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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 9 No. 41 905-727-3300 **auroran.com** FREE Week of August 18, 2009



CHRISTINA COX

Briefly

Event postponed

A story in last week's Auroran told you how to recycle old computers, TVs, cell phones, etc. Ignore it. It said residents could drop off the recyclable stuff at the community centre this Saturday morning. Don't. According to communications specialist Michelle Outar-Danaai at the Town of Aurora, the event has been postponed. "The York Region, Greentec and Town of Aurora electronic recycling event has been postponed until further notice," she said. "The event was scheduled to be held on August 22nd."

Anniversary Tuesday

On Tuesday, August 25, Baldwin Pre-School Centre on Wellington West will celebrate its 25th year in Aurora. The licensed, private daycare centre opened its doors in 1984 and in its 25 years, the school has helped develop the minds of more than 1000 babies, infants and young children. The 25th anniversary celebration will feature arts workshops, kid-friendly cooking demonstrations, refreshments and door prizes. Current students, families and past alumnae are welcome. Activity begins at 4.30 p.m. and continues for two hours.

David Heard, right, had a full house of people for his tour of Old Aurora Saturday as the town held its fourth annual Doors Open. Thousands visited the 21 sites available, including the newly renovated Church Street school, seen in the background. Popular spots included the "Diefenbunker", a bomb shelter located on Old Yonge Street, the school and the house located at Sheppard's Bush. For more pictures see page 11.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Director resigns

Lucille King, the Director of Corporate Services for the Town of Aurora, handed in her resignation last week. She will leave the position at the end of August. The news came following Aurora Council's wishes last week to terminate the services of their newly hired Integrity Commissioner. Ms King replaced Bob Panizza, who retired from the position earlier this year.

Ab Cox's youngest daughter in TV series

For the youngest daughter of Aurora's Ab Cox, the debut of a new television series is another feather in her cap. One of the stars of the newest ABC drama "Defying Gravity", Christina Cox joins several others in the drama dreamed up by the creators of "Grey's Anatomy" and "Desperate Housewives" as she joins a team of astronauts on a six-year mission through the solar system. Father Ab couldn't be a prouder pop. "I taught her everything she knows," the former car dealer smiled.

Christina is the youngest of three of Ab's daughters. Tracey was already in charge of Ab Cox Motors when General Motors pulled the dealership plug recently, while middle daughter Melissa is preparing to launch her first book. Christina ("actresses will never tell you their age," Ab said) once worked as a receptionist for her father and learned her trade by going to the arts high school in Unionville. If anything, the school in Unionville was probably responsible for giving Christina "her big

Please see page 10

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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 Aurora Legion at 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

Canadian Federation of University Women holds monthly



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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.

Queen's York Rangers Army Cadet Corps has openings for boys and girls ages 12 to 18. Membership is free. Aurora squadron meets every Friday evening from 6.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 138 Larmont Street. For more information, call 905-726-8600.

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.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

PowerStream Learn to Conserve Workshop happens today from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Mosley Street. Residents are invited to the free seminars focused on learning about sensible energy consumption habits. Residential electricity customers in Aurora are the first group in PowerStream's service territory being migrated to the provincially-mandated Time-of-Use (TOU) rates. Workshop participants will get information on energy savings programs, home conservation strategies including how to reduce electricity consumption in the kitchen through alive cooking demonstration, smart meters and TOU pricing. To register in advance, please call 1-877-963-6900 ext. 25068 or email learn-to-conserve@powerstream.ca.

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.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

PowerStream Learn to Conserve Workshop happens today from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Mosley Street. Residents are invited to the free seminars focused on learning about sensible energy consumption habits. Residential electricity customers in Aurora are the first group in PowerStream's service territory being migrated to the provincially-mandated Time-of-Use (TOU) rates. Workshop participants will get information on energy savings programs, home conservation strategies including how to reduce electricity consumption in the kitchen through a live cooking demonstration, smart meters and TOU pricing. To register in advance, please call 1-877-963-6900 ext. 25068 or email learn-to-conserve@powerstream.ca.

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.

SEPTEMBER 11-13

4th annual Ribfest runs for three days at Machell Park, across from the Aurora Community Centre. A children's activity zone will be held Friday and Saturday from 5 to 8 p.m. and it's free. Electric bull rides happen Saturday only from 7 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$2 a ride. Hours of operation for the ribfest are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. The beer garden will be presented by the Aurora Rotary Club. For more information log onto www.e-aurora.ca or call 905-726-4762.

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PROUD TO BE LIVING AND WORKING IN AURORA



The three who sought to lead the Liberal party in the next federal election in the riding of Newmarket-Aurora were together last week at the Liberal nomination meeting at Aurora's Town Hall. But it had already been decided that King Township Mayor Margaret Black, centre, would carry the Liberal hopes into the next federal election. Two other candidates, both dropped out of the race prior to the meeting, former Aurora Mayor Tim Jones, left, and Newmarket Councillor Chris Emanuel, were at the meeting to wish the new candidate well. No one is predicting when the next federal election will be held, although some pundits say it could be this fall.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Aurora man stars at this year's CNE

Aurora's Klaus Wehrenberg is at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, and he has hopes his appearance there will continue for years.

This year, Klaus, a popular organ grinder in Aurora's annual street festival, will team up with former United States president Bill Clinton, for a "Golden Oldies" presentation.

The "Golden Oldie" former president from the states, is expected to draw an additional 24,000 visitors to the "Ex" this year as he pronounces his wisdom to the crowd during a speech.

The former president will speak Saturday, August 29 at 4 p.m.

Wehrenberg, on the other hand, will entertain the crowds every day the "Ex" is open.

His entertainment is unique, but he also restarts a CNE tradition.

Not only were there pipe organs built into nearly every merry-go-round in former years, but the "Ex" also had a calliope, a large version of Klaus' pipe organ, for many years.

"While words from Golden Oldies politicians can be controversial, and are therefore subjected to some disrespect, the Golden Oldies from the music

world enjoy just about universal popularity," he said. "While Aurora's reputation is questioned at the national news level because of the lack of respect for the opinions of one of Aurora's political oldies (Evelyn Buck), the CNE is making full use of Golden Oldies."

The Canadian National

Exhibition opens this Friday and will continue until September 7, the final day of the Labour Day weekend.

Several methods of transportation are available from Aurora to Toronto, including GO Transit, which has hourly buses running daily from Aurora's railway station.

Band entertains prior to movie

It will help you get into the mood.

Preceding the movie "Grease", planned to be shown at the Town Park Wednesday, August 26, the Town of Aurora will feature a band called the

Grease Balls and they will be playing hits from the 1950's.

The concert is slated to run one hour beginning at 6.30 p.m. and then the movie will begin at 8 p.m. or 8.05 p.m.



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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

The big time?

Aurora has finally made it to the “big time”, but I’m sure it’s not the way we thought it would.

We do, however, need to set a few things straight for the “big guys”.

Most irking are the stories calling Aurora a “city”.

In an editorial in the Toronto Star, it notes: “The surprise sacking of David Nitkin by city council...”

Someone like The Star, The Globe, or The Sun, should know the place only 30 miles from its own city hall, with the World’s Longest Street, Yonge, as its main road, is NOT a city.

We’re a Town and have been for more than 100 years.

Which brings up another issue. Aurora is hardly a “Toronto bedroom community”. Aurora is a community with 150 years’ of history to it, and I’m sure the people who grew up here take offense to their town being referred to as a bedroom community.

I know I do.

Granted there are hundreds, possibly thousands, of people who commute to the “big smoke” to earn their daily wage, but I’m not sure that makes us a “bedroom”.

There are probably people who live here who don’t know where they are. They get off a bus or a train after a hard day’s work, and the last thing they’re probably asking themselves is “where am I now?”

Some people who live here wouldn’t know how to find Church Street School, or Church Street for that matter.

The dailies, and the CBC, are all over this story like jam on bread.

It’s too bad it has come to this, but, as I have said earlier, any comment from me, one way or the other, will be considered as “sour grapes”.

I will tell you one thing, though, I have not now, nor do I ever intend, to send a letter to the Aurora Citizen, so for those who think “Ron Obvious” is me, it’s not.

And the Auroran does not own the Aurora Citizen and never has...so there!

Letters to the Editor

“Yes” person seeks commissioner’s job

Dear Your Royal Highness Mayor Morris and Exalted Members of Aurora Council:

Please accept this letter as my formal application for the position of Integrity Commissioner for the Town of Aurora.

It is obvious with the untimely demise of the previous individual in this position, that the Town Fathers demand that the successful candidate have adequate qualifications for this position.

Mine are all listed below in this letter of application.

Since it appears that

the Town requires an individual without "ethics", I can certainly leave all of mine at the door, should I be deemed acceptable for this position.

No sense in beating around the bush, so I'll get right to my qualifications.

Apparently, the Town (The mayor) is looking for a "YES" man/woman/person to fill this vacancy. YES, I believe I can do this job.

YES, I can show up to work, leaving all my ethics outside.

YES, I can frivolously spend thousands of Aurora taxpayers' dollars

on issues that should not even cross the table.

YES, I can supply the mayor and council with any report and any wording in that report that they wish to see.

YES, I can totally ignore the public outcry at the hiring of an Integrity Commissioner and carry on with my useless duties.

YES, I can sign a Code of Ethics/Integrity prior to my accepting this position, although I've never heard of such a thing with any previous Aurora Town Councils????

YES, I can accept the terminology for this position to be that of "Integrity

Czar", a phrase coined by the Toronto Sun, therefore making me a "DA man", although I have no Russian in my background.

YES, I am NOT running in the municipal elections in 2010, therefore I would be able to fulfill this position, at what would appear to the public, "at arms length" to the council, and it would also appear that I would NOT be in the mayor's back pocket.

YES, I can accept a nice cushy office with a

window at Town Hall.

YES, my office can be decorated at the taxpayer's expense. (For a cost saving factor, I'll just use the interior decorator that the mayor regularly uses.)

YES, I will be available to solve any issues that are presented to me to the fullest satisfaction of the mayor and council, since I have raised four kids, and therefore very adept at "problem solving". YES, I can accept remuneration,

for a minimum period of a five-year contract.

And finally, YES, I can start immediately.

I thank you for this opportunity to present myself and make, what I consider, a very valid effort to secure the position of Integrity Commissioner for the Town of Aurora. I anxiously await your reply.

Mark Holmes
Aurora

Reader is happy she doesn’t live in Aurora

To the editor,

I have worked in Aurora, shopped in Aurora, promoted Aurora, participated in Town celebrations (except for Apple Pie contests – that was the subject of a previous article), had a son that attended high school at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School and have referred to my home being located in south Aurora for more years than I will attest to.

However, this week after reading several articles in The Star (yes, I still subscribe to this “Liberal” paper even though its editorials get my blood boiling) referring to the “integrity” of Aurora, I am proud to say, “I live in Oak

Ridges”.

Having had a television show, (taped in Aurora) I learned to not publicly take political sides and remain neutral, like Switzerland, to have credibility and integrity (I don’t take this word lightly) with the general public.

I have written and taught “Ethics in the Media – an oxymoron” and always have tried to show respect for others and their right to their opinions.

Coming from this position I would normally not, in my out loud voice, say anything about the goings on in Aurora – but – I just can’t contain myself any longer.

Aurora, specifically your elected council and mayor,

Town staff – get a grip!

Your disregard for public opinion and the “integrity of your office” have made you the laughing stock and subject of ridicule of York Region and beyond.

Give me a break – firing your integrity commissioner!

I can’t begin to tell you how embarrassed I am to have an association with Aurora by the behaviour of those who should be deserving of your votes.

At this moment in time I’m glad I didn’t elect you ‘cause I live in Oak Ridges and am not responsible for this “garbage to the north”.

Bonnie Tiffin
not in Aurora



This photo shows Aurora’s Junior “C” hockey team in 1947-48 as members gathered for the birthday of Eric Smith, seated centre with the team’s mascot and waterboy, Dan Patrick. Dan’s father, Bill, was the team’s trainer, and is seated far left. Other notables in the photo are Norm Nigh, Coach Len Simmons, Walt Davis and Ron Simmons, both of whom served on Aurora Council in the 1960s and 1970s, Tom Brodike, Loring Doolittle, Bill Attridge, Harvie Patrick, Terry Simmons, Bill McGhee and Hank Clubine, who was the assistant coach and became a member of the Aurora Fire Department. Eric, who was the team’s goaltender and had the nickname “zero”, died in Newmarket recently. He was 81.

THE AURORAN

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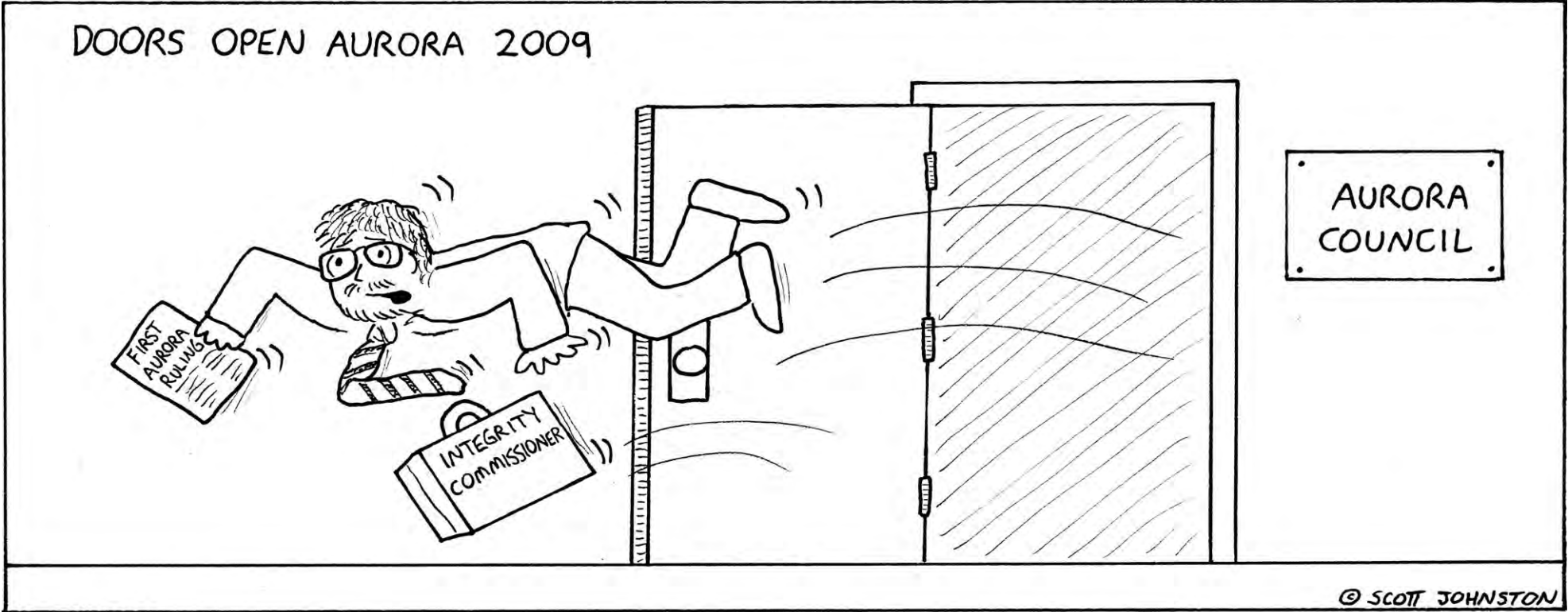
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Remembering a Saint

This is a follow-up to a column that I had written in 2007. The column concerned the new Catholic high school that is being built in Aurora, on Wellington Street, between Yonge Street and Bayview Avenue. The school will open in September. The York Catholic District School Board trustees had approved naming the school St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School. My apologies in advance here for using the internet's Wikipedia, but it provides a very good and succinct overview of Mr. Kolbe's life and the reason that he was canonized. "During the Second World War, in the friary, Kolbe provided shelter to refugees from Greater Poland, including 2,000 Jews whom he hid from Nazi persecution in his friary in Niepokalanów. "On February 17, 1941, he was arrested by the German Gestapo and imprisoned in the Pawiak prison, and, on May 25, was transferred to Auschwitz I as prisoner #16670. "In July, 1941, a man from Kolbe's barracks had vanished, prompting SS-Hauptsturmführer Karl Fritzsche, the Lagerführer (camp commander), to pick 10 men from the same barracks to be starved to death in Block 11 (notorious for torture), in order to deter further escape attempts. (The man who had disappeared was later found drowned in the camp latrine)" "One of the selected men, Franciszek Gajowniczek, cried out, lamenting his family, and Kolbe volunteered to take his place. "During the time in the cell, he led the men in songs and prayer. After three weeks of dehydration and starvation, only Kolbe and three others were still alive. Finally, he was executed with an injection of carbolic acid so that the Nazis could make more room in their holding cells. "Kolbe is one of 10 20th-century martyrs from across the world who are depicted in statues above the Great West Door of

Westminster Abbey, London. He was canonized by Pope John Paul II on 10 October 1982, in the presence of Gajowniczek." At the time, I wrote that the naming of the school after this Saint is a tremendous tribute to the man. "However, unlike say, the Lester B. Pearson Public School in town - which everyone knows (or should know) is named after a former prime minister of Canada - most people may not know all the facts about Mr. Kolbe. "That is why I hope, that when this place of learning is officially opened in September of 2009, that there will be a small plaque somewhere in the building that briefly outlines all the reasons for the school being named after him." Fast forward to today. As the school is scheduled to open in a few weeks I wanted to see if and how the school would further recognize Mr. Kolbe. I had a nice telephone conversation last week with Domenic Scuglia, the new principal at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School. "The doors will indeed be open this September and we will be accommodating 520 new grade 9 and 10 students from Aurora, Newmarket, Stouffville, King, and Schomberg." I asked Mr. Scuglia what the school is doing to perpetuate the memory of Mr. Kolbe and he said, "plenty". "In July a group of students and staff traveled to Poland to follow in the footsteps of St. Maximilian Kolbe," he said. "They visited his birthplace, the City of the Immaculata in Niepokalanow just outside Warsaw, and spent a day at Auschwitz. "The group, prior to leaving, had visited the Holocaust Centre in North York and met Max Eisen - an Auschwitz survivor. Max told his sad story to the group and each member was given a letter to carry

to Auschwitz from different survivors and to open the letter upon arrival at the concentration camp museum and memorial. "It was an extremely powerful and emotional moment as each member of our group opened to read their survivor letter entrusted with them on the rail tracks leading to the 'selection platform' at Auschwitz-Birkenau. "Earlier this year a separate group of students travelled to New York City to participate in a workshop at the Simon Weisenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies while a third group traveled to Boston to meet Father Lucjan Krolikowski who will turn 90 in September and worked for three years with St. Maximilian Kolbe at Niepokalanow." These trips laid the basis for a number of items that will be on permanent display in the school chapel: 1) Ashes from Auschwitz near Block 11 symbolic of where Kolbe died; 2) Stones and bricks of the gas chamber / crematorium outside Auschwitz and Birkenau; 3) Two books signed by Father Lucjan Krolkowski who worked with St. Maximilian Kolbe from 1937 to 1939 at Niepokalanow. One book is a biography of St. Maximilian Kolbe and the other is a book written by Father Lucjan; 4) Artwork that has been created representing St. Maximilian Kolbe; 5) A DVD of his life. The students will also be developing other ideas to commemorate Mr. Kolbe's life.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Stop and go

The people assembled in the boardroom at Town Hall looked expectantly at their leader as he stood and cleared his throat. "My friends," he smiled. "We have completed our goal in record time, and should all be proud of our accomplishments." A round of spontaneous applause broke out around the table. "It was only five short years ago," he continued, "that our special committee was formed to coordinate the installation of stop signs at intersections around Aurora. People thought this would be a limited mandate, and our work would soon be done." "We sure showed them," piped up a member in a grey suit. "We certainly did, Jim," agreed the Chair. "Through the spreading of traffic and safety related unease and uncertainty in the community, the public has insisted on more and more stop signs. And as increasing numbers went in, even more were demanded. Our original one year project continued into a second year, and kept on going. And our budget grew with it." "In this way we have managed to keep ourselves busy for five years. But our success has come at a cost." "In fact," he stared at them all in turn, "with the recent installation of the all-way stop signs at Loring Doolittle Court and Wellington Street West we have reached a crisis." "What's that?" asked a lady in a yellow dress. "Are we out of funds?" "No, Shirley. It's just that..." the Chair paused significantly, "...there are no more free intersections left in Aurora." "What do you mean 'no more'?" asked one of the younger mem-

bers. "There are now stop signs at every intersection in town." "What, all of them?" "Yes. There are simply no more crossroads within the town limits that motorists can pass through without stopping, even on the major streets." "I'm afraid," he sighed, taking his seat, "that Council has suggested it's time for our committee to step down." "How dare they!" "They can't do that!" "Actually, they can." "But there must be something we can do to extend our mandate," noted a grey haired member, clutching the edge of the table. "How about putting up more stop signs within parking lots?" "Those are mostly privately owned spaces. Council wouldn't fund them." "We could encourage more road construction?" another member suggested, with a hint of desperation. "That's really out of our hands." "What if we insisted on stop signs at the end of every driveway?" chipped in someone else. "That's tempting, but..." The Chair was interrupted as a gentleman at the other end of the table cleared his throat. "I've got it," he said with a smile. "We can extend our mandate, and without any new roads or intersections."

"How?" "Simple. We'll start replacing the stop signs at every intersection with traffic lights!" "What, every one? The public won't go for that!" "Sure they will. Look at it this way; right now every time you drive up to an intersection in Aurora, you have to pause at a stop sign. With traffic lights, you've got a 50-50 chance of being able to go straight through." A chorus of excited murmurs went around the table. "That's brilliant!" "Think of the time it'll save!" "A natural selling point." "I love it." The chair stood up and waved them to silence. "So, are we all agreed on Bob's approach?" A unanimous show of hands went into the air. "Excellent. But we must get moving on this right away before someone acts on this idea to disband our committee." "Marcie, Dave, and Shirley, you get working on the cost estimates. Jim, Lisa, and Bob you start on the proposal to Council. As the team members hurried off to complete their tasks, the Chair smacked his hands together with anticipation and smiled. With luck, they may just keep busy for another five years.

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

Letters to the Editor

Councillor supports Mayor Phyllis Morris

To the editor,

It has been my privilege of working with Mayor Phyllis Morris over the last three years.

I have found her to be of high integrity, professional, dedicated, and extremely hard-working.

Dysfunctional council causes new Aurora

To the editor,

It's common knowledge that our illustrious town council has been defined in the past as being dysfunctional.

Contrast that with what we see today, despite the apparently empty promises made during the last election to restore a level of professionalism, decorum and civility to our public dialog.

We are now witnessing our council's transformation into being defined more widely as being both dysfunctional and litigious.

Just check out the recent media coverage on the CBC News, or in the Star, Sun or Globe and ask yourself if that is the government you were promised.

No amount of spin can get around what is actually going on.

Call me crazy, but at this stage choosing lawyers over well qualified integrity commissioners and peace makers may well be the root of the problem.

Welcome to the new Aurora, where we never let the balancing of various well informed opinions, the facts or ethics get in the way of a good down and dirty fight.

Richard Johnson
Aurora

I admire her courage and strength of character.

I laugh when I read in the paper that I am supposedly a "Crony" or a "Follower" of Phyllis.

I assure you that I am an independent thinker, opinionated and a leader in the community.

Phyllis and I have similar viewpoints about community issues including economic revitalization, active community involvement, arts and culture and protecting the environment, and this is why we agree frequently on key issues.

I can assure you that we do have differences of opinion.

When we do, I find Phyllis to be an open and approachable team leader.

We meet to discuss our points of view and work it

out professionally.

I am not controlled, or manipulated by Phyllis as certain negative individuals allege.

There are consistent individuals in this community who seem determined to discredit, manipulate and sensationalize the facts no matter what Phyllis accomplishes.

They show an outright disrespect for a person who has been elected by the vast majority of this community.

I find it very disheartening to see this continual effort to discredit the good character of our mayor.

I ask you to be wary of the sensationalisms that you may be exposed to, and always consider the political motivations of those you are hearing

these disparaging comments from.

I can tell you from my first hand experience over this term that Phyllis has always been of upstanding character and person of integrity in the leadership role as mayor.

We are truly lucky to have her as our chosen leader in Aurora.

Stephen Granger
Councillor
Town of Aurora

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BALDWIN PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE 25 year celebration

Celebrating 25 years of success is a milestone a lot of businesses only dream about. Baldwin Pre-School will open its doors on August 25th from 4.30 to 6.30 pm to celebrate. As the longest established child care facility in Aurora, the school has earned its reputation for excellence with families from Aurora, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, King City, Bradford and Holland Landing. The company has two locations with enriched learning environments, a full day pre-school, located at 55 Wellington Street West, and morning and afternoon half day programs at Academy Baldwin Nursery School that opened its doors in September of 1990 at 69 McLeod Drive.

Selecting a school most appropriate to the needs of young children is one of the key responsibilities of parenting. The company's philosophy and goals are clearly demonstrated by the activities in each of the classrooms.

Baldwin Pre-School Centre's Toddler, Pre-School and Kindergarten curriculum and routines for children 15 months to 6 years of age support love of learning, confidence, self esteem and development of the fullest individual potential and confidence in handling emotions. Through social integration the school fosters a child's adaptation as a happy and accepted member of the peer group, a sense of responsibility, sensitivity and compassion towards others, and respect for environment and all living things. The school also teaches children good manners and awareness of social, environmental and global issues.

The stress and fears that many parents experience when considering child care are alleviated by a warm, loving and secure atmosphere coupled with the consistency and experience of a professional staff, some of whom have been with Baldwin Pre-School for more than 15 years. Staff turnover has always been very low at both Centres.

Children as young as 15 months attend Baldwin Pre-School's Happy Toddler Program. Junior Room every year welcomes 15 children that are taught and cared for by 4 experienced teachers. When these children reach a "mature" age of 2.5 years they continue in the Pre-School classroom. In the kindergarten room for 24 children, 3 sub-programs are offered: a Pre-K, JK and SK. 4 ECE teachers run this program, where children learn to read, write, explore, participate in science workshops, gain general knowledge in geography and history, enjoy drama, weekly music and gymnastics classes, as well as play, laugh, run and build castles at the playground. Following the provincial direction staff develops and constantly upgrades reading and math programs that enable graduates of Baldwin's "in house" kindergarten program to continue primary education at any public or private school of their choice. Many children who graduate from this kindergarten program are being accepted to full day French schools where they successfully continue their education from Grade 1. In general, the atmosphere of happiness and calm and a feeling of continuity surround the school.

Children demonstrate their drama, music and gymnastic skills during 2 concerts that have become traditional. Families and staff are always looking forward to the next concert. These are held in December and June. Children's performances over the years have always brought happy tears to many eyes.

Our school is very proud of the fact that their home cooked meals made from scratch that incorporate grains, legumes, soy, meat and dairy products are culture sensitive. Over the last 25 years the centre has accommodated a large number of families with children who have severe allergies, food and environmental sensitivities and cultural preferences. Staff noticed that eliminating foods with additives, preservatives, trans fats and excessive amounts of sugar resulted in having healthier children, decreased use of antibiotics and absence of inappropriate behavior, thus better academic performance in all age groups. Open House guests will be able to sample a few of the children's favorite dishes.

Baldwin Pre-School Centre also offers Before and After School Programs for children 6 to 10 years old. The Centre staff walks children to two neighbourhood schools or helps children to get on and off the York Region school buses from September to June. During summer holidays "Here and There" Summer camp runs at Academy Baldwin Nursery School. Music, Gymnastics and Soccer are just some of the highlights of this program that Baldwin Pre-School started in the summer of 1996. The camp is so popular that parents register as early as February to secure spaces for their children, as kids attending the Centre's Before and After School Program spend their summers at the camp, limiting vacancies for others.

As part of the 25th anniversary celebration, Baldwin Pre-School Centre on Wellington Street West welcomes you to an Open House the evening of August 25th. Past staff, alumnae, present and newly registered clients will be there to join in the fun. Refreshments, door prizes, performances by children, cooking demonstrations and workshops will be offered to guests between 4.30 and 6.30 pm. Don't miss it!

Donations to the Sick Kids Foundation are greatly appreciated.

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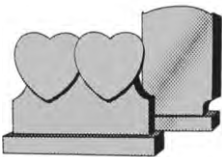
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Letters to the Editor

Opposition to site is growing, reader says

To the editor,

Good day to my fellow Aurorans.

Just writing again to follow up on the the people's fight to "Stop Dump Site 41" and my letter to the editor last week, "Judge let down the people."

On Thursday, August 13th, myself and three other Aurorans (that I know of) attended a rally: "No water to waste" hosted by the Council of Canadians at the University of Toronto.

For myself it was a beautiful evening of truth and freedom of speech....personal testimonies of real people who care greatly about protecting the water for our children.

It was an evening of the People's Voice in Canada ...something I personally have been wishing for some time to happen.

Emcee Dale Goldhawk, of Goldhawk Fights Back, glued the forum together with his humour, wisdom and passion.

U of T student union president, Sandra Hudson, opened the evening by thanking host First Nations for the gathering.

We heard from Steve Ogden, local resident and farmer, who has put everything into confronting this project for the last 20 years since its inception.

We heard the representative from the Council of Canadians finally publicly recognize First Nation Sovereignty and say that Canada must deal with them Nation to Nation. For this, I am

forever grateful to the Council of Canadians. They truly represent how I feel as a Canadian.

We heard the testimonies of Ina and Keith Woods, the elderly farm couple who were arrested this week for mischief.

We heard Vicki Monague, Anishinabwe Kwei, spokesperson for the Beausoliel people laugh off a \$350,000 lawsuit filed against her. Her resolve: she will never stop fighting for the water.

We heard MPP Simcoe North, Garfield Dunlop say it doesn't matter how much we've already spent on this project, we must cut our losses and stop it completely...this is a big mistake.

We heard leader of the Ontario NDP, Andrea Horwath say she is committed to protecting the water and will ensure this will continue to be heard in the legislature.

We heard MP Timmins-James Bay, Charlie Angus emphasize the people are being abused by the process and we have to make our system accountable to us.

As a 'common citizen', Charlie, along with his community stopped the Adams Mine from being developed. During that fight, Charlie said the people recognized they were in a war and though they won the Adam's Mine battle they didn't win the war because there was no accountability and the abuse of power keeps happening elsewhere in Canada.

Throughout the evening we heard of governments, specifi-

cally the Ministry of Environment, "rubber stamping" projects of questionable ethics and practices. We heard stories of both corporate and governmental bullying through intimidation, withholding of information, harassment and just an overall abuse of power.

So the battle continues and the list of supporters continues to grow as well.

To date, I am very disappointed in Canadian mainstream media.

No wonder so many of our kids are ignorant about significant worldly issues yet have one of the highest cell phone use in the world.

In my eyes, and many others, Canadian journalists and media fail their country and citizens.

What's next?

On August 25th, the Simcoe County Council meets to discuss a one-year moratorium on Site 41. It continues to get drawn out and more taxpaying dollars are wasted.

This project must be stopped completely based solely on the fact that the government did not consult the first nations hence once again are denying them their sovereignty.

This is occupation and invasion of a Sovereign nation's land.

Are readers starting to understand, it is the State of Canada who is breaching original treaties and agree-

ments?

Governor General Michalle Jean refuses to act to intervene in stopping site 41 and to initiate peace talks with First Nations. She feels it's up to local and provincial governments. But they continue to deny their voice and Prime Minister Stephen Harper continues to ignore the Indigenous People in Canada.

The only solution is all documents must be brought to the table so both sides can be heard and so that Canadian citizens can see how we've been duped and how our history books have lied.

Honestly, wouldn't a national broadcasted public debate have been a lot cheaper and fairer? Such disputes shouldn't have to be processed in our courts and financially strapped citizens shouldn't have to pay for lawyers. The people could represent themselves for free. Then our policemen and women wouldn't have to arrest fellow community members and our nation would be able to make the wisest and most informed decisions for future generations.

This decision is too big for our courts and our local governments to decide.

Keep yourself updated. Listen to Goldhawk Fights Back 740 AM or search <http://www.stopdumpsite41.ca>.

Join the wave and wear a blue ribbon on your body or car.

Come on, let's show them we care. I feel like I can state that Aurora supports saving the water at Site 41. I bet there are but a handful of people who actually want the dump.

It is time we demand integrity, truth, accountability and

action from our elected officials.

At any time, I would love to hear a reply from any local politician about their views on Site 41.

Heidi G. A. Stoeckin
Aurora



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Congrats to Aurora mayor

Open letter to Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris:

Dear Phyllis,

Your ignorance, arrogance and administrative inability have finally catapult-

ed you onto the pages of Canada's National Newspaper.

Congratulations, and keep up the good work.

George Hervey
Aurora

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Aurora Chamber of Commerce Coming Events

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th, 2009 NETWORKING BREAKFAST
Time: 7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
Program Cost: Complimentary
Place: Treefrog Interactive Inc.
12 Vincent Street, Newmarket

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2009 AGM – MEMBERS' SEPTEMBER SOCIAL
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Program Cost: Complimentary
(Members only – Pre-registration is mandatory)
Place: TBA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2009 BUSINESS AFTER FIVE
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Program Cost: Complimentary
Place: Kwik Kopy Design & Print Centre
305 Industrial Parkway South, Unit 21, Aurora

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, 2009 2009 BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AND AWARDS CEREMONY AWARDS COCKTAIL RECEPTION
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
Program Cost: \$75.00 per person, plus GST
Place: The Country Day School
13415 Dufferin Street, King City
Dress: Black Tie - Optional

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Baseball diamond will have a batting cage

The town is a step closer to its new senior baseball diamond at Stewart Burnett Park.

At its July 21 meeting, council had before it approval of the low bid tender in the amount of \$894,617.30 submitted by S&F Excavating Ltd. to construct the new diamond.

This figure did not include GST or a contingency allowance.

The actual project budget submitted by the company was \$1,148,835.30, but after staff subtracted over a quarter of a million dollars of provisional items, such as bat-

ting cages, dugout components, a storage building, and some landscaping work on the west side of the site, the total came down to just under the previously approved budget of \$896,000.

Unfortunately, one of the provisional items deleted

was the home batting cage, which council had requested be included when the project was given the go ahead June 2.

Dave Giroux, representing the Aurora Minor Ball Association (AMBA), addressed council to support the addition of the home

batting cage.

He suggested that the AMBA would be willing to commit to funding 10 per cent of the additional \$56,000 needed to construct it.

There was some discussion about this addition, as

well as whether a contingency should be included.

But council was anxious to move the project along and approved the increased budget of \$951,000 plus GST to cover the S&F Excavating quote, as well as the batting cage.

Christina Cox has new series

From page 1

break".

"Defying Gravity" an original Fox series, premiered earlier this month and now can be seen on ABC and CTV Sundays at 10 p.m.

"It's sexy, it's fun," Christina said. "There's a big helping of mystery when our group finds out all is not what it seems...I'd say more

but I'd hate to ruin the secret. I have two words for you - liplock and airlock!!! You'll know what I mean later."

Christina plays Jen Crane in the series.

As the ship's astrobiologist, her mission is to research the effects of long-term space travel on living organisms, as well as to fulfill her quest for evidence of life on other planets.

Most recently she starred as Vicki Nelson, an ex-cop turned private investigator specializing in solving supernatural crimes in the Lifetime original series, "Blood Ties," and as Roz, an investigator tracking the activities of the LAPD's infamous Special Investigations Squad in John Herzfeld's telefilm, "SIS".

In addition to starring in several pilots, including co-creating and developing an

original script for Sony Television, she has an extensive list of guest starring and recurring roles on such hit shows as "CSI: Miami," "Bones," "House" and "Numb3rs".

She also recently headed up the first all female off-world team as Major Anne Teldy on "Stargate: Atlantis."

Her career began with a Gemini-nominated performance for her leading role as Angie Ramirez in "FX: The Series," and she went on to earn critical praise for her lead performance in the award-winning romantic comedy, "Better than Chocolate".

She also garnered much attention for her intensely physical role as mercenary Eve Logan in the blockbuster motion picture, "The Chronicles of Riddick."

Her father said Christina had always been interested in acting.

"She knew what she wanted to do from the time she was four years old," he said.

Christina, who spends time in Vancouver and Los Angeles, probably gets home three or four times a year.

Seniors Duplicate Bridge

Monday afternoon

August 10: North-South - Anne White and Barbara Wittmer; Eva Guttman and Greta Ogden; Mary Oglanby and Joan Rotenberg. East-West - Isobel Garrett and Kay Hack; Carole Davidson and Elaine Hunter; Bonnie Scheel and Marcella Lawless.

GRAND OPENING



Standing in front of his new restaurant, Annalisa, owner Mike Llu, centre right, joins, left to right, Mayor Phyllis Morris, Bill, Ted, Telly Spasapolous and Councillor Evelina MacEachern. The restaurant is located at Yonge & Mosley Sts. in Aurora. (Former location of The Trio). Annalisa is serving Fusion Cuisine, Japanese, Vietnamese & Thai. They are having a Grand Opening Special of 15% off.

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One of the most popular stops during Aurora's Doors Open event Saturday was the site of the "Diefenbunker", a bomb shelter designed far enough away from Toronto to house up to 300 important people. People lined up, top photo, for an opportunity to view the shelter beneath a home at 200 Old Yonge Street, just south of the St. John's sideroad. Once inside, lower photo, visitors were treated to maps and information surrounding the historic site. Needless to say, the shelter was never used. *Auroran photos by David Falconer*

Aquatics staff plans fundraiser

The aquatics staff of Aurora plans a charity event entitled "10th Annual Water Games", Wednesday, August 26.

The mayor of Aurora, members of council, and the public are being invited to learn about Personal Floatation Devices and their use on and around the water by participating in water-related activities.

The event will provide children and their families with the opportunity to participate in an afternoon of games and water themed fun.

Prizes and loot bags provided by Aurora sponsors will be given out following the swim.

All proceeds raised will be donated to the Lifesaving Society.

The event begins at 4 p.m. and is expected to conclude at 5.25 p.m. and takes place at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex Pool, 1400 Wellington St. East at Leslie.



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Aurora Minor ball scores

Bantam House League

July 14: Aspen Ridge 12, Restorer Group 11.

Mosquito

Dr. Mark Weeden 7, Jenmark, 4.
Aspen Ridge 13, Restorer's Group 3,
Lakeshore Valumart 10, Dr. Orschel's 6.
July 16: Lakeshore Valumart 13, Aspen Ridge 10.
Jenmark, 12, Dr. Mark Weeden 11.
Kwik Kopy 8, Dr. Orschel's 3.
July 14: Orangeville 11; Bantam Jays 4.
July 15: Bantam Jays 8, Martingrove 2.

Junior Rookie

July 16: DG Law 22, LH Lind 17.

Senior Rookie

McDonalds 14, Canadian Springs 14.

Jays Minor Midgets

On Friday July 17th the Jays Minor Midgets, sponsored by TSN, travelled to Markham for a match with the Mariners. Ryan Anderson picked up the win for the Jays in relief and Bill Lowey pitched a scoreless inning to shut down the Mariners.

The Jays fell behind 6-3 after three innings but came to life in the fourth scoring eight times to gain the lead that led to their 16-6 victory. Offensively the Jays were led by Pat Jones and Michael Sartor who each knocked in 3 RBI's. Josh Lipscombe had two hits for the Jays.

Mosquito

July 21: Aspen Ridge 14, Dr. Weeden 2.
Jenmark 9, Lakeshore Valumart 4.
Restorer's Group 19, Dr. Orschel's 6.

On Saturday, July 25, the Aurora Jays Peeewe Select team faced Markham in what turned out to be a low-scoring pitcher's duel. Markham squeezed out a run in the top of the sixth to tie the score, but the Jays came through in the bottom of the inning with a run that won the game 4-3.

July 27: The Jays Minor Midgets were visited by the strong hitting Barrie Red Sox. The Sox were met by the equally strong pitching of Josh Lipscombe and Trevor Searle who gave up one run each over their three innings of pitching. Searle struck out five hitters in the process and led the Jay offence scoring three times on a double, and added two walks. Troy Gouveia knocked in two runs and Ryan Berube chipped in with two hits as Aurora downed the Redsox 12-7.

Senior Rookie

July 27: Canadian Springs 20, McDonald's 19.

Junior Rookie

July 28: Michelberger 20, Summers & Smith 19.
DG Law 15, Mastermind Educational 7.

Mosquito

July 28: Lakeshore valuemart 16, Dr. Mark Weeden 10.

Bantam House League

July 28: Gabby's 15, Rotary Club 5.

Bantam Jays

July 28: Aurora 13, Richmond Hill 6.

Jays Minor Midgets

July 28: Vaughan Vikings travelled to Aurora to take on the Jays Minor Midgets. Vaughan came out hitting hard scoring four runs in the first inning. The Jays were unable to rally, and lost 8 -5. Fraser Robbins gave up two runs in four innings and stuck out four Viking batters. Trevor Searle reached base all four plate appearances scoring twice and knocking in a run. Matt Carter knocked in two runs and Bill Lowey and Matt Miller also knocked in one run each for the Jays.

Senior Rookie

July 29: McAlpine Ford 13, Canadian Springs 13.
July 30: DG Law 22, LH Lind 12.

Bantam House League

July 30: Gabby's 12, Aspen Ridge 3.
Restorers Group 14, Rotary Club 12.

Jays Minor Midgets

On August 3rd, North York visited Aurora and jumped on the Jays early scoring seven runs in the second inning and going on to win 11-5. Ward Benn pitched three scoreless innings in relief followed by two scoreless innings by Bill Lowey. Both pitchers struck out three North York batters each. Ben Ruffa doubled in two runs and Ryan Taylor singled in a run for the Jays

Mosquito

August 4: Dr. Mark Weeden. 14, Lakeshore Valumart 4.

Jays Minor Midgets

On August 4th the Minor Midget Jays travelled to East York and battled the top team from the Toronto Baseball Association to a 2 - 2 draw. Chris Leslie pitched nearly six innings for the Jays giving up only four hits and striking out five batters. Trevor Searle pitched one and a third scoreless innings to preserve the tie. Bill Lowey, Josh Lipscombe, Chris Leslie, Trevor Searle and Ryan Anderson had one hit each with Lowey knocking in a run.

Junior Rookie

August 6: DG Law 18, Summers and Smith 14.

Peeewe Select

The Aurora Jays Peeewe Select team took to the diamond three times recently. On Friday, August 7, the top two teams in the league battled it out for first place in the standings. The Jays lost a nail-biter as the Vaughan Vikings scored a run in the top of the last inning and then shut down the Jays in the bottom half for a close 4-3 victory.

On Saturday, August 8, the Jays took on the Markham Mariners in a double-header in Markham. With a lot of solid hitting and strong pitching, the Jays swept the Mariners with scores of 15-3 in the first game and 5-2 in the second.



The Stingers U10 Boys Team 1 is comprised of back row, left to right, Coaches Thomas Seidel and Casey Futterer, Trainer Carol Robinson, Assistant Manager and Tournament Manager Louise Dyer; middle row, Dimitri Mikrogiannikis, Giuliano Accardi, Niklas Seidel, Gabriel Jodhan, Kairav Jutta, Jack Camplin, Cameron Dyer; front row, Cameron Lobsinger, Brady Futterer, Andrew Sergejewich, Morgan Frost, Daniel Palij, Matthew Minchella, and Matthew Skalic.

Aurora minor soccer team wins tournament

The Aurora Stingers U10 Boys Team 1 is at it again.

This definitely has been a team to watch this season.

Recently, the team did their town proud as they brought home a fifth tournament championship, winning the Heart of York Tournament in Newmarket.

In an impressive display of talent and teamwork, they readily dispatched their opposition during the round robin, beating Oak Ridges, 7-4, Newmarket Red, 10-0, West

Toronto, 5-1 and Woodbridge B, 7-0.

In the finals they crushed a very determined and disappointed Woodbridge A team 7-2.

With no further tournaments scheduled, the team now has its sights set on winning the league cup and their division.

They will be playing in league cup semi-finals this weekend.

Winning that, of course, will advance the team to the finals.



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By Lois Brown,
MP Newmarket-Aurora

Conservative government working for families

In these tough economic times, standing up for families is more important than ever.

The Conservative Government is delivering on its commitments to families.

We understand that everyone is stretching to make ends meet.

Our government introduced measures that give families a break, long before the global recession hit, and now Canada's Economic Action Plan is making sure families get the support they need.

We have delivered a new child tax credit, the Universal Child Care Benefit and a break for families that enrol their kids in amateur sports.

The marriage penalty in the tax system has been removed.

Registered Education Savings Plans have been strengthened, so families can plan better for the future.

All of these measures have helped put Canada and Canadian families in a strong position to weather the storm, and set the stage for a promising future.

The Conservative Government is also helping young families get a head start on buying their first homes, by providing up to \$750 in tax relief.

We're also providing first-time home buyers with more flexibility to buy or build a home.

They can now withdraw up to \$25,000 from RRSP savings to do so, an increase from the previous limit of \$20,000.

These measures don't just help first-time homebuyers; they also stimulate our economy by boosting demand for housing, which is a key driver of economic activity in Canada.

The Home Renovation Tax Credit is an important foundation of Canada's Economic Action Plan.

We are lending a hand to families who want to improve their homes as their most significant investment, and at the same time, giving a boost to tradespeople and business that produce and sell building materials.

This year, as we fight the

global recession, families will be able to claim a credit for eligible renovations worth up to \$10,000 and receive up to \$1,350 in tax relief.

Right across the country, Canadian families are benefiting from this tax relief by improving kitchens and bathrooms, building new decks, laying new carpet or even putting on new roofs.

This activity is putting contractors, carpenters, and all kinds of other trades people to work.

It's generating local business at everything from hardware stores to lumber yards.

In turn, the entire Canadian economy reaps the benefits.

The Home Renovation Tax Credit, and the other new investments we're making to stimulate the economy, are designed to create and protect jobs during this period.

All these measures reflect our belief that by making life a little easier for families, we can build a stronger Canada.

If you would like more information on these programs or any other federal service, please contact me by telephone at 905-953-7515 or email at Brown.L@parl.gc.ca.

AHS will hold appraisal day

Here's something that could be worth some money to you.

In the latest edition of "The Attic", a newsletter that is produced by the Aurora Historical Society (AHS), it notes that on Sunday, October 18th, the society will host an Antique Appraisal Day at Hillary House National Historic Site.

"Inspired by the popular television show "Antiques Roadshow", visitors will have the opportunity to have their most valued and interesting antiques examined by two experienced and professional antique appraisers," the newsletter says.

The event runs from noon until 4 p.m. Appraisal cost is \$5 per item for a maximum of

four items per family.

Appraisals are based on a first come, first served basis.

All proceeds from this event go to the care and restoration of Hillary House.

For more information, call the Historical Society at 905-727-8991 or visit the website at www.aurorahistoricalsociety.ca.

Hillary House is located on the west side of Yonge Street, between Wellington Street and Aurora Heights Drive.

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A shared holiday between two couples starts to unravel following a tennis match in *Visitors from Chicago* featuring (left to right) Alan Virgoe, Taisa Ballard, Denise Kennedy and Don Colucci, in Theatre Aurora's latest production *California Suite*, now playing on varied days.

Theatre Aurora outdoes itself

Snappy wordplay highlights the exchange between the divorced couple, as they decide what living arrangements are best for the girl.

The delightfully slapstick *Visitors from Philadelphia* features a husband who awakens to discover a prostitute unconscious in his bed.

He frantically has to hide her from his wife, who is on her way to the suite.

The bittersweet story of *Visitors from London* focuses on the changing relationship between a British actress in town as a nominee for the Academy Award for Best Actress, and her husband.

It takes place both before and after the awards ceremony.

Physical comedy wraps up the evening in *Visitors from Chicago*.

We can all sympathize with the story of two couples, who started a vacation together as best friends, but whose nerves are now fraying from spending too much time together.

First-time Director Helen Coughlin says the group worked hard to make these characters real, so that people could see a bit of themselves in their situations, and it shows.

All of the stories are truly captivating, and provoked an enthusiastic response

from the opening night crowd.

There is a lot of experience in the cast.

Alan Virgoe and Don Colucci have 35 years of acting talent between them.

Each performed different parts in two of the evening's stories, and both had wonderful comedic timing.

Taisa Ballard was similarly engaging, and not only took on two parts herself, but also covered the behind the scenes tasks of sound design and photography.

Rob Goodale and Zara Stuart-Jones, in the London story, delivered their lines beautifully, and were truly sympathetic, drawing the audience in and taking them on an emotional roller-coaster ride.

Denise Kennedy and first-timer (although that was hard to believe) Joanne Papania rounded out the

cast, and each was excellent in their roles.

Apart from the high calibre of acting, and the terrific script, the play is well paced, and full of wonderful little touches, such as having the behind the scenes crew bring in a cleaning cart when they reset the stage between acts.

Working as maids they do a quick bit of dusting, remake the bed, exchange a few props, and the soon the "hotel room" is ready for its next guests.

Ms Coughlin notes that the cast and crew had a lot of fun with these characters, and no doubt, you will, too.

Evening performances of *California Suite* continue at Theatre Aurora, 150 Henderson Drive, on August 19, 20, 21 and 22.

Tickets for all shows are available at the box office, 905-727-3669.



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Senior Scape



Woodshop gains in popularity

By BRIAN WARBURTON

When the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) moved from the old centre on Victoria St to the present headquarters on the Municipal Drive, among the results of plans subsequently brought to fruition, is the ASA woodworking shop of today.

Fine quality equipment distinguishes the shop, which allows members to engage in superior carpentry.

Wood carving is practiced by a strong contingent, composed of gifted women mostly who know what they want, and where it lies hidden in wood and their hearts desire is to reveal it from wood. Removing unwanted wood and revealing the art hidden inside is what they do.

The wood carvers and the carpentry section complement each other nicely and from time to time the two branches of woodworking cooperate to achieve a desired result.

Examples of many completed projects from carpentry and carving are displayed in the reception area of the centre.

The carpenters and carvers are spare time enthusiasts, many of whom have developed their dexterity and skillfulness to a high level of proficiency.

While their status remains that of enthusiasts, they conduct themselves in the manner of professionals, particularly where safety is concerned.

Many share their knowledge with fellow seniors, and there are many seniors who would like to exercise wood working talents they suspect they possess.

So, ladies and gentlemen, if the possibility of expressing dormant woodworking talents presents itself as a pleasant diversion, make yourself known to the ASA together with your wishes.

The wood shop was designed originally to be an outlet for hobbies based on wood working.

This has resulted naturally in members creating their own projects including items for their

home and gardens such as plant boxes for the garden, or using woodworking equipment to turn bowls from wood and building a variety of bird boxes for their homes.

A variety of small wood projects have been completed for the ASA, and for the Town; bird boxes have been built, assembled and located in public areas around Aurora, and birds in Aurora are well housed during the breeding season, thanks to the initiative of ASA woodworkers in cooperation with others.

Woodworking with Grandkids was tried successfully last year and will be repeated Tuesday, October 20th. This is a Town program for which registration is required with a cost attached of \$30.

It is a wonderful program recommended for kids five years and older.

Materials and assistance will be provided to build a small wooden train and this proves to be an absolute delight for young children.

More projects of a similar kind are anticipated in the future and while there is no wish for the woodshop to become overloaded or industrialized, the performance of useful public projects is gratifying, cost effective and a useful way to contribute to the excellence of life in Aurora.

In addition to the above is a list of projects, which expands constantly and includes winning awards for floats for two Canada Day parades and one award-winning Santa Claus parade float.

A vintage sleigh was refurbished for Hillary House and made a huge impression in and around Aurora; it seemed everybody wanted to display the sleigh at the time.

Ron Coe was a great driving force in these projects and remains a strong influence in all that transpires in the Woodshop.

Mike Varcoe is another shop member whose contributions include the original setting up of

the Woodshop, and later, Mike secured all tools needed on budget, which serve to characterize Mike and his contributions as top quality.

George Woolley also contributed to the development of the woodshop.

Other members have contributed greatly and will be recognized in future articles.

In addition to the above, the Senior Scape column is open to all members of the ASA to report matters of interest or of achievement.

To this end, everybody is urged to make me aware of what should be recognized.

If you have a story that needs telling, personal or informative about activities in the ASA, please inform me and let the story be considered for publication.

I cannot write a story if I do not know it. Leave the story or a message at the ASA front counter, and that will start the process.

The new computer club committee is scheduled to meet Friday, August 21st, at 10 a.m. and decisions regarding computer instruction will be at the discretion of this committee.

If you seek computer instruction in the coming months, one on one or group instruction, leave a message at the front counter detailing what is sought and this will impact on what is offered.

Messages requesting instruction will receive focused attention at the committee meeting, and sufficient requests will prove hugely informative to the committee about what is required.

Body, Mind and Spirit is a novel event, scheduled for Sunday, September 20th, at the seniors centre, from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Services offered will include tea leaf reading, card reading, palm reading astrology, reflexology, massages and hand paraffin waxing and more since vendors are still signing on.



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