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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

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BEN KESTSTEIN AND ILDI CONNOR

Pair honoured for environmental work

Nearly 40 residents and well wishers braved the steamy late August heat last Tuesday to honour the work of local environmental activists Ben Keststein and Ildi Connor, who were commemorated with a stone marker near the McKenzie Marsh.

At the afternoon ceremony, which was attended by the two honourees, as well as Councillors Evelina MacEachern, Wendy Gaertner, John Gallo, Stephen Granger, and Al Wilson, Mayor Phyllis Morris hailed the unveiling as "a milestone in the Town of Aurora's environmental history."

The marker will serve not only to recognize specific ecological enhancements to the McKenzie Marsh, but also pay tribute to Mr. Keststein and Ms Connor's "many years

of dedicated environmental leadership", the mayor said. "It is because of their tireless efforts in promoting environmental awareness that Aurora has had some reserve funds available to invest in enhancing and protecting this ecological area."

In particular, Mayor Morris paid special attention to Ms Connor's efforts to raise both money and awareness for ecological projects through the March for Parks program, as well as Mr. Keststein's activism to stop a proposed widening of St. John's Sideroad, which would have damaged the wetland area.

"Ben Keststein came forward with a strong appeal to the residents and the council to protect the wetlands from

Please see page 16

Hoedown sold out...sort of

You may believe the 22nd annual Magna hoedown is sold out, but that's not true.

There are still at least two tickets left, but you'll have to win them.

With more than two weeks to go before the 2010 Wild Wild West Hoedown, Magna International today announced that the popular community event is completely sold out, said a

Animal hospital saves 31

The Newmarket OSPCA could benefit from an "overall philosophical introspection" when dealing with non-lethal infectious conditions, said Dr. Mark Cole

Now there are 15 who seek councillor spot

The race for Aurora Council has become a bit more crowded with the addition of four new candidates into the mix - including three incumbents - bringing the number of council hopefuls to 15.

Last week, the intentions of the four remaining undecided incumbents towards the upcoming municipal election next month became clear with Councillors John Gallo, Evelyn Buck, and Evelina MacEachern formally filing their candidacy papers, and Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas announcing her intention not to seek re-election.

In a statement, which can be read in full on page 6, Councillor Collins-Mrakas said that she was stepping out of the political arena for the time being due to "personal and professional commitments".

"This has been a difficult decision to make and one that until just a few weeks ago was far from certain," she said. "However, recent events - personal, professional, and frankly political - have clarified the situation for me. The decision not to run, though difficult, is the right one for my family and me at this time."

Councillor Collins-Mrakas joins Councillor Bob McRoberts in opting not to seek re-election.

With the remaining incumbents throwing their hats back into the ring, the race was also infused with new blood in the form of resident Brian Duff who filed his council candidacy papers Thursday.

Please see page 14

of Aurora's Abbotsford Animal Hospital, looking back over the controversy surrounding the shelter's decision to euthanize hundreds of animals following a ringworm outbreak.

When news of the OSPCA's plans broke, people in the veterinary community "started to wonder aloud why drastic measures were being taken with a treatable condition", he said.

Dr. Cole and his colleagues were not alone, as criticisms from politicians, veterinarians, and from the public at large began to mount, culminating with protests at the Woodbine

Avenue facility.

"[Hearing the news] was our initial heads-up on the problem," he said. "I can't begin to know what their overall situation was at the shelter, and I'm sure a lot of consideration was taken before this decision was made."

"However, one of the avenues we saw that had not been explored was asking for help from local professionals, the veterinary community in York Region and just the general population in York."

Dr. Cole said Abbotsford called the

Please see page 15

JP signs order saying dog must be destroyed

Citing the protection of the public, a Justice of the Peace signed an order Thursday calling for the destruction of the dog involved in the Easter Sunday dog attack that injured Aurora resident Shelley Rose and killed her dog Kola.

The Justice, who called the move a "grave decision", came back with her order last week after hearing the testimonies of Ms Rose, Debbie and Laurissa Wiitala, wife and daughter respectively of defendant Dennis Wiitala, and OSPCA Officer Paul Lincoln on August 23.

"I have considered, first of all, the seriousness of the injuries caused by the attack," the Justice told those assembled in the Provincial Court at Newmarket's Tannery Mall. "It is overwhelmingly clear that the attack by [the Wiitala's dog] Dax against Kola and Ms Rose was a serious one."

"It resulted directly in the death of Kola and caused relatively serious injuries to Ms Rose. All the evidence points to it being entirely unprovoked."

In making her decision, the Justice rejected the argument previously presented by defence attorney Martin M. Herman that every dog is entitled to "one bite" before warranting a destruction order, as well as the discrepancy between Ms Rose's

Please see page 14



Shelley Rose, her hand still bandaged from injuries received in the Easter weekend dog attack which left her dog Kola dead, waits outside the courtroom at Newmarket's Tannery Mall following the decision to destroy the dog in question.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir




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COMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Donna McMaster of the Lake Simcoe South Master Gardeners will be at Aurora Public Library to share tips and information on growing and caring for clematis. Event is free at 7 p.m. in the Lebovic Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

Amnesty International meets at the Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, beginning at 7.30 p.m. New members are welcome. for more information, call 905-713-6713.

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents "Distinctly Canadian: Celebrating the Fine Art of Members of the Ontario Society of Artists and the Royal Canadian Academy". This group exhibition features paintings and contemporary sculpture from 10 artists, including Aurora-based Lillian Michiko Blakey. Launch reception is at 7 p.m. and everyone is welcome. Show continues through until October 30th; free admission. For more information and gallery hours, call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 TO SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Aurora Ribfest at Macell Memorial Park. 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. September 10 and 11 and noon to 6 p.m. on September 12. Clip out the coupon from this edition of The Auroran, and receive \$3 off a Half Rack Meal. More than 10 acts of live entertainment throughout the weekend, in addition to the Rotary Beer Garden, Aurora's Got Talent competition, Community Sauce competition, electric bull rides, children's zone -free, a midway and food for all appetites, including ribs, chicken, bloomin' onion, beavertails, roasted yam and corn, For more detail, go to www.e-aurora.ca/ribfest.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

The Aurora Seniors Opera Club presents "Madama Butterfly" on the screen in the lounge of the seniors' centre. This showing is not to be confused with Madame Butterfly. The event will feature Aurora's own Opera Singer Sarah Kyle singing a small repertoire of opera hits. The \$5 admission charge includes refreshments. For further information, call Jyette Gillies at 905-868-9070.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

The Aurora Writers' Group hosts 'Tea and Scones and Stories', a book launch for their newest publication, Aurora Storyalis III, from 2 to 4 p.m. at an afternoon tea at the Aurora Cultural Centre, (formerly the Church Street School) 22 Church Street.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Aurora Chamber of Commerce holds a net-working breakfast with optional golf at Westview Golf Club, 1563 Vandorf Road. If you are a golfer stay and play an informal nine holes of golf with tee time at 9 a.m. Cost for breakfast is \$20 members, and \$25 for guests. Golf with cart is \$25 members and \$30 for guests.

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.

The Aurora Cultural Centre will host a Wellness Market open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than 40 health practitioners will be available to answer questions and find solutions. Workshops and guest speakers begin after 4 p.m. For a full agenda visit:

http://www.artcures.ca or call the Aurora Cultural Centre at 905-713-1818.

Magna's Wild, Wild West Hoedown begins at 5 p.m. at Magna headquarters, east on Wellington Street.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

The first Dog and Mutt Show will be held in the Arboretum grounds directly behind the Aurora Seniors' Centre, 5 Municipal Drive, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. rain or shine.

The 30th anniversary of the Terry Fox Run happens today with registration at 8.30 a.m. at the Sheppard's Bush soccer fields on Industrial Parkway. Registration will be followed by the two-kilometre forest stroll and a five-kilometre run/walk/bike/rollar blade at 10 a.m. T-shirts will be available for purchase and participants can also register and purchase merchandise at http://www.terryfox.org.

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.

The Annual general meeting and members' September social for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce will be held at the Wellington Gallery, 32 Wellington St. West, from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. This event is for members only and pre-registration is mandatory. There will also be a brief presentation of the Chamber financial statements for the year-end June 30, 2010.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

On behalf of the Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee, The Town of Aurora presents the "Energy Efficient Old Home" workshop at the Aurora Seniors Centre beginning at 10 a.m. and continuing until 3 p.m.. The workshop will focus on energy efficiency issues in relation to historic houses since every year character defining elements are removed from historic houses in the name of energy efficiency. Guest for the event is Christopher Cooper, Editor-in-Chief of Edifice Old Home Magazine, Prices are \$45 per person or \$70 per family (2 individuals residing at the same address). Lunch is included in the price. For further information, call Mai Al Nabhan at 905-727-3123 ext. 4351. For registration and to purchase tickets, contact Karen Pyziak at 905-727-3123 ext. 4340. Due to space limitations, tickets must be purchased by Friday, September 20.

The Aurora Cultural Centre (formerly the Church Street School) presents Aurora's own jazz musician Paul Neufeld in the first of a series of four Sunday Session Concerts planned throughout the Fall. "Gospel, Soul, Jazz" features an intimate afternoon of the Juno award-winning Neufeld on the Centre's spectacular Yamaha C7 piano with special guest Quisha Wint on vocals. Tickets are \$15 in at the Centre or at the door. Concert starts at 1 p.m. For further information, call 905-713-1818 or e-mail info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

The Aurora Public Library presents Terry Kelly of Ontario Early Years for a free presentation for parents/caregivers of children 2-7 years. Along with literacy, numeracy, and social skills, young children need self-regulation skills for success in school. These include being able to settle oneself for sleep, delay gratification,

pay attention to a task, develop a good working memory, think outside the box, and to wait for one's turn. Event is free at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493 option 4.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

The Aurora Public Library hosts an All Candidates Meeting at 2 p.m. in the Aurora Town Hall, Council Chambers, located at 1 Municipal Drive. All registered candidates for the offices of Mayor, Councillor, and school board trustees in the Town of Aurora have been invited to participate.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

Aurora Chamber of Commerce annual 2010 Business Achievement Awards Champagne and hors d'oeuvres reception at the Country Day School on Dufferin Street in King Township. Tickets are \$75 per person plus HST. Event begins at 6.30 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

Internationally acclaimed author Marina Nemat, will read from her newest book, After Tehran, a Life Reclaimed. A story of courage and recovery, After Tehran chronicles Nemat's confrontation with her past, how she re-engages with her distant father, and how ultimately she emerges from the emotional rav-

ages of post-traumatic stress. Free with a ticket, but seating is limited. Event takes place at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room at the Aurora Public Library.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

A Bereavement Support Group for adults experiencing the death of a loved one, is again being offered at the Aurora United Church. The eight-week session is held from 7 to 9 p.m., and ends Dec 1. There is no fee for this program. It is non denominational and is open to all in the community. We will focus on strategies and resources for coping with your loss. To register or for more info, contact Carol at 905-640-7578 or bereavement@live.ca.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

Wesley United Church holds 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.

Please see page 19



Come ask an Expert

Hollandview Trail Retirement Community Presents

2010 Health & Wellness Fair

Wednesday, September 15th

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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- Optometrist
- Happy Hearing
- CNIB
- Canadian Diabetes Assoc.
- Shoppers Drug Mart
- Direct Dentistry Services
- Esthetics
- Aurora Public Library
- Classic Care Pharmacy
- Heart & Stroke Foundation
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There's no truth to the rumour that the Aurora Seniors' Centre has gone to the dogs, but dogs will be the highlight at the seniors' Dog and Mutt Show Sunday, September 19, beginning at 1 p.m. and continuing until 4 p.m. at

the Municipal Drive centre. The event will happen rain or shine, and when all the fur is settled, prizes will be awarded to the winners of 10 categories. Hoping for the best are, left to right, Rozlin Laber with Pepper;

Barbara Stoeklin with Dolly; Ginny Neher with Evie; Michael Varcoe with Bonnie; Betty MacKenzie with Humphrey; Patricia Pemberton with Liza-Dolittle; Antonia Bavaruy with Ace Golini; and George

Woolley with Nellie.

*Auroran photo
by David Falconer*

Special meeting deals with 5-year official plan

Business owners, stakeholders, and the public at large will have an opportunity to critique, ask questions, and express any criticisms over the Town's Five-Year Official Plan Review and Promenade Study this week.

The opportunity will take place during a Special Council Meeting Wednesday night at 7 p.m.

"The Town's Official Plan review will address the entire Town of Aurora, emphasizing the creation of a sustainable and complete community, with particular focus on the Aurora Promenade Study (otherwise known as the Yonge and Wellington Corridor Study), the protection of stable neighbourhoods, and the environment," said Jason Ballantyne, Aurora's Manager of Corporate Communications in a statement.

The Promenade and Official Plan Review were last discussed at a well attended special council meeting August 12.

Based on "fundamental principles" such as the pro-

motion of "responsible growth management", "Building a Greener Community", providing "a range and mix of housing", the protection of "stable neighbourhoods", the development of "vibrant new neighbourhoods", and "estab-

lishing a linked Greenlands System", the plan expands to cover a wide variety of issues including the establishment and refining of a public art policy, and installing markers that can be used to track economic progress.



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Saturday, September 11, 11 a.m. until 11 p.m.
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ENTERTAINMENT

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Sat. Sept 11 Tribute to Elton John 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

For full line up of entertainers please visit www.e-aurora.ca/ribfest



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The Aurora Farmers Market Presents
The 5th Annual

See Honeybees at work
Meet Pierre the Bear

Create the loudest
buzz contest

Children's art workshop
with Deborah Campo

Apple & Honey Festival
September 11

Aurora Town Park, 8am - 1pm
@ Wells & Mosley

Spot all 5 painted rock Bee's at vendor's
tables and win a
\$100 Apple & Honey Gift Basket!





Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

It's time for a new knee

By this time next week, I expect to be a mess.
...And in the hospital.
It all has to do with the fact that I refuse to admit I'm getting old.
But, apparently, I am.
I now have a knee (the left one to be exact) that needs to be replaced.
According to the x-rays the knee is "bone-on-bone" and must be replaced.
So, this young Aurora doctor - Patrick Gamble - will do the job next Monday morning.
I can hardly wait.
Building up to the exciting moment, I have already been to "knee school" and have been poked and prodded by a number of experts at Southlake Regional Health Centre, which apparently will be my home for four or five days after the operation.
Then, according to everything I have been hearing, I'm not supposed to drive for four to six weeks after the operation.
One wonders how one plans to get to work during that time?
All this started about five years ago, when I realized two things: I couldn't play hockey and I couldn't ski.
Both sports are favourites of mine, so I have been curious to know ever since why I can't do these things.
I was in Switzerland skiing in the Alps several years ago, away up in the clouds somewhere when I realized I couldn't get off the mountain without help.
When I went out to pleasure skate at the Leisure Complex, I suddenly realized why there are boards around the rink.
They're there to stop people who suddenly become aware they have no control when skating.
I never was a good hockey player. If I was, I'd be making a whole lot more money than I am today. Zero times zero is still zero.
But I did enjoy playing the game and would participate at least three times a week for various teams.
Now, much to the happiness of my teammates, I can't even skate.
Needless to say, many of them are hoping the operation fails.
I'll let you know...
If nothing else, I'll certainly set off the alarms at every airport I visit...

SAD NOTES

Couple of death notices you should know about.
Jan Davis, for as long as I can remember, sold me license plates annually, and was still doing it when she died last week at the age of 59.
She ran, for the third generation, the license office in Aurora when it was on Yonge Street, and has since relocated to Wellington and Mary Streets, across from the now defunct Ab Cox Motors.
About six years ago, Jan developed rheumatoid arthritis, but rather than throw in the towel, she continued to work at the license office.
Retiring, she said, was never considered, since, after all, she was a Davis, and the Davis family never quit anything.
She was cremated and rests in the Aurora Cemetery with her mother and father, Elwood and his wife Helen.
The funeral was Saturday.
Aurora's last police chief - his picture is at the bottom of the page - was Bill Langman, who was 95 when he died last week in Owen Sound.
He became Chief of the Aurora department in 1957 after then-Chief Fisher Dunham died.
In 1971, Aurora became part of the newly-formed York Regional Police.
The Aurora Police Department at that time had a staff of 15 police officers and three civilians. The department also had three radio equipped patrol vehicles.
Chief Langman went with York Regional Police when it became a reality and retired several years later as a Staff Sergeant.
My condolences to both families.



BILL LANGMAN

Letters to the Editor

Trails sub-committee wants underpasses included in road plan

To the editor,

During the last three meetings of the Aurora Council, I advocated for support for the inclusion of trail underpasses under Leslie Street and St. John's Sideroad, during the reconstruction and widening of those two regional roads.
The roads are planned to be widened to up to five lanes.
While the actual reconstruction is not going to take place for a few years, the assessment of the impacts of such widening of the roads, and the engineering design that follows on the heels of those class environmental processes, they are in progress now.
Hence, time is of the essence - timely input is essential, especially if such input involves asking for changes to what might otherwise be considered.
In this case, the Region has formally stated that underpasses are not going to be included.
At least, that is what the Region's bureaucrats have decided, without giving any details as to the reasons they applied to reach that decision.
The Regional bureaucrats chose to ignore a schedule of the official plan of Aurora that shows grid trails crossing the two Regional roads in three of the four proposed underpass locations.
That schedule represents Town of Aurora official policy, and has been in place since 1991, for almost 20 years.
In the early 1990s development in the northeast of Aurora was not on people's minds, but the proposed off-road trails corridors were put on record anyway.
There was an expectation that planners would respect the foresight.
My presentations at council were intended to get Aurora Council to make good on their assurances that they are supportive of the principles of the Aurora trails network.
One of those principles is that the off-road trails be traffic free, barrier free across Regional roads, that the trails be routed across those roads at grades that are below or above the roads, meaning via underpasses or overpasses.
That principle is embodied in the current draft reports for the 2C secondary plan and for the official plan.
That way, the trails become user friendly, unlike the pedestrian and cycling lanes that are routed alongside roads, and require crossing roads every block.
Those lanes or sidewalks entail constant worrying about being safe from motorized traffic, especially by elderly persons, and the physically or mentally chal-

lenged, and by parents of children up to teenagers, including all of Aurora's students who walk or cycle to and from school.
It is for those reasons that parents favour bussing their children to schools, when walking would be a much healthier option.
In this case there are other area specific reasons that make it compelling to have underpasses under Leslie and St. John's.
The underpasses are proposed for the as yet undeveloped northeast section of Aurora, the so-called 2C lands.
In this area it is intended to place all residential development to the west of Leslie Street, and all employment generating development to the east of Leslie.
The residents who will live in the area west of Leslie are expected to number 8,000.
It is not entirely clear to me how many places of employment are expected to be generated to the east of Leslie, but thousands it will be.
So it stands to reason that there will be many trips from the west to the east of Leslie, for commuting purposes alone, to and from work.
There are already substantial commercial establishments in the area to the east of Leslie, which will add to the cross-Leslie traffic.
The distance between the residences and the places of employment and shopping are such that walking and cycling are distinct options.
Apart from it being good public policy to convert residents from car driving to walking and cycling, it also makes a lot of sense to make these active transportation options inviting.
Let me mention as well that it can be expected that a good number of Newmarket residents, from the southeast area can be expected to take advantage of the employment opportunities in Aurora, thus making any underpasses regionally significant.
A further reason for having the underpasses is the fact that the Region and Aurora have many references in their official planning documents that speak of the desirability to connect, to link the green spaces, regionally and locally.
That is very good policy, but implementing such policy takes more than putting noble intentions to paper.
The suggested underpasses are all running on the shoulders of stream valleys, and are part of environmental protection classed green spaces.
If the fact that we are dealing with environmental protection lands is not reason enough to respect the linking of these green

spaces, instead of placing highway equivalent barriers across them then I am at a loss to figure out what reasons have to exist to ever implement the intentions to link any islands of green that dot the regional and local landscape.
For all the above reasons, the Aurora trails sub-committee, whose voting members are John Clement, David Tomlinson and myself, have unanimously recommended that the council of the Town of Aurora ask the Regional Municipality of York to consider the underpasses a necessary remedy to the impacts on humans and wildlife that will be caused by the widening of the two Regional roads, and to include the underpasses in the environmental study reports related to the reconstruction and widening of Leslie Street and St. John's Sideroad in the 2C lands secondary planning area, and also to advise the Region that Aurora will not endorse these reports until the underpasses are included.
Klaus Wehrenberg
Aurora
Society wants election candidates to give views on playground smoking
To the editor,
The Canadian Cancer Society is calling on municipal election candidates in Aurora to support a bylaw prohibiting smoking on restaurant patios and in parks and playgrounds.
Even outdoors, second-hand smoke is dangerous.
It contains more than 4,000 chemicals including at least 50 known cancer-causing substances. Research has shown that levels of smoke within half a metre of a single cigarette outdoors are comparable to indoor smoking levels depending on air conditions.
Municipalities can take the lead to protect public health by implementing bylaws and policies that go above and beyond the existing provincial Smoke-free Ontario Act.
We urge candidates to sup-

port bylaws for smoke-free restaurant and bar patios that will protect the health of patrons and staff and for smoke-free parks and playgrounds that will protect the health of children and caregivers.
An additional benefit is that smoking restrictions help motivate smokers to quit or cut back and also reduce the risk of exposing children to a negative role model.
Tobacco is a major health issue that still needs the attention of municipal leaders.
As election day approaches, whether at a candidates' meeting or at your door, take the opportunity to ask candidates where they stand on this important public health issue.
Alex Reil
Canadian Cancer Society
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

What they are hearing

I left my downtown office early Friday, August 27th to get a head start on the weekend.

Pulling off Hwy. 404 I drove westbound along Aurora Road towards Yonge Street.

Just past the Leslie street lights and in between the new fire station and recreation complex I saw something strange.

It couldn't be, I said to myself.

No, it was not a UFO. I looked again. It was something more sinister.

I saw my first 2010 municipal mayoralty campaign lawn sign. I quickly glanced down at the clock in my car - it read 6:23 p.m. - wow - that's quick. The funny season is truly upon us.

Besides the four mayoralty candidates, we have 14 candidates (although it is expected that up to 20 individuals will be) vying for the eight seats.

Once nominations officially close September 10th, I will then e-mail each of the council candidates with two questions for them:

1.) What are the top three issues that you have identified based upon your discussions with voters?

2.) Provide me with any brief story or anecdote - humorous or otherwise - from the campaign trail.

Finally, I will state, "As per Auroran editorial policy, I will not be identifying any of you by name in the column."

I did this during the last municipal election held in 2006 and at that time I received some interesting responses from the candidates.

Here is a look at some of them.

Without a doubt the top issue identified in those e-mails was leadership or lack thereof and the inability of council to

work together as a team.

From one: "The overwhelming theme is that this is a time for a change in terms of who sits on council...the palpable desire for change seems to be largely driven by various perceptions that the present council has not been effective, decisive or productive to understate it somewhat."

The same candidate states further, that it "is the extent to which debate has, at times, sunk into a pit of personal diatribes, pettiness, and inadequate understanding of the issues at hand such as to waste council's valuable time. This, unfortunately, has had the effect of casting the institution of council in a very poor light."

From another: "There is no question, the single issue I hear the most about is the current council and their inability to debate issues without reverting to insults, swearing and general disrespectful behaviour. In fact, as disappointing as it is, people are not asking about specific issues, it appears they will simply vote for change this time."

Another candidate's main feedback has been about the "lack of fiscal responsibility and disclosure, behind closed door decisions, especially with respect to the Aurora Hydro sale".

The other top issue clearly identified was taxes, and as one candidate put it, "trying to achieve that fine balance between affordable property taxes and services".

One respondent wrote: "Taxes in the Town of Aurora are escalating at a very fast pace. Recently 7.8 per cent. This is very difficult on the large population of people on fixed income, as well as the rest of the population. Not everyone in Aurora has a high income."

From another candidate: "The rising taxes are a big issue in most towns our size, but especially here as, after

nine years of zero tax increase in the 90's we have since been faced with six years of a 50 per cent increase. This is a problem."

Still another: "Concerns were expressed on ever increasing taxes when seniors, single parent earners, and lower income (poor) people's incomes are set. They want to know what services and value are they getting from all this and what are the new councils opinions?"

Growth and the impact this has on our community was another often stated concern:

"When I listen to the residents of Aurora I believe that their concerns are all related by varying degrees to the impact that rapid growth is having. Over the next five years Aurora's population is expected to grow by 15 - 20 per cent...we must carry out the vision the community has adopted and use the strategic plan to ensure that we have controlled and well planned growth."

Traffic concerns were also top of mind.

"Traffic, that is congestion, but more the speeding on the side, residential streets (and mostly I might add by the people who live there). The Mark Street traffic study is a prime example of residents rising to insist on something being done. The Kennedy Street and Golf Links traffic calming solutions have only created the rising public demand for more solutions to the problem that our streets are not safe for kids in the neighbourhoods".

There are lots of opinions and issues out there. I'm looking forward to feedback from the various candidates about what they are hearing from the good citizens of Aurora.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Heard About Town

By David Heard

"Old School"

Going back to school can be a challenge for the youth and the parent.

There is so much preparation required to send the brood off to classes.

Pens, paper, pencils and new clothes with that new clothes smell that takes over the classroom.

Only for the first day however.

You cannot wear the new stuff until day one, because a first impression is everything. Especially in the mind of a teenager.

There is no shortage of anxiety and challenges with wishing to fit in with the crowd.

A major event for a young person is to not feel they belong.

What about the rush for a mature student. Or in my case an immature student.

Many months ago I wrote about a young man who suffered painfully at school and these events stood in the way of his graduating from high school.

The hardest challenge was his hearing impairment and not being given the tools to assist himself.

That young man sure has come a long way and has lofty dreams and goals.

Wednesday, September 8, will be his second day of school at Seneca King Campus where he will be studying Social Service Worker.

September 8 he will celebrate his 49th birthday.

The orientation at the campus was incredible as they showed him

around and made sure the anxiety of day one would be greatly reduced.

Finding all of the classrooms was not a troubled maze anymore, and the services were abundant.

He then had a meeting with a counsellor to make sure there could be assistance and aids to deal with his hearing challenge.

A recorder might be an option to catch all of the lectures and he could listen to them later in a quiet environment.

He also has to proudly advocate for himself to his professors and fellow students.

His comfort level of going back was increasing to a large degree. He was feeling to be part of a community and this time he was safe.

He is an adult and his mature self will guide his now newly curious inner child throughout the next few years.

His ultimate goal when he graduates is to provide assistance and treatment to persons in our Region who have P.T.S.D. (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)

Especially if they are troubled by childhood sexual abuse and trauma.

A resident of Aurora loaned him books from the first year of the same program.

A lady from the Aurora Library offered to tutor.

Another outreach organization has made sure he has an abundance of school supplies.

He feels truly part of a community.

It will be hard to attend full time and go to work but he will have to manage the many hours of study time.

Time is a balancing act that he has not been good at over the years but he will ask for help and guidance.

People have come forward to help who care but most of all he cares about himself.

The past is just that.

The pain and the demons of shame are not standing in his way. The doors of education are open again and he is running to the challenge.

Even at 49.

Students more than half his age wish to mentor and peer.

He just wants to accept and to graduate and be even prouder of his accomplishments.

I will let you know how this journey plays out. I still can't believe I am going back to school.

Yes that young man I wrote about was ME.

Not bad for a youth, that on a dirt road in 1978 almost lost his life to an incredible evil that also ended his schooling.

Funny how life is. That road is the same one the school is on.

My life has come full (and magically) circle.

September 7 is my first day of school.

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

Letters to the Editor

Alison Collins-Mrakas won't seek re-election

To the editor,

It is with much regret that due to both personal and professional commitments, I have decided that I will not run for re-election in the 2010 municipal election.

This has been a difficult decision to make and one that until just a few weeks ago was far from certain.

However, recent events - personal, professional and frankly political - have clarified the situation for me.

The decision not to run, though difficult, is the right one for family and me at this time.

I have been fortunate, throughout my term as councillor to have met many wonderful residents who have been so supportive of me and the initiatives I have put forward and positions I have taken.

I appreciate every e-mail, letter, phone call and conversation I have had with residents, staff, and volunteers.

I want to thank the great citizen members and staff I have worked with on the Heritage Advisory Committee, Aurora Public Library Board and the Graffiti Abatement Committee.

Your dedication and

commitment to our Town is truly remarkable.

I also want to say special thanks to the staff of the Town of Aurora.

The hard-working staff at the Town of Aurora has demonstrated true professionalism time and time again despite often challenging circumstances.

It has been a pleasure to work with you.

Finally, I will be forever grateful for the tremendous support and hard work of the knitting and sewing groups of the Aurora Seniors who knitted and sewed for months on end making mittens and hats for the children of Aurora.

Their efforts made the Warm Hearts Warming Hands initiative a success for the past three years.

I have worked hard to serve my community these past few years and I trust that my contribution has been a positive one.

Going forward, I will continue to work within and for my community by volunteering and assisting wherever help is needed.

While I am not ruling out a future run for council, my priorities right now are both professional and personal.

Thank you again for giving me both the opportunity and honour of serving you and the Town of Aurora for these past four years.

I greatly appreciate it.

Alison Collins-Mrakas
Councillor
Town of Aurora

Bike taken from porch

To the editor,

We have lived in Aurora for the past 16 years and enjoy the small town community.

In the past we have left several bikes on our front porch so they were ready to hop on and go for a ride at any time.

On Thursday, August 19th, my husband rode his bike while my daughter did her running workout which lasts

one hour.

He left the bike on the front porch and Friday morning it was gone.

If anyone has seen a blue Raleigh Tarantula Mountain bike we would love to have it returned no questions asked.

My daughter loves to have company on her long runs and unfortunately now has to run alone.

L. Pettes
Aurora

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NIGEL KEAN CAMPAIGN UPDATE

August was a great month as I went door to door to meet the residents.

Here is what they said:

- The majority were excited that I was running for mayor and felt that with my 6 years of council experience and my past business management experience I would be the best choice for Aurora's next Mayor.
- The majority also felt that they wanted a Mayor with council experience.
- They liked my platform, especially my promise that I will take a 10% decrease in the Mayor's salary immediately as an example of what I will do to get the Town's expenses in line. We must stop the wastage of your money.
- They liked the point that I will increase the size of the Senior's Centre as it is now overcrowded.
- They were concerned about the current council's infighting and want the next council to get down to solving the problems in Aurora.

As Mayor I Will...

–take an immediate 10% decrease in my Mayor's salary to set the example and tone that I will cut expenses at the Town Hall.

–work with council to review cutting council from 8 to 6 people and work with the Region to get a 2nd Regional Councillor for Aurora.

Call: 416-888-0173 or visit me at

www.nigelkean.ca

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If YOU have these characteristics and are interested in this position, we need you.

Please submit nomination papers before Sept 10, 2010.

All candidates will be considered. Job awarded Oct 25, 2010

Letters to the Editor

Legislation “not worth paper it’s printed on”: councillor

To the editor,

A reader has pointed out the Town's Code of Conduct appearing on the Town's website does not include the final sentence of Code 3, I included in my letter to the editor last week.

The sentence reads as follows: "Communications with the media by Members of Council shall be conduct-

ed through proper interviews or media releases. Members shall refrain from submitting letters to the editor or writing a regular column in the newspaper or hosting or co/hosting a regular televised program."

A paper trail reveals the sentence was in the original draft presented to Council September 4, 2007.

Debate took place on

that and other issues.

No change was recommended.

At no point between then and eventual adoption of the Bylaw, is there a record of any formal direction from Council to delete the sentence.

There was a recommendation for a committee to be appointed for further work on the bylaw but that did not happen either.

Even without that sentence, Clause 3 holds a number of contradictions which make it open to wide variables in interpretation.

As legislation, which a Municipal Bylaw is, it's not worth the paper it's written on.

It's an embarrassment to the Municipality.

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

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Still waiting, reader says

To the editor,

Still no response from the mayor on this issue (letter, The Auroran, July 27: 'Info available at no cost: reader').

I understand that this letter will be on the next council meeting's agenda due to a mix up in getting on the last meeting's agenda, however I trust that the mayor has seen this letter by now.


My hope is to get an answer before the end of

September given that I first asked this question regarding senior staff turnover in April.

I have to apologize for the level of frustration that comes across in my letter as well as in some of my correspondence but given the way I have been treated over the years I feel quite justified in my frustrations.

Richard Johnson
Aurora

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Earning a position of leadership is about integrity – abiding by principles that are easily understood, that people can rely on. They must also be concrete so people can hold you accountable to those principles.


As Mayor, I will direct Council's energies in the following 3 key areas:

LEADERSHIP
Integrity: Integrity cannot be legislated. The Code of Conduct has been an unacceptable use of resources and counterproductive to a collaborative team environment. I commit to initiating the immediate suspension of the Integrity Commissioner contract and a public review of the need for a Code of Conduct/Integrity Commissioner within the first year.
Freedom of Information: It is troubling when residents must resort to Freedom of Information requests to find out how Council is spending their time and our money. I commit to full public disclosure of Town of Aurora business – including legal fees (internal and external) – unless this information is restricted by an order of the Court.
Strong Regional Representation: Aurora needs a stronger voice at the Region. I commit to improving our attendance and participation record and will work with fellow Regional Councillors to secure a second seat on Regional Council for Aurora.
Focus on Policy, Not Implementation: I will work with Council to re-focus our efforts on policy – and then hold staff experts accountable to implement those policies to the highest possible standards.

COMMUNITY
Community Input: Council decisions must be made with input from all community interests – unlike the Parks and Recreation Master Plan which was re-written by a small group of individuals with no accountability to the citizens. I commit that consultant reports will be presented to Council, in their original form, so that Council may make the decisions they were duly elected to make based on complete unfiltered information.
Committee Membership: This term, a small group populates a disproportionate share of committees. The Town is not leveraging the diverse population to get the broadest input. I commit to encouraging diverse participation and will not support the selection of any of my key campaign team to any town committee.

ACCOUNTABILITY
Town Facilities: Town owned facilities continue to sit empty or underused. These facilities cost taxpayers' money and provide no value in return. I commit to review the inventory and develop a plan for utilization within the first year of my term.
Planning: Developing an Official Plan is mandated by the Province. Council has overridden expert staff and consultant advice and not met their deadlines. Resultant decision-making has been stripped from this Council and is now in the hands of the OMB. I commit to leveraging internal and external resources to ensure that complex processes, such as the Official Plan Review and long term financial planning, will be completed in a timely manner.
Strategic Plan: Developing a Strategic Plan for our community will be a first order of business for this Town.

I am committed to a culture of Collaboration, not Confrontation; of Productivity, not Profile.



P.S. Visit my website for more details.

WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY

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

I have known Geoff as a highly respected community partner in the co-op education program at Aurora High. Geoff exemplifies leadership, has extensive involvement in community events and holds solid experience within our town. Geoff has a particular talent to draw out people's natural strengths and abilities and consistently amazes me with his ability to work with people in diverse situations.
— Carol Nerling, Resident, Co-op Coordinator - Aurora High

Of all the candidates, Geoff is superbly qualified – his years of proven, relevant and translatable leadership experience overshadows any other candidate. People and business have a choice of where they work and live – and they expect exceptional value for their tax dollars. Geoff has the experience, wisdom and dedication to exceed those expectations and make Aurora a place we can all be proud of.
— Eric Goulden: Resident, Neighbour, Business Associate, President Telonix Communications

If you would like to get involved, please contact Geoff
CAMPAIGN HOTLINE: 905-751-0734 EMAIL: Geoff@GeoffDawe.com WEBSITE: www.GeoffDawe.com

With your vote, we can put the Aura back in Aurora.

Letters to the Editor

Plan allows for intensification near Park

To the editor,

The current "Yonge and Wellington Corridor Study", ("The Aurora Promenade" study) and the new draft Official Plan for Aurora into which it has now been incorporated are both scheduled for final endorsement this month, as one of the last acts of the current council.

It will then go to the Region of York for final approval.

Numerous opportunities for public input have been provided during the course of the study through public information sessions and council meetings.

These have focused primarily on the more generalized "Vision Statements", "Overarching Strategies", and "Guiding Frameworks" of the "Urban Design Strategy".

Only with a review of the specific proposals for intensification/development and the associated policies and standards can the significance of

No charge for repair

To the editor,

A big thank you to the owner and staff of the Aurora Collision Centre on Berczy Street.

They happily agreed to weld my broken office chair that had a crack in the base.

Not only did they help me out tremendously, they refused to charge me!

These folks are awesome.

S. Johnson
Aurora

potential effects on existing communities be determined. This information is now available on the Town of Aurora website in the Aurora Promenade "Draft Concept Plan" and the draft Official Plan into which it has been incorporated.

This letter is directed in particular to residents of the Town Park area as significant intensification and redevelopment is proposed on three sides of the Town Park neighbourhood.

That is Yonge Street, Wellington East, and along the west side of Berczy Street southerly to Connaught Avenue.

The lands along Berczy and southerly to Connaught are shown as "Promenade General", page 40, which allows for five-storey apartments along its length.

This is further detailed under "Aurora GO Station Focus Area" on page 78.

The plan also proposes removal of the existing large GO Parking lot west of the tracks to provide a potential linear park along the east side of Berczy Street.

The Town Park area presently has significant unresolved traffic circulation and parking problems.

It is important, therefore, that this proposed future development does not compound the problem. The Promenade Plan/draft OP should establish adequate controls and standards for developers to ensure that this does not happen.

We have recently met with Town staff and council members to discuss these issues.

They have been helpful and responsive to our concerns and have agreed to

assess each as part of their ongoing planning activities.

The Town of Aurora has provided notices of upcoming meetings which are open to the public. These are a "Special Council" meeting Wednesday, September 8th and a "Public Planning Meeting" Wednesday, September 22nd.

We strongly urge other residents of Aurora to review

the details of the draft Official Plan and Promenade Concept Plan, attend the meetings and provide the Town with any suggestions or comments they may have while the opportunity still exists.

Patrick Reynolds,
David Pressley
(Harrison Avenue)
Aurora



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Page 13

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Aurora says no to alternate route

The Town of Aurora is going to proceed as planned with the slated Nokiidaa Trail link through the McKenzie Marsh, despite an alternate proposal submitted recently.

At a recent council meeting, Aurora resident Gerald Anthony presented an alternative route during Open Forum, one he claimed would be more direct and cost effective than the controversial link comprising of a trail and boardwalk approved earlier this year.

"The most direct route [connecting the Aurora trails network with the Newmarket's] follows the railway tracks all the way from Fairy Lake in Newmarket, down to St. John's Sideroad, so people may no doubt choose to walk on the tracks as opposed to taking the much longer approved route," said Mr. Anthony.

"Another problem of the approved route is a substantial portion goes over provincially significant wetlands. The effects of that may take years to become evident. Suffice it to say there would be negative impacts."

As a landowner of property adjacent to the railroad tracks, Mr. Anthony said he would construct a trail on his property and either donate the land to the Town or register an easement.

"The total cost, including

the design and construction, would be \$150,000 less than the most optimistic estimate of the approved plan," he added. "If the approvals process was fast tracked, the process could be finished by mid-October 2010, a year or more ahead of the approved plan."

Mr. Anthony also indicated his alternative would help ease the concerns expressed by some residents of Hadley Grange about a trail being adjacent to their residence.

He said it was likely that in the future residents would insist on visual or noise barriers to be installed to combat any effects trail use might have.

It would also eliminate the need to construct a boardwalk sturdy enough to accommodate emergency vehicles, and a gravel path would not require as much extensive ongoing maintenance as exposed wood.

While Mayor Phyllis Morris asked Aurora's CAO Neil Garbe to meet with Mr. Anthony to discuss the proposal, the plan was destined not to come to fruition.

"Mr. Garbe met with the property owner and they discussed his proposal," Jason Ballantyne, Aurora's Manager of Corporate Communications confirmed. "While his input was appreciated, the Town is going to proceed with the existing plan."

Open House this Saturday

The Town of Aurora will mark the Year of Sport, Health, and Fitness with an Open House at Club Aurora Saturday.

The Open House, which is slated to run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. is located at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex on Industrial Parkway, and is intended to introduce residents to gym.

"During the open house, guests can participate in a variety of classes in the fitness centre, as well as a warm-up hike and yoga class in the beautiful

surroundings of Lambert Willson Park," said Jason Ballantyne, Aurora's Manager of Corporate Communications. "Town staff have also organized a variety of sport, health, and fitness initiatives which will take place during the open house."

Further details on scheduled activities can be found at www.e-aurora.ca, in person at the Complex, or by calling Diana Dawson, Club Aurora's fitness programmer at 905-727-3123, extension 3116.



The Aurora Tigers Junior 'A' Hockey Club held its first "Tarnished Cup" golf tournament at Diamondback Golf Club in Richmond Hill last week. About 150 golfers took part including new Tiger head coach James Richmond, left, and guest speaker, Jim Ralph, Toronto Maple Leafs' broadcaster on AM 640 radio. The Tigers open their 2010/11 season on the road in Brampton against the Capitals on Thursday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m., and their home opener is the following night, Friday, September 17 against the Burlington Cougars at ACC 1, also at 7:30 p.m.

Auroran photo by Bob Ince

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SUMMER MORTIMER

Summer captures four gold medals

Summer Mortimer of the Aurora Ducks Swimming struck gold in four events at the 2010 IPC World Swimming Championships held in Eindhoven, Netherlands recently.

In her first appearance as a member of the Canadian Para National team, Mortimer made quite a presence at the meet.

After placing fifth in the 100 metres butterfly, a new event for Mortimer, she went on a tear in her next four events.

On the second day of the meet, she smashed the world record in the women's 200IM S10 category in a come from behind victory that capped a string of three consecutive wins for team Canada. Earlier in the evening, fellow teammate Chelsey Gottle won the women's 100 breaststroke s13 classification.

In the next event Benoit Huot won the men's 200 IM in world record fashion. On day three of the meet, Ms Mortimer rewrote the record book by breaking the world record in the 100 freestyle, beating former World record holder Ashley Owens of the USA in the process.

After a day off, she returned to dominate the 50 freestyle and break a 10-year-old world record held by another Canadian, Jessica Sloan.

On the final day of the meet, her goal was to lower her current world record in the 100 metres backstroke.

In the morning swim, Mortimer saw her world record lowered by Sophie Pascoe of New Zealand.

In the following heat, Summer lowered the new world record by two full seconds and came back that night to win her 4th World Championship title of the meet.

Team Canada won 21 medals at the World Championships.

The meet took place at the Pieter van den Hoogenband Swimming Stadium which saw

swimmers from 53 different countries participating.

A total of 649 athletes attended the event.

Ms Mortimer plans to take a few weeks off before she resumes her training schedule in preparation for the 2011 Para Pan Pacific Championships in Edmonton next summer.

After that meet, her attention will focus towards her preparation for the 2012 Paralympics in London, England.

Coach Reg Chappell is looking forward to having Summer relate her experiences to the rest of the team when they resume activity in two weeks.

Registration for Ducks Swimming is at the Aurora Recreation Centre Saturday, September 9, from 9 a.m.

Call 905-888-9994 for more information.

Party almost sold out

From page 1
thank the residents of the community for their overwhelming support," said Steve Hinder, Manager of Magna for Community. "This year's Hoedown event ticket sales were ahead of sales in 2008 at this time and the announcement of Blue Rodeo as the headline act certainly pushed the remainder out the door. Also, with 20 charities selling this year (the largest number ever), there was widespread coverage throughout the community."

All 3,500 tickets are gone, except for this e-mail received last week by The Auroran:

"Sorry about that folks but after a CRAZY busy day of people coming in and out of our office, there are no more tickets available to the event (raffle tickets are still available)," said a release from Aurora's Marquee Theatrical Productions. "BUT there is a chance you can win the last pair of EVENT tickets because we bought them for one of Marquee's

JP rules dog must be destroyed

From page 1
testimony and that of Laurissa Wiitala on the duration of the struggle between the two dogs.

Following the Justice's decision, Jason Ballantyne, Aurora's Manager of Corporate Communications, who was in the courtroom, said there were "no winners" in a case like this.

"We've got a family that obviously, based on their evidence, loves that dog very much, but on the other hand we have to balance that against public safety and the safety of the residents of Aurora," he said. After listening to the Justice's decision, we feel that it was fair, it was well thought out. She used words like 'grave', 'vicious', 'unprovoked', she saw no evidence that the attack was justified, and it was without explanation.

"While she did acknowledge the fact there hasn't been any previous behaviour like this, given all the aggravating factors, it was a grave decision but one she thought was in the best interest of public safety."

For Ms Rose, the decision could mean nearing the end of what she described as a five-month "rollercoaster" of emotions. She agreed with Mr. Ballantyne in his assessment that there were no winners.

"I feel bad for [the Wiitalas] because it is an emotional thing," she said. "They love their pet, and I feel bad for Kola and myself."

Emotion aside, Ms Rose

said she was glad she stepped forward and did "the right thing" as a witness for the Town.

"I stepped forward, I became involved, and I think we all have to do that," she said. "I think I have shown my son you have to get involved in order for changes [to happen]. One thing that really helped Dakota today was when the JP addressed the 'one bite' their lawyer had said.

"My son was very upset about that because he felt that I didn't get 'one bite'. Today, when she addressed that and basically said this was severe, my son felt that we were heard, that our facts were heard, and that what happened to us was something that... will probably remain with us a long time."

With the destruction notice signed by the Justice of the Peace, arrangements were made for the OSPCA to take possession of Dax.

The Wiitalas have 30 days from the time the notice is signed to file an appeal. If no appeal is filed, the dog will be destroyed at the end of the 30-day window.

"If the appeal is launched, based on whether or not that goes ahead, that could delay the destruction of the dog, or it could lead to an overturning of the Justice of the Peace's decision," said Mr. Ballantyne. "Having spoken to [Aurora's Bylaw Manager Jon Popple], they feel that is probably unlikely.

"There was a lot of case law cited in the decision that

The "Best of Times" Aurora United guest

The performers and band members of "The Best of Times" are just ramping up for their busiest time yet.

With the revitalization concert performances right around the corner (at Aurora United Church September 24 and 25), the group took the opportunity to interview some of its members.

Whether they are members of the church community or not everyone seemed to share the

same feelings toward the production.

Not only are they having a blast, but they all recognize and appreciate the opportunity to give back to the church and to the community as a whole.

Best of Times' producer, Dean Antanaekas, also shared a few words.

Dean's motivations for putting on this production were "...to provide a revitalization contribution (both energetically and fiscally), to show the community at large the great things we do here at the church, and at the same time to provide a vehicle for the late-teen age group to pursue their own musical and theatrical interests..."

Dean is familiar with the youth programs at Aurora United Church, but he is also aware that there is a gap in the late-teen age group.

showed there had been cases where attacks, she noted, that weren't as serious led to the destruction of the dog. So in this case we think it was justified."

No appeal had been filed by press time.

With the dog in custody and out of the neighbourhood, Ms Rose said she hopes to regain a sense of

confidence and safety walking in her community, but admitted the "healing process" could take a while.

"I think I did the right thing and I hope I'm going to feel safe, and I am certainly going to try," she said. "I am certainly proud that I stood up for myself and Kola and I think that now Kola didn't die in vain."

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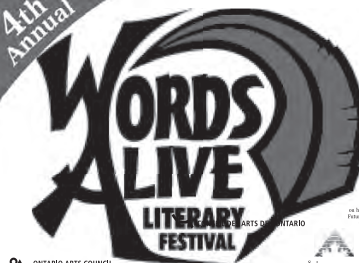
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Key issues discussed at special council meet

Access to parkland and creating compatibility with adjoining developments in Newmarket were key issues on the table at a special council meeting recently as councillors gathered to discuss the Draft 2C Secondary Plan.

The 2C Secondary Plan, which covers the land area bordered to the east by Highway 404, to the west by Bayview Avenue, Wellington Street to the south, and the Aurora-Newmarket boundary to the North, is intended to accommodate about 8,000 new residents and between 5,200 and 6,400 employment opportunities over the next 20 years.

Plans include the development of a "Business Park" in the lands east of Leslie Street, and a variety of housing, parkland, and educational institutions to the west in a "neighbourhood structure."

"[The neighbourhoods] blend a mix of low, medium, and higher density housing types as well as public open space features," notes the draft plan. "Residential densities, lot sizes, and building types shall vary throughout each neighbourhood to achieve the variety and animation typical of older, traditional neighbourhoods found in Aurora."

High density housing will occur in this area near St. John's Sideroad and Leslie, and along proposed collector roads. Two

elementary schools have been identified in the plan, and their proposed construction is slated to take place along collector roads near a community park.

The parks are fundamental in the draft plan.

"It is the intent of the Secondary Plan that every resident be within a maximum five-minute walk of either a community park, neighbourhood park, or parkette," the plan continued.

This distance issue garnered considerable discussion, particularly from Councillor Evelina MacEachern who said the wording stated that while this was "the intent" but it "may not be an absolute".

"I think what the council is trying to point out is that when you say it and you don't reach it, it is 5.5 minutes, someone is going to make a big deal out of it someday," Mayor Phyllis Morris said to planners in attendance.

Al Downey, Director of Parks and Recreation Services, concurred.

"I applaud how [planners] are trying to do this, except everyone walks at a different pace," he said. "Five minutes for me is going to be a little bit different perhaps than five minute for someone else. I like the 'distance' idea. I thought it was appropriate...if we try to stay with some type of geographical distance as opposed to walking distance."

Planners agreed to change the wording from "within a five-minute walk" to "generally within 400 metres."

Ongoing issues with the "interface" of Aurora's 2C plans in relation to neighbouring developments in Newmarket were also a key point of discussion.

During public meetings in May to develop the 2C Draft Plan, the number of citizens and stakeholders attending from Newmarket far exceeded those from Aurora.

The draft plan states that reaching a level of compatibility between residential density differences on either side of the border west of Leslie is planned.

"It is the intent of the Residential Interface Overlay Designation to ensure that a compatible interface condition can be developed between new development within the 2C Secondary Plan area, and existing residential development in the Town of Newmarket," reads the draft plan.

"The lands subject to this overlay designation shall be developed in a manner that creates a compatible interface condition with the properties to the north in Newmarket. The compatible interface condition shall be established by the developer, and shall be satisfactory to the Council of the Town of Aurora."

As for the differences between the proposed business

area along the Aurora-Newmarket border east of Leslie and the residential development to the north in Newmarket, the plan too seeks to find a compatible interface condition.

Councillor Al Wilson said he was clear on how this overlay worked west of Leslie, but could not see how a business park would be compatible with Newmarket's slated low-density housing.

"East of Leslie, north of the Aurora boundary has already been approved for low-density residential development," said Ron Palmer of The Planning Partnership. "If Aurora is going to promote employment designation within their boundary, which you are perfectly allowed to do, you do have to deal with the interface."

"Houses about employment all the time, you just have to deal with it in a sensitive way. The good news is north on the east side is not yet built so the landowners to the north, the purchasers, will be aware of the land use designation in Aurora before they buy."

"This is a more advantageous position than dealing with the opposite where you would have an existing neighbourhood and you're proposing a new development to the south."

Following the meeting, councillors' comments were received and further consultations with

landowners and additional stakeholders will take place. This will be a welcome opportunity to landowners who still have issues with the plans.

"I think you've come up with a document that we can really sink our teeth into at this juncture," said Claudio Brutto, who appeared as a delegate during the meeting on behalf of Aurora Leslie Landowner's Group, consisting of landowners east of Leslie.

"We are divergent in a couple of issues," Mr. Brutto said. "We continue to hope that we can convince the staff and the consultants, as well as the steering committee on our approach."

Mr. Brutto said the Landowners' proposal is for 100 acres to continue with the business park and to accommodate projected jobs in the area. The topography of the land, however, was too severe to accommodate additional employment lands, he said.

"We believe we can accommodate a sufficient amount of employment lands as well as a mixed-use sustainable community which will preserve the environmental features of the area and provide for a natural connection, linkage, and interface at Leslie Street with the lands that will be developed on the west side."

Abbotsford gets 31 animals after outbreak

From page 1

Humane Society and consulted with other veterinarians, and even spoke to MPP Frank Klees regarding the situation. This combination of local veterinarians and the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association began to ask questions to find out how they could help.

"One of the options we came up with was that as veterinarians, we offered to set up roadside hospitals - there are a number of us who have mobile licenses - and so we would then be allowed to operate essentially a tailgate kind of hospital."

The OSPCA was not necessarily initially receptive to the idea, he added.

"We didn't really hear back. Calls weren't returned, and I'm sure they were being barraged by enquires from both press and people as well, too, but there was an outcry as to why this was happening, please stop, let's reconsider."

"Quite a bit of time did lapse and I think the pressure that was brought to bear by the general

public and the politicians and the veterinarians through our association had its effect and they paused and reconsidered their actions."

A number of veterinary hospitals with isolation units - including Abbotsford - were called into action. The OSPCA determined which clinics were to receive animals, and Abbotsford was assigned 31 of the remaining animals.

"Quite a number had already been put to sleep at that point in time when they stopped, so we ended up with 31," said Dr. Cole.

This was a significant number of animals to deal with for Abbotsford, but Dr. Cole said his staff was up to the challenge and volunteered their time. They also received what he described as "innumerable" donations" of food, bedding and litter.

Following testing and treatments, all 31 animals were eventually adopted through Abbotsford.

But the situation might have

been better served by the OSPCA if handled a bit differently, said Dr. Cole.

"I think protocols for isolating new animals, decisions on which animals are to be mixed with others when they come into the shelter, those types of protocols I think should be - and have been - looked at. I'm quite certain."

"When you're dealing with a treatable disease, there is always going to be a public outcry when the response seems

to be over-the-top in comparison to the risk. I don't know just how badly contaminated things were there [but] the condition itself is not fatal and actually goes away on its own eventually."

"If the shelter seems to be overwhelmed, outreach to the community and local advice... that's the next step they should take because, as evidenced by this thing, the public and the local professionals were more than willing to help out."



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Senior Scape

A visit to the wood shop revealed Margaret McCleary, Sandra Worwood and Carol Hedenberg each absorbed in their respective duties.

Ms Hedenberg supervised safety as the official 'Approved Person'.

Margaret and Sandra travel to Aurora to take advantage of the facilities in the ASA wood shop and the training assistance provided by Carol Hedenberg and Ron Coe.

Sandra is compelled to use a walker to move around even the short distances in the shop, and I asked her permission to make note of this fact.

A little conversation followed about her wood working skills during which she added, "If I can perform in the wood working shop adequately, anybody can", and Sandra appears at home and competent in a field formerly occupied

by men.

Competent, at ease and very confident with her wood working task, Sandra left no doubt that women were engaged in roles formerly occupied by men.

Ms Hedenberg used her time cutting small brass piping to line the inner barrel of a ballpoint pen, so that each of the women were in process of manufacturing parts for the same product.

The ballpoint pen project started quietly but has progressed to acquire a popularity, which persists and members continue to show interest.

Most of the mechanical parts originate with a manufacturer and the barrel, which is the part they were working, is of wood lined with a brass liner.

The wooden barrel offers the opportunity to employ different woods or other materials, and pos-

sibly other detail incorporated on the barrel, would add artistic decoration.

All activities are available to members of the ASA, and the wood shop operates only under the supervision of an Approved Person, for safety reasons.

Women continue to expand their areas of competence, and once women find they possess the ability to operate wood working tools and to make or fix things, their interest gathers and carries them to success.

The essence of the wood shop with its community of wood workers sharing common interests, exemplifies the results obtained by simple crafting, shared among interested associates, where everybody prospers.

Activity in the wood shop is diverse, as varied as the approximately 40 members who ply their varying skills

and knowledge.

The members often work on projects of their own but also perform a variety of wood work for the benefit of the ASA, the Town and for the annual parades through the streets of Aurora.

A '55 Alive Driver Refresher Course' during October may prove of

Senior Bridge results

Monday, August 30: North-South - Murray Sinclair and Don Newman; Carole Bell and Nan McLean; Audrey Robertson and Ev Dickie. East-West - Cecily Wilson and Carole Watkins; Kay Hack and Mitzzy Brown tied with Frank Henriques and Irene Doran for second place; Carol Davidson and Elaine Hunter.

enormous value to many seniors, and further information is available at the front counter in the seniors centre.

Even enquiring into what is available primes the senior mind to greater caution when driving, and risk aversion to the cost of even a minor bump, is encouragement to let prudence be a guide and to review good driving practice.

The barbecue season

is winding down to the last of the luncheons, which will be a combination lunch, with dessert and coffee or tea and will take place Thursday, September 9th, at noon.

Entertainment will be provided by 'High Ground'.

Reservations will not be required but patrons are advised to attend early, as the luncheon is offered with the proviso, 'as supplies last'.

Duo honoured for environmental effort

From page 1
any detrimental effects that widening St. John's Sideroad caused," Mayor Morris explained.

"Ben's advocacy for protecting the wetlands was demonstrated by his constant presence at every Regional and municipal public meeting throughout the road reconstruction planning process. If you weren't around in those days, I can tell you that Ben was relentless, he persevered, and he never gave up.

"Eventually they listened." Ms Connor and Mr. Kestein "practice what they preach" and put their "action into words", Mayor Morris added.

"You started something because on a stone like this, this is a cornerstone for the community. You've already initiated the idea that somebody can make a difference. People can against all odds."

Following the mayor's remarks, Mr. Kestein and Ms. Connor were invited to unveil the granite stone with brass plaque explaining their environmental efforts. After lifting the drape off the marker, Mr. Kestein immediately quashed any thought that he might rest on his laurels.

"It feels like we've made a good beginning," he said. "As long as the Region becomes the biggest cog in the wheel we will never win. We can only hold onto the pieces we've got and I hope we can. With your help, I know we can. The young people will come and they will take it on.

"I will have to leave one day, but the people that are here will have to fight for that."

When asked what went through his mind when he heard his work was going to be commemorated in this way, he replied with a laugh, "I expected it sooner!"

Ms Connor, on the other

hand, said she was both honoured and "absolutely flabbergasted".

"It was never an ulterior motive," she said. "We did it because we were militant and we wanted to make a difference."

Accepting the commemoration, however, did not come without hesitation, she said.

"It's a funny thing. I was at first a little bit reluctant to spend money on that because that was not why I did it. But if it does an awareness thing, then I think it is valuable."

It is a long way from the journey Ms Connor decided

to take in 1997 when she did her first March For Parks program for the Aurora Arboretum. One of the reasons she did this was, as a teacher, wanting to get students involved with and aware of environmental concerns.

"It is really difficult to hook them," she said. "I went around to all the schools in the area to try and get the environmental clubs going. I tried to get in to talk at their assemblies to get the kids, so I wanted to get the students involved. That was a big motive for me to do this and also awareness. The money was secondary."

The stone marker commemorating Mr. Kestein and Ms Connor's work was placed in front of the turtle breeding area on the south side of St. John's Sideroad, just east of the end of the boardwalk.

Roger is the team leader Aurora needs

As Mayor of Aurora I see the importance of playing a leadership role in a number of key areas. As Mayor you can expect:

- Leadership in a number of key areas including a vision for the town, establishing priorities and upholding the laws governing the corporate and individual behaviour of council members; to set the direction for the municipality and to guide the administration in enforcing the policies.
- As a member of the community I will represent the public, their will and values by seeking input and to be a community advocate; To enunciate the priorities of the community; To engage the community and to communicate with them in key issues of the community.
- To provide conflict resolution by resolving differences, seek alternatives and to review policy options on matters within the jurisdiction of the municipality.
- To exercise policy guidance by establishing policies and bylaws that will enable staff to act on the decisions of the



Roger shown here with his daughters Margaret, and Eleanor

town council and to ensure that policies in place reflect the views of council.

- To establish the service delivery and determine which services will be offered, that the level is necessary and affordable and that the delivery is satisfactory or what alternative mechanisms are available.
- To monitor the results of the activities and projects of the municipality and to determine the future needs: to ensure that the direction of council has been fulfilled and reported on annually to the public.
- Provide a fiduciary leadership role by ensuring an

appropriate and comprehensive budget process is established so that the community receives value for their tax dollars; To provide the openness and to ensure compliance through an external auditor; to provide the stewardship of the towns assets; to ensure corporate continuity.

If you would like to support my campaign please contact me by phone: 905-726-1899, or by email: roger@rogerclowater.ca

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