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THE AURORAN



Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Vol. 8 No. 22

905-727-3300

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FREE

Week of April 1, 2008

Aurora on top

Aurora saved more energy during Earth Hour Saturday than three other municipalities served by PowerStream, Inc., the communications director said.

Eric Fagan, Communications Director for PowerStream, Inc., hydro provider for the four towns, told The Auroran that Aurora residents turned off lights Saturday night and that resulted in a 10.15 per cent saving in power consumption.

Markham was second with 6.02 per cent saving, followed by Vaughan at 3.59 and Richmond Hill at 3.58 per cent

PowerStream compared consumption between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. on March 22, with the same time frame March 29 to arrive at its conclusions.

The Earth Hour initiative was held around the world Saturday night, and was so successful, officials are predicting the event will be held again.



This toddlers' group at the Aurora Nursery School took part in a "hop-a-thon" last week in an effort to raise money for the school's various programs and to purchase arts and craft supplies. Under the watchful eyes of Toni Robinson, left, and Alifia Scott, the students hopped 'til they dropped. Aurora Nursery School, a not-for-profit organization, has been operating since 1953 and currently has an enrollment of 44 youngsters.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Town's first CAO, Bud Rodger dies

The name Bud Rodger will be unknown to many newcomers to Aurora but for older residents, he will be remembered as the Gentle Giant.

He served the Town of Aurora from 1967 to 1988 as clerk, clerk-administrator and chief administrative officer.

He died peacefully last week at Southlake Regional Health Centre at age 72 after battling Hodgkin's Lymphoma for 12 years.

He is survived by his wife Judith, daughters Laura and Janis and son Jeff and their families.

Throughout the history of Aurora, the town's top staff member was the clerk/treasurer from Charles Yorke in 1863 to Bill Johnson who served from 1957 to 1967.

With the growth of the municipality, it was decided to split the position in 1967 and as Mr. Johnson preferred to remain as treasurer, the position of clerk was advertised.

K.B. (Bud) Rodger was hired as clerk in October, 1967.

He had previously been employed in his home town of Weston and later as clerk-treasurer in Tilbury.

In May, 1969, Aurora Council considered a change in administration with the appointment of a clerk/administrator and Rodger was appointed to the position in May, 1971.

Later following an organization-
Please see page 16

New head office may locate here

Last week, at a public planning meeting, Aurora Council approved construction for the head office of Apple Self Storage on Industrial Parkway South.

The approval is subject to the resolution of some outstanding issues.

The property is currently vacant with the exception of a concrete foundation from a pre-existing chemical manufacturing business, destroyed by fire in 1992. School buses are currently stored on the site.

The applicant proposes a two-storey business and professional office building, excluding medical uses, covering about 8,500 square feet.

The site will provide 27 parking spaces.

Minor changes to the zoning bylaw are required.

Staff members recommended the application be brought back to the committee upon resolution of outstanding issues.

It was further recommended that the approval of the implementing zoning bylaw amendment be subject to the review of at least the first site plan submission.

Aurora Lions flipping out?

Moon Ing may have flipped his last pancake.

Former owner of Moon Garden Restaurant in Aurora and current member of the Aurora Lions Club, he told The Auroran Friday night the popular annual Lions Pancake Breakfast is over.

But president Fred Bullen isn't so sure.

The Lions will make a final decision this week, and if they decide not to return to the bush this year, might set up their trailer and offer a pancake breakfast in front of their building at Mosley and Victoria Streets.

The Lions Club, for years, always set aside three weekends in early Spring to hold the event in Sheppard's Bush, an event that attracted hundreds of people.

Disputes between the club and the Conservation Authority have not made things easier.

Last year, weather was not their best friend and the Lions didn't make any money selling pancakes.

Appreciation night needs applicants

The Town of Aurora Civic Appreciation Awards is an annual event recognizing the exceptional contributions made by local citizens of the community.

But recommendations, to date, have been slow.

The Town of Aurora organizes this event; however, its success rests with the public's participation in nominating the award recipients.

Groups, organizations, service clubs and individuals who make a difference in the community need someone to highlight their contributions.

The awards ceremony will be held at the Aurora Town Hall Council Chambers Wednesday June 4, at 7.30 p.m., but nominations must be submitted by Tuesday, April 15.

With nine categories to choose from, it's easy to nominate someone this year.

Categories include; Bob Harman Memorial Award, Johnson's Cultural Achievement Award, The Civic Appreciation Awards (Individual and Group), Outstanding Achievement Awards (Individual or Non-Profit Organization), Volunteer Service Awards, Youth Volunteer Service Awards, Community Organization Award and the Quarter Century Achievement Award.

These awards recognize individuals and groups who have consistently given back to the community through their generosity and active participation.

To find out more, pick up a nomination package at the Aurora Town Hall, Aurora Family Leisure Complex, www.e-aurora.ca or call 905-726-4762 to have one mailed.



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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

The Probus Club of Aurora meets the second Wednesday of every month at the Royal Canadian Legion, Industrial Parkway North at 10 a.m. Men and women, retired or semi-retired, 55 years of age and over, are welcome to attend.

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 operates 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.

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, 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.

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

"Writing for Children and Young People", a workshop for grown-ups, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 32 Mosley Street from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To register, e-mail brianhenry@sympatico.ca or phone Susan Stevenson at 905-751-1674.

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.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

Tree planting in Lions Park between 9 a.m. and noon by students from George

Street and Aurora Senior Public Schools.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

Annual Plant Sale, presented by the Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society, at the Aurora Public Library from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 12

Aurora Film Circuit presents "The Band's Visit" at the Cineplex Odeon Aurora Cinemas, 15460 Bayview Avenue. Tickets, at \$10, will be available April 15 at the Aurora Public Library and R & R Revisited, 95 Edward Street. Doors open at 6.15 p.m.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 6 & 7

Canadian Cancer Society 2008 Relay for Life at Lambert Willson Park and the Leisure Complex. Call 905-830-0447 for further information and to register a team.

MONDAY, JUNE 23

Aurora Chamber of Commerce annual golf tournament at Wooden Sticks Golf Club in Uxbridge.

TUESDAY, JULY 1

The return of the July First parade. If you would like to enter a float, or simply be in the parade, call Sher St. Kitts at 905-841-6489 or 905-841-6893. Parade starts at 10 a.m.

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Sandra Sillcox dies at age 74

The wife of one of the people responsible for bringing commuter train service to Aurora has died.

Sandra Kathleen Sillcox was 74.

Sandra's husband, Bob, teamed up with Mount Albert's John Medcof back in the early 1970s to rent a train to prove there was a sufficient population to warrant daily commuter train service.

Today, GO Transit provides four trains a day, running from Barrie to Toronto, with a major stop in Aurora.

Sandra died in her sleep March 26 after a silent but courageous battle with cancer.

A King City resident, she remained highly active and was feeding and looking after her horses until two weeks before her death.

She is survived by husband Robert, daughter Dana (Jim), daughter Paige

(Joe), son Scott (Kim), and grandchildren - Nick, Devon, Mitchell, Thomas, Kendall, Carly and Kai.

She is also survived by her brother Clay Powell, a lawyer.

To say that Sandra was strong willed, independent and one-of-a-kind would be an understatement. She was a remarkable person who touched and influenced many people.

A celebration of Sandra's life will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 2 at All Saints Anglican Church in King City.

Condolences, as well as favourite stories and fond memories of Sandra, may be forwarded to Scott at ssillcox@ca.inter.net.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation - Cancer/Palliative Care Unit or to a charity of choice.



Aurora's Marquee Theatrical Productions presents the musical "Oklahoma", opening April 16 at the Newmarket Theatre. Among the cast are, left to right, Morgan Lane, Marlo Alcock, Samantha Firman, Naomi Bristow and Tamara Jones. Tickets are \$25, and \$22 for seniors over 60 and children under 12.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Newspaper boxes may soon decrease

There may soon be fewer newspaper distribution boxes cluttering the sidewalks of downtown Aurora.

Town staff members have identified that there are currently at least 92 of these boxes in 26 locations, mainly on Yonge Street, but also along Wellington.

Apart from being unsightly, at some intersections they obscure the view of oncoming traffic, which makes it dangerous for cars turning onto these roads.

In response, a draft bylaw has been developed that would regulate the number and location of these boxes.

Vendors wishing to install boxes within Aurora would have to receive approval and pay a fee. Bins that were placed without this approval would be removed.

In developing this proposal, town staff members also reviewed the location and condition of boulevard waste containers.

It was noted there were several different types of containers in use, none of which permitted separation of materials for recycling.

Since some of these waste receptacles were in poor shape, the Public Works Department had budgeted to replace a number of them in 2008.

As part of their research, town staff members held discussions with

Creative Outdoor Advertising (COA), who currently provide the waste receptacles and benches at many of the bus stops along Yonge Street in Aurora.

COA has identified that they can provide the town with uniform benches, as well as waste receptacles, that allow for recycling.

They can also provide corrals to control the location and number of newspaper boxes.

Through preliminary discussions, COA has suggested they can supply all of these at no cost to

the town, since they recover revenues through advertising on the units.

In addition, COA would arrange for the garbage and recycling bins to be emptied.

At a recent General Committee meeting, council approved a motion that the distributors of the newspaper boxes in town be advised of the proposal for the draft bylaw, and that they be given the opportunity to provide input.

Staff members were also directed to continue discussions with COA.

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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
(1st light North of Wellington, West of Yonge)



Poor Richard

Town will have a tough time winning issue

*Council had a difficult decision,
As local planning was lost;
By letting the OMB make the call,
Without considering the cost
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

When the council chamber is full of citizens and special interest groups in opposition to an issue before council, it is difficult to make a decision opposite to the vocal opposition.

This happened recently when council voted to oppose a controversial golf course and condominium complex proposed to be located on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The project was opposed by residents and environmental groups.

The vote means residents have an ally in their battle which now moves to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Council also voted to have the issue dealt with by a joint board that would involve the OMB and an Environmental Review Panel to consider environmental as well as planning issues.

This was a good move but could be too little, too late as the date for the OMB hearing has already been set and pre-hearings have already been held.

In making their decision, council failed to look at the big picture and consider all the facts pertaining to the planning application which will be considered by the OMB.

This will be a costly case which the town has little chance of winning.

The original application dates back to 1989 when the applicant submitted a plan for estate residential on the Leslie Street property.

The application was appealed to the OMB in 1992 but as the proposed plan did not conform to the policy set by the Growth Management Review, a revised application was submitted in June and a public meeting was held in January, 2001.

In 2001 the province enacted the Oak Ridges Moraine Protection Act which had the effect of freezing development and although the application had been submitted prior to the retroactive date of November, 2001, it had not been decided and was in the transitional stage which the OMB will no doubt consider.

Since then the dispute raged back and forth with public planning meetings and continued opposition from residents and groups, especially after the passage of the Oak Ridges Moraine legislation.

At the recent meeting, council failed to take into consideration that the town's official plan policies provide for development on the lands providing there are private communal water and wastewater treatment facilities which are proposed by the applicant.

This may have been an error as most of the opposition is based on the use of water from the aquifer and the potential of draining private wells in the area and the impact on the Moraine.

It might have been much better to make a condition of approval that the applicant must hook up to the municipal water and sewage infrastructure at the developer's expense.

The OMB will also consider the testimony of the 13 consultants engaged by the developer in support of the application, and it is doubtful if the town can find or afford consultants to present the opposite side.

But the most damaging item against the town's case is the report that the application has the support of the Ministry of the Environment, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and York Region.

Based on all the information available, it would appear that this is a case the town cannot win before the OMB.

If that is the case the town has lost control of the planning issues as decisions will be made by the OMB and it has a reputation of favouring developers.

The town's only hope is to prepare a list of conditions and to include one about hooking up with municipal services with the request that the OMB impose the conditions if the town's opposition is rejected.

A former British Prime Minister once said the Art of Leadership was the Ability to "Say no" and this might have been the proper response in this case.



This is the Aurora High School Grade 9-C class taken in front of the Wells Street school building in 1950. Here's what we know: front row: Jim Hammond, Ron Campbell, Ken Parsons, Roger Rawlings, George Gould, Peter Vanderkooij, Bob Worley, John LoPatriello and John Obee. (Nine names and 12 in the row). Second row: George Vrana, Stephen Mills, Pat Simpson, Jean Rowat, Pat Henderson, Katherine Gunn, Doloris Hitchcock, Helen Doan, Sarah Vanderkooij, Jack Jans, Ted Rogers. (Eleven names and 13 in the row). Third row: Erna Eveleigh, Janic Carter, Carol Busby, Laura Mae Caulson, Evelyn Evans, Shirley Ellis, Mrs. Gerrow (teacher). (Seven names and 12 in the row). Back row: Fred Alpine, Suzanne Grew, Beth Hodgson, Gerry Campbell, Nance Beckwith, Ross Smith, Jim Bolsonella. (Seven names and nine in the row). The photo was supplied by Aurora Councillor Bob McRoberts and made up part of a book on the Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School Alumni Association. Williams, of course, was Aurora's first high school.

Letter to the Editor

He's looking for help installing bird boxes

To the editor,

The Aurora Environmental Committee's project to erect another 90 nest boxes in Aurora is progressing well.

Material has been donated and the plywood was cut up and made into nest box kits at very short notice by the Aurora seniors' woodworking group in the workshop at the seniors' centre.

The kits have now been nailed together (with a few blistered thumbs, including mine) by many volunteers, both young and old.

As in previous years, additional boxes also have been made and generously donated by Jim Spring and Tom Crosier.

By working together we have almost completed another successful year in this important community conservation activity.

In the recently published (Jan. 2008) Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario, it was reported that over the last 25 years, our tree swallow population has decreased by more than 50 per cent.

This makes the 346 young tree swallows that have been reared over the last two years in our boxes a valuable contribution to their survival.

We need volunteers, particularly strong men and women to help drive in the posts so that the boxes can be screwed to the posts by children and less robust adults.

We plan to put boxes in the

northeast corner of the Town around the stormwater pond at State Farm Insurance, also in the northwest part of Town along the wooded trail system and in the south part of Sheppard's Bush.

If you can help, we plan to meet Sunday, April 6, at the seniors' centre parking lot, 5 Municipal Drive, at 10 a.m.

Dress warmly and bring, if you have one, a portable cordless screwdriver or hand screwdriver with Robinson square heads together with a flat screwdriver to open the front of stiff boxes.

From early May to mid-July we also need volunteers who we can train to visit the boxes three or four times to make a record of the breeding success or failure of the birds using the boxes.

At present, besides tree swallows, they include chickadees, house sparrows, and blue birds.

We also expect other species to eventually make use of them.

In the fall, we sent these records to the Ontario Nest Record Scheme that, for the last 50 years, has been based at the Royal Ontario Museum.

This data base is used for conservation and research purposes and now holds more than 137,000 cards for 289 bird species.

Last year, the Town of Aurora was the fifth largest nest record card donor with 111 cards out of a total of

2,458.

This is a major contribution by Aurora's conservationists - or should I use the more up-to-date definition of "citizen scientists".

Call me at 905-727-8979 or

e-mail cejames@aci.on.ca if you are interested in helping in this important aspect of our nest box scheme.

David Tomlinson
Aurora

THE AURORAN

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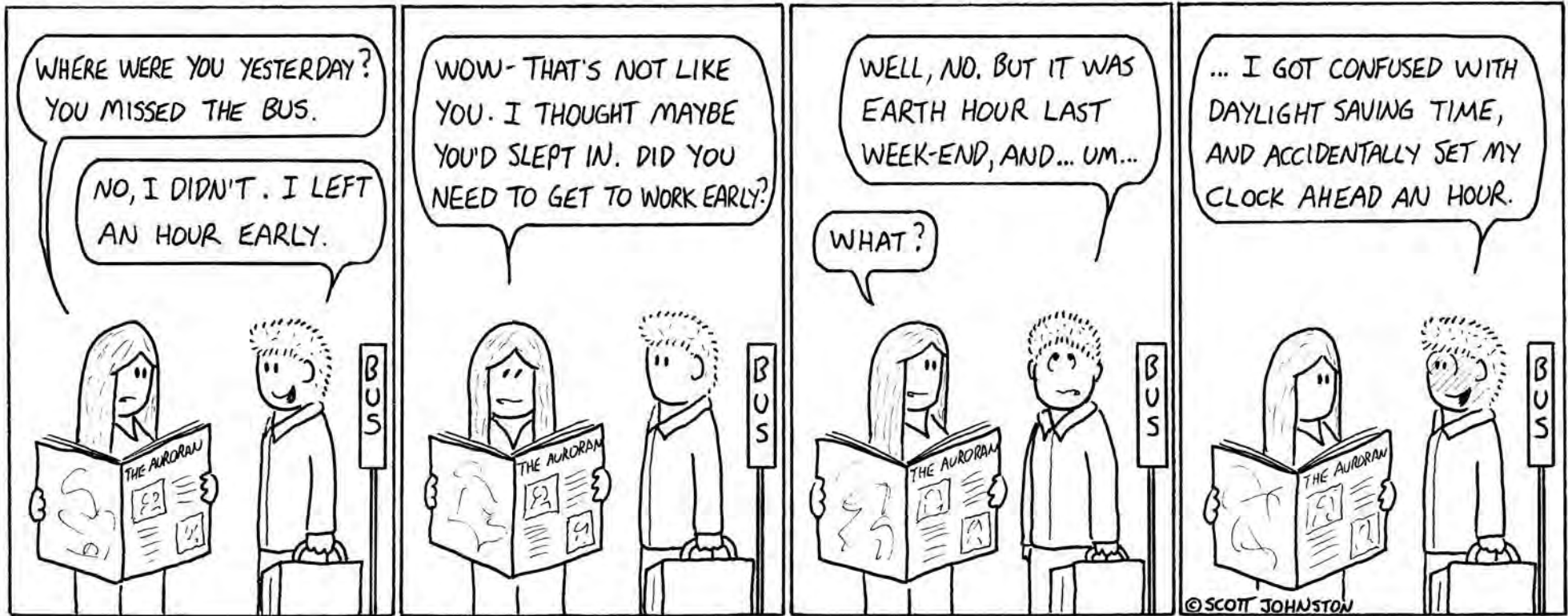
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Last week I wrote about the potential cancellation of York Region Transit ("YRT") Bus Route 34.

Due to a lack of ridership and based upon a survey, management at YRT had planned to cancel Route 34 along Aurora's 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 the Town Council.

What piqued my interest in this issue was the passion displayed in a number of the recent letters to the editor and also that this was/is a perfect example of the kinds of trade-offs that our council is forced to make.

I then laid out 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.

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."

According to the York Region website, the The Dial-a-Ride 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 replaced the regular bus route after 7.05 p.m. 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.

As I wrote last week, "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."

So what would I do, if I was, to use U.S. President George Bush's term, the "Decider"?

I would not wait for the May report. I would cancel Route #34 immediately and institute the Dial-a-ride service right away. Here's why.

As the facts show above, the route is not even coming

close to its minimum requirement threshold for either ridership or cost recovery.

And a survey of area businesses by the local Chamber of Commerce is meaningless at this point. The proof of the pudding is in the actual ridership numbers.

Heck, if you assume that the 38 people utilizing the route during the day is probably 19 people using the system twice a day and you then divide this number by the 9.5 hours or so of total daily coverage of the route, that means two people per hour are using the system; that is a ton of empty seats.

If we further assume that, since this route was discontinued, then the cost of a bus, plus its associated annual operating costs, and the reduced driver costs could net some significant savings.

As well, while the amount of money saved is not very much in the grand scheme of things, in the end, it does affect our property taxes.

And it is the accumulation of many so-called "small things" that cause our taxes to go up.

Further, council is faced pretty much every week with all kinds of difficult decisions and trade-offs. But this one is not so difficult.

It is not like taking the route away and leaving people with no other means.

Yes, I do sympathize with those 38 daily route users who will be inconvenienced by having to call ahead of time every time they have to take a taxi, but they are still receiving a reliable, publicly subsidized transit service.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

"I'm surprised they haven't done something about it."

I looked up from reading 'The Mongolian Times', and glanced over at my friend, John, whom I had run into at Yonge and Wellington.

Coincidentally, we were both there to grab the latest issue of the 'Times'.

"About what?" I asked, leaning back against the 'Undertaker's Weekly' box.

"About the number of newspaper boxes in town."

"Not enough?"

"No. Too many."

"That's ridiculous," I said, looking down the row of brightly coloured boxes. "How else would you get a copy of the 'Harpsichord Trader', or the 'Whittler's Digest', or 'Lemur Owner's Monthly'?"

"Well, I've heard people say the boxes are unsightly, and block the sidewalks, and make it hard to see around corners when you're driving."

"And when you think about it," he continued, "who needs to read up on lemur ownership, anyway? I mean, outside of Madagascar?"

"I don't know...exotic pets are big business. And come to think of it, I may have seen Lemur Chow recently at the pet store. They seem to carry everything these days."

But he had a point.

The row of boxes here, while colourful, did take up a lot of space, and there were two of them for the 'Bornean Gazette'. That seemed

like overkill. Although I did notice there weren't many papers left in either of them.

"Well, there must be a market for all these," I pointed out. "Otherwise, the boxes wouldn't be here. Maybe the Viva bus passengers scoop them to read on the way downtown."

"Surely, they could cut down on a few," John suggested. "How about 'Hang Glider's Quarterly'?"

"Oh, not 'HGQ', I said, moving protectively in front of the box. "In fact, I hear they're spinning off a new parasailing magazine. It would be handy to have access to that."

"Well, they've gotten rid of one," John observed, looking down the sidewalk, "I don't see 'Toaster Renters'."

"I think they just moved that across the street," I replied, pointing to the dozen or so boxes lined up along the other side of the road. "Along with 'Hovercraft Trader'."

"Hey, here's a new one," John said, indicating an orange coloured box. 'The Palindrome Press'. I wonder when that came in?"

It looked interesting, and you could start reading the paper at either the front or the back, which was kind of neat. We each grabbed a copy.

John shifted over as a lady reached behind him for a copy of the 'Greenland Daily Mail'.

"I guess they can't rid of the 'Mail' either," he said, as she hurried off. "How about 'Trigonometry News'?"

"Well, look," I replied, pointing. "The box is empty. And I know

they refill that one regularly. I got stuck behind the delivery truck the other day."

"You're right. Even though they restock these a lot, most of them are almost empty," he noted, opening another door. "See, there're only two issues of 'Cuttlefish Digest' left."

John took one before we moved on. But then, he always did like calamari.

Dodging folks reaching for their own copies of the various periodicals, we continued along the row of boxes, arguing the merits and potential readership of each publication.

By the time we reached "Spelunker's Express", which promised "all the underground dirt for the serious cave explorer", I'd come to a surprising conclusion.

"People seem to be reading all these newspapers. And not only that, there are probably more of them that should be available."

"That sounds about right," John agreed, shifting his newly acquired publications more comfortably under his arm.

"You know," he said, "I guess the real problem isn't that there are too many newspaper boxes in Aurora, it's that the town should set aside even more sidewalk space to hold them all."

"Yes," I agreed.

"I'm surprised they haven't done something about it."

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

YRT bus routes



BOUQUETS to the Spiritual Care Department at Southlake Regional Health Centre for providing Personal Care Packages to patients in various departments such as Emergency, CCU, ICU and Cardiology who come unprepared for a stay at the hospital.

BRICKBATS to Aurora Council for taking so long to make a decision to relocate the popular Farmers' Market to larger facilities at the Town Park from the Temperance Street parking lot. What should have been a relatively routine matter developed into a controversial issue with several deferrals.

BOUQUETS to Newmarket/Aurora MPP Frank Klees for hosting a roundtable discussion at Resthaven Nursing Home on the needs of long term care homes in comparison to the mockery antics of Health Minister George Smitherman who said he would wear an adult diaper for a day to find out the problems.

BRICKBATS to those who decided to eliminate eye surgeries once performed at York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill and moving them north to Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket and south to a hospital in North York leaving a large population in the south part of the region with the need to travel farther for treatment. Let's hear it from regional politicians!

BOUQUETS to Elizabeth Milner for capturing the history of Aurora during the years 1945 to 1965 in her book "Aurora 1945-1965", which is available at R & R Revisited, 95 Edward Street for \$19.95. It's well worth a read to obtain detailed information about Aurora.

BRICKBATS to a justice system which sentenced a 23-year-old Kingston man who was behind a massive child porn case, to only three years in prison. His crimes affected hundreds of victims in numerous countries by using the Internet and social networking websites. His victims will suffer for the rest of their lives, while he'll be a free man.

BRICKBATS to the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for their lack of funding for native schools in Canada, as it has been eight years since students in Attawapiskat in Ontario's far north were moved into temporary portables. So poor is the setting for learning that some students drop out before Grade 8. There is money to build needed schools in Afghanistan, but charity should begin at home.

BOUQUETS to the students of George Street and Aurora Senior Public Schools for participating in a tree planting project at Lions Park, behind the George Street School when 400 seedlings will be planted. The Conservation Authority is providing 100 white pine, 100 white spruce, 100 red oak, 50 nannyberry and 50 dogwood seedlings.

BRICKBATS to the CBC executives for running up huge bills staying at luxury hotels where rooms cost up to \$800 plus a night. Former CEO Robert Rabinovitch spent \$4,377 for a five-day stay in Turkey. Nancy Lee, former head of CBC Sports and her deputy David Masse, spent \$8,590 over five days in Berlin. Public servants should have limits on expenses.

BOUQUETS to the forecasters at Environment Canada for predicting warmer than normal temperatures for Southern Ontario with the exception of Ottawa.

BOUQUETS to Councillor Grace Marsh for obtaining council support to refer a City of Vaughan resolution regarding Tax Free Municipal Bonds to staff for review and comment, instead of receiving it for information as recommended by staff. Back in the 1960s Aurora issued municipal bonds and a number of citizens participated to support their own community.

BOUQUETS to all the people who are going to volunteer for the plea by CHATS for volunteers for its lunch program at the Aurora Legion and Hadley Grange. If you have a few hours a month to assist local seniors call Christine at 905-713-3373 ext. 6051.

Letters to the Editor

Evelyn needs to change her approach: former councillor

To the editor,

Poor Evelyn - your fellow councillors don't like you, they are not interested in using you as the reservoir of historical facts and information you profess to have or availing themselves of your learned and acquired wisdom (The Auroran, Letter to Editor - Week of March 25).

Evelyn, how self-serving and egotistical of you.

Surely by now you must know that every single councillor has something of importance to bring to the table, that all of your viewpoints and opinions are equally important and that while we must be mindful of our past and history, so that we do not repeat our mistakes, at times a new and fresh approach is what is required in this fast-paced, changing world.

We cannot always continue to do things as we used to just

because it worked in the past.

Having shared the council chambers with you for three years let me enlighten you as to why your fellow councillors may be looking at you with disdain.

It's your approach rather than the message.

Often times you speak in demeaning and sarcastic tones, most likely intended to provoke a reaction from one or more of your councillors.

You have perfected the art of

being disruptive beyond what is considered normal politics.

I have been the recipient of numerous interruptions by you during my sometimes passionate arguments on a "point of order", with the sole purpose of derailing my argument and provoking a reaction from me.

The end result is that your message, no matter how true or how well articulated, is not heard.

We are all human, and it is human tendency to tune out those who irritate us due to their inappropriate behaviour no matter how truthful or accurate their message is.

So, my unsolicited advice to you is this: change your approach, not your message.

You may be pleasantly surprised at the reception or support you receive.

Damir Vrancic
Former councillor 2001 - 2007
Aurora

Paper waster?

To the editor,

Why does The Auroran waste so much paper on Evelyn Buck's blabber-trash?

Does she own The Auroran?

I'm sure there are many other Aurorans who are sick and tired of seeing good space wasted.

Can't you do something about this?

T. Millar
Aurora

ED. NOTE: Ms Buck is as entitled to write Letters to the Editor as is anyone who follows the rules.

No, she does not own The Auroran.

Phantom tax "un-Canadian"

"An Open Letter to All Canadians"

Canadians for Fair and Equitable Taxation (see www.cfet.ca) is a growing group of ordinary hard-working Canadians who have seen their emotional and financial lives or those of friends and family severely impacted and in many cases devastated by the government taxing people on income they did not receive, a.k.a phantom income.

The situation arises from an oversight in the tax laws regarding acquiring shares under an employee stock option plan or stock purchase plan.

When an employee acquires such shares the law considers a paper gain to have been made and this is treated as employment income.

The problem occurs because any subsequent loss from the sale of those same shares is treated as a Capital loss which cannot be used to offset the deemed employment income.

As a simple example, an employee "exercises" stock options (they buy stock) at \$15 when the stock is trading at \$115.

He is deemed to have an employment income of \$100.

He then holds onto the shares and, as the stock tanks, sells them for \$15.

He now has a capital loss of \$100 but he cannot use that to offset the employment income so he ends up being forced to pay tax on \$100 he never made!

Since people never made the income they are being taxed on, they do not have the money to pay the tax on unrealized income.

This situation has already caused many to remortgage their houses, forfeit their life and retirement savings, cash in their RRSPs, and be otherwise very negatively financially impacted.

Some have even declared bankruptcy from being unable to pay the tax on money they did not make.

The great irony of the situation is that fixing it is largely revenue neutral for the government.

People who are assessed an employment gain on phantom income have a corresponding capital loss in their CRA record.

So, in effect, the government has a liability corresponding to the money they are collecting on the phantom income.

Over time, this is mostly a zero-sum game and revenue neutral since:

* While the person is alive, new capital gains are offset by the capital loss

* The capital loss may be applied against regular income upon a person's death and this income is often substantial as it includes final disposition of retirement plans, cottages and other assets

* For people who have deferred the stock option benefit, the employment benefit and capital loss cancel each other out at the time of death.

However, the current law forces people to liquidate assets to pay the unjust tax and then live in stress and misery until they reclaim the money ultimately settled when they die.

Aside from the obvious fairness issue, this is meanspirited and distinctly un-Canadian.

We believe that Canada is a rare industrialized nation in taxing people on phantom income.

The United States, for example, where two suicides are claimed to have resulted from the same issue, has recognized the error of such taxation and has adopted the following rule: "If the sales price of the shares is less than the Fair Market Value on the date of exercise, the amount of ordinary income is limited to the amount of gain, if any."

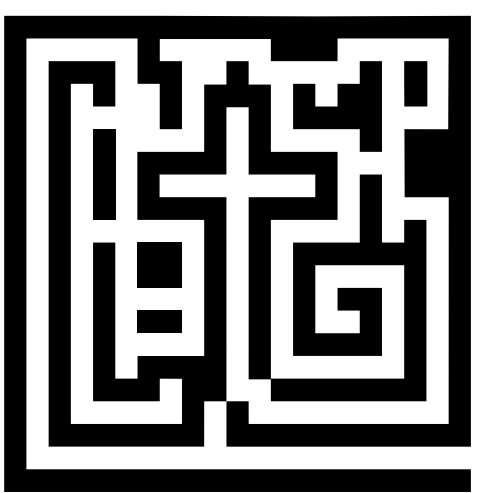
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Letters to the Editor

Perhaps the writer could start a paper in Bethesda

To the editor,

The proverbial 'sky is falling', or end-of-times scenario that Mr. Hugo Kroon obsesses about, has been ingrained in the human psyche since the dawn of time.

Indeed, many civilizations have met their end one way or another, neatly fulfilling their own prophecies of impending doom.

To those who believe the world is spinning out of control, akin to Mr. Kroon, finding solace in the past, when they were young and the world was right, is expected.

I suspect that Mr. Kroon is perhaps my elder due to his annoyance with my hyphenated surname. With all due respect, please use caution when romanticizing about the past, dear sir.

It was not long ago that in a botched British-led operation, Canadian soldiers were killed in the scores at Dieppe.

It was not long ago that European Jews were sent to the gas chambers.

The sky was literally falling during the Blitz.

Indeed, these were all an Armageddon for those who tread upon the earth before us.

In any moment of our collective human experience, there will always be an end-of-times.

The crux of all this misery and destruction comes change. The rebirth. The rebuild. The Rapture. The human spirit prevails.

In 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white man.

This little drop-in-the-bucket incident helped create a wave of change leading to the end of segregation in the United States.

It is, therefore, a seemingly small and insignificant action or idea that may lead to a paradigm switch. Imagine this: Rosa Parks was tired. She did

not give up her seat. She was arrested. The end.

In our very secure and somewhat mundane neck of the woods, does it really make a difference if we keep our dogs tied-up or hang our washing out to dry?

I cannot decide which is worse: a government that over governs or under governs.

I am sure, though, that using common sense or doing the right thing, is not as common as it should be.

Sometimes, we need a little nudge towards doing what is best for the common good.

It is interesting to note that Mohandas Gandhi, a product of such an underprivileged place in the world, once said that 'the greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated'. How we treat the easily conquered, whether it be our fellow man or lowly animal, speaks volumes.

It is not my personal mantra to raise animals to equal or exceed the rights of mankind.

It is surely our legacy, however, to be the stewards of this big, bad world.

If it means raising the bar on the simplest of issues, so be it.

Stewardship could be our personal drop-in-the-bucket that may eventually lead to change for the better. There are few who step up to the plate to initiate change.

Some run for office and some protest against government. Some have no government at all and some fight to create a democracy.

Perhaps, Mr. Kroon could put his heightened political awareness and lit-

erary skills to good use by starting up a community paper in Bethesda, as it appears there is no such publication in his area. It's never too late to try new tricks.

In closing, I would like to clarify that my feeble and off-topic attempt at poetry was to simply juxtapose the great lengths

at which Mr. Kroon pontificates.

As for the impending end to civilization as we know it, Mr. Kroon will certainly not deny us one last letter to the editor to gleefully exclaim "I told you so!"

**Julia Walkley-Sherman
Aurora**



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Good for Kroon: reader

To the editor,

Hooray to Mr. Kroon for daring to point out that the Environmentalist Emperor has no clothes on (Letter to the Editor, March 4, The Auroran).

Since the scientific enlightenment of the 18th Century, Christianity has progressively gone out of

favour and now in the Bishop Spong era, it has become decidedly unfashionable for "thinking" people.

The sanctimonious, having lost their Christian base, now zealously deprecate us with the sophistry of pop environmentalism.

I wasn't overly fond of them as Christians, I like them even less as environ-

mentalists.

When Messrs. Gore, Suzuki and their ilk lose their lustre, the sanctimonious will eagerly search out some other cause to put us down.

That is the nature of sanctimony.

**William Duthie
Aurora**

A tribute for Dr. Diamond

To the editor,

We are writing this note to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. Bill Diamond.

Not only was he a caring and attentive doctor, but he was also a kind and supporting friend which is extremely

rare in our healthcare industry.

Also, his staff of Sandy, JoAnne and Carol were always there to assist us in any way possible.

Bill gave his heart and soul to his patients and to our community which his family should be honoured

by and proud of.

We hope that all of his patients will be able to make a donation to the Southlake Hospital in his memory.

We will miss you Bill (Doc).

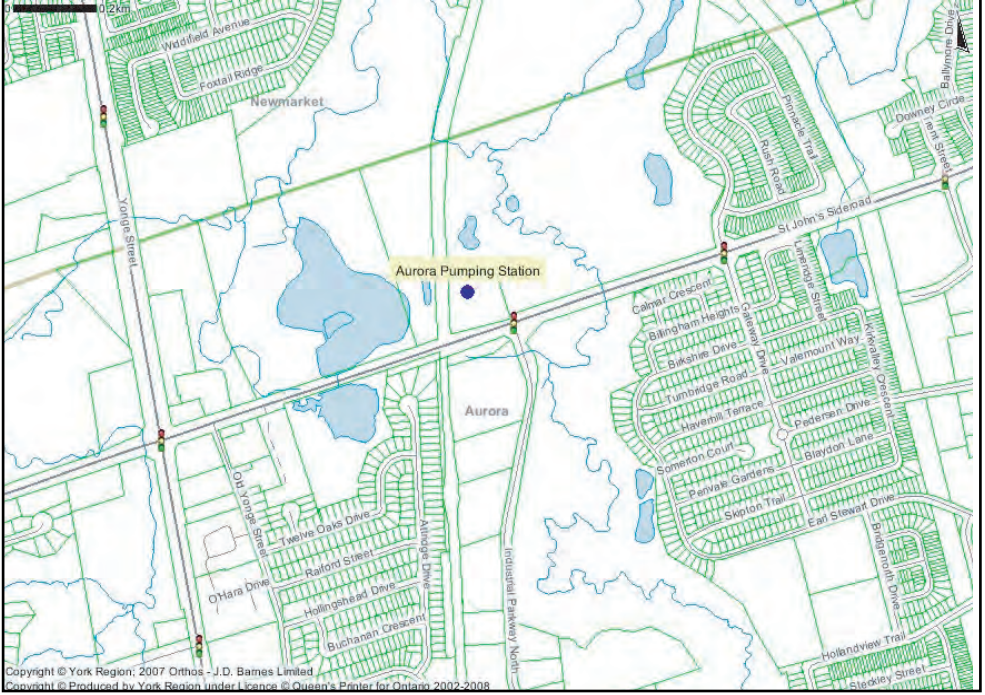
**Ron & Nancy Locking
Aurora**

Notice of Commencement of a Screening

The Regional Municipality of York (the "proponent") hereby files this Notice of Commencement of a Screening ("Notice") for a project at the Region's Aurora Pumping Station 242 St John's Sideroad, Aurora, ON (see map below) subject to the Ministry of Environment's Environmental Screening Process for electricity projects.

The proposed project involves operating one of the three existing emergency standby diesel generators for up to 200 hours per year during peak electricity demand periods to assist in relieving the stress on the electricity system within the Region. The existing emergency standby generator will be retrofitted with post combustion emissions abatement equipment that will reduce air and noise emissions in accordance with Section 9 of the Environmental Protection Act. This project was approved by Regional Council at its meeting held on March 29, 2007 and is fully described in Report # 3 to the Finance and Administration Committee, which can be found on the Region's web site or at the York Region Administration Building offices at 17250 Young Street, Newmarket.

For further information contact: Safety Power Inc., 155A Matheson Blvd., W. Suite 202, Mississauga, ON L5R 3L5 (905) 712-7877 –Attention: Robert Desnoyers



Dr. Craig Dingman



Birth Trauma – Part II

Traumatic Birth Syndrome (TBS) accounts for 85-95% of health problems chiropractors see even in adults. Believe it or not, this is a huge problem, which is largely misdiagnosed and under reported.

During the process of delivery, there is tremendous stress placed of the head and neck of the baby and often this stress causes Vertebral Subluxations of the very delicate spinal bones of the infant. This, in turn, affects the spinal cord and parts of the nervous system of the baby and can produce a myriad of health problems. These can appear seemingly unrelated to the

process of delivery, and can affect your child months or years later. Subluxations associated with birth trauma can be associated with SIDS, hyperactivity, chronic ear infections, lowered resistance, asthma, bed-wetting, loss of focus in school, Colitis, and a multitude of others including "signs of central motor impairment." According to Dr. Gutmann, a German specialist, a "spinal check-up after birth should be obligatory." As a matter of fact, some hospitals in Australia are having chiropractic doctors check the infant spine immediately after delivery to ensure a healthy spine and nervous system, free from subluxations. This is a good thing!

Why is this so important, you ask? to various "bugs" and infections.

Your child's spine is her/his lifeline. Running through it is the spinal cord containing billions of nerves that send vital messages and information from the brain to every part of the body and back again.

Yes, we all have our own internal Internet! As long as none of these messages are interrupted, your child should have optimal function and the best of health! If, however, there is an interference with this "information highway," - a vertebral subluxation, the messages sent by the brain will not reach the part of the body they are intended to reach. As a result, the body begins to work improperly. Chiropractors call this "malfunction." It can be a serious threat to health. This interference will also affect your baby's immune system, lower body resistance and leave your child prey

This is why it is so important to have children and babies checked by a chiropractor for the presence of subluxations affecting their nervous system.

In part III, I will outline routine labour and delivery procedures, some of which can contribute to TBS.

We'll discuss epidurals, forceps, vacuum extraction, C-section, episiotomy, and the ever popular "ultrasound."

Watch for my column in two weeks.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel very welcome to contact me at:
(905) 841-0400 or
www.healinghandsaurora.com

Popular Dr. Diamond is remembered

By RON WALLACE

He was affectionately known as “Billy Bandaïd” when Dr. Bill Diamond played hockey with the Aurora Church Dodgers Oldtimers team.

And most of the guys who played on the team with him showed up last week to pay their respects, following the death of the popular Aurora doctor.

There was Joe “Give-Em” DeGeer, and Joe “Splash” Hampton.

Two things became painfully evident leading up to his funeral.

Thompson’s Funeral Home, where four hours of visitation had been arranged, could barely cope with the nearly 1,000 people who showed up.

And St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, where the funeral was held, also couldn’t handle the crowds of people who attended.

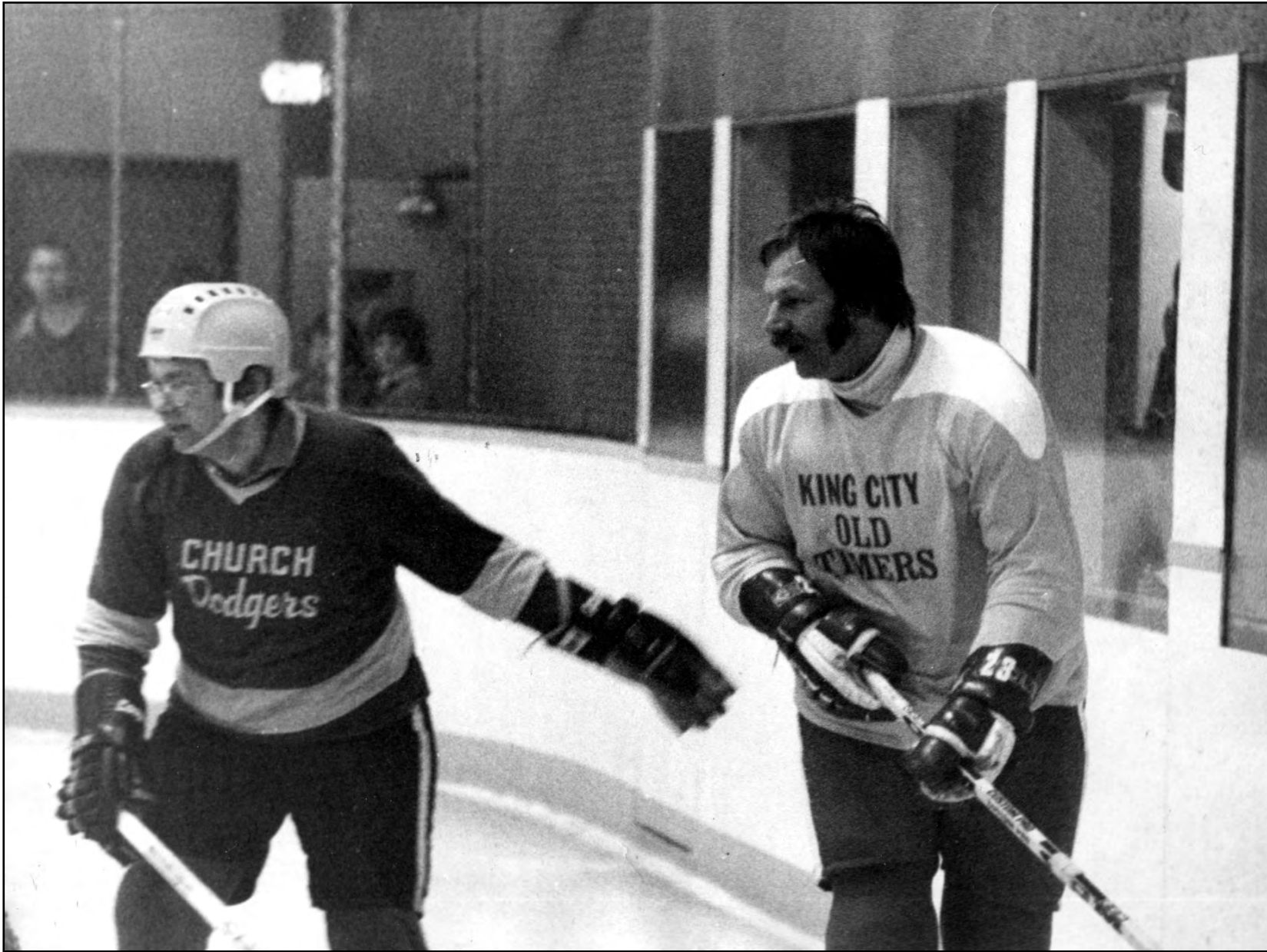
During the visitation, family members were suggesting to people that it wasn’t necessary to attend the funeral the following day.

The family probably would have been further ahead by renting the Aurora Community Centre.

A laid-back, quiet individual, Dr. Diamond likely didn’t have an enemy in the world.

You simply couldn’t help but like him.

And, of course, he



Bill Diamond, left, complains about the tactics of one Eddie Shack during an oldtimers’ hockey game in King City. Didn’t do much good, though; Eddie scored a hat trick as his club defeated the Aurora Church Dodgers 8-4.

probably delivered half the people living in Aurora.

Dr. Diamond was 71 when he took ill while on vacation in the Dominican Republic with his family.

He was air-lifted back to Newmarket and died at Southlake Regional Health Centre surrounded by members of his family.

While the good doctor may have delivered half the town - his favourite part of doctoring was delivering babies, he always said - Dr. Diamond was not local to this area.

He was born in Newfoundland... Wesleyville, to be exact.

He was the first boy to show up after five sisters had been born...Nona, Jean, Joyce, Pat and Bobbie.

Dr. Diamond’s daughter Andrea, asked at the funeral: “can you imagine sharing one bathroom with

five sisters?”

Growing up, it became evident that Bill Diamond would become a doctor. He was the only boy in the family and his father was the town doctor.

Following the death of her husband, Irene, Bill’s mother, moved the family to north Toronto and it was in high school where he met his future wife Noreen, sister of well-known Auroran Vic Priestly.

They were married in December, 1959, and started life together in a tiny apartment in the Medical Arts building in Toronto.

Noreen was a nurse and supported Bill through his medical training at the University of Toronto.

It was some 45 years ago, when Dr. Diamond began his career in Aurora as a family doctor.

Imagine, a doctor who made house calls.

His dedication to his patients and his practice was far and away over anything required by his physician’s oath.

He frequently would drive to York County Hospital in the middle of the night to deliver yet another baby.

“Delivering babies was one of dad’s favourite tasks,” daughter Andrea said. “as any of his patients know who have seen the hundreds of baby photos that adorned his office walls.”

The house in Aurora was in fact a small farm that included a barn.

Over the years, the Diamond family took care of cattle, pigs, chickens

and horses.

But, while Dr. Diamond was true to his profession, his love of hockey never waned.

He played on the intramural University of Toronto hockey team, the York County Hospital team and ended his career with the Aurora Church Dodgers.

It was prior to a game with the National Hockey League oldtimers, that members of the Church Dodgers were given nicknames, and that’s where “Billy Bandaïd” originated.

During one game back in the 90s, a fellow player was slightly hurt and they brought Dr. Diamond over to make sure everything was all right.

“Sorry, I can’t help you,” he smiled. “It’s a Rae Day.”

Dr. Diamond did, of course, help his teammate, who wasn’t seriously injured.

Despite their efforts, or lack of them, the Toronto Maple Leafs always had Dr. Diamond as a

staunch supporter.

When not playing hockey, he participated in skiing, and would often take his family to Vermont to ski during March Breaks.

He loved squash and tennis, and he and Noreen had a membership at Timberlane for more than 20 years.

Bill’s three sons, Arthur, Peter and Tim, have shown, over the years, the same work ethic as their father.

And daughter Andrea, who started her career in Aurora as a mechanical engineer, exuded that same work ethic.

Arthur is an architect, who has built several homes in Aurora, while Peter and Tim operate Diamond Groundskeeping, a highly-successful landscaping business in Aurora.

“Dad will continue to inspire us daily on how to live our lives by respecting others,” Andrea said. “We can only hope to inspire our children and others as he has inspired us.”



Dr. Bill Diamond following his graduation from the University of Toronto in 1961.



The last baby he delivered was Benjamin Miles Strickland, Oct. 28, 2005.



Bill celebrated his 65th birthday where else... at the office.

Town undecided on power request

Aurora Council is having a tough time coming to grips with the complex and controversial proposal by Ontario Power Authority (OPA) to build a 350-megawatt natural gas-peaking generator in Northern York Region.

Jack Gibbons of the Ontario Clean Air Alliance appeared before council last week to point out that the OPA proposal was too big, too costly and too polluting.

He agreed that Northern York Region needs more locally supplied electricity but repeated that the proposed plant was too big and if built would double the area's peak demand.

He added that the area's demand could be met by a combination of energy conservation and demand management, renewable energy and combined heat and power.

If a simple cycle power plant was needed, it should be capped at 30 megawatts, he said.

He urged council to ask Energy Minister Gerry Phillips to permit the OPA to contract for a small 30 megawatt simple cycle power plant as being in the best interests of the Northern York Region.

He pointed out the merits of PowerStream's Peaksaver program and encouraged council to assist PowerStream in aggressively promoting the energy saving program.

He also urged council to petition the Energy Minister to direct the OPA to remove its cap on the quantity of demand reductions it will purchase in Northern York Region and to pay the same price for demand reductions in the region as in downtown Toronto.

Finally, he recommended that the town create a list of municipal buildings that could be cost-effective hosts for small-scale combined heat and power plants.

Correspondence was also received from the OPA confirming its plan for new electricity generation requirements in Northern York Region.

Their plan has several coordinated and integrated components to ensure adequacy of supply in the most cost-effective fashion while meeting all environmental standards.

The plan involves cost-effective conservation initiatives, upgrading both the local distribution system and transmission facilities throughout the area.

It also involves the construction of a new gas-fired generating station capable of producing approximately 350 megawatts, to connect readily to the electricity system.

There was considerable discussion and concern expressed that the generation plant could be imposed on the municipality and questions were asked about zoning.

Staff members replied several times that no application had been received and if one was received it would have to go through the normal planning process as currently there were no lands suitably zoned to accommodate a generation plant.

As several councillors had questions without answers it was finally agreed to refer all the material to staff to pull it all together, listing the pros and cons of the various issues with a report coming to council by mid-April.

A public meeting would also be arranged with a panel from various groups and an independent moderator.

In February, council spent almost two hours trying to untangle the complex issue of power generation for the northern part of the region, following the cancellation of the OPA proposal to enhance the transmission line from Markham to Newmarket through

Aurora.

Finally, council reaffirmed its position that the working group be re-established and that staff prepare a report on the pros and cons of local generation and transformers located in Aurora.

At a subsequent meeting staff members pointed out that having a peaking station would provide Aurora as well as Northern York Region with a reliable power supply.

The location of the generation plant has not been established, but if the plant was to be located in Aurora it would likely be on vacant industrial land and would delay the need for high voltage transmission lines coming from the southern portion of the region.

It was also pointed out at the time there would be a need for high voltage lines from the generation plant to the Armitage transformer station and it should be made clear that if the plant is located in Aurora that any transmission lines must be underground.

In addition, there would be certain site plan constraints that would be necessary in order to have a generation plant.

There is also the potential for negative public reaction to an application for a local generation plant or transformer station.

In the meantime, it's a waiting game as the generating plant could be located in any one of the six northern municipalities.



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Tigers trailing, but hanging on

By the time you read this, members of the Provincial Junior A Aurora Tigers hockey team could be looking for a golf course.

That's the scenario as they went back to the Aurora Community Centre Monday night, trailing in their semi-final series 3-2.

The home town, with regular crowds in excess of 500 people, could help them force a final game in Oakville, but not if they continue blowing three-goal leads.

They did it twice last week, and one game resulted in a 4-3 Tiger loss in overtime. In the second game they were more fortunate and held onto a 3-2 win.

Results of Monday night's game were not available at press time. Check our website - www.aurorancom for the story.

After tying the series at a game apiece, Aurora and Oakville, last Wednesday night, battled through two scoreless periods until a Nick McParland goal for the home town Blades slipped past Aurora's Aaron Barton to give his club a one-goal edge.

That goal, the only one of the game, would lift the Blades to a 1-0 win over the Tigers and give the team a 2-1 lead overall in the series.

For two and a half periods the teams were deadlocked at Joshua Creek Arenas in Oakville.

Half way through the third, however, Oakville went ahead on a screen shot that eluded the Tigers goaltender and the opposition shut the door for the remainder of the game.

"You are not going to win any games where you can't even score a goal," said a frustrated Aurora coach Jerome Dupont. "It's not like we didn't have our chances."

But Friday night back in Aurora, things went from bad to worse.

After going up by three goals, the Tabbies looked to repeat their feat from the weekend before, and come back with a big effort and a much needed win against the club that had beaten them a few days earlier.

And in the beginning that seemed to be the storyline the night would follow - for the first half of the game at least.

However, the end would turn out very different than the start and once again the Tigers fell short.

Tigers went up 3-0 on

three unanswered goals before the ice was dry at the start of the second period, however, that soon seemed as irrelevant as yesterday's lottery numbers after the Blades ordered up three unanswered goals of their own to even the game at three and send it to overtime.

And then, Oakville's Kellan Lain made sure his team's hard work was not in vain as he sealed the victory with his second goal of the series to give Oakville a 4-3 win and put them ahead three games to one in the series, only a single game away from ending the Tiger's season.

With the season literally on the line the Tigers travelled back to 401 Oakville for game five with the Blades, down three games to one in the series and potentially just 60 minutes away from joining the rest of their vanquished foes in elimination.

The game began as a carbon copy of the game previous, a quick Aurora lead on three unanswered goals in the back of the net before the second half of the second with David Morley, Mark Thorburn and Cody Smith doing the damage for the Tabbies.

However, at 10:39 of the second, the game began to take a similar turn to the

game before when Chris Haltigan sent a shot past Aurora's Aaron Barton on the powerplay to cut the Tiger lead to 3-1.

The fear was fortified even more in the middle of the third when Hartigan scored his second of the game to make the score 2-3, but with visions of another blown lead dancing in their heads goaltender Aaron Barton and the rest of the Tigers buckled down and shut the Blades out for the remainder of the game to secure a 3-2 win, pushing the series to a sixth game Monday night in Aurora.

Aaron Barton once again saw action in all games over the week and posted a 1-3 record to match his team's luck verses the Blades despite bringing his usual stellar play between the pipes.

The Oakville Blades now boast a three game to two lead over the Tigers going into Monday night action at the Community Centre, and will look to close out the series that same night with a win in game six and advance to the OHA finals verses the winner of the Markham - Wellington series.

On the flip side the Tigers will try to keep their hopes alive with a win Monday night and can only hope to be able to put a

sting of wins together and take the Blades in seven.

Game seven will go, if necessary, Wednesday night in Oakville.

OAKVILLE 1 AURORA 0

First Period

No scoring

Second Period

No scoring

Third Period

O: Nick McParland (Birch, Moodie) 8.44

OAKVILLE 4 AURORA 3 (Overtime)

First Period

A: Mark Thorburn (McGarry, Smith) PP 1.39

Second Period

A: Jordan Watts (McGarry, Smith) PP 3.50

A: Matt Thomson (Thorburn, Morley) 10.33

O: Julian Cimdamore (unassisted) SH 13.01

Third Period

O: Julian Cimdamore (Ribeiro, Grenier) 14.53

O: Jeremy Welsh (Haltigin, McParland) 19.12

Overtime

O: Kellan Lain (Welsh, Guimond) 10.28

AURORA 3 OAKVILLE 2

First Period

A: David Morley (Thorburn, Novak) 1.06

A: Mark Thorburn (McGarry, Morley) 4.35

Second Period

A: Cody Smith (McLaughlin, Dupont) 8.19

O: Chris Haltigin (Grenier, McParland) PP 10.39

Third Period

O: Chris Haltigin (Cimdamore, McParland) 10.08

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WINNERS

Atom AE Tiger team wins all the marbles

The Aurora Tigers Atom AE hockey team are Ontario Minor Hockey Association champions.

The Tigers defeated the Ajax Knights 5-3 in the final playoff round recently to cap a magnificent season.

The Tigers had earned victories in the first two games of the best-of-five final before losing Game 3

in overtime after the Knights overcame 3-1 third-period deficit.

Aurora showed great character in coming back the next day with a gritty effort.

After Ajax took the lead in the second period, Sandy Hudson scored to tie it, and Chris Klinowski and Adam Newell scored early in the

third period to break a 3-3 deadlock.

The Tigers relied on solid defense and strong goaltending to do the rest.

The team got a psychological lift from blueliner Steven Tsianos, who played the final two games despite suffering a broken wrist during March Break.

Aurora's championship

run followed a year in which the Atom AE team dominated the York-Simcoe league.

The Tigers posted a 26-1-1 record in the regular season and then swept Markham, Barrie and Newmarket in the first three rounds of the playoffs, as Austin Insley and Alex Negri combined for five shutouts in nine games.

District athletes benefit from PowerStream official opening

While athletes around the world continue to train for what they hope will result in gold medals at this year's summer Olympic Games in Beijing, management and staff at PowerStream, Inc., the electric utility which services Aurora, Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan, also have their sights set on achieving a gold standard, but in another arena.

The 'Going for the Gold' theme was evident last week with three-time Olympian Mark Heese and four Olympic hopefuls from PowerStream's service territory on hand to assist PowerStream in officially opening its new head office building, a facility which is being targeted to achieve LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) gold certification from the Canada Green Building Council.

Heese, an Aurora resident, who recently captured his record 10th National Beach Volleyball Championship and won an Olympic bronze medal at the Atlanta Summer Olympic Games in 1996, spoke about the importance of the environment and the task of adopting a greener approach.

In speaking about setting goals to protect the environment he praised PowerStream for the position the company has taken in conservation and sustainability.

"PowerStream's energy-efficient head office establish-

es a clear vision and a leadership position against a goal that is often sighted as 'unrealistic' – the goal of saving our planet," he said.

In recognition of setting and striving to achieve goals, the mayors from each of the municipalities served by PowerStream, assisted the company in presenting each of the young athletes in attendance with a \$1,000 bursary – Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris, to triathlete Ania Batko; Vaughan Mayor Linda Jackson, to tennis player Peter Polansky; Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti, to gymnast Caya Colling; and Richmond Hill Mayor Dave Barrow, to sprint canoeist Paul Bryant.

"We felt it was important for our company to not just simply walk the walk, but to lead the walk. It is our hope that our new head office building will serve as an example to other businesses that may be considering the construction of new facilities in the future," said Brian Bentz, President and CEO, PowerStream. "By incorporating LEED® standards into the construction of this building we will be able to reduce our annual operating costs, contribute to creating a healthier workplace for our employees while at the same time minimizing our environmental footprint."

PowerStream chose to design and construct its new head office building, a 92,000 square foot facility, located in

Vaughan at Highway 400 and Major Mackenzie Drive, has been designed with the latest sustainable features, such as high-efficiency heating, cooling and plumbing systems, solar panels, a wind turbine and a storm drainage pond

that will be used for landscape watering.

It has been designed to a Gold LEED® standard.

PowerStream is an incorporated entity, jointly owned by the City of Vaughan and the Town of Markham.

Novice girls win Brampton tourney

The Aurora Panthers Novice Girls won their third tournament of the year capturing the 41st annual Brampton Canadettes Tournament recently.

The girls captured the title defeating the Kitchener Lady Rangers 2-0 after scoring two late goals in the third period.

Rose Falzone scored the winner with 1.19 left and added an empty netter later.

Natalie Thompson recorded her fourth shutout of the tournament making several key saves.

The Panthers opened the tournament with wins over Sudbury, 2-0, Kitchener, 5-0 and Belleville, 6-0. They advanced to the semi-finals defeating Scarborough 2-1 before shutting out the Lady Rangers for the second time in the final.

This past weekend the Panthers finished third in the LLFHL playoffs winning a bronze medal by defeating Guelph 2-0.

The girls are off to Provincial action from April 11 to 13.



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Fans will determine Tigers future

It's a sad commentary on community pride when a local Junior A hockey team wins the North Division title playoffs for the sixth time in seven years and fewer than 300 spectators saw it happen

Twice the team has gone all the way to the Royal Bank Cup, winning it in 2004 and in the 2007 finals, defeating teams from across the country on the way.

Back in the 1960s, the former Aurora Tigers, then in the "B" league, used to pack the old Yonge Street Arena before it burned down in 1965.

The hockey was exciting, as it still is, and the fans came out in droves, some actually sitting in the rafters of the old arena on Yonge Street.

Today, the land is still vacant, but Park Place Manor is immediately south of the location.

The hockey action and fan support continued with the move to the new Community Centre, and operated under several owners.

By 1972 the Tigers had advanced to the "A" league with a better brand of hockey.

For two seasons, in 1971 and 1972, the Tigers introduced a real live tiger cub during the opening game ceremonies to start the season, but in 1973 as a full-grown cat, the tiger had developed a mind of its own

when he refused to budge after the opening ceremonies.

By September, 1984, after a few seasons of poor hockey and dwindling fan support, Ted Tobias took over as part owner and coach and promised to bring hockey back to Aurora.

Even though the team continued to excel on the ice, the average game attendance was about 500, about 300 lower than expected.

In February, 1985, the Tigers finished the league in second place behind the Orillia Travelways to win a bye for the Centennial Cup.

In the semi-final round the Tigers played a seven-game series against Newmarket with the fans clamouring for more.

Aurora won the series in seven, winning 8-5 in the deciding game.

The Tigers met the Sudbury Cubs in the final seven-game series and came out roaring like the Tigers of the old days to sweep the series in four games, which put Aurora into a four-team round robin competition.

May 4, 1985, was Centennial Cup Day in Aurora as council proclaimed the day as Aurora Tiger Day and Centennial Cup Day and gave permission for a parade and a banner over Yonge Street.

Council also agreed to spend up to \$500 for a

reception for the Penticton, B.C. team staying at Hotel Aurora for the big game.

It was a waste of money as the Penticton Knights eliminated the Tigers after a hard fought game.

While the Tigers had a winning season on the ice, there were problems behind the scenes due to a dispute over team ownership.

Council of the day directed the town solicitor to seek a judgement against the Tigers in an effort to recover approximately \$10,000 outstanding for ice time and the town also seized Tiger equipment.

After a year without Junior hockey, in March, 1986, the incoming council threw the Tigers a lifeline by withdrawing the direction to obtain a judgement and the hibernating Tigers returned for the 1986/87 season under new ownership.

Because the new owners didn't want to be affiliated with the troubled history of the Tigers, the team name was changed to the Aurora Eagles.

Even though the Eagles established themselves as a first-class hockey organization, hockey fans were conspicuous by their absence with an average attendance of 200 to 300 when about 400 was needed to break even.

In March, 1992, the Aurora Eagles reached the Ontario Hockey Association quarter-final round but lost out to the Milton Merchants

in the seventh game.

More than 1,500 fans were in attendance for the home games.

The Eagles flew for a few more years but returned to their nest and the Tigers came out of hibernation to keep hockey alive in Aurora.

By 2003, the Tigers were almost invincible on the ice but the owners of the team were losing as much as \$150,000 a year and the future of the team was at stake.

The team was attracting about 300 fans to the games and the owners said at least 500 was necessary to survive.

Hockey in Aurora has produced a large number of professional or well-know hockey players.

They include Dit Clapper (Boston Bruins), Bob Wall (Detroit Red Wings/L.A. Kings), Norm Dennis (Montreal Canadiens), Keith Wright (Boston Bruins) and Rick Hampton (California Golden Seals/Cleveland Barons).

Others include Dave Dryden (Buffalo Sabres/Edmonton Oilers), Greg Hotham (Toronto Maple Leafs/Pittsburgh Penguins), and Barry Cook (New York Rangers).

In September, 2006, Tiger head coach Jerome Dupont, himself a former NHLer, was named head coach for Canada's Eastern Team representative for the inaugural World Junior A Challenge which was held

in Saskatchewan.

Now on the verge of elimination this year in the first round outside their own Provincial Junior A North Division, the Tigers are

drawing more than 500 fans to their home games at the Aurora Community Centre, but unless that number stays, Junior hockey in Aurora may disappear.



AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



Registration for the 2008-2009 Hockey Season

Registration for the 2008-2009 hockey season is now open. 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 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We will be closed on May 17th.

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

For anyone who would like to pick up a "permission to skate" form in person, the hockey office will be open on two dates in April: April 9 and April 16 between the hours of 6.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m.

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

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Fri	ARC E	9-May-08	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	1.5	Tyke Select
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



The music department at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School is rehearsing for two Spring trips in April. The Grade 10 band, under the direction of Don Bowles, is off to New York City. That band scored a first with 90 per cent in the annual Toronto Kiwanis Festival. The senior band, led by Penny Sedore (that's Penny in the front row, fifth from the left) is off to Boston to enter a competition. Mrs. Sedore was one of 15 conductors out of 167 bands in the Ontario Band Festival to win a Conductor's Award.

Old Yonge St. house may become an office

An application was heard at a public planning meeting last week for a rezoning amendment to permit a single family residence on Old Yonge Street, located on a property immediately south of the Oakland Hall Restaurant, to be used as an office building.

At a previous public planning meeting held in March, 2006, Aurora Council approved an application to add seven townhouses to the property with the retention of the residence.

A site plan was submitted and approved by council but was not executed by the owner and since then the property has been sold.

The new owners propose to rezone the property to a site specific special mixed density residential exception zone to permit professional and business offices and conversion of the existing residence for office use.

The site specific zoning is sought to accommodate the conversion of the existing dwelling to an office for Proleilenium Medical Technologies, a business involved in the sale of cosmetic

goods to physicians.

The operations at the site will include telephone operations, administration and the processing of orders by six employees.

There will be no shipping, warehousing or product deliveries associated with the operation.

No external renovations to the building are proposed, but if the application is considered to have merit the owner will be required to submit a site plan application for the proposed changes to the parking area.

Staff members noted that the proposal to permit business and professional office use, excluding medical, and associated development standards within the existing residential dwelling is considered appropriate from a land use planning perspective and represents proper and orderly development.

A traffic study indicated that the previously approved townhouse development would result in considerably greater traffic impact than the call centre and order processing type of office being proposed.

Staffers reported that written

correspondence had been received from two area residents expressing concern about the compatibility of the proposed use, parking congestion and removal of trees.

Howard Freidman, a planner representing the applicant, provided background about the company and stressed that it was a call centre and a small scale business and there would be no client visits.

The residential exterior would be retained, he said.

Two citizens were in attendance to speak in opposition to the application. Concern was expressed about opening the door to other applications and the potential future uses of the property.

It was requested that, if approved, council ensure that the finished product was what was promised with no surprises.

Even though staffers advised that any future application would have to go through the normal planning process, some councillors still expressed concern about future uses as raised by the resident.

Concerns were also expressed about the loss of

trees for the parking lot, the need for a report from an arborist, and screening to protect residents to the south.

Staff members said the site plan would give council control.

A motion by Councillor Evelyn Buck that the application be approved subject to the resolution of outstanding issues was amended to include several of the issues before finally being adopted.

Committee adopts new building fees

Aurora's general committee recently adopted. and council approved Tuesday, a staff report that the bylaw establishing fees and charges for 2008 be amended to reflect changes in fees for the Building Administration Department.

At the time of the passing of the bylaw, two items were missed: Administrative Costs and Property Purchase

Requests Subdivision Letter.

The changes are recommended as a result of the work that is involved to complete the reports and the reports are for the benefit of the person requesting them and not the municipality as a whole.

It was recommended that the person making the request should pay for them.

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Klees seeks transportation help

In a letter to Bill Fisch, Chairman of York Region, Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees, the Progressive Conservative critic for Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, called on the Region to prioritize wheelchair accessible bus services as part of its spending plans with respect to the \$7.8 million of additional year-end funding that was recently announced by the provincial government.

Klees pointed out that lack of transportation services for people with disabilities and residents of long-term care homes was one of the key issues raised by participants at a recent meeting he hosted at the Aurora Resthaven Long-Term Care Residence.

Participants, which included residents of long term care homes, adminis-

trators and health care workers, pointed out that it is impossible to get residents to and from activities in the community.

The result is that residents' physical activity is limited and their quality of life

suffers.

"This is an opportunity to improve the quality of life of our seniors and people with disabilities," Klees said. "The funding is there. Now it's a matter of prioritizing and providing for their needs."

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Captain Hook (Joe Likuski) and Peter Pan (Caileigh Kyle) square off during rehearsals for a



musical version of "Peter Pan", left, while the Darling family, consisting of Joan Hargrave, Gillian

Kouhi, Zach Baranowski, Rhiannon Kyle, and Justine Turl, gather.

Peter Pan musical will fly into theatre-goers hearts

The Aurora Performing Arts Group will present Peter Pan, the musical version, at the Newmarket Theatre, April 10 to 13.

Director Sarah Kyle fell in love with Peter Pan when she was three and saw the original touring production in Toronto.

She views this production as a way to introduce young audiences to the thrill of live theatre, and a way to encourage families of all ages to enjoy an evening out.

"Peter Pan appeals to the child in all of us, and it's an experience I've never forgotten," she said. "My vision was to present this classic to a new generation of children, and to encourage that child found in every adult to come out and play. It's about giving them the same thrill that every child gets when seeing Mary Martin, Sandy Duncan or Cathy Rigby

do Peter Pan. I want to share with them the kind of old fashioned, storytelling musicals that I grew up seeing. Peter Pan should be every child's first show!"

Peter Pan combines veteran actors from Aurora Performing Arts Group such as well-known Aurora tenor Joseph Likuski, teen stage veterans Caileigh Kyle and Brittany Jamieson alongside young students and even a fresh new debut for many Aurora non-professional actors from age five through adult.

The production will feature special effects from "Flying by ZFX," the U.S. production company that has "flown" many Broadway productions of Peter Pan.

Under Kyle's direction, audiences will be transported from the buttoned-down world of Victorian England to the excite-

ment of Peter's home in Neverland.

She has drawn inspiration from the original Broadway choreography of Jerome Robbins to create an energetic and fast-paced world of make believe that will enchant adults and children of all ages.

Peter Pan is magic and mayhem, action and adventure, fun and fantasy - all wrapped up in a timeless story that will delight children and adults alike.

Peter Pan is a classic tale of

youth, joy and freedom-all captured in a lavish new production based on the play by Scottish author J.M. Barrie, lyrics by Carolyn Leigh, Betty Comden, Adolph Green and music by Mark Charlap and Julie Styne.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, and \$18 for students and seniors.

To purchase individual seats for any performance go on line at www.newmarkettheatre.ca or call the box office at 905-953-5122.



Tiger Lily (Briana Fife) and Peter Pan (Caileigh Kyle) enjoy a moment together during rehearsals for musical that opens at the Newmarket Theatre April 10.

Bud Rodger

From page 1
al review, the town's administrative structure was changed resulting in Rodger being appointed the town's first CAO in 1986.

He was highly respected by his peers and was elected President of the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers.

He served on the Board of Directors of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and was highly respected for his knowledge of municipal law.

Then in December, 1987, when he upheld statutory requirements, a split Aurora council on a 5-4 vote asked him to resign or be fired with no reason given to the public for their decision.

In January, 1988, he submitted his resignation as requested rather than resolve the issue through an

appeal to the Labour Relations Board.

He later admitted that the infighting and animosity displayed by some members of council made the council the most difficult he had worked with in his 31 years of municipal work.

In February, 1988, a citizen movement petitioned the provincial government to investigate council's action and lack of explanation.

In November that year, his forced resignation became an election issue with Rodger running unsuccessfully for mayor in a three-way race with incumbent John West and Councillor Richard Barker.

The Rodger family moved to Barrie and he served as a municipal consultant with Reid and Associates and continued to assist the municipal sector.

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Senior Scape

By BRIAN WARBURTON

It's time to enroll in senior games

Hopefully Easter was well enjoyed by most people if not everybody, and certainly an improvement on what passed for the first day of spring, a spring I might add devoid of anything growing in local gardens, and leaving the spring flowering bulbs to our imaginations.

If this is global warming, how would we deal with global cooling?

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) has planned a trip to visit the Royal Ontario Museum April 21, and the deadline to register is April 8.

This trip is not too far to travel and will absorb anybody interested in history, culture, architecture, the sights of downtown Toronto, lunch at the Duke of York, shopping and the promise of a great time for all who go.

Toronto is a world class city and the Royal Ontario Museum is a world class attraction.

For those who take trips frequently, a "Trip Card" is available at the reception desk, which grants one half price trip after purchasing six regular trips.

See Virginia for details.

The York Region 55 + Summer Games will be held May and June 2008.

If you live in York Region and you are 55 years or older, you are eligible to enter.

The games include about 18 events, and no event is too demanding physically for most seniors, but not all seniors.

Everybody must be their own judge of what is demanding or too demanding.

Golf and Pickle Ball are included; and a three-kilometre walk is scheduled, which many seniors walk several times weekly.

Contract Bridge, Bid Euchre, Progressive Euchre and Cribbage should attract a healthy turnout judging by the popularity of card games at the centre.

Pool and Snooker are listed and here again, male and female play at the centre.

I should mention Carpet Bowling and Pickle Ball

which are also available at the centre and are very popular.

More events are available and Registration Forms may be had from the Recreation Departments of each Municipality in the Region of York and at most Seniors' Clubs.

Nomination forms for Community Recognition Awards 2008 for the Town of Aurora are now available, through Lucas or at the reception desk.

Many members perform volunteer work in an outstanding fashion and always answer the call when something needs to be done.

If you know someone who you consider to be deserving of such recognition, please submit his or her name and a brief summary of achievements, not later than April 15.

For all retired carpenters or amateur wood workers, or anybody who would like to try their hand at wood working, the wood working facility is highly recommended.

Everybody is welcome with experience or without.

We have volunteers who will teach safety and the rudiments of what should be learned.

The wood shop has been open approximately one year now, and time and room are available for more enthusiasts to get involved.

Because the shop only accommodates six members at a time, you will need to book your time to participate at the front desk.

And a good note to end on is my meeting with Dick Illingworth, who is up and about and functioning. I greeted him and we exchanged a few words, and he appeared to be in excellent spirits.

CDA Association seeks location for drop-off

The Canadian Diabetes Association Clothesline Program collects clothing and small household donations from residential communities by making a pre-arrangement with donors, but the timing is not always convenient.

In order to better serve donors, the association sets up attended donation stations throughout the municipality where local residents have the opportunity to donate directly.

The association sent a letter to Aurora Council seeking assistance in finding a place to place their drop box at an attended donation station such as a community centre, hockey rink or any available

extra space.

It was pointed out that diabetes is an epidemic in Canada affecting more than 2 million Canadians and contributing to a host of serious complications.

Through the association's Clothesline Program, it raises funds for diabetes research, education, service and advocacy.

In 2007, more than \$6.2 million was dedicated to a research funding program, delivering an educational program and a summer camp for children and their families.

Council referred the request to staff members to determine whether the town had a suitable location for a drop-off.

Seniors may get shovelling break

At a recent meeting of the general committee, Aurora Councillor Stephen Granger presented a Notice of Motion regarding snow removal for seniors.

Last week, at a general committee meeting he presented his motion recommending that staff bring back to council options and costs associated with offering Aurora seniors who are unable or physically challenged, a Snow Plow Windrow Removal Program, similar to that offered by other York Region municipalities.

He pointed out that Aurora winters are becoming more severe leading to a significant increase in stress associated with the current number of occurrences of heavy snow plow windrows to Aurora seniors.

The removal of the snow plow windrows at the end of the driveway can be, in some cases, a huge undertaking, causing much inconvenience to Aurora seniors by not allowing them access out of their driveway for essential appointments and the services they require.

He included copies of policies in effect in other municipalities within the region and e-mails received from seniors and citizens supporting his proposal.

The general committee endorsed his proposal, which was adopted Tuesday by council.

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[www.theatreaurora.com/playwrightsofspring.html](http://www.theatreaurora.com/playwrightsofpring.html)

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Vacant Yonge Street properties

In June, 2006, the town's Economic Development Advisory Committee recommended that Bylaw Services be requested to report on a regular basis of all vacant properties on Yonge Street to ensure compliance with municipal bylaws.

Also they were asked to report to the former Yonge Street Commercial Area Sub-Committee the number of violations pertaining to the inspection of the Yonge Street properties found by Bylaw Services.

In a report to the committee, Bylaw Services noted that they had identified five properties on Yonge Street in need of attention and a Notice of Violation had been issued to the property owners to perform the required work.

It was also noted that if the required work was not done within a reasonable period, the town could proceed in two ways depending on which bylaw the Notice was sent.

In the case of the Clean Yards Notice, the property owner could be charged and the set fine was \$350.

If the fine didn't initiate the required action the town could proceed to do the work and place the costs on the property taxes.

In the case of a Property Standards Order the town's only remedy was to do the work and place the costs on the property taxes and with the exception of one of the five properties, the town proceeded under the Clean Yards Bylaw.

What happened, if anything?

Also at another time staff was directed to contact the owners of the vacant property at Tyler and Yonge Streets and the old Arena property on Yonge Street to see if any short term arrangements could be made for extra parking for the Aurora Library. Anything happen?

WHEN MISS CANADA VISITED AURORA

In mid-October, 1983, Aurora's Canadiana Roller Rink, later a Bingo Hall and now a storage business, was home to Fashion in Motion '83.

The show featured the new 1983 cars and the latest fashions, plus entertainment and refreshments, all for free.

In addition to the new cars provided by 13 different local dealers ranging in size from the economical Suzuki to the classy Cadillac DeVille, there were fashion shows with models from Flare School of Modelling.

All fashions in the show were from local clothing stores so that all women wanting to buy that perfect outfit wouldn't have to travel far to find it.

The second annual Fashion in Motion '84 was also held at the Roller Rink and was expanded to a three-day event.

Once again most of the local dealers displayed their latest models.

Friday was trade show evening when a number of accessory booths displayed goodies for cars and almost anything to do with motion, from motorcycles to snowmobiles.

For the ladies, there were fashion booths offering such services as facials, manicures and beauty counselling.

There was also a fashion show featuring the latest in women's wear.

The highlight of Saturday evening was the appearance of Miss Canada, Jodi Yvonne Rutledge, a 22-year-old from Winnipeg.

Then Mayor Dick Illingworth welcomed her to Aurora and presented her with a printed plate with historical views of Aurora by Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE INVESTIGATION?

Last November an angry Mayor Phyllis Morris on a point of privilege obtained permission from council at the start of a general committee meeting to call a special council meeting to discuss information published in The Auroran following a closed meeting of council.

She said that council could no longer meet in closed session until a leak to the media had been investigated and that council had a duty to the public to investigate.

On an 8-1 vote with Councillor Evelyn Buck in opposition, council aged to the Mayor's suggestion that George Rust-D'Eye, a solicitor well versed in municipal law, be retained to carry out the investigation.

Later in the month at a press conference in response to a question about the cost of the external solicitor, Mayor Morris replied that the cost was unknown at that time and she hoped the solicitor's report would be received as soon as possible and it and the cost would be made public when received.

It is not known how interested citizens are about the leak and the cost of the solicitor, but it would be interesting to get an answer from council at a public meeting as to what the

investigation found out about the leak and what it cost.

WHEN POLICE CRUISERS USED PROPANE FUEL

By August, 1982, the York Regional Police had been using propane fuelled vehicles on an experimental basis and had decided to switch to propane fuel in a big way for its new cruisers.

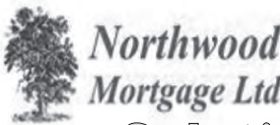
The Police Commission approved a recommendation from Police Chief Bruce Crawford for the purchase of 36 new vehicles from H. A. McLean Chev Olds in Aurora, now Highland Chev Cadillac, with the vehicles converted to use propane fuel.

A storage tank complete with dispensing unit was installed at Number 2 Police Headquarters in Richmond Hill.

In response to a question the Chief replied that most cruisers could operate a shift without a refill of the propane fuel.

With the high price of gasoline these days, the use of propane fuel might be a suitable alternative, but as it is seldom mentioned even with the high price of gas, are the police still using propane in some cruisers and is the refill depot in Richmond Hill still operational?

Just asking.



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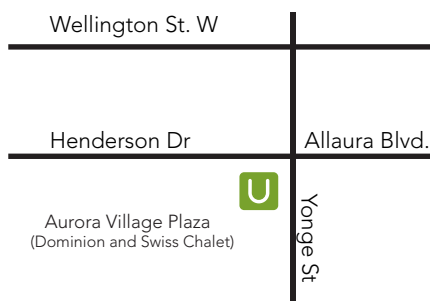
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