

Mother's Day
Sunday May 13, 2006
 Two Great Times, One Great Buffet
 11am -2pm & 5 pm - 8pm
A GIFT FOR EVERY MOM
 RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

 15520 Yonge Street, Aurora
 905-727-1312
 www.hjoaurora.com
Go anywhere. Stay here!

AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Ask the 'Blue-Chip' Experts
 53 Wellington St. E.
 Aurora
 905-727-4300


DUNDEE
 SECURITIES CORPORATION
 A DUNDEE WEALTH MANAGEMENT COMPANY



It was cold and damp Saturday, but that didn't stop eight teams of bike riders from showing up for the annual Big Bike for Stroke event, sponsored by the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Above, a contingent from the Town of Aurora - Aurora's Rolling Thunder - led by Mayor Phyllis Morris, charge north on Yonge Street. The 30-seat bicycle gets a police escort as it makes its way from St. Andrew's Shopping Centre to Park Place Manor and back.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Aurora tax up four per cent

There's no surprise here, but your taxes are going up.

After more than 40 hours of meeting time, dating from December 19 last year to April 16 when the final budget review was carried out, the 2007 operating and capital budgets were approved at last week's council meeting with limited discussion.

It will result in a four per cent increase to the average tax bill.

The 2007 gross operating budget is \$36.5 million and the net budget for taxation purposes is set at \$21 million.

Assessment growth is shown as 2.1 per cent and the tax levy increases four per cent after growth.

The 2007 capital budget consists of 86 projects and totals an expenditure of \$14.1 million of which the net capital for 2007 is \$2.7 million.

Both budgets have a strong focus on strategic plan initiatives.

Highlights of the 2007 operating budget include elimination of large surpluses in the future by factoring in growth and investment income which was not done in the past.

Region costs more, too. See Page 14

The budget takes advantage of the town's cash position and increased investment income by \$645,000, and implemented some user pay initiatives.

The budget also starts to wean council's dependency on hydro funds.

Prior to the sale of Aurora Hydro, the town received \$920,000 annually from the utility for the town-owned Hydro building.

Please see page 16

Briefly

Is your child safe?

An Aurora Neighbourhood Watch seminar in two weeks will deal with child safety.

Organizer Cyndy Skillins said the meeting has been set for the Aurora Public Library's Magna Room, Tuesday, May 15, beginning shortly after 7 p.m.

Open to adults only, the general public seminar will feature Detective Bruce Downey, York Regional Police, as speaker, P.C. Mark Lawrence, crime prevention officer, and detective Todd Snooks.

The event is free.

Plant sale

The Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society is planning its annual plant sale.

This year it will be held Saturday, May 12, at the Aurora Public Library, Yonge and Church, from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Members of the Society point out the sale is "just in time for Mother's Day".

Grant means job

The Aurora Historical Society has been awarded a grant to hire a Marketing and Events Assistant.

Funded through the Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions Program, the selected student will assist in developing and presenting public programs and events.

As a result Hillary House will be able to expand the summer drop-in program that was offered in 2007.

Programs for children will be offered two afternoons each week.

The student will also provide tours of Hillary House from Tuesday through Saturday from late June until the end of August as well as develop small events to promote the Aurora Heritage Centre and the programs that will be offered when it opens to the public.

University students, planning a future in the culture field, will be interested in applying for this position by emailing their resume to ahs@aurora-hs.com.

On again, off again, horse show off again

This year, for the first time in more than eight decades, there will not be a horse show in Aurora.

That decision came after the Trillium Horse Show Association backed away from an offer to hold the event at Machell Park because of the high cost of liability insurance required by the town.

Due to a lack of volunteers and a provincial change in how bingo proceeds could be used, the Aurora Agricultural Society, sponsors of the fair part of the event, decided to take a year off to regroup.

That move would have cut the two-weekend activity back to a single weekend.

In the meantime, town staff members had allocated the Machell playing fields to the Aurora Youth Soccer Club.

The Trillium Association, which

would have put on the horse show, investigated other lands but when it was found they were not suitable, considered moving the horse show to Joker's Hill in King Township.

Rather than having the horse show moved out of Aurora, early in April there was a long and involved debate on a motion by Councillor Grace Marsh that Machell Park be offered to the Trillium Association for the horse show, as had been done by the Agricultural Society since the early 1970s.

Last week, Councillor Marsh enquired about the status of the town's offer and was advised the Association had declined as they could not meet liability requirements.

As a result Machell Park will be used by the Soccer Club this year and the horse show will not happen here.

Town may assume operation of School

Last week council members met with officials of the Aurora Historical Society about turning the Church Street School into the Aurora Heritage Centre.

The historic school has experienced a number of uses throughout the years as well as a number of renovations and alterations.

In 2003, the town completed an exterior renovation and installation of an elevator at a cost of about \$800,000.

This work followed a number of smaller projects including upgrades to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, electrical upgrade, roof repairs etc. To date the Historical Society has invested approximately \$300,000 into renovations of the facility.

Earlier this year council agreed, in principle, to provide sufficient funding in the 2007 capital budget to complete the renovations.

Please see page 18

Williams' meeting draws 200

Sometime in July trustees of the York Region District School Board have to make a choice between building a new high school on the current Dr. G.W. Williams property or on a new site off Bayview north of Wellington.

It won't be an easy decision.

Considered will be the provincial funding formula, economics, where the future students will come from and the strong opposition of the parents of students, former students and neighbouring residents of Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, currently under construction.

Please see page 11




15105 Yonge St., Suite 100, Aurora
 (2½ blocks south of Wellington on the east side)

* Based on IMS Statistics
 ** Some conditions may apply

LENARD LIND

*Aurora's #1 Sales Producer 2006!**

Call today for a free property evaluation!**

905-841-0000 • lenard@lhindrealty.com
www.lhindrealty.com

Ontario's ONLY...
ISO 9001:2000 REGISTERED
Residential Real Estate Company





Broker of Record/Owner

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.

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.

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.

Aurora Community Arboretum celebrates Earth Day with a Community Planting Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. along the north end of Industrial Parkway. It is hoped to make this a record year with the planting of 2,700 trees and shrubs. Phone 905-727-6984 for details.

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 The Auroran, 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.

Blood Donor Clinic, 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Roman Catholic Church, 16 Catherine Avenue.

TUESDAY, MAY 8

Aurora Council meets in the chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m. Aurora Cable Internet will telecast the meeting at 6.30 p.m. the following night and at noon the following Saturday and Sunday.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

Regional officials will hold a public information meeting from 6 to 9 p.m. in the council chambers of the Town Hall to present information on the impact of intensification in Aurora regarding the provincial Places to Grow policy.

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.

Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society annual plant sale. Aurora Public Library, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

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.

TUESDAY, MAY 15

Aurora Neighbourhood Watch Seminar in the Magna Room of the Aurora Public Library from 7:10 to 9 p.m. with a Street Captain meeting at 6:30 p.m. guest speaker is Detective Bruce Downey of York Regional Police. Theme of the meeting is "Is My Child Safe?". No charge to attend.

Aurora Seniors travel to the Stratford Festival to see "My One and Only". Cost is \$118 for members and \$122 for non-members.

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.

TUESDAY, MAY 29

An evening of community awareness and action about Food Security in York Region takes place in the Magna Room at the Aurora Public Library with dinner beginning at 6.30 p.m. Guest Speaker, at 7 p.m., is Val Tarasuk, Department of Nutritional Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. RSVP by May 18 to 905-967-0428 or kima@yrfn.ca. Sponsored by York Region Food Network.

THURSDAY, MAY 31

Aurora's York Professional Care and Education group, hosts a fundraising golf tournament at Cardinal Golf Club in Newmarket. All proceeds from the event will be used to send children from York Region Big Brothers Big Sisters and Girls Inc. to summer camp. Children from Aurora and Newmarket are selected. For further information, call Sharon Blotti at 905-841-1314, ext. 23.

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.



Are You Tired...

Of poor investment returns? Of poor service and advice? Of paying too much tax?

Come see how we can make a difference for you

53 Wellington Street East, Aurora

905-727-4300

Call us for a review of your financial Plan.

WE'RE ON YOUR TEAM

DUNDEE
WEALTH MANAGEMENT
BLUE-CHIP GROWTH

DUNDEE
Little Chips
SOCCER PROGRAM



Limited Edition "SPRING NECTAR"

Set Only \$88 (Value \$129)

BONUS

A Unique Swarovski Crystal Pendant Included

LAMPE BERGER
PARIS

BLUETIFUL LIVING welcomes **LAMPE BERGER** with this special offer, just in time for **MOTHERS' DAY**

blue  *tiful*
L · I · V · I · N · G

15 mosley street
aurora
905.726.3535

Coyotes are spotted in Sheppard's Bush

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority has issued a warning that coyotes have been spotted in Aurora's Sheppard's Bush. ented, paralyzed or contact the Conservation Authority at 905-895-1281 ext. 289.

Warning notices have been posted at the entrances to the park and flyers were distributed to the public during the recent Lions Club Pancake Cookout.

The Authority warning advises the public to keep pets on a leash, stay on the trails and remove any garbage.

It was pointed out that coyotes have adapted to urban life and are able to live in close proximity to humans.

Coyotes are generally shy, cautious and non-confrontational, however the public should always keep its distance as parks are the animals' home and they are attracted to garbage.

Coyotes cannot be trapped and relocated because traps in public places would endanger pets and humans.

The law also prohibits the relocation of wildlife away from their home territory.

If an animal appears sick, staggering, disori-



**DAMIR VRANCIC
LAW OFFICE**
BUSINESS LAW,
REAL ESTATE,
WILLS & ESTATES

905-841-6411

Providing valued and trusted legal advice since 1983



Jeneva Smith, 9, put together the winning poster in Aurora's anti-litter day competition that concluded Saturday afternoon with a barbecue in the town park. Her poster will be used next year to promote the event, and she will join other finalists at a council meeting later this year to be recognized.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Televise committee meetings: councillor

In case you don't see enough of council on television, at least one councillor wants you to see more.

Recently, Councillor Grace Marsh suggested consideration be given to televising both council and general committee meetings.

Currently, Aurora Cable Internet telecasts only council meetings and they are shown at 6.30 p.m. the day after council and at noon Saturdays and Sundays.

The most recent meeting of council was not telecast as the TV crew were in Iroquois Falls following the Aurora Tigers who were in the Dudley Hewitt hockey tournament, and who won the right to seek the Canadian title next week, after winning that round-robin tourney Saturday night.

In presenting her motion, Councillor Marsh pointed out that most issues are discussed in detail at general committee prior to council's adoption of the item, which results in the viewing public not being able to understand council's decision.

Also, she said, when an issue is discussed at council as a result of new information, the discussion could appear to be incomplete for the viewing public without the benefit of having knowledge of the discussion at general

committee.

Her motion asked staff members to contact Aurora Cable Internet with a view to discussing the possibility of televising both council and general committee meetings.

The idea received widespread support from council members.

Based on the results of the motion, Councillor Evelina MacEachern put on hold her Notice of Motion that there be three general committee meetings and one council meeting a month rather than two of each.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner also said she would put on hold her Notice of Motion that all delegations be heard at council meetings instead of committee so that

the public would have an opportunity to hear the information.

It was also suggested that if it became an option, the general committee meetings should be telecast rather than the council meetings.

While Councillor Evelyn Buck quipped that telecasting all meetings may be too much of a good thing, council directed staff to contact Aurora Cable Internet to see if it was possible to telecast general committee meetings as well as council meetings.

Steve Mitchell, Community Programming Director for Aurora Cable Internet, was unavailable for comment as he is following the Aurora Tigers.

MacWilliam Farms

22645 LESLIE STREET (14km North of Davis Dr. on Leslie St.)

Open Mid-March to September
7 days a week • 10am to 6pm

Organically Grown Produce • Ontario Maple Syrup • Apples
Tomatoes • Cucumbers • Peppers and much more

Everything we sell grows
on our farms in Ontario.

www.macwilliamfarms.ca
905-836-9656
e-mail: mouse@ils.net



That was then...

"Our Dry Skin Has Disappeared!"

Mr. McMeachan

Soften Without Salt!

Eliminate the contamination, corrosion & slimy feel associated with salt-type units!

"It's easier to keep bathroom fixtures clean and we're now using much less soap, shampoo and detergents."

Mr. & Mrs. Gelb

...This is Now!

Greg Foster
905-717-6707

1-800-667-SOFT
(7638)
www.soft-water.com

Ask About Our
120 Day Trial Offer!

Clarks ENGLAND

Slip into Spring!

Serif

Sago

More comfort. More style. More options.

Top 3 reasons to shop at OMARS

#3. - Largest selection #2. - Selected styles available in wide widths
#1. - WE STILL MEASURE FEET!

SHOES Est. 1970

Our 37th year in Aurora

WHERE GREAT SHOES AND GREAT SERVICE ARE A GREAT FIT!

14800 Yonge Street, Aurora Shopping Centre **(905) 727-9391**

Heart should win in school decision

*Solomon's wisdom is badly needed,
As a decision trustees must make;
To tear down and build a new school,
Dr. G. W. Williams' future is at stake.*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Trustees of the York Region District School Board have a difficult decision to make.

Currently scheduled for their July board meeting, they will have to use Solomon's wisdom in deciding whether to listen to their head or their heart.

Aurora's first high school in 1888 consisted of three classrooms in the historic Church Street School and was known as the Aurora High School.

In 1892, the school moved to what is now the Wells Street Public School and in 1952 relocated to the new facility on Dunning Avenue and continued the Aurora High School name.

As students came from all over the district the school was renamed the Aurora and District High School and the trustees were appointed by the participating municipalities, rather than elected.

Aurora trustees included Dr. G. W. Williams and Ernie Eveleigh.

In 1961, the Aurora and District High School was renamed Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School in honour of Dr. Williams who had served on the board for more than 40 years.

In November, 1965, the board decided to add another 10 classrooms to the \$2.28 million expansion being planned for the school.

The original expansion plan was for 25 classrooms and shops as well as three gymnasiums.

The 10 extra classrooms would add \$240,000 to the cost.

In October, 1967 the cornerstone was laid for the addition with MP John Addison, MPP Lex McKenzie and Aurora Mayor Clarence Davis in attendance.

Later, other additions were made...the most recent, a few years back when a new library was constructed.

In the mid-1960s the school Cadet Corps was about to disband as the teacher in charge was retiring and no other teacher was willing to accept the challenge.

Former Aurora Councillor Norm Stewart and I talked the Aurora Legion and the Queen's York Rangers to sponsor the Corps and today it lives as the Queen's York Rangers' Cadet Corps.

In October, 1969, Grade 10 students under the direction of their teacher, R.K. Smith, decided they would govern Aurora for a day, with the cooperation of town council and staff.

The students conducted an election with the elected council and mayor sitting with town council for two meetings and then holding their own council meeting, at which the idea of a Citizen of the Year was conceived.

That idea lives today.

In November, 1988, a Centennial Reunion was held for students who had attended Williams over the years and much of the success was attributed to Bob McRoberts, whose grandfather, J.H. Knowles, had been an early principal at the school.

McRoberts was presented with a Dorothy Clark McClure print of Wells Street School, the first school attended by now Councillor Bob McRoberts.

A few years back, Williams was selected as the school with a classroom of the future and was featured at the CNE, so there is considerable history to Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School and trustees must take this into consideration when making their decision.

It's hard to believe it will cost an estimated \$22.5 million to renovate the existing school, especially with the recent addition of the library, and a second expert opinion should be obtained.

There is also the perception that the cash-strapped board has been offered a huge sum of money for future development of the 19-acre Dunning Avenue property, and this perception must be dispelled by trustees, not staff.

Future enrolment patterns may indicate that the Bayview site is the more suitable, but history and tradition cannot be forgotten and, in this case, the heart should win over the head.



The above photo was supplied by Aurora’s Trevor Stephens and shows members of the Aurora Hunt Club, in November, 1929. The photo was taken on the French River, near Highway 69, south of Sudbury. The following names were given to Trevor by Jack Pennock, and some might be wrong. in the back row, left to right, are, George Baldwin, Frank Griffith and Orval Heath. Front row, left to right, are Bert Simpson, George Griffith, Elwood Davis, ?, Buck Machell, ?, Orly DeLahaye, Ted Machell. David (Mike) Stephens, Trevor’s grandfather, is sitting on someone’s lap. If you know anyone else in the photo, please contact The Auroran.

Letter to the Editor

Town residents invited to important meeting

Letter to residents,

I want to draw to your attention an important open house at Aurora Town Hall on the evening of Wednesday, May 9.

If you care about Aurora’s growth in the coming years, please plan to attend. Your input is required and valued.

York Region is holding a series of open houses throughout the region on the theme of Planning for Tomorrow: York Region Growth Management.

As a member of the Region’s Planning and Economic Development Committee, I persuaded the Region to add an open house in Aurora to ensure our residents have a convenient meeting location.

There is an open house at 6 p.m., with a formal presentation running from 7 to 7.30 p.m. and then you’ll be invited to participate in a facilitated discussion until 9 p.m.

The Region sets many of the growth targets and population density requirements to which Aurora is expected to conform.

So, the growth policies of York Region directly impact our Aurora of tomorrow.

You should know that over the next 25 years, York Region is planning for rapid growth.

Current plans and forecasts indicate that region-wide:

- Population will grow by 570,000 to 1.5 million people.
- The region will host 340,000 new jobs, bringing total employment to 800,000 people.

There are many paths to these goals, and York Region will set some of them.

Will they be the choices you would make for your Town’s future? Our challenge is to shape a quality urban area, while fighting hard to maintain and enhance our natural surroundings.

What we must decide together is the quality of life we will build for ourselves and our families in light of this expected growth in Aurora, especially given that many growth-related decisions have already been made for most of Aurora’s undeveloped lands.

Many of the new plans to be discussed May 9 will impact what will also happen within our existing built, and unbuilt, areas of town.

Together we must decide how we can preserve the way of life that makes Aurora unique, and what we will plan and work to improve in the years ahead.

So, please accept this personal invitation to attend York Region’s

“Planning For Tomorrow” let them know how you open house, being held here in Aurora, and get a glimpse of how the planners see our future - and see yours.

Phyllis Morris
Aurora Mayor

AURORAN

“Aurora’s Community Newspaper”

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

Publisher Emeritus
Rosemary Schumaker

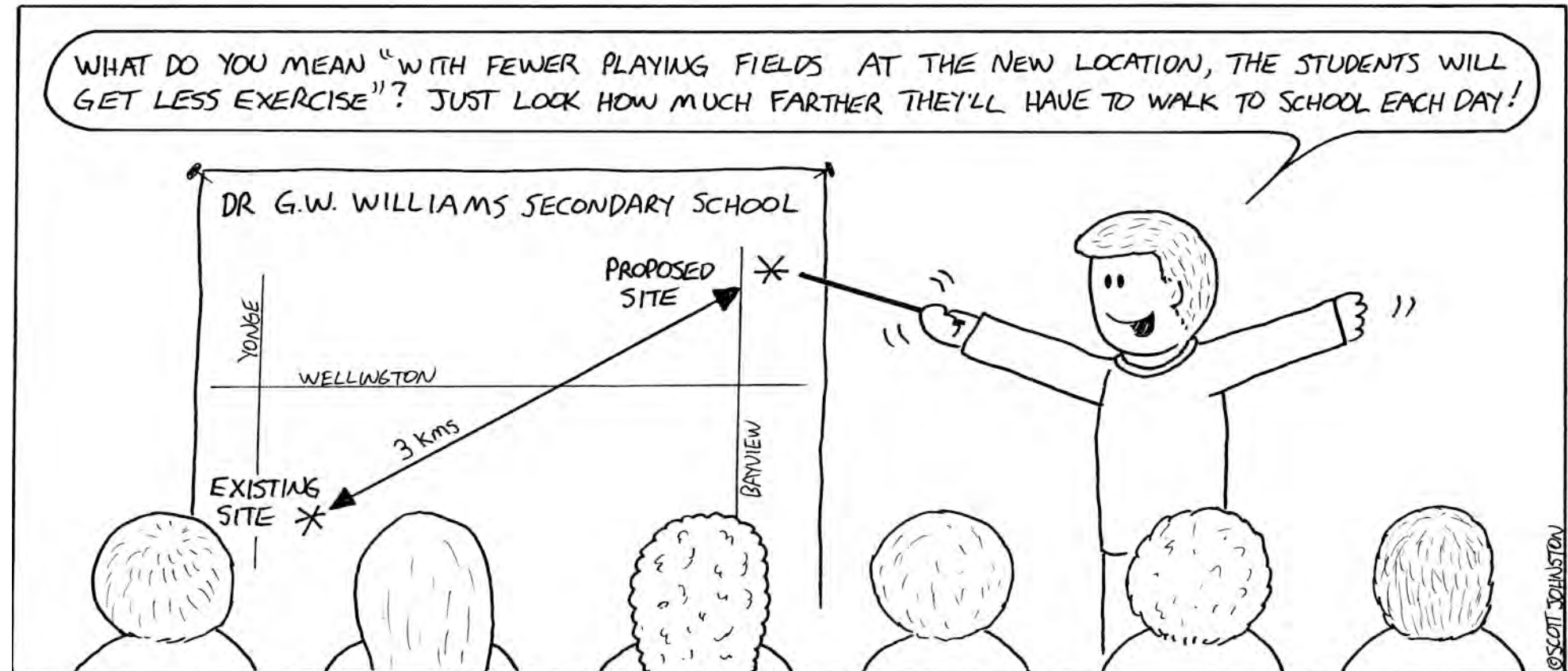
Editorial Ron Wallace ron@auroran.com	Production Cynthia Proctor cynthia@auroran.com
Dick Illingworth dick@auroran.com	Main Number 905-727-3300
Photography David Falconer dfalconer@sympatico.ca	Classifieds 905-727-7128 classifieds@auroran.com
Advertising Bob Ince bob@auroran.com	Facsimile Machine 905-727-2620
Diane Buchanan diane@auroran.com	Editorial Department rwall9999@aol.com

Editorial policy

Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published. Names may be withheld assuming a compelling reason to do so. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.

Advertising policy

Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.



Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

An idea to encourage voting

Academics, pollsters and consultants have felled many trees in search of the answer to why people don't vote.

The amount of individuals exercising their respective franchise has continued to drop - be it federal, provincial or municipal elections.

The provincial Liberals, trying to reverse the trend, formed the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform.

This panel was charged with looking at our first-past-the-post voting system and see if it should be changed.

As you may recall, the Assembly issued its report a short time ago; they want to see a new system, the Mixed Member Proportional system utilized rather than the existing first-past-the-post system.

Ontarians will have the opportunity to vote on their proposal in a referendum to be held during the October 11 provincial election.

As I have written on this page a few weeks ago, for all its obvious flaws, the existing electoral system does work.

Further, why change the voting system if people are not taking their civic duty seriously? Why make it better or easier to vote if a large number of people are already apathetic?

Voters should show us they care - by using their franchise - before any material changes are made.

Look at last November's municipal election.

Aurora had an exciting three-person race for mayor and 20 individuals stepped forward to seek the eight council seats.

There were also important issues on the table that affect all of our everyday lives - the issues of growth, the level, quality and costs of services, and the appropriate level of taxation.

But how did we repay these 23 individuals? With a voter turn out of 38 per cent.

Shameful!

My rather pithy conclusion to that column:

"Before we are given the keys to the Porsche, let's show that we can drive the station wagon first."

Assume we leave the existing voting system in place. Is there anything that is minor, practical, interesting and easy to implement that could be done within our Town's borders to measurably increase voter turnout?

The quickest way is to force everyone who did not vote in the most previous election to come to a future Town Council meeting and sit through the entire session - and no sleeping allowed!

Talk about the concept of scared straight!

Another potentially less hazardous approach is to get council to set aside \$5,000 to \$10,000 annually for election prizes.

Based upon an Aurora population of 50,000 people, this works out to a nominal 10 to 20 cents per person.

All those who actually cast a vote in municipal, provincial and federal elections would be eligible. Five draws would be done after every election. Those who actually vote could win a cash prize of \$1,000 to \$2,000.

In its simplest format, Aurora would be divided into say four geographic zones. Each area would contain, as close as possible, the same number of voters.

Of the five prizes, the first two would be drawn from everyone who lives in Aurora and actually voted.

The next two prizes would only be eligible to those voters in the zone that garnered the highest voter turnout.

I would make the last prize eligible to those who live in the two highest voting zones; the people in the highest voting zone therefore get an extra opportunity to win a prize.

The other approach is to not go to council at all. In this case, the four voting zones would still employed but instead of cash prizes, companies in our community would be asked to contribute goods or services as prizes.

In exchange for the donations, these companies would receive free publicity in the local media or at the event when the winners are announced.

It may be difficult to get a \$1,000 to \$2,000 gift from any one business, but why not put together a prize package. Have a bunch of companies donate 10 to 20 gifts having a market value of \$100 each and this would

constitute one prize.

The draw could be done once per year as part of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Gala Dinner that is held every fall or during the Town Hall Civic Awards Night held every June.

Although we are not sure if a federal election, or a federal by-election for that matter, will take place this year, we do know that we will be going to the provincial polls in October.

Having had only a 38 per cent voter turnout last November, why not give this idea a try?

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

The daffodil epiphany

One of the greatest pleasures of driving to Virginia in the early spring is daffodils.

I have always marveled at the unique beauty of daffodils, but about five years ago, I made an early trip to Virginia and watched spring happen in "fast forward".

As I drove, buds appeared like a misty spray on trees...then solidified into blossoms and leaves. At the end of that single wondrous 12-hour journey into a greener world, the grand finale - carpets of daffodils planted randomly along the highways - touched my heart and soul.

Suddenly, I had a "Daffodil Epiphany".

Although they are only beginning to bloom now in Aurora, as early as February daffodils grace roadsides and gardens deeper south - planted by the thousands by anonymous hands for unknown eyes.

They are the universal symbol of hope and renewal, used by various Cancer Societies around the world as a fundraising symbol. The daffodil is also the national flower of Wales, and so, incidentally, is the leek.

Nobody is quite sure how a member of the onion family hooked up with the daffodil, but it could be because in Wales, the word for leek (Cenhinen) is the same as the word for daffodil (Cenhinen Pedr).

The daffodil is also the symbol of the 10th anniversary. In the United Kingdom it is connected with Marie Curie; in Canada, we often associate it with Easter; and world-wide it is a well known and warmly welcome harbinger of spring.

Daffodils are a beacon of hope - a sign of better things to come. Things like warmer weather, better times, and for those of us who compulsively scan for their cheerful presence, a reassuring sign that in spite of its heartbreak, the world really is a beautiful place.

Perhaps it is my need to believe there are living angels out there whose capacity to be generously inspiring to others, to touch lives with beauty not only for those they love but for countless people they will never know, but daffodils along the roadside are like a comforting visual blanket.

I always like to imagine people plant daffodils in kindness and secrecy with an inner joy that only the selfless can know.

Okay, so I'm a bit of a sap. But to tell you the truth, I like myself better that way.

Recently, it occurred to me that it might be the only way to be truly happy.

I've had my share of mornings that feature indigestion before breakfast and murderous intent towards an innocent clock radio that is just trying to do its job.

Life can get like that and when it does, simple things like daffodils can take on a magical, miraculous power to bring us back to the deeper essence of ourselves.

So I like to imagine that "Beings of Love and Light" exist...in human form, preferably. Because that would mean they're fallible...maybe even break down and have an occasional hissy fit between acts of loving kindness...just like I do. It helps me cope with my own less than regal moments.

Daffodils in my garden make me feel like I have a chance at redemption. They make me notice that every morning, the birds sing in my own backyard in "Little-Town-Aurora".

I don't always hear them. Sometimes, it's because the clock radio has knocked out most of my neural pathways; sometimes it's because I sleep through the show; and sometimes I'm having a really, really loud hissy-fit that drowns them out completely.

But on the days when I do hear them, it occurs to me that they sing whether or not anyone listens. There is beauty all around us, whether or not we notice. And this is what I call the "Daffodil Epiphany".

Daffodils bloom in the most unexpected places - like roadsides and ditches. They bloom where they're planted...and so can we.

If we take in their beauty, rejoice in their glorious presence, and feel gratitude for the anonymous individuals who planted these clumps of inspiration, we honour them and ourselves.

Those who planted won't know whether anyone noticed because they planted knowing they would never know. They simply put their blessed intent towards a more beautiful world.

And so it is fitting that the daffodil has become the universal beacon of hope.

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

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

 **BOUQUETS** to the many volunteers at the seniors' centre who contributed approximately 8,000 hours to help run the centre over a period of three months. While Volunteer Week was 15 to 21 April, the seniors volunteer all year.

 **BRICKBATS** to the members of council who debate town business in the letters to the editor columns of The Auroran, and while it makes interesting reading, it should be debated in the council chambers.

 **BOUQUETS** to St. Andrew's College for publishing such an interesting and informative school magazine reporting on the activities of the institution, and its staff, students and old boys.

 **BOUQUETS** to St. Andrew's College Grade 10 student Ryan Cole on being judged the 9th Best Public Speaker in the World, after competing in the 19th Annual World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships in South Africa recently.

 **BRICKBATS** to some members of Aurora Council for wasting time at council and committee meetings by asking questions from staff when the answer is clearly spelled out in the staff report.

 **BOUQUETS** to Geoffrey Dawe and Elizabeth Bishenden on being elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Aurora Public Library Board recently.

 **BRICKBATS** to some members of the public at the Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School Public Information Meeting for speaking on and on and repeating the same information before a captive audience. Most speakers got up, asked a question, got an answer and sat down, but a couple of others had verbal diarrhea.

 **BOUQUETS** to Brookfield Residential Services for teaming up with Habitat for Humanity to construct the inside of a brand new three bedroom townhouse in Newmarket. This is the third or fourth Habitat home in Newmarket and in spite of several efforts they have been unsuccessful in gaining a foothold in Aurora.

 **BOUQUETS** to Aurora resident Marina Nemat on the publication of her book "Prisoner of Tehran", published by Penguin, describing her experiences as a teenage political prisoner where she was tortured, sentenced to death and forced to convert to Islam before gaining her release through the kindness of a guard's family.

 **BRICKBATS** to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for their lack of follow-up when they investigate and issue a recall order. Although the distributor must inform all stores selling the product, but there isn't a mechanism for alerting customers who may have purchased the product, unless the media picks up the recall, as happened with the pet food recall.

 **BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE team as they ended a successful season for the team of 9-year-olds with a win at the East Gwillimbury Spring Fling hockey tournament. The team was the only one of the town's 27 rep teams to advance to the OMHA finals this year but was eliminated in a back-to-back overtime games in the finals.

 **BOUQUETS** to the eight hockey players with the Junior A Aurora Tigers; Quinn Waller, Alain Goulet, Joey Martin, Paul Zanette, Andrew Eastman, Vince Bruni, Andrew Favot and Mike Dahinger on being awarded scholarships in American universities.

Letters to the Editor

Van hits curb left in road, police say it's no accident

To the editor,

Driver beware.
Recently, my husband was driving home from work having to pass by the forever 'under construction' bridge on Bathurst Street before turning onto McClellan Way.

He hit a large piece of cement curb - left right in the middle of the road which took out what, so far, seems to be the entire oil tank - you can still see the stains - as he went another 10 feet until he realized what had happened.

ized what had happened.

He got out of the van, and picked up this piece weighing about 150 pounds so that no one else would have an accident and laid it on the side of the road.

He got home and we immediately called the police to make a report.

They said it is a civil matter. They said when something is left in the middle of the road it is not considered a car accident.

How odd in our society

when things aren't what they appear to be? Why is that?

Further, they said to call either the car or household insurance people.

We called the repair shop, as the van is totally undrivable, without oil and possible other punctures and damage to be further assessed.

They said to call the insurance company before towing.

We called the car insurance company without making a claim, but rather explaining the situation.

They said it automatically counted against our record, rates would go up, even if we then made a claim on the household insurance, and did not use the car insurance, as the police suggested.

The road remains oil stained, the van undrivable. It does not look good.

When we went back during daylight to take pictures someone had removed the 'evidence'.

The Town of Aurora should watch over their workmen, who in turn should take some caution in avoiding such accidents which will undoubtedly cost us for many years to come.

If this is not a car accident and the insurance will strike against us anyways, and the Town gets away with this sort of inadequate cleanup after their work, where does that leave the driver with a perfect record just trying to get home safely?

I always like to take the time to tell Aurorans when they have done something good.

Well, this is something bad...and the van is sure some ugly! I suppose there is always the good, bad and ugly, and things aren't possibly what they seem...so undoubtedly we need our Auroran C.S.I - Customer Satisfaction and Investigation committee - to say when things are good, to say when they are bad and to say when they are ugly so at least the insurance companies can get it right and the end justifies the means!

**Jaclyn Solomon
Aurora**

ED. NOTE: Bathurst Street is a Region of York road and construction on it has nothing to do with the Town of Aurora.

York provided no tax break for Aurora, councillor says

To the editor,

For many years, residents and businesses in York Region, through their property taxes, have been paying taxes known as 'GTA Pooling'.

These dollars benefit City of Toronto residents and businesses.

In 2006 the amount collected and paid to Toronto in York Region was a whopping \$84.1 million.

Aurora residents contributed more than \$4 million of that total.

Recently the Province announced it would phase out GTA Pooling over the next seven years.

Welcome news to all the residents of the Town of Aurora, and the rest of the Region.

York Region will be saving \$6.5 million in 2007.

Many people, myself included, likely thought this would mean the Region would reduce their taxes by that

amount. Not so!

The Region did not consult with the taxpayers or local municipalities.

So, what are they doing with the extra \$6.5 million you are paying?

Not giving it back to you, that's for sure.

At the Regional Council meeting last Thursday, a Vaughan Regional Councillor put forward a motion that requested the Region share this windfall with the local municipalities in order to provide the greatest possible benefit to the residents but that motion was soundly defeated by York Region Council.

Why?

On behalf of the taxpayers of the Town of Aurora, I am extremely disappointed with the approach taken by the Region.

While the decision appears to be already made for 2007 we must not miss the opportunity for Aurora to have a say in future.

Publicity helped location attract blood donors

To the editor,

This is a belated "thank-you" for your help with the Aurora Armoury blood donor clinic on Good Friday.

I heard from numerous donors and volunteers about the great article in the paper, even what page it was on! Thanks for your help.

It obviously makes a difference

since we collected 94 per cent of our goal that day, or 34 units.

That was a fantastic response to a first-time clinic without an existing donor base - and on a holiday!

**Tami Clark
Clinic Recruitment
Coordinator
Canadian Blood Services
Barrie**

Car + Home =
BIG SAVINGS



Peter Virtanen
CLU. Agent, Aurora



LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR, STATE FARM IS THERE:
Providing Insurance and Financial Services

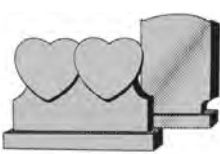
905-727-8400
220 Industrial Pkwy S., Unit 37
(Just south of the soccer fields)

POS800SCN State Farm • Home Offices Aurora, Ontario • Statefarm.ca™

MONUMENTS BY THOMPSONS

A New Approach to Memorial Design.

- * Granite markers and monuments
- * Cemetery lettering and restoration
- * Bronze markers and vases
- * Serving all cemeteries and nationalities
- * Portrait Etchings



Quality and Satisfaction Guaranteed
Day, Evening and Weekend Appointments
905-727-5421
530 Industrial Pkwy S., Aurora L4G 6W8

Thompson Funeral Home is proud to be part of Service Corporation International (Canada) Ltd.

God's biggest blessings are little ones.

Do your "little ones" a big favour, bring them to church this Sunday.



TRINITY ANGLICAN AURORA WELCOMES YOU!
79 Victoria Street, Aurora (905) 727-6101
www.trinityaurora.ca
The Reverend Canon Dawn Davis
Services: 8:00 a.m. *9:15 a.m. *11 a.m.
*Church School and Nursery are available

© 2002 ChurchAd Project

Letters to the Editor

Turf costs not all covered by developers' fees

To the editor,

In response to Ron Weese's letter in The Auroran last week I would like to say that half truths are as bad as lies.

First, Mr. Weese is aware that although I was on the Leisure Service Advisory committee he knows perfectly well that I voted against the artificial field.

He knows that because he wrote a couple of letters to the paper condemning my actions while I was on council.

That will also answer his last statement in his letter that more responsible research is undertaken on issues before information is published.

I have also done a lot of research into the so called cost saving measures and, if it sounds too good to be true then maybe it isn't.

I have research information from the New York City Parks and Recreation Department, since they have 44 parks with artificial fields.

So this is not hearsay, but rather the facts.

For Aurora's \$600,000, and probably more, this is what we would get.

New York City figures that the saving on the artificial parks is about \$14,714 per year per field.

The fields themselves have an eight-year warranty for repair then, after that, the city pays 100 per cent of any repairs or replace-

ment.

This saving, however, does not take into account that to remove and dispose of the artificial turf, when needing replacement, will cost \$2.25 per foot not including the transportation costs.

They are also concerned about environmental problems that could arise when disposing this material. These costs are all in American dollars.

There is a required maintenance on these artificial fields. They do have to be washed at least twice a year and there is a run off of what could be compared to fabric softeners.

There is also a health concern since tests in Europe have shown that

while there are only slightly more serious injuries there are a much greater number of minor injuries. The fields need to be cleaned as these abrasions to the skin can cause blood to be on the turf and this could become a health issue.

As far as the environmental benefits listed by Councillor Evelyn Buck, she forgot the negatives.

The field does need water to wash the turf to ensure that it is clean and healthy to play on.

The field will help global warming as it absorbs the sunshine and radiates the heat out and will be about 35 degrees higher than natural turf.

This heat could affect the athletes.

Natural turf, if properly drained, can be used more than twice a day.

Also, to clean off snow and allow soccer to be played will cost extra as staff will have to do this chore and I am not sure how many players want to risk injuries if the weather is cold enough for snow.

Artificial turf also does not absorb rain water but rather lets it run off into the sewers whereas natural turf will absorb the rain and that aids the natural habitat for insects and birds.

I do read the Aurora Youth Soccer Magazine

since it is part of Aurora's information that I want to keep up with.

To say that all of the money for the artificial field comes from developers is like saying Aurora can still spend money because there are cheques left in the cheque book.

This field is NOT all paid for by the soccer league and development charges, some money will come from the capital spending fund which is the same as tax money.

This money could have also gone towards other

expenditures such as a youth centre or anything else related to the Leisure Services department.

I will also guarantee that the field will cost more than \$600,000.

This number was used two years ago when I voted against it and will, with inflation, go higher.

I do not have any direct or indirect reason for fighting the artificial field other than I care where Aurora spends my taxes.

Nigel Kean
Aurora

Opportunity here for Town, Board to link

To the editor,

In response to Mr. Kean's tirade regarding the overdue installation of the artificial turf at Sheppard's Bush, I would like to applaud council for finally getting this project under way.

It should have been done last year but council turned down the report from staff (Sound familiar?).

Why does the municipality employ staff to complete tasks and in-depth reports for town projects when they don't follow their recommendations?

After all, isn't that what they were hired for?

At the meeting for the decision of where to build Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School on Monday evening, one of the staff that is charged with

preparing the report for the superintendents suggested that there is a possibility for the Board and the Municipality to get together and work out a deal as they have in Markham to have an artificial turf field installed at the new site.

(This suggestion would only work at the Dunning location).

This could be a momentous occasion - an opportunity for the Town of Aurora and the York Region School Board to get together and actually work out an agreement to benefit everyone.

The school population would have a sports facility that they can use at any time regardless of weather and not have to worry about damaging the fields and facing injury.

They would not be told that they can't use the field because it's too wet.

The Town would be able to use it and not have to worry about overuse with their sports programs.

No one would have to be left on the hook for cutting the grass, fertilizing or other maintenance of the field.

The crown on the field would not be lost because of use and the water would drain properly. (Take a look at the field at Newmarket High after two or three days of rain.)

A rubberized track could and should be installed along with this type of field and this too would benefit the community. Last time I checked there isn't a facility of this kind anywhere around Aurora/Newmarket.

I know this is forward thinking, but it is 2007, folks, the town has a domed facility, now it has an artificial turf field.

Could it be that the next step could be a renewed relationship between the School Board and the Municipality that could benefit even more people?

Sharing is good, this is Aurora, please don't miss this opportunity!

Paul Cooke
Aurora

He's appalled at money spent for artificial turf

To the editor,

Again I am disgusted with our town's so-called leadership after hearing my tax dollars are going towards a \$600,000 soccer field turf!

The town hasn't finished paying for the library!

The town just spent 20 some MILLIONS on a new pool. Why isn't Aurora Heights Drive pavement fixed?

This road has had terrible potholes in it for several years. I'm sure there are many other road and infrastructure problems needing fixing in Aurora.

These local politicians are incompetent!!

If their personal homes had a leaky roof, or huge potholes in the driveway, would they spend their lim-

ited resources on fixing those problems, or spend the money on a backyard tennis turf?

R. Gee
Aurora

15085 Yonge Street Aurora Ont L4G1M3
WALK IN's WELCOME

The Mortgage Sisters

Of Northwood Mortgage Ltd

Mortgage Financing

Yes YOU can get a Mortgage even if the
Bank Turned YOU Down
Debt Consolidation Equity Take out
Equity Line of Credit Purchase or Refinance

Let US show YOU how to make your
Mortgage TAX DEDUCTABLE

905-726-4335



SCRAPBOOKING SERIES

Celebrating Mothers

Create a handmade card or scrapbook page that will be treasured for years to come!

FREE WORKSHOP

Wednesday, May 9th

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Thompson Funeral Home
530 Industrial Pkwy. S.
Aurora

Bring your favourite photos for an evening of fun and creativity. We'll provide additional supplies and refreshments.

Call 905-727-5421 to reserve your seat
Space is limited

A community event sponsored by Dignity Memorial Funeral Services



Meaningful Memories

Williams move: another nail in the town's coffin

To the editor,

Last Monday the public school board had their second meeting regarding the future (or lack thereof) of Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School.

It was their first since announcing the surprise plans to move Williams up Bayview Avenue.

It was quite evident in the public meeting that the school board has already made up its mind.

Most of the presentation they made involved their rationale for moving the school, and most of their responses in the question and answer session that followed defended this view (in the case of dissenting opinions) and did not critique supporting viewpoints.

The school board has significant motive to see this relocation succeed.

The land which Williams

occupies would fetch a significant price, making it much easier for them to balance their budget.

But balancing the school board budget should not be the primary concern for Aurorans, and while the Board may like to talk about being fair to the Aurorans who do not exist yet, living in subdivisions that do not exist yet, I think we should be fair to Aurorans who do exist now in a community that does exist now.

Many of us in central Aurora have decided to live where we do because of the proximity of amenities like Williams school.

The new residents that the board is so concerned about will base their location decision on whatever criteria they choose at the time.

Proximity to possible future residents should therefore be very very low on the list of factors involved in the decision to

relocate the school.

If the school board succeeds in this relocation it will be another deadly nail in the coffin of our town.

Quite a few years ago now, the town moved its town hall out of the downtown.

The public swimming pool was also relocated to Industrial Parkway.

Since then the seniors' centre has moved, and many town programs have moved to those facilities and the new rec centre at Leslie.

Now, as well as the school board trying to move this secondary school, there is the possibility of the town creating a youth centre out at the new rec centre and selling off the Library Square lands. It, too, would fetch a dear price.

All of these decisions decrease the livability of the downtown area, an area which significantly defines Aurora and differentiates it from yet



another suburb.

Many downtown residents, including myself, live here specifically because we want to be close to the services we use.

We want to be able to live with one or fewer cars. And we do. But we won't be able to

much longer.

The school board has obviously already made up its mind. It will take a significant amount of political force from the affected residents of Aurora to change that mind.

I don't know what can be done, but if we don't want

Williams to move, then we better think of something quick.

Feel free to contact me at darryl@moores.ca if you think of anything.

Darryl Moore
Aurora

Williams high school must not move, she says

To the editor,

Moving our family from the urban concrete jungle 14 years ago, Aurora seemed a virtual oasis.

Never would I have thought that the vibrant area in which I live, work and raise a family could be considered unworthy enough to maintain an established public education high school in our midst.

Following the initial shock that Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School was deemed to be in such a dilapidated state requiring it to be demolished, my second shock came when hearing that the school may not even exist in its present location.

Being both a parent of children who attend this school and a resident in the

immediate area, I first learned of these facts by reading about them recently in the local newspaper.

Looking northeast to the lands of instant urban sprawl in Aurora, I cannot help but feel a certain disdain that the newcomers have been handed all the amenities that this town can offer.

The Town Hall, seniors' centre, the new aquatic centre, the leisure centre, the Canadian Legion, a new fire hall, a technologically based public school and possibly a youth activity centre are all in the northeast quadrant of Aurora.

There is no doubt that a public high school is required in the new area.

With this in mind, the established area of Aurora continues to be under-serv-

iced.

With the possible disappearance of Williams Secondary School, our neighbourhood would simply become a housing wasteland.

The typical frenzy of hungry developers would surely swoop down on this goldmine of acreage.

You can bet that soft real estate, such as a community centre, would not be the first thing on their minds to construct here.

Amenities such as school locations are always considered when purchasing a home.

In keeping all areas of Aurora viable, there must be a high school kept at the present location.

Facts and figures can possibly be skewed.

On paper, the new location makes perfect sense.

To remove Williams S.S. from the present location, however, would be amazingly short-sighted.

I am convinced that south Aurora is in transition.

I believe we will see new growth of a younger population to support the present school.

Should the school go, there will be no place in which to construct another one here in the future.

Aurora High School would experience overcrowding.

How sound a structure is Aurora High School anyway?

I am an Auroran!

I have invested in my community in a variety of ways over the years.

I find it vulgar that it has come to this "rob Peter to pay Paul" situation presented by the York Region

District School Board.

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School is not only an educational facility, it is an integral part of this community.

It hosts a vast number of community-based activities throughout the year that our area would not otherwise have locally available.

My family and I would

gladly endure three years of school reconstruction if it means keeping south Aurora vibrant and a place worth living in.

I do not want to live in a housing wasteland.

Let's save our school.

Let's save south Aurora.

Julia Walkley-Sherman
Aurora

New school site being prepared

To the editor,

After Monday's meeting at Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School, I drove to the proposed school location on Bayview, and found site preparation has already begun for a project officially not approved.

I concede the school is moving, regardless of what the majority of residents think.

So now we move on.

But there are still issues that both the school board and town are ignoring.

The school board will not commit to demolishing Williams, so it will sit vacant and not maintained even after a new school opens on Bayview. This will leave a major eye-sore in the heart of our town.

Where was our mayor at Monday's meeting? I did see wannabee federal politicians, but no mayor.

From Highview Public School to the Bayview site is in excess of seven kilometres, one way. Round trip will be a minimum of 30 minutes during the morning rush. Still,

the school board sees no responsibility to provide bussing. Why won't the school board even consider boundary changes allowing Highview and Regency Acres families to be accommodated at Aurora High?

The same statistics being used to justify moving Williams were used five

years ago to show Highview was overcrowded.

Now the school board says Highview is in decline.

It makes me wonder how many portables a school must have before it is considered not in decline.

Wayne Scriven
Aurora



www.jonesgable.com

Call me if you would like a second opinion on your RRSP & Investment strategy.

Stephen Forsey CIM FCSI
Investment Representative
JONES, GABLE & COMPANY
LIMITED (Member CIPF)
905-726-9343

Experiencing water problems? Experience the EcoWater difference



NEW 3500 Series Water Refiners
"SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY REBATE!"
MORE THAN JUST A WATER SOFTENER...

The EcoWater refiner will clean, soften, filter, remove chlorine, taste and odor - *all in one system*

The industries only residential water appliance that carries TWO GOLD SEALS.

EcoWater is the largest manufacturer of residential water softeners in the world, offering industry leading warranties.

FLAN-AIR
HARD COMFORT SYSTEMS

150 Hollidge Blvd., Unit C7... across from Sobeys Bayview
Aurora 905-713-6326 1-877-939-4600

YOUR ONE-STOP WEDDING & GIFT CENTRE

- Hand-made, authentic Swarovski Jewellery
- Our Bonbonniere (favors) are gorgeous, and decorated beautifully and elegantly.
- Centrepieces that will make any party very special
- Our giftware is unique and very high quality
- We are a Royal Doulton "Figurine Specialist".
- Our brands include the full lines of: Denby, Mikasa, Godinger, Gaggia and Elegance

We hope to see you soon
Rose Ciatto

38 Wellington St. E., Unit 1
Aurora 905-751-1598

Open Mother's Day Sunday May 13th

SAVING TAX IS THE BEST INVESTMENT YOU CAN MAKE!



JOHN ROYCE of Marshall Capital Corp. and host OF ACI'S "ON THE MONEY" has a message:

"If you're in the situation of having **Old Age Security Clawbacks, High Taxable Interest Income** or **Owing Additional Tax** over and above you're regular installments, there are **Investments and Investment Strategies** that can **Maximize Your Income** while reducing the tax you pay."

For a **FREE CONSULTATION** call John at (905) 726-8925 or email john@marshallcapital.com

Marshall Capital Corp. is an associate of FundEX Investments Inc.

Parents need to be informed of consequences

To the editor,

I am writing this in the hopes that parents of both future and current students at Regency Acres and Highview Public Schools will be better informed of

the consequences of relocating Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School to the proposed Bayview Avenue

site.

First of all, I would be very upset if Williams was to move from the current Dunning Avenue site as I believe it contributes a great deal to merchants in that area, and serves as a centre of community for the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Williams is also in a great location as it is in walking distance of the public library, and has extensive athletic field space to accommodate a growing number of student athletes.

There has recently been a distinct trend of locating amenities towards the east end of town and, although I understand that there is no extra space in the downtown area to accommodate these places, there is still more space here for Williams than there is on the proposed site of Bayview Avenue.

New development should always complement the existing town, not take away from it.

One of the most important points in this debate for those living in the south end, is that should Williams move to the Bayview site there are NO plans to change the boundaries of its current elementary feeder schools.

(I phoned the Board office and was told that directly).

This means that schools such as Regency Acres and Highview would have to send their students across town to the new Williams school site on Bayview, at their own expense.

There would be no school bus funded to transport them (unless they lived more than 4.8 kms from the school), and they would have to depend on personal transportation or use the public transportation system.

This would happen even though some of these students live within one kilometre of Aurora High School.

If the decision is indeed made to move Williams to

the new Bayview Avenue site, it would make more sense to divide the town at Yonge Street and send those elementary schools east of Yonge to the new Williams site on Bayview, and those elementary schools west of Yonge to Aurora High.

If, after that, there were still too many elementary feeder schools for Aurora High, then the elementary schools with the shortest distance to the new proposed Williams school site on Bayview should become feeder schools for Williams.

It would be unfair to move Williams across town and, in addition, make students who live closer to Aurora High attend the new Williams school.

If Williams must be moved, please allow our children to stay in our neighbourhoods.

We need to sustain all parts of Aurora, not just the new.

Laura Parkin
Aurora

Tough decision trying to locate high school

An open letter to the residents of Aurora.

After attending two public meetings on rebuilding Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, the perfect storm is brewing. Sides are forming--whose team are you on?

In one corner is the "don't move Williams' team", and in the other corner is the "move to the N/E" team.

The issue of "if" Williams will be rebuilt is no longer an issue.

The focus has shifted to "where" the school will be rebuilt.

Attendees at the April 23 public meeting spoke from the heart, were passionate in their beliefs and had strong views in support of both locations.

Some audience members even commented the debate is creating a divide with residents of south Aurora vs. residents of the north.

Do we vote for the better land elevation and vibrant legacy the current Williams location has given this town, the community and students for more than 50 years?

Or do we just look at the statistics, make it convenient for the majority and acknowledge, with approximately 9,900 new home units approved to be built in the northeast quadrant, where most of the future Williams students will reside in this area?

The answer's not that simple.

It's a highly charged emo-

tional decision.

There are countless pros and cons for both locations - but what is best for the students?

The new school will be built to last 50 to 60 years, but it's still just a building.

Williams, and the next chapter to its history, will be created by the students and teachers regardless of its new location.

We need to be a united team and put the decision squarely on what's right for the Williams students of the future - they're counting on us to get it right.

I'm undecided.

Diane Cobbold
Aurora

FITNESS CLUBS

of CANADA

"Aurora's Finest Fitness Facility"

14 DAY FREE Trial Membership*

TRY BEFORE YOU BUY.

Offer Ends May 31, 2007

Call Now

905-727-1100

PERSONAL ONE-ON-ONE CERTIFIED TRAINING • NUTRITIONAL CONSULTING • STATE OF THE ART RESISTANCE MACHINES • FREE WEIGHTS • HAMMER STRENGTH CUTTING EDGE CARDIO MACHINES • AEROBICS STUDIO • PILATES REFORMER • JUICE BAR • SPIN CLASSES • YOGA & PILATES • SUPERVISED CHILDCARE



FIELD OVER



14751 Yonge St. Aurora
www.fitnessclubsofcanada.com

- *Must be local resident
- *Must be 18 years of age or older
- *First time users
- *New members only
- *May not be used with any other offer

YONGE ST.	WELLINGTON ST.
	EDWARD ST.
	ALLAURA BLVD.

Thank AYSC, don't attack them: reader

To the editor,

I read with interest Nigel Kean's assessment of Town Council's decision to expend \$600,000 to convert the natural grass on the full sized soccer field at Sheppard's Bush to an all weather turf surface.

Elsewhere in those letters to the editor, Mark Warburton decried the whole notion of soccer being played on artificial turf.

Mr. Kean debated the cost saving attributable to grass cutting, fertilizing and annual seed and sod work as inconsequential compared with the capital cost, "turf repair" and "re-

leveling" (really?).

But the main objection is his perception of the inequity of the Town providing a first class playing surface for the Aurora Youth Soccer Club as primary users in exchange for

their contribution of \$60,000 to the project and the payment of ongoing user fees (which he failed to mention).

His undoubted inference is that the AYSC is a money making club and should pay a greater portion, if not the full capital cost, for the facilities it uses.

He believes that "our soccer clubs will be competitive without the arti-

ficial turf".

As another of the Town's user groups with the expectation of having access to this outstanding asset, I have to say that I am dismayed to know that Mr. Kean's opinion may reflect a significant percentage of our townsfolk who really don't appreciate either the quality of service that AYSC provides (and rugby aspires to) or the value their organization brings to our community - putting recreational programs in place for Town residents that Leisure Services couldn't match for five times the price.

That general rule of thumb cuts across all of

the volunteer sports clubs that rent facilities from the Town.

This isn't a group that should be attacked.

This is a group that should be thanked.

The fact that AYSC has a modestly paid support staff only underlines their success in drawing out hundreds of part time volunteers who need full time co-ordination that can only be arranged by having staff available during regular office hours.

Funds raised are in the main redeployed to enhance the playing experience of participants in the program.

It cannot be questioned that our Town's sport field

development lags behind our population growth.

We are community minded enough to aspire to an equitable opportunity for all of our children - and their parents for that matter - to participate in a mainstream sport of their choosing.

Mr. Kean is quite right to assert that AYSC's representative programs would be competitive without additional facilities, however, Youth Soccer has developed competitors out of a house league that boasts participation levels that few Canadian communities can rival.

It is difficult to enhance participation when field use already exceeds capacity.

It is only through the co-operation of the local school boards and private groups (Magna and St. Andrew's College in par-

ticular) that the Aurora Youth Soccer Club has been able to offer participation to the swelling population of this community.

The AYSC has walked this line for years as Town built facilities have lagged further and further behind the demand.

In approving the installation of the turf, Council has ensured that our sport-minded youth have a place to practice and play regardless of weather conditions and traditional field use strategies that severely limit time-on if only to ensure some grass remains on the field after a wet spring or summer drought.

The mayor and town council should be applauded for their insight.

**John Reich
President
Aurora Rugby Club**

What makes councillor an authority, reader asks

To the editor,

I find it very interesting that Madame Evelyn Buck is an authority on artificial turf.

I question her list of advantages of artificial turf over that of a natural surface.

All artificial turf in the past has been used in covered stadiums where natural could not be grown.

It has always been common knowledge that increased injuries have been directly related to artificial turf.

All sports men and women know this and all,

if questioned, would prefer to play on a natural surface as has always been the case.

I hardly see her argument defending the economical and practical reason because the money comes from developers.

It's still our money!

The arguments against artificial turf are not as few as she would have us believe and her arguments are fewer.

1. Injuries are increased.

2. Herbicides should (are) be banned.

3. We are all limiting our water usage anyway.

4. The annual maintenance fees will not be reduced by \$17,000 a year, in fact, will increase because of the added maintenance of artificial turf. Wait til vandals light it up with gasoline.

5. Shovel snow off to play in winter?

6. There won't be unlimited use because you can only play one match at a time.

7. Artificial grass does not cut down on greenhouse gas, it is a petroleum based product and will eventually go into the landfill.

8. Deer can't graze on plastic.

9. It just doesn't belong in a conservation area.

I have to agree in whole with those who feel that the money was ill spent on one group, when many others have already been benefitting from natural grass that has now been plowed over.

I would like to say in closing that if Madame Buck supports something and must resort to the local paper to defend a policy, it's a pretty sure bet I wouldn't be betting with her.

**Mark Warburton
Aurora**

Attack on soccer community is "disturbing", reader claims

To the editor,

It is disturbing that for the second week in a row another attack is launched at the soccer community.

Reading Nigel Kean's letters you might think that the number of children and adults who participate in the programs is insignificant.

In fact they are a very large part of our population. They number in the thousands.

In October of 2006, Mr. Kean said that he had "first hand experience for the need for better field and venues".

In this month's letter to the editor he called the financial investment in a new field a joke.

It is a disservice to the hundreds of volunteers to belittle their interests as unworthy of consideration.

It is disappointing to read of his total disregard to the benefits of a sport

installation.

Is this the reaction we are to expect when any new facility is built?

Mr. Kean's letters underscore a pervasive tendency to target what is considered by some to be unessential.

Every year sports facilities are scratched out of the budget.

Just drop by a field in the summer or the arena in the winter months where you can plainly see what the community wants.

They are humming with activity.

It would be unfortunate if

negative public opinion stalls the future development of fields and leisure centres.

I would like to believe that the majority of our community values the benefit of sports and supports the innovative expansion of the limited assets we have.

Rather than voicing our displeasure it would be more appropriate to show our appreciation.

A state of the art field is being built right here in Aurora.

I hope to see more of the same good work by our

Town Council.

**Carol Walthers
AMBA Executive
Volunteer
Sport Aurora Member
LSAC Volunteer**

PEIRCE ♦ McNEELY ASSOCIATES

BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

**REAL ESTATE
CIVIL & FAMILY LITIGATION
BUSINESS & COMMERCIAL LAW
Wills & Estates
905-727-8900**

Offices in Toronto and York Region (Aurora)



York Group Realty Inc., Brokerage*
Independently Owned and Operated



"Picture your house sold"

Bus: 905-727-1941
Direct: 905-726-8091

BRYAN BLACK
Sales Representative

15004 Yonge St.
Aurora, ON L4G 1M6

Cool Now... Pay Later!



**The Quietest & Most Energy Efficient
Air Conditioner - up to 21+SEER
& for a limited time save
up to *\$1100.00 on rebates.**

**Do Not Pay
Until January
2008***



We Service All Makes...
905.727.4258
www.click4comfort.com

*Call for details. *OAC



14799 Yonge St.
Aurora
Telephone: 905-726-1549
email: flowersbyterry@hotmail.com
www.flowersbyterry.com

If we wouldn't take it home why would we sell it to you?

LEJABY CHANTELE SIMONE PÉRÈLE STUDIO SHAN

Lejaby
for
Mother's Day
**NEW
Summer
Colour**

**Enter draw
for
Lejabura**
(With Lejabu Purchase)

Fine Lingerie, Cruise & Swimwear

2 Orchard Heights Blvd., St. Andrew's Shopping Centre **841-0654**

DIAMOND TEA RASUREL SPANX PIEGE



BARBARA DIVA SILHOUETTE SOLUTION FROU FROU

Netticoat Lane

NK ELLE BEDHEAD P.J. SALVAGE

Williams' meeting draws 200 people

From page 1

rently located, as it has been for more than 50 years, on Dunning Avenue.

Emotions ran high last week at a three-and-a half hour public information meeting at Williams with about 200 people in attendance when the meeting started and fewer than 50 when it was finally adjourned.

Many left feeling the decision had already been made.

Prior to the mmeting's start, parents viewed charts with conceptual plot views of the replacement school on the Williams site of 19 acres and the smaller Bayview site of fewer than 15 acres.

Aurora/King Trustee Gord Kerr stressed that this was an information meeting only and that no decision had been made.

Lewis Morgulis, Manager, Facilities Design

Planning, showed the replacement school on both sites, and enrolment projections for the next 20 years.

If Williams stays on Dunning, a new school would locate on the current football field.

He said the estimated cost to bring the 55-year-old Williams school up to current standards was \$22.5 million plus about \$4 million for program remedial work which exceeded the value of the building and that a new school could be build for approximately \$25 million.

Enrolment figures in old town elementary feeder schools were declining whereas the potential enrolment from the new subdivisions east of Bayview was increasing, he said.

He also pointed out that with the opening of a new high school in Richmond Hill, students from elementary schools in Oak

Ridges were no longer attending Williams and enrolment at Aurora High was also decreasing.

Regardless of the location of the new school the same programs that are currently available at Williams would be retained at the new school, he said.

Architect Sid Coggenni explained the phasing of replacing Williams with the new school located on the football field. Students would attend the current school during the two-year construction period followed by the demolition of the old Williams.

Dr. Ralph Benson, Superintendent of Corporate of Corporate Planning, provided information of the key elements that the trustees would use as criteria in making their selection of the preferred site.

The elements included school and community impact, local businesses, transportation, distribution

of projected geographic distribution of students, project cost and the ability of the board to deliver programs.

The proposed process includes a staff draft report and evaluation to trustees this month and a further public meeting on the draft report and receipt of comments prior to going to a final report in July.

Several citizens opposed the proposed change in location as they had bought homes in the area because of the school.

A move to the Bayview site would mean their children would face an hour's walk to attend school and have to cross busy five-lane Bayview Avenue which presented a traffic safety hazard, parents said.

Other questions were asked about program and boundary changes with staff responding that no program or boundary changes were planned.

It was stressed that it was necessary to plan for the future and the changes in student distribution had to be considered.

It was pointed out that the older sections of town had matured and enrolment in elementary schools was decreasing, whereas the population east of Bayview Avenue was increasing and it was necessary to look to the future.

In response to a question as to why the Bayview

site was required, Dr. Benson replied that several things had happened to board planning since the site was optioned in 1990.

Since that time, he said, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act curtailed development in some areas of Aurora, the construction of a new high school in Richmond Hill and the elimination of Grade 13 indicated a new high school wasn't needed.

Trustee .Kerr explained other trustees had not yet discussed the issue and were waiting for the staff report and public comment

and a decision wouldn't be made until July.

A former student made an impassioned plea to save the old school as it had been built by the community and it wasn't dead yet as it was well built.

To demolish it would be an insult to the people who built it, the student said.

Finally the long line-up at the audience microphone and the questions and comments ended and the meeting adjourned leaving trustees the difficult decision to decide the future of Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School.

Anniversary celebration at school will proceed

At a recent general committee meeting, Nicolina Caccamo, a member of the parent committee of Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School, asked council to waive or reduce the \$225 fee for the use of equipment at the James Lloyd Park, adjacent to the school.

Tuesday, council said no.

This June Holy Spirit will be celebrating its 10th anniversary, the end of the school year they'll couple that with the Second Annual Blast Off to Summer Event.

In recognition of the 10th anniversary, the school parents' committee planned to purchase ornamental benches for the schoolyard and plant a ceremonial tree.

After much discussion at general committee, both pro and con, the request was sent for a report.

At the council meeting, town staff provided background information about the request of the event and

the request for a waiver or a reduction in fees.

The report pointed out the school had use of the park at no charge, but delivery and pick up of picnic tables and garbage cans were part of the town's fee bylaw and covered the cost of staff and equipment.

When advised that the delivery and pick-up for the school event would be carried out during normal business hours, Councillor Al Wilson said he could not support charging the parents' group a fee.

Other members of council argued that as this was a school event, the school board should bear the costs, and that it was not a council responsibility.

Councillor Evelyn Buck argued that it was not a school board event but a community event sponsored by parents of students attending the school.

She noted fees for other

community events had been waived in the past.

Reference was made to the need to review the fee bylaw but no action was taken to call for such a review.

The debate went back and forth until the vote was called in which the request to waive or reduce the fee was denied with Councillors Buck and Wilson in opposition.

In a conversation with Tanya DeFreitas, also a member of the parent organizing committee, it was learned that the annual event was not considered a school board event.

As it was the school's 10th anniversary, the parents wanted to make it a special event and requested funding from various groups, including the town.

Spokesmen said the celebration would proceed whether the fee was waived or not.

When You Want It Done Right

York Region's Choice for Home Renovations

Spring Fever Special: 10% Discount



on all • New Decks & Patios
• Bathroom Renovations



We also offer:

- Home Renovations • Interior & Exterior Painting
- Landscaping • Handyman Services
- Flooring • Design Consultation

Satisfying York Region residents for over a decade!

WE GUARANTEE:

- Superior Services • Affordable Rates
- Flexible Schedules • Dependable Staff

Call today to reserve your
SPRING FEVER SPECIAL!



Two Brothers General Contractors
Renovations Done Right!
905-727-3964



OPENING FOR THE SEASON
SATURDAY MAY 5

Don't Forget Mom
On Mother's Day

We Have...

- Beautiful Hanging Baskets
- Organic Herbs
- Assorted Planters
- Specialty Annuals



SENIORS DAY
EVERY TUESDAY
10% OFF

TRY OUR OWN
ORGANIC
POTTING SOIL

OPEN 7 DAYS
A WEEK
HOLIDAYS INCLUDED

BUY DIRECT FROM THE GROWER
FOR YOUR ASSURANCE OF QUALITY

12589 Woodbine Ave
3 kms south of Bloomington Rd.
905-888-0080



The Town of Aurora in association with the Society of York Region Artists invites you to the

2007 45th Annual Juried Art Show & Sale

Buy a unique piece of artwork for your home

Saturday May 5th 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday May 6th 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Aurora Town Hall
1 Municipal Drive

For more information contact (905) 726-4762

FREE ADMISSION

AURORA
You're in Good Company

Don't Forget Mom
On Mother's Day

We Have...

- Beautiful Hanging Baskets
- Organic Herbs
- Assorted Planters
- Specialty Annuals

SENIORS DAY
EVERY TUESDAY
10% OFF

TRY OUR OWN
ORGANIC
POTTING SOIL

OPEN 7 DAYS
A WEEK
HOLIDAYS INCLUDED

BUY DIRECT FROM THE GROWER
FOR YOUR ASSURANCE OF QUALITY

12589 Woodbine Ave
3 kms south of Bloomington Rd.
905-888-0080

Aurora goes undefeated to win the Dudley Hewitt

Perhaps it was the fact the Schreiber Diesels were coming off a gruelling four games in four nights performance, with their fourth game of the Dudley Hewitt Cup needing double overtime before the winner was decided.

Perhaps it was the fact the Aurora Tigers had won three straight games and gained a bye to the final contest.

Whatever the reason, the Diesels were no match for the Tigers Saturday night, as Aurora poured in ten unanswered goals to win the provincial title with a 10-0 victory over Schreiber.

The tournament was played in Iroquois Falls, in northern Ontario near Cochrane.

Skating results

Following are results of the Aurora Skating Club members who attended the 2007 Spring Fling Invitational held recently in Hamilton:

Pre-Novice	Women's
Freestyle Long	- Elyse Glen, 7th.
Novice	Women's
Freestyle Short	- Carolyn Armstrong, 3rd.
Junior	Women's
Freestyle Long	- Lauren Cooper, 3rd.

The win gives Aurora a birth in the prestigious Royal Bank Cup (Canadian Championship) that takes place in Prince George, British Columbia, beginning this weekend.

The Tigers meet the host Prince George Lumber Kings in their opening game, Monday, May 7, at 9 p.m.

The tired Schreiber team was no match for the hungry Tigers who scored four goals in the first period, added two more in the second, and poured in another four in the final 20 minutes en route to the 10-0 pounding of the opposition before a good sized crowd in Iroquois Falls.

Tyler Gordon in net for Aurora was outstanding stopping all 21 shots to record his second shutout of the tournament.

In fact, Gordon only allowed one goal in three games and posted a .99 save percentage.

In their final game of the round robin series, Aurora handed their hosts, the Abitibi Eskimos, a 7-0 drubbing to win the bye to the finals.

Only Schreiber, a small town on the north shores of Lake Superior near Thunder Bay, scored more than one goal on Aurora, as they lost to the Tigers 6-3 in round robin play.

Schreiber won its ticket to the tournament by winning the Superior International Junior Hockey League (SIJHL).

In the final game, Aurora showed the kind of depth the team has with Paul Zanette and

Daniel Michalsky scoring twice, with singles coming from Mark Thorburn, Andrew Favot, Andrew Eastman, Brett Connolly, Mike Dahlinger and Doug Henderson.

Captain Quinn Waller racked up five points, assisting on half Aurora's goals.

Waller was named the tournament's Most Gentlemanly Player, while Michalsky was picked as the event's most valuable player.

The Diesels advanced to the final after a 6-5 double overtime win against the host Abitibi Eskimos a night earlier.

Schreiber captain Chris Bryson scored his third goal of the game with 1:06 left in the third to send the game to overtime.

After a scoreless 10-minute first overtime, Toby Brune scored unassisted at 4:01 to push the Diesels into the finals against Aurora.

Probably a little like sending the lambs to the slaughter.

Aurora got to the final game by virtue of a 4-1 win over the Sault Ste. Marie Indians in Game 1.

The Indians made it to the tournament by winning the Northern Ontario Junior Hockey League title.

In the second game, Aurora got a look at the Diesels, and with Mike Lalonde in net, came up with a 6-3 victory.

The third game, against host Abitibi Eskimos, was a bit intimidating as more than 1,000 were in the area to cheer for the

Eskis.

Abitibi came out hard but lost their momentum when goaltender Gordon shut the door and the Tigers scored twice in the first period en route to a 7-0 beating.

"We appear to be getting stronger but have yet to play a full 60 minutes of Tigers hockey," said Tiger Coach Jerome Dupont, after that game.

He was happy to get the bye to the final but not satisfied with his team's performance.

"We can play better," he said, and his team proved it by winning itself a trip to British Columbia.

BIRTHDAY PARTY SPECIALISTS

CALL TO BOOK YOURS TODAY



Gateway Café & Lanes Aurora

210 Edward St. 905-727-2900

www.gatewaylanes.ca

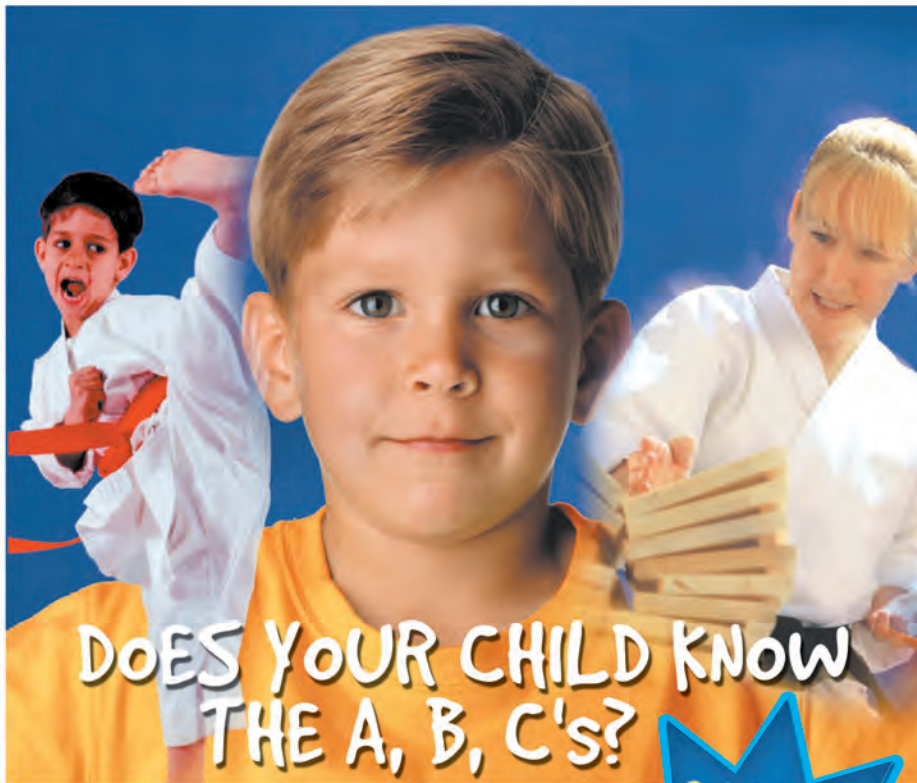
CAR INSURANCE WITH PERSONAL SERVICE. NO EXTRA CHARGE.

Allan Cruickshank, Agent
300 Wellington St E
Aurora, ON L4G 1J5
Bus: 905-727-2749
allan.cruickshank.qjbb@statefarm.com



LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR, STATE FARM IS THERE.®

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company • Canadian Head Office: Aurora, Ontario • statefarm.ca™
POS0076CN 02/05



DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE A, B, C's?

ATTITUDE

Help your child develop an outgoing attitude and the confidence to be his or her best.

BEHAVIOUR

Give your child a chance to develop self-control and the ability to manage his or her emotions.

CHARACTER

Build the foundation of your child's character by letting us reinforce values like honesty and integrity that you've been teaching at home.

Quick Start Program

\$149.00 + GST

Includes 1 month of classes and 1 FREE Uniform



ROBINSON'S KARATE SCHOOLS

17310 Yonge St., Unit 3,
Newmarket, ON L3Y 7R8
Tel: (905) 830-1245
Fax: (905) 830-1246

15483 Yonge St., Unit 3,
Aurora, ON L4G 1P3
Tel: (905) 713-1774
Fax: (905) 713-0287

12612 Hwy 50, Unit 11B,
Bolton, ON L7E 1T6
Tel: (905) 857-7009
Fax: (905) 857-0686

LEWIS' KARATE SCHOOL

417 Huronia Rd.,
Barrie, ON L4N 8Z1
Tel: (705) 733-8994
Fax: (705) 733-9485

YOU'RE INVITED

Breakfast Roundtable
on Our Healthcare System
Friday May 4th
8 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Jonathan's Restaurant
RSVP required

Pub Nite
Wednesday May 9th
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Graystones Restaurant

905-727-0145
info@frankklees.com



FRANK KLEES

He Gets Things Done!

www.frankklees.com

PC Candidate for Newmarket - Aurora

Authorized and paid for by the Newmarket-Aurora Provincial Progressive Conservative Association

STOP BY ON YOUR WAY HOME

39.00

Twilight rates start after 4pm. Get out and enjoy the spring. Book your tee time after work on our beautifully wooded course, located just east of Leslie on Vandorf Rd. We're just around the corner...Welcome home to Westview.

Call for tee times 905-727-0446

www.westviewgolf.ca

WESTVIEW GOLF CLUB
AURORA



Aurora Senior Public School student Shannon Honsberger, above, uncovered the life of activist Nellie McClung and her efforts resulted in her winning a Laurier L. LaPierre award at the 2007 Aurora Community Historica Fair held at St. Andrew's College last week. Meanwhile crowds, right, visited the more than 70 exhibits on display at the school.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



Historica event attracts a total of 70 projects

The Historica Fairs Program is a multimedia learning initiative developed to increase public awareness and interest in Canadian history.

The goal of the program is to offer students the opportunity to explore the many aspects of their Canadian heritage.

Students may use the medium of their choice to tell stories and share information about Canadian heroes and legends, milestones and achievements.

The 2007 Aurora Community Historica Heritage Fair was held Wednesday at St. Andrew's College, organized by Sue Walmer and volunteers and sponsored by the Aurora Optimist Club, St. Andrew's College, the Aurora Arts and Cultural Fund, MP Belinda Stronach and the Newmarket/Aurora Electoral District of the Conservative Party of Canada.

The Fair is a showcase for Grades 4 to 9 students to tell something about Canada or its people or a Canadian mystery or legend.

For the 2007 Aurora Fair there was 70 projects on display from eight schools.

Opening Ceremonies concluded with the presentation of a short, original play "Message of Freedom", written by four

students and performed by students of Kettleby Public School.

Following the Opening Ceremonies the audience had the opportunity to view various displays and to speak to the students.

The exhibits were open to the general public during the day and again in the evening when the various awards were presented.

Winners included six students from Aurora Senior Public School: Victor Grabovskyy, Madison Gordon, Shannon Honsberger, Grant Kavanagh, Jake Hindley and William Burden.

Other winners were Roberto James, St. Andrew's; William Brogan, Highview; J.P. Saxe,

Country Day School; Nichlas Dentay, St. Andrew's; Brooke Dunford, Country Day; Janine Fernandes, Highview; Liam MacKichan, Highview; Melanie Osmond, Light of

Christ; Aiden Slind, Wells Street Public School; Caroline Balogh, Light of Christ; James McDonald, St. Andrew's; and Nicole Bransfield, Highview.

Study correct, parking exists

Due to complaints about the lack of parking in the library square area, council retained a consultant to carry out a parking study of on-street and off-street parking in the area between Yonge Street east to Larmont Street and from Wellington Street to Church/Metcalf Streets at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.

In a presentation to the general committee, the consultant said there was plenty of parking downtown and listed a total of 1,200 on-street and off-street parking

spaces in the study area.

Following a request from a resident, Councillors Grace Marsh and Bob McRoberts carried out their study on approximately 10 streets and their results included fewer spaces than those reported by the consultant.

The general committee recommended the parking limit on Yonge Street be extended except during rush hours, that street parking spaces be marked to promote usage and that signs be erected to indicate street parking is available.

The committee also recommended town staff investigate the reduction of speed on Yonge Street.

The consultant and town staff re-checked the streets included in the councillors' study and reported the original study had listed 201 parking spaces for those streets.

The councillors' study indicated only 152 spots and the re-check by the consultant and town staff confirmed 194 spaces on the listed streets.

The consultants report was received Tuesday night without comment or debate.

Apartment complex approved

After two public planning meetings and a public information session, the planned five-storey apartment complex located on the east side of Yonge Street, south of Craddock Park, is proceeding.

The proposal will have commercial uses on the first floor and residential uses above, containing 15 units consisting of mainly 2 bedroom suites.

The top floor is for amenity uses and 34 parking spaces are included.

The general committee adopted the staff report and directed that subject to a satisfactory review by the Site Plan Committee, the Planning Director authorize the site plan agreement.

The Town of Aurora in association with the Society of York Region Artists invites you to the

2007 45th Annual Juried Art Show & Sale

Buy a unique piece of artwork for your home

FREE ADMISSION

Saturday May 5th 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday May 6th 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Aurora Town Hall
1 Municipal Drive**

For more information contact (905) 726-4762

AURORA
Aurora in good company

York Professional Care & Education Annual Charity GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Thursday May 31, 2007
Cardinal Golf Club
Kettleby, Ontario
www.yorkprofessional.com**

Reserve your spot now!

York Professional Care and Education invites you to be a part of
"Send a Child to Summer Camp Golf Tournament"

All proceeds from the event go directly to send children from Aurora/Newmarket Big Brothers Big Sisters and Girls Inc. to Hidden Bay Leadership Summer Camp.

Golf package includes 18 holes, powercart, lunch, dinner and prizes, \$145.00 • Dinner only ticket \$50.00
Silent auction and raffles available.

PLAY GOLF • SPONSOR A HOLE • DONATE SILENT AUCTION ITEMS.

YORK Care & Education **PROFESSIONAL**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of York

girls inc.

Call Sharon at 905-841-1314 ext. 23 or inquiries @ ypce.com
Charitable Registration #: 10822-6291

YOUNG DRIVERS® of Canada
www.youngdrivers.com

**MAY 5
2 WEEKENDS**

905-726-4132



**NOW
HIRING**

Yen Nails

Professional Nail Care



**NOW
HIRING**



Yen Nails

Hollidge Blvd

Bayview

Wellington Street

- Manicure
- Solar Nails
- Spa Pedicure
- UV Gel Nails
- Bio Gel
- Acrylic
- Air Brush Design

Call for appointment

WALK-INS WELCOME

130 Hollidge Blvd. • 905-727-6030

Aurora Home Hardware

YARD

sale

We have an assortment
of products that are

★ **PRICED TO CLEAR** ★

*While quantities last...
Hurry in!*



Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre

"WE'VE GOT YOUR LUMBER"

OPEN: MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7:30AM - 8PM
SATURDAY 8:00AM - 5:30PM
AND SUNDAY 10:00AM - 5:00PM



Get your Prestige Card Now!



Aurora Minor Hockey Association

Website: www.aci.on.ca/amha



PLAYERS BORN IN 1994						
Day	Arena	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length	Team
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

TRYOUTS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

*Registration fees are \$470
All players must be registered before
going on ice at tryouts*

*AMHA Annual General Meeting takes place
on May 16th, 7:30 PM,
at the ACC1 Auditorium.*

*Every attending member will be entered
into a draw for a*

FREE HOCKEY REGISTRATION FOR NEXT YEAR.

PLAYERS BORN IN 1993							
Day	Arena	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length	Team	
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 1992						
Day	Arena	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length	Team
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

Now a walkway, site once a building



Walkway to Yonge

This convenient walkway and staircase, linking the Temperance Street parking lot with merchants on Yonge Street, was created following a serious fire in 1972 when a building that had occupied the space - Textile Bargain Centre - caught fire. Because of the construction of the building and the many false walls and ceilings in it, the fire quickly spread causing damage to other buildings, both north and south of the bargain centre. But the centre itself received the worst blow and the building was completely removed and the nine-foot-wide walkway constructed. The photo was taken from the parking lot, looking east toward Yonge Street.

Auroran photo
by Ron Wallace

On the west side of Yonge Street, south of Wellington, there is a nine-foot wide walkway and staircase for pedestrians to use to get from a Temperance Street parking lot to merchants on Yonge.

It looks like good municipal planning, but it was more of an accident that the walkway became a reality.

Until 1972 there was a little building in that space and it had quite a history.

Frank Mattson, an electrical contractor, built a two-storey building on the nine-foot property in 1924. According to records, the lot was registered in 1860.

Some documents indicate there may have been a right-of-way there, but if so it was never registered.

Oldtimers recalled teams of horses pulling a wagon or sleigh of Fleury plows from the plant (now Bacon Basketware) through the narrow laneway on their way to the railway station for shipment.

Frank Underhill, an insurance underwriter, purchased the building in 1930 and retained it until 1965. He served as Aurora mayor from 1941 to 1943.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewart owned the property from 1965 to 1969 when it was sold to Floyd Corner, a lawyer, in 1969 and later became the Textile Bargain Centre.

Early in the evening on August 14, 1972, two young-

sters peered into the front windows of the Textile Bargain Centre and later reported they had seen someone in the store trying to put out a small fire at the rear of the building.

About two hours later, Evelyn Buck, soon to become mayor of Aurora, drove by the store, noticed smoke coming from the interior and turned in the alarm.

Following that, she phoned Ron Wallace who was news editor of The Aurora Banner at the time.

The cause of the fire was suspected to be a cigarette accidentally dropped into a bolt of cloth, but it was never officially investigated by the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office.

Damage was extensive to the bargain centre and the Maher Shoe Store to the north was damaged when flames broke through a wood covered window and got behind several false walls.

Above the shoe store, Dr. Wilf Black's dental office and Tom McPherson's law firm suffered smoke and water damage. To the south, J & B Stationery and Marshall Rank's jewelry store suffered some damage.

A total of 48 firefighters from Aurora and three other departments used five pumpers, two aerials and a rescue truck to fight the fire.

Aurora firefighters Joe DeGeer and Norm Harrison were taken to hospital with

injuries while Eric Eveleigh, Dave Wright and Fred Bolsby were treated for smoke inhalation.

It took more than five hours to bring the blaze under control. Damage was estimated to be \$200,000, a lot of money in the early 1970s.

The bargain centre was demolished and the town purchased the nine-foot property for a public right-of-way as it apparently was more than 50 years before when the little building wasn't there.

Following complaints from Ms Buck that the police had not arrived for traffic control on Yonge Street for more than eight minutes after the Aurora firefighters had arrived, council authorized Bell Canada to install a direct line to connect the Newmarket Answering Service with York Regional Police dispatch centre.

At the time, calls for the Aurora Fire Department were handled through the Answering Service.

After alerting firefighters, the Answering Service telephoned police for traffic control assistance, but the dispatcher was interrupted by another call.

When he returned to the police line, the police dispatcher had hung up, which caused the delay.

A devastating fire set the scene for a convenient link from a parking lot to downtown merchants.

**Wellington Medical
Walk-in Clinic**

Dr. John Fitzsimons

Dr. Anthony Nguyen

Now accepting new patients

- No Appointment Required
- Travel, Wart and Acne Clinic
- Online appointment

Book at www.medhelp.ca

126 Wellington St. W. • 905-841-1633
New extended hours
(Corner of Haida Dr.) Enter via PHARMASAVE PHARMACY

**Legacy Diamond
Jewellers**

WHERE OLD CAN BE NEW AGAIN

Mother's Day is almost here!
*Come in and
check out our
Mother's line of jewellery.*

905-841-3065

SAVE 10%
with this ad on any purchase over \$100

ROLL *into* SUMMER

10 BONUS AIR MILES⁺ reward miles bonus code 5308

SUMMER CAR CARE PACKAGE

1. Lube, change oil and replace oil filter to keep your engine clean.
2. Top-up all fluids including brake, transmission, power steering, and radiator.
3. Analyze the electrical charging-system.
4. Tighten all drive belts and hose clamps if required.
5. Inspect cooling system and steering-linkage components.
6. Inspect front and rear brakes.

\$38

15 BONUS AIR MILES⁺ reward miles bonus code 3410

FOUR-TIRE CHANGEOVER PACKAGE

1. Remove winter tires and install summer tires.
2. Inspect all tires for cuts and snags and replace valve stem if necessary.
3. Clean and seal wheels and balance tires.

\$59

CARS/VANS

Assurance TripleTred – Three unique tread zones for tricky driving conditions on dry, wet and even snowy roads.

\$60 **
INSTANT REBATE

Assurance ComfortRed – Long mileage tire with an added layer of cushion for a 20% smoother ride on average.

PERFORMANCE

Eagle F1 GS-D3 – Race-bred tire offering an incisive response and smooth ride.

Eagle ResponsEdge – Carbon Fibre and KEVLAR[®] provide responsive handling while absorbing road noise.

Eagle tread design offers excellent

UP TO
\$100 **

297 Wellington St. E., Aurora
West of Bayview
905-841-8105

135 Davis Dr., Newmarket
905-657-1101

Aurora taxes up four per cent

From page 1

Last year, \$920,000 was taken from the interest on the Hydro sale funds to make up the shortfall and this year only \$700,000 will be taken from the Hydro fund.

The 2007 tax dollar includes 22 cents for protection of persons and property, 19 cents for administration, 18 cents for leisure services, 11 cents for capital projects, 11 cents for the library, nine for transportation, five for environmental services, three for planning and development and two cents for council.

Taxation provides 64.7 per cent of the town's revenue, with user fees 11.6 per cent, municipal grants 6.8 per cent, licenses and permits 5.7 per cent, miscellaneous 4.9 per cent, fines and penalties 0.9 per cent and

reserves 1.1 per cent.

Capital improvements in 2007 include application of \$250,000 in supplemental tax revenue to the capital program, a number of information technology initiatives, \$4.7 million in road improvements and \$3.9 million in water/wastewater projects.

The budget will also supply green bins for the new organics program and its implementation, structural watermain relining program, \$50,000 to the Aurora Community Arboretum, and snow storage site selection and construction.

There will be an energy management and conservation retrofit for the Aurora Community Centre and hiring of a Manager of Environment Initiatives.

Road projects for 2007 include reconstruction of sections of Aurora Heights,

Laurentide, Illingworth, Mark, Oak, Cedar, Birch, Knowles and Morning, plus Wellington Street East sidewalk and bikeway.

Capital projects for Leisure Services include replacement of lockers at the Leisure Complex, repairs to the tennis courts, construction of Ada Johnson Park, repairs to the War Memorial, artificial turf at Sheppard's Bush and improvements to the seniors' centre.

Capital spending of the \$14.1 million budget includes 34 per cent for roads, 14 per cent on parks, 13 per cent to repay debt, eight per cent for fleet maintenance, seven per cent for storm sewers, six for leisure services and water, and five per cent for administration.

The first draft of the 2007 operating budget indicated a 12.4 per cent tax increase

which has been reduced to four per cent.

It means on an average home, assessed at \$300,000, owners can plan for an increase of \$41.44.

But that's only part of it.

There's another 4.89 per cent increase coming from the Region of York, in a budget passed two weeks ago.

The two school boards have no projected increase.

Joe Posivy and Rebecca Beaton had sought to address council on the budget but neither was in the audience when it was presented.

The majority of council members expressed satisfaction with the treasurer's presentation and the budget.

Councillor Evelyn Buck objected to the inclusion of the Manager for Environmental Initiatives position and other items as she had during the budget meetings, but in spite of her objections the budget was adopted as presented.

Blood clinic returning to Our Lady of Grace

A blood donor clinic has been set up in Aurora to deal with the season's first long weekend, Victoria Day.

The clinic will return to Our Lady of Grace Roman Catholic Church (Lynett Hall) on Catherine Avenue, next Monday, May 7.

The last clinic was held Good Friday at the Aurora Armouries.

"One hour may not seem like a very long time for most Canadians as they celebrate the arrival of warm weather and make plans for the Victoria Day long weekend, but for many patients waiting for blood, it's one hour well spent," said Tami Clark, Clinic Recruitment Coordinator for central Ontario Canadian Blood Services. "Canadian

Blood Services is encouraging local residents to make donating blood an important part of their lives as they prepare for the May long weekend and summer activities."

As the temperature rises and long weekends begin, blood donations traditionally decrease because people are away on holidays or busy with family activities, she said.

"Just as one hour of your time can save up to three lives -- one blood donation can ultimately save or enhance the lives of three patients, Tami

said. "We must make sure enough blood is collected before, during and after a long weekend, so we can manufacture platelets, a vital blood component used in cancer therapies and trauma surgeries. Having enough platelets leading up to a long weekend period is always a challenge."

Canadian Blood Services encourages Canadians to call 1-888-2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283), or check out blood.ca to book an appointment.

Bridge results

Tuesday, April 17 - Marg Farmer & Wally Browne; Dan & Mike MacNeil; Doug Farmer & Irma Field; Paul & Marg Macfarlane.

Wednesday, April 18 - N/S: Shirley Hulbig & Paul Graves; Peter Ho & Peter Brugger; Ross Jenkinson & Wally Browne. E/W: Olly Smolak & Deanne Dennison; Joan Rotenberg & Jane Demers; Marg & Paul Macfarlane.

Friday, April 20 - N/S: Marg & Paul Macfarlane; Shirley Hulbig & Paul Graves; Rani Mahood & Virginia Smereka. E/W: Gord Saul & Jane Demers; Peter Blakemore & Bob Hull; Doug Farmer & Ross Jenkinson.



Pay as you go!

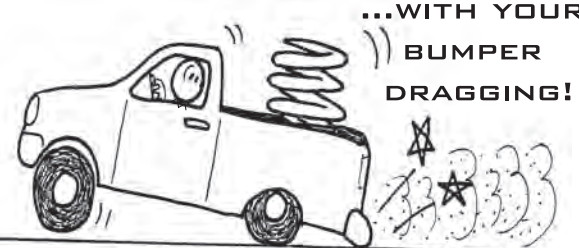
VIRTUAL OPTION

Office Help without Office Walls

Your overhead-free
option for administration
and sales support!

905-841-9364
Email: info@virtual-option.com • www.virtual-option.com

DON'T GET CAUGHT



905-727-3121

YORK SPRING & RADIATOR

"For all your suspension needs"

**Extra Leaves, Shocks,
Coil Springs & Struts
Cars, Trucks & Trailors**

Just north of Wellington on the west side
60 Industrial Parkway North, Aurora



MORTGAGE INTELLIGENCE



Ed Schlotter, Mortgage Consultant
905.727.0112 Serving Aurora
www.mortgageintelligence.ca/edschlotter
"For All Your Mortgage Needs"

- Residential and Commercial Made Easy
- Debt consolidation and Business for Self

A GMAC Company © 2007, Mortgage Intelligence Inc., all rights reserved.
TM Trademark of Mortgage Intelligence Inc. ® Registered trademark of Mortgage Intelligence Inc.



Rejuvenating Center

SERVICES
• Acupuncture • Chinese Herbal Medicine • Tui Na Massage

TREATMENTS
• Pain Management • Infertility & Menopause Care
• Cancer & Tumors • Many Internal Illnesses

Dr. Annie Chen Ph.D TCMD (Traditional Chinese Medicine Doctor)
OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

15208 Yonge St., Aurora • 905-713-0666



Light up your life!

Lighting • Fixtures • Fans

Great Prices

220 Industrial Pkwy. S. 905-841-2832
Call for hours

Thanks for pitching in on Community Clean-Up Day.



Tim Hortons would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's Community Clean-Up. Keeping our community a clean and pleasant place can't happen without people like you. Thanks again for making the Town of Aurora's Community Clean-Up event such a great success.



Together With You, Making Good Things Happen.

© Tim Hortons, 2007

Senior Scape



Photography studied

By BRIAN WARBURTON

The recent Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) general meeting was well attended.

No doubt the bright sunny day had some influence on the size of the group which contained talented photographers plus a majority who were clearly interested primarily in snapshots.

This fine group of summer photographers paid careful attention while the ASA's own Jeffrey Walker talked them through a projector presentation of Kodak Easy Share.

This is a program designed to enhance the ability to save, edit, crop, adjust colour and more.

It is designed also to reduce the size of a digital image for faster e-mailing, and it is a free download from the Internet.

This is an excellent program that should be presented again during the height of the summer season, partly as a refresher and also to give others a chance to benefit from it.

Plans are afoot to make a presentation of submitted photos taken during 2006/7 to all members. For information, contact Elfriede at elfieg@look.ca.

If your interest is in a camera/photography club on Tuesday evenings, e-mail Virginia at virginiaobodnar@sympatico.ca.

Perhaps images of a garden taken weekly throughout the year would be a project to breathe the vitality into two wonderful pastimes, gardening and photography.

Wednesday was a Pot Luck food celebration day of excellence, judged by the full and contented appearance of well fed seniors whose gastronomic appetites were satisfied. This is quite an event in which the guests prepare and donate all of the food and then enjoy whichever dishes gratify and satisfy their appreciative taste buds.

A Pot Luck luncheon is the informal kind of fun occasion that requires some promotion plus careful volunteers to ensure that all goes well.

Good food and company create a sound foundation that binds the seniors together firmly as a cohesive group.

I have written on occasion that the Arboretum begins at the rear of the centre, and I also mentioned that the Arboretum Society plans a major planting of trees this year.

However, I do not believe I wrote about a handicap we discovered which is in two parts. The first is the summer sun which on any hot day renders the verandah at the rear of our building unbearably hot.

The second is the sharp downward slope of the ground from the building and towards the Arboretum, which prohibits passage for anybody on wheels or unsure of their balance.

Council has addressed these issues which will be corrected this year and we have been assured that the process will get underway shortly.

Heritage District plan brings Aurora honourable mention

The Town of Aurora's submission of the "Northeast Old Aurora Heritage Conservation District Plan" for the 2007 Canadian Institute of Planners Awards for Planning Excellence was given an honourable mention in the category of Neighbourhood Planning recently.

In recognition of the award, the Canadian Institute of Planners will be sending a certificate to Michael Seaman, Community Planner at the Town of Aurora and the consultants who worked on the project, Philip H. Carter, Architect and Planner, and Paul Oberst, Architect.

The Canadian Institute of Planners annual awards for Planning Excellence honour projects that are judged on excellence, innovation, impact on the profession, implementation potential, and overall presentation.

These projects are deserving of recognition for their excellence in planning work, their contribution to the profession, and for showing particular strength in the category under which they won their award.

There were 67 submissions this year.

Credit for the success of the final plan is also with the efforts and participation of the Aurora community, the Heritage Advisory Committee and Town

Council who worked for more than six years to establish Aurora's first heritage conservation district.

The Northeast Old Aurora Heritage Conservation District Plan was submitted based on its innovation in being the first heritage district established using the tools available in the new Ontario Heritage Act, its user friendly layout and its effective public consultation program which included the successful Old House Restoration Workshop.

FAMILY LAW LAWYER

Patrick M. Gaffney



Now practicing all aspects of Family Law including custody, access, support, property division, divorce and child protection matters. Practitioner of Collaborative Family Law - a client controlled, lawyer assisted, out-of-court process focused on achieving mutually acceptable solutions for separating families.

- 1/2 hour free consultation
- accepting Legal Aid

#205 - 16610 Bayview Avenue, Newmarket
PH: 905-953-0023 pmgaffney@bellnet.ca

Find Out What your
Home is Worth On-Line
visit:

www.QuickOnlineEvaluation.com

ReMax Omega Realty (1988) Ltd.



Aurora Councillor Al Wilson, left, participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony during an open house at Kinark Child and Family Services in Aurora recently. Kinark Child and Family Services, a non-profit agency which offers mental health services to children, youth and families in the York Region free of charge, opened its new office at 24 Orchard Heights Boulevard in Aurora with an open house. Helping Wilson with the ribbon-cutting were Christine Simmons-Physick, Kinark's York Program Director; Mark Walsh, President of Kinark's board of directors; and Peter Moore, Kinark's Executive Director.

Human body is showcased in art at Wellington Gallery

The beauty of the human body will be showcased in a Wellington Gallery's upcoming exhibit of original art.

The art has been created by artists Henry Asencio, David Jean, Bruce Lawes, Steve Kaufman, Mark Tumber, and Vidan.

The exhibit runs until June 10.

"Artists have focused on human form for centuries - it is one of art's most compelling subject matters," said Gallery owner Emil Simon. "We all relate to it and are naturally drawn to the images and emotions the artwork elicits."

"Each artist portrays the body in his own unique way. Some of the exhibiting artists have international followings such as Vidan who works alongside his uncle, well-known portrait artist, Pino. Henry Asencio has won international awards for his ability to capture the sensual vitality of the female form and Bruce Lawes' models are breathtaking.

In addition to classical

female form, the exhibit will feature a select number of celebrity portraits by Hollywood-based pop artist, Steve Kaufman.

"Steve has taken over as the world's leading pop artist since his earlier years working under Andy Warhol's guidance," said Karen Warner, Gallery Manager. "Steve's work will give guests a taste of what's to come in his December show."

Wellington Gallery promotes original collection-quality art created by established artists.

The gallery is located at 32 Wellington St. West, - one block west of Yonge and Wellington. Admission is free.

It is wheelchair accessible and ample free parking is available.

The gallery operates Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. or by appointment.



• Aurora's First Choice For Driver Training

905-713-3733

• MTO Approved Course Provider

ON-GOING MONTHLY CLASSES

www.ontarionewdrivers.ca

A+PLUS

ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONAL PROVIDES INCOME TAX
SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS & SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE
AURORA & SURROUNDING AREAS

INITIAL CONSULTATION FREE | FREE DELIVERY | FREE PICKUP

REASONABLE RATES AND EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE

ACCOUNTING | BOOKKEEPING | CONSULTING SERVICES
AVAILABLE

CALL
PETER VISCONTI
ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONAL

905.751.4691



"The services are great and the
activities are wonderful,
but the way I am treated is the
greatest gift of all."

CHARTWELL
SENIORS HOUSING REIT

THE DIGNITY I DESERVE

BONE CHINA TEA

Thursday, May 10th • 2pm - 4pm

Join us for a presentation on the cause
and management of Osteoporosis
followed by tea and talk with locally
well known author Rita Butt.
Donations to the Osteoporosis
Society graciously accepted.



**AURORA
RETIREMENT CENTRE**

145 Murray Dr., Aurora, ON

Call 905-841-2777

www.chartwellreit.ca



RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Remembering Creative Connections

In July, 1991, Aurora watercolourist and crafter Jean Little along with Aurora artist, Susan Walker-Ing, decided Aurora needed a centre for local artists and crafters to display and sell their works, so they opened Creative Connections in the St. Andrew's Village.

Creative Connections was a non-profit artists' cooperative where they were able to work, display and sell their work as well as provide an area for instructions and workshops and was operated by the participating members.

In May, 1992, Susan Walker-Ing received the Johnson Culture Appreciation Award for helping to establish Creative Connections as a cooperative centre for local artists.

In December, 1994, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce selected Creative Connections as the Company of the Year for Creativity and Quality.

Later a move was made to Wellington Street East and the shop operated next to the Purple Pig Restaurant and then in April, 2004, it moved to the strip plaza running off Yonge Street, north of Park Place Manor.

Sometimes afterwards the doors were closed and Creative Connections disappeared.

LOCAL STUDENTS RECOGNIZED

Two young Aurora women, Renee Gallant and Sherri Owen, received Youth Volunteer Awards from the Town in May, 1992.

Both were graduates of Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School and were involved with the school's student council.

Gallant was an athlete and a musi-

cian at the school and received honours for her work with the Girl Guides.

Owen received honours for sports, music, drama and academics at Williams.

WHEN THE TIGERS WERE THE EAGLES

In 1986, the Aurora Tigers junior hockey team became the Aurora Eagles.

Owner Jim Ward said the name was changed so the team could soar to new heights.

In March, 1992, the Eagles reached the Junior B Ontario Hockey Association quarter-round finals.

It was the first time an Aurora team had reached this level since 1967.

Along with four other businessmen, including his brother Bob, Jim revived junior hockey in Aurora in 1986.

It was difficult at first as some games attracted as few as 100 fans,

But in 1992 when the Eagles were advancing towards the Central Ontario Junior B East Division title, the fans became interested and started to flock to the Eagles Nest at the Community Centre.

Some nights as many as 1,500 fans packed the arena.

The team went on to win the East Division title by defeating Orillia, Lindsay, and their arch rival Barrie, but lost to Milton in the 7th game of the final for the Central Ontario title.

In May, 1992, the Eagles received a Special Recognition Award from the town to mark a very successful season.

Sometime later the Eagles became the Tigers again and went on to win the Royal Bank Trophy in 2004 to signify top Junior A hockey in Canada and are well on their way to a repeat perform-

ance this year.

LIONS CLUB RECOGNIZED

The Aurora Lions Club received its charter in May, 1944, and was the first service club in Aurora.

Although the Club did not receive its Charter until 1944, members started to meet in 1938 in order to help the needy, as there was no welfare system at that time.

Over the years, the Club lived up to its motto "We Serve" by being active in the community providing assistance to the needy in the form of Christmas baskets, eye glasses, dental and medical care.

Until May, 1984, when the Club celebrated its 40th anniversary, it was estimated the club had given approximately \$60,000 a year to the needy.

Club members were also active with local sport teams and worked on behalf of the annual Easter Seal campaign for crippled children.

In May, 1992, the town recognized the Club for its work with the People in Distress Network and it received the Outstanding Achievement Award for a Non-Profit Organization.

At Christmas the Service Club distributed 32 hampers filled with clothing, toys and food.

Each hamper was valued at \$750.

In May, 1994, the Lions Club received the Community Organization Award as part of the town's Civic Awards Ceremony and has continued their good works since then, mainly unrecognized.

In October, 2004, members of the Aurora Heritage Committee wanted to know what had happened to the Heritage Plaque that had been installed on the Lions Hall at the corner of Victoria and Mosley Streets.

What happened to the plaque and where is it?

GOOD OLD DAYS ON COUNCIL

When the tumult and shouting had finally subsided at an Aurora Council meeting in April, 1970, Mayor Dick Illingworth remarked that the meeting was like one of the old-time council meetings.

It was an evening of sometimes stormy debate, including exchanges of near insults and a chaotic deterioration of parliamentary procedure at one point. Councillor Illtyd Harris prepared and drank an Alka Seltzer during the reading of committee reports.

Near the end of the meeting, before adjourning to visit the Aurora Armoury for a night-cap, a semblance of normalcy returned when Councillor Harris, council's champion conservationist produced a resolution to name Plant a Tree Week in Aurora and the resolution passed without debate.

Not much has changed except the regular after the meeting visit to the Armoury has long since disappeared.

When the illustrious Major Lex McKenzie, MPP for York North for several years, was installed as Aurora's one and only Honourary Mayor in the late 1960s, he remarked that he was proud to lead such a fighting council.

Town may assume school operation

From page 1

Since the expertise to complete the renovations to the Aurora Heritage Centre did not lie within the Society, staff members recommended the responsibility to complete the works be transferred to the town.

The estimated length of the construction period is between six and eight months and approval of the staff report will set the anticipated date of completion for December with operations beginning in January, 2008.

It was also recommended that a Project Management Consultant be engaged to assist in the administration of the renovation works and that staff be directed to investigate alternative funding services from the provincial and federal governments.

Updated cost estimate for construction is \$2,201,400 plus architect fees of \$35,040. With the addition of \$50,000 to repair the belfry and project management fee of \$35,000, the total cost of the project is \$2,321,440

The treasurer recommended the funding include \$200,000 from supplementary taxes to capital projects, \$220,000 from the Aurora Hydro Investment Fund, \$902,971 from the Major Capital Repair Reserve and \$977,249 from the Municipal

Capital Reserve.

It was pointed out that meetings continued with Society officials and as discussions evolved it became clear the Society did not have the capability to operate the Aurora Heritage Centre as was previously envisioned.

As a result staff recommended that an Arts and Culture Advisory Committee be established to provide assistance in the development of program opportunities at the Heritage Centre, with the committee consisting of members of the Historical Society, citizens and the town.

The Historical Society has agreed to loan their artifact collection to the Heritage Centre as well as to continue to pay insurance fees on the collection, and provide a core of volunteers to assist in various elements of the operation.

If the facility is to be operated by the town, the Heritage Centre would require additional staff to ensure adequate public success and operation of programs, such as a Heritage Programmer/Curator, facility reception and part time research staff.

Based on the meeting with Society officials, staff made several recommendations to council including support for the renovations

in the amount of \$2,321,440 with the money coming from the Council Discretionary Reserve Fund.

In moving the recommendations, Councillor Evelina MacEachern suggested the public session be more than an Open House as public input and participation should be encouraged.

She added that staff be directed to provide input into a change in name from the Heritage Centre to the Cultural Centre.

This was opposed by other members of council who preferred the Heritage Centre name.

Councillor Evelyn Buck expressed concern about the design of the facility as it had been designed for the Society and now with the town taking over, the design may not be suitable.

Other councillors noted the design was not part of the report and that it was the programming that must be considered and staff agreed to bring back a report on programming.

In order to address the concerns outlined by Councillor Buck the motion was amended to add that staff be directed to discuss the design of the facility with the architect for a mixed use municipal facility.

The amended motion was adopted as presented by Councillor MacEachern.

GIANT LIGHTING BLOWOUT

50%^{OFF}

THE TAG PRICE

Yes! ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING IN THE STORE!

5 DAYS ONLY

Tues. May 1st to Sat. May 5th

CHANDELIERS • EXTERIOR LIGHTS
TABLE & FLOOR LAMPS • LAMP SHADES & ACCESSORIES
Cash, Interac, Visa, Master Card & American Express

THE LIGHT SPOT LTD.

15570 Yonge St., Arch Plaza
Just north of Howard Johnson Hotel
905-727-7347

CLASSIFIEDS

Special rates: non-commercial word ads: \$20.00 (+g.s.t.) four weeks or, \$15.95 (+g.s.t.) two weeks minimum 15 words (Applies to word ads only).

Got something to sell or advertise? Give us a call - 905-727-7128, fax - 905-727-2620 or go to www.auroran.com then click classifieds to send your ad • More than 76,000 copies delivered to Aurorans each month!

THE UPS STORE

You might not be able to do everything at once, but you can do everything in one place

- Fax Services
- Digital Printing & Copying
- Document Finishing
- Mailbox Rentals
- Courier Services
- Packaging Supplies & Services

The UPS STORE® in Aurora

14845 Yonge St. Unit 6, Aurora
905-713-1632 Fax: 905-713-1633
Email: store73@theupsstore.ca

AESTHETICS

TINA'S AESTHETICS

Specials

RELAXATION PACKAGE:

Body Massage
European Facial
Deluxe Pedicure
Manicure
\$122

WELLNESS PACKAGE:

European Facial
Deluxe Pedicure
Manicure
\$92

HOLIDAY PACKAGE:

Leg Wax
Deluxe Pedicure
Manicure
\$83

(first time customers)

We use disposable plastic foot bath inserts.

By appt. **416-918-2028**

*Tell a friend and receive \$10 OFF your next visit.

THERAPY

PSYCHOTHERAPY

Are you feeling sad, lonely, anxious, empty...

A compassionate, understanding therapist can help ease your distress.

Don't struggle alone.

Luanne Jakobi
Psychotherapist
905-726-4341
Aurora

SPIRITUAL HEALER

SPIRITUAL HEALING AND ENERGY MEDICINE

PETE BERNARD,

Algonquin Shaman from Ottawa
VISITS AURORA May 3-8

- Private sessions May 3-8 (\$75)
- Informal talk May 5, 7-9 p.m. (by donation)

For more information or to register contact Myra Willis
905-841-5434 myra_willis@hotmail.com

HOME RENOVATION CREWS AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY

Bathrooms • Basements • Decks
Hardwood flooring installers available
• Fine Carpentry
FREE ESTIMATES - 24 Industry St. Aurora
905-726-1019

TILE

- Granite • Marble
- Slate
- Porcelain • Ceramic

Specializing in

CUSTOM RESIDENTIAL

905-505-0707

A&H CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE

- Renovations
- Additions
- Finished Basements
- Decks • Painting
- Seniors 10% OFF

905-726-2894

CONSTRUCTION/IMPROVEMENTS

RENOVATIONS DONE RIGHT

Serving York Region for over 10 years

Home or office we specialize in all interior & exterior renovations

- Additions/Expansions
- Basements
- Landscaping
- Flooring
- Painting
- Decks & Patios

Seniors receive a 10% Discount

Call TODAY for a **FREE QUOTE**

Two Brothers General Contractors

416-562-7153

FOR SALE

ROSEWOOD DRAW BUFFET & glass doors top \$175. Antique dark wood secretary desk & glass top. \$175. 416-271-6540

TRUCK FOR SALE MUSTSELL. 95 Chevy S-10, 5 speed, 4x4, hitch, front tow hooks, cap, e-tested, 160 km. - as is \$1800 OBO. Call Gail 416-523-3320.

OFFICE FOR RENT

OFFICE FOR RENT, Yonge and Mosley area. For more information, call Telly at 905-717-4073.

APT. FOR RENT

PROFESSIONAL A1 LUXURY 1 bedroom. completely furnished. or unfurnished \$900 per month. Utilities Inc. Separate entrance. Lake view. No pets. 416-564-4330

CARPET - I have several thousand yards of new Stainmaster and 100% Olefin carpet. I will carpet your living room & hall for \$389. Price includes carpet, pad and installation (30 square yards). Steve 905-898-0127.

NAPOLION FIRE-PLACE. Wall venting Kit: black or brass louvers. Reg. \$1690 special \$999.00 Cash & carry. 5 only. (Tax Extra) Trademarkers. 24 Industry St. 905-726-1019.

OLD ENGLISH SHEPDOG puppies. Twelve weeks old, vaccinated males, home raised, ready to go. Champion blood lines. Call Barvan Kennels, 905-853-0475 or e-mail barba.thompson@rogers.com.

LAWN CUTTING Maintenance & Design

905-727-1734

C.L. SMALL ENGINES

"Repairs to all makes and models"

Gordon Davidson

Bus.: (905) 727-5538

Cell: (905) 717-7208

HARRIS HOME IMPROVEMENTS
Professional Home Repairs & Renovations

(905) 716-2214

harrishomeimprovements@hotmail.com

Call For An Estimate

Carpentry • Decks & Fences • Professional Painting
Plastering • Ceramics • Flooring, Window &
Door Installations • Drywall & more...

ARBORVIEW LANDSCAPE DESIGN

HORTICULTURAL SERVICES

- Organic Lawn Fertilizing Programs
- Garden Design/Build
- Garden Maintenance/Pruning
- Consulting/Coaching
- Spring Clean-ups/Flower planting

Tel: 416.889.4564 • Aurora

COLD PORCELAIN/SILK

Flower arrangements for sale or rent.

FOR ANY OCCASION

905-727-9773
Please leave a message

FLOWERS

SCRAP PICK-UP

SCRAP WANTED

I'LL PICK UP YOUR SCRAP cars and trucks at no charge, and in some cases, pay you for them.
All deals negotiable
Call 905-751-3019

ADVERTISE YOUR GARAGE SALE FREE

ST. JOHN'S SIDEROAD

Hill Dr.
Orchard Heights Dr.
Delayne Dr.
Aurora Heights Dr.
YONGE ST.
Spruce St.
Centre St.
WELLINGTON STREET
Kennedy St.
Dodie St.
Wells St.
Harrison Ave.
STONE RD.
BAYVIEW AVE.

SAT. MAY 5

1) 107 Gateway Dr. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
2) 121 Spruce St. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
3) 40 Delayne Dr. 8 a.m.

4) 63 Hill Dr. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
5) 284 Stone Rd. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
6) 84 Harrison Ave. 7:30 a.m. - noon
7) 2 Dodie St. a.m.

CLASSES • SEMINARS • WORKSHOPS • COURSES

~ Directory ~

Advertise all year for as little as \$7 per week. (*This section only) Call 905-727-7128, Fax 905-727-2620 or go to www.auroran.com and click classifieds and the form window will come up.

ART CLASSES

雲虹畫室

DRAWING CLASS & Summer Camp English and Chinese
<http://www.yhartstudio.com/schedule.html>
Call 905-713-3650.

RIDING LESSONS

HORSES • HORSES • HORSES

Learn How to Ride
• INDOOR & OUTDOOR ARENAS
• HEATED VIEWING LOUNGE
• CAMPS MARCH & SUMMER
SPRING LESSON REGISTRATION



WES

905 713-9991
Woodbine Avenue & Aurora Road at 404
www.wesequestrian.ca

Free 1 Hour Seminar Vitamins & Minerals

500 Products Compared
Commissioned by: Minister of Health
How did yours rate?
www3.sympatico.ca/TonyBBB
905-841-9969

LEARN HOW TO DRAW & PAINT...

Just like the Masters



- beginners to advanced
- ongoing classes
- drawing & painting techniques
- help students prepare portfolios for college & art school
- no artistic experience necessary

905-726-8883

Judy studied academic painting and drawing in Florence, Italy. She has appeared on City Line TV.

mi.design@sympatico.ca

PILATES CLASS

PRIVATE PILATES in the comfort of your home with a fully trained instructor call Hilary. 905-251-0302

YOGA

www.yogaforlife.ca

YOGA

For stress relief & health.

Spring 07' Session
Spaces available
Mon/Wed. Evenings
Mon/Fri. Mornings
Aurora Public Library

905-505-1324

Andrea Roth cert. yoga teacher since 1979.

STUDY GROUP (MAD MONEY) meeting regularly in Aurora. Learn Jim Cramer's rules of investing. Books required. Day-traders welcome. No fee. Educational only. Call 905-751-6013

STUDY GROUP

LEARN TO DANCE LATIN/BALLROOM IN AURORA

SWIMMING LESSONS

SWIMMING INSTRUCTION By Yvonne Catrall, Masters World Record holder, 43 years experience, certified Red Cross Instructor. Year round, all levels, 3-4 maximum in class. 905-841-3450

LATIN/BALLROOM DANCE CLASSES

DANCE PARTY June 16, 2007

7 p.m. - Midnight Aurora Legion - 105 Ind. Pkwy. N.

Couples and Singles Welcome (Ages 19 and up)

7 p.m. - midnight in the Aurora Legion BALLROOM (\$17)

Strict Tempo Music - Line Dances - Refreshments - Cash Bar - Door Prizes

CLASSES Mondays 8 p.m. at the Aurora Legion (*75/8wks)

PRACTICE

(Includes 30 min. lesson, dance practice & line dances)

Every Thursday 7-10 p.m. at the Lions Hall, (*7)

Southeast corner of Mosley and Victoria Sts.



Call : Steve Miller at 416-439-6557 or visit

Site: www.SteveMillerDance.caEmail: Steve@SteveMillerDance.ca

Rich Tradition. Bright Future.



31st
YEAR!

ROGER NEILSON'S

EST. '77 HOCKEY CAMP

July 2 - August 10 ★ Aurora, ON

ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE

Est. 1899

DAY CAMPS ★ RESIDENTIAL CAMPS ★ BOYS & GIRLS ★ 7 - 16 ★ JR. & COLLEGE PREP

www.rogerneilsonshockey.com



Call or click. 888-273-RNHC

ROGER NEILSON'S COACHES' CLINIC: June 15 - 17 - Windsor, ON ★ FOR COACHES OF ALL LEVELS

NOW HIRING: Counsellors, Instructors, Nurses, Office Staff, Bus Drivers, and more...

summer
S.A.C.
camps

The Ultimate Summer
Day Camp Experience in Aurora
for Boys and Girls Ages 4 to 15!

Multi-Sport and Specialty Camp
including Science, Computers,
Theatre, and Visual Arts

- Boys & Girls ages 4 to 15
- Excellent facilities to accomodate all of our programs
- Daily snack and hot & cold lunches provided
- Optional before and after care available
- Daily recreational swim

For more information call 905.727.6544
or check out www.sacsummercamps.com

Located on the St. Andrews Campus
North of Yonge & Wellington

