











**Newmarket-Aurora**  
Member of Parliament  
Lois Brown serves  
Lorna Rummenie of the  
Aurora Food Pantry dur-  
ing a recent celebrity  
server event at Aurora's  
Boston Pizza outlet. The  
outlet is a sponsor of  
the inaugural Aurora  
Jazz + Festival all day  
long this Saturday at the  
Town Park.

*Auroran photo  
by David Falconer*

## Rogers says yes to live broadcast

For all those political  
junkies who can't wait that  
extra day for their Aurora  
Council fix, Rogers has  
good news.

Council meetings will no  
longer be presented the  
next day, but will be tele-  
vised live.

Following a successful  
test run of this for last  
week's council meeting,  
Rogers will be continuing  
this practice.

But be forewarned that  
you may be up past your  
bedtime.

The most recent meet-  
ing, which started at 7  
p.m., ended well after mid-  
night.

If you miss a broadcast,  
there will be no repeat  
showings later in the week,  
but the meetings will be  
available on-line through  
the Rogers website a few  
days afterwards.

Council meetings are  
usually held alternate  
Tuesdays starting at 7 p.m.

The August schedule  
identifies only one meet-  
ing, tentatively set for  
August 11.

Regular biweekly meet-  
ings will re-commence on  
September 15.

The dates of upcoming  
meetings can be con-  
firmed by checking the  
town's website [www.e-aurora.ca](http://www.e-aurora.ca).

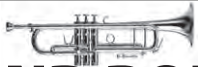


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## Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

# It can be said Ms Flannigan is my friend

It's time to come out of the closet.  
Evelyn Flannigan is a friend of mine. Has been for about 40 years.  
Who?

You would probably know her better as Aurora Councillor Evelyn Buck.

Yes, it's the same person who smacked me with a copy of my own newspaper one night during a committee meeting of Aurora Council a few years ago.

While I was incensed that such a thing had happened, it told me one thing: don't make her mad.

Apparently, I did that night.

We were sitting on opposite sides of the council table and I saw her get up and begin walking toward me. I never, as they say, knew what hit me.

Interestly enough, a competition newspaper reporter called me early the next morning to get my reaction to what had happened.

The competition reporter - or any reporter from competition newspapers for that matter - was not at the meeting.

Someone tipped the newspaper off. I wonder who.

By the next morning, I had cooled down somewhat; decided not to quit being an Aurora Councillor (yes, the thought crossed my mind), and resolved that a long-time friendship with a very intelligent woman would not end because of the incident.

Since I am no longer on council (thankfully, I guess) I have watched with interest as the current edition tries to deal with Evelyn.

It's obvious they can't.

I have remained silent on the issue, because many would call my interference "sour grapes", and maybe it is, but now I think the council has gone too far.

In a quarter-page ad in this week's edition of The Auroran (and I'm sure the competition got it, too) council is attempting to silence the councillor.

I'm not sure they can do that.

I agree with a Letter to the Editor in this week's edition which points out the councillor was elected by the people and if the people don't want her in that seat they can vote her out at the next election, still more than a year away.

While the author believes council is attempting to get rid of Ms Flannigan, I don't get that impression from reading the advertisement.

Several members of council would likely be delighted if Evelyn would simply go away, but, knowing the woman, I don't think that's about to happen.

Evelyn loves a good fight, and from my position, she has forgotten more than most members of the existing council will ever know.

Which, I suppose, is "sour grapes".

### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Got a note in the mail last week from the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. Other members probably got the same thing.

Seems they are still looking for sponsors for their annual Business Achievement Awards night, and while my newspaper might consider such a thing, it doesn't have a whole lot of money, so the quick answer, I guess, is no.

But something else caught my eye, too.

The event is not being held in Aurora, rather it takes place in October at The Country Day School on Dufferin Street in King Township. Last year it was at the Manor, a golf club also located in King Township.

"The Business Achievement Awards event is an important local business tradition that recognizes and celebrates business excellence in Aurora and your generous financial support in your opportunity to give back to the community," the letter seeking my support says.

Okay, hold the event in Aurora and we'll talk.

Country Day School is a member of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and the chamber attempts to support its members as much as it can.

However, it always leaves a bad taste in my mouth, much like Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School going to Newmarket to hold its commencement exercises, which it has done for the last couple of years.



This motley group of students made up the Aurora High School Literary Society Executive in 1926-27. The school, now known as Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, was once located on the site of today's controversial Wells Street Public School, and the above photograph was taken on the front steps of that building. The picture was found in the 1961 edition of the school's yearbook - known as the Atom - and was supplied to the yearbook by Rusty Crysedale.

### Letter to the Editor

# Resident wants sidewalks included in reconstruction

A copy of the following letter and follow-ups was sent to The Auroran.

**Ilmar Simanovskis,  
P. Eng.  
Director of Public Works  
Public Works Department  
Town of Aurora**

Dear Sir,

I have deep concerns regarding the reconstruction of Foreht Crescent, Sioux Gate and Kemano Road.

Today, compared with when I moved to Foreht Crescent in the Spring of 1981, there is considerably more traffic on these streets and what appears to be lesser regard to signs and to speed limits. There are no sidewalks on this street, on Sioux Gate and part of Kemano.

Apparently, the decision has been made and we are now, not going to have any sidewalks, but rather curbs, which we do not have now, and no ditches, which we do have.

Only the original part of Kemano cited in this plan is to have sidewalks.

As I'm sure you are aware, children use these streets as vias to the five schools fed by this community: Devins Drive Public School, Our Lady of Grace Separate School, Aurora Heights Public School, Aurora Senior Public School and Aurora High School.

To get to school, work, the park or to a friend's home all residents have no choice but to use the road as a sidewalk.

My children are now adults and live elsewhere, but I do have grandchildren, who visit and like to go to the park close by to

play.

To get there, we must walk on the road.

During the day, especially early and in the late afternoon, there are many children going and coming to and from school, riding their bicycles, using scooters and skate boards, or out walking their dog.

Adults are also very visible, going to work, or walking the dog and seniors take advantage of the nice weather to exercise a pet or just enjoy a leisurely stroll.

With the disregard to signs, speed limits and carelessness in driving habits, it raises deep concerns for the safety of all persons, but mostly for our children, who do not always use good judgement and are forced to use the road as a sidewalk.

Just this past Thursday evening while having dinner, a large white truck sped by my house with a medium sized car trying to pass it on the 250-foot stretch in front of my house that runs between two curves.

To add to this, there is a small street, Sioux Gate, that intersects Foreht on that section.

There is a stop sign at the junction of Foreht and Sioux Gate, but from observation, it appears nine out of 10 people don't actually stop.

It is my understanding, that the standards of infrastructure for the Town of Aurora for new development, is for every street to at least have a sidewalk on one side of each street within the town limits.

We are not second class citizens and the safety of our families is just as important as for those in other parts of the town.

In my opinion, the standard for all streets should be the same, not just the new sections of town and the older sections that have been fortunate enough to now have sidewalks.

For those who have lived in this neighbourhood since these houses were built and have patiently waited for this promised improvement it must feel like a misguided trust.

For the sake of the safety for the children and our community please reconsider this plan.

**Carol Beaver  
Aurora**

**Ms Beaver,**

Thanks for your e-mail. We understand your concerns that sidewalks provide safer means of access

for pedestrians.

Director of Public Works, Ilmar Simanovskis, will review this matter upon his return from vacation. However, I was thinking what will be the reaction of the residents whose opinion was the basis of the decision for not including sidewalk in the plan, in a letter dated April 01, 2009.

You have mentioned in your letter that every street in new developments is built with one sidewalk at least.

Please be advised that minor streets and cul-de sacs in new developments are generally built without sidewalks in compliance with the Town's parking standards.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

**Please see page 8**

### THE AURORAN

#### "Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper"

Published weekly by The Auroran Publications Inc.  
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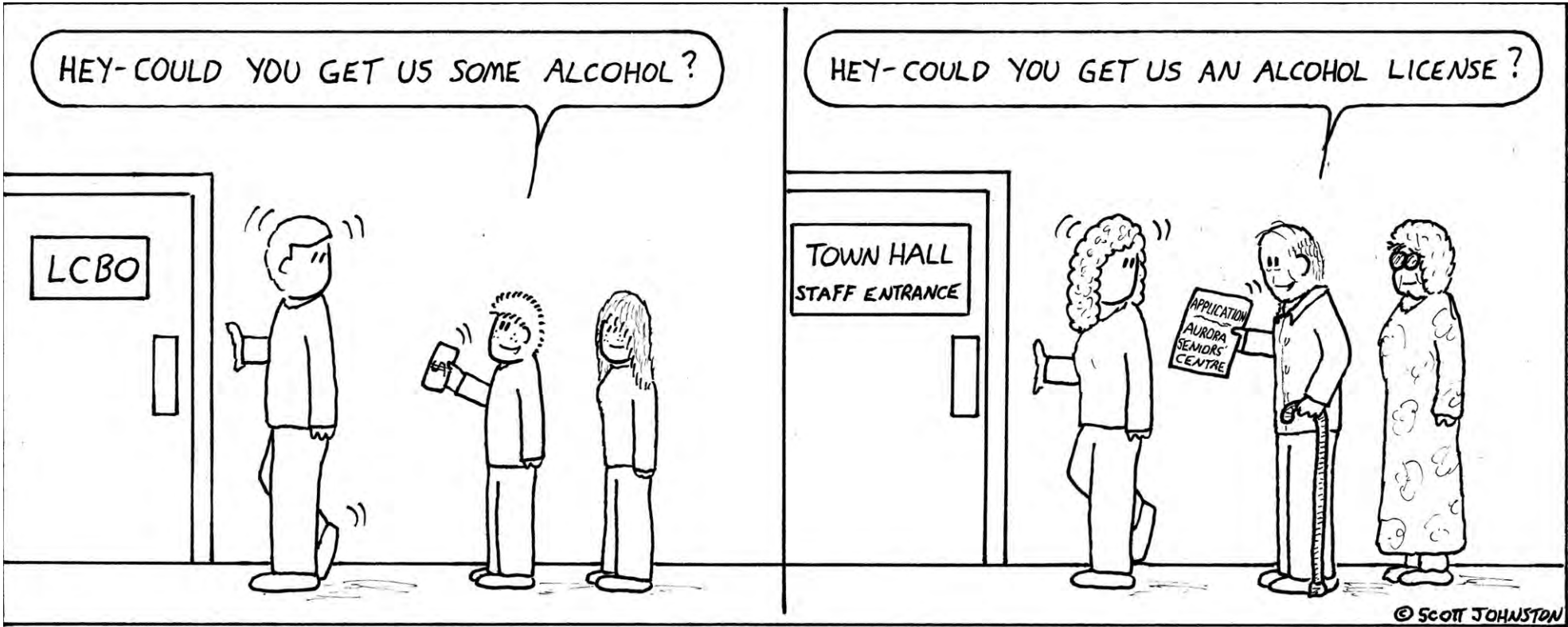
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#### Editorial policy

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.



## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

About three years ago I produced a column entitled, "The top ten reasons why I love Aurora".

About a year after this, I produced a follow-up column listing my top nine pet peeves.

I have not had to alter my initial "why I love Aurora" list:

10) Aurora has an abundance of parks and green spaces.

9) Aurora Chamber of Commerce Street Sale - purported to be the world's longest.

8) Our family is blessed with having fantastic neighbours (even after accounting for the fact that my mother-in-law happens to be one of them).

7) The size of Aurora and its proximity to other communities is just about right. We are close enough to Toronto for those of us who travel to work but also far enough away to maintain that "small town" feel.

6) Volunteers - I was struck by the impressive nature of volunteerism that goes on around us here in Aurora.

5) The Auroran - It is important that we have a newspaper that is dedicated to our community by dealing with only local issues.

4) The mural on the wall of the building located at the corner of Yonge and Wellington is something entirely unique to our community.

3) War Memorial - for me, the cenotaph is a place of reflection, solitude and introspection. The valour and

selflessness of the fine men memorialized there is most humbling. In its entirety, the two structures are a simple and regal monument to the fallen.

2) The Santa Claus parade is for me symbolic of our small town nature. It is an absolute joy seeing all the families lined up along Yonge Street waiting patiently for Santa. It is a "must attend" event for our family.

And the number one reason why I love Aurora is...my wife Julie. She was raised and has lived most of her life in Aurora. And besides, if I don't install Julie as the number one reason, I will never hear the end of it!

Additionally, I would have to equip the tool shed in the backyard (which would henceforth become known as my new sleeping quarters) with carpeting, cable television (including the Golf Channel and CPAC) bar fridge and a shower!

Since the time the column was originally published I have had to expand the list to 12 so as include the Aurora RibFest and the Easter Egg hunt.

Although Aurora is a wonderful community in which to raise a family, I do have a list of things that drive me to distraction. I have pared down my initial published list from nine to five items and also modified it somewhat.

So, with the appropriate apologies to David Letterman, my top five pet peeves are:

5) The traffic at the intersection of Yonge and Wellington. I'll bet the amount of greenhouse gases

## Lists

spewing from the idled cars during the rush hour period is just about as much as that emanating from the Town Council Chamber on a typical Tuesday evening. The only good thing is that driving southbound along Yonge Street we get to look at the mural while we wait to turn east-bound.

4) Only 38 per cent of eligible individuals in Aurora voted in the last municipal election and only 55 per cent of the eligible Newmarket-Aurora voters did so in the last provincial election.

3) Teenagers having multiple night parties while their parents are away - tone it down a little or better yet, invite my brother-in-law and me.

2) My mother-in-law lives 78 feet, three and one-quarter inches directly across the street from me. I was having trouble sleeping a while back so I watched television until 2 a.m. The next day my mother-in-law said, "I saw your lights on very late last night, doesn't anyone sleep over there?" Our home may be on the market very soon!

And my number one pet peeve is...those of you speeding through the various back streets of Aurora - slow down, as there are lots of small children around. And while you are at it, please turn down the music - especially after 11 p.m. on a weeknight.

Stephen can be contacted at:  
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



## Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

"Thank you for joining me here at Wells Street School," said the parent, shaking the hand of the member of the Board of Education. "As you know, many of us have concerns about your Board's report suggesting that the school be closed due to the need for expensive repairs. A number of parents have asked me to follow-up to obtain some clarifications."

"Of course. Glad to help," replied the board member.

Turning towards the school he pointed, and said "First of all, look at these serious fractures."

"Aren't they just surface cracks?" asked the parent, leaning closer.

"You never know. Why, if some moisture got in there, a bit of freezing and thawing and, well, the entire side of the building could just split right off, like an iceberg calving off a glacier."

"From this one little crack? That seems pretty unlikely. It's only a millimeter deep!"

"Always best to be safe when children are concerned. And what about this," he said, pointing to a small discolouration on the brick. "This looks like mould. That can be deadly!"

"That's not mould, it's just chalk dust," replied the parent, taking a closer look. "Someone must have been cleaning blackboard erasers out here. Look, I just brushed it all off."

"You can't just brush off mould," scoffed the board member. "It takes hundreds of thousands of dollars to remediate. And it's not even in the report," he noted, thumbing through

his copy. "We'll have to amend that."

"Well, what about the requirement in the document that the building be earthquake-proof?" asked the parent. "That's not an issue in Aurora."

"Actually, that point covers earthquakes, meteor strikes and tsunamis."

"Tsunami! We're thousands of kilometers from the nearest ocean! And how do you guard against meteors?"

"It's very expensive. Not just a matter of issuing the children with hard hats, you know," he said, walking up the front steps.

"Now, how about this," he continued, opening and closing the front door.

"Looks fine to me," said the parent.

"Can't you hear the squeak?"

"Barely," she said. "But that's probably just a rusty hinge."

"But what if it's the wood making that noise? That could be due to rot, or even termites. To correct that means replacing all of the wood in the entire building."

"Every piece of wood? You can't do that."

"Probably not, so the alternative would be to tear the school down, just like we recommended."

"And that's not all," said the board member, turning on a drinking fountain. "See how low the water pressure is? That explains why we'd need to replace all the pipes - probably right back to the street."

"Can't the pressure be adjusted, and...wait a minute; you

## All's not well that ends Wells

haven't turned that up all the way. No wonder the pressure seems low."

"Um...must be a fluctuation in the flow. In fact", he said, glancing around nervously, and hurrying for the door, "we'd better get out of here. If it's a boiler problem, it could blow at any time!"

Once they were back outside, the board member turned and looked back at the school.

"I'm glad we came here today," he said. "It's really opened my eyes."

"You mean you realize that many of the items identified in the report have been exaggerated?"

"No, I now see how much we missed. Mould...termites...There's probably an additional \$6 million in repairs here."

**Postscript from July 14:** In my last column, I described a shop in town that did not seem to grasp the concept that it should be open during the hours that it posted. It seems I'm not the only one who's noticed this, as someone who contacted me correctly identified the specific shop on their first guess, observing "I could tell immediately who you were talking about. They're just the worst!"

Sometimes, being the best at something in Aurora is not a good thing.

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



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## Letter to the Editor

# Jazz Festival this Saturday

To the editor,

What's new in Aurora? The Aurora borealis is really lighting up with a Jazz + Festival being born in Town Park, Saturday, August 1st from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

George St. Kitts, myself and a few dedicated friends and volunteers have been working hard to create a new music festival here in Aurora's downtown core supporting and highlighting our arts and culture.

The Aurora Jazz + Festival represents a new business initiative and is therefore in line with the Town's proclaimed 2009 Year of Business Initiatives.

Festival goals and benefits to Aurora:

1. Arts & Culture Boost: Supporting and attracting local artists to perform in Aurora.

2. Long Weekends. Aurora is no longer an empty town: Start more events happening in Aurora on weekends and holidays. Not everyone in Aurora (population 52,000) has a cottage, nor do they wish to leave town. We've heard from many at the Aurora Farmers' Market on Saturdays they would like to enjoy a free music festival right here.

3. Location, location, location. Aurora is well located - between Hwys 7 and 9 south and north and the 404 and 400 east and west. It is easily accessible to music lovers from GTA, Barrie and beyond. The Beaches Jazz Festival draws people from all over Ontario. So please invite your family and friends to join us. Make Aurora a destination on the civic long weekend.

4. Economy Boost: Increase local business for restaurants and hotels by attracting customers and music lovers to come and spend time and money right here in Aurora.

5. Safehaven Kids: Raise funds and awareness for the children and families of Safehaven in Aurora.

6. Young Artists: Support and showcase our young entertainers by providing them a local venue to help them become successful in their art.

7. All Genres of Music Welcome: Something for Everyone! Create a festival that grows and showcases all

genres of music with Jazz as its backbone. As the festival grows to 2-3 days and possibly several parks it could easily accommodate all genres of music. For instance a Folk/Blues Concert; Classical & Jazz & Big Band/Swing Concert; Country & Western Concert; Gospel & Choirs Concert and so much more. In this way we can provide Aurora with all kinds of entertainers, performers and music lovers.

8. Aurora Farmers' Market can become Ontario's best farmers' market. A market that supports not only local produce and goods but also local entertainers, artists and musicians.

9. Attract Citizens back into Aurora's Downtown Core: Focus attention to use our Old Town Aurora and gather in Town Park the heritage/cultural core.

10. You're in Good Company in Aurora where arts & culture are supported and growing! Also a chance to Go Green by reducing carbon footprints as more Aurorans stay home.

11. Family Festival: you can tell friends and family to bring the kids to enjoy the Splash Water Park and the huge sand play area at Town Park, while they enjoy great music, food, produce and shopping at the Aurora Farmers' Market!

This first festival has potential to provide Aurorans with fantastic entertainment, boost local economy and help special children of Safehaven. It shines a Jazzy warm light on Aurora attracting and supporting artists, entertainers and musicians. Everyone wins! Visit our new website [www.aurorajazzfest.com](http://www.aurorajazzfest.com) for more information on performance line-up.

This year we are going only 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in conjunction with the Aurora Farmers' Market. Essentially we're putting our toe in to test the water.

Please show us your support by coming to Town Park this Saturday around 9.30 a.m. and bring chairs/blankets. There is a big tent up for your comfort.

Bring your friends and family. It is free!

**Sher St. Kitts**  
**Snowball resident**



# Look who's coming to Rec Cycle N' Sports!

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# History of Alcan in Aurora

It was a little plant that grew and set some records along the way.

The Canadian Anodized Products Company was established in an old Aurora match factory in 1946. It manufactured aluminum extrusions and anodizing.

The extrusion process involved placing aluminum ingots into an extrusion press and they were thrust out at the other end in a variety of shapes and sizes.

Anodizing was an electrical process, which gave the aluminum a permanent protective coating and making it receptive to colours.

The firm dealt mainly with finished products such as ashtrays and drinking glasses.

Harry Smallwood joined the company in 1947, a year after its opening, and stayed with the firm as plant manager during several management changes and corporate takeovers..

Lin Sauro purchased the company in 1956. At that time, it had 20 employees.

The firm moved to a 40 by 80-foot building at the east end of Dunning Avenue in 1960.

It was at this time that a paint line was added, the first in Canada.

In 1961, the little company joined forces with Alanco Limited of Montreal.

Towards the end of 1963 a large extrusion press was added to the plant, along with an addition to the plant.

Then in July, 1965, Alanco was sold to the Aluminum Company of Canada. Sauro remained as president. By this time, the firm employed 90 people in limited accommodation.

The takeover by Alcan had little effect on employees, as they remained a family-type workforce, working as a team to put out a quality product.

The extrusions produced from the presses under intense heat could be used for any one of 10,000 purposes, as Alcan had that many dies on file, including window frames, shower doors, tent supports or truck trims.

When the extrusion came out of the press, it was sent to the cooling tables before being cut into the required lengths for individual orders.

It then went to the aging ovens for seven hours to be baked at 385 degrees F.

About 60 per cent of the orders then went to the paint line, and some received the anodizing treatment.

Labour problems surfaced at the plant in April, 1967, but a last-minute settlement averted a strike by the 80 members of the United Steelworkers.

The two-year agreement provided a basic hourly rate of \$2.12 an hour with a 10 cent an hour increase in the second year.

By July, 1969, business had improved making it necessary to construct a \$1.4 million addition to the plant to provide for a second extrusion press and more painting and anodizing facilities. With the addition, the workforce was increased to approximately 180 employees.

The Aurora firm was honoured at the 1975 conference of the Industrial Accident Prevention Association with the presentation of the 1974 President's Award in the 100 to 249 employment group for showing the

greatest improvement in their safety record over the previous year.

In January, 1977, thieves made off with 88 aluminum ingots weighing about 90 pounds each. They cut the lock off the gate of the company's compound and made off with their loot, valued at about \$4,000.

In August, 1978, the plant was shut down due to a labour strike. Workers rejected a 38-cent per hour increase for 1978 and a 40-cent per hour pay hike in 1979.

The average wage for employees at that time was \$5.79 an hour. It was the first strike in the history of the Aurora plant.

After an 18-day strike, the workers voted to accept the offer of a 49-cent per hour increase in the first year and a 45-cent per hour increase in the second year, plus other benefits.

In October, 1984, the Aurora plant took on a higher profile within the Alcan family.

Along with plants in Laval and Vancouver, the Dunning Avenue plant became a company flagship instead of a satellite operation.

Later Bon L Canada

Inc. occupied the plant and produced, sold and serviced aluminum products. Then the building was sold to Van Rob who

used it for a while to manufacture car parts. The company has since moved out and the building is up for sale.

## Reader seeks several sidewalks

From page 4

**Sabir Hussain, P. Eng. Municipal Engineer, Engineering Division, Public Works Department, Town of Aurora**

**Mr. Hussain**

Thank you for your reply with clarification of street standards in Aurora and the copy of the survey results. I have a copy of the survey results on file and find it has errors unless the town's counting is different than mine.

On Foreht Crescent there are 43 single homes and 17 semi-detached homes making a total of 77 residences.

Even by subtracting half the semis and take off the homes that are on two streets, as they are situated on corner lots, which numbers six residences, you get 54.

The 26 replies do not even come to half even with the reduced numbering.

Not too democratic.

The survey was written on March 13th which would mean Monday 16th could be the earliest possible delivery date to residents.

Cut off date was March 27th, 2009.

Of the 14 days given, nine fell within the March break when many families are away on a mid-winter vacation. Turn around time was short.

Mailing a response on the last day meant it would have reached your office at the earliest March 30th.

Obviously many people did not get their response to your office on time.

The results dated April 01, 2009 were tabulated and sent out in record time.

The survey is one of my concerns, however, safety is the primary issue.

**Carol J. Beaver Aurora**

**Dear Mr. Hussain**

I have several concerns related to the reconstruction of Foreht Crescent but the major concern is the safety of our children as well as other residents in this community.

The impetus for writing this letter was an incident cited in my enclosed letter that took place last Thursday evening in front of my house.

Fortunately there were no children, or adults for that matter on the street at that particular time. Please read and give the content special

attention.

Our children are our future and deserve to have our care and utmost consideration for their safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Carol J. Beaver Aurora**



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Artist Herbert Pryke has one of the paintings in the book "Connecting with Nature". The book features 20 York Region artists and contains 20 paintings of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Former principal becomes author

"My Grandfather's Mill" is the fascinating history of the Melnyk and Tatomyr families as it traces their deep Ukrainian roots in Galicia written by Andrew Melnyk.

The name Andrew Melnyk may not be known to many Aurorans but to recent students of Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School it is a familiar name as he served as principal there from 1998 until his retirement in June 2000 after 35 years in the education system.

He and his wife were recognized by the school board on his retirement with a presentation.

Chrystyba Tatomyr and Andrew Melnyk were born in war-torn Galicia in villages located some 200 kilometers apart at the height of the Second World War.

As the Red Army advanced on their villages, their families escaped to the American soil of Austria and Germany.

They lived in Displaced Persons camps for several years before finally finding freedom in the United States and Canada.

Years later, as young adults, they met while skiing in

Quebec's Laurentian Mountains.

They fell in love, married and almost 50 years after their dramatic escape, returned to a newly independent Ukraine.

The book is an excellent example of how knowledge about where people came from helps to understand who they are.

In May, 1999, while principal at Williams Secondary School, he arranged for a Cessna aircraft with pilot Manfred Schalburg to fly over the school so that art teacher Andrew McClure and a reporter could take pictures when the school held a fire drill to evacuate the building in the event of a major disaster.

It was decided that if the students were going to be on the playing field for the evacuation drill they would form up to spell the word "Wildcats", the name of school teams.

Following his retirement from the York District School Board, he travelled to several countries as teacher, principal and administrator before writing "My Grandfather's Mill".

# Trail system through Aurora continues to cause discussion

The expansion of the town's trail system continues to provide much fodder for discussion, with several elements covered at the last council meeting.

First up was the proposed trail connecting Timpson Drive, at Elizabeth Hader Park, and Kennedy Street West.

The trail follows a small stream, and the outstanding issue was whether the southern part of the trail should run along the west or east side of the creek.

Option A proposed the path along the wooded west side, while Option B would have the trail travel through a mainly open area on the east side in full view of Murray Drive.

Based on a survey of residents, both town staff and the majority of respondents favoured Option A, which being in a forested setting was felt to provide more of a natural trail experience.

This option would also require the construction of one less bridge across the creek, which would realize a savings of up to \$30,000.

Despite an original lean to Option A, in their June meeting the Leisure Services Advisory Committee (LSAC) ended up supporting Option B, with the trail being placed as far from Murray Drive as possible.

At last week's meeting, Bernard Moyle, speaking on behalf of homeowners on the west side of the creek, confirmed their opposition to Option A.

They felt that the path would run too close to their

properties, and present issues with safety, trespassing and environmental damage.

Council agreed with the LSAC recommendation and approved Option B.

Not long after this decision, another proposed link in the town's trail system was causing waves, this time in the south end of Aurora.

Council had previously approved a new section of trail be established west of Benville Crescent in the area of Bayview Avenue and Vandorf Sideroad.

Staff was preparing to begin work on this when opposition was identified from local home owners.

Based on the information presented by resident John Mahler in the Open Forum portion of the meeting, the proposed trail did not go anywhere, and ended in Evans Park, which was a space geared towards children.

Their concerns of security, trespassing and displacement of wildlife echoed those expressed earlier by the people living near the proposed trail near Elizabeth Hader Park.

Mr. Mahler noted that two petitions had been presented to the town about this, but councillors seemed unaware of them.

In discussions later in the evening, Councillor Stephen Granger said that he did not agree with some of the statements made earlier about the Benville trail.

He was familiar with that area, and felt that the proposed trail did in fact provide logical connections

with the existing trail system at the Vandorf Sideroad.

Although staffers already had approval to proceed, they wanted council to be aware of this recent opposition, and were looking for direction.

Despite the fact the proposed trail had already been reviewed and approved by the Trails Subcommittee, LSAC, and council, council moved that it be sent back to LSAC for their comments. Based on the committee schedule, this will likely be at the September 17 meeting.

But what is the point of all of these trails without a trail masterplan?

Another item approved last week was that staff apply to the Ministry of Health Promotion for a Healthy Communities grant, not to exceed \$60,000.

These grants are available through the Ministry to fund costs associated with trails planning and marketing programs.

One condition of the funding is that a third party partner must be on board, and contribute 20 per cent of the total project cost.

If successful in obtaining the grant, the town would use the funds to cover a portion of the costs of the Municipal Trail Master Plan, including the hiring of a consultant to finalize maps, draft user policies, and assist in the public consultation process.

Two challenges facing the town with this grant proposal: the deadline for submissions was July 24, and they do not have a third party partner.

Staff noted that they are still trying to confirm the definition of a partner.

As for the tight deadline, Klaus Wehrenberg, head of the Trails Subcommittee, said that it was his understanding that the town would have a bit of leeway in the deadline.

Council approved the motion.

As for the Nokiidaa Trail, the ball's back in Aurora's court.

The Nokiidaa Trail is 20 km long pathway through the East Holland River Valley, connecting the towns of East Gwillimbury, Newmarket and Aurora.

At the meeting, council had before it a memo from the Town of Newmarket noting they had approved the completion of the Tom Taylor Trail through the Holland River Valley south of Mulock Drive at a cost of almost \$1 million.

A connection with the Aurora trail system north of St. John's Sideroad would fill a key remaining gap in the Nokiidaa Trail.

However, the location of the final part of the Aurora trail near McKenzie Marsh is still under discussion, as residents in the area have raised objections to the proposed route.

In the memo, Newmarket staffers advised they would exclude the connection of the south boundary of their trail pending a decision by Aurora on the route of their portion of the connecting trail.

Aurora Council moved that the Newmarket memo be referred to Leisure Services staff.

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# THE AURORAN SPORTS

Page 10

Week of July 28, 2009

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## WINNERS

# YMCA fails to gain foothold in Aurora and Newmarket

On January 15, 1962, William Jones appeared before Aurora Council on behalf of a group interested in the possibility of establishing a YMCA/YWCA in Aurora.

He said a meeting had been held a month earlier with officials of the YMCA and information was received about obtaining such a facility in Aurora. About 40 people attended.

At the council meeting, councillors established a citizen committee to investigate the possibilities of a YMCA/YWCA in Aurora.

The committee was asked to carry out a survey of existing facilities for recreation and citizenship training in Aurora.

It was reported that while sports activities were highly organized, there was a lack of a facility for the hobby-minded or activities of an individual participation type.

There was a lack of space due to church and school activities and there did not appear to be any available courses for the study of citizenship, municipal affairs, current affairs, economics nor were there any debating societies.

By November, 1965, if Mrs. Donald Willis had her way, Aurora would have had a YMCA and a YWCA. She pointed out that the town had many schools with gymnasiums.

In February, 1969, during discussion about the establishment of a youth centre in Aurora, a special committee of council was named to investigate and report back on the feasibility of a YM/YWCA in Aurora, with a

year-round swimming pool and the use of school gyms after school hours.

The Aurora Jaycees asked council to carry out a poll of the citizens regarding the formation of a "Y" in Aurora.

In 1971 the Aurora Kiwanis Club held a meeting to discuss the formation of a YM/YWCA in the Aurora/Newmarket Area.

It was suggested that a survey be carried out as to the availability of recreational programs at that time and what programs were needed, but there is no record of the survey ever happening.

At the March 2002 meeting of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee, members endorsed a Newmarket resolution supporting the

establishment of a YMCA in the area.

The Newmarket resolution indicated the municipality would be supportive of a shared use facility in Aurora, such as a youth recreation centre or a family care centre, but would not support a full-scale facility as proposed by the YMCA.

YMCA representatives had requested a funding formula that would require the municipalities to provide one-third of the funding, with one-third to be raised by community fundraising and one-third provided by the YMCA.

The municipalities would be required to provide sufficient land along the Aurora/Newmarket border to accommodate a 45,000 to

60,000 square foot recreational complex.

It was proposed that the complex include a full-scale fitness centre, pool, gym, meeting rooms, an employment centre, family care centre and a youth centre.

Newmarket Council expressed its willingness in partnering with Aurora and YMCA in the shared use facility, other than for the fitness centre pending discussions with private fitness centres in both municipalities.

A survey of the fitness

Please see page 11

The Aurora Jays Mosquito rep team scored a resounding 12-1 victory over the Thornhill Reds last week.

Jays took the lead in the first inning on a hit by George Caccamo, but it was in the fifth when the Jays turned up the heat.

George Caccamo hit a bullet out to centre for a triple. He got on base every time up to bat with two hits and two walks.

Joey Leger was on fire, hitting three for four with a double.

Lucas Bulmer held a hot bat also going three for four.

Other players who had hits were Austin Skelhorn, Donato Caccamo, Adam Starr, Jake Nizio, Connor Irving and Jamie Finlay.

The Jays defense was impenetrable with catcher Irving throwing out two bunts.

The victory would not have been possible were it not for the outstanding performance on the mound by southpaw Nizio who had a no-hitter going into the fifth.

Jake threw four strikeouts and gave up only one hit and four walks.

Finlay also provided solid pitching with two strikeouts, allowing only one hit. He caught a blazing line drive to the mound to finish the game.

The game went six innings with 15 hits scoring 12 runs by the Jays.

The Mosquito Jays coaches Doug Bond, Randy Skelhorn, Wayne Wallace and Carol Walthers were pleased with the win and the steady improvement of the players

as they prepare for the YSBA playoffs.

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This group of soccer players - the U14 Boys Stinger All Stars who play soccer out of the Aurora Youth Soccer Club - is a tournament team with players who play on individual house league teams during the week and then travel to tournaments on weekends. Last week, they went to Owen Sound to the Scenic City Tournament and played three qualifying games against Owen Sound (3-0 win), Sarnia (3-0 win) - Sarnia in the semi-final (3-0 win) and finally Woolwich in the final where the team played an impressive game and won by another 3-0 victory.

## YMCA never happened here

From page 10

operators indicated that a publicly-funded fitness facility in the area would be detrimental to their operations and presented an undue advantage due to public funding.

An official of the Glenway Country Club attended the leisure services committee meeting and expressed concern about the Y moving to the area.

He noted that Glenway was famous for its family club and expressed concern that the Y would initiate a fundraising campaign, which would have an adverse impact on all fitness clubs.

Aurora residents also attended the committee

meeting in support of the YMCA proposal claiming it would be beneficial to the community.

It was suggested that the town receive public input on the proposal and proceed.

Aurora Council endorsed the committee report recommending support of the Newmarket resolution on condition that no public funds were used.

YMCA officials said they were not interested in pursuing a partnership unless a full-scale fitness centre was included and that ended the negotiations.

The Young Men's Christian Association was founded in London, England in 1844 by George Williams,

a dry goods clerk and 11 fellow employees.

It was designed to improve the spirit and mental condition of young tradesmen, to draw them away

from the evils of the day.

The first Canadian Y was established in Montreal in 1851 and in Toronto in 1853, but one was never built in Aurora or Newmarket.

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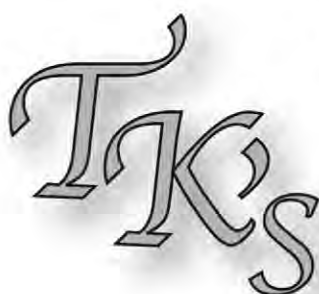
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Catherine Cook, an Aurora resident, program co-ordinator of the York Region Food Network, far right, holds the ribbon as Aurora's new garden location is officially opened Friday. One of three gardens in York Region, it was originally established in 1996 and was moved from behind the Jack Woods home on Edward Street and Allaura Blvd. to the Alliance Park, a parcel of town-owned land on Industrial Parkway South. The garden provides residents with individual plots of land, so they can plant, tend to, and harvest their own fresh produce. There are no fees to operate a plot in this garden and some of the items that are grown are given to the Aurora Food Pantry. Several Aurora councillors were on hand for the event.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

# Councillor ponders lawsuit

From page 1  
Opinion from The Auroran's lawyer indicates she may have a case.

The information in the advertisement has been posted on the Town's web-site.

"The reason (for my stance) is self-evident. No legislation could legitimize a process whereby any carnival huckster, charlatan, scam artist, person or persons with malevolent intent would be given the right to make scurrilous and unproven allegations against an elected official with impunity," she said. "There is nothing I can say about the action of these six members of council that could be more telling or damning than their own obvious and total lack of comprehension about the purpose of the legislation. Their collective ignorance, bolstered by legal advice, is astounding.

"They have made allegations on cable television. They have used the Corporate Communication system to broadcast allegations and they have submitted allegations to the print media to be published at the expense of the town treasury.

"They have flagrantly abused public resources

to attack my personal integrity and my reputation as a responsible elected representative," she said. "They have contravened several sections of the Code of Conduct. I have the option of pursuing a legal remedy. The Code of Conduct presents a second."

Among other things, the Town is trying to stop the councillor from publishing "disparaging" remarks in her blog about senior staff, but the councillor told The Auroran she doesn't know what they're talking about.

A quick check of the councillor's blog items did not reveal comments about any member of staff, although she has taken a few lawyers to task.

"They're not staff members," she said.

"Due to the serious nature of the comments

made by Councillor Buck, council retained independent legal counsel to review Councillor Buck's blog postings, and to advise council," the ad says. "Legal counsel conducted a thorough review of the materials and concluded that Councillor Buck's publications contravened numerous provisions of the Council Code of Conduct, which included unfounded and completely unmerited public criticism of staff in a manner that unjustifiably maligned their professional competence and credibility.

"Legal counsel's opinion was detailed and comprehensive and its conclusions were amply supported by a fair reading of Councillor Buck's publications as well as by her verbal statements and actions."

Aurora Council has for-

mally adopted a Code of Conduct for its members but Councillor Buck has refused to sign it.

"Given the serious nature and the number of contraventions of the Code of Conduct and the potential harm they may cause to the Town and its staff, council has therefore directed that a formal complaint be sent to the Director of Corporate Services to be forwarded to the Town's Integrity Commissioner in accordance with the complaint protocol," the ad said.

The full text appears on Page 13 this week.

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# Lumsden's swans featured at Doors Open

By MICHAEL SEAMAN

This article in the Doors Open series features a rare opportunity to see Harry Lumsden's Swan garden, a unique urban oasis, located at 144 Hillview Drive, which was created by Aurora's Harry Lumsden.

The garden is part of his dedicated efforts to reintroduce the majestic



Trumpeter Swan into Ontario after being hunted out of existence in the province more than 100 years ago.

Visitors to Doors Open Aurora will learn about North America's largest water fowl, and Lumsden's remarkable - and successful - work

A retired biologist and research scientist with Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources, Harry is an international authority on the grouse family and waterfowl.

He grew up in Scotland and first came to Canada during the Second World War when he was training as a pilot as part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

After earning his wings Mr. Lumsden served in Europe, India and Japan before returning to live in Canada after the War to take a

position with the Ministry of National Resources as a research scientist, working with geese, ducks, grouse and deer.

In 1982, while working out of a research station in Maple, Lumsden and his colleagues were assigned the task of bringing trumpeter swans back to the province.

Trumpeter swans are the largest waterfowl in North America (smaller mute swans introduced from Europe and Asia are much more common: they have an orange beak with a knob on it while trumpeters have a black one).

The swans vanished after being heavily hunted in Ontario since the 1700s both as a game bird and a source of feathers. The last one was shot at Long Point in 1886.

Mr. Lumsden threw himself into this valuable

conservation initiative with much passion and dedication and spearheaded the formation of the Trumpeter Swan Reintroduction Initiative, designed to re-establish these native birds in Ontario.

His intensive research into the plight of the trumpeter swan has led to his breeding of the swans in the province.

This began when Lumsden obtained eggs from Alberta, where Trumpeter Swans can still be found, and used mute swans to raise the cygnets in ponds near the research station.

Later when funds were available, he bought breeding pairs and enlisted owners of ponds to care for them and to breed from them.

His passion for this initiative led him to raise trumpeter swans on his own ponds in his back-

yard in Aurora, partnering with the Toronto Zoo to assist with egg incubation.

He has inspired many volunteers to follow his lead in breeding trumpeter swans, successfully reintroducing the birds to Ontario.

For example, in 2003, he was the leader of a team that released 14 trumpeter swans into the Callandar Bay area, near North Bay.

The swans, brought by Harry from the Minden area, were released as part of the Trumpeter Swan Reintroduction Initiative and funded by the Trillium Foundation.

After the release of the tagged swans, amateur bird watchers across the province assisted him in the tracking of the many birds he has re-introduced to the wild.

In 2004 Harry Lumsden was named a Member of the Order of

Canada, in recognition of his outstanding work with trumpeter swans in Ontario, and his devotion to the preservation of the country's natural heritage.

If you happen to see a trumpeter swan in Ontario, make a note of the letter and number on its yellow wing tag and e-mail your findings to Harry Lumsden at the-holtentwo@rogers.com.

Harry's garden is one of Aurora's hidden jewels and a truly inspirational setting.

It is sure to be a highlight of the Doors Open Aurora festival for 2009.

Visitors should note that due to the unique nature of the site, the garden is to be viewed through organized tours only.

There will be four tours on Doors Open Aurora day, Saturday, August 15 - 10.30 a.m., 11.30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

# Aurora customers get switched over first

From page 1  
identical customers in Aurora with a smart meter are scheduled to be on TOU rates.

It is expected that more than one million Ontario households will be on the new pricing regime by next summer.

In May, George Smitherman, Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, announced the province-wide implementation of TOU rates, saying the rates will equip Ontarians with real time information to make smart decisions about how and when they use electricity.

The rates reflect the reality that electricity costs the most when demand is highest.

By shifting electricity use to lower demand periods consumers will benefit by being charged for their electricity at a lower price.

Under the new rate structure, off-peak times occur on evenings and weekends. Currently, evening off-peak hours start at 10 p.m.

As of November 1, off-peak times will move to 9 p.m., offering Ontario families an additional evening hour at the lowest rate.

As of May 1, the three TOU price points for electricity are (per kilowatt hour): On-peak: 9.1 cents; Mid-peak: 7.6 cents; Off-peak: 4.2 cents.

Earlier this year, Brian Bentz, PowerStream's President and CEO, indicated how the company was taking a leadership position in this Ontario-wide initiative by being the first large utility to successfully complete testing, integration and having customer billing data

processed through the province's centralized Meter Data Management Repository (MDMR).

TOU electricity consumption is measured by a smart meter. There are currently more than 2.5 million smart meters installed in Ontario.

More are scheduled to be installed throughout the province over next couple of years with an estimated 3.6 million electricity customers expected to be on TOU rates by June, 2011.

For more information on

smart meters and TOU rates, visit the Power Stream website at [www.powerstream.ca/app/pages/SmartMeters.jsp](http://www.powerstream.ca/app/pages/SmartMeters.jsp).

PowerStream is the second largest municipally-owned local electricity distribution company in Ontario, providing service to more than 315,000 residential and business customers in Alliston, Aurora, Barrie, Beeton, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Markham, Penetanguishene Richmond Hill, Thornton, Tottenham

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AURORA

STATEMENT FROM TOWN OF AURORA COUNCIL

July 21, 2009

Several weeks ago Council became aware of a number of publications that were posted on Councillor Buck's weblog.

The publications by Councillor Buck were disturbing in that they were highly critical and very disparaging of senior Town staff.

Due to the serious nature of the comments made by Councillor Buck, Council retained independent legal counsel to review Councillor Buck's blog postings, and to advise Council.

Legal counsel conducted a thorough review of the materials and concluded that Councillor Buck's publications contravened numerous provisions of the Council Code of Conduct, which included unfounded and completely unmerited public criticism of staff in a manner that unjustifiably maligned their professional competence and credibility.

Legal counsel's opinion was detailed and comprehensive and its conclusions were amply supported by a fair reading of Councillor Buck's publications as well as by her verbal statements and actions.

Contrary to Councillor Buck's allegations, Town staff at all times acted appropriately, diligently and conscientiously in carrying out their duties and responsibilities to the municipality.

Council respects and supports its staff and the efforts they make to ensure that the Town's residents are well served.

Council has formally adopted a Code of Conduct for members of Council.

Each member of Council, other than Councillor Buck has executed a copy of the Code of Conduct signifying their commitment to adhere to the ethical standards expected of an elected representative of the public.

Legal counsel recommended that Council request Councillor Buck to apologize for her statements and publications, retract them and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct.

She has twice, once verbally and once in writing, been requested to do so. She has both times adamantly refused to do so.

Council also received legal advice that recommended, in the event that Council's informal requests for an apology and retraction were rejected and that given the serious nature of the contraventions, a formal complaint be filed with the Town's Integrity Commissioner.

Disappointingly, Council's attempts to informally resolve the matter have not met with any measure of success.

Given the serious nature and the number of contraventions of the Code of Conduct and the potential harm they may cause to the Town and its staff, Council has therefore directed that a formal complaint be sent to the Director of Corporate Services to be forwarded to the Town's Integrity Commissioner in accordance with the complaint protocol.



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*Please be advised The Auroran does not publish the first week in August.*

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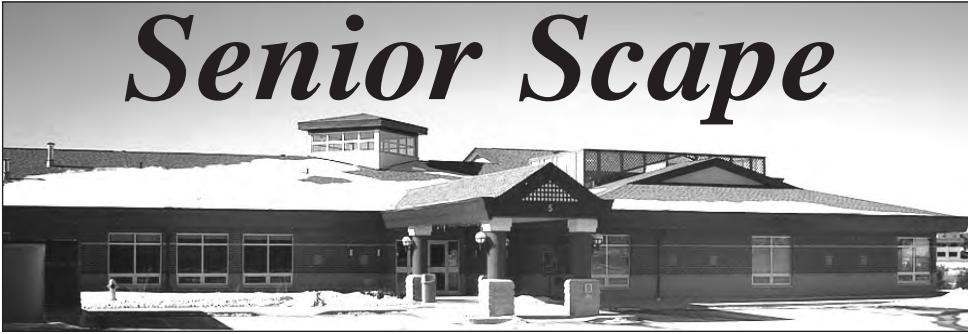
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Judy studied academic painting and drawing in Florence, Italy. She has appeared on City Line TV. [mi.design@sympatico.ca](mailto:mi.design@sympatico.ca)

## SEMINARS, CLASSES, WORKSHOPS & COURSES



# Senior Scape



## Weather continues to mock the seniors

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Hope springs eternal but mother nature is mocking us this year and pays no heed to diminishing expectations that hot weather is delayed somewhat.

Cool and wet is the prank order of this summer with more of the same expected.

No matter, the weather is warm enough to suit most of us while probably not enough to suit some gardeners or farmers with crops that demand heat.

The insect population appears to be less, and probably fewer people will be inflicted by sunburns.

And while the camping and cottage season is probably less active, visits to far away places by bold and daring seniors continue unabated.

At this 40th anniversary of man's visit to the moon, I maintain that some seniors would holiday in space if the opportunity presented itself.

The moon voyagers we celebrate today are of a similar generation to today's seniors' and I feel proud to be among those who were spellbound by the events of that time.

And I am thrilled and fascinated by the heroics of Tom Watson, an elderly golfer like many in the ASA but a little better equipped to play winning golf, who barely failed to win the British Open Golf Tournament.

Time offers opportunities occasionally for those equipped with the desire, drive and ability and the eagerness to be tested.

Wherever senior expertise and energy simmers, the summons to contest at the highest level will be answered.

Intrepid seniors, who compete with younger generations, are the influential few who show what can be achieved.

They demonstrate that elderly life can burst boundaries and continue with enthusiasm and passion; mountains are never too high nor competition too difficult to be contested and even won when the brave and determined will persevere.

At this holiday time of the year, with seniors at

the cottage or on holiday or just visiting out of town, the ASA is relatively quiet in the matters of presentations, shows and performances of any kind. Even the activities are at a level of attendance lower than at any other time of the year.

In fact The Auroran will not publish on August 4th, granting staff a much needed break and opportunity to refuel and recharge batteries. The next edition of The Auroran will be on August 11th.

After the holidays wind down at the end of August, a return to school beckons young scholars, and industry, commerce, government and the ASA will hit stride seamlessly once more.

I met very recently with Karie Papillon, the new seniors' coordinator, who struck me immediately as a gracious young lady who promises to bring her bright thoughts, abilities and experience to advance further, the fine seniors' community centre that describes the ASA today.

Bear in mind the ASA is a melting pot of members and seniors from all walks of life, different lands, cultures and points of view, and such a cosmopolitan group could hardly be otherwise.

Consequently, a good sense of humour with an abundance of persever-

ance, determination and skillful discretion are called for.

That said, good sense on a foundation of good principles, policies and programming with reliable activities continue to draw the countless threads of senior thoughts and opinions to a reasonable state of coherency and thus weave the common tapestry, which creates the foundation upon which the ASA stands.

Many times I have addressed the manner in which seniors find ways of passing their time profitably, and how seminars and entertainment productions, picnics and activities of all kinds, are maneuvered into the grand jigsaw scheme of everyday scheduling.

The ASA events occur as smoothly flowing well organized occasions.

The coordinator's office and ASA Board of Directors, plus many volunteers are the backbone of the workforce and without whom, little would get done.

But all the considerable successes that have been attained are in essence, stepping stones to the next level of excellence.

Karie Papillon is ready to assess the situation and to effect slowly and carefully improvements when and where opportunity allows her to do so.



Daniel Piovesan of Aurora, left, was sworn in to the armed forces last week in Toronto by retiring Captain John Thompson, who has spent the last 35 years in the forces. Daniel leaves August 2 for basic training in St Jean, Quebec.

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