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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 at jhoffmann@sympatico.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.

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

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

Aurora Agricultural Society meets the first Monday of every month from 6.30 to 9 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre. New members welcome. For more information, call 905-713-6773, e-mail at info@aurorafair.ca, or visit www.aurorafair.ca.

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday evening at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members welcome. For further information, call 905-841-1352.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge #148 meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at 15216 Yonge Street (south of Wellington). For more information, call 905-830-9205.

Masons' Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at The Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, at 7.30 p.m.

Robertson Masonic Lodge meets the third Saturday each month at 57 Mosley Street at 10.30 a.m. Coffee club at 9 a.m., lunch at noon. Call 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080.

Gamblers Anonymous, every Tuesday night, Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street, 7.30 p.m.

Euchre every Thursday night. Aurora Legion, 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

Canadian Federation of University Women has monthly meetings at the Aurora Legion with a variety of speakers and interest groups. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

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

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Choir practice under the direction of Tom Rainsford and Enid Maize every Wednesday from 3.30 to 5 p.m. at the seniors' centre.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Hadley Grange Crafters' Annual Craft and Gift Sale, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 16105

Yonge Street. (first driveway north of St. John's Sideroad).

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 presenting 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.

York Regional Police Male Chorus 15th Annual "In Harmony With the Community" Concert. St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Leslie Street, Newmarket, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are \$10. For further information call 905-727-2429 or 905-727-6470.

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.

12th annual Christmas Fair & Artisans' Craft Sale, takes place in Lynett Hall, 16 Catharine Avenue, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sponsored by Our Lady of Grace Catholic Women's League.

Trinity Anglican Church presents 'Winter Wonderland' Christmas Bazaar from 9.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church. Luncheon is served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds for A.C.W. Anglican Outreach and Parish needs.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Coffee House at Trinity Anglican Church.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Santa Claus Parade from 5 to 8 p.m. under the stars. Sponsors and volunteers required. Call 905-727-3123, ext. 4218, for details.

Aurora Seniors' Christmas Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with baked goods, boutiques, hasti notes, paintings, greeting cards and silent auction.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five networking program will be held at Rural Accents, 130 Hollidge Blvd., Unit B3, from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. Event is complimentary, but advance confirmation is necessary. Call 905-727-7262.

DECEMBER 1 & 2

The Optimist Club of Aurora hosts annual book sale at the Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge Street, on Saturday, December 1 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., and Sunday, December 2 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. No credit cards or Interac. Proceeds support the youth of Aurora.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Aurora Historical Society invites you for a Hillary House family Christmas. Events will include Christmas carols in the ballroom where refreshments will be served, crafts for children to make in the workroom and a visit with Saint Nick in the newly restored barn. The event runs from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$5. for adults and \$3 for accompanied children under 12. For more information call 905-727-8991.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Aurora Seniors are off to Lindsay for a Living Christmas Tree Musical including a coach bus trip, performance by an eight-per-

son choir, visit to a tea room, shopping and dinner.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Tree Lighting Ceremony from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. at the Town Hall with festivities, carol singing and tree decorating.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

Aurora Historical Society invites you to an evening of Christmas music with piano recording artist Carol Gibson and singer Glori Gage, starting at 7.30 p.m. Performance will be followed with seasonal sweets and wassail bowl. Tickets are \$15 each and must be purchased in advance by calling 905-727-8991.

"Pending" list gets updated

Every month town staff members prepare a list of issues referred by council and all outstanding issues from or to advisory committees are identified on a separate pending list.

The list has been updated.

Normally the pending list is merely received for information by members of council without question or any attempt for follow-up action of the outstanding issues,

even though they were originally introduced by a councillor.

In March, Mayor Phyllis Morris told members of the general committee that she had reviewed the 158-page report and several entries were outdated, or dealt with as housekeeping items.

At a recent meeting Councillor Grace Marsh noted that some of the entries dated back to 2004 and some were no longer

relevant.

Staff members replied that direction of council was required to delete items that had not been actioned by council.

As a result a four-hour special general committee was held recently with all members present to review the list.

About 20 items were deleted and staff was asked to bring updated reports on about 16 items.



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Motion to open for re-consideration:

Whereas there has been significant negative reaction to the impact of the traffic calming measures in the N.E. Quadrant.

And Whereas residents of neighbourhoods contiguous to the traffic calming measures are reporting great disruption to their driving convenience.

And whereas a strong component of the dis-satisfaction of these residents relates to the town's failure to include them in the consultative process prior to implementing the traffic calming measures.

And whereas residents also take exception to the deliberate denial of access to streets which they have been and are paying to maintain and construct through municipal taxation.

And whereas each of these concerns are entirely valid and deserve to be considered by council and placed alongside the context of the special interests of residents who are enjoying tranquility in the absence of traffic on their streets at the expense of their neighbours.

And whereas, streets are designed for the smooth and efficient movement of traffic and have no other purpose.

Now therefore be it resolved:

That council reopen the issue of traffic calming in the N.E. Quadrant to consider what measures may be taken to reduce inconvenience and restore all residents' right to access all public-rights-of-way in the N.E. Quadrant of the town.

This motion to reopen for reconsideration was defeated by a vote of 5 - 3.

Councillor Evelyn Buck



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TIM JONES

Budget ignores us, nominee maintains

Former Aurora Mayor, Tim Jones, officially announced his candidacy for nomination of the Newmarket-Aurora Federal Liberal Association.

Now, all he needs is a Liberal nomination meeting, but dates for that event have yet to be set.

Jones also announced that outgoing Member of Parliament, Belinda Stronach, has endorsed his candidacy, while praising his "long record of results in our community".

In Newmarket last week, in the pouring rain, he took advantage of the opportunity to lash out at the federal government for neglecting cities and communities in the recent

Speech from the Throne.

Fighting for federal spending on municipal infrastructure will be a key component of Mr. Jones' election platform, he said.

"It is inexcusable that Prime Minister Harper fails to realize the importance of communities such as Newmarket and Aurora," he said. "Municipalities need all levels of government at the table to address the challenges of improving our infrastructure and public transit. Mr. Dion and the Liberal Party realize and appreciate this fact. Harper simply does not. Belinda Stronach was a strong voice for our community in Ottawa, and I have every intention to continue fighting for Newmarket-Aurora, and

working hard to ensure our priorities are addressed."

Mr. Jones has lived in Aurora since 1976, and has a long record of public service.

From 1978 to 1994 he served as councillor, and from 1994-2006 he was Mayor of Aurora.

Mr. Jones is currently involved with Southlake Regional Health Centre and Foundation helping to raise funds for the Cancer Centre.

Mr. Jones is running to be the Liberal candidate in the federal riding of Newmarket-Aurora. The riding has been represented by Belinda Stronach since June, 2004. In April, Ms Stronach announced she would not seek re-election.

Bylaw officer has Character

Heather Green of Aurora's bylaw services was selected last week as the town staff's Character champion, while her husband, former mayor Tim Jones, took pictures.

The award was given in connection with Character Community Week.

Aurora is a Character Community and every year a staff member is selected as Staff Character Champion.

Mayor Phyllis Morris said Ms Green has always demonstrated professionalism and strong morals in her work for the Bylaw Services Department and in addition to her dedicated services on the job, she has also volunteered personal time to organize teams to raise money for several local charities.

Among the events which she led her teams into victory were the Dragon Boat Races for the United Way and the Cancer Society's Aurora Relay for Life.

The attributes of a Character Community include respect, responsibility, honesty, integrity, compassion, courage, inclusiveness, fairness, optimism, perseverance and initiative.



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Wells Street School needs plenty of help

Deterioration of the foundations and the brick face of Wells Street Public School were noted by plant staff in 2005 and 2006 and some temporary measures were taken to address the deterioration.

However, it wasn't enough, and earlier this year, it was decided to move the students to Aurora Grove Public School until a decision could be made on the future of the century-old building.

The York Region District School Board retained Burnside and Associates to undertake a structural assessment.

In its report to the Board Thursday night, the engineers noted work involved would include extensive removal of wall and ceiling finishes.

The most severe deficiencies observed within the building relate to inadequate connection between the floor structure and the walls or steel framing and, according to consultants, the building needs upgrading to remain in service.

It was estimated the cost of seismic upgrades to be between \$1 million and \$1.5 million, not including costs for hazardous materials abatement or alteration to the mechanical/electrical systems.

The primary objective of the upgrade would be to minimize life-safety risk to the occupants of the school.

It was recommended that a more detailed engineering evaluation of the seismic deficiencies to determine the amount of reinforcing necessary to make up the balance of capacity was required.

The report also recommended an investigation of the footings in the original portion of the school as it is possible that the east, west and south walls rest on wood sleepers in the same manner as the north wall.

If that's the case, then sleepers should be removed and the foundation underpinned, the report said.

A report from architect Ian McGillivray was in agreement with the consultant's report and effectively described the problems that had been discovered.

Trustees adopted a motion by Aurora/King Trustee Gord Kerr that the Board receive the reports as

information, that staff be directed to undertake additional investigations of the mechanical, electrical and life safety systems within the school with the assistance of an architect with experience with heritage facilities and the reports be shared with the community.

Wells Street School was built in 1892 as Aurora's first high school and was converted to a public school in the early 1950s when the Aurora and District High School, now Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School, was opened.

The original building was covered by a newer structure in 1923.



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Poor Richard

Overhaul needed

*The Justice System needs an overhaul,
And some Judges should go back to school;
If you commit the crime, you serve the time,
Their actions make justice look like a fool.*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

In May, 2006, Rob and Lisa Manchester were celebrating their 17th wedding anniversary and when returning home were struck at the intersection of Yonge Street and the Stouffville Road.

Both died in the collision, leaving an eight-year-old daughter an orphan.

Ruben Rodrigues, 22, of Maple and Marco Gasparro, 19, of Richmond Hill were charged by York Regional Police.

Both were driving Hondas which had been modified with larger tires and exhaust, lowered suspensions and air intakes that allowed the use of high octane fuel.

Rodrigues was travelling 20 to 32 kilometres an hour over the speed limit when he hit the Manchesters. He was followed by Gasparro who witnesses said was also speeding. Some witnesses claimed they were travelling up to 140 km/hr. in an 80 km/hr zone.

Although the Crown was seeking a two-year sentence for Rodrigues and six months for Gasparro, Justice William Gorewich gave conditional sentences to be served at home or house arrest.

Even though Rodrigues had pleaded guilty to two counts of dangerous driving causing death and Gasparro had pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, the Judge said he did not believe the two drivers were racing.

What difference does it make whether they were racing or driving dangerously, two people are dead and an eight-year-old is an orphan and all they get is house arrest.

York Regional Police were disappointed with the sentence as the two drivers were driving faster than other cars on the road and weaving in and out of traffic for several kilometres.

This sentence was much the same as that given to Wang-Piao Dumani Ross and Alexander Ryazanov, both 20, of Toronto who were sentenced to house arrest for their roles in a collision that killed taxi driver Tahir Khan. That case is being appealed by the Crown.

There was the recent case of two brothers from Brampton driving separate cars and traveling at speeds in excess of 140 km/hr in an 80 km/hr zone when one lost control, setting off a chain reaction involving five cars, killing two women and injuring others.

The two brothers were arrested and are awaiting trial, but if the sentences are anything like the other ones, the mockery of justice will continue.

In a different type case, Justice Andromache Karakatsania awarded a former school volunteer who lured young boys with video games and baseball outings with nine months of house arrest with a night curfew.

Then there was the case of a police officer who hit Basil Mullings with his car and left the scene. In that case the Judge said the police officer was remorseful and had become reclusive, crying and depressed.

The tainted blood scandal crisis of the 1980s killed many and left thousands more infected with the AIDS virus and Hepatitis C. A Commission of Inquiry conducted by Mr. Justice Horace Krever delivered a scathing report in 1997.

The RCMP investigated in 2002 and laid criminal charges against the vice president of a New Jersey pharmaceutical company, two senior officials at Health Canada's Bureau of Biologics and the director of the Canadian Red Cross blood transfusion service on the basis they knew or should have known the blood was faulty.

Twenty-five years after the first HIV case and an 18-month trial Madame Justice Mary Lou Renotto of the Ontario Supreme Court said justice demanded the acquittal of those charged and to assign blame where none exists is to compound the tragedy.

She ruled that not only were the accused innocent, they should never have been charged. In these cases if justice wasn't blind, the Judges were wearing blindfolds.

Letter to the Editor

Cross-country runs "intoxicating"

To the editor,

I just wanted to thank everyone involved with the Aurora school cross-country races last week.

It was a marvelously warm October day and hundreds of kids were out to run a kilometre or two up and down the Fleury Park hills.

The festive atmosphere is intoxicating and to hear those

kids cheering on their buddies really warms your heart.

A salute to the parents and teachers and especially those racers.

A note to parents, skip the day off of work next year if your child or a friend's is running.

Nothing compares.

**Steve Falk
Aurora**



The above document gave the Aurora Horse Show membership into the Canadian Horse Shows Association, Inc., group back in 1957. The certificate was mailed from Toronto, and the eight by ten envelope, which held the document, had 14 cents worth of postage on it. That year, the Aurora Horse Show began June 8 in the Town Park. The association was incorporated in 1946.

Letters to the Editor

Buck accused us, too, of stealing electricity, this reader maintains

To the editor,

R. W. Hanes, thank you for appreciating my nasty letter. (Auroran, Letters to the Editor, Oct.. 23).

I am sorry I misread the part about Evelyn Buck accusing the Mayor and Council of stealing electricity.

She actually accused everyone in the Mosaics complex and the mayor and council. I guess we would be considered accomplices to theft of electricity. Please see next paragraph which I copied and pasted from Evelyn's letter.

"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."

The developer did not install the lights. The lights are on the sidewalk that runs down beside the roadway from Yonge Street to Mosaics Avenue.

A previous council made an error when they agreed to the townhouse development by not insisting that the lights remain on from dusk to dawn like the rest of Aurora receives.

Instead it was only in the sale of property paperwork between Canadian Tire and the developer.

The previous owner of Canadian Tire had a lot more respect and concern for the residents of the Mosaics because the lights remained on from dusk to dawn. As for my words being slanderous I

did not say she was a bully or a spoiled brat I asked if she was one when she grew up.

As for the cost of \$210, I did not make this up I found the information on the Town of Aurora website under the council minutes - see next paragraph.

Week of October 02, 2007, Volume 07 Number 47 Aurora General Committee meeting on Tues., Sept. 4/07, it was recommended: "That, due to safety reasons, the Town of Aurora will assume the cost of \$210 to power the three lights under dispute between Mosaics Condominium Corporation and Canadian Tire Corporation, subject to both parties resolving the issue of separating the three lights from the main circuit. CARRIED".

*TOWN OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES NO. 07-21. Council Chambers, Aurora Town Hall Tuesday, September 11, 2007. Re: Operating Costs - Streetlights: Moved by Councillor MacEachern Seconded by Councillor Gaertner.

All 86 townhouse units pay a minimum of \$2,000 per year in taxes which works out to

Memo to Nigel

To the editor,

Memo to Nigel Kean: you lost the mayoralty race.

Get over it!

**Moira Rossi
Aurora**

\$172,000 per year.

Out of that the town picks up our garbage. We pay for the street lights in the development, snow removal, repairs to our sewers and so on.

So, for a total of \$210 per year this works out to \$2.4419 per house per year or .0067 per day per house.

So, I really don't think all of Aurora is looking after me.

If you really wanted to look

after us then maybe you would consider giving up three of your street lights.

I think that if you took the time to come by the development at about 11.30 p.m. and stood in the dark you would then understand why we have a problem.

I was glad to see E. Allison enjoyed my letter.

**T. Brown
Aurora**

THE AURORAN

"Aurora's Community Newspaper"

Published weekly by The Auroran Publications Inc.
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Aurora, L4G 1W1
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Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

A glimpse into Aurora's future

When the movie-makers of the mid-twentieth century showed life 50 years in the future, they envisioned things like flying cars, entire meals in pill form, and everyone dressed in shiny, metallic clothes.

Sadly (about the cars), and fortunately (about the clothes), they weren't even close.

While we may laugh at some of their ideas, today it is possible to predict the future with some accuracy, if you use the right tools such as trend analysis, statistical probability, data extrapolation and all that other stuff we slept through in math class.

To help us obtain a glimpse of what Aurora could look like 50 years from now, Inside Aurora spared no expense in convening a round table of experts, who fortunately for the rest of us, stayed awake in school.

Here's their view of what we can expect in Aurora in the year 2057...

Aurora's population is 125,000, although depending on the direction from which you enter town, the signs note the total as 113,000, 94,000, 101,000 or 122,000.

And while the population is over twice what it was 50 years previously, Council is still arguing over whether the town should be divided up into wards, which is item number 3,598 on the Pending Issues list.

These discussions, by the way, were not held at Town Hall.

Council has long since given up the pretence of meetings, as for years all of their communication with both the public and each other has been conducted through letters to the editor of The Auroran.

And at The Auroran, by the way, Dick Illingworth is the only one of the employees from 2007 still working there.

(Nice to know The Auroran will still be around, having celebrated its seventh anniversary last week. Dick Illingworth will be 141 and the editor - wherever he winds up - will be a spry 113.)

As for the empty Council chamber, there's talk of it becoming the long-awaited Youth Centre. At least some good will finally come out of the place.

On the local scene, roadwork on Wellington Street is entering its 75th consecutive year. A small anniversary is planned, with a cake in the shape of a construction pylon.

And speaking of development, Aurora has yet to see its first Habitat for Humanity House - a location is still under discussion - but there are 37 more donut shops in town.

Property tax increases continue to average around eight per cent a year (okay, so we didn't really need the experts to predict that).

Another annual tradition in town, the water ban, is still with us, but now extends from early January to late December.

This is due in part to global warming, which has turned the Aurora Arctic Adventure into the Aurora Amazon Adventure.

On the plus side, our milder winters have reduced the town's snow clearing budget by 50 per cent, and winter parking restrictions are three months shorter.

Parking in town, however, continues to be a problem.

With 12 trains a day, GO commuters are now forced to park so far from the station, many discover that by the time they find a spot, they're physically closer to their final destination, than to the train station.

Despite this, the train is still the best way to get out of town. Because of the traffic calming devices now installed on every road in Aurora, residents who drive to work in downtown Toronto spend more than 50 per cent of their commuting time north of Bloomington.

On the recreation front, the year-long water ban, and the success of the fenced in astroturf field at Sheppard's Bush has resulted in pretty much every park in Aurora being enclosed and resurfaced with artificial grass.

This reduced access hasn't been a problem for pet owners, as dogs have long since been banned from every green space in town except Canine Commons, the leash-free park, which is now so busy that reservations are required.

As for the town's finances, the traffic challenges of Yonge and Wellington, and other local issues, the experts had predictions for these too, but we'll save them for another time.

So in the end, we need not worry that Aurora of the future will include flying cars, shiny clothes and other strange things.

In fact, our main concern may be that not much has changed at all.

Feel free to e-mail Scott at:
machellscorners@gmail.com

Machell's Corners



Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

I attended the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Gala last week at Dinardo's Mansion Banquet Hall.

The décor in the hall was superb; both elegant and refined.

The food was delightful; not a good night for calorie counting!

The people were dressed to the nine's - I wasn't sure if I had stumbled upon a wedding or a church service instead of a business achievement event.

The women at my table looked fantastic. Even the editor of this newspaper cleaned up pretty good!

But the person who stole the show for me was former Aurora Mayor Tim Jones or should I say the incredibly shrinking Tim Jones.

He has been on a diet and thus far has lost 27 pounds.

He looked svelte and fit. He had that 'hungry' look about him, or maybe he just wished he could have had the succulent dessert.

Knowing he was a Montreal Canadians fan, I was going to go up to him and say, just as Rocket Richard says in those old Grecian formula television commercials, "Two minutes for looking so good". But I resisted the urge.

We spent a couple of minutes talking, naturally enough, about politics and what he was up to.

As you may or may not be aware, Mr. Jones is seeking the federal Liberal nomination in this riding (<http://www.tim-jones.ca/>).

For those of you new to Aurora, Mr. Jones was a long time councillor and four-term Mayor until he was defeated last fall.

There is one other declared candidate for the Liberal nomination. His name is Gus Khorl.

According to his website, the Newmarket resident "recently graduated from the University of Ottawa in Mechanical Engineering, the 23-year-old is eager to make a difference in his country". (www.gusonthehill.ca)

Supporters of both candidates have been signing up members for months in anticipation of the nomination but the Liberal riding association has not been given the green light by Party HQ to proceed with the nomination convention.

For any of you who are so inclined to purchase a Liberal membership, you can do so from either of the respective declared candidates or go the Liberal party website.

You may want to do this quickly as the nomination could be called at any time.

The rumour has been out there for some months that

Letter to the Editor

This reader will miss Beaver gas station

To the editor,

I was very upset to read that the Beaver Gas Station at Mary Street and Wellington will be closing at the end of October.

I am a senior with arthritis in my hands and find it very difficult to operate the self-serve pumps - I can't get the gas cap off -

plus I cannot hold the nozzle for too long.

Before I started using the Beaver station many years ago, I would ask people using the other pumps at a self-serve to help me.

Going to the Beaver station where you get good service and also have someone who will check

your oil for you (I can't open the hood), fill your windshield washer with fluid, check your tire pressure, if you ask them, and they do it with a smile.

Thank you for this service which I appreciated and could not get anywhere else in Aurora.

I will miss having this service.

Where will I go now?

I know of only one "We Serve" in Newmarket across from Upper Canada Mall and another Beaver just south of Bradford.

A long way to go just to get gas when you live in Aurora.

B.J. Murray
Aurora

Liberal HQ may want to appoint someone to be the candidate in this riding.

Given Mr. Dion's previous statements regarding, I believe, having women make up at least 30 per cent of his candidates, this does seem plausible.

However, it won't be Martha Hall Findlay who ran here in 2004 against then Conservative candidate Belinda Stronach.

Ms Findlay has already been nominated as the Liberal candidate in Willowdale and a by-election needs to be called in that riding by January 2, 2008.

If Liberal HQ does decide to appoint someone, the party also could face a backlash from local Liberals - the very volunteers who do all the work - if a candidate is pushed upon them.

We will be watching this with interest.

We do know that whenever the federal election is called, the other parties will be ready.

Conservative standard bearer Lois Brown, is, as they say, "tanned, well rested and ready to roll" (okay, maybe not tanned), and has been raising money, knocking on doors, increasing her profile in the community and continuing to build her team.

Green Party candidate Glen Hubbers and his team are also ready to take to the campaign trail.

According to their website, the NDP has not yet nominated a candidate.

Back in January I attended what was supposed to be a 'retirement roast' in Mr. Jones' honour.

As I wrote at the time, "When you have served your community, in the various capacities that he has, for almost 30 years, you certainly meet a lot of people along the way. In the former mayor's case, many of these people became friends."

Hearing his friends, cronies and associates regale us with their recollections made for a most enjoyable evening.

As a former two-term president of the Newmarket - Aurora federal Conservatives and currently first vice president of the local provincial Progressive Conservative riding association, I very much look forward to purchasing a front row ticket to the next Tim Jones 'retirement roast' event - held hopefully, sooner than later!

Heck, I might even serve on the ticket selling committee.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

BOUQUETS to Aurora Town Clerk Bob Panizza on being recognized by the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario for his 30 years of service to the association and the people of Ontario and to Paul Dillman of the Treasury Department for his 20 years of service. Certificates were presented by Mayor Phyllis Morris at a recent council meeting.

BOUQUETS to Greg Foster of M & M Meat Shops who presented a cheque for \$2,000 to the town as its share from the proceeds for the weekly barbecue he operated for the summer Concert in the Park series.

BOUQUETS to Councillor Bob McRoberts for introducing a motion to amend the procedural bylaw to end council meetings, including private sessions, by 11 p.m. as meetings have been dragging on until after midnight. Council supported it.

BRICKBATS to Aurora Council of the day for not attempting to get a member on the board of directors when Aurora Hydro was sold to PowerStream as a condition of sale, and more **BRICKBATS** to the board members, mainly members of Markham and Vaughan Council, for paying themselves \$14,000 a year plus \$650 for every meeting attended.

BOUQUETS to the St. Andrew's College community for raising \$50,000 to assist a teacher who left the school more than a year ago when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. More than 700 students, parents and staff walked from Southlake Regional Health Centre to the College to raise funds for the Cancer Centre.

BRICKBATS to the increasing number of public agencies who have converted to an automatic phone answering service and although the caller knows the extension number it's almost impossible to hear a live voice but only a request to leave a message and most of the time they don't call back.

BOUQUETS to Vanessa Crone of Aurora and her partner Paul Poirier of Unionville on winning their second Gold Medal on the Junior Grand Prix Figure Skating circuit. The first medal was won in Romania and the second in Croatia.

BRICKBATS to the Aurora Minor Hockey Association for scheduling the taking of team photographs Nov. 11 when some parents wanted to take their kids to a Remembrance Day ceremony. There must be other days for picture taking.

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Cable Internet driver and another woman who stopped to provide assistance to the driver of a car involved in a head-on collision on Leslie Street between Bayview and Leslie until paramedics and police arrived.

BRICKBATS to a justice system that gave a former school volunteer who lured young boys with video games and baseball outings in exchange for sex nine months of house arrest with a night curfew followed by 18 months probation. Justice Andromache Karakatsania should be disciplined for such a light sentence for such a serious crime.

BOUQUETS to the more than 600 students from Aurora Grove/Wells Street Public School for joining thousands of others across the country by walking a kilometre around the school property at the same time in order to get an entry in the Guinness Book of World Records.

BRICKBATS to the Ministry of Natural Resources prosecutor for considering an appeal at taxpayers' expense in the saga of Bob the Moose Head, owned by an Aurora resident, which got caught up in a two-year trial in a case that should never have happened and was recently thrown out of court.

Letters to the Editor

Parade enthusiast begins tough task

To the editor,

Thanks for the great article you ran recently concerning the Canada Day Parade.

I greatly appreciate The Auroran shedding light on the July 1st parade for 2008. I'm moving through the process necessary to get the Canada Day Parade Committee 2008 approved by the Leisure Services Advisory Committee officially stamped and ready to go!

In the meantime I stand ready to get started with preliminary parade planning! A huge part of that will be contributions and suggestions made by citizen volunteers.

To get the parade message out, I am asking if The Auroran could please beat out the drums for "H.E.L.P." to our wonderful community.

The best communities are run with the love of those

who live in them. Volunteers are vital to the life and health of any event held in our growing town. Time given can never be remunerated in kind and is therefore 'priceless'.

I suspect there is not one event run in Town that doesn't require the support and aide of community volunteers.

For us to make a fabulous, self-perpetuating Canada Day Parade we will need lots of people giving of their personal time - especially this year.

I believe it is important for citizens to promote, protect, acknowledge and publicly applaud all acts of volunteerism given by our volunteers, in order to encourage continued support and community interest.

Those who step forward to help with the Canada Day

Parade shall be loved and appreciated - just as you love and appreciate our great Nation.

I hope The Auroran will be instrumental in communicating this sentiment of appreciation on an "as happening" basis!

I dream of having weekly on-going Canada Day Parade Reports - C-DAY Reports or somesuch, like the popular Santa Claus sightings.

I am placing a special 'shout' out to our new residents of Aurora - many of you have never experienced our Aurora Canada Day Parade.

Please consider this your FORMAL invitation - and RSVP me below! Your input is crucial.

Aurora is a growing community and we want to represent everyone in Aurora. We need all new Aurorans to

join in.

Success is guaranteed if we pull in unison and communicate effectively. Together we can render our nation's birth an exciting, colourful, musical parade, marching out the beat of our collective national pride!

Shout out to our schools, churches, service clubs, organizations, bands, businesses and corporations!

Aurora, Canada needs your collective input!

This parade is (as our U.S. neighbours have said): "of the people, for the people and by the people" (of Aurora)!

Born from little Centennial street parades the Canada Day Parade represents our Canadian Spirit:

The Spirit of Canada is alive in you and your children. So, if you can manage to give: your suggestions; your support - by being in the parade, or at the parade and by helping to add to the parade (create a float!); and most of all, your time to help us build an amazing parade contact me at sher@stkittsmusic.ca and let's get it done!

The Spirit of Canada Lives in Aurora - It lives in YOU!

Reader would donate a garbage pail to park

To the editor,

I read your article re the leash-free dog park in Aurora. (The Auroran, October 23).

I live in Toronto but come up to Aurora frequently with my dog and stop at the park.

I really don't understand why it is a problem to provide garbage pails around the park and also bags.

Most of the off-leash parks in Toronto have numerous garbage

pails and often supply bags.

No wonder people are reluctant to pick up after their dog.

To have to take home a poop bag is pretty disgusting.

And I am impressed with the people making an effort to keep the park clean.

I would be happy to donate a garbage pail to aid with this problem, but the town has to make provisions for the removal of the garbage.

I would love to hear what

other dog walkers have to say re this issue.

Michele Salerno
Toronto

Sher St. Kitts
Aurora

Reader wants Ward System discussion brought back

To the editor,

What happened to the discussion of a Ward System for Aurora?

With such a dysfunctional group on Aurora Council, how can any of us expect to get anything done when they don't respect each other enough to even have civil discussions, in public?

One can only imagine what goes on behind closed doors. Meanwhile, nothing is getting

done.

If we had a ward system in place, we'd have one local representative to liaise with and work with to address local issues.

This way, it will never happen.

Isn't there someone in this group who can show some initiative and bring this back to the table?

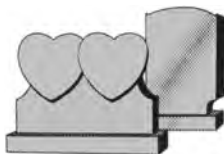
The time is now!

S. Lee
Aurora

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Hallowe'en is big in Aurora

To the editor,

When we first immigrated to Canada in 1973 with Beth and Belinda, 6 and 7 years, and dog Lucy, we came straight to Aurora.

We had wanted to come by boat but were told that all immigrants came by plane at that time.

We landed Aug. 14 and had decided to bring all our worldly goods, furniture, paintings, needles and cotton, hammer and nails, but there was one fly in the ointment - there was a warehouse strike that held up the delivery of our furniture for six weeks.

Therefore, we had rented a three-bedroom house in which our daughters delighted in cartwheeling from empty room to empty room.

Gradually as people heard about this, they loaned us mattresses, a card table with four folding chairs for meals, one easy chair and a camping stove that blew up on a regular

basis.

Luckily, my next door neighbour told me that "Hallowe'en is BIG in Aurora".

I bought some cake tins and made 200 cupcakes that day and at the end of the night there were 10 left.

Our furniture eventually arrived late in the afternoon of Hallowe'en, the tea chests and boxes littered throughout the house as the goblins and pirates arrived.

We were intrigued by the costumes that parents or the children themselves had invented and put together.

They showed great imagination and bravado, a shy child can blossom with the help of a disguise and it was great to see when the parents dressed up, too, either to take the children round the streets or to open their door to other children.

One bouncing bride with full veil and rosy cheeks I only discovered was a boy

when his mother looked after our children later on.

One year the funeral home put a coffin out at the end of the curb and children had to open the lid, from which came dry ice smoke, to get their treats.

On the other side of Wellington a young couple, not wishing to lose out on the experience, attached a notice to the end of a rope from their upper apartment requesting that revellers tug on the rope.

They looked out to see how many stood there and then let a basket down with the required number of treats.

Children were driven in from the country to walk through Aurora streets and there was a happy chatter as groups walked from one house to another with an occasional scream when a hand was seen sticking out of a grave or a skeleton came to life and spoke.

One year, Beth and Melinda went as the painter and his subject. Melinda dressed in the

costume she wore in the Innocents at Theatre Aurora in the mid 70s, a long dress with a pinafore and long shining hair.

When the various doors opened she would raise an empty frame in front of her as Beth, in velvet jacket and beret, leaned forward with palette in hand to put the finishing brush strokes to the picture.

In subsequent years we dressed up, too, once terrifying my son-in-law when I went as a well thought out bag lady, in trousers too short, plucked sweater, rough coat tied with string and crooked old glasses peering out from an old wool hat.

Sitting in a corner of his basement, it was the scratching and nose wiping with my sleeve that spooked him.

David's best was the Bearded Lady in red wig, formal black dress, high heels and makeup. Frightening.

One year I got on the GO Bus to Finch at

Hallowe'en and saw a tall young man dressed as a tree, looking forward, half shy, half longing to be noticed, two seats behind.

Slipping a film into my camera, I gestured to take his photo and he agreed with a laugh.

The flash woke a sleeping drunk on the seat between us, who erupted into a coughing, laughing, swearing fit.

At one point he shouted at full volume "everyone down!" vacillating between boozy bonhomie and angry swearing.

The bus passed two women cleaning windows, one heavily pregnant, both over 300 pounds, kibbitzing with a sexy French maid.

As they laughed together I realized just before the bus took off that they were wearing inflatable costumes.

Once on the subway a lively selection of characters was on display, a giant carrot, several young princesses, a ghoul sitting with a she-devil, several ladies of the night in convoy, an aging acrobat and Marilyn Monroe.

The pageant continued when I left the train.

Long may the traditions of Hallowe'en continue with the imagination, fun and generosity it engenders in all ages.

**Dierdre Tomlinson
Aurora**

Resident appreciated support from council

Open letter to Mayor Phyllis Morris and Councillors of Aurora

I was unable to attend Tuesday's meeting due to prior work commitments, however I was able to watch the Open Council Forum on television.

In addition to Rick Orr's e-mail, I, too, wish to thank both you and the councillors for your patience and hard work with respect to the reconstruction of Knowles Crescent.

On a personal note, I also wish to thank both you and the councillors of Aurora for showing great integrity and respect, with respect to my presentation

on behalf of the Knowles Crescent Residents' Association and, in particular, Councillor Wendy Gaertner's, Councillor Al Wilson's, and Councillor Stephen Granger's efforts in coming to my defence as a community member who spoke during open forum.

I think it is about time that you and your councillors' efforts are applauded in the public forum.

I, for one, am giving you a standing ovation.

Again kindest regards and many thanks.

**Jill DiBartolomeo
Knowles Crescent
Residents' Association**

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Dr. Craig Dingman



Digestive Health

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PART I

Believe it or not, your digestive system is essentially a long tube that starts at your mouth and ends at your other end. It has one purpose - to extract nutrients and energy from the foods we eat. Your digestive organs, esophagus, stomach and intestines, etc., are simply modifications of that tube. This system is very efficient as long as it is functioning normally. Many children and adults, however, suffer from a malfunction of their digestive system. In fact the three most common conditions affecting

intestinal function that I see in my practice are Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), Ulcerative Colitis, and Crohn's Disease. Although not exactly the same, they all have a great deal in common and escalate in severity.

Crohn's disease, the most serious, is a very chronic and long-term ulceration of the digestive tract. It usually extends though the wall of the intestine and involves all layers of your "digestive tube." Ulcerative Colitis, on the other hand, mainly involves the internal layers called the "mucosa" and the "submucosa." IBS is less severe than Ulcerative Colitis. Patients affected by these conditions

can suffer chronic diarrhea, rectal bleeding, abdominal cramping, severe pain, fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, loss of weight, malabsorption, malnutrition, headaches, etc. It has been noted that Crohn's disease and Ulcerative Colitis increase the risk of colon cancer by as much as 20 times. This can also be said for IBS to a lesser degree. If left untreated, bowel function slowly deteriorates and can be life-threatening. These are definitely conditions that should be avoided at all cost!

The most common medical treatment for these conditions is anti-inflammatory and anti-spasmodic medication, surgery, diet, or counseling. While sometimes necessary, this type of approach does not deal with the cause of these problems, just the symptoms.

As a chiropractor who deals mostly with children, I see these conditions in a different light. One needs to remember that we are

dealing with human beings, not simply their intestines. Our approach recognizes that difference.

Many people, for instance, are surprised to learn that the body is a self-healing and a self-regulating organism. In other words, it is designed to heal itself and regulate its own functions. You may not have given this much thought, but your body normally functions on "auto-pilot." For example, the cells in your digestive tract deteriorate continuously, and are replaced by brand new cells doing the same function. This is normal and is controlled by your internal "auto-pilot" - your own nervous system.

See you in two weeks for PART II

If you would like additional information or would like to speak to me personally, please feel very welcome to contact me at (905) 841-0400 or www.healinghandsaurora.com.

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Tigers soar, but attendance doesn't

By JOHN KLEIN

The Aurora Tigers continued their rise to the top of the North Division standings over the weekend, with a two game sweep over division rivals Collingwood Friday and Seguin Saturday.

The game on Friday, the traditional weekly home game for the Tigers, was taken in by an above average but still low 295 people, a fact that can only leave the ACC Friday night faithful wondering why given the team's performance over the last several years.

Attendance for the Tigers this season ranks 13th in the Provincial Ontario Hockey Association. Critics would argue when measured against the 35 total teams in the Provincial 'A' loop, that these numbers seem about right.

However, when considered that the town lags behind three of the Tigers Division rivals including arch rival Newmarket, the reality of the situation sets in and it becomes sadly apparent that Aurorans do not seem interested in supporting their team except in the playoffs.

Real fans will tell you the important support comes in the regular season where much of the hard work that leads to championships takes place.

It was all Tigers Friday night from the moment the puck dropped until the time the final buzzer sounded as Aurora swamped Collingwood 10-0.

Leading the way were Paul Dupont and Michael Sardella with two goals each while Sam Yearsley added a goal and three helpers.

Mark Mayea and David Morley added to the cause as well with three assists each.

Saturday afternoon the Tigers travelled north to Seguin to renew a rivalry that began just a week earlier in a rough and tumble affair at the Community Centre that ended in fisticuffs courtesy of Aurora's Mark Thorburn and Seguin's Brent Mueller.

However, the repeat didn't occur.

The game featured very little in terms of penalties, but

what the game lacked in grudge match style play it made up for in Aurora goals, as the Tigers beat the Bruins for the second time in three games by a score of 6-1.

Jeff Vanderlugt scored three goals and added an assist, to lead the way for Aurora.

Mike Bodley added a goal and two assists, while defenceman Nick Novak potted two goals in the Aurora effort.

Newly acquired goaltender Aaron Barton was in net for both victories collecting his second shutout in four starts as a Tiger while stopping 38 of 39 shots that came his way.

The wins give Aurora a three game winning streak and puts them fourth place in the North Division standings, with two games in hand.

"The boys are starting to understand what takes to be successful," said Head Coach Jerome Dupont following the two wins over the weekend.

Tigers' next home game is Friday at 7.30 p.m. when they meet the Villanova Knights while on Saturday they travel to Orangeville to face the Crushers.

AURORA 10
COLLINGWOOD 0
First Period
 A: Michael Sardella (Morley) 8.21

Second Period
 A: Bill Siekris (Thorburn, Middup) 4.22
 A: Michael Sardella (Harbach, Bodley) PP 9.44

Third Period
 A: Mark Thorburn (Harbach, Middup) 3.22
 A: Sam Yearsley (Morley, Mayea) 4.17

A: Jeff Harbach (Yearsley, Mayea) 8.46

A: Paul Dupont (Vanderlugt, McLaughlin) 9.19

A: Michael Paolo (Mayea, Yearsley) 12.15

A: Mike Bodley (Sardella, McGarry) 14.47

A: Paul Dupont (Morley, Yearsley) 15.40

AURORA 6
SEGUIN 1
First Period
 A: Nick Novak (Dupont) 0.47
 A: Jeff Vanderlugt (Evans) 6.58

S: Nick Zaino (Mueller) 19.31
Second Period

A: Jeff Vanderlugt (Bodley) 5.49

Third Period
 A: Nick Novak (Harbach, Yearsley) 1.52

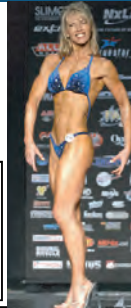
A: Mike Bodley (Vanderlugt) 3.31

A: Jeff Vanderlugt (Bodley) 11.19



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Aurora's Vanessa Crone and Paul Poirier of Unionville won their second gold medal earlier this month.

Aurora skater half of team to win medal

Vanessa Crone of Aurora and Paul Poirier of Unionville, returned from Zagreb, Croatia, earlier this month with their second gold medal in this year's Junior Grand Prix Series of Figure Skating.

The competition saw the duo in second place to the Russian team after the compulsory and original portion of the event.

They overtook the team and won the event with a strong comeback skate in the final free dance.

In September, they skated to a first place finish in JGP - Romania.

The two first place finishes put them at the top of the leader board in points toward the Junior Grand Prix Final in Gdansk, Poland, in early December. Vanessa, 16, and

Paul, 15, are the 2007 Junior Ice Dance Champions of Canada, following up their Novice Canadian title in 2005.

They attended their first Junior Worlds in Germany last February, finishing ninth in a field of 24 teams.

Training at the Ice Dance Elite School at the Scarborough Figure Skating Club, both skaters also compete in freeski.

They round out their on-ice hours with dance, ballroom and fitness and Grade 10/11 studies.

Vanessa and Paul are now setting their sights on a podium finish at the Junior Grand Prix Finals; earning a berth on the Senior National Team; and competing at Junior Worlds in Bulgaria in March.

Barbarians win McCormick Cup

After an absence of 51 years, the McCormick Cup returned to Aurora Saturday.

The Aurora Barbarians rugby team edged Balmy Beach 18-14 to win all the marbles at Fletcher's Fields.

The Barbarians continued to use their bench strength and fitness to overcome a 14-3 halftime deficit to secure the win.

The McCormick Cup is Ontario rugby's greatest prize.

The game was played in cool windy conditions in front of a crowd estimated at 800 equally split between supporters of the two clubs.

Despite three previous appearances, this was the first win for the Barbarians since 1956, a span of 51 years.

The victory also gave the club the honour of being both League (13-1 in 2007) and Cup champions, a feat last accomplished by the Irish Canadians in 2002.

In the post game jubilation Barbarians' captain Robbie Carter remarked "None of us even know anyone who participated in the win 51 years ago but it is something that has been impressed upon this team by our coaches and management. We realized how elusive the Cup can be and we were determined not to go away empty handed".

Aurora Coach Drew Macpherson added "the stands were full of players from years ago and we won for them and for ourselves. We are proud of our accomplishment."

It was an exciting cup final, and the result was in doubt until the full 80 minutes had passed and the final whistle blown.

The game was tough, hard and typical of cup rugby, as both teams played flat out for the full duration of the match.

Kicker David Ashwood was successful on a penalty attempt to score for the Barbs before the break but the Toronto based Beach team took a 14-3 score into halftime.

The second half was a complete contrast as a couple of Barbarian substitutions changed the balance of the game.

Only seconds into the sec-

ond half Aurora opened the scoring when Dave Ashwood kicked a difficult penalty to narrow the margin to 14-6.

As Aurora entered the final 20 minutes of the game, they started to put the ball wide and open gaps in the Beach defence.

At 63 minutes, the Barbs won a scrum on the Beach 5 meter line and Nolan Ott broke from the melee and popped a pass to wing-forward David Neilsen who crashed over for a well taken try.

Neilsen and Ott both represented Canada as U-21 players in Ireland last year. Dave Ashwood kicked the conversion to close the score to 14-13.

Barbarians, sensing a tiring opposition, shifted to their normal expansive game, and moved the ball wide, with replacement centres Steve Shortly and Bryn Keys having a noticeable impact on the game.

At the 73-minute mark, Steve Shortly made a clean break through the Beach defence and put winger Jeremy Campbell clear for a well taken try in the corner. Dave Ashwood missed a difficult kick, but the Aurora Barbarians moved into the lead 18-14, for the first time in the game, with only seven minutes remaining.

Balmy Beach worked frantically to regain the lead and the last seven minutes seemed like an eternity as the Aurora players shut down any last minute heroics.

In the final seconds of the match the Barbarians drove deep into the Beach end of the field but chose a clearing kick rather than try to run up the score.

The final whistle blew amid wild scenes of jubilation by the Aurora players, coaches and fans.

David Nielsen was named "Player of the Match" as part of the Cup presentation following the game.

Long time Aurora resident Simon Allen commented, "you could not single out individual players - this was a total team effort, with every player on the field giving their last ounce of energy."

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by Dan Goggin

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Priestly Demolition	4	1	0	21	11	8
Masterclean Contracting	3	1	1	26	22	7
Tom & Jerry's	1	2	2	15	18	4
Rec Cycle N' Sports	1	2	2	17	22	4
Baldwin's	2	3	0	24	25	4
FPL Aggregates	1	3	1	16	18	3
Law Insurance Brokers	0	4	1	13	23	1

WEEKLY SCORES

Highlands Chev	6	Priestly Demolition	4
Masterclean	4	Rec Sports	1

FPL Aggregates	6	Baldwin's	7
Law Insurance	2	Tom & Jerry's	4

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July First annual parade may come back this year

If the intentions of Aurora Council come to realization, the 2008 Canada Day activities will be more like the July First party of past years with the return of the July First Parade and the Eve of Canada Day Dance relocating back to the Town Park.

If Brian Spence gets his way the pre-Canada Day dance will be returned to the Town Park.

In correspondence with the Leisure Services Advisory Committee he pointed out that attendance at Lambert Willson Park, where the event has been held for the past two years, was extremely disappointing.

He noted last year's event attracted about

100 people.

As a result Mayor Phyllis Morris gave Notice of Motion to bring the Pre-Evening event back to the Town Park. She pointed out that the town had held a dance on the eve of Canada Day from 1992 to 2005.

Then, in 2006, members of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee were advised that a move to Lambert Willson Park was considered in order to reduce labour costs and liability and centralize the events.

Based on the staff recommendation, members of the Advisory Committee recommended the dance be moved.

Since then numerous

residents and members of the Aurora Rotary Club, who operate the beer garden on the town's behalf, have expressed support for moving the dance back to the Town Park.

Councillor Al Wilson recommended staff members be directed to prepare a report for the Advisory Committee's November meeting outlining the pros, cons and logistics of staging the Eve of Canada Day Dance in the Park back to the Town Park for 2008.

Councillors agreed.

Meanwhile, council also approved a recommendation from the Leisure Services Advisory Committee that staff prepare a report for their November meeting

regarding the structure and process for the restoration of the Canada Day Parade for 2008 and beyond.

For the first time since July First festivities started in 1969, the Canada Day Parade did not happen this year.

Area resident, Sher St. Kitts had appeared before the Advisory Committee to offer to assist in organizing the parade.

Her efforts resulted in the committee's recommendation.

She appeared before the council meeting last week to ask councillors to adopt the committee recommendation as she was "raring to go!"

She was also a guest at the Aurora Rotary Club meeting Monday night.

RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Town's info site never happened

In May, 1985, Aurora Council directed the Public Works Department to prepare tenders for the relocation, servicing and landscaping of the Lakeview Developers sales trailer which had been donated to the town to be moved to a site at Yonge Street and Vandorf Road.

As the department was overloaded due to the increase in development, the work was directed to the town's consulting engineer Reid and Associates.

It was also noted that Lakeview would install the foundation for the trailer at no cost to the town.

It was moved but it never developed as a town information site as the trailer was taken over by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce who provided an information service for the town.

The old sales trailer was replaced a few years ago by a more permanent building on the same site by the Chamber on a long term lease with the town for the site.

POST OFFICE MOVES

In January, 1967, the federal government awarded the contract for the construction of a new federal building on Wellington Street which would include a new Aurora Post Office.

Many citizens were concerned and opposed the move fearing they would lose their familiar Yonge Street Post Office with the Clock Tower, which was part of the history of Aurora.

In addition to the Post Office, the building was designed to accommodate the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Wild Life Service, the Department of Public Works and the Emergency Measures Organization, but today, the post office uses the entire building.

POSTAL CODE

It was in February, 1973, when the postal code came to Aurora, although it had been in use in other centres across Canada.

The use of the postal code was designed to pinpoint the location of an addressee.

Kits were mailed out to all Aurora residents which included code stickers for letters and a reminder sticker to be placed near the telephone.

IS TV RESPONSIBLE FOR LONG MEETINGS?

It is a common practice today for an Aurora Council meeting to drag on for more than four hours and on occasion five hours, whereas general committee meetings with a rotating chairman and which are not televised are over in a little more than two hours.

In 1998, it was noted that council meetings were lasting an average of three hours, whereas for the previous three years the average time for a council meeting was an hour-and-a-half.

The difference, it was said, was due to the council meetings being televised.

Commenting that the meetings were longer but no better, Councillor Peter Healy accused councillors of rehashing for the benefit of the cameras discussions that had taken place and adopted by a majority at the committee level, which were not televised.

Other councillors defended the use of the cameras as a means of providing citizens with more open council meetings for a wider audience and also defended the right of members to reintroduce issues from the committee at council.

During the 1998 debate about whether TV was responsible for longer council meetings, some wag commented that Aurora councillors believed they were entertainers and not politicians.

MUNICIPAL PROCLAMATIONS

Most municipal councils are bombarded with requests from various organizations to proclaim a week or a month.

Councillors normally verbally proclaim the week or month and if they happen to have an information page in one of local media, there may be a brief mention of the proclamation.

Aurora uses a notice board which is located just inside the front door of the Town Hall.

In the old days, councils took requests for proclamations much more seriously and purchased a small ad in the local media with the town's letterhead, town seal and the Mayor's signature.

With an increase in the number of requests and the cost of advertising, the publication of proclamations soon stopped and the verbal proclamations started.

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101 Tim Hortons Flames 9 - Parker Lantz 3G, Logan Hoover 3G 1A, Parker Boland 2G, Kegan Hoover 1G 2A, Dane Kerkkamp 2A, Michael Vivian 1A, Wayne Freeman 2A, Mathew Winters 3A, Aiden Brown 2A, Madeline Fisher 1A, Stephen Silvario 3A, Jake Carson 1A. **108 Tim Hortons Wild 1** - Dalton Slind 1G, Brittney Fraser 1A.

102 Tim Hortons Leafs 14 - Andie Therkildsen 1G, Michael Thibeault 5G, Jacob Levy 1G 4A, Nate Legros 6G 1A, Brady Blandchard 1G 5A, Jessie Van Soest 4A, Vincenzo Rotondi 2A, Julia Kavanaugh 4A, Mathew Hastings 3A, Louis Wood 3A. **107 Tim Hortons Sharks 7** - Andrew Jorgenson 5G 2A, Francesco Scuglia 1G 2A, Anthony Magnante 1G 2A, Ethan Cohen 5A, Noah

Copelak 3A.

105 Tim Hortons Avalanche 3 - Dylan Clarke 1G, Christian Ridd 2G, Zane Zwicker 1A, Peter Chimienti 1A, Cody Fischer 1A, Braedon Joynt 1A. **104 Tim Hortons Penguins 3** - Taleigh McGrath 1G 1A, Jack Hosmer 1G, Brandon Vaughan 1G, Trevor Dungey 1A.

106 Tim Hortons Bruins 7 - Ben Spittle 2G 2A, Joseph Grassa 2G, Michael Fodero 1G 2A, Lucas Surace 1G 1A, Taylor Tuck 1G 1A, Anthony Capraro 2A, Jacob Cowl 2A, Kyle Kasak 1A. **103 Tim Hortons Senators 5** - Fraser Ogle 2G, Adam DiPiero 1G 1A, Connor Pike 1G 2A, Ben Liotta 1G 1A, Beckham Georgiou 2A, Jason Langdon 1A, Lyndsay Breedon 1A, Mathew Bolger 1A.



The Aurora Rotary Club took time out from its busy schedule to enjoy a meeting at the Aurora Legion last week. Among those at the party were, left to right, Eric Smith, Frank Mete, Frank Newell, Barry McDonough, and Tony Anderson. Similar outings have been planned for the future.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Words Alive a success despite small crowds

By **MALCOLM WATTS**
Special to The
Auroran

Glorious sunshine, fun workshops, and a small but enthusiastic crowd marked the Words Alive Festival at East Gwillimbury's Sharon Temple recently.

With readings by Poet Barry Dempster, Aurora author Marina Nemat, and a host of open stage readers, there was plenty to amuse and entertain any literary junkie or emerging bard.

Workshop facilitators included Auroran publisher Ron Wallace discussing writing for newspapers, and a representative panel discussing writing groups.

Vali Stone, a creative writing teacher and published author, organized Words Alive with sponsorship from Artslink and help from several enthusiastic volunteers.

Festival events included a timed poetry writing contest, as well as short story contests and prizes in both

Explanation is delayed

At a recent meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee a motion was adopted to ask council to provide an explanation of the intent of the document that committee members signed prior to joining the committee entitled Committee Declaration of Appointed Office.

When the committee report came to a recent general committee meeting, Councillor Bob McRoberts noted that council was not in a position to provide the required information and suggested that it be referred to the town solicitor for action.

Committee members agreed and amended the report that it be referred to staff to provide the required information.

adult and youth categories.

Aurora resident Robin Smith impressed the contest judges with her Newfoundland tale "Laura," earning first prize.

Robin is previously published in the Globe and Mail, CBC, and Aurora Storyalis. Her talent with story and language is palpable and she is a rising literary star soon to be widely appreciated across Canada and elsewhere.

Other winners, and their work, can be viewed on the festival website wordsalive.ca.

Robin's story will be published in the York University Literary

Magazine Existere next February.

The presence and interest of young people in the festival was encouraging suggesting even in this electronic era there is a future for the written word.

A group of Minstrels: Donna Gingras, Kathleen Gillis, Skye Sweet, and Ian Coombs, performed period music on stage, then wandered about the site providing entertainment throughout the day.

It is hoped this was just the first of what will become an annual event.

Malcolm Watts is a local writer and novelist. His website is authors-den.com/malcolmwatts.



Aurora's Dierdre Tomlinson was a participant in the first ever Words Alive literary event held recently at the Sharon Temple in East Gwillimbury. Several other authors also took part in the day-long event at the famous temple where Aurora's John McIntyre is curator.

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New pickup truck request causes committee concern

The purchase of two pickup trucks for the Leisure Services Department at an estimated cost of \$60,000 came under attack at a recent general committee meeting.

Staff members had included the purchase of the two trucks in the 2007 capital budget with funds to come from the vehicle reserve.

Council deferred consideration of the purchase pending a Fleet Management report.

The report, which was adopted by council in June, addressed an integrated approach to the operation of vehicles with one of the recommendations that new vehicle acquisitions be justified and financed for the initial purchase by the user department making the request.

Staffers pointed out that the department's one pickup truck based at the Community Centre was responsible for moving all equipment for the operation of all town buildings and support for all community based programs and events.

It was also noted that the truck was often not available for movement of equipment at the Town Hall, the Seniors' Centre, Library Square and the Aurora Recreation Complex resulting in staff of these centres moving equipment in their personal vehicles.

It was proposed that the staff of the Town Hall, Seniors' Centre and Library Square share one vehicle and the other be available for staff at the Aurora Recreation Complex.

In addition, both these vehicles would be assigned on an rotating basis to CUPE staff members on 24-hour call 24 hours a day to respond to building emergencies.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern moved the report be received and no action taken.

Staffers pointed out that with the number of events it was not possible to service them all as required and it would become necessary to move equipment before the required time which could incur staff overtime.

In response to a question as to whether Public Works could provide a truck if necessary, staff replied that it could be done if one was available but there was

no guarantee.

Councillor Grace Marsh said she supported the purchase in order to provide the service that town organizations required and expected.

Finally after more than a

half-hour of controversial debate, Councillor MacEachern changed her motion to to purchase one truck and for staff to share it, which was adopted with Councillors Evelyn Buck and Marsh in opposition.

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Senior Scape

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Friday dances well attended

I attended a Friday night dance recently and continue to be impressed with the attendance at this popular function.

Seniors know how to enjoy their retired years and dancing the night away seems to be more enticing with the passing years.

Music appears to awaken a response in people not only to the music but also to each other, particularly while in each others arms, which is as it should be.

Some music exerts a pull on most people while it is an absolute magnet for some couples who dance with style and vigour.

Bill Higgins will chair a committee to plan and conduct the Christmas Luncheon, and the committee has met already.

The components of the program, consisting of the menu, entertainment and setting up the hall have been assigned and the event is in capable hands.

This is the kind of project at which the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) excels and which imparts an aura of competence.

The date for the luncheon has been set for Wednesday, Dec. 5. Proceedings will begin at 11 a.m. and the bar will be open.

The task of the volunteers is to seat everybody, arrange for grace to be said, the national anthem to be sung and for words of introduction.

The salad, main course and dessert must be served and we need to leave enough time to accommodate the Evergreen Seniors Choir and the Children's Choir to allow them time to perform.

Tickets will go on sale as soon as they are printed on a first-come, first-served basis, and that will be soon. Purchase tickets early to avoid disappointment.

The Living Christmas Tree Musical in Lindsay per-

formed by an eight-member choir is the attraction for a trip planned for Dec. 4.

This trip will include transportation by coach, the always popular shopping, dinner and the performance.

Lindsay is not an overly long trip and promises to be an attractive destination for a day out. Please book at the reception desk as early as possible.

The Woodworking shop is open and is a major attraction. Hours of operation are 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1.30 p.m. to 4 weekdays.

The shop is not big so please book your preferred time at the reception desk in person or phone 905-726-4767.

Woodworking for women is on Wednesday afternoon and I understand there are seven lady woodworkers busy already.

They favour wood carving and finer, artistic projects and are adept at what they do.

The tools available in the shop work magic with wood and the task of the wood crafter or artist is to visualize and then reveal the beauty existing unseen in the wood.

Wood art available in stores may well be within the capacity of what you can craft and it may be within your capacity to produce superior work.

If you would like help getting started with wood-working, make your interest known and knowledge will be made available.

Williams School gets reprieve

From page 1

The Board also authorized its staff to purchase the Bayview Northeast Secondary School site, where some wanted Williams to move.

Kerr said by making the decision the Board was keeping all options open and would allow more time to carry out an analysis of the timing and phasing of development.

The decision on the replacement of Williams will be made when the Board has a clearer idea of the phasing of new residences in the northeast part of Aurora.

Last April a public meeting was held regarding building a new high school on the existing Dunning Avenue site or a new site east of Bayview Avenue in a newly built section of the municipality.

It was estimated the cost to

bring the 55-year-old Williams school up to current standards would be about \$22.5 million plus about \$4 million for Program remedial work which exceeded the value of the building.

A new school could be built for \$25 million.

It was also noted that the enrolment figures in elementary feeder schools were declining whereas the potential enrolment from the new subdivisions east of Bayview was increasing.

Several citizens opposed the proposed change in location because of distance.

There was also concern about the future of the Dunning site and the development that might be built there if the site was sold to the highest bidder.

Opposition continued and citizens asked Aurora Council to take a position.

The issue became controversial at that forum as some councillors said it was a school board matter while others supported the school remaining on Dunning.

Their support of the Dunning site brought opposition from residents in the Bayview subdivisions who claimed council, by taking a position, was pitting one group of citizens against another.

At a committee meeting in June, trustees sat for almost three hours listening to presentations from concerned parents, students and resi-

dents opposing the possible loss of the Williams school from Dunning Avenue and at a July board meeting, trustees voted to defer any decision

until the fall.

While Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School is safe for now, but its long-term future is still uncertain.

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

Resumes – cdeasley@dundeesecurities.com

SEEKING INTERMEDIATE/SENIOR WEB DEVELOPER/PROGRAMMER Should have good knowledge of PHP, MySQL & Java Script Please send resume to hr@auroraonline.com 905-222-2022.

HELP WANTED

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FOR RENT

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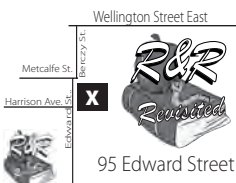
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repeated Thursdays at 8.30 p.m.

plus, Saturdays & Sundays

at 11 am & 10 pm.

Foxtrot, Waltz, Rumba & Jive

SAT. NOV. 3RD - DANCE PARTY

ONE HOUR Quick Step Dance Lesson 7 p.m. - midnight

in the Aurora Legion Ballroom (\$17)

Strict Tempo Music - Line Dances - Refreshments - Cash Bar - Door Prizes

Couples and Singles Welcome

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Jive & Quick Step all levels

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Email: Steve@SteveMillerDance.ca

Site: www.SteveMillerDance.ca

or call Steve Miller at 416-439-6557



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Join us for sessions every day of the week

Monday–Thursday Friday–Sunday



12:30 p.m.	12:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.
	7:00 p.m.
10:00 p.m.	10:00 p.m.



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Win

**From November 1st to the 30th, 2007,
the ABSA Sponsors are giving you the chance to
WIN one 2008 CHEVY AVEO**



*Winners of the Aurora Progressive or Players Progressive consolation or full card from
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You trade in your ballot for a key – if it starts the car – the car is yours!

Key selection and car starting to be done at approximately 6:00 p.m. on November 30th!

Be sure to visit us at www.bingoworld.ca

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905-713-1765 www.bingoworld.ca