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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper
Vol. 11 No. 37 905-727-3300 theauroran.com FREE Week of July 12, 2011

Hervey and Morris set another court date

The next hearing in the matter of George Hervey vs. former Aurora mayor Phyllis Morris for an alleged violation of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, is slated for February 17.

The date was set after a scheduling hearing at the Newmarket Court House on June 29.

In his suit, Mr. Hervey alleges that Ms. Morris breached the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act with her \$6 million lawsuit against three local bloggers, Bill Hogg, Richard Johnson, and Elizabeth Bishenden, among others, which was initiated in what turned out to be the final weeks of her term.

Mr. Hervey alleges Ms. Morris suit was in violation of the Act as she had a pecuniary interest in the matter. His notice of application, which was filed in the spring, calls for the court to direct Ms. Morris to make "restitution" to the Town for "any amount paid to or on behalf of the Respondent arising proximately to a breach of the Act". It also moves to bar her from being a "member" as defined by the Act for seven years, meaning she could not hold municipal office during that time.

"The respondent was the Mayor of the Town between November, 2006 and December, 2010," reads Mr. Hervey's notice of application. "As such, the Respondent was at all material times a 'Member' as defined under the Act."

"The motion carried forth and approved following the Closed Session directed the Town to pursue the matter and take any steps neces-

Please see page 12

Days numbered?

Throw money into it? "Sink" money into it? Use it for something else? Gut it and rebuild? Tear it down and start again?

Those are some of the options available considered by council when discussing the future of the Aurora Family Leisure Complex.

The discussions took place late last month during a lengthy debate on what to do with the 23-year-old building which, according to Town

Staff, has many of its component parts reaching the end of their life cycles.

The informal talks, which took place at a council workshop to take a closer look at capital projects that had been deferred from the 2011 budget process, examined the merits of spending money to replace and repair several parts of the building's infrastructure, including a retrofit of the building's ice plant, a

PACT'S parks program must wait a little longer

Organizers of the proposed Parks Ambassadors program, which is slated to be facilitated by Police and Community Together (PACT), will have to wait a little longer before getting Council approval to proceed on all cylinders.

The delay in getting the project fully off the ground came after council followed through with their decision in June to hold off on endorsing the program until a further report from Parks and Recreation Director Al Downey went through general committee.

For Cyndy Skillins, who appeared as a delegate on behalf of PACT, get-

ting truly started with the program cannot come without council approval.

"At the Street Festival we just had an amazing amount of interest from people who saw the information that we offered and it was very encouraging," she said, of the program's awareness campaign at last month's Aurora Street festival. "I recently had the privilege of speaking with the Police Chief and I want to reiterate that they are really pushing to get some of this Parks Ambassador program into York Region."

"They are very, very happy that Aurora is considering it, so...I just

wanted to bring that information back to the table to let you know that we're not doing this in any way in isolation. I had an excellent meeting with the Parks Advisory Committee, Leisure Services and I was very encouraged with what they had for suggestions."

"We would like to be able to start as soon as possible, not to push it, but we want to do a soft start, recognizing that quite often you don't get things perfect right out of the box, but we really need to have a working group with the aim of a really hard start next year that allows the training which the police are fully behind us

Please see page 7



Despite the heat, Saturday's Doors Open event in Aurora was a success. Above, Dorothy Gummarsall, left, and Councillor Sandra Humfryes flank farmer Bill Cooper of Cooper's Farm and Maze near Zephyr, at the Farmers' Market Saturday morning where much of the event started. Visitors were welcomed at 21 sites where the doors were open to the public.
Auroran photo by David Falconer

Aurora gets \$100,000 from York for woodlot

York Region is kicking in \$100,000 from its Land Securement Reserve to help the Town of Aurora pin down the Case Woodlot for future municipal use.

The Regional Council authorised the contribution to purchase the 10-hectare woodlot near Bathurst Street and Henderson Drive contingent on the Town of Aurora raising the remaining funds to buy the lot outright.

The total acquisition cost of the Case Woodlot was estimated this spring at \$762,000, which would cover the sale price, the land transfer taxes, land registration fees, and the costs for

the Town for environmental assessments, according to an April report from Aurora CAO Neil Garbe.

"The acquisition costs are to be taken from the Town's Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland Reserve Account, however these funds may be offset by as much as \$100,000 if the Town's request to the Region of York for a contribution from the Greening Strategy Land Securement Fund is approved," said Mr. Garbe at the time. "These funds are in addition to the operating costs estimated at approximately \$4,000 to

Please see page 9




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COMING EVENTS

TUESDAY JULY 19

An evening of poetry "Good vs. Evil" will be held tonight at 7 p.m., hosted by Bonsai Hill at 15263 Yonge Street, Unit 2. The evening will feature Malcolm Watts, author and poet. Returning performers and poets include The Manatee Band 4, 3, 2, 1; Aaron Morris and Paul Mason musicians; Deborah Campo, Sabine Mayer, and Michael Dwyer. There will be an open mic for guest poets. Performance starts at 7.15 p.m., but seating is limited.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Speaker this evening is Steven Biggs who will talk about No Guff Vegetable Gardening. The group meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. For further information call Cindy at 905-713-6660.

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.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents the first of four outdoor painting classes this month from artist/instructor Herbert Pryke. Learn the joy of summertime painting "en plein air"; all mediums welcomed. Classes run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. today, August 6, 11 and 13th. The \$120 fee includes all four classes plus a bonus one-hour introductory class. For info or to register contact Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, or call 905-713-1818.

AUGUST 9-10

Aurora Cultural Centre presents a series of two individual Camp Days for children ages 6 to 12. A full day brimming with a variety of music, dance, art projects, improv and theatre games; \$45 per child. Bonus before-and-after care included in price; inquire about special rates for sibling/friend registration. Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. For information or to register call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

A fundraiser, called "Goats For Africa", will be held this evening from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Timberlane Athletic Club, 155 Vandorf Road. A barbecue, catered by the Roving Chef, will kick things off and participants will be able to listen to music provided by "The Timecats". Also included in the evening's events will be a raffle, wine tasting and a cash bar. Admittance is \$45 with all proceeds going to P.R.E.F.E.R (poverty - reduction - education - family empowerment - Rwanda) to send children to school and buy goats to sustain families. Tickets are available from Dorothy Campbell. Call her at home 905-237-9066, at work 905-830-4444, extension 2303 or on her cell at 905-751-6342. She is also available by e-mail at dorothy.campbell119@gmail.com or dorothy.campbell@york.ca.

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.

AUGUST 23, 24

Aurora Cultural Centre presents a series of two individual Camp Days for children ages 6 to 12. A full day brimming with a variety of music, dance, art projects, improv and theatre games; \$45 per child. Bonus before-and-after care included in price; inquire about special rates for sibling/friend registration. Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. For information or to register call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

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 Heinze, 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, which meets every second Wednesday of the month at the Aurora Legion, will not meet during July and August. They will reconvene September 14th. 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.

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 co-ordinator 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 keeping-ing@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.

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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Helene and Dwayne Edwards, 19 Little Erika Way, pose in front of their garden which was one of several stops on the annual

Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society garden tour in Aurora last week.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Councillor felt "belittled" during meeting

Councillor Wendy Gaertner felt "belittled" by other members of council when she faced criticisms over the number of questions which she had prepared to pepper staff at a special general committee meeting recently.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss proposed changes to the municipal procedural bylaw, but evidently there was some confusion among certain members of council whether the meeting, which was called as a special general committee, was also a workshop.

During the meeting, Councillor Gaertner asked staff and the facilitator, Fred Deans, a number of questions related to the procedural bylaw and was asked to hold off on some of them to ensure other members of council had an equal turn at bat.

While Councillors Gaertner and Evelyn Buck took the opportunity to question staff on previous disagreements, conflicts, grey areas, grievances, and how points of controversy could best be handled procedurally, Councillor Gaertner waited until the following week to make her full frustrations of what transpired at the June 14 meeting known to the public.

At the June 21 council meeting, Councillor Gaertner brought the matter up while she and her fellow members considered the approval of previous meeting minutes.

At that point she wondered whether the minutes were correct as the minutes reflected a workshop.

"Either the minutes are incorrect and it wasn't a workshop and what was told to me is correct, or the minutes are correct and it was a workshop and it could have been conducted as a workshop," she said. "But I was told that was not the case. What is right and what is wrong?"

"I came prepared to participate in a workshop because the motion said we were going to have a workshop about the

procedural bylaw. Either these minutes are incorrect and that meeting wasn't supposed to be a workshop, or what I was told at the meeting that it was not a workshop was incorrect.

"The reason it is important to me is because I came prepared to discuss the procedural bylaw in a workshop setting and I believe at least one councillor at this table thought I was rather silly to be doing that, so I would just like to know whether I am right or wrong."

After a moment of discussion between him and Town Clerk John Leach, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe said the meeting in question was a special general committee "conducted with the purpose of holding a workshop on the procedural bylaw" but time eventually ran short during the proceedings.

"If it was that important to me, I would go over the DVD and bring it to you and show you where I was told that this was not a workshop and belittled because I was approaching it in that way, but it is not that important to me," said Councillor Gaertner.

Whether or not the matter she brought forward was important to her, the discussion around the table continued with Councillor John Gallo, who said his recollection was the same as Councillor Gaertner's.

"Part of the agenda was that it was a workshop," he said. "To be quite honest at the time I didn't make a big deal because I don't even understand what the difference between it was. We don't waive our procedural bylaws in terms of how we debate across the table. It was a working session and to me it doesn't change much in terms of how we proceed. Perhaps we could [have] put more timing toward it."

Mayor Dawe asked if Councillor Gaertner, or indeed any other member of the table, wanted to put a motion on the floor to delete the word "workshop" from the minutes, but

she declined.

"I'm going to drop it now," she said. "I think I made my point."

But the band played on.

After an additional point from Councillor Gallo, the next councillor to speak was Chris Ballard, who said he agreed with Councillor Gaertner's recollection that she was being "rushed" and "belittled". A workshop would have allowed her to ask more questions, he said.

"That's why she had come prepared to ask as many questions as she had and she felt that she had been shut down that we ran out of time for whatever reasons, and I think what she is really after is just some clarification that she didn't misread the agenda and it was in fact a workshop," said Councillor Ballard, who prefaced his remarks by saying he didn't want to "read into what Councillor Gaertner was saying."

"She had the right to ask as many questions, as all of us did, as possible and if anything I think she is just, not to put words in her mouth, offended at being belittled."

In response, Mayor Dawe said if Councillor Gaertner felt "belittled" that it was inappropriate and no councillor or staff member should feel belittled.

"We were indeed rushed and we ran out of time and we did discuss bringing this back for further discussion," said Mayor Dawe. "This will be coming back to the table for future discussion and perhaps in the future what we will do is have a better definition of what we expect in a workshop so we will not run into this issue."

Councillor Buck, however, countered that council was not rushed and had two hours to cover the meeting.

"I don't know what amount of time would allow one person out of nine people at the table to monopolize all of the time with one person's questions," she said. "Each member of council has to have consideration for each other but



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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Hospital visit was a surprise, no MRI for me

It was another visit to Southlake Regional Health Centre, the hospital, Friday night, and I had seen it all before.

Another trip through what I have lovingly referred to as a cigar machine.

Doctors throughout the world, well, okay, Aurora, have been trying for years to figure out what’s wrong with me, and the best they can come up with is more pills.

Y’see, I have lost my nerve, and I don’t know where it went.

Today, I can’t ski, play hockey, write, type, or anything, and my right foot has been asleep (well, that’s what it feels like) for years.

Perhaps that’s why I have a new left knee.

There’s nothing wrong with the right knee that won’t be a problem for a couple of years, Dr. Patrick Gamble said.

So, when my doctor packed it in a year or so ago, I had to find another family doctor, and I found Dr. Sam Naghibi on Wellington Street East.

I can’t pronounce his last name, so I call him Dr. Sam...

My former doctor was Dr. Len Wilkes, but he retired.

Did I tell you I knew his father when I lived in Stouffville? That, however, is another story.

At any rate, Southlake recently has pretty much always been on time, so I set a card game at my house for 8 p.m. thinking there’d be plenty of time after my 6.30 p.m. appointment with the cigar machine.

After following the footsteps to my waiting room, and after they had given me a wrist band in case I couldn’t remember who I was, I arrived at my destination.

At five to seven I was still waiting to be called.

Time was running out and I was getting nervous, when this man appeared and called my name.

“You have 20 minutes to get me back to Aurora,” I fumed.

“Have you out of here in five minutes,” he replied.

No flipping way, I thought, realizing it takes longer than that for me to undress and figure out how those “gowns” work.

But I wasn’t scheduled for the “cigar machine”; I was up for a CT-Scan, better known as a Cat-Scan.

This was not a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine, which I have been through before.

I had left my lower denture plate at home for nothing.

The magnets would not suck the teeth right out of my mouth, I was assured.

No, it also wasn’t necessary to get undressed, he said.

Just lay there with your feet at that end, pointing to the raised end of the “bed”.

There were no headphones, no music, no nothing.

“Your head won’t even go into the machine,” he said.

And he was right.

So, I just lay there like a dope and the machine (at one point, I thought I was in an airplane as it took off) did what it was supposed to, I guess.

It’ll be a week before Dr. Sam sees the results of this Cat-Scan, but I doubt it will tell him much.

As one of the guys said after the card game: “it’s probably all in your head.”

He’s probably right.

If anyone can tell me what’s wrong, I can introduce you to a bunch of doctors, all of whom are curious.

Perhaps, the chiropractor was right when he says my spine is a mess.



This aerial shot of Aurora is marked copyright on the back, so we probably shouldn’t be using it. But it shows our town before Orchard Heights subdivision was born. The photo is even lacking the subdivisions of Regency Acres and Aurora Heights, which means it’s at least 60 years old. You can see the apple orchards (arrow) in the upper left side of the photo, south of St. Andrew’s College. Can anyone help us out on when the picture was taken by the Royal Canadian Air Force? Thanks to David Heard for providing the shot.

Letter to the Editor

Fox isn’t a fox at all, it’s a coyote: reader

To the editor,

Is it a fox or coyote?

In response to Shelly Wister-Smith’s letter to the editor “Foxes won’t kill anything larger than a rabbit”.

The first sighting of a fox in my backyard was two weeks ago when it chased my cat up a tree.

I immediately called the Ministry of Natural Resources in Aurora to get information regarding the fox. I was informed that the animal was not a fox but actually a coyote.

Since that time, the coyote has been in my backyard almost every day in the morning or the middle of the day.

The lady I spoke with at the ministry told me to bring in all bird food, squirrel food, etc. and to keep my pets in the house.

I also did some further research on coyote behavior and

food in Ontario and got this information from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

"The availability of food affects what coyotes eat. Since migrating to Ontario more than 100 years ago, the coyote has adapted well to both rural and urban environments. Although unusual, coyotes in urban areas may search for food during the day and may prey on small dogs and other pets from yards in residential areas".

It’s actually a sad situation.

Since all the residential and commercial development in the Town of Aurora, these animals are trying to find food anywhere.

Hopefully by just leaving them alone and keeping our pets in the house, they will eventually move on.

**Judy Sherman
Aurora**

—THE AURORAN—

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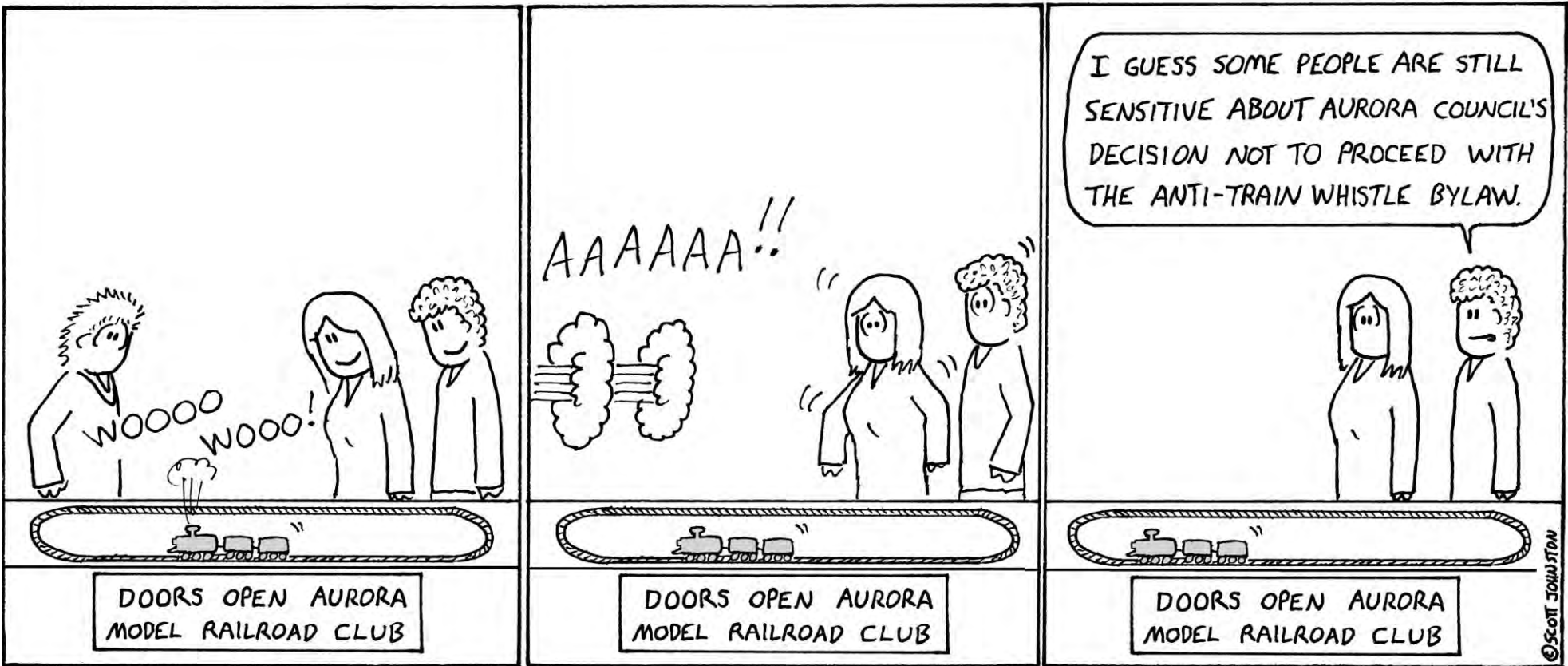
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Energy is a sleeper issue

At this time of year, the last thing that any of you probably want to think about is politics.

The weather's nice, and you no doubt have visions of vacations or long weekends and of sipping cool ones beside the pool.

As we went through a municipal election last fall and just finished a federal election this past May, you thought you would be safe.

Guess again!

You will most certainly be ecstatic to know that the October 6 provincial election is only 100 days or so away.

A number of the main issues that the respective parties will campaign on have been identified; education and health care funding, taxes, deficits and government integrity, to name just a few.

But there could be a sleeper issue out there.

Most people, other than those who work in the industry, don't usually pay attention to the energy file. As long as the lights remain on and any outages are short in duration and don't occur too frequently, people are pretty satisfied and go about their busy daily existence of raising a family, paying the bills and saving for vacations.

But this has all changed.

First, people started to open their mailboxes and found electricity bills that were much more expensive than they had been.

There were a number of reasons cited for the large increases, including the implementation of the Harmonized Sales Tax ("HST") on July 1st last year, and the impacts of the new generation and transmission infrastructure that had been coming on line.

Second, these price increases were not one-time events; they have continued and will continue into the foreseeable future.

The Minister of Finance Dwight Duncan stated in an interview with Steve Paikin on TVO's "The Agenda" television program that home electricity costs could rise 46 per cent over the next five years to pay for hydro system upgrades.

Duncan also said that the green energy policies will account for 56 per cent of the price increase and the expansion of nuclear and natural gas power plants the reasons for the remaining 44 per cent.

During the interview Mr. Duncan also passed the political grenade over to the Progressive Conservatives and NDP by saying that, in effect, any political party who says that energy prices won't be going up is deceitful to the public.

The energy file is important in and of itself, but it is even more significant because energy is inextricably intertwined with economic policy and the decisions made by our public officials affect our provinces' competitiveness and pro-

ductivity, and ultimately our standard of living.

Most polls show that Ontarians view energy through the prism of price, reliability and environmental sustainability.

Depending upon the state of the economy, these three items may change in order, but in poll after poll, they always finish in the top three.

We need to vigorously discuss/debate the kind of energy system that we want.

And that will involve an important debate regarding the choosing of an appropriate energy supply mix (because each type of generation asset has different operational and capital cost characteristics) and also how best to procure both the new generation and transmission that this province needs.

Like the health care question, it is very tough to sort out fact from fiction in the energy debate.

All the spin doctors, communication consultants and PR flacks are being lined up by the various competing stakeholder groups to get their message out as the provincial election nears.

Next week I'll take a look at the energy policy positions of the three political parties and the potential implications for electricity rates in Aurora.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Minor detour

"Just where is Aurora, anyway?" asked William, Duke of Cambridge, on a fine day in London in early June.

"In Ontario, just north of Toronto," replied his new bride, Catherine.

"You know all the stops on our Canadian tour have already been confirmed. Why do you want to go there?"

"This is my first time in Canada. I want to get a real feel for the country."

"But we'll be in Ottawa, Quebec City, Charlottetown, Yellowknife, even Calgary for the ... Stampede," William concluded, after referring to the Royal Itinerary. "That has most of the country covered."

"Yes, and I'm looking forward to seeing them all, but I was doing some research on the internet, and Aurora sounds ever so marvellous. It's a small town almost 150 years old, with lots of community spirit, a war memorial, cultural centre, and so much to see and do."

"And just look at all the things they have planned for July 1st," she enthused, showing her husband a sheet she had printed off from the website. "Small town activities, not ones with all the pomp and ceremony we'll get everywhere else."

Still sensing some reluctance in her husband, she concluded. "Best of all, Aurora is 'Canada's Birthday Town'. And what better place to be on Canada Day?"

"I don't know, luv," the Duke said, looking again at the itinerary. "Besides, we'll be in Ottawa on Canada Day - our schedule that Friday is pretty full."

"Aurora's only a short distance from the capital. What if we stopped in on our way to Montreal the following morning?" she suggested. "We'd have time if we left early, and I'm sure there would be lots to see, even in a short time. It would be so nice for a change to just shop, and wander around, and see people without fences in between."

"I don't know ..."

He glanced over and saw his wife looking at him with that radiant smile that had melted his heart ever since he had met her at university all those years ago.

"Well, we'll see."

My friend John called me in early July, and I could hear the excitement in his voice.

"You'll never guess who I just saw?"

Before I could reply, he blurted out, "William and Kate."

Their visit had been all over the news recently. "Oh, were you in Ottawa yesterday?"

"No, right here in Aurora this morning, on Yonge Street. I think they were headed over to the Farmer's

Market!"

"Of course. Were Brad and Angelina with them?"

"No, really. They were kind of disguised, with hats and dark glasses, and had a couple of big guys with them - must have been bodyguards. I'm sure it was them."

"Yeah, you can tell me all about it when I see you next week," I laughed, hanging up the phone.

That John is such a kiddier.

Meanwhile, as the Royal couple's plane started its descent into Montreal, the Duchess of Cambridge leaned over to her husband and gave him a peck on the cheek.

"Thank you again for fitting that unscheduled stop into our itinerary," she said. "Even if it wasn't Canada Day, it was still fun being in Canada's Birthday Town."

"My pleasure, luv," he smiled. "But if we're to keep it a secret, you'd better take that off before we land."

"Oh, all right", she agreed reluctantly, removing her new Aurora Tigers baseball cap, and shaking out her long hair.

"I'll save it to wear when we get home."

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

Letters to the Editor

Bijoy’s is reader’s restaurant of choice

To the editor,

I have never professed to be a foodie or connoisseur. Those who know me know that I am a picky eater. This is not my fault – I was raised on a limited budget where my mom learned to stretch a pound of ground beef for at least two-sometimes three dinners. Once in a while we had a roast of beef, poor cut cooked slowly for a couple of days (kidding). I always ask for all meat to be well done, cremated if possible and have embarrassed more than a few dinner companions with my requests. My sister and I both suffer

from this well-done syndrome although mine is more severe. I think either we didn’t trust mom’s penchant for eating raw hamburger while telling us not to do it (do as I say not as I do) - eck! - thus turning us off rare meat or were we just the beneficiaries of the burnt food as kids. My father-in-law contributed to my limited spectrum of gourmet delights. Every Monday he came to our home for dinner before playing hockey with my husband. Talk about picky, he requested and I prepared pork sausages with cream corn (not niblets) and boiled potatoes – never deviating from

this selection. My husband grew up with his father’s diet. None of that “foreign food”, like pizzas, were on their menu. Fortunately, my sons did not inherit this restriction and have learned to experiment with all foods. The reason I am sharing this with you is that a couple of weeks ago I went to one of the nicest restaurants in Aurora for lunch. Dr. (Bette) Stephenson requested that I make reservations for four for lunch. Lunch guests from Ottawa and Kingston would be joining us and so a quiet situation with excellent food was my assignment.

Although my choice for lively entertainment and a good time was always the Legion – this wasn’t quite what SHE had in mind. There was Jonathan’s, always enjoyable for family, business luncheons. I should note that Mary is ever the gracious hostess and a terrific corporate citizen but my assignment called for something more on the quiet side.

TK’s, King Henry’s Arms, Tom & Jerry’s, Filly & Firkin, Baldwin’s and Greystones all great places where I have eaten and socialized, but not always the best for a tête-à-tête. There is no shortage of great restaurants in Aurora, (I have not been to them all) which I am told have excellent food.

If I had my way, we could always order in Swiss Chalet – you can always count on Swiss. When I was little, my mom took my childhood friend, Vickie, and me for my birthday to the original Swiss Chalet on Yonge Street by bus. I remember being dressed up for this special restaurant experience with the white socks and black patent shoes. But I digress!

There were a lot of restaurants that I had not tried but I thought we would try Bijoy’s, on Temperance Street. This converted house intrigued me and I thought Dr. S. would enjoy going down memory lane. Her grandfather built several homes in the area and she could show the group the house she was born in. To my delight, Bijoy’s provided the right atmosphere, conducive for talking (not having to shout over loud crowds or background music).

Best of all was the food! There were enough choices to satisfy all palates, including mine. The portions were perfect, no waste, leaving room for desert – and imbibing in my banana crepe was sheer heaven. Normally, I am too full after eating appetizers that I can hardly finish my main course.

Of course, we had Ontario wine (SHE only drinks Ontario wines). We talked, we laughed, we dined in a setting reminiscent of a time when one dressed for a leisurely, special luncheon. By the way the cost was quite affordable. The only complaint that I would have was that this out-of-the-way jewel has been discovered and as a result we

were a bit crowded. As I stated before, I am not a food critic but relying on my lunch companion’s opinion, “I did good”! Aurora, once again you should be very proud of your business community and the varied choices of restaurants that you have. Remember to shop and feast locally!

Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges

Tough to make ends meet if you’re a single parent, he believes

To the editor,

Re: York Affluent, but poor lived here. (Auroran, July 5 edition). This article illustrates that the while York Region may boast one of the highest median incomes in Canada, the gap between the rich and poor is widening. The article utilizes the census data collected and points out that more people are struggling economically now to just get by on a daily bases. A chief reason for this trend could be explained by a dramatic increase in the number of single parent families in the Region.

It is indeed difficult to make ends meet for a family with only one main source of income. According to Statistics Canada, in Aurora, for example, in 2001, there were 1,115 lone parent families headed by a female; but by 2006 there were 1,800 lone parent families headed by a female. Over all, in York Region, there were 30,565 lone parent families in 2006 and 80 per cent of these family units were headed up by a female in 2006. Due to the rapid increase in population in York Region, (18.6 per cent from 2001 to 2006), the social services are strained

to accommodate the needs of the growing number of the lower income group. Food banks can hardly cope with the surge in the demand for food from their shelves each week. Yellow Brick Homes are now experiencing a significant increase for housing by single parent mothers who have left a marriage for shelter. These people need help to get back on their feet and all levels of government need to develop functional programs to reach this group of citizens in York Region.

Jim Jackson
Aurora

Council should look again at cost surrounding Petch

To the editor,

It was with great interest that I read last week’s column regarding the restoration of the Petch cabin. As a taxpayer, I have many concerns as I consider last year’s estimate of \$400,000 to restore and reconstruct the building. Has inflation been factored in as I’m sure significant time will have passed before a consensus will be reached? Also does this estimate include the moving costs from the present site to final destination? While I applaud the Friends of Petch Cabin for their pledge to raise \$80,000 towards the cost of this project, this still leaves the town (READ TAXPAYERS) with the shortfall of \$320,000 at last year’s figures. Next, and most impor-

tant, how and can this building with its limited space be cost effective? Having seen the cabin, I can only conclude its use as a site for small meetings. It clearly cannot be used for recreational purposes and even class visits with students and teachers would be

cramped. Surely the town hall or Seniors’ Centre would be more logical venues. Once again, I will suggest that the council pause and reconsider the issue of practicality and NEEDS as opposed to WANTS.

Judy Salmon
Aurora

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Parks proposal waits a little longer

From page 1
and want to support us with through the winter."

Through the program, walkers, runners, and cyclists will receive training to identify potential problems in parks assigned to them to police and relay their information to other appropriate bodies, such as the Parks and Recreation department.

A Parks Ambassador program would serve to fill a gap between a number of different crime prevention programs in the community, including Neighbourhood Watch and Business Watch, and engage the community in going out to familiar environments and "interact with the proper authorities," Ms. Skillins said.

The program also generates local stewardship, as well as local guardianship, increases a local perception of the individuals that our community is safe, Ms. Skillins added.

The program, once approved, would be managed by Aurora PACT and populated by other volunteer bodies such as Neighbourhood Network.

Potential participants in the program must be over the age of 18 (16, if accompanied by an adult) and they must commit to work in their assigned

public space on a regular basis, not intermittently. They must also live and/or work in Aurora, with few exceptions, and obtain police clearance.

Vaughan adopted the Parks Ambassador program in 2005, where it has been successful and Richmond Hill, Markham, and Barrie have also started similar programs.

An attempt was made by Councillor Paul Pirri, however, to fast track the Parks Ambassadors, which he described as "a great program".

"We aren't the first place to be implementing this," he said. "It has worked really well in other places and I would like them to be able to get going as soon as possible and I didn't think they would be able to get moving without the full support of council. Because this is such a great program, because it is working so well, and because the York Regional Police are behind them I think that is something, again, that we should support."

Councillor Pirri's motion was defeated, however, in favour of the original motion to wait until Mr. Downey had come back with his full report.

One councillor in favour of holding out for the report was

Chris Ballard, who said a "fulsome" discussion on the Parks Ambassadors program had taken place at the Parks and Recreation advisory committee and Mr. Downey was made aware of their concerns.

"He is aware of the positives and some of the concerns that we had, and I think to move the motion as amended would really usurp the direction we gave Mr. Downey initially," said Councillor Ballard. "I think we should wait and see what this report has to say."

Council had previously supported the Parks Ambassador Program in principle, but forwarded it to the advisory committee for implementation.

They, in turn, expressed support of the program in principle "to elevate the community's park quality experience" and that their comments and concerns be addressed in a report from Mr. Downey to be brought before councillors at a general committee meeting.

"I am to come back with a report...prior to our September Parks and Recreation committee with comments and concerns that were raised," Mr. Downey explained. "The reason for that was the committee did not wish to delay this pro-

gram until we returned to September and rather wanted it dealt with sooner than that."

Councillor Sandra Humfries also acknowledged that the Parks Ambassador Program is working well in other municipalities but said she wanted the information from the committee before her before giving final approval.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who sits on the Parks committee with Councillor Ballard, said she too would like to wait for the report.

"There was a lot of good discussion at the committee level and in fact there was a lot of positive anecdotal evidence but there was no reporting structure and we hadn't spoken to the other communities where this was in place," she said. "We felt that it would be prudent and really the right way to go that we would have a staff report including all of these things."

While the original motion to bring back a report was carried, the time delay rankled Councillor Evelyn Buck, who planted her tongue firmly in

cheek. "I am pleased to see in public how we are slowed down by this system of advisory committees," she said.

Letters to the Editor

If water situation happened elsewhere, you'd be handed your head, this reader thinks

To the editor,

Nine hundred and seventy thousand dollars worth of water and no one to bill for its consumption.

Water is a raw material for the town use.

Reader confused

To the editor,

For quite some time now, I have made a point of checking the front page banner of "The Auroran - Aurora's Community Newspaper", looking for something to indicate it is also "Oak Ridges' Community Newspaper".

Nope, haven't seen anything yet!

Stewart Ivol
Aurora

If this situation happened in a manufacturing plant and you told your boss you didn't know where to bill \$970,000 of material, you would have your head handed to you.

I recall when I moved to Aurora in 1976 the town wanted to bill people with swimming pools but Aurora did not have water meters.

It was about 19 years before water meters were installed in the town.

It should not be hard to install water meters at point of usage, then you will know if you have leakage, then control and savings can be considered.

I must say that the treasurer only reports numbers given to him.

He is the record keeper.

People who walk out of a business meeting need to be sat down for a little

chat.

I moved into a new home in Montreal West in 1959 and it had water meters.

Now we can stop the outgoing flow of money on the soccer bubble.

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The opening event at Aurora's Town Park last Wednesday night, featured, as usual, a children's concert. Kids were everywhere as they listened to Jack Grunsky perform. Concert continues every Wednesday evening in the Town Park (weather permitting) for the rest of the summer. The event is sponsored by the Town of Aurora.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Town wins award

The Town of Aurora's efforts to increase accessibility, diversity, and "practicing what it preaches" in the environmental arena has earned it a coveted Canada Award for Excellence from the National Quality Institute.

The honour, through the Progressive Excellence Program (PEP), was presented to Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Town Staff at a meeting last month by Allan Ebedes, President of the National Quality Institute, on behalf of its patron, Governor General David Johnston.

In his presentation, Mr. Ebedes commended Aurora for its work that led up to the National Quality Institute recognizing the Town as Level One for Quality and Healthy Workplaces - namely efforts to create mission and value statements for Town departments, healthy workplace initiatives, "continuous improvement in diversity and accessibility", the municipality's environmental action plan, and Council's "peer reviewed code of conduct."

"I have to remind you that excellence is a journey, not a

destination," Mr. Ebedes said. "While you should be proud on getting to Level One, there is still lots more work to do and I encourage you to keep working on that."

"PEP was really designed as a roadmap - a structured framework to help the organization support a healthy workplace journey, stay focused, and on the continuous improvement plan and recognizes you when it is completed - but more importantly not to be a one-shot wonder. It is a continuous journey that you have to work on day in and day out."

Established in 1992 by Industry Canada, the group is committed to advancing and recognizing organizational excellence across Canada, said Mr. Ebedes.

There are currently more than 300 organizations nationwide from all sectors pursuing the program.

The group's mission is to help organizations continuously improve their performance and results by providing what they describe as "innovative national criteria, progressive implementation programs, services, and certification."

"In short, what we have tried to do is help you improve your performance for your citizens, for your communities, and then recognize you for the good work that you're doing and the excellence you're achieving," said Mr. Ebedes.

The PEP program is a four-level program, the first of which is considered the "foundation stone". Now that Aurora has reached level one, which is intended to illustrate the organization's commitment to the program, it is on to the second level, which the group describes as a "transformational stage" where the "organization transforms itself, becoming a quality organization focusing on planning and stability."

The next level focuses on assessment and continuous improvement.

The program culminates in Level Four, which also looks at continuous improvements but also trends.

When an organization gets to that level, Mr. Ebedes said, an organization "can be regarded as truly world-class" like Ontario's Peel Region, and Markham, among other municipalities.

Region contributes \$100,000 to Aurora

From page 1

\$5,000 annually for trail maintenance and forest management."

An agreement of purchase and sale with Brookfield Homes was approved by council in March and the land will be lined with trails for passive recreational uses such as walking and cross-country skiing.

"I would publicly like to thank the Region for the \$100,000 donation to help the Town of Aurora secure the Case Woodlot," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner last month, calling on Mayor Geoffrey Dawe to express council's thanks formally at this week's council meeting, which he said he would be happy to do.

The Case Woodlot in southwest Aurora currently consists of two vacant parcels of land of 25 acres, which, the Town notes, have been "left in their natural state" comprising a heavily forested woodlot, accessible by entrances just off Cashel Court and Henderson Drive.

"The Official Plan for the Town of Aurora identifies the lands as 'Oak Ridges Moraine Natural Core Area'," said Mr. Garbe in his report. "Natural Core Areas have been identified

in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan as areas with a high concentration of key natural heritage features, hydrologically sensitive features and/or landform conservation areas."

While councillors expressed thanks for the Region's donation, there were calls for the Town to release the precise costs of the purchase, taking into account donations and so forth, for public consumption this week.

Exact figures had been discussed by councillors in closed session.

"The matter was reported out in the sense that the closed session recommendation to purchase the woodlot was approved by council," said Town

Clerk John Leach. "Like the Acting Solicitor, I am not clear how much information was in that public resolution. We can certainly provide that to council by way of a memorandum, the motion that has been moved and seconded could accomplish the same thing but in fact all the detail has been reported out."

It was suggested by Councillor Evelyn Buck that the desired outcome could be communicated simply with a media release, but that wasn't good enough for Councillor Gaertner.

"I believe when we spend the public's money we need to report that out at the table and certainly a media release would not be appropriate," she said.

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Week of July 12, 2011

Days numbered for Leisure Complex?

From page 1
reconstruction of its parking lot, re-glazing in key points of the building, and the replacement of its elevator.

While Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation, said he is pleased that the Leisure Complex is available for the use of Aurora citizens and their associated clubs, he admitted the building is not well-loved by his team.

"Operationally, it is probably the worst building I have ever seen," he said. "You have two different entrances for it if you go to the warm side or the cold side of the building; there is no connection between the two. You could theoretically go into the building and not see a staff member.

"The facility itself uses some old technology so from an energy perspective, it is not very efficient."

Outstanding problems with the building include air quality in change rooms, for which attempts to remedy the situation have been made with energy efficient HVAC systems, roof problems, and "almost zero energy efficiency."

"It's not a very good building, however I am happy to have it because it satisfies a lot of needs the community has," he said.

According to Aaron Karmazyn, Manager of Facilities and Property, who provided council with an overview of the building, the Aurora Family Leisure Complex was very forward thinking at the time of construction but design deficiencies became clear from the very start of which the Town has tried to make best use.

Since 2005, the Town has put \$689,000 back into the building on a maintenance level and if staff recommendations are accepted by council, the Town can expect to put in an additional \$150,000 annually into the building over the next 14 years "to just maintain the existing services of this facility for an additional 25 years".

Building a replacement for the Complex would cost between \$18 million and \$22 million in 2011 construction dollars, he said.

A key item in the plan to rehabilitate the building is the replacement of the ice plant, with major components of the current installation now failing.

If there is a service disruption, it could put the ice pads out of service anywhere from four to 12 weeks, costing the Town an estimated revenue loss between \$45,000 and \$135,000.

From the perspective of Councillor Evelyn Buck, consideration should be given to looking at an adaptive reuse of the Complex space now devoted to ice pads, with the construction of additional pads at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (SARC).

"As far as I am concerned, it was a completely unsatisfactory product at the end of construction and we have been paying the penalty for that ever since," said Councillor Buck on the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, which, she said, in its present form, is not how the architect originally envisioned the space. "I think we need to decide where we're going to invest our money to serve the community best."

For Councillor Michael Thompson, the matter up for consideration was simple.

"If we continue to prop up the building and spend \$2.5 million over the next five years, is that the best place to put our money?" he asked.

Staff then indicated the decision has to be made on whether council "wants to keep this asset healthy".

The construction of the SARC might have put the Aurora Family Leisure Complex in an awkward position since it was constructed from a business perspective, but the elder of the two buildings still brings in the cash, according to Town



The Aurora Family Leisure Complex may be destined for demolition. Council members are considering what to do with the 23-year-old structure which, when designed, had an entrance for the arena and one for the rest of the complex, included the swimming pool. The informal councillor talks, which took place at a workshop to take a closer look at capital projects that had been deferred from the 2011 budget process, examined the merits of spending money to replace and repair several parts of the building's infrastructure, including a retrofit of the building's ice plant, a reconstruction of its parking lot, re-glazing in key points of the building, and the replacement of its elevator. Further consideration for the recommended improvements to the Complex could come before council this week.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Staff.

"[The Aurora Family Leisure Complex] is not as profitable as it used to be because it has limited programming," said Town Treasurer Dan Elliott. "The SARC has taken some of the pool revenues when it was built. The rink is still as profitable as it ever was, somewhere in the \$400,000 range in revenues each year."

Council, however, should think twice before seriously considering "mothballing" the Complex, said Councillor John Abel, who added he was in favour of the investments proposed by staff.

"It's \$22 million to get a replacement facility," he said. "That's not even purchasing the land, so we can't be too rash in just mothballing it at this time. If we did not invest in this, it would put a tremendous strain on the facilities for ice surfaces, I know that for a fact."

One councillor who said he was not yet convinced the building was a "dud" was Councillor Paul Pirri who indicated that wherever activities were moved to, ongoing maintenance costs are unavoidable.

"If we built it new, 20 years from now we would still have to be investing another \$5 million just to update it," he said. "To me, if the buildings need to get updated, they're going to be updated 20 years after construction. It has to happen. It's not the best facility we ever had - it's not a terrible facility by any standards - but I think if we need to do the work, we need to do the work."

While Councillors John Gallo and Sandra Humfries agreed that the most sensible option was to move forward with the projects recommended by staff to maintain service levels at the facility, still others expressed a desire to see an overhaul on the land currently occupied by the Complex.

"This building has been problematic from the day it was born [and] it's the question of throwing good money after bad," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner. "If we were really creative we could build a new facility within that large footprint of land and still have the old one operate."

Mr. Karmazyn agreed that ideally there could be a better use of the existing space.

Adding up to two additional ice pads at the SARC would cost roughly \$6 million, but according to Mr. Downey additional hurdles would come from the fact that such pads would encroach upon land set aside for the community park in the 2C area, and would require the construction of several hundred additional parking spaces.

Needless to say, adding to the SARC was not a prospect which Mr. Downey greeted with unbridled enthusiasm.

"Al obviously has advised against putting extra ice surfaces at the SARC but in fact the combination is there for those ice surfaces to be added," argued Councillor Buck. "It was part of the original plan to have more than two ice surfaces."

Further consideration for the recommended improvements to the Aurora Family Leisure Complex are expected to come before council this week.

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U13 Aurora boys take home the Robbie

Competing in a field of 24 teams at the International Robbie tournament recently, the U13 Boys Team 1 went undefeated winning all six games with an impressive 23 goals for and allowing only four against.

The championship game was a thriller with Aurora capturing the title with a hard fought 3 -2 victory over Mt. Hamilton.

It was a hot and humid weekend in Toronto with both teams playing their sixth game in three days. Mt. Hamilton opened the scoring with a goal in the first 10 minutes.

Aurora battled back with a goal scored by Cameron Searles off a corner kick and the goal gave Aurora momentum with Cameron Wright finding the back of the net to give Aurora a 2 -1 lead going into half time.

The second half had both teams creating great scoring opportunities with near misses. Mt. Hamilton equalized with a quickly taken free kick

which set up their striker for a breakaway.

The striker made no mistake in tying the match at two goals each.

With 15 minutes left, Nick Trewern scored into the top corner which left the Mt. Hamilton keeper helpless and gave Aurora a 3-2 lead.

This forced Mt. Hamilton to push forward looking for the equalizer and trying to take the final into extra time.

With less than a minute to play, the Mt. Hamilton striker broke free into the clear with a marvellous shot which appeared labelled for the low right corner.

However, Jared Brown, the goalkeeper for Aurora made a full stretched finger tip save to deny Mt. Hamilton.

The victory made Aurora, the 45th annual Robbie U13 Champions.

Coach Gus Menna congratulated all his players on their hard work and endless effort on capturing the title.



Winners of the coveted Robbie Trophy were the Under 13 boys and their coaches from Aurora. They are back row, left to right, Assistant Coach Stewart Morrison, Assistant Coach Dom Servideo, Mario Rossetti, Tyler Williams, Patrick Servideo, Marco Priolo, Nick Trewern, Matthew Menna, Andrew Nembhard, Cameron Morrison, Conor Braund, Cameron Searles, Mario Ferraro, and Coach Gus Menna, In the middle row, left to right, are Adam Morgan, Alistair Johnston and Luca Gaglia. Jared Brown, Cliff Pu and Cameron Wright are in the front row.

New elevator may be reality at Family Leisure Complex

Elevator issues at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex could soon be remedied if council approves a recommendation from staff to construct a new lift in the building, improving accessibility for all wheelchair users and others with mobility issues.

The \$150,000 project to replace the current compact lift with a full-size service elevator, which had been delayed in the past, was a point of discussion at a special general committee meeting in late June which covered items deferred from the 2011 budget process.

The matter is expected to come before council this week for further consideration.

The Town had previously made an unsuccessful grant application to the Enabling Accessibility Fund through Human Resources and Skills Development Canada to cover half the cost of the new lift.

"The needs of the community are continuing to grow and change in our municipality, which includes an increase in persons with disabilities accessing our facilities and programs," said Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, in a report. "There are approximately 3,400 people with disabilities living in our community based on our current population. People with various abilities visit and use our aquatic and recreational programs.

"The current key operated lift system requires staff assistance to operate. The installation of a full service elevator will provide independent access to all patrons. The current key operated lift system has some pathway and cab space limitations that reduce the capabilities of this lift system in providing accessibility to some patrons with larger wheelchairs and motorized scooters."

According to Aaron Karmazyn, Manager of Facilities and Property, who provided council with an overview of vari-

ous proposed improvements to the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, in addition to the limitations outlined in the report, a Town of Aurora staff person needs to be in attendance to operate the lift with a key whenever a patron requires access to a different floor.

"It cannot be independently used, so a person using a wheelchair or a scooter, or somebody with a stroller couldn't independently go into the elevator and use it on their own," he said. "They would have to solicit help from the reception desk, the receptionist has to come over, open the lift, and then operate the lift with a key, so it isn't an independently accessible lift. It was identified by the Accessibility Advisory Committee as a priority item in 2005."

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe enquired whether the existing lift could be modified for self use without the key, but Mr. Karmazyn said that too would require a structural redesign of what is currently in place.

For Councillor Evelyn Buck, however, retrofitting the elevator at the AFLC was not a top priority, and the use does not justify the costs proposed.

"That elevator is half a floor; it's not even a full floor," she said. "It was intended for disabled persons, it was not intended for mothers with strollers. It was intended for those persons who needed to get down and use the swimming pool and use the stairs. The cost of replacing an elevator for that I don't think that is a valid expense. If it wasn't there because of people needing it for accessibility reasons then mothers with strollers would just have to negotiate those stairs with their strollers."

But the issue, according to Town Staff, is not the number of people who might have the opportunity or need to use a full-size service elevator, but making the building and its programs

accessible for all Aurorans.

"Whether one person uses it a year isn't an issue; the issue is whether it is fully accessible or not," said Director of Parks and Recreation, Al Downey. "The Accessibility Committee identified it as a priority project which is the reason it is on the table. [Mr. Karmazyn] is not basing it on the number of complaints we've got or how often it is used, but whether it is fully accessible."

"Accessibility is seen as an all or nothing," added Mr. Karmazyn. "A person who uses a wheelchair or a scooter in the minds of the accessibility committee should be able to come into the same facility as an able-bodied individual and should not have any impediments in front of them. They shouldn't have to ask for help, they should be independently able to navigate themselves through the building and not have to have any interaction with staff."

According to Mr. Downey, the

Town has already had to move some programs elsewhere to help assist with people who have "conflicts" with the building.

If approved by council, the reconstruction project will include a structural re-design of the elevator shaft to accommodate a cab similar in size to one already in place at the Aurora Community Centre and the elevator at Town Hall. It would also require a mechanical redesign of elevating devices and machine room equipment, the removal and disposal of the old system, and acquiring the appropriate Technical Standards and Safety Authority permits, inspections, and licensing.

In the meantime before a decision is made - or until whenever the elevator renovation project kicks into gear should approval come this week - a temporary solution was floated at the special general committee table - providing individually cut keys for regular elevator users.



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New deputy-mayor got feet wet in hurry

The last six months have been a "steep learning curve" for Aurora's Deputy Mayor John Abel, who was elected to Town Council for the first time in October before taking his seat in early December.

Much of the learning curve focused on the ins and outs of council procedure, the relationship between council and Town Staff, and "putting that all together" with the needs and interests of the Town.

Councillor Abel says he has been "lucky" in having the opportunity to attend several conferences for new councillors and this has helped get his feet wet.

"It takes a while to get a bit of confidence to address issues and participate and you have to acclimatize as you go along as there is so much to know and learn," he said.

Right off the bat, one of the first issues the new council tackled was the issue of former Aurora mayor Phyllis Morris' \$6 million lawsuit against three

local bloggers, among others.

It was this issue that Councillor Abel said he started to find his voice at the table.

"It allowed me to express myself and learn about getting heard," he said. "Near the end of the budget process I started gaining some knowledge and formulating it. There was a planning issue with PARCEL [at Yonge Street and Elderberry Trail] which I was involved with from the very beginning and it got approved and we saved a lot of costly legal expense probably for nothing."

With six months behind him, the PARCEL development, passing the budget, and terminating municipal involvement in Ms. Morris' lawsuit have been three significant achievements of council so far.

But from his perspective, not all has been a bed of roses for issues that have passed the new council.

One item Councillor Abel said he has come to regret



DEPUTY MAYOR, COUNCILLOR JOHN ABEL

is the Town's approval of sponsorship for the Aurora Festival of the Arts and its 2011 Jazz Plus festival.

He said he would have handled the group's request differently and asked further questions.

"I felt I was fooled," he said of the Aurora Festival of the Arts. "They came all

nicely-nicely and there were things going on behind right after us giving the money that made me think, 'What have we done?' They are already upset with me for things I have done so I don't want to stir the pot.

"I am a big fan of the Festival and a big fan of the culture, I just want to do it

the right way and I think what I'm hearing from the Town is 'Can we do it so that it is a little more transparent, open, and we'll see what's going on?' The Arts Festival came and delegated and said they were a brand-new entity and then I found out they are the same entity but they just incorporated themselves, it is the same board of directors. I guess they thought they fooled us, and in the end they did. This time."

That being said, Councillor Abel said he has been "very encouraged" by the positive remarks he has received from citizens at large regarding the council.

Looking ahead past the first six months, he said he is looking forward to getting the Town's new strategic plan underway and developing the 2C lands in northeast Aurora.

He said he is also looking for revitalizing Aurora's downtown core.

"We have to create more of a pedestrian flow for our downtown core and I would like to see that developed," he said. "The Promenade Study more or less has given

us an idea and identified the issues without being specific and I think we should expand on that initiative. I'd like to see our heritage and artefacts come forward and I think it is important that we incorporate in our strategy resilience and sustainability for the long run."

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Courts set February 17th for Hervey/Morris hearing

From page 1
sary to bring resolution to the matter," the notice continues, referring to Ms. Morris' defamation action against the bloggers. "Ultimately, this authority resulted in the Respondent commencing the Action, and funding the Action with the Town's resources."

The Action alleges that the Respondent had been defamed by defamatory statements. The action seeks \$6,000,000.000 to the personal benefit of the Respondent. Accordingly, the motion brought forth from the Closed Session permitted the Respondent to initiate a legal claim that, if successful, could yield the plaintiff millions of dollars."

The previous council approved the resolution to retain external legal counsel "and to take any and all actions to bring resolution" to Ms. Morris' claim of "potential defamation" in the early hours of September 15. Council recessed into Closed Session at 11:33 pm on September 14

to discuss the matter. Councillors subsequently reconvened into open session to vote on the resolution at 1:11 a.m. with former Councillor Bob McRoberts in the chair. The minutes record Ms. Morris leaving the meeting at 1:10 a.m.

Ms. Morris' lawyer, Stephen O'Melia told The Auroran at the time the notice of application was filed that it was a notice "based on speculation" and is "without merit" and one that will be "vigorously defended."

"To be clear - at no time did Ms. Morris participate in a Council debate in which she had a pecuniary interest," said Mr. O'Melia. "There is no factual basis for that allegation. The authorization to issue the statement of claim that forms the basis of Mr. Hervey's complaint was given well after the September 14th council meeting at which he alleges a conflict occurred, and it is unfortunate that the Town's recent actions have again exposed its former

Mayor to unnecessary legal process."

"It is unfortunate that this individual, who has expressed animosity towards Ms. Morris on numerous occasions in the past, has acted upon the incomplete information released by the Town of Aurora," he added. "It is our expectation that he will reconsider his application once he becomes aware of the actual sequence of events. If he does not, we will ask the court to hold him responsible for initiating this application without a proper foundation."

Mr. Hervey's lawyer, Jill Copeland of Sack Goldblatt Mitchell was unavailable for comment at press time to flesh out the plaintiff's position of the date and what transpired on June 29, as well as their thoughts moving forward. Ms. Morris declined The Auroran's request for comment.

As for the matter that brought Mr. Hervey's suit about, the original \$6 million lawsuit, both Ms. Morris and

those named in the lawsuit disagree on offers to go into mediation to discuss a settlement. Ms. Morris has previously stated that she would be open to discuss settlement with representatives for Mr. Hogg, Mr. Johnson, and Ms. Bishenden provided that the identities of the anonymous bloggers be revealed prior to discussing a settlement. The three named in the suit deny having access to any such information. Additionally, Mr. Hogg, however, claims that Ms. Morris' legal team has declined offers from the defence to go into mediation free of conditions.

Both sides still await a decision from Ms. Morris' request for a Norwich Order, which would compel the release of the anonymous posters' identities. The motion for the Norwich Order was heard before Justice Carole Brown in Toronto in mid-March, but a decision has yet to be handed down from the bench.

The case continues.



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Kennedy hedges won't be damaged

Builders will take extra steps to ensure that large cedar hedges on Kennedy Street will not be damaged when they build two homes on a recently divided lot on the tree-lined street, following concerns from neighbouring residents which were brought forward to council.

A solution appeared to be in the offing at a recent council meeting when Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, relayed the results of discussions that had taken place between landowner Vito Pisano and neighbours following the previous week's general committee.

"At the meeting last week, Mr. Pisano met with the neighbours and committed to providing a larger setback," he said. "He has agreed to that and within the development agreement we will ensure that, as is our standard practice, matters such as grading and landscaping are requirements that we will identify in the development brief that the developer will have to enter into."

Earlier in the evening one of the residents whose property borders the lot in question, Evgenia Kuznetsova, came to make her concerns known. Councillor Wendy Gaertner who first expressed the concerns.

In the intervening week since the matter first hit the council table, Ms. Kuznetsova said she had discovered that the cedar hedges cited in the plans were actually planted on her property.

As such, they should not be damaged, she said.

Mr. Pisano's original proposal called for the removal

of the cedar hedges on either side of the property to facilitate the construction project, followed by the replanting of two metre high hedges once building was complete.

"The hedge along the westerly boundary property line was planted years ago and the trunks originate on her property line, but the majority of the hedge has grown out onto 292 Kennedy Street," said Mr. Ramunno.

Councillor Gaertner, however, argued that although it has spread onto the adjacent property, it doesn't give the builders any right to take it down or "hurt" it in any way.

Mr. Ramunno countered though that the owner of the neighbouring land has property rights as well "with respect to wanting to trim" the branches of the hedge that extend past the property line.

"[Mr. Pisano] has made it clear to us and the residents that he will work around the hedge, but the plans show the majority of the hedge has grown over onto his property," he said. "It is a very significant, large hedge in height and width but he is committed to doing his best to protect the hedge during construction."

Councillor Evelyn Buck, on the other hand, said the ensuing debate over the hedges made no sense to her because the hedges have "grown out of control".

"It doesn't make any sense to me that one property owner should be losing property because a hedge on his neighbour's property has been allowed to grow without any kind of control," she said. "Mr. Pisano said he would try. I don't see any law that requires him to maintain and allow a neighbour's hedge to take up 70 feet of his property."

While a solution appeared to be found, Councillor Gaertner said the fact that approval of the previous week's report would have seen the removal of the hedges still concerned her.

"Apart from the fact that it would have been a tragedy to that hedge and that neighbour, it also wouldn't have been the right of the developer to do that," she said. "I would appreciate that in the future whatever protection that can be put in place is put in place to make sure that it doesn't happen again."

Similar concerns were expressed by Councillor John Gallo who asked staff what could be done to document the site plan.

While he said he was glad there had been communication and verbal agreement between Mr. Pisano and the neighbouring landowners, he said he would feel more "comfortable" if there was something in writing to back up the agreement.

"As we all know, we have trees cut down by accident in this Town and when they are cut down, they're gone," he

said. "I'm curious to see what we can do to enshrine what is before us."

Following council's approval, Mr. Pisano and his team will now be required to submit a consent application to officially sever the lot into two to accommodate two homes and staff would work with them to form an agreement compliant with the Town's standard practice for these types of developments, said Mr. Ramunno.

"Within that development agreement we will ensure that requirements such as landscaping will identify the hedge row to be protected and require the proper construction fencing around that," he said.

"There is also a replanting plan that has been submitted which will form part of the development agreement with matters such as the servicing of two new homes, landscaping, grading and drainage, so that will all be part of the development agreement that the owner will be obligated to comply with prior to receiving building permits."

President seeking festival volunteers

The president of the Aurora Seniors' Centre is appealing to the membership in the hopes of getting volunteers for the Aurora Festival of the Arts, scheduled to be held at the Town Park later this month.

Charles Sequeira said he is seeking volunteers and smart servers.

He was quick to point out that people over 65 would get into the event for free.

The Aurora jazz+ Festival is scheduled to play at the Town Park July 29th, 30th and 31st and further information is available at www.aurorajazzfest.com.

There will be a community booth set up for local charities, non-profits and Service Clubs to distribute information at the festival, he said.

Such groups are welcome to leave flyers and spend time meeting patrons, he noted.

Vendor and volunteer applications are also available on the website or for more information call Sher St. Kitts at 905-841-6893.

The Festival Market Place this year includes visual artists, artisans, and craft vendors for your interest and shopping pleasure.

Herbert Pryke of Artcures Inc. has supplied the festival with a six-foot Mandala.

The 2011 Festival will have more family activities with Kids Craft Blast Zone together with Town Park's sand and water play areas.

The Boogie Boy Blues Interactive Theatre will be



Portraits of Giving opened at the Aurora Cultural Centre Thursday with the 2nd Annual Portraits of Giving Reception taking place to launch this new exhibit which visits Aurora, Newmarket and Richmond Hill. The exhibit honours seven exceptional York Region people who have given back to their communities in significant ways. Among them was Brian North, above. The photography was by Karen Merk, blended with the

written word by author until August 27. Heather Anne Lambert. The event continues

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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Terry David Anderson, grandson of Aurora's Jean Anderson, graduated last week from the University of Waterloo with his Master of Mathematics degree. A teacher, Terry also won the Amit and Meena Chakma awards for exceptional teaching by a student. He was also presented with a certificate in university teaching, which is a certificate "presented to graduate students who have successfully completed a program of study designed to develop their teaching skills."

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21 Doors Open Aurora

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~Video by Sean Casey~

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- 20 hours wk minimum.

Email: charlesbaptistbrown@hotmail.com

Simcoe-York Group of Newspapers

EDITOR

Simcoe-York Group of Newspapers is currently hiring for the position of Editor at one of our local newspapers.

The editor will be expected to:

- Produce several bylined new and feature stories each week
- Generate story ideas and follow up on news tips
- Coordinate and edit content and columns submitted for publication
- Take photographs
- Show proficiency at using social media, Mac computers, and QuarkXPress, InDesign, Photoshop and other programs necessary for the publication of a weekly newspaper
- Work some evenings and weekends, as required

Qualifications:

- Diploma in journalism preferred
- Candidates should have experience working on the editorial side of the newspaper industry
- Excellent writing, editing and photography skills
- Valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle

The ideal candidate will have a distinct willingness to cover both community events, local politics, and be able to work in a team-oriented yet self-motivated environment.

Interested and qualified candidates should forward their cover letter and resume to rs@simcoeyorkprinting.com

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Senior Scape

For seniors, dreams of younger years when everything appeared possible have not faded completely, and when failure briefly mocks seniors' ambition, powerful new dreams emerge with renewed focus.

Hobbies or interests require rehabilitating occasionally, or new friends stimulate new interests. Impulses formerly of youth, re-surface and once more in this age of seniority, difficulties diminish and any task seems possible and faraway horizons appear accessible.

In the seniors' Wood Shop, confidence reigns and every project is achievable, even a tantalizingly creative undertaking.

The Seniors' Centre attracts seniors, and seniors solve many problems associated with too much time to spend, and little to do with it.

Organized activities perform superbly creating pursuits that continue to interest seniors for years. Minds jaded by time and with precious little to do, respond magnificently when inspired by new friends and new surroundings.

The setting of smiling faces and laughter reach to the seat of thought, memory and imagination, and the senior released from the dullness of inactivity, transforms rapidly to a senior of creative imagination and talent.

Chess games bring a compelling zest and competitive spark to life and interest reawakened brings a new, hearty enjoyment to life, which enthuses all influenced by the magic of friendly competition.

With senior years mounting and reality of retirement upon them, the danger of withdrawing to personal privacy looms as a real danger for those who find stress in everyday life.

Deep feelings of loneliness find a private and secret place for tears, which for all the enormity of sadness, yields before the laughter found in the Seniors' Centre.

On Thursday, July 9th, the ASA will hold a Summer Social from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., everybody including all ages, is welcome. Admission is free.

Outdoor entertainment will include bocce ball, horseshoes and archery.

Fun and games are nature's way of entertaining senior minds and exercising bodies while stimulating renewed pleasure in life.

Seniors' character supports the promise of our future, and involvement with contemporaries in fun of every description and games of every variety, lead to the promised land where everybody finds contentment.

For those who must escape the sun, indoors beckon; music from singers, a piano player and a harmonica player, and laughter from a comedian, will entertain you.

In addition, a 50/50 draw and a raffle will lend excitement to the proceedings.

A lunch will be available at nominal cost and demonstrations of square dancing and line dancing will stimulate everybody who aspires to this form of community dancing.

Square dancing and line dancing gently exhilarate seniors and offer the most wonderful form of healthy, relaxed exercise.

A session dancing to bright music brings joy to all.

Beauty and folly often go hand in hand, and the beauty of the Arboretum entrance, now threatened by poorly considered development, which is the proposed relocating of the respected Petch House to this site, represents an insensitive folly.

Continual growth and progress will improve the Arboretum steadily, but improvement and accomplishment will have little meaning if a frustrating step of expediency, shuffles the Petch House to an area where it does not belong.

If passion to relocate the Petch House to this location existed, understanding by residents would offer support, but where lies passion for this unappreciated poorly considered decision?

It seems that community appreciation for the Petch House lacks

Wood shop causes confidence to reign

By BRIAN WARBURTON

an echo in municipal government.

The Petch House must relocate, that is clear and municipal government will decide where, but what guides their decision, reason or expediency?

Why cannot council heed residents and those, who demonstrate interest in Canada, past, present and future?

What interests me and the interested population of Aurora and surroundings, is the best outcome for preservation and display of the Petch House where it will exhibit an authentic example of a pioneer's family home.

The local authenticity of the Petch House is firmly established in the community, and the community desires a finer and more appropriate location than council proposes.

Disagreeing with council or administration is not my chosen model to address disagreement. However, when disagreement originates with fundamental divergence over the worth of an old residential structure, which has seen other employment in its long

life, anything less than satisfactory resolution to discontented Canadians will lead to acrimony.

Rancour will deepen and is unlikely to dissipate if council proves heavy-handed ignoring profound desires of the public.

Disregarding the public would infuriate everybody who cares for this fine example of homemade pioneer construction, and leave schoolchildren disillusioned with elected representatives who mock and push aside, deep-rooted concerns of the community.

The population of the world, regardless of prosperity, reveres ancient art and early remnants of all kinds.

If Aurora Town Council refuses to concern itself with what the community of Aurora reveres as a treasure of the recent past, the council abandons credibility in full view of everybody.

Send the Petch House issue back to administration, or better still, give the responsibility to someone more sensitive to the issue, and more willing to heed the advice of the community!

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Wm. Shakespeare coming to Aurora

The Town of Aurora, in partnership with the Humber River Shakespeare Group, will host The Comedy of Errors by William Shakespeare.

This live outdoor theatre presentation will take place at Aurora Town Park, located at the corner of Mosley and Metcalfe Streets, Sunday, July 17th at 2 p.m. (weather permitting).

"The Town of Aurora invites residents to enjoy the laughter and charismatic characters in The Comedy of Errors theatre presentation. Sit back and relax with your family, friends and neighbours to watch this entertaining comedy that all are sure to enjoy," said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe.

The Comedy of Errors is a fast-paced comedy taking you on a roller coaster ride of mistaken identity.

The pandemonium takes place when two sets of identical twins are separated during a shipwreck. Now, years later, both

sets of twins appear in the same town and hysterical laughter ensues as they get mistaken for each other.

This is a fully green production – using no electrical power and having an ecologically aware cast that uses environmentally friendly products.

The production is a great addition to the diverse artistic and cultural lineup of events that the Town of Aurora is offering this year.

BBQ and picnic foods are available on site for a nominal fee.

For more information on the 2011 Aurora Theatre-in-the-Park event, visit the Town's Special

Event page at www.aurora.ca/speialevents or call the Special Events line at 905-726-4762.

For information on the Humber River Shakespeare Group, visit www.humberrivershakespeare.ca.

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Dinner (Fri-Sun)	\$21.95	\$19.00	\$13.95	\$5.95	\$1.95



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