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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 9 No. 38 905-727-3300 auroran.com FREE Week of July 21, 2009

Reports still confuse future of Wells school

By MARLA LEWIS
Exclusive to The Auroran

"We should look at another cost consultant", Norm Grey-Noble told The Auroran during an exclusive interview last week.

He's part of IBI group which did the feasibility study on Wells.

"I thought the (school) board was doing a peer review requested at the June 15th meeting".

That's when the public told trustees there was something wrong with the

Wells reports.

Jane Reeves of CAWS (Community Action for Wells Street) made a formal request to the trustees for a peer review.

She referred to an article in The Auroran quoting a seismic-building expert.

Andy Godschalk had accused the school board of fear mongering by making Wells sound worse than it is.

But her request has been ignored by the trustees and summarily rejected by the school board.

"It is the staff's opinion that a peer review is unnecessary and that the seismic risk was properly assessed," the board said.

It said the engineer "R.J. Burnside assessed the seismic risk according tothe Ontario Building Code."

But the code does not apply, according to a 37-year veteran of the OBC.

"The code is not retroactive," said John Gryffyn."If you are going to repair a beam at Wells St – and there are 100 of them – basically only the one you repair has to meet code."

Grey-Noble also claims that Wells has to be wheel-chair accessible by 2011.

Gryffyn said there's nothing in the code that says that, either.

Mayor Phyllis Morris is also questioning reports from the school board and plans to refute them at the last meeting on Wells - September 14 before the trustees vote on the 24th.

As far as the costs are concerned, Grey-Noble said under the present economic climate, building costs are down some 10 to 15 percent.

"We did one project that was quoted at \$27 million that came in at \$22 million," he said.

That's a huge savings especially when the trustees have been told they are looking at \$10-million to renew the

Please see page 13



ERIC SMITH

Aurora resident, Eric Smith dies

As she left Thompson's Funeral Home Sunday afternoon, a woman commented, there's another Aurora boy gone.

Lifetime Aurora resident Eric Smith died at Eagle Terrace, a Newmarket

senior centre facility, early Thursday morning.

Eric was 81, and had, it was believed, suffered another stroke.

Eric had been hospitalized earlier

Please see page 3

Klees denies seeking Aurora mayor's post

Member of the Provincial Parliament for the riding of Newmarket-Aurora Frank Klees denied Saturday he has any intentions of seeking the Aurora mayor's job in the next municipal election.

"There's no truth in them bones,"

Klees told The Auroran. He was heartily laughing at the time.

The rumour started recently when Klees finished second in his bid to become leader of the Progressive Conservative party.

"He doesn't want to be a small fish

in a big pond anymore," The Auroran was told. "He may go for the Aurora mayor's position."

The MPP said he met with new Progressive Conservative leader Tim Hudak last week.

Please see page 3

Briefly

Visit a lake

Aurora doesn't have its own lake. Newmarket does.

So if you want to enjoy water, and Aurora's Tannery Creek is not your idea of fun, you might consider joining the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce for a joint Chamber Night at the Theatre Thursday, July 30th. You'll see a performance of Romeo and Juliet, presented by the Resurgence Theatre Company at the lake. Special group rate tickets are \$37 including dinner or \$22 for performance only. Contact the Resurgence box office directly for tickets at 905-953-2838, or visit www.resurgence.ca.

Meanwhile, in Sharon

Aurora's best known historian John McIntyre is the curator of the famous Sharon Temple, located on Leslie Street, just north of Newmarket.

The national historic site, like Aurora's Hillary House, will present Family Sundays which began July 19 and continues July 26, August 9, and August 16, from 1 to 3 p.m.

John invites you and your family to enjoy a Sunday afternoon picnicking on the tranquil grounds of the Temple, visiting the site at your leisure and learning more about one of Canada's architectural gems and the people who built it.

Sharon Temple, which took seven years to build, is a lasting and majestic testament to the values and beliefs of the Children of Peace and their founder, David Willson.

The Temple is located near the corner of Leslie Street and Mount Albert Sideroad, in the centre of the historic community of Sharon.

Each afternoon promises different themes, stories, crafts and old fashioned fun for the whole family.

This Sunday, for example, you can make your own crafts from other cultures and learn more about the Children of Peace through a display of rarely seen artifacts especially selected from the Temple's collections.

Admission to this series of Family Sunday is \$10 per family.

For more information, call 905-478-2389 or visit www.sharon temple.ca.



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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

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, Victoria Street, at 7.30 p.m.

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night at the
Please see page 14

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It was quite a gathering Saturday night at the Kennedy Street home of Kam Sadiq. Among the celebrities to show up were Member of Parliament Lois Brown and York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge. Saturday's event was held for S.M. Muneer, of Pakistan, who celebrates his birthday once each month to make up the total of 99 birth dates - not birthdays - in the hopes of claiming a Guinness world record of 100. Chief La Barge presented a "Deeds Speak" plaque to Mr. Muneer, who was accompanied by his wife. Many of the visitors were Pakistan Trade Exhibitors. Mr. Muneer is Chairman of the Federaton of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Pakistan.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Klees says no to mayor's post

From page 1
"I believe there is a role for me in the party," he said.
"The last thing I would ever consider doing," Klees said, "is to put this riding into a by-election."
Klees, 58, was first elected

to the legislature in 1995, defeating former Liberal leadership candidate Charles Beer.
He was re-elected in 1999, and on June 17, 1999 joined the cabinet of Premier Mike Harris as Chief Government Whip, Deputy House Leader and Minister without Portfolio.

In 2000, Klees was preparing to run as a candidate for the leadership of the new Canadian Alliance, but withdrew because one of his key financial backers insisted on a last-minute deal to make a significant funding commitment conditional on Klees throwing his support to one of the other candidates on the second ballot.

Klees stepped down from his ministerial position on July 30, 2001 for what he described as personal reasons.

After returning to the backbenches for a year, he was reappointed to cabinet in 2002 as Minister of Tourism under Harris' successor, Ernie Eves.
In 2003, he became Minister of Transportation, and served in that position until the defeat of the Eves government in the October 2003 election.

Klees was re-elected in 2003 (one of 24 Progressive Conservatives elected) and was a candidate in the 2004

Ontario Progressive Conservative leadership election which took place on September 18, 2004.

Other candidates in the race were Whitby-Ajax MPP Jim Flaherty and former Rogers Communications CEO John Tory. Tory won.

Klees was eliminated from the contest after placing third on the first ballot.

Klees was born in Landau, West Germany. At the age of five, Klees came with his family to Canada by boat and settled in Leamington.

He first ran for the Ontario legislature in the 1975 provincial election in a traditionally Liberal riding, narrowly losing to Liberal Remo Mancini in the southwestern riding of Essex South.

He lost to Mancini a second time in the 1977 election, and did not run as a candidate again until 1995. He remained active as a party member.

Eric Smith Dies

From page 1
after suffering a stroke and had been moved to Eagle Terrace only two weeks earlier.
He had owned property near the corner of Kennedy and George Streets, before selling the house and moving to a condominium on Yonge Street with his son Wayne.

He was the husband of the late Marjory, a contentious volunteer for the Aurora Minor Hockey Association, who died in 1988.

Eric was the father of Paul, Mike, Debbie, Wayne, Gail and Donald.

He was grandfather of Eric, Richard, Sydney, Erica, Marcy, Kendra, Brianne, Sarah, Morgan, Taylor, Ryan, Pam, Lindsey, Matt, Blake, Alex, and Josh and great-grandfather of Rachael, Steven, and Dougie.

"He was all about family," son Donald, owner of Backyard Pool and Spas, said.

Son Michael, who once

played hockey for the Junior B Aurora Tigers, was also on hand for the Sunday afternoon visitation at Thompson's.

Currently, he lives near Barrie.
Hundreds of people showed up during the three-hour visitation that was followed Monday afternoon by a memorial service at the Aurora Legion.

Eric, who was a founding member of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, is survived by his sister Doris.

He was the longest member, was once president of the Rotary Club of Aurora, and had won the coveted Paul Harris Award.

He had also been named Aurora's Citizen of the Year in 1981, and at one time owned Eric Smith Paint and Wallpaper, located at the corner of Yonge and Tyler Streets.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Aurora Rotary Club would be appreciated by the family.

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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

It was hard work at Rotary annual golf tournament

There are two things I have learned about running a golf tournament:

- 1. It's hard work.
- 2. People are very generous.

In the past, the Aurora Rotary Club has held an annual golf tournament as an afternoon social event for its members at various courses. All were successful.

However, this year we decided to make it a fundraiser as well. Because we raise money in Aurora, we should spend it here, I believed.

It was obvious, with the calibre of golf courses in the area (Magna was completely out of the question) that the tournament had to go beyond an afternoon out for Rotarians.

So, I put a harness on my friend Nigel Kean, and we went to work to organize a fundraiser.

We made some money for the Aurora Rotary Club - I don't know how much yet, because there are still some outstanding bills to pay.

First, Nigel and I agreed the game should be played at Westview Golf Club, since the late Keith Nisbet, owner of Westview and one time mayor of Aurora, was a friend, as were the members of his family, who keep the golf club alive.

Westview's biggest challenge is its lack of dining facilities. So, we arranged a gorgeous dinner (three selections) at the Graystone Restaurant in Aurora. Delicious doesn't begin to describe it.

We offered 18 holes of golf, a power cart, lunch, dinner and a wealth of prizes for only \$150.

A good deal most of the time, but in these days of economic downturn, a golf game in the middle of the week is the first to get cut from the wanna-do list.

We had hoped for 18 foursomes. We got 12. Still 48 golfers was a blessing.

And the weather last Tuesday was remarkable. Even the golf pros were talking about it, since this has not been a summer to remember when it comes to talking weather.

There were so many prizes to go around everyone got something, so we decided to hold a Silent Auction, in addition to selling passports and holding a 50-50 draw.

Imagine having a prize that allowed you to go to Las Vegas for two days, airfare included. Thank you, Ab Cox.

We got other prizes from former Aurora mayor Tim Jones, former Aurora councillors Nigel Kean and Grace Marsh, MPP Frank Klees, MP Lois Brown, and Rotary supporters Sean Herbinson, a real estate agent for ReMax, Brian North of Ellis Studio, Vic Priestly of Priestly Demolition, Chris Sorley of Sorley and Still Solicitors, Frank Mete of Aurora Custom Mouldings and Don Smith, from Backyard Pool and Spa.

We got prizes from Barron's, Watson's, Rogers, Hallmark, Reebok, Shoppers Drug Mart, Whitehots, A Plus Accounting, Baldwin's, Timberlane and Diane Hoving.

We got dinners from St. Louis Bar and Grill, a basket of goodies from Neighbourhood Network, gifts from Magna, gift certificates from Foodland, the Superstore and the Graystone's; gifts from York Regional Police and bike helmets from Rec Cycle 'n Sports.

We got those tasty fraktals from Ingrid Kulbach, and soccer balls and tools from Aurora Home Hardware.

Now, I've probably forgotten someone, and for that, I apologize in advance.

How did I golf? Well, that would fill another column.

ERIC SMITH

I was shocked to get the phone call Thursday morning telling me of the death of Eric Smith.

Like Dick Illingworth, he was one of those people who you believed would live forever.

Eric was a staple around Aurora long before I got here 40 years ago, and was the oldest member of the Aurora Rotary Club

To his family, my deepest sympathies and condolences.

Aurora just won't be the same without him.



This old photograph shows Catherine Avenue about the year 1900 about the time when Lester B. Pearson was living there. Pearson, who lived in Aurora during his childhood and attended Church Street School, grew up to be one of Canada's Prime Ministers.

Letter to the Editor

Obtaining figures you're entitled to is a tough job

To the editor,

I gave a lot of thought to presentation of my quest to obtain figures for legal expenditures during this term of office.

Then I decided I'm not Agatha Christie, this is not Miss Marple's latest adventure and there is no crime of murder.

The question of how much money has been spent on lawyers during this term is still outstanding. People have been asking for weeks now. I called the solicitor on June 22nd and requested documentation of all bills paid for legal services in 2007/2008/2009.

He indicated he would provide it but asked would I mind if he spoke to Mr. Garbe about it. I said "No"

Why would I? It was not a secret request for information that I did not have a right to receive.

I did indicate however, I would mind if I didn't...receive it, that is.

A couple of days went by. I received a call indicating the information was going to be provided but would take a couple of days to put together.

"Was that acceptable?" I was asked.

"It was", I responded.

Still more days passed. I called again and left a messages.

In response, I received an e-mail from the solicitor informing me of the denial of my request.

A resolution was cited. Passed unanimously by council on June 25th "That the Director of Finance and the Town Solicitor prepare a report to Council which indicates on an issue by issue basis, the totals of the actual year to date and of projected expenditures for the legal services line under the CAO's office".

One might imagine the

resolution was coincidence coming as it did three days after my request for the record of expenditures for the past 30 months.

But the substance bore no relevance to my request or anything else for that matter.

Nevertheless, it was the reason given by the solicitor for a refusal to provide information which is a matter of public record.

Following that, an e-mail was received from Councillor Al Wilson, who had moved the resolution seconded by Councillor Evelina MacEachern.

The councillor states his opinion: "request by phone is not only excessive work I would imagine but should be an issue brought to council rather than this way especially since we have a motion currently underway by staff to provide information."

It goes on: "If the councillor wanted more I don't understand why it wasn't debated at the table at the time? Nevertheless I believe the staff response is more than appropriate until we meet again."

In summary:

1. I asked the town solicitor for information which is a matter of public record.

2. A conversation was held with Mr. Garbe, the Town's Chief Administrative Officer.

3. Three days later an Interim Operating Budget Forecast was provided to council by the Town's Director of Finance.

4. A discussion launched by Councillor Wilson, enjoined by Councillor MacEachern, resulted in an amending resolution, directing the treasurer to prepare a report on "totals of the actual year to date and of the projected expenditures for legal services

line under the CAO's office".

5. From whence came the solicitor's refusal to provide information that any resident of the town is entitled to access.

6. In a letter, signed by six members of council, sent to me on the Mayor's stationery, a paragraph reads by way of an informal complaint: "Our town staff is hardworking, committed and conscientious in carrying out their responsibilities and duties on behalf of the Town. Their efforts are supported and greatly

appreciated by council. Your publications and statements appear to have unjustifiably and unnecessarily disparaged and maligned Town staff and must cease without delay."

It is my understanding this letter was written for the group by a lawyer paid for out of town resources.

Now.... on this matter, you know everything I know. Form your own conclusion.

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Canada's worst handyman?

In 2001 PBS aired a television series entitled, "Cracking the code of life", which "chronicled the race to capture one of the biggest prizes in scientific history: the complete letter-by-letter sequence of genetic information that defines human life -- the human genome."

The television program ends with the two participants in the race, the publicly funded Human Genome Project and the private company Celera Genomics, both completing a rough draft of the sequence.

The Human Genome Project gives us the ability, for the first time, to read nature's complete genetic blueprint for building a human being.

What was especially fascinating about the show was the way they made the science understandable - even for me.

Mapping the human genome may lead to scientific discoveries or un-locking the mysteries surrounding many of man's major diseases.

The founder of Celera Genomics, Dr. Craig Venter, in a newspaper article that appeared a little while ago, said that his own DNA has now been mapped. He now knows that he may have a disposition to certain cancers or diseases.

But all these things pale in comparison to the real issue that the Human Genome Project should have been trying to solve; some men's inability to repair things.

Okay, okay - by "some men's inability", I really mean "my" inability.

And this incapability is divided into two distinct areas; not being able to repair things around the house and second, the failure to put together kids' toys.

On the first score, if I am not the worst handyman in Canada, then without a doubt I am pretty well close to the

top of the pyramid!

Only one example is needed to back this claim.

Years ago, I wanted to repair the surface of the 35-year old wood deck at the back of my house.

The deck seemed structurally sound, but the paint was peeling off and the colour had become severely weathered over the years.

So, on that July day, I took matters into my own hands.

I went to a local rental company and rented a huge sander for the day.

The sander weighed about 80 pounds and it took a great deal of effort to move it across the wood panels.

The temperature that day zoomed up to about 100 degrees F. and there I was trying to remove this paint from three decades old wood. What was I thinking?

I apologize again to all those neighbours who heard me cursing a blue streak throughout that particular day.

I was not able to completely remove all of the paint from the porch, but "what the heck", I thought to myself, "the new paint will cover this anyway."

So, I start applying the paint, in a very thick fashion (as I don't believe in multiple coats - one thick coat should be enough), and wouldn't you know it, before long I had, both literally and figuratively, painted myself into a corner.

Again, I said a few choice words to myself. I then tried to climb over the railing, but slipped and fell onto the freshly painted deck, ruining the shorts and shirt that I had on.

The look on my wife's face when she saw me was, as they say, "priceless".

As a result of not getting all the original paint off the deck and of slopping the new coat on too thick, the paint peeled

very quickly.

I learned my lesson and hired someone to install a whole new deck.

The other problem that I have is actually assembling gifts and/or children's toys.

A couple of weekends ago, our son bought a small, Styrofoam F-18 Hornet remote control airplane model.

There were maybe five small parts to this, and I had a devil of a time putting it together.

That's even after I actually looked at the instructions.

It got worse in the afternoon.

As you may recall that Saturday afternoon, it was very sunny, but also very windy.

My son decides to bring out of storage the kite that he was given for Christmas.

The kite is also a model of a F-18 Hornet - the picture on the package looked great.

Ryan and I go over to the school park and I open the package. An hour later, with sweat coming out of my pores, and smoke out of my ears, I knock on my brother-in-law's door and enquire if he is busy.

When he says, "not really", I say "great" and thrust the remnants of the kite into his hand and ask for his assistance.

He nods knowingly and proceeds to put together the kite within 10 minutes or so.

I wonder if PBS is interested in doing a documentary on my DNA?

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

Letters to the Editor

He reviews mayor's inaugural address

To the editor,

I would like to take the time to review quotes that were made three years ago.

- "I look forward working together with Council and residents to make Aurora a better place to live".

- "The word most often used during the last election was teamwork".

- Excitement in the air - "A new attitude".

- "It is imperative that everyone, myself and council work together".

- "Together we can foster an open and accountable government, where leadership is IMPARTIAL and allows ideas to be discussed".

- "As mayor I promise to be fair".

These are just a few lines taken from Mayor Phyllis Morris' inaugural speech.

Well since that speech this mayor has spent more than \$200,000.00 in legal fees to ensure that this is an open and accountable government.

Most of this money was spent to allow a non-elected person to sit on an elect-

ed council when the majority of residents wanted a by-election.

Since that speech, a councillor has resigned. A first in Aurora under these circumstances.

A non-resident of Aurora was allowed to take the podium at a council meeting to lambaste a councillor with no reaction from the fair mayor to stop the

embarrassment of the whole council.

There are more closed door meetings with this council than any other. So much for open and accountable.

Now, a councillor, with whom the mayor has had run ins with is up before the integrity committee with more legal costs to follow.

I do not remember any other mayor nor council who has spent more money on legal fees than this one.

And why? To prove a point? That is not a good reason.

Why should we, the residents of Aurora, have to continue to pay legal bills for this fair, open and trans-

parent council?

To Mayor Morris, now is the time to reread your inaugural address and find out what went wrong. Why all these legal fees?

Why does a councillor have to quit?

Why do we need an integrity officer for the first time ever?

Why so many closed door meetings?

Why did you allow a non-resident to lambaste one of your councillors that you promised to work together with?

Too many whys and not enough answers.

Nigel Kean
Aurora

Why traffic lights, reader wonders

To the editor,

In last week's column in The Auroran, Ron Wallace makes several valid points with regard to

the traffic lights at Edward Street and Engelhard Drive, however, the one point he failed to address is, why are they there in the first place?

I wonder what criterium or circumstance(s) could suddenly warrant traffic lights when a stop sign has sufficed since who knows when?

Is there anybody out there in Auroraland with an intelligent response?

Stewart Ivol
Aurora

Letters to the Editor

Elder abuse continues in spite of government

To the editor,

While recent advertising by the federal government highlights the issue of elder abuse in the community, one cannot believe that government takes the matter of elder abuse seriously enough when insti-

tutional elder abuse is not included in such a campaign.

The advertisement airing on television says "it's time to face the reality of elder abuse".

The 'reality' is, abusive actions against the elderly are not community-only

occurrences.

Institutional abuse has been a serious systemic issue for decades and it still is not being publicly addressed in a straightforward manner by any level of government.

For years there have been countless media sto-

ries published and television reports aired about the tragic deaths, unnecessary pain and enormous suffering of institutionalized residents in provincially regulated long-term facilities and there has been increasing numbers of news reports

of charges laid by police in nursing home physical and sexual assault cases.

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care reports cite countless examples of unmet standards and unsafe practices that endanger the lives of residents in many nursing

homes.

Improper administration of medication, restraint issues, care plans not updated, lack of proper infection control and improper storage of food are but just a few.

The systemic issues can't possibly come as any surprise to elected officials or to any authoritative party involved with the institutionalization of individuals in nursing homes.

Institutional elder abuse and neglect is a significant and serious problem which requires strenuous enforcement of the nursing homes legislation not just weak-minded announcements made by the Ministry that they will investigate.

While the Ministry continues to fail to ensure the safety of all residents in long-term facilities, cases of assaults by nursing home employees against vulnerable seniors are reaching the courts.

Recently, a Brampton Court judge handed down a 30-day prison sentence followed by 18 months' probation to a personal support worker for assaulting an 84-year-old Alzheimer's patient in her nursing home bed with the remote (bed) control.

Justice Elliott Allen and the Crown have set the bar where it belongs -- the abuse of residents will not be tolerated and there will be severe consequences for those found responsible for such actions.

Don Oates
Aurora

HST writer "right on" with comment: reader

To the editor,

Re: letter from Jaclyn Soloman, The Auroran, July 14.

This lady is right on with her comments about the HST that the Premier wants to bring in next

July, 2010.

I agree with everything she said.

I have written to both the Premier and the Minister of Finance about this topic.

I asked both why they can't bring in the HST with the same exemptions that presently

exist.

Other than political talk, neither answered my question.

I again asked the same question and got no reply from either

I hope the new leader of the Conservatives takes action on this if he becomes Premier.

They could keep the exemptions in place if they wanted to do so.

The truth is that they see this is as a convenient way to get more cash from us and don't want to keep the exemptions.

The cash bribe they talk about is just

that...bribery with our own money.

I hope that when election time comes around, folks remember this HST being forced on us. Remember the Health Premium!

Reader will charge for device delivery

A copy of this letter has been forwarded to The Auroran. The original was sent to Rogers Communications.

RE: Invoice

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am in receipt of your invoice of July 6, 2009,

having no invoice or due date, for the Motorola HD PVR provided by Aurora Cable Inc.

Please be advised

that upon 24 hours' advance notice you may pick up said device at my home. You will, of course, need to provide

a copy of the unwatched content which I diligently recorded over the course of the year, which is my property - that being the full seventh season of 24 in HD - or provide adequate compensation for same.

You made this content unavailable to me the second I received my new PVR.

Should you wish the device delivered to you, please be advised that I charge \$100 for delivery, plus the same content reimbursement.

Please advise how you would like to proceed.

William Croker
Aurora

Ellen Watson
Aurora

Bring class action against Rogers

To the editor,

We need a class action suit against Rogers.

Rogers bought us as subscribers when they bought

Aurora Cable.

Now they want to re-contract us.

They can't do this. It is impossible to forcibly contract someone.

And contract law is the basis of English Common Law, which is our most civilizing structure.

Where is this foreign Rogers impetus coming from?

Let us insist on on rights, contracts as protected by our common law.

Zena MacKintosh
Aurora

He wants stop signs and speed bumps on Stone Rd.

To the editor,

I am writing this letter regarding the speeding on Stone Road North in Aurora, where

the speed limit means nothing.

It's a complete joke. The Town came and put a speed box on the street.

The only thing it is good for is so people can see how fast they can go.

This road needs stop signs and speed bumps.

Concerned Resident
Aurora

ED. NOTE: The Auroran is aware of the author's identity.

He remembers Ada's cake

To the editor,

Ada Johnson played bridge in a club which

included my mother Frances Lee.

Her son, Dave, used to take me to his home on

Connaught Avenue and several times I was treated to Ada's delicious Angel Food cake.

I often think about that cake. Mmmmmm.

Gordon Lee.
La Salle, Quebec

Aurora Seniors Bridge Results

Monday, July 6: NS: Mary Oglanby and Eileen Watson, Brenda Smith and Carol Gordon; Greta Ogden and Eva Guttman. E/W: Pat Leeson and Mary McClennon; Priscilla Hull and Inger Kamel and Carol Davidson and Elaine Hunter (tie); Suzanne Nunn and

Sirley Laurin.

Monday, July 13: N/S: Barbara Wittmer and Anne White; Frank Lablans and Dennis McFadden; Jodie Bagan and Ed Smereka. E/W: Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin; Mary Oglanby and Joan Rotenberg; Betty Dyson and Zelma Shand.

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Letter to the Editor

She would stop Tiny Township dumpsite

To the editor,

I just wish to begin by saying along with my friend Bernard Dick, "May we all come to understand each and respect every living thing".

Good day to my fellow Aurorans!

It has been some time since I have communicated. I did not apologize publicly for the words I previously wrote as was demanded by a retired peacekeeper. I still have no intentions of apologizing just to let you all know.

I am writing today to alert my community about a serious situation just north of us in Tiny Township, which will eventually seep into Aurora.

The government of the day, municipal, provincial, and federal are sanctioning the contamination of a huge stockpile of water, known as the Alliston Acquirer.

This aquifer is said to supply one of the purest waters in the world! It directly relates with the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The government is currently preparing Dump Site 41 to become a garbage dump.

Their environmental assessment states it will do no damage.

Such an assessment claim is an outright lie, deception, irresponsible, uncaring, illogical, propagated untruth!

This is a crisis situation as they prepare to start dumping mid-August.

Protecting the water is an issue important to our whole nation and our whole world.

It is our right to be informed and so far the public has only received a tiny portion of the issue.

This definitely isn't a case of "nimbyism" as millions upon millions of people worldwide do not have fresh drinking water and countries are drying up, yet Premier Dalton McGuinty and Prime Minister Stephen Harper do not comprehend the vital importance of this resource for the world and the children's future.

Local farmland will also be affected.

Where is their foresight, humanity and common sense?

Where is their obligation to listen to their constituents and not only corporate interests?

There are alternatives. We do not need another landfill site contrary to what Mr. McGuinty says. There exists several landfill sites which are not being used to full capacity and we have the ability to reduce our consumerism.

Corporations must also face responsibilities in their packaging and we can begin to convert to hemp.

Secondly and equally important, this is a native issue as the governments of the day have once again denied the First Nations people of this area their right to be consulted.

Once again another Treaty is breached. Whether we Canadians want to hear this or not, under International Law, this is criminal!

According to International Law, to ignore the Indigenous people of land is seen as illegal.

Know that every state-met politicians make or every silence politicians keep is further indicting themselves.

It's just a matter of time before the truth of Canada's history becomes exposed and they find themselves, as the bullies they are being, behind bars.

Hear the words, Two Row Wampum Belt and Covenant Chain Agreements, the Royal Proclamation of 1763, Conspiracy to Commit Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity and Breach of Peace.

Just so all readers understand, Canadian leaders both past and present have chosen to deny the Indigenous people in Canada their Sovereignty and chose to enforce the Indian Act instead. Canadians and the world have been duped but International Law will prevail as the international community has been watching our

leaders very closely.

I have faith in International Law and Canadians who, once they understand the truth and how our history books have lied, are going to be furious and will wish to seek immediate justice for the aboriginal people in Canada.

The updated events at the "Protest Camp" opposite Dump Site 41 is that farmers, natives and supporters have blocked workers since July 6th from entering the work-site.

In return the Ontario Provincial Police issued an injunction July 16th.

By threatening arrest this is also criminal and a Breach of Peace. The police must in engage in peace talks, not arrests.

I have written Governor General Micaelle Jean to intervene immediately in this situation and engage peace talks.

The automated response said my letter is being processed - 2-3 weeks for reply - so what is one to do?

Starting Tuesday July 21st to Friday July 24th, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Aurora Town Park, I will be hosting an exhibit of Justice and Peace.

I will be displaying my information I've collected as an activist and advocate addressing these and other issues.

I invite all local politicians, businesses, citizens, families, youth, seniors to come visit. You'll see I have a lot to say.

I've also started a group on Facebook called P.O.P.A.....People of Peace Action.

A peaceful resolution to the Site 41 conflict can be reached so we will act in the most loving way for future generations.

To show your support for Stopping Site 41, on Facebook, join "Aboriginal Women Protest Dump Site 41".

Sign the petition started by Danny Beaton and Coalition; Vicki Monague and the Keepers of the Water (Anishinabe Women); Maude Barlow The Council of Canadians; The Green Party of

Canada; Ontario NDP; The Sierra Club; elders from across the continent and many many more.

Search www.stopdumpsite41.ca. Listen to Goldhawk Fights Back on 740AM 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

On July 25, at 1.30 p.m. at Site 41 opposition forces are having a rally to save our water.

Guest speakers include Maude Barlow, Senior Advisor on Water to the United Nations and Council of Canadina Chairperson, Vicki Monague, and Danny Beaton, a Mohawk environmentalist.

Search the website for directions.

An informed public is a wise public, and that can move mountains.

Let us together start making the best possible decisions for future generations.

Our world doesn't have to be this way, full of suffering, pain, conflict, greed, inequalities, war.

We have alternatives; we have choices...but the reality is right now that one either cares about the future of all children or one cares about money. It's that simple.

Love does heal all. To end, I high five you, Dave Heard!

Your commitment and passion of making the community of Aurora a better, more caring place is

beautiful.

I think our town needs a People's Forum real soon.

People need to hear your hopes. Bullyism will be a thing of the past. This is only the beginning.

Oh, like you, Dave and the Wells Street School protectors, I believe; I truly believe!

Heidi Stoeklin
Aurora



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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 been so involved with our events during the past year. Look for our Fall Calendar of Events in our September newsletter and online at www.aurorachamber.on.ca

We look forward to seeing you!
 To register please contact the Chamber at 905-727-7262 or on-line at www.aurorachamber.on.ca

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THE AURORAN SPORTS

Page 10

Week of July 21, 2009

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Aurora Stingers

Under 10 boys soccer team wins 2 tourneys in 2 weeks

In an incredible feat, the 1999 U10 Boys Team 1 won their Fourth Tournament Championship in a row this season by capturing the trophy at Aurora's own Can Am Challenge last week.

Despite finding themselves without the services of any of their three regular goalies on the first day of the tournament, they were able to stave off the opposition until their goalie returned the next day. The depth of the team was apparent as players were called upon to fill in at a variety of positions over the tournament.

The team played undefeated through the tournament, winning in the final game over Whitby A by a score of 6-1.

In a show of team balance, each player on the team, apart from the goalie, scored at least one goal during the five games.

And it was only just the week before that the team brought home the Cup from the prestigious 43rd Robbie International Soccer Tournament in Scarborough.

Despite a gruelling three days

with many injuries, this young team of skilled and enthusiastic boys, showed their resolve, determination and continuous support for each other to come home victorious.

The boys were 2-1-0 in round robin play entering the playoffs, their only loss being to their long time arch-rival, Ajax Madrid.

The team handily beat an extremely tough Ajax Impact 4-0 in the quarterfinals and went on to win a very exciting 1-0 semi-final in overtime against the Mississauga Blue Falcons.

In the final the Stingers met the undefeated Niagara Falls Titans and held on to win by a 2-1 score.

The coaching officials and parents are very proud of this team.

This year has been a pleasant change from last year, where capturing the grand prize had steadfastly eluded the team, often by only a single goal in either the finals or semi-finals.

It has been a very successful year for this team of young athletes, many of whom have been with the team for more than two years.



Kirk McCullough, the owner/operator of Marble Slab Creamery in Aurora, joins Little Brother Nick Chethuon, for a fundraiser at the Aurora store in the town's east end. Several Little Brothers were at the store Friday afternoon making their own ice cream. Proceeds from ice cream sales that day went to the Big

Brothers Big Sisters Auroran photo by David Falconer



Ben, 9, and Emily, 12, Williamson, front row, are off to Easter Seals Merrywood Camp, north of Kingston, this week, courtesy of the Aurora Rotary Club. Rotarian Wendy Browne, top left, and mom Alex, were on hand last week as the Rotary Club held its annual golf tournament at Westview in Aurora. Two years ago, Ben went to the camp, courtesy of the service club, and this year both kids are going.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

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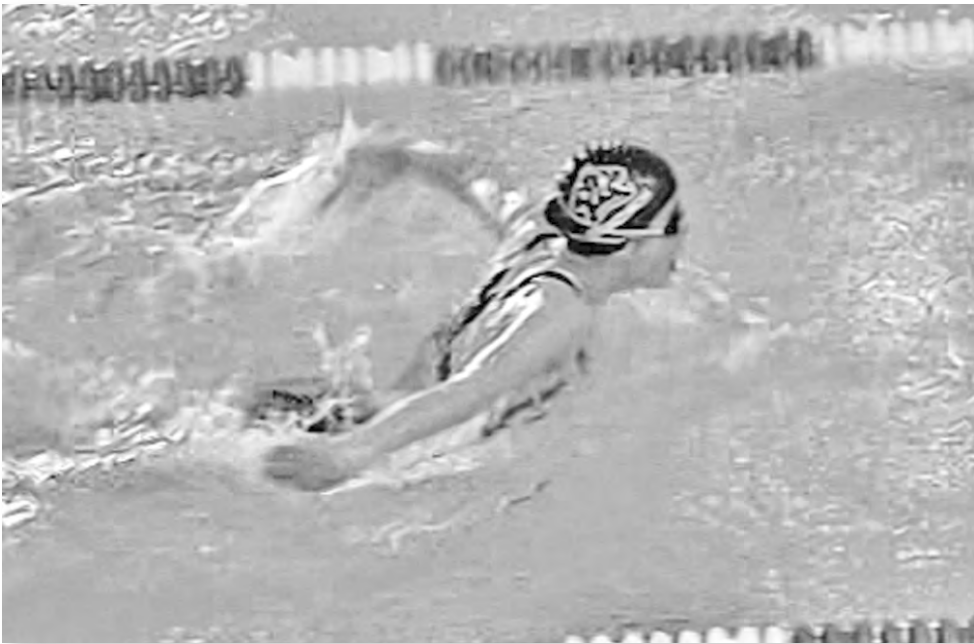
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Samantha Kaczor of Aurora's Ducks swimming group places fourth at Ontario Age Group Long Course Swimming Championships held at the Canada Games Aquatic Centre in London recently. Her time was 1:17.0. Samantha turned 11 years old three weeks ago and was competing for the first time in a much tougher age group. Swimming in a slower heat, Samantha led from the start and dominated her heat with a five-second improvement in her time. She also made substantial improvements in all other events, 200 Individual Medley, 50 and 100 Freestyle. According to her coach "with Sam's work ethic and focus on good stroke technique, she will become a dominant swimmer in this age group before Christmas." Samantha will now take a break and resume her training in September.

Soccer Club welcomes thousands to tournament

The Aurora Youth Soccer Club welcomed more than 100 youth soccer teams from across the province at the 7th annual Aurora CanAm Challenge last weekend. An estimated 4,000 players and team supporters made Aurora their home during the two-day tournament. First time tournament co-directors, Matthew Rosati and Marco Colucci spent several weeks scheduling the 16 divisions, making sure all 200 games get played during the tournament. "Our tournament format

has become a welcomed addition to the regular weekend set-up you see throughout the soccer community," Rosati said. "But the time constraints and special time requests are a real issue that requires some very creative scheduling," added Colucci. "But in the end the players and the parents really enjoy having the Sunday off to relax and enjoy. "Our teams are in for a real treat this year", said Aurora Youth Soccer Club's Executive Director, Lawrence Janit. "Our fields are in great shape, our offi-

cials are all top notch and our volunteers will be making sure everyone has a great time both on and off the field. Combine this with great food and refreshments and a town full of wonderful establishments for our out-of-town guests to visit and you can bet this weekend will be one to remember." Action began at noon Friday with the kick-off of 17 games. York Regional Police were on hand to direct traffic at Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area, where the majority of games took place.

Jays getting ready for Yankee tourney

Pitchers Kyle Hauck and Mathew Niece had good performances in the Aurora Minor Peewee Jays 9-2 loss to Markham last Monday night. Anton Kalinin was batting well until he was sidelined after being hit by a wild Markham pitch. However, the Jays bounced back Wednesday when pitcher Alexander "Irish" MacKinnon brought his "A" game throwing four shutout innings against rival Newmarket. Also pitching were Jack Pecora and Aaron Hauck, who helped squash a late Newmarket rally. Aurora held on to win the game 10-7. Jack Mull, Roni Davelman, Mathew Leroy and Michael Dilosa provided solid fielding support. The game also saw additional excitement

when Alessandro Bitondo, Mitch Albert and Jack Pecora conspired to tag out an unsuspecting Newmarket player at second base as the Jays pitcher faked possession of the ball.

Wexford is next up for the Jays as a final tune up game before the squad makes its way to Cooperstown, New York. The Jays are representing Canada in the 104-team tournament.

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AURORAN WORD SEARCH

by Scott Johnston

Find and circle in the puzzle the words from the list below. Words may run horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forwards or backwards. Letters may be used more than once.

Once you have found all of the words, the remaining uncircled letters will answer the question:

"What invaluable resource will Aurora never replace?"

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T	N	A	V	I	G	A	T	O	R	E	I	C	P
A	L	C	L	T	C	L	R	O	Y	A	M	O	I
B	I	E	I	R	O	R	C	F	H	S	O	S	D
K	S	D	N	A	M	M	O	C	Y	R	R	E	F
C	E	E	E	E	M	N	U	P	R	E	H	N	B
I	N	D	D	L	E	S	N	I	H	G	W	O	O
R	I	I	E	Z	N	O	C	G	U	O	I	C	U
B	A	A	I	M	T	H	I	A	T	R	N	P	Q
W	R	T	U	E	A	O	L	R	V	R	E	E	U
N	I	L	B	R	R	A	U	R	O	R	A	N	E
C	O	K	D	T	Y	O	H	E	G	A	T	S	T
C	S	D	O	O	F	D	R	O	F	F	A	T	S

- ACI

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Former Prime Minister's boyhood home

Pearson residence a highlight of Doors Open

By MICHAEL SEAMAN

This article in the Doors Open series features an Aurora heritage building many consider to be of national heritage significance - the former Methodist Parsonage located at 39 Catherine Avenue. Although it is a house where a number of prominent Aurorans have lived, it is the one who grew up to be Prime Minister - the Rt. Honourable Lester B. Parson, whose life has captivated many.

Now a private home, this modest stucco clad house on Catherine Avenue was from 1900 to 1903 the boyhood home of the Honourable Lester B. Pearson, who was Canada's Prime Minister from 1963-68.

He was born April 23, 1897, in Newtonbrook, Ontario, which was then a small village located around the intersection of Yonge Street and Finch Avenue in Toronto.

He was the second of three sons of Edwin Arthur Pearson, a Methodist (later United Church of Canada) minister and Anne Sarah Bowles.

Edwin Pearson's ministry work took the family to live in many parts of Ontario including Davisville, Toronto, Peterborough, Hamilton, Chatham, and from 1900 to 1903, Aurora was the home to the Pearson family.

During these three years at the dawn of the 20th Century, the Reverend, his wife, Sarah Bowles and their three sons were tenants in the parsonage.

Although not born in Aurora, Pearson recounted later in life that his earliest memories, including the first Christmas he could remember, were in Aurora.

His father, Edwin, was well respected and much liked everywhere he ministered including Aurora.

In his memoir, Lester Pearson remembered most deeply his father's love of games, particularly baseball after prayers on Sunday.

Here, Edwin played for the Aurora Baseball Team and picture of him with the team is proudly held by the Aurora Historical Society as part of its collection.

According to John McIntyre in his book, "Aurora: A History in Pictures", when given a copy of this picture many years later, Lester Pearson recalled how his life-long interest in baseball began when his father started in the Aurora Town Park.

This interest in baseball was commemorated in later years by the naming of the Annual Canadian Baseball Challenge Game between the Expos and the Blue Jays, the Pearson Cup.

Sports and games were particularly interesting for Lester Pearson.

He was also a very good hockey player, eventually earning a blue in ice hockey when he played for the

Oxford University Team in England.

In his memoir he recounted that the thing he enjoyed most about moving to a new house every few years was that there was always a big house with a lawn for games.

One can imagine young six year old Lester Pearson playing catch with his brothers and father in the backyard of 39 Catherine Avenue back in 1903 or perhaps playing road hockey on Spruce Street.

Another milestone which occurred for Pearson in our town was the beginning of his education at the Aurora Public School, later the Church Street School and which is today the Church Street School Cultural Centre.

He was evidently a good student, earning the nickname "Smarty Pants Pearson" for his proficiency in Roman Numerals.

Although Pearson left Aurora with his family at the young age of 6, the community always held a special place in its heart for it was

the place where he spent his childhood.

In February, 1968, Lester Pearson returned to Aurora for a brief but memorable visit to help celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Aurora United Church at which he was the guest of honour. Longtime members of Aurora United Church remember fondly the moment when Lester Pearson, Canada's Prime Minister marched down the aisle at the service to speak from the pulpit that his father had spoken from many years before.

Although he died 37 years ago, for many Auroran's, Lester Pearson is still referred to fondly as Aurora's best known "hometown boy".

There are certainly few who lived more extraordinary lives than he.

So what did this remarkable Auroran do with his life after he left Aurora in 1903?

He attended both the University of Toronto and Oxford University.

When the First World War broke out, he volunteered for service as a Medical Orderly

with the University of Toronto Hospital Unit, serving in Egypt and Greece.

In 1917 he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps where he served as a flying officer.

It was as a pilot that he received the nickname of "Mike", given to him by a flight instructor who felt that "Lester" was too mild a name for an airman.

He eventually played an important part in the founding of the United Nations and NATO.

In the late 1940s, Pearson entered politics as a Liberal and served in the government of Louis St. Laurent as Minister of External Affairs.

He was awarded the Nobel Peace in 1957.

In 1958 Pearson was elected leader of the Liberal Party.

Five years later, he led the Liberal Party to a minority

government. Although he never achieved a majority government as Prime Minister, Pearson's government achieved a number of groundbreaking achievements.

During his time as Prime Minister, Pearson's minority government introduced universal health care, student loans, the Canada Pension Plan and most famously the current Canadian Flag.

After having the privilege of leading Canada through the Centennial Celebrations of 1967, Pearson stepped down as Prime Minister, the following year on April 20, 1968.

He died four years later on December 27, 1972.

Doors Open Aurora organizers are pleased to be able to tell story of Aurora's most famous son in 2009 through the theme "Pearson's Aurora".

Thanks to the generosity of the Maxwell family, who have kindly agreed to open their doors to the first floor of their home on August 15th. Aurorans will have the chance to see where Pearson lived.

This well-preserved, L-shaped house was built in 1879 with the influence of the Gothic Revival Style which was popular in the late 1800s.

Other "Pearson's Aurora" sites on Doors Open tour include the Church Street School Cultural Centre, where he attended school and the Aurora Readiness Centre, a symbol of the Cold War of which was a major issue that he had to deal with in his political and diplomatic life.

Doors Open Aurora is scheduled for Saturday, August 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Lester Pearson...



...and his Aurora home

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MARTIN CHAN

Hit Squad returns, student stationed in Aurora location

The Hit Squad has hit the ground running once again.

For the sixth straight year, a crew of invasive species summer students is fanning out across the province to spread awareness about the devastating impact that invasive species are having on the country's natural resources.

One member of the squad, Martin Chan, is stationed in Aurora.

Martin is working with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (O.F.A.H.) and Ontario Streams as an Invasive Species Monitoring Technician, through the O.F.A.H./M.N.R. Invading Species Awareness Program.

His efforts will be focused in the Greater Toronto Area, and he will be visiting aquarium and water garden stores, and will attend fishing events in the area to share and distribute information about preventing the spread of invasive species.

He will also be monitoring storm water management ponds looking for invasive species that have been released by

the public.

The public is invited to contact Martin Chan or Emily Funnell at 905-713-7399 with questions or concerns, or to obtain information about specific invasive species.

To report a sighting of an invasive species, or request informational materials, call the O.F.A.H. Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711.

"With invasive species, we can all take small steps to make a big difference. My challenge is to raise local awareness of the problems invasive species cause, including the cost of unintentionally introducing new nonnative species into our environment," Martin said. "Exotic garden plants and aquarium species are often beautiful, but they can have a real impact on Ontario's biodiversity when released into the wild."

The O.F.A.H./M.N.R. Invading Species Awareness Program, the largest of its kind in Canada, uses public education and awareness to prevent the introduction of new invasive species, and to stop the spread of those already here.

Aurora student in Sports Fest

After an outstanding performance in the American Junior Nationals all-state high school competition at the University of Illinois, Aurora student Julian Gentles has been invited to participate in the prestigious USA Junior Nationals

International Sports Festival next week.

Julian, the son of Marjorie and Hervey Gentles, is a Grade 12 student at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School on Bloomington in Aurora.

The festival will be played in Champaign,

Illinois, starting next Monday and continuing until the following Monday.

Based in Madison, Wisconsin, the USA Junior Nationals provides one of the top amateur competitions in the United States and offers its program to all athletes who

have a high talent level in basketball and want to develop their skills and techniques through competition.

Julient played at the state level of the Junior Nationals competition in March. It was played in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Mardi Gras adds golf to fundraising list

Mardi Gras golf season is underway in York Region.

The King and Queen will be holding court on Saturday, July 25th at 2 p.m. at King Valley Golf Club - 15675 Dufferin Street, just west of Aurora.

In their formal dress, the King and Queen, who have yet to be announced, along with their royal subjects,

anticipate the appearance of many well-wishers to enjoy their company and support the cause.

With the inaugural golf event just around the corner, the Mardi Gras King and Queen will be inspecting the preparations of the King Valley Golf Club in anticipation of the biggest and best Mardi Gras golf

tournament event of the year!

The Mardi Gras Golf Fundraiser will support the Southlake Hospital Cardiac Care Program.

The tournament has a fundraising goal of \$25,000.

The Mardi Gras golf event will be held Monday, August 31st, at the exclu-

sive King Valley golf course.

Event Founder, John O'Bireck will also be on hand.

For more information call Sandra Humfries at 905-727-1433, e-mail Sandra at shumfries@sympatico.ca or check out the website at www.mardigrasforsouthlake.com

Wells school issue lives

From page 1

building.

Grey-Noble's group suggested three options to fix Wells: \$5 million to basically fix it; \$10.76 million for a complete retrofit; or \$8.8 million to gut it and start over.

Cost consultants A.W. Hooker report the repairs are only around \$3 million plus 35 per cent in contractor mark-ups, contingencies and escalation and \$700,000 in permits and consultant fees.

Godschalk says of the \$1.5 million set aside for earthquake repairs, it has been his experience they can be fixed for half the cost.

He's even offered to help for free - but no one has even thanked him for his offer.

"When you start subtracting \$750,000 here, plus another million in reduced building costs, Wells isn't going to cost that much to fix," he said. "Plus there's at least another \$1 million included in repairs that shouldn't be factored in. That money is being spent on hard costs like a new boiler that should be included in a maintenance budget."

However school board staff is suggesting the \$5 million should really be up to \$11 million.

It wants to add up to \$6 million for repairs the Ministry of Education suggested six years ago.

It neglects to admit it ignored almost \$4 million of those repairs the Ministry said should be done before the

school was even closed.

In addition, some of the repairs are scheduled for 2033 - almost 25 years from now - even though the board wants to include them now.

It is this type of number playing that befuddles trustees and costs communities their precious cornerstones, according to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

It says estimates on renovations can be out by millions of dollars so that trustees decide to destroy instead of preserve.

The Trust says school boards have been known to withhold important information, allow schools to deteriorate so they can declare them unsafe and hire engineers that favour new construction.

Grey-Noble says he's in favour of what he calls architectural taxidermy which would entail gutting Wells.

However many people are hoping to preserve the historic value of Wells interior including its high ceilings, large corridors, windows and doors with tilting wood transoms.

Trustee Nancy Elgie told The Auroran weeks ago that she would personally be looking into whether the reports and costs for Wells are accurate.

School superintendent Ralph Benson also promised at the last meeting that the numbers and reports would be re-checked.

The school board seems determined to close Wells.

It's even disagreeing with

one of its own committees that spent seven months looking into the value of Wells to the community. ARC said keep the school open.

Even the Ministry of Education admits to knowing what's going on.

In a report "Good Places to learn: Renewing Ontario's

Schools" it says: "The reasons for the 'crumbling' of our schools include inadequate maintenance and the lack of timely major repairs and replacements. Eighty-five per cent of the Ontario student population is taught in buildings that need at least one major repair."

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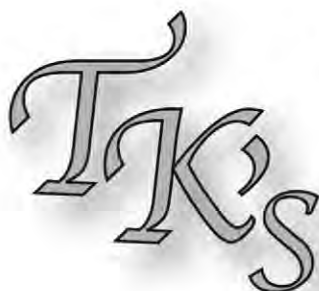
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Senior Scape

Centre provides retirement relief

The gradual approach of seniority accompanied by retirement is a wonder to so many of us after many, many years of often fruitful employment, but commonly with a share of sometimes unremitting toil, trouble and struggle.

Most retirees accept freedom from labour merrily and blend neatly into a less noticeable background of quiet and gracious living.

For some, however, seniority accompanied by retirement is a dire predicament, particularly if money is scarce or no preparation is in place to provide a pleasant approach to the passage of time.

While most people after a lifetime of toil, long for the freedom of retirement, an unfortunate few are bewildered once they retire.

They can find themselves lost and lonely among the multitude of people who continue their lives, constantly working or preoccupied with their families, friends and pastimes.

And, of course, the never ending juggling of income with the expense of living, demands a constant sense of thrift with wants and needs always demanding attention.

The immediate and probably the best remedy is to accept the inevitability of seniority and retirement and seek out those in similar circumstances.

Do not pretend to play the false mind game of not being ready for retirement and seniority.

You have spent your younger days hopefully anticipating a senior period of fulfillment.

Behaving as well as body and mind allow with others in similar circumstances, is a superior way of developing a successful aptitude for many more good years as a senior.

Each and every senior member is an asset to the Aurora Seniors' Association (ASA) and collectively, we each enhance all of our lives immeasurably, and we all benefit accordingly.

Activities are in progress at the association from the 9 a.m. opening until close and it is not possible to find a moment at any time during the open hours, when the seniors centre is completely quiet.

A few members are always between activities and ready to exchange serious conversation or trivial chatter, whatever suits the moment.

Whenever people are drawn into groups, proximity provides the touchstone that prompts conversation.

Casual talk is often vastly informative and social interaction and understanding bloom among the throng of both familiar and unfamiliar faces, all communicating in an informal relaxed manner.

In the environment and atmosphere of the ASA, coherent groups spring up forming a basis from which intermingling with other groups form a social order, in which a multitude of conversations binds people securely in the embrace of friendship.

The developing attachment of accepting others and being accepted by newly found friends in a thriving and distinctive social setting is a powerful and comforting influence.

All of the activities, events and initiatives that occupy the members of the ASA share the common theme of member participation, replacing sitting around endlessly at home, watching whatever television offers.

Enterprising involvement on the other hand immediately offers new connections with a multitude of people all at a similar stage in life, and provides an invigorating and enlivening outlook on life.

Sitting around endlessly suits some, but Fridays at the ASA offers horseshoe tossing outside in the fresh air of the park, while inside a bunch of activities are in progress.

If horseshoe tossing misses the mark, the pool room is open and so is the computer room and so is the wood working shop and Pickle Ball is played on Fridays.

If all that activity or even the thought of it induces a need to sit down, then the ASA offers a nice quiet library where you will be sure to find something good to read.

And if the urge seizes you, you can access a computer in the library and play computer games or express yourself in writing.

For those who find composition attractive, the computers provide powerful word processors that offer dictionaries and a thesaurus.

The ASA will offer instruction for word processing in the fall.

COMING EVENTS

From page 2

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.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society monthly meeting begins at 8 p.m. at the Aurora Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Pkwy N. Topic is "A Thousand and One Garden Ideas" with guest speaker Frank Kershaw followed by flower show. Guests are welcome. Admission is \$2 at the door.

Have you ever wanted to write your own detective story? Local writer, Nancy Hallas, will guide you as you sleuth for good ideas and learn how to write a good detective story at the Aurora Public Library, from 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. Bring a pencil or pen and paper to work on. The fee is \$8 and the course is for children 10 and older.

Concert in the Park features the Tartan Terrors. Event is free but participants are encouraged to bring a donation for the Aurora Food Pantry. Event begins at 7 p.m. in the Town Park.

THURSDAY, JULY 23

Time for Toddlers, ages 14-23 months, at the Aurora Public Library. A bouncing, tickling and singing good time as toddlers are introduced to stories, rhymes and fingerplays. Toddlers must be accompanied by an adult. 9.35 a.m. The fee is free with registration.

SATURDAY, JULY 25

Aurora Historical Society is having another yard



Aurora's Frederick Cooling turned 100 years old last week and has lived on Aurora Heights Drive for more than 10 years. Prior to living in Aurora, Frederick was a miner in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, when he first arrived in Canada. In the early forties, Frederick came to Toronto and held a number of positions as an electrician until his retirement. His family held a party for him Saturday.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

sale, beginning at 8 a.m. All proceeds go to the care and restoration of Hillary House National Historic Site. 15372 Yonge Street, Aurora. For more information call 905-727-8991.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

Concert in the Park features the Fresh Horses, a Tribute to Garth Brooks. Event is free but participants are encouraged to bring a donation for the Aurora Food Pantry. Event begins at 7 p.m. in the Town Park.

THURSDAY, JULY 30

Time for Toddlers, ages 14-23 months, at the Aurora Public Library. A bouncing, tickling and singing good time as toddlers are introduced to stories, rhymes and fingerplays. Toddlers must be accompanied by an adult. 9.35 a.m. The fee is free with registration.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

Concert in the Park features the Toronto Alstar Jazzband. Event is free but participants are encouraged to bring a donation for the Aurora Food Pantry. Event begins at 7 p.m. in the Town Park.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

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

AUGUST 17-21

Hillary House Summer Program for Kids takes place at Hillary House National Historic Site on Yonge Street. For \$15 a day or \$70 for the week, children, ages 6-10, can learn and play during half day programs. Daily themes include: Teddy Bear Picnic, Butterfly Garden, Tea Party, Movie Day, Olympics, and Superhero Day. Pre-registration is required. Call 905-727-8991 to register and for more information.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

Concert in the Park features Benny and The Jets, A Tribute to Elton John. Event is free but participants are encouraged to bring a donation for the Aurora Food Pantry. Event begins at 7 p.m. in the Town Park.

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

Inaugural Mardi Gras Golf Tournament in support of the Southlake Cardiac Care Program takes place at the King Valley Golf Club on Dufferin Street west of Aurora. For more information, visit www.mardigrasforsouthlake.com.



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