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# THE AURORAN

*Aurora's Community Newspaper*

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## Hoedown campaign kicks off

Representatives from over 20 community charities benefiting from this year's 2011 Wild West Hoedown gathered at Magna's Adena Springs Thursday for the annual kick-off for the event, scheduled to take place Saturday, September 10 on Magna Drive at 5 p.m.

The kick-off event, which was also attended by Aurora Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, East Gwillimbury Mayor Virginia Hackson, and Georgina Mayor Rob Grossi, allowed organizers and representatives to get pumped about the event and also explain what they intend to do with their proceeds from the \$65-a-head event.

"This is the 23rd edition of a fabulous party and a party that provides such tremendous support for our communities," said Mayor Geoff Dawe, on behalf of Mayors Grossi and Hackson. "The Hoedown was started by Frank Stronach and has raised over \$4 million since its inception for local charities, and with the continued support of both Magna and Don Walker as president, we really appreciate that this is going forward for another year."

In his remarks, Mayor Dawe also saluted the over 350 volunteers who help make the Hoedown a reality.

The Wild West Hoedown began life as a scaled down affair from what it is today in the Stronach family's backyard to raise money for what is now the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, and has continued ever since. Steve Hinder of Magna For Community said this speaks volumes of the generosity of both the Stronachs and the Aurora Community.

"I want to make it clear to everyone that Magna covers all

Please see page 11



**Ada Johnson at 108!**

Aurora's most senior resident, Ada Johnson, celebrated her 108th birthday Sunday afternoon at her home at Park Place Manor, where she welcomed four generations of her family, along with many well wishers, for a celebration. For more on Mrs. Johnson's birthday, turn to page 3.

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*



Representatives from 20 York Region charities gathered on the grounds of Magna's Adena Springs to celebrate the kick off of the 2011 Wild West Hoedown. Proceeds from this year's Hoedown, which will be held at Magna September 10, will benefit the 20 groups ranging from the Alzheimer's Society of York Region to Youth Assisting Youth. Last year's charities split a record \$514,000 and this year's organizers hope to top that.

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

## Quad facility sold

Quad/Graphics, which provides over 350 jobs in Aurora, is expected to divest itself of nearly all its Canadian interests this fall - including its Aurora facility - in order to expand into Mexico.

As part of the plan, which was announced last Wednesday, the printer's Canadian interests will be sold to the Montreal-based Transcontinental Inc. The only Canadian asset Quad will retain is its facility in Vancouver.

According to a press release on June 13, the transactions have been approved by both companies' boards of directors, but the deal is not supposed to be completely closed until the fall.

"This agreement is a win-win for Quad/Graphics and Transcontinental and one that will create long-term value for both companies," said Joel

Please see page 7

*Briefly*

**BUGS DAMAGING LOCAL SPRUCE TREES**

Newly damaged trees in Aurora have been damaged by the yellow headed spruce sawfly in an insect infestation that has primarily affected the Bayview Avenue corridor between Wellington Street in the south and St. John's Sideroad in the north. The bugs feed only on spruce trees, making the trees look ragged and even completely bare of needles when they've had a good crack at them.

The Town of Aurora is monitoring the situation and is undertaking a "precisely timed spray program" to help eliminate the bugs using soap and water. The intention of spraying the trees with the solution under high pressure is to knock the larva off the tree and "render them unable to climb and feed on the tree any further," said the Town.

The Town is asking the public for further assistance in identifying areas affected by the yellow headed spruce sawfly. If you have any further information, contact Sarah Tienkamp, Aurora's Supervisor of Parks at 905-727-3123, ext. 3223.

**MEET THE PARENTS**

Last week, The Auroran ran a photo of Terry David Anderson, who had recently graduated from the University of Waterloo with a Master of Mathematics. Mr. Anderson's photo was submitted to us by his grandmother Jean Anderson and his parents are Aurora residents Fred and Vicki Anderson.




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# Ada Johnson celebrates with family

Ada Johnson, the Grande Dame of Aurora, celebrated her 108th birthday at Park Place Manor on Sunday afternoon, surrounded by over 30 family members ranging from her son David to her great-great grandchildren, along with a number of friends and Park Place staff.

With a sweeping gesture, Mrs. Johnson addressed a small cluster of her grandchildren telling them that she loved them all. For her, family is very important.

"I love everyone, that's true," Mrs. Johnson told The Auroran when asked how it feels to have so many of her descendents turn out to honour her on her birthday. "My granddad Robson brought all his children, five of them, to Canada, and settled them here down in the country. I have always been very pleased with my grand-

children."

When asked what advice she would give to the people of Aurora this week, she says to "laugh and enjoy yourself."

"Enjoy each day and make the most of it every day because that day never comes again," she says.

Mrs. Johnson says she planned to follow her own advice and laugh and enjoy herself on her birthday, and added that she is heading into her 109th year with goals she still wants to accomplish. In offering her key to a long and healthy life, Mrs. Johnson said it is the simple things that keep one going.

"I try to keep enough food in the crock so that you have enough to do your daily work," she said, noting that money was often tight in her youth. "When we had the whole family fed and clothed, we felt we did alright."



Ada Johnson celebrates her birthday surrounded by four generations of her descendents and (inset) with some great cake.

Auroran photos by David Falconer



# Integrity Commissioner issue returns to council

An integrity commissioner position could be re-instated in Aurora as early as the fall, if Councillor Wendy Gaertner gets her way, but her plan could hit a roadblock as some feel the need for a position hasn't yet demonstrated itself.

Councillor Gaertner made her feelings known in a notice of motion given at last week's Council, which she will speak to next month. In her motion, she called on Council to "direct the CAO to immediately commence the recruitment process by advertising for the services of an integrity commissioner."

If her motion is passed in August without amendments, the CAO would be directed to present a list of all candidates by September 6 and "identify the appropriate funding sources for the Integrity Commissioner."

As part of her introduction, Councillor Gaertner said the complaint process for the Town's Code of Conduct requires the services of an Integrity Commissioner to

receive and process any complaints received by the Town.

"I have no idea if [Town Clerk John] Leach has received any complaints from the public, but if he has, then we would be at a disadvantage because he doesn't process the claims," Councillor Gaertner told The Auroran last week.

Aurora's latest Integrity Commissioner David Tsubouchi resigned his position in February when the writing appeared to be on the wall that the newly elected Council would be terminating the position. For Councillor Gaertner, however, filling the vacancy left by Mr. Tsubouchi is a long time coming.

"I believe there was an intention this term to decide what to do about the Integrity Commissioner and nobody has said anything about it, so it is time," she said. "We're seven months into the process. It has just been on my list. As you know, there have been a lot of things on [the Council's] agenda and I

just got around to it."

She said that she thought having an Integrity Commissioner on call to handle Code of Conduct complaints was "the way of the future", and one initially undertaken by the Town of Aurora right out of the gate. It is also, she noted, a process being undertaken by several other municipalities.

"I think Aurora is a community that wants to be ahead of the pack," she said. "We showed that by having a Code of Conduct and the Integrity Commissioner it is the right thing for our community."

Several of Councillor Gaertner's tablemates ran on a platform that was less than favourable to the position of the Integrity Commissioner, including Mayor Geoffrey Dawe. Mayor Dawe told The Auroran last week, however, that his position on the matter remains unchanged.

"My opinion has not changed on that at all," he said.

While their opinions on

the value of an Integrity Commissioner are quite far apart, one area where Mayor Dawe and Councillor Gaertner have a similar viewpoint is whether or not to have an "in house" Integrity Commissioner or one shared amongst one or more

Please see page 7



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# Broke Brock

By BROCK WEIR

## At 108, Ada adds to her legion of admirers

I wrote earlier this month of the sense of continuity and stability seen on Parliament Hill this Canada Day where four generations of Canadians turned out to see the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on their first visit to Canada. The fact that many of the people I had an opportunity to speak to had had earlier encounters with royalty - even going back as far as Prince William's great-grandparents - illustrated this point better than mere words ever could.

But this sense of continuity and stability was brought far closer to home this weekend with the 108th birthday of Aurora's eldest - and longest! - resident, Ada Johnson.

Poor Ronnie is away this week, as you might have guessed by my squatting in this fine piece of newspaper real estate, so, as the saying goes, "when the cat's away, the mice will play." Sometimes Poor Ronnie gets to keep the fun jobs to himself, so despite being an Aurora resident for nearly eight years (after spending my first 18 years in far away, exotic Newmarket with an overlapping sojourn in Ottawa) and a reporter here for nearly two years, this was my first encounter with the Grande Dame of Aurora.

When I arrived at Ada's residence, Park Place Manor, for her 108th birthday bash on Sunday, I was struck by the love, respect, and admiration that was evident on the faces and in the actions of everybody in the room, all in the thrall and in the orbit of the lady of the hour. And what a lady she is too.

Over my years of reading this paper and in the nearly two years of being in the thick of things, I have always heard people young and old speak of Ada's graciousness and this has not dimmed with the years. With a bright twinkle in her eye, she had words for all the members of the media buzzing around her and didn't show the least amount of boredom when asked what her secret to longevity is for probably the umpteenth time! But most of her time, of course, was spent talking with and receiving congratulations from countless friends, family, and admirers that she has accumulated through the years - and I bet these legions only grew on Sunday.

I can guarantee she added at least one. Happy birthday, Ada!

(Video coverage of Ada's birthday party can be seen at on our website, [www.theauroran.com](http://www.theauroran.com). Select the video at the bottom of the screen and you will be taken to TV Aurora)



# 100 Watts

By Christopher Watts

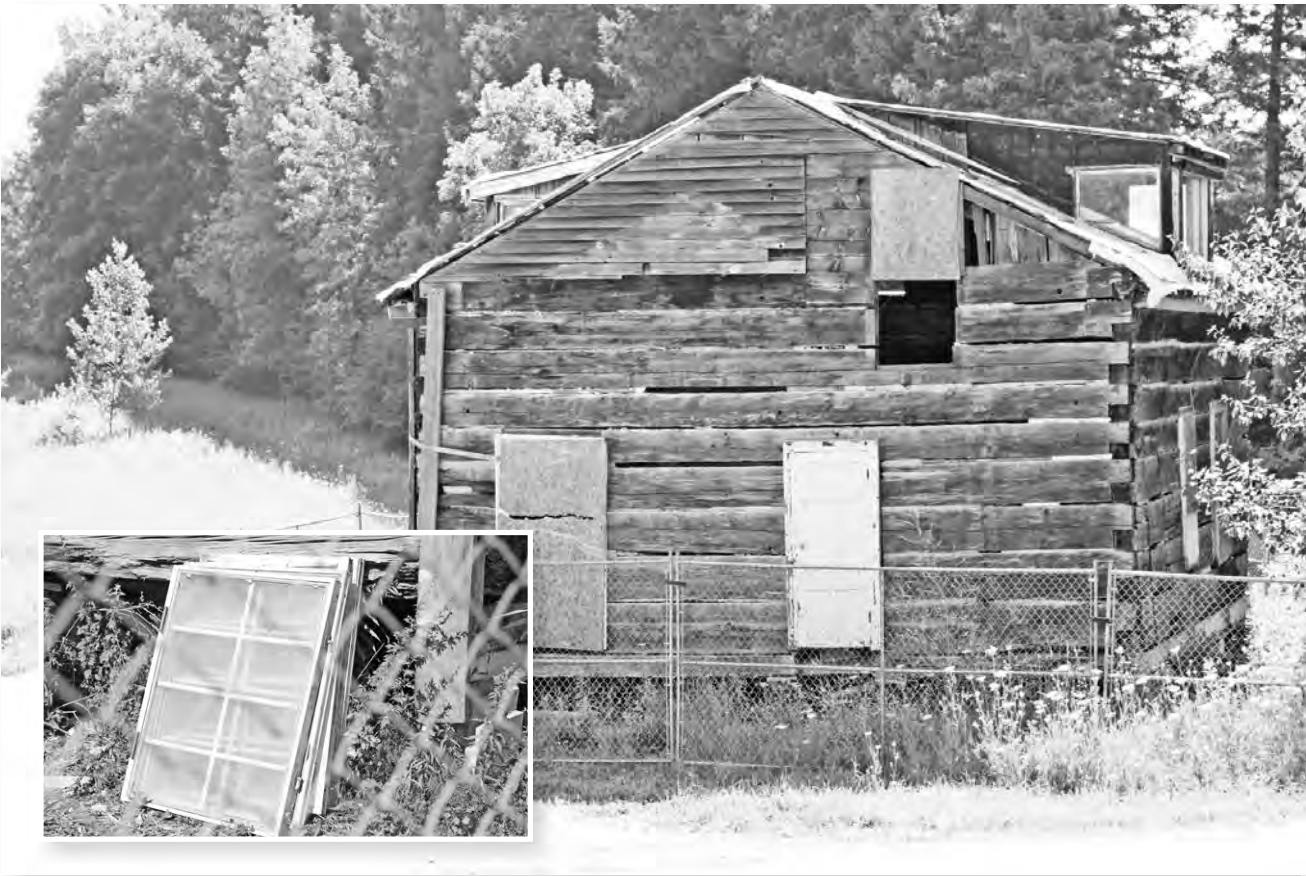
In 2011 we live in a society where seemingly everything is available, all the time, greatly diminishing any sense of scarcity of art and culture that we once held.

Once spread thin geographically, the internet has dramatically reduced distances between each of us. Collectively we are beginning to realize just how many people share our 'unique' connection to culture.

The elitist notion of "cornering the market" on culture has been swiftly bypassed, allowing opportunities to share with others to replace those of a more pleonastic nature.

Aurora's culture has no center.

It grows inside each and every one of us.



The restoration process has begun on the Petch House, seen above in a photo taken Sunday at its present Leslie Street location, with the 140+-year-old building having a good airing out (as you can see in the inset photo, windows have been removed) before restoration work begins shortly. Last month Council approved a plan to dismantle the house, restore the logs, and re-assemble the building at a location behind the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

### Letters to the Editor

## Petch “Friends” address concerns raised by the public

To the editor,

In response to a number of letters and opinions recently published about the Petch House, the Friends would like to offer a couple points of clarification.

First, we would like The Auroran's readers to know that the Friends are not involved in any of the current planning for the Petch House. The House is already being dismantled under the supervision of the Town's Parks and Recreation department.

Phase 1, as it is being

called, will not cost the taxpayer any additional monies. About \$100,000 was set aside in the Town's 2008 Capital Budget which has been brought forward each year since for this project. Additionally, the Town will receive \$50,000 from Whitwell Developments (Smart Centres) with whom an agreement exists since 2003 concerning the relocation of the Petch House.

At a meeting last month, Councillors suggested The Friends would be asked to participate in

the House's Phase 2 discussions concerning uses for the building along with everyone else from the community who would like to join the conversation. The Friends have suggested on many occasions that talks regarding uses should occur early in the process to help determine the type of restoration as well as the site best suited for re-location.

Involving a community group has distinct advantages: greater fundraising potential, the possibility of grant revenue, services-in-kind including up-to-date

information from the heritage community, and a strong voice in support of the House and its future programs.

We understand that the Town's Heritage Advisory Committee has asked to become involved. This is an important initiative that the Friends of Petch House support.

For the latest developments and photos of Petch House, please check [www.petchhouseaurora.ca](http://www.petchhouseaurora.ca) and [www.livinginaurora.ca](http://www.livinginaurora.ca).

**Katherine Belrose**  
Friends of Petch House

## Reader questions location of tree planting

To the editor,

While enjoying a walk along the newly opened extension of the Nokiidaa trail, we came upon St. John's Sideroad. We were extremely surprised to find numerous newly planted trees along St. John's Sideroad. The urban planners must have spent a lot of time planning this as the trees on the south side are lined up perfectly with the electrical wires above. I am not sure if the plan is to trim the trees regularly, which makes it unnecessary to have trees there at all. In fact some of the trees are already touching the wires.

Also they must have been using speciality equipment to plant these

trees. A worker with a basic shovel could not have lined up the trees so perfectly.

I may be unaware of the future plans for St. Johns Sideroad. The future plan may be to remove the electrical poles and have the wires rest directly on the trees as the electrical poles are extremely unsightly. It's like growing electrical poles in place so not to have replace the existing poles later on. If that is the plan, then that is brilliant. That concept should be implemented throughout Ontario.

This a great example of the use of Aurora Tax Dollars. Well done.

**M. Ramos**  
Aurora

### —THE AURORAN—

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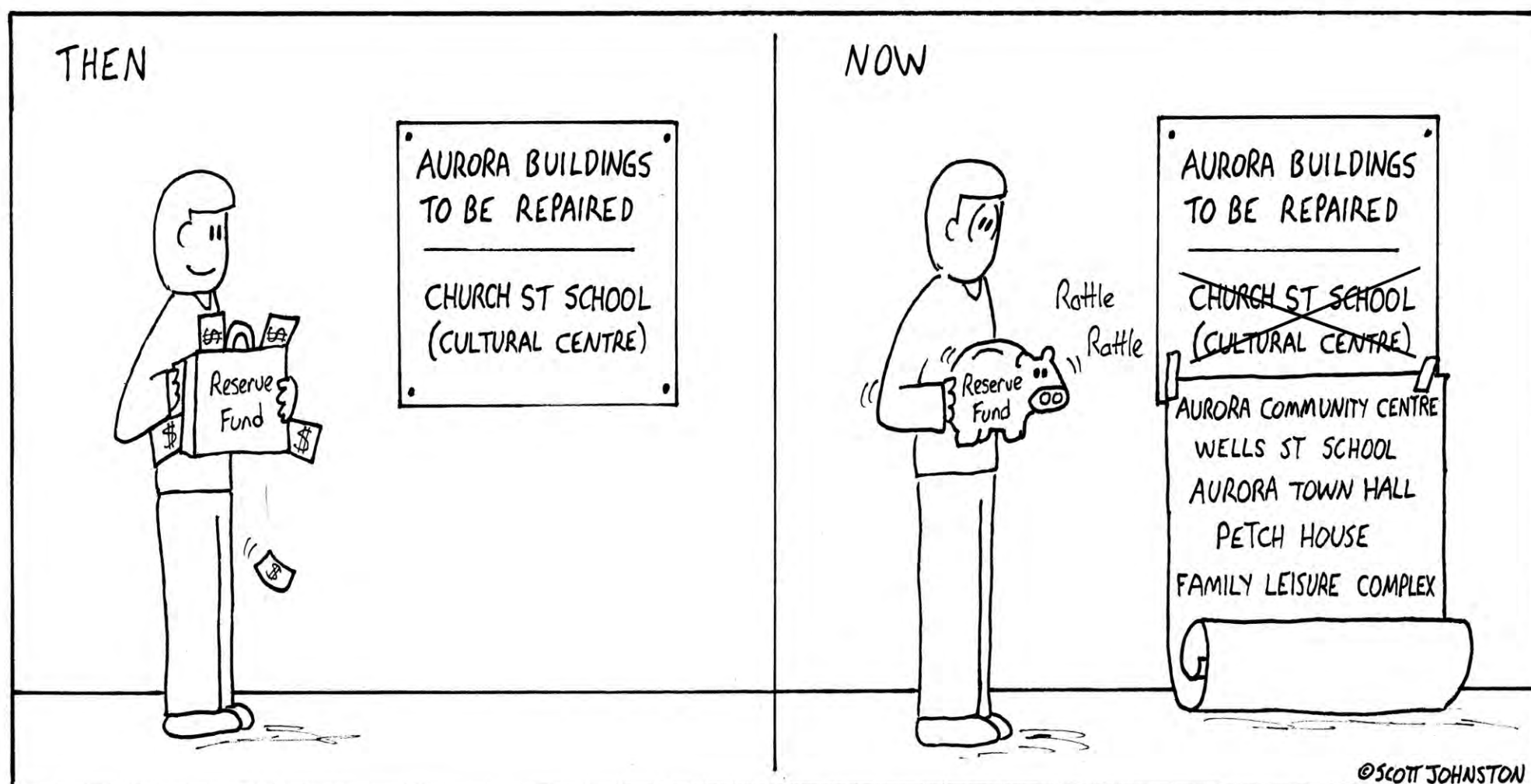
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## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

I am getting off his front porch and coming to see you.

I'm not sure though, if that should be considered a promise or a threat.

It is that special time of year again.

No, it is not yet the beginning of the school year or the start of the NHL pre-season.

It is much better than that.

The provincial election is coming!

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

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

As the writ won't be officially dropped until late August, it is too early to put up any election signs, but that doesn't stop the respective campaigns from sending people to your door.

And that includes me. I will be knocking on doors this weekend on behalf of one of the political parties.

There is nothing in a campaign that beats door-to-door canvassing. It is where the action is. It is that time when the candidates and their emissaries get to meet the jury, one door at a time. Canvassing provides feedback, information on issues, moods and voter priorities.

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

ing situation.

Do all us canvassers a favour - stay home. Too many times already we have had to place the notation "Not Home" on our canvass sheets. It seems that many of you actually have lives. Please stop going to the movies, the gym, or to pick up groceries, for the duration of the campaign. The October 6th election day is not that far away. You can go without deodorant or your favourite ice cream for that long.

Also, in the past when I have knocked on doors a lot of you have claimed to be 'house sitters' and thus ineligible to vote. In twenty-nine years of canvassing I have heard these two words uttered a few times, but to hear it a number of times on the same street this past spring was extraordinary. I will have to use this with telemarketers next time they call me!

A plea if I may. On behalf of canvassers everywhere, Mr. or Mrs. Homeowner, today please make a joint decision on lawn signs.

It is great to visit a home and receive permission from the man of the house to erect a sign on the front lawn. The canvasser then relays this information to the sign crew and some time later they come and while they are putting it up lawn sign the lady of the house peeks her head outside the door or comes home and asks the sign crew what they are doing and who gave them permission. The sign crew chief checks his sheet and says your husband Mr. "X" gave

## Coming to see you

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

As the campaign has not officially started and signs are not allowed to be erected, do us a big favour, and among family discussions about what is appropriate or not for young Julie to wear to school, and how much lunch money should little Johnny receive, please collectively decide on what sign goes up in the front yard.

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

Maybe, just maybe, Aurorans will collectively surprise us again and go to the polls in record numbers this October as they did this past May during the federal election. Let's hope so as there are a number of important issues on the table that effect our wonderful community.

Political canvassers are part and parcel of the wonderful democratic process that provides you the voter with a choice. It is that simple. And they deserve - irrespective of party affiliation - your respect and courtesy. So be ready to greet your canvasser with a smile, a big hello and two, but only two, policy related questions.



## Lois Brown

By Lois Brown  
MP Newmarket-Aurora

## ecoENERGY Retrofit program extended

I am pleased to announce the extension by one year, of the ecoENERGY Retrofit-Homes program. This \$400 million national program provides grants of up to \$5,000 for homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient, helping pocketbooks and the environment at the same time.

Over 500,000 Canadians have already taken advantage of this program, reaping an average energy savings of 20 percent per household. These improvements collectively have saved 1.8 megatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

Not only will our government's renewal of the ecoENERGY Retrofit-Homes program help homeowners make their homes more energy efficient and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it will also create jobs for local businesses and contractors in Newmarket-Aurora and across the country.

There are two important new changes to the program. First, there is a new requirement for participants to register directly with the program before booking their pre-retrofit evaluation. Second, homeowners will now be required to provide receipts to their energy advisor at the time of the post-retrofit evaluation to confirm eligibility for the grant.

To participate, homeowners must first register online at [ecoaction.gc.ca/homes](http://ecoaction.gc.ca/homes) or by calling 1-800-O-CANADA (1-800-622-6232). Then, they must hire a local service organization to send an energy advisor, licensed by Natural Resources Canada, to perform a pre-retrofit evaluation of the home (unless the property has already had an evaluation since April 2007). All upgrades, and the post-retrofit evaluation, must take place before March 31, 2012.

Homeowners who participated in the program before

April 1, 2011, and have not received the maximum amount for their current property, can submit an application for improvements purchased and installed after June 6, 2011.

Only products purchased and installed after June 6, 2011, are eligible for an ecoENERGY grant. All energy retrofits and post-retrofit evaluations must be completed by March 31, 2012, and the grant application must be signed by this date. Homeowners must provide receipts to their energy advisor at the time of the post-retrofit evaluation to confirm their eligibility for the grant. Once the financial limit of \$400 million has been reached nationally however, the program will close to new participants. For this reason, I encourage homeowners to register soon.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact my office, or call the ecoENERGY hotline (toll free) at: 1-877-953-5454.



Letters to the Editor

Appreciate what you have when you have it: Reader

To the editor:

Something my mom used to say keeps echoing through my mind. She always said "give someone flowers while they are alive so that they can enjoy them, don't send flowers after they are gone". I think I now know the basic truth to her saying. Spend time, give flowers, enjoy each others company each and every day because so soon those you love are gone. The following is

a poem that I submitted, many years ago for a fundraiser book, to "Aim For Change a Legacy of Women ... from a whisper to a roar ". Women's Centre and Counselling Agency was a non-profit organization in Aurora. This book contained lots of poems, articles, a calendar, recipes etc. about and for women. I wrote this for Mom and she enjoyed seeing my writing and thoughts in print. I thought that I would resurface it, in her

memory, on the 4th anniversary of her death, July 19th, 2007.

What can we say about the person who gave us life?  
Margaret was a girl, a woman, then a wife.

Her husband died, leaving her with two small girls to raise.  
Working, parenting, cleaning, cooking is how she spent her days.

For many years her personal life was put on hold.  
Till we were prepared to leave the family fold.

Tough times, good times, we made it through,  
Always with pride, dignity, caring and love that are still true.

She many not have found the cure for cancer, yet!  
Or written that bestseller, but she will try, on that

you can bet.

To make an equal contribution in this life, without sounding too sappy,  
Would be all that anyone could ask that they were happy.

We are fortunate and proud that Mom is still here, and that's for sure.  
I hope that she knows how much we love and respect her.

Bonnie Tiffin  
Oak Ridges

Invitation to jazz+ “Hot Spot”

To the editor,

Celebrate Jonathan's Restaurant, the first Official Hot Spot for the Aurora jazz festival! Jonathan's is offering live jazz all 3 nights of the festival from 7 p.m. It's the place to continue the party after the Festival closes each night at 10 p.m. and to go anytime for great food and service.

But why wait for the festival – let's Party! Everyone is

welcome to Jonathan's our Official Jazz Hot Spot - Thursday July 21st @ 7 p.m. to support owner Mary Georgopoulos and stimulate excitement for this year's festival! Help us thank Mary for her continued dedication and support of the arts, culture and those in need. Enjoy great food, good times and music with George St. Kitts (AJ+F Artistic/Musical Director) and surprise festival musical guests. Mary has

organized beer and wine tasting and lots of fun activities to make the night a blast for us all!

\$5 donation at the door will be given to Safehaven www.safehaven.to and Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness (CCAA) www.abusehurts.ca the 2 charity partners of the AFA. CCAA and Safehaven representatives will be at the party to meet you and they are bringing the Safehaven

Teddy Bears and some fabulous fashion accessories so you can also shop!

So, if you enjoy celebrating good people, food, music, and laughter while helping others then you will want to be at Jonathan's Thursday July 21st at 7 p.m. Can't wait to see you there!

Thank you all for your continued support of the Arts.

Susan Morton-Leonard  
Aurora Festival of the Arts

“Tim who?” asks Klees to readers

To the editor:

The Editor of this newspaper, Ron Wallace, wrote a column leading up to the 1995 provincial election, that carried the headline, "Frank Who ".

The column made the point, that although I had been a resident of Aurora since 1988, I was not well known. I had not held municipal office, and who was I to challenge the sitting MPP, who had become a household word ?

In his typical spirit of fairness though, Ron Wallace answered the headline question and gave his readers some insight into my personal, business and political background. While it may not have been the only reason for my electoral success in that election, I credit Ron with at least giving me a fighting chance with that headline.

For anyone who may be interested, Ron Wallace's "Frank Who" column is posted on my website.

Another Election Coming

As we prepare for the October 6th provincial election, I look back with gratitude on the past 16 years during which I have had the privilege of serving as MPP. I'm proud of the record of service my staff and I have been able to provide to our community over the years, and I'm hopeful that I have earned your trust to once again have the privilege of representing you as your MPP in the Parliament of Ontario.

Tim Who ?

As we begin to focus on the upcoming election, one question that I'm asked quite often is, "Who is Tim Hudak ?

So I thought I would answer that question for you, with the hope that this will lead to the same successful electoral results for Tim Hudak, as the Ron Wallace headline did for me sixteen years ago.

Who is Tim Hudak ?

Tim Hudak is the grandson of immigrants who came to Ontario from then Czechoslovakia prior to World War II. They came here in search of a better life for their children and the generations that would follow. From them, Tim learned the value of hope and opportunity.

Tim Hudak's parents are teachers

No one teaches us more about values than our own parents. Tim's parents - both educators in the Catholic school system - raised him and his sister in a middle-class neighborhood in the border town of Fort Erie.

From his parents, he learned the importance of hard work, honesty and giving back to the community.

These values have helped guide Tim during his 16 years as a Member of Provincial Parliament, as an Ontario PC cabinet minister responsible for

three different economic portfolios, and today as Ontario PC Leader and father to his three-year-old daughter, Miller.

Tim believes that if you work hard and play by the rules, you deserve to get ahead. He believes that government should create the climate for the private sector to create jobs and then get out of the way. He believes government must live within its means and respect that every dollar it has comes directly from the people it serves.

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Under his leadership, Tim wants to chart a better course for Ontario than the one we're on today.

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Instead of raising taxes for most, while lavishing special breaks for the favored few, Tim Hudak has committed to a plan to cut taxes across the board.

Instead of runaway spending that jeopardizes government services for future generations, he will make government live within its means.

Instead of more bureaucracy, red tape and more pet projects, he will invest in healthcare and education first.

Instead of pouring millions into expensive energy experiments that drive up hydro bills for families, seniors and businesses - Tim has committed to an energy policy that will respect the environment and family budgets.

And instead of chasing business out of the province, Tim understands the importance of creating an environment that nurtures the businesses born here in Ontario.

Tim Hudak is working hard to let Ontarians know who he is, and what he wants to achieve as Premier - to restore Ontario as the best place in the world to live, to work and to raise a family. He has published his plan that can be found at www.changebook.ca.

I hope that I've given you some insight into who Tim Hudak is, and why I believe he has the character and the experience to lead Ontario as its Premier.

I invite your comments and advice. You can contact me through my website at www.frankklees.com or by phone at 289 221-6330.

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# Transcontinental coming to Aurora

**From page 1**  
Quadracci, CEO of Quad/Graphics. "We have long recognized the high growth potential in Mexico and South America. The acquisition supports our strategy to grow profitably in geographies and segments where we can be a market leader through diverse product offering and superior and efficient operating platform."

While the move will certainly improve Quad/Graphics presence in Mexico, the deal will obviously affect the 360 workers Quad currently employs in its Wellington Street East Facility. According to Claire Ho, a spokesperson for Quad, assurances for the current employees were not part of the deal.

"We have entered into an agreement with Transcontinental and Quad/Graphics will divest of its Canadian operations, except for our Vancouver facility," she told The Auroran. "We could not speak for Transcontinental's intentions once the transaction is complete."

As for Transcontinental,

they said they do not have any defined plans at the moment for the Aurora facility over and above its current operations.

"We don't have defined plans right now because we still have to wait for the approval of the authorities," said Nancy Bouffard of Transcontinental. "We have to evaluate all the assets, we have to meet people from Quad and we have to make sure we understand their business, but we don't have plans - we still need time."

"It's going to be in the fall. We will evaluate all the assets, make some plans, and make sure we split the production and make sure we use more efficient equipment to make sure we satisfy our customers."

When asked if the deal will adversely affect the current employees in the Aurora facility, Ms. Bouffard did not give any indication that it would.

"We consider every employee that we have as equal to every employee so we can make sure we keep them satisfied and we can work with them," she said. "It's the only

thing I can say. It's great news for us, and it must be great news for them because we will work together and make sure we can do something good out of this acquisition."

According to Wednesday's announcement, Transcontinental will assume the retirement pension and post-retirement obligations of Quad/Graphics, which amounts to approximately US\$75 million. The facilities are expected to generate approximately US\$310 million in the 2011 fiscal year.

"The acquisition of the Canadian assets of Quad/Graphics is in line with our strategy to strengthen our more traditional print assets in Canada and is key to maintain a solid business going forward given the competitive and industry dynamics," said Francois Olivier, CEO of Transcontinental in the statement. "It will allow us to leverage the over \$700 million in investments we made to our printing platform over the last several years, it will generate significant synergies and it will better equip us to face the new challenges in our industry."

# No need for commissioner: Mayor

**From page 3**  
municipalities.

"Anything that can save us money," said Councillor Gaertner when asked whether that would be a consideration to which she would be open. "If it saves us money to have a partnership with another municipality, or even a Northern 6 partnership, great! But we have a Code of Conduct and it talks about an Integrity Commissioner and we don't have one!"

The Northern 6 partnership consists of Aurora, Newmarket, King, Georgina, East Gwillimbury, and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

If the Council direction is to reinstate the position of Integrity Commissioner, Mayor Dawe said he would be in favour of a combined agreement.

"But that has to go to the root of the issue, which is whether or not it is needed," he said. "Nothing has happened yet to make me change my mind that we need it."

Aurora has been without an Integrity Commissioner since Mr. Tsubouchi turned in his resignation effective February 20. His resignation came just days before Council was expected to pass a motion giving him 30 days termination notice.

"It was an honour to serve the Town of Aurora and work with the very professional staff at the Town," he said in an

email to Town CAO Neil Garbe and Town Clerk John Leach. "Other commitments prevent me from continuing in the role as Integrity Commissioner for the Town of Aurora."

"I wish the new Council well as they embark on their new term."

That was on Friday, January 21. Mayor Dawe's motion to have Council vote on giving Mr. Tsubouchi his 30 days notice was expected to come before Councillors the following Tuesday. Mayor Dawe's notice of motion to the effect was made during the first working session of the new Council on December 14, fulfilling a campaign promise to dismiss the Integrity Commissioner.

"From my understanding from what most of them were campaigning on, it was really to bring back the level of civility to Town Council," he told The Auroran of his campaign following his October 25 victory. "Pretty much everyone had

an issue with the Integrity Commissioner and that whole process. I have already committed to addressing that."

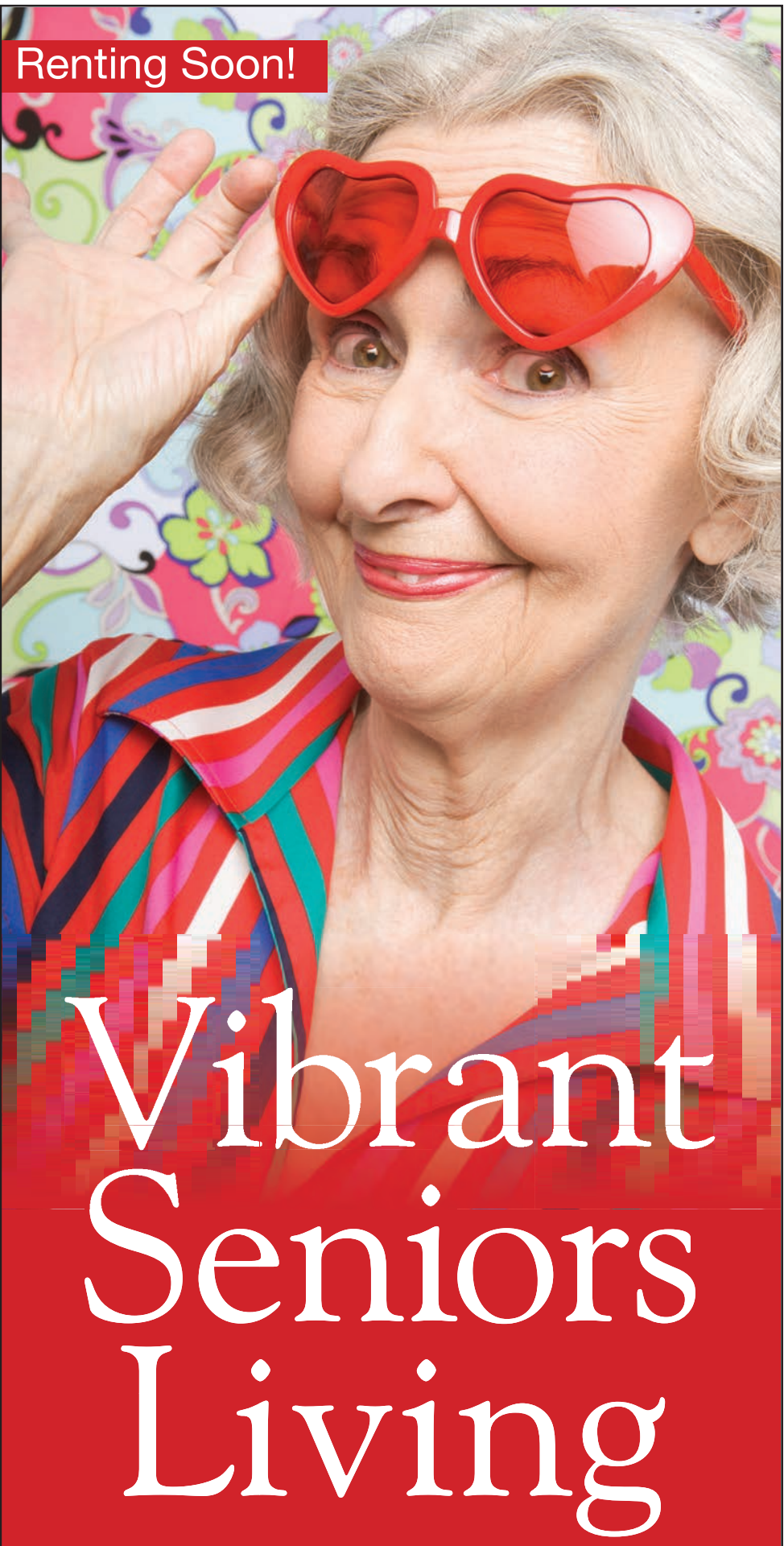
In a statement to The Auroran immediately following his resignation, Mr. Tsubouchi denied that his decision to give his 30 days notice was not a way of beating Council to the punch.

"The new Council is entitled to determine their own priorities and policies," he said. "The timing of the installation of Council coincided with new commitments that I am undertaking."

Mr. Tsubouchi noted there were no formal complaints left on the docket upon his resignation, but the Town is unable to tell whether complaints have been received by the Clerk, due to the anonymous process in place, since Mr. Tsubouchi's resignation came into effect.

Councillor Gaertner's notice of motion is next expected to be on the table August 16.

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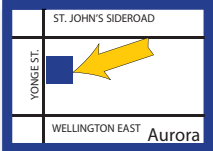


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Week of July 19, 2011

## Camel climber gets reprieve...for now

Confederation Park's now-controversial "two hump camel climber" playground installation got a little bit of a reprieve at last week's Council meeting as Councillors requested a report from Parks and Recreation staff on the equipment before making a decision on whether or not to remove it from the park.

Complaints against the children's climbing apparatus first came to Council's attention last month when residents Martin MacIntaggart and Laurie Harris came forward to express their concerns. Ms. Harris explained that her young daughter fell between the bars of the climber and bruised her pelvis in the process. Both were on hand last week to reiterate their concerns in the hopes their pleas would make a difference and prevent future injuries on the playground equipment.

"When children come down the other side facing away from the ladder, they have a centre of gravity away from being on the top of the ladder and if they lose their grip, they will fall and fall directly on top of the piece of equipment," said Mr. MacIntaggart. "Now I implore everybody here as a Councillor tonight to think about the children of Aurora and think about young children and how we have to protect them."

"When somebody identifies a hazard it should be dealt with immediately."

After Mr. MacIntaggart made his first appearance at Council in June, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe quickly made a notice of motion calling for the swift removal of the climber in the interests of public safety.

"I think the way the resolution is worded sets a dangerous precedent that whenever anybody who shows up and is worried about the safety of a particular item, based on this we're not doing in the merits of the actual playground equipment, we're doing it on these concerns," said Councillor Paul Pirri when Mayor Dawe's motion came up for Council discussion.

"I'm not 100 per cent certain that is the way it should be done. I wouldn't mind seeing this go back to staff and staff creating a report and giving us some options."

According to Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation Services, the Canadian Safety Authority has verified that the playground equipment in question complies with its safety standards and is a safe playground overall.

"That doesn't, however, prevent injury," he said. "The playground does offer challenges and we do that intentionally to create some challenge for the children; if we didn't, I don't know that they would have the play value in the equipment right now."

"The concern is whether or not that challenge goes beyond their limits and gets into a dangerous situation. As the delegate said, these are unsupervised facilities. That means there needs to be some control, either parental or the users themselves, with regards to the use or inappropriate use of that equipment."

Along with Mr. MacIntaggart and Ms. Harris, two more parents came forward expressing the opposing viewpoint. Gale Palmer, an 11-year resident of the Regency Acres neighbourhood said she has watched children under her care enjoy the park and has heard no complaints against any playground apparatus at Confederation Park until the specific complaint before them that evening.

"The camel hump structure holds many challenges and poses risks to children of all ages, as does other pieces of equipment in every playground across Aurora," she said. "There is potential for injury at many points in any park. Children tumble over the edges of swirly slides; they misjudge the height of the monkey bars and fall. Playground accidents happen. My point is there are many opportunities for injury anywhere in Confederation Park. Injuries have occurred. It's the way kids use parks. My role as a parent and caregiver

is to guide the younger children to the appropriate playground equipment and prevent older kids from abusing the equipment designed for younger children."

"There are a variety of apparatus to challenge a variety of ages. The camel hump bars are where older kids congregate and socialize."

In her presentation, Ms. Palmer brought forward a number of testimonials from area children in favour of keeping the camel climber in place. One person expressed their pleasure of using the apparatus when wearing appropriate footwear, while another said its removal would not be fair on those who enjoy it.

"I think it should not be removed because there are lots of other things that are just as dangerous," Ms. Palmer quoted one nine-year-old boy as saying. "If they were going to take that out, they should take everything out and let kids not have fun, but I don't like that idea because if kids don't have fun they will be mean and miserable and nothing will be good."

When fellow parent Leah Clark came forward, she reiterated many of Ms. Palmer's views, but added that the removal of the camel climber based on this complaint could indeed set an unfortunate precedent when dealing with similar concerns.

"If the climber comes down, then the Town would then be receiving hundreds of requests for other playground equipment removal in several parks," she said. "Approving this motion will only set a precedent for future playground request removals. There are those who enjoy the playground as is and do use it safely. They should not be penalized. If playground safety is a concern, more attention should be paid to the garbage under the slide, the broken bottles on the basketball court and, unfortunately, the used condoms littering the entire area. This is more of an immediate concern than the playground equipment."

While Councillors ultimately approved a motion from

Councillor Evelyn Buck - who noted that she too can call Confederation Park her own neighbourhood park - calling on Mr. Downey to provide Council with a full written report of all options and impli-

cations for the climbers removal, Councillor Sandra Humfries expressed her support for the original motion to have the equipment removed.

"Personally, from what I have seen and experienced

myself, I would like to see the equipment removed but I would like to see something challenging and fun [in its place] that is proven not to raise so many concerns," she said.



## Big wins for minor ball players

The Aurora Minor Mosquito Rep baseball team were the big winners of the 10 team Georgetown Minor Mosquito tournament on July 10.

After defeating Burlington and Stratford in the first two games, Aurora trailed Oakville 12-9 heading into the bottom of the 7th inning of a must-win game.

With two outs and the bases loaded Dalton Greiciunas drove the ball deep over the centre fielder's head for a dramatic walk off grand slam to move the team into the semi-finals.

In a tightly contested semi-final against Clarington and with the score tied at 9, Aurora scored 7 runs in extra innings to win the game 16-9. Thanks in large part to a bases loaded clearing triple by Game MVP Andrew Park.

In the finals against Kingsville, Aurora broke open a close game with 8

runs over the last two innings to defeat Kingsville 15-7.

Pictured in the above victory photo (from left) are Mark Elbaum, Jim Moulds, Myles Vasilevski, Johnathan Gianforcaro, Dalton Greiciunas, Connor Elbaum, Aaron Preiano, Nicola Makhlouta, Andrew Park, Lucas Lombardi, Christian Leone, Ethan Moulds, Christian Ricchiuto, Stephen Preiano.

The Georgetown tournament included teams representing Aurora, Burlington, Oakville, Stratford, Clarington, Kingsville, Markham, Milton, Waterdown and, of course, Georgetown. Aurora won each of its games beating Burlington 8-5, Stratford 11-10, Oakville 13-12, Clarington 16-9, and Kingsville 15-7.

In other local baseball news, The Aurora Midget Jays went into high gear this weekend and swept a dou-

ble header Saturday at Aurora's new Stewart Burnett baseball diamond against their rivals from Bolton. Lead by strong starting pitching from Matt Stewart and Andrew Seguin, the Jays shut down the Bolton offence allowing only three runs in two games while scoring 29 on their side of the ledger.

The offence was led by Robert Spencer's inside-the-park home run in game two along with doubles from Matt Zambri, Robert Bradford, Eliot Harkin, James Harkin, and Joe Ariganello. Defensively, Matt Miller and Dalton Mayo anchored the infield and outfield respectively, shutting down Bolton threats in both ends of the double header.

The Jays enter the home stretch of their season in second place in the York Region standings with an eye on qualifying for the Ontario championships in the last week of August.

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# Hoedown money will benefit community groups

**From page 1**  
the costs of Hoedown," he said. "The money that is spread amongst the charities comes from the sale of the event tickets and the raffle tickets that our 20 organizations have, so that is quite a commitment over time. We would encourage everyone to get out and buy those tickets and buy them often."

Last year's Hoedown set a record of \$514,000 which was shared amongst 20 community organizations, a record which Mr. Hinder hopes is broken this year.

Local charities selected to benefit from this year's Hoedown include the Aurora Youth Soccer Club, the Aurora Skating Club, Marquee Theatrical Productions, the Optimist Club of Aurora, Operation Springboard, the Women's Centre of York Region, the York Region Food Network, Youth Assisting Youth, Doane House Hospice, and Hospice King-Aurora.

With their share of the money, the Aurora Youth Soccer Club will provide free and affordable programs to families in need of financial assistance, while the Aurora Skating Club will fund their Special Needs Skate Program, infuse cash into their 2012 Ice Show and offset rising ice costs. Marquee Theatrical Productions will use their share of the pot to support community arts programs for youth and seniors, while youth will also benefit from the share enjoyed by the Optimists, which will go to supporting the children's section of the Aurora Public Library, their Baby Bundles Program, and offering scholarships for high school music programs.

Local businesses could be launched with the money received by the Women's Centre of York Region, which plans to use their funds to enhance their Enterprising Business Incubator program, providing low-



**Sheryl Thomas of Aurora's Marquee Theatrical Productions (L) and Brenda Andrachuk, representing Rose of Sharon, are pictured at Thursday's Hoedown kick-off. Both organizations will receive a share of money raised from the event.**

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

income women with hands-on training and support "to help them launch viable and sustainable businesses through experiential in-class learning, field trips, mentoring, and networking." Accessibility to resources to increase healthy food for low income families will be boosted with the money

received by the York Region Food Network which will also support their vision: Food for Health - Food for All.

After reporting a need for volunteers in the area last year, Youth Assisting Youth will use their money to facilitate one-on-one peer mentoring and group mentoring for at-risk kids.

They will also use the resources to go out, recruit, and train new Youth Mentors, and expand their group mentoring programs. With the York Regional Police, the police mentors will "help break down the barriers that often stand between children and law enforcement."

Tickets for the 2011 Hoedown as well as the Prospectors' Raffle - featuring a grand prize of \$50,000 cash - are available from these community groups, as well as Neighbourhood Network and Jonathan's Restaurant. The event features a "Texas-style barbecue dinner, cash bar, silent auction, Prospectors' Raffle, live country music entertainment and line dancing."

A full list of entertainment will be announced closer to the event.

"This year we had a record number of applicants from organizations to become recipients of the Hoedown funds and we know the need is great,"

Mr. Hinder told the community organizations. "A couple of years ago we decided to go to 20 charities and spread the need out across the community more and so congratulations on being the 20 that were chosen."

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## Funds address widening care gap

Money allocated from the 2011 Wild West Hoedown will help narrow a widening gap in support that has been identified both by Hospice King-Aurora and Doane House Hospice, say the organization's representatives.

According to Lynn McLarnon of Hospice King-Aurora, the last 18 months

have seen a "huge" growth in demand for hospice care, something she attributes to the opening of the Stronach Regional Cancer Centre.

"A lot of people are able to get treatment closer to home now, which means that we're able to step in and help them with a broad range of services around their medical treatment," she

explains. "We don't provide medical services, but we provide a lot of the kind of services a friend, neighbour, a family member would help with like errands, driving, companionship, light house-keeping and meal preparation."

"Those are the kinds of things we do so when people are able to get their treat-

ment closer to home and stay at home, then we're able to step in and provide a lot of those supports for them so these funds will help us provide more of that support for the people."

Hospice King-Aurora is also stepping in to help fill in the gaps for those finishing their cancer treatments in their fledgling new program Picking Up The Pieces for those "moving onto a new stage in their lives."

"This is not an end-of-life situation, but once they finish their treatment and the doctor says, 'You're doing well, see you in six months' there is no social worker anymore, there is no patient advocate anymore, there is nobody to help them and life may be completely different than what it was before they started their treatment," says Ms. McLarnon.

"We offer a 10 week program that helps them envision their new future and that helps them with practical strategies to cope with what might be a different life now than what they had or were expecting before. We do things like vision boards, we do dietary learning for them, and we offer resources for financial planning and all kinds of services to help them cope with a new future."

## Minister gets NDP nod

Newmarket minister Robin Wardlaw will carry the New Democratic Party of Ontario banner in Newmarket-Aurora in the October provincial election.

In an announcement Wednesday, Gerald Fox, president of the Newmarket-Aurora NDP constituency association said party members were proud of Mr. Wardlaw's nomination.

"We are proud to put Rev. Wardlaw forward as our candidate. "Robin Wardlaw has been working hard to build a compassionate community here for 15 years."

As for Mr. Wardlaw himself, he said he is particularly concerned with issues relating to poverty, food, security, justice -



**REV. ROBIN WARDLAW**  
including "gender justice" - and the environment.

"I am eager to see Newmarket-Aurora and Ontario become leaders in building fair, caring and sustainable society," he said in a statement.

Mr. Wardlaw, who has served Newmarket's Trinity United Church for the last 15 years, has also served churches in loca-

tions ranging ranging from Newfoundland to Sioux Lookout. According to the announcement from the local NDP association, during his time as minister in Hamilton, Mr. Wardlaw was "active in peace, disarmament and workers' rights initiatives."

"In Sioux Lookout, he was a member of the local hospital board and helped negotiate an agreement to merge it with the Sioux Lookout Zone Hospital for First Nations people."

He is a member of Put Food in the Budget, a food security advocacy coalition, a co-founder of the Newmarket and Area Interfaith Society, and co-founder of the York Region Committee for the Stephen Lewis Foundation.



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# Solar project gets green light

The Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex is set to become a solar powerhouse with Council's approval of preparing a request for proposal to lease the roof space for solar energy generation.

Council made the decision last week after receiving a report from Aurora CAO Neil Garbe and a presentation from Christina Nagy-Oh, Manager of Environmental Initiatives. The approval will see the roof space leased to a solar power generating company which will maintain the system, and bring in a leasing revenue of anywhere between \$20,000 and \$50,000 annually.

The project was initially brought to Council's attention in the New Year. In February, four options were presented to Council on how to proceed with the project. The first option was sole proprietorship that would see the system fully owned and operated by the

Town. This option has the highest financial return for the town but incurs investment, operation, and maintenance costs, said Mr. Garbe in his initial report.

The second was roof space rental. According to his report, this presented the least amount of risk for the Town but also the least amount of revenue. The third was joint equity, which entailed a partnership with a third party and would have significant return compared to option two. The final option would have seen the power generated from the rooftop panels of the SARC funnelled directly into SARC operations.

"This is the least favourable option, considering the Feed-in Tariff program pricing is four to five times higher than our current cost of buying power from the grid," said Mr. Garbe at the time.

Various buildings around

Town have been assessed for their usefulness in solar power generation - described in the report as Solar Photovoltaic Development - since 2009. The assessment program examined all flat roof structures in the Town for their potential, looking specifically at the size, age, and geographic positioning of the roof, as well as exposure to sunlight and the use of each facility.

Last week, Councillors appeared to be in favour of the leasing option because it presented the least amount of risk.

"The business person in me says we're losing out on an awful lot, perhaps, but on the other hand we're wearing our hat as Councillor and it means we don't have to risk with taxpayer's money, so I am far more comfortable leasing the roof space," said Councillor Chris Ballard.

Councillor Michael

Thompson too expressed favour with the leasing option in the interest of minimising risk and protecting taxpayer dollars.

Councillor Evelyn Buck, on the other hand, said she was not "thrilled with the idea" for a number of reasons, including the fact that the success of similar projects in other municipalities such as New Tecumseh have yet to be fully gauged.

"We don't know how successful it is in terms of producing power to a financial advantage and I assume we have some consideration for the financial advantage," she said, also expressing concern that if there is a change in government following the upcoming Provincial election that the feed-in tariff program would be cancelled and be a blow to the economic viability of the initiative.

"With an election in the fall,

there is a risk the program would be cancelled," she said. "If we did it and the program gets cancelled, are we stuck with something that isn't to our particular advantage? There are a lot of questions to my mind that need to be answered. The financial implications of this under the proposed options are currently unclear."

With these questions unanswered - as well as her concerns that the solar panel project might not be ideally suited to our local weather conditions compared to other initiatives in Spain and Germany - Councillor Buck suggested the matter be referred to the Economic Development Advisory Committee to look

Please see page 15

## "Excessive" fireworks could be silenced

Being woken up by fireworks set off early in the morning and late at night by enthusiastic holiday revellers could soon be a thing of the past, following a direction from Council last week calling for proposals to revise the Town's fireworks bylaw.

The current bylaw allows for family fireworks to be set off two days preceding and two days following both the Victoria Day and Canada Day holidays - as well as on the holidays themselves - adding up to five consecutive days of fireworks, "without any time restrictions", noted Councillor Sandra Humfries in her motion to Council.

"This is causing residents stress and frustration due to the excessive and continual noise," she noted, requesting that staff come back to Council "with proposed amendments to the bylaw for enactment that would allow Family Fireworks for a limited period of time, including start and end times, without jeopardizing holiday celebration activities."

Councillor Humfries provided notice of her motion on June 21 and it first came up for Council discussion at last week's meeting. At the meeting, she said her intention was not to be a killjoy, but to address the concerns of residents, complaints which have also been received by Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, Councillors John Abel,

Chris Ballard, and others.

"A particular resident approached me a couple of years ago with the problem and since then I have heard from other residents stating that there is some excessive timing of home fireworks, noise, and so on," said Councillor Humfries, speaking to her motion. "I am looking forward to hearing back from staff with a report that would make some of the excessive situations in the recent holidays and do that without jeopardizing any of the holiday celebrations at all."

"We need to make sure we have a great celebration during our special holidays."

Some residents have come forward to Councillor Humfries, complaining that one particular neighbour in their area insists on regularly setting off fireworks between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m., as per the bylaw, making the neighbours irritated with the situation.

"These residents have said they didn't even know we had a fireworks bylaw until this issue came up and they were excessively aggravated by this situation to the point where some of the left when they knew this was going to happen and it was promised by the neighbour who was doing this because our bylaw allows it," she said.

According to Techa van Leeuwen, Aurora's Director of Bylaw Services, the best way to regulate the setting

off of fireworks is through a fireworks bylaw rather than through the existing noise bylaw.

"The noise bylaw does exempt fireworks, authorised setting off of fireworks, so if it is within the provisions of the fireworks bylaw and is exempt from the noise bylaw, so I do believe this is the best way to deal with the situation."

Ms. van Leeuwen's department responds to complaints received but, as she noted, they do not have a bylaw enforcement officer on duty at all hours of the day, particularly on evenings and weekends.

"It would become an issue of a complainant possibly stepping forward and becoming a witness in court and testifying in Court if there is a violation and we're not able to attend the site at the time of the violation," she said, adding she wasn't certain off hand how many complaints have been sent to the bylaw department about excessive fireworks noise, but records

are kept.

While Council voted in favour of Councillor Humfries' request for a staff report, Councillor Chris Ballard, however, wondered if it went far enough, and considered aloud the merits of proposing an outright ban on family fireworks.

"What are other municipalities doing?" he asked. "Although I don't know of any fires that have been caused by these or any personal injuries that have been caused by family fireworks, I don't see many places in Town where they can be safely lit off," he said. "Having said that, I think it is important to look at this bylaw. There may be an issue with enforcement but this is an excellent opportunity to educate the fireworks-purchasing public and the rest of us who are annoyed by fireworks going off for seemingly weeks on end that not everyone is as thrilled with things that go snap, crackle, and pop as the purchasers are."

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Ada Johnson turns 108!

Our videographer, Sean Casey, covered Ada Johnson's 108th birthday party at Park Place Manor in Aurora, on Sunday. If you missed it, just go to the www.theauroran.com homepage and scroll down to the Community Videos. Here you will see thumbnails of all our videos -- select Ada Johnson's 108th Birthday.  
~Video by Sean Casey~

• Our oldest Aurora resident  
• 21 Doors Open  
• 16th Annual Chamber Street Festival

Watch for new community videos each week. If you have an upcoming event and would like it covered by theauroran.com please have your event co-ordinator email [cynthia@auroran.com](mailto:cynthia@auroran.com)  
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# OSPCA extension comes with conditions

The Town of Aurora's contract with the OSPCA for animal control services will be extended for one year beginning January 1 to allow the Town to investigate all available options and alternatives for these services - but the agreement came with provisions from Council that the OSPCA must continue to clean up its act in response to recent controversies surrounding the Newmarket shelter.

In a report before Councillors last month by Techa van Leeuwen, Aurora's Director of Bylaw Services, staff recommended a one year extension in the existing contract from January 1, 2012 to the end of the following December at a cost of \$197,129 to look at all options.

Extending Aurora's OSPCA contract by one year would allow Town Staff time to prepare the RFP process in receiving bids from organizations like the OSPCA and Kennel Inn, should that be the route Council decides to take.

"That requires some time in there is some sensitivity in that," said Ms. van Leeuwen, when the matter first appeared before Council last month. "I would highly recommend that if we wanted to engage in a one-year contract with [a group] other than OSPCA, that we should go through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process and see what the results provide."

Options available to Councillors for the future include partnering with Newmarket, Georgina, Whitchurch-Stouffville, and East Gwillimbury for animal control services, entering into a longer term agreement with the OSPCA, and issuing an RFP for all interested

potential providers including the OSPCA and Kennel Inn. Of the partnership options available with other municipalities, Georgina has significant capacity to accommodate the numbers, said Ms. van Leeuwen.

"Currently the other four municipalities use this shelter and have individual contracted services for enforcement. The partnership would consider both enforcement and shelter services. The Town of Newmarket is the project lead and to date there have been three meetings.

"The timing for a municipal partnership is January 2013 as the other four municipalities have contracted enforcement agreements in place until December 31, 2012. The Town of Aurora agreement with OSPCA expires December 31, 2011, therefore we would need to extend our agreement with OSPCA or find an alternative solution for the year 2012."

During the June debate, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe acknowledged there have been a lot of comments about the OSPCA operation in Newmarket, but came to the organization's defence during the discussion.

"My understanding is that the entire operation has changed, it's entirely new staff," he said. "Certainly there are concerns with the OSPCA and I believe it probably wouldn't harm us at all in terms of deferring to July 12," he said. "I believe that the operation up here has pulled up their socks and I wanted to come to their defence."

While speaking the extension for the first time last month, Councillor Sandra Humfries motioned to defer the matter to last week to address the many issues surrounding the shelter.

When the matter came up for discussion at the last meeting, Councillor Michael Thompson suggested amendments that addressed a number of outstanding concerns raised about the local OSPCA in the wake of the ringworm outbreak.

In his amendment, he called on the OSPCA to provide written document to the Municipality "outlining how it plans to implement, or has implemented, the operational recommendations contained in the LeSage-Meek Report."

His second amendment also gives the Town greater authority in ensuring that standards are met, particularly that "the contract renewal be amended to permit the Town to conduct an inspection of the OSPCA facilities to ensure that it is implementing or has implemented operational recommendations in accordance with the LeSage-Meek report."

"Should the Town be dissatisfied with the inspection, the Town shall have the right to terminate the contract without further notice or costs," he said in his motion.

In explaining his proposed amendments, Councillor Thompson said that based on what representatives of the OSPCA have already said, the amendments shouldn't be a surprise.

"I know Councillor Abel and I have both had an opportunity to speak with Frank Klees and he's certainly [spoken] a lot about the OSPCA and the report that was done by Mr. Lesage so I think it would be prudent for us to tie the renewal of the contract in with the recommendations that were outlined in the report that is currently available," he said.

"I do know the OSPCA has also come out and publi-

cally said that they would carry through with those recommendations as well so I don't think we are really introducing anything new."

Recommendations in the LaSage-Meek report call on the OSPCA to create the position of a Chief Veterinarian to be the primary go-to person for shelters and vets working in the network of shelters, who will have a "formal role in outbreak management and be at a very senior administrative level"; the appointment of a provincial Infection Control Officer, a role which may or may not be filled by the Chief Vet; the implementation of a formal surveillance program in each shelter to document infectious disease; a re-evaluation of practices revolving around

rabies vaccinations of animals; improved record keeping; a special focus on prevention, testing, and treatment of ringworm; and the

creation of a task force from the appropriate ministries "to ensure that appropriate changes are made at the OSPCA."

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Crowds filled Town Park Wednesday night to see The Good Brothers, in the second concert in the 2011 Wednesday Concerts in the Park season. Seen here with the Good Brothers is Debbie Hansel, showing the group a t-shirt she has had since one of their concerts in the 1980s. This week the band shell hosts The Fabulous Knockouts.

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## Senior Scape

The lazy days of summer finally arrived, and the rainy spring finally gave way to the good weather we enjoy now. Although the rain interfered with outdoor activities, it made for the greenest growing season since I came to Canada in 1963. The vegetation on a robust Canadian countryside, flourishes vigorously creating a wonderland of life.

A walk through the Arboretum reveals a thriving, luxuriant landscape filled with green pastures and acres of young trees. When maturity eventually reveals the full beauty of trees planted so far, Aurora will surely boast an Arboretum among the finest.

I wrote the lazy days of summer above, and that description suits the activities of many seniors and younger people. However, Bernie Prost, Bob Girard and this writer, all members of the Seniors' Centre, have commenced competition in the 1600 class at the Canadian Chess Championship at the Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto, with two higher classes competing including the Canadian Open Championship.

Many older players compete with a sprinkling of astonishingly young players also. I inquired about their ages, but entry documentation relates to playing strength not age, so my estimate of the youngest age is about 6 years old.

The 1600 class caters to strong club players, where we expect to register enough success to establish a respectable Elo Chess Rating, which none of us possesses yet.

The travel by car and subway took about an hour, another hour for registrations and opening comments by the organisers, and then down to business. My game took almost two hours of pure concentration, and resulted in a tied game.

Based on the Swiss format, chess success during the tournament determines each succeeding round of match pairings. Winners play winners, and losers and ties pair accordingly. The more successful players match each other and pairings do not repeat during the tournament. A desire to avenge a defeat may exist, but will not occur during the tournament.

Nine rounds take nine days to complete, one game a day, and that is an unrelenting, demanding schedule!

In this strictly regulated atmosphere, chess and chess protocols rule the scene; chess clocks and methods of recording the games are everywhere. No contestant may receive any assistance in any manner relating to the game. Arbitrators assist as required within the tournament rules. If a problem arises, we raise a hand and assistance arrives.

Strong women players compete successfully, and everybody respects the opponent, male or female, young or older, because one false move invites catastrophe. One costly error may easily erase 40 fine moves, so absolute concentration is required: take nothing for granted, and beware fatigue as games may run past a punishing four hours in length.

Anybody drawn to play a young person respects the ability of the opponent; mistakes receive their merciless penalty immediately, and many games feel the influence of minor miscalculations

when clever players intensify small advantages.

Very young chess players emerge in life constantly, which I understand; however, witnessing child chess players engage adults in chess successfully astonished me. I teach children to play chess!

Chess is a very old game and appears to live in a perennial springtime of promise, achievement with public admiration for grand masters and world champions. The fervent chess players who keep the game thriving worldwide assure the continued success of chess into the future.

Two rounds remain in the tournament!

The Camera Club met for its second get together, and good attendance showed ramped up interest in how the club endeavours to meet needs of members, excited by the power in their cameras.

The thirst to improve camera ability drew them to the club and success, based on what they learn about cameras, and what they contribute to the finished product personally, will bring them back for more!

Everybody desires improved camera techniques. Everybody knows that most images lack something and constantly improving image composition represents what the photographer contributes to the finished product.

Cameras today have power, adaptability, flexibility and compliance with the commands given to it.

Therefore, the novice enthusiast must learn how the camera works, which implies some technical knowledge within the reach of everybody. The artistic or compositional element added by the photographer has no limit, and now matter images turn out, or the satisfaction achieved by creating excellent images, the thirst for additional perfection cannot be sated.

Lessons learned prove immediately helpful and further experimentation based on improving competence will offer continuing improvement.

Playing or working in a group setting generates a hugely satisfying way of achieving personal goals!

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# SARC roof could be leased

**From page 12**  
over the proposal.

Mr. Garbe agreed with Councillor Buck that there are a number of outstanding questions with the project and that is why his recommendation was not to proceed with the option to assume ownership of the project.

"[The recommendation was] that we transfer all the risk to the private sector and they can see whether they can make money out of it and we'll share in that benefit," he said. "I think that is a no-risk. If we take that out to market and the market sees the uncertainty with the provincial election

and decides not to bid we will know very quickly that it was the right decision not to own it.

"If we are overwhelmed with bids and we get more than we can handle, maybe we can scratch our heads and think we should have owned it, but we don't know until we go out and that's all we're asking for, to give us the authority to go out with an RFP and see what the market has to offer to pay the Town as a benefit for generating power.

"As far as the social responsibility I think that the technology is proven and we can minimize our environmen-

tal footprint by jumping on this project. I think for all those reasons this is the right way to go, to offer a lease option and see where it goes."

For Councillor John Abel, this project is one that fits in with the three pillars of the Town's new draft strategic plan framework.

"We employ local people so it is good for the economy and we're going to have passive income come our way, and we will show leadership in our community to explore renewable energy at no risk, so I think it is a good, sound environmental decision as well," he said. "I think it is a

good way to start"

According to Ms. Nagy-Oh, the project also goes towards helping the Town achieve its corporate environmental action plan by creating safe, quiet, and reliable power, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, "supporting the development of a greener economy by hiring local labour to install the system, and generating a significant guaranteed return on investment over a long term period.

"It is important to note that the current feed-in tariff program allows this project to be both environmentally and economically beneficial."

## COMING EVENTS

**From page 2**  
\*\*\*\*\*

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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