

COMING EVENTS

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.

THURSDAY, MAY 26

The Aurora Retirement Centre, at 145 Murray Drive, will be the scene for the ultimate life story photography exhibition from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 27

Aurora Lions Club wil hold a roast beef dinner at its hall at the corner of Victoria and Mosley as part of its membership drive. For more information and to make a reservation call Aurora Lions Hall at 905-727-6079 or e-mail brad017@sympatico.ca

SATURDAY, MAY 28

Join the Oak Ridges Trail Association this morning at 9.30 a.m. in Aurora for a moderately paced 12.5 kilometre hike over four hours (aka End to End (E2E) hike #5). Arrive prior to 9.30 a.m., as the group will car shuttle to the start promptly at 9.30. Meet in the parking lot at Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area south of Mary Street in Aurora. For further information call Jill Doble at 705-293-0573. Check www.oakridgetrail.org for more hikes and information.

A garage sale will benefit the ongoing community work of the Upper Canada Chordsmen Chorus today. It will be held at the old firehall - where the chorus holds its practices - at 140 Main Street South in Newmarket beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing until noon. Anyone wishing to donate furniture or small appliances in good condition and working order. or books, knicknacks or collectables should call Dave at 905-235-5893 or Paul at 905-895-9102 to arrange pick-up.

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.

TUESDAY, MAY 31

Movie tonight at the Aurora Seniors' Centre is "Country Strong" starring Gwyneth Paltrow and Tim McGraw. Movie starts at 6:30 p.m. and costs \$1.50 for members and \$2 for non-members. Price includes movie, refreshments and treats.

Southlake Regional Health Centre is offering to the Aurora community a free lecture series on cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. The next lecture will be held today at 5.45 p.m. in the Hospital's Medical Arts Building (581 Davis Drive - Level 6). The topic is Mindful Stress Reduction and the presenter is Darlene Nicholson, RN. To register call 905-895-4521, ext. 6947. For more information, visit www.southlakeregional.org.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

Celebrate the winners of this year's Multimedia Film Festival of York Region at the Awards and Closing Gala at the Aurora Cultural Centre at 5.30 p.m. today. Ticket price, at \$26, includes selection of gourmet appetizers and refreshments, entertainment and awards presentation from internationally-acclaimed director/producer Christopher Rowley. Tickets are available in advance at www.yorkregionfilmfestival.com or by calling 905-787-8811. Aurora Cultural Centre, formerly Church Street School, is fully accessible at the north entrance. For further information call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce's last Business After Five meeting before the summer sea-

son will be held today at van Nostrand & Partners, 144 Wellington Street East, from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Visit their new building and partake of hors-d'oeuvres and refreshments.

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.

RealDeal Racing presents Ride all Day for United Way at State Farm headquarters, 333 First Commerce Drive in Aurora from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. All proceeds to benefit United Way of York Region

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. Booth space still available. Call the Aurora Chamber of Commerce at 905-727-7262 for further information.

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 and 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.

The Seniors' Association's 2011 Annual General Meeting will be held in the West-McKenzie Hall of the Aurora Seniors' Centre today from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Agenda packages are available at the reception desk. This meeting will mark the seventh year of operation of the centre as an incorporated, non-profit organization. A barbecue supper will be served after the meeting and will cost \$2 for members who attend the meeting. Wine and beer will be available.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

You are invited to a Sunset "Lethal Luau" and Beach Party to help solve a murder presented by the "Silver Stars" Drama Club at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Chase Diamond is celebrating his birthday party, but his drink is laced with poison. It is up to you to find out which one of his guests poisoned him. Doors open at 5 p.m. and a cash bar is available. Tickets, on sale now at the centre's front desk and until June 8, are \$10.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

Merlin's Hollow is open to the public for free today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.. The English flower garden is located at 181 Centre Crescent, west of Industrial Parkway, off Centre Street.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

The Art Of Flying - Pandora's Box series in Aurora presents a mix of classical music, dance, food and wine. Net proceeds go to the Yellow Brick House Second Shelter campaign. Join dancer Heather Lumsden, flute soloist Anne Thompson, the L'il Rascals Horn Quartet and Tony Browning's Marion Singers to experience "flight" through music and dance. Tickets include finger food, tea and wine. Tickets online at http://www.pandorasboxsalon.com/ or call 289-221-0229. Show starts at 2.30 p.m., at the Aurora Cultural Centre, formerly Church Street School.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge Street, presents the Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church St. Louis, Missouri Carillon Ringers Handbell Choir in concert with the Aurora United Church Bell Choirs. This concert, begins at 7.30 p.m. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be accepted in support of this fundraising event.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

Aurora Heights Public School will hold an open

house today, to celebrate the school's 50th birthday.

Included in the event, which starts at 11 a.m. and continues until 2 p.m. will be a barbecue, a ceremony, historic displays, activities for younger kids and special raffles.

JackKryn France, 89 Wellington Street East, will hold their Annual French Country Market Sale today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A percentage of the sales will be donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters of York.

Jim Edwards family reunion concert, featuring seven top local singers. tonight at 7 p.m. at Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. For tickets, call Jim at 905-713-1665.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

At the Aurora Community Centre and Machell Park from 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. you can meet Andrew, an Aurora teen battling Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy who will be granted his most heart-felt wish through The Children's Wish Foundation. Net proceeds of Wish-Mania will be donated to sponsor Andrew's wish, and those of other children coping with life-threatening illnesses. For more information about Children's Wish, visit www.childrenswish.ca. During the day, several people will attempt to set a

new Guinness record to make the world's largest smiley. Some 767 people are needed to set the new record. All participants must be registered and in line with their ticket no later than 2.30 p.m. That will take place at 3 p.m. at Machell Park. Go to www.wishmania.ca for details.

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 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

SATURDAY, JULY 2

Merlin's Hollow is open to the public for free today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The English flower garden is located at 181 Centre Crescent, west of Industrial Parkway, off Centre Street.

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Southlake's new prez is a former astronaut

An astronaut has been named the president and Chief Executive Officer of Southlake Regional Health Centre.

The appointment is effective July 18.

Dr. Dave Williams, a leading physician and former astronaut, comes to Southlake with a substantial amount of healthcare experience, which he has gained through various leadership positions held at teaching and research centres.

At McGill University in Montreal, he completed his Bachelor of Science (1976), Master of Science (1983), and Medical Doctor degree (1983), having earned numerous honours including the Wood Gold Medal.

He has served as Director of Emergency Services at Sunnybrook (1992) and as an emergency physician at Kitchener General Hospital/St. Mary's General Hospital in 1989 and 1990.

Most recently, he held the position of Professor of Surgery and Director of Medical Robotics at McMaster University (2008-2011), and Chief Medical Officer, Patient Safety and Quality at St. Joseph's Healthcare System in Hamilton (2010-2011).

Recipient of four honorary degrees and numerous awards, Dr. Williams has participated in numerous research studies and served on many boards and committees.

The doctor joined the Canadian Space Agency in 1992.

During his career, he logged more than 687 hours in space, with a record-setting 17 hours and 47 minutes performing spacewalks.

Having also lived and worked in the world's only underwater ocean labora-

tory, he became Canada's first dual astronaut and aquanaut in 2001.

Between his two spaceflights, he held the position of Director of the Space and Life Sciences Directorate at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

With this appointment, he became the first non-American to hold a senior management position within NASA.

He concurrently held a six-month position as the first Deputy Associate Administrator for Crew Health and Safety in the Office of Space Flight at NASA Headquarters in 2001.

"The Board of Directors at Southlake is extremely excited to announce the appointment of Dr. Williams," said Board Chairman Stephan Quinlan. "We are confident that the range of experience and leadership qualities he offers will greatly aid Southlake as it transitions into a teaching and research centre. "To have successfully recruited a candidate of this calibre is a testament to the reputation that Southlake, its programs, and its people have earned as a centre of excellence within the Province of Ontario."

Recently reappointed as Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Toronto, Dr. Williams said he was thrilled to be joining "the world class team at Southlake and their commitment to service excellence," he said.

"When I look at the remarkable clinical achievements of the team, including a number of firsts in cardiac care, coupled with a new state-of-the-art cancer centre, it is clear that Southlake is at the forefront of medical care," he said. "Building on partnerships with the University of Toronto and

York University, we are perfectly poised to expand Southlake's role as a future leader in clinical research and academ-

ic medicine."

Dr. Williams and his wife, Cathy Fraser, live in Oakville, with their two children.

Dr. Louis Balogh will continue as Interim President and CEO until the arrival in July of Dr. Williams.

At that time, Dr. Balogh will return to the position of Southlake's Vice-President, Regional Programs.

Tories would provide hydro break

Last week, Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees announced that after years of failed Liberal hydro experiments, a Progressive Conservative government would remove the provincial portion of the HST (eight per cent) from hydro bills and from all residential home

heating bills including natural gas, home heating oil and propane.

A PC Government would also remove the so-called "Debt Retirement Charge" from residential hydro bills, he said.

That promise of relief was confirmed by PC Leader Tim Hudak when

he announced that his party would remove the "Debt Retirement Charge" and the provincial portion of the HST from residential hydro bills.

A Tory Government would also remove the provincial portion of the HST from every home heating bill, including

natural gas, home heating oil and propane, he said.

Taken together, these steps will give a typical Ontario household \$275 in immediate relief from rising energy bills.

Under Dalton McGuinty, hydro rates have increased eight times since 2003 by a total of 84 percent, or as much as 150 percent for families with activated smart meters, Klees said.

In addition to these increased rates, consumers are now being charged the HST.

"Dalton McGuinty's failed energy experiments have hurt Ontario families where it matters most – in their pocketbooks," he said. "We recognize that families desperately need relief. By removing the provincial portion of the HST from hydro and home heating bills, hard-working families will get a major break from steadily rising costs.

"In October, the choice is clear – a McGuinty government which will raise the taxes of Ontario families, or an Ontario PC government which will provide relief for families on hydro bills," he added.

Former MP to get honorary degree

Former Newmarket-Aurora Member of Parliament Belinda Stronach will receive an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the University of Windsor next month.

Ms. Stronach, who was recently Executive Vice-Chairman of Magna International, will receive her honorary degree at the University of Windsor's convocation ceremony Wednesday, June 15.

In the announcement last Thursday, Ms. Stronach was cited for, among her other achievements, her "contributions to the cause of social justice", particularly the establishment of the Belinda Stronach

Foundation, of which she is chair.

The Belinda Stronach foundation was established to provide education opportunities for young women, aboriginal youth, "and to improve the lives of young people in developing nations."

"In partnership with Canadian television personality Rick Mercer, she co-founded Spread the Net, a grassroots fundraising campaign started in 2006 to raise awareness and funds to combat death from malaria, following a 2005 trip to Africa where she witnessed its devastating effects firsthand," noted the University of Windsor in their

announcement.

"Stronach is also the co-founder and honorary chair of Belinda's Place, York Region's first homeless women's shelter, scheduled to open in 2012."

"Following her personal experience with breast cancer in 2007, she also established the Belinda Stronach Chair in Breast Cancer Reconstructive Surgery at the Toronto General and Western Hospital Foundation. She is a strong supporter of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and has served as honorary chair of the foundation's CIBC-Run for the Cure."

Region wants its residents to complete survey on-line

York Region needs a "check-up", according to the York Region Community Foundation, and the organization is seeking input from Aurora residents on "what it is like to live, work, play, or attend school in York Region".

The group is asking residents of York Region to complete a survey available online at www.livinginYR.ca which asks a number of questions of how residents evaluate various community amenities and services.

In a statement released earlier this month from the group, the Foundation called the "bold new initiative" of the Community Check-Up "a

snapshot of the quality of life in York Region from a resident's perspective across a series of community, environment and economic indicators."

The initiative was commended by Regional Chair Bill Fisch.

"[The project] is another example of how York Region is growing together as a community that is now home to over one million residents," he said. "People continue to come to York Region because of our excellent services, our economic prosperity and the sustainability of our communities."

"All the members of York Regional Council are committed. Please see page 11



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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Twelve months, 18 months, or 24?

That was the question facing the committee Thursday night, as members grappled with whether the “I Love Rock and Roll” evening should become an annual event.

Judging by the tone and numbers of e-mails received following last week’s party at the Mansion, the answer is yes.

But the guy who started it all - Alan Hayes - isn’t so sure and wouldn’t say one way or the other whether the event will be held next year.

It should.

From Sonny, one of two showgirls who escorted “Elvis” onto the dance floor, came this e-mail addressed to Al and his wife Pat: “I just wanted to say thanks so much for allowing Gail (she was the other showgirl) and myself to help out the charity event last night. We had the best time ever...you guys did an amazing job of hosting your first event, the entertainment was over the top fantastic and I’m sure everyone looks forward to the next one.”

Although Sonny didn’t say “annual event”, I’m sure that’s what she meant.

From Karen and Dennis Balsom came this e-mail: “Just wanted to comment on what a fabulous event that was last evening. You should all be very proud of your accomplishment - and what a great cause...the entertainment was amazing - it has been a long time since I have been at an event where everybody (with few exceptions) stayed until the end of the evening. Can’t wait to see what you come up with next year.”

From Gail Bevilacqua (the other showgirl) came this: “well organized, well attended and most of all...fun for all.”

Nearly 400 people sat down to a three-course meal (the wine was free), and danced to the band of Freddy Vette and the Flames, and sang along to Elvis songs performed by Kevin Mills, who now makes his home in Richmond Hill.

Even Aurora’s new mayor Geoffrey Dawe, who attended the event with his wife Henny, was caught up by the evening.

In an e-mail, Geoff noted” “ Henny and I had a great time - definitely one of the best events we have attended so far. The band was great and really tailored the music to get - and keep - everyone dancing. A rare feat indeed.

“Congratulations to you and your committee for a great night in support of a great cause.”

Money raised that night - it was in the thousands although final figures are not available - went to the Aurora-Newmarket Association for Community Living.

Below, Frank Klees MPP for Newmarket-Aurora enjoys the evening with Lois Brown, MP for the same riding.



In 1928, Aurora’s St. Andrew’s college was a hive of activity, as this photo indicates. Students’ parents are shown at the Yonge Street location for graduation exercises. In the ad from where this picture originated it noted “beautiful swimming pool, under glass. Modern gymnasium. New site, 219 acres, new buildings, 700 feet above Toronto, 20 miles from the city. Prepares boys for Universities, Royal Military College and for business. Established 28 years. Autumn term commences September 12, 1928.” At the time, Rev. D. Bruce Macdonald was headmaster of the school. While there has been discussion over the years that St. Andrew’s should be a school for both boys and girls, it remains today as a boys’ school. Thank you to David Heard for providing the picture.

Letter to the Editor

Tickets now on sale to visit movie scene

To the editor,

I stood at the top of the steps. The faces in front of me were curious and fixed. I felt an incredible rush of energy.

I began to speak and the members of the crowd became more transfixed.

There were faces looking up at me with childlike stares. I knew I wasn't Santa Claus or a famous movie star. However, they were gathering to listen to what I had to say.

Little did they know that I had not prepared a speech. I tried to use a tone that was clear and comforting.

I wanted them to hear what I had to say and possibly feel an emotion from the words.

I wondered if it was possible to have that kind of power. One in which you could make people feel excited. Just by telling a wonderful story and connecting it to the community.

Could I make people walk away and think they were on a journey?

It was kind of an emotional magic act that I was trying to present.

There were no fancy gimmicks or a box for someone to climb into that I would saw in half.

I was just repeating what elders had done for centuries: I was spinning a yarn.

This is what it was like for myself on the inaugural "Aurora Spirit walk".

I was practicing a gift that my Grade 2 teacher Ursula

suggested. Public speaking has helped me overcome many challenges.

Standing on the steps of the Wells Street School; I found my passion.

When I appeared in front of council to proclaim" Aurora has no ghosts" it was not exactly factual. There is something happening in our town.

Something special that is about change.

I have not seen the episode of Rescue Mediums which was filmed at the Filly and Firkin in Aurora. I will wait until May 29.

Each time I take people on tours they make me feel wonderful. I have met so many fascinating citizens and visitors.

After last October's Spirit walk I met someone very special. I will never forget her.

Ticket holders will meet at the Church Street School (Aurora Cultural Centre) at 7 p.m.

I will share the chilling tales of tours gone by; especially the ones that had visitors.

It took a lot of courage for her to show her real self. We will show the video after the walk. One that was taken by me at the same location (Filly and Firkin).

There will be a presentation including original music created on the spot.

Like the old silent movies when the player watches the screen and sets the mood.

We will enjoy food. Give away prizes.

Most of all we will cele-

brate someone's life.

A Step in Time is not the highlight of the episode of "Rescue Mediums".

A wonderful spirit is. You do not want to miss this event. Thank you to all citizens of Aurora and surrounding communities for the support.

Most of all thank you to my Grade 2 teacher Ursula. I think she would be proud of what the Aurora Spirit Walk has become.

Tickets are available at the Filly and Firkin.

You can also call 905-717-6647 for delivery arrangements.

All proceeds will be donated to Heart and Stroke and Crohns and Colitis Foundations.

David Heard
Founder of the
Aurora Spirit Walk

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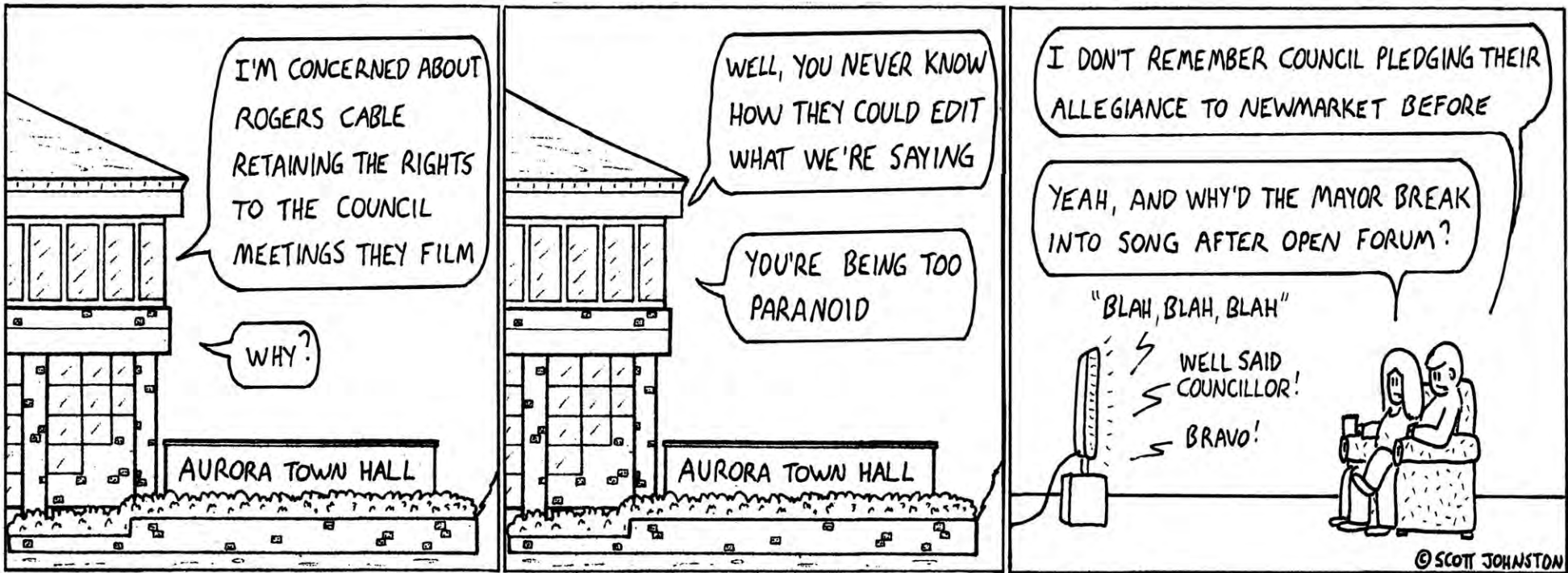
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Meet Councillor John Abel

This is the second in an ongoing series of short profiles on the new members of the Aurora Town Council.

John Abel topped the council balloting last November with 5,803 votes over his closest competitor Michael Thompson who had 5,335 votes.

This earned Councillor Abel the additional moniker of Deputy Mayor.

How long have you lived in Aurora?

"It has been 16 years this June."

I believe that you are married - what is your wife's name, any children? Are they tykes or older?

"My wife Tracy and I are celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary this July. We are very proud parents of two children. My son, Eric, is heading off to first year university, while my daughter Devon is continuing with grad studies with plans to go on to medical school."

What is your educational background?

"I received my Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Toronto."

What did you do for a living before seeking public office?

"I have been self employed most of my career. I have worked in several industries including restaurants, home entertainment and the landscape business. I am now semi retired and working my third season at Westview Golf Course."

Outside of Council - what kinds of things do you like to do?

"I enjoy playing recreational adult hockey, and have been playing with the same group of guys for the last 35 years. I love to cook and this may be the thing my wife misses most now that I am on Council."

What community activities were you involved in prior to becoming a councillor?

"I am very family focused. I have been a coach, convenor, and volunteer in many kids sporting and dance activities."

Read any good books lately? If so, which ones?

"I read Don Cherry's book, and am finishing Richard Florida's 'Who's your City?'"

What are the Town's biggest two challenges/opportunities?

"In the long range, I think sustainability is the most important. More current challenges would be growth as it relates to our community.

As well, other challenges and opportunities include dealing with traffic, transit, recreational facilities, and maintaining our identity."

What has surprised/frustrated you about the way council works?

"I'm amazed at how much there is to learn being a councillor.

There is a tremendous learning curve and I've just scratched the surface.

I am enjoying the challenges of being part of the governance of the fantastic community called Aurora. I'm extremely honoured to be an elected member."

What committees are you part of?

"I am part of the Joint Council Committee Central York Fire Services. I also sit on the Heritage Advisory Committee as well as the Nokiidaa Trail Committee."

Stephen can be contacted at: stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Frankly Speaking

By Frank Klees
MPP Newmarket-Aurora

More bungling at eHealth agency

Question: Whatever happened to that provincial agency that was caught doling out multi-million dollar contracts without bothering to get competitive bids, paid Liberal-friendly consultants nearly \$3,000 a day and gave executives hefty bonuses despite having little to show for their work?

You may remember, that a minister of health was forced to resign, because despite burning through more than a billion tax dollars, the Auditor General revealed that this agency had failed miserably to do what it was supposed to do: namely, develop an electronic health records system for Ontario patients.

Well, this same agency, known as eHealth Ontario, occupied most of a raucous Question Period again this past week. The issue this time?

It was revealed that the agency had just given its 617 employees a 1.9 per cent merit pay raise plus bonuses averaging an additional 7.8 per cent.

If there was ever a doubt whether Dalton McGuinty and his government have lost touch with Ontario families, this should nail it down for even the most forgiving of hearts.

Here was the quote from a spokesperson attempting to defend the pay increases and bonuses:

"These payments are in recognition of performance results".

Really!

Given the circumstances, the best these folks should have expected is to keep their jobs, let alone

being given a raise plus bonuses.

WAGE FREEZE RE-DEFINED

What makes this even more offensive, is the fact that Dalton McGuinty and his finance minister announced a two-year pay freeze for the broader public sector in its most recent budget.

Apparently the McGuinty government's definition of "pay freeze" is less frigid than most Ontarians would have expected.

Here is how Government Services Minister Harinder Takhar explained the melting of the so-called wage freeze when asked about it during Question Period: "We are freezing the grid. You can move within the grid if your performance is okay".

So, a wage freeze isn't really a freeze at all, and the government considers wasting a billion dollars 'Okay' enough to merit a pay increase and bonuses.

This is the same government that's responsible for sky-rocketing hydro rates, the HST that's been slapped onto everything we touch and adds another 10 cents a litre to the cost of gas, and an unending string of fees that keep picking our pockets at every turn.

And the same government admits that it will spend \$16.7 billion more than it expects to get in revenues this year.

The least we should expect is that it would hold the line on its own internal spending, but it wasn't until this

eHealth Scandal: Act Two was exposed, and the PC Leader, Tim Hudak demanded that these pay increases be cancelled, that this was even considered an issue for the McGuinty government.

The best the Minister of Health could muster in response to questions in the legislature, was to commit to a "review" of the matter. And you saw the lame explanation offered by the Minister of Government Services.

RAISES AND BONUSES CANCELLED

Thanks to this fiasco being exposed and the demands for the raises and bonuses to be scrapped, the CEO of eHealth was ultimately forced to announce that the raises and bonuses would in fact, be reversed. The savings to taxpayers this year?

Five million dollars.

The question remains, how many other deals like this are hidden throughout the McGuinty government's layers of agencies, boards and commissions?

And why did it take a newspaper (the Toronto Star) and the Official Opposition to force this reversal?

Just how out of touch has this government become with its own operations, let alone Ontario families? Ontario families deserve better.

As always, I welcome your comments and advice. Feel free to contact me through my website at frankklees.com or by calling 905-750-0019.

Letters to the Editor

Aurora Lions Club seeks new members

To the editor,

During these economic times that seem to hit all of us one way or the other, the one thing we must not forget about is community involvement. Being a part of a non-profit organization, such as the Aurora Lions, in our opinion, is one of the essential keys to that lock of the community and the club has been busy for more than 65 years. The Aurora Lions have quietly supported the fol-

lowing projects for many years, but now we have decided it's our time to roar and make our presence known: VISION SCREENING of Kindergarten children in Aurora schools - purchasing eye glasses where necessary; HIGH SCHOOL BURSARIES for local deserving students; CAMP KIRK- camp fees for learning disabled children; CAMP DORSET - equipment for a dialysis camp; C.N.I.B camp at Lake Joseph - camp for sight

impaired people; SOUTH-LAKE HEALTH CARE CENTRE FOUNDATION; HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION; DIABETES SOCIETY; BARBECUES to help local schools raise funds for equipment; CLOTHING AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR NORTHERN NATIVE CHILDREN; GUIDE DOGS - donations to help supply, free of charge, dogs for hearing, sight impaired, autism, special needs; AID TO AREAS affected by natural disasters; SLEEPING

CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD - bed kits for children worldwide; FOOD, CLOTHING AND TOYS TO 181 (YES, 181) local needy families at Christmas 2010. Quite a list of support TO our Town, isn't it? Where is the support FROM our Town? We have a web site(<http://www.auroralions.com/>) and recently have had advertisements in local newspapers offering a complimentary dinner and information night on

May 27, for those who are genuinely interested in learning how to support an Aurora Lions Club that has supported their Town for many years. Our Town has grown, and of course, the need has grown, but the support that we need has not kept pace with that growth and need. On May 27 at 7 p.m. we would like to invite Aurorans to our complimentary roast beef dinner information night to explore what the Aurora Lions can

do for you so that we may continue to serve the unique needs of the community that we reside in. Without your membership and support our club, the Aurora Lions, is on the brink of extinction along with our many projects and partnerships along the 65 years of our journey. We need Aurorans to step up to the plate and make that home run hit, to keep the Aurora Lions active and alive as well as a vital part of the community for many more years to come.

Finally, learning centre named after Stephenson

To the editor,

On Tuesday, my friend, mentor, colleague, ex-boss was given the long overdue honour of having a Learning Centre named after her. The Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning had its official opening with much fanfare-brass bands, great speeches (one from the Honourable Ernie Eves in addition to the Director and others from York Region District School Board), and good nibbles. Walking around this facility with the throngs of

invited guests evoked memories of the Learning Opportunities Task Force, most of the staff and members being in attendance. Dr. Stephenson was the Chairman with myself as the Executive Coordinator. We were fortunate to have the finest minds in Special Education as consultants and the work continues to provide support to students with Learning Disabilities at the Post Secondary level. Dr. Stephenson (I only rarely call her Bette when alone - never in public - old school) became quite

emotional when she gave her thank you speech. She had told me that I needn't type something out for her (even she can't read her writing) that she was merely going to say thank you. I knew that wasn't going to happen. She is one of the best off-the-cuff speakers I know. In response to the many accolades she reminisced about being born and growing up in Aurora. She said she went to public school so long ago that the facility is now a museum (the Cultural

Centre in Aurora, the old Church Street School). After all the speeches we retired to Dr. Stephenson's home for an intimate gathering of about 100. More speeches, great food (catered by Ida's Kitchen) and many "war stories" completed the day of showing reverence to a great lady, one that I feel very privileged to know. Later that evening I attended a presentation by Dr. Alan Wolfelt provided by Hospice King-Aurora and sponsored, in part, by Thompsons' Funeral Home.

I was impressed (and I am not easily impressed, as you know) with Dr. Wolfelt's grasp of the Grief and Mourning process and with his entertaining, and sometimes humorous approach. I had heard that he was the foremost authority on Grief (a grief guru) having gained International attention and respect. Having now heard him, I understand why!

Please remember, the Aurora Lions is a non-profit organization doing community and volunteer work through helping, planning, and addressing challenges past the expectations of, it can't be done! Remember May 27, 7 p.m. the Aurora Lions complimentary roast beef night for potential members at 33 Mosley Street, Aurora. Please call for reservations at 905-727-6079 or e mail brad017@sympatico.ca as soon as possible. Seating is limited.

Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges

Brad Snell
Aurora Lions

He knew it was too good to be true

To the editor,

I could hardly believe my eyes! So much so that I had to scour the May 10th edition of The Auroran a

second time. Wow! Not so much as one mention of the ex-Mayor and her frivolous law suit. I knew it was too good to be true (sigh).

There it was, splashed all over the front page of last week's Auroran. More salt being rubbed into the wounds of the Aurora taxpayer. Wasn't it enough that

she had her legal fees paid up until December by the people that she said she represented? The Aurora voters handily took care of her last October.

Fundamental structure of economy soon to change, reader maintains

To the editor,

The fundamental structure of our economy is going to change because of high energy costs. We have been conditioned since the 1920s by business and governments that inexpensive energy will help everyone have a better life. First at home you have relatively fixed prices: mortgage, rent and services. In addition, you have expenses that you can control: food, heat, clothing etc. However, many of these expenses are

becoming more costly. For example: Your grocery store must raise prices because their costs are increasing. The service sector where people need a vehicle is also feeling the pressure. Of course, taxes must rise because of the cost of school buses, snow removal, garbage collection, home care etc. are on the increase and governments have one choice if they're going to maintain their standards - pass on the cost. The family car is no longer an asset but an expensive luxury and convenience when

you're paying \$!00 or more to fill up your vehicle and that's not including the costs: maintenance and repairs. What's a family going to do when they can't afford to drive to work or buy food? Yes, existing life styles must change but, at what cost? Food for thought.

Wayne Hemington
Former Auroran

Mark Holmes
Aurora

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Peter Virtanen
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Chairperson of SOYRA (Society of York Region Artists) Nancy Newman, left, displays painting purchased by the Town of Aurora at the art show held last week in Aurora. With her is creator of the painting Mariana Basdescu.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Council agrees to collaboration

Aurora Council has gone forward with the continued collaboration of the "Northern Six" municipalities, a collaboration which has saved the Town money, resources, and provided greater opportunities for the municipality, argued staff.

But while council approved the continued collaboration at a meeting last month, Councillor Buck said she was "uncomfortable" with what she saw was the "broadening scope" of the N6 partnership.

In his report, Aurora CAO Neil Garbe outlined the successes that have come as a result of the N6 collaboration, and he said that as the partnership has "gained momentum and acceptance" within the collective municipalities, other activities have resulted on the initiative of staff groups.

The Northern Six collaboration is comprised of Aurora, Newmarket, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King, and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Recreation Directors from "all or some" of the participating municipalities, for instance, have worked together to maximize ice times in the region and collaboration, including the "potential [of] sharing either interim or ultimately on future facilities."

"Planning staff are meeting to discuss sharing green building ideas with the goal to possibly standardize {Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design} equivalent criteria," said Mr. Garbe in his report. "This initiative may include all York Region municipalities in the

early going."

"Subjects for further consideration could include (as time and resources permit): energy procurement; policy position papers through council; water billing practices and provincial offenses services."

When questions of the success of the N6 partnership came up, Mr. Garbe said the program allows cost sharing on programs and infrastructure over six municipalities and any combination thereof.

"If there are three municipalities, all of whom need a facility or apparatus, we can pool our resources together and share that resource, so it wouldn't be a single municipality funding that facility or that apparatus, but the cost would be spread out over the municipalities," said Mr. Garbe.

This has also extended to consultant studies and staff training on multiple levels, he added, and if there are extra spaces in Town-sponsored courses it allows

the municipality to open up spaces to its partners.

"If we had training [for] 10 of our own staff and the course could accommodate 20, we open it up to the balance of the municipalities who send their staff and it defrays the cost for all of us so we get our training done," said Mr. Garbe.

"It is not leadership training specifically, although there are some leadership aspects to it, but it is job specific training as well like software training, workplace safety courses, and one that we jointly developed was the accessibility training that was delivered to members of council.

"That was developed jointly by the N6 municipalities without incurring the cost of outside consultants that each one of us would have otherwise. It is simply a pooling of resources to make dollars stretch further. We are always looking to develop staff and give staff the opportunities to improve."

Town should keep planting options open: Downey

The Town of Aurora - through an agreement with Colpac Construction - is slated to begin planting 315 fresh boulevard trees in subdivisions in the Minto housing development near Bayview and Wellington, and the Brookvalley Subdivision at the southeast corner of Bayview and Vandorf Sideroad.

According to a report from Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation Services, the Town is obliged to plant municipal street trees on boulevards in new residential areas.

"Boulevard tree planning in all new development areas has typically been the responsibility of the associated land developer; however, in recent Development Agreements, staff have inserted an option for the developer to provide a cash payment to the Town for the purposes of the Town assuming those tree planting obligations.

"This option was inserted for a number of reasons but primarily for the purposes of the Town gaining more overall control over the planting operation and stricter adherence to the Town's planting standards and planting site preparation."

When councillors reviewed the planting proposals for the two subdivisions in question at last week's general committee meeting, Councillor Wendy Gaertner wondered if it might be a good idea to make this a mandatory practice rather than simply an option available to land developers.

"We know that trees do a lot better if the Town of Aurora plants them because they care more about them than developers," she said. "I think that is a fair statement. Is there any way to make that mandatory so that everybody has to allow us to plant their trees in new subdivisions?"

In response, Mr. Downey said the Town's position is still to give the option to developers as they might find it more cost-effective to do it themselves.

"Certainly in discussion with Planning we have had some discussions about a mandatory requirement that they provide funding to the Town in order to plant trees, but at this time that is not a requirement."

Through the agreement, ongoing tree care and maintenance is included as a provisional item in the tender that "can be implemented and paid out individually based on the needs determined by staff", according to Mr. Downey's report.

"The bid price includes suffi-

cient contingency to cover the cost of maintenance."

That evidently did not sit well with Councillor Gaertner who said that money should not be used from a contingency account based on "taxpayers' dollars", despite the fact this money was provided by developers.

Councillor Gaertner asked related questions a number of times before Councillor Evelyn Buck called a point of order calling her on repeated questioning.

"I hate to do this because I know how it disrupts your thinking when somebody calls a point of order and I really don't like doing it," Councillor Buck told Councillor Gaertner.

"And we have done so well tonight, you and I, Councillor

Buck," replied Councillor Gaertner. "If you don't care about taxpayers' money, that's fine."

In his comments, however, Mr. Downey noted that the funds being used to pay for the contract in question comes strictly from developers.

"There is not one penny of taxpayers' money being spent on planting or maintaining these trees," he said. "If we choose to use more contractor money in order to increase the maintenance of these trees in order to maximize the ability for those trees to live, we can do so and that is why we have provisional items within that contract.

"We are not spending taxpayers' money until those trees become the Town's responsibility two years after they are planted."

Street improvements

From page 1
will also include the installation of a new watermain, upgrades to its existing illumination, and a new right-hand turn lane at its intersection with Wellington Street.

The Engelhard Drive reconstruction will also include new illuminations but will also receive a new concrete sidewalk.

The Irwin Drive and Spruce Street reconstruction projects, however, include more complex plans given the nature, neighbourhoods, and needs surrounding the thoroughfares.

"Irwin Avenue is currently constructed with an urban cross section," said Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure in a report to Council. "The proposed reconstruction includes replacement of the road including granular base and asphalt surface, sidewalk, curb and gutter, water main and sanitary sewer.

"This portion of Spruce Street [from Centre Street to Mark Street] is located in the 'Northeast Old Aurora Heritage Conservation District'. The

design of this section of Spruce Street has been reviewed by the Heritage Advisory Committee of Aurora. The proposed reconstruction will include the replacement of the road including granular base and asphalt surface, a new water main, sanitary sewer, and concrete curbs and sidewalks."

Construction on the projects is planned to start "immediately" after council's final approval this week and execution of the agreements between the Town and construction companies, IL Duca Construction and Direct Underground Inc., which will carry out the plans.

"Completion of the projects will occur in two phases with base course asphalt being completed in the fall of 2011 and the top course asphalt being completed one year later in 2012," said Mr. Simanovskis.

The tender for the Engelhard, Berczy and Metcalfe projects comes to \$1,436,364.80, excluding taxes, followed by Spruce Street at \$667,757.50, and Irwin Avenue at \$446,786.50.

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Town refuses to waive residents' OMB fee

Aurora residents fighting to have land at Bayview and St. John's Sideroad rezoned to community parkland could make a formal request to the Ontario Municipal Board to review the property if they follow through with their plans.

But the plan of resident Svetoslava Topouzova included a request to the Town of Aurora to waive its standard referral fee to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), a request which did not appear to capture the imagination of councillors when Ms. Topouzova stated her case at last week's general committee meeting.

Ms. Topouzova has been a long-time advocate for the rezoning of a quadrant of land owned by the Daniels Group due to the presence of mature trees on the lot.

Despite the developers' plans to put a commercial development on the site, Ms. Topouzova has been working to have the trees preserved as a park. Despite her best efforts, however, Daniels' plans have the support of council.

She argued that she did not believe the standard \$515 fee charged by the Town was applicable in a case such as hers as she is "not a developer submitting a request to the Board for a review or to object to the Town's decision."

But from the perspective of Councillor John Gallo, granting her request to waive the referral fee would be incongruent with Council's stated position on the project.

"This obviously goes back a number of years," said Councillor Gallo. "Council has supported the application. Council is not at odds with the application; some of the residents are at odds with the application. Now we're being asked by residents to waive a fee that the Town imposes for you to go to the OMB and oppose this, or to re-open this and look at it, which is basically contrary to our stance right now."

"How can we reconcile that saying, 'We support this, we think you should go forward, we agree with it, yet on the other hand,

we are waiving a fee for residents to go to the OMB and contradict our point of view'?"

Ms. Topouzova, who was recently appointed to the Town's Environmental Advisory Committee, had previously appeared before council with her husband George Topouzov in January and February to request the rezoning of the land to community parkland.

Appearing alongside the couple was neighbour David Lennard who said these trees represented the last remaining woodland between Wellington and Mulock Drive in Newmarket.

"There are over 17 indigenous trees on this property and it is really incumbent on this new council to go up there and have a look as to what you would be destroying if you went and cut those trees down," he told councillors at the time.

When they appeared in February, representatives from the Daniels Group were on hand to tell the residents and the councillors that it was too late in the game to consider such a change on the property.

"The trees which have been identified, specifically note the environmental effects study that came in 2007 indicating that these are not significant and were essentially landscape trees, however my client has agreed, in accordance with the Town's tree compensation bylaw, to move forward and...we are finalizing an agreement with regards to replacement, reforestation of different areas, and replanting," said Paul DeMelo, representing the Daniels Group.

"We have worked with Town staff, Regional staff, planning staff, the Conservation Authority, everyone with regards to this parcel of land and any discussion or con-

templation of any changes at this late point, or any amendment causes us, as you can appreciate, a great deal of concern."

While Council received Ms. Topouzova's delegation, Councillor Buck noted that in her years on council she had never seen such a request be made to the Town of Aurora. Neither, apparently, had Town staff.

"Since I have been here this is the first such request," said Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning. "I have been in another municipality where the fee has been challenged and paid under protest, but I am not aware of any Council that has waived such a fee."



24-year-old Aurora filmmaker Alex Broughton is pictured in the Aurora Cultural Centre's Red Gallery ahead of the Multimedia Film Festival of York Region's stop at the Centre last week. Mr. Broughton is one of five local filmmakers to have works screened as part of the Festival, which returns to the Centre June 1 for its awards ceremony and closing gala. Paintings behind Mr. Broughton are part of the Common Ground exhibition, celebrating the artists of Community Living Newmarket/Aurora, which runs through June 11.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Awards ceremony is set for June 1st

The Multimedia Film Festival of York Region returns to the Aurora Cultural Centre on Wednesday, June 1 for a closing gala and awards ceremony honouring this year's participating filmmakers, including Aurora artists Alexandra Antonovitch, Alex Broughton, Ashley Lewis, Brandon Lewis, and Florence Lau.

Mr. Broughton, who attended the screenings in Aurora and Vaughan last week, is seen in the above photograph in the Cultural Centre's Red Gallery ahead of the Festival, said it was "amazing" to see the potential of these young filmmakers.

"It is important to encourage and support artists as we are the portals for people to appreciate life in all its beauty," he said following the screenings. "We allow people to stop and smell the roses; the difficulty is that we must dedicate such a large portion of our lives not creating our art, but instead working and gathering the income in other ways so that we are able to afford to be creative in films."

"Between school, work, family, and life we somehow manage to still create something beautiful. "Imagine

what we could do if we were able to dedicate our lives to our art. Having festivals like this not only gives us a chance to exhibit our work, but provides us with motivation and support when we see so many people to come out to see our work. When I have someone, even one person, come up to me after seeing my films and say that they enjoyed it, it makes all the hard work seem worth it."

The awards ceremony and closing gala will begin June 1 at 5.30 p.m.

Tickets for the event are available through the Cultural Centre or www.yorkregionfilmfestival.com.

Paintings pictured behind Mr. Broughton are part of the Common Ground exhibition, celebrating the artists of Community Living Newmarket/Aurora, which runs through June 11.

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\$500.00	Players born 1997 through 2005*
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*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 May 18, 2011,
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Christine Gardner, centre, receives plaque from Steve Hinder and Neila Poscente, right, for her outstanding volunteer contribution and ongoing support of the Run For Southlake, which was held in Aurora last week. The award, like the race, was named after Bob Hartwell, a former Aurora councillor.

Swimmers shine at London meet

The Aurora Selkies Swim Team participated in the 2011 Hollandia Long Course Spring Invitational

Survey

From page 3

ted to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life we enjoy in York Region - and Living in York Region: Our Community Check-up will be an important tool for all of us."

When completing the survey, residents will be asked about access youth have to arts and culture in the communities, as well as access to recreation programs and the fostering of "artistic and cultural expression and involvement."

Safety is also a concern, and residents will be asked to evaluate the safety of community streets for cyclists and pedestrians, as well as the support available in their respective communities for victims of domestic violence.

York Region needs a "check-up", according to the York Region Community Foundation, and the organization is seeking input from Aurora residents on "what it is like to live, work, play, or attend school in York Region."

Support for new Canadians and immigrants in York Region is also a topic for conversation, along with community engagement, volunteer and leadership opportunities, quality of life, the gap between rich and poor, affordable and emergency housing, opportunities for lifelong learning, varied employment opportunities, and the health of the local economy.

A report based on the results of the survey will be unveiled October 4.

in London, Ontario recently.

Seventeen Selkies swimmers took part in the meet and achieved many personal best times and top 10 placements.

The following swimmers achieved "Top 3" overall standings in their events:

Girls: Cristina Smid, 10, had four thirds including the 50 metre backstroke; the 50 metre freestyle; the 200 metre

individual medley; and the 100 metre freestyle.

Domenika Tinajero, 10, was third in the 200 metre backstroke.

Boys: Evan Holtby, 9, was first in the 200 metre backstroke and second in the 100 metre backstroke.

The Selkies Swim Team will now attend the 2011 Mallards Annual Pentathlon swim meet next week in Markham.

A total of 32 swimmers will participate.

Burnett diamond maintenance could be AMBA responsibility

Maintenance for the Stewart Burnett Park baseball diamond could come under the purview of the Aurora Minor Ball Association (AMBA) if a proposal currently under review by Town Staff is recommended to and approved by council.

The comments were made at a recent council meeting during a lengthy discussion over the AMBA's request to the Town of Aurora to act as a guarantor for a line of credit to secure artificial turf for the organization.

The arrangement would be a cost-savings to the Town, said Dave Giroux, president of the AMBA.

"The field maintenance is probably costing the association \$30,000," said Mr. Giroux on work at the field. "The Association, through volunteers, are able to look after that as a cost-saving to the Town so we are, in more ways than one, trying to, in a non-financial way, assist the Town in what they are offering, and offering for our kids as well."

Mr. Giroux's comments were made to councillors as he stressed the time-sensitivity of reaching a deal - or at least a conclusion - on what the Town's role might be in securing the turf for Aurora players by May 13.

Councillors deferred the matter to a special council meeting last Tuesday devoted to discussing the matter, but the meeting was abruptly cancelled on the afternoon of the 13th when the AMBA had to continue discussions regarding their lease agreement.

At the May 10 meeting, however, Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation, stressed that the maintenance of the Stewart Burnett diamond was still very much under review.

"The agreement is presently being reviewed by staff and we have not come to an agreement with regards to that position," he said. "If you recall, we presented in our budget a request for additional staff in order to deal with the increased

maintenance. Stewart Burnett Park was going to place on staff and that we would not require those additional staff if we came into agreement with Aurora Minor Ball.

"Yes, there is a savings involved if Minor Ball maintains the ball diamond, however we have not come to an agreement and that is not in place at this time," he said. "We are continuing to maintain the diamond at this point."



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Town may have to look for soccer fields

Aurora soccer players could face the problem of finding future places to play as Al Downey, Aurora's Parks and Recreation Program Director, is anticipating winding down existing community partnerships such as those with Magna International and St. Andrew's College in the not-too-distant future.

The comments came when Aurora Councillors discussed a new property use agreement between the Aurora Youth Soccer Club (AYSC) with Magna and St. Andrew's for the use of their soccer fields.

Under the plan, similar to agreements in past years, the AYSC and community partners would come to an agreement over field use with the Town of Aurora acting as an intermediary; an arrangement insisted upon by Magna and St. Andrew's, said Mr. Downey.

"Magna has indicated

a number of years ago... that they are not interested in entering into agreement specifically with the Aurora Youth Soccer Club," he said. "They are only interested in entering an agreement with the Town. Likewise with St. Andrew's College; they previously entered into an agreement with the AYSC and have said they would prefer to have an agreement with the Town and that the Town then had jurisdiction on what occurs with the AYSC.

"We have the ability to pull their permits if they don't act appropriately, whereas it is a little bit more difficult when the community partner is trying to exercise that same ability."

For Councillors Wendy Gaertner and John Gallo, the matter of the Town assuming liability for field use by the Aurora Youth Soccer Club was a cause for concern, especially in

light of the request before councillors in recent weeks to act as guarantor for a line of credit enabling the Aurora Minor Ball Association to purchase artificial turf from Rogers Centre.

"We're being asked by St. Andrew's and Magna for a similar thing to take on the liability that is associated to this venue so that it makes their life a little bit easier," said Councillor Gallo. "It also makes our life a little bit easier because obviously AYSC is a significant part of this community, and I'm trying to get a sense of how we can move away from that, short of buying a bunch of land and building our own field.

"Although we can say the individual owner is going to say, 'You can't use our fields unless the Town underwrites it.' Maybe they won't, maybe they'll get some community pressure. I want to

get a sense that we're at least trying to move in the opposite direction."

While Mr. Downey said the Town is "extremely fortunate" in having these community partners in place, if the Town does not assume liability it is not an agreement in which the groups are interested.

The Municipality, he said, is also making plans for when the day arrives when these community partners are no longer willing to enter into an agreement.

"The likelihood of the Magna arrangement being long-term is getting less and less likely particularly with the restructuring of Magna," said Mr. Downey. "St. Andrews' College has indicated that as much as they would like to help us with being partners they don't want to do it in the long term and have indicated to us that they are going to continue to increase

the fees for their fields until it gets to a point where, quite frankly, the soccer club can no longer afford them and they will have to go elsewhere.

"Until that time happens, we are doing everything to work within those community partners. At the end of the agreement, I want to be able to say, 'Thank you for being a great community partner' and move on with our alternative plans, but at no time do I ever want to see them have bad press for giving an AYSC an opportunity to plan on their lands."

Mr. Downey has "banged it into" councillors' heads that this is a "real problem" coming forward, said Councillor Gallo, who said he didn't want to "underestimate the seriousness" of the issue.

"I frankly don't know how we're going to solve this problem without a bag load of money to buy new fields because I share the director's concern that we are going to end up with, probably not too far in the future, a serious issue with the lack of playing fields in this Town and I think we need to put a significant amount of effort into solv-

ing that problem," he said.

For Councillor Buck, however, blame for this "predicament" rests with the previous "short-sighted" council.

"In 2007, there was still land available that wasn't designated, it was an affordable price and the property that the staff had in mind for the purpose and recommended to council, including \$2 million in the budget, was to acquire land that would provide us with the facilities that we would need in the foreseeable future," she said.

"One of the problems that was indicated was our partnerships with the private organizations that allowed us to use their property and the fact that those partnerships were bound to come to an end at some point in time would leave us in a serious predicament. The council of the day turned down the recommendation and now we're faced with a situation that there is no more land available within the municipality that we'll have to look outside our own municipality for the possibility of acquiring land. That was short sighted in the extreme."

Ambassador program could get approval

Aurora's new Parks Ambassador program is expected to receive approval in principle this week, despite some lingering concerns from councillors regarding liability and the lack of input from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Approval in principle was granted last week by general committee and final approval is before councillors this week for final ratification.

The Parks Ambassador Program is a volunteer organization working in conjunction with the York Regional Police to monitor Aurora's parks and report issues that need to be rectified to the proper authorities.

Organizer Cyndy Skillins, who has appeared before council a number of times advocating for the program, delegated to general committee last week noting that approval of some sort would be required to reach an optimal number of volunteers in the coming weeks.

"With your approval to proceed forward on this, it starts a whole chain of events and this chain of events includes everything from getting the brochure printed," she said. "It allows us to start recruiting at the upcoming street festival. [If we don't have approval before the launch of the Street Festival] it does not allow us to reach 40,000 very quickly.

"We're at a really pivotal point and this is why we might need to push this forward a bit sooner rather than later. The previous council requested that until you guys

gave full support, the police were not allowed to start the training process. Now with that in place those orders are there so we need your approval for [this] agreement in principle that opens up the gates and allows us to set up an opportunity schedule."

Costs for the project would be minimal, said Ms. Skillins.

While the "door was always open" for grants and community efforts, costs wouldn't be much above the armbands and printing brochures, a cost which would be covered by the York Regional Police, she said.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner, however, said it would be interesting to review the budgets of simi-

lar programs in Barrie and Vaughan before proceeding; but from Councillor Evelyn Buck's perspective, no matter how great the program might be, an in-depth discussion was needed before final approval was given.

"From my perspective, this matter needs to be discussed and many questions answered before reports come back to council," she said. "There needs to be work done on it and the report submitted to council. It is a good recommendation; I believe that it deserves that kind of in-depth study in the advisory committee."

"My personal position on the matter was anyone involved in the Parks Ambassador program would

be taking on liability on their own and they shouldn't be looking to the Town to cover such liability," said Town Solicitor Warren Mar.

Councillors eventually approved an amendment by Councillor Michael Thompson to the original recommendation from Town's staff that they adopt the program in principle and refer the matter to the advisory committee for implementation.

For Councillor Buck, however, Council's decision to give a tentative approval of the Parks Ambassadors program underscored a discrepancy between her fellow councillors and the support they gave earlier this year to reconstitute the Town's advisory committees.



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Students, seniors join forces to create garden

Students and seniors in Aurora joined forces and got their hands dirty for a common cause this spring and summer with the launch of the Miracle-Gro Discovery Garden project which kicked off last week at the Aurora's Sunrise Senior Living.

"Forty-seven per cent of Canadians are doing, and of those who are not doing it, 50 per cent would like to," said Joseph Clark, representing Flow Marketing who introduced the program to council last week. "The most common excuses for not doing it are, 'I'm too stressed', 'I'm too tired to do it,' 'I don't get enough time to do it,' and 'I really don't understand how to do it.' What is it that most Canadians and many more would like to be doing? Vegetable gardening."

The Miracle-Gro Discovery program has high school students and senior citizens in the GTA promote "the many environmental, health, social, economic, cultural, and educational benefits of building, maintaining, and harvesting an edible community garden," according to Ted Jarvis, also of Flow, who appeared with Mr. Clark as a delegate.

"The students are putting in

the back-breaking work to make this possible," he said. "This is an opportunity not only to allow the students and seniors to be able to take advantage of seeing this wonderful garden grow - and I think we're going to produce at least 1,000 pounds of vegetables - but the intergenerational mix that is occurring with students interacting with seniors to grow this garden is actually... to leave a legacy in Aurora so as to allow this garden to occur year after year with a legacy of knowledge."

The Miracle-Gro Discovery project will include gardens not just in Aurora, but also in Markham and Mississauga.

Sunrise of Aurora, which is situated on Golf Links Drive, has been partnered with students from Aurora High School for the portion of the project here at home.

Mr. Clark and Mr. Jarvis were joined by staff and students from Aurora High in their presentation to council and they gave councillors their unrestrained enthusiasm for the planting slated to begin this week.

"We think this is a really positive thing for our community because it is a way for the high

school students to interact with the senior citizens of Sunrise," said student Liza Upham. "It is a really great opportunity for students to get involved and give back to the community."

For fellow student Laura Olejnik, this was about getting out in the "beautiful weather", learning how to garden, and to continue the tradition for generations to come.

Aurora High teacher Mayra Barker said the concept has been very well received in the school and students are still trying to get on board with the project, which has received an equally positive response from the people over at Sunrise.

"This project presents life-enriching programming for our residents [whether] planting or simply observing," said Ashley Kwong, Executive Director of Sunrise. "This project also encourages inter-generational relationships as well as giving our residents the ability to give back to the community which is really important."

Mr. Jarvis said the seniors and students will determine what will happen with the vegetables produced in the plots collectively, and while the participants are looking forward to

sampling the fruits of their labour, they are also planning on setting aside some of the produce for the community.

"I think this an absolutely incredible initiative and I am looking forward to watching the

garden grow," said Councillor Sandra Humfries. "It is such a pleasure to see the youth of our community engaging this way. They're not going for their [community service hours], it is just because they want to give back

to the community."

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe was expected to be on hand for the inaugural vegetable plant Tuesday afternoon.

Planting is scheduled to continue on May 24.



With Aurora's mayor Geoffrey Dawe, left, set to dig, members of Aurora High School teamed up with residents of Aurora's Sunrise Village to launch the Miracle-Gro Discovery Garden project behind the Sunrise Senior Living building on Golf Links Drive.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace



**By DANIEL CARINGI
and PETER MCNEILL**

Four friends are out for a night on the town to have lots of fun.

The four friends have just seen the latest street racing movie and are out on the town with their parents' vehicle.

They pull up to a traffic light and see another vehicle beside them and the driver is challenging them to race.

The driver revs his engine as his three friends egg him on thinking of how cool the actors were in the movie.

The light turns green and it starts.

Weaving, left and right through busy traffic nearly hitting multiple vehicles at high speeds, hoping to beat the other guy.

Just as they pass the next intersection the driver sees a police car just arriving at the same intersection and attempts to slow his car.

The lights are on, now they are 'busted'.

A simple decision to have said "no" to the challenge would have saved a lot of grief and hardship. Their parent's car is impounded with all the associated costs and they are facing charges of street racing.

This is a situation all too familiar to the patrol officer's eyes.

Now sitting in a jail cell at the station two thoughts are going through the four friend's heads.

"I can't believe what happened" and "what am I going to do now?"

Although patrol officers would love for each street racing incident to end this peacefully, it is often not the outcome they see.

An example of this is David Virgoe, a 48-year-old professional truck driver and grandfather, who was killed by three street racers when they forced him off the road on

Too Fast, Too Dangerous, Lots of trouble

June 18, 2007.

Street racing has assaulted every corner of society, leading to dismay, apathy, extreme injury and death.

Street racing is a form of illegal and unsanctioned motor racing, which occurs on public roads; reported to have its origins in the 1930's because of alcohol prohibition in certain parts of the United States.

Street racing can be either a well-planned event; communicating with two-way radios, police scanners, and GPS to track local police hot spots, or more often and sometimes more dangerously, it can be spontaneous.

Motor vehicle speed plays a fundamental role in most crashes.

Evidence shows that traveling above the average speed increases the risk of having a crash, and the risk of being injured increases exponentially when speeds are much greater than the median speed.

The severity of a motor vehicle crash is dependent upon the vehicle speed change at impact. Ontario roads are amongst the safest in North America.

Legislation for street races and aggressive drivers has the highest penalty in Canada, with a maximum fine of \$10,000 and a minimum fine of \$2,000.

The York Regional Police 2010 annual statistical report showed there were only three reported cases of street racing, with a total of 4,084 reported criminal traffic violations.

Stunt driving and racing can be defined in many different perspectives.

The most common amongst adults is driving in excess of 50 km over the posted speed limit.

This is classified as stunt driving under section 172 of the Highway Traffic Act.

Other key definitions that come into play are driving a motor vehicle without due care and attention, without reasonable consideration for other persons using the highway or in a manner that may endanger any person or simply intentionally preventing another vehicle from passing.

There are many variables that could result in a stunt driving charge, regardless of the actions this often results in a charge and more than likely a loss of license and vehicle.

"Take it to the track; the streets are not the place."

That's advice given by Constable Jim Slykhuis of Project ERASE.

The ERASE program stands for 'Eliminate Racing Activity on Streets Everywhere'; their pursuit being "to change poor driver behaviour through education and strategic enforcement."

York Regional Police and surrounding services have done an excellent job in educating the public while laying charges to deter these actions.

It is shocking to think that more than a few of these charges laid were against young adults trying to have some movie time moments.

When young, inexperienced, adults drive at high speeds adrenaline takes over.

They begin to ignore speed limits, red lights and intersections, stop signs and continuously drive carelessly through the streets.

They often experience tunnel vision due to the adrenaline losing their reaction time and anticipation of others.

Their vehicle is now a weapon travelling at speeds greater than 50 km over the speed limit and they have no control.

This is the alignment of events that

cause a serious motor vehicle collision.

The act of street racing is highly illegal and can result in many penalties but the costs and long term effects can far exceed the monetary costs of the single event.

Driving fast is not forbidden.

Tracks are available everywhere with driver education courses on how to properly race.

Here are some websites of a couple in the area. www.mosport.com www.race2000.com www.af1.ca/index.php

There are more and more driver training schools being opened in York Region and surrounding communities, run by motor vehicle companies.

These training and racing schools are to allow drivers of all ages to race legally on racetracks.

They educate them with the proper skills to control their vehicles at high speeds and how to avoid accidents.

Enthusiasts who have enhanced their vehicles have information, from the project E.R.A.S.E website, www.yrp.ca/erase that shows you how you can legally have fun.

The website also has a list of charges that go along with street racing outlining the exact wording from the Highway Traffic Act of Ontario along with a PDF download of the whole act.

Aurora PACT's (Police and Community Together) intention is to not scare you but to build awareness on a seriously growing issue.

Driving is a privilege to the citizens of Ontario; driving can be fun and a stepping stone to every young adult's life.

However, the privilege of driving must be treated responsibly because a wrong decision could lead to you losing the privilege, jail time, or the unthinkable.

PACT

(Police and Community Together)

New members are welcome.

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Aurora students from several local high schools were guests of the Rotary Club of Aurora at the annual Camp Enterprise, held last week in Bolton. Handling the event from the Aurora club were Shabir Kudrati, left, and Jack Laurion, right.

Proposed wellness complex

Town may approve amendments

From page 1
In his response, Warren Mar, the Town's Acting Town Solicitor said going into closed session would help protect the Town's case.
"Town Staff are proposing a certain course of action which Council, whatever it decided, could be detrimental to our case if it was published as to what Town staff [recommended]," he said. "You wouldn't want to have council contradict staff and have a staff report be available to the public, making that position public, so that is the reason it has come to this final step right now [and why] we are going into closed session."
On Friday, it was revealed that general committee endorsed the approval of the official plan and zoning bylaw amendments at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and authorized staff to represent the Town's position at the Board "regarding the settlement between the Town and the applicant with respect to the subject planning applications."
Final ratification of the closed session recommendation is expected to come before councillors this week.
At last Tuesday's meeting, however, Warren McClure, representing RAYS - Ratepayers of Aurora Yonge South - was on hand to speak to the process and to ensure that his group of ratepayers would have ample opportunity to review their decision and respond to it in time for the May 24 meeting.
"We have been very active as RAYS with this application for a number of years and we have worked closely with the planning group and the applicant," said Mr. McClure, whose group is expected to make their feelings known at council this week.

At press time, however, they were not included as a delegate for this week's meeting.
RAYS has appeared before council a number of times to raise their objections to the plan.
The original proposal was rejected by Aurora's previous council in January, 2009, and developers duly submitted a revised site plan.
Although the revised plan still fell short of some requirements in the Town's official plan, as RAYS pointed out, Town Staff set forth several reasons to support the plan, including that the proposed buildings are consistent with built forms immediately south of the site, and that the apartment building would "minimize disturbance to the landform."
The official plan also "contemplates the development of some minor institutional uses within the Yonge Street South Secondary Planning area" and "minor institutional uses are permitted on all residentially designated lands" in the area, noted Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning in a report to councillors earlier this week.
In his report prepared for the closed session discussion last week, Mr. Ramunno reiterated his position.
"Staff have engaged in a series of ongoing discussions and meetings with the applicant and the area residents in an attempt to come to a consensus among all three parties," he said. "These discussions have resulted in further revision of the development plan. Given the concessions that have been made to this point...staff are satisfied that a satisfactory settlement between the Town and the applicant can be reached."
As for the residents, concessions had been made to address their concerns, added Mr. Ramunno, but he noted they still have outstanding issues.
"Certain residents continue to express concern over the location of a pharmacy on the lands and with respect to whether the development criteria meets the criteria for a minor institutional use," he said. "The residents' group will therefore need to consider their position at the OMB hearing."
Earlier this year the developers said they were "working towards a better solution" which garnered the support of Aurora's planning staff and "fundamental" modifications had been made, including the reduction of the number of buildings on the site to two and reducing the number of apartments from 56 to 24, ensuring it meets Oak Ridges Moraine legislation.
At the time, Susan Walmer, representing RAYS, told council that proposed modifications to the plan were not enough.
"In your role as councillors you have a public trust to uphold current policies," she said. "Negotiation with developers might reduce our OMB costs or legal expenses, but at what cost?"
"In my experience during the past 10 years, many developers start the manipulation game with an outlandish plan that doesn't even come close to the Town plan. Then they reduce it as they have done here and say they have made supreme compromises. This application here does not meet our official plan in terms of built form."



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House may buy it

From page 1
Council adopted the Heritage Advisory Committee's recommendations to retain the east section of the William Wells House in any future development of the subject property and allow for the relocation and restoration of the building to a suitable location within the subject lands, and for appropriate adaptive re-use.
The 2007 evaluation "did not fully consider" the significance of the property's barn, said Mr. Ramunno, noting that it recommended retaining the services of a heritage consultant to determine its cultural heritage value.
The building was put into group two by the Heritage Building Evaluation Working Group, which encouraged the building's historical designation and alternative future use.
"In response to the demolition request [from Westhill and Lebovic], the Town has sixty days for Council to determine whether the property should be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act," said Mr. Ramunno.
"On November 27, 2007, the house has been mostly vacant and its physical condition has deteriorated significantly. The opportunity for preservation is still possible but it might present a challenge. Nonetheless, obtaining full architectural documentation of the structures on the subject property is important for Town records and is standard practice," Mr. Ramunno said in his report.

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PASTOR DENNIS WRIGHT

Led by new minister, Aurora's St. Andrew's addresses future

By KATE REVINGTON
Special to The Auroran

Dennis Wright - Pastor Dennis Wright - has been making connections of one sort or another all his life.

Most recently, the former TV cable technician and lineman has been making spiritual and pastoral connections.

He is now serving as minister of St. Andrew's Church, in central Aurora.

Pastor Wright said his experience in the cable industry helped prepare him for the ministry. Particularly as a middle manager, he learned a lot about relating to people.

"I was the go-to person for the irate customers because I had a way of calming them and allowing them to have a sense of worth and value . . .

"Ministry is much the same as any public relations in that it requires good public relations, serving the customer, putting the customer first," he said, "in ministry, putting God first in connection with the members."

His title makes it clear how his mainstream Presbyterian congregation should view him.

Instead of being "Reverend," he is "Pastor" "because in Latin it means shepherd," he explained. "Jesus said, 'I am the Good Shepherd,' and so he tied himself very closely to his flock, and so I see building a relationship with the flock - the congregation - as a shepherd."

But the new minister, in place for the church's 140th anniversary year, plans to reach out and make connections with the broader community, too.

One way of promoting this is through choice of language.

"In order to find a connection to the North American culture," he said, "we need to find language that connects."

So, in Sunday services beginning at 10.30 a.m., the church bulletin may now list a "song for the journey" rather than a "hymn," a "message" rather than a "sermon."

And the "debts and debtors" version of the Lord's Prayer, known by most people in the pews, is gone.

At Pastor Wright's insistence, the congregation now reads aloud the modern, plain language version of the prayer.

He figures that everyone, not just "unchurched" newcomers, needs to clearly understand what they're saying.

Responsive prayer, where people do more than listen with eyes closed, is a key part of Pastor Wright's strategic plan.

"The benefits of the congregation praying together are that our voices are lifted in one accord by the Holy Spirit to God," he explained. "As we pray as a congregation, it takes the focus away from the self, and more on the congregation as a whole, as a body."

But how did a "rough, tough, tumble cable guy" come to preach the gospel from a Presbyterian pulpit?

The transformation took a while, but began after he met Diana, now his wife of more than 20 years.

"She informed me that her faith was very important to her, and that being part of the church was important to her," Pastor Wright shared. "So, not being all that religious, I said okay."

Church life was more than okay after the couple discovered St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Scarborough - "a warm, welcoming place."

Wright's ability to connect well with people was recognized. He took part in the educational team, worked alongside the youth leader, and then served on the worship committee.

"And during all of that time, people kept suggesting that perhaps I should look at ministry."

Eventually, he did and earned his divinity degree. His first charge was in rural Ontario. St. Andrew's Aurora is his second.

The weight-lifting minister accepted the Aurora call - Presbyterian ministers are "called," not hired - because "I felt strongly that there was a sense of mission here, that this church knew what its purpose was."

Part of that sense of mission is expressed through Martha's Table. The volunteer-driven Thursday program serves up soup and sandwiches and a sense of

community to about 130 people a week.

"I love the feeling of family here," Pastor Wright affirmed.

In keeping with its being "a place where families gather," St. Andrew's puts strong emphasis on intergenerational participation, he observed. The presence of a drama group and an orches-

tra reflect this.

"There just seems to be a general feeling of true happiness in the spirit of the congregation," Pastor Wright concluded.

Guided by its outspoken, new minister, St. Andrew's Aurora is addressing the future with a growing sense of unity, facing out into the broader community.



AURORA HIGH

By MAGGIE EDWARDS

AHS music concerts exceptional as usual

Aurora High School's 2011 Spring Fever concerts this week were a great success.

The first concert Tuesday, showcased the Grade 9s and 10s.

Grade 11s and 12s performed Thursday.

In addition to a concert band for each grade, the department houses three jazz bands, a concert choir and a men's acapella group.

Each ensemble expressed their selections with musicality and technical proficiency.

Both nights ran smoothly with quick transitions between ensembles.

Thursday night was highly emotional, as students, parents, and staff at Aurora High School prepared to say goodbye to the extraordinary teacher Mark Tse.

Next year, he will be resuming his education in music at Western University in order to achieve a PhD.

Combined with the intensity of the music performed, the concert was a memorable night to be cherished by all present.

Under the guidance of exceptional teachers Jennifer Lee, Mark Tse, and Teri Fowler Ciszkowski, students enrolled in music at Aurora High School practiced and perfected their pieces throughout the entire semester in order to prepare for their performances last week.

The concerts, which take place semiannually in December and May, support the department financially as well as raise awareness of the department for future students of Aurora High School.

In addition to funds raised by ticket sales, the Band Parents' Association of Aurora High School raises money for the department through bake sales and raffles at the concerts.

With the help of the teachers in the music department, both nights are organized and run by the music council.

The council is made up students in all grades involved in music, headed by a selection of executive members.

Tremendous planning and effort went into preparing for the concert.

The department strives for excellence through weekly rehearsals for each ensemble.

Students participate in music courses both semesters to maximize rehearsal time, as well as earn extra credits.

Each grade participates in various festivals and competitions throughout the year, such as the Ontario Band Association Festival and the Kiwanis Festival.

Other festivals take the students abroad to cities in the United States including Cleveland, Washington and Boston, and even to Europe.



Pastor Dennis Wright, the new minister at St. Andrew's Church in Aurora, is a regular volunteer to serve meals to people at Martha's Table. The Thursday program serves up soup and sandwiches and a sense of community to about 130 people a week.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

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Places of Worship on Doors Open tour

By M. AL NABHAN

Manager of Heritage Planning & Urban Design

On Saturday, July 9, Doors Open Aurora invites visitors to tour five structures erected as places of worship.

All are clustered at the centre of old Aurora and with short walking distance from each other.

AURORA UNITED CHURCH
15186 Yonge Street



The United Church congregation is the oldest in Aurora and the church is still used as a place of worship having stood on the corner of Yonge and Tyler Streets, since 1818.

The Aurora United Church has had a long and interesting history, beginning with the earliest settlers to this area in 1817.

The original 1855 frame church was partially damaged by fire in 1877 and there are few remaining records of it.

The new church, built of brick with a stone foundation, opened in 1878. It boasted two spires, the taller of which rose to a staggering 146 feet, and provided a prominent landmark in the Town of Aurora.

In 1893 a cyclone struck the church, destroying the stained glass windows on the south side, and the great spire.

Church officials replaced it with a shorter steeple. However, they decided to remove both steeples in 1943 after they were struck by lightning several times.

In 1925, the Aurora Methodist Church became the Aurora United Church upon the union of Congregationalist, Methodist and Presbyterian churches across Canada, although a number of Presbyterian congregations choose to remain within the Presbyterian denomination.

However, the United Church was still the first union of churches to cross historic denomination lines in the world, and hence was the first uniquely 'Canadian' church.

Architect Henry Langley designed the Aurora United Church in Gothic Revival style.

Due to renovations made over several decades, the Church today presents abundance of stylistic elements with various additions erected in 1909, 1957, and 1987.

In 2009, the first significant re-design of the building in more than 100 years was made to the interior of the sanctuary.

AURORA RISING SUN MASONIC LODGE
57 Mosley Street



Located at the corner of Mosley and Wells Streets, this building served as the Methodist Episcopal Church from the time of its construction in 1877 until it was sold to the Masons in 1885.

On December 5, 1877, the Methodist Episcopal Church in Aurora officially opened its doors and held its first dedicated service on Sunday, December 16, 1877.

From 1877 to 1885, the building served as a church with A.T. Ferguson as the congregation's first pastor. It was part of the King Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1885, the Methodist Episcopal Church united with the Wesleyan Methodist Church and moved into the United Church on Yonge Street.

That same year, the congregation decided to sell the property to the Masons, who began to use it as their lodge hall.

Originally, the Masons' old hall, built circa 1866, was located at the rear of the Ough property on Centre St. In 1897, the Anglican Church purchased the old Masonic Hall and relocated it for use as their parish hall.

The Rising Sun Masonic Lodge is of the Gothic Revival style designed by Cane & Sons.

It is of rectangular plan with its entranceway through a small wooden porch. The gable roof is covered with pressed metal sheets that give the appearance of slate shingles.

While much of the church is constructed out of yellow brick, red bricks are visible for decorative purposes.

The interior is an exceptional example of Masonic architecture in Ontario. The pictures displayed at the entrance are of the Lodge Masters that have served the lodge since 1860.

Many of the masters were also the founding builders of Aurora. The artwork in the lodge room on the west wall was painted by

Ms. Stevenson, a wife of a lodge member, in 1902.

One should take note of the numerous symbols, like the rising sun in the large medallion at the east end which symbolizes the beginning of the day.

The Masonic all seeing eye represents the eye of God that over-sees our life's actions.

At the top of the hall are three framed documents that symbolize the 1860 issuing of The Rising Sun Lodge's charter.

Finally, the floor area, referred as the Masonic pavement, has contrasting colours that symbolize the uncertainty of life.

This Masonic Lodge is associated with The Rising Sun Masonic Lodge, one of the oldest, if not the oldest, fraternal organizations in Aurora and the world.

VICTORIA HALL-
"Disciples of Christ Church"
27 Mosley Street



Andrew Yule, then office manager of the Fleury Implement Works, was a founder of the local congregation of the Disciples of Christ Church.

This building, erected in 1883, served as its home.

In 1922, the church building was sold to the Town of Aurora for \$3,500. It became known as "Health Hall", the headquarters for the nurses who served the school and who also offered public health services.

By 1945, the building once again changed its use and became the Public Library until 1963.

In 1965, the building was named Victoria Hall. Since then Victoria Hall has been used for community programs and as a rental space.

Victoria Hall is a fine example of a simple Gothic Revival church of the late 19th century.

The outstanding features of the building are its arched windows, the buttresses, and the steeply pitched roof ornamented by the exposed ends of the roof rafters.

It is one of only two surviving examples of this type of structure in Aurora, the other being the former Methodist Episcopal church building (now the Masonic Lodge) at Mosley and Wells Streets.

Victoria Hall will host the "Heritage for Kids" event.

Kids and families will have the opportunity to discover Aurora's early history through a series of demonstrations, games and activities led by heritage educator Katherine Belrose and friends. Surprise visitors may include Mrs. Doan, Queen Victoria and a doctor in a hurry.

There will be plenty to talk about over crafts emphasizing the use of wood and wool. Children will make small keepsakes from the "piece" basket.

Katherine currently teaches at the Aurora Cultural Centre and works with the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum.

Her past museum experience includes jobs at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa, at Black Creek Pioneer Village and at Sharon Temple National Historic Site.

She draws on her extensive knowledge of pioneer life in order to present innovative programs for a wide variety of audiences and age groups.

TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH
79 Victoria



The Trinity Anglican Church chapel building is one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in Aurora.

The site is also a shining illustration of how a building can be altered to satisfy changing needs while still remaining sympathetic to the site's original character and history.

The Trinity Anglican Church chapel was built to replace the original church building of 1846 on Church Street which was also constructed in the Gothic frame style.

Complete with a rectory to its east, this church began exceed-

ing its capacity in the late 19th century resulting in its demolition and the construction of what is now the Church chapel.

The rectory, however, was preserved and stands today as one of the oldest buildings in Aurora.

Designed by architect Marshal. B. Aylesworth and constructed by D.S Pickworth, the first morning and evening service at the church convened on March 14th, 1884.

Soon after, in 1897, an old wooden Masonic Hall, which was located at the rear of the former Pugh property on Centre Street, was purchased and located on the site to serve as a School House.

As the Church congregation evolved and matured, various committees were formed to serve the congregation and enhance the Church activities facilities.

In 1913, the next major phase in the evolution of the site began. The church was re-decorated, a new organ purchased and the rectory repaired using funds generated by the Church Improvement Guild.

During this time the Trinity Hall was also enlarged and the first toilets installed.

The prosperity following the Second World War and the arrival of the 'baby boomers' generation saw yet another sequence of alteration to the site and the building.

The church was enlarged by the addition of the Van Nostrand Narthex, the St Columba Chapel and Falconbridge link building.

Through these additions, the church was equipped with new choir rooms, a more intimate and contemporary chapel space, a Fellowship room and an internal connection between the church and the parish hall.

Bricks for the additions came from the demolished First Baptist church at Wellington and Victoria Street.

These were the last set of alterations made to this site before they were demolished in 2001 to make way for the current church.

Today, the rectory, the 1884 church chapel and current church building stand as proud testaments to the history and legacy of the Trinity Anglican Church in Aurora.

For Doors Open, visitors will have the opportunity to see the Church's restored (or under restoration) stained glass windows as well as the fixing of the Bell tower.

Charming background music by a choir school singing at the new church will surely enriches visitors' experience.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
32 Mosley Street



The congregation of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church dates back to 1871 and since then, it has been a cherished and memorable part of the community.

Located in the heart of Aurora, the church serves as a prominent landmark to both residents of the Town and visitors.

With the help of the Presbyterian glebe donated to the Presbyterian Church of Scotland by Col. William Graham, St. Andrew's Church was founded in 1871 and the church building was constructed soon after in 1873.

While the structure has been altered and renovated over the years, the site of the Church has remained at 32 Mosley Street.

The original construction was in the Gothic style with red and buff bricks and wide window sills. There was also a rose window over the front doors which added to the grandeur of the edifice.

In the 1940's a hall was added on the north side, later to be known as St Andrew's hall, which housed a kitchen, washrooms and a nursery.

By the 1960's however, it had become apparent that the original structure was becoming unsound and a campaign commenced under Dr. Louis Fowler to replace the building.

In 1962, a new two-storey structure was built on the site with a single storey building on the east containing a minister's study, chapel room, library and office.

The hall, however, was maintained and the rose window of the original structure was installed in its north wall.

The original pulpit and organ were also moved to the new church. The dedication ceremony was graced by the presence of the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, the Hon. J. Keiller McKay who officiated the event.

Visitors to this site will have the opportunity to browse the church's library and archived literature concerning the history of the church while enjoying a hot beverage.

Come out and tour these architectural landmarks of Aurora on Doors Open day, Saturday, July 9. Most sites are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information or to volunteer for the event, visit www.aurora.ca/doorsopen2011 or call 905-727-3123, Extension 4351.

Doors Open is an activity of the Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee and the Committee hopes you enjoy this year's event.



Shown here with Dr. Bette Stephenson, centre right, are her grandchildren at the unveiling of her portrait that will be hung in the front

foyer of the Centre that officially opened in Oak Ridges Wednesday.

Auroran photo by Bonnie Tiffin



20 singers to entertain June 6

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Coming events include a performance at the Aurora Cultural Centre on Monday, June 6th, between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. with approximately 20 Silver Star entertainers singing along with the audience.

This concert is on the anniversary of 'D Day', which is June 6th, 1944, and will include music from this desperate period in the affairs of humankind of Europe and the rest of the world.

The people of Europe were engaged in the turmoil of war, which in reality degenerated into a wholesale license to kill or wound more than 5,000,000 soldiers and innocents worldwide by 1945.

To be sure, nobody planned or expected casualties on that scale, but the evolving technologies of attack and destroy devastated multitudes of soldiers and innocents without mercy.

The war in the east was equally vicious and the two wars had an intimate connection where the one merged with the other, leading to the descriptive term of World War 2.

Seared in the hearts and memories of all engaged or located in the area of conflict, pitiless warfare is an enormity of extreme evil in the affairs of mankind and particularly on the better educated people of Europe and all of the world.

Those who survived remember and relate events of the brutalising account and remember the horrors in terror and revulsion.

Time has allowed selective memories to blur and cushion the dreadfulness of events nobody wishes to recall, but cannot forget.

The beautiful music of the period, composed under

the stress and energy of the times, encapsulates feelings of despair, hope and poignant beauty in the depths of barbaric warfare that no gunfire or bombs can ever destroy.

Now, 66 years after the events, the elderly revisit memories of those they lost, destroyed homes and lands and lives as they could have been, and choose a concert to sing of those times.

Seniors mark 'D Day' with gentle music and shed tears quietly and privately for the profound grief experienced long ago, because despite the long ago tragedy, life continues and we make the best of what we have been allotted by fate.

Life in the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) celebrates the lives of all seniors, regardless of how successful they fared formerly, and regardless of which distant lands or part of Canada, from where they originated.

The ASA provides wonderful opportunities for retired seniors to mix with a multitude of cosmopolitan members of similar age groups.

Diversity of culture is so great in the Seniors' Centre that all find acceptance, with good people emerging from all ethnic origins.

Accessing activities at will allows everybody the enthusiastic pursuit of pleasure for the sake of pleasure.

VARIETY OF CRAFTS

Varieties of crafts attract those who find satisfaction creating articles of value and beauty and often adds a little extra income, while enjoying the foundation of good social life, namely good conversation.

Others turn to mild physical games including table tennis and badminton, bocce ball and tossing

horseshoes.

Others find fulfillment in exploring the technologies of computer operation, which has an ever-expanding base of technical knowledge, tools and methods.

Yet others find their companionship in the kitchen preparing food and serving, which knits many members to common activities.

Among any group, some feel at home in the setting and atmosphere of the kitchen, and they provide a warmth of welcome along with good food and happy times.

Although the Seniors' Centre is designed specifically for members 55 years of age and older, some seniors require time to adjust from a life of work and responsibility and to a life, which is pleasure based.

Some visit the Centre once or a few times only and then fade away.

Others find their place among seniors quickly, make friends easily and find personal triumphs of satisfaction and happiness whenever they turn their attention.

Finding contentment in life poses little problem for many people but for others, persistence would pay huge dividends.

If finding a place takes a little effort, create the effort.

The delight of good company readily available is inaccessible to countless seniors who become stranded and lonely as they lose their friends and loved ones.

In the Seniors' Centre, nobody walks alone, when disaster strikes, others offer consolation and friendship with a guiding course through inconsolable times, which assists in finding safe passage.

Some enjoy fun and games easily with a good helping of creativity, others not so easily, but do not be hard on yourself, stay the course.

WINNERS

Fun and games are not always of the party variety but form a part of senior games competition, and it is a pleasure to list members of the ASA who competed in the team game of "Pickle Ball" during the York Region 2011 Senior 55+ Summer games held at the Magna Centre May 13th.

They are as follows: John Seaman - gold medal - men's doubles 55+, James Alberga - gold medal - men's doubles 65+, Terry Paul - gold medal - men's doubles 65+, John Layton - gold medal - mixed doubles

65+, Myrna Rawlins - silver medal - mixed doubles 65+, Walter Rawlins - silver medal - mixed doubles 65+, Annette Gagne - gold medal - ladies doubles 65+, Joanne Keates - gold medal - ladies doubles 65+, Julie Manzano - gold medal - ladies doubles 55+, Joyce Bannon - gold medal - ladies doubles 55+.

The names above, members of the ASA, men and women, represent a few of those who competed, and

certainly, each name stirs the competitive embers glowing within many who read this.

No doubt exists that competition alone plants memories in these seniors and with any degree of success, elation, delight and excitement must course through their veins.

On behalf of all sporting members of the ASA, I congratulate these stout hearted and determined members of the ASA.



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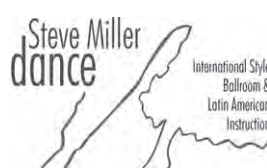
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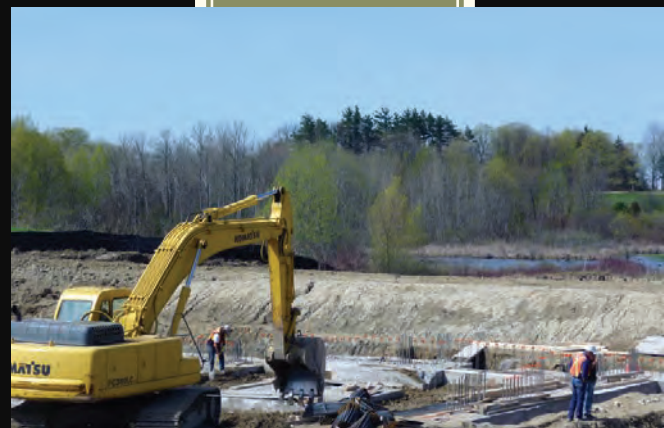
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