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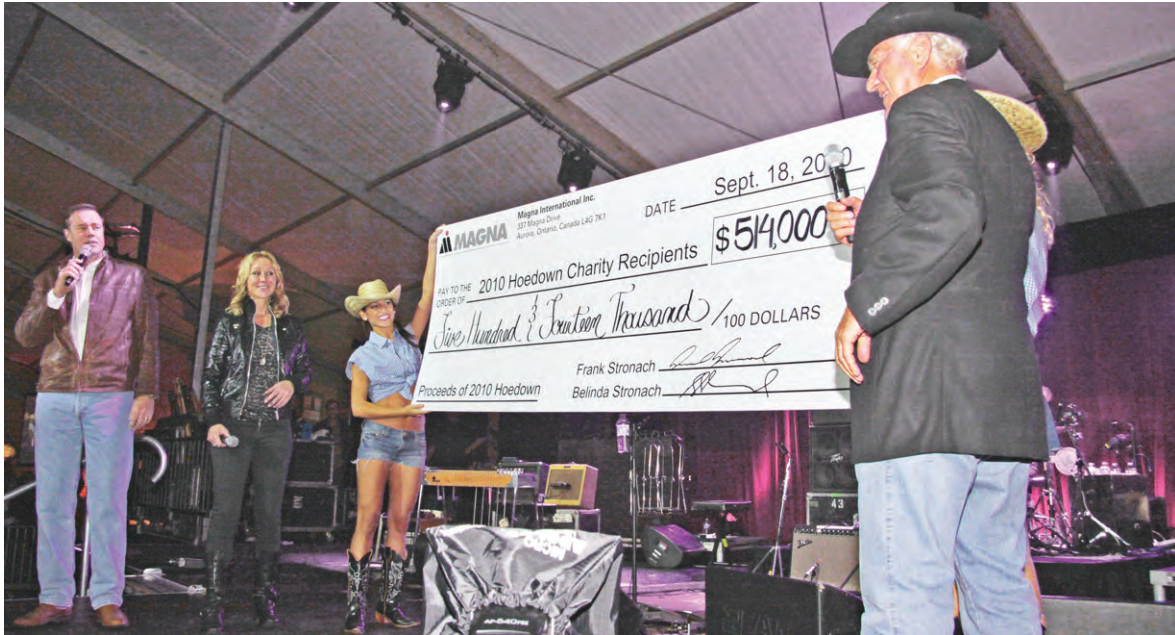
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Nearly 5,000 people showed up Saturday night for Magna's 22nd annual Hoedown held in Aurora and, among them, raised more than \$500,000 for named local charities. Presenting the cheque are television personalty Ken Shaw, left, Belinda Stronach and her father, Frank Stronach, right.

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

## Library board motion irks members

A motion made by a citizen member of the Aurora Public Library Board raised the ire of several fellow members at a board meeting on Wednesday.

The meeting came the day after Library CAO Louise Procter Maio and Board Chair Michael Thompson appeared before Council to present its new strategic plan. At the meeting, Ms Maio and Mr. Thompson were questioned by Councillors Evelina MacEachern and Wendy Gaertner about public awareness of their meetings and providing Council with "exact public agendas" from library board meetings.

The motion, which was brought to the Library Board table by citizen member Rebecca Beaton, called for the board to contact the Minister of Culture "or the library's primary financial contributor, the Town of Aurora, to discuss best practices" and that a report be brought back to the board.

According to the motion, this proposed resolution stemmed from two Strategic Plan meetings in February that were allegedly (a) held without public notice, and/or (b) held offsite. It also says the board "regularly conducts their meetings with the board room door closed, leading residents to reasonably assume that the meeting is a closed meeting, not accessible to the public."

Ms Beaton said her motion was all in the name of bringing "transparency" to the Board.

"I think in this day in age the public wants to know where every dime is going and they have every right to ask that question," she told The Auroran. "I think when a committee, responsible for decisions regarding your money, it is incumbent on us to make sure it is being utilized, and if you want to know, we shouldn't make it difficult for you to know."

It is ultimately up to the Library board to determine its transparency, she added.

"I cannot speak for the board [but] I would like more transparency, but the board has decided they would like to keep their policy as it is. That decision is entirely with the board.

Had the public been made aware of the meetings in question, the public could have attended, she said. Whether or not there would have been interest, the opportunity would have been there, she said, adding the public has a right to know that a meeting is being held.

"When you're looking at what our goals and our visions are for the next five years and it involves our money, I think it would have been wise had the public known."

However, Councillor Evelyn Buck,

who sits on the board with fellow Councillors Alison Collins-Mrakas and Al Wilson, called Ms Beaton's motion "offensive".

"[Ms Beaton's] motion was not to give better access to the library board," said Councillor Buck. "She has been on the board and Wilson has been on the board since [former Councillor] Grace Marsh resigned. They has had plenty of opportunity to put their concerns before the board.

"If they thought the board was not making agendas public or doing anything they shouldn't be doing, they've had opportunity to [make their concerns known]. Why wait [until] now? She attended the workshop we had at Southdown.

"We had a couple of evenings as well where we worked on the strategic plan and we had a consultant. That was all on the table. They knew it was happening, they knew it was going to happen. They were there and never did they make any expression or opposition to what was being done."

Councillor Buck said there wasn't any merit to Ms Beaton's criticisms To Ms Beaton's comments that board meetings were often held with the door closed, Councillor Buck cited the traffic going back and forth in front of the

**Please see page 12**

## Town and workers reach agreement

The Town of Aurora and its outside workers reached a tentative agreement on a new labour contract last Thursday, an agreement which will prevent a strike by the 46 workers.

In a statement released shortly after an agreement was reached, Neil Garbe, Aurora's Chief Administrative Officer said both parties reached a "fair and equitable deal".

"The extensive discussions we've held over the last six months have resulted in what we think is a fair and equitable deal, not only for our employees, but also for the ratepayers of Aurora," he said.

As theauroran.com reported last week, the outside workers, represented by CUPE Local

905, could have been on strike as early as this Monday if an agreement had not been reached by the end of last Thursday.

While many issues had already been sorted out between the Town and CUPE prior to going back to the table last week, the one outstanding issue had been a wage increase.

CUPE argued Aurora's outside workers were among the lowest paid in the Region and wanted a boost which would put their pay on par with their counterparts in other municipalities.

Members of CUPE Local 905 held an information picket outside Town Hall in advance of last

**Please see page 15**

### Briefly

#### Retirement

The Town of Aurora gave a rousing send-off to one of their longest serving employees Friday.

Maurice Blanchard, who retired after more than 30 years with the Town, was feted with a farewell party Friday evening at the Colonel Fred Tilston branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in Aurora.

Mr. Blanchard leaves the town as a crew leader in the Parks department.

He was also publically thanked at last week's council meeting for his "31 years of dedicated service to the Town of Aurora".

#### Conover

Residents of Conover Avenue waiting for a solution to their traffic and speeding woes will likely have to wait until the new year - and a new council - for Town staffers to present their findings and further recommendations.

Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, told councillors Tuesday when asked for an update from Councillor Wendy Gaertner, that mnaking arrangements and working with staff and residents to explore various options makes it unlikely that it will appear before the end of this council's term.

#### Meeting

A third all-candidates' meeting has been added to the roster prior to next month's municipal election.

Ron Weese told The Auroran, the group - Sport Aurora - would hold a meeting at the Aurora Legion October 17th at 2 p.m..

Sport Aurora represents organizations providing sport and recreation programs for approximately 10,000 participants of baseball, ice-hockey, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, slo-pitch, softball, swimming and volleyball.

The focus of the meeting will be to hear the opinions, direction and leadership candidates intend to provide to the citizens of Aurora involving sport and recreation in the next term of office.

The last meeting hosted by Sport Aurora attracted more than 300 citizens and media.

For more information about Sport Aurora, visit [www.sportaurora.ca](http://www.sportaurora.ca).

This meeting will follow an all-candidates' meet sponsored by the Aurora Library at the Town Hall and a mayor's debate sponsored by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce at the Howard Johnson Hotel.

Election day is Monday, October 25th.

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# COMING EVENTS

### 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.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Theatre Aurora presents the heart-warming comedy, "Having Hope At Home" by David S. Craig. Opening today, it runs on select dates through October 9. For ticket information, call 905-727-3369 or visit <http://www.theatreaurora.com>. Tickets are \$23.

### 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.

\*\*\*\*

Confederation Park will play host to the Mini Walk of Hope to mark Ovarian Cancer Day. Registration for the five-kilometre walk begins at 9.30 a.m. with a start time of 10.15. Participants have a chance to take part in a silent auction which includes a digital camera, jewelry, Cineplex packages, sports memberships, and more. For more information, visit [www.winnerswalkofhope.ca](http://www.winnerswalkofhope.ca).

### 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.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora Artist Deborah Campo will unveil her Peace Flame Tree at 6 p.m. outside Aurora Town Hall. Members of the public are invited to attend the ceremony.

### 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.

\*\*\*\*

The Town of Aurora will host the Colours of Fall Concert and Community Corn Roast. including an evening of fiddling, pumpkin carving, and live entertainment. The concert will be held at Town Park from 6 to 8 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.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22

The Aurora United Church will once again host its fall rummage sale from 1 to 8 p.m. followed by a bag sale Saturday, October 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Yonge Street church. Items in the sale include gently used clothes, garage sale items, books, toys, and linen. For more information, call 905-727-1935.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

A chance for children to learn local history will happen today at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, 14732 Woodbine Avenue in Vondorf. 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, OCTOBER 30

Today is the last day to catch the exhibit Distinctly Canadian: Celebrating the Fine Art of Members of the Ontario Society of Artists and the Royal Canadian Academy at the Aurora Cultural Centre (Church Street School). The exhibit features sculpture and paintings from artists, including local talent. Admission is free.

\*\*\*\*

The Aurora Historical Society is hosting "A Night in Old Hollywood", a fundraiser at the Aurora Cultural Centre. All proceeds from the event will go towards the restoration of Hillary House National Historic Site. Tickets can be purchased in person at Hillary House, over the phone at 905-727-8991, or at the Aurora Cultural Centre (Church Street School). The event runs from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., and features a silent auction and entertainment by the Thursday Night Jam Band.

### 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.

\*\*\*\*

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Women's League holds their 15th annual Christmas Fair and Artisans Craft Sale today in the Lynett Hall, 16 Catherine Avenue. Events begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 2 p.m.

### 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 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

Please see page 15

Advertisement



**Aurora is buzzing over the Grand Opening of Edward Street Market and Bistro. On Monday evening the grill had the ribbon cutting by Mayor Phyllis Morris with owners David Mintz and Jon Greenway. Look for the Edward Street Market and Bistro at 14785 Yonge Street. 905-841-9500.**

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# Trails advocates hear from Region

Councillors, stakeholders, and advocates had their first opportunity to hear from the Region of York in person last Tuesday regarding the installation of pedestrian and cycling underpasses during the upcoming Leslie Street reconstruction.

The Town formally requested funding from the Region of York for the pedestrian trail crossings, following a resolution at the September 7 general committee meeting where Councillors learned the Region was “unable” to provide any funding towards their construction.

“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 in a report to the general committee.

“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.”

Following the discussion on September 7, Mayor Morris requested that staff invite a Regional representative to appear before Council at the next Council meeting to answer questions and concerns, and last Tuesday, Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, the Region’s Commissioner of Transportation, and Steve Collins, Manager of Capital Projects, took up the Mayor’s invitation.

Ms Llewellyn-Thomas said that while the request from Aurora Council would not be heard until the New Year due to timing issues, that region was still there to listen.

“We certainly take seriously the report to be considered, and we have already been in dialogue with Mr. Simanovskis and other staff, and the planning process allows us to consider these principles and we will consider all of the advantages and disadvantages as we go through the planning process that is still underway,” she said.

If Councillors were given the impression that any hope for installing pedestrian and cycling underpasses along Leslie was dead in the water, Ms Llewellyn-Thomas and Mr. Collins presented a picture that the door is still open to a potential solution.

“Right now we’re in the envi-

ronmental assessment process and we’ve gone through our second public meeting... but that is not to say that we have made any decisions yet,” said Mr. Collins.

“Part of the advantage of the cost environmental process is it allows us to continue the consultation and discussions with all of the stakeholders and the people who might be interested in our projects, right through... to the end of construction.”

However, the assertion from the previous week that the Region was “unable” to pay for pedestrian underpasses lingered on the minds of Councillors.

“[The statement] sounds like a decision,” said Councillor Bob McRoberts.

The statement in the report was based on the original engineering scope, explained Ms Llewellyn-Thomas.

“It is true to say that in the capital program that our Council has approved, the ideas that are on the table right now have not been put to us and even those numbers are a year old,” she said.

“Even as we continue to plan this project and think about accommodating your future hopes, as we consider the advantages and disadvantages, if we come to a conclusion that they should be included, or that we should be building additional parts of the infrastructure then that would be included in the environmental assessment and included in the future capital budgets with Regional Council’s approval.”

An additional challenge for the Region with this project is that there is no existing path in the area, Ms Llewellyn-Thomas added.

“It is not obvious how we should be accommodating it because it doesn’t exist yet.”

The most cost effective thing in Ms Llewellyn-Thomas’ mind is rather than build something, make sure the project is designed to accommodate what might happen in the future, she said.

For Councillor Stephen Granger, however, who was going to fork over the money for this project was still a sticking point.

“I’m hearing you want us to have it, but you want us to pay for it,” he said. “I don’t quite understand that you’ve endorsed policy that doesn’t have it quite backed up with capital.”

To Ms Llewellyn-Thomas,

however, it did come down to who was going to fund the project.

“I apologize if it sounds like I am pussyfooting around this a little bit, but we are in the

process of planning a project and we’re going to take into account all the ideas for the project.

“It could be rather than building a tunnel and waiting

however many years for the paths to connect them, perhaps we would be able to come up with something more fiscally achievable for both of us.

“I’m going to leave it open

with the planning and design people to work with the stakeholders to figure out what the optimum way to built it where we can do something in the future.”



## ELECT <sup>Geoff</sup>DAWE MAYOR

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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, 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*

CAMPAIGN HOTLINE: 905-751-0734 EMAIL: [Geoff@GeoffDawe.com](mailto:Geoff@GeoffDawe.com) WEBSITE: [www.GeoffDawe.com](http://www.GeoffDawe.com)

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## Do You Know Your Municipal Candidates?

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Every candidate has been offered a page to communicate directly with residents. Ask questions, get their responses.

**ON OCTOBER 25TH MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT**



## Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

# Story behind knee operation

Two weeks ago, Poor Ronnie started his column off this way:

"By this time next week, I expect to be a mess. "And in the hospital." Last week, I was just that: a mess. I sported an eight-inch gash on my knee (cleverly hidden by a tensor bandage) and a pain that was simply indescribable.

The operation, to replace my left knee, happened right on schedule Monday, September 13, at Southlake Regional Health Centre, where, I have learned, things always happen when they say they will.

Southlake - it was once known as York County Hospital - is in Newmarket and it is Aurora's hospital.

I had some bad experiences at the former York County Hospital, so I wasn't looking forward to returning there last week.

Especially when I had to walk to the operating table where Aurora's Dr. Patrick Gamble waited, with an anaesthetist on the sidelines.

He (the anaesthetist) told me what he was going to do, but I don't remember a thing, except waking up with this bandage around my knee.

Then, they said, you'll spent four or five days in the hospital so we can feed you pills and keep an eye on you.

Three days later I was at home. And two days after that, was back at work.

My biggest fear, that of being yelled at by a group of nurses, never happened.

If anything, the nurses at Southlake should be honoured and cast in bronze somewhere.

They put up with all kinds of nonsense from a myriad of patients, and I was probably one of them.

My favourite person there was a young nurse by the name of Leslee Beatty, and when I tried to explain that's not how she would spell her first name, her nametag made a liar out of me.

It was "Leslee" and not "Leslie". Reminded me of the phrase "call me anything, but don't call me late for breakfast".

At any rate, I apparently impressed everyone so much with my progress that they said - and Dr. Gamble agreed - I could go home Thursday.

So, my wife Patricia, who took the photo below, won the job of taking care of me at home instead of at the hospital.

And to all those who sent best wishes, thank you for restoring my totally erroneous belief that no one reads this column.

You know who you are. I'd name you all but I'd probably forget someone and that wouldn't be fair.



## Letters to the Editor

# No rules in Aurora for signs

To the editor,

I know where I live, but I'm starting to question some of the others who grace this paper.

Last week Brad Snell wrote in with his concern that Aurora candidates were in violation of the Municipal Elections Act.

He falsely accused the candidates that had already erected election signs, which includes all Mayoral candidates not just the two he mentioned, of being in "direct" violation of the Municipal Elections act. And no less than 3 times.

Apparently Mr. Snell doesn't do his homework.

If he had bothered to read pg 44 of the Candidates handbook available on the town website here: [www.town.aurora.on.ca/app/wa/doc?docId=10264](http://www.town.aurora.on.ca/app/wa/doc?docId=10264) he would have found the following:

The Municipal Elections Act does not address where election signs may be located or when they may be erected except for provisions at a voting place during the hours of the poll, and any municipal regulations that may be in effect.

Election Signs may be erected subject to the jurisdiction for roads, once the Candidate has filed a nomination.

Why Mr Snell felt it applicable to mention when it is legal to erect signs in Newmarket, or quote bylaws in Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville is beyond me. I guess the fact that he was writing to an Aurora paper, regarding signs in the town of Aurora escaped him.

Mr. Snell even failed to name one of the candidates on the signs he found so objectionable. He mistakenly referred to Roger

Clowater as Doug Clowater.

I guess Mr. Snell is neither detail oriented, or interested in doing the requisite research before voicing his opinion. Considering he himself is a candidate for council in Newmarket you'd think he would want to present himself worthy of the position he is seeking.

If Mr. Snell had any argument regarding the timing of election signs he would have voiced it back in May which is when Roger Clowater decided to erect his. It's hard to be upset about seeing election signs in mid September, but May?

And then there's the matter of placement.

When driving on Wellington Street West after exiting Aurora and heading towards Dufferin St. in Snowball, King Township one can see two large "elect Phyllis Morris" signs prominently displayed on

Ms St. Kitts' front lawn.

I know that Ms St. Kitts believes that she is an Auroran, but geography says otherwise.

Snowball is not within the boundaries of Aurora and the election signs albeit are not in violation of Aurora's election sign bylaws most assuredly are in violation of King Township's.

A complaint has been filed and I expect that they should soon be removed.

Perhaps Mr. Snell and Ms St. Kitts should pay more attention to the municipal politics within their own jurisdiction and not interfere with Aurora's. Aurora has, and is completely capable of looking after itself.

I know because that is where I live.

**Christopher Watts  
Aurora**

# Writer should have looked further

To the editor,

I am writing in response to last week's letter to the editor (It's too early for election signs).

As Mr. Snell stated, it was his opinion that "this was kind of early to display these signs" as he had looked into the

Municipal Elections Act and according to certain bylaws in Newmarket, Markham as well as Whitchurch-Stouffville which do not permit the posting of election signs until 25 days before the election date. He wanted the signs removed until at least until September

25th.

Perhaps he should have looked a little further at the Municipal By-laws for Aurora (By-law number 4897-07) which DOES permit the use of signs earlier than our neighbouring municipalities. This has also been confirmed by Mr. John Popple, Manager

of By-law services for Aurora, who has attested to the fact that our ever growing team of hard-working volunteers is fully compliant with the rules and regulations that govern Aurora.

**Stephen Forsey  
Aurora**

# Candidate position: not for this reader

To the editor,

It is both interesting and disheartening to learn that one of the candidates for mayor of Aurora is advocating sexual discrimination.

Any gender requirement is purely, simply, and solely sexual discrimination. Sexual discrimination in choosing a mate is appropriate. It is also appropriate in choosing friends.

The choice of candidate for any public office should be on the basis of ability. Neither sex nor race should ever enter into it. Nor should religion, provided their religious constraints

are their own, and do not interfere with any other person's rights or freedoms.

**William Hastings  
Aurora**

# Someone stole his signs

To the editor,

I received a phone call on the evening of Monday September 13, from an Aurora resident, advising me that someone had stolen one of my election signs.

The resident, currently not a known supporter, was absolutely appalled by this type of activity in our town, and wanted to let me know what had transpired.

The resident was able to provide a reasonably good description of the vehicle, (a silver or gray mini-van) and the two males (one middle age and one younger) that occupied it.

The vehicle and the offenders parked on the street in front of the resident's home, and waited as a couple passed on the sidewalk.

Once the couple passed, the younger of the two offenders got out of the vehicle and brazenly grabbed the sign, threw it in the back of the van and the two sped off.

The first action I took

after speaking with the resident was to get in touch with my sign team to find out if it may have been one of them.

Of course once I learned that it was not, I started the process of reporting this incident to York Regional Police.

The officer I spoke with was quite offended – his comment was that this type of activity strikes at the heart of democracy, as its purpose is to deny the individual whose sign is being stolen the right to be known. Needless to say, the Police take this very seriously.

This type of callous, illegal and destructive activity is unacceptable and indicates a serious lack of respect among some individuals within our town.

I would like to call on all candidates for Aurora council to join me in denouncing this type of activity and behaviour.

And, I would also like to call on residents to be watchful for this type of activity in your neighbourhood and to be vigilant in

reporting any theft and/or vandalism to the authorities and the affected candidate.

Thank you to the resi-

dent that took the time to inform me.

**Geoff Dawe  
Aurora**

## THE AURORAN

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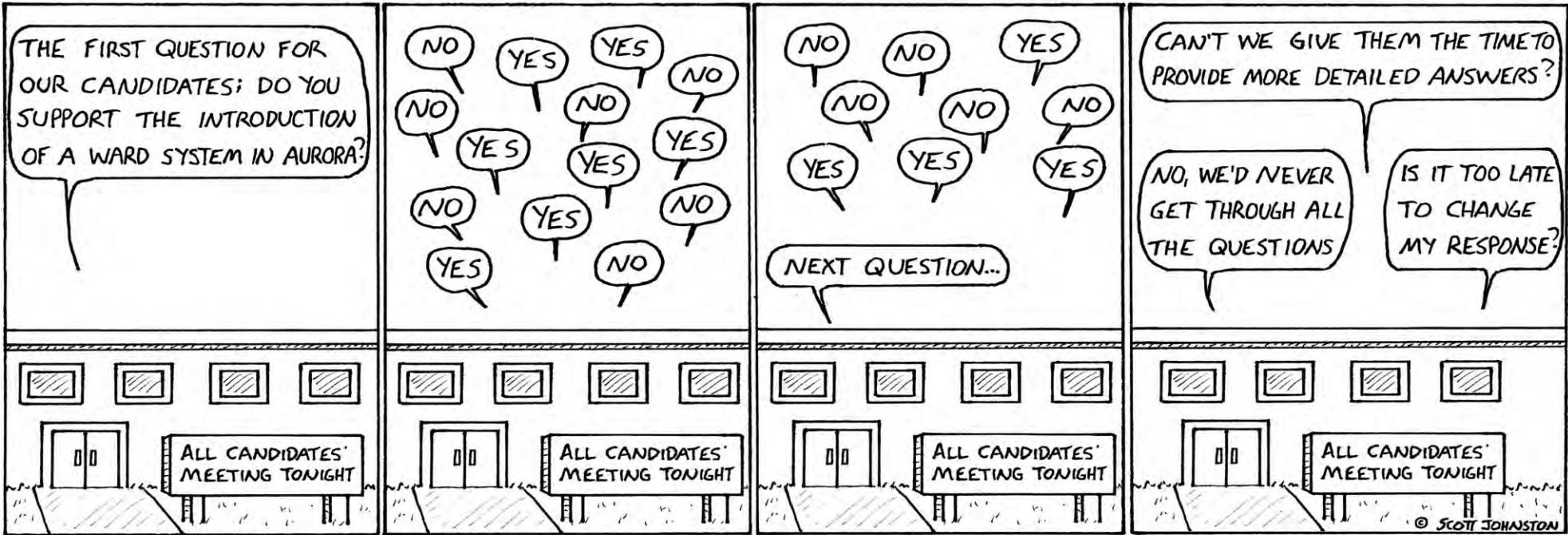
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## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

## More from the exit interview

As you may know, Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas and Deputy Mayor Bob McRoberts announced a few weeks ago that they would not be seeking re-election this fall.

This is the second of a two column “exit” interview with Ms Collins-Mrakas.

**What do you think has been the Council's three biggest accomplishments this past term and what has made you frustrated?**

“Personally, I think the three greatest accomplishments are the restoration of the Church Street School, the endorsement/creation of the Wildlife park and the building of the ball diamond.

“My frustration? Well, suffice to say that I found the distractions from the Town's agenda to be quite frustrating. Many instances of conflict could have been avoided had there been greater effort from Council as a whole towards collaboration and consensus-building as opposed to continued confrontation.”

**What is the Town's biggest two challenges / opportunities over the coming term?**

“Our biggest challenge is the management of appropriate growth and its attendant issues – such as infrastructure development – in particular water and sewer

infrastructure, traffic management and community services. I still feel that this is our greatest challenge – though I would add, managing aging infrastructure is of similar importance. How we address the costs associated with replacement sewers, roads, bridges etc will be a significant challenge facing future councils.

“Our biggest opportunity? I would say is the restoration of the Heritage Centre – we have the opportunity to have a magnificent restored heritage building and cultural facility right in the heart of our community that could serve a multitude of functions in our town. As a Council, I think we can be proud of the fact that we recognized this opportunity and took action to ensure that this magnificent edifice was restored and a working cultural centre was created. The Church Street School will stand proudly in the heart of our community for generations to come.”

**What advice can you suggest to those seeking to replace you? How much work is involved?**

“When we began our term, we were provided with a Saturday orientation meeting at the Town Hall – replete with a bus trip to Town sites and properties of interest.

“I found this meeting and the information supplied to be very very helpful. If past practice is any guide, at the

orientation meeting staff will provide a very handy binder of information on all the current/pending issues, I would advise incoming members to review this binder very carefully.

“I would advise the incoming council to become familiar with rules and procedures of Council so that they understand their role as members of Council as well as how council meetings should be run. I would advise new councilors that new ideas should be welcome and they should bring forward their new initiatives and seek support for those ideas through collaboration with both Council colleagues and staff.

“Finally, being a member of Council is a great deal of work, but it can be immensely rewarding. I wish the incoming Council all the best and look forward to the great things they will accomplish for the benefit of our community.”

This corner thanks both Ms Collins-Mrakas and Deputy Mayor Bob McRoberts for their service to our community over the past four years and wishes them the best in their future endeavours.

Stephen can be contacted at:  
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

### Letters to the Editor

# Survey shows we want trails, cycling

To the editor,

Advocacy for Aurora's evolving off-road trails network has been carried out by a few dedicated volunteers, so far.

Often it has been quite obvious during public meetings that politicians would be more comfortable if there were at least some supporters in the gallery while yet another presentation was being delivered in support of this or that aspect of the off-road trails network.

And for all that matter, it would be more comfortable for the advocate as well.

The lack of a visible constituency is a real concern. But mobilizing such visible constituency is a major undertaking in itself.

It is not that supporters are not out there.

In a statistically valid household survey Aurorans have overwhelmingly indicated not only that walking and cycling are the most favoured recreational activities, but that they are prepared to invest in the

expansion of the off-road trails corridors.

That survey was conducted in June, 2008.

Moreover, since then, in the two public open houses and the online survey related to the Trails Master Plan study, from March until now, the Aurora public has again responded with practically nothing but positive comments.

So far, the existing trail sections do not offer much opportunity to accommodate commuter traffic, such as walking to schools, or work, or to shopping.

But that is certainly planned to be possible as the trails network gets denser.

It is not just for recreation.

During the discussions related to the Trails Master Plan Study, one major concern has been raised time and again, especially in relation to building grade separated crossings, particularly underpasses, of rail tracks and major roads: the cost of such undertakings.

We are very accustomed

to spending millions of dollars for roads, for the motorized traffic.

Of late, the senior governments, the Province, and the Region, are also investing in transit, in an affirmative action way, with billions of dollars.

But spending tax dollars for self-propelled modes of traffic, for walking and cycling, as relatively low cost as that may be, that has not been a priority.

Yet the planning reports and reports on health statistics, they are full of support for having infrastructure to allow us to be more active.

The term active transportation is indeed in vogue – it is a cool concept.

Also, one of the aims of having off-road trails is to reconnect people with nature.

That sort of aim was behind the formation of just about all recreational trails organizations, starting with the Bruce Trail, and including the Oak Ridges Trail Association.

There are similar organi-

zations for some of the public parks, including Algonquin Park. In that case, they are called “Friends of Algonquin Park”.

In New York, in a strictly urban context, there is an organization called Friends of the High Line Trail, formed when advocates wanted a former rail line converted to a linear park with a renaturalized environment.

These friends are involved in raising funds to construct trail amenities, and pay for plantings, and even for the expansion of that trail into other unused sections of the former rail line. And they volunteer or fund maintenance to boot.

I believe that the time has come to put a similar organization on the map in Aurora.

Preferably it would be an organization with charitable status to really assist with fundraising efforts.

That would enable those of us who appreciate the benefits that off-road trails can, and already do offer, to

put our energies into volunteer work, and into fundraising.

And it would give politicians the comfort to be able

to point to a visible constituency.

Klaus Wehrenberg  
Aurora

## Big Brothers back in Aurora

To the editor,

We are back!! Big Brothers Big Sisters of York would like to thank all those that helped us move to our new location at 350 Industrial Parkway South in Aurora.

In the end, this support benefits approximately 450 children currently served by our agency.

We would like to thank Sherwin Williams Paint in Aurora for donating the paint and to the volunteers that actually helped us paint - Neighbourhood Network volunteers, Steve Hardy and members of our Board of Directors and Staff for their enthusiasm

and community spirit.

Cubeit from Richmond Hill supplied us with a storage unit which was a huge help to us with the move. Many of our Big and Little Brothers and Big and Little Sisters also pitched in during the days of the move.

Special thanks to Cisco Systems, Netversity Solutions and Unity Telecom for their invaluable help setting up our computers and phone system.

To everyone involved—we couldn't have done it without you.

Mary Lynn Stephenson  
Development and Events  
Co-ordinator

Letters to the Editor

Reader questions Town employment stats

To the editor,

Mark Twain is often quoted as saying there are three types of lies. Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics.

I find Mayor Morris' new math in her letter to the Auroran last week regarding employees leaving Aurora typical of her spin on the truth. She would have us believe that the 45 departed

employees are less in number than either 33 or 35 from prior terms Percentages don't cut it, it's the people count that matters.

And what about the actual positions that were affected? Close to half were in senior or mid management. A short list would include the Chief Administrative Officer, the

Director of Planning, the Public Works Director, the Treasurer, 2 Clerks and 1 Deputy Clerk, the Works Manager, the Solicitor and the Assistant Solicitor, oh and lets not forget the Integrity Commissioner. You know the one that had to get a cease and desist order against the Mayor to end her comments about him.

As for dodging the issue of severance pay to protect priva-

cy, how about just giving us the total for the last four years if an individual year might be too revealing. a ball park figure would suffice, and while you are at it throw in the legal fee costs involved.

I'm sure voters will be interested in that statistic.

B. Heffer  
Aurora

Reader still waiting for answers

To the editor,

I would like to offer a note of thanks to the Auroran and the Mayor for responding (at least in part) to the question that I first posed to the Town last April, however at the same time I would like to point out that my main question has yet to be answered.

As has been previously noted, I was asked to pay \$30 as part of a Freedom of Information request in order to ascertain if the turn over of senior staff was typical or was in fact some kind of anomaly. I was reluctant to pay for an answer to such a simple and straight forward question given that I felt this was a question that council should have been asking itself, at no cost to me. I have since heard that two councillors did ask this same question, with apparently no response as far as I am aware. After paying the requested fee and receiving a response very similar in content to the Mayor's most recent response to the Auroran, I am still waiting for a response to this rather obvious question under the circumstances.

As stated numerous times, I

Stop and smell the roses

To the editor,

We have to tell our Aurora Citizens to take a stroll on Yonge Street. The floral planters are right at their peak and absolutely breathtaking. I remember asking Council for \$200 to purchase ten wooden barrels to cut in half to place on Yonge Street. The Mayor at the time, Evelyn Buck, was so pleased to see the few flowers appear. When Jim took over, he gradually upgraded each year to an outstanding parade of vibrant flora. I don't think that there is a street more beautiful than ours. Congratulations to Jim and his staff for making this happen.

Norm Weller  
Aurora

am trying to address if it is typical that virtually all of the SENIOR staff save for one have left the town's employment during a single term. It is my understanding that approximately 20 senior and mid level management have left the town and there are rumblings of staff discontent, therefore I think that my question is a reasonable one to ask given the expense and loss of experience at a senior level that we appear to be witnessing.

The Mayor seems to have skirted my main question regarding senior staff turnover by suggesting that TOTAL staff turn over is consistent with previous council terms a copy of my question ran in the Auroran and was sent to council and the Mayor even went as far as to inform a reporter that all I had to do was ask her and I would have received a response at no cost. The question has been posed, I've paid my money and I'm still waiting.

In true political fashion, the Mayor went as far as to suggest that the staff turn over resulted in part from scheduled senior staff retirements which presented new job opportunities for others. I would like to hear what our former CAO, John Rogers has to say about that interpretation of the current work environment at the town and I am not even going to pursue the questions raised by firing of the first Integrity Commissioner.

In addition to asking if the level of senior staff turn over was typical I also questioned recently if a 20% increase in town staffing during difficult economic times made business sense given that I was under the impression that the town was attempting to balance its budget. I fully appreciate that stimulus spending could be seen as a justification, but I have seen no evidence of fiscal restraint and I have to question if our priorities are not in need or review given that affordable housing, the food bank and even support for local women's shelters are not even on Council's radar, while jazz festivals, parades, a cultural center, trees, trails, a baseball diamond, legal

battles (both internal and external) and even \$400,000 to restore only part of a deteriorating log cabin are given priority.

I trust that my experience with council should serve as a cautionary tale to the approximate 38% of eligible voters that likely plan to exercise their democratic right on October 25th... the lesson being that "all may not be what it initially appears to be", especially when it comes to our municipal politics. At least some of the promises made in the

2006 election were directed towards the desire to foster a more open, transparent, tolerant, fiscally responsible and caring council however the success of these objectives does not appear to me to be supported by the facts as far as I can see, That said, on October 25th we all have to make that assessment for ourselves based on the evidence before us.

Richard Johnson  
Aurora



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- **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

# Move chicanes to Conover, she suggests

To the Editor:

In the article on page 12 of the Auroran, dated week of September 14th, Councillor Al Wilson says, "We have a problem and I

haven't seen a solution yet."

Well, I have a solution to offer! There are several chicanes and speed bumps on Walton Drive, which I am sure the residents of that area would be more than

happy to see removed, and, if possible, reinstalled elsewhere (feasible?) What's good for Walton Drive, should also be good for the residents of Conover Avenue.

For Aurora Councillors, therefore, it should be an easy decision! But rather, is the up-coming election having an impact on suggesting such an unpopular solution – installing chicanes AND

speed bumps on the same street?

**Rosalyn Gonsalves  
Aurora**

P.S. I wonder if the mayor

and councillors have ever driven through Walton Drive during the winter months, or when the school buses are dropping off students at Lester B. Pearson and Ecole St. Jean Schools?

# Conover woes bother residents, too: reader

To the editor,

**Re: September 14th article "Conover Avenue speeding still bothering councillors".**

...and residents also.  
We are fed up and hope that the latest direction by council to send this speeding issue back to town staff will be conducted with the utmost diligence and honesty.  
The first traffic counts were

conducted on May 12th and it was evident at that time speeding was an issue.

At council's request further traffic counts were to be conducted at times of the day when traffic was at its peak, instead staff does a count for a five-hour period on a Saturday in the middle of the summer.

I fail to understand why I had to present to council some suggestions that could be done to improve Conover

Avenue to make the road look less wide and open.

These ideas should have come from staff and been done back in May.

Council and staff need to review their "warrants" to create a more flexible framework for street design to curb such issues as speeding, as driving habits have changed over the years.

Staff needs to "think outside the box" and look at the real issue which is speed not

volumes as Mr. Simanovskis is focusing on.

Just to give some idea how bad the speeding is, a radar board was installed in July.

I have copies of printouts for August 12 to 17 and August 27 to 31.

The fastest recorded speed during August 12 to 17 was 92 kms at 12.48 during the day and the fastest recorded speed during August 27 - 31 was 103 kms at 8.59 a.m.

Travelling these speeds on a posted 40 km residential street is ludicrous.

What chance would a child or family pet have if they darted out in front of one of these speeding vehicles?

As I said in my presentation to council, I firmly believe there is a suitable solution.

Whatever the solution, it will have to consist of a combination of some passive and physical methods.

It first has to start with the

town staff who have to focus on speed and how to best control it, this means looking at the problem with an open mind and taking innovative approaches, and setting aside their warrants, guidelines and criteria that look at volumes.

Once one part of the equation is fixed the other part will be far less of an issue.

**Allan White  
Aurora**



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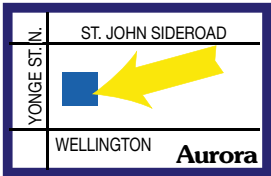


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# AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## Results to Sunday, September 19





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Rep League

**Barrie 3, Tyke Select A 2** - Charles Huxley 1G 1A, Ryan Bryden 1G, Caden McHenry 1A, Nicholas Giorgio 1A, Michael Crowe, 1A.

**Tyke Select 3 Richmond Hill Kings 3** - Nicholas Giorgio 1G, Thomas Hollett 1G, Todd Cook 1A, Michael Crowe 1A, Ryan Bryden 1A, Ryan Catania 1A, Charles Huxley 1G.

**Novice A Tigers 3, Clarington 2** - Jake Piper 1A, James Sproul 2G, Liam Mahoney 1G, Eddie Cobbold 1A, Justin Hicks 1A, Brett Pearce1A.

**Novice A Tigers 6, Guyelph 0** - Justin Lacroix and Dereck Avery, shutouts, Harrison Bennett 1A, Jake Piper 1A, Riley Klugerman 2G 1A, Kazuki Negishi 1A, James Sproul 1A, Liam Mahoney 2A, Joshua Torres 1A, Carson Maybury 1G, Brett Pearce 2G, Eddie Cobbold 1A, Justin Hicks 1A, Jace Jackson 1G, Nolan Michelberger 2A.

**Novice A Tigers 5, Bradford 2** - Jake Piper 1G 1A, Carson Maybury 1A, Brett Pearce 1A, Jonathan Gagnon 1G 1A, Riley Klugerman 1G 1A, Justin Hicks 1G, Brandin Harris 1A, Jace Jackson 1G, Dereck Avery 1A.

**Novice A Tigers 10, Schomberg 1** - Liam Mahoney 2G 1A, Harrison Bennett 1A, Riley Klugerman 3G 1A, James Sproul 1G 1A, Brett Pearce 1A, Eddie Cobbold 1A, Jonathan Gagnon 1G, Justin Hicks 1G 1A, Brandin Harris 2A, Jace Jackson 1G, Jake Piper 1G, 2A.

**Minor Atom AA Tigers 6, Oshawa 0** - Tyler Sawyer 2G 1A, Anthony DiPietro 1G 1A, Wesley Reid 2G 1A, Ben Liotta 2A, Harris Goan 1A, Luke Jarvis 1G, Myles Vasilevski 1A, Craig Therkildsen 1A, Trevor Dungey 1A, Hunter Wong, shutout.

**Minor Atom AA Tigers 6, Scarborough 4** - Wesley Reid 2G, 1A, Craig Therkildsen 1A, Anthony DiPietro 2G, Harris Goan 1G, 1A, Jeremy Gonsalves 1G, 1A, Myles Vasilevski 1A, Whitby Wildcats 3, Minor

**Atom AA Tigers 2** - Luke O'Keefe 1G, Wesley Reid 1A, Anthony DiPietro 1G.

**TNT 2, Minor Atom AA Tigers 1** - Anthony DiPietro 1G, Andrew Wolanski 1A, Tyler Sawyer 1A.

**Minor Atom AA Tigers 2, Richmond Hill 0** - Ben Liotta 1G, Andrew Park 1G, Wesley Reid 1A, Tyler Sawyer 1A, Matteo Orlandi, shutout.

**Atom A Tigers 5, Richmond Hill 2** - Scott Rumble 1G 1A, Ben Spittle 1G, Ryan Jamieson 1A, Cameron Tyndall 1A, Andrew Buffa 1A, Anthony Capraro 2A, Carson Yeomans 3G.

**Atom AE Tigers 4, Barrie 1. Atom AE Tigers 2, Barrie 2. Atom AE Tigers 5, Stouffville 1. Atom AE Tigers 9, Stouffville 2. Whitby Blues 4, Minor Peewee A Tigers 1** - Mark Kalmisto 1G, Clayton Allen 1A, Eric McGhie 1A.

**Peewee AA Tigers 4, West Mall Lightning 2** - Patrick Servideo 1G, Alec Magnante 2G, Tyler Williams 1G, Cameron Morrison 1A, Keegan Matthew 1A, Evan Woodhead 1A, James Wyndham West 1A, Taylor Kauffeldt 1A.

**Peewee AA Tigers 3, Vaughan Panthers 0** - Austin Pringle, shutout, Cameron Morrison 1G, James Wyndham West 2G, Jack Pecora 1A, Keegan Matthew1A, Taylor Kauffeldt, 1A, Evan Woodhead, 1A, Tyler Williams 1A.

**Vaughan Rangers 1. Peewee AA Tigers 0.**

**Peewee AA Tigers 4, Humber Valley Sharks 2** - Cameron Morrison 2G, Tyler Williams 1G, Patrick Servideo 1A, Taylor Kauffeldt 1A, Jared Brown 1A, Austin Pringle 1A, Keegan Matthew 1G, 1A.

**Peewee AE Tigers 1, Beeton 0** - Jeffrey McKay 1G, Louie Kirkos, and Adam Leader, shutouts, Michael DaCosta 1A.

**Minor Bantam A Tigers 1, Caledon Hawks 1 Minor Bantam A Tigers 3, Caledon Hawks 0. Bantam AA Tigers 4,**

**Orangeville Tigers 1** - Jordan Nanos 1G 1A, Nick Scott 1G 1A, Brett Thiessen 1G 2A, Nic Delzotto 1G, Blake Wallace 1A, Konner McMillan 1A.

**Ajax Knights 3, Bantam AA Tigers 3** - John McDonald 2G, Konner McMillan 1A, Connor Cowl 1A, Quentin Campbell 1A, Lucas Pozzebon 1G.

**Mississauga Braves 5, Bantam AA Tigers 2** - Brett Thiessen 1G, Spencer Green 1G, Konner McMillan 1A, Quentin Campbell 1A, Lucas Pozzebon 1A.

**Bantam AA Tigrs 4, Georgina 4** - Spencer Green 2G, Quentin Campbell 1G 1A, Lucas Pozzebon 1G 1A, Jordan Nanos 2A, Nic Delzotto 1A, Jake McKee 1A, Blake Wallace 1A.

**Bantam A Tigers 5, Whitby Blues 2** - Liam Coll 2G 1A, Jack Caldwell 2G 1A, Liam Beresford 1G 2A, Paul Neophytou 2A, Austin Persaud 1A, Evan Jackson 1A, Alec Ground 1A.

**Bantam AE Tigers 5. Stouffville 4** - Nathan Sinclair 1G 1A, Brayden Beswick 1G 1A, Scott Kostin 1G 1A, Kyle Nice 1G, Ryan McGolrick 1G, Nicholas Steiner 1A, Nathan Nealon 1A, Robert Doswell 1A.

**Barrie 4, Bantam AE Tigers 1** - Brayden Beswick 1G, Joel Gouveia 1A.

**Bantam AE Tigers 3, Georgina 2** - Nicholas Steiner 2G, Joel Gouveia 1G, Kyle Strachan 1A, Brayden Beswick 1A, Matthew Reynolds 1A, Scott Kostin 1A, Nelson Hossack 1A.

**Ajax 4, Minor Midget AE Tigers 1** - Matthew Reeves 1G, Eliot Harkin 1A.

**Minor Midget AE Tigers 4, TNT 3** - Colin Laird 1G 1A, Eliot Harkin 2G, Casy Severini 1G, Kyle Fedec 1A, Connor McQuillan 2A, Jeffrey Lam.

# Tigers have 4 points after three games

The new-look Aurora Tigers of the Junior A league debuted before fans Friday and Sunday, and came up with a pair of victories.

Added to their season opening loss to the Brampton Capitals 4-3 last week, Aurora has not been beaten in front of its fans this year.

Their first game of the season in front of Aurora fans came Friday night as they handed the Burlington Cougars an 8-5 drubbing.

Sunday afternoon, they edged the front-running Markham Waxers 5-4 by scoring three markers in the third period. Until Sunday, Markham had been undefeated this season.

James Prigione started his third consecutive game in goal and came up with several big stops to thwart the Waxers.

Scoring for Aurora was Sloan Stewart with two, Jordan Gidaro, Daniel Lisi and Ryan Johnson.

Tigers' Patrick Moran added two assists.

Under new coach, Aurora's Jim Richmond, there is no one Tiger standing out in the crowd.

It's all about teamwork.

Forward Jordan Gidaro seemed to set the pace, firing three goals and adding thee assists in the final two games, although he was kept off the scoreboard in the Brampton contest.

The Tigers, this year, are playing in a league with the Newmarket Redmen, and fans will get an opportunity to see the Yonge Street rivals in action this

Thursday night in Newmarket.

That game gets underway at 7.30 p.m.

Also in the league are the Buffalo Junior Sabres, the Cobourg Cougars, the Collingwood Blackhawks, the Dixie Beehives, the Georgetown Raiders, the Hamilton Red Wings, the Huntsville Otters, the Kingston Voyageurs, the Lindsay Muskies, the Milton Icehawks, the Mississauga Chargers, the North York Rangers, the Oakville Blades, the Orangeville Crushers, the Peterborough Stars, the Pickering Panthers, the St. Mike's Buzzers, Stouffville Spirit, the Streetsville Derbys, the Toronto Junior Canadiens, the Trenton Golden Hawks, the Upper Canada Patriots, the Vaughan Vipers, the Villanova Knights, the Wellington Dukes and the Whitby Fury.

<b>BRAMPTON 4</b> <b>AURORA 3</b>
<b>First Period</b> A - Brett Priestap (Moran) 17.34
<b>Second Period</b> B - Adam Scuglia (Laidlaw, Pintaric) 1.11 B - Josh Ruys (Dawe, Muise) PP 6.26
<b>Third Period</b> A - Matt Prinsen (unassisted) 6.28 A - Ryan Johnson (unassisted) SH 15.51 B - Blake Lovell (Abramson, Muise) PP 16.45 B - Cody Dawe (Ocampo, Abramson) 17.28
<b>AURORA 8</b> <b>BURLINGTON 5</b>

<b>First Period</b> A - Kirk Evelyn (Priestap) PP 6.37 B - Patrick Stillar (Carr, Brewer) PP 8.32 A - Brendan Bell (Cerilli, MacPherson) 12.01 A - Ryan Purvis (Gidaro, Chiarantano) PP 14.57 A - Jordan Gidaro (MacPherson) 18.09
<b>Second Period</b> A - Jordan Gidaro (Moran, Purvis) PP 3.17 A - Justin Nice (Johnson, Purvis) 5.18 B - Jason Popek (Gottzmann, Kiss) PP 12.46 B - Jeff Gottzmann (Juha, Kiss) 17.56
<b>Third Period</b> A - Brendan Bell (Gidaro, Cerilli) 8.00 A - Kirk Evelyn (Moran, Johnson) SH 9.31 B - Jason Popek (Carr, Gertsakis) PP 11.36 B - Patrick Stillar (Carr, Gertsakis) PP 12.08

<b>AURORA 5</b> <b>MARKHAM 4</b> <b>First Period</b> A - Ryan Johnson (Evely, Cerilli) PP 3.06 M- Tyler Wynn (Liukkonen, Kendra) PP 19.39 A - Sloan Stewart (Gidaro) 19.58
<b>Second Period</b> M - Jamie Kendra (Tanev, Lewis) 5.56 M - Doug Reid (Hepler, Higley) PP 18.30
<b>Third Period</b> A - Sloan Stewart (Chiarantano) 3.59 A - Jordan Gidaro (Stewart, Moran) PP 6.32 A - Daniel Lisi (Johnson, Moran) 10.42 M - Calvin Higley (Rodrigues, Robertson) 15.36



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# Town approves Kolbe field partnership

The Town of Aurora will partner with the York Catholic District School Board on the construction of a new artificial turf field at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School, after Councillors formally gave their approval for an agreement in principle last week.

Representatives from both St. Maximilian Kolbe and the school board as a whole were on hand Tuesday for the vote, which was unanimous in favour of the agreement.

"We are here to express our appreciation for the

approval in principle for an artificial field," said a representative of the Board of Trustees for the York Catholic District School Board. "We believe both the Board and the Town will benefit from such a partnership."

"We thank the Town Council and Town staff for their deliberations and efforts on behalf of this important partnership. We also realise that the detailed work is about to begin and we are very much up to the task and look forward to sustaining a long and rewarding relationship with the Town of Aurora."

Mayor Phyllis Morris and Councillors expressed equal enthusiasm for the deal at the meeting.

"We're already getting enquiries from people [in the community] as to how they can participate and help," said Mayor Morris. "Good news travels fast."

Councillor Al Wilson also took the opportunity to thank both Town Staff and the school board for this endeavour.

"I think that the public wants to see public facilities utilized to the best possible and sufficient way," he said. "I

applaud staff for bringing this forward and let's keep bringing this forward."

Councillors voiced their support for the project at the previous week's general committee meeting.

According to a report submitted to Councillors earlier this month from Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation Services, and CAO Neil Garbe, the recent Parks and Recreation Master Plan identifies the need for a new multi-use field in the Town, and upgrading the proposed St. Maximilian Kolbe natural turf pitch fit the bill.

"A multi-use field would give scheduling priority to field sports other than soccer in order to allow programs such as rugby, football, lacrosse, etc., to grow," they said. "The artificial turf field at Sheppard's Bush would then remain configured primarily for soccer usage and not expanded to accommodate football."

# AFLC retrofit in the works

The person lift at the Aurora Family Leisure Centre could be upgraded to a "proper elevator device" in a \$150,000 retrofit project for the Centre.

The elevator project hinges on an application to the Enabling Fund through Human Resources and Skills Development Canada's (HRSDC) Office of Disability Issues for a \$75,000 grant, while the balance of the conversion will be funded from the Town's Accessibility Reserve Fund.

Councillors signed off on the lift project and the grant application at last Tuesday's Council Meeting.

"In 2005, the Town con-

tracted APC consulting group to conduct full accessibility audits on some of our municipal buildings," said Aurora's Town Clerk John Leach in a report to Council. "As a result of these audits, a recommendation was made to retrofit the AFLC lift to a proper elevator device when and if the funds become available."

According to Mr. Leach's report, the Town's Accessibility Advisory Committee, the Accessibility Advisor, and several user groups have indicated renovating the person lift as a "high priority."

"However, the cost of the renovation has restricted them from identifying it as an item to move ahead

with any of their work plans," said Mr. Leach.

"Approval of this grant would provide half of the funding required to complete the necessary project while allowing staff to ensure that they are able to accomplish as much as possible with the limited funding pool available for accessibility projects."


Councillors voted in favour of the project.

"I would like to say that this elevator needs to be replaced so badly," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner. "It is really disgraceful that it hasn't come before us."

"It is nice to see all the letters of support that were in this report as well," added Mayor Phyllis Morris. "Good work."



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# JUNO winner to play Cultural Centre this week

**By Brock Weir**  
**Aurora reporter**

When Paul Neufeld was a budding musician, he was drawn to improvisation, the act of interacting with other musicians in "real time".

Likening being a member of an orchestra to being a "cog in a machine", interacting with people and having his music affect his audience and vice-versa is what attracted him to the genre.

"There are other ways to improvise, but jazz sounds really good and is tons of fun," says Mr. Neufeld, the Juno Award-winning pianist, and Aurora resident, who is bringing his varied musical talents to the Aurora Cultural Centre in a series of monthly afternoon concerts, kicking off next Sunday.

"[These concerts] are just going to be at the [Centre's] world-class piano," he says. "That is what sort of ties the series together for me, these different artists playing with this

piano.

For these concerts, Mr. Neufeld has invited several of his friends to join him at the Centre brining an eclectic mix of music to Aurora audiences.

The first concert this Sunday features former Canadian Idol contestant Quisha Wint on the vocals, in an afternoon of gospel, soul and jazz. Future concerts will include Martin van de Ven on clarinet, Michael Occhipinti on the guitar, and Lester McLean on vocals and saxophone.

"I wanted a bit of variety," said Mr. Neufeld. "Part of the idea was that you've got this beautiful piano and you can play a lot of different kinds of music on the piano. I wanted something that hinted at some of the directions you might go.

"There is going to be some gospel and soul music, there is going to be some eastern European Klezmer music. There is going to be some jazz. The

idea of just mixing those things up just seemed like fun to me."

The musicians Mr. Neufeld is bringing in are all Toronto-based colleagues of his that he has worked with over the years.

"These are my friends, and people that I play with all the time who I feel comfortable with and just enjoy making music. They're all sort of warm personalities, people who are engaging with an audience, and that is part of why they are my friends."

For Mr. Neufeld, who has lived with his wife in Aurora for 10 years, this will be an opportunity to also showcase his own talent to friends.

"Most of the music I play is in Toronto, or I have to go somewhere pretty far to do it," he explains. "Of course, all my friends say fairly regularly, 'I don't want to have to go downtown to see you at a club.' Or 'I don't want to be up until 1 am on a Thursday to see you at some club downtown!'"

"That was a small part of the impetus to do this as well."

Mr. Neufeld not only regularly plays in jazz venues in Toronto and elsewhere, he goes beyond the genre, often playing his own music, and playing with a funk band that is more "dance oriented" to the likes of Prince and Michael Jackson – but he teaches as well.

Often teaching in music camps and adult workshops, Mr. Neufeld teaches anyone from kids to retirees.

"Teaching has always been a part of what I did," he says. "I think at the beginning, more as a practical matter as a way to make money, but I quickly realised I enjoyed doing it.

"First of all I like students of all ages. They're there to learn and I enjoy learning, and I enjoy being a part of someone else's learning. I enjoy the things I get from them; just that constant interplay of information and ideas has always been enjoy-

able to me."

Mr. Neufeld says he hopes the afternoon concerts will be an enjoyable attraction for audiences.

"I think the afternoons will be a very pleasant and comfortable experience for everyone," he says. "You can relax in your chair and enjoy some music in an inti-

mate setting.

Gospel, Soul, Jazz with guest artist Quisha Wint is on Sunday, September 26 from 2 – 4 pm at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Tickets are \$15 and are available at the Centre in advance or at the door.

For more information call (905) 713-1818.

# Motion offensive, says Buck

**From page 1**

Library during busier hours.

"Sometimes...the door needs to be closed so we can hear," she said. "Last night, for instance, and I don't think it was especially because of the resolution, but the door was open. Sometimes we close the door because we can't hear ourselves talk inside the door."

board for three years, but he is still a member. The objective is to cast negative reflection on the person who is running against Morris, but he wasn't there last night."

Although Mr. Dawe was indeed absent from the meeting, he told The Auroran he was aware of the motion from his board package and learned of the evening's events from others.

"It was an inappropriate motion because it implies impropriety on the part of the board and that person has never brought that up," said Mr. Dawe. "She has had ample opportunity to address this at the board and it was not handled in an appropriate manner, in my opinion."

Councillor Collins-Mrakas was on the same page as Councillor Buck and Mr. Dawe.

transparency in public matters.

"I have only been on this board a very short time," she said. "I asked for another report, and that again involved transparency and that was for the website. Is it politically motivated? No. It is motivated for the taxpayers. That is just my opinion and the board has decided, in their wisdom that they don't want that."

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## Senior Scape



In the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA), imagination rules supreme.

Sometimes imagination seeks plateaus of excellence out of reach, but often the enthusiasm of reaching for the seemingly unreachable, grants success.

The supposedly unattainable prize might be comparatively small or medium, such as complicated sewing or knitting, working with wood, or it could be assembling a cast of performers and producing a play or variety show, that demands patience to deal with personalities, in addition to the responsibilities of producing the show.

Jytte Gillies is among members with creative imaginations and Jytte has presented recorded operas including La Boheme, La Traviata and most recently, Madama Butterfly.

Opera generally is not a compelling attraction but the finest operas command attention, and these widely acclaimed operas draw enthusiastic audiences.

The Madama Butterfly presentation also featured acclaimed local opera singers Sarah Kyle and Joe Likuski with concert pianist David Kyle, playing the piano.

An appreciative audience approved the music performed, and the popularity of opera cultivated by Jytte, continues to grow among seniors.

The well-received version

of Madama Butterfly recorded in 1974, offered wonderful performances projected onto a screen.

Unfortunately, the length of the show became a little too long and in addition, the sub-titles appeared along the bottom of the screen, not easily readable from the rear seating.

However, the evening was a success for opera, and draws attention to the opera group established by Jytte in the Seniors' Centre.

People interested will find the opera group a wonderful addition to artistic retired life.

The group is informal and does not sing; it discusses opera, although they certainly enliven the proceedings by listening to recorded music.

This group is popular and for further information, call Jytte at 905-868-9070, or e-mail jyttegil@bell.net

Tuesday at 1 p.m., the Scrabble players assemble in the games room.

Scrabble players need to possess a reasonable vocabulary backed up with a dictionary, which is an excellent arbiter of whether an offering is really a word, or just a collection of letters hoping to creep into a game by astonishing the competition.

After a summer of indecision, regarding direction of the Evergreen Choir, the ASA regrettably bids Enid Maize farewell, but enthusiastically welcomes Richard Heinze, who directs the

Richmond Hill choir. In addition, Richard will now direct the ASA Evergreen Choir.

Richard is an excellent musical director and a gifted pianist, which is a necessity for a choir that strives resolutely to be as good as it can be.

The choir remains a vibrant activity of the ASA, and choir members will be required to pay activity fees in advance for the 36 weeks of the choirs' season.

Rehearsals will be each Wednesday afternoon, starting at 2 p.m.

Richard is an exciting addition to the ASA both as an accomplished director who can also provide the high-grade quality of piano playing without which, the choir would not attain its potential.

The Operations and Activity (O&A) committee resumed meeting after a summer recess and got right down to dealing with current events.

Karie, the Town coordinator, would like to see an O&A Advisory Panel formed of members regular in attendance, which at times of low attendance, could form a valid opinion and vote accordingly.

This is an appealing idea, but the idea behind the O&A is to draw representatives from each of the activities, who will consider the activities and problems of all activities, rather than designate a panel to perform in their absence.

Genealogy is a subject many members will speak to in passing but relatively few take the trouble to delve to any depth.

The subject is time consuming and often refuses to reveal information of any great merit, and yet on occasion, the floodgates open and a torrent of relative information reveals itself to the absolute delight of the researcher.

The ASA will introduce Gary Hicks, who will present Genealogy and inform the audience of practical methods on "How to Find Your Ancestors", and probably living relatives you did not know existed.

The date is Thursday, September 23rd at 2 p.m.

If genealogy catches on at the centre, expect a group to form and meet regularly to share methods of research.

Gary proposes to introduce internet sites offering free software that will enable the setup of a personal 'Family Tree'.

Now genealogy is appealing.

In addition, Gary will introduce strategies for finding long lost relatives; how to interpret census data; and how to post data to the internet.

Probably, the less common a surname is, the stronger the possibility of tracking it accurately.

Most of us possess names that will submit to persistent research, and that is an encouraging factor.

calling Karen Pyziak at 905-727-3123, extension 4340.

Lunch is included.

## Imagination important in ASA

By BRIAN WARBURTON

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The Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee invites the public to attend "the Energy Efficient Workshop" presented by Christopher Cooper, PhD., Editor-In-Chief of Edifice Magazine, a national magazine dedicated to the owners of historic and traditional homes in Canada.

Mr. Cooper has 25 years experience in the restoration of century old buildings in Canada and abroad.

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All it takes is education to find out how these houses work and how to perform simple tasks to make them more livable in their original condition.

"The Energy Efficient Old

Home Workshop" takes place Sunday, September 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

Tickets, at \$45 per person or \$70 for two individuals residing at same address, are available by

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## COMING EVENTS

### From page 2

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

\*\*\*\*

## Deal expected to be signed

### From page 1

Tuesday's Council Meeting, handing out flyers outlining their positions.

The ongoing negotiations were the subject of discussion at the Council Table.

"Our negotiating team has received a very clear mandate from this Council in that a fair and equitable, responsible agreement is the goal," Aurora Treasurer Dan Elliott told Councillors. "We value these staff and their contributions."

"They have been asking for compensation parity with their colleagues in other jurisdictions of the Region and we have collaboratively researched and identified what parity means. We have made a significant offer in that regard and believe that they ought to be satisfied as such."

"We do believe our negotiation team that our working relationship with CUPE and the bargaining team on the CUPE side has improved during this process. Our discussions have been frank; they've been open, have been collegial and have not been confrontational."

Details of the agreement will not be available until it is ratified by the Union and Council.

CUPE's Lorne Trevors said it is likely the agreement will be ratified by the union during meetings on

Saturday and then it is in Council's hands. No service disruption is expected to take place.

Council is expected to ratify the agreement at a Special Council meeting this Tuesday at 6.30 pm.

"The negotiating team is very pleased," said Mr. Trevors. "Very clearly the bargaining committee feels their issues were clearly heard and the Town bargaining committee worked hard to understand the issues and try to resolve them. We're pleased overall and we will be recommending acceptance for sure."

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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