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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 8 No. 26 905-727-3300 auroran.com FREE Week of April 29, 2008



Buried in a sea of teddy bears are two Wells Street School students, Kieran, left, and Aaron Bhatia, both attending school at Aurora Grove Public School on Stone Road in Aurora. Their mother, Alexandra, is a high school teacher in Richmond Hill where "Operation Bear Hug" began. The idea is to collect small to medium sized bears which will provide African AIDS orphans with something to cuddle. The bears, there have been almost 1,000 collected, will be shipped to Cotlands Child and Baby Centre in South Africa. *Auroran photo by Bonnie Tiffin*

"Respect for Law" event comes home

For the first time since 1985, the Optimist Club of Aurora will hold its annual "Respect For Law" dinner in Aurora.

"We're coming home," a spokesman told The Auroran.

On Wednesday, May 21, the dinner will be held at St. Andrews Valley Golf Club on St. John's Sideroad and the public is invited to attend.

For the last four years, the dinner has been held at the Community Safety Village, located in the Bruce's Mill Conservation Area in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The event will honour this

year's "Officer of the Year" who is being recognized for his or her contribution to community safety in the Town of Aurora.

Earlier in the evening, Sgt. Mark Altermann will provide a presentation on the issue of graffiti.

The evening begins at 6.30 p.m. with a cocktail reception followed by dinner at 7.15 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 each and can be reserved by calling Steve Hinder, Respect for Law Chairman, at 905-751-9328.

Tickets must be reserved by May 16th.

BRIEFLY

So, that explains it

For the past couple of weekends, residents have listened to train whistles as "phantom" trains crossed one of Aurora's three level crossings.

Normally, GO Trains use the track four times in the morning and four times in the evening...five days a week.

Every once in a while, a small freight will rumble through in the middle of the night and awaken some residents.

Since the track ends at Barrie, there are very few locations a train could go to.

So, listening to the whistle all weekend caused a few people to perk up their ears.

GO Transit, in a recent press release, explained everything. Seems they're training (no pun intended) new personnel and using the GO line for practice...on weekends.

"Residents of the communities in GO's service area, who may not be used to seeing GO Trains running during the weekend, should expect to see them," the GO release said. "Eventually, they will also see out-of-service GO Trains on the tracks on weekdays during mid-day and in the evening, outside regular schedules.

Now you know what all the weekend whistling was about.

Councillor resigns

Being a councillor in the Town of Aurora just "wasn't what I expected," Grace Marsh told The Auroran shortly after she announced her resignation from the council she was elected to less than two years ago. She was under the belief that councillors would respect each other, and that meetings would end when they were supposed to.

"That hasn't happened," she said.

However, her resignation did have something to do with an unruly council meeting that occurred last Tuesday night, but she also felt past meetings did not live up to her expectations.

"When I ran for council it was never my intention or expectation that I would not fulfill my commitment and I certainly did not expect the role of councillor to be easy," she said. "I did, however, fully expect a schedule that would be manageable and meeting lengths that were reasonable, only occasionally excessive."

To various degrees, Mrs. Marsh said her expectations were not the realities of the current council.

"Whether it is a case of my expectations not being reasonable, or whether there truly is a unique atmosphere this term, either way, I personally felt it was a situation that I could no longer tolerate."

In a letter to The Auroran, the councillor offered her "humble apologies to the taxpayers of Aurora and my sincere thanks to those who have supported me and continue to do so".

Her letter appears in this week's Auroran on Page 7.

Mrs. Marsh is only the second person to resign the post while in office since October, 1973, when Councillor Don Roberts, citing extra pressures in his educational career, called it quits.

In December, 1972, Mayor Dick Illingworth was forced to resign



GRACE MARSH

when his full time position with the Province of Ontario became a conflict of interest with his position as Aurora mayor.

Another vacancy on council was created when in January, 1965, Aurora Reeve Jean Moffat died.

According to town clerk Bob Panizza, Aurora Council now has three options.

Councillors can vote to appoint a person to council, take the next finisher from the last election or call a by-election.

The person finishing in ninth for the eight available seats was John Gallo, who was not available for comment.

If council elects to call a by-election, which, according to Mr. Panizza, would not be as extensive as a full election, it would have to cover the entire community since Aurora does not have a ward system.

Cost of such an exercise would range between \$30,000 and \$40,000, he said.

Council was expected to make a decision at a special meeting Monday night, but results were too late for The Auroran's press time.

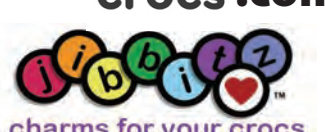
**Budget passed!
see page 9**

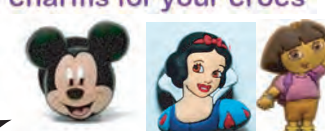
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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

CHATS-Community Home Assistance to Seniors is looking for volunteers to assist with activities in its Adult Day Program. Positions call for a commitment of a few hours a week at the Aurora location. Various times are available. Call Christine at 905-713-3494.

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 Grades 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

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.

TO MAY 3

Aurora Council has proclaimed this week as National Volunteer Week in Aurora to honour all the volunteers of Aurora who tirelessly share their time and talents with those in need.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

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

Senior Public Schools.

The Aurora Seniors will hold their Spring Pot Luck Lunch from noon to 1.30 p.m. at the seniors' centre. Sign up at the registration desk and indicate what your food preparation will be and it should be enough for five.

Deadline for nominations for 2008 Citizen of the Year. For information call 905-726-4741.

The Aurora Dream Team announces its support for Safe Haven in Aurora, by holding a Fashion Show Party at Cardinal Golf Club starting at 7 p.m. with a buffet and a Flower Power Fashion Event. Call Lisa at 905-222-4692.

SUNDAY, MAY 4

"Putting Food By" is a program to help you learn preserving techniques from Marie Barnes. It will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, 5 Municipal Dr. and is hosted by the Environmental Advisory Committee of the Town of Aurora. Register through Info Aurora, 905-727-8214, or infoaurora@e-aurora.ca. The event is free.

The Parish Nurse Ministry of Aurora United Church presents A "Spring Sing" concert at the Church at 7 p.m., featuring Aurora's own David Pilkey singing and playing Broadway tunes as well as songs from down through the decades. Tickets are \$15 each. Call Carol Rose-Kudelka at 905-727-1935, ext. 24, for more information.

MONDAY, MAY 5

Yard waste collection in brown paper Kraft bags or clean, open, rigid reusable containers must be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. to ensure pick-up. For information call 905-727-3123 ext. 3447.

TUESDAY, MAY 6

Aurora Seniors visit Georgian Downs Casino at a cost of \$40 for members and non-members.

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.

Silence is golden at this much-anticipated spring auction. Bid on any of a wide variety of appealing items, services, and certificates, all donated, as of 5.30 p.m. in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall, corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets.

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day by joining the Aurora Community Arboretum Bird Walk. Meet at the Gazebo by the Leisure Complex at 10 a.m.

Merlin's Hollow open house. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 181 Centre Crescent. Free.

MONDAY, MAY 12

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

Annual general meeting of the Aurora Minor Hockey Association in the auditorium of the Aurora Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

The Optimist Club of Aurora will hold its Annual Respect For Law Dinner at St. Andrews Valley Golf Club this year and the public is invited to attend. The event will honour this year's "Officer of the Year" who is being recognized for their contribution to community safety in the Town of Aurora. Earlier in the evening, Sgt. Mark Altermann will provide an informative presentation on the issue of graffiti. The evening begins at 6.30 p.m. with a cocktail reception with dinner following at 7.15 p.m. Tickets are \$20 each and can be reserved by calling Steve Hinder, Respect for Law Chairman, at 905-751-9328. Tickets must be reserved by May 16th.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Guild is hosting a Lilac Tyme Lunch between 11 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. in St. Andrew's Hall, corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets. Tickets are \$8; \$4 for children aged four to nine.

Catch the "royal wave" at a gala concert featuring Aurora's York Chamber Ensemble, Festival Chorus, and Trinity Youth Choir. The 7.30 p.m. concert is at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street. Tickets are \$15; \$10 for students and seniors.

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.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School at 315 Stone Road presents its annual fun fair "Blast Off to Summer 2008" at the school site from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will include inflatables, laser tag, rides, a magician show, food prepared by the Aurora Lions Club, games, emergency vehicles, silent auction and raffles.

Yonge Street Dance, presented by The Optimist Club of Aurora. 7 p.m. to midnight. On Yonge Street, between Murray Drive and Henderson Avenue.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

The 13th annual World's Longest Street Festival on the World's Longest Street, takes place on Yonge Street between

Wellington and Murray. More than 600 vendors expected. 11 a.m. to 5 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.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

Meet members of the Aurora Community Arboretum for a guided walk from 1 to 3 p.m. Meet at the gazebo by the Leisure Complex.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

A Coffee House will be held at Trinity Anglican Church at 7:30 p.m. featuring an evening of Trinity talent.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

Merlin's Hollow open house. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 181 Centre Crescent. Free.

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 Leggett 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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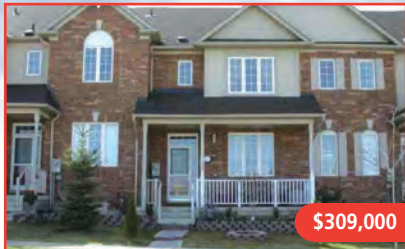
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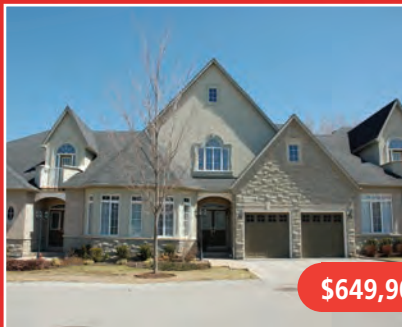
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FUNDRAISER

The AIDS Committee of York Region held a fundraiser at Jonathan's Restaurant last week, and it was termed a huge success. Entertainers donated their time to the event. Taking part were, left to right, Haran Vijayanathan, Radha Bhardwaj, Jamie Miller, Mary Georgopoulos, who owns Jonathan's; and Ryan Cummings.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Klees hopes to stop fraud

Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees wants residents to be aware that if they get an offer at the door for home renovations that sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Klees held a news conference in his Aurora constituency office Friday to alert residents to what he called a "potential consumer scam".

He took the action after receiving a call from Aurora residents Dieter and Toni Scholz who told him they had an offer from a door to door salesman that didn't sound quite right.

They were quoted \$6,700 to have their windows replaced and were told that they would get a grant from the Ontario government of \$5,000 if they agreed to a home energy audit.

And to kick it all off, they just had to give the salesman a cheque for \$1,000 and he would look after the rest.

"Fortunately the couple didn't cut a cheque," said Klees. "What we don't know, is how many unsuspecting people did and I want to alert residents to the fact that this activity is taking place in their neighbourhood".

Klees has asked the fraud unit of York Regional Police to investigate and has asked the Ministry of Energy to post an alert on the website that pro-

motes the province's Home Energy Audit and Home Energy Retrofit program.

"The audit and retrofit programs are legitimate government programs and can save homeowners money on their renovation costs," he said. "The problem is that some illegitimate players may be using those programs to rip off innocent consumers."

Klees pointed out that energy audits are provided by authorized energy advisors and the costs are in the range of \$300 of which 50 per cent will be

reimbursed by the Ontario government. The Scholz's were asked to pay \$1,000.

"Clearly, something doesn't add up here," said Klees. "Not only is the upfront fee out of line, the quote for renovation work to be done was unrealistically low. It all points to a scam in the making and we want to stop it in its tracks."

Details on the Home Energy Retrofit Program are available at: homeenergyon-tario.ca or at the Ministry of Energy's information hotline at 1-888-668-4636.

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Art show this week

The Town of Aurora and the Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA) present the 46th Annual Aurora Juried Art Show and Sale from May 2 through May 4 at the Aurora Town Hall.

The show is open to the public and the sale will offer a large selection of high quality original art. Based on last year's success, the show anticipates that attendees will come from the local community, as well as from the neighbouring regions.

The kick-off to this show is the popular opening reception gala slated for Friday, May 2, from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m.

The Society of York Region Artists is a non-profit organization dedicated to the visual arts.

Its purpose is to provide a forum for visual artists in York Region and the surrounding area to share their knowledge,

gain expertise and promote accessibility to the arts.

The Aurora Art Show and Sale is a must for all art enthusiasts or for

those looking for a piece to finish off a room in their home or office.

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Poor Richard

Immigrants flocked to Canada locations after ad campaign

*Amendments to the Immigration Act,
Fond memories, they bring back,
I was an Ontario People Hunter,
And we didn't get much flack.
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

Immigration legislation is a hot topic these days with the federal government proposing changes to the Immigration Act and including the proposals in the budget bill.

Then I saw a news item about the Toronto Police Service looking for recruits and that triggered a lot of memories.

I became a "People Hunter" in 1965 when I joined the Ontario Government Public Service with the Ontario Immigration Service of the Ministry of Trade and Development.

It was not generally well known at that time that immigration was a joint responsibility between the federal government and the provinces under the former British North America Act.

Provinces could solicit, entice, encourage or recruit any person as long as they met the immigration criteria of the federal government.

Any Ontario business or organization unable to find the professional or skilled help they needed locally came to us and we tried to find them overseas and bring them to Ontario.

In the late 1960s, I noted a news item that a recruiting team of the Toronto Police Service had been travelling across the county to recruit suitable applicants without success.

One day I was having lunch at the Military Institute in Toronto when I ran into Police Chief John MacKay and over lunch I asked him if he had ever considered recruiting overseas.

It was a new idea to him but he was interested. I explained our service and suggested he place a small ad in a London, England, newspaper at a cost of about \$500 and see what happened.

He agreed and the ad was placed through the Ministry's office in Ontario House in London.

The response was almost immediate and spectacular as hundreds of applications were received.

In fact there were so many they called to turn off the tap.

This resulted in a recruiting team of three including Inspector Charles Bond, a doctor and a personnel officer flying to London where an office was waiting for them in Ontario House with Ministry staff contacting the applicants and arranging interviews.

They were there six weeks and if I remember correctly interviewed about 600 applicants.

Evidently, the Toronto Police Service had a rule that they wouldn't poach officers from another force, but if they wanted to come on their own, there was a job open for them.

This offer was made to the British police officers and many of them accepted.

Ontario House staff worked with the federal immigration officers to process the immigration procedures and they flew to Toronto with their families to start their new duties with the Toronto Police Service.

In 1967, the Toronto branch handled personnel requests from 447 Ontario companies and organizations spending a total of \$96,000 on advertising in Britain.

In 1968, the largest single category signed up overseas was that of school teachers as 75 school boards throughout the province recruited overseas, bringing an estimated 600 teachers to Ontario.

In addition, some immigrants who came to Ontario on their own, visited the Toronto office and were assisted in providing job information and arranging interviews.

We also recruited in the United States and recruiting missions were held in various cities including Los Angeles, Cleveland and Philadelphia.

When unemployment began to climb in Ontario in the early 1970s, it became politically unpopular to bring in skilled workers from overseas, while many Ontarians were out of work, and the People Hunter service ended.

I assumed other duties in the Ministry resulting in an assignment in Sudbury to help organize the Region of Sudbury, but that's another story.



This photo shows the 12 teachers who taught at Aurora Public School on Church Street in 1950. They are, front row, left to right, Genevieve Robinson, Elsie Legg, Minnie Morning, Marjorie Kitchen and Mrs. Olive Komar. Second row, left to right, are Isobel Hayes, Eleanor Humphreys, and Mrs. Harry Smallwood. Back row, left to right, are Del Babcock, Lorne Brady, Gilbert McDonald and Illtyd Harris. School is currently undergoing renovations and is expected to open in September as a Heritage Centre.

Letters to the Editor

In spite of sunny, warm weather, Aurora Home Show was a success

To the editor,

It has been with great pride that I have chaired the 2008 Aurora Home Show, brought to you by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

The event was very successful with record crowds - despite the wonderful sunny weekend!

Thanks to all the exhibitors for participating, all the helpful volunteers and all the wonderful visitors who made it a fun place to be last weekend.

I would not have been able to pull this off without the encouragement,

support and significant contributions of (i) the Home Show Committee members - Shelley Lundquist, Sean Herbinson, Brian North, Jack Roeleveld and Dave Rusnell; (ii) the Designer Home Committee members: Jim Pickering (Chair), Jamie Thompson, Dave Rusnell and Jack Roeleveld, and (iii) Chamber staff: Carla Adams, Nancy Eveleigh Browne and in particular, Julie Gilbert Belue - my right hand who gave her all to ensure the event ran smoothly.

Many thanks to our sponsors: Aurora Cable for the great yellow bags, PowerStream Inc. and Aurora Toyota Inc. for their contributions to the Environmental Fair, Lenard Lind - L.H. Lind Realty Inc. for sponsoring the Friday evening exhibitors' reception, and Frank Klees, MPP, for sponsoring the colouring page in the Home Show program.

A special thank you to George St. Kitts for providing entertainment at our exhibitors' reception.

Thank you to the many others who donated door

prizes, exhibitor raffle prizes, and other products and services for the Home Show, and to those who generously volunteered their time to assist with this event.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff at the Aurora Community

Centre for their co-operation and friendly assistance before, during and after the show. Your support was much appreciated.

Brenda Snape
Chair of the 2008
Aurora Home Show

THE AURORAN

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

To the editor,

Let me introduce the citizens of Aurora to a unique club in their region.

We are the York Region Parrot Club. We are a non-profit organization.

Our mission is to the preservation and enhancement of pet birds and the education of their owners. Our meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month, September to June from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Lake Wilcox Community Centre in Oak Ridges.

It's just down the road from you.

Our meetings are both fun and educational.

We sometimes have

guest speakers such as veterinarians; theme meetings such as bird toy making night; and cooking for the birds.

Vet checked birds are welcome at the meetings and there are always a wide variety of parrots at each meeting from cockatiels and lovebirds to the large macaws.

Many of the birds in the club talk and some do tricks.

We have a fully stocked library of bird information for members to borrow from. There are raffles, door prizes, silent auctions and always a tasty refreshment table at meetings.

This year on Sunday, June 1, we will have a booth at the Aurora Street

Festival.

I invite all Aurorans to come by our booth and see the parrots, and find out more about our club.

In June we will hold our annual bird show.

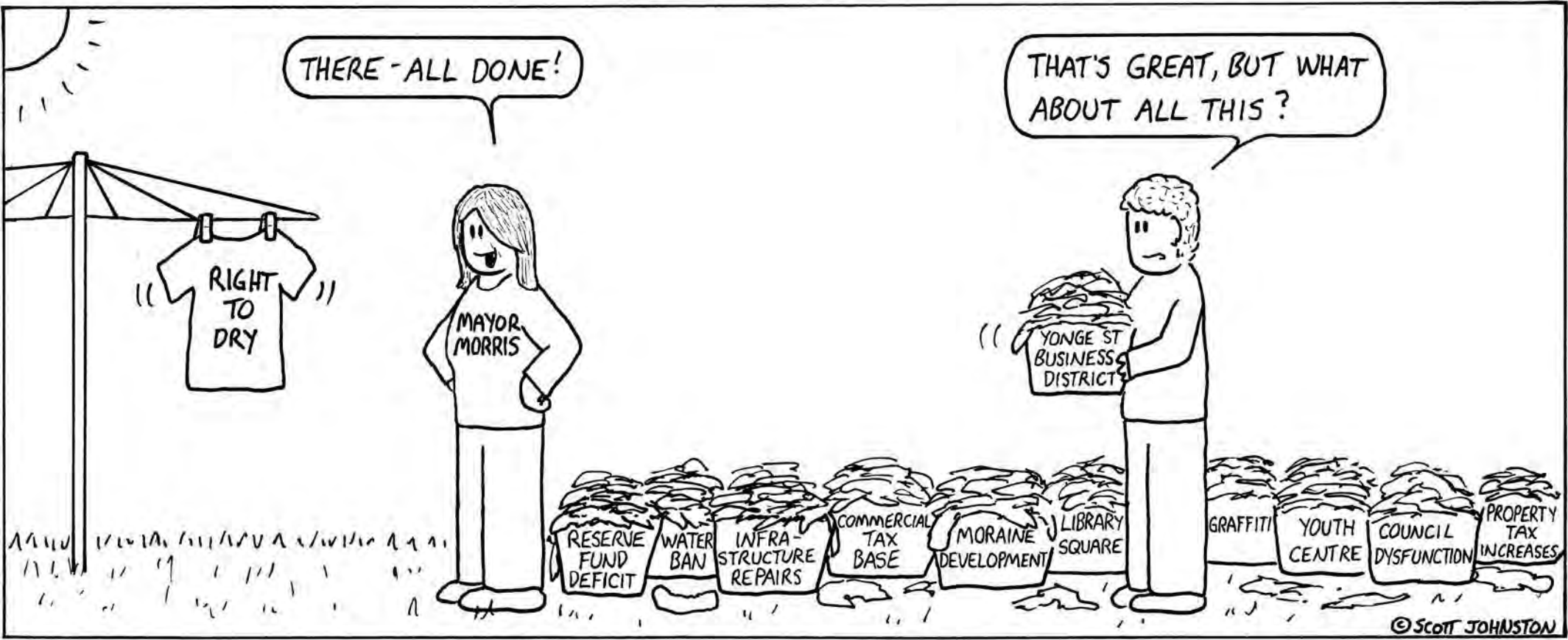
Judges will choose first, second and third place winners in the small, medium and large birds and the best of show bird.

Members can enter as many of their birds as they want. It's a great evening. Come and see for yourself.

Have a peek at our website for more information: www.yorkregionparrotclub.ca.

Looking forward to hearing from Aurora!

J. Chambers
Oak Ridges



Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

An Open Letter to the Minister of Education

Dear Minister,

I will dispense with the accustomed pleasantries as I have already congratulated you on your election win in my last letter to you - the 33rd such missive I believe in this one-way exchange of documents.

Your Conservative predecessor was right; there is a "crisis" in the schools.

And it is happening here, right smack in the middle of Aurora.

There is an alarmingly low amount of homework being given to the children in our community, which is also affecting their physical fitness levels.

It is for these two reasons that you need to relieve the administration and the teachers at Devins Drive Public School of their respective posts with utmost dispatch.

Last Friday afternoon, I interrogated (I mean interviewed) the subjects: my four-year-old son who is in junior kindergarten, my seven-year-old nephew who is in Grade 2 and my 11-year-old nephew who is in Grade 5.

They all darken the halls of the above noted offending institution.

I had each of them into my home office for a brief discussion.

I positioned the energy-efficient 1,000 watt lamp just right - so that it shone brightly on their little foreheads.

I then posed the same question to each of the children: what did you learn at school this week?

My son: "I don't remember, Daddy."

Seven-year-old: "Nuthin, Uncle Steve. I'm hungry."

11-year-old: "Not much."

While these same answers uttered by David Radler in a U.S. District Court during the Conrad Black case may be fine for the

legal community, they certainly do not pass the muster with me.

To ensure that I had a clear picture of the deterioration of our school system, during our individual sessions, I also made use of a polygraph machine.

It was conclusive; the needle on the system did not move one bit when they testified about their collective lack of scholastic exploits.

As I already had the polygraph out, I also asked a few other questions, and I was surprised and saddened to hear that all three kids exhibited Liberal political sympathies and one of the kids was a closet Habs fan.

No more "Backyardigans" or "Rollie Pollie Ollie" cartoon shows for this one guy for the foreseeable future, that's for sure.

The answer is not, as many educators and parents will have you believe, to reduce the homework load; it is to increase it.

Unstructured play-time is over-rated.

A student in junior kindergarten should, in this writers' book, average two hours per night of homework, while a seven-year-old should average three hours and eighteen minutes and an 11-year-old should average a daily five and one-half hours.

That brings me to the other reason for this letter; the lack of physical fitness of the kids.

My son happens to be about 37 inches tall and weighs roughly 41 pounds.

I was extremely disappointed to find the Lightning McQueen back-pack he was wearing to school the other day only weighed in at 53 pounds. The child needs to be toughened up.

As I told my wife, I did not purchase the entire set of Encyclopedia Britannica last month so that it could gather dust sitting beside the home computer.

Starting Monday he will be carrying these books, A through K, with him.

One extra book from the collection will be added to his back-

pack per week.

The Toronto Star newspaper published an article on Saturday, April 5, about kids being rushed past childhood, and how one affluent town in New Jersey was trying to deal with it.

The article said, "Some 10-year-olds in Ridgewood are so busy they carry Palm Pilots to keep track of their appointments."

I was astounded.

These kids are lucky enough to have Palm Pilots! Where exactly are my taxes going, I might ask?

The article then goes on to note that Ridgewood has taken a stand.

"In 2002, Ridgewood pioneered an annual event called Ready, Set, Relax! The idea is that one day a year this alpha town takes a breather: teachers assign no homework, extracurricular activities are cancelled, and parents make a point of coming home early from the office...the aim is to cast off the tyranny of the timetable."

Hogwash, I say.

Minister, in the name of increased globalization and international competitiveness concerns, don't allow a similar activity here.

Forget thinking about an Ontario Ready, Set, Relax! Day.

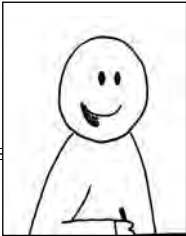
I say we have an Ontario Kid's Palm Pilot Day - first 15,000 kids, five years or younger - receive a personal data organizer of their choice.

To take the corrective action required at Devins Drive Public School, I also wanted to let you know that I am available for any admin post that you may see fit.

With appropriate adulation,

Stephen

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Finally, it's springtime, and the signs are all around us.

Actually, the signs are advertising garage sales, but that's the true harbinger of spring in Aurora.

People think this season starts with the sighting of the first robin, or when the public works department finally sweeps up the Sahara's worth of sand that remains covering our roads after all the winter snow melts off.

No, it's not really spring in town until every utility pole and super mailbox is buried under home-made garage sale signs with writing so small you can't read it, and in a colour that perfectly blends into the background.

Yellow highlighter on white is my personal favourite.

But what attracts most people to garage sales is not the advertising, it's the sight of someone else who's gotten there ahead of them.

An Auroran will be driving by on his/her way to the store and think "hmmm... what's that person picking up from that table...it must be something really good...maybe I should stop and take a look."

So they pull over.

And this attracts another person, and then someone else, until eventually the street's so clogged with parked cars, it looks like everyone in the neighbourhood's having their driveways repaved.

And this is when we get to the part that scientists are still trying

to understand. As people get out of their cars, the rational part of their brain somehow turns off, and "garage sale mentality" kicks in.

"Just look at it all!" they think, wide-eyed. "How could the homeowners ever want to part with items of such value?"

They peruse the tables, each holding the promise of treasures unseen.

And soon, they're fighting other potential buyers for the right to own something that in hindsight, they would never normally even consider buying, like autographed copies of 'Machell's Corners', or betamax tapes of Aurora Council meetings from the 1970s.

And somehow at this point, the "garage sale mentality" steps up to an even higher level.

People who would think nothing of dropping \$10 at a coffee shop on a specialty latte and pastry, spend 20 minutes haggling over the cost of something with a price tag of a nickel.

An hour later, with all the wheeling and dealing over, and their original errand completely forgotten, the exuberant purchaser will arrive home with 70 cents less in their pockets, and 70 kgs. more in their hands.

Carefully, they unwrap the cherished and hard-fought purchases from their protective newspaper cocoons, proudly revealing each item to their families.

Full Circle

This is when reality hits.

The looks on their loved ones' faces finally snap them out of that euphoric state, and they see their treasures in the true light of understanding.

They're all junk!

And in closer inspection, standing amidst mounds of crumpled paper, they may even recognize something that they themselves managed to offload at their last garage sale.

Temporarily, anyway.

Yes, the faithful knickknack has made its way home, returning full circle like a wildebeest having migrated around the Serengeti.

And like a wildebeest, it has returned in greater numbers.

So the purchaser sheepishly moves all of these items into the garage, or the basement, or some other dark corner.

And here they will wait.

Next year at this time, they will be dusted off, and the home-made signs will be made, and the potential purchasers will come, and the annual garage sale item migration will begin again.

And spring will return to Aurora.

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

Bouquets & Bricks

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Aurora's Theresa Bingham, mother of two, who completed her first Boston Marathon Monday, April 21. She trained dilligently all through this rough winter running on the snowy, icy streets of Aurora.

BOUQUETS to Tim Hortons for their active participation in Community Clean-Up Day held last week as staff got together with other volunteers to clean-up Aurora.

BRICKBATS to whoever prepared the notice in a recent Notice Board requesting Expressions of Interest for the management of the Beer Garden for various town events with a deadline of "Friday, April 26". Check the calendar, Friday was the 25th.

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Panthers Novice Girls hockey team on winning their third tournament of the year when they captured the 41st annual Brampton Canadettes Tournament by defeating the Kitchener Lady Rangers.

BRICKBATS to cash-hungry Toronto council if they accept the recommendations of Waterfront Toronto which is considering a sponsorship program that would see corporate names and logos decorating public spaces. Can you imagine names like Wal-Mart Park or Burger King's Quay?

BOUQUETS to the National Post for showcasing Aurora, Newmarket and Richmond Hill in a recent edition and noting that the municipality offers a blend of small-town feel near a big city and a town that encourages growth while respecting nature.

BRICKBATS to the federal government for appointing two Toronto citizens to the \$112,000 a year Immigration and Refugee Board. A national Immigration lobby group has called for their removal as they may have broken federal conflict of interest guidelines.

BRICKBATS to the federal government for its lack of control over the spending of public dollars during the period 1994 to 2004 as an employee of the Department of National Defence defrauded the department of more than \$100 million. He was eventually caught and sentence to seven years in prison.

BOUQUETS to anyone who can explain how it is that the host can be charged if a visitor is allowed to have too much to drink, then drives away and kills or injures someone, yet if a Judge grants bail, the person can go out and kill someone and the Judge faces no repercussions.

BRICKBATS to a system which permits the controversial after hour Comfort Zone in Toronto to remain open after police and bylaw enforcement officers raided the club, seized more drugs and nabbed one suspected dealer in the third raid within a month. The club was hit with 13 bylaw charges including operating an entertainment establishment without a licence. Close it down permanently!

BOUQUETS to the more than 200 transportation volunteer drivers for CHATS, who provide about 30,000 rides per year for seniors to get to the hospital, doctor's appointments, etc., when they have no other means to get there. It's a tremendous service.

BRICKBATS to former Prime Minister Paul Martin, who is still an MP, for his absence from Parliament and the worst voting record of the 308 MPs. He has not voted once during the current session of Parliament. He says he is working hard on other issues such as poverty in Africa.

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AE Team on winning the York Simcoe Championship for the second year in a row. The team lost only two games during the regular season and played well in all the tournaments they entered.

BOUQUETS to the 107 members of the Aurora Master Ducks Swim Team for setting a Canadian record for having the largest swimming team ever to be assembled in the history of Masters' Swimming in Canada. They finished second in the competition for the second year in a row.

BRICKBATS to the Canadian justice system which permits a pregnant 19-year-old in jail without being charged so that she can be forced to testify against her boyfriend, she accused of assaulting her. And we complain about the justice system in Mexico!

BOUQUETS to former Aurora resident and businessman Len Rosenberg and Ted McClenny on receiving their 50-year pins as members of Aurora's Rising Sun Masonic Lodge.

Letters to the Editor

Volunteering should cause change in tax system: reader

The following letter was sent to Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada; Honourable James Flaherty, Minister of Finance of Canada;

Receiver General of Canada, with a copy sent to The Auroran.

Dear Sirs:

I would like to suggest the following for

your perusal to make a substantial change in our Canadian taxation system:

"That individual Canadian taxpayers be allowed to deduct volunteer hours from

their Income Tax on the same basis that monetary contributions to registered charities are authorized."

The same rule of submitting receipts would apply with the registered charities preparing and legitimizing their authenticity. These receipts would be treated exactly the same as monetary donations.

There are several sound reasons for this change:

- Volunteer time should be considered to have a monetary value - a \$ value can be placed on manpower if paid position.

- Registered charities depend on volunteers. A greater number will be required in future as population ages as will the pool of healthy volunteer prospects.

- The expectation of a tax deducted could attract additional volunteers.

- Volunteers can provide time (worth money) but not necessarily cash. Both types

of donation are required.

- Volunteerism can be rewarded with a tax deduction.

- The loss of government revenue would be more than offset by the additional quality or maintenance of services provided by non-profit organizations therefore not requiring government subsidies.

In Ontario, high school students must provide a certain number of hours to a registered charity in order to graduate.

This precedent clearly indicates the importance of volunteerism and this act should be given the equal status as a monetary donation.

I am pleased to submit the aforementioned on behalf of all the tireless volunteers in Canada and would be happy to speak with "the powers that be" to put this concept into the proper context and assist in any way to expedite the process.

Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges

To the editor,

This past Saturday and Sunday gave Aurorans a good taste of the future of commuter rail in our town as GO trains frequently travelled back and forth on the Barrie line.

The rail traffic was due to the training of the new "customer-focused" Bombardier crews who will be taking over from the Canadian National crews.

While the emphasis on better customer service is laudable, I must point out that the Town of Aurora does not have the proper infrastructure to accommodate the amount of rail traffic that is coming very

soon.

According to GO's April 17 press release, "Residents of the communities in GO's service area, who may not be used to seeing GO Trains running during the weekend, should expect to see them starting this Saturday.

"Eventually, they will also see out-of-service GO Trains on the tracks on weekdays during mid-day and in the evening, outside regular schedules".

Added to this, GO Transit will soon add passing track to the Barrie line to better accommodate the increase in north-south rail traffic.

Bullying tactics evident during council meeting

To the editor,

If anyone had any doubts as to the bullying tactics employed by the mayor and her cronies, you need only watch last week's council meeting.

If you have any knowledge of body language, watch carefully and you will see how the mayor manipulates people around the table.

And as far as staff goes, her disgust and total lack of respect is clearly evident by watching her reaction to their opinions which may be contrary to hers.

And that's with the cameras rolling.

Dick Illingworth has been telling us about the lack of respect shown to staff now for weeks, maybe months.

I'd hate to think what goes on behind closed

doors.

The mayor is constantly leaning to her left for direction from her colleague.

At this point, it's unclear as to who is actually the mayor.

We would all be better off if the mayor was more concerned about what's good for the Town rather than imposing her paranoid style of management to further her own agenda.

Bullying tactics won't work.

The voters in this Town are smarter than that.

We look to our mayor for leadership on issues that are important to the quality of life in our community.

We already know how to dry our clothes.

S. Lee
Aurora

Car + Home = **BIG SAVINGS**



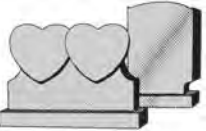
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Letters to the Editor

Sometimes the truth hurts, this group says

To the editor,

The Ontario Clean Air Alliance (OCAA) has been strongly opposing

a proposal to build a large and inefficient new power plant in Northern York Region (NYR). Sometimes the

truth - that this proposed plant is too big, too costly and too polluting - hurts, judging by the reaction of the Association of Power Producers of Ontario (APPRO).

APPRO recently sent a letter to the Mayor of Aurora, which was forwarded to the OCAA with further comments by Jan Carr, the CEO of the Ontario Power

Authority.

Both letters support the need for a large new power plant in NYR, and claim to “correct” OCAA information.

Unfortunately - especially in the case of the letter from Mr. Carr, representing Ontario's lead energy planning agency -- both letters are in need of substantial correction

themselves.

They rely on outdated and unreliable information about electricity demand growth in NYR; make claims about the transmission system in the area that fail to provide the full picture; and misinterpret the conclusions reached by the Northern York Region Working Group, among other errors.

But you can judge for

yourself – we have posted the APPRO and OPA letters as well as the OCAA's response on our website at www.cleanairalliance.org/nyr. Read the letters and ask yourself this: Who is really working to bring Ontario's electricity system into the 21st century in a way that truly addresses the climate and air quality impact of electricity

generation?

Who is really supporting the development of a conservation culture in Ontario? And who is just interested in maintaining the status quo?

**Jessica Fracassi
Communications & Membership Director
Ontario Clean Air Alliance
Toronto**

Coffee outlet won't get support from neighbours

Open letter to Second Cup:

I'm writing to you on behalf of many residents in Aurora.

We were shocked and sickened to learn that a deal with Second Cup and the owners of the Aurora Centre on Bayview Avenue (just north of Wellington) forced the closing of an existing coffee shop, Zavidas Coffee.

For more than 10 years, Zavidas was a part of this community and we were proud to support an independent business - remember the days when you were an independent, small business?

Many of us are so disturbed by what you have done that we will not go to the new Second Cup in sympathy for those who lost their

jobs and because of the way the deal forced the shop to close by underhandedly taking their lease from them.

If you had found your own space next door it wouldn't have been nearly as bad as the backroom shenanigans that ended in good people being blindsided by your actions.

Even though the landlord is greatly at fault, you, as a corporate citizen, should be ashamed of yourself.

Luckily there is a Starbucks going in up the street.

At least they are building their own location...not acting like a bully.

Shame on you...and your new landlord.

**Mary MacDonald Rival
(and dozens of others)
Aurora**

Marsh explains her reasons for resigning council post

To the editor,

I have decided to resign from my position as councillor for the Town of Aurora and for that I am profoundly sorry.

Initially, I thought the right thing to do was not to say anything about why, but on reflection, I now realize the taxpayers have an absolute right to an explanation.

When I ran for Council, it was never my

intention or expectation that I would not fulfill my commitment and I certainly did not expect the role of councillor to be easy.

I did, however, fully expect a schedule that would be manageable; meeting lengths that were reasonable (only occasionally excessive).

I also expected an atmosphere of respect for others and their opinions, a working atmosphere similar to most

business environments where discussion can and does take place without anger, threats and insults.

I expected a common goal to handle the business of the day with a lesser regard for personal opinions and personal agendas. I expected a group of nine that could and would work as a team, without obvious splits.

I expected to set policy and give direction that

staff would be left to implement and manage.

I expected the taxpayers' finances to be spent wisely and prudently and I expected the professional advice of senior staff to be independent and given the appropriate amount of weight and consideration.

To various degrees, these are not the realities of the current Town of Aurora Council, and whether it is a case of my expectations not

being reasonable, or whether there truly is a unique atmosphere this term, either way, I personally felt it was a situation that I could no longer tolerate.

Once again, I offer my humble apologies to the taxpayers of the Town of Aurora and my sincere thanks to those who have supported me and continue to do so.

**Grace Marsh
Aurora**

Georgina had no rep at meetings

To the editor,

Response to - "Electrical plant will spread pollution through the air", a Letter to the Editor in the Georgina Advocate, April 24, and story "Georgina says no to gas-fired option," April 17.

The Ontario Power "Authority" (OPA) conducted the 2005 Northern York Region Working Group meetings and municipalities

from across the region had both citizen and municipal representatives at the table.

Why Georgina was not represented is a bit of a mystery but I am sure they would have been welcome given that six other municipalities were actively participating in this exhaustive consultation process.

York-North MPP Julia Munro was right to try and engage Georgina in this process and why they chose to stay silent

is a question only your elected officials can answer.

This issue was in the news extensively for over 18 months in 2004 and 2005 and these issues have always impacted the entire Region, but I presume that most people have little concern unless they are perceived to be directly and imminently impacted.

The need for a diverse supply of power that also addressed future growth needs has

already been clearly established by the IESO, OEB, OPA and local power distribution companies over the past few years and a solution will be imposed on us if we can not decide for ourselves how to best meet this need.

Conservation and Demand Management (CDM) are noble goals that should be pursued aggressively, as was stated by the OPA's 2005 recommendations as well as in their IPSP

master plan for Ontario, however CDM has absolutely no bearing on the need for supply diversity and redundancy.

The Clean Air Alliance's proposal for a 30MW CHP plant does not address the need for supply diversity and furthermore, upon closer scrutiny, their stance on emissions is not consistent with their past support of much larger facilities, that run longer and are located closer to much larger popula-

tions.

My greatest fear is that concerned residents and councils may rush to judgment without hearing all sides of the issue which is precisely why I created a website called Aurora Power Update.com (www.aurorapowerupdate.com).

It is my view that good output requires good input and I've done my best to inform the public over the past four years.

I totally support and

have advocated strongly for public input into this planning and assessment process but I have always assumed that input needs to be based on the best possible information.

I strongly support the OPA's proposal provided the power plant is properly located, designed and operated to address common and reasonable concerns.

**Richard Johnson
Aurora**



Dr. Craig Dingman



RAISING HEALTHY DRUG-FREE KIDS

When referring to **Drug-Free**, I'm not speaking of street drugs but rather, over-the-counter and prescription medications. We live in a chemical world, and we teach our children to do the same.

Consider this; as a baby, your teeth hurt, or you had fever or colic, and the people who love you the most gave you a drug to ease your suffering. In grade school, you fell and the people who love you gave you a drug to end your pain. In high school, you broke up with your girl/boyfriend and it was painful. The people who love you the most gave you a drug to ease your agony. In college, you didn't get the grades you wanted and the people who love you gave you a drug to help. And then there are the colds, flu's, etc. And again the people who love you gave you a vaccine or drug to protect you. Scary isn't it? Unfortunately, the pub-

lic has been indoctrinated that this is the way it should be - that medications make it "all OK," that drugs are good for you. There's something wrong with that concept! As a matter of fact, latest research indicates that properly prescribed medications are the fourth leading cause of death. Not OK!

Recently, however, there has been a new paradigm, or shift, in people's thinking emerging. Most people now are no longer happy taking drugs and are beginning to question their doctor. This is a good thing! The buzzwords heard now are **WELLNESS** and **VITALISM**. Parents are beginning to realize that the health of their children comes only from a normally functioning body and not from a prescription pad. Most drugs do not correct a problem but simply change your body chemistry and cover-up your symptoms.

Have you noticed that drug companies are advertising **prescription drugs** in popular magazines and suggesting that you ask your doctor to prescribe them to you? Drugs are a billion dollar industry that is losing profits because you are no longer satisfied with this approach to your health and the health of your children. This is a good thing!

Doctors of Chiropractic have been teaching patients that only a well functioning body heals. In order to have a well functioning body, the nervous system that controls it also has to function normally. Chiropractors deal with interference to this normal function. We call this interference a **Vertebral Subluxation**. It can have serious health consequences. It is for this reason that I feel it is imperative for children to be checked for vertebral

subluxations.

If you would like additional information on how to raise a healthy drug-free child, you are welcome to attend one of our clinic presentations on this subject or call me, I'd be happy to help!

We will be holding an information session on natural ways of managing ADD/ADHD on Wednesday, June 11, at 7 p.m. at Timberlane Athletic Club. Call to reserve your space.

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

Proposed facility not viable, reader says

To the editor,

RE: Proposed Power Generation Facility in Northern York Region.

Referring to The Auroran, week of April 15, Ontario Power Authority (OPA) proposed a plan to install a 350 MW simple cycle gas turbine electricity generating plant in Northern York Region, and its costs will be recovered through charges on customers' electricity bill.

Referring to further information retrieved from OPA's website, the gas fired electricity generating option has been a presence of community rather than a new transmission line that would provide the same relief.

At the end of the process, OPA will select only one facility to proceed with construction and operation.

I have assessed the subject facility based on the aforementioned information and common engineering practice.

My conclusion is that the proposed facility is not a viable solution to meet the best interests of all Ontario's electricity consumers.

The following summarizes my assessment why a simple cycle gas-fired electricity power generation is not a viable option.

1. Why is a simple cycle gas turbine electric generating facility not a viable solution?

There are two types of gas turbine electricity generating facilities in terms of thermodynamics.

One is a simple cycle unit and the other is a combined cycle unit.

The thermal efficiency of a simple cycle unit is at most 35 per cent, whilst that of a combined cycle unit is higher than

55 per cent.

A combined cycle electricity generating facility is a combination of simple cycle gas turbine unit(s) and a conventional condensing steam turbine unit utilizing heat recovery steam generators to recover the heat from the exhaust of gas turbine before discharging to the atmosphere.

Therefore, thermal efficiency of a combined cycle unit is much higher than that of a simple cycle unit.

The difference in thermal efficiency between the two types of gas turbine electricity generating facilities is in the area of 20 per cent.

Therefore, a simple cycle gas turbine electricity generating facility is not a viable solution, and therefore, it would not meet the best interests of Ontario electricity consumers.

2. Why was a simple

cycle gas turbine electric generating facility knowingly proposed?

In general, the electricity generating facility fueled by gas is for the purpose to meet peak electricity demands.

Common engineering practice for provision of a peaking electricity generating facility is to select the efficiency of facility as high as possible in order to minimize the payback period of investment by reducing production cost.

Therefore, a combined cycle unit is a far better selection in lieu of a simple cycle unit.

However, a combined cycle unit requires a lot of cooling water for its condensing turbine, and there is almost no suitable site available in Northern York Region for installation of a 350 MW capacity combined cycle electric generating plant.

OPA must have proposed a simple cycle

gas turbine electric generating facility knowingly in order to meet the preference of the community.

Therefore, in my opinion, OPA must seek public consensus in the decision making process in order to clarify the questionable engineering decision.

In fact, if a gas fuelled power power generating facility were to be considered, the optimum solution for provision of a peaking gas turbine power generating facility to meet OPA's mandate should be of a high efficiency combined cycle unit installed at one of Ontario Power Generation's generating stations along the shore of Lake Ontario.

With a difference in thermal efficiency of 20 per cent, the losses in the transmission line to Northern York Region can be well offset by far by a higher efficient

combined cycle peaking unit.

3. Requirements of city water.

The Town of Aurora was listed as one of the sites running to install the subject facility.

OPA stated that "very little or no water will be used".

However, without question, city water or other sources of cooling water is required to cool down the auxiliary equipment.

The Town of Aurora disallowed residents to use city water for lawn care of their properties during the summer months in the last couple of years.

Readers must be aware of the fact the facility will be a system resource, and its costs will be charged on customers' electricity bills to all Ontario electricity consumers.

Furthermore, as mentioned, at the end of the

process OPA will select only one facility between the gas-fired simple cycle option and the transmission line option to proceed with construction and operation.

Therefore, OPA's advertisement in the media appears to be the last call for all Ontario electricity consumers in order to obtain public consensus prior to proceeding with construction and operation.

As one of the electricity consumers in Northern York Region, I strongly feel that it is unfair and also unethical to all Ontario electricity consumers for they will have to pay unnecessary higher electricity costs resulting from this gas-fired simple cycle power generating option.

In my terminology, this option is an engineering joke!

**S.L. Chen
Aurora**

Group left souvenir in neighbourhood

To the editor,

This past Friday night a group of "kids" decided to have a party outside my house.

According to my next door neighbours, it woke up their young daughters.

This group of noisy "kids" left us a souvenir of their

visit...a large penis painted black on the sidewalk in front of my house.

We tried to remove it, but it has gone into the concrete.

Apparently the wooded fence over the golf course on Murray has also been defaced with the same artwork.

Would the Aurora Works Department like to come over

and get rid of this eyesore?

My other neighbour raked their lawn and put it into the paper bags for pick up this Monday.

They got home from a wedding at 2.30 a.m. The bag was still sitting upright.

But by 8 a.m. it had been kicked over spilling its wares.

Why are "kids" out at

past 2.30 a.m.

Where are their parents? At home in their bed, where their "kids" should also be!! It seems that some parents do not give a damn where their kids are and what they are up to.

**Ian Allison
Aurora**

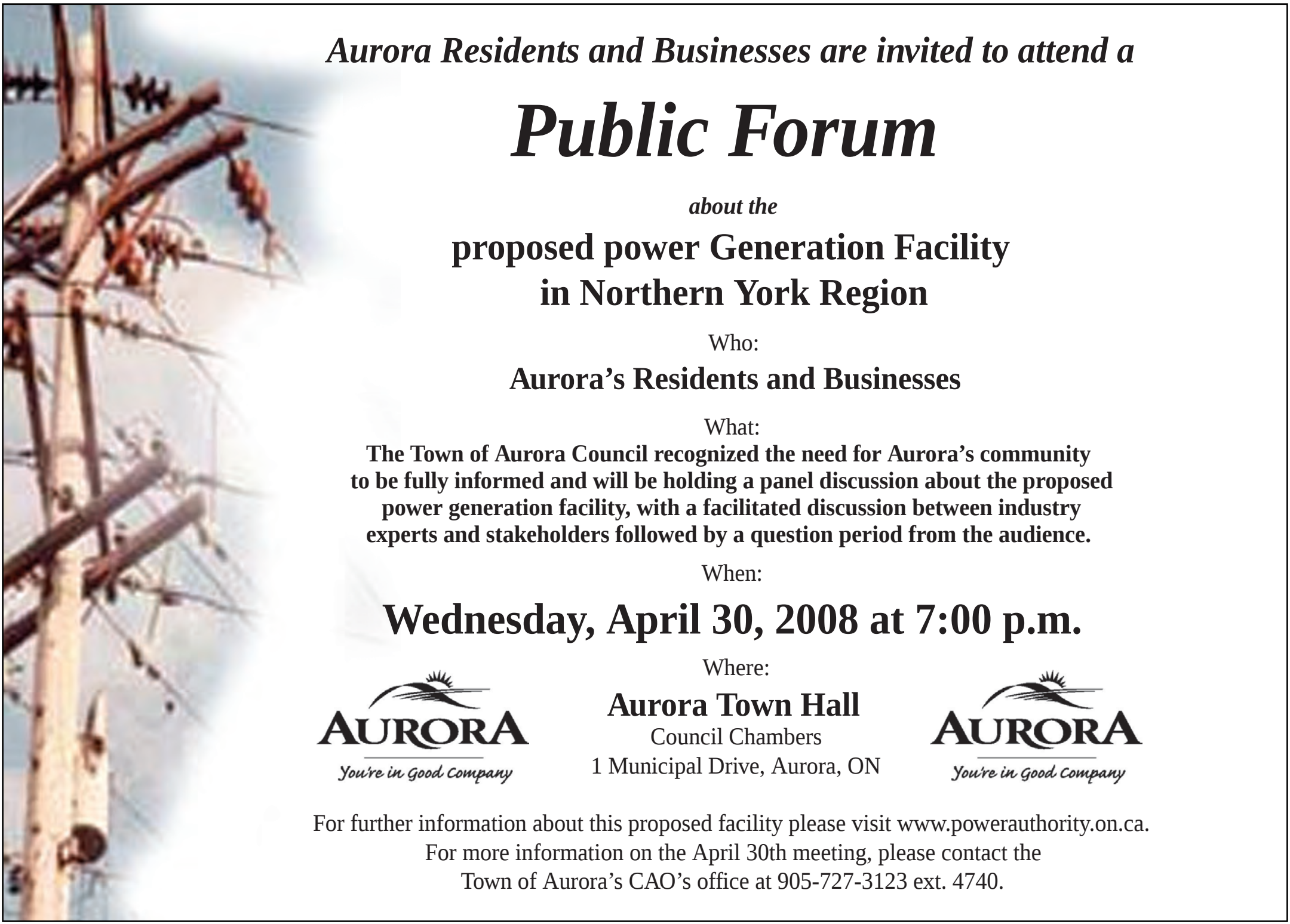


**The Aurora Canada Day Parade
will take place in
on July 1st at 10 a.m.**

9 weeks left to get your float or costume ready!

For more information please email us at
the address below and one of our volunteers will
be happy to help.

auroraparade@live.com



Aurora Residents and Businesses are invited to attend a

Public Forum

about the

proposed power Generation Facility in Northern York Region

Who:

Aurora's Residents and Businesses

What:

The Town of Aurora Council recognized the need for Aurora's community to be fully informed and will be holding a panel discussion about the proposed power generation facility, with a facilitated discussion between industry experts and stakeholders followed by a question period from the audience.

When:

Wednesday, April 30, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Where:



AURORA
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Aurora Town Hall
Council Chambers
1 Municipal Drive, Aurora, ON



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For further information about this proposed facility please visit www.powerauthority.on.ca.

For more information on the April 30th meeting, please contact the
Town of Aurora's CAO's office at 905-727-3123 ext. 4740.

Budget passed...finally

After almost seven months and innumerable special committee meetings discussing Aurora's 2008 operating and capital budget, it was assumed the final passage would be a routine affair. Not so. Bottom line: your taxes will increase 5.4 per cent.

More than three hours were spent Tuesday night debating various parts of the budget with recorded votes, points of order, nit-picking, and personal remarks before the final vote, which was adopted 8-1 vote with Councillor Evelyn Buck opposed.

In a power point presentation, Treasurer John Gutteridge noted the proposed budget included operating expenditures of \$39 million with net operating expenditures of \$21.9 million to be levied as taxes.

The 2008 gross capital budget has capital expenditures of \$14.1 million consisting of 48 projects with net expenditures of \$2.7 million to be added to the levy.

With assessment growth of 2.7 per cent there will be a tax levy increase of 4.4 per cent for operations plus one per cent to assist mak-

ing up the shortfall in capital funding for a total increase of 5.4 per cent or \$59.21 for town purposes on the average assessed house.

With regional and educational taxes included the increase for the average home is \$117.47.

From the Aurora tax dollar, 24 cents is for protection to persons and property, 19 cents for Leisure Services, 12 cents for transportation, 11 cents for Library, 11 cents for administration, 11 cents for capital, six cents environmental, three cents for planning and development and three cents for council.

The increase in the operating budget includes \$1.5 million for salaries and wages, \$180,00 for winter maintenance and \$25,000 for a Senior Grant Program.

A look to the future indicates a tax increase of 7.7 per cent next year, 5.3 per cent in 2010 and 5.3 per cent in 2011.

The Treasurer reported that the municipality was in a good financial position.

In response to a question from Councillor Buck about funds for hearings of the Ontario Municipal

Board, especially the Westhill appeal, staffers replied \$125,000 had been included in the legal budget and there was \$413,000 in the Legal Services Reserve.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern moved the budget as presented, with Councilor Buck stating that she couldn't support the budget as she had no confidence in it, claiming it was a political or an "Evelina MacEachern" budget which immediately brought an objection from Councillor MacEachern.

Mayor Phyllis Morris ruled councillors refrain from making personal remarks.

Buck maintained the community was not being well served by the budget as members of council had disregarded staff's advice.

Other councillors expressed confidence in the budget and it was adopted with the deletion of the one per cent capital levy.

Aurora council had previously set two budget deadlines and neither had been met: one in December and the other early in the new year.

Due to the 2006 municipal election, council didn't get started on the 2007 budget until they had assumed office and with five new councillors there was a learning curve and the budget was approved in April with a four per cent increase.

In order to get an earlier start for this budget, in July 2007 council set an aggressive schedule.

It didn't work out. The budget debate is finally over.

Mother's Day Buffet



In the Terrace Café at
Howard Johnson Hotel, Aurora
Sunday May 11, 2008



A gift for Every MOM!

Two Great Times—One Great Buffet

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Breakfast items will be available at the

11 a.m. -2 p.m. Buffet

Carved Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus, Stuffed Sole, Chicken in a White Wine Mushroom Sauce, Medley of Vegetables and Potato of the Day, Extensive Salad Table and Decadent Deluxe Dessert Table.

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www.hojosaurora.com



Fine Art Photography Exhibit & Sale

Sunrise of Aurora invites you to experience the work of some of Canada's most celebrated photographers. Fine art photography will be on display and offered for sale.

While you're here take a tour, meet our team, and find out what we do to make our community a place seniors are proud to call home.

Enter to win an Andy Brooks print!



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Thousands expected at 13th annual street festival

Riddle me this, Aurora!

What has more than 60,000 legs,

Eats everything from hot dogs and hamburgers

To the world's most delicious Schnitzel on a Bun?

Sees more than 400 vendors- selling from more than 550 booths?

If you guessed the more than 30,000 people expected to walk the Aurora Chamber of Commerce 13th Annual "World's Longest Street Festival on the World's Longest Street", then you've been there before!

This year will prove to be another exciting festival, as residents and visitors to Aurora gather on Yonge Street Sunday, June 1.

The festival runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The theme this year is "Walk to the Beat, on the World's Longest Street".

The toe tapping sounds of Patty McLaughlin and her

band will delight those wandering by, followed by the upbeat, and heart soaring music of George St. Kitts.

The Classic Car show will once again be situated on Yonge near Murray Drive, the southernmost part of the festival.

YTV WOW showcase will entertain the kids in the parking lot of Graystone Restaurant.

Law Insurance, practically across the street from the Graystones, will host a children's play area complete with petting zoo, and many activities all geared to small children.

Bell Canada will sponsor the rock climbing wall for those brave enough to see the festival from the very top.

Originally started in 1996 as a one-time occurrence to help celebrate the 200th birthday of Yonge Street, the street sale (as it was known then) was such a success, it became an annual event.



4th Annual Spring Sale

starts May 1st

Great savings on everything in the store including:

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Bring your mother or daughter in any time in the month of May and each receive a free gift !

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The Facts About Needed Electricity Generation



What You Might Want To Know About The Proposed Power Generation Facility in Northern York Region

Important decisions are being made about how to meet the continually increasing electricity demands of Northern York Region, including the communities of Aurora, Newmarket, East Gwillimbury, Bradford, West Gwillimbury, King Township, Whitchurch Stouffville and Georgina. The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) would like you to know the facts about these decisions.

As part of Ontario's plan for ensuring the adequacy of the provincial electricity system, OPA has developed a plan to address the urgent electricity needs of Northern York Region. The plan balances a range of considerations including the needs that must be met and their costs.

The communities of Northern York Region are in critical need of electricity at times of peak demand

The Region is a priority area that requires special attention to assure ongoing reliability and security of electricity supply. The communities' most urgent need is the supply of power during high-cost, high-demand periods – especially hot windless summer days. The plant is expected to operate less than 10% of the time or eight to nine hundred hours a year.

The OPA is in the process of choosing a developer to design, own, and operate a rapid response power generation facility in the area. Our Request for Qualifications closed on March 28th. Currently, we are reviewing the numerous submissions to determine a short-list of qualified proponents. We expect to publish this short-list by the end of April.

This important step is part of a long-term solution to meeting the Region's electricity needs that began with community consultations in 2005. This solution includes a combination of conservation, completed upgrades to the existing Armitage Transformer Station, a new transformer station at Holland Junction currently under construction, and the proposed rapid response electricity generation source. This gas-fired facility is scheduled to be operational by the end of 2011.

It's A Matter Of Reliability

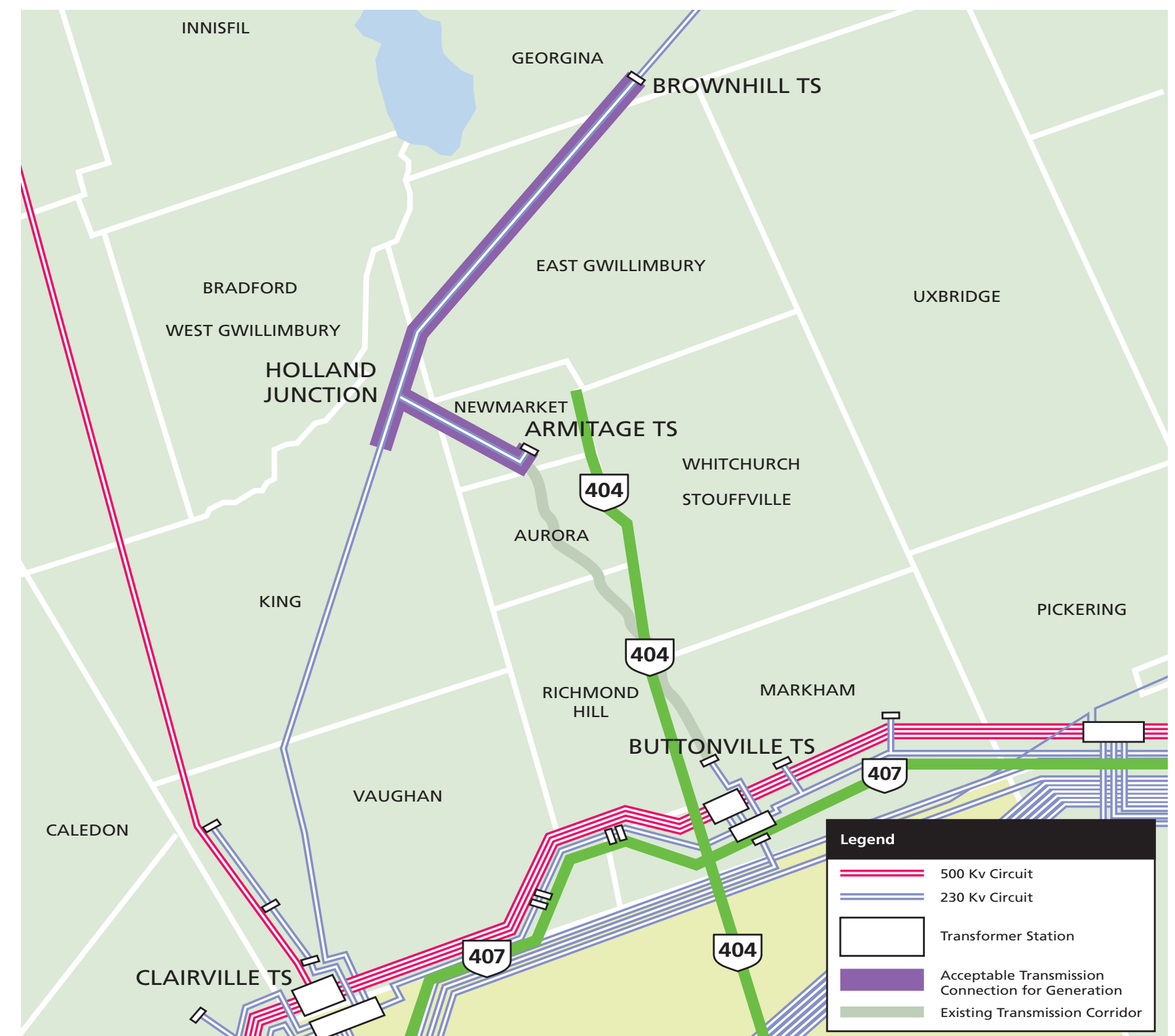
Ontario's power system has to respond immediately

Moment-to-moment, the electrical supply needs for Ontario, including Northern York Region, are managed by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO). Their rules of operation require that Ontario's electricity supply is robust enough to meet the province's needs – even if there is a major system outage. Ontario's power system has to have capacity at the ready – not just enough to meet demand needs today. The technical word is redundancy – but what that really means is reliability – a province-wide electricity system that can be relied upon to be there when it's needed and be ready to ramp up whenever it's required.

It's About Peace of Mind

There is only one transmission line serving Northern York Region. It's a 230 kV line that runs northeast through Vaughan, King, East Gwillimbury, and Georgina. Currently, there is no significant power generation from within the region itself so that almost all of the electricity needs for every home, business, and indeed every user, such as hospitals and schools – has to be served by this single transmission line. An outage on this line may cause disruption until it is repaired, meaning perhaps hours or even days until power is restored.

Through extensive public input in 2005, the community determined that adding another transmission line was not the preferred option. Therefore, it is critical that the community has on-demand, reliable power generation from within the region itself. It's a matter of public well being that street lighting, stop lights and signals, hospitals and schools, and homes are reliably powered. Only when alternative supply is readily available, can the community be secure in the knowledge that their electricity is always available.



A single 230 kV transmission line serves all of Northern York Region. Further west, a 500 kV line runs north south but cannot serve this area.

For Further Information go to:

http://www.powerauthority.on.ca/Page.asp?PageID=1224&SiteNodeID=383&BL_ExpandID www.powerauthority.on.ca

Panthers win Ontario title



The Aurora Panthers Novice Girls went into last weekend's Provincial Tournament with one thing on their minds, bringing home the Gold.

They did just that winning six games in a row to capture the Ontario Championship to cap off an incredible season.

The Panthers started the Provincials by defeating Kitchener 4-1.

The defense led by Julia Giannitsopoulos, Calista Liotta, Kailey Persons and Lauren Ianni shut down Kitchener's high powered offence.

Jasmine Grant and Emerson Elliott chipped in two goals apiece in a game that was controlled by the Panthers.

The Panthers then went on to defeat an improved Kingston team 2-1.

The girls came out a bit sluggish but managed to hang on as Grant netted both goals and goalie Natalie Thompson made many great saves.

The next day, Aurora needed a win or a tie to advance to the quarterfinals in their final game of the round robin.

The team came through winning a defensive battle over the Whitby Wolves 1-0.

This matched the

Panthers against the Guelph Thunder in the quarter finals.

Aurora dominated the game with relentless forechecking by their forwards. Hannah Daniels, Leah Capodagli, Ali Iwai, Rose Falzone, Florence Awde and Nicole Stoly's pinned an over-matched Guelph team in their own zone for most of the game.

Stoly's, Daniels and Grant scored singles in the 3-0 win.

The Panthers faced the Gloucester Stars in the semi-finals and once again the theme for the game was relentless forechecking as the Stars were no match for the Panthers.

Nicole Shaw dominated the game physically while chipping in two highlight goals as the Panthers rolled to a 4-0 victory.

Natalie Thompson recorded her third consecutive shutout.

The finals for the Ontario Championships saw Aurora face their league rival, the Clarington Flames.

The Panthers had bested their rivals with a 2-1-1 record through the regular season and knew the game would be a tight checking affair.

The final was all about endurance as the teams

were playing their sixth game in three days.

Grant once again led the way scoring the only goal of the contest midway through the first period on a breakaway.

Goalie Natalie Thompson and her teammates shut down the Flames the rest of the way to secure the title.

This capped off a dream season for the Panthers as they won the Regular Season LLFHL title, three tournaments and the Provincial Championship compiling a

39-5-9 record.

Head coach John Giannitsopoulos was thrilled by the win.

"The players got better and better with every game in the tournament," he said. "From the drop of the puck in the first game to the end of the Championship game, the girls played with confidence, determination, and whole lot of grit to win the title."

The team has 10 graduating players and four that will remain at the Novice level for the upcoming year.

Men's Soccer

If you're looking for a very casual, low-key men's soccer league, we're looking for 8 more players ranging in age from mid 20's to mid 50's. Games are in Aurora at Highland Field at 7 pm every Friday from late May to late September. This is pure "pickup" soccer, with no referees - everyone brings a dark and a light shirt and we change teams every week. \$100 registration fee.

For info or to register, please contact Scott Sillcox:
Home ph: (905) 727-5685 Cell ph: (416) 315-4736
email: ssillcox@ca.inter.net

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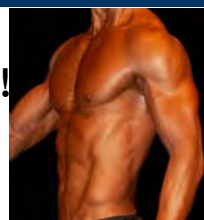
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Hillary House got its annual clean-up last week with help from part time employee Allison Petts. The Yonge Street house is owned by the Aurora Historical Society and is open to the public most days. Auroran photo by David Falconer

Another drive-thru coming to Aurora?

A public planning meeting was held last week to consider an application from Imperial Oil for an amendment to the zoning bylaw to permit a drive-thru/take-out restaurant as an additional permitted use to the existing zoning category.

In 2006, the property located at the northwest corner of Leslie Street and Wellington Street East, was developed for an Esso gas station consisting of a convenience store, gas pump islands and a car wash.

Staff members advised to facilitate the proposed drive-thru restaurant within the convenience store and associated stacking lane, the site plan had been modified from the original approved plan and the revised site plan is now under review.

Staffers also noted that the proposal is being considered relative to the drive-thru study currently being conducted, with a report scheduled to be presented to council in the near future.

The Imperial Oil proposal conforms to the proposed drive-thru crite-

ria developed to date with a 30-metre distance separation and screening and sound attenuation.

It was also pointed out that the Accessibility Advisory Committee had recommended the site plan agreement requires Imperial to provide full gas service for a minimum of six hours per day.

All town departments and regional officials have reviewed the proposal and had no comments.

Staff members suggested if council determines there is merit in the proposal, the application be approved in principle subject to the resolution of outstanding issues and staff be directed to prepare the implementing bylaw.

Representing Imperial Oil, Don Dussault said he agreed with the report and the proposal was submitted due to the many customers using the station and the convenience store.

In a video presentation he noted the various improvements to be made to the site with the addition of trees, shrubs and a stone wall with "Aurora"

on it as a gateway feature.

Referring to the request for full service he noted that the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommendation was for future stations and this was an existing station and the application was only for the drive-thru.

He also outlined the company's existing policy for all stations whereby seniors and disabled could receive full service by phoning the station 24 hours in advance and arranging a time when a second staff member was available to provide the service.

There were no members of the public in attendance in support or opposition to the application and after a few questions for clarification, on a motion by Councillor Al Wilson, the application was approved in principle subject to the resolution of outstanding issues.

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- The three golden rules of **investing**
- How to make taxes work for **you!**

Your Attendance at this FREE workshop is a MUST!

May 7, 2008 7:15 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Kings Riding Country Club

14700 Bathurst St.,

King City, ON

(Main Intersection: Wellington and Bathurst)

The event will be presented by Loay Ragheb VP of Monarch's Wealth Management Division.

RSVP by phone at 1.888.847.6007 before May 2, 2008. Seating is Limited.

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Leader of the federal Liberal Party Stephane Dion, right, was in Aurora Friday to help Newmarket-Aurora Liberal candidate Tim Jones plant a tree in the Aurora Arboretum.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Some prices stay the same

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) recently announced that the Regulated Price Plan (RPP) two tiered prices, currently in place for residential and low volume customers of local electricity distribution companies, such as PowerStream, Inc., will remain unchanged for the next six months beginning May 1, 2008.

PowerStream Inc. is the third largest local electricity distribution company in Ontario, providing service to more than 237,000 residential and business customers including Aurora.

As in previous years, the consumption threshold limit will change on May 1 from the winter threshold of 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month to the summer threshold of 600 kWh per month.

Non-residential consumers eligible for the RPP prices will continue to use 750 kWh each month as their consumption threshold.

The RPP price remains at 5.0 cents per kWh up to 600 kWh and 5.9 cents per kWh above that.

The prices announced by the OEB, and changes in the threshold amount at the lower prices, are reflected on the "Electricity" line of a utility bill.

The threshold change results in fewer kWhs of electricity used in the summer to be charged at the lower price for residential customers and is meant to encourage conservation during the period of highest consumption.

Therefore, without a change in consumption, a typical residential customer may see an increase in the "Electricity" line of their utility bill.

The RPP pricing applies to customers who buy their electricity through PowerStream, Inc.



AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



AMHA General Meeting

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

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

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

Registration for the 2008 2009 Hockey Season

Registration opened online April 1st for the 2008–2009 hockey season. Online registration will remain open throughout the summer for your convenience.

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

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

Online registration must be completed so that a permission to skate can be granted. You can pay by using the post dated cheque option. The process for receiving these forms has been automated.

You can now request a form online which will speed up the process and avoid lineups. Please go to our website at www.auroraminorhockey.net, choose Rep in the left hand menu and it is in the Rep/Select Team tryouts section.

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

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

AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION - 2008/2009 REP/S ELECT TRYOUTS \$15.00 PER TRYOUT PAYABLE PRIOR TO EACH TRYOUT MIDGET TRYOUTS (1991/1992) WILL TAKE PLACE IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

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

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

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

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

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
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Mon	ARC E	28-Apr-08	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	1.5	Pee wee AA
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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

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

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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
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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

RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Bicentennial Showcase started here

It's not every small community in Ontario that is selected to premiere a major government program but it happened in Aurora in July, 1984, when the Bicentennial Showcase opened in Aurora for the start of a province-wide tour.

The Showcase was a 90-minute family variety program based on Ontario's 200 years of cultural development and featuring some of Ontario's top entertainers, including Dinah Christie.

In addition to the entertainers, the \$1 million production included more than 1,700 colour slides projected on a huge background screen coordinated with video scenes and live video playback of the performers and audience.

Guests for the premiere included Walter Pitman, executive director of the Ontario Arts Council; Arthur Gelber, Chairman of the Ontario Bicentennial; CN Tower Director David Garrick; Major General Richard Rohmer and Bicentennial committee members, Steve Otto and Norm Best.

The show opened with the entire company singing the lively Bicentennial theme song "Celebrate Ontario" and the program focused on the decades with such themes as Our Northland, The Seventies, Folk Spirit, The Sixties, The Classic Arts, The Fifties, The Big Bands Entertain and The Forties.

The second half of the show took the capacity audience at the Community Centre back to the beginnings and offered a challenge for the future in Watch Us Grow.

The finale was a tribute to the late classic pianist Glenn Gould.

The year 1984 was selected as the date for the Bicentennial as it was in 1784 when the United Empire Loyalists, the first large wave of immigration, settled in the province. It was a night to remember in Aurora.

LAND DIVISION COMMITTEE RETURNS TO AURORA

It was in April, 1984, when the region released its hold on land severances through

the Regional Land Division Committee and returned the role to the local municipalities.

It had been a sore point between the local municipalities and the region since the region was established in 1971, as it gave the region some direct planning control over what happened in Aurora and the other municipalities.

It was claimed by regional planning officials that the local municipalities were granting too many severances and development was taking place without going through the proper planning process and causing an unknown load on the regional infrastructure.

As the local municipalities acquired planning staff and established planning departments the push for the return of the severance function gained pressure and eventually it was returned.

On its return to Aurora, council agreed to assign the responsibility of land severances to the Committee of Adjustment consisting of five citizens, independent of council.

A LOOK AT AURORA IN 2004

In the first year of the term for council approval was given for the construction of the Aurora Recreation Centre, the Seniors' Centre and a Fire Hall.

A start was made on a new cinema for Aurora and the State Farm Office Complex.

The first leash-free dog park was opened and 70 new Leisure Services programs were introduced as well as the town's web site.

There were 1,452 fire calls of which 24 per cent were false alarms, 39 per cent medical calls, 13 per cent public hazards and only seven per cent were actual fire calls.

The Building Department issued 1,147 permits and Leisure Services processed 11,710 activity registrations.

A total of 14 zoning bylaw amendments were filed as well as 17 site plans and amendments plus three plans of condominiums were registered.

There were 63 council, public planning, general committee and special council meet-

ings held.

It cost \$61.32 in operating costs for every tonne of garbage and \$111.84 in operating costs for every tonne of recycling and the town recycled 28.39 per cent of residential waste.

Some of the activities included in the 2004 Annual Report.

Is an annual report still published and was there one for 2007?

WHEN THE GRAYSTONE HIT THE HEADLINES

The Graystone Restaurant made the headlines in the local press in January, 1970, as during a council debate about taking out a business membership in the Aurora Highlands Golf Club, then Reeve Evelyn Buck said she would be embarrassed to take official town visitors to some of the town's eating establishments.

Her statements upset Max Wiedemann of the Graystone Restaurant and Ken Stiff who operated La Colony, now the Filly and the Firkin, across the street from the Graystone.

They invited members of council to visit their establishments and offer constructive criticism as to how they could improve in order to represent the public interest.

Some council members including Pete Miller, Norm Stewart and Iltyd Harris along with Deputy Clerk Cam Duncan accepted the invitation and dined at the Graystone.

They assured the Wiedemanns the Graystone had excellent facilities and food.

A small private dining room later became a favourite spot for members of council every Tuesday night along with the staff of the former Aurora Banner, under the leadership of Publisher Bob Buchanan, after they had put the paper together for the printing press.

In June, 1973, then Mayor Evelyn Buck was invited to officially open the Graystone's new Bavarian Garden, an outdoor patio in front of the restaurant, which succumbed when the restaurant expanded its indoor facilities.

Bingo hall to close at the end of May

Councillors received some unexpected news at last week's meeting when staff members advised the Aurora Bingo Hall on Industrial Parkway South would close at the end of next month.

In addition to the loss of revenue for many local charities and organizations, the town will experience a shortfall of \$135,000 in 2008 or one half a per cent on the tax levy and one per cent or \$230,000 in future years.

The news could also spell the end of Hot Spot, a club set up for youngsters which has been in existence for 17 years and depended on the bingo hall for much of its revenue.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner told The Auran the club may have to close out their operations at the Aurora Lions Hall, unless another source of revenue can be found.

As the Town's 2008 budget had not been adopted, staff members brought the closure to the attention of council and recommended the budget be adjusted by increasing the levy by half a per cent to cover the revenue loss to make the increase 5.9 per cent instead of 5.4 per cent recommended in the budget report.

Staff members pointed out that masking the shortfall by using a reserve fund would cover the shortfall this year, but compound the issue in future years as the loss in licence and permit fees was permanent.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern recommended the capital levy of one per cent included in the 2008 operating budget be reduced to half a per cent to cover the loss of revenue from the bingo hall.

Other members of council argued that the one per cent was necessary to help cover the shortfall in funding for needed infrastructure projects.

Some members of council suggested that the surplus from other funds or reserves be used to cover the shortfall, but staff stressed that a more permanent solution was needed.

The vote resulted in a 5-4 split with the MacEachern motion being defeated with Mayor Morris and Councillors Gaertner, MacEachern and Wilson in support.

Councillor Stephen Granger introduced a motion to the effect that no adjustments be made to the budget at this time and that adjustments be made during the year to accommodate the deficit.

Some councillors argued

that was deficit financing and they could not support the motion, resulting in Granger withdrawing it.

Councillor Bob McRoberts noted that council had spent seven months discussing the budget and a further delay wouldn't make that much difference which would provide staff time to develop options for council's consideration.

When other councillors argued that it was necessary to move on, McRoberts withdrew his motion.

Councillor Al Wilson, who has always opposed the one per cent levy for capital projects which he referred to as a surcharge, recommended it be deleted and the \$135,000 shortfall be recovered from the Corporate Services Department as they would have less work to do.

Finally, the vote was called the motion was adopted on a 5-4 split with Councillors Evelyn Buck, Alison Collins-Mrakas, Grace Marsh and McRoberts in opposition.

It was on Sept. 11 last year when The Auran ran

a Page 3 story suggesting rumours around town pointed to the closing of the structure.

The business, located at 240 Industrial Parkway South, is owned by Perry Kereakou, and managed by Ron Tripp.

When asked about the possibility, Kereakou was quick to point out the closure was, at that time, only an option and that no final decision had been made.

Reasons for the possible closure were not directly addressed by the owner as he preferred not to speculate on a situation that, in his view at least, was not yet an

issue.

He did say that the closure could occur as early as January or February next year.

When the hall closes, players from the community would be forced to take their business to other halls in the region, mainly Newmarket and Richmond Hill, both of which are rumoured to be owned by Kereakou.

The Aurora Agricultural Society, which also reaped many dollars from the bingo hall, cancelled the long-running Aurora Horse Show when government officials said the group could not use the money to run the Show.



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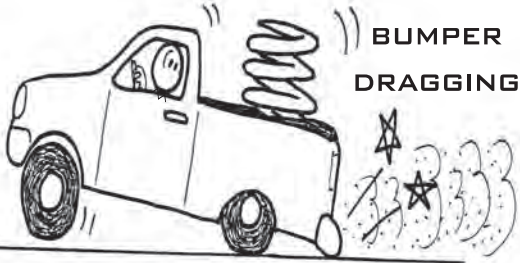
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Thursday & Friday 10am-9pm • Saturday 10am-5pm

location...
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Tyler Leonard, from the Aurora Senior Public School is shown at left after he received the Town of Aurora Award for his project on Terry Fox, during last week's Historica Fair held at Aurora's St. Andrew's College. Janine Fernandes, a Grade 8 student from Highview Public School, pictured above, had a project about the Oak Ridges Moraine. It was good enough that judges selected her as the National Fair delegate.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

The sale of town lands causes council debate

Following a previous closed meeting, council reported Tuesday that five offers to purchase parts or all of the town-owned Leslie Street lands had been rejected and no reasons or details were provided.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner explained that some bids were below the price the town had originally paid for the property and the other bids were below the appraised value of the property. It was still for sale, she said.

Councillor Evelyn Buck interjected that the whole process was tainted and when asked to explain by Mayor Phyllis Morris, she refused to do so.

The councillor said the mayor didn't have the authority to ask.

When the mayor said it would be necessary to obtain a legal opinion, Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas said none of the issue would be necessary if Councillor Buck would only explain what she meant by the comment.

Councillor Buck said that previously four members of council demanded copies of the confidential package available to bidders and it had been agreed to provide

them on condition they signed a confidentially agreement, which three signed and one didn't.

One of those members later declared a conflict of interest due to a business relationship.

Councillor Evelyn MacEachern, who had declared a conflict of interest, jumped to the defence and stated that she had signed the agreement and this was confirmed by staff and resented the insinuation saying that Buck had "loose lips".

After order was restored the report from the closed meeting was received as information.

In June, 2007, following a closed session of council approval was given to declare the Leslie Street lands surplus to municipal needs and staff was directed to initiate the process to sell the lands.

They were also asked to issue a Request for Proposal for a real estate broker to handle the sale and in September council engaged the firm of Colliers McAuley Nichols and agreed to their proposed marketing strategy and timetable.

The 89 acres on Leslie Street, south of Wellington,

were purchased in 2000 for \$4.2 million for recreational and industrial uses, although the property and old farmhouse was assessed at only \$381,000.

The purchase of the lands was seen to be a major impetus to the attraction of future business to the municipality and the development of the employment lands at Highway 404 and Wellington Street East.

A consulting firm was engaged in January, 2002, to prepare development concepts for the parcel of land and following several working sessions council received a development concept incorporating a mixture of employment, recreational uses and a fire hall.

Then in June, 2003, following a closed meeting, council approved the purchase of 32 acres of land on Wellington Street East for \$4.8 million for a recreational complex, parkland and fire hall.

With the purchase of the Wellington Street lands there was no longer a need to provide recreational facilities resulting in a change of the concept plans and increasing the potential of the Leslie Street lands for employment uses.

A draft plan of subdivision was approved by council in April, 2006, and approved by the Ontario Municipal Board in December with conditions.

Staff recommended that council sell the lands while the market for employment lands was still strong and provided three options: sell the land by tender, sell the lands by utilizing a Real Estate Brokerage or retain the lands for future uses.

Councillors had some difficulty in arriving at a decision and finally in June, 2007, issued a Request for Proposals for a Real Estate Brokerage firm.

In September, 2007, council received a presentation from a representative of the real estate firm who provided an outline of the marketing strategy and critical path which was adopted by council.

Over the months some councillors were critical of the firm's marketing strategy although staff pointed out that 31 prospective buyers had responded to the campaign and a report would be coming to council in the near future.

The sale of the land continues and if the first report is any indication, it could be a rocky road.

Aurora's Farmers' Market starting on May 3rd!

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Don't miss out on this exciting start to the summer!

Bring your friends and family to visit our weekly market. It's a great family outing with lots of exciting activities!



For more information, please call Councillor Stephen Granger at 905-727-3123, ext 4266 or e-mail sgranger@e-aurora.ca



The Rotary Club of Aurora and the Aurora Dream Team sponsors of the Aurora Canada Day Parade Revival Kick-Off Party



Thank You!

Thanks to all of you the 2008 Canada Day Parade in Aurora will be spectacular!

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| Telus | L.H. Lind Realty |
| Dentistry in Oak Ridges | DesignerFabrications.ca |
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| Cupid & Psyche | Graystone Restaurant |
| Aurora Financial Services | Costco.com |
| Aurora Fine Foods | Steve Miller Dance |
| Rec Cycle N'Sports | Century 21 St. Andrew's |
| Franchi D'écór | Realty Inc. |
| Almac Conveyor Co. | fraktals chocolate |
| Fitness Clubs of Canada | Safehaven |
| Skyview Dental Care | Décor by Jennifer |
| The Lending Place | Wellington House Spa |
| Mayor Phyllis Morris | Aurora UPS Store |
| Belinda Stronach | Postnet Aurora |
| Frank Klees | Hurst Bakery |
| Sean Herbinson - ReMax | Caruso & Company |
| Home Hardware | VandenBosche Jewellers |
| Aurora Chamber of Commerce | Aurora McDonald's |
| Gail Hill - Read Thread Studio Artist | Flowers by Terry |
| Gabriel's Café | Bell |
| Jonathan's Restaurant | York Regional Police |
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| Westview Golf Club | Eco Building Resources |
| Aurora Dream Team | Sorley & Still Barristers & Solicitors |

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The Queen's York Rangers, Phillipa Wild, George St. Kitts,
Jacquie Hermans - Light'n Up Laughter,
the Canadian Improv Showcase,
the She-Rak Belly Dancers,
Debi Sander-Walker,
Photographer Tara Hillyer,
Lesley Whittle, Wal-Mart as M/C

The Canada Day Parade Sub-Committee members and volunteers:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
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| Patricia Stade | Sher St. Kitts |
| Sandra Humfries | Rebecca Beaton |
| Melissa Hrychuk | Alison Taylor |
| Ron Wallace | Helen Burlyanette |
| Frank Mete | Wayne Hemington |
| Carolyn Barclay | Monarch Wealth Group |

This event was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Aurora and the Aurora Dream Team

Blooming issue back in the light

If Carol Cooper, a member of the Environmental Advisory Committee, gets her way, Aurora may finally enter the annual Communities in Bloom event.

At a committee meeting last November, she said she would investigate involvement in the event.

Other communities in York Region have competed in the event over the years, either at the Provincial or National level, and won awards, but not Aurora.

At the January meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee it was agreed to ask the town to support the Community in Bloom event and that Ms Cooper be the liaison between the committee and the event organizers for the 2008 Communities in Bloom competition.

The committee recommendation was endorsed by the Aurora's general committee recently without comment or discussion.

At the meeting, while discussing council's priority list, the question of the status of the Communities in Bloom event was questioned as to whether the town was in or not.

Staff members replied that clarification was needed regarding the budget and the process was to be discussed at the next committee meeting.

It was suggested that as the process was just getting started that plans be made for 2009.

Councillor Evelyn Buck claimed that some neighbouring municipalities were spending thousands of dollars to enter the competition and she was not prepared to

spend that kind of money.

The list of priority items was referred to a future meeting with staff.

It was back in September, 2005, Aurora resident Rebecca Beaton attended a meeting of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee to ask that Aurora pursue the Communities in Bloom initiative for 2006.

She suggested the program be community driven, incorporating residential, industrial and commercial participants.

For a start she suggested the town only enter the provincial competition at an estimated cost of \$1,000.

The Canadian-based non-profit program looks at floor displays, landscapes, urban forests, community involvement and tidiness.

She added that sponsors had already been

approached and would absorb the cost of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place plaques, and asked that a program committee be established as soon as possible.

The committee agreed to recommend to council that the initiative proceed and the town not be required to commit the \$1,000.

With the Howard Johnson hotel willing to accommodate judges, the cost would be reduced to about \$750.

At that time, Councillors John West and Evelyn Buck opposed the request pending more information as to possible hidden costs.

Councillor Buck said that other municipalities had spent thousands of dollars on the program and the \$750 would be wasted unless Aurora was prepared to do the

same.

Most members of council supported the recommendation to participate and to approve the expenditure of \$750 to register.

In October, 2005, Ms Beaton provided an overview of the Communities in Bloom initiative to the Environmental Advisory Committee which had been approved by council.

She asked the committee to support the initiative which committee members agreed to do. The committee also agreed that the seminar topic for April, 2006, be tied to the Communities in Bloom program.

Council gave its approval to enter the 2006 Provincial Communities in Bloom Competition in September, 2005, but there was no follow up.

No more funds for library: council

Last November, Aurora's general committee directed staff to get a report on the 6.6 per cent increase for the Aurora Public Library's 2008 operating budget and for the report to include a breakdown of the major contributing factors for the increase.

Also the report would include a listing of any elements within the proposed Space Development Project which could be attributed to development charges and that a review of the fundraising campaign account be provided.

In February the general committee recommended that the Library Board 2008 budget be increased by four per cent over the 2007 budget.

Library Board Chairman Geoffrey Dawe and CEO Louise Proctor Maio appeared before council Tuesday to make a presentation with regard to the 2008 Library Budget.

It was pointed out that to meet the four per cent target it would be necessary to hold the annual contribution to the General Operating reserve at the 2007 level, gapping the cost for the new staff posi-

tion to reflect mid-year implementation costs and holding the Collection Development budget at the 2007 level

It was also noted that flat lining the Collection Development would impact the library's ability to provide new materials.

As council is proposing to adopt a municipal budget with a 5.4 per cent increase which includes an increase of 4.4 per cent for operating and one per cent for capital, a request was made for the library to receive the same increase in order to better meet the collection needs of residents.

Councillor Grace Marsh, supported by Councillor Evelyn Buck, recommended that the library request be approved.

Councillor Buck pointed out that as 2008 had been proclaimed as the Year of Arts and Culture in Aurora it was not a year to cut back on the library and it

would amount to a small amount of money in the overall budget, estimated at \$28,000.

Other councillors argued that the proposed library budget was costing tax payers 11 cents on the dollar and with the loss of revenue to the town from the Aurora bingo hall, there was no way council could approve an increase.

The debate raged back and forth with both sides arguing their points.

Councillor Al Wilson expressed concern that council had no control over the library budget once it had been approved by council.

It was also noted that the library ended 2007 with a surplus of \$37,000.

When the vote to provide the extra funding was called, it was defeated 5-4 with Councillors Marsh, Buck, Alison Collins-Mrakas and Bob McRoberts in support of the motion.



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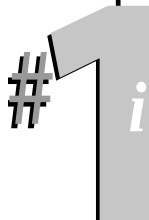


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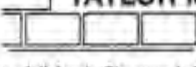
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GARAGE SALES

ARE POSTED FREE

in **THE AURORAN**
Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Each year we build a map of garage sales so you may use it as a guide to find the garage/lawn sales in Aurora.

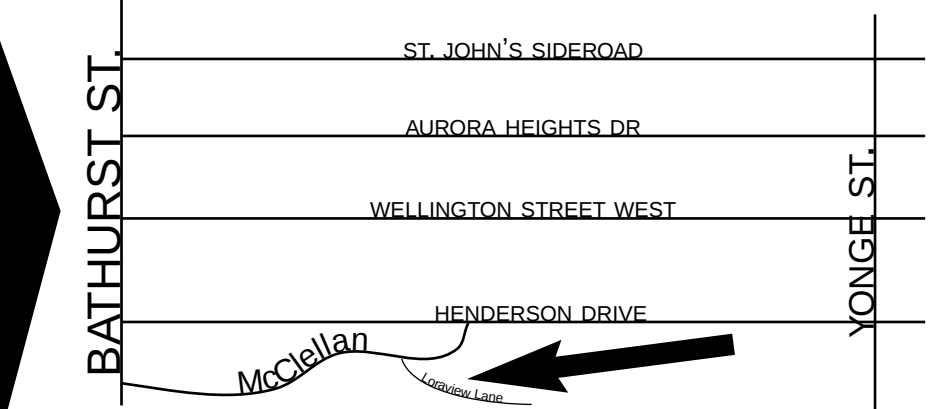
This year will be no different, so if you are planning to have a garage/lawn sale this year, please do not hesitate to call us with your information.

Anyone having a garage/lawn sale within the boundaries of Aurora qualifies for a

Thank you to Sean Herbinson of ReMax Realty for sponsoring our map.

Give us a call to reserve your spot at:
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Thank you

Thank you to all those who remembered

Dr. William (Bill) Diamond with heartfelt notes, flowers and generous donations to Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation. Your overwhelming support has been a wonderful tribute to how important Bill was to his family, friends and patients. Your expressions of sympathy will always be treasured. A special thank you for the compassionate care of Dr. Natheson, Dr. Roberts, Dr. Bourne and John and all the ICU nurses. Many thanks from Noreen, Arthur, Peter, Tim, Andrea and their families.

PLACE OF WORSHIP

Faith Fellowship

Sunday Services
at former Aurora library, 56 Victoria St.

Family Sunday School at 9:45

Worship Service at 10:45
with Bible Time for children

The Church: Studies in Ephesians
May 4 "Mankind: Dead on Arrival"
May 11 "How to Honour Mother"
May 18 "Mercy's Resurrection Miracle"
May 25 Carlos Fast speaking

Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
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Senior Scape



The Aurora Seniors' Association (ASA) has received a donation of a grief management kit, kindly donated by the Thompson Funeral Home.

So often, the only solace for grief is the dulling of pain granted by the passage of time.

But over and over again, grief which can be so utterly cruel and crippling in mind and spirit, needs more than the mere passage of time, and this grief management kit is available to members of the ASA.

I hope, sincerely, that you never have need for the kit, but if you do, it is available on request.

The show "A Visit to Broadway" will provide a day of fine entertainment and is planned for May 14, starting at 2 p.m. when the ASA presents once more, an exceedingly pleasing and dynamic entertainer with exceptional ability to sing and dance, Cara Chisholm.

Cara has played in many outstanding professional productions over the years and noteworthy are her roles in the original Canadian cast of Les

Miserables and Phantom of the Opera.

The performance will be one hour in length followed by wine tasting and a tasting of cheese and hors d'oeuvres, and after being fired up and stimulated by the singing and dancing of Cara, a glass of wine and the cheese and hors d'oeuvres will rank this day among our most satisfying.

This is an exceedingly good time of the year to join with the walking club.

The weather is just right, the trees are ready to bud and new walkers are always welcome so, if you have any plans to increase your exercise, easy walking with a group is an activity to be regarded as a not to be missed opportunity.

The walkers meet at 9.30 a.m. at the seniors centre, unless conditions are poor.

This is also a splendid time to become a member of the ASA, which is an organization with an extraordinary viability and capacity to improve life for seniors, particularly those who have retired and who have not managed yet, to fully inte-

grate into a life not governed by the demands of employment.

If you find yourself searching for an outlet for your emotional and physical desire to be useful to yourself and to others, the ASA is the most likely place to find what you require.

The following list of regular activities provides you with means to form an educated opinion.

We offer painting and drawing, sewing and knitting, scrabble, bingo and card games of all descriptions and a chess club, plus a pool room with snooker and billiards.

We have pickle ball, badminton, photography mostly of the digital variety which bonds with the fabulous set of computers in the computer room so that at times we are not sure whether we are engaged in digital cameras or computers, or actually both and at the same time.

We have a book club and carpet bowling and a range of programs that provide amusement and exercise.

We also have the latest addition to our list of hands-on activities,

which comprises a fully equipped wood working shop which should meet the highest expectations of anybody, and then some, and is limited only by the size of a wood working project.

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administrative qualities, qualities which when used creatively, can provide an extraordinarily satisfying approach to employing voluntary retired time in a manner which impacts immensely in good ways on so many others.

Grief management kit donated by Thompson

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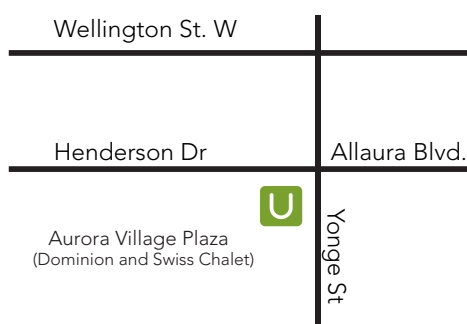
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