



LIONS CLUB BUILDING

Lions Club

From page 1
and go to the Legion.

The move to sell the Aurora Lions Club also coincides with tough times for area service clubs, which, he said, are experiencing a dwindling membership and competition from other parties.

"We're fighting an uphill battle," he said. "Nobody yet has figured out what to do with the decline."

Competing factors, he said, are reflected in the recent decision by Council to award a contract to allow M & M Meat Shops to sell food at Town Events over the Optimist Club, as well as in red tape from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Commission, which made attempts to hold a home draw for the Lions Club very difficult.

"These things are very detrimental," he said.

The Lions Club latest stint at the Hall began in 1981, following its first occupancy between 1951 and 1956.

It was initially built by the Mechanics Institute as a Civics Building in 1870 and was expanded 18 years later.

During the First World War, the building became a focal point for residents looking to raise funds and boost morale during the war effort, hosting pageants and other fundraisers to raise money for the Canadian Red Cross.

The Town took over the hall from the Mechanics in 1920 and it was later used to manufacture knitted goods until the Lions Club came along.

Following the Lions Club's first occupancy, the Hall saw its first incarnation as a religious institution as home to the Aurora Gospel Church, which occupied the building until 1981.

Raffle helps charities: mayor

Magna Hoedown's Prospector's raffle will turn into some real gold for local charities this year.

Although event tickets are already sold out for the Wild Wild West Hoedown, there are still plenty of raffle tickets available, said Aurora's Steve Hinder, Manager, Magna for Community.

"The money we're able to donate to local charities comes from the raffle tickets. It's pretty simple—the more tickets we sell, the more money goes to charities. Every nickel we raise, they get," Hinder said.

"I'd encourage everyone to purchase raffle tickets," said Aurora's Mayor Geoffrey Dawe. "It's such an easy way to support some very deserving organizations in our Town."

Each year a number of organizations are selected as recipients of the Hoedown funds. This year's recipients include the Aurora Skating Club, the Aurora Youth Soccer Club, Hospice King-Aurora and Doane House Hospice and the Optimist Club of Aurora.

The draw is held the same day as the Hoedown, Sept. 10. The grand prize is \$50,000. There are also prizes of \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000.

Tickets can be purchased at Neighbourhood Network (14988 Yonge Street), Jonathan's Restaurant (14845 Yonge Street) or from any of

the charities being supported by the event.

For more information, visit www.hoedown.ca.

The Hoedown started out as a backyard barbecue fundraiser at the Stronach family farm and has become York Region's largest annual community fundraiser, gener-

ating proceeds of more than \$4 million for local community groups during its 23-year history.

The annual event typically attracts more than 3,500 residents, more than 350 volunteers and raises money for a wide range of different community groups each year.



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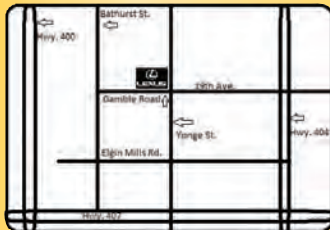


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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

A computer geek, I'm not

Ever since my 41-year-old daughter welcomed me “to the 21st century” after I learned about Skype on the computers, I have been afraid of them...computers, that is.

After having this incredible conversation, with pictures and everything, with this person in Africa, I immediately sent an e-mail to my daughter, the university professor in New York City.

“Guess what we can do on the computer?”

I then told her what I had found out.

“Welcome to the 21st century,” she replied, saying she already had an account with Skype, and inferred “where have you been?”

So, aside from needing the computer to produce this newspaper every week, my computer skills are limited.

That's why I'm not one of the anonymous people writing regularly to Auroracitizen.com, nor do I sell things on E-bay or Kijiji.

If anyone says anything derogatory about me or the newspaper, I'd never know it, because I simply don't spend much time on the computer.

A geek, I'm not.

All that came to an end last week, when Patricia told me a picture I had submitted wound up on Facebook.

Facebook? What's that?

It was part of a series called “You know you're from North Bay, Ontario if you remember...”

Having been born in North Bay in 1944 (gawd, you're old, Ron) and spending the first 18 years of my life there, Patricia had my attention.

Suddenly, I couldn't get enough of Facebook.

After investigating, I discovered there's a section called “I grew up in Aurora...”

And a bunch of people who I had never heard of were listed.

One, who is the daughter of a former Aurora police officer wanted to know if anyone knew the four locations of Home Hardware in Aurora.

Actually, Home Hardware didn't become a reality in Aurora until it moved to the location on Wellington Street, next to the Toronto Dominion Bank.

From there it relocated to its existing location on Wellington Street, just west of John West Way.

Prior to that, it was known as Wilson's Hardware and was located in the building currently occupied by Tru Value Hardware on Yonge Street.

Prior to that, there was a hardware store located where Red George had his second hand shop, across Yonge Street that is currently a not-very-well-kept park.

The land was up for sale and apparently has been sold, but isn't being taken care of. On the one side is the old town hall, while the old post office is on the other.

Dunno who bought it or what their plans are for the land.

One contributor said all the dads would go to Home Hardware and not return for hours. “I always wondered what took so long to get nails:”) ”

And someone answered: “They didn't go to get nails they went to the pub”.

I'm not sure what year they are talking about, but when I came to Aurora in 1969, the only active pub in the area was the Graystone's, where you had to eat the same value as the beer you drank.

Half of Wilson's was taken up by the Aurora Banner.

I know that because I used to work there, and it was easy to sneak out the back, through the hardware store, if you wanted to go for a beer. But you had to go to the Graystone's.

At least that was where I would go with the publisher, Bob Buchanan.

At the time, Aurora was the only place I knew of where you could go bar-hopping, in one hop.

Can't say that today, though.

Excuse me, while I go back to Facebook...



100 Watts

By Christopher Watts

This week's column was finished Tuesday, and erased Wednesday.

It wasn't “perfect”.

Pursuing that perfection resulted in a homogenized mess.

It wasn't “me”.

Anna Quindlen pointed out the significant cost of perfection in a recent speech:

“Nothing important, or meaningful, or beautiful, or interesting, or great ever came out of imitations. The thing that is really hard, and really amazing, is giving up on being perfect and beginning the work of becoming yourself.”

Advice students should heed as they approach a new school year.

Culture has no centre, but you do.

Follow yourself.

You're not perfect.

You're so much better.



Another view of Wells Street school, this one from a postcard which was sent to a Miss Hope in Callander (nine miles south of North Bay) with the note “the schoolhouse here is...not pretty but useful”. The card was sent from Woodstock and the postmark suggests it was sent in August of 1911. At the time, the school was Aurora's first high school. Currently, the building, which served as the Wells Street Public School, is owned by the York Region District School Board, and is up for sale. Postcard was supplied by David Heard.

Letters to the Editor

Reader disagrees with Mol's stand

To the editor,

Not being a resident of Aurora and therefore being only an irregular reader of The Auroran, I have no informed opinion on ex-Mayor Phyllis Morris, the merits of her lawsuit or the question of whether the Town should pick up the tab for her legal expenses.

However, as a citizen of Canada, and someone who treasures the right to free speech and civil but robust political debate, I must dissent from letter-writer Jake

Mol's claim that anonymous blogging "should be considered a criminal offence in the future".

He adds, counter-intuitively, that criminalizing criticism of our politicians would keep "our use of these modern technologies safe."

Government agencies and private corporations already keep us under more than adequate observation.

They film us on city streets and in shopping malls, keep meticulous records of our travel itineraries, medical records, read-

ing habits, shopping preferences, electronic correspondence and so on.

No one is immune from such surveillance, and now Mr. Mol wants to violate our Charter right to free expression by making comments in cyberspace illegal.

Civil liberties are already at risk, without begging the authorities to put us in jail if we say unkind things about our leaders.

I have long believed that running for public office and

being elected to representative positions involved the possibility that some voters might disagree with our attitudes and actions, and have the temerity to say so.

Mr. Mol is upset because he thinks the anonymous critics were “cowards.”

I am much more upset that Mr. Mol wants to make that a punishable offence under the Criminal Code.

Howard A. Doughty
Richmond Hill

Chairman is “disturbed” someone could still be selling Hoedown tickets

To the editor,

I would like to comment on the letter appearing last week in The Auroran regarding a rumour about the sale of Hoedown tickets.

First, let me say how pleased we are that tickets are sold out for this year's event.

Although the Hoedown has in fact sold out every year since its inception, this is the earliest this has occurred.

And that's a good thing because the community organizations selling the tickets receive 100 per cent of the funds generated by the sale of event tickets and raffle tickets.

Congratulations to the

charities for their incredible job on those sales.

I find it very disturbing to think that someone would take advantage of this incredible community event.

An event that through the generosity of Magna, has provided more than 4.5 million dollars to benefit countless organizations over the years.

There's still time for you to help support the 20 organizations benefitting this year by reaching out to them to purchase your raffle tickets.

For a list of organizations and further info, visit our website www.hoedown.ca.

Steve Hinder
Magna Hoedown Chair

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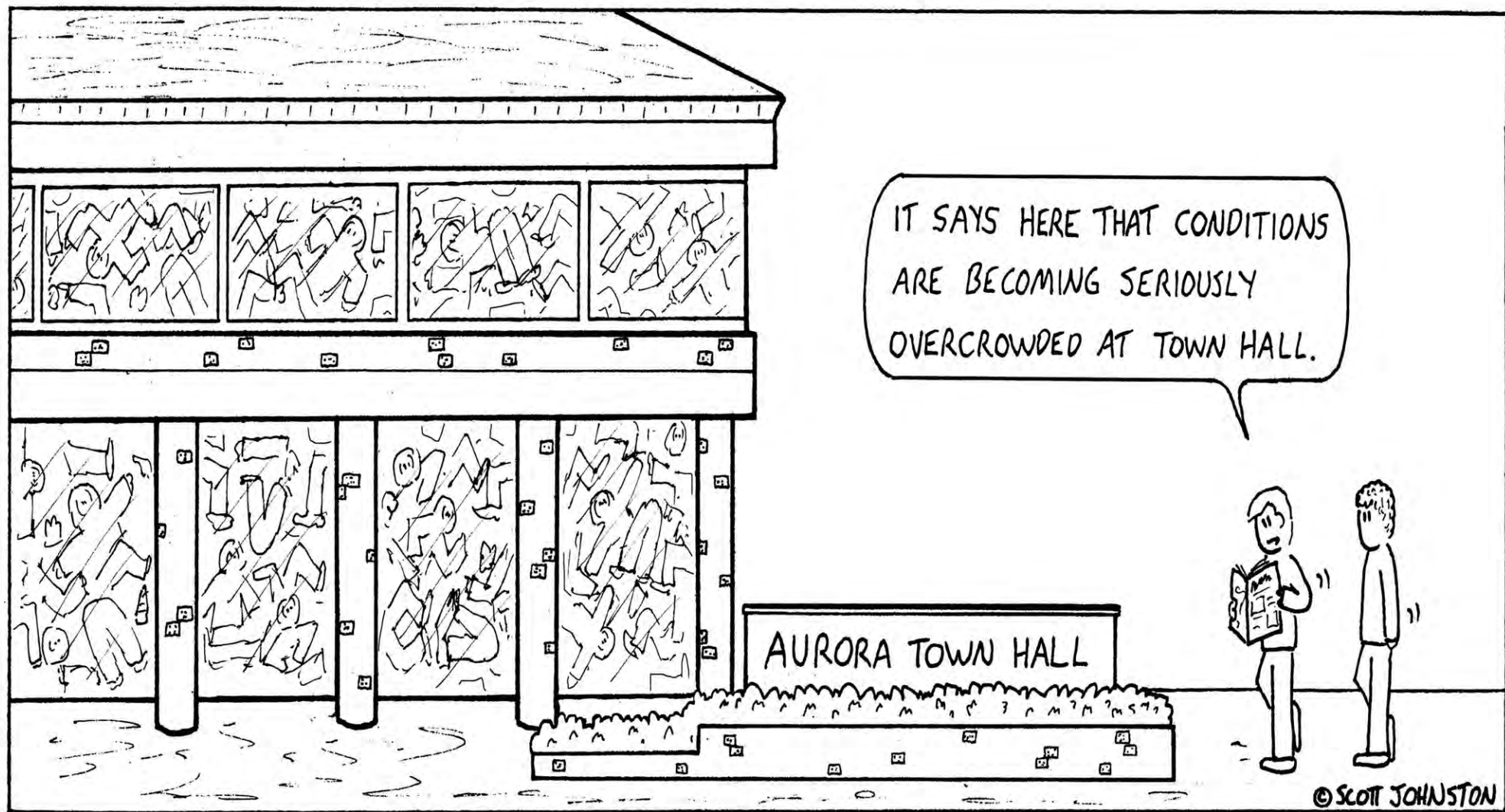
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Following up

Four decades later, another Royal visit

By **BROCK WEIR**
Auroran Writer

As The Auroran reported last week, Aurora received its first visit from a member of the Royal Family in 1860 with the visit of Prince Albert Edward, Prince of Wales in September of that year.

By all contemporary newspaper accounts, the short visit was a rousing success, but almost exactly 40 years had elapsed before the next Royal Visit to Aurora occurred and after those four decades, it was a very different landscape.

In the meantime, the Prince of Wales had married Princess Alexandra of Denmark and had six children.

His 1860 visit helped cement the ties of the colonies resulting in Confederation in 1867.

The venerable Queen Victoria died in January of 1901 after a record-setting 63 year reign, and the Prince of Wales now reigned over the British Empire as King Edward VII.

Still dressed in mourning black for Queen Victoria, the new King's surviving son and heir Prince George, Duke of Cornwall and York, set out on a marathon tour of the Empire, which included an extensive tour of Canada - and a whistle stop visit to Aurora.

In her book Aurora 1945-1965, local historian Elizabeth Hearn

Milner notes that in 1965, then Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson recalled sitting next to the Duchess of Cornwall and York, by then Queen Mary, at a Buckingham Palace function talking about her visit almost 50 years previously.

But curiously, little evidence of the visit exists in the Aurora Historical Society archives apart from a small tin button (pictured here) that would have been worn by citizens of Aurora to welcome the couple as the Royal Train pulled into the station.

Perhaps Mr. Pearson, who would have been a young lad of four at the time, was reminiscing through the eyes of his parents, as a contemporary account from a 1903 book covering the Royal Tour by Sir Joseph Pope, then Canada's Under Secretary of State, suggests.

"Those whose memory went back to the visit of the present King, when Prince of Wales, were desirous to enjoy the additional distinction of greeting his son on Canadian soil," wrote Mr. Pope. "The younger members of the community welcomed the opportunity to qualify for their fathers' privilege of being able to say they had seen the heir to the throne face to face, while old and young alike were eager to welcome her who as 'Princess May' had won all hearts at

home."

In advance of the visit, the Aurora Banner, beginning on September 20, 1901 began providing a step by step account of the Royal Visit so far from the time they first set foot in Quebec City.

The coverage provides an interesting snapshot of society in the fledgling 34-year-old Dominion and also harkens back to the visit of the Duke's father 40 years previously.

"His Royal Highness, in replying to Ottawa addresses, referred to expressions of loyalty which they contained," the Banner reported on the Royal Couple's arrival in Ottawa. "He touched on the visit which the King, his father, paid to Ottawa, when he laid the cornerstone of the Parliament Buildings in 1860, of bringing about Confederation, and the great progress made by Canada since that time."

"The mutual toleration shown by both races helped materially to bring about these good results. He spoke in the city of Hull having recovered from the great fire which overtook it and concluded by saying that at no time in the history of the British Empire were the ties of union more closely drawn together than at the present time."

The following week, the paper provided lengthy biographical por-

traits of the Duke and Duchess particularly noting the "admirable traits" of the Duke, which were embedded in him in what the paper described as "the two best schools of our national virtues" family life, and service, noting his time spent in the Royal Navy with his late elder brother Prince Albert Victor.

In the biography of the Duchess, born Princess May of Teck, the Banner emphasized the Duchess' British heritage as the daughter of the extremely popular Princess Mary Adelaide of Cambridge - later Duchess of Teck - whose popularity was such that she was the first person to bear the popular press moniker "People's Princess", a name which will now be forever associated with Diana, the

late wife of her great-great grandson.

It goes on to relate the somewhat complicated courtship of the Duke and Duchess, where May was originally betrothed to Albert Victor - a very popular match in the eyes of the public due to their fondness for her mother - but was essentially inherited as bride by his younger brother following his death.

"The same reasons that had made the original marriage with the Heir popular were now added to by public sympathy with the loss that she had sustained, and the marriage was generally approved," The Banner reported.

The approval of the local media of the day was evident in their conclusion, looking back on their journey to various

ports of call throughout the Empire as a good sign of things to come.

Unaware, of course, that the Duke and Duchess would become King George V and Queen Mary in less than nine years, it is clear that they felt the Dominion of Canada would be in good hands.

"Many public functions have been performed by the Duke and Duchess of York," they concluded. "But the increased consequence now given them by the accession of the Duke's parents to the Throne will render their public appearances even more numerous and interesting in the future, and the journey to Australia, South Africa and Canada has proven that they can fittingly fulfil valuable high ceremonial duties."



Letters to the Editor

Kerry's Place, Art in the Park share space in Town Park

To the editor,

The Town Park at Wells Street and Mosley is home to the ever-growing Aurora's Farmers' Market which is a great location to stroll with your family, friends and pets each Saturday till the end of October.

This historic area of beautiful century homes and parkland settings makes the Aurora Farmers' Market a quaint location for the community of vendors that are on display showcasing their homemade and farm fresh garden produce and unique one of a kind gifts.

This ambiance blends

well with the choice to bring Kerry's Place 4th Annual Family Appreciation Day and Aurora Art In the Park 2011 together recently.

It was a beautiful afternoon for the artists to display their works of art and to creatively engage the public to strongly become aware how important our arts cultural and heritage is in Aurora's community.

I wish to thank all the artists and artisans who participated: Marianne Black, Sharon Kolinsky, Laurie Larson, Meagan Leonard, Herbert Pryke, Christine Valentini, Denise and Angel Waskul.

Children were able to have their face painted by "Put on a Happy Face" c/o Rytalanno and watch the exciting skilled performers of Up Juggling.

On hand were Susan & Bob Leonard promoting the "Aurora Festival of Arts Jazz Festival".

We sang, danced, welcomed and watched the exciting sounds of the following musicians from the "Shearing Sheep Tour" performances of The Manatee Band: Aaron Morris, Paul Mason, Bruce Ewart & Chrispen; Zingalo Band: Dave Renton, Jas Carvin, Pat Scott and Ted Hill; The

Other Guy; Pat Mete.

A final big thank you goes out to all our student volunteers, Anna Kroeplin Chairperson of The Aurora Farmers' Market and Jennifer Van Nest Fundraising Assistant of Kerry's Place for a beautiful venue of fun filled activities.

Thank you so very much for supporting the visual artists and entertainers in our community and for coming out to celebrate with us.

We hope that you will join us next year.

Deborah Campo
Art In The Park 2011
Event Coordinator

Mayor says thank you for 6th Doors Open coverage

To the editor,

On behalf of the members of Aurora town council, Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee, and Town staff, I would like to thank The Auroran for its support of Doors Open Aurora 2011.

This year marks Doors Open Aurora's sixth year of showcasing our heritage and cultural buildings.

This year 3,084 visitors were welcomed and hosted at 21 different locations.

To name a few: Victoria Hall "history for kids", St.

Andrew's College, Trinity Anglican Church, Judy Sherman Studio, Aurora Public Library, and walking tours of our built and natural heritage.

From private residences to local businesses, natural heritage, public buildings,

and churches, each site on the Doors Open tour offered something new and appealing to share.

Doors Open underscores our sense of history and provides us with an opportunity to exhibit our heritage, neighbourhoods and cultural sites.

In recognition of Aurora's leadership efforts to promote and conserve our heritage, the Town was awarded the 2008 Prince of Wales Prize and the 2009 Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage award for Community Leadership, population 50,000 to 125,000.

We are extremely proud to be able to showcase Aurora's historic homes and natural resources and we appreciate The Auroran's contributions and assistance raising interest in the event.

Once again, thank you for your commitments and support of Doors Open Aurora 2011.

Geoffrey Dawe
Mayor
Town of Aurora

Reader wants to know what location had poor take-out

To the editor,

Re: column written by Scott Johnston, The Auroran, August 9

Hi there.

I read your column about the take-out experience you

had.

Interesting to say the least.

But, I feel that if you thought it was important enough to write about your experience with this particular establishment it is impor-

tant enough to identify it to your readers.

Keep up the good work. Look forward to your columns.

Don Oates
Aurora

Anonymous artist happy' to see work

To the editor,

Re: July 22, 2011, 'Loss of Innocence'

Though my motive behind drawing the cartoon

at the Aurora Cultural Centre was to show the horrible link of the island massacre to the first exhibit in "Freedom of Expression" it's kind of neat seeing it in print.

Thank you for believing it

to be "good enough" - simply from the heart to remember a Norway which I visited in 2009.

Vikki
Aurora

He enjoyed holiday columns

To the editor,


I really enjoyed your Poor Ronnie summary of your recent vacation as Sue and I have been to all the places you

have described.

As a bit of trivia for you... Kurt Russell and Goldie Hawn have a cottage (palace) in Westport and they spend their

summers there. Cheers!

Jim Abraham
Aurora



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You have to win them...

Still two tickets available for Hoedown

While those of you scouring the internet for Hoedown tickets or plying your neighbours and co-workers with compliments for a crack at any tickets they have on them, you just might be out of luck. Or maybe not. The Hoedown event is completely sold out, but Marquee Productions, as it did last year, holds the last two remaining event tickets that it is using as a prize. To sweeten the pot, Marquee is also offering another incentive. The Magna Hoedown chooses 20 local organiza-

tions to benefit from the tickets sold for this event, including the raffle tickets. Marquee is one of the organizations. To help Marquee keep its programming costs down, you can purchase raffle tickets. Tickets are \$20 for three chances at winning...or \$100 for a book of 15 tickets. But Marquee is sweetening the deal: It has three prizes available for three winners and if you can sell to friends, family and neighbours, your name will be entered into a draw for each \$20 that you sell. If you're a winner you'll get a basket filled with fun kid stuff, including a free tuition for one of Marquee's 2011/2012 Intermediate Youth Programs, featuring Disney's Aladdin or Hairspray, that's first prize. It's valued at \$700. Second prize is one free tuition for Marquee's 2012 March Break Camp, a \$250 value. Third prize is a family subscription (2 adults and 2 children) to Marquee's 2011/2012 season. The final prize of two Hoedown event tickets will be drawn after the winners' ballots from the above mentioned prizes are returned into the contest ballot drum so that they too are eligible to win the event tickets. The draw will be held Monday August 29th. If you want to participate and support local charities, tickets are still available for the 2011 Wild West Hoedown's Prospector's Raffle. Held on September 10 in conjunction with Hoedown festivities on the grounds of Magna International of Wellington Street East, the Prospectors Raffle offers a grand prize of \$50,000, in addition to one prize each of \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000. "The money we're able to donate to local charities comes from the raffle tickets," said Steve Hinder of Magna for Community in a statement. "It's pretty simple - the more tickets we sell, the more money goes to the charities." Aurora groups besides Marquee selected this year to benefit from money raised in the 2011 Magna Wild West Hoedown include Hospice King-Aurora, the Optimist Club of Aurora, and the Aurora Youth Soccer Club. Raffle tickets can still be purchased at Neighbourhood Network, Jonathan's Restaurant, and from participating charities. Last year, a record \$514,000 was raised for 20 York Region charities and community groups through the Wild West Hoedown but according to organizers there is always room for improvement. "That [was] a record, and we want to beat that record," said Mr. Hinder.



Frank Klees, right, Newmarket-Aurora member of the provincial parliament was the host of a reception held at Wellington Gallery last week. Among those in attendance was gallery-owner Emil Simon who announced that in September the gallery would close with a final party on Thursday, September 29, and do its business on the internet.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Aurora woman is finalist

From page 1
cultural and societal backgrounds. "I have to laugh because one of my lines is about beer," she said. "I don't drink beer, but I know that a lot of Canadians do! I have tried to hone in on everybody's ideas and not just my own." If Ms. Stevenson is the ultimate winner of the "A Song for Canada" contest, she is guaranteed at least one line of her poem being used in the final song. When asked what particular line she would like to see make it into the final submission she said one that reflects Canadians not taking themselves too seriously or one that reflects the diversity of Canadian peoples. Whichever line is chosen - or if the whole thing is used - it will be integrated into a song slated to be crafted with the help of noted Canadian musical talents Stephan Moccio, Chantal Kreviazuk, and Raine Maida. The contest sought to engage Canadians in writing a song about contemporary Canada and the short list was decided by a panel of judges, which in addition to the musicians above also included "Believe" singer Nikki Yanofsky and Rick Campanelli. Mr. Moccio will provide the score for the final composition, which will make its debut at the Toronto awards ceremony October 1. As an added bonus, the winner will also receive \$25,000 cash and studio recording time. "I would love to meet [Mr. Moccio] and work with him [and the judges]" said Ms. Stevenson, on what she would most look forward to if she was made winner of the contest. "I think it would be a wonderful experience to meet some very talented people and be a part of the whole Walk of Fame red carpet deal. The money would be nice too! I can't complain if I get the money! With her mother a professional singer, Ms. Stevenson, who is also a member of the Aurora Writers Group, said her family has been very supportive of her endeavours and she has enjoyed writing side by side with her mother. "My family has been the best support and fans and they would like nothing more than to see me win and go on and to network with people and hopefully have a career writing songs, which is actually my ultimate goal."



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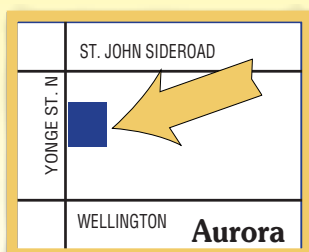
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Week of August 16, 2011

Season opens in Newmarket

Tigers still looking for billets

The Aurora Tigers of Junior A hockey fame will open their main camp on Thursday night at the Aurora Community Centre Rink 2.

The camp will continue through to September 2nd.

Immediately following breaking camp on the 2nd the Tigers will travel to Vermont to compete in the "Woodchuck Classic" tournament from September 6th to the 11th.

"We're looking forward to a great year," said vice-president Barry Quinn.

The team will meet arch enemy Newmarket in the opening game September 15 in that town beginning at 7.30 p.m.

But what the team really needs are five more billets for their players.

The Tigers are actively seeking families to billet out-of-town players.

If you can help out contact Quinn at bquinn2009@hotmail.com or phone him at 416-606-4901

In the meantime, the Tigers have changed many of their home games from Sunday to

Saturday, Quinn said.

"In response to our Season Ticket Holder patrons to make a change from Sunday afternoons, we have worked with the Aurora Minor Hockey Association to eliminate all Sunday home games and replace them with Saturday night games for the 2011-12 season," he said. "Our primary home date will continue to be Friday nights, with Saturday night becoming our alternate home date".

The 2011-12 season will feature 12 Saturday night home games - including the season opener Saturday, September 17th, against the Milton Icehawks.

James Richmond will return as Head Coach and General Manager of the Tigers, and he will get help from assistant coaches Mike Doyle, Mike Manuel and John Ceci.

In the meantime, the Tigers will have little trouble getting to their away games thanks to the OJHL signing a three-year partnership naming Coach Canada the Official Transportation

Carrier of OJHL teams.

As part of the agreement, Coach Canada will also receive naming rights for the OJHL Most Improved Player Award with the partnership including a league-wide sponsorship and preferred service rates for all OJHL member clubs.

"Coach Canada continues to provide leadership with not only a commitment to the growth of grassroots hockey in Ontario, but with a professional, first-class charter service," said OJHL Commissioner Marty Savoy. "Already in use by many of our franchises, we would like to welcome Coach Canada as an official partner of the OJHL and look forward to working closely with them as we work to grow both our brands in the future."

Coach Canada has industry leading standards for operations and safety and an extensive driver-training program.

"The safety of our players and staff while traveling to and from competition is paramount for the league and our team owners," said Savoy.

Coach Canada ensures that all of the busses in their fleet are consistently serviced to meet strict safety standards.

"Coach Canada is very excited to expand our relationship with the Ontario Junior Hockey League. We have been connected with various teams over the years, but see this agreement as an opportunity to strengthen and grow this partnership further," stated Sue Adlam, Vice President, Sales & Marketing for Coach Canada. "We intend to conduct our business in such a manner that exceeds the board members, coaches and players expectations. We are committed to complying with all relevant laws and regulations and will demonstrate a high standard of integrity, responsibility and professional conduct. We look forward to this season and wish all the teams great success."

The bus line's Canadian head office is located in Peterborough and Coach Canada currently owns and operates 210 highway coaches, 180 school buses and 98 other vehicles.

The Ontario Junior Hockey League, meanwhile, is the largest Junior 'A' league operating under the auspices of the Canadian Junior Hockey League with 27 member clubs.

Originally named the Ontario Provincial Junior 'A' Hockey League, it was formed out of the Central Junior 'B' Hockey League in 1993-94.

In the North Division this year are the Tigers and teams from Huntsville, Markham, Newmarket, Orangeville, and Stouffville.

Other teams in the league include Brampton, Buffalo, Burlington, Georgetown, Hamilton, Milton, Oakville, Mississauga, North York, Pickering, St. Michaels, Toronto, Lakeshore, Vaughan, Cobourg, Kingston, Lindsay, Peterborough, Trenton, Wellington and Whitby.

Last year, the Tigers, even though they won their last two games of the season, missed the playoffs by a single point.



Aurora Minor Hockey Association

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING 2011/2012 REGISTRATION

We will be available for In-House Registration at the Hockey Office located at the

Aurora Community Centre for the following dates in August.

Wednesday August 10, 2011, 7 - 9 pm

Wednesday August 17, 2011, 7 - 9 pm

Wednesday August 24, 2011, 7 - 9 pm

Wednesday August 31, 2011, 7 - 9 pm

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It is recommended that 2005 players have either taken skating lessons or completed one year of Opti Hockey.



Newmarket-born Elvis Stojko, left, meets Newmarket Hurricanes Morgan Bonnar, whose hometown is Aurora, and who was selected as the most valuable player during last year's Junior A playoffs against Hamilton, at Newmarket's Nature's Emporium's "Hometown Heroes" held on Yonge Street last week.

Auroran photograph by David Falconer

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Decisions sign of things to come: Buck

No one could ever say with conviction that Aurora's longest-serving councillor, Evelyn Buck, has ever lacked a strong voice, but from the councillor's own perspective, the election of her new council colleagues has brought about a change - council is actually listening.

"Everyone is able to make a contribution," she said on the new climate at Town Hall. "I'm very hopeful. I'm certainly enjoying it 100 times more than the last one, where I am able to take my place."

Councillor Buck spoke to The Auroran last week for the final instalment in our series of interviews with councillors reflecting on the first six months of the new council.

(Councillor Wendy Gaertner declined to be interviewed and attempts to reach Councillor Chris Ballard were unsuccessful at press time) While council has now checked approximately eight months off its first year, Councillor Buck finds encouragement in watching her newcomer colleagues find their voice as well.

"I think at the beginning when you don't have any background, you're finding your way," she said. "If they are going to exercise independent judgement they have to find their own way. You have to be listening to everything and, to a considerable extent, leaning on the expert advice."

With eight months behind them, some of the key achievements of the new council so far, to her, have been proceeding with Aurora's trails network, and making a decision on the Petch House. Although Councillor Buck said that these are "small" achievements, she noted that they were left over from the previous council term.

"We didn't get a hell of a lot done in the last four years, so things that needed to be done were waiting to be done, decisions that were waiting to be made, but in the last five or six weeks, we made those decisions and they are very positive steps and a good sign of things to come, I believe, of dealing with Town issues and get-

ting on with it."

Of some of the decisions that were made under the previous council, Councillor Buck said she still has reservations, particularly with the Master Recreation plan, which she said she thought was "skewed deliberately".

The consultants did their job, as they were paid for, she said and then others, including a former councillor "rewrote the plan to suit themselves".

Another is the Aurora Promenade Study.

Property owners are "seriously dissatisfied" with the plan and this should have been addressed before it was approved, she said.

When asked whether there was anything during these first few months of council she would have liked to have seen handled different, however, she lamented a delay in getting the Economic Development Committee into action to address some of the concerns of downtown retailers.

The committee, on which she sits, is comprised of members who are eager to get down to business and wanted a meeting during the summer, but will only have a chance to resume again next month. This, she said, has resulted in a missed opportunity.

"We need to be talking to the retailers on Yonge Street," she said, noting that she is putting forward a notice of motion for a staff report on whether or not business owners find the existing Town Signage bylaw, as The Auroran reported last week, more of a hindrance than a help.

"I think the Economic Development Committee is the right committee to make a move in that direction and provide some input into how we will get some input from the retail community about what they think of the bylaw," she said. "They may not have had experience with it, but some of them have had a very negative experience so I am very anxious for people to take a really serious look at it to see what we are accomplishing, aside from spending a lot of the tax-

payers' money on the manpower to look at variances and then recommend them and having them turned down by Council. That is not a customer service."

Looking ahead towards the second half of council's inaugural year, an additional issue Councillor Buck said she would like to bring forward is giving the community back "its museum in its rightful place", namely the Church Street School, now home to the Aurora Cultural Centre.

Another notice of motion from Councillor Buck in the pipeline is one to hire an experienced curator for the museum to organize its collections and provide leadership.

"[The curator's position] got approved at budget time and I believe council is behind me on getting the museum back into its rightful place," she said. "They're listening; they hear what the community has to say. I believe that is a key issue that needs to be resolved."

Councillor Buck said she would like to see the building go back to its previous use, which had the prime mandate as a museum, with recognition that space could be permitted to cultural and arts activities.

"I am not talking about squeezing the arts and cultural community out of the building, I'm talking about the prime purpose being a museum," she offered as a point of clarification. "That is what it was designed for and for other activities to be allowed in the building as well."

Considering the feedback she has received over the first few months of this council, Councillor Buck says she is encouraged by the notes she has received from "people who pay attention".

"It is light and dark, it is night and day, it is black and white," she said, comparing it to the feedback she received during the previous council term.

That being said, as a politician, she adds she is always mindful of the people that cast their vote in her favour last October.

"I was very happy to be elected and proud to be

elected but like most intelligent politicians they are as much aware of the people who didn't vote for them as the people who did," she said. "They are very grateful to the people who did vote for them but there is always a concern about the numbers who did not have confidence despite everything you do. You still failed to win the trust and confidence of that number of people and it was more people than voted for me."

"You're always conscious of the people who didn't give you their trust and you're always striving to do better. It keeps you

grounded, realizing that it is that number of people who didn't choose to give you their support and you have to try better. You have to try to do better.

"We have a long way to

go to undo the damage that was done and give us time and four years is a good block of time I think we can show we can justify the confidence they gave us."

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Four people from Aurora see what they learned from awards

By **BROCK WEIR**
Auroran Writer

When Aurora residents Sarah Knowles, Geoffrey Ruddock, Augusta White, and Jade White went to Toronto at the end of July to receive their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards from Prince Edward, the occasion gave the participants time to reflect not only of what they learned in the process, but also what they accomplished.

In speaking to the individual recipients, it is clear that each came away from the program with unique memories that stemmed from their own personalized activities, but despite the emphasis on individuality, all four participants voiced similar life lessons gleaned from their activities and community involvement.

Geoffrey first went for his bronze award in Grade 9 and things steadily progressed until he got the gold.

At the top level, he took as his expedition a trip to Peru through an outreach program offered by Aurora's St. Andrew's College.

While in Peru, Geoffrey and his fellow students stayed in Cusco where they helped out at a community centre, 30 minutes outside the town, which doubled as a school where they played with students, tried their hand at teaching English, and also had an opportunity to put some of their handiwork to good use, sprucing up the building itself as well as its furnishings.

The Peru expedition, he said, is probably the most valuable experience he walks away with in hindsight as not only did it teach him perseverance (a "cliché" he was reluctant to use at first), but also provided great personal satisfaction and a sense of teamwork.

"It is obviously very satisfying to get the award after putting in all that time," he said, noting teamwork was particularly evident during their hike on the Inca trail to Machu Picchu.

"You don't really think of hiking as a team thing, but at that altitude, in that air density, every breath you take is maybe worth a third of a breath here, so you have to take on a lot more up there to get the same amount of

oxygen. That, combined with climbing steep mountain passes, you're encouraging each other and you're really working as a team more than you think you are when you are hiking."

Sarah Knowles' journey began as a student at Country Day School and through the program she studied Spanish, taught English, and also painted a jail house in Costa Rica.

Closer to home she volunteered her time at Aurora's Sunrise Senior Living.

The program, she said, enabled her to learn about other people of various cultures and different age groups.

"It's a good learning experience and you meet lots of new people and get to try new things," said Sarah, who is now a third-year student at the University of Guelph.

Another student who took their expedition to Costa Rica is Jade White, who also as a student at Country Day School, worked as a peer tutor, Big Sister, and volunteer in various sports and charity events.

Getting out to Costa Rica got Jade outside her comfort zone, but provided valuable life lessons, she said.

"Even my teacher who took us, who ran marathons and was very active, said it was the most difficult thing she has ever done in her life, so for me, it was very tough but, in the end, so rewarding."

Also rewarding was the sense of community service the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards instilled in her through the program, and this is a sense that she would like to carry with her in the future, she said.

"It was just really eye-opening for me," she said. "After the Duke of Edinburgh, I am going to continue on in my community service and just show how much it helps people who are less fortunate or helps the community. I am definitely going to carry that on through my life and try to convince other people to get more into community service and to continue that through high school."

Jade's sister Augusta, who also received her Gold Award, said her experience with the

Duke of Edinburgh Awards helped her build a sense of pride in being a part of something that "encourages youth leadership."

"There are not many programs out there where you have that kind of collaboration where you can really structure your leadership experience on your own," she said. "No two awards are alike and it really does become a personalized experience. It is a real reflection of the type of leader that you are and the type of young person that you want to become."

Challenges, of course, also cropped up in Augusta's experience in the Awards program, but these challenges not only allowed her to grow as a person, but also helped her overcome some personal hurdles - particularly in her Silver level expedition, which took the form of a dog sledding.

"I went in terrified of dogs and I had this whole preconceived perception about the experience that I was going to be terrified, that I was going to be alone, that there wouldn't be support there for my team," she said.

"When I got there, I was just so pleasantly surprised with the way the group leaders interacted with us. They really encouraged us to take initiative on our own to pick the dogs up, harness them, and attach them to the sled, so it

was just facing my fear head-on and learning that I could deal with it and it gave me the confidence through the rest of my life that when I have a preconceived notion about an experience to let that go. Until you fully understand it and go through it then there is going to be that fear there and that apprehension."

For both Jade and Augusta, their advice to students who might be in the early stages of their Awards participation, or who may be sitting on the fence on whether to dive headlong into the program, is to go for the gold because the experience is so rewarding.

"The most challenging aspect of it is really documenting how far you've come and what you've done, but when you have done that it really gives you time to reflect on your experiences and it gives you immense value going down the road just to know you've had other opportunities that students might not get because you're opening your mind and expanding yourself to young leaders and new things," said Augusta.

"You really learn to believe in yourself and your capabilities and to really rely on other people and you foster a sense of trust when you're out there but you also feel yourself developing into a young person that can make a big difference in the world."

Ribfest prepares for annual event

The tastiest, most fun-filled event of the season happens from September 9 to 11 when the Town of Aurora hosts the annual Aurora Ribfest, at Machell Park.

Find out if your rib sauce has what it takes to be the best in town by entering the rib sauce competition, or simply come out and enjoy ribs from professional barbecue teams from across North America.

The event is sponsored by Aurora Home Hardware, Rona and the Investors Group.

This year's event is bigger and better than ever.

New this year will be an electronic bull Saturday, September 10 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Cost for the ride will be \$2. There will also be a Kids Zone for fun-filled activities, which will be open Friday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Aurora's Ribfest also offers a beer garden-managed by the Aurora Rotary Club-live entertainment and a full midway throughout the weekend.

The weekend also has an impressive line up of musical acts.

On Friday, a Taste of the



Two of the four Duke of Edinburgh award winners are shown here, with their sister, a winner several years ago. They are Augusta Jane White, centre, and Barbara Jade White, right. They are shown with their sister Brittany Jane White, who won the award in 2006.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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- 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

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DEATH NOTICE

Marilyn



REDVERS – POLLESEL, Marilyn – Surrounded by her loving family, at Southlake Regional Health Centre, Newmarket, on Wednesday August 10, 2011. Beloved wife of Michael Polleesel and dear mother of Corey (Michelle), Trevor (Barb), Ryan (Jen) & Kate (Derek Moffat). "Gigi" will be lovingly remembered by her grandchildren Jacob, Samantha, Lucas, Brooklyn and Lachlan. She is survived by her brothers Terry & Earl Springall and her sisters Valerie Joyce, Janice Hay & Gail Mathieson. Predeceased by her parents Frank & Wilma Springall. She will be sadly missed by her many nieces and nephews. Marilyn was very active in her community and in her business. She was selected Business Person of the Year by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce in 2002 and was a past Director for the Chamber. She was a Business Ambassador for the Town of Aurora, a founding member of George St. Public School Parents Resource Group, Chairperson of the Capital Campaign for Trinity Anglican Church and a member of the Capital Campaign for the new Aurora Library. Marilyn was also a member of Timberlane Tennis & Country Club (since 1988), part-owner of the Aurora Sports Dome and a major contributor through her Gratitude Program to the Southlake Foundation – to the Maternal Child Triage Area and to the Cancer Centre Peace Garden. She worked with Royal LePage for more than 20 years, qualifying for the National Chairman's Club (Top 1% in Canada) for most of those years and was recipient of the Lifetime Award of Excellence from Royal LePage. Visitation took place at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria St., Aurora, on Friday August 12th, 2011. Funeral service took place at the church on Saturday August 13th, at 11 am, followed by cremation. Donations in memory of Marilyn may be made to the Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation – Stronach Regional Cancer Centre or Palliative Care Ward. On-line condolences may be made at www.roadhouseandrose.com

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Theatre Aurora comedy “best” in recent memory

By **SCOTT JOHNSTON**
Auroran Writer

"The Cemetery Club" is a comedy about relationships and change, and about letting go and holding on.

It is also the best show in recent memory at Theatre Aurora.

This is the story of three Jewish widows in their fifties who get together every month to visit their late husbands' graves.

Although the best of friends, each of the women is very different.

Even after four years of widowhood, Doris' entire existence continues to be devoted to the memory of her late husband.

Lucille is the opposite, and has embraced the freedom of her single life through relationships with numerous men.

Between these two extremes is Ida, who has just come to terms with her loss, and is ready to move on.

Their friendship is tested when widower Sam is unwittingly drawn into their circle, and seen as both a threat and a salvation.

Could his presence, as well as the women's increasingly different outlooks on life, threaten not only the trio's monthly "cemetery club" visits, but their friendships, as well?

The script by Ivan Menchell is very well-written, and is full of terrific lines such as "I refuse to continue to be part of a club where half the members are dead".

Although a comedy, it will make you think about your own life, and the lessons to be learned.

But even an excellent script is only as good as

the performances, and it is the skilled acting under the direction of Harry Lavigne that really makes this a production to remember.

Ann Smith (Ida), Susan Lane (Lucille) and Susan McLay (Doris) have wonderful chemistry, and deliver their lines with perfect comic and dramatic timing.

Equally as important are their excellent physical performances, since much of their communication and emotions are conveyed non-verbally through their reactions,

expressions, and body language.

Chuck Mugford as Sam is an excellent foil to each of the three ladies, and their varying expectations of him, as he is pulled emotionally in different directions.

Although in a smaller role, Laurie Campbell as Mildred manages to stir things up even further when needed.

The story alternates between Ida's living room and the cemetery, which are next to each other on stage.

It sounds odd, but

through careful lighting, and a focus on the action, it works well, and takes the best advantage of the limited stage space.

Whatever your calendar may have in store for you next week, make sure you save an evening to see this play. You won't regret it.

Evening performances of "The Cemetery Club" continue at Theatre Aurora, 150 Henderson Drive, August 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20.

Tickets are available through the box office at 905-727-3669.

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Map shows the location of the Arboretum's new meadow, located alongside Industrial Parkway in Aurora's north end.

Meadow is latest Arboretum project

The Aurora Arboretum now includes a meadow.

According to the summer issue of the Arboretum News, which was made public last week, the area is in the northern section east of the Industrial Parkway.

"The northern part of the Arboretum has some trees, invasive shrubs and lots of grass," says the article, "The plan, already underway, is to turn it into a unique feature - The Meadow."

The group started the process in May, using funds provided by the TD Friends of the Environment.

"It'll take some time, but when finished, we'll have about 10 hectares of grassland," the article says. "It'll be a home for meadow birds and other flora and fauna that thrive in this environment. It'll also be an educational gem for young and old, as they will have the opportunity to walk in a meadow as well as a forest."

By using a tree spade, the group relocated more than 140 trees from the middle of the meadow area and moved them to a shelter belt along Industrial Parkway, north of the Canine Commons.

It's the hope of the group that in the fall, several small conifers will be moved as well.

Want to help?

Arboretum members would love to hear from you.

For further information, or how to become a member, send an e-mail to trees@auroraarboretum.ca, or membersandvolunteers@auroraarboretum.ca.

Or you can call them at 905-727-9774, or visit their website at www.auroraarboretum.ca.

The most northern 20 per cent of the Arboretum is really quite special, according to the group's website.

"At one time, before settlement, it was probably forested. First it became farmland and then grassland," the site says. "Today it's a grassland that we call 'The Meadow'. It's a very rare thing today to find a meadow in an urban setting in Southern Ontario...so we are retaining it as a meadow."

"Over the next several years we'll clean it up a bit, introduce historic meadow grasses, remove shrubs that would take over the space if not controlled and provide a place for learning about the special characteristics of meadows," the website says. "The Meadow has our first Educational Sign. It should help visitors and school groups learn more about meadows and some of their inhabitants. It's not empty, just different...a difference we value greatly."

Marilyn Redvers dies

Popular Aurora real estate agent Marilyn Redvers died in hospital last week.

The wife of Michael Pollesel and mother of Corey (Michelle), Trevor (Barb), Ryan (Jen) and Kate (Derek Moffat), "Gigi", as she was known, will be remembered by grandchildren Jacob, Samantha, Lucas, Brooklyn and Lachlan.

She is survived by her brothers Terry and Earl Springall and her sisters Valerie Joyce, Janice Hay and Gail Mathieson and she was predeceased by her parents Frank and Wilma Springall.

Marilyn was very active in her community and in her business.

She was selected Business Person of the Year by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce in 2002 and was a past director for the

Chamber.

She was a founding member of George St. Public School Parents Resource Group and chairperson of the Capital Campaign for Trinity Anglican Church.

She was also a member of Timberlane Tennis and Country Club, part-owner of the Aurora Sports Dome and a major contributor through her Gratitude Program to the Southlake Foundation - to the Maternal Child Triage Area and to the Cancer Centre Peace Garden.

She worked with Royal LePage for more than 20 years, qualifying for the National Chairman's Club for most of those years and was recipient of the Lifetime Award of Excellence from Royal LePage.

A funeral service was held from Trinity Anglican Saturday.

Smart Board lessons taught in Aurora School

Teachers from across York Region came to Aurora last week to learn all the ins and outs and new features of the Smart Board, a technology which has, over the last few years, gained a significant foothold into area schools.

The Smart Boards, which have been bought and installed at schools across the York Region District School Board to varying degrees, is an interactive board which, when projected upon from a computer can be used for lessons by teachers and students alike.

Using tools such as interactive cursors, one can interact from "writing" on the board directly into the computer.

According to Jason Eygenraam, a teacher who facilitated last week's workshops, purchasing the boards which run anywhere from \$1,100 from a small, portable model to as much as \$6,000 for a large wall-mounted unit, is at the discretion of the individual school.

In his role as a teacher, Mr. Eygenraam said projecting lessons onto the larger surfaces allows the entire class to share in the experience, but is not "static" like an overhead projector.

"With this, you've got the engagement piece, but the next step is that lesson can become an activity for students to carry on with, and around the room today we are seeing teachers who are making pages within Smart Notebook that are instructional pages and, following that, there are pages for activities where students can go in."

Mr. Eygenraam said in his experience using the Smart Board enriches both lessons and student engagements "across the board" and also gets teachers and students on the same page technology-wise.

"When we have a lesson we can give up at the front [of the class], the same file could be shared with students and the students can continue the activity, still being able to see the lesson within the same file and I can get that activity back," he said. "This is a much more dynamic situation that way."

Carolyn Marchand, a prep teacher who has been at Aurora's Highview Public School for eight years, said she found the information sessions particularly informative in learning how she could use the technology to its full potential in her

classes.

"We've got four Smart Boards in my school, which I have used in the past, but really only the basics," she said. "Over the last three days, this course has given us an opportunity to learn more of the finer aspects of the Smart Board and the interesting tricks you can do with it to enhance the documents, the teaching, and engage students."

"I think the best part of it is the opportunity in working with other teachers from other school boards, hearing what they have done with the technology, getting ideas on how they have used it, so it has been a great experience as a teacher."

So far, Ms. Marchand has found particular use for the Smart Board in her music lessons, whether it is creating music directly on the board or manipulating notes.

She has also used it in history and geography lessons, as well as helping students extract text from documents for research towards written reports.

While she said she has had most success using the technology with primary grades, she said the course has given her new ideas on how to use it to teach older students.

In her experience at Highview, Ms. Marchand said the Smart Board particularly engages the younger kids in lessons and gets them up out of their seats to manipulate what is on the board.

"They are more interested in becoming a part of the lesson," she said. "With the kids who don't usually participate, you see a spark and that joy of getting up and really being active in a lesson."

When asked if she thinks the board makes her job as a teacher more efficient, she hesitated as the smart boards at Highview are portable rather than installed in the classroom, so, as a prep teacher, they need to be rolled into the classroom and then time needs to be taken to set them up for the lesson.

"If we are fortunate to have it mounted on the wall as it is here, it would become more efficient," she said. "It is a great teaching tool but it takes time. I think it has a place in the classroom, I enjoy using it, it enhances teaching, but at the same time, it is a tool and I would not use it for every single lesson every day."

But while she said it would be beneficial to have mounted units in the classroom, when asked if it would also be beneficial to have boards mounted in every one of Highview's classrooms, Ms. Marchand asks, "But at what cost?"

"I think if it were in every classroom it would absolutely be used much more frequently," she said. "It is just the accessibility to the technology and the ease of access in trying to book the computer lab or the places

that it is being kept in the building, absolutely.

"The cost, mind you, it is pretty phenomenal so when you think of do we invest in more Smart Boards for every classroom and then what is lost in terms of funding?

Does that mean less text books? Does it mean less equipment for phys-ed? Does it mean less art materials? I'm in the middle road when it comes to technology. You have to find a balance."

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