





COMING EVENTS

**THURSDAY, APRIL 21**  
Aurora Chamber of Commerce networking breakfast will be held this morning from 7.30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club, 4 Pinnacle Trail. The event is sponsored by Thompson Funeral Home and includes a hot buffet breakfast and formal networking. \$20 for members.  
\*\*\*\*

The Third Annual Runway to Spring Charity Fashion Event will be held this year at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Centre, 13415 Dufferin Street, in King Township. All proceeds go to benefit the Easter Seals "Send a Kid to Camp" program. The gala evening includes a Fashion Show featuring haute couture, upscale casual, evening wear, street wear and more for women, men and children. Also included are food and beverage tastings, silent auction and raffle, cash bar and live performance by Aurora's The Thursday Night Jam band. Tickets are \$35 and may be purchased at many Aurora locations or contact l.mcmahon@rogers.com. A great Girls' Night Out or bring a date to share the fun. Aurora - together let's send 10 children to camp.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23**  
Annual Easter Egg hunt happens at the Aurora Seniors' Centre from 9.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. presented by the Town of Aurora and the Maple Key Girl Guides. For further information go to [www.e-aurora.ca/easteregg hunt](http://www.e-aurora.ca/easteregg hunt).

**TUESDAY, APRIL 26**  
Movie at the Seniors' Centre tonight is "Little Fockers", starring Ben Stiller, Dustin Hoffman and Robert DiNiro. It has taken 10 years, two little Fockers with wife Pam and countless hurdles for Greg to finally get "in" with his tightly wound father-in-law, Jack. Greg must prove to the sceptical Jack that he's fully capable as the man of the house. But with all the misunderstandings, spying and covert missions, will Greg pass Jack's final test and become the family's next patriarch...or will the circle of trust be broken for good? Movies start at 6.30 p.m. and cost \$1.50 for members and \$2 for non-members. Admission price includes the movie, refreshments and treats.

**APRIL 26-29**  
For the third consecutive year, the Dr. G.W. Williams Students' Council will hold a spring rummage sale and will accept donations of used or new books, toys, appliances, furniture, games, and more (excluding clothing) for the sale. Drop Off time is 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, in the front foyer.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27**  
The Aurora Cultural Centre and the Aurora Historical Society present the first of two heritage lectures with local historian John McIntyre. Tonight's feature is "Hillary House: A Glimpse of Everyday Life in Old Aurora." the lecture begins at 7 p.m. Complimentary admission and refreshments, no registration required. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For further information call 905-713-1818 or [info@auroraculturalcentre.ca](mailto:info@auroraculturalcentre.ca).

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30**  
Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School Rummage Sale today from 9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. in the school's cafeteria.  
\*\*\*\*

The Aurora Community Arboretum, in partnership with the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority, will hold their annual tree planting event today from 10 a.m. to noon. Bring the whole family and plant a tree. The group will meet at the intersection of Birshire Drive and Somerton Court in the north east area of Aurora. Please see the website [www.auroraarboretum.ca](http://www.auroraarboretum.ca) for more information.  
\*\*\*\*

Yoga Class, suits all levels. Starts at 1. p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street. Light refreshments are available. \$10 donation to Amnesty International. For more information, call 905-727-8671 or send an e-mail to [mbf@lindavarnam.com](mailto:mbf@lindavarnam.com).

**TUESDAY, MAY 3**  
The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents the heritage lecture "The Queen's York Rangers: Their 200+ Year Linkage to York Region." Lieutenant Colonel Kirk Corkery, former Commanding Officer from 1989 - 1992, and current Chair of the Regimental Council of the Queen's York Rangers will give an overview of this historic regiment. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. Complimentary admission and refreshments, no

registration required. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For more information call 905-713-1818 or [info@auroraculturalcentre.ca](mailto:info@auroraculturalcentre.ca).  
\*\*\*\*

Jesus Christ Superstar auditions will be held at Trinity Anglican Church from 5 to 7 p.m. with Sheryl Thomas of Marquee Theatrical Productions and John Clements (reserve pianist for the London production). The lead parts have been filled, but 25 roles are still required. Bring an instrumental CD if needed. Performances will take place at the end of October. To book your 10-minute audition contact Sheryl Thomas at [sheryl@marqueeproductions.ca](mailto:sheryl@marqueeproductions.ca).

**MAY 5-7**  
The Pine Tree Potters' Spring Pottery Sale will be held on the above days at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, formerly Church Street School. May 5 and May 6 the sale will begin at 10 a.m. and continue to 9 p.m. and on May 7 it will open at 10 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. There is free admission and a door prize. Call 905-727-1278 for further information or visit <http://www.pinetreepotters.ca>

**MAY 6**  
Jesus Christ Superstar auditions will be held at Trinity Anglican Church from 5 to 7 p.m. this evening with Sheryl Thomas of Marquee Theatrical Productions and John Clements (reserve pianist for the London production). The lead parts have been filled, but 25 roles are still required. Bring an instrumental CD if needed. Performances will take place at the end of October. To book your 10-minute audition contact Sheryl Thomas at [sheryl@marqueeproductions.ca](mailto:sheryl@marqueeproductions.ca).

**MAY 7-8**  
Aurora's annual Art Show and Sale takes place at the Aurora Town Hall this weekend. For all art enthusiasts this is an event that features more than 200 pieces of artwork. On Saturday, the show runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday it is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information, call 905-726-4762 or send an e-mail to [sware@e-aurora.ca](mailto:sware@e-aurora.ca).

**THURSDAY, MAY 5**  
Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five meeting takes place today at Cupid and Psyche Jewellery and Accessories, 2 Orchard Heights Blvd., Unit 3, Aurora, from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Cost is complimentary to Chamber members.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 11**  
Join local resident Phillip Hodgson for an interactive seminar to learn about today's popular youth drugs, the impact on the individual, the family and the community, warning signs, and where to go for help. Phillip is a psychotherapist and counsellor who works and lectures in the field of addiction. Event begins at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room at the Aurora Library.  
\*\*\*\*

Wesley United Church, located at the intersection of the Aurora Road and Woodbine Avenue, will hold its annual roast beef dinner this evening. There will be two seatings at 5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. It will cost adults \$15, while children between six and 12 will pay \$8. Children under six are free, but they must have a ticket. For tickets call Sherry at 905-853-4915.

**SATURDAY, MAY 14**  
"I Love Rock & Roll" dinner dance takes place this evening at Dinardo's Mansion on Industrial Parkway South beginning at 6 p.m. Dance to the music of Freddie Vette and The Flames and meet and have your picture taken with Elvis Presley, who is really Kevin Mills from Richmond Hill. Tickets sell for \$60 a person, which includes a three-course meal and are available at Aurora Used Books, 95 Edward Street. Proceeds go to the Aurora-Newmarket District of Community Living.  
\*\*\*\*

The Aurora Historical Society is looking for volunteers to join their Hillary House Outdoor Spring Clean Up, today from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a chance to enjoy the outdoors while working on the grounds of a 150-year-old home and is an opportunity for students to complete community hours. A barbecue lunch will be provided. For more information or to register contact Sandy at 905-841-4035 or [ssbundy@sympatico.ca](mailto:ssbundy@sympatico.ca).

**MONDAY, MAY 16**  
The 16th Annual Big Brothers Big Sisters charity golf tournament will be held this year at Station Creek Golf Club on Woodbine Avenue in Gormley.

The \$200 per golfer fee includes a four-person scramble format, lunch, golf, cart, dinner and prizes. For further information contact Rhonda at 905-726-2149, extension 316.

**TUESDAY, MAY 17**  
At 7.30 p.m. the Evergreen Choir, under the direction of Richard Heinzle, invites you to join them for their Spring concert at the Aurora Seniors Centre, 90 John West Way, when they present "We'll Sing you a Song". Admission is \$10 for adults, while children, 14 and under, are free. Tickets are available in advance at the Seniors' Centre and they'll also be on sale at the door. Refreshments will be served at intermission.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 25**  
The Aurora Cultural Centre and the Aurora Historical Society present the second of two heritage lectures with local historian John McIntyre. Tonight's feature is "Aurora's Heritage of Artifacts and Documents: Treasures from the Aurora Historical Society's Collections." the lecture begins at 7 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Complimentary admission and refreshments, no registration is required. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For additional information call 905-713-1818 or [info@auroraculturalcentre.ca](mailto:info@auroraculturalcentre.ca).

**MAY 29-31**  
Another historic walk is planned on each of the evenings listed above beginning at 7 p.m. Brought to you by A Step In Time, the walks will present data about where ghosts used to hang out in Aurora. Advance tickets are \$20 and 100 per cent of the proceeds will go to the Heart and Stroke and Crohns and Colitis Foundations.



**SATURDAY, JUNE 4**  
Wesley United Church, at the corner of Woodbine and Aurora Sideroad is participating in Doors Open Whitchurch-Stouffville today from 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. Tours of this historical 130-year-old Gothic church sanctuary will be conducted by three pioneer members of the church. Artifacts will be on display. For those interested in visiting the old cemetery behind the church which dates back to the mid-1800s, a tour will also be available. Light refreshments will be served.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 5**  
Annual Aurora Street Festival begins at 11 a.m. and runs to 5 p.m. on Yonge Street from Wellington St. to Murray Drive.

**MONDAY, JUNE 6**  
The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents "We'll Meet Again: Songs of the 1930s and 40s Community Sing-Along". Join the Silver Stars Drama Club in singing old favourites including The White Cliffs of Dover, Roll Out the Barrel, As Time Goes By - and more. Complimentary admission & refreshments. Event begins at 2 p.m. No registration is required. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For more information call 905-713-1818 or [info@auroraculturalcentre.ca](mailto:info@auroraculturalcentre.ca).

**SUNDAY, JUNE 26**  
The annual Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society invites you to attend its Aurora Garden Tour today. Eight gardens are available for touring where the owners and creators will be present to chat with you. The tour is from 12 noon to 4.30 p.m., rain or shine! Refreshments will be available. Tickets are \$10 and are available in Aurora at Art of the Matter, 2 Orchard Heights Boulevard; Caruso & Co., 15210 Yonge Street; Flowers by Terry, 14799 Yonge Street; Aurora Used Books, 95 Edward Street and at our booth at the Aurora Farmers' Market June 11th, 18th, and 25th. For more information call Madge at 905-727-5926 or visit <http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/aurora/news/details/6118>.





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# Council adopts Youth Needs recommendations

Councillors adopted the recommendations contained in the Town's new Youth Needs study, which could ultimately see a new Youth Centre being added to the list of municipal amenities, but its passage was not without some concern over what signing off on the recommendations would actually bind the Town.

At last Tuesday's council meeting, councillors voted to adopt the recommendations outlined in the Youth Needs Analysis, adopt the implementation schedule outlined in the report, place up to \$50,000 in the 2011 Capital Budget for an architectural design study for the proposed Youth Centre, and bring back the terms of reference for the Architectural Consultant Study back to Council for further approval.

In addition to the Youth Centre, the Youth Needs Analysis contained a number of recommendations to address the needs of younger Aurorans.

Among them were that the Town should provide opportunities for youth to become involved in the

planning, design and development of programs, activities, and facilities of interest to them, that youth should be involved in the evaluation of services, and that the Town should develop a permanent skate park.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner, however, argued that by adopting the recommendations council would be approving everything in the report, including a physical activity plan which, she said, council had already voted against.

(Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation said, however, that council had only rejected a plan to develop the plan with a consultant and recommended they proceed with it in-house),

She also said signing off on the plan would bind the town to a youth space and a full-size gym.

"We are saying to the public that we are going to do this and we have not discussed the money aspect of this," she said. "To me, it is very problematic that we would approve everything in this plan," going on to say she wanted

youth specifically to utilize the gym rather than local sports groups.

"We will have approved the gymnasium and a youth lounge or youth centre and all the staff that is involved in running this. This is how I read this report."

What ensued following Councillor Gaertner's concerns was a debate over semantics, with Mayor Geoffrey Dawe noting that all the recommendations in the report are prefaced by "should" rather than "shall."

"To me that doesn't imply that we are obligated," he said. "It says that we are obligated to consider it."

Mr. Downey agreed with Mayor Dawe's assessment and said that by approving the recommendations it legally gives staff direction to come back to council at a future date with recommendations on how to proceed on each individual item.

"Council then has the opportunity to evaluate those items and determine whether or not to proceed in that particular direction or not," he said. "By

approving the recommendation it does not tie council's hands with regards to any particular direction."

As far as money goes, Mr. Downey said council had not committed anything at this point beyond the \$50,000 for the architectural study.

With this item discussed for quite some time at the previous week's meeting, some councillors expressed frustration that the same grievances were being aired once again.

"Councillor Gaertner must have forgotten the lengthy debate we had last week on these issues," said Councillor Michael Thompson. "We talked at length about not wanting to incur any more operational costs by accepting this report. It was reiterated last week that it was all about 'shoulds', there are no 'wills' in this report, it is just the framework on which we can start to take a look at the youth needs analysis and get the facilities for."

But the theme endured. "I certainly participated in the lengthy discussion and I am still uncomfortable

with the word 'should'," said Councillor Chris Ballard. "I know it is semantics, but I want to make sure we're not setting the wrong expectations for the public that they are going to be getting all the things that are outlined in this report."

"My understanding is that we should consider these things, not that we should do them. That might be a little hair splitting but to the public out there who is watching right now we should consider these things."



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# Skate board park is big part of proposal

Although the Youth Needs Analysis is still in its early days, one key proposed feature has already struck a chord with residents, according to Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Leisure Services - the permanent skate park.

Aurora's Youth Needs Analysis outlines several recommendations and in particular, it recommends that the Town "should develop a Town-wide permanent skate park to meet youth needs for unstructured, spontaneous and active recreation."

The recommendation proposes a skate park between 13,000 and 18,000 square feet, designed and developed "through the active participation of the Town's skateboarding enthusiasts" and of a skate park design firm.

"That was music to some residents' ears who gave me a call and said I'm glad council is at least considering it," said Mr. Downey at last week's council meeting.

"I said, once we get past Tuesday's meeting we would be charged as staff to come back with a report on what we feel is necessary with regards to a skate park. Council will then have the opportunity to determine whether or not that is an appropriate action or not and we may or may not move forward with the skate park."

"He was very happy that we were at least looking at it so that was the

communication that I would certainly like to get to residents that we are actively looking at

addressing the needs of youth without making any particular decisions at this time."

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## Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

# Crime Stoppers celebrates 25th

You're probably not aware that Crime Stoppers of York Region is 25 years old this year. Neither was I.

So, I was a tad surprised when I was invited to the 2011 annual appreciation dinner held at the Community Safety Village last week in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

One of the speakers was new York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe.

It would be the first time I have heard the new chief speak to an audience and I thought he did a fine job.

He also unveiled a few pretty remarkable statistics.

"We know it's a success - since its inception in 1986, Crime Stoppers of York Region tips have resulted in 2,489 arrests; 6,116 charges laid; 2,717 cases cleared; \$8.5 million worth of stolen property recovered; \$96 million worth of illegal drugs seized.

"Last year, Crime Stoppers of York Region received 1,532 tips that resulted in 198 cases being solved; 202 arrests; almost \$300,000 in stolen recovered property and \$5.4 million worth of drugs seized."

Crime Stoppers of York Region has grown dramatically since its inception in 1986. It has assisted York Regional Police in solving many criminal cases that otherwise may have gone unsolved.

"Crimes like marihuana (I prefer to spell it marijuana but both ways are correct) grow operations, robberies, thefts, carjackings and homicides," Chief Jolliffe told the full house at the celebration. "Working together - citizens, members of the Crime Stoppers program, the media and this police service - we are living the York Regional Police vision of making a difference in our community."

In the photo below, The Auroran was acknowledged for printing a PACT (Police and Community Together) column written by Peter McNeill, left, who also received an award. He's with PACT Chairperson Cyndy Skillins, and yours truly, in a photo taken by my wife Patricia, who was at the Community Safety Village for the first time ever.

The Auroran got an award for making the space available for Peter's words.



## 100 Watts

By Christopher Watts

After reading Stewart Ivoll's letter regarding the condition of the Canadian flags flying at the Aurora Shopping Centre I checked it out for myself.

The scene is disrespectful to both our country and our town.

This is how Canada's so called "Birthday Town" shows its pride?

And a stone's throw from our war memorial, too.

Just as there is a complete lack of respect shown by those at the Aurora Shopping Centre pulling the strings, there are no laws currently to prevent the flying of damaged Canadian flag.

You don't need a law to know what is just.



This is an easy one. Tell us where this building is located (yes, it's still there) and tell us what's there today. Call The Auroran after noon on Good Friday, April 22, with your answer. If you're the first caller and you're correct, you'll win lunch for two at the Aurora Legion on Industrial Parkway North.

### Letters to the Editor

# Trusting the system is a crock, she says

To the editor,

After much soul searching, taking a week to recover from a grievous loss of faith, I decided to share what happened to shatter one of my basic beliefs - "Honesty is the best policy" and "You can't go wrong with the truth - trust in the judicial system".

I now have witnessed firsthand that this is a proverbial crock.

I, like I thought most of my peers were raised to respect their elders, treat all like they would like to be treated and tell the truth.

I have found, over the years, that there have been exceptions where "the truth hurts" like when asked, "does this dress make me look fat?"

I never thought that I would see the day when cheating, lying, browbeating a senior and general intimidation would garner respect and favouritism in a court of law.

Albeit there was no swearing to tell the truth but one (being me) would assume that the "truth would prevail" and that success would be "on the side of truth and justice".

I can't go into more specifics because God only knows I, by telling exactly what happened, could open myself up to a "law suit" in this climate of "he who tells the biggest lie, pays the most, first, wins".

I now realize that "it is all about money" and that being a wife for 30 years doesn't count for much. A judge can favour and take into consideration the new common law spouse (who the husband left the marriage for) to the detriment of the wife and that "fair's fair" only exists on paper.

About a year ago, a friend asked me to co-write a book for women whose spouse leaves them for another woman and I have been tak-

ing my sweet-time writing it.

Now the book called "When it's not death that you do part" is underway.

If you have a story that you would like to share, please email me at tiffin-

bo@rogers.com so that we can alert women of the pitfalls and prepare them for a potential "fight of their lives".

Bonnie Tiffin  
Oak Ridges

### 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.

To the editor,

I've just come back from being abroad, in fact China.

And I come back to an election??

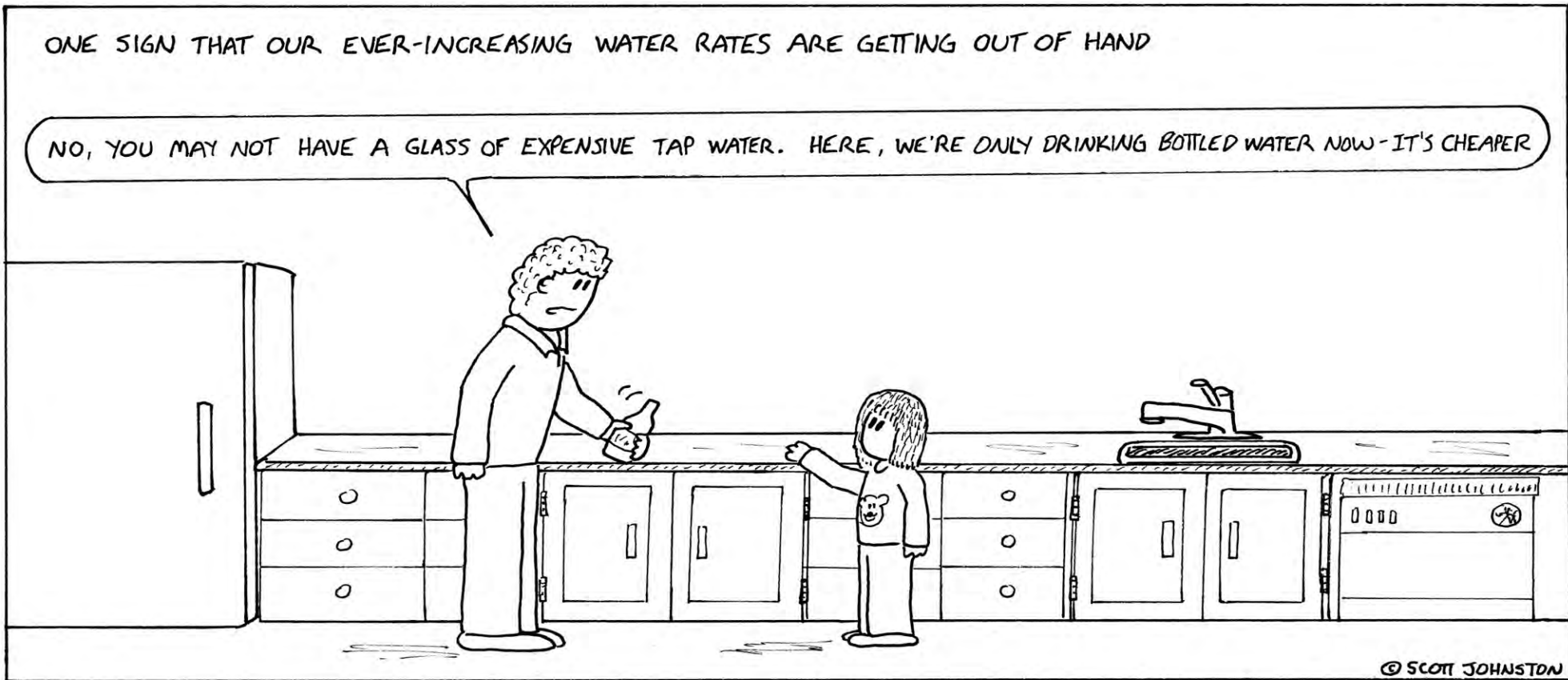
There's nothing but reshaped policies from either sides.

Surely there was no reason for this election except egos.

This irrelevance is so in contrast to what's happening in China.

Gail McIntyre  
Aurora





## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

## Getting off the front porch...

I am getting off the front porch and coming to see you. I'm not sure though, if that should be considered a promise or a threat.

It is that special time of year again.

No, it is not only the beginning of spring or the start of the NHL play-offs.

It is much better than that.

The federal election is here!

That means it's time to be visited by your newfound political friends and their volunteers.

Stop with the groans already - I can hear you from in front of my computer.

There is nothing in a campaign that beats door-to-door canvassing.

It is where the action is.

It is that time when the candidates and their emissaries get to meet the jury, one door at a time. Canvassing provides feedback, information on issues, moods and voter priorities.

One can also gain a better understanding of the candidate by watching them deal with rejection, tough questions, voter anger or the occasional embarrassing situation.

Do all us campaign canvassers a favour - stay home.

Too many times already we have had to place the notation "Not Home" on our canvass sheets.

It seems that many of you actually have lives.

Please stop going to the movies, the gym, or to pick up groceries, for the duration of the campaign. The May 2nd election day is not that far away.

You can go without deodorant or your favourite ice cream for that long.

So far, I have been erecting lawn signs around Aurora, but I did have the opportunity to canvass with our candidate last weekend.

It was a beautiful Saturday and I canvassed in Newmarket.

You get a bit of a different reception at the door when you are canvassing with the candidate, as opposed to canvassing by yourself.

Voters obviously like to actually meet and question the candidate instead of his or her emissaries.

The main issues brought up at the door steps ranged from the economy, taxes, tax credits, costs associated with the G-8/G-20 Summit, fighter jets, and health care.

And yes, there were even some questions about coalitions!

A plea if I may.

On behalf of canvassers everywhere, Mr. or Mrs. Homeowner, please make a joint decision on lawn signs.

It is great to visit a home and receive permission from the man of the house to erect a sign on the front lawn.

The canvasser then relays this information to the sign crew and sometime later they come and while they are

putting it up the lawn sign the lady of the house peeks her head outside the door or comes home and asks the sign crew what they are doing and who gave them permission.

The sign crew chief checks his sheet and says your husband Mr. "X" gave the permission.

Mrs. "X" then proceeds quickly into the house and, after a few minutes, comes out of the house (usually alone) - while the husband nervously lurks in the front window partially concealed by the curtains - and says her husband did not give permission.

Please do all us volunteers a big favour and among family discussions about what is appropriate or not for young Julie to wear to school, and how much lunch money should little Johnny receive, please collectively decide on what sign goes up in the front yard.

That was a paid political announcement from the canvassers for a hassle free lawn sign erection environment (or "CFHFLSEE" for short).

Maybe, just maybe, Aurorans will collectively surprise us all and go to the polls in record numbers this May.

Let's hope so as there are a number of important issues on the table that affect our wonderful community.

And just think, we get to do this all over again in the fall with the provincial election.

Stephen can be contacted at  
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



## Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

## El'eggion Fever

I was going by the Seniors' Centre, and on a whim, decided to drop in to see how the Easter Bunny was doing getting ready for the kids for the Town's Easter celebrations this weekend.

I'd run into him in previous years, and he always seemed to be stressed out about something - too many eggs to hide, not being done in time, going to the wrong location - so when I stepped inside the Centre, I was surprised to see him sitting serene and relaxed, while a bunch of people scurried around doing all his work.

"Why aren't you hiding these eggs?" I asked, indicating the big basket beside him.

"I don't need to," he said, pointing to a man placing an egg on a bookshelf. "I got help this year."

"I can see that. Wait," I added suspiciously, "you didn't get the seniors to do it, did you? All that lifting, and bending over, and crawling around....that's cruel."

"No, of course not," he said, aghast.

"You really want to know my secret?" he asked. As I nodded and took a seat beside him, he continued; "Here, take a look in the basket."

I reached in and picked up a bright green egg, with a fine white pattern on it.

It was very pretty.

But upon closer inspection, I could see the detailing

wasn't a pattern, but writing.

"Vote for Vanessa Long," I quoted.

Then I grabbed a red one, whose detailing revealed a plea to support Kyle Peterson.

A dawning realization came over me as I saw all the eggs were only in shades of orange, purple, red, blue and green.

"You're advertising the Newmarket-Aurora Federal election candidates!" I exclaimed.

"Well, technically, they're advertising themselves," he replied with a twinkle in his eye. "They paid for all the eggs."

"In fact," he observed, holding up a purple egg, "I think the Christian Heritage Party blew their entire advertising budget on these."

"Better yet," he added, waving a hand at the activity in front of us, "the various parties sent over all their campaign people to hide them. Although not very well," he sighed, indicating a bunch of orange eggs sitting plainly out on the middle of the floor. "The parties want them to be found."

"Hey!" he shouted to the lady sporting the NDP button, who had placed the eggs in the centre of the room. "I warned you about that. If you don't try harder to hide them, we may have to reduce the number of orange eggs to be found this year."

"I'm sorry, it was only temporary," she stammered, hur-

riedly pushing the eggs behind a potted plant with her shoe.

"Why are there so many blue eggs?" I asked. "It seems unfair that one party should have more than another."

"Oh, the Conservative and Progressive Canadian parties couldn't agree on who would get blue, so they both used it."

He pulled a couple out of his basket. "See, this one has Lois Brown's name on it, and here's one for Dorian Baxter.

Well, you certainly seem to have solved all your problems for 2011," I admitted. "But what about next year?"

"Oh, I'll probably be able to do the same thing."

"What do you mean? The next Federal election will be years from now."

"Not if it's another minority government," he said. "I give it about a year before the opposition parties gang up on whomever's voted in, and defeat them on a non-confidence motion, just like the current government was."

"Then," he smiled, leaning back, and putting his feet up, "they'll all be back here ready to help out, right in time for Easter."

I hated to admit it, but the way things go at the Federal level, he's probably right.

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



Letters to the Editor

Lions punctuation was wrong, wrong

To the editor,

After seeing the same mistake in a previous edition being repeated in the April 12 issue of The Auroran, I was forced to take keyboard in hand. Before I continue, let me say this is NOT in retaliation for all the times my stuff was sent back by the editor I worked for in the 1970s. (Yes, same editor, different paper. Let's see if he can spot my dubliceight errurs hear-inn.)) While it is gratifying, I'm

sure, to the members of a service club of such long-standing and world-wide recognition to see their organization receiving mention, there may have been some gritting of teeth within the pride (pride...lions...group of...get it?) when reading how their club's name was being punctuated. I realize this is a common error, seen regularly in newspapers and various other publications (perhaps even that funny little one up the road) and one that might

seem trivial to some. But when it appears in The Auroran, well, that's something else altogether and enough to stop the presses. This service club is NOT a Lion's club nor is it a Lions' club. The former denotes a club belonging to one lion (growl softly and carry a big stick?) while the latter indicates a club belonging to (or consisting of) more than one lion. (Pass the club, Leo, this wildebeest is still moving.)

Neither is correct. The proper punctuation, when referring to the organization, is no punctuation at all. The Lions Club is a club, a group, of Lions. Neither possessive singular nor possessive plural is required or correct. I know this because I myself am a former Lion, and a past president of the Parry Sound Lions Club, following in the footsteps of my father and older brother who held the position before I. I would have joined the

Lions when I lived in Aurora but nobody asked me, so I instead became a member of the then-new Aurora-Newmarket Kiwanis Club. Remember the great Kiwanis Oktoberfests put on in Aurora's original community centre in the days of Ernie Batson? Kiwanis! See? There's another example of no punctuation being required, although I'm not sure if there really exists a creature called a Kiwani, not that it matters. Right is right. But I digress. In this latest case the edatur, of all peeple, who should know better, perpetuated the punctuation problem.

(God rest her soul). That revelation was indeed worth the ink it got on page 4. Kinda reminds one of the lyrics to a Kingston Trio song "...back to back, belly to belly...", perhaps screamed (slurred?) many years ago in a Yonge Street (Toronto) pub as Ryerson-based patrons took turns keeping Liz's chair warm, eyes rolled back into their heads while having dreams best left unmentioned. Ron, haven't I seen that chair in your office? It could account for the blank stare.

Bob Cooke  
Orillia  
(formerly of Aurora)

EDITOR'S NOTE: You're right, as usual, Bob...my apologies to the Aurora Lions Club.

Merlin's Hollow: Open now for 30 years

To the editor,

This year, Merlin's Hollow has been open free to the public, four days a year, for 30 years. It is difficult to believe that myself, but we first opened in 1981. Over the years we have been featured on several TV stations and radio programs (one man was driving in the States when he heard a description of the garden on his car radio on an open day and drove straight up and visited us). We have been featured on several TV and radio programs and different magazines have written lengthy, detailed articles about the garden, as did local and national newspa-

pers. We emigrated to Canada in 1973 and by 1978 we had saved enough for a down payment on this house, built from a kit in the 30s and on almost an acre of land. On our honeymoon we had visited a large garden on the Isles of Sicilly and David had promised to build me a garden. Telling this to the elderly real estate agent in February, she promised endless perennials. When the snow melted we looked out on a flat square of grass covered with dandelions. David designed the garden and built it over 25 years. It is a series of gardens within a garden; a

pond and rock gardens, a fragrant garden, a large perennials garden (plants from a foot to eight feet), and a winter garden and woodland beds. These are bounded by high hedges so that when in one garden you have to walk through an arch to see what is in the next garden. We now have more than 2,000 different perennial plants within the garden. They were mainly grown from seed from regions all over the world that have a similar climate. Our gardening students were amazed at how the garden could change dramatically from one month to the next, also that it is just David and I who work

in it. Thousands of visitors have enjoyed Merlin's Hollow over the years, but so have many birds, mammals, amphibians and occasionally snakes (but they are covert) and with the diversity of plants comes a diversity of pollinating insects, plus 31 species of butterfly; 84 species of birds, 18 of which nested in the garden; 17 species of mammal, four species of amphibians and one reptile. Earlier this month, David received a Lt. Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award for protection of Ontario's natural heritage. Many people have said that seeing our garden has changed how they have gardened themselves. It is an interest that can feed your body, mind and spirit. Come and see what it can do for you. The garden is open to the public free of charge the second Saturday in May, the second Saturday in June, the first Saturday in July and the Sunday of the following weekend.

Canadian Cancer Society thanks donors, volunteers

To the editor,

From March 29 to April 3, more than 250 volunteers with the Holland River unit of the Canadian Cancer Society donated their time selling Hope Daffodils. This year the weather was on our side and many people were out enjoying the sunshine and Fighting Back.

a successful campaign. We would also like to make a special mention of Skelton Truck lines who generously stored and refrigerated our daffodils for the duration of the campaign. Thank you to all our volunteers and donors.

We hope that this year will bring many new discoveries in the fight against cancer. Alex Reil  
Manager  
Holland River Unit  
Canadian Cancer Society

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# Klees tarnished director's reputation: trustee

**An open letter to Frank Klees:**

I read with dismay your column published in The Auroran March 28, in which you republished excerpts from the official record of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, the Hansard.

In those comments, allegations of impropriety were made against the Director of Education here in York Region on the basis of information received by you from an anonymous source.

I wish to put the record straight.

In late 2009, the York Region District School Board conducted a Canada wide search for an educational leader to serve as our new Director of Education.

As a result of that extensive search and an intensive interview process, the Board of Trustees selected

Ken Thurston, a leader with exceptional credentials as an educator and as an educational leader within Ontario.

He served as Director of Policy for the Education Improvement Commission in the mid to late 1990's and as the Superintendent of Education with system wide responsibility for school councils here in the York Region District School Board through the early years of this century.

Immediately prior to rejoining our Board, he worked as a Senior Educational Advisor to the former Minister of Education and led the consultations and preparations for the passage of Bill 177, the recent Bill to update and clarify the governance roles within the Education Act.

He is, quite simply, one of Canada's outstanding educational leaders and one

of the greatest supporters of the role of trustees in governing the public education system within the Province of Ontario.

Since rejoining our Board as Director on January 1, 2010, with a mandate for renewal, Ken Thurston has taken action far and wide to change the tone of leadership within the Board and reset priorities to expand the Board's focus on student achievement and well being.

There remains plenty of work to do, and plenty of work already is in progress to enable our system to better plan and prepare for both the existing and emerging challenges that we face in York Region.

The Trustees' Multi-Year Plan, one of the new requirements of Bill 177, is already complete. More announcements regarding future plans will be made in

due course.

With intimate knowledge of Bill 177, no one in Ontario is more familiar with the responsibilities placed on trustees and directors of education within the modernized Education Act than Ken Thurston.

As you know, the Education Act does place specific limits on the matters that can be dealt with in private meetings of the Board.

Further, the Labour Relations Act places certain limits on trustees on the discussion of matters subject to collective bargaining.

Two matters have arisen recently with our Board that have required the Director to advise trustees of how the law would view the Board's actions, should actions occur that are covered by those Acts.

It appears that at least one trustee felt that this was the Director taking action to

limit the trustees' role when in fact it was the Director doing his job to remind trustees of their obligations under these two Acts.

As the specific trustee frustrated or offended by these limits did not make this concern known to the Director and has not identified him or herself, it is not possible to clarify the specific situation nor trace which one of these recent events led to the misunderstanding.

What is most disturbing to me is that the reputation of our new Director, an outstanding and dedicated public servant, has been tarnished by this misunderstanding and that you did not confirm your information sources before making your comments within the legislature.

With additional due diligence, you will find that this educational leader has dedicated his life's work to public education and that not only did an impropriety not occur, he serves our province and our Board well through vision, leadership, a passionate dedication to public education and a rigid commitment to upholding the laws passed in the legislature.

The right thing to do would be to have the comments recorded within the Hansard retracted.

I invite you to speak with myself, the Board Chair and Director of Education Ken Thurston if you are in need of additional information to satisfy yourself that no impropriety occurred.

This letter expresses my own views.

I am not writing on behalf of the Board.

**Gord Kerr  
York Region District School Board Trustee  
Aurora-King**

# Klees responds to trustee letter

To the editor,

**An open letter to Gord Kerr, trustee, Aurora and King Township.**

I am acknowledging your letter dated April 6th, copied to The Auroran in which you say that you wish to "put the record straight".

Unfortunately, your letter only serves to divert attention from the real issue and focus of my question in the legislature and subsequent column.

I will once again attempt to explain my concerns, and would hope that as an elected trustee, you would understand that what is at issue is your ability and that of your colleagues to carry out the responsibilities for which you were elected.

First, you incorrectly state that the information on which I based my comments in the legislature were from an anonymous source.

While I chose to keep the source confidential, it was certainly not anonymous.

The information was shared with me by a trustee who was rightly distraught at the direction trustees were given not to meet with parents in private.

As I stated to the Minister in the legislature and repeated in my column, this direction is nothing less than an undermining of the role of trustees.

The Minister agreed, and I suggest that parents who cast their vote for a trustee to represent them, agree as well.

Second, you incorrectly state that I made allegations of impropriety against the Director of Education.

At no time did I state anything other than the facts.

I stated that the Director

of Education told trustees that they are not allowed to meet with parents in private.

I stated that this directive undermines the role of trustees as elected representatives and I asked the Minister of Education to clarify for the director, that the role of trustees is to represent the people who elected them, not to be rubber stamps for the director.

The Minister did that, and I refer you to the verbatim Hansard Record of my questions and the Minister's response.

You describe at length, the director's work experience with which I am well familiar.

It is precisely because of Mr. Thurston's extensive experience in the field of education and as policy advisor to the Minister of Education that he should be taking a lead role in ensuring that the role of duly elected trustees is respected rather than suppressed.

While I admire Mr. Thurston's lengthy resume, I believe he erred in attempting to curtail the freedom of trustees in carrying out their mandated responsibility.

I draw your attention to Section 218.1 of the Education Act (the "Act") which sets out the duties of Trustees.

Specifically, paragraphs (c) and (d) of this Section read as follows:

218.1 A member of a board shall,

(c) consult with parents, students and supporters of the board on the board's multi-year plan under clause 169.1 (1) (f);

(d) bring concerns of parents, students and supporters to the attention of the board;

These sections of the Act clearly confirm the position I have taken in support of the role of trustees, and I submit that any attempt to interfere with these responsibilities would be unlawful.

Third, you further distort the issue I raised when you suggest that the provisions of the Education Act, which refer to limitations on the matters that can be dealt with in private meetings of the Board, somehow apply to the issue at hand.

They do not, and both you and Mr. Thurston are aware of that.

Fourth, you are less than forthright when you refer to the Labour Relations Act in this context, because you leave the impression that somehow that Act applies to this issue.

I suspect that you know it does not.

Any limits on trustees in the context of the Labour Relations Act apply strictly to matters subject to collective bargaining.

You represent that the director's "advice" not to meet with parents in private was related to their obligations under these two Acts.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

I suggest that it would be

best for Mr. Thurston to defend himself in this matter, as he would know that the references you have made to provincial statutes are not even remotely applicable to the circumstances at hand.

Finally, I find it disconcerting that your understanding of legislation relating to your role as trustee is so limited. I also find it dis-

appointing that you would defend what amounts to nothing short of the undermining of your role as a duly elected trustee.

The right thing to do would be to revisit the reason you decided to run for the position of School Board Trustee, which I assume was to act on behalf of the people who put their trust in you to represent them on the important issues of education.

I would be more than pleased to meet with the Director of Education, the Board Chair and trustees to discuss the duties of trustees as set out in the Education Act as referenced above.

**Frank Klees, MPP  
Newmarket-Aurora**

## WANTED JUNIOR GOLFERS

The Optimist club of Aurora will hold its  
4th Annual Optimist Junior Qualifying Golf Tourney  
at  
**St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club**  
in Aurora on Sunday May 29, 2011.

All youth (boys and girls) aged 10-18 can compete.  
Eighteen-year-olds must not turn 19 before August 3, 2010.  
Age groups for competition are as follows:

**10-11 Years    14 - 15 Years  
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**To register for the Optimist Club of Aurora  
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Letter to the Editor

# She says thanks to Auroran editor

To the editor,

This is an open letter to Mr. Wallace (call me Ron) the editor of The Auroran, and until recently, the propri-

etor of R & R Book Store. Anyone who lives in Aurora and reads his newspaper can readily see that he loves the town and cares about its past, present and

## Lawyer's comments have no factual base: reader

An open letter to Mayor Geoffrey Dawe,

A particular sentence in the Executive Summary written by George Rust-D'Eye under date of March 8, 2011 is, in my opinion, without factual foundation and is therefore not credible.

If I am wrong I would ask you to provide the facts that

support it. "Council was concerned that the statements, if defamatory and left unchallenged, would adversely impact the public interest, undermine public confidence in municipal government and government officials, and disrupt the efficient functioning of Town Council."

This last "concern" is

future. Ron does his best each week to inform, amuse and sometimes disturb his readers and this is what the editor of a local paper should do.

I want to personally thank Ron Wallace publicly for his support when I wrote - "Aurora 1945 to 1965: An Ontario Town at a Time of Great Change".

Without his interest in the project, and his taking on the task of distributing the book at R & R Books, the manuscript would never have been in print.

Thank you, Ron, for being a person I could count on and for allowing me to present a picture of the post W.W. II years of Aurora. I appreciated your assistance greatly and I want your readers to know about this helpful and very kind act.

Elizabeth Hearn Milner  
Bracebridge

ED. NOTE: Thank you for the kind words, but you need to know that the bookstore, while it may not have a bricks and mortar location, is not dead. It lives under the name Aurora Used Books and its inventory may be found on line at [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com). And watch for a new bookstore to open in Aurora soon.

## No horse poop at Aurora show

To the editor,

I really enjoyed the Aurora Home Show this year, partly because I wasn't there to sell anything but as a representative of the non-profit, Hospice King-Aurora.

In past years I have done a lot of Home Shows, including the first Markham Home Show - where all the exhibitors had to clean-up horse poo (I seem to have a running shi—y theme in my

*“Friends” OK with motion*

To the editor,

The Friends of Petch House are pleased that a motion was adopted at the April 12th Aurora Council Meeting asking Town Staff, particularly the Parks Manager, to take a look at saving the Petch House. We are confident that we can work together to make this happen in a practical and economical manner that respects the original intent of the project as presented to Council in 2008 and preserves the historical significance of the House.

The Friends are close to making available to Town Staff a restoration proposal and business plan that allows a number of partners and stakeholders to work together while, at the same time, emphasizing education, heritage awareness, and community involvement. Working in this fashion opens the door to various forms of assistance, both financial and in-kind.

It gives the Petch House the scope it requires.

The Friends of Petch House invite you to continue monitoring our progress by checking our website at [www.petchhouseaurora.ca](http://www.petchhouseaurora.ca).

We look forward to meeting you at the Farmers' Market, beginning Saturday, May 7th and answering any of your questions about the project.

Katherine Belrose  
Aurora

musings lately) before we set up as the horse show had just finished and if you had an intricate booth, needing at least a full day to set-up - you got a shovel, cleaned up and then the organizers brought in straw for the floor.

Kinda makes the well-organized Aurora Community Centre a dream for exhibitors with carpeted floors, hydro, and clean areas!

Kudos to all the volunteers, especially the traffic volunteers on Saturday morning as the pouring rain literally put a damper on the festivities and made essential close parking at a premium.

For those of us who were personing our booths this lull, due to the inclement weather, provided us with time to peruse the other booths and catch-up with old friends and acquaintances.

I spoke with Diane Buchanan (of this paper) there representing the Optimist Club along with other members, spent a little time with Kim Dunn (Molly Maid) talking about our monthly euchre game and, of course, spring cleaning, Danny Merlino (Distinct Interiors) about changing Oak Ridges, Scott & Tasha, at the St. John Therapy Dog booth (both of my dogs are therapy dogs), the reps. at the Barron booth, and last but not least bought my coffee from Green River and my "fraktals", both of which I just cannot resist.

Being a chit chatty person by nature, I probably talked to a representative at most every booth and if not, I at least said "Hi" to everyone I encountered.

Once again, the Aurora Home Show remains tops on my list to volunteer at and attend!

Good going, Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

See you next year.

Bonnie Tiffin  
Oak Ridges

laughable, as you well know.

The Town Council hadn't functioned efficiently throughout its term.

During the Quebec crisis 41 years ago, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau used the words "apprehended insurrection" in describing the then situation, proclaimed the War Measures Act and sent thousands of troops into the province, most of them to Montreal, Quebec City and also into Ottawa where they guarded Parliament Hill.

The Canadian Constitution

and all civil liberties were suspended.

I use this example from our recent past because the sentence used by Mr. Rust-D'Eye would have been applicable in 1970.

It requires a huge stretch of the imagination to believe that Aurora's Council was under siege, with public confidence in it being undermined and that there was any disruption to its efficient functioning.

Language is a powerful tool and it must be used carefully in order to express clear-



## WHEN IT DOESN'T BELONG IT STANDS OUT.

Tim Hortons wants to get together with you to clean up our neighbourhood and put litter in its place. Because it's not just any community, it's our community. So come out and join us on Saturday, April 30th from 9am - 12 noon for the Mayor's Anti-Litter Day. To register and for more information please contact Info Aurora at 905-727-8214 or [infoaurora@aurora.ca](mailto:infoaurora@aurora.ca).





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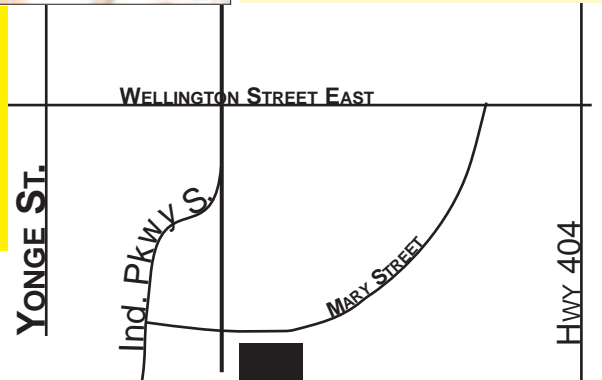
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## Aurora Minor Hockey Association

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING 2011/2012 REGISTRATION

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#### REGISTRATION fees for the 2011/2012 season are:

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<b>\$ 50.00</b>	Late fee effective June 1 – 30, 2011
<b>\$100.00</b>	Late fee effective July 1, 2011
<b>\$ 50.00</b>	Non-Resident Fee (if applicable)

\*Tyke players born in 2004 and 2005 must submit a copy of a birth certificate. It is recommended that 2005 players have either taken skating lessons or completed one year of Opti Hockey.

A 10% discount applies to families with 3 or more players.

Late fees do not apply to new registrants.

Fees may be paid in 3 instalments of 1/3 each, dated April 15, 2011, June 15, 2011 and August 15, 2011.

Full refunds will be issued to anyone withdrawing prior to September 1, 2011.

**Players MUST be registered PRIOR to any tryouts for AAA or any AMHA rep team.**

**AMHA tryouts begin April 30, 2011.**

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# Wells St. School fails to impress Town

From page 1

Mr. Garbe in his report. "No such use has been identified by staff."

"In June 2010, council identified the former library and former seniors' centre as excess to its needs. The acquisition of the former Wells Street Public School would add to the inventory of buildings without a defined purpose. Opportunities to rent some of the space (as is the case with the former library and former seniors' centre) out would be limited because of the building's current condition."

The report notes that the school board has deemed parts of the building unsafe.

A structural soundness study has indicated that the floor is no longer connected to the wall in certain sections of the building.

Mr. Garbe said the school board's cost estimate to make the building structurally sound somewhere between \$1 million and \$2 million.

"Additional funds would be required to make the building usable for a specific purpose," he said.

While Mr. Garbe said the Town cannot come up with a use for the building, he is keen to

emphasize in his report that the Town controls the future use of the building "through the granting of planning approvals", specifically as the site is zoned for institutional use such as a day care centre or a religious institution.

The Town also has controls through heritage designation.

"In addition to controlling the land use through zoning, the former Wells Street Public School is designated as being of Historical and Architectural Value or Interest under [the Ontario Heritage Act]," he said.

"Being designated under the Ontario Heritage Act means that no owner of designated property shall alter the property or permit any alteration if it is likely to affect its heritage attributes as identified in the designation by-law. Any alterations, demolition or removal of a structure will require council approval."

The School Board notified the Town this Spring that they were putting the site on the market with the provision that the Town would have the right of first refusal, if they expressed an interest in purchasing the building.

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The Aurora Master Ducks attended the "All OUT Swim 2011" meet at the University of Toronto Athletic Centre last week. Attending were, front row, left to right, Sue Deacon, Cheryl Stewart, Tanya Sudy, Eric Oliver, Andrew Mitchell, Tom Leger and Christine Spicer; second row, Nancy Black, Melony Teague, Elizabeth Moultray, Jim Moultray, Delfina Traxler and Sara Thomerson; back row, Dorothy Hall, Janet Mitchell, Jamie Farkas, Carol Chappell and Judy Iannucci.

## Big run set for May 1 in Aurora

Local mayors have issued a challenge to one another in an effort to do their part to help raise money for Southlake Regional Health Centre at the A & B Courier Run for Southlake.

The A & B Courier Run for Southlake takes place Sunday, May 1, from the Aurora Community Centre.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe of Aurora, Mayor Virginia Hackson of East Gwillimbury, Mayor Robert Grossi of Georgina, Mayor Steve Pelligrini of King Township, Mayor Tony Van Bynen of Newmarket and their councils have challenged one another to create their own teams, involve the largest number of constituents and to raise the most money for the community hospital.

At stake are regional brag-

ging rights for an entire year and, more meaningfully, raising vitally needed funds for Southlake's priority needs, including a second Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Machine, and routine hospital equipment, like mattresses, wheelchairs and IV poles.

"The leadership of York Region understands just how important Southlake is as a Regional Health Centre," said Steve Hinder, Chair of the Run for Southlake. "We know that the example they set will be instrumental in encouraging others to raise money and participate as a community of communities."

That example is resonating with the community as more than 40 teams have already registered.

As host for the event, Aurora's mayor is eager to help out and to welcome everyone to his town.

"As this Region continues to grow, we must all work to ensure that our hospital is able to keep pace with the demands of the community," he said. "Raising money for Southlake allows us to help invest in the future of our health care."

Those interested in pledging support for individual walkers/runners or teams participating in the A & B Courier Run for Southlake, can contribute directly online by visiting [www.runforsouthlake.ca](http://www.runforsouthlake.ca).

An event such as this does not happen without teamwork.

"I want to thank our wonderful committee and dedicated volunteers," said Mr. Hinder. "I

also want to thank all of our generous sponsors".

The entire community is encouraged to attend the 2011 Run for Southlake and 'Spend the Day Your Way'.

With four unique routes to choose from, including a 5K Walk/Run, 10K Walk/Run, half marathon and the Mini Mile - as well as the Minto KidZone for the little ones - there is something for everyone.

For more information about the run or to pledge your support for participants, visit: [www.runforsouthlake.ca](http://www.runforsouthlake.ca) or phone 905-836-7333.

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**April 22nd**  
Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m.  
**April 23rd**  
Saturday at 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Children under 14 years of age are invited to Spring Fun and Easter Egg Hunt.  
**April 24th**  
Easter Sunday service at 10:30 a.m.  
preceded by Easter pancake breakfast at 9:00 a.m.

## Councillors clash

**From page 1**  
opinion it was not called according to our procedural bylaw and the municipal act requirements.

"If I had stayed at the meeting I would not have been able to vote and that is taken as a negative vote and as I am in support of paying former Mayor Morris' legal fees, I didn't want to show it as a negative vote so I had to leave the table."

That too failed to get off the launching pad.

With the agenda approved and presentations made, councillors pulled two items from the agenda in addition to six notices of motion that required introductions from the relevant councillors.

Around the 9.30 mark, councillors finished their discussions and went into new business, after an evening that began over three hours earlier with a Special Council on safe workplaces legislation. Apparently some councillors were feeling the hour.

"I don't know if it has to be

a notice of motion, but on evenings when council starts early and it is the supper hour, I would appreciate having something very small to

eat like a pizza, just something to help us work through the meetings as efficiently as possible," noted Councillor Gaertner.

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Greg Foster and his family moved to Aurora in 1999 when they purchased M & M Meat Shops. They will continue to operate M & M Meat Shops as Greg expands into his new business venture called Complete Pets. Greg plans to build Complete Pets on the foundations of quality service, great products, competitive prices and being an active supporter of community events within Aurora.

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Progressive Canadian candidate Dorian Baxter, left, is pictured in his campaign office Thursday with party leader, and former Federal cabinet minister Sinclair Stevens under the watchful eye of Sir John A. Macdonald. The Progressive Canadian party describes itself as "the original party" of Canada's first Prime Minister, a party which has been "assaulted" by today's Conservative party.

## If Dorian Baxter gets elected, he will be thorn in government's side

The name Dorian Baxter has become synonymous with politics in Newmarket-Aurora, for better or worse, in recent years.

Whether you see him as an unlikely political candidate, a crusader for social justice, a religious leader, or even if you can't get past the occasional Elvis jumpsuit, Mr. Baxter has become omnipresent in the local political arena, keeping his office doors open since 2003.

When The Auroran sat down with him at his Davis Drive campaign office last Thursday, and as we settled in to talk about his campaign and local issues, his pride in the fact that the doors haven't closed was evident.

"My whole thrust is to simply say to the people of Newmarket-Aurora, know that I have been running since 2003," he said. "My office has never closed. Most people run, if they don't make it, they shut down the office and lick their wounds. I have continued to run all the way through and will continue to do so."

If elected, Mr. Baxter promises to donate half of his Parliamentary salary to endeavours targeted at fighting poverty in Newmarket-Aurora.

But to get there, of course, he has to win over the voters of both Aurora and Newmarket.

This time around, his message has a familiar ring to it: it is time to get Stephen Harper out of Ottawa. Upon being asked the blunt question of why he is hitting the campaign trail once again, his answer is simple: "I am saying that no Canadian I have ever met is happy with deceit and betrayal."

Still reeling from how the present Conservative Party came into being in 2004 in a merger between the Canadian Alliance, the former Reform Party, and the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, Mr. Baxter said he represents the "original party of John A. Macdonald, the party which was assaulted by the

Canadian Reform Alliance."

His laundry list of grievances against the Conservative government is varied, ranging from "broken promises" to "fraudulent behaviour", as well as aimed at incumbent candidate Lois Brown.

"She has become a shill for Stephen Harper," said Mr. Baxter on Ms. Brown. "The records show in the last couple of years that she has only mentioned Newmarket-Aurora three times, and Aurora maybe four times, and when she gets up to speak, she spends two or three minutes identifying herself and then hands over and says something like, 'Now I would like Mr. Flaherty to tell us what he is doing.' Newmarket-Aurora is not being represented."

While he said he can understand why some people may think he is more anti-Stephen Harper than pro-anything else, he said he is running to restore the vision of the Progressive Conservative Party and also be an advocate for issues that are close to his vision for Canada - including improved infrastructure, better funding

for post-secondary education, improved quality of life for veterans, and looking towards the Commonwealth for economic prosperity.

"I have two precious daughters and raised them on my own, but unfortunately on a minister's salary, I could not afford their university fees," he said. "They both had to go on OSAP. My younger daughter emerged with \$30,000 [debt] for getting her two degrees. One of our major platforms on the local and national level is that the Federal government must start to fund university education.

"Albeit, there may be provisos in there as we obviously want to fund serious students, so there would probably be some qualification in there to get over 70 per cent and to maintain an average that is high enough to warrant Federal funding."

Supporting veterans when they return is also important for Mr. Baxter and the Progressive Canadian Party.

Citing a number of ways the party claim veterans have been "abused" by the

Please see page 16



Local Green Party Candidate Vanessa Long is pictured outside a cafe on Main Street, Newmarket, following an interview with The Auroran. Following the interview, Ms. Long was heading off on another round of neighbourhood door knocking.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir

## Green Party candidate says residents are angry

As Newmarket-Aurora Green Party Candidate Vanessa Long has been knocking on doors in recent days, she has found residents are angry the country is in an election and are "lost" at where to turn to; and when making a pitch that the Green Party is the party for them, it seems one roadblock keeps coming up.

"Voters say to me, 'I would totally vote for you, I love your platform, I love your leader, but you don't have a chance,' and I'm like, 'Dude, if everybody who said that just voted for me, I would totally win,'" said Ms. Long, a native of Oakville, who has lived in places as far apart as Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia and Calgary, Alberta.

She settled in Newmarket-Aurora in 2002.

"Right now I think we have a false choice between the 'blue' party and the 'red' party. They campaign differently. They promise different things, but when they get into government they do pretty much the same thing. We have a really solid platform and I hear people are scared. They're working harder than ever just to stay in the same place."

According to Ms. Long, a

vote for the Green Party would benefit the bottom line of Newmarket-Aurora voters.

Starting with what she describes as a "revenue neutral tax shift", under a Green Party government, one could expect a reduction in income taxes and payroll taxes, while other items, such as "luxury SUVs" would become more

expensive because they cause "an intensive use of resources. They would also raise the income tax cut-off to \$20,000.

"You would still be paying less income tax so you would end up with more money in your pocket, which would give you a choice of where you

Please see page 16

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Aurora teenager Scott Spiering, shown here in front of the Cenotaph, has been selected as one of 12 winners across Canada for the prestigious Beaverbrook Vimy Prize, a scholarship awarded to students across Canada. This determined teenager was also named an ‘honourable mention’ in the 2010 competition. Scott will take part in a two-week scholarship in the United Kingdom, Belgium and France in August. There, students will participate in seminars at Oxford University, museum visits – including the Imperial War Museum in London, the Juno Beach Centre in Normandy, and In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres – as well as tours of historic sites including Vimy, Arras, Beaumont Hamel and Dieppe, and lectures with historians and specialists.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

# Dorian Baxter

From page 15  
Harper Government, PC leader and former cabinet minister Sinclair Stevens, who sat in on parts of The Auroran's interview, said it is not enough to simply give soldiers money as their service requires a "whole mental shift."

"When they come back, the state has got an obligation to them," said Mr. Stevens.

Citing recent remarks made by their Party's Veterans Affairs critic, retired Colonel Pat Stogran, Mr. Baxter said, "It is a covenant between the nation and soldier and the agreement is we would look after them."

For the Progressive Canadian Party, increasing prosperity is paramount and Mr. Stevens said their Prosperity Canada platform is based on the premise that a workforce has to be productive as possible.

According to him, a resident came into the office the previous day and told how his job with Steelcase was eliminated after the company moved much of its operation to Mexico.

The Party would also shift trade to countries within the English speaking Commonwealth such as India and Pakistan, and countries within the Francophonie to make Canada a distribution arm and increase the Country's economic potential.

Seniors would also have a friend in the party as they seek to put in a clear index to maintain standard of living for pensions, they said.

But how can one, two, or even a handful of Progressive Canadians elected to the House of Commons make a difference?

"At the present time we can hope for one or two seats," said Mr. Baxter. "Let's say I get in. What am I going to do? I'm going to be a real

nuisance. I'm going to be a thorn in the side of whatever government gets in because I will be pressing so hard for Canadian manufacturing, I will be pressing so hard for a paradigm shift."

For those who may think his Elvis persona could detract from his message, that people might not take him as seriously as the other candidates in this race, Mr. Baxter doesn't have a firm answer.

"What I find interesting is the first time I ran, I hyped up the Elvis motif, and I got the largest number of votes I ever had," he said. "When I tried to hype it down, I got the lowest. When I said, okay, it is just a hobby, which it is, I came up a bit more. It really has provided me with a much higher profile than I have had."

"My biggest plus is my tenacity, the fact I'm still here."

When he took up boxing in his youth in Kenya, Mr. Baxter's mother gave him words of encouragement, despite opposing his wish to enter the ring, which he said still sticks with him to this day.

"When she knew I was going to box, she sat me down and said, 'Son, if you must box remember it is never the size of the dog in the fight, it is always the size of the fight in the dog.'"

From page 15  
want to spend it," she said. "If I was on disability, or EI, or any sort of fixed income, seniors, veterans - what [the Government is] doing to veterans just irritates me so much."

"If you are on any sort of fixed income like that you would have more money with the Green Party because those people are being forced to live in poverty and we think that is unacceptable."

Improving infrastructure is also a key plank in the Green platform, and of particular relevance, Ms. Long said, one of the biggest issues locally is improving the GO connection to Toronto and making it easier and more efficient for drivers to taper off from relying so heavily on their vehicles.

"It will be more expensive to drive with the Green Party because gas will be more expensive," she said. "Gas is going to get more expensive anyway. We need to start putting the infrastructure in place so that people have the choice not to use their cars every day."

This can partly be achieved through improving local bike infrastructure, as well as infrastructures for trails and so forth.

With a heavy emphasis on eliminating poverty so people can live with "dignity", dignity for seniors is also an important component to the Green Party platform.

"Dignity to me means no shame," said Ms. Long. "We have a shame-based system. We have to be destitute to get help and you are interrogated and shamed because you are in that situation."

"We also support for seniors the right to a living will and the right to decide how or when to end their lives. We support that. We believe that seniors deserve that choice."

Their campaign for "dignity" also extends to serving soldiers and veterans.

While Ms. Long said military spending is a "sticky part" of being Green as the party prioritizes non-violence, she said the Green Party is "committed to ensuring people who serve and offer their lives are protected when they are in the theatre and when they come home."

Ms. Long rejected the Conservative Government's measure to move away from lifetime support for veterans towards a lump sum payment, something she said

# Vanessa Long

ensures disabled veterans will live in poverty for the rest of their lives.

The Green Party, she said, wants the best trained, best equipped troops and though they plan on rolling back military spending to 2005 rates, people must question the priorities of what Canadian troops should be doing.

"Would we still buy F35s that are stealth fighters designed to slip in under radars, bomb a country, and get back before they know what has happened?" she asked rhetorically. "Probably not. Stealth bombing is not really part of making the world a better place and it is not about defending our borders either."

While there is still work cut out for the Green Party in convincing voters they are a viable alternative to the Liberals and Conservatives, from Ms. Long's perspective, it is difficult to pitch the party as either a left-wing or a right-wing party.

That paradigm is mostly based on economics, she said, and a "Z axis" would more accurately reflect the party.

Some view the party's views on the environment as being on the left wing of the scale, while still others view party leader Elizabeth May as a social conservative based on comments made about abortion, something Ms. Long insists was taken out of context.

"Someone in a different riding told me that the Green Party doesn't support women," said Ms. Long. "Really? Our leader is a woman and I am in it. [Ms. May] was talking to a group of nuns who were, understandably, quite anti-abortion and what she said was very similar to what Bill Clinton said in the States -- nobody likes abortion."

"There isn't a Facebook page where you can click 'Like' because you think it is really cool. That is what she meant when she said she doesn't like abortion. Ideally you would have a society where people felt supported enough, they weren't the victims of violent crime, and they could choose whether or not to get pregnant. We don't have that."

"We have a society where women end up pregnant and don't want to give birth. The Green Party, Elizabeth, and

me, and all of us would never, ever support any policy that restricts the right of access to a safe, legal abortion by any woman who wanted it. Period. Elizabeth is not anti-choice at all and neither am I."

Another controversy surrounding the Green Party during this campaign was the decision to exclude Ms. May from the Federal Leaders' debates, which were broadcast last week nation-wide.

Looking ahead to May 2, Ms. Long is of two schools of

thought on whether that hindered the campaign locally.

"I will let you know on May 3 how I think it affected us," she said with a laugh. "I actually think it may have helped. People were really mad. There have been a lot of people coming up to campaigns across the country saying I normally don't vote Green but I am so mad they flouted our democracy and just ignored a democratic voice."

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# Home Show celebrates 25 years



Cold weather kept the crowds down on the weekend, but at least 5,000 people visited the Aurora Chamber of Commerce 25th annual home show. Clockwise from the top is a general view of one of the two rinks used for the show. Below that is Brian Ellis and Kim Kerr in the Run for Southlake booth, Brooke Jenicek is Marquee's Aladdin, and Ingrid Kulbach mans her fraktals booth between the two arenas. Meanwhile, at Tannery Creek where it was really cold, the Aurora Rotary Club held its fifth annual Frog Race. Winners included Chris Peck, Kate Collins and Victoria McArthur.

Auroran photos by David Falconer



## Some councillors upset by Jazz group

Councillors will consider a recommendation from the Town's CAO Neil Garbe this week to release more than \$4,000 in funds for the Aurora Jazz Festival after heated debate last week on whether the Town was getting value for its money.

Mr. Garbe's recommendation came on the heels of a lengthy discussion of how the Town would benefit from platinum sponsorship status for the event after promotional materials started to circulate in the community without bearing the Town's logo.

"I have reviewed the sponsorship program and believe the Town has received promotional benefit and will receive benefit from the program," said Mr. Garbe in a memo. "There was confusion with respect to the

Town's commitment that caused a limited run of print material to exclude the Town's logo. [The Aurora Festival of the Arts has] stated that they will not include the Town's logo on any promotional material until funds have been received."

Last week councillors wondered if the ship had sailed in receiving maximum bang for their buck after Councillor John Abel introduced a motion calling on the Town to withhold funds to the Aurora Festival of the Arts (AFA) until the Town received a full platinum sponsorship package.

"It seems to me that the advertising and the program has already gone into effect and we have missed the boat," said Councillor Abel, after noting he received the promotional literature

on March 26. "I think we're not going to realize the full potential because we are not involved in the print and we're not involved on the web and we have not been approached by the AFA people to provide logos."

"We have not been asked or been provided with any sort of package that we have asked for. They have initiated their print media and their webpage and excluded us so I am asking where the value is for this."

At last Tuesday's council meeting, where the discussion took place, Mr. Garbe said he was only made aware that day that printed material excluded the Town's logo and that a call had been placed to the AFA for further information.

Councillor Chris Ballard tried to reassure

councillors that the Town would be "inundated" with ads and promotional materials in the days and weeks ahead so he didn't think the Town had missed the boat at all.

"My understanding from talking with the people who are organizing this is they weren't 100 per cent sure because they felt that they had to wait until this money was approved finally at budget before they were to receive it, so there may just be some miscommunication that they weren't sure that they got this grant," he said.

"I think they need to be reassured and I'm sure things will move ahead and we will see our logo plastered on everything that they do with their gratitude."

From Councillor Abel's perspective, how-

ever, there had been ample time and opportunity for the AFA to clear this up, noting he had made his notice of motion three weeks ago, with his comments published in The Auroran the following week.

"They should be talking to us on a regular basis. We shouldn't be crying out and sending e-mails and notices of motion," he said to council and staff. "They still don't get it but they do move ahead with the promotional material. My point is we lost some of the value. I'm sure there is going to be more coming forward, I don't doubt it, especially after the discussion here at council and I would imagine you're going to get a phone call tomorrow and an invoice."

If the Town goes forward with this, communi-

cation is vital to the endeavour, according to Councillor Sandra Humfries.

"I think it is really important that we keep those lines of communication open in this particular case," she said. "We need to get this cleared up right away and put this aside. I believe that as a Town, and a \$25,000 sponsorship from Trillium is an indication that this is a worthwhile event."

The AFA announced their receipt of a \$25,000 grant from Ontario's Trillium Foundation on April 1.

In addition to the money put forward by the Town, the municipality has also waived fees for the use of Town Park.

The Aurora Jazz Plus Festival will take place in the park from July 29 through July 31.





## "We'll Sing You a Song"

By CHARLES SEQUEIRA

The Aurora Seniors' Centre Evergreen Choir under the direction of Richard Heinzle, warmly invites you to join them for their Spring Concert at the Centre Tuesday, May 17th at 7.30 p.m. as they present "We'll sing you a song".

Tickets are \$10 for adults while children 14 and under are free.

Tickets are now available at the Aurora Seniors' Centre reception desk or at the door.

Refreshments will be served at intermission.

The Evergreen choir meets every Wednesday, from 2 p.m. until 3.30 p.m. at the Centre for some singing as a choir group.

New members who wish to join the choir are always welcome.

\*\*\*\*

The Mother's Day Lunch and Fashion show has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 4th, at the Seniors' Centre.

Doors open at 11.45 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon with the fashion show starting at 1 p.m.

Fashions are by Leed Solutions and will be modeled by ASA Members.

Tickets are \$7 for members. while guests will pay \$8.

They are now available at the reception desk.

\*\*\*\*

Although Brian Warburton has been spotted at the centre with walking stick in hand to play a few games of chess and attend a computer club meeting, he is progressing quite well from his hip surgery, but still needs a few more weeks of rest before he resumes writing this column in The Auroran.

\*\*\*\*

We have arranged a "Meet and Greet" session for candidates running in this Federal election in the lounge of the Seniors' Centre.

Everyone is invited to listen to what each candidate has to say and ask questions that relate to Federal issues.

I hope to see all our members take advantage of this opportunity to get to know each candidate on the dates shown:

Wednesday, April 20th 11 a.m. to noon - Lois Brown, Conservative Party.

Thursday, April 21st, 11.a.m. to noon-Vanessa

Long, Green Party

Tuesday, April 26th 11-a.m. to noon Kassandra Bidarian, NDP

Thursday, April 28th 11 a.m. to noon Dorian Baxter, Progressive Canadian.

Liberal Kyle Peterson was guest at the Seniors' Centre Tuesday, April 19 from 11 a.m. to noon.

\*\*\*\*

Merlin's Hollow in Aurora is celebrating their 30th year of public 'open days'.

You are invited to visit Dierdre and David Tomlinson's English flower garden, featuring more than 2,000 different perennials.

For many years the Tomlinsons have shared their love of gardening with visitors from Canada and abroad. There are four 'open' days' every year from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For 2011, you can visit the garden on: Saturday, May 14; Saturday, June 11; Saturday, July 2 and Sunday, July 10.

There is no charge for admission.

Everyone is invited to enjoy the garden. Feel free to bring friends and family. Buses are welcome, with parking available nearby.

For further information, contact Dierdre Tomlinson at 905-727-8979.

\*\*\*\*

The 2011 Senior 55+ Summer Games are about to begin.

Events will run from May 3rd to June 15th.

We have been provided a new brochure this year with a description of all the events and some history of the Senior Games which can be picked up at the Seniors' Centre or Municipal office.

The brochure can be also found on the website at: <http://www.ontarioseniorgames.ca>.

Click District for complete list of the OSGA Districts and refer to York Region District #14 and find your registration form there.

Please tell your friends about these wonderful games and come out and participate. Join the fun and meet new people.

\*\*\*\*

The Town of Aurora has changed e-mail addresses, please note the following changes for Town staff at the Seniors' Centre- Karie and Michelle: [kpapillon@aurora.ca](mailto:kpapillon@aurora.ca) and [mstermer@aurora.ca](mailto:mstermer@aurora.ca).

The Town of Aurora's new website is now <http://www.aurora.ca>.

Previous staff e-mail addresses will continue to work for incoming e-mail and will not be removed at the present time.

\*\*\*\*

The Spring Sale will be held Saturday, April 30th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Aurora Seniors' Centre, 90 John West Way. Funds raised from the sale will go to

the Centre.

\*\*\*\*

We are also looking for some seniors to volunteer for the Mayor's Anti-Litter Clean Up Day Saturday, April 30th from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

To participate contact the reception desk at the Seniors' Centre at 905-726-4767.

After the clean-up you are invited to a barbecue at the Town Park from noon to 2 p.m.

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## Aurora's Queen's York Rangers subject of Cultural Centre program

The intriguing history of the Queen's York Rangers includes land-

mark battles and familiar names from the history books of Canada and the

United States.

On Tuesday, May 3 at 7 p.m. you can join LCol (Ret'd) Kirk Corkery at the Aurora Cultural Centre for an illustrated lecture detailing some of the long past and recent highlights of this historical regiment.

There is no charge to attend the lecture, and light refreshments will be provided.

The regiment, a Canadian Forces Primary Reserve based in Toronto and Aurora, is officially named The Queen's York Rangers (1st Americans), and was founded as the Rogers Rangers in 1755.

The regiment was for a time under the command of John Graves Simcoe, and disbanded and reformed a number of times during its first 100 years.

They were involved in the construction of Yonge and Dundas Streets, helped to route the rebels from Montgomery's Tavern during the Rebellion of 1837, and were active during the First World War in battles including Ypres, the Arras Offensive and Passchendaele, among others.

Today many local residents are aware of the Queen's York Rangers work as a reserve armoured reconnaissance unit, with recent deployments to Afghanistan.

A history of the regiment, "Remembering Their Gallantry in Former

Days: A History of the Queen's York Rangers", will be on sale that evening at a cost of \$10.

The Cultural Centre will also feature a number of artifacts from the regiment in the reception gallery area until May 11.

This event leads up to the Lieutenant Governor Simcoe's Levee in Honour of the Rangers at the Centre, with Lieutenant Governor, The Honourable David Onley in attendance on May 11. Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Corkery was Commanding Officer of the Queen's York Rangers from 1989-1992.

He currently is Chair of the Regimental Council of the Rangers, a charitable organization that maintains various historic artifacts of the regiment, and provides support to members of the unit.

## Damage control

### From page 1

been made regarding the performance of a public servant's duties, that it is permissible for a municipality to fund a lawsuit to protect the public servant from damages.

"On the other hand, funding an action against residents, and the process for making the decision to take action is something that every municipality should carefully consider prior to making that decision," he said. "The Town continues to believe that litigation against any party should be viewed as a last resort once all other options are exhausted, so long as limitation periods are respected."

Although he said there is lingering concern at the Town that people might shy away from entering public life if they would not be supported by the municipality, he indicated that the "majority of the current council" do not believe that the defendants made any defamatory statements against "the Town generally or Town staff members specifically".

"Furthermore, the Town does not believe continued involvement in Ms. Morris' litigation is necessary to protect the reputation of the Town and its staff," he added.

"Accordingly, while Ms. Morris continues to be represented by Aird & Berlis LLP in her defamation action, the Town will no longer be involved in that litigation and will be looking to Ms. Morris for compensation in respect of the legal services now paid for by the Town, out of

any damages or costs recovered by her in the litigation."

The Town received advice in this matter from George Rust-D'Eye, a lawyer from WeirFoulds.

As The Auroran reported last month, councillors accepted Mr. Rust-D'Eye's advice that the Town was liable for funds that had been billed to the Town by Aird & Berlis up until the newly-elected council disassociated the Town from responsibility in December.

Following the release of the executive summary of Mr. Rust-D'Eye's report to the public, counsel from Ms. Morris, and former councillor Evelina MacEachern herself, indicated Mr. Rust-D'Eye's report was based on "misinformation".

Neither party has cared to elaborate on that claim.

"The Town reiterates that we welcome constructive criticism from everyone who lives, works, plays, and pays taxes in Aurora," said Mr. Ballantyne. "The Town also reaffirms its commitment to freedom of expression, which is a pillar of Canadian democracy, as enshrined in Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"As the Town continues to grow, the demand for services will also increase, and the Town depends on the public for important feedback on how it can better serve everyone's needs."

A decision in Ms. Morris' Norwich Motion, which was argued in Toronto in mid-March had yet to be handed down by press time.

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