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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 8 No. 21 905-727-3300 auroran.com FREE Week of March 25, 2008



More people than ever before - parents and children alike - took part in Aurora's annual Easter Egg hunt on the weekend despite cold temperatures and plenty of snow. Above children race from the starting point to find some of the 14,000 Easter eggs hidden near the Aurora Leisure Complex. Children's author Jackie Jones entertained young fry by reading from one of her books "Sam Meets Caterpillar Kaleb" during the event. With her, left, are Judy Wu and Jeffrey Fang of Aurora.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Canada Day parade will end at cenotaph

A ruling by the membership of the Aurora Legion last week will affect the end of Aurora's July First Canada Day parade.

Parade committee member Ron Wallace asked at the meeting if the parade could end on Yonge Street with participants using the area in front of the cenotaph.

The Legion membership agreed it could.

Mr. Wallace said there would be presentations and awards made when the parade ended, but as soon as they were complete, participants would vacate the area.

The parade, cancelled last year, returns to the July First festivities this year, thanks to resident Sher St. Kitts, who chairs a parade sub-committee of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee.

Committee members are currently working to assure the parade returns to Aurora and once again becomes an annual event.

The parade will begin at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 1, leave the Yonge and Orchard Heights Blvd. area and head south on Yonge to the cenotaph.

Residents oppose infill bylaw

What started off as resident complaints about monster homes being constructed in built-up areas has developed into a controversial infill housing issue.

And the debate is not yet over as it has been deferred to another public planning meeting.

At Tuesday's general committee meeting a large group of citizens were in attendance and 10 delegations were on the agenda.

All were in opposition to the proposed infill housing bylaw.

There were two proposed bylaws before the committee, with one for Hillview and Tyler Streets and the other for much of the older part of the town south of Wellington Street to Dunning Avenue east of Yonge Street to Edward Street.

Please see page 12

BRIEFLY

Heritage Fair

The annual Aurora Community Heritage Fair will be held Wednesday, April 23, at St. Andrews College on Yonge Street, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The public is invited to attend the Aurora Community "Historica Fair" with students, parents, teachers and community members.

Students have been invited to showcase their Canadian themed projects and enjoy a day and evening of story-telling, workshops and music in celebration of our unique Canadian culture. Students research an area of Canadian history, often of local or family interest, and present their discoveries using the medium of their choice.

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CONTINUING

Every Tuesday from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. it's Story and Playtime at Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. Call 905-841-8883 for further details.

Every Second Friday, students in Grade 5 to 8 can gather at Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information call 905-841-8883 or email jonathanturtle@gmail.com.

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.

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. 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 and Enid Maize. For more information, call 905-841-9706.

Tots (age 0-4 years) bring your caregivers for coffee or tea while you enjoy story and playtime every Tuesday from 9.30 a.m. to 11a.m. at Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. Call 905-841-8883 for further information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Start of an eight-week Bereavement Support Group session at Aurora United Church for adults suffering the loss of a loved one. Meetings start at 7 p.m. There is no fee for this program. For more information and registration, call Mary Smith at 905-727-6984.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

Amnesty International meets at 7.30 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street. All welcome. For further information, call 905-713-6713.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Charity hockey game at Aurora Community Centre will feature NHL veterans such as Peter Zezel, Kris King, Dan Daoust, Wes Jarvis, Jim Thomson, Stu Grimson, Mark Osborne and Rocky Dundas. Game begins at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$10.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Aurora Seniors' Association annual Spring Lunch. Noon at 5 Municipal Drive. \$6 for members and \$7 for non-members.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

First ever kick-off Canada Day Parade party. Aurora Legion. 6 p.m. For further information, call 905-841-6489. Evening features the music of George St. Kitts, a silent auction, multi-course meal and door prizes.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

The Cancer Killers team of Aurora citizens will hold a casino night at the Aurora Legion to help raise funds for their entry into The Ride to Conquer Cancer in June.

Aurora Skating Club 2008 Ice Show "Hooray for Hollywood" at the Aurora Community Centre at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. will feature Canadian Men's National Champion Patrick Chan. For further information, call 289-221-3774.

The fifth York Region youth concert "Signs of Spring", presented by the York Chamber Ensemble, conducted by Aurora's Tony Browning, will be held at Trinity Anglican Church at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are \$15; \$10 for students and seniors.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Birdbox Placement: Place birdboxes around town. Meet at the Seniors' Centre parking lot, 5 Municipal Dr. at 10 a.m. No registration necessary.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Aurora Chamber of Commerce complimentary networking breakfast at St. Andrew's College, 15800 Yonge Street, from 7.30 a.m. to 8.45 a.m. There will

COMING EVENTS

be a sit-down, hot buffet breakfast, a campus tour, prizes and a bagpiper for entertainment.

MONDAY, APRIL 14

Aurora Film Circuit presents "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" at the Cineplex Odeon Aurora Cinemas, 15460 Bayview Avenue. Tickets, at \$10, will be available March 4 at the Aurora Public Library and R & R Revisited, 95 Edward Street. Doors open at 6.15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

Aurora Community Heritage Fair at St. Andrews College from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Public is invited to attend.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Second installment of interim tax payment due.

APRIL 25-26

Aurora United Church annual Spring Rummage Sale takes place at the church, 15186 Yonge Street at Tyler, on Friday from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Anti-litter Day in Aurora: Begins at 10 a.m. followed by a barbecue for participants at noon in the Town Park. Register at Info Aurora, 905-727-8214, or through infoaurora@e-aurora.ca.

* * * *

Great Curbside Giveaway in Aurora: Take unwanted items to the curb today for others to scavenge. Then go troll for things you might need. To keep Aurora attractive remove leftovers by 6 p.m.

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Committee okays Arboretum funding

In 2006 the Aurora Community Arboretum prepared a Master Plan which was approved by council, but there was a delay in approving funding for the various phases.

Gordon Barnes, an active member of the Arboretum, appeared before the town's general committee Tuesday in support of a staff report recommending that \$50,000 be included in the 2008 budget to support the planting of Phase I of Flora Aurora.

Mr. Barnes told the committee members there was some urgency in getting started or the planting season would be over.

It was pointed out that the planting beds had been prepared in 2007.

The general committee was quick to give approval to pre-budget the request for the planting and authorized staff members to tender for the works.

The approval is expected to be ratified by council this week.



It was just like coming home for MPP Frank Klees, left, and Bob Callow Thursday night when Klees officially opened his Newmarket-Aurora provincial riding office at the corner of Yonge and Dunning. Nearly two decades ago, the pair were partners in a company called Municipal Gas, and their offices were in the exact same location. In the top photo, Klees welcomed Aurora Citizen of the Year Dorothy Clark McClure, who had provided several Aurora drawings to the MPP. She was accompanied at the event by her husband, Dick Illingworth. Dozens of people toured the new premises of Aurora's officially elected provincial representative at Queen's Park.

*Auroran photos
by David Falconer*



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Town to cut back electric power

The Town of Aurora will be participating in Earth Hour 2008 otherwise known as the "Hour without Power," a global energy conservation movement set to take place Saturday, March 29, between 8. p.m. and 9 p.m.

During that hour all town staff will be instructed to shut down or scale back all non-essential building systems and lighting where possible.

The Town of Aurora will not shut down or scale back any lighting or building systems that will disrupt the service of

a program or permit or endanger the safety of any patrons within Town buildings.

The following are some examples of the Town of Aurora's current energy conservation efforts which will be continued during the 'Hour without Power':

- The refrigeration ice plants at all Town arenas will be shut down for one hour. There will be no effect to permits and programs on Town ice surfaces.

- Where possible town staff will continue to scale

back some set-point temperatures on HVAC units in the areas that are not occupied.

- Town staff will continue to shut down all lights within arenas, pools and room spaces that are not in use during this time period.

- Town of Aurora performed an energy management and conservation building retro-fit study in 2006, which targets specific Town owned and operated buildings for energy efficiency retro-fits including The Aurora Community Centre, The

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Poor Richard

My 10 days at Southlake not too bad

*March Break is supposed to be a holiday,
And a holiday Poor Richard had;
It wasn't exactly as he had planned,
But then, it really wasn't too bad!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Much has been written recently about the poor shape of our health system with long waiting periods and shortage of beds and staff.

While some of it may be true, from a recent personal experience I have no complaints as I couldn't have received better care or treatment.

I've had some heart problems for years but with the care of a good family doctor and medicine, I've been able to keep it under control.

But for the past several weeks I've lacked energy and everything had become an effort.

The other Monday I had a morning appointment with Dr. Robert Williams, my family doctor, and an afternoon appointment with Dr. John Symmes, my cardiologist.

I got up and dressed all ready to go and while the mind was willing the body refused to obey as I was short of breath and a tight feeling around my chest.

A call to the doctor's office to cancel the appointment resulted in a response to get to the hospital.

A call to 911 resulted in immediate action as firefighters and paramedics soon filled the house and I was whisked off to Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket.

Evidently my heart was playing all kinds of tricks and the doctor on duty in Emergency ordered all kinds of tests.

In addition to intravenous, I was given four vials of blood over the next several hours.

Because of a shortage of beds in the Coronary Care Unit, I spent the first night in Emergency, which wasn't too comfortable, but the nursing staff were very attentive and I was well looked after.

The next morning I was moved to CCU and it was like going into one of the better hotels with a private room, TV and a telephone and nurses to look after you every need.

Here the treatment began in earnest.

One of the tests indicated that my kidneys had become toxic due to one of the drugs I had been taking and my kidneys were flushed in hopes that would help to correct the erratic heart, but that didn't work.

It was finally decided to implant a pacemaker to be activated when the heart started an irregular rhythm. The operation was done with a local anesthetic, but other than a few feelings of pushing there was no pain.

Unfortunately, the first pacemaker didn't do the job it was designed to do and as it was the weekend, it was on Monday when I went back to have the pacemaker replaced. This time I was put out and didn't feel a thing.

The next day it was down to the x-ray department for a chest x-ray and to the heart clinic where the pacemaker was monitored and found to be working.

During all the testing it was found I have some internal bleeding but as the heart was the top priority, the internal bleeding was left to next month when I go back for more tests.

The use of my left arm is rather restricted for the next month as I'm not supposed to raise my arm above my head or backwards which makes washing and dressing a little difficult, so if you see me struggling to get into my coat you'll understand.

It wasn't the most pleasant of places to enjoy a holiday, but I got lots of rest, lots of attention from the medical and nursing staff and good meals, too, so what more could you ask.

The staff at Southlake is dedicated to patient care and they do everything possible to look after one's every need, so I have the greatest respect for their dedication and care.

If anyone has been told by their doctor they may need a pacemaker, don't delay as it is relatively a simple procedure, so go for it.

Although my 10-day stay at Southlake was pleasant, it was good to get home and back to normal, whatever that is.



The City of Belfast, Scotland, girl pipers drew a large crowd to the Town Park when they performed as part of the Town's Centennial celebrations in 1963. That's the Aurora Armouries building in the background. The photo was taken by Mike McMorro of Newmarket. And by the way, the mystery of Sy's Snack Service has been solved. It was located on the east side of Yonge between Kennedy and Cousins, currently the home of Jersey's, formerly Palmateer's, and a dozen other commercial establishments over the years. Stu and Wilma Symington ran a catering service and also the snack shop from there. Teenagers would go there for lunch, usually a meat pie and a pop. Once they had their lunch their goal was to smoke as many cigarettes as they could on their 45-minute lunch break, according to one reader. Mr. Symington later went into real estate, working with former Aurora Councillor Earl Stewart.

Letters to the Editor

She waited a long time for medical assistance

To the editor,

Re: Frank Klees' Advocacy for Better Health Care Funding

Kudos to our MPP, Frank Klees, for standing up for patients and improved health care funding, (recent interview with Dick Illingworth, ACI Channel 10!)

Such improvements are greatly needed to speed up wait times in emergency facilities in our hospitals.

By way of personal example, I began physiotherapy at Southlake Regional Health Centre on February 25th after my total knee replacement.

Having suffered a relapse on March 3rd, I was taken to the Triage at Southlake at around 11 a.m., where I sat until 3.45 p.m. when it was decided to put me on the "Fast Track."

I was sent back to the Triage, where I continued to wait until about 6 p.m. at which time I was sent to Emergency and placed on a gurney.

I finally did see a doctor - at 11.25 p.m., or more than 12 hours after my arrival at the hospital!

I've nothing but praise for the excellent and professional health care I received at Southlake.

But it was clear to me that under-funding is the cause of the long hospital waits I and other patients must endure, in order to see the few medical staff assigned to Emergency and other departments.

The solution to this health care log-jam has to do with more government, not medical, intervention and funding support.

It is up to Premier Dalton McGuinty and his health min-

ister to ensure that our hospitals and medical staff have the much needed resources in hand to tend to the needs of patients in a timely manner.

Otherwise, government pronouncements on shortened hospital waits and improved access to medical specialists will continue to ring hollow for those on the front

lines, so to speak, in emergency department triage units.

In his advocacy, Mr. Klees should feel free to quote from my personal experience to make this point with the McGuinty government.

**Rosalyn A. Gonsalves
Aurora**

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At 95 Edward Street,
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Publisher Emeritus
Rosemary Schumaker

Editorial
Ron Wallace
ron@auroran.com

Dick Illingworth
dick@auroran.com

Photography
David Falconer
dfalconer@sympatico.ca

Advertising
Bob Ince
bob@auroran.com

Diane Buchanan
diane@auroran.com

Production
Cynthia Proctor
cynthia@auroran.com

Main Number
905-727-3300

Classifieds
905-727-7128
classifieds@auroran.com

Facsimile Machine
905-727-2620

Editorial Department
rwall9999@aol.com

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Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.

Get well soon, Dick!

To the editor,

Dear Dick Illingworth, or should I write "Poor Richard", because you have been confined to hospital? Whichever, this is to say in plain unvarnished words, that I wish you a speedy recovery.

Speedy is my wish but caution trumps speedy.

The wrath of age at your age is nothing to trifle with.

So Richard, let caution rule, get past this bump in the road and get well.

**Brian Warburton
Aurora**

Topics deserve a second look

To the editor,

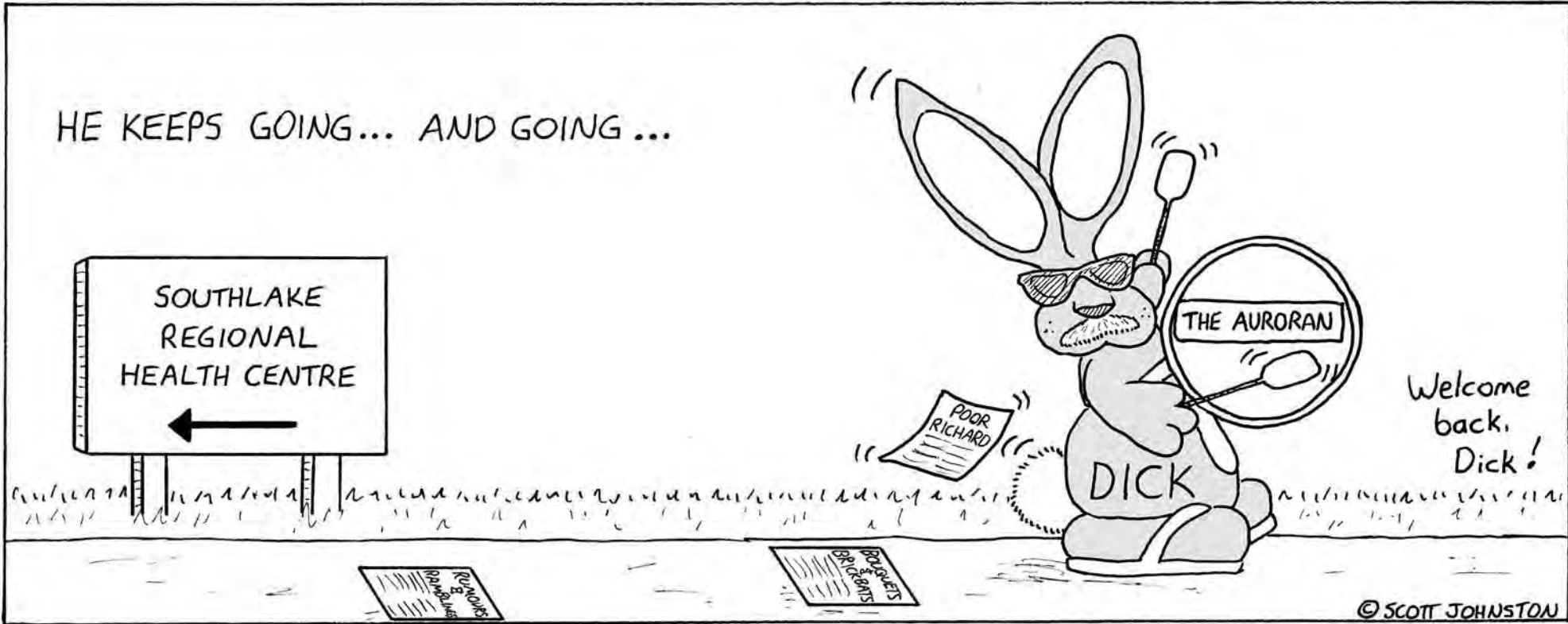
Re Front Porch Perspective, Auroran, March 18

Stephen Somerville raises several topics that surely deserve a second look as Aurora continues to grow - Regional repre-

sentation, a ward system and councillor compensation.

However, there is a two-word rebuttal to a two-year term of office - Hazel McCallion - Mississauga Mayor since 1978.

**Gordon Barnes
Aurora**



Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

YRT Bus Route #34

I have been somewhat following the story regarding the potential cancellation of York Region Transit ("YRT") Bus Route 34.

As you may know, due to lack of ridership and based upon a survey, management at YRT had planned to cancel Route 34 along Industrial Parkway and replace it with a Dial-A-Ride service. However, YRT is postponing this for now based upon requests from both the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and Aurora Council.

What piqued my interest in this issue is the passion displayed in a number of recent letters to the editor.

This from Edward Steger in the Feb. 12 edition: "It is complete insanity to be running a bus service that no one is interested in except for a few seniors who could be transported by taxi (at the cost of the town) in a much cheaper way."

In the January 22nd edition, Sally Haberer writes, "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".

She continues, "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."

Two strongly held - but opposing - views of the same issue. This also provides a perfect example of the kinds of trade-offs that Aurora Council is forced to make.

Let's take a little closer look at some of the facts.

According to Kim Sinclair, Communications specialist for the York Region Transit Group, there are four local YRT routes in Aurora, one Go Shuttle, One School Special (Rt 426 - Dr. G.W. Williams school special), and two Yonge Street Corridor routes.

In total, there are 77 YRT/Viva routes across the entire system.

In 2007, three routes were cancelled due to lack of ridership.

As for Route 34 itself, the first pickup of the day starts on an abbreviated schedule at the Aurora GO Station at 6.40 a.m. and goes along Industrial to Yonge then south on Yonge to Edward Street for a published time of 6.48 a.m.

This abbreviated schedule is done again at 7.10 a.m.

The full route schedule begins at 7.15 a.m., and the first run is completed by 7.33 a.m.

Route 34 buses make six full runs - every 20 minutes - in the morning ending at 8.55 a.m. and then resume full runs at 3.35 p.m. - at 30 minute intervals - until 7.35 p.m.

According to the published article in The Auroran on February 26, YRT has what is called a Local Standard, with a target of 30 passengers per hour.

Route 34 averages four passengers per hour.

Also according to the news article, YRT "has financial targets for its routes. On the entire system, YRT aims for a cost recovery of 40 per cent and Route 34 has a cost recovery of eight per cent."

Management of YRT appeared before Council in early February and "pointed out that there were only four boardings an hour and a total of 38 boardings in the average day resulting in revenue on the route being eight cents on the dollar with taxpayers subsidizing the balance."

Getting back to the Dial-A-Ride Service, according to the York Region website, this service was introduced in Newmarket last August as a one-year pilot project to replace a seldom used night route (Route 44 - Bristol-London) in Newmarket.

Annual savings were expected to be in the \$40,000 range.

"The Dial-a-Ride service may provide an economic and environmentally-friendly answer to low evening ridership we sometimes experience on transit," said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch at the time. "This pilot project will give us an opportunity to test the waters and determine if the program can be grown to include other areas of York Region."

The Dial-A-Ride service replaced the regular bus route after 7.05 p.m. at night Monday to Saturday. YRT RT buses were replaced with on-call contracted taxi service operated by Scarborough Taxi.

By calling at least 30 minutes in advance of a trip, customers could request to be picked up and dropped off at any Route 44 bus stop by a YRT-marked Scarborough Taxi accessible van.

Results of the Route 44 Dial-a-ride pilot program in the Town of Newmarket will be presented at the May Transit Committee meeting.

The ultimate goal of YRT is to offer a safe, convenient and reliable transit service, while obviously keeping operating costs down.

The final decision regarding the fate of Route #34 is up to YRT management.

However, after hearing the results of the Transit Committee report this May, Aurora Council should clearly recommend one of three courses of action to YRT; either continue the route, cancel the route or support the Dial-a-ride program.

Next week: YRT Bus Route #34 - My suggestion.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

Dealing with difficult people

By the time this column is published, I will be packing for my third trip to Fort Lauderdale this month.

Yes, it has been sad to miss 30 cm snowfalls in Aurora...and even more tragic to welcome the contributions of Air Canada and West Jet to the bottom line of my latest Visa bill, but this course I am taking is well worth the frequent flying.

I tried to cut down, I really did! Last time, I chose to save \$232 and take a connecting flight through Montreal.

Actually, I didn't choose this...my Inner Bargain Hunter did.

She decided my time, my family and my life were less valuable than I would ever admit to myself. She sucks at value calculations...

The night before my return, my Inner Critic showed up.

"You idiot," she said, "tomorrow is your daughter's birthday and you CHOSE to make a three-hour flight into a 6-1/2 hour flight? What were you thinking?"

Well, my Inner Defiant was NOT going to take that crap!

"Watch me fix it!" she screamed, dialing Air Canada's reservation desk in a powerful huff.

"I can get you a seat on the direct flight," said the agent, "but the price is exorbitant!"

"Oh-oh," sighed my Inner Calculator as my Inner Chest-Pounding Defiant deflated like a balloon sticking needles into itself. "How exorbitant?"

"\$980," said the sympathetic voice on the phone whose neck my Inner Judge wanted to condemn to the nearest chopping block.

And yes, that would be the fare "difference" as in "given the

choice between spending an extra \$232 for the direct flight...or forking out an extra \$980 for the direct flight - you chose WHAT?" Gulp.

"This is all your fault!!!" wailed My Inner Accuser, immediately picking up a brickbat and beating me over the head with it like Dick Illingworth has never witnessed in all of his 90-some years!

Needless to say, I found myself waiting at the gate for my flight to...Montreal. This is when my Inner Bargain Hunter spotted the Duty Free Shop. She walked in and came out with a smug smile and a bottle of Remy Martin for only \$39. Score!

Arriving in Montreal, I had 40 minutes to pick up my baggage, clear Customs, check my baggage anew, clear security and get my Inner Frantic on the plane before she had a meltdown...

"Any liquids?" asked the frontline staff on the security carousel.

"No," replied my Inner Ditz. Duh!

Next thing my Inner Bird-Brain knew, she was tearing back to the Air Canada counter to check another bag because Remy Martin may be smooth as silk, but the laws of physics and air travel security dictate that it IS indeed a liquid!

"I need to check this bag," she panted to the agent with her laptop under her arm and her boarding pass between her teeth.

"I'm so sorry," replied the genuinely sad-eyed agent gently. "I can't check your bag because that flight is closed."

My Inner Victim sniffed and swelled. "Why me?"

She was about to begin whining when my Inner Sage showed up.

"Cut the crap," she said. "You have a choice: You either get on the plane or you don't!"

My Inner Martyr handed the bottle to the agent and said: "In that case, please accept this sacrifice and have a wonderful day!"

The look on the agent's face made my Inner Angel pause just long enough to be grateful that my Inner Brat took the day off.

With that, my Inner Clock-Watcher turned and ran to the gate with just enough peripheral awareness to realize that "last call for passengers..." included the words "Cathryn Vrancic". They even pronounced my name correctly!

"I'm here, I'm here!" shouted my Inner Nerd making a spectacle of herself waving her boarding pass like a winning lottery ticket.

A few hours later, my Authentic Self showed up at an Aurora pub dressed in green with a pair of shamrocks bobbing on her head...drinking green beer in celebration of St. Patrick's Day and her daughter's 22nd birthday...smiling, laughing and dancing...like nobody was watching...

Because, of course, nobody was.

I had left my Inner Critic and the rest of my entourage at the airport.

Oh, Isn't life grand when you don't have to deal with difficult people?

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



BOUQUETS to the medical and nursing staff at Southlake Regional Health Centre for their care and efficient teamwork in carrying out their duties for every patient in their care, with compassion and kindness. After 10 days in their care, Poor Richard can speak from experience.

BRICKBATS to the Fraser Institute for not listing any York Region hospitals in their 2008 Ontario Report Card. Southlake Regional Health Centre should have been high on their list.

BOUQUETS to 16-year-old Genevieve Laurier, a student at Country Day School, on winning a spot at the CanWest National Public Speaking Championships in Winnipeg to become a member of the Canadian National Debate and Public Speaking Team. She will compete in the World Championships in Germany.

BRICKBATS to members of Toronto City Council for finding all kinds of little perks for themselves including a 1.9 per cent salary increase, but couldn't find the funds to keep all the city's outdoor rinks open during the March Break.

BOUQUETS to the Toronto Real Estate Board for offering \$5,000 scholarships to two regional students based upon an essay submission. Students get 500 words to address one of two topics; "How Marijuana Grow Operations Affect the Broader Community" and "How Ontario's Building Practices Can be Adjusted to Compensate for Extreme Weather Caused by Global Warming". Deadline for submissions is April 15.

BRICKBATS to the stupid people who would aim a powerful laser beam at a landing aircraft blinding the pilot and to whomever is responsible for the manufacture and selling of these dangerous instruments.

BOUQUETS to York Regional Police for calling for a ban on the high powered laser pointers, which seem to be coming into the news more and more each day.

BOUQUETS to St. Andrew's College Saints for a dramatic 3-2 victory in double overtime defeating archrival Upper Canada College Blues in the Conference of Independent Schools Athletic Association Championships. For St. Andrew's, it's their third league title in four years.

BRICKBATS to Liberal Leader Stephane Dion for carrying on the practice started by Jean Chretien of appointing candidates to ridings without the knowledge or consent of the riding association. If democracy is ever to return to Canada, the candidate must be selected by the people for the people.

BOUQUETS to Vanessa Crone of Aurora and Paul Poirier of Unionville on winning the Silver Medal in Ice Dancing at the World Junior Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria recently.

BRICKBATS to the Toronto politicians and citizens who support the implementation of tolls on GTA roads leading into the city for suburbanites who commute into the city on a daily basis for work and on weekends for entertainment. They forget city people use suburban roads to escape the city for cottage country.

BOUQUETS to Aurora's Moon Garden Restaurant on being recognized for the second year in a row on receiving the Eat Smart Award. The Eat Smart program recognizes restaurants and food establishments that offer a variety of healthier food choices on the menu or by request and have exceptional standards of food safety and a 100 per cent smoke-free environment. Restaurants are nominated by York Region Public Health inspectors.

BRICKBATS to family members who put a loved one in a long-term nursing home and then forget all about them. A volunteer at one of the homes claims that fewer than 10 per cent of nursing home residents have regular family visits.

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Letter to the Editor

Councillor says sharing info reason for sending e-mails

To the editor,

I have been cheerfully e-mailing colleagues for months.

I spend more time at that than I do blogging.

I feel e-mails provide a great opportunity for sharing.

Turns out most of council hate me for it. Even Councillor Grace Marsh said she trashes my stuff. I am crushed.

I always appreciated getting background from councillors who had been there before me.

Especially Councillors Walt Davis and the late Ron Simmons. They were born in Aurora - their roots ran deep.

They went to school together and lived on opposite sides of Metcalfe Street by the railroad tracks. They were in the same class in Church Street School, played hockey on the same team. Principal Del Babcock was the coach.

Yonge Street was their district and when they won their games, the fans had that old electric car rocking from side to side on the rails all the way home.

They were volunteer firefighters together. Then they were councillors. They knew where the bodies were buried, so-to-speak.

When Del Babcock retired, I was the mayor, and when I had to say a few words I felt I knew who I was talking about. Walt and Ron were of my own generation and they were more than generous with their memories. They had a great sense of themselves and the world around them. They laughed a lot.

Every town needs an institutional memory. At the moment, I'm the best we've got. I am eager to share and I do not understand why I don't get no respect.

Mind you, I can see why some of my comments might not be welcome.

When the mayor notified council she had appointed Councillor Evelina MacEachern deputy-mayor when she and Councillor Bob McRoberts were going to be away, I had to tell her she didn't have authority to do that.

Then when she informed us she and Councillors

MacEachern and Wendy Gaertner were going to fundraise for an unfortunate family who had a fire, I had to point out the Office of Mayor was for the purpose of the Corporation.

It was commendable if they planned to use their own resources but they could not use the Office.

The unlucky family must have left town. We never heard of them, the fire or the fundraiser again.

Then there is the recent business of an exhibition of portrait photography in the town hall by a person from Georgina. Turns out that wasn't done according to town policy.

Artists are required to register with the right department and pay fees to display their work for a month.

It seems the mayor's office decided to bypass the process, extend an invitation, and provide free use of the town hall to an admirer. There was a wine and cheese reception and a closed invitation list of 100.

At the moment, on the second floor of the town hall, there's a life-size cardboard cut-out of the photographer wearing a dress that covers only the bare essentials, and another of the mayor lurking in the shadows.

Councillor Al Wilson got riled at me recently. I asked him why he hadn't applied for the job of treasurer when it was vacant, since he obviously feels he knows so much about municipal financing.

He scrutinizes the cheque register and lists items for the Chief Financial Officer to explain. Then he indicates there must be a better way of doing things.

A recent example was a mileage cheque to a bylaw officer. It was about \$380. Councillor Wilson was aghast.

Had he thought more about it he would have known a bylaw officer doesn't do his/her job at a desk. If they are being paid mileage, they are using their own vehicle.

It is the difference between the town maintaining a fleet of vehicles or paying employees for the use of theirs. I asked him if he thought staff were plundering the town treasury.

The mayor and councillor were outraged I would say such a thing to an elected representative.

I also suggested the Chief Financial Officer's job might have more significance than being required to constantly and promptly respond to a councillor's barrage of questions and hints the job could be done better.

The Chief Administrative Officer is Councillor MacEachern's favorite target. The councillor has a writing style peculiarly her own.

She suggested once, I should consult a doctor. She believed I was suffering from mad cow's disease. She should have seen both my daughters' responses to that one. I did not share it with my sons.

The ease of the internet is such a plus. An e-mail can be read or not depending on a person's time or interest.

But Councillor Stephen Granger says I am messing with his mind. The mayor feels I am distracting her and stopping her from exercising her role. Someone else suggests I am cyber-bullying. Not being fully computer literate, I have no idea what that means.

I think I'm doing what I was elected to do and at the same time, not causing needless embarrassment and bringing down the tone of council meetings even further by doing it in public.

It's hard to watch bad stuff happening without saying anything. So, I say it - in e-mails, circulated within the council.

I think what the public can't see is just as important as what they can. Where they are not, I am. My role is to be their eyes, ears and voice.

Parliamentary rules are intended to ensure civility in public debate. They work for politicians...mostly. But staff are regularly denigrated in public.

Councillor Gaertner is particularly fond of rebuking department heads as if they are Grade 1 students and she the autocratic principal and arbiter of all standards.

Protocol prohibits a response from staff. The councillor has no idea her behaviour is inappropriate. It appears to suit the mayor's purpose to allow it to continue.

This behaviour has been evident in the last several councils. Certainly times change but I do not believe basic tenets of decency and fair play are up for grabs.

Politics is what it is. Despite wishful thinking by less experienced members, it is not about sugar and spice and all things nice.

Neither is it about hijacking a council meeting for the purpose of convening a Kangaroo Court.

**Evelyn Buck
Aurora**

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Letters to the Editor

Animal extinction is preventable: student

To the editor,

Our wildlife friends are going extinct because we are hurting them!

We human beings are taking advantage of the fact that they don't only provide

us the food we need, they also give us many other supplies that we need or maybe just really want.

Some of the things we take away from these helpless animals are some coats, mittens, hats and

many more items that may even have the smallest touch of leather, fur, ivory, or even materials like suede.

As if that isn't bad enough people kill sharks for their teeth.

That isn't the only way we

hurt the animals.

We also build new homes, parking lots and roads or other structures in animal habitats (which is the worst we can do) that isn't worth our animal friends going extinct, but that isn't

it...when we litter birds and other small animals eat our garbage and choke from the plastic.

I am asking you to at least try to save the animals.

Don't worry if you can't help in a big way, it would help even if you could just help pick up litter, or even tell a friend about the animals.

Please don't wait until next week, next month, or next year.

Help save our animal friends today.

These are some of the

animals that are becoming extinct: sea otters, some insects like monarch butterflies, some birds, moose, polar bears, some amphibians, bottlenose dolphins, giraffes, and many more.

This lists only six endangered species.

There are at least 100 endangered species in Canada not to mention the rest of the world.

Kathryn Munslow-MacNeil
Grade: 4
Aurora

Traffic-calmed area immortalized

To the editor,

I find the traffic-calming section of town such a continuing delight, that I felt I had to express my feelings in poetry...

(with apologies to Lewis Carroll)

AURORAWOCKY

`Twas Walton, and the motorists
Were traffic-calmed upon the pave:
The beastly maze of bumps and twists,
Gives many too close a shave.

"Beware the Serpentine, my son!
The s-shaped curves, the points that pinch!
Beware the one-way street, and shun
The semi-diverter lateral cinch!"

He revved his Voyager to third:
Long time the asphalt foe he sought --
Then idled he on Keystone Court,
And parked awhile in thought.

And, as he planned his sharp turn trial,
The Serpentine, with scales chicane,
Came jogging past the forced-turn isle,
'No parking' as it came!

One, two! One, two! Now frothy brew,
His chai latte went splash-and-splish!
He left the humps, the shark-tooth bumps:
Fulfilled, his slalom wish!

"Hast thou shot down the Serpentine?
Come to my arms, Aurorish boy!
O grievous day on John West Way!"
He chortled in his joy.

`Twas Walton, and the motorists
Were traffic-calmed upon the pave:
The beastly maze of bumps and twists,
Gives many too close a shave.

Linda Schneidereit
Aurora

You can have say in pesticide bylaw being prepared by Town of Aurora

To the editor,

The Town of Aurora is to be heartily commended for proposing a courageous and forward looking bylaw which would prohibit use of cosmetic pesticides on private property.

The time is ripe for such a bylaw as people grow increasingly concerned about the effects of pesticides on their air and water and their health.

Although other municipalities, notably Toronto, have preceded Aurora in taking action, the town can still set an example for the many municipalities where use of chemical pesticides is not

controlled.

The proposed bylaw will affect most Aurorans and the town is asking for input from its citizens. People can attend the second of two information/consultation forums taking place Thursday, March 27 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive.

Or they can choose to tell the town what they think by e-mail, or they can respond to a short survey on the town's website. (<http://e-aurora.ca/>.)

This is important, and I sincerely hope that you will take the time to have your say now!

Catherine Marshall
Aurora

Aurora Seniors Duplicate Bridge

March 17 - N/S: Murray Sinclair and Don Newman; Ev Dickie and Audrey Robertson; Bill and Bonnie Scheel. E/W: Rose White and Gloria Smith; Marion Warburton and Noreen Hashem; Mary Oglanby and Carol Davidson.



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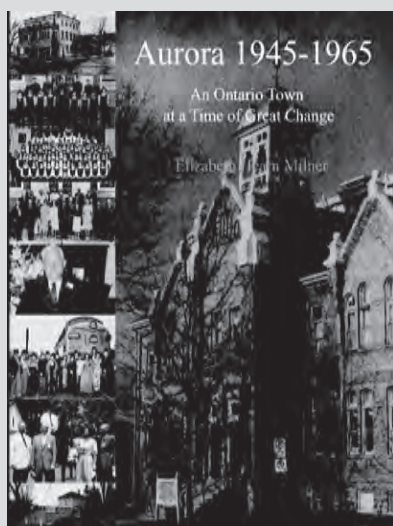
For more information contact the Aurora Chamber of Commerce

905 727 7262 • www.aurorachamber.on.ca

Friday, April 18th: 2 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Saturday, April 19th: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sunday, April 20th: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Aurora Community Centre, Aurora Heights Drive
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It was written by former Aurora resident Elizabeth Milner and features numerous stories and photos relating to that 20 years of Aurora growth.



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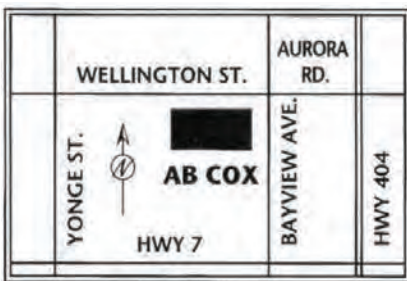


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Tigers knot series at one

By JOHN KLEIN

After defeating the Stouffville Spirit in five games during their recently disposed North Division Championship series, the Aurora Tigers' Provincial Junior A hockey team was busy at work last week preparing for its newest opponent out of the West, the Oakville Blades.

Blades were a powerhouse as they moved easily through their division and the Tigers were unsure of what they were up against.

They found out Thursday night, losing to Oakville 4-1, then turning the tables around Sunday at home before more than 500 fans, as they romped to a 5-1 win.

This series, like many others the Tigers had played before it, had a familiar plot line in place even before the story developed; mainly that of how the underdog Tigers could possibly hope to

match up with their statistically superior rivals.

Thursday, in Oakville, Aurora actually opened the scoring, then followed that with two dismal periods of hockey as they went on to give up four unanswered goals.

It suggested Oakville would sweep the series in four.

Fortunately come Sunday night those doubters got a quick taste of regret on their predictions after the two squads hooked up in game two action where home team once again managed to run up the score.

This time, however, the home team was Aurora and they managed to add another goal to top the score from a few nights previous beating the Blades by a score of 5-1.

Aurora scored twice before Oakville got a taste of it in the second period, and from then on, it was

Aurora's game.

"Better, but there is still room for improvement," said Tiger Coach Jerome Dupont.

The Tigers took an early 2-0 first period lead on goals from Paul Dupont and Jordan Watts, and although the lead was cut in half near the start of the second by a Oakville shorthanded marker, a quick answer from Aurora's David Morley on the powerplay restored the two-goal cushion which allowed Dupont's Tigers to finish off the night with a well-deserved recovery from their loss a few nights before.

Third game goes Wednesday night in Oakville.

Mark Thorburn added another Aurora goal and Morley scored his second of the game as Aurora cruised to a 5-1 win.

Aaron Barton saw action in net for Aurora in both contests.

Following the Wednesday contest game four will return back to Aurora Friday night and the puck will drop at the usual 7.30 p.m. start at the Community Centre.

Tigers are hoping for another big turnout at the gate.

The winner of this series will play the winner of the Markham Waxers-Wellington Dukes series and the winner of that will advance to the Dudley Hewitt Cup, being held in Newmarket this year.

Tigers have been to the Dudley Hewitt twice in recent history, winning it both times.

Markham and Wellington are also tied at one win each in their series.

Novices recover in championship

After being blanked 3-0 by the Caledon Hawks in the opening game of the OMHA championship final round, the Aurora Novice AA Tigers bounced back with a pair of victories to now lead the series two games to one.

In the third game, Aurora needed overtime to edge their opponents 3-2 Sunday. That followed a convincing 5-1 win Saturday night.

Brady Futterer was the hero of Sunday's match as he scored in overtime, his second goal of the game to secure the win.

Morgan Frost contributed a pair of assists along with a goal to finish with a three-point night.

Aurora secured the win after Caledon scored first in the second period then added another to lead 2-0 before the frame ended.

Tigers stayed behind the eight-ball for only two minutes when Futterer scored his first of two for the night.

Four minutes later, Frost fought through several Hawks to knot the score and force overtime.

As the overtime begins it looks bleak for the Tigers as the Hawks apply pressure like never before and the Tigers scramble to keep the

puck out of the net.

With nearly half the overtime completed, Aurora worked the puck deep into

the Hawks end.

Frost played the puck toward the net and Futterer

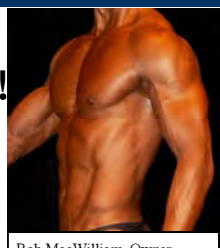
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Wednesday April 2nd 2008

Time :
6:30 pm Players' Autographs
7:00 pm Puck Drop

Location:
Aurora Community Centre (ACC 1)
1 Community Centre Lane, Aurora, ON
 (at Aurora Heights Dr)

Cost :
Enfant/Child
 (12 et moins/12 and under \$5
Adulte/Adult \$10

Tickets available at the door.
For tickets or more information call Denyse LeBrun
905.727-4631 ext.244 or 905.713.4628



Rebecca, left, suffers from Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) and she was what Rebecca’s Run was all about in Aurora last week. With her is her cousin Willow. They were just two of hundreds of people who showed up at the Running Room in Aurora’s east end to take part in the fund-raiser. SMA is an inherited disease that destroys the spinal cord nerves that control muscle movement, which affects crawling, walking, head and neck control, and even breathing and swallowing. The run was founded by Aurora-born Louise Smith. Last week, runners and walkers did what Rebecca can’t do for herself. They walked and ran for her and hundreds of other children battling SMA.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

School band off to Italy, Austria

Thursday, members of the Aurora High School band will depart for a 10-day performance tour to Italy and Austria.

Some 141 people, including eight teach chaperones, will make the trip.

It involves two airplanes and four passenger bus coaches, and by the time the trip ends, the group will have visited Rome, Florence, Venice, Salzburg and Vienna.

Last month, the Aurora High School Grade 12 Wind Symphony won three first place prizes in the Greater Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival.

The band, directed by Mark Tse, competed in three events, including the Evening Challenge Class, earning top marks in each.

Several bands from the GTA entered the competition and gave outstanding performances.

In addition to winning three firsts, the Wind Symphony was awarded a cash prize of \$1,000.

Last year, on a trip to Boston, they competed against several other high school bands, and won the Ambassadors’ Award.

The Music Department of Aurora High School consists of more than 450 members.

Band classes are offered from Grades 9 to 12.

NHL vets featured at this fundraiser

The list of famous sports personalities just keeps getting longer.

A fundraiser, designed to raise money for underprivileged students at Aurora’s new French Catholic high school, Renaissance, on Bloomington Road, will feature a hockey game filled with NHL veterans.

Included on the roster are Peter Zedel, Kris King, Dan Daoust, Wes Jarvis, Jim Thomson, Stu Grimson, Mark Osborne and Ric Nattress.

It all happens Wednesday, April 2, at the Aurora Community Centre.

In addition, the school has acquired Michael Landsberg of The Sports Network, who will be one of the coaches, actor Graham Abbey will be the master of ceremonies.

NASCAR driver John Graham will strap on the blades and his show car will be on display outside the community centre.

Autographs and photos will be available prior to the game.

There will be plenty of prizes available, including Toronto Blue Jay baseball tickets.

Game time is 7 p.m. and tickets are \$10 each.



Robin Fiorda, 13, of Aurora was one of 42 girls chosen to be flown to California to be in the production of a Girls Incorporated commercial. The girls were asked to write a letter telling the world what they wanted everyone to know about them as girls. Of the 42 girls in California, Robin was one of five chosen to actually star in the production. She worked hard for two days, getting up at 5 a.m., starting work by 6 a.m. and finishing at 6 p.m. The public service announcements will be shown on television and heard on radio.

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For more information call Sher St. Kitts 905-841-6893

Tickets – payable to The Aurora Dream Team • Reserved tickets may be picked up at: Aurora Royal Canadian Legion Hall: 905 727 5642 (Gail Sellers)

To make a donation to the silent auction please contact: Sandra Humfries: shumfries@sympatico.ca

The Aurora Dream Team is managed by a dedicated team of volunteers. We are committed to maximizing the return on investment from your organization's sponsorship. We will work with you to ensure success at the grassroots level and endeavor to coordinate marketing and cross-promotional opportunities, wherever possible.

RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Subdivision entrance gates once popular

Back in the 1970s and 1980s when new subdivisions were being developed in a municipality, entry feature walls were constructed to identify the subdivision.

The entrance walls varied in size and construction and when the developer left town, the municipality became responsible for the maintenance as the walls had been built on public property.

In November, 1995, a staff report advised council members that the entry walls at the Valhalla Heights subdivision were in poor condition and it would cost about \$7,000 to repair them.

Councillor Ron Wallace suggested council should copy Berlin and let the walls come tumbling down. Council agreed and the walls were demolished and removed.

It was also agreed that entry walls in all new residential developments be constructed on private property and remain the responsibility of the developer.

It evidently worked because now it is hard to know where a new subdivision ends and another one starts, or even if there were walls there to begin with.

DID ANYONE APPLY?

Last December the town was seeking volunteers to fulfill new provincial legislation which mandated the municipality to perform additional tests at private residential water taps to check for lead in the drinking water.

On a first-come, first-served basis, homes would become candidates for such testing.

The program involved testing tap water twice a year in the home of the volunteer.

All sampling would be undertaken by identified Waterworks staff members.

Although town records did not indicate the existence of lead in the town's water services, there may be some privately-owned homes with lead pipes that had not been replaced or there may be lead pipe plumbing within the home.

Due to the growing knowledge about the detrimental health effects of lead, its use for water piping was banned in the early 1950s and the use of lead in the solder to join copper piping and fittings was banned in 1990.

Based on the current population of approximately 50,000, Aurora is required to test 80 residential homes, eight non-residential locations and 18 distribution system locations in each six-month period.

Did the town get the number of volunteers to fulfill the provincial mandate?

A report to council as to the status would be interesting.

SEARCHING FOR A LOCATION

A few years ago staff expressed concern about teenage BMX riders using the Case Woodlot resulting in a direction to staff members to meet with the bikers and explore alternative locations for the track.

Staff members suggested nine possible locations in various areas of the town and in August, 2006, council approved in principle a short list of three mountain bike courses.

They were in the McClellan Way/Bathurst Street area, the Holland River Valley south of Wellington Street and Lambert Willson Park.

Residents objected to the proposed location of the track at McClelland Way and Bathurst Street and staffers were directed to find another suitable location in the same general area and that construction of the track be included in the 2007 budget.

No decision has yet been made by council as to the location of the BMX track and the kids are likely still using the Case Woodlot.

A status report to council would be interesting or do members of council really care?

REMEMBERING SHEA'S HIPPODROME

Once upon a time several years ago there was a 3,000-seat theatre known as Shea's Hippodrome on Bay Street across from the old Toronto City Hall.

It was demolished to make room for a new city hall.

People flocked to the theatre for the myriad of vaudeville acts and movies and to listen to the theatre's new Wurlitzer organ, which had been built in 1922 at the Wurlitzer factory in North Tonawanda, N.Y., for the theatre.

The organ was placed on an elevator and kept in the basement of the theatre.

Then prior to a movie the organ would rise up to the theatre level with Horace Lapp or Kathleen Stokes playing.

With the demolition of the theatre, Connie Smythe, owner of the Maple Leaf Gardens, acquired the organ and after a \$100,000 rebuild, it was located in the south end of the Gardens.

In 1963 in order to put in more seats, Harold Ballard gave the organ the heave-ho.

In an effort to save the organ it was stored backstage at the former Imperial Theatre for several years until rescued by the Toronto Kiwanis Club for Casa Loma in 1974.

Thanks to Mike Filey for telling the story of the organ as it brought back many memories for a teenager in the depression years of the 1930s, who after working nights all week in a woolen mill, went to Shea's almost every Saturday morning. If he got in before noon, the admission was 25 cents. It was his only recreation for the week.

He still remembers the organ rising from the basement with Horace Lapp or Kathleen Stokes at the keyboard.

NO PARKING SIGNS ON KENNEDY STREET

In April, 2007, an e-mail was forwarded to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee regarding the No Parking signs on Kennedy Street West, just west of Yonge Street.

It was pointed out that the signs had been installed quite high on the pole and were obstructed by foliage.

Further correspondence regarding the signs was received in June last year resulting in the TSAC referring the issue to staff for consideration.

While not hidden by foliage now, has any action been taken or considered for this summer?

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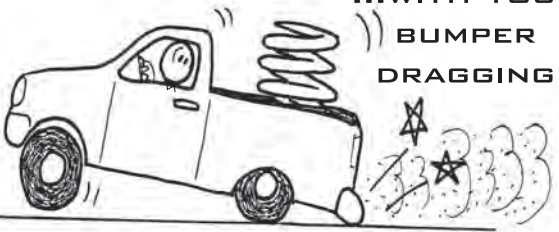
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Residents against proposed bylaw

From page 1

The general thread of the opposition of all delegates from the older part of town was the inability to make improvements to existing housing, loss of property value, why other areas were not included and the lack of proper notification and details.

Most wanted council to leave things as they are.

One delegate noted that when she heard about infill housing, she was under the impression it referred to empty lots and never connected it with monster homes.

It was also pointed out that the language in the bylaw wasn't clear and that it should be written in plain English so that it could be understood.

It was noted that some areas were in favour of monster homes and each application should be considered on its own merits rather than a blanket bylaw.

One delegate pointed out that if the bylaw was enacted as presented a house destroyed by fire, could not be replaced as it was.

A major complaint was the lack of notification in the

town's Notice Board.

There were several questions by committee members of the delegates and discussion amongst themselves.

Finally, after almost two hours of presentations and debate the committee agreed with Councillor Grace Marsh that the two bylaws be treated separately with the Hillview bylaw proceeding and the other being referred to a public meeting with adequate notification.

It all started in August, 2004, when the Committee of Adjustment received an application from the purchaser of a single residence on Cameron Avenue to sever the property into two parcels to build two homes.

Citizens of the area opposed the application and submitted a petition to council expressing concern about the impact of the architectural landscape and culture, the impact of construction and neighbourhood safety.

Council expressed concerns about the process and the speedy approval of the demolition of the residence and questioned what mechanisms were available to

council to prevent such applications which could lead to monster homes.

Then in April, 2006, a resident appeared before council to complain about a monster home being built on Hillview Avenue and expressed concern about the size of the building.

Similar complaints were received from residents in other areas of the town resulting in council requesting a staff report.

A report was submitted the following month setting out a process for investigating provisions as they relate to monster or infill homes in established neighbourhoods.

It was also proposed that a working group of planners and building officials be established to analyze zon-

ing provisions as they relate to infill housing and the proposals were adopted by council.

In October, 2007, a public planning meeting was held at which staff presented a detailed report regarding a proposed bylaw amendment pertaining to infill housing.

There was a large crowd in attendance for the public meeting and for almost three hours citizens made presentations on a wide range of issues pertaining to infill housing.

After several questions for clarification there was general agreement by council members that the draft bylaw be approved in principle and revised by staff based on the comments received from the public and members of council.

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Seniors prepare to enter parade

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Proud residents of Aurora, including the members of the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) were disappointed last year when the Aurora Canada Day Parade was cancelled for a reported lack of volunteers.

This year several citizens, with support from Aurora Town Council and the Leisure Services Advisory Committee, sounded wake up calls loud and clear, and a sub-committee was formed.

Sher St. Kitts is outstanding among those who raised the alarm about the lack of a parade, and I believe Sher and the committee of which she is co-chairman, in co-operation with the Aurora Rotary Club, will lead us to the best Canada Day Parade Aurora has ever experienced.

The parade, which I expect will be very well supported, will start at 10 a.m. July 1st in Aurora and everybody is invited to participate.

I anticipate the ASA will support the parade with many members in attendance and with a fully manned float, well decorated with Canadian flags and very colourful.

I expect a full complement of great floats, lots of music and different colourful groups, parading any different way imaginable.

Sher joined the ASA recently and promises to be a prominent member.

She is the promoter for St. Kitts Music Inc. and her husband George St. Kitts, is the group's lead singer and a talented musician. Sher is a very welcome addition to the ASA.

To establish this Canada Day Parade on strong foundations, a fundraising extravaganza of fun is offered at the Aurora Legion Friday, April 4, starting at 6 p.m.

For more information to attend this event which promises to be a fun filled blast, or to participate in the parade, please see the ad on page 11 of The Auroran last week or call Sher at 905-

841-6893.

If you would like to create a float, or to march, walk, or dance in the parade or stand, watch and applaud, now is the time to plan what you want to do.

I expect that Aurora residents and businesses combined will become involved deeply in the parade, particularly after the disappointment of last year.

I expect the sidewalks will be lined with many enthusiastic residents cheering for Canada and this Canadian Day of recognition.

Whether you are in the parade or a sidewalk spectator, dress for the event colourfully and boldly and demonstrate your pride for Canada.

Remember, anything goes and the more the better!

Very often, spectators can be as interesting as the parade itself, and I expect that enthusiastic sidewalk participation by spectators will put a stamp of approval on this Canada Day Parade which will not be denied, and with the digital cameras of today in action, it will surely be recorded.

The ASA annual spring lunch is Wednesday, April 2, and the menu is roasted ham, hash browns, veggies, garden salad, dessert, coffee or tea.

Please sign up for this luncheon at the reception desk and remember to dress for the occasion, spring bonnets and all.

The ASA usually holds its annual general meeting in June and nominations for members of the Board of Directors, commenced Thursday, March 20, and will close Friday, April 18.

This is an important procedure, vital to the part of the administration for which the ASA is responsible.

If you are a member of the ASA you are eligible to be nominated and to be elected to the BoD.

Nomination forms are available at the reception desk.



The youngest of Aurora's citizens, who showed up recently to help build 62 bird boxes with the Environmental Advisory Committee are shown here. Everyone is invited to join EAC Sunday, Apr. 6, at 10 a.m. in the Seniors' Centre parking lot to help put up these bird boxes throughout various natural areas in town. Call Info Aurora at 905-727-8214 for further details.

Aurora's chapter closed doors in 1989

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

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

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

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

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

As a final act, the group recited the IODE prayer.

The IODE was established in 1900 when Canada was still a colony of the British Empire

and the Aurora Chapter received its charter in 1951.

The name Lloyd Chadburn was selected as the name for the local chapter following the Second World War to honour one of Canada's and Aurora's unsung Air Force heroes.

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

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

For many newcomers to Aurora the name Chadburn may not mean much except Chadburn Crescent north of Orchard Heights Boulevard in northwest Aurora, which was named after him.

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

Other than the mementoes in the library and the museum, the once active Wing Commander Lloyd Chapter of the IODE is but a memory.



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He wants record box lacrosse contest played in Aurora

If Jim Zacher gets his way the Aurora Masters Lacrosse Association will organize and play the longest box lacrosse game recorded in modern history.

The association has invited lacrosse players from across the province to help accomplish this task.

Zacher appeared before Aurora's general committee

Tuesday night on behalf of DOVE 2009 (Determined to Oppose Violence Everywhere) in hopes of raising money and public awareness for the Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness.

He pointed out that this agency has developed 19 programs for both children and women who have been

the victims of abuse and violence and it was hoped to raise \$50,000.

On June 13 starting at 3 p.m. it is hoped to play the longest game of box lacrosse in recorded history as officially acknowledged by the Guinness Book of World Records.

The 25-hour continuous game will be played by two

teams composed of a wide variety of individuals, old and young, male and female, talented and not so gifted, with two goals in mind.

They want to raise awareness of Canada's first national sport and to unify the community in raising funds for the Abuse Centre.

He requested the town's support in a number of ways including providing the Community Centre free of charge, which includes the floor time and the auditorium for the duration of the event.

He also asked that all councillors participate in the opening and closing ceremonies and join the players on the floor during the marathon game, and he issued a challenge to each councillor to secure pledges for the CCAA.

He also asked for a letter of support from the Mayor and fellow councillors which would be placed in the DOVE 2008 participation package.

The general committee received his presentation and referred it to staff for a report.

Novices fight back

From page 10

popped in the loose puck to give the Tigers the win.

The fourth game in the series was played Tuesday night at the Aurora Community Centre, but results were not available at press time.

In Game Two, Aurora got three goals from Frost and singles from Alexander Simardone and Andrew Sergejewich as the Tigers mauled Caledon 5-1.

As the game began, the Tigers, trailing the series by one, applied pressure in the Hawks end and it paid off as Frost scored his first of three.

Brady Sarazin, playing goal for the starting half of the game, was required to make two big saves to keep the Tigers ahead at the end of the first period.

At the start of the second period, the Tigers with the man advantage, have tremendous pressure in the

Hawks end, then, as the penalty expired, Simardone put Aurora two up.

Five minutes later, with the Tigers killing a penalty, Frost stole the puck from a Hawk defender and made several nice moves to find himself one on one with the Hawks goalie.

Frost won and Aurora led by three.

Caledon got on the scoreboard a minute later.

Midway through the final period, Frost again finds another loose puck during a penalty kill and registers his hat trick.

In the series opener, Aurora was blanked 3-0 in the best of five series.

The Tigers seemed to take an early edge in play controlling the puck in the Hawks end, creating scoring opportunities but not generating many shots on net.

Robert Stewart played the first half in net and

made several good saves.

Early in the second Aurora failed to clear the puck and the Hawks converted the miscue into a goal. Four minutes later the same situation occurred and Caledon went up by two.

Into the third period, Aurora failed to score on several power plays and Brady Sarazin was required to make a great toe save to keep the score within two goals.

While killing a penalty, the Hawks came up with a shorthanded goal and the game ended with Aurora being blanked.



**AURORA MINOR
HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**
Sunday, March 23, 2008



Minor Bantam

Team 701 2 - Dan LaFlamme 1A, Ward Benn 1A, Kelley Hudson 2G. **Team 702 1** - Kyle Coughlin 1G, Zachery Waldeck-Sabourin 1A.

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Sat	ARC W	10-May-08	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	1.5	Tyke Select
Thur	ARC W	15-May-08	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	1.5	Tyke Select

Sun	ARC E	27-Apr-08	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	1.5	Novice AA
Mon	ARC E	28-Apr-08	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Novice AA
Wed	ARC E	30-Apr-08	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Novice AA

Fri	ARC E	2-May-08	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Novice A
Sat	ARC E	3-May-08	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	1.5	Novice A
Mon	ARC E	5-May-08	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Novice A

Wed	ARC E	7-May-08	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Novice AE
Fri	ARC W	9-May-08	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Novice AE
Sat	ARC W	10-May-08	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	1.5	Novice AE

Sun	ARC E	27-Apr-08	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	1.5	M Atom AA
Tue	ARC E	29-Apr-08	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	M Atom AA
Wed	ARC E	30-Apr-08	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Atom AA

Fri	ARC W	2-May-08	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	1.5	M Atom A
Sat	ARC W	3-May-08	1:15 PM	2:45 PM	1.5	M Atom A
Mon	ARC W	5-May-08	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	1.5	M Atom A

Thu	ARC E	8-May-08	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	M Atom AE
Sat	ARC W	10-May-08	12:00 PM	1:30 PM	1.5	M Atom AE
Mon	ARC W	12-May-08	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	1.5	M Atom AE

Sun	ARC E	27-Apr-08	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	1.5	Atom AA
Mon	ARC W	28-Apr-08	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	1.5	Atom AA
Thu	ARC E	1-May-08	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Atom AA

Sat	ARC E	3-May-08	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	1.5	Atom A
Sun	ARC E	4-May-08	8:30 AM	10:00 AM	1.5	Atom A
Tue	ARC E	6-May-08	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Atom A

Thu	ARC W	8-May-08	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Atom AE
Sat	ARC E	10-May-08	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	1.5	Atom AE
Tues	ARC W	13-May-08	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	1.5	Atom AE

Sun	ARC E	27-Apr-08	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	1.5	M Pee wee AA
Tue	ARC W	29-Apr-08	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	1.5	M Pee wee AA
Thu	ARC W	1-May-08	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	1.5	M Pee wee AA

Sat	ARC W	3-May-08	2:45 PM	4:15 PM	1.5	M Pee wee A
Sun	ARC E	4-May-08	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1.5	M Pee wee A
Tue	ARC W	6-May-08	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	1.5	M Pee wee A

Wed	ARC E	7-May-08	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Pee wee AE
Fri	ARC E	9-May-08	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Pee wee AE
Wed	ARC E	14-May-08	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Pee wee AE

DAY	ARENA	DATE	START	END	LENGTH	TEAM
Sun	ARC E	27-Apr-08	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Pee wee AA
Mon	ARC E	28-Apr-08	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	Pee wee AA
Thu	ARC E	1-May-08	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	Pee wee AA

Sat	ARC E	3-May-08	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	1.5	Pee wee A
Sun	ARC E	4-May-08	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	1.5	Pee wee A
Tue	ARC E	6-May-08	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	Pee wee A

Thu	ARC E	8-May-08	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	Pee wee AE
Sat	ARC W	10-May-08	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	1.5	Pee wee AE
Thu	ARC W	15-May-08	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	1.5	Pee wee AE

Sun	ARC E	27-Apr-08	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Bantam AA
Tue	ARC E	29-Apr-08	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Bantam AA
Wed	ARC W	30-Apr-08	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Bantam AA

Fri	ARC E	2-May-08	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Bantam A
Sat	ARC W	3-May-08	4:15 PM	5:45 PM	1.5	M Bantam A
Mon	ARC E	5-May-08	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Bantam A

Thu	ARC W	8-May-08	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Bantam AE
Sat	ARC E	10-May-08	2:00 PM	3:30 PM	1.5	M Bantam AE
Mon	ARC W	12-May-08	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	1.5	M Bantam AE

Sun	ARC W	27-Apr-08	5:00 PM	6:30 PM	1.5	Bantam AA
Mon	ARC W	28-Apr-08	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	1.5	Bantam AA
Thu	ARC W	1-May-08	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	1.5	Bantam AA

Sat	ARC E	3-May-08	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	1.5	Bantam A
Sun	ARC E	4-May-08	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	1.5	Bantam A
Tue	ARC W	6-May-08	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	1.5	Bantam A

Fri	ARC W	9-May-08	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	Bantam AE
Sat	ARC W	10-May-08	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	1.5	Bantam AE
Tues	ARC W	13-May-08	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	1.5	Bantam AE

Sun	ARC W	27-Apr-08	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	1.5	M Midget AA
Mon	ARC E	28-Apr-08	9:00 PM	10:30 PM	1.5	M Midget AA
Fri	ARC W	2-May-08	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	1.5	M Midget AA

Sat	ARC E	3-May-08	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	M Midget A
Mon	ARC W	5-May-08	8:00 PM	9:30 PM	1.5	M Midget A
Wed	ARC W	7-May-08	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	M Midget A

Fri	ARC W	9-May-08	9:00 PM	10:30 PM	1.5	M Midget AE
Sat	ARC W	10-May-08	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	1.5	M Midget AE
Wed	ARC E	14-May-08	9:00 PM	10:30 PM	1.5	M Midget AE

AMHA AGM Meeting

We invite all AMHA members to come to our annual general meeting. The meeting takes place at the ACC1 auditorium, Wednesday, May 14th at 7:30 pm.

This provides everyone an opportunity to hear from our AMHA Volunteer Board of Directors. It also provides you an opportunity to ask any questions you may have related to the programs we run. There are Board of Director positions up for election each year which are also voted upon at this meeting. For more details, please visit our website at www.auroraminorhockey.net.

Registration for the 2008 2009 Hockey Season

Registration opens online April 1st for the 2008 2009 hockey season.

Online registration will remain open throughout the summer for your convenience.

Please note "in person" registrations take place in May on the following Saturdays: May 3rd, May 10th, May 24th and May 31st, and the hours are from 10 AM to 1 PM. We will be closed on May 17th.

2008 2009 YSE "AAA" Permission to Skate Form Process

Online registration must be completed so that a permission to skate can be granted.

You can pay by using the post dated cheque option. The process for receiving these forms has been automated.

You can now request a form online which will speed up the process and avoid lineups.

Please go to our website at www.auroraminorhockey.net, choose Rep in the left hand menu and it is in the Rep/Select Team tryouts section.

From there you can choose the option of how you would like to receive it, whether by email or fax.

Please watch our website for office hours in April where the forms can be picked up if required.

For more details, please visit our website at www.auroraminorhockey.net.

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It was written by former Aurora resident Elizabeth Milner and features numerous stories and photos relating to that 20 years of Aurora growth.




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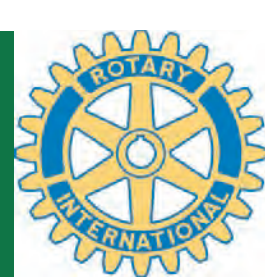
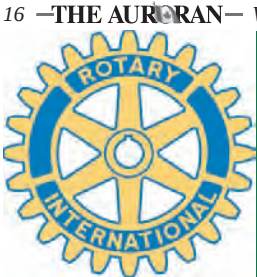
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