



COMING EVENTS

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, featuring a group of teens performing on tour in numerous U.S. and Canadian cities, begins at 7.30 p.m. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be accepted in support of this fundraising event. For more information, call Lisa Kyriakides at 905-898-5198.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

The last Networking Breakfast by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce before the summer will be held this morning at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club, 4 Pinnacle Trail, Aurora from 7.30 a.m. to 9 a.m. The event is sponsored by the Aurora Festival of the Arts and will feature a hot buffet breakfast. Cost to Chamber members is \$20 or \$30 for guests.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

The Seniors dance committee, with Angus MacKenzie as its chair, will hold its second dance of the month tonight at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. The committee will take the months of July and August off and looks forward to resuming the dances September 2nd.

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.

JUNE 18-26

Artcures Exhibition at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Call 905-713-1818 for times the centre is open.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

Movie at the Seniors' Centre tonight is "Another Year" starring Jim Broadbent, Ruth Sheen and Lesley Manville. A married couple who have managed to remain blissfully happy into their autumn years, are surrounded over the course of the four seasons of one average year by friends, colleagues, and family who all seem to suffer some degree of unhappiness. Movies start at 6.30 p.m. sharp and cost \$1.50 for senior members and \$2 for non-members. The admission price includes the movie and refreshments.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

A one-hour cruise of Toronto Harbour awaits members of the Aurora Seniors' Centre today. It's part of a day that includes a buffet lunch at Joe Badali's Restaurant and a two-hour tour of the City of Toronto, highlighting the Distillery District. The bus leaves from the Aurora Community Centre at 9.45 a.m. Included in the \$90 (senior members) \$95 (non-senior members) cost is return transportation, harbour cruise, buffet lunch, city tour, driver gratuity and all taxes. For futher information, call Michelle Steiner, seniors programmer, at the Town of Aurora 905-727-3123, extension 3611.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

At the Aurora Community Centre and Machell Park from 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. you can support 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 face. Some 1,400 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. 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; and at our booth at the Aurora Farmers' Market June 18th, and 25th. For more information call Madge at 905-727-5926 or visit http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/aurora/news/details/6118.

TUESDAY JUNE 28

Movie at the Seniors' Centre tonight is "Barney's Version" starring Paul Giamatti, Dustin Hoffman and Jake Hoffman. Take a ride through the life and memories of Barney Panofsky, a hard-drinking, cigar-smoking, foulmouthed 65-year old hockey fanatic and television producer, as he reflects on his life's successes and (numerous) gaffes and failures as the final chapters of his own existence come sharply into focus. Movies start at 6.30 p.m. and cost \$1.50 for senior members and \$2 for non-members. The admission price includes the movie and refreshments.

THURSDAY, JUNE 30

Neighbourhood Network's Great Canadian barbecue will be held today at the Aurora Seniors' Centre beginning at 11.30 a.m. Cost is \$10 per person, which includes the entertainment, and all proceeds will support the Aurora Seniors' Association.

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.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

The 38th Annual Antique & Classic Car Show will be held today from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum on Don Mills (Woodbine) Road. Rain date is August 21. Join in as exhibitors from across southern Ontario display their prized antique and classic cars. Food is available in the tea room or off the barbecue. Historic buildings will be open with heritage demonstrations, children's activities and live entertainment. Admission is \$7 (children under 7 free) or \$17 per family of up to four. For more information, call 905-727-8954.

CONTINUING

Trinity Anglican Church "Clothes Closet", located at 44 Metcalfe St., Aurora, is the local source for gently used women's, children's and men's clothing. All monies raised are used to support the needy of Aurora, since it goes directly to the "Welcoming Arms" Ministry. Open weekday mornings, 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and Wednesday evenings 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. The Bag Sale happens the last Monday of each month.

The Evergreen Choir, under the direction of Richard Heinzle, meets every Wednesday afternoon in the West-McKenzie Hall of the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Members meet at 1.30 p.m. and rehearsals are from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. New members are always welcome. For more information call the desk at 905-726-4767.

Aurora Probus Club meets every second Wednesday of the month at the Aurora Legion. Memberships consist of retired and semi-retired PROfessional and BUSiness people, hence the name. New members are welcome. For more information, call Marilyn Munslow at 905-727-9344 or Bob Saunders at 905-841-3558.

GRANAurora, the local Grandmothers To Grandmothers group, meets monthly to raise awareness, generate funds and lobby on behalf of the grandmother care-givers in AIDS-ravaged Africa. For more information call Kay at 905-841-9318 or Joan at 905-727-5586.

Alateen meets every Sunday at 8 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, corner of Victoria and Mosley Streets. Al-Anon meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Aurora United Church on Yonge Street. For more information go to al-anon.alateen.on.ca.

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Visitors are welcome for only \$2. For more information call Ray at 905-727-6168.

York Highlands Chorus is an award-winning a capella Sweet Adelines chorus, a group of women who gather Tuesday evenings at the Old Fire Hall, Newmarket, to sing, share in the harmony of friendship and learn the barbershop art form. York Highlands is always looking for new women who share the love of a capella music. Call Karen at 905-726-2113 or e-mail Vikki at information@yorkhighlands.com.

The Upper Canada Chordsmen, Aurora-Newmarket's award winning chorus, is looking for male singers. The group meets every Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Old Fire Hall, 140 Main Street South, in Newmarket.

The Optimist Club of Aurora meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Aurora Legion. New members are welcome. Call 905-727-5012 for more information.

The Aurora Lions Club meets the second and fourth Thursdays at the Aurora Lions Hall, corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets. Co-ed club welcomes new members. For further information, call 905-727-6079.

Martha's Table, the community lunch program offered at St. Andrew's Church, Aurora, will open again on Thursday, September 1, after closing for the summer on Thursday, June 9.

The York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for new members. You do not have to be a police officer nor are you required to read music to volunteer. The group rehearses Monday evenings between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. For further information, contact the chorus supervisor at 905-727-9676 or the coordinator of volunteer services for YRP at 905-830-0303, extension 6717.

Aurora's Air Cadets meet every Tuesday night at Cardinal Carter School from 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., and offer a program for 12 years and older boys and girls.

Queen's York Rangers Army cadet corps has openings for boys and girls aged 12 to 18. The group parades every Friday night between 7 and 9 p.m. There is no membership fee and those in high school can earn community service hours through the program. For further information, call 905-726-8600.

Aurora Opera Children's Chorus welcomes treble voices. It is a choir dedicated to nurturing and providing opportunities for children to express their musical abilities. The chorus is open to boys and girls ages 5-17. Contact the general director at keepsinging@rogers.com

Community Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) is looking for volunteers to assist with the activities in its Adult Day Program. The positions call for a commitment of a few hours a week at its Aurora location. Various times are available. Call Christine at 905-713-3494.

Every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age three to Grade 4 and the Junior High Club for boys and girls,

Grades 5 to 8, will be held at the Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. For more information call 905-841-8884.

A drop-in centre will operate every Wednesday at the Community Bible Church on Bathurst Street just south of Henderson from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information e-mail Judy Hoffmann at jhoffmann@sympatico.ca.

Scottish Country Dancing on Tuesday evenings at 8.15 p.m. at the Aurora Heights Public School and Friday mornings at St. Andrews' Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome. For more information, call Helen at 905-713-3439 or Agnes at 905-841-2747.

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members are welcome. For further information call 905-713-9356.

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

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

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

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

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night at the Aurora Legion at 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

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



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Four people were taken to hospital Saturday morning after a blue car, apparently heading west on Wellington Street, failed to stop for a red light at Bathurst Street. None of those hospitalized had serious injuries. The two cars, seen here, swerved to miss the blue car and hit each other. The white Chev Cavalier against the pole was demolished and totaled, the red Honda Civic in the ditch was not badly damaged.

Photo by Alan Hayes

# Petch House may move to entrance of Arboretum

Councillors will consider a recommendation from staff this week to go ahead with a proposed first phase to "rehabilitate" the Petch House and relocate it to the rear of the Aurora Seniors' Centre at the entrance of the Aurora Arboretum.

The recommendation comes after years of debate on what to do with the now-dilapidated building sitting on rollers on Leslie Street, just south of Wellington.

In the recommendation, councillors are asked to approve the first phase of the project which has an estimated total project cost of \$146,280.

More than \$95,000 has already been budgeted for the project, while Whitwell Developments had pledged \$50,000 for the building's

restoration and relocation.

"Given the timeframe within which to prepare this proposal and the current state of the building, staff was of the opinion that a restoration proposal based on expedience in saving the structure and moving the building component of the project ahead was most important," said Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation, in a report.

"For this reason the project has been separated into two distinct phases - phase one dealing strictly with the building renovation, and a future phase two, that will deal with specific uses and the associated needs of the building in order to facilitate these uses."

According to Mr. Downey's report, there are "no formal recommenda-

tions or allocation of finances" to the end use of the building, but if the recommendations are approved by council, phase two will be initiated to allow "ample opportunity" for potential future users to express their comments and needs. Once this process is completed, council will receive a further report on potential uses and additional costs.

Staff members propose the dismantlement of the building, allowing the original building materials to be sanitized, restored and rebuilt at the entrance of the Aurora Arboretum on the west side of John West Way, just behind the Seniors' Centre.

This site, he said, would provide good visibility in a setting suitable for the character of the building. Relocating the restored building to the site will provide an "excellent opportunity to showcase the building in a heritage theme naturalized landscape overlooking the water feature just north of the site."

While staff members concede that space is "limited" on the site, possible uses for the building include meeting spaces for community groups, space for Town summer programs, a meeting and storage space for the Arboretum, and a meeting space for the Aurora Horticultural Society.

Other sites considered in the process include two sites at opposite ends of Town Park, and in the

future wildlife park near Hartwell Way.

The latter option is the preferred location of Friends of the Petch House, a group formed to find a viable use and plan for the building.

"Friends" Katherine Belrose and Susan Morton Leonard were expected to make a presentation on the findings of Friends of The Petch House at last night's general committee meeting.

Having the Petch House relocated to the new urban wildlife park could provide for a visitors' centre with "seasonal orientation services", say the Friends in their proposal.

"Its programs would help visitors get the most of their visit to the Park as well as promoting an understanding of early settler history in Aurora," they said.

"Seasonal exhibits would be offered that focus on the natural, cultural, and early built heritage of Aurora and beyond. Seasonal events and programs would aim to inspire participants to achieve higher standards of sustainable community living."

With an aim of keeping their restoration strategy "simple and affordable", they project an income in the first year of \$70,000 through a "mix of fundraising, event proceeds, and gifts-in-kind."

Through these efforts, as well as grant-writing efforts, they anticipate raising approximately \$150,000 over three years.

# Students paint picnic tables

The artistic efforts of 67 students across Aurora were honoured at last week's council meeting as student teams received certificates of appreciation from Mayor Geoffrey Dawe for participating in the inaugural Art in the Park program.

Through Art in the Park, Aurora students were able to design and decorate picnic tables, which are now on display in Town Park.

Teams completed a total of 12 tables.

Students from Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School accounted for half the tables - "4 Seasons of Aurora", "Benchwarmer", "Animals", "Totem Pole", "Clouds and Scenes", and "Canada's Birthday Town".

Students from Aurora High School provided three tables - "Flowercusc Maximus", "Mermaids", and "Shinee World".

The remaining three

tables came from the Maple Key Rangers ("The Sit-Upon"), St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School ("Under the Sea"), and Ecole S.C. Renaissance ("Events in Town Park").

"Our vision was clear: engage a range of students in an artistic way, providing benefit to the artists and our neighbourhood by painting picnic tables," said Chris Catania, the Town's Youth Coordinator. "The support of 67 participating students was overwhelming."

"Each group of students carefully mapped out each masterpiece before getting paintbrushes wet. Once a suitable theme and design was etched, students used acrylics on two seated benches and three table tops. The Parks Department provided the final necessary outdoor sealant to the wood and assembled each table as you see today."

# Magna prepares for next hoedown

Magna International Inc. last week announced the launch of their annual "Wild Wild West" Hoedown.

The 2011 Hoedown will take place on Saturday, September 10 on the Magna campus in Aurora under the largest tent in the country.

The event will run from 5 p.m. to midnight - rain or shine - and features a Texas-style BBQ dinner, cash bar and Prospector's Raffle.

"Magna is proud to once again host the Hoedown," said Steve Hinder, Manager, Magna for Community. "Through the Hoedown, the Stronach family has created a popular tradition of community giving and country fun - one that Magna is pleased to be able to continue to support thanks in large part to the generosity of local residents and businesses. Best of all, the Hoedown will once again be able to help a large number of charities in our community."

The Hoedown started

out as a backyard BBQ fundraiser at the Stronach family farm and has become York Region's largest annual community fundraiser, generating proceeds of more than \$4 million for local community groups during its 23-year history.

The annual event typically attracts more than 350 volunteers and raises money for a wide range of different community groups each year.

Funds raised from this year's Hoedown will go to a number of local charities, youth-oriented sports clubs and community organizations assisting families.

Magna is now accepting applications from local charities that wish to become recipients of this year's Hoedown proceeds.

Application forms are available at [www.hoedown.ca](http://www.hoedown.ca).

For further information, contact Steve Hinder at 905-726-3737, 905-751-9328 or by e-mail: [steve.hinder@magna.com](mailto:steve.hinder@magna.com).



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## Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

# Here’s the reason Aurora’s street festival is in June

At last it can be told, because someone had asked the question.

Why is the Aurora street festival (once it was called a street sale) always held the first Sunday in June?

You can thank the late Bill Stephens.

Bill (you didn’t want to be a politician when Bill was alive) told me more than 16 years ago that “it never rains on his birthday”, which was June 2nd.

Sixteen years ago, June 2nd was a Sunday, so I thought with all my heart that the sale should be the first Sunday in June.

Granted I was only planning to hold the street sale for a single year.

And, as far as I was concerned, my political career would end when I finished with the Board of Education. But that’s another story.

Let’s finish the one I started.

I was part of a committee at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce when I got the brilliant idea that a street sale in Aurora could be the town’s contribution to Yonge Street’s 200th birthday,

And because Yonge Street is the longest street in the world (if you don’t believe me look it up, it’s in the Guinness Book of Records) I came up with the catchy phrase “the World’s Longest Street Sale on the World’s Longest Street”.

It didn’t seem to matter at the time whether that was true or not, the phrase had a nice ring to it.

And anyhow, if it was only for one year, who’d really care?

But the Sale turned out to be a success and the Chamber has been running it annually ever since.

This year, I thought, was just about the best.

Crowds were up, probably neighbouring on the 50,000 mark, which means that if the crowd estimates are right, more than a million people have visited Yonge Street since the event started back when the street celebrated its 200th birthday.

My wife, Patricia, said to me as we strolled down Yonge Street last week: “Look at the monster you have created”.

Because there certainly weren’t 40,000 people at the first one, which, by the way, was even longer than it is today.

It stretched from Murray Drive in the south, and ended at Aurora Heights Drive in the north.

But that made the Region of York mad, and, I have since learned, it’s not a good idea to cause that body to be upset.

We had the nerve to close Wellington Street (a regional road), and that was what made them mad.

“Do it again, if you want to, but Wellington Street stays open,” the Region told us.

So that’s why the Festival ends at Wellington and not Aurora Heights.

And now you want to know why it’s a Festival and not a Sale?

Again, it’s political.

When Mary Lynn Stephenson - she had more ideas for the street sale than the whole committee combined - thought it would be a good idea to have some entertainment on the street, we started to look at what grants might be available.

There were plenty, but if we wanted to apply for them, we had to get rid of the word “sale” from the title.

And that’s why, today, you’re visiting a “festival”, even though the vendors there are trying to sell you something.

One assumes the Chamber is still getting grants for their efforts...

### OOPS

Did it again last week.

In rewriting the story about the Aurora Probus club’s guest speaker, I called Vicki Cousins Vicki Collins.

I tried to find someone else to blame the mistake on, but such a person doesn’t exist.

I’m particularly sorry because I know Vicki Cousins, and have no excuse for getting her last name wrong.



On Page 4 of The Auroran March 15 this year, we showed you a shot of this building taken from its south side. True enough, this was Aurora’s first high school which was rebuilt in 1923 and today is what remains of Wells Street Public School, which the school board has decided it doesn’t want anymore. At the time this head-on picture was taken, it was known as the Aurora and District High School. It stopped being a high school in the early 50s when Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School was built and it became Wells Street Public School.

### Letters to the Editor

# Foxes won’t kill anything larger than rabbit, she says

To the editor,

This is in response to Diane Vanherk’s June 7th letter ‘Don’t feed the fox, writer begs residents’.

After a few fox sightings in our area, I did some research to clear up mis-conceptions.

Foxes are not known to kill any animal larger than a rabbit.

They are omnivores and eat insects, worms, squirrels, birds, eggs, fruit, honey and other small animals.

Foxes do not hunt dogs or adult cats for food.

You can find an interesting video on the internet of a wild fox actually playing with a cat in someone’s backyard.

With respect to the writer’s fears about her

small dog, unless it is smaller than a rabbit it probably will not be harmed by a fox.

However, if it is that tiny, this dog could be a meal for a hawk, a coyote or be seriously hurt by chasing wildlife such as a raccoon or sprayed by a skunk.

It is unsafe to leave a small dog in a backyard unattended unless you build a proper dog run with a shelter using chain link.

Better yet, let your dog stay inside and walk it regularly as the Dog Whisperer suggests.

We have not had a reported case of rabies in southern Ontario for about eight years since the Ministry of Natural Resources started their vaccinated bait program aimed at foxes, raccoons

and skunks.

Never feed a fox by hand as other humans will probably kill the fox if it approaches them in search of handouts.

Interestingly, in Britain, one in ten households feed foxes in areas where

foxes are found.

For more information on foxes, check out the National Fox Welfare Society at [www.nfws.org.uk](http://www.nfws.org.uk).

**Shelley Wister-Smith  
Aurora**

### THE AURORAN

#### “Aurora’s Community Newspaper”

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Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published, and be limited to 600 words. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.

#### Advertising policy

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

To the editor,

About the class photo which appeared in The Auroran the week of June 7th ...

I can guess at a few names, but the one I feel almost sure of is the fellow standing at the extreme right of the front row.

He is Willie Stuart.

I am only almost sure because I did not meet him until 21 years later, by which time he had grown up and become "Bill," or, to me, "Daddy".

**Jacqueline Stuart  
Aurora**



## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

## Adult supervision required

I have written on some very diverse issues over the past five years, topics as varied as taxes, Bill C-17, buying my wife Christmas presents and the proximity of my mother-in-law to our house (answer is too close), but these pale in comparison to the following question: How many adults are required to supervise children's activities?

As you can imagine, the answer depends on the interplay between a number of factors.

First, consideration must be given to the proximity of the event to one's home.

The closer one is to one's home, the more assistance that is required.

Going to the Town Park or Machell Park usually requires both my wife and I to keep an eye on our son Ryan, whereas one parent seems to manage one child at Canada's Wonderland.

Second, the more expensive the outing, the less supervision required.

The reason being that the more money you have spent, the children are more likely to be enjoying themselves and otherwise occupied.

Third, it depends on the age of the children.

The older children are more mobile and can therefore get into more mischief.

Fourth, it depends whether the children are your own.

If little Johnny is misbehaving, just leave him at the Town Park or the ACC hockey arena and tell his parents that the boy ran away to join the circus.

Fifth, the time of day.

I find that the best time of day to take children anywhere is just before bedtime or when they are very hungry.

Children especially like to be taken to museums and operas - anywhere where quiet and decorum is required.

Sixth, the importance of the event to the parents, paradoxically enough, seems to bring out the best in kids.

For example, I was afforded the opportunity, on behalf of the Newmarket-Aurora federal Conservative riding association, of laying a wreath at the Aurora local war memorial a couple of Novembers ago.

What made it even more special was that my young son Ryan and my two nephews, Brock and Devan, were with me.

Even though it was raining and cold outside, the boys were troopers.

Although they did not really understand the true significance of the ceremony they were nonetheless on their best behavior because of the solemnity of the event. I was proud of them.

But why do these same children have no such compunction in making life "interesting" in the middle of grocery stores or shopping malls?

A while back I took both my nephews and my son to the grocery store.

After a rather lengthy, loud and highly animated four-way negotiating session that took place in the middle of

aisle number 16, all three children came home with their own large box of cereal (although there may have been eight or so boxes already at home), a magazine of their choice and either ice cream or a chocolate bar.

Me? I came home with a lighter wallet and a migraine headache.

I have developed a theorem in an attempt to explain this question.

Somerville's Equation goes like this: (km's from home + cost of event + total age of children + importance of event to adults (out of 100)) / number of children.

Anything over 450 points and a ratio of only one adult per three children is required.

Let's get back to the posed question - how many adults are required to supervise children's activities?

The answer is an easy one. One woman can, based solely on historical Statistics Canada data, watch over as many as 15 children.

The same statistics reveal that a minimum of two men is required to watch over and ensure the safety of one child.

As with Barry Bonds' home run record, my wife has reminded me that there is an asterisk to the above; if the male adults watching the babies are related in any fashion to the Somervilles, then four males will be required.

Stephen can be contacted at:  
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



## Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

## Line-ups ... and downs

Every now and then, either my colleague Stephen Somerville or myself will go off on a minor rant about some dubious level of customer service we've experienced here in town.

But sometimes, the shoe is on the other foot, and it's the customers who are the source of the problem.

And nowhere is that more obvious than when we're in line for something.

It doesn't matter how organized we are, a big chunk of our lives will be spent waiting in line at the bank, the supermarket, the bus stop, the hardware store, the coffee shop, the library ....

It's inevitable.

If you're like most people, and have any sort of life, you don't really want to be standing around like this, at least, not for any length of time.

The problem is that some people have no sense of line-up etiquette, especially when it comes to the most important rule; "thou shalt not hold up everyone else unnecessarily".

There's nothing more frustrating than being stuck behind someone who's been in line for 20 minutes, and then when they get to the front, it's like they finally realized where they are.

You know the type; they'll be in a place called "Donut World", surrounded by display racks of every imaginable type of donut, and when they get to the counter, they'll look around with a bewildered expression and inquire "do you have any

donuts, and if so, what type?"

Meanwhile, the 17 people behind them in line, all suffering increasing levels of caffeine withdrawal, are recording the exchange on their smart phones in the desperate hope that their boss will accept this as a valid excuse as to why they're late for work.

You'd think that having an express line would help in these situations, but sometimes not.

More than once I've been trapped behind the person at the checkout who remembers they need just one more thing, and promptly disappear into the bowels of the store, holding up the line, only to re-appear five minutes later empty handed, but with a big smile; "I realized I already had some".

Or even when they do have everything they wish to purchase there's the issue of payment.

It's amazing how many people go to cash out, and only at that time, discover to their surprise that this involves some sort of monetary transaction.

This starts the rummaging around for cash, or credit cards, or worst of all, coupons, the latter of which they still gamely try to push even though it is for a completely different product, and expired two years ago.

I had one particularly excruciating experience at the grocery store where the lady in front of me, for an \$11 purchase, fished almost \$10 in coinage - individual coins, one by one, and only one of them as big as a loonie - out of her purse, and

then when she couldn't find any more change, put the remaining dollar on her debit card, which was in itself another exercise in purse excavation to find.

If I hadn't been so mesmerized by the process, and seen the wad of paper money she clearly had in her wallet, I would have paid for her purchase myself.

Line-up etiquette is not limited to store purchases.

At last year's municipal election, the man in front of me, when asked for identification, pointed in a random direction and said, "but I just live over there".

He could have meant Orchard Heights Blvd, Outer Mongolia, or perhaps somewhere in between. Presumably he was certain that someone on a bearing of 273 degrees could be found to vouch for him.

Needless to say, it took a few moments to sort that out.

So, for the sake of the rest of your fellow Aurorans who may not have as much spare time as you, please try to keep things moving while you're in line.

On the plus side, I have had at least one positive experience while waiting in line recently.

If the lady ahead of me at the garden centre this past weekend hadn't held things up as long as she did, I wouldn't have had enough time to mentally write this column.

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

Letters to the Editor

Decison needs to be reversed

To the editor,

C'mon Aurorans...let your anger be heard.

Over the past couple of weeks, since my letter to the editor was published in the May 10th edition of The Auroran, I've talked to many residents of Aurora, and every one I've talked to is livid, and some are really angry about the decision of OMB to allow Mr. Lebovic to build on the threatened and fragile Oak Ridges Moraine, where there is neither sewers nor water services, in direct contradiction to the decision made by the town council in 2008.

Imagine...a citizen immediately adjacent to the site, owning more than 100 acres, is not allowed to build ONE new home on her property, but OMB is allowing a well-connected builder to build 75 row houses on a foot-print of 12.5 acres.

Incredible and staggeringly short-sighted.

And right on the fragile and protected (from everyone but Mr. Lebovic) Oak Ridges Moraine. Where is the common sense?

It's no wonder that tax-paying citizens are angry and exasperated.

However it does absolutely no good whatsoever if that anger is simply kept inside and no one knows about it.

In order to reverse this senseless and extremely unwise decision by OMB, everyone needs to direct his or her anger to those who can do something about it.

The most obvious, of course, is Premier McGuinty.

No matter that he and his cabinet ministers continue to insist that OMB "operates at arm's length from the government" (in effect, reports to NO ONE), this is absolute nonsense.

Everybody reports to someone up the line to the eventual overseers, the voters.

OMB reports to Mr. McGuinty or his designated minister.

His government supplies the funds that the OMB needs for its operations, and his government cannot, and must not abdicate that responsibility by not ensuring that OMB spends those taxpayer funds wisely and cost effectively.

For the OMB, with its vast resources, to have spent more than four years, and three costly hearings, the last taking more than six weeks in October, November, 2010, and January 2011, and then to come up with the adverse decision that it did, in my mind requires careful assessment by a higher authority.

If you, too, believe this, then please make your views known to The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, Legislative Building, Queen's Park,

Toronto, ON, M7A 1A1.

As far as I've been able to determine, Mr. Lebovic's group has not yet completed its Environmental Assessment (EA) and has not been issued a PTTW (permit to take water), without which, of course, the project CANNOT proceed -- even though the OMB has approved the proposal, subject to the finalization of these EA matters and the approval is stated to be FINAL on July 14, 2011.

A moot point is...what happens if, even by that date, EA matters remain unfinished and no PTTW has been issued?

Another outstanding issue is the directive from

the OMB to the parties, including our town council to "advise within three (3) months of the date of this decision (April 14, 2011) whether the wording of the planning instruments (the rewriting of the bylaws) is agreed upon, including the numerous conditions, as set in the various exhibits referred to above. Thereafter, my final order will issue."

Again, what happens to this "final order" if town council has not agreed on the final wording?

Since the issuance of a PTTW is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment, I would suggest you write to The

Honourable John Wilkinson, Minister of the Environment, 77 Wellesley St. West, 11th Floor, Ferguson Block, Toronto, M7A 2T5, and outline to him the reasons why his ministry should not, ever, issue a PTTW for this project.

Others to whom you might consider writing could be Frank Klees, MPP for this area, at 14845 Yonge St. Aurora, L4G 6H8, and leader of the Provincial NDP, Ms. Andrea Horwath, 101 Richmond St. West, Toronto, M5C 1N9.

How about Dr. David Suzuki, David Suzuki Foundation, 219 - 2211 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6K 4S2, or say, Christie Blatchford at the Globe and Mail, and so on.

Remember that you can use my letter to the editor of May 10 or any parts of it as you wish, or any parts of subsequent letters to the editor that I have written.

Remember that to keep your anger suppressed will do no one any good.

Please use your position as an outraged taxpaying citizen to make your views known.

Let us try to reverse this senseless decision which will have such long-term negative implications for our town.

Ron Lanthier  
Aurora

Chamber director states street festival a success

To the editor,

The 16th Annual Street Festival was a huge success. Thank you.

The Annual Aurora Chamber Street Festival held Sunday, June 5, 2011, was definitely a success. The weather was perfect, bringing out more people than ever before, according to Ron Wallace of The Auroran who was one of the Festival founders 16 years ago.

This year was amazing -- but without our sponsors, volunteers, dedicated staff and others we could never put on this community event.

A very special thank you to the Town of Aurora for supporting the Aurora Street Festival by providing us access to their many resources for blocking off the streets, delivering garbage cans and recycling bins, emptying these containers and cleaning the street after everyone else had gone home.

We have recognized the Town as a Friend of the Festival and sincerely appreciate their support.

Other sponsors included: Rent Source Tools Etc. Mini Bins, CIBC, Sunrise Senior Living Aurora, GoodLife Fitness, WestJet and IceCream 4U.

Your support enabled us to provide first class entertainment

to the community.

Thank you very much for your generosity.

Also thank you to a number of business owners such as Park Place Manor and Casa Luna who provided electricity to vendors when their equipment failed.

Block Captains and their assistants were on Yonge Street early in the morning to mark the booth space on the street and welcome vendors.

Some have been volunteering for years.

Tilemaster and Attridge Custom Mouldings were very supportive by delivering and picking up their huge trucks that we used as elevated stages. Thank you.

We could not hold the Festival without the vendors - they were quite amazing.

And...we could not do it without you, the residents of Aurora who come out in droves and promote the Festival to family and friends from many other communities.

Thank you everyone for your support.

Mark your calendar for next year's Aurora Chamber Street Festival - Sunday, June 3, 2012.

Judy Marshall,  
Executive Director  
Aurora Chamber  
of Commerce

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Letters to the Editor

# I must have hit nerve, Holmes says

To the editor,

An open letter to P. Mahon re: her letter to the Auroran, week of June 7th

Dear P. Mahon, aka Mrs. Goody Two-shoes,

Ewwwww.  
Touch a bit of nerve with my last letter, did I?  
First, I'd like to thank you for the new moniker you've labeled me with. I will most certainly file it away with all the other names I have been credited with over the years.  
You know? That filing cabinet right next to my

desk...the one on the floor...the round one...aka "the garbage can".  
You seem to have missed the whole "train of thought" (couldn't resist that one) in my letter.  
You and a very, very small percentage of Aurorans (yes, you are still an Auroran as long as you live here) are whining and moaning about something that has been going on for as long as trains have been "whistling" through Aurora.  
Certainly you can find something more productive to do with your time?  
Instead, you open up a barrage of name calling on

people you've never had the pleasure of meeting. (I can only presume that you may have been suffering from sleep deprivation at the time of writing your letter due to the train whistles?)  
You seemed to have done research on the number of level crossings in Aurora, but NOT your homework on the number of deaths.  
P. Cooke of Aurora remembers four.

I can remember a few more than that.  
If the blast of a train whistle saves just ONE life, it's worth continuing to sound at the level crossings in Aurora, or anywhere else it is necessary.  
In my letter, I stated that I welcome newcomers to Aurora. What is so patronizing about that?  
At one point, my deceased wife was a Welcome Wagon representative for the Town of

Aurora.  
I love this little town, I always have.  
But there are a few things that Aurora can do without.  
One of them is frivolous complaints from people that should just suck it up and live with it.  
Living here is wonderful, and so are the people.  
It's a shame that you have found it necessary to uproot your family by selling your home and moving

elsewhere.  
Hopefully you will find a community that doesn't have the safety of its citizens at the top of a list of priorities and you won't have to endure the dreadfully shrill sound of train whistles anymore.  
As a parting gesture of good faith, I will offer to come help you pack when you do finally move.

Mark Holmes  
Aurora

## Columnist responds to train-whistle letter

To the editor,

Phyllis Mahon's letter of last week regarding the issue of the unnecessary anti-train whistle bylaw illustrates the extent of self-righteousness the issue is steeped in.  
Not by those outlined in her letter, but by a ridiculously small group of residents, of which Mahon seem to be the most vocal.  
I am not convinced that a debate regarding the number of crossing deaths does much to support Mrs. Mahon's argument.  
It is my opinion that the stakes would be much higher without a train whistle and am encouraged by the motion put forth by Councillor Pirri to properly address the subject, and put it to rest.  
The great American poet Robert Frost provided some sound advice when he said "Don't ever take a fence down until you know why it was put up."  
Most of us know why a train has a whistle, and why it is used.  
There is no need for it to

be muted, diminished or replaced.  
From the contributions to The Auroran I have read to date I am confident that, like Mr. Frost and Councillor Pirri, long time resident Mark Holmes uses his head.  
I have my doubts about Mrs. Mahon's ability to do the same and, unlike Mahon, I don't believe this is a matter where we need to gamble with our community's safety in order to satisfy some perceived inconvenience of a small group of residents.  
Mrs. Mahon has declared her intent, twice by my record, to move out of this town and has cemented her reasons for doing so in this issue.  
If we are to believe that Mrs. Mahon's position is not self-righteous I guess we can safely assume she has done the utmost to highlight the train whistle as a significant detractor in her property listing so that prospective owners are fully aware of how truly inhospitable it is.

Christopher Watts  
Aurora

## It's unfortunate she's going to move over train whistling issue

To the editor,

Re. "Woman Says Holmes Is Mr. Self-Righteous", letter from P. Mahon, The Auroran, week of June 07, 2011.

Ms. Mahon, it's unfortunate that you've found the situation in Aurora to be so unbearable that it's brought you to the decision to put your house up for sale, and to move away.  
There are many things I love about this town, but of the very few issues that bother me, none are so severe that they would

make me feel that my only recourse would be to pack up and leave.  
Having said that, I hope you find solace in your new surroundings.  
I would, however, offer a caution.  
If the train whistle, a relatively small issue in a town so full of great things, has led you to take this drastic measure, have you thought how you might react to whatever issue you find intolerable in your next hometown?

Matt Maddocks  
Aurora



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Letters to the Editor

# She enjoyed the street festival

To the editor,

I was one of the more than 40,000 streetwalkers (walkers on Yonge Street) last Sunday.

What a terrific way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

I have spent this 1st Sunday in June doing this and have developed several strategies.

One is that I park approximately half way on the east side of Kennedy.

Another is to walk north acquiring various and sundry items, then turn at Wellington and come south to Kennedy where, if I was

successful in getting my parking spot, I deposit the first round in my van, grab an empty bag and drink some water to prepare me for the rest of my jaunt.

I was successful in acquiring a most suitable parking spot thanks to a York Policewoman who told me that it was okay to park on the street today so myself and my three friends and walking buddies proceeded to merge into the stream of participants.

To my dismay, a lady approached me, ignoring my fellow companions, shoving a brochure for

Reuben-esque Yoga at me. JUST ME.

I was stunned! Now, I know that I have developed a rather rounded appearance over the winter but I found this woman's approach really rude.

My friends thought this was hilarious and tried to mask their laughter, saying that their being ignored was just an error on that rude lady's part.

Yeah, I didn't buy that for a dollar either.

After I calmed down just a touch I regained my sense of humour and fluffed the incident off.

I noticed a lot of dogs accompanying their owners (excuse me, their companions).

I was very tempted to suggest that the humans, holding the leashes, should take their shoes off to see how hot the pavement was.

Just imagine walking on hot sand without your flip flops.

My girls (the Sheepdogs that live with me) have taught me to also think about their feet (paws) on sun-baked roads not just that they might need some water on a hot day.

Speaking of sun baked, if

I had put on the sunscreen that was offered to me, I probably would not have burned my shoulders, etc.

I enjoyed my visits with old and new friends, those hawking their wares and the others representing the various non-profits. Kudos to all.

I have normally worked many shifts at the Street Sale but this year I just enjoyed.

I especially liked that Frank Klees gave out tree seedlings. What a terrific idea, one that I used at my late husband, Doug's celebration of life.

At one point a young man ran after me indicating that I had dropped my pedometer.

For one brief moment I thought that he was representing another weight related organization hoping to capitalize on my significance but he was genuinely being kind.

According to my pedometer I walked more than 7,000 steps, stopping at each booth, buying stuff, visiting old friends and generally having a great time!

**Bonnie Tiffin  
Oak Ridges**

# Resident has lost several items thanks to “yahoos”

To the editor,

What is the beautiful town of Aurora coming to, I wonder?

Last summer we had two Muskoka Chairs joined by a table in the middle stolen right off our front veranda.

This garden furniture was heavy - very heavy as it was all joined together - but somehow, it marched off the veranda and into oblivion in the middle of the

night on a weekend.

Then came the ugly plastic chairs, which again, on a Saturday night a few weeks later were placed on the roofs of automobiles parked on the street in the neighbourhood.

Noisy punks are heard yelling and carrying on up and down the street anytime from two in the morning until five on weekends.

New furniture - chained and locked was not disturbed that we know of.

However, several weeks ago I purchased beautiful red geraniums with yellow flowers mixed in amongst them and placed them out on the veranda in pedestal pots to make the place look friendly and cared for.

First night they were out, one of them disappeared between one in the morning and eight in the morning.

Residents are not allowed to defend their property but these out of

control yahoos can wander around the streets at all hours of the night and come right up onto your front porch and help themselves to whatever it is they want, and for whatever reason, and they get away with it.

Where are their parents? Why are they out vandalizing and stealing in the middle of the night?

People work hard to keep their property maintained and attractive, and this is just so disheartening. Aurora never used to be this kind of town, but it sure is changing fast!

I can't believe that this is what we're paying taxes for.

**Heather A. Stewart  
Aurora**

# Community Living says thanks for R & R dance

To the editor,

**Re: "I Love Rock 'n' Roll Dinner Dance"**

Thank you to organizers of the recent "I Love Rock 'n' Roll Dinner Dance" for organizing a stellar event in support of Community Living Newmarket/Aurora District.

In addition to raising more than \$6,800 that will go towards vital recreational and enrichment programs, the event served to increase awareness about our Association and bring into

clear focus our work in supporting people who have an intellectual disability.

It is an honour to work in a community where its members care about others and support events such as this.

We sincerely appreciate the tremendous dedication, commitment and efforts shown by the event committee, and the many volunteers and sponsors who lent their support.

With the enthusiasm shown, the "I Love Rock 'n' Roll Dinner Dance" is destined to become an annual

tradition in Aurora.

Congratulations to the small but mighty organizing team of Alan and Pat Hayes, Patricia Ashby, Judy Bourgard, Dorothy McDonall, Sandy Searle, and Ron and Patricia Wallace.

They can take great pride in the knowledge that their efforts will go well beyond this one night and this one event.

**Janet Lorimer  
Executive Director  
Community Living  
Newmarket/Aurora District**

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### Aurora bar owner is best defensive player for Rock

**By BRUCE CUTHBERT  
Special to The Auroran**

Recently, the Toronto Rock won the National Lacrosse Leagues Champions Cup at the Air Canada Centre defeating the Washington Stealth in a rematch of the 2010 championship.

The winners were led by a core of veterans, including Aurora's Cam Woods, who was named the league's



CAM WOODS

Best Defensive Player in 2004,

The Rock won 8-7 after holding a 7-2 lead at the half.

For Woods it was his third attempt at the title during his 12-year career.

To the delight and relief of fans and Woods himself Cam secured the ball with fewer than 30 seconds remaining in the game and maintained possession, running down the clock to preserve the victory. "It was the most exhausted I had ever been, I barely had the strength to stay standing," he said. Cam, who had the dubious title of being one of the longest active players without a title, had an opportunity at the open net decided to hold on to the ball instead because he "didn't want to make a mistake and blow it".

Cam was the first player to receive and carry the championship trophy.

Prior to this year's championship game Woods, 35, had thought "How many years do I have left and how many more cracks at a title am I going to have?"

Woods played most of the year with a recurring shoulder injury.

He would like to return to the Rock next year and Toronto wants him back but he will wait to see how the shoulder heals before making a final commitment.

In the future Cam would like to pursue a coaching or management position at the professional level.

Cam grew up in Scarborough, moved to Aurora in 2002, was originally drafted in the first round in the 1999 entry draft, played for and captained Albany, San Jose and Chicago before coming to Toronto in a trade during the

summer of 2007.

He has four children and met his wife Tricha Rasmussen, who grew up in Aurora, in 1999.

Lacrosse players are not compensated as handsomely as other major league sports players and with few exceptions hold other jobs and travel to their games on weekends sometimes living thousands of miles away from the team they play for.

With the constant travel this can take away from time spent with family. As such Cam requested his trade to the Toronto Rock to be closer to Aurora.

Cam played his junior lacrosse for the Scarborough Saints, now the Newmarket Saints.

His seven-year-old son Marchcel plays for the Newmarket Redbirds.

Cam helps out with the coaching. He also played Tier Two Junior hockey for Pickering as a teenager and won the Mann Cup lacrosse's Canadian equivalent of the Stanley Cup before joining the NLL.

Cam opened Crabby Joe's in Aurora two and a half years ago where he can be found most days and nights.

He is contemplating a Toronto Rock team function at the family restaurant to celebrate the victory. Crabby

Joe's patio party officially gets the patio season underway June 18th and will feature live music, Molson samples, the Molson Girls, food samples prizes and giveaways and, of course, an opportunity to meet Cam.

Sixty-one Duck swimmers headed south last weekend to attend the Star Swimming Kickoff Invitational and were presented the second place Team Plaque for their efforts.

More than 600 swimmers from 16 clubs attended the three-day event at the Erie College Pool in Buffalo.

Results follow:

10 and younger girls: Grace Harris 3rd 200 IM.

10 and younger boys: Soorna Choheili 1st 50 free, 50, 100 and 200 fly. Maxwell Jones 2nd 50 free 3rd 100 free.

11-12 Girls: Kirsten Douglas 3rd 50 fly.

Women: Kimberly Phan 1st 50 free, 3rd 100-200 free and 100 back. Victoria Wicks 1st 100 breast 2nd 200 breast. Summer Mortimer 1st 200 back 2nd 100 back.

Men: Evan Friend 2nd 100 breast 3rd 200 IM.

Relay Results: Girls 10 & U 2nd 400 Medley Relay McKay, Lansing, Ho, Rapp. 3rd 400 Free Relay Ho,

Cam loves Aurora and is very appreciative of living in town.

"I honestly love Aurora, the more I travel and visit other cities the more I love the small town feel with everything I need," he said.

Lansing, Rapp, McKay Girls 11-12 2nd 400 Medley Relay Holmes, Harris, Bridges, Douglas, Boys 11-12 3rd 400 Medley Relay Clarke, Jones, Spiers, Cinq-Mars; 2nd 400 Free Relay Cinq-Mars, Clarke, Jones, Choheili.

Women 1st 200 Free Relay Mortimer, Savage, Phan, Kaczor; 1st 400 Medley Relay Kaczor, Wicks, Phan, Savage; 2nd 400 Medley Relay Roberts, Anderson, Beach, Pispidikis; 3rd 400 Medley Relay Ackermann, Clark, Cinq-Mars, Shum; 1st 200 Medley Relay Mortimer, Wicks, Phan, Savage; 3rd 200 Medley Relay Kaczor, Anderson, Beach, Clark; 1st 400 Free Relay Clark, Beach, Phan, Savage; 3rd 400 Free Relay Shum, Pispidikis, Wicks, Kaczor.

Men: 1st 400 Medley Relay Lane, Friend, Stubbs, Baldesarra; 2nd 4 0 0 Medley Relay Pispidikis, Wang, Hernandez, Murray; 3rd 400 Free Relay Lane, Friend, Stubbs, Recine.



## Soccer Results



**HOUSE RESULTS**

**Week of May 31st Boys Results - U8/9B Wed - Pizza Pizza/Orange 3 ( D Tykei 1, M Eveleigh 1, J Tarrant 1) vs Subway/Sky 1 ( S Ricci 1 ); State Farm/White 8 (MValenti 3, G Rappos J 1, J Murphy 1, K Cronin 1, N Fisher 1, J Smith 1) vs Pitaland/Red 4 ( N Zambri 3, V Simone 1).**

**U9/10B M/W - Soccer Nation/White 2 (Corey Read) vs. Michelberger Orthodontics/Sky 1(Carter Beacom 1); Canadian Springs/Lime 3 (N.Phillips**

**LEAGUE**

1, G Gonsalves 1, J Gonsalves 1) vs. **Laurian Law/Navy 2** (K. Gibbons 1, R Vetere 1); **Scotiabank/Red 3** (L. Pignatielli 1, J Viney 1, N Dempsey 1) vs. **Pizza Pizza/Orange 1** (S Morrison 1); **Mirconix/Gold 5** (Anthony 2, Peter 2, Sebastion 1) vs. **Trevor Cochran 1** (Nathon 1).

**U11B M/W - Norwich/Royal 2** (N Keller 1, B Vaughan 1) vs **Dr.Weaver/Red - 5** (C Chiarenza 1, C Gorrell 2, B Shennan 1, T Morra 1); **Soccer Nation/Navy - 7** (W

Whethem 3, C Tyndall 2, T Boisseau 1, I Caruano 1) vs **Pizza Pizza/Orange - 7** (P Charleson 2, B Fleishchaker 2, A Issaris 1, E Adams 2); **Priestly Demoltion/White 8** vs **Canadian Springs Sky 3**. **U13 B T/Thurs - Core Micro/Emerald 3** (M Tyndall 1, D Vucko 2) vs, **Salzburg/Navy 0; Jewellery International 6** ( J Sanga 3, L Gorrell 1, J Eydt, G Adams 1) VS. **Wilson-Baliff Bandits 0; Fairplay/Royal - 2** (S Broad 2) vs **Pitaland/Red -5** (J Attomari 2, R Falzone 3). **U14/15B M/W - Upper Canada Mall/Maroon - 4** (B

Clark 1, B Bilotta 1, B Scully 2) vs. **Dr Steiner's Drillers - 9** (J Berman 2, L Martineau 1, C Salcedo 1, N O'Hearn 2, L Pozzebn 1, N Steiner 2); **Upper Canada Mall/Royal 2** (V Chadorov 1, J Cardwell 1) vs **Upper Canada Mall/Red - 0; Upper Canada Mall/Emerald 2** (J Peng 1, M Al-Kas 1) vs **Upper Canada Mall/Lime 2** (G Robinson 1, A Nogueira 1).

**Week of May 31st Girls Results**

**U10G T/TH - East Side Mario's/Lime 2 vs. Omar's Shoes/Gold 0.**

**U11 G T/TH - Pitaland/Scarlet 1** (Maiya Bertola) vs. **Guaranteed Roofing/Emerald 1** (Emma Bellerby); **Royal 4** (Carly Blaser 2, Tara Britton, Megan Malapitan) vs. **Subway/Sky 2** (Robyn Wood, Valerie Lima); **Gold 5** (Serena Davison, Rachel Cluney, Sabrina Sutton, Jasmine Peterson, Cassidy Kenwell) vs. **Soccer Nation/Navy 3** (Lauren Howell, Jillian Sproul, Emma McGregor)

**U11/12 G M/W - Michelberger Ortho/Sky 6 vs. Soccer Nation/White 0; Pitaland/Scarlet 2 vs.**

**Copanhagan/Purple 1.**

**U13 G T/TH - Golder Associates/Emerald 3** (Brooke Howell 2, Carmen Whelan) vs. **Reflection Pools/Royal 3** (Samantha Steeles, Danika Bertrand, Kerstin Palmer); **Pitaland/Scarlet 5** (Madison Shortt 2, Brianna Gibbons 2, Shayne Boisseau) vs. **Stirling Cook/White 2** (Gabriella Roel-D'Angelo, Kianna Dimatulac); **Summers and Smith/Sky 3** (Fiona Stewart 2, Natalie Maugeri) vs. **Canadian Vascular Labs/Navy 2** (Madeleine Keller, Annika Lawrie)

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## Aurora High wins frisbee title again

The Aurora High School Eagles Ultimate Frisbee Team earned their place in the record books last week by winning back-to-back regional championships.

The Eagles capped off their successful season by earning the gold medal at the York Region Athletic

Association Ultimate Championships held at Fletcher's Fields, Markham, on Wednesday June 1st.

The team, captained by Jaret Meron and Jaime Anderson, was undefeated during a day of fierce competition among the 32 par-

ticipating teams, which culminated in a nail biting final against their York Region rival, Denison, from Newmarket.

The Eagles have won the Regional Championships five times, including 2010, and this unprecedented back to

back victory is one for the record books and clearly shows the depth of the school's Ultimate program.

Under the coaching of teachers Michele Notaro, and Patti Anglin, the Aurora Eagles Ultimate Frisbee team has been a dominant force in Ontario for the past decade, winning the York Regionals five times in the 11 years that the championship has been held, and were OFSSA Champions in 2007.

Several graduates of the schools program have gone on to become dominant players at the university and National level, and four of the schools players have represented Canada at the World Ultimate Championships.

Those players include Jordan Meron, Cam Harris, Thomas Black and Adrianna Rowe.

## Ducks finish third

Sixty-four Duck swimmers headed down the QEW to McMaster University's Ivor Winn Centre to capture third place in the team standings at the Jack McCormack Invitational recently.

They finished behind host club Hamilton and the Barrie Trojans.

The results are as follows:

**Age 10 and under Boys** - Soorna Chohelli, first in the 50 free and 100 fly, second in the 50 fly.

Laird Douglas first in the 50 and 100 back, 50 and 100 breast, and second in the 200 back and 200 breast.

**Age 10 and under Girls** - Erin Lansing, first in the 50 breast. Audrey Ho, third in the 200 breast.

**Age 11 Boys** - Hayden Spiers, first in the 1500 free, and second in the 50, 100 and 200 fly.

**Age 11 Girls** - Grace Harris, first in the 50 breast. Isabella Hernandez, third in the 50 breast.

**Age 12 Girls** - Samantha Kaczor first in the 50 and 100 free, 50 and 100 back and 50 fly; second in the 1500 free and 200 IM.

**Age 13 Boys** - Ted Pispidikis, first in the 100 free, 200 and 400 IM; second in the 100 breast; and third in the 50 free, 50 breast and 50 fly. Nicholas Clarke, second in the 100 fly.

**Age 13 Girls** - Erika Savage, first in the 50 free and 200 IM; second in the 800 free and 200 breast; and third in the 50 fly. Lise Cinq Mars, first in the 50 back.

**Age 14 Girls** - Kimberly Phan, first in the 100, 200 and 800 free, 50 and 100 back, 50 and 100 fly, and second in the 200 IM. Victoria Wicks, first in the

50, 100 and 200 breast; and third in the 400 free.

**15 and older Men** - Paul Wong, first in the 50 fly; second in the 50 free; and third in the 100 free, 50 and 100 breast. Evan Friend, second in the 100 and 200 breast; and third in the 1500 free, 200 IM. Eric Lane, third in the 50 and 100 back.

**15 and older Women** - Elizabeth Clark, second in the 100 back; and third in the 100 fly, 200 IM.

## Father's Day FREE Bowling

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## Cat show this weekend at Aurora Comm. Centre

Cool cats will strut their stuff at the Aurora Community Centre this weekend.

They're Canada's top cats and their goal is to compete for points to eventually become Canadian National winners.

It is the ultimate Feline Beauty Contest and its participants come from across Canada to display their good looks, good behavior and good breeding.

York Region is fortunate to have a number of exceptional show cats, said Gail Sellers a show coordinator with Club Meow Wow.

"We are blessed with some of the top breeders in the country and they will be bringing their finest offsprings to the show to compete with the top-rated cats from across Canada," she said. "With more than 100 beautiful felines on display, the show will be a feast for cat lovers."

If ownership of a fine feline breed is on your to-do-list, the show offers an

opportunity to compare breeds, meet the breeders, check prices and pedigrees and to make informed choices.

During the show spectators will have be able to chat with vendors and visit the special events ring which features demonstrations on grooming and meet the breeder.

Kittens between four and eight months will compete for national wins.

Cats, aged over eight months, compete for championship and national awards.

There are separate categories for 'whole cats' and for those neutered or spayed.

No declawed cats are permitted in the show.

The Great Canadian Cat Show will be held this Saturday, June 18th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre.

It'll cost adults \$6 to get in, while children under 16 and seniors will pay \$4.

For more information visit the web site at [www.meow-wow.ca](http://www.meow-wow.ca)

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# Treasurer and others fail to return to meeting

**From page 1**  
services is termed as water loss and is put onto the homeowners' water bills, but although the water is used for public services the costs are not shared equally by the Town.  
This was illustrated by Councillor Paul Pirri who lives in a subdivision where the bulk of residences are on well water.  
He argued that transferring the rates for the water in question off individual bills to the tax rate would have minimal impact on taxpayers.  
In his response to councillors' comments, Mr. Elliott said that transferring 12 per cent water loss off the bill would lead to a reconsideration of tax rates and an increase of approximately 3.4 per cent "to the tax-

payer at large."  
"Theoretically there would be no impact [on most taxpayers] because your water bill would go down and your tax bill would go up," said Mr. Elliott, noting that those who are on well water and are not serviced would see the most impact. "They don't get a water bill and...their tax bill would go up by 3.4 per cent. It is semantics and I humbly would suggest that we wait for a report from Mr. Simanovskis and get the facts and figures on the table in a comprehensive manner...and deal with it in time for the 2012 budget."  
"The 12 per cent represents approximately \$970,000 in the water budget. Transferring [would result in] approximately

3.4 per cent additional tax increase so they would have some notice requirements and bylaw changes."  
"I expect it to only be a few pennies," he said. "It is a transfer of 10 per cent of that share to all residents in Town, so I don't expect that to be much when there are only 200 people who are currently on well water."  
Councillor Buck said Mr. Elliott's comments illustrated why these kinds of debates are "useful".  
"Councillor Pirri said it would only be pennies on the tax bill; our treasurer says almost a million dollars would have to be transferred to the tax bill from the water revenues," she said. "That means we're paying in our water rates...almost \$1 million we're being overcharged for the water we use."

This water legitimately belongs in municipal department budgets that would be spread across the whole town in the interests of "equity in taxation," she said.  
To illustrate her point, Councillor Buck compared the Town's water situation with monopolies held by private sector companies, particularly the former monopoly held by Bell Canada.

"[Bell] had to go to the CRTC and ask for increases in their rates because they had a monopoly and they had to justify it," she said, just before the discussion went off the rails. "If they couldn't justify it, they couldn't get it. We're not justifying the water rates that we are charging people; we are charging water rates that include all this water that is used by Town departments that should be on the tax rate."  
"It is not equal, there is no equity, and it is not honest. If any private enterprise were doing it, it would be fraud. I don't apologize for saying that, Mr. Elliott. It is not semantics, it is a serious issue. It has been a serious issue for me for years, long before you came here."  
After Councillor Buck's arguments, Councillor Sandra Humfries said that it is "more

evident than ever" that a full report would be needed on the issue before going forward with this.  
Then Mr. Elliott interrupted proceedings.  
"I feel that I have been impugned in my reputation for providing council advice which is fraudulent in nature and I have lost the ability to concentrate for the balance of this meeting," he said. "I will be excusing myself from the meeting."  
In response to this, Aurora's CAO Neil Garbe said he was "deeply disappointed" by Councillor Buck's comments "inferring that fraudulent activity has occurred" and encouraged her to "clarify and apologize accordingly."  
This didn't happen, although Councillor Buck said she would take the suggestion "under advisement", at which point a recess was called and the Town Directors, with the exception of Town Clerk John Leach and Acting Town Solicitor Warren Mar, failed to return to the meeting. Mayor Geoffrey Dawe ruled that Councillor Buck had indeed impugned Mr. Elliott and Mr. Simanovskis.  
"I was referring to what happens in the private sector, I was not referring to what has happened within the municipality," said Councillor Buck upon being asked again to apologize. "If it was taken wrong, I would be glad to receive an audio tape to ensure my understanding of my comments is correct. If it is not, I would be pleased to make an apology but I would like the opportunity to hear exactly what I said before I go to that point."  
"I am very strong in my conviction that we are not treating people fairly in this Town, probably all the municipalities in York Region are doing the same thing and that is as far as I am going to say."  
With Councillor Buck refusing to apologize, Councillor Wendy Gaertner called upon Mayor Dawe to "expel" her from the Council chamber.  
Councillor Buck, however, announced she was leaving the table a few moments before.

At press time, Councillor Buck had yet to issue an apology for her comments.  
On Thursday, however, she indicated on her blog that she has not taken a look at the recording of the meeting to ensure that her recollection is correct. It did not seem, howev-

er, that an apology was in the offing.  
"It will be a snowy day in hell before I apologize for being disrespected and wrongfully accused by an employee of the municipality while doing my job on behalf of the people who gave me their trust," she wrote.

## Taxpayers may pay

**From page 1**  
said Mr. Mar. "In-house legal counsel for the Town (in this case, the acting Town solicitor) has a duty to defend the interest of the Town generally, and not Town staff members specifically.  
"Accordingly it may be seen as a conflict of interest to provide Town staff members individually with legal advice, while also protecting the Town's interest should the Town itself be the subject of a court order to produce documents related to the events in question.  
"This potential conflict of interest should not, however, cause the Town staff members to be left paying for their own legal fees in a situation where they were simply acting in their capacity as employees of the Town in

good faith."  
The Town should pay for external legal counsel for staff members too "in the absence of a Town Indemnification Policy," Mr. Mar argued.  
According to Mr. Mar's report, payment for this external legal counsel will come from the legal services external advocacy budget.  
As this recommendation passed Tuesday without comment or amendment, no limit was suggested for cost at this time "in order to afford Town staff members with unfettered ability to receive legal advice on the matter of Hervey v. Morris."  
A court date is set at Newmarket Court House on June 29 in order to finalize a hearing schedule in the matter.

## Word for word, here's what councillor said

For those who would like to make an educated assessment on whether Town Treasurer Dan Elliott and Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, were indeed "impugned" by Councillor Buck's comments, here are her remarks:  
"Councillor Pirri said it would only be pennies on the tax bill. Our treasurer says almost a million dollars would have to be transferred to the tax bill from the water revenues. That means we're paying in our water rates...almost \$1 million we're being over charged for the water we use.  
"The rates are calculated on the basis of water rates at 12 per cent increase added in water loss added to the increase in our water rates last year. It is not unidentified, it is identified. It is unmetered services used by Town departments, which legitimately belong in Town Department budgets, which would then be spread across the whole Town, not just to people who have water meters.  
"Taxes should be spread across the whole Town. Councillor Pirri understands it completely. Equity in taxation means that everyone pays according to the market value of their homes. Water rates are a different thing. We have a monopoly on water rates the same way that the Bell Telephone Company had a monopoly for years, hydro had a monopoly, and they had to go to the CRTC and ask for increases in their rates because they had a monopoly and they had to justify it and if they couldn't justify it they couldn't get it. And we are not justifying the water rates that we are charging people.  
"We are charging water rates that include all this water that is used by Town departments that should be on the tax rate. It is not equal, there is no equity, and it is not honest. If any

private enterprise were doing it, it would be a fraud. I don't apologize for saying that, Mr. Elliott, it is not semantics, it is a serious issue. It has been a serious issue for me for years, long before you came here.  
"I agree completely with Mr. Simanovskis that they have been doing it throughout the Region. As long as all the other municipalities are doing it, nobody challenges it. As long as everybody is paying it, everybody assumes that they should be paying it. It is not right, it is not honest, it is not fair. There is nothing unidentified about the water losses here. We're talking about a million dollars that would be transferred to the tax rate if we were doing this thing properly, and we're not."  
Upon being asked to apologize and clarify the above remarks:  
"I was speaking at the point of making reference to the fact that the Town has a monopoly with the provision of water services and I refer to the requirement of other companies which enjoy...which have to apply to the CRTC for any increase in their rates and justify it.  
"I was referring to what happens in the private sector, I was not referring to what has happened within the municipality. If it was taken wrong, I would be glad to receive an audio tape to ensure my understanding of my comments is correct. If it is not, I would be pleased to make an apology but I would like the opportunity to hear exactly what I said before I go to that point.  
"I am very strong in my conviction that we are not treating people fairly in this Town, probably all the municipalities in York Region are doing the same thing and that is as far as I am going to say. I would be glad to receive an audio tape and hear again what I said. That is my clarification."



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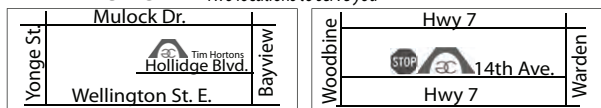
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# Dorian Baxter begins next campaign now

Despite not making any gains in the recent election - in fact, coming just six points short of his 2008 total, Newmarket-Aurora's perennial Progressive Canadian candidate Dorian Baxter isn't ready to throw in the towel - in fact, he has already started his 2015 election campaign.

The Auroran spoke with Mr. Baxter late last month after he returned from Montreal competing as part of the Aurora Master Ducks swim club, where he placed third in the 50 metre backstroke, sixth in the 100 metre backstroke, and eighth in the 50 metre freestyle, all in the 60 - 65 age bracket.

"Not bad for an old man, eh?" said Mr. Baxter.

While his results in the May 2 Federal election did not vary significantly one

## Duplicate Bridge results

**Monday, June 6:** North/South - Lucille Sequeira and David Legallais; Jean Bongard and Anna Kennedy; Evelyn Dickie and Audrey Robertson. East/West - Kay Hack and Melody Irving; Greta Ogden and Judy Salmon; Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin.

way or another compared to his last kick at the can locally, Mr. Baxter said, as an optimist, he saw it as "a gigantic success".

He spent election night with approximately 60 supporters in Newmarket as the votes rolled in and by the time incumbent Conservative candidate Lois Brown was all but guaranteed victory and the Harper majority inched ever closer to becoming a reality, he said he realized that there wasn't a moment to waste in starting the next campaign.

Quoting Sir Winston Churchill, Mr. Baxter said he concluded his announcement to start the 2015 campaign with, "Never, never, never, never, never give up" to applause from supporters.

"We're ready to rock and roll," he said.

Since May 2, Mr. Baxter has been spending each Saturday going door-to door in the riding.

"I have managed to garner 42 more [party] memberships," he said. "I am mounting an electronic campaign pattered after President Obama, as of a week from this Saturday, I shall be handing out flyers that have all my electronic information on it and I will be updating that twice a week.

"I have got close to 2,700 people on my Facebook site and I'm going to use that as a launching pad. I think this

will make a huge difference. I have worked out mathematically that if I can do what I am doing every Saturday for four years I should be able to have a base of 10,000 members in the Newmarket-Aurora area.

"My plan is to get 40,000 votes in the next election."

The fact that the Conservative party reached majority, however, has added fuel to Mr. Baxter's "outraged" fire, and he is now more determined than ever to "topple" the government when the next election is called.

"I have got huge support from the old PCs, and Liberals who are devastated and woken up and realized what was happening, so it is a serious situation," he said. "Canada has never been so close to a dictatorship prior to this election and now it is a dictatorship and not a benign one."

Looking back at the results of the 2011 federal election, Mr. Baxter says he is "devastated" that Mr. Harper's "dirty pool" paid off with negative advertising.

Those who voted Conservative right now are "myopic Canadians" who are not making "intelligent decisions at all," he said.

"They obviously don't care about the future of Canada enough to make themselves in possession about the facts of Stephen

Harper's regime and I am bitterly disappointed in them. I can only say my sincere hope is that these people... wake up and smell the coffee, realize what they have done, and vote for the PC party."

In the midst of all this, however, Mr. Baxter has found a silver lining - the surge of the NDP and the decimation of the Bloc Quebecois.

The Progressive Canadian party is very similar to the NDP party, with a distinction found in that the PCs want to "attack the causes of poverty" while the NDP want to "throw money at the symptoms," he said. The Bloc results both "thrilled" and "relieved him", he added.

"I have to give a lot of credit to the Quebecers who came out and showed that they are true Canadians," he said. "I love Quebec and I just got back from Montreal, had a tremendous opportunity to speak with some really solid Canadian Quebecers who are interested in running for our party. Without Quebec

we would not have a Canada.

"I am one of those people who absolutely love our French connection in terms of all that has been done by the French Canadians in this nation and I couldn't be happier to see the Quebec population has awoken. I think they did the right thing."

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## Spruce Tree Health: Yellow Headed Spruce Sawfly

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Aurora has been monitoring an increasingly harmful pest to our Native and Ornamental Spruce trees, the Yellow Headed Spruce Sawfly.

#### About the Yellow Headed Spruce Sawfly

The Yellow Headed Spruce Sawfly feeds only on spruce trees. **Early in the season (end of May),** the larvae start to appear and are olive-green with conspicuous yellowish-brown heads with a waxy appearance. When disturbed, they arch both ends of the body in a manner characteristic of sawflies.

Damage from sawflies is predominantly observed on newly planted trees, however it can also occur on mature trees. Indications that the insects have been active in spruce trees are the browning of needles, mostly evident on new growth. Trees also take on a ragged appearance in heavily infested cases and later trees may be completely defoliated. Trees affected suffer branch dieback, considerable growth reduction and in severe cases can die. Larvae drop to the ground in July and spin cocoons; this is where they will stay over the winter.

#### The Town of Aurora's environmentally-friendly control program

The Town intends to undertake a precisely-timed spray program using a mixture of only soap and water, to aid in the elimination of the pest. The spray will be applied through a high-pressure spray unit. The intention of this application is to knock the larva off the tree and render them unable to climb and feed on the tree any further. Prior to spraying, the Town will hand-deliver notices to affected residents and businesses.

#### Affected areas in the Town of Aurora

The primary area of infestation is the Bayview Avenue corridor south of St. John's Sideroad and north of Wellington Street. Please note this is not the only area affected by the Sawfly.

**The Town is asking for public assistance to identify any other areas with possible infestation. Should you notice any potential Sawfly infestation areas, please contact Sara Tienkamp, Town of Aurora's Supervisor of Parks at 905-727-3123, ext. 3223.**



Photo of Yellow Headed Spruce Sawflies.



Spruce tree damage from sawflies.





**Aurora's Highland Chevrolet Cadillac donated this vehicle to Crime Stoppers recently. In the photo is, from left to right, Crime Stoppers of York Region Director David Forster; Highland Chevrolet Cadillac President Cliff Sifton; General Sales Manager Garry Sleep; and York Regional Police Staff Sergeant Mike Fleischaker.**

## Spitzer named Citizen of the Year

**From page 1**

great honour."

While Ms. Spitzer first got her feet wet - literally - in the world of volunteerism as a swimming instructor at a Toronto YWCA, she threw herself into community involvement here in Aurora when she moved into the Orchard Heights neighbourhood 40 years ago, becoming a fundraiser with her local Homeowners' Association.

Her community involvement "snowballed" the following year, leading her to start the volunteer-based Theatre Aurora, and throwing herself into various youth groups and Town Committees.

"I'm very good at social things and I'm good at fundraising things, particularly getting donations from people - I'm not trying to brag, but I am really good at those things!" said Ms. Spitzer with a laugh. "I learned many years ago that they weren't going to shoot me with a gun or knife me with a knife. They were just going to say yes or no.

"A lot of people can't do it, but it doesn't bother me and I enjoy doing it; I just go in pleasantly and talk to people and I usually get a lot. People call me the Queen of Donations!"

Ms. Spitzer says that in volunteerism, she is attracted to projects and organizations where she feels she can make a difference and improve a particular situation or help an individual.

One of these areas is accessibility, and she has also devoted time to Community Living Newmarket/Aurora.

"I have always been involved in physical disabilities for people," she said on how she got her first full-time job after a short stint at the future Petro Canada, at what was then known as the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre, now Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. "Then we had a daughter who was born with a few disabilities and unfortunately we lost her when she was about three. It was just something that connected for me."

For those wanting to follow in Ms. Spitzer's footsteps, she encourages people to "follow their heart" and not be intimidated when approached to give some time to a group, event, or cause.

"If you have a passion, follow it," she says. "It might only be volunteering for one organization, but if you feel that you can give time to other organizations, try it."

"What some people don't understand is you're not committed to doing it every day of your life. People need to explain to people what is expected of them. I have seen people be thrown into a situation and they are absolutely lost. I think they should be educated as to what...it doesn't need to be a big lecture or anything. It's just that we require you to do this or we require you to do that. I think a bit of training helps."

During her term as Aurora's Citizen of the Year, Ms. Spitzer said she would like to advocate for the Town of Aurora to reinstate an arts advisory committee, keep an eye on accessibility issues, and encourage others to get involved in volunteerism.

"I don't really know what we're going to do when all the volunteers, particularly my age and maybe slightly younger, are going to leave because I have heard from more organizations who have less and less volunteers coming out," she said.

But if you think Ms. Spitzer would be all in favour of the Ontario Ministry of Education's requirement for high school students to give 40 hours of their time to serving the community, not so fast!

"I do have issues with the

fact that the school board sort of makes the children volunteer when I think their parents should be teaching them to volunteer," she said, noting that she accompanied both her parents on their volunteer work, her father working on summer playgrounds in East York, and her mother holding a position on a professional ladies' ball association in Toronto.

"I just think that by teaching someone to do it, you encourage them to carry on and to do things. I think it is very good for young people to see what you can get out of it by doing these things. To me, it is just unbelievable what I get from it. I have been doing it for years and I am still getting stuff out of it and finding new things I can accomplish and help with."

## Senior Scape



## Good weather for Festival

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Fortune favoured a well-organized Aurora Street Festival with mild sunny weather, following so many rain swept spring days.

The day was gorgeous by any standard and in my judgment; Sunday thrived and prospered as the finest day in this spring of inclement weather.

The army of vendors rose to the occasion, arriving in good time to set up stalls and outlets, each designed to seize the attention of legions of visitors who, calmly and patiently, sauntered along more than a mile of vendor stalls, many extraordinary in content, and crowded closely and impressively along both sides of splendid Yonge Street.

The great and astonishing assembly of small vendor stalls have been attracted from far and wide by the huge annual invasion of about 40,000 visitors.

The small vendor merchants attract without any exaggeration, a huge and constant flow of pedestrian traffic down the middle of Yonge Street including residents, visitors, sightseers and tourists, all wending their way slowly, north or south, along this great thoroughfare of Canada, from the start of the Festival until the conclusion.

The subsequent dismantling of booths and equipment is worthy of notice, and with vendors and visitors disappearing almost by magic, Yonge Street re-opened to traffic with little delay.

Pedestrians meandering among the booths and stalls, proved of every nationality, age, size and shape and all possessed the vitality and interest, which makes this Aurora Street Festival the longest and greatest in the world.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce organized this vast coming together of community expression in a spirit of working together with pleasure, and this commentary recognizes the accomplishment of this august institution serving the business

community.

Small and medium size business forms an integral part of the treasury of Canadian commerce, and the Street Festival boosts ability to compete in the tough give and take of Canadian business life, and is a community jewel in Aurora.

The organizing members of the Chamber rank or should rank highly in Aurora for their triumph with the Street Sale.

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) was represented by Gail van Wolde, Joan Levert, Judy Buchanan, Stella Warburton, Marianne Urbach, Rozlin Laber, and Norma Dover among others and the Seniors Chess Club, including Bernie Prost, John Inglis, Tom Bozinoski, Peter Hardy and yours truly, who played chess with each other and anybody from the immense crowds strolling by.

The Chess Club attracted plenty of attention and many members of the public dared their prowess with occasional success.

Thriving at this time, the Chess Club welcomes new members, and those who have not played chess since younger days will find encouragement and speedy revival of chess expertise after playing a few games.

The ASA held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday with 55 members in attendance and probably more with the inclusion of late arrivals.

Virginia Bodnar and Barbara Stoecklin were re-elected as directors and Frank Leone was elected for the first time.

Charles Sequeira was re-elected president, Ruth Church, Yvette Gillies and Virginia Bodnar were re-elected treasurer, secretary and vice president respectively.

Al Downey, the town administrator responsible for the ASA addressed the AGM meeting by expressing encouraging words for a well run Seniors' Centre.

He took questions from the members including one concerning fees for members to use the Town walking track, but Al indicated that resolution of this matter is pending.

Charles indicated collaboration or partnering between the ASA and the Aurora Community Arboretum awaits Town approval, but details of what the agreement contains were not noted.

Little imagination is required to understand that the Arboretum would find willing senior hands helpful, and certainly, keen senior eyes may detect early signs of emerging problems hidden in obscure patches of cultivated land.

Trees and shrubs generally thrive and we accept the bounty of our lush parklands, but we see only the healthy vegetation; anything growing with less than optimum vigour is nursed to health or replaced.

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Methods that place trees suited to deep forest or to the forest edge, in open land, may not be successful.

Perhaps the correct soil type or drainage conditions may be unsuitable, or lack of other knowledge may be enough to compromise success.

Unfortunate mistakes will be made, errors will be corrected and the members of the Arboretum will continue as the authors of an outstanding public service in the fields of the Aurora Community Arboretum.

Wildlife finds a welcome home in the Arboretum and is a strong positive to how we like to believe nature survives when located near humanity.

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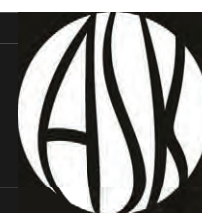
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