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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

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FREE

Week of June 29, 2010

Outside workers' strike averted; talks continue

A strike by Aurora's outside workers has been averted - at least for a while - with the two sides agreeing to come back to the bargaining table for further conciliation August 17th.

The Town and representatives from CUPE Local 905 met with a conciliator Thursday to try to come to contract agreements.

The 47 outside workers employed by the Town have been working without a contract for several months.

The outside workers staged an information picket outside Town Hall May 27 to inform the public of their objections.

"We're just asking for a fair and average wage comparable to other workers in the Region," said Steve Scott, Chairperson of CUPE's One Bargaining Unit for the Town of Aurora, during the picket.

Flyers handed out by the picketers noted that outside workers in Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville are the lowest paid municipal workers in York Region.

"We're not asking for the moon, we're just asking to be brought up to the average salaries," they said.

Although the Town and the outside workers were unable to come to an agreement Thursday, both parties have agreed to come back to the table at a date in August which has yet to be determined.

"(There seems to be) some progress," said Wendy Forbes of CUPE Communications.

"Both sides met with the conciliator, they addressed a number of non-financial issues, they began to discuss some financial issues and time ran out," she said. "The conciliator is available again in August and they will be meeting."

Residents hear Promenade plan

Aurora residents came in droves to the council chambers Wednesday night for a public presentation on the Aurora Promenade Draft Concept Plan, and to voice their opinions on what they liked, disliked, and things that may have been overlooked.

In a presentation and discussion led by Mayor Phyllis Morris, along with Donna Hinde and Harold Madi from The Planning Partnership, the evening focused on the development of the plan and what they have developed so far, including key development issues, land use frameworks, and the creation of "character areas".

"Character areas" have been proposed by The Planning Partnership, including dividing Yonge Street in thirds - Old Town, North and South Yonge Street Promenades - as well as the Wellington Street Promenade.

Each of these areas, under the plan, will have primary and secondary gateways to add flavour to the community.

"Each of these areas which emanate from the Old Town has their potential focus area, which is identified by existing potential amenities, for example in south Yonge Street we acknowledge the cenotaph that is an

Please see page 17



GEOFF DAWE

Dawe running for seat

Over the past four years, Geoffrey Dawe, Aurora's newest candidate for mayor, says he has become "distressed" with the way the Town has unfolded.

It became evident in a story in last week's Auroran that Dawe would be a contender for the town's top chair.

"We have community groups fighting with the Town, we have councillors fighting with each other, we have legal battles going on between councillors, ongoing legal battles with people who are trying to do work in the town....it is just completely against the way I think things should be done," he says.

That factor helped him make the decision to throw his hat in the mayoral ring Friday, becoming the third declared candidate in the race for the Town's top job, following former Councillor Nigel Kean and Aurora resident Roger Clowater.

A resident of Aurora since 1977, Mr. Dawe says his background in

Please see page 9

Magna to sponsor Hoedown again

The Hoedown is alive.

Last week, Magna International Inc. announced the return of the "Wild Wild West" Hoedown, an Aurora tradition for decades.

Last year, because of a slumping economy, the Hoedown, which can attract upwards of 5,000 people, was cancelled.

The 2010 Hoedown will take place on Saturday, September 18, in the front yard of Aurora's Magna headquarters under the largest tent in the country.

The event will run from 5 p.m. to midnight - rain or shine - and feature a Texas-style barbecue dinner, cash bar and Prospector's Raffle.

"Magna is delighted to be able to bring back the Hoedown," said Belinda Stronach, Executive Vice-Chairman of Magna International. "Over the years, we've built a vibrant community tradition that many residents look forward to attending. And thanks to the generous support of local residents and businesses, we've been able to donate much-needed financial assistance to charities and non-profit organizations that help

countless individuals in our community."

Due to the severe economic downturn that hit North America last year, Magna postponed the 2009 Hoedown and instead donated \$50,000 in total to 10 local charities.

The Hoedown started out as a backyard barbecue fundraiser at the Stronach family farm, was known as Frank's Fiesta, and has become York Region's largest annual community fundraiser, generating proceeds of more than \$4 million for local community groups during its lengthy history.

The annual event typically attracts more than 350 volunteers and raises money for a wide range of different community groups each year.

Funds raised from this year's Hoedown will go to a number of local charities, youth-oriented sports clubs and community organizations assisting families.

Magna is currently accepting applications from local charities that wish to become recipients of this year's Hoedown proceeds. Recipients will be announced in early July.

Briefly

Open House

The Richmond Hill Steamers, with members living in Aurora, will open their gates to the public on Saturday, July 10 and Sunday, July 11, from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

You can enjoy a ride behind a miniature operating steam, diesel or electric locomotive on the train tracks which make their way through the woods at 15922 McCowan Road, about two kilometres north of the Aurora Sideroad (Wellington Street East).

Admission is free but donations are appreciated. A snack bar and picnic tables will be available.

For more information, call Sybil Clothier 905-277-0969, or visit <http://richmond-hill-live-steamers.tripod.com>

Retiring

The president of the Aurora Youth Soccer Club, Ron Weese, has announced his retirement.

According to information, Weese will step down after nine years with the AYSC.

Details may be found on Page 15 of this week's Auroran.



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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

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. 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 barbershop 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.

Martha's Table, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Aurora, is now closed for the summer and will start up again Thursday, September 2..

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.

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.

Canada Day activities at Lambert Willson Park take place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and include a petting zoo, facepainting and inflatables. Live entertainment occurs from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. featuring the Fab Four from 6.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. That will be followed by a fire-

works show. For more information call 905-726-4762.

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 July 3rd. For more information call 905-727-5926 or visit gardenontario.org/site.php/aurora/news/details.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

Mary Lambert, winner of two Canadian Juno awards, the U.S. Parents Choice Award and others, is special guest at the Aurora Concert in the Park, tonight at 7 p.m. in the Aurora Town Park. Bring chairs or blankets.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14

A tribute to the Blues Brothers will be presented tonight by five performers, accompanied by a four-piece band, will entertain at the Aurora Concert in the Park at 7 p.m. at the Aurora Town Park.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

Canada's most accomplished Latin jazz guitarist and Juno award winner Robert Michaels entertains tonight at the Aurora Concert in the Park at 7 p.m. at the Aurora Town Park.

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.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

Sing your favourite hymns at the Aurora Cultural Centre from 2 to 4 p.m. All welcome. The building is wheelchair accessible at the

north entrance. Donations are accepted in support of the Centre. Church Street School, 22 Church Street, Aurora. For further information call 905-713-1818.

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 Vandonr.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society presents Everything you wanted to know about Growing Bulbs by Jeff Mason of Mason House Gardens at 8 p.m. at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Visitors are welcome, only \$2. For further information call Ray at 905-727-6168.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Annual flower show will be held at the Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge Street, from noon to 4 p.m. Call Ray for more info 905-727-6168.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

The Reverend David Chisling will talk about Garden Therapy at the regular meeting of the Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society meeting at 8 p.m. at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Visitors are welcome. For more information call Ray at 905-727-6168.

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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Jim Abram is running for a seat on Aurora Council in the upcoming municipal election. Jim, his wife Susan and two grown children have been residents and volunteers in Aurora for more than 16 years. He and his family moved to Aurora due to the small town atmosphere of the Town as well as its community focus, large city proximity and local amenities. Jim has worked in the private sector for approximately 30 years specializing in environmental management and remediation, commercial real estate sales, purchasing and site plan development as well as sales and marketing.

Aurora Seniors Duplicate Bridge results

Monday, June 21- N/S: Pat Spear and Don Strupat; Carole Bell and Nan McLean; Kay Hack and Anne White. **E/W:** Mary Oglanby and Marcella Lawless; Ev Dickie and Audrey Robertson; Sandra Davey and Sylvia Thompson.

Aurora will buy truck despite opposition

Aurora councillors approved a tender for a \$71,441 for a "full size truck with dump box and one full size crew cab" earlier this month, despite some reservations expressed at the previous week's general committee meeting that sending the matter back to staff would put the Town in a bad light.

Councillors were presented with a report on the tender by Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure on June 1, which outlined the progress on this Request for Proposal (RFP).

"In the 2010 Capital Fleet Budget, council approved the replacement of an existing full size truck with crew cab and dump box and a full size truck with dump box," said Mr. Simanovskis in his report.

After sending out the RFP, staff members received only one fully compliant bid out of two sent in. The fact that only one bid met all the requirements troubled some councillors at the general committee meeting.

"I am shocked that in today's economy we only had two tenders pick us up on this," said Councillor Al Wilson. "If only two dealerships are interested in our business I'm hoping it was just a timing issue, they didn't get to it. I am hoping there are some more dealerships out there that are interested in our business and any other town's business."

"I personally would like to see this retendered... and to see us go back out and see if more dealerships are interested in our business."

Going back to tender could, however, put the Town at risk in the future, warned Aurora Treasurer Dan Elliott.

"Going back out to tender simply because we didn't like the outcome of the results or the number of respondents, while well-based and well-meaning, when you go out to tender you've got a contract that says this is what we want,"

said Mr. Elliott. "If you bid on this, and we can afford it, we're committed to buying it. If you continue (to go back out to tender) you get a reputation in the industry that says it's not worth your time bidding on these guys because they never make up their minds."

"The downsides could include a lawsuit from this particular bidder," he continued, responding to a question from Councillor

Evelina MacEachern. "It could develop a reputation against the interests and the corporation within the general bidding and tendering community, and (make Aurora known) as an organization that goes out on 'fishing expeditions' using the

tendering process.

"Both of these are very difficult to overcome."

Councillor MacEachern said she agreed with Mr. Elliott's assessment.

"This is a small ticket item to be worried about, and if we compromise our integrity by going back and forth with these tenders it will cost us a lot more in the long-run," she said. "I work in an industry where our business is generated strictly by tenders and you learn quickly who goes on 'fishing expeditions' and you don't bother bidding on the projects. At the end of the day we might have saved \$5,000 but it is a big price to pay if we compromise our integrity."



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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

A Limited Time offer is yours if you want it

As of Friday, the official record of registered candidates for the long-awaited next municipal election, as reflected on the Town of Aurora website, now lists three candidates for mayor, six candidates for council and one each for the public and separate school board Trustees.

I say "long-awaited" because it's coming to the end of the first time it has been a four-year term, up from three.

The change was legislated by the provincial government before the start of this term.

Towns and cities across the province are now likely trying to decide if it worked for them or not.

My bet is the answer is no, but that's probably because I don't agree with the length of the term.

I remember when councils were elected for a one-year term, and the election would follow a nomination meeting usually held in the gymnasium at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School.

Today, a four-year term is almost a full-time job.

But that's another column.

Shortly, in fact it's already begun, Aurora residents will be barraged with messages from candidates, battling to win you over.

They'll be trying to get to every voter if they can.

Hardly possible.

So I thought I'd give you an easy way to let them hear you.

Since Aurora residents (past and present) seem to have no trouble telling The Auroran just exactly how they feel through letters to the editor, we're going to give you another space to do that from now until just before voting day, as space permits.

We'll ask you to finish this sentence... **"If I were elected mayor or councillor, the first thing I'd do would be..."**

Now, I know such an opening just begs for all kinds of derogatory remarks, but we're not going there, so here are a few rules:

- Your submission must be 50 words or fewer.
- Personal references (support for or criticism of any specific person or body) will not be printed.
- Submissions are printed as space permits and solely at the editor's discretion.
- Each contributor will be allowed only one submission.
- You must sign your submission and provide a contact phone number or email address.

Your contact info will not be printed but your surname and first initial will be.

This is a space where you can highlight the issues that are important to you.

It'll be interesting to see not only the commonalities but the creative ideas that may surface.

You can send your submission to theauroran@gmail.com.

For the length of the fighting time between now and the election in October, this column will appear where the former Bouquets and Brickbats once appeared on Page 6.

I have had several requests to reintroduce the column, but since I'm not sure how to bring back the late Dick Illingworth, the author of the column, I haven't bothered.

If this idea catches on, I may, in the future, come up with other questions that you will have an opportunity to answer.



These five ladies were part of the crowd that attended the Wells Street School party recently. They are Louise Klassen, Midge Cherutti, Johanna Golum, Lee Williams and Barb Rumble. Lee was the secretary and the others were all staff in the 1980s. The bottom photo shows some of today's Wells Street students, currently attending Aurora Grove Public School on Stone Road in Aurora's east end.

Letter to the Editor

Only two days remain to visit Merlin's Hollow

To the editor,

After the miserable weather on the first two of our four free open days to the public, visitor numbers have been lower than normal and David thinks his direct line to above has developed a serious fault.

So I thought it was best to remind people there are only two days left to visit our garden, Merlin's Hollow.

It is just under one acre, full of more than

2,000 different kinds of perennials, 99 per cent of which were grown from seed from countries all over the world that have a similar climate to Canada.

It has several gardens within a garden and we first opened it in 1981.

People come to see it from Toronto, Port Hope, Barrie and beyond.

One man who heard about it on the radio in the States drove up that day just to see it himself.

There are many Aurora

people who come for the first time and say they have meant to for years.

We are a walk away from the Farmers' Market, on Centre Crescent, a little road of three houses north off of Centre Street between the railway tracks and Industrial Parkway North.

Park on Centre Street and walk up Centre Crescent as our road is a tiny dead end street.

The last two days are Saturday, July 3, and Sunday, July 11.

It is a wonderful place to work and discover and share the natural world, but a great deal of work if nobody comes.

I do the majority of the work in the garden as David has been drawn away by about five different environmental projects he is involved in a volunteer capacity.

Come and enjoy, feel free to bring family and friends.

Dierdre Tomlinson
Aurora

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Frankly Speaking

By Frank Klees

"Proud to be Canadian".

I heard those words often from my father, who although an immigrant to Canada at the age of 41, never missed an opportunity to express his pride at being a Canadian citizen.

My parents celebrated their heritage and encouraged my sisters and me to do so as well, but they never missed an opportunity to remind us that we are Canadians first.

Every effort was made to integrate into the ways of their new country and to learn the language that would enable them to build their new life.

My sisters and I were constantly reminded that we can never forget that we were welcomed to this country, that it was a privilege to be granted citizenship and that all the rights and freedoms that come with being a Canadian citizen also come with the responsibility to be a productive, contributing and respectful citizen.

As we prepare to celebrate Canada Day this year, I am reminded of the example set by my parents through their respect for their Canadian citizenship.

Indeed, we all have many reasons to be proud of our country and our citizenship and to be thankful for the freedoms and privileges this great country affords us.

"Freedom Is Not Free".

These words are inscribed on the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C. and we too often forget that the free-

dom and privileges we enjoy as Canadians are indeed not free.

The price was paid by men and women who fought through two world wars and the many conflicts around the world since, including Afghanistan today.

We can never take those sacrifices for granted and we can never forget.

To the veterans who took up those battles for freedom in the past, to the brave men and women who are engaged in those battles today, I want to express our sincere gratitude for giving us our Canada, our freedoms and our many privileges.

To all who serve in our police, fire, emergency and health services, I express our appreciation and acknowledgement of their bravery and dedication to keeping our communities safe and ensuring a quality of life that is the envy of the world.

To those entrusted with the administration of our justice system, which despite its shortcomings, continues to ensure that as Canadians, we are assured of the highest standard of human rights anywhere in the world and that we are protected against discrimination, I thank them for their vigilance and defence of the principles of justice that form the foundation of our democracy.

To those in elected office at all levels of government and those employed in our public services, I express our grati-

tude for their dedication under often challenging circumstances.

Regardless of political party, the willingness to serve is motivated by a desire to make our communities, our province and our country a better place.

To the business leaders and entrepreneurs, who have been willing to invest and develop the businesses that form the foundation of our economy, I applaud their courage, perseverance and innovation.

Whether in the service industry, manufacturing, high tech or agriculture, they have created the jobs that are the foundation of our communities.

Finally, I want to express gratitude to the army of volunteers who so selflessly give of their time and resources to make our Canada the best place in the world to live and to raise a family.

During my 15 years as an MPP in York Region, I have seen the hands of volunteers touching every aspect of life in our community.

Whether through service clubs such as the Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, and Optimists, organizations such as Community Living and the United Way, or our hospitals and our churches, volunteers make our community and Canada the special place it is.

They make me proud to be Canadian.

Happy Canada Day!



Heard About Town

By David Heard

There I was....not there at all.

A picture not worth a thousand words, because it left a few viewers speechless.

The image, emailed to myself a few weeks ago and examined by a professional photographer since was taken last October during the first "Aurora Spirit Walk".

In the photo, I stood atop the steps of Wells Street School, and I appeared to be addressing the crowd.

I remember the moment well as I was speaking about a marvellous spirit.

He was a teenager at the time and he taught me more saying no words, than individuals who have lectured.

My inspiration was gifted with Autism and I had the honour of supporting him, and us teaching each other life skills.

We lost him in September and the moment that picture was snapped I remember telling the crowd about him and I felt a chill come over me.

It was a magical sensation and I think the people could see the energy from it.

I reflected about how he was the reason for the Spirit Walk.

At the Farmers' Market, over the last few weeks I have shared this strange photo and the lookers could see the bricks, and the railing of the school, right through my entire

body.

Then they gasped as they noticed the figure in the window of the school.

I believe her name is Catherine.

She may have also shown herself at several locations in the town.

But why the school and in front of such a large crowd? On the night the photo was taken, a young lady asked me if someone was inside the school.

She apparently saw something.

I believe it was Catherine.

I also believe that old buildings (some, not all) that have been in the past, attended by courageous and magnetic persons. still contain that emotion and power.

The Wells Street School is a prime example.

It is a wealth of stories, lives, and emotional connection to our community past. The present can harness that energy and I know Catherine is trying to tell us that.

She was impressed by the attention the old girl was getting.

Not her by the way. It was actually the school.

Maybe, just maybe, she is saying the spirit can be full and alive in our community and if we champion together ,the days of educating on Wells will return.

Not as a school however.

Walking tour, July 9

Recently I toured the Children's Safety Village at Bruce's Mill.

\$4.9 million was raised to create that incredible facility for our youth, first and foremost.

That type of passion, and the ability to create from a vision could return here.

Right on Wells Street.

As we move forward I will share more of my vision.

There are more people from our community and abroad included.

Inclusiveness is the coolest gift that you can offer.

John Mosley had a vision during our pioneer days and that became Aurora's growth.

I have a little Mosley blood in my DNA and I also feel that rush from a vision that is real.

One that is attainable.

Somehow, some way, the community will come together like never before.

Just what we need. A step at the right time.

Also the first evening Walking Tour will take place Friday July 9 at 8 p.m.

Please join us in front of the Wells Street School.

A good will offering shall help fresh produce to be delivered to the Aurora Food Pantry.

See you on the steps.

Steve Hinder

Heritage Fair looks to expand

The Aurora Community Heritage Fair is looking to continue expansion beyond Aurora's borders, according to Susan Walmer, coordinator of the annual event.

Increasing area participation in the Heritage Fair would bring the event back to its roots, said Ms. Walmer.

"The Aurora Community Heritage Fair was previously the York Region Heritage Fair that was run by the York Region District School Board," said Ms. Walmer. "Then about six years ago, they decided not to participate any more at the school board level, so the parents in the community decided to organize and run the program."

While schools from outside Aurora - namely Kettleby Public School and Richmond Hill's Crosby Heights Public School - participated in this year's event held in April at St. Andrew's

College, Heritage Fair organizers plan on taking advantage of networking with the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School board.

"It was always our intent to be widespread across York Region," said Ms. Walmer. "We just didn't have the mechanics to make that happen in terms of being a volunteer run organization. We're funded by assistance from the Rotary Club, the Optimist Club, and various partners, so we didn't have the facilities to be able to network to all York Region schools, whereas to the school boards we can."

"We now have that contact with the school boards, and they are willing to put [the Heritage Fair] on their networking program. They're putting it up on their website and the York Region District School

Board is putting it on their Leading Edge Newsletter, which goes out to all their principals as well.

"There is that connection back with the school board again and I think that will foster the wider network of schools participating."

Ms. Walmer said the 2010 event was a "resounding success."

"I think every year the projects are spectacular," she said. "We have a difficult time every year choosing and I think as the children participate year after year, the projects to get more comprehensive, they're more creative, and there is more out-of-the-box thinking on them."

"The kids start out with their projects in Grade 4, and if they've participated for four years, by Grade 8 their projects are amazing - or even by Grade 6! We had a student this

year in Grade 6 who said he had been working on his project since September because he didn't get in last year in Grade 5.

"He really wanted to put together a spectacular project, and he won one of the awards as well."

Plans are already underway for the 2011 Aurora Community Heritage Fair, to be held April 20, again at St. Andrew's College.

While Ms. Walmer said the Fair already has a "Fairly good formula", they always strive to put on different workshops that will interest the students, while keeping and evolving the existing workshops that have proven particularly popular with the participants.

Events with veterans from the Royal Canadian Legion as well as members of the Queen's York Rangers are a perennial hit with students.

Council endorses two controversial projects

Two proposed projects which brought up considerable debate at the council table - one inspiring debate for over a year, the other, in more recent days - were passed without discussion at last Tuesday's meeting: the controversial link for the Nokiidaa Trail and the new Aurora Borealis event.

Council approved the phased implementation plan of the Nokiidaa Trail and Hadley Grange Nature Reserve without a word being spoken either for or against it.

Councillor Evelyn Buck, who has been prominently opposed to increasing the capital budget on the project, was absent from the meeting.

Council's approval sees the capital budget for the project increased by \$241,561, 90 per cent of which will be funded from the Development Charges Reserve Fund and the remainder from the Cash-In-Lieu of Parkland Fund.

Council also approved proceeding with the first and second phases of the

proposed implementation project which focuses on design principles and obtaining proper approvals from various agencies an conservation authorities.

The third and fourth phases will be referred to the 2011 budget process.

In this approval, Town staff will also be required to continually seek additional funding sources and report back to council on their findings.

The Aurora Borealis event, on the other hand, raised councillors' eyebrows at the previous week's general committee meeting.

Presented as a "sponsorship opportunity" for Aurora businesses, some councillors expressed concern that this would actually be seen as a special event.

The event sees corporate sponsored trees in Town Park during the winter season decorated with LED lights to complement existing winter events in the area.

With council's approval, they have formally endorsed the event.

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The Aurora Model Aircraft Club held its annual "Come Fly With Us" event at its Aurora field, just south of Wellington East off Leslie Street, last week. Member Brad Egan, above, prepares to fly his son's plane. The public was invited to try flying the airplanes, but needless to say, were under the watchful eye of one of the club's qualified instructors.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Have you witnessed last council meeting on TV?

If you missed last Tuesday's council meeting on Rogers TV and hoped to settle down in your living room to watch another rousing session when it reconvened next month, you might be out of luck.

Last Tuesday's meeting could be the last session televised before the installation of a new council, it emerged last week.

"Transparency would also be available should the TV cameras of Rogers continue to roll until the end of the term," said Aurora resident David Heard at Tuesday's Open Forum. "It is my understanding that up Yonge Street to Newmarket, their council will continue to televise through the term."

"I ask that they do here in Aurora also. Transparency is well serving to the community."

"I think as long as I've been on council there is a time when we pull the cameras and this has been traditionally set at a time," responded Mayor Phyllis Morris. "I'm not aware of when that is. Do we know officially? I know that they change beyond the nomination day."

According to Aurora CAO Neil Garbe, this is standard Town practice.

"In my limited experience here, I know it is a practice to suspend television coverage of the meeting and the date was selected as tonight," he told Mr. Heard and councillors. "I don't think it is cast in stone."

Mayor Morris added this could be because there is an election coming.

"I do recall in the past when John West was here, and other members, there was quite a lot of debate around the table about when was the most appropriate time," she said.

"I remember at the time there were two sides to the question, as there always is: does it give the sitting incumbents an advantage or is it a disadvantage? Then, on the other side, the public wish to still see the governments in action because right through there is an election there is still a council. Let's see where that takes us."

At press time, the Town has been unable to confirm if last Tuesday's Council was indeed the date "cast in stone."

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The first graduating class of the Go Girls Group from Big Brothers Big Sisters of York program are shown at Aurora Grove Public School last week. A total of 22 girls received their certificates from Mayor Phyllis Morris, right. The girls are from Grades 6 and 7. Go Girls is a mentoring program promoting active living, balanced eating and feeling good. Big Brothers Big Sisters provides girls with the information and support they need to make informed choices during a challenging life stage.

Slowly, Town’s official plan coming together

Aurora's new official plan is coming together piece by piece, while four draft chapters of the new plan were hashed out at a Steering committee meeting recently.

The four chapters address some key issues that have faced Aurora in the last few months, and indeed years, including the environment, plan amendments, and the creation of a public art policy.

"Building a Green Community' is a new chapter that adapts components of Section 3.0 from the existing plan," notes the draft chapter presented at the meeting. "The primary difference with the new chapter is that it focuses entirely on building technologies, waste management and alternative energy policies.

The chapter draws on York Region's Official Plan with Green Building Policies and maintains consistency with East Gwillimbury's "aggressive" new Official Plan, said Ron Palmer of The Planning Partnership.

"We were asked to go back and have a look and be a little bit more aggressive and potentially emulate what East Gwillimbury had done," he said. "We've gone back and looked at East Gwillimbury and they have a brand-new version of their official plan and they have dramatically reduced the aggression of their Building a Greener Community."

The draft official plan chapter went "mostly" with reduced plan as they were "a little bit more aggressive than what (Aurora) had

before," he said.

"It would be better for us to start with a high standard and then hear why we shouldn't be," said Mayor Phyllis Morris at the meeting. "I'd like to hear arguments on why we shouldn't be bringing it in. We go with a strong requirement and then hear arguments on why that isn't financially sustainable or whatever. As we add more people to this Region and specifically to the Town of Aurora... the smartest thing we can do is be fair to the environment."

Proposed amendments to the official plan where the environment is concerned include the reduction of storm water run-off and developing policies and programs to reduce per-capita greenhouse gasses by 2031.

The Town will also require new efficiency standards for new buildings - including a 10 per cent greater water efficiency than the Ontario Building Code (Mayor Morris said she would like to see this 10 per cent target increased), the achievement of a "minimum performance level that is equal to an Energy Star Standard, and the achievement of a 25 per cent greater energy efficiency in the design of buildings four storeys or higher.

The Draft Official Plan also calls on potential applicants wishing to apply for amendments to the Official Plan to consult with Town staff before making the application.

"The pre-submission consultation meeting will be held with Town staff and any other govern-

ment agency or public authority that the Town determines appropriate," noted the plan.

"An amendment to the plan would not be required for any reasonable variance subject to the approval of Council and conformity with the other applicable policies of this plan," added Mr. Palmer. In addition to infrastructure, the Draft Official Plan also calls for the creation of a public art policy, something that was underlined earlier this year by the debate surrounding the installation of a "peace flame tree" sculpture outside of Town Hall.

"Public art is an important component of the public realm and contributes to an overall sense of place and community," noted the draft plan. "Public art may be

used to reflect Aurora's cultural heritage."

Public art also promotes tourism, "contributes to the economic vitality of the town", and can enhance the built environment, the plan said.

The plan calls for the encouragement of public art initiatives on Town owned properties, the inclusion of public art in "all significant public and private sector developments", and the promotion and active solicitation of gifts of cash and "gifts in-kind to the Town to implement public art initiatives."

A Public Art advisory committee might also be established to manage a possible public art reserve fund and the development of various strategies, including a Public Art Master Plan.

Free children’s programs for area’s needy expands

Operation Sparrow is pleased to announce the addition of art classes to its roster of year round choices for Aurora and Newmarket children.

The organization has also agreed to distribute 10 environmental camp spots courtesy of Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

Operation Sparrow is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and providing physical and cultural activities to Newmarket and Aurora youths ages 3 to 18 years who are otherwise unable to afford to do so.

Transportation to and from activities is also provided in some cases.

Operation Sparrow has been distributing programs and services to local youths

– additionally including karate, theatre and dance schools since 2007.

They hope to attract other local service providers to the fold in the near future.

"The demand for programs has been overwhelming," said Sparrow Chair Tom Pearson. "Operation Sparrow enables kids to access top notch organizations alongside their peers without prejudice - boosting self-esteem of both parents and children in the making.

"These are often kids and youths who would not otherwise be participants in organized (after-school) activities and is having a tremendous impact - based on the calls we receive back from parents and providers."



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Geoffrey Dawe candidate for mayor's chair

From page 1

business has given him the tools to "restore" Aurora's reputation.

"Our reputation is tarnished," he says. "You tell people you're from Aurora and those who pay attention might give you a double look or start to snicker. To bring our reputation back from a municipal perspective (is my first priority).

"My second one would be to restore the sense of value of actually working with the town. I don't get a sense that the people who work there are proud they're working with at the Town. We have just lost too many senior people for that.

"We need to do a better job of handling ourselves with decorum. We need to do a better job to make sure the community feels engaged, (that) there is a sense of belonging that people really want to be a part of this town called Aurora."

Mr. Dawe says he has been in the business world "close to 40 years", over half of which has been spent running his own business. He says one can't stay in business for 25 years "without learning a thing or two with how to deal with people".

"There is certainly that experience and there is certainly a totally different but equally valuable type of experience in my community life," he says.

He has worn many hats in the community, he says, from President of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, to scout leader, to working with the Rotary Club, the Aurora Public Library, and the York Region District School Board.

"You get a sense of how things work and how to deal with people in totally different situations. Working with vol-

unteer organizations gives you a different sense of people's motivations and how to work with people to get them all to work together and get things accomplished."

Looking at the incumbent council's track record, Mr. Dawe says "there doesn't seem to be a lot of accomplishments" compared with previous terms and there have been several missed opportunities.

"The Master Rec Plan languished for over a year while it was rewritten after the consultants wrote it," he says. "We've missed opportunities to partner with companies and institutions like YORKbiotech to see how we can bring some additional high performance jobs into the Town."

"We've missed opportunities by focusing on, for example, the Westhill Development," he adds, referring to the Town's ongoing dispute at the Ontario Municipal Board with the developer over lands near Leslie and Bloomington.

"We're 0 for 5 now. By spending time fighting people you miss opportunities at working with them and developing something that is going to benefit everyone. I would have, at the very least, tried to sit down with everyone (and find out how) we can proceed on a rational basis. With that specific issue, there doesn't seem to have been the desire to work towards a positive solution. It has always been very combative."

The issues surrounding the controversial Nokiidaa Trail link could also have been handled with more "tact", he says, as well as issues surrounding development on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The Town must be aware of what it can and cannot do in that regard, and focus on

solutions "that are going to drive us forward", he says.

The Town also needs to take a "step back" with looking at the downtown core and the ongoing Promenade Study.

"The Promenade Study has been a good start," he says. "I think we need to take into account that we're looking at revitalizing Yonge Street with the Promenade Study."

"To do that, we need to have a better relationship with the development community, which is not a good relationship right now, so that needs to be taken into

account.

"We have to take into account the Town economic core, and the economic centre seems to be moving towards the east, so we have to look at how we balance that out. How do we say we're going to redevelop this area while the focus of the Town seems to be moving east? I haven't seen that coming out of the Promenade Study."

Infrastructure needs to be looked at as well, particularly Aurora's water system and transit concerns, he says.

A gap exists between the amount of water Aurora is being billed for by the region

compared with the amount of water Aurora is billing out, and Aurora needs to be a more "active player" in transit.

"We need to see how we can work (with GO, VIVA, and YRT) to make that a more feasible system, or a system that works better for the transit riders."

"When GO stopped particular runs, one of which was to York University and VIVA didn't pick that up, the Town did not participate in how to work out some solution."

"I know our MPP, Frank Klees, was trying to do some things and he wasn't getting a lot of support out of the Town

for that. A very important part of our workforce uses that service. We need to make it effective. If we want to look forward to being more environmentally conscious, to get cars off the road, then we have to address that by making public transit more of a reality."

When October 25 comes round, Mr. Dawe thinks the electorate will make their decision based on three key criteria: leadership, accountability, and redeveloping a sense of community.

His campaign officially kicked off Monday night at St. Andrew's Golf Course.



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GROUP A			
Fri June 115.00		Johannesburg SC	
A1	South Africa	1 v	Mexico 1 A2
Fri June 119.30		Cape Town	
A3	Uruguay	0 v	France 0 A4
Wed June 119.30		Tshwane / Pretoria	
A1	South Africa	0 v	Uruguay 3 A3
Thur June 112.30		Polokwane	
A4	France	0 v	Mexico 2 A2
Thu June 215.00		Rustenburg	
A2	Mexico	0 v	Uruguay 1 A3
Thu June 215.00		Mangaung / Bloemfontein	
A4	France	1 v	South Africa 2aA1

GROUP B			
Sat June 112.30		Johannesburg EP	
B1	Argentina	1 v	Nigeria 0 B2
Sat June 115.00		Nelson Mandela Bay / Port Elizabeth	
B3	Korea Rep.	2 v	Greece 0 B4
Thur June 115.00		Mangaung / Bloemfontein	
B4	Greece	2 v	Nigeria 1 B2
Thur June 119.30		Johannesburg SC	
B1	Argentina	4 v	Korea Rep. 1 B3
Tue June 219.30		Durban	
B2	Nigeria	2 v	Korea Rep. 2 B3
Tue June 219.30		Polokwane	
B4	Greece	0 v	Argentina 2 B1

GROUP C			
Sat June 119.30		Rustenburg	
C1	England	1 v	U.S.A. 1 C2
Sun June 112.30		Polokwane	
C3	Algeria	0 v	Slovenia 1 C4
Fri June 115.00		Johannesburg EP	
C4	Slovenia	2 v	U.S.A. 2 C2
Fri June 119.30		Cape Town	
C1	England	0 v	Algeria 0 C3
Wed June 215.00		Nelson Mandela Bay / Port Elizabeth	
C4	Slovenia	0 v	England 1 C1
Wed June 215.00		Tshwane / Pretoria	
C2	U.S.A.	1 v	Algeria 0 C3

GROUP D			
Sun June 115.00		Durban	
D1	Germany	4	Australia 0 D2
Sun June 119.30		Tshwane / Pretoria	
D3	Serbia	0	Ghana 1 D4
Fri June 112.30		Nelson Mandela Bay/ Port Elizabeth	
D1	Germany	0	Serbia 1 D3
Sat June 119.30		Rustenburg	
D4	Ghana	1	Australia 1 D2
Wed June 219.30		Johannesburg SC	
D4	Ghana	1 v	Germany 2 D1
Wed June 219.30		Nelspruit	
D2	Australia	2	Serbia 1 D3



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Uruguay

2

2nd B

South Korea

1

GAME 50

Sat June 269.30 Rustenburg

1st C

U.S.A.

1

2nd D

Ghana

2

GAME 51

Sat June 275.00 Mangaung / Bloemfontein

1st D

Germany

4

2nd C

England

1

GAME 52

Sun June 279.30 Johannesburg SC

1st B

Argentina

3

2nd A

Mexico

1

QUARTER FINALS			
GAME 57		GAME 58	
Fri July 215.00 Nelson Mandela Bay / Port Elizabeth		Sat July 219.30 Johannesburg SC	
W 53		W 49	
W 54		W 50	

SEMI FINAL	
GAME 61	
Tues July 619.30 Cape Town	
W 58	
W 57	

WORK	
Sun July 119.30	
Sat July 109.30	

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ROUND OF 16			
GAME 53		GAME 55	
Mon June 285.00	Durban	Tues June 285.00	Tshwane / Pretoria
1st E Netherlands	2	1st F Paraguay	
2nd F Slovakia	1	2nd E Japan	
GAME 54		GAME 56	
Mon June 289.30	Johannesburg	Tues June 289.30	Cape Town
1st G Brazil		1st H Spain	
2nd H Chile		2nd G Portugal	

QUARTER FINALS			
GAME 59		GAME 60	
Sat July 315.00	Cape Town	Sat July 315.00	Johannesburg EP
W 52		W 55	
W 51		W 56	

WORLD CUP FINAL	
Johannesburg Soccer City (above)	
	V

THIRD PLACE	
Nelson Mandela Bay / Port Elizabeth	
	V

SEMI FINAL	
GAME 62	
Weds July 230	Durban
W 59	
W 60	

GROUP E	
Mon June 112.30	Johannesburg SC
E Netherlands 2	V Denmark 0 E2
Mon June 115.00	Mangaung / Bloemfontein
E Japan 1	V Cameroon 0 E4
Sat June 115.00	Durban
E Netherlands 1	V Japan 0 E3
Sat June 119.30	Tshwane / Pretoria
E4 Cameroon 1	V Denmark 2 E2
Thur June 219.30	Rustenburg
E2 Denmark 1	V Japan 3 E3
Thur June 219.30	Cape Town
E4 Cameroon 1	V Netherlands 2 E1

GROUP F	
Mon June 114.30	Cape Town
F1 Italy 1	V Paraguay 1 F2
Tue June 115.30	Rustenburg
F3 New Zeal. 1	V Slovakia 1 F4
Sun June 202.30	Mangaung / Bloemfontein
F4 Slovakia 0	V Paraguay 2 F2
Sun June 205.00	Nelspruit
F1 Italy 1	V New Zeal. 1 F3
Thur June 215.00	Johannesburg EP
F4 Slovakia 3	V Italy 2 F1
Thur June 215.00	Polokwane
F2 Paraguay 0	V New Zeal. 0 F3

GROUP G	
Tue June 115.00	Nelson Mandela Bay/ Port Elizabeth
G3 Ivory Coast 0	V Portugal 0 G4
Tue June 119.30	Johannesburg EP
G1 Brazil 2	V Korea DPR 1 G2
Sun June 209.30	Johannesburg SC
G1 Brazil 3	V Ivory Coast 1 G3
Mon June 212.30	Cape Town
G4 Portugal 7	V Korea DPR 0 G2
Fri June 215.00	Durban
G4 Portugal 0	V Brazil 0 G1
Fri June 215.00	Nelspruit
G2 Korea DPR 0	V Ivory Coast 3 G3

GROUP H	
Wed June 112.30	Nelspruit
H3 Honduras 0	V Chile 1 H4
Wed June 115.00	Durban
H1 Spain 0	V Switzerland 1 H2
Mon June 215.00	Nelson Mandela Bay/ Port Elizabeth
H4 Chile 1	V Switzerland 0 H2
Mon June 219.30	Johannesburg EP
H1 Spain 2	V Honduras 0 H3
Fri June 219.30	Tshwane / Pretoria
H4 Chile 1	V Spain 2 H1
Fri June 219.30	Mangaung / Bloemfontein
H2 Switzerland 0	V Honduras 0 H3

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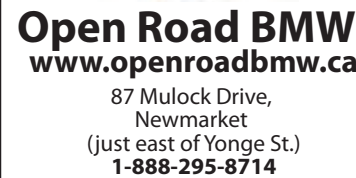


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THE AURORAN

SPORTS



Aurora rejects Tiger bid for tournament

The proposed tournament, he continued, would have featured 33 games with each team participating in two apiece and would allow team mem-

While Councillor Evelina MacEachern noted a tournament such as this would be a "great opportunity for the municipality", she said the town needed to be consistent after a similar 2007 request from the Aurora Minor Hockey Association which, if the same

While acknowledging that this tournament would benefit businesses in Aurora, Councillor Wilson said he agreed with Councillor Stephen Granger that ideally coun-

In a brief break in discussing the issue, Mr. Downey and Mr. Quinn left

"He asked me to inform council that he requests a decision of council this evening and if a decision from council is not coming this evening he will not be moving forward with the Tournament," said Mr. Downey. "He has also stated that he is looking for the full amount to be waived and a portion of that would not meet with his satisfaction. Council is posed with the decision of whether or not to waive the entire fee...he believes the Tigers are taking on all the risk and they are doing all the

"The initial offer of \$1,000...is probably all that is within council's gambit to do this evening and that is regrettable," she said.

The motion to grant \$1,000 to the Tigers, along with \$6,500 from the contingency fund - with an addendum reading "should registration fees for the tournament be approved that staff be directed to meet with Aurora Tigers to recoup the registration fees" - was carried.

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Complex's
air quality
may improve

The Aurora Family Leisure Complex will be on the receiving end of retrofits to improve air quality in the building and increase its energy efficiency after council approved the \$553,100 project at a meeting earlier this month.

"In the 2008 Capital Works budget, Council approved project #72055 for Energy Management Retrofits... in the amount of \$275,000 and project #72037 for the replacement of the HVAC systems including large scale air handling and roof top air handling units in the amount of \$450,000," said Ilmar Simanovskis, Director of Infrastructure, in a report.

"Both projects have qualified for funding under the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund program which covers two thirds of the total project costs.

"The project must be completed by March of 2011 in order to qualify for this funding."

The project includes the installation of four new high-efficiency HVAC systems, two large-scale air exchange units, hot water boilers, and air conditioning units for the fitness centre.

"We have been working on trying to get approvals for retrofitting the fitness centre for a number of years," said Al Downey, Director of Leisure Services at the June 1 general committee meeting. "We've had a number of customer complaints with regards to air quality within the fitness centre, as well as the change rooms and these upgrades will certainly address those concerns.

"We presented a three-year based project and it has taken us a number of years to get to a point where we have got budget approval for these projects, so we are behind the schedule we had originally intended.

"The customers or the patrons of the Leisure Complex have continued to raise concerns with regards to air quality and our ability to address their needs over that period of time, so these projects would help address those needs and provide an improved atmosphere for those who [use] the fitness centre."

Some councillors, however, wondered how this project would be classified as "energy management".

"I'm trying to get a sense of how air conditioning for the fitness centre and boilers for the hot water... are managing energy," said Councillor John Gallo.

The energy savings were related to costs associated with using old and outdated equipment reaching the end of "its useful life", said Mr. Simanovskis.

"Just changing the equipment in and of itself creates a savings, similar with hot water. The equipment is approaching the end of its accepted useful life. The intent of these projects is to improve the energy efficiency of our facilities.

The term "energy management retrofits" "probably" derived from federal funding requirements, said Aurora CAO Neil Garbe.

The Town bundles projects together that fit into a category, he added.



ELECT **GEOFF DAWE** MAYOR

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF AURORA

My wife Henny and I moved to Aurora because it was a community with a sense of shared values we felt could become our home — a place to raise a family. Our three daughters were born and raised in the Aurora community.

Aurora also provided a home for my business. After a successful 14 year career working in the cable and telecommunications field I started my own business here in 1986.

Like many of you, I became involved in volunteer groups. I have been honoured to be selected by my peers for leadership positions such as the senior Warden at Trinity Church, Chair of the Lester B Pearson school council, Chair of the Aurora Library Board and most recently the President of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

Historically, Aurora has been a place where you want to raise your family in a spirit of common values, a place where you meet your friends and where you want to stay.

Unfortunately, over the last 4 years, I have seen those values erode and disappear.

Our reputation across the region and GTA has become tarnished. Volunteer groups are openly fighting rather than focusing on working together. The integrity of local politicians has been challenged and our Council has become embroiled in legal battles with each other, displaced staff and community stakeholders.

Going forward, Aurora requires stronger leadership than we have seen demonstrated. I have the proven experience to deliver that leadership.

Today, I have chosen to stand for election because my family and business commitments allow me to make a deeper contribution to a community that has given me so much. I want to help ensure that the essential qualities of community that brought my wife and me to Aurora remain for future generations.

I believe it's time for a new type of politics in Aurora. One based on respect and collaboration — that serves the needs of the community not personal political ambitions.

I believe Aurora needs a new type of leadership from its Mayor; leadership that works with all community stakeholders, not just for the advancement of a select few.

If you believe, as I do, that Aurora needs a Mayor with proven leadership skills and the ability to develop collaborative solutions, I'd appreciate your vote on Oct 25th.

Geoff

LEADERSHIP • COMMUNITY • ACCOUNTABILITY

LEADERSHIP is a term widely used but not widely understood. Few candidates are able to define it.

I believe leadership is a process of influence between leaders and followers with a shared sense of purpose. Leaders need to show a commitment to collaboration, engagement and dialogue. Personally, they must exhibit humility, transparency, and a passion for learning. And, they need to create a safe environment in which others can lead.

An effective leader has an honest understanding of their knowledge, ability and self. Equally important, they are fully aware that today's issues are so complex that they can't possibly know all the answers, or do everything. Most importantly, they recognize that it is the followers that determine if the leader is successful – not the leader. If the followers do not trust or have confidence in the leader, then it is the leader that has failed.

COMMUNITY is about the experience of belonging. When you have a feeling of belonging to something, you have a tendency to nurture and grow it. So, to truly belong to a community is to develop both a sense of ownership and accountability.

To do this, we need to develop a common sense of purpose — appealing to the higher ideal of what is good for the whole, not just what is good for me. It has long been recognized that engaged communities simply work better.

Many of the residents of Aurora share this vision of community. They recognize that we are all owner-operators of the "business" that is Aurora!

There are exciting times in store for us in Aurora, as together we develop a shared vision for our community based on respect and collaboration.

ACCOUNTABILITY is the key to high performance organizations — it is the process and language of transferring strategies into reality. It starts with understanding the truth and carries on throughout all the actions of the organization.

It is not just about tax dollars, although that is obviously important. It is the understanding that we are responsible to the electorate not once every 4 years, but every day. It is the understanding that there is a duty to provide value to the residents and to provide an open and transparent accounting.

It is not about hiding behind policies and procedures to sidestep that responsibility.

Accountability is about recognizing and praising the things that are good and correcting the things that are not. It's about doing that with dignity and respect.

WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY

I have known Geoff Dawe for more than 15 years and witnessed first-hand Geoff's ability to get the job done with integrity — without confrontation or anger. He's a person with no hidden agenda who believes strongly that transparency is a sign of character and strength
— Jim McAlpine: Resident, President - McAlpine Capital Advisors Inc.

Geoff exemplifies the qualities of service and integrity that are vital to leadership today. He does not try to force his vision or priorities but engages with the whole team to co-create a vision to which we can all be committed.
— Peter Dickens: Resident, Leadership Expert.

As a long time board member, Geoff has always demonstrated respect for fellow members, integrity and perceptive insights about the issues that concern Aurora business.
— Rosalyn Gonsalves: former General Manager, Aurora Chamber of Commerce

Geoff's leadership of the Board was deliberate, clear, efficient, and collegial. Two key areas of municipal leadership essential to his success were his understanding of the role of a governance body and his ability to lead a volunteer organization.
— Colleen Abbott, former CEO, Aurora Public Library.

A successful entrepreneur, Geoff brings out the very best in others. He will provide the vision, leadership and collaborative atmosphere the Aurora community wants and deserves
— Dennis Collins: Resident, former Separate School Trustee.

Geoff backs up, encourages and celebrates the people who go into action. If there's a mistake, he recognizes effort, and avoids the blame game by focusing on new actions that follow the policies and history of the organization.
— Elizabeth Bishenden: Resident, Community Organizer

ELECT **GEOFF DAWE** MAYOR

CAMPAIGN HOTLINE: 905-751-0734 EMAIL: Geoff@GeoffDawe.com WEBSITE: www.GeoffDawe.com



St. Andrew's College part of Doors Open

By **KIM SILLCOX**
Director of Communications,
St. Andrew's College

Situated on a hill, overlooking the Town of Aurora, St. Andrew's College may hold a certain mystique for those who have driven by its gates on Yonge Street, but have never before entered its doors. Founded in 1899 by Dr. George Bruce, a Presbyterian minister from Scotland, the School's original location was in the Toronto neighbourhood of Rosedale.

Inspired by his close friend George Dickson, Rev. Dr. Bruce named the School St. Andrew's School for Boys after St. Andrew, Scotland's patron saint.

St. Andrew's is on this year's list of buildings that will be open for inspection during Aurora's Fifth annual Doors Open in August.

From 1918-1920, the School temporarily relocated to Knox College on the University of Toronto campus, when the government decided that, following WWI, the Rosedale location would be an ideal site for a much-needed military hospital.

In 1926, St. Andrew's College officially moved to Aurora under the guidance of its second Headmaster, Rev. Dr. D. Bruce Macdonald.

Dr. Macdonald found it comforting that Aurora was a small town, which (he hoped!) provided fewer distractions for young boys compared with city life in Toronto.

Today, the 110-acre Aurora campus is a beautiful reflection of old and new, with the traditional buildings depicting Georgian style architecture of ashlen brick with doorways, sills and medallions of Tyndall stone, and roofs of green slate.

The original quadrangle consisted of four buildings of which Dunlap Hall was the most central, housing classrooms, the assembly hall, administrative offices, the gymnasium, the swimming pool and locker rooms.

Today, Dunlap Hall houses administrative offices, the Towers Library (renovated in 1999 and named after Graham Towers, an alumnus of the School and the first Governor of the Bank of Canada) and The Archives, donated by the St. Andrew's Class of 1954.

To the south and slightly west of Dunlap Hall are the Upper School residences: Flavelle

House, named after its donor Sir Joseph Flavelle, and Memorial House, commemorating the alumni who were killed in the First World War - both connected by covered outdoor corridors to a central dining room.

The stately Headmaster's residence and grounds were constructed adjacent to Memorial House at the south end of the quad.

Built in the 1960s, Sifton House, named in 1984 for the Sifton family's many contributions to the College, is situated between Flavelle and Memorial Houses.

The Middle School residence, Macdonald House, was completed in 1930 and is named after the second Headmaster.

It is the first building to be encountered upon arrival at the top of the driveway.

Memorial Chapel, built in 1931 in memory of the 113 Andreans who lost their lives in World War I, is located at the northeast end of the quad, adjacent to Dunlap Hall, and its steeple can be seen from Yonge Street.

St. Andrew's facilities have continued to expand beyond the original quadrangle since its move to Aurora.

Other notable facilities, such as McLaughlin Science Hall (1972), The Bedard Athletic

Centre (1979 - re-named for former Headmaster Robert Bedard in 1997), and the swimming pool (1990) are located on the northwestern end of the school.

The School has an impressive array of newer facilities, including the new Middle School - Rogers Hall; The Staunton Gallery, located at the heart of the School, encloses what was previously an open courtyard; and The Wirth Art Centre, a stunning three-storey facility built into the former gym - all of which were completed for the 2003-2004 school year.

St. Andrew's College is a highlight of the 2010 Doors Open Aurora event.

The site will feature a guided tour around the School's quad, as well as tours and descriptions of the School's original buildings August 21st.

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For more information, visit the website at www.sac.on.ca.

For more information about Doors Open Aurora, visit www.e-aurora.ca/aurora/doorsopen2010 or call 905-727-3123, Ext. 4351.

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Jennifer Meron, right, congratulates baton twirler Teija Rom-Colthoff after Teija was named Spectrum North Athlete of the Year

Aurora High student is Spectrum North Athlete of the Year

Sixteen-year-old Teija Rom-Colthoff, an Aurora High School student, was named recently "Spectrum North Athlete of the Year, and she is also a competitive baton twirler with the Spectrum North Baton Club.

This year marks her 10th anniversary as a member of the club and Teija set out to make it a memorable year, and succeeded with flying colours.

"Teija has always been a good baton twirler, but over the last two years she has just taken off," said her coach, Jennifer Meron.

Last year was a true "break out year" for Rom-Colthoff who won the Ontario Junior B Freestyle Title, and the Ontario Intermediate Solo gold medal.

That success provided motivation to push herself even more, and resulted in her moving into the elite level and continuing with strong placements in the more advanced divisions.

At the Ontario Baton Twirling Provincial Championships held at Georgian College, Barrie, recently she captured the gold medal in the Senior Advanced Solo Dance Twirl Event, the silver medal in the Senior Advanced Medley Event, and the bronze in the Senior Intermediate Solo Event.

Additionally, Teija won

the Silver Medal at the Ontario Team Trials, in the Senior Freestyle event.

"Teija is an incredibly hard worker," said coach Meron. "She is always the first person in the gym, and the last person to leave. She always pushes herself towards perfection, and her performance level shows it. It's all that hard work in the practice gym that enables her to have the confidence to go out there and consistently lay down those great routines. She's really just a pleasure to coach."

Aside from her individual work, Teija also competes with four Spectrum North teams, and competes with her partner, Stephanie Culnan of Newmarket.

Three of the teams also won gold medals at the Provincial Championships.

Teija's hard work, dedication and great attitude were recognized by her club at their Annual Show and Awards Night in June, where Teija was named "Spectrum North Athlete of the Year".

Teija, and all the athletes and teams of the Spectrum North Baton Club are gearing up for the Canadian National Championships, that are being held at York University July 5 to 9.

For more information contact Jennifer Meron at 905 727-7586.

Aurora Ducks triathlon team successful at championships

Twenty-two members of the Aurora Ducks Triathlon Team participated in the 2010 Ontario Triathlon Team Championships held at Guelph Lakes in the Guelph Lakes Conservation area near Guelph recently.

Points were awarded based on participation and rankings.

In the Olympics distance event (1500m swim, 42km bike, 10km run) the Ducks amassed numerous points from wins by Paul White (men 45-49) and Larry Bobbett (men 65-69).

Paul is currently the points leader in his division in the Subaru Series points total.

Larry is third while teammate Shannon Kemp holds first place in the women's 30-34 year category. In addition to the wins in Guleph, the Ducks accumulated points from 11 other top 10 placings by Steve Murray, Allan Fowler, John Cappelletti, Kimberly Hagesteijn, Carol Dee, Jamie Wallace, Vicki Gladwish, Delfina Traxler, Judy Sheluk, John Ramsell and Paul Haffenden.

In the Sprint event (750m swim, 19km bike, 5km swim), the Ducks had few racers, but one competitor cracked the top ten: Ed Derkowski (men 50-54).

Coming off this successful early season event, Ducks Triathlon have 18 members currently ranked in the Subaru Triathlon Series 2010 points total.

At time of printing, three members of the club had qualified for World Championships being held in Beijing next year, while two others were waiting to hear their fate (decisions pending).

"This was a great way to start the triathlon season," said head coach Nancy Black. "The Ducks will race in no less than 12 triathlon events this summer."

Coach Black and Head Coach Triathlon Karen Bonham will support a team of 30 who will be competing in the venerable Ironman Canada (2.4 km swim, 180km bike, 42.4 km run) in Penticton, BC,

August 29th.

Because of the club's

success and prominence in the triathlon community locally and provincially,

the Aurora Ducks Triathlon Team will be featured in Canada's #1

magazine: Triathlon Canada July Issue.



Participating in the 2010 Ontario Triathlon Team Championships held near Guelph recently were, left to right, Spencer Lavis, Mike Roine, Jamie Wallace, Allan Fowler, John Cappelletti, Paul Haffenden, and Larry Bobbett.

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RETIREMENT

Aurora Youth Soccer Club
CELEBRATING OVER 45 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

*Aurora Youth Soccer Club
President "Retires" after Years of Service*

The AYSC announced that the long-serving President, Ron Weese, has decided to retire from the Board after nine years of volunteer service to the AYSC Board.

When asked "why" and "why now" Mr. Weese said "It is time. The 46th season is now well underway, the Club is in good hands and it is time for others to take their vision forward and make the AYSC not only "A Better Place to Play" but A Better Place to Learn" the game".

Ron was eager to thank the people with whom he has worked these many years. "Nothing I have accomplished could have been done without the contribution and commitment from many volunteers who have served with me on the Board as well as those working directly with the members and players" he said. "Volunteers are the life-blood of the AYSC and I have been blessed with the opportunity to work with so many. It is about team-work and when the team succeeds everyone benefits". In addition he noted "our small but dedicated professional staff has always been there to provide their expertise and ensure the mission-critical work of the Club is done and that our volunteers are supported."

During his tenure with the AYSC much has happened and the AYSC Board thanks Ron for his contribution to the Town, the Club and the sport and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

June 23rd, 2010

For more information on this Release please contact
Callie Hess, AYSC Club Secretary at callie@aysc.ca

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Aurora Baseball Association

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Murray Parish Home Inspections 12

Pro-Cut Concrete Cutting 28
Aurora Home Hardware 24

Senior Rookie Division

Michelberger Orthodontics 14
L.H. Lind Realty Ltd 9

Jenmark Digital Media 17
Darrin V. Gruenig Law Office 13

Mastercut Property Services 15
Darrin V. Gruenig Law Office 13

Michelberger Orthodontics 24
Kwik Kopy Printing 15

Mosquito Division

The Restorer's Group 6
Aspen Ridge Homes 3

Dr. Orschel's Drillers 14
Aurora Men's Slow Pitch League 6

Dr. Mark Weeden 15
The Restorer's Group 8

Peewee Division

McAlpine Ford 11
East Side Mario's 6

Powerstream 13
Aurora Toyota 4

McAlpine Ford 9
Aurora Home Hardware 5

Bantam Division

Scotiabank 14
Aspen Ridge Homes 3

Royal Wood Shop 9
Royal LePage 8

Rotary Club of Aurora 6
The Restorer's Group 4

The Restorer's Group 20
Royal LePage 9

Scotiabank 10
Royal Wood Shop 6

Mosquito Division

Aurora Home Hardware 5
Dr. Orschel's Driller 4



Some students at Wells Street and Aurora Grove Public Schools joined the knitting/crocheting club recently. They have been making eight-inch squares which will be sent to South Africa, where they will be sewn into blankets for AIDS orphans. The students have been helped in this project by family and friends and currently have more than 100 squares to be sent. Shipping costs are prohibitive to the small group but Tilemaster in Aurora has agreed to help finance the event.

Town plans to hire integration worker

Council approved a transfer Tuesday of \$3,000 from Town's Accessibility fund to Parks and Recreation to hire one additional integration worker to help families with children with special needs at Town operated summer camps this year.

The move comes after almost two months of discussion from when Aurora mother Nevin Bhimani came forward at the May 5 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) to voice her concerns over the lack of integration workers in the camps program.

Ms. Bhimani's daughter, Natasha, is an active participant in the programs but requires access to a personal integration worker to be at the camp.

Ms. Bhimani said a lack of staff compared with demand had made it difficult to enrol her daughter in the camp sessions required.

"Through the AAC delegation and discussions with staff, it has been identified that the need for summer camp integration and support staff is significantly greater than previous years," said Ivy Henriksen, Accessibility Advisor for the Town of Aurora and Melodie McKay, Manager of Recreation, in a report.

"The Department of Parks and Recreation Services typically hires two integration counsellors each summer. As a result of the increase in demand in 2010, the department is finding it extremely challenging to accommodate each and

every request for personal one on one support for every special needs child.

"As a result, parents have had to be limited to a maximum two-week time period for one on one support."

Parents, they noted, have the option of continually enrolling their children in the camp but, if needed, the onus would be on them to find and fund integration workers.

"Unlike surrounding municipalities, the Town of Aurora does not charge the parent additional fees for support services," they con-

tinued. "Currently, funding for the integration support staff is achieved through our own in-house fundraising initiatives (ie: Sale of freezies, camp water bottles, back pack sales, as well as donations)."

With this in mind, Town staffers are meeting to discuss further options for future years, they noted. Possible options may include additional fundraising initiatives, integration support staff funding in the 2011 department budget submissions, and community partnership opportunities.

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Promenade study would change downtown

From page 1
important focus for that area and the same for other promenades," said Ms. Hinde.

The plan will identify the potential for new open space and "linking opportunities" along the corridor as well as sites for new public art installations and potential parking structure sites clustered around Yonge and Wellington, and near the existing GO Transit parking facility.

These linkages and parking areas will create both a vibrant street life and "make walking a comfortable and convenient choice," said Mr. Madi.

Framework for land use areas has been divided up between what is termed the "Downtown Area", "Upper Downtown Area", "Downtown Shoulder Areas", "Promenade General Areas" and "Neighbourhoods."

The framework for the Downtown Area, for instance "reinforces heritage 'Main Street' land use characteristics", including maintaining a maximum of five storeys with a bonus of one storey for upper downtown only, for amenities that benefit the community.

"As you know, south of Wellington your downtown is very much a continuous 'Main Street' environment that is intact for the most part, and to the north of that, it really starts to disintegrate quite a bit," said Mr. Madi. "That is where obviously a lot of the great opportunities exist to extend some of that historic downtown look and feel north of Wellington."

The Promenade Focus Area as well is predicated on the idea these could become "important hubs of activity" with open

spaces, retail, and destinations "to promenade."

Under this plan, The Planning Partnership's approach has been to reduce parking requirements, what Ms. Hinde called "one of the greatest inhibitors to change."

"These reductions in parking are consistent with the reduction of parking standards that we see across all mixed use spaces in the GTA," she said. "It is a mixed use area, so people have the option of walking about a lot more, and the hope is we'll also be able to introduce over the long term public parking facilities which will also help reduce the parking on specific sites."

Their presentation concluded with a number of recommendations they said they feel would really set this plan in motion. One of the key lessons they learned was that "one high quality, high density project [embodying] desired outcomes can really turn a downtown around".

Additionally, a university or post-secondary presence in the community could also be a catalyst for change, they said.

To achieve this, the Planning Partnership suggested actively lobbying for the Wells Street School building for this purpose.

"If that school is not going to be used as a school, there should be a lobbying effort to find a new use for that school which is academically related and maybe that is where the post secondary education facility might go," said Mr. Madi. "Maybe a college or university presence might happen in Wells Street School. The capacity for the structure is designed for that aca-

demic use, so there is no reason why that can't happen there."

Following their presentation, a number of questions remained for some members of the community in attendance. They were then invited to take to the podium and voice their concerns. This went on for well over an hour.

Concerns raised included the need for a gathering space or park space for Aurora teens as opposed to some of the existing parks which are geared towards a younger population. According to one resident, ideal spaces would include a skate park.

Other concerns raised ranged from the development of the former Price Choppers site near the northwest corner of Yonge and Wellington, ensuring new planned links between streets primarily serve pedestrians and not increase vehicular traffic, and possible tax hikes.

"The Business Improvement Area [will] obviously result in more taxes to the businesses in the area which they can't pay right now," said Michael Evans of Yonge Street's True Value Hardware. "Look at all the [vacant] storefronts and you'd be setting it up for failure."

"I think it could work if you include SmartCentres as part of the Business Improvement Area at a levy of \$100,000 a year and put existing businesses at \$1 a year. One of my neighbours suggested this amount was low and I should be using a figure of \$1 million. This is not something that is new."

For some residents, traffic in established neighbourhoods needs to be taken into account, with some concerned that

increased intensification along the Yonge and Wellington corridors could drive more traffic parking into areas including around Town Park.

"Unless you know what the negative impacts are...the southeast corner is going to end up like the northeast corner - we're going to have a bunch of chicanes and speed bumps and humps," said resident Pat Reynolds. "Get that traffic study, know what the implications are, and adapt it so it doesn't ruin the old Town Park area and create nothing but a bunch of streets like the Eglinton and Yonge residential areas have become."

Mayor Morris, however, noted there are indeed some questions regarding traffic concerns and these need to be "truthed out" before council adopts or recommends anything.

Streetscapes were also at the forefronts of peoples' minds, especially maintaining the turn-of-the-century flavour of the "Main Street" section of Yonge Street.

"I visited Elora a number of years ago and they had a bylaw [that would require matching facades of new buildings to those already in existence] and I found Elora is probably one of the most beautiful towns in Ontario that I have ever seen," said one resident. "It was such a good idea for maintaining the flavour of the downtown."

"Some of the buildings that are being built [in Aurora] look like... a bomb shelter," she continued, noting construction near the railway station. "It's horrible. It looks like a big cement block they built there. They have no character and they have no

ties to the buildings around them."

There were also calls for wider than usual sidewalks to allow actual "promenading" in the Aurora Promenade, which would allow people to sit in outdoor cafes and for people walking without dogs and strollers to co-exist peacefully with those who are.

The Town, however, is already preparing to lay the ground work for revitalization in the form of the "Clean Up Aurora" program.

"Before we start revitalization, as you would in your own home, if you were doing any renovations you would clean up first," said Mayor Morris. "One of the biggest initiatives and challenges we have in the community is that there has been a lot of deterioration happening."

"In the next couple of weeks, we will be launching a campaign called Clean Up Aurora and for that we need our town staff support and we need the community and the merchants in the downtown's support. No longer will we be ashamed. It is time to clean up."

For Aurora CAO Neil Garbe, this is a matter of taking care of the Town's assets, one of the biggest of which is the downtown, he said.

"The Town needed to look in a mirror and say, 'Can we realistically expect our property owners to improve the state of their properties if the Town is lagging behind on what it should be doing?'" he said. "I am very pleased to say the work is underway and will be continuing and you will see some basic improvements that will ease peoples' lives a little bit."

One of the improvements Mr. Garbe cited was the repair of paving stones on the northeast corner of Yonge and Wellington for ease of walking, and the fact the Kaitlin Group is beginning repairs on their dilapidated building at Yonge and Centre Streets.

With this comes more "proactive" bylaw enforcement, he said.

"You will be hearing about that as well," said Mayor Morris. "There will be strict enforcement of things happening in the downtown and maybe we're not being as aggressive on enforcement and perhaps it is time."

The Aurora Promenade will be implemented through a secondary plan, which will be worked over during the summer.

The Secondary Plan will have a statutory public planning meeting of its own at a date to be set for September.

Her journey to Germany is 2,400 miles complete

This year's proceeds from Aurora's Youth Swap and Sale on August 28 will benefit Thalia's Journey, a fundraising drive established by Aurora resident Flory Avgousti to raise enough money to take her daughter Thalia to Germany.

As The Auroran reported last month, Thalia, 8, has cerebral palsy and her family is in the midst of a \$40,000 fundraising campaign called "Thalia's Journey" to take her to Germany for stem cell therapy to treat her condition.

"Back when we started about six weeks ago with this journey, I was joking around with my neighbours that we were just sitting on the tarmac and the clinic we want to go to for stem cell

therapy is in Dusseldorf," said Flory Avgousti at last Tuesday's Council Meeting.

"Ironically enough, it is \$40,000 we need to raise and the flight path from Toronto to Dusseldorf is 4,000 miles. For every \$10 we raise we are a mile in our journey, and I am very proud to say we have raised almost \$24,000."

"We're 2,400 miles into our journey. We're 'flying' over the Atlantic right now and that is thanks to the residents of Aurora for coming out and supporting us. We greatly appreciate it and thank you all for it."

Ms. Avgousti also extended a personal thanks to Mayor Phyllis Morris for her support for the cause. Mayor Morris, too, took the oppor-

tunity to sing Ms. Avgousti's praises.

"I think as a mother you are exemplary," said Mayor Morris. "You have come forward and come up with an idea and in just a few short weeks... there is no doubt that this community has embraced your daughter and I have no doubt that people wanted to help."

Thalia's Journey thus far has hosted two fundraising events so far - a "Mom's Martini Night Out" and a "Family Movie Night under the Stars."

"Both events were very successful and the third night we're looking at is a casino night," said Ms. Avgousti.

"On the list you can add the Kids Swap and Sale

because the proceeds this year will be going to Thalia," added Mayor Morris. "We will keep working with you to get that stem cell therapy."

"That means all your friends can come and have a little booth at the Town Park on a Saturday and we're going to allow the children to come in and bring anything they want from home," Mayor Morris told Thalia after she came to the microphone to thank Aurorans as well.

"Start to clean out your closets, start to clean out your wardrobes and your toys, you can bring that to the Town Park and they can sell them or swap them, but each one has to pay \$10 for that site. The \$10 is going to Thalia's Journey."



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The good weather of June is here complete with an abundance of fellow seniors to share good times propelling life on a summer's course of barbecues and activities.

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) is a community centre devoted to the interests of the senior members of society.

Town staff maintains an enthusiasm to advance new diversions or novelties and to ensure a continuing aura of freshness in activities offered.

In writing about freshness, I bear in mind and acknowledge the popularity of activities which were in vogue before any of us were born.

Committees composed of members pursue their activity of preference and continue sometimes for many years.

A burgeoning activity such as computing has a truly dynamic history, which has emerged and evolved during the past several decades.

The level of computer excellence reached today by the public is impressive and has become a familiar element in the repertoire of most of society.

A huge number of seniors in the ASA have acquired good computer skills or better.

The ASA computer club attracts a core of enthusiasts, who treat computers and computing as an enjoyable activity, as a means of accessing more valuable and interesting knowledge.

Good computing is empowering for men and women, with many problems solved and knowledge dredged from the mass of information made accessible, by the right question posed with the right words.

"Let's Create" is an activity introduced to the ASA and finds adherents who continue to find satisfaction in creating value from leftover materials.

Packaging materials including plastic bottles, and many unwanted remnants of material can avoid the landfill with a little tender loving reconstruction and artistry by the Lets Create group.

The way nature designed and constructed earth is that everything will find use and reuse somewhere; everything has a way to fit into Mother Nature's scheme to find new employment among the cycles of reuse.

Let's Create is not quite as good as Mother Nature, but nor do they overlook or disregard any scrap item.

If you are possessed of a creative and nurturing turn of mind, or would like to learn how to create, you are invited to join the group on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

The Book Club, hosted by Flo Murray, is composed of a group that reads and reviews books.

Regardless of intrusions by radio, movies and television, new books proliferate and old and ancient literature and records written thousands of years ago remain available to fascinate succeeding generations.

The Book Club does not reach back quite that far for books to read, but literature possesses a fascination that endures in spite of any form of electronic technology.

Members of the Book Club also take responsibility for the ASA library and quietly perform an excellent service for everybody who appreciates a good read.

The Canada Day Parade is scheduled for Thursday, July 1st,

between 10 and 11 a.m.

The past few years have seen great and enthusiastic support supported by displays of patriotism for Canada from all residents.

The ASA will have a float representing the seniors and seniors are always strongly represented along the route, which travels south along Yonge Street from Orchard Heights Blvd. to the Cenotaph.

I think most people would agree that the World Cup of Football or Soccer is drawing

greater attention this year than at any time I can recall.

This reflects in the arrangements made in the ASA where many of the games have been shown in the lounge, and interest is worthy of the arrangement.

Soccer is a growing sport in North America and adherents and interest is likely to grow.

If hockey, baseball and Canadian football could challenge the best in their respective leagues, I believe we would all enjoy sports to a greater degree and exhilaration would seize

many of us completely.

Seniors do not lose their competitive desires or spirits, competition can be seen daily in

the pool room, or playing cards where competition is no nonsense, and experienced players are expected to play

accordingly.

Carpet bowling and pickle ball are friendly as are all games but, players are looking for a win.

Summer's for seniors

By BRIAN WARBURTON



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