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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 9 No. 26

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FREE

Week of April 28, 2009

All eyes were skyward Friday morning when a huge Hercules C130 aircraft flew low over Aurora and ejected two skydivers. Their target was the St. Andrew's College track. One landed right on the mark, the second wound up in nearby bushes. The jump marked the start of a week of activity for the school's cadet corps.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Banks replace eateries

The Aurora Gateway Centre commercial development at the northwest corner of Bayview Avenue and Wellington Street East is rapidly taking shape.

At last week's Aurora General Committee meeting, councillors had a chance to see what it will eventually look like, when they were presented with a revised site plan application.

In July, 2007, Council approved a plan in principle to allow for foundation and structural permits to be issued to commence construction.

The site plan presented this month differed in a few details.

The anchor store remains a Longo's supermarket, but two smaller tenants are no longer restaurants, as originally proposed, but banks; CIBC and the Bank of Montreal.

Overall, the square footage of retail space amongst the four buildings has increased.

The report also noted that sign variances would be required.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern asked staff whether approving this site plan application meant that the sign variances would be approved, as well.

The response was that these requests would come forward for approval at a future meeting, and that staff were just flagging this issue for council's attention ahead of time.

But perhaps the biggest changes to the latest application revolved around vehicle access to the plaza.

The issue of access to this development has had a long history at council.

In May, 2006, the owners of the property approached the town to approve a full access

Please see page 3



Students of Wells Street school spent time Saturday writing messages in chalk in front of the historic building after learning a recommendation will go to school board trustees in September suggesting the school be closed. Cost to renovate the building, originally built as Aurora's first high school in 1892 has been determined to run in the millions of dollars. School ceased to function a number of years ago and students were transferred to Aurora Grove Public School in the town's east end. Parents are upset at the recommendation.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Staff recommends Wells Street close

A staff report, printed on the York Region District School Board website, recommending the school be permanently closed as early as 2010, has upset neighbours and parents of students who are currently being educated at Aurora Grove Public School.

"We are in complete shock," said Wells Street resident

Carol Farrenkopf. "The e-mails have been flying, hundreds of them. Parents are very upset and angry."

A spokesman for CAWS, a community action group fighting for the survival of the school, said the final decision will be made at a trustee meeting September 24.

Please see page 13

Briefly

Art show

The Town of Aurora and the Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA) present the 47th Annual Aurora Juried Art Show and Sale at the Aurora Town Hall, Saturday, May 2nd from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and continues Sunday, May 3rd from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The show is open to the public and the sale will offer a large selection of high quality original art.

SOYRA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the visual arts.

The purpose of the show is to provide a forum for visual artists in York Region and the surrounding area to share their knowledge, gain expertise and promote accessibility to the arts, a spokesman said.

Guest author

The Aurora Writers Group will present Brian Henry and guest author Jean Rae Baxter next month in Aurora.

Henry will discuss "How to Build Novels and Short Stories", Saturday, May 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Aurora Lions' Club on Mosley Street.

Cost is \$41 if paid in advance, \$45 at the door.

For further information or to register call Malcolm 905-898-5484 or brian-henry@sympatico.ca.

President returned

Rick Preston was returned as president of the Aurora Legion following elections last week.

Only major change to the executive was Ian Sweet, who moved from an executive position to 1st vice president.

Cliff Davies, who challenged Ian for the position, was voted in 2nd vice-president.

Other executive positions were Carol Preston, secretary; Percy Keats, treasurer; and Ken White, sergeant at arms.

Executive members include Sandi Rumball, Winnie Fleet, Marilyn Tolman, Eleanor Thomson, Valerie Sweet and Tom Rumball.

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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.

“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.

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.

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 general director Sarah Kyle at keepssinging@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.



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* * * *

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.

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Five bikeloads of residents pedalled their way through the streets of Aurora Saturday morning as the Big Bike for Heart and Stroke made its annual visit to town. Above, three businesses - Swiss Chalet, Harvey's and Foodland - combined forces to fill one ride. The Heart and Stroke Foundation raised several thousands of dollars thanks to the Aurora riders. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*



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East end plan changes

From page 1
intersection into the proposed plaza, through the existing median on Wellington just west of Bayview.

After much debate, council agreed with a staff recommendation to deny this request, as it would necessitate cutting through the median gateway feature, and adding yet another traffic light along the busy stretch of road.

A similar request to add right-in, right-out access on Bayview just north of Wellington was also rejected.

But the developers were not taking "no" for an answer, returning to plead their case in late 2007, and again in February and June 2008.

Each time, council denied the request, although in June the right-in, right-out access on Bayview was approved.

Finally, in September last year, the developers got their wish as council approved a right-in, right-out, left-in access on Wellington, that eliminated a smaller portion of the median than originally proposed.

Ironically, after all of the discussion to date about vehicle entry to this property, when the final revised site plan application came before General Committee last week, the feature that the members focused on was not access, but land-

scaping.

The addition of a pedestrian walkway at the town's request on the west side of the property had resulted in fewer trees being proposed for this area, as compared with the plan provided in the 2007 version.

After several members had commented on this, and an amendment made to the motion on the floor to increase the amount of plantings, town Planning Director Marco Ramunno

advised the committee that he had spoken to the developers about this prior to the meeting, and they had already agreed to work with town staff to increase the landscaping proposed along the western edge.

On that note, General Committee recommended that the site plan agreement be executed among the town, the owner and the Region of York.

It is expected that this will be approved by council shortly.

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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Here’s how to meet your neighbours

There are two major events in Aurora annually where one can actually meet one’s neighbours.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce Home Show, just ended, is one of them.

The other is the 14th annual street sale, traditionally held the first Sunday every June.

Together, they can attract - depending on weather - upwards of 50,000 people, and some of those people will be your neighbours.

Home Show organizers get excited if the weather is bad, street sale people want to see heat and sunshine.

According to the numbers, a total of 5,250 people attended the three-day home show set up on two ice surfaces inside the Aurora Community Centre.

If that’s a fact, you should look for sunny, warm weather to bring out 44,950 people to the street sale Sunday, June 7.

It wasn’t that way 14 years ago.

When the idea developed, it came into being to celebrate the 200th birthday of Yonge Street, then known (and still is) as the longest street in the world.

It was so named:” The world’s Longest Street Sale on the World’s Longest Street.”

The idea was to allow Aurora residents to clean the junk out of their basements, garages, etc., bring it to Yonge Street and sell it, somewhere between Aurora Heights Drive in the north and Murray Drive in the south.

It was a great idea (if I say so myself) but it was only supposed to last one year.

The Region of York got mad at us because we effectively shut down Wellington Street, and they told us, in no uncertain terms, not to do that again.

Which is why the north end of the sale ends at Wellington instead of Aurora Heights.

The Anglican Church would have nothing to do with us, because we “borrowed” their guest speaker, an Ontario Lieutenant Governor, to handle the opening ceremonies.

I never dreamed it would become an annual event. I was using the “get up, put up and shut up” method, figuring if it would work once, that was enough.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce, particularly Rosalyn Gonsalves and Marylynne Stephenson, had other ideas. It could become an annual event, and so it did.

A big one.

Several years into the event, the name was officially changed to the Aurora Chamber Street Festival”. Seems the government didn’t like the word “sale” and, if we wanted grant money (which we needed) we’d better change the name. It got changed.

Why the first Sunday in June?

Well, I was influenced by a resident who said it never rained on his birthday and that year his birthday happened to fall on the first Sunday in June.

Since then, it has probably rained on the event half the years of its existence....no more so than the year Ontario Premier Mike Harris showed up.

It was 2001 and there was a provincial by-election going on, so he was there to support the candidate.

He and his wife had always been invited to the event since she was a Harrison, and Aurora was her home.

Her parents moved to North Bay where they ran a dairy for some time.

Never mind the past.

So far, I’m told, more than 360 booths have been sold for this year’s event. There are probably about 200 left.

When you buy a booth, you get 10 feet of frontage on Yonge Street.

Booths are \$40 a pop if you’re a chamber member, (a little more if you’re not) and that’s not a bad price to pay if 40,000 people visit your location.

When it started, I wanted to charge \$10 a booth, thinking that if someone invested that money in advance, they’d be sure to show up.

What I still don’t understand is the attitude of some Yonge Street merchants who close their businesses that day and fail to take advantage of the crowds.

So, if you’re planning to participate in this year’s activities - lots of entertainment and a car show are included - best you call the Chamber of Commerce right now at 905-727-7262 and reserve your spot.

Otherwise, prepare to walk about a mile along Yonge Street where you’re sure to run into one of your neighbours.



Doomed?

A recommendation will go before the York Region District School Board in September advising that Aurora’s Wells Street School - once the community’s first high school - should not reopen for students. Students who normally would go to the school are currently being bussed to another elementary school on Stone Road, in Aurora’s east end. Because of safety issues the school has been closed for a number of years, but parents living in Wells Street catchment area want the building fixed and re-opened as a school.

Letter to the Editor

Amalgamation left “bad taste”

To the editor,

I read the Poor Ronnie column plus the letter from Barry Hall concerning amalgamation (The Auroran, July 14).

I was raised in Aurora but now live in the Ottawa area.

I lived through amalgamation up here and the experience was not pleasant.

It still leaves a bad taste in my mouth.

I lived in Rideau Township bordering the Rideau River on the south of what is now Ottawa.

It is primarily a rural area with a few villages.

The promise was more services and lower taxes. The inverse happened.

Before amalgamation, I could call my local councillor and I would receive a call back from that person.

I could drop by the municipal offices (down the road) and talk directly with the planner, clerk, admin, whomever I needed.

Everyone was local and helpful. Rideau had no debt and ran on a no-deficit policy.

Since amalgamation, my taxes skyrocketed, services declined and you needed to hunt through downtown Ottawa voicemail for any help.

Forget actually talking to the person you needed. You might get one or two people removed from the person you wanted.

If you need to go to the municipality then be prepared to drive to downtown Ottawa, pay exorbitant parking fees to sit in a waiting

room and be asked how you would like to pay for the services you have yet to receive.

Money up front for this crowd and then only opposition and delay. These people are urban and do not understand rural needs.

The list of foolish bylaws that work in downtown Ottawa, that blind bureaucrats imposed on the new outlying citizens is too lengthy to begin.

All this and we never had a chance to even vote on it. Big brother made a decision because it made sense in someone’s ledger. Forget the voters.

Nepean, which was also amalgamated, actually had a few million in the bank. The city sucked that up and raised taxes. The city of Ottawa is in huge debt.

I moved. I now live 1.5 kilometres outside the city limits in Montague Township.

I know my councillors. I drop in whenever I have questions and immediately get to see whomever I need - no charge. I volunteer on a municipal committee.

The bottom line is we forget the reason for government.

It is to serve the public.

That means it needs to be as local as possible.

Don’t get fooled into a numbers game because the professionals will perform their slight of hand tricks and you’ll be looking at a number when your community is stolen from you.

If you give that privilege away you’ll never get it back.

Don’t think these things are rights - they aren’t. They are privileges that you need to fight (vote) for.

There are other solutions but keep your government

local or someone else will make these decisions for you, maybe Newmarket.

Ross McMurphy
Montague Twp.

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Publisher Emeritus
Rosemary Schumaker

Editorial
Ron Wallace
ron@auroran.com

Production
Cynthia Proctor
cynthia@auroran.com

Photography
David Falconer
dfalconer@sympatico.ca

Main Number
905-727-3300

Advertising
Bob Ince
bob@auroran.com

Classifieds
905-727-7128
classifieds@auroran.com

Diane Buchanan
diane@auroran.com

Facsimile Machine
905-727-2620

Maria Pritchard
maria@theauroran.com

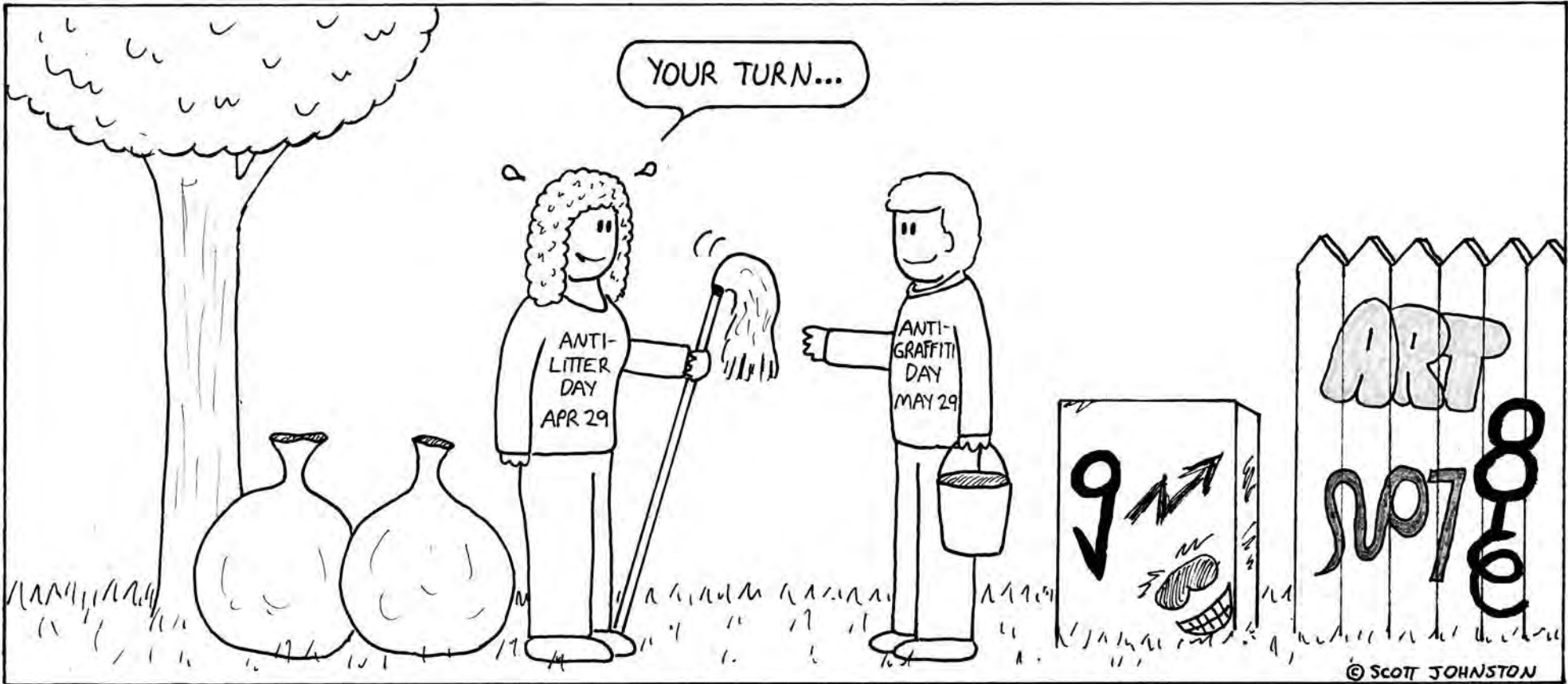
Editorial Department
rwall9999@aol.com

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Christ Lutheran and Aurora High

Christ Lutheran Church has partnered with Aurora High School for students to complete their community or co-op hours by offering free services to the children and youth of the community.

According to the guide put out by the York Region District School Board, "The Ministry of Education policy document, Ontario Secondary Schools, Grades 9 to 12: Program and Diploma Requirements, 1999, states that every student who begins secondary school during or after the 1999 - 2000 school year must complete a minimum of 40 hours of community involvement activities as part of the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma."

Students are given a form that they must submit annually to the school principal or the teacher designated by the principal. This form outlines the activity and the organization the student is doing the work for.

While the completion of the form is done on the "honour" system, it is handed in annually to catch those students who may like to procrastinate.

The guide also says: "We believe that the purpose of the community requirement is to encourage students to develop an understanding of civic responsibility and the role they can play in supporting and strengthening their communities."

Exactly! Well said!

Students can complete these activities at any time prior to graduation.

And there are lots of activities that are deemed eligible.

Some of these include: Charitable organizations, environmental projects, religious organizations, political organizations, health agencies, and senior citizens groups, to name just a few.

As you see, the organizations offer students different opportunities to broaden their horizons.

The partnership between Christ Lutheran and Aurora High, which began last September, is one such example.

Christ Lutheran offers free programs to the children and youth of our community. They offer free guitar and drumming lessons, French tutoring and ball hockey.

A Grade 12 Aurora High student who needed 32 volunteer hours loved his work so much that he ended up volunteering almost 69 hours teaching guitar to youths aged five to 17. He gave 20-minute lessons, one on one when possible, and was supervised by an adult member host.

This student was deemed the 'Guitar Hero' by the congregation as gratitude for a job well done.

This was a wonderful opportunity for kids who may not be able to afford lessons otherwise. It is also a free way to see if there is a true interest without investing in a guitar. The students experience joyful giving from a motivated teen- what a great role model!

And the teen instructor increased his knowledge and experience in setting up a program and executing it.

Great connections are also made for developing this into a job opportunity of offering lessons for charge in the future.

The instructors' mom was also very proud, although she was slightly annoyed by the lack of interest in other duties at home!

A second session of six students began their placements last spring, running from March through to June.

A Grade 12 student is completing two co-op credits offering guitar lessons to three to 17-year-old youths, providing French tutoring

for students from kindergarten to Grade 8 and he is also coaching ball hockey.

There are also two students doing community service hours: one is a female Grade 11 student who will be working with the children's church choir and possibly performing a musical that she developed.

The second is a Grade 12 student who assisted with the Aurora Easter egg hunt- face painting, setting up signs, serving the pancake breakfast and also currently assists with ball hockey week.

As you can see, a program like this produces relationships developed to create a more giving and caring, close knit community.

All programs and events are free to the community. Any donations made go towards developing the front field of the church property to create a soccer field. The church would like to then offer free soccer training to the community by a professional soccer goalie and instructor.

Donations are also used to support future programs.

A win/win for all involved.

Hopefully, this mandated service obligation produces young adults who will make this community "giving" a part of their every day lives in the years ahead.

If you would like more information about the program contact Marcia Karagiannis at 905-953-8268 or Elke Schlichte at 905-898-6448 of the Christ Lutheran Church.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

Playing in the dirt

It's that time of year.

I look out at my garden and it's a terrible mess. It seems winter does to my garden what my kids do to my house.

But it's not the same as when my house or my garage is a terrible mess. Not the same thing a bit!

If the laundry room is overflowing, I just want to avoid, avoid, avoid! Just close the door and post a sign that says: DANGER! KEEP OUT!

But when the wee snowdrops and crocuses poke their pretty little faces out of the thinning blanket of snow, their radiance melts my heart.

The spirit of a gardener awakens in me and...I just can't wait to go and play in the dirt!

It's Spring time, folks! What could be more inspiring than the promise of colourful peonies and fragrant lilacs?

Every gardener in Aurora knows what I'm talking about - trees and shrubs and perennials make the world a better place!

On Saturday, May 2nd, the Aurora Community Arboretum will be holding its annual Spring Planting event.

Last year, we had a record turnout so this year we have more trees and shrubs to be planted. Plus we have refreshments - coffee courtesy of Susan Cowen of RE/Max York Group to get us wired for planting, and fresh water to keep us hydrated compli-

ments of my favourite lawyer (now there's a surprise!) - Damir Vrancic.

All we need is people who love to play in the dirt!

We'll be starting at 10 a.m. at the north end of the Arboretum - on Industrial Parkway North, south of the dog park.

So mark May 2nd on your calendar and while you're at it, you might want to make note of the Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society's Annual Plant Sale.

Yes, the most beautiful perennials from Aurora's most beautiful gardens can be yours! Don't you just love it when gardeners share?

The sale is on Saturday, May 9th, at the Aurora Public Library from 9 a.m. until noon, and guaranteed to bring you the joy of potting and puttering!

In case you didn't know, the AGHS is a group of passionate gardeners who get together every month to talk about flowers, trees and bees.

If these are a few of your favourite things, they welcome new members but just so you know, they're not all "talk".

Apparently, the "rumour" is true: The Garden Tour Committee really does prowl Aurora looking for beautiful gardens to show in its Annual Garden Tour. Psst, pass it on!

"Once we spy a possibility," confesses my neighbour, Judy

Ryan, "we knock on the door and once answered, immediately shower praise on the garden. It helps to alleviate the fear we want to sell them a vacuum cleaner (do people still do that?). Next comes the hard part. The ladies are generally all for it. Who doesn't like to show off their prized roses? Then we talk to the gentlemen."

"What do you mean there will be 200 people walking on my grass???"

That one's a little tougher sell.

This year, the Annual Garden Tour of Gardens in Aurora will be held Sunday July 5th.

For more information, contact Madge Ford at 905-727-5926.

According to the grapevine, tickets are available at R & R Revisited, Flowers by Terry, Caruso's, Black Forest Nursery and Pathways to Perennials.

Hmmm...what a perfect Mother's Day gift for moms who love to play in the dirt!

And dads too...or maybe for the spirit of the gardener that lives in you!

Happy planting, Aurora!

Cathy Vrancic welcomes e-mail at:
ccaaurora@rogers.com

Letters to the Editor

Trail would invade seniors' privacy

To the editor,

How would you like someone building a public hiking trail in your back-

yard, 60 metres from your home?

This is what is facing the senior residents of Hadley Grange, if the planners of

the Nokiidaa Trail have their way.

We who live here feel that it is not only an invasion of our privacy, but also

that of the wildlife in the McKenzie Marsh.

The trail is planned to go right through their nesting grounds.

We have been told that this is the last bit of Aurora land available for the trail except if it follows St. John's Sideroad to Yonge

Street to meet with the Newmarket section.

We are hoping that this route will be the one taken.

It won't be the first time sidewalks are used as part of a trail. The Oak Ridges Moraine Trail in Aurora is an example.

The McKenzie family put a lot of thought and effort to create this wildlife sanctuary and I am sure they would hate to see it destroyed.

When St. John's Sideroad was reconstructed a few years ago, a boardwalk was built on the north side as part of the proposed trail, so the powers-that-be have known of this route for a long time without notifying or consulting with the neighbours, and I am quite sure that a handful of seniors will not cause them to alter their plans.

I feel I must state my opinion, anyway and no doubt will be called a selfish crybaby; in fact a NIMBY.

But in this case no one is pushing this unwelcome intrusion onto anyone else; ours is the only backyard involved.

So I'm going to raise my voice and holler loud and clear: NOT IN MY BACKYARD!

Flo Murray
Aurora

Neighbour says no to planned Nokiidaa

To the residents of Aurora:

I just recently learned the Town of Aurora (through a proposal by the Nokiidaa Trail Committee) is considering installing a boardwalk through the McKenzie Wetlands behind Hadley Grange at Old

Yonge and St. John's Sideroad.

When I talked to staff members of the Town, they tell me this has been in the works for 10 years.

Well...that is news to me and so it is to many Aurorans.

There is nothing worse than keeping the taxpayer

in the dark.

We don't know who is paying the bill or do we know how much.

Why do we need this expense? What about maintenance?

This proposed 'trail' won't even be usable in the winter, no bikes allowed and it will have a curfew in

effect at night.

I walked through the first part of the Tom Taylor Trail on Saturday.

There were broken beer bottles and refuse all over. So how does one overcome this? Will there be some sort of security on this proposed 'trail'...again at whose expense? How does

one keep out abusers?

There are deer that come and winter here. How will they navigate a slippery boardwalk?

The best is yet to come. When I came here in 1987, people told me how Aurora at one time owned Oak Ridges and we lost it by expropriation by Richmond Hill.

That is a possibility here when you cosy up to a bigger neighbour. Though one could laugh this off, stranger things have happened.

I live close to the wetlands on Old Yonge and have often thought how beautiful a park could be at 65 St. John's Sideroad with proper assemblage, etc.

In summation, I have no doubt the four corners at Yonge and St. John's Sideroad are getting ready for much development and much traffic redesigning.

I agree with Hugh Allen. It could be "adios".

Ben Kestein
Aurora

Trail will upset creatures' lives

To the editor,

This is in regards to the Nokiidaa Trail.

These proposed trails are nothing more than an opportunity to invade, disrupt and destroy these natural areas.

Any attempt to go through or around the edge of this marsh will have harmful and damag-

ing short and long term effects on the life in this area.

We have seen humans' ugly footprints and will continue to see the destructive behaviour of man's vision on this planet.

The human race has hunted them, slaughtered them, tortured, mounted them on our walls as con-

quests in our homes and restaurants like Montana's and experimented on our wild friends all in the interest of satisfying man's whims, comfort and glory.

We have done all of this except leave their habitat and them alone.

This is a protected wildlife habitat and should remain untouched with no interference from man.

It also MUST be forever declared and POSTED as a NATURAL PROTECTED WILDLIFE HABITAT, so this battle will never happen again.

Our wild friends deserve better than what little mankind has left for them.

Barb MacLeod
Aurora

Stop the trail, group says

To the editor,

Re: "Neighbours oppose trail plans" (The Auroran, April 21, 09)

Though your paper may feel this project is "simple and much-needed", we feel the opposite and would like to bring the following to the attention of the citizens in Newmarket and Aurora.

It is going to take our communities to protect the McKenzie Wetlands.

As stewards of our local land, air, water, our communities and our children's future, we believe that the McKenzie Wetlands must be left alone entirely in its present state.

The proposed trail, which seems pretty and convenient for humans, will do enormous damage to the already fragile ecosystem of the wetlands.

Go for a walk, look and listen for yourself.

One cannot argue that there would be no damage to the wildlife, their homes and plant life.

Have we not left

enough of a big, ugly footprint on these wetlands as it is?

Already it is disrespected, under-managed and turning into a garbage pit.

We must, as citizens, come together to demand that those areas which were proposed to be green remain untouched.

Why does development encroach on these areas we are meant to be protecting?

So far, the government and development continue to push the limits on the green belts and all available land.

How do we need to develop our community's land?

We say enough already!

Developers and governments - who in their right mind would even consider proposing or sanctioning such senseless destruction?

Who was there first anyway?

Is completing a silly trail more important than wildlife?

Don't you have any cares about nature for

future generations?

Really think about the long-term impact on this habitat. This trail is completely unnecessary.

What are your real intentions for this area and, for that matter, the rest of our land, the land, the people's land, Canada?

Tell us. This project has been in the works for some time. Why are we only learning about this now?

Unless we collectively stand up to show our disapproval it is going to happen.

Once an eco-system is gone, it's gone.

On April 28 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Aurora Town Hall's Holland Room, take five minutes of your time, to just fill a form to express your views.

Remember, this is the

only window we are being given to express our opposition.

If you can't make it, call Jim Tree to express your view at 905-727-3123 ext. 3233 or e-mail him at jtree@aurora.ca.

Our children's grandchildren will be forever grateful for our actions at this time. We must begin to love more and want less.

Thank for your time and caring for those without a voice.

There is a more suitable, practical and viable link along the east side of Yonge.

This route would be usable day and night, summer and winter and would encourage much more participation between our communities.

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Peter Virtanen
CLU, Agent, Aurora



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Letters to the Editor

Chamber says thanks for successful show

To the editor,

We pulled it off again! - a successful Home Show for Aurora and our surrounding communities. Exhibitors and visitors were all smiles for the duration of the show. There were lots of fun activities for all, including a clown, face painting courtesy of L.H. Lind Realty, a roving magician and John Lemme providing live musi-

cal entertainment next to the pool in the Outdoor Living Expo. Upstairs, Delayne Drive entertained those enjoying food and refreshments in the Beer Garden, which was headed up by Diane Buchanan and the wonderful members of the Optimist Club of Aurora. All of this would not have been possible without the undying commitment of the

Home Show Committee, including Diane Buchanan, Jack Roeleveld, Brian North, George Hughes, Robin Hardman and of course the chamber staff; Caroline Rusnell, Michael Keith, Executive Director (Acting), and in particular, Nancy Eveleigh Browne, my right-hand who ensured that all ran smoothly. New this year was the Aurora Home Show website,

www.aurorahomeshow.ca. The site was created, developed and sponsored in part by Treefrog Interactive. This is an excellent marketing tool that will be available with this year's sponsor and exhibitor information including links until the fall this year. At that time we will be preparing the site with the 2010 Home Show information.

Thank you to the more than 150 exhibitors of the Home Show. Thank you for your enthusiasm and professional and creative booth displays. I would also like to thank our sponsors and contributors to the event including PowerStream, our featured sponsor, and Lenard Lind of L.H. Lind Realty who sponsored the Friday evening exhibitor reception. Also to be acknowledged for their sponsorship and support are Susan Cowen/Remax for the Outdoor Living Expo and PACE Credit Union as Beer Garden Entertainment Sponsor.

The extensive and beautifully designed outdoor living area was created and sponsored by Jack's Landscaping and Surfside/Leisurescapes. Thank you also to the many, many volunteers who gave up their time to help where needed, those who generously donated passport prizes and other products and services to help make this such a successful event. A special thank you to the staff at the Aurora Community Centre for their cooperation and friendly assistance before, during and after the show. Finally, congratulations to our booth winners: Most Effective Presentation, World Mosaic Stone & Tile; honourable mention to KIBO Natural Body Care Products. Most Creative Booth: Saturday Afternoons Home Store, Aurora. Most Creative and Effective Garden/Landscape Display: YardWorks 4 Life/Newtonbrook Block. Most Unique Design: Southlake Regional Health Centre; honourable mention to Sport Court. Rookie of the Year Award: Treefrog Interactive. Best Professional Services Display: Smiles by Dr. Goodlin.

Robin Taylor-Smith,
Chair,
2009 Home Show
Committee

Dick said he'd shovel snow

To the editor,

Re: Mr. D. Illingworth

It was unfortunate to hear about Dick's passing a couple of weeks ago but I have a great memory of him. Our family moved to Aurora in 1957 and lived on Nisbet Drive in Regency Acres. In the winter the plow

would come down our street and dump the snow at the dead end (there was a field between Regency Acres and Golf Glen back then. Of course, the snow would end up at the mouth of our driveway. I think I was about 13 years old in 1963 when I think this took place but I decided to sit down and write Mr. Illingworth, the mayor at

the time, a letter in which I explained to him that my father had had a heart attack and I was the only one who could shovel out the end of the driveway every time the plow dumped the snow and that it was pretty heavy for one 13-year-old to have to move, plus have to shovel the rest of the driveway as well, so I asked Mr. Illingworth if there was any-

thing he could do to help me. Well, to my surprise, Mr. Illingworth called my house and spoke to me and said that from then on someone would be down to clear the snow after the plow dumped it and if it was not removed then he would personally come and shovel it himself. Mr. Illingworth lived up to his promise and the snow was removed after every storm and they also cleared the whole driveway every time.

I sure was impressed by this man at a very early age and he made my family and I feel like we were very important that he would take the time to help us out. He sure will be missed by many. My condolences to his family.

Pamela Maple
Aurora

She says thank you for Dick's Legion service

To the editor,

On behalf of Dorothy Clark McClure and the family of Richard (Dick) Illingworth who died March 29, 2009, we would like to express our gratitude to everyone who sent flowers and made donations

on Dick's behalf. Special thanks to the president and staff of the Aurora Colonel Fred Tilston VC Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion for providing the hall and reception for Dick's public Memorial Celebration. Many thanks to Ted Kearn

and Veterans Affairs for their long-time support and assistance. We appreciate the ongoing support of her Worship Phyllis Morris, Mayor of Aurora, members of council as well as the many public officials who have paid their respects, including the York Regional Police. We wish to thank Ron Wallace and The Auroran and area media for capturing Dick's lifetime achievements for prosperity as well as Roger's Cable Television - Aurora for providing a beautiful Tribute CD compilation of the event. We are deeply touched by the kind words of all those who spoke at the Memorial Celebration and for the ongoing outpouring of support and kindness that we have received from friends, neighbours and the community. Thanks to you, Mr. Aurora will live on in our hearts.

Glenn Hubbers
Aurora

Kelly McClure
Bradford

Lois Brown is not a PC, reader says

To the editor,

In your front page article, "Jones would seek nomination, but not without competition", you have mistakenly labelled Lois Brown as a Progressive Conservative. The Auroran should publish a correction of the record. I have no idea of Ms Brown's political leanings

prior to 2003, but that was the year in which "Progressive" was dropped by the Conservative party, both in name and philosophy. Lois Brown was elected as a Conservative, not a Progressive Conservative. As Canadians we are free to vote for our candidate of choice, but should not mistake the old party for the new one.

Health debate too important to be political

To the editor,

RE: Front Porch Perspective. The Auroran, April 14

Our thanks go to Stephen Somerville for opening a local discussion about health care. However, he suggests that it will be right vs. left debate. If our "sacred trust" is to be sustainable, the debate is far too important than to be mired in politics. We look forward to explorations from Stephen and others.

Gordon Barnes
Aurora



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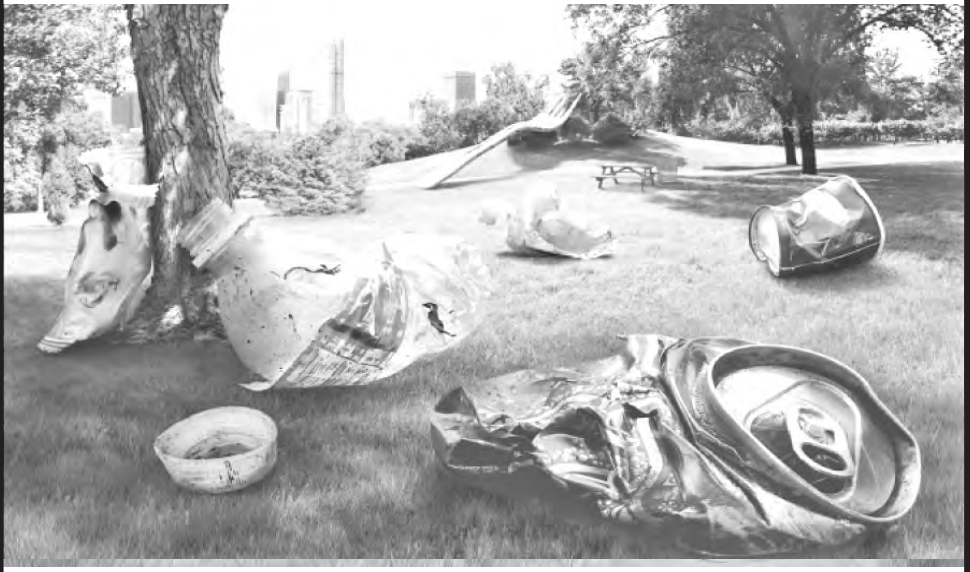
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Letters to the Editor

Seat-belt argument “flawed”, reader says

To the editor,

Re: Letter to the Editor, The Auroran, April 21, from M. Chisholm.

Let's pretend that I don't know you and can't just walk down the street and swat you with a rolled-up Auroran, because this letter should actually be addressed to every adult driver who thinks he is the only one affected by his decision to not wear a seat belt.

I don't disagree with the "Big Brother" stance, but the premise of your argument is flawed. Horribly, horribly flawed.

My parents went to the funeral that cinched it in 1979, when there were no seat belt laws.

I was eight-years-old, and from that day on, no one had to tell me to buckle up.

Grade 2 was not the same for a couple of months after that because we had an empty desk. My classmate hadn't been hurt - his parents made him wear his seat belt.

But his mother didn't think she needed to... and his dad took a long time to get used to being a single parent.

You are not the only one affected by your decision to not wear a seat belt.

Anyone who thinks he is an island unto himself pays huge disrespect to his spouse, parents, children, and siblings, to his coworkers, clients, friends, and neighbours.

And for that, you get swatted with a rolled-up Auroran.

For simplicity, let's leave out the emotional scars of other people who were involved in the crash (either at-fault or not), and

the people who are paid to clean up the mess, scrape what's left of you off the hood of your car and the pavement (because it is at that time in your life, when you are ejected through the windshield, that you will literally be in two places at once); to sift through and remove the wreckage blocking the road for everyone else; those who embalm or cremate you...or who, if you're more fortunate, will stitch you back up, remove any ruptured vital organs, set your bones together, perhaps with screws, or remove unsalvageable limbs and cerebral bits, and rehabilitate your body and train your mind to live as fulfilling a life as you can with a head injury, the prosthetics, or seated in a mobile chair.

Those would be the professional team players

dedicated to helping you live in the lifestyle to which you must become accustomed.

Your closest team players share your four walls and roof, and they will have to live with your decision every day for the rest of their lives.

Not just your life.

And you all live on a street with people who know you and care whether you live or die.

You live in a community with a school where your children will have emotional support in their time of need, and whose friends' parents will help out however they can, should your spouse need what little we can offer, be it emergency child care so your spouse can take you to that last-minute diagnostic or follow-up appointment change, or just a bit of down time to recharge the

spirit and brace for the next 24 hours of dealing with the volatile personality changes wrought by a head injury.

There will be lasagnes on the doorstep and garbage bins collected from the curb.

There will be lawn mowing and garden planting favours...because we will keep up the hope that your family will not lose the house as a result of the crash.

Your decision to not wear a seat belt has the power to force other, extremely difficult decisions on your entire family.

Your decision to not

wear a seat belt also has the power to unleash a tsunami of caring and kindness. Silver lining, and all that...but remember that silver tarnishes over time.

Personally, I'd rather read your next letter grumbling about the speed limit on St. John's Sideroad.

There are 'way more people on the road who won't wear their seat belts than there are murderers, rapists, and and gangsters. Thank goodness.

And to the uniformed team players who enforce the law: Thank you.

**B. Taylor
Aurora**

Seat belt idea is okay as long as I don't pay

To the editor,

Maybe Big Brother is

right.

How much do we, the general public, pay for med-

ical and hospital care attributed to drivers or adult passengers not wearing automobile seat belts?

M. Chisholm's idea that the wearing of seat belts should be optional has some merit provided it is understood that any medical costs attributed by the person or persons is/are paid by them and not you and I.

Maybe I am biased.

I had a friend, a fast and possibly dangerous driver who in the 60s lost control of his car - left the road,

crossed a ditch, rolled the vehicle several times, had all four doors torn off or badly damaged.

My friend came to sitting in his seat in an upside down car suffering from cuts and bruises.

He was wearing a seat belt. When I heard what happened to him I installed belts in my car.

My friend died of natural causes at age 86.

**Eric Worsley
Aurora**

How much will it cost?

To the editor,

M. Chisholm of Aurora (letter to the editor, The Auroran, April 21), thinks that it is no one's business if he chooses not to wear a seat belt.

Has he thought about the enormous cost to the Health

System (and ultimately the taxpayers), if he requires hospitalization and/or long term medical disability financial assistance should he be hurt in an automobile accident?

**Jackie Simone
Aurora**



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Letters to the Editor

Fewer parking spots not the answer, she says

To the editor,

Re: "We need fewer parking spots", The Auroran, April 21.

I am writing in response to Mr. Moore's letter regarding his belief that we need to overturn the existing bylaw for a minimum of 1.5 parking spaces per unit in new

developments. Unfortunately, Mr. Moore's utopia of commuters "shedding their cars and embracing public transit" does not exist in the world the rest of us live in.

I fully believe in being as environmentally friendly as possible.

My husband and I have renovated a very old home,

reusing many materials in the process, rather than buying new.

I've eliminated water hungry elements from my landscape, utilizing mainly native species, to the point that I rarely need to water in the summer.

I take the GO train to my job in the city of Toronto.

I recycle everything that I

can, have installed super high efficiency HVAC and appliances in my home and have had an energy assessment done.

I've even changed all of the light bulbs in the entire house to compact fluorescents!

I'd like to tell you a story about how I tried a number of years ago to be environ-

mentally conscientious by attempting to commute to my job location, at the time, near Keele and Lawrence in Toronto.

I noticed, after a week or two at this location, that the train that came from Aurora to Toronto, passed within one hundred yards of my office.

I called GO Transit to inquire if there was a stop nearby.

They stated that the nearest stop was York University, at Keele and Steeles Avenue, or Union Station, right downtown.

They also told me that the trains didn't run early enough to get me there by 6 a.m., my starting time.

I asked them if they had any future plans to add stops to this line.

They said "not in the foreseeable future".

Hmmm. So much for that plan.

I then proceeded to calculate the length of time it would take me to get to my job through regular public transit (bus, subway etc.).

It would have taken me

two and a half hours, one way.

I would have had to get up by 3 a.m. (to get ready and make it to work on time). Alternatively, by car, it took me 30 minutes. Which do you think I chose?

I would predict that the majority of commuters would have made the same choice.

That is the reality. Not utopia.

If we want to "break our car addiction", reducing parking spots is not the way to do it. Improving the public transit infrastructure to make it easier for people to get to work is the only solution.

Reducing parking spots will only create problems in the neighbourhoods where these new housing developments and intensification projects are located.

Let's not put the cart before the horse.

In closing, I have a couple of questions for you, Mr. Moore: how many cars are in your driveway, and how do you get to work?

Angela Daust
Aurora

Is Town ignoring west residents?

To the editor,

Have the powers that be abandoned us?

We once had two supermarkets in the north end, west side of Yonge Street.

People in this area

could walk to do their shopping. Not anymore, years ago we also had a beer store, now long gone.

Everything seems to be happening east of Yonge.

Now they are building a new baseball diamond. What's wrong with Fleury

Park? Residents in this area loved to watch the games. But last summer, we could have counted on one hand, the number of games played there.

Seems they have switched to the Town Park, such a waste of a lovely

baseball diamond.

They used to say "go west, young man". Whatever for, there's nothing here.

The only thing happening is Fleury & Machell Parks being torn to pieces, to accommodate the big water pipe, we really need this.

So while I touch on this subject, remember that Aurora has the purest drinking water.

So, that being the case, don't buy water in plastic bottles, it probably does not come close to our tap water, the tap does not leach out like plastic bottles do and think of environment, think green.

I think we pay our taxes on the west side.

Fencing fields removes taxpayers' rights: reader

To the editor,

I am really disappointed that the mayor and certain councillors want to take away the right of all residents to use Town fields.

We all are taxpayers and we all have the right to use these fields.

We are asked to stay in shape and to keep our kids in shape yet one of the town's key assets, open fields and parks, is being taken away.

I know that organized leagues pay extra to use the fields and they deserve that right. However, when the fields are not permitted to

organized groups then we, the taxpayers, should be able to play sports with our kids or friends.

We pay for the fields to be maintained through our taxes and we should always be allowed to use them. Fencing them removes that right.

That includes the astro

turf field at Sheppard's Bush.

If you agree with me then please call the mayor and the councillors to voice your opinion. Please do not allow this right to be taken away.

Nigel Kean
Aurora

N. Pemberton
Aurora

Restoration of parks not professional, reader says

To the editor,

If you have ever played soccer, rugby, tennis or baseball or have just walked through and enjoyed Fleury and Machell Parks, take note of the totally unprofessional restoration going on.

Both drainage systems my crew installed in the 60s and the second installed by Jim Tree's crew have been ripped up, along with trees, electrical lines and sprinkler systems.

Work being completed now is wreckless, messy (just take a look!) and below Aurora's standards (a bit of topsoil).

If you think that the parks should be restored to the standards that the parks were constructed and paid for by your tax dollars, contact your mayor or your councillor and let them know.

Norm Weller
Aurora

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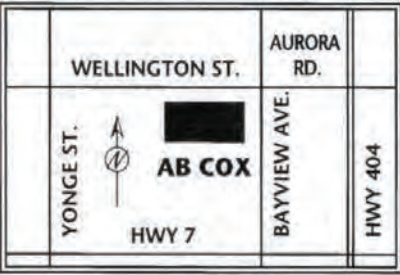
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Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Offers are unconditionally interest free. **\$1,000/\$1,000/\$1,000/\$750 cash alternative to All In One Event is a manufacturer-to-retailer delivery credit (tax exclusive) available on 2009 Pontiac Montana SV6 FWD 1SM/ GMC Sierra Ext. Cab 4WD 1SP/Pontiac Torrent FWD 1SM/Pontiac G3 Wave 5-door 1SM. Such delivery credits are included in the cash purchase prices in this advertisement. See dealer for details. †Subject to Vehicle Redemption Allowances. Visit thegmcard.ca for more details including terms and conditions that apply to The GM Card Earnings and Redemption Program. The Toronto-Dominion Bank and its affiliates are not responsible for the GM Card Earnings and Redemption Allowance Program. © Registered trade-mark of General Motors Corporation/Used under license. TD logo is a trade-mark of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. †Based on 2009 Natural Resources Canada Fuel Consumption Guide. 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For more information on safety ratings, go to www.safercar.gov. 2009 Pontiac Torrent and 2009 GMC Sierra received both a 5-star Rating for the driver and front passenger in the Frontal Crash Test and for Front and Rear Seat Occupants in the Side-Impact Crash Test. 2009 Pontiac G3 Wave received both a 5-star Rating for the driver and front passenger in the Frontal Crash Test. †† Pontiac Torrent FWD GT shown with PCR (Podium Edition Package), MSRP \$33,675. GMC Sierra Ext. Cab SLE shown with PDD, MSRP \$38,795. Pontiac G3 Wave 5-door with UE1 and PW8 shown, MSRP \$14,710.

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Novice Panthers win bronze at Provincials

The Aurora Panthers Novice A girls' hockey team finished off an incredible season capturing the bronze medal in the Novice A division at the 2009 OWSA Provincial Championships recently.

The A division is the highest level of hockey for seven and eight year old girls in Ontario.

The team had a great year on the ice finishing with a 44-10-4 record. They placed in every event that they entered.

The girls went undefeated in the LLFHL regular season, won the bronze medal in playoffs, won the Brampton, Oshawa

and Durham West Tournaments while receiving silvers at the Whitby and Clarington tournaments and capped off the dream season with a bronze at Provincials.

No other Novice team in the province won as much as this group of girls.

Recently, the team won the prestigious Brampton Tournament defeating the Whitby Wolves 4-3 in a semi-final shootout and then won gold by beating their arch rivals, the Oakville Hornets 1-0 in overtime.

"The girls showed an amaz-

ing amount of poise in the semi-final, erasing a three-goal deficit in the 3rd period to win the game," said head coach Jim Thompson. "They carried their late surge of energy into the championship game and gave what I thought was their best performance this season."

The team went 4-2 at the Provincials last weekend to finish the season.

Emma Bellerby scored the lone goal in the bronze medal game as the Panthers defeated the Clarington Flames 1-0.

Natalie Thompson collected her league leading 15th shutout

of the year reducing her goals against average to a remarkable 1.24 for the season.

Lauren Ianni led the team this year in scoring with 66 goals and 89 points.

The team consists of forwards Neve Webster, Florence Awde, Natalie Pantaleo, Vanessa Carriere, Rebekah Feld, Lauren Daniels, Cassidy Phillips, Bellerby and Ianni.

Nicole Stolys, Meaghan Phillips, Emily Gianias and Grace Gallien led the defense.

The girls will spend their next week vying for spots for next year's Panther teams.

Twelve of the 14 girls move up to Atom while the Phillips twins have one more year of Novice.





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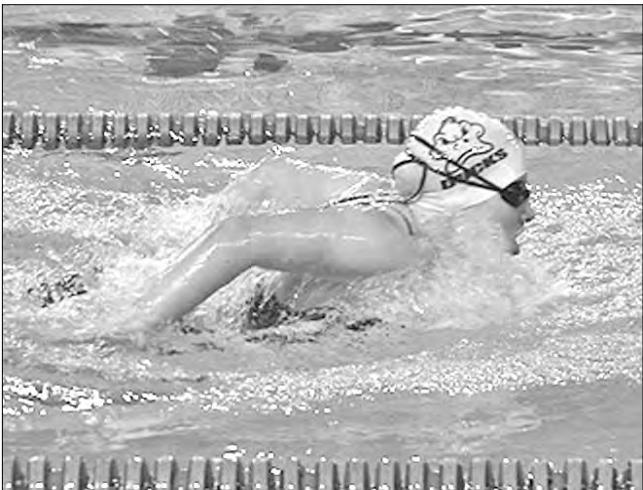
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Sarah Gillis, of the Ducks Swimming contingent from Aurora, races to the finish line in the 200 metre Butterfly division. She finished third.

Ducks get to finals in Sudbury meet

Ducks Swimming members once again showed strength and determination at this year's Division II Team Champs, held in Sudbury recently.

Thirty of the Aurora/Stouffville Ducks embarked on the trip to Laurentian University and swam their hearts out, despite the long car ride.

Many of the club's swimmers made it to finals, including Sarah Gillis (100 fly, 200 fly, 200 Individual Medley), Callum Ross (100 free, 200 free, 200 Individual Medley), and Andree Payne (100 free, 200 free, 200 fly).

Though the younger swimmers were not eligible to swim finals, many placed in the top eight, including Sam Kaczor.

Thanks to copious amounts of decorations and noisemakers brought by the swimmers, the energy level was high throughout the duration of the weekend.

The Ducks had a constant "cheering squad" composed of parents, swimmers and coaches which contributed to the success of the team.

The highly charged atmosphere was felt by all at the Olympic Gold Pool for the finals. Through great relays and awesome individual events, the team managed to maintain their placing in Division II.

Accomplishments are as follows:

17 & over Boys: Callum Ross: 200 Free,1st; 400 Free, 1st; 100 Free, 3rd, 200 Individual Medley, 3rd; and 400 Individual Medley, 3rd.

11 & 12 Boys : Jake Sacksteder 100 Fly, 6th; Alejandro Hernandez 100 Fly, 7th, 200 Fly, 7th, 200 Free Relay 8th (Hernandez; Joseph DiLisi; Luke Sacksteder; Jake Sacksteder).

10 & Under Boys: 200 Free Relay, 6th (Dominik Hykel; Matt Doyle; Laird Douglas; Luke Scaksteder).

200 Medley Relay, 6th (Dominik Hykel; Matt Doyle; Laird Douglas; Luke Scaksteder).

17 & over Girls: Andree Payne, 200 Free, 4th; 800 Free, 5th; 100 Free, 5th; 200 Fly, 6th; 400 Free, 7th.

15 & 16 Girls Sarah

Gillis 200 Fly, 3rd; 100 Fly, 6th; 800 Free, 6th, 200 Individual Medley, 6th; 400 Individual Medley, 6th.

11 & 12 Girls: Victoria Wicks, 100 Breast, 2nd; 200 Breast, 2nd.

10 & Under Girls: Sam Kaczor, 100 Fly, 1st; 50 Fly, 2nd; 100 Free, 2nd; 200 Free, 2nd; 200 Individual Medley, 2nd Gladys Moraru, 100 Individual Medley, 6th; 200 Free, 8th. Kirsten Douglas, 50 Back, 8th; 200 Free Relay, 3rd. (Sam Kaczor; Karina Robb; Kirsten Douglas; Gladys Moraru); 200 Medley Relay, 6th (Sam Kaczor; Isabella Hernandez; Kirsten Douglas; Gladys Moraru).

Board staff recommends Wells St. School closes

From page 1
The spokesman advised only three of the 12 trustees are aware of the issue.

"We need to make our mark and let them know we are a very strong community who values our school," the spokesman said.

Last year, the board created the Accommodation Review Committee and charged it with the task of exploring the value of the school to to community.

The committee, in its final recommendation, suggested the building remain as a public school.

That report is also available on the York Region District School Board website.

The 12 trustees will be presented with both reports April 30 at a board meeting.

The meeting is open to the public, however, in order to speak, a person must apply for delegation status.

There will also be two other trustee meetings for which delegation status must be sought on July 6 and September 14.

The only meeting open to the public where they can speak freely is June 15 at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School.

Board staff are quick to point out that no decision has been made.

The final word will be left up to the 12 York Region trustees, including Aurora-King representative Gord Kerr.

Wells Street school began its existence in 1892, when a building - much of it believed to be buried inside the existing structure - was opened as Aurora's first high school.

The current building, acting as Aurora's second high school (even though there was only one), was built in 1923.

Known as the Aurora and District High School, it became Wells Street Public School in 1953 when Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School opened on Dunning Avenue.

A couple of years ago, Wells Street school was closed because it was determined the structure was no longer safe enough to act as a school. Students who

attended Wells Street Grove Public School on were bussed to Aurora Stone Road.



AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



The **AMHA** is currently accepting on-line registration. To register on-line please visit our website at www.auro-raminorhockey.net and click on the "registration info" tab and follow the instructions. We will also be registering players in the AMHA hockey office located at ACC1 during AMHA Rep tryouts.

In office dates are as follows;

Monday May 4 from 7-9 PM

Wednesday May 6 from 7-9 PM

Saturday May 2 & May 9 from 10 AM-1 PM

ALL Players MUST be registered and paid for with the AMHA before they can attend any tryouts

Visa, Mastercard, Debit, Cheques and Cash are accepted

Date	Day	Arena	Start	End	Team	Birth Year
8-May-09	Fri	ARCE	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	Tyke Select	2002
9-May-09	Sat	ARCW	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	Tyke Select	2002
14-May-09	Thu	ARCW	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Tyke Select	2002

30-Apr-09	Thu	ARCW	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	Novice AA	2001
2-May-09	Sat	ARCE	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	Novice A	2001
3-May-09	Sun	ARCE	8:30 AM	10:00 AM	Novice A	2001
5-May-09	Tue	ARCE	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	Novice A	2001
8-May-09	Fri	ARCW	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	Novice AE	2001
9-May-09	Sat	ARCW	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	Novice AE	2001
12-May-09	Tue	ARCW	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Novice AE	2001

1-May-09	Fri	ARCE	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	M Atom AA	2000
2-May-09	Sat	ARCW	1:15 PM	2:45 PM	M Atom A	2000
4-May-09	Mon	ARCE	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	M Atom A	2000
6-May-09	Wed	ARCE	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	M Atom A	2000
7-May-09	Thu	ARCW	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	M Atom AE	2000
9-May-09	Sat	ARCW	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	M Atom AE	2000
13-May-09	Wed	ARCW	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	M Atom AE	2000

2-May-09	Sat	ARCE	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Atom A	1999
3-May-09	Sun	ARCE	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	Atom A	1999
5-May-09	Tue	ARCW	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Atom A	1999
8-May-09	Fri	ARCE	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	Atom AE	1999
9-May-09	Sat	ARCE	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	Atom AE	1999
11-May-09	Mon	ARCW	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Atom AE	1999

30-Apr-09	Thu	ARCE	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	M Peewee AA	1998
1-May-09	Fri	ARCW	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	M Peewee A	1998
2-May-09	Sat	ARCW	2:45 PM	4:15 PM	M Peewee A	1998
4-May-09	Mon	ARCE	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	M Peewee A	1998
7-May-09	Thu	ARCW	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	M Peewee AE	1998
9-May-09	Sat	ARCW	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	M Peewee AE	1998
15-May-09	Fri	ARCE	7:00 PM	8:30 PM	M Peewee AE	1998

2-May-09	Sat	ARCE	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	Peewee A	1997
3-May-09	Sun	ARCE	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	Peewee A	1997
5-May-09	Tue	ARCE	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	Peewee A	1997
8-May-09	Fri	ARCW	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	Peewee AE	1997
9-May-09	Sat	ARCE	2:00 PM	3:30 PM	Peewee AE	1997
14-May-09	Thu	ARCW	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	Peewee AE	1997

2-May-09	Sat	ARCW	4:15 PM	5:45 PM	M Bantam A	1996
4-May-09	Mon	ARCW	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	M Bantam A	1996
6-May-09	Wed	ARCE	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	M Bantam A	1996
7-May-09	Thu	ARCE	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	M Bantam AE	1996
9-May-09	Sat	ARCW	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	M Bantam AE	1996
12-May-09	Tue	ARCW	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	M Bantam AE	1996

30-Apr-09	Thu	ARCW	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	Bantam AA	1995
1-May-09	Fri	ARCW	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	Bantam A	1995
2-May-09	Sat	ARCE	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	Bantam A	1995
3-May-09	Sun	ARCE	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Bantam A	1995
8-May-09	Fri	ARCE	9:00 PM	10:30 PM	Bantam AE	1995
9-May-09	Sat	ARCW	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Bantam AE	1995
15-May-09	Fri	ARCE	8:30 PM	10:00 PM	Bantam AE	1995

1-May-09	Fri	ARCE	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	M Midget AA	1994
2-May-09	Sat	ARCE	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	M Midget A	1994
4-May-09	Mon	ARCW	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	M Midget A	1994
5-May-09	Tue	ARCW	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	M Midget A	1994
6-May-09	Wed	ARCW	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	M Midget AE	1994
11-May-09	Mon	ARCW	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	M Midget AE	1994
13-May-09	Wed	ARCW	9:00 PM	10:30 PM	M Midget AE	1994

AURORA 1945-1965

It was written by former Aurora resident Elizabeth Milner and features numerous stories and photos relating to that 20 years of Aurora growth.



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The annual Bob Hartwell challenge went off without a hitch Sunday morning in spite of chilly weather conditions. Hundreds of people participated, including this group, caught leaving the starting gate at the Aurora Community Centre.
Auroran photo by David Falconer

Centennial party was tops

Aurora is well known for its many special events, such as the Canada Day celebrations, the street festival, Santa Claus Parade under the Stars, and so many others.

But one community event that will be hard to beat was the celebration arranged for Canada's Centennial in 1967.

A town committee had planned the celebrations for months as an once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The rain that dominated the weather for three of the four days of celebrations failed to dampen the spirit of the people as they partied in the rain,

It all started in April, 1965, when Doug Richardson, chairman of Aurora's Centennial Committee reported to council that members recommended that parks development be the theme of the celebrations, despite a fire which had destroyed the Yonge Street arena, three months earlier.

A budget of \$26,292 was approved for a major park to be developed and later the committee purchased 34 trees to be planted.

The celebration part of the event was headed by Don Glass and in June 1966 the Centennial Committee with representatives from various community groups met to plan the event.

A committee of town council was appointed to plan a special inaugural meeting of new council in January 1967 in keeping with the Centennial theme.

The inaugural meeting launched the Centennial events.

Instead of the more traditional inaugural in the council chambers, the swearing-in was conducted in the auditorium of the Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School with Colonel O.S. Hollinrake, County Magistrate, administering the oath of office.

A highlight of the ceremony was a presentation by members of the Aurora Drama Workshop, now Theatre Aurora, of an 1867 Aurora council meeting in period dress

and using material from the minutes of council of that date.

Canadian Forces Headquarters announced that the Red Knight, the RCAF's acrobatic jet, would take part in the Centennial celebrations.

The jet had previously appeared in Aurora in 1963 when the town celebrated its Centennial.

Prime Minister Lester Pearson agreed to be Aurora's guest during the celebrations. He was the town's most famous old boy as he attended the Church Street School as a child as his father was the minister at the Aurora Methodist, now United Church.

Iltyd Harris, organist at the church, delivered the invitation to the Prime Minister at council's request. He arranged an evening of Canadian music at the church, but the Prime Minister had to cancel.

The celebration was held during the weekend of June 15, 1967 and at the Centennial Ball held in the newly opened Community Centre, Pam Snelgrove was selected as Princess.

Friday was a day filled with special children's programs arranged through the school boards with a big Cen-Teen Dance in the evening featuring three bands and five hours of dancing followed by a fireworks display.

Following a teen dance in the Town Park, the Aurora

Lions Club provided the fireworks display under overcast skies and there was pride and enthusiasm as the teens joined together to sing "The Maple Leaf Forever" and "O Canada".

Saturday was a busy day as the Aurora Junior Chamber of Commerce re-enacted the historic 1837 Lloydtown March on Toronto during the Rebellion of Upper Canada.

The Jaycees, dressed as York County farmers with rakes and pitchforks, marched down Yonge Street in Aurora but were met at the south end of town by the armed soldiers of the Queen's York Rangers who drove the rebels back.

There was the biggest parade in Aurora history at that time with six bands, 45 floats and 2,000 marchers,

In the evening, the Aurora Rotary Club presented "Hoedown '67" a 90-minute variety show featuring Joey Hollingsworth, the Skyliners, the Hansen Sisters and Norma and her Pets,

Sunday ended the official celebrations with a Royal Canadian Legion Drumhead Service at the Cenotaph and a choir of 200 children at the Community Centre.

But the Centennial celebrations weren't quite over as they finished in a blaze of glory on January 6, 1968, at the Town Park, when a huge bonfire from a mountain of Christmas trees lit the sky over Aurora.

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Theatre presents a play to die for

They say it's not so much the destination, but how you get there that matters.

This logic applies to the current Theatre Aurora production of *Murder in Green Meadows*.

And it's a terrific journey.

Thomas Devereaux, played by Sal Aguila, is a successful architect and local contractor.

He and his wife Joan, played by Nadia Tenorio, have just moved into their dream house in the quiet suburban town of Green Meadows (which sounds a lot like Aurora).

They quickly establish a friendship with their new neighbours, Carolyn and Jeff Symons (Kirsty Campbell and Mark Rival).

But not all is as it seems, and beneath the cool, middle-American exterior, something is truly rotten.

The script by Douglas Post starts slowly, as it establishes both the characters and their relationships.

But by the time the story gets to the first "oh my God" moment (to quote several members of the audience), you don't know what's going to happen

next and can only hang on and enjoy the ride.

Of course, even a great script is only as good as the performances, and with this production, Theatre Aurora's bar has been raised a little higher.

All four leads have extensive acting experience, which showed in their portrayal of these complex and layered characters.

There were no individual standout performances, as each actor seemed perfectly cast for his or her part.

With all of the action taking place in the Devereaux home, there is only one set.

This has been well-designed, and the layout supports the action taking place in each of the scenes. The use of one set also helps maintain the play's momentum, as scene changes are relatively quick.

While director Kim Harrington has extensive theatrical experience in Toronto, this is her first play at Theatre Aurora.

Based on the audience's reaction to the opening night performance, hopefully, it will not be her last.

The show is co-produced by first time producer

Mary MacDonald Rival, and by Jo-anne Spitzer, who has been acting and producing with the theatre for four decades.

Note that there are gunshots heard during the performance.

Based on the play's title, this is not surprising. But what is surprising is that these come when ...

Well, on second thought,

why don't you find out for yourself.

Evening performances of *Murder in Green Meadows* continue at Theatre Aurora, 150 Henderson Drive, April 30, and May 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 and 9, with a matinee performance on May 3.

Tickets for all shows are available at the box office, 905-727-3669.

Retiring director walks trail from end to end

Sunday, Oak Ridges Trail Association's (ORTA) Executive Director, Harold Sellers, continued in Day 3 of his nine-day, 213.5 kilometre End to End walk of the trail.

Sellers is taking on the End to End as a farewell, as he will leave ORTA to move to British Columbia with his wife in August.

Along with 10 other hikers, Sellers rejoined the trail from Aurora's Town Park to head eastbound and finish at the Eldred King Woodlands.

Sunday's 21 kilometre route, exclusively on the Oak Ridges Trail, covered the remainder of the Aurora section and broke over into the Whitchurch-Stouffville section.

The section takes in Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area and Vandorf Woodlot and a 10 km green chain in the York Regional Forest system; the Robinson, Clarke, Patterson and Hall Tracts.

Sunday finished with Sellers and the hikers making their way into the Eldred King Woodlands, whose trails are shared with local equestrians.

Sellers continued the hike Monday to start Day 4 of the End to End heading through Whitchurch-Stouffville into Uxbridge.

The day began under rainy conditions and temperatures that were 20 degrees cooler than the previous day.

Click on www.oakridges-trail.org, to check the hiking schedule and plan to join Harold for a kilometre or two.

Everyone is welcome to join for any segment of the walk.

Pledges may be made by kilometre or in any amount, and will be added to the funds the Oak Ridges Trail Association raises through the Moraine for Life Adventure Relay in June to support the ongoing building, securement and promotion of the Oak Ridges Trail.

The Oak Ridges Trail Association is a volunteer, community-based organization that builds, maintains and leads a year-round guid-



ed hiking program on the Oak Ridges Trail, a 300 kilometre public hiking route across the Oak Ridges Moraine from Palgrave in the west to Rice Lake in the east.

ORTA's goal is to secure an optimum corridor of natural surface trails across the length and breadth of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Ten chapters and more than 700 members representing communities across the Moraine actively keep the trail and the hiking program up to date and encourage the public to experience all the Oak Ridges Trail and the Oak Ridges Moraine have to offer.

The Oak Ridges Moraine is a ridge of land that runs parallel to and about 60 kilometres north of Lake Ontario.

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David Tomlinson, centre, indicates an interesting Crocus to his gardening students.

Merlin's Hollow gardener teaches students the art

By MALCOLM WATT

"Gardening is the art of minimum effort and maximum return," David Tomlinson told an interested group of gardeners huddled around him.

David, Aurora's resident gardener extraordinaire, and his wife Diedre, have been developing their garden paradise of Merlin's Hollow since 1981.

It now boasts more than 1,500 varieties of plants in a rambling setting, complete with frog song, water feature and sculptures.

He offers this gardening program each year.

"I've never watered this garden in five years," David said in response to a student question. He explained that he accomplishes this by maintaining a natural two-inch mulch on top of the soil.

This preserves the underlying moisture, he said, and keeps down weeds among the plethora of Merlin Hollow plants that begin blooming as soon as the snow melts, and continue until the freeze-up in November.

He added that he relies on nature's gardeners, the earthworms, to cultivate and aerate the garden naturally and with little effort on his part.

David shared his accumulated wisdom regarding perennial plant selection, and propagation tips for both the neophyte and the experienced gardening enthusiast.

The course, which began recently for this year, is spread out over the gardening season to teach necessary skills associated with each specific time of the year, and to showcase plants that flower at different times.

There are still spaces in the class if you are interested in joining.

The first public open house in Merlin's Hollow, located at 181 Centre Crescent, just west of Industrial Parkway, will be held Saturday, May 9th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Three other Saturdays have also been declared free by the Tomlinsons.

They are June 13, July 4 and July 12.

Contact Diedre regarding either event at 905-727-8979.



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Cost of Graffiti Day unknown to committee

The issue of graffiti is bound to raise controversy in the community, but not necessarily at Aurora's General Committee meeting.

But it did last week when Sergeant Mark Altermann of York Regional Police appeared to enlist the town's support for the 2nd annual Graffiti Clean-up Day in Aurora scheduled for May 29.

Sponsored by York Regional Police in partnership with the Town of Aurora, last year's event held in September was big success, with 60 volunteers and 100 students working with the police, town staff, and a local graffiti removal company.

By the end of the day 1,500 graffiti tags had been removed from 30 locations across town.

Sgt. Altermann noted that based on the popularity of last year's effort, the police were already receiving calls from volunteers wanting to participate, some from as far away as Brampton. Police are hoping to build on this momentum, and maintain Aurora's strong leadership role in the region in dealing with graffiti, by holding these events twice a year, in both the spring and fall.

Committee members were reminded that the town's Parks Department removes graffiti on an ongoing basis from public property.

The focus of clean-up days

is therefore on private property.

In asking that the town help support and promote the community event, Sgt. Altermann suggested the Parks Department may wish to join in by doing some of its own clean-up efforts on May 29 in conjunction with the volunteers.

He concluded by confirming that the police treat graffiti as a serious crime, and residents are encouraged to report it.

From there, the discussion on the proposed event moved into the areas of internal communication and expenditures.

While supportive of the concept, several councillors questioned the cost of the town's participation in this project.

It was noted that all requests for similar events that would include any expense to the town, including staff time and waived fees, were rigorously scrutinized before being approved by council.

None of the members could remember seeing or approving anything on this year's Graffiti Clean-up Day.

Staff apologized and noted the lack of forewarning was due to an internal communication problem that has since been corrected.

But that wasn't enough for committee members, who asked staff to report back on the expected cost to the town of this event.

Aurora cadets capture gold

Members of the 2799 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps of Aurora cleaned house recently capturing top honours when they won a gold medal at a regional cadet marksmanship competition last week.

More than 100 sea, army and air cadet marksmanship champions from across Ontario converged on Trenton to attend the event for Central Region (Ontario).

Made up of members Catherine Hennessey, Brenda Dickenson, Ronald Copeland, Catherine Moogk and Brennan Berube, the Aurora team captured the gold medal.

In individual competition, Copeland captured gold in

both the 12-18 Open category and the 12-14 Junior competition.

Hennessey won a bronze medal in the junior division.

The cadets qualified for this meet, both individually and as teams, based on their performance in zone competitions earlier in the year.

The competition reinforces the cadets' training in marksmanship and firearms safety, emphasizing the sporting aspects of Olympic-style target shooting.

Winners of the competition form the Central Region team which will represent Ontario in the National Cadet Marksmanship Championship in Charlottetown next month.


Despite this inadvertent internal communications lapse, this year's Graffiti Clean-up Day is moving ahead as planned, and residents are encouraged to participate on May 29 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

While the Town Park was used as a base last year, this year volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. at the Aurora Optimists trailer in Fleury Park, behind the

Aurora Community Centre.

All supplies will be provided, and local businesses are sponsoring a free barbecue lunch at 12.30 that day to thank the volunteers for their time and efforts.

For more information, or if you would like to sign up as a volunteer, contact York Regional Police Constable Shayne Mulligan at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7120.



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No one was more surprised than Aurora's Jim Allen when he walked into the Aurora Legion last week and was greeted by dozens of friends and co-workers on hand to help him celebrate his 50th birthday. His wife, Toby, was also honoured. Jim is with the Central York Fire Services

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Lions honour new members

For nearly 100 years, the men and women of Lions clubs International have never hesitated to get involved.

Last Thursday, the Aurora Lions Club members celebrated the future of community service as they honoured new members during Lions Worldwide Induction Day.

According to President Fred Bullen, Lions Worldwide Induction Day was significant for several reasons.

"As we welcome our newest members, we feel it is appropriate to share the pride of what being a Lion means and underscore the importance of getting involved, helping our neighbours in need and building a closer community," he said.

In celebrating Lions Worldwide Induction day, Aurora Lions Club has made a commitment to support the community and the less fortunate in it.

Proceeds from Maple Fest and Bingo events have gone

towards donations to high school bursaries, eye glasses, summer camp fees, Southlake Regional Health Centre, Aurora Leisure Complex, Community Safety Village, and Christmas hampers.

"We also participate, at no cost to them, at local school barbeques to help them raise funds.

"For 26 years we have conducted bar and food concessions at Polo For Heart to raise funds for The Heart and Stroke Foundation," he said. "We purchased eight picnic tables to be used by visitors to Sheppard's Bush, and have donated toys and clothing to native communities in Northern Ontario."

The Aurora Lions Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 7 p.m. at The Lions Hall, 33 Mosley Street.

For more information or to get involved with The Aurora Lions Club, contact Fred Bullen at 905-727-6079 or pfbullen@sympatico.ca.

Plan being developed for Sheppard's Bush

After several months of public consultation and planning, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and its partners have developed a draft management plan for Aurora's Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area.

"Sheppard's Bush is a vital recreational and environmental feature in Aurora and the Steering Committee is excited to work with the community to finalize the management plan that will ensure Sheppard's Bush continues to be a thriving example of Aurora's natural and cultural heritage," said Evelina MacEachern, Chair of the Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area Management Plan Steering Committee and member of Aurora Council.

Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area, acquired by the Ontario Heritage Trust in 1971 and managed by the Lake Simcoe Region

Conservation Authority and the Town of Aurora, has provided Aurora residents with a range of recreational and educational opportunities over the years, including hiking, nature appreciation, maple syrup demonstrations, summer youth camps and a host of other public events.

Over the past year, a steering committee made up of representatives of the Conservation Authority, the Ontario Heritage Trust, the Town of Aurora, Windfall Ecology Centre, Save the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Aurora Lions Club have been reviewing public input and identifying options for improving service and facilities at the Conservation Area.

Residents are invited to join the Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area Management Plan Steering Committee to provide input on the draft plan, prior to finalizing it.



More than three years has passed since the ASA occupied the new seniors' centre and began to share direction with Aurora Town Council, and the partnership continues successfully.

Our senior community life, and the manner in which events are generated and evolve, are shaped by capable members of the ASA together with skilled members of the municipality.

It is not surprising to see programs and activities in the seniors' centre, scheduled in advance by time and space, together with necessary furnishings and equipment, functioning week after week in a diverse but well orchestrated community centre for seniors.

Among the many popular activities is Pickle Ball, which is played every Tuesday at 1 p.m., with a solid group.

Pickle Ball, which is relatively new, is played indoors and is similar to lawn tennis. The exercise is excellent without being too demanding and well within the capacities of healthy seniors.

It is not only good for the physical well being, but is also excellent for the thinking mind and provides a boost for healthy emotions.

Carpet bowling is another indoor sport which has its steady complement of adherents and has the added excitement of occasional tournaments, which always raise the competitive spirits.

Often, it matters little which game is played for eagerness and competitive spirits to emerge, so long as it is suitable to the player.

Card games continue to attract people in the seniors' centre.

At the centre, the card games that command attention and continue to

draw the players are Bid Euchre, Duplicate Bridge, Bridge, and Canasta.

Many of the players have continued their interest for many years and they can be described as devotees or even ardent enthusiasts.

New players, experienced or not, are always welcomed, and information on when each of the games are played may be obtained from the front counter.

The ASA computer club has a group of members who are computer enthusiasts that form an involved company of members who are fascinated by the technological power of the computer and attracted to branches of expertise and knowledge to which the computer and the Internet provide ample access.

The computer club offers a variety of lessons including the most basic knowledge for complete beginners to lessons which include word processing, e-mailing, graphics, and digital photography.

One on one lessons are available by request, providing the required teaching expertise is available. For the senior computer novice, this is as fine an opportunity to access the world of computers as is available anywhere and which enables the start in computing that many had considered beyond their reach.

Hundreds of senior men and women have passed through this computer training process and emerged skilled enough with computer training, to progress further independently and competently.

Computer lessons close during the summer months, and start again in September.

There is a moderate cost involved and the lessons are offered to classes generally with a maximum

of six students on a first to sign up basis.

The computer club is well-equipped with modern desktop computers and is upgrading two of the computers to the Vista operating system.

Age takes a toll on the pace at which seniors can absorb information, so competent volunteer member teachers keep the pace of instruction to a steady informative level, aided by a projection screen, to suit the majority of seniors.

In practice, seniors tend to be entirely realistic by studying what they will enjoy or employ profitably, and by combining their new knowledge with their every-

day lives.

With the basic computer knowledge acquired, many continue to add knowledge and expertise to enable a purposeful pursuit of leisure activities.

The quantity and variety of information available through a computer via the internet or from a purchased compact disc, is comparable to the information available in a modern library and often wider based and more up to date than a library can maintain.

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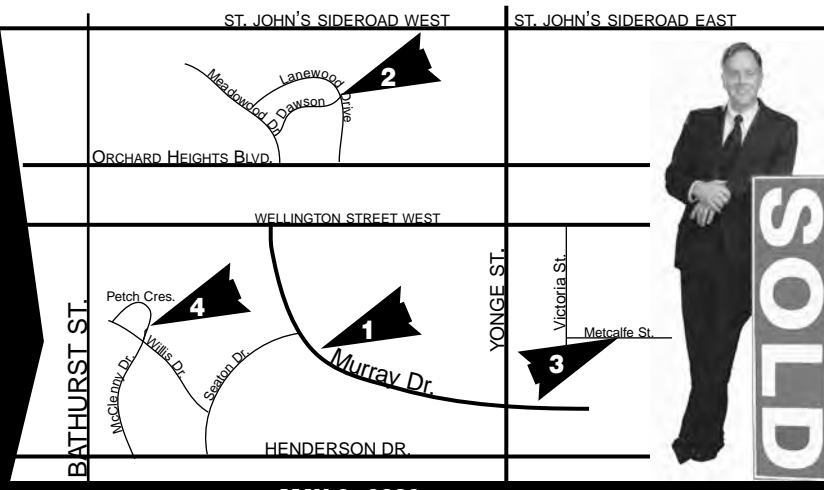


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COMING EVENTS

From page 2

plant09.html.

Aurora Art Show at the Aurora Town Hall today and tomorrow. Today, the show is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and tomorrow, it's open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MAY 7-8-9

Theatre Williams at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School presents "Once Upon a Mattress", a musical comedy about the "real" story of the Princess and the Pea. Performances May 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. and May 9 at 1 p.m. at the school. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

MAY 7 TO 9

Pine Tree Potters' Guild Spring Pottery Sale at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club, 368 St. John's Sideroad East. All proceeds from the charity table go to CHATS (Community Home Assistance to Seniors). For further information, call 905-727-1278 or click on www.pinetreepotters.ca.

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.

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society holds a plant sale at the Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge Street, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Aurora Lawn Bowling Club, Club House and Grounds cleanup at 10 a.m. at McMahan Park, Maple and Fleury Streets.

International Migratory Bird Day. Bird Walk takes place today at 8.30 a.m. Meet at the Gazebo between the Leisure Complex and the Soccer Bubble. For further information, click on www.auroraarboretum.ca/birdw09.html.

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.

MONDAY, MAY 11

Aurora Film Circuit presents "The Necessities of Life" (Ce qu'il faut pour vivre). Canada's contender for the 2009 Foreign Language Oscar - this Canadian film about a tubercular Inuit man confined to a Quebec sanatorium is rich in lump-in-the-throat moments, as he experiences both profound culture shock and uplifting human connections. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Aurora Public Library and R&R Revisited. All screenings take place at the Cineplex Aurora, with door prize at 6.45

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

Aurora Lawn Bowling Club Spring Meeting 6.30 pm. at the McMahan Park, Maple and Fleury Streets. A pot luck supper will be served.

Women's Centre of York Region presents The Art of Change 7 to 10 p.m. at the Wellington Gallery located at 32 Wellington Street, Aurora. Proceeds go to programs and services for low income women and women who have experienced abuse.

Tickets are \$100 with a \$50 charitable receipt provided. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact events@wcyrc.ca or 905-853-9270 x101.

THURSDAY, MAY 14

Wesley United Church Annual Roast Beef Dinner has two seatings at 5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. Adults are \$15; children 6-12 yrs \$8; under 6 yrs free, but they must have a ticket. The church is located at the corner of Woodbine and Aurora Road. For tickets call Sherry at 905-853-4915.

Aurora Chamber of Commerce annual Networking Breakfast & New Member Trade Show at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Members who joined the Chamber in March, 2008, or later are encouraged to fill out an application for a free booth space. Deadline for application submission is April 22nd, and application forms can be found on the website at <http://www.aurorachamber.on.ca/UserFiles/File/Applications/Application%20Form-Trade%20Show-2009.doc>.

SUNDAY, MAY 17

Aurora Lawn Bowling Club open house and beginning of the lawn bowling season at 2 p.m. Bowling Club is located at McMahan Park, Maple and Fleury Streets. Everyone is welcome to attend.

SATURDAY, MAY 23

The Aurora Historical Society is looking for volunteers to participate in a garden clean up at Hillary House on Yonge Street from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your own rake. For more information, call 905-727-8991 or click on www.aurorahistoricalociety.ca

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

School teacher at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School Bob McRoberts is retiring. A party will be held today at the Howard Johnson Hotel on Yonge Street. For details contact Lynn

Gardner at 905-727-3131 ext. 157 or Joe Pagniello at joseph.pagniello@yrdsb.edu.on.ca. If you plan on attending, you must RSVP by May 15. Appetizers and cocktails begin at 5 p.m. with presentations at 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Aurora Chamber of Commerce presents the 14th annual Longest Street Sale on the Longest Street beginning at 11 a.m. and continuing until 5 p.m. Call the chamber at 905-727-7262 for further information.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

Longest lacrosse game in history, starts today at 5 a.m. and continues until 6 p.m. Saturday, June 13 at the Aurora Community Centre, Rink #1. The game is being played to raise awareness and support for the Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness (www.abusehurts.com) and the Spirit of the Stick campaign (www.spiritofthestick.com). In addition to the longest lacrosse game in history, a silent auction and a Family Fun day (Saturday) will be in full swing. Mayors and councillors from Aurora and Newmarket will play with lacrosse players from 5 to 6 p.m. Friday. For more information go to www.laxdove.ca or www.amll.ca.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

Board of Education trustee public meeting begins at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School at 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 6

Revised staff report on the future of Wells Street School goes to the Board of Education in the Boardroom, Wellington Street West at 8 p.m. Public delegations must be booked in advance by calling Mrs. Lori Barnes at lori.barnes@yrdsb.edu.on.ca or 905-727-0022, ext. 2263.

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.

www.pinetreepotters.ca



POTTERY SALE

May 7, 8 & 9, 2009

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Teacher

Bob McRoberts

is retiring from Williams.

So, there's going to be

a party

to honour him.

It will be held

Thursday, June 4,

at Aurora's Howard Johnson Hotel

beginning at

5 p.m.

with appetizers

Gift presentation at 6 p.m.

Admission is \$30 for appetizers and gift;

\$15 for gift only.

You must RSVP by May 15

For more information,

contact Lynn Gardner at

905-727-3131 ext. 157

or Joe Pagniello at

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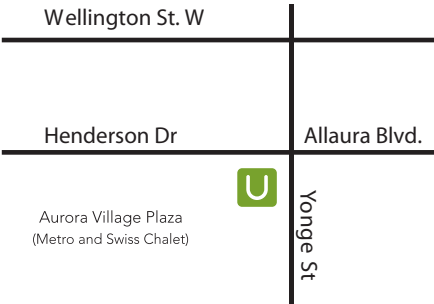
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