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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

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FREE

Week of March 24, 2009

Klees decides this week

Newmarket-Aurora Member of the Provincial Party (MPP) Frank Klees said he would decide by "the end of the week" if he would again seek the leadership of the Progressive Conservative party.

Klees told The Auroran Sunday that the leadership would be decided

in June, months earlier than he had wanted.

Attending a provincial executive meeting Sunday afternoon, Klees said the majority of the executive wanted an earlier date to decide the leadership.

Klees, himself, preferred an elec-

tion in the fall.

"A later election would ensure people became familiar with the issues," he said. "It would also give the candidates more time to sell memberships into the party."

But the majority of the executive, he said, wanted "to get on with it", so the election will be held at the end of June.

The vacancy at the top showed up when PC leader John Tory attempted

Please see page 11

George St. School to remain open

In a follow up to a comment in a school board story last week concerning the possible closure of George Street Public School, York Region District School Board Trustee for Aurora-King, Gord Kerr and Ross Virgo, Manager of Communications for the Board, have confirmed "that the Board has no plans to close George Street

Public School".

Mr. Virgo went on to say that "there are no Aurora schools, other than Wells Street, that are under consideration for closure".

The next meeting on the fate of Wells Street Public School, the building that was once Aurora's first high school, is scheduled for April 30.

Aurora's Carley MacAdam-Thompson is the recipient of a stack of pancakes served by Aurora Lions Club president Fred Bullen Saturday, as the annual pancake breakfast returned to Sheppard's Bush last week after a one-year absence. The Lions Club has been handling this fundraiser for more than 35 years. You can try out their pancakes this Saturday or Sunday at the Bush, beginning at 9 a.m. each morning.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Meeting arranged to discuss water

A group of residents in the Leslie Street-Bloomington Sideroad area of Aurora will hold a public meeting next week to discuss a proposal in their neighbourhood.

"It's all about water," said Leslie Street resident Susan Jones.

Proposed for the neighbourhood is an 18-hole golf course and a 75-home development, which Aurora Council has already turned down.

Developers, however, are taking the issue to the Ontario Municipal Board.

"There are six golf courses with-

in a three-kilometre radius of the Bloomington Wetland, a designated Environmentally Sensitive Area, and 18 within an eight-kilometre radius," she said.

The meeting has been organized by the Friends of the Bloomington Wetland, residents of Leslie Street and Bovair Trail and Save The Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition.

The meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 30 in the Town Hall's Leksand Room beginning at 7 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day didn't get in the way of Aurora Chamber of Commerce organizers last week as they re-measured Yonge Street for the annual World's Longest Street Sale on the World's Longest Street last week. Slated for the first Sunday in June, the event, which typically draws up to 40,000 people to Yonge Street, will this year be the 14th annual. Taking part in the measuring, and wearing the green for St. Pat's Day, were, left to right, Christine Gardner, former Aurora mayor Tim Jones, and chamber Executive Director Michael Keith.

Auroran photo by Bob Ince

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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

The Probus Club of Aurora meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month at the Royal Canadian Legion on Industrial Parkway North. Probus was sponsored by the Aurora Rotary Club in 1995 with an initial membership of 25, now 82, for retired and semi-retired professional and business men and women, former executives and others. The club is non-sectarian and non-political. For information call 905-841-3558 or 905-727-9344.

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.

The Adult Bereavement Support Group offers a chance to learn how to cope with the loss of a loved one. Fred Bullen has given the use of the Aurora Lions Club and Brent Forrester of Thompson Funeral Home will provide administrative cost so that this service is given free to the community. Contact mariesgriefjourney@yahoo.com to reserve a seat or get further information.

A Bereavement Support Group for adults experiencing the loss of a loved one, is again being offered at the Aurora United Church for an eight- week session starting Wed. April 8 to May 27, at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. There is no fee for this program. Participation is open to all the community. To register or for more info please call Mary Smith at 905-727-6984.

Winter parking restrictions are in effect until April 15th from 2 to 6 a.m. and motorists must get their cars off the streets so that the Public Works Department can clear snow and ice from the roadway.

“Voice” is a creative writing collective for teens between the ages of 13 and 18. At the meetings, held at the Aurora Public Library, teens learn various creative writing techniques, give and receive constructive feedback on their writing and meet other like-minded young writers. Meetings are held the last Thursday of the month, September through May, from 7 to 8 p.m. Registration is not required.

“Louder” is a semi-annual young adult magazine created through the creative effort of teens and produced by the Aurora Public Library's Young Adult Services Department. Submissions of writing, poetry, art, graphic art and photography are accepted. E-mail your submissions to yamagazine@library.aurora.on.ca or drop it off to the Children and Young Adult Information Desk to the attention of Monika Machacek.

On Thursdays until June, the Navy League has a Cadet program for children 9 to 12 years from 7 to 9 p.m. Contact Cliff Davies at 905-727-2244 for details.

On Tuesdays, until June, a Sea Cadet program for youths 13 to 18 from 7 to 9 p. m. Leave message at 905-895-3038.

Aurora Opera Company's Children's Chorus is a new treble voice choir dedicated to educating, nurturing and providing opportunities for children to express their musical abilities. The chorus is open to boys and girls in Grades 1 through 12 and consists of two choirs: Angel Choristers, a training choir for 6 and 7 year-olds and the Children Chorus, open to 8 to 17 year-olds. To audition, contact gener-

al director Sarah Kyle at keepsinging@look.ca.

CHAT'S Community Home Assistance to Seniors 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 Tuesday from 9.30 to 11 a.m. it's Story and Playtime at Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South for tots (age 0-4 years) and their caregivers for coffee or tea. Call 905-841-8883 for further details.

Every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age 3 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 jhoffmann@sympatico.ca.

Scottish Country Dancing every Friday morning at St. Andrews' Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome.

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday evening at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members are welcome. For further information call 905-841-1352.

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.

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Choir practice in the West-McKenzie Hall of the Seniors' Centre, every Wednesday from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. under the direction of Enid Maize.

Meet at Martha's Table, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, every Thursday from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Hot soup, sandwiches, and dessert will be provided. Any funds raised go to local charities.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society presents "Lighting the Way", bright selection for the shade garden. Speaker is Paul Zammit. At the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North 8 p.m. \$2 at the door.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

Aurora Chamber of Commerce networking event, “Business After Five”, will be held at

World Mosaic Stone & Tile, 40 Englehard Dr., Unit 3, from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. Cost is complimentary to Chamber members.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

An event created to support Canada Day happens tonight at the Aurora Legion beginning at 6.30 p.m. Tickets, available at the Legion, are \$30 per person. Buffet Included with live entertainment.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

Aurora Minor Baseball Association will hold in person registration today at the Aurora Wal-Mart from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All players are invited to pick up a free promotional gift bag at the store. Sign up for baseball for youth, ages 5 to 21. For information e-mail carolemgir@aol.com. Go to www.auroraminorball.ca to register on line or get more details.

MARCH 28 AND 29

Lions' Club Pancake Breakfast returns to Sheppard's Bush from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Park at the end of Industry Street, south of Mary Street.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Bernard Pears Chorale presents a Spring Concert at the First Baptist Church, 33 Wellington Street East, at 7 p.m. For further information, call 905-727-4531

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

If a child is between six and nine years old, he or she can explore the world of Japanese art at the Aurora Public Library. Students will study famous works by Japanese artists and create their own work using watercolours, wax relief and stamps. It happens from 7 to 8 p.m. and the fee is \$6 per child. For further information visit www.library.aurora.on.ca or phone 905-727-9493 or pick up a program flyer at the library.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 & APRIL 14

Aurora Public Library, with Canada Revenue, is hosting free income tax clinics with trained community volunteers. This is an income-based service (individual \$20,000/family \$25,000). By appointment only from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493 option 4, for more information.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

Gardening Workshop with Master Gardener, Elizabeth Brims. Aurora Public Library hosts a free seminar at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4 for more information.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Enjoy a mellow evening of music, poetry, and stories. Take part in a family-oriented cof-

fee house featuring home-baked treats in St. Andrew's Hall, on Victoria Street. Enter at Mosley Street. The event, in aid of a War Child Canada project, begins at 7.30 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Aurora Public Library, with Canada Revenue, is hosting free income tax clinics with trained community volunteers. This is an income-based service (individual \$20,000/family \$25,000). By appointment only from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Register at the Adult Information Desk, or call 905-727-9493 option 4 for more information.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

Aurora United Church annual Spring rummage sale takes place today from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the church, 15186 Yonge Street at Tyler. Proceeds from the sale go back into the Aurora community through women and men shelters and the Welcoming Arms project.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Aurora United Church annual Spring rummage sale takes place today from 9 a.m. to noon at the church, 15186 Yonge Street at Tyler. Proceeds from the sale go back into the Aurora community through women and men shelters and the Welcoming Arms project.

SATURDAY, MAY 9

“Words and Music” is a concert to benefit the Aurora Writers Group. It will be held at Trinity Anglican Church in Aurora beginning at 7.30 p.m. Live music will include selections from Broadway shows, 60's folk music, and light classics. Readings from Aurora Storyalis will be interspersed with the music.

SUNDAY, MAY 10

The Aurora Historical Society hosts a luncheon in the Ballroom of Hillary House in honour of Mother's Day. Guests can enjoy a three-course meal in historic Hillary House. Two seating times are available: Noon and 1.30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 per person or \$16 for Aurora Historical Society members and must be purchased in advance. For tickets and more information call 905-727-8991 or e-mail ahs@aurorahs.com.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Aurora Chamber of Commerce presents the 14th annual Longest Street Sale on the Longest Street beginning at 11 a.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 14

Aurora Rotary Club golf tournament at Westview Golf Club. Shotgun at 10 a.m. \$150 per golfer includes lunch and dinner. Call Ron at 905-727-3300 for details. Participation limited.

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Dan Carriere, president and Chief Executive Officer of Southlake Regional Health Centre, inset, conducted a tour of the as yet unfinished Stronach Regional Cancer Centre last week. The cancer centre is scheduled to open later this year. Upon completion, 150 new healthcare-related positions will be established within the hospital. The centre will have the capacity to accommodate 52,000 new patient visits for radiation by the year 2012, and will treat 1,250 patients in its first year of operation.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Land scheduled for development

Based on steps taken at a recent general committee meeting, Aurora's 2C lands, one of the last significant open spaces left, are at least a small step closer to being developed.

The area is located in the northeast corner of town, and is bounded by Highway 404 on the east and St. John's Sideroad to the north.

The southern boundary is just north of the existing development along Wellington, with the western edge about halfway between Leslie and Bayview.

Planning for the development of this land has been in the works for a number of years.

In May, 2003, council adopted recommendations from the Five Year Official Plan Review.

This included preparing a secondary plan, with full public input, developing a financial strategy, and incorporating a phasing strategy.

In June, 2005, the Town agreed to undertake a variety of studies to support the Region's request to bring the 2C lands into the Urban Area within the Regional Official Plan.

Three years later, in February, 2008, the Region passed an Official

Plan Amendment to designate the 2C lands as "urban area".

Shortly afterwards, council passed a resolution to defer the completion of the Secondary Plan pending a financial strategy update.

This was to ensure that any new development did not impact negatively on the town's existing tax base.

Based on documents presented to the March, 2009, meeting, there should be relatively minor fiscal impact on the municipal budget during the first four years of the 2C build-out.

This assumed development would start in 2012, which was identified as the earliest that it could occur in the 2C lands.

In fact, the initial investment required to service the area is expected to result in a positive fiscal impact as the development of the lands continues.

However, to complete a full analysis, the town would need to have a better understanding of the financial situation and the expected capital projects for that area for the first few years of the development of the 2C lands.

This review would be done as part of the Secondary Planning

process.

Councillor Evelyn Buck questioned what fiscal analysis was required, since developers pay for infrastructure through development charges.

Staffers responded that while developers' fees tend to cover capital costs, the taxpayers must continue to pay the ongoing operating and maintenance costs.

Overall, committee members were pleased

that the development of the 2C lands was proceeding cautiously and with thorough planning, so that there would be no negative impacts on the town.

Subsequently, the committee approved the recommendation that staff complete a Terms of Reference for a comprehensive review and preparation of a Secondary Plan for the 2C lands, including a more detailed fiscal analysis.



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This number grew from 72,565 residents in 2001 to 112,501 in 2006.

As of 2006, the region's labour force was 500,000 making it the third highest in Ontario and of those residents who worked 78 per cent worked full

time and 22 per cent part time.

In 2006, 50 per cent of the region's employed labour force worked within the region, 40 per cent worked outside and 10 per cent either worked outside Canada or had no fixed work address.

In 2006 there were 238,640 families living in the region.

The median family income was shown as \$89,099 with \$102,006 in King and \$101,188 in Aurora.

King, Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville were within the top 25 municipalities in Canada for highest median family incomes as reported in the 2006 census.

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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Poor Ronnie cleans up undocumented files

Well, Dick's back in the hospital ("I think they're going to keep me here for a while", he said), so you'll have to suffer through a few more Poor Ronnie's, I'm afraid.

Gives me a chance to use some stuff I don't know what else to do with, though.

Like apologize to Doreen Bolsby, who pointed out that we demoted her husband, Fred, by calling him Aurora's Fire Prevention Officer, when, in fact, he was Aurora's Deputy Fire Chief. Sorry about that, because I do know better.

My friend Mark Holmes added some information to last week's picture on Page 4.

"When the original church in the picture was demolished, the ONLY thing that remained (that was kept) from the demolition was the large stained glass round piece that was above the church's front doors. This piece was installed in the north wall of the church hall when the current church was constructed. To appreciate its entire beauty, one must view this piece from inside the church hall, but you can still see the stained glass from the sidewalk on Victoria Street, although it's almost obscured."

Thank you, Mark.

The Aurora United Church is holding its annual rummage sale soon (see the coming events for the exact dates and times). In the release to me, it said Friday's sale was an "individual sale" and Saturday was a "bag sale"

I wanted to know the difference.

Committee member Brigitta Gamm, was quick to respond:

"On day one we price items of the same kind and people pay for each item. i.e. T-shirts .50, dress shirts .75, blouses \$1, pants \$2, jackets, coats \$5, etc. On day two people can choose whatever they want and buy a large or small bag and fill it and walk out.

"On day two volunteers also go around and pick out requests in clothing for women and men charities which we bag and they either pick it up or we deliver bags of stuff to them.

"It is really interesting to watch people come and pay for garage sale items. As the saying goes, one person's trash is another one's treasure. It never fails to surprise me how true that statement is.

You are welcome to show up and browse. Some men come and particularly look for those once used pure cotton dress shirts the donor never knew how to iron once washed! Or people come to fit out a newly bought cottage with linen. And, of course, book lovers donate first and then come back and buy someone else's books, all for a good cause. How can you beat that? It is the perfect place for people watching."

Frank Johansen sent a letter to the real estate board and a copy to me. Unfortunately, you can't push a part of a newspaper and expect to be "on-line".

However, his remarks were worth noting. On a site map at www.mls.ca, it notes the park on the west side of Yonge St. and the south side of Orchard Heights Blvd. is NOT called "MacHell" Park, but rather Machell Park.

"Please be so kind as to correct this at your earliest convenience, as I am sure that you can understand the subtle difference the capitalization of the letter "h" makes!" he said in his letter to the board.

Get well soon, Dick.

THE AURORAN

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If you can name the above three streets, we have a complimentary lunch for two at the Aurora Legion on Industrial Parkway North for you. The three streets shown are still in existence in Aurora, though a few of the trees may be missing. Call 905-727-3300 after NOON Friday with the correct answer. First one through with the correct answer is the winner. The photos come from the postcard collection of Councillor Bob McRoberts.



Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Those loyal readers may recall last week's column about general land use issues in Aurora.

The two main things that I came away with after some rudimentary research was that Aurora is expected to share in the York Region intensification burden and that there is not a lot of land left in this town for development.

The municipal intensification calculation prepared by York shows Aurora having an additional 2,800 residential units by 2031.

These residential dwelling numbers are over and above the average of 431 residential units that have been constructed each year in Aurora between 1986 and 2006.

This translates to an average annual addition of 116 units until 2031 or a 27 per cent annual increase in residential dwelling construction.

However, according to the good folks at the Town planning department, only 11 per cent of Aurora's land is left for development, and that does not sound like much, especially if one considers the population of Aurora is expected to grow significantly.

Aurora has a current population of about 50,000. Our population has more than doubled since 1986 and is expected to grow to 56,000 by 2011 and to 75,400 by 2026.

But this whole issue raises many questions: to wit, are the additional 2,800 units of the right mix for our Town? Will these units ensure that Aurora has affordable housing?

And finally, the question I want to deal with, what about legalizing basement apartments in Aurora?

Currently, basement apartments are illegal in Aurora. Second suites are legal in both Newmarket and East Gwillimbury, while Markham is considering the proposition.

According to an October, 2007, York Region Report, both Newmarket and East Gwillimbury require registration and inspection fees.

"In East Gwillimbury an apartment, once registered, remains on the registry indefinitely. In Newmarket the registration expires when there is a change of ownership or 10 years have lapsed, at which point the owner must reapply for registration".

According to Aurora Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas, this issue is very important to all members of Council, "as the one per cent vacancy rate in York Region is not acceptable and all avenues to increase this rate must be explored...however, the Town Budget is council's priority at the moment".

Aurora has explored the issue over the years.

In 2004 a Secondary Dwelling Unit Task Force was established, then later dissolved. The reinstatement of the Secondary Dwelling Unit Ad Hoc Committee was discussed in 2007, but did not occur. However, a public meeting on secondary units was held last fall.

According to the notes of the public meeting, Town Planner, Fausto Filippetto, addressed council to provide an overview of the matter of second suites.

The Policy Planner outlined some benefits of legalized second suites as follows: provides assistance in achieving intensification targets; makes efficient use of existing housing stock and infrastructure; provides affordable rental housing options; ensures that health and safety standards of the Building and Fire Codes are being met.

Some barriers of legalized second suites include: public reaction regarding property standards and parking; impacts of increased density on hard and soft surfaces;

cost of construction upgrades to meet the current Building and Fire Codes.

Mr. Filippetto advised that many second suites are already in existence and there is little evidence to show that legalizing them would result in a dramatic increase.

Council has, subsequent to this public meeting, directed its staff to study the secondary suite issue and report back or schedule a second public planning.

From a purely selfish point of view, who wouldn't want to see all growth and infill - including basement apartments - stop so that we can try and preserve our community and green spaces - in perpetuity - exactly as it is today.

However, Aurora does not exist in a vacuum; we are part of a larger region that is experiencing tremendous growth.

Of the nine local York Region municipalities, Aurora's share of the population growth will be in the lower end. So the intensification burden we are being asked to carry, on a relative basis to the other local municipalities, is low.

Basement apartments are only a very small part of our housing solution.

As Tom Pearson, Chairperson, Poverty Action For Change Coalition, wrote recently, "I'd also like to emphasize we don't see legalized basement apartments as a total solution, per se, but as a partial part of easing the crunch. With the economy in the state it is, those waiting list times will only increase and with affordable housing options not being planned to the level needed, every little bit helps".

Any method to increase the stock of reasonably priced housing in our community needs to be fully explored.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Camel lot

"So, how much do you want for the camel?"

The vendor looked at me shrewdly before answering, trying to gauge my interest.

"Well, I sold another already this morning," he said, quoting a price that was way too rich for my blood.

"But for you," he rubbed his jaw appraisingly, "I'd take off...10 per cent."

"For this one?" I said, indicating the beast in front of me. "You've got to be kidding?"

I could see why this was one of the last camels on the lot. It was losing its fur in big patches - I guess because of the warmer weather - and looked like it was perfectly content to sit here in the sunshine chewing on...well...I don't know what it was eating, but whatever it was, it was generating a lot of saliva.

"Ah, but this one has real stamina," the vendor enthused. "Why, it could walk for days across the sand."

"I don't need one like that," I said, turning away. "It would only be used to get around town."

"Of course. Of course. A local camel."

He slapped his hands together with enthusiasm. "Why didn't you say so?"

"Now, what sort of range were you thinking of?"

"Oh, probably just over to Yonge Street and back. Maybe the odd

trip to the Leisure Complex."

"Ah, then I have just the one for you." He indicated a light brown camel to his left.

"I don't know," I said, looking it over dubiously, as it gazed at me through half-closed eyes in that sleepy way that camels do.

"Is it in good condition?"

"Oh, yes, sir," said the man jovially. "This one was hardly ever used."

"Don't tell me, it was previously owned by a little old lady who only rode it to church on Sundays?"

"Yes! Yes! I think perhaps to the Seniors' Centre as well, but that's only a short distance away. Definitely a local animal," he concluded, giving it an affectionate pat on the neck.

"So, it knows its way around Aurora, then?"

"Heavens, yes. Why, I bet he could find his way though the area northeast of Yonge and Wellington with his eyes closed."

That would be an impressive trick. Especially with all the traffic calming that had been installed there. I know I'd gotten lost in there on more than one occasion.

But I didn't want to seem too interested.

"I don't know. This camel's only got one hump. My neighbour has a two-humper, and he raves about it."

"Oh, sure. It may look more comfortable sitting between two

humps, but those Bactrians are no good for the conditions here in Aurora," he explained. "For that you need a Dromedary."

I looked over his shoulder, as if thinking it all over, and watched a car skid around the corner. It fishtailed wildly, kicking up a plume of sand in its wake.

I returned my gaze to the expectant vendor. "Okay, but how is he on pavement?"

"Pavement?" he asked, bewildered. "Why would you need that?"

"It's springtime in Aurora," he continued. "All winter long the Public Works crews have been spreading dirt on the roads every time it snowed or was icy. Now, all of the streets are covered in a layer of sand. Why, it must be inches deep in places."

"Yes," I agreed. "But town staff will be cleaning that up eventually, won't they?"

"True, sir, but that takes time. And by then Aurora will be under the annual water ban."

Indicating the slumbering animal next to him, he smiled widely. "And what better to have during a water ban than a camel?"

I think that's what sold me.

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

Letters to the Editor

John Simcoe considers Yonge traffic woes

To the editor,

In response to Poor Richard's column, The Auroran, March 17th.

It was 17th, the beer was green and the party was wonderful. As everyone left, this strange tall man appeared at the door. Resplendent in his red tunic I thought him to be the Town Crier. As his heels clicked, he bellowed, "I am General John Graves Simcoe, boy! Poor Richard tells me that you want to put a circle in my street."

"That's partly correct, Sir," I replied, "would you like to come in and share some green beer, in honour of the day?"

Although I was obviously not of his elite class, the General advanced and grasped the tankard.

"Pardon my observa-

tion, General," I said, "but if you see me as an enemy, I would have thought you would be dressed in your Greens - the 'accoutred for concealment' uniforms you introduced for the Queen's Rangers. I was particularly impressed with the time 150 American militia fled when you attacked with only 42 Rangers from the right while your buglers sounded 'Charge' from the left."

Looking surprised, the General lowered his tankard and asked, "Where did you find out about my first six years in North America? Most Canadians only know about my second tour as the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada."

As I filled his tankard I said, "Oh sir, I read past the first paragraph in Wiki. I also discovered that you and Poor

Richard have much in common - an excellent military experience, aggressive government achievements (it is unfortunate that you didn't get to be commander-in-chief of India) and you each found ladies of great artistic talent.

"But getting back to your brilliant military road," I continued, "you obviously learned from the Romans, that good, fast roads provide control of the territory. However, you probably know your road is now controlled by the regional government. Remember all the stalling you received from Lord Dorchester when you had great ideas for Upper Canada."

He bellowed again as he berated his rule-bound superior for opposing the Governor's ideas, including the restoration of those new United States to the

British Sovereign. "Now about the round-about," I persisted. "This is different from a traffic circle and we have a few in town that work well. It could fit just north of the historic buildings south of Wellington, the two banks could make lucrative investments in new mixed-use buildings and traffic would be half again faster through the intersection."

"Oh, yes," I added, "the centre of the round-about would be a fine place for a couple of bronze statues. One of the first Lieutenant-Governor, who so ably guided this territory and one of his wife, Elizabeth, who so lovingly captured the times in pictures and prose."

With a smile inching across his face, The General snapped to attention and said, "It's time for tea with Poor Richard and Dorothy. I

will recall the Rangers gone from the street."

Again, the heels clicked - and he was Gordon Barnes Aurora

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Reader opposes harmonized tax

To the editor,

I am dismayed at the proposed tax harmonization by the McGuinty government.

Small business will be forced to modify their PST and GST collection system once again.

Although never is a good time for changing taxes and taking on that administrative burden, the present time could

not be a worse time. Business is shrinking.

Any change in tax treatment incurs additional administrative costs to modify the computer and manual accounting systems that calculate, collect, record and remit these taxes.

We know of businesses facing thousands of dollars in administrative costs with such changes.

This is a terrible time

to impose additional costs.

At a time when many companies are just managing to stay open, this additional burden is criminal. Government should be working for and not against its people.

I was pleased to read that our local MPP, Frank Klees, is listening to and working for his constituents (reference his

recent article Frankly Speaking).

I paraphrase: While the argument will be made that the new tax rate will be lower, it won't take more than one weekend's shopping trip to realize that taxes have increased. The reason? Because under the proposed federal/provincial sales tax harmonization formula, many products and services that are currently exempt would be taxed under the new tax scheme. Remember the last time?

The proposed tax harmonization by the provincial government will increase taxes, increase the administrative burden on business this year and hurt the economy.

Please, call or e-mail your MPP and speak out against this devastating plan.

If you live in Aurora, call 905-750-0019 or e-mail frank.kleesco@pc.ola.org.

Ellen Watson
Aurora

Anne Leroux
Newmarket

Elderly are not necessarily to blame for hospital waits

To the editor,

Over the past few weeks, there have been numerous news articles written in various publications about provincial ER wait-times which have placed the spotlight on the elderly regarding the backlog in hospital emergency rooms even though there are a number of other significant issues which collectively put huge pressures on hospitals.

There appears to be a perception by some that placing seniors in nursing homes is the panacea to reducing ER visits.

However, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care compliance reports

clearly show that the province is unable to ensure that all provincially regulated long-term facilities meet government expectations and comply with regulations.

Some have ongoing and recurring violations and verified findings of disturbing accounts of neglect, yet the public is expected to believe that these institutions are a safe 'alternative level of care.'

Lists of ministry reports showing causes for transfers from nursing homes to hospitals are not simply because of advanced age.

If the province was serious about reducing ER wait-times, there

would be significant and severe consequences for all abusive actions and neglectful practices against residents in long-term institutions and for non-adherence of provincial standards, and make home visits by primary care physicians available for those seniors who are unable to get to medical appointments.

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Letter to the Editor

Discrimination has no place in society, reader says

To the editor,

I am distraught that in our Member's (Lois Brown's) effort on March 17th (letters to the editor, The Auroran) to address my concerns, she decided to copy entire paragraphs (including her profound conclusion) from editorials by Vic Toews to the Ottawa Citizen (March 6), Montreal Gazette (March 10) and Yukon News (March 11).

I am saddened that she did not take the time to write her letter - to which her name is appended - on her own.

Had I wrote an assignment like that in university, the consequences would have been profound.

She (or Mr. Toews) makes a strong point: using the Human Rights Commission to address pay equity concerns for women can be a lengthy process. It's time to find a more efficient means for pay equity complaints, while at the same time preserving the thoroughness, fairness, transparency and significance owed to these claims.

She mentioned the 2004 Pay Equity Task Force that called for proactive pay equity leg-

islation. The Task Force made many recommendations, many of which the Harper government has dismissed.

Their report called for an "independent adjudicative body with expertise in pay equity," for "specialized oversight agencies be established to administer and interpret the new...legislation," and an "independent stand-alone commission—a Canadian Pay Equity Commission—whose members will be appointed for their expertise in job evaluation, compensation systems, industrial relations, human rights or some other field relevant to pay equity."

This law not only fails to establish this commission, but it bans public servants from approaching the already specialized pay equity board, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal.

All claims now must go through the Labour Relations Board.

If a pay equity complaint is made through the Board, sections 36 and 41(1) of the law bans the public service union from helping the complainant, and threatens a fine of up to \$50,000 if they try.

This legislation is not proactive.

This law does little to implement the recommendations of the 2004 Pay Equity Task Force.

It diminishes the concept of pay equity as a human right. It is proof that this government's commitment to fair compensation is a token one at best.

I'd like to use G. Clarke's letter of March 17th as an opportunity to clarify my own position.

I agree that government has no right to intervene and dictate a fair wage between employee and employer.

The state should only interfere when there are human or labour rights concerns.

Pay should always be based on the abilities of a

worker.

However, if an individual is receiving less compensation for a job because of their gender, it is time for intervention.

These situations are not indicative of a well-functioning "economic system".

It's sexism, plain and simple.

In this case, I'd hope the Human Rights Commission gets involved.

I'd hope a tribunal would force the employer to pay for damages, regardless of its influence on a company's budget.

It would send a clear message: discrimination by any means has no place in society.

Ryan Zade
Aurora



Alenka Dover
& Steve Dover

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Here's your chance to meet people who run the Arboretum

To the editor,

The Aurora Community Arboretum Project is a wonderful "green" initiative in Aurora, a haven for hikers, birdwatchers, photographers and nature lovers.

The Arboretum spans 100 acres of parkland, naturalized forests, wetlands and meadows in the heart of Aurora (between Wellington Street and St. John's Sideroad) with beautiful trails for walking, cycling, and experiencing nature.

Further tree planting and trails are planned as is continued development of "Flora Aurora" - a spectacle of flowering trees and shrubs that promises to be a breathtaking centerpiece of colour and fragrance when fully established.

You are invited to the Arboretum's annual "Meet and Greet" to be held at the Town Hall, Holland Room, March 30th at 7.30 p.m.

Here you can meet Arboretum volunteers, and hear more about our progress and plans for 2009.

Last spring Aurora residents came out in record numbers for our annual community planting day.

It was heart-warming to see the joy that tree planting brings to people - from toddlers to seniors.

You can become part of this legacy in many ways.

1. Become a member: Annual memberships are \$20 with the proceeds going towards new plantings and maintenance. Please visit our website at

www.auroraarboretum.ca for details.

2. Plant a commemorative tree: The Arboretum provides an opportunity for special plantings (with dedication plaques) to honour special occasions and/or special people in a unique and lasting way. This is ideal for families, and also for businesses seeking a living legacy for their retirees and achievers.

3. Make a donation: Help us achieve our goal of planting an additional 27,000 trees and shrubs over the next eight years.

4. Please contact us through the Arboretum website or at 905-727-6984 to explore sponsorship opportunities.

5. Volunteer: Join the group of dedicated

Arboretum volunteers who help in planting, watering, weeding and mulching each year.

This is a perfect opportunity for high school students looking for community service hours, and for anyone who shares our vision of a "Green Aurora" for our children and generations to come.

While most of our volunteer tasks do not need any specific experience or knowledge, we also need help in some specialised areas, such as: developing educational signs and programs; helpers experienced in operating tractors and farm-style equipment; gardeners who know about planting and growing trees; writing grant applications.

The Arboretum thanks the Town of Aurora, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (our key external partner), our supporters and volunteers, for their dedication and support throughout the 2008 season.

Irene Clement
Chair
Aurora
Community
Arboretum

Rename parkway for Dick Illingworth

To the editor,

Dick Illingworth should be recognized as a journalistic phenomenon after his column in The Auroran, March 17.

Like fine wine, Dick's writing has improved over many decades as he blends his political experience as a former mayor with his unrivalled knowledge of local politics, economic realities and Aurora's history.

Who else would know that the Bank of Montreal had been in Aurora since 1855, for example?

His column in The Auroran was a masterly blend of personal political experiences and economic realities along with long forgotten businesses upon which Aurora was

built, some of which survive today.

His fictitious interview with John Graves Simcoe was a creative masterpiece, blending history with contemporary issues, along with palpable suggestions to improve highway traffic along Industrial Parkway where, incidentally, I have an office.

Industrial Parkway has a vibrant collection of diverse businesses, including a publishing business, one of which I am a part owner.

I think renaming the bland Industrial Parkway to the Dick Illingworth Parkway would be both relevant and appropriate for a man who has done much to reshape the great town of Aurora.

Tom Davey
Aurora

ED. NOTE: Industrial Parkway is the only road in Aurora (with the exception of Wells Street) that crosses Wellington and uses "north" and "south" in addresses. Wells Street does not use "south" in addresses south of Wellington, but does use "north" for the short block that takes it to its end at Centre Street. Changing the name of Industrial Parkway to the Dick Illingworth Parkway is a great idea, but we may be a bit biased since the man works for The Auroran.

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Petchville - a brief history

Have you visited Petchville lately? Perhaps you picked up some groceries on your way home from work? Had dinner with friends? Shopped for gifts or clothing for your family?

If any of these shopping expeditions took place at the Smart Centre located at Wellington St. E. (formerly the Aurora Road) and Highway 404, then indeed you have visited Petchville - in fact, you parked your car on Jonathan Petch's farm.

The scenery was considerably different when Jonathan Petch, fresh from fighting in the Napoleonic wars, arrived at lot 21 concession 3 in 1818 with his wife Sara and children.

Because the lot that Jonathan had chosen to farm was a clergy reserve* (see end note) he was not able to purchase the property until 1840, when he paid £175 for the 200-acre parcel.

Four years later, Jonathan's son, Isaac, had a squared timber log house built on the north half of his father's property.

This house, along with the surrounding property (lot 21 north) was owned and farmed by Isaac and members of his family until it was sold out of the Petch family in 1903.

The Crawford family lived here for many years in the first half of the 20th century. Both William Crawford and his son John held several positions on the Whitchurch Township Council.

The log house remained in the Crawford family until 1946. Several families occupied the old log house in the ensuing years until it was removed to make way for development.

Currently it sits at the side of Leslie Street, awaiting possible relocation and restoration at Sheppard's Bush.

The south half of the original purchase remained in the Petch family until 1989 when it was purchased for the site of a future mall.

At the time of its sale it was still being farmed by a Petch, George Robert (Bob), Jonathan's great-great-grandson.

Over the years several parcels of land were either



This building, known as the Petch cottage, is believed to be the oldest house in York Region. Currently it is located on Aurora-owned land on Leslie Street just south of Wellington.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

sold or deeded away (including the site of Wesley Church).

The construction of Highway 404 severed the farm, leaving only 36 acres from Jonathan's original 200.

The brick house that fronted on the Aurora Road until construction of the plaza, was built in 1916 and was the Petch family home until 1990.

The south side of the Aurora Road also bore the Petch name for many years. Lot 20 north concession 3 was purchased by Isaac Petch from the Lyon estate, probably about 1874 when his oldest son, Arthur, married.

In 1882 when Isaac's youngest son William married and took over the family farm on lot 21 north, a brick house was built on lot 20 facing the Aurora Road for Isaac and his wife Emma (Hacking).

They remained there until their deaths in 1899 and 1904 respectively. Their home currently remains on its original site although in precarious condition. Surrounding industrial development will soon overrun it.

Several parcels of land were separated from the original acreage. One parcel, on the southwest corner of lot 21 was deeded by Jonathan Petch to Rachel (Petch) and her husband, William Wells and remained in the Wells family for many years.

Their white stucco house was demolished in preparation for the construction of the

Smart Centre.

A parcel of land on the corner of Woodbine Avenue and the Aurora Road was given for the building of a church in 1847. The Petch family retained strong ties with Wesley Methodist (now United) Church and when the log church was replaced by a brick building in 1881 the original church was moved to the Petch farm where it was incorporated into the barn.

Many members of the Petch family are buried in the cemetery alongside the church, the earliest burial being that of Jonathan's daughter who died in 1834 at the age of 15.

The crossroads of Leslie Street and the Aurora Road soon became known as Petchville and attracted a variety of craftsmen and workshops.

The northwest corner of the intersection was occupied by a blacksmith's shop belonging to Robert Livingston. He is on the Patrons list in the 1878 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of York and advertised as a "Carriage Maker, Horseshoer and General Blacksmith, offering repairs to Reaping Machines, Threshing Machines and all Agricultural Implements on short notice with a workshop at Petchville, Whitchurch".

During the 20th century the blacksmith shop became a machine shop. An Esso

Service Centre now occupies the corner.

Thomas Porritt, a blacksmith and Charles Rahm (or Raham), a carpenter owned property in this area and an advertisement in the January 2, 1867, edition of the Aurora Banner advertising that Henry Harthong of Petchville was in need of a wagon maker identifies another artisan working in the hamlet.

An attractive white frame house, reportedly built in the 1860s, graced the southeast corner of the crossroads for many years.

Although little is known of its history, this piece of property appears to have gone through several changes of

ownership during the mid-1800s. After several attempts to relocate the building failed, it was demolished to be replaced by a Shell Service Centre.

Children from the Petchville area attended Whitchurch Township School Section #1 at Hartman's Corners (the intersection of Bayview Avenue and the Aurora Road).

The first Hartman school was built fronting on Bayview just north of the Aurora Road (approximately the current site of East Side Mario's). The Hartman name came from the Hartman family who owned several farms in the vicinity.

The date of this early school is not known: however, according to the Journals of Upper Canada Legislative Assembly, this school was among the "Common Schools in Whitchurch Who Have Received the Government Allowance for the Six Months Ending June 30, 1838" and

again for the six-month period ending in December 1838.

According to their records the teacher for the first six month period was Martin Young and there were 40 pupils attending. For the second six-month period the teacher was James Hugh and the enrolment 32.

In 1883 a contract was let to Joseph Hall to build a new schoolhouse at a cost of \$1,790. It was erected on a new site, east of Bayview, fronting on the Aurora Road.

The old schoolhouse was sold to George W. Graham for \$45.

He moved the building into Aurora where it remained as a residence at 118 Wellington Street until recently when renovation work made it necessary to rebuild the structure. It is currently advertised for sale.

In 1952 a new brick building was erected on the Aurora Road site - an article in the

Please see page 14

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Atom team captures OMHA title

True to Aurora's past, but a discontinued tradition to announce the town's OMHA champions with a team ride on a fire truck, the Aurora Tigers Atom AE champs cruised the streets of Aurora in two limos Saturday evening after winning the OMHA Charles Drake Memorial Trophy in Hespeler.

They took the title with a 7-1 win, their final victory in a flawless 15-0 series of OMHA playdown games.

After winning the CAN/AM Challenge Cup Tournament in Lake Placid, New York, where they went undefeated on Olympic rinks, the Atom AE team finished their division year in first place with a 25-win and five loss record.

In early playdown season, the Tigers once again went undefeated during the first and second rounds against Orillia and Stouffville to win their place in the finals.

The next three rounds proved to be just as successful.

In February, the Tigers began the quarter-finals against Newmarket, which they beat out in three games, 5-2 in Newmarket, 7-2 in

Aurora, and 4-2 in Aurora.

Their next challenge was Pickering.

Once again, Aurora beat their opponents in three games with the scores, 3-2 in Pickering, 3-2 in Aurora, and a final victory of 7-1 in Pickering.

The team had readily earned their place to play for the Charles Drake Memorial Trophy in the OMHA Atom AE Championship Finals.

The Hespeler Shamrocks and The Aurora Tigers began the Championship Finals March 14 in Hespeler.

The Tigers' tough defense, strong offense, and impenetrable goal-keeping frustrated the Hespeler Shamrocks on their home ice. Tigers won 7-0.

The Hespeler Shamrocks arrived in Aurora on Sunday, March 15 ready to play a very aggressive game in front of a record number of loud, proud Aurora fans.

Despite the grit and determination of the Shamrocks, the Tiger goalie stopped all shots, winning himself a shut out granting Aurora a 3-0 lead.

On Saturday, the Aurora Atom AE Tigers

and their encouraging, chanting fans returned to the Hespeler arena.

Though the Shamrocks put up a tough fight, maintaining a 0-0 score in the first period, the Tigers soon took over.

After Hespeler went up by one, Tiger defense shut the Shamrock offense down while the Tiger offense went to work. The team went to work and scored seven unanswered goals.

Later Saturday, the team returned to Aurora with the Charles Drake Memorial Trophy.

The team has represented Aurora well throughout the season with their positive attitudes, dedicated work ethic, exceptional sportsmanship, and commitment to their teammates and their town.

In addition to playing hard, they've worked this year and last to assist the Aurora Food Pantry, the Food Network, the Aurora Farmers' Market, the Lion's Club's Christmas Adopt-a-Family Program, and the Southlake Regional Cancer Centre.

Team members include Head Coach, Ken McKay; Assistant Coaches, Peter Fletcher and Fred Sauer; Goalie

Coach and Trainer Phil Anderson; Manager, Kim Downs; Goalies, Graham Dynes and Louie Kirkos; Players Spencer White, Cameron Anderson, Connor Downs, Charles Bennett, Thomas Sauer, Tristan Kuchar, Zachary Fletcher, Alistair

Johnston, Jeffrey McKay, Keegan Matthew, Jacob Hatton, Connor Christian Arcuri, and Gonsalves, Adam Caicco, Cooper Hewgill.



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Dinner theatre history at Howard Johnson

By February, 1983, Hotel Aurora's Queen Elizabeth Room Dinner Theatre, at the time York Region's only dinner theatre, comedies were proving very popular with audiences.

To see a play and enjoy dinner in pleasant surroundings was not available to residents of most municipalities, but it was to residents of Aurora.

After a tremendous success with Charles Laurence's "My Fat Friend", director George Jones announced he was extending the planned three-play series to four productions, featuring Ken Gordon-James in the

lead role.

James returned for the next production of "Relatively Speaking" by Alan Ayckbourne.

While "My Fat Friend" relied on dialogue filled with one-line jokes and gags, "Relatively Speaking" used more complicated situations to bring out the humour in the play.

The third play in the series was "A Bedful of Foreigners" by Dave Freeman, one of the best British farces, and this was followed by "Not With My Daughter...!" by Jay Christopher.

The dinner theatre season opened in October, 1983, with a

schedule of six comedy productions, produced and directed by Ken Gordon-James and Denise Mullan.

Their first production was John Tobias' "My Husband's Wild Desires Drove Me Mad".

Other scheduled productions included "The Owl and the Pussycat", "Norman, Is That You", "The Little Hut" followed by "Au Pair Man" and closing with "6 Rms, Riv Vu".

The season included some travelling shows such as Southbound Production's of the slapstick comedy "Centrefold", which did not live up to the standard

of previous locally produced productions, due to a poor plot and script.

Another production, which was much better received was the Travelling Band's "Cheese and Crackers '84" with parts of the Benny Hill Show, Monty Python's Flying Circus and the Laugh-In series with a Canadian twist.

Gemini Theatre Productions started a long successful run at Hotel Aurora and later Howard Johnson Aurora in the fall of 1984.

Gemini Theatre Productions was the brainchild of former British actress Margaret Gillon and her husband Maurice.

"Pajama Tops", and "Two Plus Two equals Sex".

British bedroom farces proved popular and Gemini followed with "Move Over, Mrs. Markham", "No Sex Please, We're British", "Shut Your Eyes and Think of England" and "Alone Together".

Other productions included "Not Now Darling", "The Odd Couple", "My Friend, Miss Flint", "Never Too Late", "Look, No Hans" and "Murder at the Howard Johnson's".

By 1993 Howard

Johnson had taken over the management of the hotel, carried out extensive renovations, but Gemini Dinner Theatre productions continued for the next few years.

Dinner theatre continues to this day with various production groups, some local, some Toronto-based, producing the plays following the retirement of Gemini's Maurice and Margaret Gillon.

In addition to the entertainment, there is a hot and cold buffet and a dessert table.

Playwrights of Spring underway at theatre

With spring just around the corner, Theatre Aurora invites theatre lovers to celebrate this season's new play festival extravaganza showcasing three talented Ontario writers who are passionate about theatre.

Theatre Aurora will present three new theatrical productions for the third annual Playwrights of Spring Festival with the feature length play "Willow Quartet" by Joan Burrows and two one-act plays "Just for You" by Lynda Martens and "Horizon" by Claire BonEnfant.

The premier gala opened the festival with Willow Quartet Thursday with alternating evenings for both one act plays until the Closing Gala on April 4.

In "Willow Quartet" the relationship between a mother and her adult daughter provides the focus for an exploration of paths not taken, choices and their consequences and second changes for redemption.

It continues March 27, 29 (Matinee), April 1 and 3.


In "Just For You" an elderly couple looks at

their lives and their relationship as they try to re-establish their love for each other and face the last stage of their lives.

In "Horizon" an unlikely friendship between an old man and a teenager opens up the possibility of changing the future for the old man's adult daughter and their family.


It is presented March 26, 28 and April 2 and 4.

All productions start at 8 p.m. except for the matinees at the Factory Theatre and tickets may be reserved by calling the Theatre Box Office at 905-727-3669.



AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Results to Sunday March 22, 2009



House League

Minor Bantam

Team 606 Orr & Associates Insurance Brokers Ltd 3 - Kevin Willert 1G, Chris Tsianos 2G, Dylan Sutton 1A, Gavin Matheson 1A. **Team 602 Rotary Club of Aurora 2** - Michael Perryman 1G, Daniel Antoniel 1G, Matthew Foschia 1A.

Team 603 Gabby's 6 - Matthew Johnson 2G, Mark Presacco 3G, William Allen 1G 1A, Matthew Reeves 1A. **Team 605 Supreme Collision Centre 4** - Mackenzie McIntosh 2G, Quinn McGowan 1G, Alex Seto 1G, Drew Bryan 1A.

Team 601 Continental Ingredients 6 - Brian Pedron 1G, Eric Bulloch 4G, Keenan Hull 1G, Thomas Scougall 3A. **Team 604 Manhattan Trophies 1** - Jamie Poutney 1G, Brandon Plourde 1A.

Team 602 Rotary Club of Aurora 3 - Kieran Cullen 1G, Matthew Iamonaco 1G, Michael Perryman 1G, Matthew Foschia 1A, Franco Porano 1A. **Team 605 Supreme Collision Centre 2** - Matt Hudon 1G, Andrew Boehmer 1G.


Team 601 Continental Ingredients 2 - Liam Devlin 1G, Eric Bulloch 1G, Keenan Hull 1A. **Team 606 Orr & Associates Insurance Brokers Ltd 0.**

Team 603 Gabby's 5 - Mark Presacco 2G, Matthew Johnson 1G, William Allen 1G 1A, Eliot Harkin 1G, Matthew Reeves 1A, Austin Megit 1A, Brent Bourrie 1A. **Team 604 Manhattan Trophies 1** - Matthew Roach 1G, Nic Venosa 1A, Cameron Staples 1A.

Team 601 Continental Ingredients 6 - Eric Bulloch 3G 1A, Thomas Scougall 1G 1A, Brian Pedron 1G, Thomas Scougall 1G, Justin Stevens 1A, Keenan Hull 1A, Luc Wise 1A, Nicholas Bertrand 1A. **Team 605 Supreme Collision Centre 2** - Drew Bryan 1G, Quinn McGowan 1G 1A, Alex Seto 1A.

Team 606 Orr & Associates Insurance Brokers Ltd. 4 - Chris Cherubini 1G, Chris Tsianos 1G, Stephen Wilkins 1G, Quinn Harris 1G 1A, Ben Bryant 1A. **Team 604 Manhattan Trophies 4** - Adam Durante 1G, Tyler Indos 2G, Jamie Poutney 1G, Matthew Roach 1A, Cameron Staples 1A, William He 1A.

Team 603 Gabby's 4 - Brent Bourrie 1G, Mark Presacco 1G, Matthew Reeves 2G, William Allen 1A, Michael McCreesh 1A. **Team 602 Rotary Club of Aurora 2** - Ryan Dowling 1G, Kieran Cullen 1G, Daniel Antoniel 1A.




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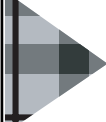
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- The Civic Appreciation Awards (Individual and Group)
- Outstanding Achievement Awards-Individual
- Outstanding Achievement Awards-Non-profit Org.
- Volunteer Service Awards (5, 10 and 15+ years of service)
- Outstanding Youth Volunteer Achievement Award
- Community Organization of the Year
- Quarter Century Achievement Award
- Citizen of the Year Award



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Tuesday, April 14, 2009
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nine award categories

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AURORA
You're in Good Company

Hospital partners with U of T as Aurora students watch

Aurora students participated in the announcement of a new partnership last week between Newmarket's Southlake Regional Health Centre and the University of Toronto that will launch a new teaching initiative at the hospital and see an increased number of U of T healthcare profession students training and gaining experience at Southlake.

Under the partnership, which will begin in July, Southlake's new Academic Family Health Team will train family medicine residents.

Students from Aurora came from St. Andrew's College and Ecole Secondaire Catholique Renaissance.

"Understanding the great need in our community, we began developing the Family Health Team initiative in 2007," said Southlake president and CEO Dan Carriere. "Today, we are proud to see our efforts come to fruition as we proudly partner with the University of Toronto,

one of Canada's most respected medical schools."

Catharine Whiteside, Dean of Medicine at the university added, "at the U of T Faculty of Medicine, our strength is our partnerships. We are leaders because we have the good fortune to work with the very best, and that is certainly true of the leadership and staff at Southlake Regional Health Centre."

More than 140 U of T medical students have applied for four initial positions at Southlake.

By 2012, the Academic Family Health Team will expand to 18 medical residents.

"Some of Canada's most talented healthcare professionals work at Southlake," said Dr. Nancy Merrow, Southlake's Chief of Staff. "Combined with our innovative spirit and modern facilities, we believe that Southlake has become a destination of choice for many residents."

"At community affiliated sites like Southlake, we

know our students are exposed to situations and scenarios that are unique to communities like Newmarket," said Lynn Wilson, Chair of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto.

According to Mr. Carriere the partnership with the U of T is the first of many academic affiliations that Southlake will develop as it transitions to a teaching and research hospital.

"Teaching is nothing new to Southlake; we have a long history of accommodating nursing and medical students in various programs throughout the Hospital," he said.

"Through innovative public/private partnerships and the support of the Town of Newmarket, Southlake is preparing to establish an onsite health sciences campus to teach and train nurses, doctors, pharmacists, dietitians, and other health sciences students using an interprofessional team approach.

"At the present time, health profession students receive training within their own discipline and are then expected to function with other disciplines once they graduate," he said. "The approach at Southlake will be to identify opportunities to train various disciplines together so that by the time they graduate, they appreciate the skill set of each member of the team and will work together to meet the healthcare needs of their patients."

Last week's event included Mr. Carriere and Dean Catharine Whiteside signing a poster in recognition of the affiliation agreement.

The signing took place in the presence of high school students representing a number of York Region high schools, including St. Andrew's and Ecole Secondaire Catholique Renaissance in Aurora, who have an interest in pursuing a career in medicine or other health profession field.

Snow shovelling program success

Now that winter has finally passed (Spring officially arrived Friday), Neighbourhood Network's Snow Removal Pilot Program is now complete, according to organizer Steve Hinder.

This program was designed to help low income seniors and persons with disabilities in Aurora and Newmarket with snow clearing at their homes throughout the winter months, he said.

The results of this first

time pilot program were an overwhelming success, Mr. Hinder said.

"This positive outcome was entirely due to the amazing volunteers who stepped up in the coldest and most challenging months of the year to help out residents in need," he said.

Starting in November, the program assisted 30 residents in the two communities throughout the winter.

Volunteers who signed

up for the program ranged from Grade 8 students to long time residents of the two towns.

Two common themes among volunteers for the program turned out to be good-hearted residents with strong backs.

The snow removal program was also given a boost by local businesses.

Neighbourhood Network received program funding and toques from select Tim Horton locations in Newmarket, shovels from

Canadian Tire in Aurora, and transportation vans temporarily donated from Barton Retirement Residence and Park Place Manor.

The great response from the volunteers in this program, the generous support from the business community, and the thankfulness of the residents who benefitted have positioned this program to be expanded for next year and become a permanent initiative of Neighbourhood Network in the future.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, drop into the office at 14996 Yonge Street in Aurora, phone 905-726-3737, or e-mail Neighbourhood Network at info@neighbourhood-network.org.

Roof painting standard procedure for ACC

At a recent Town of Aurora budget meeting, Councillor Evelyn Buck raised concerns that painting of the Aurora Community Centre (ACC) roof was being deferred until next year.

Leisure Services staff

had requested \$30,000 in the budget to paint over rust which had been observed, but an examination of the problem by the town's Facilities Manager and Building Department staff proved that it was surface rust.

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Dennis

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June leadership convention: Klees

From page 1
to get elected in a by-election in the riding of Haliburton-Kiwartha Lakes-Brock, when PC MPP Laurie Scott stepped aside for him, but he lost.
The riding has been Progressive Conservative for

years, Klees said, and it appeared like a good place for Tory to gain a seat.
However, voters didn't see it that way, and elected a Liberal - Rick Johnson - instead, forcing Tory to resign from his leadership post.

The MPP has tried before to become the leader of the party in the past and didn't make it.
In 1999 Klees joined the cabinet of Premier Mike Harris as Chief Government Whip, Deputy House Leader and Minister without Portfolio.

After returning to the backbenches, he was reappointed to cabinet in 2002 as Minister of Tourism under Harris' successor, Ernie Eves.
On February 25, 2003, he became Minister of Transportation, and served in that position until the defeat of the Eves government in the October 2003 election.

Klees was re-elected in 2003 (one of 24 Progressive Conservatives) and was a candidate in the 2004 Ontario Progressive Conservative leadership election which took place on September 18, 2004.
The other candidates in the race were Whitby-Ajax MPP Jim Flaherty and former Rogers Communications CEO John Tory.

Klees made healthcare his biggest priority in the campaign.
He was the only candidate to openly endorse a semi-privatized health care system.
He was eliminated from the contest after placing third on the first ballot; Tory subsequently won on the second ballot.
Klees increased his profile during the campaign, and is currently the Progressive Conservative Critic for Education and Citizenship and Immigration in the Legislature as well as a member of the Justice Committee.
He was elected in the newly-created provincial riding of Newmarket-Aurora in the Ontario general election, 2007 and is frequently referred to as a likely leadership candidate if Tory resigned.

However, he is considered in this race to be an "also-ran", behind party favourite MPP Tim Hudak.



This Aurora foursome finished second in the province recently in a Royal Canadian Legion sponsored cribbage tournament, held in Kapuskasing. They went up against 56 other teams to accomplish the feat. Team members are, left to right, Bob White, Linda White, Mary Sedore and Mike Pugh. The team was only a win away from advancing to the Dominion Command tournament being held in British Columbia.

Where was Petchville?

From page 9
Road site - an article in the Aurora Banner described the new building as built "in a smart modernistic design".
The new school provided its 42 students with up-to-date equipment and furnishings and was designed to serve the community for many years into the future.
However the creation of the York Region Board of Education resulted in the closure of many rural schools and the last records available from the Hartman school date from 1965.
The 1952 building was retained by the York Region Board of Education and used as their Works Department until it was torn down to make way for a large housing development.

In 1971 the introduction of Regional Government redrew local township lines and Petchville ceased to be a part of Whitchurch Township and became a part of the Town of Aurora.
Since that time development has overtaken the tiny hamlet and little remains of Jonathan Petch's original land purchase.
***Clergy Reserves:** After the township was surveyed and before settlement occurred, one-seventh of the land was set aside for clergy reserves. The rental of these lands was intended to support the Church of England. An additional one-seventh was designated for Crown reserves. Crown reserves were also rented, the monies earmarked for the colonial administration and the aristocracy at York. Both clergy and Crown reserves were

sold between 1820 and 1845.
Information for the above article was taken (and updated) from the book: **Whitchurch Township** by the Whitchurch History Book Committee (Jean Barkey, Gordon Dibb, Karen Brooks Earley, Karen Edwards, Marjorie Richardson, Helen

Roberts, Lynne Rubbens, Robert Staley), Boston Mills Press 1993. Excerpts are reprinted here with permission from the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum. The book is still available through the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum in Vandorf for \$25 a copy.




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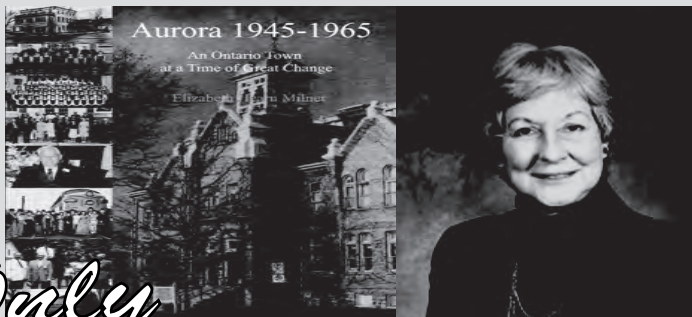


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Senior Scape



Carole uses wood to advantage

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Spring fills seniors with enthusiasm and desire, no question, so hail to glorious spring, which, in my mind, is the most delightful and refreshing season of the year.

During all seasons in the year, committees in the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) go about their business producing useful decisions and initiatives from their many meetings and discussions.

The committee members' work diligently to keep the many activities operating in optimum conditions and the success of the activities year after year offers testimony to their success.

Committees are not all work. Committees are often a source of pleasure where friendships are formed and cemented. Committees largely are the enablers of the ASA; if you want something done, give it to a committee or form a new one.

To put the matter in another perspective, the ASA provides an ample offering of activities and programs designed to fill senior requirements. Gentle physical types of activities are included plus others, which stimulate the mind.

For many retired people, retirement is good and pastimes are excellent, but the challenge of serving on a committee and serving a useful purpose while adding assorted benefits to the ASA, creates a positive outlook and suits quite a few members admirably.

The ASA is a well-planned, not for profit corporation with a fine building near the Holland River. The seniors' centre is administered jointly by the Town

of Aurora through the Parks and Leisure Services and by volunteer seniors, and is available for everyone in their retirement years.

If the seniors' centre were open to all ages, the vigour of the younger members would diminish the value of the centre to seniors.

The Town operates programs which require paid professional instructors and these programs require a fee to participate.

The seniors design and operate activities which require mostly only a valid membership and a daily activity fee of \$1. Some of the instructional courses developed and offered by the seniors charge a modest fee which goes to the ASA and helps defray operational costs.

During June, July and August the instructional courses close down but are available through the other months providing sufficient demand exists.

No matter how rich a social life one may enjoy, the misfortune that advancing years may visit on anybody makes an investment of time in the seniors centre a wonderful asset.

When economic depression happens, financial misfortune strikes indiscriminately.

On a more positive note is the everyday living and interests that can be developed, which most of us take for granted but the everyday trivia really is the mortar that holds life together for the most part. The finer points of life probably includes the excitement that grab the mundane and stirs in something that grabs attention and provides the stimulation that makes a day stand out as enjoyable.

Such stimulations are just that and do not have to be fancy or pricy. The recent Afternoon Tea, Pancake Tuesday and the Irish Stew celebrating St Patrick's Day were super popular and provide excellent examples of how seniors mingle with each other sharing good food and conversation.

A good day playing cards provides a boost, or some creative crafting or sewing or knitting or just a good get together over a cup of tea or coffee with the conversation showing a life all its own, makes a pretty good day.

Carole Hedenberg is a member and sincerely involved lady and among her hands-on activities is the creation of useful objects from the many varieties of wood.

Most women who use the wood shop generally choose wood carving as their means of expression, and while Carole carves, she also utilizes the other wood working equipment, such as band saws and wood drills and gets right into the art of fabricating from wood with as much confidence and expertise as men.

In addition, last November Carole ran a wood shop class for grandparent and grandchild with four pairs taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity to build bird feeders, which were finished by painting in a variety of colours.

Recently Carole ran another wood shop class this time producing a wooden tool box, which could be described also as a garden box or craft box, or however they are viewed in the imaginations of the children who built them.



A former Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, Lincoln Alexander, left, and current Lieutenant-Governor David Onley, right, honoured Aurora resident Les Oliver at Queen's Park recently. Mr. Oliver received the Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement. The award winner is the founding president of the Aurora Historical Society.

Aurora Seniors Duplicate Bridge

Monday, March 16th - N/S: Eva Guttman and Sheldon Fast; Greta Ogden and Melody Irving; Irene Kubica and Dorothy Young. **E/W:** Noreen Hashem and Marion Warburton; Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin; Priscilla Hull and Inger Kamel.



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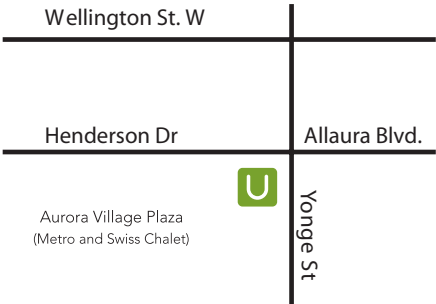
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