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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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FREE

Week of June 21, 2011

Another lawyer joins the team

As lawyers on behalf of Bill Hogg, Richard Johnson, and Elizabeth Bishenden, three local bloggers targeted, among others, in former Aurora mayor Phyllis Morris' \$6 million defamation lawsuit, filed their statement of defence last week, a new prominent Toronto lawyer known for his advocacy work has joined their legal team.

Semi-retired lawyer Alan Lenczner of Toronto's Lenczner Slaght has joined Jordan Goldblatt and Charles Sinclair of Sack Goldblatt Mitchell in providing the defence of the three in their ongoing legal fight with Ms. Morris.

"I think it is an interesting case from a number of people's perspectives," Mr. Hogg told The Auroran last week. "Alan has expressed a willingness and an interest in being involved. My sense is that in that semi-retired state, he only gets involved in the things he finds of interest and that he finds of significance."

"He has a prior relationship with our lawyer Jordan and he has graciously offered to come on board in this matter because...he thinks it is inappropriate what we've gone through and he is prepared to throw his hat in the ring in our defence."

Please see page 7

Optimist Club wants councillors to reconsider

The Optimist Club of Aurora should be given reconsideration in providing food vending services at Town-sponsored events as all of their proceeds will go back to the community, argued the local service club Tuesday in the face of a recommendation from Town Staff to award a food services contract to M&M Meat Shops and Poppers Popcorn.

The two groups were but four companies that responded to a municipal Request for Expression of Interest in vending services, including M&M offering to provide hot dogs, hamburgers, sausages, chicken, and ice cream, the Optimists hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, sausages, chicken and drinks, Mr. C's providing pastas, "specialty burgers", fish and chips, and poutine, and Poppers Popcorn providing a variety of snack foods.

M&M and Poppers Popcorn scored highest in the Town's

evaluation on the contribution each group would provide to the Town, but Optimist Glen Sharp said these numbers do not account for all of what the service club provides to the community.

Mr. Sharp appeared as a delegate at last Tuesday's general committee meeting where he expressed hope that the information he provided would help council make a final decision as to whom to offer the vending contract.

"In our proposal we indicated that we would remit 10 per cent of the proceeds to the Town of Aurora, however I would like to make council aware that as a volunteer not-for-profit organization, the remaining 90 per cent will actually be directed towards the community and the residents of Aurora," he said, citing such initiatives as the Optimists Rec Hockey, high

Please see page 7



These Sunrise Retirement residents and staff are eating radishes, freshly picked from a garden planted by several Aurora High School students. They are, left to right, Beverley Noble, Mary Harlon, and Spencer Urquhart. At extreme right is Sunrise employee Judy Perry. To see what they were doing Friday afternoon, please see Page 11. *Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

Revised procedural bylaw gets good airing by council

A revised procedural bylaw came one step closer to coming to fruition last week when councillors sat down with a facilitator to evaluate what was already on the table and make suggestions on the existing procedural bylaw.

But for some councillors it was an opportunity to revisit old and more recent scores.

A special council meeting was held last Tuesday to go over the document and include a discussion and evaluation by solicitor Fred Dean who works with councils across Ontario.

In his evaluation, Mr. Dean told councillors that the existing draft pro-

cedural bylaw is a "fundamentally good" document and was particularly impressed with fact it was a stand-alone document.

Praise aside, he had several suggestions on how the document could be improved, including having councillors declare their pecuniary interests in a clearer fashion, along with the possibility of having them submit a form declaring their interest; putting sunset clauses on ad-hoc committees so they don't accumulate to an unwieldy number, and ensuring a number of "ambush" scenarios do not take place.

"As you walk through the door you should reasonably know at that

point in time what you're going to be asked to discuss and decide upon that night," he said.

Such "ambush" scenarios include new business, which he suggested should be limited to announcements rather than questions to staff, avoiding addendums to the published agenda, avoiding verbal reports, and open forum - a procedure that was recently changed by the sitting council.

Mr. Dean did not object to the new practice of excluding open forum from the public record.

"[You should] be careful how you receive input from the public," he

Please see page 10

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COMING EVENTS

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 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 memo-

ries 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' Asspocation.

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.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

Concert in the Park at the Town Park beginning at 7 p.m. Tonight: Jack Grunsky.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

Concert in the Park at the Town Park beginning at 7 p.m. Tonight: The Good Brothers.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

Concert in the Park at the Town Park beginning at 7 p.m. Tonight: The Fabulous Knockouts.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2

Your only chance to meet Derek Foster, Canada's youngest retiree, happens at the Aurora Public Library this evening. The national best-selling author of 'The Idiot Millionaire' and 'Stop Working Now' he will teach

you an investing approach that any six-year-old can understand. Event happens at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room, and while seating is limited, the event is free. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

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

AUGUST 15-18

Here's your chance to join Dr. Hyoun Park and bridge the gap between Grade 12 Calculus/Vectors and First year University Calculus. Join Dr. Park at the Aurora Public Library for four days of calculus problem-solving in preparation for university. Classes begin at 6 p.m. for two hours in the Optimist room. The event, while restricted to students entering 1st year university calculus only, is free although seating is limited. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

SUNDAY, JULY 10

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

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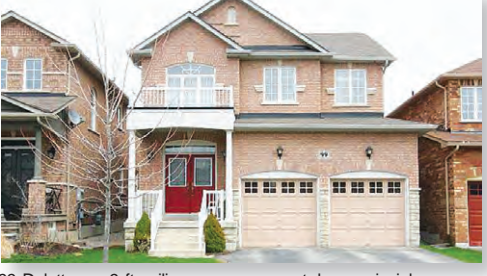
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Three victorious in LBP version of “Dragon’s Den”

More than 70 Grade 7 students from Lester B. Pearson Public School stepped into the Dragon's Den on Wednesday morning to pitch new and innovative products and services to local judges, but only three girls emerged victorious.

Aurora students Ashley Bang, Annie Mackillican, and Sabrina Low were the first place winners in the Dragons Den, a project held by Lester B. Pearson students as part of their English debate requirement.

Appearing before judges selected from the local business community, students either stepped into the Den by themselves or in groups of up to three students, with their unique presentations.

Ashley, Annie, and Sabrina's winning product, the Super School Pen, was billed as a "must have" for students nationwide.

Billed as an "efficient, environmentally friendly, fair trade, and solar powered product" made with soy-based material, the Super School Pen would retail for \$55.99.

It combines not just a case for pens and pencils, but an MP3 player, calculator, USB key, and a number of bells and whistles that would appeal to any well-equipped student.

According to Annie, this was the second product they tackled.

"Originally we wanted to do a vending machine filled with school supplies, but then we thought, well, that's not very complicated; you just take a regular vending machine and fill it differently," said Annie. "Then we thought we are always losing school supplies and...we thought why not make something that has them all together and is almost impossible to lose?"

For Ashley, participating in the school's Dragon's Den provided a lesson in the values of creativity and practicality.

"We really learned that no matter how simple the idea can be, it can probably be one of the best ideas," she said. "It doesn't have to be crazy, it doesn't have to be out there, it just has to be something that people really need."

With their lessons learned, their thrill of victory was palpable.

"It's so exciting!" said Sabrina. "I thought we might be able to place, but I never thought we'd win. "Thank you to Madame Keenan especially who came up with such a fun idea to do for debates."

For Kyra Keenan, the teacher who oversaw Wednesday's event, holding a school version of the hit CBC series was a creative way for students to meet the English debate component of the Ontario curriculum.

She originally picked up the idea from a Grade 11 teacher at an education workshop, and she said she thought the idea could be adapted for Grade 7 use in preparing a debate with proper vocabulary and reasoned arguments.

"It's June, it's the end of the year, and people are at the point where they just want school to



Lester B. Pearson Public School students Sabrina Low, Annie Mackillican, and Ashley Bang celebrate their victory in the school's very own version of the popular CBC series Dragon's Den on Wednesday afternoon. The trio of Grade Seven students were voted the top group among 29, comprising of over 70 of their peers, by "Dragons" from the local business community.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

be over, so making it more interactive and more interesting would capture their interest," she said. "[The students] have put so much effort into it."

A marked characteristic of the vast majority of the projects pitched to the judges at the event was an environmental consciousness. This, said Ms. Keenan, was picked up on the students' own accord.

"I think they realize the importance of the environment," she said of the students. "I think that is something they have really taken into account in seeing how important the environment has become in our school community and within York Region as well."

Second place in Lester B.'s Dragon's Den went to Caleigh Hutul, Madeleine Neufeld, and Brooklyn Underwood for their Mood Makeup, a personalized cosmetic product that is environmental and animal friendly, retailing at \$14.95.

Nina Chin and Emer Cummins walked away with

third place for their Wonder Brush, a hairbrush that not only brushes, but also straightens, curls, and blow dries hair.

Other investment opportunities provided to the "Dragons" were an educational doll, an electronic alternative to paper, customizable hockey gloves, a grocery delivery service, bruise-healing bracelets, eyeglasses with self-adjustable prescriptions, a pet tracking device, an electronic drink delivery system, environmental clothing companies, and personalized shoes (wheels optional).

"Dragon" Mae Khamissa, a person with particular knack in clothing and shoes as her business interests include Omar's Shoes and 5 Below Jeans, said she was honoured to be asked to participate in the event.

Joining judges Steve Falk, Sarah Marchesini, and David J. Gurney, Ms. Khamissa said the event allowed students to "think outside the box".

"It just blew me away to think

how these kids are so ahead of themselves and so in the future," she said. "One of the key things that most students went out and looked at was eco-friendly and energy saving products."

Of particular interest to Ms. Khamissa, who, as a parent, volunteered at Lester B. Pearson for more than 13 years, were the various ideas of customizable shoes, an idea she said that has recently been picked up by manufacturers and retailers.

"These kids are thinking ahead to where they can design their own colours and make the kind of running shoe they would like to wear. I think [this event] was brilliant. It gives students a chance to...understand there are more things they can do in education. There is nothing wrong with being a doctor or a lawyer, but putting their minds to putting products together is brilliant. It is making them think you can do more than just your basics."

A good start for GO: MPP

As recently as last month, Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees called on the Minister of Transportation to make increased GO Train service to Newmarket and Aurora a priority.

Last week, it was announced that new train trips are being added on the Barrie GO Transit line that serves Newmarket and Aurora.

Starting in September, there will be one additional train trip on weekday mornings and one additional train returning from Union Station in the evening.

"This is a good start," said Mr. Klees, who has been calling on the McGuinty government to increase the frequency of GO Train service for Newmarket and Aurora for the past eight years. "If we want to address the north/south traffic congestion, we have to give people the option of taking transit."

"We won't even begin to

solve our traffic congestion problems until we get the same level of service on our

north/west GO Train lines as has existed on the east/west corridor for several years".

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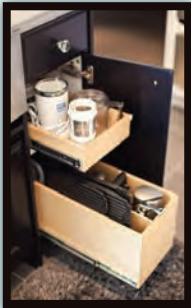
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100 Watts

By Christopher Watts

Sleep on it

A well-known comedian once misplaced a skit, forcing him to re-write it entirely from memory. After finding the original he compared the two and was surprised to find noticeable improvements in his new version.

It's amazing what your unconscious mind can do if you let it.

As counter-intuitive as it may seem, putting aside obstacles and tackling them the following morning nets significant gains.

You may lose some of the original, but you also lose the roadblock.

So Aurorans, what's the prescription for achieving greater creativity?

Take two deep breaths, sleep on it and call yourself in the morning.

Letters to the Editor

Aurora shows its Spirit in a big way

To the editor,

A few days ago I was e-mailed some photos from the episode which was held in conjunction with A Step in Time and the Filly and Firkin.

The image showed me standing on the steps of the old Church Street School.

Attired in a black suit and top hat; I thought I looked rather dapper.

I don't think it was my clothing that made the

impression.

It was the smile on my face from ear to ear that was so telling.

Each night that the walk took place, there was energy.

The weather co-operated and there was laughter, smiles, and a tremendous sense of community.

Individuals shared their stories and photographs from previous Aurora Spirit Walks.

There was an essence of

health as dozens took a brisk walk into old Aurora; in more ways than one. We had a special guest who made an appearance during the episode.

She was a darling from our past.

Before there were cars and telephones in almost every home; there was Annie.

She was the star of Rescue Mediums.

When her story was shared people cheered, and

some shared a tear.

The episode was unlike any other film in the series.

Aurora was again part of another famous first or event.

Annie made us feel proud to be part of this community.

It was like she reached out for help and people answered her call.

When I connected with Cathy Myers (Filly manager) I was immediately impressed by her caring

soul.

She said she was interested in doing something together that would bring people into community. This is exactly what she did.

The restaurant became our home for the promotion.

We invited many inside.

With donations from community and your support we raised more than \$4,500.

This will be shared by The Heart and Stroke and the Crohn's and Colitis Foundations.

I am completely deaf in one ear as a result of stroke as a child.

This is why I so passionately wanted to support Heart and Stroke.

The Myers' family has been touched by Crohn's. This is why they were passionate about the other charity.

We reached out with an event and with a message.

We were certainly outshone by our new celebrity. Her name is Annie Dunning. The street near the Filly Firkin is of the same name.

She has moved on to bigger things as a result of Rescue Mediums.

I firmly believe while she was here, heaven was a place on earth. That place, in a step in time was Aurora, Ontario, Canada.

See you in September for the next presentation of the Aurora Spirit Walk...

Cheers Annie.

Sexual assault no laughing matter, this resident says

To the editor,

Ontario Human Rights Commission's Policy on Sexual Harassment and Inappropriate Gender-Related Comments and Conduct (www.ohrc.on.ca) tells us that sexual harassment means that someone is bothering you by saying or doing unwelcome things of a sexual or gender-related nature.

For example, someone who makes unwelcome

sexual or gender-related remarks and gestures by: touching you inappropriately, making offensive jokes or remarks about women or men, making sexual requests or suggestions, staring at or making unwelcome comments about your body, displaying sexually offensive pictures, being verbally abusive to you because of your gender.

Sexual harassment does not have to be sexual in nature.

It can also mean that someone is bothering you simply because you are a man or a woman.

Sexual harassment can have a bad effect on, or "poison", the places where you live, work or receive services.

Making stereotypes about one gender or the other can be a form of sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment happens most often to women, but it can also happen to men or between members of the same sex.

According to section 284 of the Criminal Code, Level 1 sexual assault cases involves minor physical injuries or no injuries to the victim; level 2 sexual assault involves the use of the weapon or threats or results in bodily harm; and level 3 sexual assault, (aggravated assault), results in wounding, maiming or endangering the life of the victim.

Statistics Canada reports that the rate of sexual assault for level 1 increased from 40 people per 100,000 to about 72 people per 100,000 from 1983 to 2004.

Level 1 sexual assaults make up almost all of the

total number of sexual assaults.

However, the rate for level 2 assaults reported to the police declined from almost 3.5 persons per 100,000 to 1.5 persons per 100,000 from 1983 to 2004.

Likewise, the rate of sexual harassment for level 3 dropped from 2.2 persons per 100,000 to less than one person, (0.8) per 100,000 within the same time period.

In 2004, 75 per cent of the incidents of sexual harassment and criminal harassment reported to the police were directed by female victims.

Sexual harassment is no laughing matter, since one form of sexual assault, stalking, tends to wind up as in a violent attack on the victim.

In an earlier study, 1993, (Statistics Canada), it found that out of the 2 million people who experienced sexual harassment at work, 55 per cent of the assaults were committed by a co-worker; 40 per cent were committed by the boss and five per cent were committed by students in a school setting.

Jim Jackson
Aurora

Drivers turning left should be ticketed

To the editor,

I am writing in hopes the guilty parties will see this and/or the police will write some tickets.

I pick up a passenger every day at the Aurora GO station.

As you sit waiting to make your right turn onto Wellington you are faced with a sign that states clearly there is no left turn onto Wellington.

Invariably a line of cars are blocked by someone waiting to break the law.

I have seen as many as seven cars with their right turn signals on standing idle behind someone attempting to turn left.

Perhaps a police car in the lot directly across Wellington would improve the flow of traffic.

LeeAnn Keller
Aurora



This group makes up the boys' Sunday School class at the Aurora United Church, circa 1948 to 1950. Led by the teacher George Morrison (centre of picture) the boys are, left to right, John Urquhart, John Loblaw, Bob Cook, (?), Gerald Howell, Stuart Wilson, the teacher, Ted McClenny, Clifford Preston, Don Morning, and Keith Kincaid. Anyone help us with the question mark?

THE AURORAN

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The Auroran Newspaper Company Ltd.
15213 Yonge Street, Suite 8
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Publisher Emeritus
Rosemary Schumaker

Editorial
Ron Wallace
ron@auroran.com

Production
Cynthia Proctor
cynthia@auroran.com

Photography
David Falconer
dfalconer@sympatico.ca

Main Number
905-727-3300

Classifieds
905-727-7128
classifieds@auroran.com

Facsimile
905-727-2620

Administration
Patricia Wallace

Advertising
Bob Ince
bob@auroran.com

Trish Miller-Kostin
trish@auroran.com

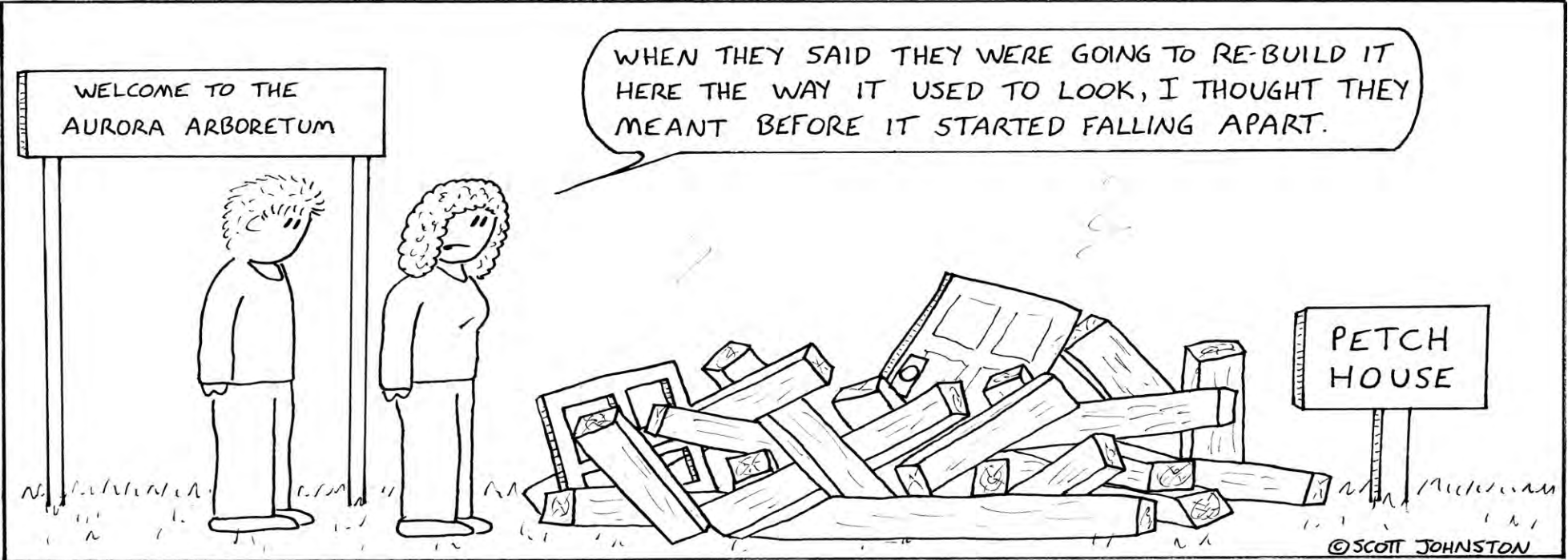
Zach Shoub
zach@auroran.com

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

My wife and I recently celebrated our 12th Wedding Anniversary. The card Julie gave me was great. The front of it had a picture of a four-year-old girl clutching her doll and watching her - I guess - five-year-old boyfriend try and fix his tricycle. He has a host of large tools beside him, all strewn on the floor. The little girls' caption reads: " Maybe we should call a professional", The little boys' caption: "No way! I got it!" Inside the card it says: "Some things never change - like my love for you!" The only more appropriate card would be something about not ever asking for directions while out driving! Our anniversary also got me thinking about some funny situations over the years. A while ago a female friend of ours from Aurora was getting married and the company that she bought her wedding dress from had gone under; she was not sure if she could get the dress and while she waited for word, she was searching for alternatives. And as I was being my usual helpful self, I kindly suggested that since my wife Julie would not be in need of her wedding dress, why don't you offer it to your friend, or better yet, sell it to her for a couple of bucks. With a Stephen Harper type glare, she icily shot back: "How do you know that I won't be needing this again?" Well, at least, she didn't add: "in the very near future!" In the end, our friend did get the dress from the firm.

That conversation also got me to thinking about a present I purchased for my wife last year. As stated above, Julie always likes to kid me (I think she is kidding) that Brad Pitt is the real father of her son. So when I used to get the occasional phone call to bring milk or diapers home, if I am rather tired or just lazy, I would say, "why don't you get Brad to pick it up for you?" I took a recent photograph of her and my son Ryan and bought a new picture frame to give her as a gift. I inserted a picture of Brad Pitt into the frame where I would otherwise have been occupying. She loved the frame and found the Brad Pitt photo very amusing. I placed the photo - along with Brad - in the living room and it became a conversation piece when people came over. I left the picture of Brad in the photo assuming that Julie would remove it after some appropriate - but rather short - interlude; it would still be there today if I hadn't taken it down myself. Do you see a pattern emerging? These situations reminded about this nine-year-old boy in Colorado, who, as part of an elementary school assignment, observed his classmates' social interactions for a week, and then wrote a paper on it. The paper became so popular that television host Ellen DeGeneres called and got him a book deal with Haper Collins in New York. According to the Toronto Star article, "At 46 pages, the book still

has seven chapters and its original title (How To Talk to Girls). What's new is the shiny red hard cover, the \$10.99 price and the fact that it's available in 17 countries." With the hints that I have been receiving, I thought to myself, "Hey, I had better check his book out, as you just never know, I may be needing his advice as I re-enter the dating scene..." This boy is mature beyond his years. Here is some of his common sense advice: "Go for a talkative girl if you are shy. Then you only have to say one sentence, and she will do the rest of the talking." And this: "If you like a girl, comb your hair and don't wear sweats." My personal favourite: "Girls win most of the arguments and have most of the power. If you know that now, things might be easier." I could have really used this last piece of advice, oh, about 25 years ago. I wish I had some similar insights that I could suggest for the newly married or the about to be married males out there. Based on 12 years of marital bliss and harmony, I do have but one piece of advice: Make sure to purchase a shiny new television remote that is just for your bride-to-be. Batteries are strictly optional.

Stephen can be contacted at: stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Frankly Speaking

By Frank Klees
MPP Newmarket-Aurora

On May 31, 2010 I tabled the following Motion in the legislature:
"That, in the opinion of this House, the Ontario Legislature call on the Government of Ontario to review the powers and authority granted to the OSPCA under the OSPCA Act and to make the necessary legislative changes to bring those powers under the authority of the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services to ensure that there is a clearly defined and effective provincial oversight of all animal shelter services in the province, and to separate the inspection and enforcement powers of the OSPCA from its functions as a charity providing animal shelter services."
You may recall that I brought this motion forward in the wake of the OSPCA's plans to euthanize its entire animal population at its York Region shelter, as a way of dealing with a reported ringworm outbreak. My motion was debated in the legislature on November 18, 2010. Rather than consider the facts that were presented to them concerning the questionable conduct of the OSPCA, Liberal MPPs proclaimed that they have full confidence in the organization, its Board and management and that there is no need for provincial oversight or any legislative changes. The motion was defeated. OSPCA Board Chair, Rob Godfrey, accused me of political grandstanding for even bringing the motion forward. I continued to call for an independent investigation into what I considered to be gross incompetence on the part of the OSPCA and its handling of this issue. On August 9, 2010, the OSPCA reluctantly announced that an Independent review would be called to examine this affair. Justice Patrick LeSage and Dr. Allan Meek were asked to conduct the review and it was agreed that their report, in its entirety,

would be made public. During a meeting with Justice LeSage and Dr. Meek on November 8, 2010, I conveyed to them a comprehensive file of information related to the OSPCA. It contained e-mails and letters from current and former employees and volunteers of the OSPCA from across the province, including inspection and enforcement officers who provided detailed examples of questionable management practices, lack of training, inadequate resources, shoddy record-keeping, lack of proper protocols and recurring conflicts within the organizational structure of the OSPCA. I also discussed my reasons for the legislative changes that I believe are necessary to ensure proper oversight of the OSPCA. On June 3rd, one day after Dalton McGuinty prorogued the legislature, the OSPCA released the report written by Justice Patrick LeSage and Dr. Alan Meek. Why was it kept under wraps by the OSPCA for weeks and why was it not released while the legislature was still in session? Here's why: The report exposes serious failures at many levels of the OSPCA's operations, and recommends the very legislative changes that the McGuinty government refused when it defeated my motion. On page 83, the report makes a number of recommendations for legislative amendments, including the following three specific recommendations contained in my motion:
1) That the government should review the powers and authority of the OSPCA. It recommends a task force be created with representation from various Ministries to ensure that appropriate changes are made;
2) That the Ontario government should consider legislative amendments to provide for oversight of the OSPCA in order to

Report confirms provincial oversight needed for OSPCA

remedy the current situation of having the OSPCA essentially policing itself;
3) That the government should consider the possibility of separating the OSPCA sheltering services from its investigation and enforcement service. After reading the report, I spoke with Justice LeSage to express my gratitude to him and Dr. Meek on behalf of the many Ontarians who have been justifiably concerned about the state of animal welfare in our province. This report exposes the failings of both the OSPCA, as well as the McGuinty government for its refusal to exercise proper oversight. Two things need to happen: The provincial government must immediately take the necessary steps to implement the legislative changes proposed in the report. Unfortunately, the McGuinty government has repeatedly demonstrated that it has no intention of taking this issue seriously. I can assure you, however, that given the opportunity, a PC Government will act on these recommendations. I believe that in order to restore confidence in the OSPCA, the current Chair of the OSPCA and its Board members step aside. The LeSage/Meek Report makes it clear that the Board has failed in its responsibilities to oversee the administration of animal welfare in our province. I want to thank the many concerned individuals who were willing to come forward to share their stories and the information that gave the LeSage/Meek Report its strength. It was their courage and persistence that made these changes possible. As always, I welcome your comments and advice. Please feel free to contact me by phone at 905-750-0019 or through my website at www.frankklees.com.

Letters to the Editor

Now’s the time to think about eliminating level crossings

To the editor,

Further to my letter that was published in the Auroran the week of May 31, GO Transit announced on June 15 that an extra train will be added to the schedule this September. This means that Aurora will have 10 trains per day (five southbound, five northbound) passing through our town's four level crossings. People who previously complained about the noise of train whistles will have more to complain about now. To reiterate a little of my last letter, the Barrie line will soon be part of a large,

100-kilometre integrated transit network with important links to the TTC and VIVA. For those who think this change will take place a distant 20 years in the future, the reality is that it is happening now. In a few short years, it is highly probable that Aurora will see all day service, seven days per week running on a double-set of tracks. And that is a lot of trains! It is unfortunate that town council spent time, money and effort looking to silence the whistles when it should have been working with York Region and GO

Transit to start the environmental and engineering assessments that would see the rails separated from the roads. Our town's master plan also needs to take this into account. With more trains running through town, safety and the flow of road traffic should be a major concern. Currently, when a train passes through Wellington Street, traffic gets backed up past Yonge Street to the west and beyond Industrial Drive to the east. What will things look like when we get all day service? Whether it happens

sooner or later, there is no doubt now that a decision will have to be made to remove the level crossings in Aurora. It is inevitable. Maybe not all at once. Maybe it will be phased in over time. But the reality is that the level crossings will have to go. The question is one of foresight. Aurora has time now to plan for the future and to envision how things will look and how traffic will move. And it is not hard to imagine. Examples of bridges and

tunnels are everywhere, some better than others. If we wait, what exactly will we be waiting for? For daily traffic snarls? Or, for a serious accident to happen? Or, to have our town literally cut in half by the constant flow of so many passing trains? Town council needs to catch up to this issue quickly. The train has already left the station. Peter Drost Aurora

Legion thanks Afghanistan troops

To the editor,

Thanks to the troops. As the combat mission in Afghanistan transitions into other military activities, The Royal

Canadian Legion would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to those service men and women, and their families, who have served with distinction and sacrificed on behalf of Canadians

during these past several years. Their contribution to the well-being and care of another country's populace is a tremendous reflection of Canada's efforts toward maintaining global peace

and we are proud of the way you have represented us. Words are not enough to convey how grateful we are for their commitment and dedication. As a national endeavour, I am encouraging local branches to hold appreciation events for veterans of the Afghanistan mission this coming August, in order to remember those who have fallen, thank those who have returned and to celebrate how proud you and your families have made us to be Canadian.

Patricia Varga
Dominion President
Royal Canadian Legion

A question for Aurora citizens

To the editor,

Here is a question for the citizens of Aurora: How many times has Councillor Buck insulted town

staff members and other councillors over the past several years and then refused to apologize? The Answer: Too many times! Her behaviour is unacceptable, annoying and takes away valuable decision making time in the Council meetings.

D. Hunt
Aurora

MTO responsible for whistles, not the Town

To the editor,

First of all, I do believe that the Ministry of Transport has regulations regarding the use of the train whistles thus making it LAW. Second, the trains only go through at 6, 6.30, 7, 7.30, 8 and soon, 8.30 a.m. and 5, 5.30, 6, 6.30, 7 and soon 7.30 p.m. When the heck are these people sleeping????? The Brechin Train was stopped a couple of years ago. Third, I know this may be an inconvenience, but if it's really that bad, try ear plugs. These trains are a necessity for commuters.

More trains are being put on this line because more and more people are using the GO Train (primarily from Barrie now). This is a good thing. People are working. The economy is rolling. If this was south of the border people would be incensed because they would not be able to comprehend the logic of someone complaining because people are employed, need transportation and as a result are employing more people. All I see here is what happens time and time again. A small minority complain about an inconvenience and

complain and complain until they get their way. Well...I'm tired of this. The majority here are saying, "Stop wasting time and money on something that has no place in Town Council." This is an MTO issue and the Policies and Procedures are being followed to the letter. GET OVER IT! If you don't like the train whistles, then don't live near a railroad track. THEY'VE BEEN THERE FOR OVER 100 YEARS. DUH!! P. Cooke Aurora

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HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTRE

Optimists seek council reconsideration

From page 1
school music programs, and the Aurora Art Show and Sale.

"What I am here tonight to ask is that although our proposal indicates that 10 per cent of the proceeds from movies, concerts, and Theatre in the Park series will go directly to the Town of Aurora, the community will actually receive the benefits of the full hundred per cent if our club is selected as the

provider of this service. We understand and respect the process in making the decision tonight but are hoping that council will consider this information in making the determination."

Councillors voted to refer Mr. Sharp's comments back to staff and put in context with the report before council before rendering their final decision this week, but some councillors said they

worried that by having new information provided by Mr. Sharp referred back to staff they would "invalidate" the municipal bidding process.

"Given that this was out in an open bidding process, are we not somewhat invalidating our bid process if we go back when someone comes after the fact?" asked Mayor Geoffrey Dawe. "Can we not assume that because this is now public

they have information that we can go back?"

Mayor Dawe's concerns were shared by Councillor John Gallo, who said "the process is the process."

"If we start changing that, we'll have lines with new information from people saying, 'You misunderstood what we said,'" he said.

Aurora CAO Neil Garbe said that staff would be able to provide details on the scoring and submission process in a new report, but said they would not change the scoring itself. A decision to pick another provider would be up to the discretion of council, he said.

In light of the fact that the community would stand to benefit from the Optimist Club providing vending services, Councillor Paul Pirri said he would be fine to "waive the procedure a little bit" to accommodate that.

"The Optimist Club giving everything back to the Town is probably what will serve us best," he said.

But Mayor Dawe countered that it would be a far different situation were this in the private sector.

"I appreciate the point but...in private life I lost contracts because I didn't follow the procedure," he

said. "It's not a substantial issue - I have no problem with either vendor getting the contract. My issue is with the procedure of awarding tenders."

Whether it is M&Ms and Poppers Popcorn, the Optimists, Mr. C's, or any combination of the four,

the ultimate winners in this process will be contracted to sell food and beverages at Concerts in the Park (July 6, 13, 20, and 27, August 3, 10, 17, and 24), Theatre in the Park (July 17), and Movies In the Park (August 30, 31, and September 1).

Lawyer joins team

From page 1
Mr. Hogg was keen to emphasize that Mr. Lenczner's new involvement of the case will do nothing to lessen the involvement of Mr. Goldblatt and the rest of the team from his firm, but this was an opportunity that could not be passed up.

"We think Jordan has done a phenomenal job, but when you have an opportunity to bring in one of the top litigators in the country in this matter who has offered to participate and support our efforts you certainly don't say no!" said Mr. Hogg.

The defence was filed last Monday after Mr. Hogg said attempts to bring this to a resolution with Ms. Morris and her team were unsuccessful. Ms. Morris' team has previously declined to comment on any offers of mediation.

"We have tried unsuccessfully to engage her in any form of dialogue to bring this to resolution and she has rebuffed us throughout," said Mr. Hogg. "I think the defence speaks for itself. It just covers the issues as we see them and as the community as a whole, I suspect, will see them as well."

In their defence - which also includes 41 examples of what they allege are "a number of undemocratic decisions" of Ms. Morris in her term as mayor "negatively impacting upon her own reputation, and unfortunately, that of the Town of Aurora" - Mr. Hogg admits that he "has been a moderator" at www.auroracitizen.ca but denies that he had any part in drafting comments that Ms. Morris alleges are defamatory.

He "requests the action be dismissed against him with costs payable forthwith."

As for Mr. Johnson, in his response to the August 20, 2010 post "A Question of Character - or Lack Thereof", he pleads that he submitted the original article to which that post responded and "directed the reader to 'judge for yourself and keep an open mind'."

"Mr. Johnson and the other individual defendants deny that there was anything defamatory in the Council Watch #13 post, and put the Plaintiff to the strict proof thereof," reads

the defence. "Mr. Johnson pleads that Council Watch #13 piece is based on personal opinion, written in the first person, discussing personal experiences, thoughts, and ideas.

"The individual defendants plead that the post in question is not defamatory of the Plaintiff either in its plain and ordinary meaning or by innuendo."

The defendants maintain that this is a SLAPP lawsuit (Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation) designed to silence critics of Ms. Morris. They also claim that Ms. Morris was "subjected to vocal, vigorous, and accurate criticisms" before and after the posts in question were made on the Aurora Citizen blog.

"The critical commentary was offered not only by civic-minded residents of Aurora, but by the local, regional, and national news media," says the defence, going on to argue that she was on track to lose the election before the alleged defamatory postings were made.

"The individual defen-

dants plead that, to the extent and if the Plaintiff was defamed by comments or posts on the Aurora Citizen, which is denied the Plaintiff created these damages by issuing her Claim prior to notifying the Aurora Citizen and the Individual Defendants of the Defamatory Postings, denying them the ability to retract or clarify any statements. In so doing, the Individual Defendants plead that the natural and ordinary result of the Plaintiff's actions was to drive traffic, interest and focus on to the content of the Aurora Citizen, and in doing so, exacerbating any damages, which damages are denied."

Both parties were, at press time, waiting for a decision in the Norwich Motion, which was presented before Justice Carole Brown in March.

Mr. Hogg says he is not sure what to "read" into the length of time it has taken to render a decision.

"I suspect she is taking her time and making sure she follows through in the most appropriate manner."

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Elliott apologizes

Aurora Treasurer Dan Elliott offered an apology to council and the people of Aurora at a special general committee meeting last week for allowing his "emotions to get the better of him" at council on June 7, leading to his abrupt departure from the council chamber.

Mr. Elliott made his remarks at the start of a special meeting to look at suggested updates to the Town of Aurora's Procedural Bylaw.

The previous week he got up and left in the middle of proceedings when he said he felt Councillor Evelyn Buck had "impugned" his reputation.

The original fracas went down during a discussion of municipal water rates at the June 7 meeting.

In speaking to a motion she had made last month, Councillor Buck argued that the fees incorporated on water bills for unmetered water in tax supported services such as the irrigation of parks and the maintenance of seasonal outdoor rinks, should be incorporated on the tax bill rather than on individual water bills as a "water loss".

In her arguments, Councillor Buck said the calculation of water rates have been "questionable" since the installation of residential water meters and that the costs of water use for these services should be a burden shared equally by taxpayers, rather than just by those on the municipal water system.

Water loss such as this accounts for approximately \$970,000 in the water budget and transferring it to the tax rate would result in a 3.4 per cent tax hike, said Mr. Elliott at the time.

As The Auroran reported last week, Councillor Buck compared the situation to monopolies formerly enjoyed by organizations such as Bell which had to go to the CRTC for permission to raise their telecom fees, which then, in turn, had to be justified to the Commission.

"It is not equal, there is no equity, and it is not honest," said Councillor Buck on June 7. "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."

It was on this point that Mr. Elliott got up and left the table on the grounds that Councillor Buck "impugned" his reputation.

"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."

After a brief recess, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe asked that

Councillor Buck apologize for "impugning" the reputations of Mr. Elliott and Ilmar Simanovkis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure.

She refused to do so until she had reviewed a recording of the meeting and excused herself from the chamber.

Last week, however, council was on the receiving end of an apology from Mr. Elliott.

"As you know, I have many hats to wear here at the Town," said Mr. Elliott, noting he was reading a memo he had just delivered to Mayor Dawe's office. "[As] a member of the Executive Leadership Team I have a duty to serve this council with the utmost of respect. As the Human Resources Director I am also charged with guarding the dignity and rights of all staff."

"Last Tuesday I may have acted too hastily or could have chosen a different approach to address my concerns when those concerns became personal. I allowed my emotions to get the better of me and for that, Mr. Mayor, I apologize to you and this Council, the CAO, and the community which I strive to serve diligently."

After Mr. Elliott delivered his remarks, Mayor Dawe afforded Councillor Buck a further opportunity to respond to what was just said and to apologize or clarify her own comments.

"I will take this under advisement as well and will address council in the public meeting where the comment was made," she said, referring to this week's meeting.

By Friday, however, the fact Mr. Elliott spoke at the start of last Tuesday's special committee meeting was not recorded in the meeting's minutes, nor was the memorandum offered to the Mayor's office included in this Tuesday's agenda.

This is something that bothers Councillor Buck and she told The Auroran she plans on raising a question of privilege on the matter this week.

From her perspective, Councillor Buck says staff members accused her of accusing them of fraud and this is something she flatly rejects.

"If I thought for a minute there was any fraud going on within the administration I would not be alluding to it in a council debate," she told The Auroran Friday. "I'd be up there at the York Regional Police Office filing an information if I thought for a minute there was any fraud going on within the Town administration. Of course I didn't; that is not the comment I made."

"He said I was impugning - I take that very seriously; I don't take that lightly. [Mayor Dawe] appears to be expecting a clarification from me, even more so than they have already clarified for themselves that compelled Mr. Elliott to withdraw his statement."



Member of the Provincial Party for the riding of Newmarket-Aurora, Frank Klees started his campaign early in preparation for the upcoming provincial election. An Aurora resident, Mr. Klees elected to use the busy intersection of Yonge and Wellington last week to outline his displeasure with the sitting government. Using the Larter painting as a backdrop, Mr. Klees unravelled this list of complaints he has against the Liberals, who have yet to announce a candidate in the upcoming election. The New Democratic Party said last week that Robin Wardlaw, a Newmarket minister, would be their candidate.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Activities in place for Canda Day

Canada's Birthday Town will live up to its proud nickname beginning on June 30 when the Town kicks off its celebration of Canada's 144th Birthday with a Celebrate Aurora - Dance In The Park.

The event, slated to begin on June 30 at 7 p.m. at the Town Park is a prelude to Canada Day events that will start the following morning with the Canada Day Parade.

The Rotary Club of Aurora will host the June 30th Dance in the Park.

The next day, the Canada Day Parade will make its way down Yonge Street at 10 a.m. and will be followed by a free pancake breakfast at Lambert Willson Park off Industrial Parkway, where participants will have the opportunity to explore the country close at hand.

"Event-goers can visit the many food vendors and enjoy several family-focused events," said Shelley Ware, Aurora's Events Coordinator. "Families are also invited to re-discover Canada Aurora-style as they travel with a 'passport' from one province or territory to another. Fill your passport and redeem it for a special prize."

As always, the day's festivities go out with a bang with a spectacular fireworks display, but this year the fireworks will be preceded with a special performance by headliner band Delayne Drive.

Events throughout the day also include a ceremonial cake cutting and re-affirmation ceremony, free public swimming and skating at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, and a horseshoe tournament at Lambert Willson Park.

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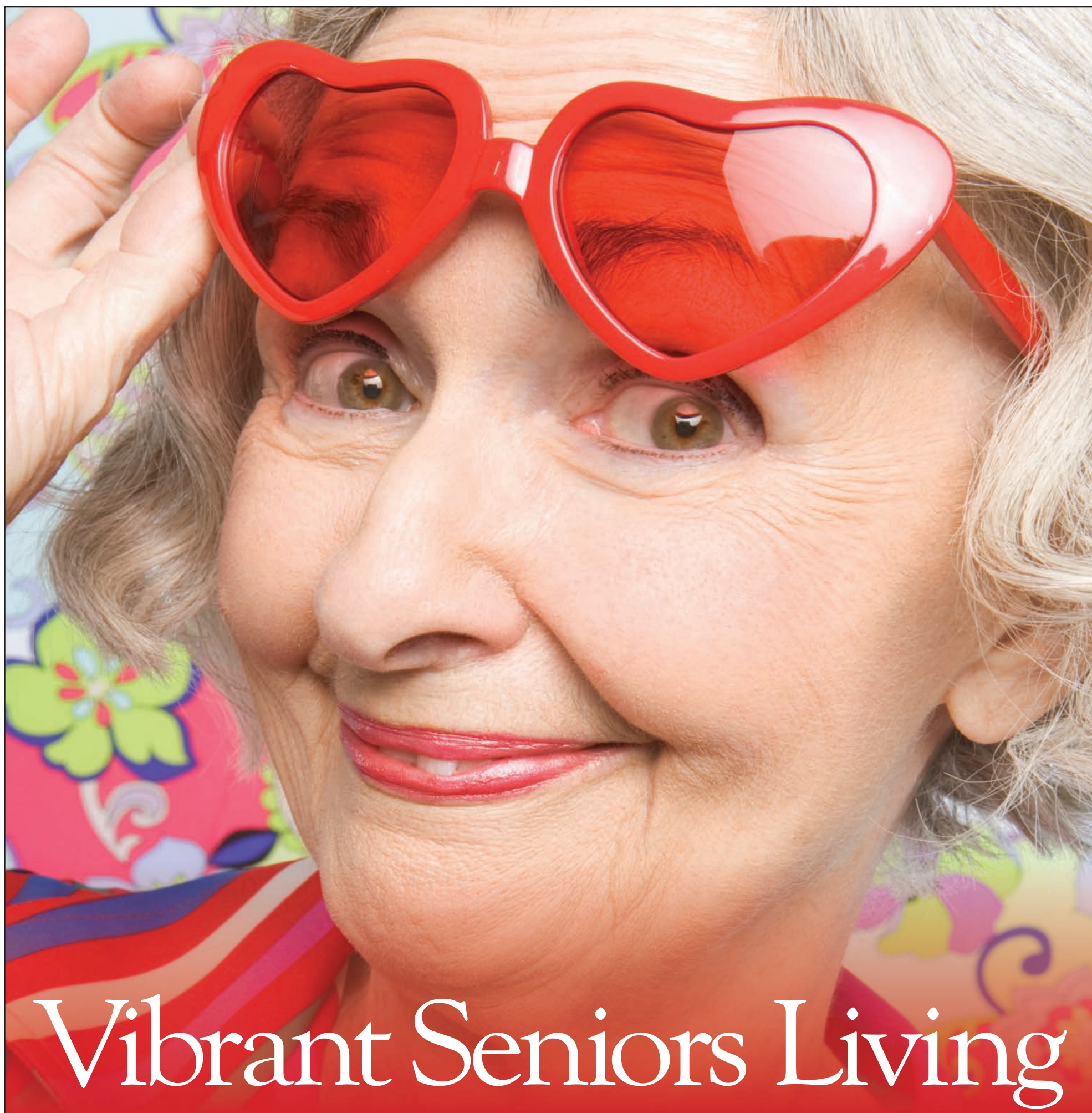
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Procedural bylaw discussed

From page 1
said. "You should be doing that through a controlled process, the delegation process."

On the part of Town Clerk John Leach, who is drafting suggested changes, he suggested revisions to the document including delegate management procedures, and rotating the general committee chair semi-annually.

Councillors currently take the chair at bi-weekly meetings in turn based on their election results. Giving councillors a six-month stint as Chair would provide them with a valuable learning experience, said Mr. Leach.

In the informal discussions between council and staff that followed presentations, councillors offered a number of suggestions for improving the document including handling notices of motion in a more timely manner, the merits of using electronic devices in the council chamber and in closed meetings, and pinning down a specific definition of what constitutes raising a point of order made during a discussion.

For Councillors Wendy Gaertner and Evelyn Buck, however, the meeting was an opportunity to rehash issues that had been all but forgotten, as well as those more fresh in the public eye.

One chestnut that came

back was how recessed closed session meetings should be reconvened.

This was an issue that briefly occupied councillors' minds when a recently defeated councillor raised objections to the fact a meeting was continued without additional public notice being given.

When questioned on this by Councillor Gaertner, Mr. Dean raised no objection to the process as long as nothing was being added to the closed session agenda.

"If you are going to hold a closed meeting on a separate night you have to start as a public meeting unless you passed the motion previously," he said. "In circumstances where you don't finish an agenda you're entitled to recess it and pick it up at another time and you don't require further notice."

One could put a separate notice on the municipal website indicating that closed session was going to reconvene at a later date, but this is not required, he added.

Council is not entitled to add items onto a closed session agenda. If they did so, they would have to come back into a public meeting and pass another resolution on including any new items.

In the interests of "protecting delegates", Councillor Gaertner queried whether del-

egates can question councillors back when they are at the receiving end of questions themselves.

Mr. Dean said it is the role to "shut back" debates between delegates and Council and questions should not be "a springboard for them to speak for another 10 minutes on the same topic."

With the recent brouhaha between Councillor Buck and Town Treasurer Dan Elliott still fresh in the minds of all concerned, Councillor Buck suggested that specific definitions should be included in the procedural bylaw on what constitutes "inappropriate conduct" of a councillor.

"We have nothing here to indicate what might be deemed inappropriate behaviour," said Councillor Buck. "I know the Clerk is recommending that we have another procedure short of excluding or expelling a member [from the Chamber] but I have never considered the action of expelling or excluding a councillor from a meeting, when a meeting is continuing, a reasonable order. There is no disorder, no one is out of control, points are being made...I have seen it misused repeatedly, in my opinion."

In response, Mr. Leach said a definition is difficult and he believed it should be at the "flexibility of the chair".



The crowds were immense as the two photos show when Hartman Public School held its Spring Fair Friday on the school grounds. Students and parents alike joined in the many activities available at the fair.

Auroran photos by David Falconer



HOUSE LEAGUE RESULTS

Boys Week of June 6th

U9B - M - June 10 - East Sider Marios/Emerald 5 vs East Side Marios/Sky 1;
U 12 B - M/W - Dr Mark Weeden 9 vs Michelberger Orthodontics 5;
U13B T/Th - Salzburg/Navy 4 (Decosta, Mettel x 2, Ngyen) vs International Jewellery 5 (Saan x3, Chismore-Johnson x 2); Wilson Baliff Bandits 3 (Nguyen x 2 and Bournas) vs Fairplay 0; Pital and 7

(Falzone x 2, Campbell, Smith and Altamore x 3) vs **Core Micro 3** (Joe H, Tyndall M, #7).

Girls Week of May 31st

U16/18 Tues - /Scarlet 1/(Rachel K) vs Royal 5
U10G T/TH - Michelberger Ortho 1 (Palozzi) vs Pitaland 3 (Glynn, Harris, Thompson); East Side Marios/Purple 1 (Olexa) vs Abade Construction 2 (Young and Barratt); Omar Shoes 0 vs East Side Marios/Lime 2 (Bearss); Soccer Nation 4 (O'Connor, Smith, Purcell) vs

1 (Phan); U8/9G - June 1 - BMO 4 (Lara, Lucinda x 2, Lauren) vs Subway 0; Sylvain Learning 3 (Nicholson x2, Torelli x 1) vs Paragon Asset Mgt 2 (Shields, Charlton);

Jackson Events 4 (Coates, Lindsay, Dacey x 2) vs Dymin Steel 2 (Zeyen and Krai);

U9G T/Th - June 2 - East Side Marios/Sky 1 (R Allen) vs Global Pet Foods 0

U14/15G T/Th - June 6 - Upper Canada Mall/Gold 0 vs Stirling Cook 0; Remax Sarah Kavoos 3 (Kavoosi and Duguay) vs Home Hardware 2 (Issaris, Macneall); Upper Canada

Mall/Purple 2 vs Johnson Financial 1; Gringler Iskov Learner 1 (Eskin) vs X - Copper 4 (Jones x2, Depiero); Scotiabank 2 (Point x2) vs Upper Canada Mall/Orange 4 (Blom, Danzinger x2)

U10G T/Th June 7 - Abade Construction 4 (Haws x 2, Irvine, Kapoor) vs Michelberger Ortho 1 (Elliot);

East Side Marios/Lime 5 (Findlay, Gardner, Bearss, Bell and Wright) vs Canadian Springs/Orange 0;

Omar Shoes 1 (Porter) vs Soccer Nation 1 (Pisanko); Pitaland 6 (Diaz, Glynn x 2,

Albert, Thompson) vs East Side Marios/Purple 2 (Colucci x 2)

U13 G T/Th - Stirling Cook 7 (Roel-D'Angelo x2, Funston-Clarke x2, Durbano, Cook, Webster) vs Reflexion Pools 2 (Petsinis, Iaboni); Pitaland 5 (Shortt x 3, Balogh, Long) vs Canadian Vascular Labs 3 (Gupta, Jakubes, Siery); Summers and Smith 4 (Maugeri, Verstraten, Gibson, London) vs Golder Associates 2 (Finlay x2); U16/18G - June 7- Upper Canada Mall/White 1 (Zubiuk) vs 2 (Razak, Cardelli); Upper Canada Mall/Sky 3 (Layton, McKerracher, Baczynski) vs

Dr. Weaver 8 (Vigonick, Knetsch x3, Buitrago, Flemming x 2, Digiambattista); Upper Canada Mall/Lime 3 (Laura K, Alexis B x 2) vs Quality Rugs 2 (Seidel, Hutchinson); Upper Canada Mall/Emerald 2 (Churchill x 2) vs Gringler Iskov Learner 7 (Axiotis x 2, Nisbet x3, Patterson, Swain). U11G M/W - Subway/Sky 1 (Card) vs Pitaland 0; Guaranteed Roofing 3 (Rahal, Boutin, MacLeod) vs Canadian Springs/Gold 1 (Kenwell); Soccer Nation/Navy 2 (Kenkel and Brown) vs Canadian Springs/Royal 1 (Britton).



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Students officially mark their garden

On Friday afternoon Aurora High School students, Sunrise seniors and representatives from Scotts Canada officially celebrated the Miracle-Gro Discovery Garden at the Sunrise Senior Living complex in Aurora.

A 'Dedication Ceremony' included the installation of a permanent sign marking the student/senior partnership and the successful planting of the vegetable garden.

Aurora High School students and the seniors at Sunrise have been working through April, May and June to build and plant the garden that will showcase to residents of Aurora the many environmental, health, economic and educational benefits of having a backyard vegetable garden.

The garden is now flourishing with a first harvest of vegetables expect-

ed in mid-July although some seniors were offered fresh radishes to eat.

While the school year is just about over, a cadre of Aurora High School students has volunteered to assist in maintaining the garden over the summer.

In addition to the seniors/students team at Sunrise Senior Living Aurora, students from Glenforest High School in Mississauga and Markham District High School are partnering with retirement residences in their respective communities to build, maintain and harvest their own Discovery Gardens.

In total, it is expected that up to 1,000 pounds of vegetables will be harvested by seniors and students over the summer and early fall. What the seniors can't use will be given to the Aurora food bank.



Senior Dorothy Trimble, left, and students from Aurora High School got together Friday for the unveiling of the plaque (inset), celebrating the Miracle-Gro Discovery Garden at the Sunrise Senior Living complex.

Photos by Ron Wallace

Council flips on sponsorships

Sponsorship of any Aurora events involving public money will need to come to the council table for formal approval following a vote June 7, reversing a vote made at the previous week's general committee meeting which would have left the ultimate decision up to Town staff.

The change came about from a motion made by Councillor Michael Thompson who said after speaking to residents and mulling over the comments made at the May 31 general committee meeting by Councillors Evelyn Buck and Chris Ballard, he had further considered how Aurora's Platinum Sponsorships should

be handled.

Councillor Thompson on June 7, had previously suggested that the decision be made by more than one person in the interests of transparency.

"I tend to agree with [Councillors Ballard and Buck] that if we're going to endorse anything with a dollar amount ultimately that decision should come before council and we, as a council, should vote for it. If I am going out in the community and somebody asks me about the event I should be able to justify why I voted for it and why I chose to spend the money."

At the previous week's general committee, Councillors Ballard and Buck said council-

lors had said the responsibility to vet anything pertaining to the expenditure of public funds should rest with council.

Numerous questions were also posed at the June 7 meeting regarding various other aspects related to municipal platinum sponsorships, including Councillor Gaertner wanting further clarification on how sponsorships through grants-in-kind will be handled, and Councillor Buck asking for further justification on providing sponsorship for awards handed out by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

The grant to the chamber, however, is a separate part of the budget although councillors have the option of making it a

request like any other, which would then be considered for a share of the money set aside for annual sponsorship.

Under the new plans, \$5,000 would be allocated annually for sponsorship.

With the new criteria, groups and events must serve the residents, businesses, and stakeholders of Aurora and "support one or all of the Town's triple bottom line sustainability approach" of the natural environment, economy, and/or community."

Town Staff are developing a comprehensive policy fleshing out the finer points of the sponsorship plan, which will then come back to council for evaluation and approval.



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Nearly 200-year-old church part of Doors Open

By HELEN ROBERTS
Three buildings have housed the congregation of Aurora (Methodist) United Church from its founding in 1818 to the present day.

William Tyler's donation of land at the corner of Yonge Street and Tyler encouraged the early settlers to erect a log church there for the weekly services.

The deed of one acre of Lot 80 was signed on February 21, 1818 and by the end of that month the opening services were held.

This simple structure served until the congregation outgrew it and in 1855 a larger frame building was erected on the site while the original log building was moved to the back of the lot to serve as a Sunday School.

In 1874 the frame church was partially destroyed by fire and a decision was made by the trustees to build a new, grander edifice.

The building was designed by Architect Henry Langley, well-known for designing public buildings such as Government House, the 8th Post Office on Adelaide Street (Toronto) and Yorkville Town Hall.

Over his working life time Henry Langley designed 70 churches throughout Ontario.

He was considered to be a conservative in architectural design which is reflected in the Gothic Revival style of Aurora (Methodist) United Church with its steeply pitched gable roof and two asymmetrical square towers.

The projected cost of the building was \$8,915 less lighting and heating; or \$8,315 without the large 100-foot spire.

Fortunately it was

decided to include the tall spire along with a shorter one.

The cost of the gas lighting would be an extra \$528.

The work was contracted out; the cost of the stone and brick (made locally) was \$3,870, the carpentry and joining \$3,800 and the seating contract 17 cents per foot, increased to 25 cents per foot for the gallery seating (with better lumber).

By October, 1878, the impressive new church was completed and opening services were held. Initially, to help defray expenses, pews were rented out at \$1.

Later the rent was raised to \$2 and eventually pews were let to the highest bidder.

Pew rents were finally abolished in 1912.

Over its 193-year history numerous alterations have taken place.

In 1893 a cyclone that roared through Aurora blew off the large spire and damaged the smaller one. Shorter spires replaced the originals until 1943 when both spires were removed after being struck by lightning several times.

In 1909 a wing was added to the west end of the church to provide the ladies' parlour and electric lighting was installed in 1912-1914.

In 1930-31 extensive alterations were made to the sanctuary including new pews, pulpit furniture and pipe organ followed later by a new ceiling and wood paneling to replace the iron railing in the gallery.

Three further expansions took place during the next 60 years: in 1957 an addition to the front of the church created a new entrance, the Narthex and

Sunday School rooms beneath - stained glass windows were installed in 1977 and completed in 1993 to celebrate the 175th anniversary.

1975 saw the addition of a gymnasium on the north side of the building which in turn was demolished in 1987 to make way for a new wing providing space for offices and meeting rooms.

The final redevelopment occurred in 2009 when the

sanctuary underwent significant changes.

Wood paneling, installed in 1931, was removed from the gallery railing exposing the original iron rails, the balcony was shortened, the chancel extended and new lighting and a state of the art AV system installed.

New paint and a folding glass door brighten the sanctuary and the changes allow for more variety in programming both during

Town to renew church parking spots

Parking spaces for downtown shoppers and business patrons at the Aurora United Church are expected to be secured once again following final approval at council this week, which will see the Town execute another agreement with the church for use of the downtown lot.

While councillors were in support of the idea at last week's general committee meeting, Councillor Wendy Gaertner wanted further assurances that Aurora residents are made aware they have the right to park in the parking lot instead rather than taking their chances.

"I have an issue with spending any money on this unless we make sure that there are signs that the public will know that this parking is available to the public," said Councillor Gaertner on the United Church Parking lot, which has green P parking signs directing patrons to it.

"I have lived in Aurora a long time and I never knew I could park there. I always thought it was clandestine when I parked there. Not only are we going to be paving, but we're going to be paying them \$200 a year, so can we please have a good sign where people will know."

Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, said that while the Green P parking sign is "not overly visible," the Aurora United Church should not have a problem with improvements being made to

the signage.

"What we'll do is look at making it a little more visible," he said.

According to Councillor Ballard the fact that the Town of Aurora's agreement with the Aurora United Church had lapsed was only discovered through a parking inventory while undertaking the Aurora Promenade Study.

"Not only is there a Green P parking sign, but I believe those parking spots are included on the map of the Downtown Core, the parking map for the Downtown Core which was done as part of the Promenade Study two years ago, and I think that this is actually how we found out our agreement had expired," he said. "It's a good exercise to put the Town through to go back to all the parking spaces, do an inventory, and start bringing all the agreements up to snuff. You can park there now, Councillor Gaertner, without fear of prosecution!"

The Town and the Church have had several lease agreements dating from 1951, and parking lot maintenance and snow clearing have been performed by the Town in exchange for surplus parking spaces, according to Mr. Simanovskis' report.

"The most recent agreement was signed in 1992, renewable every five years for up to three terms," he said. "This agreement expired in 2007 and reverted to an annual tenancy.

church services and special performances.

A video of the sanctuary redevelopment will be playing all day to show visitors the fine work that took place, don't miss it as well as the pictorial display of the church's history.

Doors Open will take place on Saturday, July 9, 2011. 21 sites, including this one, will be taking part of this event and most of them are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information or to volunteer for the event, call 905-727-3123 Ext. 4351 or visit www.aurora.ca/doorsopen 2011.

Early history taken from: 150th Anniversary of the Founding and Dedication of Aurora United Church, Formerly Methodist Church, Aurora Ontario 1818-1968: Historical Sketch by J.B. Bastedo



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June 21st, is the first day of summer according to the calendar, and I hope somebody who can warm things up is listening.

Outdoor recreation amounts to necessity allowing the recharging of emotional energy, simply by getting work and other responsibilities out of mind, and allowing the solace of recreations to provide comfort.

Those who find golf washed out continually find interminable rain boring and frustrating, and not a thing anybody can do will change anything.

The Street Festival took place on what many consider as the finest day this year, and that event ranks highly in Aurora.

Thankfully, the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) members enter the Seniors' Centre and spend their days indoors with a constantly changing mix of activities to lighten their days.

Everything that is innovative or different increases pleasure and interest and while it is impossible to present novelties continually, neither is it a

necessity.

Introduce a novelty to children for example and they will accept it and enjoy it, and then return to baseball or soccer, or hide and seek.

After writing hide and seek, I asked myself how old that pastime might be, and my answer emerged as probably from antiquity, which while lacking a definitive answer, made the point about returning to old interests.

Michelle Stermer is the young woman from the coordinators office, responsible for programming among the seniors, and that responsibility entails providing space and time for the regular programs and finding space and time for occasional meetings and activities that crop up.

When a new activity emerges, Michelle has the task of finding space and an acceptable time slot, which is often easy and often difficult depending on time and day, but somehow everything slots together as if it were a giant jigsaw puzzle.

When good minds meet, good things happen to ordinary everyday events.

The activities that create construct or produce art or usable items enjoy a built in mechanism for introducing newness and originality.

Wellness and alertness is a hallmark of satisfaction with life in general, and the Seniors' Centre provides numerous examples of members retaining health for extended periods.

Probably we live as well as we do because of what we do, how we pass time and how we imagine and create pleasure from our imaginations.

Visualizing or dreaming good ways of spending time profitably and preferably with others is a recipe for good and long life.

The profitable manner of participating in the Seniors' Centre among seniors spills over to personal life away from the Centre.

Often, kind words delivered with quiet passion to a loved one or a friend, when relationships strained to the breaking point need mending, may make the difference to continuing together or starting over from emotional emptiness.

Maintaining friendship

among members of the ASA works in much the same way, and expressing caring words at an appropriate moment works wonders.

The Computer Club committee, with about 14 present, met Friday to discuss past, current and pending business.

So much business is in process that something is always emerging, nearing completion or still in process that the committee work may reach a current or up to date level, but it never ceases.

Since this committee is newly elected, assignment of executive positions is a priority. The chairperson for 2011/12 is Bob Hedenberg.

Summer is upon us and aspirations for the coming fall term require the attention of everyone at this time.

The committee, for example, requires knowledge of which instructors will return in the fall, and who will attend to the Tuesday meeting presentations.

The Computer Club has a commendable record in helping members keep up to date with new technology, and in this day of constant change,

alert seniors grasp all the knowledge available.

When the meeting concluded, the committee were invited to the home of the chairperson and his wife who served an excellent BBQ, together with the merriment that accompanies the conclusion of successful seasons.

Summer will see the group break up to a degree, with holidays abroad or at the cottage calling.

Not all will go away or holiday at the same time and so computer business will continue but at a subdued level.

In the fall, Computer Club activities will rise to their former levels,

For those lacking computer experience in the Seniors' Centre, now is the time to put aside hesitant habits, and plunge into the world of basic computing.

Local pharmacist wins merit award

Aurora pharmacist Lisa Sever has been named the recipient of the Ontario Pharmacists' Association's 2011 Mortar and Pestle Award of Merit.

The award, which recognizes the winner's commitment to supporting health care in her community, was presented at the Association's annual conference in Huntsville June 11.

Lisa Sever, BScPHM, ACPR, RPh is the Lead Pharmacist; Medication Support

Services – Community at York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill.

"Lisa Sever's commitment to patients in the home care setting has helped ensure patients in her community receive the care they need - from their pharmacist and from the whole healthcare team," said Dennis Darby, CEO of the Ontario Pharmacists' Association. "We are pleased to present this year's Mortar and Pestle Award of Merit to such a deserving candidate."

A graduate of the University of Toronto, the winner has held positions at both St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton and York Central Hospital, where she focused her efforts on ambulatory care populations.

In 2008, she was invited to examine how medications are assessed in the home care setting and she immediately identified opportunities for pharmacists in those settings to benefit patient care. When the Medication Management Support Services (MMSS)

program was created with the Central Community Care Access Centre later that year, she became lead pharmacist for the project - an opportunity that allowed her to put her skills and knowledge to work for home care patients in her community.

Under her leadership, the MMSS pharmacy team now receives 100-125 referrals each month, and has served more than 1,200 patients.

They continue to build relationships with community pharmacy partners, hospital administrators and pharmacy departments, and to advocate on behalf of patients who can benefit from pharmacist interventions.

The winner has also been active in mentoring other pharmacists, providing clinical and administrative support to her team, and offering medication safety education for other healthcare providers.

Aurora accountant elected

Aurora Chartered Accountant, Linda Thibeault, CA, a partner with Morley Sanderson Millard & Foster PC, has been re-elected to 2011-2012 governing Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario for her fifth term.

Prior to her current position, Linda worked with Kendall, Sinclair & Partners LLP, BDO Dunwoody LLP and Ernst & Young LLP.

She has also worked with the finance department of Ontario Northland Transportation Commission, with ONTel as Manager of Accounting and Administration and as a full-time professor in the School of Business and Economics at Nipissing University.

Linda has been involved with the Institute for a number of years.

She has been active on many Institute committees including the Council Bylaws Review, Audit, Nominating, Membership, ICAO Award of Distinction Review Committee and Public Accounting Licensing Board. Linda remains active in

the community and sits on the Parent Teacher Association of a local school. Prior to her move to Aurora, she served on a number of boards in North Bay, including serving as the Chair of the Catholic School Advisory Board, and the Chair of the Parent Teacher Association. She served on the Advisory Board for the School of Business and Economics at Nipissing University and was also a director on both the North

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