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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 7 No. 46
905-727-3300
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FREE
Week of September 25, 2007

Finally, the plates should disappear

Work has finally begun on the hole in the road that, once complete, should see the end of steel plates on Yonge Street that have been there for more than a year.

Since July, 2006, motorists on south Yonge beneath the CNR overpass have had to change lanes to avoid the plates in the curb lane or bump their way over them.

At that time regional road maintenance staff discovered a depression in the roadway.

A further investigation by closed circuit television revealed the existing storm sewer was in poor condition with areas of severe cracking and collapsing of the concrete storm pipe.

It was decided to close the northbound curb lane of Yonge Street due to a potential road collapse.

Realizing the lane could not remain closed for an extended period of time, region officials

Please see page10

BRIEFLY

Singin' and suds

In order to raise funds, members of the Aurora Opera Company will wash cars this Saturday, Sept. 29 at the Shoppers Drug Mart parking lot Yonge Street and Aurora Heights Drive.

Singers will be on hand from 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. to soap up your car.

They might even sing while they do it.

Nightmare before Christmas

It was such a success last year, members of Aurora Cable Internet are planning a repeat performance of "The Nightmare Before Christmas Charity".

All the scary activity takes place at DiNardo's "Haunted" Mansion on Industrial Parkway South, Friday, Oct. 26.

The event raises money to provide a Christmas for area families who would otherwise have a very bleak holiday.

Last year, 10 families were served.

For further information, call Tracey Mead at 905-727-1981, extension 240, or send an e-mail to tmead@aci.on.ca.

Vote before you vote

If you have a favourite candidate in the upcoming provincial election Oct. 10, you can secretly tell the world.

Go to The Auroran's new website - www.auroran.com - and follow the link.

You can pick your favourite to represent the new riding of Newmarket-Aurora, and you can even express your feelings about the leaders' debate last week.

Don't think, however, you can fill the ballot box by voting several times.

The site will only accept one vote per computer.



Five boys from the same family took part in Saturday's Apple and Honey Festival at Aurora's Farmers' Market. In the front row are Jeremy, Scott, Jesse and Joshua Salomon, with brother Willem standing beside Robin Matthew from Aurora's Real Canadian Superstore. Not everyone, however, was impressed with the festival. That person wrote a letter about it, and it appears on Page 7.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Aurora Community Gardens threatened by property sale

The future of the Aurora Community Gardens on Allaura Boulevard is in doubt as council is considering the sale of the town-owned Jack Wood's property.

The former farmhouse and a portion of the property were used for several years as a child care centre and currently, the building is vacant.

Catherine Cook of the York Region Food Network, which funds and coordinates three community gardens within the region as a way to improve access to food for regional people, appeared before the general committee last week to ask council to sever the gardens from the rest of the property.

She said prior to the current location the gardens were located on private property on Industrial Parkway North before moving to the Jack Wood property.

The gardens need a permanent home, she said.

The gardens are available for use to anyone living in Aurora but priority is given to those residents who have little or no green space of their own.

Gardeners are encouraged to donate a portion of their harvest to the Aurora Food Pantry.

Currently the Aurora gardens

Please see page 10

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COMING EVENTS

Scottish Country Dancing is held every Friday morning at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome.

The York Region Women's Centre will hold a series of orientation sessions for women interested in learning more about the Enterprising Women business course. An orientation session is scheduled at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, Oct. 3, at 9.30 a.m. For more information contact Kirsten Eastwood at 905-727-5837, ext. 203 or by e-mail at ew_kirsten@yahoo.ca. Candidates must attend the orientation session before joining the program.

From Oct. 3 until Nov. 28, on nine Wednesday evenings, the Bereavement Support Group, for adults experiencing the loss of a loved one, will meet at Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge Street from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. For more information, call Mary at 905-727-6984. There is no fee for this program.

Meet at Martha's Table, now in its third season. Every Thursday from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., comfort food and a sense of community is available in the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church hall, Aurora. Any funds raised are directed to other community outreach projects.

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, 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.

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 and interest groups. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

Euchre at the Legion, 1 p.m. every third Sunday.

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

VARIOUS DATES TO SEPT. 29

Theatre Aurora presents "Charley's Aunt" by Brandon Thomas. Call the box office at 905-727-3669 for further details.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Aurora Seniors Association membership drive between 5 and 9 p.m. at the Centre, 5 Municipal Drive. Tours through the building will take place and light refreshments will be served.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

The first ever Words Alive Literary Festival will be held all day at the Sharon Temple and features several people from Aurora. The festival celebrates a rich literary heritage providing a showcase for contemporary local authors. Words Alive is a non-profit organization. The festival will feature Aurora's Marina Nemat, Dr. John McIntyre, and Ron Wallace. Also making an appearance are Eliza Clarke and Barry Dempster. For more information, visit www.wordsalive.ca.

Enjoy songs from musical theatre and 20th century pop at a matinee concert by The Accidentals, with Tom Rainsford as guest vocalist. The 2 p.m. concert will be held in the sanctuary of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Light refreshments served. Tickets: \$8. Sponsored by St. Andrew's Guild.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Blessing of the Animals at the Rectory lawn of Trinity Anglican Church. Bring your pets, large or small, for a blessing as church celebrates St. Francis Day.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

Aurora and Newmarket members of the Chambers of Commerce will host a Business After Five meeting at Georgian Downs racetrack in Innisfil from 5.30 p.m. Cost is \$10 which includes buffet. Pre-registration required. Call 905-727-7262.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

The Aurora Seniors Association has teamed up with Opera York's Concerts for Seniors to present the live, tour-de-force production of Rossini's comic opera, "The Barber of Seville".

The one-hour show will be held at the Seniors' Centre, Thursday, at 2 p.m. Tickets, at \$10 each, are currently on sale at the centre, but are limited to 200. Call 905-726-4767 for further information.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

Provincial election and Referendum Day.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

CHATS presents its United Way Fundraiser "Around the World" from 6 p.m to 9 p.m. at the Aurora office. It will be an international food sampling, wine tasting and silent auction. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the Aurora Office, 126 Wellington Street West, or call 905-713-3373, ext. 6032.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

Aurora Chamber of Commerce annual Business Excellence evening in Aurora. Pre-registration required. Call 905-727-7262.

OCTOBER 19 and 20

Aurora United Church Fall Rummage Sale, 15186 Yonge Street. Hours on October 19: 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on October 20, 9 a.m. to noon. For more information call 905-727-1935.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

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

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PROUD TO BE LIVING AND WORKING IN AURORA



Aurora mayor Phyllis Morris carries a load of dirt to mark the groundbreaking ceremonies of Aurora's newest retirement structure. When complete in 2009, the building will feature 126 suites.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Retirement home will have own pub

Mayor Phyllis Morris took part in a groundbreaking ceremony last week, marking the beginning of a new retirement residence in Aurora.

When finished, Hollandview Trail Retirement Residence will feature 126 rental retirement suites for seniors.

In addition, the building will include a state of the art spa, pool, exercise space, movement studio, hair salon and chiropractic and massage therapy facilities.

It will also feature a pub, cafe, bistro and a movie theatre.

The building, located at the corner of John West Way and Hollandview Trail, is scheduled to open in early 2009.

Joining the mayor at the groundbreaking ceremony were Jordan Bernamoff, president and Chief Executive Officer of Viva Retirement Living Corporation; Rod Wilson, president and Chief Executive Officer of Reichmann Seniors Housing; and Charles Sequeira, chairman of the Aurora Seniors' Association.

"We are very pleased to build the first of our new generation retirement residences in Aurora," Mr. Bernamoff said. "The Hollandview Trail Retirement Residence's location is within walking distance of the Aurora Seniors Centre, the Aurora Town Hall and the Aurora Arboretum."

The building's location is practically in the back yard of the Town Hall.

You can still argue parking ticket

Just because you can now pay parking tickets on your computer, doesn't mean you can't argue them.

According to Mayor Phyllis Morris, "if residents receive a parking ticket in Aurora, there is still the option of attending on a Tuesday or

Relay for Life seeks 2nd run

Based on the first successful Relay for Life held at the Aurora Leisure Complex and Lambert Willson Park this year, representatives of the Holland River Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society appeared before the general committee last week to seek support for the 2008 Relay for Life.

Diana Dawson, Unit President, presented a colourful CD record of the 2007 Relay showing many scenes of the participants, the survivors' lap, the participating team, volunteers and the luminaries around the track at night.

For the first Relay in Aurora, the target was set at \$40,000 but by the end of the Relay \$105,000 had been raised to help make cancer history.

Of the money raised 69 per cent goes to research and prevention, six per cent for administration and 25 per cent for public education and fundraising.

The presentation was received by the general committee and referred to staff members to work out the details with officials of the Holland River Unit.

Thursday for a first attendance discussion with the By-Law Department."

That service is offered two days a week and the procedure takes about 10 minutes.

Appointments can be made by calling 905-727-3123, ext. 4240.

"Should you receive a parking ticket and wish to discuss it, the Town operates this facility for this purpose," she said. "The mandate of this program is to resolve parking tags at the municipal level to diminish the number of tags having to go on trial. This process helps to free up the courts for more important matters while at the same time reducing the amount of time both vehicle owner and the officer has to be in court."

The Town of Aurora introduced the service on its website in August this year. It is hoped online recreation program registration will be introduced in 2008.

To date, about 25 per cent of Aurora's parking tickets have been paid online.

To pay parking tickets online, users must have a valid credit card and the parking infraction notice on hand.

Following the prompts, users are asked for their e-mail address, parking

ticket number and credit card information. The system will then validate the card, process the transaction and provide a con-

firmation number for the transaction.

Residents may still pay their parking tickets in person or by mail.



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Poor Richard

Caddying gave kids extra cash

*Oh, to be young and active once more,
To enjoy the little things we once did;
Returning to caddying at the golf course,
That we did so often as a young kid!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

At one time almost every golfer used a caddy to carry his golf clubs, replace the grass divots, rake the sand in the bunkers and hold the pin on the green.

Not only that but it gave the kids something useful to do and kept them off the streets.

Caddying provided youths a chance to make some pocket money, gave them lots of good, healthy exercise in the fresh air, allowed them to meet people and provided an opportunity to increase their golf knowledge.

Then the mechanized golf cart came along and caddies were no longer in demand, so it was good news to learn that Aurora's Beacon Hall Golf Club had brought back caddying for community youths.

It was in 1924 when I was eight years old that I started to caddy at the prestigious Lambton Golf and Country Club in York Township which was about half-a-mile from home.

At that time we were paid 50 cents for a round of 18 holes, which is a far cry from the \$20 a round that the caddies receive at Beacon Hall.

We didn't receive the money in cash at the end of the round, although we might get a 10 or 25 cent tip if the golfer had a good round.

We received our pay for the week every Saturday morning.

As soon as the golf season started I would head over to the Golf Club from Lambton Park Public School in hopes of getting an evening round with businessmen after a day at the office or a husband and wife out for a game.

The average round took about four hours, especially if the course was crowded, so it was usually around seven o'clock when I got home, starved and tired.

The Caddy Master at the Club was a Mr. Mortimer, a kindly white-haired gentleman who treated the members with respect and was quite fair in selecting the caddies in turn, although he did have some favourites.

When summer holidays came along every day was spent at the golf course and if you were lucky, you could make three rounds during the day, one in the morning with the ladies, one in the afternoon and another in the early evening.

After caddying for a while, some of the golfers got to know you and asked for you when they needed a caddy.

I was very fortunate in this regard as I had several regulars.

One was a Mrs. Thorne who played every morning during the summer months.

She was quite an athlete and a good golfer and I enjoyed caddying for her over a few summers as I caddied until I was about 15.

Almost every Sunday and sometimes during the week she played golf with her husband, a rather short man and not too good a golfer.

They made quite an odd couple.

Another regular was a Mr. Moffat who used the course more as business than pleasure as he was in the business of manufacturing golf equipment.

Sometimes he would forget to count all his strokes.

One of my favourites was a Mr. Tory, a real gentleman who held a high office with Sun Life Insurance.

I found out much later that he was an uncle of John Tory, today's leader of the Ontario Conservative Party.

My very favourite was George S. Lyons, the Grand Old Man of Golf, who was in his seventies and always tried to match his score with his age.

Quite often he did.

As caddies we had the opportunity to use the practice range periodically and once a year there was a Caddy's Golf Tournament on the course and some of the caddies like Hugh and Dick Borthwick and Gordie Delaat went on to become golf professionals.

It was a very happy and rewarding period of my life and I thank Beacon Hall Golf Course for bringing back caddying and a lot of wonderful memories for Poor Richard.



The old stage coach in the top photo caught the fancy of people attending Aurora's Centennial Parade back in 1963. It was entered by Cousin's Dairy Bar. Below, the good ship "Aurora" won first prize in the parade. Made by members of the International Order of Foresters, the ship was mounted on a small car, and had an operating paddle wheel at the rear. Photos were taken by Bert Griffin and supplied to The Auroran by Community Planning Director Micheal Seaman.

Letter to the Editor

Many helped make tourney a success

To the editor,

I would like to thank all of the people who were involved with the Aurora Historical Society's 2nd annual Golf Tournament Tuesday, Sept. 18, at Westview Golf Club.

All money raised will be going to the restoration of Hillary House in Aurora.

Special thanks to the main sponsors: Westview Golf Club and the Nisbet family, Frank Klees who, as usual, comes through at local events, Ron Wallace and The Auroran, always there to help with anything to do with Aurora, and Joe DiNardo at DiNardo's, The Mansion for an incredible meal and superb service.

Also thanks goes out to the many hole sponsors: Ellis Studio, PowerStream, ACI, Home Hardware-Aurora, The Auroran, Frank Klees, Bruce Spragg, HS Financial, Sorley and Still Barristers and Solicitors and Nigel Kean.

Thanks to all the prize sponsors: Sean Herbinson, Home Hardware, Baldwins, King Henry Arms, Alutron

Modules, Ab Cox Pontiac Buick, McAlpine Ford, Bradenick Construction, Bob Sherwood, Caruso's, Shoppers Drug Mart-southend, Tim Jones, Aurora Historical Society, Fraktals, and Vic Priestly.

We raised a lot of money through the generosity of many companies and individuals in Aurora who gave us some great silent auction items, such as Bruce Spragg, Howard Johnson's, Baldwins, King Henry Arms, Alutron Modules, Frank Klees, Suzanne Reiner's father, Timberlane Health and Tennis Club, Nigel Kean and Calloway.

Lastly thanks to those on the committee who helped: Ron Wallace, Suzanne Reiner, Helen Roberts and those from Hillary House.

Thanks again to Tim Jones, who after running all of the Mayor's Golf Tournaments in the past, gave me some great advice.

**Nigel Kean
Aurora**

THE AURORAN

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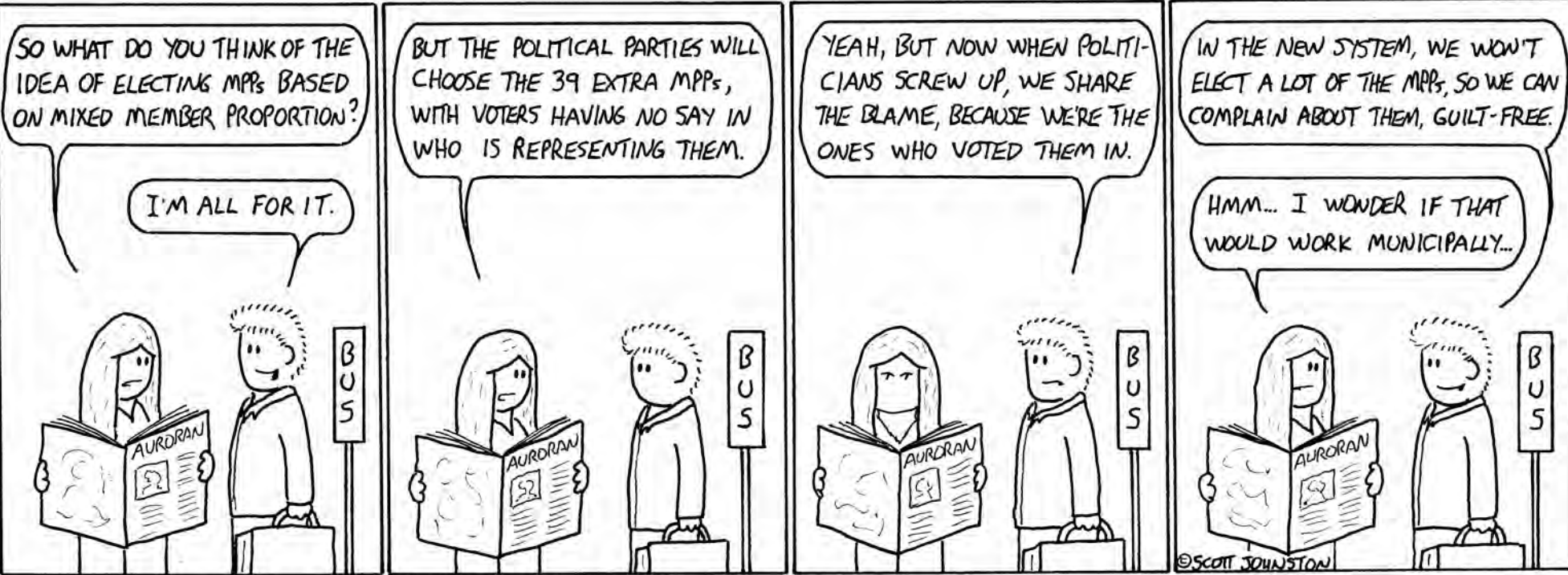
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Election notebook - sign wars

Until now, the provincial election campaign has seemed rather quiet - to the general public, that is.

For the volunteers of the respective political parties, it has been anything but calm; activity has been on-going for the past couple of months.

But now that the provincial Leaders' debate has taken place, hopefully voters will become engaged.

It will be a three-week sprint to the Oct. 10 finish for all the campaign teams.

Some musings and observations from the campaign trail thus far.

You don't need to read the papers, listen to the radio or watch your television to know when a provincial election has begun; simply watch for the lawn signs.

York Region bylaws allow parties to put up signs 60 days ahead of the election call, but most teams wait for the writ to be dropped first.

The premier officially launched the campaign Monday, Sept. 10.

The night prior to Dalton McGuinty's announcement, sign crews were at work so that on the Monday morning, Aurora was awash in political signs.

The amount of signs one sees doesn't correlate exactly to a winning campaign, of course, but they do provide clues as to the organizational strength of the candidate, provide visibility and name recognition and, as the campaign moves along, the more signs on people's lawns, shows momentum.

I was putting up signs last weekend.

First, people are suspicious as you and the other members of your sign crew jump out of the van before it com-

pletely stops; this conveys an extreme sense of urgency to your task.

Neighbours may even think you are members of the York Region Emergency Task Force Team.

People then become intrigued, as they watch one crew member go to the door as the other puts up a sign.

I love it as the neighbour cranes his neck to see what it is being put up.

A sigh of relief comes what they realize it is not a "For Sale" sign.

The homeowner then sees the name of the candidate on the sign and they either smile or may even say something nice to you or they will immediately look away.

In some rare instances, these individuals looked stunned, thinking to themselves, "I thought my neighbour was a good guy - I shared a beer with him yesterday. It turns out that he is an idiot."

I wish I had a digital camera to record some of the looks! Priceless!

I stated in this column two weeks ago that I had not been chased by any dogs (yet) on this campaign.

I have always been afraid of dogs; the reason stems from a personal canvassing incident many years ago.

I was alone on a nice Saturday morning canvassing on behalf of a candidate in Mississauga.

I had just left one house and came out between two cars onto the next property when I saw it, or should I say, we saw each other.

The German Shepherd was not very big - about six feet tall and 700 pounds!

The problem was that I was scared and the dog knew it.

I turned away and ran down the driveway.

Amazingly, the dog was well trained and he stopped at the end of his master's property.

The homeowner was in his white housecoat looking at me from his front window having a great laugh.

He then gave me a special hand gesture signifying, I guess, good will to all.

I, being the good canvasser that I was, placed a notation on the canvass form: "person at household really interested in policy, please send the candidate to discuss!"

I thought I was going to undergo a similar incident last Saturday while erecting lawn signs.

I came upon a house near Mark Street and saw the biggest dog food bowl known to man.

Based upon my rough calculations, the dog's head had to have the same circumference as that of one of those Clydesdale horses that you see in the beer commercials. What scared me more was the size of the dog chain that was attached to the concrete wall.

The word "chain" doesn't really do justice here; I think I saw something similar holding back the T-Rex in the movie Jurassic Park.

My heart rate ever so slowly began to fall from its 215 beats per minute as the dog was nowhere in sight.

Hammers, screws and wood stakes are all part of the sign crews toolkit.

To this, one should add some Michael Vick chew toys for man's best friend.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

Things to do...

Midlife Crisis happens when you realize you've lived more than half your life...and crossed off less than half the items on your "Things To Do Before I Die" list.

By midlife, most of us have gotten in the habit of being driven by a different kind of Do List, the day to day "Things To Do OR ELSE I'll Die" list.

This list includes life threatening monthly items like filing taxes (because the interest and penalties can kill you) and weekly health hazards like taking the garbage out.

Let's face it, by age 40 the knowledge that keeping garbage in the garage for two weeks in high summer can kill you has become encoded in our DNA.

I can't tell you how many times I've sat bolt upright in bed in the wee wee hours of the morning upon hearing the garbage truck! Omigod, it's early!!!

A few times, I've run out to the garage and dragged my garbage across the street and put it at my neighbour's curb so the truck will pick it up on its way around.

This is why Aurora's plan to introduce bag limits makes me break out into a cold sweat!

As if garbage isn't a life or death ordeal all by itself, there are the daily perils: things we do to avoid dying of embarrassment.

Everybody knows that you can't leave the house without brushing your teeth, combing your hair and dabbing a little concealing cream on that nasty pimple.

But in midlife, simple tooth brushing/hair combing has

evolved into multi-tasking madness.

We're more likely to be trimming nose hairs and chin hairs and mole hairs while foaming at the mouth clamped down on trays of tooth whitening gel. And we're not done with the Clearasil yet either!

My bathroom counter is an arsenal of "secret weapons" to combat the aging process.

The older I get, the more space I need! My husband is down to about two square inches of space.

Now that I know the skin on my neck is different from the skin on my face, which is different from the skin on my body, I need a map to navigate my moisturizers!

Lately I've been feeling a little bogged down. I started thinking: Hmmm...I must be doing something wrong here...

Where are all those lists of dreams and desires, wishes and wants...?

The ones that used to inspire me and fill me with excitement back in the days when my whole life seemed spread before me like a vast and endless ocean of possibilities?

A few days ago, a friend sent me an e-mail about a woman who had always dreamed of going to college and one day set out to achieve her goal - at the age of eighty-something!

With three children pursuing higher education in recent years, I wondered why this woman's story seemed extraordinary by comparison.

I thought for a while and an answer dawned on me.

The thing that makes life magical is doing ordinary things in extraordinary ways.

The older we get, the harder it becomes to toss the "Things to Do OR ELSE I'll Die" list because, well...the reasons are obvious! Fear of death tops the list!

But it also becomes more difficult to surrender heart and soul to the call of the "Things To Do Before I Die List".

So I've decided to take a different approach and start a new list altogether: "Ordinary Things To Do In Extraordinary Ways". The title seems a lot less threatening and a lot more inspiring somehow...

We're going to start with Thanksgiving and add a long walk in the forest and an evening bonfire to the mix.

The change isn't earth-shattering, but it could be life-changing. I'm starting to feel better already...

I don't know why but I get the feeling that if we can get into the habit of doing ordinary things in extraordinary ways, it might shake some dust off the lifelong dreams and wishes that have been sitting on the shelf for far too long.

Nothing can make a goal seem more achievable that a shift in perspective.

I'm even thinking of renaming midlife crisis. I kind of like the idea of calling it: Freedom After Forty.

Now I'm starting to feel a LOT better...

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



BOUQUETS to Magna International on their 50th anniversary of business in Canada and later around the world, employing thousands of people and also to founder Frank Stronach who is celebrating his birthday this month.

BRICKBATS to the inconsiderate car owner who left his car in the apartment parking lot at Yonge Street and Cousins Drive where it continued to beep all night, finally stopping at 6 a.m. Saturday morning.

BOUQUETS to Aurora Council's recycling team led by Mayor Phyllis Morris for its second place finish to East Gwillimbury in Battle Organics, a chef competition to launch the six northern municipalities green bin program.

BRICKBATS to the Ontario government for allowing employees of the Children's Aid Society to strike leaving the lives of children at stake. There is no way that 32 non-union employees can replace 180 workers in caring for the children.

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Public Works Department for recommending to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee that the stop signs on Temperance Street be switched to Reuben Street, as it is a dead end street.

BRICKBATS to the Ontario Ministry of Education for spending \$2.3 million on hotel accommodation in 2006/2007 for professional development while meeting rooms at Queen's Park remained empty. What a waste of taxpayers' money!

BOUQUETS to Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas for chairing an excellent general committee meeting with a full agenda which was over in just over two hours, one of the earliest meetings of the term with no digs or inter-personal remarks and almost a team spirit. However, three members of council were missing.

BRICKBATS to a Prince Edward Island judge who sentenced a 21-year-old who struck and killed another man while under the influence of alcohol and marijuana to seven days in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

More **BRICKBATS** to a justice system whereby a British Columbia man was out on bail after being charged with deliberately trying to hurt his wife when he crashed the family car into a hydro pole, then later killed his wife, six-year-old son and his mother and father-in-law before killing himself. The bail system must be reviewed!

BOUQUETS to the McClenny Drive resident who forwarded to Poor Richard pictures of what could become an environmental problem by littering the streets. Poor Richard will do what he can to resolve the problem and has asked town staff to act.

BRICKBATS to federal politicians for blaming Elections Canada for deciding to let Muslim women wear traditional face coverings when voting in three Quebec by-elections, when the agency was only following the legislation the politicians had adopted.

BOUQUETS to Aurora's 16-year-old Vanessa Crone and 15-year-old Paul Poirier of Toronto on capturing Gold in ice dancing at the Junior Grand Prix held recently in Romania. The couple won the Canadian Junior Dance Title earlier in the year.

BRICKBATS to the Ontario broadcasting consortium for refusing to allow Frank de Jong, leader of the Ontario Green Party, to participate in the Leaders' Debate for the October 10th provincial election. With their popularity in the opinion polls, the Greens can no longer be considered a fringe party. It's a disservice to the democratic process!

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Peter Virtanen
CLU, Agent, Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

We pay taxes, too, so we can complain, this reader states

To the editor,

All persons living in the village of Aurora have a right to express their indignation over the traffic calming situation. This includes Gary MacDonald (Letter to the Editor, Auroran Sept.11).

I will say, though, that his description of any who don't agree with him as "whiners" and "bellyachers" to be hostile and unintelligent.

Has he forgotten that we all pay outrageous property taxes in said community and by that, deserve the "right" to complain or agree?

Some of us are too busy to attend or pay attention to

"the process" as Mr. MacDonald so eloquently puts it.

Some of us have a belief that our elected officials will do the right thing for all the inhabitants of Aurora, not for a few well heeled (whiners) in a sector of the town where I'm sure he lives.

He suggests that all of the offenders are off to the "GO" or "Hwy. 404".

I would suggest to him that some of us are trying to avoid the chaos at Yonge and Wellington in order to enjoy a family meal at a business in town.

I pay my taxes and I pay my license permits that

entitle me to usage of all roads in Ontario.

I am not a "moron" or "self absorbed cell phone user... cutting through..."

I am a working man who is trying to live in this town although my patience is being tried every day by cantankerous people who have nothing better to do than sit around counting how many cars go through a one-way street in order to pound out a lecturing diatribe.

What Mr. MacDonald fails to understand is that the northeast quadrant has been in the news constantly in the past, what with lecturing us on how to enhance

our homes, whether to have sidewalks on Fleury, etc., etc.

I might be so bold as to say the only real whining going on here, is in his own backyard and that before he goes on another misguided rant, he consider that.

In closing I might add that he put his poison pen to better use and come up with a few well chosen insults for the very people who gave us this mess.

"Bone head" comes to mind.

Mark Warburton
Southeast sector
Aurora

Reader agrees with Buck stand

To the editor,

"In response to Evelyn Buck's letter to the editor "Not everyone favoured traffic plan" In The Auroran (week of Sept. 11th) I would

like to say this: I have never agreed with Mrs. Buck's politics or views on just about everything that has come through council.

But her comments concerning this issue were right

on the mark!

Her comments on the cost were true and clarifying who actually voted for this was good.

But I think she should have blasted these resi-

dents for their audacity and arrogance that they deserve this and we ALL should pay.

I am unsure why these people feel they are so special?

I am pro-teaching kids to ride a bike, but I think our parks are there for that purpose.

I guess it comes down to the "spoiled child rule": whatever the child wants he gets!

Too bad when he gets older he treats his kids the same way, continuing the cycle.

Sometimes we can't get what we want, it makes us better people and we learn to appreciate things more.

Too bad the residents of this neighbourhood have not figured this out yet.

I await their children to come forward when they are older and demand street calming on their streets just like mom and dad demanded years earlier.

Jon Lazare
Aurora

To the editor,

My wife and I wish to apologize to the residents of northeast Aurora for driving on their streets.

My wife is 86 and I am 88, but we are still able to drive.

We try to avoid Yonge and Wellington, as we are not multi-taskers.

This route sometimes requires the nerves of a Kamikaze pilot as some people operate the phone and ignore the driver coming across their path.

We do not.

Living off Orchard Heights, we cross Yonge Street to Batson Drive and proceed south on Spruce to Centre and the TD Bank or Centre to Wells, crossing Wellington to Victoria Street and south to Kennedy and Yonge to visit "our doctor", then return.

Other destinations are Batson to Walton, Centre to Industrial Parkway, Wellington to the senior centre, or left on

Industrial Parkway to the Royal Canadian Legion, which I have belonged to for 55 years.

After serving overseas for five years, I feel I cannot give this up.

The only thing left is waiting for the undertaker.

Once again, we are sincerely sorry for any inconvenience we have caused, but we were completely unaware that these are private roads.

George Rickard
Aurora

Too many green bins?

To the editor,

Aurora's in on Green Bin.

What a good feeling, as I left my area early yesterday, to see most all homes had the new bins out at the curb with the blue boxes.

When I returned at 8 p.m., the trucks were still out collecting.

Maybe our zestful response caught them by surprise.

Bill Hack
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

She doesn't live here so she couldn't bake in contest

To the editor,

I have always felt a part of the Town of Aurora until Saturday, Sept. 8. I subscribe to Aurora Cable Internet (the only cable service available to my area).

I shop in Aurora (never turning south on Yonge if the stores are not available right in Oak Ridges). My eldest son attended Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School (the other high school available to our kids was King City High School).

I have worked and volunteered in Aurora. I tend to socialize in Aurora and I even felt that we should have been part of Aurora, not Richmond Hill.

Perhaps I am being a bit harsh.

However, that changed Sept. 8!

It was pointed out to me that perhaps my reputation as making the best apple pie in Ontario has preceded me and this was the only way to prevent my entry into the competition.

As per my usual Saturday itinerary, I went to AURORA'S Farmers' Market for my fair trade coffee and fresh veggies etc. and was handed a flyer for next week's festivities which included a home made apple crumble and apple pie baking contest open to all Aurora residents.

Even so, I feel very slighted and am seriously thinking of starting a campaign for Oak Ridges to become an independent town with our own cable company, newspaper and liquor store.

What am I, chopped liver?

So there! Nananana!

As an environmentally concerned citizen, I do not mind donning a pair of rubber gloves and sorting through the garbage... revisiting past meals and other less than successful science projects.

Sorting through these "treasures" is always a therapeutic exercise.

Thanks for the new Green Bin Program. When do I get my rebate cheque?

I think it is great that the bureaucrats at the Town have introduced the Green Bin project!

As an environmentally concerned citizen, I do not mind donning a pair of rubber gloves and sorting through the garbage... revisiting past meals and other less than successful science projects.

Sorting through these "treasures" is always a therapeutic exercise.

Is the cheque in the mail, he wonders

To the editor,

As my rubber encased fingers penetrate the layers of garbage it serves to remind me of the pleasure of paying my municipal tax bill. But I digress.

Prior to Green Bin, I could put out three green garbage bags each week. Now, I never did reach this exalted height, but I knew that if needed, the men in the brown, and now white trucks, would take it all away.

Every second week, the blue boxes would also make their way to the curb.

Now with the appearance of "Binny", the volume of garbage that I was paying for to be removed from the end of my driveway has shrunk from three green garbage bags to one.

That is all "Binny" can hold.

So over a two-week cycle, one less green garbage bag is now being picked up. The math is complicated here so let me explain.

Previously three bags each week for two weeks is six bags.

Now one Binny each week - the equivalent of two bags, plus three bags of regular garbage every second week totals five. The difference is 1.

With this reduction in volume I am expecting a tax rebate.

After all this is a major reduction in the total volume of garbage for our town.

So is the cheque in the mail?

I am anxious to forward this money saving onto Al Gore so he can reduce global warming.

Tongue placed firmly in cheek.

John Galt
Aurora

ED. NOTE: We certainly agree Oak Ridges should have been part of Aurora and not Richmond Hill. This was Darcy McKeough's biggest mistake when he designed the Region of York.

Where the blame really belongs...

To the editor,

It is with considerable bemusement that I have read the hot air generated by the usual pundits (Dick and Evelyn) regarding the traffic calming measures in the northeast quadrant carried out in conjunction with the scheduled upgrading of Mark Street, Oak Court and Cedar Crescent. After watching every piece of apparatus from the Central York Fire Services successfully negotiate and return from the "calmed area", I even witnessed Dick in his trusty Toyota make it through Mark Street in one piece.

Surely if a 91-year-old driver can do it anyone can.

I would remind Mr. Illingworth that it was during his tenure as mayor, the fire station was moved from four blocks south of Mark Street to its current location on Edward Street in the south end of town.

Any extension in response times to a fire on Mark Street rightfully rests on his shoulders compounded by past councils who consistently failed to address traffic congestion at Yonge and Wellington, not on a few sections of concrete narrowing

Mark Street.

Thank you, Mayor Phyllis Morris and those members of council who responded to the neighbourhood's concerns.

David Neufeld
Aurora

Referendum info may be misleading

To the editor,

I'm happy to see much needed referendum coverage appearing in The Auroran, considering the scarcity of information provided by the general media so far.

However, I feel a statement in the September 18th article entitled "150 meet provincial candidates" needs clarification.

In the description of the mixed member proportional system, 39 members were said to be "appointed by the parties". This could be misleading.

Here is what Elections Ontario has to say about this..."Before an election, parties would nominate candidates as 'List Members' and describe how they were chosen.", and " 'List Members' can only be elected from a political party that received more than 3 per cent of these (party) votes".

Since these 39 province-wide 'list' nominees would be put in front of the voting public in a clear and transparent way, I think it would be wrong to interpret this as an appointment process.

Parties would still be held accountable to the voter for producing attractive (or unattractive) lists, and for choosing democratic (or undemocratic) list creation methods.

Accountability is offered through publicly accessible election information, as well as the extra "party vote" on the ballot.

More detailed information about all aspects of the referendum and the proposed mixed member proportional system is available on these government websites: www.YourBigDecision.ca and www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca .

Further discussions of the pros and cons of 'MMP' are available on the websites of these Registered Referendum Campaign Organizations: www.voteformmp.ca and www.nommp.ca .

Raymond Lorenz
Aurora



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Emergency ward “charge” no incentive to stay away

To the editor,

So, Frank Klees thinks there are some significant numbers of people who want to go to a hospital emergency ward when they don't need to do so.

Apparently, he accepts the premise we can blame patients when they show up at what he thinks may be the “wrong” place for treatment.

Somehow patients are supposed to think twice before going for medical

treatment.

I'm sorry, but I go to a doctor to get a diagnosis, not because I know why I'm sick or what to do about it.

What I'm usually thinking about at such a moment is the pain and suffering of myself or someone entrusted to my care.

Worse, Klees suggests we should charge five dollars to everyone who enters an emergency ward because somehow this is going to be an “incentive” not to go to a

doctor. What does he think the threat of paying a new five dollar health tax will cause us to do - go to medical school?

First, won't it cost more than five dollars to collect and account for the fee?

Second, shouldn't our focus be on teaching more people to go to the right place for the right care.

And, third, maybe a well-run emergency ward with a good triage nurse isn't really such a bad thing, as long as the hos-

pital isn't starving for resources and is effective at diverting patients for appropriate care.

In fact, the last time I noticed Southlake hospital's emergency ward was doing a good job of figuring out who needs care fast and who does not.

If there's a problem, it's that more patients need to know or have alternatives to visiting an emergency ward. And the best way to learn their choices is from their doctor and possibly from the hospital.

I haven't noticed the information is printed on the back of five dollar bills.

Still, in the interest of saving a life or reducing human suffering, a patient should go to their doctor, a health clinic or an emergency ward when they have a health concern and do it without worry or fear.

Patients are not doctors and cannot always know where to go other than an emergency ward, and that's okay.

Within the last couple of years, my family doctor

24-hour family clinic to cover for her on days and during hours when she can't see us.

It's saved my family trips to the emergency ward for momentarily challenging but, as it turned out, non-life-threatening ailments and protected the continuity of care by our doctor.

And had our health problems turned out to be an emergency, we would have been in the capable hands of a physician who knew what to do.

Ken Whitehurst
Aurora

Use it or not, it's still \$900: reader

To the editor,

Regarding Christine Bisanz calls Frank Klees' proposal to charge Ontarians \$5 per hospital visit an affront to universal access to medicare at an all-candidates meeting in Aurora Sept. 12.

I am a member of a family of six and I process my family's tax

return and those of a couple of friends as well.

When they don't make enough money to pay Ontario income tax, they still pay the Ontario Health Tax of up to \$900.

Most people don't do their own tax returns, so they have no idea this money is coming from their own pocket and doesn't even get added

to the Ministry of Health budget.

That's \$900 from each member of the family who earns income whether they are sick or not.

I'm looking forward to John Tory reversing this tax.

I haven't been to emergency in years - I have been to my walk-in clinic.

Ms Bisanz, what do you call it when the premier makes a new health tax when he promised no new taxes?

If he had invested that \$2.35 billion in health care would we be talking about the crisis in emergency rooms?

Suzanne Bolton
Newmarket

It's our money, reader states

To the editor,

What a mess!
Another great Aurora Council initiative.
Traffic CALMING has ENRAGED the community.

Nicely done.

Not only has your initiative pitted neighbours against neighbours but you've managed to make the rest of the Town angry as well.

What were you thinking?

The only people I've heard supportive of this mess is the family who now has a home that no one else can get to and is happily watching children ride their bikes down the road. Excuse me?

Every street in this Town has a problem with traffic.

Just ask the residents.
This is simply another example of a council reacting to a well organized small group of vocal residents demanding council give them what they want.

Who's looking after what is good for this Town as a whole? What about the rest of us?

That's our money you used and those are our streets to drive on.

S. Williams
Aurora

Tunnel under Yonge would solve problem

To the editor,

We have now seen two suggestions for the corner of Wellington and Yonge intersection.

Here's mine: dig a tunnel under Yonge Street for the through traffic on Wellington, starting between Victoria and Wells and coming out of the slope before you reach the creek and the school

board building.

One tunnel for each direction plus two smaller ones for the pedestrian traffic if so desired.

That leaves just the turning traffic at street level for Wellington.

I encourage others to dream up solutions and maybe we can find something viable that the region has not yet ixnayed.

Maybe The Auroran could do a story on what exactly the region has considered for this backed-up intersection.

If the region could have fixed this problem sometime in the last 30 years we would not have had this mess in the northeast quadrant.

Dave Watson
Aurora

Do voters have short memories?

To the editor,

Political pundits and political hacks believe voters are dupes or have very short memories, and maybe they are right. Only four short years ago we voted out a Conservative government with its common sense revolution that literally left this province's health care and

education systems in the dumpster.

On top of that they left this province with a six billion dollar deficit.

Even with some of the shortcomings of the current Liberal government, at least over their four years, they have been restoring and building to create an improved health and educa-

tion system.

Mr. Klees was a supporter and participant in that callous and uncaring government that devastated many of people of this province.

Mr. Klees does not deserve our support in this election.

Gary Johnson
Aurora

Who do you trust, reader wonders

To the editor,

A local citizen explained, in detail, that I should not complain about the council installing “traffic calming pods” on our side streets because the members con-

sult the “Oracle” on any important issue.

In response, I mentioned that a number of Aurora residents are not impressed with these pods and, have even gone so far as to question the wisdom and the

mental state of our leaders.

Answering, he said I don't really believe in the “Oracle” because my trust lies with those on “Olympus”.

Wayne Hemington
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor



Group cleans up environment

To the editor,

Many Aurorans joined in the TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup in the Aurora Community Arboretum on the last Saturday of summer, Sept. 22.

One work crew, seen above, collecting litter consisted of Catherine Marshall, Environmental Advisory Committee; Kyle Munro, Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority; Mike Axiotis, Aurora High School, the record keeper; Denny Kim,

Aurora High School; Steve Axiotis, Aurora resident; and Tue Hyun Kim, Aurora High School.

In addition to lots of water bottles and general litter, the cleanup crews found steel oil drums, rusty shopping carts and broken office chairs.

If everyone would dispose of waste properly, these cleanup events would

end and everyone could enjoy our public green spaces.

These cleanup events are sponsored through the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation with cooperation of local groups.

Gordon Barnes
Aurora

Reader agrees with councillor

To the editor,

I was very surprised by Councillor Evelyn Buck's (Auroran Sept. 11) stand on the issue of traffic calming in the northeast quadrant and I will say, unregrettably, that I agree with her.

I find it interesting that she was the only one who took this stand against this group.

I feel, as does Ms Buck, that this little experiment has and will cost all of the taxpayers of Aurora very dearly.

Besides pitting neighbourhood against neighbourhood, it has left a very bitter taste in the mouths of those constituents who feel they don't have the ear of their elected officials.

This decision has created a very distinct divide (canyon) between those who have and those who don't.

I do have a difference of opinion in Ms. Buck's uncommon defense of Councillor Bob McRoberts' conflict of interest stand.

If I were in the same situation (his), I would not find it a conflict to vote down a bad policy.

It would be considered self serving to vote in favour of a policy that would, in fact, add to one's property values, hence, the conflict.

To deny the very constituents who voted for his voice, many living outside the "quadrant", the right to monitor his stand on this policy, he has committed political suicide.

When he entered the electoral world and acquired so many votes outside his neighbourhood garnering a title of "Deputy Mayor", he forfeits his right to keep his opinion to himself. His silence can only be described as deafening.

I do understand how the political system works and do understand his right to use it as a defense. I do still view it as a weak one.

I would thank Ms Buck for including the information that Mr. Housser was a principle architect in the planning stage which makes his letter to The Auroran (Sept. 4) both patronizing and insipid to say the least.

Mark Warburton
Aurora

What about the women, Steve?

To the editor,

Last week, Stephen Somerville offered his "Front Porch Perspective" of the installation Mass of Father Timothy Hanley at Our Lady of Grace Church, and made the very good (and often overlooked) point that clergy of all faiths provide an important and very valuable service to the

community.

I would only like to point out that in his concluding paragraphs he referred to the "selflessness of these men".

How true!

But he forgot to say it is just as true of the ordained women in Aurora.

Renee LeBlanc
Aurora

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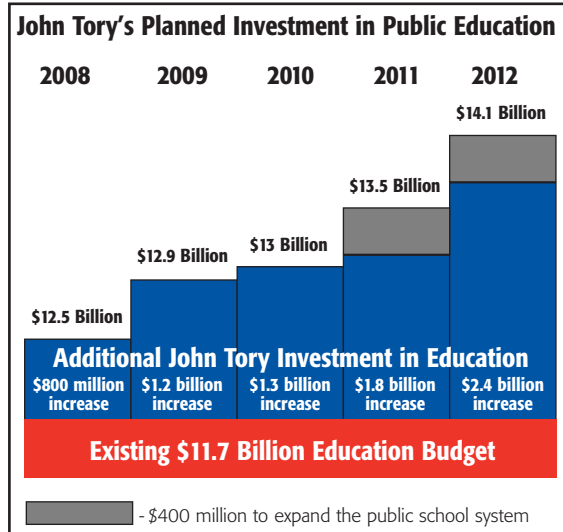
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- 2. All children, including those with special needs such as autism and learning disabilities, have the necessary resources for a quality education**
- 3. More schools are opened to our children and the community for evening and weekend activities**
- 4. Local flexibility for school boards to address the problems (such as split grades and increased portable use) created by the McGuinty government's inflexible policies**



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Giving off an eerie effect, candles glow in the dark at the Aurora Cemetery last week, marking the graves of veterans who served in altercations throughout the world. The annual Candlelight Vigil is organized by the Aurora Legion. Below, an afternoon drumhead service was held at the cemetery.

Auroran photos by David Falconer and Ron Wallace

Gardens may close

From page 1
support 57 families and two organizations.

With the potential sale of the property, she asked general committee members to support severing the property.

She pointed out that over the four years the soil had become increasingly nutrient-rich and that productivity had increased significantly.

In addition, structures such as a tool shed, compost bins, arbours and signage have been erected, a water system was implemented, temporary fencing erected and a sense of community established.

The location, she said, was ideal as it was accessible by public transit, nearby parking was available, it was a highly visible location, and was in close proximity to the residential community.

She said the Food Network was requesting a severance of the 300 X 100 foot plot of which the northernmost 200 feet is currently used for vegetable plots and 100 feet for the delivery of compost and woodchips.

The gardens work in close partnership with organizations such as the Aurora Gardens and Horticultural Society in providing young children with an opportunity to learn and to provide fresh food to the Aurora Food Pantry and the Women's Centre of York Region.

Although it had been

indicated the plot of land was 300 feet by 100 feet, Councillor Stephen Granger wanted information on the amount of land required.

It's a big decision for council to make, he said.

Councillor Evelyn Buck pointed out that staff had been directed to examine and appraise the whole property as to its best market value and suggested that land may become available on the other

side of the creek on the property.

Ms Cook replied that it takes three to six years to develop the gardens and if it was necessary to relocate, they would have to start all over again and they really needed a permanent home.

It was finally agreed staff would consult with the Food Network before submitting a report to council about the sale of the lands.

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Plates to disappear from Yonge Street

From page 1

placed steel plates over the storm sewer allowing the lane to be reopened.

Due to the timing of the assessment the full extent of the work was not determined until the spring of 2007.

A contract was prepared, tendered and awarded for the replacement of the complete storm sewers and pavement rehabilitation on Yonge Street from Industrial Parkway to approximately 400 metres north.

Yonge Street will be kept open to through traffic at all times with two southbound lanes and one northbound lane from 6 to 10 a.m. and two northbound lanes and one southbound lane from 3 to 7 p.m. with a minimum of one lane in each direction at other times.

Emergency repairs such as this are not accounted for in the normal budget process and the contract price for the tendered work is \$841,000, and in addition funds were required for the inspection, design and dewatering bringing the total to \$1,091,000 to be taken from the 2007 Capital Roads Program.

The Transportation and Works Committee has recommended to regional council that the emergency storm sewer repairs be undertaken at the tendered

price and it is expected that regional council will approve the recommendation so the work can be completed by the end of November 2007.

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Brian Moir

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

Market's potential can help downtown

This is the first in a series of columns that will address the various community-based economic engines that have the potential to revitalize the Aurora downtown core.

By BRIAN MOIR

Core revitalization has been the subject of many Town Council debates and even more political promises, but revitalization is more than just flowerpots, banners and garbage bins.

No question they are a nice touch, but they are not enough to get people out of their cars.

There are, however, a number of small community-based economic engines hard at work, trying to make a difference to retain the vibrancy of the downtown area.

One of those small, but vibrant, community based economic engines is the Farmers' Market.

Started six years ago by Nigel Kean, it began with four vendors, (three of whom continue to participate) and ran for six weeks in its first year of operation.

Today it has grown to more than 16 vendors, is frequented by as many as 300 people, each day it's open and now runs from the May long weekend to Thanksgiving.

But it needs to be a larger entity if it is to have an impact on the revitalization of the downtown core.

It must find a way to grow by getting more vendors, attracting larger crowds, and most importantly, by having people buying goods and services from the broader business community.

Interviews with visitors and discussions with merchants in the area indicate that while there are a larger number of people coming into the core (a good thing) there is little carry-over from the Market to the merchants on Yonge Street.

In other words, the majority of people buy their vegetables at the market and then go home (not a good thing).

So how can the Market be a better tool for downtown revitalization?

It starts with a well articulated and communicated vision and business plan so that the public and interested parties can better understand the game plan for the Market and entice them to participate.

The Market must find ways for surrounding businesses to take advantage of the large number of consumers who visit each week.

The Market has to involve these businesses so that it builds additional traffic to their respective doors for the benefit of both parties through new cross-marketing initiatives and special or themed events.

Extending the reach of the market by targeting specific retail segments should be considered.

As an example, "antiques" helped put Harbourfront on the map in Toronto.

From an organizational perspective, the Market needs to transition from a part-time management committee, that has run the Market successfully to this point, to a more formal and permanent one that includes businesses and others who have a vested interest in the growth and development of the downtown core.

The Town of Aurora also has to demonstrate its commitment to the Market and core revitalization.

It has to get the Town's Economic Development Office to play an active role in co-ordinating the participants and promoting the "Market" as a weekly "destination".

The addition of appropriate signage on Town signs entering Aurora, and a mention or two promoting the event on the Town web site, and in its various publications, wouldn't hurt either.

The Chamber of Commerce also has a role to play.

It can bring its marketing resources and skills to the table, if only to promote the Market and member businesses of Aurora's Historic Downtown core to its broader membership.

Location and accessibility are key success factors in retail, and they are becoming issues at the Market.

Its current location will eventually restrict its growth, and parking availability is having a negative impact on the Market and local businesses.

Other locations in the core, such as the York Region District School Board and the GO Train parking lots should be considered as alternatives.

The areas are within easy walking distance to the core, and would be more visible to passing traffic, thereby generating more visitors.

Core revitalization is not an easy undertaking.

To build toward success, there needs to be more than just the Market.

There needs to be a comprehensive vision and plan for the revitalization of the core that encompasses all of the possible community-based economic engines.

Library Square, Church Street School, the local arts and business communities are all key components of this plan and need to be included in a broader vision.

The downtown core, if it is to survive as a vibrant entity, needs to become a "destination" for residents and visitors alike.



RED FRIDAYS

Employees of Aurora's Bingo World are the latest to join a growing trend of "Red Fridays" by wearing tee shirts supporting Canadian troops in Afghanistan. Several area companies have joined the group by purchasing the shirts from the Aurora Legion for their employees to wear on Fridays.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

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Thanks!

On behalf of the residents of Newmarket-Aurora, my constituency team and I wish to thank the Newmarket Hurricanes and Aurora Tigers, the NHL and 87s/Hurricanes alumni teams, and the fans and volunteers who made the 2nd Annual "Battle of Yonge Street" a great success.

Sincerely,

Belinda Stronach



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Page 12 Week of September 25, 2007

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Tigers take four points, but lose to Newmarket

By JOHN KLEIN

After three games in three nights, the Aurora Tigers Junior A hockey team emerged with four points, but the missing two points were given to arch-rivals Newmarket Hurricanes.

And, it was Aurora's opening game Friday night as the Tigers dropped their second contest to the newly-revamped Hurricanes this month.

Earlier, in the second annual Battle of Yonge Street, the Tigers were edged by Newmarket 4-3, even though Aurora had opened the scoring.

Friday, Aurora, even though it notched six goals, wound up on the wrong end of a 7-6 score.

Thursday night in Whitchurch-Stouffville, Aurora needed the shootout to win a close match with the Spirit, then Saturday night, they defeated the tough Wellington Dukes 6-5.

Friday, the hockey gods could not have provided a better stage nor a better

game, for Aurora's home opener against Newmarket.

The game was non-stop entertainment, with constant end to end action, high scoring and hard hitting.

Tigers started the night just 12 seconds into the first period when Jeff Harbach followed fellow teammate Mike McLaughlin hard to the net to put the Tigers up 1-0.

Unfortunately, the lead didn't last as Newmarket knotted the game just 34 seconds after the Aurora goal when Brian Soso scored.

The first frame ended with Newmarket holding a slim 3-2 lead.

Early in the second, Michael Sardella tied the game, after taking a pass from captain Michael Paolo.

Newmarket's Soso added his second of the night, to give Newmarket the lead again.

That goal marked the end for Tiger goaltender Matt Beirnes, who was replaced by Brennon Poderzay.

The move by coach Jerome Dupont to swap the

two net minders provided immediate dividends, as Jeff Harbach potted his second goal of the night to lock the game at four.

Aurora's David Morley, debuted for Aurora and made his mark scoring his first career OHA goal, to give the Tigers the lead for the first time since the first period.

However, Newmarket got goals from K.J. Ramolla and Scott Voisin late in the period to once again give the Hurricanes the lead.

Newmarket held onto its slim lead until Aurora's Mike McLaughlin took the puck hard towards the net, then sent a brilliant pass to teammate Jeffrey Vanderlugt who finished the play off with a spectacular one time finish.

Vanderlugt's goal sent the crowd to its feet and put the Tigers back on even keel with the Hurricanes at six goals each.

Unfortunately the tie didn't last as Newmarket's K.J. Ramolla slid the puck past Poderzay with only a few minutes remaining, and the

marker proved to be the game winner.

When reflecting following the conclusion of the high scoring affair, Dupont found the night difficult to swallow.

"It was frustrating," he said. "When you score six goals you should win."

But from the game he was able to take quite a few positives, the most important being that the club kept battling hard and came back despite being down at several different points in the game.

"The guys worked their asses off until the very end," Dupont said.

Of note for the Tigers was the regular season debuts of forwards David Morley and Mike Bodley.

Morley, a 1990 born player recently promoted from the Tiger's affiliate Richmond Hill Stars 'AAA' Midgets, looked solid in his first regular season game as a Tiger.

He contributed late in the game with his first career OHA goal and walked away

from the contest having created many chances for his

Please see page 13

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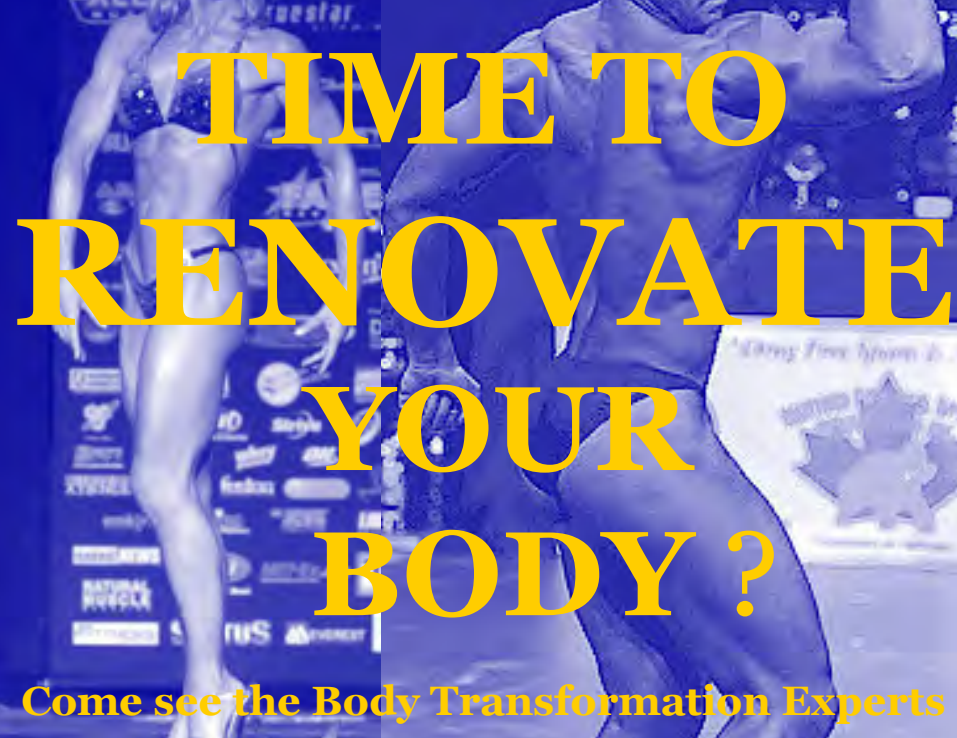


Auroran newsmen and Aurora Cable Internet host Dick Illingworth and his wife, Dorothy Clark McClure, were surprised recently when they were serenaded by a quartet from the Upper Canada Chordsmen at their Cousins Drive home. The pair were celebrating their 16th wedding anniversary.

Auroran photo
by David Falconer



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WINNERS

Peewees start season with tournament prize

It was a great way to start a hockey season.

The Aurora Peewee A Tigers got their season off to a roaring start by capturing the championship of the

Bridge results

Aurora Bridge Club

Tuesday, Sept. 18: Paul Graves and Linda Lord; Glenn and Sandra Hills; Mike and Dan MacNeil; Paul and Marg Macfarlane.

Wednesday, Sept. 19: N/S - Don Jackson and Ross Jenkinson; Paul Macfarlane and James Longley; Lib McWilliams and Paul Caleb. E/W - Joan Rotenberg and Jane Demers; Pat Rutty and Sally Flanagan; Marg Burt and Paul Stanbury.

Friday, Sept. 21: N/S - James Longley and Don Jackson; Deanne Dennison and Paul Stanbury; Hans Jacob and Ron Smith. E/W - Ross Jenkinson and Wally Browne; Gerald Heath and Marg Farmer; George Jordan and Irma Field.

Aurora Seniors' Centre

Monday, Sept. 17: North-South - Mary Oglanby and Joan Rotenberg; Sheldon Fast and Eva Guttman; Isobel Garrett and Carole Bell; Brenda Smith and Carol Gordon (third and fourth tied). East-West - Irene Stone and Melody Irving; Marcella Lawless and Greta Ogden; Noreen Hashem and Marion Warburton; Shirley Laurin and Suzanne Nunn (third and fourth tied).

Richmond Hill Stars Earlybird Tournament recently.

The Tigers did it in impressive fashion by going undefeated over the week-end and without allowing a goal until the championship game.

Tigers started the roll with an opening 5-0 victory over the host Richmond Hill Stars. While the early season jitters were evident the team gained its confidence as the game wore on.

In the second game it seemed as if the team had hit mid-season form as they blanked Cooksville 8-0.

The third game was certain to be a true test of the Tigers great early season form as they faced a strong league rival, the Barrie Colts.

The first period was a true

battle and the play was end to end, but the determination of Aurora broke the game open and the boys finished with a 5-0 victory.

The semi-finals was a rematch between Aurora and a Barrie team that was determined to avenge the previous day's loss.

The intensity of this game was clearly at a higher level and the beginning of a fierce season-long rivalry was in the making.

The Tigers rose to the challenge and continued their early season goal scoring and defensive show finishing with another shutout a 3-0 victory.

In the final, the Tigers drew their long time nemesis, Bradford Bulldogs, which was sure to prevent any overconfidence.

Tigers win two

From page 12
teammates, and even getting involved physically near the end of the game despite his young age and small stature.

Bodley, although only seeing limited ice time, was also excellent in his Tiger debut contributing defensively at every available opportunity.

Dupont was pleased with both players, noting that he felt both rookie forwards played "excellently" in their first regular season game.

He also praised the hard work of local Aurora product, rookie Thomas Evans, who, although also only seeing limited time on the ice, was a key contributor on the Tiger blueline. His solid defensive play seemed to be rewarded in the third period, as his ice time was increased, certainly a sign of confidence in the young defenseman by the Tigers coaching staff.

Thursday night veteran forward Mark Thorburn scored two goals and Nick Novak had two assists, as the Tigers battled through a disallowed goal and a rash of penalties to edge the Spirit in a shootout by a score of 5-4.

Jeff Harbach scored in the shootout to eventually steal the game away from the Spirit.

After losing to Newmarket Friday, the Tigers travelled to Mississauga to take on their opponent in the OPJHL Finals last season, the Wellington Dukes.

Jordan Watts led the way with a solid effort to give the Tigers the lift they needed to edge the Dukes 6-5.

Next up for the Aurora Tigers is the team from Couchiching - the Terriers.

They're at the Aurora Community Centre this Friday, Sept. 28, for a game which starts at 7.30 p.m.

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Sommerset

Aurora group to entertain at Sharon Temple event

They call themselves Sommerset.

Each song they play has been culled from Celtic song-books, numerous countries or a mix of both.

This Aurora-based group has been together for five years and their music is not to be confused with the typical Celtic folk, but more mixed and melodious.

In an old warehouse filled with bits of wood, gigantic metal machinery, tools, and decorated with Christmas lights, patched carpet, and antique chairs, Sommerset pumps out incredible sounds.

Their music moves from the more contemplative and dreamlike to the rousing and commanding, transporting listeners to another time and place with the dulcimer, flute, violin, guitar, harmonium and bells.

The group of four members contains a mix of rhythms that evoke a variety of emotions.

Ian Coombes has been a resident of Aurora since 1958 when there was a population of 3,000.

He began his career with the guitar at the age of 17 playing in small coffee houses, as well as at bluegrass and folk festivals, and dreamed of one day forming a group that could play a combination of traditional and modern acoustic music.

"In the 70's there was no support for young musicians who played the Hammered Dulcimer, a trapezoidal zither with metal strings that are struck with light hammers," he said. "Now we thankfully have the Southern Ontario Dulcimer Association that lends support and finds local musicians to play at a variety of functions."

His dream finally came true in 2003 when he began a duo which has since progressed to a quartet.

The bearded 53-year-old, with sleek fingers and an artis-

tic eye noted, "my hands are a gift from my grandfather who was a master woodworker in England."

Not only can he play a half a dozen instruments but Ian lovingly crafts ancient wooden instruments in the bowels of the warehouse producing beautiful pieces.

Donna Gingras has an ear for music.

"I taught myself the ukulele at the age of eight and when I mastered that, nothing could hold me back," she said. Each instrument that she held took her on a musical journey, including the guitar, autoharp, and piano but it was the violin that became her true love, after she practiced on an Italian Amati made in the 1600s and owned by a good friend of her mother's who played professionally.

Her experiences as a youth in a stringed quartet and orchestra as well as winning the Kiwanis Festival also forced her to become stringent in her practicing.

She has also played along with the Southern Ontario Dulcimers.

It is her violin that sets the mood for each story to unfold and flourish in Sommerset.

Her signature, long strawberry blond hair flips straw and forth as her bow slices into the strings with dose of high voltage energy.

So truly inductive of her name, Skye Sweet releases a soothing, wistful sound with her flute, piccolo and whistle.

She began playing the flute in high school and studied privately for a number of years. A friend of hers convinced her to go to The Woods Music and Dance camp, and she's never looked back.

She played for Contra Dances in Toronto and Hamilton in the band 'Back Up and Push' along with many community events, theatre companies and concerts.

This year she will be in the Markham Theatre production Beauty and the Beast.

"I play as much as I can, it is the most important part in my life, it's my sanity. Celtic music is my favourite; it just seems to stir my soul."

Kathleen Gillis plays the piano, drum and harmonium (a portable, bellows-driven organ from India) and she is the newest member of the group.

Playing churches and theatres both professionally and in community context, she said, "I started getting interested in historical music in my late twenties when I played with a professional Gilbert and Sullivan company."

Kathleen has studied world hand-percussion extensively.

Sommerset will play at the First Words Alive Literary Festival Saturday, Sept. 29, at the Sharon Temple.

The free event will showcase award winning authors such as Aurora's Marina Nemat and John McIntyre.

For more information visit the site at www.wordsalive.ca.

Elementary, secondary, students shine in York

Ontario's Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) has released the results of the 2007 Grade 3, 6, and 9 assessments and students in York Region public schools, including Aurora, continue to perform at levels above the provincial average.

Bill Crothers, Chair of the York Region District School Board said students across York Region can continue to take pride in their literacy improvements over time.

"Our EQAO test results are supporting the value of a long-term, sustained focus on student achievement," he said.

Among Grade 3 students in York Region District School Board who wrote the test, 71 per cent achieved the provincial standard in reading, 78 per cent in writing and 79 per cent in mathematics.

Among York Region's Grade 6 public school students who wrote the test, 74 per cent achieved the provincial standard in reading, 75 per cent in writing and 75 per cent in mathematics, compared with provincial averages of 67, 63 and 62 per cent respectively.

For the Grade 9 Mathematics Assessment, 83 per cent of students in the 'Academic' stream who wrote the test and 42 per cent of students in the 'Applied' stream achieved the provincial standard.

"EQAO results form a key part of our school and Board plans for continuous improvement," said Bill Hogarth, Director of Education. "School administrators

will be analyzing the detailed assessment data along with their classroom teachers over the coming weeks to pinpoint areas for further improvement."


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MARINA NEMAT

Best-selling writer wows local authors

By **TOM DAVEY**
Special to The
Auroran

Author Marina Nemat delighted a full house at an Aurora Writers Group meeting held at the Town Hall recently.

The Aurora resident described her hectic schedule of writing, editing and travel schedules in the writing and promotion of her best selling book "Escape from Tehran".

Hers is a gruesome true-life story of imprisonment and torture as a 15-year-old schoolgirl in Iran after being arrested for what was little more than a minor school girl's protest. She was arrested and tortured before escaping from the grim prison in Tehran.

Her story rivals dramatic fiction at its best.

She now lives in Aurora with her family and her book is drawing international attention and is being published in several countries.

Apart from the dramatic interest in her escape, the writing group was fascinated by the marathon series of rewriting drafts and countless meetings with publishers and editors and agents.

Her subsequent book tour to promote her book involved exhausting travel and countless interviews.

Despite the compelling story of her imprisonment, she could quickly switch from her macabre and painful prison experience to some of the humorous encounters in the publishing world as she was drawn into a spiral of exhaustive writing and rewriting.

Marina demonstrated

that she can be both funny and profound and that even horrific encoun-

ters in life may not damage an intrinsic sense of humour.

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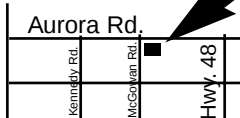
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Purple Pig restaurant closes Aurora doors

Aurora's Purple Pig Restaurant on Wellington Street East, a popular eating spot since 1994, has closed its doors due to a Bailiff's Notice of Distress.

There was also another notice on the door recently saying the closing was beyond their control and it was signed "the Pig Crew".

It was in February, 1994, when a public planning meeting was held to discuss an application from T.J. Rombos to rezone a former automotive parts outlet on Wellington Street for a restaurant and retail stores.

The applicant proposed renovating the existing building and in order to increase parking areas to remove 1,251 square feet from the front of the building and 1,428 square feet from the

rear to provide 75 seats and 31 parking spaces.

In November, 1994, the Purple Pig Restaurant and Pub opened. A year later numerous customers showed up to celebrate the first anniversary with brothers Lee and Tim.

A featured attraction was the music, comedy and songs of George Kash and his trio. They had the place rocking with their music and comedy.

Kash challenged the audience to participate in a beer-drinking contest with Kash drinking a bottle, while standing on his head.

The restaurant proved to be a popular meeting and eating spot for individuals, groups and sport teams over the years and participated in many community events with

their Pig Van which served ribs and other delicacies at the events.

While Lee remained to look over the Aurora Pig, Tim opened a similar restaurant in Bracebridge and another brother opened one in Toronto.

The Aurora store was one of the last remaining Purple Pig outlets in Ontario.

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Big Decision? Big Mistake!

On October 10th you will be asked to cast a vote in

a referendum which few voters know anything about. How this can happen is a question I'm being asked daily. My response is that this is typical of Dalton McGuinty's approach to governing. In fact, I don't hesitate to tell people that the way in which this issue has been handled is an insult to every Ontarian, and that it undermines the very foundation of democracy which presumes an informed and engaged electorate. Not only have people been left uninformed of what is at stake, Mr. McGuinty and his candidate for Newmarket-Aurora are refusing to express their own views on this issue.

This is an abdication of leadership responsibility.

I believe you have a right to know where I as a candidate stand on this issue and why.

I will be voting to keep the existing First-Past-the-Post electoral system. My reasons are as follows:

First, the process leading up to this referendum is badly flawed. The so-called Citizens' Assembly that was appointed by the McGuinty government to consult with the public did not consult broadly enough, nor was it objective in its approach.

Second, the very fact that so few voters know anything about the referendum, let alone the substance of the question, undermines the credibility of the vote itself. This vote should not even be taking place, given the lack of awareness and information available.

Third, I strongly object to the concept proposed under the MMP system proposed by the Citizens' Assembly

under which 39 people would be appointed to the legislature by their Parties rather than be directly elected. These so-called "List Members" will have the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as an elected MPP, but will be accountable only to their Party bosses. This is not democracy as I understand it.

Fourth, this system under which the "List Members" get appointed according to the percentage of popular vote, will open the door to multiple parties having one or two seats and will result in perpetual minority governments. The instability brought on by this structure is evident in countries like Italy where a similar system exists.

Finally, the real issue is not how MPP's get elected to the legislature, it is how they conduct themselves when they get there. What we need is to reform how the legislature works. We need to empower MPP's to truly represent their constituents rather than to simply puppet Party lines. Members must be given the freedom to vote according to their conscience, and to carry out their responsibilities with dignity and respect.

When you vote, you will be given two ballots. One to elect your MPP and the other is the referendum ballot. On the referendum ballot, I will be making my mark beside the option that reads:

"The existing electoral system (First-Past-the-Post)". (X)

As always, I welcome your comments and views on this or any other issues of importance to you. Please visit my website at www.frankklees.com or call me personally at 416 509 8999.

Frank

www.frankklees.com
PC Candidate for Newmarket-Aurora
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Dorian Baxter, centre, was acclaimed again recently to carry the banner for the Progressive Canadian Party in the next federal election, yet to be called. Baxter, who does a great Elvis Presley imitation and is known as Elvis Priestly, because he is a minister, is flanked by Noreen and Sinclair Stevens. The couple started the group several years ago claiming it to be the true Progressive Conservative party. Sinclair is a former member of parliament.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Aurora woman opens and closes cancer walk

Clare Kowaltschuk, a teacher at St. Andrew's College and an Aurora resident, presented opening and closing remarks at Toronto's 5th annual Weekend to End Breast Cancer event recently.

The 60-kilometre walk raises funds for breast cancer research.

Clare, a breast cancer survivor, along with 5,520 other walkers raised a total \$17.3 million to benefit Princess Margaret Hospital, one of the five top cancer research hospitals in the world.

Diagnosed more than a year ago at the age of 32, Clare is now cancer free and the proud mother of a healthy son, Nathan.

She assembled a team of 10 friends and colleagues to participate in this year's event - the Favourite Ladies, and together they raised more than \$31,000.

Buoyed by the success and life altering experience of the weekend, she already has six teammates signed up for next year, including her husband Adam.

The Favourite Ladies were somewhat unique in that they not only had an eight-month pregnant woman, but somehow were able to unknowingly bend a few rules and "sneak" another friend and her three-month-old onto the route for the first 15 kilometres, until the team was informed strollers weren't allowed.

Nevertheless, the team mascot, Baby Olivia crossed the finish line with the team, surely the youngest participant ever.

"I was so overwhelmed by the support of the community on this walk," said Clare. "Strangers dressed in pink along the way offered us lemonade, snacks and support throughout. They all had stories to tell and loved ones who have been impacted by this awful disease. You feel extremely empowered after an experience like this. With the energy and dedication I witnessed by the walkers, volunteers and crew, and Princess Margaret



Clare Kowaltschuk, a teacher at St. Andrew's College and an Aurora resident, addresses the crowd during closing ceremonies of the Weekend to End Breast Cancer walk in Toronto recently. She is surrounded by volunteers.

Hospital staff, I have no doubt we will find a cure for breast cancer in our lifetime."

St. Andrew's College is holding its own fundraising event for the new Regional

Cancer Centre at Southlake Friday, Sept. 28.

All students and faculty members will be bussed to Southlake Regional Health Centre for a brief cheque presentation and remarks and then walk the seven kilometres back to the school in honour of Clare and Chryssi Reid, another member of the Andean community who battled breast cancer recently.

Chryssi was extremely successful with her Relay for Life fundraising efforts last spring raising approximately \$24,000 for cancer research.

For more information on the Andean March at Southlake, visit the website at www.sac.on.ca.

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48 new condominiums have common elements

Aurora's general committee approved a proposed plan of common elements condominiums submitted by Kylemore Homes on Chapman Crescent in east Aurora, subject to conditions of draft approval being fulfilled prior to final approval.

Forty-eight townhouses are currently under construction in accordance with the approved site plan and draft plan approval of the subdivision.

The application for approval of a common elements condominium is the methodology by which the blocks containing the constructed townhouses are tied to the common elements being the roads and common parking/open space areas.

After draft approval is granted to the common elements condominium, the draft approved plan of subdivision will be registered and finally the common elements condominium will be registered.

The development will look and operate in the same way as other condominium townhouse developments in that there will be a condominium corporation with a board of directors.

The distinguishing factor will be that each townhouse owner will have separate title to lands.

In 2004, the town sold 3.7 acres of town-owned land adjacent to the Hydro transmission corridor south of Wellington Street and west of Bayview Avenue to Kylemore Homes for \$1.4

million.

In order to provide access to the "land-locked" property the town purchased a right-of-way across the hydro corridor for an extension to Chapman Court.

A public planning meeting was held in November, 2005, with no one supporting or opposing the application.

With assurances from staff at that time that a warning had been included in the subdivision agreement that homes were in the vicinity of hydro high voltage transmission lines, council authorized the Director of Planning to execute the site plan agreement.

At Tuesday's general committee meeting Councillor Wendy Gaertner sought information about the hydro warning.

Staff members advised that the hydro warning had been included in the site plan which council approved last April and the warning was also included in the purchase agreement.

Councillor Gaertner was critical of the staff comments in the report pertaining to the strategic plan.

The report said the development met the objectives of the strategic plan in that it was a sustainable community that respected the historic culture and character and embraced diverse cultural development and renewal in harmony with sound environmental management and business development activity.

Councillor Gaertner said some of the statements were misleading.

The general committee approved the staff report as presented.

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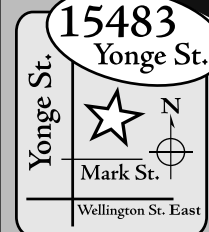
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Senior Scape

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Seniors adapt to fall regimen

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) has slipped into the pattern of the new fall season effortlessly, a season already anticipated by the late summer success of the carpet bowling tournament, the results of which appeared last week in Senior Scape.

Please note a correction to the results, second place was won by the mixed team of Lucy Roberts-Newmarket and Joan Best-Aurora Seniors' Centre.

I congratulate Lorne Cox and colleagues who organized the event.

If the tournament aroused your desire to participate, carpet bowling practice starts at 1 p.m., Monday and Thursday afternoons, and Tuesday evenings starting at 6.30 p.m.

The choir started rehearsals early in September and no doubt will soon be singing publicly.

Food is never far from our thoughts and I am happy to inform you that Budget Bistro has commenced for the fall season every Wednesday, from 11.30 a.m. until 12.30 p.m.

This is a popular and inexpensive luncheon and well worth a visit with friends.

The Budget Bistro was successful before the summer and I imagine more members will avail themselves of this excellent luncheon now it is again available.

Abdel Khan will demonstrate in the computer room, how he crafts Action Figures from Computer Games on Tuesday Oct. 2, from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m.

On Tuesday, Oct. 16, Tom Yates will answer questions concerning digital cameras, including how to download and back up your pictures.

This is informative and indispensable information if you plan to become digital camera literate.

Members of the ASA were invited recently to a ground breaking ceremony for the Hollandview Trail retirement residence, and to a reception later at the town hall.

I mention this for interest and because of the proximity of the residence to the centre and the likelihood of some of our members taking up residence there.

For those who retire, pensions and savings become the source of daily bread and means of meeting financial commitments.

Shortly after retirement is the best time to plunge into the ASA, a world of pleasure conceived by fun-seeking seniors. Whatever delights you, whatever amuses you or is to your liking, will be found somewhere in the ASA and you may indulge your hunger for fun and quench your thirst for excitement.

The ASA is an organization of mature senior members who matter in today's society.

Collectively they symbolize positively what seniors can do with their years of retirement; years which are turned into a celebration of civilization.

The ASA will host an open house membership drive, Friday evening, Sept. 28, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Everybody is welcome and we hope you will join us.

Planning has started for next Doors Open

It's almost a year away but plans are underway for 2008 Doors Open Aurora to be held Aug. 16 and the Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee has authorized the expenditure of \$1,500 for the Doors Open Ontario Registration fee.

Doors Open Ontario publishes an information directory of all municipalities in Ontario which participate in the event.

Aurora held its second annual Doors Open festival in August and thousands took in some of the town's most interesting heritage sites and community landmarks.

The 2007 event proved to be a resounding success with more than 2,900 site visits recorded over the one day event, an increase over

the 1,300 site visits in 2006.

The most visited site was "Brooklands", former home of Charles Sheppard, located in Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area, with more than 250 visitors able to enjoy one of the most beautiful early 20th Century house interiors in Aurora.

Other popular sites included St. Andrew's College and the Headmaster's House, Caruso and Company, the Barnes Garden and Hillary House, all with more than 200 visitors.

Some of the best reviews were received by Theatre Aurora, the Grimshaw House, Oddfellows Hall, Vic's Shoe Repair, Barnes Garden, Sheppard's Bush and the



Popular Aurora resident Al Fisher was guest of honour at Baldwin's Steakhouse recently, after it became known he and his wife, Marg, were permanently moving to Grand Caymen Island, where he will operate a restaurant. Fisher was part owner of Baldwin's, and had several other financial interests in Aurora.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Theatre Aurora seeks volunteers

Theatre Aurora has been in existence since 1958 providing excellent community theatre to Aurora and area.

An invitation is extended to join this group of dedicated volunteers as there is an extensive "to do" list when producing a play or a musical.

There is something for everyone even without any experience in theatre.

Some volunteers who started by handing out programs, taking tickets or serving coffee have moved on to performing or handling other theatre-related tasks.

If a person has an eye for colour, shading or atmosphere,

becoming a lighting designer might be a natural, or if the volunteers likes fixing things, a props master would be a natural fit.

An organized person might become a producer as stage management needs someone who is a bit bossy and schedule oriented.

Becoming a director requires some people skills and artistic vision.

Costume and set design requires a person who loves to sew or paint and enjoys doing costumes or set design and if you love making believe and using different accents, you could become a star on stage.

The rewards are many in becoming part of an award-winning community theatre and joining the Theatre Aurora family.

For further information call 905-727-3669 or e-mail TheatreAurora@rogers.com.

Headmaster's House.

The fire hall on Edward Street was popular with the children.

Planning has started for next year's event and the coordinating team is looking for new and interesting sites.

A key theme being considered is a focus on historic Wellington Street, where there would be a significant cluster of buildings for visitors to tour in a compact area.

Other site ideas being considered include a joint project with the Aurora Legion to provide an interpretation of the Aurora War Memorial.

For further information contact Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator at 905-727-3123 ext. 4762.

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Would-be robber wasn't a friend of hers

It isn't a recommended course of action but back in July, 1979, a young clerk at a Becker's convenience store in Aurora scared off a would-be robber because she thought the whole thing was a joke.

Late one night a man entered the store with a black scarf covering the lower part of his face, but it didn't cover his long, curly red hair.

He approached the counter and demanded money. Thinking it was someone she knew, the clerk called him "Red" and told him to forget it as he couldn't pull a silly trick like that on her.

The would-be robber fled without a cent. The attempted robbery was only reported to police when she found out the person she thought had tried to pull the joke on her had been nowhere near the store at that time. It may have worked, but is not a recommended action.

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE

While Aurora may be without a municipal museum at the present time, it is only a temporary condition until the renovations at the Church Street School are complete and reopens as the Aurora Heritage Centre.

Most small municipalities in Ontario have a museum to display artifacts and other items that help to tell the history of the municipality and its people.

That's what makes it hard to believe that the City of Toronto doesn't have a city museum.

Although it doesn't have a facility open to the public, there is a warehouse in the city's west end containing an estimated 100,000 artifacts and about a million archeological specimens and documents that could form the nucleus of a Toronto Museum.

The city may be getting closer to having a municipal museum as early as 2008 if city council approves a proposed 1.5 hectare site of city-owned land on the waterfront.

However, it's necessary to raise an estimated \$80 million which could delay the project for a few years, since money seems to be a little hard to come by in the Big Smoke.

Former Toronto Mayor David Crombie, Honourary Chairman of the Museum Project, is planning an exhibition of some of the artifacts at the Royal Ontario Museum later this year to celebrate the city's 175th anniversary, which he hopes will act as a preview to the Toronto Museum.

WHEN AURORA WAS GOING TO THE DOGS

At a council meeting in July, 1995, Mayor Tim Jones quipped, "this meeting is going to the dogs" after a lengthy discussion on the problems of dogs running at large in town parks.

The discussion was the result of a letter to council from a resident complaining about dogs running at large and that on two occasions large dogs raced after her and her small dog which was on a leash. She wrote she was sick and tired of being afraid when walking her dog.

In response to a question from council, staff replied that money had been included in the budget to increase patrols in the parks and some improvement had been noted.

Switching from dogs to cats, staff members reported that more than 60 residents had expressed support for a bylaw to regulate cats while three residents opposed the proposed bylaw.

Councillors questioned how such a bylaw could be enforced as cats aren't put on a leash.

Councillor Norm Weller said a previous council had considered a bylaw to control cats but had backed off when confronted by cat lovers.

Council took no action on a letter from Georgina Council seeking provincial legislation to control vicious dogs, but endorsed a letter from Whitchurch-Stouffville Council requesting that the practice of relocating nuisance raccoons be discontinued as it was only a temporary solution.

ANOTHER BICKERING COUNCIL

In April, 1974, embittered with bickering between two council committees, Mayor Evelyn Buck recessed the council meeting for five minutes to let tempers cool off.

The tempest came about over the scheduling of the use of the South End Community Centre, now the Factory Theatre, as the new Community Building Committee decided who had the right to schedule the use of town-owned buildings, which brought objections from the recreation committee.

The recreation committee argued the recreation coordinator should have the authority to schedule the use of the facilities.

As the dispute raged, the meeting was recessed to restore peace.

REMEMBERING THE IGA

In August, 1968, Larry Rubin, who operated the IGA store on Wellington Street just east of Yonge Street for 17 years, now a convenience store, built a big new store on Yonge Street just north of Wellington, now a Price Chopper outlet, and soon to be empty.

The 20,000 square foot building had an in-store bakery and coffee shop and was a favourite meeting spot for seniors.

Many historical pictures of Aurora adorned the walls, some of which may be seen at R & R Revisited on Edward Street.

MISSING STREAM IS STILL MISSING

In February, 2002, a number of residents from Seaton Drive spoke during an Aurora Council meeting to express concerns about a subdivision being built behind their homes.

They claimed there was a flow of water under the surface of the ground causing damage to their basements.

Staff members reported that a check of town records showed no reference to water problems or an underground stream could be found.

Councillors Ron Wallace, David Griffith and Betty Pedersen who had previously lived in the area recalled that around 1970 there was a small stream in the area and staff agreed to carry out further investigation.

With the coming of spring in April, 2002, residents of Seaton Drive were back before council to complain about damage to their property from flooding and pointed out that the problem had not been experienced prior to the development.

The missing stream and the source of the water are still missing but the flooding complaints have dried up at a council.

FIRE IN A BASEMENT APARTMENT

In October, 1982, a fire broke out in an electrical box located by the only staircase in the basement of a strip plaza on the west side of Yonge Street north of the Beer Store trapping a woman in one of the two basement apartments.

Glen Austin, the women's husband, who was visiting another apartment above the stores, attempted to get down the stairs but was unable to do so.

He rushed to the back of the building, broke a small window in the apartment and hauled his wife and pet cat to safety.

Firefighters from Newmarket were called in to help

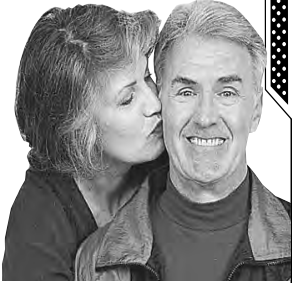
get the fire under control, which caused extensive damage to the electrical room, the Austin apartment and the Radio Shack store above.

In an Aurora first, Aurora Fire Prevention Officer Fred Bolsby issued a Ontario Fire Marshal's Order to force the building's owner to build a second exit for the apartments, install fire and smoke alarms and supply fire extinguishers.

It was the second major fire in Aurora during Fire Prevention Week.

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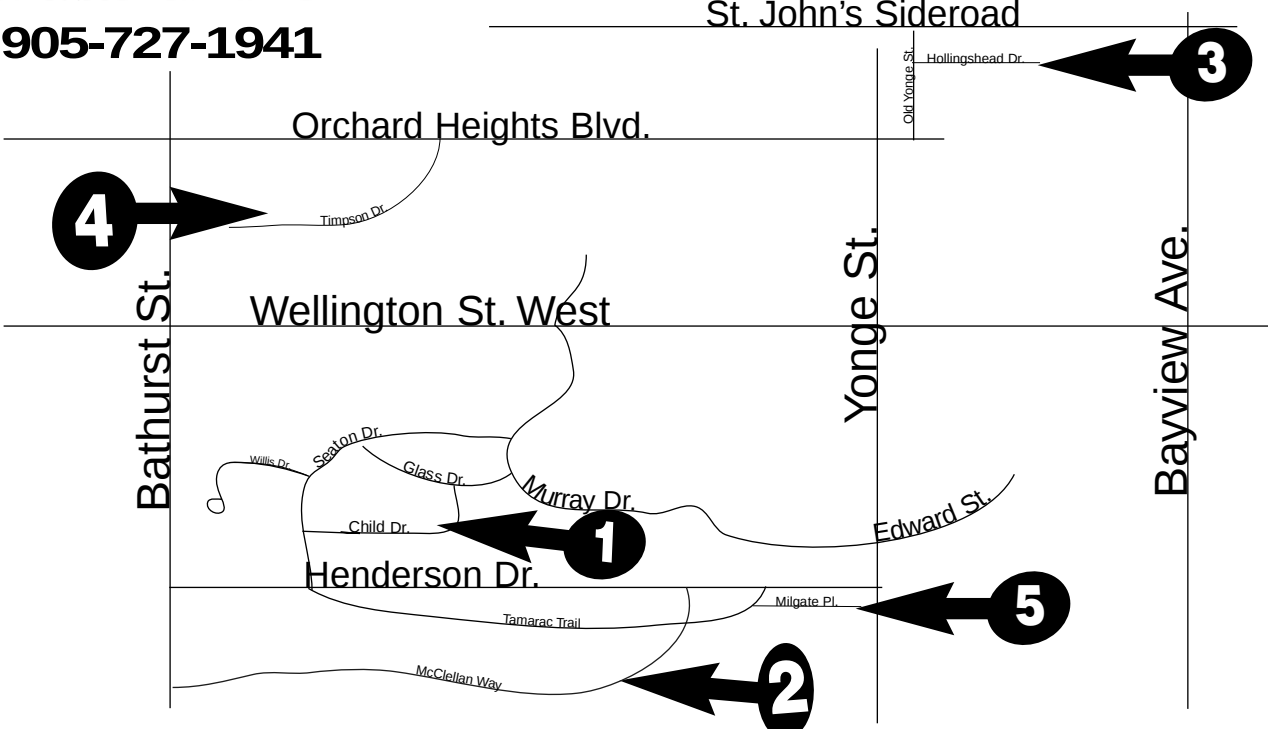




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The incumbent will be responsible for submitting new accounts, completing purchase/sales and organizing special marketing projects. The successful candidate will be able to work in a fast paced environment, have excellent communication, organizational and interpersonal skills. They must also be proficient in MS Office and have a minimum of 6 months relevant industry experience.

Resumes – cdeasley@dundeesecurities.com

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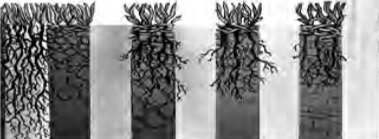
PETE BERNARD, Algonquin Shaman from Ottawa visits Aurora **Sept. 25-Oct. 2** Informal Talk - Sept. 27, 7-9 pm (by donation)

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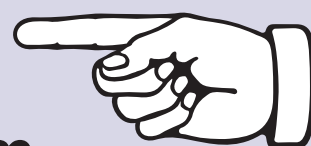
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