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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.

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.

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

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

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

Aurora Opera 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 905-713-9356.

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.

JUNE 4 - 13

An Artcures Art Exhibition Show and Sale happens at the Aurora Cultural Centre (Church Street School), which is a celebration of "Art as an Instrument of Wellness", Admission is free. For further information go to: www.artcures.ca.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

Merlin's Hollow, the English flower garden, is open, free of charge, to the public today

from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 181 Centre Crescent.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

Join GRANAurora on national walk for African grandmothers raising AIDS-orphaned children. Free. registration at 9.30 a.m., walk begins at 10 a.m. 1 - 5 km, Holland Valley Trail. For more information or pledge forms call 905-830-4975.

TUESDAY, JUNE 15

Movie at the Aurora Seniors' Centre is "When in Rome" starring Kristen Bell and Josh Duhamel. Admission is \$1.50 for members and \$2 for non-members, which includes the movie, refreshments and treats. Show time is 6.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

Beginning at 6 p.m., members of the Aurora Historical Society are invited to Hillary House National Historic Site for an evening with good food, entertainment and a chance to win lucky draw prizes. Not a member? Stop by to enjoy the evening and learn more about the organization. It's sure to be a fun evening in the company of good friends on the Hillary House, Yonge Street, north of Wellington, grounds. Admission is \$5 per person or \$2 for children under 10. You must RSVP by calling the Aurora Historical Society at 905-727-8991 or e-mailing ahs@aurorahs.com.

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

Hospice King-Aurora and Doane House Hospice holds their annual fundraising golf tournament at nearby Station Creek Golf Club at 8.30 a.m. To reserve your spot and for more information contact Lynn McLarnon at 905-773-0155 or Stephen Forsey at 905-726-9343.

TUESDAY, JUNE 22

Movie at the Aurora Seniors' Centre is "Remember Me" starring Robert Pattinson and Emilie de Ravin. Admission is \$1.50 for members and \$2 for non-members, which includes the movie, refreshments and treats. Show time is 6.30 p.m.

JUNE 25 AND 26

Slippermen appears at Theatre Aurora both nights at 7.30 p.m. There is also a 1.30 p.m. matinee at the theatre on Saturday, June 26. For tickets, call Theatre Aurora at 905-727-3669.

TUESDAY, JUNE 29

Movie at the Aurora Seniors' Centre is "Book of Eli" starring Denzel Washington. Admission is \$1.50 for members and \$2 for non-members, which includes the movie, refreshments and treats. Show time is 6.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 1

Canada Day Parade on Yonge Street in Aurora begins at 10 a.m.

Immediately following the parade, the Aurora Cultural Centre (Church Street School) will present a program of aboriginal culture from York Region. Program begins at 12.30 p.m. with a traditional smudging, O Canada sung in Ojibwe, storytelling, drumming and dancing by youth and adults from the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. Homemade waffles with local strawberries and maple syrup from Gabriel's Café will be available on site at a cost of \$5. This event is free to the public. For further information, call 905-713-1818.

SATURDAY, JULY 3

Merlin's Hollow, the English flower garden, is open, free of charge, to the public today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 181 Centre Crescent.

SUNDAY, JULY 4

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society invites you to attend its annual Aurora Garden Tour. Spend an afternoon on a self-guided tour of seven gardens where the owners and creators of these lovely landscape designs will be present to chat with you. The tour is from noon to 5 p.m., rain or shine! Tickets are \$10 and are available in Aurora at Art of the Matter, 2 Orchard Heights Boulevard; Caruso & Co., 15210 Yonge Street; Flowers by Terry, 14799 Yonge Street; and R&R Used Books, 95 Edward Street; or at the booth at the Aurora Farmers' Market June 19th, 26th, and July 3rd. For more information call 905-727-5926 or visit gardenontario.org/site.php/aurora/news/details/5469.

JULY 12-16

Aurora United Church presents "A Veggie Tales Celebration!" camp. from 9 a.m. to noon for children 5-12 years of age. Cost is \$25 per child. For more information call the church office at 905-727-1935.

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The entire Aurora Council got involved in a presentation of an award to Auroran editor Ron Wallace and the late Dick Illingworth, for their efforts in Heritage Education. They were chosen to win the award based on a recommendation from the Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee, and received it Wednesday night as part of the Community Recognition Awards. Receiving the honour for the late Mr. Illingworth was his wife Dorothy Clark McClure.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Council may change designation of house

Council laid the groundwork for removing the house at 144 Wellington Street East from the Town's Heritage List after an appeal by the property owner at last Tuesday's general committee meeting.

The move comes after lengthy discussions between the Town of Aurora, the Town's Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) and property owner Kathy van Nostrand to decide the fate of the block-constructed building.

Last month, the HAC recommended that council keep a property at 144 Wellington Street East on the Register of Properties of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest despite a delegation to the committee by Ms van Nostrand.

"I have been approached by my neighbours to the north requesting I consider purchasing their properties as additional sites for any potential expansion plans in the future," said Ms van Nostrand in a letter to Mayor Phyllis Morris released with the agenda for the HAC meeting.

Having "long-term development plans", Ms van Nostrand said she would like to undertake a secondary study which would include a comprehensive plan for the future redevelopment proposal for this site and surrounding sites to the north" with a mixed-use development.

"Any purchase of any additional sites would be a huge endeavour on my part," she said. "I will not consider purchasing unless the opportunity to demolish the existing building exists. For this reason I respectfully request that the property be removed from the Town's Register of Listed Properties.

According to a report submitted to HAC by Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, the building in question is a "unique local variation of the Edwardian and Queen Anne style architecture" built with "rusticated concrete block".

Built by Aurora developer Michael Schulman around 1913, "the subject property is one of several rusticated concrete block houses built by Schulman in the years just prior to World War One.

Ms van Nostrand appeared once again last Tuesday to make another pitch.

"The building has been in ill

repair from the time I purchased it about three years ago and I was well aware of that fact," she said. "I always had in my mind that it wouldn't create a problem in developing that property being that it is on Wellington and in an area where there is much development for mixed use."

Ms van Nostrand said she immediately moved to have the building re-designated for mixed use and didn't anticipate a problem as "(the house) needed such repair.

"I think that is part of the reason it was revoked (of its heritage designation) but it still stands on the list as a heritage building."

At general committee, Ms. van Nostrand reiterated that she was asked by her neighbours to purchase their adjacent properties.

She said she asked the potential seller to wait until the building was "dealt with" by the Town of Aurora, but since the designation was revoked but not removed from the list she "didn't feel comfortable enough to purchase that property.

"He did approach me a second time and asked me if I wanted to purchase the property, which I did want to purchase, so I came to the Town the next day to talk to (Staff) and didn't realize I had to wait six months before I could actually bring this forward again.

"Unfortunately for me, it sold the next day. That property has been sold and now I am assuming the property directly behind and my greatest desire is to purchase both properties and develop that property for a mixed-use business centre for professionals."

Ms van Nostrand plans to construct this mixed use development from scratch.

Questions arose on the process Ms van Nostrand has been following, including why the revocation of heritage designation and the removal from the heritage building list does not go hand in hand.

"Council voted to un-designate the property and that took place," said Councillor Evelina MacEachern. "Kathy went to HAC for it to be delisted which is a separate process and the Committee said, 'No, keep it on the list.' This is a separate process for heritage designa-

tion."

"What I can add is the property was on the register of places of interest for a number of years," said Marco Ramunno, Director of Planning. "A couple of years ago it was taken to the next level and there was notice of intention to pass the designation bylaw. That was repealed last fall and at the time the heritage committee did undertake another evaluation of the property and recommended it remain on the register and that is where it sits today."

Councillor Evelyn Buck, however, said this should be a one-step process.

"When council agreed to de-designate the property, I think the delisting should have gone along with that decision and if we need to make an amendment to some bylaw to allow that process to happen so we don't have to do this twice...I would like to ask staff to take into consideration and report to us on what we need to do to make that happen," she said.

Councillors recommended that Ms van Nostrand's property be removed from the Aurora Register of Properties of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.

The recommendation is slated to come before Council this week for final approval.

Newmarket residents dominate meeting

From page 1

residents who back onto that open space right now," she said. "What we're hearing is the concern is over the densities aren't reflective of the densities to the north in Newmarket, the proposed densities. That is number one.

"People want the new development to be pushed farther away from them or have bigger buffers. The second thing they are looking for is comparable size lots. Some of them are 60 - 80 feet wide and they would like to have that reflected."

Following the brief overview of the proposed plans by Ron Palmer of The Planning Partnership, participants were invited to take a closer look at the plans and include comments on Post-It notes directly on the maps.

Almost all of the comments received as the evening drew to a close were directed at that pocket of land at the border.

"Tonight, staff and consultants have taken all the notes together, they will be reviewing them, and then they will be submitting it back to the Steering

Committee for us to discuss and that will be the next step," said Mayor Morris. "These issues are being taken very seriously because we have to ensure the plan we present has addressed as many issues as possible."

During the table discussions, Mayor Morris questioned why this controversial pocket of land was included on all of the four options.

"If I were a resident I

would be asking that question so I'm here asking that question on their behalf," she said. "It doesn't seem to have been taken out of any plans. Remember, it is only a concept and until the Steering Committee makes a recommendation to council and council endorses it, all of this is just a concept stage."

The Steering Committee meets this week.



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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Friday night at the Legion like old times

It was just like old times going back to the Aurora Legion Friday night.

By “old times”, I’m referring to the time when you could smoke at the Legion and Fridays meant “Legion night”.

In those days you couldn’t get a seat in the Legion on a Friday night, unless you showed up for lunch that day...and stayed.

And that wasn’t unheard of, either.

So when Nigel Kean and his wife Cathy suggested Patricia and I attend the Legion Friday to hear Randy Skelcher, I was dubious.

I already knew Randy had appeared at a Legion hall in Mount Albert recently.

Apparently only a total of 12 people were there - all of them from Newmarket - so needless to say I was concerned.

There weren’t many more than 12 there Friday when we arrived, but before we left, the room was full and so was the dance floor.

Granted, there were still chairs and tables available, but the evening did bring back memories of Friday nights past at the Legion.

I have always maintained that Fridays at the Legion no longer exist because of the smoking regulations.

While I haven’t had a cigarette in nearly 40 years, I still believe the rules are silly.

Imagine not being able to smoke in the Skydome (now the Rogers Centre), even when the roof is open and you’re sitting outside.

Seems to me that veterans who fought to provide us with the freedom we now enjoy should be entitled to a few treats, and, if they want to smoke in their own clubhouse, why shouldn’t they?

Granted, the air stunk in the Legion on a Friday night, and you had to squint to see who was there, but the two rooms were always full.

Now I have never been a big fan of karaoke (you ought to hear me sing...well, maybe not), but Randy, and his friend James Patterson, seem to enjoy it.

Randy, who loves to sound like Elvis Presley and Roy Orbison when he sings (and does, actually), hardly missed a beat in the dozens of songs that he sung Friday.

And, since I’m a fan of both of them (I actually met Roy Orbison once), I enjoyed the evening of music and could even read the words of the songs on a television screen.

Thank you, Randy Skelcher, for rekindling an old fire...



RANDY SKELCHER

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The above advertisement appeared in 1937 and brought to light Aurora’s famous Fleury plow which, at that time, was part of the Fleury & Bissell Companies. The famed plow was manufactured at what is today Bacon Basketware on Wellington Street West. There are still a few plows around, including the one on display at the entrance to Aurora’s Fleury Park, south of and adjacent to the Community Centre. Thanks to Auroran David Heard for providing us with a copy of the advertisement.

Letters to the Editor

King Township mayor expresses province ruling disappointment

EDITOR’S NOTE: The following letter was sent to the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier; the Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure; the Honourable Jim Bradley, Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment and The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. A copy was forwarded to The Auroran.

As Mayor of King Township I am writing to you to address a position that has the unanimous support of our council, and on behalf of our residents, respecting your decision to consider, through Regulation/Order in Council,

exempting the York Energy Centre (Pristine) natural gas-fired peaking electricity generating power facility from the provisions of the Planning Act.

I cannot tell you how disappointed we are with your Government’s decision to circumvent the very process set up to publicly adjudicate such proposals; a process that was established to protect the people and the environment of Ontario and to respect the voters wishes in the municipality.

We remind you that these lands are located in a sensitive part of the Greenbelt that was established with great fanfare by your Government in addition to being located adjacent to the Holland Marsh, Ontario’s food basket.

We as a municipality have followed your legislative

process to the letter of the law at considerable expense to our taxpayers; yet, you have moved to override us right in the middle of an Ontario Municipal Board hearing.

We as a municipality

respectfully request you to allow the established municipal planning process to continue through to its proper conclusion.

**Margaret Black, Mayor
Township of King**

Writer apologizes for letter about Klees

To the editor,

I would like to retract the statements made in my letter appearing in the May 25, 2010 edition of The Auroran.

The letter was written in poor judgment.

Recently I lost a friend, and seeing Mr. Klees’ May 18,

2010 column caused me to focus my grief into a letter which was irresponsible and uncalled for.

I regret any harm or damage to Mr. Klees’ reputation or standing in the community.

**James McConnell
Aurora**

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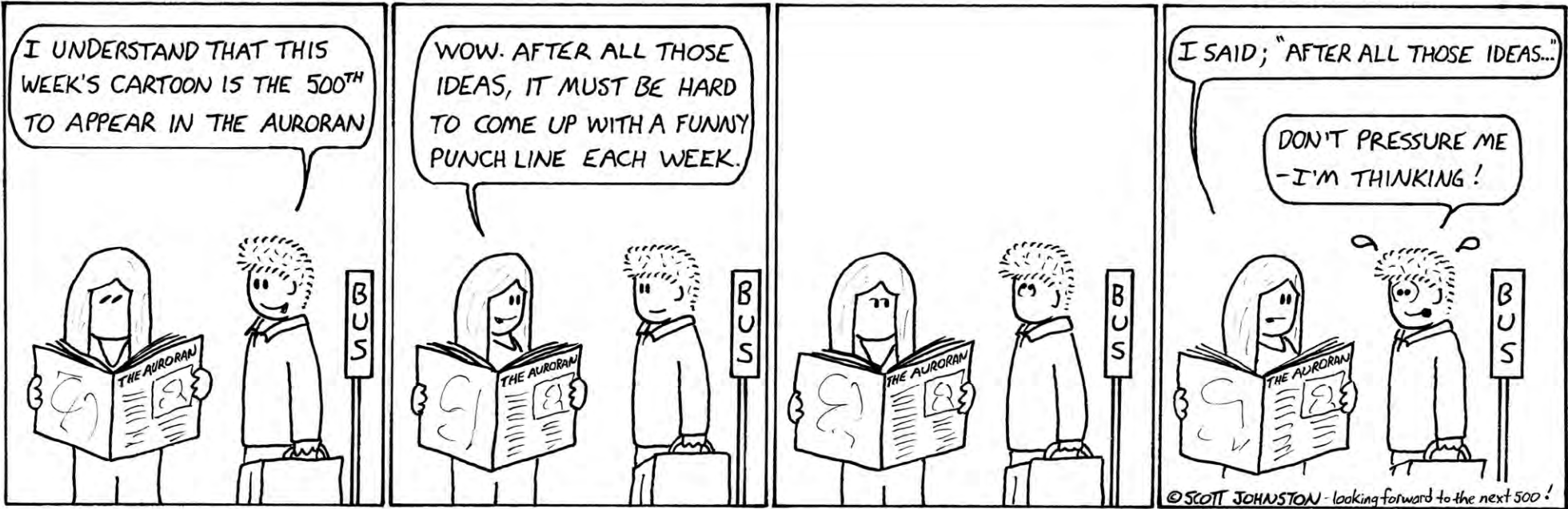
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Remembering through street signs

I was having a discussion the other day with a friend about ground breaking television programs and one of the shows mentioned was Rod Serling's "The Twilight Zone".

Other than this popular television series ran in the 1960s, I did not know much about it or Rod Serling, so I went on the internet to do some research.

Mr. Serling was a prodigious writer and television producer who died in 1975 at the age of 50 from a heart attack while undergoing open-heart surgery.

But what caught my eye from the Wikipedia entry was what his hometown did to honour his achievements and memory.

They erected a street sign, which read "In honour of Rod Serling - class of 1943, creator of "Twilight Zone", award-winning dramatist, playwright and lecturer, 1924 - 1975".

This got me to thinking about a column I had written two years ago about street signs.

It is extremely important that we preserve and protect our local institutions and our heritage. It is equally important that we both honour and remember those who have gone before us.

And in many cases this has been done in Aurora.

Through areas like Sheppard's Bush and the McKenzie Marsh we have sought to protect our green spaces.

By designating some of this town's oldest homes as "heritage houses" we have sought to preserve our history.

We have also tried to remember those who have gone before us. Probably most every school in Aurora does something to commemorate Remembrance Day and any idea, be it display cases, or slide shows, or plays, or bringing in Veterans to address the students,

is a tremendous way of engaging students by trying to bring history to life.

Every modest step we take - like giving the cenotaph's two edifices much-needed face-lifts a couple of summers ago and also keeping the area clean of garbage - shows that, collectively, we care.

I add another small suggestion to honour our past. It is one that the young children of our community, the Aurora historical society and Town Hall may be able to get behind.

It's about street signs. Street signs? Yes, street signs.

We all live on streets that are named, for the most part, for either a particular individual or for some special event.

But I'll bet that most of us don't know the reason why our own street was named the way it is.

Or even if we did, what happens in 50 years when new people move in?

I submit that it would be a good idea to affix a small sign on top of these signs signifying whom the person or event was.

I'm not sure about how this would square with current municipal bylaws but it has been done elsewhere. Look at downtown Toronto; there are small signs that sit on top of the street signs signifying the fashion district, little Italy and, if memory serves, the Greek culture of the Danforth. We could do the same here.

For instance, Timpson Drive is named after a friend of mine, George Timpson, who was, until he moved away a short time ago, a long time resident of Aurora. The sign could say - "Aurora Councillor from 1973-76, 1986-94, 2001-03; Mayor of Aurora 1977 - 1982".

Or perhaps the following for the Chadburn Crescent: street sign named after Aurora's Lloyd

Chadburn: "WWII Fighter Ace - 14 enemy airplanes destroyed -DSO, DFC, CdeG avec Palme, Legion d'Honneur".

With such a small sign in place, every time we would walk past these streets we would be reminded of their particular accomplishment.

This is where the kids participation comes in. I think this would be a great project for the little tykes to learn something about Aurora and the folks who contributed to making this the great place it is to live. In fact I kindly challenge the elementary schools in town to take this project on.

I don't think such a project would be that big of an undertaking. Just start with a few streets every year.

The Grade 2 or 3 children could team up in pairs and prepare a small research project on a street name and then present their findings to their classmates.

Then copy the presentation and go around to the homes on the street and solicit say \$1 or \$2 from each household as a contribution to the sign.

Some business in town could sponsor the project and make the signs at a reasonable cost.

The Town hall types could ensure that all the signs look nice and are based on the same template while the Aurora Historical Society and the teachers could ensure that the brief facts on the signs are right.

Then the individuals living on the street could have a little ceremony - or what have you - and affix the sign above the respective street sign.

This is a small and simple way of bringing history to life and remembering our past.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

After three hours I couldn't take any more of the Aurora Street Festival.

Let me rephrase that; I couldn't take any more from the Aurora Street Festival.

I didn't anticipate any issues when I got to Yonge Street that morning. The weather was improving, the vendors were enthusiastic, the crowds were excited, and everyone was having fun.

I strolled aimlessly, but happily, checking out the various booths, and was soon talking to one of the vendors. I didn't buy anything, but took a flier to read later. I tucked this in a pocket, and carried on.

There are a lot of interesting local organizations doing good work in our area, so it wasn't long before I picked up more literature. I also saw some companies I wasn't familiar with, so ended up with a number of business cards.

My pockets started getting fairly full.

My free-handedness ended when I came across the booth that was giving away pine tree seedlings. One of those was definitely not going in my pocket.

Then I hit the used book stand. I resisted as best I could, trying to convince myself that I was just looking.

But perusing turned to purchasing, and I left with a few paperbacks.

Fortunately, they were easy to carry. In fact, the map and recycling calendar I got a few minutes later fit between them without too much difficulty.

But my hands and pockets were now full, and by the time I'd accumulated the free note pad, fridge magnet, coupon book, and a couple of keychains, my frantic and dextrous efforts to juggle all of my newly-acquired possessions without dropping them were drawing stares.

I think people must have thought I was one of the wandering street performers.

Then I saw something to get for my father-in-law for Father's Day. But I'd run out of hands what seemed like a couple of hands ago, and it didn't come with a bag. I relented anyway, awkwardly carrying it off under one arm.

Of course, the Street Festival is renowned for its food, and I seemed surrounded by all sorts of wonderfully enticing smells wafting down Yonge Street. I was dying to visit one of the many food vendors and grab a snack, but by that stage I was physically unable to grab anything.

I settled on a drink, rationalizing that it would be okay

as long as it was in a type of container that could survive being dropped without spilling (bottle of water; yes, loose-lidded fountain drink; no).

It eventually got to the point where I was visiting booths I had no real interest in just for the excuse to lay all my stuff down for a few minutes, and get a better grip on it.

My apologies to the folks at the skateboard detailing and electric shoe buffer booths for needlessly taking up so much of their time.

By the time three o'clock rolled around, I wanted to keep going, but just didn't have the carrying capacity to do so. Besides, my hands were starting to cramp badly from all that extended gripping.

So reluctantly, and with occasional glances back at booths I had yet to visit, I headed for home.

Having learned my lesson, next year when the Street Festival rolls around, I'll be sure to come better prepared with some bags or knapsacks.

Or maybe a sherpa.

Feel free to e-mail Scott at:
machellscorners@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor

Peaker exemption no surprise: reader

To the editor,

RE: Recent announcement by the government to seek a Ministerial order that will exempt the peaker plant from the Planning Act.

King Council candidate Debbie Schaefer says that the province's recent actions will only erode the faith we have in our leaders.

King's Mayor Margaret

Black is saying this latest development came from nowhere.

MPP Julia Munro says she is "floored" by this new exemption to the Planning act.

Aurora's Mayor Phyllis Morris has botched this issue so badly that I don't know where to even begin.

My question is, where have these people been for the past four years?

This latest move by the

province to exempt the gas fired peaking plant from the Planning Act should come as no surprise to anyone.

I have e-mails, letters, presentations and other supporting material that all confirm they were either told directly or should have known of the implications posed by Bill 51, which passed in 2006 and became law in 2007.

As I recall, I was the only person from York Region

presenting at the Queen's Park hearings on this issue when the then draft bill was being reviewed and despite my best efforts to get elected officials from the Region and our Municipalities to weigh in, they remained silent.

Now we are witnessing shock and dismay.

Ironically, I understand now more than ever why the government has had to force this project through in what does strike me as a heavy

handed approach.

The fact is that our elected officials and members of CCKT and MegaWHAT bare as much responsibility for the outcome this project as anyone and while the OPA's procurement process clearly does have some issues that are yet to be addressed, the OPA and government are not solely to blame for what has transpired.

The time to find the best possible site and work with the proponents towards incorporating the best possible mitigation measures has long since passed and York Region has missed the boat.

Not only will King and Oakville now pay the price for York Region's shortcomings, but the rest of Ontario is about to find out the implications of Bill 51 given the Province's Integrated Power Systems plan that will be rolled out over the next 20 years.

We had a chance to be well informed while demonstrating progressive leadership and quite frankly we

squandered our opportunity and now we are paying the price.

Richard Johnson
Aurora

Letter writer shows negative energy spent

To the editor,

I have read several of R.W. Hanes' letters to the editor over the years.

I always end up thinking of an axe in need of grinding.

Disparaging publicly people who are out there enthusing, selling, promoting and advancing a variety of interests vital to the life of our town, is negative energy spent, and reflects badly on the writer.

Give us something positive and we'll stop thinking about hidden motives and that old adage.

Corinna McConnell
Aurora

Man returned mom's purse

To the editor,

There still are good and honest people left in this world.

My mother last week drove away with her purse on top of her car, not realizing it until she had got to her appointment.

Thinking that all had been lost, dreading the thought of having to make those phone calls, she came home.

Much to her surprise there was a business card in the door, asking her to "Please Call Me!".

She did phone, the gentlemen's name was Frank

Azzarelli. He had in fact found my mother's purse, at St. John's Sideroad and Old Yonge Street. He had come to the house three times.

The purse was dirty, but all was there.

Frank would not take any type of reward even though my mother tried to give

him one.

He was just happy that he was able to get her purse back to her.

I just want to acknowledge his honesty, and to thank him.

Kim Valentine
Aurora

Citizen of the Year says it's an honour

An Open letter to Council and Aurorans,

Forty-eight years ago this month, I became a temporary Canadian immigrant to teach pottery in Toronto.

During the next 30

years of my working career, as temporary became permanent, I was blessed with wonderful friends, opportunities and benefits of this dominion.

Now that the retirement clock has ticked away 17 years, I am grateful for a

payback opportunity – a chance to put something back in the pot, from which I have received so much.

In Aurora we are blessed to have so many individuals who deal with the short-term situations, but see and facilitate the

big picture that will shape our environment for generations.

It is an honour to be identified as one working in that direction.

Gordon Barnes
2010 Citizen of the Year

Couple watched as lady threw garbage into creek

To the editor,

On May 27 around 6 p.m. my wife and I watched in disbelief as a mature

grey haired lady stopped her car on Kennedy St. West at Murray Drive, took a white package from the rear of her car and pro-

ceeded to throw it into Tannery Creek.

We have a message for this lady.

Tannery Creek is not

your personal garbage dump.

Tannery Creek is a beautiful part of Aurora's natural environment and the areas aquatic ecosystem.

It also plays an important role in sustaining much of the wildlife in our community and enhancing the natural environment.

Your actions were, to say the least, disrespectful to the vast majority of Aurora's residents who value and respect our natural environment.

It is our hope that you will read this letter, reflect upon your behaviour, realize how inappropriate it was and change your ways.

The material you threw into the creek has been properly disposed of.

Five years has passed since Song Circle began

To the editor,

Last week we celebrated our Fifth Anniversary of the Aurora Song Circle at Jonathan's.

I would just like to say what an amazing five years this has been.

The folks who have come into my life during this time have enriched me in incredible ways.

From teens to elders we have all been inspired to sing old tunes, new ones, and even write.

Thank you all for being a part of our lives.

We welcome everyone from musicians to toe-tappers.

Thank you, Mary, for giving us a home and John for looking after us on Tuesdays.

Patty McLaughlin
Alcona

His cable bill decreased by \$6 a month

To the editor,

The squeaky wheel gets the grease.

My monthly cable bill stayed the same for a year after our cable company was bought by another company.

That whopping \$14 per month "savings", was about to come to an end.

I called our current supplier, to ask if anything could be done, so that I wouldn't have to shop for a better alternative.

Well, they immediately applied a 30 per cent discount special to my bill, for another year.

I now pay \$6 per month less than I paid originally.

Go figure.

Bill Hack
Aurora

Bernard and Karen Moyle
Aurora

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Peter Virtanen
CLU Agent, Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

She's served again by Integrity Commissioner

To the editor,

Something old... something new, but not a marriage. Anything but.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern has acknowledged filing two complaints with the new Integrity Commissioner. She did not reveal her target.

I was asked if I am. I neither confirmed nor denied.

But it's not my nature to be coy. So I won't.

Once again, Councillor MacEachern feels my conduct as a councillor does not meet her standards and requires legal action to be taken against me (not at her expense) and hopefully punishment meted out.

She has decided to go it alone, without legal advice paid for with taxpayers' money, except for the Integrity Commissioner, a lawyer of same six choosing. He is paid \$3,600 a month from the town treasury.

We were told not to tell you that.

In any case, I did not agree to appoint a new

Integrity Commissioner. I didn't agree to appoint the first one.

I do not agree with the Code of Conduct. The bylaw requires each councillor to sign two copies of the Code.

Signatures on an agreement, generally signify a signatory's agreement to the agreement.

I have not agreed to surrender my rights as a citizen or a councillor.

I paid the fee and registered as a candidate in the last election.

I garnered enough votes to take a seat along with eight other members of Aurora Council. I received authority to speak for the people who elected me.

I swore an Oath of Office as required by provincial legislation.

I know the conduct expected of me. I have done it many times before. It was never a burden. Had I thought, I might have found it re-assuring that every member of council was taking the same oath to abide by the same rules.

I would have been disappointed.

Be that notwithstanding, I swore the Oath willingly and of sound mind, in order to take my seat to a position of trust and authority.

I was not compelled. I surrendered nothing.

Had this council decided to bring in a law to burn witches at the stake, I would not have agreed. It was legal once. Not any more.

Once it was the law not to allow women to vote or to own property. Not any more.

Even if the province had allowed it, I would not have agreed.

It would be contrary to Rights and Freedoms enjoyed by all Canadians.

But on payment of \$16,200, council received solicitor/client advice behind closed doors, that the province has given municipalities authority to pass laws to govern conduct of councillors, including restricting a councillor's authority to speak on behalf of the electors with penalties on pain of disobedience.

obedience.

Well, pshaw...I don't agree with that. That's just silly.

So, when I received the plain brown envelope containing two complaints from an Integrity Commissioner, chosen by the same six, who filed a previous complaint to a previous Integrity Commissioner, who dismissed it and was himself promptly dismissed by the same six, I just promptly forwarded the same to the same solicitor I retained at

my expense, when the same six filed a complaint against me, compiled by another solicitor retained by the same six at taxpayers' expense, unknown at this time but probably in the tens of thousands of dollars approaching a hundred and advertised in publications, also at taxpayers' expense and the town's web site.

The matter is in the hands of my solicitor.

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

Reader enjoyed Stephen's column

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is an open letter to Auroran Columnist Stephen Somerville with a copy sent to the newspaper.

Dear Stephen:

Congratulations on the best column you have ever written for The Auroran.

You reveal yourself personally and do so with passion.

Let's see more of this in the future.

It's unfortunate that politics and politicians seem

an essential ingredient of today's news media; both it and they seem to become more mediocre with each passing day.

One suggestion to you and/or the Publisher is the revival of the anecdotal column featured weekly by the late Dick Illingworth, "Bouquets and Brickbats."

There seem to be lots of those around these days and they always seemed to brighten up one's day.

George Hervey
Aurora

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Victory Gardens

Hollandview’s chef prepares local food

By **BROCK WEIR**
Auroran staff

As executive chef Kevin Finch strolled through the gardens of Hollandview Trail Retirement Community last week, he spotted something red in one of the many waist-level flower beds.

"Our first strawberry of the season!" he exclaimed.

Mr. Finch was giving a tour of the communal victory gardens on the building's grounds, part of a program he is spearheading at the residence to incorporate foods grown both in-house and in the area into residents' meals, and to support local producers.

"Our victory garden is a place for our residents to go out, garden, and enjoy the activities they would have enjoyed at their own homes," Mr. Finch explained. "This year we're planting vegetables and herbs, and the idea is basically to use all of our own herbs that we grow in our garden throughout the summer."

"We're growing tomatoes, carrots, and onions as well, and we hope to have at least one dinner once a month that focuses strictly on what we grow in our own gardens."

Aside from produce

grown specifically by Hollandview Trail, Mr. Finch is also focusing on creating "100 Mile Meals" once a week, where everything served is sourced from farmers and producers within a 100-mile radius.

"This week, for instance, we're doing short ribs from Howards Farm in Newmarket, as well as local Ontario asparagus, local potatoes, which would, of course, be last year's potatoes because the new ones aren't ready yet," he said. "We're trying to support as many local farms as possible."

Supporting local farmers is a cause close to Mr. Finch.

Having cut his teeth working his parents' 100-acre apple orchard, Finch Haven Orchards near Collingwood, he has worked in the food industry since he was 15.

While studying at George Brown College, Mr. Finch apprenticed in many local restaurants in York Region, eventually working his way up to executive chef, where he has been able to promote local foods.

"I always wanted to tie in the local food movement with what I was doing as a chef because I feel the most important

thing a chef can do is use local when making his own food," he said.

It was the efforts to incorporate local foods and his increasing involvement with various area farmers' markets that led him to Hollandview Trail.

"We met at the Aurora Farmers' Market," said Janet White, Community Relations Coordinator for Hollandview Trail. "I had met Kevin at the market and approached him about providing some giveaways for us at the [Hollandview Trail presentation centre's grand opening] which were small, homemade, locally grown jams and jellies."

"When the opportunity came up when they were looking for an executive chef, I jumped at the chance because I wanted to be involved in what this company was doing," he said.

Hollandview Trail jumped as well.

"I was thrilled when I saw his resume come through," said Ms White.

The Buy Local and 100 Mile Meal philosophies are fairly unique for retirement residences, according to Mr. Finch. He said Hollandview Trail's willingness to embrace this concept was "revolutionary and forward thinking" and it made the implementa-

tion of the program relatively smooth.

"I think we need to get more companies to buy into this type of lifestyle so we can sustain local farms and move forward so our grandchildren [get] to see what a real farm is like," said Mr. Finch.

While he recognizes that buying locally, and even preparing 100 Mile Meals, could be cost-prohibitive for some people, he said that it is essential to move in "baby steps" if considering bringing this into your own home.

"I think the best way to do it is to visit your local farmers' market and see exactly what they have available to you," he said. "Make those contacts. Just get out and do your research, talk to your local farmers about what is available in each season, but summer time is definitely the best time to start."

After finding the season's first strawberry, Mr. Finch headed back to the kitchen to plan that evening's 100 Mile Meal, including the short ribs and asparagus.

"This week, asparagus is the big local food," said Mr. Finch, outlining a quick and easy 100 Mile Meal that can be prepared in the home this week.



KEVIN FINCH
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Aurora scoops summit citation

The Town of Aurora was recognized with a citation from the GTA Clean Air Council last Wednesday at the Clean Air Summit at Toronto's City Hall.

The Town was recognized for its green energy purchasing with Bullfrog Power, the three-month pilot project to test LED street lights for possible future use in the town, and the conver-

sion of almost all town traffic lights to LED technology.

The GTA Clean Air Council is "an inter-governmental group working to improve regional air quality at its annual Clean Air Summit," said Jason Ballantyne, Aurora's Manager of Corporate communications.

"We're happy to be recognized for the posi-

tive steps we're taking on the environment," said Mayor Phyllis Morris in a statement. "While we're always looking for the

next thing we can do to protect the environment, it's nice to look back at some of the things we've already accomplished."

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Government stops giving \$ to inmates

By Lois Brown
MP Newmarket-Aurora

On June 1, our government introduced a bill in Parliament that suspends Old Age Security (OAS) benefits for inmates in federal penitentiaries, and we are encouraging provincial and territorial institutions to do the same.

As a result of our government's action, convicted criminals will no longer be able to collect taxpayer-funded OAS benefits.

When our government became aware that inmates were receiving these benefits, we took immediate action.

OAS benefits are designed to help seniors meet their immediate basic needs and maintain a minimum standard of living in retirement.

Since an inmate's basic needs are already paid for by public funds, Canadian taxpayers should not also be paying for income support through OAS benefits.

We have also made sure that low-income spouses or common-law partners of prisoners will not lose their individual entitlement to the Guaranteed Income

Supplement and the Allowances as a result of the proposed amendments.

Implementation will begin with prisoners who are incarcerated in federal penitentiaries for two years or more.

The Government of Canada will work with willing provinces and territories to continue implementation in provincial and territorial institutions for inmates serving sentences of greater than 90 days.

This amendment to the Old Age Security Act is about the responsible use

of public funds and the fair treatment of Canadian taxpayers.

We are taking action to put an end to entitlements for prisoners, and to ensure that those Canadians who have spent their lives working hard and playing by the rules receive the benefits they deserve.

My office is here to serve you.

Should I ever be able to be of any assistance to you or your family, please contact my office by phone at 905-953-7515, or by e-mail at Brown.L@parl.gc.ca.

Council rejects town hall diesel power generator

Aurora Council recently nixed a plan to initiate the tendering process to install a new backup diesel power generator at Town Hall.

This project would have come with a budget increase of \$130,000 from previous estimates.

"The project was initiated to address concerns with emergency preparedness and the ability to maintain critical Town Hall functions during power interruptions or other abnormal events," Ilmar Simanovskis, Director of Infrastructure and Environmental Services, said.

"Building lighting, elevator, computer systems including internal and remote networking, internet access and telephone switch and systems were all identified as critical to maintaining core services in an emergency condition," he said.

The \$90,000 budget item was approved in 2007 and after "several configurations and sizing exercises" were undertaken to look at procurement and installation, "staff retained the services of a design consultant to consolidate the elements of the project, finalize loads, and prepare full specifications and tendering documents.

"As part of the consulting assignment, the consultant was requested to provide a pre-tender estimate to ensure that the project was adequately funded prior to requesting tenders."

The budget for this item needed to be increased to address the "changing needs of Town Hall since the original concept," the report continued.

Confusion arose at the meeting on just where exactly these increases from 2007 stemmed from.

"We originally had a budget for \$90,000," said Al Downey, Director of

Leisure Services. "We felt that \$90,000 was going to be enough to provide generation and installation to run the IT system. However, the discussion now around the table is not only do we want to run the IT system, we want to run the telephones, we want to run the HVAC.

"We want to run the heat, the lights, we want the town hall fully operational for other emergency needs whether it be a media centre, a volunteer centre, or whatever else we might possibly be using it for in an emergency.

"These are the main changing needs and with that, the needs for the size of the generator had increased substantially to provide that. The \$90,000 (was) no longer adequate in order to place a generator here to run the entire building."

Mr. Downey's comments, however, did not seem to jibe with the information before Councillors. Councillor John Gallo noted that these needs were itemized in a previous report dated May 19, 2009.

"We've got a copy of your May 2009 report and five minutes ago you mentioned it went up because those things were not included and yet we know about the budget that was in the capital budget in 2007. We know it was \$90,000," said Mayor Morris to Mr. Downey. "That was just a guesstimate.

"When you brought it forward to us in 2008 you released a (Request for Proposal (RFP)). The RFP was designed for a minimum performance specification with the whole list of things in, including all the things you initially said weren't in and that is what would have brought the price up now. You're saying we could get everything for \$90,000 or \$100,000 or whatever it was including

all of those things at that time."

What emerged however was that going out for an all-inclusive one source tender, as opposed to sending out two separate RFPs for the generator itself and then one installation and inspection, contributed to the requested budget increase.

"There is a premium to be paid for single source," said Mr. Downey. "So we tendered out for a single source, exactly the same specifications as were presented to council in May of 2009. We went to tender in August of 2009 with a single source and the contract came back at \$190,000 for exactly the same work."

Councillors previously had concerns over a two-step process in obtaining and installing the generator, said Aurora CAO Neil Garbe. The concerns lay in whether or not the second phase which would entail the installation and certification of the generator would yield competitive bids.

"Therefore council directed staff to issue the tender of one contract that would solicit more bids for different types of generators and the second phase to get different types of bidders for the complete turnkey," said Mr. Garbe.

"(Mr. Simanovskis) has indicated it is his viewpoint that (this) is what it costs for one tender and that is the recommendation of staff."

While this generator

would have been able to keep the Town up in running for emergency needs, Councillor Evelyn Buck wondered if, as the Aurora Seniors' Centre is similarly outfitted for the same purpose, this would be money well spent either way.

"I believe when we built (the Seniors' Centre) it was to be the emergency headquarters if there ever was an emergency and it was equipped with certain equipment to handle emergencies," said Councillor Buck. "When I hear of the Town Hall being the emergency headquarters, do we need two emergency headquarters?"

Having multiple sites that could be put into use in an emergency is best practice in Canada, said Mr. Garbe. The Town Hall could be used for "other purposes" during an emergency, he added, such as a reception centre, a media centre, and gathering points.

"There is a demand during an emergency for this building," he said. "The Seniors' Centre is the prime location for the emergency operations. It has been equipped to maintain those functions. It's not there for basic service nor to support business continuity plans during an emergency."

The motion to go forward with the \$220,000 tendering process, as well as an alternate motion to defer the matter to the next budget review were both defeated.

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Members of the Aurora Song Circle gathered at Jonathan's Restaurant last week to celebrate their fifth anniversary. The group has been using the location for a "jam session:" every Tuesday night, thanks to Johathan's owner Mary Georgopoulos. *Auroran photo by Rob Schuetz*

Aurora Selkies shine at area swimming meet

The Aurora Selkies Swim Club's young swimmers fared well at the Mallards Annual Pentathlon Swim meet in Markham recently.

Top place finishers included: Robert Marshall, 10 years, with firsts in the 25 metres butterfly, 25m, free; and 25m back 1st. He came third in the 25m breaststroke.

Mitchell Delic, 8 years, was first in the 100 free, second in the 25 free and third in the 25 breaststroke.

Evan Holtby, 8 years, was first in the 50 back and Daniel Berezovski, came third in the 200 free.

Kyra Lansing scored personal best times in the 800 free and 400 Individual medley as did Jaden Delic, 6years; Bryce Davison and Cassidy Whitmore.

Gates may stop train whistling

From page 1
an gates is a requirement of the Region of York as a safety measurement for all Regional road crossings requesting anti-whistling," said Mr. Simanovskis. "The Region of York requested that the Town obtain quotes for the design and installation of the pedestrian gates and present the findings back to the Region.

"(They) informed the Town that the approximate cost for installing pedestrian gates is \$130,000 per location (with a sidewalk on both sides of the road). Therefore, the estimated cost for pedestrian crossing at the two regional locations is \$260,000 of which 100

per cent is fully recoverable." As the crossings at Centre Street and Engelhard Drive are owned by the Town of Aurora, the cost will be \$180,000 for the pedestrian gates which will be "provided through the Municipal Road Infrastructure Investment Fund."

Although some councillors said they did not see train whistles as a significant problem, the proposed measures won some support at the table on the safety measures alone.

"I think it makes sense," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner. "I know a lot of work has gone into this, and I think we have made a lot of progress. We're all the way

down to almost the finish line. I know a lot of people are using the crossing at Englehard and I think it could be much safer."

Councillor Bob McRoberts echoed Councillor Gaertner's comments citing safety concerns that have arisen over the years.

"I think whistles or no whistles, the pedestrian gates can only be helpful," he said. "If the public is already safe and pedestrians are already safe, they will be made safer."

Mounting costs in the effort to silence train whistles were questioned by Councillor Stephen Granger, however.

While Councillor Evelyn Buck said she "appreciated" the point Councillor Granger made about "this amount of money (we're spending) in order to get train drivers to stop blowing their whistles", she said she was "inclined to support the motion".

"I'm inclined to support the recommendation on the basis of increased safety for all drivers and pedestrians," she said. "I'm inclined to support it not because I believe the drivers will stop blowing their whistles, because I don't. I think if they see the need to blow the whistle they'll blow a whistle."

"Also, on summer evenings when you open

your windows, Newmarket has all these gates and they still have trains blowing their whistles. On summer evenings, those whistle blows carry all the way down to Aurora.

"I don't see any real possibility for removing what was a nuisance to some residents whom we haven't heard from for a long time - maybe they don't live here anymore or maybe they just got like the rest of us, so used to hearing it that they don't hear it anymore."

While councillors were provided with a cheaper

option of installing fixed pedestrian mazes - fences to create "obstacles" for pedestrians and cyclists - at the Town-owned crossings, Town Staff recommended the installation of pedestrian gates for practical reasons.

"It's directly related to the anti-whistling," said Mr. Simanovskis. "If we were not to pursue the anti-whistling we would not have to make any changes. However, to pursue anti-whistling and for the Region to be in support of anti-whistling [measures], we must comply with their policy which requires gates."

Costs to solve lighting woes are higher, committee learns

From page 10
problem.

"You live in an urban municipality and there are poles everywhere you look," she said. "You don't even see them anymore unless someone draws your attention to them. I don't see any merit whatsoever in spending thousands of dollars."

"It isn't a rural property anymore. It may have been when the residents moved in, but it isn't any more. For us to be spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on the lighting for the baseball diamond and almost a million dollars for the baseball diamond, \$8,000 may not seem like very much to other people but it is \$8,000 too much as far as I'm concerned."

The possibility that this decision could set a precedent for future complaints was of concern to Councillor John Gallo.

Town Solicitor Christopher Cooper, however, said that situation was unlikely.

"This would appear to be something of a unique situation with respect to the location of the ball diamond vis-à-vis the property owner, but I can't see that this would ultimately set a dangerous precedent for the Town in terms of having to go in and correct situations like this," he said.

On the other hand, some councillors did see a bright side to this solution.

"When this issue came before us the last time... I went home and kicked it around a whole bunch and thought of a number of reasons why I was going to have trouble moving the pole," said Councillor Bob McRoberts. "With the report before us, I see it as not really a pole issue so much as an opportunity to plant four

big trees in a park and have [development charges] pay for it.

"I think it is a good compromise to a tricky issue and I think planting trees is only a

positive."

Councillors ultimately passed the motion and it goes to Council this week for further discussion and possible approval.

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By BRIAN WARBURTON

Sequeira returned as board president

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the meeting of directors and members, and members form the required quorum, which lends legality to the subsequent proceedings.

The members who attend the AGM become involved in what has transpired, by authorizing all business enacted by the outgoing board.

And so the ASA held its AGM last week with an excellent attendance of seniors and Charles Sequeira was returned as president.

Marie Leone started the ball rolling with an objection to a by-law amendment, which would authorize the Board to appoint a member in the event of a vacancy occurring.

An appointment could only be of a member who had stood for election to the Board, but Marie's amendment was defeated.

She felt strongly that a new election should settle the issue of a new director, but the appointment route had its supporters and the outcome of a vote was a no decision, with the item tabled and returned to the By-Law committee for further study.

The new ASA Board of Directors is comprised of: Charles Sequeira, President; Ruth Church, Treasurer; Virginia Bodnar, Vice President; and Jytte Gillies, Secretary.

Other directors include Bill Higgins, Derek Murray, Bob Collard, Barbara Stoecklin and Ron Coe. Congratulations to Ron Coe and Jytte Gillies on being elected and to Barbara Stoecklin on her re-election.

Charles Sequeira remarked that the ASA may become involved in sponsorships and seminars.

The president's report by Mr. Sequeira recognized the outstanding results by ASA members in the past several years in the York Region 55+ Summer Games, with many medals won.

He added that fundraising activities continue successfully for the ASA, through all seasons and many events during the year.

Charles spoke highly of the

Aurora Seniors Computer Club and the efforts to improve computer expertise among members.

Also mentioned was the Wood Shop partnered with the Aurora Environmental Advisory Committee and the construction of 40 bird house assembly kits, and the part played by the Wood Shop in annual parades.

He added that the Aurora Food Bank benefited from ASA contributions and Neighbourhood Network and the ASA team up as and when required.

In May, 800 children attended the Seniors' Centre as the Optimist Club and the ASA partnered to organize a giant Easter egg hunt.

Charles also acknowledged the 10,000 to 15,000 volunteer hours contributed annually by members that provide the heart and spirit of what makes the ASA tick.

The ASA is a community centre, for which the municipality has responsibility, and the enormous total of volunteer hours enables the ASA to function in the prestigious fashion that characterizes its reputation.

Among the many award winners at the town's annual recognition event held last week were seven members of the Seniors' Centre who won five year Volunteer Service Awards.

They included Virginia Bodnar, Mary Higgins, Bill Higgins, Ron Humenichuk, Bruce Millar, Louise Williams and Ron Wallace.

Mr. Wallace and the late Dick Illingworth, also won an award for Heritage Education. Mr. Illingworth's award was received by his wife Dorothy Clark McClure.

The Community Recognition Awards ceremony reveals an excellent community of industrious residents, who make Aurora a great place to live and work.

With the AGM concluded successfully and the arrival of good weather, a fine summer looms in the minds of seniors.

The members who attend regularly know what is available and for everybody who desires to share this knowledge, the monthly newsletter is available on the front counter of the Centre.

It is free to everybody who cares to drop by and take one.

Contained on the latter pages is a monthly summary itemized by day, of the activities available, and seniors are encouraged to avail themselves of the Centre and add to the prosperity of their social life.

Join the seniors, get involved in an activity, attend a few times and social life expands, sometimes exponentially. In the Centre, you will never walk alone.

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Yonge Street house part of Doors Open

The Benjamin Stephenson house at 15010 Yonge Street, on the west side, just south of Kennedy Street was built in 1915 on one of the earliest settlement lots in Aurora.

Yonge Street has evolved significantly since Simcoe's surveyors mapped out this major route in the 1790s.

Since the 18th century, lots along Yonge Street in Aurora - this one included - have transitioned from farming practices to being subdivided for the creation of multiple lots to house the managerial classes and other white-collar workers and to its current use as an office.

Benjamin Stephenson purchased the lot in 1913 for \$2,500, and subdivided the land into seven lots, one upon which he built the two-storey house (lot seven).

The assessment value

of the home in 1916 was \$1,740.

The significance of this site lies not only within the Edwardian Classicism of the Benjamin Stephenson house and its Ontario farmhouse origins (stolid and standardized red brick) but in the evolution of the use of the land upon which it resides.

The building is rectangular in plan but with a slight projection on the centre of the southern elevation. When you visit this house, note some of its special features, including the side entrance which is at the centre of the building and the A gabled roof of medium pitch, with gables at the front and the rear. The front gable contains a double casement window and the roof is supported at each of its front corners with wooden columns on brick piers.

The main and second

floors will be open to the public except the kitchen.

Doors Open this year, Aurora's fifth happens Saturday, August 21.

The free event offers the public a rare opportunity to explore hidden treasures, many of which are not normally open to the public.

Participants are able to tour buildings, take guided tours, and view special exhibits and displays during the single day event.

You can help make this year's Doors Open Aurora a success by volunteering to help.

Dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers will receive a t-shirt with the Doors Open Aurora logo.

If you can spare some time, visit the website www.e-a-u-r-o-r-a.ca/aurora/doorsopen2010 and complete the volunteers' application form or call 905-727-3123, extension 4351.



Benjamin Stephenson house at 15010 Yonge Street, now an office, is part of Doors Open event in August.

Barnes named citizen of the year

From page 1

opportunity.

"This is an interesting opportunity to do a little bit of payback for all the good things that have happened to me over the years," he said.

Mr. Barnes moved to Aurora in 1975 while working for Seneca College's King Campus.

"My boss at the college decided he was going to stop working at the college and go back to being a minister," he said. "I was in his office that night and he said, 'Well, I'm going to quit and sell the house and move back to St. Catharines. I said, 'Why don't I buy your house?' and I did."

It did not take long for Mr. Barnes to become entrenched in community life.

"You just can't live in a place and see things that need doing unless you get busy and start

doing them!" he said.

Although there wasn't a single cause or issue that brought him out into the community, the environment has always been a particular interest of his.

Having grown up on a farm in Minnesota, he said he has always been close to the land.

"I understood that if you don't feed the land, it won't feed you," he said. "It's a matter of looking after your own nest."

In the 35 years Mr. Barnes has lived in Aurora, he has worked with the Aurora Arboretum, is a member of the Town's Environmental Advisory Committee, and has spearheaded countless community projects and initiatives.

"It has been interesting to be on the Environmental Advisory Committee for the past three-and-a-half years now," he said. "We've made some significant progress with little things like finally getting some anti-idling

signs up and we're actually having people understand that there is a term called permeable pavement which might be a useful thing."

The love of the land he shares with his wife eventually led them to welcome people into their own back yard.

"My wife is the smart one," he said. "She has been involved in all things horticultural for her entire life. I just grew up on a farm and did the usual kinds of things, and then left. We have been running the garden here since 1991. In the early days I lavished benign neglect on the back yard and when Marie moved in we started looking after things, put on a lot of compost, and started feeding the soil. We did tomatoes and we were on the garden tour several years ago and part of Doors Open."

"The garden tour was here and the tomatoes weren't ripe

but people asked when they were going to be ripe, so we said, 'Sign up on a list and we will open up in August when they are ready.' That was the beginning of the tomato tasting and that went on for five years."

Aside from environmental causes, Mr. Barnes has been involved in a number of additional groups, including a wine club.

He belongs to the Aurora Probus Club, which is an offshoot of Rotary International and is comprised of more than 80 retirees in Aurora alone.

"I have been the editor for the monthly newsletter for the Probus Club now for several years and that gives me an opportunity to write a little piece that goes on the back page," he said. "My good wife, a long time ago, observed that I keep mouthing off all kinds of different things and she said, 'Why don't you learn how to write it down?' This is what evolved out of that."

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IN MEMORIAM

Edward Keith Marsh

July 15th, 1931 - June 2nd, 2010

On June 2nd, 2010, at the age of 78, Keith was embraced by the loving arms of his Heavenly Father. He is now joined in spirit with his precious late wife Bernice, in a place where they both believed they would experience a new and wondrous life.

Keith lived a rich, spiritual life and touched the lives of many with his caring, compassionate and generous ways. He also brought laughter to those around him with his terrific sense of humour which sometimes got him into trouble. For decades he financially supported many Christian organizations and ministries, including World Vision and The Salvation Army. He spent a lifetime ministering to those in spiritual need. One of the culminating moments in Keith's life was becoming a Lay Reader at St. Luke's Anglican Church where he was granted special privileges to administer holy communion. He expanded his ministry by providing pastoral care to individuals at several nursing homes, and at Trillium Health Centre - Mississauga as a Spiritual Care Volunteer.

Keith was also a successful businessman, and after working for VISIrecord Systems for more than 25 years, he became its sole owner in the mid 1980's. With his help-mate Bernice by his side, and supported by long-time key staff, he continued to run a flourishing business until just after her passing in 2006.

Keith will be missed by the joys of his life, his daughters Cheryl Elliott (Phil) and Janet Marsh, son John Marsh (Beatrice), and grandchildren Andrew Seminsky, Meaghan and Nicholas Elliott and Victoria and Ashley Marsh. Keith will also be remembered by his nieces and nephews, and by a wide circle of friends and business associates whose friendships lasted a lifetime.

A Celebration of Keith's Life and interment in the Garden of Remembrance will take place at his home church of St. Luke's Anglican Church on Saturday, June 19th, 2010 with visitation at 10:00 a.m. and the Service at 11:00 a.m. The Church is located at 1513 Dixie Road (south of the Q.E.W. across from Dixie Mall), Mississauga - 905.278.1811.

For those who wish, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Keith's name to St. Luke's Anglican Church. Arrangements entrusted to the Turner & Porter "Peel" Chapel, Mississauga - 905.279.7663.

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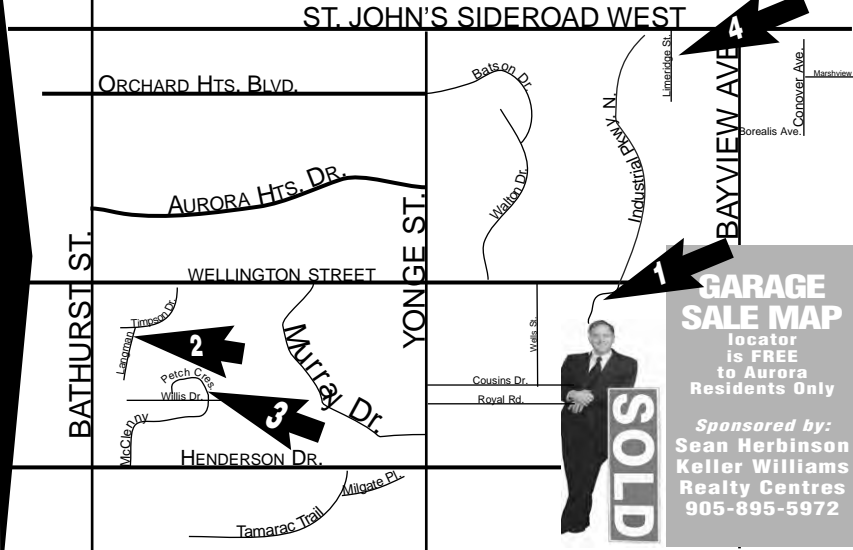
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15th Annual Street Festival huge success



About five years ago officials believed the annual street festival was attracting about 40,000 people. Sunday, despite questionable weather early on, they did it again.

Residents and vendors alike awoke to heavy rain Sunday morning, and several decided against showing up for the 15th annual event. Those who did reported another day of successful sales as about 40,000 people took to Yonge Street, the minute the rain let up.

From that moment on, the street festival became another success, as clouds gave way to sunny skies and temperatures stayed cool enough for walking.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce reported two weeks ago that the event - which sees Yonge Street closed for about seven hours the first Sunday in June - was sold out.

The Chamber took over the event after its first year, when it was started to celebrate the 200th birthday of Yonge Street in 1996. At that time it was referred to as the 'World's Longest Street Sale on the World's Longest Street'.

Later, when applying for provincial grants, the word "sale" was replaced by "festival", since provincial officials would not allow the former word.

Sunday's event attracted new booths as well as old. In the photographs, clockwise from left, walkers were treated to a fire-eater as "Spike" Zay Weaver showed the audience how it's done. Below, popular singer Patty McLaughlin teamed up with friends to entertain the crowd, while members of the Romeo and Juliet cast attended the Theatre Aurora booth.

Member of Provincial Parliament Frank Klees kept busy throughout the afternoon, spending time with Member of Parliament Lois Brown and Aurora's Newest Citizen of the Year Gord Barnes.

On the left, Klaus Wahrenburg was back in action, much to the delight of crowds, while Zay Weaver, from Kalamazoo, entertained the masses on the trapeze.



*Auroran photos
by
David Falconer*





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