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# THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 7 No. 33

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FREE

Week of June 19, 2007

## Yonge may get dedicated lanes

At last week's general committee meeting Lynton Erskine and Steve Mota of the York Region Rapid Transit Corporation made a presentation on the North Yonge Street Corridor Public Transit route.

It could mean dedicated bus lanes on Yonge Street through Aurora.

The study area, they said, is from Gamble Road in the south and Green Lane in the north and from Bathurst Street to Highway 404.

The purpose of the study is to assess the effects of both the construction of the North Yonge Street Road improvements and the operation of rapid transit in the corridor.

A Public Consultation Centre was set up in 2004 and again in 2005.

During the fall of 2006 and spring of 2007 an evaluation of rapid route alternatives and road capacity improvement alternatives were discussed and from December 2006 to May 2007 project technical advisory committee meetings have been held.

Three routes were evaluated through Aurora including Yonge Street, Industrial Parkway to the St. John's Sideroad, and a combination route partway on the Industrial Parkway and then along a right-of-way adjacent to the railway tracks.

Yonge Street was selected as the preferred route as it attracts approximately 15 per cent more boardings and stations have a higher potential to

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## BRIEFLY

### July First

The Town of Aurora will again host "Celebrate Aurora" this year, kicking off festivities for the national Canada Day celebrations July 1st.

"Celebrate Aurora" is a day that was declared by Aurora Council to celebrate local Aurora talent and to start the festivities for the national Canada Day celebration.

Aurora, which started celebrations in 1969 as July First, became known as Canada's Birthday Town.

Festivities are spread over two days, beginning Saturday, June 30 and continuing Sunday, July 1.

All activities take place at Lambert Willson Park and the Aurora Family Leisure Complex located at 135 Industrial Parkway North.

Activities begin Saturday evening from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. then continue Sunday, July 1, from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m.

A midway will also operate both days, food vendors will be available and live entertainment, dancing and a beer garden will happen at Lambert Willson Park Saturday evening.

For the first time since its inception, however, there will be no July First parade.

Live entertainment, children's activities and fireworks at dusk will highlight events Sunday.

Events depend on the weather and if it's an issue some activities will be moved into the Aurora Family Leisure Complex.

All activities, except the midway, pony rides and horseshoe tournament, are free of charge.

### Added attraction

The Aurora Opera Company will add a new face to Canada Day Celebrations: music for seniors and families.

From 1 to 2 p.m. July 1 AOC will entertain in Lambert Willson Park with selections from Gershwin, Gilbert and Sullivan, and famous musicals like The Sound of Music and My Fair Lady.

Bring a lawn chair or picnic blanket and listen to songs from another era, featuring resident town tenor, Joe Likuski, and international opera singer, Sarah Kyle.



Parents, students and politicians flocked to Aurora's Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School Saturday morning as the fight to keep the school at its Dunning Avenue site continued. The S.O.S. on the banner stands for Save Our Site. York Region District School Board must make a decision whether to rebuild the 50-plus year-old building at Dunning or move it to another site on Bayview Avenue, north of Wellington. More than 150 people attended the rally. They walked west along Dunning toward Yonge and then back to the treed area on the boulevard just north of one of the playing fields. Board trustees are expected to make a decision on the fate of the school's location in July.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Parents concerned over fate of Wells St. School

A public meeting that had little advance notice was still attended by some 60 parents of Wells Street School students last week.

Wells Street School, once Aurora's first high school, will be inspected this summer to determine whether it is structurally sound to continue to be used as a school.

In the meantime, York Region District School Board has arranged for all Wells Street students - Kindergarten to Grade 6 - to be transferred to Aurora Grove Public School on Stone Road in Aurora's east end.

While it's possible the inspection will be complete before September, the board decided to move the students.

Aurora Grove, meanwhile, will

lose many of its students in September when the new Hartman Public School opens.

Parents of Wells Street students did, at the meeting last week, learn that a bussing rumour was not true.

Anticipating children would have to walk to the Wells Street facility, then catch a bus to Stone Road, parents were assured that would not happen.

Parents at the meeting were told there wouldn't even be a bus stop directly in front of the school.

School staff also reiterated its efforts to keep Wells Street together as a school.

"Frankly, we want to make sure that Wells Street stays together," said facility planning manager Lewis

Morgulis.

The board's manager of communication services, Ross Virgo, assured people that the board aimed "to provide as much as is known as soon as it is known".

One parent earned a round of applause for suggesting the Board should delay its decision regarding the fate of Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School until the status of Wells Street was known.

The School Board will decide in July whether to rebuild Williams on its existing Dunning Avenue site, or relocate it to a site on Bayview Avenue.

The parent expressed concern over the possibility the Board could make a decision about Williams in

Please see page 4

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# COMING EVENTS

During the month of June the Skylight Gallery in the Town Hall features the artwork of Marian Holmes. Regular viewing hours are from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

\*\*\*\*

Until June 30, Art of the Matter features the art work of Oksana Baczyński, Marilyn Gargarella and Brenda Carlson in the St. Andrew's Shopping Centre. Call 905-727-8228 for more information.

\*\*\*\*

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.

\*\*\*\*

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 Aurora Seniors' Centre.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20

Aurora Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting and election and induction of Chamber Officers and Directors at Howard Johnson Hotel. Luncheon at 12.30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*

Public Consultation Centre at the Aurora Town Hall from 4 to 8 p.m. to present information regarding dedicated rapid transit bus lanes through Aurora.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 21

York Regional Council meets at 9.30 a.m. in the council chambers of the regional building on Yonge Street in Newmarket.

\*\*\*\*

Bereaved Families of York Region hosts its

13th Annual Golf Tournament at Station Creek Golf Club. Cost is \$190 and includes lunch, optional warm-up bucket of balls, 18 holes of golf with power cart, dinner and auction. Call 905-898-6265.

## 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

Yard Waste Collection in brown kraft paper bags or clean, open, rigid reusable waste containers such as garbage cans or bushel baskets. Waste is to be at the curb by 7 a.m. to ensure pick-up. For more information call Public Works at 905-727-3123 ext 3447. Also on July 23 and August 27.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 26

Aurora Council meets in the council chambers of the Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive, at 7 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

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

\*\*\*\*

Public planning meeting at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the Town Hall.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 30

Dance in the park at Lambert Willson Park. Watch for details.

## SUNDAY, JULY 1

Celebrate Canada's Birthday in Aurora, Canada's Birthday Town, with activities and programs for all ages at the Leisure Complex and Lambert Willson Park.

## SUNDAY, JULY 8

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society hosts its Annual Garden Tour from noon to 5 p.m. Seven unique gardens on the list. Tickets \$10 each may be purchased after June 1 at Mary's Flower Shop, 15210 Yonge Street; Flowers by Terry, 14799 Yonge Street; R & R Revisited, 95 Edward Street; and Black Forest Garden Centre, 15445 Keele Street. Call 905-727-5926 for more details.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 11

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

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 25

Aurora senior citizens are going out to the ball game as the Blue Jays take on Minnesota.

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 14

Aurora senior citizens will attend the Seniors Jubilee at Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

Aurora's senior citizens will enjoy an afternoon boat cruise along the Toronto waterfront.

## SEPTEMBER 7-9

Second annual Aurora Ribfest.

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Second annual Aurora Historical Society golf tournament at Westview Golf Club. Only 60 spaces available. Known as the KSG (Kiss Summer Goodbye) tournament, the event will feature dinner and a silent auction at DiNardo's, The Mansion. \$150 gets you the package; dinner only is \$50. Tickets available at Hillary House, Westview Golf Club and The Auroran. Tournament gets underway at 11 a.m. and will not use the "shotgun" format.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

Aurora Chamber of Commerce annual Business Excellence evening in Aurora.



**Father Don MacLean, soon to retire from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Aurora, is assisted by Alyssa Filippi and Adrian Brstilo as he dedicates the "Peace Garden" at St. Joseph's Separate School Friday. Monument, left, was created in his honour. School is located at Murray and Glass Drives in Regency Acres.**

Auroran photo by David Falconer

# How to spend the money

Aurora Council has problems deciding what to do with extra funds that come their way, such as the \$34.5 million received for the sale of Aurora Hydro to PowerStream more than a year ago and the \$80,000 offered by Whitwell

Development for a gateway feature at Highway 404 and Wellington Street.

Wellington Street is considered a primary gateway to the municipality and as such council approved planning standards which included a number of urban design principles.

A Gateway feature was originally identified in March,

2001, and the Economic Development Advisory Committee was asked to prepare costs and details.

In 2002, council endorsed the EDAC recommendation regarding the feature, but nothing happened.

In 2005, Whitwell Developments offered \$80,000 for the construction of a gateway feature at the intersection and last November council endorsed the location of the feature at the southeast corner.

Last February council referred the issue back to EDAC to prepare a cost estimate.

At a recent meeting, EDAC members washed their hands of the issue and referred it back to council as the cost estimates were in excess of the \$80,000 with the recommendation that council make a decision where the extra money would come from.

Councillors expressed concern about spending \$100,000 on the feature and alternatives should be considered.

It was finally agreed the issue go back to staff to submit a further report with options for the design at a cost not to exceed \$80,000 for the package.

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Laura Anderson, 15, didn't let a knee brace or cast stop her from participating in Aurora's Relay for Life event held recently at Lambert Willson Park. She, and mom, Helen, participated in honour of Carl Anderson, who died from cancer. Meanwhile "The Beaton Track" team, sponsored by The Auroran, raised more than \$10,000, the third highest fundraiser for the event. Their tent also won the best decorated site award and a Dream Team Award for raising more than \$5,000. "The Beaton Track" team was made up of Town of Aurora employees, all of whom stayed the night.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

## Defibrillator installed

Aurora Montessori and Private School announced recently that, with the assistance of Aquatic Development and Emergency Training, it has taken steps to increase chances of surviving a sudden cardiac arrest, by placing an automated external defibrillator (AED) in the school.

Every year, sudden cardiac arrest claims the lives of more than 250,000 people.

The only known treatment for sudden cardiac arrest is the use of a defibrillator, which uses an electric shock to stop the abnormal heart rhythm and allow the heart to return to a more normal beating pattern.

"Our goal is to protect the lives of our students, parents, and employees," said Brenda Glashan, Principal of AMS. Unlike models of defibrillators intended for use by health care professionals, AEDs do not require extensive medical knowledge to understand or operate.

The expertise needed to analyze the heart's electrical function is programmed into the device, and enables ordinary people to provide treatment to victims.

A four-hour training session is necessary to learn how to use the device.

The LIFEPAK CR Plus AED provides clear voice prompts that instruct the user to attach the electrodes and then stay clear while the device automatically analyzes the patient's heart rhythm.

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## Factory Theatre

# Tender let for parking lot

A wish has become a reality as Aurora Council has awarded the tender for paving the Factory Theatre parking lot to Lincoln Paving and Contracting for \$82,748.

A total of 11 firms attended the mandatory site meeting in June, 2006, and six submitted bids from the low bid submitted by Lincoln to a high of \$311,500.

As agreed in the 10-year lease with Theatre Aurora, the paving project was originally considered for the 2006 capital budget but foreign items at several locations on the parking lot site sent the price higher than the \$30,000 included in the budget and

the item was deferred to this year.

Additional work is required to remove and dispose of soil.

Although the tender was issued in 2006 Lincoln Paving agreed to hold the pricing for completion of the project.

Council approved an

expenditure of \$61,082 in the 2007 capital budget for the paving contract to be paid for by reserve funds.

Work is scheduled to begin this month in order to reduce the impact on the theatre's schedule and the timing of the work has been agreed upon with Theatre Aurora.

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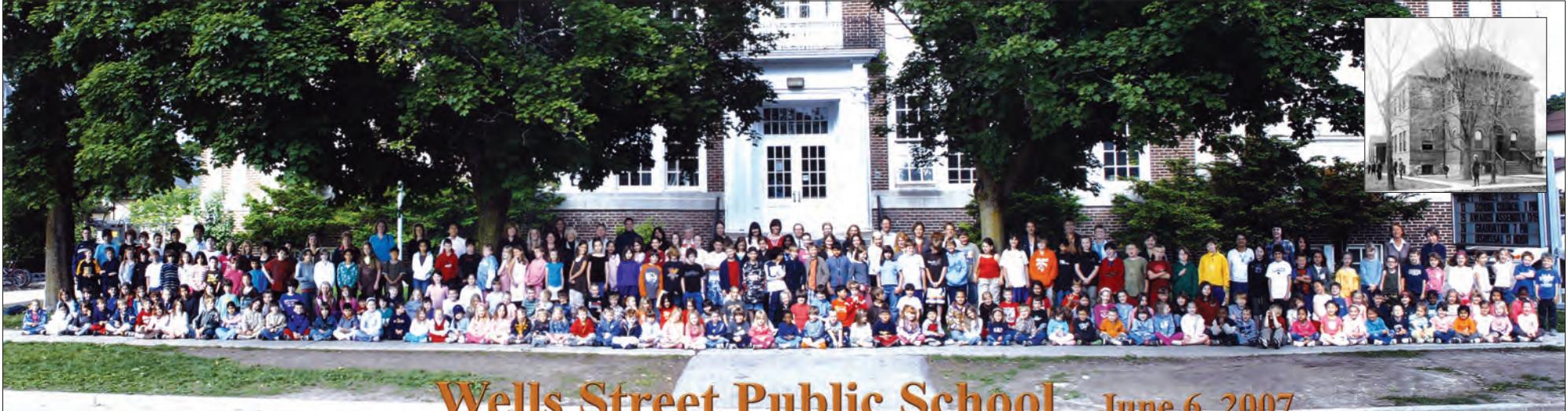


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## Wells Street Public School June 6, 2007

Panoramic School Services

This could be the last photograph of students who attend Aurora's Wells Street Public School. The students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 will move in September to Aurora Grove Public School, while engineers determine the safety of the 84-year-old building. Until 1952, the building

served as Aurora's first high school, replacing a building (inset) that had been on the site serving the same purpose since 1892. Parts of the original building are said to have been incorporated into the second building.

### Letter to the Editor

# Reader fears Wells St. School won't re-open

To the editor,

What does the future hold for Wells Street Public School?

This question has haunted me since May 17th when a letter came home telling us that our children will be attending Aurora Grove Public School starting the new school year in September.

They tell us that the move

is only temporary and that over the summer months engineering consultants to the Board will be carrying out a thorough structural inspection of the school.

On June 12th, Wells Street Public School held a community meeting to discuss relocation plans.

Many parents came out to voice their concerns to the different representatives of the School Board, but it is

my opinion that many of the key questions were not answered!

As an example, when they were asked what Plan B was if the school does not reopen, we were told that there is no Plan B.

I find it very difficult to believe that an organization as large as the York Region District School Board does not have a contingency plan.

But, according to

Superintendent Karen Friedman, they do not.

So, for right now I'm going to think positively and keep my fingers crossed that our beloved Wells Street Public School will reopen.

But, I am still very fearful that our children may walk out of Wells Street Public School June 28 for the last time.

Please, people of Aurora,

don't let this happen to our school.

The school is NOT designated a heritage building, so if the YRDSB declares Wells Street Public School as prohibitive to repair, they could demolish this beautiful building.

Please don't let this happen.

We need letters sent to

the Aurora Heritage Committee so that at the very least we can save the Wells Street building for future generations to enjoy.

They should be sent c/o Michael Seaman, 1 Municipal Drive, Box 1000, Aurora, L4G 6J1.

Suzanne Lytle  
Aurora

# Wells Street

### From page 1

July but nothing might not be decided about Wells until the fall.

When the discussion got around to the possibility of closing Wells Street School, a board superintendent, Karen Friedman, said, "no decision has been made to close this school".

As the meeting swung back to the issue of the high school, she noted, "this is not a meeting about Williams."

"It's about all our schools," one parent retorted.

Another parent sought a commitment from the board to support schools in the centre

of town, but Ms Friedman replied it wasn't in her authority.

Board personnel emphasized enrolment numbers were not a factor in keeping the school open, the issue dealt with safety.

While the "public" meeting wasn't listed on the school sign and interested community members were actively discouraged from attending, according to some reports, the attendees let the board know how important Wells Street School is to the community.

Aurora-King Trustee Gord Kerr also attended the meeting.

## THE AURORAN

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### 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.



## Poor Richard

# Simcoe says "no" to dedicated lanes

*Yonge Street has seen many faces,  
As it developed over the years;  
Some were good, some were bad,  
To Simcoe's eyes come tears!*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Back in September, 1975, a 35-jeep convoy of the Queen's York Rangers took part in a ceremony to mark the 180th anniversary of the opening of Yonge Street by Simcoe's Queen's Rangers.

The regiment, with "A" Squadron located in Aurora, inherited the traditions of John Graves Simcoe's regiment, who came to the town site of York, now Toronto, in 1793 with Simcoe, first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada.

Later, with the aid of his Rangers, he blazed a road through the bush from York (Toronto) to Holland Landing as a military road and named it after Sir George Yonge, Britain's Minister of Defence, and a friend of his.

So it's only natural that he keeps a watchful eye on his roadway and comes back to visit it every once in awhile, as he did in 1975 when his Rangers celebrated the Yonge Street anniversary and again in 1995 for the bicentennial.

If John Graves Simcoe could return to Yonge Street in Aurora today, it would be interesting to hear his impressions, so let's listen.

"Where is all this traffic coming from? They're driving as if they are on a raceway, with no regard for anyone else. Aren't there any controls?"

You try to explain there are speed limits but the police can't be everywhere all the time to enforce them.

With rampant growth in the region, the road infrastructure hasn't kept up, the roads are overcrowded and drivers are frustrated and angry.

"Then stop growth and build more roads, or better still provide public transit to get those crazy motorists off the road," he orders.

You try to explain that the region has taken over local transit and is trying to get people out of cars.

Just then a large VIVA bus passes by with very few passengers aboard.

"That's ridiculous," Simcoe says, "They need much smaller buses for low ridership areas. It's not only a waste of taxpayers' dollars, it causes excessive pollution".

When he heard that VIVA Transit officials had made a presentation to Aurora Council on the North Yonge Street Corridor Public Transit and Associated Road Improvements Environmental Assessment, he asked what that meant.

When it was explained that the transit officials are planning dedicated bus lanes for Yonge Street from Gamble Road in Richmond Hill to Green Lane in East Gwillimbury, he almost exploded.

"I won't have it," he yelled, "I built Yonge Street for all people not just big blue buses. Besides, where will the people of Aurora park when they want to visit my street?"

He then asked what position Aurora Council had taken on the proposed conversion of Yonge Street to a through bus route and became very upset when he heard that after asking a few questions, council received the presentation as information and took no action pending a public consultation centre meeting later in the month.

When he heard that one of the other routes under consideration was Industrial Parkway from the south end of town to the St. John's Sideroad on the north to bypass the downtown core, he jumped at that option only to be told that the transit officials had selected Yonge Street as the preferred route.

The reason given for selecting Yonge Street was said to be because it had a higher potential for ridership and was most supportive of regional planning policies and approved urban structure.

"That's absolutely ridiculous!" he sputtered, "You tell members of Aurora Council that they must oppose dedicated bus lanes through Aurora in the strongest possible way as it will destroy my road and kill the merchants in your town".

He added that he would like to see his street in downtown Aurora returned to a people place by diverting the cars, buses and trucks to other corridors, as he believed he had some responsibility for Aurora since it was his road that helped build the municipality.

"I'll be back," he yelled.



## Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

# Reach out and kick someone

When the soccer season opens with the wrong kind of bang, it can make you want to reach out and kick someone.

Tim is playing with the Aurora Hearts again, and their first game was inconveniently played out of town, in Bowmanville.

Ah, the bane of away games!

Arriving at the pitch, the first thought to "breeze" through my mind was that I didn't bring enough blankets. It was windy and cold! I've been a soccer mom for at least 15 years. You'd think I would have invested in a portable igloo by now...

Within minutes, my teeth were chattering and Damir went rummaging through his car in search of anything wearable. Honestly, I would have been happy to climb inside his golf bag, but mercifully, he brought me his rain suit.

For anybody who doesn't know about Damir's classic golfing rain suit, it's purple and has thus earned him the undignified nickname: "Barney".

We had a chuckle as I put it on and was instantly transformed into the purple dinosaur, but the levity of the evening ended soon afterwards.

In the last few minutes of the first half, Tim was tackled and took a vicious elbow to the chest. Definitely the wrong kind of bang!

He was in a lot of pain and couldn't breathe, so we headed for the nearest hospital. We were quite certain Tim's lung had collapsed.

The term "pneumothorax" is all too familiar in this family. About four years ago, Nadia had three episodes, with her lungs taking turns so we're reluctant pros at this.

"Your sister is going to be upset with you," I told Tim. "Don't you know this is her shtick?" He laughed and it hurt.

I dropped Tim and his beautiful girlfriend, Maranda, off at the emergency doors at Lakeridge Health and went to park the car. Damir was in a separate car so we walked back together.

In the few minutes that this took, the nurses had already put Tim in a bed, connected him to oxygen and two different types of monitors - and the place was hopping busy!

In the next 10 minutes, the doctor had seen him and he was on his way to x-ray.

The surgeon arrived within 20 minutes of being called in.

This was different from my previous emergency room experiences. They gave me the urge to "reach out and kick someone" all right! Mainly the triage nurse...

When Nadia's lung collapsed the first time, the triage nurse was so busy nosing for evidence of drug abuse that she failed to register the obvious fact that Nadia couldn't breathe...for about four painful hours.

It wasn't until the doctor got around to seeing low priority patients that Nadia was immediately moved to critical care.

When we rushed Damir from the airport straight to the hospital after he took ill in Cancun, we waited five agonizing hours before it became clear that the man who the triage nurse called "the guy with the hiccups" was in serious need of immediate medical attention.

So I confess to moments of less than kind fantasies about soccer cleats connecting with soft but unripe skulls...

But not this time!

As things turned out, it was a blessing we were in Bowmanville!

I can't thank the truly inspiring and wonderful doctors and nurses at Lakeridge enough for the excellent care my son received.

The only thing more impressive than their exceptional efficiency and top-notch competence was their genuine concern and compassion - heartwarming humanity at its best!

They demonstrated that first class health care runs on people - not on systems, and that people make all the difference in the world.

God bless the health care professionals who never lose their ability to look at patients through the windows of their souls!

Tim spent a week with a tube in his chest, and dear Maranda got a crash course in nursing! It was a blessing to have her help, for Tim is not the best patient in the world. In fact, patience is precisely what my boy lacks!

The tube came out on a Tuesday afternoon, and that evening Tim insisted on going to his soccer practice.

"The doctor said I could resume normal activities as soon as I feel well enough," he pleaded.

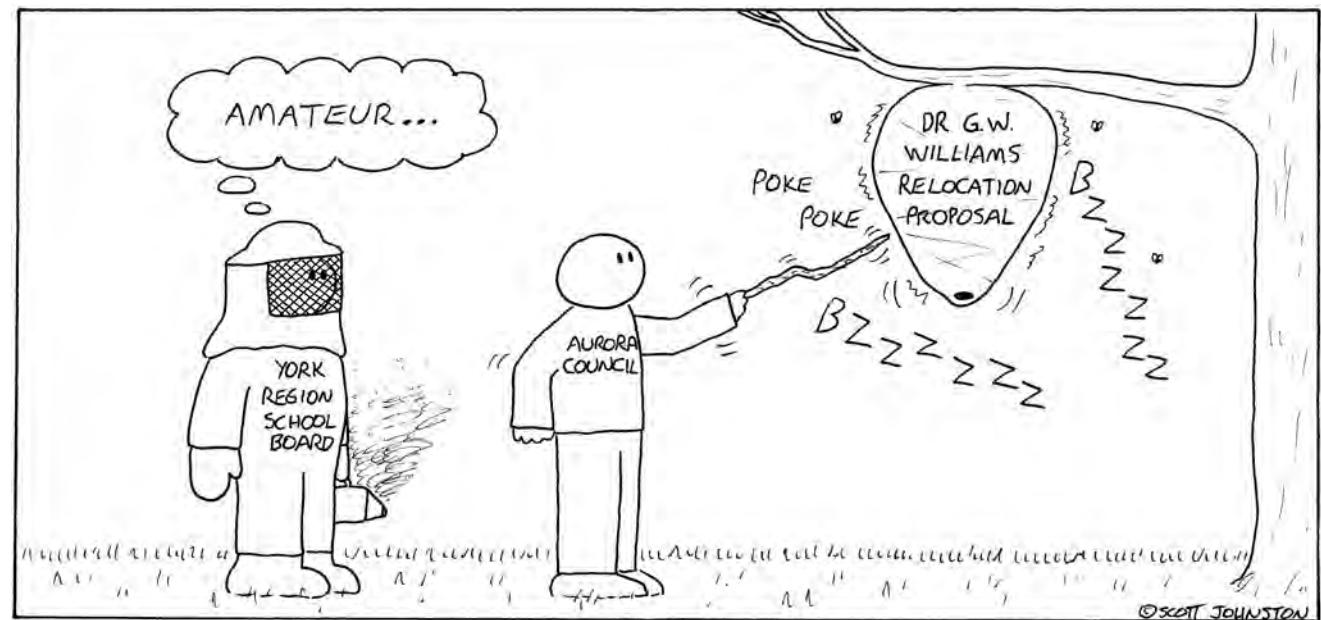
AS IF soccer is a "normal activity"! Ha!

Standard equipment for Soccer Moms includes a portable igloo - it's enough to make you want to reach out and kick someone!

Less than a week later he was back in the game and watching my son with bated breath, all I could do was pray to be spared the urge!

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

## Machell's Corners



## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

# Customer service waning

In the past two columns I have been writing about how the type of development that the Town allows on the rest of Aurora's land would have serious long-term ramifications for our way of life and that the residents of the community should be active participants in the process.

I will return to this subject again next week.

Something else has been increasingly concerning me over the past few months - the lack of adequate customer service.

Like most people, when I am mistreated as a customer, I never say anything. I simply thank the clerk, walk out and in most cases do not return.

This kind of ill treatment has occurred a number of times recently in local businesses, I will protect the names of the guilty offenders.

A few weeks ago I was looking to purchase various things for our garden at a local store and the two female cash register clerks carried on a conversation about the party they were to attend that night. Meanwhile, the lines of people grew longer.

The other day I was in a local store ready to purchase a new lawnmower.

I decided on a particular mower and asked the store employee for some help transporting the mower to my car; he was not very helpful at all.

He did assist in putting the mower on the cart but then said "you can ask for someone to help you at the cash" and then abruptly turned around and left.

Like many people, I have worked part time in retail. Granted, I was probably not the best employee but two things always stayed with me - be pleasant to the customer and if you think he or she may require help - ask them.

Marketing professors are big on "buying experiences" and trying to ensure each and every time someone interacts with a potential customer the experience is a positive one.

It doesn't have to be something big or some significant gesture either, just simply showing that a company values a customer's business.

So my faith in some members of the local retail business community has not been good lately, but something was at hand.

Last Tuesday was my wedding anniversary so I was looking for an appropriate present for my wife.

I wasn't sure if I could get away with giving her the same thing I bought for my mother-in-law last Christmas.

The Sunoco kiosk at the corner of Orchard Heights and Yonge Street was open on Christmas day and had beef jerky on sale - two for a dollar.

I also believed hockey sticks, blenders, Leaf tickets or pitching wedges also might not sit too well at the home-stead.

So I thought to myself, "what about flowers?"

Problem was that I usually order them from the store near my office in Toronto but I had no time during the day.

As I drove home, I remembered that I pass a flower shop at the corner of Wellington and Yonge every morning so I thought I would give this a try.

I parked in front of Blossoms & Bows and looked at my watch: 5:02 p.m.

I got out of my car and went to their door - the sign said open until 5 p.m., but the door was open so I walked in.

Silvana, one of the owners, said hello and asked if she could help me.

I asked if she was still open - she said, of course.

I felt bad bothering her, when, after a long day, she probably wanted to go home.

From my days in retail, it used to drive me crazy when a

bunch of shoppers would show up at 8:57 p.m. (store closing at 9 p.m.) and then proceed to fill up their cart with office supplies.

I told her I needed some flowers so I could "walk through the door at home safely".

She flashed a smile and a reassuring nod - the kind of one that shows she is familiar with this situation.

She asked me some questions, made some suggestions and then went to work preparing the flowers.

As she made this absolutely beautiful arrangement and wrapped it in a purple bow, her husband Barry came in from the back room and said hello.

I quickly stated I felt bad having them keep the store open for me.

He said something so simple, yet so powerful, that I won't soon forget it.

"You are the reason that we are open, don't feel bad at all". It wasn't the words themselves that amazed me but the way in which he said them.

As Silvana worked away, over the next 15 or 20 minutes the three of us had a great chat - about marriage, gardening and how long they had been in the flower business.

When I left the store I felt extremely good about my "experience". I will be back.

Maybe the reason for the difference in treatment is that in the last case, they were the owners while in the other cases, they were employees.

This still doesn't excuse the bad treatment and management should be mindful of this, because most people don't complain, they just don't patronize the store any more.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce puts on a wonderful awards gala every November.

The one I attended a few years back drew well over 300 people.

Maybe a new award or two can be added, "Best experience at a local retail store" or "Best example of solving a customer problem".

I certainly know of a strong nominee in the first case.

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

## Letter to the Editor

# She didn't know about the award

To the editor,

the ceremony.

I would have loved to attend.

I hope the members of council will be informed that I wasn't snubbing the ceremony, but, in fact, had not been informed!

Thank you again for this honour.

**Sarah Kyle**  
**General Director**  
**Aurora Opera Company**



## Bouquets & BRICKBATS

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

**BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and to the many volunteers who made the 12th annual World's Longest Street Festival on the World's Longest Street another success and **BOUQUETS** to the weatherman for holding back the rain until the event was over.

**BRICKBATS** to whoever was responsible for laying the very large hose across the sidewalk at Yonge and Wellington Streets by the TD Canada Trust Bank without a ramp to get over it causing real problems for a mother as she tried to maneuver a baby carriage over it.

**BOUQUETS** to Auroran Editor Ron Wallace and his hard-working helpers who were able to get a newspaper out on time while closing down one office and opening another at the same time, and to Scott Johnston for capturing it all in his cartoon.

**BRICKBATS** to the York Region District School Board for refusing to release the Prohibition to Repair report pertaining to Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School. If they want people to believe why it will cost \$22.5 million to fix a building with a \$10 million addition just a few years old they should release the report!

**BOUQUETS** to York Region and Aurora for being recognized by the American Public Works Association for the St. John's Sideroad/McKenzie Wetland project. It won the 2007 Project of the Year Award in the \$10,000 to \$100,000 category. The award will be presented in September.

**BRICKBATS** to Premier Dalton McGuinty for pulling the plug on the Legislature, leaving Bills on the Order Paper, because he couldn't stand the heat from the Opposition. When you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.

**BOUQUETS** to the building industry for donating \$500,000 to the United Way of York Region to help finance some of its social programs. The donation was made at its annual luncheon.

**BRICKBATS** to federal Labour Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn for giving a \$25,000 contract to a staffer in his riding office who was also receiving a full-time salary. The staffer received a salary of \$35,000 and received the extra \$25,000 to edit speeches for the Ministers. It's only money - ours!

**BOUQUETS** to Cardinal Carter's Aubrey Smith on winning two events at the Central Region track and field championships with a 14.15 metre jump and a long jump of 6.97 metres. She is heading for provincial competitions.

**BRICKBATS** to the British TV networks for continuing to telecast the documentary "The Witness in the Tunnel" including graphic photos of Princess Diana's last minutes despite the objections of Princes William and Harry who pleaded with the broadcaster to avert gross disrespect to their mother's memory.

**BOUQUETS** to the York Highland Chorus for placing 2nd in the mid-size division and 5th overall under the direction of Martha De Clerq, as the 50-member chorus participated in the annual competition in Syracuse, New York.

**BRICKBATS** to the woman driver who exited the Wimpy parking lot onto Yonge Street endangering herself and others when it is clearly signed there is No Exit. A traffic light is located only a few feet away at Yonge Street and Brookland Avenue.

**BOUQUETS** to Clement Proulx on winning the \$1,000 grand prize at the 5th annual charity Monopoly Tournament hosted by Family Services York Region. Believe it or not but the previous year his son, Jesse, won the \$1,000 grand prize.

**BRICKBATS** to those who designed the beautiful urban beach at the Toronto waterfront east of Spadina Avenue, but forgot to include public washrooms.

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Peter Virtanen  
CLU. Agent, Aurora

## Letters to the Editor

# New council not fixing Aurora's infrastructure

### To the editor,

This past weekend I had a chance to review the Capital and Operating Budget for the Town of Aurora.

With the fiscal crisis facing the Town, like most residents, I believed that the new council would "stick to the knitting" and concentrate their efforts on fixing the infrastructure and passing on those things that were frivolous, luxurious or politically motivated, especially

since the affairs of the town for the past two councils were so poorly managed that our taxes grew by more than 50 per cent.

I was wrong!

The capital budget is laced with projects that are political plums meant to appease those who provided support to the mayor and various councillors in the last election.

There is \$70,000 worth of projects for the seniors' centre alone.

In fact, all of these proj-

ects did not even make it to "above the line" status in the first draft of the budget.

Two of these projects were dead last and the other ranked well below other projects thought more important by staff.

Senior centre projects numbers one and two, an awning for \$40,000 and stairs off the seldom used back sundeck for \$10,000 both scored eight out of a possible 100 points, got funded.

Project 3, an LED road

sign so seniors with visual impairments can find the centre, was also approved for \$20,000. It had scored 13.

How did these projects get funding?

Many projects that would have had a greater impact on improving Aurora's crumbling infrastructure were dropped, like a new roof for Victoria Hall.

According to the Town we need \$11 million each year in perpetuity to maintain the current infrastructure.

To put this number into perspective, this represents almost 50 per cent of the money we raise through taxation each year (\$22 million in 2006).

To maintain current service levels there will have to be massive tax increases to residential property taxes on a scale that would have made New Yorkers in the 80's blush when they faced their fiscal crisis.

Wake up, Aurora!

There are too many pigs at the trough...and they are having our hard earned tax dollars for their subsidized lunch.

It's time to re-think municipal government and critically discern what is needed and what is not.

# Reader fears he was infected at Southlake

### To the editor,

Several months ago, in February or March, I wrote an article about people getting infected in hospital emergency rooms.

Coincidentally that is what happened to me.

It appears that I may have caught a virus while spending four hours twiddling my thumbs at the Southlake Regional Health

Centre emergency room.

I do not know how the engineers flush the air ducts but if they pass through the air locks at the emergency room many people will be ill.

For myself I have been on four sets of pills over the last three months and right now I am getting severe headaches. If ever I have to do this again I will make sure a car is preheated and separated from the motor opera-

tion where I can spend my time waiting in the car without putting CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere.

Most mechanicals like chillers are on the roof but should this system be using gated dampers?

It could be troublesome.

I hope this is not in use at Southlake but I have my suspicions.

It would be appreciated if someone on staff would let us know.

Just a straight answer would suffice.

### To the editor,

# 12th Street Festival a success, he says

### To the editor,

On behalf of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, I would like to thank The Auroran for its coverage of our 12th Annual Street Festival.

I would like to extend a special thank you to committee members Craig Deasley (Dundee Securities), Brenda Snape (Type by Design), Lisa Cruickshank (State Farm), Lindsay Miller (TD Canada Trust), Shelley Ware (Town of Aurora), Gary Nolan (Diamond Trim Classics), and Ron Wallace (The Auroran).

Their work, advice and guidance were very much appreciated.

The grand prize winner of the bicycle was Barbara Suddard from Aurora.

Other winners were Laura Seminara, Maureen Cholewa,

Sybil Niedzieski, Dylon Lyons, Craig Piercy, Tamar (age 10) and Jim Cheesman.

Our appreciation is extended to all the companies that donated prizes - Fitness Clubs of Canada, Fox Canada, KHS Bicycles, Lululemon Athletica-Concord, Matrix Repartitioning Centre, Tim Hortons - Aurora and the Town of Aurora.

This Street Festival featured more than 600 vendors, great weather, entertainment for young and old and attracted approximately 35,000 visitors.

We all look forward to another World's Longest Street Festival on the World's Longest Street next year!

Allan Cruickshank  
Chairperson  
Aurora Chamber of  
Commerce  
Street Festival Committee

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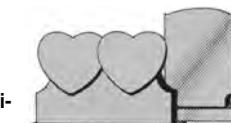
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Letters to the Editor

# Mayor's right to dry issue misleading: reader

**To the editor,**

Aurorans already have the "right to dry" or "right to a clothesline".

I have read with increasing concern over the past eight months, Councillor Morris, now Mayor Morris', continued campaign of misinformation and distortion. She has said repeatedly, both at council meetings and in the paper (and now to Al Gore, of all people), that Aurorans do not have the right to dry their laundry outside.

Well, this is simply not true. Mayor Morris has never, in any of her MANY public statements about this "issue", provided even one piece of evidence that Aurorans do not have the right to hang their washing outside.

It was fine when it was just a town councillor going on about an issue that she hoped would get her some face time.

Mission accomplished!

But now, Councillor Morris is MAYOR Morris and she needs to think of the image of the town and the council before she continues with her campaign of outright misinformation.

Quite frankly, the mayor is embarrassing the Town of Aurora and making us look like country bumpkins!

For the record, we, in the Town of Aurora, most definitely DO have the right to hang our laundry outside.

To be precise, what some of us do NOT have is the right to dry our clothes in whatever manner we'd like.

Some subdivisions do indeed have restrictive covenants which restrict HOW you can dry your clothes.

You have to use umbrella drying stands; a clothesline is not allowed.

This is clearly not the same thing as saying you do not

have the right to dry. She's creating the same furor and paranoia that won her the election by convincing those who backed onto the hydro lines that she was the ONLY one concerned about their health related concerns AND the only one doing something about it.

Hogwash!

Just ask any members of the previous council (at least those not currently on this one).

I'd agree that the issue of HOW you dry your clothes is one that should be looked at but to continue to say that we do not have the right to dry is gross misinformation.

The Mayor must STOP spreading misinformation.

This is NOT about a right to dry - this is about a right to a clothesline!!

I doubt the mayor would get nearly as much press time if she presented this "issue"

honestly.

In a CBC article posted August 30, 2006, Councillor Morris, now Mayor Morris, acknowledged that subdivision homeowners are allowed to use umbrella style clothes dryers outside, but said, "...(my) constituents want the right to choose. It's not like GM or Ford or Chrysler telling you what you can put on your bumper sticker once you drive off the lot...Most developers sell out of a trailer or a show home, and then they take up stakes and off they go to the next development. Twenty years later we're still sitting with outdated restrictions."

So is it the right to choose how I dry my clothes or is it a right to dry that's the issue???

Further, the Mayor said, in the same article, that it is a "simple issue" and "...one that could be corrected with the willingness of the development industry."

Well, Mayor Morris, have you even bothered to meet with the building industry? Have you discussed this "issue" with anyone other than the media?

How about a list of subdivisions or developments where you're not allowed a clothesline?

We've heard nothing from you on that front.

All this fuss, this bother, this public attention has all been as a result of gross distortions and misinformation.

I know that 'right to dry' sounds catchy and we all know that politics is all about

the sound bite, but it is not accurate or even remotely factual.

Aurora has the "right to dry".

If she wants to continue to fight for the "right to a clothesline", then more power to her but before she embarrasses us any further, Mayor Morris should, finally, try to stick to the facts.

You can fool some of the people some of the time.

Sorry, Mr. Gore, I'm afraid you've been had.

**S. Williams**  
**Aurora**

# Does Hemson report believe density is good, reader asks

**To the editor,**

Re: Stephen Somerville's "Insights in Hemson Report", THE AURORAN, Week of June 19, 2007

Am I missing something?

In all the pricey consultants' studies, all the municipal and regional development plans in the GTA, and in the Province's population growth projections, who is keeping tabs on how close actuality corresponds with those ambitious projections?

Are our towns becoming larger because of the gleam in our politicians' eyes, or because

there are expectations for people to find meaningful employment and essential amenities (schools, libraries, markets, professional services, etc.) within reasonable travelling times, as well as enjoying the small town character of knowing and caring about your neighbours and the place you live?

Thousands of acres of prime farm land and environmentally significant habitats are being destroyed to build thousands of "dwelling units" and the infrastructure (highways/power plants & transmission corridors) to support this projected population.

But, what is the vacancy rate of completed and unsold dwelling units throughout the GTA?

When do developers pay taxes (municipal and business) on those units - what is the loophole regarding completion of such units which allows developers to proceed with building more units when "completed" units can sit vacant for two years or more?

If a developer requests approval from a jurisdiction to develop more dwelling units, part of the information he should be required to provide should include vacancy rates

for a relevant area over a significant period of time.

Does Ontario Municipal Affairs have a handle on this problem?

When is development considered "uncontrolled"?

Who says population density is a good thing...Hemson?

**V. Johnson**  
**Aurora**

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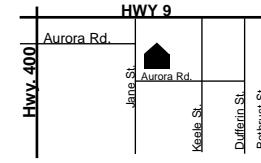
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cal to maintain a healthy cardiac system and it is an integral part of your immune system.

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**To the editor,**

The moving of Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School has created much public input.

Let us examine some other alternatives.

I stand to be corrected but I would gamble many on the school board did not attend either Wells Street School when it was a high school or Dr. G.W. Williams.

We should remember that the bigger the new building, the bigger the brass plaque inside the door with the current board members' names on it.

Now, the Town of Aurora could have purchased the Sterling Drug property (17 acres at Yonge and Murray) and put the town offices and library on that site.

Where the current library is would have made an ideal site for our seniors.

They could have walked to the main downtown core, which would have been good for business.

Now, the Town should buy



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Letters to the Editor

# Our taxes pay for school board

**Open letter to York Region school board trustees.**

**RE: Follow up to the June 4 meeting regarding Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School.**

I was a delegate at the June 4 meeting and introduced the SOS (Save Our Site) Williams group of speakers.

We have received very positive feedback from the audience and ourselves on our presentation; thank you for listening.

It is true that we did work very hard to ensure you heard all of our key messages, those that reflect not only our thoughts and concerns, but those of hundreds of parents, residents, students and business owners within the Aurora community.

As you know, there are many unanswered questions posed by the community to the York Region District School Board staff.

We have not had a public meeting since the delivery of the draft feasibility study. Board staff has not responded to requests for information such as the Prohibitive to Repair report.

The Board did not reveal its plans to the public to close the Dunning Avenue site until March, 2007.

How is it that this intention can just be announced, and yet there is a need to make a decision by July 3?

How bad is the Board's planning that it couldn't have seen this situation coming years ago and perhaps included it on a capital plan, or mentioned it during the 2005 planning session?

How did this become so

critical that the decision must be made before the trustees even have a real opportunity to pay due diligence to learn the issues and ensure they make the right decision for the community?

All of these questions beg the further question of what is not being revealed.

SOS Williams does not agree with the demographics that the Board has presented to justify Bayview as a possible location.

By the Board's own admission at the public forums, the Board did not include all of the York Region planning numbers for growth.

The Board has not accounted for 700 units to be built in the area it has classified as rural.

It will be at least 10 to 15 years before the majority of Williams students are from the northeast, if in fact, this situation even occurs.

We have offered to sit down with the Board's planning department to explain our interpretation of the numbers and to assist with forecasting and planning activity. The Town has requested a joint planning session with the Board.

When is the Board going to proceed with these offers of assistance and joint planning?

If the Board is reluctant to do so, someone should be asking why.

All of the Williams' feeder schools are within a four-kilometre distance to the Dunning site. This is equitable and central to all schools. This cannot be disputed, it is a fact.

How can the Board behave in an inequitable manner and move the

school to an area that is eight kilometres away from the Highview feeder school.

The Board states that student equity is one of its values.

If the homes in the Regency, Highview and Wells Street areas of town were able to produce enough children to attend Williams for more than 50 years, how can the Board possibly argue that this is going to change?

How can it predict that the future will be so different from the past?

The Aurora elementary and secondary schools rely on the fields at Dunning for track and field meets, football games and other sports events.

Bayview will not be able to support this need. We all know this fact.

What is the Board planning to do about this fact if they shut down the Dunning school site?

When is someone going to answer this question that has been asked numerous times? Or is the Board simply avoiding the inconvenient truth?

The Bayview site cannot accommodate building expansion or portables. Compensating for unforeseeable growth or years of higher capacity should not be handled by rotating lunch hours and other such student inconveniences. Why not? Ask the students at Aurora High.

Or ask the Board staff to eat their lunch first thing in the morning, prohibit eating at their desk, and see how well they get through the rest of their day. Ask them to do this every day.

Why does the Board bother to publish policies,

such as the Accommodation Review Policy 462.0 if the Board finds it acceptable to work outside of its own recommendations or guidelines?

Is the Board not accountable to anyone?

Why does the Board choose to follow guidelines when it suits its own purposes? For example, it would certainly feel like a school closure to the community should Williams be torn down and rebuilt on an inferior site four kilometres away.

The Board, however, chooses to point out that technically it is a replacement because it is within the existing boundary.

And by stating that this is not a closure, the Board does not have to adhere to the Accommodations Requirements mandated by the Ministry of Education, whereby they can avoid the necessary steps of consultation with the students, community, and municipality and assessing the negative impacts.

Does this planning department have no conscience?

Playing with semantics and technicalities on an issue of such significant negative impact is socially and morally unacceptable to the students and people of Aurora.

Why is this same Board willing to work collaboratively with the Town of Markham and build a showcase 40 million dollar school, namely the Bill Crothers School of

Athletics and Healthy Active Living, and then try to sell out Aurora students to a school that will take away so much of their sports opportunities?

How do the trustees feel about this imbalance from one municipality to another?

There are numerous unanswered questions and many that are still unasked.

A school board is funded through our tax dollars; we have a right to demand that it behave in a responsible manner.

We do not believe that this Board is being held accountable for its actions; we do not believe this Board has been forthcoming and honest in its intentions; we do not believe this Board is listening to those who pay

for its services.

We need the assistance of you, the elected trustees, to work with us.

You are not employees of the Board.

You have been empowered by the voters to make decisions that balance the needs of the community within the Board's mandate.

We are available and willing to participate in this time of research and deliberation to assist you in any way we can to ensure you understand the impact of your decision.

Your decision will impact the Aurora students and community for the next 50 years.

**Linda McMahon  
Aurora**

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# Coyotes in bush a yawner, he says

To the editor,

On the third page of the Mayday issue of your paper, there is a story headed, somewhat breathlessly I might add, "Coyotes are spotted in Sheppard's Bush".

Big deal, says I.

Although apparently in Aurora it is a big deal, since the appearance of wild animals in the area are cause for much concern amongst the local citizenry and media. And perhaps even the community leaders.

Over here in Stouffville, we are more than used to the occasional appearance of the endemic elements of native fauna. As a matter of fact, we often expect them.

Just the other day as I was returning down the lane after retrieving my

mail from the mail box, and whilst reading the latest offerings from all of those local and not so local retailers promising a better life if only I purchased whatever decidedly suspect and otherwise probably useless items they had to offer, I heard that familiar soft canine panting and felt something brush my thigh, and so absent mindedly reached down to scratch my dog behind the ear.

Of course at that

moment, two realizations came to mind. First, I don't own a dog, and secondly, this animal was certainly no dog.

It was, in fact, a rather large and hungry looking coyote who was sizing up my right thigh with the same look one sees in the eyes of a hungry teenager at an all you can eat night in the local pizza joint.

Fortunately, as is my wont when out and about in the wilds of Stouffville, I

Please see page 9

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**Letters to the Editor**

Aurora artist Deborah Campo, centre, displays the wine label containing her painting that appears on the Sauvignon Blanc wine bottle. She was one of eight provincial artists chosen to represent an Ontario winery and her entry was successful. With her is Donna Rankin, left, district supervisor for Vineyards Estate Wines, Hillebrand Winery in Niagara-On-The-Lake, and Elaine McKee, manager of the wine store located inside Aurora's Price Chopper foodstore on Yonge Street, north of Wellington.

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

## Aurora artist's painting chosen for wine label

To the editor,

I have the pleasure of being one of eight provincial artists and one of three women artists of this group chosen to represent Hillebrand Winery of Ontario for their Artist Series Labels.

This is an exciting honour and thrilling opportunity as a contemporary artist to have my work represented on a wine label of the wine maker's choice.

The painting chosen entitled "The Petrified Forest" represents Ontario's beautiful Georgian Bay landscape, one of my favourite locations of breathtakingly beautiful scenery. What makes this opportunity exciting further is to represent my home town of Aurora as described on the back label bio and my original birth province of Nova Scotia.

The citizens of Aurora

have always enthusiastically embraced my passion of creativity in my artworks.

For this I thank all of you.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Elaine McKee, store manager of Vineyards Estate Wines Aurora at Price Choppers for her suggestion to enter the provincial competition.

Thank you to my photographer friend David Falconer for creating my press kit of the images for The Auroran.

Each artist in this series represents a separate wine blend. A Sauvignon Blanc

white wine was chosen to feature my artwork.

I have been informed by Hillebrand Winery that the Sauvignon Blanc will be released as VQA limited edition, available at all Vineyard Estate Wine Stores and at the Hillebrand Winery in Niagara-On-The-Lake.

Aurora has a wonderful arts community full of many multi-talented artists. I would encourage the community to purchase original art.

Deborah L.V. Campo  
Aurora

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# Coyotes like it in Aurora, this reader maintains

### From page 8

was carrying one of my shooting irons with me, and after a couple of loads of buckshot in the beast's general direction, he let go of my leg, and wandered off to local farmer Murray's cattle pens next door to make off with one of the smaller bulls.

And before anyone gets in a lather about me carrying a firearm around, do not suppose we folks in Stouffville are always packing heat...anymore.

The town proper is pretty much a firearm-free zone, especially after all the local folks got used to that new fangled metric system thing ("Goll-dang that Qweebeker Pee-air Illiot Terdo an' his bylingamal countin' ways"), and almost nobody takes their long rifles into the churches anymore. (Except maybe some of them there Pentecostals. You know how excitable they are).

Hunting is still legal in most areas of our town and many of those who own lawfully registered ordinance take full advantage of that situation.

Seeing as it's almost always open season for something around town, it's seems to be prudent to be prepared.

If it's not duck season, it's bear season, or moose season, or turkey, or deer, or some rodent or other, or goose, or...heavens, there's always something living that is able to be translated from the forest and fields to the dinner plates by a well placed application of hot lead.

And if not, there's always a few road signs or hydro insulators that need

to be perforated, just so the boys can keep in practice.

The problem with folks who typically get so excited about wildlife doing what comes most natural to them (acting wild), is that they foolishly labour under the mistaken belief that animals will surely only behave in the way they've come to expect courtesy of the anthropomorphic depiction of animals by the likes of the Disney empire and others animatory deceivers like them.

People these days just cannot imagine that animals, domesticated or otherwise, would act anything other than civilized, cultured and cute.

Which, of course, can lead to dumb people having their girlfriends eaten by "pet" tigers.

Sheesh.

Seems to me that you people over there in Aurora should not be surprised there are coyotes hanging around your town.

After all, those critters were there long before any

of you were, so why would they want to re-stake a claim on what was once theirs?

I think you should just be glad they're not attempting to assert that claim with a burning school bus across the railroad tracks.

Maybe these coyotes are getting used to the easy life, and are not terribly motivated to do all that hard work involved in hunting, stalking and killing wild prey.

And if that is the case, what better place to get a bit of a snack than your average suburban smorgasbord?

Look at from their perspective, if you were a bunch of lazy old mangy coyotes, where would you rather be?

That's right, no place other than Aurora.

Surely they'll pretty much fit right in with most of your elected representatives.

**Hugo T. Kroon**  
Bethesda

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# THE AURORAN

## SPORTS



Page 12 Week of June 19, 2007

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## Civic winners

Following is a list of winners from this year's Civic Awards ceremony held recently at the Town of Aurora municipal building.

An Individual Civic Appreciation Award went to Louise Facca for her outstanding performance in volleyball in Canada.

Group Civic Appreciation Awards were presented to the Aurora Jays Major Peewee, Aurora Swim Club, Aurora Storm Avalanche Volleyball Club, Aurora Storm Cyclones Volleyball Club, Aurora Storm Hurricanes Volleyball Club and Aurora Storm 91 Volleyball Club.

Youth Volunteer Service Awards went to 44 youths including Melanie Athouse, Christine Aprile, Alycia Beck, Jacky Bernier, Andor Biber, Amanda Brown, Natasha Burrow, Kyla Campo, Paul Carter, Ryan Crawford, John David Otten, Sara DiCapo, Courtney Drodge, Jocelyn Drummond, Stephanie Duncan, Adriano Esposito, Simon Esposito, Claire Francone, Michael Grande, Casey Hawkins, Megan Hay, Ashley Hayhow, Charles Ho, Nicola Irish, Madyson Kearns, Meghan Kerr, Sian Layton, Bryan Lin, Anna Makins, Stephanie Masciello, Caitlin McIntryre, David Mok, Renira Naidu, Connor O'Grady, Lindsey Panizza, Joanna Richmond, Alessandro Roberto, Leah Roberts, Zachary Samonas, Derek Stephens, Megan Thompson and Jenna Williams.

Five Year Volunteer Service Awards went to the following: Susan Abram, Ron Adams, Tom Beck, Heather Bryan, Judy Craik, Eileen Dinning, Patricia Dundar, William Franklin, Elfriede Greupner, Junanita Gonsalves, Joelle-Ann Goodison, Dorothy Gummersall, Beth Hixson, Andrew Kipfer, Jacqueline Kipfer, Herb Koller, Jacqueline Lacroix, Mary Beth Law-Renaud, Lynne Livingston, Evelyn Meleta, Linda Morrow, Janice O'Hara, Theresa Osmond, Victoria Peel Allan Read, Kim Read, John Sargeant, Katherine Schaeffer, Kelly Smith, Debbie Spence and Lara Veltkamp.

Ten Year Volunteer Service Awards went to Roger Alberton, Marian Bernard, Deborah Campo, Richard Coyne, Cathie Freeman, Barb Helle-Rice, Elaine Markson, Lynette Mercado, Terry Moses and

Sharlene Roy.

Fifteen or More Year Volunteer Service Awards were presented to David Blanchard, Helen Burlanyette, Micheal Bushell, Bill Carberry, Suzanne Charlebois-Bin, Brian Crowe, Barbara Horseman, Susan Jagos, Leslie Mitchell-Gourlay, Deborah Simerson, Mike Varcoe and Les White.

Rev. Donald S. MacLean was recognized with the Outstanding Achievement for an Individual Award and CHATS received the Outstanding Achievement for Non-Profit Organization Award.

Terry R. Sherin received the Bob Harmon Memorial Award for his work in several activities as a volunteer.

The Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society received the Community Organization of the Year Award for beautifying Aurora and the Yellow Brick House received the Quarter Century Award.

The Johnson's Cultural Achievement Award was presented to Sarah Kyle of the Aurora Opera Company and presentations were made to the many supporters of the Adopt-A-Park program.

Promotion of Aurora's Heritage Awards went to Dana Atkinson, the late Margaret Brevik, Jill Donahue, Valerie Fleck, Nigel Kean, Dr. W. John McIntryre, Bob McRoberts, Dan Revington, David Walker and Ron Wallace.

The Built Heritage Conservation and Maintenance Awards were presented to Tibor and Margit Schuller for preserving the Wilton Barn and to Neal Santin and Andrew Weber for Morrison House.

St. Andrew's College received an award for the Compatible Addition to a Heritage Building.

Bill Williams received an award for Complementary New Construction in a Heritage Conservation District and the Wells Street Public School for Preservation of an Aurora Landmark.

Outstanding Volunteerism in Support of Aurora's Heritage Awards were presented to the Aurora Arboretum, Aurora Farmers Market, Aurora Historical Society, Aurora Seniors Association, The Auroran, Baldwin's, Caruso's, Comport Communications, Dr. John McIntryre, GO Transit, Oakland Hall Inn, Tibor and Margit Schuller, St. Andrew's College and Wells Street School.



Nicole Williams, left, a Town of Aurora aquatic leader, is joined by Robyn, Lindsay and Kathryn Toffolo, Eric Ma and Michael Osuszek during the annual "Tread-A-Thon" fundraising event held recently. The aquatics staff raised more than \$900 at the event and hope to raise \$4,000 before the summer ends. Proceeds go to the lifesaving society. Upcoming events include the 8th annual Watergames July 25 and 4th annual Lifeguards on the Beach volleyball tournament in August.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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# AURORA MINOR BALL RESULTS

On June 8 and 9 the Dalton Engineering Rookie Ball Jays travelled to Bolton for their second tournament.

They played three games against some pretty strong competition. Highlights included a "silver" medal in the "Round-the-Horn" competition and game MVP honours for Liam Lowndes, Matthew Glionna and Kate Harkin.

## MAJOR PEEWEE JAYS

After sweeping all six games, the Aurora Major Peewee McIver Dodge Jays rep team returned home as the tournament champions from the Chatham Baseball Tournament recently.

Not only did they win six consecutive games, but they also mercied every team in five innings or less and dominated the entire weekend.

Here's how they fared: Aurora 13-1 South West London; Aurora 11-1 Vaughan; Aurora 13-0 Brantford; Aurora 16-2 Belle River; Aurora 19-1 Chatham; and Aurora 21-5 South West London.

## MINOR BANTAM JAYS

At the halfway point in the Tier 1 Minor Bantam season, the Aurora Jays are in first place with 10 wins, 2 losses and 1 tie.

Last week the Minor Bantam Jays won back to back games against East York with scores of 6-5 and 4-2.

Patrick Jones and Chris Leslie were the winning pitchers respectively.

In a recent Niagara Falls tournament, the Aurora Minor Bantam Jays, after compiling a 3-0 record in the preliminaries, lost 4-3 to BSB Katz from Western New York in the semi-finals.

## BANTAM JAYS

Aurora Bantam Jays played a doubleheader against the first year Orangeville Bengals last week and took the twin bill handily winning the first game 9-0 and the night cap 20-1.

In the first game, Corey Jeffrey pitched four innings, striking out eight and only giving up one hit to help shut out the Bengals.

Southpaw Tim Gavoco kept the shutout streak going by striking out five in the two scoreless innings he pitched.

Mike DelPlavano paced the Jays attack by going two for two with a walk and a triple while scoring twice.

In the second game, the Jays' bats came alive as they scored eight runs in the first inning and 20 runs in the following four innings on 12 hits before the mercy rule took effect. Notable offensive performances came from Tyler Clements, who hit a double and triple and scored four runs while confirming his status as the fastest player the York Simcoe Baseball Association and Chris Blumreisinger who went two for three with a walk.

Marlon Young chipped in a timely double to lead off the six-run fourth inning to start the rally which closed out the game for the Jays.

On the pitching front, Michael Gray and Jake Boyle both pitched two innings with Gray striking out six and Boyle striking out four as Tyler "Lefty" Clements shut down the Bengals in the final inning by striking out three.

## MIDGET JAYS

The Aurora Midget Jays swept a doubleheader from the Vaughan Vikings last week.

The Jays edged the Vikings 2-1 in the opener and defeated the Vikings 7-0 by forfeit in the nightcap.

In Game One, Jays starter Jesse Barker pitched an efficient eight innings.

He scattered four hits, struck out three, and walked none. Barker needed only 74 pitches over his eight innings of work to earn the victory.

Closer Steve Scobie earned his fourth save of season. Despite giving up a leadoff double, Scobie preserved the victory by striking out the last Viking batter with the tying run 90 feet away.

Outfielders Alex Stewart and Darrin Goodale provided the offence with one RBI each.

Goodale led the Jays with two hits.

Shortstop Marc Horton played well defensively, making seven putouts to back Barker's pitching.

The first place Jays improved their YSBA record to 11-0 with the sweep in Vaughan.

The Jays' overall record stands at 18-2.

## HOUSE LEAGUE SCORES

Mosquito Standings as of June 15

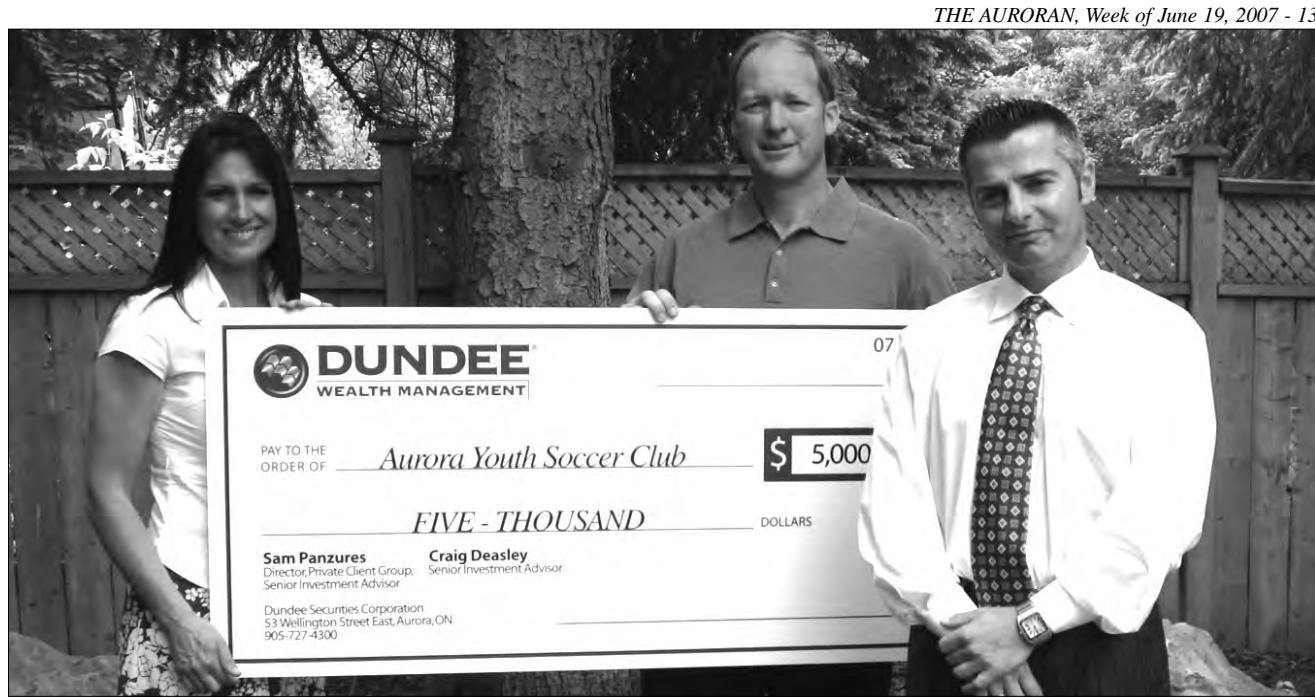
Team	W	L	P
Re/Max Dererk & Leslie Ho (A5)	6	0	12
Bank of Montreal – Mike Searle's (A2)	4	4	8
Royal LePage – Larry Willert (A1)	4	3	8
Greenpoint Laser Products (A3)	2	4	4
Scholars Education Centre (A4)	2	5	4
June 12: Reagens	18	Royal LePage	13
June 12: King City	12	BMO	5
June 12: Armstrong	11	Greenpoint	9
June 14: Re/Max	11	BMO	10
June 14: Royal LePage	11	Harris	7
June 14: Reagens	10	Scholars	8

## Peewee Scores

June 11: Scotiabank	13	Rotary Club	7
June 13: Glen Hulse Plumbing	9	Scotiabank	6
June 13: TD Waterhouse Wise Group	15	Royal LePage	5

## MIDGET HOUSE LEAGUE DIVISION

- Jun 4: Aurora Home Hardware (A3) vs. Braywood Services (N1). Postponed.
- Jun 6: Minto Homes (A2) 6, Z2 Photography (G1) 6.
- Jun 10: Greenham's Distinctive Clothiers (A1) 5, Living Lighting (N2) 4.
- Jun 10: Minto Homes (A2) 10, Aurora Home Hardware (A3) 3.
- Jun 11: Minto Homes (A2) 8, Braywood Services (N1) 8.
- Jun 12: Aurora Home Hardware (A3) 9 Greenham's Distinctive Clothiers (A1) 8.



**Laurie Mueller, left, coach and Partnership & Public Relations Coordinator, receives a \$5,000 cheque on behalf of the Aurora Youth Soccer Club, from Dundee Securities principals Craig Deasley and Sam Panzures, right. As club sponsors, Dundee not only provided \$5,000 in funding, but also invited soccer players and families to join the Dundee Little Chips Soccer Program, of which the Aurora Youth Soccer Club is a participant. The program started in the 2004 season and has grown to more than 120,000 players in 150 clubs across the country. This season, the Program sponsors clubs in eight Canadian provinces.**

# Aurora High student wins scholarship

An Aurora High School student is among the winners of the 2007 Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation Excellence Awards.

The award recognizes university and college bound students for their achievements in leadership, innovation, academic performance, and community service.

Morgan Klein-MacNeil will receive a one-time \$4,000 award.

The theme running through all of Morgan's activities, be it tutoring, DECA, the cheerleading team or volunteering at her old elementary school, is her commitment to encouraging others and instilling in them the confidence they need to achieve their goals.

Morgan came to Aurora at a difficult time for the cheerleading team, when the retirement of the former coach led to a collapse of cohesion and team unity.

When senior members, including the captain, started leaving the team, Morgan stepped up and started motivating her teammates to keep competing.

Following a particularly disappointing competition, Morgan spent the summer choreographing routines with the new coach and this year, as captain, she has led the team back into championship contention.

Morgan applies the same spirit to working with young girls as a volunteer assistant dance teacher.

She is especially

pleased that she can inspire the same passions in her charges as she experienced, and that the girls will not only master their dance techniques but come away with a work ethic that will last them a lifetime.

Morgan also runs her own tutoring business, and is president of Aurora's DECA chapter. She plans to study chemical engineering.

Since 2000, the Foundation has delivered 800,000 bursaries and scholarships, worth \$2.3 billion, to students across Canada.

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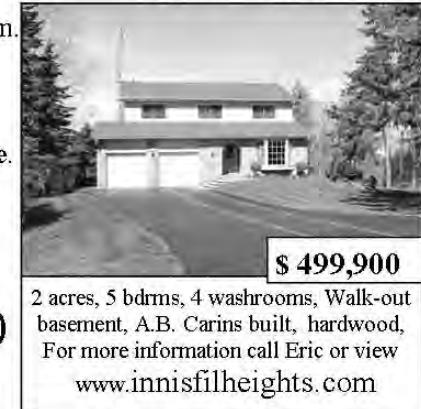
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## HOUSE LEAGUE RESULTS

# Aurora Youth SOCCER RESULTS



**U8B M/W - May 30 - Red/Poland - HSBC** 5 vs **Navy/Czech Repub - HSBC** 0;  
**Orange/Netherlands - HSBC** 4 (T. Wilson 1, J. Malowney 1, D. Kauffeldt 1, B. Scott 1) vs **White/Canada - HSBC** 2 (J. Camplin 1);  
**June 6 - Orange/Netherlands - HSBC** 5 (T. Wilson 3, L. Spagnuolo 1, N. Yantis 1) vs **Gold/Brazil - HSBC** 0; **Navy/Czech Repub - HSBC** 4 (C. Corner 1, C. Peters 2, N. Fusco 1) vs **White/Canada - HSBC** 8 (M. Carpenter 2, J. Camplin 3, J. Woodcock 2, G. Gerrard 1); - **Gold/Brazil - Philthy McNasty's** 3 (J. Krawczyk 2, T. Nagle 1) vs **Forest/Portugal - Aurora Cable Internet** 2 (S. Gable 1, D. Atasiei 1); **Orange/Netherlands - Clements Interiors** 1 (B. Langlois 1) vs **White/Canada - Bell World** 0; **Red/Poland - Aurora Shopping Centre** 5 (C. McGoldrick 4, P. Turner 1) vs **Navy/Czech Repub** 6 (T. Campbell 2, G. March 1, J. Conte 1, T. Barnett 1, J. O'Keefe 1);  
**U8G T** - No reported scores from the divisional convenor/coaches.  
**U8/9G M/W - May 28 - Gold/Brazil** 6 (K. Palmer 1, D. Bertrand 2, B. Howell 3) vs **White/Canada** 3 (S. Bousseau 1, C. Trotter 1, S. De Cesare 1); **Orange/Netherlands - Pizza Pizza** 7 (S. Bellerby 4, E. Logan 3) vs **Pink/Spain - WOWIT** 2 (A. Fermo 1, B. Gardiner 1); **Navy/Open Road BMW** 0 vs **Forest/Portugal** 9 (E. Colin 1, M. Hughes 1, C. Gibson 1, A. Roy 2, A. Lawrie 3, M. Martin 1); **Red/AIM** 3 (K. Bain 2, V. Garritano 1) vs **Purple/France** 3 (M. Keller 2, S. Pietrolungo 1); **June 4 - Gold/Brazil** 3 (D. Bertrand 2, B. Howell 1) vs **Forest/Portugal** 3 (H. Pryce 1, C. Gibson 1, A. Lawrie 1); **Orange/Netherlands - Pizza Pizza** 4 (S. Bellerby 3, K. Devries 1) vs **White/Canada** 0; **Navy/Czech Republic - Open Road BMW** 0 vs **Red/Poland - AIM** 7 (K. Bain 4, A. Alberton 1, V. Garritano 1, J. Laurignano 1); **Pink/Spain - WOWIT** 2 (A. Fermo 2) vs **Purple/France** 3 (M. Keller 2, S. Pietrolungo 1, K. Dimatulac 1); **June 11 - Gold/Brazil** 4 (D. Bertrand 2, U. Kenkel 1, K. Robb 1) vs **Pink/Spain - WOWIT** 7 (R. Remedios 3, B. Gardiner 2, A. Fermo 1, C. Brown 1); **Navy/Czech Repub - Open Road BMW** 0 vs **White/Canada** 5 (C. Trotter 2, L. Capodagli 1, C. Wloka 2); **Orange/Netherlands - Pizza Pizza** 2 (S. Bellerby 1, E. Logan 1) vs **Red/Poland - AIM** 3 (K. Bain 1, A. Bucciol 1, N. Maugeri 1); **Forest/Portugal** 1 (A. Roy 1) vs **Purple/France** 6 (B. Nunn 3, M. Keller 2, T. Burks 1);  
**U8B M/W - May 30 - Orange/Netherlands - HSBC** 4 (T. Wilson 1, J. Malowney 1, D. Kauffeldt 1, B. Scott 1) vs **White/Canada - HSBC** 2 (J. Camplin 2); **Gold/Brazil - HSBC** 4 (R. Aguirre 2, J. Tolfo 1, P. Facca 1) vs **Forest/Portugal - HSBC** 3 (A. Zori 1, T. Sabbag 2);  
**U8B TH** - No scores reported from the divisional convenor/coaches.  
**U9/10G W** - No reported scores from the divisional convenor/coaches.  
**U9B M** - No reported scores from the divisional convenors/coaches.  
**U9B T/TH - May 31 - Gold/Brazil - Betz Cut Stone** 1 (J. Pickett 1) vs **Forest/Portugal - Aurora Viking Shrine Club** 4 (C. Zinner 2, J. Eydt 1, N. Campbell 1); **White/Canada - Port Royal Mills** 2 (A. Badali 2) vs **Orange/Netherlands** 2; **Navy/Czech Repub - Core Micro** 5 (G. Adams 2, B. Diamond 1, M. Stamatopolous 1, B. Kissack 1) vs **Red/Poland - McDonalds** 4;  
**U10B - May 29 - Gold/Brazil** 0 vs **Red/Poland - Kavanagh Roofing** 6 (J. Harrison 1, J. Mohabeer 1, S. Daoust 1, E. Nichols 1, M. McKerracher 1, A. Rival 1); **Navy/Czech Republic - Rick Legrow Agent** 8 (M. Perri 1, B. Donovan 1, S. Semeraro 1, Q. Bell 1, S. Diaz 2, A. Newell 1, A. Butler 1) vs **White/Canada - AMG Metals Inc** 4 (C. Kemp 2, P. Bourrie 1, A. Dos Santos 1); **Silver/Austria** 7 (E. Biziots 1, J. Ventrella 1, J. Turner 1, S. Sebastia 3, J. Power 1) vs **Maroon/Japan - Supreme Collision Centre** 4 (D. Duront 1, G. Beck 1, G. Wood 2); **Orange/Netherlands** 5 (B. Harris 2, N. O'Hearn 1, J. Battiston 1, W. Thompson 1) vs **Sky/Argentina** 3 (E. Nisenbaum 1, L. McNally 1, J. Sherwood 1);

### U10B STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Red	1	0	0	3
Navy	1	0	0	3
Silver	1	0	0	3
Forest	1	0	0	3
Orange	1	0	0	3
Sky	0	1	0	0
Maroon	0	1	0	0
Kelly	0	1	0	0
White	0	1	0	0
Gold	0	1	0	0

**U10G - June 6 - Forest/Portugal** 7 (I. Sharpe 3, N. Crouse 2, S. Schaefer 1, A. Barnes 1) vs **Orange/Netherlands** 1 (A. Piertolongo 1); **Navy/Czech Repub - Summers & Smith** 2 (M. Gans 1, A. Gannon 1) vs **Gold/Brazil - Hartwell Thayer Financial Services Group** 1 (R. McCormick 1); **Red/Poland - Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre** 3 (P. Dutchyshen 2, A. DePeiro 1) vs **Pink/Spain - Himelfarb Proszanski LLP** 1 (A. Kern 1);

### U10G STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Red	0	0	0	0
Navy	0	0	0	0
Gold	0	0	0	0
Forest	0	0	0	0
Orange	0	0	0	0
Pink	0	0	0	0

**U11B - May 29 - Orange/Netherlands - CIBC** 3 (L. Pozzebon 3) vs **Navy/Czech Repub - Laurion Law Office** 6 (R. O'Brien 3, B. Wilson 1, B. Scully 2); **Red/Poland - Barb Blaser Remax** 3 (O. Jones 1, L. Blaser 1, A. Bogdan 1) vs **Gold/Brazil - Dr. Steiners Drillers** 5 (R. Manson 2, S. Green 2, N. Steiner 1); **White/Canada - CIBC** 1 (I. Dunlop 1) vs **Forest/Portugal - Wikoff Colour Corp** 6 (A. Tanaka 1, S. Taylor 1, D. Brozdynchenko 1, L. Coll 2, C. Dibartolomeo 1);

### U11B STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Forest	1	0	0	3
Navy	1	0	0	3
Gold	1	0	0	3
Red	0	1	0	0
Orange	0	1	0	0
White	0	1	0	0

**U11G -** No reported scores from the divisional convenor/coaches.

### U11G STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Forest	1	0	0	3
Red	0	0	0	0
Navy	0	0	0	0
Orange	0	0	0	0
Purple	0	0	0	0
Gold	0	0	0	0

**U12/13B - May 31 - Sage/USA** 2 (JP Hudon 1, E. Jones 1) vs **Silver/Austria** 0; **Red/Poland - Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre** 4 (L. Varone 2, J. White 2) vs **Gold/Brazil - Dr. Steiner Drillers** 5 (P. Steiner 2, A. Pitura 1, W. Salomons 1, L. Beeson 1); **Kelly/Italy** 4 (S. Faiello 1, L. Marneris 2, N. Farquharson 1) vs **Forest/Portugal** 9 (E. Cristillo 1, A. Akbarali 1, R. Baskin 1, L. Vassilyev 1, D. Cierpka 1, R. Jowharian 1, M. Tenuta 3); **Navy/Czech Repub** 2 (R. Rival 1, Q. Ing 1) vs **White/Canada - La Prairie Inc** 1 (M. Woorder 1); **Orange/Netherlands** 3 (Z. Richards 2, A. Merali 1) vs **Maroon/Japan** 5 (K. McIntosh 3, N. Heintzman 1, J. French 1); **Royal/Scotland** 6 (T. Indos 2, D. Takala 2, D. DiLena 2) vs **Sky/Argentina** 2 (M. Zuber 1, A. Partridge 1);

### U12/13B STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Gold	2	0	0	6
Forest	2	0	0	6
Royal	2	0	0	6
Sage	2	0	0	6
Maroon	1	1	0	3
Silver	1	1	0	3
Navy	1	1	0	3
Orange	1	1	0	3
White	0	2	0	0
Red	0	2	0	0
Sky	0	2	0	0
Kelly	0	2	0	0

**U12G - May 29 - Forest/Portugal - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 1 (A. Jaeger 1) vs **Gold/Brazil - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 1 (K. Nogueira 1); **Navy/Czech Repub - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 1 (C. Debney 1) vs **Purple/France - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 4 (K. Dagher 2, R. Gaudio 1, J. Briscoe 1); **Red/Poland - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 4 (K. Brock 2, V. Marando 2) vs **Orange/Netherlands - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 2 (M. Silver/Austria - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential 2 (L. McKerracher 2); **Pink/Spain - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 1 (C. Debney 1) vs **Purple/France - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 4 (K. Dagher 2, R. Gaudio 1, J. Briscoe 1); **Red/Poland - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 4 (K. Brock 2, V. Marando 2) vs **Orange/Netherlands - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 2 (M. Silver/Austria - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential 2 (L. McKerracher 2); **Pink/Spain - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 1 (C. Debney 1) vs **Purple/France - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 4 (K. Dagher 2, R. Gaudio 1, J. Briscoe 1); **Red/Poland - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 4 (K. Brock 2, V. Marando 2) vs **Orange/Netherlands - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 2 (M. Silver/Austria - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential 2 (L. McKerracher 2); **Pink/Spain - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 1 (C. Debney 1) vs **Purple/France - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 4 (K. Dagher 2, R. Gaudio 1, J. Briscoe 1); **Red/Poland - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 4 (K. Brock 2, V. Marando 2) vs **Orange/Netherlands - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 2 (M. Silver/Austria - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential 2 (L. McKerracher 2); **Pink/Spain - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 1 (C. Debney 1) vs **Purple/France - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 4 (K. Dagher 2, R. Gaudio 1, J. Briscoe 1); **Red/Poland - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 4 (K. Brock 2, V. Marando 2) vs **Orange/Netherlands - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 2 (M. Silver/Austria - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential 2 (L. McKerracher 2); **Pink/Spain - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 1 (C. Debney 1) vs **Purple/France - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 4 (K. Dagher 2, R. Gaudio 1, J. Briscoe 1); **Red/Poland - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 4 (K. Brock 2, V. 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Marando 2) vs **Orange/Netherlands - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 2 (M. Silver/Austria - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential 2 (L. McKerracher 2); **Pink/Spain - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 1 (C. Debney 1) vs **Purple/France - Lotus Interior Specialties Commercial/Residential** 4 (K. Dagher 2, R. Gaudio

**RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS**

# Remembering the Aurora Bowl

**SUMMER RECREATION**

The building and the bowling is still there but the name and ownership has changed.

Reg Armstrong's Aurora Bowl at Edward and Dunning is now the Gateway Café and Lanes and owned by the Gathering Place of Aurora.

The popular bowling alley was expanded in November, 1983, to include a spacious new liquor licensed lounge for its patrons.

Participating in the official opening were Reg Armstrong and members of his family, bartender Dave Waite and Mayor Dick Illingworth.

In September, 2005, after extensive renovations, the Aurora Bowl re-opened as the Gateway Cafe and Lanes.

The Gathering Place uses the facilities on Sundays for church services but for the rest of the week it continues as a bowling alley.

Needless to say, there is no licensed lounge.

Manager Victoria Irving said the loss of the bowling alley would be a tragedy for Aurora as it had been a popular place since it opened in 1962 with 16 lanes.

The licensed bar was replaced by a multi-purpose room to be used for worship on Sunday mornings.

The church bought the premises and leased the bowling alley to a company to operate with a focus on encouraging family use.

**NEW SINGING GROUP IN AURORA**

In December, 1974, founder Maggie Dupuis of Aurora was seeking members for a new singing group.

She formerly sang with the Festival Singers and the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir.

She said the new group would perform mainly Canadian works as there was so much music, so much heritage just sitting there gathering dust which gave her the idea of forming the Sounds of Canada.

She already had 10 singers but hoped for around 24 members. The musical was Ann Clouston.

In March, 1972, two young Aurorans, Peggy Fraser and Greg Datri, appeared before Aurora Council to seek facilities for the 10-14 age group.

Miss Fraser who had been a supervisor at George Street Park the previous summer noted that while there was plenty of activity to keep children under 10 busy, little had been organized for the 10-14 age youngsters.

Two parks were requested, one in the north and one in the south so that a mobile day camp program with emphasis on environment studies, sports, drama, film-making, music, arts and crafts could be provided.

Due to the urgency in seeking an Opportunities for Youth grant council approved the project in principle with the details to be worked out later.

**ONCE UPON A TIME**

It's hard to believe today but back in 1945 the intersection of Yonge and Wellington Streets in Aurora didn't have traffic control signals.

On the northwest corner of the intersection was the former two-storey more traditional red brick Bank of Montreal with an apartment on the second floor to accommodate the bank manager.

Across the road on the southwest corner was the first Dominion store in Aurora.

The Queen's Hotel stood proudly on the northeast corner, today the site of a bank.

A familiar sight on Yonge Street in those days was the weekly parade of the St. Andrew's College Cadet Corps to the Aurora United Church for service.

**MINISTRY MUM ON LANDFILL SITE**

Aurora Council is having trouble today obtaining information from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment about the contamination of Tannery Creek and the Petro Canada site on Industrial Parkway South.

Back in February, 2002, council experienced the

same difficulty with the Ministry about the Aurora landfill site on Bloomington.

For several months the town tried to obtain answers from the Ministry about any future action it planned to take regarding the testing of the landfill site.

At the time there were a number of outstanding legal actions concerning activity at the Bloomington site between the town and the owners.

The town had been trying to obtain information from the Ministry since July, 2000, without results.

The Ministry carried out some tests that month and finally in March, 2001, test results were released but were contradictory, resulting in council making another attempt.

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# Designated lanes possible

**From page 1**  
maximize ridership.

In addition, Yonge Street has transit oriented development opportunities that are not available on other routes, effects on traffic circulation and access can be mitigated by alternative access routes at signalized intersections and widening along part of its length will have minimal effects on the natural environment and can be mitigated by design solutions.

Next steps include feedback from municipal staff and council and a Public Consultation Centre June 20 in the Aurora Town Hall from 4 to 8 p.m.

During the summer of 2007 the selection of the preferred functional design will take place with another Public Consultation Centre slated in the early fall.

It was pointed out that Viva was only one element of York Region Transit and there was a feeder network to support Viva.

Questions were asked about dedicated lanes with the parking on Yonge Street and while it was admitted this was a constraint as to what could be done, work would be carried out in conjunction with town staff and alternative parking would be studied.

It was also noted that it was hoped to make improvements south of Golf Links Drive and north of Aurora Heights Drive.

In response to a question as to whether the objective was to get people to Aurora or through Aurora, the answer was to get people in all directions.

The presentation was received by councillors as "information".

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Grimshaw House

Doors Open Aurora Day August 11



Hutchinson House

## Two old Aurora homes on the Doors Open tour

By MICHAEL SEAMAN

The third article in the Doors Open series focuses on two of Aurora's restored former heritage homes which have now adapted to new uses.

These are The Grimshaw House, home of "bluetiful Living", a home décor store located at 15 Mosley Street, and The Hutchinson House, located at 14996 Yonge Street which is now the constituency office of Belinda Stronach MP.

Both buildings are outstanding examples of heritage homes which have been sensitively adapted to new uses.

Visitors to these sites on the Doors Open Tour will see how by retaining the character of these heritage buildings, the proprietors have managed to create unique and attractive places of business.

### Grimshaw House

Built around 1857, the Grimshaw House is a good example of the homes built on the original village survey, which was established by John Mosley immediately after the arrival of Ontario's first railway in 1853.

Like many early Aurora houses, the Grimshaw House was built of wood, and designed with the influence of the Georgian and Neo-Classical styles of architecture. Elements of the Neo-Classical Style include the symmetrical form and returned eaves.

The most prominent feature of the house is the dis-

tinctive Neo-Classical doorway with sidelights and a blind transom.

The house passed through a number of owners in its history.

The original owner was William Clark Hughes, a farmer in King Township, who rented the home out.

Other names of owners and occupants in the early history of the home included Thomas Gaviller, Joseph Fleury, Weldon Playter and Josephine Holladay.

In 1906, the property was sold to Thomas Grimshaw, the brother of Herbert Grimshaw, who owned a bakery on Yonge Street.

Evidently, Grimshaw made a number of renovations to the house, such as changes to the windows and siding and upgrades to the foundation.

The Grimshaws lived in the house through the 1950s. Over the years the interior and exterior of the house remained largely intact.

As a result, when current owner, Paula Bell, acquired the home in 2005 she fell in love with the historical charm and character that are evident throughout.

When she acquired the property, Ms Bell did so with the intention of adapting the building for use as a home décor store.

In the building's new use as "bluetiful Living", the adaptation undertaken by Paula Bell is particularly complementary to the building's historic residential character.

Ms Bell came up with the

idea to feature home décor products in a particular room that would typically have been seen in that room.

Items for the kitchen, for example, are featured in the kitchen.

Opened in 2006, "bluetiful Living" is part of an exciting new trend in downtown Aurora of businesses which feature products and services related to home decoration and renovation.

There are at least 20 businesses operating in and around the downtown area which cater to some aspect of the home decoration and renovation business.

Two others, Mac Fleming Paint and Wallpaper, and Caruso's/Mary's Flower Shop also appear on this year's Doors Open Aurora tour.

"Downtown Aurora is emerging as a centre for the home décor and renovation business and we are pleased to be part of the positive trend," said Ms Bell.

Although "bluetiful Living" is normally open to the public throughout the week, visitors on Doors Open Day will see displays about the history and architecture of this

Aurora heritage landmark as they tour through its historic Neo-Classical interior.

### Hutchinson House

Another heritage home featured on the tour is the John Hutcheson House, at 14996 Yonge Street, currently the Belinda Stronach M.P. Constituency Office.

Built around 1892, the Hutchinson House is a good example of a late Victorian Home, built with the influence of the Queen Anne Revival Style.

With its red brick exterior, asymmetrical form and stained glass windows, the Hutchinson House is different in almost every respect from the Grimshaw House, which was built 35 years earlier.

It is no less significant, however, particularly on the interior where the historic wood trim and stained glass windows make for an attractive environment that lends itself well to adaptation for business use.

It was this charm and character, and the attractive environment it provided for visitors, that very much

impressed Belinda Stronach M.P. and Constituency Manager, Steve Hinder, when searching for a location for a new office in Aurora.

Tour the interior of this interesting heritage building.

Notice the original late 19th Century interior of wood trim and stained glass windows.

The Hutchinson House is an excellent example of a heritage home adapted to a new use to meet modern needs.

It provides a good demonstration of the unique and attractive spaces that can be created when using heritage buildings for commercial and office uses.

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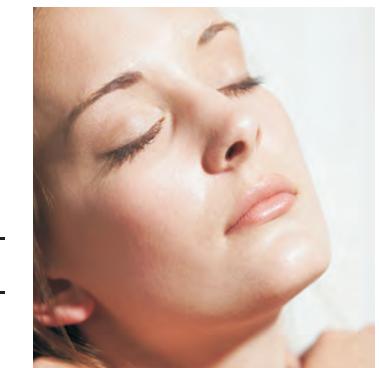
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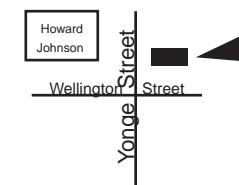
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## Senior Scape

By BRIAN WARBURTON

It's no surprise that one well adjusted member of a group is attractive to others and can be the catalyst who boosts others to a comfortable level of contentment.

The multitude of activities and programs, which are organized in the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) and are available to any member who desires to participate, are the vehicles by which we portray the pleasure-loving quality of character.

A simple satisfaction is to step outside the centre, and stroll through the park with a friend or friends.

Pause and look closely at what is growing! Take a camera and record what you see, perhaps record the ever changing seasons of the year.

Return to the centre and visit the computer room where you may view the results of your digital camera expertise on a computer, or print your choice of photography, or save it to disc.

If you lack the ability to do this, seek help or attend the camera workshops offered to improve your camera capabilities.

A plan to grow your ability and self-esteem in the field of

## Citizen of Year is ASA member

photography is an excellent personal project, and a leisure time activity available to every member of the ASA.

This is a wonderful time to take photographs of sunrises and sunsets, of family and friends and the world about us.

As noted in the last edition of The Auroran, Dorothy Clark McClure has been named Aurora's Citizen of the Year and Cliff Davies is named Aurora's Senior Citizen of the Year for 2007.

Both Dorothy and Cliff are notable ASA members and they are wonderful choices for the recognition they have received.

Congratulations also to Elfriede Greupner, Evelyn Meleta and Herb Koller who have been recognized with Aurora's "five-year volunteer awards" and again, excellent members of the ASA who deserve to be recognized.

I encourage everyone who now views mid-life in the rear view mirror, to become a part of the ASA community.

No matter how wonderful and rich your life may be, there exists in the ASA, a fountain of energy which gently replenishes all who venture near, with renewed vigour and good spirits.



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An organ donation bill that would have significantly increased the availability of organs for transplantation was killed by the government last week and an Aurora resident is furious.

Despite months of public debate and support for the bill and unanimous all-party support, the Liberal government chose to let the bill die on the order paper.

The organ donation bill, introduced Feb. 22, 2006, by Oak Ridges MPP and Aurora resident Frank Klees, would have required that Ontario residents applying for or renewing a health card or driver's license complete an organ donation question as part of the application form.

The bill made it through all the legislative hurdles with unanimous all-party support and was supported by the government's Citizen's Panel on Increasing Organ Donations.

However, when the government decided to shut down operations three weeks early, the Bill was left to die on the order paper.

Premier Dalton McGuinty's announcement that he was shutting the Legislature early killed more than 100 pieces of legislation – among them, Klees' organ donation bill.

The proposed bill also had broad public support as evidenced by the thousands of signatures on petitions submitted to the legislature, and the medical community endorsed the bill claiming its implementation would save lives.

"This is a glaring example of why people are cynical about government and politicians," said Klees in response to the government's refusal to allow the bill to be brought forward for the third and final reading in

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# School's open house fails to attract crowds

Recently, the town scheduled an Open House at the Church Street School to allow the public to view the building and see plans for the Heritage Centre.

Not many, it appears, were interested.

Fewer than 30 made it to the first of two presentations.

Once referred to by a member of council as an "old blister", the historic school has been a centre of controversy at various times over its long history.

The Church Street School was designed by Thomas Kennedy and built in 1886 as the Aurora Public School.

One of the students attending the junior grades was the late Lester B. Pearson who attended the school from 1900 to 1903 when his father was Minister of the Aurora Methodist Church.

The facility ceased its life as a school in 1952 and the town assumed the building for \$1. For a time Remington Rand leased the school as a training facility until the early 1960s.

With the growth of Aurora, the Aurora Public School Board requested the use of classrooms in the old school for overflow students from Regency Acres until additional rooms could be built at the Regency Acres Public School.

This was one of the more controversial periods as parents objected to having their children transported to what they termed "an old fire trap" and threatened to take their fight to Queen's Park.

In June, 1969, the newly created York County Board of Education was searching for an Education Centre and agreed to lease the school for a \$1 per year.

The new board spent about \$65,000 renovating the school for their needs, before moving to the new centre, shared with the town on Wellington Street West in 1973.

In December, 1977, after more than two years of deliberation, council agreed to preserve the Church Street School as a museum and art gallery and to accommodate cultural and recreational facilities for senior citizens and other groups.

The building was later designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

In May, 2003, members of the Aurora Historical Society saw a dream become a reality when council agreed the Society could be the sole tenant of the Church Street School.

The Society's vision included using the historic school as a cultural learning centre as the Aurora Heritage Centre with the museum being expanded with a number of new gallery areas for the exhibit and interpretation of Aurora's heritage.

In order to ensure the Society's vision, a team of heritage professionals, a project manager and the architectural firm of Lynch and Comisso were used to plan, design and create an impressive cultural centerpiece for the community of Aurora.

Over the past three years the Historical Society has funded all the preparatory work including the removal of numer-

ous partitions, floor coverings and false ceilings and, to date, have spent about \$300,000 to bring the Centre to the pre-construction stage.

Over the past year, increased construction costs, coupled with unforeseen complications have increased the project estimates to more than \$2.6 million, an amount beyond

the Society's fundraising capabilities.

As both the previous and the present council supported the Heritage Centre, last month council agreed to assume the direction and costs of the renovation using funds from council's Discretionary Reserve.

In doing so, council arranged the Open House and presenta-

tion by the architects so the general public could view the facility and the plans for the various rooms and submit comments.

The attendance for the first tour and presentation was rather disappointing as fewer than 30 were in attendance, but those present were amazed at the work that had been done in removing partitions and false

ceilings and remarked about the size and brightness of the various rooms.

Director of Leisure Services Allan Downey conducted the tour and outlined the proposed uses for the various rooms and this information was provided in greater detail by the architects with a concept design for each room.

For those unable to attend will be able to view the presentation on the town's website at [www.e-aurora.ca](http://www.e-aurora.ca). or by visiting the Leisure Services Department at the Town Hall.

After receiving comments from the public, staff will prepare a report scheduled to be presented to the general committee June 19.

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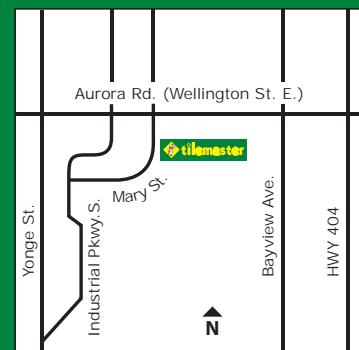
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