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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 7 No. 47

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FREE

Week of October 2, 2007

Run is now 28 years old

It was once known as the "Thrill on the Hill".

Now it's called "Howl on the Hill".

The name doesn't matter...the event is the same and the recipients just as deserving now as they were years ago.

Twenty-eight years later, the annual Howl on the Hill Run/Walk is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 28, starting at Aurora's St. Andrew's College.

Runners, walkers, ghosts and goblins will take part in the event through the wooded trails of Aurora to raise funds for Girls Inc. of York Region.

Registration starts at 8 a.m. The event begins at 10 a.m.

This year, the group offers a 10 and five-kilometre road race and a three-kilometre trick-or-treat hike along a haunted trail.

Other highlights include a warm-up, food, refreshments, and a free short-sleeved shirt and race kit for the first 200 entrants.

Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes.

Entry fee is \$35 for adults and \$25 for youth prior to Oct. 24.

After that, fees increase. Children under 12 are free accompanied by a registered adult.

However, entry fees will be waived if you're carrying pledges of \$40 or more.

Those who raise pledges of \$75 or more are eligible for many different prizes.

For pledge sheets or additional information on this year's Howl on the Hill, call Girls Inc. at 905-830-0776, ext. 305, or visit the website: www.girlsinc-york.org for pre-registration.



With only one week to go, Aurora's Farmers' Market continues to attract numerous shoppers. One of the reasons why is the selection of pastries, breads and muffins, supplied by Toscana Bakery on McClellan Way. Showing off the wares is Vanessa Ursini. Market closes for the season this Saturday.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

I'll make my decision on voting day: Bisanz

As far as provincial Liberal candidate Christina Bisanz is concerned, she has until Oct. 10 to decide how she'll vote on the referendum question.

Responding to charges from Progressive Conservative candidate Frank Klees, who accused her of being "undecided", the Newmarket resident told The Auroran, "we have until Oct. 10 to vote, I haven't made a decision yet".

"It's not appropriate to be bullied into making a decision," before then, she said.

Klees charged that a local newspaper quoted Bisanz last week as saying "there are some strong arguments in favour of changing the system and some strong arguments in favour of not changing the system".

"Now, there's decisiveness," Klees said.

He said his opponent is "unpre-

pared for that responsibility".

"I don't think I should be rushing to make a decision," Bisanz told The Auroran.

According to an Auroran poll, Klees and Bisanz are in a race to win the seat in the new provincial riding of Newmarket-Aurora.

While Klees, currently a sitting MPP in the soon to be defunct riding of Oak Ridges, holds a slim lead,

Please see page 3



Christina Bisanz

Tory loosens issue stand

He blinked.

Leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party John Tory made an announcement Monday, allowing PC candidates to "vote their consciences", if and when the faith-based education issue comes up for discussion.

Newmarket-Aurora candidate Frank Klees explains his position in an announcement on Page 14.

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COMING EVENTS

A drop-in centre will operate every Wednesday at the Community Bible Church, on Bathurst Street, just south of Henderson. Operating from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. it's open to all parents, grandparents and caregivers. For more information, e-mail Judy Hoffmann and jhoffmann@sym-patico.ca.

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.auro-rafair.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 every Wednesday from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. in the West-McKenzie Hall of the Seniors' Centre.

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.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

A sale of many types of used books, including an array of cookbooks, will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in St. Andrew's Hall, Mosley at Victoria Street. Proceeds will go towards the purchase of church library resources.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

York Chamber Ensemble begins a four-concert series with a Bach motif featuring renowned guest violinists Gerard Kantarjian and Gayane Bareghamyan. The concert, conducted by Aurora's Tony Browning, will be held at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets, available at the door, are \$15; \$10 for students and seniors.

NOVEMBER 4 to 19

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Christmas Bazaar at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church hall, Victoria and Mosley Streets. St. Andrew's Guild is pre-

senting baked goods, crafts, and treasures from 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Hot lunch will be served from 11 a.m. Tickets: \$7; \$3.50 for children under nine.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Aurora Film Circuit presents "La Vie en Rose", starring Marion Cotillard as "La Mome". French with English subtitles. Tickets are \$10 and available at R&R Revisited, 95 Edward Street and the Aurora Public Library. All screenings take place at the Cineplex Aurora, with door prizes at 6.45 p.m. and film at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Big Brothers Big Sisters of York presents its Annual Gala "Catch A Dream" at DiNardo's Mansion, 400 Industrial Parkway South, with reception at 6.30 p.m. and dinner at 7.30 p.m. Evening includes cocktails, dinner, raffles, live and silent auction and dancing. Tickets are \$150 per person and may be reserved by calling 905-895-0289.



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The son of Ada Johnson, David, helps Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris officially turn the soil and dedicate the new Ada Johnson Park at the corner of Hartwell Way and Conover Avenue in the town's northeast section. Ada, 104, is a resident at Park Place Manor, and is the person who has lived in Aurora longer than anyone else...99 years. Health reasons stopped her from attending the event.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Group seeks people who want to get wet

Want to get wet? Indoors?

Aurora's Marquee Theatrical Productions will present "Singin' In the Rain", with real rain on the stage, but before that can happen, the organization needs some help.

According to Sheryl Amirault, President and Executive Producer, they are looking for adults of all

ages and two boys "who look to be 12 to 15 years old who can act and move well.

"Sorry, there are no parts for young girls," she said. "Tap dancing is not required for all potential auditionees, but those auditioning for a potential lead role do need to tap and should bring tap shoes to the auditions."

Auditions take place

Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13 at noon, and Monday Oct. 15 at 7 p.m.

To book an audition time, call 905-713-1040.

"You may not just show up as we can't guarantee there will be enough time to see you," Sheryl said.

The show, directed by Ken Lloyd, will take place at the City Playhouse in Vaughan and the Newmarket Theatre in Newmarket in February.

Music Director is John Clements, and choreographer is Baiba Senecal.

If you don't make it for this show, don't give up.

"Auditions for 'Oklahoma' will take place in December," Sheryl said.

Bisanz responds

From page 1

he's not running away with the race, as some pundits expected.

Bisanz said she can feel the change when she goes door-knocking.

"People who have been staunch Conservatives are changing their minds," she said. "I have noticed the difference at the door."

Bisanz came on the political scene as a stranger, but she has been an area resident for 25 years, eight in Aurora.

She has lived in the Newmarket area for 17 years, with her retired husband and 18-year-old son Trevor.

"People know me more as 'Trevor's mother', than as Christina Bisanz," she said.

Her husband, retired from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, now does part-time work at the Newmarket courthouse.

Christina grew up in the northwest area of Toronto, and spent three years in Ottawa, before settling in this area.

She has served on several committees that involved government personnel, but has never tried her hand at the political level.

She thought about, and rejected, a chance to run federally, following the announcement that Belinda Stronach would not seek re-election.

Because of the fact no election has been called federally, she declined the invitation, but accepted the provin-

cial opportunity since an election date had been set.

"I care about the community," she said. "We still have an identity in spite of the growth."

"I'm not aggressive...I'm assertive," she said.



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At one time, back in the fifties, Hart Manufacturing (Canada) Ltd., was a major player in Aurora's economy. Responsible for the manufacture of switches, thermostats and appliances, Hart employed numerous people, many seen

here in this photograph taken in 1951. Recognize anyone? Hart Manufacturing was located on Edward Street in Aurora, north of Dunning Avenue. The photo was provided by John Kennedy.



Poor Richard

Tender bidding

*It's nice to purchase locally,
If the price is the same or better;
But councils ask for trouble, if
Tendering doesn't follow the letter.*

-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

At some time or other, members of a municipal council are faced with a problem in the awarding of a tender.

Do they accept the price of a local bidder who happens to be a few dollars higher than an out-of-town company who met all the specifications and submitted the lowest bid?

Private companies have the flexibility of purchasing where they want at any price they want to pay as they can recover the cost through the selling price and they are answerable only to their shareholders.

Municipalities don't have this luxury as council members are, or should be, required to get the best possible price for the taxpayers, their shareholders.

Tendering is the normal process for purchasing goods and services for a municipality, school board or any public body.

Specifications are, or should be, carefully prepared to clearly define exactly what is wanted, leaving nothing to doubt.

Merchants, corporations or anybody else in that particular business have the opportunity to sharpen their pencil and submit a bid, based on their best possible price and how badly they need the business.

Sometimes for a very specialized product or service where there are a limited number of suppliers, the invitational bid system is used, rather than public tendering.

In this case, the specifications are submitted to at least three firms in that particular line of business inviting them to submit a bid.

At the prescribed time the bids are opened in public and providing the low bidder meets all the specifications and fulfills all the requirements of the tendering process, the contract is normally awarded to the low bidder, regardless of the location of the business.

When the provincial government was much more liberal in providing grants to municipalities for infrastructure projects, the former Ontario Department of Highways wouldn't help fund projects if the lowest bid wasn't accepted, providing it met the specifications.

At one time in the 1960s, Aurora Council had an unwritten policy that favoured local bidders providing the local bid was within a few percentage points of the low bid from an out-of-town bidder.

This made a mockery of the tendering process and the word soon spread that Aurora had a local option purchasing policy.

It was soon found that local firms no longer submitted their lowest bid knowing that they had an edge on other bidders, and out-of-town firms stopped bidding knowing they didn't stand a chance with council's unwritten local option policy.

Knowing this, at times members of council still want to favour the local bidder if the price is higher than the bid from an out-of-town supplier, on the basis that the local bidder pays taxes to the municipality and should get the business.

This happened recently when Councillor Wendy Gaertner questioned staff reports on the results of two tenders, one to a Unionville dealer who submitted a lower bid than a local dealer for two one-ton trucks.

The other was for a specialized mover for the parks department when only one bid was received.

Questioning the tender process is a slippery slope and should be avoided.

In the best interests of the taxpayer, councils shouldn't build fences around the municipality by offering a local option, written or not.

Members of council are elected to represent all the taxpayers, not just the business interests, even though they pay taxes and are community-minded.

If the integrity of the tendering process is to be maintained, members of council must accept the best bid, local or not, providing it meets the required specifications.

Letters to the Editor

Lighting CTC walkway not our business: Buck

To the editor,

In other places, the U.K. to be specific, theft of electricity is a common offence.

People rig the wiring to bypass their meters.

In Aurora, the practice has been sanctioned by the mayor and a council majority.

I am talking about the recent decision to hook up three lights belonging to Canadian Tire to the town's street lighting circuit.

We don't know yet if Canadian Tire will permit it.

Residents of the Mosaic TownHouse association have to approach the retailer to get his permission.

It all happened like this: at the last meeting of the last council prior to the election, an angry resident came to council and demanded the Town order Canadian Tire to turn the lights back on.

For whatever reason, parking lot lights were being extinguished at 10.30 p.m.

The three lights in question illuminate an easement

belonging to Canadian Tire that runs along the south side of their building.

The resident was furious. Canadian Tire had to be ordered to keep those lights on.

Well, sure enough, as soon as the election was over, in order of priority, after new desks were ordered for the councillors' office, there was immediate action by the mayor to "find a solution to the problem".

The Planning Director, the Works Director, Canadian Tire, the resident and the mayor convened in an on-site meeting. Council had already been advised by staff this was a private dispute.

There had been an unsuccessful attempt to mediate by the Director of Public Works.

The Town had no authority in the matter.

The meeting did not produce a solution.

Months went by, one resident grew to five, the mayor kept striving to find a way for

the town to take ownership of "the problem".

Finally, after many, many hours of high price staff research of land titles the following information was unearthed: three parties share the Canadian Tire site. There are tri-party agreements. There are seven pages of dispute resolution mechanisms attached to the agreements. The easement is intended for emergency access only. There had been previous communication between the parties which ended in stalemate.

Staff emphasized once again -The Town has neither authority nor responsibility to intervene or resolve the dispute.

No matter.

Councillors, in the majority, disregarded the advice and declared the safety of residents at stake.

We must ride to their rescue blowing our trumpets along the way.

Hence the decision.

The town will rig the wiring, take power from street lighting and feed it to Canadian Tire's parking illumination, and, no doubt, maintain lights on private property forever and a day at taxpayers' expense.

And, step right on up folks, take your best shot and win a valuable prize from the town's treasury.

There are no rules.

**Evelyn Buck
Aurora**

THE AURORAN

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Advertising policy

Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.

Operating costs go on forever, this reader says

To the editor,

People of Aurora, hang on to your wallet.

The original Church Street School renovation of \$2,500,000 was to be a museum.

Now, in the September 8 Auroran, I see the council is calling it a Heritage Centre.

I heard it was to be the Arts and Culture Centre.

Is the name because someone is trying to obtain a grant from Heritage Canada to the tune of one million or more dollars?

I understood the museum would have a separate operating group.

There was no mention when the council passed the

\$2,500,000 cost of renovations about operating cost.

Now they are going to bury the cost of operating the Heritage Centre in the Leisure Services department.

Capital costs are a one-time item.

Operating costs go on forever.

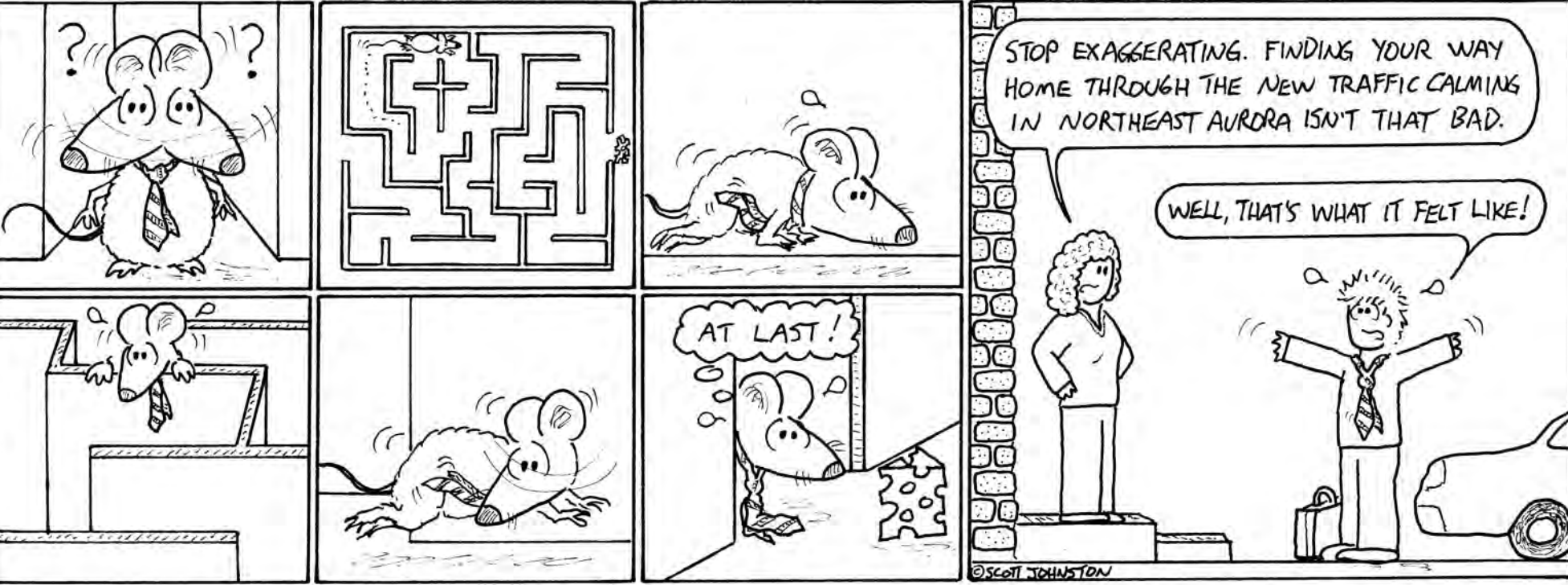
I hear it is going to be about \$400,000 a year to operate the old Church Street School.

That is about two per cent of the current 2007 budget.

Money from Ottawa is still tax dollars.

Amen.

**R.W. Hanes
Aurora**



Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

The provincial party leaders engaged in their one and only formal debate two weeks ago.

Two local debates between the respective party candidates were also held.

I had some issues with the timing and the formats of both the local and leaders' debates.

First, the leaders' debate should have started at 8 p.m. rather than 6.30 p.m.

What a truly ridiculous time to schedule a debate, when most of the population is either finishing off dinner or just getting home from work.

For one night every couple of years, people should be able to forego Grey's Anatomy or Survivor - China Edition, to listen to the leaders lay out plans for this great province of almost 13 million people.

I thought that Steve Paikin of TVO was a very strong moderator and didn't show any favouritism to the combatants and he kept them, for the most part, from speaking over one another.

I found the numerous four-minute "free for all's" interesting to watch, but I would have liked these segments to be longer in duration so the leaders could have gotten deeper into the issues.

Two debates were also held in the Newmarket - Aurora electoral district.

The first one took place in Newmarket the day after the writ was dropped and The Auroran newspaper and the Aurora Chamber of Commerce sponsored the other, held a day later in Aurora.

Both local debates should have been held later on in the campaign.



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

Men and women should never shop together.

First of all, we have opposing visions.

When I try on a pair of shoes, I have a vision of how well they will go with the outfit I'm going to shop for next.

My husband has a vision of his shoes ending up in the garage because there is no more room in the closet.

Then, while I'm trying on outfits that match my new shoes, he is stuck holding the bag.

Of course not only do I find the perfect outfit to match my new shoes, I find several outfits that I really, really LOVE. They don't match my new shoes.

This poses a small problem and we have to go back to the shoe store to fix it. Now he is holding several bags...

At this point, my vision and his vision are definitely misaligned. The happier I get, the more his eyes glaze over. I don't get it...

The second reason that men and women should not shop together is that we don't have the same definition of "needs".

When I have an event to attend, I "need" a new dress....new shoes....new "accessories"...

But when I have a beautiful new "collection", I "need" an occasion to wear it.

It's just the way it works in a woman's world.

Men find it very difficult to keep up with the evolving needs of the female. They have enough trouble with simple "needs".

If I tell my husband that we "need" a new toaster, he will ask: "What's wrong with the old one?"

I might list a few deficiencies: It turns bread into charcoal...has a tendency to shoot flaming Pop Tarts across the room...occasionally makes a strange buzzing sound...

He'll fiddle with it for a while...get shocked...sustain a few third degree burns...suffer smoke inhalation...

I say this despite that fact that the Aurora clash attracted a full house of about 170 people to the Howard Johnson Hotel on Yonge Street.

I was told by one of the event organizers that the events needed to take place before the advance polls were opened.

And this year, the advance polls have been extended, meaning they are open earlier on in the campaign.

Okay, I partly buy this line of reasoning, but two days into the campaign?

The candidates barely had the time to find the bathrooms in their campaign offices!

Also, the voting public was trying to get their collective minds around the fact that there was actually an election going on, never mind starting to think about the actual issues.

The local events could have been held just after the Leader's debate (Sept. 19).

And who really cares if a debate is held after the advance polls are open?

Advance polls have always been utilized during both provincial and federal elections; the actual campaigning and advertising doesn't stop because some people have made up their mind and have already voted.

The Aurora event was well organized and Dick Illingworth and the other panelist asked good questions.

I do, however, have an issue with the structure of the debate.

As a rather modest student of public affairs, and as one who lives a rather sheltered and nerdish existence, I have watched quite a few debates over the years.

I would like to see direct engagement by the local participants to the answers given by their opponents; not just reading

from prepared statements, in other words, a real debate.

I want to see how a candidate defends his platform position under cross-examination and I also want to see them pick logical holes in their opponents' arguments.

This format does not work if you have five people speaking over one another and I also very much agree that a respectful tone is required. A great moderator is a must.

Former Aurora Mayor and Councillor John West used to run a great event at the Town Hall during both provincial and federal elections.

The hall was usually jammed, and the atmosphere electric and tense, similar to that prior to a big prizefight. And ACI would televise it, so people who could not attend had a couple of opportunities to see the contestants in action.

One of our locally elected representatives at Town Hall should grab the horns on this and put something in place just in case we have a federal election later on this year.

Moving local debates to later in the campaign, and re-vamping the debate format itself could lead to interesting, engaging, exciting and thoughtful discussions of Aurora's future.

Voting day is Wednesday October 10.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: For the information of the columnist, The Aurora "debate" was not a "debate". It was an "all-candidates' meeting", and was held on the only date available. Everything was booked up after that date, and even ACI couldn't cover it because of earlier commitments

The joy of shopping

with an elegant lunch in Aurora. You can't shop on an empty stomach, okay?

It was my lucky day. I spotted the pair of three-foot flamingoes that I have "needed" to complete my "vision" of my front porch.

They were on "sale", so My Mom bought a pair, too. We had to put the back seats down to fit everything into my car.

My Mom was smart. She didn't call my Dad to help us unload her stuff.

He would probably stand there with his hands on his hips, shaking his head as if we brought home a pet elephant. "One stork wasn't enough?" he would say, "You needed two?"

I grew up with this man...I know his patterns. "They are flamingoes, Dad," I would say. "They get lonely."

I got home before Damir, so I decided to take a page out of my mother's book and unload by myself.

I got one flamingo box out of the trunk and onto the driveway and Damir pulled up just as I was struggling to disengage my bird from a huge block of Styrofoam. He got out of the car to help me.

"Oh," he said after a few minutes of scratching his head, "you bought a stork!"

"It's a flamingo, honey. And I bought two of them," I say, motioning towards my trunk. "They get lonely."

"Right..." he says as if it all makes sense now.

Then, as if it all suddenly stopped making sense, he steps back, looks at the bird with growing confusion and asks: "What...do they...do?"

"They make me happy!"

See, men just don't understand the joy of shopping!

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

"It's fine," he'll say, ducking to avoid a smoking missile that was once a healthy slice of whole grain bread. "You just have to stand a little farther back."

Men just don't get it...

The third reason men and women shouldn't shop together is that we have a very different approach to "saving" money.

To a woman, "saving" money means buying stuff that's "on sale". To a man, it means NOT buying anything. What's that about?

"On sale?" my husband will ask looking like I asked for a pet elephant. "Cathy, EVERYTHING is "on sale"! That's what stores do: they SELL stuff!"

He doesn't understand. I "saved" \$40 on shoes, \$20 on each of the three outfits I bought, and \$25 on "accessories". Any woman will tell you what that means: I saved enough money to buy a new toaster! The deluxe model, even!

"No, no, no!" he argues. "What it means is that our Visa bill is going to give me a worse shock than the toaster!"

"Nonsense," I say. "You're just feeling a little irritable because the bags are getting heavy. Why don't you just go put them in the car so we can continue shopping in comfort?"

The phrase "continue shopping" strikes terror in the hearts of men.

Unlike women, men don't associate "shopping" with "comfort". My husband has very little hair left, so I'm thinking we should stop shopping together.

Besides, I much prefer to shop with other women. My Mom is the best!

My Mom shares my vision, understands my needs and appreciates a good sale.

Last week, a simple trip to Newmarket to run an errand began



BOUQUETS to 13-year-old Shyamal Nagindas of Aurora on winning the Toronto City Junior Golf Championship in Scarborough recently, by shooting a one-under par 70, his third consecutive title.

BRICKBATS to Aurora Council for another disgusting outbreak of bitter interpersonal relationships among members of the council affecting the business of the municipality. There should be some form of a recall system.

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee for pointing out that much of the success of Doors Open Aurora 2007 was the 11 articles, an editorial cartoon and numerous photographs leading up to the event that appeared in The Auroran, the only newspaper that made people aware of the event. Councillors take note!

BRICKBATS to whoever puts together the Toronto Star TV Guide which comes with the Saturday Star for not including the page numbers and then referring to page so-and-so in the text of what's happening on the airwaves.

BOUQUETS Brad Schonauer, Aurora's Roads/Traffic/Fleet Supervisor on his 30 years of service to the citizens of Aurora.

BRICKBATS to residents of Spruce Street who see nothing wrong with hitting the taxpaying public with a \$250,000 bill for a traffic calming project and using the reason that it enabled a young boy to learn to ride a two-wheeler for the first time, which was not possible previously. Why not use a schoolyard or a park?

BOUQUETS to Andries Godschalk on being appointed by council to serve as a member on the Heritage Advisory Committee of Aurora to replace a retiring member.

BRICKBATS to the manufacturers of the small container which came with the Green Bin for kitchen use as the handle will not stay on the container or Poor Richard is doing something wrong. Help Binny, he needs help.

BOUQUETS and a warm Aurora welcome to the Rev. Timothy K. Hanley who was formally installed as Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church and **BOUQUETS** to retiring Father Don MacLean. He did a wonderful job, not only with the church but with the Catholic school system in York Region.

BRICKBATS to those in the Canadian Armed Forces who had known for at least five years the lap belts on the Snowbirds aircraft were faulty and did little or nothing about it resulting in the death of Captain Shawn McCaughey last May at an air show in Montana. Heads should roll!

BOUQUETS to the Scotiabank Peewees Aurora minor baseball team on winning a close game against the Goodyear team to win the Peewee Division.

BRICKBATS to Liberal Leader Stephane Dion for invoking his controversial power of appointment of candidates in ridings taking the right away from the local riding association, when he appointed activist Michelle Simson as the Liberal candidate in Scarborough Southwest.

BOUQUETS to Rev. Nicola Skinner, formerly of Trinity Anglican Church, Aurora, now the incumbent of All Saints Church, King City, for launching her innovative plan to prepare the parish for the 150th anniversary of the church in November.

BOUQUETS to whoever is responsible for what appears to be a Dress Code for the students at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School as the saggy pants and the bare midriffs have disappeared and it's a pleasure to see the youths on the streets properly dressed.

Letters to the Editor

Reader speaks "frankly" about referendum vote

To the editor,

I would like to thank provincial candidate for Newmarket-Aurora MPP, Frank Klees, for 'speaking frankly' about how he intends to vote in the upcoming provincial referendum. Let me be frank as well.

I will be voting for the mixed member proportional (MMP) system proposed by the citizens' assembly.

Here are my reasons:

First, the MMP system was chosen and designed by 103 randomly-selected citizens, and not by politicians (who would be in a conflict-of-interest). Decisions were

made with a very high degree of consensus after eight months of study, province-wide consultations and intense deliberation.

Second, MMP maintains much of the current system. Proposed changes are moderate, reasonable and eminently justified. The rationale behind the changes are explained in a 27-page report which can be downloaded from: www.citizen-sassembly.gov.on.ca.

Third, our existing first-past-the-post system 'artificially' concentrates political power in the hands of one party and its leader. At the same time, it dilutes or elimi-

nates significant voices from the legislature. MMP, on the other hand, balances the legislature by better reflecting the political diversity and regional party support that represents Ontario. This provides necessary checks and balances to the public decision-making process, as well as better oversight of the \$89-billion public purse.

Fourth, proportional systems (STV, MMP & List-PR) have a proven track record of providing good, "consensus-style" governments worldwide. This includes most of the countries of the European Union. MMP is now being used successfully

in New Zealand, Scotland, Wales and all of the German provinces.

Finally, MMP offers constituents greater choice and better representation after an election. According to the citizens' assembly... "You'll have the option of contacting the local member for your district or any of the list members for the province. You can choose to contact a list member from a particular party, or one who is knowledgeable about your region or about a specific issue that interests you."

Raymond Lorenz
Aurora

Reader says MMP would improve government form

To the editor,

In your last edition, Frank Klees expresses his opposition to MMP (mixed member proportional).

I agree that the public has not been informed properly or in time about this important proposal.

However, I do think it would improve our form of government and make it more representative.

Mr. Klees cites Italy as a bad example of proportional representation, but MMP systems similar to that being proposed here are successfully used in New Zealand and Germany. Ireland – the economic miracle of the EU – used proportional representation.

The fact is the first past the post method currently used allows party with less than 50 per cent of the vote to have

100 per cent of the power and constantly leaves parties with a significant percentage of the vote completely out of the legislature.

In my opinion many people would be happy to see the Liberals or Tories in coalition with - for example - the greens so that a balance is kept in government.

With MMP each party must issue a list of the candidates that would be appointed

well in advance of the election.

In New Zealand one example of the way voters use this is to ensure there is gender balance in their parliament.

I support MMP, however I fear there has not been enough time to inform the public properly and to generate debate on the issue.

Michael Casey
Aurora

MMP vote step backwards: reader

To the editor,

First Past the Post has been the fundamental electoral basis for our democracy since 1792.

One person, one vote.

Now the faceless "Citizens Assembly", appointed by Dalton McGuinty, is trying to replace a system that has provided stable representative government in Ontario with one resembling an Italian style parliament.

And we all know how well that has worked for the Italians.

I would encourage all voters to learn the truth about this "new" electoral process before they cast their vote Oct. 10.

For if you vote to change the system, you will not only be voting for less democracy, but creating a gang of 39 non-elected parasites who will feed at the public trough and be accountable to no one.

Sort of like the Senate in Ottawa.

A vote for the new proposed MMP system is a step backwards to a time when special interest groups and powerful families controlled Ontario.

What we need today in government is more accountability and better representation.

The MMP system is not the solution.

I agree with Frank Klees in his advertorial of last week.

"What we need is to reform how the legislature works. We need to empower MPPs to truly represent their constituents rather than to simply puppet Party lines."

The proposed new system would add 39 new non-elected puppets whose strings would

be pulled by the Party bosses making government further removed and unaccountable to the people of Ontario.

We need more democracy and accountability - not less.

Bryan Moir
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor



Price Chopper Manager Glen Playford prepares to pack up fruit as the downtown Aurora supermarket prepared to close last week. The store, which started decades ago as an IGA store, has always been a supermarket, and some residents who live in the area aren’t sure how they’re going to find groceries. Bottom photo shows the store gradually being emptied. It officially closed Thursday.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Closing brings back memories

To the editor,

I felt very sad when Price Chopper closed its doors last week. I moved to Aurora 30 years ago and always shopped at that store. It was easy to walk to, and many a day I would trundle with the stroller and little ones in tow to buy whatever I needed. It has gone through various changes but many of the present staff were there when I first moved to Aurora.

I can still remember the seniors gathering for a coffee break near the bakery. Those were fantastic years and I am sure many of the seniors from the apartment buildings nearby will miss the store, too. Just a thanks to staff and

the manager for carrying on the tradition over the years - you will certainly be missed! The downtown core will not be the same with the store gone.

**Heather Masters
Aurora**



Dirt

You are wondering why such a zany title. After all you hate dirt. As a matter of fact, so does your family, friends, and the vast majority of North Americans. We are obsessed with dirt and the unclean. We are fastidious, fussy, and clean obsessed. Let me show you. How many of you take off your shoes when entering the house? Look at a glass before drinking from it? Wash your hands compulsively? Wear a hospital gown to hold your newborn? It has more bacteria on it than your infant! Wash your clothes after wearing them only a few hours? Scrutinize the table wear before eating? Or any of the other million idiosyncrasies we all have.

So why do we do this? Well,.... we have been taught that germs are bad. That one can get germs from anything and everything. That germs should be eradicated, wiped out, killed. That no mercy should be

shown. “Take no prisoners” our parents told us. So we do what we have been taught. This sterile obsession we then pass onto our children and the myth of clean is propagated. Our obsession with cleanliness is causing our own demise. I am not referring to personal hygiene; rather, I am referring to our “everything-spotless-and-clean” mentality. More and more authorities are convinced that everyday dust and even dirt is actually good for you. Our search for sterility is actually harming us and our children. I realize this may sound a bit alarming for many of you, but read on!

Our health is based on a properly functioning nervous system, immune system, and endocrine system. The new science connecting these components is called, psychoneuroimmunology. Many feel that the immune system, the endocrine

system, and the nervous system are one and the same. This new science investigates the relationships between these systems and how they integrate and interact together for the health and well being of the individual. What has this to do with dirt you ask? Bart Classen MD, of Classen Immunotherapies in Maryland, a vaccine researcher, stated that the immune system of today’s child is in serious trouble. He feels that because of our search for cleanliness and sterility, our immune system is no longer being exercised as it has been in the past. These thoughts are echoed by Steve Marini D.C., Phd. a chiropractor and immunologist, Philip Incao MD, and countless others. More and more scientists are realizing that most of the childhood diseases are innocuous and are there in order to exercise a young immature immune system of a child. You probably think that a child having measles, chickenpox, etc., is a terrible thought. Not so. These diseases actually teach the immune system how to deal with the myriad of viruses and bacteria of his world. This is a good thing. In fact, I tell my patients that even the common cold and flu has a place; they

teach the immune system how to fight! This is good. Just because you feel sick when you have the flu doesn’t mean you are. It simply means your body is doing exactly what it has been programmed to do. This is not sickness. This is an expression of health! I am not saying that you have to like it, but ultimately it is for your benefit. To circumvent this system is not in your best interests.

There are a number of supplements I can recommend which increase the function of the immune system; after all that is the name of the game.

- Manganese
- Vitamin B complex and Pycnogenol
- Vitamin A plus carotenoids
- Zinc and copper
- Bovine colostrum
- Garlic
- Amino acids (L-Arginine, L-Cysteine, L-Lysine)

Some of these need to be taken in restricted quantities, so be aware. So...don’t be so fastidious. Let some dirt into your life. You’ll be a healthier person for it.

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A wonderful way to spend beautiful autumn morning

To the editor,

We wish to thank the organizers and, particularly Councillor Stephen Granger, for a fabulous, “Apple and Honey Festival”, at the Aurora Farmers’ Market on September 22nd.

What a wonderful way to spend a beautiful autumn morning in Aurora. Thank you to all who donated so generously to Welcoming Arms at the apple pie/apple crumble contest booth.

Welcoming Arms is a partnership of four Aurora churches; Aurora United, Our Lady of Grace Roman Catholic, St Andrew’s Presbyterian and Trinity Anglican that work together to provide assistance to those in need in Aurora.

All donations are greatly appreciated.

On behalf of those involved with Welcoming Arms,

**Beverley Wood
Susan Doyle
Aurora**

Heavy traffic gave you chance to enjoy flowers

To the editor,

Heavy traffic on Yonge Street this summer has given both drivers and pedestrians a chance to safely enjoy the profusion of colour in the sidewalk pots and hanging baskets.

On behalf of all of us benefactors of this civility, thanks to the “green-thumb” folks at the Town who made it all happen.

**Marie and Gordon Barnes
Aurora**

Golfers had perfect weather to “Kiss Summer Goodbye”

To the editor,

On Tuesday, Sept. 18 an enthusiastic group of golfers “Kissed Summer Goodbye” at the second annual Aurora Historical Society golf tournament at Westview Golf Course. The perfect weather, friendly Westview staff, delicious dinner at DiNardo’s and value packed silent auction all made for an enjoyable and profitable day.

On behalf of the Aurora Historical Society I would like to thank the organizers - Nigel Kean and Ron Wallace; our major sponsors - Westview Golf Course and The Auroran; and the super-efficient Suzanne Reiner for organizing the silent auction.

The Aurora Historical Society is extremely fortunate to have such committed friends and volunteers.

**Helen Roberts
President
Aurora Historical Society**

You can't get there from here, he says

To the editor,

I used to bank at the local TD,
Picked up my daughter at half past three.
Had a convenience store that was convenient to me
But now you can't get there from here

For we've got chicanes
And one-way streets
Roads that once did
Now don't seem to meet
Getting anywhere is quite the feat
Because now you can't get there from here

It's called traffic calming
It's the latest version
But what they have done
Is traffic diversion
Now to get around town
I have an aversion
Because now you can't get there from here

You'd think they'd consult
That would have been neat
But what was I thinking
I only live on the street
Another gated community
Oh, what a treat
Because now you can't get there from here

So next election
I know I'll take note
Remember who passed this
When I cast my vote
Assuming I can get there
Though the chance is remote
Because now you can't get there from here

Note: For those who attended the council meeting Sept. 11, the Town representative made it very clear that "consultation with the broader community" did not consist of residents living north of Mark Street.

This means many of us living on Spruce and Walton were not consulted.

Do you know what the Town has planned for your community?

You, too, might be surprised to discover what council passed for your neighbourhood.

It is not "due process" when you are not made aware of what is happening.

David Cook
Aurora

Perhaps councillor should have a look

To the editor,

Councillor Evelina MacEachern says the traffic calming measures in the northeast quadrant that have all the community talking, are about "safety".

I have to agree but let me add two words: "lack of".

I wonder if she knows where Walton Drive and Mark Street are?

They are certainly not in her back yard.

These measures have created a whole new series of traffic safety issues never before seen or experienced in this town. I welcome her to come by and take a look.

Maybe she'll come by when the poor garbage collectors are trying to do their

job and effectively create road blocks as they try to get the job done.

I can't wait until the complaints start rolling in when the first snow falls.

What a poorly thought-out project this was.

C. Sharp
Aurora



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BRYAN BLACK
Sales Representative

Time will be deciding traffic factor, he says

To the editor,

I was surprised and am wondering why Mr. Mark Warburton (MW) was able to have TWO of his letters published in the Auroran, Sept. 25, on the SAME topic: 1. we pay taxes, too. 2. reader agrees with councillor.

Does Mr. MW have special privileges to voice his

opinions about the SAME subject with the Auroran TWICE in the same publication?

A "whiner" is a person who complains about some perceived injustice done to him/her without cause.

A "Whiner", according to Rosie DiManno of the Star, is a person who "whines" about the same

injustice over and over again despite that it is no longer important or relevant to everyone's lives.

As a former educator, I know that my students will tune me out if I persisted on being too verbose about any topic.

As a writer, perhaps Mr. MW should be concerned with the fact that a reader will check the author of an

article or letter, and then decide that it is not worth the time to read it. Nothing is more devastating than being ignored verbally or literally.

I can assure Mr. MW that this will be my last comment on the subject of whether the northeast quadrant calming initiatives are good or bad for Aurora.

Let time be the deciding factor.

Give it a rest, Mr. MW! May I suggest Mr. Warburton write about something more current?

Like the upcoming provincial elections and the referendum?

Spruce Street reminds him of cold war Berlin

To the editor,

Too bad a large sum of money was wasted on traffic calming, making our street dangerous and inaccessible to the locals who live in the area.

It would have been cheaper to fence in that so called special part of town, as Mayor Phyllis Morris refers to it, and call it a gated community, with checkpoints manned by the locals, who live in this gated community.

I'm sure some fencing was left over from fencing in the artificial soccer sur-

face in Sheppard's Bush.

It seems that certain councillors cater to special interest groups, and when making these decisions do not think about all the residents, who are taxpaying citizens.

Spruce street reminds me of Berlin during the cold war. We all know what happened there!

What do we, the residents who live on the wrong side of Spruce Street, do to claim our street back?

Any suggestions?

Nick Mozzetti
Aurora

Ken Chong
Aurora

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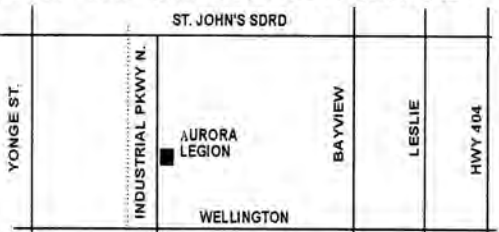
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Letters to the Editor

Remember what happened to Bill Davis

To the editor,

Excuse me! Faith-based school funding. Have we not learned from the 1980s' fiasco when the "Bill Davis" government funded the Catholic separate system "separating" school children of the Catholic faith only from the

rest?

If the Province of Ontario funds, segregating all of the different faiths that we have in Ontario will there be a school for those of little or no faith and will it be funded? It is called "The Ministry of Education" indicating that it oversees education and is not responsible for religious

training. That's what we have Ministers, Priests, Rabbis etc., for. Or am I wrong? In other provinces, religion is provided by these religious leaders, sometimes even in the schools, at designated times but all of the kids are in one system concentrating on providing

the best education, spending their dollars wisely and giving all Canadian children the opportunity to accept all kinds of differences in others. To me this makes sense. Quite frankly, one day a week for me was plenty of religious training (I was raised Presbyterian - fire

and brimstone) but I digress. Because of religious doctrines I was not allowed to stand up for one of my best friends when she got married or be the godmother of her daughter.

As a mother, I wanted my boys to attend "public school" to learn and understand that we live in a multi-cultural community to better equip them for the future. Our sons were not allowed to attend the local Catholic school nor was I allowed to teach in the separate system because we were not of the acceptable faith.

Something is very wrong with this picture and why in the world would anyone want to acerbate the present separating system. By the way, the Davis Government was defeated in the subsequent election and my good friend Dr. Bette Stephenson (who was

Minister of Education and had to tow the Party line) opposed the funding of the Separate system in the 80s and is steadfast in her opposition to further faith-based funding. I also do not want an unelected, not accountable to me, person in the Legislature if a positive reaction to the referendum occurs. Bear in mind the "faith-based funding" is but one issue (albeit a hot one). Look at all of the platforms, issues and make an informed decision, then vote!

Aurora, you are very lucky to have the choice to elect Frank Klees. He was a dedicated, responsible, attentive, respected and caring representative in Oak Ridges.

Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges

Letter writer “naive”: reader

To the editor,

Re: "Do Voters have short memories" (letter to the editor by Gary Johnson, The Auroran, Sept. 25)

I had to laugh at Mr. Johnson's naivete regard-

ing voters' memories. Has he forgotten that Mike Harris also inherited a huge deficit from the Fiberals, who mismanaged our province's finances prior to Harris. Harris did a great job trying to restore some "sense" to Ontario's finances by tak-

ing on scourges of our financial system like welfare bums, criminals, and CUPE unions. Has he forgotten about Dalton McGuinty's LIE to Ontario taxpayers; "I won't lower your taxes, but, I won't raise them either."

Now that the Fiberals

have accumulated a surplus of \$2.6 billion due to McGuinty's robbing us of up to \$900 per year, why aren't the Fiberals giving us back our \$2.6 billion? I suspect because they want to give money to their interest groups to buy votes- as they did in the immigrant slush fund scam.

If Mr. Johnson needs a lesson in government incompetence and mismanagement, he should take a look at McGuinty's Fiberals. As for Frank Klees, I have never met the man, but, what I have read from him appears fair and balanced, and practical with good solutions to tough problems. Klees DOES deserve all of our votes.

R. Gee
Aurora

There is plenty of waste in campaign, reader says

To the editor,

As much as I was amused by Stephen Somerville's 700-pound dog anecdote, he did make one statement that was somewhat mistaken, in my opinion, when he said, "the amount of [political lawn] 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..."

Actually, I think that they should more about how much money a candidate has available. Lawn signs on private lawns may show support. Signs on public property show that the campaign is purchasing advertising space. People who know my background will know that I was not voting for Frank Klees in any case. That's no secret. But even still I have found Frank's campaign to

be over the top, with a ridiculous number of lawn signs on public property, and what I can only describe as a book delivered to my mailbox. Even if the PCs were a consideration (which, after their stand on further extending funding to religious schools, they would not have been) I'm very much put off by the waste I see in this campaign.

Glenn Hubbers
Aurora

One candidate has referendum figured

To the editor,

Newmarket-Aurora candidate, Frank Klees, a Member of Provincial

Breakfast was paid in advance

To the editor,

May I say 'Thank you!' via your newspaper to the lady who treated me to a late breakfast at Tim Horton's on Wellington Street last Tuesday. It was an unexpected surprise when I reached the take-out window to be told that the lady in the car in front of me had paid for my order. I can't tell you how it changed my outlook, not only for the day, but three days later I still feel "warm and fuzzy" and am wondering how I can spread a little sunshine into someone else's day when they least expect it.

Parliament since 1995, has made his position clear. He is against the new voting system. In a recent interview, Mr. Klees demonstrates his leadership experience and his decisiveness. Regarding the 39 party appointees, a key part of the proposed MMP system, he is quoted as follows: "These so called 'list members' will have the same rights and privileges and responsibilities as an elected MPP, but will be accountable only to their party bosses. This is not democracy as we know it." On Wednesday, Sept. 26, I met with Christina Bisanz, the brand-new, Newmarket-Aurora candi-

date for the Liberal party. I had read her campaign literature prior to our meeting and was aware of her position on other major issues, but could find no reference to the referendum question. With fewer than two weeks left until the Oct. 10 election, she doesn't know which way to go. I don't doubt that Christina will be a good politician someday, but given the issues that have arisen in the current election race, we need an experienced leader. That's why Mr. Klees will have my vote Oct. 10.

Rick Strongitharm
Newmarket

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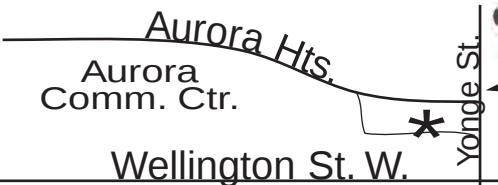


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Tigers split a pair with Terriers

By JOHN KLEIN

Turnabout is fair play, they say.

The Aurora Tigers Provincial Junior A hockey team hosted the Couchiching Terriers Friday night and came up on the wrong end of a 5-2 game.

Sunday, at noon, they marched into the Terriers' rink and emerged with a 6-2 victory.

Friday, Aurora took the lead late in the first period on a goal by forward Paul Dupont.

However, two early second period power play goals by Couchiching's Leiland Gauley and Matt Salmon put the Terriers on top.

Salmon added another goal to give the Terriers a lead they would never surrender.

Aurora's Jordan Watts added a power play marker for the Tigers midway through the second frame, cutting the Terrier lead in half.

Tennis tourney hosts 28 players

Total Tennis owner Bill Maron hosted at Junior Singles tournament at the Aurora Community Tennis Club recently.

A total of 28 players participated.

Results are as follows: Under 18 Champion-Tom Gibson; Under 18 Runner Up-Mike Roberts; Under 18 Consolation Champion-Matt DeSouza; Under 14 Champion-Nicholas Holiday; Under 14 Runner Up-Carter Wright; Under 14 Consolation Champion-Russell Johnson.

But the goal failed to provide the spark for his teammates, as the Terriers added another marker in the third and cruised to the win.

Brennon Poderzay took the loss for the Tigers, his first of the season.

Matt Beirnes replaced the starter early in the third period; the second game in a week in which a Tiger goalie was unable to finish what he started.

The battle shifted from Aurora to Orillia Sunday afternoon.

And things were different.

The Aurora line of Mike McLaughlin, Paul Dupont and Mark Mayea set the tone early and often, as the trio led the Tigers with a total of nine points, helping Aurora avenge their loss on home ice only two days earlier.

Additional scoring for the Tigers came from Mark Thorburn and Sam Yearsley.

Goaltender Matt Beirnes stopped 11 of 13 shots that came his way, recording his first win of the season, erasing the loss in his first start over a week earlier in the home opener versus Newmarket.

The game was a penalty riddled affair, a passionate rekindling of egos from Friday night, with Aurora having to battle through ten shorthanded kills.

It was this work on specialty teams by the Tigers, including four power play goals that proved the difference and elevated the Tigers to victory.

They went on to beat the Terriers in the second half of the home and home

set by a score of 6-2.

Aurora's home record as a result of Friday night's loss falls to 0-2 as the Tigers have, at least at this early stage, been unable put it together for a full 60 minutes on home ice.

Their record on the road, however, is a perfect 4-0; which puts them in fifth place in the Northern Division standings.

Of importance to note is that the Tigers have played at least two fewer games than all the teams ahead of them in the standings, and the fewest games overall for the entire division.

The Tigers' next game is against the very team

that sits above them in the standings, the Stouffville Spirit.

The Tigers and the Spirit have met once before this season, a game which saw the Tigers come back to best

the Spirit 5-4 in a shootout.

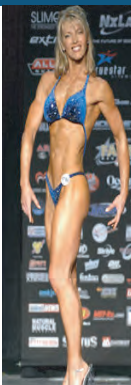
The puck drops Friday night at 7.30 p.m. at the Community Centre, as the Tigers look to win their first home game of this early season.

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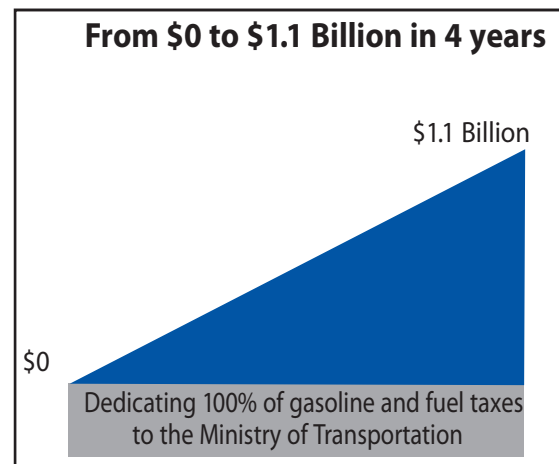
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A recent fundraising carwash, held by members of the Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE hockey team was termed a huge success. Held at the Aurora Oil X Change on Wellington Street East, participants included, left to right, Jesse Van Rooyen, Graham Joiner, Kevin Lukezic, Mackenzie Wooder, Ethan Benson, Ryan Hughes, Brendan Beresford, David Baccellieri and Tyler White. At the rear is Dave Penko of Aurora Oil X Change.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Fence decision finalized by Town

Aurora Council has ratified a general committee ruling after it faced a difficult decision over a fence issue and a dispute between neighbours.

The committee finally agreed to stick with the town's original intent to retain an eight-acre parcel of land as open space with an easement for the possible servicing of the area in the future if required.

The issue was brought to council's attention at a previous general committee meeting when a solicitor for two property owners on Bluegrass Drive, in Aurora's south end, who built fences without town permission on former town-owned land.

The solicitor appealed to the committee to allow the fences to remain.

He explained that when his clients purchased property, fences were permitted but later learned there was a town easement on the newly-acquired properties.

The easement provides the town with the unencumbered right to install municipal services if required and does not permit the construction of buildings, structures or fences without written permission of the town.

He added that the fence was required for security and privacy reasons as the former town-owned lands were often used by strangers and there had been a recent home invasion in the area.

The general committee received about 35 letters objecting to the fence and one in support.

Douglas Lloyd appeared before the committee on behalf of the residents, many who were in the audience to provide background information and to oppose the fence.

He claimed it had been made clear at the time of the purchase by the adjacent

property owners that the majority of the purchasers took the town's assurances at face value and looked forward to enjoying free access to the open space.

After questions from some committee members, the presentations and correspondence were referred to staff members for a legal opinion.

In a report to the general committee, public works staff members noted that the subdivision had been approved in 1970 prior to the requirement for stormwater management causing the Ministry of the Environment to be concerned.

A drainage system was devised to channel stormwater to the site in question.

The report indicated while there were no technical reasons not to allow chain-link fences in the area there was concern that if the property changed hands in the future the fence may have to be removed to do work in the

area.

The town solicitor presented a detailed report leading up to the current situation dating back to 1974 when the town's easement was registered on the lands.

In 1982 the development company was dissolved and the province took possession of the eight acres, which were subsequently purchased by the town, in consultation with adjacent property owners.

In September, 1997, a meeting was held in which 12 of the 14 affected homeowners expressed an interest in acquiring portions of the land from the town.

The lands were zoned open space with the easement remaining on the lands.

As the property had been zoned open space, the general committee agreed to honour the original intent and reject the request for fences.

A week later, Aurora Council agreed and ratified the decision.



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Town's procedural bylaw blocks working session

The procedural bylaw continues to haunt councillors over a working session of council.

At a recent general committee meeting, staff members presented a report in response to a request from council to arrange a series of special general committee meetings including a meeting to discuss the town-owned vacant buildings.

Staff proposed that council call a special general committee meeting to discuss the two properties on Victoria Street, the Jack Woods property and the Hydro building.

Other special committee meetings were proposed for a Planning Process Review; an Infrastructure Allocation Review; Strategic Planning and Goals and Priority Setting.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern suggested some of the proposed meetings be workshop sessions instead of special general

committee meetings as it may not be possible to have a quorum in attendance for some of the meetings.

Staff members pointed out that calling a working session was contrary to the procedural bylaw as at previous meetings council had refused to endorse working sessions.

Councillor MacEachern then suggested the report be deferred and members be provided with information or an agenda as to what was to be discussed at each meeting.

The problem started in 2004 when council followed its traditional procedure of holding a retreat after the election so that council members could get to know each other and set a vision for the term.

Councillors Phyllis Morris, Wendy Gaertner and Nigel Kean refused to participate claiming it wasn't a meeting within the terms of the Municipal Act and this

and other issues resulted in a review of the procedural bylaw.

George Rust-D'Eye, a well-known lawyer on municipal law, was asked for a legal opinion on what constituted a meeting.

He said there was nothing to preclude a council from assembling its members in an informal workshop or retreat under certain conditions.

He prepared a draft bylaw as a proposed amendment to the procedural bylaw and it was moved by then Councillor Ron Wallace that the draft bylaw be approved, but it was opposed by Councillor Morris.

The Wallace motion was adopted with Councillors Morris and Gaertner in

opposition, but the enacting bylaw was lost on a 4-4 vote.

Earlier this year the Municipal Act was amended which permitted a council to call a closed meeting for the purpose of educating or training council members providing the business of decision-making of council was not advanced during the meeting.

Councillor Evelyn Buck suggested such a meeting be held to discuss the future of the town-owned vacant buildings, but Councillor MacEachern said the discussion should take place at a special general committee meeting and she would not participate in such a closed meeting and on a 5-4 vote the Buck motion was defeated and the future of the buildings left undecided.



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Constituents to Decide on Faith-based Education Issue

The question I have been asked most often during this campaign, is how I would vote on the faith-based education issue. I have always answered that question directly, whether in conversations during my door-to-door canvassing, by telephone or by email, and I want to share that response with you here.

I will conduct myself on this issue, as I have on every other issue since I was first elected to the Ontario legislature in 1995.

I will vote according to what I believe is the will of the majority of my constituents.

That is my responsibility in a representative democracy, and John Tory agrees.

While I have made it clear that I support the proposed faith-based policy, and I have stated my reasons, I have also reminded voters of the following facts:

- 1) The proposed policy cannot be implemented until it is first voted on by the legislature;
- 2) That vote will not take place until the legislature receives a report from a Commission that will be charged specifically with the responsibility to assess the feasibility of the proposal's implementation. And no one can presume what that report will say.
- 3) During that time, I will be consulting with my constituents to determine their views on this issue and I will also ensure that they have the factual information available that will allow for an objective and informed opinion.

This is how I have always conducted myself as MPP and it is this approach to leadership, that I believe results in effective and responsible representation.



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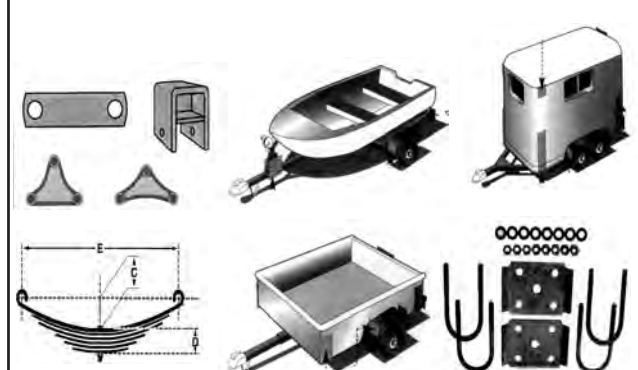
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Bryan Moir

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

Church Street School a draw to downtown

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

A dollar here, a dollar there...sooner or later it adds up to real money...taxpayers' money...our money.

And there have been no assurances that it is being spent wisely on the Aurora Heritage Centre (AHC), a.k.a. the Church Street School, which has been under renovation for a number of years.

To date, almost \$900,000 has been spent on the AHC from private and public sources, including money allocated by previous councils.

Current council has approved a further expenditure of \$1.9 million. In addition, there has also been a grant request for \$1.2 million to Cultural Spaces Canada.

For those keeping score, this adds up to a little over \$4 million in capital that has been spent, approved, or applied for in order to keep this building from deteriorating.

Council has also been asked to approve a yearly operating budget of \$369,000.

Heritage is an apple pie issue. Everyone is for it. But not everyone gets it right. Towns that have been smart about it have flourished. Niagara-on-the-Lake is a good example.

The AHC is an opportunity to provide "a shot in the arm" to the downtown core and give us a year-round destination, unlike the successful, but seasonal, activity generated by the "Farmers' Market" and the "Concerts in the Park".

Presentations and reports to council have provided a broad overview of the project.

Renovation plans exist to describe how your taxpayer dollars will be spent restoring this marvellous example of architecture.

But little attention has been paid to how the building is going to sustain itself going forward.

No business plan has been presented outlining how the AHC will attract people once the doors re-open.

Only generalities about the types of programming and a potential rental revenue stream of \$25,000 per year have been suggested.

No mention of marketing, promotion and advertising has been made. Yet these are key success factors for any project, whether it is in the public or private sector.

The lack of business and marketing plans not only reduces the chances for success, but has placed council in the unenviable position of having to approve the spending of funds to restore the building, with no way of determining the extent and/or end to their (and our) financial commitment.

While "Build it and they will come" worked in Hollywood's "Field of Dreams", it is not, in reality, a good business strategy.

It has been suggested that the AHC remain under the direct management of the Town's Leisure Services department.

However, in my opinion, this would spell the death knell for the project. The only benefit would be to those who get long-term government employment from the project.

Many of the cultural and heritage centres in the GTA are separate, not-for-profit corporations wholly owned by their municipal governments.

This type of corporate structure allows organizations the tools and flexibility to better meet the challenges of programming, and financing, as well as being able to maintain a higher degree of accountability to the public.

There are several advantages to a not-for-profit structure.

First and foremost, it allows for a broader base of private and government funding options.

It also would allow the AHC to apply for charitable tax status and provide tax-receipts for donations.

It would allow for an independent, accountable management team that would be dedicated to the success of the AHC.

It would allow managers to hire personnel best suited for the job, and would relieve the Town of all personnel management issues as well as any long-term pension liabilities.

A separate management structure would provide a single focal point for the diverse needs of the heritage, arts and cultural communities and have the flexibility to accommodate a multitude of users with diverse programming needs under one umbrella.

A stand-alone AHC would also have the flexibility to explore a wider range of partnerships with the private and public sectors and be able to react more quickly to opportunities.

This could include school programming through the various local boards, resulting in weekday traffic to the downtown core.

To ensure the interests of the Town are respected, councillors, senior town staff, and/or residents could be appointed to the board of directors.

Size does matter.

While the AHC is an impressive building, arts and cultural programming can quickly consume the space available.

As part of a broader vision, consideration should be given to finding ways to incorporate the old library and seniors' centre into a larger cultural centre.

The AHC represents a major opportunity for the revitalization of our downtown. The real challenge lies in piecing the various opportunities in the core together into a cohesive strategy to bring forth sustainable economic growth.

Bryan can be reached at:
moir@aci.on.ca



Three members of the Colonel Fred Tilston branch, Royal Canadian Legion, received life memberships at awards ceremonies held in Aurora recently. They are, in the front row, left to right, Len Whines, currently president of the branch, Winnie Fleet, and former president Marilyn Tolman. *Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

Advertorial

Frankly Speaking on the Referendum



Frank Klees

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.

In fact, here is what a local newspaper reported on the Liberal candidate's views on the referendum this past week. The headline read:

"Ms Bisanz is undecided on the issue".

The Liberal candidate is quoted as telling that local paper:

"There are some strong arguments in favour of changing the system and some strong arguments in favour of not changing the system".

Now there's decisiveness.

For someone who wants to be entrusted with leadership responsibilities, to be "undecided" on such an important issue days before the voting deadline is, in my opinion, unprepared for that responsibility.

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

I voted 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 made 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

Authorized by the CFO for the Frank Klees Campaign

Remembering the school computer bus

Computers in the classroom are common today, but it wasn't always that way as there was concern that computers would become the primary teaching tool.

In 1980, some educators claimed that the use of computers promised to be the must fundamental change in education since the development of the textbook as they allowed students to advance at their own pace.

With some students more advanced in computer technology than their teachers, in October, 1996, the Computer School Bus was introduced to provide a mobile platform of sophisticated computer technology to travel to schools across the province to train teachers.

The Computer Bus was unofficially unveiled for the York Region Board of Education officials and school principals at the board's Community Education Centre in Newmarket.

It was a joint project of the Ontario Public School Boards Association, Laidlaw Transit, IBM EduQuest, Telesat Canada, 3M Canada and TV Ontario.

Laidlaw Transit contributed \$275,000 and IBM \$150,000 to the project so there was no cost to the school boards or teachers for the training.

The school bus had all the seats removed and replaced with training stations which would accommodate 12 people at a time and the IBM computer equipment was state-of-the-art and allowed teachers to learn the most up-to-date technology right beside their school.

COLLECTING ELEPHANTS

People are collectors of various things but for Aurora's Doris Haigh it was elephants.

By July, 1994, the 85-year-old had been collecting elephants from pinhead size to a floor model for 36 years.

The 600-elephant collection filled her small apartment and each one held a special memory.

She had them in ivory, oyster shell, teak, pewter, onyx, glass and every conceivable material.

But the first one and the most cherished was a small plastic black toy with a chewed trunk which she carried in her purse.

She received it from her five-year-old grandson who had received a bag of plastic zoo animals and he gave her the elephant.

She gave dozens away over the years helping friends start their own collection and she told family and friends that she couldn't accept any more for her small apartment, but they kept coming.

She had just about everything except an elephant door-knocker.

Wonder if she ever forgot anything?

Graffiti abatement committee rolling

Following a private meeting in June, Aurora Council appointed Allan Church, Michael Evans, Jane Hinder, Kim Rogers and Sean Herbinson as members of the Graffiti Abatement Ad Hoc Committee.

Herbinson was chosen by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

In February Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas got council support to set up a

committee to look into stopping the increasing graffiti in Aurora.

At the committee's first meeting last month Councillor Collins-Mrakas was elected chairperson and Herbinson as vice chairman.

Chris Alexander, Bylaw Services Coordinator, provided a verbal overview of the town's Property Standards Bylaw, the City of Toronto's Graffiti

Abatement Program, the City of Mississauga Graffiti Report and information from the Toronto's Police Services regarding the Graffiti Eradication Program.

Bylaw Enforcement Officer Heather Green said York Regional Police had suggested a uniform Anti-Graffiti Bylaw be put in place for the region.

She also suggested the City of Cambridge bylaw would be an excellent guideline for the town to use and that the Town of Richmond Hill hoped to have such a bylaw in the future.

The committee discussed various topics including locations within the municipality that have a large amount of graffiti, possible banning of cer-

tain materials to youth under 18, need for quick removal of graffiti, various removal options and placing awareness notices in local newspapers.

The committee also discussed a program in place in some areas, where art students and artists paint murals for a small donation in areas where graffiti is commonly found. The program is known as CAVE: Communities Advancing Valued Environment.

It was agreed York Regional Police would be invited to the next meeting to make a presentation.

The committee minutes were adopted by Aurora's general committee without comment or debate last week and ratified by council Tuesday night.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GOOD NEIGHBOURS AWARD?

In March, 2005, Rebecca Beaton addressed the Leisure Services Advisory Committee to request the addition of a Civic Awards category for a Good Neighbours Award.

She suggested it become an annual award to be presented to an individual who on an ongoing basis, assists a neighbour, or neighbours by showing kindness, generosity and warmth in varying awards.

Realizing the deadline for the 2005 awards was the end of April, the committee agreed that the new category be considered for 2006.

It was agreed that the suggestion be accepted in principle and that an ad hoc committee be established comprised of two members of the Advisory Committee, a citizen and a staff member be appointed to develop criteria for the Good Neighbours Award.

Dawn Irwin and Stephen Dupuis were appointed to represent the committee and Rebecca Beaton was recommended as the citizen member.

What happened to the suggestion and the award?

ONTARIO'S FORGOTTEN BYOW LEGISLATION?

Whatever happened to Ontario's Bring Your Own Wine (BYOW) Bottle legislation which permitted diners to take their favourite bottle of wine to a restaurant to consume with their meal?

The legislation was introduced before Christmas, 2004.

The general concept was borrowed from Quebec and other jurisdictions and it was hoped the legislation would encourage diners to go out more often and spend more on extras like appetizers and desserts.

Licensed restaurants were allowed to charge a corkage fee for the service.

The Ontario Restaurant Hotel and Motel Restaurant Association, with 11,000 members opposed the legislation, as did MADD officials who claimed it would encourage drinking and driving.

Of the province's 17,400 licensed premises only a handful submitted an application for an exemption to their liquor licence to permit the BYOW legislation including Aurora's Pure Pizza Company on Bayview Avenue.

By January, 2006, it was reported that only 912 restaurants in the province had applied for and received the free licence to permit diners to bring their own wine.

Since then there has been little or no news as to the success of the program or whether diners had continued to ignore it and were quite content to select the house wine or something from the restaurant's wine list.

What happened?

RED RIVER CART IN AURORA

In May, 1970, the Red River Cart passed through Aurora on its way from Joliette, Quebec to Portage La Prairie as part of Manitoba's Centennial Celebration and it was welcomed by Mayor Dick Illingworth.

The cart was a replica of those used in the settlement of the west and was pulled by a horse and carried two men, Ron and Bruce Strand.

They had left Joliette Apr, 10.

Arrangements were made with the school boards so that all the elementary school children be excused from classes to line the route along Yonge Street to witness the passage of the historic cart.

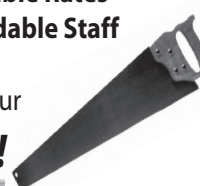
The travellers stopped overnight and the cart was left on view at the Community Centre for the public to inspect.

Jack Woods, on his farm on Edward Street, boarded the horse for the night.

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Bridge results

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Wednesday, Sept. 26: N/S - Gerald Heath and Deane Dennison; Paul Graves and Paul Macfarlane; Don and Lena Jackson. E/W - Bob and Priscilla Hull; Hans Jacob and Linda Lord; Vivien Thomas and Marg Farmer.

Friday, Sept. 28: N/S - Marg and Paul Macfarlane; Ron Smith and Hans Jacob; Rose Morrell and Vivien Thomas. E/W - George Payment and Ross Jenkinson; Priscilla Hull and Mary Oglanby; Gerald Heath and Marg Farmer.

AURORA SENIORS

Monday, Sept. 24: N/S - Carol Gordon and Brenda Smith; Irene Kubica and Dave Legallais; Sheldon Fast and Marion Warburton. E/W - Judy Salmon and Lucille Sequeira; Rose White and Gloria Smith; Irene Stone and Kay Hack.


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Senior Scope

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Members take advantage of centre's many facilities

The year is racing by, or is my age playing with my imagination?

Regardless, every day brings new challenges and something to interest everybody!

This week we have the comic opera, "The Barber of Seville" to enjoy, organized by members of the Aurora Seniors Association [ASA], and the last week in September, we had the membership drive, in addition to the usual activities.

I am very pleased to announce that Kelly has given birth to a healthy baby girl, and on behalf of everybody I send our best wishes.

The baby was born Friday, Sept. 21, at 9.45 p.m. and weighed 9 lbs. 9 ozs.

Special events are great to talk about but our regular activities are what drives the ASA.

The last week in September had its full complement of card games, which are enormously popular.

Those who take part, play winter and summer, daytime and evening and seldom with a shortage of players. Bridge results are posted in the ASA Newsletter.

Another strong draw is the painting and sketching class which always has artists pouring their hearts and souls into their work.

Tuesday has always been the most popular day for attendance, which slows in the late afternoon and picks up again in the evening until close.

This allows members who are still employed to attend and get involved, and I am sure that more working members could make better use of this window of opportunity.

There is always someone to talk with and a movie to watch if you do not feel energetic, and chess to play if your brain needs a workout.

The computer room is open and the equipment is modern, and if a demand for instruction is noted, we would attempt to satisfy it, depending on the availability of instructors.

If you have some basic computer experience and would like to teach, why not volunteer your time and find out if you can help?

The centre provides a refuge for the elders of society; free from the competition of younger and more vigorous people, to plunge into a variety of interesting pursuits, which might not otherwise be available.

We have about 1,000 active members, and some I see every time I visit the centre.

That indicates something pretty satisfying and fulfilling is occurring, and persuades me that we should all attempt to make better use of our retirement years, since clearly, if we get our wish for a long life, the elder years are waiting to greet us!

Aurora Armoury to be recognized

The Aurora Armoury, located in the Town Park, is believed to be one of the oldest Armouries still serving Canada's Armed Forces as it has been home to the Queen's York Rangers and its predecessors for many years.

The Queen's Rangers date back to December, 1781, when the regiment was established for service in the new Province of Upper Canada under Colonel John Graves Simcoe.

On November 7 at 7.30 p.m. the Ontario Trust and the Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment) invite the public to attend the unveiling of a provincial plaque commemorating the Armoury and its long association with the Town of Aurora on Larmont Street.

In 1866, citizens of the Village of Aurora presented a ceremonial bugle to the York Volunteers, later to become part of the Queen's York Rangers and in 1966 to commemorate 100 years of friendly relations with the regiment, the town presented a ceremonial sword to the officer commanding A Squadron in Aurora.

In addition to being used for military purposes, the Aurora Armoury, or the Drill Shed as it was then known, was also used for political purposes when in October, 1873, Edward Blake, who left the Liberal Party to form the Canada First Party delivered his famous Aurora Speech.

He stressed that the future of Canada depended largely upon the cultivation of a national spirit.

Back in the 1960s, when Aurora Council met on Monday nights which was the parade night of the Queen's York Rangers, it was a regular practice when the council meeting was over to adjourn to the Armoury for a "happy hour".

Sometimes those events went well into the early hours of the next morning.

In October, 1970, during the October crisis in Quebec when the FLQ was raiding armouries to steal rifles and ammunition, the Aurora Armoury went on full alert which resulted in the "Battle of Larmont Street", an event not to be found in any history book.

There has been a long and friendly relationship between the Aurora Armoury and the Queen's York Rangers over the years and it is timely that this historic Armoury be recognized as it is worthy of designation.



Candidates in any election will go everywhere seeking votes, and Aurora resident Frank Klees, right, who is running for a seat in the province's new Newmarket-Aurora riding, is no exception. He wound up at Aurora's Park Place Manor last week to meet residents, and spoke briefly with the guy in the back row, former Aurora mayor John West. Klees is currently MPP in the riding of Oak Ridges, a riding that will disappear after the October 10 election.

Auroran photo
by Ron Wallace



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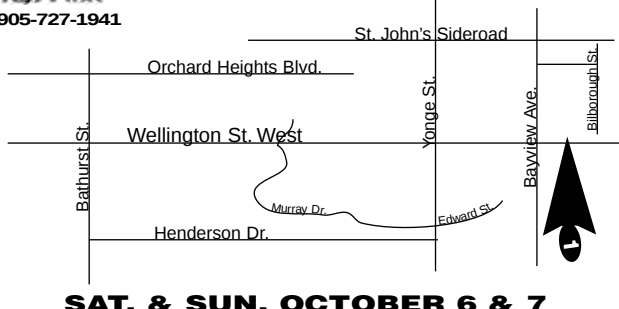
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DEATH NOTICE

BAKER, Pat - On Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at the age of 71 years. Beloved wife of the late William Baker. Dear mother of Debbie and her husband Leo DiPaola. Loving grandmother to Sarah and Christina. Dear sister of William Michalosky. Friends called at the MARSHALL FUNERAL HOME, 10366 Yonge St., Richmond Hill (4th traffic light north of Major Mackenzie Dr.) on Sunday from 2-5 p.m. Service was held at the Community Bible Church, Bathurst St. (Just south of Henderson Dr.), Aurora on Monday, October 1st at 1 p.m. Interment Aurora Cemetery. Memorial donations to the Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated. "Absent from the body, present with the lord."

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Judy studied academic painting and drawing in Florence, Italy. She has appeared on City Line TV.
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Steering committee studies public transportation in York

York Region's Rapid Transit Public/Private Partnership Steering Committee is carrying out a study regarding public transit and associated road improvements for the North Yonge Street Corridor, and Aurora is right in the middle of it.

The corridor study area extends from Bathurst Street in the west to Highway 404 in the east and from 19th Avenue in Richmond Hill in the south to Green Lane in East Gwillimbury in the north.

The study's analysis of

alternative transportation solutions presented to the public in September, 2006, recommended implementation of the region's planned rapid transit system as the preferred response to the need for a balanced transportation system to support the region's Centres and Corridors policy.

Subsequently, the study continued the Environmental Assessment process by analyzing alternative designs comprising routes and technologies for a rapid transit system and widening intersection improvements or

operational enhancements for the Yonge Street capacity deficiency.

One of the sections studied was in Aurora from Bloomington Road north to the south boundary of Newmarket, which is just north of the St. John's Sideroad.

Aurora representatives are participating in the Technical Advisory Committee and have been asked to continue their involvement during the remainder of the study and assembly of the Draft EA Report.

This report will be circulated to the participating municipalities for review and comment and a presentation to the public is scheduled for December and submission of the final EA Report to the Ministry of the Environment in April next year.

Regional council endorsed the work plan and schedule for the North Yonge Street Corridor EA and will forward a copy to the participating municipalities.

Letter to the Editor

Group prepares for annual fair

To the editor,

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Women's League is holding its 12th annual Christmas Fair and Artisans' Craft Sale Saturday, Nov. 17 in the Lynett Hall, 16 Catharine Avenue, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Would you please insert the above mentioned information in your "Coming Events in Aurora" calendar?

It would be very helpful to us if you could advertise our event in your weekly issues for as many weeks as possible. In the past you have been very generous with our requests, and we want you to know how much we appreciate that.

We can always depend on your excellent service to us and we thank you very much.

Belinda Higgs
Caroline Berryman
Co-presidents
Our Lady of Grace
Catholic Women's
League

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Choose change that's working for Ontario

On October 10th Vote for Christina Bisanz

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

I am honoured to be the candidate for the fantastic riding of Newmarket-Aurora in this upcoming provincial election. I have chosen to run because there is no place that holds more importance to me than Newmarket-Aurora.

I have had the opportunity to make both communities my home in the past 25 years. I have found them to be strong communities with proud histories that welcome diversity and yet maintain their small town allure and vibrancy while attracting people who want to live, work and raise families here.

For more than 25 years I have worked as an executive with non-profit associations and groups ranging from consumer advocacy to children's services, and from the food industry to health care, helping them to increase their effectiveness and contribution to the sectors, stakeholders and communities they serve.

Now, I am focusing on the issues and concerns of my fellow residents in our riding. I understand the challenges the region faces and am eager to work with Premier Dalton McGuinty's government to bring increased economic opportunities, as well as health and social benefits, to the riding.

As a member of Premier McGuinty's Liberal team, I will be a strong advocate for Aurora and Newmarket within the government.

On October 10, vote for change that's working. Vote for Christina Bisanz. Let's make it happen.

Christina



In the past four years, our Liberal Government has:

- Increased funding to York Region schools by over \$700 million
- Hired over 700 more teachers for students in York Region
- Returned stability to classrooms
- Funded 100 new police officers for York Region streets
- Improved support for seniors and caregivers
- Invested \$29 million in Southlake Regional Health Centre and expanded cancer treatment services and funded MRI scanners
- Invested \$7 million in public transit, returned \$12 million to municipalities in gas tax, expanded GO stations and services
- Protected a 1.8 million acre greenbelt and implemented the best Clean Water Act in Canada

Christina can bring people together

In my association with Christina over the past 20 years, and particularly when she served on our External Advisory Committee at Ryerson, I valued her ability to succinctly define the concerns of a wide range of stakeholder interests and to quickly articulate actionable solutions that integrate and respect such diverse interests.

Patricia Jensen

Professor Emeritus and former Director
Ryerson University's School of Nutrition

Christina is ethical, down to earth, dedicated

I've known Christina Bisanz for more than 20 years. She's ethical, down to earth and cares about people.

Susanne Chir-Stimpson, President, Strategic Solutions

Commitment and dedication are two words that come to mind when I think of Christina Bisanz.

Sheryn Posen, COO, Canadian Sports Hall of Fame

Christina listens

Christina Bisanz's ability to listen to people, whether they represented a group or community, or whether it was a particular person, was just amazing. She's intelligent, sympathetic, and possesses all the skills for working with people to achieve common community goals. Above all, Chris gets things done. She searches for win-win solutions that benefit all parties to an issue.

George Fleischmann

Managing Partner
TNET-Management Consultants, Inc.

www.christinabisanz.ca
15296 Yonge St., Aurora, ON
(905) 727-3776



O N T A R I O

Authorized by the CFO for the Christina Bisanz Campaign