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# THE AURORAN

*Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper*

Vol. 10 No. 22    905-727-3300    **auroran.com**    FREE    Week of March 23, 2010

## Finch travel woes nearly solved as YRT offers free rides to GO commuters

The Regional Municipality of York and GO Transit have reached a joint agreement to continue to meet the needs of GO riders transferring to YRT/Viva services.

Member of the Provincial Parliament Frank Klees, MPP for the riding of Newmarket-Aurora, is not impressed, but he agrees it is a start.

Klees, who organized a meeting for commuters in Aurora a couple of weeks ago, said he has been getting e-mails from riders "expressing reaction to the revised arrangements announced by GO Transit and YRT. The responses have ranged from appreciation for my efforts on your behalf and the improvements to what was originally announced, to disappointment at the outcome."

In a press release, GO Transit said it will continue to offer Route 62 - Newmarket B service to the Finch subway station on a reduced basis (12 trips reduced to five northbound and southbound) until about June 30.

At that time, a new Viva blue service with fewer stops will be introduced

to speed transit time along Yonge Street to Finch Station, GO said.

Five new additional Viva blue trips will travel from Newmarket to Finch Station, and these five routes will bypass the Richmond Hill Centre Terminal (RHCT) for a complete ride time in line with the former GO Newmarket B of roughly 60 minutes.

Existing Viva blue trips entering RHCT will continue to be available, the release said.

To help ease the transition, YRT/Viva and GO Transit will explore options for offering a joint loyalty reward program to assist existing GO riders.

"I am very pleased we have worked closely with GO Transit to develop this win-win solution," said Rick Leary, General Manager of YRT.

"York Region's new bus services are a good option for commuters and reflect the growing presence and maturity of York Region's transit system," said Gary McNeil, Managing Director of GO Transit. "GO Transit is

**Please see page 16**



**Spring arrived in Aurora last week and marking the occasion was the Aurora Lions Club with its annual pancake breakfast in Sheppard's Bush. Serving up the delicious breakfast is this year's chair of the Pancake Committee Dorian Baxter, left, who joined Moon Ing, the man responsible for cooking the pancakes for several years now, Liza Upham, awaiting the meal, and Lions President Fred Bullen. Club will serve pancakes in the bush for the next two weekends. See the coming events on Page 19 for details.**

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*



**Aurora's Howard McKee, complete with a green beard, was the welcoming committee Wednesday as St. Patrick's Day activities took place throughout the community. Howard, who was born in Ireland, was at the Aurora Cultural Centre (Church Street School) as Shirley Russell, left, and Marion Rafferty, hosted "A Wee Taste of Ireland", a St. Patrick's Day Tea.**

*Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

## Town shifts funds from seats to fix up Centre washrooms

Replacing the spectator seats in the Aurora Community Centre may become a non-issue after councillors voted recently to apply for the re-allocation of money elsewhere within the building.

They had been deliberating the fate of the spectator seats after receiving a grant from RInC - Recreational Infrastructure Canada - to fund two-thirds of a proposed \$120,000 project to replace them.

While some councillors thought the seats uncomfortable and outmoded, Mayor Phyllis Morris and others

said the seats had heritage value.

However, councillors and Town staff have made an effort to shift this funding towards improving and retrofitting the ACC's washrooms and change rooms as well as replacing windows.

As Aurora Treasurer Dan Elliott pointed out in his report to council, "Staff have been advised by RInC officials on several occasions that the project could not be re-allocated for any other purpose."

But a recent turn of events allowed staff to see an opening to make their

move.

"Up to now, the RInC grant program in Ontario has been managed by the province by way of Sports Culture and Tourism Partnership," said Mr. Elliott in his report. "Midweek last week staff received a formal notification from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture that due to work load... the files will be jointly managed with a Federal agency."

Mr. Elliott said staff contacted the Town's new file manager with the Federal Economic Development

**Please see page 15**



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CONTINUING

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

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

The Upper Canada Chordsmen, Aurora-Newmarket's award winning chorus, is looking for male singers. The group sings about love, friendship, family, humour and brotherhood and meets every Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Old Firehall, 140 Main Street South, in Newmarket .

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

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

Every Thursday, Martha's Table serves home-made soup, sandwiches, and dessert in St. Andrew's Hall at the Presbyterian Church, corner of Mosley and Victoria Street. Cost is minimal, and the volunteer-run program enabled the church to give more than \$5,000 to local charities in 2008 alone. You can enjoy lunch, conversation, and a sense of community between 11.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. weekly.

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

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

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

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

Every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age three to Grade 4 and the Junior High Club for boys and girls, Grades 5 to 8, will be held at the Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. For more information call 905-841-8884.

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

Scottish Country Dancing on Tuesday evenings at 8.15 p.m. at the Aurora Heights Public School and on Friday mornings at St. Andrews' Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome.

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members are welcome. For further information call 905-841-1352 or 905-713-9356.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Choir practice in the West-McKenzie Hall of the Seniors' Centre, every Wednesday from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. under the direction of Enid Maiz.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with community agencies, presents five monthly parenting workshops until May. This month's workshop deals with disobedience and is for parents/caregivers of children ages 2-12 years. It's free. 7 to 8.30 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

COMING EVENTS

The Aurora Historical Society presents Heritage in Aurora, a symposium bringing together the various organizations in Aurora with a commitment to culture and heritage. Speakers Include Jennifer Steen, Curator/Manager for the AHS and Hillary House; Laura Schembri, Executive Director of the Aurora Cultural Centre and member of the Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee; Mai Al Nabhan, Manager of Heritage Planning and Urban Design for the Town of Aurora; and Reccia Mandelcorn, Manager of Customer and Circulation Services of the Aurora Public Library. Meeting takes place at the Aurora Cultural Centre on Church Street beginning at

7.30 p.m. For more information, go to www.aurorahistoricalsociety.ca.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

Learn about printmaking and the Pop Art style of the 1950's with programmer Erin Wynn at the Aurora Public Library. This program is for children ages nine to 14, costs \$6., and happens between 7 and 8 p.m.

The Aurora Food Pantry will be closed this evening due to moving.

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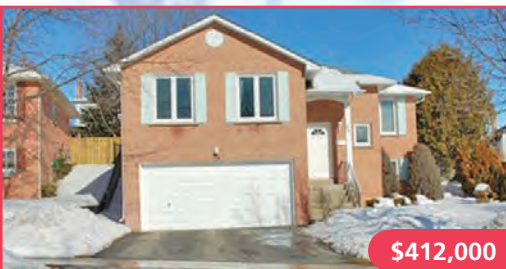
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# Here's a way to get rid of old computers

If you have stockpiles of old computers, TVs, and broken printers in your basement or garage and don't know what to do with them, you can clear some extra space and recycle them this weekend.

On Saturday, March 27, the Town of Aurora, in conjunction with Greentech Recycling Services will hold a special collection for unwanted computers (both desktop and laptop), monitors, televisions, fax machines, and printers at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The move follows the launch of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) program by the Ontario Electronic Stewardship, an organization founded by "manufacturers, retailers, and other stakeholders to develop a waste diversion plan" for electrical and electronic equipment, according to the group's website.

The program will also accept computer accessories such as keyboards, hard drives, and disk drives.

First launched April 1, 2009, the program's target "is to divert 17,000 new tonnes of computers, monitors, printers, disk drives, keyboards, mice, fax machines, and televisions from landfill," according to the Stewardship. "At the end of five years, the diversion target is 75,000 tonnes or 60 per cent of available materials."

"The first priority of the program is to promote the 3 Rs solutions (reduce, reuse, and recycle). Residents and businesses will be encouraged to take electronics that are still useful to refurbishment organizations.

Electronics that are at the end of their useful life will be directed to recycling/processing facilities that will be required to meet strict standards to ensure these materials don't find their way into the environment."

According to a memo from Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure and Environmental Services, the Region's contractor will be "responsible for all traf-

fic control, staffing, and handling of all the materials received" at Saturday's collection.

"The town will assign representative staff to address public inquiries and assist with the promotion and education of all our waste management programs."

The electronics collection is not the only environmentally friendly event being held by the Town on March 27.

The Town is also marking Earth Hour from 8.30 to 9.30 p.m.

Earth Hour is a global conservation movement that encourages citizens to turn off their lights and unnecessary electronics for one hour to raise awareness of climate change and energy consumption.

"During Earth Hour 2009, the Town of Aurora, as a whole, reduced its electricity consumption by eight per cent," according to a Town release marking the occasion. "This year, the town is aiming to exceed that record with increased community participation."

## Committee is seeking your input

Aurora's Heritage Advisory Committee will welcome input from the public in considering local nominations for Heritage Canada's "Top Ten Endangered Places List" for 2010.

The list, established by the Heritage Canada Foundation in 2005, aims to focus national attention on historic sites which could be "at risk due to neglect, lack of funding, inappropriate development and weak legislation," according to the Foundation.

Nominated sites are evaluated by significance, urgency of threat, and community support for its preservation.

When the nomination form appeared on the agenda of the Heritage Advisory Committee, Committee Chair Donna Smith said further research needed to be concluded before potential nominations could be made.

With the information that was available, however, Ms. Smith said there weren't any sites that immediately sprang to mind.

"We have some esteemed members of our committee, particularly John McIntyre and Jackie Stewart who are well regarded and very knowledgeable and there was nothing that came to anyone's mind."

John McIntyre, however, said there are not many potential sites that would be appropriate for the list.

"If we're thinking about nationally significant sites

Please see page 16



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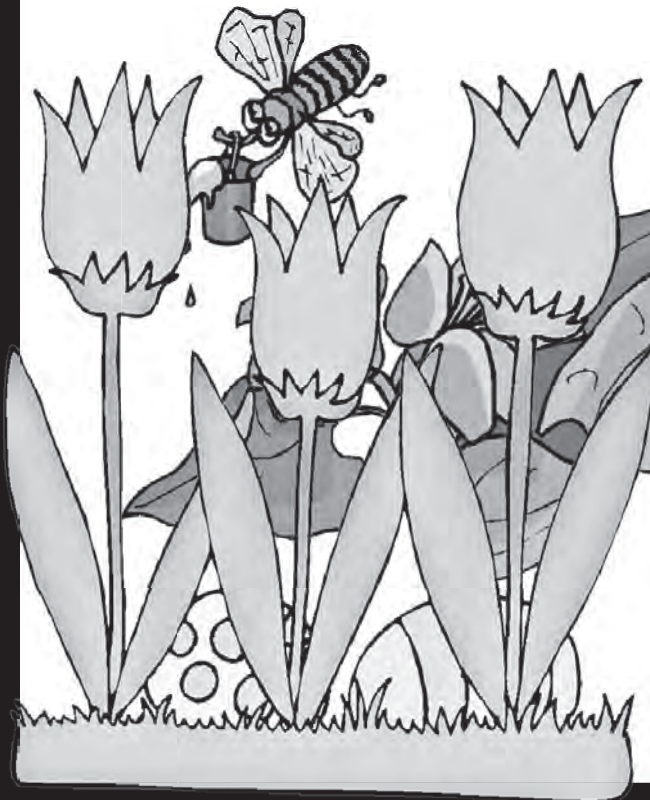
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## Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

# Is it time to widen Wellington Street?

It was St. Patrick's Day in Aurora, and it was warm outside. After work, I sat on the patio at Baldwin's Restaurant enjoying the weather. Had to because the bar inside was packed. A GO Train - the first northbound of the afternoon - showed up, and commuters, hundreds of them, scurried for their cars. Berczy Street - directly across from Baldwin's - quickly filled up. Traffic on Wellington was bumper to bumper, as it usually is. Commuters had a tough time even turning right on Wellington to head east, never mind the poor drivers who wanted to go west on Wellington, nearly an impossibility.

This is not how I envisioned quiet, little Aurora. When I was on council, I fought to keep Wellington a two-lane road, at least to Yonge Street. (It becomes four lanes west of Yonge and looks, for all the world, like a runway at a busy airport.) I haven't been on council for about four years now, and since then, someone added one lane to Wellington (westbound between the railway tracks and Yonge Street). Is it time for Wellington to become a four-lane thoroughfare? Guess it is, since the smaller width road doesn't seem to have a negative impact on drivers. Nor does all that work in the old part of Aurora north and east of the big problem - Yonge and Wellington.

I voted against the addition of one-lane roads, chicanes, etc., arguing that it would only force me off Centre Street and onto Wellington where I would become part of the problem, not the solution.

My argument went straight to the point: the problem isn't in the old part of town, the problem is at Yonge and Wellington.

Thought I knew how to fix it, too, but no one listened. As has been pointed out to me several times, there is no problem at Yonge and Wellington, just too much traffic.

Going everywhere but downtown. You don't dare stop to shop at any of the remaining retail outlets in the Yonge/Wellington area during peak traffic times, or you'll spend an eternity trying to merge back into traffic.

Too bad, as there are some great stores there. If there is tax relief granted to property owners who have vacant stores, why would they spend any effort to attract tenants?

Remember when they built Highway 400 back in the fifties? Suddenly, all the northbound traffic on Yonge Street dried up as people found a quicker way to get up north.

Merchants complained then, too, saying there was no reason to stay in business on Yonge Street.

Well, the traffic came back to Yonge Street...tons of it. Now, all the merchants have to do is get it to stop and make driver and passengers want to get out of their cars and spend some money here.

And, as I learned early in life: you can't sell from an empty wagon!!

Next week, we'll talk about the planned "ring road" for Aurora.

### CLARIFICATION

Couple of weeks ago, Aurora lawyer Jack Laurion approached me about doing any feature that might need doing.

I hadn't followed up on the Central York Fire Services new chief, Ian Laing from Mississauga, so I stuck Jack with the job.

He concurred and the story - a good one, too - appeared in last week's Auroran.

Except Chief Laing had one concern about response times answering calls.

So, for the sake of clarification, I give you this:

\*Each day there are five crews on duty (each assigned to a truck) throughout the coverage area of Central York Fire Services. Each crew has four firefighters and a Captain assigned to a truck and a Platoon Chief is the "on duty" supervisor of these resources.

\*When people call 9-1-1, YRP Call Centre takes the call and determines which emergency services are required to attend the incident. When it is a fire related incident, the call is sent to Fire Communications, and a determination is made on which fire resources have to respond to the emergency. Although this sequence could take up to a minute to complete, generally the time is less than that.

\*The fire station is alerted of the call and the crew "turns out". They are responsible to don their protective gear and equipment and be seated, properly restrained with seat belt. This generally takes approximately one minute to accomplish.

\*Central York Fire Services' goal is to have a response time (travel time) of four minutes or less for the first fire truck to arrive on the scene.

\*When fire services respond to a structure fire, under the OFM (Ontario Fire Marshal) guidelines we are required to assemble a "fire attack team" of 12 firefighters within 10 minutes.

Chief Laing says the best way to get a quick response is to make the call directly to the fire department.

"No matter, though, it'll still seem like hours before the first truck arrives," he said.



What is this? Well, according to Aurora author Elizabeth Milner, it's a six-ton Aircrop Sprayer. It was apparently constructed by Aurora Tank and Welding, that once had premises on Temperance Street, and was run by Ed Lassaline. It was built for Federal Farms in Bradford and the construction looked like this because of the soft soil in the Holland Marsh. George Ward apparently designed the innovative under-carriage and he and Bill Wood did the construction. This information is found in Elizabeth's book "Aurora 1945-1965, an Ontario town at a time of great change".

### Letter to the Editor

# Marin has done nothing wrong, this reader says

To the editor,

In late February, the premier announced that the contract of the provincial ombudsman, Andre Marin, would not be renewed beyond March 31.

In his announcement, the premier claimed 'there was need for change' and for 'new blood' to take over the position.

However, there was no hesitation on the part of the government to renew the contract of the information privacy commissioner's position to an unprecedented third term last year.

There could be no reason not to renew the contract considering the exemplary work done by the commissioner.

Given the ombudsman's outstanding achievements for holding the government accountable, there clearly is sound reason for Andre Marin's work to continue.

Need for change is justified when there are repeated systemic failures and wrongdoings.

Not so in Marin's case. He has proven, without exception, that he is the people's trusted independent watchdog.

He and his staff have done more for the citizens of this province than anyone could have hoped for through their in-depth investigations of complaints about the government of Ontario and its organizations.

In July, 2008, Mr. Marin announced his office would do a systemic investigation into the ministry's (Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care) oversight of nursing homes.

Through the entire tenure of this government, there have been reports of horrific deaths, inexcusable abuse and disturbing neglect of residents in long-

term facilities.

Countless complaints by families of institutionalized parents, in-depth media investigations and the ministry's own inspection reports substantiate the need for the investigation announced by the ombudsman and for the ombudsman's office to have oversight authority of long-term facilities.

Ontario nursing homes have been regulated for decades, with weak ineffective enforcement of the nursing homes legislation by the ministry.

Now, the public is expected to believe that the government's decision to regulate retirement residences is the answer to controlling substandard care in retirement homes while the systemic problems in far too many regulated long-term facilities have continued unabated.

For the past 10 years, promises made about ensuring proper care and protection of nursing homes residents, made by two governing parties, have not brought an end to the systemic problems, abuse and neglect of individuals institutionalized in Ontario's long-term facilities.

The release of Marin's report would likely expose one of Ontario's worst failures - not ensuring the care and safety of all vulnerable Ontarians in nursing homes.

Considering the successes the ombudsman's office has had with numerous investigations, one can hardly imagine anything other than a damaging report about the nursing home situation in this province and the historic inability of government (present and previous) to protect all persons in long-term facilities.

Andre Marin has been told he can "apply" for the position he has so responsibly held for

the past five years.

For one to believe that there will be a fair and transparent review process without media and public scrutiny, would be to naively and wrongly believe that all seniors enjoy the best of care and are kept safe from harm in Ontario nursing homes.

In a recent newspaper article, Marin 'dared the government to open the selection meetings of an all-party panel of MPPs to the public and reporters.'

The media continues to expose situations where there has been unreasonable secrecy and disturbing lack of accountability and transparency by bureaucrats and elected members.

The media and the public must have accessibility to the selection process given the growing mistrust of bureaucratic and political decision-making.

Ellen Watson  
Aurora

## THE AURORAN

### "Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper"

Published weekly by The Auroran Publications Inc.  
at 95 Edward Street,  
Aurora, L4G 1W1

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## Heard About Town

By David Heard

## Bullying

Remembered the other morning, an old joke that a study said 25 per cent of statistics are incorrect .

Sounds familiar when you have a study to find that the previous study was incomplete.

Maybe the next study will get them both on the right path. It has been reported 25 per cent of youth are bullied and 20 per cent are bullies.

Almost 300,000 high school students also are attacked nationally during a calendar year.

When does the cycle of violence stop? The magic answer is when each individual becomes accountable and the dominoes stop falling.

We stand strong and do not repeat the cycle. What do you tell a family though, who has a child that has been targeted so much, that his attacker was suspended seven times?

What do you tell a child who had their life threatened on You Tube, for all to see?

What do you do if the victims, and the bullies are under 12 years old? If you are a parent, you pray your child will grow strong and forget the pain and harassment but this is not always the case.

There are thousands and thousands of walking wounded, and if we look we all know at least one.

Then, as I was thinking about the one I know best, I recalled the young man from the previous column.

"If you touch that volleyball I will kick your ..." the student growled. This reminded the young man of all the street hockey games that he was picked last, or sometimes not at all.

In those days he could be in the gymnasium and not participate in class activity. The bullies would not have any part of it.

His first example of courage, to speak up to bullying, came in Grade 5 when he stood at the front of the class to apologize for what he might be doing, to cause the attacks verbally and physically.

Another student stood up and said "He is only saying that so we will not kick the crap out of him."

Later in Grade 7 during physical education class the young man was grabbed by four much larger boys. I think we called them jocks back then.

One on each arm and leg they began to pull aggressively in four separate directions.

The pain in his abdomen was excruciating, and he thought his stomach was going to explode open, like a scene from the movie "Alien".

No one came to his aid. Neither a teacher nor student.

No one replied to his screams. During high school the violence and cruelty became much worse.

His love of hockey was a distraction and he was rewarded one Christmas with an authentic Toronto Maple Leafs jersey, with numbers, name and logos complete .

The jersey also became the object of a jealous attack.

"You are not f..... Salming", the other student said, and then took a pen, stroking across the back of the shirt, leaving a blue line across the number 21 and the name.

His heart was crushed, as this was the treasure he had wanted always, and it brought happiness in a troubled life.

Things continued the same as the young man went to classes, but kept to himself due to the hearing issues.

The cafeteria was his worse nemesis, as a couple of hundred students buzzing together was too much for his hearing gift.

He would wait for a spare period to eat something in peace, but that did not always work out .

Sometimes he would forget the lunch from the day before, and it sat in his locker uneaten.

"No wonder you are so skinny" the student who occupied the locker next to him barked, and when the young man closed his locker, he had his head smashed, face first into it.

It was more than he could take, and thoughts of revenge, and giving up ran through his head, as the pain was going to stop one way or the other.

He chose the right route, and thought he would let justice be served by the authority of the school, and the principal would assure him it would not happen again.

He felt peace for two whole days. Safety was not something he had ownership of in the past. Leaving the school for the day was a process.

He would wait until almost all of the students had left so he could avoid the bullies, who mulled around outside.

He entered a washroom moments before he was about to exit the school. The pack was ready for their prey.

Suddenly after entering the room, he felt a sharp pain in his legs, and his feet flew out from under him.

The last thing he saw was the ceiling lights before his head smashed against the concrete floor.

The flash of light as his eyes closed was like a sunburst. He picked himself up from the floor of the washroom stall, walked home which was some five minutes away, and when he entered the house he found very upset parents.

He could not figure out what he had done wrong. He then noticed the sole dinner plate on the kitchen table. Something did not make sense.

He looked up at the oval clock on the wall and his heart beat anxiously. He noted it was 6.50 p.m.

He remembered his head hitting the floor because his head throbbed intensely.

He also did not recall making it into the washroom stall under his own power after the attack.

The attackers had stuffed him in the stall like he was yesterday's garbage. Entering the washroom at 3.30 pm it was now almost seven.

He had been unconscious for three hours. He now wished he had not reported the original events, with too many lunches in his locker.

Safety came at too high a price. He would now begin to find ways to numb his pain that plagued him, and the community would now begin to watch the process of him destroying himself.

His family would wonder why he pushed them away and it was due to the shame of poor self esteem, and not knowing how to stop the violence.

The pain was too great to do it alone, so he would find other victims to drown his sorrows with.

This would be a huge mistake because his character would be tested by the new acquaintances he picked.

These individuals could provide him with a marginal level of safety because they were rough around the edges, and did not always follow the straight and narrow.

Many peers avoided this troublesome group, but they were a shield for some hours of the day for this young man of small stature.

His grades diminished, even with some safety, he was not at all happy. Others did not want to be around them and he was included.

He had in the past separated himself and he was now running with the wrong crowd.

They soon turned on him also for their sad form of entertainment, his grades slipped and his self worth was at an all time low.

He would be directed to attend summer school and the first day getting on the bus was like a walk up to the gallows as he looked down the aisle, and there sat just about every student he feared.

Bullies did not study, he thought, and he was now part of the crowd, in grades, and also becoming one of them.

Hate was blackening his heart and the darkest days were just down the road.

He sought support in this uncomfortable environment from one of the toughs he had befriended. Then that person sprang into action and the bus driver became the new victim of bullying and abuse.

"Call out to the driver," the much larger student demanded .

When the young man did not respond, he was poked in the hip with a math compass.

The pain in his hip was unbearable, and when he still did not comply the jab became harder.

He was trapped in a world that he had now helped create for himself by looking for safety on the dark side.

"Throw this at the driver," the student again yapped.

The young man knew better and did not follow the order, and the pain in his hip burned again.

This time he desperately tried not to cry. That is just what the bullies wanted, and they were successful in breaking his spirit and had power over him.

They were now higher on the list with a sick form of hierarchy.

"Do it or you will regret it," the angry voice demanded one last time. The young man gave up.

He took the paper ball and began the motions to toss it to the front of the bus at the innocent driver .

As the ball was about to leave his grasp, the driver's eyes met his in the rear view mirror.

The gallows were now prepared and ready. These choices made, he was about to successfully hang himself.

The driver called out his name, first and last, with a firm tone that was all business.

He was very displeased with the young man. "Get up here to the front," the driver commanded.

The young man followed directions and walked shamefully and slowly to the front, with his head down as others taunted him.

The bus slowed to a halt at the curb . "I am shocked at you, mister, now go tell your father what you have done."

The driver was angry, and the bus doors opened like a trap door. The gallows were about to release the accused.

As the bus pulled away a mere two blocks from its destination, it left the young man alone on the sidewalk to reflect on the shame some more.

He would walk to school and wait for the principal, he had never met, to call him to the office.

That call never came. He was safe from further prosecution, even if it was self-prescribed.

There was not a pardon from the gallows he had just escaped. The hangman was not to meet his company for a couple of days.

The devilish figure, but without claws and horns, was making final preparations without a noose.

His tools of the trade were ultimate forms of intimidation and he was about to steal this young person's soul for almost three decades.

In the end, forgiveness would become justice and the power shifted. The young man was finally alive and free, and so proud to be.

Decades have passed since the young man rode the rollercoaster of emotional torment.

Present days there appears to be efforts abound to raise awareness of the long term effects of bullying and violence.

What is not sinking in and getting through. There is reporting in the media which details the cowardly acts of bullies and the ongoing harassment.

These acts do not just apply to schools. We see them in community, workplaces and politics .

Some have ventured to say violent crimes are down and so is bullying. Statistics can lie when the "code of silence" says so.

The stories that are not always printed are the lost victims who perished at their own hand.

There are walking wounded who are crying out in silence and they can also be a ticking time bomb.

Emotionally they are taxed and I must tell them from the heart: "It is not your fault and please do not carry the shame and pain of others".

Peace in yourself is to let go of the shame because that is how you first defeat the bullies.

Be proud, hold your head up and love yourself for everything you are and can be. Faults, fears, gifts and all.

There are people in every community who do care and respect you as long as you are committed to the positives.

To the bullies the same applies. Try the other side and let go of the influences and the negative attitude that keeps you lashing out at others and most of all talk about it to someone you respect.

I know. I am an expert on this path because I let go of the fear. Someone once said to me I would never amount to anything.

Having a reader finish this column means everything as you can impact the planet one person at a time.

They were wrong. But I will not bully them for it.

We all deserve to be safe and respected. Especially within the walls of our schools.

David Heard can be reached at:  
astepintimeaurora@Yahoo.com



Letters to the Editor

# Reader makes case for town ward system

To the editor,

We have been following the letters to the editor in your newspaper regarding the pros and cons of establishing a ward system for Aurora.

To date the letters published on the subjects seem to contain discussion of all types of issues but have not really addressed why the ward system should be considered.

Having only lived in the Aurora area for the last 10 years we were puzzled by the lack of a ward system

when we first moved here.

During our time here we have had two issues we felt should be addressed by the Town but when we raised them with several councillors we could get no one to advocate for us.

In our previous neighbourhood we were able to contact our ward councillor - get his/her input, advice and comments on our issue and often get a solution or their representation at council on our behalf.

At election time the citizens within the ward could decide who to cast their vote

for depending on the platform of the competing persons running.

In other words, we had choice based on the particular candidate's platform for the area and whether we approved of it or not.

We could cast our ballot on an informed basis of neighbourhood issues important to us.

The councillor worked hard to understand the neighbourhood and was supported or not supported accordingly.

They understood the neighbourhood issues and

were more effective as a result - things got done.

The purpose of this letter is not to take anything away from the elected councillors currently serving Aurora but it is obviously difficult for them to distinguish themselves as to where they stand on the local issues facing the community.

Their electoral platforms were all very general and quite similar - "lower taxes, better government and a more harmonious council, etc."

There is no doubt that some do work for specific

neighbourhoods that can get their attention but it is haphazard at best.

During the last election there was a large number of well-meaning candidates running.

How to make a decision to cast our vote?

Despite attending All-Candidate meetings and reading most of their literature the decisions as to who to vote for were very difficult because of the similarity of their positions.

What was more troubling was when asked, most did not know our neighbourhood or have any understanding of our issues.

Would voter turnout increase if we had a ward system?

I believe it would as the voters would be more involved.

We live in a new area and our neighbours comment, "we have never had a telephone call from a councillor."

"We have never received personally addressed mail from a councillor."

"We have never received a visit from a councillor."

"When we do go to vote we look down the list of names, we put our X beside a candidate we have talked to at an all-candidates meeting or choose one who we think has been most visible."

"We don't know who represents us."

Comments like these indicate voters are disconnected from their representatives.

There are many residents of Aurora, both new and old, who feel the time has come for the town to move to a ward system.

They feel the need to connect with their councillors who can truly represent them - only a ward system will allow us to do this.

John Greenhough  
Aurora

## What happened to downtown Aurora, reader wants to know

To the editor,

**Re: Man uses photos to describe downtown (The Auroran, letters to the editor, March 16).**

On Page 6, of this issue of The Auroran, there are pictures which tell this reader that the downtown of Aurora is becoming a ghost town.

Businesses are closing down and building vacancy rates soar; while other build-

ings are deteriorating.

What has happened to Aurora, the "jewel" of the province?

Under the watch of the recent town administration, the central core area of Aurora has gone downhill and remained underdeveloped.

A local businessman, who runs a hardware store in the area, speaks up at a Council Chamber meeting, asking for some action to

restore the poor image of the downtown area.

Here, speaking from day-to-day experience, he is told that "the council is working hard for our downtown businesses."

Really? Where then, is the proof?

It is quite clear, the photographs, by Wayne Hemington, are worth a thousand words, here, which slam these statements, by the town's administration.

The Town's administration allowed for the Big Box stores to be built along Wellington, towards the 404 Highway.

During the short debate to allow the Big Box stores, not enough time or consideration to the re-development of the downtown core was discussed.

One of the few developments, along the Yonge St.

corridor has been a large gas station, with another drive through coffee shop.

Maybe residents can now gas up here and then leave town?

As Evelyn Buck says in her article, in the same issue, the downtown area is a "blight."

According to this councillor, the town has neglected this area and has not funded re-development projects adequately.

Instead of the council being dysfunctional by bickering over some personalities and tangent issues, it is time for some positive action to give the town a facelift and to boost the downtown economy. Will it take a new administration to do this?

Most likely!

Jim Jackson  
Aurora

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## Clarification



To say the owner of Hair Thoughts is upset would be an understatement.

Last week, on Page 6, the above photo appeared, mainly to point out the "For Rent" sign in the window of Blossoms & Bows on Wellington Street East.

"Not to create an issue with this great paper, but I have been getting calls and walk ins think we are closing. I sell real estate as well and our clients thought I closed down our family run salon to operate as a realtor full time. Please can you have this situation corrected," Ray Nicolini wrote.

Nicolini is the agent responsible for leasing the space next door.

"It was to my shock when a client brought in the paper, it does look like Hair Thoughts is included in this situation of vacancies. I would like a retraction with our image in your next publication explaining we are not going anywhere."

To set the record straight, Hair Thoughts is alive and well; Blossoms & Bows is gone.

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Letters to the Editor

Marker shouldn't be near marsh, she says

To the editor,

I grew up in Aurora, as did generations of my family; and I return to Aurora frequently.

A relative forwards me The Auroran and I look forward to reading it.

I particularly like the photos and articles about Aurora of the past.

In your March 9 edition of The Auroran, there was an article on Page 19 about "Ben and Ildi to be etched in stone".

I am aware of these persons and their ongoing efforts to protect the environment.

I have often heard of the \$15,000 and in the past I saw collection jars in local stores, but none of the money raised has ever gone to the McKenzie Marsh.

The St. John's Boardwalk Project was a separate, publicly funded project.

The McKenzie Wetlands were developed and paid for privately by my parents, Gord and Heather McKenzie, on the site of a family farm.

Heather McKenzie and the late Gord McKenzie lived on the property for many years, and now my youngest brother and his family live on the property.

Gary McKenzie now maintains this property.

If the town chooses to pay for the commemorative markers, so be it, but please do not put these on the public land on the edge of the McKenzie Marsh.

Put the markers on "other environmentally significant areas".

Gord and Heather McKenzie deserve all the credit for these wonderful wetlands and no one else. Markers for anyone else should be put elsewhere.

It is too bad that the town and region did not review this with the McKenzie family to determine the true facts.

I will forward this letter to the Aurora Town Council as well.

When you drive by the McKenzie Marsh, think of the thousands of hours that Gord McKenzie spent on this wonderful project.

Linda Napier  
Scarborough

Restore Petch house, then sell it, reader says

To the editor,

It is with sadness and disappointment that I read the letters regarding the Petch house in Aurora.

Our material heritage from the early settlers of the country is almost now non-existent because of the attitudes of many Canadians - re: "Pitch Petch house", (letter, The Auroran, March 9).

Yes, it would cost money to restore it, but I think well worth it.

Could it not be moved, restored, historically designated and then sold privately to recoup some of the costs?

The Petch house, although not an important piece of architecture, is a part of Aurora's history that should not be destroyed.

K. Severs  
Aurora

Build trail in Craddock: reader

To the editor,

Attention residents of Batson, Spruce, Old Yonge and Walton, the Town of Aurora wants to hear from the citizens about creating recreational trails and natural areas.

As a resident of Spruce Street I suggest Craddock park would be a great natural green space with a trail running through it, since the Tannery Creek runs through the park a pond can be created that would attract water fowl, birds, and small mammals, along with a arboretum and a playground for young children.

This would encourage citizens of the area to cut through the park, from the north end near old Yonge to the plazas at the south of the park, avoiding driving, as they would enjoy walking through the natural area, enjoying birds and the quietness.

As you know at the moment the park is a soccer field.

This requires regular mowing and fertilizing, but worst of all, it has no parking facilities.

The sport of soccer has become so popular that the field is used every night, including five weekend tournaments a year.

As we all know this causes traffic chaos.

Batson can only accommodate about a dozen legally parked cars, usually there are three times as many vehicles, and drivers have no consideration where they park.

They are endangering the lives of the residents in the neighbourhood that have to drive or walk in this area, when these games are being played.

I encourage residents of this area to help create a beautiful, natural green space for all to use and enjoy, while reducing traffic congestion caused by the current situation.

To voice your opinion and comments please contact or email jtree@e-aurora.ca.

N. Mozzetti  
Aurora

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Visit with us at Arboretum meeting

To the editor,

Earth Hour has become a popular way of sharing concern for the world, and of focussing our attention on the importance of electricity in modern life.

We "power down" in our home, and know that many other Aurorans do so, too.

Perhaps as you celebrate Earth Hour you may feel moved to look for something more to do as an ongoing positive contribution toward nature and the environment.

There are many local opportunities to make a difference.

One is the Aurora Community Arboretum, where there are a number of needs for volunteer help.

To learn more about progress in Aurora's 100-acre Arboretum you are warmly welcomed to come out to "Meet and Greet", ACA's annual report to the community, on March 29th at the Aurora Town Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Here you will have the chance to learn about what the Arboretum volunteers have done over the past years, what the plans are for 2010, meet Arboretum volunteers, and learn more about the tasks to be done.

We will have a number of tree planting opportunities this year, as well as lots of work in looking after newly planted trees (they need special care during their first few years) and other maintenance.

As well we need help in developing more educational signs and programs and in a variety of other organizational tasks.

We look forward to welcoming you, and to sharing a coffee, snacks and conversation with you on Monday the 29th.

To learn more about the Arboretum and our programs please visit us at: [www.auroraarboretum.ca](http://www.auroraarboretum.ca).

John Clement  
Arboretum Board Member

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Speed Up Mortgage Payments  
or Contribute to an RRSP?

Submitted by Michael P. Comeau  
Financial Advisor

Canadians have some impressive financial goals for 2010. Consider the following, taken from a poll conducted on behalf of Edward Jones in Canada:

48% plan to pay down debt; of this group, 13% want to pay down their mortgage faster.

20% plan to increase their contributions to an investment account, with 10% saying they will contribute more to their Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP).

Paying down your mortgage and saving for retirement are two worthy goals. But can you work toward them at the same time? Ask yourself: Is it a wise move to make extra mortgage payments or should I put that money into my RRSP instead? Let's consider the pros and cons of making larger-than-necessary mortgage payments.

First, the "pro" side:

You'll pay less in interest over the long term. Over the course of a few decades, the interest you pay on your mortgage could equal, or exceed, the mortgage amount itself. The sooner you pay off your mortgage, the less you'll pay in interest.

You'll realize more equity when you sell your home. The less you owe on

your house, the greater the equity in your pocket when you sell it.

You could get a psychological benefit. If you can pay off your mortgage, you may feel as though a burden has been lifted.

Now, let's examine the "cons" of paying down your mortgage early:

You might sacrifice investment returns. If you paid off a fixed-rate mortgage of 5%, you are essentially "earning" a 5% return. But if you could find an investment — such as the securities held inside your RRSP — that earned more than 5%, you might be better off putting your money there. Of course, there's no guarantee on the earnings you'll get from your RRSP, but your returns will, in effect, be boosted by the RRSP's tax-deferred environment. Furthermore, you get an immediate tax break on your annual contributions.

You'll tie up cash in an illiquid investment. If your employment should be threatened or you face some large, unexpected expenses, you may need quick access to a large amount of cash — and it's harder to get money out of your home than it is from your savings and investments.

You'll risk being under-diversified. If you put all your money in your house, and the housing market slumps, your net worth might suffer more than if you had spread your money among a variety of assets, such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds. While diversification, by itself, cannot guarantee a profit or protect against loss, it can help reduce the effects of volatility.

Clearly, paying down your mortgage early offers some significant benefits — but it could also incur some significant costs, particularly in the area of saving for retirement. And since you could be retired for two or three decades, you may want to take full advantage of your RRSP, your Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) and other retirement savings vehicles.

Ultimately, the mortgage-versus-retirement question is a highly personal one and does not lend itself to easy solutions. But it's not necessarily an either-or situation. You could, for example, increase your RRSP contribution and use your tax refund to make an extra mortgage payment each year. It's your choice — so make it a good one.

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Multicultural Society of Pakistani Canadians presented a \$40,000 cheque to Southlake Regional Health Centre at a party held at the Aurora home of Kam Sadiq Wednesday. The funds were raised at a dinner held late last year. Participating in Wednesday's presentation were, left to right, Qasim Choksi, a board member of the MSPC; Mr. Sadiq, Chair of the MSPC; Dan Carriere, CEO and President of Southlake; Jim Lovie, Chair of the board of the SHHC Foundation; Neila Poscente CEO and President of the SHRC Foundation; Frank Klees, MPP Newmarket-Aurora; John Tory, former leader of the Progressive Conservative party in Ontario; Armand LaBarge, Chief of the York Regional Police; and Newmarket Councillor Victor Woodhouse.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

# Aurora convenience store loses right to sell tobacco

Five Star Convenience Store on McClellan Way near Bathurst has been handed a six-month ban on selling any tobacco products after receiving a prohibition order from the Region of York for non-compliance with the Smoke Free Ontario Act.

"It's an automatic prohibition that was issued on that store so they lose the opportunity to sell cigarettes or any other tobacco product for a period of six months," said Jennifer Weaver, Senior Tobacco Control Officer for the Region.

The Ministry of Health Promotion issued the prohibition March 10.

"The first conviction took place in October of 2007 and the second conviction took place in April 2009," she said. "This is as a result

of the two convictions." Five Star Convenience was found to be in non-compliance after selling tobacco to underage test shoppers sent by the Region.

"The tobacco team goes out and provides two educational visits each year to each vendor," said Ms. Weaver. "In addition to that, we also do two tests with test shoppers each year, so those are checks we do each year with kids aged 15-17.

"They go into tobacco vendors and attempt to purchase tobacco. If they are successful, we go back in and speak to the person who sold the cigarettes and at that time it is decided, depending on whether it is a brand new premise, whether there will be a warning issued or whether

there would be charges laid.

"In both these particular cases there was education done with the premise many times and subsequently there were sales afterwards and they were charged."

Management for Five Star Convenience declined to comment on the matter.

According to Ms. Weaver, from the time period of January to June 2009, Aurora had 27 tobacco vendors in town and two of them sold to the test buyers.

"That is a seven per cent non-compliance rate in Aurora," she said. "Overall among nine municipalities there is a 10 per cent non-compliance rate, so York Region had 10 per cent of its tobacco vendors sell to kids."

# 3rd annual music night features Aurora groups

The 3rd Annual Princesspalooza - a night of live music, dancing, food, cash bar, friends, and fun - is scheduled for Saturday, April 17th from 8 p.m. until midnight.

Two Aurora bands - Delayne Drive and Thursday Night Jam - will be featured at the Tuscany Event Centre on Edward Street, the new home of The Roving Chef.

Delayne Drive, consisting of Bob Goss, Brad Sinclair, Dan Kaniuk, Dave Pilkey, John Doyle, and Steve Cooke, play classic rock and rhythm and blues.

The Thursday Night Jam, a 14-piece band headed by Steve Falk, is a popular funk/disco dance band that has played numerous events in the Aurora area for over 10 years - including the Aurora Street Dance and the recent Mardi Gras Southlake fundraiser.

Tickets may be purchased in advance by emailing [terriprice@rogers.com](mailto:terriprice@rogers.com) or calling Terri Price at 905-727-0462.

At \$50 a person, they may also be purchased at the Tuscany Event Centre, 222 Edward Street, call 905-727-0600.

Princesspalooza is organized as a fundraiser and funds raised will be donated to The Ride To Conquer Cancer benefiting the Princess Margaret Hospital.



# RECYCLE

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APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>

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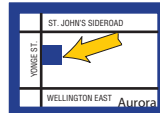


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# AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## Results to Sunday, March 21





**NEWROADS**  
*Automotive Group*

### House League

801 Florida Red A.D.C Aluminum 3.  
802 Boston Gold Manhattan Trophies 3.

1008 Philly Orange Aurora Home Hardware 5 - Taran McGowan 3G, James Chappell 1G, Sheldon Rivard 1G 2A, Christian Davies 1A, Nick Gundert 1A, Marlon Young 1A. 1006 Pittsburgh Black 3 - Matthew Semeredy 1G, Dillon Cappell 2G, Hayden Sands 1A, Jay Lamont 1A, Ryan Bagshaw 1A, Christopher Waller 1A, Adam Mulvenna 1A, Jordan Adams 1A.

1007 Pittsburgh Powder Blue 3 - Aaron Lempinen 2G, Kenton Gamble 1G, Blair Cuthbert 1A, Tyler Clements 1A, Adrian Clark 1A, Ryan Taylor 1A. 1003 Toronto White CAA 3 - Chris Dynes 1G, Evan Campbell 1G, Spencer Palmer 1G, Kevin McCrudden 1A, Jaret Meron 1A, Stephen Newby 2A.

1012 Dallas Kelly Green Envirocar 7 - Michael Morson 2G, Daniel Cervone 1G, Jake Hindley 1G 1A, Jamie Cherutti 2G, Adrian Tobin 1G, Liam Martin 1A, Curtis Stobo 3A, Michael Madigan 1A. 1011 Colorado Burgandy Graystones Restaurant 2 - Andrew Cosentino 1G 1A, Ryan Antoniel 1G.

1009 San Jose Tea 3 - Stephen Thompson 1G, Andrew Mangialardi 2G, Michael Bar 2A, Paul Keilty 1A, Daniel Fusco 3A. 1012 Dallas Kelly Green Envirocar 3 - Daniel Cervone 1G, Dylan Sutherland 1G, Michael Morson 1G 1A, Cody Benson 1A, Curtis Stobo 1A, Jamie Cherutti 1A, Michael Madigan 1A.

1010 Los Angeles Grey 4 - Mikhail Khamissa 2G, Tristan Miller 1G 1A, Ben Mulholland 1G, Griffin Slimkowich 1A, Jake Boyle 2A. 1011 Colorado Burgandy Graystones Restaurant 3 - Dylan Cross 2G, Lucas Cristillo 1G, Andrew Cosentino 1A, Brandon Giniotis 1A, Josh Bentolila 2A.

1002 Boston Gold 5 - Michael Mourtzanos 3G, Mark Tanel 1G, Christian Avolio 1G 1A, Dakota Hendy 1A, Ryan Brown 1A. 1006 Pittsburgh Black 3 - Adam Gitto 1G, Dillon Cappell 2G, Matthew Pellegrini 1A, Zachary Samonas 1A.

1001 Florida Red 2 - Adam Clark 1G 1A, James Harkin 1A, Kyle McCreedy 1G 1A. 1004 Los Angeles Purple 1 - Cameron Meikle 1G.

1008 Philly Orange Aurora Home Hardware 7 - Sheldon Rivard 1G 1A, Tanner Brewer 1G, Christian Davies 1G, Taran McGowan 3G 2A, Brett Richardson 1G 2A, Egan Fennell 2A, James Chappell 1A, Branden Bortolin 1A, Marlon Young 2A. 1013 St. Louis White 5 - Jamie Hawkins 1G 2A, Spencer George 1G 2A, Chris

O'Hara 1G 1A, Nick Di Nallo 1G 2A, Kamran Karamchi 1G.

1003 Toronto White CAA 4 - Matthew Miller 3G, Ian Weston 1G 3A, Adam Reid 1A. 1005 St. Louis Blue Sentia 2 - Marcel Lamanna 2G, Andrew Osmond 1A, Robert Denault 1A.

### Rep League

Novice AE Aurora Tigers 5 - Justin Harbaruk 1G 2A, Luke Catania 2G, Owen Romano 1G, Thomas Childerhose 1G, Alex Sandras 1A, Evan Robertson 1A, Rony Wahab 1A. East Gwillimbury Eagles 1.

Newmarket 5. Novice AE Aurora Tigers 4 - Rony Wahab 1G 1A, Anthony Iacovetta 1G,1A, Justin Harbaruk 1G 1A, Luke Catania 1G, Jack Patterson 1A, Harris Goan 1A, Owen Romano 1A.

Barrie Colts 2. Atom AA Aurora Tigers 1 - Brennan Young 1G, Devlin Kauffeldt 1A, Philip Wolanski 1A.

Minor Pee wee AE Aurora Tigers 4 - Nicolas Pearce 1G, Tyler Williams 2G, Christian Arcuri 2A, Matthew MacDonald 1A, Nicholas Sansalone 1G. Georgina 1,

Georgina 4. Minor Pee wee AE Aurora Tigers 2 - Tyler Williams 2G, Michael Jollimore 1A, Connor Downs 1A.

Richmond Hill 3. Pee wee AA Aurora Tigers 0.

Richmond Hill 5. Pee wee AA Aurora Tigers 4 - Eddie Duffy 2G, David O'Connor 1A, Nathan Romanchych 1G 2A, Andrew Klinowski 1A, Braeden Kublick 1G, Will Thompson 1A.

Barrie Colts 2. Pee wee AE Aurora Tigers 1.

Barrie Colts 7. Minor Bantam AA Aurora Tigers 3 - Spencer Green 2G, Quentin Campbell 1G, Lucas Pozzebon 2A, Nick Scott 1A, Erik Balkovec 1A, Matt Iwai 1A.

Minor Bantam AA Aurora Tigers 3 - Lucas Pozzebon 1G, Liam Coll 1G 1A, Matt Iwai 1G, Spencer Green 3A, Nic Delzotto 1A. Barrie 1.

Minor Bantam AA Aurora Tigers 5 - Konner McMillan 2G, Quentin Campbell 1G 1A, Lucas Pozzebon 1G, Spencer Green 1G, Brett Thiessen 1A, Liam Coll 1A, Blake Wallace 1A, Tait Snedden 1A. Newmarket 2.

Bantam AA Aurora Tigers 3. TNT 2.

Minor Midget AA Aurora Tigers 2. Richmond Hill 1.

Richmond Hill 4. Midget AE Aurora Tigers 1.

## Aurora Minor Hockey Association



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING  
2010/2011 REGISTRATION AND REP TRYOUTS  
(AAA, AA, A, AE, SELECT)

Registration for the 2010-2011 hockey season will begin online APRIL 9TH, and in person on APRIL 14TH.  
Please refer to our website [www.auroraminorhockey.net](http://www.auroraminorhockey.net) for further information.

Registration fees for the 2010/2011 season are:  
\$500.00 (Tyke to Minor Midget)  
\$535.00 (Midget)

The AMHA will accept children born in 2004 for our Tyke Hockey Program.  
It is recommended that they have either taken skating lessons  
Or completed one year of Opti Hockey.

A PERMISSION TO SKATE FOR AAA TRYOUTS CANNOT BE PROVIDED UNTIL  
APRIL 12TH (after the completion of the OHF Championships).

In order to receive a permission to skate or tryout for an AMHA Rep Team (AA, A, AE, SELECT) PLEASE NOTE:

- You must reside in Aurora or reside in a right of choice area (refer to OMHA website for information on right of choice areas).
- You must be registered with the AMHA and the fee paid in full.

IF YOU ARE A NEW RESIDENT OF AURORA, YOU WILL NEED TO COMPLETE  
THE NECESSARY TRANSFER PAPERWORK PRIOR TO REGISTRATION.  
PLEASE ALLOW 2-4 WEEKS FOR THIS PROCESS.

For those requiring registration for AAA tryouts, the AMHA office will be open:

TUES APRIL 6	WED APRIL 7	THURS APRIL 8	SAT APRIL 10
11AM – 3PM	11AM – 3PM	11AM – 3PM	10AM - 1PM
	7PM – 9PM		

DURING THESE AMHA OFFICE HOURS WE WILL ONLY REGISTER THOSE WHO  
REQUIRE A PERMISSION TO SKATE.

AMHA Rep tryouts will begin on April 27TH. Once the schedule is confirmed it will be posted on the website.



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March break activities were plentiful in Aurora last week, and action at the new Cultural Centre proved it. Alexandra Lent, right, shows Dustyn MacNeill a few tricks of the trade as the centre presented Fall, Fight, Fence and Fumble.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

# Aurora girl, 16, selected to carry Paralympic Torch

While many people in Aurora were initially stumped on what to do with their evenings after the Olympics drew to a close, the excitement was just beginning for one Aurora resident.

Kaitlyn Lenchak, 16, was chosen by RBC to carry the Paralympic Torch in Toronto recently.

Diagnosed with spastic diplegia cerebral palsy at the age of one, the St. Maximilian Kolbe student and active Easter Seals ambassador proudly carried the torch on her walker through Nathan Phillips Square.

Ms. Lenchak appeared before Town Council a week ago to share her experiences.

"I was honoured to carry the Paralympic torch," she said. "It was just an amazing honour and feeling to have. That my school came down to support me and cheer for me was just amazing."

"Not a lot of people get to carry the torch. [If you get] a once in a lifetime opportunity you might as well go for it. It was pretty heavy, actually. When I first held it, it was about three pounds and we attached it on my walker with this apparatus and it was pretty cool."

Friends and fellow students alike shared in Ms. Lenchak's excitement, she said, as they scrambled to touch the torch.

"It was an amazing feeling and I can't thank Easter Seals enough for nominating me," she said.

Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris presented Ms. Lenchak with a certificate congratulating her on her achievement.

Ms. Lenchak also took the opportunity to encour-

age people to get into the Paralympic spirit, as she feels the event is unfairly overshadowed by its mammoth Olympic counterpart.

"You had mentioned that you know not as many people pay attention to the Paralympics as the Olympic Games, but if people watched they would be pleasantly surprised and even amazed," said Mayor Morris in introducing Ms. Lenchak to councillors.

"Not a lot of people watch it because the Olympics are more hyped up than the Paralympics," replied Ms. Lenchak. "But if you watch the Paralympics it's pretty intense when you see guys who are paralyzed from the waist down ski down hills and do tricks and stuff."

The 2010 Paralympic Games opened in Vancouver on Friday March 12 and ran through March 21.



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Entered in the Pee wee BB hockey tournament in Burlington recently, the Aurora Panthers came up with all the marbles. They are, goalies Kate Harkin and Jenna Alessandrini. In the front row, left to right are Celeste Wloka, Haley Donovan, Alyssa Lipari, Leah Dubeau, Kate Barber, Sydney Bongard, Rachel Duffy, Lauren Hjelholt and Rebecca Kolarich. In the back row, left to right are Maddy Collard, Claire Penstone, Meghan Patterson and Kelsey Irwin. Staff is comprised of David Patterson, assistant, Cynthia Alessandrini, trainer, Steve Irwin, manager, Mark Dubeau, Coach, and Dave Lipari, assistant. Missing when the photo was taken were John St. Germain, assistant, Jamie St. Germain and Samantha Curci. Aurora got to the finals after defeating the Barrie Sharks 2-1 in a shootout. They then won the final game, blanking the Orangeville Tigers 1-0.

# Organization marks end of busy period with growth

Neighbourhood Network, which was established more than two years ago, had by year's end grown to nearly 2,000 volunteer members and 135 partner organizations.

The following are some of the events, highlights and achievements from the past year: Neighbourhood Network celebrated its one-year anniversary on January 15th by providing volunteer members with free tickets to a Newmarket Hurricanes' home game.

Neighbourhood Network volunteers were treated to a pre-game reception and received a special anniversary gift.

In January, 2009, the group sponsored a co-op student in the final year of studies at Aurora High School. The co-op placement ended in May.

Beginning in 2009, Neighbourhood Network made the boardroom at its office available to partner organizations for meetings. During the course of the year, seven organizations booked more than 40 meetings.

During the month of April, Neighbourhood Network's Ambassadors and committee members visited high schools in Aurora and Newmarket and made presentations about volunteer opportunities with the network.

Neighbourhood Network founder Belinda Stronach kicked off National Volunteer Week with the announcement of a number of new Neighbourhood Network initiatives, including the launch of a pilot Lawn Maintenance Program to help low-income seniors and disabled residents take care of their properties during the spring, summer and fall; the administration of two previously existing community programs, and the annual Aurora Seniors' Centre barbecue.

On April 23rd, during National Volunteer Week, more than 30 Pickering College students descended on the Neighbourhood Network office for a day of canvassing in Newmarket and Aurora.

Students distributed more

than 10,000 flyers that informed residents about Neighbourhood Network and promoted volunteerism.

The Aurora Air Cadets delivered door hangers with an invitation to a June 14th barbecue for the residents of a new subdivision at Bayview and Wellington in Aurora. The barbecue was hosted by Neighbourhood Network.

Neighbourhood Network sponsored Belinda's Barbecue on June 25th in support of The Aurora Seniors' Centre.

Belinda and other members of the Neighbourhood Network team grilled hamburgers and sausages, with all proceeds going to The Aurora Seniors' Centre.

In June, Neighbourhood Network announced the 2009 recipients of the Give Back Award - a \$500 cash prize donated annually to one male and one female student at every high school in Aurora and Newmarket.

The award is presented to students in their final year of school who have given back to their community and who have made a positive contribution to fellow students and citizens.

Neighbourhood Network hosted its second annual Volunteer Recognition barbecue September 17th at the Magna head office in Aurora.

More than 300 Neighbourhood Network volunteer members and representatives of partner organizations enjoyed food and refreshments as well as musical entertainment provided by The Coyotes.

At the Volunteer Recognition barbecue, Belinda announced the 10 local charities and community groups that received a \$5,000 donation as part of the first ever Neighbourhood Network Community Funding program.

The recipient organizations were: ABLE Network, Royal Canadian Legion, Big Brothers Big Sisters of York, Doane House Hospice, Inn From the Cold, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), The

Safehaven Project for Community Living, Women's Centre of York Region, York North Basketball Association and York Region Food Network.

On September 25th, Neighbourhood Network volunteers assisted in the clean-up and painting of sites in the Town of Aurora that had been defaced by graffiti.

Neighbourhood Network hosted another successful seminar for its partner organizations October 2nd at the Aurora Public Library.

Neighbourhood Network moved to a new office on 14988 Yonge Street in Aurora on October 30th.

The network hosted an information booth at the 2009 Crime Prevention Trade Show with York Regional Police on November 6th and 7th.

Neighbourhood Network launched its second annual Snow Removal Program on November 16th aimed at helping low-income seniors and disabled residents clear snow from their driveways and walkways.

The program matches volunteer snow shovellers from the community with eligible residents in Newmarket and Aurora.

In its first year of operation, the Snow Removal Program helped more than 30 residents in Newmarket and Aurora.

Neighbourhood Network launched a major volunteer recruitment effort to help the local Salvation Army with its annual Kettle Drive, the charity's major fundraising campaign that ran from November 28th to December 24th.

Neighbourhood Network took part in the Aurora Santa Claus Parade on November 28th.

It officially opened its new office on December 1st and launched its second annual Holiday Toy Drive on behalf of children and families in Newmarket and Aurora.

Neighbourhood Network hosted a year-end volunteer appreciation night on December 17th at a Newmarket

Hurricanes home game. During the second-period intermission, Neighbourhood Network Ambassadors Tim Jones of Aurora and Tom Taylor from Newmarket took part in a "Toss the Ham Challenge", with the frozen hams later being donated to local food banks.

## Monday night playoff results

Championship Round						
	GAME 1		GAME 2		GAME 3	
	GF	GA	GF	GA	GF	GA
Highland's	1	3	2	5		
Rec Sports	3	1	3	0		
Law Insurance	5	1	0	3		
Baldwin's	1	5	5	2		

Consolation Round						
	GAME 1		GAME 2		GAME 3	
	GF	GA	GF	GA	GF	GA
Priestly	4	1	0	3		
Tom & Jerry's	1	4	2	8		
FPL	5	0	3	0		
Masterclean	0	5	8	2		

WEEKLY RESULTS			
Rec Sports	3	FPL Aggregates	3
Law Insurance	0	Priestly Demolition	0
Masterclean	8	Baldwin's	5
Tom & Jerry's	2	Highland's	2

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# Fundraiser for shelter begins at Magna June 7

By **BROCK WEIR**  
Auroran staff

Raising money for the proposed new York Region Women's Shelter will kick off in Aurora on June 7, as the Magna Golf Club hosts the first fundraising golf tournament for the project.

The event, hosted by former Newmarket-Aurora MP Belinda Stronach, Executive Vice-Chair of Magna International, will be the first step in achieving the project's goal of raising \$1 million, according to Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen.

"We only have \$980,000 to go," he said.

Construction of the shelter, which will serve single, homeless women in York Region, is tentatively planned to take place on the south-west corner of Yonge Street and Sawmill Valley Drive in Newmarket on land donated by the Society of Friends, said Mayor Van Bynen.

"It hasn't been finalized because there is still some

rezoning we have to go through," he said. "That is the site we are looking at now and we're just going through the process to see if the appropriate zoning can be achieved, and if it would be able to accommodate the building. We would do the appropriate archaeological study and things like that."

Mayor Van Bynen said the land donation came out of a public meeting with various area faith groups.

The Society of Friends said they had an available site on Yonge Street and donated it because the goal of providing shelter for homeless women aligns with the "philosophical principles of what the Quakers stand for."

Although Mayor Van Bynen calls himself a "perpetual optimist", he says he hopes the archaeological studies will be underway "as soon as the frost is out of the ground" and the project will be at the site plan stage by May or June.

"Once the site plan and

rezoning is done, I'm optimistic that as early as the fall we might get started on construction if all the lights say 'Go'."

The need for a shelter specifically for homeless women was first identified "four or five years ago" by the York Region Alliance to End Homelessness, according to Patti Bell, Executive Director of Blue Door Shelters.

"They developed the first needs assessment in York Region," she said. "That the issue that there are no current homeless beds in York Region for single women has been brought forth very strongly in all our community plans."

"The Mayor of Newmarket and Belinda Stronach have really championed this big gaping hole in our services for homeless people and wanted to make sure we filled that hole and actually got services up and running."

Homeless shelters "of any nature" take a significant amount of time to ready, said Ms. Bell, and a lot of activity was spent addressing the needs of current shelters, including Leeder Place Family Shelter, Porter Place Men's Shelter, and the York Region Youth Shelter.

"There is still focus and lots of work being done in the Region with the existing homeless shelters and it is not as if we didn't know we needed a space for single women," she continued. "It was just a case of making sure there were more community partners."

"We've got business people on a community team, we've got retired people on a community team, we've got other service agencies on a community team, so we're spending much more energy being vocal about the needs and I think that has made a difference."

When completed, the York Region Women's Shelter might provide housing workers to assist women look for and maintain permanent housing, said Ms. Bell.

She also hopes programs will include education, programs for re-entry into the work place, as well as having other agencies come in and offer their services to residents.

Although Ms. Bell said shelters typically take 10 to 15 years to get underway, she too is optimistic the York Region Women's Shelter will be up and running sooner rather than later.

"Now that we have identified a potential site, if everything goes well, we're very hopeful it will be one of the quickest shelters because, at this point, there is so much support for it and so much understanding."



Items await shoppers at Trinity Anglican's Clothes Closet in Aurora, one of the town's best kept secrets. Not all clothes meet the shop standard. Those that don't are sent to the Canadian Diabetes Association.

## Clothes Closet is one of town's best kept secrets

One of the best kept secrets for fashion and bargain lovers is right here in Aurora.

The Clothes Closet, located in the rectory of Trinity Anglican Church on Victoria Street, offers resale clothing, some with designer and high end names like Ann Taylor, Marc Jacob, Tommy Hilfiger, Jones of New York, American Eagle, and Hollister at a fraction of their original cost.

And, when you pick up a bargain, you will be helping the Church's Benevolence Program, including Welcoming Arms and the Welcome Table.

The store offers clothing for the whole family, including infants, kids, teens, men and women's fashions.

There continues to be an ever growing need to maintain these programs, as Coordinator Shirley Petrie explained.

"We aim first and foremost to serve those in need in our community, by providing decent and affordable clothing. We also aim to raise money to assist those in need, by the income generated from selling to the general public," she said.

Currently a team of volunteers from Trinity and other churches operate the shop weekday mornings from 9.30 to 11.30 a.m. and on alternate Wednesday evenings.

There is a constant and growing need for clean, better and high end gently used, in-season clothing. With a very small amount of storage space, The Clothes

Closet does not accept household or furniture items.

A large clothing donation box is placed outside

the rectory for drop offs.

Clothes that do not meet the shop's standards are picked up by Canadian Diabetes.

## Cadets win gold

Cadets Vanessa Papania, Charlotte Nettie and Catherine Moogk of 2799 "Queen's York Rangers" Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps in Aurora, brought their team to a gold medal finish during a relay race recently at the 2010 National Cadet Biathlon Championship (NCBC) in Valcartier, Quebec. They finished the race in 1:27:10.

Although biathlon is an individual sport, teamwork is required in the relay race.

At the simultaneous departure, each biathlete must propel themselves 30 metres, using only their poles, after which they can use the skating technique.

The relay zone is an area of 30 metres where the competitors must pass the relay to the following athlete by tagging them somewhere on their body without using skis or poles.

The race is 4.5 km with two shooting bouts of five rounds for each competitor.

Vanessa, 17, has been a biathlete for four years and is a two times gold medallist from the 2009 NCBC.

She completed her leg of the race in 29:49 missing only one target.

Her goal is to win two gold medals at this year's competition.

Charlotte, 13, is competing at the national level for the first time this year.

She completed the race in 26:52 with three missed targets.

She hopes to win the Nikkie Keddie award for Top Junior Athlete.

Catherine, 15, has participated at the national level since 2008 and finished her leg in 28:29 with two missed shots. She hopes to come in the top 10 in the senior category.

The Cadet Program has a membership of more than 50,000 young people across Canada.

It is a national youth development program that provides tools and activities to prepare youth for the transition to adulthood by instilling the values of fitness, leadership, citizenship, challenge and fun.

## Changes at ACC

From page 1

Agency to revive the question of re-allocating the funds away from the seat replacement towards other projects at the location.

"Surprisingly, staff have been advised that the program administrator is receptive to asking the program secretariat to review a written 'scope change proposal' submission from us in short order," he said. "However, time is of the essence as we need to complete the project design specifications and begin the process of tendering these projects by the end of March as currently required by the program."

The washroom and change room retrofit as well as the window replacement would still be \$120,000, with the window replacement accounting for \$50,000 of that.

Staff will continue to maintain the existing ACC seating.

Proposed improvements to the washroom and change rooms include new floors and walls, an acid scrub and re-grouting of showers, and well as repainting the walls.

"The condition of these washrooms has been a concern for a number of years, but due to other priorities, this work has not been brought forward until today," Mr. Elliott noted. "It has been managed as a maintenance item, doing small repairs as required."

Mr. Elliott, however, remains cautious.

"There is no indication or guarantee that the scope change request will be approved," he said. "Staff have only been told they are receptive to receiving a written request from us, and that it would be put through a formal process once received."

If the request is approved by RInC, the projects will be initiated "immediately".

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# Symposium planned at new cultural centre

Aurorans will have the opportunity to learn just who does what in Aurora's ever-expanding heritage preservation community at Wednesday, March 24's Heritage In Aurora Symposium.

The event, at the town's Church Street School Cultural Centre, will bring together representatives from the Cultural Centre, the Aurora Historical Society, the Town of Aurora's Heritage Planning Department and Advisory Committee, and the Aurora Public Library, among others, to explain their mandates to the community at large and inform the public of new and ongoing initiatives.

Speakers include Jennifer Steen, Curator/Manager for the Aurora Historical Society and Hillary House; Laura Schembri, Executive Director of the Aurora Cultural Centre and member of the Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee; Mai Al Nabhan, manager of Heritage Planning and Urban Design for the Town of Aurora; Reccia Mandelcorn,

Manager of Customer and Circulation Services of the Aurora Public Library; and Susan Walmer, Aurora Community Heritage Fair.

"We decided we would do a heritage symposium bringing everyone who works in heritage in Aurora to explain their role," said Jennifer Steen of the Aurora Historical Society. "We thought there might be some confusion out there in the community with what they do, what we do, and how we work together. We get calls from people thinking that the Historical Society still runs the Cultural Centre or that the Cultural Centre is a museum - which was its first intention, but has taken on different forms."

Aurora's Heritage bodies are an interconnected group, said Ms. Steen.

One example of this is the Cultural Centre providing storage for the Historical Society's collections. The Historical Society in turn is also committed to creating a certain number of

exhibits yearly, ideally complementing other activities and programs at the Cultural Centre.

The Historical Society is also helping recruit volunteers for the annual Historica Fair.

"We have various members of our board sit on the committee or board for the Historica Fair, the Cultural Centre, as well as the Heritage Advisory Committee, so there is a lot of cross-membership there," said Ms. Steen.

The Town of Aurora welcomes the Symposium as an opportunity bring people with the same goals together, according to Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning.

"It is an opportunity to bring folks and representatives from various organizations together for the day just to discuss any pressing issues that may be on the table," said Mr. Ramunno.

The evening is presented by the Aurora Historical Society and more information is available by clicking on [www.aurorahistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.aurorahistoricalsociety.ca).

## Group seeks your input

From page 3  
that are endangered, there really is nothing here that we can put on the list," he said. "We have our own local issues. Everyone is talking about the Petch House and we have no idea where that will go and if it can be saved or not. It just wouldn't qualify

for the Heritage Canada list because while some people believe that it is of a lot of importance locally, it wouldn't have that importance on the national stage."

Mr. McIntyre said he believes the lack of detail in the nomination papers stems from the wide range

of structures and sites that can be suggested.

"It's a list that certainly draws attention to structures that are endangered."

Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, said the fact that no local sites immediately sprang to mind is a testament to Aurora's ongoing Heritage programs.

"Suggestions [for the Endangered Places List] would be wonderful," said Ms. Smith, saying the public can express views by submitting letters or delegations to the Heritage Advisory Committee.

The Heritage Canada Foundation must receive all nominations by March 31, and the list is slated for release in May.

## Commuters

From page 1  
happy to offer this temporary, transitional service for riders as we continue our effort to avoid duplication of transit services, optimize the transit resources of our regional transit providers, and ensure fiscal responsibility in a tough economic climate."

YRT service planning will look at options for additional Newmarket to York University service in the fall.

Students from this area who attend York are annoyed that travel time to the school could double.

Klees told commuters "there are also a number of questions remaining as to details of the revised schedules and services to which YRT has made commitments. While I cannot provide those details at this time, I have been assured that you will be advised as soon as possible."

Klees said the GO Transit announcement "represents a significant win for us in our efforts to secure a resolution to the changes initially."

"While this is not a perfect solution, and will mean adjust-

ing to some changes, it does represent a significant improvement over what was originally contemplated by both GO Transit and YRT," Klees said. "Scheduling changes will improve travel time and the York University service from Newmarket through Aurora, King and Maple will be continued. I am pleased that YRT has also agreed to offer a loyalty incentive of two free monthly passes to existing GO monthly pass holders of the 62-Newmarket B Service.

The Regional Municipality of York and GO Transit are collaborating to meet the needs of GO customers on the 62-Newmarket B GO Bus service as the GO service is phased out beginning April 3.

YRT will also assume responsibility for planning service from Newmarket to York University starting in September, according to the press release.

This will continue service for the towns served by the current GO trips to York University including King, the release said.



Nice, uh, alligator, thinks Aurora's Natasha Kislev as she pets "Chopper" during a reptile show at the Aurora Public Library during the March break. Mom, Julie, and Ryan Carscadden from Reptilia look on.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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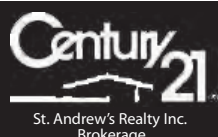
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# Seniors prepare for Spring Sale

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Welcome to spring, and this year we have experienced an early taste of the good weather that demands you get out into the garden if you are ambitious or onto the golf course.

We have moved the clocks ahead already and the evenings are lighter by the day, and spring feels like it has announced its presence with spring bulbs popping up everywhere.

Now, seniors turn energy and creativity to activities fitting the time of year, and preparing for the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) annual Spring Sale is occupying the attention among a great many ASA members.

The Spring Sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 24th,

between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Donations will be accepted starting Monday, April 19th.

Vendors will be composed of a wide variety of groups and members from the ASA, who will offer a variety of cottage style crafts, crafted in the ASA, plus other interesting items.

A group from the Farmers' Market will form a mini-market, offering mostly food stuffs and this edition of the spring sale, building on last year, is expected to be the finest yet.

Among the great attractions has always been the bake table, and it will be in full operation, striving to create personal bests for variety and quality of baked goods.

This year's sale will feature a

Kid's Corner and a Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day style of offerings.

In addition will be the white elephant sale, for which donations are sought.

Please note that clothing cannot be accepted.

The book table also requires donations of all kinds of books; the book table is always a focal point, because most of us like to read, and most of us love to browse through books.

We must thank our coordinator, Karie Papillon, who will help by storing these donated books in her office.

Because the ASA is a successful and busy initiative of the Town of Aurora, storage space is limited and donations are

requested to be made the week before the sale Monday, April 19th, for the sale on April 24th.

The kitchen group of ASA volunteers will be hosting a barbecue consisting of hamburgers, sausage and beverages.

Recently, the pennies collected for cancer treatment and which received a comment in this column earlier, evoked a pleasant comment from Carol Hedenberg, indicating that I should acknowledge the originator of this gallant program that produced almost \$500 in pennies.

And the dear lady who originated this program is Norma Dover, who is an all around excellent lady and a fine singer, often rendering the national anthem at ASA events.

Thank you, Norma; the money is destined for the Regional Cancer Centre at Southlake, presently under construction and nearing completion, and though the pennies will

make only a small dent in the money required, enough small dents will add up.

Hopefully we will never have the compelling necessity to make use of this cancer technology leading facility, but if we do, we will be grateful to funding initiators like Norma Dover.

Ron Coe, a competent wood worker and teacher of wood-working skills, great organizer and developer of equipment for events, showed me the latest acquisition in the wood shop.

It is a 12-inch sliding compound miter saw of commercial grade.

The wood shop is excellently equipped, but from time to time improvements in equipment are identified and can be made.

This new saw is potentially safer than the equipment replaced and judging from enthusiastic comments from wood workers present who have used the saw, it is superior by far.

It is mobile, which allows it to

be moved when not in use to an unused area, improving operations by better management and usage of floor space, and its modernity renders it safer in operation.

The wood shop encourages everybody, 55 years or older, regardless of wood working skills, to join the ASA and the wood shop, if that presents an appealing option to develop a hobby.

Neither age nor previous wood working experience should deter anybody from joining the wood workers who currently use the shop.

Of enormous appeal to members experienced or not, is the ongoing pen making activity.

The metal working components are purchased, and the members make the wood barrel of the pen by turning it on a lathe.

The finished product when assembled is excellent and is of a grade suitable for presentations or gifts.

# Donut shop stays open despite Region charge

Baker's Dozen Donuts at the corner of Wellington Street and Mary Street has complied with a utensil sanitation order from York Region Community and Health Services, according to the company's Operations Manager Terry Clarkston.

Mr. Clarkston said his outlet was in the midst of addressing the previously identified concern requiring the installing a three-compartment sink to sanitize utensils when it received a ticket from the Region.

"We didn't do it fast enough," he said. "We do have one now."

"We tried to do it another way," he added. "There was a two-compartment sink in the back and we have a dishwasher there. The dishwasher would apparently come up to temperature for sanitizing, and

sometimes it wouldn't come up to what the health department wanted."

To meet requirements, Baker's Dozen was doing its dishes in a two-compartment sink, but that wasn't "good enough", according to Mr. Clarkston.

"Unfortunately we got a ticket before we had it in, but we got a three-compartment sink," he said, adding that this was an ongoing issue when his office took over this location from the previous franchisee.

These types of issues are identified during routine inspections from the Region of York, according to Steven Rebellato, Manager of Food Safety for the Region.

"An inspector in this type of premise would go there three times a year," he said. "Each food premise that we do

inspect in Aurora and throughout the whole region is inspected anywhere between one and three times a year and that is based on a risk assessment."

"[Baker's Dozen] was issued a charge for this specific offence, but it was not an offence that would deem them to be 'closure worthy'," he said. "So, in this case here, the inspector noted the infraction, levied the charge, and then the premise can remain open."

While the frequency of food premise inspections varies according to a risk assessment, Mr. Rebellato is keen to stress that determining the number of visits is based on a host of different criteria ranging from the history of compliance to types of food served, food preparation, a premise's level of food safety knowledge, and adequate storage.

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# Aurora in good shape when businesses help town's senior citizens

Societies need to step up and take the wheel to help aid in "driver retirement programs" to maintain safety on the roads, according to an editorial published March 15 by the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

"Just as planning for job retirement is the social norm, we should be planning for driving retirement by creating programs to help seniors drive safely for as long as possible and, when they can't, to help them get around," said Drs. Noni MacDonald and Paul C. Hebert in their editorial.

"Our urban environment generally centres on the car for transportation," they continued. "In suburban and rural settings, where many seniors live, public transit is often limited and taxis are expensive or nonexistent. Not being able to drive may lead to social isolation, a loss of independence, and even deterioration in health."

The doctors recommended a number of steps to combat the issue, including tax

incentives for carpooling for social activities including grocery shopping, providing greater consideration for seniors' needs in urban planning, "subsidized shuttle van services", and having local businesses implement programs to help pick up the slack.

In this last recommendation, Aurora appears to be ahead of the game.

"I sit on an a Healthy Aging workgroup with [York] Region, they meet about four times a year and one of the topics that they were actually addressing when I met with them last month was exactly this issue," said Neighbourhood Network's John Crowell. "I think it's a perfect fit for Neighbourhood Network to do its best to try to address this issue in any way we can. Just to even identify where the need is, who the seniors are that need assistance with this, and us trying to recruit volunteers for that purpose makes a lot of sense."

"That is something we will probably look to do in

the coming year and make more of a concerted effort in that regard."

Providing transportation assistance for seniors has long been part of the Aurora-based Community Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) organization.

According to Suzanne Whitehurst, CHATS' Transportation Supervisor, the group has a number of volunteers available to assist in their transportation program.

To qualify for their services, a client needs to be over the age of 55.

Potential clients must also be willing to participate in a telephone assessment, reside in a residence or retirement home (as opposed to long-term care or hospitals), be eligible for OHIP "or meet the legislative requirements for the same," according to Ms. Whitehurst.

"We're meeting about 97 per cent of the requests we get and we do about 40,000 to 50,000 drives per year," she said..

## COMING EVENTS

From page 2

### MARCH 25-28

Daffodils are among the first flowers to emerge from the recently defrosted ground. The arrival of spring marks the beginning of the Canadian Cancer Society's annual Daffodil Days campaign. Bunches of daffodils will be available for \$7 each or \$12 for two. Volunteers will be selling daffodils at a variety of locations around Aurora including the LCBO, grocery stores and hardware stores across town. For more information call the Canadian Cancer Society Holland River Unit 905-830-0447.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 26

Monte Carlo Night at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Lounge entertainment by Joe Simpson. Refreshments and prizes. Members \$26 and non-members \$29.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 27

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents "Earth Hour Unplugged" beginning at 7 p.m. and continuing until 10.30 p.m. Plans are for people to be entertained by the Aurora High School Jazz Band; storytelling in the dark with actress Tanja Jacos; a Living Drum circle with Robin Armstrong; and a musical set by Gregg Lawless. The event takes place in the newly-restored Church Street School and all you need is a flashlight. Tickets are \$15 for an adult; \$40 for a family up to 5; and \$10 for youth. Price includes light refreshments. There will be a cash bar. Purchase tickets in advance by calling 905-713-1818.

\*\*\*\*

The Aurora Food Pantry opens at its new location, 350 Industrial Parkway South, at 9 a.m. It will be open until 3 p.m.

### MARCH 27 AND 28

Aurora Lions Club annual pancake breakfast takes place at Sheppard's Bush from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For further information, call 905-727-6079.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 28

Trinity Anglican Church on Victoria Street in Aurora presents the 90-male voice Tri-City Gospel Chorus at 7 p.m. There is no admission charge.

\*\*\*\*

Free Nordic Pole Walking Clinic will be held today at the St. Andrews Valley Golf Club, 4 Pinnacle Trail, east of Yonge Street off St. John's Sideroad beginning at 9 a.m. for those who want to learn the basics of Nordic Pole Walking. For more information or to RSVP for the clinic with Shawn Nisbet (Master Nordic Pole Walking Instructor) phone 416-804-0938, e-mail info@shawnnisbet.com or visit www.shawnnisbet.com.

\*\*\*\*

Pancake Brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vandorf Community Centre - 14663 Woodbine Avenue. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$2 for children. For further information, call 905-727-8954 or 1-888-290-0337.

### MONDAY, MARCH 29

The Aurora Community Arboretum is having its annual "Meet and Greet" meeting in the Holland Room at the Aurora Town Hall beginning at 7.30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and hear what progress has been made in the arboretum and what the plans are for 2010. A brief Annual General Meeting forms part of the evening. New members may sign up at the meeting.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 30

Aurora Public Library says the search is on for The Next Great Canadian Writer. A group will meet the last Tuesday of each month to write chapter by chapter, month by month, the first draft of a novel, a book of poems, or a memoir. A prize will be awarded to the winner of The Next Great Canadian Writer challenge. The Next Great Canadian Writer challenge is mentored by Aurora author Marnie Maguire. Program is available for writers between the ages of 12 and 17. The meeting will occur in the Marjorie Andrews Room from 7 to 8 p.m.

### APRIL 2-4

Aurora Lions Club annual pancake breakfast takes place at Sheppard's Bush from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Good Friday, April 2, Saturday, April 3 and Sunday, April 4. For further information call 905-727-6079.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

A Buddhist Seminar, called "A Life Philosophy for the Happiness of Humanity" will be held in the Newmarket Public Library multi-purpose room, 438 Park Avenue, beginning at 7 p.m. and continuing until 8.15 p.m. Admission is free for the event which is presented by Soka Gakkai International Association of Canada. For further information, call Donna Daly in Aurora at 905-726-8074.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 10

The Upper Canada Chordsmen, with members from Aurora and Newmarket, present a "Sentimental Journey", a musical journey from the 1900's to the present, featuring the musical flavor of each decade. Show will be held twice at the Newmarket Theatre; a 2 p.m. matinee and a 7.30 p.m. evening performance. For tickets phone 905-953-5122.

\*\*\*\*

Yoga class at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street from 1.45 to 3.15 p.m. for all levels. Bring a mat if possible. \$10 min. donation to support Amnesty International's human rights work. For information, call 905-476-6535.

### MONDAY, APRIL 12

The Aurora Film Circuit presents the movie "Last Train Home", the largest human migration in history, and it happens every year when the Chinese are plunged into chaos as, all at once, 130 million migrant factory workers attempt to return to their rural homes by train, bus, and boat to celebrate Chinese New Year. The award-winning film follows the lives of the Zhangs, a migrant family caught up in this desperate annual migration. On another level, the film paints a human portrait of the dramatic changes sweeping China. Movie happens at the Aurora Cineplex. Tickets, at \$10 each, are available at the Aurora Library or R & R Books on Edward Street.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

A Buddhist Seminar, called "A Life Philosophy for the Happiness of Humanity" will be held in the Newmarket Public Library multi-purpose room, 438 Park Avenue, beginning at 7 p.m. and continuing until 8.15 p.m. Admission is free for the event which is presented by Soka Gakkai International Association of Canada. For further information, call Donna Daly in Aurora at 905-726-8074.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 20

"Shop Like the Planet's Watching!" The Aurora Public Library presents a free, instructive presentation with The York Region Environmental Alliance and York Region. Presentation begins at 7 p.m. in the Lebovic Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493 option 4.

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