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# THE AUORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 8 No. 12

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FREE

Week of January 22, 2008

## Bylaw to protect tethered dogs

Aurora Council is preparing a bylaw that would enable action to be taken against dog owners who allow their animals to remain alone and chained for extended periods of time.

Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas was successful in convincing enough members of the general committee to direct staff to prepare a bylaw similar to one in Markham.

She said that while the Markham bylaw wasn't perfect it was better than nothing and that it shouldn't be complaint driven as suggested in a staff report.

Last October Nicole Simone, a volunteer at Kennel Inn Animal Control Shelter, appeared before the general committee to request an anti-chaining and confinement bylaw in Aurora.

She presented a brief including ordinance ideas, a letter of support from the Ontario Society for the

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, a letter of support from Kennel Inn and a list of questions and answers regarding chaining.

Simone told committee members that without a bylaw no action could be taken against pet owners who leave their pets chained up all day without any interaction with humans resulting in some dogs becoming aggressive and others in a state of decline.

She said the situation was not only frustrating but also heart-breaking because the hands of control officers are tied and there was nothing they could do to improve the quality of life for these dogs.

Simone stressed it was necessary for pets to have some interaction with humans as they should be walked and played with in order to maintain their physical and mental

Please see page 3



Neighbourhood Network is a new, non-profit organization founded by MP Belinda Stronach. The community-based organization will match volunteers, who wish to lend a hand, with local charities that assist residents in need. In the above photo Neighbourhood Network ambassadors Tim Jones (right), former mayor of Aurora, and Tom Taylor (left), former mayor of Newmarket, are seen with Ms. Stronach at the organization's official launch last week.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Part 3 of Aurora in 2007

July started off without the traditional July First Parade, the first year since 1969 that there wasn't a parade. (If Sher St. Kitts gets her way the parade will return in 2008.)

Dozens of parents, students and interested spectators waited for more than an hour at the York Region District School Board meeting to hear a decision about the future of the Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School but the only decision made by the trustees was not to decide.

Without any comment or discussion in public session, the trustees adopted a report of the Property Management Committee that the board defer any decision on the replacement of the school until the fall of 2007 to allow trustees additional time to consider the options and implications.

Although the region lifted its Phase Two Water Prohibition to a Phase One Water Advisory, which still restricted homeowners from watering lawns and washing cars, etc., several residents questioned council's action in approving more subdivisions when there wasn't enough water to service existing residents.

Council had previously received a report from the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee recommending the imposition of a town-wide three-hour limit with certain exceptions for on-street parking due to the number of citizen complaints about cars being parked on the streets for extended periods of time.

After a lengthy discussion at a previous meeting the issue was deferred to a future meeting for a staff presentation.

The many safety benefits were pointed out and it was noted that a similar restriction was in place in other municipalities and the region, but the recommendation was defeated on a 6-3 vote.

Council agreed that, unless dog owners using the Leash Free Dog Park started to clean up their dog's waste and take it home for disposal, there is a possibility the park could close.

It was finally agreed that an education program be carried out pending the appointment of a volunteer citizen committee to oversee the operation of the park and, if this didn't work, to consider closing the park.

During July there was a discussion about seniors aged 65 years and over

being required to pay education taxes as their children were no longer part of the school system.

The previous March council directed staff to prepare a report outlining the feasibility and implications of initiating a Property Tax Grant program for low income seniors.

Staff estimated that about 150 seniors would be eligible and, if council approved a \$150 grant, the cost to the municipality would be \$22,500 or about 1 per cent increase on the tax bill.

Council deferred discussion to the 2008 budget.

Due to the deterioration of the Cenotaph caused by weather and environmentally related conditions, council accepted a tender from Granite Works to restore the monument at a cost of \$108,332.

The Aurora Farmers Market was back in operation at the Temperance Street parking lot from 8 a.m. until noon every Saturday until the end of October. Councillor Stephen Granger was successful in obtaining council agreement to include funds in the 2008 budget for the continued operation of the Market.

Please see page 13

## BRIEFLY

### Celebrate Valentine's Day

Here's something to do to celebrate Valentine's Day and support a worthy cause while you're at it.

A gala big band night is being presented by the York Regional Police Male Chorus Saturday, Feb. 9, at the Aurora Legion, which will include live music, dancing, a silent auction and a buffet at 10 p.m.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$20 per person.

Tickets are available by calling Judi at 905-727-1673 or Sharon at 905-895-1436.

Proceeds from the event will help fund a bus needed to transport the Police Chorus while on their goodwill tour in Newfoundland this July.

### Pension seminar for Seniors

An information seminar on government pension benefits will be held at the Aurora Seniors Centre on Thursday, February 14.

Presented by Services Canada, the presentation will include information about benefits of the Canada Pension Plan, Death and Survivors, Pension Disability, CPP Children Dropout Provision and Old Age Security.

Space is limited to 40 participants and interested persons are asked to register at the ASC front desk.

For more information contact Marie Leone at 905-713-0608 or [leoneml@aci.on.ca](mailto:leoneml@aci.on.ca)

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# COMING EVENTS

During the month of January the Skylight Gallery in the Town Hall will feature the artwork of Kety Bagwalla, a local silk artist who paints a variety of subjects on silk. Regular viewing hours are from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Continuing until April 15 from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. Winter Parking Restrictions will be in effect.

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. It's open to all parents, grandparents and caregivers. For more information e-mail Judy Hoffmann at [jhoffmann@sympatico.ca](mailto:jhoffmann@sympatico.ca).

Scottish Country Dancing every Friday morning at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No Partners are needed and beginners are welcome.

Meet at Martha's Table, now in its third season. Every Thursday from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Comfort food and a sense of community will be available at the hall at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Aurora. Any funds raised are directed to other community outreach projects.

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.

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. There is also a selection of interest groups. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Choir practice in the West-McKenzie Hall of the Seniors Centre, every Wednesday from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. under the direction of Tom Rainsford.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 22**  
Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five at Dentistry in Oak Ridges, 13291 Yonge Street from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.

Aurora council meets in the council Chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m. Aurora Cable Internet will telecast the meeting at 6.30 p.m. the following night and at noon the following Saturday and Sunday.

#### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23**

The York Regional Police Services Board invites citizens to a public meeting at 1 p.m. to hear Police Chief Armand La Barge on proposed policing priorities for the Police 2008-2010 Business Plan to be held in Committee Room A of the York Region Administrative Centre on Yonge Street in Newmarket. RSVP to Connie Phillipson, Executive Director, at 905-830-0303.

A public planning meeting will be held in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m. to consider an application for the development of a residential condominium of 75 homes and a golf course on the east and west side of Leslie Street, north of Bloomington Road.

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society is having its first monthly meeting at 8 p.m. at the Aurora Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway. Guest speaker is Jim Tree who will discuss the Aurora Municipal Parks & Recreation. Guests welcome. Admission \$2.00 per person.

#### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 24**

Blood Donor Clinic at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North from 2.30 to 8 p.m.

#### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 25 to FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is coordinating a Winter Auroralicious promotion of local restaurants including Aw Shucks, Bistro 171, Graystones, Jonathon's and Oakland Hall. The participating restaurants will offer a three-course lunch from \$15 to \$20 and a three-course dinner from \$25 to \$30. Make reservations with the restaurants of your choice.

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 26**

Aurora Public Library in partnership with the York Simcoe Literacy Council invites 3 to 5-year-olds with parents or caregivers to a pre-school storytime at 10 a.m. in the Lebovic Room of the library. Pre-register at the Children's Information Desk or call 905-727-9493, option 5.

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 27**

The Aurora Seniors will travel on a school bus to see Medieval Times, with lunch, a live performance with tickets at \$66 for members, \$70 for non-members and \$50 for children.

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 29**

A Special Council Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the Town Hall to adopt the 2008 budget.

Aurora Seniors will visit the Bata Shoe Museum at 327 Bloor Street West in Toronto. Trip includes motor coach transportation, a visit to the Bata Shoe Museum, a tour and Victorian Tea at Spadina House and a buffet lunch.

#### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

Aurora Seniors Centre holds its Pancake Tuesday Lunch from 11.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in the West McKenzie Hall. Menu includes pancakes, pure Maple syrup, grilled sausages and beverage. Members \$5, guests \$6. For further info contact Lucas Hilts, 905-726-4727 or

[lhilts@e-aurora.ca](mailto:lhilts@e-aurora.ca)

#### **WEDNESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY**

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast at Wellington House Spa, 38 Wellington Street East, Unit 4, at 7.30 a.m.

#### **SATURDAY, 9 FEBRUARY**

As part of the Aurora Annual Arctic Adventure, the first ever Aurora Women's Pond Hockey Tournament will be held at Machell Park with 20 teams participating in two divisions on four ponds. For more information call Lynne Booth at 416-801-2456.

#### **FRIDAY, 15 FEBRUARY**

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Ski Day at Osler Bluffs in Collingwood. Call 905-727-7262 for more information.

#### **MONDAY, 18 FEBRUARY**

Reduce water use in your garden by going native. Learn about wildflower gardening from the experts, Ruth Zaugg of the North American Native Plant Society and Aileen Barclay of York Region's Water for Tomorrow program. Activity takes place at 7 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors Centre. Register at Info Aurora 905-727-8214. Admission is free.

#### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of York Region Bowl for Kids Sake 2008 will take place in Aurora with Aurora Community Day at the Gateway Café and Lanes. Call 905-895-0289 for more information.

#### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

The York Regional Police Male Chorus will perform at St. Andrew's Church in Aurora to help raise funds for Afghan relief. Proceeds from the 3 p.m. concert in the sanctuary at the corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets will go to Presbyterian World Services and Development. Call 905-727-5011 or 905-727-8773 for more information.

#### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

First installment of interim tax payment due.

#### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast at Featherlite Industries Ltd. 100 Engelhard Drive beginning at 7:30 a.m. Featherlite will provide a facility tour.

#### **FRIDAY, APRIL 25**

Second installment of interim tax payment due.

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# Full-service gas stations seen as needed by many

If the Accessibility Advisory Committee has its way Aurora may get a full-service gas station for seniors and those who have problems using self serve stations.

At their last meeting the committee requested staff research neighbouring municipalities with regard to what measures were being taken to address the need for full-service gas stations and report back to a future committee meeting.

With the closing of the Esso Dog bylaw

## From page 1

well being, saying it was a serious issue.

In response to a question as to whether other municipalities had adopted an anti-chaining bylaw, she replied that she was not familiar with any in Canada but there are laws in the U.S. and Europe.

The committee received her presentation and referred it to staff to research legislation as to authority to adopt such a bylaw.

By late December she had received more than 1,000 names for her on-line petition and had registered Unchain York Region's Dogs as a non-profit organization and intended to widen the scope provincially in 2008.

At the general committee meeting staff reported that the only jurisdiction they were able to find on the issue was the new Animal Control Bylaw adopted by Markham council.

It was pointed out that under the Municipal Act the town has the authority to license and regulate dogs but the protection of animals does not fall specifically within this authority.

It is normal for municipalities in situations such as this to refer the complaint to the OSPCA, which has a mandate to respond to incidents of animal cruelty.

It was also pointed out that the town now has a contract with the OSPCA for canine control and Society officials are willing to track calls from Aurora residents on issues of the chaining of dogs to assist staff in assessing if there is a need for an amendment to the town's Dog Control Bylaw.

Town staff also noted that only one complaint had been received and the issue was not a major concern.

If there is constant barking, action can be taken under the Anti-Noise Bylaw.

Some committee members questioned how the bylaw could be enforced with dogs chained up in private back yards unless it was complaint driven.

Others stressed the town should be pro-active and adopt a bylaw but anti-chaining was not acceptable as it could be misleading and it was agreed to refer to it as Humane Tethering.

When the vote was called the preparation of a bylaw was approved on a 5-4 vote.

station on Yonge Street and of the Beaver station on Wellington Street East, Aurorans are required to go the Ultramar station on Yonge Street in Newmarket or the CanCo station on Yonge Street in Oak Ridges for the closest full-service stations.

In a report to the general committee the Advisory Committee recommended the Canadian Petroleum Products Institute be requested to discuss with its members the need to ensure gas stations make provisions for full service to patrons having special needs.

It was also recommended that the Ministry of Community and Social Services be requested to assist in the issue of accessibility to gas station services and the town use all possible tools to ensure the provision of a full service component for all future gas station facilities in the town.

Also recommended was that the town correspond with all gas station operators in Aurora, requesting they review their current operations to see what can be done to address the issue.

Finally, it was recommended that planning staff be requested to include a clause in the Site Plan Development Agreement requiring Suncor Energy Products to provide one full service island operating a minimum of six hours per day.

Staff pointed out there was no jurisdiction under the Planning Act to impose such a condition and it was not known under what authority some jurisdictions had acted but efforts would be taken to investigate.

Councillor Al Wilson supported the need for full service stations but expressed concern

about the recommendation regarding the site plan agreement for the Suncor station on Wellington Street East and suggested it be referred back to staff for background information as to how it could be done.

The committee agreed to refer the item back to staff for more information and comments from the Seniors Association for a report to the next general committee meeting.

Also agreed was that the town utilize its web site and the Notice Board to encourage the public to sign a petition requesting gas stations provide full service for patrons with special needs.

Staff is to determine best means of circulating the petition.

Back in November 2005, Markham council expressed concern about the proliferation of self-serve gas stations and the hardships for the elderly and the disabled.

They were supported by Aurora's Accessibility Advisory Committee and council.

In April 2006, committee members asked questions about having full-service lanes at local gas stations.

Staff replied that the Director of Planning was requesting assistance from owners during the planning process.

The question was asked again in June 2006, at which time staff replied it wasn't possible to make full-service lanes mandatory, resulting in the committee contacting Markham for more information.

According to Markham officials they insist that gas company applicants make provisions for full-service for at least 12 hours a day or they won't get approval.



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# AURORA



## Valentine's Gift Draw

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**of**



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## Poor Richard

### Horse Show memories fade into the past

*It was a sad type of celebration,  
As to a tradition we said good-bye;  
After 86 years of horse shows,  
The end brings tears to the eye.*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

The last annual dinner and general meeting of the Aurora Agricultural Society, sponsors of the annual Aurora Horse Show and Fair, was held earlier in the month as the Society decided to wind up its affairs.

It was a celebration of the many years that the Society had brought the rural community of early Aurora to a growing more urban community and a sad occasion as it signaled an end to the dedicated work of the many volunteers, mainly residents of neighbouring communities, who made it happen.

The Aurora Agricultural Society was established in 1922 and has been part of Aurora ever since.

The first Aurora Horse Show took place that year at Hazelburn Farms, owned by Aemilius Jarvis, and attracted 22 spectators.

The Horse Show was then moved to the Town Park where it remained for nearly 50 years before moving to Machell Park, remaining there over the years until 2006 when the last Horse Show and Fair was held.

Due to a lack of younger volunteers and provincial funding changes, which prevented the Society from using the bingo proceeds to finance the Horse Show and Fair, the fair was cancelled for 2007.

With the pending disbandment of the Society, the tradition of keeping Aurora's rural history alive will be lost.

The Illingworth family moved to the Aurora area in 1954 from Willowdale and lived in a little cottage on the east side of Yonge Street immediately south of Beverly Farm, the home of the Toronto and York Hunt Club, so horses were a familiar sight.

The little cottage was later demolished to make way for the widening of Yonge Street and the Illingworths moved into Aurora in 1956 but the love of horses remained, so we were regular visitors at the Horse Show.

In 1963 I attended the Horse Show in a different capacity, as the Honourable Earl Rowe, then Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, was invited to open the event and, as Wing Commander Illingworth, I was his Aide de Camp.

Mr. Rowe presented the Town of Aurora Shield to Tommy Gayford who was riding Blue Beau, one of the greatest jumpers of the day and owned by Ruth and Herb Coad of Aurora.

It was a special occasion as the 1963 event celebrated Aurora's Centennial as a Village, having been incorporated in 1863.

The Vice-Regal Party was met by Mayor Keith Nesbit and the Band of the Queen's York Rangers.

The 1969 Horse Show was very special for Aurora as it was the homecoming welcome ceremony for Canada's Gold Medal Equestrian Team from the 1968 Mexico Olympics.

Jim Elder, Tom Gayford and Jim Day, members of the Grand Prix Gold Medal Jumping Championship, were regular competitors at the Aurora event.

The other team member was Torchy Miller who visited Aurora for the special occasion.

As Mayor at the time, I had the pleasure of presenting Town of Aurora cufflinks to the team members.

The 1970 Horse Show was the last held in the Town Park on Wells Street.

Most appropriately, it was officially opened by Ontario Chief Justice Dalton Wells because Wells Street was named after his family.

In 1971, after 49 years at the Town Park, the Horse Show and Fair moved to the much larger Machell Park which Society members helped to prepare with town Park staff.

It was the first of the two-day events.

As Mayor it was my pleasure and honour to officially open the 50th Horse Show and Fair in the new park and I have a lovely engraved plaque to remind me of the special occasion.

During the early years at Machell Park, the Grand Prix jumping event was telecast live by CBC-TV Sports.

The Aurora Horse Show was recognized across Canada as one of the foremost shows in the country and a warm-up for the Royal Winter Fair and the Canadian Equestrian team.

The loss of the Aurora Horse Show and Fair takes with it many memories and a part of Aurora's history and tradition.



Just after the earth had cooled but before cellular phones and stiff recorded messages were invented, people actually had the pleasure of being greeted by a friendly voice saying "Number, please" when using a telephone. Subscribers could even obtain the time of day and, believe it or not, in some cases a wake-up call, as well as other neighbourly help. It was like talking with a friend. In the 1940s, Bell Telephone operated an exchange on Aurora's Yonge Street, staffed by operators seen in this picture courtesy of John McIntyre. From left to right are: Ellamae Blake Carson, Marie Hulme, Ruth Rothwell, Doris Payne, Claire Fortier, Ruth Rose and Jean Giles. Ah, the good old days.

#### Letters to the editor

## Buses continuing despite few riders and high costs: Buck

#### To the editor,

Lise Bolly's letter invites a response.

YRT officials made a presentation to council. Among other changes in 2008, they were planning to terminate a service on Industrial Parkway.

It operates seven hours a day, four hours in the morning and three later.

It earns 28 fares a day and loses 92 cents on the dollar.

I thought, 28 fares a day probably means fourteen return users.

You can't operate a bus seven hours a day for fourteen users.

Seems I was the only one who thought so.

Councillor Gaertner immediately protested.

YRT should visit and talk to the industries.

The Mayor suggested staff contact the Chamber of Commerce and ask them to survey industries and solicit their input.

Councillor Gaertner also asked the presentation be repeated the following week

when it would be seen on Cable Television and inform the community.

And so it was done.

On the seventh day, YRT returned.

As well, a spokesperson from the Chamber of Commerce informed council businesses were surveyed and they wished the service to continue.

I asked did they know the logistics?

The answer was no.

YRT officials assured council their input would be taken into consideration before the final decision.

I offered my input.

So, there you have it, a glimpse into how decisions are made in Aurora's public forum.

Business people who know better than anyone what it

takes to meet a payroll offering input into a situation they know nothing about.

I wonder how long they could keep their doors open while consistently losing ninety-two cents on the dollar.

Chamber of Commerce acquiescing in a request to do a survey without having particulars.

YRT officials indicating they would solemnly consider the totally illogical demand.

And councillors once again came to the defence of fourteen users of a bus service.

YRT is heavily subsidized by property taxes.

Remember that when you hear how well we controlled the property tax increase of 2008.

Evelyn Buck  
Aurora

## Many depend on bus service, reader says

#### To the editor,

RE: YRT route 32 (The Auroran, Letter to the editor from Lise Bolly, Jan. 8)

I can understand the concern of this reader that ridership is low on some York Region Transit routes.

However, there are those who depend on this service to get to and from their place of employment, schools and the Aurora GO Train.

My daughter is developmentally delayed and is a regular rider on several routes including 32 and without this service would not be able to work.

At the present, YRT is re-routing 31 to adjust to low ridership, an indication that the management is paying attention to the use of the service.

While our tax dollars subsidize the buses, these riders pay \$90 for a monthly pass, a hefty chunk of income for those earning minimum wage.

They are not getting a free ride at the expense of those who are able to drive wherever they need to go.

For sure, the ridership will not increase if services are reduced.

As with any other municipal or regional service, the York Region Transit was likely not intended to make a profit.

It is a necessary service that your reader may someday be glad to use.

Sally Haberer  
Aurora

## Senior uses bus six days weekly

#### To the editor,

Re: Letter to the editor from Lise Bolly (The Auroran, Jan. 8)

I do not agree that the 32 YRT bus should be discontinued, as I use it six days per week.

I am a Senior and also a widow and, whilst I do walk a lot, I need this service to connect to other routes plus VIVA to Toronto, etc.

If it is running at a loss, I'm sure by now the YRT would have discontinued the service.

It is not always empty as she claims and I hope for my sake it keeps running.

Anne Freer  
Aurora

## "Aurora's Community Newspaper"

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## Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

## OPA comes to Aurora

Last August this writer produced a column identifying energy as a potential sleeper issue for the (then) upcoming October 10th provincial election.

As with pretty near all of my predictions, it was 150% wrong.

As we all know, a little thing called faith-based funding took all of the attention and focus of the campaign away from a serious and much needed debate on - among other things - Ontario's energy future.

Most people, other than those who work in the industry, don't really pay attention to this subject.

As long as the lights remain on and any outages are short in duration and don't occur too frequently, people are pretty satisfied and go about their busy daily existence of raising a family, paying the bills and saving for vacations.

But even though this topic did not get a fair airing during the election, it doesn't mean that today it is any less important to us.

Ontario is facing critical decisions regarding the appropriate energy supply mix and also how best to procure new generation.

Inextricably intertwined with these decisions is a need for power that is affordable, reliable and environmentally friendly.

So what of the above? What are the potential implications for us in Aurora?

Well, representatives of the Ontario Power Authority ("OPA") are coming to Aurora to make a Power Point presentation Tuesday evening to Aurora Council.

A copy of this presentation is now available on the Town website.

Who is the OPA and why are they important?

They are one of the numerous alphabets of acronym organizations in the Ontario energy space - joining entities like the OEB, OPG and H1 (the Ontario Energy Board, Ontario Power Generation and

Hydro One, respectively).

According to the OEB website, the OPA is "the Agency responsible for planning the electricity supply system in Ontario, including forecasting electricity demand and supply adequacy and contracting for additional sources of supply or demand management if necessary."

The covering letter sent to Her Worship Mayor Phyllis Morris that accompanied the Power Point presentation set out what the OPA representatives want to talk about:

"As you know, the OPA has been closely involved with your community in developing and implementing a number of solutions to address the electricity supply and reliability needs of Northern York Region over the last two years.

"These solutions are the outcome of these consultations and a plan was submitted to the OEB in 2005.

"One of the key pieces of information which we wanted to share was the pending initiation of activities to procure electricity generation for the Region and the associated timelines of our process."

The first page of the nine-page presentation states that demand growth in the Northern part of York Region is three times the provincial average and that there is inadequate transformer and distribution line capacity as well as inadequate capacity on the transmission system supplying the area.

The OPA believes that an integrated solution is needed based on four legs; conservation, capacitors, generation and the Holland Transformer Station.

On the conservation front, the OPA is targeting 27 MW of conservation in York Region by the year 2010, 17 MW of which has already been contracted.

They also want to see placed in service by the end of 2011 a natural gas fired peaking generation facility of approximately 350 MW in

size.

A chart is also included showing that the Request for Qualifications process from potential generators is to begin by March or April of this year.

The presentation also points out that the OPA is responsible for facilitating investment in new generation through procurement initiatives but that they are not responsible for siting new generation facilities or mandating the environmental performance of the facility.

A couple of questions quickly come to mind from this presentation.

To wit; how successful have any of the OPA conservation initiatives been thus far?

Where will the 350 MW peaking gas plant be located?

If the new gas plant is not located in Aurora, will there still be a requirement for upgrading the transmission lines?

And if this transmission line upgrade is needed, who will pay for it? Just us in the north of York Region or will all the other tax-payers in York Region help foot the bill?

For those of you who receive this newspaper on Tuesday, you can attend the Council meeting tonight in person.

Shortly after Mayor Morris officially brings Council to order at 7:00 p.m. the OPA delegation makes its presentation.

For those of you who cannot attend the Council meeting but are interested in this topic, ACI will televise the meeting the next night (Wednesday) at 6:30 p.m. on channel 10.

You can watch the first half hour of Council and see this presentation, then tune in the Leafs versus the Washington Capitals pre-game show on TSN at 7:00 p.m.!

Stephen can be contacted at:  
stephensomerville@yahoo.com



## Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

## Winter? No thanks...

I might have mentioned before that I suffer from a serious seasonal syndrome: I am a Winter Wonder-Wuss!

Yes, I am clinically certifiable. Any day now, I fully expect the experts to name a germ after me!

Some people call it the "winter blues", other people call it the "winter blahs", but only fellow sufferers seem to notice that "snow" is a 4-letter word!

Mild symptoms include an overwhelming urge to warm up car keys in the dryer...hoping they will melt and preclude any possibility of venturing outside.

After 20 years in Arctic Aurora this strategy has not worked.

So my condition has progressed.

I now suffer from the following:

Hibernation Effect: This is when the alarm rings in the morning and it is still dark outside so it doesn't matter whether I open my eyes or not.

Since I prefer birds chirping over wind howling, I choose not.

I grope for the clock radio, grab it, rip it out of the wall, and slide it under the bed.

Then I pull the covers over my head and scream: "I hate winter!"

My kids are used to this, but the dog still has problems coping.

Why in the world does Jake feel he has to "fetch" the clock radio?

I simply must speak to my vet and arrange doggie counseling for this animal! This is NOT normal!

Soporific Slug Symptoms: This is when picking up the mail feels like running the Boston Marathon...in snowshoes.

By comparison, my neighbour looks like the Ever-Ready Bunny and I really want to rip her batteries out.

She is even waving and smiling, for Heaven's sake!

**Stark Raving Powerlessness:** This is when I somehow manage to get out of bed and take a shower, but I can't screw the cap back on the toothpaste tube to save my life.

Every time I try, it sprays like a skunk.

It doesn't help when my husband points out that the toothpaste cap is incompatible with my hairspray bottle and asks me why I am smearing hair gel all over my face.

In a rare lucid moment I wonder if it would help to open my eyes.

Nah...

**Tarzan-like Mood Swings:** This is when I step outside and notice that the sun is melting the ice on my driveway.

I am so happy I drop to my knees in gratitude.

Immediately, the clouds roll in, the temperature drops 10 degrees and hail begins to pelt my pelt.

I cry out loud and begin banging my head on the ice...

It doesn't help that the Ever-Ready Bunny smiles and waves as she heads to the mailbox...

**Seasonal Affective Insanity:** This is when I choose to be an adult and take responsibility for my life.

I go online and book a vacation to a tropical paradise and don't care what it costs because I would pay ANYTHING for sunshine, birds chirping, and skin that doesn't itch all over!

**Mid-Winter PMS:** This is when I'm back in Arctic Aurora and getting to the mailbox feels like climbing Mount Everest...without

snowshoes.

It is that time of the month when the only thing in the mailbox is the visa bill.

Suddenly, I understand why Canadians are not allowed to own guns.

I wonder how many shots it would take to blow the Ever-Ready Bunny's snowshoes off...and if I have any ammo left, the smile goes next!

I love Aurora, but not this time of year...

Have you noticed that when rain falls on snow...it makes ice?

Yes, it can give you a concussion, a broken limb...even a reason to leave Aurora for Cuba - forever!

And I don't like Cuba.

They let my mother-in-law back on the plane to Canada!

And the snowplows in these parts really are out to get you!

You clear the snow and they repackage it as 6 cubic foot parcels of ice...about 20 per household. This is enough to drive a person to drink - antifreeze!

And how many times has my "smart" car pointed out (DING-DING-DING, as in GET BACK IN THE HOUSE RIGHT NOW! DANGER! DANGER! DANGER!) that the temperature is dropping faster than I can calculate the current exchange rate on pesos?

Okay, so some people would call me a pessimist, but it is much worse than that!

What I really am is: A Winter Wonder-Wuss!

Cathy Vrancic welcomes e-mail at:  
ccaurora@rogers.com



## Bouquets & BRICKBATS

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

**BOUQUETS** to Marie Nielsen of Aurora on being recognized by the Legislature at Queen's Park through Newmarket Aurora MPP Frank Klees for being the first recipient of both the Canadian and American National Jack Russell Trials Child Handler of the Year Award.

**BRICKBATS** to Aurora council for calling a public general committee meeting at 7 p.m. in accordance with the Procedural Bylaw but not starting it until 7:15 p.m. because they were in a closed session and were returning to a closed session after the public meetings. To delay the start of a public meeting is an insult to the public.

**BRICKBATS** to the Ontario Municipal Board for assessing a group of Innisfil residents and their lawyers with \$3.6 million hearing costs in their bid to stop a glitzy \$1 billion vacation resort on Lake Simcoe based on environmental concerns. No wonder residents are reluctant to appeal planning decisions to the OMB.

**BOUQUETS** to all the volunteers, especially the Aurora Seniors, for making the Warm Hearts Warming Hands project initiated by Aurora Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas so successful. It provides grade school teachers in Aurora with a few sets of outerwear for children who may not have them.

**BRICKBATS** to those responsible for planning and building roads next to a waterway without any protective devices for motorists who may lose control and slide into the waterway as was the case in the tragic deaths on Canal Road in Bradford and the loss of a little girl on a rural road near Cannington.

**BOUQUETS** to Bryan Dunjko of Aurora on being selected for the York Region Athletic Association all-star football team. After spending his first three years at Aurora High he transferred to Huron Heights to play football and rushed for nearly 900 yards and 20 touchdowns to help the Warriors win their third straight regional high school title in the past season.

**BRICKBATS** to the 10 per cent of the American people who named President George Bush as the most admired American President according to a USA Today Gallup poll.

**BOUQUETS** to the York Region District School Board on being recognized for the second consecutive year by the Character Education Partnership for its various programs to teach students about character.

**BRICKBATS** to the Halton Catholic District School Board, which believes that in the 21st century it is still okay to ban the written word. Based on a complaint, trustees overruled a recommendation of their book committee that the fantasy novel 'The Golden Compass' was suitable for Grades 7 and up.

**BOUQUETS** to the trustees of the York Catholic District School Board for taking a more enlightened approach by having the book on library shelves for a recommended audience of Grades 7 to 10. There have been no complaints.

**BRICKBATS** to money-hungry Toronto parking enforcement grinches for issuing \$20 parking tickets on Christmas night on residential streets as some party-goers stayed over because they were encouraged to do so if they had been drinking.

**BOUQUETS** to the Quebec government for banning advertising that sells cars as sporting goods and that glorifies speed. The government has made an amendment to the Highway Safety Bill to give the provincial auto insurance board the mandate to come up with guidelines to ban ads that depict heedless, careless or dangerous behaviour and gestures. Ontario should follow!

**BRICKBATS** to the LCBO for their colourful, glitzy advertising brochures advertising liquor products for the holiday season to promote sales while at the same time the government and other agencies are promoting the dangers of drinking and driving.

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## Letters to the Editor

# Train photo is probably from 1963: researcher

To the editor,

**Re: photo of steam locomotive (The Auroran, Jan. 8)**

I believe the photo was taken on the occasion of the special excursion run of CN's last active steam engine (number 6167) on July 6, 1963.

The excursion was sponsored by the Upper Canada Railway Society and the train started in Toronto, stopped in Aurora because of the town's centennial and continued to Bradford.

This train ride made a fitting end to a week filled with centennial celebrations and a great way to bring former Aurorans, like my own father, to town.

Although some of the cars in the background look like fifties vehicles to me, I'm fairly sure that this is not a photo of the museum train visit in 1953, to mark the centennial of the first regular trip of a steam train in Ontario.

In 1953 the station was decorated with "ER," etc., to also mark the forthcoming

coronation of Queen Elizabeth.

And the people in the photo in question are not nearly so formally (or warmly) dressed as those witnessing the May 1953 event.

As to the presence or otherwise of John Diefenbaker...I do not recall reading of that in my countless perusals of That Other Local Paper.

If the photo does show that

July 1963 trip, then Mr. Diefenbaker has recently ceased to be prime minister and possibly he would have been reluctant to visit a town which claimed his successor, Lester Pearson, as one of its own.

Jacqueline Stuart  
Research Volunteer  
Aurora Historical Society

## More fuel added to great train debate

To the editor,

Would you be surprised if I was to tell you that you have already printed a picture of this event in the "Auroran".

The only difference is that the picture that you published was taken at ground level.

The occasion was the 100-year commemoration of the arrival of the first steam train at Aurora.

In the picture was a former mayor of the town, Dr. Rose, and the then town solicitor Lorne Lee. With his back to the camera, was me, Mr. Lee's son.

I had brought my family back for a visit so that my father could see his grandson,

Stephen.

I also want to correct the situation in that the "ground level" photo was taken in the late 50's.

I rather suspect that I'm as much in the dark as The Auroran was unless, of course, your "high picture" is incorrectly dated.

To completely change the subject the paper has, on a semi-regular basis discussed "speed bumps".

They are incorrectly named.

With deference to the police department the correct name is "sleeping policemen".

Gordon Lee  
Ville Lasalle, Quebec

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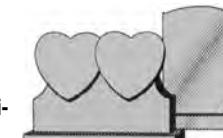
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**Letters to the Editor**

# Town planners "double-double" Yonge Street traffic woes: reader

**To the editor,**

The renovations of the Esso gas station on Yonge Street, north of Dunning Ave., are almost complete.

Now, between Dunning Ave. and Kennedy St., in just a span of a few blocks, there will be three coffee and doughnut stores, complete with drive-thru lanes. This will be a fast food and caffeine bonanza; but traffic will

grind to a halt in the middle of out town, due to cars dodging in and out of the entrance and exit laneways.

The local residents will be upset with the littering of coffee cups and by the noxious pollution emitted from the cars driving in and out of these centers.

Late night hours at the coffee shops will also cause noise and annoy the home dwellers.

This land could have been used for a much better use.

A set of condos and low rise professional office buildings, with shops and boutiques, could have stimulated the economy in the downtown core.

The Library and other established stores are walking distance from this site. Trees, shrubs and park benches could have added

some ambiance and a neighbourhood atmosphere in this area.

Instead, we wind up with a gasoline alley with neon signs, a car wash and another coffee shop.

Planners should have been aware that there are large gas station complexes operating at the north and south ends of our town now.

Does Aurora now have the highest per capita ratio

of drive-thru coffee shops, in Canada?

Will Aurorans face "double-double" traffic woes?

It is unfortunate that our officials served-up a bad recipe for development here.

Perhaps the town planners were on a coffee break when they brewed up this proposal!

**Jim Jackson**  
Aurora

## Reader "disgusted" with school and Board policy

**To the editor:**

I am disgusted with Regency Acres Public School for their removal of "Christmas" from the song "We wish you a Merry Christmas".

I am equally disgusted with Trustee Gord Kerr's

response to Carla Crother's letter.

How dare Regency Acres display this apparent blatant anti-Christian bigotry!

Why is Christianity under attack from our own School Board?

Including songs from other faiths but not recogniz-

ing Christmas (the real and traditional reason for the concert) is, in my view, discrimination against Christians, and offensive.

I do not even understand why songs of other faiths were included in the program since this was a Christmas concert, not a multi-faith con-

cert.

The trustee's defence of "inclusiveness" does not have any credibility with me.

If the school wants to have a multi-faith concert, celebrating other faiths, that is fine and a good idea but, the proper procedure would be to have it at another time of the year.

If parents of other faiths object to the Christmas program then they should be allowed to remove their kids from this particular event.

Shame on Regency Acres Public School and York Region District School Board!

## Pearson, not Dief, was on train former Aurora resident recalls

**To the editor,**

I grew up in Aurora, attended Wells St. Public School and Williams High.

My family owned and operated the Scanlon Bakery and later Granny's Butter Tarts for many years.

I live on Vancouver Island now but still return to Aurora a few times per year to visit family.

On a recent brief visit I was happy to read a letter in your publication from a school buddy, Ross McMurphy. (Hi Ross!)

Ross and I and many others were schoolmates from Grade 1 through Grade 13.

I too remember going to the train station that summer day in 1963.

And I recall Lester Pearson being the figure on board, not John Diefenbaker.

Mr. Pearson addressed the crowd, sharing his remembrances of being a boy in Aurora, living in the Methodist/United Church manse at the corner of Spruce and Catherine Streets.

I was a boy of 8 and hope I have remembered the events of

the day as they actually happened.

**Bruce Williams**  
Vancouver Island

**R. Gee**  
Aurora



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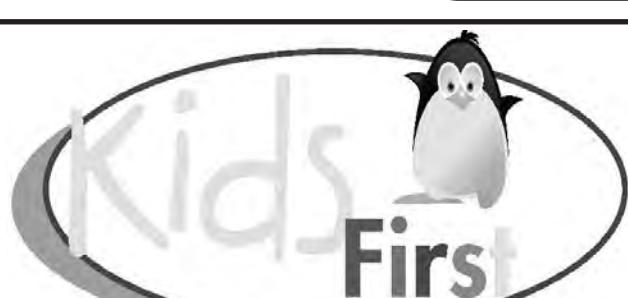
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## Ear Infections

Childhood ear infections (otitis media) are often very frightening to parents mostly because they appear suddenly, usually at night, with little warning.

The most common treatments used for ear infections are antibiotics, decongestants, anti-pyretics (fever medication), and tympanostomy (tubes in the ears). You may be surprised that the benefits of all of these are highly questionable.

For example, The Lancet, a major medical research journal found that recovery time was about the same for children whether medical intervention happened or nothing was done at all. Another study from the Archives of Otolaryngology, showed that 88 percent of children with otitis media never needed antibiotics and antibiotics did not shorten the lifespan of the dis-

ease. As a matter of fact, a recent issue of Newsweek Magazine reported that antibiotics are not nearly as effective as the body's own immune system. What a concept!

For parents frustrated with recurring ear infections, the EENT (ear, eye, nose, and throat) specialist will most likely prescribe the "rite of tympanostomy" - words from the late Dr. Robert Mendelsohn, a self proclaimed "medical heretic." It is a surgical procedure whereby your child is anaesthetised so that a tube can be placed in his or her eardrum to drain fluid. Research, however, indicates that this procedure does little to eliminate the problem. It simply reduces pressure and fluid build-up.

Millions of these operations are performed in Canada and the U.S. each year

and yet controlled clinical studies have determined that there was little or no benefit gained from the placement of tubes. As a matter of fact, they actually created complications such as scar formation on the ear drum leading to hearing loss. Not a desirable side effect!

As a Chiropractor with a special interest in pediatrics, I see ear infections as a malfunction of the immune system and lowered resistance. In other words, the child's body is not able to fight off or prevent the infection. The main cause of lowered immune resistance in a child is most often the process of delivery. Yes, birth. It can be very traumatic. The stress of the average, uncomplicated delivery can cause a vertebral subluxation of the delicate segments of a baby's spine thereby affecting the way a child's nervous system reacts to the world around him.

In their landmark research studies, Drs. Gutman and Biedermann examined hundreds of newborn infants and concluded that "...an unhealthy spine at birth causes...lowered resistance to infection, especially ear, nose, and throat infection."

In my own practice, which is largely pediatric, most children I see with ear infections do have a vertebral subluxation in their spine affecting the way their nerv-

ous system controls their resistance to infection. By eliminating this subluxation, the child's normal resistance is increased and the threat of ear infection is minimized. You see, it's not a matter of discovering yet another "wonder" antibiotic, it is a matter of having your child's body function better.

As well as chiropractic care, which I feel is essential; you may want to try the following to help your child:

- Vitamin C, 1000-5000mg daily
- Echinacea tincture, 20 drops, 2x per day mixed with a few drops of orange juice for taste.
- Try for a week and discontinue for 1 week.
- Zinc lozenges, although most kids can't stand these. Use as a last resort.
- Warmed olive oil drops into the affected ear. Available readily at your local health store.

We are holding a special workshop on Natural Approaches to Ear Infections and Infantile Colic on Wednesday February 6th at 7pm at Timberlane Athletic Club in Aurora.

Please call us to reserve a spot. If you have any questions or would like further information please feel very welcome to contact me at [healinghandsaurora.com](http://healinghandsaurora.com) or (905) 841-0400.



**Southlake Regional Health Centre has received a donation of \$750,000 from BMO Financial Group. The official announcement was made last Friday. Mary Scarmato, BMO Bank of Montreal Manager for the area including Aurora, presented the donation to Dan Carriere, Southlake president and CEO.**

Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Train whistle complaint heard again by council

Aurora resident Lee Cudlip appeared recently before council's general committee to find out why no action had been taken to implement a bylaw to eliminate train whistling at night in residential areas.

Similar bylaws have been enacted in Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Markham and other municipalities across Canada.

Cudlip said she had appeared before council four years ago to request the elimination of train whistling and, while she realized it was a long process and the region was involved for the Wellington Street and St. John's Sideroad.

She referred to the alternate proposal of using an Automated Horn System at level crossings but claimed it had been rejected by Transport Canada.

Mayor Phyllis Morris noted that a regional report on action at level crossings was expected in February and she would request an update for the next council meeting.

She also said council had requested a risk assessment be included.

The Cudlip presentation was received and the committee agreed to request the region to respond and for staff to investigate an anti-whistling bylaw for approval and submission to Transport Canada.

Ever since March 2004, Aurora council has been trying to do something about train whistles at railway crossings, especially in regard to citizen complaints about a freight train that travels through Aurora in the middle of the night.

In August 2004, council authorized staff to formally initiate the procedure to ask CNR to eliminate train whistling at the Englehard Drive and Centre Street crossings and provided \$15,000 for the required safety audits.

In addition, the region was asked to eliminate the whistling at the Wellington

Street and St. John's Sideroad crossings.

But council had received complaints about train whistles as far back as March 1978, when there was a move by some residents to stop the trains from blowing whistles at crossings in residential areas.

Other residents opposed the move, saying the whistles didn't bother them.

By September 2006, the issue of liability if the warning whistles were curtailed was still outstanding.

A 2003 report from the Transportation Safety Board of Canada revealed that every year there are about 300 crossing accidents killing some 40 persons.

In May 2007, regional staff agreed to investigate the possibility of eliminating train whistling at certain crossings on regional roads, as requested by Aurora and Markham councils.

At the time Transport Canada was investigating the feasibility of implementing the Automated Horn System at level crossings, currently

being used in certain parts of the United States.

The Automated Horn System is designed to provide an audible warning, to vehicles approaching a level crossing at the same time as a train.

The device simulates a train horn and is activated by an oncoming train and provides a constant audible warning with the sound speakers pointing directly at the lanes of traffic resulting in the elimination of a need for the train whistles.

In June 2007, Aurora's council recommended Transport Canada be encouraged to immediately approve the use of wayside horns at level railway crossings and that the region be encouraged to accept the use of wayside horns as an alternative to train whistling.

Now, based on the information received from the delegate about the Automatic Horn System, the general committee wants a report from the region regarding the two roads under regional jurisdiction.

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# Condition of Yonge Street properties draws concern of council

Mayor Phyllis Morris expressed concern about the number and condition of several untidy vacant properties on Yonge Street in the downtown area at a recent general committee meeting.

The mayor noted that plans of development had been approved for some of the properties and asked what steps could be taken to hasten development, especially at the Yonge and Centre intersection, as complaints had been received about the condition of the property.

She also wanted to know if servicing allocations had been made to the properties and suggested that a use it or lose it policy be adopted.

Staff advised that in such cases letters are written to applicants of outstanding applications and normally staff are requested to keep the file open but will meet with applicants if council so directs.

It was also pointed out that the Property Standards Bylaw could be used to clean up the property if the owner failed to do so and that a meeting might be arranged with the property owner prior to invoking the bylaw.

Councillor Evelyn Buck suggested council was unable to make a political decision, pointing out that

an applicant had done a lot of work in preparing plans for the development of the Yonge and Centre property but council kept referring it back to staff.

Mayor Morris objected to what was termed an accusation of political interference, to which Councillor Buck replied by saying she had said political decision, not political interference.

Questions were also

asked about the vacant property at Yonge and Irwin and the empty lot at Yonge and Tyler streets across from the Aurora Library.

It was finally agreed staff would submit a report on the various empty Yonge Street properties and determine if a development application had been received for the property and if so its status.



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# 'Shoplifters' caught in the act...of acting



An Aurora convenience store doubled as a movie set last week when an Aurora Cable Internet crew taped a video depicting the consequences of shoplifting.

Entitled "Don't Lock Up Your Future", the production features three amateur actors and one real police officer.

It was produced for the York Justice Committee, a group comprised of community volunteers who participate in resolving minor offences.

The scenario involves two teenaged girls in a convenience store.

One of the girls, played by Laura Wood, convinces the other, played by Adora Nwakwesi, to stuff a small, relatively inexpensive item into her jacket.

The two leave the store without paying.

The photos above show the sequence of events, clockwise from top left.

One girl succumbs to peer pressure and commits the criminal offence of theft.

As the two girls leave the store they are pursued by the store manager, played by

Dave Marshall, who has watched the crime take place.

The girl who committed the theft is subsequently held for police, arrested, handcuffed and put into a police cruiser by York Regional Police Constable Anne Pryce, who plays herself, while the instigator walks away.

The video, to be aired on Aurora Cable and used by YRP officers for presentations in schools, is intended to help young persons, their families and victims deal with minor non-violent criminal activities.

The committee acts to help young people under-

stand how their actions have impacted those close to them and the broader community.

Members of the committee undergo a thorough process after first submitting their background information and being interviewed.

They are then trained, appointed and sworn in to become full members.

Prior to enactment of the Youth Criminal Justice Act, such offences might have taken a year, court appearances and thousands of dollars in legal fees.

*Auroran photos  
by David Falconer*



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Page 10 Week of January 22, 2008

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### Monday Night Hockey League Standings

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Priestly Demolition	9	42	6	9	41	20
Rec Cycle N' Sports	8	34	7	0	60	20
Highland Chev-Cad	7	44	6	6	56	18
Tom & Jerry's	5	46	5	2	51	16
FPL Aggregates	5	64	5	3	56	14
LAW Insurance Brokers	4	65	4	6	57	13
Materclean Contracting	4	83	5	8	72	11
Baldwins	3	10	2	46	63	8

### WEEKLY SCORES

Rec Sports	6	Law Insurance	2
Highlands	4	Tom & Jerry's	2
Priestly Demolition	6	Masterclean	5
Baldwins	0	FPL Aggregates	2

### SCORING LEADERS

NAME	TEAM	G	A	Pts
John Archibald	Highland's	25	12	37
John Anderson	Rec Sports	23	13	36
Mark Sedore	Priestly	15	19	34
Scott Crabbe	Highland's	11	16	27
Doug Adair	Rec Sports	10	17	27
John Yaremko	Masterclean	12	13	25
Craig McConnell	Masterclean	16	8	24
Jason Muise	Priestly	12	12	24
Steven McDonald	FPL	7	14	21
Tom Hussey	Masterclean	5	15	20
Ron Van Noort	Rec Sports	7	13	20
Paul Clatney	Law Insurance	12	7	19
Brad McMillan	Tom & Jerry's	11	8	19
Pat O'Mahony	Baldwins	11	7	18
Pat Davies	Priestly	6	12	18
Mark Swirls	Priestly	9	9	18
Steve Kavanah	Baldwins	8	9	17
Ed Kilroy	Rec Sports	10	7	17
Ed Jackson	Baldwins	6	10	16
Gerald Briand	FPL	9	7	16
Bruce Ing	Highland's	3	12	15
Bruce Chappell	Highland's	4	11	15
Dave Caverley	FPL	9	5	14
Tom Webster	Rec Sports	3	11	14
Brian McKenzie	Rec Sports	3	11	14
Ron Theson	Tom & Jerry's	1	13	14
Vince Greco	Tom & Jerry's	10	4	14
Darren Yaremko	Masterclean	3	10	13
Murray Campbell	Priestly	5	8	13
Les Nip	Rec Sports	6	7	13
Craig Donaldson	FPL	5	7	12
Ken Rumble	Highland's	4	8	12
Steve Robertson	Highland's	2	10	12
Frank Balkovec	Law Insurance	4	8	12
Mark Inglis	Law Insurance	4	8	12
Dave McQuestion	FPL	3	8	11
Dean Iwai	FPL	6	5	11
Dan Cote	Law Insurance	2	9	11
Sam Speranini	Law Insurance	5	6	11
Rob Stroud	Law Insurance	4	7	11
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	3	8	11
Dan Smith	Tom & Jerry's	3	8	11
Dwayne Smith	Baldwins	4	6	10
Mark Lemon	Baldwins	5	5	10
Glen Butler	Baldwins	3	7	10
Peter Briand	FPL	4	6	10
Jerry Mackrell	Priestly	3	7	10
Scott Sheppard	Rec Sports	1	9	10
John Leeder	Law Insurance	4	5	9
Raz Kahamissa	Law Insurance	3	6	9
Jerome Flanigan	Priestly	2	7	9
Steve Riswick	Tom & Jerry's	3	6	9
Vince Rochon	Tom & Jerry's	5	4	9
Steve Bromley	Baldwins	1	7	8
Doug Hackett	FPL	2	6	8
Brian McCartney	Law Insurance	4	4	8
Gord Lee	Priestly	5	3	8
Mike Kensit	Rec Sports	3	5	8
Andrew Dalton	Rec Sports	3	5	8
Joel Reeves	Tom & Jerry's	2	6	8
Scott Thomas	Tom & Jerry's	3	5	8
Mike O'Conner	Baldwins	4	3	7
Mike Caicco	FPL	1	6	7
Dennis Giles	FPL	3	4	7
Kevin O'Keefe	Highland's	3	4	7
Bill Hanlon	Masterclean	1	6	7
Don Nichols	Masterclean	2	5	7
John Spicer	Priestly	2	5	7
Mike Ing	Priestly	1	6	7
Dave Holden	Rec Sports	1	6	7

## Tigers fall short of weekend sweep

They say absence makes the heart grow fonder and this must be the case for Aurora fans when it comes to Tigers hockey as, after a three-week hiatus on the road, the team returned home Friday night to a solid crowd and walloped the Seguin Bruins 11-1.

The game, a single stop for the Tabbies before they head back out for another two on the road, was the first stop on a weekend that saw the club play three games in three nights against tough divisional opponents.

Sam Yearsley and Micheal Sardella led the way with six points each, while rookie forward David Morley was closely in tow with a five-point night.

Captain Mark Thorburn, Mark Mayea and Mike McLaughlin all added to the win with a couple points, while single goals were contributed by Jeff Harbach and Adam Scuglia.

Back-stopping the Tigers was Matt Beirnes who continues to replace the injured Aaron Barton, out of the lineup with a groin injury.

Beirnes stopped 22 of

23 shots enroute to his twelfth win of the season.

After Fridays' solid win the Tigers were back on the road for a Tiger's squad that had enjoyed a relatively light schedule recently.

The story of the night and perhaps one of the better ones this season so far, was the start in net for recently called up affiliate goaltender Kyle Newton who got the call by Coach Jerome Dupont as the Tigers continue to adjust to life without starting backstop Aaron Barton.

Newton would not disappoint and the goaltender's dream became his reality, going on to register a shutout in his first OHA start allowing the Tigers to pick up yet another win on the road by a score of 6-0.

Thorburn again led the way with four points, making his total over his last two nights a staggering ten points.

Thorburn linemate Jordan Watts also stepped up with four points of his own, scoring two goals and two assists.

Other scoring for the visitors was Jeff Vanderlught and McLaughlin.

Sunday night against

Couchiching saw the final game for the Tigers in what was a long weekend of hockey for a Tiger's squad that had enjoyed a relatively light schedule recently.

Unfortunately fatigue may have played more of a role than anything else, as the Tigers fell short of a weekend sweep, falling to the Terriers by a score of 5-2.

Thorburn once again earned the letter C sewed to his chest as he led the way with another two points (a goal and an assist), making his final tally over the weekend twelve points in three

games.

The other single marker for Aurora came compliments of McLaughlin.

Harbach and Watts registered the lone assists.

Beirnes took his third loss of the season in net for the Tigers, again in relief of the injured Barton.

There is still no word on a timeline for his return.

The team's next home game is Friday at 7:30 p.m. versus the Newmarket Hurricanes.

The two clubs will battle for second place in the North Division.

### Novices take first playoff round

In Novice playoff action a strong effort by Brady Sarazin and Robert Stewart in the nets helped the Tigers to a 10-2 victory over the Newmarket Redmen.

Contributing to the win

were Jonathan Malowney, Jack Liotta, Philip Wolanski, Thomas Wilson, Graydon Belgue, Alexander Simardone, Anthony Issaris, Mark Kalmisto, Morgan Frost, Brady Futterer and Josh Brecht.

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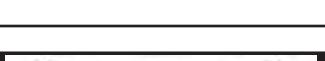
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# Christmas no longer alive

By Dick Illingworth

Back in 1991 Christmas concerts in the schools were a major issue.

Some trustees argued Christmas should be put back into school holiday concerts while others asserted that every group represented in the classroom should be honoured.

At the time some schools used titles such as "Winter Festival" and "Festival of Light", as Christmas appeared to be a bad word.

Principals in York Region's public school system struggled over how to include Christmas in their curriculum without teaching Christianity.

A 1989 court ruling said public schools couldn't teach religion or endorse one faith or another.

With the growth of multiculturalism in the school system the question as to how to celebrate Christmas had become an issue, as the words of Christmas carols that identify Jesus as the son of God would be a sin to sing for a child of the Muslim faith.

It was a no-win situation for the school board as they were damned if they did and damned if they didn't.

Principals walked a fine line fearing any reference to Christ and Christmas during holiday events could be deemed offensive.

Parents were quick to notice that the mention of Christ's birth

had been replaced by tales of St. Nick and Christ had been taken out of Christmas.

Just before Christmas in 1991 Education Minister Tony Silipo ruled that public school children were free to go ahead and stage their Christmas concerts, saying they did not violate the constitution as Christmas was a cultural event, not a religious one.

In December 1992, York Region public schools put the Christ back in Christmas, as a result of a reminder sent by the Education Minister that Christmas was a major Christian celebration by most Ontarians.

He said that such activities as concerts and festivities may be organized by school staffs to educate students about customs and beliefs related to Christmas as they were community events, a time when everyone could share the joy of the season.

At the same time, he said, public schools had to be sensitive to the various faiths and cultures that make up the province and must not indoctrinate or give primacy to any particular religious faith by celebrating other religious traditions throughout the school year.

By December 1994, in white, Anglo-Saxon schools, Jesus Christ played a big part in Christmas celebrations but in other schools, the celebration of the birth of Christ was not as obvious.

Because the majority of students in some schools were not Christians, the York Region Board of Education left the celebration of Christmas up to individual principals, depending on the religious makeup of their schools.

For students at Wells Street Public School in Aurora, celebrating Christmas was much the same way as it was for their parents years before.

There were red bows on the front door, a tall evergreen tree in the front hall and a display of the three Wise Men.

Students started the school day by singing carols at the Christmas tree.

The furor of the early 1990s about keeping Christmas alive in the schools has died away and, if it is still an issue, it must be a quiet one as little is heard about it.

But in December 2007, an Aurora resident who attended her grandson's kindergarten Christmas Concert at Regency Public School noted that as a finale the students sang "We wish you a Happy Holiday" to the music of "We wish you a Merry Christmas" and wondered why.

Following the concert, Santa Claus appeared ringing his bell and handing out candy canes to the students, and when the caregiver wished Santa Claus a Merry Christmas, she was told by her grandson that she had said a naughty word.

Evidently the word

Christmas has now been banned from the York Region Public School System.

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Aurora native Carolyn Fauteux (above) has been named Eastern College Athletic Conference West player of the week for January 7-13, in recognition of her efforts in the women's hockey conference sweep of the Chatham College Cougars. Fauteux, a senior at Neuman College, guided the Neuman Knights in a two-game sweep by scoring a goal and two assists in a 6-3 win over the Cougars in the first game and adding another goal and two assists in a second match. This is the first ECAC West Player of the Week honour for Fauteux, who is completing her sport management degree at Neuman and is currently a two-year intern in both the athletics and sports information offices at the Aston, Pennsylvania, college.

## Stop signs will remain

The multi-way stop at Kennedy and Gurnett Streets was back before the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee at their December meeting and this time residents won their point as the committee recommended the multi-way stop signs not be removed from the intersection.

Jody Matthew and Will Ross attended the TSAC meeting to express their concerns and opposition to the proposed removal of the all-way stop sign at the intersection.

Both Mr. Matthews and Mr. Ross appeared at the general committee meeting to repeat their concerns and opposition.

It was pointed out council had approved traffic calming in other areas and theirs should be treated equally.

After a few questions to the delegates, the general committee adopted the committee recommendation that the stop signs not be removed.

It was in July, 2004, when council approved a bylaw to install a multi-way stop at the intersection of Kennedy Street East and Gurnett Street based on a recommendation from the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

At the August council meeting a citizen appeared to object to the multi-way stop as the problem was caused by on-street parking due to the lack of parking at the medical facility at Kennedy and Yonge Streets.

As that presentation did not pertain to an agenda item, it was referred to Unfinished Business but was not re-introduced later in the meeting.

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# AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Sunday January 20th, 2008



## House League

### Tyke

**101 Tim Hortons Flames** 6 - Logan Hoover 2G, Keegan Hoover 4G, Madeline Fisher 1A. **102 Tim Hortons Leafs** 6 - Nate Legros 4G 1A, Ben Spittle 1G 1A, Quinn Buckner 1G, Julia Kavanaugh 1A, Peter Leontis 1A. **105 Tim Hortons Avalanche** 6 - Braedon Joynt 2G, Peter Chimenti 2G, Christian Ridd 1G 1A, Brendan Dodd 1G, Bryce Davison 1A, Jack Snedden 1A. **108 Tim Hortons Wild** 1 - Christopher

### Foscia 1G.

**106 Tim Hortons Bruins** 4 - Julien Aben 2G, Lucas Surace 1G, Riley Jackson 1G, Tristan Hicks 1A, Michael Fodero 1A. **104 Tim Hortons Penguins** 4 - Nicholas Rountes 2G, Brandon Vaughan 1G, Kenzie MacMillan 1G.

**107 Tim Hortons Sharks** 10 - Andrew Jorgenson 5G 1A, Anthony Magnate 2G 3A, Dillon Verone 2G, Francesco Suglia 1G 1A, Jacob Turniff 1A. **103 Tim Hortons Senators** 6 - Cameron Harbaruk 4G 1A, Benjamin Godber 1G, Braeden Reid 1G 1A, Jason Langdon 2A.

### Minor Bantam

**702** 2 - Matthew Hart 1G, Gabriel C-Bauset 1A, Zachery Waldeck-Sabourin 1G, Michael Mildon 1A. **701** 2 - Jim Tatum 1G, Jenner Dekkema 1A, Christopher Tsianos 1G, Ward Benn 1A.

### Bantam

**808** 4 - Tanner Brewer 2G 1A, James Phillips 1G, Matthew Bishop 1G 1A, George Chalmers 1A, Adrian Tobin 1A, Jake Hindley 1A. **805 CAA 2** - Scott Sturges 1G, Stephen Newby 1G, Michael Vance 1A.

**804 Danny's Boys** 4 - Matthew Burns 1G, Alex Dunn 1G, Brett Richardson 2G, Taran McGowan 1A. **806 Cosentino**

**Produce 2** - Lucas Cristillo 1G 1A, Anthony Selski 1G, Ryan Cumiskey 1A, Andrew Cosentino 1A.

**802 Wait's Bathroom Plus 1** - Curtis Stobo 1G, Anthony DeCesare 1A. **801 I.O.O.F 2** - Kyle Rojas 2G, Sean Takahashi 1A, Michael Wood 1A.

**803 Pizzaville 7** - Gianluca Sampieri 1G, Christopher Morin 1G 1A, Chase Riddell 1G 1A, Braden Drummond 2G, Paul Andrews 1G 2A, Nick Zebrowski 1A, Greg Lacroix 1G 2A, Ryan Taylor 1A, Jordan Fera 1A. **807 Backyard Pool & Spa 4** - Christian Davies 1G, Rosario Arcuri 2G 1A, Braden Pettigrew 1G, James Wotherspoon 1A, Hayden Sands 1A.

## Current Standings by Division

Tyke Team	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	GF-GA	Pts	405	9	2	5	2	28	35	-7	6	806	15	7	5	3	48	41	7	17
106	9	7	2	0	52	40	12	14	403	8	0	6	2	22	46	-24	2	805	15	7	5	3	36	31	5	17
101	9	6	2	1	50	29	21	13	505	11	8	1	2	43	21	22	18	808	15	6	5	4	54	46	8	16
105	9	5	2	2	45	34	11	12	508	11	7	0	4	46	27	19	18	801	15	8	7	0	47	40	7	16
104	9	4	2	3	40	35	5	11	502	11	5	3	3	43	32	11	13	802	15	4	5	6	42	43	-1	14
103	9	3	5	1	39	41	-2	7	503	11	5	4	2	43	41	2	12	803	15	5	8	2	44	60	-16	12
102	9	3	5	1	43	49	-6	7	506	11	4	6	1	28	39	-11	9	807	15	3	9	3	49	66	-17	9
107	9	2	5	2	49	55	-6	6	507	11	3	7	1	24	39	-15	7	903	21	13	3	5	59	37	22	31
108	9	1	8	0	28	63	-35	2	501	11	2	7	2	33	48	-15	6	901	21	11	8	2	62	52	10	24
Novice Team	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	GF-GA	Pts	504	11	0	6	5	22	35	-13	5	904	21	9	6	6	47	43	4	24
201	9	7	0	2	50	21	29	16	606	9	8	1	0	36	18	18	16	906	21	10	8	3	59	49	10	23
205	9	6	2	1	52	31	21	13	603	11	7	4	0	42	37	5	14	905	21	6	10	5	51	52	-1	17
203	9	3	3	3	35	48	-13	9	605	10	4	5	1	29	28	1	9	902	21	3	17	1	36	81	-45	7
206	9	3	5	1	27	39	-12	7	604	9	3	4	2	29	26	3	8	903	21	13	3	5	59	37	22	31
204	9	3	6	0	41	44	-3	6	601	10	2	4	4	21	27	-6	8	901	21	9	6	6	47	43	4	24
202	9	1	7	1	21	43	-22	3	602	9	0	6	3	18	39	-21	3	904	21	10	8	3	59	37	22	31
Minor Atom Team	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	GF-GA	Pts	505	11	6	1	4	37	23	14	16	1009	17	11	4	2	79	55	24	24
304	11	8	2	1	55	34	21	17	708	11	6	1	4	32	20	12	16	1012	18	10	7	1	62	55	7	21
301	11	8	3	0	48	33	15	16	701	12	6	2	4	32	29	3	13	1005	18	9	7	2	64	48	16	20
302	11	7	3	1	46	30	16	15	707	12	5	4	3	32	29	3	13	1008	17	9	6	2	58	55	3	20
303	11	4	6	1	46	59	-13	9	707	12	5	4	3	32	29	3	13	1007	17	9	6	2	50	41	9	19
306	11	3	7	1	37	42	-5	7	706	10	5	3	2	21	22	-1	12	1010	17	9	8	0	77	74	3	18
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## Senior Scape

By BRIAN WARBURTON

# Centre offers self-help support computer group

Herb Koller recently presented an instructional introduction on the Macintosh computer, to the Macintosh user group "Mug" and for those deliberating the idea of switching to Macintosh Computers.

Herb does not profess to be an expert on the Mac but he gave an excellent preliminary address concerning the manner in which the Mac computer operates, a lecture which will prove very useful to members commencing to use the Mac and to those who have not yet been exposed to the world of Macintosh Computers.

To those of us already accustomed to PC computers, the switch is not expected to be onerous if we choose to switch.

Mac has the reputation with many people of providing a more stable computer foundation with excellent operating systems, while Microsoft is recognized by many as having the most diverse offering of software.

The Mac is presented as the only computer that can run all the major operating systems, including Mac OS X, Windows XP and Vista, which is an attractive feature, although for many computer users one system is enough.

One feature I found enticing was the ability to open any document and travel back to an earlier period and retrieve a deleted version of the document.

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) now has a Mac computer equipped with the Leopard operating system.

The Mug group is intended to be a self-helping, self-supporting group of users. The next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., February 19, at the ASA.

So members, if your interest is aroused, please attend and bring your MacBook with you.

As this article was in preparation, Macintosh announced the world's thinnest notebook as MacBook air.

Among the ASA regular activities, table tennis is played as space is available and badminton is played Mondays at 10:00 p.m.

Pickle Ball, similar to lawn tennis but played indoors, is available most Tuesdays and Fridays at 1:00 p.m. but you must confirm time and date at the front counter since some variability is apparent.

# Third quarter review of Aurora

### From page 1

In 2006 the former council requested that staff issue a Request for Quotations in 2007 for the Notice Board for the next four years, with two area newspapers responding and both quoting the same figure for the first year and one with slightly lower prices for the next three years.

Staff recommended that the contract be awarded to the one with the lower prices during the last three years, with objections by Councillor Evelyn Buck who claimed it was not a community newspaper and carried few Aurora stories.

As a result the issue was referred back to staff for more information.

Staff recommended a Request for Proposals be issued for 2008 but there has been no follow-up action.

Christina Bisanz of Newmarket was acclaimed as the Liberal candidate for the riding of Newmarket-Aurora in the October provincial election, which was won by Conservative Frank Klees in a close race.

The Ontario Energy Board directed PowerStream to bring forward a proposal to harmonize electricity rates for the various municipalities it serves.

The PowerStream proposal was successful and resulted in an 8.2 per cent decrease for Aurora residential consumers effective in November.

A poll revealed that about one-third of seniors and near seniors were worried that they would outlive their bank accounts and half of those over 60 said they were working because they needed the money.

The poll indicated that finances, health and continued independence were their major concerns.

Theatre Aurora opened its 50th anniversary season with four productions in the subscription series selected by patrons of the community theatre.

The playbill included Charley's Aunt, the musical South Pacific, the drama Night Must Fall and the comedy Move Over Mrs. Markham.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey and help improve the club further.

People working full time may find the weekend an opportunity to take advantage of the fine facilities available to seniors in Aurora and help prepare for eventual retirement.

The ASA appeals again to all members to renew their membership for 2008 if you have not done so already.

Everybody is an asset and you are wanted as a member.

Many members are away luxuriating in sunny climes and will renew memberships when they return but, for hardy souls who winter in Aurora, there is plenty to do.

For those who spend long winter hours at home, a visit to the ASA will exhilarate and exercise mind and body and provide a new lease on life.

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based on the responses to a Request for Proposals.

The rejection was due to what some councillors claimed was a lack of information in the staff report and a presentation by officials of the Aurora Minor Hockey Association who preferred another bidder that had the previous contract.

Council agreed to extend the existing contract pending a new staff report in order to make an informed decision and, to the best of knowledge, no changes have been made.

Following a closed meeting in July, council authorized staff to commence proceedings for the sale of the town-owned Jack Woods property and house on Allura Boulevard, and that consideration be given to relocating the Community Gardens to a new site, in spite of strong opposition.

Council finally agreed that staff consider a severance to retain the Gardens on site in spite of warnings from some members of council that the town may be tying its hands in doing so.

At year end no action had been taken.

In September, council was willing to spend tax dollars on private lights in the Canadian Tire parking lot for a passage way to the town house complex behind the store in spite of a staff recommendation that it was a private matter between the Condominium Corporation and Canadian Tire.

At year-end the issue was still outstanding.

The question of who should establish a Code of Conduct for members of council and committees was a hot topic in September.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern's proposal that a citizen's committee to draft the Code of Conduct was opposed by Councillor Buck.

She argued it wasn't appropriate for staff or a citizens committee, without expertise, to draft a Code of Conduct.

Nevertheless, the motion for appropriate staff to be appointed to provide guidance to a citizens committee was approved but at year end no action had been taken.

In September, council became involved between neighbours in a fence dispute. A solicitor appeared before council on behalf of two homeowners who purchased former town-owned land to add to the rear of their property and wanted to build a fence around it.

Adjacent property owners opposed their request, pointing out that the purchased lands

included an easement in the event the town was required to provide underground services and the construction of fences, buildings, etc. was prohibited without town permission.

Council was quick to refer the presentations to staff for a report and later denied the request for a fence.

Terry Fox ran through Aurora on July 25, 1980, as part of his Marathon of Hope accompanied by runners from Aurora and district.

In order to keep Terry's dream alive, students of Aurora High School held a run-a-thon in 1980, a year before the National Run, raising \$16,693 in the first-ever Terry Fox Run.

Since then a volunteer committee has organized an annual run and 2007 was no exception as the run was held September 16 starting at Sheppard's Bush.

Much of a September council meeting was taken up by a long discussion of the more than \$200,000 traffic calming project in the northeast quadrant, with residents speaking for and against the project and the lack of information prior to its approval, with agreement that monitoring would take place during 2008.

Due to several power outages in sections of Aurora, council requested a PowerStream representative attend council to provide information.

They informed council of the many projects underway to improve hydro service in Aurora.

One of the projects was a backup power supply from the south via a new hydro line up Bayview Avenue and council received the presentation as information, but evidently had forgotten it when a citizen later complained to council about a hydro pole blocking his view of the sunset.

Council members became upset and demanded a PowerStream representative appear before council to explain the new line and the lack of notification.

The Leisure Services Department submitted a report recommending that Leisure Services assume the operation of the Aurora Heritage Centre.

It was believed this would be an end to the controversial issue but it was not to be.

The debate deteriorated with points of order and inter-personal remarks until finally the report was adopted on a 5-3 vote.

On September 15, the 20th Magna Hoedown was held in the largest tent ever constructed on the Magna property on Wellington Street East.

Over those years the Hoedown has raised millions of dollars for numerous community groups and 2007 was no exception.

Council almost started down a slippery slope when Councillor Wendy Gaertner opposed a staff recommendation that council approve the tender bid of an out-of-town auto dealer over a higher bid from a local dealer for two one ton trucks for the Works Department on the basis the local dealer should get the business.

It was pointed out that local preference had been tried in the past and it was found that out-of-town dealers stopped bidding and local dealers increased their prices resulting in the staff report and recommendations being adopted.

Students from Cardinal Carter Catholic High School attended a September council meeting regarding the use of pesticides and the dangers to the environment and requested the town adopt a bylaw restricting the use of pesticides.

After a long and involved discussion the general committee agreed a public meeting be held for comments and educational purposes, but at year's end the date of the public meeting had not been set.

Ever since the Vandorf Sideroad was reconstructed, with the loss of several trees, there have been complaints about the loss of the trees and the heavy truck traffic.

Staff made recommendations about including plantings in the 2008 capital budget and, after considerable debate about the inclusion of this project when other projects were being deleted, the staff report was adopted.

The third quarter ended in controversy much the same way as it started as the town was asked to participate in a Southlake Regional Health Centre fundraising gala by auctioning off the naming of the par-kette in the Brookvalley subdivision.

Although staff pointed out that by convention developers have suggested the names for parks and it was up to council to accept or reject the proposed name and that, in this case, it would be the successful bidder to select the name, Councillor MacEachern objected claiming the town should present the proposal not the developer.

Councillor Granger wanted to know who would receive recognition for it, with the report finally being approved.

Part 4 next week



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# Beer and liquor stores in Aurora were not always open on Sundays

Today liquor and beer stores are open on Sundays but it wasn't always that way as in November 1993, NDP Consumer Affairs Minister Marilyn Churley rejected requests to open the stores for the Christmas season.

In July 1997, the Liberal Ontario government approved Sunday openings of both liquor and beer stores for the five Sundays in August as a pilot project in selected areas.

Aurora council received a letter from the Liquor Control Board of Ontario asking if the municipality would accept the Sunday openings for the trial period, and on a 5-3 vote, council agreed.

Councillor Herb McKenzie opposed the openings claiming that there was no need as Aurora was not a summer resort community.

Councillor Phyllis Morris also opposed the openings on the basis it could be the thin edge of the wedge for wide-open Sundays.

Councillor Ron Wallace disagreed, pointing out there were long line-ups at both liquor and beer stores on a Friday evening and on Saturdays, thus the Sunday opening was necessary.

Previously, Newmarket council rejected the request and advised the LCBO accordingly, while Richmond Hill council agreed to the agency's request for Sunday openings.

## WAS THERE A 2007 WINNER FOR BEST LIT HOME?

Over the years Aurora homeowners have celebrated the Christmas season and help make it colourful by decorating the exterior of their homes for all to enjoy.

In 1971, late Councillor Illyd Harris donated a trophy for the homeowner with the best Christmas decorations.

The former Aurora Kiwanis Club picked up the challenge and carried on with the best decorated home competition, in 1974 donating a trophy for the best decorated store window.

The home lighting competition was abandoned in 1976 due to Ontario Hydro's request to conserve electricity.

The competition returned in 1977 but the trophy went to the best decorated home and grounds without stressing lights.

After an absence of several years, the residential light competition was reintroduced in 2001 by the town's Special Events Committee under the chairmanship of Councillor George Timpson.

Five prizes were donated for the winners, with Canadian Tire donating a \$300 gift certificate for the first prize and a \$200 gift certificate for the second prize. The other prizes were a travel voucher and travel bag, a three-month fitness membership and Sunday brunch for four at Howard Johnson.

What happened to the competition and, if there was one in 2007, who were the winners?

## CAMP ENTERPRISE

For more than 50 years the Aurora Rotary Club has been active in initiating and sponsoring many community projects locally and with Rotary International.

One of their many activities was participating in Camp Enterprise, a weekend camp for young people who may not otherwise have had the opportunity to experience a camping trip.

Camp Enterprise started in Canada in 1976 by the

Youth Service Committee of the Toronto Rotary Club and is a three and one-half day weekend program held at the camp in Bolton for senior high school students.

The program consisted of a series of panels, presentation and discussions on the subject of business and the private enterprise system where students could interact with business leaders.

In addition to the presentations and discussions there was a generous amount of free time scheduled to allow students to take advantage of the excellent recreational facilities at the camp and to meet with other students on a more social basis.

Approximately 50 senior students selected from secondary schools within the local Rotary Club jurisdiction were hosted by the camp on 334 acres of beautiful parkland, with a conference centre capable of housing, feeding and sleeping approximately 100 people.

Supported by the Youth Service Committee of the Rotary Clubs of the area, there was no cost to the participants.

Is Camp Enterprise still operating and does the Aurora Rotary Club still participate?

Just wondering!

## CASH IN LIEU OF PARKING

In August 1986, when council received an application for redevelopment of the properties on Wellington Street East just west of the Post Office for residential and commercial development in conjunction with the existing convenience store, there was a parking problem.

The overall project included 11 apartments and conversion of the rear part of the convenience store into multiple retail units requiring a total of 69 parking spaces with only 64 available leaving a shortage of 5 spaces.

The technical committee recommended council consider a cash-in-lieu of parking for the 5 spaces, which council adopted and of which staff was requested to undertake an evaluation.

In July 1987, staff reported that, following a review of land appraisals carried out earlier in the year and recent land sales, the figure of \$5,060 per space was recommended.

The money raised was designed to acquire land for parking in the general area to assist in overcoming the shortfall in parking spaces.

What happened?

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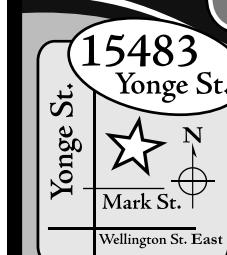
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**MUSIC SONGWRITING/PIANO** lessons. Over 15 years of experience at reasonable rates. Call Robert at 647-284-0127

### ART CLASSES

**YH ART STUDIO** All level small group English and Chinese. Call Yunhong at 9 0 5 - 7 1 3 - 3 6 5 0 <http://www.yhartstudio.com>

### LEARN HOW TO DRAW & PAINT... just like the Masters



- beginners to advanced
- ongoing classes
- drawing & painting techniques
- help students prepare portfolios for college and art school
- no artistic experience necessary

905-726-8883  
Judy studied academic painting and drawing in Florence, Italy. She has appeared on City Line TV. [mi.design@sympatico.ca](mailto:mi.design@sympatico.ca)

### SWIMMING LESSONS

**Spanish to Go**  
For people on the go!  
We offer lessons for adults and kids.  
Learn the language and enjoy the culture.  
Adult, Youth and children classes available.  
Bring a friend and get 10% off!  
Flexible hours.  
[www.spanishtogo.ca](http://www.spanishtogo.ca)

### SWIMMING LESSONS

**SWIMMING INSTRUCTION** By Yvonne Cattrall, - Masters World Record holder, 43 years experience, certified Red Cross Instructor. Year round, all levels, 3-4 maximum in class. 905-841-3450.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

**AURORA DIGITAL CAMERA CLUB.** If interested, email [rob@auroraonline.com](mailto:rob@auroraonline.com). Indicate skill level, camera and main topics of interest.

### DANCE DANCE DANCE

# DANCING

## DANCE CLASSES Start January 7th

Level 1 - Rumba & Foxtrot

Level 2 - Rumba & Waltz

No experience or partner required.

Taught by the host of the "Start Dancing" series on ACI Cable TV

## DANCE PARTY

February 15

Aurora Legion Ballroom • 7 - Midnight

FREE Rumba dance lesson 7:30

Please call or email for more information or to register for upcoming events

Steve Miller dance  
International Style Ballroom & Latin American Dance



## Breakthrough Treatment for Optimal Health

Dr. George Roth, renowned author, lecturer and innovator in the field of physical medicine, is giving a series of FREE seminars on a revolutionary new method for eliminating many painful conditions and restoring optimal health.

Matrix Repatterning is a clinically proven system, and a major breakthrough in health care. It is currently the subject of an extensive study by a leading researcher from Harvard University. Treatments are gentle, effective and long lasting.

## UPCOMING FREE SEMINARS:

- Hip and Knee Pain - January 30th
- Snoring & Apnea - March 5th
- Neck & Shoulder - April 16th
- Pelvic Disorders (Incontinence & ED) - May 14th
- Headaches and TMJ - June 11th
- Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm

### RESERVE YOUR COMPLIMENTARY SEATS TODAY:

#### Matrix Repatterning Centre

33 Victoria St., Aurora, ON  
33 Victoria St., Aurora, ON  
Ph: 905-726-8770 Ext. 229 or  
Toll-Free: 1-877-905-7684 Ext. 229 or

Visit our website: [www.matrixrepatterningcentre.com](http://www.matrixrepatterningcentre.com)



MATRIX REPATTERNING CENTER  
Expanding the Horizons of Well-being

## Merlin's Hollow Winter Seminars

### FINAL SEMINAR SERIES

Lecturer David Tomlinson, O.A.L.A. (E)

### HELD IN THE BALLROOM OF HISTORIC HILLARY HOUSE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup> 10 - 4

Bulbs/Garden Ornamentation

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23<sup>TH</sup> 10 - 4

Making of Merlin's Hollow/Plant Hunting

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23<sup>TH</sup> 10 - 4

Fragrant Plants & Gardens/English Gardens & Nature Reserves

\$40 each day or \$100 for 3 days

Further info call Dierdre 905-727-8979

Site: [www.SteveMillerDance.ca](http://www.SteveMillerDance.ca)

Call Steve Miller at 416-439-6557

Email: [Steve@SteveMillerDance.ca](mailto:Steve@SteveMillerDance.ca)



# Functional Fitness Pilates/Yoga & Toning Studio

**HERSS**  
FUNCTIONAL FITNESS, PILATES/YOGA & TONING STUDIO

## HERSS GROUP EXERCISE SCHEDULE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Time: 9:15-10:00  BIKE <b>Kelly</b>	Time: 9:15-10:15  KICKBOXING <b>Tracey</b>	Time: 9:15-10:00  BIKE <b>Tracey</b>	Time: 9:15-10:15  PILATES <b>Kelly</b>	Time: 9:15-10:00  BIKE <b>Kelly</b>	Time: 8:00 am  BIKE <b>JD</b>	Time: 9:00-9:45  BIKE <b>JD</b>
Time: 10:00-10:45  Body Blast <b>Kelly</b>	Time: 10:15-11:45  YOGA <b>Maggie</b>	Time: 10:00-10:45  BODY BLAST <b>Tracey</b>	Time: 10:30-11:00  BEGINNER BIKE <b>Kelly</b>	Time: 10:15-11:45  YOGA <b>George</b>	Time: 9:00 - 10:00  BIKE <b>Kelly</b>	Time: 9:45-10:45  BODY BLAST <b>JD</b>
10:00 AM Bike Beginner <b>Tracey</b>	Time: 11:30-12:15  SENIOR PILATES <b>Kelly</b>		Time: 11:30-12:15  SENIOR TONING/ STRETCH <b>Colleen</b>		Time: 9:30-10:30  BOSU <b>Tracey</b>	
Time: 6:00-6:45  BIKE <b>Joyanne</b>	Time: 6:00-6:45  BODY BLAST <b>JD/Joyanne</b>	Time: 6:00-6:45  BIKE <b>Kelly</b>	Time: 6:30-7:30  KICKBOXING <b>Miri</b>			
Time: 6:45-7:30  BODY BLAST <b>Joyanne</b>	Time: 6:45-7:30  BIKE <b>JD/Joyanne</b>	Time: 6:45-7:30  PILATES <b>Kelly</b>	Time: 6:45-7:30  BIKE <b>JD</b>			
Time: 7:45-9:15  YOGA <b>Maggie</b>		Time: 7:45-9:15  YOGA <b>George</b>				

Schedule / Instructor Subject to Change Without Notice

- New Childcare
- NEW Spin Studio - Featuring Keiser Spin Bikes
- NEW Reformer Studio - 5 Reformer & the new V2
- NEW Group Classes, Treadmills, Ellipticals
- \* Mat Pilates, Cardio Theatre,
- Muscle Toning - Selectrolized Machines & Free Weights
- Nutritional & Personal Training Services Available!
- Infrared Sauna
- FREE Towel Service

**\*29 .50  
mth**

**905-713-2437**

**265 Edward St. (Yonge & Edward) Aurora**

Limited to first time members

Some conditions apply

Based on 1 year obligation