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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 10 No. 24 905-727-3300 **auroran.com** FREE Week of April 6, 2010

For the ninth year in a row, even though the location changed, the Easter Egg hunt in Aurora was a sell-out. Using the land surrounding the seniors' centre, the Easter Bunny hid hundreds of eggs for excited children to find, and find them they did. The warm weather also helped the attendance set new records. Even though the start of the hunt - more like a scavenger hunt - seemed to be slower than previous years, it appeared the idea was better. Once a child found an egg or a bunny, it was taken to a redemption table for a prize. Taking part in Saturday's hunt were, photo at left, the Wahba family from Aurora, including mom Erin, dad Jonathan, and Sophie and Ethan.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Residents hear the pros and cons of ward system

About 15 concerned and curious Aurora residents, along with Mayor Phyllis Morris, Councillors John Gallo, Stephen Granger, Evelina MacEachern, and Bob McRoberts, turned out Wednesday evening to learn

Tsubouchi on the job

Aurora's new Integrity Commissioner is now on the job. Council voted 4-3 last Tuesday to authorize Mayor Phyllis Morris to sign a finalized agreement with former Ontario Provincial Cabinet Minister David Tsubouchi, whose appointment as Integrity Commissioner was approved earlier this year. Councillors Evelyn Buck, Alison Collins-Mrakas, and Bob McRoberts voted against the motion. Councillors Al Wilson and Wendy Gaertner were absent. Mr. Tsubouchi's one-year term began as soon as the signatures were on the paper and Mayor Morris signed the agreement the following day. According to the memo released by Aurora Chief Administrative Officer Neil Garbe, the cost of the Integrity Commissioner will depend on usage.

about the advantages and disadvantages of Aurora adopting a ward council system. The public meeting, also attended by mayoral candidates Roger Clowater and Nigel Kean, was the first step in a three-step public consultation process which could lead to the question of adopting a ward system appearing on the October 25 ballot. Before the presentation led by Town Clerk John Leach got underway, the lack of chairs in the room seemed to indicate to some attendees a lack of interest in the question. "We don't get a lot of people

Please see page 14

Town continues link

Aurora's controversial proposed link to the Newmarket end of the Nokiidaa Trail system was formally approved last Tuesday after several months of public consultation and contentious public debate. Final approval for the trail link and the proposed accompanying Hadley Grange Nature Reserve is contingent on another report coming back to council with the final price tag, which is currently pegged at \$771,766. The final cost, in turn, is contingent on an application by the Town of Aurora to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority for two-thirds funding to go towards the "non-trail related ecological enhancements."

According to a memo sent to Mayor Phyllis Morris and councillors by Aurora's Chief Administrative Officer Neil Garbe, "these ecological enhancements represent approximately \$389,013 of the total \$771,766 estimate. The Lake Simcoe Clean Up Fund could potentially contribute \$259,342. There is an application deadline of April 1, 2010 to be considered for this funding."

Please see page 12

Vandals steal planter

Vandals once again hit Aurora's Lasair Laser and Aesthetics Salon on Yonge Street near Kennedy Street Tuesday night, according to office manager Sarah Mercedes Saracino. "It took place on Tuesday evening at some point," said Ms. Saracino. "[Vandals] came and stole one of our planters out front and left a bunch of beer bottles in the back. We just put out new planters for the Easter season literally Tuesday during the day and they left one planter but stole the other!" It is not the first time vandals have targeted the establishment, said Ms. Saracino, with incidents beginning two or three months ago. "We have had a problem with young children knocking on our doors, some of the kids from high school throwing eggs at our windows," she explained. "We're a big business on Yonge Street and we try to make ourselves look nice and revitalize Aurora." The business was also broken into last summer during a power outage, she said. Ms. Saracino said burglars stole cash, products, "and a very expensive laser hand piece." Police, she said, told Lasair staff that 15 other businesses were hit at the time. Ms. Saracino said she filed an online police report, "as that is all the police said we could do." She had not had any update on the case by press time.

Briefly

Wanna plant?

The Aurora Community Arboretum is looking for volunteers to work and/or plant this month and next. They need help on Wednesdays from 2 to 5 p.m., April 21st and 28th; and May 5 and 12. They also need help Saturdays from 9.30 a.m. to noon April 24, May 1, and May 8. A Community Planting Day is set for May 15th beginning at 10 a.m. For more information, visit <http://www.auroraarboretum.ca/> or if you can help e-mail membersandvolunteers@auroraarboretum.ca.

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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

Currently on display at the Colleen Abbott Gallery, located on the second floor of the Aurora Public Library, is an exhibit of paintings by Aurora's Philippa Hajdu. The paintings are selections from the artist's self-portrait series and her novel series inspired by the works of James Lee Burke and Janet Evanovitch. This exhibit will run through May 30.

A selection of landscape works from the collection of Albert Chiarandini will be on display at the Aurora Cultural Centre starting Saturday, April 10th. Chiarandini, born in Udine, Italy, in 1915 was a prolific painter until his death in December 2007. The display will continue until May 1

Alateen meets every Sunday at 8 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, corner of Victoria and Mosley Streets. Al-Anon meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Aurora United Church on Yonge Street. For more information go to al-anon.alateen.on.ca.

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North in Aurora. Visitors are welcome for only \$2. For more information call Ray at 905-727-6168. On May 26th, Master Gardener from Brantford, Nancy Lee-Colibaba, will speak on Gardening for Health.

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 barbershop 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 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 homemade 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 Children's Chorus welcomes treble voices. It is a choir dedicated to nurturing and providing opportunities for children to express their musical abilities. The chorus is open to boys and girls ages 5-17. Contact the general director at 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, 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.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

Amnesty International meets at Trinity Anglican Church in the Rectory (house east of parking lot), 79 Victoria St., at 7.30 p.m. New members are welcome. For more information, call 905-713-6713.

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. A \$10 minimum donation is required 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.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

Once again the Newmarket Parents of Multiple Births Association (POMBA) will hold their spring/summer gently used clothing, equipment and toy sale today. The sale will be held at 185 Industrial Parkway North beginning in the morning at 10 a.m. and continuing until 1 p.m. The sale will also include a "For Sale By Owner" Board where members will be selling cribs, car seats, furniture and other large items that are too large to bring to the sale. For more information for the cash only sale visit www.newmarketpomba.ca, or contact sale coordinator dyan.oliver@sympatico.ca.

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

Guest speaker at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Aurora is Shama Mall, talking about the work of Christian churches to promote food security and education in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The speaker is in Canada for meetings with Presbyterian World Service and Development and is deputy director of Church World Service Pakistan/Afghanistan. Worship service begins at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

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.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

Aurora Nursery School Family Fun Day, on today, consists of children's entertainment (Lenny Graf as seen on TV Treehouse), children's activities such as face painting, vendors, refreshments, a silent auction, raffle and door prizes. The event is a "Family Fun-d-raiser" for the oldest not-for-profit co-operative nursery school in Aurora and will take place at the Aurora Lions Hall from 2 to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under the age of 10. For more information and tickets please Nicole at 905-395-2879 or email auroranursery@gmail.com.

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Terre Neuve

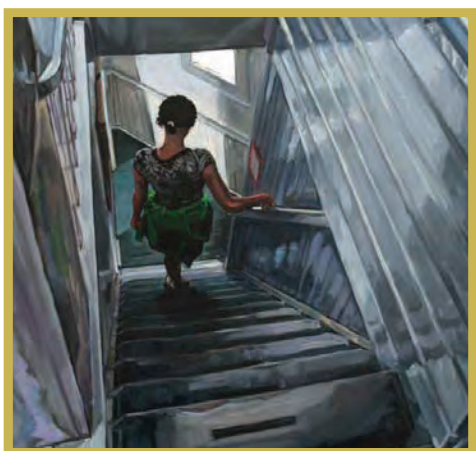
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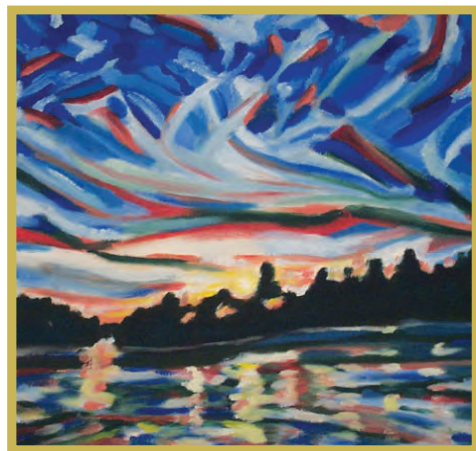
REBECCA LAST



CHRISTINE MONTAGUE



ANNE-MARIE OLCZAK



CHRISTINA KERR



MARY ELLEN FARROW



GORDON AULD



REBECCA LAST
Our feature artist will be on hand to speak about her very powerful and evocative

work. A Canadian Contemporary Artist whose most recent body of paintings was developed over 8 years. Rebecca takes the west-facing view from her studio window across Rice Lake in the Northumberland Hills as a starting point to explore contemporary issues of place, the relevance of landscape painting and its meaning in a time of great concern and uncertainty about climate.



CHRISTINE MONTAGUE
Christine paints beautiful, realistic oil paintings celebrating

youth, summer and the Canadian landscape.

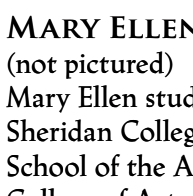


ANNE-MARIE OLCZAK
Anne-Marie is a Toronto-based artist presenting a series of miniature

multimedia abstract landscape triptychs.



CHRISTINA KERR
Christina creates encaustic abstract imagery of landscapes and trees, capturing the beauty and harshness of the elements.



MARY ELLEN FARROW
(not pictured)
Mary Ellen studied sculpture at Sheridan College, Haliburton School of the Arts, The Ontario College of Art and Design and the Mississauga Sculpture Studio.

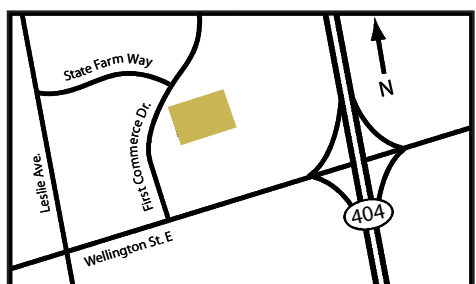
GORDON AULD
(not pictured)

These works began as a simple attempt to describe the narrative and images that are and have always been in my head. I think as the work progressed it became more of a comment on my own escapist tendencies. This is what spawned the name "Places to run to and things to run from". The drawings became contained in the middle of the page and the content became castles and armored fortresses that can float away from everything.

- Gordon J.L. Auld

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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

The Auroran hits big time

The Auroran and its owner hit the big time last week in the Ontario Legislature when Newmarket-Aurora Member of the Provincial Parliament Frank Klees got into a discussion about free mailings, better known, ironically, as free franking.

Here's how Hansard (the traditional name for the printed transcripts of parliamentary debates) heard it April 1:

Mr. David Ramsay: I move that, in the opinion of this House, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario calls upon the federal minister of transport to issue a directive to the Canada Post Corp. to amend the consumers' choice program to allow the delivery of unaddressed mail sent by provincial members of Parliament and municipal councillors, as is the case with federal members of Parliament.

Mr. Frank Klees: I was speaking with my colleague here, wondering how the member from Timiskaming-Cochrane could fill 12 minutes, speaking to this profound resolution, but I do want to thank him for bringing it forward.

I must admit I struggled, when I first saw it, with what it meant and what the intention was. I wasn't even aware that in fact there was a difference between provincial and municipal unaddressed mail and federal mail.

Knowing Minister Baird as I do, I couldn't for one minute accuse him of doing this intentionally, of leaving out the provincial Legislatures or the municipal-because if he had done that intentionally, I think he would have gone the distance to, say, just allow Conservative MPs' unaddressed mail to go through. We know that's not in the nature of Minister Baird.

I'm sure that, should this House agree to pass this resolution, when he gets the letter from Mr. Ramsay his reaction will probably be similar to mine: "I can't believe that this is actually happening." He'll waste no time whatsoever. He'll send the directive and Mr. Ramsay will be getting all of his unaddressed mail that he so enjoys reading.

In all seriousness, I think this is very similar to the rights that we have as individuals who seek public office. During a writ period, we often will come up against a condominium or an apartment building, and of course, it says no soliciting. None of us would put ourselves into the category of a solicitor. In fact, I got a standing ovation in my first public meeting when I was asked back in 1995, "Are you a lawyer?" and I said no. I got a standing ovation. The last thing we want to be accused of is being just mere solicitors. Of course, we know that because it's an important message that we're carrying as public servants, that's the reason that we are then given access to apartments-and we know we're not soliciting; we're actually bringing the good news of what it is the Progressive Conservative Party is going to do for the people of this province-or, those of you who think that there is good news that maybe the NDP or the Liberal Party would bring forward, it's a matter of public service.

I really do think that in terms of the importance of getting the message out-especially today. Many, many years ago, you could communicate very effectively, for example, in a newspaper. I know some of my colleagues still have the privilege of having a regular column in small community newspapers. They don't have to pay for that. In fact, the newspaper welcomes that, it's printed on a regular basis and it's a way for members to get their message out. In the urban areas, that's something that isn't available to us in the same way.

I'm very fortunate in Newmarket-Aurora. I represent the municipality of Newmarket as well as the municipality of Aurora. Aurora has a weekly newspaper called the Auroran. Its owner, publisher and editor is a friend-he has been for many years-by the name of Ron Wallace. Ron Wallace ran a headline when I first sought the nomination for what was then the York-Mackenzie riding. Ron found out that this guy, Frank Klees, was running for the nomination, so the headline in the paper that he was associated with at the time was, "Frank Who?" He went on to say, "Who is this guy to think that he would actually win a nomination in this riding? No one really knows who he is. He doesn't have any political experience." He went on to basically tear me to shreds. How wrong he was.

It was actually that column that gave me my start in politics, because people said, "Frank who?" And from that point on, when people asked who I was, I just said Frank Who.

Mr. Jeff Leal: The next line: "Frank, that's who."

Mr. Frank Klees: Frank, that's who.

Here's the point: My good friend Ron, being the responsible editor and publisher that he is, actually does invite me to write columns-they are important public service columns; the other newspaper in my riding doesn't. In fact, for the exercise I just went through this. I took the same column and I asked my staff to find out how much it would cost me to run the same column in the Newmarket Era Banner, because they won't take it as a free column. The response was \$1,500 for one edition. So there's something else. I mean, I can't afford to pay \$1,500 to run one column. I think if my constituents found out that that's how I was spending my communications budget, which is tax dollars, they wouldn't think that that is a good use of that money.

So I have to rely on The Auroran to get that message out, and I'm grateful to Ron Wallace at The Auroran for the opportunity that they give me to communicate important messages about what's happening in the Legislature that is of public interest. Again, I think, to Mr. Ramsay's point, these flyers that we put out, or these direct mail pieces that we put out that we use to get important information about what is happening in the Legislature, they're one of the ways that we have of reaching out to the more than 100,000 residents that we have in our various ridings. I think this is simply common sense.

It's a good measure, and I wish you good luck with Minister Baird. As I said, knowing him, knowing his sense of what is right and his support for democracy, he will respond immediately.



For years on end, Scanlon Bakery was a household word in Aurora, and thanks to the discovery of the container (bottom photo) the name lives on. The container was found supporting a display at the Aurora Farmers' Market by David Heard, who immediately bought it. It will join a collection of materials Mr. Heard owns which reflect the history of Aurora. Scanlon's, they were located in a now demolished 1850s frame building which was clad in brick in 1926, on Yonge Street, next to the old post office. Richard Scanlon opened the bakery in 1886, and by 1939, Scanlon's had eight branch stores. According to an out-of-print book on Aurora written by John McIntyre "anyone who knew Aurora at all, knew Scanlon's and its fine breads, cakes, pies, tarts, and pastries". The delivery fleet (top photo) included a horse-drawn wagon for local deliveries. The fleet was required to keep the Scanlon branches and customers supplied. In 1970, the Scanlon name disappeared and the bakery's new owners decided to make only butter tarts. You would know them as "Granny's Tarts".

Letter to the Editor

Moraine proposal requires experts

To the editor,

I am very concerned about a recent appeal to the Divisional Court regarding a proposed development on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The development calls for 75 clustered homes and an 18-hole golf course. (There are now 17 golf courses within an 8 km radius in this area.)

The Town of Aurora rejected the plan and the developer, Westhill Redevelopment, took it to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

There, the Town's lawyer and a resident group's lawyer requested a joint hearing with the Environmental Review Tribunal (ERT) and the OMB denied the request.

The lawyers appealed to the Divisional Court.

Joint hearings are held to eliminate a multiplicity of hearings before different tribunals under various acts on matters relating to the same undertaking.

In this case, a number of environmental issues need to be addressed, along with water-taking permits.

The OMB typically looks at land use planning issues

such as official plans, zoning bylaws, plans of subdivision or minor variances.

The ERT hears applications and appeals under the Clean Water Act, 2006, the Environmental Protection Act, and the Ontario Water Resources Act, to name a few.

Any future development on the Moraine needs to be examined by experts who have the knowledge to analyze intricate hydrological functions and the Environmental Review Tribunal is that body.

Given the specific criteria for triggering a consolidated hearing, I believe the Westhill case meets all the necessary requirements for a joint board.

A development permit appeal under the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan should automatically trigger the convening of a joint board of the ERT and the OMB to hear the matter.

Planning decisions made under the ORMCP are of public importance and affect Ontario's citizens both on and off the moraine.

**Susan Jones
Aurora**

THE AURORAN

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Two weeks ago, more than 200 of Steve Hinder's friends and family gathered at the Manor at Carrying Place Golf and Country Club to honour Steve for his "Lifetime of Excellence in Community Service".

I was hoping to be in attendance, but unfortunately, work travel commitments kept me away.

As I read in last week's edition of The Auroran, Steve commented in his remarks to the crowd that "What a cool opportunity to have all these people in one room, all these people who mean a lot to me in my life and here I am at the front of the room and it's not my funeral! That doesn't happen often!"

I arrived back in town to attend another event - and a sad one at that - the funeral of Marten Mol.

Marten was a long time resident of Aurora and a pillar of this community.

He was a successful businessman, and as published last week in The Auroran, he was "a Leader in the Dutch community, and knighted by Queen Beatrix for his work with Dutch Canadian organizations".

He was also a prolific letter writer to the Auroran. I always enjoyed reading his letters; they were uplifting, had a spiritual element and were always positive - just like the man.

I did not know Marten very well, but we did serve together a number of years ago on the local Progressive Conservative Party Riding Association Board and we would always have a quick chat when we would see each other at various community events.

The funeral took place at the Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Newmarket and it was packed.

His three children took to the podium to pay tribute to their father.

They all spoke so eloquently and I am not ashamed to admit that at various times through their reminiscing I wiped away a few tears.

Their speeches also contained some very humorous lines, including one of Marten's daughters telling us about her father cutting the lawn in his suit.

I was also amazed to learn more about the depth and breadth and success of his business career and the fact that he sat on 19 different community boards and that he even found time to co-author a book.

As I sat in the pew that Saturday it made me recall another community activist who passed away recently.

Ian Munro died in December.

I also knew Ian from our time together on the local Provincial Progressive Conservative Board.

Steve, Marten, and Ian

He was a professional engineer by training, a former president of a local ratepayers association, and he was a volunteer on the Ontario Power Authority's Working Group examining the energy options in our community.

We have so many wonderful people around us and it seems we really don't get a chance to know them well.

Although I served with both Marten and Ian on political associations, it was not until I attended their funerals that I really understood what remarkable men they were.

And, unlike the case with Steve Hinder two weeks ago, we didn't get a chance to say thank you while they were still with us.

It would be nice to see a regular feature in this paper called "Community Spotlight" - which would highlight someone from one of the numerous organizations in Aurora.

It could profile someone involved in the church, a not-for-profit entity, a sporting organization - what have you. Above the brief story could be a picture of the individual.

Our community is a better place to live because of the involvement of Steve, Marten and Ian.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Heard About Town

By David Heard

I have enjoyed immensely drafting this column and I think the week off allows me to reflect on ideas and decide if anyone will benefit in some small way.

If we each only help one our job is done, I say.

I have been enveloped in that principal for three years especially with volunteering and awareness of bullying and violence.

That young man I have been interviewing on these issues has come a long way. I am very proud of him and yet there is more he has to accomplish.

A challenge when you reflect on what happened after he was instructed to leave the school bus.

He was a teenager but only five feet five and all of 80 pounds. Head down, shoulders rolled, he walked two miles from summer school to the bus depot. His head hung in shame from being removed from the school bus.

Not a call came from the principal to chastise his actions and hopefully get him back on the bus.

Unfamiliar with the local transit and too ashamed to admit responsibility in part he just walked and walked in the summer sun and rode the public transit bus home.

Not a call came to his parents from the school or his courage to fess up to the events that banished him from the bus. Communication had come to a silent halt.

For three days he got up early and made his way to school on his own. The fourth day he was finally called to the office and scolded firmly and told to apologize to the driver.

He did and returned to the safety of the school bus but it was too late.

That same morning he arrived at class late and fell

asleep at his desk from the exhaustion after arriving home at almost 2 a.m. His father was furious and sent him to bed and woke him in the morning to discuss the disrespectful arrival.

The young man was too ashamed to tell the truth as the shame kept him from home.

He did, however, tell his father he was kicked off the bus. He did not dare tell his parents about the blue car that followed him on the way home. The car with the casually dressed man without horns or claws who offered a ride that the young man declined.

The car followed him a few more feet and questioned his destination.

He again declined and kept walking as the man persisted and convinced the young man of it being too far to walk and that he wanted to help.

After three days walking this distance with his head down the young man was probably easy to spot as tired and vulnerable.

The driver of the blue car was an expert hunter and he had spotted his prey. The trap snapped shut when the young man foolishly trusted a stranger.

He never made his destination.

I will spare you the ugly details of what became an abduction but having a knife held to your throat and abdomen may take decades to recover from.

It does for far too many.

This was not about anything other than control and degradation.

The young man remembers the items the man had in his

The journey continues

car and this told him it was not a random act. The man had it planned extensively right down to the secluded location of the crime.

Someone or something helped save his life that day. A strength and spirit. The young man given the window of opportunity fought back and escaped, but not with his dignity.

That would come back slowly and the courage to write it.

In an unconnected case in Newmarket around 1980 a man pleaded guilty to some horrific assaults on children. He received a two-year sentence.

Thirty years later the young man's sentence appears to be coming to a level of closure. Two years versus 30. You do the math.

Something does not add up and still does not today.

What does add up to value is the choice the young man has made in the present.

Vengeance, spite and hate are not the answer and looking forward to the future is the road to success.

Looking back only with awareness but not grief, shame, or anger.

The cycle of violence has been broken and he will not carry the torch the evil ones passed to him.

I am proud I spoke up, or wrote up.

The interview was quite a reflection.

I believe open communication will help one child or fix one broken adult.

David Heard can be reached by email at:
astepintimeaurora@yahoo.com

Letters to the Editor

Provincial government owes me 60 bucks for broken Premier promise

To the editor,

Back on February 8th of this year, I wrote an email to the Minister of Ontario Health Deborah Matthews regarding OHIP coverage for PSA tests for Ontario men over the age of 50.

I thought this worth sharing with The Auroran readers:

Dear Ms. Matthews,
I am writing to you today to ask a simple question.

Firstly, during the election campaign for the 2007 provincial election, Dalton McGuinty promised the people of Ontario that OHIP coverage for the cost of PSA testing of ALL men over 50 would happen. From my understanding, this coverage was to commence on January 1st, 2009.

As of writing this e-mail, if a doctor has reason to suspect that a patient may have prostate cancer, the test can be ordered free of charge.

It is not, however, covered as part of a routine examination.

So why are the costs of this so important test NOT covered by OHIP?

Ms. Matthews, I believe that your leader, my Premier, has out and out lied to the voters of Ontario. With the current setup, the Ministry of Health would much rather NOT pay for any male over the age of 50 at a yearly rate of approximately \$30 per patient to have early detection of prostate cancer, and endanger them much more by having them possibly miss that early detection.

There are many men in this province who cannot afford the cost of a simple PSA test.

But guess what? Once that individual ends up getting prostate cancer, then the OHIP department is paying out huge

Fight election on the issues, reader says

To the editor,

At the Wednesday meeting on the ward system, the information from the town web site was restated and a tight timeline outlined.

I am waiting to hear at least two people who can speak so passionately about the benefits of the ward system that a hundred others will rush to sign a petition supporting it.

In the absence of that, momentum will keep us embracing the devil we know rather than risk change.

Therefore, I suggest that council (and the rest of us) concentrate on issues, over which, the October election should be fought.

Gordon Barnes
Aurora

coin to hospitalize and treat this individual.

Don't you think, as Minister of Health, that "an ounce of prevention" is far less costly than a "pound of cure"?

Do you not perform regular preventative maintenance on your personal vehicle?

The same should go for the men over 50 in Ontario.

I am a retired individual over the age of 50, who, at the request of my family doctor, has the PSA test done each year.

It only takes a few moments but the cost is on the patient.

With the Liberal government "boasting" about job creation, here's a great way for the government to step up to the plate and hit a homerun.

Just think of all the additional Medical Labs and lab technicians that would be required should Queen's Park do the correct thing and cover the costs for these PSA tests.

Since this "coverage" that was supposed to have started over a year ago, I have had two PSA tests performed, each at the cost of \$30 each to me.

This means that Queen's Park owes me \$60!

Thank the Lord that each test has come back negative.

But once July 1st arrives, I suspect that the cost of a PSA test will go up with the introduction of the HST.

I have written to the Premier directly some time ago about this very problem.

At the time, I was NOT aware of his election promise to implement OHIP coverage for PSA tests on men over the age of 50.

It only took his office three months to respond to my letter, and even then, it was more a letter of political double talk than anything.

I certainly hope that you don't take as long in answering me.

In closing, I am asking you, on behalf of all Ontario men over the age of 50, to do what was promised going into the 2007 election and implement OHIP coverage for PSA testing.

Kindest regards,
Mark Holmes
Aurora, Ontario

P.S. I "cc"ed this to a number of MPPs. Each of you are welcome to email me back with any comments.

As of sending this letter to The Auroran, I have had two responses from a possible 10, those coming from our local MPP Frank Klees and the Leader of the Ontario NDP, Andrea Horvath.

No response from any other of our "caring" elected officials. Hmmmmmm?

On a closing note, the Ontario Liberal Party doesn't seem to think that testing Ontario men over the age of 50 for early detection of prostate cancer is that much of a big deal to spring for the \$30 yearly test, even after the Premier promised this to the voters, BUT they consider a sex change operation a priority and cover that 100 per cent by OHIP.

Mark Holmes
Aurora

More letters
pages 8 & 9



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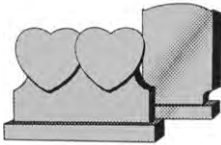
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Clear out the attic, closet or garage! We are looking for community donations of new and used goods for the sale. Donation drop off period will run from Monday April 19 until Friday April 23 between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm in the Dr. G. W. Williams front foyer. (We are asking for only working or operational items and no clothing). Proceeds from the event will benefit charity.

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Letter to the Editor

Mayor, letter writer exchange e-mails

ED. NOTE: As a follow-up to a letter which appeared in The Auroran recently, conversations between the town's mayor and the letter writer have been ongoing through e-mails. Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris responds:

Thank you for forwarding to the Town a copy of your letter -- which was submitted for publication to the editor of one of the local papers about the Town's decision to recognize two hard working volunteers with a stone marker and plaque on St. John's Sideroad near the McKenzie Wetlands.

I understand that in response to your letter - on Friday you received a call and had a discussion with Councillor Evelina MacEachern (who was the council member who introduced the idea of recognizing the hard work and volunteer efforts of both Ildi and Ben from when the road was being reconstructed).

I agree with Councillor MacEachern's comments which I believed she also shared with you - that, if it is acceptable to the McKenzie Family - the Town would certainly be in a position to consider how best to recognize their contribution too with regards to the marsh and ponds -- but like Councillor MacEachern I and others have over many years been led to believe for that the McKenzie family wished to keep a low profile and did not want any further recognition.

If that is not the case - we can and would be pleased to re-address a way to recognize all that they have done for the McKenzie wetlands

I understand Councillor MacEachern also explained to you that the \$15,000 funds (raised by PARKS) remains securely deposited and under the financial control of the Town's

Financial Dept. Linda, it is regretful that a genuine attempt by Councillor MacEachern and the Town to show our respect by placing a stone marker/plaque as recognition may be seen in any way as slighting other equally deserving individuals - but I can absolutely vouch for that not being the intention behind the recognition.

Of note, the actual stone marker is a similar recognition marker as used for others in Town.

As a matter of fact at the time council were voting to endorse the idea of the stone marker, one Councillor, Evelyn Buck suggested a more significant type of recognition such as a "statue" might be considered/explored.

That idea was not pursued and council instead chose to stay with what Councillor MacEachern and staff had reviewed/recommended and voted to support the exact same type and standard of recognition as had been used previously for others - a stone marker with an engraved plaque.

We do hope that the explanations offered to you have addressed your con-

cerns and once again if the McKenzie family whose name graces the area - would like to be further recognized with a marker explaining the connection and their contributions we would be pleased to commence discussions with the aim of finding an appropriate way to do so

Thank you for raising your concerns and for your ongoing interest in Aurora.

**Mayor Phyllis M. Morris
Aurora**

Dear Mayor Phyllis Morris:

Thank you for your e-mail.

Yes, I spoke at length with Councillor Evelina MacEachern, when she phoned me. I appreciated the call. She did clarify that the marker was to be a stone with a plaque, not a bust of the person to be honoured.

We also spoke of the money raised under the 'Save the McKenzie Marsh' banner; and I stressed that none of that money ever went to the McKenzie Marsh.

Evelina said that the money was now in trust to

purchase trees for a park.

The McKenzie family is not looking for a marker for themselves. It was a private project to protect the birds, animals, etc., that local people could enjoy as they passed by.

It is fine to honour local people for their contributions, but please place the marker for Ben and Ildi somewhere else other than at the site of the McKenzie Marsh.

Councillor MacEachern indicated that council wanted to put the proposed marker on the boardwalk in front of the McKenzie Marsh.

I respectfully request that council reconsider where they will put the marker.

At the very least, if you can't think of another environmentally significant area, then put it at one end of the boardwalk or on the proposed walking trail.

I strongly believe that it does not belong at the front of the McKenzie Marsh... Gord and Heather McKenzie developed this area on their own.

**Linda Napier
Scarborough**

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SUN SCARE

Source: real magazine
Sunscreen manufacturers today would like you to look at their product the way you look at toothpaste...as a daily-use product you turn to without even thinking. And, in fact, we – women in particular – are doing just that. There's a sunscreen in your hand and body lotion, your lip balm, your lip gloss, your powder and liquid makeup, it's even in shampoos and conditioners. It's enough to make your head spin.

But, is it really necessary? It's an interesting issue. After all, nature doesn't call for us to wear sunscreen 365 days a year in every climate. Humans are supposed to get some sun exposure to be healthy...a reality acknowledged in 2006 by both the American Cancer Society and the Canadian Cancer Society.

For much of the year in most climates, sunburn isn't a possibility.

So why are we using so much sunscreen?

TWISTING THE SPIN
It wasn't always this way. Twenty years ago, sunscreen – still called suntan lotion by its manufacturers and users – was marked correctly as a product designed to prevent sunburn and nothing else.

Times have changed. Suntan lotion is a term long since forgotten and "sun block" today is marketed as a product designed to prevent any and all exposure to sunlight.

Why has the sunburn prevention message been twisted from teaching moderate sun exposure to preaching total, all-out sun avoidance?

SHOW ME THE MONEY
Teaching total sun avoidance sells more sunscreens – a lot more, in fact. It has transformed a market that once was a pharmaceutical afterthought into what stands today as an enormous profit centre.

Look closely and you'll see that sunscreen has become an enormous multi-billion dollar business controlled by giant pharmaceutical companies.

CONSIDER:
*\$9 billion pharmaceutical giant Schering-Plough (Coppertone) reported sun care related sales of \$204 million in 2005, up 16 percent from 2004 and up 40 percent from 2003, making this division one of Schering-Plough's best performers by percentage growth.

*\$50 billion Johnson and Johnson's consumer products unit – which markets sun care products like Neutrogena and Aveeno, is one of the pharmaceutical giant's most profitable divisions, with increased sales of \$2.36 billion in the first quarter of 2006 alone. Neutrogena's marketing uses some of the most aggressive sun scare tactics of any sunscreen company, calling for daily use of SPF 30 for everyone.

Now, consider that suntan lotion in the early 1980's was perhaps a \$35 million market for all companies. In contrast, "sun block" related skin care products and services today have boomed into a \$35 billion market.

Bottom Line: "Sun Scare" – teaching total fear of the sun instead of sunburn prevention – is a huge multi-billion dollar business run by even larger \$35 billion cosmeceutical corporations.

Money like that makes it easy to forget how to be real when it comes to sunscreens.

My Thoughts
Sunlight is the essence to life. It produces 90% of the vitamin D required by our bodies. It is natural, pure and chemical-free. It is essential for our bone production, prevention and control of many cancers, skin conditions and many other illnesses, yet the majority of us are vitamin D deficient.

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Question: Why the sun scare? Is it the almighty dollar?

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Banks interest rate shake-up
Four big banks have increased their posted rates on fixed mortgages, signalling the start of an upward move on record-low interest rates. Many non-banks have already followed, prompting a surge in requests from variable-rate clients to lock into fixed rates.

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Land lovely, but can't use it for 10 years

To the editor,

I worked with a person on the Social Assistance Review Board.

Members spent a lot of time on the road driving to and from hearings.

With nothing to do but talk, we learned a lot about each others' lives.

The member's family was down-sizing from a multi-million-dollar mansion in Monarch Park to a condo in Rosedale.

The place was so big, the teen-age son's girlfriend was living with him for months before his mother knew there was another person in the house.

They had a condo in Spain and a farm in the Caledon Hills.

My colleague used phrases like "marvelous, darling" and "simply divine".

But she was a nice person and had her share of troubles.

Their lifestyle was changing. In the move, a lot of stuff had to be unloaded.

Place settings for 100 dinner guests, for example; crystal, sterling flatware, fine china.

It was being appraised for transfer of ownership to the feds for use, possibly in the Governor General's house, in consideration of tax relief in the amount of its full value.

I had read about storage vaults for hundreds of valuable art pieces owned by the government.

It has occurred to me that's probably how they came by that treasure.

It has also occurred to me, if the stuff isn't needed, it costs money to store and maintain, why don't they just down-load that to bring down the deficit.

We are seeing a bit of that here.

Susan Walmer was at Council in Committee a couple of weeks ago telling us how wonderfully fortunate we are to have 39 acres of environmentally sensitive land transferred to the Oak Ridges Moraine Trust and commending council for the agreement we have made for the privilege of maintaining and paying the tax arrears on the property.

The Oak Ridges Moraine Trust had a celebratory event to mark the transfer of ownership at the beginning of the term. The land is out there on Leslie Street. Not of much use for current recreation purposes.

At council last week, Ms Walmer was back again to fill in a few details she had left out the week before when no cameras were present.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern felt it would be useful to provide more for the benefit of people watching at home. The mayor added a bit as well.

It's funny how the cameras are a good thing when they want to convey information.

When I state a preference for debate with cameras present, the mayor deems that to be a "modus operandi".

So, we did acquire more information. We learned when the land title was transferred in

consideration of tax relief to its full appraised value, there was a condition.

No public access to the property for a period of 10 years.

Essentially, the owners received full value of the land and continued to enjoy privacy of ownership for a further 10 years.

The 39 acres is part of a parcel. The rest will be developed in time as residential.

Being environmentally sensitive, the piece may very well have been designated to the municipality as alternative to development.

Ownership and stewardship would have been ours. The town would determine its use. It would have become a town asset.

As it is, the Oak Ridges Moraine Trust Executive Director Susan Walmer, has ownership.

They decide its use. By a "marvelous, darling" agreement, we get to pay tax arrears and costs to maintain the property.

Further, we have not for the past four years, and will not for another six, even get to go for a walk in the woods in that 39 acres of "simply divine" environ-

mentally sensitive woodland.

Councillor MacEachern and the mayor both feel that's cheap at the price.

The mayor says there's a financial advantage of \$85k to

the town but wasn't able to explain how the figure is calculated.

Evelyn Buck
Aurora



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The quiet Sunday afternoon of married couple Brian and Mary (Jeff Naworynski and Colleen Simm - centre) is interrupted by the unexpected arrival of Mary's old flame Peter (Mark Rival - right) and actress Tori (Emily MacMillan - left) in Theatre Aurora's production of "Remember Me?", now playing at the Factory Theatre.

Theatre saves the best for last

With "Remember Me?", its final play of the 2009/10 season, Theatre Aurora has saved its best for last.

Set in a New York apartment, it spans one Sunday in the lives of a married couple with grown children.

Their lives are predictable and their marriage is comfortable.

That is, until the unexpected arrival of the wife's old flame.

Not all that he appears, he manages to stir up their quiet world, causing equal parts chaos and comedy.

Award-winning playwright Sam Bobrick wrote a number of television scripts in the 60s, and his play runs a lot like an extended two-part show, with quick pacing, snappy one-liners, and scene-ending cliff-hangers.

Director Shawn Rocheleau has assembled an excellent cast, starting with three-time Theatre Aurora veteran Colleen Simm, who is centre stage as Mary Hanson.

She is truly sympathetic as the woman whose calm and uneventful life takes an unexpected and exciting turn.

Jeff Naworynski, as her husband Brian, is perfectly cast as the husband trying to understand an understandable situation.

His eventual and ultimately disastrous efforts to make his wife jealous by hiring a young actress to play his fantasy, provide an additional comic element, thanks to the wonderful performance of newcomer Emily MacMillan.

Back for his sixth time in three years, Mark Rival as old flame Peter Lawrence, makes a welcome return, with excellent comic timing and the ability to make his presence felt even when he is a quiet observer to the

events taking place around him.

It was obvious that the audience at the preview show very much appreciated the story and message of the play, as well as the reactions of the characters on stage.

In fact, one of the drawbacks of this play is that it has so many good lines, and they are delivered so well by the cast, that the audience laughter sometimes covers up the lines that follow.

But that's one sign of an enjoyable play that will appeal to everyone, and Theatre Aurora's production of "Remember Me?" is certainly that.

Evening performances of Remember Me? continue at Theatre Aurora, 150 Henderson Drive, on April 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 and 17, with a matinee show April 11.

Tickets for all shows are available at the box office, 905-727-3669.

Aurora resident is guest speaker

Next Wednesday, April 14, the Aurora Probuc Club will have Aurora resident Blair Dawson as its guest speaker.

He will present one of his travelogues at the meeting, slated to be held at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North.

His plan is to present a power-point presentation on the province of Newfoundland.

The guest speaker's career has been as a wildlife biologist and he is the ultimate sportsman, participating in downhill skiing, hunting, fishing and tennis.

The event gets underway at 10 a.m.

For further information, call the program chairman Bob Staley at 905-727-5017.



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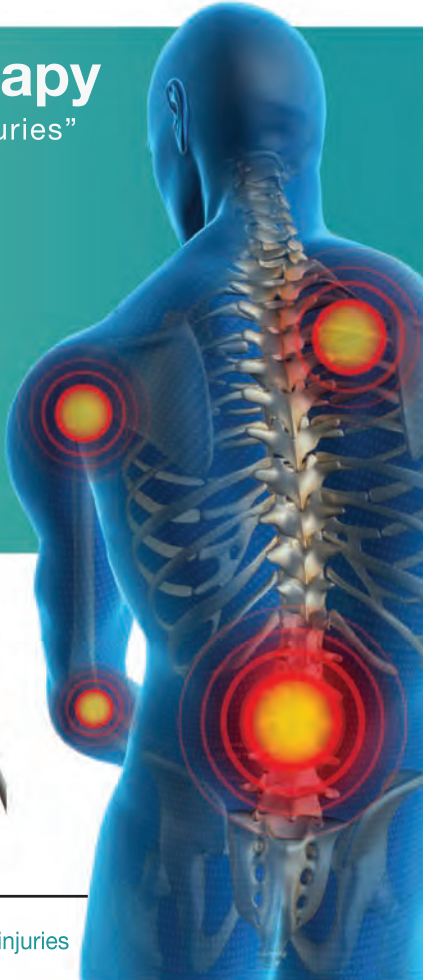
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House League

106 Pittsburgh Black Timbits 10 - Kyle Rame 2A, Matthew Cowl 1A, Harrison Bennett 3G 1A, Adriano Albanese 1A, Eric Wright 1G, Brandin Harris 1G, Zachary Grant 1A, Owen Papulkas 2G 1A, Logan Kidder 2G, Brett Pearce 1G 2A, Kate Collins 2A. **103 Toronto White Timbits 3** - Jake Piper 1G, Riley Klugerman 1G 1A, Christian Romas 1G, Thomas Raeburn 1A.

902 Boston Gold CW Coops 4. 904 Los Angeles Purple 3.

901 Florida Red Aurora Chrysler 2 - Joe Detoro 1G 1A, Alex Cackirovski 1G, Robert Bulgaretti 1A. **803 Toronto White Optimist Club of Aurora 1** - Andrew Martin 1G, Ryan St-Germain 1A, Peter Teti 1A.

905 St. Louis Blue 4. 906 Pittsburgh Black Ruff N Redi 1.

Rep League

Richmond Hill 1. Novice A Aurora Tigers 1 - Jason Gage 1G.

Oshawa 3. Novice A Aurora Tigers 2 - Blair Crabbe 1G, Matthew McConnell 1A, Adam Wloka 1G, Jeremy Gonsalves 1A, Andrew Park 1A.

Hespeler 2. Novice A Aurora Tigers 2 - Jeremy Gonsalves 1G, Andrew Park 1G 1A, Stefanie Baxter 2A, Adam Wloka 1A,

Novice AE Aurora Tigers 4 - Justin Harbaruk 3G, Owen Romano 1G, Connor Thomas 1A, Luke Catania 2A, Harris Goan 1A, Jack Patterson 1A. **Nwewmarket 2.**

Barrie Colts 6. Atom AA Aurora Tigers 2 - Jack Liotta 1G, Morgan Frost 1G.

Whitby 2. Minor Pee wee AE Aurora Tigers 0.

Minor Bantam A Aurora Tigers 6 - Paul Neophytou 3G, Liam Beresford 2G, Graham

Robinson 1G, Jake McKee 2A, James Johnston 1A, Connor Cowl 1A, Austin Persaud 1A, Zac Cowl 1A. **Lorne Park Ojibwa: 2**

Valley East Rebels 7, Minor Bantam A Aurora Tigers 4 - Connor Cowl 2G, Nathan Nealon 1G,1A, Jerryd Jensen 1G, James Johnston 1A, Tait Snedden 1A, Justin Pirie 1A, Evan Jackson 1A, Zac Cowl 1A, Paul Neophytou 1A,

Minor Bantam A Aurora Tigers 3 - Zac Cowl 1G 1A, Connor Cowl 1G, Nathan Nealon 1G, Jake McKee 1A, Liam Beresford 1A, Austin Persaud 1A, Jack Caldwell 1A. **Whitby Wildcats 1.**

Minor Bantam A Aurora Tigers 7. Connor Cowl 3G, Paul Neophytou 1G 2A, Jack Caldwell 1G 1A, Graham Robinson 1G, Tait Snedden 1G, Jerryd Jensen 2A, Robert Stokes 2A, James Johnston 1A, Jake McKee 1A, Liam Beresford 1A, Nathan Nealon 1A. **Cooksville Phantoms: 2**

Minor Bantam A Aurora Tigers 5 - Connor Cowl 3G, Paul Neophytou 3A, James Johnston 3A, Jack Caldwell 1G 1A, Graham Robinson 1G, Liam Beresford 1A. **Whitby 1.**

Valley East Rebels 2. Minor Bantam A Aurora Tigers 1 - Graham Robinson 1G, Liam Beresford 1A, Tait Snedden 1A.

Minor Bantam AE Aurora Tigers 6. Georgetown 3.

Minor Bantam AE Aurora Tigers 3 - Scott Kostin 1G, Mitch Anew 1G, Nathan Sinclair 1G, Ben Goldman 1A, Kyle Nice 1A, Kyle Strachan 1A. **Georgina 1.**

Bantam AA Aurora Tigers 0. Markham 0.

Bantam AA Aurora Tigers 1. Markham 0.

Welland 6, Bantam A Aurora Tigers 4. Eric Archibald 1G, Quincy Ing 1G 3A, Andrew McDonald 1G, Ryan Baskin 1G 2A, Hayden Trask 1A, Colton Lee 1A, Braden Casselden 1A.



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 9th. Please refer to our website 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:

- 1) You must reside in Aurora or reside in a right of choice area (refer to OMHA website for information on right of choice areas).
- 2) 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:

THURS APRIL 8

11AM – 3PM

SAT APRIL 10

10AM - 1PM

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.

Smith Memorial golf tournament ready to go

Planning for the first ever Rotarian Eric Smith Memorial Golf Tournament has begun. Eric, a long-time member of the Aurora Rotary Club, died last year and organizers felt it was important to name their annual golf tournament after him. The tourney this year will be played at Aurora's St. Andrew's Valley Golf Course, Tuesday, July 6, beginning at 1.30 in the afternoon.

"At least 20 groups of players will take off at that time in shotgun fashion," said Rotarian Ron Wallace who, along with Nigel Kean, will organize the event. Last year, the tournament was held at Westview Golf Club, but dinner was served at another location. "This year, everything happens at St. Andrew's," Wallace said. The price of playing has not increased either. It'll

still cost \$150 an entrant to play 18 holes of golf with an electric cart, and dinner, as well. The course is located just north of the St. John's Sideroad, west of Bayview. Anyone interested in playing in the tournament should call 905-713-9356 soon, since organizers believe the tournament will sell out early. In addition to the dinner, a silent auction will also be held.


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Here's another location to get rid of electronics

So you missed out last week when you had planned to get rid of all that electronic stuff that can't be thrown in the garbage, huh?

All is not lost, however. Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES) is making it easier for Aurorans to dispose of used electronics by launching the second phase of an ambitious recycling program.

Simply drop your stuff off at Staples, in the Aurora Shopping Centre and they will do the rest.

The goal of the program is to collect and divert waste electronics from landfill by making recycling easier for Aurorans.

A network of more than 500 approved collection

points across the province allows Ontarians to bring their used, broken or unwanted electronic equipment for responsible reuse or recycling and Aurora's Staples is one of them.

With new items being added to the list of accepted electronic waste, Aurorans can now safely recycle 44 electronic devices, such as MP3 players, cameras, telephones, VCR and DVD players and recorders and radios.

"Recycling and reusing even more electronic waste is good for our environment and our economy," said the Hon. John Gerretsen, Ontario Minister of the Environment. "It ensures that potentially hazardous

materials are kept out of our landfills, and it leads to new green jobs and investment in the recycling industry."

For the year starting April 1st, OES plans to collect more than 46,000 tons of unwanted electronics.

"Nearly four in five Ontario households (78 per cent) have at least one electronic product that is not working or not being used. This program makes recycling easier and encourages consumers and businesses to do what they can to help," said Carol Hochu, OES Executive Director. "The reason to participate is simple – it helps keep hazardous electronic equipment out of landfill, which leads to a greener, healthier environ-

ment."


In addition, the program recovers valuable resources such as precious and base metals. There is no better example than the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic medals which contain recycled metal from electronic waste.

Ontarians can now bring their used electronics to a variety of municipal, not-for-profit, retail and other types of depots and special event days. To find your nearest OES-approved collection site visit dowhatyoucan.ca and choose Electronics.

The electronic equipment recycling program is funded by fees paid to OES by manufacturers and importers of electronics in Ontario. Funds

are used exclusively to pay for collection, transportation, consolidation, and processing of waste electronics as well as research and consumer education programs to encourage greater electronic equipment recycling.

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Trail gets town approval

From page 1

Town staff propose that of the remaining \$512,424, 90 per cent be funded from development charges with the balance from cash-in-lieu at Parkland Reserve.

For Mayor Morris, as this project has been in the development stage for several years, it is high time for this project getting underway.

"I think the community is ready for us to say we approve this," said Mayor Morris.

While Councillor Evelyn Buck also expressed the sentiment that the trail extension was overdue, she balked at the increased price tag, which was just \$250,000 before the Hadley Grange Nature Reserve became part of the proposal.

"As far as I'm concerned, a quarter of a million dollars is sufficient to provide a link to the Newmarket section of the Nokiidaa Trail," she said.

Councillor Buck said it was her understanding that the town hired facilitators to explain to Hadley Grange residents the fine details of the Nokiidaa Trail link which would be built close to the residence and to address any resident concerns that arose.

"That was my understanding of what the facilitator was about; instead we come back with half a million dollars added to the tab and I'm not interested in voting for another dollar over the original \$250,000," she said. "I think it is long enough that we've waited for this piece of the trail. I think it will be extremely useful. I'm not content to wait any longer and I am not interested in spending \$500,000 more."

Mayor Morris was keen to stress, however, that the project has evolved from the original \$250,000 estimate to include the Nature Reserve.

"That evolved through public consultation," she said. "This is a different

plan but what is in there is the original plan, which is the trail connection. We knew it was going to be a costly project. We knew that we were going to get some money from the Region, but this is not a project that has escalated up. It is a different plan, a beautiful idea of an enhanced area and that is what council has to grapple with. It's whether you want to say if there are some funds out there and Lake Simcoe wants to partner with us, why would you say no to an enhanced plan?"

Town staffers plan on coming back to council with a further implementation plan before any work is done on the project, according to Al Downey, Director of Leisure Services.

"The conundrum here is do you want us to build an enhanced trail or not?" said Mr. Downey. "Then, if [you do], we will come back and figure out some funding models and some implementation plans with regards to going off and doing that."


The development of the Nokiidaa Trail and the Hadley Grange Nature Reserve has been a divisive issue in the community, with two public meetings with town appointed facilitators Ogilvie, Ogilvie and Company bringing together numerous concerned and passionate Aurorans to state their cases.

The trail extension, which is planned to run through the western edge

of the McKenzie wetlands on the north side of St. John's Sideroad near Yonge Street has been championed by trail enthusiasts for closing the trail gap, and by some naturalists who see this as an opportunity to bring people closer to nature.

Others have expressed their frustration with the project, believing that the McKenzie Wetlands and its ecosystems should be left alone with little to no human disruption.

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IN MEMORY OF

It is with joy that we reflect upon the life of Richard Illingworth. We cannot believe it has been one year. Your granddaughters wore their butterfly t-shirts on March 29th to remember you. Your beloved wife Dorothy Clark McClure, step-family Kelly, Chris, Andrew and wife Maria, granddaughters Megan, Kaya and Emma miss you very much and try to live life as fully, energetically and gracefully as you always did. Your spirit remains with us."

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Ward system draws few residents

From page 1

coming out to these types of public forums at this stage," said the Town's Carrie Eastwood to an audience member. "We really hope to, we really want to. The more interest the easier it is for us to get a better sense of, as you say a litmus test, to see what the public is feeling."

Mr. Leach's presentation began with a brief overview of the Town's previous flirtation with adopting a ward system.

The question was raised during the 2003 - 2006 council term, Mr. Leach noted, but after widespread consultation, "council determined at that time not to pursue a ward system and not put a question on the ballot."

Following introductory remarks, Mr. Leach continued his presentation citing a discussion paper released to council several weeks ago outlining the pros and cons of adopting a ward and merits of Aurora's current "at large" system.

Arguments in favour of ward elections included more councillors who are "more attentive/responsive to constituents", less costly to support, and widespread interests being represented at the council table.

Drawbacks ranged from a limited choice of candidates to electors, a greater likelihood of acclamations, and the fact it is not necessary for a councillor to live in their elected ward.

Things favouring Aurora's current at large system include requiring councillors to have a "broader community view", be more accountable to the entire electorate, and provide maximum choice to electors.

On the other hand, the discussion paper says at large elections result in greater campaign expenses for candidates (which "may deter potential candidates from running"), "[decrease] the ability of minority/'community of interest' candidates to get elected", and that particular areas might not have a specific voice at the council table.

At the end of Mr. Leach's discussion, two themes dominated the conversation: cost and implementation.

The first gentleman to speak inquired about the cost of preparing the ward system in Aurora, particularly the cost and possible requirement of retaining a consultant to get everything ready.

"It's not a requirement that a consultant be used," explained Mr. Leach. "I've done a number of ward studies for a number of municipalities over the last 35 years. Some municipalities do use consultants. In the

event that we do there is obviously a cost attached to that.

"I don't think that the cost would be prohibitive. Whether or not council opts to use a consultant should they decide to implement a ward system down the road that is certainly an option."

Although Mr. Kean asked for a bottom line number of how much the implementation of a ward system might cost, Mr. Leach was unable to provide exact numbers but said in his experience "it is not a costly move."

Others had concerns that if the public is being asked should the council explore the option of implementing a ward system, lack of detail on what this might entail specifically for Aurora may make it impossible to make an informed decision.

"At what point in this procedure do we find out how many wards and hence how many councillors are going to be on council under this system?" asked one man. "So I would be voting on a ward system, but I don't know whether it is going to be one ward, two wards, or eight wards?"

"You would be voting on council considering a process to determine what the wards would be and the process would be very public with ample opportunity for input which would factor in a council determining what those wards and the number of constituents per ward would be," said Mr. Leach. "That would be an unknown that would be determined in the next term."

The advantages and disadvantages presented by Mr. Leach did not sway Aurora resident Rebecca Beaton.

"I'm against [a ward system]," said Ms. Beaton. "This has not convinced me and I'm only one person obviously, but I feel we are a community and I feel it will be very divisive to do this and that is just my opinion."

"I take great pride in our community and it doesn't go from ward to ward, it goes from one end to the other. We're not a particularly large municipality either, so I have seen nothing this evening that would change my mind."

Another resident, Gordon Barnes, noted a lack of people in the room expressly in favour of implementing a ward system.

"I'm overwhelmed by the lack of passion of anybody here that says, 'Gee, I really want to have this' and in the absence of that I would predict it would fall with an absolute squashing thud unless somebody is really passionate about, 'This is something we really have to have and this is why'."

"If it doesn't happen we might as well go home."

Near the end of the meeting, Mayor Morris took the opportunity to explain council's reasoning to go with a three-step consultation process.

"We've decided to do a very open consultation process," she said. "You just don't want to throw a question on a ballot because there will be those who support it because they come from [another municipality with a ward system] and they understand it, there are those that really don't have an opinion on it and will go along with what is decided, and there are those who will just

adamantly oppose the idea.

"The other option, if it wasn't going on the municipal elections act, a referendum question, our other option would be to just say after a public consultation, one meeting, we're going to implement a ward system and this is what it will look like. I think [the current course] is the fairer one and this is what council is looking at, the democratic way to say how are we feeling."

"Many of us probably hold a bias but if we act upon it we haven't listened to you, so right now I think everyone in this room has their mind open and we're listening and based on that we will make our decision."

Council will hold a Statutory Town Hall Meeting this week to discuss the ward system - step two in this process - concluding with a special general committee meeting April 20.

If Council decides to put the ward system question on the ballot, a bylaw to do so would need to be passed by April 27.


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Submitted by Michael P. Comeau
Financial Advisor



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Of course, an insurance policy's primary purpose should be to ensure that your loved ones won't find themselves in difficulty. But consider using life insurance to leave more to your heirs, other beneficiaries or even charity.

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For example, when you take out a universal life policy, a portion of the premiums you pay go toward insurance, with the rest going into the policy's investment component (sometimes known as the cash or savings portion). The

money in the investment component is sheltered from tax, resulting in faster growth than if money is invested outside the policy.

When you die, your heirs receive the face value of the policy's life insurance, as well as the value of the investment portion of the policy. Both are tax-free to beneficiaries, so they receive the entire amount of the policy and its investments.


With universal life, you have some control over the investment portion because you can choose from a number of investment options offered by insurers. Typical choices include investments whose returns are linked to the performance of brand name mutual funds, guaranteed interest accounts or stock market indexes. The wealth that accumulates in the investment component will depend on the deposit paid and performance of underlying investments.

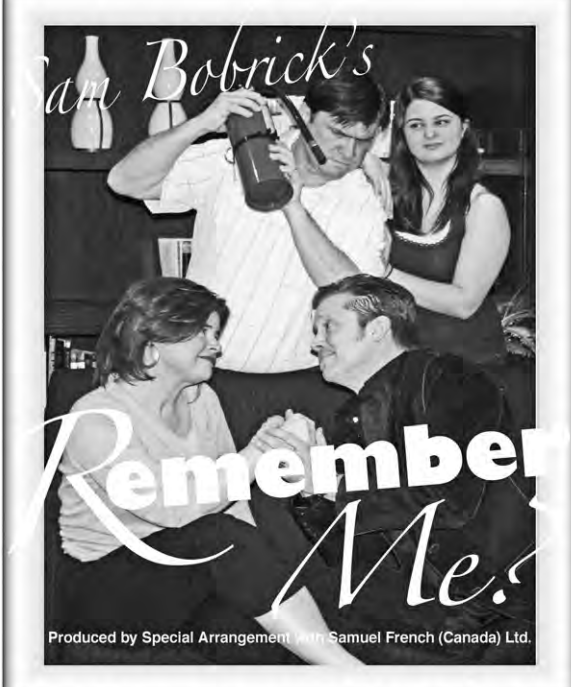
How much you pay in premiums and how often is generally up to you. In most cases you can pay whatever you wish.

However, there are government-imposed maximums based on factors such as your age, gender, expected lifespan and the face value of the policy.

This flexibility is what makes universal life such a valuable estate-planning tool. You can start small, with the goal of providing financial protection for your family in the event of your death. As you grow older and find yourself with more disposable income or cash flow, you can focus on the investment component of the policy.

You're a good candidate for universal life if you have money left over to invest after your basic financial, investment and insurance needs are met - including maximizing yearly Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) contributions and paying down loans. This type of policy is suitable for not only for those seeking insurance flexibility and a way to enhance estate values, but those who need additional tax-sheltered growth after making RRSP contributions.

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Senior Scape



By BRIAN WARBURTON

Spring back, Centre humming

No other time of the year grants as much pleasure as nature offers as Spring sends old man winter packing, and unfolds the glorious spectacle of countryside and gardens transform from frozen desolation to the magnificence of spring.

April is a month that heralds the arrival of good weather; April showers fit well with early spring weather, assisting nature's first offering of flowering bulbs.

Members of the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) attend to their activities with a new life in harmony with the melody of birds vigorously establishing territories, while courting prospective brides and fending off anxious competition mercilessly.

In the Seniors' Centre something alive and well happens constantly, generated by robust senior life abounding with fresh thoughts functioning in minds alive in a perpetual springtime.

Tuesday presents activities that include Euchre, Scrabble, Pickle Ball, Badminton, Chess, the Movie Club, Cribbage and Wood Carving which is dominated by fine female carvers, plus other programs. Microsoft Word will be taught in the computer room, if sufficient students sign up, and an absence of students will suggest that most seniors have learned all they need to operate a computer. Computing encompasses a very great number of programs, and computer operators tend to learn what they require and can be used regularly.

Casual bridge players are welcome Wednesdays between 1.30 and 3.30 pm.

Partners will be selected by drawing numbers and this afternoon bridge, provides opportunity for improvement of skills.

Every day offers a fine selection of favourite pastimes, and members interested in the good life, put life into everything in which they engage their bright abilities.

I want to remind everybody that the nomination process for the Board of Directors (BoD) is in progress.

The directors whose terms will expire include Barbara Stoecklin and Bill Higgins who I understand will run again.

Aurora Seniors Duplicate Bridge

Monday, March 29 - N/S: Lucille Sequeira and Dave Legallais; Melody Irving and Jeannine Mackie;

Mary Oglanby and Bernie O'Brien. E/W: Rose White and Gloria Smith; Audrey Robertson and Kay Hack; Rosemary Nichols and Jean Bongard.

Lydia Schuster will not run again and one vacancy exists.

The participation of the membership in the nomination process, is crucial to electing candidates to the Board, so please do your part as a member in assisting formation of the governing body of the ASA.

Charles Sequeira, Ruth Church, Virginia Bodnar and Derek Murray will continue as directors.

The dance committee announces a dance Friday, April 16th, from 8 to 11 p.m.

In addition on Sunday, April 25th, between 12.30 and 4 p.m., a tempting brunch will be served with dancing to follow.

Tickets for the brunch are \$7 for members and \$8 for non-members, and the committee request that tickets be purchased in advance to ensure adequate catering supplies.

The 2010 York Region 55+ Summer Games are scheduled for May 4th to June 8th, and registration is open now.

Register early because deadlines are in effect!

Registration forms can be obtained in the ASA lobby, and information can be obtained at an e-mail address which is —

info@ontarioseniorgames.ca.

Jim Liddy, who is a well known personality at the ASA, can answer questions concerning registration and about the Senior Games.

Senior participation in life is powered by competition,

and a public competition of the Ontario Senior Games calibre, grants a new and younger lease on life to the contestants.

Seniors do not possess their former vigour and we accept that, but the desire to compete remains strong while the will to win burns as ever.

So do not hesitate; the thrill of taking part in the Senior Games is not to be missed, and will sustain inner pride for self and appreciation for the spirited people with whom you compete, for a very long time.

Registering now for the games may result in a fortune of good feelings because, while only one can be victorious, all who compete are winners.

Mamie Yane has been among the most dependable and approachable ladies who staff the ASA reception desk, and has been a pillar of reliability in that role.

But the time has come for Mamie to retire, to say goodbye, and to leave her responsibility to others to fill.

Mamie will return from time to time to visit her friends in the Seniors' Centre, but now a quieter life beckons her.

A regret always springs to mind when a good person leaves, but the spirit Mamie displayed while greeting visitors to the ASA, and the many acts of kindness she offered to everybody with whom she dealt, will be remembered fondly.

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