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AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



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This duck has decided to become a mother in a planter in the front yard of Staples/Business Depot in the Aurora Shopping Centre. It's believed the duck is sitting on five or six eggs and has been doing so for the past couple of weeks. She's not without human help, though. Plaza management makes sure there is fresh water daily and Staples employees share their lunch with the bird. Among them are Mikhail Zakharov, Siobian Williams, Clare Pugh and Cameron Kowalchuk.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Briefly

Last year's tickets good

Remember last year when you wanted to go to the street dance prior to the annual Street Festival, so you bought a ticket, but the weather turned bad, and you didn't go? The ticket is still good...assuming you still have it. And you can use it to get into this year's Optimist Club of Aurora dance. Slated for Saturday evening, June 2, the dance will take place on Yonge Street, between Murray and Henderson, in Aurora's south end. If you don't have a ticket from last year, they're on sale for \$10 in advance or \$15 the night of the event. Back by popular demand will be the "Thursday Night Jam" Band, a 14-member band that includes horns, percussions, guitars and singers. Advance tickets are on sale at Oakridge Outfitters, in the Aurora Shopping Centre; Home Hardware, 289 Wellington Street East; and Straight Lines, 15483 Yonge Street. For more information, contact Diane Buchanan at 905-727-9817.

It's none of their business but town committee wants school to stay on Dunning

Realizing the location of schools is a school board decision, members of Aurora's general committee decided last week to take a position on the board's proposal to move Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School.

They think it should stay where it is and not be moved to Bayview Avenue.

Councillors have received numerous e-mails and phone calls from concerned residents about the potential move and the loss of

Street festival nearly sold out

With Aurora's annual street sale less than a month away, there are fewer than 50 booth spaces remaining to be rented.

Which means that, so far, more than 550 spaces have been booked.

The 12th annual World's Longest Street Festival on the World's Longest Street, will, if the weather co-operates, draw upwards of 40,000 people to Yonge Street.

Set for Sunday, June 3, the Festival starts at 11 a.m. and continues until 5 p.m.

Yonge Street is closed to vehicular traffic from Wellington Street in the north, to Murray Drive in the south.

Most of the favourites, from music to the care show, will return this year.

In addition will be the Freddy Fusion Mobile Magic Science Lab, sponsored by Aurora Cable Internet.

Music will be provided by the Patty McLaughlin Band and George St. Kitts Music Inc.

This year's theme encourages people to walk the route and, with stamped passports at several locations, participants can win prizes.

More than 20 organizations have lined up to sponsor that event and participants must have at least eight stamps on their passports to qualify for prizes.

school and playing field facilities and the impact on students.

In addition resident Stephen Dupuis appeared before the committee to oppose the proposed move.

He pointed out the loss of green space that would occur on Dunning Avenue if the school was moved compared with what would be available at the new site.

He spoke of the impact on local businesses, environmental concerns, impact of rezoning and the loss of a legacy.

He said he found it difficult to understand how the existing school could need more than \$22 million in repairs and he asked the committee to consider the views of the residents and become involved on behalf of the community.

Staff members noted that neither a demolition permit nor a rezoning application had been received from the school board.

There was general agreement that while they didn't want to undermine the jurisdiction of the school trustees, based on the cor-

respondence received and the presentation, there was a community concern as well as an education issue.

Councillor Evelyn Buck recommended the school board be advised that it was council's preference that the school should remain on Dunning Avenue.

While agreeing with the motion, Councillor Evelina MacEachern moved an amendment which would send all correspondence to the school board and that the board be advised the Town Hall would be made available for a community meeting for the general public and the meeting be well advertised.

Councillor Buck said she could not support MacEachern as it would appear council was assuming ownership of the issue over which they had no authority.

The proposed amendment should be a separate motion and voted on separately, she said.

The Buck motion was adopted and on a separate vote the MacEachern motion was also adopted with Buck opposed.



Rema Thompson, who once owned a music store in the Aurora Shopping Centre, had the local painting that caught the Town of Aurora eye at the annual art show held at the Aurora Town Hall last weekend. Her painting of the sugar shack in Sheppard's Bush will join others on the wall at the Town Hall.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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Brian



John

COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

Continuing until June 10, Wellington Gallery in Aurora features figurative artworks of Henry Asencio and Vidan, two highly acclaimed artists of international fame. Gallery is at the corner of Wellington Street West and Machell Avenue.

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.

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.

FRIDAY, MAY 11

24th annual Hospice King/Aurora general meeting from 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Parish Centre, 14485 Jane Street in King City. RSVP at 905-773-0855.

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.

MONDAY, MAY 14

Yard Waste Collection. Yard waste must be in Kraft paper bags or clean, open rigid reusable waste containers such as garbage cans or bushel baskets. To ensure collection yard waste must be at the curb by 7 a.m. For further information call Public Works at 905-727-3123, ext 3447. Pickups also slated for May 28, June 25, July 23 and August 27.

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.

MONDAY, MAY 21

Aurora Writers' Group meets at Zavida's Coffee Shop on Bayview Avenue at 7.30 p.m. Note different location this month. For further information, call Malcolm

at 905-898-5484.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

Aurora Horticultural Society presents lecture on "Gardening in China" at the Royal Canadian Legion, Industrial Parkway N., at 8 p.m.

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.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

Aurora Optimist Club annual street dance 7 p.m. to 11.30 p.m. on Yonge Street, between Murray and Henderson. Last year's tickets will be honoured. \$10 in advance; \$15

the evening of the event. Call Diane Buchanan at 905-727-9817 for further information.

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 Ilic 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.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

Aurora Horticultural Society presents lecture on "Creating a Living Wreath" at the Royal Canadian Legion, Industrial Parkway N., at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11

Aurora Horticultural Society presents lecture on "Unusual Perennials" at the Royal Canadian Legion, Industrial Parkway N., at 8 p.m.

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Oops!

A transport truck, making a sweeping right turn at the Yonge and Wellington corner Friday afternoon, caught this motorist attempting to pass on the right. The truck won. There were no injuries but traffic at Aurora's, and one of York Region's, worst intersections, was tied up for most of Friday afternoon.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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Poor Richard

Council needs to have a look at the operation

*There is a need every so often.
For council to take an inward look;
If they are following the rules,
Or, if someone should get the hook!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Every once in a while there is a need for council to take a close look at itself to determine if there is a more effective and efficient way to carry out the business of the municipality.

Is the time at council and committee meetings being used to the best advantage or is there a better way?

Considerable time is wasted when an issue has been fully discussed at a general committee meeting and a decision taken only to have the whole issue re-hashed when the committee report comes to council.

If a member of council has new information on the issue, then by all means the item should be lifted for further discussion, but all too often a member who opposed the issue in committee wants to have another go at it before the TV cameras at the council meeting.

New information is the only reason a committee item should be lifted for further discussion.

Another time waster is asking questions about a staff report when it may be possible to obtain the answer from appropriate staff prior to the meeting.

Add to that, councillors who ask questions when the answer is clearly spelled out in the staff report.

In the old days of council, members were expected to read the staff report prior to coming to the council meeting and be prepared to adopt it, amend it or reject it.

In accordance with the procedural bylaw at that time, members of council had one opportunity to speak on the issue either in support or opposition prior to the vote, unless there was an amendment when they could speak again.

There was none of the across the table chit-chat, innumerable questions and nit-picking of the staff report as is the current practice.

It was simply a case of stand up, speak up and shut up.

The current procedural bylaw permits a speaker to address the issue twice but quite often it is five or six times between questions and comment.

In 1986, council of the day engaged Woods Gordon Management Consultants to carry out a review of council and committee meetings, relationship of council with staff and council's readiness for the future.

It may be worthwhile to dig out the comments and recommendations of that study, if still available, to determine if the recommendations are still valid for today's council.

It may be that council may have had something similar in mind when they included an item in the 2007 capital budget to allocate \$15,000 to engage a consultant to provide each new term of council with a workshop on Character Leadership.

It was noted that participation in this Leadership training would assist Council's understanding of the Character initiatives of the Character Community Coalition of York Region.

While this may be important, it is much more important to make the council and committee meetings more productive.

It shouldn't be necessary to spend an hour or more discussing a single issue before making a decision, even if it is just a case of referring it back to staff for more information.

Since council was elected last November, other than housekeeping items no major decisions were made except passing the 2007 capital and operating budgets which was done at the last meeting.

There are several outstanding major issues, some left over from the previous council such as the future of the Hydro building, the Hydro sale proceeds, the former library and seniors' building and more recently the Jack Woods property, plus other issues.

With a new council, it's a good time to sit down and take a good look at what you're doing and how it can be improved.



This photo appeared in a recent Auroran and we wondered several things. We wonder no longer. This is an Aurora peewee hockey team from 1962-63, sponsored by Copper Kettle Cake Shoppe, a business in Oak Ridges, back in the days when Oak Ridges was Oak Ridges and not Richmond Hill. The players are, back row, left to right, Barry Collins, Danny Cook, Leonard Wells, Bob Young, Peter Case, Roger McDonald, Mike Summers, Lorne Faulkner; front row, left to right, Jim Robinson, Glen Williams, Bob Kennedy, Torbin Fredrickson, Laverne Phillips, Frank Boucher and John Beard. Thanks to Mr. Boucher for providing the information.

Letters to the Editor

Police have nothing to do so they accost me: reader

To the editor,

I have lived in Aurora all my life, 30 years to be exact. Aurora has always been a pleasant place, except for the last five months.

Since Christmas, it seems, everytime I leave my home I am either followed or accosted by York Region's finest (a term I use very loosely).

The first such incident happened just before Christmas.

I am a resident without a car so I walk or transit to my place of work or wherever I need to go.

I was on my way to work one morning at 6 a.m. Deciding I needed cigarettes, I headed toward Mac's Milk at Yonge and Wellington (the heart of Aurora).

As I walked it became quite clear that I was being followed by a white Mercury Cougar (obviously an undercover cop, not too undercover because everyone knows what kind of cars they drive).

I realized my detour likely was going to make me late so I called a taxi with my cell phone (something I do frequently). As I arrived at the store (two blocks from my home) the white Cougar, as well as approximately six police cruisers rushed from all angles, the officers jumping at me and throwing me into the glass of the store.

They shouted that I had a gun (a couple had their guns trained on me), they searched me, proceeded to make me take most of my clothes off (did I mention it was winter?). When they didn't find anything on me they turned to my bagged lunch, ripping it apart, even my sandwich (they found ham, not a gun).

Just then my taxi arrived. The driver, knowing exactly who I am and where I was headed, decided to help me (thank God).

He explained to the police that he picks me up there all the time, he even knew my name.

The police, now realizing they made a huge mistake, made a big exit dropping everything and leaving just as quickly as they came.

No apologies, nothing.

Those events have happened to me a few times

Council makes his blood boil

To the editor,

In view of this latest fiasco regarding the inappropriate expenditure of my tax dollars on an artificial cricket pitch, I am now actively pursuing the idea of a recall of all those town councillors and mayors who voted in favour of it.

The idea that we, as hard working, property tax burdened citizens of Aurora, should be sentenced to four years of this incompetence makes my blood boil.

The fact that a town council, supposedly of sound mind, could act so irresponsibly is beyond this mere commoner's apprehension.

Who do these people think they are to so recklessly spend money to cover a grass surface in my town?

I have had enough!

Recall them all, in alphabetical order, starting with Madame B.

Mark Warburton
Aurora

since then, maybe not to that degree, until last week.

I needed to make a phone call, my cell phone broken, I decided to use the payphone at Yonge and Wellington.

I didn't even get the number dialed when I heard voices behind me.

They proceeded to push me up against the glass of the Dollarama store, banging my head.

They searched me, found nothing, gave no apologies and left.

The reason I write this letter is not only to inform the residents of Aurora, but to warn them "we are no longer law abiding citizens, we are all criminals in the eyes of the law." The problem, as I

see it, is there are too many police with nothing to do, so they are now creating their own suspicions and acting on them.

To curb this I suggest we equip every cruiser with brooms and garbage bags so when the police are not on a REAL call they can sweep and pick up garbage and help keep this town clean.

I suspect if this letter gets printed you will see a response from many people with the same stories or concerns, after all, I cannot be the only person in this town who may look suspicious.

Clay Cudmore
Aurora

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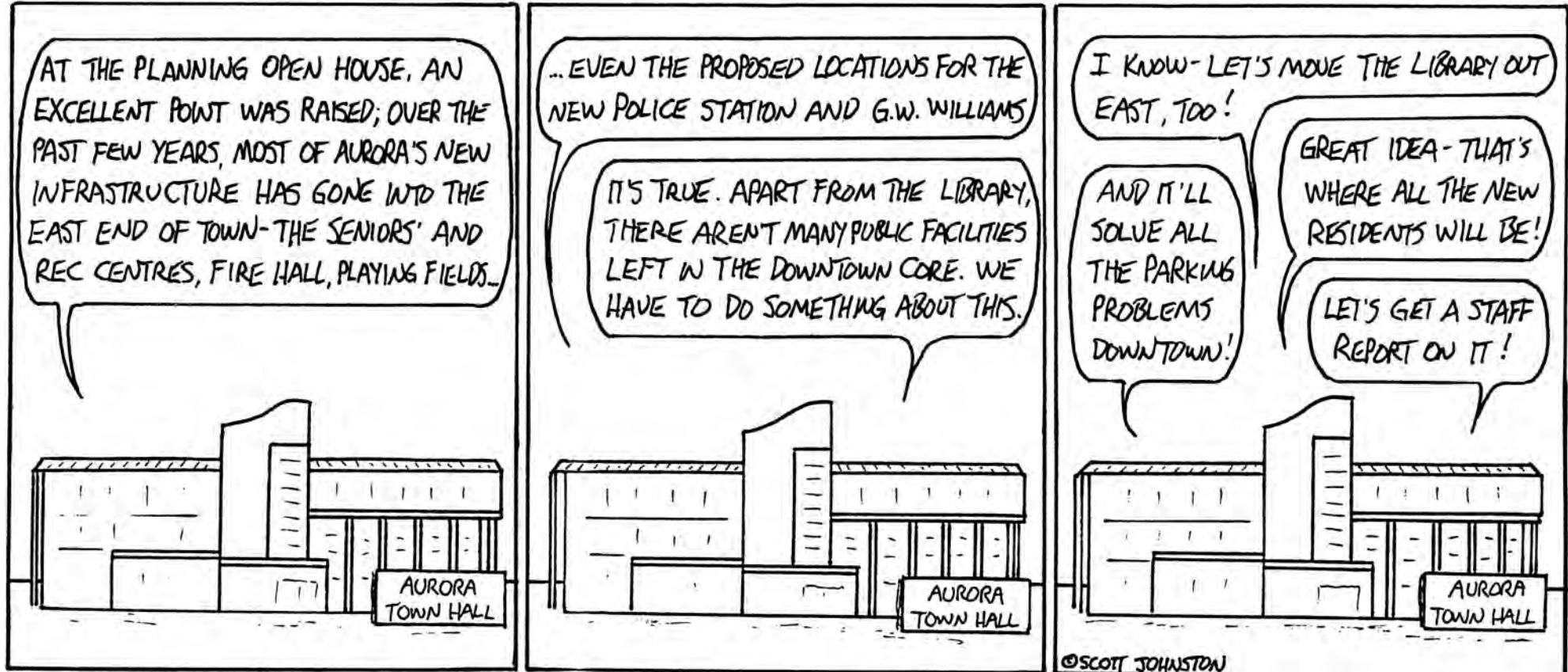
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

This show not boring at all

A couple of weeks ago my sister-in-law invited us to participate in an event at the church her family attends, St. Andrew's Presbyterian on Mosley Street.

Although yours truly is of the Catholic faith I am very ecumenical when it comes to free pizza, homemade cookies and lemonade.

Besides the goodies listed above, there were different activities for the children to undertake including drawing and crafts.

After an hour or so, the event organizers introduced Rob and his assistant, to the assembled guests.

Rob owns ZooTek.

According to their website, "since 1995, ZooTek has been presenting up close and personal encounters with some of nature's most fascinating creatures. This unique, fun, and educational hands-on experience allows children of all ages to be introduced to exotic animals face-to-face."

My initial reaction to this was "why couldn't the organizers have hired a clown instead?"

My second thought went back to my own childhood, when at school during "show and tell", someone would show us their pet rat, gerbil or if we were really lucky, pet rabbit.

Rather mundane stuff.

I must admit I was kind of dreading having to sit through this.

I quickly looked at my watch and thought: "great - this will take at an hour - maybe no one will notice if I catch a quick cat nap while the kiddies play with the rabbits and Hammy the hamster".

Boy, were my initial perceptions ever wrong!

The hour-long production went by too quickly.

Rob had a number of plastic pails, which contained a bunch of exotic animals.

First Rob brought out a couple of lizards - the specific type escapes me, but they were shiny and slippery.

What was interesting was not just the animals themselves, but the way in which Rob interacted with the children and the way in which the animals interacted with the children.

The animals were so docile and seemed to enjoy being around people.

As my son Ryan was sitting closest to Rob, he had the first chance to pet the lizard.

I thought to myself, "if he is anything like his dad, he will not touch these animals - even with a 10-foot pole."

But, I was wrong. There he was, laughing and touching the lizard and seemed to be completely mesmerized by the occasion.

The other thing that absolutely blew me away as I looked around the room is that everyone loved it. Along with the 35 or so children, all the adults were enraptured by the presentation.

And I was simply amazed and impressed that the children knew so much about the animals and their habitat.

After the lizards, Rob showed off a large iguana, then it was time for the snakes.

Apart from mothers-in-law, heights and dentists, nothing scares me more than snakes.

And my heart literally stopped when Rob brought out the 'baby' yellow reticulated python.

It further stopped when he showed the snake to Ryan

- but Ryan, like all the other children in the room, loved it.

My heart almost stopped again when Rob showed the audience a picture of what this 'baby' will become when it reaches its full size - more than 20 feet long and weighing 300 pounds.

After the various snakes, including a poisonous one, it was time for the tarantula and scorpion to make their respective appearances.

Then Rob brought out a Cockatoo Parrot. Everyone had a chance to have his or her picture taken with the bird.

Finally, he brought out the one animal that I was expecting to see and was not afraid of - some type of African bunny.



Cathy's Corner

Roses for my mom

Mothers are a unique brand of very special people. They can make you feel incredibly beautiful, worthy, capable, loved, lovable...and guilty.

Every year as Mother's Day approaches, my mother drives me crazy.

"Mom," I ask, "what do you want for Mother's Day?"

"Nothing," she says. "I have you!"

This doesn't help me.

Indeed, the woman has everything and it would be such a luxury to accept that my mere existence on the face of the planet and simple presence in her life is the greatest gift of all, but alas...I don't dare delude myself. I have a sister.

If I delude myself, my sister will out-do me - again! And I will forever after wallow in guilt.

This absolutely CANNOT happen, so this year, I have an idea: roses.

A dozen carefully selected roses for my mother...

A red rose for love...for teaching me how to love and for loving me even when the words "I hate you" were either spewing from my saucy mouth or written on my rebellious face...for knowing I didn't mean it and accepting my apology years before I even knew I owed one...for wishing on me children "just like you" and the loving heart that it takes to understand them the way you understand me.

A white rose for the purity of your creative spirit that is stronger than thorns...for your ability to see the bloom in me amid the thorns...and for teaching me to see past the thorns.

A blue rose for encouraging me to think in terms of possibilities at the most impossible of times...for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself.

An orange rose for being proud of me...for reminding me that the right choices are not always the easiest choices and that just because we work hard doesn't mean we will succeed...but that not succeeding doesn't mean there is nothing to be proud of...and just so you know, mom, I think I look really good in orange...just like you said when you bought me that hideous orange dress when I was nine years old.

And here is a rose in bubble-gum pink for the way you treasure my childhood and keep it alive for me...the way you make me feel like a little girl again...and the way you make me feel like I will always fit perfectly in your arms no matter how small I feel or how big I get.

He was quite a well-fed fellow. The rabbit was the only animal I touched.

Rob was great in describing the animals, answering questions and making (almost) everyone feel comfortable.

I would highly recommend this for a children's birthday party or a community or fundraising event.

The one-hour show is hands-on, very interactive, educational and best of all, fun!

Thanks as well to the good folks at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church for organizing this great family event.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

A yellow rose for all the times you came into my room at 7 a.m. and whipped open the blinds and shouted "rise and shine! Wake up sleepy head, it's a beautiful day!"

Of course, I had pulled an all-nighter cramming for exams and I didn't appreciate your cheerfulness as much as I should have...so here's another yellow rose.

This one is for all the times you took me to Florida and reminded me that I am not only a mother, but a daughter too...and let me sleep in...for being my best friend - someone whose company I value and treasure.

A purple rose for all the times I bruised your heart...for all the times I told you how I REALLY feel and all the times you loved me too much to tell me how you REALLY feel...and all the tears you cried for me and never said a word.

A green rose for teaching me to recycle and reuse long before blue boxes were invented...and for giving me the gift that one passionate gardener gives another: the green thumb of growing the promise of tomorrow - trees and perennials and children...

A wild rose for taming me...for teaching me to be patient and forgiving, tolerant and accepting...for the uncanny way that you have of telling me I'm beautiful while reminding me I am not without thorns and loving me no less for them.

A peach rose for admiration and appreciation for the countless things you do and give...for all the memories that you've made and inspired...for all the things that would never be what they are without you.

And finally, a chocolate rose for all the times you have indulged me, spoiled me, and reminded me to be good to myself...for showing me life has its moments of sheer joy.

With this dozen roses, mom, I hope that I have been able to tell you just a little about what your love and wisdom and guidance have meant to me throughout my life, how much you mean to me, and how desperate I am to find a florist who can fill my requirements by Sunday!

I love you, Mom...I love you heart and soul...more every day and every day you show me that love is more than I thought the day before...thank you for being my everything.

Happy Mother's Day to all the special moms in Aurora.

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

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Susan Walmer and her volunteers for the well organized and informative Aurora Community Historica Fair held recently at St. Andrew's College with students from eight schools showing 70 heritage displays.

BRICKBATS to Poor Richard for his loud, frustrated muttering at the press table in the council chambers during a council or general committee meeting because of the incessant questioning, across-the-table bickering and waste of time by councillors causing meetings to pass the adjournment hour.

BOUQUETS to the councillor who can explain why \$3,400 for the Yonge Street Commercial Area Sub-Committee should remain in the 2007 operating budget, when the Economic Development Advisory Committee recommended last September that the sub-committee be disbanded.

BRICKBATS to whoever is responsible for leaving the steel plate on the east curb lane of Yonge Street under the rail overpass at the south end of town. It has been there for months and no corrective action is being taken for whatever was the problem. Let's get it fixed.

BOUQUETS to firefighter Paul Leslie on being appointed Deputy Fire Chief of Central York Fire Services, responsible for support services. He joins Fire Chief John Molyneaux and Deputy Chief Ken Bone. Originally with the Toronto fire service, he also served in the Office of the Fire Marshal before joining Central York.

BRICKBATS to the Dalton McGuinty government for playing with the F-word with their energy conservation Flick Off campaign. The intent of the program has merit, but the choice of wording and the advertisements are in poor taste.

BOUQUETS to five members of York Executive Fitness in Aurora who won medals at the Northeastern Natural Bodybuilding Champions recently held in Ottawa. Brian Hewitt won the men's open and men's overall titles while Maureen Hall took top honours in the women's open category. Other winners were Hem Aranis and Cynthia and Bob MacWilliams.

BRICKBATS to Premier Dalton McGuinty for his lack of trust in the clerks in Ontario's 10,000 convenience stores by saying they couldn't be trusted to sell beer and wine, citing the Ontario Lottery scandal as the reason. He seems to forget that you can buy alcohol at more than 200 convenience stores in rural Ontario.

BOUQUETS to Bruce MacGregor on being appointed CAO of York Region replacing Michael Garrett, who retires this month. MacGregor is no stranger to the region having worked as the region's Commissioner of Transportation and Works for the past two years after five years with Richmond Hill as Commissioner of Engineering.

BOUQUETS to Toronto city council for finally agreeing on a seating plan for the traditional picture of the new council. This time no one stomped out in anger as they did earlier in the year when the first picture was scheduled. Does Aurora council still have the traditional council photo?

BRICKBATS to the money hungry fuel barons and the federal government for allowing fuel prices to climb for no apparent reason, except for more revenue and it's more than sheer coincidence that the prices for all fuel companies increase at the same time. Price fixing at its worst.

Letters to the Editor

Reader gets new view on artificial turf issue

To the editor,

Since The Auroran seems to be publishing a never-ending stream of critical letters from Nigel Kean on council's decision to install artificial turf at Sheppard's Bush, I thought I'd add one other taxpayer's perspective on the issue.

When I read Nigel's first let-

ter, I, too, was upset by what seemed a poor use of tax dollars, and the mayor's leadership, or lack of, on the issue.

So I e-mailed her, and I was very blunt in my criticism of the council's actions.

Now I was not expecting a reply anytime soon, if at all, but that same evening I received a call from Mayor Phyllis Morris

to answer my concerns.

Right off the bat, I was taken by her genuine concern and proactive response.

She outlined why the turf decision had been made, the associated costs and benefits, and how the dollars would be funded.

We spent a good 15 minutes discussing that and other

topics, and I was impressed by Phyllis' grasp of the issues, her balanced approach to governing, and her desire to do the right thing for the town.

I hung up the phone with a different perspective on this issue, having seen it from a different angle.

I would question, however, how balanced Mr. Kean's letter was in the first place, and if The Auroran is skewing their 'air-time' in his favour, versus trying to show both the positive and the negative of the new council.

After all, in last week's paper I read yet another letter from Mr. Kean (I think that makes four on this same issue), so perhaps it's time to let this one go and move forward.

I respect Mr. Kean's interest as a concerned taxpayer, but when it goes on for this long, and the source is a defeated mayoral candidate, I wonder if there are other issues at play here.

Perhaps to add a little variety to the 'letters to the editor' page, I'll suggest a new topic: How to fix the Leafs so we can watch some playoff hockey at this time next year?

Now there's something we can all sink our teeth into...

Kent Mills
Aurora

ED. NOTE: Hey, we're good, but we're not THAT good.

Council increased its allowance: Kean

To the editor,

First, I would like to say I do not believe councillors in Aurora are overpaid.

If any councillor does the job properly he or she can spend between 30 and 40 hours working on Town business. Having said that, I am surprised that this council quietly gave itself a raise in travel allowance and also in the money that each councillor gets for conferences.

Over the past two or three terms it has been up to a citizen committee chosen by the outgoing council to determine what kind of an increase the future council will get.

That was done last November and there was an

increase in salary voted on by the outgoing council.

Each person who ran for council knew what they would get paid before they got elected.

This council decided that they weren't happy with that.

The travel allowance is added to each pay cheque, automatically, to cover gas to and from meetings and car travel out of town.

Last term that amount was \$1,000 and now the new council gave themselves a 50 per cent increase to \$1,500.

As for the conference allotment, each councillor gets, I think \$3,000.

The only councillor who I know ever over spent was

Phyllis Morris last term.

At one meeting, then councillor Damir Vrancic anted up some of his allotment to Councillor Morris.

Again this council has voted itself an increase of \$1,000 each.

While the amount totals only about \$13,000 per year the act of this council going against the previous citizen committee in my mind is wrong.

That citizen committee was set up so that this type of thing did not happen in Aurora.

I ask that the amount of the increases be disallowed and that the council stay within the parameters of what was set by the citizens committee in 2006.

Nigel Kean
Aurora

Kean's comments hypocritical: Wride

To the editor,

I read with interest former councillor Nigel Kean's letter of April 24.

What struck me most about Mr. Kean's letter is his astounding hypocrisy.

He states this is the worst case in many years of a council not listening to the majority, wasting taxpayers' money and suggesting this was a "done deal".

Three years ago then Councillor Kean spearheaded a motion to change the address of our Town Hall.

The majority of residents did not want this change and had no opportunity for any input into the decision.

Neither Councillor Kean nor any of his four supporters spoke

to the motion; they just voted for it without any discussion. That sounds like a "done deal" to me.

As far as a waste of money is concerned, with the laying of artificial turf, hundreds of people of all ages will benefit. The changing of the Town Hall address, arbitrarily done for what appears to be personal reasons benefited absolutely no one and was in fact detrimental to our Town and an insult to many Aurorans.

Now that's a waste of money.

I certainly respect Mr. Kean's right to his opinion regarding artificial turf or any other subject; however when it involves such blatant hypocrisy his comments lose any credibility.

Graham Wride
Aurora

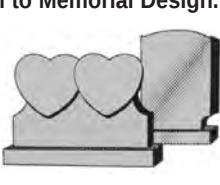
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Letters to the Editor

Moving school would rip heart out of community

An open letter to Aurora/King School Trustee Gord Kerr

I have just read, with interest, your correspondence with Paul Cooke which was published in The Auroran recently. May I echo Mr. Cooke's sentiments as they relate to a possible

relocation of the existing Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School to the Bayview site? If relocation was contemplated to a location that was on par or superior then I would reluctantly acquiesce. The Bayview site is clearly a less attractive alternative as it relates to the safety of the student population.

It abuts an extremely busy thoroughfare with all consumer services on the west side of the street. Students will be forced to cross Bayview multiple times a day risking injury each time. If Mr. Cooke is correct in his assessment that there will only be a field and a half

then he is most certainly correct in his position that the athletic programs will suffer. I am sure you are well aware, there are multiple studies identifying the correlation of physical activity/fitness and the related academic benefits. Further, he points out that

the school population will cycle back to the mature areas of town. This is correct and is not reflected on page 32 of the March 27th presentation. In closing, while I am sure it does not register with the economics of selling a prime piece of real estate, I would hope that the Board would take into consideration the responsibility it has to the community at large. By moving Williams from the central part of our town

the Board will compound the effect that the Wal-Mart's of the world are having in ripping the heart out of our culture and community. As custodians of that culture and community we all - schools, churches, businesses, and citizens - have a responsibility to protect and enhance it. Please do not move Williams! Tom Norwell Aurora

Town wants Williams to stay

To the editor,

RE: Town of Aurora unanimously supports Williams school to remain in its present location

On Tuesday, May 1, at the Town of Aurora General Committee meeting, a motion was moved "that the Dr. G. W. Williams school remain in its present location".

It is not often that a motion is carried within mere

minutes of debate, let alone voted on unanimously as occurred in this instance. Why would this be a consideration for the town? Well, as Councillor Wendy Gaertner stated, "we have no jurisdiction but because it would have such a huge impact, we have a responsibility to take a stand". It seems that Councillor Gaertner recognizes that the possibility of 19 acres of high density development in place

of the school would not sit well with the surrounding local residents. Furthermore, a second motion immediately passed to "refer all correspondence to school board, host a public meeting at town hall, advertise meeting on notice board." Clearly, communication is needed to educate the school trustees and the general public on the Board's intentions to tear down our Williams high school and

rebuild it, potentially on an inferior site in the outskirts of town on Bayview. The Board's motive to expedite this decision at a Board meeting July 3, is something we all need to question. The residents and students of Aurora need an opportunity to review all relevant issues. The York Region School Board should defer any decisions until September to allow appropriate public consultation and Board reports. If you wish to join our team to Save Williams at our Dunning Site, please contact us at www.soswilliams.com. Thanks to Aurora's mayor and council for recognizing the negative impacts and supporting the right decision!

Citizens appeal to Aurora to help school from moving

ED. NOTE: The following edited open letter has been sent to the Town of Aurora re Dr. G.W. Williams S.S.

This letter addresses the topic of the York Region School Board's pending decision to relocate Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School or rebuild on the current Dunning Street site. This letter has been scribed on behalf of a committee of residents of Aurora working together to ensure that our students' high school remains on the Dunning Avenue campus where it has served the residents of Aurora well for the past 50 years. Although there are numerous concerns that our committee shares with the other organizations addressing this issue and with many parents of Aurora, we have attempted to focus on a few key factors that directly impact the residents and businesses of the Town of Aurora, not just the students.

Opportunity to Partner: there has been a lot of dismay expressed about the board's need for speed in this decision-making process. There has been virtually no opportunity for the public, business community or the Town to become involved in the details of the site plans and strategize on possible joint community offerings. However, this could be looked upon as an opportunity for change that could offer so much more to the Aurora community than simply an updated building. For example, other secondary schools in York Region were built to accommodate a public theatre, something the Town of Aurora would welcome. Perhaps the Town could expand their recreation service

es at a reduced cost through a partnership. There may be an athletic association that could cost share and provide an improved service to their membership. Residents of Aurora expect the Town to be actively involved in a restructuring of the use of such large parcels of land. We expect the Town to take the time to look at how to add value to changes of this magnitude. **Reduction of Community Green Space:** The current Dunning Avenue campus boasts 19 sprawling green acres, with large trees and open spaces. Not only do the students of Williams enjoy the two large practice fields and the full size 400-metre running track around the third regulation size field, but so do many other athletic organizations and individuals looking for a place to kick around a ball or go for a run. The local public schools hold their annual track and field meet on these grounds.

By comparison, the proposed alternate site on Bayview Avenue is a barren 14 acres with a portion of it deemed unusable due to severe slopes. This reduction in size of land results in two smaller practice fields and a third regulation field all spaced very tightly together, and only a 100 metre track. No trees, no extra green space, no running track, no ability to properly train track athletics or host an event. **Impact of Rezoning:** Many residents are surmising that the board's intention to relocate the school is a cash grab so that they may sell off the valuable Dunning property. We urge the Town to resolve to not approve a rezoning of this property. Enabling this green space to be sold for development would be a devastating blow to the residents of this town. The residents do not deserve to lose this precious green space in the centre of **Please see page 8**

John Charleson
Linda McMahon
On behalf of the SOS
(Save Our Site)
Williams committee
www.soswilliams.com



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Letter to the Editor

Group hopes to keep Williams on Dunning

From page 7
Town; it would be a huge facility loss and obviously a negative environmental impact.

Local Businesses Affected: All one has to do is stroll along Yonge Street during student lunch hours or after school to measure the impact that the students' buying power have on local businesses.

The coffee shops, pizza and hamburger joints, ice cream parlours and variety stores would all suffer.

Their choice of location and business strategy was determined with the fact that a large high school population was within walking distance.

Alternatively, do we want our students to risk crossing the five lanes of Bayview in an attempt to find similar services. The businesses located in this area were established and have succeeded without the draw of a nearby school population.

Transportation and Traffic: The board has no plans for student transportation should the school be relocated to the Bayview site.

They have been informed that the YRT may be interested in coming up with some type of transportation, but there is no plan or assurance that this will be suitable.

The current school location is very central to the entire Town of Aurora (approximately five kilometres from the northern and southern ends of town).

By comparison, the Bayview site is nine kilometres from the south end of town.

With a school located so far

away from the centre of the population it serves, the Town can certainly anticipate more traffic and congestion, and all of the associated safety and environmental concerns.

Losing a Legacy: Many residents of Aurora are alumni from Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School, and love to share their fond memories of the rich traditions surrounding this school for more than 50 years.

Based on this council's recent decision to support the continued preservation of the Church Street School, we expect the mayor and council also see the importance of the preservation of the Williams school and its legacy.

While we recognize that the mayor and council are not the decision makers in this circumstance, we urge you to stand firm on the inherent benefit to maintaining the Williams school site in its current location.

Growth of our north east section of Aurora should not negatively impact existing communities.

The older, more established communities should not lose amenities and services due to a decision by the school board.

Environmental Consideration: The board made a decision to spend millions of dollars to renovate Williams to add a first class library and cafeteria in the late 1990s; presumably to sustain its longevity.

Fewer than 10 years later, the board has now made a decision to tear this building

down.

In these times of reduce, reuse, recycle and renovate, they choose to replace?

We believe a decision of this magnitude, with no analysis on the environmental impact, is shameful.

Allocation for Growth - Compare to Newmarket: The school board serves all of York Region, but apparently not equally. The Town of Newmarket has four secondary schools to service a population of 75,000 residents.

According to the Board's own statistics, Aurora's population will reach the same level in 20 years.

And yet, the Board is only planning for two secondary schools for the same population.

We ask the mayor and council to question the board as to why Aurora is not serviced with the same respect as our neighbouring municipality.

Furthermore, once the Board realizes that it does need to expand the secondary school facilities within Aurora, one has to ponder where they expect to do so.

The Bayview site has no room for expansion.

A school site in midtown is needed to support current and planned growth in south and central Aurora.

York Region has scheduled an Open House for Aurora residents May 9 on Planning for Tomorrow: York Region Growth Management.

Since the Province of Ontario and the Region of York set growth targets and population density requirements for

Aurora, these growth policies of York Region directly impact our Aurora's future growth.

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.

In the York Region Planning for Tomorrow presentation to Council the Commissioner of Planning, Brian Tuckey, will provide the following projected growth figures for Aurora. There will be an additional 21,773 population in Aurora between 2006-2031, four per cent of total growth of York Region.

Any decision to relocate Williams School must take into account projected future growth targets.

The planned expansion area for growth in Aurora is situated in the northeast quadrant (2C planning area) with high-density areas that will necessitate the building of a new public high school.

The Public Board must take into consideration this growth projection prior to a decision to relocate Williams School.

In closing, we urge the mayor and council to review the concerns and unanswered questions put forth in this letter. We ask for your involvement on this important decision that the Board is about to make, and to assist us in

ensuring the right decision is made: a decision to leave the location for Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School at the current Dunning Avenue location.

**John Charleson
Linda McMahon
On behalf of a
committee of
concerned residents**



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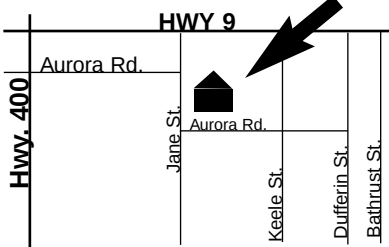
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Drive-thru rules to be regulated

The public planning meeting scheduled for May 23 will be a busy night for members of council as four planning applications are scheduled to be heard, including an application for an official plan and zoning bylaw amendments dealing with drive-thru policies adjacent to residential areas.

It was pointed out that as a result of increased development pressures related to drive-thru facilities adjacent to residential uses, staff are initiating official plan and zoning bylaw amendments to better regulate the integration of these uses.

In order to arrive at improved policies and zoning bylaw provisions the planning department is currently studying what other municipalities have accomplished.

There was considerable opposition from residents in the Bayview Avenue and Hollidge Boulevard area where a commercial strip plaza including a Tim Hortons drive-thru was being considered.

After extensive consultation, a compromise of a 10-metre buffer between the drive-thru and the residential area was agreed.

Then earlier this year Imperial Oil planned to demolish their facilities at Yonge Street and Cousins Drive and rebuild, including a 2,400 square foot convenience store with a Tim Hortons drive-thru, a car wash and a five-island gas bar.

As the land was zoned commercial, there was no rezoning required, nor a public planning meeting.

It was learned that Esso planned to submit to the Committee of Adjustment

for a minor variance to decrease the 10-metre buffer to five metres.

As this was in direct opposition to the town's 10-metre separation which had been established at the drive-thru at Bayview Avenue and Hollidge Boulevard, Cousins Drive resident Dick Illingworth objected.

He also pointed out the need that the sound system for the drive-thru be internal, the need for enforcement of the proposed 11 p.m. closing, control of littering, loitering, noise, location of waste containers and hours of pick-up.

One of the other major issues was traffic flow and a traffic study was recommended, as the traffic flow was expected to be much

heavier than from the existing car wash.

As a result the applicant revised the proposal to change the buffer from the

drive-thru to 10 metres and make other changes and work through the planning department, rather than the Committee of Adjustment.

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Caprese Salad - Buffalo Mozzarella, Vineripe Tomato, Basil and extra Virgin Olive Oil 10.00
Grilled Portobello, Roasted Tomato, Arugula, Basil Olive Oil, Balsamic Glaze 8.00
Crab & Shrimp Cake, Panko Crusted, Roasted Red Pepper Sauce, Avocado Relish & Corn Salsa 10.00
Flat Bread with Roasted garlic, Tomato, Goat Cheese, Black Olive and Extra Virgin Chili Olive Oil 8.00
Grilled Squid & Shrimp, Marinated in Garlic, Lemon, Ginger & Olive Oil, Served with Tomato Filet, Olive and Sesame Soy Vinaigrette 10.00
Shrimp & Vegetable Spring Rolls with Lemon Grass Thai Dip 9.00
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Tigers open RBC with 4-2 victory

The Aurora Tigers, seeking to capture Canadian junior hockey honours one more time got out of the Royal Bank Cup starting gate on a positive note Sunday afternoon with a 4-2 win over the West champion Selkirk, Manitoba, Steelers.

The tournament is being played this year in Prince George, British Columbia.

Tigers played their second game Monday against the Pembroke Lumber Kings, then have their third game in as many days Tuesday night.

The tournament winds up this weekend.

Sunday, the player of the game, Aurora's Mike Dahlinger, led the way with a goal and an assist, as the Tigers continued where they left off a week earlier, winning four in a row to capture Ontario's Dudley Hewitt trophy.

Andrew Favot opened the scoring with a wrap around effort at the 1:53 mark and Dahlinger's goal followed seven minutes later.

The Tigers were the dominant team in the first period with a 14-8 advantage in shots and carried the play to the Steelers for most of the period.

Mike Ward scored off a faceoff win by Joey Piccone from the right point at the 3:24 mark to give Aurora a 3-0 lead in the second period.

Daniel Michalsky added Aurora's fourth marker at 8:16 of the second following a Steelers power play tally.

The goal re-established Aurora's three-goal cushion.

Steelers added another powerplay goal with three seconds left in the game to make the final 4-2.

Aurora's Tyler Gordon

was once again solid in goal stopping 26 of the 28 shots directed his way.

Tuesday's contest was against the host Prince George Spruce Kings.

Results of Monday and Tuesday's game were not available at press time.

This is Aurora's second appearance at the Royal Bank Cup tournament.

In 2004, they won all the marbles to bring the Canadian title to town, and it would appear they're in a position to repeat the performance.

However, there is one major hurdle.

The Camrose, Alberta, Kodiaks, are in the tournament, too.

That team has won the tournament once and been runner up twice in the last six years.

Aurora will meet them in the ninth game of the series Thursday afternoon at 2 p.m. (5 p.m. EST).

That will be the final day of the tournament before playoffs start Saturday.

Two sem-final contests happen May 12, the first at 5 p.m. EST and the second at 10 p.m. EST.

Winners of those two games will play for all the marbles Sunday, May 13, in the championship game that will be televised on The Sports Network.

Check the television listings for game time.

Here's a brief re-cap of

how the Tigers got to where they are:

Aurora roared through the Ontario Provincial Junior A Hockey League finishing with a 44-4-1 record, some 28 points ahead of the Stouffville Spirit in the OPJHL's North Division.

They also took home the league's regular season championship, finishing with a seven-point cushion over runners-up Bowmanville and Wellington.

Aurora spread around the scoring, as Andrew Favot (31-37-69, 16th) and Joey Martin (30-37-67, 20th) were the only Tigers to finish in the top 20 of OPJHL scoring.

Goaltender Tyler Gordon, now appearing in his second consecutive Royal Bank Cup – he was the starter for the host Streetsville Derbys in 2006 – finished third in the league with a 2.00 goals against average, was second with a .932 save percentage and led the league with 27 wins in 33 games.

The Tigers stumbled just once in the OPJHL playoffs, dropping two of the first four games in their second-round series against the Newmarket Hurricanes after a convincing four-game sweep of Buffalo in the opening round.

They took care of the Hurricanes in six games, and knocked off Stouffville,

Hamilton and Wellington in five games each to win the OPJHL Championship.

At the Dudley Hewitt Cup, the Central Region championship, Aurora was the class of the tournament, going 3-0 in the round robin – outscoring the opposition 17-4 – before topping the SIJHL-champion Schreiber Diesels 10-0 in the championship game.

They won the Royal Bank Cup in 2004 in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

However, the plucky team from Camrose is not to be ignored.

They were runners-up in 2005 and 2003 and won all the marbles in 2001.

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Go Tigers Go!

On behalf of the residents of Aurora, congratulations to the Aurora Tigers – winners of the 2007 Dudley Hewitt Cup!

Please join the Constituency Office team and me in wishing the Tigers good luck as they compete this week in the Canadian Junior "A" national championship in Prince George, British Columbia.



Belinda STRONACH MP

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Aurora Skating results

The following members represented the Aurora Skating Club at the 2007 Scarboro Skate held recently at the Scarborough Centennial Recreational Complex:

StarSkate Events

Freeskate

Pre-Preliminary Ladies A - Event #2: Alessia Chiovitti (Group 1) 5th.

Pre-Preliminary Ladies B - Event #3: Samantha Duncan (Group 4) 1st.

Pre-Preliminary Ladies B - Event #4: Marilena Perri (Group 1) 3rd; Kailee O'Connor (Group 2) 6th.

Preliminary Ladies B - Event #8: Shauna O'Connor (Group 2) 7th; Amber Cioffe (Group 3) 4th.

Preliminary Ladies B - Event #9: Robyn Fiorda (Group 3) 6th; Kendall Mannella (Group 3) 2nd; Taylor McDowall (Group 5) 5th; Jihyun Cha (Group 6) 2nd; Alana Fabbicino (Group 6) 3rd.

Junior Bronze Ladies: Nicole Relke (Group 5) 6th; Hailey Riggs (Group 5) 2nd; Samantha Galati (Group 6) 2nd.

Senior Bronze Ladies: Jennine Brunton (Group 2) 4th.

Senior Silver Ladies: Meaghan Jones (Group 2) 5th.

Interpretive

Introductory: Allie Sutton 2nd.

Silver: Jennine Brunton 2nd.

Dance

Junior Bronze Ladies Solo: Samantha Duncan 2nd; Kailee O'Connor 3rd.

Senior Bronze Ladies Solo: Marilena Perri 7th.

Junior Silver Ladies Solo:

Jihyun Cha 2nd, Kate Sutton 5th.

Competitive Events

Pre-Juvenile Ladies: Sierra Chovanec 7th.

Novice Ladies Short: Lauren Cooper 3rd, Maya Goldman 12th.

Novice Ladies Freeskat: Maya Goldman 12th, Emma Hayzelden 11th.

Junior Ladies Freeskat: Lauren Cooper 2nd.

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Registration is also available at the hockey office by Appointment only.

Registration fees are \$470.00 as of May 1st.

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 1999

Day	Arena	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length	Team
Wed	ARC E	9-May-07	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Novice AE
Fri	ARC W	11-May-07	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Novice AE
Sun	ARC E	13-May-07	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	1.5	Novice AE

PLAYERS BORN IN 1998

Day	Arena	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length	Team
Thu	ARC W	10-May-07	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	M Atom AE
Sat	ARC W	12-May-07	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	1.5	M Atom AE
Mon	ARC W	14-May-07	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	M Atom AE

PLAYERS BORN IN 1997

Day	Arena	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length	Team
Thu	ARC E	10-May-07	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	1.5	Atom AE
Sat	ARC W	12-May-07	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	1.5	Atom AE
Tues	ARC W	15-May-07	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Atom AE

PLAYERS BORN IN 1996

Day	Arena	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length	Team
Wed	ARC W	9-May-07	7:30 PM	8:45 PM	1.25	M Peewee AE
Fri	ARC E	11-May-07	6:30 PM	8:15 PM	1.75	M Peewee AE
Sun	ARC E	13-May-07	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	1.5	M Peewee AE

PLAYERS BORN IN 1995

Day	Arena	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length	Team
Wed	ARC E	9-May-07	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	Peewee AE
Fri	ARC W	11-May-07	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	Peewee AE
Sun	ARC E	13-May-07	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	1.5	Peewee AE

PLAYERS BORN IN 1994

Day	Arena	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length	Team
Thu	ARC W	10-May-07	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Bantam AE
Sat	ARC W	12-May-07	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	1.5	M Bantam AE
Mon	ARC W	14-May-07	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Bantam AE

PLAYERS BORN IN 1993

Day	Arena	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length	Team
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



“IS MY CHILD SAFE?”

Free Internet Safety Seminar

Tuesday May 15th, 2007 Time: 7:10pm – 9pm

Aurora Public Library – Magna Room

We would like to thank York Regional Police and The Auroran for making this evening possible.

In today's day and age, the computer is becoming an integral part of our children's lives. They use the computer to do homework, research for projects, shop, play games and talk with friends. Do you know their online friends? They might not be in your child's class, school or even your town. We have all heard about the criminals who use this technology to harm and exploit our children. It doesn't help that this technology baffles some of us and the acronyms and youthful expressions make it more difficult for adults to understand, let alone, help to ensure a safe internet environment for our kids.

Have you asked yourself any of the following questions?

✓How safe is the internet for my children?

✓Who are my kids talking to?

✓Are my children vulnerable?

✓They know more about computers than I do...what can I do?

Then come and join us on May 15th and learn what you can do to protect your children from on-line predators at home. It's more than buying software, Be Net Aware.

P.A.C.T. (Police and Community Together) is looking for volunteers.

If you are interested and would like to learn more,

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A bit about our speaker(s)

Detective Constable Bruce Downey will speak about Technical Crimes and Internet Safety, specifically focusing on Child Internet safety. Detective Constable Downey belongs to the Technical Crime Investigation Association and has been acknowledged for his outstanding work in the field of Technical Crime Investigation. He has acquired experiences in other related areas such as Kidnapping, Child Pornography, Credit Card Skimming/Theft and Missing Persons. He also specializes in the forensic analysis of handheld devices such as cell phones, PDA's and Ipods.

Also joining us is Detective Todd Snooks who is the York Regional Police Officer coordinating Crime Stoppers for our area. This well publicized service is extremely beneficial but not well understood. Detective Snooks will help de-mystify and share with us how important Crime Stoppers can be.

P.C. Mark Lawrence, the Crime Prevention officer for our area, will also be present for questions.

This evening's seminar targets parents, teachers, guardians and other concerned adults wishing to help create a safe global internet community for our children.

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Youngster using festival to make a big difference

It all started when 11-year-old Aurora resident, Sarah McKenzie, decided it was time to make a difference.

After watching Al Gore's global-warming film, "An Inconvenient Truth", Sarah knew she had to do something to help the environment.

You can see how at this year's edition of the Aurora Street Festival, June 3.

"I have been thinking a lot about what I've learned this year about global warming and how animals are losing their habitats because of it," she said. "I love animals, in fact I'm going to a vet camp for kids this summer in PEI. I really wanted to help so I researched on the internet and found the Community Panda program that is offered through the World Wildlife Fund (WWF)."

Sarah felt a personal connection with the charity's nature and wildlife conservation programs and selected to fundraise for this particular conservation cause. The Community Panda program is designed to help individuals and organizations raise awareness and funds to protect Canada's wildlife and wild places.

A representative from WWF helped her develop the grass-roots project by providing public awareness information and fundraising tips.

Sarah discovered that finding a way to raise awareness in the community was easy thanks to Aurora's well-known Yonge Street Festival which attracts more than 30,000 visitors each year.

"I talked with my friends and they wanted to help, too,

so we decided to rent a booth and work together. I'm really lucky because my friends care as much about the environment as I do. This really is a team effort," she said.

The nine-person environmental team includes Elisha Amar, Laura Forsey, Kristina Galajda, Tessa Hayter, Graham Killaire, Eric McKenzie, Sarah McKenzie, Rachel Monteith and Paul Semkowich.

Each team member has contributed \$20 and is assigned a responsibility before the street sale.

One is responsible for the money, another is making home made cards, and others are making banners.

They have all read the "Green Tips" brochure from the WWF on how to be more environmentally friendly.

During the street festival

they plan to educate the community on how to help in the fight on global warming.

"We have two goals – to raise public awareness and money for the World Wildlife Fund. We are going to try our best to raise \$1000," Sarah said. "We will have information brochures and wildlife adoption kits at our booth for people who want to learn more and we will be selling WWF zipper pulls, lemonade, freezies and home made cards. We are hoping it is going to be really hot so people will buy them, otherwise we will have to eat 500 freezies by ourselves!"

You can help by visiting the booth near Cousins Drive.

The 12th annual Yonge Street Festival takes place on Sunday, June 3, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Funds are ready, site now needed

Aurora's 2007 capital budget includes \$34,000 for a Mountain Bike Course (BMX) which includes \$3,000 for salaries, \$6,000 for consulting and \$25,000 for contracting.

Funds will be taken from the Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland Reserve.

The project is to provide a higher level of service in meeting the demand for the recreational mountain bike cyclists.

It has been revised to reflect council's request for only one course with no restoration of damaged areas.

The new course is designed to decrease the degradation of the forest floor and trees within sensitive wood lot areas and to increase the monitoring and bylaw enforcement in woodlot areas to prevent further impact.

The need for a BMX facility erupted in 2005 when council received several complaints about bikers making trails in the Case Woodlot.

During the meeting it was found the majority of the riders were neighbourhood children who did not want to venture too far from their homes to ride.

Nine possible sites were suggested in various parts of the town and in August 2006 council approved a short list of three: in the McClellan Way/Bathurst Street area, Holland River Valley south of Wellington and Lambert Willson Park.

Homeowners in the proposed McClellan/Bathurst site objected to the location on the basis Bathurst Street was being widened to four lanes and the intersection was already busy and safety was a concern.

Staff was directed to find an alternative site in the vicinity of the proposed location at McClellan Way and Bathurst Street and that the site be considered during 2007 budget deliberations.

The original estimate to construct the facility was \$8,000 with additional expenses to supervise the BMX site

and enforcement associated with the prohibition of mountain bike riding in woodlots and the need to restore the existing woodlots, estimated to cost \$150,000.

A location for the facility is still to be determined.

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

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

"These are unique to 5 BELOW", Mae says.

Some of the popular designer labels available at 5 BELOW include J-Lo, Banana Olive, Buffalo, Mavi and Nicky Hilton, and they have recently complemented their selection with exciting new

lines from Kenzie girl, Foxy, Zen B and XOXO, to name a few.

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Our seniors volunteer for litter pick up duty

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Aurora's seniors are civic minded and active and when a call was issued recently by Mayor Phyllis Morris to help with a 'litter pick up day' around Aurora, about 25 members of the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) answered the call.

It was Saturday morning, overcast and cool but not raining and our designated area was the vicinity of the centre. We split into groups of about four and got to it.

Litter abounds from many activities some of which is unavoidable and some which is clearly abandoned indiscriminately including litter from fast food restaurants.

Some restaurants are aware of the problem and provided garbage bags, gloves, water and hand soap which allowed the Town to equip all participants.

While we were returning to the centre a car pulled over driven by Mayor Phyllis Morris. She stopped to compliment us on our efforts and to inform us that the litter collection was well supported and going very well.

My senior colleagues and I agreed that the park and the Arboretum are looking pretty good, with the spring growth newly emerging it looks better after our removal of garbage. Give nature a chance and nature knows what to do!

Pond waters and streams appeared clearer than last year and the garbage was not as severe as in previous years.

The Arboretum plans to plant several hundred trees this year and Aurora residents will be the beneficiaries of an improved park and so will the ASA located right on the border.

And to address a new topic and a reminder, please, this is the week to spring clean and donate your collection of items no longer wanted to the ASA for the annual 'White Elephant Sale' this Saturday, May 12.

Flo Murray and her reading group have just finished reading and reviewing the "Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck.

The book club meets at 1.30 p.m. Mondays and you are welcome to join.

Exciting trips take place every month, but they need to be planned and supported in advance.

For June a trip is planned to the Woodbine Racetrack, from 10.30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Now is the time to register and ensure your place, and to check out other exciting trips in the near future.

Among the easiest of activities in which to join and participate is the walking club.

Walks are on Wednesdays starting at 9.30 a.m. at the centre and are planned for May 9 on the Oak Ridges Trail and May 16 on the Holland River Valley Trail.

Floor pouring extends limit, bylaw waived

The town's Noise Bylaw permits construction noise from Monday to Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with no construction noise permitted on Sundays or statutory holidays.

Last March, Percon Construction Limited, the general contractor for the new public elementary school on River Ridge Boulevard off Bayview Avenue, was granted a noise exemption to complete pouring and finishing of concrete floors in the school.

Council granted the exemption on condition that the contractor notified the residents in the area.

At a recent council meeting the contractor applied for a second exemption from the bylaw to work beyond 7 p.m. to continue the pouring and finishing of concrete floors at the school.

As the town had not received any complaints from the first exemption, the second exemption was granted without comment or debate.

The same condition applied: notify the residents.

Board and bike rodeo set Saturday, May 26

The Optimist Club of Aurora, PACT, ACI, State Farm Insurance and the Town of Aurora have come together to host the largest Bike and Board Rodeo in York Region.

It will happen Saturday, May 26, at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, Industrial Parkway North.

A skateboarding clinic for youth, aged 12 to 17, is also planned.

Participants will learn the safe way to manoeuvre skateboards.

For bike enthusiasts there will be an eight-station bike rodeo setup for new riders to pre-teens.

The goal is to empower

young cyclists with a minimal set of skills for on-road riding.

These stations will include activities such as an obstacle course and rules of the road.

The Bike and Board Rodeo will operate between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

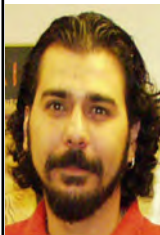
A charity barbecue will be set up on site and there will be several bike safety related booths to visit.

The event is free of charge, but a donation to the local food pantry would be much appreciated.

For more information, visit www.e-aurora.ca or call the Special Events line at 905-726-4762.

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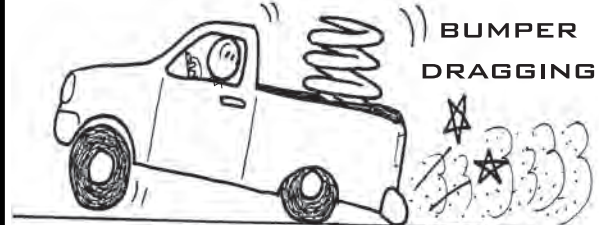
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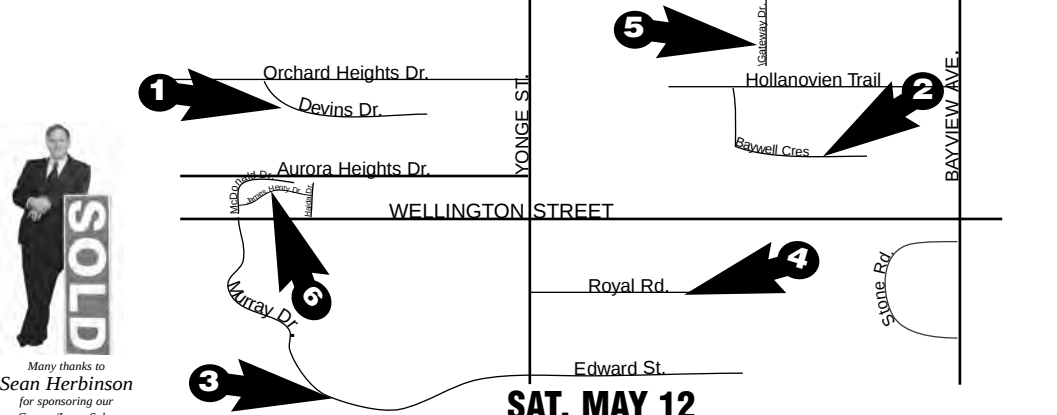
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Popular Canadian author Barbara Gowdy, second from right, was in Aurora recently for a book-reading from her new novel "Helpless". Sponsored by the Aurora/Newmarket unit of the Canadian Federation of University Women, the event was held at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School. Also taking part were, left to right, Gail Herder, Valerie Hume and Aurora Councillor Grace Marsh.

Auroran photo
by Bob Ince



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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

One health store closes and another opens

In November, 1981, one health store closed another moved in to take its place on Yonge Street in Aurora.

Ingham's Natural Food and Cheese Shop closed its doors for the last time, citing personal reasons.

Lila Penttinen, owner of Nature's Paradise Health Foods store, announced that she would move her business from a small store in a strip plaza in the south end to the larger store in the downtown area vacated by the Ingham's.

After 17 months in business, she planned to provide her customers with much improved service such as a portable flour mill so that customers could grind their own flour.

She also planned to serve soup and sandwiches.

Although she would not sell coffee, she offered her customers a coffee substitute and herbal teas.

With a full kitchen in the new store, she planned to have experts in the field hold seminars at her store.

The store later moved to the Aurora Shopping Centre, but has since closed.

WHEN MUNICIPALITIES PLANNED A REVOLT

In April, 1990, a municipal tax revolt was brewing as taxpayers and municipal councils threatened to pull out of daycare, welfare and senior citizens' programs due to a provincial "pass the bill but not the buck" policy.

Local governments were increasingly being forced to foot the bill for provincially mandated programs and pass the costs along to property taxpayers.

Municipal spending went up 10.3 per cent a year since 1985 but unconditional grants to municipalities increased only 3.8 per cent.

The threat evidently worked as Liberal Treasurer Robert Nixon said the province would include about \$5 billion in the provincial budget to provide municipalities in conditional and unconditional grants, an 8.2 per cent increase.

Maybe it's time for another tax revolt?

AURORA HOCKEY PLAYERS ATTEND CAMP

In July, 1982, two Aurora residents involved with hockey in different capacities were selected to attend the second elite Hockey Development Camp for minor midgets in Kingston.

The camp was planned, coordinated and administered by Hockey Ontario on behalf of minor hockey throughout the province and was a learning camp for players, referees and trainers with high potential.

A total of 66 players were selected including Aurora's 16-year-old John Archibald, a minor midget player and a star on the St. Andrew's College team, and Aurora Tiger trainer Bob Firth.

The camp was partly funded by the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association and its corporate sponsor Scotiabank, but where is the Hockey Ontario Development Camp today?



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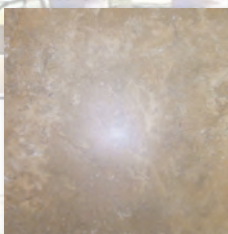
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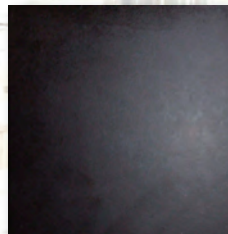


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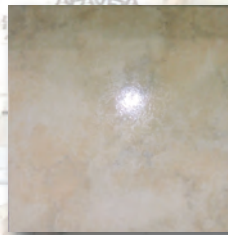


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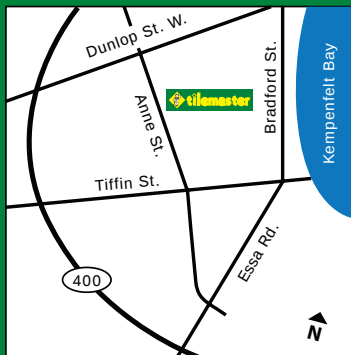
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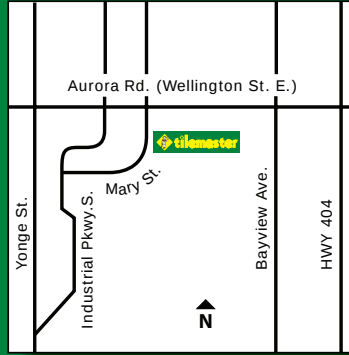
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