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HS FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.

THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 9 No. 42 905-727-3300 auroran.com FREE Week of August 25, 2009



Greg Foster, franchise owner of Aurora's M & M Meats, was surprised by his friends Wednesday night with a small candle-filled cake to celebrate his birthday. Taking part in the celebration besides his three young daughters, Sarah, Alexis and Megan, were, left to right, Shauna Soloman, Heather Barker, Shelley Tibbitts and Emily Cooke. Surprise took place at the final Concert in the Park at Aurora's Town Park, where the biggest crowd in the history of the event showed up, causing M & M to sell out of hot dogs and hamburgers before the first intermission.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Corn roast and barbecue part of market Saturday

Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris is issuing a welcome to residents to join her at the Farmer's Market in Town Park this Saturday, August 29, for the Mayor's Corn Roast and Charity barbeque.

Between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., freshly cooked locally grown corn provided by Coopers' Farm will be available for 50 cents a cob, with Longo's providing the burgers, hot dogs and water, which will be \$2, \$1 and 50 cents respectively.

This year's event will also help raise awareness for Welcoming Arms, an ecumenical outreach program of five local churches that assist the less fortunate in Aurora and district.

The churches include Trinity

Anglican, Our Lady of Grace Catholic, Aurora United, Aurora Presbyterian and Aurora Cornerstone.

Proceeds from the corn and barbeque sales will go towards Welcoming Arms, as will half of the money raised from the sale of Farmer's Market tote bags, which will be available for the price of \$4. Donations will also be accepted.

"The economy has hurt a lot of families, and Welcoming Arms has done a tremendous job in the community over the past few years," said Mayor Morris. "Most of us in Aurora feel very fortunate, and this is one way of giving back."

There will also be entertainment. Face painting will be available

and everyone can enjoy live music courtesy of The After Hours Big Band.

The band will be on hand at the Town Park bandshell starting around 10 a.m.

"Good things happen in the community when we all come together," concluded the Mayor. "I can't thank the people of Aurora enough for helping out."

Of course, apart from the day's special food and entertainment, all of the Market's regular vendors will be there from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., as they are every Saturday until October, with their fresh produce, flowers, honey, coffee, pastries, home-made crafts, and other goodies.

Supporters get another chance to save school

Wells Street school supporters will apparently get one more chance to present their views, if a letter from the York Region District School Board chairperson is official.

A few members of the school supporters' group - apparently those who had delegation status at the last Board meeting to discuss the school's future, have received letters from Chairperson Diane Giangrande.

Her letter says there will be another meeting August 25, where Board staff are going to be given the opportunity to make another presentation, according to school supporter Dan Revington.

"On behalf of the York Region District School Board, I would like to provide you with a further update on the Wells Street Public School Accommodation Review,"

the letter says. "In response to the discussion at the July 6, 2009 Board Meeting, staff have prepared a follow-up report which will be presented at the Tuesday August 25 board meeting. This document is scheduled to be posted on the Board website by the end of the day, Thursday, August 20."

"All members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting. Please refer to the Board's website at www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca as an ongoing source of information for reports and meeting dates. The Board is scheduled to make a final decision regarding Wells Street Public School at its September 24, 2009 Board Meeting."

The Board meets at the school's headquarters on Wellington Street in Aurora, just west of Yonge Street,

Briefly



Lisa Knappett
She's back!!

Lisa Knappett, who served 10 years as manager of the Toronto Dominion Canada Trust branch at Yonge and Wellington Streets in Aurora, returned to that post last week.

Lisa had spent five years as manager of a branch on Davis Drive in Newmarket, but officials elected to close that location. Customers and staff were elated by the news.

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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 keepsing-ing@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 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.

A Bereavement Support Group for adults experiencing the death of a loved one, is again being offered at the Aurora United Church for an eight-week session, from 7 to 9 p.m. beginning Wednesday, October 7 and ending November 25. The program is non-denominational and is open for free to all in the community. To register or for more information, contact Mary at 905-727-6984 or kenmar.smith@rogers.com.

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.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

The annual Terry Fox run begins and ends at Sheppards Bush. Registration starts at 8.30 a.m. in the Pavilion at the Sheppards Bush Soccer Fields and the run begins at 10 a.m. There is a five kilometre course through the streets and a more leisurely two kilometre stroll in the forest. Participants have the option of walking or riding a bike. Volunteers are needed. This is a great opportunity for students looking to fulfill their requirement for Volunteer Hours. Food donations, such as fruit, water, juice boxes, fruit bars for the participants following the event are welcomed.

The 12th Annual Aurora/Newmarket SuperWalk for Parkinson's Disease takes place at Fairy Lake in Newmarket. Registration, a Yoga demonstration by The Royal Pathways Inc. and speeches begin at 9.30 a.m. under the main pavilion closest to the Water Street entrance. The walk begins at 10.30 a.m. For more information call Kim Rouse-Parypa in Aurora at 905-713-0774 or e-mail kimrp@sympatico.ca. For more information on Parkinson's or to register on-line visit www.superwalk.com

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

The Aurora Film Circuit presents "Sugar", the story of a newcomer's pursuit of the American baseball dream. Miguel 'Sugar' Santos experiences isolation, loneliness and bigotry when he is summoned to the American minor leagues, and also has to deal with the expectations of his family. This complex drama surprises those expecting a by-the-book, "underdog-beats-the-odds" story by finding bigger ideas through smaller, more personal moments. Tickets, at \$10, are available at Aurora Public Library and R & R Revisited. All screenings take place at the Cineplex Aurora, with door prize at 6.45 p.m. and film at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society presents its Annual Flower Show from noon to 4 p.m. at the Aurora Public Library, Yonge and Church St. Free admission. Chance to win a raffle.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

September meeting of the Aurora Historical Society will be held

at the Church Street School from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. The program will focus on the AHS's collection of artifacts and their use in the old/brand new facility. The event is free to AHS members and a donation is requested from non-members.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Breast cancer fundraiser will be held at the Aurora Legion beginning at 8 p.m. and feature Aurora's Randy Skelcher and guest appearance of Chicago Transit. Tickets in advance at \$35, and after August 31st, will be \$40. For tickets call 905-836-7584 or 905-841-3861. All proceeds go to the Regional Cancer Program at Southlake District Health Centre in Newmarket.

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Aurora's McAlpine Ford was the host last week of a barbecue for members of the Aurora Legion. Activity took place at the Legion property on Industrial Parkway North. Participating in the successful event were, front to back, Randy Winstone from Alpine; Legion president Rick Preston and the man who cooked the food Greg Foster from M & M Meats in Aurora.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Terry Fox Run ready for 29th annual event

The 29th annual Terry Fox Run is currently being organized in Aurora.

And, Aurorans will join hundreds of thousands of people expected to participate in the event.

Run date is set for Sunday, September 13th, with all the action beginning and ending at Sheppards Bush.

Registration begins at 8.30 a.m, in the pavilion at the Sheppards Bush soccer fields, located off Industrial Parkway South.

The run gets underway at 10 a.m.

Included will be a five kilometre course through the streets of Aurora and a more leisurely two kilometre stroll through the bush.

Participants are welcomed to walk, run or ride a bicycle.

However, organizer Hank Van Bakel needs volunteers.

"This is a great way for students looking to fulfill their requirement for Volunteer Hours," he said.

Food donations, such as fruit, water, juice boxes and fruit bars for the participants following the

event would be greatly appreciated, he added.

To communicate with the organizer, send an e-mail to hvanbakel@ortech.ca.

Fourth annual Ribfest ready at Machell Park

The fourth annual Ribfest, slated once more to be held at Machell Park is ready to go.

The Town of Aurora is hosting the event at the park on Aurora Heights Drive, across from the Aurora Community Centre for three days.

The Ribfest will open Friday, September 11 and wind up Sunday, September 13.

In addition to the Ribfest, you can enter your rib sauce in a competition.

Back by popular demand, the Community Sauce Competition will take place Saturday, September 12 at 1 p.m.

Teams will be supplied with a half-rack of fully cooked ribs and will be required to baste the ribs with their prepared sauces.

Teams will then present their creation to a panel of judges and a winner will be chosen. Contestants must pre-register by September 8 in order to participate. Registration is free and applications and details may be found in the Special Events section on the Town's website at www.e-aurora.ca.

New this year is an electronic bull ride which will be featured Saturday, September 12, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Cost for the ride of your life is \$2 per person.

There will also be a free Kid's Zone with a variety of interactive activities, which will be open throughout the weekend event from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Aurora's Ribfest will once again offer a beer garden, managed by the Aurora Rotary Club, along with live entertainment and a full Midway.

There will be a great selection of food for meat

and veggie lovers ranging from ribs, chicken, bloom-in' onions, butterfly chips, roasted yams, roasted corn-on-the-cob and ice cream.

On Sunday, September 13th, visiting rib teams will compete for Aurora's bragging rights, and will

be judged by representatives from the community to determine which team is Aurora's sauciest. The competition will take place at 1 p.m.

For more information, visit www.e-aurora.ca, call 905-726-4762, or e-mail sware@e-aurora.ca.

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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Wells Street School

The following report on the future of Aurora’s Wells Street School will be considered by York Region District school trustees at the end of this month, and they’ll likely agree with the staff recommendations:

Please note that in the interests of space, the following report has been edited. The complete report may be found on the board’s website: yrdsb.edu.on.ca.

At the July 6, 2009 Board Meeting, trustees heard a number of delegations from the community concerning the school.

RATIONALE: The following report addresses issues and questions raised by delegates and trustees at the July 6, 2009 Board Meeting and the staff response to those issues and questions. It also includes material received from the community since the July 6 meeting.

1. FINANCES: Wells Street Public School financial analysis appended to the document titled “Community Report Supporting the Re-opening of Wells Street Public School”, raises a number of points, some of which were articulated at the July 6 board meeting by Mike Palmer and Marie McLaughlin. The report provides community comments and raises questions regarding financial issues addressed in the April 30 staff report and the July 6 follow-up report.

Some community members believe there are costs in the minimal retrofit option (\$5.21 million (M)) that are also being included in the ReCAPP add-on of \$3.5M to \$6M, thereby questioning the total expenditure of between \$8.71M to \$11.21M. Community members also commented that the \$1.81M already spent on Wells Street Public School under the Good Places to Learn funding should be deducted.

Staff Response: Staff have reviewed the minimal retrofit option (\$5.21M) and the ReCAPP add-on and have found no double counting other than \$54,450 to replace a wooden floor in the library.

Staff believe it is necessary to include the ReCAPP add-on when evaluating the minimal retrofit option, in that the majority of the renewal elements in the ReCAPP add-on need to be addressed either immediately or in the near future.

The \$1.81M referenced in the community comments has not been spent on Wells Street Public School.

New building with heritage facade, cost estimate: Community members assert the increase in the cost estimate by staff from \$8.59M in the IBI Report to \$10M is not warranted. They claim the 20% contingency in the cost estimates and the 3% escalation are adequate, therefore the cost of Option 3 should not exceed \$8.59M.

Staff Response: Staff are of the opinion that the \$10M estimate is still reasonable.

The 20% contingency provided by the cost consultants (Hooker) in the IBI Report is a design contingency in that there were no detailed architectural drawings for the replacement school.

Staff believe there might be a number of additional heritage elements to be addressed through the site plan approval process, in particular those which may be raised by the Heritage Advisory Committee of Aurora which might increase the cost of the project.

The 3% escalation was based on an April 2008 costing and an anticipated 2008 tender. The replacement school, if approved by the Board, would be tendered in 2010, which provides an additional two-year window for potential escalation which could be in excess of 3%.

It should be noted that the \$8.59M identified by the cost consultant does not include GST and a number of soft costs, the most notable of which would be furniture and equipment.

On balance, the cost estimate of \$10M to replace Wells Street Public School is a conservative estimate that allows for contingencies, but still seems to be reasonable to staff.

Sources of financing available to replace Wells Street Public School - Community members assert that the main sources of funding identified to replace Wells Street Public School are understated, and that there are additional sources of revenue available to the Board.

Staff Response: The two sources of funding identified by staff are the main sources of funding for replacement school projects not approved by the Province; annual allocation for renewal and the Proceeds of Disposition Reserve.

As I said, the report goes on and on, but I’ll share the recommendation with you, then trust, if you still want to read the rest, you’ll go to their website.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the trustees receive the Wells Street Public School Information Report.

The future of the Wells Street School, Aurora’s first high school, is in the hands of 12 trustees, 11 of whom don’t even live here.

If they shoot it down, I have another suggestion, but I’ll wait until that September meeting to see what the future of the building will be.



The three boys’ basketball teams from the Aurora High School (Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School) in 1961 are shown here. In the top photo, members of the school’s senior team were, front row, left to right, Stephen Wright and Len Simpson; back row, left to right, Larry Wall (manager), Ken Robson, Bob McBurney; Don Gordon, Derek Scott and Al Hutchins. The junior team (centre photo) consisted of, front row, left to right, Mike Boone, Jim Ball, Larry Rose, John Ounnappuu and Greg Gater; back row left to right, Larry Wall (manager), Gordon Empey, Denis Symons, Guy Langman, Stephen Bernardo and Andy Peterson. The midget boys’ team (bottom photo), was made up of, front row, left to right, Blake Smith, Richard Beamish, Ken Jackson, Russel Hicks, Neal Sisman, and George Listers; back row, left to right, Kerry McKaulay, Dave Griffith, Mike Schurman, Ed Hopkins, Paul Scott and Tom Hardie. Absent when that picture was taken were Jim Runstedler, Robert Tetley and Les Smith.

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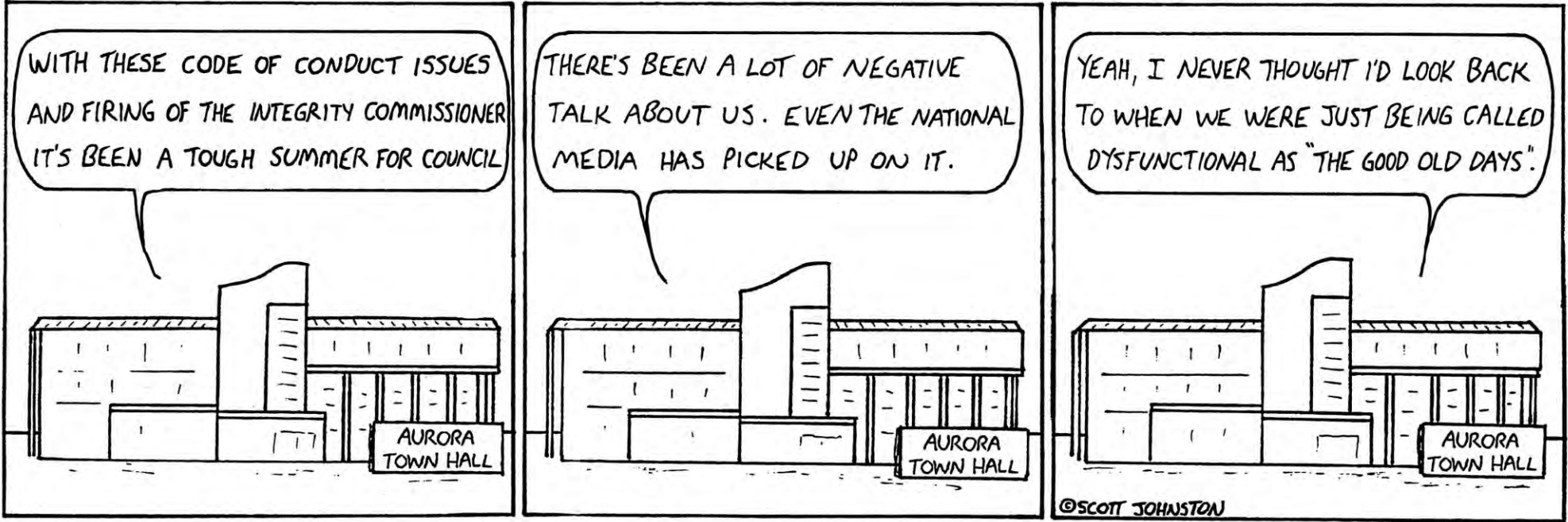
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Council - blow your own horn

From reading the recent batch of letters to the editor, I know a lot of you are unhappy with, among other things, the way council handled the firing of the integrity commissioner.

Suffice to say this whole situation is getting rather tiresome.

From my limited viewing of council proceedings, I'm not sure how well the elected members get along, and there seems to be, at least exhibited by one member of council, a lack or respect for the mayor or the office that Phyllis Morris holds.

I would not mind the foolish antics at council if I were certain it wasn't costing us any money and that the community's business was being accomplished.

Heck, look at the 1977 and 1978 New York Yankees. Manager Billy Martin battled all the time with his players (especially star slugger Reggie Jackson), but in the end, they won two World Series. In other words, they got it done.

It is very tough for me to pass judgment on this group as I don't watch many council meetings on television and I have only attended two meetings in person.

I have met most, but not all the councillors, and on an individual basis, I like them all. They certainly care about Aurora and are not in it for the money.

But the events of the last few weeks are not good, and things don't seem to have changed since former Councillor Grace Marsh left.

My late columnist colleague Dick Illingworth wrote the following back on May 6th, 2008:

"In almost 50 years of participating or observing municipal council meetings as a member, a bureaucrat in Municipal

Affairs at Queen's Park and a member of the media, I have never seen a more fractious council than the current Aurora Council."

He adds, "It is an embarrassment and a disgrace.

"Individually, they are conscientious and hard-working but have failed to come together as a team resulting in procedural disputes, long delays in making decisions regarding town issues, an apparent lack of confidence in town staff by some members and frequent 5-4 votes."

As everyone knows, once you get a group of individuals together for any project, there could be difficulties because of ego, ambition, temperament, what have you. Why should Aurora Town Council be any different?

But, in spite of these differences, you usually have something that unites an elected body; a common purpose or specific goals.

It is often said in football, that many of the other players resent the quarterback for a host of reasons, but the linemen protect him because their goal is to win, and keeping the QB in one piece is a good start to attaining that goal.

You would hope that the Aurora Council could do the same thing; that is rally around a common set of initiatives or goals.

Let's rewind the tape to December, 2006. A new, fresh council has just been sworn in. The mayor makes her inaugural address.

It was her un-filtered and un-fettered opportunity to reinforce a message to the good folks of Aurora. As I wrote at the time: "She also touched all the right bases and set just the right tone. She stated "I will work with Council and Town staff

to make our municipal government more open, more transparent, more accountable and more inclusive".

"So let's not forget one thing. Aurora voters sent a strong message that they expect us at council, staff and mayor to do a better job, a better job of working together to move the business of this town forward in a positive and productive atmosphere."

The mayor also offered her list of priorities and an overview of the issues and challenges to be dealt with during the term and she then asked the audience, during her closing, to imagine what Aurora could be and could look like."

Compelling stuff it was.

I'll bet that there is a whole host of good initiatives that this council can and should be proud of.

As I have written before on this page, and will do so again now, maybe this council, as a group, has got to start blowing its own horn, so to speak.

They certainly need to do something to refocus our eyes and ears away from the petty and costly stuff that has been going on.

Now is as good a time as any to start. Why doesn't council - collectively as a show of unity - let us know, through a letter to the editor perhaps, what important issues they are dealing with or what they would like to accomplish over the next six months and through to the November 2010 election.

Some type of letter that is brief, factual, to the point, and produced every month or two would do just fine.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephensomerville@yahoo.com

Letters to the Editor

Granger letter made this reader “chuckle”

To the editor,

I read a recent letter by Councillor Stephen Granger defending the

abilities of Mayor Phyllis Morris and I had to chuckle.

He gives her high praise and suggests that

a few negative individuals, coupled with critical media coverage has blown the attack on Councillor Evelyn Buck

out of proportion.

The firing of the integrity commissioner hired by the Town of Aurora was just one of

many obvious signs that the 'group of six' on council are far more concerned with getting even with Ms Buck than serving the needs of the people.

This was also painfully obvious when Mayor Morris sat back and allowed Sher St. Kitts to verbally maul Ms Buck in front of her own family and friends, something that everyone I've spoken to has expressed disgust and disdain towards our mayor.

Kudos to Councillors Bob McRoberts and Alison Collins-Mrakas for not taking part in the childish, lynch-mob mentality of the others.

Here is a term that the 'group of six' may want to keep in mind come next election, "actions speak louder than words".

Anyone can say words like 'there's no collusion

on this council' or 'we only want what's best for the people of Aurora' however the words don't mean anything if the actions suggest otherwise.

Council is spending valuable time and money on this nonsensical farce regardless of the fact that the vast majority of our citizens are against the whole process.

To the town council 'group of six', you should be ashamed of yourselves!

I urge everyone in Aurora who reads this letter to cut it out, stick it on the side of your fridge and read it again shortly before the next election as a reminder of just a few of the petty, irresponsible and underhanded tactics used by the Aurora 'group of six'.

M. Chisholm
Aurora

No reason to withhold report

To the editor,

Given the ongoing discord at council meetings and the

recent curious dismissal of the ethics commissioner, David Nitkin, it was only a matter of time until national

media shone a spotlight on Aurora.

It appears the report written by an ethics commission-

er, considered well-qualified to decide on the matter in question, has still not been made available for public scrutiny and the cost of this 'learning experience' is unknown.

Taxpayers' dollars paid for the commissioner's services and as such, they should be entitled to unfettered access to the report.

According to one news report, the public will not have access to this report until September 8, an inappropriate decision at best.

There can be no logical or defensible reason to further withhold the report or the cost of Mr. Nitkin's services.

situation.

The reader would get the protection he wants for his children, on his street and I wouldn't have to read any more letters in The Auroran from people whining about the speeding problem they seem to think exists only in the little world of one little street.

Exactly what point did I miss?

Stewart Ivol
Aurora

Ellen Watson
Aurora

What point did I miss, reader asks

To the editor,

Re: Police with radar would slow Stone Rd. drivers.

As I've stated before, let's

put a traffic light or all-way stops at every intersection in Town.

Then, let's put chicanes or speed bumps on every street between them.

This would be a win-win

were in it.

It would be greatly appreciated.

Rosemary Arnold
Aurora

Reader wants her bag back

To the editor,

Could the person who accidentally took the wrong bag from the Aurora Bulk Barn please return the books and card that

Letters to the Editor

Is councillor the Lone Granger, reader asks

To the editor,

After reading Councillor Stephen Granger's letter to the editor in his latest defense of Mayor Phyllis Morris and council's behaviour, a couple of things struck me that I felt were worth "clarifying for the sake of clarity, in order to be clear" (to borrow an abbreviated version of one of Councillor Granger's quotable quotes).

In his letter of defense, Councillor Granger assured the residents of Aurora that he was a leader within our community which I must say caught me a bit off guard.

When I think of leaders I immediately think of Napoleon, Tecumseh, Churchill, Patton, Eisenhower, Gandhi, Mandela, Kennedy, Pearson, Macdonald, Gates, Ford and more locally, the likes of Donald Cousins or Bill Davis, to name but a few.

One could also be forgiven for thinking of other leadership styles demonstrated by Al Capone, Jimmy Hoffa, the infamous Premier Maurice Duplessis or the treacherous Stalin, who all easily spring to mind when you think of leaders that chose to wield their power in an alternative and

sometimes brutal fashion.

I was left trying to figure out where Councillor Granger fit into the leadership spectrum.

I'm aware of Councillor Granger's participation on a number of committees and I have witnessed his performance at council for some time now, with some amusement, I might add.

I'm quite certain that he is well intended, but as for being a leader, I'm not so sure.

I was left struggling to think of the leadership Councillor Granger has demonstrated and then like a bolt of lighting

came the image of him allegedly berating a young girl to tears for what he thought was the possible offence of trying to sell ice cream from a cart at the farmer's market without a permit.

Given that the ice cream seller in question did, in fact, have a permit and there were apparently numerous witnesses to this event, it paints quite a picture of our form of municipal leadership, doesn't it?

Maybe he sees himself as Aurora's own Lone Granger, by-law enforcement champion.

If so, there is certainly no shortage of important work to do, that's for sure.

The other point I wanted to clarify was that the Lone Granger's quote suggesting that our "chosen leader" (Her Worship Mayor Morris) won the last municipal election a by a "vast majority".

This statement is more than a bit misleading and appears to be yet another example of council's application of its new form of math and analytical skills.

The fact is that Mayor Morris garnered 5,208 votes and had 206 of her votes gone to Tim Jones, we would not have witnessed a changing of the guard in the mayor's office.

When you also take into consideration the 2,364 votes that Nigel Kean received in his race for the mayor's seat, you

can hardly suggest that there was a clear landslide of a mandate, or a "vast majority" that resulted from the 2006 election.

By my calculations less than 1.7 per cent of the votes cast made the difference, which is hardly a "vast majority" in most people's books.

As a side-bar regarding the 2006 election; the poll results also clearly demonstrate that it was the power supply and transmission line issue that very likely made the difference in the small margin of victory, but that is yet another story for another day, given the mayor and council's clear mismanagement of that issue as well.

The lack of professionalism and integrity demonstrated in that case was quite frankly off the scale, even by Aurora's standards, but I digress.

I may well be one of those "negative individuals" who

chooses to hold council accountable for their actions and anyone should feel free to challenge my assertions as they see fit.

I'm not afraid of free speech, or debate as much as some others at the Town Hall appear to be these days.

There are usually multiple sides to any issue which is clearly the case with regards to the picture that our newly crowned Lone Granger painted in his most recent letter to the editor, in his seemingly endless support of our mayor and council's new form of both math and leadership.

With or without an integrity commissioner available to police council's application of ethics, I think our town deserves more from our leaders.

Richard Johnson
Aurora

Mayor hardly elected by a majority: reader

To the editor,

Councillor Stephen Granger states in his recent letter of support for Mayor Morris published in The Auroran, July 18, that there are certain citizens who "show an outright disrespect for a person [Mayor Phyllis Morris] who has been elected by the vast majority of this community".

Mr. Granger, the numbers don't prove your statement.

The mayor wasn't elected by the vast majority of this community. She wasn't elect-

ed by any majority of the community.

According to the official 2006 Municipal election results from the Town of Aurora website http://www.townofaurora.on.ca/aurora/index_e.aspx?ArticleID=268, the registered voter turnout was 38 per cent (not a majority of community members).

The total votes counted for all three mayoral candidates was 12,370 – broken down as Morris – 5,208 votes; Jones – 4,798 votes and Kean – 2,364 votes.

Making the assumption that all votes cast for the position of mayor were counted would mean that the total electorate in Aurora numbers approx. 32,552 (38 per cent of 32,552 is 12,370).

The majority of the electorate (i.e. the community) or 50 per cent of all voters eligible plus one, would be 16,277 votes – but the Mayor didn't receive that many votes so she didn't receive a majority.

She actually received approx. 42.10 per cent of votes cast, (less than 50 per cent).

Her vote tally represents

about 16 per cent of the eligible voters.

Yes, she still won – but not by a "vast" number – by approx. three per cent over the next candidate. By the way, the synonyms I found for vast were huge, enormous and immense – does a three per cent differential qualify?

Mr. Granger, I'm sure you didn't mean to be disrespectful to or be dishonest with the citizens with your claim that the mayor was elected by the vast majority of the community.

Perhaps your "vast majority" statement is just hyperbole, which is a synonym for sensationalism. However, you ask your readers to be wary of sensationalisms and "always consider the political motivations".

Is there something you're not telling us?

The saddest part of all of this is that only 38 per cent of Aurora's voters took the time to vote in 2006.

Hopefully, the turnout and the results will be very different in 2010.

Donna Smith
Aurora

Shame on councillor

To the editor,

Councillor Stephen Granger, shame on you!

Speaking of political sensationalisms, did you read what you wrote in the August 18 Auroran before you had it printed?

Yes, Phyllis Morris was elected, but do you forget this when it is time to pick on Evelyn Buck?

Stopping in the middle of a conversation with the little people of the Farmer's Market because you saw a more influential person, does not make you a community leader.

Anyone who has attended a council meeting would find it hard to believe you are not a follower of the mayor, for your own personal political gain.

People who do not attend the meetings will now come to the same conclusion with the article in The Auroran.

Attending the Farmer's Market each Saturday does not and will not make you a community leader, my friend.

And yes, you were elected by the people for the people. Not to write letters against the people.

You have slandered anyone who does not share your view.

I remained quiet until I just read the August 18 Auroran as did a lot of people who never heard of you before.

Where have you been hiding in council with this great leadership?

John Sargeant
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

Lost postcards went airmail, he needs help

To the editor,

Thank you to everyone who enjoyed our tremendous history during Doors Open 2009.

To those who attended both walking tours we express gratitude for helping us do what we love and that is "Aurora".

Friday afternoon, as I packed my vehicle for the display at the Farmers Market, I suddenly realized I was wanting to share the vintage postcards I had purchased with my mother.

These I had bought to share with the community.

I shared the new find with my mother and she was thrilled to realize I was

thinking of others but then said:

"When are you going to do something for you?"

"Someday," I replied, "but I am having a great time now."

I packed up the last of the items for the market and Doors Open and drove away from the area of Temperence and Ranson Streets.

It was not until the morning I realized I had placed the postcards on the roof of my vehicle and forgot ("What a maroon" as they say in the Bugs Bunny cartoons).

I returned just before Doors Open on Saturday morning to find two postcards and a neighbour

recovered one.

In all, about 30 more are missing and these would make a lot of people smile if we had them returned.

If you have found some, drop them off at The Auroran, 95 Edward Street, or call 905-717-6647.

If you would like to help and have any old photos or postcards of Aurora or Ontario we could sure use the help now.

Thank you, Aurora.

By the way, that type of airmail is free but the service is terrible.

I think I will use pony express next time.

David Heard
Aurora

Reader has advice for this councillor

To the editor,

This letter is for Councillor Stephen Granger.

Your article does little to convince me that you are not a "crony" or "follower".

Perhaps "sycophant" is a more applicable term.

You have not assured me that you are an independent thinker because you offer nothing to substantiate this claim.

Your voting record speaks otherwise.

As for being a leader in your community I also see nothing to speak to this.

Your actions clearly classify you as a follower, not a leader.

When you speak of individuals discrediting, manipulating or sensationalizing the facts, no matter what Phyllis accomplishes, you have left out what exactly she has accomplished that can avoid such high scrutiny.

Remember Henry VIII?

To the editor,

I am a recent transplant to Aurora, although I have had the benefit of reading The Auroran for years, and I feel that although I am not a huge fan of Evelyn Buck, I cannot sit back and not pass comment on all the injustices that are being leveled at her.

As I watched TV last night, I was reminded of someone else, who when he could not get his own way, he changed the laws or cut off their heads.

I am sure everyone remembers Henry VIII?

Louise Nickalls
Aurora

I need not point out your mathematical error regarding a "vast majority".

It is obvious that along with English, math is not one of your strong suits.

I assure you that I am very wary about the sensationalism that I am exposed to and ALWAYS consider the political motivation of those I am hearing.

That, along with this blatant article of spin is

why I will not be voting for you should you choose to run for re-election next year.

As for our mayor's integrity, and your own, there is a reason that people are suspect.

Actions speak louder than words, but in respect to your record I would suggest you refrain from both.

Christopher Watts
Aurora

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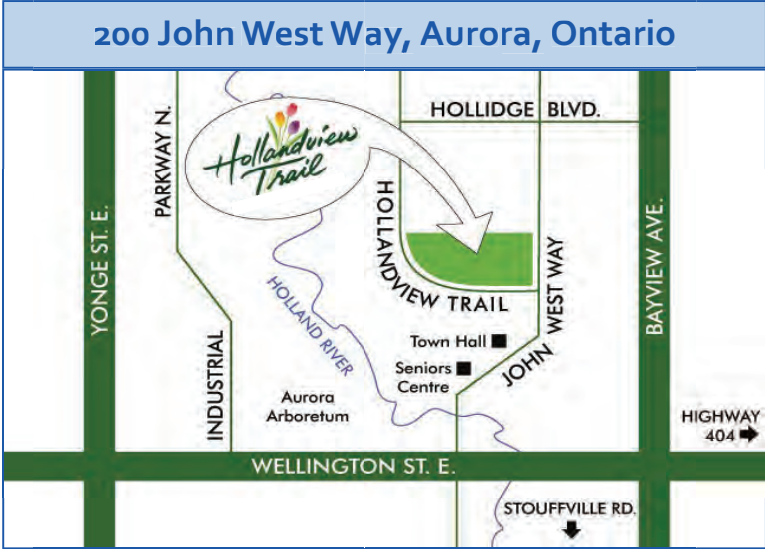
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THE AURORAN SPORTS

Page 10

Week of August 25, 2009

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After a hard-won victory the Aurora Goodyear Jays paused for a photograph. On the team are, top row, left to right, James Harkin, Brian Baran, Ryan Laird, Chris Fafalios, Matt Miller, Scott Tonello, Coach Rob Seguin, Coach Mike Ariganello. In the bottom row, left to right are Andrew Seguin, David Baccellieri, Trevor Best and Joe Ariganello.

Aurora Goodyear Jays finish sixth in Europe

A group of 10 Aurora boys, aged 14 to 16, and their families ventured to Italy to compete in the 25th annual Sala Baganza International baseball tournament recently, and the squad finished as the sixth best team in the event.

The trip was spear-headed by coach Mike Ariganello, with all the attendees spending the last 12 months fundraising in the community to make the tournament a reality.

The team arrived in Milan, Italy, and after a couple of days of getting acclimated in Sala Baganza, then moved into the tournament camp-ground where more than 30 teams were housed to compete in four divisions.

The Jays played six games over four days, adjusting not only to the hot weather, but also the short game format of only 75 minutes.

The boys played very well in their first two games, losing close battles against the top two teams in their division, Germany and a regional all-star team from Collecchio, Italy, by 7-4 and 5-3 scores, respectively.

In game three, the Jays enjoyed a see-saw battle with Bolzano, Italy but fell behind 6-4 with just one more at-bat remaining.

With two outs, and two strikes, pinch-hitter Andrew Seguin lined a single through the left side of the infield.

Matthew Miller followed with a deep double to right-centre field to put two runners in scoring position.

Clean-up hitter James Harkin took over the game from that point, slamming a triple over the centre fielder.

After the first pitch to Chris Fafalios, Harkin and coach Rob Seguin noted an opportunity and Harkin broke to home plate after the second strike, stealing home with a head-first slide to put the Jays on the victory board and bring the Canadian contingent to their feet in celebration.

The positive momentum for the Jays continued in game four, as they came back from an early 3-0 deficit to defeat Belgium 10-3, thanks to a bases clearing triple from Trevor Best and strong pitching from Joe Ariganello who went the distance.

This set the stage for a key match up with host Sala Baganza.

With a large crowd in attendance, including local dignitaries, the Jays put it all together against a team who had tied the tough German squad earlier in

the day.

Led by key hits from Best, Miller, Harkin, Fafalios and Ryan Laird, the Jays jumped in front in the top of the first by a 6-0 score, highlighted by a three-run double by Brian Baran.

With another six-run outburst in the third inning, led by Scott Tonello's bat and base running prowess, the Jays gave all the run support needed by Seguin, who kept the Balzono sluggers off-balance, to fashion a 12-0 shutout win.

The Jays strong round-robin play provided them with an opportunity to compete for 5th place overall in the tournament against an all-star team from Holland, featuring a flame-throwing lefty who was a final cut from the national youth team earlier this summer.

Unfortunately for the Jays, this pitcher brought his "A" game giving up only three hits over four innings and giving his team an 8-1 victory.

Seguin knocked in James Harkin after his blistering triple to the wall in right field in the third, but that was all the offence the Jays could muster as the Jays laid claim to sixth place at the end of the tournament.

Harkin was named the

tournament's top hitter, sporting a .750 batting average, including four extra base hits and seven RBIs in six games.

Off the field, the boys enjoyed almost celebrity status, being the first team to compete from Canada.

The team and family members offered thanks to the Aurora Minor Baseball Association and their many sponsors for their support.



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Thousands of members of the Aurora Youth Soccer Club took part in Stinger Cup activity throughout the town over the weekend. Here, in a town park game, members of U6 teams participate in a match which marked the end of the season for the group. About 3,000 youngsters took part in the games.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Live theatre featured at Aurora's Town Park

The Aurora Farmers' Market gave birth to live theatre on Town Park's Band Shell last weekend.

"King Stag", a play put on by Next Stage Company, filled the stage with a dozen talented thespians for two hours beginning at 11.30 a.m.

The fantastic comedy had kids and parents enraptured in its humorous tale.

Whimsical costumes and white painted faces reminiscent of Venetian squares provided an escape from reality in the surroundings of Aurora's Town Park.

The 18th century story, written by Italian Carol Gozzi, was directed by Russo-Canadian director Yevgeniya Falkovich and produced by York Region locals Will Hofstetter and Reg Matson.

The King has been betrayed. His demented Prime Minister, who wishes to win the would-be Queen for himself, traps the King in the body of a Stag.

"This short comedy in two acts has it all: plotting and scheming, loyalty and betrayal, battles of good vs. evil, magic, lies and deceit, murder, wild animals, weeping and fainting and, of course, True Love. There's something for audiences of every age," agreed the producers.

The classic comedic fantasy is portrayed as a living cartoon.

It features new musical compositions and a vibrant young cast.

The King Stag is bursting at the seams with energy and fun and makes you laugh out loud.

The Aurora Farmers' Market thanked the producers and cast of The King Stag for their professional performance and dedication to the arts.

They are inspirational young people and have been instrumental in bringing live theatre to our park," said event co-ordinator Sher St. Kitts, "We need more of this."

Deadline approaches for short story contest

The Third Annual Words Alive Literary Festival will be held at the Sharon Temple Sunday, September 20.

Writers are invited to sharpen their pencils and wits quickly as the deadline of September 10 for the Short Story contest for children and adults draws closer.

The contest is open to Aurora residents in the follow-

ing age categories: Grades 4 to 6, Grades 7 and 8, Grades 9 to 12, and Adult (ages 17 and up).

For complete details and to submit your entry, go to www.wordsalive.ca/contests.

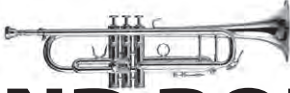
Entries must be received no later than September 10, before 6 p.m.

Winners in each category will be announced at The

Words Alive Literary Festival on Sunday, September 20, and their stories will be published at WordsAlive.ca.

Details will follow regarding the festival to be held on the grounds of one of York Region's most popular tourist attractions, the Sharon Temple.

The temple is located on Leslie Street, just north of Newmarket.



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Aurora Minor ball scores

Minor Mosquito Jays

August 11th the Jays travelled to North Toronto and outscored the A's 9-6.

Patrick Jones led the way for the Jays hitting two doubles and a single while knocking in four runs. Josh Lipscombe and Travis Roberts chipped in with two singles and two RBI's each. Eight Jay pitchers combined for a three-hitter, with Toronto's runs coming on walks and errors.

The Jays finished their regular season with 13 wins, eight losses and three ties.

Senior Rookie

August 12: Canadian Mechanical Solutions 14, Canadian Springs 13.

Playoff game August 15: Aurora Home Hardware 13, Canadian Springs 12.

2nd playoff game results August 17: McAlpine Ford 14, Canadian Springs 6.

Mosquito House League

August 12: Dr. Orschel Drillers 8, Lakeshore Valu Mart 8.

Junior Rookie

August 13: Michelberger 20, Mastermind 14.
August 18: Michelberger Orthodontics 22, Summers and Smith 18.

Peewee Select

Saturday, August 15 at Aurora Town Park:

Vaughan Vikings 8, Aurora Jays 3.
Aurora Jays 6, Bolton Braves 5.

Sunday, August 16 at North Hill in Bolton:

Bolton Braves 9, Aurora Jays 8.

Lack of members brought an end to IODE chapter

It was a day of sadness and pride on April 26, 1989, when the nine remaining members of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE) Wing Commander Lloyd Chadburn Chapter of Aurora handed over the society's Standards, Charter and Minute Book to the Aurora Public Library and the Aurora Museum for safe-keeping.

They were sad that they could no longer sustain their fundraising events to carry out their many projects and pride in their services to the community and to Canada during their years of service.

With declining enrolment and an inability to attract new members, the remaining members decided to disband and entrust their charter flags to the Library and their charter and other artifacts to the Aurora Museum, including a scrapbook of the flying activities of Chadburn's many flying activities.

Those items are expected to be moved to the newly revamped Church Street School September 9 when the Aurora Historical Society hopes to move many of its keepsakes from storage.

For many years the local chapter had as many as 40 members but at the final meeting only nine remained.

They were Jean Hill, Elizabeth Corner, Regent Helen Hunter, Emma Irving, Nora McRoberts, Margaret Dann, Eleanor Riehardt, Bernice Sutcliffe and Margaret McTaggart.

As a final act, the group recited the IODE prayer which includes the words "Grant Thy protection we pray Thee, to those who serve the Queen and Country on sea, and land and in the air. May right triumph and the spirit of brotherhood prevail throughout the world".

The IODE was established in 1900 when Canada was still a colony of the British Empire and the Aurora Chapter received its charter in 1951.

The name Lloyd Chadburn was selected as the name for the local chapter following the Second

World War to honour one of Canada's and Aurora's unsung Air Force heroes.

Wing Commander Chadburn had been awarded the Distinguished Service Order and Bar, the Distinguished Flying Cross, Legion of Honour and the Croix de Guerre.

At the age of 24, he was killed when his plane collided with another Spitfire in action over the Cherbourg area during D-Day activities.

For many newcomers to Aurora the name Chadburn may not mean much except for the street called Chadburn Crescent, located north of Orchard Heights Boulevard in northwest Aurora.

The street was named after Lloyd.

Oldtimers, however, will remember Mrs. Florence Allen, Chad's mother and her home The Chateau which still stands on Yonge Street, just north of Rueben Street where Chad grew up and took his primary education.

Other than the items in the Library and Aurora Historical Society, the once active Wing Commander Lloyd Chapter of the IODE is but a memory.

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To the residents of Aurora

This will be the first in a continuing series of messages whose purpose is two-fold:

- 1) Appeal to members of the public who are interested in serving the Town of Aurora and its citizens to come forward and declare themselves as candidates for public office, either for the position of mayor or that of councillor.
- 2) Rid the Town of Aurora of its present mayor, Phyllis Morris, and five of Council's sitting members: Wendy Gaertner, John Gallo, Stephen Granger, Evelina MacEachern and Al Wilson, at the next Municipal Election in 2010.

To those who have followed with interest and outrage the conduct of the Town's public affairs during the present term in office of its elected representatives, and many of these affairs behind closed doors and in the presence of lawyers, it's our opinion Aurora's citizens would be far better served if they had the power to recall the above-named six persons.

In our opinion, individually and jointly the group has made a mockery of the concept of public service; they have forced from office several senior public servants and in the process have demoralized the town's professional staff; they have engaged in legal and other entanglements detrimental to the best interests of the Town and in the course of so doing have wasted precious assets of time and money to which the Town and its residents are entitled.

The chief culprit in all of this, in our opinion, is Mayor Phyllis Morris, whose campaign promises, when seeking the position of mayor in 2006, have been broken, trampled, and denigrated almost to the point of blasphemy. In our opinion, her manic ego has somehow managed to appeal to several members of the present council, who have tagged along meekly behind and whose conduct is nothing short of disgusting.

Only citizens seeking office or voting at the polls next year can bring about an end to the present debacle.

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The Town gets a mention in computer encyclopedia

The Town of Aurora has hit the big time...again.

The council controversy over the release of its Integrity Commissioner recently is now recorded in the computer encyclopedia called Wikipedia.

It notes:

"In August, 2009, a controversy erupted when the Aurora town council fired its integrity commissioner in a special meeting after receiving his first decision on a contentious issue. Three of eight

councillors were absent from the special meeting. The mayor and five councillors who were present at the special meeting had filed a complaint with the integrity commissioner against Councillor Evelyn Buck for comments made in her blog. Although the integrity commissioner's report has not been released to the public, it is believed that he dismissed the complaint. The council was criticized for the decision to fire the integrity commissioner.



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The largest crowd ever gathered at Aurora's Town Park last Wednesday night for the final Concert in the Park performance. As Benny and the Jets (that's Benny entertaining on the left) carried out a two-hour tribute to Elton John, thousands of residents enjoyed the perfect weather and the music. Food suppliers reported sell-outs before the first intermission, This week the Town of Aurora has movies in the Town Park Wednesday night and in Confederation Park Thursday night. Check the town's website for details... www.town.aurora.on.ca. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

Tigers hold first exhibition at community centre Friday

The Aurora Tigers Junior A hockey team will open its season with an exhibition game next week.

On Friday, September 4, the Tigers will host Newmarket at Aurora Community Centre, for a game which begins at 7 p.m.

It will cost adults \$5 to get in, but kids and seniors are free.

Meanwhile, Director of Hockey Operation Barry Quinn is looking for homes for Tigers.

If you have a spare room

and want to earn a little extra cash by billeting a hockey player, give him a call.

"We are looking for homes with and without pets," he said. "Compensation is provided."

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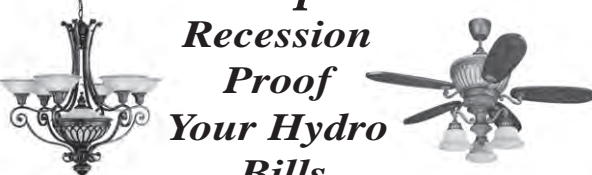


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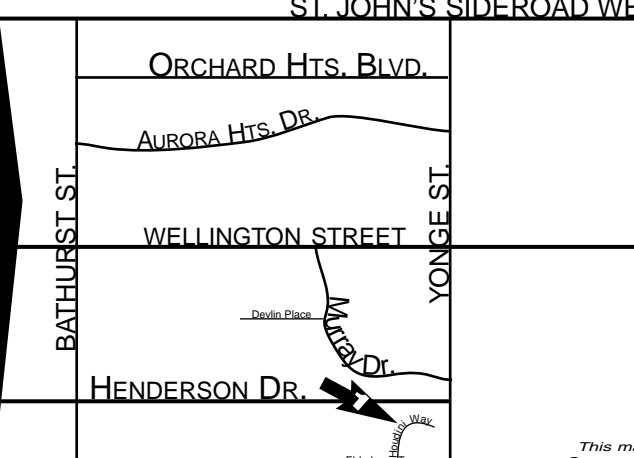
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Senior Scape

Seniors' Day at the market was a success

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Seniors' Day at the Farmers' Market proved to be a great day with summer weather finally appearing and seniors attending in force to support the event and play many parts in the events of the day.

Members of the ASA Silver Stars group entertained and were received enthusiastically.

The Silver Stars are a new group who are steadily building their reputation for fine performances.

MPP Frank Klees presented Ontario Volunteer Awards to ASA members Bob Collard, Elizabeth Charge, Bill Higgins, Mary Higgins, Rose White and Rozlin Laber.

Later, Mayor Phyllis Morris presented Certificates of Appreciation Awards to Betty Moore and Flo Murray.

A little appreciation goes a long way and these ASA members deserve the recognition they received and the large audience showed their approval.

Shirley Douglas, a member of the ASA Choir and of the Silver Stars, won a basket of goodies, which was overflowing.

The Farmers' Market is a well organized event with an impressive flair for presentation, generating a tingle of excitement at what surprises the next stall might offer.

Now, with the fall looming ahead is a good time for members to reflect on what activities and programs will captivate their senior imaginations in the weeks ahead.

So I ask, who is for cards, Scrabble perhaps, or would you like to carve a choice piece of wood to whatever images your wishful mind directs?

Table tennis is available and badminton and pickle ball is played by ardent enthusiasts who show up religiously and get their exercise.

The Evergreens Choir is always looking for new voices and the Silver Stars welcome new talent as something desirable they can never have enough of.

And let us not forget the crafters who pursue their varied interests quietly but with the dedication of those who truly understand the love and imagination that is the foundation of all art and craft-work.

From time to time I pause to consider seniors who would benefit from accessing this atmosphere of imagination and excitement that pervades the ASA, but it is as much as can be done to offer encouragement in the hope of attracting new membership.

The number and quality of friendships founded in the ASA is beyond count, and speaks to the improved quality of life engendered by the existence of the ASA.

New members construct a network of friends once they enter the social stream of the seniors.

More friends are found once they become immersed in the pleasure seeking activities and the activities that contribute satisfaction of expertise and fulfilment, raising senior spirits in that manner.

To give is to receive and volunteers are probably among the most satisfied members in the ASA.

The ability to construct a totally new outlook on life with a few of the hours frittered away unproductively, is well worth pondering.

Seniors in Aurora fare well in comparison to the recent past and contrasted to the seniors of our youth, today's seniors have entered a golden age.

Many seniors have lost much of their vigour, but sprightly minds can be mighty minds and everyone has a genie bottled up.

A Senior Star competition presented by Barton Retirement Residence that was held in June, included ASA members Jim Edwards, Neil Pemberton, William Reid, Bud Switzer and Sylvia Neal all singers and all well known as entertainers in the seniors' centre.

Any of these singers could have won this competition but Sylvia Neal won the approval of the judges.

The Friday Night Dancing scene is almost upon us and speaks to the passing of summer and the holidays and responds to the rhythm of life itself.

The dancers are a fun loving loyal set of members who enjoy dancing and the camaraderie that constant attendance with the same friends produces.

The music is from the big band and modern era, and Charles Sequeira has a keen mind for any new trends in music.

I mean with those words that if you have favourite music on your mind, you can approach Charles and he will listen to your suggestions, which if possible and applicable to the mood of the moment stand a great chance of being played.

The time to start the music playing and the bodies swaying approaches rapidly, and the first dances will be Friday, September 4th and 18th, starting at 8 p.m. and continuing until 11.



ALEXIS McCONACHIE

Aurora youngster attends seminar

Alexis McConachie, 18, of Aurora, has returned from The War Amps 2009 Ontario Child Amputee (CHAMP) Seminar in Kingston.

Born missing part of her left hand, Alexis attended the three-day seminar, which dealt with all aspects of growing up as an amputee.

As a young Champ, she looked up to the Junior Counsellors at seminars, and this time was a Junior Counsellor herself, answering questions and offering advice to Champs and their families.

In one seminar session, Champs demonstrated their standard and recreational artificial limbs and devices to the group.

"The seminar is a life-changing experience for both Champs and parents," said War Amps CEO Cliff Chadderton. "It's a packed weekend covering everything from raising an amputee child to dealing with teasing and staring, to seeing the latest developments in artificial limbs."

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Government must assist or airport will close: Sifton

Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees was among a group of Progressive Conservative MPPs at Buttonville Airport last week to hear the president of Toronto Airways, Derek Sifton, say the airport would close unless the government invested in the aviation infrastructure.

Mr. Sifton said such a closure would significantly undermine York Region's economic potential and called on Ontario's government to invest in York Region's economic future.

"Governments are funding projects that won't come close to having the economic impact of this airport," Klees said. "The government should step up to the plate to ensure that this transportation hub continues to serve York Region and the GTA."

Klees is also PC critic for Transportation and Public Infrastructure.

Following GTAA's termination of its funding agreement with the Toronto Buttonville Municipal Airport earlier this year, Klees asked Ontario's Transportation Minister Jim

Bradley to ensure that the airport, whether through federal or provincial investment, continues to operate.

"The airport provides a very vital service for the people not only in the Toronto area but beyond the Toronto area..." said Minister Bradley on February 26th of this year. "...we are all prepared to go to bat for Buttonville Airport because we agree that it is a very vital transportation link here in Ontario."

Klees, who also approached the Transportation Minister on this topic, stressed the importance of government investment in Buttonville.

"Whether the funds come from the Ministry of Transportation, Public Infrastructure Renewal or Economic Development, the province has a responsibility to step in and resolve this issue," he said. "We are counting on the minister to follow through on the commitments that he made in the House and to work with his Cabinet colleagues to ensure the continued operations of this airport."



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