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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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FREE

Week of July 24, 2007

Take it home or park may close

If dog owners don't clean up after their pets, Aurora's Leash Free Dog Park may close.

Councillor Evelyn Buck expressed concern last week about staff being required to clear the waste as it was an owner responsibility and if they failed to it, the park should be closed.

Staff members pointed out that when the park opened dog owners were expected to take the bags of waste home and for that reason a garbage container was not provided.

However, owners were tying the bags to a fence and as there was a health risk, formation of a committee was a necessity.

Councillor Al Wilson pointed out that the agreement with the original committee had never been signed and now the town has a problem.

Councillor Buck repeated she

was not in support of staff doing that work and either the users should be made to clean up the waste or the park should close. Staffers replied that another notice will be posted and a summer student will visit the park to hand out information folders in an attempt to educate the owners and if that fails council will be asked to close the park.

In the meantime, council agreed to follow a recommendation made in June by the Leisure Services Advisory Committee to advertise for interested residents to serve on a Leash Free Dog Park Committee to enable the continued operation of the park.

They hope to have the issue resolved by September.

The leash-free park is located on Industrial Parkway North, just south of the St. John's Sideroad.



Some members of the aquatics staff at the Aurora Recreation Complex ham it up prior to a charity event called "Watergames: Super Hero Swim", planned for this week. The group hopes to raise money for the Lifesaving Society's Water Smart Campaign and to promote safe boating practices. Group is, left to right, Danielle Pelan, Morley Driedger, Lindsay Botten, Meaghan Annear and Gaik Petrossian.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

BRIEFLY

Architect on hand

One of the highlights of this year's Doors Open event, scheduled for Saturday, August 11, will be the opportunity to visit inside the Sheppard homestead located in the heart of Sheppard's Bush.

Community Planner Michael Seaman, who has been arranging the day, told The Auroran Friday that Romas Bubelis, an architect with the Ontario Heritage Trust will be on hand at the Sheppard House that day to answer any questions from visitors about the architecture of the structure.

You can learn more about the Sheppard homestead from the story on Page 17 of your Auroran this week.

Another sign variance

The number of variances to Aurora's sign bylaw has become so numerous councillors no longer question the reasons.

The most recent request came from the Dominion Store on Henderson Drive which was recommended by staff and approved by council without question or discussion.

Dominion, a plaza occupant since 1985, is undergoing a small addition to the front of the store.

The bylaw stipulates one wall sign per premise limited to 0.75 square metres per linear metre of wall face to a maximum of 20 per cent wall coverage or 44.8 square metres.

The request is for four wall signs with a total of 48.68 square metres or about 13 per cent of the total wall coverage which is less than the 20 per cent.

Town finds the money to renovate old school

While there has been general agreement by members of council to proceed with the completion of renovations of the Church Street School and its conversion into the Aurora Heritage Centre, their hands were tied by the actions of last term's council.

However, the restrictions have now been met and council has approved the withdrawal of up to \$2,530,000 from the Council Discretionary Reserve Fund for the purpose of renovating the 100 plus year old school.

The future of the former Aurora Hydro building may have inadvertently been released dur-

ing the discussion.

Councillor Evelyn Buck noted the future of the Hydro building had been discussed the previous evening during a private session and if council proceeded with the decision made, it would not be necessary to withdraw the money from the reserve fund.

CAO John Rogers said the discussion was still in confidence and the proceeds from the sale of any town-owned lands could be used to replace the reserve funds.

Other members wanted to get the renovation project started so the old school could be restored

to its former grandeur.

Staff members noted a firm cost would not be known until tenders were received and if the cost was in excess of the approved \$2.53 million, the issue would come back to council.

Staffers also advised the terms of reference for the advisory committee to operate the Heritage Centre would be presented to the August meeting of council.

A consultant was retained in January, 2006, to advise council on the proposed management of the proceeds of the former Hydro

Please see page 16

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Brian



John



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For the remainder of July the Skylight Gallery in the Town Hall will feature the work of Nancy Hallas with a series of semi-abstract acrylic and mixed media paintings on canvas exploring themes on nature. Regular viewing hours are 8.30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

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

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

Concerts in the Park presents an Eric Clapton Tribute. Town Park, Mosley and Wells Streets. 7 to 9 p.m., weather permitting.

Christmas in July at Gateway Lanes, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., serves two purposes. First it is a food drive for the Aurora Pantry. Second it is a day to celebrate families. Bring any family member, to the bowling alley and bowl for free by bringing a non-perishable food item. The bowling alley will be decorated for Christmas and Christmas music will be playing.

The Canadian Red Cross will be at the Seniors' Centre at 1.30 p.m. for a free seminar on "How to Prepare for a Disaster". Register at the front desk.

THURSDAY, JULY 26
Blood donor clinic at the Aurora Legion Hall from 2.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Third Annual Calmar Crescent Street Festival and according to the organizers will be bigger and better with more children's activities, raffles, prizes and entertainment. Everyone is welcome. Proceeds go to a local charity.

Deadline for applications for the Aurora Arts and Culture Fund. Applications should include the nature and general activities of the individual/group and the specific use to be made of the grant. Send applications to the Town Hall, c/o the mayor's office.

JULY 31 TO AUGUST 2
Aurora Seniors are on a Ontario Musical Theatre
Getaway. Call Pam at 416-630-3499 for details.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1
 Concerts in the Park presents Carol Lynn Friesen, Canadian singer/songwriter. Town Park, Mosley and Wells Streets, 7 - 9 p.m. weather permitting.

Concerts in the Park presents the Black Board Blues Band playing soul, rock and blues music from the 60s to the present day. Town Park, Mosley and Wells Streets, 7-9 p.m. weather permitting.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10
Blood donor clinic at the Town of Aurora offices, 1
Municipal Drive, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Second Annual Doors Open takes place all day in Aurora. Several historical sites are available for viewing.

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

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15
Concerts in the Park presents the 48th Highlanders pipes,

COMING EVENTS

drums and military band. Town Park, Mosley and Wells Streets, 7-9 p.m. weather permitting.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22
Aurora's senior citizens will enjoy an afternoon boat cruise along the Toronto waterfront.

Concerts in the Park presents Neu Jenarshun with an evening of Caribbean rhythms. Town Park, Mosley and Wells Streets, 7-9 p.m. weather permitting.

Aurora's next Great Curbside Giveaway when Aurorans can place all unwanted items at the curb marked "free" for others to take away, as one man's trash may be another person's treasure. Remove any items left at the curb by 6 p.m.

Yard waste collection in brown kraft paper bags or clean, open, rigid reusable waste containers must be placed at curbside by 7 a.m. to ensure pickup.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
Aurora council meets in general committee at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the Town Hall.

SEPTEMBER 7-9
Second annual Aurora Ribfest.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
20th annual Wild Wild West Magna Hoedown on the

Magna grounds, Wellington Street East. Watch for further details.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Second annual Aurora Historical Society golf tournament at Westview Golf Club. Fewer than 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.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
Aurora Horticultural Society presents lecture on "Four Months of Blooming Iris" at the Royal Canadian Legion, 8 p.m., 105 Industrial Parkway North.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19
Aurora Chamber of Commerce annual Business Excellence evening in Aurora.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24
Aurora Horticultural Society presents lecture on "Festive Entertaining" at the Royal Canadian Legion, 8 p.m., 105 Industrial Parkway North.

NOVEMBER 4 to 19
Aurora seniors will take a 15-day Hawaiian cruise. Call Pam at 416-630-3499 for details.

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Financial aid for market won't happen this year

Councillor Stephen Granger who volunteered to be council's liaison with the Farmers' Market, didn't get the five grand he was looking for last week.

But he may get it next year.

Granger had pointed out that council had not included any funds in the 2007 budget for the continuation of the market but had agreed that it should continue in the downtown core area.

He added that the Farmers' Market added a positive economic and cultural community benefit to the vitality of the downtown core.

He recommended council allocate \$5,000 towards the operating and development of the 2007 market and staff be asked to find the funds as the market needed to establish necessary steps to make itself successful.

With funds, the market could be promoted and special event days arranged, he said.

He also recommended that consideration be given in the 2008 budget to ensure its continued success and economic benefit to the town and the downtown core.

A number of favourable comments received from citi-

zens praising the market were tabled with such comments including good prices, good people and good products.

Prior to the council meeting, Stephen Cooper, one of the vendors at the market, who has been participating in markets in the area over the years stressed the need for a financial commitment from council to make the market successful.

In response to a question as to how Aurora compared with other municipalities in the rental rate for stalls, he replied that it was around the lower end of the middle

range.

He also suggested consideration be given to hiring a market manager, which Cooper considered was essential for a successful market.

Councillor Granger's recommendation that \$5,000 be provided for the 2007 market failed for the lack of a second, but after other comments, his recommendation for funds to be considered for the 2008 budget was adopted.

The Aurora Farmers' Market is held every Saturday morning from 8 a.m. until noon and will continue to the Thanksgiving weekend on the Temperance Street parking lot, just south of Wellington.



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"Binny"

Renee Lawrence, left, and Kristen Yemm-Brodie, representing the Town of Aurora, have the assignment of introducing "Binny", the Aurora Green Team Mascot, to the community. He made an appearance Saturday at the Aurora Farmers' Market to provide information to residents about the new Green Bin program that will launch this fall. The kids loved him.

*Auroran photo
by David Falconer*

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Poor Richard

Here's what bugs me about council and its meetings

*It's not yet the dog days of summer,
But the pet peeves are starting to grow;
These are things that really bug me,
And I want the whole world to know!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

One of my pet peeves about recent Aurora Councils is the general committee reports as one of the greatest time wasters and conflict on council due the re-hashing of issues.

The general committee consists of all members of council and meetings are normally held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, with the committee report presented for approval to the subsequent council meeting held on the second and fourth Tuesdays.

Issues are fully discussed at the general committee meeting and a vote taken with the recommendation forwarded to the following council meeting.

Granted some of the more routine issues are adopted without further discussion, but it is quite normal for more than half of the issues to be lifted for further discussion.

Especially with the Cable TV cameras rolling at the council meeting.

General committee meetings are not televised.

In an effort to improve the efficiency of council meetings, several meetings were held over amendments to the procedural bylaw and finally agreement was reached that made it necessary for a council member to provide a reason for lifting an item from a general committee report for further discussion.

Unfortunately, that hasn't helped.

The only legitimate reason for lifting an issue that was decided by a majority vote of council should be new information which came to light which might make it necessary to amend the recommendation, but that seldom, if ever, happens.

The normal reasons given and accepted are clarification, comment, question, etc., in order to provide the council member with another kick at the cat, but this time in front of the TV cameras.

If it's necessary to ask a question or make a comment, it's quite evident that the council member wasn't paying too much attention at the committee meeting and if it's necessary to ask for clarification, it's obvious the staff report wasn't fully understood or hadn't been read before the general committee meeting.

Otherwise why the need for clarification?

The procedural bylaw should be changed to ensure that the only reason why an issue can be lifted for further debate after a decision has been made by a majority of council members should be new information with a prepared amendment.

Either that or change the general committee meetings to council meetings so that council decisions are final, unless a motion of reconsideration is approved.

Another beef is the number of questions asked by councillors during a debate.

So many of them are unnecessary since quite often the required information is included in a staff report, if they had taken the time to read and understand it.

In most cases staff reports are complete with background information, options and a recommendation, making it very simple for members of council to approve the report, reject it or amend it.

A whole series of questions regarding the report usually means that the member hasn't read and understood the report prior to the meeting, or wants to be seen as a diligent member of council before the TV cameras, hoping to impress the viewer.

If they ever took the time to watch the council telecast, they would soon realize, as the public realizes, that they are insincere and not serving the public interest by getting on with the town's business.

The procedural bylaw permits a member of council to speak twice on an issue, but with questions quite often some members of council are permitted to speak six or seven times, which should be stopped.

Members of council should be able to marshal their thoughts on an issue and be prepared to speak once in support of the recommendation, their opposition to it or a constructive amendment to improve the recommendation and the vote called.

In other words, Stand Up, Speak Up and Shut Up!



In The Auroran June 26, we ran a photo of the Aurora Boys' Band standing in front of what today is Wells Street Public School, but then was the Aurora High School. Above, the same group is seen marching north on Yonge Street, just north of Mosley. Visible are the old town hall in the background, and part of the sign that once marked the location of the once-popular Scanlon's Bakery. We made a mistake in the information under the June 26 photo. We said the picture came from Aurora's Lowell McClenny, when, in fact, the photo, like the one above, came from Lowell's brother, Ted. For that, we apologize. No wonder we couldn't find Lowell in the earlier picture. As he tells it, musical talent wasn't one of his strong points.

Letters to the Editor

"I am a proud clothesliner"

To the editor,

There is an expression, "don't air your dirty laundry in public".

With the possible exception of hockey equipment which has to air somewhere, preferably not inside, who in their right mind would want to display dirty clothes?

I am totally amazed that some developers have made new home buyers sign a contract not to put up a clothesline; that the Town (either Aurora or Richmond Hill) allowed this clause to appear in Purchase Agreements especially when out of the other side of their mouths

they are urging everyone to conserve electricity by hanging out their laundry rather than using a dryer; that we are even having discussions about clotheslines.

Yes, I am a proud clothesliner!

My mother and grandmother used lines most of all because that is the only way they had to dry anything prior to the invention of the electric clothes dryer.

I prefer the smell of clothes hung on the line and my favourite is the aroma of sheets and pillowcases.

No matter what the advertisers claim, you can only acquire "fresh outdoor smell"

by actually hanging the wet laundry outside.

Even in winter, when I washed diapers, I placed the laundered nappies on the hill outside our home, flipped them over to let the combination of snow and sun bleach them. Now I am not saying that I don't use my dryer, I do, for heavy items like jeans, etc. that if you hang them out in winter you must let them thaw before you put them in the dryer anyway, and "those items" I would prefer not to display in public.

Maybe it is my imagination but as I drive around new neighbourhoods I rarely see anyone outside their houses

other than watering their new sod (that is the basis for another letter).

Could it be that the simple act of hanging one's laundry outside equalized everyone, promoted backyard utilization, thus making neighbourly conversations possible?

Next some "nut bar" will require new purchasers, by contract, to not cook outdoors- bye bye barbecues, as this time-honoured tradition might offend someone by having uncooked meat outside and by using less electricity.

Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges

Why demolish a perfectly good building, he wonders

To the editor,

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School emanated from the Aurora High School originally on Wells Street.

The school had very capable people, among them, John H. Knowles, Norm F. Johnson and Wilfred Adams.

They were at Wells Street School, a public school as it is today.

Attendance was so momentous that the school grew rapidly. In 1967 a huge addition was completed to the present site on Dunning Avenue which doubled the size of the building. It is hard for me to understand the reasoning in tearing down a perfectly good building simply because it is some 50 years old?

Sure it may need some repairs.

A new roof and some advanced toiletry, but that's a hell of a lot cheaper than starting from scratch.

The fields are Olympic sized, so taking into consideration some 19 acres, the replacement cost of the land alone at six homes to the acre

is some 50 to 60 million dollars.

The economics of selling this prime land in the centre of Town is totally lacking.

As far as I am concerned, Boards of Education have far too much power.

The planning concerning expenditures of this magnitude are above and beyond them and again the taxpaying public will get shafted.

It staggers my imagination why we tear down good buildings because they are old.

Maybe the Romans knew something we do not know.

The bath houses they built 2000 years ago are still performing.

It makes one wonder if age were the panacea many of us would be hiding from the executioner.

The fact that so much has been written, mostly opposed to the obliteration, makes me think a higher authority should lower the boom and call for tenders for expansion and improvement.

Ben Kestain
Aurora

THE AURORAN

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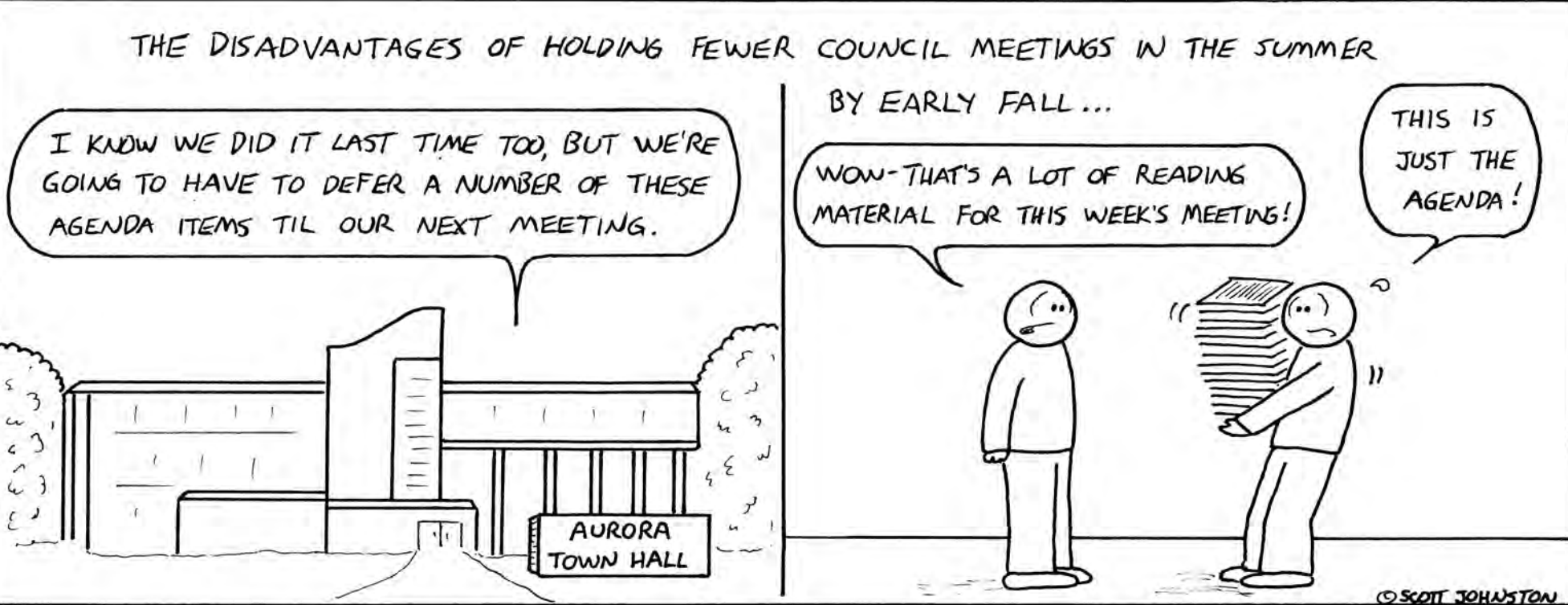
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

At this time of year, the last thing any of you probably want to think about is politics.

The weather's nice, and you have visions of vacations/long weekends and of sipping cool ones beside the pool.

As you have been bombarded over the past 18 months with the on-again off-again saga of whether a federal election would be called, you thought that since the feds are off to the barbecue circuit for the summer that you would be safe.

Guess again!

You will most certainly be ecstatic to know the provincial election is only 80 days or so away. And I know all of you can't wait to get to the polls October 11 to improve on Aurora's dismal 38 per cent voter turnout record from last fall's municipal election!

A number of the main issues that the respective parties will campaign on have been identified: education and health care funding, autism, street racing, taxes, government integrity, and a new voting system, to name just a few.

But there could be a sleeper issue out there.

With the recent heat wave, Ontario's energy policy has come into public consciousness once again.

And two other recent developments on the energy file could help cast a further, penetrating light on the subject.

These are the closure of the remaining coal fired electricity generation plants and the recent news that the Pickering nuclear plant may be out of commission for a longer time than first thought.

As you may recall, during the 2003 provincial election, the Liberals stated they would close all coal plants by the end of 2007.

This has not happened. In fact, the deadline has changed many times over the past four years.

Now, The government is moving forward with establishing a legally binding deadline for an end to coal burning for electricity in Ontario.

It has posted a draft regulation on the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Registry setting a legally enforceable deadline of Dec. 31, 2014, for an end to coal use in this province.

There are others who are against this move. They believe that Ontario's coal-powered plants make a significant contribution to the province's economy by providing lower-cost power and by boosting the adequacy, reliability and security of our supply system.

Regarding the second development, the Pickering A nuclear facility, units 1 and 4, which provide 1,000 MW of power, will be out of commission for a couple of months.

This outage, in conjunction with some real hot weather, could cause the province to import expensively priced power from the U.S and/or potentially face brown/blackouts.

All this could translate into energy and environment files that could become front and centre issues during the upcoming campaign.

Whoever is the new energy minister after October 11 is going

to have a very full plate and will have to make some big decisions.

Both the Liberals and Tories have committed to nuclear, so the questions become: which nuclear technology (Candu)? Refurbishment of existing assets or replace with new units? What would the structure or commercial terms of any new nuclear build look like?

And has been pointed out to me in an e-mail from a friend employed in the energy sector: "the only reason we have not had brown-outs/black-outs is because the demand destruction that occurred in the manufacturing sector. If the manufacturing sector was healthy, there would be power problems in the province."

Ontario is facing critical decisions regarding the appropriate energy supply mix and also how best to procure new generation. Inextricably intertwined with these decisions is a need for power that is affordable and environmentally friendly.

Ontario's future economic wellbeing is tied directly to the future condition of Ontario's electricity industry.

The route that we choose will have very serious, material, long-term, cost, productivity and industrial strategic implications for the province.

As we move closer to the election I'll take a closer look at some of the above and the potential implications for growth and electricity rates in Aurora.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

Ron, the editor, says all my columns have to have something to do with Aurora - it's an order!

The only trouble is that it's hard to write about Aurora when I'm not in Aurora. Except last time I went away, I left the Town of Aurora and about five hours later...I ended up in the "other" Aurora.

"Ron is going to love this," I smiled to my friend Shelley as we drove under a huge "Aurorafest" banner on our way to a cottage we had rented. "Now I can write plenty about Aurora!"

The picturesque Village of Aurora is located in the Finger Lakes region of New York State - not to be confused with the Village of East Aurora, which is yet "another" Aurora altogether.

This quaint little Aurora has a total area of 2.5 square kilometres and the United States Census reports that as of 2005, there were "720 people, 181 households, 106 families and 2 lesbians...residing in the village".

Apparently, it is so small that they looked at it with a magnifying glass!

The big thing is: the Village of Aurora is located on the east bank of Cayuga Lake. Yes, we "other" Aurorans will all be jealous! The tiny Aurora has a huge lake!

Not only that, but this other Aurora is nestled in a region of gorgeous gorges and stunning waterfalls.

Since both Shelley and I love hiking, we set out on a beautiful trail one day, and it would have been a perfect outing except for two things: about halfway, it rained cats and dogs and, well...I can't read maps.

"I haven't been wetter than this in the shower," I groaned to Shelley as we sloshed through the parking lot hunting for the car.

"Um...Cathy," said Shelley, "this is not the right parking lot."

I have a very astute friend...

We went looking for an attendant.

"Excuse me, is there another parking lot?"

"Yes. It's about two miles along that trail," he answered...motioning in the direction we had just come. Then, motioning in another direction added "or three miles along that road."

We called a cab and took refuge in a dry place where a family from Cape Cod had managed to stay dry during the downpour.

Since Shelley and I created a bit of a splash, we got into a conversation. Hypothermia was starting to set in, so when we heard the words: "We're going that way...we'd be happy to give you a ride", we gratefully accepted.

"Well," said the kind American, "we aren't ALL named George Bush!"

Blessedly, they are not!

Many times, Shelley and I marveled at our good fortune, for we only met kind and loving people everywhere we went.



From the moment we arrived, the owner of the cottage greeted us with the warmest hospitality - even taking us out on an evening boat ride with his warm, vivacious girlfriend who had arranged our stay.

Then there was the lovely owner of the wine shop we frequented.

We were on vacation in an area that abounds with boutique wineries, okay? She invited us to a wine tasting and was generous with her phone so we could dodge the bane of cell phone-roaming charges.

Shelley left on the Saturday and I had arranged for Damir to join us on Friday and stay on with me until Monday - best of both worlds, huh?

The three of us had a wonderful dinner at "Pumpkin Hill" and the food was so good that Shelley declared it the best meal of her life.

But Damir and I had dinner at the Aurora Inn on our last night, and he remains convinced that Shelley missed out.

The Aurora Inn is the picture of elegance with exquisite fine dining overlooking Cayuga Lake.

In 2001, entrepreneur Pleasant Rowland began renovating the historic site while also acquiring additional properties in the village to alter and renovate. You've got to LOVE Aurora to do that!

It appears Ms. Rowland has outdone herself, for the Village of Aurora jumps out and beckons to anyone driving through: "I am AURORA!"

But if it wasn't so enticing, they never would have named it "Aurora", would they?

Auroras are special. Just ask anybody who lives in Aurora!

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



BOUQUETS to the Town of Aurora staff who are responsible for the town's water system as they recently received a 100 per cent pass mark for 2006 by a Ministry of the Environment inspector. The inspector also recognized the staff's dedication in achieving an outstanding level of overall drinking water system operational performance.

BRICKBATS to members of Aurora and Regional Council and planning staff for recommending and approving new subdivisions, in spite of insufficient infrastructure to service them. The current shortage of water is a good example of poor planning, but bigger is better, so they say!

BOUQUETS to Amy Hughes of Aurora for winning a barbecue at the Oak Ridges Home Hardware as the firm, located on the King Sideroad, celebrated its 50th anniversary. Graham Wride of Aurora is a co-owner of the store.

BRICKBATS to those in charge of Yonge Street in the vicinity of the CN overpass at the south end of Aurora for failing to take action to correct whatever caused the need to place a number of steel plates in the curb lane, or are they a permanent fixture?

BOUQUETS to Lowell McClenny and Colin Graham on their 25th anniversary of "Sportsbeat" on Aurora Cable Internet. The weekly program started in June, 1982, with Doug Judson and Lowell McClenny as co-hosts with Colin Graham joining the program in 1990.

BRICKBATS to the bylaws or regulations in Aurora which are supposed to control the placement of large mobile signs on town-owned boulevards adjacent to well travelled roadways effectively blocking the view of cars travelling in the curb lane from motorists exiting from a side street or plaza. Where are the bylaw enforcement officers?

BOUQUETS to Ontario Stewardship Rangers Caleigh Perrertt, Becky Shaw, Michael Colley and Dave May for adding a wood chip mulch to new trees planted in the Aurora Community Arboretum. The Rangers are youth doing environmental projects in a Ministry of Natural Resources program.

BOUQUETS to Susan Gwilliam for her annual barbecue in front of Shoppers Drug Mart at Aurora Heights and Yonge Street, where she is employed, and for raising more than \$12,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society. Also, to Cloud 9 Hair Design in Newmarket for hosting a cut-a-thon and to 10-year-old MacKenzie Dixon for having her hair cut to donate to kids with cancer. She collected pledges adding another \$1,800 to the cause. Finally bouquets to 12-year-old Taylor Cooke who also had his hair cut by Teresa Berhaaff at A & F Hair Elite in the Aurora Shopping Centre to have a wig made for a cancer patient.

BRICKBATS to the federal government for quietly approving an unspecified number of American police agents to carry guns in Canada, but answerable to a foreign power. Until 1990 no foreign peace officer was allowed to enter Canada armed, but this was changed to permit bodyguards for foreign leaders.

BOUQUETS to the Dominion Institute, a national charitable organization dedicated to promoting knowledge of Canada among Canadians and carrying out annual surveys testing how much they knew about their country. The results are dismal.

BRICKBATS to the 60 per cent of Canadians who, when surveyed, failed a simple, 21-question test similar to what newcomers to Canada must pass to obtain their citizenship, up from 45 per cent 10 years ago. Better bone up on Canada.

BRICKBATS to the generous politicians at Queen's Park who could afford to give themselves a 25 per cent salary increase but could only find an extra 11 cents a day for food for long-term care seniors, bringing the total daily allowance to \$5.57 to cover three meals plus snacks a day.

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Peter Virtanen
CLU, Agent, Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

Why can't Canadian Tire be forced to turn on lights, reader wonders

To the editor,

Re: Lighting Issue

I am writing with regards to the articles in "The Auroran" about the lighting problems at Canadian Tire and the Mosaics complex.

If these people would take the time to come out and walk down the roadway at 11 p.m. and see how dark it actually is they would understand why we are complaining.

I am sorry but I can't believe they have so much paperwork regarding this problem that it covers a credenza and a chair.

If they have this much

paperwork from this one problem they had better start building a storage unit for all of the new homes that are being built and the paperwork they will produce.

They seem to think that it is only the people who live in the Mosaics who use this roadway but it is not.

People who live on Davis and Richardson walk down there and through the development all the time.

As for it being a one-way road towards Yonge it has not been a one-way for several years.

It originally was but then one day the one-way

signs were gone and a line was painted down the roadway (which I might add was done by Canadian Tire).

As I have said before just because there was an error made in the past regarding the lighting does not mean that it should not be corrected.

I would like to know if the town staff, councillors or Dick Illingworth would like to let their family walk down this roadway after dark.

As for Evelyn Buck's comments about why they have not heard from the condo management, the president of our board was there and has sent corre-

spondence regarding the problem.

Also, the condo representative from Simerra has met with the mayor in the past along with the President and a Director from the Board.

I also thought part of the councillor's job was to represent the voters.

So, why is it that when Evelina MacEachern tries to help and comes up with some suggestions, comments are made like "some members of council fell all over themselves trying to help"?

I can't understand why we keep getting told that because Canadian Tire is private property the town can't do anything.

How come if a private homeowner does not cut his lawn or is watering during a water ban the town can step in and tell him to follow the rules?

We have been told there are recommendations in place regarding lighting so, why is it that Canadian Tire can't be forced to turn on the lights?

If they don't want to turn on the lights then why can't the town give us some kind of lighting?

With all the tax money that the 86 homes in the Mosaics pay we should get lighting if for no other reason than safety. It is not a matter of if something happens on this roadway it is a matter of when.

I can assure you that when something does I will be giving the police and anyone else who needs it all of the correspondence from Canadian Tire, The Town of Aurora and us.

Parking restrictions minor irritant to abusers, he says

To the editor,

It is amazing that this town, when confronted with continuing complaints about parking, would deal with the situation by imposing a blanket three-hour limit on all its residents.

I have been complaining for years now about the increased use of residential properties for conducting a business while not providing the parking for employees as stated in the Aurora bylaws.

Anyone who has traveled the Wellington/Wells

corridor (school buses included) knows what a nightmare it has been in the past with both sides of Wells Street congested at the same time.

The residents who I know on Wells Street appreciate the arrival of April 15th so our guests and family members can use the extra parking.

By imposing a three-hour limit on all the residents of Aurora it only provides a minor irritant to those who are the real abusers.

They can just go to

Choir wrap-up concert was big success, she says

To the editor,

The VOJ Voices of Joy Community Choir would like to thank the communities of Aurora, Newmarket and East Gwillimbury for their participation in our "Wrap-Up Fun Night Concert".

We had outstanding participation from the Upper Canada Chordsmen, Bells of Joy, guitar playing of Andrew Walker and a wonderful rendition of Elvis by Dorian Baxter.

Special thanks to the pastor and members of the New Hope Methodist Church, Queen Street, Newmarket, for the use of their facilities and Jackie Playter for looking after the refreshments for us.

It is wonderful when communities pull together to make something magical happen.

Jo-anne Spitzer
VOJ publicity
Aurora

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Auroran market support appreciated

To the editor,

Hats off to Ron and The Auroran for the great front page news coverage July 17th showing that the Farmers' Market is here to stay in 2007!

Your many articles published have expressed the many challenges overcome to date and the "positive" community, vendor and council support.

It is definitely considered as part of Aurora's downtown with potential for continued success to directly contribute strong economic, and cultural benefits to the downtown core, the "heart" of our community.

What better place than

the market to meet your neighbours among the already couple of hundred currently attending shoppers!

It will soon also be a weekly fun family place for outings with special events to come.

Business is indeed booming, or is that blooming, from what you have said?

To the vendors' amazement much of the produce is currently being sold out before noon.

This can only get better for the public as the growing season is now upon us!

Currently, there are more than 13 vendors registered and exhibiting

this week with three others planning to join very soon!

There are many home-made, and organic product and produce selections from vendors that are enthusiastically being received from the already 200 + patrons attending.

The market has an upcoming prize draw and will feature our next special event August 11th being "Doors Open". There will be a lot of fun planned for this day!

During the last month, as a Team, we have held a reorientation meeting of the vendors, and a general business mapping session for expanded products and permits,

including ideas for the special event weekends.

All exciting news that will keep this community group growing to meet Aurora's needs.

The market recently has now been "officially" recognized as a "Farmers' Market of Ontario".

It indicates a designated market with many registered benefits associated with this title for a high percentage of quality organic and home grown or home made goods and produce!

Together, as a committee, we are all committed to bringing this weekly market to heights that Aurora can be proud of, nurturing upon its original vision for a quality market in the "heart" of our community!

But it can only grow through everyone's continued support.

So please come out and join us each Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon.

Thanks again, Ron and The Auroran, for your great community support and for the front page coverage and articles to date.

Hope to see you and

many others at the market this Saturday!

**Councillor Stephen Granger
Town Council Liaison
to the Farmers' Market
Committee**



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Hotel meets all safety codes, manager says

To the editor,

In response to the article published, July 17/07 (Letter to the Editor) titled "Power failure left hotel in jeopardy", I would like to respond by advising the citizens of Aurora that The Howard Johnson meets all of the fire and building safety codes for the province of Ontario.

The malicious letter was simply an attempt, by a disgruntled guest, to damage

the reputation of the hotel and was absolutely without merit.

Rest assured that I subsequently met with Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris, John Adema (Chief Fire Prevention Officer), Techa van Leeuwen (Director of Building Administration Chief Building Official) and John Rogers (Chief Administrative Officer) and the named individuals are all in agreement that the

Howard Johnson, Aurora, meets all Ontario Codes.

I wish to thank all concerned citizens who have called in their dismay of the published letter and also send out many thanks to the mayor and her dedicated team for their quick action and support.

**Vince Midolo,
General Manager,
Howard Johnson,
Aurora**

Reader seeks moratorium on “old town” destruction

An open letter to Aurora's mayor and council.

I was wondering if there would be an opportunity for our town council to discuss a moratorium on demolition and destruction of our older sections of the town.

What I would like to suggest is a moratorium on development of homes or new lots with additional homes in the established communities on lots or homes greater than 47 years old.

What I would suggest is that a home owner (or developer) can improve their property but that they cannot increase the foot-print of the home greater than 20 per cent in any 10 year period of time or increase the size greater than 100 per cent (and naturally not to exceed the given town guidelines or bylaws for building).

For many of us in the mature parts of our town we are having our communities ripped apart, often by land developers. Large lots have

and monster homes consuming the maximums allowed by our bylaws, leaving little room for trees or grass.

The beauty of our fair town will be gone soon, I fear, and to coin a cliché there is no use in closing the barn door once the horse is gone.

Soon the older parts of our town will be lost and, too, our dignity and

history.

History is not anything more than 100 years old; it is any well established community.

There is a place for 30 to 50 foot lots and there is a place of respect for the larger lots with grass, trees, birds and civility.

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Aurora**

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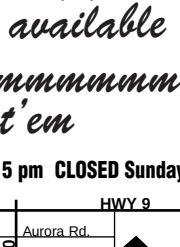
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Part Two

The history of theatres in Aurora

By ELIZABETH MILNER
Special to The Auroran

Three sheets entitled "Cinemas in Aurora" housed at the Aurora Museum give Banner references and fire insurance references which indicate that silent films were shown in Aurora at various locations in town before 1934.

The eastern part of the Wells Block on Wellington Street East is the location most frequently mentioned as a moving picture theatre.

This building became Mr. Fingold's grocery store later. Then, it was the IGA market, owned by the Rubins (remember Larry?) and next a hardware store.

In 1908, moving pictures were shown in the Wells Block on Wellington Street on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings.

In 1909, a Mr. Edington showed films for a few months in the same location.

A moving picture show was also advertised on October 15, 1909.

It was shown in the Queen's Hotel on Saturday night.

The Queen's was an impressive three storey structure on the northeast corner of Yonge and Wellington.

In 1910, a fruit market

opened in the Andrews Block, which had been the Empire Theatre and in that same year the S.H.&D. Amusement Co. opened the Colonial Theatre every evening in the Wells Hall in the Queen's Hotel.

This theatre had a back and front exit for safety and this was mentioned in the advertisement.

In 1912, Michael Shulman purchased the east end store of the Wells Block for a theatre.

In the same year, Messers H.T. Kinley and Arthur Winn purchased moving picture theatres in Aurora and Newmarket from Bacon & Hughes.

In the years 1913 and 1927, fire insurance plans show that picture theatres continued in the east half of the Wells Block on the ground floor.

In 1930, Aurora Veterans held a benefit at Starland Theatre, the theatre on Wellington Street East; the name of the Wellington Street East theatre that became the Fingold store.

Also in 1930, Arthur Winn purchased a Yonge Street property for a picture theatre where the Jarvis feed store and mill was located.

Something seems to have gone wrong, as the assessment roll of 1931 indicates Mr. Jarvis was still

the owner of the property and there is no land use shown.

It appears that this movie house didn't open.

One can only imagine the excitement in Aurora when people came together in a darkened room to watch black and white flickering figures cross a screen as a piano played feverish or sentimental music to accompany the action and stilted captions.

What were they watching?

Perhaps they saw Canada's own Mary Pickford in 1917 in Poor Little Rich Girl, the first Tarzan of the Apes in 1918, with Edgar Rice Burroughs, Gloria Swanson (Joseph Kennedy's mistress) and Tom Moore in 1924 in Manhandled, The Thief of

Baghdad made in 1926 starring Douglas Fairbanks, Blood and Sand with the handsome, sex symbol Rudolph Valentino made in 1922 or Charlie Chaplin in his many films as the little tramp.

Who was there in the dark?

Did Dr. and Mrs. Hillary attend or was it beneath

them?

Did the Whimsters, the Davises, the Lundys, the Tailors, the Willises go?

Did some people in town distain the magic lantern shows as the work of the devil?

It must have been wonderful for those who went to see the first films.

I can just imagine them

walking, or going home by carriage, in the dark talking and sometimes laughing about what they had experienced.

Those first films must have been absolutely thrilling to the Aurora folks who came to Wellington Street to see them.

And "Starland". Now wasn't that a perfect name?

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Crowds were huge at last week's Concert in the Park held at the Aurora Town Park. Hundreds enjoyed Green River music as they paid tribute to Credence Clear Water Revival. Concerts, presented by the Town of Aurora, continue every Wednesday evening, weather permitting, in the Mosley and Wells Streets park, until the end of August.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Town's advertising to get another look

Currently Aurora publishes on average a page and a half Notice Board advertisement in each Tuesday edition of the Era Banner newspaper.

The pages provide information about council and committee meetings, town services and programs, planning issues and community events.

In 2006, council asked that in 2007, staff issue a Request for Quotation for the production and distribution of the town's weekly Notice Board page for the next four years.

Two area newspapers responded to the request, and council last week voted to seek more information before making a decision on who would carry the pages.

A report noted The Auroran newspaper is distributed via Canada Post and is received by the public any day Tuesday through Friday and that staff would be required to prepare information material at least two weeks in advance which could be a matter of concern.

The Era Banner, meanwhile, distributes their newspapers by carrier.

It was also pointed out that the Notice Board is one of the main communication tools the town employs to inform the community and currently readers are aware that this notice is published each Tuesday in the Era Banner.

Shifting the pages to The Auroran could cause some confusion for the public and may draw negative and positive comments until readers are comfortable with the change, a report to council said.

In the first year of production for a two-page full colour Notice Board both papers offered exactly the same quotation of \$71,400.

However, in subsequent years of the contract the Era Banner's quote was lower.

Staff therefore recommended that it was to the town's advantage to continue production with the Era Banner rather than switch to a new carrier.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said she had been waiting for three years to express her opposition to the Era Banner as she claimed it was not a local newspaper and does not report town news.

She referred to The Auroran's letters to the editor section which should give members of council an indication of which paper Aurora residents were reading.

She listed Era Banner writers and said their names were not known to Aurora citizens as they were seldom seen.

The Auroran, she said, had one reporter and he was everywhere and well known to all Aurora citizens.

She asked councillors to give further consideration to the staff report and recommendation.

In response to a question if council had the flexibility to make a change the town solicitor replied they did.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner said she agreed The Auroran was a community newspaper and had had positive feedback about the paper but noted there were problems involving cost and timing.

In spite of that, she said The Auroran serves the Aurora community.

Councillor Grace Marsh said she was struggling with the staff recommendation and did not see the lower price as much of a consequence and said the local paper should be supported,

She suggested, as a compromise, a page in each newspaper.

Councillor Bob McRoberts said more was at stake than just the dollar figure and timing.

All residents, he said, received The Auroran and this was not always the case with the Era Banner.

He added that as a citizen he had appeared before council in support of The Auroran when the previous contract had been awarded.

The Auroran also received support from Councillor Al Wilson who said it was a community newspaper and the majority of Aurora residents received the paper in the Wednesday mail and often on Tuesday.

He suggested the report be referred back to staff to consider the comments made and come back with options.

In response to a question staff replied the current contract expired at the end of the year.

It was finally agreed to refer the issue back to staff to prepare a Request for Proposals.

Last year at a general committee meeting, then Councillor John West suggested staff be asked to issue a tender call for the town's "Notice Board".

Councillor Evelyn Buck pointed out then that the town had a contract with the Era Banner for a specified period of time.

Staff members replied the town had gone to tender about three years previously and there wasn't a contract with the Era Banner.

Then Councillor Damir Vrancic agreed that the issue had been before council previously and the tender had been awarded to the Era Banner as it was difficult for council members to support the other bid when a sitting member of council (Ron Wallace) would benefit from it.

When the vote was

called it was lost on a 4-4 vote with Mayor Tim Jones and Councillors Vrancic, Kean and Morris in opposition.

Councillor Wallace declared a conflict of interest and took no part in the debate or vote.

French names submitted for new town subdivision

In accordance with the town's street naming policy, developers have the option of requesting specific street names pending clearance by the region's planning department and approval of the fire department.

Applicants have the opportunity of reviewing the town's approved Bank of Street Names, but after consideration the representative for Ballymore Development decided to submit four names of his own for council's approval last week.

The four names, Lille, Annonay, Soleil and Beau were submitted as part of the French theme to go along with the new French High School within the subdivision planned in the Bathurst-Bloomington area.

It was noted that Lille and Annonay are municipalities in France and Soleil means sun or sunshine and Beau means nice or beautiful.

Access to the subdivision

will be by Soleil from Bloomington Road.

At the same meeting council approved the street name suffix from Championship Circle to Championship Circle Place located on the former Jimmy Elder horse farm on Yonge Street South.

The proposed street name suffix change was recommended by council in September, 2003, to better reflect the street configuration.

Having the suffix Circle implies the street is shaped that way and could cause confusion for residents and emergency services.

However, the street name Championship Circle was registered on the subdivision agreement and the registered plan.

In order to add the suffix "Place", the process for changing a street name was carried out and as there were no objections, council approved the change.

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2800 Rutherford Road
Vaughan

PowerStream East
8100 Warden Avenue
Markham

Vaughan Civic Centre (Cashier)
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Maple

Richmond Hill Municipal Offices
(Ground Floor, Clerk's Office)
225 East Beaver Creek Road

Comments related to the proposed changes to PowerStream's Conditions of Service may be submitted **no later than September 19, 2007** by postal mail to Mr. J. J. Mulrooney, Director of Engineering, P.O. Box 3700 Concord, Ontario L4K 5N2, or by email to info@powerstream.ca

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Children living in the Machell's Corners Housing Co-op were the winners last week when a new playground was made available to them in a single day. There are more than 100 children living in the co-op, located in the southwest part of Aurora. The co-op was recently selected to receive a Home Depot playground to which the company provides both financial and volunteer support. Between 100 and 150 volunteers assembled the playground in a single day.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Aurora fire department active in 1984

In 1984, the Aurora Fire Department (today it's part of the Central York Fire Services) consisted of a full-time Fire Chief, Fire Prevention Officer and four full-time firefighters.

There was a volunteer Deputy Fire Chief and 15 volunteer firefighters.

The full-time staff also served as volunteers.

During the year, four volunteers, two of them long-time members, left the brigade and a fifth became a full-time firefighter. Two volunteers joined the department.

The firefighters have a Code of Ethics which states in part that their fundamental duty is to serve mankind, to safeguard and preserve life and property against the elements of fire and disaster and maintain a proficiency in the art and science of firefighting.

During 1984 there were 406 fire alarms, up three

over 1983.

Fire losses for the year totalled \$1.6 million, an increase of 852.9 per cent over the previous year.

The largest single loss was \$1.5 million, the result of a November 25, 1984, Yonge Street fire, which wiped out eight apartments and three businesses.

There were no fire deaths during the year, but two civilians suffered minor burn injuries as a result of a fire and there were 24 firefighter injuries, mostly of a minor nature.

Training was high on the list of priorities during 1984.

A new training format was developed to allow the volunteers to achieve a higher degree of proficiency, both in theory and practical aspects of firefighting.

Several simulated training exercises were carried out during the year including a mock house fire, air bag and jaws-of-life demonstra-

tions and an interior fire attack and house fire on an old farm house donated to the fire department by the owner.

Ironically, that "practice" fire occurred the afternoon prior to the Yonge Street blaze which was reported shortly after midnight.

Another priority was fire prevention and activities were increased in several areas due to the Ontario Fire Code and retrofit for assembly occupancy such as boarding, rooming houses and churches.

September 20, 1984, was a very special day for the department as Fire Chief Stu Wilson arrived at the Edward Street fire hall driving a new aerial ladder truck from the manufacturer in Pierreville, Quebec.

It got its first taste of action the night of the November Yonge Street fire, the worst blaze battled by the department in 12 years,

Gateway feature finally approved

It has taken a long time but council finally agreed to the gateway entrance feature to the Brookvalley residential development now under construction at the southeast corner of Bayview Avenue and the Vandorf Sideroad.

At a previous meeting council directed staff to bring back options for council's consideration.

The estimated cost of the proposed entrance feature to the subdivision is \$234,900 and the developer has agreed to pay the town 25 per cent of the construction cost, landscaping and community mail box.

It was pointed out that if the contribution was placed in a reserve account with an estimated four per cent return the interest payments alone would permit replacement of the entrance feature within 22 years or approximately half the estimated life span.

Based on these calculations staff are confident that these features can be maintained and replaced in perpetuity from the contribution to reserves.

Any remaining funds could be used to replace dead or diseased plant materials on

public property.

With that assurance council approved the report.

The 40-acre parcel of land was draft approved for a residential development of 75 homes by Brookvalley Developments last October.

Brookvalley proposed a gateway feature at the entrance on the Vandorf Sideroad with the design incorporating a kiosk type of structure constructed of stone and wood to identify the community.

The applicant is also proposing to incorporate the community mail box into a feature that would provide a lookout over the stormwater management pond including benches, landscaping and a trellis structure.

At a previous meeting, Councillor Evelyn Buck suggested the applicant's proposal and the 25 per cent maintenance costs be adopted but was unable to obtain a seconder to her motion.

Recently, Naz Hiyate, development manager, and Donna Lue of Brookvalley Developments presented a coloured booklet depicting various options for the gateway feature.

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Baldwin's was once a mill

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

It sat lonely and forlorn on Wellington Street East, an empty shell of a building which had a proud past and was now looking for a bright future.

The former Aurora Flour and Feed Mill, later Baldwin's Mill, was given a new lease on life by council in May, 1998.

The old mill located on the north side of Wellington Street East, just west of the CNR tracks, was to be rehabilitated to accommodate business and professional offices, limited retail uses, light industrial and warehousing uses and a restaurant.

Built around 1920, the building is one of the few remaining examples in Aurora of pre-World War II industrial architecture.

But it started long before that when the Mill was located on Wellington Street West at (do you think there's any connection here?) Mill Street.

A mill was located on this site as early as 1845, probably operated by Jacob Hollingshead, then the Irwin family and later the Baldwin family, who produced Aurora Belle Flour, which was once advertised as "Canada's Finest Pastry Flour".

The creeks running through Aurora provided an early source of power.

One of them, known as Red Willow Creek, was dammed north of the present day Hillview Road.

A mill race was built to control the flow of water from the pond to the mill.

The mill was destroyed by fire in 1920.

Recognizing the advantages of being located by a railway siding, William Baldwin, Mayor of Aurora

from 1908 to 1918 and again in 1921, rebuilt the mill in 1921 on property he had purchased on Wellington Street East.

By 1925, the business, now operated by William's sons, George and Gordon, with a change in name to Aurora Flour and Feed Mill, boomed.

However, a disastrous fire in June, 1955, brought an end to the milling history of the Baldwin family.

The site was designated in the Aurora official plan as being within a Heritage Resource Area and the building was included on the town's list of heritage properties.

The southerly portion of the property contained the building while the northerly portion on the north side of Centre Street was reserved for parking.

York Region's transportation department advised that direct access would only be permitted from Centre Street, but due to the poor sightlines on Centre Street created by

the elevation of the railway tracks, approval was granted for limited access from Wellington Street.

The property was acquired by a group of local businessmen who planned to restore and renovate the shell of a building and in April, 1997, an application was submitted to the town for the redevelopment of the building and property.

By January, 1999, the application was dormant pending finding prospective tenants for the site.

In March, 2000, a plan was submitted to the town's planning department for a 3,400 square foot restaurant to occupy a portion of the ground floor with offices occupying the remainder of the ground floor and second floor.

Allan Fisher, representing the local owners, advised council members that the exterior of the building and architecture would be preserved to keep the history of the building alive, with council

approving the application. With the opening of Baldwin's Restaurant, the historic mill went from fine flour to fine dining and the history of the building continues.

Bridge results

Aurora Senior Centre Duplicate Bridge

Monday, July 16: N/S - Carol Gordon & Brenda Smith; Mary Oglanby & Joan Rotenberg; Gloria Smith & Inger Kamel. E/W - Suzanne Nunn & Frank Lablans; Lucille Sequeira & Judy Salmon; Zeta Corry & Jeannine Mackie.

Aurora Bridge Club

Tuesday, July 17: Ross Jenkinson & Catherine Balant; Don Jackson & Shirley Hulbig; Peter Winders & Bill Scheel; Marg & Paul Macfarlane.

Wednesday, July 18: N/S - Ross Jenkinson & Wally Browne; Paul Graves & Shirley Hulbig; Alex Carpenter & Beth Stokell. E/W - George Jordan & Paul Stanbury; George Payment & Dave Neil; Ken & Rosemarie Masson.

Thursday, July 19: Kris & Phil Dontigny; Doris Van DerVeen & Geri Adam; Irene Doran & Gayle Leitch.

Friday, July 20: N/S - Ron Smith & Hans Jacob; Don & Lena Jackson; Ken & Rosemarie Masson. E/W - Virginia Smereka & Paul Caleb; Paul Stanbury & Deanne Dennison; Olly Smolak & James Longley.



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Artist Olga Kays shows one of her works on display last week during an art show at Aurora's Park Place Manor. Olga has the distinction of being the first resident to move into Park Place, and in her spare time, she tends to the Manor's gardens.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

School's topsoil will be removed

The new Catholic High School on Wellington Street East moved another step forward with council's approval for a permit to remove topsoil last week.

The official plan and zoning bylaw amendments were approved by council following the public planning meeting last March and the site plan is currently being processed.

The applicant has informed staff that a general tender for the project is scheduled to be released in October with an opening planned in September, 2009.

In order to meet the construction schedule and the anticipated opening date, school board officials asked for a topsoil permit in advance of approval of the project.

The applicant would like to start pre-grading the area of the building along with the access road to Industrial Parkway North as soon as possible to enable them to start structural steel erection for the school building next spring.

As it is not normal policy to issue a topsoil permit in advance of council's approval of the development, staff presented the request to council for consideration.

It was noted that similar requests for early

Arboretum members officially volunteers

In 1995 a group of Aurora citizens formed the Aurora Community Arboretum program to work with the town's Leisure Services department to encourage citizen participation in the greening of the municipality.

Ken Smith, Aurora's 2001 Citizen of the Year, conceived the concept and started with two acres of land just west of the Town Hall with plans to gradually expand along the lowlands of the river valley as part of the Adopt-A-Park project.

A staff report to last week's council meeting recommended council formally recognize the Aurora Community Arboretum as a Volunteer Group.

It was proposed the town and the Arboretum enter into a Community Partnership Program Agreement whereby the ACA would fulfill its commitment to plant trees and shrubs in designated areas in accordance with the Arboretum Master Plan.

The town's corporate insurance policy provides an opportunity to provide liability insurance coverage for ACA members, but to do so it is necessary for council to formally recognize the Arboretum as a volunteer group.

Although the town will provide liability coverage for the group, individual members will still be required to maintain their own personal insurance.

Councillors noted there were several volunteer groups assisting the town and questioned if the poli-

cy was for all groups or just ACA members.

Staff replied that there are different arrangements with various groups and council's action may generate further discussion with other groups.

Computer room being updated

Last year Aurora Council hired a consultant to study the town's computer room and environment.

The final report contained several recommendations for modifications and upgrades and were included as part of a three-phased project in the 2007, 2008 and 2009 capital budgets.

The 2007 capital budget provided funding for the redesign and reconstruction of the computer room, installation of upgraded air conditioning units and upgrades of the electrical equipment to accommodate the additional hardware.

Ten companies picked up the Request for Proposals but only one submitted a proposal.

After checking references, the contract was awarded to Base General Contracting for \$79,979 plus tax.

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Bryan Moir is a member of Aurora's Economic Development Advisory Committee

By BRYAN MOIR

Aurora Horse Show boosted economy

I love the smell of horse manure in the morning...it smells like...a thriving community!

As a town rapidly grows, filling up with new residents who have no historical ties to the agricultural history of our community, we collectively forget the past and cast aside those things that made us what we are today.

Town councils (and town sages) throughout Ontario play a vital role reminding us about our past and ensuring that these ties are not obliterated in our rush to build the next Wal-Mart or new housing developments.

With that said, I would like to discuss one of the cultural "engines" that is in danger of disappearing from the community fabric of Aurora: the Annual Aurora Horse Show.

The Horse Show has been a fixture in our town since 1922, and I think we would all agree that the Horse Show adds character to our town.

Sponsored by the Aurora Agricultural Society, it has had a few locations, including the Town Park until 1970, when members of the Agricultural Society helped to lay tiles in Machell Park to allow for better drainage and serve as a future home for the show.

I love horse shows.

I don't ride or own a horse, but there is something about a horse show that takes me away from my e-mail, web surfing, and the 500 channel universe and back to a time long past that calms and humanizes me, if only for a moment.

We all have seen the horses, the riders and the big rigs that transport them, along with the many folks who come to Aurora in June to participate in the Show.

At one time the Horse Show was a national event, and Aurora was considered a major stop on the tour.

It attracted well over 1200 competitors from across Canada, the United States, and abroad.

People camped and built temporary stalls for their horses on the property where the Howard Johnson and other businesses now stand.

Along with the 1200 competitors, another 3,000-4000 people would come to watch the event and frequent the merchants along Yonge, Wellington and elsewhere in Aurora. For many businesses it always signalled the start to what they hoped would be a great summer, and brought with it a substantial amount of tourist dollars.

With the development of the hotels and plazas and the loss of temporary camping and stabling facilities for the horses, the show lost its national status to become a provincial show attracting 200-300 competitors.

Now it, too, is in danger of disappearing.

The economic impact, while minor when compared with its former glory, is still significant enough that our town will be poorer with its demise.

Tourism studies show that three people accompany each competitor and spend on average \$60 per person, per day. So even with its lower number of competitors this 2-3 day event still generates \$70,000 for Aurora merchants over one weekend.

In addition, York Region is home to some of the country's best horse breeders and riding academies.

The equestrian industry is one of the largest employers in the region and contributes substantially to the local economy.

With about \$400 million in capital investment, the industry contributes \$40 million in revenue to local farms and stables, \$37 million in direct expenditures to local feed, bedding, product and service providers, and provides more than 6,000 full-time jobs within the Region.

In addition, the industry brings approximately 100,000 people to the Region each year to participate in riding and other horse-related activities and an additional 300,000 plus equine tourists.

This represents an infusion of roughly \$20-24 million in tourism-based spending.

The economic impact of these equine-tourists is substantial, and we in Aurora get a sizable portion of this yearly traffic. The Horse Show acts like an open house. It does for the equine industry what the Aurora Home Show does for the decorating and furniture industries. That is why the Show is so important.

Recently, our Council has had to make one of those "Solomon-like" decisions regarding the use of one of our town parks.

Should they allow the Horse Show to have its traditional weekend date, or should the permit for the park be given to the local soccer club who require an ever-growing number of fields to accommodate their players?

Parks are one of those public goods that are designed to host a wide range of events that improve the overall quality of life in our community.

While access and use of land and facilities should always be made available to the broader public, there are times when their exclusive use for weekend events by special interest groups is warranted.

Use of the park in support of the Horse Show is one of those times.

However, some economic benefits cannot be measured in dollars alone.

These are the qualitative benefits, such as the how it makes us feel about ourselves as a community, the connections it creates with our fast vanishing past and the rounding of the sharp edges or our technologically advanced present. Sometimes the smell of horse manure is just what the doctor ordered. These are the things that bind us together and provide the cement that keeps our community together.

So consider the implications of the decision Town Council has been asked to make regarding the use of Machell Park, when you hear comments like...it's only a horse show.

Power here should continue as long as equipment works

If there are no equipment failures this summer, hydro users in northern York Region shouldn't have to worry too much regardless of the temperature.

With normal temperatures, even with a power outage of a transformer circuit or transformer at Armitage, major problems will be avoided, however, with high temperatures and a power outage there would be a service interruption until the transmission line can be repaired or transformer replaced.

Hydro One is in the process of installing a spare transformer at Armitage, which will significantly reduce the interruption time if a transformer fails and the temperature is high.

The Ontario Power Authority had hoped the transformer station at Holland Junction in King Township would be operational this year, but due to delays including a request by King Township for a bump-up in the environmental assessment, it is behind schedule.

As the Minister of the Environment has rejected the bump-up request, the project is now proceeding but will not be available until 2009, and once this facility is operational, local energy problems should be averted for a period of time.

This was the message that Ian Munroe, an Aurora resident appointed as a volunteer member of a Ontario Power Authority task force on Northern York Region Power Issues brought to a special general committee meeting of Aurora Council last week. The OPA technical report also mentions a proposed transformer station in Aurora, but it will not be required until about 2015.

In a report to the general committee, Aurora's CAO John Rogers, also a member of the Task Force, noted the Ontario Energy Board directed the OPA to file evidence to assist the board in determining whether and how it may be necessary for the board to exercise its regulatory authority to address the growing demand for electricity in York Region.

The CAO provided a brief verbal report as to background which made the study necessary, going back to the local opposition to the proposed Hydro One enhancement of the transmission line from Markham, through Aurora to Armitage and the need to seek alternatives.

The OPA undertook the York Region Electrical supply as its first public consultation project with a series of public meetings and working groups.

While there is no doubt there is a looming electrical reliability and supply problem in northern York Region, there is no one solution that will resolve the issue of finding a sufficient and reliable supply of electricity.

As a result, the OPA recommended an integrated solution including Demand Reduction, Transformation and Additional Local Supply.

Regarding Demand Reduction it was suggested councillors be the leaders, and that PowerStream be asked to find ways to reduce demand.

Staff members were also asked to investigate the possibility of using the services of the Town of Markham's Energy Conservation Office to assist in energy conservation programs.

There is the possibility a second transformer station will be required in the event that the existing Armitage Transformer Station and the Holland Junction Station reach capacity.

The preferred location for the second transformer station is in northern Aurora close to the existing hydro right of way at a site yet to be determined.

It was suggested that the site selection process begin as soon as possible, even though the earliest date for this transformer station being required is 2011.

The OPA indicates that generation in northern York Region is preferred over generation elsewhere.

The type of generation recommended would be natural gas and only operational when there is a high demand on the overall system.

These plants are termed Peak Generation Plants.

It was also noted that with the sale of Aurora Hydro to PowerStream, additional lines were required and this has helped to remove some of the load from the Armitage Station.

Several questions were asked by committee members about different aspects of the reports regarding the steps PowerStream is taking to reduce demand and it was agreed to obtain this information.

Concern was also expressed about recent power outages in Aurora and questions asked if the proposed projects would overcome that problem.

Staff members replied that power outages were a different issue as they could be caused by high winds, falling trees, animals and other factors.

It was also pointed out that PowerStream is working on technology to alert the utility when there is an outage.

Currently PowerStream is not aware of a power outage in Aurora until somebody calls in to report it, and the more detailed information that can be provided by the caller, the quicker the response time.

It was agreed that staff ask the utility to include this information with bills to consumers.

After more than two hours of presentations, discussions and questions and answers, the reports were accepted as information with the assurance that OPA would provide similar update reports in upcoming years.

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Taxi drivers to be trained

Aurora Council has approved a recommendation from the Accessibility Advisory Committee that the town engage the services of TDM Training to provide accessibility/sensitivity and customer service training to licensed taxi operators within the town at a cost of \$1,950.

It was also recommended and adopted that staff be authorized to proceed with modifications to the service counters in the Building, Planning, Public Works and Leisure Services areas to accommodate customers with accessibility needs at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.

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Senior Scape

By BRIAN WARBURTON

“Stay at homes” find plenty to do at seniors’ centre

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) maintains a nice steady pace, busy and cheerful, gregarious and always welcoming new members.

Many of our regular participating members are elsewhere on holiday while we ‘stay at homes’ continue with our card games, among other diversions.

We play cards every day of the week and on Tuesday and Friday evenings also, including euchre, bid euchre, canasta, bridge and duplicate bridge.

Scrabble and bingo are solid old time favourites and are also played every week.

Check the monthly newsletter for time and day for each game.

The Chess Club started several weeks ago and meets on Wednesday at 1 p.m.

We need more participants and you are welcome whatever your skill level is.

Beginners will be taught to play and will find their level of playing partners.

If you would like to learn to play chess but feel a little intimidated, please come in and we will make you feel at home. Chess works the mind like physical exercise works the body and this among supportive friends who know how to forget a loss quickly while relishing a win at leisure.

For those who are interested, we can show you how to find notable chess games on the internet played by master players, where you can play each game on screen, move by move with a click of the mouse, or return instantly to any part of a game you might find interesting.

This is an area where the computer excels and presents an excellent experience in all spheres of chess.

If you need clarification on the rules we will help you and if you have a chess puzzle you cannot solve, we would love to try and solve it.

Carpet bowling is played Mondays and Thursdays, at 1.30 p.m. and Tuesday evening at 6.30 p.m.

Carpet bowling has proved to be very popular for men and women, so if this catches your imagination come on over and give it a try.

I am troubled by the failure of the ASA wood workshop which is equipped, but has not yet opened.

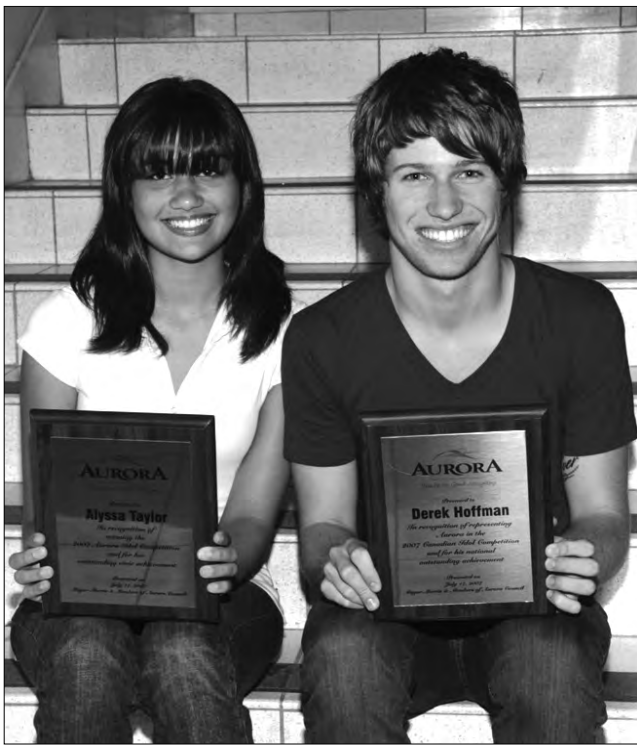
I am concerned that lines of communication have failed to disseminate clarity for the failure to get the wood shop open.

The only outstanding issue I am aware of is a form pertaining to legal liability, and my layman’s legal reasoning cannot resolve that as a competent reason for a lengthy delay.

I want to balance my irritation and complaint by noting that the rest of the seniors’ centre is in excellent running order and open for seniors to pursue their retired pleasure.

The wood workshop is built and equipped and the value wasted every day is the senior pleasure that cannot be recovered.

The situation is regrettable and festering and requires the person or department responsible to communicate the reason for delay, or better still to find a legitimate way to get the wood shop opened.



ALYSSA TAYLOR & DEREK HOFFMAN

Two honoured by the town for “Idol” efforts

In spite of a very long agenda, Aurora council took time Tuesday night to recognize and make a presentation to two Aurorans who brought credit to their home town.

Derek Hoffman was a candidate in the 2007 Canadian Idol Contest and was included in the top 22 competitors and Alyssa Taylor was the 2007 Aurora Idol winner.

In making the presen-

tation, Mayor Phyllis Morris said the two youngsters exemplified the exceptional work and effort that youth in Aurora continuously achieve.

On behalf of council and the citizens of Aurora she presented plaques to both young people to officially recognize them for their dedication, hard work and superior talent.

Aurora cenotaph to get a facelift

Aurora Council has authorized a tender in the amount of \$108,332 be awarded to the Granite Works, the low bidder, for the restoration of the Aurora Cenotaph. Four bids were received.

Council also agreed that a copy of the staff report be forwarded to King Township and the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville seeking financial help.

The World War I Cenotaph was constructed in 1924 to honour those in Aurora and the former Townships of King and Whitchurch who gave their lives in the First World War.

With the passage of time, weather and environmentally related conditions are blamed for the restorative measures needed to fix the Cenotaph.

The scope of the work requires removal and replacement of deteriorated mortar pointing joints between the granite blocks, replacement of the deteriorated base perimeter and various other repairs associated with the interior access shaft, top lantern and lead inscription work.

Council had previously approved an expenditure of \$100,000 in the 2007 capital budget to restore the Cenotaph to its original condition.

The last restoration project involving the memorial occurred in the

early 1990s but with the passage of time, further deterioration is now evident.

The town was successful in obtaining a federal grant in the amount of \$25,000 from Veterans Affairs in 2006 for repairs to the Cenotaph under the "Canada Remembers Program".

Shortly after World War I ended, Sir William Mulock decided that a memorial should be erected in memory of the men from Aurora, Whitchurch and King who gave their lives for their country and he contributed significantly to the project.

The Aurora War Memorial was dedicated in a ceremony in October, 1925.

In tribute to the local fighting men who fell in the Second World War, the Altar of Sacrifice was erected and in November, 1960, was unveiled by Lieutenant Governor J. Keiller Mackay with Wing Commander Dick Illingworth as his Aide de Camp.

For several years the War Memorial was maintained by the Aurora War Memorial Association, with maintenance assistance from the Aurora Parks Department.

In July, 1997, the Town of Aurora assumed ownership of the Memorial.

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Waiting for an explanation

During the reconstruction of the St. John's Sideroad to four lanes by York Region in 2005 through the McKenzie Wetlands, the town paid for a boardwalk with observation lookouts on the north side of the roadway.

But local councillors neglected to insist that the region make some provisions for parking so that families could stop and view the wildlife in the wetlands.

There was also a parking spot needed for family skating on the wetlands during the winter months.

A regional committee heard the comments and in April, 2006, directed staff to investigate alternate parking sites for visitors to the wetlands.

The only viable option recommended by regional staff was to permit parking on the west side of Old Yonge Street which would accommodate about 25 vehicles, but as this was within the town's jurisdiction, any action would have to be initiated by Aurora Council.

That action did not happen.

Then in August, 2006, council agreed to prohibit parking on the west side of Old Yonge Street from St. John's Sideroad to a point 15 metres south of Tara Hill Circle, so the option for wetland parking was no longer available.

In an attempt to provide some parking for families wanting to view the wetlands or skate in winter, Councillor Evelyn Buck suggested that council arrange with the region to block off one lane of the St. John's Sideroad every Sunday as they did for the official opening ceremonies for the roadway.

But council took no action to arrange for any parking after spending taxpayers' dollars to pay for the boardwalk and observation posts.

Why?

BUSINESSMAN DENIED COMPENSATION

In December, 1998, an Aurora business owner lost a bid to obtain compensation for lost revenue during the reconstruction of Yonge Street during the summer months.

In a letter to council, Mike Evans, owner of the True Value Hardware Store on Yonge Street in downtown Aurora wrote that the road work made it difficult for consumers to shop at stores on the street.

He added that this had resulted in a loss of sales and a build-up of stock and that other stores had experienced the same dilemmas.

Members of council were told the roadwork had been carried out on schedule and there was no legal obligation on the part of the town to compensate affected business owners so his claim for compensation was denied.

Meanwhile, other citizens said that driving on the newly paved Yonge Street was like driving on silk, it was so smooth.

DATES TO REMEMBER

In 1905, there was little or no interest in the local library as it had become difficult to buy new books and pay the rent and the salary of the librarian.

That year, the spring weather was so good farmers were able to plant their crops early.

Also in 1905 it was reported that someone had stolen a set of buggy shafts from H. Armitage's stable on Centre Street.

He said he had a good idea who took them and unless they were returned within 10 days, the person who took them would be arrested.

We're not sure what happened after the 10 days expired.

School gets renovation money

From page 1
building that would be compatible with the goals and objectives of the town's strategic plan.

After considerable debate it was finally agreed 90 per cent of the proceeds would remain in an investment fund and the earned interest of approximately \$1.2 million annually would be utilized for new initiatives identified in the strategic plan.

It was also agreed that the beginning of each new should council wish to use

any of the principle from the investment fund proper notice must be provided to the public at least 30 days in advance of any discussion in open council.

The remaining 10 per cent was to be used to establish a Council Discretionary Reserve Fund to be expended at the discretion of council and the terms and conditions of the use of these funds will be reviewed at the beginning of each new council.

In 1916, postal customers were advised that pennies would not be accepted for postage and no less than 25 cents worth of stamps would be sold at one time.

In 1930, many oldtimers will remember October 4 when the British dirigible R-100 hovered over Toronto in full view of thousands of spectators.

The R-100 was dismantled in 1931 following the crash of its sister ship, the R-101 in France with a loss of 47 lives.

In 1947, truck drivers received an increase to 85 cents an hour and high school teachers were satisfied with an increase that brought then to \$5,000 per year. Favourite family entertainment was going to the movies on ladies' night when free dishes were given away and the admission was 50 cents.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

In 1966, the Aurora Jaycees presented two, two-foot statues to Aurora Council. One was of Sir John A. Macdonald and the other of George Etienne Cartier.

They were displayed in the council chambers of the former Yonge Street municipal building and in the Mayor's office when the municipality moved its administrative centre to Wellington Street West.

Where are they now?

ST. ANDREW'S VILLAGE PLAZA

St. Andrew's Shopping Centre, at the corner of Yonge Street and Orchard Heights Boulevard, was once a white elephant as prior to March, 1985, it had stood almost empty for two years since it was completed.

Most of the problems centred around financial woes, bankruptcy and receivership.

But by March, 1985, it was 80 per cent leased.

The picturesque red brick plaza with its attractive shops with apartments above in turn-of-the-century styling with clock tower and centre court area was on its way and an official opening was scheduled for May, 1985.

Some of the businesses at that time included the Golden Griddle Pancake House, the Unicorn Pub, Danby Duvets and Brass Beds, Peggy's Fashions, J.J's Fashions, Country Gourmet, Raindrop Florists, Kiddie Kobber, Collectors Collectables, Merle Norman and the W.H. Smith Book Store and Art Gallery.

LET'S TRY THE MAYOR'S RULES AGAIN

In October, 2002, in an effort to make the normal four-hour council meetings shorter, Mayor Tim Jones suggested councillors provide a reason for issues they singled out as needing to be discussed separately.

Despite the new rules, things started to unravel within an hour with Councillor Phyllis Morris and the mayor having a verbal exchange over her right to speak, as she objected to being cut short by the mayor.

During a discussion on an issue, the mayor banged his gavel prompting more comments from Councillor Morris who told him to put his gavel down.

The mayor demanded a retraction of the comment which eventually came but not before he banged the gavel again.

Despite all the bickering, council managed to cut short their meeting time to just more than two hours using the mayor's rules.

Let's try it again!

Last week, staff members advised that the current balance in the fund was \$3,663,393 resulting in unanimous consent by council members to proceed with renovations to Church Street School.

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PRICE CHOPPER

While there has been no official announcement, it's common knowledge around Aurora that the Price Chopper store on Yonge Street will close at the end of September.

Once home to Aurora's IGA store, the property has been a supermarket for several decades.

One wonders who will lease the property, and what it will be used for.

Stay tuned.



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By **MICHAEL SEAMAN**
Community Planner

The eighth article in the Doors Open series features a unique Aurora Heritage site: the Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area, once the home and estate of Timber executive and Mayor of Aurora, Charles Henry Sheppard (1875-1967).

This year's Doors Open Aurora tour will feature a rare glimpse inside the former home of Charles Henry Sheppard, an excellent example of architecture influenced by the English Arts and Crafts movement.

The Doors Open Aurora tour will also look inside the Pefferlaw Log House, part of the Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area and a rare example in Aurora of a 19th Century log house.

While many Aurorans may have visited Sheppard's Bush and walked among its beautiful trees, few are aware of the unique history of this site.

The Doors Open Aurora tour for 2007 will provide visitors with the opportunity to learn more about this heritage treasure as we open the doors to the Charles H. Sheppard House.

Sheppard's Bush was known by the Sheppard family as "Brooklands".

Located at 93 Industrial Parkway South, the estate was established on the edge of the historic town of the Aurora boundary by timber executive Charles Henry Sheppard shortly after the end of the First World War.

Sheppard had made his fortune through his close association with the Georgian Bay Lumber Company, the oldest and largest lumber company in the Georgian Bay Region.

It is understood that Sheppard acquired the property at Aurora, as well as an adjacent farm to the east in order for the family to live close to his son, Reginald, a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, and provide him with the opportunity to go into the farming business.

The Sheppard family also had roots in this part of York County.

Charles' father, William J. Sheppard, had once lived in the area, operating a stage-coach between Newmarket and Sutton.

His wife, Ellen Francis Stocking was also born in Newmarket.

After acquiring the property in 1920, Charles Sheppard hired Architect Alvin Sherlock Mathers to design the house. Mathers was a young but extremely talented architect who later went on to found the firm Mathers and Haldenby which was one of Canada's most prominent architectural

firms of the last century.

Charles Sheppard commissioned Mathers to develop a design for the house influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement, which was very popular at the time.

Inspired by the writings of John Ruskin and William Morris, and a combination of aesthetic and social ideals, the Arts and Crafts Movement emerged in England in the wake of the Industrial revolution as a reaction to the mass production of goods that evolved from it and the social conditions of the people working in those industries.

The Arts and Crafts movement sought to return to traditional craftsmanship and design and was a major influence on British and North American decorative arts and design in the late 19th and early 20th Century including furniture and architecture.

Unlike his contemporary North American architects,

such as Frank Lloyd Wright, who were mostly influenced by the American Arts and Crafts movement (which has its origins in Japanese architecture), Mathers' primary influence in designing the Sheppard House was the English Arts and Crafts movement, the designs of which were based on English Medieval architectural traditions.

With its irregular form, steep pitched roof and banks of multi-paned windows, the Sheppard House shares many similarities with British manor houses from the medieval period.

The house today is virtually unaltered from the day it was completed in 1921.

The interior of the house carries on the Arts and Crafts influence.

Visitors will find Arts and Crafts fireplaces, built in cabinetry, coved ceilings and dark wood trim.

Highlights include the

impressive raised sunrooms and the attractive living room and dining room with pocket doors.

Charles and Ellen Sheppard and their four children (Edith, Reginald, Doris and Margaret) moved into the house in 1921.

Despite living on a 58-acre estate in surroundings much more opulent than the most Aurorans of the day, the Sheppards were very community-spirited people and immediately became active in the town and its activities.

Within a year, Charles had been elected Mayor of Aurora. The Sheppard family also regularly invited Aurorans to enjoy their property throughout their tenure.

Brownies, Scouts and school classes were regularly invited to attend the family's sugaring operations in their vast sugar bush.

Charles showed his concern for the well being of others during the Great

Depression of the 1930s, when he tolerated a "hobo jungle" of unemployed men that sprang up on his property.

During the Second World War, Sheppard gave up his pride and joy, a 130-foot diesel Yacht called the "Ambler", to the war effort.

Originally considered as a minesweeper, the yacht was eventually used as the Admiral's tender in Halifax Harbour.

Charles Sheppard died at the age of 91 in February, 1967, after a long and eventful life and his son E. Reginald Sheppard acquired the land.

Reg Sheppard, as he was known, shared his father's concern for community in a major way.

In November, 1971, it was announced that he would give the family home and estate to the people of Aurora and Ontario for enjoyment of the community.

The property was eventu-



ally transferred to the Ontario Heritage Foundation (Now the Ontario Heritage Trust) in June, 1972, and it is today managed through a joint agreement with the Town of Aurora, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) and the Trust.

The historic Sheppard House, outbuildings and sugar bush are today administered by the LSRCA.

In the initial decades of its ownership the LSRCA continued the tradition established by the Sheppards of tapping the trees in the sugar bush and making maple syrup.

To facilitate this operation the LSRCA built a replica of an historic maple sugar shack in Sheppard's Bush in 1978.

At this time, they also relocated to the bush a 19th Century log cabin.

The log cabin had been originally built in Pefferlaw and was later moved to Aurora where it became the club house of the Aurora Lawn Bowling Club.

The Pefferlaw log house will be open to the public on Doors Open Day.

LSRCA staff will be on hand in the log house to talk about the natural heritage of Sheppard's Bush and provide information about their programs.

Thanks to the LSRCA, the Charles H. Sheppard House will also have its doors open to the public.

It is sure to be one of the highlights of this year's event. Visitors to the house will have a true "doors open experience" as they tour a home that most Aurorans have never been in before.

Inside they will see one of the most impressive Arts and Crafts interiors in the Region, preserved for more than 80 years in an almost museum-like quality.

The tour will also feature display panels about the house and estate, including copies of images from the collection of the Aurora Museum, such as the original house plans and landscape plan.

The Charles Sheppard House is the most recent home in Aurora to be recommended for designation under the Ontario Heritage Act by the Heritage Advisory Committee of Aurora.

Sheppard's Bush, the Pefferlaw Log House and the Charles H. Sheppard House are sites which are definitely not to be missed on this year's Doors Open Aurora tour.

Parking is available in the north Sheppard's Bush parking lot, at the end of Industry Street, south of Mary Street.

For more information about Doors Open Aurora see the Doors Open Aurora web site at www.e-aurora.ca/doorsopenaurora.



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DEATH NOTICE
Balkwill - Margaret, Alicia (nee Phillips) Patterson, April 05, 19??
(guarded secret) - July 19, 2007. Died suddenly at her home in Perry Lane, Oak Ridges. Beloved mom to Bonnie Tiffin and Linda (Dave) Watts. Nana to Holly (Mark) Dickinson, Jonathan (Brie) Tiffin, Scott Tiffin & T.J. Watts. Great Nana to Carrie. Predeceased by her parents, husbands John Hunter Patterson and John Arthur Balkwill, brother Gilbert Phillips and son-in-law Doug Tiffin. Will be missed and remembered by sisters Kaye, Jean, Shirley, brother Bill, many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Margaret, widowed, having raised her two young daughters by herself continued to help others when possible if only with a smile. Her big heart just gave out. Cremation has taken place. A memorial tribute service will be held at the Aurora Royal Canadian Legion, 89 Industrial Pkwy. North on July 26th, 2007 between 1 and 4 p.m. No flowers please! Donations to the Children's Wish Foundation, SPCA or charity of your choice would be appreciated.

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