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Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Week of August 14, 2007

Students keep Hillary House history alive

This summer Aurora's own Hillary House is playing host to two summer students anxious to learn and promote the historic landmark.

Through two grant programs, Allison Petts and Jackie Dixon are able to put their education to good use.

The girls will also have the opportunity to give tours of the house to anyone interested in the history behind Hillary House.

Tours are \$3 for adults and \$2 for children and seniors.

Attending Victoria College at the University of Toronto, Allison is working to complete her

honourary BA in history.

It was because of the Summer Experience Program through the Ontario Ministry of Culture that Allison was able to obtain the position of Curatorial Assistant.

Her responsibilities include working with the Hillary House archives which are a collection of hundreds of documents, books and photographs once owned by the Hillary family.

A group of dedicated volunteers is currently working on an inventory of these documents, while Allison is cataloguing the collection.

Please see page 13



Allison Petts, left, and Jackie Dixon are two summer students working at Hillary House to keep the history of the famous home alive.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



Lifeguards from the Aurora Aquatics team get in shape for this Saturday's Beach Volleyball Tournament to be held on the courts behind the Leisure Complex. Here, left to right, Courtney Laws, Shane Eickmann, Ryan Williams and Ashley Pugh work on the finer points of the game. The 4th annual fundraising "Lifeguards On the Beach" tournament is still accepting participants. Teams will be selling raffle tickets at the event. For further information, call 905-727-3123, extension 3123.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Battle of Yonge Street ready for 2nd go-round

You'll get two games for the price of one this year.

Newmarket-Aurora MP Belinda Stronach will once again host the Battle of Yonge Street II Charity Hockey Game Sunday, September 9, at the Ray Twinney Recreation Complex in Newmarket.

This year hockey enthusiasts will see a game between the NHL Alumni vs 87s Hurricanes at 1.15 p.m. prior to the Battle of Yonge Street game between the Newmarket Hurricanes and the Aurora Tigers at 2:45 p.m.

Last year's game saw the Tigers defeat the Hurricanes in the exhibition encounter.

All proceeds from the event will go to the Regional Cancer Centre being constructed at Southlake Regional Health Centre.

Last year's event raised more than \$23,000 for the Cancer Centre and it is hoped to increase the amount this year.

Ms Stronach said that citizens and businesses of both towns have an opportunity to turn a healthy rivalry between neigh-

bouring towns into a healthier community by supporting the Cancer Centre at Southlake and have some fun in the process.

Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Ray Twinney Complex and Belinda's Constituency Office on Yonge Street in Aurora.

They are also available at The Auroran, 95 Edward Street.

Call 905-727-8874 for more information.

Doors Open pictures see page 8



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PROUD TO BE LIVING AND WORKING IN AURORA



A recent meeting to discuss transportation in York Region was held in Aurora by Oak Ridges MPP and Aurora resident Frank Klees and was well attended. Among those involved were, left to right, Alvin Griffith, Lucy Cunningham, Caroline Trussler, Brian Trussler, Sandra McEleney, Frank Klees, Peter Seemann, Newmarket Councillor Victor Woodhouse, Scott Merrithew, George Joseph, Mike Smith, Dan Coldwell and Derek Murray.

Auroran photo by Rob Shuetze

Henderson Drive vacant property still up for sale

With the approval of the use of funds from council's Discretionary Reserve Fund for the renovation of the Church Street School as the Aurora Heritage Centre as a precedent, possibly the same process could be used to acquire the available green space on Henderson Drive across from the Case Woodlot.

Last September, Carolin Grandin appeared before Aurora's general committee to discuss the

future of the parcel of treed land which was up for sale.

She said she represented about 80 neighbourhood households who were concerned about the possible sale of the property for development which would endanger the beauty of the natural setting and impact on wildlife living in the area.

She referred to the public meetings held regarding the use of the funds from the sale of Aurora Hydro to PowerStream and asked

that a portion of the interest from the hydro sale proceeds be used to purchase the lands to protect their natural state.

Her presentation was received and referred to the agenda item dealing with a report on the Aurora Sale Investment Fund, but after a long discussion regarding the allocation of proceeds, her presentation was not discussed nor any decision made.

Council approved that 90 per cent of the proceeds remain in the reserve fund and the earned interest be utilized for new initiatives identified in the Strategic Plan.

One of the goals of the Strategic Plan is to conserve the town's Natural and Cultural Heritage.

The remaining 10 per cent was placed in the Council Discretionary Fund

to be spent at the discretion of council after following conditions stipulated by a previous council.

At a subsequent council meeting, Ms. Grandin appeared to follow up on her previous presentation and by this time she said she was representing 150 households and many family members were in the audience.

She stressed the value of the trees, the creek that traversed the property and the diversity of the wildlife, and she quoted from the region's Greening Strategy.

It was suggested her request be referred to the 2007 budget deliberations and that a green space strategy be prepared prior to the budget discussions, but no action has yet been taken.

Business can get energy upgrades

PowerStream, which distributes power to Aurora, is one of the fastest growing electricity distribution companies in Canada and is committed to promoting conservation and demand management for small business.

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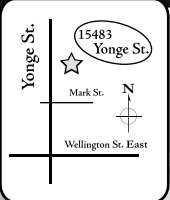
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Poor Richard

Laundry issue goes national

*Aurora has made the national news,
Over homeowners' right to dry;
The arguments against the idea,
Makes council members wonder why.
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

Over the years Aurora has made the national news on the odd occasion and not always in the best of ways.

Aurora became known for its anti-loitering bylaw when the Aurora Police, who didn't like the bylaw, used it to move the wife of the mayor of the day off Yonge Street where she was watching a large fire along with hundreds of other citizens.

In former days, before mechanical clothes dryers, it was a common sight to see clean laundry flapping in the breeze in the backyards of a municipality.

Housewives dried their clothes in the sun and fresh air on an outdoor clothesline secured with clothes pegs.

It was the only way.

More recently, without much public discussion or knowledge, developers started to include a restrictive covenant in the residential sales agreement which prevented the homeowner from using an outdoor clothesline, except for the umbrella-style.

In many cases, a purchaser signed the sales agreement without being aware of the restrictive covenant.

A secondary purchaser of a home from the original owner would not know that a covenant had been signed at a time when energy was not such a costly commodity.

Now Queen's Park and some municipalities are asking residents to conserve energy by using fans instead of air conditioners and to avoid using major appliances, such as washing machines, clothes dryers and dishwashers during peak periods.

With these warnings, it's hard to understand the lack of action by the province in stopping developers from including this restrictive covenant in purchase of sale agreements.

It is just another intrusive regulation that makes no sense.

Citing aesthetics, condominium officials and developers defended the no-clothesline regulation and encouraged homeowners to use umbrella-type clotheslines.

Some residents claimed they didn't want to see their neighbours' laundry blowing in the wind.

If people can't tolerate an occasional glimpse of their neighbours' clothes drying naturally, how will they make some of the drastic changes necessary that will be required to halt global warming, smog days and depletion of non-renewable resources?

In September, 2006, then Councillor Phyllis Morris reacted to this silliness and gave a Notice of Motion regarding the "Right to Dry" to control energy and control rising energy costs.

She pointed out that in Florida clotheslines are protected by a state law that encourages the use of solar power, while other states have taken action against developers for including a restrictive covenant regarding clotheslines.

Her motion to petition the province to remove barriers to energy conservation despite any restrictions imposed by developers was approved unanimously by Aurora Council.

It also made reference to the Energy Conservation Leadership Act which received Royal Assent last March but it has yet to be proclaimed.

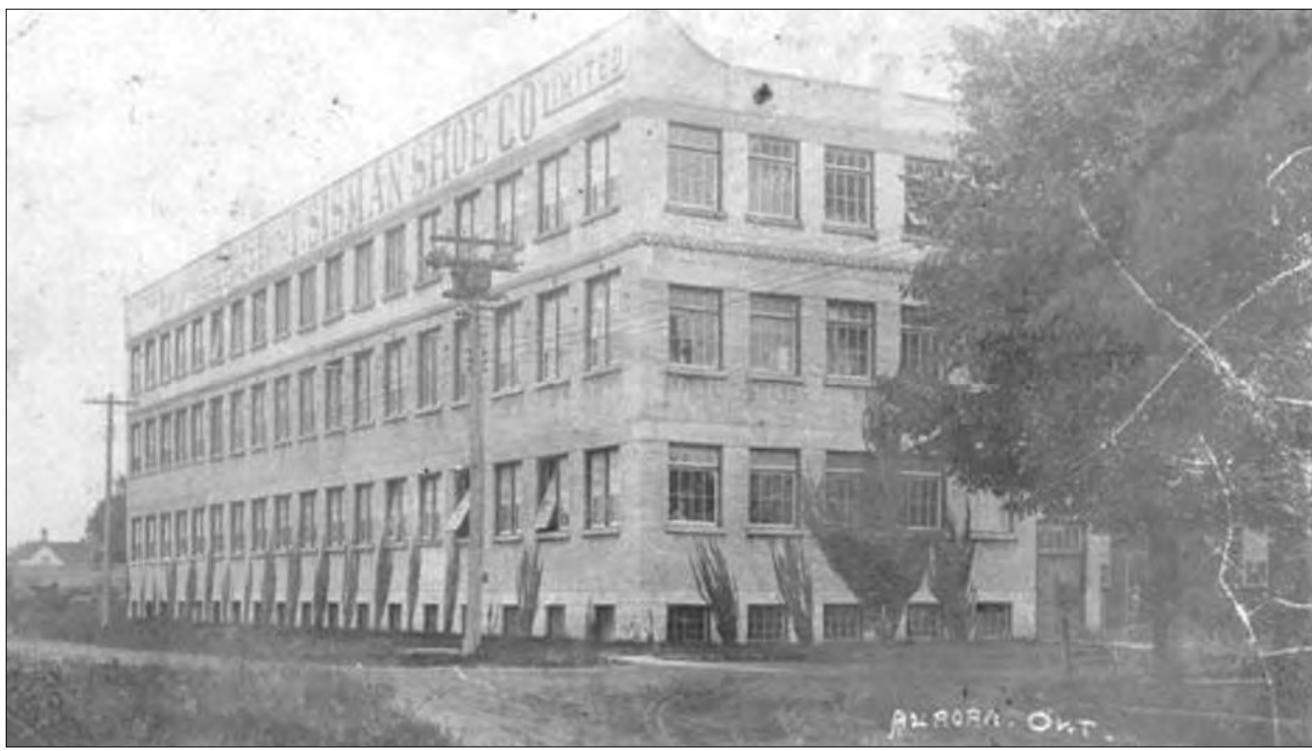
The Act empowers the province to remove barriers to conservation or to promote opportunities for conservation.

The Conservation Council of Ontario and the Wildlife Fund Canada backed the Morris motion.

The Right to Dry motion was picked up by the CanWest News Service and other media outlets making headlines across the country resulting in e-mails of support from individuals and organizations.

There is general agreement that restrictions on clotheslines don't make sense at a time of energy shortages and global warming, and unless there is political will at the provincial or federal levels, nothing will happen.

Once again, Aurora led the way and made the national news.



Once a major firm in Aurora, Sisman Shoes (you may remember the famous Sisman Scamper) operated from this huge building on Berczy Street for years. In partnership with Fred Underhill in 1889, Thomas Sisman opened a shoe plant in Markham, then moved to Aurora three years later. The town gave the new firm a \$10,000 grant to entice them to Aurora plus free water and a tax exemption for 10 years. In 1912 the partnership dissolved with Underhill retaining the original plant on Berczy just north of Mosley, and Sisman in this building, which was later demolished to make room for an expansion to Attridge Lumber. In 1916, Sisman purchased the shares and the company became private. In 1966, Sisman's was sold to Kinney Shoes, but in 1976 the plant closed with a loss of 130 jobs. This photo is from Bob McRoberts' postcard collection.

Letter to the Editor

Faster to go to a vet, this reader maintains

To the editor,

If you were one of the few who have read my manuscript, "Surviving the Health Care System in Ontario", published two years ago in an obscure medical publication out west (go figure, no one would publish it in Ontario) then the following observations will not surprise you!

If I notice a suspicious lump on my body I am going to a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine!

On July 25, the groomer of my dogs noticed a large mass near the mammary gland on Tess (six years of age - mother Old English Sheepdog).

I immediately made an appointment for the following Tuesday, July 31, at which time she was examined, fluid was withdrawn and I was informed that results would determine what course of action would be required.

On Wednesday, August 1, the Vet phoned me and it was arranged that on Friday Tess would have her pre-op and surgery on Tuesday, August 7.

Tess came through the operation and I picked her up the same day, paid roughly \$1,000, received extensive instructions for her recovery and was told that the mass would be analyzed and I would receive the results as soon as available.

On Thursday, August 9, the Vet called with the good news that the tumor was in fact benign, to call her if Tess developed any adverse reactions otherwise she would see me on the 20th to

remove the stitches.

In less than two weeks a major tumor was diagnosed, removed and analyzed!

Now, mind you, this was a dog (a member of my family and a major part of my security system aside) who does not have OHIP, drug or hospital coverage and I have to pay for all services.

Hmmm!

What does this say about our human health care, especially cancer treatment?

Adding insult to injury, my sister was diagnosed with an internal plumbing problem more than three years ago.

Two years ago she had some tissue and an ovary removed. Months later she developed severe bleeding and was prescribed drugs, etc., and after several (chancing) appointments surgery was scheduled (six months down the road). Finally she had the surgery and a huge fibroid was removed August 2 in the morning.

She started hemorrhaging and an emergency hysterectomy was performed.

As a long weekend was approaching she was discharged August 4, two days after two major surgeries (the hospital had only a few patients and closed the ward she was in - it was a long weekend, after all).

She was prescribed Tylenol 3, given no instructions and was released.

The mass that was removed will be looked at eventually and some time down the road she will get results.

Meanwhile she is recuperating, getting advice any-

where she can and hoping she will be able to go back to work and be pain free.

Three years plus, OHIP and extra personal insurance versus two weeks no insurance costing approximately \$1,200. Fortunately, I could find the money for Tess' surgery - not everyone can!

Now I'm not saying that my sister or anyone else is not getting exceptional, expected professional treatment but from my recent experiences I would choose a DVM (at least the one I am

fortunate to have) over a lot of GPs and specialists that I have come in contact with.

If anyone would like to read the manuscript, please contact The Auroran and I will forward you a copy.

Also, I am interested in hearing your medical experiences for a future manuscript.

Hopefully it will affect change in what I feel is a horrible medical system that we are all paying for.

**Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges**

THE AURORAN

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Back in early June I saw a letter to the editor in The Auroran regarding the then upcoming third annual Calmar Crescent Street Festival.

The letter writer provided a very good and detailed description of the past two years' events.

And, as I love the words "free", "food", and "party", and especially when the letter writer used all these in one sentence, I placed this event in my calendar to attend.

And I was not disappointed.

For those of you not familiar with the location of Calmar Crescent, it is situated just south of St. John's Sideroad, near the St. Andrews Golf Course, off Gateway Crescent.

The relatively new subdivision lends itself very well to street parties as the dwellings are part of the "retro look" communities where there is a veranda at the front of all the houses.

It certainly adds to the intimacy of the street.

It makes the environment that much more inviting as you see people sitting on their porches taking things in.

And there were lots of things to take in on that beautiful, warm and sunny afternoon.

I watched the magician enthrall the children, and I also took in some of the street hockey games - although suspiciously most of the "children" playing did not seem to be under the age of 30!

There was lots of food and drinks and hamburgers and hotdogs, plus loads of cotton candy.

There was also basketball, table tennis, an inflatable jumping castle for the kids and a DJ spinning tunes all day.

They also had the use of an "X-Box" electronics games truck, which the young and not so young ones really enjoyed.

The appearance of a York Region fire truck with a full complement of firefighters was also much appreciated.

And to end things, after the sun went down, a movie was shown via the large screen and projector.

I spoke to Claudia Aben, a resident of Calmar Crescent, and one of the organizers of the event.

I asked her how the event got started.

"A couple of families simply decided to do it. We wanted to give something back to the community. The food and drinks were all donated by our surrounding community businesses and the residents of Calmar Crescent," she said.

In addition to providing a good time for families, the proceeds of the day benefit local charities.

The first two years money was given to SouthLake Regional Health Centre while this year the recipient was Yellow Brick House - which is, according to their brochure, "mandated to provide services in York Region to women who have experienced violence and abuse, and their children."

Two years ago, the community gave \$872 to SouthLake and last year they presented them with a cheque for \$500. This year the Calmar Crescent community surpassed all expectations giving \$2,175 to Yellow Brick House.

This is the type of event that makes Aurora a fabulous place to live.

I would like to see more of these events as it brings our community together.

Maybe former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark was right after all; Canada really is a "community of communities", built one Calmar Crescent Street Festival at a time.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

People argue that dogs are better than cats.

This generally irritates cat people enough to cough up a fur ball!

What are you talking about???

Cats are beautiful, intelligent, self-respecting animals!

They make good mousers and excellent document shredders.

Unlike dogs, they are self-cleaning, slobber-free and so brave they will fearlessly bite the hand that feeds them!

Cats are excellent communicators, too.

There will never be any doubt as to how your cat really feels or any question as to the message it is trying to get across.

Trust me - I know these things.

Once, after an unpleasant trip to the vet, I couldn't find my car keys. They turned up in my cat's litter box.

See, a dog would never do such a purely evil thing, argue dog people.

Dogs are loyal, affectionate and don't mind sitting there with their tongues hanging out stupidly as you stroke their fur in the wrong direction.

Dogs are highly trainable. They will sit, beg and roll over on command and don't mind losing all dignity for a crappy little biscuit.

In fact, dogs love humiliation!

Just show a dog a leash and keep a roll of paper towel handy because it will likely get so excited it will piddle for joy!

Cats on the other hand flatly refuse to be leashed.

They can't even tolerate a collar - especially if it has an irritating little bell on the end of it.

What was Aurora Council thinking?

Section 2.4 (a) of the "Cat Control and Licensing By-Law" states: No person shall own a cat unless the cat tag for the

current year is kept securely fastened to the collar of the cat.

Do these people not understand how dangerous it is to annoy a cat - much less Aurora's entire cat population???

Section 1.3 states: "Owner" means the owner of an animal and includes any person who possesses, harbours or regularly attends to the shelter, care or feeding of such an animal...

You've got to be kidding - "possess"? Cats don't have "owners"! They have STAFF!

No wonder the claws came out, the hissing began and the fur still flies!

Not that cats are confrontational. No way!

They much prefer to calmly and patiently watch the bylaw officer issue a ticket to the loose canine's "owner" then once the beast is restrained, strut confidently into view and...enjoy the show.

And who says cats aren't protective? Why, we once had a cat who saved her dog!

One night, we took our little Bronzie for a walk. Bronzie was part Chihuahua, part Daschund - picture a wiener with enormous eyes, two huge ears, and four tiny legs. Cutest mutation you ever saw!

When we got Bronzie, she was dubbed "the pocket dog". She was so small that our cat, Jessie, towered over her. For some reason, Jessie decided to "adopt" Bronzie.

She would play with her, cuddle with her - even groom her. Clearly, our cat was a dog owner.

When we walked Bronzie, Jessie would often come along, sneaking through the bushes like a stalker.

On that fateful evening, it became obvious that our cat had secret service training and wasn't afraid to use it!

We met a big dog - very big. Big as in Malamute or Husky. Of course like most small dogs, Bronzie's little brain was

too small to fit the intelligence that "size DOES matter", so she marched foolishly into Big Dog's face and threatened him with a migraine.

"Ruff-ruff-ruff-ruff-ruff-ruff-ruff-ruff-ruff-ruff..." You get the idea...

Big dog stepped forward, "Woof!"

That's all it took. Little dog's tune instantly changed, becoming rather high pitched and painfully pitiful.

"Yip-yip-yip-yip-yip-yip-yip..." she squeaked as she wrapped her leash around my leg desperately looking for cover behind my shoe.

The boy who was walking Big Dog began to laugh hysterically.

Not recommended when there is there is a tabby wearing a green beret in the vicinity...

A master of covert operations, Jessie jumped out of the bushes and ambushed Big Dog, viciously attaching herself to his face like a muzzle.

Then, super security cat put her document shredding skills to new use.

Suddenly, Big Dog's expression changed: "Yip-yip-yip-yip-yip-yip-yip..." Big Dog's boy joined in: "Yip-yip-yip-yip-yip-yip-yip..."

By the time Jessie was done exacting revenge, both Big Dog and his boy were begging for mercy. The humiliation was excruciating!

Clearly, it is dangerous to underestimate cats.

So when you hear cat people claiming feline superiority, it really is best to sit, stay...maybe even roll over.

They just might be able to prove it!

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

BOUQUETS to the alert motorists, who, when they observe an apparent drunk driver on the road call 911 to alert police and to York Regional Police for their Safe Roads - Your Call initiative. A total of 24 motorists have been charged with impaired driving since the force introduced the program.

BRICKBATS to whoever is responsible at the Town of Aurora for allowing all the lights, including the outdoor lights at the former Victoria Street Library, to be on around noon on one of the hottest days of the summer when the power authority was pleading with users to conserve electricity. The building was empty and the doors locked. Who's in charge?

BRICKBATS to the staff responsible for maintaining the train bell in front of the same library from the steam engine "Toronto" which hauled the first train from Toronto to Machell's Corners in May, 1853. The bell was presented to the town by the Aurora Board of Trade in 1963 as part of Aurora's Centennial Year and the opening of the Victory Street Library as the Centennial Year project. The condition of the bell is disgraceful!

BRICKBATS to Foxy-FM radio station for continually referring to the Civic Holiday as "Lord Simcoe Day". Simcoe was never made a Lord, except in the minds of a hotel chain. It's Civic Holiday in Aurora.

BOUQUETS to Newmarket Council for establishing a citizens' Sports Hall of Fame Committee and inviting citizens to volunteer to assist in identifying criteria for eligibility and a nomination process to showcase athletes, sports figures and teams who have made outstanding contributions and achievements in their sport. It has been discussed in Aurora but nothing has been done.

BRICKBATS to the Liberals for preferring to serve pork on the barbecue circuit this summer. A recent poll on Canadian barbecue habits revealed that the Liberals prefer pork more than the Conservatives and the NDP voters do. Is there a message there?

BOUQUETS to Steve Douglas, a Canadian living in Belgium, who is living a dream. In 1997 as a millennium project decided to create an on-line database containing photos of the 116,000 Canadian war graves around the world. Aided by volunteers and assisted by donations, his non-profit Maple Leaf Legacy project has photographed 104,000 graves to date. His reward comes in the form of letters from families in Canada who obtained photos of the graves of loved ones.

BRICKBATS to the McGuinty government for spending \$2.4 million in legal costs in its court fight with families who have children over age six suffering from autism, who he had promised to assist.

BOUQUETS to the agency "Prevent-it.ca" who took out a full page ad in the Globe and Mail with the message "331 workplace deaths is a big problem, so why are we treating it like such a small one?" crammed into about an inch of space in the centre of a blank page. Very effective!

BRICKBATS to the Canadian investigative and justice systems that allowed officials of the Bre-X Mineral stock hoax to go unpunished after a seven-year trial leaving hundreds of Canadians penniless, while company officials made millions by selling off shares before the crash. Someone was responsible and someone should be punished.

BOUQUETS to Don Frick of Hamlin, Pennsylvania, who beat the saying that lightning never strikes twice in the same spot. He survived his second lightning strike 27 years to the day after his first hit with only a burned zipper and a hole in the back of his jeans.

BRICKBATS to Prime Minister Stephen Harper for visiting some of the flood-stricken areas of Newfoundland without having the courtesy of informing Premier Danny Williams in advance about his plans. Just another example of his arrogance!

Letters to the Editor

It's "incredible" restrictions still exist on clothes lines

To the editor,

Bonnie Tiffin expresses frustration with the stupidity of certain bans forbidding the drying of household laundry on outside clothes lines. (Auroran letter to the editor, July 24). She expressed amazement that some builders request new home buyers

sign contracts not to put up clothes lines outside the homes they will own. In this age of growing awareness of global warming, it seems incredible that such restrictions still exist; where the 'free' drying properties of breezes and sunshine are banished in favour of someone's interpretation

of artistic or social values. Mayor Phyllis Morris - then a councillor - raised the issue of clothes line restrictions late last year and was interviewed by the National Post right outside Aurora Town Hall. A large article followed giving national prominence to her views and our town. Coincidentally in

September, 2006, I had written an article in Environmental Science & Engineering - an Aurora-based national magazine for environmental professionals - on the absurd restrictions on outdoor laundry clotheslines. I noted that tumble dryers have voracious appetites for electrical power at a time when North American cities frequently operate at the very threshold of power-generating capacities. Brown outs and outright power cuts are not at all uncommon these days and populations are expanding faster than power generation facilities.

California once had some 35,000 areas which had some restrictions on outside clothes lines. Florida had similar restrictions. But Florida saw the light and it was sunlight. The law was changed and no longer do Florida condominiums echo to the noise of countless tumble dryers while free and effective drying by sunlight is ignored.

Tom Davey
Editor
Environmental Science & Engineering
Aurora

Do we need curfew, this reader wonders

To the editor,

Recently, as I went to my car, I noticed that the Aurora Cable box at the front of the house was apart. It was not smashed, so a car did not hit it, but the inside frame was bent. So I called ACI and they sent out a repairman. He claims "kids" do it all the time and it is costing ACI "thousands" each year. The green cover box is locked down, but after five or ten minutes, according to the repairman, of manhandling it will come off!

Guess who gets to pay for this prank in higher cables fees? Some years ago the

Town put in trees between the sidewalk and the road. So these are not small trees. One morning, there was this branch on the ground. I looked for the spot where it came from. I am over six feet tall and I could not reach the spot where the branch was torn from. However, it appears that the tree ripper may have lost a souvenir, as I found a cigarette lighter under the branch. It was from "PARIS", complete with an Eiffel tower on it. The other night, between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m., some girls decided to congregate at the cor-

ner. We made the mistake of leaving the front windows open. It seems that one girl has a friend called "asshole" as she was on her cell phone talking to this person for at least 10 minutes, with her calling her friend "asshole" every other word. Do these "KIDS" not have a home? Are they allowed to roam and cause mischief at any hour? Do we need to start a curfew, just because some parents do not give a "DAMN" where their children are at night?

Ian Allison
Aurora

Council did right thing in refusing the money

To the editor,

RE: Why Can't Town Find \$5,000 to Support Farmers' Market? (Letters to the Editor, The Auroran, July 31)

Regarding Mr. Nigel Kean's recent letter, the reason why council decided not to support Councillor Stephen Granger's motion to spend \$5,000, is that the motion itself was ill-conceived, and primarily aimed at supporting the political aspirations of the councillor and not for the broader benefit of the farmers' market or the community

at large. The motion demonstrated a fundamental lack of understanding of what is required to promote the market and benefit the community and as proposed, would be a complete waste of taxpayer dollars.

When politicians self-appoint themselves as liaisons to groups that represent potential votes at taxpayer expense, alarm bells should be ringing.

In this case with this misguided attempt, council did the right thing.

John Galt
Aurora



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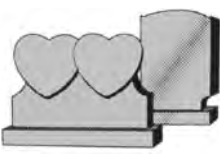
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Letters to the Editor

Reader’s ideas would have attracted tourists

To the editor,

I read with interest your enquiry into the kerfuffle over some missing features on the St. John's Sideroad. I personally went over the parking and so many other issues that would have attracted tourists from near and far. At the time neither the mayor nor council had the foresight and the will to plan the project properly. Among many provisos I detailed included picnicking in the park with benches and barbecues, art in the park, even catch-up school for struggling students.

I also proposed a bridge superstructure with parking for cars. It appears the politicians of the day could not imagine the possibilities at hand? A mayor called me in the 1990s with that wonderful idea about excluding one car lane on Sundays. I told him it was sheer hokum. The taxpayers would scream using their money and space for a bad design. What is more important is that neither the Town nor the Region could allow that to happen. The department for roads

and highways would tell them to take a hike. When I asked a mayor why they could not put stairs in for the skaters he turned it thumbs downs. I guess he thought about pay-as-you-go, like the Leisure Complex. It appears this is now a reality with five skating rinks in Aurora. Now we hear both the Town and the Region are to receive public plaudits. Whatever happened to honesty? Ben Kestein Aurora

When will Yonge be fixed?

To the editor,

I can't be the only one who is so bothered by this to warrant a letter to the editor. Aurora is a beautiful town. A great place to live, shop, raise a family, etc. However, upon entering Aurora, going north on Yonge Street, one may get a different feeling. Over a year ago, there was a large thunderstorm that left a hole on the road under the CN bridge. After many months of traf-

fic cones diverting traffic into the centre lane, the road was finally repaired. Shortly thereafter, the road caved in again. This time, the “powers that be” decided to place metal plates over the hole. Now every car and poor bus that drives over these plates bounce their way under the bridge. Most people have learned to take the centre lane and avoid the curb lane altogether. Now on the opposite side of the road under the bridge

going south, a hold developed after a rainstorm. This has been repaired several times and now appears to be sinking again! What is the problem? Highways can be repaired and repaved overnight. Why can't the roadway leading into our beautiful Aurora be repaired properly and remove the horrible signage “warning, steel plates ahead”? Mrs. Cory Zaretsky Aurora

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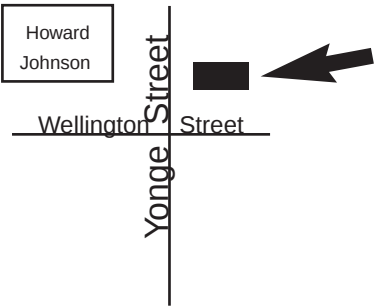
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Doors Open 2007



Hundreds took advantage of perfect weather Saturday to tour 17 locations participating in Doors Open Aurora, held for the second year. Above, Nina Edwards welcomes visitors to Theatre Aurora, while artist Lynn Wilson painted a log cabin in Sheppard's Bush that was open to the public. At right, Aurora Historical Society chairman Stan Rycombel and Aurora Councillor Grace Marsh inspect Aurora's first motorized fire truck, a 1926 International, currently on display at the Edward Street hall. Below, Susan MacDonald greeted guests at Hillary House, while Gord Barnes welcomed visitors to his garden, inviting them to return next weekend for his annual tomat- to tasting event.

Auroran photos by David Falconer



“Bench in the Sun” marks theatre anniversary

Theatre Aurora has reached an incredible milestone.

With the opening of Ron Clark's comedy "A Bench in the Sun", Theatre Aurora has launched its 50th season of community theatre in Aurora.

Patrons were asked what plays they had especially enjoyed in previous years and which ones they would like to see again.

They responded with the comedy "Charley's Aunt", the musical "South Pacific" the drama "Night Must Fall" and the comedy "Move Over, Mrs. Markham".

"A Bench in the Sun" is a relatively new play and the performance at the Factory Theatre is the community theatre premiere.

It was a last minute replacement for the originally scheduled play "Dial 'M' for Murder" and was put together in fewer than three weeks by Director Thom Currie and a talented cast.

It is the story of Harold and Burt, friends since childhood, who live in a retirement home and spend their days on a bench in the garden arguing on any and every topic.

Then a once famous actress moves in giving them something new to argue about as they vie for her attention.

It is a story of old friends, of love and a community

made up of wonderful characters and provides a funny and honest look at aging in society.

As Director Thom Currie writes in the program; "Like the characters in the play, many members and patrons have grown up and grown older at Theatre Aurora, and yet we still have the joy of putting on and enjoying a show.

"This is what makes A Bench in the Sun a wonderful show to start Theatre Aurora's Golden Anniversary Season."

There is a very simple set with a park bench in front of a background of trees and shrubs in the garden of Valley View Gardens Retirement Home.

Burt is played by Frank Hawkins, a veteran performer at Theatre Aurora who always delivers an outstanding performance.

He is the sloppy one of the pair as he appears in his pajamas and an old sweater, except when the actress appears. Then he switches to a sports jacket and slacks.

He loves to read his paper but has trouble doing so with constant interruptions by Harold.

Harold is played by Brian More in his first appearance with Theatre Aurora after more than 30 years experience performing and directing at the Curtain Club in

Richmond Hill.

He is very dapper, always dressed as a gentleman with shirt and tie and walks with a cane.

He wears a different outfit in every scene and believes his attire will attract the attention of Adrienne, the actress.

Adrienne is played by Betty Kelly, well-known to Theatre Aurora audiences for her appearance in the chorus of several musicals.

This was her first performance in a lead role and she held her own with the two males.

She plans many activities at the home including dances and trips.

One of the many highlights in the show is Burt pleading with Harold to teach him how to dance so he can dance with Adrienne and to see the two of them doing a waltz was a delight.

Another highlight was at the opening of each scene when a woman's voice came over the sound sys-

tem giving information to the residents about the day's activities.

That brought gales of laughter from the audience.

It is a very humorous play with witty lines well delivered by talented performers keeping the opening night audience in laughter.

Prior to the performance, Auroran writer Dick Illingworth was thanked as a longtime media supporter and was presented with a cast photo of the production of "The Prisoner of Second Avenue" in 1982 in which he played the role of Roger Keating, a newscaster.

Also honoured was Auroran editor Ron Wallace for his support of Theatre Aurora over the years and his portrayal of Speed, one of the poker players in "The Odd Couple".

In the lobby of Theatre Aurora is a display of posters over the 50 years and books of pictures and reviews of plays over the

years. It's an enjoyable trip into the past.

For an evening of laughter, a touching story wonderfully preformed by talented actors don't miss "A

Bench in the Sun" which continues at the Factory Theatre August 15, 16, 17 and 18 at 8 p.m.

Call 905-727-3669 for tickets and information.

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By BRYAN MOIR

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

Who is controlling Aurora's future?

The Hemson Report is the blueprint for Aurora's future growth.

Aurora is going to have its growth "managed" whether we like it or not, by the Region and other interested parties, in order to accommodate a target population of 75,000.

This means at least another 11,400 housing units, and 20,000 more people.

Recently, parts of the northwest side of Aurora ran out of water.

The Region made the decision to shut down water to the northwest side of Town.

This ominously begs the question, "Who is in charge?"

It is certainly not our elected mayor and councillors. They were not even consulted or informed.

Water shortages are not the only indication that the problems are larger than they appear.

Like the iceberg that the Titanic hit, residential growth has had other negative impacts on Aurora.

Local businesses are experiencing power outages and brown-outs.

Traffic congestion, once unheard of, has become commonplace, air quality has deteriorated, green space is disappearing, and there is increased pressure on our schools and recreational facilities.

There are also financial implications for us as residents. New residential growth does not pay for itself as it once did. In simple terms, this means that for every house built, the Aurora taxpayer subsidizes a portion for the developer.

Today, Aurora needs ever increasing amounts of capital to finance an infrastructure wearing out at a faster rate than projected to support the growth many

of us did not want in the first place.

The bureaucrats will claim that this is temporary, that "all is well" quoting from the closing scene of Animal House.

But in most cases it is the questionable professional competence of these same people and the short-term vision (or no vision at all) of past mayors and councils who created the problems in the first place.

Managing water supplies is a well-documented simple engineering process, that is, until a mayor, councillor, bureaucrat, or developer wants to increase the densities above the prescribed plan.

More homes mean more water and power consumption. It's not rocket science.

For far too many years, our municipal government has not always worked in the public's best interest.

In many cases it has been a servant of the developers and builders without concern for the long-term impact of their plans.

If municipal government is to serve the best interests of the people, then the people have to take a more active role in the process in order to make it accountable.

Residents not only have the responsibility to question the government's every decision, but also have the duty to hold them accountable at election time.

Government does not happen in a vacuum, it needs constant input from the public.

Only in this way can government be an effective tool, speaking for the people, to build and shape a community to reflect a common vision, to build a quality of life, and to allow for the occasional watering of the garden and grass during the summer.



Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris did the honours last week to officially open Sangster's Health Centre, located at 15570 Yonge Street. Helping her was store owner Paul Hartsman. Sangster's Health Centres are in more than 35 Canadian locations.

Auroran photo by Bob Ince

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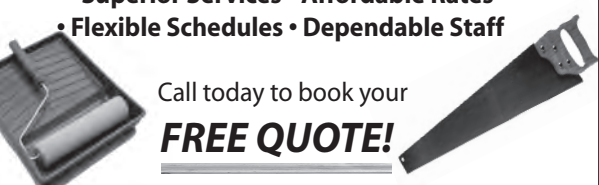
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Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Regional Cancer Centre at Southlake. A large portion of the proceeds will be used to fund research and treatment for cancer.





This building, currently the home of Jersey's, is a far cry from what it looked like in the past. It has served over the years as Smokey's, Tymes and Palmateer's, owned by National Hockey League goaltender Mike Palmateer.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Lengthy list of pubs located at Jersey's

Now operating as Jersey's Pub and Restaurant, the building on Yonge Street in Aurora, has had a long history of providing citizens with the best in food, entertainment and atmosphere.

It was in September, 1987, when the Bedali family bought the business from Mike Palmateer, a former National Hockey League goaltender.

Joseph Bedali used to own the Brunswick House in Toronto.

Originally, the old building was a deli and bakery for several years and later a real estate office.

In February, 1981, it opened as "Smokey's Deli," featuring the best in corned beef sandwiches.

All sandwiches included four ounces of meat including corned beef, pastrami and roast beef, all prepared on the premises.

There was seating for 40 people and the deli was later licensed by the LCBO.

Business was good and plans were made to establish a chain with new

restaurants in Newmarket and Bradford as a start.

Then disaster struck. In October, 1981, vandals ran roughshod through the deli breaking machines, smashing glass and stealing liquor and beer.

It was the third break-in suffered by the deli since opening.

Paul and Lynn Shiner took over the property and when he started to renovate the building for his "Tymes" Pub and Restaurant, he found that it was in such poor shape that he had to start from scratch and completely rebuild it.

Tymes opened in February, 1984. Shiner saw a void in the town for the kind of a place with a personalized atmosphere in a rustic setting, providing hearty fare and entertainment for the 25 to 45 age group.

The building's bricks came from an old monastery near Sudbury, the authentic beams from old barns in Gilford and

antiques from a mansion in Toronto's Rosedale.

Loaded with antiques and old prints, Tymes acquired the look of a down-home, old English-style restaurant and pub.

Word of mouth news about the opening travelled fast and Tymes soon became a popular meeting place with a variety of draft beer and a pub-style menu.

Early in 1986, Shiner and Palmateer, long time friends, met at the pub and it wasn't long before Palmateer expressed a desire to own the business.

The deal was finalized and Palmateer took over at the end of April, 1986.

He renovated the kitchen and bar area to provide better service and the official opening of "Palmateer's" took place May 16, with an outdoor patio opened a week later.

Palmateer came to Aurora in a roundabout way after he left for Edmonton in the fall of 1985 to try out with the Oilers.

He rented his Don Mills

home to one of the Maple Leaf players.

He was cut from the team due to recurring knee problems and came to Aurora to live with his brother-in-law.

The restaurant business wasn't new to Palmateer.

He first opened a take-out burger and submarine shop in Don Mills, close to where he spent his childhood, which he sold to open up "Palmy's" in Ajax, which he was still operating when he opened in Aurora.

Although some memorabilia from Mike's hockey days could be found hanging in the restaurant, it was never turned into a sports bar.

Whether it was called Smokey's, Tymes, Palmateer's or Jersey's the pub on Yonge Street continues to be a popular meeting place with good drinks, good food and a homey atmosphere.

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Bridge Results

Aurora Bridge Club

Tuesday, July 31: Paul Graves & Linda Lord; Don & Lena Jackson; Marg & Paul Macfarlane; Ed & Virginia Smereka.

Wednesday, August 1: N/S - Ross Jenkinson & Wally Browne; Paul Graves & Vivien Thomas; Marg & Paul Macfarlane. E/W - Joan Rotenberg & Jane Demers; Don & Lena Jackson; Marg Wynarchuk & Bertha King.

Friday, August 3: N/S - Don & Lena Jackson; Marg & Paul Macfarlane; Ron Smith & Hans Jacob; Peter Ho & Jane Demers. E/W - Peter Blakemore & Bob Hull; Marg Burt & Marg Little; Dorothy

Street & Viktoria Spearin.

Aurora Seniors' Centre

Monday, July 30: N/S - Joan Rotenberg & Mary Oglanby; Evelyn Dickie & Audrey Robertson; Carole Bell & Isobel Garrett. E/W -

Christine Wooley & Carolyn Liddy; Pat Clarke & Gerry Reston; Melody Irving & Anne White.

Tuesday, August 7: Carole Bell & Isobel Garrett; Anne White & Jeannine Mackie; Evelyn Dickie & Audrey Robertson.

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Council condones broken bylaws

It doesn't happen often but in November, 1993, Aurora Council closed its eyes to the actions of the St. Andrews Golf Club on the St. John's Sideroad when councillors overlooked a series of bylaw violations and granted an encroachment agreement.

According to staff members, the applicant had ignored provisions of both the approved zoning bylaw and site plan agreement and was constructing the clubhouse in contravention of both.

The applicants wanted to increase the size of the existing temporary structure and to extend the duration of the temporary bylaw respecting the clubhouse for an additional three years.

The building addition was constructed without municipal approval.

Staff members expressed concern about council approving the application it condoned the applicant's actions contrary to the provisions of the zoning bylaw and site plan agreement.

It was suggested that the most appropriate course of action was to request that the building be removed from the sewer easement and be relocated in accordance with the approved site plan agreement.

But if council wished to allow the building addition to remain, it was suggested that the location on the sewer easement be properly identified through a site plan amendment prior to third reading of the enacting bylaw.

Public Works staff noted that the clubhouse had been occupied and the golf course in use for some time and such occupancy was illegal since no permit had been issued and the report listed a number of deficiencies including the installation of a water meter.

While councillors agreed there was no excuse for what happened, no action was taken except to amend the site plan agreement for the building as it had been located over the sewer easement.

AURORA YOUTH JOINS MUSIC TOUR

In July, 1971, a Grade 12 student at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School was selected to join "Summer Sounds '71" a 28-member group of young musicians for a tour of Ontario under a grant from the Department of Education.

Steve Ostick, 17, played bass guitar and performed primarily with Hakamu, a Christian folk music group associated with Trinity Anglican Church and also took part in the vocal numbers.

After selection the group spent three weeks of intensive train-

ing and rehearsal at the Camp of Fine Arts in Parry Sound before going on tour including Ottawa, Toronto, various communities in Northern Ontario and ending up at Ontario Place.

Stephen is the same Stephen Ostick who was elected mayor for the first and only student council in Aurora which was held at the school in cooperation with Aurora Council in 1969.

REMEMBERING THE PET ROCK

It was an idea conceived late at night back in April, 1975, in a Los Angeles bar when friends were complaining about the high costs of pet upkeep.

Gary Dahl, an advertising copywriter, suggested they should have a pet rock, which he claimed was the perfect pet. They didn't eat or have to be taken for walks. Besides it was the perfect gift for a person who had everything.

He and his wife started to assemble the \$5 joke rock in an eye-catching package with a training manual and soon they had 300 employees and in less than nine months were millionaires.

But the boom was short-lived as everyone who wanted one still had it and pet rocks have a long life span.

TRYING TO GET A LOWER SPEED LIMIT

In June, 1996, due to the number of citizen requests for lower speed limits on residential streets in Aurora, council requested the Ministry of Transportation to amend the Highway Traffic Act to empower municipalities to approve a 40 km/hr speed limit within the municipality and post signs at the entrances to the town to warn motorists.

The Ministry advised council that officials did not support the proposal as the entire uniform signing system in use across the province would be in jeopardy and it would create confusion and create difficulties for police enforcement.

However, it was pointed out that municipalities had the power under the Act to lower speed limits in the municipality with the adoption of a bylaw and posting signs on the street.

DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS

A few years back an Aurora youth was fined \$43.65 and received a 15-minute lecture from a police officer for doing 57 km/hr in a 50 km zone.

When the policeman asked if the student realized he was

speeding, the driver replied quite honestly that he had not checked his speedometer.

About the same time a police officer was stopped for speeding for doing 85 to 90 km in a 50 km zone and his excuse was that he had not seen the posted sign with the speed limit on it. He beat the rap.

But don't try to pull the same trick if you are a civilian as the writer tried it a few years back for doing about 85 km/hr in a 60 km zone on a rural road in East Gwillimbury and getting whacked with a fine and loss of points.

NOW YOU KNOW

If you ever wondered where the word "okay" or "OK" came from, it emerged during a craze for deliberate and comic misspelling of abbreviations in Boston in the 1830s.

"OK" was light hearted shorthand for "Oil Korrect" a play on "All Correct".

But some still claim it's an abbreviation for the Greek "Ola Kala" which means much the same thing, while others look to the word "Okeh" which means "it is so" in the native American language Choctaw.

Over the years, "OK" spread around the world, making it one of the most popular words in the English language.

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Summer students keep history alive

From page 1

The archives contain a vast amount of medical texts and documents that provide an insight into medical practices in Southern Ontario, with emphasis on the practices during the last decade of the 19th century up to the sixties.

The Hillary House archives also contain an extensive collection of World War I documents, many of which provide a first hand experience of a medical officer on the battlefield. The collection is an excellent source for primary documents that pertain to Aurora's history, making it priceless to the preservation of Canada's heritage.

"One of the best parts of this job is giving tours," Allison said. "The history of Hillary House is absolutely fascinating, and I love being able to talk about it."

On the business side of Hillary House, Jackie is working to increase aware-

ness of the house and its collection to Aurorans and abroad.

As a recent graduate of Centennial College's Marketing Program, she will soon be attending Atkinson College at York University to further her studies in the marketing field. Jackie was given the opportunity to work at Hillary House through the Young Canada Works grant program created by the Department of Canadian Heritage.

This program is designed for students to have the opportunity to work in a cultural heritage organization.

This summer Jackie's duties as Program and Marketing Coordinator include organizing the summer kids' programs running every Tuesday and Thursday, coordinating the 2007 Kiss Summer Goodbye Golf Tournament fundraiser and marketing for Hillary House through

means of the website and other media outlets.

"What I hope to accomplish most this summer is to encourage young people to visit Hillary House and embrace Aurora's history" she said. "There's more behind these walls than meets the eye."

If you are interested in the summer programs, they continue until August 23 from 1 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday.

Every day is a different

adventure for children ages 5-12 years of age.

Hillary House is located in Aurora at 15372 Yonge Street in Aurora.

Admission is \$7 per person.

The Kiss Summer Goodbye Golf Tournament will be held at Westview Golf Club September 18.

Tickets to play are \$150 and sponsorship is always welcome. Call Hillary House for more information.

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Senior Scope

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Eureka! The woodworking shop is open!

After a long unexplained delay, the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) woodworking shop opened Monday, July 30.

Word of mouth has already accelerated this news around town, and it is with great pleasure and relief that I announce it formally. The woodworking fraternity is jubilant!

This well equipped shop is expected to be a major contributor to excellence of senior years of retirement in Aurora, and a

principle point of interest in the ASA.

Dick Douglas gave me an instructional tour of the wood shop and Mike Varcoe instructed me on shop safety, and I signed a mandatory legal wood shop waiver form.

Initially, the shop is planned to be open five days a week, Monday through Friday and hours of operation will be: 9.30 a.m. until noon, and 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Sign up sheets will be available at the front counter and the

wood shop will be open only when members have signed up.

A core group of members trained in safety and wood shop protocol will have one member in attendance at all times, so that no member will work alone at any time in the shop.

Bear in mind that power tools are powerful in operation and are not designed to think.

They just keep doing what they are designed to do, and cannot distinguish between a piece of wood and an operator or anybody who ventures too

close.

Safety procedures are essential and the first bastion of safety, regardless of procedures and experience, is the wood worker.

Please read the following advice carefully and employ it judiciously. Wear eye protection. Cover up loose flowing hair. Button up clothing. Do not wear loose flowing garments particularly sleeves that might get entangled in power driven equipment. Do not wear jewelry on hands, wrists or around the neck, particularly if it is loose and liable to invoke a zero-tolerance policy in a hurry. Heed the safety personnel at all times.

You are the first line of safety for your own well being; please excel in this aspect of woodshop working.

The woodshop is equipped with a band saw, radial saw, scroll or coping saw, table saw, wood lathe, power grinder, belt sander, a router and about every hand tool invented.

A powerful air cleaning system evacuates all airborne dust out of the building.

This equipment is encompassed in a workshop of about 520 square feet.

Not huge, but new, clean and as safe as can be designed and intended for the handy senior to carve or craft medium size pieces of wood into anything that can be fabricated in a small woodshop.

A woodworking shop provides an environment for deep satisfaction and gratification of

the need to express latent skills possessed by so many people from all parts of the world and walks of life.

Last year when we anticipated the woodshop was near to opening, we had a huge turnout of aspiring woodworkers, including women and we welcome everybody to return.

Business Ambassadors program renewing itself

The Aurora Business Ambassadors Program may not be too well known and has not been too active recently so the Economic Development Advisory Committee wants to do something about.

The group is considering new Terms of Reference.

At the June meeting of the committee it was agreed the issue be deferred until the Economic Development Strategic Plan was formulated.

But in the meantime, the Special Projects Coordinator was asked to identify firms in the bio-tech and other high tech industries and over the summer each EDAC member will visit one of these firms to ask questions which will assist in the development of the Economic Development Strategic Plan.

It was back in October, 1995, when council started to look for Ambassadors to help keep existing businesses afloat and attract new industry to town.

The town's new economic development strategy stressed the need to treat existing businesses as priority clients.

To help achieve its goal

of attracting new ventures to town council planned to deputize business people, councillors and staff as business ambassadors to make sure retailers and new businesses felt wanted.

The ambassadors were equipped with promotional maps, business cards, pins, coupons and complimentary passes and brochures.

In September, 2005, the Economic Development Advisory Committee considered proposed revisions to the Business Ambassadors Program.

They included changes to the number of appointees, length of appointments and required annual meetings.

These revisions were further enhanced with additional input received from representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and current Aurora Business Ambassadors.

The committee agreed to provide input to the Economic Development Officer regarding the terms of reference.

The EDO would prepare a report for a future committee meeting with detailed revisions to the program for the endorsement of the

committee.

In November, 2005, the committee submitted a report to council, which they believed would enhance the program and provide a new perspective and approach that would create more successful outcomes for the municipality.

The Aurora Business Ambassadors program was a unique town initiative to solicit support, talent and advice from a strategic group of key business leaders within the town to assist staff and council to proactively promote Aurora as the place for new business investment.

The program initiative was, and still is, predicated on the belief that it is business that attracts business.

The role of a Business Ambassador was to assist town officials to market and promote Aurora whenever and wherever the opportunity arises.

After that, his or her job was to generate interest among potential new business contacts and provide this information to staff for follow up action.

With any luck, the program will continue to function.



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HELP WANTED ADS ARE FREE to Aurora businesses for July and August. Send email to cynthia@auroran.com or for details 905-727-3300

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HARDWARE RETAIL f/t and p/t positions available. Fax resume to True Value Hardware: 905-727-1374.

CARDINAL GOLF CLUB FOOD & BEVERAGE DEPARTMENT PLEASE resume to fboffice@cardinalgolfclub.com

COMMISSION SALESPERSON HVAC & Water Refining business seeks highly motivated commission sales individual. Excellent potential. Fax resume to 905-713-6327

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