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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 9 No. 29 905-727-3300 auroran.com FREE Week of May 19, 2009

Volunteer chair fires volley at councillor

The accusations were flying at Aurora Council last Tuesday, and while that's not unusual, what was different is that this time they were raised before the councillors had even decided what agenda items to discuss.

It all started during Open Forum, when Sher St. Kitts, the volunteer chair of Aurora's

Canada Day Parade sub-committee, stood up to announce a formal complaint against Councillor Evelyn Buck.

According to Ms St. Kitts, this was in reference to ongoing allegations being made by the councillor about the activities of the Canada Day Parade sub-committee, Aurora Dream

Please see page 12



Three of the regular vendors at Aurora's popular Farmer's Market celebrated birthdays last week, and were honoured with a cake. In spite of the thunder and rain Saturday, recipients took time to celebrate the occasion. Toscana Bakery on McClellan Way provided the birthday cake. Involved in the activity were, left to right, Sher St. Kitts, Naomi Finch, Mike Howard and Vanessa Ursini, the first three celebrating birthdays.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Ball decision expected May 26

Aurora Council is expected to make a decision May 26th regarding the construction of a new senior ball diamond in Aurora's east end.

Mayor Phyllis Morris told a group of baseball supporters last week that the matter would be discussed at a general committee meeting May 19 and then it would probably go to council a week later.

That appeared to be the bottom

line last week as Aurora's mayor called a meeting of baseball supporters to hear concerns about what is taking so long to construct a new ball diamond in Aurora.

The council chambers may have been the location, but last Monday night's meeting to discuss the contentious ball diamond issue was strictly a "mayor's meeting", convened by Mayor Phyllis Morris to allow interest-

ed members of the public, mostly baseball families, the chance to voice their concerns and ask questions.

Several councillors were in attendance as observers, including Wendy Gaertner, Al Wilson, Bob McRoberts, John Gallo, Stephen Granger and Evelyn Buck.

They neither spoke nor asked questions during the meeting as per

Please see page 11

Briefly

Library programs

Now is the time to start thinking about how to take care of the younger set once summer arrives.

The Aurora Public Library may have the answer.

Forms for library's summer programs are now available and may be picked up at the library, 15145 Yonge Street at the corner of Church Street.

Enrollment date for Aurora residents begins Saturday, June 13th. Processing starts Friday, June 19th.

Non-residents may register beginning Saturday, June 20th.

Programs being offered include: Preschool Storytime (3 - 5 years), Tales for Two (24 - 35 months)

For more information, visit www.library.aurora.on.ca, call 905-727-9493 or pick up a program flyer at the library.

School closing

York Region's first open-concept school is closing, but not before it celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Whitchurch Highlands Public School, will celebrate this Friday, May 22nd.

The event is historic because WHPS will be closing its original doors in June to be rebuilt on the same site and will open in September, 2010.

The party begins at 7 p.m. and the school itself will be transformed into a retelling of the 40-year journey from 1969 to today.

The next day, past and present students will celebrate a fun family day for all ages. Activities will include entertainment, games and touring of the school and its displays.

The school is located at the Bloomington Sideroad and Warden Avenue (Fifth Concession).

Several students who attended WHPS wound up living in Aurora.

Whitchurch Highlands is known as the school "Built in the Round".

The circular design was chosen to get the most usable space per square foot - with the least amount of hall space.

The library and auditorium were seen as "the core of the school", and needed to be accessed from any of the pods. Because of that, they were located in the centre of the building.

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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@sympatico.ca.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY, MAY 22

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).

SATURDAY, MAY 23

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

click on www.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.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

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.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

School teacher at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School Bob McRoberts is retiring. A party will be held today at the Howard Johnson Hotel on Yonge Street. For details contact Lynn Gardner at 905-727-3131 ext. 157 or Joe Pagniello at joseph.pagniello@yrsb.edu.on.ca. If you plan on attending, you must have RSVP'd 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.abusehurts.com) and the Spirit of the Stick campaign (www.spiritofthestick.com). In addition to the longest lacrosse game in history, a silent auction and a Family Fun day (Saturday) will be in full swing. Mayors and councillors from Aurora and Newmarket will play with lacrosse players from 5 to 6 p.m. Friday. For more information go to www.laxdove.ca or www.amll.ca.

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.

SUNDAY, JULY 5

The Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society annual Aurora Garden Tour covers seven gardens including a chat with the owners and creators of the landscape designs. Tour is from noon to 5 p.m., rain or shine! Tickets are \$10 and are available in Aurora at Caruso & Co., 15210 Yonge Street, Flowers by Terry, 14799 Yonge Street, and R&R Revisited, 95 Edward Street.

For more information call 905-727-5926 or visit gardenontario.org/site.php/aurora/news/details/4441.

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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While Aurora Chamber of Commerce President Kathy van Nostrand, left, and Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris look on, Aurora's policy planner Fausto Fillpetto donates a pint of blood during the mayor's blood donor clinic held Friday at the Town Hall.

Activities aplenty at the 14th annual Yonge St. festival

There will be no reason to be bored at this year's rendition of The Aurora Chamber of Commerce 14th Annual Street Festival.

Slated for Sunday, June 7th, the annual event gets underway at 11 a.m. and concludes six hours later at 5 p.m.

Officials are expecting that more than 550 vendors will be on Yonge Street between Wellington and Murray, offering a plethora of merchandise to purchase.

If the weather does what it's supposed to, officials think more than 40,000 people will participate in the activities.

And the lineup is impressive.

All day long the Freddy Fusion Science Show will take place at the corner of Yonge and Ransom.

Other day-long activities include wall climbing at Yonge and Cousins; a car show at the south end of Yonge Street; and the YTV Wow! display in the Graystone's parking lot.

There will be stilt walkers on the street and organ grinder Klaus Wehrenberg also returns to the street.

The music stylings of Patty McLaughlin will entertain you for two hours at Yonge and Kennedy beginning at 11 a.m.

She'll be replaced until 3.30 p.m. by the George St. Kitts band.

The event offers an eclectic mix of food, entertainment, fun for the kids and goods and services in one location.



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St. Andrew's students launch kids' cookbook

Three children, including two who are Aurora's St. Andrew's College students, have just published a kid-friendly cookbook called *Gourmet Kids MDN*.

Matthew Whitelaw, Grade 9, and Nicholas Whitelaw, Grade 8, joined with their 10 year old sister, Daniella, to launch the cookbook in Kleinburg recently.

The book sells for \$20 with all revenues going toward rebuilding the community centre at their local church in Toronto, and is available at St. Andrew's.

Many of the book's recipes came from their Italian grandmother, as well as family recipes they all created together.

"It speaks to the genuineness and determination of these two St. Andrew's boys that they would set such an altruistic goal in publishing this wonderful cookbook," said Ted Staunton, St. Andrew's Headmaster.

The Whitelaw kids, known collectively as "MDN", love nothing more than being in the kitchen creating their own meals and eating with family.

"Our best conversations are around the dinner table," they agree.

Two years ago, MDN began to compile their recipes as part of a fun summer project, with the dream of one day publishing their own cookbook to raise money to benefit the local community.

With encouragement and support from their parents to "reach for the stars and someday you will touch them," Matthew, Daniella and Nicholas have seen their dream realized.

The hardcover cookbook features more than 85 recipes that make cooking easy and fun for kids and their parents.

In the giving spirit, all proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to help rebuild the community hall of their local St. Jude's Church in Toronto.

Kids will appreciate the friendly tone of the book and


variety of delicious, home-style dishes using basic ingredients, while parents will appreciate the book's easy kid-tested recipes for quick mealmaking while having fun cooking with their children.

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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Downtown Aurora - is there any hope??

I attended the Thursday afternoon meeting in the Magna room at the Aurora Library where Aurora residents and business owners were invited to have their say about the future of the Yonge and Wellington corridor.

There were about two dozen in attendance. Thursday night's similar meeting was held at the same spot but I don't know how many showed up. I had another engagement and couldn't go to both.

Before I get into it, someone needs to fix the door to the Magna Room.

People were coming and going all afternoon, and the door makes so much noise opening and closing that it's distracting.

Thursday afternoon brought the usual slate of complaints...parking, Yonge Street traffic speed, etc., etc.

Missing from the conversation, I felt, was the word "marketing".

Since I was "covering" the meeting for The Auroran, I felt it was best to keep my big mouth shut, but the word that kept going through my mind was "Acton".

And the phrase "it's worth the drive to Acton".

And the words were familiar because a leather shop said so in an ad that, I'm sure, someone else, like the Town of Acton, must have helped pay for.

It worked on me. I drove to Acton, found a town not unlike Aurora, with the same problems...parking and traffic.

Later on, I went to Cookstown, that funny little hamlet at the corner of Highways 27 and 89, near Alliston. Now, there I was disappointed.

Why, I wondered, would anyone is his or her right mind, drive to this place?

Cookstown gives new meaning to the term "tourist trap". But then I'm not a "shopper" like some people I know.

On weekends, you can't find a place to park in Cookstown, because of all the city visitors who are there. Apparently, they think it's "quaint".

So, in order for them to go to Cookstown, some of them may have driven through Aurora. And didn't stop. How come?

Well, as the saying goes, "you can't sell from an empty wagon".

And there is precious little on Yonge Street for anyone to buy.

Caruso's and a couple of others must feel like abandoned ships in a sea of banks and other non-retail establishments.

I was amused by a story of a tourist who visited Niagara-On-The-Lake and couldn't find anywhere to park.

Merchants had taken all the parking spots.

The touristy village fixed that, but there's still precious little space to park.

Obviously, a sign of a successful community that knew how marketing works.

If you're lucky enough to find a place on the main street, there are parking meters to assure you don't stay too long.

Aurora once had parking meters. Where did they go and why? Perhaps it's time to bring them back.

Of course, because Yonge Street is a busy highway there are rush hour parking restrictions.

Unionville solved that problem by building a bypass around its quaint downtown.

Aurora had the idea once of a "ring road" around Yonge Street.

Murray Drive was connected through to Wellington Street...yes, once it ended in a church yard adjacent to Regency Acres Public School.

Industrial Parkway became the other half of the "ring road", but that didn't stop traffic from using Yonge Street.

So, apparently, the "ring road" wasn't the answer. And Yonge Street just keeps getting busier and busier.

If there is an answer, I'd sure like to hear it, and so would the people who are conducting this workshop.

Maybe it's time we told the world we're here...and maybe we should do it before we're not!!



Do you know this man? You should, but keep in mind, this photograph has been around for a number of years. If you know him, call us after noon Friday, May 22, and if you're the first - and you identify him correctly - we'll give you a \$50 gift certificate that you can use at Oakland Hall Inn on Yonge Street in Aurora.

Letter to the Editor

Founder explains Dream Team

To the editor,

The Aurora Dream Team: Who are we and what have we done?

The Aurora Dream Team is composed of a network of volunteers helping promote good causes in and around the Town of Aurora.

It is not, nor has it ever claimed to be, a charity organization.

It is simply a group of community-minded citizens who seek to help make positive change happen in Aurora.

Further, it is not a part of the Town nor has it ever claimed to be.

These groups of concerned, dedicated citizens including myself, Stephen Granger and Sandra Humfries have been joined with many other community members to help provide the following for Aurora giving of many hours and exacting no fee:

* The revival of the Canada Day Parade in Aurora. The Aurora Dream Team volunteers put on a party to raise funds to get the parade back on Yonge Street. All funds were used for expenses of the fundraiser as is commonly done and the net profit was all given to the Town of Aurora in the form of the best Red Hot Canadian Parade Aurora has ever seen.

There are many photos, tapes and documents to support this. Contact me if you would like some photos of the parade - I have hundreds.

Anyone who saw the 2008 Aurora Canada Day Parade, which was featured on City TV and Global, would admit all funds so raised and much more must have gone into the parade. Let's recount - the hour long parade had five marching bands, about 20 horses including the Governor General's Horse Guard and Band; more than 60 entries including clowns, buskers, dragons, drummers, circus people and lots of Aurorans.

It was a fantastic testimony to the hard work of the Aurora Dream Team volunteers working in conjunction with the members of the Canada Day Parade Subcommittee to promote the parade.

All bookkeeping for this event has been reviewed by a

local accounting firm and has been given to Town staff to ensure transparency.

We were proud to also have the support of the Rotary Club of Aurora, which also sponsored the revival of the Canada Day Parade in Aurora. The actual costs of this parade were submitted to the Town when it was time to discuss budgeting for the 2009 parade.

* Creation of the "Red Hot Canadians" to promote Canadian National Pride here in Aurora and hopefully all of Canada.

* 2009 Parade - members of the Aurora Dream Team are acting as volunteers to help the Canada Day Parade Subcommittee with many promotions around Aurora to excite everyone about the Canada Day Parade.

Terms of Reference of the Canada Day Parade Subcommittee is to work with local citizens and groups to promote the parade and that is exactly what has been done.

The CDPSC invites all Red Hot Canadians who wish to help make our 2009 Parade even better to consider helping with Sidewalk Chalk Drawings on Yonge Street parade day; Windows for Canada and/or Proud to Be Canadian Campaigns.

We are helping prepare our Town for our national Birthday Party here in Aurora - Canada's Birthday Town.

* The "We're Canadian, Ay" event at the Royal Canadian Legion was put on by me to raise awareness, not funds, for the 2009 Parade.

I volunteered my personal time and money. I had friends helping me.

Also as this event is in line with the Terms of Reference of the Canada Day Parade Subcommittee to promote the parade, CDPSC members also helped, as did Stephen Granger and other dream-teamers.

I was ready and prepared to pay for any shortfall that the event might have had - as I believe in Canada! Happily it was well received and I was able to not only enjoy a successful event for Canada but to give a substantial donation to the Royal Canadian Legion and their staff who volun-

teered to help for the event.

There were no residual dollars left over - and in fact, if there was those would have belonged to the organizers! A donation of \$150, which represented the ticket fee for Town Councillors in attendance, was given back to the Town of Aurora general ledger for the Canada Day Parade to buy flags!

* The birth of the Aurora Christmas Dream, where about 100 local residents who need a leg up on Christmas Day are invited to enjoy a warm traditional Christmas meal complete with music, camaraderie, fellowship, gifts and hope.

Over the past two years the Aurora Dream Team with foundational partner, The Rotary Club of Aurora, not only provided the Christmas Dream to those in need but also has donated in excess of \$24,000 to the Aurora Food Pantry, The Salvation Army and the Welcoming Arms group of churches to continue helping

those in need over the holidays and beyond. Cheque presentations can be seen in the local papers.

* Members of the Aurora Dream Team have also offered help to the Royal Canadian Legion with its Light Up the Legion Campaign and Operation Renovation - to garner more memberships; have people use our Legion for events and raise awareness and funds as required to repair and update the Legion facility for future generations.

There is more... and yet more to come.

We believe that dreams can come true when we put our hearts and souls to work.

As the proud founder of the Aurora Dream Team, I wish to thank all the dedicated volunteers in the community of Aurora and surrounds for their support in making positive community dreams come true.

Let's keep on dreaming.

Sher St. Kitts
Snowball

THE AURORAN

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Membership is now closed

At this time of year, the last thing you probably want to think about is politics.

The weather's finally getting nice, and you no doubt have visions of vacations/long weekends and of sipping cool ones beside the pool.

As you have been bombarded over the past eight months with the on-again, off-again saga of whether a federal election would be called, you thought that since the feds would soon be off to the barbecue circuit for the summer that you would be safe.

Guess again!

You will most certainly be ecstatic to know that the next municipal election is only about 16 months away while the next provincial election is only 28 months or so away.

And I know that all of you just can't wait to get to the polls in October, 2010, to improve on Aurora's dismal 38 per cent voter turnout record from 2006's municipal election!

The issue I want to deal with in this column is the Provincial PC Leadership.

As you know, the Liberals, with premier Dalton McGuinty at the helm, seem to be in good shape, while the NDP, with newly elected leader Andrea Horwath, are fine.

Which brings us back to the provincial Tories.

As an aside, the reason I am not writing about either the Liberals or the NDP is that I have no particular insight into their respective Parties' inner workings.

As a long time PC volunteer, I believe I can - in at least a modest sense - offer readers a different perspective on some political events.

Back to the issue at hand.

You may remember the reason for the leadership vacuum

is that John Tory stepped down earlier this year after he was not successful in obtaining a seat in a provincial bi-election.

There are four declared candidates for the PC Leadership, Tim Hudak, an MPP from Niagara Falls; Christine Elliott, MPP from Whitby; Randy Hillier, an MPP from eastern Ontario, and last, but certainly not least, Frank Klees, the MPP for Newmarket-Aurora.

The contest has not received much fanfare at all, with the economy and federal issues stealing the lion's share of the spotlight.

However, this is about to change - at least somewhat.

First, on Thursday May 13th at 10 p.m., membership was officially closed. This means that only currently paid up PC members can participate in the Leadership vote to be held next month.

I don't have the final membership tally but the media suspects there are probably about 30,000 to 40,000 paid up members.

Think about that for a moment, 40,000 people out of a province of 13.5 million will be choosing a person with a half way decent chance to be the premier of this province 28 months from now.

Second, now that the membership has been closed, we are entering what is known as the "persuasion" phase.

Each of the candidates and their campaigns will present their policies, try to win the communication "air wars" and ultimately try to influence voters.

Four regional policy debates will be held and closer to the June vote, Steve Paikin of TVO will host a televised debate among the leadership hopefuls. Collectively, these activities should raise the awareness level.

The other thing to keep in mind is that, while all the leadership aspirants will need to place a number of policy stakes in the ground, policy development will not be done singularly.

Any policy positions advocated by the candidates will need to be debated, analyzed, massaged and finalized by the Party's respective internal volunteer Policy Advisory Councils ("PAC's")

All members of the party will, and must, take part, in policy development, so that the party doesn't re-experience the "faith based education" funding fiasco of October, 2007.

The Party basically by-passed the PAC's last time out and paid the price.

So it expected that, over the next two years, party members will be shaping and developing policy resolutions on a wide range of issues so that by the time the 2011 election rolls around, the party will have a policy platform that has been debated and vetted by the ordinary volunteer members.

So, having said all the above, why is this important to me here in Aurora in the summer of 2009?

It is important for the simple reason that a democracy best functions when you have Opposition parties that are ready and able to govern.

Knowing that the other guy can do the job is a great way to keep the incumbents on their toes.

By electing a new leader and developing detailed, and well thought out policy alternatives, hopefully it will provide voters with that most important commodity when they enter the ballot booth in 2011: three strong party choices.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephensomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Growth spurt

Why is it that all of a sudden, Aurora can't keep up with its infrastructure demands?

I'm not talking about repairs to roads, and bridges, and sewers, and what-not. We all know we'll never keep up with those. No, I mean all the new recreational infrastructure.

If I remember correctly, the new Rec Centre on Wellington Street East, opened a few years ago, more than doubling the town's available pool time.

If so, and we now have all this additional swimming capacity, then why are Aurora's competitive swim teams currently engaged in a protracted, knock down, drag out fight over lane rights, monopolization of limited hours, which club has the most local members, and who got there first?

I understand that as our population expands, we'll need more recreational infrastructure.

But is the town really growing so quickly that we now need a new pool complex every two years?

At that rate, by the time our population doubles, there will be more pools in Aurora than coffee shops.

Okay, so there will never be more of anything in town than coffee shops, but you get the idea.

Or, maybe we're just getting too demanding, and perhaps a little bit spoiled, and our expectations are growing faster than our infrastructure.

And based on recent presentations to council and letters to the editor, this lack of recreational facilities is not limited to just pools.

The other item that's been in the news recently is the new baseball diamond. The town's Master Recreation Plan identifies the requirement for a new senior diamond in the near future, but suddenly, we have to have one right now.

And that's not all. Now that we have an artificial turf playing field, it's been suggested that we need another. And one soccer bubble is apparently no longer enough, so there's talk of more of them, too. Trail links, soccer fields...the list goes on.

Perhaps the reason folks are pushing for all of these things now is because of the length of time it takes to approve anything.

You know how it goes; staff prepares a report, which is presented to council. Council finds something to question in it (they have to - it's apparently in their job description), and sends it back for another report.

The revised report also inevitably comes back for another polish. And so on.

The most recent staff report on the baseball diamond contained copies of so many of the previous staff reports on the subject, it ended up being more than 165 pages long.

I'm not sure if copies were printed for everyone on council,

but if so, that had to equal at least a couple of trees' worth of paper.

But despite this most detailed of staff reports, council still found more to question in it. In this case, it was "recreation creep", where the original price tag of \$600,000 had somehow ballooned to \$1.7 million.

Even a year's worth of inflation couldn't account for that.

So back it went for another report.

There must be a group of town staff hidden away somewhere whose sole function is to write reports for council.

And if so, no matter what their current salary, I think they deserve a raise.

In any case, maybe that's why all these "we need new facilities now" requests are starting to come up.

Aurora's recreation plan says another pool is not required until sometime after 2013, so perhaps all the arguments from the swim clubs are not because they feel they need a new pool now.

They just want town staff to get started on all those back-and-forth reports to council.

After all, 2013 is only four years away.

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

Letters to the Editor

Granddaughter watched attack: councillor

To the editor,

Mayor Phyllis Morris is huddling with Chief Administrative Officer and Town Solicitor this morning (May 13th), ostensibly to determine what can be done about me and what I do here in my Letters to the Editor.

Thousands of taxpayer dollars have been spent already on a variety of legal opinions to ferret out a final solution to the dilemma.

Last night (Tuesday, May 12) a person made use of the public forum to unleash a lengthy diatribe of accusations and allega-

tions against myself.

Public forum is an opportunity granted by council for citizens to bring attention to concerns they might have about public business.

Citizens granted the right to address council are bound by the Rules of Order.

When the complainant had finished her attack, the mayor accommodated her further by receiving a motion to suspend the Procedure Bylaw, to allow the personal vilification of an elected member to be placed in the public record and referred to a private meeting between herself

and town staff.

The gist of the complaints were that I had repeatedly insulted, harassed and defamed this person in my Blog.

Blog is a written record. Scrolling back to December 20th, 2008, and I invite readers to do so, there is no reference whatsoever to the complainant or her activities.

My granddaughter, Hayley Buck, was in the audience with classmates, parents and teachers.

They were to receive their winning anti-litter plaqued posters.

My sons, Frank and Andrew and Hayley's

mother Rhonda, were there to see this small member of our family being recognized for excellence.

First, by courtesy of the mayor and a block of compliant councillors, they were obliged to witness an ignominious display of ignorance and such a gross abuse of power and process, the likes of which I have never seen, directed toward myself, an elected member of the council.

In one media or another, I have, for more than 50 years, used the written word to convey my opinion to all and sundry.

I am a battle-scarred

veteran of many political battles.

Everything likely to be said about any politician has already been said about me, perhaps more than once.

Still, I hold elected office by virtue of the trust of people who know precisely what might be expected from me.

In 2003, after an absence of 14 years, I was re-elected to council.

In 2007 I was again returned. I occupy my seat as a representative of the people.

When I am disrespected, they are disrespected.

Profound ignorance of proper procedure, patronizing, insulting, demean-

ing, condescending and disrespectful conduct from the head of the council are frequently endured silently for no reason other than respect for the people we serve and the symbol of responsibility and authority of elected office which the council chamber represents.

I have made the observation before, the current mayor of Aurora enjoys neither my respect, trust nor my confidence.

Last night's display in the council chamber of Aurora illustrates why more perfectly than anything I could write.

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

Resigning position is not the answer, this reader says

To the editor,

In regard to the resignation of Mr. Giroux over the construction of a new baseball facility, what a shame!

I am sure he has worked tirelessly for the AMBA, but surely to demonstrate his frustration this way, can only harm the AMBA and not be the solution.

Many things in life are important and in these current economic times, the nice to haves really must take a backseat to the

must haves.

I am sure when the economy turns around the AMBA would have more luck.

If I understand the problem correctly, the Aurora Minor Ball Association would like to have a new facility, which has been estimated at a cost of \$850,000.

The AMBA has a membership of around 600, I am not sure how many of these members would be using a full size baseball diamond, but even if all 600 of them use it, they

represent less than 1.5 per cent of the population of Aurora.

Who can really blame the Aurora Council for putting off this expenditure?

Now, why should the citizens of Aurora pay roughly \$55 per household for this facility?

I would say that it is very difficult for pensioners, low-income families and certainly those completely disinterested in baseball to be expected to subsidize it.

If there is a real urgency, may I suggest the AMBA lease some land

from the town and pay for their own temporary diamond.

Surely it only needs a field, four bags of sand and a chain link fence behind the catcher.

Does it really need floodlights, benches, dugouts, and fencing all around?

I am all for people participating in sports, but I also think those taking part need to take responsibility for paying for it!

Robert Grattage
Aurora

Reader sorry to see resignation

To the editor,

It is sad to see someone as dedicated as Dave Giroux resign due to a poor council decision not to build a new baseball diamond.

I remember at the last

election debates certain councillors and mayoral candidates stating that they support ALL sports in Aurora.

This was a meeting held mainly by the Aurora Soccer League but included other sports teams.

All of these current councillors including the non-elected John Gallo said they supported the Aurora sports teams.

They passed the million dollar artificial soccer field but they seem to forget the other sports

organizations in Aurora like the baseball association.

What happened to the support?

How could the baseball field, that is really required, get voted down?

I guess it lost support like the hydro lines or the clothes lines.

For all of you who supported this group of elected and non-elected council, I guess it is no shock that you got hung out to dry.

They support continuance of Wells St. Public School

To the editor,

We fully support keeping the Wells Street School open.

We fully support any cost required to keep this historic building operating as a community school. Aurora needs to maintain a downtown core with historic buildings to promote beauty and a sense of community.

The stores, restaurants, churches, offices, library, parks, outdoor market, schools and other public buildings create a place where people want to live and work.

Does everything need to be built outside of town?

Do all buildings need to be built to the lowest common denominator?


Please think about all our

futures!

Sharon and Tom Callaghan
Aurora


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Letters to the Editor

Reader presents seat belt numbers

To the editor,

M. Chisholm: here are the numbers you requested when you pooh-poohed everyone's responses to your initial letter about the annoying seat belt blitzes.

Number of people in Ontario, according to the latest StatsCan figures: 11,410,046 x 0.50 = 5,705,023

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/standard/popdwel/Tabelle-UR-Dr.htm?T=1&PR=35&SR=26&S=1&O=A>

The URL is really long, so for ease, Google "population of Ontario" and hit the www12.statcan.ca link.

Let's assume 50 per cent hold drivers licences and/or have reached the age of majority - because no figures like that are available without invoking the lengthy Freedom of Information Act process. Holding drivers' licences means I'm including licenced-to-drive minors

and the adult end of the population, but not the under-Grade-10 crowd, for whom the responsibility for compliance falls to their parents and/or the driver of the car.

11,410,046 x 0.50 = 5,705,023

Now, getting figures for the rate of seat belt law compliance was a bit tricky, as regions tend to publish their own numbers, not the entire province.

The numbers will of necessity be soft.

That, and it's springtime - I have too much to do both at home and at the community garden to hunt down the latest and firmest.

I leave that to paid journalists. We're all friends when sparring in The Auroran, so you'll understand.

The latest figure I Googled was from the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, from their Fall, 2006 seat belt cam-

paign.

The compliance rate for all of Ontario was figured at 92 per cent. I'll round down to 90 per cent, to err on the side of being wrong.

<http://www.oacp.on.ca/content/news/article.html?ID=291>

Number of adults in cars who used seat belts: 5,705,023 x 0.90 = 5,134,520 and a decimal. We'll pretend someone was pregnant.

Number of adults who did NOT wear their seat belt: 570,503

More than half a million people in Ontario. That's almost two-thirds the population of York Region, as of 2006 (statcan.ca).

Now, how to figure out how many rapists, murderers, thieves, and other assorted scofflaws who deserve more focused police attention, without resorting to lengthy requests for the data under the Freedom of Information Act?

I turned to the Ontario Court of Justice Biennial Report (2006-2007).

It's like an alumni newsletter, but with the grandeur of government, and besides welcoming new judges and mourning dead ones, it also offers its estimates of the number of charges the courts can expect to handle in a given year.

There are so many specialized courts, however, that I chose the numbers from the Criminal Court only.

<http://www.ontario-courts.on.ca/ocj/en/report/s/annualreport/06-07.pdf>

"In an average year, the judges of the Court will deal with almost 600,000 adult and youth criminal charges..." (page 39 in the PDF linked above)

I won't try to tease out who did what, how many times, and how young.

(The 2000 report put their estimates at 470,000 adult criminal charges, and

70,000 charges under the Young Offenders Act. I don't see that as a sign that crime is worsening, as there were a few changes made in criminal law in Canada and Ontario at around that time that saw Superior Court cases transferred to the provincial courts.)

Still, the number of charges brought to court will always be greater than the number of people charged.

Numbers for 2006/2007 - the number of cases processed in the criminal courts is 600,000.

M. Chisholm - my numbers have to be soft because there is no way to get a hard count of cars and drivers and passengers.

However, because the number of charges is greater than the number of people charged, and the number is not broken down according to violent crime versus white collar, versus petty theft, versus vandalism, etc. it looks like our numbers pretty much balance, statistically.

I stand corrected: there are not more criminals than seat belt scofflaws. But you stand with me on the fulcrum of the balance: it is clear that there are as many seat belt scofflaws as criminals charged.

It would seem, by the numbers, that both seat belt monitoring and criminal policing require equal attention.

My point, however, was

not that we have to have blitzes to ensure seat belt compliance, or even that it's ridiculous to have to legislate good sense, but that your conviction that you, and you alone, are affected by Your Decision to NOT wear the seat belt is misplaced.

That was my point: Quite a few of your decisions affect other people's lives, too.

You cannot base your argument for not wearing a seat belt on that weak a premise. I call that disrespectful of the people whose lives intersect yours in a more than tangential fashion.

This is my last word on the subject.

B. Taylor
Aurora

Two missed in photograph

To the editor,

The Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School basketball game picture (The Auroran, Page 4, May 5) had two missing names.

Ross McMurchy (ME!) standing far left in street clothes (sharp looking guy and about 80 pounds lighter than the current version) and David Beattie - two in from me (#12).

I believe you had everyone else.

Ross McMurchy
Brockville

Have I been lied to, reader asks

To the editor,

Some recent newspaper letters bear watching.

One writer suggested we pave everything over and call it a day.

Though he seemed to be joking, it is not a laughing matter.

This is a major concern

because the developers are now in control of most of the available land.

The home for the wild life in the McKenzie Marsh must remain untouched.

Incidentally, if David wants to pioneer it, let him enter from Yonge Street, just behind Hughy's farm. I can arrange that.

I think Jim Tree should stick to parks not politics. Recently, he was quoted in the paper that this project has been in the works for years.

Is he telling me that I've been lied to by three mayors, namely John West, Tim Jones and now Phyllis Morris? Seems to be so.

He should think he has a

great income, a great pension, so stay out of politics.

I will be reporting on the purgatory this mayor and council is in for.

Maybe they should all search their souls and get a positive voice.

Ben Kesteyn
Aurora

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THE AURORAN SPORTS

Page 10

Week of May 19, 2009

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The 2009 Aurora Jays Minor Peeewe rep team is made up of the following: In the front row, left to right, are Tony Davelman (bat boy), Mitchell Albert, Matthew Neice, Kyle Hauck, Anton Kalinin, Liam Gray and Matthew Leroy. In the middle row are Jack Pecora, Roni Davelman, Alessandro Bitondo, Aaron Hauck, Ryan Donovan, Alexander MacKinnon, Michael Dilosa and Jack Mull. At the rear are Ian MacKinnon, Jeff Hauck and Don Pecora. Team opened the season last week with a win and a loss.

Jays open ball season with a close win and loss

The 2009 Aurora Jays Minor Peeewe Rep baseball season started their season last week.

Unfortunately, they suffered a 5-4 loss to North Toronto #2 squad. But they bounced back with a come-from-behind win over Markham.

The pitching trio of

Aurora Seniors Bridge

Monday, May 11: N/S - Lucille Sequeira and Bernie O'Brien; Gloria Smith and Kay Hack; Eva Guttman and Greta Ogden. E/W - Carol Davidson and Elaine Hunter; Dennis McFadden and Frank Lablans; Christine Woodley and Carolyn Liddy.

Alexander MacKinnon, Jack Pecora and Matthew Neice had strong outings combined with solid performances by Ryan Donovan and Mitchell Albert behind the plate, in their loss to North Toronto.

Against Markham, the Jays posted a dramatic come from behind victory where the team scored eight runs in the bottom half of the last inning for a 9-8 victory.

Aggressive base running by Alessandro Bitondo, Roni Davelman, Michael Dilosa, Liam Gray, Anton Kalinin, Matthew Leroy and Jack Mull contributed to the eight-run outburst while Jack Pecora, and brothers Aaron and Kyle Hauck pitched for the Jays.

The Jays are especially excited about the 2009 season as they plan to participate as the sole

Canadian entry of 96 teams in the Cooperstown Dreams tournament in Cooperstown, New York, this summer.

Exclusive for 12-year-olds, the tournament coincides with the MLB Hall of Fame induction ceremonies.

In order to help fund the team's participation, the Jays have partnered with McGregor's Meats and Seafood.

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Gymnasts excel at Kingston meet

Children from Aurora's Kids Supergym excelled at the Trillium Blooms gymnastics competition held in Kingston recently.

The Aurora team won a total of 22 medals and came away with two overall champions.

Lindsay Gillies was first overall in Level 1 in the 14 plus year olds category, while Erin Rife was first overall in Level 1 in the 1 year old competition.

Lindsay won bronze medals of the vault and bars, and scored silver medals on the beam and floor.

Erin had a silver medal on the vault and won bronze on the bars and floor.

Other winners included Alison Green, Kayla Miranda and Michaela Cherutti, all of whom scored second overall finishes in various categories.

Meanwhile, Rachel Knetch won first place overall at the Provincial Power Tumbling Championships held recently at Seneca College.

The victory gave Rachel the honour of being the Provincial Champion in the level B Women's 14 and over category.

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Aurora Minor Ball results

Major Pee wee Aurora Jays Rep

May 11 - Aurora Jays 11 - Vaughan Vikings 5. Winning pitcher Brian Langdon. Graydon Gardner doubled for two RBIs.

Minor Midget Aurora Jays Rep

May 13 - Aurora Jays 14 - York 0. Winning pitcher Chris Leslie, Relief pitcher Fraser Robbins. Pat Jones had three hits and Matt Carter drove in three runs.

Mosquito House League

May 14 - Dr. Orschel 14, Kwik Kopy 3
- Dr. Mark Weeden 15, Restorer 0

Pee wee House League

May 11 - Royal Wood Shop 10, Home Hardware 2

May 13 - Royal LePage 12, Men's Slo Pitch 12
- TD Bank 13, Minto Developments 5
- Royal Wood Shop 16, PowerStream 16

Single-use water bottles banned by soccer group

Minor soccer players will no longer be allowed the use of single-use water bottles on all Aurora fields for the 2009 outdoor season.

The decision was made at a recent board meeting of the Aurora Youth Soccer Club and related to coaches at various meetings last week.

The unprecedented move arose after research showed that single-use water bottles are not properly recycled and that almost 90 per cent of them end up in land-fill sites.

"When you consider the number of children - almost 4,000 - playing one or two games per week and our insistence on keeping them safe and hydrated, you see the magnitude of the problem," said AYSC president Ron Weese. "We conservatively estimate that about

6,000 bottles of water are used each week during the season. When you multiply this number by the number of weeks in the hot summer you get an escalated sense of the issue."

Most importantly, the president said, single-use water bottles have become a litter problem on the soccer fields.

"Bottles are being left behind and the Club has been repeatedly asked to clean up. This costs us each time a clean-up crew is dispatched to our fields," he said. "In most cases our coaches or parents have pitched in to help keep things clean to avoid this."

AYSC Director of Club Resources Dave Stephens, who monitors playing field conditions, observed, "we have seen an increase in the amount of single-use

water bottles left at the fields each year.

"We are unsure how many of them get recycled and it is clear that restricting them this year while we look at an outright ban is the right solution, particularly when there are 'green' choices to make."

Last year, the group started introducing the concept of multi-use water containers by distributing aluminum refillable bottles to all house league players in the U-11 and older divisions.

This year there are more give-aways planned so parents and kids have refilling options.

Other reasons behind the decision included research that showed there is a growing trend to reduce the use of the bottles for health, environmental and economic reasons, and the

fact that bottled water is expensive.

"Depending on what facts and figures you quote, it is suggested that bottled water can be up to 10,000 times as expensive as tap water," the president said. "As for quality, tap water must pass tests of quality that are stringent. We have verified the quality of water in Aurora and the confidence is very high that healthy, clean water is available for all our players to fill their re-useable containers."

All AYSC members will receive information about the single use water bottle restriction and will be asked for their co-operation.

The AYSC will also ask Aurora Council to support the restriction and include refilling stations at each of the large soccer venues to help facilitate the move.

Baseball decision expected soon

From page 1

questions during the meeting as per the design of the session.

At least 100 people attended, many of them ball playing youth who attended wearing their uniforms.

Aurora Minor Baseball Association (AMBA) president Dave Giroux, who had already submitted his resignation over the issue, was in attendance, but would not say if he'd reconsider.

He later told The Auroran "my resignation stands".

Since the meeting was convened with less than 24 hours notice, the AMBA made urgent pleas to get baseball families out to air their concerns.

Several speakers informed the mayor of Aurora's recent baseball history, the growth of the game from just over 100 baseball registrants in 2005 to more than 600 registrants in 2009, and then made impassioned pleas for the long-awaited senior diamond.

Umpire in Chief, Jim Wagg, also pointed out the 70 plus Aurora residents who have found employment as umpires in the growth of baseball in town.

Rob Gray and Rob Seguin both raised the concern that baseball families are already turning away from Aurora in favour of communities with better facilities.

Many speakers expressed frustration that the same statistics and information had been submitted repeatedly to

various Town staff over the past three years, with little movement on the issue.

Mayor Morris explained that the new Master Recreation Plan would provide the information council needed to decide on the new facility, likely to be built on lands already owned by the Town behind the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex on Wellington Street East.

It was pointed out by a citizen that the complex already provided parking and services, which would save a considerable amount of money.

Randy Jones, a baseball parent and coach, told the group that as an employee of the City of Toronto Recreation Department, he was well acquainted with similar projects and felt that a phased-in process, whereby the diamond was built immediately and then other facilities followed later, was perfectly feasible and happened regularly with projects in the city.

The mayor told the group she had a better understanding of the baseball part of the total facility costs.

At one point, \$1.8 million had been estimated, but that included many costs that had nothing to do with baseball.

It is now estimated that the baseball cost would be somewhere around \$1 million.

And, as asserted by Rob Gray and others, even those costs could be reduced.

Mr. Gray provided a line by line analysis of the proposed expenses for the project.

He said many of the expenses, such as covered dugouts and batting cages, had been greatly overcharged in the original estimate.

He told the group that simple but well made features could reduce costs.

He also mentioned that a well maintained diamond would last forever and be of value to the Town for generations to come.

The issue of development charges was discussed, with the mayor explaining that only up to 90 per cent of the costs would be covered by development charges already collected, with the remaining 10 per cent requiring budget allocation.

Some members of the AMBA delegation expressed interest in fundraising to contribute to this amount and offered to contribute volunteer hours to reduce maintenance costs of the field.

Coach Dave Huckvale said the Town could benefit from tournaments that could be hosted if the Town had a sec-

ond senior diamond.

Restaurants, hotels and other businesses would enjoy the influx of money from such events.

Executives from the Aurora Sports council were in attendance and expressed their support of this facility for the betterment of the community.

They cited the positive impact of the new grass soccer field on the sports program, despite many critics and naysayers leading up to council approval.

An attendee then asked what the next steps would be and when council would vote on the issue.

The mayor stated that on May 19 the matter would be discussed at a General Committee meeting and then it would probably go to Council May 26th.

Heather Bryan, a baseball coach and parent, summed up the feelings of the group when she said, "you've heard the movie line 'if you build it, they will come'. Well, they are already here, so please build it."



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Pictured above are members of the Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School senior jazz band, who have won awards all over North America. Most recently, the group received a “superior” rating at the Chicago Rhythm International Music Festival. They also won Gold at the MusicFest Ontario competitions, and captured Silver at the National level. The senior band, meanwhile, also won gold at the Canadian National finals and scored a Platinum in York Region. Both groups are directed by Penny Sedore, seen above at left in the front row.

Speaker goes after Buck

From page 1
Team, and their supporters.

This apparently included such things as placing unfounded suspicions on the committee, inappropriately contacting its members, creating a poisonous work environment, and casting aspersions on the volunteers.

Councillor Buck responds to the accusations in a Letter to the Editor in this issue of The Auroran.

Before the speaker could go further, or provide any specific evidence to support her assertions, Mayor Phyllis Morris sought the opinion of the town solicitor.

He advised that the allegations would have to be referred to the appropriate forum, which may or may not be council.

Councillor Buck, given the opportunity to respond, said she did not take the accusations lightly and would be seeking her own advice.

Ms St. Kitts concluded with several requests to council relating to seeking their assistance in following up on the matter, which also included receiving a formal apology from Councillor Buck.

Mayor Morris noted that the town values its volunteers, and committed that as soon as Ms St. Kitts provided these details in writing, they would be reviewed by the

mayor, CAO and town solicitor.

At that point, Councillor Evelina MacEachern suggested waiving procedure to allow the comments to be introduced as part of the record of the meeting.

Despite protests from Councillor Buck that the procedural bylaw was not being followed accurately, the mayor ruled that it was.

The motion was subsequently carried that a written copy of Ms St. Kitts' concerns be provided to staff and comments be referred to the CAO, solicitor and mayor, and that steps be taken as determined.

Councillor Buck's request to amend the motion, so that she would also receive a copy of the complaints, was denied.

It was thought that this was the end of the matter for the evening, but later in the agenda, Councillor Buck questioned some items referenced in the Leisure Services Advisory Committee minutes about the Canada Day Parade sub-committee.

Specifically, she sought clarification about the sub-committee's authorization to organize events that she felt potentially could have ended up costing the town money.

The town's solicitor noted that while he agreed that the questions were valid, in light of the issues that were raised

earlier in the evening, he advised that Councillor Buck should hold off raising them until the allegations against her had been addressed.

The ball was left in the councillor's court.

If she does wish to

continue this line of questioning through a future meeting, she has that option.

It is not yet known if the allegations against Councillor Buck have any merit, or what the town's response will be.



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Auroran photos by Ron Wallace

Seniors' entertainment provided for mom's day

By TOM DAVEY

Aurora's senior citizens enjoyed unusual after-luncheon entertainment, to help celebrate mother's day last week, comprising guitar music, singing and a string of surprisingly witty jokes from Fay Seigel who has written, directed and produced musicals for six decades.

Her monologue was performed without recourse to written notes with timing and delivery still sharp after writing and directing musicals for 60 years.

She repeatedly pro-


voked bouts of laughter from the seniors.

For more than 15 years she had created shows for seniors at Orillia Opera House and elsewhere.

Her daughter, Sari Featherstone, had begun the post luncheon session by energetically combining song and guitar music while strolling among the tables.

Sari has played in nightclubs throughout Canada and the United States at such venues as the MGM Grande in Reno, Nevada, and Harrah's in Atlantic City.

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2) 6 Boulding Dr. 8 - 1pm ORA Animal Rescue	6) 3 & 5 Milgate Place 8:30 - 12:30pm
3) 53 Snedden Ave 8 am	7) Hill Dr 8 - noon
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At a sod-turning recently, officials of a new retail centre were on hand to participate. The site is on the east side of Yonge Street, north of Edward Street. Taking part in the ceremonies were Tory Bellingham, left, and David Mintz, right, representing the Edward Street Market and Grill, and Kevin and David Beswick of the Beswick Group Properties. At one time, the site held Aurora's first Dairy Queen store.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Newmarket-Aurora MP will cover riding with flags

Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown has announced the launch of the Newmarket-Aurora "Proud to be Canadian" Campaign.

The objective of the campaign is to have as many households as possible displaying the Canadian Flag on Canada Day, July 1st.

To facilitate this, she said, all households in the riding will receive a kit in the mail the first week of June, containing a large red and white paper flag, a reply card and detailed explanation of the campaign.

Constituents will be asked to place the flag on their door or in a window that is visible to pedestrians. Households that wish to be counted as participants must fill out the reply card indicating their participation and mail it to her constituency office.

No postage is required.

"My hope is that the "Proud to be Canadian" campaign will get people excited about Canada Day and give residents a means to voice their pride in this great country," she said. "I'm optimistic that by Canada Day, the majority of households in Aurora and Newmarket will have a flag on display. I can't think of a better way to celebrate Canada Day."

The concept behind the campaign was developed during a recent discussion among Conservative MP's on how to best celebrate Canada Day.

Several Conservative MPs have since agreed to launch "Proud to be Canadian" campaigns in their ridings.

The ridings that participate in the campaign will also be entered in a contest for the title of "Most Patriotic Riding in Canada".

The riding with the highest percentage of residences displaying a flag on Canada Day will be declared the winner and will be announced to the House of Commons when Parliament resumes in the fall.

The level of participation in each riding will be measured using the reply cards that are returned.

"It's easy to forget sometimes that we truly do live in

the greatest country in the world," she said. "I hope this campaign gets people thinking about how fortunate we are to be Canadians and why we need to be proud of Canada and what it represents."

In Aurora, flags on every property have been seen before.

Several years ago, a real estate company placed a flag in front of every home, and last year, prior to Aurora's July First parade, volunteers set up flags in front of most Aurora houses.



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Senior Scape

By BRIAN WARBURTON

The last article referred to a presentation made by Rogers Communications concerning the ending of cable television and internet service from Aurora Cable Internet.

Subsequently a presentation was made by a competing service Tube-E Communications Inc, an alternative high-speed DSL service, without cable TV or phone service.

In addition, Bell Internet/Sympatico have now agreed to make a presentation of their DSL Internet service as a replacement for ACI, Thursday, May 21st, at 10 a.m., in the computer room.

Great interest is aroused by cable, phone and internet service and this is an opportunity to compare and reach an educated opinion about each.

These services have become entrenched almost as necessities in the lives of seniors, and most members want an acceptable quality and reliability of service at an affordable price.

The Annual General Meeting will be held June 2nd from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. in the West-McKenzie Hall, followed by a barbecue.

The last opportunity to vote for three ASA directors closes May 22nd.

Please ensure that you have your green ASA membership card with you at the AGM, to validate your membership.

The ASA has joined the Seniors Advisory Group of York Region, which in turn is part of a larger group organized to offer representation for

senior related affairs with our MP and MPP.

Among the projects now in progress at the ASA is a comedy, which the "Silver Stars" Drama Club is producing, "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" at the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

The play is the first undertaken at the seniors' centre and the director, Judy Buchanan, and members of the cast have found themselves not only rehearsing for the play, but resolutely adapting the existing hall, lighting and sound equipment while borrowing such items as a larger stage to accommodate cast members.

Producing a play is always a demanding affair but this play is well advanced and will be presented in June. I will write more about this as the pieces fall into place and the rehearsals shape the production to a satisfactory and acceptable form.

All other activities and programs continue quietly and methodically but, the impact of the seniors' centre on the lives of thousands of retired seniors is not lost on the enquiring perceptive visitor.

The impact of the ASA on the lives of seniors cannot be discounted and

is often splendid in reality.

Once a membership begins, many find the tried, trusted and popular activities both a good starting point and always a safe haven.

Such beginnings suit many members and activities such as bridge may never lose appeal. And for others, particularly the more daring or audacious, long standing but hidden interests emerge from deep slumber to flower and flourish.

The Budget Bistro program will conclude May 27th, after a very successful season.

A summer barbecue luncheon program usually follows the Budget Bistro program and details will be announced shortly.

Virginia Ciufo, who is the acting seniors' coordinator, is getting married shortly, and while almost everybody is aware of this, these words are for the eyes of those unable to attend the seniors' centre for whatever reason.

Illness keeps members away from the ASA as does holidays and even returning to work or other responsibilities, and yet getting married is one of those wonderful events in life that everybody wishes to be aware of. Congratulations, Virginia!



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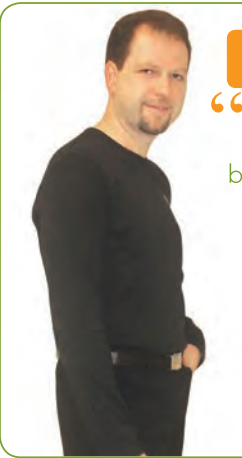
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