

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 8 No. 23

auroran.com

Week of April 8, 2008



Please see page 13

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Please see page 14

Services were held Tuesday from the Christian Baptist Church in Newmarket.

The UPS Store®

COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

During the month of April the Skylight Gallery in the Town Hall will feature the artwork of Nenad Miric. His paintings are realistic concepts with a nostalgic sense of fading memories of various places. Viewing hours are from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

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 of 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 11 a.m. at Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. Call 905-841-8883 for further information.

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.

Deadline for young poets to enter the Aurora Public Library Poetry Contest for students in grades 7-9 and in Grades 10-12. Phone 905-727-9493 for further information.

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, are available at the Aurora Public Library and R & R Revisited, 95 Edward Street. Doors open at 6.15 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

The Rotary Club of Aurora presents the 3rd Annual Great Frog Race at 3 p.m. from the Tannery Creek Bridge in Machell Park. Great prizes. Tickets are \$5 from any Rotarian.

The Bernard Pears Chorale presents "A Spring Concert" at the First Baptist Church, 31 Wellington East at 6.30 p.m. For more information, call 905-727-4531.

MONDAY, APRIL 21

The Aurora Seniors will visit the Royal Ontario Museum for an experience full of history, culture, architecture, sights and shopping. The fee is \$55 for members and \$59 for non-members.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

Aurora will host a workshop "Building a Business Plan" in the Town Hall's Tannery Room in partnership with the York Region's Small Business Resource Centre. Contact Marne Wraith, Economic Development Officer at the Town Hall, 905-727-1375 for more information.

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.

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society presents "Growing and Showing Peonies" with speakers Hazel and Dick Cook at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. 8 p.m. Guests \$2. For more information call Diane

at 905-773-2695.

A public meeting will be held in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m. to consider a proposed zoning bylaw amendment for the property at the northwest corner of Leslie Street and Wellington Street East to permit a restaurant and drive-thru as a permitted use to the existing Service Commercial Zone.

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.

MAY 8 TO 10

Pine Tree Potters' Spring Pottery Sale will be held at the St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club, 368 St. John's Sideroad, Aurora, Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. All proceeds from the Charity Table will go to CHATS. For further information,

call the studio 905-727-1278.

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. For more information call Diane at 905-773-2695.

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.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society presents "Growing Clematis in Ontario" with speaker Peter Keeping at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. 8 p.m. Guests \$2.

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.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society presents "Beauty or Beast - Plants That Need Space" with speaker Anna Leggatt at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. 8 p.m. Guests \$2.

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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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.

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Please call for upcoming seminar information



Anti-litter day is set

Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris has extended an open invitation to residents, service groups, schools and businesses in Aurora to participate in the 6th Annual Mayor's Anti-Litter Day Saturday, April 26, with two sessions from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

A free barbeque for registered participants, catered by M & M Meats in Aurora, will take place from noon to 2 p.m. at the Town Park.

The premise behind this day is not just focusing on litter pick-up but also about educating all stakeholders on ways to keep Aurora litter free, she said.

A poster contest will be held for Grade 4 students in Aurora who can help spread the Anti-Litter message. The winning poster will be used to promote the event in the following year and the winner will be recognized by the mayor at a council meeting.

The event would not be possible without the support of the Town's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) and the Town's informal Anti-Litter group comprised of EAC members and Town staff.

You can participate by signing up in advance through Info Aurora by visiting Aurora Town Hall at 1 Municipal Drive, by phone at 905-727-8214 or by e-mail at infoaurora@e-aurora.ca.

Volunteers will be directed to a "hot spot" that needs cleaning. Litter kits including gloves, garbage bags and hand sanitizers will be provided.

If residents cannot participate in the Mayor's Anti-Litter Day, they can independently participate in a 20-minute quick litter pick-up on "Earth Day", which this year is on Tuesday, April 22.

For more information, contact the mayor's office at 905-727-3123 ext. 4260.

Aurora proclaims Volunteer Week

Former Aurora Mayor Tim Jones and former Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor appeared before Aurora council recently to ask that April 27 to May 3 be declared National Volunteer Week.

By proclaiming the week, Jones said, council would be honouring all the volunteers of Aurora who share their time with the homeless, the hungry, the elderly, at-risk youth and the disabled.

As Co-Chairmen of Neighbourhood Networks, a volunteer service sponsored by Magna for Communities, the pair said they plan to honour volunteers in Newmarket and Aurora by posting a proclamation on the Network website and at both the Newmarket and Aurora Home Shows.

Neighbourhood Networks is a volunteer matching service to bring together non-profit agencies and organizations requiring volunteers with citizens interested in volunteering.

To date more than 30 partnerships have been arranged and approximately 150 volunteers placed.

Council gave unanimous approval to proclaim the week as National Volunteer Week in Aurora.



Former Aurora residents Len Rosenberg, left, and Ted McClenny, received their 50-year pins as members of Aurora's Masonic Rising Sun Lodge Thursday. Lodge members honoured the pair with pins, proclamations, a sit-down dinner, and cake for the members' families and friends. The lodge is located on Mosley Street.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

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*905-726-4063

Omars Shoes
*905-727-9391

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*905-727-6691

Sparkle Pharmacy
*905-727-2322

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Poor Richard

No strong candidates on the election trail

*Canadians want good strong leaders,
To keep the country strong and right;
But they are among the missing,
As there isn't a strong one in sight!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Many Canadians are watching the exciting Democratic primary race in the United States between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton and marvel at the spellbinding and passionate speeches as the pair seeks support in their race for the White House.

It may not matter to the Canadians who may get elected, although the eventual winner could have an impact on the relationship between Canada and the United States, especially with regard to the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Canadians would like to see the same passion in our Canadian leaders.

Canadians seldom hear speeches that are tough and address serious issues that touch the lives of every citizen as our Canadian leaders are more politically motivated and worry more about little things and getting re-elected.

Today's charisma deficit in our national leaders is reminiscent of the days of the Mackenzie King era, as none of them connect with the general public in personality, oratory or salesmanship.

While as individuals, they may be impressive, highly intelligent and well informed, their problem is not connecting with the people, as is quite obvious from the public opinion polls.

Looking back at former leaders, it's easy to remember Pierre Trudeau and Trudeumania, the garbled language of Jean Chretien, the Irish blarney of Brian Mulroney, the statesmanship of Lester Pearson and the bluster of John Diefenbaker.

Ever since his election as leader of the Liberal Party Stephane Dion has gone from crisis to crisis, many of them of his own making and today is facing a revolt in his own party, especially in the Quebec wing, his own province.

A recent opinion poll in his home municipality of Quebec City placed the Liberals in fourth position below the NDP and the Bloc Quebecois.

When a leader has to implore party members to practice discipline, he's in serious trouble.

He is awkward, has problems with the English language and appears distant when dealing with the public.

His recent leadership in the House of Commons was lacking and he has lost all credibility.

If a general election was held today, he would lead the Liberal Party to a historical defeat and outside of Montreal would not likely win a seat in Quebec.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper appears to lack a sense of humour and instead of projecting goodwill, he appears grim and at times mean-spirited.

While promising transparent and accountable government, he maintains complete control over his cabinet and members to the point that many citizens are unable to name other than a couple of cabinet ministers.

While only talked about in whispers, it is reported that he does not have a happy administration as Ministers grumble about being gagged, backbenchers forgotten and even the bureaucrats are getting restless.

His relationship with the provinces, other than Quebec, is another problem for Harper and his respect for provincial jurisdiction and fairness is selective.

Only 32 per cent of women claim they trust Harper compared with 47 per cent of men and opinion polls across the country place the Tories barely ahead of the Liberals, even with all their problems.

Then there is NDP Leader Jack Layton and the indication that the strength he built is starting to crumble with poor by-election results and flagging support.

There is a feeling the party has lost its way.

It may be that Canadians are too busy to take an interest in politics and possibly suffer from election fatigue.

When an election is called, consider your local candidate due to our lack of leaders.

What we need is a Canadian Barack Obama.



The house, above, on top of the hill is 50 Tyler Street. The house stands as part of an original 210-acre township lot granted to William Tyler in 1805. The original farm was subdivided over the years, and by 1847, a 25-acre parcel, including the parcel where the house now sits, was owned by Matthew Lepper, an Aurora merchant. In early 1907 Thomas Carter purchased a portion of the lot. Carter sold his Tyler Street properties for \$3,000 in 1909 to William Laidlaw. In December, 1913, the land was sold to Albert Conover, a month after the house had been built, for \$3,800. He retained 50 Tyler until 1927 when Rolph and Agnes Case acquired and kept it until 1943 when it was purchased by their daughter and son-in-law Margorie and Frank Barnes. In 1947, the house was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Guy Watson and they operated the first Resthaven rest home, until 1975 when Resthaven moved to Mill Street, and was operated by Murray Binions. In 1983, Watson sold the house, but it returned to institutional use in 1985 when it became home for the Rose of Sharon services for young mothers and their babies. It served that purpose until 1993. The house sat empty for more than a year, when it was finally purchased by Dr. Tracey Hehn-Zwicker and her husband in 1994, and is continuing to be refurbished to its previous Edwardian splendour. Dr. Hehn-Zwicker still operates The Chiropractic Clinic on Tyler Street from the house across the street from the former Collis Leather factory.

Letter to the Editor

Reader fears for future with Rogers' takeover

To the editor,

The news that Aurora Cable (now ACI) had been sold to Rogers came as a great surprise to me as I thought, after all the years and offers, it would remain the last total control hold-out by a single family.

I have, on occasion, complained (not me, I never do that) about the fact that Oak Ridges depended on Aurora Cable for all of its local news and that we couldn't be provided with Rogers as the rest of Richmond Hill was.

Having worked (my show was called "Inquiring Minds") mostly at Aurora's Industrial Parkway South location and also at the Newmarket and Newkirk Road Rogers locations, I can honestly say that I felt at home in Aurora.

Maybe some of the equipment and facilities were newer at Rogers but myself and guests had fun, were not restricted by commercials, were live to tape, were not beholden to advertisers and, if I do say so myself, some pretty good shows were produced as a result of the relaxed environment.

Oak Ridges was provided with current news about the area with a weekly "Report" and local Aurora news.

If you know Oak Ridges history, "Oak Ridginals" tend to drive north to shop, attend high school, drive through to Upper Canada Mall, etc.

Perhaps this is due to the gravitational river flows (south of Oak Ridges to Lake Ontario, north of Aurora to Lake Simcoe.

Oak Ridges is, in fact, part (the best part as far as I am con-

cerned) of Richmond Hill.

If you take a look at our delivered local paper it contains recycled general York Region news, sometimes with the front page changed to reflect the area in which it is being distributed along with three inches (I'm not exaggerating) of flyers.

Try calling the local paper to get a function covered.

The answer is that they are too busy to send anyone, but if you take your own pictures they might find space when there is a shortage of copy.

I guess what I am mostly concerned about the sale of ACI is that I am afraid that we will lose our community, including Aurora, feel.

Even though, at times, what is aired could be considered a little hokey, at least it is hometown hokey.

Aurora Cable has been the training ground for Seneca students for years and I hope that this practice will continue.

I moved here, had a business here, raised my sons here, the boys played hockey here and because I liked the "town" kinship, knew my neighbours and felt comfortable.

With Rogers taking over our television control is the shift to Regional programming imminent?

Will Aurora and Oak Ridges shows become redundant?

Is this the continuation of the slippery slope towards total Regional Government control?

Toronto comes to mind. Does anyone remember Willowdale, Downsview, Lansing? North York is now part of Toronto.

I, for one, am prepared to prevent this from happening.

I always have maintained that Oak Ridges should have been part of Aurora where we would have been appreciated for our lakes and warmth of the residents and not treated like second-class citizens in Richmond Hill.

By the publication of this I will have attended a dinner to re-establish the Canada Day Parade in Aurora (north Oak Ridges), one of the first steps in claiming back traditional "Town" essence.

Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges

THE AURORAN

"Aurora's Community Newspaper"

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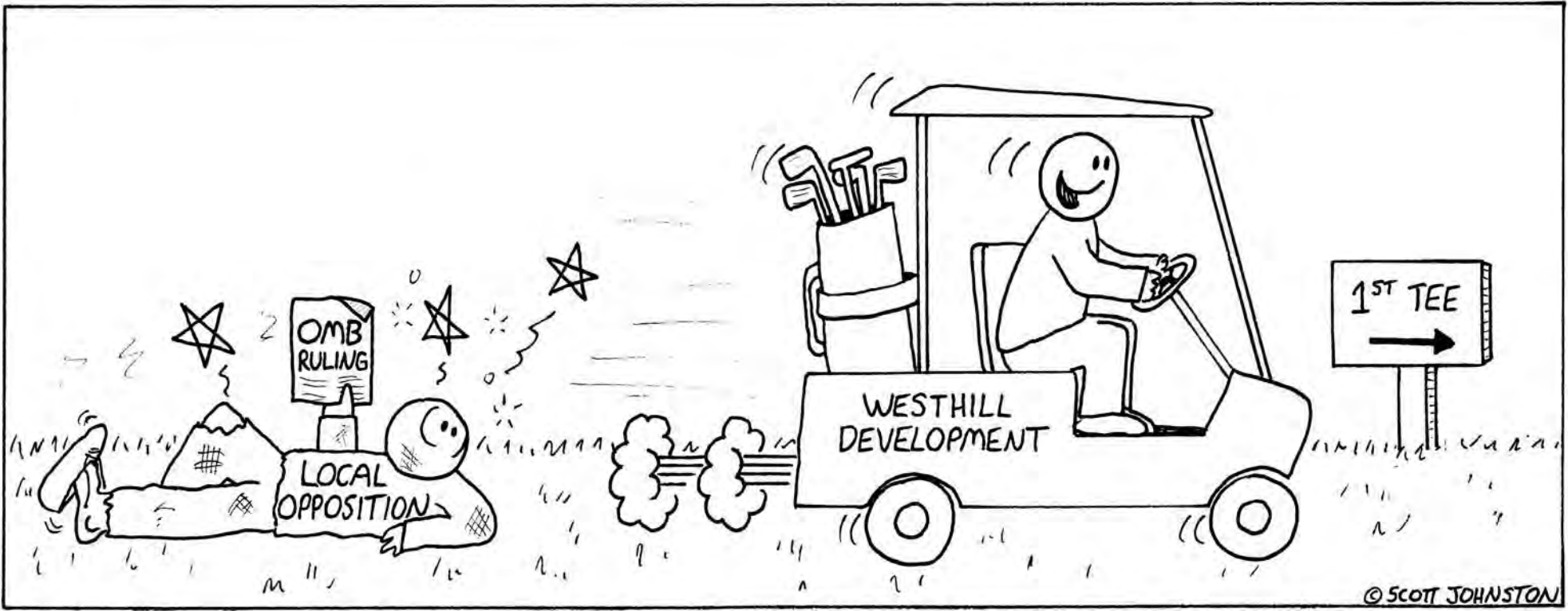
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Last June I wrote about a subject that had been of increasing concern to me - the lack of adequate customer service in our society.

Like most people, when I am mistreated as a customer, I never say anything.

I simply thank the clerk, walk out and in most cases do not return.

I reported that this kind of ill treatment had occurred a number of times to me while in local businesses within our community. At the time I protected the names of the guilty offenders.

My faith in local businesses was somewhat restored with the wonderful treatment I received from Barry and Sylvana, the owners of Blossoms and Bows in Aurora, when I was purchasing flowers for my wedding anniversary.

Although it has not been exactly one year since I last wrote about this topic, some very recent local experiences have compelled me to do so again.

I am not Ralph Nader here on some type of corporate crusade; I simply want, when I go to purchase a good or service, as the old advertising line goes, "to be treated like a somebody".

Last June I wrote about one particularly bad purchasing experience.

I was in a local store ready to purchase a new lawnmower. I decided on a particular mower and asked the store employee for some help transporting the mower to my car. He was not very helpful at all.

He did assist in putting the mower on the cart but then said "you can ask for someone to help you at the cash" and

then abruptly turned around and left.

The store was the local Home Depot.

The other day I was in the same store and was looking for a power bar with "surge" protection (to protect my computer) and also wanted to purchase a heavy duty extension cord for my portable heater.

The young man who helped me - I believe Kyle was his name - was great - walking me over to the section that had the power bars, explaining to me the options, showing me the different prices and telling me why a certain make and model was probably best for me.

He then did the same thing regarding the extension cord.

My purchase was not huge - about \$100.

He was very pleasant and knew exactly what he was talking about. Even if he didn't know what was the best product for me, he would have won me over because he showed me the effort. He wanted my business.

Now, I know this is only one instance. And I have been in this very store a few times since my unpleasant lawnmower buying experience last year, and have no bad incidents of lack of customer service, but what it showed that it is the employees who are the public face of the enterprise.

This is especially so in the retail or service industry.

I have also had some other very good local experiences recently.

Rona and the copy shop crew at the Aurora Staples store have gone above and beyond the call of duty when dealing with me lately.

I have been showing up with my "memory stick" for them

Customer Service in Aurora - part 2

to print some documents and invariably the formatting of the documents for their computer has changed, but the staff at the copy shop have assisted me to get it done.

That is not to say that everything is rosy out there.

My newest gripe (it has been festering for quite some time really) is standing in a long line at the check-out at a grocery store or in a line at a bank and only one person is on duty at the cash register.

What is particularly galling is when you see a bunch of other store employees stocking shelves and ignoring you or if in a bank, another bank employee(s) sitting at a desk, 20 feet from you, ignoring you while one bank teller tries to deal with everyone.

Like a great many people, I have worked part time in retail. Granted, I was probably not the best employee but a couple of things always stayed with me - be pleasant to the customer and if you think he or she may require help - kindly ask them.

It used to drive my manager insane if he saw you cleaning up things on the shelves while a customer waited at the check-out.

When I leave a store where I have enjoyed a good "experience", you can be rest assured I will be back.

For Kyle, Rona and her copy shop team, my thanks and regards.

For those at some of the other venues, I offer you a Dick Illingworth brickbat.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

The response to my column "Hug a Tree...and See" has been heartwarming.

In the four weeks since it was published, tree huggers far and wide have come out of the "woods"...

One Aurora resident confessed that after a fire leveled his house, he felt the irresistible urge to go out into the yard and hug his trees with a heart filled with joy and gratitude for the miracle of their survival.

The house has since been rebuilt but the trees could never have been replaced so he continues to secretly "whisper" to them.

And they continue to flourish...like any other sentient being whose main staple of health is LOVE.

An American friend who receives my column by e-mail called to share his intimate glimpse into the mysterious life of trees.

David is an architect, an archeologist and an adventurer whose inspiration has taken him into the jungles and rain forests of the world.

In Costa Rica, David was introduced to a phenomenon that left him in awe and wonder.

"There is stillness in the deep jungle," he told me. "It is so thick and dense that a breeze doesn't get through. And yet, suddenly a plant will begin to move...its leaves begin to flutter as if in a breeze. But there is no breeze...no other plant near it moves! Just that one..."

"Then," he continued, "further down you will see another plant begin to move. Just that one..."

I gasped as he concluded: "It is so clear that what these plants are doing is...communicating!"

My jaw dropped anew as I wondered, "How many times have I seen trees sway out of time with the breeze and thought it strange?" Now I will watch for it knowing there is so much I never knew!

In 50 years a single tree will recycle more than \$37,000 worth of water, provide \$31,000 worth of erosion control, \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, and produce \$37,000 worth of oxygen.

If it shades your house, you are in for some serious air conditioning savings, not to mention heat savings as it shields the north wind.

I didn't know that, did you?

It is estimated that 10 tons of carbon dioxide are emitted by each person each year. One tree removes about one ton of CO2 per year. I didn't know that either...

I always thought I was "doing my bit" having planted about 50 trees and at least as many shrubs in Aurora these 20 years...I am SO far behind!

I am barely keeping up with my family's breathing habit! Methinks it's time to start planting! Won't you join me?

Aurora's best kept secret is quite possibly the Aurora Community Arboretum which spans 100 acres of beautiful green space behind the seniors' centre.

It is truly the jewel of our town. Please visit www.auroraarboretum.ca to be inspired!

On Saturday, April 26, I plan to don my gardening duds, grab a shovel and get down and dirty!

It is the Community Planting Event and will begin at 10 a.m. in the 'Shelter Belt' area along Industrial Parkway North, near the leash-free dog park.

Plant a tree...and see

Please note that the Montessori School across the road has kindly given us permission to use their parking lot.

The plan is to plant 30,000 trees over the next 10 years and we only have 27,000 to go! Please join us in our efforts to create a living legacy right here in Aurora.

Trees are the longest living and largest organisms on Earth. They were here before us and with our love, they will be here when you and I are the soil that nourishes them.

When one considers that an area of rainforest the size of a football field is being destroyed each second, one begins to appreciate the value of Aurora's priceless 100 acres of "green".

So let the hugging begin!

I strongly urge everyone in Aurora to take advantage of the opportunity to plant a tree...and see...

How wonderful it feels! Tree-planting unites communities by providing people an opportunity to work together for the benefit of the local environment - our home.

Besides, people who plant trees are healthier, stronger, better looking, richer, and sexier! They have more fun and more friends, too!

And if you don't believe me, mark Saturday, April 26, on your calendar and come out to the Community Planting Event and see for yourself!

Oh, and don't forget to bring your favourite shovel!

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

Bouquets & **BRICKBATS**

By **DICK ILLINGWORTH**

 **BOUQUETS** to the Aurora's town staff for clarifying the procedure for the approval of recommendations and adoption of minutes for members of council. The staff report clearly outlined the hierarchy of committees and the parliamentary process by which recommendations and minutes are approved and adopted. It should stop the unnecessary nitpicking by some councillors.

 **BOUQUETS** to the staff of York Region and the York Regional Police for their support and contributions to the 2007 United Way of York Region fundraising campaign. The campaign raised \$202,000, an \$80,000 increase over the previous year.

 **BOUQUETS** to the two bowling teams from the Aurora Chamber of Commerce who participated in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of York Annual Bowl for Kids Sake raising \$1,015 for the work of the agency.

 **BOUQUETS** to the King Township organizing committee for Communities in Bloom for hosting a fashion show to create awareness of the program and to raise funds while showcasing local business, while in Aurora committee and council members are still trying to decide in spite of the efforts of Rebecca Beaton in 2005 and Carol Cooper in 2007.

 **BRICKBATS** to members of Toronto council for crying poor when they are pocketing an automatic 1.9 per cent increase or \$1,800 to their \$95,000 salaries, which are linked to inflation, plus a plush office expense budget, limo rides, free parking and free golf.

 **BOUQUETS** to Aurora Council if they arrange a meeting of officials from the Northern Six municipalities to compare notes regarding the OPA proposal to locate a 350 megawatt generating plant in one of the six municipalities. The joint efforts worked well in arranging the Green Bin program and a united front may prove beneficial if the former working group isn't re-established.

 **BRICKBATS** to those in Toronto for what must be a breakdown in communications when homeless shelter providers reported being jammed to capacity, but city officials claim 143 beds went unfilled. The city has 3,800 shelter beds for single adults, youths and couples.

 **BOUQUETS** to Quebec for taking action to curb hockey violence on the ice following the on-ice brawl at a junior game when the Quebec Ramparts goaltender Jonathan Roy skated down the ice in an unprovoked attack to Chicoutimi Saguenéens goaltender Bobby Nadeau.

 **BRICKBATS** to Defence Minister Peter MacKay for inviting the opposition party critics to attend the NATO Summit in Bucharest and then rescinding the offer and blaming NATO officials for reducing the number of Canadians allowed to go. When caught, his office had to admit it was the Harper government, not NATO, that withdrew the offer. Who can you trust in politics?

 **BOUQUETS** to officials at York Region Transit for reinstating McGregor Jackman, a newly hired bus driver after an inspector with the private sector contractor sent him home for wearing his kufi, a small skull cap as part of his religious beliefs. There's a big difference between this case and the motorcycle rider who was charged for not wearing a helmet over his turban, which is a safety requirement. Taxpayers pay the health bill if there is an accident.

 **BOUQUETS** to York Central Fire Chief John Molineaux for his timely reminder to homeowners to check their smoke alarms following the shocking rash of fires that have occurred in Ontario this winter with loss of life due to not-working smoke alarms.

 **BRICKBATS** to Canada Post for having to reprint the stamp which includes the picture of the Canadian flag and a lighthouse, due to an artwork error, as the house shown in the picture was in the wrong position. A sharp-eyed lighthouse keeper noticed the error and the reprint will be rolling off the press in May.

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Letter to the Editor

Unclear how town handling hydro: reader

To the editor,

RE: Town undecided on power request, The Auroran, April 1

Alan Greenspan said it best..."I guess I should warn you, if I turn out to be particularly clear, you've probably misunderstood what I've said".

I, too, share the same sentiment when it comes to the power supply issue and please forgive me for my ongoing efforts to shed some light on this issue.

In my view we have a huge opportunity to meet our power supply needs and address environmental and socio-economic impacts responsibly and yet too many people remain apparently too poorly informed to develop the strategy required to influence a desirable outcome from any number of perspectives.

The misinformation that has been allowed to circulate to date without being contested or corrected has been alarming and completely unnecessary. This issue is not new.

Some of us have been researching and trying to address this matter for nearly four years now and yet even the most basic facts do not appear to be appreciated by at least some people in positions of responsibility with regards to addressing these matters.

The town's third staff report is expected to be delivered April 15 and with any luck the clarity that this overview may bring will allow us to have a civil and well informed discussion on these matters.

I have always supported Jack Gibbons and the Clean Air Alliance's efforts towards power conservation, demand management and distributed generation but on the issue of how to best meet our power supply needs locally I beg to differ on one very important point.

When asked about the 550 MW Portlands Energy Centre power project currently under construction on Toronto's waterfront Jack Gibbons was quoted in the summer of 2007 by Now Magazine as follows..."We think the project is great. The sooner it is up

and running, the sooner we can reduce coal," he says. "PEC's impact will be a net reduction in pollution."

The facility, says Gibbons, will dramatically increase Toronto's security of supply in case of major outages. "Right now we only get two per cent of the city's electricity from local sources. PEC will bump that up to over 10 per cent," he says. (By comparison, New York City gets 80 per cent of its electricity locally.) "If we don't build this, we'll be burning more coal and using nukes," he says. "I wish that weren't the choice, but it is."

For purposes of clarity, the Portlands facility is much larger, operates for many more hours per year and is located closer to a far larger population than what is now proposed for Northern York Region and yet Jack is now saying that the proposed peaking plant is "too dirty" and councillors and staff have left these assertions uncontested.

The fact is that there are various types of power plants designed to serve specific purposes and the OPA determined after a great deal of research that a gas fired peaking plant was the best solution to meet our specific needs in northern York Region.

No one has even mentioned the gas dispersion models or the City of Toronto's studies that suggest that the emissions from the Portlands power plant at ground level are equal to 13 residential gas furnaces while the proposed peaking plant designed for York Region is closer to two residential furnaces.

The Clean Air Alliance's proposed 30 MW combined heat and power plant, while more efficient in one sense, would require significant amounts of water that the Region may not be able to supply in order to turn steam turbines.

Even if we can supply the water required, this plant would run for longer than a peaking plant and it might only address approximately eight per cent of our power supply needs in the event that the Vaughan transmission lines were to get knocked out, therefore, transmission lines would be

required in order to meet our power supply reliability objectives.

The point should not be overlooked that the proposed peaking plant is designed to offer supply diversity and redundancy in addition to addressing our anticipated growth in power demand over the next 15 to 20 years.

Now here's the kicker... we now have before us an opportunity to increase our commercial tax base (which I thought we wanted to do), protect our power supply, implement a cleaner source of power than our current source of power and at the same time ensure that the current transmission lines running through Aurora are put underground.

That sounds pretty good to me.

Despite this very real possibility, all of the potential benefits available to us are not being pursued and, in fact, may now be in jeopardy as a direct result of a lack of awareness and effort.

A concerned residents group in King is now actively pushing for a transmission line solution in Aurora arguing that their community carries too much of the power supply burden for northern York Region and some people seem to even feel that two 50-foot high smoke stacks located in a rural area in King is more harmful to real estate values than 25 km of 140-foot

high transmission poles running through densely populated areas.

I tend to disagree on that last point, but I do agree that if Aurora can reasonably host the needed solution we should.

Municipalities across the Region, including Aurora Council, conditionally supported the 2005 OPA Working Group recommendations while opposing a transmission solution and now it is time to ensure those conditions are met and we follow through on our responsibility to address our own power supply needs responsibly.

Further information can be found on the King website under the heading "What's New" (look for "peaking your interest").

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) also has a York Region webpage that is very helpful. APPRO is the power producer's association and I trust they will be able to provide another valuable source of information given that the proponents bidding in Aurora are now subject to a media ban as a result of the pending RFP process at the OPA.

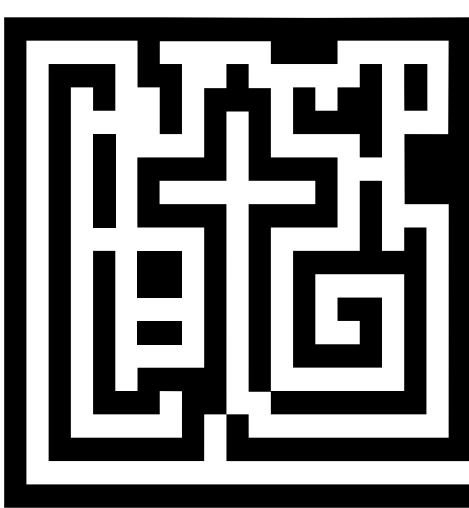
To be clear, I assume that proponents can and should be working closely with the town at this stage in order to clarify our options but it remains unclear how the town is pursuing these matters.

Richard Johnson
Aurora

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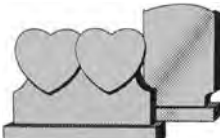
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Aurorans and nature helping each other

To the editor,

In February I wrote a letter about Aurora's trails network, and set out what is ahead of us.

The key elements of the network relate to the corridors being away from motorized traffic: the corridors must be dedicated to self-propelled traffic, mainly walking and cycling; the corridors must be as barrier-free as possible; and the network must not only make it possible, but must make it inviting for walkers and cyclists to reach any Aurora destination without using their cars.

I would like to expand on why these key elements of a trails network are important - and what has led me to that conclusion.

In this letter I shall address the first element, the one about "away from motorized traffic," about which I feel very passionate.

In other letters I shall get to the other elements. And I shall also get to the difficulties that face a retrofit of Aurora with greenways and network linkages where there aren't any now. And to why individuals need to be asked to practice tolerance towards a desirable common good, the trails network that will benefit all Aurorans, without exception.

What really attracts me to the "away from motorized traffic" element is that I envision greenways as the corridors for the trails network - an experience with nature every time you step onto any part of the trails network.

When one considers where people, especially the younger persons, spend most of their waking hours these days, one must realize that, apart from school and work, it is in front of a TV or a computer, or immersed with an i-pod or cell phone-type gizmo.

In my youth, and even my grown-up days, I have considered the outdoors as my prime domain during off-school and off-work hours. I must admit to now also having an e-mail address, and getting sucked into surfing some web-sites on occasion.

However, just three days ago a tiny branch poked into my left eye because I was skiing in the back country of Aurora, through some bush that had all the rights in the world to be upset about my disrespectful intrusion into its territory.

So, I am still out there - just as I was when I grew up on a farm, when I walked to school, two km there, and two km back home, and when I picked blueberries in the forest, to help my mother bring food to the table, or when I gathered chanterelles, still my favourite mushroom today.

I am out there still, just as I have been all along

during my adult life - even though I have lived in urban Aurora for more than 35 years.

However, just about all of my shopping is done by car. That is partly because of the distance from my favourite shops and partly because of the lack of greenway trail connections between my home and where I want to go.

And it has a lot to do with our Aurora planners having agreed to locate shopping, work, and residential areas in different corners of Aurora.

So my ties to natural environments started in my early years: vegetables and fruit from our own garden, and from the wilds; red russet apples eaten along the cart track that doubled as our path to school; chasing after butterflies; catching stickle backs in the creek; hiking and camping with the gymnastics club; weekend family walks into the woods; and playing soccer in meadows, ringed by hedges and oak trees.

My high school days in Germany I spent in a school named after Albert Schweitzer, a humanist who I got to respect for his attitude towards other forms of life, his reverence for even the smallest creature and plant. He let nature be.

Already as a child I dreamt of the solitude of Lapland, longed for it. As a student in Bloor Collegiate in Toronto I wrote about my longing for the solitude of Lapland in an essay; and as an adult I came to realize my dream: I backpacked in Lapland's wilderness during a five-day solo trip, in mid-June. Just me and the streams flush with melt water, the landscape half covered with snow; the reindeer; and 24-hour daylight; and meditation; and a haunting call of a bird I didn't know and didn't see. A glorious experience!

One day after my return into the urban world I reflected on that experience, sitting in a rock garden along one of Helsinki's main roads. Sitting there, a high came over me. I can not capture that high in a description - it was beyond description. I had been alone with nature, experienced solitude for which I had longed for more than half my life. And I was moved by that experience. As I still am. Even now.

Would it be possible to have that type of experience right here in Aurora? Maybe. On top of the Oak Ridges Moraine, perhaps, between Bayview and Leslie, with those sweeping views, away from the noise of motors. Or maybe in a dip of the Moraine, near a wetland?

In Canada, I had another extraordinary experience in nature, of quite a different kind, that was, I suppose you could say, spiritu-

al in nature. Here I should mention that I consider nature to be my god - whatever is ecologically the best for all creatures and plants out there, that is what I am prepared to respect the most.

Back to that Canadian special experience: It happened in the Lake Temagami area, north of North Bay.

My wife and I had stayed in a lodge at the north end of Lake Temagami, the year before. While there, I helped a physically challenged fellow guest to carry a canoe into a lake that he knew as a trout fishing lake. He ended up catching his limit (not exactly to my liking) - one speckled trout after another.

Since I liked the area where the lodge was located, along a beach, I camped there the next year, during a solo canoe trip. I got the idea that maybe I should catch one of these speckled trout for lunch, in that lake from the year before. I portaged in, and out comes my collapsible fishing rod. My efforts - same time of the day, same fishing methods as the fisherman had applied the year before, same month even - yielded no results. Not a bite, not even a nibble.

Then I noticed a beaver circling my canoe, at about a 10-metre radius. At some point he slammed his tail onto the water. And a few moments later a second bang.

I got the message: the beaver was warning his friends, down below.

Empty handed, and by now hungry, I portaged back to Lake Temagami. Having arrived there, I paddled out into the bay - and paused there. Paddle across the lap, I just sat there, in the canoe.

It was very peaceful. There wasn't a cloud in the sky, no ripple on the water surface. The people hadn't arrived yet. It was mid-afternoon, on a Friday. I was all alone in this big world.

And then it happened: a feeling overcame me. I was getting smaller, and smaller, and smaller. Until I was no more than a speck of dust. I felt like a nothing in this big world around me. But only for a split second - the feeling went away as soon as it hit my mind full out.

Afterwards I reflected on this amazing experience, this feeling. It was no doubt

a message: if you think you can just walk in here and have it your way - just order up a fish or something like that - there is a message for you.

I had been humbled - and I had heard the message. Never to forget.

By now you may realize why I am telling this story - and the one about Lapland, and my lifelong connection into the natural world, back to my earliest childhood days.

If only others could have these wonderful experiences, this attachment to nature.

Even today I pick blueberries, alone, in Ontario's wilderness. And even today the first thing I do when I arrive in Germany where I grew up - I head straight to the first fruit stand, to buy those red russet apples with that special tartness to them.

If young people have opportunities to have similar experiences in their childhood I bet they would have similar memories and respect for nature.

Today, I consider myself very fortunate: I am in good physical health, and mentally, too, I am OK (though some Aurorans have probably wondered - but bear with me!).

I am still capable of having more wonderful life experiences, and can do my share for family, friends and community. I credit that to my healthy upbringing, and staying close to nature. I am not afraid of even the fiercest animal. They are all my friends, as are all of the flowers that grace my outdoor spaces.

So what I am trying to make people understand is that if we could stay close to nature, from our earliest days, if we have a daily connection to nature, we may have, on the whole for sure, may have assurance of a quality of life that no computer, no television, no cell phone, and especially not any chasing of the almighty dollar, can provide.

So if we can create a trails network that is designed to lead through nature, into nature, that will allow our children to experience nature on a daily basis, such as on the way to and from school, and that will continue to contribute peace and quiet, and freedom from stress, and from motor fumes, all through the adult active life, then we may have some-

thing that no individual Auroran will be able achieve for their physical and mental health through any targeted effort, such as through health clubs, vitamin supplements, or magic cures. And certainly not as cheaply.

On top of that we would do our part towards pollution reduction, and towards maintaining and even creating habitat, living room, for our wild creatures, for wild plants and flowers, for dead standing trees, for upwelling springs, for gurgling streams.

What a fantastic combination that can be, humans and urban wilderness in a symbiotic relationship -

right here in urban Aurora. We are each contributing to the health and well being of the other.

We have made a start with putting a trails network in place that will be away from motorized traffic corridors. Let us not stop until that network is in place. In the woods, in the meadows, in the greenways.

I hope you are as excited about this task as I am. The network will benefit generations, of Aurorans and of our wild friends - and will contribute big time to making Aurora a very special place indeed!

**Klaus Wehrenberg
Aurora**



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Letters to the Editor

Listen to ALL opinions, then decide: reader

To the editor,

As a parent I have tried to teach my children to remain open-minded, listen to varying opinions without judgement, to differentiate between good and bad information, good and bad advice.

I've tried to teach them to make their own decisions based on their understanding of the facts regardless of pressure brought about by peers - even if it is unpopular.

I am sure every parent

would agree with these sentiments, if not the exact language.

So why is it that our Town Council has such a hard time demonstrating these same lessons?

First, we have some councillors tuning out Councillor Evelyn Buck simply because she is Councillor Buck.

I sat beside Councillor Buck for three years, and regardless of how she loved to speak her mind, it was my responsibility to sort through the rhetoric for the

nuggets of information so I could make an informed decision.

Yes, Evelyn can sometimes be trying (based on many responses to her Letters to the Editor), but she also does have many valuable things to say if you only listen.

Thank goodness she isn't afraid to say them.

Keep it up, Evelyn -- although, maybe you could take some of Damir Vrancic's advice and tone it down a wee bit!

Secondly, an application for

development on the Oak Ridges Moraine is being sent to the OMB (see Poor Richard April 1).

Why? Not because we have any real hope of achieving our goals, but because it looks good politically.

Town staff, Ministry of the Environment, York Region and Regional Conservation Authority have all agreed that it conforms to the rules (even if we don't like the rules).

Every councillor sitting at that table knows, or should

know, that the OMB will side with the rules as stated, so what do they hope to gain? Political coverage?

Would it not have been better to deal directly with the applicant to strike the best deal for the town and potentially get more than the rules require so the developer can avoid the time and cost to go to the OMB?

Council have shirked the duties they were elected to fulfill and turned the decision-making over to the OMB.

To the best of my recollection, when the rules are against us, Aurora has never benefitted

from a decision made at the OMB.

Why do they expect this time to be different?

The definition of foolish is doing the same things over and over yet expecting a different result.

My advice?

Listen to all sides of the argument, sort the facts and then be willing to make the right decision, regardless of the popularity.

Same as I tell my kids. Good luck!

Bill Hogg
Aurora

Here's what's in bags: reader

To the editor,

Re: The Auroran -
Rumours and Ramblings
March 18

After reading the comments on the waste management issues of the Aurora Leash Free Dog Park, I wish to bring to light that there are currently no bags tied to the fence containing feces (nor has there been for some time) as your article inferred.

There are however, bags tied to the fence containing coffee cups and other refuse that the town refuses to deal with.

The Town of Aurora has provided no green bins for the park's users, let alone

garbage or recycling containers, unlike EVERY other public park in the town.

The owner of a dog walking company has provided and maintained six green bins for our companions' waste, emptying them five days a week.

The leash free dog park is the only park in town without these basics - I pay taxes and DO NOT use other public parks that are furnished with waste management receptacles, children's playgrounds, water fountains, benches, trees, etc.

Most dog parks across the country feature fresh water, garbage/recycling bins, benches, trees, moisture control measures (the

park floods in the spring creating a health hazard to our furry companions due to the run off from Industrial Parkway, and turns into a dust bowl in the summer), lighting, and parking lots free of large potholes.

The Aurora Community Centre, that I do not use, but my tax dollar helps to maintain, features all of these basic amenities.

Can you imagine the arena without seating for parents, adequate parking for the hockey moms, or recycling containers for their little star's sport drink bottles?

Most dog owners are responsible and clean up after their pets, and those who don't are usually

cleaned up after by the other users.

Of course, some ignorant dog owners leave a mess...much like users of the town's other parks who litter.

Closing the leash free park will result in more dogs (and some irresponsible owners) using more public parks, something that I feel will create far more issues and liabilities than the town can imagine.

While dog owners do not amount to the majority of taxpayers in this town, we do pay our taxes and are tired of the town turning its back on our recreational facilities.

Peter C. Lewis
Aurora

Didn't consider advice for too long, Buck says

To the editor,

I considered Damir Vrancic's advice about how to be an effective councillor. For about 60 seconds.

Then I remembered his demand in public for a recount after the 2003 election.

He stated, in a council meeting, he did not want to spend three years looking across the table at someone who didn't have a right to be there. That was me.

During the recount in the council chamber, he informed me in a voice intended to be overheard, the voters were stupid.

Since his vote had

increased substantially due to his valiant cry to defend the Oak Ridges Moraine and Devil Take the Cost, he was clearly not referring to his own victory.

He lost no time declaring at an early meeting, he had no interest in anything I might have to say about the past that might throw light on the present.

Then again, he was one of those who decided it was acceptable to humiliate a colleague, veteran councillor and former Mayor John West, by removing an honour bestowed 14 years previously.

The circumstances of which they knew nothing

because they were not there.

They created a street name for a parking lot in order to change the address of the Town Hall.

They saw no need to explain their action to the constant friends and supporters of John West over the previous 40 years.

No, I don't believe I need advice from the former councillor about how to win friends and influence people.

Incredibly, much of my time in the present and the last council, has been expended simply fighting for the right to represent the people who elected me.

There are times in the face of ignorance, arrogance and abusive behaviour, being meek and mild just doesn't cut it.

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

Seeks descendants

To the editor,

We are looking for family of Pete and Joan Bell that had a pig farm on either the Stouffville Road or the Aurora Road.

We're a large family.

We are having a family gathering in June of all of the descendants of the Robert and Mary Jane Bell of Toronto family.

Robert and Mary Jane came to Toronto in 1888.

We have found descendants of all of their children except for this line.

If you are or know of any of Pete and Joan's children or grandchildren please contact me for details of the reunion.

We would like to have as many as possible for a family picture and for genealogy purposes.

Sharon Hurst (nee Bell)
bassh@netrover.com

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Remember Miss Aurora beauty pageants?

Back in the mid-1980s a Miss Aurora Beauty Pageant was organized by Sue Meacock during June so that the winner could participate in the July First Parade.

In 1985, the winner was 20-year-old Sheryl Thomas representing Hewlett Sports in the 12 contestant pageant.

Janette Hill, representing the Graystone Restaurant and Nancy Ahrens representing Engelhard Industries, were runners-up.

By the mid-1990s the interest in beauty pageants had started to wane and with opposition from some members of council the local pageant was discontinued.

In October, 2004, it was reported that Tamara Estabrooks had been named Mrs. Aurora to compete on behalf of the town at the Mrs. Canada International Pageant in March, 2005.

She had considered entering the competition in 2002 but unfortunately, her mother fell ill with cancer and it was necessary for her to pull out of the pageant.

Despite the stigma attached to beauty pageants, she stressed everyone enters pageants for different reasons and that it was about who you were as a person.

Her mother lost her battle with cancer in 2003 and Mrs. Estabrooks became the 2004/2005 Mrs. Aurora and she looked forward to meeting people through her many public engagements, but did she win?

WILL CITIZENS EVER KNOW?

Early in March, Aurora Councillors met as a special general committee in closed session to consider disposition of land. Councillors Evelyn Buck, Alison Collins-Mrakas and Al Wilson were absent from the meeting.

It is not known what parcel of land was discussed or if a decision was made at the closed session and no report was ever made in open session.

The public has a right to know what land and the result of the discussion.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PURCHASE OF GREENSPACE?

In September, 2006, a resident appeared before the general committee to discuss the future of lands on the north

side of Henderson Drive, across the road from the town-owned Case Woodlot.

The resident told committee members that she represented approximately 80 neighbourhood households who were concerned that as the property was up for sale and development could endanger the beauty of the natural setting and wildlife.

She asked that the town use a portion of the hydro sale proceeds to purchase the lands to protect the natural area.

Her presentation was received and referred to the agenda item dealing with a report on the Aurora Hydro Sale Investment Funds. But after a long discussion regarding the re-allocation of the proceeds, her presentation was not discussed or any decision made.

The resident appeared at a subsequent council meeting to follow up on her previous presentation. She repeated her request for the town to purchase the property as it was located on the Oak Ridges Moraine, was traversed by a creek and was the habitat for a variety of wildlife.

No action was taken on her request and no decision has yet been made on the disposition of the funds from the sale of Aurora Hydro. They are just a couple more items of unfinished business for councillors.

DUTCH ELM DISEASE HITS AURORA

Today there are beetles, gypsy moths and other insects affecting our trees but back in the 1960s it was Dutch Elm disease.

In November, 1966, Aurora Council approved the low bid of \$5,177 from Richmond Tree Service to cut down trees affected by the disease.

A survey carried out at the time indicated there were 72 trees on private property and 15 on town-owned land to be cut.

The price quoted included cutting down the tree and removing the cut portions but did not include removing the stumps.

But the cutting didn't stop the spread. In September, 1968, another survey was taken of all diseased trees in hopes of qualifying for a federal Winter Works Program grant, but the government had cancelled the grant without notice.

Because many of the trees were reported to be in serious

condition, in February, 1969, staff members recommended council approve an expenditure of \$10,000 for the removal of the dead and dangerous trees.

Council approved the recommendation and the following month awarded the contract to Olsen Landscaping, the low bidder in the amount of \$6,590.

Staff made efforts to plant trees along the boulevards especially in the residential areas, but unfortunately most of the little trees were destroyed through vandalism.

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Oakville eliminates Aurora Tigers

For a minute there, the Aurora Tigers thought they had extended their playoff series against the Oakville Blades to a seventh and final game last week.

But, before the cheering

New park approved

With the completion of the residential development in the area east of Bayview Avenue town staff advised it was necessary to begin construction of a neighbourhood park on the northeast corner of Conover Avenue and Hartwell Way.

Funds for the project in the amount of \$800,000 were approved in the 2007 capital budget and a park design concept was prepared.

Some of the interesting features included off-street parking, junior and senior playground areas, multi-purpose playing field, potential for an ice rink, twin basketball half courts, circular pathway system with fitness boot camp stations and a children's water spray splash pad.

Following a review of the conceptual design plan by the Leisure Services Advisory Committee, a public open house was held where the plans were presented.

Ada Johnson, 104, was the guest of honour in late September, 2007, when construction of the park named after her began.

She is currently a resident of Aurora's Park Place Manor and has lived in Aurora longer than anyone else.

David Johnson, Ada's son, helped Mayor Phyllis Morris officially turn the soil and dedicate the new Ada Johnson Park.

One of the major components of the park was an interactive children's water play splash pad facility, which was deemed by many of the area residents to be high on the priority list.

Two bids were received to provide and install the system and staff recommended the contract be awarded to ABC Recreation in the amount of \$134,859.33.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner expressed concern about the waste of water especially when Aurora experienced water shortages during the summer months and suggested an underground tank be included to capture the water.

Staff members said the report noted a large capacity below grade holding tank was incorporated in the design of the water play facility and the water would be pumped from the tank into a large tanker

had died down, it was ruled that an Aurora goal, scored to break a 3-3 tie, had been tipped into the Oakville net with a high stick.

A few minutes later, the Blades hit the Aurora net and

and used in the ongoing irrigation needs of the parks horticultural program.

With that explanation the recommendation was adopted by the general committee.

The recommendation was expected to be ratified by Aurora Council this week.

the goal counted, sending the Tigers to the showers for the final time this year.

It was a disappointed crowd of nearly 600 at the Aurora Community Centre Monday night that watched the Provincial Junior A upstarts end their season.

Finishing third in the north division, the Tigers won the division championship, eliminating Orangeville, Newmarket and Stouffville before they met the tough Oakville squad.

The Oakville goal, at 9.40 of the first overtime period, gave the Blades a 4-3 victory,

and won them the playoff series in six games, four wins and two.

Two of the games were won by Oakville in overtime, both by the same score.

Oakville opened the scoring in the first period with the only marker of that 20-minute frame, but Aurora took a 2-1 lead half way through the second, with a pair of goals from Tiger captain Mark Thorburn.

They were, however, unable to hold it, as Oakville replied with two before the frame ended.

Aurora's Cody Smith sent the game into overtime as he tied the score with a goal at 6.06 of the third.

But Oakville's Dustin Alcock sent the Tigers to the golf course with his unassisted marker at 9.40 of the overtime frame.

Oakville won the first game against the Markham Waxers for the Ontario Provincial Junior A championship, and the winner of that series will advance to the Dudley Hewitt Cup, being played this year in Newmarket.

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Master Ducks, all 107 of them, finish in second position again

More than 750 swimmers from 80 swim clubs across Ontario gathered at the Etobicoke Olympium recently for the 2008 Masters Provincial Swimming Championship, but Aurora's Master Ducks had to settle for a second-place finish. The top three teams vying for the title were the Etobicoke Masters, Aurora Master Ducks and the London Silver Dolphins.

After 18,000 points were allotted to the teams, the 7,300 points awarded to Aurora were just 100 points shy of the title.

For the second consecutive year, the Ducks finished behind the Dolphins. That disappointment was

erased by some incredibly outstanding feats that no other team matched. The first Canadian record of the competition was awarded to Aurora.

This was a unique award: **LARGEST TEAM ASSEMBLED IN THE HISTORY OF MASTERS SWIMMING IN CANADA.**

The Master Ducks sent 107 swimmers to this annual competition.

On the first night of the competition, a relay team comprised of Nancy Black, Sue Deacon, Kathy McKnight and Sandra Bowden set a new masters world record in the 4 X 200 Medley Relay.

This record was a first for

the Aurora team which has been growing and performing in Aurora for 10 years.

During the last event of competition, the Aurora team consisting of Alex Brown, Dan Milliard, Randal Bonham and Dan Lindquist established a world standard in the 4 X 50 Medley Relay and beat the next closest team by 12 seconds.

In addition to the two world records, various Aurora relay squads established seven Ontario and four Canadian records.

Many Ontario records were broken by individual swimmers as well.

Dave Cruikshank won three gold medals and set a new Provincial mark in the 400 Individual Medley.

Randal Bonham won three gold and three silver medals while eclipsing the existing record in the 200 metre backstroke.

Kathy McKnight dominated the women in her age group while amassing five gold and one silver medal.

She also established Ontario records in the 100 and 200 metre breaststroke events.

Most impressive would be the Canadian record set by Dave Freeman in the 100-metre breaststroke. Dave spent the weekend battling for breaststroke supremacy against an aggressive competitor from Markham who claimed the 50 and 200 metre distances, the latter which both men were under the Canadian standard.

The grand finale was the 100 distance and that is where Dave broke the former record with a new time of 1.11:07.

Dave Wilkin, meanwhile,

won five gold medals. Dave is the current Canadian record holder in his five specialty events (sprint) and swam at this Provincial Championship as a warm up to his upcoming competition in Australia.

Rounding out the rest of the individual medal winners were Amanda Allen, Susan Allen, Larry Bobbett, Lloyd Brown, Carol Chappell, Tyler Clair, Diane Clark, Duncan Cleworth, Phil Dodgson, Janet Downer, Crystal Drummond, Wendy Duck, Julia Freixa, Dorothy Hall, Lori Haws, Judy Iannucci, Casey Jacob, Colleen Jordan, Barb Kettle, Marnie Kowalewski, Tristan Lehari, Stewart Mackie, Simon Meredith, Janet Mitchell, Sue Quaiattini, Ron Renwick, Carlos Robles, Andrea Sodonis, Frank Sodonis, Taina Sodonis, Lori Strong, Jim Talbot, and Delfina Traxler.

Meanwhile, Aurora's Yvonne Catrall, who has been a member of the Etobicoke Masters swim team for the past 30 years, won three gold medals and broke two provincial records along the way.

She finished first in the 50-metre breaststroke, taking two seconds off the old provincial record; first in the 100-metre breaststroke, taking one second off the old provincial record and added a first in the 50-metre butterfly.

She is now swimming in the 60-64 age category.

Yvonne still holds the world record for the 100-metre breaststroke in the 55-59 year age category.

Her next major event will be the Canadian National Championships in Quebec City next month.

Record numbers

Even though they had to settle for a second place finish in recent Masters Provincial Swimming Championships held in Etobicoke, this rather large group of swimmers did set one record that will be hard to beat. The disappointment of finishing in the runner-up position, as they did last year, was erased by an outstanding feat unmatched by any other team. The first Canadian record of the competition was awarded to Aurora and it was given for the largest team ever assembled in the history of masters' swimming in Canada. Aurora's Master Ducks sent 107 swimmers to the annual competition and they gathered for this photograph.

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Senior Scape



Seniors looking for talent

By **BRIAN WARBURTON**

The first "Silver Stars" variety show will be presented by the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) Friday, June 13, featuring members of the ASA.

Comedians, magicians, musicians, singers, pianists, jugglers, dancers and entertainers of every description and variety are invited to take part, to strut their stuff, to parade their talent, to entertain and to let their natural ability all hang out in a riot of senior showmanship.

If you wish to take part in this spectacular event, you must sign up not later than Friday, April 11, at the ASA reception desk. Your name and phone number are required and your e-mail address would be helpful.

Also, you must be a member of the ASA to participate!

More information will follow as it becomes available and in the meantime, Judy Buchanan, Chair of the "Silver Stars" Committee can be contacted at Judy1@aci.on.ca or Lucas Hiltz, Acting Seniors' Coordinator at lhiltz@e-aurora.ca or phone, 905-727-3123, ext. 2610.

Volunteers' appreciation night is Wednesday, April 16, between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

You are invited to attend and take this opportunity to recognize those who donate their time and to acknowledge that their efforts are valued.

This is a dinner and entertainment night, so please sign up at the reception desk.

Wednesday, April 30, we have the 'Spring Pot Luck Lunch' event, from noon until 1.30 p.m., and this is a fun event.

The 'Pot Luck' is very popular and always sold out, so please sign up at the reception desk and, please indicate what your food preparation will be, which incidentally, should be enough for five.

Tuesday, April 15, the computer club will present a PowerPoint arrangement documenting a trip by Tom and June Yates through the Red Rock country of Utah and New Mexico.

This presentation will show what can be achieved with a digital camera and a computer, when interest and talent enable the wonderful scenery, or any subject, to be recorded and delivered to you.

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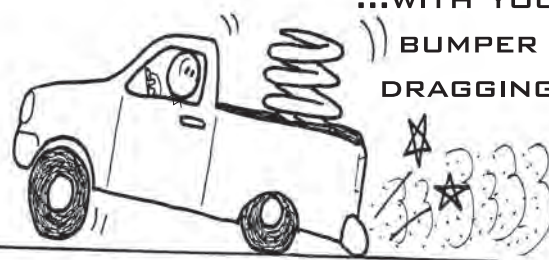
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Aurora Tigers Minor Pee wee AE team has every reason to celebrate following their victory last weekend over the Georgina Blaze, to give them the championship series three games to one. It's the second year in a row the Tigers have been declared York-Simcoe champions.

Minor Peewees win title

The Aurora Tigers Minor Pee wee AE team has completed the season and last weekend romped to a 6-1 victory over the Georgina Blaze, to win the championship series three games to one.

For the second year in a row the Tigers are the York-Simcoe champions.

"I know the parents and

coaches could not be more proud of the players for their effort in the playoffs," said coach Hugh Murray. "I want to thank our fans that numbered over 100 for cheering us on to victory in the final game."

The team lost only two games in the regular season and did very well in all the tournaments they entered.

They stepped up their game to defeat "AA" teams in the tournament in Buffalo, New York.

The team forwards James Johnston, Alex Perez, Shannon Murray, Ben Ashton, Declan Johnston, Scott Kostin, Zachary Cowl, Ryan McGolrick, and Nick Scott provided the offensive fire-

power of the team.

Goaltenders were Francois Bicego and Cody Child who combined for a 1.5 Goals Against Average in the playoffs.

They were aided by the defense of Johannes Ekstrom, Victor Chadarov, Ben Goldman, Gabriel Oulahan, Kyle Strachan, and Ian Dunlop.



Two skating shows Saturday produced full houses at the Aurora Community Centre when the Aurora Skating Club presented its 2008 Ice Show "Hooray for Hollywood", featuring the solo work of Canadian Men's National Champion Patrick Chan.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Aurora Seniors Duplicate Bridge

March 31: N/S - Mary Oglanby and Viktoria Spearin; Audrey Robertson and Isobel Garrett; Rose White and Gloria Smith. E/W - Hazel McPhee and Dennis McFadden; Judy Salmon and Lucille Sequeira; Carolyn Liddy and Marg Cyr.

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Most stations are self-serve

From page 1
At the same meeting, the Committee recommended the planning department be asked to include a clause in the site plan development agreement which would require Imperial Oil to provide full-service gas for a minimum of six hours per day for persons with disabilities. When that report came to council, John Lenchak, a member of the Advisory Committee supported it. He said it was estimated there were 8,000 people in Aurora who would benefit from a full-service station and asked council to support full-service for a minimum of six hours per day. Aurora resident Heather Trusler also addressed council to stress the need for a full-service station as it was

necessary for her to drive to Newmarket or Oak Ridges for service. Suncor's Lerner returned to address council to repeat much of the same concerns he told members of the Advisory Committee. He added the company didn't want to be seen as the bad guy and it was willing to provide full-service to any disabled person who called in advance to arrange a visit at a time when staff was changing shifts as there would be an additional person on duty. Don Dussault, representing Imperial Oil, also addressed council regarding the committee's request. He pointed out that the station was in operation and the request for a site plan was to add a drive-thru restaurant.

He also noted that it was an Esso national policy to provide full service under the same conditions as Suncor when a person phoned ahead to make arrangements during a shift change. Concern was expressed by some councillors if they had the authority to impose such conditions and after considerable discussion, it was finally agreed to refer the presentations and ask staff members to investigate if legislation was available under the Planning Act, the Ontario Disability Act or the Accessibility Act. The first self-service outlet in Canada opened in 1970 and by September, 1976, about

10 per cent of the 10,000 gas stations in Ontario had converted to self-serve and the number continued to increase until now when the majority of stations are self-serve.



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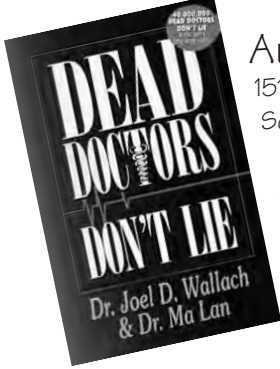
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AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



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.

2008-2009 YSE "AAA" Permission to Skate Form Process

Online registration must be completed so that a permission to skate can be granted. You can pay by using the post dated cheque option. The process for receiving these forms has been automated. You can now request a form online which will speed up the process and avoid lineups. Please go to our website at www.auroraminorhockey.net, choose Rep in the left hand menu and it is in the Rep/Select Team tryouts section. From there you can choose the option of how you would like to receive it, whether by email or fax. 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:
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Gold Champions 905 Laurion Law Office Toronto Royal 3 - Sean Ellison 1G, Wendel Martins 1G, Garrett Lewis 1G, Evan Casselden 3A, Kyle MacCallum 1A, Sean Ellison 1A. Gold Finalists 901 Remax Barb Blazer Calgary Red 1 - Peter Durst 1G, George Marshall 1A, Ben Crouse 1A.

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DAY	ARENA	DATE	START	END	LENGTH	TEAM
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
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	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

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DEATH NOTICES

SCOTT, Robert Nicholson (Bob)

(Longtime Councillor of The Town of Newmarket) - Peacefully, after a lengthy illness at York Central Hospital, Richmond Hill on Saturday April 5, 2008. Bob Scott of Newmarket, beloved husband of Betty Pedersen and the late Jean Scott (Nee Bennitz). Dear father of Steven (Mary) of Sunderland, Russell (Donna) of Newmarket and Jeffrey (Sandra) of Mississauga and step-father of Sandra (David Jellicoe) of Halifax, Diane (Axel Sorensen) of Edmonton, Bruce Pedersen of Toronto and Brian Pedersen (Keri) of Richmond Hill. He will be lovingly remembered by his grandchildren Michael, Jennifer, Ryan and Jason Scott and Sara and Heather Jellicoe. Friends called at the Roadhouse and Rose Funeral Home, 157 main St., S., Newmarket from 7–9 p.m. Sunday and from 2–4 & 7–9 p.m. Monday. Funeral service was held at the Christian Baptist Church, 135 Main St. S., Newmarket on Tuesday at 1 p.m. followed by interment at Newmarket Cemetery. Memorial donations to The Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation or charity of your choice would be appreciated. On-line condolences may be made at www.road-houseandrose.com

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Williams, June (nee Bromley)

On March 25th, 2008, surrounded by her daughters and the love of her family, June (born January 15, 1938) passed away suddenly and unexpectedly after a brief illness. Such a special “Mum” and mother-in-law to Kimberley and Bob Kerr, Jennifer and Peter Hobbes, and Megan and Steve Branch.

A proud “Grandmere” to Ryan, Ashlyn, Carson, Sydney, Griffin, Sevren and Kiara.

Loving sister to Peter, Jewell, and Sue.

Wife of Terry Williams (RCMP Corporal, deceased 1969), June gave her heart and soul to the RCMP, the Girl Guides of Canada, and her friends and family. June’s prolific and beautiful handiwork will live on in the lives and homes of many.

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Judy studied academic painting and drawing in Florence, Italy. She has appeared on City Line TV.
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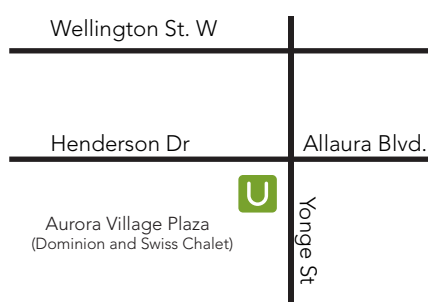
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