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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 10 No. 40 905-727-3300 auroran.com FREE Week of July 27, 2010



Mary Georgopoulos, owner of Jonathan's Restaurant, celebrated her 50th birthday recently with the help of this gentleman in front of her Yonge Street business. She's planning a fundraiser Thursday, August 12th, at 8 p.m. to raise money for eight-year-old Thalia Avgousti who has cerebral palsy and needs stem cell therapy that isn't available in Canada. Although she can never be cured, her condition can be improved. Approximate cost for the treatment and associated travel is \$40,000. The flight path from Toronto to Dusseldorf, Germany, is 4,000 miles. Every \$10 raised represents a mile into the journey. For more information, visit www.thaliasjourney.com. Included in the event will be a silent auction, a 50/50 draw, a deejay and dancing.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Hydro building may be new Queen's York Rangers' home

New life could be breathed into the old Aurora Hydro building as soon as September as a new home for the Queen's York Rangers, if an agreement between the Town and the Department of National Defence (DND) is completed.

"We're targeting September 1 for the agreement to start, but it is subject to Federal Government processes right now, so whether or not the Federal Government can get their stuff done on their end in time for September 1, we're not

sure yet," said Jason Ballantyne, Aurora's Manager of Corporate Communications. "We're hoping that will be the start date." While the agreement is subject to Treasury Board

Please see page 7

Farmers' Market vendors to move for Jazz Festival

Several Aurora Farmers' Market vendors will be displaced this Saturday to accommodate the Aurora Jazz Festival after a satisfactory compromise between the Town of Aurora and the two parties failed to materialize, Market Chair Andre Flys told The Auroran Saturday.

"The 'compromise' was that we had to move," said Mr. Flys. "Every single one of our vendors in the park is being displaced. The park is off-limits. [But] we are co-operating,"

Mr. Flys said he was told the Aurora Jazz Festival had their lease for the park ahead of the Farmers' Market.

"It doesn't make sense to me as we've been there for three years. I don't know what other options we had."

Market vendors in the park were given the option of moving their booths to the Town Park's baseball diamond, but that idea didn't capture the imagination of vendors, who cited, among other concerns, the lack of shade in the area, according to Mr. Flys.

Displaced vendors will now be squeezed into existing space on Wells Street and possibly along the baseball diamond fence.

Many of the displaced vendors are "upset" with what has transpired, said Mr. Flys, noting that despite the chance the Jazz Festival will bring more people into the Market area, it likely won't result in "bringing extra money into [vendors'] pockets."

"People don't come to a jazz festival to buy produce," he said. "They're

not going to want to hang out for five or six hours sitting with their lettuce. It will be good for our food vendors because there will be potentially more people here but, overall, people are going to lose income on that day."

The battle between the Aurora Farmers' Market and the Aurora Jazz

Festival came to a head earlier this month after Festival organizer Sher St. Kitts appeared in a council Open Forum to request "cooperation" between the Town and the Market in accommodating the festival.

She also requested Bylaw officers be on hand to ensure vendor

Please see page 12

Briefly



Two weeks off

The Auroran will not publish for the next two weeks, so that employees can have a well-deserved vacation.

There will be no paper Tuesday, August 3, or Tuesday, August 10.

The next Auroran will appear Tuesday, August 17.

Meanwhile, the book store - R & R Used Books - will remain open and follow its posted summer hours.

It will be closed Monday, August 2, for the Civic holiday.

Back to August 17

The Town of Aurora's August council meeting will take place as previously scheduled on August 17 rather than August 10.

At a recent meeting, Mayor Phyllis Morris and councillors discussed a possible conflict between the slated date for the August meeting and a conference the mayor and some councillors were planning to attend on the same day.

Mayor Morris suggested a date change of August 10 but a decision was since made to keep the August 17 date in place.

"There were some conflicts with meeting times and there just wasn't enough advance notice, so we're going to stick with August 17," said Jason Ballantyne, Manager of Corporate Communications.

On line

The Draft Concept Plan for the Aurora Promenade Study is now available online for public viewing.

The Town has invited the public to view the plan at <http://www.e-aurora.ca/aurora/aurora-promenade> and submit comments based on the report online.

Residents can also comment on the plan by emailing Aurora's Manager of Policy Planning, Jim Kyle, at jkyle@e-aurora.ca or by submitting hard copies of your thoughts and concerns directly to Town Hall.

Notice of upcoming open houses and public planning meetings will be placed on the website.



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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 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 meet-
Please see page 15

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Customer Alert!

Things you need to know before you use electricity this summer
(York Region Service Area)

PowerStream's distribution rates, the portion of the electricity bill that is related to PowerStream and which represents 21 percent of the total charges found on the bill, are amongst the lowest in Ontario. Over the past three years, PowerStream has been able to lower distribution rates for York Region customers by 5%. However, there are several factors, beyond PowerStream's control, which are expected to increase the total bill for customers going forward, especially during the summer period.

Take charge of your electricity bill now!

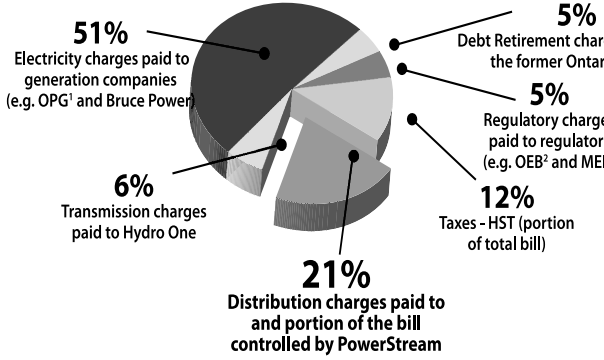
The factors that are impacting your electricity bill are:

- The Ontario Energy Board increasing electricity prices for all Ontario residential and small business customers, coupled with the seasonal change in the pricing structure, which will add 6% to PowerStream bills.
- The recently implemented Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) will add another 8% to all customer utility bills across the province.
- A small 'Regulatory' charge that has been added as required by the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure to cover the cost of provincial conservation initiatives.
- Increases in water and wastewater rates charged by municipalities (where applicable, e.g. Town of Markham and the City of Vaughan) and collected by PowerStream on their behalf.
- A projected hotter than average summer.

PowerStream, a municipally-owned local electricity distribution company, continues to look for efficiencies in its operations in order to reduce the upward pressure on customer distribution rates (embedded in the 'Delivery' line found on customer bills).

The chart below shows the percentage breakdown of the related electricity charges found on PowerStream's York Region customer bills. Only 21% is controlled by PowerStream.

Total electricity bill for a typical* residential PowerStream customer (% of total bill) - York Region



Legend

- 1 Ontario Power Generation
- 2 Ontario Energy Board
- 3 Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure

* Based on a typical average consumption of 800 kWh per month

For more information on what you can do now

In order to minimize the impact these factors will have on summer electricity bills, PowerStream encourages customers to take advantage of various conservation initiatives and programs. What you do now can save you money when your bill arrives. For more information and how to Power Down Your Summer Electricity Costs, visit www.powerstream.ca/powerdown.

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Robert Michaels from the City of Vaughan entertains a big crowd at last week's installment of the Concerts in the Park series, held every Wednesday evening in Aurora's Town Park.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Town seeking gallery artists

The search is on for the next local artists who will be able to display their works for a month in the Town of Aurora's Skylight Gallery.

The Town is now accepting applications for a draw, which will see 12 names chosen to exhibit in the gallery space.

"Twelve names are chosen, and those artists are invited to have a show for one month during the year," according to a statement from the Town. "Most of the artists are from York Region, and occasionally beyond. The goal is to expose residents to the work of

Canadian artists in a unique, convenient setting."

Entries must be received by the Town by September 9. Entry forms are available on the Town's website www.e-aurora.ca.

To be eligible, all work must be professionally framed "ready for hanging", for sale, and all work must be "suitable for all ages" due to the space being a public building. A one-person show "must hang a minimum of 20 paintings" while a two-person show would require a minimum of 15 paintings per artist.

Town will sell Ross Street

Aurora Council has voted to authorize the sale of Ross Street, running south off of Wellington Street, to Metrolinx (GO Transit) to the tune of \$320,000 for the further development of the adjacent parking complex.

"An Offer to Purchase Agreement for the sale of Ross Street has been received from Metrolinx to include in the development of a public transit complex," said Aurora CAO Neil Garbe in a report to Council.

"Ross Street is no longer required for municipal use as Metrolinx is the only remaining adjoining owner currently

requiring it for access to Wellington Street East."

With the approval, the sale transaction is expected to be completed by August 31st.

Proceeds from the \$320,000 sale will go into the Town's Proceeds of Sale of Land Reserve on closing and the Town will enjoy a savings in maintenance costs in keeping the property up.

The closed section of Ross Street has been garnering a nominal yearly lease fee for the Town of \$2 since 1991.

The sale was largely met with enthusiasm from councillors.

"\$320,000 is a wonderful

price for property that we have been receiving \$2 a year in a lease amount since 1991," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

As a frequent user of GO Transit, Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas also praised the plan.

"As someone who takes the GO every day, I tell you [with] the chaos that often ensues with the buses right there, it would be a welcome change to the current situation," she said.

Councillor Evelyn Buck, however, was less enthusiastic with the deal, and said the existing parking structure was already overwhelming the area.

"I feel that that part of our town has been swallowed up completely to provide amenity for commuters who aren't necessarily Aurora commuters," she said. "I think that \$74 million concrete parking building is a horrible sight on Wellington Street.

"It overwhelms everything, completely out of proportion,

and I can't imagine how we thought that would be a good idea. This is industrial employment land."

The matter was approved 7-1.

"Once purchased, Metrolinx will retain its current access to Wellington Street East," continued Mr. Garbe in his report. "The owner of the adjacent property to the south has no concerns with the sale proceeding as proposed.

"The Offer to Purchase Agreement was negotiated by staff members and executed February 5.

The Offer includes the requirement to reserve an easement in the Town's favour on closing as there is currently a water main located under Ross Street that will need to continue to be maintained by the Town after the sale.

"In addition, the lease for the GO station parking will expire on closing with no further notice being required."

Dog case put over for another month

The feeling of hope quickly turned to one of frustration earlier this month for Shelley Rose as she learned the decision of the fate of the dog that attacked her and killed her own dog on Easter weekend would be delayed another month.

Ms Rose and her son came to the Provincial Court at Newmarket's Tannery Mall July 12 as witnesses for the Town of Aurora in their suit against dog owner Dennis Wiitala.

The Town is seeking the destruction of the dog under the Dog Owners' Liability Act as well as charges under Aurora's own bylaws.

Both parties had been told a decision on whether or not to destroy the dog was likely to be handed down that afternoon, but an oversight appeared to have resulted in a "stay of execution".

In reviewing the case, Justice Adele Romagnoli noted there was nothing set out in the information as to what the Crown was seeking.

When Crown Attorney Rai Brencis affirmed the Crown sought the destruction of the dog, Justice Romagnoli attempted to ensure the defendant understood the severity of this.

"Certainly knowing that the prosecution is taking that position, you could be entitled to an adjournment to properly prepare a defence obviously or be provided with information," said Justice Romagnoli.

Mr. Wiitala asked to proceed with the adjournment.

"He was aware [of the destruction]," said Mr. Brencis. "This is not something that was sprung upon him. The Crown's intention was made known all along."

Justice Romagnoli maintained, however, that she was "of the opinion that he couldn't properly prepare for the defence" and granted the adjournment.

Before going into the courtroom, Ms. Rose said her feelings were mixed.

"I'm really glad after these long three months that this is here," she said. "I think it needs to be said, it needs to come out. Everyone needs some kind of closure.

Following the hearing, however, frustration was on Ms. Rose's mind, she said.

"I just remember from the last court case - the set date - that it was a different [Justice] but she did ask a couple of times if they realized the severity of this case and the owner said yes, and she advised them to get legal council before they returned," she said. "That keeps going through my mind, and the fact that they've been served with papers twice to say what the Town's wishes are and what the Town was going for the dog to be destroyed... it's almost like they used a technicality to drag this on and I don't understand for what purpose."

Following a brief recess, Mr. Brencis took measures to ensure the Crown's intentions were clearly spelled out on the court documents to ensure this wouldn't happen at the future date.

The next hearing is scheduled to once again take place at the Tannery Mall courthouse Monday, August 23 starting at 9 a.m.

All matters, including the Dog Owners' Liability Act and the Town bylaw charges will be read at the same time.



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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

An interesting whistle problem

Let's talk a bit about whistling locomotives at level crossings in Aurora.

Even if the noise from a train's whistle bothered me - and it doesn't - I have a problem because of where I live.

Close enough to Richmond Hill to spit on it (in other words, just north of the Bloomington Sideroad), I can hear the trains whistling before they get to a level crossing in King Township.

Should I be approaching the council there to ban whistling at level crossings?

I can almost hear what they'd have to say.

Here's why I'm not bothered by the noise of a diesel engine, and it has nothing to do with the fact I am a model railroad freak.

Several years ago, while on a trip to the Minden area to camp for a couple of days, we had left early in the morning...a very foggy morning.

There was (still is) a level crossing on the Aurora Sideroad, just east of Woodbine Avenue, between Woodbine and Warden Avenue.

Warden is the Fifth Concession of Whitchurch-Stouffville, for those of you old enough to remember when there were concessions and sideroads. Each was a mile and a quarter apart, bet you didn't know that, didja?

It was, as I said, very foggy that morning, and had it not been for an engineer blowing the whistle on the freight train, I, and everyone else in the car, would be dead right now, I'm sure.

Because, not only did I not see the signals, I didn't even see the crossing. That's how foggy it was.

But I heard the whistle, and I came to a stop before I reached the level crossing.

I remember sending a note to the public relations department of Canadian National Railways saying thanks for that engineer.

Don't recall if I ever heard back from them, but that engineer truly saved several lives that morning.

Trains can whistle all they like going through Aurora. Won't bother me one bit.

PIX

Last week, The Auroran ran a bunch of pictures of a Grade 9 class from 1959 - 9D to be exact - in what was then the Aurora District High School. Today, we know it as Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School.

While the answers as to who the students were didn't come flying in the door, we did get a few results.

For example, from Neil Sisman came this: pic 9 - Howard Hamilton; pic 19 - Terry Stone; pic 20 - Jim Preston; pic 23 - Larry Rose; pic 28 - Fred Dunbar.

Well, it was a start.

The best came from The Auroran's own Diane Buchanan, who went to that school at the time.

She knew, she said, everyone in the photos, and presented me with a yearbook picture of the class.

All I had to do was match the people in the class picture with the individual shots in last week's issue. I think not.

So, we'll let you do it.

The photo above and to the right, is the 9D class picture taken from the yearbook.

There are 28 students in the photo; there were 32 head and shoulder shots last week.

According to the yearbook, there were five people absent when the yearbook shot was taken.

That still doesn't compute.

So, given the names that appear, identify the individuals in last week's Auroran.

Do it and win a prize...

Four of the five names mentioned by Neil Sisman are in the photo. Fred Dunbar is the missing person.

Call us if you know, or if you need another copy of last week's Auroran.

TOUGH SHOES TO FILL

The owners of the Aurora Shopping Centre have a real job on their hands.

It was learned last week that Dan Harrison, who has been employed by the Shopping Centre for 23 years, is retiring.

Tough act to follow.



Front row

Darlene Graveston—Oh! Ian.
Margaret Vander Kooij—Smiley
Lynda Stainton—Lynda has just got a "TONY!"
Betty Driscoll—Never talks in science. HA! HA!
Candace Bassett—Hopalong is her name now.
Jutta Fohrenkamm—Look at that BULL!
Peggy Carruthers—Never misses school.
Jill Runstedler—How LOWE are your marks.
Gloria Newhall—Little Angel. HA! HA!
Helen Murby—She finally raised her fragile voice.
Linda Brown—Never talks in class, but when outside she never stops.

Centre row

Jim Maxwell—Big boy.
Leny Iliohan—Never stops talking.
June Nichols—She never stops talking about dear, old John.
Mary Lawson—I wonder who occupies her time—
GERRY?

Rosemarie Puffer—Shy type.
Lois Jennings—"Bob," I can't find another space to write his name.
Jacob Schutter—Always fighting with Glen.
Bill Evans—The Yankee of the class.

Back row

Larry Rose—Never gets in trouble.
Glen McDonald—He's available.
Ian Dennett—Walking dictionary.
Jim Preston—Small but nice.
Howard Hamilton—Always mocking a certain person.
Allan Dow—Loves math.
Steven Elmer—The clown of the class.
Terry Stone—Aren't those potato chips 'CRISP!'
Dave Flucker—His mind is always on Marilyn.

Absent

Gary Baumhauer—On the lookout for a new girl.
Janet Irvine—Doesn't talk much, she's shy.
Donald Rybka—Loves French.
Paul Wilton—Full of wise cracks.
Gordon Warren—Laughs at anything.

Letter to the Editor

Info available at no cost: reader

To the editor,

It's time to talk turkey.

Back in April I asked the town if the recent level of senior staff turnover was typical of past councils or was it some kind of anomaly?

I was then asked to file a freedom of information request, which I promptly obliged.

I was reluctant to spend the total charge of \$30 requested in order to get an answer to what I thought was a simple question that council itself should have been asking at no cost to me given that approximately 20 senior and mid-level management staff have left the town in the past few years by choice, or otherwise.

I eventually had to accept that transparency at the town hall apparently comes at a cost these days, so I bit the proverbial bullet and spent my hard earned money in the interests of answering this simple question.

I could not help myself, I was curious.

When I opened up the town's response (seconds after parting with my money) I realized that they had not actually answered my question.

Rather than get a specific answer with regards to senior and mid-level management turnover I received total employment numbers that suggest that staff turnover on average appears to be in line with the previous two terms.

While this information was helpful, it did not answer my question and to tell you the truth I felt like I did not get what I thought I was paying for.

At that point I decided that I could not afford to pay the money that would be expected to actually answer my question.

I was prepared to cut my losses and move on to the next big municipal issue.

Here's the kicker! I just found out in a round about way that the mayor informed a local reporter that all I had to do was ask her to answer the question and the answer would have been provided at no cost to me and here I was just following the town's processes.

The mayor's comments also come as a surprise to me because I understand that at least two councillors have asked the same question of staff and have received no response.

For the benefit of all, if the town Clerk ever asks you to file a Freedom of Information Request (FOI) in order to get a simple answer, then I suggest that you approach the mayor directly before you spend your money which could result in you getting an answer that in fact is not a complete answer at all.

At this point, through this OPEN QUESTION TO THE MAYOR, I would like to clarify if the senior and mid-level staff turnover that we have witnessed during the current council term is typical of the pervious two councils or is it some kind of anomaly?

The town's response to my FOI was also enlightening in that I found out that our town staff has grown by 20 per cent since the last election, to a total of 192 people.

This, too, was typical of

previous staff growth, however as a sidenote I had to ask myself if such an increase was in line with our town's growth over the same period and was this staffing increase justifiable given the current economic downturn and the town's apparent efforts to limit our tax increases?

Some may argue that the town's approach may be a Keynesian approach to stimulus spending, but I'm not so sure that increasing taxes year in and year out is in our collec-

tive best interest over the long term.

If the mayor wants to tackle that question as well, it would be much appreciated given that October 25th is fast approaching.

For those interested in such issues, I expect some kind of response to be forthcoming shortly, at no cost to me (which is an added bonus from my perspective).

Richard Johnson
Aurora

THE AURORAN

"Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper"

Published weekly by The Auroran Publications Inc.
at 95 Edward Street,
Aurora, L4G 1W1

Publisher Emeritus
Rosemary Schumaker

Editorial
Ron Wallace
ron@auroran.com

Brock Weir
brock@auroran.com

Advertising
Bob Ince
bob@auroran.com

Diane Buchanan
diane@auroran.com

Trish Miller-Kostin
trish@auroran.com

Production
Cynthia Proctor
cynthia@auroran.com

Photography
David Falconer
dfalconer@sympatico.ca

Main Number
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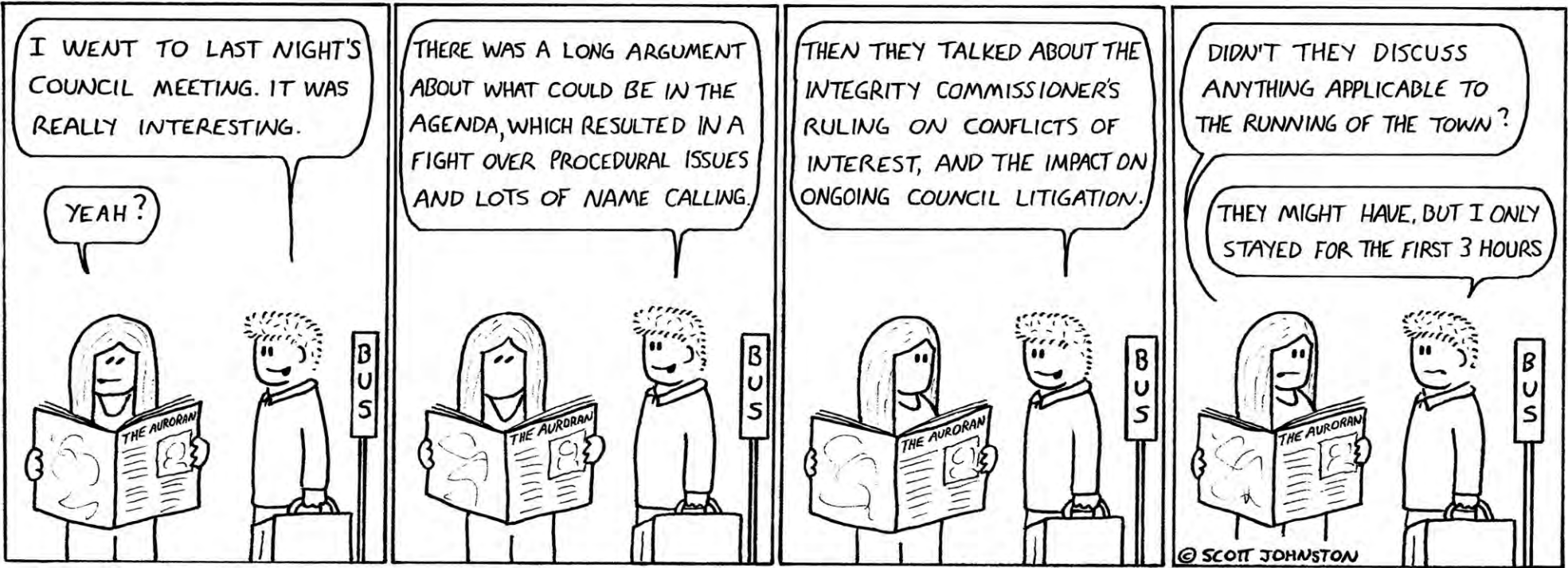
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Idea for mayoralty aspirants

Due to two recent Toronto Star articles I am returning to a topic that I first wrote about more than two years ago.

Roy Romanow, former premier of Saskatchewan and former commissioner on the future of Health in Canada, is the founding chair of the Institute of Wellbeing.

A couple of years ago he began an ambitious project, called the Canadian Index of Wellbeing, or CIW.

The headline of the Star column at the time was "Measuring what counts to society" and the article was about "the need for a more holistic way to measure societal progress - one that accounts for more than just economic indicators such as the Gross Domestic Product and takes into account the full range of societal, environmental and economic concerns of citizens."

While we have a long established set of narrow economic indicators, the article pointed out, "We haven't had a clear, coherent and compelling alternative to balance the dominance of economic measures".

I further wrote at the time that it is an interesting concept and one that I believe should be investigated further.

Well, two years have passed and Mr. Romanov came out with his first report a couple of months ago.

Some interesting findings as reported in the Star article:

"For example, from 1981 to 2008, after-tax per capita income rose 28.8 per cent, but it rose much faster for the top income earners than the rest of us. Over the same period, unemployment decreased slightly, but changes in Employment Insurance reduced the number of unemployed who qualified for benefits."

According to another Star article, the CIW also recently released a study entitled, "Caught in the Time Crunch: Time Use, Leisure and Culture in Canada".

According to this study, people are working 24/7 and as a

result, are suffering greater stress and less quality time with their families.

The proportion of Canadians aged 20 to 64 who worked other than a normal daytime schedule, for example, rose from 22.8 per cent in 1992 to 25.2 per cent in 2009.

With these time pressures, parents are spending less time with their children. The percentage of adolescents exceeding two hours a day on TV and video games has jumped from 27.2 per cent in 2003 to 31.7 per cent in 2007-2008.

When all screen time is included, 63.7 per cent of Canadian adolescents spend more than two hours a day with televised or computerized entertainments.

No wonder our youth are experiencing higher indices of diabetes and obesity.

So what about the above?

We will be having a municipal election this fall and there are a number of issues out there for the mayoralty candidates to think about.

Managing growth while maintaining Aurora's unique "small town feel" is one such issue. Transportation infrastructure and transportation congestion is another.

As are public safety and security concerns and the appropriate level of taxation to assist in managing growth challenges.

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

But having something similar to the CIW report may be helpful.

What type of information or metrics should be included in such a document?

I suggest having performance measures in each of the follow-

ing broad categories: financial, community health, individual well-ness, and say, environmental sustainability.

The individual metrics under the above four categories could include things like: number of people using the food pantry, number of affordable rental housing units, percentage of children participating in community sports, percentage of voter turnout, percentage of high school kids not completing high school, number of people using the public leisure complex and public skating/public swimming, percentage of people who possess a library card and capacity utilization of the VIVA buses in Aurora.

The key is that the numbers and trends should provide us with a well-balanced view of how our community is doing.

The statistics alone certainly don't tell the whole story, but they are the basis upon which to begin any meaningful dialogue and real debate about whether we are meeting the priorities of this community or even if we have the right priorities in the first place.

If, for example, all the scorecard targets are met, then our community should be in good shape. However, in the event that all targets were met and the community did not seem any better off, this would signal that it's time to rethink the metrics being utilized.

I think one of the candidates for mayor could make this part of their campaign platform.

The candidates could even produce their own Aurora Community Wellness Index (ACWI), which would show voters the areas that they want to focus their efforts on.

Any measure that can be utilized to both further educate and interest our fellow citizens in improving our community and also in actually getting them out to the polls, should be explored.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Heard About Town

By David Heard

Battle with autism

The gasps were heard across the library floor as people looked back and forth.

The shelving dividers, made of metal, vibrated and this continued for about 60 seconds.

There was an earthquake almost everyone agreed and shockingly the Wells Street School still stands.

I recall being in attendance at an Aurora Historical Society meeting and a presentation was given by Aurora's Andy Godschalk as to the condition and concerns about the school on Wells.

This information was given thumbs down by the board of education and we all know the end result being the school shall remain closed due to building conditions, etc.

Now some very enlightening information has hit the street which confuses me.

The Board is a regional organization and in the scheme of global identity it is a small fish in a big pond.

They decided the building should not be used for education but did suggest some form of community use.

That community use has come to light and I must say I do not support it in any way.

The user would be education in the form of military training.

So the government at a higher level feels the building can be safe for those purposes. I cannot believe that this is really happening.

There are battles all over our planet and I can safely tell you

there are a lot more important (in my eyes and heart) battles in our vulnerable peoples.

There are individuals throughout our community who fight daily for respect and safety and we do not have to travel to a far off land to find them.

Autism, for example, is at epidemic proportions and if you seek out an interview with support persons and therapists you would be made aware success and miracles in treatment.

Watching an individual who struggles in community have success is a reward beyond dollar value.

A facility in Aurora could be the tonic we are looking for to assist individuals with autism.

The government at a federal level should think less about battling others in foreign lands and consider the war on autism.

Funding for a facility like this would have to come from many levels and private donors.

There are also many other young people who could benefit from a facility to learn and be mentored in areas our schools do not have time or programming for any longer.

Wells Street School should have been that foundation.

Right next door to the school is a wonderful old building and an organization that focuses on youth.

They recently got involved in a project to assist individuals with challenges just north of our community.

I can say that I have faith that this group of servicemen (non-military) just might have a really great interest in helping the vul-

nerable in our region.

They already focus on helping young persons with hearing challenges and drug and alcohol awareness for the same.

They also have supported an autism organization in Aurora that employs some 800 people in our region and beyond.

I think with that kind of networking base we could find hundreds of persons who could benefit from a facility to learn and be safe.

All of them with aspergers, autism, fetal alcohol syndrome, dual diagnosis and more.

In an economic time such as this and questions of fiscal responsibility I have to ask the powers that be "would this not be the time to do the right thing and finance the investment in real miracles"?

If you don't believe they happen then please email me and I will gladly sit down and tell you genuine stories of hope.

If you have never thought of how you can make a difference than educate yourself on the diagnosis I mentioned for example.

Then maybe, just maybe, there will be an army of support people to give peace of mind a chance.

Wells Street School should remain in the community.

There are big battles to fight right here in Aurora.

Autism can be one of them.

Some things just seemed right if you believe and I do passionately.

Have your say

As councillor, I would back any Mayor leading the call for REAL PEACE on earth, hence striving to achieve a higher order.

Firstly, I would call upon local Aurora businesses and citizens to free hemp.

This plant can save our planet and create massive new economic activity.

We NEVER needed oil.

David Philp
Aurora- born & raised

With a municipal election looming, we asked you, the reader, to have your say by finishing this sentence: **"If I were elected mayor or councillor, the first thing I'd do would be..."**

If you missed out this week and have something so say, send it along.

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 for verification if needed.

Your contact info will not be printed but your name will be.

Send your submission to theauroran@gmail.com.

Government needs to rethink decision to cut census forms, this Auroran reader maintains

To the editor,

RE: Stats chief quits over census.

Munier Sheikh, the head of Statistics Canada, has resigned to protest the Conservative government's decision to cut the long form census questionnaire.

This decision to step down, by this prominent official, is symbolic that the government's decision to go for a voluntary short form, instead of using the long census form is wrong.

The public should be aware that census data is essential to make sound decisions for social and economic policy planning in many areas our society.

Now, with a voluntary form, there is the possibility that people are less likely to fill out this form compared to the long census form, which has been mandatory to fill out.

The lack of reporting by some sectors in society, such as the poor, or the rich, will affect the statistical integrity and the reliability of the data.

For example, important information on housing, commuting and public transit will be missing.

Many public agencies now use the census for both short and long range planning.

These groups will now experience a lack of information in the data for making their plans.

For example, educational institutions and the public health groups will be missing important demographic information such as age structure, immigration status, gender and ethnicity.

Furthermore, the decision to implement the short form will eliminate specific questions which have been listed up to now.

There will be gaps in the data which has been collected to this point, and it will then be difficult, if

not impossible, to compare some major trends and rates in our society.

The Census issue has not been on the radar for some time.

The government may tell us that this move is a cost cutting decision.

This is purely a political and ideological decision that needs rethinking.

Filling out surveys is not new, so why is the federal government

Reader wants answer to important question

To the editor,

This is an open letter to hear concerned residents' reaction to certain council members in the Town of Aurora.

Does anyone know if the public can file a complaint about the integrity of Mayor Phyllis Morris, and Councillors Wendy Gaertner, Evelina MacEachern, and Stephen Granger, who

cutting back the long format?

It does not serve our needs for making decisions.

According to many demographers and social economists, it is important for the government to consult with the public and to rethink this brash decision to stop using the long census form very soon.

Jim Jackson
Aurora

appear to be waging a private personal battle to hang Evelyn Buck.

The Integrity Commissioner would have to turn a blind eye not to come in with a negative decision about them using their position to wage a personal vendetta against one of their own, simply because they don't like her.

John Sargent
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

Last week's council meeting had closed session and pizza

To the editor,

Tuesday's meeting of this council was a grande finale with a cast of thousands, performed by staff and council and various audience participants.

It was a blend of Gilbert and Sullivan, Wagner and falling-down slap-stick British farce, at its worst or best.

Favoured volunteer was there to trash the Farmers' Market which recently decided to go it alone.

Said volunteer was there to request bandshell fees be waived to support husband George's Jazz Festival. The request was not made.

The delegate settled instead for trashing the market with photos.

The market committee has recently decided to forego services offered by the mayor's favourite volunteer at the fees she was demanding.

The bandshell was previously used, sans fees, while the entertainment was somehow associated with the market.

Recommendations from the Integrity Commissioner were part of the agenda.

An add-on was an edit to the recommendation and had been forwarded from his cell phone.

Complainant Councillor Evelina MacEachern decided she should declare an interest and not participate in the debate.

As in biblical washing of hands and disclaiming responsibility for outcome.

Staff recommended no further Code of Conduct complaints be received after a date two weeks hence, because of the upcoming election and the fear complaints might be politically motivated.

A new lease agreement for the Aurora Soccer Club was presented for consideration without direction or notice.

Attached was a statement from the Club responding to concerns brought privately to

the attention of staff by myself that the facility was being used as a commercial entity in competition with local business.

The club enjoys an amenity, situated on town-owned land of a value of between one and two million dollars. They enjoy all municipal services. They pay neither rent nor taxes.

Local businesses do pay taxes, provide employment, buy advertising, fund sponsorships to the value of thousands of dollars to various sports organizations and charitable fund-raisers and generally work hard to

operate successfully and support community organizations.

I had chosen to bring the problem to the notice of the Chief Administrative Officer to have staff deal with the matter without creating public controversy.

Apparently staff decided, or the mayor directed, the issue was worth the risk of public controversy.

Much the same as non-accounting of funds raised for the July 1st Parade under the auspices of the town in 2008.

Please see page 7

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Are you there?

Peter Virtanen
CLU Agent, Aurora

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Letter to the Editor

She reflects on regular council meeting

From page 6
auspices of the town in 2008.
A phalanx of soccer club members seated themselves in a row opposite my chair at the table as if daring me to say in public what they had apparently been informed I had expressed to staff whom I have every reason to expect will do whatever is required to ensure fair treatment for the town's economic business partners.
I think club members were responding to a rallying call from the mayor to attend council and defend their interest. It's how

she works. There are always people willing to be used that way.
There was the cab driver who dropped in to make a complaint.
He named me in particular and seemed to have a bone to pick about something I had done to offend him.
His point escaped me so I asked him to be specific. His response claimed great appreciation for the mayor, who has met with him at 2 a.m., commiserated with him and apparently put the finger on his number

one enemy. Moi.
The meeting had started with the continuing farce:
A councillor's attempt to speak to a motion is continually interrupted by the presiding member as she calls upon a staff member to refute every point made by the member who has the floor.
Some staff are content to be compliant with her strategy.
The conduct is totally contrary to all known principles and rules of procedure in a democratic organization. It does the opposite of maintaining order.

The chair's role is to maintain order.
It is accomplished by all members accepting the rules and supporting the principles of how we govern ourselves.
Staff have no place in the public debate.
But who maintains order when the chair observes no rules for herself and creates rules on the run to accommodate her friends and destroy all oppositions to her will?
Challenged on Tuesday, the mayor displayed with absolute certainty, her total absence of comprehension of rules or principles.

After 40 minutes of one-sided harangue, gazing with pathos towards her friends in the audience, for what she must endure while trying to get town business accomplished, the chair called a recess without limit, vacated the chair and wandered about the chamber chatting sublimely with this friend and that.
Chaos and confusion continued until the public part of the meeting ended at 11.30 p.m. and council proceeded to secret session. That part didn't end until after 1 in the morning.
It was followed by a social hour with staff and politicians enjoying pizza.
Town Treasurer was

despatched to collect the repast and bring it to the Town hall for a celebration of sorts.
I have often thought...if I did support the concept of a Code of Conduct for politicians, and the appointment of that Commissioner, how easy it would be to file a complaint complete with attached tape of a council meeting, any meeting,
Not a whit of investigation

would be required. A feast of evidence exists...cameras do not lie...ranging throughout the term from December 1st, 2006, until last Tuesday and no doubt will continue until the last meeting of council in August.
It's the gift that keeps on giving.
**Evelyn Buck
Aurora**

Aurora not alone in town improvement plans

To the editor,

Last week, my wife and I decided to take off on a little 3-day getaway to the Bancroft area for some R&R and to visit a relative.
The drive to Bancroft and the surrounding countryside has some breathtaking scenery.
In our hotel lobby, I just happened to pick up a magazine that has information about this pretty little town and communities nearby, and lo and behold, this 'tri-municipality' is also in the process of a Revitalization Project.
It was very interesting to take note of what is written about their undertaking.
If I may quote;
"Coe Hill's efforts to

beautify its downtown have really paid off. Community gardening projects, street lights with hanging baskets, colourful street furniture and banners...have revitalized this small hamlet."
"Maynooth is redeveloping itself as an arts and culture destination. A growing enclave of art galleries, gift shops, an old fashioned General Store, studios, and, this sounds familiar, the very popular Saturday morning Farmers' Market make Maynooth the ideal place for a day of shopping."
"In Bancroft, some key properties downtown received 'makeovers' in the past year, and more are on the way. The Business Improvement Area, [of which I don't believe

Aurora has], and the Revitalization Committee have been working towards a 'greener' downtown with the addition of a number of permanent trees."
Food for thought, and it sounds quite familiar in some aspects to our own Revitalization Project.
They have a game plan and they are sticking to it. They have started small, by taking care of many of the little things to make the communities more attractive so that visitors will leave with a wonderful first impression, and this includes encouraging merchants to brush up on their customer service.

**Bob Ince
Aurora**

Hydro building may be used by Queen's York Rangers

From page 1
approval, council authorized the deal after coming out of closed session at a recent meeting.
The agreement is contingent upon the installation of a new fire security system on the Town's dime and final inspection by DND.
Council approved the funding required "for preparations to the facility for occupancy and operating funds as per the proposed lease agreement" with the authorization to

go to tender for the fire security system with an upset limit of \$100,000.
The vote taken on the matter coming out of closed session was unanimous in favour of the motion, although Councillors Evelyn Buck and John Gallo were absent for the vote.
"Apart from the fire system, the Town is going to do some cleaning in the building and that is all we need to do," said Mr. Ballantyne. "If the DND needs to change any of the stuff inside or needs to do any additional stuff

for their needs, that would be on them. But for us it is just the fire [system] and cleaning.
According to Mr. Ballantyne, the Queen's York Rangers will use the Hydro building to augment their existing operations at the Aurora Armoury on Larmont Street.
The agreement will be subject to a three-year lease with the option of renewal for a further two.
Representatives of the Queen's York Rangers were unavailable for comment at press time.

Aurora Seniors Duplicate Bridge results

Monday, July 19: N-S -
Dennis McFadden and Frank Lablans, Lucille Sequeira and David Legalles; Sandra Davey and Silvia Thompson. **E-W -**
Jan Armstrong and Paula Stafford; Noreen Hashem and Marion Warburton; Zelma Shand and Betty Dyson.

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Two youth councillors have better understanding after council term

A four-month stint as Aurora's inaugural youth councillors left local high school students Chelsea Campbell and Adrian Bulfon with a better understanding and greater appreciation for municipal politics, they told their elected colleagues at a recent council meeting.

Having started in February, the "terms" of Ms Campbell and Mr.

Bulfon concluded at the June 23 meeting, they returned to the chamber to present their findings and experiences to council and the public at large.

"We would like to take the opportunity to thank you for giving us the ability to participate in this program," said Mr. Bulfon. "We understand that the idea was an experiment in engaging youth like ourselves in

local government processes and to provide the opportunity to make some recommendations should an idea come forward."

Looking back on their first meeting, Ms Campbell said their initial experience was "confusing."

"While we had the agenda in advance, there was no way to prepare in advance for the meeting

following the motions, debates and approvals," she said. "Today, some 10 council meetings later, it is no longer a blur. In fact, it is completely understandable not only why it takes time for a law to be passed, but that sometimes it is beneficial to the community that we have such a lengthy process before passing those laws."

While they came to the

council table as Grade 11 students, and as they now prepare to make the plunge into Grade 12, former Councillors Bulfon and Campbell had some parting recommendations that could benefit their successors should the project continue into the next council.

"We understand that it is neither possible nor appropriate for us to participate in the debate of the items [on the Council agenda], however, on some issues, if councillors are interested in the opinion of youth, perhaps they should ask questions during the meeting," said Ms Campbell.

topics and in the interests of the public."

Mr. Bulfon suggested that in addition, councillors might take turns in offering mentorship to youth councillors "providing linkage to us and an actual elected representative."

Other suggestions included the mayor and councillors visiting Aurora high schools to engage youth on the issues, as well as issue quarterly council highlights specifically for youth that could be distributed through the school system.

Two lawyers will help town defend golf case

The Town of Aurora has retained co-counsel for its ongoing case at the Ontario Municipal Board with the Westhill Redevelopment Company over lands for a proposed golf course near Leslie Street and Bloomington Road.

The move will allow the town to take advantage of the specialized experience of new co-counsel Rodney V. Northey, according to Mayor Phyllis Morris.

"The rationale for retaining [Mr. Northey's] services is he is familiar with the case, the expert witnesses, and their witness statements," Mayor Morris told The Auroran. "Moreover, given his areas

of specialization, Mr. Northey has the ability to lead on matters of water and much of the natural heritage evidence, as well as to coordinate all of the environmental evidence.

"By way of contrast, [current counsel Roger] Beaman would lead on planning matters and environmental assessment procedures."

Despite having another lawyer on retainer in this case, Mayor Morris insists adding Mr. Northey to the Town's legal team at the OMB hearing would "reduce costs to the Town."

"[Each counsel] would be paid for the time they put in," she said. "So you could have one trying to

do it all, or you could have two with an expertise in both sets of matters taking their turn when needed. Two different lawyers, two different areas of expertise."

"It should be remembered that this is a co-counsel arrangement, not double-counsel arrangements. We're not having two sit there all the time."

One should have someone who is a specialist on board if one is going to have expert witnesses, she added.

"Having them both together is a really well-qualified, experienced team and it will only be a very few times that they will have to attend the hearing together," said

Mayor Morris.

"In addition, it should be remembered that given Mr. Northey's firm is no longer retained by the [residents concerned with this case], he is available for the purpose now of serving as co-counsel when the Westhill OMB hearing resumes."

According to Jason Ballantyne, Aurora's Manager of Corporate Communications, the retention of Mr. Northey will be funded from the Town's Advocacy Account, which is the source of funding for external legal counsel.

The Ontario Municipal Board is "currently working out the logistics behind the scheduling of a hearing" which is likely to commence in mid-September of this year, he added. The hearing is expected to last about six weeks.

Mr. Northey hails from the firm of Fogler, Rubinoff LLP.

The retention of Mr. Northey was approved by Council 6 - 1, with Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas voting against the motion.

Councillors Buck and Gallo were absent from the vote.

Bylaw eliminates "no stopping" rule

Council passed a bylaw recently which would eliminate the no stopping at anytime condition on the west side of Mavrinac Boulevard from Lewis Honey Drive going north to just short of St. John's Sideroad.

The move came after the receipt of several months of complaints from residents over the parking situation on the street, including the April 14th Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC).

"We're not able to park on either side of the street," said Lorraine Sedgwick at the April meeting, speaking on behalf of her neighbours. "This was not disclosed to us as homeowners at the time of purchase, so we are wondering if there is a possibility...to negotiate for parking on the side opposite to the homes."

"When there are bike

lanes, you don't have parking at the same time on that section of road," explained Jamal Massadeh, Aurora's Traffic Analyst. "This section of Mavrinac is designated as a no-stopping area. The residents should have been made aware that this, [the developer] should have told them of the parking situation there."

Developers have to show not just No Stopping and No Parking signs in their site plan, but all signs in the development, said Mr. Massadeh at the time.

If residents at the north end of Mavrinac had guests over, for instance, and their vehicles could not be accommodated by the homeowner's driveway, the nearest place for overflow parking was on Lewis Honey Drive.

Ms. Sedgwick's delegation and comments

were received by the committee and the matter was referred back to Town Staff to come up with some "viable solutions" to residents' concerns.

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Council agrees with GO Transit selecting contract without bids

Council threw out the customary bylaw requirements for competitive bids this month and awarded a \$116,110 contract to AECOM Canada Ltd for the design, tender preparations and site inspections for pedestrian gates at railway crossings, apparently at the behest of GO transit.

"The purchasing bylaw requires receiving a minimum of three quotes for

design works in the Town," said Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, in a report to Council. "GO Transit was consulted regarding design requirements and stipulated that the design would only be acceptable if completed by their authorized consultant AECOM."

The move towards pedestrian gates at railway crossings is part of the

ongoing efforts to bring about anti-train whistling measures to Aurora.

"A step in implementing an anti-whistling policy includes ensuring that the safety features of the crossings meet Transport Canada and Region of York requirements," said Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, in a report.

"Pedestrian gates are

required by York Region at their Regional road crossings (St. John's Sideroad and Wellington Street East)."

The Town of Aurora has committed to installing like gates at Town crossings at Centre Street and Engelhard Drive, and in the construction of a new pedestrian crossing at Cousins Drive.

It was the Cousins Drive

crossing that garnered the discussion in the council chamber recently, and not just from the council table.

Local trails activist Klaus Wehrenberg used the Open Forum as an opportunity discuss safety concerns he had over the proposed crossing.

"My concern is...that [the engineering consultancy] might be done in isolation of what else needs to be done, especially at Cousins Drive to make this an effective pedestrian crossing," he said. "I don't think we should miss the opportunity."

"We have to get pedestrians across Cousins Drive, whether it is an anti-whistle consequence or not. Since we're going to put a pedestrian gate at this intersection, we need to know what we are going to do with getting these pedestrians across Industrial Parkway right next door."

"Industrial Parkway, the shoulder of it, and Metrolinx property are 14 feet from each other. That is all we have between the railroad corridor and the shoulder of the road."

Mr. Wehrenberg asked for a condition to be considered that AECOM work with the Town's consultant on the matter. He said this would help do the project well, keeping past issues in mind.

Ultimately, that condition was not placed on the deal with AECOM, but there might be some light at the end of the tunnel to resolving Mr. Wehrenberg's concern, according to Mr. Simanovskis.

"We are currently doing a sidewalk gap report, which will develop a five-year plan for completing the sidewalks within the Town, and this pedestrian link would be part of that review," he explained.

"We can capture it either in that process or as part of this consulting assignment. The priority here is to achieve the anti-whistling, after which we can identify the sidewalk issues as a separate matter."

"We actually met with the consultant to verify what will be done and I will bring that forward as an item for consideration as well."

Council attendance record report okayed by slim margin

Aurora residents will be in the receipt of an attendance report of councillors for all previous Council meetings of this term, following a notice of motion by Councillor Evelina MacEachern, a motion that some councillors called "a waste of time."

On June 15, Councillor MacEachern filed a notice of motion calling for the records to be compiled and released.

These would include attendance records for all council meetings, all general committee meetings, as well as meetings for special general committees, special councils and closed session meetings.

"This report would provide what we keep saying: open and transparent and accountable," Councillor MacEachern said recently. "If anyone wants to go through, it is very cumbersome."

"The closed session minutes, the attendants are not reflected in any public document, so members of the public have no idea what members of council are attending closed session. This would give an opportunity to be open and transparent to the public so they know who is going into closed session representing them and who is not."

Councillor Bob McRoberts said right off the bat that he would not be in support of the motion.

"My initial reaction when I read it was, 'What's the point?'" he said. "Certainly to be open and transparent and fair to those without perfect attendance, I would think the reasons for absence should be included as part of the record."

"I'm not sure why advisory committee meetings aren't

being included and I would simply say that if anyone would like to know my attendance record, I would be happy to tell them. Bottom line: I find the suggestion an exercise to be a potential waste of staff's time."

Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas went a step further and called it "a complete waste of time."

Councillor Al Wilson, too, was concerned that this would not be the most efficient use of staff's time if it required anything more than a "push button exercise."

While part of the process for the open meetings would be a "push button exercise", compiling the data for closed sessions would prove to be more labour intensive, said Town Clerk John Leach.

Although Mayor Phyllis Morris voted in favour of

Councillor MacEachern's motion, she said she didn't disagree "with some of the comments stated on the record."

"It is a very significant issue as well if someone hasn't participated in a vote and, as Councillor McRoberts has pointed out, though if someone is away from illness or legitimate reasons, or just chooses to get up and walk out, or just chooses to leave at the end of the meeting and not attend, that is leaving the burden of most up the work of this corporation up to a handful at times," she said.

"I think that is where the concern has come."

The motion was carried 4-3, with Councillors Collins-Mrakas, McRoberts, and Wilson voting against it.

Councillors Evelyn Buck and John Gallo were not present for the vote.



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Complaints prompt pavement marking

Steps will be taken to improve the Town of Aurora's "tatty" pavement markings following complaints received by the public, said Mayor Phyllis Morris.

Mayor Morris made the comment at a recent council meeting at which councillors authorized staff to extend existing pavement marking services to KDN Pavement Markings, and increase the purchase order from \$49,000 to \$115,000.

"We're going to get more line painting done because we've certainly had numerous complaints," said Mayor Morris. "People felt that the lines were looking 'tatty' for want of a better word, so it is time to clean them up."

"KDN Pavement Markings Ltd. has supplied the Town with its pavement marking services for many years and has consistently provided excellent service," said Ilmar Simanovskis, Director of Infrastructure, in a report. "The unit prices for pavement markings in [the Tender] have not increased since 2005 and will remain the same for the balance of the contract. There is no guarantee that the Town will receive better prices than

already obtained in [the Tender] if a new tender for the remaining funds...was issued."

Council approved \$100,000 worth of pavement markings in the 2010 budget, according to the report. The contract with KDN was for \$49,000 and council is required to authorize any increase above \$50,000.

"What we have here is an existing contract with very good pricing that they have

held prices for a number of years," Mr. Simanovskis said. "This is a contract which was, I believe, initiated in 2009 and we want to extend it to 2010 because the pricing situation we have... is very beneficial to us. We also added a capital project in 2010's budget which was quite significant compared to the previous year's spending because we are behind in our line painting program."

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LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP is a term widely used but not widely understood. It is used by almost every candidate without ever really defining what it is.

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.



WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY

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 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.

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Aurora renews soccer lease

Councillors opted to renew the lease between the Town and the Aurora Soccer Club for a further five years, amid concerns that some of its commercial ventures might put other businesses at a disadvantage.

While councillors, who voted unanimously to approve the deal, heralded the Aurora Soccer Club (ASC)'s value to the community, Councillor Evelyn Buck expressed some con-

cerns she said she has had with the ASC "at various times".

"I don't begrudge it to the Aurora Soccer Club to have this facility," she told councillors and ASC representatives in the Council Chambers. "It's...a very fine asset to the community."

Her concerns, she said, lay in signage issues advertising their facilities and services.

"A few weeks ago I noticed a massive sign out

advertising the facilities they have, the televisions they have, as an opportunity to enjoy [the World Cup] and that the facilities they have are licensed and all that," she continued. "We have bylaws about signs and our retail operators are governed by bylaws."

This puts the ASC in "open competition" with retailers in the Town who "struggle to pay taxes and wages" to their employees, she said.

"I only have one thing to say about that - it's not fair. I hope you take that into consideration. I am asking the Aurora Soccer Club to have a social conscience about how you are using that facility."

"It's a beautiful facility and I'm sure it is enjoyed by whomever that visits, and I'm glad to be part of having helped to provide it. At the same time I think we should be cognisant of what you are doing to people who are

trying to pay taxes, pay wages and compete."

According to a report to council from Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation, the ASC has leased the land on Industrial Parkway since 1983.

Their lease was last renewed for 10 years in September of 2000.

That agreement had the option to renew for another five-year term "subject to conditions being met to the satisfaction of the town."

Such conditions included the installation and maintenance of bleachers, the

maintenance of paving in the driveways and parking areas, club house maintenance, and the cost of heating, hydro, and water.

Before the extension was granted at the last council meeting, the lease was slated to expire August 12.

"The ASC has, in the past, and continues to provide exceptional service to the citizens of Aurora, and the development of soccer in the community," said Mr. Downey. "They have enabled themselves to be primarily self-sufficient and continue to provide community access to the facility."

Water safety education heads list

This summer's tragedies of the drowning deaths of nearly two dozen people have signified the importance and need for continued water safety education.

The Town of Aurora Aquatics Division will dedicate an entire week to Drowning Prevention education starting with its 10th Annual Water Games, "Aurora's Amazing Race: Water Games Edition," on Wednesday August 18

from 2 p.m. to 5.25 p.m. at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex and culminating on Sunday, August 22, with a Rescue Tube relay.

Aurora is one of seven York Region municipalities participating in this event, which also raises money for the Lifesaving Society's Drowning Prevention Campaign.

Town of Aurora's Aquatic staff will receive the Rescue Tube from the Richmond Hill

lifeguards at Yonge and Bloomington Sunday, August 22 at 10 a.m. and will carry it to Yonge and St. John's Sideroad to hand it off to the Town of Newmarket Lifeguards who will continue their journey north to Georgina.

This year's event is to raise awareness about being safe in and around the water.

Participants of all ages will have the opportunity to learn

hands-on water safety as well as obtain their Swim to Survive Certificate.

Activities will also include choosing an appropriate life-jacket and trying it out in a safe environment. There will also be a chance to obtain a Pleasure Craft Operator Card. Boat exams are available to those interested.

All proceeds raised will be donated to the Lifesaving Society.

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Skylight Gallery Art Exhibit




at the Aurora Town Hall-third floor
 7:30pm to 8:30 pm
 Thursday August 5th

The Rob Schuetze exhibit will last for the month of August
 The prints range in size from 12" x 16" to 40" x 60"
 All prints will be available for sale

~ by Rob Schuetze

OPEN HOUSE



Aurora Minor Hockey Association



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING 2010/2011 REGISTRATION

In-house registration for the 2010-2011 hockey season will be available at the AMHA office at ACC1 August 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2010 between 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

The AMHA will accept children born in 2004 for our Tyke Hockey Program. It is recommended that they have either taken skating lessons or completed one year of Opti Hockey.

The AMHA will accept players born in 1990 and 1991 for the Midget House League Program.

Midget AA and Midget AE tryouts for players born in 1993 and 1994 will commence August 24, 2010. Players must be registered with the office before attending tryouts.

Please refer to our website www.auroraminorhockey.net for information on fees.

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Summertime doesn't slow ASA activities

By BRIAN WARBURTON

After this edition, The Auroran will take a two-week holiday and publish next on August 17th. However, the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) will continue through these two holiday weeks with programs and activities as usual.

Old habits are hard to break and this is the high summer holiday season for seniors the same as always.

Perhaps this is a good time to write a bit about the mainstream activities of the ASA, and by that, I refer to the activities that continue week after week supported by members drawn to their choice of activity.

I often refer to the ASA as a society of seniors, and

repeat that the Seniors' Centre is where seniors congregate daily, accessing their activities of choice.

Since new people join the ASA constantly, the Seniors' Centre is enriched as a consequence as is everybody whose immediate circle of members increases.

Mainstream activities mean that each Monday you can learn bid euchre and badminton, which attract members interested in trying something not tried earlier.

The Knotty Knitters keep busy always with lots to talk about, and just as much to knit. The work they produce is on display in one of the display cabinets.

Duplicate bridge is available along with Wii games and, of course, the wood shop and computer room, the library and the poolroom are all open.

Tuesday offers bid euchre 8 game, scrabble, pickle ball and badminton followed in the evening by the movie show, which is very popular.

Wednesday offers the walking club, which is among the most beneficial and simple exercises and has drawn walkers for years.

Let's Create continues to create crafts and arts out of any materials available and what they produce is not only admired widely, it is offered for sale at the spring

and fall ASA sales.

The Garden Club meets on Wednesday and table tennis attracts members who like to show their playing skills.

Thursday offers bocce ball, which is an old game from the Mediterranean and has grabbed the attention of seniors, is now part of the general activities, and played in the fresh air on the grass.

Thursday also offers the barbecue at noon and everybody stops for food.

Carpet bowling attracts adherents as does bid euchre 6 game, plus dominoes and table tennis.

Friday offers scrabble, bingo, canasta, pickle ball,

Wii games and bid euchre and every day is busy with members occupied with their interests, which draw them back week after week.

Seniority, of good vintage and freighted with the burden of years is an apt description for many members who now sport through life, a little slower perhaps but with considerable aplomb.

Their enthusiasm for life and eagerness to enjoy it one day at a time carries them through the years magnificently, occasionally highlighted with triumph gained at senior tournaments competition contested with success.

The ASA has upgraded equipment in the computer room and the computer club offers a variety of technologically advanced computers for members.

Six new Compaq computers with 3 GB of memory running the 64-bit version of Windows 7 have replaced six old computers equipped with the XP operating system.

The new computers retain the same version of Microsoft Office 2003 Professional with the addition of the latest version of Open Office, which is a free download.

The two Vista equipped computers remain as they were as does the Mac and the remaining XP equipped

computer.

The six Compaq computers require more work including the addition of teacher accounts, all subject to installation as required.

Selecting the computers and installing them in the computer room has required the service of industrious and experienced members with the skills necessary to complete this volunteer assignment.

Professional computer installers could have completed the work, but satisfaction exists in self-reliance and this text offers words of congratulation to the volunteer members of the ASA who carried out the task.

These members include Bob Hedenberg, Ron Humenchuk, Steve London and Tom Yates.

The computer club is open to all members of the ASA including novices in the use of computers.

If sufficient demand exists and subject to availability of teachers, members may learn to compute on these excellent new computers.

If you require basic computing, word processing, e-mailing or help with digital photography and downloading to computer or disc, make known your wishes at the front counter and sufficient demand will probably attract an instructor with the right skills.



Women make big strides in workforce

By Lois Brown
MP Newmarket-Aurora

Women have made great strides in recent years.

Last fall, Statistics Canada reported that for the first time, women outnumbered men in the workforce at 50.9 per cent of all workers.

They continue to start businesses at a rate much higher than men, and count for 35 per cent of all self-employed entrepreneurs.

A record number of female Cabinet Ministers have been appointed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

However, in terms of elected representation at all levels, there is still much room for improvement.

The number of women in leadership roles lags compared with men within the public sector, corporate world and all levels of government.

I would like to see this improved.

The Experiences mentorship program facilitated by a national organization called Equal Voice, is helping to bridge the gap.

In this program, girls and young women interested in engaging in political and democratic issues are invited to interact with mentors from all levels of government and business.

I have a young lady right

now gaining valuable experience in my Ottawa office through this program.

The research and consultations carried out by Equal Voice show that one of the most effective ways to achieve the goal of having more women involved in public life is to start talking to them about it when they are young.

I am a regular speaker at our local elementary and secondary schools where I encourage youth, especially females, to consider politics in their future.

Since opening my constituency office in November of 2008 I have regularly welcomed co-op students from our local high schools.

So far three bright young women have gained valuable insights into our civic and democratic processes in this capacity.

Status of Women Canada has designated women in leadership roles as one of its three areas of focus.

The Women's Community Fund component of the Women's Program administered by the Status of Women has funding available for incorporated non-profit or private organizations with quality programs that help achieve this objective.

The Women's Community Fund improves the advancement of all women in Canadian society by encouraging effective programming at the community level.

Projects in the three priority areas of ending violence against women and girls, improving women and girls' economic security and prosperity, and, encouraging women and girls in leadership and decision-making roles, are given preference.

An application form and information guide for the 2010-2011 fiscal year are now available on the Status of Women Canada website at www.swc-cfc.gc.ca along with a full list of last year's projects.

My doors are always open for any resident interested in getting involved in the democratic process.

I encourage those interested in this, or any other issue, to contact my office at 905-953-7515 or by email at Brown.L@parl.gc.ca.

Lois Brown is the Member of Parliament for Newmarket-Aurora, and a member of the House of Commons Standing Committees on Transport, Infrastructure & Communities, and the Status of Women.

They're preparing for 2nd Prayer Breakfast

The "outstanding sold out success" of the inaugural Mayor's Prayer Breakfast last October is set to be repeated this November, following Council's endorsement of the second annual event, now slated to take place November 9.

In a letter submitted by Mayor Phyllis Morris for council's perusal from Bob Callow, chair of the event, he said the event has had a positive influence on the Town.

"The Town of Aurora's endorsement of this initiative has had a definite impact on making Aurora a better place," he said.

Last year's guest speaker was Dale Lang, whose son Jason was killed in a 1999 school shooting in Taber, Alberta.

Mr. Lang's message of "tragedy, bullying, and forgiveness...touched everyone deeply," according to Mr. Callow.

Proceeds from the event were used to bring Mr. Lang back to speak to 2,000 Aurora high school students.

This year, attendees will be able to hear the words of

controversial independent Saskatchewan MLA Serge LeClerc, who resigned from the governing Saskatchewan Party earlier this year to "clear his name" over allegations of illegal drug use in 2009.

"This man was a former motorcycle gang leader selling drugs and was on Canada's most wanted list," said Mr. Callow in his letter. "He was caught and incarcerated in a maximum security prison. Upon release, he became a Christian and turned his life around working with young people all over Canada."

Mr. LeClerc since announced he will not be running in the 2011 provincial election.

The 2010 Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be held at DiNardo's Banquet Hall.

Organizers aim to make at least 100 of the 500 available seats available to youth.

"They will hear Serge's remarkable story of redemption, that no matter what you have done or how bad things are there is a way to change your life for the better."

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Senior Rookie Division

Michelberger Orthodontics 13
Kwik Kopy Printing 1

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Darrin V. Gruenig Law Office 9

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Pee Wee Division

McAlpine Ford 5
Aurora Toyota 0

PowerStream Inc.11
Aurora Home Hardware 1

PowerStream Inc. 5
Aurora Toyota 0

East Side Mario's 11
McAlpine Ford 6

Bantam Division

Rotary Club of Aurora 15
Aspen Ridge Homes 7

Scotiabank 8
Royal Wood Shop 7

Aspen Ridge Homes 13
Rotary Club of Aurora 3

The Restorer's Group 11
Royal LePage – Larry Willert 7

Select Bantam

Aurora 1 12
Innisfil 1

Aurora 1 15
Georgina 4

Aurora 1 13
Georgina 6



Some members of Aurora’s White Heather Pipes and Drums celebrate after winning first place in the pipe band competition at the Haliburton Highland Games recently. Unfortunately the group was unable to bring the cup home back to Aurora. With the White Heather name on it, the cup will remain in Haliburton.

Vendors must move for Jazz Festival

From page 1
vehicles didn't come into Town Park space to facilitate the set-up and take-down of Market booths.

"Apparently Bylaw claims there was confusion [about vehicular access], but it is written right into the bylaw of the Farmers' Market that we are allowed to bring our vehicles in to load and unload as long as it is not during market hours," said Mr. Flys.

Despite the setback, he said he is looking to the future. While he is going to take the Town "at its word" that this kind of conflict doesn't happen again, he wants it ensured next year. One option would be what he calls a "blanket lease".

"We're going to say, 'we pay you X amount of dollars, [and] this space is ours every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. from May through October. Period.'" he said. "Whether we've got vendors in that space or not, it will be up to us to fill that space. It is just a lease agreement [that says] it is our space. No one can break a lease agreement

without legal consequences. "That is ideally what we want. Rather than a bylaw amendment or bylaw, it would be a lease between the Aurora Farmers' Market Association and the Town. That way, things are firm and we don't have to deal with any surprises." The Market would wait to sit down at the bargaining table, however, until after the upcoming election so they could have "at least four years assured" regardless of who is elected.

Although the Market vendors have been ousted from Town Park, the spaces that were occupied by Market vendors are now slated to be taken up by food vendors specifically for the Jazz Festival. "Somehow those vendors have been given preference to our farmers," said Mr. Flys. "You can only take a fight so far. You've got to take a breather, so we've accommodated. We're moving our vendors out. It is not ideal, but I don't know what else to do other than make it work."



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Properties on Catherine, Wellington part of Doors Open

This article in the Doors Open series features two more significant buildings in Old Aurora. One is at the heart of the designated Northeast Old Aurora Heritage Conservation District, and the other is on the historical Wellington Street East.

FORMER METHODIST PARSONAGE

The former Methodist Personage, located at 39 Catherine Ave., was once the boyhood home of former Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson.

He was born April 23, 1897, in Newtonbrook, which was then a small village located around the intersection of Yonge and Finch (now part of Toronto).

He was the second of the three sons of Edwin Arthur Pearson, a Methodist minister, and Annie Sarah Bowles.

Edwin Arthur Pearson's ministry work took the family to live in different parts of Ontario.

In 1900, Edwin relocated his family to Aurora where he served as minister of the Aurora Methodist Church (later United Church of Canada).

The Pearsons lived in the old parsonage at the southwest corner of Catherine and Spruce Streets from 1900 to 1903.

Later in life, Lester B. Pearson recalled his first memories of Christmas in the Aurora parsonage. Another memory was of his father playing baseball in the Town Park after prayers on Sundays, which had inspired Pearson's lifelong interest in the game.

Aurora was also the place where Lester B. Pearson began his education at the Aurora Public School, later the Church Street School and today the Aurora Cultural Centre.

It is also part of this year's Doors Open event.

In 1913, Pearson enrolled at the University of Toronto and majored in history. He later earned his MA from Oxford University in England. Pearson married Maryon Elspeth Moody August 22, 1925, and joined the Foreign Service in 1928.

In the late 1940s, Pearson entered politics as a Liberal and served in the government of Louis St. Laurent as a Minister of External Affairs.

He was awarded the Noble Prize for Peace in 1957 and a year later he was elected leader of the Liberal Party.

During his time as Prime Minister from 1963-1968, his minority government introduced universal health care, student loans, the Canada Pension Plan, and most notably the current Canadian flag.

Although Pearson left Aurora at age of six, he held a special memory of the place where he spent part of his childhood.

In 1968, Pearson returned to Aurora for a brief visit to help celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Aurora United Church. There, he was the guest of honour and spoke from the pulpit that his father had spoken from many years before.

The former Methodist Personage, located at 39 Catherine Ave, is now a private residence owned by the Maxwell family.

Last year, at Doors Open Aurora 2009, more than 230 visitors had the opportunity to walk through the main floor and learn about its history and architecture thanks to the guided tours offered by the Maxwells.

For the second year, the Maxwell family kindly agreed to open the first floor of their home to Doors Open visitors August 21st.

The house was built in

1879 of Gothic Revival architecture and vernacular style.

Architects were W.J. and G.H. Phillips, natives of Aurora. The house is of L-shape, constructed of solid brick, including interior brickwork partitions to the make the building virtually fireproof.

When you tour the house, notice the irregular elevation and the L-shaped plan that presents interesting angles and gables to the street; the angular, three-sided



bay window on the lower storey emphasizing visual relationship between the front parlour and the streetscape; the gorgeous open verandah preventing sunlight from penetrating through the lower storey window; and, a gable end of roof with wide eaves - its peak filled with decorative elements.

THE SMITH HOUSE - JACKRYN FRANCE

While walking down Wellington Street East amid the mature trees, a pierce of blue catches the passer-by's eye. It's the Smith House located at 89 Wellington Street East.



THE SMITH HOUSE

The Smith House is a good example of the traditional Gothic Revival style of architecture; a style that was popular from the mid-1700s to the early 1990s.

The house was built in 1883 with the original owners being James and Jane Stoutenbough. The longest tenure in the house (1915-1959) was that of the Smith family, in which the house is named after.

As many of Ontario's early settlers' origins were from the United Kingdom, it is unsurprising that the buildings reflected English Gothic and medieval architectural styles.

Many elements of stone buildings in England are translated into wood and brick on cottages and smaller residences in Ontario Gothic Revival buildings. The Smith House is a model example.

In recent years the Smith House was acquired by Rita Theil who worked with the Town's innovative policies supportive of adaptive reuses of former homes in the downtown.

As a result, Theil has created a one-of-a-kind home décor store uniquely called JackKryn France - a combination of her children names (Jack and Kathryn) and her love of France, her native land.

Ms Theil undertook extensive restoration of the building as part of the conversion to the new uses. The ceiling under the entranceway was exposed after being hidden under a false ceiling.

The oak doorways, the staircase, and the original floor in the upstairs

showroom were restored.

The result is a beautifully restored showcase for the products of JackKryn France.

Stop in and learn about the history of the house and remember to take a moment to browse the boutique home décor items, antiques and much

more.

For more information about Doors Open Aurora, visit www.e-aurora.ca/aurora/doorsopen2010 or call Mai Al Nabhan, manager of Heritage Planning and Urban Design at the Town of Aurora, 905-727-3123, extension 4351.



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Class fee Only \$95 Including HST	7 pm - Jive & Waltz 8 pm - Rumba & Quickstep	Class fee Only \$95 Including HST
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Please call for advanced registration or pay at the door the first night

The cost is just \$95 per person for 8 weeks. Do I need special shoes?
 No, but dance or leather soled shoes with non marking heels are best. Do not wear rubber soled shoes.

DANCE PARTY Oct. 15 no dances Aug. & Sept.

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 Door Prizes 7:00 Doors Open - Dress code

Only \$15 7:30 p.m. **FREE Rumba lesson** **Only \$15**
 Latin/Ballroom and Line dancing until midnight with desserts & coffee @ 10:30.

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 (Please park around back and enter through that door)

Please call or email for more information or to register for upcoming events

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



Seven students named for governance awards

Seven Aurora students were tapped for the Town of Aurora's Governance Awards at commencement ceremonies across Town last week.

This year's honourees include Maya Goldman and Dylan Teacher of Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School; Zeynep Kahramanoglu and Amalee LaVigne of Aurora High School; Jessica Rossi and Joseph Varanese of Cardinal Carter Catholic High

School; and Paulina Saliba of École Sécondaire Catholique Renaissance.

The Town of Aurora's Governance Awards are awarded to two Grade 12 students from area high schools "to honour their significant achievements".

"The award reflects not only academic excellence, but student involvement in school governance (i.e. contributing to the well-being of one's community)," the Town said in a statement. "Each high

school selects the recipients based on high academic achievement (minimum 80 per cent). Recipients must also be a resident of Aurora."

Ms. Goldman, Mr. Kahramanoglu, Ms. LaVigne, Ms. Rossi, Ms. Saliba, Mr. Teacher, and Mr. Varanese were recognized for their achievements with a mention in the July 13 Council agenda.

The awards were established in September 2006.

COMING EVENTS

From page 2
ings at the Aurora Legion with a variety of speakers. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28
Katmandu presents a tribute to Bob Seger tonight at the Town Park as part of the Concerts in the Park series. Hear hits such as "Old Time Rock and Roll", "Like A Rock" and "Heartache Tonight".

SATURDAY, JULY 31
The Aurora Cultural Centre (Church Street School) hosts the Multimedia Film Festival of York Region for a day-long celebration of their 2010 film series. Join in any time from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for ongoing selections of short films made by residents of York Region. Free admission. For more information send an e-mail to info@auroraculturalcentre.ca or phone 905-713-1818.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4
Aurora's "Last Night at the Proms" takes place at the Town Park as part of the Concerts in The Park series.

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 Vaudor.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11
A Canadian tenor, Tom Leadbeater, performs tonight at the Town Park as part of the Concerts In The Park series. From the musically rich Nova Scotia island of Cape Breton, Leadbeater and his celtic band will perform songs and the "Spirit of Nova Scotia".

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21
Fifth annual Doors Open Aurora takes place today. You might want to join one or more of four walking tours. Start by the Doors Open booth at the Farmers' Market and pick up your brochures. Children will have their share of fun during this event, bring your kids to Victoria Hall located on Mosley Street and where "Kids, Heritage and Art" event will take place. Most sites will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a free event, no tickets and no pre-registration are needed.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24
The Women's Centre of York Region's Accessorize Your Life marketplace takes place today from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre located at 22 Church Street. \$10 admission includes light refreshments, mini spa services and makeovers, photo consultations, two raffle tickets to win an amazing prize, and a chance to shop for jewelry, kitchen products, designer baked goods and other exclusive products. Call 905-853-9270, extension 106 or e-mail events@wcyrc.ca for tickets.

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, SEPTEMBER 22
Wesley United Church's annual ham dinner will have two seatings today: 5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. The church is at the corner of Woodbine and Aurora Road. For tickets call Sherry at 905-853-4915.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16
Wesley United Church will hold its annual harvest fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. today. Wesley United is at the corner of Woodbine and Aurora Rd

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.

Feature

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EVENTS

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Jr.A Pre-Season Hockey

Vaughan Vipers

Aurora Tigers

Friday, August 21st/09

Note: Tigers wearing last years sweaters so names on back do not correspond with current players

Tigers pre-season hockey

Posted by Steve Mitchell on Aug 22, 2009

Viewed 17 times

Video rating

2.0 (1 vote)

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