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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 10 No. 34 905-727-3300 auroran.com FREE Week of June 15, 2010

Open house being planned for downtown

Members of the public will have an opportunity to review the work "so far" of the Downtown Aurora Promenade Study Wednesday, June 23rd at 7 pm.

"The purpose is to invite the public in to see and ask questions regarding the work we have done so far on the vision for the Promenade Study," said Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning. "We hope to see a lot of our business folks and residents out on June 23rd."

"We're looking for the public to get involved," added Mayor Phyllis Morris. "If you're interested in the downtown of Aurora and how that study is going to look, this is an opportunity to come out."

The June 23rd Open House was announced shortly after Councillor Al Wilson revisited the apparent need of additional professional business space in the Town, which was brought up by Geoffrey Dawe, President of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce at a May council meeting.

Councillor Wilson outlined a number of spaces which could be available for professional office use.

"We are working very hard (to address this issue)," said Mayor Morris. "We certainly have had open houses as well, and charettes, and we've had information sessions and one of the main driving factors has been we're well aware of the need for office space."

"This Council and [the Downtown Revitalization

Committee] are well versed in that, and a provision has been made for that for the last year or so. Further to that, the State Farm area...the third phase has always been office space and that is a huge tract of land we have.

"We're already on the ball and we're working towards that."

The Economic Development office is currently offering its assistance in addressing the need for space, she added.

"We're doing our best and I think we're doing everything we possibly can to help small business. We'll continue to do better as part of that committee."

Council says no to tree planting

Aurorans won't see mature coniferous trees planted in Stewart Burnett Park any time soon.

After a raucous discussion last week, councillors decided not to move forward with the plans.

A motion to simply receive the information was passed 5-4 with Mayor Phyllis Morris, and Councillors Wendy Gaertner, Stephen Granger, and Evelina MacEachern voting against the motion in the hopes of approving the planting.

The proposed planting was the result of complaints received by the Town regarding one of the light posts at the park's new baseball diamond.

The complainants said they were unaware of the light posts proposed location until they they came home



John Webster, centre, Aurora's unofficial Town Crier, always leads the procession of cancer survivors and the rest of the participants in the Relay for Life events in Aurora and Newmarket. Here he is with one of the teams called Spirit Soldiers which were part of the Aurora Relay for Life held Friday night and Saturday at Magna's head office site on Wellington Street East. Most of the teams were made up mainly of Aurora residents.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Briefly

Celebration

The Wells Street School Council has extended an invitation to all members of the Wells Street community past and present to attend the Wells Street Public School's Closing Ceremonies and Year End Dance at the Town Park this Friday, June 18th.

Ceremonies will start at 6.30 p.m. with a dance to follow at 7.30.

Reception

The final Aurora Chamber of Commerce event of the season will be a cocktail reception and General Meeting and Election and Induction of Officers and Directors for 2010-2011.

This event is being held Thursday, June 24th from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre (Church Street School), 22 Church Street.

Cost is \$20 for members or \$30 for potential members.

Register online at <http://memberservices.membee.com/onaurococ/irmevents.aspx?id=59>.

and discovered the pole in the direct line of view from their dining room window.

Town staff countered a suggestion that the pole be moved by calling for the planting of four 20 - 30 foot coniferous trees to act as a screen between the home and the baseball diamond to the tune of \$8,000.

The recommendation was approved at general committee on June 1st.

Councillor Al Wilson was one of several councillors who objected June 1st to the expenditure of any public money on the project. He reiterated his stance last week, noting he didn't feel it was a strong issue.

Although near the end of the

Please see page 13

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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 capella Sweet Adelines chorus, a group of women who gather Tuesday evenings at the Old Fire Hall, Newmarket, to sing, share in the harmony of friendship and learn the barber-shop art form. York Highlands is always looking for new women who share the love of a capella 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 Fire Hall, 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 at 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.

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.

The 4th annual Senior Star competition will be held at The Royal Canadian Legion from 2 to 4 p.m. Park Place Manor has joined with Aurora Resthaven and Barton Retirement Residence to host this event. This year there are 10 contestants from the community who will be showcasing their musical talent.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18

Wells Street School Council is holding their closing ceremonies and year end dance at the Town Park with ceremonies starting at 6.30 p.m.

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 appear 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.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

Members of the Aurora Seniors Centre will leave today to see "Kiss Me Kate" in Stratford. The cost is \$109 for members and \$119 for non-members. The bus will leave the Aurora Community Centre at 9.30 a.m. and the cost includes lunch and the 2 p.m. performance.

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.

THURSDAY, JULY

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/detail/s/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.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

The 37th Annual Antique & Classic Car Show takes place at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. as exhibitors from across southern Ontario display antique and classic cars. Rain date is August 15th. Admission is \$6 (children under seven free); or \$15 per family of up to four. For more information, call 905-727-8954 or 1-888-290-0337. The museum is on Woodbine Avenue in Vondorf.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Aurora's Pine Tree Potters' Guild will host an "Empty Bowls" fund-raising event to benefit the York Region Food Network and Welcoming Arms. The event will take place at the Aurora Cultural Centre (Church Street School) with lunch from noon to 2 p.m. and dinner from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets will be available after September 8. For the price of a ticket, guests may choose from hundreds of handmade pottery bowls. Chefs from various Aurora restaurants will be on hand to serve their signature gourmet soups and artisan breads. For further information, click on www.pinetreepotters.ca.



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Aurora bowlers raised \$5,329 more than they did last year at the Big Brothers Big Sisters 35th annual Bowl for Kids Sake held recently in Aurora. Teams raised a total of \$24,677. Some of the Aurora bowlers were on hand last week to receive awards and trophies. Participating in the event were, left to right, Brian North from Aurora's Ellis Studios; Rhonda Flanagan, BBBS fund development; Betsy McIntyre, BBBS staff; directors Gary Kryshka and Maggie Thornton; Mary Hoegy BBBS program manager; executive director Moragh Wolfe and BBBS staff member Mary Lynn Stephenson.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Town seeks nominations

Aurora Council is looking to have "as many citizen nominations as possible" in the annual Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship program.

In a letter introduced last week by Mayor Phyllis Morris, Ontario's Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Dr. Eric Hoskins, invited people to nominate a deserving citizen for the honour.

"Established in 1973, the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship honours Ontarians who, through exceptional, long-term efforts, have made outstanding contributions to life in their communities," said Minister Hoskins.

To be eligible for an award, one must live in Ontario. Federal, provincial and municipal representatives are eligible as well once they have left public office. Posthumous nominations are not accepted.

Recipients are chosen by an Advisory Council, chaired by Lieutenant Governor David Onley.

Nomination forms are available online now through the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration's website (www.citizenship.gov.on.ca).

Hard copies of the nomination forms are also available through the Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat at (416)-314-7526.

"I encourage you to take the time and nominate a deserving citizen in your community for an Ontario Medal of Good Citizenship," said Minister Hoskins.

Nominations close August 17.



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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

First train to Aurora to be commemorated Friday in St. Thomas

The Town of Aurora is about to be immortalized for something no one today can lay claim to.

This Friday, in St. Thomas, the arrival of the railway in Machell's Corners (that was what Aurora was called then) in 1853 will be commemorated in the Hall of Fame at the Railway Museum.

At the time of the train trip, it made Aurora the "head of rail".

Aurora historian John McIntyre will be there.

John, who is curator at the famous Sharon Temple, submitted the nomination last year.

The citation, to be read at the induction ceremony, sounds something like this:

"In May 1853, (that's more than 157 years ago) the first steam train to operate in Canada West began service between Toronto and Aurora, then called Machell's Corners. (It took two hours to make the trip.)

"This was the first stage in a line being constructed through to Collingwood by the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Union Railroad Company (farmers in those days referred to the line as the Oats, Straw and Hay railway, but we don't know why).

"The Ontario, Simcoe and Huron was Canada's first commercially successful railway line, promoted by entrepreneur Frederick Chase Capreol.

"The completion of this line to Collingwood effectively linked the upper and lower Great Lakes by rail for the first time and confirmed Toronto's position as the leading manufacturing and trading centre in the province.

"It also was important in opening northern Ontario to mining, forestry and other resource-based industries.

"The town of Capreol reminds us of this today.

(Capreol is a community in the Ontario city of Greater Sudbury. From 1918 to 2000, Capreol existed as an independent town, situated on the Vermilion River. On January 1, 2001, the towns and cities of the Regional Municipality were amalgamated into the single-tier city of Greater Sudbury. In 1996, the last Canadian census before the municipal amalgamation, Capreol had a population of 3,817.)

"The OSH's initial run to Aurora (Machell's Corners) was a milestone in Canadian railway history and is commemorated today by a provincial plaque and a locomotive bell displayed on the grounds of Aurora's restored 1900 Grand Trunk Railway station.

"The arrival of the railway brought development and economic prosperity to Aurora and every community it reached.

"In Aurora's case, it led to the establishment of the Fleury Agricultural Works which went on to manufacture ploughs and a wide variety of farm implements and machinery for sale across Canada."

And speaking of the Fleury Plow, it was the subject of some information in The Auroran last week.

Seems we said there is one on a post by the entrance to Fleury Park, south of the Aurora Community Centre.

It's the second time The Auroran has mentioned the plow and its location.

Town of Aurora staffers told me last week, it ain't so.

Hasn't been a plow there for years, they say.

Seems someone was breaking pieces off it, so the Town had it removed and stored away in a safe place. And, apparently, it's still there.

But there was, at one time, a Fleury Plow on display in the park.

Time, they say, really flies when you're having fun.

You should pay HST if you're a Liberal, he says

To the editor,

How is it that the current McGuinty Liberals have so mismanaged government finances that they are some \$20+ billion in the red for just this current fiscal year?

Why are they not cutting spending such as their own salaries or government work-

er wages or welfare?

Any reasonable person or private corporation would be cutting spending/expenses in such a predicament.

But, the Liberals' solution always seems to be a socialist response; i.e. confiscate (some might call it stealing) even more of hardworking people's paycheques; now

Letters to the Editor

Everyone's invited to Optimist's picnic

To the editor,

These days it is too easy for anybody to dismiss the corporate world as profit hungry, uncaring gluttons, worried only about their bottom line.

To many of us, companies large and small, have become faceless, soulless entities concerned only about themselves with little or no regard for their own workers or the people of their communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to dispel this perception.

Right here in Aurora there are many companies that are genuinely concerned about the

community we live in and the people who make up our town.

As part of the Optimist Club of Aurora's celebration of 25 years of service to the town, the entire community of Aurora is invited to an "Old Fashion Family Picnic" on June 19th at Optimist Park in the north east quadrant of town.

This activity is free for all who attend.

We urge you to come and enjoy the many activities.

There will be races for adults and children, face painting, a bouncy hut, wall climbing and a petting zoo, among other activities.

You may want to take part in a Hot Dog Eating contest, enjoy music, watch a soccer game or a karate demonstration.

We urge you to bring your ball gloves and bats and play pick-up baseball on the diamond.

You can bring your own lunch or purchase one from the Optimist "Wienie Wagon".

It is sure to be a great day for the families of Aurora.

The action starts at 11 a.m. and goes non-stop until 4 p.m.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of our corporate sponsors.

The Optimist Club

would like to thank the following local companies who have stepped up to the plate to ensure this fabulous day was made possible: Magna, CIBC at Bayview and Wellington, Hartwell Thayer Financial Services Group, Lisgar Construction, Pace Credit Union, Ellis Studios, The Tuesday Night Song Circle, AJ Printing, Watson Family Karate and the Town of Aurora.

These companies work to make Aurora the better place to call home!

**Brian Marshall
Picnic Co-chair
Optimist Club
of Aurora**

Mayor didn't "botch" issue, Auroran reader maintains

To the editor,

Re: Letter to the Editor by Richard Johnson re Gas Peaker Plant (June 10, 2010)

Once again, the prolific political critic, Mr. Richard Johnson, has taken the opportunity to personally slam Mayor Phyllis Morris.

It is with dismay that Aurora's citizens must read, time and time again, such unjustified statements as "Aurora's Mayor Phyllis Morris has botched this issue so badly that I don't know where to even

begin".

The issue at hand is the location of the gas-fired peaker plant. It is time to set the record straight.

Mayor Morris, when she was a councillor, championed Mr. Johnson's crusade to stop high voltage overhead transmission lines through many residential areas of Aurora, including Mr. Johnson's neighbourhood.

Against many obstacles, she fought for Aurora citizens, and Mr. Johnson was one of her strongest supporters.

When other Aurora resi-

dents near Bayview and Bloomington were very concerned about having a gas-fired peaker plant close to their neighbourhoods, potentially impacting thousands of residents both in Richmond Hill and Aurora, Mayor Morris championed their cause as well.

We are grateful to Mayor Morris, members of council, and others, including MPP Frank Klees, for recognizing that the peaker plant did not belong in the proximity of residential areas in Aurora.

I fail to see how this can

be construed as Mayor Morris botching the issue.

To the contrary, she has stood up for all of her constituents, and represented our concerns.

It is unfortunate for King Township that Bill 51 is being implemented.

However, Mayor Morris did not "botch the issue" for Aurora.

She helped save Aurora from having the peaker plant and high voltage transmission lines in our midst.

**Bonnie Kraft
Aurora**

Reader enjoyed street festival

To the editor,

Thank you to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and all of the volunteers.

Sunday, the day of the annual street festival, was an amazing day as so many people enjoyed the many vendors and enter-

tainment.

This was also an international event as so many of the people were from out of Canada and they all said that it was great event.

I had people stop at my booth who were visiting from Michigan, New York State, Ohio, Germany, England, Scotland, Spain and Holland.

Another great day. Thank you to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and especially to Ron Wallace who first had the idea 15 years ago to have a street sale in Aurora.

It has turned into a tradition and perhaps it could be held twice a year, as September would be a great month to have it again.

**Nigel Kean
Aurora**

THE AURORAN

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Supervising children

I have written on some very diverse issues over the past 49 months, topics as varied and hopefully compelling as taxes, volunteerism in our community, buying my wife Christmas presents and the proximity of my mother-in-law to our house (answer is too close), but these pale in comparison to the following question: how many adults are required to supervise a children's activities?

This question came up as a result of watching the interaction of other families during my sons' recent soccer and baseball games.

As you can imagine, the answer depends on the interplay among a number of factors.

First, consideration must be given to the proximity of the event to one's home.

The closer one is to one's home, the more assistance that is required.

Going to the Town Park or Machell Park usually requires both my wife and I to keep an eye on our son Ryan, whereas one parent seems to manage one child at Canada's Wonderland.

Second, the more expensive the outing, the less supervision required.

The reason being that the more money you have spent, the children are more likely to be enjoying themselves and otherwise occupied.

Third, it depends on the age of the children.

The older children are more mobile and can therefore get into more mischief.

Fourth, it depends whether the children are your own.

If the child is not your own and he is misbehaving, just leave him at the Town Park or the ACC.

Fifth, the time of day.

I find the best time of day to take children anywhere is just before bedtime or when they are very hungry.

Children especially like to be taken to museums and operas - anywhere where quiet and decorum is required.

Sixth, the importance of the event to the parents, paradoxically enough, seems to bring out the best in kids.

For example, I was afforded the opportunity, on November 11th, 2006, on behalf of the Newmarket - Aurora federal Conservative riding association, of laying a wreath at the Aurora war memorial.

What made it even more special was that my young son Ryan and my two nephews, Brock and Devan, were with me.

Even though it was raining and cold outside that day, the boys were troopers.

Although they did not really understand the true significance of the ceremony at the time, they were nonetheless on their best behaviour because of the solemnity of the event. I was proud of them.

But why do these same children have no such compunction in making life "interesting" in the middle of grocery stores or shopping malls?

A while back I took both my nephews and my son to the grocery store.

After a rather lengthy, loud and highly animated four-way negotiating session that took place in the middle of aisle 16, all three children came home with their own large box of cereal (although there may have been eight or so boxes already at home), a magazine of their choice and either ice cream or a chocolate bar.

Me? I came home with a lighter wallet and a migraine headache.

This group of young scoundrels is also especially good at soliciting money out of me for fast foods and ice cream.

As well, how can I say no after hearing their heartfelt and detailed explanation of the dietary and economic benefits of having lunch come out of a vending machine?

I have developed a theorem in an attempt to explain this question.

Somerville's Equation goes like this: (km's from home + cost of event + total age of children + importance of event to adults (out of 100)) / number of children. Anything over 450 points and a ratio of only one adult per three children is required.

Let's get back to the posed question - how many adults are required to supervise children's activities?

The answer is an easy one. One woman can, based solely on historical Statistics Canada data, watch over as many as 15 children. The same statistics reveal that a minimum of two men is required to watch over and ensure the safety of one child.

My wife has reminded me that there is an asterisk to the above: if the male adults watching the babies are related in any fashion to the Somervilles, then four males will be required.

On a different note, I know how much all of you have been waiting for my World Cup Soccer prediction. England 2-0 over Spain in the final on July 11th in South Africa. You are most welcome!

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Heard About Town

By David Heard

Gift from the past

Suddenly, the rain stopped.

The clouds, moving east and north, became grey.

This was all right because Newmarket did not really need sunshine. We did.

Off the sidewalks and curbs the masses moved into action. Pole and canvas were snapped together and formed. The marketplace was set for a new adventure.

A few items would be sold, and a number of new names and stories would be shared.

It was a glorious day for the community.

Thousands upon thousands passed by enjoying a treat from the many food vendors.

The sun came out and then so did the enthusiasm. It is funny how a few rays and positive energy can help people become so eager to chat.

The Aurora Street Festival was well under way, and the memories I kept from that event are the value of the day.

The first citizen to keep my attention with a tale of passion for Aurora arrived at about 11.30 a.m.

He and his daughter were poking through some photos of old Aurora and his first comment was, how he wished he had lived here then.

"How long have you been here," I asked.

"Eight years" he replied and then he told me how he was going to die in this Town.

"I love it here," he added.

I asked about where he came from and he informed me it was South Africa, and India.

I have not been to either place, but would love to in the future. He described his feelings for Aurora, and I was jealous.

I enjoyed listening to him and felt I had met a new friend.

They bid goodbye and not long after some long-time residents stopped by.

They also mulled over the old photos and the gentleman alerted to a figure in one of the shots.

He was looking at a scene from The Metropolitan Railway station, where TC's Burgers is, on Yonge Street beside the United Church.

In the photo there is a man who looks as if he was a mechanic. He is seated on a service cart for repairs.

"I think that is my Grandfather in that photo," he excitedly boasted.

Mr. Day in the present had just had his day made from the past.

He suddenly felt more connected to the community that something from his family (Day) was locked in time.

He was part of the step and I got to walk and share in his family's shoes.

Last year, it was the "Petch" family who shared their 1800 bible for the first time. This year they came back to say hello.

For my mother and myself it was another chance to share what we have. The ripple that came back was a reward of smiles and stories.

Next time you are line at the grocery store, look beside you.

There is your neighbour.

Talk about Aurora and where they made home before. You will be glad you did.

It is just like a step in time when everybody was a neighbour.

Our growth and size does not have to take that away. Only exclusion can do that.

For the tremendous success of the Street Festival, bouquets to all the citizens of Aurora and the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

To the humble volunteers, a few dozen more bouquets.

Most of all, to those who visited, I grant a greenhouse of colour. For making my mother smile so much.

David Heard can be emailed at:
astepintimeaurora@yahoo.com

Letters to the Editor

Train whistle helps reader get to work

To the editor,

I was saddened to read that the abolition of the train whistle is going to become a reality and the chronic whiners in this town will once again get their way.

I presume those are the folks who don't have to get up in the morning and go out to any kind of job, and what a shame for them that the train whistle wakes them up. Boo hoo!

Over the years I have relied on the sound of the train whistle every morning -

I know I have to get out of bed when the first whistle goes - I have to be out of the shower and ready for work very shortly after the second train whistle goes and I have to be ready to leave the house by the time the third train is whistling.

It's been a gentle nudge for me every morning to get me to work on time.

I liked the sound of the train whistles when I was a child and I like the sound of the train whistle now. I like the bells that chime on the old Post Office on Yonge

Street - will the clock tower be on the hit list next?

I've heard some people complaining about the chiming of the clock every hour, and for those people I say - "Go and live in a cave somewhere way up north where there is nothing to hear except the silence of the snow falling - or just plain GO away".

Every day we pay more and more taxes, deal with more and more traffic, and deal with more and more idiots and some of the old time things such as the train

whistle and the town clock chimes to me are just sane and sacred and comforting.

What a selfish, whining, inconsiderate bunch of "me's" our society has become.

And...for the record by the way...I am a senior citizen - I still get up every morning and go 25 miles each way to work, all day, every day and I'll miss the train whistle prodding me out the front door.

Heather Stewart
Aurora

Compelling arguments would give ombudsman authorities

To the editor,

To describe the legislation in the Nursing Homes Act as the model of excellence for retirement residences is to totally mislead the public into believing quality care exists in all long-term facilities because there are regulations and standards.

The public is being misled that the government's decision to bring in new regulations for retirement residences is the answer to controlling substandard care in retirement homes, while the systemic problems in far too many regulated long-term facilities have continued unbridled.

The monitoring and inspection of nursing homes, of which the majority are private, for-profit operations, means Ministry compliance advisers are "working with" these facilities to bring them into compliance with regulations and standards.

But one simply has to look at the Ministry's own detailed inspection reports to understand that such efforts have been unable to ensure the safety and well-being of residents.

Until there is a completely trusted, independent authority to oversee the operations of long-term institutions in this province, families will never feel their

loved ones are safe from abuse, neglect and fear under the present outdated system of a compliance management model by government that funds, licences and monitors nursing homes.

Andre Marin, has put forward compelling arguments for the office of the provincial ombudsman to have oversight authority of long-term facilities.

His position is strongly supported by countless families who have had their

serious concerns and valid complaints dismissed by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Based on Mr. Marin's many successes with investigations about the government of Ontario and its organizations, it's not hard to see why the government won't grant oversight authority of long-term facilities to the ombudsman's office.

Ellen Watson
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

Experienced planner has ideas for 2C lands

To the editor,

I read with interest the article in The Auroran on the proposed development options for the 2C lands in the north-east of Aurora.

Option Four that I proposed was not only directed towards protecting and enhancing the natural environment but rather a more people oriented instead of car oriented approach to subdivision design.

I know what I'm talking about with 45 years of experience in town planning, landscape planning and open space design in both the U.K. and Canada:

- Town planning assistant in Greater London on development control (infilling will soon be a major concern in Aurora),
- Skelmersdale, 85,000 population, developed a completely traffic-free pedestrian system,
- Chief Technical & Landscape Officer to the City of Manchester, to develop: open space systems; recreation facilities; slum clearance; landscape of City's motorways,
- A Principal Landscape Architect at Milton Keynes, a

new city of 300,000 people.

I received two U.K. National Design Awards for a 1,000-house layout in Skelmersdale. And another for the high standard of landscape planning, analysis and design in the City of Manchester. In Canada, several National and Provincial Landscape Design awards.

The 2C lands will be our last opportunity to develop a comprehensive development plan in Aurora that covers planning aspects that will improve the quality of life for both future house owners and citizens.

The changes I proposed for the developers' layouts are directed toward this goal.

- We have the opportunity to design an internal road pattern that will calm traffic. This could be achieved by eliminating the avenue access onto Leslie Street. This will prevent traffic from taking a shortcut through the subdivision between the 404 and the northeast part of the town.

- The elimination of this road will also enable a north south traffic-free pedestrian trail to be constructed between Wellington Street and the St. John's Sideroad (similar to the trail between

Sheppard's Bush car park and the Vondorf Road).

Providing the traffic-free trail easements are wide enough, these will provide important wildlife corridors between the protected wood lots and natural features that is in keeping with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Regional Greenway policies. In all the other proposed layouts the natural features are turned into green islands surrounded by housing development. My plan also suggests that the school sites should be located where they will reinforce the wildlife corridors. This is important as current education policy, through the creation of eco schools, is attempting to reinforce outdoor environmental education and this is an opportunity to provide wildlife study and experience close to the schools.

- The developers have agreed that a critical area of grassland at the southern end of the wildlife park should be protected. It is important to provide a small area of parkland on the east side of the north pond to improve the Ontario Municipal Board approved 35 metre wide buffer zone. A park in this

location will also provide necessary car parking on Hartwell Way for citizens using the wildlife park's proposed trail system.

- Where active recreation is concerned the most economic way to improve sports facilities, particularly soccer pitches, is to extend the existing playing fields in the south-east corner, westward towards the wildlife park. The advantages of this are minimum grade changes; reduction of construction costs, ample existing car parking, with toilets and indoor facilities at the Leisure Centre.

- As far as high density, assisted and senior housing is concerned, the best location would be close to the Wellington and Leslie Street junction, as this area is within easy walking distance of the Smart Centre shopping complex; the GO bus route between Newmarket and Union Station in Toronto; close to local bus routes to the senior centre, Town Park, farmers' market, downtown core and within easy walking distance of the leisure centre, wildlife park and internal trail system.

It is important that developers also consider the quality of life, not just to follow outdated practices of planning, mainly to improve the flow of traffic through built up areas.

The pendulum, and public opinion, in recent years, is

shifting more towards the construction of people and environmentally friendly development that my

proposal has in mind.

David Tomlinson
Aurora




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Pole will set precedent, this reader maintains

To the editor,

I have been reading lately about the pole at the new baseball diamond in Stewart Burnett Park.

I cannot say enough how much time people must have on their hands to actually care about a pole. Let's look at this in another way, shall we?

How about we don't build the baseball diamond, and all the kids who love the game and play ball, just hang around the neighbourhood causing trouble...geez that could even be in your neighbourhood - the pole gazers.

Or better yet, let's have the developers build more houses there or even better another strip mall. Costco would be

great there!

Then I read further down the column to hear that the property owners and the neighbouring property owners would be satisfied if the Town spent thousands of dollars on trees to cover the sight of the pole.

I believe this is taxpayers' money and I say NO.

Let me ask you, when you look out your front window do you not see a pole?

The amount of times I have driven by where you live to go to the SARC, I see many....

I have the perfect solution... instead of the Town spending thousands of dollars on trees to hide-a-pole, let's donate thousands of dollars to a great cause...Cancer Research, Kidney Research...there are

many to choose from.

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

You said it and we agree!

Next the pole gazers will complain about the lights and the parking and the cheering and the kids and everything else, the pole is just the beginning.

If you don't think it will set a precedent...think again.

Kim Read
Aurora



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The Khamissa family is off to see soccer games as part of the World Cup, now underway in South Africa. Mom and dad, Raz and Mae, left, will take their children Nazia and Saarah, right, to meet their son Mikail, who had been backpacking all over Europe and is now in South Africa. Mrs. Khamissa and Nazia will leave this week, while Raz and Saarah head out next week. The family is originally from South Africa, so the trip will be a bit like going home. Raz is the owner of Omar's Shoes and they painted a South African flag on the window of their store in the Aurora Shopping Centre to show where their support is.

Auroran photo by Bob Ince

Aurora family will attend World Cup tournament

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By BROCK WEIR
Auroran staff

Last week, Aurora resident Mae Khamissa was trying to keep up with her son, Mikail, over Facebook while trying to contain her excitement. For the last few months, Mikail has been backpacking all over Europe with his friend Ben, before trekking his way down to South Africa this month just in time for the World Cup. "My son has been emailing me all day today and sending me pictures," she told The Auroran Wednesday. "Today they had the first parade before the opening ceremonies and they were down to celebrate the South African soccer team. They had a parade and the crowds were overwhelming. I couldn't even believe seeing the pictures." Yes, World Cup Fever has officially hit the Khamissa family and they

all plan on joining Mikail later this month for the celebration. "My son has been planning this for four years, and what made it more exciting is that we're originally from South Africa," said Ms. Khamissa. "My family is in South Africa, so when he started planning this about three years ago we said, 'Well, it's sort of silly that this is almost in our old backyard with our family, it is such a major world event, and we are such big soccer nuts, how can we miss out on it?'" Although actually attending the event in person has heightened the excitement within the family, they are very experienced in handling World Cup fever. "Ever since our kids were little, every World Cup we would make sure we went to see the major games at all the different areas in Toronto," she said. "If Italy is playing we'll go to St. Clair. If

Greece is playing, we're down on the Danforth. We've always, always celebrated. "We would look for the area to celebrate these events with the people. I've just been fortunate enough that we live near such a diverse city that we have the opportunity to actually go to the different areas and actually be with them, all the diverse people." While Ms. Khamissa has always rooted for Brazil, the fact that South Africa has both qualified for and is hosting the games inspired her to change her allegiance. "I grew up in South Africa in the days when Pele was playing for Brazil, and for me, it was always their footwork," she said. "They're phenomenal soccer players, the things they can do with the soccer ball have always been incredible, but it has always been a fascination of seeing their phenomenal soccer."

When it looked like the trip back to South Africa for World Cup was feasible, the Khamissas pounced on the first available opportunity to obtain tickets through the online lottery run by FIFA. They scored two sets of tickets for two qualifying games, while their family in South Africa obtained tickets for other major games. Even if they hadn't been able to secure tickets, the Khamissas would be heading across the Atlantic. "We would have definitely gone anyway because we were there about three years ago when they started getting everything ready and putting things together," she said. "We kept getting news from family of what the stadiums were looking like, etc. "The other thing they have done in South Africa which is phenomenal is they've built what they

Please see page 11

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Council needs to review fee waiving process

The processes pertaining to the granting permits for Town facilities and the waiving of park fees need to be reviewed, according to Aurora councillors.

The comments came during last Tuesday's council meeting when councillors were asked to approve a number of grants and fee waiving, including equipment for Friday's Relay for Life event, a 50 per cent reduction in costs for facility use for the upcoming Seniors Games, and a retroactive waiving left over from April's 2010 Run for Southlake.

"I think we're going to look at revamping the grants," said

Councillor MacEachern.

Continually having waiving of fee requests come before Council is "onerous" on volunteer groups, she said.

"Perhaps when we're looking at a grant system, we can look at a way of dealing with these through that process."

Al Downey, Director of Leisure Services, said he agreed with Councillor MacEachern, adding that these requests can crop up unexpectedly.

"The concern is we have groups coming forward for delegations without any discus-

sions with the department and bringing this issue before council," he said. "When they come forward without any notification by the department and make a request, we are at council's pleasure with regards to what direction we can go."

For Councillor Evelyn Buck, the difficulty lies in trying to evaluate which organizations were more "worthy" than others.

"I have some discomfort with being in a position of having to decide which causes merit or which organizations deserve to have fees waived and which organizations do not," said Councillor Buck. "We have one tonight where the recommendation is to waive 50 per cent of the fee. I would rather see a policy that would cut

everybody's fee in half and still be consistent and fair with organizations.

"I know numbers of organizations that have fundraising events and wouldn't even think of asking for the fee to be waived. We have, in a sense, some inequity in the current policy."

Councillor Buck said revenue must be taken into consideration and anticipated revenue should be used to calculate user fees for organizations.

"We used to have a policy that had a fee for commercial organizations," she continued. "The money we made from commercial use of the facilities would subsidize other uses and would mean taxpayers would not carry an inordinate burden

on the facilities.

"I would certainly like to see a new policy that would remove from this council, the discomfort of deciding between organizations, which ones deserve to have the fees waived, (get a 50 per cent reduction), and those who are charged because they don't even think to ask to have the fee waived."

For Councillor Stephen Granger, potential lost revenues regarding permit opportunities need to be looked at, as well as operating costs.

"This is a facility versus a park," he said. "A park doesn't have operating costs, heating

costs, staffing costs, lighting costs, and those have to be paid by the taxpayer. It all comes out of our operating costs towards the end of the year.

"I would prefer if I had some comments back from our staff with regards to with a similar format to the Senior Games. What is the cost impact? Where are we standing, so we can at least make a fair judgment with some sort of criteria until a policy is actually put in place?"

A review of the grant process is currently on Aurora staff's pending list.

Local MP Brown co-founds caucus

Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown, along with three other female parliamentarians, has co-founded the HIV/AIDS & TB (HAT) Parliamentary Caucus.

The non-partisan caucus will serve as a forum within parliament for the exchange of ideas related to the needs of people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS and TB.

Other co-chairs include Brampton-Springdale MP Ruby Dallah from the Liberal Party, Halifax MP Megan Leslie from the New Democratic Party, and MP Johanne Deschamps from the Bloc Québécois.

As an all-party initia-

tive the HAT caucus will work with organizations, stakeholders, and individuals to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and TB in parliament and to promote policies and initiatives for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and TB.

"Far too many lives are being lost to HIV/AIDS & TB. The HAT caucus is committed to working together to improve support and resources for those coping with these diseases," said MP Brown.

HIV and TB work in a deadly combination: almost one-third of the 33 million people worldwide living with HIV, are co-infected with TB.

Jonathan's offers Slippermen deal

Jonathan's Restaurant in Aurora will be hosting Slippermen concert pre and post-show get-togethers June 25 and 26. with a discount on food purchases, to all ticket holders.

Pre-show runs from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evening, and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.

Slippermen, the Montreal-based Genesis tribute band, are playing three concerts at Theatre Aurora, June 25 and 26. They play 1970s Genesis music, from both the Peter Gabriel and early Phil

Collins eras.

Aurora-based Somerset will open all three shows.

Tickets are \$32, tax included, and you can get them by calling the Theatre Aurora box office at 905-727-3669 or emailing the theatre at taboxoffice@bellnet.ca.

There is a special offer for tickets for the Saturday matinee.

If you buy tickets for Friday or Saturday evening, you can get an equivalent number of tickets for the matinee at the discounted price of \$27.

You can find more information about Slippermen on their website, www.slippermen.ca.

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World cup tourney

From page 10
called 'fan parks', parks where fans can watch the games. They have all kinds of things going on so we just thought having the rest of the world come to the country and just watch these games, bringing everything together, was something we can't miss."

Celebrating the games with her family in South Africa doubles the excitement, she said.

Soccer caught Ms. Khamissa's interest early in life.

"The game was just played everywhere," she said. "We would go and watch the local soccer teams on the weekend. That was the thing for us to do. The funny part is I didn't really play in a league there because it was usually boys who played soccer and girls didn't."

"When I moved to Canada as a teenager, I played soccer here. I played some in school, but when I was an adult, I played in a woman's league in Newmarket for a while because Aurora didn't have theirs, then I played in the Aurora league for a few years, and coached 16 girls for six years."

A love for the "beautiful

game" is something she and her husband have instilled in their children. Her eldest daughter Nazia, 21, was a soccer player from the age of five, and played in the Aurora Soccer Club until last year.

Ms. Khamissa and Nazia head to South Africa this week while her hus-

band, Raz, and younger daughter Saarah, 15, leave the following week.

The World Cup officially opened Friday and runs in a number of South African cities, including Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pretoria, Port Elizabeth and Durban, through July 11.

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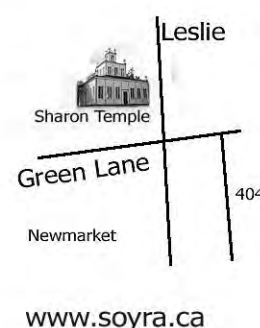
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Committee discusses suggestions

Following three days of public consultation, the Aurora Northeast (2C) Steering Committee convened last Monday to review and discuss developments that came out of the open houses, as well as to discuss the four proposed plans that evolved over the course of the consultation.

Seven "key" issues came out of the workshops and these were up for discussion.

These issues included requests for residential and mixed use developments on lands east of Leslie Street, block plan detail, confirmation of buffer requirements, parkland requirements, and the use of alternative development standards.

Unsurprisingly due to the strong turnout of Newmarket citizens that came out to these workshops, the interface of Aurora's northern border was also on the table.

"(Residents of Newmarket) have a legitimate concern and they are the ones who are most impacted by this plan directly," Ron Palmer of The Planning Partnership told the Steering Committee. "There are always options on how to deal with an interface.

Residential development is compatible with residential development. Low density residential development is more compatible with low density residential development.

"Nevertheless, whether or not it is residential or other uses, there can be an appropriate interface established that will probably buffer the people who live in Newmarket."

Suggestions at the table in how to address these concerns included a land buffer in between the proposed Aurora developments and Newmarket. But a buffer such as that would be "the wrong way to do it", said Mr. Palmer.

"If you put a buffer there you are going to have a linear strip of land owned by the Town of Aurora, who is going to look after it with backyards facing backyards," he said. "That is a terrible interface condition. Residential to residential is compatible. Medium (density in Aurora) to low (density in Newmarket) can be made compatible."

Providing a buffer between the two towns could also be required east of Leslie Street where a residential development in

Newmarket could back onto employment lands in Aurora.

"Certainly that is a more difficult interface situation," said Mr. Palmer.

But the interface shouldn't solely be Aurora's responsibility, said Mayor Morris.

"I don't know when (Newmarket) approved their (plan), but they would have had to anticipate that they can't control what is going on south of them, so hopefully Newmarket has dealt with the interface on their end as well."

Councillor Evelina MacEachern voiced similar sentiments.

"We can do 50 per cent mitigating that and hopefully the northern boundary (has) looked at some of that mitigation," she said. "I think it may become their problem if they haven't."

Other matters discussed at the table included local road patterns, whether developers should provide long-term financial contributions for maintaining storm water ponds in developments, the amount of parkland that could be derived from developing the 2C Lands, and how these would alleviate needs outlined in the new Master

Parks and Recreation Plan.

The committee and planners also discussed the possible narrowing of roads in the new developments.

"What we're talking about really here are reduced road right of way requirements for collectors," said Mr. Palmer. "It helps with density distribution and keeping the built form in a lower scale.

"What we're looking at is 18-metre local roads and 23-metre collector roads, fundamentally. Again, it helps save land and helps with the more compact community."

This is a matter of urbanization and a "more efficient use of land", he added.

"When you say it is a more efficient use of land, no, you mean it is a better yield on the land," countered Mayor Morris. "It is because they can get more people into a smaller area if they narrow the roads and they can get better frontages."

Mr. Palmer conceded that is "how that works" but noted that there has been "a lot" of dissatisfaction with a 1970s style suburban development form.

A follow-up meeting is expected to take place by the end of the month.

Council nixes planting of trees

From page 1
debate he said he was merely kidding, Councillor Wilson said he "trespassed" over the weekend to gain a better perspective on the pole in question.

"I went back to where it was, nobody was home so I did go back into the yard trying to figure out what it is I was missing," he said. "The report first of all speaks to residents and to the best of my knowledge we're only talking about one home.

"The report doesn't really explain where we're going to plant these 25-foot trees, so I was trying to figure out... the problem is when I went to the back of the yard I couldn't see the light post because the trees are covering the light post. What they don't cover are the lights at the top of the post.

"I had it explained to me last week that we're not trying to diffuse the light, we're trying to cover the post. I think Mother Nature has taken care of that, albeit not for 12 months of the year."

Planting the trees was not

something the Town needed to enter into, he added, after taking stock of the existing trees in the park area.

"Would it be nice to plant four 25 foot trees?" he asked. "Yes, but I'm sorry I don't see the need."

Councillor Evelyn Buck said she agreed with Councillor Wilson.

"I didn't go all the way around to the back of the house... I drove down the driveway and then came back out and went to the baseball diamond and what I saw was a forest between the baseball diamond, no trace of a house behind it," she said.

She said she also objected to the use of development charges to finance the bulk of the project.

Development charges are paid for by young families, many living in townhouses that barely have a "footprint" in the soil, she said.

Matters became heated, however, when Councillor Buck alleged the complainants initially came to the podium after visiting with Mayor Morris

and Councillor MacEachern.

Mayor Morris called a point of order and then tried to cede the chair to Councillor Bob McRoberts to speak to the matter before asking him to "step aside" to speak.

"Councillor Buck, you have impugned myself by suggesting we have visited there," she said. "I don't know what your allegations are, or your suggestions, but I have certainly heard enough."

Councillor Buck started to elaborate saying a complainant had suggested the mayor and Councillor MacEachern had visited her, before being interrupted with another point of order, this time from Councillor MacEachern.

"She did not say that I visited her, because I did not visit her, and frankly I am sick and tired of you trying to impugn motive when making a political decision," said Councillor MacEachern. "I didn't visit her... and when she came to

the podium she did not say that I went to her home because, even if I did, it wouldn't make a difference because I would consider that doing my job if I felt I had to go to her home.

"But I did not go to her home, nor did she say that. That is just your mind filling in gaps."

At the end of the debate, Mayor Morris said "for the record" she did not know the complainants on a personal basis.

"There have been allegations made that his decision or assistance given to one or a hundred or a thousand residents in this town makes no difference to this mayor," she said. "If someone comes forward and asks for us to listen to their concerns, that is what I thought we were elected to do."

With the proposed tree plantings simply received, it is unlikely to crop up again for at least six months.

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Sheppard's House back on Doors Open

With groomed trails, a small stream and a covered pavilion, Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area is a delightful place to visit all year long and during Aurora Doors Open's fifth anniversary on Saturday, August 21st you will need extra time to take in all the special events at this site.

Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area is part of the Charles Sheppard Bush Estate.

The Sugar Bush is an outstanding and rare survivor of a once active sugar bush in Aurora.

It contributes to a highly distinctive setting incorporating mature trees influenced and utilized by human activity.

The working sugar bush was tapped throughout the history of the estate as a residence and is a major part of the story of the estate.

Klaus Wehrenberg, a well-known local environmental and trails advocate, will guide you on a walking tour through Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area to Vandorf Road.

There are two tours available - 10 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.

Each tour will last approximately two hours and focus on ecological



The Sheppard House, above, is back on the Aurora Doors Open tour this summer

features in the forested valley lands between Sheppard's Bush and Vandorf Road.

The Vandorf woodlot, parts of which have old growth characteristics, is the southern extension of Sheppard's Bush, along the east Holland River.

Make sure you wear comfortable walking shoes as the terrain travels in part along an unimproved trail, and don't forget to bring a bottle of water.

Each tour starts at the Charles Sheppard House so make sure you have enough time to tour the house, an outstanding Arts and Crafts style design.

The Sheppard House is a three-storey, 5,000 square foot home and a

designated heritage site.

The home's steep roofs, multi-paneled windows, fireplaces, cabinetry, and trim are all consistent with this style.

The entirety of the house maintains the original construction of clay tiles with the application of a stucco coating applied to the exterior face.

Both the Charles Henry Sheppard House and the Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area were donated to the Ontario Heritage Trust in the 1970s by Charles H. Sheppard, and are now managed by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

Sheppard's house is now occupied by Windfall Ecology Centre who is

implementing an energy-efficiency retrofit project, which showcases the ecologically-friendly options now available to heritage homes.

Sheppard's Bush is located at 93 Industrial Parkway, and the parking is free.

Poetry contest winners named

Julia Bandura and Jimin Lee were selected as winners of the Aurora Public Library's 2010 Young Adult Poetry Contest, based on the theme Reflections.

Julia Bandura, with her poem "Clandestine in the Ivy" won the the Grades 7 to 9 division, while Jimin Lee was the winner for "Our Own Worst Enemy" in the Grades 10 to 12 division.

The winning poems as well as art and writing by other creative young adults may be found in the latest issue of YA Magazine, Inspired Voices.

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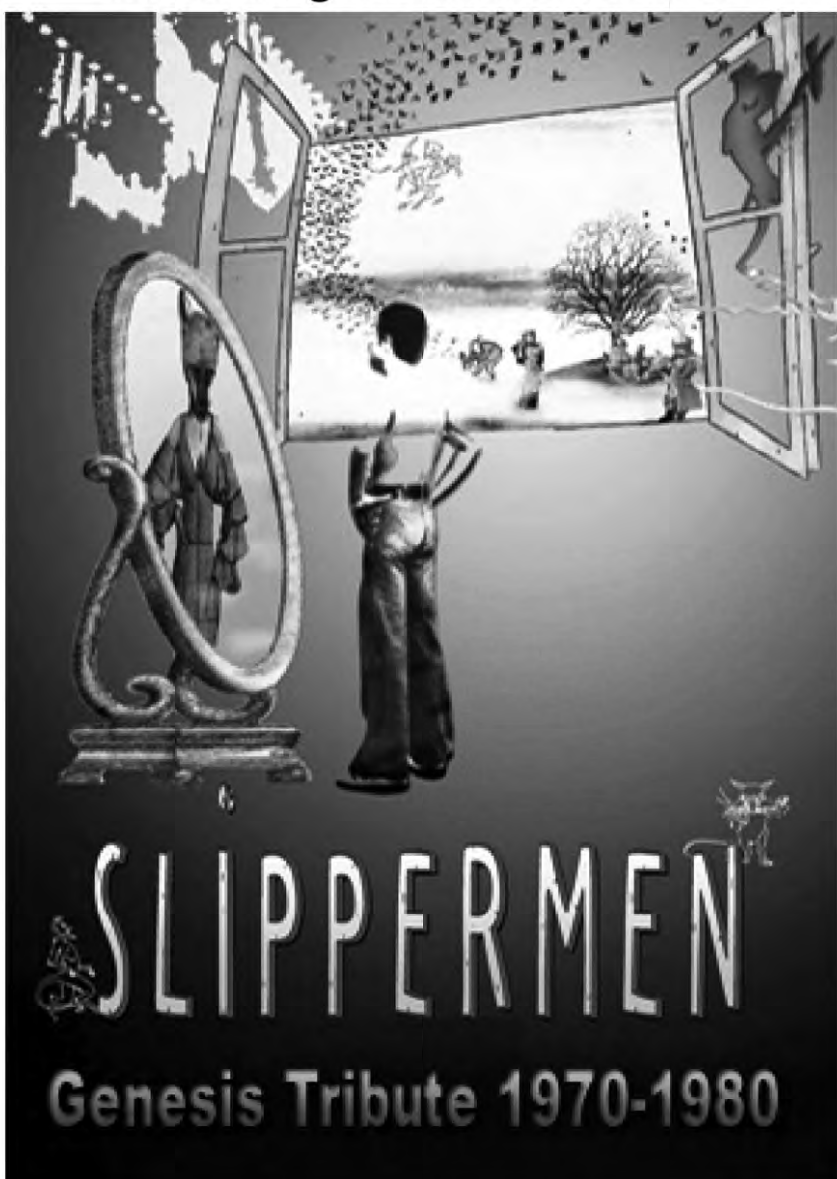
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Tribute on the passing of a very real person.



Nick Browne
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and he was the kind I'd like to be.
Some preach their virtues,
and a few express their lives by what they do;
that sort was he.
No flowery phrase
or glibly spoken word of praise
won friends for him.
He wasn't cheap or shallow,
but his course ran deep,
and it was pure.
You know the kind.
Not many in life you find
whose deeds outrun their words so far
that more than what they seem, they are.

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Love Wendy, Wes, Jeremy and Blair

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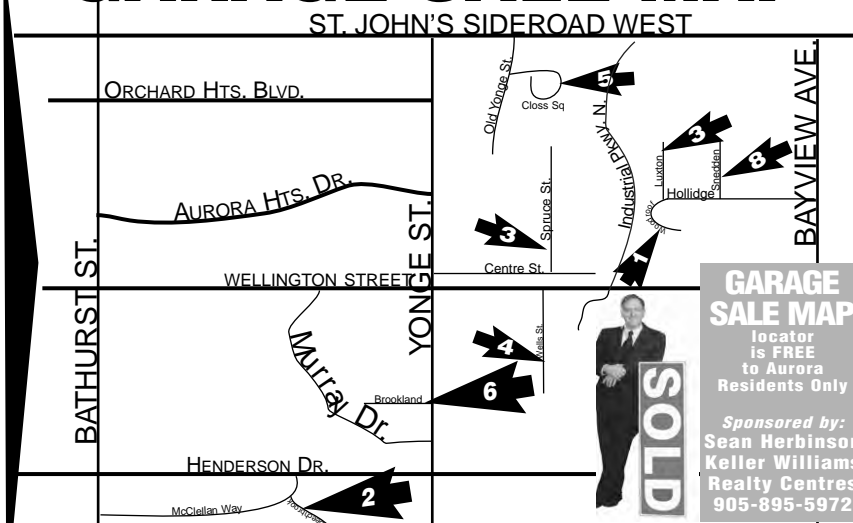


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- 7) 35 Luxton Ave 8-3 p.m.
 - 8) 53 & 54 Snedden Ave. 8-3 p.m.

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Site: www.SteveMillerDance.ca Call Steve Miller at 416-587-4125
Email: Steve@SteveMillerDance.ca

Senior Scape



By BRIAN WARBURTON

June is the month to celebrate

June is recognized as the month to celebrate seniors, and the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) will celebrate in the form of a Try It Week, from Monday, June 21st through Friday, with the object of broadening as many members' experience in ASA activities as is possible.

The intent to widen members' participation is appealing and the Try It Week program provides the time frame to get involved and offers help to anybody who requires help.

The computer club will offer one of the following programs each day at 2 p.m. starting June 21st: Genealogy on-line, Learn to Tweet using Twitter, Google Maps, Digital Cameras and Downloading to computer or disc, and What is Skype?

The programs address expressions of interest often repeated by members, concerning fascinating applications of computer technology; so if your interest is stirred, plan to attend.

Among other activities enthusiastically encouraging new participants are: Wood Carving, Bid Euchre, Wii Games, Pickle Ball, Badminton, Scrabble, Dominoes, and Table Tennis, and a very special Woodworking program designed specially for women.

If you are not a member but find an appeal in the rich theme of the Try It Week's attractions, join the ASA and try everything that captures your imagination.

The 15th annual Aurora Chamber Street Festival was greeted by weather which was windy, cold and dripping with steady rain

and was not the choice for the event, but it was what faced organizing members from the Town and early teams of vendors during Sunday morning.

But eventually clouds parted to allow a welcome sun to brighten the proceedings; finally the wind relented moderately and the temperature, while cool allowed sufficient encouragement for crowds to attend, and so they did in incredibly dense throngs, strolling down the centre of Yonge Street, with about 300 stalls packed on each side of the historic street offering every kind of merchandise and services and entertainment imaginable.

Among the seniors who spent time at the ASA stalls were Frank and Marie Leone, Cliff Davies, Kay Hack, Judy Buchanan, Carol Hedenberg, Joan Levert and many more, some of whom visited for a while during this extravaganza, and others who remained the whole day, making themselves available to answer questions.

This event is not only a great festival, but is also a great show in its own right, maybe the Longest Street Show in the world would be an apt description, and the reputation and excellence of Aurora must surely be reinforced far and wide.

However the Festival is described, it draws teeming crowds of spectators, patrons, visitors, holiday makers and gawkers in the tens of thousands, in fact the original simple idea has multiplied and expanded to an enormous event.

The thronging crowds stall from time to time and block walkers on parts of Yonge Street completely;

for a while nobody goes anywhere, but that is all part of the event and adds colour and flavour and stamps an indelible distinctive character on the street festival.

Diverse locations offer food, bands, jugglers and artists offering to capture portraits, literature, records, clothing and even a vintage car show was available to be admired.

Music of all descriptions was played constantly, and strolling along the road soon brought the next band into range.

There was treasure of sights for everybody and temptations galore abounded some of which could not be resisted and almost everybody found an irresistible temptation.

The marketing along this portion of historic Yonge Street was eye catching, appealing and powerfully exciting and everybody in this milieu, stall operator, town staff, holidaymakers, gawkers and the crowds of young and elderly would not choose to be elsewhere.

Few among us can resist the incredible attraction of so many of our fellow residents, enjoying the extent and profuse variety of offerings by local vendors and others attracted from very far away.

It is among the true joys in life to be part of such a great and happy throng.

At 5 p.m. the event closed and immediately, the crowds began to disperse, and the stalls and merchandize were packed away, and amazingly quickly Yonge Street became its familiar self again with hardly a trace of the great event to be seen anywhere.



Saturday June 26th, 2010

Red & White/Strawberries & Cream Party for Canada

Town Park 9-1 :: Celebrate National Aboriginal Day

Interactive Drum Circle; First Nations Nagamo Dodem Dancers/Drummers

Celebrate Canadian Multiculturalism - Dress in your ancestral clothing

Caribbean Dancers * Francophone Singers * George St. Kitts – O Canada Fr/Eng

Julian Troiano Band * Cake/Fresh Strawberries & Cream

Official Canada Day Parade Pace Car – Canadian Flags – prepare for Parade

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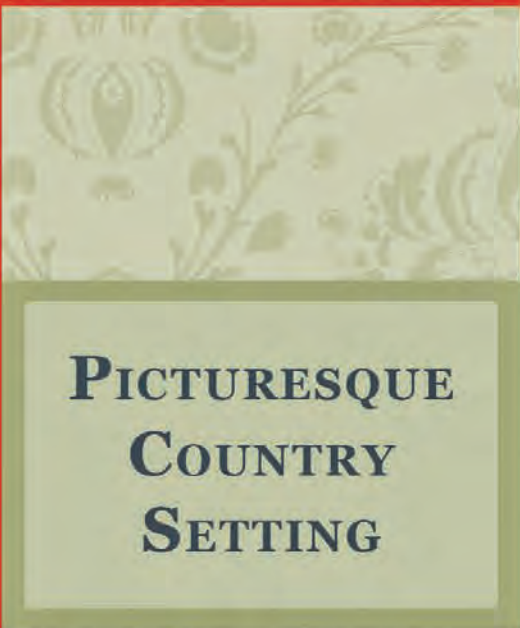
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