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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 9 No. 45 905-727-3300 **auroran.com** FREE Week of September 15, 2009



Members of the Absolute Cheer Energy Firebirds cheerleading group spent much of their time Saturday throwing themselves into the air as they performed at the 4th annual Aurora Ribfest at Machell Park. Nearly 16,000 people attended the three-day event, which saw the Aurora Rotary Club run out of beer Saturday night. More pictures on Page 11.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Society moves its artifacts back to Church St. school

The Aurora Historical Society's artifacts, which have been in storage for years, returned to the Church Street School Cultural Centre last Wednesday.

At one time, the historic school served as Aurora's museum and when renovations on the building started, the artifacts were placed into storage.

The Society will hold its September monthly meeting at the school, on Sunday, September 20th from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., and that gathering will give members a chance to see where the artifacts will be housed.

The meeting will focus on the

society's collection of artifacts, documents and photographs and their future use in this old/brand new facility.

Mermbers will be introduced to all of the various elements of the AHS collection in this behind the scene tour of the Cultural Centre where they can check out specially designed climate-controlled rooms and innovative rolling storage units installed to store the collection.

People do not have to be members of the AHS to attend the meeting.

The meeting is free to AHS members, while a donation is requested from non-members.

The historic building is locat-

ed at 22 Church Street in Aurora.

For more information about the meeting, contact the Aurora Historical Society.

This summer, the Society received two grants from Canada Summer Jobs in order to hire two university students from May to August.

Allison Petts and Meghan Kerr had both been previously employed at Hillary House and returned again for the summer.

Thanks to the help of these students, Hillary House was open seven days a week from May until the end of August and was toured by nearly 600 people.

Please see page 3

Report made public

There was an air of anticipation in the town's council chamber the night of September 8 as council members sat down together for the first time in front of the public since the sudden firing of Integrity Commissioner David Nitkin last month.

A larger than usual crowd was on hand for two of the General Committee's agenda items; that the interim report to Council from Mr. Nitkin be received for information, and that a response to the report drafted

by Mayor Phyllis Morris be received, as well.

Mr. Nitkin's report, dated August 5, was in response to allegations made towards Councillor Evelyn Buck, that suggested in part she was making disparaging remarks about town staff both verbally and in her blog.

Referring to both the town's Code of Conduct, and his contractual duties as Integrity Commissioner, Mr. Nitkin determined that the statement of

Please see page 13

Buck sues colleagues

Aurora Councillor Evelyn Buck told The Auroran last week she has served papers to six members of Aurora Council, including the mayor, Phyllis Morris.

For the mayor, it was the first of two notes she received from lawyers last week.

The other one was from a lawyer representing the town's former Integrity Commissioner David Pitkin, who instructed her to stop making negative statements about his client.

Mayor Morris, Councillors

Evelina MacEachern, Wendy Gaertner, Stephen Granger, John Gallo and Al Wilson, and two local newspapers - The Auroran was one of them - were served with legal papers informing them of the councillor's intention to pursue a libel suit against them.

The notices of intent came from an ad which appeared in The Auroran July 28 and was headed a "Statement From Town of Aurora Council".

Please see page 12

Briefly

100 years old in 2010

The Girl Guides of Canada will turn 100 next year, but if you were planning to celebrate in Aurora, forget it.

An event next month is already sold out.

To jumpstart the celebration, Aurora guides will hold a Campfire Celebration October 21 at Light of Christ Catholic School, 290 McClelland Way, beginning at 7 p.m.

Those attending the event will sing, part of the Guiding tradition.

Guides will be singing the same songs at the same time in dozens of locations across Ontario.

Contest postponed

The "Positive Youth 2009 Public Speaking Contest" has been postponed.

Originally slated to run September 26, the contest will now be held in February, 2010.

The Aurora Optimist event, which will grant the first place winner a \$500 education bursary, will have a specific date set with a location soon, an Optimist member said.

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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

Until September 25, you can enjoy the work of Aurora's Josephine Antaya at the Skylight Gallery at the Aurora Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive, from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Every Thursday, Martha's Table serves home-made soup, sandwiches, and dessert in St. Andrew's Hall at the Presbyterian Church, corner of Mosley and Victoria Street. Cost is minimal, and the volunteer-run program enabled the church to give more than \$5,000 to local charities in 2008 alone. You can enjoy lunch, conversation, and a sense of community between 11.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. weekly.

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.

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's Chorus, open to eight to 17-year-olds. To audition, contact general director Sarah Kyle at keepingsing@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 on Tuesday evenings at 8.15 p.m. at the Aurora Heights Public School and on Friday mornings 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.



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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.

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.

★ ★ ★ ★

East Side Mario's in Aurora is having a car wash in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of York from noon to 5 p.m. Cost is donations only - Big Brothers Big Sisters of York representatives will be there with cake to celebrate Big Brothers Big Sisters Month.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Blood donor clinic at the Aurora Legion Hall, 105 Industrial Parkway North, from 2.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Breast cancer fundraiser will be held at the Aurora Legion beginning at 8 p.m., featuring Aurora's Randy Skelcher and guest appearance of Chicago Transit. Tickets in advance only at \$35. Tickets will not be sold at the door. 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.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

A "Country Corral" is coming to Aurora with the toe-tapping tunes of five women playing 13 musical instruments. You don't have to dance - but you certainly can - during this evening that gets underway with a country supper and ends with hours of danceable music. Event begins at 6.30 p.m. in St. Andrew's Hall at the Presbyterian Church, 32 Mosley Street. Tickets, at \$25 each, are limited. Call the church office at 905-727-5011.

★ ★ ★ ★

Fall concert at the Aurora Baptist Church, 33 Wellington Street East. Local talent plus guests from Peterborough and Winchester. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

Aurora United Church Rummage Sale. Individual sale held from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Church is located at 15186 Yonge Street at the corner of Tyler.



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Movers carry desk back to Church Street School.

AHS moves artifacts to school

From page 1

There were also many events held at Hillary House this summer,

including two yard sales, three garden clean up days, a Mother's Day Luncheon in May, two group tours and most

recently, Doors Open Aurora in August.

The house is now open by appointment only, until the end of April.

If you would like to visit Hillary House for a tour, call the Society at 905-727-8991 or e-mail ahs@aurorahs.com to make an appointment. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for seniors and children under 12.

Although Hillary House is only open by appointment, the Society is planning events to be held at Hillary House this fall.

On Sunday, October 18th from noon to 4 p.m. there will be an Antique Appraisals Day at Hillary House.

The following Saturday, October 24th, the Society will hold its annual Murder Mystery Dinner at Hillary House.

For more information about either of these events and for tickets to the Murder Mystery Dinner, call the number above or visit the website at <http://www.aurorahistorical.society.ca>.

Walk planned

A mini-walk, organized by four Aurorans, is slated to happen again this year from the Regency Acres Public School shelter this Saturday.

Gayle Palmer, one of the organizers, told The Auroran money raised from the walk will go to Ovarian Cancer Canada, an organization that supports women and their families who are going through treatment and recovery from ovarian cancer.

The shelter is located at the rear of the Murray Drive school and parking is available in the lot off Glass Drive, next to St. Joseph's Catholic School.

This year, Elizabeth Manley, former olympic figure skater, is the national spokesperson.

"Ovarian Cancer Canada is a wonderful organization and I have committed myself to help-

ing them reach their goal of finding a screening tool for early detection and ultimately a cure," Ms Palmer said. "The more women are made aware of the silent and often familiar symptoms, the better chance we have of stopping this disease."

The walk began three years ago on behalf of Gayle's sister Debbie, who remains in remission from ovarian cancer and it has grown to include others who walk on behalf of a mother, a sister or themselves.

To date the walk has raised \$12,000 for Ovarian Cancer Canada with more than 60 walkers each time.

The committee hopes to make this year's walk larger and louder.

Refreshments and giveaways will be available.

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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Aurora ward system? Watch what you ask for

I'm not sure what I'd do if I didn't have Stephen Somerville writing a column for The Auroran.

His comments just beg responses.

This week (that's his column over there to your right, halfway down Page 5) he talks about one of my favourite topics...the ward system.

I have been opposed to such a system for some time now and reading his column brought back all the reasons why.

Number One on the list was simple: Suppose you represented a certain part of Aurora and a constituent phoned you with a problem with which you didn't agree. What would the constituent do then? Who would he or she call?

Any other ward councillor would be quite correct in replying: "not my ward, call your ward councillor."

Because the councillor who uttered those remarks knows full well the person on the other end of the line can't vote for him or her in an upcoming election, because a voter could only cast a vote in his or her own ward.

If that doesn't split up a town, I don't know what does.

And Aurora is still a town (daily newspapers, please note).

It covers less area than Newmarket, Bathurst to the 404 west and east; and Bloomington to St. John's, south and north.

As it is right now, a constituent can call any member of council on any issue.

In order to do that under a ward system, there would have to be councillors elected across the board, which defeats the whole idea of wards.

Something like the Township of King, which stretches all the way up to the Holland Marsh, needs a ward system because of the territory it covers...much like Georgina.

But Newmarket, even though it has one, doesn't need one, and, I'm told by people who should know these things, it's not really working all that well.

Back before Regional Government was thrust upon us (I don't remember asking for it, do you?),

Aurora was a much smaller community.

I loved the way Stewart Burnett, once reeve of Whitchurch Township (now known as the Town of Whitchurch Stouffville), became an Aurora resident, but didn't have to move to do it.

His residence on Wellington East (much of his land is now occupied by the Aurora Recreation Complex) suddenly became part of Aurora when Darcy McKeough redrew the boundaries of the once County of York, turned 14 municipalities into nine, and created the Region of York.

There wasn't too much squalking at the time (not that it would have done much good) but I thought Darcy made one huge mistake when he drew new boundary lines.

He gave Oak Ridges to Richmond Hill instead of to Aurora where it belonged.

Oak Ridges has always had a connection with Aurora.

When Aurora had a volunteer fire department, Oak Ridges was part of their coverage area. Aurora Cable served Oak Ridges. Most high school students from Oak Ridges came to Aurora for their education; people from there shopped here.

Oh yeah, Oak Ridges is now a ward of Richmond Hill.

Ward system: nah. Not now, not ever, thank you.

I can't think of a better way to slice up a community.

So, we've been saddled with another level of government, called Regional.

Aurora has one member on that council; Newmarket and Georgina both have two. One's the mayor, the other is elected at large.

How come?

Can't be population because Georgina doesn't have as many people as Aurora.

Markham has five members; Vaughan four and Richmond Hill three.

So, of the 20 (elected by the publc) members of York Regional Council, 12 are from the "south".

Oh yeah, the chairman (Bill Fisch) is elected at large by the members at their inaugural meeting and also serves a four-year term.

Aurora's rep on the council is the mayor, but what happens if the mayor can't make a meeting?

There's no backup.

Time for Aurora to have two representatives at the Regional level...or get rid of that level of government, but that'll never happen.



This week, from the pages of the 1961 Aurora High School (Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School) year-book, we present members of the senior and junior soccer teams of the year. In the top photo, the senior team was made up of front row, left to right, Brock Dalglish, Ogie Thompson, Henry VanderVelde, Howard Hamilton and Graham Constantine. In the middle row, left to right, are Walter Leudman, Bill Collins, Ian Davison, John Stoneman, Jim Wells and Jim Preston. In the back row, left to right, are Jim Runstedler, Bill Wilson, Dave Babcock, Bill Skerret and Mike Duncan. The junior team, below, had many of the same players as the seniors. In the front row, left to right, are Brock Dalglish, Walter Leudman, Ogie Thompson, Graham Constantine, and Dwight Oetelaar, In the middle row are Dave Babcock, Richard Goby, Gary McCulley, Don Chapman, Harry VanderVelde and Jim Wells. In the back row are Jim Runstedler, Ian Davison, Rolf Tegtmeier, Bill Skerret and Bill Collins.

Letter to the Editor

Reader's opinions on town leadership

To the editor,

I have had the pleasure and still do to be a leader in many aspects of our life.

The best leaders not only lead well but continually reflect on what can improve and how to help others.

I have served for years in the marketplace and ministry as a leader and volunteer on many occasions.

Part of leadership is to encourage others to take it up a level and to be there when difficulties arise. Chasing bold visions even when negated is a leader's role.

To achieve an exciting fulfillment of new opportunities and to take it up a notch, makes for leadership participation or direction worthwhile.

Leadership comes more naturally in seasons of growth and strong economic times.

Leadership becomes more difficult but must be provided during difficult times.

However the speed of the leader always must remain in sync with the speed of the team one is working with.

A leader cannot stand out by himself but must be

leading a team.

One cannot compromise one's values. It has to be strong in any leader.

As leader there has to be real time for coaching and dialogue with other leaders and the team at all times.

Keep things short and reasonable in time spent in leadership.

In life leadership it is not a game like some aspire to but a life time commitment to do what is right, best and improving, for the organization and the people it serves.

I have had the pleasure of serving on the board and chairing 14 different organizations and today still serve on many in that leadership capacity.

I enjoy it very much to take people and organizations forward to new visions and serve with dignity and with success.

For me success breeds more success as long as organizations and people keep their strong values that gave them that success.

Many organizations and people start to lose their success values and begin to struggle.

But strong leadership remains with the right motivation, dignity, integrity and

encouragement.

The nature of human beings is such that we tend to drift into some better behaviour and need to be encouraged to take it up a notch or two to act responsibly.

Much success to all of you and your involvements and leadership and sense of real leadership in Aurora.

Marten A. Mol
Aurora

THE AURORAN

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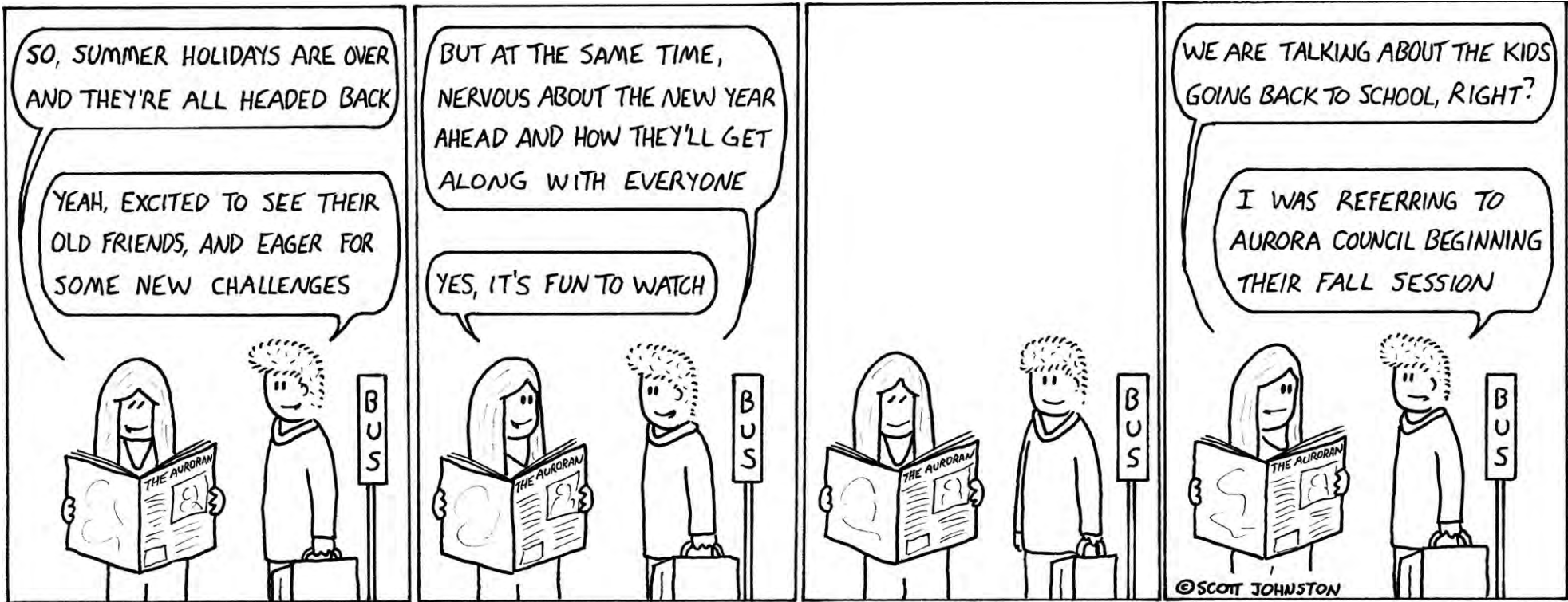
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Running and ward system

The next municipal election is scheduled for Monday November 8, 2010.

That's just less than 14 months away.

And there are a lot of questions out there, to wit:

Will the mayor seek to retain the chain of office?

Will anyone from the present council run against her worship?

Will anyone from a previous council run against Phyllis Morris?

Will any currently elected politician at another level run against madame mayor?

Will anyone "new" from the community run against her?

Questions/idle speculations regarding the current Council:

How many of the eight will run again?

Will any of them run for mayor?

Last time out, 20 of our fellow citizens ran for council - how many will seek office this time?

Will former Councillor Grace Marsh run again? If so, for what office?

Will any mayoralty candidate think about running with a slate of council candidates?

Lots to digest, but I am not going to try to answer any of the above this week; I will save this for some future columns.

But one interesting sidebar to all this is an issue that rears its head from time to time - that of the ward system.

During the last municipal election held in 2006, all three of the mayoralty candidates stated that they supported the use of a ward system.

Then Mayor Tim Jones said at the time that he was never in favour of this until this term and that he thought that there should now be four wards in Aurora, with two councilors elected per ward.

He added that, "it is too hard to choose from 20 candidates."

Ms. Morris stated that "there are 18,000 doors to knock on in Aurora" and that it "is too hard for first time candidates to get elected."

Challenger Nigel Kean was also in favour of a ward system.

Let's assume for a moment that council votes in favour of ward system.

Generally speaking the options would be limited to one of two systems.

Either have Aurora divided up into eight electoral precincts and have one councillor represent each ward or you could go with say four larger wards and then have four "at- large" councillors.

While certainly not as important an issue as the type of ward system that could be utilized, but far more interesting is the impact that a ward system would have on the next municipal election.

The eight councillors that we recently elected reside in various clusters around Aurora.

And whether you go with eight ward seats or four

ward seats and four "at- large" seats, there will be some councillors without a chair when the music stops in November, 2010.

Alison Collins-Mrakas, Al Wilson and Wendy Gaertner all live within a few streets of each other in the area north of Wellington but west of Yonge Street.

Evelina MacEachern, and Stephen Granger are almost neighbours, living south of Henderson Drive, near Bathurst Street.

Bob McRoberts lives north of Wellington and just east of Yonge Street.

John Gallo lives near the town hall.

Evelyn Buck is the only one who doesn't live near any of her fellow councillors - unless you went with four larger wards.

In that case, Ms. Buck would then be grouped with Ms. MacEachern and Mr. Granger.

What is also interesting is that we do not have any councillors from the newer residential developments in Aurora - namely from the area above Wellington, east of Industrial Parkway, and out to Leslie Street.

I think we need a debate on this issue at council.

In the next two columns, I get some councillor views on the use of a ward system and also their feelings regarding an extra York Region seat for Aurora.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Preserving our past

The Aurora Historical Society is meeting this week-end in part to discuss which items from its extensive collections should be put on display in the new Church Street School Cultural Centre.

Since Aurora has such a great history, there will no doubt be many fine artifacts deserving of being made available to the community.

Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend the meeting to share my thoughts, but I do have some ideas of objects that represent key moments in Aurora's past that should be considered.

How about, in no particular order:

1. A copy of the Leisure Service Department's original report proposing an annual "Tripefest" be held in early September, before they revised the concept to be "Ribfest".

2. Former Prime Minister and Nobel Prize recipient Lester B Pearson's report card from when he attended Church Street School, that noted he wouldn't amount to anything.

3. The Auroran Evelyn Buck used to whack Ron Wallace on the head with at a council meeting.

4. The bottle of alcohol the surveyor was drinking when he determined the northern boundary of the town would be some ambiguous and invisible line 1,487 feet north of St John's Sideroad.

5. The town's one millionth road construction pylon.

6. The notice that the town sent to residents during our first ever water ban, apologizing for any inconvenience, and assuring them that a water ban would never happen again.

7. Any council pending list that had fewer than 100 items on it.

8. The hydro bill of the last winner of the Residential Light Competition, which used to be held in December before it was cancelled because the amount of electricity being used in the displays was getting out hand.

9. The "Closed" sign inadvertently displayed at one of the "Doors Open" venues in 2006.

10. A photo of the fields and forests of the 2C lands (between Wellington Street and St John's Sideroad, west of Leslie Street), so we can remember what they look like now, before they are paved over during the next few years

11. The "Aurora dollar" that the Aurora Tigers had buried at centre ice the year they won the Canadian National Junior Championship, thus emulating the success of Team Canada's lucky loonie.

12. The only issue of The Auroran that did not have a letter to the editor from either a current or former councillor.

13. The chiropractor's invoice for the person who has

to hide all of the 14,000 eggs the town uses in its annual Easter egg hunt.

14. The two-headed coin used by council to determine if a company's sign variance request should be allowed (heads = yes).

15. The flapjack made at the Lion's pancake breakfast in Sheppard's Bush in 1997 that many claim resembled original town resident Robert Machell.

16. Any piece of crumbling infrastructure the Board of Education is able to find in Wells Street Public School.

17. The letter from Leksand town council thanking Aurora for the gift of the free lifetime passes to the Aurora Fair and Horse Show, that were sent over when we were twinned with the Swedish town

18. The temporary photo of the 2006-2010 Aurora town council with John Gallo's head pasted onto Grace Marsh's body, that was used before a new group photo could be taken

I think any of these on display would enhance the experience of visiting the Church Street School Cultural Centre.

I only hope it's not too late for the Historical Society to rescue some of these items.

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

Letters to the Editor

Bad planning in whole area: reader

To the editor,

Re: comment (Poor Ronnie) on access to Wellington St., in Sept 1st edition

Well said, Ron, but how could you miss the colossal mess being created right around the corner from you on Wellington Street East and Industrial Parkway?

A plaza is currently under construction at 230 Wellington St., E – the developer bought the property upon which used to sit Park St., (an unassumed road) in order to gain access to the property and begin construction.

Sound simple? Guess again, here's a sample of

what I've learned so far: Re access to Wellington, they too were approved (with the same dedicated right turn lane) – both the Town of Aurora and the Region of York decided that this development, which will create a constant flow of traffic onto Wellington is okay (unlike the Catholic High School which would have dumped additional traffic onto Wellington twice daily in the morning and late afternoon). They have permitted this access to Wellington with no change to the grade of the road in front of 230 and 222 Wellington St. E.

This will create a visual hazard and result in (no doubt) additional collisions in front of Royal

Woodworking located at 225 Wellington St. E., not only because of the slight rise and turn to the road itself, but the developer plans on installing “street trees” in front of the newly landscaped plaza.

Interesting to note: in speaking with Trevor and Ferris at the Region of York regarding the road study of Wellington St., I asked if they contacted the York Regional Police for accident statistics when considering the safety concerns of stop and go turn lanes as a way of managing the additional traffic.

Their response:...”this isn't a criminal investigation, why would we contact the police? (soft giggling could

then be heard). Am I the only one who thinks that accident statistics are relevant to a traffic study?

Let's consider Park St., (which is now the “full service driveway” for the plaza): the property line is within inches of an existing dwelling at 240 Wellington St., E. (in fact, drop a vertical line from the eaves down to the ground and you're on the new driveway) and continues north along the edge of it and then joins to the property owned by the Catholic School Board.

In order to allow a setback from this property to the side of the “full service driveway” I would wonder if the developer has enough

frontage in order to make the whole thing legal?

Isn't a slight curve necessary to permit unobstructed views when leaving the new driveway?

If so, how will that be achieved without losing any additional frontage or carving into the front 'lawn' at 240 Wellington St. E.?

How many concessions are being given to this development and why?

Another bone of contention is the sidewalk necessary to permit safe pedestrian traffic - you might be interested to learn that pedestrian safety is of no apparent concern to the Town of Aurora or the Region of York.

When a property is developed, those responsible must then install a sidewalk in front of the project; again, sounds simple doesn't it?

Walk down here and take a look at what is about to go on:

The Catholic School Board cannot complete their sidewalk to the west due to a lack of access created by 240 Wellington St. E. Seems that creating safe passage for the children and local citizens would involve demolishing the existing building and the property owners are holding fast – the property is now affectionately known as ‘the Holdout property’ at the Region of York planning department.

So the solution is to create a ‘temporary sidewalk’ which then joins to a “kill strip” (this is the term for a section of asphalt which runs directly along the curb where the plow would dump salt saturated snow from the road...the Town of Aurora does NOT clear a kill strip as

it is NOT a sidewalk and is not, in theory, used by people); this kill strip runs along in front of 240 Wellington St., E.

Now we are in front of the plaza at 230 Wellington St., E and there we will encounter another permanent sidewalk traveling west until the property boundary ends in front of 222 Wellington St. E.

You will then encounter another full length of ‘kill strip’ until you pass in front of Royal Woodworking and arrive at the next section of permanent sidewalk at the corner of Wellington and Industrial Parkway.

Am I the only one (again) who sees a total lack of regard or common sense which permits this kind of ridiculous development to happen?

The Town of Aurora has the funds to spend on ridiculous ventures and expenses with no direct benefit to the Town itself nor the people who live here but there is no money for a *&%^& sidewalk?

How do I know all this? I own the property at 222 Wellington St., E., and have made it my business to be aware of what goes on around me in order to protect my investment here.

Sadly in doing so I have discovered the lunacy of local/municipal politics and the complete stupidity of those in positions of power who make decisions every day with no regard to the long term effects.

End of rant (even though I've only covered one-third of my list),

Racine Hyat
Aurora

To the editor,

The truth is most people who live and work in Aurora support its needy, its arts, culture & heritage. Contrary to letters of late, Mayor Phyllis

Morris together with Councillor Stephen Granger have successfully led the Town forward to provide a more vital, healthy community in a few short years.

Their actions have led

It's important that all children read

To the editor,

Now that school is open again and like most parents we are concerned about our child's reading skills, especially at the beginner stages.

I have two children and reading is very important in our household.

Parents can be involved at all times with the importance of reading.

As parents and caregivers, you can become a powerful influence on your child's success in reading. Reading with your child conveys a critical message that reading is both important and enjoyable.

Try to make reading together a daily routine that your child looks forward to.

Bedtime is an ideal time, but other times work equally well.

It is essential to plan reading times when there will be minimal distractions and interruptions.

Your child will learn that

time spent reading together is a priority in your home.

Reading with your child can open the door to a life-long interest in stories and books.

You will learn about your child's interests and their reading abilities.

Encourage your child to read.

During reading, encourage your child to look at some pictures and predict what will happen next. After reading, encourage your child to discuss events, characters and ideas in the story and relate to personal experiences whenever possible.

Turn off the television, radio and computer and relax in the comfort of a well-lit room and open a book as a family activity.

The reading time together must be enjoyable.

Readers are leaders.

Beatrice Ramos
Aurora

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Are you there?

Peter Virtanen
CLU Agent, Aurora

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Aurora into its new found social and cultural ‘Renaissance’ – a rebirth of the Canada Day Parade, of the Aurora Farmers’ Market, of the Dance in the Park at Town Park, the new Church Street School Cultural Centre...and much more.

Three years ago the Aurora Farmers’ Market was in its death throws and wholly abandoned by those who had attempted to create it.

At the same time the Canada Day Parade in Aurora, Canada’s Birthday Town, was cancelled...

The creation of a viable farmers’ market was left to Mayor Morris and Councillor Granger with support of a majority of Town Council.

They worked vigorously with existing vendors and inspired others, myself included, to join.

The result is that Aurora has a new Farmers’ Market – a real Market!

Today’s Aurora Farmers’ Market vibrates with heart! It embraces local foods, culture and artisans.

Hard work, dedication and continued ‘heart’ revived these.

Those who sit on the sidelines and offering nothing but their criticism build nothing but

misdirection and confusion.

It would be lovely to squash the incessant mewling of the malcontent with good supporting letters to the local news, but will these be posted?

What is important to you and your families?

What do you wish to have happen in your community?

A community filled with great character, cultural opportunities, ethics, morals, values, codes, spirit and heart is what is being built.

Show you support the truth, good things, progressive thinking and positive outcomes in Aurora. Cherish those who bring these things to our families and into our lives.

I sent this letter to all editors of local papers in defense of those who have done so much for Aurora. They have served Aurora with honesty, integrity and with hearts.

Come visit us at the fabulous new Aurora Farmers’ Market any Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Let’s create and enjoy more positive community spirited events together!

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Letters to the Editor

Candelight ceremony set for our cemetery

To the editor,

Every year in the Netherlands, the country holds a very moving Christmas tribute to our fallen Canadian soldiers done by local school children.

In this ceremony, a candle is placed at every Canadian soldier's grave in thanks for the sacrifices they made in the liberation of Holland in World War II.

In the 1990s, a movement began which was to see candles lit across Canada in remembrance of the walking wounded, those who served their country and were able to return home to carry on with their lives in the community.

Not all returned whole - many had physical disabilities, others had disabilities which were not readily visible. But all had scars.

On Saturday, September 19th, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 385 is proud to announce that it will be holding its 9th annual "Candlelight Tribute" at 5 p.m. at the Aurora Cemetery.

Here, members of the Legion and Cadets will place candles and Canada flags at each veteran's grave.

The candles will burn all night long to serve as a reminder to those who pass by, of the many who answered the call to serve our country in both war and peace.

On Sunday, September 20th at 2 p.m., a flag dedication and non-denominational Drumhead church service will be held at the cemetery in remembrance of those who were willing to risk their lives so that we may enjoy the type of life that we live today and I am sure that most of us can spare

an hour to attend this touching and moving service to offer our thanks.

On November 11th we remember our war dead.

On the September 19th weekend, with these special candles and this Memorial Service, we remember those who came home and have since passed on.

Remembrance...their legacy...our heritage...our future. We will remember them.

We invite all members of the public to come out and share in these ceremonies as it means so much to the members of the Legion and their families to have the community's support.

Ian Sweet
Public Relations Officer
Col Fred Tilston VC,
Branch 385
Aurora

Council committee's actions force me to write negatively

To the editor,

The other night my wife and I were out with friends and a comment from one of the friends was that I should try to be more positive in my Letters to the Editor.

I respect this friend very much so I thought about what to write that would be positive, thus the letter last week regarding the many great things that anyone can do in Aurora.

I believe that Aurora is a great town and there are many more positives than negatives and I still and always will believe that.

Then I went to the Tuesday night General Committee meeting at the Town Hall as I did want to hear about the firing of the Integrity Commissioner, who I greatly respect due to his amazing background. Why would any council fire a man with such great credentials as David Nitken after only a month or so on the job?

David ruled against the mayor and her five loyal followers because I think that he truly felt the information was flawed.

Why fire him because he ruled against the majority of council?

Why did only the selected few councillors get the report and not the Deputy Mayor Bob McRoberts and Alison Collins-Mrakas?

These two councillors have fought to keep this council on track yet they did not get the report.

I guess since they were not with the group of six.

Why would you not give the deputy mayor, the councillor with the most votes by far, a copy of the report?

The meeting was at best a joke as Councillor Evelina MacEachern was in the chair and seemed to relish being able to contradict most of what Councillor Collins-Mrakas said and at times seemed to be trying to egg Alison into a verbal fight.

At least Alison held back and gave the facts and not the hearsay that certain other councillors seemed to give.

Alison is an amazing councillor and actually knows more about ethics, since she teaches

it at York University, than all of the group of six.

The highlight of the night was Al Wilson saying that this should be left behind them and that staff should write the response and then voted in favour of the mayor's motion that she does the response after the mayor gave him the look.

Then I listened to Councillor Stephen Granger who thought that a "Point of Order" should be called since Councillor Collins-Mrakas actually challenged the chair, MacEachern.

What a joke. He should actually read the Municipal Act regarding a "Point of Order" before making such a ludicrous remark.

Oh well, I really tried to be nice but if any of you want to watch that meeting or read about it you will know why I had to write this letter.

Way to go, Councillors McRoberts and Collins-Mrakas for the holding the fort when the fort is on fire. You are really great.

Nigel Kean
Aurora

Gerry Miller
Managing Partner

Bay Street Service, Aurora Prices!

Gerry is available by appointment in his Aurora Office for Business, Real Estate and other legal matters.

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Letters to the Editor

One meeting down, one more to go

An Open Letter to Wells Street Public School supporters:

Thanks to all the members of the community for participating in the peaceful demonstration in front of the Board offices Monday evening in support of Wells Street Public School.

What a show of support! We have only a few days until the trustees vote on the

Hummingbirds performed for the two of us

To the editor,

After applying a fresh coat of sealer to our front patio and steps, my wife and I relaxed with a cool one in the backyard.

I decided to set the water sprinkler going on our pumpkin patch, which is where the hummingbird feeder is.

Well, what a show the hummingbirds put on.

They danced in and over the water spray, surfing on the tops, sticking their chests out to meet the stream, and just entertaining us to no end.

Our own aquatic air show right in our own backyard.

Bill Hack
Aurora

fate of the school September 24th.

Aurora residents and members of Community Action for Wells Street (CAWS), Olde Aurora Ratepayers Association and Town Council made strong presentations to the Trustees on Monday which further demonstrated the compelling case to fix the structural issue and reopen Wells for the benefit of the students and the Town of Aurora.

In another development, we have asked the Town of Aurora to join the recently formed group, Community Schools Alliance, which is a group of municipalities advocating for greater say in school relocation/closure issues.

The issue of how school boards respond to declining enrollment has been heating up all across the province and has caught the attention of the Minister of Education, as has the Wells situation.

We have always believed that cooperation among the three levels of government is needed to find a unique solution for this unique school that we have clearly demonstrated is near and dear to the hearts of thousands of people in this community.

We ask you for your support in two ways.

1. If you believe in the importance of community schools, please contact our elected officials at the school board and the Provincial government and tell them so.

Individual trustee contact information can be found on the YRDSB website at www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca or stop by our booth at the Farmers' Market and pick up a trustee contact information sheet.

Aurora is represented by only one trustee on the board of 12 trustees.

It is important that the trustees from other towns, Markham, Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Newmarket and Georgina hear from the people who vote for them.

If you have family, friends, work colleagues in these other areas please speak to them about Wells and ask them to contact

their trustee and respectfully express support for keeping Wells open.

2. We have one remaining opportunity prior to the vote to show the trustees directly how much support there is in the community for Wells - from past, present and future students, teachers, neighbours, community organizations, local businesses, heritage supporters and residents all over Aurora who support community-based schools in their neighbourhood and in ours.

Please join us for the last demonstration in support of keeping Wells Street Public School open as a functioning YRDSB school in its current location on Wells Street.

We will commence our peaceful picket at 6:30 p.m. once again outside the YRDSB offices located at

60 Wellington Street West, a block west of Yonge Street.

Wear blue and white, bring your children, your signs, your hats, your buttons and most of all your enthusiasm.

Saving Wells Street Public School in a way that is fiscally, socially and environmentally responsible is achievable.

But we need elected

leaders with vision and courage to think outside the box of the past 20 or 30 years and make it happen.

We thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you September 24th.

Heidi Franken
Member of CAWS
(Community Action for Wells Street)
Aurora

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Board sets record straight

To the editor,

Re: Letter from Mary Smith regarding Aurora Food Pantry (Auroran, Sept. 9)

Although we appreciate Mary Smith's interest in the Food Pantry facility, some corrections are in order.

The current location of Aurora Food Pantry is not a Town-owned building.

The Town of Aurora does not currently allocate space for the use of the food bank. This building is privately owned and we pay rent.

Letter writer correct about Food Pantry

To the editor,

Yes, the Food Pantry needs a new home, but...

To Mary Smith, re your letter in The Auroran last week, in fairness to the Town of Aurora, it is not and has not been involved directly with the food pantry or the space it resides in, as was noted in the Editor's Note at the bottom of the letter.

Yes, the space has outgrown its use. The space has been kindly provided by the owners of the Old Clock Tower building (the Dol family), and they have been nothing but accommodating over the 20 years or so the food bank has been there.

Whether or not the Town has been asked to participate, I'm not sure, so I won't comment on that issue.

We are aware of the challenges in working out of this facility, and our volunteer staff is dedicated to assisting all our clients gain access.

The elderly, disabled and mothers with strollers are assisted up and down the stairs by our volunteer students.

Volunteers are what keep the Pantry operating. (We encourage students to sign up for their Community Service hours early in the school year.)

However, as announced in a press release this past June, the growing number of Aurora and north Oak

Ridges clients, together with the physical restrictions of our location has caused the Board of Directors of the Aurora Food Pantry to embark on a search for a new location.

The Aurora Food Pantry came into existence through the collaboration of several churches in town that saw the need for a central organization for the collection and distribution of food for needy families and individuals.

It is through their vision and ongoing support over the last 20 years that we have been able to help thousands of grateful families and individuals.

Support for our food bank has grown tremendously and now benefits from food and money donations from community sources too numerous to mention, including events sponsored by the Town of Aurora such as Concerts in the Park and the Farmer's Market.

We thank them all and hope this support continues. The food is going out as fast as it's coming in.

Now, we are looking for an even greater commitment from the community in helping us secure a suitable location to serve the need in years to come.

We look forward to hearing from those who may be in a position to help.

Lorna Rummenie
on behalf the
Board of Directors
Aurora Food Pantry

John Sargent
Aurora

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FRANK BRITT

After spending 18 years as a Sales Representative at Ab Cox, we are thrilled that Frank has joined our team and invite all of his customers to Highland.



JEFF HODGINS

With over 11 years experience as a Service Consultant at Ab Cox, Jeff is a very welcome addition to our service department. Jeff would like to invite all of his customers to Highland so that they can continue to receive his commitment to customer service excellence.



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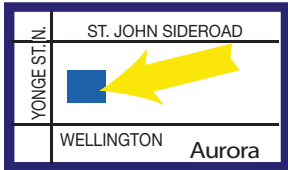


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Nearly 16,000 people visited the 4th annual Ribfest event over the weekend in Machell Park. Highlight Saturday was an electric bull ride, and in the top photo, Kately Fiorgione tries to stay on board. In the centre picture, Kristie Thomas, left, and Ashley Higham of Bone Daddy's BBQ in Fort Erie, offered customers succulent ribs, while Aurora's Citizen of the Year David Tomlinson, one of the rib and sauce judges, had a tough time deciding a winner.

Auroran photos by David Falconer



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Tigers are successful in Vermont showcase

The Aurora Tigers Junior A hockey team has returned to Aurora after a successful showing in the Woodchuck showcase played in Burlington, Vermont, over the weekend.

In all three games, the Tigers were winners including a shoot-out win.

Preparing for their season home opener September 25 at the Aurora Community Centre, David Morley will be team captain, assisted by Jeff Vanderlugt, Alexi Pianosi, and Lucas Van Natter.

At the game, Tigers will host of the Bramalea Blues, after enjoying a tailgate barbecue, sponsored by M&M Meat Shops that will also feature live



DAVID MORLEY
New captain

music by the "Coyotes".

For Aurora, the home opener will be the third game of the season.

They begin the season against the Brampton Capitals September 19, then meet the Oakville Blades September 20th. Both games are out of town.

Tigers will open the game with 21 players including players from last year and newcomers.

On defence will be James McQuestion, Alexa Pianosi, Mitch Kerr, Nick Quinn and Garrett Trainor,

Up front will be Kyle London, Andrew Secco, Michael Sardella, Ryan Marcus, Jeff Vanderlugt, Dave Morley, Nick Vangog, Kyle McLaughlin, Lucas VanNatter,

Derek Gregorack, Mitch Moffat, Adam Moody, Daniel Lisi and Shawn Clark.

Between the pipes will be Stefan Dumaresque and Curtis Black.

This year, the Tigers will meet teams such as the Bramalea Blues, Brampton Capitals, Buffalo Jr. Sabres, Collingwood Blues, Couchiching Terriers, Georgetown Raiders, Huntsville Otters, Kingston Voyageurs, Milton Icehawks, Mississauga Chargers, Oakville Blades, Trenton Golden Hawks, Vaughan Vipers and the Villanova Knights.

Aurora Barbarians win first round game

The Aurora Barbarians Rugby Club was not a welcoming host trouncing the visiting Oshawa Vikings 65-10 in the opening round of the Rugby McCormick Cup playoffs played at Fletcher's Fields, south of Aurora, Saturday.

Oshawa won the Keenan Division, the Greater Toronto Area's senior "B" loop and will be promoted to the province's elite Marshall Premiership for next year's competition.

Aurora, winners in the Premiership this season, showed no mercy to the rising club, scoring 11 tries evenly spread throughout the game.

The young Oshawa squad defended aggressively throughout the match but could not match Aurora's speed and skill.

Oshawa's points came on an early defensive miscue by the Barbs and a late try when the Aurora side had replaced seven starting players from the reserves bench.

Aurora was also missing Steve Shortly and David Nielsen to the Provincial side.

They were playing in the America's Rugby Championship.

"Oshawa will be better next year," said Barbarian coach Bart

Hennessey."They haven't had competition like this in their league. It was pretty much the same for us when we were promoted six years ago. It's a wake-up call that says - you're in the big league now."

Aurora's effort was led by team captain and flank forward Shaun Allen and hooker Robbie Carter. Carter is a graduate of Aurora's St. Andrew's College.

He delivered on both sides of the ball, scoring a try and making some devastating tackles on the Oshawa youngsters.

Aurora and Oshawa are in Pool A of the McCormick Cup competition along with Ottawa Irish Rugby Club and the Irish Canadians Rugby Club (of Toronto).

The four clubs play a round-robin over three weeks with two sides advancing against other pool qualifiers in a quarter-final match to be played October 3.

In the other Pool A match, the Irish Canadians defeated their Ottawa counterparts 45-10.

This Saturday, Aurora travels to Ottawa while the Irish Canadians go to Oshawa.

The week following, Aurora will host the ICRC likely to determine the Pool A winner and runner up.



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A single car mishap occurred Friday night on Yonge Street, north of Wellington, when this vehicle went out of control and wound up on the sidewalk across the street from the former Price Chopper supermarket. Members of the Central York Fire Services were called to the scene. There were no injuries.

Clinic would use auditorium

It's not known whether an outbreak of H1N1 flu virus will take place this winter, but if it does, York Region and the Town of Aurora will be ready for it.

At the General Committee meeting Tuesday, a request was received from the York Region Public Health Unit for the potential set-up of H1N1 flu mass immunization clinics in all York Region communities, including Aurora.

The Health Unit asked that Aurora provide a suitable location for a potential clinic, and waive all facility permitting fees.

The mass immunization clinic would only be activated if direction was received from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

The proposed clinic would operate from noon to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday for a period of up to eight weeks. Should the clinics be activated, this would likely be sometime in November.

Based on consultations with the Region of York Public Health Unit, the town has identified the auditorium in the Aurora Community Centre as the most suitable location in town.

It is possible that permitting fees from potential users may be lost if this room is used for the clinic. Currently these fees are \$50 per hour.

Staff members will not know what financial impact this might be until exact clinic dates are identified.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner

learned the location is fully accessible.

With no further discussion the report was received for information.

The proposed clinic would be in addition to the regular annual flu clinics, scheduled this year at the Seniors' Centre November 5.

Councillor sues colleagues

From page 1

The ad followed council's July 21 decision to file a formal complaint with then-integrity commissioner Mr. Nitkin over alleged comments published by Ms Buck in online blogs and elsewhere.

The Auroran is named as a defendant in the legal documents prepared by Richmond Hill law firm MacDonald Associates. The papers ask for an apology and retraction of the ad.

Publisher Ron Wallace said he immediately passed the papers to the newspaper's lawyer, who has yet to respond to the charge.

"I'm certainly not going to apologize for making a living," Wallace said.

In order for the lawsuit against the councillors to be valid, the newspapers had to be served, Ms Buck said. Publication of the ad made it libellous.

She said the advertisement from the town was "unfounded and unsubstantiated" and the five councillors and the mayor used "every venue they could to publish it".

In the ad, the town lays out the reasons why it chose to file a complaint against Ms Buck.

The complaint was filed to the Integrity Commissioner July 22 and his response was delivered to the town in early August. A day later, Mr. Nitkin was dismissed.

Mr. Nitkin's only report was revealed at a committee meeting Tuesday night.

He said he had not evaluated the "merits" of the complaint and added no investigation would occur on the grounds it was "ill-formed".

Ms Buck says the ad from council called into question her ability to serve as a councillor, suggested she abused unnamed town staff and refused to retract her statements and apologize.

No refusal to apologize ever occurred, Ms Buck said.

Ms. Buck has set up a bank account to receive money to pay the lawyers.

"I can't tell you much. The task has been assigned to (lawyer) Kevin MacDonald. I must say nothing to hinder him," the councillor says in her latest blog. "From council

experience, I know once there is a hint of litigation by the town or against, council members are required to refrain from making any comments whatsoever."

The Evelyn Buck Litigation Account has been established and it turned out to be complicated and took several phone calls and visits but finally an account has been set up, she said.

"It's at the Bank of Nova Scotia branch near Canadian Tire. The important thing is it must be seen for what it is; a fund established for a specific purpose and used for no other."

Ms Buck said the account requires two signatures on cheques, neither of which could be Evelyn.

"I cannot sign cheques but I can make deposits, she said. "Contributors cannot directly deposit to the bank account."

Grace Marsh, Ken Banks and the councillor are involved.

Ms Marsh is a former Aurora councillor who resigned her position earlier in the term.

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These two shots of the historic house at 100 Old Yonge Street, show the building, left, prior to its new location on a new



foundation, and, at right, firmly settled in its new location.
Photos by Eric McCartney

Historic house gets a new foundation

The house at 100 Old Yonge Street is now sitting on a new foundation.

Known as "Alloa Lea", the structure was recently suggested for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, and the owners of the house were thanked for their

interest in in the preservation and celebration of the property.

Council was expected to deal with the issue this week.

The existing building was relocated forward on the lot and restored as a prominent heritage feature on the street,

at the corner of Hollingshead Drive.

Town staff noted the house "is a significant contributor to the character of Old Yonge Street and is a good example of a colonial revival style home from the early 20th century".

Dino and Roula Dais of

Richmond Hill are the owners of the structure.

In his report, former town historian Michael Seaman noted "the house at 100 Old Yonge Street was probably built in 1937 or a bit later. In April of 1937 the property was purchased by Mrs. Edith Winnett for \$500; at that price, there was clearly no house present."

"During Mrs. Winnett's ownership, the house was known as "Alloa Lea", since a farm with the same name was frequently mentioned in accounts of walks in Northumberland in the north of

England.

In 1956, Mrs. Winnett sold the property to Dr. Kenneth B. Ketchum, at the time, headmaster of St. Andrew's College, and the school was

visible from the Old Yonge Street house.

Following his death in 1961, the house was sold by his widow, Esther, to Mrs. Valerie Ina Ives.

Report is released

From page 1

formal complaint was "ill-informed, incomplete, and inappropriate", and suggested that the way it was brought forward "may be, and may be seen to be, wholly political."

Because his efforts to obtain additional information from the proponents had been unsuccessful, he felt that the complaint was unacceptable, and that no investigation or inquiry was warranted.

Councillor Bob McRoberts, one of two councillors who apparently did not receive a copy of this report until the past week, asked why the report was being brought forward now. He said the Code of Conduct refers to items being brought before council, and this was general committee.

Staff members noted that the town's former Director of Corporate Services had advised that the report would be made available to the public.

Mayor Morris echoed these comments, noting that council was trying to get this information out to the public as quickly as possible, and this was the first public opportunity to do so.

Not surprisingly, Councillor Evelyn Buck entered the discussion, saying there was a lot of confusion and misinformation around this issue.

Councillor Al Wilson said it's time to put this all in the past and move forward.

Once the former Integrity Commissioner's report had been received, the mayor amended her original motion on the agenda that her memo simply be received for information.

Instead she put forward the motion; "that the statement published in a memo by the mayor regarding the former Integrity Commissioner's response to Council's Formal Complaint be endorsed", and that "the mayor be directed by Council to prepare and issue a statement to be published in the Town's Notice Board and on the Town's web site in order to address, as soon as possible,

specific community concerns that have arisen regarding this matter."

The gist of the mayor's memo was that council had legal advice that its Code of Conduct had been breached on several matters, through a councillor's critical, disparaging, and unfounded public remarks about staff.

Further, the mayor and town's solicitor believed despite the opinion of the former Integrity Commissioner, the complaint was well informed, complete and appropriate.

Not surprisingly, this motion generated some heated discussion.

Councillor McRoberts was concerned that receiving and endorsing this report would become council's formal response to the Integrity Commissioner's report.

Town Solicitor Christopher Cooper said that under the town's Code of Conduct, council has 90 days in which to respond.

A visibly angry Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas said that "including (the mayor's) report

with the Integrity Commissioner's report is completely inappropriate", and that if the mayor is allowed to put a statement such as this on the agenda, the rest of council should as well.

When advised that councillors were all free to put things on the agenda, she noted that her previous attempts to do so on short notice had been unsuccessful.

Councillor Buck noted that since there was no process or appeal against a decision of the Integrity Commissioner, what was the purpose of council making a response to his decision?

Reiterating his earlier statement that council owed it to the people of Aurora to get this information out to them, Councillor Wilson suggested town staff prepare a report on this.

This idea was endorsed by Councillor Collins-Mrakas.

However, in the end, the question was called, and the Mayor's revised motion was passed 6-3, with councillors Buck, Collins-Mrakas and McRoberts voting against it.



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To Aurora Residents

This is the second in a continuing series of messages to the people of Aurora

A coalition is a temporary union between two or more groups, an alliance. It usually comes into existence to unite people in a common cause. Politics is the theory and practice of forming and running organizations connected with government.

Politics, and politicians, are often a reflection of ourselves; some of us care more than others and take seriously the responsibility to vote when opportunities arise. Others, often the majority, seem to have disconnected from their community and avoid the polls. Our electoral system, federally, provincially and at the municipal level, seems to have been hi-jacked by non-voters who often outnumber those who do.

Aurora is a case in point. According to official 2006 election results 38 per cent of eligible voters cast ballots with Phyllis Morris receiving 5,208 votes. This is 16 per cent of those who could have voted. This is hardly a landslide, certainly not a strong mandate; it is a disgrace.

In her December 5, 2006, lengthy six-page inaugural address Phyllis starts with the words, "I will respect the trust you have placed in me and will always hold sacred your confidence." And "I will work with Council and Town Staff to make our municipal government more open, more transparent, more accountable and more inclusive." Talk is cheap.

Phyllis has a resumé that stretches onto page 4. Look it up on the Town Website. About the only things left out are barrel-racing and unplugging the kitchen sink. But she did graduate in 2003 from Seneca College as a Paralegal! This should reduce the Town's legal bills, not escalate as they are.

Most elected Federal and Provincial members often don't understand the issues upon which they vote. But in Aurora, all of us understand parks and schools, food banks and traffic and recreation and street sales, all of which impact our daily lives. How have our politics disintegrated into name-calling, vitriol, and chaos and integrity reports? Not by "trust" and "confidence."

Surely there are sufficient Aurora residents with ability, character and integrity willing to stand for the office of mayor or councillor in 2010. Let's replace crippled, dysfunctional government with that "of the people, by the people, for the people."

The contact point is auroracoalition@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you and to assist in bringing about change.

We heartily recommend the articulate letter that appeared in The Auroran of September 8 from G. Brennan.

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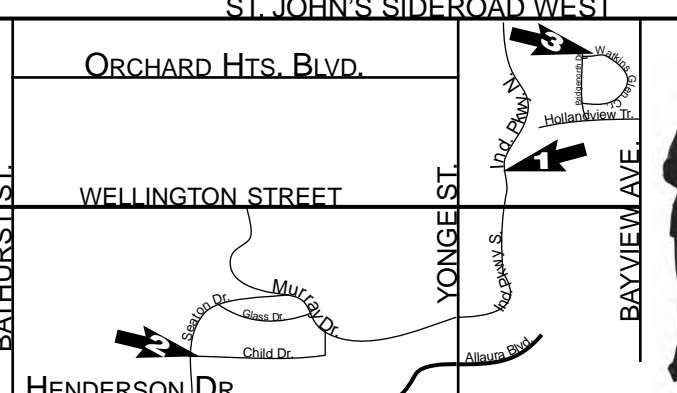
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Senior Scape

Season changes at seniors' centre

By BRIAN WARBURTON

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) is among the most tranquil havens for seniors and yet a powerhouse of innovation and activities pursued by senior society.

This is the time of year when summer nears its end and shorter days pass the seasonal baton to autumn.

Fall has boldly tinted a few trees already, which decked in colour will be joined shortly by whole forests of trees resulting in yellows, reds and orange of every shade.

Though nature's crowning glory of colour does not linger long, the variations of colour reveal the final beauty of our Canadian forests.

Seniors enjoy the peaceful beauty of this time of the year.

Another Labour Day has come and gone and the ASA is experiencing its seasonal shift away from the diminished holiday summer schedule to fall programming.

Not everyone will return to the ASA in September because the last of the summer weather outdoor attractions is reason to linger awhile, but once the good weather is gone, so are the summer attractions, and back to the safe haven of the ASA return more seniors.

September is a month of sweeping changes in the public patterns of behaviour including the

ASA, and among other things, the popular ASA computer club Tuesday general meetings and presentations resume once again.

For anybody who uses a computer and would like more information or the opportunity to rub shoulders with other computer operators, this is a fine meeting in which to participate.

The ever popular Questions and Answers period is repeated every month and never fails to draw good attendance and provoke questions, lively discussion and answers.

Many times a computer problem is nagging and demands an answer but not a costly trip to a computer store when ASA fellow members with whom you have become acquainted can provide adequate answers.

These regular informal meetings provide insights in the changing of current opinions in the ever evolving world of computer equipment.

Often, technically minded members will offer early sound advice to others who might otherwise miss an important trend.

Members can be advised on computer instruction courses available, including one on one courses, and be encouraged to improve their capacity to get the most possible out of their

equipment.

Few need the latest equipment to send e-mails or to create documents, or to handle digital photographs.

Money management is important to most seniors and since technology ages quickly, it is important to understand that while equipment remains operational, it is cost effective to continue with it.

Digital photography frequently gets an airing at these meetings since digital cameras and computers are compatible, and frequently members possess the interest to own and operate both.

The computer club meetings are held each Tuesday starting at 10 a.m. and continuing for an hour or a little longer.

Enid Maize says the ASA choir resumes rehearsals each Wednesday.

The choir fluctuates in membership for many reasons and the start of this new season has openings for male and female choristers, for all parts, and particularly for men and altos.

This is the best time to take the plunge and enjoy making music with a great group of enthusiastic like minded choral entertainers.

Every choir member sings or plays a musical instrument, and everybody has the musical satisfaction of being among

those who share the love of music with a deeply fulfilling way to express it.

Some choir members have a penchant to entertain in other ways, such as in plays or comedy routines, and they all add to the wonderful environment prevalent in the choir.

Former choir members and new members are all welcome to join or rejoin and to add their voices and expertise to this great senior ASA choir.

A Tailgate Sale will be held on the parking lot in front of the seniors' centre Saturday, September 26th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cost is \$10 for mem-

bers and \$20 for non-members and a few spaces remain.

To reserve your space visit the reception desk.

This method of presenting merchandise of all kinds is growing in popu-

larity, so you have a choice of seller or buyer or even both.

As an added attraction, coffee and a continental breakfast will be served in the parking lot between 9 and 11 a.m.



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