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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

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5 ducks take a tumble

We're not sure whether a mother duck wasn't looking where she was going or didn't realize the area she was in, but very abruptly last week, she lost her family.

The whole thing started Wednesday morning when Aurora's Leisure Services Department got a call from Commport Communications on Ross Street.

The caller was reporting that five ducklings had been observed in a storm sewer catch basin in Commport's parking lot.

Not knowing who to call the obvious choice was the Town of Aurora.

Two workers from Parks called in John Lopizzo from the town's public works department.

Once on the scene, town employees found the ducks trapped in the sewer.

Apparently, the mother duck led them over the sewer grate and one by one they slid through the grating and fell to the bottom.

Town employees believed the little guys were not more than a week or so old and were very frightened, not to mention cold, wet and hungry.

They appeared to be extremely pleased to see a rescue unit arrive.

Since the mother was nowhere to be found, staff members brought them back to the town office to assist them with their very rapid recovery by giving them a warm set of hands to huddle in, some food to eat and a bowl of water to puddle in.

"We are pleased to report that the ducks have been successfully introduced to a new mother duck near Kettleby who could not wait to welcome these orphans into her own family of week-old ducklings," said Parks Supervisor Jim Tree.



Gallo gets nod

After almost three hours of presentations, debate, wrangling over the procedural bylaw, the process, points of order and recorded votes, runner-up in the 2006 municipal election John Gallo was appointed to fill the council vacancy which became open with the resignation of Councillor Grace Marsh last week.

Aurora Council was in receipt of a letter from Mr. Gallo stating that he was willing to accept if appointed. The appointment bylaw was adopted on a 6-2 vote, with Councillors Evelyn Buck and Alison Collins-Mrakas

opposed, and stipulates he will be sworn into office at the May 27 council meeting.

The discussion started during Open Forum with former Councillor Damir Vrancic reminding members that they were elected on a platform of openness and accountability and a by-election was necessary to fill the vacancy.

Graham Wride pointed out that it was a four-year term of office with more than two years to go and asked council to do the right thing by holding a by-election.

There was a large crowd of citizens in the council chambers and the comments of the

two speakers were greeted with loud applause, which continued during the evening in response to comments supporting a by-election.

Former Councillor Bill Hogg and resident Hans Stech addressed council as delegates and supported a by-election.

When Mayor Phyllis Morris started to debate with Hogg over some of his comments, she was reminded by Councillors Buck and McRoberts that debating with delegates was not permitted under the procedural bylaw.

Stech stressed the need for **Please see page 17**

Aurora community planner accepts position in Oakville

Aurora's community planner, Michael Seaman, has decided to accept an "amazing opportunity", and will start a new job in Oakville June 9.

Seaman has been on the Town of Aurora staff for three years.

His new position - manager of heritage planning - puts him right in the heart of one of Ontario's most historic communities.

Nearly 20 years ago, Seaman, 39, worked in Oakville.

While several higher-up employees have left the Town payroll recently, Seaman says he isn't one of them.

"It was a difficult decision to make," he said. "I have received lots of support in Aurora."

He has been an Aurora resident since 1999, and took the Aurora community planner's job after leaving a position as a senior heritage planner in the Town of Markham.

Seaman, his wife, Patricia,

and two children, David, 6, and Nina, 3, will take up residence in the Oakville area.

"This hasn't been an easy decision," he said. "Aurora is a really outstanding place to live and I have very much enjoyed my time working for the Town. The position with Oakville is a rare and outstanding opportunity, however, that I really couldn't pass up."

As far as he's concerned, Aurora, Markham and Oakville concentrate more on heritage than other communities in the province.

Among some of his achievements while in Aurora include the annual "Doors Open Aurora" event, and the start of the south-east old Aurora designation.

"Doors Open Aurora", now in its third year, offers people an opportunity to see inside buildings that are normally not open to the public.

Last year's event attracted

thousands of people to more than a dozen locations.

"I am very proud of what I have

Please see page 13



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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

Thursday barbecue and bingo are back at the Aurora Seniors' Centre from 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. at \$4.50 per person which includes a burger, drink, dessert and coffee/tea. No reservations are required.

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.

Two local businesses offer a free seven-week Adult Bereavement Support course. Fred Bullen of the Aurora Lions Club has offered meeting space and Brent Forrester of Thompson Funeral Home will assist in the administrative cost. Contact mariesgriefjourney@yahoo.com or phone 416-200-5665 for further information. Class started Thursday, May 8.

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY, MAY 20

Aurora council meets in general committee at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the Town Hall.

Registration for Scouts Canada (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Venturers) will be held at the Aurora Public Library in the Lebovic Room from 7 to 9 p.m. For further information, contact Bob Cole at 905-727-2003.

"The Notebook" is the featured movie at the Aurora Seniors' Centre featuring Ryan Gostling, Rachel McAdams.

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. Ticket must be reserved by May 16th.

The Aurora Seniors' Evergreen Choir will present a Spring Concert "Put a Little Sunshine in Your Life" at 7.30 p.m. at the Seniors' Centre. Tickets are \$10 per person and they are available from the Reception Desk.

The Aurora Seniors host the Contract Bridge Competition of the York 55 Plus Games.

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 fundraiser at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, beginning at 6 p.m., featuring food and drink and live and silent auctions. Wave activity begins at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$75 each (semi-formal attire), and available through the Church office at 905-727-6101. Meanwhile, a concert will get underway at 7.30 p.m. featuring Aurora's York Chamber Ensemble, Festival Chorus, and Trinity Youth Choir. Tickets are \$15; \$10 for students and seniors. Visit the home page of www.trinityaurora.ca for the full music program.

"POPPEFEST" - Support Chris Poppe and help raise money for cancer research. Games, prizes, food, entertainment, and more at the Aurora Community Centre, from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. \$15.00 Admission. All proceeds go towards cancer research.

The Great White Elephant Sale will be held from 9.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. The sale will include the traditional jewellery sale.

SUNDAY, MAY 25

If you are a young golfer with a decent swing you might want to enter the Optimist Club of Aurora first Optimist junior qualifying golf tournament at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club for youths 10 to 18. Winners can qualify for a trip to Optimist International Golf Championships in July. To register call Greg at 905- 713-2570.

Spring into Sheppard's Bush at a Public Open House and Workshop from 1 to 4.30 p.m. Enjoy a guided tour of the property and the official public opening of the Sheppard House, then join the group discussion on the challenges and opportunities the future holds for the Conservation Area. For further information call 905-895-1281.

TUESDAY, MAY 27

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

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.

Public Planning meeting in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

The Aurora Seniors host the Snooker Competition of the York 55 Plus Games.

THURSDAY, MAY 29

A public open house for snow windrow clearing for seniors and disabled residents will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors' Centre in the West McKenzie Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to provide further opportunity for public discussion on this program investigation.

FRIDAY, MAY 30

The Optimist Club of Aurora, Police and Community Together (PACT) and the Town of Aurora host the only health and safety event of this calibre in Ontario - a bike and board rodeo, at Hickson Park, located at Borealis and Conover from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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. Earlier in the day, the Optimists will sponsor its second annual Soap Box Derby.

The derby will be running north from Vandorf on Engelhard Drive, using a ramp. Engelhard will be closed. The event starts at 10 a.m. and continues to 5 p.m. Residents of Aurora are invited to see some great kids competing in several categories. Any Aurora kids thinking of trying this sport should attend. For further info, call Brent at 905-751-1264.

Great Curbside Giveaway: Today and the last Saturday of every month until the end of October, take your unwanted items to the curb for others to take home. Please remove by 6 p.m. to keep Aurora attractive.

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.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

The Aurora Seniors' Association will hold its Annual General Meeting and Election of Directors from Noon until 2 p.m. at the Seniors' Centre.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

Join the Aurora Seniors as they visit the Stratford Festival for a performance of the Tony Award winning "Cabaret" featuring exciting dance numbers. The trip includes luxury coach transportation, lunch and the performance for \$122 for members and \$125 for non-members.

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.

The Aurora Seniors Association will hold their first Silver Stars Variety Show featuring Association members. More details as they become available.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

Aurora Seniors travel to Casino Rama and a 1.5 hour Cruise on Kempenfelt Bay. Trip includes coach bus transportation, buffet lunch at Rama along with dinner and live entertainment. Cost is \$43 for members and \$47 for non-members.

JUNE 20-22

The Aurora-based Cancer Killers team takes part in The Ride to Conquer Cancer to benefit Princess Margaret Hospital from Toronto to Niagara Falls spending a night in Hamilton. Call 416-815 -7433 for more information.

MONDAY, JUNE 23

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

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

The Aurora Seniors visit the Royal Alexandria Theatre in Toronto to see "Dirty Dancing". The trip includes transportation, lunch and orchestra seating at a cost of \$98 for members and \$105 for non-members.

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.

SATURDAY, JULY 5

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

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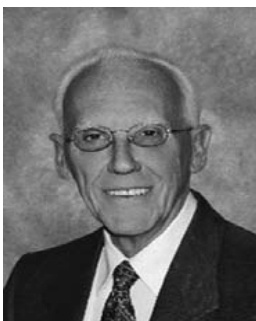
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Terry Kelly views hole in his Victoria Street backyard that is believed to be a well, more than 100 years old.

Ancient well discovered on Victoria St.

There weren't any ancient egyptian artifacts or holy grails to be found, but local resident Terry Kelly had a discovery worthy of Indiana Jones recently when the shaft of a 100-year-old well mysteriously appeared in the back garden of his home on Victoria Street.

Circular in shape and lined with stone, the well dates back more than 100 years.

The well was probably not in operation very long, according to Aurora Community Planner Michael Seaman.

Mr. Kelly's house dates from around 1885, and the infrastructure for an Aurora water system was completed in 1888.

Although Aurora was

a relatively small town at the time it may have taken a few years to have everyone in Town connected to Town water.

The well was probably filled in with earth once the house was connected to Town Water.

Over the past century however, the settlement of this earth left an approximately 3-foot deep cavity below the grass which eventually gave way when Mr. Kelly walked on it earlier this spring.

Local historian, Jacqueline Stuart, said the historic well is a rare survivor in Aurora.

Before the well was filled in again, Seaman helped Mr. Kelly document the well for posterity.

Open house planned at Sheppard's Bush

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) will hold a free open house and workshop celebrating Aurora's Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area, at 1 p.m. this Sunday, May 25.

The three and a half hour event will include a discussion on the future of the area.

Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area is located at 93 Industrial Parkway South.

The event will start with the official public opening of the Sheppard House, a recently renovated heritage home, now home to the Windfall Ecology Centre and the Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition.

"Sheppard's Bush is a wonderful community resource with many recreational uses," said LSRCA board chair and East Gwillimbury councillor Virginia Hackson. "The addition of the Windfall Ecology Centre and the Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition has made Sheppard's Bush a hub for ecological education and community-based environ-

mental action."

Later that afternoon, a workshop will mark the beginning of a management plan review process in which LSRCA staff will consult with the public to update the existing management plan for the property.

The process aims at fostering partnerships with conservation area users to ensure that the property continues to meet their needs.

Residents are encouraged to join the group discussion on the challenges and opportunities facing the conservation area, beginning at 2.30 p.m.

Attendees will also be treated to a guided tour of the property and the Third Aurora Pathfinders will lead activities for kids.

The event is held in partnership with the Town of Aurora, the Windfall Ecology Centre, the Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition and Ontario Heritage Trust.

Sheppard's Bush was acquired by the Ontario Heritage Trust in 1971, and is managed by LSRCA and the Town of Aurora.

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Poor Richard

Wonder who owns Aurora's town hall

Who owns the Aurora Town Hall
Is a question that should be asked?
Is it SOYRA or the taxpayers?
As they have taken the town to task.
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

SOYRA is the Society of York Region Artists, a non-profit organization dedicated to the visual arts and with a purpose to provide a forum for visual arts in York Region and the surrounding area and for artists to share their knowledge, gain expertise and promote accessibility to the arts.

Since the founding of SOYRA in 1987, the group has helped to organize many community art exhibits including Art Aurora as well as their own SOYRA shows and exhibits.

Currently there are three ongoing art projects that are handled in partnership between SOYRA and the town including the Skylight Gallery, the Aurora Art Show and the SOYRA membership art display on the first and second floor of the Town Hall.

One of the conditions for SOYRA members to hang their paintings on a three-month rotating basis is that there will be no stacking of paintings; that is one above the other on the main circular wall around the council chambers on the ground floor.

This arrangement has been going on for years under a so-called agreement between the town and SOYRA which nobody has seen in spite of requests for a copy which I made some time ago when I had several questions to ask and got nowhere, except abuse from SOYRA members.

Although I am not optimistic, some of this may change as Councillor Steve Granger has requested that staff provide a copy of the agreement at the next meeting of the Aurora Arts and Culture Advisory Committee.

In addition, there has been an exchange of e-mails and correspondence going on behind the scenes which was brought to light by Councillor Evelyn Buck who requested the correspondence be placed on a public agenda where it was received by the general committee as information and no action taken.

It seems that Mayor Phyllis Morris arranged an exhibition of photographs on the second floor of the Town Hall which resulted in the removal of a few of SOYRA members' paintings from the wall.

According to the mayor, a meeting was held involving Director of Leisure Services Al Downey, SOYRA and the mayor and that she had not bypassed the process as she had been advised that SOYRA had no objection to the photographic display.

In the letter to the mayor and council from the SOYRA Vice-President which was tabled at the general committee meeting by Councillor Buck, it was pointed out that the SOYRA President and/or executive were never contacted and many members had strong objections and concerns.

It was also stressed that SOYRA had an agreement with the town that SOYRA members could display their artwork on the second floor and concern was expressed that a special exhibit put on by the mayor could set a precedent.

This brings up the question of who owns the Town Hall, regardless of whether SOYRA approved the special exhibit or not.

Also hanging on a dark sidewall of the second floor is the town's permanent collection of paintings acquired over the years from the Preserve Aurora in Paint category from the Aurora Art Show of historic buildings and sites that have been lost to development.

Instead of having a place of prominence in the Town Hall for all citizens to see, the paintings are crowded on the side wall stacked three and four high so that it is almost impossible to see some of them, while the SOYRA paintings are hung in a single row along the centre wall of the second floor.

Not only that but the town has a policy that a team or a group using town facilities must have 85 per cent Aurora residents as members, but the last SOYRA membership list I saw a few years ago showed 65 members of which only 13 or about 20 per cent were Aurora residents, but nothing has been done about it.

Also the town sponsors SOYRA with \$1,000 annually.

It's long past time that Aurora artists, taxpayers and members of council took back ownership of the Town Hall.



This is the 5th Canadian Division, known as "The Aurora Boys", taking a breather in October, 1917, during the First World War. They are, top row, left to right, H.R. Baber, G.E. Richardson, W.L. Hicks, C.A. Adair, W.L. Stevens, G.A. Gregy, and E.C. Crake. Row below, left to right, are R. Gould, M.H. Southwood, E.S. Learoyd, H.G. Learoyd, H.R. Bond, J.R. Treend, N.F. Johnson, G. Osmond and F.E. Griffiths. Second row, from the front, left to right, are C.H. Walker, C.C.G. Bond, S.W. Stiles, D.S. Scott, N.W. Lloyd, E. Rose, H. Eveleigh, L.D. Robinson and P. Meyer. In the front row are, left to right, E.A. Day, A.L. Folliott, J.H. Sutton and H. Dawson. Photograph was brought in by Aurora Legion past president Len Whines. Recognize anyone?

Letters to the Editor

Council didn't get it right first time

To the editor,

Shame on you, Aurora Council.

Council's recent decision to allow Imperial Oil to maintain a completely self-service gas bar at its Wellington and Leslie location is baffling to many townfolk.

At the table was the municipality's ability to step up for the many taxpayers within this community who physically cannot perform the simple function of pumping gas into their own vehicle.

This may sound imperceptive for many but place yourself in a position in

which you may be in a wheelchair, equipped with a walker, or even with two canes, can you perform this simple function? The Town of Aurora had the opportunity to say to large business you must consider all citizens no matter their ability and provide service to them.

Town staff had recommended for councillors to hold the request, that a restructuring of the service station requires the need for full gas service for six hours a day to those who need assistance.

The Ontario government's Guide to the

Accessibility Standards for Customer Service, Ontario Regulation 429/07 states that by 2012 all private sector service providers must comply – to provide services that align with the core principles of independence, dignity, integration and equality of opportunity.

This council should have got it right in the first place, and made the proper decision for those who need the assistance of government – who employs the politicians; the voters, or business.

Council, you are there to SERVE THE PEOPLE.

It was mentioned to me

by someone 'it's great to know that at a gas station you can get better service getting a coffee and donut than getting gas'.

Let's no longer call it a service station, because there is nothing there that services a customer who needs it the most.

Upon arriving home I had noticed a delivered copy of this week's Auroran.

While reading the paper I had noticed that the editorial comic strip misrepresented the issue (re: letter sent in on May

12/08), the gas accessibility issue that has been debated pertains to service for those with disabilities - those who cannot perform the task of pumping gas themselves.

The comic strip conveys the idea that full service should be available for every abled body.

I suggest that the author look into the issue a little more before marginalizing the real problem at hand.

John Lenchak
Aurora

Reader "despairs" for town

To the editor,

I attended the council meeting May 13 and was astounded at Mayor Phyllis Morris' continued disregard and disdain for basic democratic principals.

A number of citizens, both in open forum and as delegates, spoke of their desire for council to re-consider the issue of a by-election.

A petition signed by 138 citizens requesting

this issue be re-opened was presented.

Approximately 90 per cent of e-mails to the town concerning the subject supported further debate. All these efforts fell on deaf ears as the mayor voted against this request.

Ignoring the wishes of the majority of citizens is not new to Mayor Morris as she showed this same contempt during the Town Hall address fiasco 18

months ago.

What really shocked me and causes me great concern is that Madame Mayor totally disregarded the wishes of her councillors.

Five out of seven of these councillors, a very decisive majority, voted to re-open the issue and they too were summarily ignored.

By arrogantly dismissing the will of the people whom she is meant to serve and ignoring the voice of the majority of council whom she is meant to lead, Mayor Morris has once again missed an opportunity to bring some peace and goodwill to our troubled council.

With two and a half more years to go under this "leadership", I despair for my Town.

Stop bickering: reader

To the editor,

Aurora Council must stop this bickering and waste of taxpayers' good money.

It seems to me that we had an election and that we had more candidates than the number of positions available.

In this instance of council vacancy, the council

should go back to the election data and pick out the next runner-up.

This would be clear, simple and in accordance with voters' wish expressed in the ballot box.

What could be more simple than that?

Cas Szuber
Aurora

Graham Wride
Aurora

THE AURORAN

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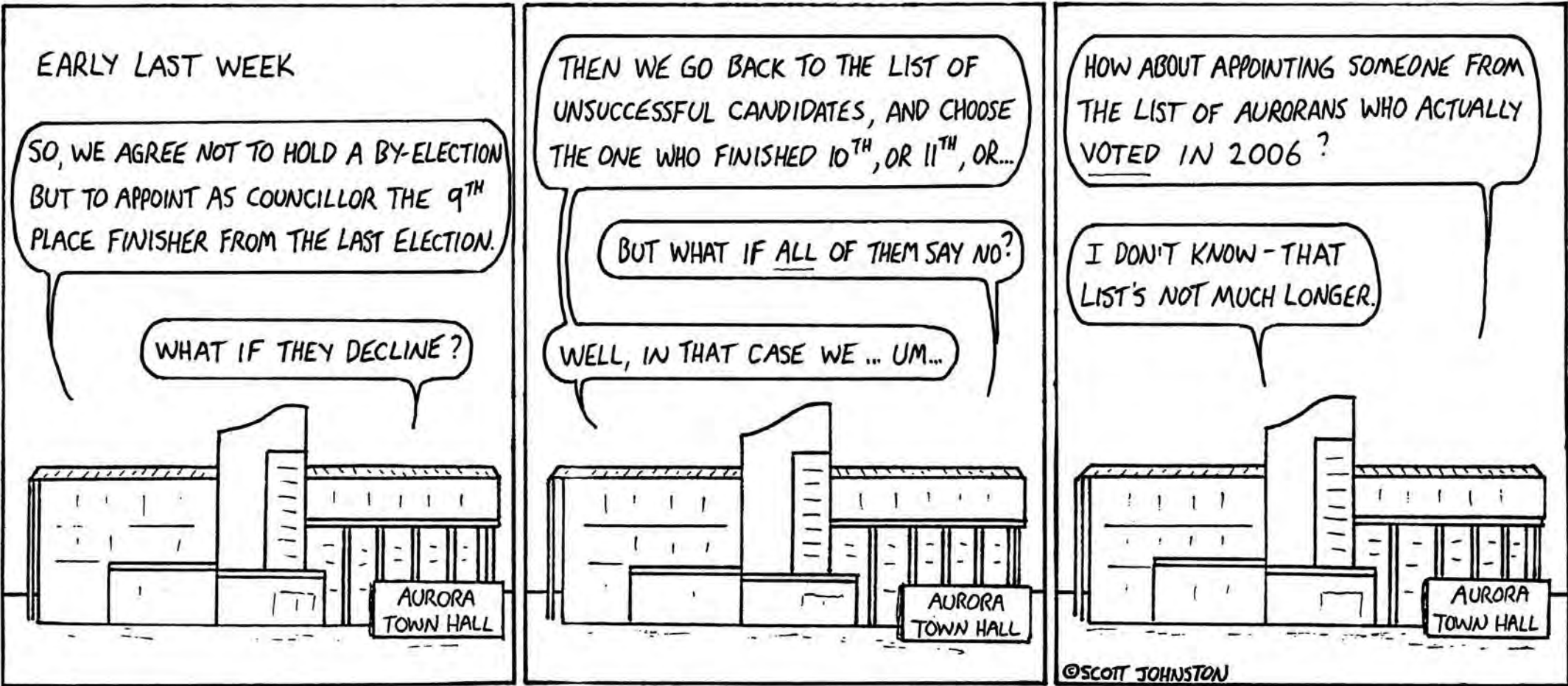
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

A lot of newsprint has been used lately regarding the Grace Marsh resignation and the subsequent events regarding choosing her replacement.

But there are two other questions that have come to mind recently: is this council dysfunctional and does it have a collective vision for our town?

The answer to the first question would seem to be, "yes".

From my limited viewing of council proceedings, I'm not sure if the elected members get along, and there seems to be, at least exhibited by one member of council, a lack or respect for the mayor or the office that Phyllis Morris holds.

But it is very tough for me to pass judgement on this group as I don't watch many council meetings.

That is why the written word by my columnist colleague, Dick Illingworth, on May 6 scared the heck out of me, as it should you.

He said that, "In almost 50 years of participating or observing municipal council meetings as a member, a bureaucrat in Municipal Affairs at Queen's Park and a member of the media, I have never seen a more fractious council than the current Aurora Council."

He adds, "It is an embarrassment and a disgrace".

"Individually, they are conscientious and hard-working but have failed to come together as a team resulting in procedural disputes, long delays in making decisions regarding town issues, an apparent lack of confidence in town staff by some members and frequent 5-4 votes."

I don't know whether to applaud new council appointee John Gallo or to pity him; I hope he knows what he's getting into.

As everyone knows, once you get a group of individuals

together for any project, there could be difficulties because of ego, ambition, temperament, what have you. Why should Aurora Town Council be any different?

But, in spite of these differences, you usually have something that unites an elected body; a common purpose or specific goals.

It is often said in football, that many of the other players resent the quarterback for a host of reasons, but the linemen protect him because their goal is to win, and keeping the QB in one piece is a good start to attaining that goal.

You would hope that the Aurora Council could do the same thing; that is, rally around a common set of initiatives or goals.

Let's rewind the tape to December, 2006. A new, fresh council has just been sworn in. The mayor makes her inaugural address.

It was her un-filtered and un-fettered opportunity to reinforce a message to the good folks of Aurora. As I wrote at the time:

"She also touched all the right bases and set just the right tone. She stated "I will work with council and Town staff to make our municipal government more open, more transparent, more accountable and more inclusive."

"So, let's not forget one thing. Aurora voters sent a strong message that they expect us at council, staff and mayor to do a better job, a better job of working together to move the business of this town forward in a positive and productive atmosphere."

The mayor also offered her list of priorities and an overview of the issues and challenges to be dealt with during the term and she then asked the audience, during her closing, to imagine what Aurora could be and could look like."

Aurora Council

Compelling stuff, it was.

I then wrote that I believed the adoption of a resolution regarding their collective intentions over the coming year would be a good idea.

I, in the spirit of the holiday season at the time, even offered an initial draft of such resolution for council's consideration:

"Be it resolved that there is unanimous agreement among the mayor and all eight councillors that the following five items are our foremost priorities over the coming year:

1.) Over the past five years Aurora taxes have grown at an annual rate of 7.8 per cent, which is clearly unsustainable. A budget will be developed that clearly shows the varying trade-offs of various tax levels versus various service levels. We will work to minimize the tax increase.

2.) A plan for the \$35M of funds generated from the sale of Aurora Hydro to PowerStream;

3.) An economic development plan containing a measurable strategy to slow down or reverse the residential to commercial tax ratio;

4.) Locate and secure a home for a Youth Centre; and

5.) As we can't depend upon development charges to provide for the upkeep of present facilities, a capital asset management program will be developed.

Now is as good a time as any to start anew.

Why doesn't council - collectively - let us know, through a letter to the editor perhaps, what they would like to accomplish over the rest of this year?

Stephen can be contacted at:

stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

I was at the grocery store the other day, and on my way out, I looked over at the notice board they had by the door.

Amongst the ads for yard work, babysitting, real estate, garage sales, guitar lessons and free kittens, one flier stood out.

Like many others, it had a hand-written request in the corner to "please take one". But otherwise, this one looked official.

It was professionally typed and even had the town crest at the top.

"Position Available Immediately", it read.

"The Town of Aurora is seeking a motivated individual to fill a vacancy on council for a 30-month term."

This was before last week. I knew they'd decided not to hold a by-election to replace Grace Marsh, and I guess they were still exploring their options, but I wasn't expecting to see an ad in a grocery store, of all places.

Entranced, I read the required qualifications.

"Applicants must enjoy low pay, long hours, and being interrupted when speaking.

"Ability to stay awake at extended council meetings is an asset, but not compulsory.

"Good penmanship is a must, as all communication outside of Town Hall with both the public and the rest of council will be conducted through letters to the editor of The Auroran.

"The successful candidate will sit on several of the least

popular committees, that were left over when the other councillors claimed the more interesting ones.

"Duties also include representing the town at grand openings, school plays, charity events, and other community activities.

"Note that these may necessitate the consumption of food of questionable origin and flavour, during which a delighted expression must be maintained at all times. Any subsequent indigestion will not be considered a valid excuse for missing council meetings.

"The position is not full-time, and provides a flexible schedule. The successful applicant can set their own hours, as long as they include a minimum of ten set meetings a week.

"All required reading, approximately 40 hours in any seven day period, can be done at one's convenience.

"While preference will be given to residents of Aurora, this position is open to non-residents within commuting distance."

That last point made sense, as out-of-towners were less likely to be familiar with politics in Aurora, and therefore more likely to apply.

"Benefits of this position are extensive, and include getting to keep the pen used to sign the Oath of Office, free tap water at all council meetings..."

At this point the list appeared to continue on the back, but when I flipped over the sheet, strangely, there weren't any addi-

Help wanted

tional benefits. Instead it went right into the section about where to send your application.

After that, in fine print at the bottom of the page, was a final disclaimer:

"Candidates please note: The Town of Aurora cannot guarantee flattering close-ups on televised council meetings, reelection, or have a street named after you."

Standing back, and scanning the rest of the notice board, I saw that this was not the only copy of the job posting. In fact, there were several, all asking to "please take one".

So I did.

In fact, hoping to spare some unsuspecting fellow Auroran that fate for the next 30 months, I grabbed not only the flier I had read, but all the ones on the board.

But shortly afterwards, I heard the news of John Gallo's appointment, and I can only guess that he must have gone through the check-out ahead of me and picked up a copy before I got there.

So, next time I see him, I'll be sure to give him my best wishes for his term on council.

And my apologies for not getting to that notice board a few minutes sooner.

Feel free to e-mail Scott at:

machellscorners@gmail.com

BOUQUETS to 10-year-old Mathew Tyndall of Aurora who at his own request didn't receive the usual gifts for his 10th birthday and donated the \$365 he received to the Aurora Youth Soccer Club for the Club's financial assistance program to subsidize the cost of two young soccer players this summer. Well done, Mathew!

BRICKBATS to Councillors Evelyn Buck and Evelina MacEachern for their ongoing failure to develop a personal relationship with each other and continue to insult each other, which is not good for council and the municipality. If they can't get their act together, they should consider resigning!

BOUQUETS to two Grade 6 students at the Country Day School, Anastasia Kolotova and Maxime Weiss, who organized a Grub Day so students could come to school wearing what they wanted instead of the school uniform and were fined a toonie. The girls raised \$590.90 and collected another \$600 in pet food, treats, etc, which were donated to Kennel Inn in Aurora.

BRICKBATS to the TTC commissioners for asking staff to investigate the possibility of selling naming rights to TTC stations and future transit projects in order to raise badly needed funds. It's bad enough commercializing municipal facilities like recreation centres but just imagine the passenger confusion with Coca Cola Station!

BOUQUETS to the volunteers from the Aurora United Church, Our Lady of Grace, St. Andrew's Presbyterian and Trinity Anglican who work together in the Welcoming Arms Ministry, an ecumenical outreach partnership serving those in need in Aurora.

BRICKBATS to York Regional Council for continually approving consultant fee increases after a contract has been authorized for the work at a set price, as the Bathurst Street watermain and reconstruction project went from \$963,838 to \$1,213,838 and the Major Mackenzie Drive watermain project from \$699,921 to \$1,049,921. Council should investigate if they submit a low bid to get the contract knowing they can come back for an increase.

BOUQUETS to Rick Preston on being acclaimed as President of the Aurora Legion along with Michelle LeBlanc and Cliff Davies as First and Second Vice Presidents, Percy Keats as Treasurer and Carol Preston who will serve another term as Secretary and to Len Whines who is stepping down as President after three years and will continue on the executive as Past President.

BRICKBATS to the brains behind the recent Ford advertising campaign "To drive a car as if you stole it!" Ford quickly withdrew the ad after being flooded by complaints from people, insurance companies and families of victims killed by drivers of a stolen car.

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Tigers Peewee A hockey team by ending the season the same way it started: winning a tournament. The Tigers won the York Simcoe Hockey League Championship and went on to win the Pickering Association Tournament and the International Silver Stick Championship

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AE team for finishing the season with a 6-1 victory over the Georgina Blaze in a spirited game winning the championship and for the second year in a row are the York Simcoe Champions.

BRICKBATS to the City of Toronto for failing to collect \$293,000 after a contract to supply snack vending services in recreation centres and areas turned sour. The vending firm failed to make its required payments after signing a deal in late 2005 and the city terminated the agreement in March 2008, with the vendor claiming the expected revenue wasn't there, but why did it take so long to act?

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Letters to the Editor

Reader upset she is not allowed a by-election vote

Open letter to Mayor Phyllis Morris and all councillors:

On Tuesday evening I once again attended the council meeting with great hopes that the Democratic process would be honoured.

Well, it wasn't. It has become quite apparent that the public's interest doesn't matter.

Councillor Bob McRoberts brought back the motion to have a by-election and during his explanation he stated that 90 per cent of the residents wanted a by-election.

A vote was then taken and defeated.

We always hear about the poor voter turnout during an election and take pride in the fact that we have the right to vote but now you decide we don't need to vote this time.

Were you not elected to the office from an election process?

What is it that you didn't understand?

We here in Canada have a democratic right to vote, our grandfathers fought in the war to enable us to do that, and you, mayor, decide that we can't.

What is it you are

exactly afraid of?

Are you worried that you may get someone with some backbone that could challenge you on some issues, or is it that you are just seeking another puppet.

I am totally disgusted with this mayor and some councillors.

Even the delegates were not taken into consideration.

But there is an interesting point though, after Mr. (Bill) Hogg's great speech.

Madame mayor, you took it upon yourself to comment on some of Mr. Hogg's statements and it was then Councillor

Evelyn Buck pointed out to you that under the bylaw that you could not comment on a delegate.

It was then that you pointed out to Councillor Buck that you know the bylaws and uphold them. Then my question to you, if you know all the bylaws and follow them, why was it necessary for a lawyer to be present at the council meeting.

And at what cost was that?

You don't want to spend money to have a by-election but you have a lawyer present at a council meeting!

How many times have

you called for legal advice?

I would like to believe that we have senior staff at the Town that could advise you rather than use the services of a lawyer.

I would like the answers to these questions!

My congratulations, to Councillors Buck, Alison Collins-Mrakas, McRoberts, Al Wilson and Wendy Gaertner for taking the stand and listening to the public.

I look forward to your response.

**Kathy Constable
Aurora**

Meeting showed disrespect for residents, this reader says

To the editor,

I must say that I have never in my 20 years in Aurora seen such a flagrant disrespect towards the residents of Aurora as I did last Tuesday night at the Aurora Town Council meeting by the mayor and Councillors Stephen Granger and Evelina MacEachern.

E-mails sent to councillors were 10 to 1 in favour of a by-election vs. an appointment.

Speakers at the meeting were 100 per cent in favour of a by-election including an amazing speech by Bill Hogg asking for the mayor and council to at least let the residents choose the replacement.

He also reminded the mayor of her election promises.

Other speakers, including Damir Vrancic and Graham Wride, asked that this council allow the democratic vote to happen as many residents want to be able to choose who will fill Grace Marsh's vacant council seat.

In order for Councillor Bob McRoberts motion for a reconsideration to allow a by-election there needed to be a two-third majority of councillors.

As the vote, which was recorded, was called, there was a hush in the chambers.

One by one the councillors said "yes" or "no" to the motion.

Councillors Evelyn Buck, Bob McRoberts, Allison Collins-Mrakas, Al Wilson and Wendy Gaertner all voted "yes".

Evelina MacEachern and Steve Granger voted "no".

That left the mayor's vote as the deciding vote and we all knew where she stood.

Why would she let anyone into her kingdom that she did not choose?

It is most disappointing that the mayor, who ran a campaign on transparency, openness, willingness to listen to the public and lastly, to stop the dysfunctional council, seems to have forgotten all of her supposed promises that won her the election.

I am also disappointed that Councillor MacEachern who, when I was on council with her, championed a transparent council yet now, sitting next to the mayor, seems to have changed.

As a new councillor, Stephen Granger, I thought, might have had willingness to listen to the public but that has not happened. He seems to follow what the mayor wants.

It was also interesting to watch Councillor Buck constantly remind the mayor of proper procedures during

the council meeting.

It seems as if the mayor has two sets of rules, one for councillors and one for herself.

Meanwhile, I ask those residents who want a by-election to phone the mayor and remind her of her commitment to them, to be open and transparent.

Lastly the mayor did bring up at the meeting, as a shot at me, that I had requested under the freedom of Information Act the cost of her renovations to her office and to the councillors' offices.

God's biggest blessings are little ones.

Do your "little ones" a big favour, bring them to church this Sunday.



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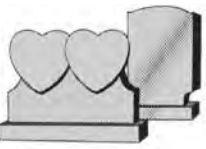
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Councillor's response "insulting", reader says

To the editor,

Last Saturday (May 10th) when I was in Canadian Tire and I noticed Councillor Steve Granger waiting in line to check out.

As there were about four people ahead of him in line, I thought that I would take the opportunity to introduce myself to him and enquire about his position, or more specifically the rationale for

his position regarding replacing resigned councillor Grace Marsh.

As I explained to Councillor Granger, I was not able to attend the meeting at which the replacement first issue was discussed, but I was aware that he had voted against the motion to hold a by-election to fill the vacant position.

With that preface, I

asked him if he could explain to me the rationale behind his position to not support a by-election.

He told me that he didn't want to get into it but I could see how he would vote on the motion to reconsider at Tuesday's council meeting.

When I suggested that I, being one of his constituents in the Town, had the right to find out the rationale for his position (as

I was not at the meeting and I was not privy to why he held his position), he then said that it was too complex and he couldn't go into it.

I then pressed that it should not be a money issue even if a by-election will cost \$30-40 thousand (as reported in the paper).

He said, well there you go...you just don't know.

I found his behaviour as a publicly elected official

both dismissive and insulting in dealing with a member of the Town who elected him.

Public comments by other members of council suggest that they actually seek the input of constituents and discuss positions with them.

I did not delay or impede his activities in any way as he was standing in line with several people in front of

him.

This is why I approached him because I would not be imposing on his time on a Saturday.

Rather than answering my direct and reasonable question, he wanted to dismiss me.

Then, when I suggested he had a responsibility to explain his position to a constituent, he said that it was too complex.

I found this very insulting especially since I have more than 30 years experience in dealing with local government issues.

In fact, I have developed training materials and delivered seminars for new councillors on behalf of the

Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Provincial Government after five municipal elections in more than 40 locations.

I find it extremely disappointing that the poor performance of our elected council in chambers extends to their performance outside of council when they should be exercising their representative role.

If Councillor Granger attended the new councillor seminar, he would recognize this as one of his three principle roles as a member of council.

**David Amborski
Aurora**

To the editor,

So what were they afraid of?

That the people of Aurora would elect someone that wouldn't follow direction from Team Morris and MacEachern and might have an unbiased, independent point of view.

In spite of a flood of phone calls, delegations and e-mails tracking at approximately 90 per cent in favour of holding a by-election, Mayor Phyllis Morris personally cast the deciding vote to end the citizens' hope of having a by-election.

Never in my memory has such a blatant disregard for the wishes of the people of Aurora been demonstrated.

Mayor Morris, as quoted in The Star and Era Banner,

stated "We don't go out and do a referendum on every issue."

Is she seriously comparing this issue to "every other issue"?

If Mayor Morris cannot see the difference between a by-election and myriad of other decisions made by council, she needs to re-examine her priorities.

Using the excuse that it's too expensive is totally poppycock.

There is an election reserve set aside exclusively for election activities. The clerk confirmed there was enough funds and indicated that the cost would be approximately \$40,000.

Any higher amounts were simply made up to confuse the public.

But then, those who follow the antics of this mayor and council knew that any

discussion about consultation was nothing more than a ruse to cover what they really planned to do - appoint a councillor who would vote their way.

Remember, they had a draft motion prepared and circulated at the April 28 meeting to appoint - the first business day after the resignation.

Seemed like their minds were already made up.

It was only because people spoke against the motion at the special meeting, that the issue was even tabled for public "consultation" - and look at the overwhelming response from citizens for a by-election.

Even four former councillors wrote in, submitted a petition or spoke personally on behalf of a by-election.

An interesting commentary on the current leader-

ship.

It appears the mayor and her team had no interest in any agenda but their own.

Adding another vote they can influence just makes driving that agenda easier.

But possibly this is the mayor's promised solution to end the dysfunction.

Rather than taking the difficult path and leading by example and requiring a focused, professional attitude at the council table, she'll just add a councillor who is indebted to her personally for their position at the table.

A move that hardly inspires confidence that the new councillor will be an independent voice.

Let me pose a question to the people of Aurora: "Would you take the type of political heat that has arisen around this issue, unless

you wanted a specific person at the table?"

Mayor Morris promised in her inaugural address "I will work with Council and Town Staff to make our municipal government more open, more transparent, more accountable and more inclusive."

Makes you wonder what her definition of open, accountable and inclusive government is.

It sure isn't the same as mine.

It makes you wonder why they'd bother wasting the money to hire an Integrity Commissioner for significantly more than the \$40,000 for a by-election.

What a disappointing outcome, but no surprise to this observer.

**Bill Hogg
Aurora**



Spring Into Safety Weekend
Friday, May 30th, 2008
Sunday, June 1st, 2008



Annual Bike and Board Rodeo

Start off your weekend with the Town of Aurora's third annual Bike and Board Rodeo! This FREE event is being held at **Hickson Park on Friday, May 30th from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM.** Hickson Park is located in the North East end of Aurora at the corner of Borealis Ave. and Conover Ave.

Younger children will enjoy the bike inspection station and the bike course. The bike course gives riders hands on experience with proper biking techniques. Upon completion, riders will receive their very own Bike Rodeo licence and an Optimist Club Certificate of Participation.

The more adventurous will enjoy the Dirt Track and the awesome Skateboard Park.

If riding is not on your list of Friday night activities, you can just sit back and enjoy some of the great skateboarding and Dirt Surfing demonstrations that will be happening throughout the evening.

Enjoy a \$0.25 hot dog and \$0.25 bottle of water at the Optimist Club of Aurora charity BBQ, while browsing safety displays from the York Regional Police, the Ontario Provincial Police, York Central Fire Services and several other safety experts.

P.A.C.T. (Police and Community Together) is looking for new volunteers. If you are looking to serve your community contact us at:

1 Municipal Drive
Box 1000, Aurora, Ontario L4G 6J1
Or e-mail at: aurorapact@aci.on.ca

Please come out and join us for a weekend of fun, food, amazing displays and safety information

"PACT proudly supports the Bike and Board Rodeo by working together with the York Regional Police and the Ontario Provincial Police to build a safer community for our children."

-Aurora PACT

If you have any questions about either of these events please contact us at

aurorapact@aci.on.ca



Aurora Street Festival

Finish off your weekend by visiting the World's Longest Street Festival! This event is being held on Yonge Street between Wellington Street and Murray Drive. The Street Festival is on **Sunday, June 1st, 2008 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

PACT is very pleased to be a participant again at this year's Street Festival. Our booth will be located in the parking lot of the M&M Meat Shop at 15005 Yonge Street.

PACT is very pleased to bring together the York Regional Police with the Ontario Provincial Police to showcase the excellent work that these two organizations do and to help promote some of their current safety initiatives.

Road and vehicular safety is our focus and one of the main highlights of this year's display is sure to be the Ontario Provincial Police Rollover Unit. This unit will be operating on-site and demonstrates the importance of seatbelt safety.

York Regional Police will also be there with their on going support.

PACT would like to sincerely thank the Aurora Chamber for donating our booth space at the Street Festival.

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Get rid of OMB, reader suggests

To the editor,

On March 4 I attended a meeting at the Town Hall to see what the Town of Aurora was debating on the application of one of Joe Lebovic's properties at Leslie and Bloomington...a property the family has owned for some 20 years. Their application is to build some 70 high class

Townhouses and an 18-hole golf course. The problem is man made because the property is right on the Oak Ridges Moraine. This is an inescapable fact of life that can not be changed. Since I have been sick for the past six weeks, I constantly return to the plan, and I do have affirmative action.

The Ontario Municipal Board has got to go. Paying three barons an immense amount of money is ridiculous. They continually favor big business and it is foolish. Instead use council people from each area on a revolving basis. They are well paid to do a job so let them do it. They live close by, so a

good effort would cancel out the Power of the UDI. The OMB does not live here so they have no interest in the outcome. On the other hand local councils have to get re-elected. If we ignore the Oak Ridges Moraine, we will be out of water some 50 years sooner and we will probably have to fight a war to save it.

I am certain that the buying and holding of land will have to stop. In its place you will buy the land but the water is universal. That includes ponds, streams, lakes and ground water. This is the very life blood of our future.

who have bags of money and use it as a tax write-off. If Aurora and Newmarket lose out in our current debacle we will wind up like Scarborough and Mississauga. The builders will soon come along with plans of

10 and 15 stories and the results will be devastating. So I implore all you good souls, fight now. If we lose out our water will disappear. **Benji Kestein
Aurora**

Writer oblivious to reality: Kroon

To the editor,

Re: Letter by Julia Walkley-Sherman, The Auroran, Week of April 1.

From time to time, I find myself traveling along a well used road, be it a highway or byway, a sidewalk or forest trail, and if fortune smiles my way, as it is often wont to do, I may spy something of some value off to the side. Laying quietly somewhat obscured and up till then undisturbed and undiscov-

ered, having been carelessly lost by some unsuspecting individual, this treasure seems to be waiting for one like myself who takes the effort to look beyond the obvious, and retrieve it from its loneliness and be rewarded for the effort. Then both I and the item share the reward, because it is able to once again be used for its original constructive function. Be it a small bauble of jewelry, some handy tool, instrument or device, I will take the

time to retrieve it, as I usually can find a purpose for it. Sometimes the discovered item is of far more practical value when it is some "coin of the realm". A looney, a tooney, or even better, perchance a bit of folding money - truly a fortuitous discovery - and worth every bit the effort to stoop and pick it up. However at times it is possible that the discovered item is not worth even that little bit of exertion. Ten cents, a nickel or less, who stops for that these days? Even I have to draw the line somewhere. And so it is also with people. At times people find themselves lost, or possibly misplaced. Having gone, or been led astray from their intended course, they wander aimlessly, or wallow in their ignorance, serving no useful purpose to themselves or others to whom they should (hopefully) be of some positive benefit. Those like myself take it as a mission to help these who are lost, and help them to find their way. At times it is an individual, at times an organization or even a government. The latter group seems particularly to be in desperate need of help, especially in these troubled times. And those of us who have an indelibly accurate grasp of what the true function of gov-

ernment rightfully is find ourselves duty bound to give assistance in the way of much needed counsel and learned advice. Some are easy to help. Some have an intrinsic value. It is easy to find the intended use for them. Others are a definite challenge. The administration of the very town you all reside in comes to mind. Again. Although there is hope for them and therefore also all you poor Auroradelphians, and so I will continue. But some are not blessed with the promise of such hope. Some, unfortunately for them, are just not worth the effort. Therefore, in light of my last epistle printed herein, I must make this apology, and try to make amends. With all respect due to Ms. Walkley-Sherman, I'm sorry, I really did try. I made the effort, but I failed. I should have left you where I found you, wallowing in your self-inflicted delusions. I had no idea you were so happy in your oblivion from reality. For now I see that is blindingly obvious in reading the incomprehensible drivle found in your letter of April 1, that you were nothing more than a penny.

Democracy dead in Aurora: reader

To the editor,

Democracy is dead in Aurora. The freedom fought for by our beloved veterans was ignored by the three musketeers on Aurora Council. Shame on you. Councillor Bob McRoberts succeeded in getting the motion on the floor to reconsider a by-election but it needed support of six of the eight members of council to pass. It got the support of five, namely Evelyn Buck, Alison Collins-Mrakas, McRoberts, Al Wilson and Wendy Gaertner. They thought you had the right to choose who represents you on council. The others don't care what you think. I can assure you, Councillors Stephen Granger, Evelina MacEachern and Mayor Phyllis Morris, we do care and you will find out

how much we care in due course. You stole our democratic right from us and that's wrong! **S. Williams
Aurora** Will we select name for town? To the editor, I am not at all surprised that our esteemed mayor has once again failed to hear the voices of her constituents. I am concerned, however, about her having a handpicked council member in addition to her posse. As it stands she can pass/fail any proposal she wishes but the big one hasn't been played yet. My query is this: will we get an option to vote between the town's new name of Morristown or Morrisville? **LeeAnn Keller
Aurora**

Hugo T. Kroon
Bethesda



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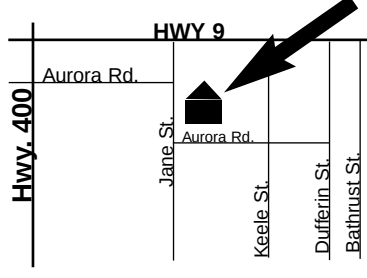
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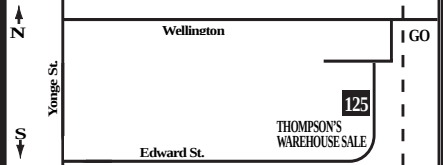
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Letters to the Editor

By-election a must, this reader claims

To the editor,

In order to ensure that a democratic process is adhered to, I feel that it is absolutely necessary for a by-election to be held in order to replace Aurora Councillor Grace Marsh.

No need to be overly

2010 election can't come fast enough, reader says

To the editor,

The mayor will justify her choice to appoint the candidate who finished ninth in the election held two years ago by telling you he was supported by the electorate by finishing ninth.

Last time I checked only eight people are chosen.

That means he lost.

That means he wasn't voted on this council, he wasn't supported by the electorate.

I recall during the campaign, he was on her slate of candidates.

Of course, she wants him there.

It assures her another vote to go along with the others who blindly support her now: Evelina MacEachern, Stephen Granger, Al Wilson and Wendy Gaertner.

The 2010 municipal election cannot come fast enough.

S. Browne
Aurora

concerned about the cost of a by-election.

A portion of my tax dollars financed the building of the chicanes on Walton Drive.

That maze was done to appease the whiners on Catherine Avenue.

So, to be fair, transparent and equitable to the residents of Aurora, it would be justifiable to spend the dollars neces-

sary to follow the correct process.

A by-election is a MUST!

If you feel strongly that a by-election should be held in the Town of Aurora to replace Grace Marsh, please address your own email to allcouncillors@e-aurora.ca.

Rosalyn Gonsalves
Aurora



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This Month's Business Features...

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THURSDAY, MAY 22nd LUNCH & LEARN
Topic: How to do Business with the Federal Government—The Basics
Presenter: Supply Team Leader: Office of Small & Medium Enterprises
Time: 12:00 (Noon) – 2:00 pm
Program Cost: \$20.00 Member \$25.00 Guest
Place: Aurora Chamber Office 14483 Yonge Street, Aurora

MONDAY, MAY 26th SPEED NETWORKING BUSINESS AFTER FIVE
Joint with Newmarket Chamber of Commerce
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Program Cost: \$10.00
Place: Glenway Country Club 470 Crossland Gate, Newmarket

SUNDAY, JUNE 1ST, 2008
13TH ANNUAL STREET FESTIVAL ON YONGE STREET
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Only 24 days left...

to register with the Town for the AURORA CANADA DAY PARADE

The Aurora Canada Day Parade Sub-Committee volunteers are here to help **KIDS & ADULTS** register all the **"RED HOT CANADIAN" floats, wheels, and costumes** for July 1st. **It's easy, just send us an e-mail at: auroraparaade@live.com**

Parade updates see pg. 13

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Tony DeGregorio, Eaton Hall general manager, left, will have Aurora flight attendant and cyclist Lee Andrews as special guest this Saturday night at a dinner and dance at the famous Eaton Hall in King Township as Lee attempts an across-Canada bike trip, which begins on the west coast June 2 to help raise funds for children affected by cancer.

A chance to visit Eaton Hall

The perfect opportunity to visit and dance in Eaton Hall happens this Saturday night.

Eaton Hall, currently Seneca College, is located on Dufferin Street, in King Township, just west of Aurora.

Built in the 1930s for Lady Eaton, Eaton Hall is a Norman chateau that needs to be seen to be believed, and this Saturday is the perfect opportunity to see the structure and, at the same time, benefit children who are affected by cancer.

Your support will help Aurora flight attendant Lee Andrews, who is participating in the Sears national kids cancer ride, a cross-country bike trip that will begin June 2 on the west coast.

If you elect to participate in the three-course dinner and dance, tickets will cost \$55 each.

If you elect to attend the dance only, which begins at 8.30 p.m., tickets are \$25.

The full event gets underway at 6 p.m. with cocktails.

Tickets are available at Eaton Hall by calling 905-833-4500 or you can visit the www.searsnationalkids-cancerride.com website for

further information.

Lee was recently chosen to be a national rider for the Sears National Kids Cancer Ride.

A team of 60 cyclists chosen from across Canada will make the 19-day, 7,600-kilometre journey from Vancouver to Halifax to raise money for kids and families fighting the effects of childhood cancer.

The route will cause riders to visit many of Canada's 17 pediatric cancer centres.

Along the way, the riders will be joined by thousands of cyclists who will participate in shorter rides in communities across the country.

Riders hope to raise \$1.5 million in the first of what is expected to become an annual event.

In addition to her training commitment, Lee has a fundraising goal to meet of \$25,000.

To date, she is \$10,000 away from her target.

"As well, my role as a national rider is to be an ambassador for this cause in my community," she said. "I have been busy getting the word out about the ride all around town, and putting together some fundraising events."

So far she has held events at Timberlane Athletic Club, the Sears store at Upper Canada Mall and at the Aurora Community Centre where a large number of Aurora Soccer Club members participated in a promotion called the "Inside Ride".

In addition, funds from two Mothers' Day brunches held in Aurora and a garden centre, were donated to the cause.

Support for game growing

Lacrosse is the fastest game on two feet . . . and just as fast, the DOVE 2008 campaign is exceeding its expectations.

It seems that the combination of masters lacrosse and the work of the Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness is a natural fit.

Aurora has thrown its overwhelming support behind this recently formed initiative, and in fact, the Town of Aurora has proclaimed June 13th as DOVE Day!

DOVE stands for "Determined to Oppose Violence Everywhere".

Their plan, according to James Zacher, Director of Aurora Masters Lacrosse, is to play the longest box lacrosse game recorded in modern history with the hopes of getting space in the Guinness Book of World Records.

With the support of the town, the group is one step closer to "going the distance" in their effort to combat violence against women, children, and all those who have suffered from the effects of abuse.

The game will be played Friday, June 13, at 3 p.m., at the Aurora Community Centre, Rink 1.

About 30 men and women will start the historic contest, with a procession of upwards of 100 participants to follow.

Waiting in the wings will be notable personalities from the worlds of public service, entertainment, and sports, all poised to chip in, play, or support our campaign.

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



A health and safety ANNUAL BIKE & BOARD Rodeo

Friday, May 30th

5:00 pm until 8:00 pm

at Hickson Park

- Register your bike with the York Regional Police
- Five Station Bike Rodeo
- Ride the Dirt Track
- Skateboarding clinic at the Flipside for ages 6 & up
- Learn the safe way to manoeuvre your skateboard
- Hot Demos throughout the Evening
- This event is free of charge, but a donation to the Food Pantry or the Yellow Brick House would be appreciated

ENJOY A CHARITY BBQ while browsing through several related booths and displays

25¢ HOT DOGS
25¢ BOTTLES OF WATER



This annual event is aimed at educating both children and parents on important health and safety issues related to personal security, fire safety, lifesaving techniques and the importance of being road smart with bicycles. The latest in child safety and health information can be interactively explored through the eyes of many local organizations and businesses that serve area children and families.



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Parade Updates



Sher St. Kitts
*and the Canada Day Parade
Committee and volunteers*

The Villari's dragon (which is really a lion) will be in the July First Parade!

In addition, the Lion Dancers are coming up from Toronto and are also in!

It will be an exciting display of our multi-culture mosaic and a possible winner for the Best Red Hot Canadian Display of our Multi-Cultural Mosaic.

Tim and his students have also agreed to do some karate demonstrations at the June 28th Aurora Farmers Market.

They've also offered to help the Canada Day Parade Sub-Committee hand out flags to get everyone ready for the big parade.

So, please, mark June 28th on your calendars: a day to get ready for the great Parade!

Street Float Competition - So far we have only one Street Float entry - The families and kids of Davis Road in Regency Acres have entered their application and are working away at designing a Best Red Hot Canadian Street Float - Shout out to all other streets in Aurora to get in on the Fun!

School Float? There is rumour and speculation that we have the first Best Red Hot Canadian School float officially coming in this week and we will confirm that with you by next issue!

Remember if they are our only school entry they are guaranteed to win not only the trophy but the reputation in Aurora as the first school to step forward for Canada!

Kim Collins has volunteered take on the role of the Pied Piper and will lead all our beautiful children safely in the Parade.

Kim teaches bicycle safety and has volunteered to help coordinate kids on wheels on Parade Day.

Look for the Town of Aurora poster advertising all the fun of Canada Day Festivities - coming out June 1st!

Street Festival: Visit us at our booth between Cousins and Kennedy on the east side of Yonge Street!

Flags for Sale! – Support Canada Day with a Flag! Regular \$16 a flag, they will sell for a toonie.

Get yours before supplies run out!

Runners and Walkers Needed: We also have a Sign Up Sheet for those who wish to run with Beverley and her Running Room Organizers just before the start of the parade dressed in red and white and sporting beautiful Canadian flags! Sign up and be a part of history in Aurora!

Pace Car Winner and get your photo taken with the amazing Red/White Parade Pace Car!

Winner of the honour of riding in the pace car at front of the historic 2008 Aurora Canada Day Parade is Penny Stephens! Try on A Clown Costume! We have about 30 and we need you to wear them in the Parade. (sizes small men's to children), courtesy of Cheryl at Marquee Productions.



Trophy Categories

- 1) Best Overall Float
- 2) Best Demonstration of Theme
- 3) Spirit of Canada Attendee
- 4) Best Red Hot Canadian Child
- 5) Best Red Hot Canadian Adult
- 6) Best Red Hot Canadian Family
- 7) Best Red Hot Canadian Pet
- 8) Best Red Hot Canadian Wheels (includes strollers, bikes, trikes, wheelchairs and scooters)
- 9) Best Red Hot Canadian Sports Club
- 10) Best Red Hot Canadian Street
- 11) Best Red Hot Canadian School
- 12) Best Red Hot Canadian Display of our Multi-Cultural Mosaic



Planner leaving

From page 1

helped to achieve here - and am very much aware that it would not have been possible without the the dedicated and informed support and enthusiasm that the Heritage Advisory Committee, Mayor (Phyllis) Morris and Mayor (Tim) Jones, Council, Town Staff, and the Aurora community have provided while I have been employed by the Town.

"Although I will be leaving my positon with the Town, Aurora will always be a special place for me," he said. "As I did before I started working here, if needed, I will always be available to help the Town with its heritage initiatives in the future."

Seaman, MCIP, RPP, is an urban planner by profession.

He has been working and volunteering in the heritage planning field since 1990 with Aurora, Brampton, Oakville, and Mississauga.

He was part of the delegation from Markham to personally receive the first Prince of Wales prize for municipal leadership in heritage conservation from the Prince of Wales at Rideau

Hall in April, 2001.

He has won two national awards and one provincial planning award for his work on heritage district studies.

He is a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and a member and past member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association of Professional Heritage Consultants.

He is currently the contributing editor for heritage for the Ontario Planning Journal.

Seaman has a degree in Urban Planning from the University of Waterloo and a Masters Degree in Heritage Conservation from the Technical University of Nova Scotia (now Dalhousie University).

As a community volunteer, he served as Chair of the City of Brampton Heritage Board (LACAC), was a co-founder and past president of the Brampton Historical Society and served as a member of the City of Halifax Heritage Advisory Committee and a past member and Chair of the Town of Aurora Committee of Adjustment.

Seaman is originally from

Skating results

The following members of the Aurora Skating Club successfully completed tests at a recent High-Low Test Day held by the club.

SKILLS

Preliminary - Rachel Kennedy.

Junior Bronze - Taylor Piotrowski, Jessica Jamieson, Alexandra Johnston, Rebecca Cunha.

Senior Bronze - Stephanie Morawietz, Sabrina Brochu, Molly Oulahan, MacKenzie Maunder, Courtney McGrath.

Junior Silver - Carley Steiner.

Senior Silver - Kate Sutton.

Gold - Janet DeVries, Hailey Riggs, Ariel Kwan.

FREESKATE

Preliminary Part 1 - Nicole Marshall, Nicole McCausland, Ashleigh Calvert, Emma Smith.

Preliminary Part 2 - Jessica Jamieson, Jasmine Biasi, Alicia Alberton, Sarah Blois, Julie Briscoe, Sidney Lambert, Julia Steiner, Courtney McGrath.

Junior Bronze Part 1 - Courtney Tidona, Jacqueline Relke, Carley Steiner, Kaitlin Van Winckle, Nicole Calvert, Shauna O'Connor.

Junior Bronze Part 2 - Samantha Duncan, Alyssa Simon, Hailey McGrath.

Senior Bronze Part 2 - Jihyun Cha.

DANCE

Dutch Waltz - Cassandra Tremblay, Haven Moulds, Anastasia Severinets, Claire Palmer, Max Goldman, Madisyn Lamoure.

Canasta - Chalotte Pearson, Claire Palmer, Celine Yau, Marina

Sotirakos, Lily Biasi.

Baby Blues - Geneva Bailey, Nicole Marshall, Julie Briscoe.

Swing - Alana Wise, Molly Brenzel, Madison Jakubas.

Fiesta - Sydney Lambert, Mari Mueller, Madison Jakubas, Molly Brenzel, Julie Briscoe, Geneva Bailey.

Willow - Sarah Blois, Sara Reynolds.

Ten Fox - Emma Smith, Dylann Miller.

14 Step - Rebecca Cunha, Julia Steiner, Erin Forster, Ashley Calvert.

European - Alicia Alberton, Alyssa Simon.

Keats - MacKenzie Maunder.

Harris - Kailee O'Connor.

American - Molly Oulahan, Savannah Hendy, Kaitlin Van Winckle, Sabrina Brochu, Courtney Tidona.

Rocker - Christina Kubiw-Kalashnik, Beckey O'Malley, Katherine Morawietz, Austin Bushell.

Paso - Taylor McDowall.

Starlight - Nicole Calvert, Kendall Manella.

Blues - Alessia Chiovitti.

Kilian - Jihyun Cha.

Viennese - Emma Lavery, Alana Fabbicino, Jennine Brunton.

Westminster - Allie Sutton, Hailey Riggs.

Quickstep - Sierra Chovenac, Amber Cioffe, Julia Chiovitti, Janet DeVries.

Argentine - Samantha Galati.

INTERPRETIVE

Bronze - Emma Lavery, Jackianne Abbey.

Silver - Maya Goldman.

The following members of the Aurora Skating Club competed in the Scarborough Skate recently at Scarborough's Centennial Ice Galaxy.

Introductory A Women

(Group 4) Rachel Kennedy, 6th; Jacqueline Lavergne, 8th.

Preliminary A Women - (Group 2) Stephanie Morawietz, 6th.

Preliminary B Women - (Group 1) Nicole Marino, 3rd. (Group 2) Shauna O'Connor, 5th. (Group 3) Alyssa Simon, 4th; Samantha Duncan, 6th. (Group 4) Becky O'Malley, 3rd; Kaitlin Van Winckle, 6th.

Preliminary B Men - (Group 1) Matthew Warner, 3rd.

Junior Bronze A Women - (Group 2) Katherine Morawietz, 1st.

Senior Bronze Women - (Group 1) Elyse Glen, 4th.

Pre-Preliminary STARSkate Women - (Group 3) Taylor Piotrowski, 2nd; (Group 4) Jasmine Biasi, 5th; (Group 5) Courtney McGrath, 2nd; (Group 6) Emma Smith, 6th; (Group 7) Nicole McCausland, 6th; Dylann Miller, 7th.

Preliminary STARSkate Women - (Group 3) Savannah Hendy, 4th; Marilena Perri, 5th. (Group 5) Kailee O'Connor, 2nd; Molly Oulahan, 6th.

Junior Bronze STARSkate Women - (Group 3) Kate Sutton, 3rd. (Group 4) Hailey Riggs, 2nd. (Group 5) Jihyun Cha, 4th.

Introductory Interpretive Women - (Group 2) Jackianne Abbey, 4th.

Silver Interpretive Women - (Group 1) Emma Slimkowich, 3rd; Maya Goldman, 4th; Jory Goldman, 8th.

Junior Bronze Solo Dance - (Group 1) Taylor Piotrowski, 2nd.

Senior Bronze Solo Dance - (Group 1) Becky O'Malley, 8th.

Aurora Minor Hockey Association

Annual General Meeting

We invite all AMHA members to come to our annual general meeting.

The meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, June 2nd, in the Magna room at the library beginning at 7:30 p.m. and continuing to 9 p.m.

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.

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Upper Canada Chordsmen, which include singers from Aurora, donate a cheque to Beth Cranmer-Smith, speech pathologist at Southlake Regional Health Centre. The donation, arranged through Harmonize for Speech, gave Southlake's speech pathologist the opportunity to be the first in Ontario with advanced training in Fibreoptics for children with speaking and swallowing difficulties. In the front row, left to right, are UCC President Clarke Edward, Bass section leader Todd Thorpe, Director Carol Appleton and Beth Cranmer-Smith.

Photo by Paul Millard

RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

How about a municipal court?

There are traffic courts, criminal courts, civil courts and small claims courts but there is no court for strictly municipal affairs.

A municipal court could deal with such issues as charges filed under the Ontario Building Code, the Fire Code, municipal bylaws, etc.

The creation of a municipal court system, providing there are enough available judges, would offer many advantages to municipalities and its citizens as cases should get to trial earlier and it would build up a body of expertise in municipal law. Just a thought!

REMEMBERING COLOURED MARGERINE

Today you can go into an Aurora store and buy butter or margarine depending on your choice and users often don't know the difference, but it wasn't always that way.

The colour of Ontario margarine was a very contentious issue back in the 1960s when housewives with mixing bowls marched on Queen's Park demanding that the legislation regarding margarine be rescinded.

At the time, Ontario was the only province that required extra yellow or red colouring in margarine so that it could not be mistaken for butter.

The orange-yellow colour was disagreeable to many consumers.

At one time white margarine could be purchased in a plastic bag with a colour capsule in it.

The capsule was broken and the bag was kneaded until the colour was thoroughly mixed throughout the package.

The most persistent supporters of the legislation were dairymen and creamery operators who claimed they stood to lose sales, if butter-coloured margarine became legal.

After an unsuccessful court case in Brockville in 1985 for selling improperly coloured margarine, in August, 1986, Ontario inspectors stopped enforcing the controversial section of the province's Oleomargarine Act that prohibited the sale of margarine the same colour as butter.

The decision permitted a deluge of butter-coloured margarine to enter the province from Quebec. The bootleg margarine was similar to butter in appearance, flavour and texture but at half the price.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TASK FORCE?

In the 2003 municipal election the voter turnout was 33 per cent in Aurora and 31 per cent in Newmarket.

As a result, Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor established a committee to research and attempt to understand the problems of voter apathy and challenged other municipalities to do the same.

Aurora Council picked up the challenge and authorized the establishment of the Aurora Election Task Force with a mandate to research ways and means of increasing voter turnout.

Suggestions included the introduction of a slogan to vote, the development of a user-friendly website accessible from the town's home page, focusing on youth creation of a com-

munications strategy to educate the public and partnering with local businesses to promote election advertising and encouraging employees to vote.

What happened?

WHAT HAPPENED TO RED LIGHT CAMERA?

In August, 2004, the government announced that Ontario municipalities could use red light cameras at intersections on a permanent basis and could keep \$155 of the \$190 fine for running a red light with the balance going to the provincial victims of crime fund.

A road safety audit was conducted by the region during the spring of 2004 and 29 intersections were identified with unusually high incidence of collisions caused by red light running with most along Highway 7 and Davis Drive.

In October, 2004, the region's transportation committee agreed to study a proposal to install red light cameras and rotate four cameras through 12 high risk intersections at a cost of \$1 million.

What happened?

GETTING CANADA OUT OF DEBT

Believe it or not in September, 2006, it was revealed that the federal government had paid \$34.8 million in interest on the national debt.

Then in November, 2006, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty vowed to eliminate total net government debt of \$481.5 billion of federal government debt and \$274 billion of provincial debt by 2021.

He was counting on strong growth of about five per cent per year and to continue paying down \$3 billion a year of the national debt, but with the predicted downturn in the economy, he may have been overly optimistic.

Back in December, 1990, Rick Arlt, a local real estate agent decided it was time to get Canada out of debt and he initiated his Bank on Canada program as a creative, painless way to reduce the national debt without using tax dollars.

He pointed out that the national debt was a common problem and how the country got itself into this mess was history and was irrelevant at the time and it was necessary to concentrate on the future and raise people's awareness so the same mistakes were never repeated.

He also encouraged people to organize local fundraising events and opened a special bank account to help pay down the national debt by December, 1999.

Like the recent Aurora initiative of the Right to Dry, his Bank on Canada program got public attention across Canada and the United States and as far away as Australia, but it is not known how successful his program was.

Canada could do with the return of Rick Arlt. Where are you, when you're needed?

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Klees wants a second opinion on power plant

Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees wants the Minister of Energy to get a second opinion before committing to the construction of a 350-MW power plant in northern York Region.

"There is no doubt that we need additional generation capacity," he said. "There is not consensus, however, about the size and type of generation plant that's best to meet our needs and whether sufficient thought has been given to alternative options. Before a multi-million dollar decision is made that will affect our communities for generations to come, it just makes good sense that we should make sure that we've considered all the options available to us."

Klees believes that rather than forge ahead with the construction of a 350-MW gas-fired plant as proposed by the Ontario Power Authority, a broader strategy should be considered that would include incentives for numerous small-scale

power plants.

He pointed to the condominium project in his own Aurora neighbourhood as an example of how small-scale power generation technology can relieve the demand on the central power grid, produce clean energy and reduce cost to the end user.

"We should be encouraging and providing incentives to businesses large and small, hospitals and government buildings to make the switch to technology that's available to us and has been used with great success in other jurisdictions for years," he said. "Not only is it clean, it affords a degree of self-sufficiency that is simply

not possible through the central grid."

Klees is hopeful that the Minister will respond positively to his request to re-constitute the Northern York Region Working Group for the purpose of giving full consideration to the alternatives to the current plans for a full scale gas-fired generation plant.

As for the location of the plant, Klees insists there can be no justification for locating it near existing residential development, noting that it would be irresponsible to do so given the number of potential sites available where residential development does not come into play.

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Major events that occurred here in 1969

The York County Board of Education took over from local school boards on January 1, 1969 with Markham Trustee John MacKay as chairman. Aurora Council invited the board to take over the Church Street School as an Education Centre to keep them in Aurora. It was later leased to the board for a dollar per year. Aurora's trustee was former mayor the late Keith Nisbet.

It was announced that the Wellington Street West high school, later named Aurora High School would be completed by the fall of 1970 to accommodate 1,200 students at a cost of \$4.4 million.

For obvious reasons, the school board rejected one proposed name: Aurora Secondary School.

Aurora Council supported a petition to the province for a revision of educational grants in order to ease the burden on property taxpayers.

Aurora Council invested \$1,000 to study a separate town-operated indoor swimming pool to the Aurora High School, but with no grants available decided it couldn't afford the \$400,000 cost of construction.

The new school board adopted a budget of more than \$30 million, the largest money package in the history of York County at that time and meant a hefty increase of 6.2 mills for Aurora taxpayers. Council told upset taxpayers it was just a tax collection agency for the school board.

Aurora Heights Public School participated in "Project School to School" and twinned with a school on the island of Nevis. First started in 1968 by Education Minister Bill Davis, the project twinned 1,200 Ontario schools with an equal number of schools in 17 Commonwealth countries.

Aurora Council launched a campaign to have a branch of Seneca College in York Region. A site at Bond Lake and the former York Manor facility in Newmarket were suggested but later the Lady Eaton estate was acquired in King Township for the King Campus.

A heavy snowstorm and flu kept attendance low at the council inaugural meeting held January 6, 1969. The inaugural was to install newly elected Mayor Dick Illingworth, Reeve Evelyn Buck, Deputy Reeve Bill Trent, and six councillors. In his inaugural remarks, Illingworth said the coming of regional government was the dawn of a new era and the year 1969 could be crucial to local government. He stressed the need for a team spirit within council and between it and the citizens.

At the invitation of publisher Bob Buchanan, Illingworth started a weekly column called "The Mayor Reports", a tradition that was revived when The Auroran was born in 2000.

A total recount of the votes came about as a result of council's decision after a recount of the votes for deputy reeve overturned the election night winner of Murray Binions and awarded the office to Bill Trent.

The recount also confirmed the election of Dick Illingworth over Clarence Davis by a vote of 1,455 to 1,375. The recount cost taxpayers \$779.

The town went to blazes on January 12, 1969, when the annual Christmas tree bonfire was lit by Miss Aurora Tiger Carol Rawlinson and Mayor Illingworth.

The town purchased a second-hand aerial ladder fire truck for about \$13,000, the first aerial truck for the department. It was replaced with a \$250,000 truck in 1984.

An Aurora police dispatcher was suspended pending an investigation into an alleged incident in which a woman in childbirth called the police for help and was told to take a taxi. Police Chief Bill Langman recommended the Aurora force be increased from 12 to 15 men.

Council expressed concerns about the resignation of two Aurora police officers, Keith Faulkner and John Mitchell.

It was reported the 1968 Santa Claus parade cost the town \$681 and donations totalled \$710. The Aurora Community Centre reported a surplus of \$490 for 1968.

Council investigated a new snowplow, which was supposedly designed in such a way that it wouldn't block driveways. It didn't work. Council also looked at equipment to plow sidewalks.

Don Glass and Paul Wright were named to join Frank Caruso, Paul Knowles and Bob Hookings on the Community Centre board.

And Del Babcock was reappointed to the library board.

Council also considered the appointment of an Industrial Committee to woo industry. Sterling Drug celebrated its golden anniversary. Don Glass was honoured by the Recreation Committee for 20 years of service.

Aurora Library asked for an additional \$6,000 in their budget to keep the library open 40 hours a week, doubling the hours open to the public.

Aurora Council decided to go to arbitration over the police contract as no agreement could be reached.

The Aurora Police Department received an \$1,100 annual salary increase per man as the result of a judge's decision following an arbitration hearing with the increase bringing a first class constable to \$8,000 annually.

King Township asked other municipalities for support in delaying regional government and Aurora Council asked for more time to study the request.

While urbanization and a \$5 bounty had lessened the fox population of the county, council was told that mice were overrunning the county. Council approved \$150 for fox bounties and \$600 for wolf bounties but nothing for a mouse bounty.

Bilton MacDonald, of

Aurora, was appointed welfare officer for York County and carried on after the transfer to regional government

Local equestrians including Jimmy Elder, Tom Gayford and Jim Day, who won the Olympic Gold Medal for jumping in Mexico City in 1968 were named Canadian Team of the Year.

The town started to prepare itself for a hockey invasion as the Aurora Minor Hockey Association was hosting the Little NHL Tournament for the first time.

A cottage-type treatment centre for emotionally disturbed children was proposed for south Aurora. It is now known as Blue Hills Academy on Bloomington Road.

Council rejected an application to build a service station at the southwest corner of Yonge and Kennedy Streets.

A demolition crew ripped the roof off Doan Hall, the first brick building in Aurora. Charles Doan built the elegant provincial house in 1846 at the village crossroads of Machell's Corners. The site then became the home of Doane Hall Pharmacy.

The York Highland chapter of Sweet Adelines held its first meeting with 12 women in attendance, mostly wives of members of men's barbershop organizations.

The Towns of York Toastmasters Club presented awards to Alex Eves, Cliff Bernardo and Doug Witt and Gord Bell was elected club president.

The three Towns of York, Aurora, Newmarket and Richmond Hill presented the Corps Flag, the National Flag and the Queen's Flag to the Queen's York Rangers Cadet Corps at a colourful ceremony at the Aurora Armouries.

Representatives of town organizations met at the community centre to discuss a possible Youth Centre. They're still discussing it.

Aurora residents voted themselves a cocktail lounge they couldn't have. The Liquor Licensing Board required a hotel with at least 10 rooms to qualify for the licence, which Aurora didn't have. Council petitioned the government to improve its outdated liquor laws.

Plans were submitted for a Met store in the Aurora Shopping Centre. Currently the building is occupied by Staples. The A & W Drive-In was officially opened at Yonge and Brookland where a strip plaza is now located.

The Town of Aurora got a namesake in November, when Aurora Lynn Wallace was born. Currently, Aurora is a professor at NYU in New York City.

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White Elephant Sale draws near

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Matters to intrigue minds eager for diversions or events to bring pleasure and satisfaction include the annual Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) White Elephant Sale Saturday, May 24, between 9.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

This always provides an agreeable, fun-filled tour of donated goods that ultimately find a new home and always at very moderate cost.

Movie night is always popular and on Tuesday evening, May 27, "Bernard and Doris", a comedy, will be shown. The movie stars Susan Sarandon and Ralph Fiennes.

The Annual General Meeting is Thursday, June 5, and it makes opportunity available for any member to be recognized by the chair-

man and stand amongst the peer group, our fellows of equal standing, and make known any matter, good or bad, deemed to require general attention.

This recognition can provide a significant opportunity for the ordinary member to draw attention to matters he or she views as important.

The show "A Visit to Broadway" starring Cara Chisholm was presented at the Seniors' Centre on Wednesday and went over superbly.

Cara Chisholm is a great singer and dancer whose energy and ability to entertain appear boundless.

After the show a selection of wines was available for tasting, plus hors d'oeuvres, cheeses and a

sweet table, which were all presented beautifully and sampled happily.

The computer club held its annual general meeting Tuesday with about 20 people in attendance. The most important business in my view was the election or acclamation of a new committee for the next 12 months which consists of Bruce Millar, Brian Warburton, Tom Yates, Ron Humenchuk, Herb Koller, Jeff Walker, Allan Church, Steve London and Dee Smith.

Probably there will be one addition to this committee at the first meeting, which will also assign roles and responsibilities to the committee members.

Computers have lost much of the mystique which pervaded the tech-

nology even when I started computing about six years ago.

Hundreds of people have received computer instruction at the ASA since formal instruction began, at no cost initially and at a very low cost at the time of writing.

In addition to instruction, lectures, seminars and workshops are offered frequently and the result is apparent in a multitude of seniors, formerly computer illiterate, and now quite at home in their particular niche of computing.

E-mail is probably the number one attraction for everybody although it is quite easy after a little practice and after that, downloading digital photographic images from camera to computer and then trans-

ferring to a disc has a strong hold.

Most instruction may be suspended during the summer months and commence again in the fall.

The Pool Room players have expanded their horizons and played Club 55 twice in their home town of Keswick and once at the ASA.

Our guys did pretty good losing the first match but winning the next two. The winning ASA team consisted of Bob Preston, Ron Gooch, Jack Hurst, Bill Moore, Brian Buffy, and Jim Liddy.

I did not see the name of Bruce Gray mentioned, but I believe he was involved somewhere in the proceedings and worthy of mention.

The addition of competi-

tive tournaments to the regular rhythm of day to day play, broadens the horizon, excites the imagination, fires up the competitive spirit lurking in each of us and promotes camaraderie.

In this instance, it takes the everyday commonplace games played in the poolroom and adds value to the experience, adding an abundance of social value and fresh experi-

ences.

The poolroom is a well used ASA facility with a highly regarded and well organized core of players. Space and excellent equipment exist to provide additional players, either male or female, with the opportunity to play billiards, pool or snooker, so if this social asset appeals to you, come on over to the Seniors Centre and you will be made welcome.

Ninth place finisher is appointed

From page 1

a by-election to let the people decide or at the next municipal election the people will remember and some of the existing council could be out of a job

When the issue was brought forward for debate, a staff report noted on the advice of an external solicitor who was in attendance at the meeting, the issue of reconsideration had not been finalized.

Aurora Seniors Duplicate Bridge

Monday, May 12: N/S - Gloria Smith and Rose White; Mary Oglanby and Joan Rotenberg; Carolyn Liddy and Christine Woolley. E/W - Murray Sinclair and Don Newman; Ev Dickie and Audrey Robertson; Irene Stone and Melody Irving.

An opportunity still existed to discuss the issue of reconsideration until the action taken at the general committee had been ratified by council.

Included in the staff report were copies of letters and e-mails from 53 residents supporting a by-election and six from residents supporting an appointment.

Councillor McRoberts recommended the procedural bylaw be waived and reconsideration be given to holding a by-election, which he pointed out was supported by a majority of residents.

Staff members pointed out that the procedural bylaw required a two-thirds majority of councilor or six votes supporting the recommendation from the eight members in attendance.

After some discussion the vote was called and was defeated with Mayor Morris and Councillors Evelina MacEachern and Stephen Granger in opposition.

Later in the meeting,

after considerable controversy over the process and sections of the procedural bylaw and accusations which were responded to by staff and the external solicitor, a motion was made by Councillor MacEachern that the ninth place candidate be appointed and the bylaw adopted.

She argued that citizens she had contacted supported an appointment as concern was expressed about the cost of a town-wide by-election and election reserve fund would need replenishment before the 2010 municipal election.

She also pointed out that the Municipal Act gave council authority to appoint.

Councillor Collins-Mrakas said the majority of citizens supported a by-election as part of the democratic process and with eight council seats to be filled, there was no runner-up.

She said she had written to Premier Dalton McGuinty requesting an amendment to the

Municipal Act to require municipalities to hold by-elections now that a four-year term was in effect.

Mayor Morris supported the appointment and pointed out that Gallo had faced the electorate in 2006 and it was up to council to decide.

When the vote was called the motion to appoint the ninth finisher in the election was adopted on a 5-3 vote with Councillors Buck, Collins-Mrakas and McRoberts in opposition.

A bylaw appointing John Gallo was also adopted.

"John Gallo deserves the Town's appreciation for being prepared to take on the challenge of repre-

sending residents at Town Hall," said Mayor Morris. "Mr. Gallo's eagerness to serve residents is demonstrated by his membership (2003-2006) on the Town's Leisure Services Advisory Committee and on the Town's Environmental Advisory Committee, to which he was appointed by this Council, and his participation in the last municipal election."

Gallo polled 3,496 votes in 2006, falling short of the final council position by about 310 votes.

The Ontario Municipal Act gives town councils the responsibility for choosing how to fill a vacant seat.

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Year-Round Maintenance Company

PRO PAINTING Int./Ext fast, clean, professional & affordable, last minute no problem! 905-898-3445.

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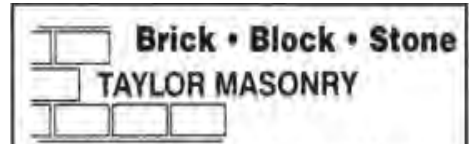
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Take part in the

AURORA CANADA DAY PARADE

JULY 1ST, 10 A.M.

See up-dates page 13

DEATH NOTICE

HUSTON, June Frances (nee Shepherd).

Peacefully on Sunday May 11, 2008 at Southlake Regional Health Centre in her 85th year. June, beloved wife of Donald.

Loving mother of Maureen (Chris); Drew; and Stephen. Grandmother of Christine, Kyle, Claire and Stephanie. Visitation and services were held at the Thompson Funeral Home, 530 Industrial Parkway South, Aurora on Tuesday May 13, 2008.

Interment Aurora Cemetery. In memory of June, donations to the Hospital for Sick Children would be appreciated.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE CHANGES
We have changed our deadline for classified word and semi-display advertising to **FRIDAY AT 3 P.M.** for publication the following week. Thank you.

Check it out!

GARAGE SALE MAP

SAT. MAY 24TH

- 131, 161, 184 Walton Dr. STREET SALE 8 a.m.-2
- Child Dr. STREET SALE 8 a.m.
- 46 Kennedy St. W. 9 a.m.-2
- Willis Dr. STREET SALE 9 a.m.-2
- 7,19 Dawson Cres 8 a.m.
- 4 Hawthorne Lane 8 a.m. — "RUN FOR THE CURE"
- 9 Springburn Cres. 8 a.m. —1
- 90 Walton Dr. FUNDRAISER 8 a.m. —1:30
- 48 Richardson Dr. 8 a.m. —noon
- 163 Timberline Trail 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.
- Milgate Pl. STREET SALE — 8 a.m. -noon



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SWIMMING LESSONS

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

If you teach something let us know. You could be advertising in this spot.

PHOTOGRAPHY

AURORA DIGITAL CAMERA CLUB. If interested, email rob@auroraonline.com. Indicate skill level, camera and main topics of interest.

ART CLASSES

雲虹畫室
DRAWING CLASS All level small group English and Chinese. Call Yunhong at 905-713-3650 <http://www.yhartstudio.com>

MUSIC

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

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for publication the following week.

Thank you.

INTERNATIONAL LATIN/BALLROOM DANCE CLASSES

DANCING
DANCE CLASSES
Next series starts May 5th, through June 30th
Level 1 - Jive & Quick Step
Level 2 - Samba & Int. Foxtrot

No experience or partner required.

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

DANCE PARTY
FRIDAY MAY 16

Aurora Legion Ballroom • 7 - Midnight

FREE Quick Step dance lesson 7:30

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



Site: www.SteveMillerDance.ca
Call Steve Miller at 416-439-6557
Email: Steve@SteveMillerDance.ca

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OPTIMIST CLUB OF AURORA
presents the



“YONGE STREET DANCE”



May 31
7 pm – Midnight



Join us for a rockin', fun-filled night to kick off the famous Aurora Yonge Street Festival!



Featuring the *“Thursday Night Jam Band”*

Photography by: David Falconer

Get your ticket TODAY!

The Optimist Club of Aurora Inc. presents:

Dancing Under the Stars

YONGE STREET DANCE

Yonge Street - Murray to Henderson
Saturday, May 31st, 2008 — 7 p.m. - 12 midnight
Beer Garden, Ages 19+
Rain Location - Aurora Community Centre

\$10.00 Advance Ticket
\$15.00 At Door

Music by: The Thursday Night Jam



The Optimist Club of Aurora thanks the following
sponsors for their generous support:



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Ellis Studios
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we care
about U



weight loss™
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"Now I feel fantastic...
I love the way I look."



thank U

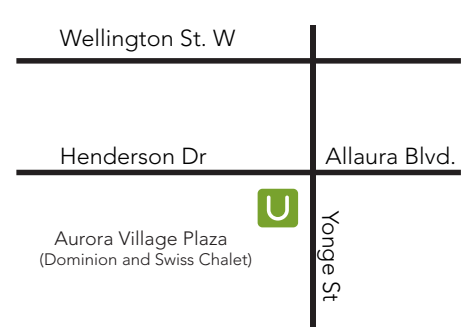
Rachel
Location: Georgetown
Before U: 180 lbs
New U: 140 lbs
Weight Loss: **40 lbs**

When I quit a very active job to work at a desk, I never realized how quickly I would gain weight. I gained 30 pounds in three months. I felt horrible about myself. None of my clothes fit and I was very self-conscious about the way I looked. I never wanted to do anything or go out anywhere anymore.

Now I feel fantastic and I fit into clothes I never thought I would wear again. I have lots of energy and I love the way I look again and so does my husband, even though he would never admit that I looked bad before. I thank the U weight loss clinic from the bottom of my heart because I couldn't have done it without them.

Why join
U weight loss™ clinic?

- Doctor Formulated
- Lifestyle Based
- Guaranteed Weight Loss
- Individuals and Families Welcome
- No Gimmicks
- Implement the 3 Simple Secrets to Weight Loss and Healthy Living



VISIT US!
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905.713.5673
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lose • live • love



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TO RECEIVE A
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DETOX & CLEANSE
professional quality

No obligation. Must be at least 18 years of age.
Limited time offer. First Visit Only.

PROFESSIONAL

We provide scientifically based, clinically effective programs that always place the safety and success of its clients first. Our team is dedicated to the principles of quality support, integrity and compassion.

HEALTHY

At U weight loss clinic, we combine principles of nutrition, natural therapy, education, and counselling in an inviting atmosphere. Our goal is to literally reshape you, on the inside as well as the outside into a healthier U.

AFFORDABLE

Our comprehensive program was uniquely developed by combining the disciplines of science, physiology, and nutrition to deliver proven weight management solutions in the most affordable manner possible.



"Our goal at U weight loss clinic, is to offer the highest quality results and care to each person who walks in our door. There is no better reward than a client reaching their goal weight"
– Dr Natasha Turner, B.Sc, ND