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# THE AURORED

*Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper*

Vol. 10 No. 45    905-727-3300    **auroran.com**    FREE    Week of September 14, 2010

## Five for mayor race

18 Council candidates

Aurora's four-way Mayoral race, which has been unchanged since incumbent Mayor Phyllis Morris declared her intention to run early last month, became a little more crowded in the final hours of the registration period Friday with former Council candidate Miloslav Prikrýl throwing his hat into the ring.

Mr. Prikrýl, who ran for Council in the last municipal election, garnering 1239 votes, has previously been an advocate of ensuring gender equality in politics.

In April 2006, Mr. Prikrýl appeared before general committee requesting that a question on gender equality be placed on the November 2006 ballot.

According to Council minutes, he requested the question "guarantee a minimum of 50 per cent of Council seats to be reserved for female candidates, and as a consequence of the above law, the post of the Mayor of the Town of Aurora will always alternate between a female and male candidate."

The minutes also note that Mr. Prikrýl suggested that if the request for

that were to be put on the ballot, that the matter be subject to a draft bylaw.

The race for Council also saw a flurry of activity on the final day of registration with three candidates jumping in, and one bowing out of the race, making a total of 18 Council candidates.

Those who filed on Friday are Sandra Humphries, Keith Munro, and Michael Thompson, while candidate James Lill dropped out. Darryl Moore registered his candidacy on September 7.

The five Mayoral candidates are Roger Clowater, Geoff Dawe, Nigel Kean, Phyllis Morris (incumbent), and Miloslav Prikrýl.

The final roster of 18 Council candidates are: John Abel, Jim Abram, Chris Ballard, Evelyn Buck (incumbent), Roy Cohen, Brian Duff, Wendy Gaertner (incumbent), John Gallo (incumbent), Stephen Granger (incumbent), Milton Hart, Sandra Humphries, Evelina MacEachern (incumbent), Darryl Moore, Keith Munro, Paul Pirri, Helen Power, Michael Thompson, and Al Wilson (incumbent)



Crowds were awesome over the weekend, as the Town of Aurora presented its fifth annual Ribfest at Macell Memorial Park. Five "ribbers" were on hand through the three-day event that saw thousands of people line up for hours to get a taste of some of the food that was on sale. Taking part in the festivities were Uncle Sam's from Albuquerque, New Mexico; Bone Daddy's from Fort Erie, Ontario; Boss Hog's Barbecue from London, Ontario; Camp 31 from Brewton, Alabama; and Ribs Royale from Las Vegas, Nevada. Inset, Adam Dordon of London's Boss Hog's, battles the smoke to create a meal for someone. Another picture is on Page 4.

*Auroran photos by David Falconer*

## Hydro building to go to DND

The old Aurora Hydro Building will be the new home of the Queen's York Rangers, following Council's approval of a lease agreement between the Town and the Department of National Defence (DND) last week.

The lease is for 10 years with a five-year expansion, a switch

from the previous request from the DND for a five-year lease term with two one-year extensions.

"It was explained that in order to justify the necessary investment for set-up-costs, a longer initial term is required," said Aurora CAO Neil Garbe.

**Please see page 12**

## OP could bring changes to GO station area

The neighbourhood and surrounding area to the west of Aurora's GO Station could be the subject to further studies and plans once Aurora's Five Year Official Plan review is completed and passed by the Town, residents learned last Wednesday.

The comments were made at a special council meeting which served as an open house for residents to express their comments, concerns, and appraisals of the Town's new draft official plan and draft Aurora Promenade study.

At the meeting, which was

attended by nearly 50 residents and stakeholders, representatives of the Planning Partnership, the company that has been leading the creation of the plan, outlined significant changes in what is proposed in the draft.

Some of these changes include the integration of a "Building a Greener Community" chapter into the plan which is reflective of "the Town's commitment to environmental sustainability and green development", new policies on green building technologies, new green house

gas emissions reduction targets, policies targeted at attracting "prestige office uses", and enhancing the Employment Area policy framework.

The Draft Plan also looks at new policies for the management of cultural heritage resources, the establishment of public art policies, the revision of existing accessibility policies to ensure compliance with provincial standards, and the promotion of "active transportation and the use of alternate transportation modes."

**Please see page 9**

**Briefly**

### Candles ablaze Saturday

For a really cool view, visit the Aurora Cemetery Saturday night.

The 10th anniversary of the veterans' candlelight tribute will be held and it's something to see.

More than 420 candles will be lit and they will burn overnight in silent tribute honoring those who served the country in various wars.

"You will be awed by the magnificent sight and will probably find yourself offering a silent prayer for the veterans who are buried there," said Aurora Legion president Rick Preston in a Letter to the Editor this week on Page 6

The following day, Sunday, at 2 p.m. the Legion will hold a drum-head service on the grounds of the cemetery and everyone is invited to attend.



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# COMING EVENTS

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

Aurora Chamber of Commerce holds a networking 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. Event is sold out.

**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.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

Garage Sale in support of Hospice King-Aurora, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 102 Curtis Crescent, King City. For further information, call 905-773-0155.

**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](mailto:info@auroraculturalcentre.ca).

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

Hospice King-Aurora will hold an open house for the general public from 4.30 to 6 p.m. at the administrative offices, 155 King Road. For further information, call 905-773-0155.

**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.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6**

The Aurora Public Library presents "Let's Talk About Investing in Today's Economy" with Roger Strong leading an informal discussion forum. Event begins at 6 p.m. in the Magna Room and participants may pre-register at the adult information desk.

**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 ravages 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](mailto: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.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**

A chance for children to learn local history will happen today at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, 14732 Woodbine Avenue in Vandorf. Admission is free to this History Hands-On event. For further information, call 905-727-8954 or 1-888-290-0337

**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.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

Join artist Bill Lewochko to learn about the art of cartooning, and develop your own cartoon characters and style at the Aurora Public Library today from 10 a.m.

to noon. This event is for children aged 9 to 14 and the cost of \$10 includes all materials.

**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 now available at R & R Used Books, 95 Edward Street. 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](http://www.pinetreepotters.ca).

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

A jitterbug ball, to support Hospice King-Aurora, will be held this evening. Visit [www.hospicekingaurora.ca/](http://www.hospicekingaurora.ca/) for updates.

**CONTINUING**

GRANAurora, the local Grandmothers To Grandmothers group, meets monthly to raise awareness, generate funds and  
**Please see page 15**

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It was a “hive” of activity at the Aurora Farmer’s Market Saturday as the market hosted an Apple and Honey Festival. Enjoying the company of Pierre the Bear are Aurora residents Myla Kroeplin, left, and Chloe Magic.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

# Tough words tell York underpasses needed

The Town is poised to formally request funding for pedestrian trail crossings from the Region of York in their upcoming reconstruction of Leslie Street and St. John's Sideroad, following last Tuesday's general committee meeting.

The original recommendation presented by staff called for the region to "include a description and identify the potential underpasses along St. John's Sideroad and Leslie Street within their current environmental studies where possible."

But after a delegation from Klaus Wehrenberg, Chair of the Town's Trails Subcommittee, the "where possible" qualifier was dropped to make the motion stronger.

"My position has to be that if the Region had cooperated with us... we could have long since made decisions on these things and had discussions about the underpasses," he said. "The time that has passed has basically been used to excuse themselves from making it possible to allow the underpasses to go ahead, or possibly making it impossible."

"That kind of 'if possible' escape clause isn't serving

the firm position. We have to take a firm position that we would like to have those underpasses."

Mr. Wehrenberg added what he finds most significant is that the Region is "unwilling to provide funding."

"It doesn't say that," he says. "It says they are 'unable' but they don't back it up. It is basically a resistance, a mindset."

According to a report, the Region has indicated to the Town they are "unable to provide any funding" towards the implementation of these trail crossings.

"If the Town was interested in including these crossings in the two road projects, then the Town would have to fund any required feasibility studies, design and construction costs," said Mr. Simanovskis. "The Region was unable to commit to including any detailed analysis of the crossings in their current program until the Town confirms that funding is available and approved for this project."

Councillor Evelina MacEachern, who spoke following Mr. Wehrenberg's delegation, said she supported his proposed changes to the recommendation before them, includ-

ing the deletion of a third clause which said, "should York Region not provide funding, the Town of Aurora review funding requirements through the 2011 budget process".

"I believe the intent is to basically send a message to the Region that we want [the underpasses] included, and the removal of the third clause is to basically say we don't intend on paying for this, we expect the region to pay for this," said Councillor MacEachern.

Near the end of the discussion, Mayor Phyllis Morris asked that staff invite a representative from the Region of York to appear before council this week to answer any questions councillors may have on the matter.

A delegation from the Region is not on the agenda for this week although add-ons to the agenda were not available at press time.

"So the simple answer is [the Region] considers these to be local improvements which they expect us to pay," said Mayor Morris. "But, in fact, we can push as hard as we can and ask them to consider picking up the tab because we believe it is best for our community."

# Cab fares could increase but it might still be reprieve

Aurorans could soon see another spike in the taxi fares they pay to combat the HST if a recommendation from last week's general committee meeting is approved at council this week.

But even if it is passed, it would still be a reprieve from what might have been.

If the new plan is raised, the drop rate will be increased to \$3.10 and the per 200 metre rate by 40 cents.

This is in contrast to fees originally proposed at the general committee meeting, which caused considerable debate at the table.

In the original report by Techa van Leeuwen, Director of Bylaw Services, Town staff called on councillors to approve a hike in the drop rate from \$3 - the rate which was already bumped up from \$2.75 earlier this summer - to \$3.75, and the per 200 metre rate from 35 cents to 40 cents.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern said she had reservations regarding the proposed fee increase.

"I spoke to my daughter and her friends who are teens and regular users of the cab service on the weekends, and I asked them. 'How much did your last cab fare cost?' and they said \$25," said Councillor MacEachern. "If you take that and translate that into what the next trip would cost, and use that just as an example, that trip would basically go from \$25 to \$32. I see that as a very significant increase and I can't, in all good conscience, pass that fee onto the community. I think the answer lies somewhere from the fees of today and the fees of tomorrow."

According to Ms. Van Leeuwen's report, aside from the 25 cent increase in the drop charge earlier this summer to accommodate the HST, taxi fares had not been reviewed since 2007.

This, she said, made it more difficult for drivers to make a living.

"Council approved the staff recommendation for an increase in taxicab


rates from \$2.75 for the first 200 metres to \$3 for the first 200 metres," she noted. "This was done as an interim measure until a more comprehensive review of the rates could be undertaken."

If the fare increase, as

modified at general committee, is passed this week staff would be required to conduct a review in the next six months and assess the impact of the fare hike as well as bring forward a yearly review of taxi fares for Council.



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# Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

## The story of why Shelley was upset

Shelley Ware didn't look happy Friday night, and I couldn't understand it.

Aurora's head of special events - she does a helluva job organizing these events - was standing near a "ribber's" booth at the 5th annual Aurora Ribfest.

The place was packed, as, I'm told, it was Saturday night, too.

Wendy Browne, who does such a fantastic job of organizing Aurora Rotary's participation in the event, told me Saturday morning that money had increased by 31 per cent over last year based on ticket sales for the beer garden.

On the stage, The Neil Young'uns were getting ready to perform Friday night.

What could possibly be the matter, I wondered.

"Locked myself in a garbage dumpster," she said, "and the speakers for the entertainment blew up and caught fire."

It was all I could do not to burst out laughing, but it was obvious Shelley was upset.

Things were not going according to plan, and she didn't like it much.

But the event worked out for everyone else who attended, especially the five "ribbers" who participated.

They included Uncle Sam's from New Mexico, Bone Daddy's and Boss Hog's Barbecue from Ontario, Camp 31 from Alabama, and Ribs Royale from Nevada.

In addition, festival goers could also eat roasted yams, roasted corn on the cob, bloomin' onions, butterfly chips, beavertails and kettle corn.

Patricia and I stood in line for more than half an hour Friday evening, waiting to purchase a couple of pulled pork sandwiches.

I don't stand in lines, to be honest, but when you're hungry, you find the shortest line and wait...and wait...and wait.

But it was worth it and while I don't know who won the award for the best ribs, Ribs Royale from my favourite gambling town of Las Vegas, Nevada, had the shortest lineup.

We only had to wait less than an hour...

After taking advantage of the Rotary Club's fund-raising beer tent, we were on our way home when we ran into Shelley.

I expected her to have a smile from one ear to the other, but she was frowning, and that's when the whole story came out.

The entertainers, by the way, did fix or replace their speakers and the show went on.

Still trying to figure out how Shelley locked herself in a dumpster, though...

Below, in the photograph, Brandon Thomas of Fort Erie's Bone Daddy's, cooks another mess of ribs for the customers. For Bone Daddy's, this was their second appearance at the Aurora Ribfest, and judging from the crowds, they will be back.



The Grade 2 and 3 class at Aurora Public School (Church Street) looked like this in the early 50s. See anyone you know? We don't have a list of names of the people in the photo, so anyone who recognizes anyone should give us a call at 905-727-3300 or drop off the names at 95 Edward Street.

### Letters to the Editor

## Writer misses Janet Davis

To the editor,

Jan Davis had such a smile she could lay on you, if you were on her good side. She will be missed and remembered.

The operator/agent of the Aurora MTO license office (forever, it seems) passed away peacefully at Southlake Hospital Sunday evening, August 29.

Janet had been ill for some time yet still did not let it stop her from doing her life's work, day in and day out.

She would go to the office every day, when most people would have been bedridden.

She left us so young, anyone who knew her knew she

had to be in pain, yet she would not let it interfere with her work.

She was the face of Aurora licensing, just like her father Elwood Davis was before her. People would come from afar for the service they received at the licensing office.

She was never a nine-to-five kind of a girl. More like a 12-hour a day girl, including weekends.

Whether you needed five, 50 or 250 vehicles renewed, all you had to do was drop off the paperwork on a Friday for example, and, bingo, it was ready for you Monday morning.

Try that with one of the new government machines.

She ran one of the few, if not the only, MTO office in Ontario where a real, live person answered the phone during business hours.

Not a typical MTO office, it sported fresh flowers on the counter, historic artwork of Aurora and family on the walls, and a Christmas tree lit up during the season.

She was an avid reader who never got rid of a book when it was done.

Janet became a personal friend of mine about 1990; art and culture were instantly instilled into my life and, boy, did I get to know a lot of people in a hurry - politicians, artists, lawyers, policemen, firefighters, wrestlers,

singing superstars (Gordon Lightfoot), business owners and so many more in Aurora.

For a while, I wondered if there was anyone who didn't know her.

And then there was her loving family who took you at face value because you came with Jan.

This lady touched too many souls to even attempt to print everyone's name.

There is a vast population of people sharing the sorrow, including the editor of this paper and myself.

I'm proud to have known this lady.

John Sargent  
Aurora

## It's too early for election signs, this reader says

To the editor,

Having driven down Industrial Parkway the other day, I was surprised to see the election signs of Geoff Dawe visible as well as certain locales of mayoral candidate Doug (sic) Clowater.

I thought to myself that this was kind of early to display these signs.

I looked into the Municipal Elections Act and according to certain bylaws in Newmarket, Markham, as well as Whitchurch-Stouffville elections signs pertaining to a municipal elections can not be posted til 25 days before the election date of October 25.

This, in my opinion, runs in direct violation of the municipal elections act and the signage should be removed until at least Sept. 25 which is the date you can

legally put up signage for any candidate in Newmarket running municipally.

According to certain bylaws in each town the time difference in municipal election signage varies a few days, but not months before the called election date.

I agree in equal opportunity for all candidates in representation, but this in my opinion is in direct violation of the Municipal Elections Act and should be rectified before there is a flood of candidates wanting and demanding to put up their own signs months ahead of the election date of October 25.

Brad Snell  
Newmarket

EDITOR'S NOTE: The candidate's name is Roger Clowater.

### THE AURORAN

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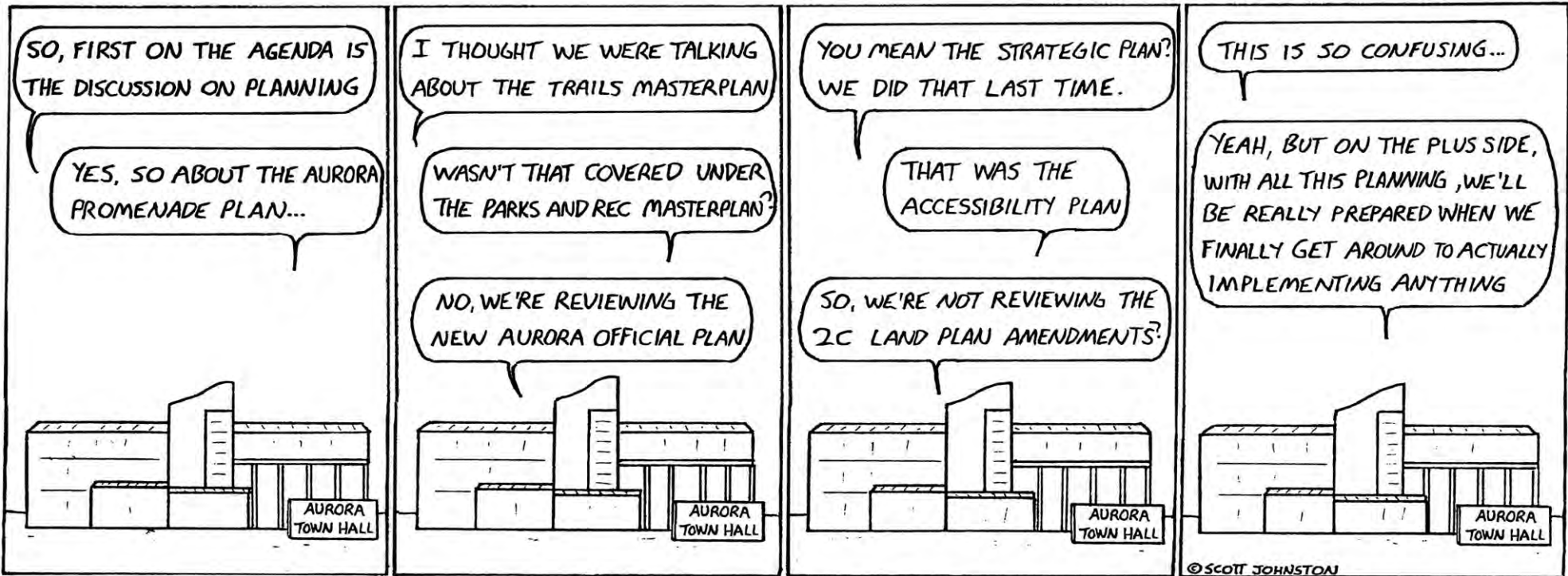
#### Editorial policy

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## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

As you probably know, Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas last week announced that she would not seek re-election this fall.

Councillor Collins-Mrakas is a fitness fanatic who jogs at least three to four times per week in the summer and five to six times per week during the winter when she is not able to row.

As this writer also jogs a bit, it was my intention to conduct this "exit" interview as we weaved our way through the town streets.

That is, until I was driving my car this summer and saw Ms Collins-Mrakas running, or should I say, sprinting up Orchard Heights Drive. Then and there I felt it best to conduct the interview in a more conventional way.

First time I'd heard of Ms Collins-Mrakas was when her brochure appeared in my mailbox during the summer of 2006.

She has a very interesting background.

She is the Senior Manager & Policy Advisor, Office of Research Ethics at York University, where she is charged with the management and oversight of research ethics policy and procedures as they relate to research involving humans, animals and biological agents.

She has earned a Masters of Science degree from McMaster University and recently (2007) completed a Master of Laws (LLM) in Alternative Dispute Resolution at Osgoode Hall Law school.

Like the other councillors, Ms Collins-Mrakas had a distinguished level of commitment to this community before she sought elected office.

As her brochure stated, "as a cancer survivor, I am particularly drawn to working with groups that assist others as they fight their cancer battle". Her volunteer activities have

included: Play Therapist for the Children at Ronald McDonald House, and Volunteer - Special Events for Gilda's Club, To Support Those Living with Cancer and Their Loved Ones.

She has also participated in the Terry Fox Run and the Gears 24 Hour Spin-A-Thon (For Cancer Research) as well as the Big Bike ride for Heart and Stroke, Bowl for Kids and many other community and fund raising events.

She has been married for seven and a half years to a rather patient and wonderful man - Tom Mrakas.

"We have a crazy little 14-year-old Jack Russell terrier named Elmo (their other terrier Sport died in 2008) who knows he's the king of the neighbourhood."

This is the first of a two-column interview with the councillor.

**Now that you won't be on Council - what kinds of things do you like to do?**

"I have been involved in competitive rowing, off and on for more than 21 years now and I absolutely love it. I also like long distance running, tennis, sailing and skiing. I have just finished competing at Royal Canadian Henley and the FISA World Masters Rowing Championships, where my quad won a gold medal at both regattas! It was a fantastic experience. It certainly made six months of 5 a.m. practices worth it."

**The press release announcing your intentions states, "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...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 me and my family at this time." Can you please**

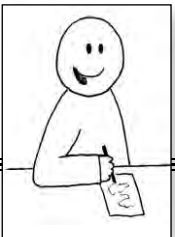
**expand on the professional and political reasons why you won't be seeking office again at this time?**

"Professionally, my workload at the office is such that balancing the significant amount of reading and research required to function effectively as a councillor with my work commitments was clearly impossible. Unfortunately, there just aren't enough hours in the day to do both at this time. As to "political reasons", to be succinct, I will borrow from Councilor (Bob) McRobert's statement and simply say that, 'things weren't too much fun' as of late."

**Also in your press release, you state, "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." What are some of these accomplishments?**

"The Heritage Advisory Committee is an enthusiastic group dedicated to preserving our built heritage. A highlight of the committee's activities is of course the hugely successful Doors Open Aurora event. The Library Board has just recently completed a successful strategic planning exercise that took many months of hard work, meetings, reviews and revisions. The Graffiti Committee was comprised of a fantastic group of hardworking citizen volunteers, police, community groups and engaged staff. One of the key accomplishments of the committee was the graffiti database. The committee walked all over town to create a database of (at the time) all tags/bits of graffiti in Aurora. It was, apparently, one of the first comprehensive listings of tagging sites in all of York Region."

**Stephen can be contacted at:**  
**stephengsomerville@yahoo.com**



## Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Ah, the early indications of fall; the crisp morning air, the hint of changing foliage, the kids back at school, and after a four-year absence, the return of the municipal election sign.

With the nomination period now closed, the candidates for Aurora Council are ready to blitz you with propaganda about themselves. And we'll see it all; fliers, speeches, newspaper ads, campaign buttons ...

But there's no better visual sign of an election than...well...an election sign.

It's been quiet on our streets so far, but now that we're into September, you can expect signs to start popping up on Aurora's boulevards like weeds after a pesticides ban.

I'm always curious to see how creative the candidates are with their signage choices.

You may not think there are many options, but font, colour, design and size are all vital, and with well over 20 candidates for the mayor's and councillors' positions, each one has to decide how to make their signs stand out from the others.

When it comes to font size and visibility, bigger is better. But there's only so much space on an election sign, and the goal is for folks to be able to read it from some distance.

This is where it helps to have a really short last name. If your

name's too long, or you display a really wordy catchphrase, it'll only be legible from two feet away, or you'll need to continue your wording on another sign. Or two.

But perfect letter size or a memorable slogan mean nothing if the colours chosen for the sign are too similar. You just can't read a yellow sign with gold writing from a moving vehicle, at least, not safely.

An election sign is a limited canvas, so I personally give bonus points for design creativity.

If a candidate for councillor used their name and a caption such as "Stop tax increases" in white lettering on a red-coloured stop sign-shaped election sign, they'd get one of my eight votes for sure.

For some candidates, it seems that creativity is less important than emulation. And I can see why. If a candidate is not as well known, or has a limited advertising budget, why not copy the look and feel of a sign of a more popular opponent? They could get a few votes through their sign's visual association with them.

But while they can use a similar colour and wording on their sign, I wouldn't recommend they use the other candidate's photo. That's a bit too much imitation.

For those people who want to include their photos on their

signs, they should choose wisely. The key is to get people to recognize you, so it's not a good idea to use one's high school year-book photo, unless you've only recently graduated, or have really let yourself go since then.

Location is another key consideration, and intersections will be the main target. In some cases, signs will be packed in so tightly on the boulevards that rain falling amongst them won't even reach the ground.

Perhaps the most remarkable part of the two-month signage season is the immediate disappearing act after Election Day.

Signs are everywhere until October 25, and gone October 26.

But the reason is not magic, nor is it civic duty, it's cost. This is because not only are election signs expensive to produce, and you never know if your spouse will be foolish enough to let you try for office again next time, but the town will fine candidates - even those who weren't elected - who don't take them down promptly.

But fear not; the election signs won't be gone forever.

After four years of lying dormant in garages, basements, and storage units, they'll be back in September 2014.

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

## Exit interview

## Signage season

Letters to the Editor

# Writer continues fight for peace

To the editor,

I write to continue to address the issue of peace and whether real World Peace and Truth are possible in 2010 (see letter week of May 25, 2010, "Can Aurora promote peace on earth, she asks").

I write to appeal to the

heart of my townspeople because I have faith that once educated Aurorans/Canadians will do the right thing to correct past wrongdoings; plus I've never been one able to cast my eyes from outright injustice.

Since I was born and raised in Aurora, I feel it

only natural to turn to my hometown community for support to get this social movement, to give "Real Peace a Chance", off the ground.

Perhaps, our nation may not be one to create fights and we like to believe we are seen as peacekeepers but Canada is "increasingly complicit in the sale of small arms around the world, nearly tripling our sales between 2000 and 2007, sometimes to nations with abysmal human rights records. These weapons fuel violent conflict and war", (Lloyd Axworthy, Toronto Star, Dec. 19, 2008).

Axworthy also states, compared to other nations we rank low in small arms trade transparency.

Our country's natural resources are raped to fuel the killing machine and make atomic weaponry. Canada may not be in war torn countries with her military/soldiers but she has her name on many weapons across the planet.

Can readers start to understand if Canada stops making weapons (of any form), it will impact the ability of war, anywhere on earth to continue? What if other countries follow our lead?

This is why I write children first. All military might must be re-directed to address ecological and humanitarian disasters/crisis worldwide.

Simply, it is a question of national/worldly priorities and how our energies and monies should be spent.

Though I stated in my previous letter that the

Indigenous People in Canada feel we settlers don't care about their hardships and human rights abuses, this is no different from the feelings of the Afghan people whose homes are being broken into during night raids by NATO soldiers or the persecuted Falun Gong members in China or the homeless children on the streets of Toronto.

Though oppressed, the Indigenous people (and all praying people for that matter) hold a constant vigil with their Creator that we will all come to understand each other and respect every living thing. Like myself, they just wish to start our healing.

Do the colonizers of Canada need to heal their wounds?

I guess only if people see us causing undue hardships on the red man. Whether people realize it or not, our non-tolerant, bullying ways and our bloody foundation does affect the entire psyche of our nation. When hate dominates, love dissolves.

So what do we do? As you can see I am not one to wait to see what happens but if we want to see Peace and Truth for our children's future, we have to stand up and let our position be known.

Some of you may be thinking this lady's nuts, good luck to her, Peace will never happen, she's dreaming. So I say, yes, I am dreaming, I'm praying but I am acting for a better world. I really don't know what it will take to move people but it is a choice each individual

has to make for themselves. Thich Nhat Hanh states, "Peace will only be achieved through the internal transformation of individuals".

Where do you stand? September 12th was Leonard Peltier's 65th birthday. He is an innocent man who has been in jail for 35 years for a crime the

American justice system knows he did not commit.

He is a powerful American Indian who stood up for Mother Earth and his people's rights and the government wanted him shut up so they locked him in jail.

Heidi G. A. Stoecklin  
Aurora.

## Many seniors are not being helped: reader

To the editor,

RE: The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, (AODA)

On June 13, 2005, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, (AODA), became law.

Under this legislation, the government of Ontario will develop mandatory accessibility standards that will identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities in daily living.

These standards will apply to both private and public sector organizations across the province and Ontario is planning to reach a goal of being accessible to all people with disabilities, by 2025. According to Statistics Canada, 15.5 per cent of Ontario's population has a disability and this number is expected to increase as the population ages.

However, who are the disabled?

What are the most common types of disabilities found in our society?

The data from the Participation and Activity Limitation Survey, 2006, by Statistics Canada, illustrates that women made up 63 per cent and males made up 37 per cent, of the population 15 years of age and over, for the adults with a disability.

Interestingly, as the population ages, more females than males continue to be disabled.

For example, 65 per cent of the women and 35 per cent of the men aged 65 years and over are disabled.

Unfortunately, for this

senior age group, significantly more women, (58 per cent), than men, (42 per cent), need help with everyday activities but do not get any assistance.

Furthermore, almost half, (42 per cent) of the people with a disability, live in Ontario.

What is the most common type of disability?

According to the survey, the most common type of disability is mobility.

About 43 per cent of the people between 15 and 64 years of age; and 47 per cent of the people 65 years of age and over, have mobility problems.

The following list illustrates the rank order of the types of disabilities, (from second to seventh), found in our society: agility, pain, hearing, seeing, psychological and learning.

People with disabilities should seek help and have the right to qualify for some assistance programs, from the government, to participate in our society.


Some people may feel shunned from getting help, or they do not know how to get help.

For example, of the 452,150 people with a learning disability, 10 per cent are not receiving any help, but need some help.

Hopefully, the AODA legislation will improve the awareness about disability in our society and more people will be identified with a disability and get some financial assistance and help so that they can participate in society.

Jim Jackson  
Aurora

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### IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

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Letters to the Editor

# “Bureaucratic arrogance” exposed by ombudsman

To the editor,

Ontario Ombudsman Andre Marin exposed another 'closed-door operation' in August with the release of his 'LHIN Spin' report with usual preciseness of unearthing secrecy and failures in government, its

organizations and agencies. This in-depth report brings to light yet another example of bureaucratic arrogance and entitlement.

One might think there should be more transparency as a result of the ombudsman's investigative report.

However, there are no

assurances that an order issued by Health Minister Deb Matthews to amend a secret "illegal" by-law that one of the Local Health Integration Networks passed, which was then adopted by at least eight other LHINs as revealed in the ombudsman's report, will

ensure overall transparency and accountability as past experience has shown with other government agencies and organizations.

The illegal by-law allowed the LHIN to conduct secret meetings that have no public record and enabled it to forego public consultation.

The public should take note of the individuals and backgrounds of those who run these organizations and those who recommend them for these powerful, elitist positions.

As health minister at the time, George Smitherman's role in the development of the LHIN system should be given particular scrutiny.

According to an article on August 16, 2010 in The Toronto Star, it was brought in by Premier Dalton McGuinty and Smitherman "with scant public consultation" and "government appointees".

For good reason, there is a serious lack of public confidence in far too many government operations. Where there are billions of tax dollars involved and enormous salaries paid to those running this operation, the public should not be hearing from the premier "they (LHINs) are still kind of learning how to run."

With that kind of money, it should not be a training-wheels-required operation at this stage.

Ellen Watson  
Aurora

# Legion planning 10th annual candlelight tribute this weekend

To the editor,

Royal Canadian Legion, Col. Fred Tilston VC Branch #385 Aurora is honoured to announce that it will be holding its 10th annual "Candlelight Tribute" ceremony on Saturday, September 18, and Sunday, September 19 at the Aurora cemetery.

The "Candlelight Tribute" is to honour all veterans who have served our country in the many wars of the last century right up to and including today's peace-

keepers.

Late in the afternoon of Saturday, September 18th, Branch members, Ladies Auxiliary members plus members of the Queens York Rangers cadet and 140 Aurora air cadets will be placing a small red candle and Canadian flag on all known veterans' grave sites.

We will be placing approximately 420 candles which will remain burning overnight in silent tribute.

Please take the time to drive through the cemetery on Saturday night or view the

candles from Yonge Street.

You will be awed by the magnificent sight and will probably find yourself offering a silent prayer for the veterans who are buried there.

On Sunday, September 19th, at 2 p.m. we will be holding a drum-head service on the grounds of the cemetery.

All members of the public are welcome to attend the service and help us pay tribute to all our veterans of this great country.

Remember they were willing to risk their lives so that we may enjoy the type of life we live today and I'm sure most of us can spare an hour to attend the service and say "thank you".

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday and hope you can take a drive through on Saturday night.

Rick Preston  
President  
Royal Canadian Legion  
Branch #385,  
Aurora

# Beautification projects enhance Town of Aurora

To the editor,

Have you noticed the recent improvements around the Aurora lately?

There has been a real improvement in both the safety and in the appearance of the bus stops in town.

The stops now have a cement platform and foundation area.

This improves the footing for people waiting for a bus; and also makes the stops much more visible, for both the drivers and the pedestrians.

This is a significant improvement, especially in some areas which only had grass, or a muddy area, for stepping up onto a bus.

There have been other

improvements in town, such as the renovations of store fronts, at a local mall in the south end of town.

Hopefully, there are more improvements like these to beautify and enhance the Town's image and streetscape.

This should be an election issue and let us ask the candidates who are running for the upcoming municipal election, for their position on developing more work projects which improve the quality of life in our town.

There are some areas in town which need real improvement for renovations, so lets give it our upmost attention this time.

Jim Jackson  
Aurora

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**NIGEL KEAN**

# CAMPAIGN UPDATE

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- **Chaired numerous committees**-Leisure Services, Hydro, Economic Development, 2-C Lands growth Committee, Downtown Improvement Committee
- **Member of numerous committees**- Library, Leisure Services, Economic Development, Heritage Committee, Historic Northeast Yonge/Wellington Committee
- **Community minded**- Past Director of Women's Centre of York Region, Community Champion Big Brothers Bowlathon, Organizer and Co-organizer of many charity golf tournaments – Rotary Club, Heart and Stroke, Canadian Cancer Society

**Involved in community-** Participant in Terry Fox Run and Big Sisters' Thrill on the Hill Run, Heart and Stroke Big Bike Ride, past volunteer at Optimists Street Dance and June 30th Town Park celebration as well as the Rotary Ribfest.

# As Mayor I will...

- help downtown business owners with tax incentives to improve the area.
- work with council and staff to ensure that the Town buys local to support Aurora's retailers.
- take an immediate 10% decrease in my Mayor's salary to set the example and tone that I will cut expenses and wastage at the Town Hall.
- work with council to review cutting council from 8 to 6 people and work with the Region to get a second Regional Councillor for Aurora.
- my experience and dedication will pay dividends to the Town.

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Letters to the Editor

# Chamber executive confirms debate is on

To the editor,

I would like to confirm that the Aurora Chamber of Commerce with The Banner will be hosting an election debate for all Mayoralty Candidates on Wednesday, October 13, from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. It will be held in the Queen Elizabeth Ballroom at the Howard Johnson Hotel.

Those candidates registered for the Office of

Councillor have been invited to attend and, as in the past, will have tables available to hand out literature as well as a place to speak with people from the community.

I will be forwarding additional information over the next few weeks to keep you up to date.

There has been some confusion related to this event, which I would like to clarify.

When I was contacted and told that the Aurora Public Library was holding an All Candidates Meeting, I incorrectly assumed that the meeting included a debate.

Once I confirmed that the Library was holding a public meeting with all candidates that did not include a debate, the decision to hold our event was confirmed.

I have been with the Chamber for a year and

was not aware of the important role the Chamber has played in the Municipal Election in the past.

Again, I apologize for the confusion.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or require additional information.

**Judy Marshall**  
Executive Director  
Aurora Chamber of Commerce  
Aurora

# Graffiti strikes new park bench

To the editor,

I was running recently down by the Klaus Wehrenberg trail.

I saw a new park bench overlooking a little waterfall and pond.

New as it was it was already disfigured by graffiti.

I have worked on this issue with the City of Vaughan.

What we know is that kids between 12 and 21 do it. We know that such "tagging" is motivated by rebellion, "fame", self-expression and a sense of power.

We know that bylaws, surveys of residents, police action, a graffiti Hotline and getting young people involved are parts

of the solution.

People don't seem to appreciate that graffiti decreases the sense of public safety, costs taxpayers for cleanups, threatens enjoyment of public spaces and lowers property values.

In Canada estimated costs of cleanup exceed \$1 billion.

Everyone has a role. Parents need to get involved. We all do.

Graffiti needs to be erased as soon as possible after it is seen. (Call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 and you'll be anonymous).

Let's keep Aurora free from this man-made virus.

**Rick Doust**  
Aurora



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## PowerStream

# Why your electricity bill may be higher

(York Region Service Area)

### Background

PowerStream's distribution rates, the portion of the electricity bill that is related to PowerStream's operations and which represents 21% of the total electricity 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, several factors, beyond PowerStream's control, may have increased the total bill amounts for customers over the summer months.

### Factors

As a follow up to PowerStream's "Power Down Your Summer Electricity Costs" awareness campaign earlier this summer, here is a review of those factors:

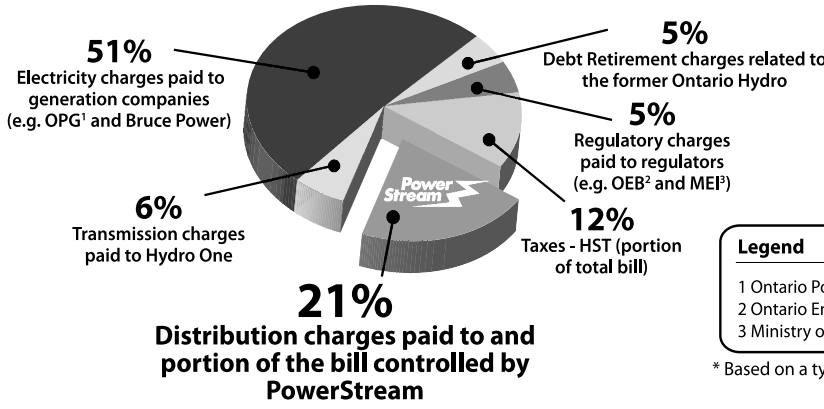
- The Ontario Energy Board increased electricity prices for all Ontario residential and small business customers, which coupled with the seasonal change in the pricing structure, added 6% to PowerStream bills;
- The implementation of Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) added another 8% to all customer utility bills across the province;
- A small 'Regulatory' charge was added, as required by the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, to cover the cost of provincial conservation initiatives;
- Increase 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; and
- A hotter than average summer may have caused an increased use of air conditioning.

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).

### Breakdown of your electricity costs

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**



51%	Electricity charges paid to generation companies (e.g. OPG and Bruce Power)
6%	Transmission charges paid to Hydro One
21%	Distribution charges paid to and portion of the bill controlled by PowerStream
5%	Debt Retirement charges related to the former Ontario Hydro
5%	Regulatory charges paid to regulators (e.g. OEB and MEP)
12%	Taxes - HST (portion of total bill)

**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

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## Powerdown

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# GO station district subject of discussion

## From page 1

Transportation, and how it relates to the Aurora Promenade Study, however, dominated much of the conversation, particularly what plans for the revitalization of the GO Station area would mean to residents on Berczy Street and the Town Park area.

These residents are already dealing with on-street parking in their neighbourhood, which has been identified as a "stable neighbourhood" in the plan.

"The area around the GO Station has been identified as a focus area for new development," said Ron Palmer of The Planning Partnership. "In anticipating new development, what we're really talking about is managing the change in an appropriate way.

"Today, there are existing as-of-right development permissions that are relatively incompatible with a stable neighbourhood. What we're trying to do is manage the change around the GO Station, which is intended through Provincial and Regional policy as a focus for new growth, to manage that change in a way that creates an appropriate interface with the stable neighbourhood, and provides some developments that will help feed that GO Station with potential riders in the future."

Potential plans for the GO Station area include replacing the parking lot to the west of the station, bordering Berczy, with a park space and the construction of further parking facilities to the east of the station and elsewhere in the area.

"The replacement of that linear park space would mean the removal of over 350 parking spaces, which, if you can imagine at peak hours in the morning and evening, is a significant amount of traffic on Berczy," said Harold Madi of The Planning Partnership.

"By replacing that with

an amenities space, you've eliminated the traffic but you would, of course, be redeveloping the lands on the other side of Berczy. We've calculated that approximately that development would generate about 230 vehicles in the morning and evening [traffic]."

An added advantage of moving the bulk of GO Parking to the east side of the station would be that commuters would not have to cross the tracks in order to get to the station.

Before any of this can happen though, Mr. Madi said a further "comprehensive planning study" needs to take place, which would have to coordinate various landowners, the Town, and GO Transit.

GO Transit, he said, would have to agree to move the parking lot and integrate an entirely new structure in the focus area.

"We are looking well into the future," said Mr. Madi. "This isn't going to happen tomorrow. To make that happen... a comprehensive plan would need to be done, studies would have to be undertaken, including traffic studies, then GO would have to build a structure to replace parking.

"Then the park would go in and the development would happen."

For Wells Street resident Duncan McGregor, who was one of several Berczy neighbours to speak at Wednesday's meeting, eliminating parking on the west side of the tracks is a concern.

While Mr. Gregor said he was "fully supportive" of development along Berczy and was pleased to hear there will be a comprehensive review of the area, the elimination could be a problem.

"[Parking spaces on the east side] will be great for people who live on the east side of the tracks," he said. "People who live on the west side of the tracks, however, aren't going to want to park on the east side for a simple reason -

and that's Wellington where it crosses the track.

"There is a bottleneck there. Even in the middle of the day it is busy because of a large amount of traffic. Every half-hour from 5 to 7 a.m. the train is in, the traffic backs up. I can't see a lot of people who get off the train and want to get to their homes on the west side parking in the high rise parking structure, hanging a left onto Wellington and waiting five minutes before they can even get moving."

All comments from residents were taken down and will be referred to the steering committee for review.

Mayor Phyllis Morris said she was interested, in particular, in getting GO Transit to the table to hear

concerns.

"I am leaning towards asking council to invite the head of GO Transit to come before the community and invite them here to present some of the ideas they have and what they have been working on with their vision," she said.

"I think that it is important so that we aren't working at cross purposes. I did share with them the promenade study we're undertaking and they have plans to move towards, budget permitting, all day GO [service]."

The Official Plan and Promenade study will next be discussed at a statutory public planning meeting September 22, before coming back to council September 28 for adoption.

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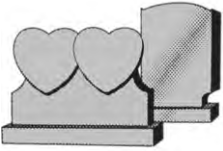


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## Aurora Ducks

# Triathlon team among largest sent to compete

The Aurora Ducks Triathlon Team sent one of the largest delegations to Canada's venerable triathlon event (2nd oldest in the World) in Penticton, B.C., recently.

The 28th annual Ironman Canada Triathlon played host to 29 swimmers from the Aurora Ducks, including seven first-timers. All finished the gruelling race.

Given the longer distance of the Ironman: (3.8 km swim, 180 km bike and 42.2 km run), most athletes face mental and physical fatigue, varying nutritional needs, mechanical issue and changing weather conditions for anywhere from about nine hours to 17 hours.

But the Aurora Ducks know how to race, and in particular swim.

Many of the Ducks were in the top 10 athletes (in their respective age groups) out of water in Penticton.

Aurora's youngest member was 23 years and the eldest, 55 years old.

Veteran triathletes Karen Bonham and Tom Hall were hopefuls to qualify for the Ironman World Championships next month. Sadly, they were shy of the finish positions necessary to do so, but longtime (20 years) triathlete Joe Rizzi was able to withstand the adverse weather and persevered through a great race that qualified him for the quintessential race.

He will join fellow Ducks Crystal Drummond, Shannon Kemp and Paul White in Hawaii on October 9th.

A record breaking 2,870 athletes raced in this event and the Aurora Ducks represented 10 per cent of all athletes from Ontario.

To support the team, the athletes had the pleasure of hearing



**JOE RIZZI**

cheers and duck calls from an entourage of more than 70 family and friends wearing logoed Aurora Ducks Triathlon t-shirts.

The Aurora Ducks Triathlon Team has more than 80 triathletes of all abilities - many are beginners who have just

taken up this fast growing sport.

In B.C. Aurora was represented by Allan Fowler, Andy Desbarats, Bill Kemp, Brian McGee, Bruce Weller, Dave Martineau, Diana Gerritssen, Glenda Stoneman, Greg Pruner, Greg Stoneman, Jamie

Wallace, Joe Rizzi, John Cappelletti, John Pignatelli, John Ramsell, Karen Bonham, Laura Foster, Lauren Wells, Mark Angela, Mike Roine, Nicole Pignatelli, Paul Haffenden, Paul Pignatelli, Richard Ahong, Rob Durnford, Scott Waites, Spencer Lavis, Tom Hall and Tom Mungham.

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# Aurora youth to US tourney

Nick Skillins, a past player in the Aurora Minor Baseball Association program and member of the Aurora Jays 2006 Major Peewee and 2004 Major Mosquito Ontario Baseball Association (OBA) Provincial Champions, is in his second year with the Ontario Blue Jays baseball program which is a member of the Premier Baseball League of Ontario.

After a strong season in the PBLO, in which they finished tied for first place with a 22-4 won-lost record, they

qualified for the American Amateur Baseball Congress' (AABC) North Atlantic Regional tournament for the 16U age group recently in Waterbury, Connecticut.

After four games against state and regional champions from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey and New York State, the Jays 16 Us won over Jersey City, N.J. by a score of 9-1, earning a berth in the Mickey Mantle World Series held in the Dallas suburb of McKinney, Texas in August.

This World Series brought together seven other regional winners from across the U.S. and Puerto Rico in a double knockout format for the "World Series" championship of 16-year-olds. Coincidentally, the Ontario Blue Jays program pulled off a rare double, winning the American Amateur Baseball Congress' (AABC) North Atlantic Regional tournaments at both the 18 and 16-year-old age groups.

It's the first time Ontario teams have earned berths to both World Series

tournaments in the same year. Newmarket native, Greg Telford, is a member of the successful Ontario Blue Jays 18U program. Aurora's Sam Copeland is a member the OBJ Development Program.

In McKinney, Texas, the regional winners included teams from California, Georgia, Michigan, Puerto Rico, Ohio, two teams from the host city Dallas, and the Ontario Blue Jays.

While the Jays lost 12-7 to Midland, Ohio, a suburb

**Please see page 13**



ALEXIS McCONACHIE

## Aurora woman, 20, will be counsellor at CHAMP seminar

Aurora's Alexis McConachie, 20, is looking forward to being a Junior Counsellor and a role model at The War Amps 2010 Ontario Child Amputee (CHAMP) Seminar from September 24th to 26th, in Waterloo.

Born a partial left hand amputee, Alexis attended CHAMP Seminars while growing up to see the latest developments in artificial limbs, attended informative sessions on dealing with amputation and shared concerns with other young amputees.

She applied to be a Junior Counsellor so that she could answer questions and offer advice to younger Champs on subjects like dealing with teasing and staring, body image,

learning to drive and employment.

"Junior Counsellors remember clearly how they looked up to and learned from the Junior Counsellors themselves, and now they are able to pass on this example to a whole new generation of Champs," said Lucie Waddell, Director of the CHAMP Program, which this year marks its 35th anniversary.

The seminar is an example of War Amps key tags at work.

The Association is funded solely through public support of the Key Tag and Address Label Service and receives no government funding.

For more information, call 1-800-250-3030, fax 1-800-219-8988 or visit [waramps.ca](http://waramps.ca).



## ELECT **GEOFF DAWE** MAYOR

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### Let's Put the Aura Back in Aurora

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, Head of Community Based Education - Aurora High School

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**

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# Conover Avenue speeding still bothering councillors

Town staff are going back to the drawing board after a suitable solution to speeding on Conover Avenue is yet to be found.

Councillors voted to task staff with finding a solution at last Tuesday's general committee meeting after receiving a report recommending that the request for a three-way stop on the street be rejected.

"We have a problem and I haven't seen a solution yet," said Councillor Al Wilson during last week's discussion. "I am really looking forward to referring this back so we get some solutions. We may not like some of them, we may think some of them are viable [or not], but I would just like to see some solutions."

Councillor Wilson's comments came after Conover Avenue resident Allan White appeared to

express his concerns over the report.

The report from Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, recommended the request for the three-way stop at Conover and Halldorson Avenue be denied, while also recommending that York Regional Police conduct "regular speed enforcement in the area".

The volume of the traffic in the area did not warrant a three-way stop, noted Mr. Simanovskis.

"Staff conducted a five-hour multi-way stop sign review of the Conover Avenue and Halldorson Avenue intersection on Saturday, July 24," said Mr. Simanovskis. "The average volume entering the intersection from all approaches is 204 vehicles/hour for a five-hour period.

"The combined average vehicular and pedestrian traffic from Halldorson Avenue is 24 units for the same count period. Therefore, based on these results, the volumes warrant has not been met.

"The intersection of Conover Avenue and Halldorson Avenue has no sightline restrictions or history of traffic collisions."

In his delegation to the committee, Mr. White said a three-way stop on Conover was favoured by residents for logistical, economic, and aesthetic reasons.

Residents "simply want their street back" to have a feeling of wellbeing and safety, he added. But he said he felt the staff study missed the mark.

"The report is based on this Town's warrants,

guidelines, and criteria which requires traffic volumes to meet certain numbers, but fails to address the real issue of speed," he said. "With the issue defined, the question has to be asked, what causes drivers to speed?"

"In articles I have read, the common answer is related to the street's geometrical design. High speeds are encouraged by smoothness, flat curves, and good sight distance, all of which Conover has except for the curves. To [speed] on a residential street shows [a driver's] lack of respect and ignorance towards the residents."

With this in mind, Mr. White admitted, however, that his stance on the potential three-way stop had evolved over time.

Police need to do extensive traffic enforce-

ment, but physical changes need to take place on the road, he said.

"The second choice from residents was speed bumps and speed cushions, and that is my choice right now," he said.

Following Mr. White's delegation, Councillor Wilson motioned to refer the report back to staff for further studies to be conducted on "physical and passive methods" that could be taken on Conover, and to request

further speed enforcement by the police.

"It is not our standard to just send it to York Regional Police, because they do not have enough policemen to put out there, everywhere they should be," said Councillor Wilson. "That is not, in my view, really a solution. I won't say what it is, but it is not a solution that is obviously working."

The referral is expected to get final authorization at this week's council meeting.

# Hydro building earmarked for Queen's York Rangers

**From page 1**  
"This change is supported by staff."

Under this lease agreement, the Town would receive at least \$131,911 per year from the DND for the Hydro Building, plus annual maintenance costs of \$25,000.

"It is a good day for the Town of Aurora," said Mr. Garbe. "The Department

of National Defence and the Queen's York Rangers are making a long-term commitment to this community."

The Queen's York Rangers said they were pleased with Council's decision.

"The decision by Town Council is reflective once again of the outstanding support provided by this

community to the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces in general and the Queen's York Rangers in particular," said Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Zdunich in a statement. "The strength of the Regiment is, and has always been, rooted in the people of this region, and this gesture

reinforces how fortunate we are to be part of it."

With a new home for the Queen's York Rangers on the horizon, it is expected that local cadet units will be able to make use of the Aurora Armoury.

The lease agreement is awaiting final approval from the Federal Government.

# Dog has been destroyed

The dog involved in the Easter Sunday dog attack on Shelley Rose, which injured Ms Rose and killed her dog Kola, was has been put down after its owners decided not to pursue an appeal.

As reported on theauroran.com, the Town of Aurora confirmed last week that Dax, the dog in question, was destroyed the evening of September 2 after a destruction order was signed by a Justice of the Peace earlier in the day.

According to Jason Ballantyne, the Town's Manager of Corporate Communications, the dog was put down "with the owner's consent" by a veterinarian with OSPCA staff present.

In her ruling on the morning of September 2, the Justice signed the destruction order sought by the Town citing the protection of the public.

The owner of the dog, Dennis Wiitala, had 30 days from the time the order was signed to file an appeal against the decision.

Ms Rose said she learned of dog's destruction from Aurora's Bylaw Services department late

last Monday while still working through the events of the previous weeks, which saw her take to the witness stand on behalf of the Town in their case against the Wiitalas.

"I'm still trying to process the events of last week," Ms Rose told The Auroran Wednesday. "I'm trying to let it all sink in and it is a mixed bag of emotions. These five months have been difficult for both families."

What has been particularly hard, Ms Rose said, was being thrust back into the spotlight and having to re-open old wounds as the legal system progressed.

"You were thrown into the public eye at least once a month for the last five months, so you would go through a healing process, you'd be a certain way along, and then when you're back into the court process you become a victim all over again," said Ms Rose.

"It kind of takes you back a little bit and then you've got to get up the next day and just carry forward. It's tough not to be the victim when you are once a month, at least in court."

Right now Ms Rose said

she is focused on trying to feel safe again and getting back out into her community.

She said she is now taking "short jaunts" around the neighbourhood with company and will move forward once she feels comfortable.

But with the news of the dog's destruction also came a "sense of relief".

"The sense of relief was that this part of the journey was over, that the court

proceedings would be over, being in court, testifying, seeing the face of my son very upset," she said.

"Everything is still trying to sink in. I'm looking forward to my family and I healing and hoping that people learned from this, that we all have to be responsible pet owners and that the Town has policies and bylaws for a reason and they are going to uphold them. That makes me feel good."

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# Fewer employees have left the town in last term: mayor

The number of employees leaving the employ of The Town of Aurora has gone down this term compared with the previous two council terms, according to numbers released to The Auroran by Mayor Phyllis Morris.

"It is puzzling that - for whatever reason - anyone would choose to create a negative image of the Town by claiming that this term is worse than previous terms for staff changes - when the facts show otherwise," said Mayor Morris.

According to the numbers, in the 2001 - 2003 council term, the average percentage of staff change was at nine with 35 staff changes overall during that period.

For the 2004-2006 term, the percentage was reduced to 7.5 per cent with 33 staff changes.

The current percentage for the 2006 - 2010 term, with 2010 weighted at a half-year, stands at 7.2 per cent, with 45 staff changes.

"One could say that in comparing the staff changes of this four-year term, with the six years of the previous two three year terms, there was in fact a reduced rate of staff turnover," said Mayor Morris.

"One could also say the management of the opportunities presented by the changes in staff - which

included some scheduled senior retirements during this term - have been targeted to better meet the current needs of the municipality."

The mayor said that Town staff have received both formal applications and informal enquiries from former town senior and mid-level employees seeking re-employment by the Corporation.

While she said these matters were dealt with in "the strictest confidentiality", some of these people have sought employment on a contract basis after leaving the Town.

Although the numbers provided by Mayor Morris indicated that fewer staff members had left the Town during the current term, she was unable to provide the amount of severance that has had to be paid out this term compared with years passed.

"While Members of Council and some staff members have access to the personal severance details in the course of the work, I am advised that the Town cannot release any personal severance [information] without the individuals' express agreement," she said. "There may not be enough severances in any given year that the aggregated numbers, if provided, would provide sufficient screen for confidentiality."

## A first for Ontario

From page 11 of Cincinnati, and 12-6 to Marietta, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta, they were competitive in both games.

Regarding the Midland, Ohio, team, a program with a 30-year history of producing talent for the NCAA and MLB, their website boasts Ken Griffey Jr. and Barry Larkin as two of their successful alumnae.

Nick, an outfielder who played centre and left field throughout the two tournaments, enjoyed good success, batting .333 at the plate along with timely defensive plays in the out-

field. The experience is one which he and his teammates from various centers in Southern Ontario thoroughly enjoyed and will never forget. For the Ontario Blue Jays 16 U team, this was the third appearance in their 12 year history at the Mickey Mantle World Series.

Preparations are now beginning for the 2011 17U season which will include year round fitness and practicing, their annual fall trip to a South Carolina tournament and annual spring training in Florida prior to the start of their next year's PBLO season.



Neil Garbe, Aurora's Chief Administrative Officer, advises that he has cancelled proposed changes to the schedule of the indoor walking track at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, a matter which concerned members of the Aurora Seniors' Association (ASA).

Members of the ASA may continue to enjoy use of the indoor track as formerly.

Neil advises the Town and the ASA have enjoyed a great partnership, and, obviously, everybody wishes great cooperation to continue amongst the Town.

When on the track, wear appropriate attire and footwear, which is clean and dry, and do not utilize any other equipment unless you are so entitled.

This information is welcome, and seniors are encouraged to continue to take advantage of the opportunity as presented and exercise in moderation and with medical approval when deemed necessary.

If you really enjoy exercise as a pastime, your health will improve to the point wellness and vitality proliferates.

The Seniors' Centre will host a Dog and Mutt Show Sunday, September 19th, between 1 and 4 p.m., rain or shine.

If you have a dog, a mutt, or a high-class beauty or any member from the commonality of the dog world, please show it.

The best-groomed, biggest, smallest, most interesting, longest tail, oldest, most obedient, most interesting, best trick and best-costumed dog, will win a prize, so everybody has a chance at winning something.

The seniors intend this event to become annual and the dogs will enjoy the grass, and the outdoors behind the Seniors' Centre, just as you will.

Please enter your dog at the front counter in the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

With summer and holidays nearing the end, seniors return to the Seniors' Centre; many activities now move to a more active mode and welcome new members.

Occasionally, an activity cannot accommodate more members.

The Silver Stars are a troupe of performers who are planning to take the world of senior entertainment to new heights.

New bodies, new faces, new imaginations are required.

## Use of walking track available

By BRIAN WARBURTON

This is a fun activity; it is founded on imagination, cooperation, rehearsing constantly while encouragement from members of the troupe add fuel to efforts.

The experience can also involve the performance of famous and popular Broadway Show music, enough to stir the romantic part of anybody's nature, and approval and enthusiasm of cast members opens new avenues to senior escapades, delivered with the vibrancy that deeply motivated entertainers perform on stage so naturally.

In addition, it is quite common for inexperienced but interested entertainers to accept small or bit parts, or even to attend to administrative tasks or stage or props manager or any of a multitude of tasks that need careful attention.

From the ranks of support emerges new talent, who develop their own avenues and expertise to engage an audience and from these ranks, new stars are born.

If you possess star material, your talent will blossom and audiences, rapt upon your every word and fascinated by every move or gesture, will judge you approvingly.

For further information, contact director Judy Buchanan, at judy202@rogers.com.

The Friday Night Dances have proved an attraction for many years and with September here, they are ready to dance once more.

The ballroom dancers have enjoyed a wonderful summer and have returned to the twice-monthly routine of good times, good music and dancing.

The next dance will be Friday, September 17th, followed by three dances in October with a Halloween Dance planned for October 29th.

Now is the time to plan your costume.

Angus MacKenzie is Chair of the Dance committee and is appealing for more volunteers to help. Call Angus at 905-833-4457.

It is easy to talk of good times in this column, after all that is what the Seniors' Centre creates, encourages and provides, and with excellent senior volunteers and fine staff in the co-ordinators office, good times make retirement the pleasure of our

dreams!

However, needy people exist in Aurora, mostly out of sight to be sure, but hunger exists, and these words represent an appeal for donations to fill hungry bellies.

So often children suffer hungry bellies; so please, drop something off to the food bank in Aurora, or at the Seniors' Centre, and provide at least one meal for a hungry neighbour.

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Bid on fabulous silent auction items, such as Hoedown tickets, Leaf tickets, golf games, restaurant certificates, paintings, gift baskets, a week at a Muskoka cottage, and more.  
 Auction items are listed on our website [www.geoffdawe.com/events/fundraiser](http://www.geoffdawe.com/events/fundraiser)

You will be helping support the community, as well as Geoff's campaign.  
 In lieu of an event fee, please bring a non-perishable food item for the Aurora Food Pantry.

DATE & TIME: Thursday, September 16th, 2010 - 7pm- 9pm  
 LOCATION: Wellington Gallery, 32 Wellington Street West, Aurora  
 RSVP: Henny@geoffdawe.com or call 905-751-0734

**Let's put the Aura back in Aurora on October 25, Vote Geoff Dawe for Mayor.**  
 Visit [www.geoffdawe.com](http://www.geoffdawe.com) for more information.

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## COMING EVENTS

lobby on behalf of the grandmother care-givers in AIDS-ravaged Africa. For more information call Kay at 905-841-9318 or Joan at 905-727-5586.

\*\*\*\*\*

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 runs every Thursday in the hall of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets. The volunteer-operated program is offered between 11.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. Lunch cost is minimal. Last year, more than \$6,000 was given to local charities.

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Queen's York Rangers Army cadet corps has openings for boys and girls aged 12 to 18. The group parades every Friday night between 7 and 9 p.m. There is no membership fee and those in high school can earn community service hours through the program. For further information, call 905-726-8600.

\*\*\*\*\*

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 Friday mornings at St. Andrews' Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome. For more information, call Helen at 905-713-3439 or Agnes at 905-841-2747.

\*\*\*\*\*

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members are welcome. For further information call 905-713-9356.

\*\*\*\*\*

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge 148 meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at

15216 Yonge Street, south of Wellington. For more information call 905-830-9205.

\*\*\*\*\*

Masonic Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at the Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7.30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Robertson Masonic Lodge meets the third Saturday each month at 57 Mosley Street at 10.30 a.m. Coffee Club at 9 a.m. and lunch at noon. Call 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080 for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*

Gamblers Anonymous meets every Tuesday night at Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street, at 7.30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night at the Aurora Legion at 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

\*\*\*\*\*

Canadian Federation of University Women holds monthly meetings at the Aurora Legion with a variety of speakers. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

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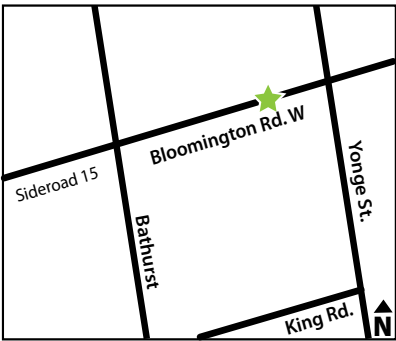
You are invited to drop off your unwanted electronics for recycling at:

**Cardinal Carter Catholic High School**  
**210 Bloomington Road West, Aurora**  
**Saturday, September 25, 2010**  
**9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

#### Electronics accepted include:

- Computers
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