom AE

PLAYERS BORN IN 1994						
Day	Arena	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length	Team
Sun	ARC E	29-Apr-07	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	M Bantam AA
Tue	ARC E	1-May-07	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Bantam AA
Thu	ARC E	3-May-07	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Bantam AA
Sat	ARC E	5-May-07	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	1.5	M Bantam A
Sun	ARC W	6-May-07	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	1.5	M Bantam A
Tue	ARC E	8-May-07	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Bantam A
Thu	ARC W	10-May-07	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Bantam AE
Sat	ARC W	12-May-07	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	1.5	M Bantam AE
Mon	ARC W	14-May-07	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Bantam AE

PLAYERS BORN IN 1992						
Day	Arena	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length	Team
Sun	ARC E	29-Apr-07	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Midget AA
Tue	ARC W	1-May-07	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	1.5	M Midget AA
Thu	ARC W	3-May-07	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	1.5	M Midget AA
Sat	ARC E	5-May-07	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	1.5	M Midget A
Sun	ARC W	6-May-07	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	1.5	M Midget A
Tue	ARC W	8-May-07	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	1.5	M Midget A
Wed	ARC W	9-May-07	8:45 PM	10:00 PM	1.25	M Midget AE
Fri	ARC E	11-May-07	8:15 PM	10:00 PM	1.75	M Midget AE
Sun	ARC E	13-May-07	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	1.5	M Midget AE

St. Andrew's speaker ninth best in the world

St. Andrew's College's Ryan Cole, is the ninth best public speaker in the world.

The 19th Annual World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships were held in Cape Town, South Africa recently, and Cole, a Grade 10 student from Aurora placed ninth overall out of more than 80 competitors.

Competitors came from Botswana, Canada, Cyprus, Germany, India, Lithuania, Pakistan, Korea, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States to compete.

Cole secured a spot last fall by placing 10th in Canada, and 23rd overall at St. Andrew's first-ever hosting of the International Independent Schools' Public Speaking Competition (IISPSC).

Due to eligibility rules, he was able to join six other Canadian finalists, along with the top seven finishers from the CanWest



Public speaking competitor Joe Zych, left, a student from Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts, shares a moment with Aurora's Ryan Cole at a banquet. Cole was named the ninth best public speaker in the world.

Winnipeg Nationals held this winter.

The 13-member Canadian delegation included four other stu-

dents from the GTA.

In South Africa, each student participated in four events.

Each competed twice in

every category before finalists were announced. Students and coaches (David Kyle accompanied Ryan and was the Canadian coach designate for his role in hosting last October's IISPSC) stayed in student residences during the school's March Break.

Each evening, the school went all out with their dinner and cultural events, offering everything from street minstrels, marimba, drum, and numerous full-choir a cappella concerts, to lessons in gumboot, braaivleis dancing and an opportunity to support local craftsmen in purchasing their wares at an on-campus bazaar.

Finals were held at the school, and then all were bussed to nearby Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens for the final banquet and Grand Finals.

The top two in each of the five categories (with two teams of two in debat-

ing) dazzled the crowd and panel of judges with their oratory skills, before locally designed awards were presented.

After recognizing the top three individual award champions, top 10 overall results were revealed.

Despite not having any individual event winners, the Canadian team dominated overall, achieving eight of the top 10 positions, with none of its

members placing lower than 37th.

Cole is thrilled that most of the competitors will soon be graduating, giving him two more years to better his rank, against a mostly new field of World Championship competitors.

This year's IISPSC, in Reading, England, will see St. Andrew's being allowed to enter six contestants in the competition.

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Closed meeting issue still haunting council

In spite of amendments to the Municipal Act which says a council may hold closed meetings for the purpose of educating or training members, providing decision making of council is not advanced in the meeting, it is still a hot issue at Aurora Council.

Ever since the start of the last council term in 2003 with the boycott of an off-site retreat by Councillors Phyllis Morris, Wendy Gaertner and Nigel Kean, the issue has rocked council in acrimonious debate which lasted through the term.

While the Act's amendments did not make any significant changes to the existing criteria for holding closed meetings it was believed it would solve the problem that has haunted Aurora Council, but no such luck.

Tuesday Councillor Evelyn Buck introduced a motion saying there were significant issues left pending at the end of the last term: disposition of buildings in Library Square, commitment to create a Heritage Centre in Library Square, completion of the design of Library Square and disposition of the Hydro building.

As they were all linked, she said, and there was a substantial body of background information which needed to be conveyed to councillors, a private training session should be held under the appropriate clause of the Municipal Act to allow full and frank discussion.

She said the community was out of patience with council for being unable to make a decision and with the large amount of history connected with the issue, there was no other way than through a free exchange of information.

She was interrupted in her presentation by the mayor who asked the clerk for an interpretation of the Municipal Act.

He advised that an education or training meeting could be held in open or closed session providing the business of the town was not advanced or council could convene a special general committee meeting.

Councillor Buck continued her argument that the closed meeting was necessary for a free exchange of information. When she was interrupted once again to note that a special general committee had been called for the Church Street School, Buck said she had presented a motion for debate and proper procedure should be followed.

From that point on the meeting deteriorated with calls for points of order and more clarification from the clerk and town solicitor.

Councillor Grace Marsh argued that a closed session was permissible under the Municipal Act and that in checking with other municipalities she found that Newmarket had held two such sessions and Richmond Hill had held one.

The motion was also sup-

ported by Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas who said a closed meeting was needed as it was a councillor's responsibility to be fully informed.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern agreed it was necessary for councillors to be fully informed, but she said discussions could be carried out at an open meeting and that she would not participate in a closed meeting.

Councillor Bob McRoberts supported the motion on the basis that members could share ideas without fear of being quoted or misquoted and the decision could be made at a future public meeting.

The debate raged back and forth with more points of order and questions about a free discussion, until finally after more than an hour debate, a recorded vote was called.

The vote was 5-4 to defeat the motion with Councillors

Buck, Marsh, Collins-Mrakas and McRoberts in support.

As no other motion was put forward, the future of the Library Square and the empty Hydro building remains outstanding.

In an ironic twist, which seemed to escape councillors, with the exception of Councillor Buck, was an invitation from Richmond Hill for representatives of Aurora Council and staff to attend a special meeting to educate them with respect to Animal Control Services and the meeting will be closed to the public.

The CAO advised that members of staff would be attending and suggested a member of council should attend and Councillor Al Wilson agreed to participate.

Councillor Buck was quick to point out that the meeting was being called to educate the members and had been received without question.

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Rose Ciatto

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Seniors' craft sale is set for May 12

By BRIAN WARBURTON

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) will hold its annual White Elephant and Crafts Sale Saturday, May 12, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

This is a tremendously popular event, since everybody enjoys browsing a good sale and it seems we all have something to donate.

Donations will be accepted daily up to 4 p.m., between May 7 and 11.

Books in good condition are required as is jewelry and all kinds of stuff but please no used clothing. What clutters your home might be a treasure to someone else and we would love to sell it to them.

On the parking lot, same day and part of the same sale, we will hold a "Car Boot Sale".

"Boot" is the English word for a car trunk, and apparently this form of sale is gaining in popularity. If you would like to take part, contact the ASA at 905-726-4767 for details.

Whether you buy or donate, come on over and enjoy the day and take a look at the centre if you have not already visited with us.

Another attraction is the Arboretum which starts at our back door and you can take a pleasant walk through the park starting right there.

Tuesday programming for the general meeting and maintenance of the instructional classes always occupies the Aurora Seniors Computer Club committee meetings, and at this time the election for the committee is front and centre.

Most instruction will continue through May but more than likely, most courses will be suspended through June, July and August.

Volunteers are wanted for the Town's anti-litter campaign Saturday, April 28, starting at 10 a.m. from the centre.

Wednesday, April 18, the ASA held its annual volunteer appreciation event, and it was a pleasant evening.

The usual formal speeches were made, and among the minutiae of comments was one estimating roughly 8,000 volunteer hours provided by the members to assist in running the centre, over a period of three months.

Another comment indicated that other municipalities struggle or are unable to staff their boards and committees with volunteers.

Here in Aurora we are equally well served by the community and by the seniors who turn their hands to anything that needs doing, such as committee work, the front counter, the kitchen, organizing classy shows like Cabaret or even writing newspaper articles.

When I was a child, the only municipal provision for senior leisure was a park bench. How times have changed.

If you get your wish for a long and healthy life, let it be no surprise that seniority awaits you and with seniority comes the civilized amenities that are provided by a caring community.

For all of the bad news we hear almost daily, the ASA is a form of good news to which I draw your attention, and I hope you appreciate my words and in the fullness of time, get to enjoy the centre with other seniors.

What's in a name?

When Aurora's general committee approved a motion in February, 2006, that staff review the Street Naming Policy and report any suggested amendments, they were not aware of the controversy they were creating.

The street naming policy dates back to October, 1998, and the existing policy provides the appropriate framework for street naming but council had asked the review to address potential concerns regarding the naming of streets after members of council, past and present.

The policy and the approved bank of street names has been reviewed by staff who point out there is nothing in the policy preventing a member of Aurora council, both past and present, from being nominated to the bank of street names.

Staff members presented three possible options, including that council members be retired from political life for three consecutive terms before being nominated, council members must be deceased before being eligible, or no change to the existing policy.

It was noted the approved street name bank contains nominees who have made outstanding contributions to the municipality.

It is possible some may run for council in the future and once a name is selected for a subdivision it would be difficult to change.

Councillor Bob McRoberts suggested a fourth option that any member of council be considered eligible for nomination to the street name bank, but not during a term of office.

His motion was opposed by Councillors Evelina MacEachern and Wendy Gaertner.

Councillor Gaertner said all names on the Cenotaph should be included in the name bank, but Councillor McRoberts said she was muddying the waters as the discussion was dealing with the use of council members' names.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said the discussion was much ado about nothing except to politicians.

It was finally agreed to adopt the McRoberts motion with the provision that staff provide the proper wording for the council meeting.

Pick it up Saturday

Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris has extended an open invitation to residents, service groups, schools and businesses to participate in the 5th Annual Mayor's Anti Litter Day this Saturday.

If it rains, it will be held Sunday.

After the event, participants are invited to attend a free volunteer barbeque from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Town Park.

The premise behind the event is not just focusing on litter pick-up but educating stakeholders on ways to keep Aurora litter free.

A poster contest will be

held for Grade 4 students in Aurora who can help spread the anti-litter message.

The winning poster will be used to promote this event in the following year and the winner will be recognized by the mayor at a council meeting.

Poster entries are on the Environmental Committee website at <http://e-aurora.ca/eac/>.

To register and receive a free litter bag package, contact Info Aurora at 905-727-8214.

For more information, contact the Mayor's office at 905-726-4741.

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Bridge results

Tuesday, April 10: James Longley & Olly Smolak; Paul Graves & Marg Farmer; Peter Ho & Peter Brugger; Gerald Heath & Rani Mahood.

Wednesday, April 11: N/S - Paul Caleb & Rani Mahood; Shirley Hulbig & Paul Graves; Marg & Paul McFarlane. E/W - Joan Rotenberg & Jane Demers; Don & Lena Jackson; George Jordan & Paul Stanbury.

Thursday, April 12: Frank LaBlanc & Marg Farmer; Dennis McFadden & Peter Schneider.

Friday, April 13: N/S: Gord Saul & Peter Brugger; Doug & Marg Farmer; Paul Caleb & Virginia Smereka. E/W: Don & Lena Jackson; James Longley & Olly Smolak; Mary Oglanby & Paul Stanbury.

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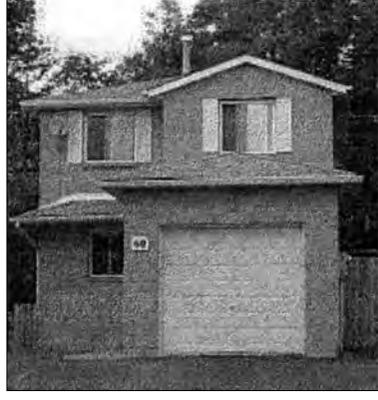
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 Royal Canadian Legion Ballroom
 Ballroom dance classes start: June 4, 2007
 Check your next newsletter for details.

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May 19, 2007
7 p.m. - Midnight
 Aurora Legion - 105 Ind. Pkwy. N.
 Couples and Singles Welcome (Ages 19 and up)

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

She should be in a record book

In October, 2005, seven-year-old Kaylah Nicole of Aurora recorded a CD "Angel from the Sky" with proceeds for the Hospital for Sick Children.

It was recorded at Veronika's Music Studio in Aurora where Kaylah takes singing lessons from Veronika Pressman.

She was taking keyboard lessons when Ms Pressman heard her singing.

In 2004, Kaylah and Ms Pressman decided to collaborate on writing material for a CD designed specifically for Kaylah and the lyrics to seven songs were written over a two-month period.

The songs included Angel from the Sky, Rock 'n' Roll Train, I Love to Dream, Friendship, Seasons, Ringo and Music and Ms Pressman put them to music.

If Kaylah isn't in the Guinness Book of Records, she should be,

WHEN HELP WANTED ADS CHANGED

For people who wanted a job or to change a job, it was quite normal to check the classified ads in the newspapers under the headings "Help Wanted - Male" or "Help Wanted - Female".

Then, in 1970, the ads underwent a facelift and became "Jobs of Primary Interest to Men" and "Jobs of Primary Interest to Women".

It all had to do with the 1970 Women's Equal Opportunities Act, which made it illegal to advertise jobs for a single sex without first qualifying it as being of interest to that particular sex.

Strangely enough the notice was issued by Canada Manpower Centre.

Maybe that name should be changed to Canada Peoplepower Centre?

TWO FLAGS TO FLY AT VIMY

In 1917, more than 15,000 Canadians went into battle under the Red Ensign at Vimy, attacking heavily fortified German positions and more than 3,500 of them were killed before the flag was hoisted on the muddy ridge in what became one of Canada's greatest military victories.

A ceremony recently took place at Vimy to mark both the 90th anniversary and the dedication of the newly restored Canadian National Vimy Memorial on land donated to Canada by France.

The Maple Leaf flag became Canada's national flag in 1965 and the Veterans Affairs Department says government protocol forbids any other flag from flying on government property, but the veterans wanted the Red Ensign, the flag under which they fought to be flown at the Memorial.

Veterans lobbied Ottawa to fly the Red Ensign as it still meant very much to them and a poll indicated a majority of Canadians want the wishes of the veterans respected and supported the idea of flying the current flag and the old Red Ensign atop the Vimy Memorial.

The Red Ensign was adopted as Canada's flag a few years after Confederation in 1867 and the one flown during the Vimy campaign featured a Union Jack in the upper left corner and the coat of arms of the first four provinces to join Confederation against a red background.

At first the federal government was insistent that the Maple Leaf flag would be flown at Vimy but bowed to public pressure.

Good for the veterans!

A GRAND OPENING

It was in November, 1983, when Hempen Jewellers officially opened its store on Yonge Street south of Wellington Street at the site of the former Marshall Rank's Jewellers.

Cutting the ribbon was Cadina Doedens, Miss Octoberfest '83 Newmarket, who works for the Hempen store in Newmarket.

Elizabeth Hempen and Frank Hempen held the ribbon.

It was another business that disappeared from the downtown core.

WHEN AURORA CELEBRATED OKTOBERFEST

Back in 1987 Aurora had a very active Kiwanis Club and for the previous 10 years the Club had sponsored a very successful Oktoberfest at the Community Centre and September, 1987, was no exception.

The Remnants Band returned for the 1987 event with their German Oktoberfest music with the proceeds going to the Family Leisure Complex and the Whipper Billy Watson CatScan Fund for York County Hospital, now Southlake Regional Health Centre.

When the Kiwanis Club disbanded through lack of membership, Oktoberfest disappeared with the Club.

Both event and organization are missed.

AURORA POET IN THE NEWS

Reflection on life was the main thrust of a poem written by Aurora writer Sharon Crawford in a 1981 poetry contest sponsored by Phoenix Rising Magazine.

She finished in second place.

The magazine was a Canada-wide quarterly geared towards psychiatric patients and prison inmates.

Her poem reflected some of the downers in life that cause people to be depressed.

While living in Aurora, she was very active in the community and a freelance writer for the local media.



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