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# THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 10 No. 28

905-727-3300

auroran.com

FREE

Week of May 4, 2010

## Second suite legislation okayed

Aurora's new legislation requiring the registration of second suite units in homes officially passed last week amid concerns over the aesthetics of homes wishing to install secondary units.

The aesthetic concerns carried over from the previous week's gen-

eral committee meeting where the proposed bylaw was tweaked to ensure that a home with a second suite dwelling have only one entrance on the facade facing the street.

"The concern was that in some

**Please see page 7**



As many as five York Regional policemen may receive commendations after they were responsible for waking a man, asleep in an apartment above a three-car garage in Aurora early Thursday morning, when the building burst into flames. Police had to drive a vehicle through a locked gate to get near the blaze, then one of them woke the man by throwing a baton through a window. Damage is estimated at about \$300,000 in the blaze which saw York Regional Fire Services trucks and firefighters respond from Edward, Wellington and McCaffrey stations. The fire, its cause is still under investigation, burned for about two hours before being brought under control. Location of the fire, at the southwest corner of Yonge and St. John's Sideroad, is on property known as the Willow Farm, and was once Canadian headquarters for Kwik Kopy.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

## It's official: water rates up

The Town of Aurora formally approved a water bill hike at last week's council meeting which will see an average household's yearly water bill jump 14 per cent from \$860 to \$980.

This figure is based on Town staff estimates that the average home consumes a yearly average of 400 cubic metres of water.

The jump includes a 10.7 per cent increase in water charge, an 18.8 per cent increase in wastewater charge, and a 12.3 per cent increase in storm charges.

While the increase to Aurora residents is in the double digits, Town Treasurer Dan Elliott was keen to stress the increase is not unheard of in York Region.

In a presentation last week, Mr.

Elliott compared Aurora's numbers with other local municipalities.

With East Gwillimbury increasing their water and wastewater services by 8.81 per cent, bringing their 400 cubic metre/year rate to \$1,136, and Markham bringing up the rear with a 10.4 per cent increase leading to \$885 for the same rate, Aurora's \$931 per residence total puts Aurora in "the middle of the pack," according to Mr. Elliott.

"We're not jumping ahead of the group, we're jumping into the middle, and I think that is an important message for us," he said. "Look at where we land."

Mr. Elliot was unable to provide information regarding 2010 rate increases in Vaughan.

The Town of Aurora is dependent

on the Region of York for its wholesale water supply, said Mr. Elliott. "(In) that whole supply chain, we're all subject to those new rates and the financial pressures that come along with it."

When Aurora buys water from the Region it is at a fixed cost, he said.

But water conservation could prove to be a double-edged sword for Aurora residents.

"When people don't buy our water, we still have to cover our fixed costs, so we run deficits," he said.

"At the other end of the scale, while we'd like to suggest to people that they buy our water so we can pay for our water and our fixed

**Please see page 7**

### Briefly

#### Appreciation Day

Veteran Appreciation Day happens in Aurora this Saturday, the 65th anniversary of VE Day.

The Town of Aurora, with the assistance of the Aurora Legion, Fred Tilston VC Branch 385, will present the event with a Cenotaph Ceremony at 3.30 p.m. followed by an appreciation dinner and dance beginning at 6.30 p.m. at the Branch on Industrial Parkway North.

Events scheduled for the cenotaph include a drumhead service, consecration of cenotaph renovations, a Town of Aurora proclamation and the laying of wreaths.

Dinner entertainment will be provided by the 7th Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery Band.

Tickets, available at the Legion, are \$20 each.

For further information, call 905-727-9932.

#### Networking Breakfast

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Networking Breakfast and New Member Trade Show Wednesday, May 19th, at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.

Members who joined the Chamber in May, 2009, or later are encouraged to fill out an application for a free display table.

Deadline is May 7th.

The event is sponsored by HS Financial Services and features a continental breakfast and the opportunity for new members to promote their products and services to other chamber members. Cost is free to members and registration can be made online by visiting <http://memberservices.membee.com/onaurcoc/firmevents.aspx?id=55>.

#### Dorian to sing

This Saturday, May 8th, you can hear Elvis impersonator Dorian Baxter sing.

He will be part of a dinner and an evening of music and entertainment, at the Aurora Lions Hall, 33 Mosley Street.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6.30 p.m. Also included will be a silent auction, draws and door prizes.

Also included in the entertainment are magician Rick Mallett and York Region's version of the young Pavarotti, Roy Tugbang.

The event is presented by the Anglican Church Women at Christ the King Graceland Independent Anglican Church.

Tickets are \$25 each, and further information is available by calling 905-895-4061.

#### Wins awards

Student film maker, Aurora resident Jared Pelletier walked away with two prizes at the 2010 Toronto Student Film Festival on Saturday, April 26.

Mr. Pelletier's film, The Haunted Soldier, which tells the story of a veteran trying to forget the memories of war, was awarded Best Sound and Best Overall Film (Second Place) at the festival.

The Haunted Soldier will begin a tour of international film festivals this summer and is readying for a limited theatrical release.

You can read more about Mr. Pelletier - and view the trailer for The Haunted Soldier - at [www.theauroran.com](http://www.theauroran.com), and in next week's issue.

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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

The Aurora Probus Club meets every second Wednesday of the month (except July and August) at the Aurora Legion. Memberships consist of retired and semi-retired PROfessional and BUSiness people, hence the name Probus. It is a fun fellowship with well-chosen speakers. New members are welcome. For more information call Marilyn Munslow, 905-727-9344 or Bob Saunders, 905-841-3558.

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

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 e-mail Vikki at information@yorkhighlands.com.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Upper Canada Chordsmen, Aurora-Newmarket's award winning chorus, is looking for male singers. The group meets every Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Old 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  
Please see page 19



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The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce opened its new 6,300 square-foot branch at Wellington and Bayview Saturday and "Kai-Lan", right, was the special guest. The event was set up a bit like a circus, with clowns, face painting, hot dogs and hamburgers available. New Branch Manager, Agnes Di Florio, welcomes the guest who joined a packed audience at the event.

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

## Persechini is ready for Easter Seal run

Joe Persechini and Easter Seals' Emily and Ben Williamson came to Aurora's council meeting last Tuesday to get a jump start on Mr. Persechini's Run/Walkathon for Easter Seals.

The 2011 Run/Walkathon will be held on Sunday, May 30, starting at 8.30 a.m., with the actual run kicking off at 8.45 a.m.

"Sunday, May 30 marks the milestone of 34 years of belonging to the Easter Seals," said Mr. Persechini. "The last Sunday in May has been an important day for me for 34 years. Every year, people come from all over the region to help us with kids like Ben and Emily.

"There are over 350 volunteers we have working with

us, but it is all about these kids who need equipment. They grow up to be adults and things change in their lives."

"It costs a lot of money today to raise a child with disabilities," Mr. Persechini continued. "The kids grow up and need equipment. It costs up to \$25,000 for a wheelchair; think how often you need to buy clothes and shoes for a growing child. Well, a child who needs a walker or a wheelchair outgrows them too."

He credits the late wrestler "Whipper" Billy Watson, who Mr. Persechini said was like a father to him and a continuing source of inspiration, in getting him involved with the run after an accident which left Watson paralyzed.

"He decided to help Easter Seals and never looked back," said Mr. Persechini. "He raised millions and millions of dollars. I saw a man like him who was a champion in the ring and outside the ring and decided to take the challenge. I started the run in 1976 and there were only a few people, but we decided if Whipper can do it, maybe we can start."

"He said, 'Someday you're going to raise a million dollars'. Well, ladies and gentlemen, we're close to \$3.5 million right now."

Mayor Phyllis Morris called this milestone "incredible", and credited it to the generosity of Mr. Persechini and the volunteers involved in the event.

## A letter to the editor lands her in hot water

A letter to the editor from Councillor Evelyn Buck appearing in the April 13 edition of The Auroran sparked controversy at the council table Tuesday as councillors disputed the comments contained in the piece.

In her letter, entitled "Appointments didn't include us", Councillor Buck responded to a list of town committees circulated by the mayor.

In her response, Councillor Buck said the mayor made appointments to committees and took exception to the committee seats which were filled by "appointed not elected" Councillor John Gallo.

It was Councillor Gallo that brought the letter up for discussion in a question of privilege.

Councillor Gallo spoke first on the issue of the Wells Street School committee.

In her letter, Councillor Buck said Councillors Bob McRoberts and Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas were passed over in Gallo's favour.

"I would like to correct the public record on some inaccuracies," he said.

"I remember that evening (when the committee was discussed) quite well and apart from myself and Councillor Collins-Mrakas, I don't think anyone else shared an interest in being on the committee and nobody was certainly jumping over backwards to be on the committee.

"I expressed an interest and Councillor Collins-Mrakas was kind enough to allow me to sit on the committee and the vote was taken at this table by all of us and not appointed by the mayor.

"My understanding is when committees were struck when all of you started you had your first choice of being on a committee and I understand everyone got their first choice. I appreciate the mayor gave me the opportunity to have my first choice when I started on council and it was to sit on (Joint Committee of Council).

"It goes on regarding appointees, but my point is that - and I appreciate Councillor Buck's writings and I read them - I would hope that in the future, and I'm sure she'd be telling me this if the situation was reversed, to try to check and double check the facts and make sure they are accurate. I would like to place a motion that my comments

are received and on the public record."

Mayor Phyllis Morris took the opportunity to note she does not make appointments to committees.

"Council endorses appointments," she said. "The only one that is made is through York when they appoint somebody to Lake Simcoe. The mayor doesn't make appointments, the mayor recommends; the council then makes the appointment on the public agenda."

Councillor Buck, however,

objected to her letter to The Auroran being put on the table.

"I'd like to make the point that my letter to the editor is not a matter of public record and therefore there is no need for the public record to be corrected," said Councillor Buck. "I appreciate that Councillor Gallo wants to have his position made clear and I appreciate the civility in which he did that. At the same time, I just want to point out there is no public record. A letter to the editor is not a record of proceedings in council."



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## Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

# Nice place, wrong town

It's beautiful at Oakview Terrace, but there is one problem. Oakview Terrace, where we were Friday night, is not in Aurora.

Should be, but it isn't.

Oakview Terrace Reception Centre is a gorgeous property overlooking Haynes Lake on Leslie Street, just south of the Bloomington Sideroad.

Bloomington is the boundary between Aurora and Richmond Hill and, frankly, when the Region of York was formed in the early 70s, I think it was the only mistake that was made.

For example, what happened to Oak Ridges and Lake Wilcox?

For years, nay decades, people who lived in Oak Ridges and Lake Wilcox would shop in Aurora.

The Aurora volunteer fire department always answered Oak Ridges calls.

Even Aurora Cable Internet, when it was the only independent cable TV station left in the area, served Oak Ridges and Lake Wilcox.

So, how come Richmond Hill became part of that picture?

It was Darcy McKeough who made the final decision to form the Region of York, taking the former County of York of 14 municipalities and paring it down to nine.

Oak Ridges, being on Yonge Street, was split between the townships of Whitchurch on the east and King Township on the west.

Lake Wilcox was located solely in the Township of Whitchurch, a township that, with Regional Government, has become the Town of Whitchurch Stouffville.

There has always been a connection between Oak Ridges and Aurora, and giving the area to Richmond Hill, I think, was an error.

Even the man who organized the Friday party for his wife, Cathy - the author of the former Cathy's Corner in The Auroran - agreed with me several years ago, when we were both members of Aurora Council.

Damir Vrancic said he believed Aurora should have gone south to the Stouffville Sideroad, east to Highway 404 and west to Dufferin Street.

It was my feeling that if Aurora could claim Oak Ridges, Bathurst Street would be far enough to go to the west, since Bathurst Street is the current western boundary of Aurora.

But that was before all the growth started to take place and now I think the new boundaries - hey, what am I saying? - should go west to Dufferin Street.

Over the years, I asked several people for a report on whether it would be advisable for Aurora to take over Oak Ridges, but, to date, none has been forthcoming.

What did they know that I didn't?

We would have become a town with another arena and four (count 'em) lakes...Bond, Wilcox, St. George and Haynes.

But we wouldn't get too much commercial or industrial assessment from such a move, and maybe that's what they knew when no report was forthcoming.

Lots of residential, but we don't need that...we have plenty, thank you.

At any rate, we were part of a party to celebrate Cathy Vrancic's rather significant birthday and that explains the picture below.

Happy birthday, Cathy!!



DAMIR AND CATHY VRANCIC



We need help here. This shoe, built for a child, was left on our doorstep last week but we don't know who left it. It's very old, this shoe, and it was inside the shoebox on which it is sitting. Inside the box were some old items including the copy of a calendar dating back to 1888 which was apparently on the back of a card advertising Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, for children who are "teething"; a few pages from the Toronto Star, dated May 13, 1932, which showed an ad from The T. Eaton Co. (remember them?) where you could buy a steel tool box for \$1.29, a card from R. Parker & Co. (Parker's Cleaners); and a card from Brown Brothers, manufacturers of account books at 66 and 68 King Street East, in Toronto. Where did all this stuff come from? Anyone know?

### Letters to the Editor

# How Merlin's Hollow became huge reality

To the editor,

Merlin's Hollow is full of colour in all the gardens within the garden here, with flowers blooming much earlier due to the warm spring this year and we are almost ready for visitors on Saturday, May 8; Saturday, June 12; Saturday, July 3 and Sunday, July 11.

May 8 is the first of our four free open days for people to come and enjoy many, many spring flowers without having to work for it!

When we immigrated in 1973 with our two young daughters, we rented a house on Wellington Street East and saved over the next four years to build a small deposit to buy a house of our own. David was working in Calgary every other month and when I left him at the airport one time he told me

we had enough for the deposit and could start looking for a house when he returned at the end of the month.

There was no way I was going to wait a month to start looking for a house.

I phoned an agent that night and told her we were looking for a small house on a large lot, old but in good condition.

For the next five days she took Beth, Melinda and me round huge new houses on small lots while I kept repeating what I had asked to see.

By the sixth day she took us to Centre Crescent, three houses on the road, and the only one on the left was a small house built in the 30s from a kit of numbered pieces.

It was February, the "garden" was a flat square of grass, no hedges or changes of level, all was

covered by a blanket of snow.

I mentioned that my husband was going to build me a garden - a promise made on our honeymoon. She promised me endless perennials when the snow melted.

I made a bid subject to David's approval and then we waited three long weeks until he returned.

When the snow eventually melted it soon revealed thousands of dandelions!

Come and see how it has developed since then

with the pond and rock gardens, the fragrant garden, the woodland beds, the large perennial garden where plants later in the year range from a foot to eight feet.

There are more than 2,000 different kinds of perennials within Merlin's Hollow and I couldn't think of a better place to work.

It feeds me body, mind and spirit - it may well do the same for you.

Dierdre Tomlinson  
Aurora

## THE AURORAN

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Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published, and be limited to 600 words. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.

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Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.

# Trees get planted during Earth Day

To the editor.

Earth Day volunteers Jason Szabo, Gord Kemmers and Marco Ritacca from Sunshine Grounds Care dug 70 young trees before going to the Aurora Arboretum and planting them along Industrial Parkway.

We thank them for their efforts.

The next Saturday a dozen volunteers joined the Arboretum to plant 70 trees and shrubs in the specimen area.

Many activities were

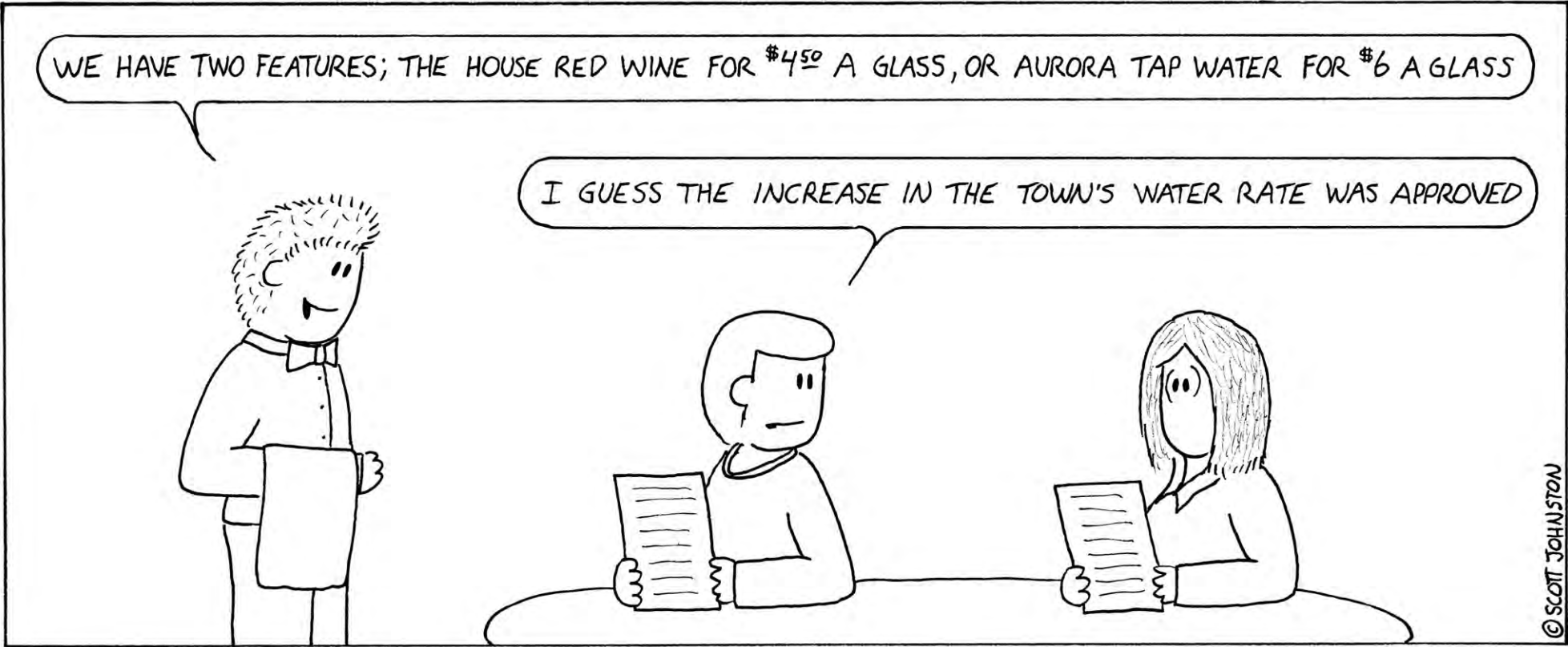
scheduled for Earth Day, but the Aurora Community Arboretum is providing volunteer opportunities every Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning until the grand finale - Community Planting Day on May 15.

There will be opportunities throughout the summer.

Details are on the [www.auroraarboretum.ca](http://www.auroraarboretum.ca) web site.

Every day should be an Earth Day.

Gord Barnes  
Aurora



## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Last week I wrote that if party politics is not introduced to the municipal election process then at the very least the mayoralty candidates should run 'slates' of councillors on a co-coordinated platform.

This campaign slate, led by the mayoralty candidate, would identify a coherent and focused policy platform that they would seek the public's confidence on this fall.

I know of at least one person in town (ED. NOTE: MORE THAN ONE, STEVE) who hated my idea; he wrote a very articulate, but sharply worded letter to the editor last week.

I will respond in a subsequent column.

A vision or platform can be as straightforward as offering solutions to a narrowly defined number of issues or it could involve something grander; a 'big idea' involving some specific program or special initiative that a candidate would like to see the Town undertake.

I believe Ed Broadbent, former leader of the federal NDP had it right (for once) when he commented in a Globe & Mail Op ed piece some time ago that society agrees on about 60 to 70 per cent of the issues, it's the other 30 to 40 per cent that matter.

This is why you have ideology, common cause, political parties and campaigns.

Obviously meeting with, and listening to, actual voters, is the best form of engagement.

Door to door canvassing will provide feedback, information on issues, moods and voter priorities. But there is also something else out there that will assist candidates in their quest for knowledge.

The candidates need look no further than the Aurora Strategic plan.

This should be required reading for all candidates.

In 1993, Aurora developed its first strategic plan, which included a corporate mission statement, six values with context statements,

objectives and strategic actions for each value.

The Strategic Plan Update document was approved and adopted by the Town of Aurora Council in July 2006.

According to the Aurora Town website, the Strategic Plan is a "guiding document that establishes a future direction for the Town that reflects issues and changes during the last few years, and community needs and priorities over the next 5 - 10 years."

A strategic plan is not required by law, it is not a land use plan and should not be confused with such things as Official Plans, Recreation Master Plans, or Zoning By-laws.

In fact, the Town of Aurora is in the process of completing its Five Year Official Plan Review.

The purpose of the plan is to "provide a set of clear goals, policies and implementation mechanisms including a set of indicators to manage growth and guide land use planning within the Town to the year 2030, and to address longer-term issues of growth management beyond approximately the 20-year planning horizon."

Although, to the best of my knowledge, the Strategic Plan has not been formally updated since 2006, it still does provide a useful roadmap to potential municipal candidates.

As part of that process a consultant had been hired, surveys had been conducted and stakeholder and public comment were welcomed.

The results of interviews with our fellow citizens identified some major issues facing our Town over the next five to ten years.

-Managing growth while maintaining Aurora's unique "small town feel" is one such issue.

-Transportation infrastructure and transportation congestion is another.

-Public safety and security concerns as population increases.

-The appropriate level of taxation to assist in managing growth challenges.

## An Aurora "vision"

-High incomes and land costs make it difficult for a wide range of incomes to settle in Aurora.  
-Sources of funding for capital projects, service and program delivery when the Town is built out (i.e. loss of development charges).

The list goes on.

While all of the issues identified above require specific answers, I would submit that a candidates' vision would be best expressed in how they would maintain Aurora's "small town feel".

This is how Aurora, as a community, becomes more than the sum of its individual citizens.

As part of the stakeholder process, a review of community attitudes survey was completed.

Eighty-five per cent of those surveyed believed that the quality of life in Aurora was good to very good.

But 38 per cent felt that the Town was changing for the worse and 38 per cent felt that the Town was changing for the better.

These survey results seemed odd to me at the time until I recalled the often-quoted surveys done in Quebec regarding sovereignty.

Usually a huge percentage of those Quebecers who support separation also support Quebec maintaining the usage of the Canadian passport and the Canadian dollar.

Kind of like having a divorce but maintaining bedroom privileges.

I guess this survey revealed - and if the findings are still valid and if the sample was truly representative of the Aurora population - that we love our Town but we are also very confused and concerned about the future of our community.

Let's hope that once the municipal election begins this fall that we have an honest, engaging and thoughtful discussion of the issues.

Stephen can be contacted at:  
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



## Heard About Town

By David Heard

The tap of a woodpecker on a tree draws my attention more these days.

Imagine that as communication with thousands of miles reached out to just by a series of taps.

Samuel Morse probably had no idea his invention would send millions into celebration.

On May 8, 1945, he received his ultimate reward.

The steady beat of a message was being transcribed by the railway station manager.

Dots and dashes became an alert that probably made his heart race and tears run from his eyes.

He rushed to the Post Office some three blocks away.

The only people there were the caretaker; Joseph McGhee and his wife, and their grandson who was three years old.

Postmaster George Walker was not in the building at that time.

Joseph's wife worked in the Red Cross office and at war time they were very busy.

Not much free time for the little fellow in those troubling times, and they all shared an apartment in the building.

So many residents volunteered to defend us.

Thirty-three from Wells Street school alone.

Courage was being found in the spirit of individuals who recently were children.

When informed of the news the grandfather scooped up the youngster and blazed up the stairs to the bell room and then with his hands tightly around his grandson's they pulled the bell wire over and over.

They did not stop for several minutes.

The constant ringing of the bell sent a call to all citizens of Aurora. Adults and children came running and gathered by the post office steps.

Joseph McGhee again hoisted the young man and they together addressed the crowd. The grandson however did not quite get what the fuss was about. He did understand that he was part of bringing these people together.

Like a Pied Piper he helped bring the best news possible because "The war to end all wars" was finally over and his father and uncle who were overseas were coming home.

His grandmother, too, may have more time for him as she could stop knitting caps, for inside the troops helmets.

The crowd, when informed, went into jubilation and tears and cheers were everywhere.

A great party began and little Bob McGhee was parad-

ed on a fire engine and awarded a large ham.

Some communities burned effigies of Hitler to mark the event.

Aurora, Ontario, Canada, was dancing in the streets.

Mr. McGhee today laughs and smiles and I notice a great shine in his eyes. I believe that day in May still resonates within him.

Peace in heart and soul.

I do not know if my grandfather heard the bells because he lost his hearing in the first war. Yet he still did his part on Canadian soil as a volunteer in the second war.

Thank goodness after so many tormented souls were seen returning after the first world war that an organization was formed to see there was support for our heroes after the second one.

We know it today as The Canadian Mental Health Association.

The bells need to ring again every May 8 on VE day.

At 4 p.m. at the Cenotaph there will be a great symbol of peace with the release and flight of doves.

It will be Farmers' Market and community in the morning and peace in the afternoon.

Life does not get any better than this.

## Peace Is the Code



### Letter to the Editor

# Response positive to trails plan

**To the editor,**

During this year's Home Show, Aurorans have had the first opportunity to view drafts of some key elements of the Aurora Trails Master Plan.

Included were the Vision and Study Objectives, Route Selection Principles, key steps in The Master Plan, and, most importantly, a map of the Trails Network, showing the routings of all existing and envisioned trails.

Some of the future

trails would be on public, others on private, properties.

The map is a bit like a puzzle, with existing trails and future ones, and links, all over the map - all over Aurora.

The Home Show visitors who did have a closer look at the displays were all in favour of this endeavour - they were very supportive.

Many comments have been received from questionnaires already filled out, and quite a few were received at the show.

One comment was

that we should route a trail through the treed grounds of an Aurora landmark, thereby giving opportunity to be in touch, figuratively and literally, with a piece of Aurora's history, while passing by on a recreational outing, or a commute.

Another Auroran, a landowner, dropped by to indicate he would be willing to allow the routing of a key trail section across his property.

Likely there will be more similarly supportive comments as a result of

the responses.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Aurorans who took out time to visit the Aurora Trails Master Plan booth at the Home Show.

There will be another opportunity to view draft documents for The Master Plan, and the up-to-date draft map during the next public meeting, likely in June.

During that meeting there will be an opportunity to make verbal comments, to discuss the drafted information, as well as to enter into dis-

cussions with others.

More fruitful ideas, that could improve the current draft terms of The Master Plan, might well result.

If you have an interest in this undertaking, the Off-Road Trails Network

for Aurora, then attendance at that meeting would be a good idea.

The meeting will be advertised by the Town of Aurora.

**Klaus Wehrenberg**  
**Aurora**

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# Can anybody prove school burned?

## To the editor

It's time to put a myth to rest, or have it confirmed.

The article about Wells Street School in The Auroran of the week of April 27 mentions that the high school building which preceded the present structure burned down.

I wish Dr. Johnston were still with us so I could ask him why he wrote this in the book "Aurora: Its Early Beginnings".

His 1963 statement  
has often been quoted.

I find no report of such a fire in the local paper, and I think it would have been mentioned.

The explanation given

in 1922 for the planned remodelling was simply that more space was needed: attendance had grown.

If any reader has docu-

mentation of the fire, I would be really glad to hear it.

**Jacqueline Stuart**  
**Aurora**

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**Peter Virtanen**  
 CLU Agent, Aurora





# Playwrights of Spring ready for fourth year

Playwrights of Spring is in its fourth year of bringing to York Region the best of new plays submitted for Festival competition and selected by a panel of internationally known theatre professionals. Plays first produced by Playwrights of Spring at Theatre Aurora have gone on to receive awards and recognition throughout North America.

Notably, "Naked In The Kitchen" went on to win the prestigious Reva Shiner award for best new play in an international competition based in the United States.

"Connections" and "Willow Quartet" were subsequently selected for presentation at the New Ideas Festival in Toronto.

This year, the full length historical drama "Like A Mustard Seed" was selected for presentation at a major Festival in the Maritimes.

Canadian playwrights frequently write about the history in plays that entertain and not just inform. Plays such as "a Rustling" about the scandal in Beeton in 1927 that pushed Lindberg's flight over the Atlantic off the front pages of the Toronto papers are included.

"Bikini Atoll" dramatized the effect on a small northern community of the

American drive to lock up uranium resources to make atomic bombs in the 1950's.

This year the Festival presents "Like A Mustard Seed" a historical drama set in rural Ontario during World War II.

The effects of the depression and the war have devastated a family struggling to cope.

This is a powerful story of love and loss set during World War II.

Not all the sacrifices were made by men and not every loss can be redeemed.

This is a remarkable story of a family in crisis. Each has to decide when to let go and when to hold on for dear life.

The drama will appeal to people with an interest in history and looking for exciting entertainment. The Aurora Historical Society has an opportunity to bring members together for an evening of live theatre with an historical theme.

Tickets regularly priced at \$19 are available to the Historical Society in blocks of ten or more at \$15 each.

Performances take place at Theatre Aurora from May 12 to 15th with evening performances at 8 p.m. and a Saturday matinee on the 15th starting at 2 p.m.

Parking beside the theatre is free.

There will be a reception following the Wednesday performance for patrons, cast and crew.

Patrons will have the opportunity to meet the cast and some of the people behind the Festival and the

selection of the plays.

Contact Jennifer Steen, Curator, at 905-727-8991 or Jennifer@aurorahs.com if you are interested in attending with other members of the Historical Society.

For individual tickets, call the Theatre Aurora box office at 905-727-3669.

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## AURORAN WORD SEARCH - Schools

by Scott Johnston

Find and circle in the puzzle the words from the list below. Words may run horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forwards or backwards. Letters may be used more than once.

Once you have found all of the words, the remaining uncircled letters will answer the question:

“What may some of Aurora’s students be by the time summer arrives?”

E	V	I	R	D	S	N	I	V	E	D	B	P	A
O	C	R	M	C	E	L	S	P	A	R	E	A	S
S	M	A	I	L	L	I	W	W	G	R	D	S	S
E	T	V	R	E	N	G	D	T	I	D	E	S	I
H	I	U	B	G	W	H	P	O	F	R	V	E	G
C	R	O	D	E	F	T	D	O	C	A	O	R	N
A	I	F	L	Y	D	O	R	A	T	W	R	O	M
E	P	L	E	R	S	F	Y	E	M	P	G	C	E
T	S	C	I	E	N	C	E	D	K	A	A	S	N
C	Y	L	P	C	N	H	H	D	A	C	R	L	T
U	L	B	P	E	A	R	S	O	N	L	O	K	C
S	O	A	G	S	N	I	A	U	O	T	R	L	S
I	H	E	S	S	T	S	P	E	L	L	U	U	O
I	R	O	S	S	E	T	N	O	M	B	A	N	O

ASSIGNMENT  
AURORA GROVE  
BELL  
BLUSH  
CIVICS  
CLASS  
CRAFT  
DEVINS DRIVE  
DRAW  
DR GW WILLIAMS  
DRILLS  
HOLY SPIRIT

LAPTOP  
LB PEARSON  
LIGHT OF CHRIST  
LOCKER  
MARKS  
MATH  
MONTESSORI  
OUR LADY OF GRACE  
PASS  
PENS  
PERIOD  
RECESS

REGENCY ACRES  
SCHOOL  
SCIENCE  
SCORES  
SING  
SITS  
SPARE  
SPELL  
STUDY  
TEACHES  
WELLS

The answer to the question is hidden on another page

## Law Respect event opens to the public

The Optimist Club will be hosting their Annual Respect for Law Dinner Wednesday, May 19th at St. Andrews Golf Club and you're invited.

The Optimists are proud to honour three officers this year who have made significant contributions to community safety in Aurora.

Also on hand will be Chief Armand La Barge, who recently announced his retirement later this year. He will bring greetings on behalf of the police service.

The evening will feature a presentation about a new program created to enhance safety in local parks.

As well, a special presentation will be held to honour a youth in Aurora who has showed incredible initiative in offering support for Canada's troops will be part of the program.

The event, open to the public, begins at 6.30 p.m. with an informal reception with dinner at 7.15 followed by the presentations.

Cost is \$25 per person and tickets may only be ordered by contacting Carol Bartlett at rcbartlett79@sympatico.ca before May 14th.

The Optimist Club is celebrating 25 years of service this year supporting Aurora youth.

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Baked Brie \$10 – Cranberry Chutney, Crostini

Mussels \$10 – Sofrito & Olive Oil Fried Bread

Romaine Salad \$8 – Double Smoked Bacon, Parm Tuile, Roasted Garlic Dressing, Balsamic Glaze \*Add Grilled Chicken \$5

Organic Field Greens \$7 – Fresh Goat's Cheese, Caramelized Onions, Sherry & Bacon Vinaigrette

Smoked Salmon \$11 – In-House Hot Smoked Salmon, Pickled Onions, Fried Capers, Dill & Lemon Cream Cheese, Crostini

Grilled Calamari \$10 – Sun Dried Tomatoes, Capers, Roasted Garlic, Lemon Zest, Beurre Noisette

Fried Oysters \$13 – Panko Breaded Oyster, Wilted Spinach, Garlic Chip, Mushroom Brandy Sauce

Traditional Eggs Benedict \$10 – Back Bacon, Poached Eggs, English Muffin, Hollandaise, Organic Greens

Lobster & Ricotta Omelet \$13 – Warm Asparagus & Hollandaise

French Toast \$9 – Fresh Berry Compote, Whipped Vanilla Mascarpone Cheese

Smoked Chicken Club Wrap \$9 – Smoked Chicken Breast, Double Smoked Bacon, Tomatoes, Lettuce, Dill Mayo, Cheddar Cheese

Roasted Chicken \$17 – Chicken Supreme, Fingerling Potatoes, Green Beans, Lemon Thyme Sauce

Atlantic Salmon \$20 – Pan Seared Salmon, Asparagus Risotto, Beurre Blanc

Flat Iron Steak \$24 – 3 Eggs, Frites



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# Restaurant Features

## Mother's Day Brunch Menu

11am - 3pm

### Appetizers:

Soup Daily	\$5.00
Red Salad – roasted beets, vine ripe red tomato, red onion & red lettuce, fresh herb vinaigrette	7.00
Herb crusted warm goat cheese, organic baby greens, citrus vinaigrette and candied pecans	7.00
Heart of romaine, crispy pancetta, wafer crouton, parmesan reggiano, light Ceasar dressing	7.00
Pan fried panko crusted crab & shrimp cake, jicama slaw & chipotle mayo	9.00

### — Mains —

Open face ravioli – House smoked salmon, spinach, ricotta and rose sauce	15.00
Shrimp salad – poached tiger shrimps, avocado, French beans, tomato, Boston green & herb vinaigrette	15.00
Buffalo Mozzarella cheese salad – green asparagus, sautéd king oyster mushrooms and prosciutto with arugula pesto and balsamic	16.00
Lamb salad – pan roasted herb crusted lamb leg, chick pea & cucumber summer salad	16.00
Grilled chicken B.L.T. salad, reggiano & Ceasar vinaigrette	13.00

### — Eggs —

Eggs Benedict – poached eggs on English muffins with back bacon and hollandise	15.00
Eggs Florentine – poached eggs on English muffins with spinach, house smoked salmon and hollandaise	15.00
Vegetarian Omelette – Mixed field mushrooms and triple brie	13.00
Steak and 2 Eggs – 6 oz certified Black Angus striploin and veal jus	18.00

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Sunday May 9th  
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FRENCH TOAST AND FRESH BERRIES  
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Served with three eggs and choice of homefries or mixed greens  
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# THE AURORAN SPORTS



**Selkies team members gather for a photograph at meet in Sudbury recently.**

# Selkies improve performance

This year, the group was 10th out of 28 with a total of 211

Other top place Selkies finishers included Brock, Carter and Wilson Derbyshire. Andrew

Yvonne will remain the owner of the Selkies team and continue to head up the development section.

# MAY WEEKEND SPECIALS



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**WE WILL ACCEPT PLAYERS BORN IN 1990 & 1991 FOR THE  
MIDGET HOUSE LEAGUE PROGRAM.**

**IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A PERMISSION TO SKATE (AAA) 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.***




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# Parking causes problems near Craddock Park

The Aurora Youth Soccer Club could face restrictions on their use of Craddock Park and soccer parents might be caught in a traffic ticket bonanza this summer if concerned residents get their way.

A small group of residents from streets neighbouring the park came to Aurora's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee's recent meeting to voice their frustration with increased traffic in the area and illegal parking which, they say, is creating a safety hazard.

"The popularity of soccer has increased and [the park] is used every night in the summer for games and whole week-

end tournaments," said Nick Mozzetti, a resident of Spruce Street speaking on behalf of the homeowners. "Soccer parents park wherever they choose, legally for not. There is parking on Batson for only about a dozen vehicles, (but) most games require two or three times the amount of spaces.

"Most would rather park illegally than walk a block or two to park legally in the neighbourhood. This is a dangerous situation and an accident waiting to happen. As most people these days are driving large SUVs or vans, they totally block the intersection impairing

drivers' views."

Mr. Mozzetti called on the committee and council to review the situation and take action to resolve "this traffic nightmare".

"Our kids are driving and there are a lot of teenagers in the area who are getting their licenses and they are afraid themselves to even drive there," he said.

While Mr. Mozzetti suggested officers be on site on weekends to steady the traffic flow, he said those who park in the area for soccer games are not spreading their parking in the area out, to the detriment of the neighbourhood.

"Most people don't

stray beyond 100 feet from the intersection," he said. "They try to pack it all in as much as they can. They'd rather park on both sides of the street. People are dropping kids and other family members off, so not only are they stopping traffic by dropping them off, they're also looking for parking spots so that makes it even worse."

The traffic situation around this park has always been "messy", said Committee Member Rino Roncadin.

"I'm still of the opinion that unless you can shorten up the teams to five players each, there isn't going to be any parking," he said. "You can't make any parking. I think we should consider going back to Leisure Services to remove this park from being available to soccer, period."

Councillor John Gallo, however, noted that residents have not called for soccer to be completely eliminated from Craddock Park.

"It is part of a vibrant community to have some

activity in the area," he said. "It's nice to have movement in that area once in a while, but not to the point that it is now.

"I would hope that the department could be creative and maybe restrict (park use) only to practices, which is usually just one team. Maybe I could narrow down the scope of what we're asking them to do, and that is to look at the scheduling in the interest of reducing the number of participants that are attending the park

at any one time."

The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee referred Mr. Mozzetti's comments and accompanying correspondence to the Leisure Services Advisory Committee, so it can review the Aurora Youth Soccer Club's scheduling of Craddock Park.

They have also requested an increased presence of bylaw services in the area "to increase parking enforcement during scheduled games."

# Gymnasts perform well at Scarborough meet

Aurora's Kids' Supergym started their artistic gymnastics competitive season with amazing results recently at the Friendship Classic in Scarborough.

Competitors were first overall in four levels including Michaela

Cherutti, Level 5 for 12 and 13 year olds; Emily Hall, Level 4 for 12 and 13 year olds; Skye Nip, Level 3 for 11 year olds, and Mackenzie Link, Level 2 for 10 year olds

The top team score trophy was awarded to Kids Supergym's 7 & 8

year old team that included Analise Connor, Jill Cope, Hailey Law-Fauchere, Samantha Buckley, Sarah MacPherson and Allison Simpson.

# Aurora helping with G20 plans

While Toronto grapples with preparations for the upcoming G20 Summit in the city - and the headaches that go along with it - the Town of Aurora is doing its part to help the event run smoothly.

The Stronach Aurora Recreation Centre is hosting various agencies performing "VIP motorcade training" sessions for the summit, which will be held June 26 and 27.

"Residents may see a whole lot of vehicles in the Stronach Aurora Recreation Centre over the next several weeks and wonder what's going on," said Jason Ballantyne, Aurora's Manager of Corporate Communications.

Approximately 30 cars and eight motorcycles will be used for these exercises

in the Recreation Centre's parking lot in the evenings over the next several weeks.

Training began April 30, and will resume between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, May 7, and every Friday thereafter at the same time until June 18.

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# Aurora Seniors Duplicate Bridge results

**Monday, April 26:** N/S - Sandra Davey and Syliva Thompson; Mary Oglanby and Joan Rotenberg; Marg Cyr and Carol Godon. E/W - Melody Irving and Jeannine Mackie; Murray Sinclair and Don Newman; Greta Ogden and Judy Salmon.

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Anne Bartley Smith lands

Town okays its staff to draft custodial agreement with OHT

The Town of Aurora is now exploring establishing a custodial agreement with the Ontario Heritage Trust over the Anne Bartley Smith Lands, also known as HiTor, after formally giving staff the okay to draft a relationship agreement at last Tuesday's council meeting.

The move has been several years in the making, and comes on the heels of extensive discussion at the Council table over the management and use of the land located near Bathurst Street and Bloomington Road, the value of the property, and liability concerns.

Councillors voted 6-1 to go forward with drafting an agreement with the Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT), with Councillor Evelyn Buck voting against it.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern refrained from voting, having declared a conflict in the matter at the beginning of the meeting, while Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas was unable to attend.

Before discussing the issue, a number of residents came to the podium to express their support of the motion.

"It has been a long road," said Susan Walmer. "What's evolved... is the passive use

of the land, so people are using the land, not necessarily with full permission, but they're using the land. There are still questions attached to the future of the land and how it is to be maintained and looked after.

"The OHT did, I believe, in 1992, talk about doing a custodial agreement with us. I think we need to move forward in a positive, proactive manner with the OHT to look how we can work a custodial agreement that benefits everyone. We have an agreement with Sheppard's Bush and it is a resounding success to see the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, the OHT, and the Town of Aurora look after that property."

Aurora resident John Green also voiced his support, and said a custodial agreement could protect the Bartley Smith Lands from economic pressure the OHT might face to sell up to developers.

While resident Guy Poppe said it was premature at this point to discuss what the Town might get from a custodial agreement before the document is even drafted, he said he shared that concern.

"It's important [that we have] a custodial agree-

ment," said Mr. Poppe. "The reason being is because it solidifies our interest and our position with this property, and controls this property to some extent as opposed to letting it linger. Right now, the OHT could say, 'Tomorrow we're selling this to a developer.' I don't think we want that."

Mayor Phyllis Morris, who introduced the resolution, once again said she was in "total support" of it. The lands, she said, might be enjoyed by Aurora residents for passive recreational use to minimal environmental impact "which would still meet the conservation goals of the OHT and the community's desire for heritage preservation."

"At that time, I was seeking council support to direct staff to contact the OHT in order to explore a custodial relationship agreement with the OHT for those lands in order to ensure that lands remain protected if some additional low environmental impact uses would be agreed upon. An appropriate first step would be to initiate some preliminary discussion between the Town and the OHT to carefully examine the parameters of a potential agreement, after which time staff can report back to

council with additional details as they become available."

For Councillor Evelyn Buck, many questions regarding the land remained unanswered, including the OHT's right to dispose of the Bartley Smith lands as a whole or piecemeal. Another issue for the councillor was the Town's shortage of active recreation space.

"There are 20 acres within that parcel that would lend themselves very well to sports fields," said Councillor Buck. "We are desperately in need of sports fields in the Town. We have an agreement with the OHT for the Sheppard's Bush property which allows us the use of the field.

"This is a very satisfactory agreement because we have use of the lands, the field, and we make very good use of the property and we also pay for all the maintenance. I have no concerns over that arrangement with the OHT and certainly if I imagined for a moment that something like that could come from an agreement with the OHT and we might have access to a further 20 acres of land for the use of sports, I would be 100 per cent in support of pursuing such an agreement."

The OHT holds this land in perpetuity for passive recreation, said Aurora CAO Neil Garbe, who added they have not indicated to him they were interested in selling the land or disposing of it.

"(The OHT) were interested in establishing a relationship with the Town of Aurora to ensure their desire for this to be appropriately used for passive recreation as an 'environmental education laboratory' for lack of a better

word."

He said the OHT were firmly opposed to any part of this land being used for active recreation.

"In the original draft of my report which I shared with them, it had passive recreation uses including 'hiking, running, and snowshoeing' and they were opposed to the word 'running,'" said Mr. Garbe. "They wanted it to be 'jogging' which was more passive than running.

"That gives you a sense of where they are headed and I would say that it is very unlikely that any part of this land would be used for anything such as a ball diamond or soccer pitch. They are firm in their view this land should be held and secure for environmental purposes."

Councillor Buck also

expressed concern against the Town shouldering any liability for this land, but Mr. Garbe said the Town has had no discussions regarding surrendering liability "or expecting us to carry the full freight".

"We have had no discussions related to that and I would expect we would share liability," he said. "That is a reasonable thing to do. If we are investing in a trail, we take responsibility for its maintenance. We should bear some responsibility for that, as well as the owners who allow us to be there and have responsibility and their own due diligence to look after the property as a property owner."

Town Staff will report their findings and draft agreement back to council at a later date.

Ticket start times were wrong but problem has been solved

Oops.

Ticket times for the upcoming Slipperman performances were wrong.

Andrew Kipfer of ARJ Productions said there was an error made in printing some of the tickets for the Slippermen concerts, June 25 and 26, at Theatre Aurora.

"The initial tickets sold for the evening performances indicate a start time of 8 p.m., rather than the actual start time of 7.30," he said. "The box office staff are in the process of contacting all purchasers of those tickets to advise them of the change.

The problem was corrected quickly and tickets will be printed with the correct start times, he said.

"If you've bought tickets, and you have any questions, call the Theatre Aurora Box Office at 905-727-3669," Kipfer said.

Kipfer thought a summary would clarify things.

"Let's summarize the dates and times, so there is no confusion: Friday, June 25, at 7.30 p.m., and Saturday, June 26 at 1.30 p.m.. and 7.30 p.m.," he said.

In addition, there is a

special offer in place, which is "buy tickets for either evening performance, at the regular price of \$32, and purchase an equivalent number of tickets for the Saturday matinee performance, at the discounted price of \$27," he said.

Slippermen, the five-piece Montreal-based Genesis tribute band, are returning to Theatre Aurora

June 25 and 26, with Aurora-based Somerset opening the shows.

The concerts are a co-production of Theatre Aurora and ARJ Productions.

Tickets are on sale now and you can get them by calling the Theatre Aurora Box Office at 905-727-3669 or emailing the Theatre at taboxoffice@bellnet.ca.

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Tom Davey, right, is presented award by Gail Scott, wife of the late Geoffrey Scott, after whom the award was named. Both are Aurora residents.

## Aurora magazine founder wins award

Aurora writer and magazine publisher Tom Davey was presented with the first Geoffrey T.G. Scott Memorial Award at the Water Environment Association of Ontario's (WEAO) annual conference in London, Ontario recently.

The WEAO award was in recognition of his being a "member of the water environment industry in Canada, who has shown an outstanding example of leadership in championing a worthwhile endeavor and thereby advancing the mission of the water environment industry".

Geoffrey Scott, who died in late 2008, was the second Canadian President of the 36,000 member Water Environment Federation.

He also was an Aurora

resident.

During his 50-year career, Tom Davey won some 30 awards for writing on environmental issues, including three international ones.

In 1980, he became the first Canadian to be awarded the J.H. Neal award from the American Business Press in New York for a series of articles on U.S. environmental policies.

In 1980, the U.S. based Water Environment Federation awarded Tom its Harry E. Schlenz Medal and he became the first Canadian to be so honoured.

In 1982, Tom won a second J.H. Neal award.

The Canadian Federal Government's top Environmental Achievement Award in the

field of "Outstanding Communications for Environmental Awareness Award" was bestowed upon Tom in 1992.

This award was recognized by a personal letter from then-Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Tom has authored three books.

In 1988, he launched Environmental Science & Engineering Magazine (ES&E), with his son Steve. This Aurora-based publication has a circulation of 19,000 across Canada and Tom was editor, until retiring in September, 2008.

He also founded the Aurora Writers Group which supports and encourages local writers and he is a past president of the Canadian Science Writer's Association.

## Council turns thumbs down to ward question

The Town of Aurora's latest flirtation with adopting a ward system died last Tuesday as expected after councillors decided not to put the question on the October 25 ballot.

Councillor Stephen Granger, who initiated the discussion to explore the merits of adding a ward question to the ballot earlier this year, motioned not to proceed with the question "at this time".

Despite a three-step public consultation process, supporting or opposing the adoption of a ward system failed to capture the imagination of the majority of Aurora voters.

At a March 31 public meeting, the first step in the process for the public to learn about the merits and disadvantages of wards and ask questions of Town staff, only 15 residents attended, including mayoral candidates

Nigel Kean and Roger Clowater.

The Statutory Town Hall meeting the following week underscored the lack of community interest when nobody took advantage of the time to step up to the council podium.

While citizens did come to the podium on the third step, a special general committee meeting on April 20, councillors determined there was not the "groundswell" of interest that would warrant going forward.

The minority that did come forward, however, were a very vocal group.

Some residents, including Rebecca Beaton and David Heard, said they believed that implementing a ward system would be divisive to Aurora and damage the town's unique communities.

Others, such as Marie Leone and Gary Johnson, said they

believed a ward system would provide better representation at the table.

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# Downtown property needs fixing: mayor

The Mayor's Anti-Litter Day recently was "fabulously successful", said

Mayor Phyllis Morris, but, as the mayor demonstrated at last Tuesday's council

meeting, the event underscored a number of issues that need to be

addressed, particularly in the downtown core.

More than 350 volunteers pitched in to help clean up Aurora and Turtle Island collected 1.6 tons (or 3726 pounds) of garbage, including furniture, dozens of tires, and an old computer, said Jason Ballantyne, Manager of Corporate Communications for the Town of Aurora.

At council, however, the mayor shared photos of some of the findings in the downtown core, specifically the lot and neighbouring former plaza near Yonge and Centre Streets

"Part of our downtown initiative is to clean up the state of downtown," she said. "People may have

seen this, showing a photograph of a retaining wall on the east side of Yonge Street at the Yonge and Centre lot.

"I don't know how you could miss it. I just want to ensure the community that it has not escaped our attention. We are paying attention to the downtown and we looked at that. It's a site at the corner of Yonge and Wellington and it is a sight."

The Director of Planning, she said, has been in touch with the owners of the property in question and they, and the Town are "trying to determine whether that wall is on our Town property or theirs."

"Nevertheless, it is unacceptable in the state it is."

One of the public notices on the property had fallen down and was removed, the fence is falling down making it accessible for dumping, and the "crumbling façade" of the building is marked with graffiti, the mayor noted. Yet the property is still subject to an application.

"We gave approval for a six-storey building there," she said. "The applicant is coming forward with a change to the application seeking a new application publically, but it is for seven storeys at a different height. In the interim, that has been sitting there for a number of years and we are going to take all steps and measures possible to get their cooperation to improve the image while they are bringing forward - we hope - what is going to be a wonderful project for the downtown."

The mayor also expressed concern over the safety of the crumbling façade of the building in question.

"It is something we're all familiar with," she said. "It's unacceptable. The public have lost their patience with that corner. Their pride in their community has been diminished because of that corner. Whatever is at our disposal, whether it be property standards or clean yards, safety needs, whatever... Please do something about that corner if we can."

"I would be worried if someone was pushing a push chair or a stroller or a wheelchair underneath that building and a brick fell."

The building, however, has been inspected and is deemed structurally sound, according to Techa

van Leeuwen, Director of Building Administration.

"It's not in good repair, but it has been deemed to be structurally sound and we have contacted the owners to provide us with a report from a professional engineer in that regard," she said.

The mayor also called for a bylaw to set fines for littering on public property.

"Having done the anti-litter day and seeing how much garbage is out there, I went and had a look at the short form wording that our staff have set fines for," she said. "Throwing, placing, or depositing refuse on private property -- \$155 is the set fine. If you go by way of Provincial Offences I believe it can get up to \$5,000. The word that caught my eye was 'Private property'. There isn't a set fine for public property."

"Many communities are trying to take back the streets and clean it up, and they want to get the litter taken seriously and they're trying to put up the fine as max," said Mayor Morris. "The maximum set fine is \$1,000. Even when you do it, the comment made is that it is rare that anyone takes anyone to court because you have to find them first. What a pity. Whatever we can do to make this the cleanest town I think we should make some efforts."

## Marker will commemorate efforts of Kestein, Connor

A stone marker commemorating the efforts of Aurora residents Ben Kestein and Ildi Connor to preserve the McKenzie Wetlands will go forward as councillors rejected a notice of reconsideration from Councillor Evelyn Buck to scrap the tribute.

In speaking to her motion, Councillor Buck said her reason for asking for a reconsideration was "the heartfelt request from the daughter of Mr. Doug McKenzie, who is no longer with us, and her mother" to pay tribute to the McKenzies.

"I am just asking that on the basis that the McKenzie Marsh is named for Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie, who worked tirelessly for 30 years to educate the community about the value of this resource... there is a plaque on the property now, very prominently displayed giving credit to the McKenzies for their work in this regard. I do

not wish to take any credit away from anyone else who put their effort forward to assist the McKenzies, but the marsh was in the ownership of the McKenzie family."

Councillor Buck also questioned the money slated to be used for the stone marker which, she said, would be coming from a reserve account for funds for tree plantings in the marsh area.

Aurora CAO Neil Garbe said he was unaware of anything that would prohibit the Town from using the funds "for the purposes that council intended."

Councillors voted 6-2 to uphold council's earlier decision to commemorate Mr. Kestein and Ms. Connor, with only Councillors Buck and Bob McRoberts voting in favour of the reconsideration.

Mr. Kestein was in attendance.

Support for Mr. Kestein and Ms. Conner was expressed in the council chamber both before and after the vote was taken.

"There were numerous people involved in trying to protect that mash over those years and to put a road in that would not impinge on its natural features, to put in things for wildlife that would help keep the wildlife safe," said Susan Walmer during Open Forum. "If we have to do a little thank you somewhere along the way to a number of people who helped out, or someone who has helped out quite a bit in the name of Ben Kestein then - you know what? - I don't see any harm in it. As a matter of fact, I think it shows we're a very open and welcoming community and certainly respect the amount of time people put into volunteering in our community."

Councillor Evelina MacEachern said the issue has been mired in misinformation.

"I do have to say I'm sorry that Mr. Kestein and Ildi Connor have been exposed to certain things," she said. "The misinformation has ranged from the McKenzie daughter believing that it was going to be stone carvings of the individuals installed on the site. Her understanding was it was going to be placed on the boardwalk and neither of those things were part of the proposal. I'm not sure how that information got out, but nevertheless that's not the case."

Buchanan, will be held Friday, June 25th at 7 p.m. and Sunday, June 27th at 4 p.m.

Both shows will be held at the Seniors' Centre on Municipal Drive, across from the town hall.

Tickets will go on sale June 1, at the centre, and will sell for \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

## Drama Club plans event next month at seniors' building

The Silver Stars drama club will present "The Best of Broadway" to Aurora audiences in two shows in June.

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Judy studied academic painting and drawing in Florence, Italy. She has appeared on City Line TV.  
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Please call for advanced registration or pay at the door the first night

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Call Steve Miller at 416-587-4125  
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## GARAGE SALE MAP

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**GARAGE SALE MAP**  
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**SOLD**

**SATURDAY MAY 8, 2010**

1) 3 & 5 Milgate Place. 8:30 - 1 p.m.  
2) 20 McClenny Dr. 8 - Noon





# Several worked hard to make sale a success

By BRIAN WARBURTON

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) hit for the cycle with their finest Spring Sale ever, and the results were gratifying by any measure.

A sense of optimism prevailed before the event started, and proved to be founded on innate soundness when the day began in robust fashion, improved by lunchtime and finished in a convincing fashion, with many patrons still searching for bargains.

I want to thank everybody who made or donated the fine quality sale merchandise, which was a reliable pillar for this thriving day.

The barbecue was so popular that Bill Higgins had to scramble to obtain emergency supplies to keep it going.

Joan Levert organized the Sew Much Fun Table, which offered many articles produced at the Seniors' Centre, while Rozlin Labor and her Knotty Knitters were busy with their selection of knitted goods.

The work produced by both of these groups is of excellent quality, and I understand that special orders will be processed.

The jewellery table had its most successful sale ever and was managed by Gail Van Wolde and Kay Hack.

Jewellery has always been popular as it seems that women never have enough and can always use more, to match different costumes.

The Wood Shop Table, interesting as always was managed by the indefatigable Ron Coe and did well, and the Bake Table situated in the lounge,

sold out and consequently closed early.

The written word is awesome with the power to allow the work of authors from antiquity to the present to be read at any time and on indefinitely into the future, for as long as civilisation persists.

The book tables, which were located in most of the lounge and were the recipients of a huge number of good donated books, were kept busy.

Marion Baggett, Barbara Stoecklin and this writer, were all in attendance trying their best to satisfy customer requests.

The quantity of books purchased suggest that books and newspapers have the kind of life to last as long as man.

Carol Hedenberg coordinated the Spring Sale and she ran a tight ship very successfully.

I understand she also managed the White Elephant tables.

Carol was successful attracting attention and reported an excellent day.

Many seniors were involved with the spring sale who have not been mentioned due to space, but all contributors and volunteers are viewed with equal importance.

Often visitors to the ASA express interest in becoming a member of the ASA, especially after viewing the camaraderie and vibrancy of all, happily occupied in this super event, so with such thoughts in mind, if you wish to pursue this desire, return and join the ASA.

Perhaps the people

## This pair to entertain at Aurora Probus Club regular meeting

The "Dynamic Duo" of Alec Saidak and Doug Abbot will entertain members of the Aurora Probus Club Wednesday, May 12, at the Aurora Legion.

Entitled "Broadway and More", the duo will perform from 11 a.m. to noon.

Alec retired from teaching 20 years ago and hooked up with Doug, who has been a

professional piano teacher for 35 years.

With Alec singing and Doug playing the piano, the duo have been entertaining mainly senior audiences for about two decades.

The regular Probus meeting happens the same morning at 10 a.m.

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



Crowds were heavy recently as the Aurora Seniors' Centre was the location for the annual seniors' spring sale. Added this year was a mini-farmers' market, which also proved successful.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

operating the different tables or their crafts have caught your approving eye and have generated a desire in you to become part of what they do.

After several years of contemplating the acquisition of a superior piano, the ASA has at last acquired this necessary piece of equipment, and the Silver Stars have made use of it in rehearsal.

It is an upright model which allows it to be transported with ease among different rooms in the Seniors' Centre.

Some members advocated strongly for a baby grande piano, but while a baby grande would certainly adorn the West McKenzie Hall nicely, it would be confined to that location; hallways and doorframes would not permit it to be shuttled around very far.

Nevertheless the

Evergreens Choir will be delighted with the acquisition of the upright piano, and if the choir could attract a pianist of quality, a pianist able to play difficult music competently, the choir would be delighted and would take their choral endeavours to new heights.

For several years the choir has sought a skilled pianist.

As stated earlier, the Silver Stars also have use for a piano for their variety performances, and this group which I understand has grown quite large and with a diversity of talent, must be delighted also.

The remarkable spirit of the seniors, soon recognized visiting the ASA for the first time is that while everybody is 55 years of age or older, the character and tone in the Centre is of a much younger and vibrant environment.



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# COMING EVENTS

From page 2

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](mailto: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](mailto: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, MAY 5

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Aurora Historical Society will host a Collection Volunteer Training Day at the Aurora Cultural Centre. All those who are interested in the Society's Collection and would like to volunteer some time are encouraged to come out and learn how to properly handle and care for the artefacts. Please call 905-727-8991 to sign up for the training day. Light refreshments will be served.

MAY 6 TO 8

The Pine Tree Potters' Spring Pottery Sale will be held May 6, 7 and 8, at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, Aurora. On Thursday and Friday May 6 and 7 the sale will operate from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Saturday, May 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is free parking, free admission and a door prize. Call 905-727-1278 for further information or visit <http://www.pinetreepotters.ca>.

SATURDAY, MAY 8

Merlin's Hollow opens to the public today at 181 Centre Crescent, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

\*\*\*\*

The Anglican Church Women at Christ the King Graceland Independent Anglican Church invite everyone to attend a pasta dinner at the Aurora Lions Hall at 6.30 p.m. Featured guests include singer Dorian Baxter, magician Rick Mallett and York Region's version of the young Pavarotti, Roy Tugbang. Tickets are \$25 each, and further information is available by calling 905-895-4061.

MONDAY, MAY 10

It's called "I Killed My Mother" or better known as "J'ai tué ma mère" and it's the title of the next movie being shown courtesy of the Aurora Film Circuit at the Odeon Theatres on Bayview Avenue. In the movie, teenager, first-time filmmaker, and Quebec "wunderkind" Xavier Dolan, captures the energy, exuberance and messy passions of adolescence in this coming-of-age story. The semi-autobiographical work tells the story of a young man (Hubert) grappling with his emerging sexuality, his various lovers and, most of all, his embarrassment about his mother. The name of the film comes from Hubert's attempts to dodge a homework assignment by claiming his mother is dead. Doors open at 6 p.m and tickets at \$10 each are available at R&R Revisited on Edward Street and the Aurora Public Library.

SATURDAY, MAY 15

A buffet-style brunch, known as the "Pomegranate" Brunch, will take place in St. Andrew's Hall at the Presbyterian Church, corner of Mosley and Victoria from 10.30 a.m. to noon. Tickets are \$15 per person or two for \$25, and must be purchased in advance. This event is sponsored by the Outreach and Missions team. Call 905 713-3203 for further information.

\*\*\*\*

The Women's Centre of York Region (WCYR) presents its Second Annual Home and Garden Party at the Tuscany Event Centre in Aurora. All proceeds from this fundraising event will go to support WCYR counselling programs. Event gets underway at 11 a.m. and continues to 3 p.m. For more information or to order tickets go to [www.wcyr.ca](http://www.wcyr.ca) or call 905-853-9270, extension 107.

SATURDAY, MAY 22

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society

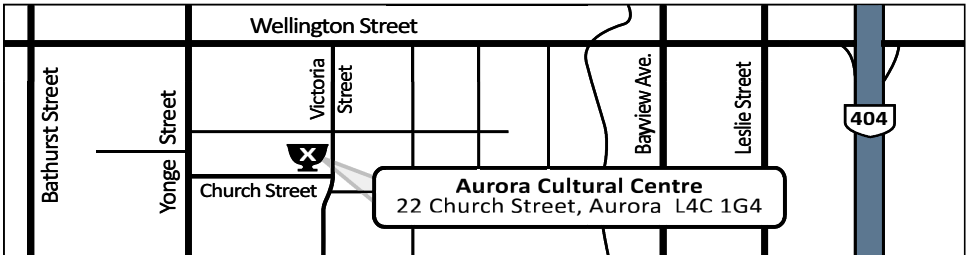
is having their annual plant sale at the Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge Street, Aurora from 9.30 a.m. to noon. Everyone is welcome.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

Guest speaker for the Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society is Nancy Lee-Colibaba, a master gardener, from Brantford. Group meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Visitors are welcome for only \$2. A Youth Gardening Program will begin at 6.30 p.m. for one hour. Called "A Walk in the Aurora Arboretum", you can get more information by calling Ray at 905-727-6168.

SATURDAY, MAY 29

Aurora Grove Public School's 10th Anniversary Spring Fling and Reunion begins at 10.30 a.m. and continues until 3 p.m. Cake cutting ceremony at 11.15 a.m. Included will be Bouncers, a Silent Auction, music with a DJ, a Kidz Play Zone, a raffle, face painting, food, prizes, and a memory lane for the



Pine Tree Potters Guild

## Spring Pottery Sale

Thursday, May 6th and Friday, May 7th, 10am to 9pm

Saturday, May 8th, 10am to 5pm

Aurora Cultural Centre  
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