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# THE AURORAN

*Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper*

Vol. 9 No. 30      905-727-3300      **auroran.com**      FREE      Week of May 26, 2009

## King mayor a candidate



MARGARET BLACK

There are now three people seeking to carry the Liberal colours into the next federal election.  
 A rumour phoned into The Auroran Sunday that the Liberal Party of Canada will cancel its nomination meeting in the Newmarket-Aurora riding and has already selected a candidate for the next federal election was denied Monday by the party's latest hopeful.  
 King Township Mayor Margaret Black told The Auroran she would be one of three people hoping to become the riding's Liberal candidate in the next federal election.

When the rumour was suggested to another hopeful, he was skeptical. "At this point, I have heard nothing," said nomination candidate Tim Jones. "Chris and I are still selling memberships."  
 Chris, the other person seeking to represent the Liberals in the next election, is Chris Emanuel of Newmarket.  
 Currently the Ward 7 Councillor in the Town of Newmarket, Emanuel is serving his second term on Newmarket Council.  
 Jones, meanwhile, served as  
**Please see page 13**

## Aurora United Church to get major makeover

By **MARCIA KAYE**  
 Special to The Auroran

Call it a faith-lift.  
 Aurora United Church, one of the most historically significant buildings in downtown Aurora, is undergoing an interior transformation intended to enrich the worship experience and revitalize the downtown community.

The redevelopment project will dramatically expand both the quantity and quality of usable space.  
 The redesign, especially of the chancel area around the altar, will allow for a more interactive worship service, more creative ceremonies, richer pageantry, and much larger-scale musical productions.  
 There will even be room for an

orchestra.  
 "We believe that an exciting, modern, respectful worship facility is one of the keys to creating an experience people will talk about," said Frank Pulumbarit, chief visionary who chaired the redevelopment committee for three years. "But we also look at this as an outward-facing project. This will add to the vibrancy of the entire downtown core."  
 As a protected heritage building, the 191-year-old church will look the same from the outside, while the metamorphosis takes place inside.  
 The huge project, with a price tag approaching \$750,000, represents the first major redesign of the sanctuary in at least 100 years.  
 It will include: a reshaped, wider chancel with added wings; a movable organ console, so the organ can slide along a channel when not needed and the organ pit covered to increase floor space; a new audiovisual system, including mic pulls and cabling for computers and projection (e.g., guitar amps can be plugged right into system); new modular choir risers that can be assembled in various configurations; a reshaped balcony to maximize sightlines; exposure of two stained-glass windows, currently



The interior of the Aurora United Church as it looks today. By the fall, workers will have transformed it into a work of art which should enrich the worship experience and revitalize the downtown community.  
*Photo by Bob Kyriakides*

**Please see page 13**



The annual Spring Fling at Aurora Grove Public School was held Saturday and a highlight of the event was this stilt-walker who entertained students and parents alike. More pictures on Page I2.  
*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

## Old Yonge sidewalk is rejected by staff

Old Yonge Street has history and charm, but at least for the 200 metres of it south of St. John's Sideroad, there is no sidewalk.  
 Despite requests from residents in the area to add a sidewalk on the east side of the road, town staff recommended to General Committee on May 19 that one not be installed.  
 The reason is that the current standard for sidewalk construction in town is to have 2.25 metres (7 feet, 4 inches), of which .75 m is boulevard,

and 1.5 m is sidewalk.  
 One residence along the stretch of Yonge Street in question where the sidewalk currently stops, is so close to the road, that even though the 2.25 metres is available, the house would be almost touching it.  
 Despite a majority of the residents in the area being in favour of extending the sidewalk north to St. John's Sideroad, town staff does not recommend sidewalk construction at this location,  
**Please see page 12**



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**Please see page 15**

PROUD TO BE LIVING AND WORKING IN AURORA







Andrew Kipfer, president of the Aurora Historical Society, and his daughter Alison, took the time Saturday to join other volunteers cleaning up the lawn and gardens at historic Hillary House on Yonge Street.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

# Bike Rodeo ready for Hickson Park

The Optimist Club of Aurora, Police and Community Together (PACT) and the Town of Aurora will host the annual Bike and Board Rodeo event Friday, June 5th at Hickson Park.

The park is located at Borealis and Conover Avenue, and the event runs from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

This event is aimed at educating both children and parents on important health and safety issues related to road and bike safety.

There will be hands-on activities for children and youth, while parents can learn the latest in child safety and health information from local organizations and businesses that serve Aurora.

Children will have the

opportunity to participate in many interactive exhibits that will teach them how to safely maneuver their bike, rules of the road, water smart lifesaving techniques, home fire safety, head injury prevention and many other safety issues.

For bike enthusiasts there will be a five-station bike rodeo.

The goal of the rodeo is to educate young cyclists with minimal skills for on-the-road riding.

The stations will include an obstacle course and rules of the road.

A charity barbecue will be set up on site offering hot dogs and bottles of water for 50 cents each. The entire event is free of charge, but a donation to the Aurora Food

Pantry would be welcomed.

For more information, visit [www.e-aurora.ca](http://www.e-aurora.ca) or call the Special Events line at 905-726-4762.

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# Town is benefitting from parking garage

It'll cost \$27 million to build, its construction crews are pumping additional money into the local economy through patronizing local shops and restaurants, and it will be free for anyone to use.

This financial boon to Aurora is the new GO parking garage.

Currently under construction on Wellington Street East, just east of the GO train station, the new facility will have 866 parking spots on five levels when it opens later this year.

At the May 19 General Committee meeting, GO project team members provided an update.

Rolf Kaartinen of NORR Architects explained that the garage will be accessible from the west through right-in, right-out access from Wellington.

Cars arriving from the east will need to travel south on Industrial Parkway, and enter the garage through the south parking lot.

Because of the change in elevation, this will be on the third level.

The garage will feature an open concept to increase natural light and cross ventilation.

Mayor Phyllis Morris noted that while the openness was an interesting design feature, residents in the multi-storey building across the road on the north side of Wellington had expressed concern about headlights shining into their homes from cars on all five levels of the garage.

Mr. Kaartinen pointed out on the plan that the two buildings were offset enough that they were not

directly across from each other, so that shouldn't be a problem.

Other features of the structure include four elevators, and 12 barrier-free parking spaces. And, as is standard practice for GO lots, patrons will be able to park for free.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner asked about landscaping around the building.

It was explained that GO staff were working with town staff on the final landscape plan.

At the moment, with the exception of a few strategically placed larger trees, the plantings will mainly be lower shrubs.

This is in part due to the large footprint of the building, and also as a safety measure, to ensure that sightlines are maintained.

Asked about the 120 spots on Berczy Street that have been in the news lately, Project Manager, Suganthi Kathiravelu-Lem


said that these had been leased by GO for 18 months, which will be more than enough time for the garage to be completed.

The additional spots were only added as a temporary measure to address current parking pressures, and will not be required once the garage is in use.

Another question asked by a few councillors was where the people using the garage would be coming from.

GO officials said that recent studies had shown the majority of current users were from Aurora. It was expected the trend would continue.

Disbelieving members, noting they had heard that many of the Aurora GO patrons were from Newmarket, and were here to take advantage of cheaper train fares, asked for copies of these studies, which the GO staff promised to provide.



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## Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

# Policeman of the year

Every year the Aurora Optimists put on a “Respect for the Law” dinner and select a member of the York Regional Police as their pick for “top cop”.

And every year, for the past several anyway, I have attended. This year, as it was last, the event was held at St. Andrew's Golf Club on the St. John's Sideroad.

As I said, I haven't missed this event, except this year, when my daughter, making one of her all too few visits from the United States, landed on my doorstep that night. Last Wednesday, to be exact.

I was horrified that she would arrive the same day as this event, because this year, the Optimists selected one of my favourite policemen and I wanted to be there to share in the honour.

Terry White is YRP's representative on Aurora's PACT (Police and Community Together) Committee of which I am a member.

He toils out of One District, the division that covers Aurora, Newmarket, East Gwillimbury and parts of King and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

They operate from a location on Prospect Street at the corner of Water in Newmarket.



Terry, seen above getting his award from Optimist president Carol Bartlett, has the ability to be a tough cop when he needs to, but is also one of the nicest guys on the force.

Good pick, Optimists. Congratulations, Terry.

### RESIGNATION

When I handled Cathy Vrancic's column this week - Cathy's Corner - I was shocked to learn she was taking a leave of absence.

All the details of how the column got started in the first place are in her column, but I do remember everything about that night at Oakland Hall.

Frankly, I didn't think she could handle the assignment.

Writing a weekly column is not the easiest thing in the world when there are so many other things demanding your attention.

But, she surprised me and along the way she developed quite a following.

For that reason, and the fact she has become a very good friend, I'm saddened by her decision to pack up the column...at least temporarily.0

I recall the discussion that first night, and the thoughts going through my head at the time.

A former publisher, the late Bob Buchanan, had asked the new mayor - Dick Illingworth - if he'd like to try his hand at column writing. It would be called “The Mayor's Report”.

Dick jumped at the chance and sent in a diatribe for his first effort.

So convinced was Buchanan that the mayor could not keep up such a pace, he split the column over two weeks. Illingworth was furious.

“I can do it every week,” the mayor said, and he proved it, still writing columns when he died recently at 92 years of age.

When The Auroran was born, in 2000, mayor of the day Tim Jones was invited to renew the “Mayor's Report” column and he continued it weekly until he was replaced by existing mayor Phyllis Morris, who agreed to contribute a monthly column.

The last column from the current mayor appeared March 31.

### WINNER

Needless to say, we had a winner in last week's contest about the person appearing on Page 4.

No, it wasn't me, although several people thought it was.

It was John Rodgers, former Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Aurora,

When the picture was taken, he was Mayor of the Town of Georgina.



This postcard, loaned to The Auroran by resident David Heard, shows downtown Aurora back in the forties. Busy little place. The postcard was sent to the United Kingdom in August, 1949, and got there courtesy of a three-cent stamp. Looking south on Yonge Street - the postcard called it Main Street - there were traffic lights at the Wellington intersection, and also the warning that you couldn't make a “U” turn. The tall building behind the existing clock tower building was the Aurora Town Hall, built in 1875-76. The building was also home to the fire department, police department and the library. It was demolished in 1956. Mr. Heard extends an invitation to a “Step In Time” walking tour that he leads on the first Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. and will continue to do so until well into October. The tour begins at the Aurora Farmers' Market.

### Letter to the Editor

# Ball diamond won't cost taxpayers a cent, VP says

To the editor,

The building of a senior ball facility in Aurora will not cost the Aurora taxpayer one cent.

The money is already in the town coffers. It has been collected from new home developers not from the public.

There is only a very small portion of the cost to come from another source and that has already been allocated to the project.

Today's economy has absolutely no relevance to the issue, as it does not require any funds to come out of your pockets.

New home developers are required to pay the town money. It is called a Development Charge. It is set aside specifically for town built facilities. It cannot lawfully be used for anything else.

Currently the town has millions of dollars waiting to be spent on amenities.

The diamond has been identified as a facility that is needed now as the town grows and the sport grows.

Furthermore in the town's documentation, a ball diamond is listed in the items for which the Development Charges were collected.

It is logical that it be used for that purpose. It should be expected that it would be used for that purpose.

It should be noted that the Aurora Minor Ball Association will not be the only organization to use the baseball diamond in question.

High schools and other leagues will also benefit from it for a very long time into the future.

Mr. Grattage's letter to The Auroran published May 19,

has done a disservice to the AMBA by suggesting that the association wants residents to pay for it.

This is untrue.

He has cast the AMBA in a bad light, which is undeserved. The AMBA deserves our community's praise and support.

Mr. Grattage should have saved his indignation for a more suitable target rather than perpetuate baseless rumours.

As an executive board member of the AMBA for eight years, it is difficult to sit by and watch those who do not understand the issue state falsehoods as if they were fact.

As a taxpayer I have contributed to my share of services that I do not take advantage of. I am willing to do that.

I also pay user fees for the special activities my family participates in. I believe in a community where people support and promote healthy active lifestyles for people of all ages and abilities.

I don't think the alternative of isolating ourselves and not caring about others is a positive philosophy.

The Aurora Minor Ball Association has been serving this community through its volunteer efforts for 30 years.

Every year we have well over 100 parents helping out as coaches, officials and executives, committing thousands of hours of their precious free time for the benefit of children.

We employ youth as umpires, which helps with the economy.

Our tournaments and rep teams bring visitors into Aurora where they spend money while they are here. This has great value to our

town.

Our organization wants nothing more than to continue the program we believe in and that we work tirelessly to provide.

We want children to be active.

We believe sport teaches valuable life skills such as teamwork, how to deal with winning and adversity.

Sports provides an opportunity for children to excel.

These skills create good citizens and have far reach-

ing benefits to the whole community, even to those people who have no connection to the sport.

The AMBA will continue to provide a program of baseball for the growing numbers of children who want to play.

We invite the community to drop in at a diamond and watch a game. No charge.

**Carol Walthers**  
**Vice President**  
**AMBA**

## THE AURORAN

### “Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper”

Published weekly by The Auroran Publications Inc.  
at 95 Edward Street,  
Aurora, L4G 1W1

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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.

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## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Almost a year ago, a friend and political colleague-in-arms, Bob Callow, told me about an idea that was being kicked about - the possibility of having a Prayer Breakfast in Aurora in the near future - maybe even in 2009!

I was delighted with this news and hoped that such an event could come to fruition.

Well, the hard work and perseverance of Bob and his fellow committee members seems to have paid off.

For those of you who read The Auroran two weeks ago, you may have noticed the small story on page three, in which Aurora Council endorsed the initiative. The event will be called the Aurora Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.

From page three: "As described by Bob Callow, who appeared at council with two other representatives of the committee, the non-partisan group represents 14 churches in the area that are planning to host a Christian Celebration of Prayer for the community leaders serving Aurora and the surrounding municipalities.

"Similar events held in Markham, Whitchurch-Stouffville and Richmond Hill have brought together hundreds of citizens to honour, recognize and pray for all community leaders, from elected politicians of all levels of government, to representatives of police and fire departments, and local schools.

"The Aurora initiative will be held Tuesday, October 20, from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. at Dinardo's Banquet Hall.

"The breakfast meeting would be fully self-supporting through both ticket sales, and sponsorships. Although prices haven't been set, it is estimated that tickets will be \$25."

For those of you who may be wondering what exactly takes

place at a prayer breakfast, let me try to shed some light, because prior to last November I had never attended one of these events, either.

I was at the 11th annual Markham Prayer Breakfast November 14th at the Hilton Suites Conference Centre.

There were more than 650 people in attendance, representing most, if not all, of the major faiths in the Markham area.

According to the front page of the program that was handed out, the Markham Prayer Breakfast is "Praying for the Leaders and People of Markham".

The event was very well run; beginning with starting right on time.

An official welcome and opening prayer were handled by one of the co-chairs.

Following the singing of O Canada, the head table was introduced. Greetings were then extended to the assembled on behalf of the deputy mayor of Markham.

A number of scripture passages were then read.

Guest speaker was Thomas Caldwell, Chairman of Caldwell Financial Limited.

He has, according to the event program "over the years, served on the Board of Directors of numerous charitable and Christian organizations such as King Bay Chaplaincy."

The program also noted that Mr. Caldwell "was awarded Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002 for his activities on behalf of Canadian Veterans.

"In 2003 he was appointed a member of the Order of Canada for his work in assisting those in need as well as contributing to institutions working to better the lives of others".

## Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

He was a great choice for a guest speaker.

Having a non-clergy member share insights about his own spiritual journey was very uplifting.

There was also a musical performance.

The breakfast was to run until 9 a.m. and I believe they finished the program one minute early. Impressive planning to say the least!

The price was also right at \$30 per ticket.

The Markham Prayer Breakfast is operated by a volunteer steering committee of church representatives, on a non-profit, cost recovery basis. All costs are borne by ticket sales and sponsorship by churches or local companies.

They had six sponsors for the breakfast.

At the time I was thinking to myself it would be great to have a local ecumenical event where we would break bread together.

Now, it seems we have.

But there is still a lot of work to be done.

The Committee has been meeting every second week for the past couple of months and they have established seven sub-committees, such as promotion and advertising, outreach to churches, and table and ticket sales, to name a few.

The organizers could use some extra help.

If you are interested in being part of one of the committees or volunteering in any capacity, contact Bob Callow at 905 -727-7962.

As my Dad always says, "many hands make light work".

Stephen can be contacted at:  
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



## Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

My friend Ellen inspired a dream I will never forget.

In my dream, I saw her bathed in golden light like the angel she is and I heard her soothing voice. She said: "All of us speak out in our own voice - the important thing is for each of us to carry the torch that is lit with our own light."

In late June of 2003, the editor of The Auroran handed me a torch and I lit it with my own light. "Cathy's Corner" was first published on July 1st, 2003. Yes, your math is correct - it really has been just a bit shy of six years.

As many of you know, Ron Wallace "discovered" me.

I'm not sure what got into him but at the grand opening of Oakland Hall Inn he challenged me to write a column. I think I know what got into me: one glass of wine too many, that's what! Liquid courage!

I said "Deal!" In case you didn't notice, that's a four-letter word.

I said it as if I knew what I was getting into. I said it with confidence I didn't have. And I said it with commitment that didn't last the night.

But I did say it. The next day, not only did Ron remember that I said it but I remembered, too! Maybe I had one glass of wine too few?

At 6 a.m. that fateful morning, I sat bolt upright in bed...and I howled. What was I thinking???

I spent the whole day trying to come up with a really good excuse for Ron. I tried out a whole bunch of them but he refuted even my best efforts. He was not letting me off the hook!

"Okay..." I said tentatively. "When is my deadline?"

And just like Ron, he shouted: "Yesterday! Get busy!"

I know it's really hard to picture Ron wearing a halo and feather wings, but he is my angel.

He gave me the opportunity to speak out in my own voice and it has been one of the greatest privileges of my life.

When I submitted my first column, "Ahh...the good old days" he said: "Good. That's exactly what I wanted. Now, do it again!"

I did do it again...and again...and again - 240 times! Ron opened a door and unleashed my life onto an unsuspecting Aurora. Sorry about that - it's all Ron's fault!

At least that's what I tell my kids. Hey, they are my primary source of material - they are my love, my joy and my light. They are my laughter and my tears. They are my tears of joy and my tears of frustration.

"Mom," they whine, "you have turned us into "The Hills" of Aurora! STOP IT!"

Finally, I have relented. Their lives will become "normal" again - at least for a while. I need to take a break.

I will miss sharing my stories of times gone by and my freshly created moments, some of them captured not on film but in scribbles on napkins and old receipts. These defining moments of my life have been the light of my torch - a light that has drawn me into my community like a moth to a flame.

My column has made me think about the measure of a life. I believe it isn't what we collect or amass in a lifetime but what we leave behind that defines us. The measure of a life is in the moments we treasure and the people who create

## Love and light

those moments for us and with us. It is in the connection - the sharing and the giving that we are inspired to share and to give more - our best - and therefore to truly embrace the torch that is lit with our own light.

So I know there is no boardroom as powerful as the humblest kitchen table. This is where life is lived...and where it is measured.

All these years, that's where my columns came from - my kitchen table and the special, deep place in my heart that watches the flowers and the children grow, listens to the birds sing and the children tell...the part that remembers those special moments of today and many kitchen tables ago...laughs and cries...and writes for the joy of the giving and sharing that IS being...the part that feeds my soul.

As I gaze teary-eyed upon my first column that Damir had framed for me all those years ago, I am overwhelmed with gratitude to have had this precious time and space to share with you, Aurora.

I have relived a lifetime in 240 columns, and it has left me speechless - literally!

It has been a great honour to speak out in my own voice...a great privilege to carry a torch that is lit with my own light. It has indeed been a blessing beyond words.

It's very hard to say good-bye so instead, I will say "so long"...until we meet again, dear readers. Until Column 241, I wish you Love & Light.

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



Letters to the Editor

# Prime Minister invited to Canada Day parade

To the editor,

We now have only five (5) weeks before we celebrate Canada's Birthday in Aurora - Canada's Birthday Town.

As a follow up to letters asking readers whether or not Aurora is Canada's Birthday Town, I wish to advise that I have received information from many long time residents who remember the signs up declaring Aurora as Canada's Birthday Town as well as the windmill pattern flag.

I think it could be that this title can belong to Aurorans if you want it!

Since April 29th of this year letters have been sent to our MP Lois Brown, our MPP Frank Klees, our Mayor Phyllis Morris from your Canada Day Parade Subcommittee Chair inviting our Prime Minister to

recognize our patriotic Town and join us in our Canada Day Parade for 2009.

Now it's not likely he will be able to join us, however, undoubtedly Aurora will garner more attention as a Town with Canada's heart!

Also on Friday, May 8th MP Brown stood up in the House of Commons in Ottawa to announce and celebrate the great national pride displayed in Aurora - Canada's Birthday Town through our Red Hot Canadian Parade on Yonge Street.

The CDPSC wish to formally invite all of you to come out dressed in red and white and bearing flags to cheer our paraders and to show your love of Canada by participating IN creating the Great Canadian Parade of Aurora for 2009 (just fill out your application and send in to

Town).

We're also looking for 'Clowns for Canada' - families and individuals who will dress up as clowns in the parade - last year we had 30 clowns thanks to Marquee Productions who has once again donated clown suits!

We're asking everyone on the Yonge Street parade route (and all of Aurora) to dress up their windows for Canada the week before the parade!

We invite all children to help create murals on the sidewalk in front of the Library on parade morning - Yes, Sidewalk Chalking is back!

Be an Ambassador for Canada - Help us with promotions leading up to Canada Day Parade including:

June 20th - Saturday morning 10.30 a.m. -

Canadian National Aboriginal Day Celebrations at Aurora Farmers Market - sounding the drums of the ancestors of Canada.

June 27th - Saturday morning - Red & White Strawberries & Cream Festival for Canada Day at Aurora Farmers Market - treats & flags available.

The regular theme is Arts, Culture & Heritage of Canada with our 2009 secondary theme of Red Hot Canadians GO GREEN.

We invite all those who believe in green for Canada, practice green, and/or sell green to please help us create some GREEN floats for our 2009 Parade celebrating Aurora as a leader in the Green initiatives in Canada.

Contact sher@stkittsmusic.ca or 905-841-6893

Sher St. Kitts  
Canada Day Parade

# Daughter won't be hired by HBC anywhere: mom

To the editor,

Will that be on your HBC Credit Card?

How many times have you been asked this question?

I have recently discovered why cashiers desperately put the pressure on you. It all has to do with their credit blend score.

What is a credit blend score?

It is the ratio of sales put through on HBC cards versus any other means of payment, and is calculated at the end of each shift.

My daughter used to

work as a cashier at the Zellers in Upper Canada Mall.

She felt uncomfortable badgering customers to use or apply for an HBC credit card.

She would ask each customer once, and if the answer was no, would ring up the order.

By all accounts she was a good cashier. Her till always balanced, her line up kept moving swiftly and customers appreciated not being pressured while standing at her till.

However, because of her stand against this policy

her credit blend score was low.

Her hours were cut back because of this and she eventually left the store after giving proper notice.

She has since moved away to go to school in Kingston. At the end of the school year she started to look for a summer job.

The local Zellers was hiring and she applied.

After having an interview she was told the job was hers, but as per company policy they had to get an employment reference from Upper Canada Mall first.

Imagine her surprise when she was told they could not hire her after all because her credit blend statistics were too low!

Furthermore, she was told she would never be hired at any of the HBC stores because of this.

I understand HBC want-

ing to keep costs down by having people use their credit card.

However, unless they enforce this as the only credit card accepted at their stores, which I am sure would hurt their sales figures, they should not be allowed to penalize the cashiers for the customer's choice of payment.

I urge everyone to let HBC know that they way they treat their employees and badger customers to use only their credit card is unacceptable.

I have always been a loyal Zellers' customer, but not anymore.

I have cashed in my HBC points for Air Miles and will never shop at any Zellers or HBC store again. Walmart, here I come!

Lynn Scriven  
Aurora

# Chairperson doesn't pay taxes in Aurora

To the editor,

Re: Volunteer chair fires volley at councillor, Auroran May 19

As a taxpaying resident of Aurora, I resent the fact that Aurora Council granted to a person, who doesn't reside or pay taxes to Aurora, the opportunity to criticize a

member of Aurora Council in public forum.

Shameful, indeed!

And, if citizens residing in other municipalities, such as Snowball, or even Bethesda, don't like the way people play in Aurora, I have a suggestion,-.....!

Stewart Ivoll  
Aurora

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[joseph.pagniello@yrrsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:joseph.pagniello@yrrsb.edu.on.ca)



Letters to the Editor

# Honour students forced to drop out?

To the editor,

The recent downturn in the economy has hit recession levels and career placement jobs for students are very difficult to find for the summer months. The Bank of Canada has reduced interest rates dramatically to help our economy recover. Large auto companies to law offices have pared back

the number of their staff and, in fact, some companies are now facing bankrupt status. The downturn in the economy is widespread and smaller services and businesses in our society are now feeling the domino effect of this economic trend. The supply of students looking for summer work is abundant now, and some employers are taking advantage of the situation by only

offering jobs to students without pay. For some students, valuable job experience could be gained, but for other college students, they face being expelled out of their academic program due to the "rules". Apparently, for some programs, the Ministry's guidelines firmly state that a student must get a job, which pays at least the minimum

wage, for a required period of time. Students are clearly up against the system! The number of jobs which fit the requirements for many career placements are shrinking due to this severe recession and time is running out to complete the quota of hours, for the placement. Something is terribly wrong. The Government and the

post secondary institutions should work together. Career placements for students could be delayed one year. A student could be allowed to return for their next set of academic courses, in September, and then complete a career placement requirement next summer, 2010, before they graduate. Hopefully, the economy would have started to

improve and more paying jobs would be posted by employers. This plan could offer hope for students, who have easily spent upwards to a total of \$45,000 for their first three years of their education. Without a reality check and some logical administrative changes to this career placement requirement, many students who are passing their courses could not be accepted back into their program next September and become drop-outs.

How would you like your son or daughter, with an 80 per cent average, caught in this "catch-22" and dilemma? On top of this, it is extremely alienating and frustrating to hear our leaders and officials say, "there is nothing we can do"? Now, does that make sense to you?

Richard Johnson  
Aurora

Jim Jackson  
Aurora

To the editor,

I hate to tell the baseball community in Aurora that I know for a fact that at least one power company offered to have two baseball fields built on the extra land associated with a proposed peaker plant in addition to potentially offering other benefits, including millions

of dollars for the town to put towards Green Energy R&D or other infrastructure as the town saw fit, but all of this went unknown as far as I'm aware. Although the mayor knew this, I'm not sure if this was ever even presented to Council or EAC or even if they would have cared given that despite not

understanding the identified need, or the dozen (plus) environmental reports, or the viable alternatives, the mayor and her supporters, including Sue Walmer, clearly didn't want want the peaker or overhead transmission - so end of story. Why take the time to become informed when your mind has

already been made up? So, yep, others interests were, as Nigel Kean quotes, "hung out to dry". As a result of our council's saying "no" to to the viable power supply options put before them without even understanding some of the most basic facts or the implications of their actions, King is now faced with a total mess that could have largely been avoided, legitimate issues with the OPA procurement process were left unexplored and unaddressed with the end effect of impacting the south western GTA at this very moment and Aurora could still end up with overhead transmission lines and a less than desirable trans-

former solution in the not so distant future. I realize that this is a long and painful story but such is politics and smart growth planning, Aurora style.

# We need to support school supporters, this reader believes

To the editor,

While the weather last Saturday wasn't too conducive to strolling around the Farmer's Market, it did afford me the time to take cover under the shelter of the citizen's group who are supporters of the "Save Wells St. School" campaign. I must say that I was in awe at the dedication of this group as they stayed at their booth for the duration of the Market and never indicated their discomfort or displeasure with their task. We could all learn a lesson from this devoted group of young mothers who give so freely of their time in a gallant effort to get their message out to the public. Far too many people have given up and feel that the fate of Wells Street School is a done deal. I am of the opinion that the "Board" is still gauging the best way to navigate around the public anger that they know is brewing, more seething actually. The concerned public haven't really become involved as we have yet to hear the final declaration by the "Board" and until we do we shall remain on the sidelines. I can assure the present Wells Street school supporters that they are not alone and when the time comes will discover that their numbers are huge. It is up to all Aurorans, regardless of your neighbor-

hood, to show your support against this injustice and contact the group in order to get a lawn sign. Contact Jane Reeves@aci.on.ca. Show that you care and

that the message of these hardworking people is being heard and that their dedication hasn't gone unnoticed. Mark Warburton  
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

Son hit by thrown egg loses sight in one eye

To the editor,

On Friday May 15, our son, aged 14, was walking with friends around 11 p.m. north on Murray Drive coming home from a small party. A green "well-used" mini-van with two teens in it drove by three or four times throwing eggs at the younger teens walking on the sidewalk. They managed to hit our son directly in the eye! Yes, the eye!

He called us on his cell

and we came to get him right away. We did not know how serious it was, thinking it would just be a black eye where you would put a cold cloth on it and go to bed - had we done this he would be blind in that eye today! Instead our son said he could not see out of it and we noticed blood. My husband took him to Southlake Emerg!

The doctor said he would likely have gone blind had we not done this... there was

damage and blood "in" his eye! Can you believe it? So much for plans to get away to visit relatives for the long weekend, they were spent at Emerg to get the eye attended to. NO pressure whatsoever on the eye, no physical activity, wearing protective glasses, drops several times a day...and all because of an idiotic prank that the two teens in the mini-van thought was funny! Maybe the parents of those teens will read this

and ask their sons what they were doing that Friday night, just to let them know they may have ruined one boy's vision for life. We are still waiting to see how the vision progresses. As of May 25th he could see the second from top line on the vision chart (big letters) and that was blurred!!!

Concerned parents  
Aurora

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Reader is appalled with council antics

To the editor,

I am appalled by the antics of the Council of this Town. After reading the recent article in a local paper about the allegations made against a council member and the procedural wrangling that then occurred, I watched the video (on Rogers via the internet) - I had to see it for myself. For the mayor and members of council to sit quietly by while Councillor Buck was subjected to such allegations during a public forum - whether they are true or not - was beyond belief. To find out that her family members were in the audience

listening while waiting for an award ceremony was truly sad indeed. I applaud Councillor Buck for her restraint during the session; and when she did try to ask questions it seemed to me that she was being cut short by Mayor Morris. I am left wondering if the outcome would have been different if this had involved another member of council. Mayor Morris quotes the Code of Conduct frequently so I looked it up on the Town's website. It talks about how someone can put in a complaint about a member of council which is to be in writing with a "supporting

affidavit that sets out the evidence" and filed with the Director of Corporate Services. I didn't see any mention that the complaint can be made during an open council meeting. Aurora has hit another low. Surely there are more residents disillusioned with this council than just the few who regularly write letters to the editor. The rest of us need to ask questions and become informed - start by watching the May 12 Council video - and then be sure to exercise your right to vote in November 2010.

A. Abbott  
Aurora

He enjoyed tribute to Gordon Lightfoot

To the editor,

Last Saturday night I was able to attend a local concert by some very talented musicians who celebrated the music that Gordon Lightfoot has entertained us with for more than 40 years. I have travelled across Canada so many times, camping, canoeing and hiking from St John's to Tofino with the music of that Great Canadian singer/songwriter Gordon Lightfoot playing on our radio or by the evening campfires. Lightfoot played concerts at the University of Waterloo, where we were students and then at Massey Hall over the past 25 years. His songs seem to part of the Canadian mosaic. I must say that Saturday night couldn't have been better with the outstanding local talents of John Stinson and Paul Bartlett who I understand were tutored by Gord's lead guitarist Red Shea, who was another famous Auroran who died in 2008. On top of all this local talent Ron Jones from Vancouver, Kathy Thorpe from Toronto and Tim Dennis from Rochester, NY, rounded out the evening

with wonderful Lightfoot tunes. Maybe they would play for us at "Music in the Park" and share Lightfoot's Canadian songs and stories with the families of Aurora in the outdoor forum at the Town Park. This was the best night of folk music we have enjoyed in years from a

group that makes you think Gord is right there. Please keep up the great work and keep us informed through your website, www.lightfoottribute.ca. Perhaps we can convince you to play at our farm this summer by the campfire.

Paul D. Forbes  
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

# We need gutsy decisions for downtown: Klaus

To the editor,

Congratulations to the mayor and Aurora Council for initiating the Yonge and Wellington Corridor Study. Consultants have been hired.

The first public meetings took place on May 13.

The interested business owners and residents were given some insights into the characteristics of successful downtowns, based on United States models.

The only U.S. town on their list which I have visited in Burlington, Vermont.

From what I remember their street scene is rich in Colonial architecture.

My impressions of the town were positive and I would go a bit out of my way to return, if I travelled near there.

However, I have visited other towns which impressed me more, and which have features that are useful in the study context.

In Vienna, Austria, the town politicians commissioned a painter-architect, Hundertwasser, to design a public housing project.

That project catapulted the artist's career into an international success story.

Today Vienna proudly harbours several Hundertwasser structures, among them the "Hundertwasser Haus".

Tourists flock to these structures. Bright colours, eccentric design and the absence of straight lines are chief among the special features that set these landmarks aside.

The Viennese are justifiably proud of these modern additions to their equally

impressive traditional buildings.

But they went out on a limb, politically, to get there.

Uelzen, a town smaller than Aurora, in northern Germany, has been roused from its previously sleepy existence by the redesign of its railroad station, by the same Viennese painter-architect.

The town's pedestrian-oriented main street that ends at the station is teeming with tourists on just about every weekend.

They don't get as much snow, though, as Aurora.

As an aside, among the many curious design features of that station are the redesigned washrooms.

As elsewhere in the building, including its restaurant, the entrance and all the walls and floors are undulating and bathed in vibrant colours.

But what tops off the washrooms, and with that the building's eccentricity and appeal, at certain times the men's washroom can be visited - for a fee.

Each stall has its own character.

Barcelona had Gaudi. His architectural, artistic influence on that city's appeal is amazing.

Recent visits to three of his architectural wonders, two of them having been honoured by UNESCO heritage, as has one of Hundertwasser's, made me realize how architecture can indeed influence the recognition of a town.

A residence which Gaudi designed has woodwork that includes wavy folding doors which I could not imagine having crafted even though I am a trained cabinetmaker.

In a park which he designed: again the colour and the curves, the functionality as well as the symbolism of all of the naturalistic and organic artistic designs - just out of this world.

And then there is the cathedral which had been started in the 19th century and is still actively being built, even after its main architect has long since passed away.

In that cathedral one is able to view an exhibit on how Gaudi translated nature's designs into design basics of the structural and ornamental components of the cathedral - how nature guided Gaudi's creative mind.

Closer to home, we have an example in Unionville, where the architecture of the past has been blended with street entertainers of today, to draw customers to its downtown businesses.

Also there, one of the more central green spaces has been embellished, in a manner respectful to nature, with alternative playground architecture, including functional sculptures and seats on rocks.

As this playground is just off main street, it enhances the prospects of a pleasant walk around town and through the business district.

I could go on talking about successful town features that I have had the pleasure of experiencing during my travels, such as the excellent transit systems in my birthtown of Bremen, and the mid-town and mid-street animal sculptures that are loved by children and adults alike, but let me summarize what I have come away with as my main insights that could be applied to

Aurora.

Aurora's citizens should be able to be proud of everything that changed the Town, each small change included.

Creative people need to be involved to not only initiate changes, but also in the design of the changes and in their execution - from the start.

Risks need to be taken in initiating and carrying out the more visionary changes, all along the change process.

The greater the possibility of significant impact of a proposed change, the greater the opportunity for ridicule, and the more vehement the initial opposition.

It takes guts to overcome, to move beyond.

All structures, and to the degree possible, infrastructure, including large public squares, the surfaces of traffic arteries, and roundabouts, should include artistic endeavours or components, often as costs that will appear out of proportion to the bare bones approach.

That way something unique can be created, something special to Aurora, something that will contribute to making us proud of Aurora.

Apart from the above observations, which are based on experiencing great downtowns elsewhere, I'd like to make some remarks that pertain to the study process, and to some enhancement poten-

tials that exist in Aurora.

The process should allow for creative minds to come together, likely in a charrette format, so that round heads can go to work on ideas, to come up with suggestions that flow from synthesis.

I am also convinced that creativity is so important that a special invitation should go out to all of Aurora's artists and inventive minds, to come together in a room and to start discussions during which every idea, no matter how crazy, is welcomed.

A professional co-ordinator/umpire would need to be found, to report on the results of such a meeting.

To make Aurorans proud, we have to get beyond design/build, cookie cutter approaches.

We also likely have to get beyond some of the restrictive by-law and tax rules to allow different approaches to unfold, and some creative concepts to survive.

As an example, we need to find a way to re-introduce food retailers into the downtown.

For that to happen, we need round heads that can think in all directions, and some negotiations.

Apart from the process, I maintain that better utilizing our natural features, with respect for ecological realities, and more emphasis on pedestrian traffic, can not only result

in better life style opportunities for Aurorans, but will also serve to enhance how we feel about Aurora.

We would become proud to show off our home town to visitors and tourists alike.

And that would go a long way to help our businesses downtown.

If nothing else, pride in Aurora would more likely want Aurorans to shop downtown.

The consultants mentioned the importance of gateways.

Aurora could have four gateways at the Yonge Street and Wellington Street entrances to Aurora from all directions.

I imagine artistically designed arched structures across the four lanes, for pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

Constructing such overpasses across Yonge and Wellington would serve to let the non-motorized traffic cross major traffic corridors safely, and would serve to welcome people to Aurora, as well as welcome them back.

The town's logo would be prominently featured.

How those arches would fulfill those twin purposes - and how they would define Aurora!

The Yonge and Wellington Corridor Study could indeed be a catalyst for defining Aurora!

**Klaus Wehrenberg  
Aurora**

## Party for Skelcher June 13 at Legion

To the editor,

During my 21 years in Aurora I have met many great people who always seem willing to help anyone who asks.

One person who really has made a conscious effort to assist and help everyone is Randy Skelcher.

Who?  
Randy has an amazing talent of sounding like Roy

Orbison or Elvis Presley when he sings.

He entertains at many events and places including the Legion, seniors' centre, bars, street festivals and many others.

At a recent event at the Legion in February the DJ who was supposed to appear never showed up and with about 150 people in the Legion the night would have been a disaster with no music.

In the middle of a snow storm, Randy went home to get his equipment and when he came back he managed to get the crowd up and dancing.

Randy has done many other great things and never asks for anything in return.

Recently, Randy's health issues have gotten worse and a friend of his is holding a fundraiser at the Legion on Saturday, June 13th at 7 p.m.

The tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at R&R Revisited and at Dave's Garage on Industrial Parkway South.

There will be some food and some great entertainment by many of Randy's musical friends.

If you are looking for a great night of music and fun at the Legion please buy your tickets and join us at this great event.

Randy is an amazing person and he deserves this great night.

**Nigel Kean  
Aurora**

legal.

That aspect, as well as "Big Brothers" interference in the lives of adults was my point.

Nobody, even you, B. Taylor, chose to debate my stand on those issues.

Hmmm, I wonder why?  
This is MY last word on the subject.

**M. Chisholm  
Aurora**

## No one yet has debated the issue, reader says

To the editor,

Just a quick note to B. Taylor who responded to my rebuttal.

I don't know where you're going with all those flimsy, confusing statistics but my point remains the same.

Many other activities, some of which I mentioned in my previous letter, are far more dangerous than not wearing a seatbelt, and yet, completely



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# THE AURORA SPORTS

Page 10

Week of May 26, 2009

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## Ducks set records at swim championships

The Aurora Master Ducks, all 108 of them, got themselves into formation and headed to the Etobicoke Olympium recently to participate in the 2009 Canadian Masters Swim Championship.

This event was the fastest Nationals ever with 123 Canadian and 17 World records being set.

Highlights of the meet included the world record setting performances of 100-year-old Jaring Timmerman from Winnipeg, who was recently featured in McLean's magazine.

The meet also showcased the swimming prowess of Karlyn Pipes-Neilsen from Hawaii.

Karlyn, the most decorated Masters swimmer in the world, has set more than 200 world records in her lifetime of adult swimming.

A day after the meet, Pipes-Neilsen was at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex hosting a personal swim clinic for the Master Ducks.

At the meet, the Aurora Master Ducks beat out 110 other teams to place second behind Technosport from Ottawa.

Meanwhile, Aurora's Yvonne Catrall, current holder of the world record for the 100-metre breaststroke in the 60 to 64 years age category, defended her Canadian titles at the meet, and scored firsts in the 50 and 100 metre breaststroke events and won a third gold medal in a relay event.

As far as the Ducks were concerned, if your name was Dave or Dan, it was a good swim competition.

Most of the team's individual medals (29 out of 43) were won by men named Dan or Dave.

Dan Thompson's swims were the talk of the meet.

In his 100 metre fly, his time of 59.39 carved 1.5 seconds off the Canadian record and as if that wasn't enough, Dan returned to the pool the next day to swim the 50 metre fly wherein he obliterated the Canadian record of 27.30 en

route to a new world record with a time of 25.42.

Since things generally come in threes, Dan got up on day three and set a new individual Canadian record in the 50 metre free as the lead off leg of his Canadian record setting relay in the men's 4 X 50 metre freestyle.

The record that he, Dave Freeman, Tyler Clair and Dave Wilkin broke dates back to 2003 and was set by a team from Technosport (Ottawa) which included former Olympian Bruce Robertson.

Back in those days, the swimming world determined that the record was untouchable.

Long time Master Duck Dave Wilkin entered the meet injured and swam bravely through a large slate of individual events in addition to competing in five team relay events, four of which earned him Canadian records.

Dave's results are often among the best in the world and next year, he plans to take

on the best in the world while competing at the World Masters

Aquatic Championships in Sweden.

## Aspen Ridge comes from behind to win

In Mosquito house league activity last week, Aspen Ridge staged a comeback to edge Lakeshore Valumart 5-4 in Aurora Minor Baseball Association action.

The winners were trailing 4-3 entering the fifth and final inning when Kate Harkin and Scott Macleod struck out the side.

In the bottom half, Jake Campoli hit in Remington Colicchino to tie the game, then Carter Wilmsmeyer hit in Jake Campoli to win the game 5-4.

Scott Macleod went three for three, earning two runs batted in and a triple in the third inning.

He also closed the game for the winners, striking out the

only batter he faced.

Kate Harkin pitched two innings and struck out five out of a possible six batters, and gave up no walks.

Jake Campoli's only hit brought in the tying run.

Carter Wilmsmeyer hit three for three, all singles including hitting in Jake Campoli, representing the game winning RBI.

Meanwhile, the Aurora Jays minor midget team lost a heart-breaker to East York 7-6.

Trevor Searles led the Jays with a three-hit performance and Pat Jones drove in three runs in the loss.

Ryan Anderson suffered the loss.

The team is sponsored by TSN.

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More than 100 Master Ducks, above, showed up recently for the National Masters Swimming Championships held in Etobicoke and won 43 medals. Meanwhile, Aurora's Yvonne Catrall, seen at left with her coach Brent Aquinos, won gold medals in two breaststroke events and another in a relay event.

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# Aurora Minor Ball Association

## Junior Rookie

May 19 - L.H. Lind 14 - Mastermind 8  
May 21 - Summers & Smith 10 - Darrin V. Gruenig Law Office 9  
Game Highlight: Nicholas Young hit a game winning two-run double.

## Senior Rookie

Canadian Mechanical Solutions 16 - Canadian Springs 12

## Mosquito

May 19 - Lakeshore 16 - Dr. Orschel's Drillers 10  
May 21 - Kwik Kopy 8 - Restorer's Group 5  
- Lakeshore Valumart 9 Jenmark Digital Media 6

## Peewee

Week of May 18 Royal LePage 11 - PowerStream 9  
TD Mortgages 10 - Aurora Slow Pitch 7  
Home Hardware 15 - Minto 9

## Bantam House League

Gabby's A4 9 - Rotary Club A1 3  
Aspen Ridge Homes A2 5 - Restorers Group A3 3

## Peewee Select Team

The Aurora Peewee Select team had their home opener at Town Park in Aurora May 23.  
It was a very close pitching duel until the bottom of the fifth when the Jays broke the game open with five runs, giving them a 7-2 victory over Uxbridge.  
In a return match in Uxbridge the next day, Aurora again showed its power with a 12-2 victory.



The Storm U15 girls' volleyball team "Thunder" won the national champions gold medal in Calgary recently. Making up the team are, back row, left to right coach Jim Prsa, Jessica Harris, Cailleigh Kyle, Katie David, Megan Pratt, Anteia Alexis, Sarah McLean and assistant coach Phil Scarf. In the front row, left to right, are Ananda Singh, Bret Haggerty, Sarah Scarf and Jen Nevin.

# Taxpayers were upset over paying for non-service

It's hard to believe today with all the modern technologies available to municipalities, that at one time in Aurora property owners had to pay for a service they didn't receive, nor was it possible for the municipality to provide the service.

Back in 1977, all property owners paid the operating cost of the sewage system as the cost was included on the tax bill, and residents were loud in their objections.

A study was carried out at that time and it became evident that non-serviced properties had a lower assessment rate and paid less in property taxes than if they were serviced.

It was argued by council members that if the non-serviced property owners were released from paying for sewage charges, serviced property owners would have to pick up the difference estimated at \$23 on the average assessed home.

In 1981, council agreed to reconsider the policy due to changes in the assessment system, which treated all serviced properties the same whether they were serviced by a septic system or by the municipality.

Another reason was the increase in the cost of sewage treatment charged by the region.

It increased from 49 cents per 1,000 gallons on a sliding scale with the cost in 1985 projected to be 98 cents per 1,000 gallons.

It was argued that it was unfair to impose a sewage charge on rural residents on a septic system. This resulted in council seeking a staff report on alternative methods of collecting revenue for sewer charges, including a user pay system

During a lengthy debate in 1981, the installation of water meters for residential properties was considered as water users normally dispose of the water into the sewage system.

The use of water meters was seen as a means of leveling the playing field.

In October, 1981, a rural resident threatened to sue the town because he was forced to pay \$82 annually for a sewer service he didn't receive resulting in other rural residents picking up the cause.

This started a wave of protests from residents who argued they didn't use the education system and shouldn't have to pay education taxes, while others claimed they didn't use the community centre and shouldn't have to pay for it.

In December, 1981, it was suggested the cost of sewage treatment be removed from the tax bill of rural homeowners not using the system and a user pay system be implemented so that users paid the full cost of the service.

Two methods of implementing the user fee system were proposed. One was to use the water bill and the other was an area charge for sewers. Council referred the recommendation to the technical committee for a report on the two p r o p o s e d

methods.

At that time all commercial and industrial buildings were metered, while residential units paid a flat rate. It was estimated that the cost to the homeowner would be an additional \$23.50 per year on the water bill spread over a 12-month period.

In 1982, on a 6-3 vote, council defeated a move to establish a user pay system for sewer services. Some members of council who voted to defeat the proposal said while they generally agreed with the concept, they wanted more information before taking such a major step.

In 1984, council agreed to eliminate the sewer charge for homeowners outside the serviced area, but it wasn't until late 1989 when council finally agreed a surcharge on water consumption would become effective in 1991 and the charge would be imposed on those who received the service.

In February 1991 it was reported that the average Aurora family would be required to pay between 22 and 52 per cent more in sewage costs for 1991 despite council's assurance the new billing system wouldn't increase costs.

According to staffers the average family of four would pay \$228 in sewage charges representing an

increase of between \$40 and \$78 for the average family depending on the value of their home.

Under the new system, homeowners and business

would pay a surcharge of 57 cents per cubic meter of water used, in addition to the 35 cent water charge.

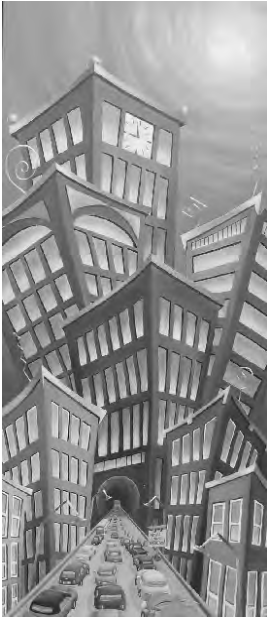
While rates have changed over the years, the

unfair practice of charging property owners for a service they don't receive and the municipality can't provide is now just a memory of the way it was.

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Numerous parents and students took advantage of the annual Aurora Grove Spring Fling, held inside and out of the Stone Road school in east Aurora. Two of the attractions are seen in the photos above. The Spring Fling has been an annual event at the school for several years. *Auroran photos by David Falconer*



## Making politicians more accountable to you

By Lois Brown, MP Newmarket-Aurora

Law-abiding Canadians believe in the rules of fair play.

Part of that fair play means being accountable for our actions.

Politicians have to play by the rules like everyone else.

In fact, it's even more important that their actions be clean, transparent and, above all, legal.

When our government was first elected in 2006, many Canadians were angered by the Liberal Sponsorship Scandal, where millions of Canadians' tax dollars were funnelled into the pockets of Liberal party friends and supporters.

As a Party, we responded by pledging to clean up government in Ottawa.

And with our first piece of legislation, the Accountability Act, we began the process of making Canadian politics more transparent and open, helping to repair the damage and mistrust that developed as a result of the Sponsorship Scandal.

## Old Yonge Sidewalk

**From page 1**  
because of the proximity of the one house to the road.

A minimum boulevard width is required to meet the safety criteria to separate pedestrians from moving traffic, and to provide an area for snow storage.

In a delegation to council, Eric McCartney requested that for the safety of residents, a sidewalk be built from the north side of the property in question to St. John's Sideroad.

From this point, a lively, if repetitious, discussion ensued with councillors expressing their views, and asking staff to explain the town's standards for sidewalks.

Councillor Evelyn Buck felt it would not be safe having a discontinuous sidewalk that forced users out onto the road on either side of this property. She asked if the road could be narrowed.

Director of Public Works Ilmar Simanovskis replied that this was not a major road, and was already so narrow that parking was not allowed on it. While there may be opportunities to reduce it, the cost would not warrant it.

Councillor Bob McRoberts suggested

that "some sidewalk is better than no sidewalk", and pointed out that in some older areas of town there were sidewalks that were far less than 2.25 metres wide.

His idea of a narrower sidewalk was supported by Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas.

Mr. Simanovskis noted that while walking on the road was not ideal, it was still acceptable.

He reiterated that the standard for town sidewalks was a minimum of 2.25 metres, and that installing a narrower sidewalk may involve some risks. However, in the end, the final decision was up to council.

Despite continued questions and efforts of the committee members to find a way to put a sidewalk through that property, it was obvious that in this case, the committee was not comfortable going against the recommendations of staff.

In the end, Mr. McCartney's proposal of a sidewalk from north of the property in question to St. John's Sideroad was accepted, and a new motion supported that where current safety standards could be met, a sidewalk be constructed on the east side of Old Yonge Street.

We cracked down on the way that lobbying happens in government.

Now, not only must lobbyists register on the public record so everyone can see what they do and who they represent; they must also keep detailed information about what meetings they have with members of the government.

On top of that, we ensured that senior government officials have to wait five years before they may become lobbyists.

It wasn't right that people with access to confidential information could turn around and use it for private or corporate gain.

We limited individual political contributions to \$1,100 per year.

Limiting political contributions made by businesses or rich and powerful individuals ensured that having money didn't mean you could also have more influence over the way business is run in Ottawa.

But more needs to be done; loopholes remain in this system.

Political loans are not covered by the restrictions on political donations and can exceed the established limit.

They can also come from corporations and unions. This means that influence can still be bought. That's not right.

That's why our government recently introduced new legislation to close the loopholes surrounding political loans.

This new legislation includes ensuring that political loans can be looked at under the same sort of microscope as political donations.

Now, loans will be limited to \$1,100 and they can't be made by unions or big corporations.

It means that political candidates can't pull the wool over the public's eyes by filling their coffers with big corporate loans which would give them an unfair advantage over other candidates.

In addition, we are bringing Senators and MPs under the umbrella of the same Ethics Officer.

That means that everyone in government, whether

they are elected or appointed, will be held to the same rules and standards of ethics.

This new action is just another measure we are taking to help ensure that everyone in government is accountable to the Canadians they represent on a daily basis.

Our government is a party of hardworking Canadian families who play by the rules.

We don't believe that having more money or more power should entitle anyone in this country to have more influence over a politician or a political Party.

That's why, by making the system more accountable for you, we are helping all Canadians have confidence that your elected officials are acting for you, not acting for themselves — or the highest bidder.

If you have a comment on this, or any other issue, please don't hesitate to contact me at 905-953-7515 or brownlo@parl.gc.ca.

To receive regular email updates, visit my website at [www.loisbrown.ca](http://www.loisbrown.ca) and sign up for my newsletter.

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# King mayor third candidate seeking to carry Liberal colours

**From page 1**  
mayor and councillor for the Town of Aurora for nearly 30 years.  
Jones said Sunday he had heard there may be a third member in the race but said he had heard nothing about the party cancelling the nomination meeting.  
"I don't pay much attention to rumours," he said.

He confirmed that he learned of Black's entry as a potential candidate Monday morning.  
She denied that she had been selected as the Liberal candidate.  
"I've already started selling memberships," she said.  
Mayor Black said she would not seek to return to King Township politics if she

became the candidate for the Liberals.  
"The Liberals have been after me for 10 years," she said.  
The mayor, who attended high school at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School in Aurora said she has a long history with the Newmarket and Aurora area and did not consider herself being "para-

chuted" into the riding.  
"I was born at Southlake," she said, "but it was York County Hospital then."  
The mayor of King Township for 15 years, Ms Black lives near Schomberg.  
The Auroran received the anonymous phone call Sunday afternoon, in which the speaker said the Liberal Party had announced there

would be no nomination meeting in the Newmarket-Aurora riding, and that the person named to carry the Liberal colours into the next election campaign was Mayor Black.  
She said she had no idea when the nomination meeting would be held.  
Jones, meanwhile, noted the King mayor was one of

three candidates who want to carry the Liberal colours in the next federal election and said there was a social planned to meet Ms Black in Aurora, Thursday, June 4, at 35 Hodgkinson Crescent.  
The event, organized by The Newmarket Aurora Liberal Womens Club, apparently begins at 7.30 p.m.

# Church undergoes renovations

**From page 1**  
obscured by part of the balcony; uncovering of vintage cast-iron grille railings in the balcony, now hidden beneath wood panels; new computer and LCD projector screen; new hardwood floors on main floor and balcony; folding glass doors to replace rear sanctuary wall, with accommodation of overflow seating in front narthex area (the recent Easter Sunday service was standing room only); and new lighting including dimmers and spotlights.  
"First, we want this to be a wonderful space to be inspired by God," Pulumbarit said.  
"From there, the possibilities are endless."  
The church may reach out to not-for-profit organizations including theatre groups, musical productions and schools to use the space.  
The redesign has generated so much excitement that the redevelopment committee can hardly keep volunteers at bay.  
It might seem an ambitious project to be tackling during a recession, but for Aurora United Church, the timing is perfect.

For several years the church had had a vision for redevelopment, but there was no way to finance it.  
In 2007, St. Paul's United Church in Oak Ridges amalgamated with Aurora United and last year sold its property just before the real estate market dropped.  
The St. Paul's property management committee, chaired by Janice Nolan, prepared a business plan, in which St. Paul's offered to give \$710,000 - 90 per cent of the sale proceeds - to the Aurora church, and the remaining 10 per cent to outreach projects. The congregation and church council passed the business plan unanimously.  
Because of the recession, it wasn't difficult for the redevelopment committee to then find contractors who could do the work on short notice.  
Toronto architectural firm Black and Moffat had done the design details of the committee's concept, while DJ McRae Contracting won the construction tender.  
"We were interviewing contractors on May 4 to start a week later, and none of them had a problem with the tight timeline," said Fern Beattie, chair of the redevelopment committee.  
DJ McRae not only was the lowest bidder but had the most to offer in terms of enthusiasm, understanding of working with a volunteer committee, and experience in renovating and restoring churches, Beattie said.  
"With this redesign, especially the flexibility of the chancel area, the physical space will now match the contemporary, vibrant, exciting nature of the

services and the congregation," Beattie said.  
The church has long had a strong musical focus, with a senior choir of at least two dozen members, two 12-member handbell ensembles, a children's choir and a host of talented soloists, instrumentalists and other musicians.  
The church's music program, under new music director Michael Mailley, will likely only increase when the redevelopment is completed.  
With the enlarged chancel, handbell ringers will no longer have to worry about taking a step back and falling into the organ pit.  
And with the new modular choir risers, choir members will no longer have to use hymn books as back cushions.  
"Those choir pews were back-breakers," said choir member Crawford Heritage.  
Heritage, a longtime congregant, chair of the property committee and member of the redevelopment committee, has been impressed with the professionalism and hard work of

everyone who has helped make the vision a reality.  
"The abilities and skills of these people on the committees have been outstanding and the support from the congregation unbelievable," he said.  
The project is expected to be completed this fall.  
Until then, Sunday services will be held at 10 a.m. in the chapel at St. Andrew's College at 15800 Yonge St., just south of St. John's Sideroad. All are welcome.  
For more information and regular updates on the reconstruction, go to [www.aurorau-nitedchurch.ca](http://www.aurorau-nitedchurch.ca).

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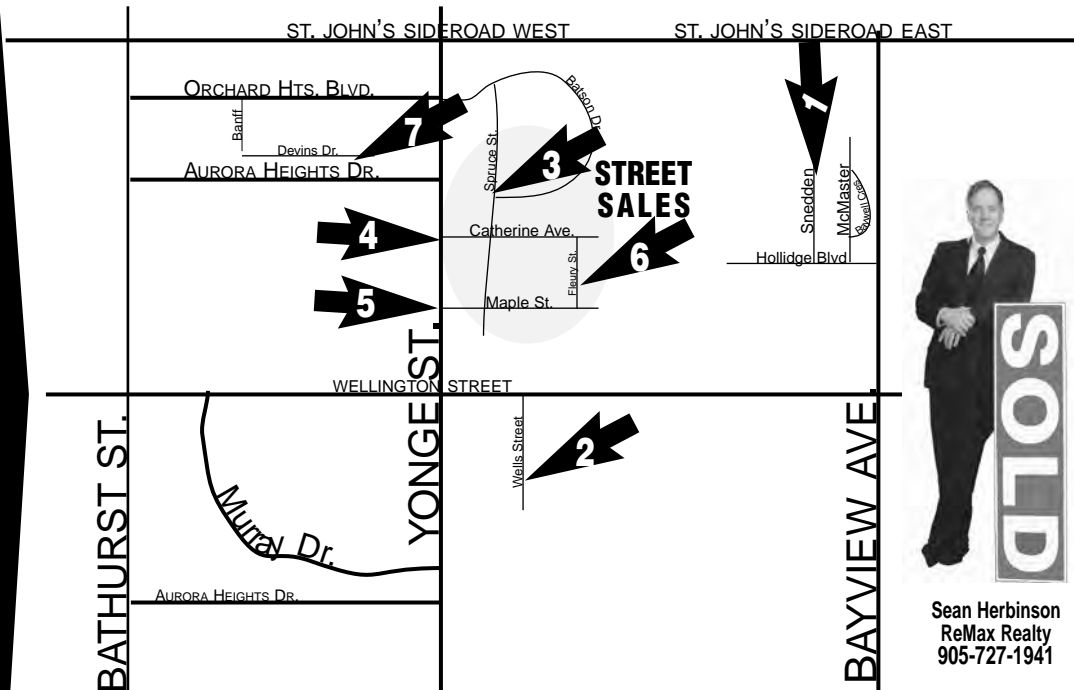
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First Cals - Monday May 11  
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Classes and dances take place at the Royal Canadian Legion in Aurora  
105 Industrial Parkway North  
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Please call or email for more information or to register for upcoming events  
Site: [www.SteveMillerDance.ca](http://www.SteveMillerDance.ca)  
Call Steve Miller at 416-587-4125  
Email: [Steve@SteveMillerDance.ca](mailto:Steve@SteveMillerDance.ca)

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# COMING EVENTS

## From page 2

Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*

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

## WEDNESDAY, 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@yrdsb.edu.on.ca. Appetizers and cocktails begin at 5 p.m. with presentations at 6 p.m.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five meeting, hosted by Willow Springs Winery and The Roving Chef, 5572 Bethesda Road, Stouffville from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. This is a joint event with the Newmarket, Stouffville, Markham, Bradford and Richmond Hill Chambers of Commerce. There will be tours of the facility, a Tasting Bar and Gift Shop at this event. Numbers are limited, so early registration is required.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 5

Hartman Public School Second Annual Film Fair takes place at the school, 130 River Ridge Boulevard in the Bayview-Wellington area, from 3.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 905-727-5938.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora Optimist Club, Police and Community Together (PACT), and the Town of Aurora host the annual Bike and Board Rodeo event at Hickson Park, beginning at 5 p.m.



The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) presents the annual Spring Sale this Saturday, May 30th, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

I have written about the sale in an earlier column, but this is such a popular event that it is well worth a reminder, with hundreds of people expected to pass among the tables strewn with treasures, while memories of past sales never fail to conjure up wonder at what treasures will materialize this year.

Every sale has good and interesting items that tempt me to spend a few dollars and from conversations with so many other patrons and volunteers, I am not alone.

The Spring Sale is also an attraction for well-known public figures to attend.

The game of darts has a long history and it has a place in the poolroom on Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

This is a popular pastime that is riveting when played by experts and easy enough for the novice to play without prior experience.

The game attracts women as well as men and requires a steady hand and a little concentration and is excellent for passing time socially. You are welcome to join the fun whenever you show up.

Some pastimes at the seniors' centre neither demand great concentration nor require great skill to be enjoyed and pass time in a congenial fashion, while other pastimes or hobbies or arts and crafts require more.

Sewing and knitting need great concentration for intricate work while at other times the work can progress very well, while a deep and intimate conversation proceeds at the same time.

Painting and drawing call for skill and the finest results

also require the artist to express impressions or effects into the work.

The book club, which incidentally is open to the idea of opening a second book club, reads a book a month and discusses the book being read. This has been a very successful club format, organized and run by Flo Murray, combining love of good literature with good conversation, and is obviously a winning formula.

If a new book club interests you, inform Virginia Ciuffo or leave your name and phone number at the front counter.

If enough interest is expressed, a new book club will result, with a time agreeable to the majority,

In addition to making known your interest in a new book club, of interest would be the book titles and authors that you may consider offering as worthy of consideration at some future time as the book of the month.

I want to write a positive note concerning the ladies of the "Crafts and Conversation" group who have been creating baby hats for newborns for quite some time, and donating them to Southlake Regional Health Centre, where they are appreciated by the mothers of newborn babies.

## 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.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora Historical Society yard sale at Hillary House, beginning at 8 a.m. All proceeds go to the care and restoration of Hillary House. For more information, call 905-727-8991 or visit www.aurorahistoricalsociety.ca.

\*\*\*\*

Merlin's Hollow, a one-acre garden in East Aurora, is free to visitors today. It's located on Centre Crescent, north of Centre Street, west of Industrial Parkway North.

## 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

Thirtieth 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.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society monthly meeting at 8 p.m. at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Topic is "Fabulous Foliage" with guest speaker Heinke Thiessen followed by flower show. Guests are welcome. Admission is \$2 at the door.

## SATURDAY, JULY 4

Merlin's Hollow, a one-acre garden in East Aurora, is free to visitors today. It's located on Centre Crescent, north off Centre Street, west of Industrial Parkway North.

## 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](http://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 contacting Mrs. Lori Barnes at [lori.barnes@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:lori.barnes@yrdsb.edu.on.ca) or 905-727-0022, ext. 2263,

## SUNDAY, JULY 12

Merlin's Hollow, a one-acre garden in East Aurora, is free to visitors today. It's located on Centre Crescent, north off Centre Street, west of Industrial Parkway North.

## 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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## at Hickson Park

- Register your bike with the York Regional Police
- Five Station Bike Rodeo
- Ride the Dirt Track
- Skateboarding clinic at the Flipside for ages 6 & up
- Learn the safe way to manoeuvre your skateboard
- Hot Demos throughout the Evening
- This event is free of charge, but a donation to the Food Pantry would be appreciated

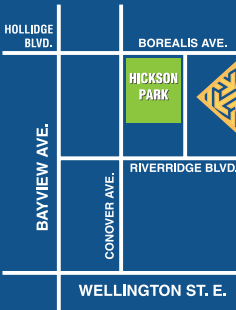
*This annual event is aimed at educating both children and parents on important health and safety issues related to personal security, fire safety, lifesaving techniques and the importance of being road smart with bicycles. The latest in child safety and health information can be interactively explored through the eyes of many local organizations and businesses that serve area children and families.*

Spring Into Safety  
**ANNUAL BIKE & BOARD Rodeo**  
**Friday, June 5th**  
**5:00 pm until 8:00 pm**

ENJOY A CHARITY  
**BBQ**

*while browsing through several related booths and displays*

**50¢ HOT DOGS**  
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## Seniors' sale Saturday

By BRIAN WARBURTON

It is normal for young parents to have children at a time when expenses occupy too much of a families income and any gift for a baby touches a chord of appreciative affection in the mother.

I salute our ASA ladies in the baby toque department for thoughtful endeavours, well directed.

Last month, April, mothers received 152 of these toques and they continue to be created out of wool and motherly feelings, so if anybody has an inclination to reinforce this effort, with help or supplies, contact Rozlin at 905-726-2332.

The ASA Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2nd from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. and will be followed with a barbeque.

The AGM is an enormously important legal occasion for any incorporated company as it is meant to appoint directors for a specified term in office, and to vote on the way in which the affairs of the company have been conducted in the previous 12 months.

It is also the opportunity for any member to attract the attention of the person conducting the meeting, usually the president, and rise to address before the members, any issue that is deemed important enough

to warrant the attention of an AGM.

If you have an issue, ask to add it to the agenda and prepare your presentation.



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Irene, Selkirk

Before






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Before





30lbs lost

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Susan, Georgetown

Before



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