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# THE AURORAN

*Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper*

Vol. 9 No. 28      905-727-3300      [auroran.com](http://auroran.com)      FREE      Week of May 12, 2009

## Executive director resigns; Chamber “back to square one”

It's back to square one for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. They're now looking for a new Executive Director, following the resignation of Carla Adams last week. Carla was on a maternity leave of absence from the Chamber, but, via e-mail, told Chamber President Kathy Van Nostrand that she had accepted a position with the Region of York and would not return to her position at the Chamber. The Chamber hired Karen Addison to fill in while Ms Adams was away. However, Ms Addison found full-time employment and resigned

the temporary position. She did, however, agree to become an executive member of the group. Ms Addison's resignation caused the chamber to hire Alliston Chamber of Commerce president Michael Keith to the executive director's position, but he, too, has declined to accept full-time work. “That puts us back to square one,” Ms Van Nostrand told The Auroran. The next board meeting for the Chamber, slated for early in June, should have some recommendations on where the organization will go from here.



**President of the Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society Ray Matsalla, shows off beautiful irises during a plant sale at the Aurora Public Library Saturday.** *Auroran photo by David Falconer*



**Greg Foster, flipping hamburgers despite the damp Saturday, hit his goal this year as he held his annual barbecue in the front yard of his M & M Meats store on Yonge Street. In spite of the thunder and rain, he, his staff and volunteers met the goal of \$5,000. Sales were brisk and a silent auction was a success, he reported. Proceeds go to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation .**

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

## AMBA PREZ QUIT

Despite a meeting called this week by the mayor of Aurora, president of the Aurora Minor Ball Association, Dave Giroux, told The Auroran he would let his resignation from the association stand. Results of the meeting were not available at press time, but should be noted on The Auroran's website, [www.auroran.com](http://www.auroran.com). Giroux cited in a letter to members of the AMBA there was "one and only one reason" for his resignation - the failure of the Town to support the building of an additional senior ball diamond.

**Letters to the editor on the subject see pages 9 and 10.**

"The conversations that I have had with the mayor, and some councillors indicated they were in support of the facility, but everything they have done has shown that this is not the case," he said. Several other members of the group - in letters to the editor this week - expressed similar views that it appeared Aurora was not in favour of adding another ball diamond to the town's list, even though most of the money to build such a facility would come from developers' charges. "I have been working on keeping the Town informed for more than two years, and a year ago, I made a delegation to the Town, after which they were shocked to learn of our situation (one senior diamond for a town of this size)," the president said. "They communicated to me that my presentation was clear and that our needs were understood. "Over the last year, I have attended many council meetings to

Please see page 16

**Briefly**

**Resting comfortably**

Eric Smith, 81, is resting comfortably in hospital today after he suffered what doctors believe was a number of strokes last week. After leaving a regular Rotary meeting, Mr. Smith was driving to his home near Aurora Heights Drive when he collided with a truck at the corner of Yonge and Wellington Streets. No one was seriously injured in the collision. Smith, a long-time Aurora resident, is the oldest and longest serving member of the Aurora Rotary Club. He is also an honorary member of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and was president of that organization from 1979 until 1981. According to one of his sons, Donald, owner of Backyard Pool and Spa, Mr. Smith was responsive in his Southlake hospital bed.

**Golf tournament**

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce 28th Annual Golf Classic happens Monday, June 15 at the DiamondBack Golf Club on Leslie Street, just north of Richmond Hill. This is an opportunity to golf at a spectacular private club - just a short distance from Aurora. Registration includes a light breakfast, 18 holes of golf, lunch and a steak dinner. There will be a raffle table and silent auction, followed by a live auction with a professional auctioneer, featuring many great golf packages. For more information, see the chamber's website at [www.aurorachamber.on.ca](http://www.aurorachamber.on.ca) or call 905-727-7262 to register.

**Nominations**

Nominations for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce 2009 Business Achievement Awards are now being accepted. If you know of a deserving business in Aurora you may nominate them by picking up a form available from the Chamber website: [www.aurorachamber.on.ca/?page=business\\_achievement\\_awards](http://www.aurorachamber.on.ca/?page=business_achievement_awards). Meanwhile, nominations for a position on the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors are now being accepted. Again, further information is on the website.



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COMING EVENTS

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

The York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for new members. You do not have to be a police officer nor are you required to read music to volunteer. The group rehearses Monday evenings between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. For further information, contact the chorus supervisor at 905-727-9676 or the coordinator of volunteer services for YRP at 905-830-0303, extension 6717.

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

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 six and seven-year-olds and the Children Chorus, open to eight to 17 year-olds. To audition, contact general director Sarah Kyle at keepsinging@look.ca.

CHAT'S Community Home Assistance to Seniors is looking for volunteers to assist with the activities in its Adult Day Program. The positions call for a commitment of a few hours a week at its Aurora location. Various times are available. Call Christine at 905-713-3494.

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

Every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age three to Grade 4 and the Junior High Club for boys and girls, Grades 5 to 8, will be held at the Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. For more information call 905-841-8884.

A drop-in centre will operate every Wednesday at the Community Bible Church

on Bathurst Street just south of Henderson from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information e-mail Judy Hoffmann jhoffmann@sympati-co.ca.

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

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

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge 148 meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at 15216 Yonge Street, south of Wellington. For more information call 905-830-9205.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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@wcyr.ca or 905-853-9270, ext. 101.

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.  
Amnesty International meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street. For further information, call 905-713-6713.

Massive flower sale, including annuals and perennials, plus a bake sale will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 32 Mosley Street, Aurora, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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.

Board of Directors invites you to Hospice King-Aurora's 26th Annual General Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Centre, 14485 Jane Street, King City (Four kilometres north of the King Sideroad).

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.aurorahistoricalsociety.ca.

Enjoy "From Savouries to Sweets," an afternoon tea in aid of the girls of Afghanistan, where their literacy rate is 18 per cent. Event starts at 2:30 p.m. in St. Andrew's Hall, at Mosley and Victoria. Proceeds go to a literacy initiative by Presbyterian World Service & Development. Tickets are \$15 each or two for \$25, and will be sold until Wednesday, May 20, only. Call 905-713-3203.

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society general meeting and flower show with guest speaker Carol Dunk on "Pesticides, Who Needs Them"? 8 p.m. at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Guests welcome, \$2 at the door.

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@yrsb.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 13**  
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.abuse-hurts.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.aml.ca.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 14**  
Meatball Madness at the Aurora Lions Hall, 33 Mosley Street. Doors open at 5.30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20. For further information, call 289-470-5102.

**MONDAY, JUNE 15**  
Board of Education trustee public meeting begins at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School at 7 p.m.

**JUNE 19-21**  
30th Annual Polo For Heart, Canada's largest charity polo festival, presents three days of non-stop entertainment and activities the whole family will enjoy, at the Gormley Polo Centre (Bloomington Road and Leslie Street). Two polo games daily will occur with half-time entertainment. Tickets are \$15 each, children under 12 free. Proceeds go to the Heart & Stroke Foundation and Southlake Regional Cardiac Care Program. For further information, visit http://www.poloforheart.org/ or call 905-505-0088.

**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@yrsb.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, dinner at the Graystone Tavern, electric golf cart and prizes. Call Ron at 905-727-3300 for details. Participation limited.

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Please call for upcoming seminar information





Children on Harrison Avenue stood in the pouring rain Saturday morning as they sold a neighbourhood community cookbook for \$10 at a lemonade stand for two hours. Half the proceeds went to the Aurora Food Pantry and the other half will be go toward the street's annual Victoria Day fireworks celebration. In the photo are the Mikkelsen children, Patrick, Sophie, and Emma, and Myla Kroeplin, dressed in pink.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

# Aurora Optimists prepare for annual police dinner

The Aurora Optimist Club will continue the tradition of honouring a member of York Regional Police who has made a significant contribution to community safety in the Town of Aurora.

The "Respect For Law" Dinner will be held Wednesday, May 20 at St. Andrews Valley Golf Club. "This will be our 19th year and has always been a highlight for our Club," said Optimist President Carol Bartlett. "It's important to recognize those who work day and night on our behalf to keep us safe by letting them know how much we appreciate it."

The Optimist Club has a history of working closely with York Regional Police and this year has partnered with them on their Graffiti Abatement Program which has been a huge success in the fight to eradicate graffiti from the neighbourhoods.

"This program has set the standard for York Region and will be continuing with another graffiti clean-up day on May 29th," she said. "I encourage the community to come out and support this great initiative".

As well as presenting the "Officer of the Year", the "Respect for the Law" evening will feature a presentation by YRP on issues of community safety in Aurora.

## Aurora Seniors Bridge

Monday, May 4 - N/S: Ruth Rea and Sue Scott; Judy Salmon and Lucille Sequeira; Audrey Robertson and Ev Dickie. E/W: Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin; Don Newman and Murray Sinclair; Carol Davidson and Elaine Hunter.

Members of the public are welcome to attend. Tickets are \$30 per person and may be obtained prior to May 15th by contacting Carol at CBartlett@levi.com or by calling 905-751-9328.



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Above is the 1961 corps of the Aurora District High School (Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School) cadet band. Members are, front row, left to right, Terry Anderson, Bruce Marchant, Neil McLean, John Wilson, Andy Petersons. Donald Gordon, Claire Doolittle, Ian Davison, Brian Knowles and Gordon Hayes. In the second row, left to right, are Paul Schurman, Allan Mclean, Robert Tetley, John Stoneman, Brian Beatty, Terry Burt-Gerrans, Randy Murray, Ted Jones, and Mike Teasdale. In the third row, left to right, are Paul Ransom, Fred Shields, Gordon Empey, Glenn Farren, Gary McLaughlin, Donald Smith, Ed Komar, Scott Moddle, Dave Moore and Roy Hamden. In the back row, left to right, are Gerald Whaley, Barry Dupuis, Ray Smith, Guy Langman, John Kitchen, Ken Robson, Bill Miller, Dole Nagy and Alex Boyce. Ivan Anderson was absent when this photo was taken. The picture appeared in the 1961 edition of the school year-book, The Atom.



## Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

*Here's the group who moved us*

Okay, okay, I'll tell you.  
In response to last week's column, where everyone (all right, both of you) wanted to know who moved us from one house to another, I'll tell all.  
It was an operation called Perfect Moves, and they are, I hate to admit, a Newmarket operation.  
Led by Bill Smith (yeah, I know...a likely story) this group of young people arrived at my old home right on time last week, and before the day was done, had moved everything possible to our new location.  
Impressed? Boy, I'll say.  
Moving must be a bit like dying. As I told you last week, it was my first move in nearly three decades, and as soon as our house was listed for sale, the anonymous letters started to arrive...addressed to "homeowner".  
Similar to the notes you get from different companies should someone in your family die.  
"We can handle all your moving requirements", the notes would say, and they came from every well-known moving company in the country.  
Good business, I guess, but I threw out a lot of mail.  
We went with Perfect Moves on the advice of Patricia who had used them in the past and thought they were just wonderful.  
She was right. They were incredibly good at what they did.  
And polite, too. The young men were "strong like street-cars" but very polite.  
By Saturday night, everything (including a million boxes,

I'm sure) was delivered to the new location and ready to be placed around the house.  
To date, it is still ready to be placed around the house.  
But it happened and we're happy with the outcome.  
And, even though we're close to living in Richmond Hill, we're still in Aurora.  
If Darcy McKeough had been listening in the early 70s when he created the Region of York, Aurora and Oak Ridges would have been together instead of Oak Ridges now being the north end of Richmond Hill.  
But, that's another story.  
Like I haven't been harping on it for years, eh?  
So, what else is going on?  
I guess it's time to review our Letters to the Editor policy, since it seems I keep getting blamed for things I don't do.  
The Auroran, as long as it can identify the author, will print EVERY letter it gets. No letter is created by the editor.  
Frankly, as much as I'd like to write a letter or two, I don't have the time.  
And most letter-writers know they will be printed if they send a letter to me, as long as the letter doesn't put me in jail, I'll print it. On occasion, I have come close.  
I'm writing this column shortly after noon on Friday, May 8, and I already have handled 11 letters. More are waiting in the wings.  
I have always believed readers are more interested in what other readers think than with what I think, so I push over to let them be heard.  
Contrary to popular opinion, there really is a Hugo

T. Kroon, and I suspect he'll run for council in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville where he lives. I know he exists because I have met him.  
As long as the letter is legitimate, I will clean up the grammar but aside from that, the letter appears as it is written.  
I make no other changes to it without permission from the author.  
Few other newspapers can make such a statement.  
Some letters may not appear the week they're written.  
That's simply a space problem that belongs to me, but they will likely run in the next issue. So, keeping them concise is a good thing.  
I do check my "junk-mail" file periodically and find letters from first-time writers who the computer doesn't recognize.  
So, ignore what you might see about The Auroran on various websites.  
We neither sponsor nor have any connection whatsoever to any website or blog, no matter what you may have read or heard.  
And, send me a letter. I love them.

### THE AURORAN

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#### Editorial policy

Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published, and be limited to 600 words. Names may be withheld assuming a compelling reason to do so. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.

#### Advertising policy

Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.

### Letter to the Editor

# Paying for bag good for store's bottom line, this reader believes

#### To the editor,

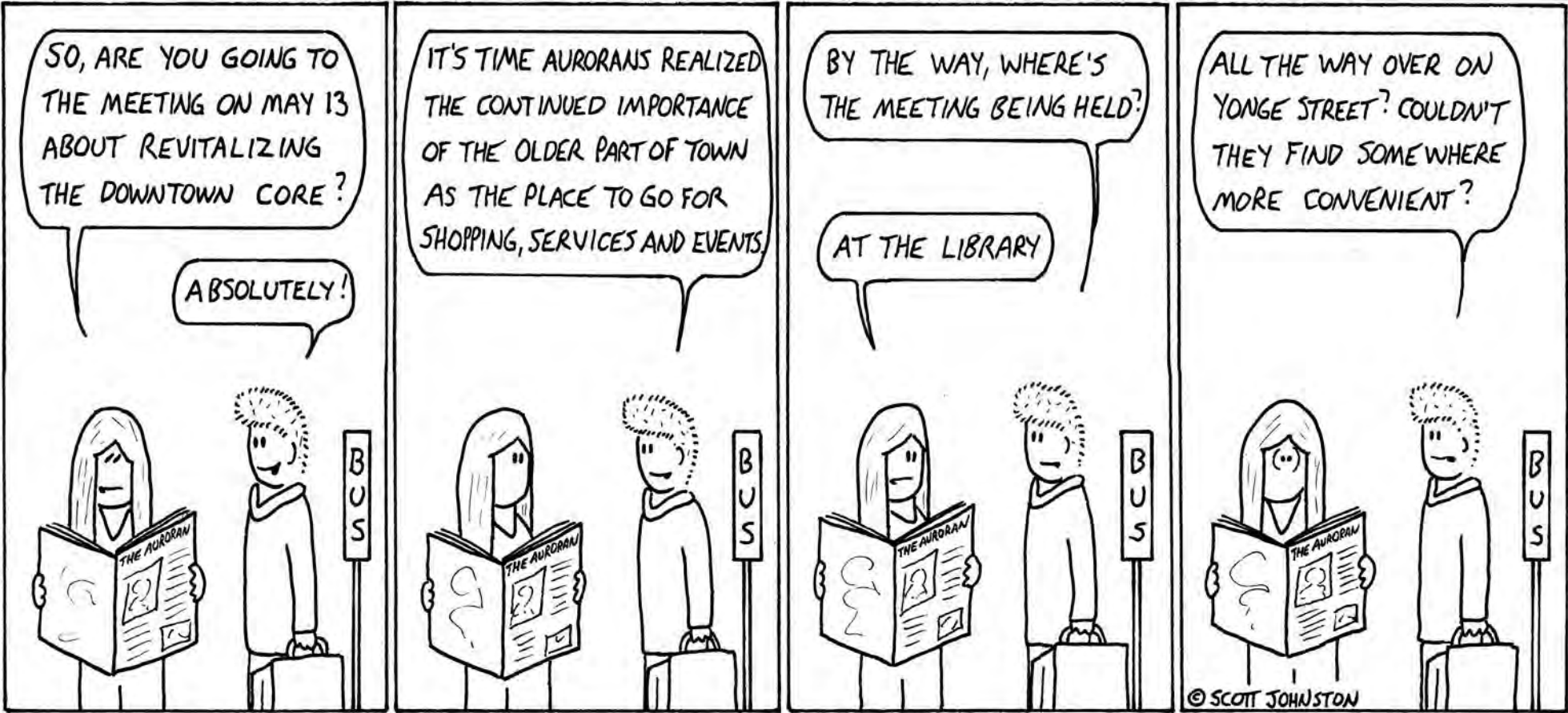
I notice that my local grocery store is now charging five cents for a plastic grocery bag, in an effort to "make a difference" for the environment, according to the sign at the store.  
I suspect the real difference is made to the grocery store's bottom line.  
It's not only the nickel paid by the consumer for a bag that likely costs the store less than

two cents, it's also the savings to the store when shoppers bring their own re-usable bags instead of using bags provided by the store.  
See, the cost of the standard grocery bag was built in to the price of the groceries. It still is.  
The difference is, we're not getting what we're paying for.  
If the store pays two cents per plastic bag, that means ten cents of my average weekly

grocery bill used to cover that cost.  
Now, of course, I bring my own bags.  
Where does the ten cents go? I'm still paying the same price for bananas, bread and milk. Are the cashiers getting raises? I don't think so.  
The dime, of course, goes to the store profits.  
Multiply that dime by the number of shoppers streaming through the check-out of my

local store, and you've got a tidy little boost to the store's bottom line -- while the store itself boasts proudly of its pro-environmental stance.  
I'm all for greening-up the environment; but I'm disgusted by the Ontario grocery chains greening-up their own bottom lines under the trendy guise of eco-responsibility.  
**Marie P. Watson**  
**Aurora**





## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

## Customer Service - Round III

Last April I again wrote about a subject that had been of increasing concern to me - the lack of adequate customer service in our society.

I reported that this kind of ill treatment had occurred a number of times to me while in local businesses within our community.

I will protect the names of the guilty offenders.

Although it has been just over one year since I last wrote about this topic, some very recent local experiences have compelled me to do so again.

I am not Ralph Nader here on some type of corporate crusade; I simply want, when I go to purchase a good or service, as the old advertising line goes, "to be treated like a somebody".

Last April I wrote about one particularly bad purchasing experience.

I was in a local store ready to purchase a new lawnmower. I decided on a particular mower and asked the store employee for some help transporting the mower to my car. He was not very helpful at all.

He did assist in putting the mower on the cart but then said "you can ask for someone to help you at the cash" and then abruptly turned around and left.

My newest gripe (it has been festering for quite some time really) is standing in a long line at the check-out at a grocery store or in a line at a bank and only one person is on duty at the cash register.

What is particularly galling is when you see a bunch of other store employees stocking shelves and ignoring you or if in a bank, another bank employee(s) sitting at a desk, 20 feet from you, ignoring you while one bank teller tries to deal with everyone.

Last week I was looking to purchase various things

for our garden at a local store. There was only one person at the cash register while the line got longer and longer, and you could see that customers were not at all happy.

As I was waiting in line, I found myself day-dreaming and looking around and I could not help but laugh to myself upon seeing the following sign on the ceiling at the check out. It read: "Thank you for your business".

Eventually, after what seemed an eternity, another cashier came to help.

Being the good Canadians that we are, all of us in that line just suffered silently. I wonder how many of my fellow shoppers will be back.

I also had a similar situation at one of the local pharmaceutical stores; a big line up at the check out with only one teller. And this was not late at night - it was the middle of the day. Finally, someone came to assist the lonely cashier.

Like a great many people, I have worked part time in retail.

Granted, I was probably not the best employee but two things always stayed with me - be pleasant to the customer and if you think he or she may require help - kindly ask them.

It used to drive my manager insane if he saw you cleaning up things on the shelves while a customer waited at the check-out.

Marketing professors are big on "buying experiences" and trying to ensure that each and every time someone interacts with a potential customer the experience is a positive one.

And to be clear, I have also enjoyed plenty of positive buying experiences in Aurora.

The crew at the Aurora Staples store always seems to efficiently assist me in obtaining what I need and then getting me out of the store with undue dispatch.

Another business that I patronize quite frequently is the Postnet store on Hollidge Blvd. And the fact that I use this store as much as I do, looking back, is a surprise to me.

I started going to the store some years back and had established a nice relationship with the previous owner and her graphic designer.

I always looked forward to the casual chats I used to have with the two of them.

Due to some health reasons, the owner sold the business early last year while the graphic designer decided to move on.

The new co-owners, Michael Haslam and his mother Maggie, plus Chris, their graphics designer, were pleasant enough, but it did not seem the same as before.

Our association started off slowly - having nothing to do with the level of service - but rather me getting used to the new faces.

The relationship gained momentum though due to their smiles, their friendly nature along with the important fact that they always met and continue to meet my requirements.

A happy customer means a customer that will be coming back.

I am glad to state that I am one of Postnet's happy customers.

Stephen can be contacted at:  
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

### Letter to the Editor

# Merlin's Hollow offers three free days

To the editor,

This letter is to invite anyone who is interested to visit Merlin's Hollow, our almost an acre perennial garden in Aurora, for the second of our three free public open days: Saturday, June 13, Saturday, July 4 and Sunday, July 12.

The garden will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

At last we have thrown off this winter's tight grip.

As a result the variety of Spring flowers blooming in the garden at this moment

is the richest ever, with tulips and daffodils; sheets of small bulbs in blue, pink and yellow; corydalis and primula and many different hellebores; flowering shrubs and many other later perennials on the cusp of flowering.

Birds are nesting in the trees, flowers are being pollinated by many different insects, the toads are trilling and the first frogs are appearing around the pond.

The garden is divided into four sections by high

cedar hedges with many different microclimates that enable us to grow a wide spectrum of plants from many parts of the world, that have been grown from seed.

We have more than 2,000 different flowering perennials.

Many people like to come to each of the four days as the garden changes significantly from month to month.

It is a garden of interest to rank beginners or highly skilled gardeners alike.

We had our first open day in 1981 and have several hundred people visit on these days but there are also many new people coming into the area who are unaware of this opportunity to visit an innovatively designed, wildlife friendly garden with a wealth of rare and unusual perennial plants.

The more I study plants the more they remind me of people in their personalities - the shy, the enduring, the adventurous, the late bloomers, the chatty ones

and the promiscuous. Gardens give us hope, teach us patience and the illusion that we are in control

Dierdre Tomlinson  
Aurora



## Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

Cathy's Corner will return May 26th.

**ED. NOTE:** Merlin's Hollow is located on Centre Crescent, a no-exit road that runs north off Centre Street, just west of Industrial Parkway and Wellington Street.



Letters to the Editor

# Paying hospital tax to the Region will cause resentment, she says

To the editor,

During the last term of council, the President and the Chairman of the Southlake Regional Health Centre came to Aurora and other municipal councils in northern York Region with a pitch for property owners to pay for hospital expansion.

They had a resolution prepared for council.

All it needed was a mover, a seconder and a favourable vote. Talk about a hard sell.

But that's not how it

went down.

Aurora Council gave a resounding no. Mayor Phyllis Morris was a councilor then.

People have been donating money to the fundraising project ever since. But the expansion plans are ambitious. Fundraising is apparently too slow.

The pitch was made again but this time, bypassed municipal councils. The movers and shakers went directly to Regional Council and were successful.

Recently Regional Chairman Bill Fisch came to Aurora Council by invitation of the mayor (now regional representative). The chairman explained the decision to tax property owners for hospital expansion.

A full hour of council's time was taken to hear the rationale for a decision already made.

The argument is no more acceptable to me now than it was before but my opposition is stronger.

Fund-raising has been going on for at

least three years.

Thousands of people have already given voluntarily.

With a tax imposed, they will pay twice. Once from the heart and once without as much as a by-your-leave.

Hardly a fitting way to express appreciation. And conversely, a good way to generate resentment.

The tax is unfair. People who already gave what they could afford from their resources are forced to pay again.

People who use the facil-

ity and live outside the region will not be taxed.

South Lake Regional Health Centre is not local. Users come from a wider geographic region. Because of hospital facilities, Newmarket has become a centre for medical speciality.

The Health Centre is where and how the specialists ply their trade. Patients come from as far away as North Bay. They hail from Simcoe County, Barrie, Beeton, Alliston and many distant points.

Even if we wanted to, we could not deny access to the facility. Health and hospital care is a provincial responsibility. Revenue sources are derived from income tax, lottery funds and I think, payroll contributions.

Mr. Fisch agreed with my argument. He contended however, the same principle applies to York Region residents having had and still having access to Toronto's hospitals.

It's not true.

Toronto property owners do not pay taxes to support hospitals. There is no line item in Toronto's budget for hospital services.

York Region residents contribute to provincial revenues. We have a right to access hospitals which are funded from our taxes and gambling habits and, I think, payroll contributions.

The Region's decision to tax property owners for hospital construction is not illegal. No question of legality applies.

It is not immoral. How cost is shared is not a question of morality.

The Region's decision is neither fair, just, nor equitable. It cannot be commended.

Maybe the Region doesn't have a Code of Ethics to guide their decision-making.

If they do, they obviously need a workshop to explain the principle.

Evelyn Buck  
Aurora

# Reader opposes pool's policy on allocation

To the editor,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Pool Allocation Policy proposed by the Town of Aurora's Leisure Services Advisory Committee.

I believe it is bad for Aurora and its residents.

For full disclosure I'll acknowledge that I am a participant in the Aurora Master Ducks program – not an owner, just a participant.

I also acknowledge that there is limited pool time available in Aurora, and that at least one other swim club has requested access to such time.

However I think that the proposed dividing up of the limited time available to all interested parties is a bad strategy.

The Aurora Master Ducks Swim Club is a

"world-class" athletic organization.

It is one of the largest competitive swim clubs in Canada, its swimmers hold scores of Canadian records and World Top-Ten rankings, its participants consistently compete at an elite level, and its coaching staff is highly regarded within the Canadian swimming community.

At the same time it also provides stroke-improvement training and full inclusion for less competitive participants.

My own personal observation, having moved to Aurora after nine years living and swimming in the "birthplace of competitive swimming", Southern California, is that the Master Ducks organization is unsurpassed on the world level.

The Pool Allocation

Policy will take valuable swimming time away from the Ducks and give it to lesser clubs – thus reducing the quality of the Ducks organization and lowering the overall standard of competitive swimming in Aurora.

Why kick a world-class Aurora asset?

One argument made is that non-residents participate in the Master Ducks program.

True - but good!

The Master Ducks program appeals to swimmers from across the GTA.

But at the same time the majority of participants are from Aurora, and no Aurora residents are prohibited from joining the Ducks program.

It's a win-win – Aurora gets a world-class program, and all Aurora residents have access right

here at home.

Finally, speaking of here at home, I would wager that no other sports club in Aurora has made as much effort to contribute to our local community as has the Aurora Master Ducks.

This effort includes six years of helping to plan the Aurora Stronach Recreation pool, unsurpassed fundraising for that facility, helping to found the Sport Aurora organization, establishing Aurora's first Triathlon Club, the first Auroran Special Olympics swimming club, and first local kids triathlon club, sponsoring blood donor clinics, having Santa Claus Parade floats, having Aurora Street Festival booths, holding Heart & Stroke swim-a-thons, Bowling for Kids fundraising, and on and on.

I am not saying that other swimming organizations should not be able to earn increased pool access over time.

But I think they should earn it before being given it.

And in the interim I think the Town of Aurora should do all it can to encourage, not damage, the asset it has in the Aurora Master Duck swim program.

# New sales tax plan is a "cash grab", he says

To the editor,

Re: letter from Earle Lepofsky, The Auroran, April 28 regarding harmonized sales tax.

I agree fully with the comments made by Earle Lepofsky regarding the harmonized sales tax (HST).

If Dalton McGuinty is so concerned about the welfare

of the people of Ontario as he says he is then he would do one of the two things.

Don't bring the tax at all and stick with the system as is.

Failing that if he is determined to bring it in then bring it in with the same items exempt under the HST that are now exempt under PST.

He doesn't want to do that because he is looking

for the cash...simple as that.

It is a cash grab and nothing more.

Don Oates  
Aurora

David W. Freeman  
Aurora

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**Peter Virtanen**  
CLU Agent, Aurora



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Letters to the Editor

# Downtown Aurora was very active

To the editor,

Old town Aurora's downtown core was once a beehive of activity.

I'm referring to the area of Yonge Street, south to Church Street, north to Centre Street and a bit of Wellington and Victoria Streets.

At one time there were three full service gas stations along this stretch.

Alan's BA, Davis White Rose and Taylor's Esso stations who would pump your gas, check your oil and clean your windshield and if you required service or repairs they could do that also.

If additional parts were required there was Aurora

Automotive and a Western Tire outlet as well. There were two fully operational dairies as well who would process, bottle and deliver their milk products.

Each also had a dairy bar in front of the Aurora and Cousins Dairies. Cousins also produced a fine line of ice cream products.

For bakery products there was Scanlon's and Spence and they drew many cottagers into town for their baking.

If you needed groceries there was Lucy's, Mary's Fruit Market, Loblaws, Dominion, Rerbevy, IGA, Polards Fruit Market and later on a Price Choppers.

If you required medical

supplies there was Hess, Morning, Wills and Doane Hall Pharmacies.

If you required clothing or shoes there was Reebin's General Store, Ardill's, Osborne's, Norm Cook's, and a shoe store beside Mary's.

If by chance you couldn't receive what you needed at any of these, there were a Simpson's and Eaton's catalog offices available.

If you needed meat products there was Aurora Frosted Foods, Ash's, Knowle's and Morris butcher shops.

For entertainment there was the movie theatre on Centre Street, a bowling alley above Cousins Dairy, a pool hall in the hotel and

another above Ash's Butcher Shop and occasionally they would close off Yonge Street for a dance.

If transportation was required there were Elmer's and Obrien's taxi companies plus a bus terminal in the Dalhan Grill. If you required a haircut there were McLeod's, Pennock's, Mosely, Keffer and Vic's barber shops and a beauty salon run by Miss Cundell next to Moon Garden Restaurant.

If you needed your shoes repaired there was Smith's on Wellington, Vic's on Yonge and one down the alley behind Pennock's.

The Aurora Banner had an office on Yonge next to

Fisher's 5 cents to \$1 store.

You could take your driver's test at Davis garage as well as renew your license and also obtain your new license plates.

We had a police station in the old Town Hall as well as the fire department.

You could pay your phone bill at the telephone exchange at Yonge and Mosley, pay your hydro bill behind the old town hall and pay your taxes at the town hall north of the post office clock tower.

If you needed to eat out there was Delhan Grill, Ray's Café, Dan's Café, Aunt Jane's on Wellington and Cousins and Aurora Dairy Bars.

If you required a dentist

there was Dr. Sedore, Dr. Henderson and Dr. Boland to take care of you.

If a doctor was required there was Dr. Williams, Drs. Jim and Betty Knowles, Drs. Crawford and Clayton Rose and Dr. Urquart who were all capable of bringing you into this world and taking care of you.

When your time was up Thompson Funeral Home could take care of you then.

For the church-goers, there was the Presbyterian, Anglican, Baptist, United and the Salvation Army churches in the area.

There was also the Church Street Public School for education.

There was a hardware store on both sides of Yonge Street and if you required electrical work on appliances there was Taylor Electric, Fice Electric, Yake's Appliances and Aurora Radio Hospital as well.

If building supplies were required there was Bower's on Yonge.

If furniture was required, there was Thompson's Fine Furniture Store.

Things have changed a lot over the years but there's still activity in Old Aurora downtown core.

Most of it, however, is created by people in cars or buses heading north, south, east or west to the malls or big box stores.

## I didn't ask to buy shares, so send me a cheque

This is a copy of an e-mail sent to Prime Minister Steven Harper, Minister of Industry Tony Clement, Lois Brown, MP, and Dalton McGuinty, Ontario Premier.

I, along with many Canadians, have watched with great interest, the current automotive industry situation.

Regardless of what oth-

ers may think of my opinion (and let me point out that an "opinion" can never be wrong), the government has got this whole bailout thing wrong.

The auto industry (Chrysler, in this instance) has gotten itself into these dangerous waters by themselves through poor management and bad decisions.

The union hasn't helped

at all, pushing the hourly wages of these auto workers to heights that most Canadians would be dancing in the streets with.

So along comes the government and in their infinite wisdom, decides to be the saviour and throw tons of money in Chrysler's direction to keep them afloat.

While I have some empathy for those auto workers who have stepped out of Grade 12 and into a cushy \$35 an hour job for life, I cannot condone the government's move to continue to throw good money after bad and keep a company going that is destined to fail.

If the cost of a new car was HALF of what is being charged, then there would be no inventory of produced cars sitting idle on hundreds of acres of property all over the place.

This would be a simple matter of supply and demand. Thusly, the auto industry would actually be making cars that the con-

sumer would be standing in line to buy.

If a small business opens and then fails, why doesn't the government step in and save them? So, just because there are so many people involved makes it right for the government to save an industry, yet let taxpaying citizens who fail at an attempt to make a living on their own drown.

With the government's assistance (both Federal and Ontario Provincial) Chrysler will receive \$3.8 billion in taxpayers' money, making the Canadian taxpayer a 2 per cent shareholder in the company.

There was no consultation with the taxpayers with regards to this stupid move.

I understand the immediacy in this situation, so there really wasn't any time to conduct a referendum on this.

But I, as a taxpaying citizen of this country, wish to voice my total objection to the governing bodies' actions in this case.

Canada's population is approximately 33,600,000 people. Taking roughly two-thirds of that population (22,400,000) as taxpayers, then each Canadian's cut of ownership in Chrysler equates to \$169.64.

Since I have never agreed with any kind of government bailout, regardless of what industry it may be, then I am exercising my option and wish to sell my share of Chrysler.

I will expect my cheque to be arriving shortly.

Mark Holmes  
Aurora

Ken Elmer  
Aurora

## Vision is needed for downtown core

To the editor,

A golden opportunity has been presented to the Town of Aurora and the school board to set in motion a plan for the downtown that will shape the core area for the next 50 years.

The town will embark on a process beginning Wednesday, May 13 at the library, that will seek the public's input on how the area on and around Yonge St. from Allaura Blvd. to Orchard Heights and Wellington St. from the Board of Education building to Industrial Parkway will develop.

This will encompass commercial, residential and institutional development.

If the downtown is to remain relevant we need

a vision and some tangible improvements added to those that already exist.

These include a library, town park, bandshell, armoury, Church St School/museum, five churches, two arenas and a core of existing businesses.

A way must be found to retain Wells St. Public School at its present and unique location on the edge of the town park.

The board of education has an opportunity to plan the schools in this area for the next 50 to 100 years instead of the current window of 10 to 15 years that they are considering at the present time.

Bill Otton  
Aurora



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Letter to the Editor

# Nokiidaa Trail link is good for Aurorans

To the editor,

We have waited many years for this trail. Currently, one cannot safely ride a bike or even walk on a protected sidewalk on Yonge Street between Aurora and Newmarket. Judging by the maps and photos provided, the proposed location of this trail does not run “through” the marsh.

It is between Hadley Grange and a residence that, itself, lies west of the Mackenzie Marsh. The environmental experts have performed their study and determined that this is a location where a trail will not harm the existing wildlife. The trails that I frequently walk on throughout Aurora include the Arboretum, Sheppard’s Bush, beside the creek in

Machell and Fleury Park and the Willow Farm/Wimpey trail. Some of these trails run directly behind residential homes and most run along creeks that have flourishing bird and animal wildlife. These trails are simple, environmentally sensitive and important ways for the town to encourage us to respect and appreciate our surroundings. I have read letters com-

plaining that the seniors of Hadley Grange will be kept awake all night, kids will hang out and dogs will run wild. These letter writers must not themselves have walked on the trails in Aurora or they would know that these fears are unfounded. I seriously doubt that the seniors of Hadley Grange will see as many people walk by in a week as the seniors of Park Place Manor

see walking by in an hour. Kids hang out in malls with their friends, not at night on dark trails where there is nothing to do. Are there wild dogs in Aurora? I’ve only seen those attached to their masters with a leash. It is disappointing to see that, after such a long wait for this important trail connection, some people are exhibiting what appears to be a classic case of

NIMBYism. A comprehensive survey of town opinion would, I believe, show that the majority are in favour of this link, as they have already proven to be in favour of further trail development. All citizens of Aurora should be able to enjoy a walk or a bike ride through this green space.

L. Campbell  
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

President resigns over ball diamond issue

To the editor,

It is with deep regret that I am informing you that on Monday night, May 4th at the AMBA's executive meeting that I resigned as president.

This is something that I had to think long and hard over, and felt it was the only correct thing to do.

There is only one reason that I made this decision, and I will explain it briefly.

I will finish up the outstanding items as quickly as possible, and be sure that the season gets started with as few headaches as possible.

Please do understand there are some other volunteers who are working very hard to get the season started, and it is not a one-person show.

I still consider every player in this association as my son or daughter, and that will never change.

The only reason I am

resigning is due to the senior ball field progress, or lack of the progress is a better way to explain it.

I am not a good person to word things in a professional manner, so please disregard the sentence structure.

1. The conversations that I have had with the mayor and some councillors indicated they were in support of the facility, but everything they have done has shown that this is not the case (for most). There are a couple of issues that they are using to delay the decision.

2. I have been working on keeping the Town informed for more than two years, and a year ago (April 2008) I made a delegation to the Town, which they were shocked to learn of our situation to which they stated they were now informed.

3. Over the last year, I have attended many council meetings to try to understand their

positions, to which I am still puzzled to the reasons for the lack of momentum on some items. The only one I am interested in is the senior ball facility.

4. The Town has asked for many versions of information, all of which the AMBA have supplied, the Director of Leisure Services and Jim Tree, an employee of the town, are two individuals who are fully aware of our needs, and are supporting this development. They have had hands on from the association for the last 3-4 years while I have been involved, and longer.

5. Mr. Tree and Al Downey have been involved with the diamond restructuring that the association has had to deal with over the last few years to accommodate our growth in certain age divisions, and without this we would have had to turn some of our members away.

6. Mr. Downey has stated for the last three years that a senior ball facility was the number one project needing to be developed. And, if this is the case, then I wonder how long before other facilities will have to be on the agenda to get action.

Here are some important pieces of information:

1. The project is priced at \$1.6 plus million, of which only \$850,000 is for the baseball portion, yet council considers it all baseball.

2. The project is said to have ZERO impact on the taxpayers of this town. The Development charges that are charged to the builders are what pay for new facilities. I also have been told that 90 per cent is DC funded, and the remaining 10 per cent is not, which I have been told is covered under another fund, but, if not, we are looking at a hit for taxpayers of maybe \$85,000

which is maybe \$2 per taxpayer.

3. Development charges are REFUNDED, if not used for the purpose they were collected, so not building, only benefits the builder, which affects the actual users of facilities.

4. In the past federal budget, there was \$500 million in government funds to be awarded for projects that would be built in the next two years, to which this project would have been available to receive. BUT, the Town did not want to present this project for the 50 per cent funding. This is \$750,000. Why, because they are not sure it is needed?? No, because the money is not the concern.

5. So, what has happened is council keeps directing staff for more reports, and when one is submitted, the author is then criticized for the number of pages.

The real losers out of this are minor ball. We are caught in the middle, with no decision being made for the new facility.

My reasons are simple for leaving. I was left with the

impression this field would be built soon.

I felt if I dealt with the town's councillors as the AMBA's spokesperson without involving the whole association, they would pass the required motions for its approval.

What I did was keep our membership from approaching the town to avoid undue pressure for them. I thought they would realize that it is urgently needed, and move forward with the facility.

Obviously I was wrong in this approach, and for that reason I am resigning, as I feel I have done a dis-service to our members.

So, what I think now should be done by all our members, is to contact the mayor, and council, and state your support for the facility to be built now.

I have copied the council members and the mayor.

I am sure the AMBA executive will keep you informed on the progress of the facility.

Dave Giroux  
Aurora Minor Ball

Parent says kids need ball diamonds

To the editor,

The original of this letter was sent to Aurora Councillors.

As a parent/volunteer/and member of the AMBA since 1999, my children have grown up participating in this organization and have had a pleasant experience.

As they grow older and stronger, they no longer can play on the parks available, as their skills increase and larger diamonds are required.

After several years of having to travel out of town to play, the AMBA became self-sufficient for most age levels in 2008 due to the increase in registration num-

bers.

Every parent to whom I have spoken was very happy to no longer have to travel out of town for a house league game.

As the number of registrants increases, so do the amount of children getting older and moving up to the next age group or division.

Unfortunately, the teenage children who require a larger playing field, are having to play games which start at 8.45 p.m. and may also be limited in the amount of nights they will be able to play because of the lack of fields.

The AMBA is only asking for one diamond to be built in a town which could probably use even more facilities.

Are we again going to be required to travel out of town for our children to play, or have to register them to play in other towns where they support their growing youth?

We, as parents, want our children to be able to participate in a local organization of this type, as it keeps them in a safe environment, getting exercise playing a sport they enjoy and socializing with their peers in a positive manner.

I'm sure the majority of people would rather our youth be hitting a ball with a bat, then using it for destructive purposes; playing at a baseball diamond, rather than hanging out at a plaza, or on a street corner with no supervision.

Building the new, larger baseball diamond in Aurora is a move in the right direction.

This is an investment which benefits the users of today, and will continue to be used by generations to come.

Please stop putting it off - this needs to be done NOW.

Monica Fusco  
Aurora




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Letter to the Editor

# Resident wants ball diamond built

**Open letter to Mayor Phyllis Morris and council:**

As a resident of Aurora for more than 16 years I want to express my strong support for the proposed senior baseball diamond project that is currently being deliberated by the Town of Aurora Council.

I have attended several of the council meetings in the past in support of this project.

I am also a parent of two boys who have played ball in Aurora for more than 10 years.

I can advise you that over those 10 years baseball in Aurora has grown immensely in popularity as indicated by the annual increases in player registration and the successes on and off the field.

Dave Giroux, among others, has done a remarkable job in creating and developing what has become a very successful program both at the grass roots level (house league) and at the Rep level.

The success in Rep is illustrated through Aurora teams winning four provincial championships in the last five years.

The success and growth of the baseball program in Aurora can only move forward at the very least with the construction of a new

senior baseball diamond NOW.

I am currently a Program Manager with the City of Toronto Parks and Recreation Division and a professional planner by trade and am well versed with the municipal Capital Budget process.

In light of my experience I am perplexed that since the Town of Aurora has identified a Senior Ball diamond as one of the top priorities in their Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the last several years that this project has not yet come to fruition.

While I will not compare the City of Toronto to the Town of Aurora I will say I have seen \$20 million community centre projects move through the approval process in a shorter period of time.

I have had an opportunity to review the proposed senior ball project and can advise that the estimated cost of \$1.6 or \$1.7 million is not the real cost of the diamond but rather is a misrepresentation of the truth.

The more realistic cost of the diamond should be less than \$1 million and probably closer to \$800,000 as Dave has stated when you subtract the cost of the soccer field preparation and eliminate some of the inflated costs put forward by the con-

sultant, i.e. earth works, electrical etc. Councillors and the public alike have to understand that this proposed amenity is being paid for through the use of Development Charge dollars for the most part and not tax dollars.

That is the intent of the Development Charge bylaw - get the developers who want to develop in Aurora to pay for our infrastructure improvements whether in our parks or our roads.

So even though we are experiencing some tough economic times the senior baseball diamond will have no real financial impact on the residents of Aurora but rather will act as a stimulus to create jobs through the construction of the diamond.

What is also quite compelling is the fact that the Town has the land secured to construct the diamond on and the use of the existing parking spaces for the arena something that is usually a roadblock in the process.

The future cost of operating the diamond can be subsidized through a partnership with the AMBA and others something that the City of Toronto is actively promoting with a number of their new parks and recreation facilities.

I am confident, Madame Mayor, that you and the

councillors of the Town of Aurora will do the right thing and approve the construction of the senior ball diamond especially given the

overwhelming supporting documentation and not to mention the support of your competent Parks and Recreation staff.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

**Randy Jones  
Aurora**

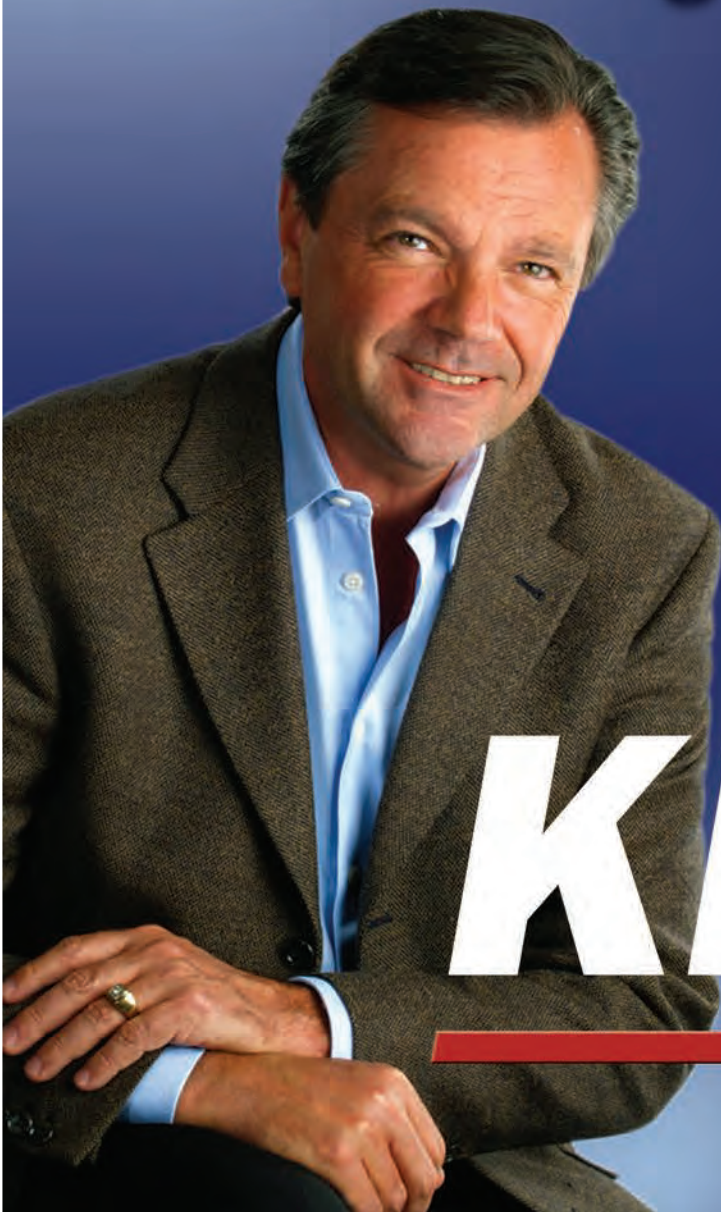
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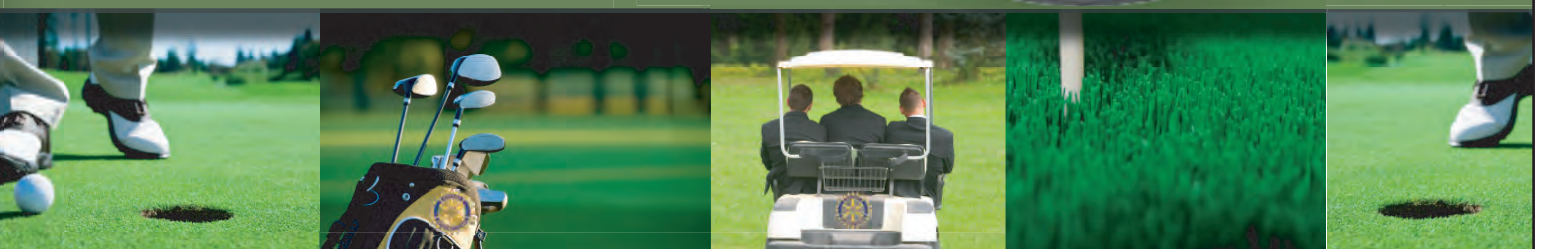
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# THE AURORAN

## SPORTS

Page 12

Week of May 12, 2009

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## Proposed policy pits user against user

Well over an hour was spent at last week's General Committee meeting discussing a proposed policy that had yet to be presented to council members, and that was not on the agenda for review or approval.

At issue was the town's proposed Pool Allocation Policy.

This new policy would in part determine how pool time was allocated to competitive swim clubs.

There are currently three such swim clubs in Aurora.

The Master Ducks and Ducks Swimming are the two oldest clubs, and have the majority of the lane time currently available in the town pools.

The relatively new Selkies Swim Club is looking for more time, which the other two clubs are reluctant to give up.

The proposed policy would allocate time based on club member numbers and how many of them lived in Aurora, which means that the Selkies would get more time, likely at the expense of the other clubs.

Despite the fact that the issue was not a specific agen-

da item, and was only part of the minutes and recommendations of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee (LSAC), all three clubs had representatives at the General Committee meeting to plead their cases.

Nancy Black, of the Aurora Master Ducks, argued that the new policy may work in a new pool, but in this case, all the available pool time had been allocated, so to give any group more time would be at the expense of the existing swimmers.

This was "downright insulting," she said.

She reminded the members that when the town was building the new Rec Centre, and asked participating clubs to help out, the Ducks were the only one to raise funds.

She suggested that if the Selkies needed more lane time, that they should help Aurora get another pool.

She also questioned a potential requirement for clubs to have a certain percentage of swimmers from Aurora, noting that as a club gained in reputation, it naturally attracted members from further afield.

This put well-known and more established clubs at a disadvantage.

If additional time was to be allocated to the newer swim club, she urged the town to look to other under-utilized pool hours.

Ms Black's sentiments were echoed by Reg Chappell of Ducks Swimming, who said he was in "complete disagreement" with the proposed policy.

He said he wasn't opposed to the Selkies, but he was opposed to them taking his club's time.

According to Mr. Chappell this decision would set a dangerous precedent, and would have far-reaching implications to other sports groups, such as soccer or hockey teams.

Committee members were reminded that the Ducks have supported the Aurora community for 15 years through fund raising for charitable events, and in volunteering their time for various charities.

He concluded by saying it would make more sense for the policy to specify how pool time would be allocated as it became free.

Both Councillor Evelyn Buck, who was chairing the meeting, and Mayor Phyllis Morris, reminded the delegates that the Committee members had yet to be provided with a copy of the proposed policy for review.

While the swim clubs' comments were appreciated, they were a bit ahead of time.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern also agreed that it was awkward to be hearing delegations without having the policy in front of them.

The final delegation was Yvonne Cattrall, Head Coach of the Aurora Selkies Swim Club.

In contrast to the other delegates, she was in full support of the proposed policy, as it would provide much-needed pool time to her rapidly-growing swim club.

She felt the current arrangement was totally undemocratic, and did not agree with the monopolization of town facilities by two long-time users.

She also suggested that the other two clubs weren't even fully using all of their allotted hours, and that there were

opportunities for the Selkies to obtain more lane time.

Councillor Steven Granger suggested that staff see if there were a few hours a week that could be taken from the town's pool time that could be allocated to help support competitive swimming. When the mayor asked if this was under consideration at this time, she was told by staff that it was not.

Councillor MacEachern noted that the policy had been under development by the town for a year with input from the swim clubs, and had been discussed at length at various LSAC meetings, however she noted the final version was not

yet in front of the General Committee.

She suggested the three clubs put their concerns in writing, so they would be readily available when the members did have the policy in hand.

As for next steps, staff will be updating the information on the clubs' membership numbers, and creating versions of the proposed policy, with and without the recent LSAC recommendations.

They will be presented at a future General Committee meeting for discussion.

Based on the history of this policy so far, it's obvious the debate is far from over.

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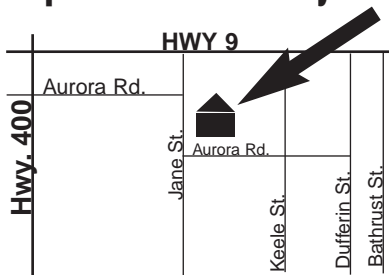
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# Yonge & Wellington Corridor Study



## Community Workshop #1

**Wednesday, May 13, 2009**

**7:00 p.m. at the Aurora Public Library, Magna Room**

***Residents & Business Owners***

***Have your say on the future of  
Aurora's Yonge Street and Wellington Street Corridor***

We need to hear from **business owners and residents** on the future of Aurora's main streets. For example, what do you love best about having a business or living along the Yonge and Wellington Corridor (or surrounding areas), what do you value, what should change, what should be protected?

The Town has initiated an important study that will shape the character of Aurora. The Yonge and Wellington Corridor Study will set a new forward-looking vision for these two streets and the surrounding areas. The intent is to stimulate economic development, encourage intensification, continue to enhance the role of our downtown area as a focal point for retail, service and special events and to create vibrant and beautiful main streets that are great places to work, live, shop and invest.

The Planning Partnership has been retained to work with Town staff, Council and the community to prepare the study. The Planning Partnership will work in association with their strategic advisors from Poulos & Chung (transportation engineers) and ERA Architects (heritage architects).

The work program for the study is organized in four phases that will be completed through a process that engages the entire community. The study is expected to take one year to complete.

We need your input. **The first of two workshops will be held on May 13, 2009, at the Aurora Library in the Magna Room at 3:00 pm for business owners and at 7:00 pm for residents.** Please note that business owners who are unable to make the 3:00 pm session are welcome to attend the 7:00 pm session. The purpose of these sessions is to discuss the planning context for the Corridor Study, the key opportunities for change and the fundamental design principles that should guide the design exercise. The team will begin the workshop with a brief presentation that will be followed by small table group discussions on topics posed by the team.

More information is available on the Town's website at [www.e-aurora.ca](http://www.e-aurora.ca).

We look forward to seeing you on May 13th, to share in your vision of Aurora's main streets and the surrounding areas.



**Proposed Study Area**

For more information, please contact **Jim Kyle** in the Planning and Development Services Department  
**905-727-3123 ext. 4345**  
**e-mail: [jkyle@e-aurora.ca](mailto:jkyle@e-aurora.ca)**





Doors Open 2009

Your chance to visit “Diefenbunker”

By MICHAEL SEAMAN  
Community Planner

When making your plans for summertime in Aurora this year be sure to mark Saturday, August 15th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on your calendar.

That is the date when the Doors Open festival returns to Aurora for what is sure to be its fourth successful year.

Aurora opens the doors to a variety of sites of her-itage, cultural and community interest and everyone is welcome to explore the town's most notable buildings and explore historic Old Aurora, all for free.

This year's event should prove to be the most pop-ular yet with six of the 15 sites currently confirmed for this year's tour being brand new for 2009.

Those that are returning will offer something new and interesting for visitors to see.

One of the most interesting of the sites on the Doors Open Aurora tour this year is the Aurora Readiness Centre - popularly known as Aurora's Diefenbunker.

Outwardly its appearance is of a 19th Century brick farmhouse, so it does have some of the more tradi-tional aspects of Ontario Heritage.

The only indicator that something different lies within is the concrete upper section of an exit shaft in the side garden.

What it leads to below is a remarkable time capsule of Canada's response to the threat of nuclear war in the early 1960s.

Popularly known as "Aurora's Diefenbunker", the site was The Metropolitan Toronto Emergency Preparedness Centre and Police Readiness Centre, which was intended to be used at a time of national crisis, such as a nuclear war.

The late 1950s and early 1960s was the height of the Cold War.

With the bombing of the Second World War not far out of people's memories, political tensions at this



INTERIOR OF AURORA’S DIEFENBUNKER

time made the threat of nuclear attack seem very real to Canadians.

Following the model implemented successfully by the British government, who established a shelter for the government beneath London during the Blitz (now open as the Cabinet War Rooms Museum), the Canadian government built an underground shelter at Carp, near Ottawa, in 1959, to house the Prime Minister and up-to 300 top officials of the Federal gov-ernment and the military for 30 days in the event of a nuclear war.

The Ontario Provincial Government of the day cre-ated a similar structure located at Camp Borden.

Not to be outdone, in 1962, the Metropolitan Toronto government decided to create a nuclear con-trol centre just north of Toronto, in the Town of Aurora, at the time of the Bay of Pigs Invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Aurora was chosen primarily for its location at a safe distance from the projected epicentre of any nuclear bomb in Toronto as well as its proximity above the Oak Ridges Moraine.

One theory is that perhaps the blast from a nuclear attack on Toronto would be deflected away from Aurora by the natural feature, which would spare the community from the worst effects of the atomic weapons.

A primary reason for selection of this particular location was that the main evacuation area for Toronto residents was also to be to the north, and a primary route to the north was Yonge Street. Aurora, with Yonge Street running through the centre of it, was per-fectly situated to be the coordination centre for any such evacuation effort.

A site was purchased for \$31,000 at the north end of Old Yonge Street containing a century old farm-house.

The vendor, incidentally, was Jack Caplan, Father-

in-law of Elinor Caplan (MP and MPP) and grandfather of David Caplan (MPP).

Unlike those at Carp and Borden, the Metro Toronto shelter was not intended to house people for long peri-ods, rather it was to serve as a Control Centre where Metro politicians and emergency services staff would gather to coordinate the municipal response to the cri-sis.

It was understood that accommodation for the offi-cials would be provided at nearby St. Andrew's College.

In an early example of Adaptive Reuse, the control centre, complete with concrete bomb shelter, was built beneath the existing 100-year old farmhouse and extended under the side garden.

The focal point was the operations room (10.6 x 18.3 metres in area), which was installed with illumi-nated maps and charts documenting the status of the crisis.

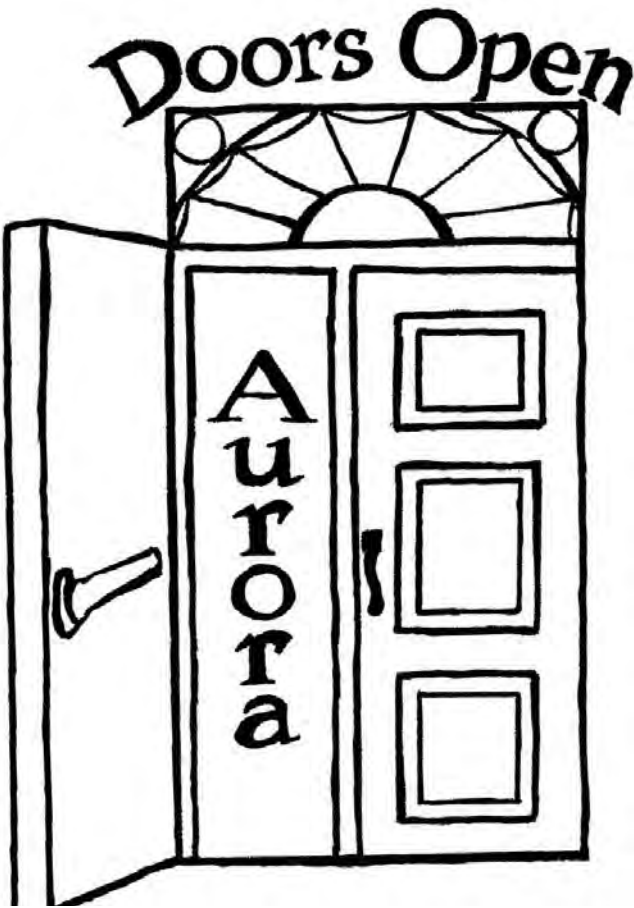
Alongside the huge map of the Toronto area, hand drawn by Capt. Letson, Sgt. Grigsby and Sgt. Freeland, in January 1962, are ominous charts where lists of "Casualties - Dead, Rescuable and Wounded" were to be recorded for each sector of the region.

Another chart identified radiation data and estimat-ed "dose rates".

Elsewhere in the shelter is the telephone call cen-tre from which commands would be sent out to those still alive in the City, if indeed there still was a City to control.

There is an Emergency Water Supply, and numer-ous other charts documenting equipment, police and fire station, food, and water supplies to be used in bringing order back to a devastated Toronto. Evidence

Please see page 16



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# Members wonder about use of staff time

Aurora supports Graffiti Clean-up Day, but the question remains; just how much of this support should be in the form of staff resources?

Last week, as they did at their meeting April 21, General Committee questioned staff about the use of town resources in this year's Graffiti Clean-up Day, scheduled for Friday, May 29.

In their report to the Committee, town staff had proposed that Aurora be represented by nine staff and four vehicles from the By-law Services, Public Works and Leisure Services departments.

Several councillors felt that fewer staff could be involved, with Councillor Wendy Gaertner saying she was opposed to any staff participation.

At the moment, representatives from a number of groups are planning to volunteer to help out this year, including the Aurora Optimists, York

Region Police, Seneca College, Neighbourhood Network, Bell Canada and PACT (Police and Community Together).

This is on top of the many residents expected to pitch in, as well.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern noted that at the last GC meeting, Director of Leisure Services Al Downey had advised the Committee that his department cleaned up graffiti on public property shortly after it was reported.

She therefore didn't understand why there would be any work for town staff to do on May 29 unless staff was holding off on cleaning up.

With Mr. Downey not present at last week's meeting, it was left to town By-law Services Manager, Chris Alexander, to answer most of the Committee's questions.

He noted that he had been strongly involved in the first clean-up day last year, but was planning to

cut back his participation this year, as York Region Police were leading the event.

He agreed that proposed staff time could be cut back if council wished.

As for how there could be graffiti to clean up, if it was addressed on an ongoing basis, it was noted that no matter how often it is cleaned, there is always graffiti to deal with.

The staff report also noted that Municipal Access Agreements governing the placement and maintenance of utility boxes on municipal rights-of-way, had recently been signed with Atria Networks, Bell Canada and Rogers Communications.

These agreements included clauses requiring these companies to clean up graffiti on any of their equipment within 48 hours of notification, or the town will have the work done, and charge them back. A similar

agreement with Powerstream is under development.

In response to a question from the Committee, it was reported that at the moment, there is no such agreement with Canada Post.

Removal of graffiti from private property is currently the key focus on Graffiti Clean-up Day.

With that in mind, Mr. Alexander was asked about the status of a proposed by-law to govern the removal of graffiti from private property.

He responded that this had yet to be developed, as the town was apprehensive about victimizing these people twice; once when the graffiti was placed on their property, and again by forcing an immediate clean-up.

Mayor Phyllis Morris asked staff to ensure that there was clearly identified contact information on the town's website, for residents to report incidences of graffiti, not only to the town, but to other groups such as Bell and Powerstream.

The staff report was received, with the addition of a request for the town solicitor to advise on potential liability to the town associated with staff and volunteers cleaning up graffiti on private property.



Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees, who hopes to be the new leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, held a gathering at Aw Shucks last week. One of the entertainers was Al Connolly of Glass Tiger, left. Al's group is called the Crab Bucket Orchestra.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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You must RSVP by May 15

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or Joe Pagniello at  
[joseph.pagniello@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:joseph.pagniello@yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

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# Bomb shelter available to public

From page 14

found near the water supply area, suggests that Metropolitan Toronto secured American assistance and expertise when constructing the shelter.

Other than use as a training centre by the Toronto Emergency Task Force and a secure Police Readiness Centre, the site was fortunately never used for its primary intended purpose.

By 1977 as cold-war tensions eased and the power

of modern day weapons made the shelter increasingly obsolete, Metro politicians began to wonder why they were still paying \$25,000 to maintain the Aurora property and suggested that it should be sold.

Duncan McPherson, Toronto Star editorial cartoonist of the day, spoofed the debate with a cartoon illustrating cheering Soviets stating "Comrade Chairman - North America is Destroyed - Except for two voices - monitored as Crombie and Godfrey phoning out for pizza".

Police officials successfully argued that the site was still needed, and Metro Toronto continued to maintain the site through the end of the Cold War.

By the early 1990s, however, it was clear that its days were numbered and in 1992 the property was put up for sale.

This unique site was finally purchased in 1996 by its current owners, who found most of its Cold War era contents still in place.

The new owners restored the above-ground sections of Victorian farmhouse to its 19th Century appearance and have made it an attractive family home.

Fortunately, they have a strong awareness of the uniqueness and significance of the cold war era of this property and have striven to ensure that the fixtures from this period remain intact.

A visit to the shelter today is like a step back in time to a different era when Canadians believed that nuclear war was a very imminent threat.

Doors Open Aurora organizers are pleased that the owners have offered to open the doors of the Aurora Readiness Centre on Doors Open Day.

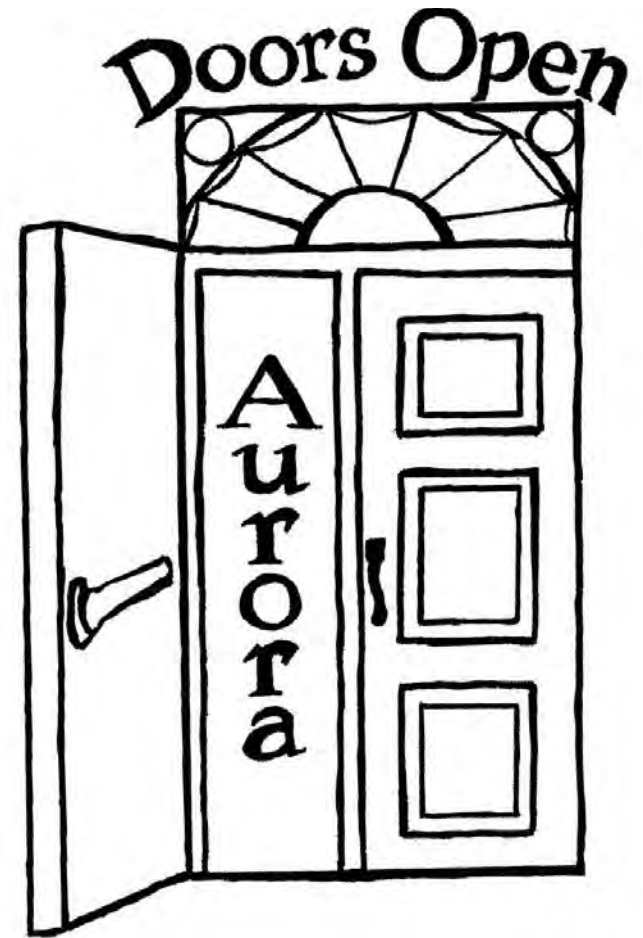
Please note that only the Emergency Control Room will be open to the public on that day.

For more information check the Doors Open Aurora website at [www.e-aurora.ca/doorsopenaurora](http://www.e-aurora.ca/doorsopenaurora) or contact the Doors Open Aurora coordinator at (905) 727-3123, ext. 4351, [michael.seaman68@gmail.com](mailto:michael.seaman68@gmail.com).

Doors Open organizers are still in need of volun-

teers to assist with Doors Open Aurora day.

If you think you might be able to donate three hours of your time to assist with the operation of the various sites on Doors Open Day, please contact the Doors Open Aurora coordinator.



METRO TORONTO INSIGNIA STILL VISIBLE

# Ball president resigns

From page 1

try to understand their positions, and I am still puzzled as to the reasons for the lack of response on some items, the most urgent of course being the Senior Ball facility."

The Town has asked for many versions of information, all of which the AMBA have supplied, he said. Director of Leisure Services, Al Downey, who was at the meeting this week, and Jim Tree, an employee of the town, are two individuals who are fully aware of the association's needs, he said. "They have been in direct communication with the association for the last three to four years while I have been involved, and longer," Mr. Giroux said.

Both have been involved with the diamond restructuring that the association has had to deal with over the last few years to accommodate

growth in certain age divisions, he said.

In her invitation to this week's meeting, Mayor Phyllis Morris sent out an invitation to many members of the AMBA.

"In an effort to bring all parties together - and to get all the facts on the table - I am proposing to host "one meeting" rather than lots of one-on-ones on the same topic," she said. "It is hoped that as many members as possible will try to attend."

Councillor Evelyn Buck disagreed with the meeting idea.

"David Giroux, President of the Aurora Minor Baseball Association, has attended many hours of meetings with council and several private meetings in your office. He has heard and understood everything said and received in written reports. He has stayed ready to answer whatever questions might be

asked by councillors with unfailing civility and respect. He has had frequent discussions with staff on the issue. At least three years of effort have been contributed to the purpose," she said. "With due respect, Madame Mayor, it is a decision from council that's needed now, not further explanations of why no decision has been made."

Mr. Downey has stated for the last three years, that a senior ball facility was the number one project needing to be developed.

"I wonder how long before other facilities will have to be on the agenda to get action," she said in an e-mail. "Madame Mayor, after all that has happened, it is difficult to imagine what can be accomplished by inviting baseball families to attend

yet another meeting with yourself on 24 hours notice.

"The only action remaining is for council to make a decision, Councillor Buck said. "Since the funds were included in the 2009 budget and the need has been repeatedly established, it is difficult to see how the decision can be anything but approval for the new community park to proceed and include a baseball facility.

"If the baseball membership, who have waited patiently for so long, is to be given any assurance, it would be more appropriate to add the item to the agenda of tomorrow's (Tuesday's) meeting with the object of making a decision and having the baseball membership in attendance to hear the justification for what that might be."

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As is well known Aurora Cable Internet (ACI) has been acquired by Rogers Communications and the process of phasing ACI out and offering Rogers as a replacement is underway.

Consequently, many members of the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) are in process of changing their cable television and internet service provider and phone service from ACI to Rogers, or to another provider of their choice, a process which is ongoing and should be completed by June 24th.

A letter should be received by the customer from Rogers, one month before the process starts, informing the customer what is planned and allowing the customer time to express thoughts to Rogers.

The service from ACI will be terminated in the near future so it is incumbent on the customer to secure a new service from somewhere.

A representative from Rogers, Clint Cummings, made a presentation recently to the ASA explaining the process, and answered questions from members in attendance.

I am now advised that Rogers have been requested to make a second presentation.

Steve London, who is an ASA computer club committee member, and whose company is involved in the internet business, will make a presentation on using 'Tube-e', an alternative high-speed DSL service for Internet and e-mail spoke to the computer club general meeting this week.

In addition, a near future date is sought for an internet service presentation by Bell Internet, and if this comes about, the ASCC will have succeeded very well in attending to the information needs of the members who must migrate from ACI, and to all members who have an interest in upgrading their knowledge of the cable television and internet service provider business.

In technology, there is always something new to investigate and consider!

The computer club has several members who have the capacity to assimilate, digest and form an educated opinion on the competing internet service business, and many members of the ASA will listen carefully to their opinions.

# Rogers continues cable takeover

By BRIAN WARBURTON

The ASA Spring Sale takes place Saturday, May 30th, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

This sale is always a fun event and an absolute treat to visit and stroll, while pondering the assortment of artifacts and merchandise.

There will be tables devoted to white elephant type goods which always provide an assortment of treasures, plus jewelry, knitting and wood crafts from the ASA wood-working shop, books, a section devoted to gardening equipment, ornaments and perennial plants.

Donations to the above categories of merchandise, excepting the plants, may be dropped off at the seniors' centre after May 19th.

Plants may be dropped off after May 26th and baked goods on the morning of the sale, May 30th.

Tom Rainsford with the Volk Family musicians and the ASA Evergreen Choir combine in their musical artistry to produce at the seniors' centre, a Spring Concert, "Put on a Happy Face" on May 27th, at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 14 years and under, and are available at the Seniors' Centre Reception desk or from members of the choir.

Support this Spring Concert, and if you feel the music

stirring your spirit and you can hold a tune and would like to sing, contact Enid Maize and she will be delighted to listen to your audition.

Many members of the ASA have opinions on any and all subjects imaginable, and a forum where these opinions could find an opportunity to be released and perhaps tested in the give and take of debate, is a very reasonable proposition.

And to breathe life into these words, the ASA would like to revive and return a discussion group to popularity.

What is required is a moderator or a team of moderators who can function cooperatively offering differing expertise, and who can conduct the debates ensuring that each opinion receives a fair opportunity to be expressed, and that the quieter voices are heard.

The ability to choose proposed topics or to recommend future subjects for discussion would provide a positive manner in which a moderator could assist a debating club.

If this opportunity attracts your attention and appeals to your intellect, please inform Jytte Gillies who is chair of the Operating and Activities committee, or any member of the Board of Directors.

# Student awarded scholarship

Aurora's Sarah Letourneau has been awarded an annual scholarship from the Diabetes Hope Foundation (DHF).

A student at The Renaissance School in Aurora, Sarah is one of 31 scholarship recipients from across Ontario who were chosen from many applicants.

In August, 2004, she was diagnosed with dia-

betes when she was just 12 years old.

But, she didn't let it stop her from pursuing her lifelong passion for gymnastics.

Sarah has been a gymnast since she was three years old and today she coaches young children and shares her love of the sport.

Sarah intends to use the scholarship to study social

studies and law.

Through the support of Aubrey Dan and Dancap Productions Inc., 2009 Scholarship Recipients celebrated earlier this week at The Toronto Centre for the Arts.

The theme of this year's award ceremony is Achieving Dreams.

Special guests included Stephen Steele, an Air Canada captain, who was

the first insulin-dependent pilot in the world to fly as captain of a passenger airliner.

The Diabetes Hope Foundation assists children and adolescents in their endeavours to achieve full potential in education, self-management and future independence.

This year, DHF will award \$120,000 in scholarships.

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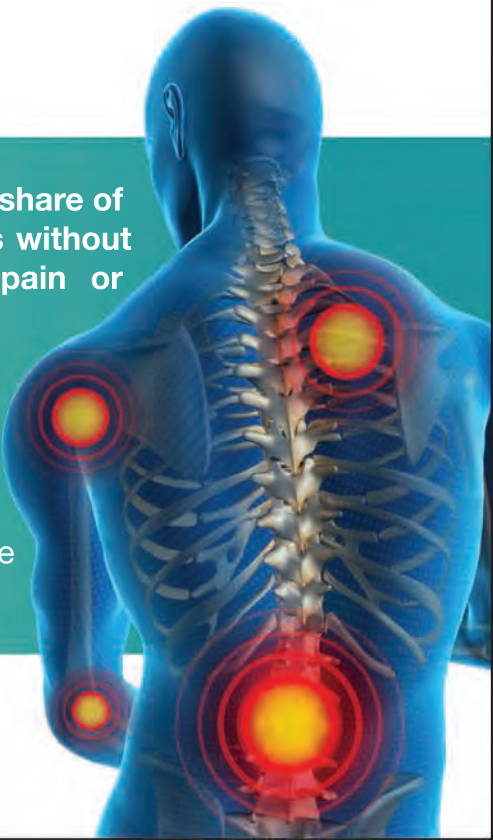
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Belinda Stronach will team up with Aurora resident Chris Poole, right, who is the owner and operator of Yardworks 4 Life Inc., a landscape construction and property maintenance firm. Belinda announced a Lawn Maintenance Program recently and Mr. Poole donated his company's services.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Belinda announces Network planning

Neighbourhood Network founder Belinda Stronach recently announced a number of new community programs aimed at helping volunteer agencies and residents in need.

Stronach, who is also the Executive Vice-Chairman of Magna International Inc., announced the following new programs and initiatives:

\* Neighbourhood Network will establish a Lawn Maintenance Program to help low-income seniors and disabled residents take care of their properties during the spring, summer and fall.

The Lawn Maintenance Program is modeled along the lines of the Snow Removal Program that Neighbourhood Network launched late last year.

The program ended up helping more than 30 residents in Aurora and Newmarket by clearing snow from their walkways and driveways during the winter.

The Lawn Maintenance Program will be run in conjunction with Aurora resident Chris Poole, owner and operator of Yardworks 4 Life Inc., a landscape construction and property maintenance firm. Poole is donating his company's services and will work together with Neighbourhood Network volunteers to maintain the properties of Newmarket and Aurora residents who qualify to receive assistance.

\* Neighbourhood Network will host a seminar for local charities and non-profit organizations Friday, May 29 in Newmarket aimed at helping them secure public and corporate funding for important community projects.

The seminar, titled "How to Write a Winning Proposal", will be given by Tracey Bailey, Vice-President with Ketchum Canada and a fundraising and communications expert specializing in the non-profit sector.

The seminar will be open to all of the more than 80 local organizations and charities that are Neighbourhood Network partners.

\* The annual Give Back Awards, established in 2004 by Ms Stronach when she was the Member of Parliament for Newmarket-Aurora, will now be administered by Neighbourhood Network.

The Give Back Award is a \$500 cash prize donated annually to one male and one female student at every high school in Aurora and Newmarket.

The award is presented to students in their final year of school who have given back to their community and who have made a positive contribution to fellow students and citizens.

The awards were started by Stronach as part of a campaign pledge she made to donate her salary in order to benefit youth in the community.

\* The annual Aurora Seniors' Centre barbecue, also established by Stronach during her term as Member of Parliament for Newmarket-Aurora, will now also be administered by Neighbourhood Network.

This year, the event will take place at noon Thursday, June 25, at the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

Stronach and other mem-

bers of the Neighbourhood Network team will grill hamburgers and sausages, with all proceeds going to the centre.

The initiatives listed above were announced to coincide with National Volunteer Week.

Neighbourhood Network is a "Magna for Community" initiative that matches volunteers from Newmarket and Aurora with local charities and community groups.

Neighbourhood Network currently has more than 600 volunteers and 85 partner organizations.

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## Aurora's tree population increases by about 300

Recently, it was Community Planting Day at the Aurora Arboretum.

About 48 enthusiastic volunteers from the community joined eight Arboretum Board members in planting 300 trees and shrubs along a stretch of Industrial Parkway North, just south of the Dog Park/Canine Commons.

The trees and shrubs planted are a part of planned Shelter Belt planting running along Industrial Parkway that will eventually shelter the Arboretum from the roadway, thus providing shelter for wildlife.

Trees and shrubs were provided by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA), with the Arboretum covering part of the costs through a grant from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources/Evergreen program.

An added feature of the day was the presentation of a cheque for \$3,500 to the Aurora Community Arboretum by TD Canada Trust.

Community volunteers are what make a day like

this so enjoyable, officials agreed.

The trees and shrubs were placed by LSRCA and Arboretum Board members in appropriate locations ahead of time.

The swarm of planters quickly dug the holes and planted trees, and moved on looking for another opportunity.

Forty-five minutes later almost every tree

and shrub had a new home.

Spiral mouse guards were added to the trees and single stemmed shrubs for protection from mice and rabbits, and then the mulch mats were carefully placed in position to provide each tree and shrub with some clear space for growth.

Planters of all ages took part in the activity.

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# What Is The Secret To Lasting Weight Loss?




**45.5lbs lost**

“I have a new self confidence. My aches and pains are gone.”

Irene, Selkirk

Before U




**22lbs lost**

“I have more energy. I feel better physically and mentally.”

Vito, Woodbridge

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**30lbs lost**

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Susan, Georgetown

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