





**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.

\*\*\*\*

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,



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MP 1123 (10/2007)

# COMING EVENTS

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.

**Please see page 19**

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To honour veterans buried in the Aurora Cemetery, the ladies auxiliary of the Aurora Legion sponsored the installation of a flagpole on the cemetery grounds. The pole, with the help of former Legion president Len Whines, foreground, auxiliary president Jean Anderson, former LA president Leona Watson, and legion member Allan Bentley, went up Friday morning. The auxiliary is also responsible for marking gravesites of veterans, and if you're aware of one they have missed, you should tell someone at the Legion.

*Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

## July First parade set to go

The Town of Aurora and volunteers of the Canada Day Parade Sub-Committee will present the 2009 Canada Day Parade on Wednesday, July 1.

This year, the parade's theme is 'Red Hot Canadians Go Green' – recognizing Aurora's commitment to the environment.

The parade is expected to produce a variety of floats, entertainment and music.

"Our Committee's enthusiasm and passion for our community and country have helped to bring all the exciting event details together to ensure this year's parade will be a smashing success," said Sher St. Kitts, chair of the sub-committee. "Together with the committee's dedication, the support of the mayor, council and town staff, this may just be the best Aurora Canada Day Parade yet!"

Aurora's Parade line-up includes: a display of Canadian flags by the Royal Canadian Legion; the Governor General's Horse Guard – relatives of those who change the guards at Buckingham Palace; Red Hot Canadians Go Green Float created by artist Deborah Campo; Caribbean and Japanese dancers; Aurora jazz festival; Vive La Francophonie; Safehaven kids on wheels; Aurora seniors, sports and service clubs; York Regional Police and Central York Fire Services with their 1920s fire truck and new Hazmat vehicle.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. and heads south on Yonge Street from Orchard Heights Blvd., to the Aurora Cenotaph at Peace Park, south of Henderson Drive.

The parade is one of several activities planned for Aurora – better known as Canada's Birthday Town – during the fes-

tivities which started in 1969, and has been held almost annually ever since.

Two years ago, the parade was cancelled, but revived by a committee last year.

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## Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

### Hard to believe they’ve been wed for 50 years

Below is a photograph of two very good friends and I was stunned to receive it.

Betty and Pete Kelly celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently and I was shocked.

I have known Pete and Betty for a long time but it never occurred to me that they had been married 50 years.

Attending the festivities were their eight children and 12 of their 13 grandchildren.

Gawd, I'm feeling old.



SPEAKING OF OLD

I got an E-mail the other day from a former school trustee and good friend Heather Sinclair.

She's Heather Stewart today, having married Rory (everyone knows Rory Stewart) and moving to Tyler Street in Aurora.

She informed me that her former husband, Hank Sinclair, had died recently.

There was a celebration for him Saturday in Bradford.

And then I learned that York's first Regional Chairman Garfield Wright had died about a week or so ago, as did former Richmond Hill Regional Councillor, Gord Rowe.

He was 90. He died about a month ago.

Gord, father of Ted Rowe, who owns Royal Wood Shop on Wellington at Industrial Parkway, could always be counted on to say something that would bring regional council to laughter.

He always seemed to get re-elected every time he ran.

Perhaps his slogan - "Rowe, rowe, rowe your vote" - had something to do with it.

He was a regional councillor from 1971 to 1976.

Heather and I agreed: they're falling like flies...

#### NOT MY FAULT...THIS TIME

Seems some of my new relatives are having fun at my expense, and it's not - honest - my fault.

Last week on this page, I ran a picture of the 1961 senior volleyball team from Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School.

The picture, and accompanying information, was in the school yearbook, called The Atom.

In the front row, as far right as you could sit, was one "Carolyn Carlton",

In truth, it was really Carilyn Charlton, and today she is the wife of Lowell McClenny.

It was the yearbook that spelled her name wrong, not me, I learned after I did a double-check.

How would I know that "Carolyn Carlton" was Mrs. McClenny today?

Lowell is the brother of Ted, who is my father-in-law. Which means, somehow, I am now related to Carilyn and Lowell. So why would I purposely mis-spell her name?

Both Lowell and Ted were police officers when there was an Aurora Police Department, if you can remember back that far.

It was in the early 70s when Aurora became part of the newly-formed York Regional Police department.

As a matter of interest, I happen to know that Carilyn worked for the Aurora Police Department for a short time in the office.

I could probably break my leg jumping to a conclusion here, so I won't risk it.

#### Letter to the Editor

## Show some patience to these motorists

To the editor,

In this age of so many vans & SUV's, pulling out of parking space in a "normal" size vehicle is quite difficult.

We are backing out virtually blind if parked beside a large vehicle.

How about a little cour-

tesy from other drivers?

If you see a car backing out of a parking spot...be polite and stop to let them out.

Just a minute of patience makes things safer.

D. Hunt  
Aurora



Here is a postcard showing the entrance to the Aurora Cemetery in a picture taken, when? The Charnel House, also known as the Dead House, is still there, but the entranceway has moved a few yards to the north. And, do you recognize the fence? It's the same as the fence in front of Aurora's famous Hillary House. Anyone who can add information to this post card is welcomed to call. Thanks to David Heard for supplying it.

#### Letters to the Editor

## Developer should apologize to neighbours for infractions

To the editor,

Congratulations!

The retirement residence at the corner of John West Way and Hollandview Trail is almost at its completion and looks quite nice now that the beautiful trees and shrubs have been planted.

However - during its construction, the developer has completely ignored the fact that there are families living just meters away from the construction site (those on the south side of Ochalski Road).

I would like to bring to light some of the issues we have had to contend with over the past

months.

Our homes, vehicles and backyard playground equipment have constantly been covered with dust. There has been all kinds of garbage ranging from coffee cups to toilet packaging in our back yards. There have been problems with a lack of parking for the residents of Ochalski Road and their guests.

Also an extremely dangerous situation was created by illegally parked cars (belonging to construction crew members) to make the turn off Ochalski onto John West Way.

Noise bylaws have been violated on numerous occasions.

In one instance our family was woken at 3 a.m. when a large piece of earth moving equipment was being moved off site.

Work was also carried out on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

On Friday, June 5th, my children were kept up late due to a large watering truck which was operating on site after 9 p.m.

When I approached the crew, their response was not to worry "tomorrow is Saturday".

This is the attitude we have had to contend with for the duration of the construction.

The developer seems

to be oblivious to the fact that this is a residential area.

There are bylaws in place to protect the rights of the residents.

However, these bylaws have been ignored on numerous occasions.

In my opinion the people overseeing the development of this project have no consideration or respect.

My first suggestion to them would be to start with an apology and then perhaps a thank you to the residents of Ochalski Road for their patience.

Philippa Lazare  
Aurora

#### —THE AURORAN—

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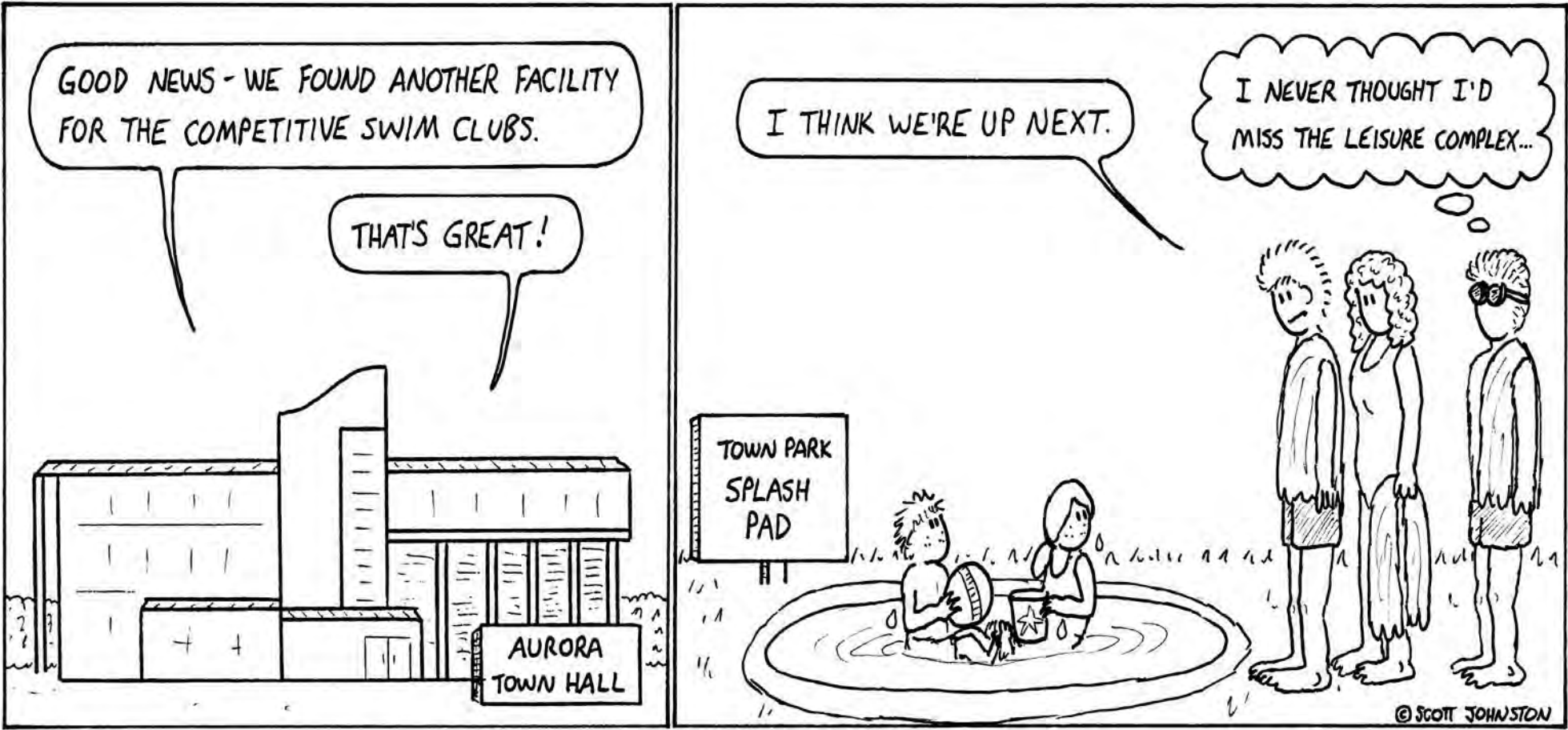
#### Editorial policy

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

#### Advertising policy

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

Lynn Pearson  
Aurora



## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

A number of years ago, I wrote a column about litter at our war memorial.

It's located across from the Canadian Tire store in the southern part of town.

As I walked eastbound across Veterans' Lane, I was struck at once by both the magnificence and also the simplicity of the two structures that comprise this edifice.

For me, the cenotaph is a place of reflection, solitude and introspection.

The valor and selflessness of the fine men memorialized there is most humbling.

As you make your way along the path looking due east you only see the monument and the trees behind it; during the summer. Not a building is in sight.

This lends an aura of serenity to the place, even though it is located on Yonge Street.

What struck and also really angered me that morning was the thoughtlessness of some of our fellow citizens.

For at the back of the cenotaph was a vast collection of fast food wrappers.

One could tell that at least two or three people had been eating there in the recent past.

What's worse is that a refuse receptacle was less than 70 feet away.

I ended that particular column this way: I have never seen such litter at either a cemetery or at a church. Why should it be any different here?

I am happy to report that most times I have walked past the cenotaph since that day, the grounds seem to be free of trash.

A couple of weeks ago, my family and I participated in the Mayor's 7th Annual Anti Litter Day, by picking up garbage at Machell Park.

It is amazing the types of things you will find.

Mostly we recovered coffee cups and lids, lots of paper, but also to our chagrin, some broken pieces of glass on the baseball infield.

I was back at Machell the other day for my son's baseball game, and for the most part, the park was clean.

Another good sign.

However, I was at another local park recently with my son and I was appalled with what I saw.

Copland Park is located just south of McLeod Drive and Aurora Heights Drive (near Bathurst Street).

Down near the kids' play area, there was lots of refuse and even two soft drink bottles on the asphalt.

But what really got me was a sign that was posted on one of the trees in the play area.

I did not have a pad and pencil to transcribe the exact contents of the sign, so I returned the next day but the sign was gone.

However, from what I recall, the sign described how a two-year old girl who had been playing near the swings had suffered a severe cut due to a bunch of glass in the sand.

The note went on to the effect that whoever is responsible for the broken glass should be ashamed of themselves.

I concur with the note 100 per cent.

As my son was playing in the sand not that far from

## Copland Park

the swings an older boy found a bunch of small pieces of broken glass. Fortunately, no one was injured.

Aurora has an ad hoc committee - which is called the Graffiti Abatement Committee.

I was going to write: "why not strike up a similar committee - but to deal with the litter problems in our community."

I imagine something like this, or something very similar, has already been done.

If there is such a committee, I have two simple suggestions.

First, why not have certain streets in our community "adopt" one of the local parks. This is not a new concept. We have all seen those signs, "this segment of highway has been adopted by the "X" Group."

You could have the citizens of 10 local streets take responsibility for a particular park.

A volunteer chair would co-ordinate the clean up schedule for those individuals who wish to participate in this endeavour.

This would probably require one hour per household per year - not too much to ask to help keep our parks clear of litter.

My second suggestion is very simple.

Any time you go through a park, make it your business to bend down and pick up five pieces of trash - this would probably consume about 15 seconds of your time.

Remember, our community is what we make of it.

Stephen can be contacted at:  
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

### Letters to the Editor

# Cathy deserves time off, reader says

To the editor,

As the treasurer of the Aurora Garden and Historical Society, I read with great interest Cathy's column in The Auroran "Playing in the Dirt!"

It was the caption that caught my eye.

But Cathy always did that - drew you in with a catchy caption.

She talked about the things that are near and dear to my heart - the

Aurora Community Arboretum, the Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale (a huge success in spite of the rain - coulda floated a raft down Yonge Street that day!), our upcoming Garden Tour on Sunday,

July 5th, and about our Society itself.

I wanted to send her a note thanking her for reminding us gardening is such a great way to get in touch with ourselves and with nature and with our

neighbours.

But now, sadly, I read she's going to take some time off.

Not that she doesn't deserve it.

Who can't relate to being a wife, a mother, dog

trainer, decorator, chef, laundromat operator, landscaper and pylon dodger.

It's being a pylon dodger that can especially suck the energy out of a person! (I remember that column, do you?).

We've grown up with the Vrancics. And it's been an enjoyable trip.

So, have a great summer, Cathy and family.

Thanks for sharing so much good stuff about life and Aurora.

Now, about those pylons!

Judy Ryan,  
Treasurer AGHS  
Aurora

To the editor,

It is with shock and great sadness that I read some time ago that 'Cathy's Corner' would no longer be, and I can't believe it!

It never occurred to me

that it could possibly end one day, which proves once again that we too often take things for granted.

I couldn't wait to read the column; every time I received the paper, I read directly to Page Five, savouring each

word!

You made me cry but most of all you made me laugh, and I want to thank you for that.

I will keep hoping to see column 241 in the near future.

In the meantime, I hope

your life will continue to be blessed with dozens of those everyday little pleasures, the ones we so often forget to acknowledge as the most important!

Once again, a huge thank you for sharing your life with

us with such a genuine honesty.

Your insight and great sense of humour will be missed...

Lise Boily  
Aurora



Letters to the Editor

Viewer doesn't think much of Rogers

Editor's Note: A copy of this letter was sent to The Auroran.

Alan D. Horn, President of Rogers Communications. cc: Phil Hartling, Vice President Consumer Services, Rogers Communications.

Dear Mr. Horn:

I have serious misgivings about being a Rogers customer for my television, internet and telephone services when this takes effect on June 17..

I am a soon-to-be former extremely satisfied customer of Aurora Cable Internet, but even though I am still using their services, there are serious signs that their competence and professionalism is about to be replaced by what I can only describe as bungling amateurism and discourtesy.

Your company, a very large one with I imagine millions of clients and access to a wealth of resources, cannot get it together enough to have a representative contact me and set up my new account with you?

I didn't ask to have my service provider changed, but you seem to lack the resources and the common decency to make the transition less than onerous for me.

And please do not repeat the nonsense I have heard that your CSR staff are not able to contact customers.

I literally have had to do your work for you.

I had to make the time to go (I had heard some real nightmare stories of others attempting to do this by phone) to one of your outlets, stand in line for a long time, and make the arrangements myself.

Why is this even neces-

sary?

You bought Aurora Cable, and have all of my account information.

This should be as easy as having someone call me and ask me do I want to continue or not, and then flip a switch or click a computer mouse and have it settled.

I understand that your service plans differ from ACI plans, but there are tens of thousands of us in Aurora-Oak Ridges.

You could have had your IT people (more about them later) arrange a transition package that we could have continued with.

I find it really difficult to figure out what I will be getting and how much it is going to cost me (although it looks like the answers are "less" and "more") because your literature that "explains" the TV plans is difficult to understand, and

the various packages seem to have inexplicable overlaps and redundancies.

As far as I can make out, for example, I can pay extra to get a package that offers BBCKids - but I already have ordered a plan that includes it, so why should I pay more to get the same thing?

This is in stark contrast to the ACI information which was clear, understandable, and did not have overlaps.

And they had the sense to list channel numbers unlike your literature which has no channel numbers at all.

They also had options to build my own package of channels, which I took advantage of. Your packages are crammed with what I consider to be junk programming.

Once at the Rogers outlet on Yonge Street in Aurora (where I must say

the staff are doing a great job valiantly dealing with the mess you have dumped in their laps), it became evident that your IT department has a serious inadequacy.

The representative was unable to enter any information about my new account into your database because it would not accept my address!

I have designed custom databases for people. This kind of incompetence is unforgivable.

The representative had to write everything down on scraps of paper.

We go on: now I find that I have to do your job for you once again.

I have to do the connection of the new cable boxes, and I even have to myself take the old ones back to ACI.

And please explain this: I bought a new Rogers HD box at the Rogers outlet, but I have to go to the ACI office to get a Rogers box to replace the second one that I previously owned.

To top things off, I have today received two pre-recorded messages on my telephone informing me that the problem I reported with my Rogers Homephone is probably fixed.

I don't have a Rogers Homephone as yet, and the problem I reported - a question really - was about my internet service.

And you can't hire real people to contact your customers?

And speaking of customers, apparently I am going to lose my email address that my customers have become accustomed to using to contact me.

I have a modest private tutoring service that I run to keep me active now that I have semi-retired after my recent "adventure" with colon cancer.

Now, because of nothing I have done, I will have to go to all the trouble of changing my information. Come to think of it, since I have so far had to spend about two hours of my time doing your work for you, you technically

owe me about \$90. Plus mileage. And there will be at least another hour or two to come.

The cable/internet/phone industry is getting competitive. If you can't pull up your socks and do vastly better than this introductory disaster, you can be certain that I will be looking elsewhere as fast as I can.

You might take a page or two from Telus' customer-service practices.

I have had my cellular phone service with them for several years.

It is inexpensive, utterly reliable, easy to understand, and their customer service is exemplary.

They give the impression of really wanting to keep my business. I understand they are expanding their TV and internet services.

Please do not, in your anticipated timely response, tell me any condescending platitudes about people finding change difficult.

This is not about change. I think that I, like most of the former clients of ACI, are resigned to the fact that change will occur.

Rather, this is about your company's incompetence in handling the change, and discourtesy in making it a real inconvenience and burden for us.

I can only imagine how difficult this must be for people who are disabled or elderly.

My situation got much worse once the actual changeover was done.

I spent 10 hours, including a dozen calls to Rogers and three trips to ACI and Rogers, starting at 5:30 a.m. on the morning of the changeover, June 17.

I could have just quietly dropped out of your service and sought out another source for my TV, internet and phone, but I thought it would be more courteous and helpful to make you aware of the problems and give you an opportunity to solve them.

Gregory A. Hill  
Aurora

Reader fails to get cable help

To the editor,

This follows up B. Zwarych's letter re the nightmare suffered from the takeover of Aurora Cable by Rogers.

Fortunately, Rogers is not responsible for my internet but the cable switchover has been a major exercise in frustration.

After numerous calls and conversations with Rogers people to try and get the service that I had been promised, same stations at the same price for 12 months, and being treated in an especially arrogant manner by the last representative to whom I spoke, I finally decided that I needed assistance from our federal

representatives.

I e-mailed Lois Brown and received a reply almost immediately from one of her assistants expressing sympathy with my situation as he had experienced a similar lack of customer service from Rogers, advising that Lois was out of town that day but would contact me as soon as she was back. This was approximately five weeks ago and I have yet to hear from Ms. Brown.

Will I vote Conservative in the next election? Absolutely not.

I then telephoned the CRTC because their e-mail system wasn't working.

I explained that I wanted to discuss with somebody in authority an

abysmal situation (because I know it isn't just me) currently taking place with the Rogers takeover of Aurora Cable.

I thought the CRTC would be interested in the issue as they sit in oversight of the cable companies and I'm sure that Rogers in their CRTC submission to take over ACI promised that we would all receive better service.

The polite gentleman took my name and phone numbers but I have yet to receive a call.

So much for help from my expensive federal government!

On a positive note, in order to try and resolve the programming and cost issues which are part of the Rogers problem, my

wife and I have now spent several hours with Deb and her team at the Rogers store at Yonge and Dunning.

In spite of being "on the front line" and the recipients of their customers' frustration and anger, they are unfailingly polite, friendly, helpful, understanding and do their utmost to provide a solution.

It's actually just like when we were able to go and see the great people at Aurora Cable except that it takes much longer to get an answer because they have to call "Customer Service".

As my government representatives have been totally ineffective, I now turn to The Auroran and ask that the power of the press be invoked to help former Aurora Cable subscribers get the services Rogers has promised at the price Rogers promised without the ridiculous level of frustration and lack of customer respect that is currently received from this cable services monopoly.

Buck shows no respect for the mayor

To the editor,

The Evelyn Buck/Sher St.Kitts situation is disturbing.

Public shows of contempt are never admirable.

This applies equally to anyone, of course. It seems to me that Ms. Buck has compounded clear violations of protocol and continued the mud-slinging when she publically admits in The Auroran to having no respect for the mayor.

I don't believe the mayor

has said the same about Ms. Buck.

While I was prepared to give Ms. Buck the benefit of the doubt, she has managed to snatch moral defeat from the jaws of victory by admitting to the lack of respect that is fundamental to working with others, no matter their policies or errors.

As Pierre Trudeau once said to Justin when he was young and hurling epithets at Joe Clark as a man, "You may question a man's poli-

cies, but you never disrespect the man."


Show respect for everyone.


That Biblical invocation needs application in this sorry situation.

Rick Doust  
Aurora

Norman Rigg  
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

March to support school attended by 1,000

To the editor,

On Monday June 15th, more than 1,000 friends of Wells Street Public School marched in support of re-opening the beloved school in its current location at 60 Wells Street in Aurora.

On behalf of CAWS - Community Action for Wells Street - it is with great pleasure that I am given the opportunity to thank the more than 1,000 supporters who walked with us, led by a piper and police escort, to Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, where we were met by the group of 12 York Region District School Board (YRDSB)

Trustees who hold the fate of Wells Street PS in their hands.

It was a very impressive sight to see our streets lined with people marching with their home made signs, decorated strollers and wagons, many of them dressed in our school's colours - blue and white - to show the YRDSB trustees and staff that we are not in favour of Wells Street PS remaining closed forever.

The 600-person cafeteria at Dr. G.W. Williams was filled to capacity and it was "standing-room only" for many of the marchers who were at the meeting.

To the Queen's York

Rangers Renegade Band for entertaining us prior to the parade, and to George St Kitts for providing us with a sound system and microphone, we offer our deepest thanks.

Staging an event like this would not be possible without the ongoing support of many people, including Mayor Phyllis Morris and the Aurora Town Council.

While Mayor Morris was unable to be with us due to a family commitment in the UK, she sent her regrets to the community, and wished us a large turn out - which indeed we had.

She also wished us a

successful meeting with the trustees - which we believe we had.

We sincerely thank the following councillors: Alison Collins-Mrakas, Wendy Gaertner, John Gallo, Stephen Granger, Evelina MacEachern, Bob McRoberts, and Al Wilson who were able to march with us and further showed their support by attending the public meeting.

We would also like to thank our partners, OARA, the Olde Aurora Rate Payers Association, who collaborated with us to turn a little idea into an event that Aurorans will be talking about for many years!

At the public meeting, letters of support were read on behalf of Frank Klees, MPP, and Lois Brown, MP, in favour of keeping Wells Street PS open.

We thank our elected officials for their ongoing encouragement, and their representatives for being present to read the letters on their behalf.

More than 25 community members took to the microphone and respectfully addressed the group of 12 trustees and YRDSB staff.

Many offered solutions for how to keep the school open. Some shared their favourite memories and experiences while they were students at Wells Street PS.

To the members of the community whose presentations were so thought-provoking, professional and well-prepared, we say a sincere thank you. The trustees were left with a lot to think about over the summer months.

We thank the 12 YRDSB trustees who graciously agreed to meet our parade outside of Dr G.W. Williams, and for listening so intently to the

presentations. We hope the information package presented to them will be a useful reference tool.

The final decision has not yet been made.

You can still get involved and help Save Wells Street Public School before the final vote on September 24.

E-mail CAWS at savewells@yahoo.com for more information. Please visit the online petition at -

www.thepetitionsite.com/1/Save-Wells-Street-Public-School, or come to the CAWS booth at the Aurora Farmer's Market and sign the paper version.

Be sure to look for our float in this year's Canada Day parade on July 1st.

Again, we thank the members of our community and friends of Wells Street Public School who rallied with us, more than 1,000 strong, to show The YRDSB that we are not prepared to let them close the doors of Wells Street PS forever, and that a unique school requires a unique solution.

Beverly Norton  
Aurora

Wells teacher communicates with parent from the school

To the editor:

I am a teacher at Wells Street School, and wrote the letter below to thank a parent involved in the effort to save Wells Street School.

This parent, Helen Ahranis, had written me in appreciation that myself and some other Wells Street teachers were able to attend the "Save Wells Street School" parade in the Aurora Town Park last Monday evening.

Corey Jackson  
teacher  
Wells Street School  
Aurora

To Corey Jackson et al,

I just wanted to drop you a quick note to thank you for your attendance at the parade yesterday as we rallied to Williams to meet with the Trustee's. It was wonderful to see you and your families, and some pets too.

They say it takes a community to raise a child but I would have to say it takes awesome teachers like you as well.

From learning to add and subtract on an Abacus to teaching our children how to do the Bird dance.

Thanks again for all your

support, and I'm sure I'm not speaking for only myself but for the parents of Wells Street, we hope that we see you and our children once again under the roof of our beloved school.

Helen

Helen,

Thank you so much for your very kind note.

It was a thrilling experience to meet the Wells Street School community once again in the Town Park, to revive old friendships and to get caught up with the exciting news of former Wells Street grads.

What is a community about if it's not about reviving and maintaining all of these priceless relationships?

As each member of a community like ours becomes more and more involved and connected to the people within it, they come to realize their shared values together.

What better way to focus these values than at a vibrant and beloved historical school like Wells Street, in the very centre and hub of the community itself.

I have taught at Wells Street School since 1991.

I remember my first office, as the new Core

French teacher in the school, off the upper south-west classroom where the huge windows overlook Victoria's tree.

I had a tiny, but cosy closet space to work in amongst art shelves and boxed magazines, with a small window at my shoulder, situated right in the centre of the upper south wall of the building.

I would peek out at the Wells Street students playing on the south tarmac at recess, and, much to their delight, would occasionally catch their eye and wave.

Over the years, I came to teach in every single classroom in the school, and feel I know the school inside out, every nook, every aging cranny!

Last night, during the meeting at Williams, I felt that all of the speakers had movingly internalized, as I did over the years, the

magic of this worthy old edifice of learning for our children.

From these speakers burst forth a rich and continual variety of reflective, informative, sometimes wry and witty, and sometimes wistful revelations, but it was all heart-warming and ardent.

What a poignant and nurturing example of all the best that a caring school community has to offer!

I wish you and all your hard-working, committed supporters the very best as you continue to seek the maintenance of our invaluable Wells Street School.

You have done an absolutely superlative job together, indeed demonstrating the very best in the meaning of "united we stand"!

Corey Jackson  
Teacher

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Letters to the Editor

This reader deciphers Rogers’ messages

To the editor,

After a few weeks of “getting to know” Rogers Communications, through

various means I have deciphered the message they are sending me.

Allow me to paraphrase because they are not com-

ing right out and saying this directly, but we all know actions speak louder than words so I tend to listen to actions.

**Message:** Mr. Brown – in switching over to Rogers, you will receive less service and pay a higher price. We know this, so in order to

shut you up, we will offer you discounts on things for the first year knowing that you will eventually tire of complaining and pay us the higher price for less service.

**Message:** We are not going to come out and pick your Aurora Cable “rented” modem from you, you need to deliver that to us. While you are delivering that to us, why don’t you take all this crap you are going to need to operate the Rogers system thereby saving us another trip to your place to install stuff.

**Message:** We are very proud of our digital boxes. They render your VCR completely useless if you want to record a show while watching another. However, if you want to record the show you are watching, you can use your VCR. No, we cannot explain to you why you would want to record a show you were watching – maybe you were in wash-

room for a part and missed it? We understand that there may be times you want to record a show off of another station and we have a solution. Buy 5 extra cables (probably \$8 each), an AB switch, and a splitter and then follow our simple 119-step process for installation and you will be able to record off of another station while you are watching a different one. However, we have another solution for you. Simply pay us \$15/month for our Personal Recorder and you can throw out your “bought and paid for” VCR so you can pay us \$15 every single month forever!!!!

**Message:** Is there anything else we can help you with, Mr. Brown?

**Message back to Rogers:** This is a family paper so I can’t deliver my message here.

Frank Brown  
Aurora

More woes with Rogers

To the editor,

Further to the letter in last week’s Auroran with problems about the switch from Aurora Cable Internet to Rogers’ Internet, the person to contact at the Rogers’ (formerly-Aurora Cable) Aurora office is Dora Nicoletti—her email is

Dora.Nicoletti@rci.rogers.com.

She is very helpful in problem matters and seems to be the only problem solver at our Rogers’ office.

Perhaps the only one in the entire Rogers organization.

Also, the office has kept the same phone number and

address in Aurora.

I know there will be a flood of problems with the Internet switch.

I had to switch to Bell, as did some neighbours.

I had to do the same with the TVs due to improper cabling.

Bell solved that problem with a simple, intelligent

solution and now I have a cheaper service with far more channels and no more pixilating whatever.

All they did was wire the house the way the original cables had to be wired to houses before they were built with cables installed inside the walls.

Also, to my knowledge, the CRTC likes to hear about problems.

After all, they get paid for this, or so I have been told.

There is also a “hidden” fee for licencing that Rogers does not disclose until they send the first invoice.

My invoice was for more than \$130 dated two days after I had cancelled the service by a hand delivered letter.

Ms Nicoletti advised me today, that they had received the letter.

They say it is a one-time fee. I believe that is against Provincial Statute Law.

Perhaps our local MPP could look into this? After next week, of course.

Earle Lepofsky  
Aurora

Complaints for Telecommunications Services (CCTS).

I have received a reply from them asking for more information.

The CCTS is an independent agency with a mandate to receive, facilitate the resolution of, and, if necessary, resolve eligible consumer and small business complaints relating to certain retail telecommunications services.

There are several ways to contact them: online at <http://ccts-cprst.ca/ots/cf/ExistingComplaintForm.do?locale=en>, by email at [complaints@ccts-cprst.ca](mailto:complaints@ccts-cprst.ca) or by calling 1-888-221-1687, or by fax at 1-877-782-2924, or by mail at: CCTS, P.O. Box 81088, Ottawa, ON, K1P 1B1

I suppose what is most frustrating with Rogers is that their employees are not adequately trained and are not at all empowered to make any decisions or adjustments.

G. Wilhelm  
Aurora

Reader is frustrated with Rogers’ service

To the editor,

My experience with Rogers mirrors that of B. Zwarych of Oak Ridges (Letters to the Editor June 9). However, my experience has been even more frustrating in that I also had my phone service with Aurora Cable.

I have sent a letter to the CEO of Rogers a month ago to which I have yet to receive a reply.

At the same time I sent basically the same letter to the Commissioner for

This reader loved Hugo Kroon’s letter

To the editor,

Great letter from Hugo Kroon in last week’s Auroran.

Mr. Kroon seems to have a good grasp of almost everyone in Aurora.

I appreciate the fact that he knows that I cannot stay up that late, nor do I want to, to listen or watch this council.

There are much better programs on television like the shopping channel, repeats of Street Legal and even regular commercials.

It is great to know that the mayor has a grasp of all of the wild animals coming into town but not a grasp of this council.

It is also great to know that the mayor was there leading the charge to get the bear, perhaps she thought that it might have been her favourite councillor in disguise.

What a coup that would have been.

On a serious note, I would like to know when the mayor will offer a public apology to Councillor Evelyn Buck for

allowing the attack on the councillor by Sher St Kitts.

The mayor has the responsibility to control any speaker at the microphone especially one who does not live in Aurora.

People can say what they want about Councillor Buck but she still deserves the respect of all council during a council meeting.

It is the least that should happen.

Nigel Kean  
Aurora

Aurora resident becomes St. John Serving Member

To the editor,

I’d like to congratulate Aurora resident Scott Ryckman on recently becoming a Serving Member in the Order of St. John.

There are only five national orders in the Canadian Honours System: The Order of Canada, The Order of Military Merit, The Order of Merit of the Police Force, The Royal Victorian Order and The Order of St. John.

Scott and his wife attended

ceremonies in Kingston on June 6, 2009 and was presented with his medal by His Honour, The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor and Vice-Prior of St. John.

Her Majesty the Queen, Sovereign Head of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem gives sanction for admission and promotion of individuals in the Order.

Scott received this honour because of the great work he has done in the past 10 years

volunteering with the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program visiting seniors in a retirement home, evaluating new dogs for the Therapy Dog Program, volunteering at special events, teaching children in the Dog Bite Prevention Program and being a great volunteer.

Congratulations and thank you, Scott.

Vivian Hould  
St. John Ambulance  
Therapy Dog Coordinator



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Magna to Donate \$50,000 to 10 Community Groups In Lieu of 2009 Hoedown

Magna International Inc. recently announced that it will donate \$50,000 to ten local charities and community groups in lieu of hosting the 2009 Hoedown.

The Hoedown started out as a backyard BBQ fundraiser at the Stronach family farm and has raised more than \$4 million for local community groups during its history. The annual event typically attracts more than 350 volunteers and raises money for up to 15 different community groups each year.

In place of the annual fundraiser, Magna will donate a total of \$50,000 to ten local charities and community groups that have partnered with Neighbourhood Network, a Magna For Community initiative that provides professional resources and services to not-for-profit organizations and matches volunteers from Newmarket and Aurora with local charities and community groups.

Charities and community groups interested in applying to become recipients of a \$5,000 donation are encouraged to partner with Neighbourhood Network by visiting their website to learn more: [www.neighbourhoodnetwork.org](http://www.neighbourhoodnetwork.org)

Magna will announce the ten charitable groups that will each receive \$5,000 as part of the Neighbourhood Network Community Funding program in late summer.

*Magna wishes to thank you for your understanding and continued support, and looks forward to continuing the Hoedown tradition in the years ahead.*



Letters to the Editor

# Medieval Times event a success

To the editor,

On June 17th of this year, instead of going on a traditional Medieval Times field trip the Grade 4 classes at Wells Street Public School held their own Medieval Banquet with great success.

Weeks prior to the Medieval Banquet the families of the students held a bake sale to raise funds for

this extraordinary event.

The event, which was held outside, was a full day of fun and educational activities.

Thanks to Mother Nature, the rain held out until the end of the day and all of the children and parents had a wonderful time.

The children learned about and participated in a variety of medieval activities.

There were catapulting competitions, jousting, sword practices, shield decorating and weaving just to name a few.

Thanks to some of the very talented and creative families and grandparents of the children, four full sized catapults were built for the competitions and full wooden shields were made for each child to take home.

They even enjoyed an

introduction to the art of the Bo Staff.

Thanks to the generous contributions of Mike and Joan Watson from Watson's Family Karate School, all of the children not only benefited from learning various Bo techniques, but they also had their own Bo Staff, practice swords and equipment for this special class.

Of course, the Medieval

Banquet would not be a complete success without traditional fair.

The Grade 4s enjoyed a warm lunch which was catered and served by their volunteer moms.

They enjoyed roasted chicken, potatoes, corn on the cob and other tasty treats.

The school secretary, Mrs. Virtue, pitched in and made a beautiful chocolate

castle cake for their dessert which the children just devoured.

Wells Street Public School's staff, volunteers, and community once again came together to make this event an outstanding example of what it means to actively support the development of the students.

Odette Irwin  
Aurora

## OARA rep says thanks for support

To the editor,

On behalf of the Olde Aurora Ratepayers Association, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank and appreciate our neighbours, friends and community.

Back in January, 2009, the closing of Wells Street Public School was dis-

cussed at an OARA meeting.

At that time we, as a group, decided to poll our neighbourhood to find out if our community would like us to support the "CAWS" to keep WSPS open.

We soon discovered that an overwhelming majority of our neighbours wanted us to take such action. Since that

time our community has pulled together in a way that I have not seen in the 10 years I have lived here.

Friends and family working toward one common goal - to preserve the small town culture that Aurora is known for today and will hopefully be known for in the years to come.

This past Monday we cel-

ebrated our Aurora in a parade of friendship and hope as we walked from the Town Park to Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School.

I was so proud to stand there with my friends, neighbours, and community - as one by one they presented to the trustees the value of small town culture and the importance of maintaining it.

Thank you. I love living here.

"The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom." ~Isaac Asimov

Kate Kelly  
Olde Aurora  
Ratepayers  
Association

## March for school draws hundreds

From page 1

That was the most expensive of three suggested options.

Another option, in the \$5 million range, would basically fix the school. And \$8 million to basically gut it.

Trustees listened for two hours as about 24 people spoke passionately about how Wells is an integral part of Aurora's education history and a safe place for kids to walk to school. Most had children who had attended Wells or were wanting to.

"Just tell us what we need to do to save our Wells...It's a unique school, we need to find a unique solution," said organizer Beverly Norton. "You need to think outside the box."

Since speakers were supposed to confine themselves to three minutes each - three got up and declared they would give their time to Kate Revington who then spoke for almost 15 minutes about the value of Wells to the community.

She noted how parents were impressive, constant volunteers at the school raising thousands of dollars, helping teachers, organizing the library, forming reading clubs and helping with field trips.

She admonished the school board staff for its report to keep Wells closed.

"As stakeholders, we object to the lack of respect with which board staff has treated our community," she said, "and find it wanting with its carefully calculated numbers and convenient projections, it confuses effects with causes, its view is narrow and shortsighted, ours is not."

Later, Kate's 17-year-old son, Robert, told trustees they need to consider parts of the report that call for Wells to be earthquake proof since Aurora is not on a fault line.

He also brought some levity to the meeting by inquiring if it should be made volacano proof as well. On a more serious note he said the school board's own mandate could easily be fulfilled if it considered its own \$5 million option since it met the Ministry of Educations' for-

mula to fix vs. rebuild rule.

Jane Reeves of CAWS (Community Action for Wells Street) also questioned reports from the school board staff.


She quoted last week's edition of The Auroran in which seismic, building expert, Andy Godschalk accused the staff of fear mongering regarding the condition of Wells.

"As a committee, I think we have the right to request an independent jury to provide a more objective view of the current state of the school,"

she said. "I would think as a democratic society we should have that right to have an objective peer review done. This is a huge issue, it's not just about Aurora, and I think that as a board, this is your chance to shine."

She sought answers for the next meeting on July 6th.

There's one more meeting after that on September 14th before the trustees are due to decide the fate of Wells on September 24th.



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Aurora Chamber of Commerce



### THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2009 COCKTAIL RECEPTION

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22 Church Street, Aurora  
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
\$20 Members, \$30 Guests  
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*On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of  
the Aurora Chamber of Commerce,  
we would like to thank all those who have  
helped make the past year's events so successful -  
the sponsors, businesses and individuals who have  
donated their time, expertise, money or products.*

Look for our fall Calendar of Events in our  
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# This Month's Business Features



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# Schools get cut rate for artificial turf use

A staff report presented to Aurora's General Committee last week recommended reducing the fees charged to schools for the artificial turf field at Sheppard's Bush by 50 per cent from Monday to Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

This was based on a request from representatives of various schools to General

Committee last April, who said that the current fees of \$110 per hour were too high for their budgets.

It was noted in the report that this time of the day is a quiet period for the field, with it unused for much of that period.

Even at the reduced rate, additional use would mean that revenues to the town

shouldn't be negatively affected, and may even increase.

Staff members were also recommending that discussions take place with the York Region District School Board and York Catholic District School Board regarding shared use of their facilities, and that a report be brought back to council.

But the proposed reduc-

tion in fees concerned Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who worried that the town would be giving up something without getting anything in return.

As well, she felt there would be additional wear and tear on the fields.

Staff members said the

increased use should have no negative deterioration on the fields and that reducing the fees would be a good faith gesture on the part of the town to kick off discussions with the school boards.

It was also confirmed that should council decide, upon reviewing the staff report later

this year, that the town would not benefit from sharing facilities with the schools, it can always re-establish the current artificial turf field rental rates.

On that note, the motion was approved.

It's expected the motion will be ratified by council this week.

**LOIS BROWN**

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



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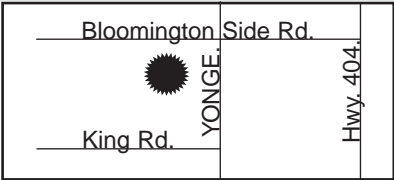


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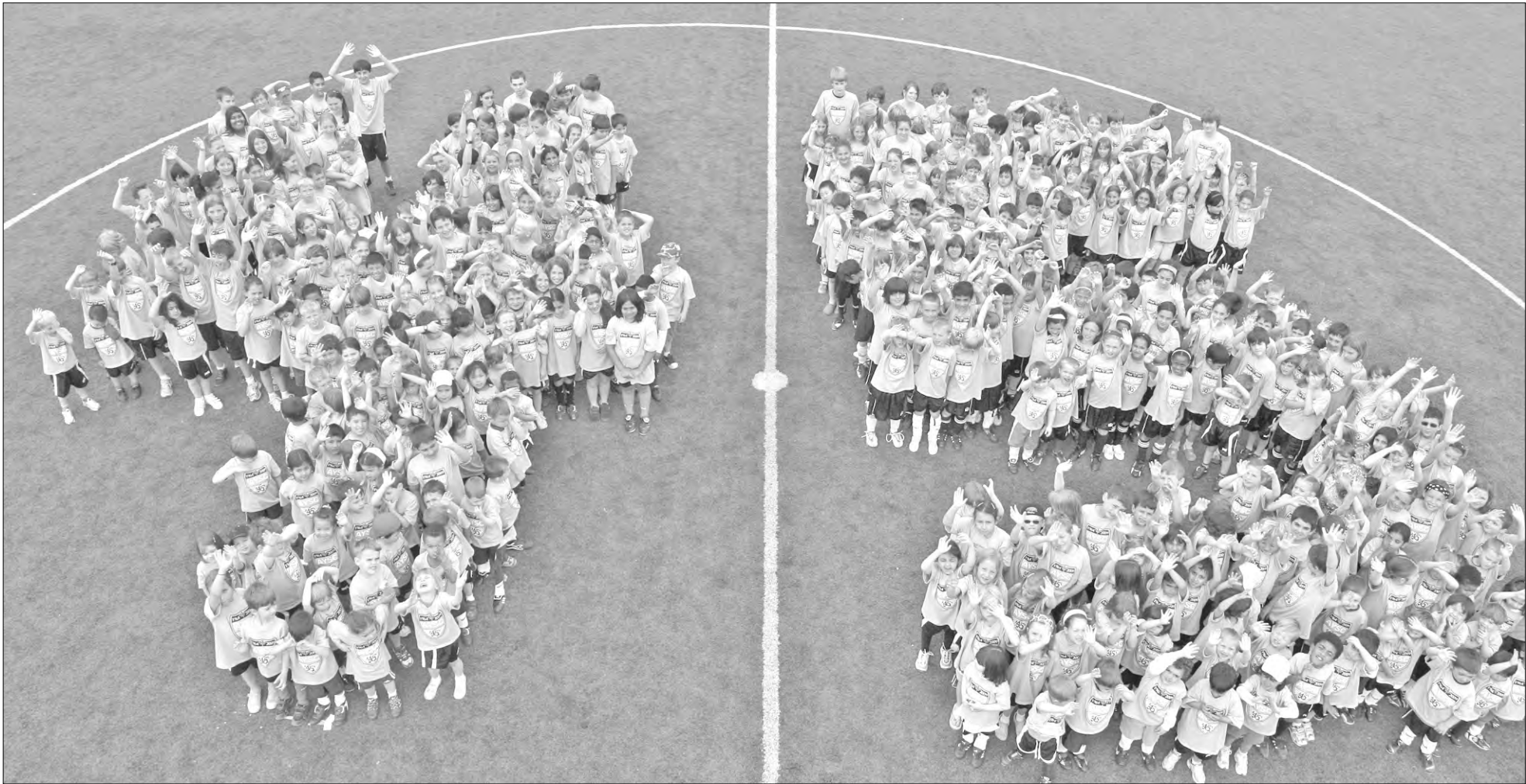
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More than 300 young soccer-playing children gathered last week to form the number “45”, marking the 45th anniversary of the Aurora Youth Soccer Club. Celebrations will take place this Saturday, June 27, in the form of a festival.

# Trustee wants Wells to stay open

By MARLA LEWIS

“I think I speak for all of us when I say there’s not a single one who would like to see Wells lost to the community,” said Nancy Elgie, a trustee from Georgina, who was at the Aurora meeting last week.

However, Trustee for Aurora and King Township, Gord Kerr, told The Auroran he doesn’t want to take a stand until all the facts are in, and hopes his fellow trustees keep an open mind.

Regarding the recent accusations that safety reports and re-building costs on Wells have been exaggerated, Ms Elgie said “we’ll be looking into that and discussing what we can do.”

Engineering consultant, Andy Godschalk of Aurora, is considered an expert in retro-fitting heritage buildings.

He said it would be illegal in some places to submit the kind of reports like the ones on Wells without detailed plans.

Ms Elgie said if the

Ministry of Education offered the money needed to preserve heritage schools, then that’s what school boards would be doing.

“The Ministry did put aside \$700 million a few years ago to fix schools, but that money’s gone,” she said.

Boards of Education are now funded strictly on a per pupil basis - so small schools tend to get hit with closures more often.

Ms Elgie said the annual budget in York Region tops \$1 billion to look after 192 schools. “However, 90 per cent of that goes to teacher’s salaries”.

“I’m all for community schools – but we may have to rob Peter to pay Paul. But I do think it’s very sad to see your neighbourhood school closed,” she said.

There have been comments from parents who complain that Aurora is moving east to Highway 404.

“But you can’t blame the school board for that, she said. “We don’t do the zoning, nor did we move the town’s civic offices east towards Walmart.”

The trustee was also a member of ARC (Accommodation Review Committee) that spent seven months, looking

deeply into the value of Wells school from a student and community perspective.

ARC voted to keep Wells open.

The elected representative from Georgina

abstained from voting because trustees will vote on Wells’ fate September 24th.

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Through the **New Agency Development Fund (NADF)**, York Region is assisting in the development of new and emerging community agencies to provide services to York Region residents.

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**The deadline for proposals is:**  
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## Aurora Seniors Duplicate Bridge

**Monday, June 15:** N/S - Mary Oglanby and Frank Lablans; Lucille Sequeira and Judy Salmon; Barbara Wittmer and Anne White. E/W - Don Newman and Murray Sinclair; Pat Leeson and Mary McClellon; Brenda Smith and Carol Gordon.



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Legion column

# Aurora man was part of Operation Varsity

**By IAN SWEET**  
Operation Varsity was the biggest and most successful airborne operation ever and an Aurora resident was part of it.

Its purpose was to land 14,000 men of the British 6th and American 17th Airborne divisions on the German held East bank of the River Rhine, on an area five to ten miles wide and five miles deep.

The task was to suppress German artillery and small arms fire, which would have opposed 21st Army Group's crossing of the river, which was a quarter of a mile wide at that point.

The British part of the Operation used a total of 392 Horsa gliders and 48 larger Hamilcar gliders with many of the Horsa gliders being flown by Royal Air Force pilots attached to the Army's Glider Pilot Regiment.

Each glider was given the task of landing right on top of its specific enemy objective. In total, more than 1,000 gliders were used in the combined British, Canadian and American operation and were escorted by 1,000 allied fighter aircraft.

The Glider Pilot Regiment (GPR) had suffered 90 per cent casualties at the battle of Arnhem the previous September.

At this stage of the war, there was too little time to train new Army pilots yet there was a surplus of RAF pilots and so to rectify the GPR's shortage some

1,500 from the RAF's reserve pool volunteered (or were volunteered) to retrain from bombers to gliders.

Once on the ground the British glider pilots were active combatants trained in a range of weapons, so once attached to the GPR, the RAF's pilots received small-arms instruction and field training. Many of these were very experienced pilots from rank of Sergeant Pilot to Squadron Leader. Army pilots were selected from very tough and skillful soldiers before being trained as pilots by the Royal Air Force.

The RAF pilots drafted into the Regiment had to be turned into tough fighting soldiers very quickly which must have been a very unpleasant experience for them but they learned fast enough. One RAF pilot no doubt spoke for many when he said that the prospect of crossing bayonets with a Nazi panzer grenadier "most wonderfully concentrates the mind".

One of these RAF pilots "volunteered" to fly gliders was Aurora's Sgt. Vic Buckingham.

He joined the RAF in 1943 as a Sergeant Pilot and was sent to Canada to learn how to fly as part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP).

This massive buildup boasted trainees from the UK, Canada, Australia, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Rhodesia, South Africa

along with the United States and had literally turned rural Canada into one vast air-field.

While training with No. 18 Service Flying Training School (No. 18 SFTS) in Gimli, Manitoba, using the Avro Anson, Vic met his future wife Solvig.

They were married Sept. 9, 1944, but in October, 1944, Vic returned to England with Solvig following in January 1945. Upon his return to the UK, Vic was informed that the RAF had all the bomber pilots it needed and now he was going to learn how to fly a glider!

One of the airlanding unit commanders, Lieutenant Colonel David Ward, remarked of the gliders "you got a plywood box, wobbling behind a Dakota - tugged by a piece of string. When you arrived where you were going, you pulled the release, and your plywood box was left to fly down to the ground. But if there was anyone down there shooting at you, you couldn't do anything whatsoever about it. You couldn't duck...you couldn't go sideways...you just had to go straight on...a lot of them crashed. It's surprising how well you could crash a glider and get out...as long as you didn't have a jeep and gun inside. But if you stopped, certainly the jeep and gun would just keep going, straight out of the craft, trundling happily down into the battlefield."

Luckily for Buckingham, his jeep stayed put during the landing of his Horsa

glider. The GPR delivered the airlanding elements of 6th Airborne Division (British and Canadian) in 'tactical' (as opposed to mass) landings in the locality of Hamminkeln, approximately six miles north of the 1,500 foot-wide Rhine at Wesel. The airborne landing took only 63 minutes to complete, across six Landing Zones (LZs) and was part of the largest single-day glider lift of the War.

Despite the weather being good with little cloud cover and excellent visibility, the drop and landing zones were hidden under a thick layer of smoke which effectively hid all navigation points and obliterated the outlines of fields.

The British glider release had been planned for an altitude of 2,500 feet but because of overrunning by serials further back in the air column, some gliders were released as high as 3,500 feet. Regrettably, the long, slow descent from such a high altitude made the frail wood and canvas gliders especially vulnerable to German flak.

Of the 416 British gliders making the assault, 300 were damaged, many severely with 32 destroyed with all onboard and 100 GPR pilots became casualties in the first few minutes of the landings.

The smoke-obscured and chaotic landings meant that fighting in the still smoke-covered fields was confused, with airborne

troopers and glider pilots struggling to find other members of their units. Much of the immediate fighting was conducted by scratch units which could well have come as a particular shock to some of the combat-inexperienced glider pilots attached from the RAF.

As night fell, the troops dug in to hold their positions before successfully linking up with the advancing infantry the next morning.

Their part in the operation done, some 500 men of the GPR then escorted 2,500 prisoners back to the Rhine, where they were

turned over to the Military Police. The pilots then crossed back over the river to where a camp had been set up with hot food and showers.

The Glider Pilot Regiment was awarded the Battle Honour "Rhine" for its part in this operation.

After the War, Vic and his wife immigrated to Canada in 1957 and they settled in Aurora, where he pursued a career as an Analytical Chemist for CIL.

The Buckinghams have been active members of the Fred Tilston VC, Branch 385 of the Royal Canadian Legion in Aurora ever since.

## Aurora Minor Ball Association

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DG Law Office 31, Summers & Smith 21.  
Aurora Home Hardware 18, Canadian Springs 13.  
Canadian Springs 21, McDonald's 20

### MOSQUITO

Restorer's Group 5, Aspen Ridge 4  
Dr. Mark Weeden 9, Kwik Kopy 2  
Kwik Kopy 15, Dr. Orschel's 10  
Jenmark Digital 6, Restorer's Group 6  
Dr. Orschel's 15, Aspen Ridge 13  
Dr. Weeden 9, Kwik Kopy 5

### PEEWEE REP

Aurora 6, Toronto Playgrounds 4  
Aurora Jays 14, North Toronto 11

### BANTAM HOUSE LEAGUE

Rotary Club 13, Aspen Ridge 9  
Gabby's 13, Restorer's Group 4  
Rotary Club 15, Gabby's 4  
Aspen Ridge 8, Restorer's Group 7

Gabby's 12, Aspen Ridge Homes 4  
Restorer's Group 9, Rotary Club 8

### AURORA JAYS BANTAM

Georgina 6, Aurora 0

### JAYS MAJOR BANTAM

Aurora 16, Richmond Hill 1  
Aurora 18, Georgina 12  
Aurora 12, Richmond Hill 2

### JAYS MINOR MIDGET

Aurora 7, Newmarket 5

### JUNIOR SCORES

Rowan Floors 8, Aurora 4  
Georgina 7, Aurora 2.  
Bradford 9, Aurora 2  
Georgina 13, Aurora 2  
Aurora 7, Mr. Rooter 6  
Aurora 13, Bradford 10

### MIDGET SCORES

Barrie 20, Aurora 12  
Uxbridge 8, Aurora 7

# Flying club plans open house

**From page 1**  
in the early 1970s.

From its beginnings flying aircraft in the parking lot of what is now No Frills, growth in town has resulted in several relocations in an effort to find more flying space.

Since 2004, the AMAC has been operating from land leased from the Town of Aurora at 15059 Leslie Street, just south of Wellington Street East.

During the summer season (May to September) flight instruction sessions for students are held Wednesday evenings, with other training taking place on the weekend.

Once members have earned their wings, and can fly and control an airplane on their own, you can see them out almost any day of the week.

In the winter an indoor venue is found, so that lessons and practice can take place all year long. Monthly membership meetings are also held through the winter.

There are currently more than 130 members in the club, ranging in age from 8 to 85.

"This hobby bridges this entire age gap", according to club President Max Perez.

"You can see an older member teaching a youngster to fly, or see a youngster teaching an older person to fly. Age is no barrier to friendship in this club."

Members range from former pilots to folks interested in construction, electronics and aeronautics.

In some cases, the members build their own planes from kits, while others buy them off the shelf. Basic model airplanes, including the engine, radio and airplane, start at about \$300.

There is an extensive

training program for new flyers to earn their wings, which includes not just the fundamentals of flight, but safety both in the air and on the ground.

Despite the extensive training normally required, beginners will still get a hand at flying this Sunday with the assistance of experienced club members.

Activities take place at the Leslie Street field between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Further details on the "Come Fly With Us" open house are available on the

club's website [www.auro-ramodelaircraft.com](http://www.auro-ramodelaircraft.com), or by calling Max Perez at 416-899-6291, or Brad Egan at 905-715-6128.

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## Doors open 2009

# Mosley Street house on the tour

By MICHAEL SEAMAN

The third article in the Doors Open series features the Grimshaw House, located at 15 Mosley Street, one of Aurora's designated heritage landmarks, and an interesting local example of neoclassical architecture.

This year's Doors Open Aurora festival takes place Saturday, August 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Aurora is rich in historic architecture.

Although a relatively small community, there are many exceptional examples of styles and types of buildings that can be found in Town - Georgian, Gothic Revival, Edwardian, Arts and Crafts/Bungalow are among them.

Hillary House, for example, is recognized as one of the best examples of a Gothic Revival Style home in Canada.

While the diversity of architecture is largely tied to evolving trends in architecture - the differences in styles also point to significant moments of prosperity in the Town's history when a number of houses were built during a relatively short period.

For example, in many cases, the the Edwardian

The prevalent architectural styles during that time was Georgian and Neoclassical and the prominent form was two storey with a three-bay facade.

Given the speed at which Aurora would have grown in the aftermath of the arrival of the railway it is certainly possible that the need to get houses built - outweighed the need for architectural experimentation and as a result a number of two-storey, Georgian/Neoclassical homes with three-bay facades were built during this period.

The Georgian style was brought to Upper Canada by the United Empire Loyalists.

It had originated in Britain during the reigns of the first three King Georges (1714-1820) and was a variation on the Palladian style which was known for its balance and minimal detailing.

Simplicity, symmetry, and solidity were the elements to be strived for.

The Upper Canadian at this time wanted a sturdy house that reflected his simple dignity.

The practicality and beauty of the Georgian Style and its lighter, more ornamented variant - Neo-Classical served the early settlers well, and as a result was built for more than 70 years.

Some of the examples of Georgian and Neo-Classical in Aurora include "Castle Doan" built in the early 1800s and Doan Hall (built 1855), both of which were on Yonge Street and are now lost.

The Tailor's House (1862), Henry Machell House (1861) and John Field House (1861-62) located on Wellington Street, still exist.

One of the most accessible examples of an early Aurora Neo-Classical House is the Hughes-Grimshaw House, located on Mosley Street and this is its story.

Built circa 1857, the house is one of the first homes built on the original village survey, which was established by John Mosley immediately after the arrival



Entrance to Grimshaw House

of the railway in 1853.

Like many early Aurora houses, the Hughes-Grimshaw House was built of wood.

Elements of the Neo-classical style that can still be seen include the symmetrical form and returned eaves.

The most prominent feature of the house is the distinctive doorway with side-lights and a blind transom.

The house passed through a number of owners in its history. The origi-

nal owner was William Clark Hughes, a farmer in King Township who rented the home out.

Other names of owners and occupants in the early history of the home included Thomas Gaviller, Jospeh Fleury, Weddon Playter and Josephine Holladay.

In 1906, the property was sold to Thomas Grimshaw, the brother of Herbert Grimshaw who ran a bakery on Yonge Street.

According to local

accounts at that time, Grimshaw made a number of renovations to the house such as upgrades to the foundation and changes to the windows to a two over two pane division, replacing the multi-pane variety that would have been used in 1857 and can still be seen on other local examples of the style.

The Grimshaws lived in the house through the 1950s.

Over the years, apart from a change from narrow four-inch siding to wider siding around 1980, the interior and exterior of the house remained largely intact.

As a result, when current owner Paula Bell purchased the house in 2005 she fell in love with the historical charm and character that are evident throughout.

When she acquired the property Ms Bell did so with the intention of adapting the building for use as a home décor store.

In the building's new use as "Bluetiful Living", the adaptation undertaken by Paula Bell is particularly complementary to the building's historic residential character.

Ms Bell came up with the idea to feature home décor products in a particular room that would typically have been seen in that room.

Items for the kitchen, for example, are featured in the kitchen.

Although Bluetiful Living is normally open to the public as a retail store throughout the week, it is also going to be a feature site on Doors Open Aurora, Saturday, August 15.

On that day special displays about the history of the house and the Georgian and Neo-Classical styles in Aurora will be seen by visitors as they tour through this tangible reminder of the first wave of urban expansion in Aurora.

The Hughes-Grimshaw house is on the Town of Aurora's register of properties of Cultural Heritage Value or interest.

In 2007 it was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act for its historical and design value and received one of the Town's new metal heritage designation plaques to commemorate this achievement.



and Arts and Crafts styles can be traced to the emergence of the shoe industry in Aurora in the early 20th Century, while the Cape Cod style Victory House form emerged during the years of prosperity that followed the end of the Second World War.

The first major wave of urban development in Aurora occurred following the arrival of Ontario's first railway, the Ontario Simcoe and Huron in 1853.



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An Aurora woman, Sylvia Neal, won the Senior Star title Thursday at the Aurora Legion. A member of the Aurora Seniors' Centre Evergreen Choir and the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church choir, Sylvia receives her award fom Kathleen Kennedy of the Barton Retirement Residence. Barton's, Park Place Manor in Aurora and Aurora Resthaven, presented the event on behalf of Chartwell Senior Housing's National Appreciation of Seniors' Day. Judging the event were John Lemme of Newmarket, former Aurora mayor Tim Jones and Aurora's Marquee Productions owner Sheryl Thomas. There were 13 contestants in the afternoon event that was emceed by Aurora's Steve Hinder.

Photos by Ron Stevenson



## Senior Scape

Belinda's Barbecue Party, sponsored by Neighbourhood Network, invites you Thursday, June 25th, between noon and 1.30 p.m., to come with friends to the park area adjacent to the Aurora Seniors' Association (ASA), and get your share of hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings plus dessert and coffee or tea.

Tickets are \$10 each and should be purchased in advance.

This fun event is normally very well attended with plenty of games that seniors can play, and it also provides a great opportunity to bring a camera and record the stunts normally reserved seniors perform when they let their hair down.

And the event is funded fully by Belinda with all proceeds going to the ASA.

The steady flow of income to the ASA throughout the year generated by a variety of performances and entertainments, all play a role in keeping the ASA finances manageable and healthy.

The ASA presented "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" last week to an excellent and appreciative audience. This was the second presentation with one more presentation scheduled for elementary schoolchildren.

Countless residents and not just seniors appreciate a live performance, and this one, which was presented by a cast of whom six had no prior acting experience, still succeeded in entertaining an audience composed mostly of seniors, very well.

Dr. Jekyll, played by Tom Webster, a late addition to the cast no less, captured the essence of the Jekyll/Hyde part nicely and received his share of positive laughter from an audience who appeared to grasp that the transition from Dr. Jekyll to Mr. Hyde required comedic skill and concentrated effort.

And Diane Ament who played the fishmonger turned in a capable performance.

And in spite of a few miscues, the cast worked away at this comedy and were visibly appreciative when the audience responded approvingly with laughter, while the young Kate Jones who was quite at home as an actress in her character as the granddaughter, played her part very nicely.

## Belinda barbecue

By BRIAN WARBURTON

A tribute is offered to Judy Buchanan for her direction of the play, which is well deserved.

The Canada Day Parade plans for the ASA float are well underway, and this year the theme will be based on Canadian Heritage.

Canadian culture is rich in its diversity of origins lending opportunity to decorate the ASA float as our float designers see fit.

The diversity of costumes appropriate to the occasion affords the ASA members taking part, a wonderful choice of costume from which to choose.

Whatever our members of the float wear, let us get out on the street and let them see that we are proud of who we all are. Let us raise our voices leaving no doubt of our appreciation of their part in the parade.

The parade takes place Wednesday, July 1st, travelling south on Yonge Street from Orchard Heights Drive to the Cenotaph, a place of reverence and home of the War Memorial at Peace Park south of Henderson.

Last year the Parade found a wonderful life force which produced an outpouring of Canadian elation and fine spirit for what is for some a birthplace while for others, a home of choice.

This year more of the same is expected and patriotic fervour will stamp its mark on all in attendance.

Recently, the computer club hosted its last general meeting before summer, with a presentation by Andrew Walker on the internet program, Facebook.

My view is that Facebook is probably for a younger generation to a large degree, but regardless the presentation opened my eyes to what would have appealed to me in my youth.

To access Facebook, which is free, you must sign up and then login and the program then allows information to be posted concerning personal life.

Friends may read your text and view graphics you may post, posting similar information for all to view, thus maintaining what could be a wide connection with friends.

Many close friends and others from a wider circle, would certainly be lost as lives pursue opportunities, whenever and wherever they appear.

In a younger age, this exchange of information would be important, but elders seem less inclined to post their personal business for all to read.

I feel that it would probably be difficult to maintain too wide or great a circle of friends through a lifetime; the time comes to let go of the past, to some degree, and to move on.

The program was interesting and the information is important, well researched and educational.



The 13 contestants in the Senior Star competition held last week at the Aurora Legion lined up for this shot. We don't know who they are (except that the winner Sylvia Neal of Aurora is sixth from the left, and the person at the far right is event emcee Steve Hinder, also from Aurora). Others on the stage include Robert Crilly, Heather D'Angela, Jim Edwards, Alvin Hache, Ellwood Ibbotson, Elinor Kaye, Glen Langford, Neil Pemberton, William Reid, Bud Switzer, Ed Tower and Josefina Vares. Most of the competitors chose to sing a song for the three judges, although one played the piano and another played the valve trombone. The winner, and two runners-up, will have their performances submitted for the finals at Toronto's Royal York Hotel sometime in the fall.

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## STEPHENSON, HAROLD (STEVIE)

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Helene

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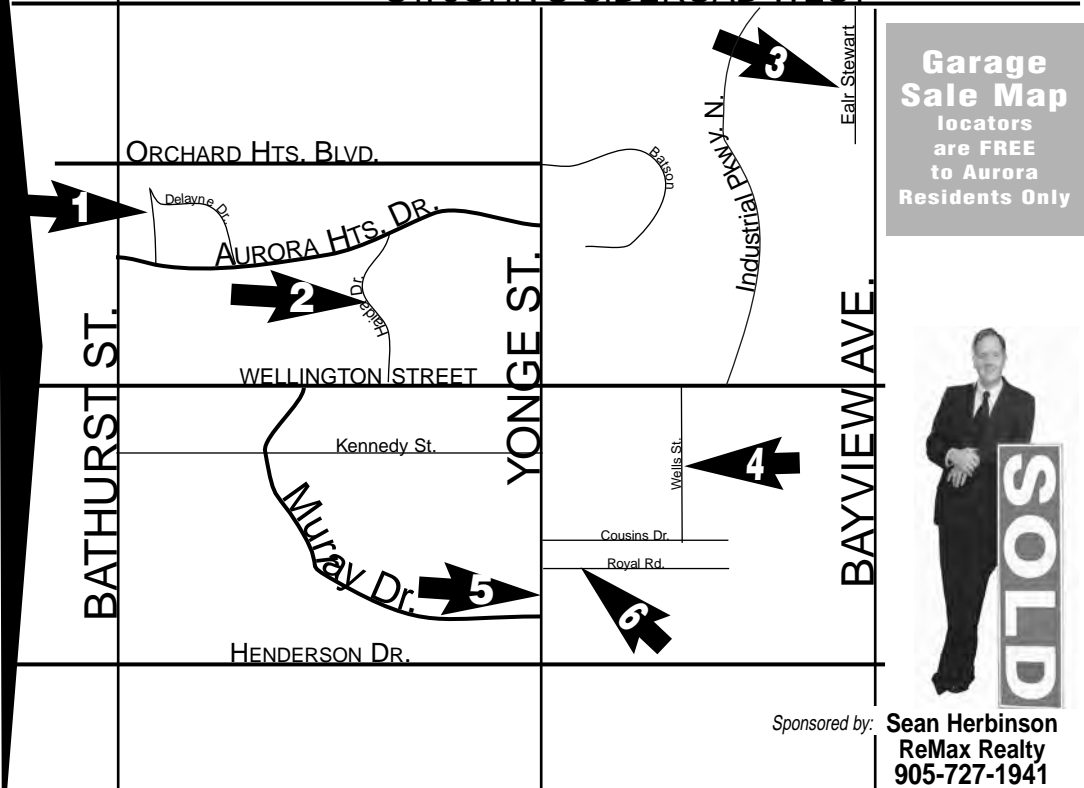
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# COMING EVENTS

From page 1

## 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.

\*\*\*\*

Seniors' Advisory Group inaugural meeting begins at 10 a.m. at the Aurora Seniors' Centre; 5 Municipal Drive. Special guests include Frank Klees, MPP; Lois Brown, MP; and Senator Marjorie LeBreton.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 25

Fourth annual Belinda's Barbecue Party, sponsored by Neighbourhood Network, at the Seniors' Centre, beginning at noon. Tickets are \$10 per person, and all proceeds go to the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

## 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.

## MONDAY, JULY 6

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

## 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.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

Doors Open Aurora, 2009, takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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## A busy schedule for Minor Peewees

The Minor Peewee Aurora Jays had a busy couple of weeks playing six games.

Game 1 was a back and forth battle which saw Wexford edge out a close 9-7 victory.

Pitching for Aurora was Mathew Niece, Jack Pecora and Aaron Hauck with support in the outfield from Michael Dilosa, Alessandro Bitondo, Roni Davelman and Anton Kalinin.

But the Jays bounced back with a 6-4 win in Game 2 over home team Georgina on quality pitching from Alexander MacKinnon, Jack Pecora and Kyle Hauck as well as timely hitting and base running by lead off hitter Mathew Leroy, Mitch Albert and Liam Gray.

Ryan Donavan and Jack Mull provided solid fielding support.

The Jays battled hard in their third game of the week against North Toronto #2 but came up short losing 15-4 with strong Aurora pitching performances from Hauck, MacKinnon, Pecora and Bitondo.

The good performance by catching duo of Donavan and Albert as well as Jack Mull in the outfield wasn't enough as the Jays lost 13-0 to Georgina in Game 4 but rebounded with a convincing Game 5 win over East York 12-2 when Kalinin made his first pitching performance and Hauck executed the Jays first phantom throw pick off at third to thwart an East York comeback attempt.

In Game 6, the Jays extended their winning streak with a 10-6 win over rival Newmarket on stellar pitching performances from Hauck, Pecora and Mathew Niece.

Solid defense by Gray, Leroy and Davelman combined with Dilosa beating out a tag at home plate to score the go ahead run to keep the Jays there for good.

Also of note was the quick footed performance of bat boy Tony Davelman to keep the games moving.

Next up for the Jays is Richmond Hill.

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## 4:00 - 5:30pm: SPONSOR and VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION event

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- Prize giveaways.
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## 6:30pm: OFFICIAL 45<sup>th</sup> KICK-OFF

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- **Red Line Sports Productions** – Video set up and information
- **Silpada** – Sterling silver jewellery sale
- **Newmarket Ringette Club** – Information Booth
- **Mr. Softly/Aurora Lions Club/AYSC BBQ** – For food and refreshments
- **U15 Girls Team 2** – Raffle table fundraiser
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