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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 8 No. 30905-727-3300auroran.comFREEWeek of May 27, 2008

Pesticide bylaw nearly a reality

There was a lengthy debate at Aurora's general committee meeting Tuesday night regarding a draft Pesticide Bylaw which reflected the proposed amendments by the Environmental Advisory Committee. The original draft exempted town-owned properties, including parks and playing fields. The recommendations suggested by the Environmental Committee included the removal of the exemption from the bylaw for town-owned properties with the exception of Playing Fields and this exemption be extended to include playing fields of the Boards of

Please see page 15

BRIEFLY

Controversial author

A Speakers' Forum, sponsored by the Aurora United Church Women, kicks off Monday, with an author as the guest. The thought-provoking evening features controversial United Church minister, Gretta Vosper, author of the recently published "With or Without God, Why the Way We Live is More Important Than What We Believe". The evening, which starts at the Yonge Street church, gets underway at 7.30 p.m. and a free-will offering will be collected. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the speech.

Busy committee

Members of the Canada Day Parade Sub-Committee (CDPSC) will be busy this weekend. On Saturday the Aurora Farmers' Market will have its Picnic in the Park Day and members of the committee will be on hand from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to give out applications, answer questions and sell Canada Day Flags (18 x 36) for two bucks! That all takes place in Aurora's Town Park, Wells Street at Mosley. The next day the CDPSC will have a booth at the popular Aurora Street Festival. There will be a special musical performance by George St. Kitts at 2.30 p.m. in honour and support of Canada Day. Parade information and flags will be available. The street festival runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and officials are expecting upwards of 40,000 people on Yonge Street between Wellington and Murray.

Alive and well

Aurora's brand new Camera Club is up and running. The first meeting was held in April with 11 people attending. Regular meetings now take place on the last Wednesday of each month from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at the offices of Aurora Online, 325 Industrial Parkway South. Anyone interested can join and currently there is no membership fee. Visit auroracameraclub.com for more information. Range of experience is from beginner to pro. Each month there is a new photo assignment. Last month's assignment was to photograph Wells Street Public School while this month, the assignment is open to the public and is to photograph the maple leaf. It must be photographed in Aurora, according to the rules. All submissions should be sent digitally to contest@auroracameraclub.com.



Getting ready to Walk to the Beat on the World's Longest Street, Chamber of Commerce members practise their flute playing prior to this year's 13th annual street festival, slated to begin Sunday at 11 a.m. They are, left to right, Kimberley Kerr, organizer of the sold-out event; Caroline Rusnell, Chamber office administrator; Nancy Eveleigh Brown, Chamber event manager; and Carla Adams, the Chamber's executive director. Street festival, which attracted upwards of 40,000 people last year, is held on Yonge Street, between Wellington and Murray Drive, and will feature about 500 vendors. Festival started as a street sale in 1996 as a single-year event to celebrate the 200th birthday of Yonge Street, considered the longest street in the world. So successful was the event, it became annual and has been held every year since. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the event, the Chamber organized a dance the evening before the first Sunday in June, and that was taken over by the Aurora Optimist Club, who are working on the third annual street dance, to be held on Yonge Street, between Murray and Henderson this Saturday night.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Anti-whistle policy may be on track

Over the years several residents have complained about loud train whistling at the four level crossings in Aurora and requested action. It may be on the way, as the Aurora's general committee endorsed a staff recommendation Tuesday night that council solicit public feedback for an anti-whistle

policy in Aurora.

Staff members suggested that in order to determine public interest for this type of implementation, a public advertisement be approved to solicit public feedback.

This information will assist in understanding the level of interest and potential issues that may be required to be

addressed as the town investigates the implementation of an anti-whistling policy.

The proposed ad includes a map identifying the rail crossings under consideration including Engelhard Drive, Wellington Street and the St. John's Sideroad.

The Centre Street crossing is included with

Wellington Street, since the two are only a few feet apart.

Respondents are being requested to answer "Yes" or "No" to the question "Are you in favour of no train whistles being sounded at level crossings within the town?" and give their reasons.

Deadline for replies is May

Please see page 15

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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 jonathan.turtle@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, at 7:30 p.m.

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Aurora Rotary Club is only applicant for beer gardens

Last April Aurora Council authorized staff members to issue a public notice identifying the terms of reference for submissions to organize and operate beer gardens at Dance in the Park June 30, Canada Day, July 1 and Ribfest September 5 and 7.

The Aurora Rotary Club was the only submission received.

In their submission, a minor modification was requested in the hours of service by not operating a beer garden at the Canada Day Festivities.

Beer gardens were to operate from 5 to 10 p.m. but due to their volunteer involvement in both the Parade and the Horse Shoe Toss it was not felt they had the manpower to fulfil the beer garden commitment.

The Aurora Rotary Club has had prior

experience partnering with the town and operated the beer Garden at the Community Centre for several years and in 2006 operated successful beer gardens at Canada Day and Ribfest.

The Rotary Club will donate 10 per cent of the profits from the beer gardens to the Town as well as assume the expenses for the provision of paid duty police, the special occasion permit, a \$600 park set-up/clean-

up fee per event and all costs associated with the purchase of supplies and equipment to operate the beer garden.

Aurora's general committee adopted the report and the recommendation that he Aurora Rotary Club be selected for the management of the Beer Gardens for 2008 without comment or discussion.

It is expected council will endorse the report this week.



The Aurora Optimist Club held a successful "Respect for the Law" dinner in Aurora Wednesday night, and honoured PC Shane Mulligan, Gang Prevention Officer from #1 District, Community Services. Shane, second from left, is a five-year member of the York Regional Police. Making the presentation is Optimist president Greg Way while Superintendent Brad Law and evening organizer Steve Hinder look on. The event, held in Aurora for the first time since 1985, used St. Andrew's Golf Club on St. John's Sideroad to hold the dinner. More than 50 people showed up. Highlight of the evening was a discussion on graffiti in the area, and Aurora Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas discusses the issue with PC Mulligan.

Auroran photos by Ron Wallace



Optimists honour police officer

York Regional Police officer Shane Mulligan, honoured Wednesday night by the Aurora Optimist Club has been involved in the issue of graffiti since last fall.

In February of 2007, a motion was passed at an Aurora Town Council meeting acknowledging the creation of an ad-hoc committee to address the issue of graffiti.

Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas, who wanted to clean up the graffiti in Aurora, was selected to head the committee.

In the fall of 2007 councillors as well as participants from the community established the committee and began meeting to outline the development of a strategy.

York Regional Police

was asked to sit on the committee to give assistance in defining the direction of the group and act as a resource for the members.

PC Shane Mulligan was asked by his supervisor Sgt. Mark Altermann to be that resource.

Over the next few months he facilitated meetings between the Town of Aurora and CrimeStoppers leading to the creation of their partnership in addressing the issue.

As a result, the Town of Aurora in collaboration with CrimeStoppers and York Regional Police were able to outline a proposed strategy for dealing with the issue of graffiti in the community including the development of a database that will be

used to identify any new graffiti in the community, the use of the CrimeStoppers tip line to allow residents to relay information on new graffiti and who may be responsible for it and a tie to a new York Regional Police online reporting tool known as Coplogic. Coplogic is a tool that will allow residents in Aurora and across the region the ability to relay any information they may have to the police for investigation whether they have suspect information or not.

As a result of his involvement with the Graffiti Abatement Committee, PC Mulligan was able to take a better look at the way information relating to graffiti mischief was collected, stored, managed and

accessed by members of the York Regional Police and has been able to streamline the process to allow for more efficient searching and identification of graffiti "Tags" and their related "Taggers".

Over the last three months, police have been able to identify and deal with more than 25 new Graffiti Taggers.

Some 362 known tags and locations have been identified in the Aurora area and are being targeted for clean up.

It is the intention of York Regional Police to continue to assist its community partners in addressing the issues affecting their communities and to continue to build those relationships moving forward, said staff superintendent Brad Law.

Cadet inspection Saturday

The 140 Aurora RC(Air)CS celebrates its 19th anniversary Saturday, May 31.

The Aurora Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron celebrates 19 years of training youngsters in Aurora with its annual inspection set for Saturday afternoon at the Aurora Community Centre beginning at 1 p.m.

The inspection is open to the public.

Over the past 19 years, more than 700 Aurora youth have participated in the 140 Aurora RC(Air)CS.

The squadron was founded in September, 1989, by Aurora resident, Ferguson Mobbs.

Involvement in Air Cadets provides youth aged 12 to 19 with opportunities to pursue interests in aeronautics; develop leadership

abilities; demonstrate citizenship and promote physical fitness.

140 Aurora RC(Air)CS is a long-standing community citizen of Aurora.

Squadron volunteers have participated in the Bob Hartwell Runners' Challenge; Terry Fox Run; Remembrance Day commemorations; Santa Claus Parade; Town Awards night; the Magna Hoedown; Candlelight Vigil and the Yellow Fish Campaign, where cadets paint sewer hole covers with a yellow fish.

Saturday's annual inspection is the culminating event of the Air Cadet year.

Cadets work hard to develop many new skills which they demonstrate during the Annual Inspection.

Over the past several weeks the Cadets

have made several

impressive static displays, which will be on view.

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Poor Richard

Local politics a funny game

*Local politics is a funny game,
As it developed over the years;
It used to be an honour to serve,
Now it just brings anger and tears.*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

It doesn't happen too often these days but on occasion prior to a municipal election, some old-timers asked why I didn't run for office as I seemed to like politics and the town so much.

It's nice to be remembered but running for politics again is the furthest thing from my mind, although I must admit the urge comes back and the old adrenalin starts to flow about something done or left undone at Aurora or York Regional council meetings, but thanks to The Auroran, I have my Bouquets and Brickbats.

Then, too, I remember the hard work in trying to serve the never-ending demands of some citizens, mostly newcomers, who left the big city for the quiet life style of a small town, but continue to want the same services they left behind.

There was a big change in being Mayor of Aurora during my first period of 1969 to early 1973 when I resigned due to a transfer in positions at Queen's Park which put me in a conflict of interest situation.

My second term was from 1982 to 1985 after I had retired from Queen's Park.

During those early years I had a full-time job in the Department of Trade and Industry. Most members of council also had full-time jobs and at that time council set policy and staff carried it out.

Most of us were at the end of a telephone, if necessary.

While we had our problems in the mid-1960s and early 1970s the citizens were more understanding and there was some pleasure in being able to serve.

It certainly wasn't for the money as council member salaries were set for the province based on population and for my first year on council, I received \$275.

At that time the mayor of the municipality was known as the Chief Magistrate and considered to be one of the leaders of the community and as Chief Magistrate was entitled to a salute from members of the local police force.

The town was small enough then that on a Saturday morning I was able to make a complete tour of the town, meeting citizens along the way and listening to their concerns, comments and suggestions.

I used to carry a small tape recorder with me and make notes for myself of what I had heard and seen during the tour so that I could take follow-up action and I became known among the staff as the Memo Mayor.

My second term after I retired from Queen's Park was much different and more difficult, even though I was a full time mayor.

The town had grown considerably and was losing that small-town, intimate feeling.

No longer was it possible to tour the complete town on a Saturday morning and meet the citizens in the same way as before.

Not only that but the political environment for politicians at all levels of government had changed and in many cases they are held in low esteem.

Most politicians at all levels are hardworking, honest individuals who were elected to serve their constituency whether it was the municipality, the province or the nation.

Unfortunately there are some who serve for personal gain, whether it be financial, a taste of power or to bask in the publicity of office, resulting in all politicians painted with the same broad brush.

In general, I enjoyed my years serving the people as a school trustee, councillor, regional councillor and mayor and as a bureaucrat at Queen's Park.

I have few regrets, except that my mother, possibly the most political person I ever knew without holding elected office, didn't live long enough to see me get elected. Whatever love I have for politics, I owe it all to her.

Now, I don't have to get elected to attend Aurora or regional council meetings thanks to the opportunity provided by Editor Ron Wallace and The Auroran.

Local politics is still an interesting game and more power and patience to those who serve.



The handwritten date on back of the postcard, top, indicates the message was written in January, 1923, but the card itself was probably from a few years earlier, perhaps 1910-1912 era. The houses are on Fleury Street, looking north. Below, the same shot today.

Letter to the Editor

Coronation Street fan irked at "Stupid Hockey"

To the editor,

I am as Canadian as the next person, even though I don't say "eh", prefer Blue to Canadian, don't watch hockey except if Toronto gets into the finals (it has been a very long time!) and I am not terribly fond of winters anymore.

I always vote so I can complain (quietly, 'cause I am Canadian), listen to Shania, Celine, Bryan, Jan, Lightfoot (worked in Yorkville but that is another story) and support all of the world's best artists. They all just happen to be Canadian!

I even watch CBC. I enjoy some of the new programs especially the Trojan Horse, Mosque etc. and got hooked on the longest running soap in the world a couple of years ago.

Two new words have

entered my vocabulary: "Stupid Hockey".

I have uttered these words a lot in the past month. You may ask why?

If you are a fan of Coronation Street you know why!

Do you believe that CBC, in their wisdom, have at 7 p.m. (the normal time for the Street) stuck in various comedy programming and then "Stupid Hockey".

Well, I don't mind telling you that I, along with many others, am enraged at this misuse of CBC's programming control.

They do this every year to the point that we are behind about 10 months in our Canadian viewing of Cory because of "Stupid Hockey".

Obviously, those in charge of programming have no idea of the impact this has on die hard 7 p.m., through

the week, viewers.

We have to get up before 7.30 a.m. on Sunday morning just to keep up (10 months behind already). Is CBC ever going to catch up to Britain?

I think there should be a revolt against those in programming at the CBC.

Nobody is watching "Stupid Hockey" anyway so why not give us five nights, four hours of Cory. Anyone want to get a petition going?

Not that it would make any difference.

Perhaps one of the other many channels should pick up Coronation Street – nananana CBC – you're not the only Canadian channel and maybe one of the new other networks would like to increase their viewer-ship (sic).

Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges

THE AURORAN

"Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper"

Published weekly by The Auroran Publications Inc.
At 95 Edward Street,
Aurora, L4G 1W1

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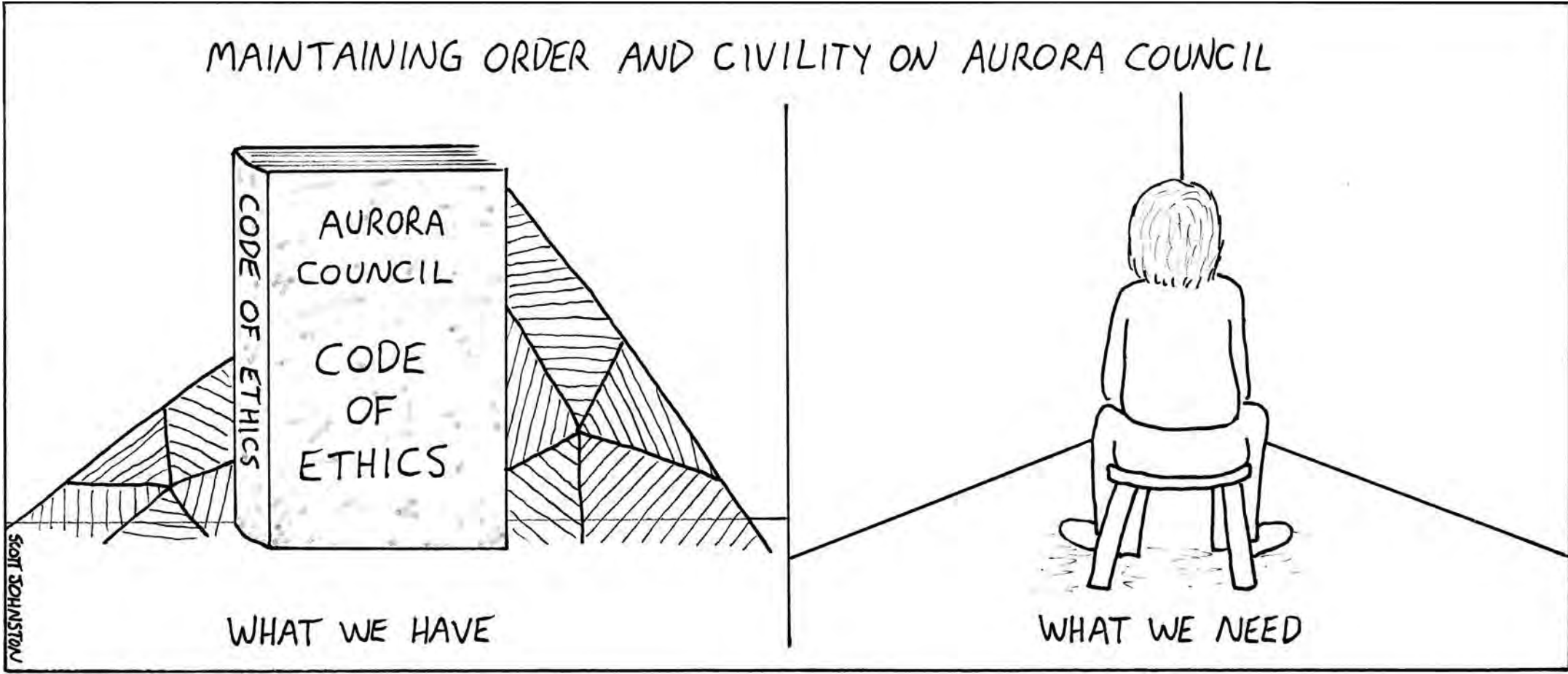
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

In last week's column I posed two questions: is this Aurora Council dysfunctional and does it have a collective vision for our town?

My answer to the first query was "yes", and it was based on both my limited viewing of council proceedings and upon the written word of my columnist colleague, Dick Illingworth, back on May 6th.

He wrote 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."

I then turned my attention to the second question and this "vision thing".

A group of politicians may not get along - for any number of reasons - there could be difficulties because of ego, ambition, temperament, what have you.

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

I then rewound the tape to December, 2006, when a fresh Aurora Council had just been inaugurated.

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

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

Thinking again about what I wrote last week, I could have been a tad hasty regarding the development of some type of local "vision".

Instead of impressing us with some grand vision or lofty sentiments of what Aurora could be, the mayor and council could instead simply let us know that, based upon their initial review of things, they have identified "x" number of issues that must be dealt with, and that their priorities are dealing with these first "y" number of issues and getting them resolved within "z" time frame.

They could then tell us the reasons that "y" issues are so important.

Although council is now 18 months into the term, they could still let us know what they want to accomplish over the rest of the year.

It could be through regular letters to the editor, a "scorecard" or some type of regularly scheduled press release.

Voters do understand self-serving communiqués, but regular updates on what has been done and needs to be done, and the time line for resolving outstanding issues, I believe would be welcomed by the residents of Aurora.

It might even help the good people of Aurora look at the mayor and council in a somewhat more favourable light.

Council should remember the maximum; "if you do not define yourself, someone else will do it for you".

A perfect example of this is the excellent political cartoon produced a few weeks ago by our own Scott Johnston.

Communications strategy needed

The cartoon shows a smiling mayor looking at a clothesline with a shirt hanging on it. The shirt had the words "Right To Dry" printed on it.

Standing behind her was a man - I guess representing the voters - who was holding up a basket with the following written on it: "Yonge St. Business District". The man, looking at the mayor and the clothesline, said, "That's great, but what about all this?"

He was referring to the baskets full of dirty laundry that had names on it like, "Reserve Fund Deficit", "Water Ban", "Infrastructure repairs", "Graffiti" - 11 "dirty" baskets in all.

The point that Scott was obviously trying to make, and quite successfully so, I might add, is that while one item has been resolved, a bunch of other 'smelly' town issues need to be handled.

I believe that our mayor and the council are hardworking and trying to make Aurora the best community that it can be.

But because issues seem to go back to staff many times and policy decisions are delayed, it is difficult for us in this town to know of any "wins" (other than the clothesline issue) that this council seems to be having.

The mayor and council need to help themselves by better communicating with us, but they should also remember that better messaging alone wouldn't save this council if nothing is being accomplished.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

Since the last episode of the Roarora series, most of the characters have changed.

I guess that's what happens when functional people vacate the premises in large numbers.

And maybe that's why newcomer Councillor Harsh just couldn't take it anymore.

"That does it," she said one day. "I quit!"

This had never happened before in the history of Roarora politics.

A stunned silence would likely have ensued except that the new mayor jumped from her seat, clapping, dancing and singing, "Yippee, yippee, yippee!"

But the people of Roarora weren't so happy.

Once again, they filed into Town Hall with slumped shoulders - partly due to the vegetative state of their new council, and partly because they came laden with fresh vegetables they had purchased at the local Farmer's Market. And it wasn't easy getting the fresh vegetables!

First they had to find the Farmer's Market!

In an effort to make room for more clotheslines, the new council had decided to move the market to a more prominently remote location.

When residents finally found the market, they had to navigate around cameras and be careful not to get in newcomer Councillor Stranger's way as he chased the cameras around trying desperately not to be as much of a stranger to the limelight as he was to the interests of his constituents.

Then the poor folks had to suffer the deafening noise of all the chest pounding that had become a regular beat at the market since the election.

It gave them tinnitus, so they were determined not to waste those vegetables!

Into Town Hall they all filed, hoping to make their secret wish for a by-election as perfectly transparent as possible.

Their new government had been elected on a platform of transparency and council was thinning out pretty good.

Council's decision to dispense with democracy and appoint Mr. John Swallow (the ninth place finisher in the last election) instead of letting the voters vote was helping a lot of residents see right through an agenda that was about as transparent as fresh squeezed beet juice.

Former Councillors Dogg, Eager and Legal Beagle showed up to back up the democratic pack.

"The majority of the people of Roarora want a by-election," said former Councillor Dogg confidently holding up former Councillor Eager's painstakingly provided petition.

"Well," said Mayor Mayoress, "We'll see about that!"

"Please," pleaded former Councillor Legal Beagle, "all we are asking is that we be given our democratic right to vote!"

"I don't think so," returned the mayor shaking her finger at the three naughty dogs. "First of all, I happen to know that nobody in this town votes. In case you didn't notice, that's how I got elected! Second, I already spent the money on a new toilet seat for my office. Third, I like Mr. Swallow, but more importantly he likes me! Fourth, I can explain about the toilet seat..."

She would have continued but Councillor Stag interrupted.

"Point of order, Madame Mayor," she shouted, rolling a copy of the procedural by-law into a billy club and slapping it repeatedly into the palm of her hand as she continued. "It says here that you need to shut up and listen when delegates are talking!"

"Well," said the mayor, indignant at the idea of listening when she could be talking. "We'll see about that!"

Immediately, she instructed Mr. Clark (the town clerk) to put changing that miserable rule on the agenda for the next meeting - on the grounds that it violates freedom of speech, of course.

Roarora returns

Councillor Stranger eagerly seconded the motion as he was tired of being accosted in Canadian Tire by residents who wanted to know things he didn't want them to know.

By this time, Councillor Stag had sidled over behind the mayor's chair and was poised to whack her upside the head with her procedurally fashioned billy club when all of a sudden, the vote was called. For a moment, she fought temptation but succeeded in resisting when she noticed one resident loading farm fresh eggs into his slingshot. She relaxed, smiled and bolted to the safety of her chair on the other side of the mayor.

Each of the Councillors took a turn voting for whether or not they would discuss whether or not to meet about whether or not to hold a by-election.

I know, as Councillor Stranger once put it, this is much too complex for us poor Roarora folk to understand...

Councillor McJekyll and Councillor Stranger voted "no" and congratulated each other with wink, a nudge, a hip bump and a high five.

The other five councillors voted "yes" but they needed six to win the "whether or not" motion.

The residents fixed their eyes on the mayor...and cocked their fingers on the triggers of their egg and vegetable dispensers.

"No, no, no, no, no!" screamed the mayor triumphantly, wiping eggshells off her face and seeming quite oblivious to the tomato torpedoes hurtling in her direction alongside the potato pancakes. "My hand wins!"

And so it happened on that fateful day that the residents of Roarora spent themselves and their vegetables in an effort to win a "By-Election" but all they got was "Bye-Bye Election"!

Could there be a sadder ending?

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



Bouquets & Bricks

BRICKBATS

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Scott Johnston for his recent cartoon in The Auroran depicting several outstanding issues waiting for a council decision, which described the current situation better than a thousand words and hopefully it will have some effect in clearing up the backlog.

BRICKBATS to whoever removed the chairs from the media table used by Poor Richard in the council chambers of the Town Hall for council and general committee meetings. Was that a gentle hint that he is no longer welcome?

BOUQUETS to Tyler Leonard from the Aurora Senior Public School on receiving the Town of Aurora Award for his exhibit on Terry Fox at the recent Historica Fair at St. Andrew's College and to Janine Fernandes from Highview Public School for her project on the Oak Ridges Moraine. She was selected by the judges to be the National Fair delegate.

BRICKBATS to the Town of Aurora for authorizing a complete reconstruction of Engelhard Drive between Edward Street and Industrial Parkway, forcing motorists to drive all the way to Wellington Street to cross the railway tracks. As if the Berczy-Wellington intersection isn't bad enough already, it has become a bottleneck because of the required detour since Wellington is the closest street available to get to the east side of the tracks. If there was a notice about the level crossing being abruptly closed, we didn't see it.

BOUQUETS to Alexandra Bhatia of Aurora and her two children, Kieran and Aaron, students at Wells Street Public now attending Aurora Grove Public School. They participated in "Operation Bear Hug" in which small to medium-sized teddy bears were collected to provide African AIDS orphans with something to cuddle. More than 1,000 were collected.

BRICKBATS to whoever is responsible for having the large willow tree which fell a few months ago removed from an empty lot on Kennedy Street West across George Street Public School property. Despite parents' concerns and complaints to the town and school board, nothing has been done and the parents consider it a safety issue as the kids are playing on it.

BOUQUETS to the Thompson Funeral Home for donating a Grief Management Kit to the Aurora Seniors' Centre to assist seniors in the event of the loss of a loved one. It is available to members of the Aurora Seniors Association by request.

BRICKBATS to Liberal Leader Stephane Dion for continuing to lead the once great Liberal Party to extinction with his continued support of the Harper government to avoid an election and a leadership review. Party workers claim it is a major problem and contributed to their difficulty in raising funds as the Liberals came up with under a million dollars during the first quarter of 2008 compared with the Tories who raised nearly \$5 million.

BOUQUETS to the Region of York for winning the Canadian Institute of Planners 2008 Award of Planning Excellence in the Transportation and Infrastructure category for the region's Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan.

BRICKBATS to the 10,753 drivers and 4,481 passengers who failed to buckle up and were caught by police during the 12-day Seat Belt Blitz. Another 274 tickets were handed out for not having kids in child seats. So far this year, 27 unbuckled people have been killed on provincial roads.

BOUQUETS to Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees for his ongoing work in representing his constituents and alerting homeowners to be aware of offers at the door for home renovations that sound too good to be true. A citizen was quoted \$6,700 to have his windows replaced with an Ontario government grant of \$5,000 if he agreed to a home audit and was asked for \$1,000 by the salesman to look after the details.

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Peter Virtanen
CLU, Agent, Aurora



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Letters to the Editor

Could no longer tolerate fighting losing battle, former councillor says

To the editor,

The mayor recently made the following inaccurate statements in a widely distributed e-mail: "Grace Marsh, by her own account, says she grew unwilling to handle the workload, the criticism and personal sacrifices of public office".

I understand she also repeated "workload" as the reason for my resignation at a televised council meeting.

Up until today, I have only issued one press release regarding my decision to resign from Aurora Council.

The words used above were not in that press release.

I have not spoken to, nor offered any comments directly to the mayor or any other member of council.

Any comments they have made, in the press or verbally, are entirely their own speculation and not based on fact.

Despite my efforts to remain professional and not point fingers, the mayor and some council members have chosen to publically express their erroneous opinions on why I resigned.

These statements cannot go unanswered in the remote possibility that some residents might believe them.

First of all, anyone who knows me either professionally or personally knows that I have never shied away from hard work, and in fact, I thrive on it.

For most of my adult life I have successfully managed multiple commitments

which have included continuing education, serving on various professional associations and doing charity work, all the while excelling in a full time career and raising a family.

Despite what the mayor is saying, the workload and personal sacrifice had absolutely nothing to do with my resignation.

In terms of "the criticism" the Mayor refers to, the only criticism I was unwilling to continue to endure was the criticism leveled by certain of my council colleagues to each other and to staff.

Members of the public, in recent letters to the editor, have expressed their concerns over the amount of personal criticism and insults seen in televised council meetings.

What the public sees is nothing compared to what went on during most untelevised committee meetings and particularly in closed session meetings.

Some members of council were permitted to curse and swear beyond any acceptable level at other councillors and at staff.

Yelling and shouting had become the norm.

A person storming out of meetings in disgust was a regular occurrence. Very, very little business ever got done in these late night sessions.

There was no control and no productivity.

A check of closed session agendas will show that items had to be rescheduled over and over again, and we were lucky if they got dealt with at all.

Criticism and insults

were tossed in my direction simply because I often agreed with Councillor Evelyn Buck's logic on many issues.

One councillor, in a half hearted apology for raising his voice beyond any acceptable level, yet again, actually admitted he was taking his anger at Councillor Buck out on me.

This is the type of abuse that was excused by the Chair on a regular basis.

Why would any self-respecting person choose to continue in that type of environment?

Another serious concern I had is the mayor's practice of issuing press releases that were publicized as being mayor and council's words.

Given my financial background, I was particularly offended by a press release issued by the mayor weeks before we were anywhere near finishing our lengthy budget review, stating there would be a 3.5 per cent increase in the tax rate.

In my view, this completely undermined the budget process and when I expressed my concern that the press release was premature I was "ridiculed" by some of the other councillors by their taunting use of the word "premature" when addressing any further motions I made during the budget.

Their behaviour was transparent, childish and unproductive to say the least.

I suspect some the

mayor's press releases may have been discussed with some members of council, but as I was not one of the faithful, they certainly were not discussed with me, although purported to be the words of us all.

Just days before I made the decision to resign, I casually mentioned an idea to the mayor about a possible use for the library square lands that might include some well planned affordable housing.

I was told, in no uncertain terms, that if I even "went there" she would fight me every step of the way, because she has plans for those lands.

This response certainly does not ensure everyone's voice is heard or respects new ideas which is what the mayor indicated was her priority in a recent document she issued.

The message to me was loud and clear that I would only be heard or respected if she agreed.

The very fact that there is to be no by-election to fill my empty seat is a strong indication that the public's opinions are not listened to by this group either.

It is rare to see the residents of Aurora rally so quickly and decisively on any issue as they did on the need for a by-election, and yet it fell on deaf ears.

It simply does not fit the agenda of the mayor and her loyal cohorts.

I could go on but it starts to sound petty and that is exactly what I have tried very hard to avoid, however, I cannot allow the reasons for my resignation to be publically stated as fact by those who have no firsthand knowledge of my reasons, other than their own conclusions.

Continuing to fight a losing battle against a block of votes, with no hope of change was what I could no longer tolerate.

**Grace Marsh
Aurora**



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Hawthorne Lane has no potholes

To the editor,

The story in The Auroran, the week of April 15 stated that Hawthorne Lane would be repaved and the locals did not want a sidewalk.

I went to see how badly the street needed to be repaved.

I think the people on Nisbet Drive should have

a look at Hawthorne Lane and then complain to the Town.

There are no potholes on Hawthorne Lane but Nisbet Drive is loaded with potholes.

**R.W. Hanes
Aurora**

ED. NOTE: Lots of streets in Aurora need urgent attention.

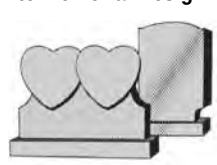
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Kean, Hogg, should lead a citizens' committee to monitor council actions

To the editor,

Is it comforting to know that the town's newest councillor, Phyllis Morris's personal appointee, John Gallo, placed ninth during the last municipal election? Does his recent service on the Leisure Services Advisory Committee and the

Environmental Advisory Committee predispose us to him as a member of council? Would Phyllis like to advise us as to the differences between campaign promises and the blatantly hollow mockery of her actions? Which are more comforting, the promises or the actions?

In an age where reasonable politicians are often reviled, is it comforting to see that those inept and miserable failures at the game of politics somehow manage to maintain their positions as representatives of the people, even though the people they allegedly represent speak in strongest

opposition to them? Is it comforting to know that our esteemed mayor is about as trustworthy in implementing her election campaign promises as those made by fleas about to descend upon an innocent dog? The people of Aurora should take no comfort from the mayor's actions

supported by those of her flunky minions who parrot her words before the public. Where is the comfort of a Code of Conduct for members of council when the very words "code" and "conduct" have no relevance, where code and conduct are merely two words from the dictionary

whose meanings are ignored? There is no comfort from a mayor and several members of council in their own self-aggrandizement. They simply seek to increase the importance of their positions and their normally paltry powers at the expense of the general citizenry, which whether it voted for these people or not, are the people to pay the salaries and perks of these self-same position holders. There is no comfort in having a Town Council whose reputation for dysfunction, "the worst in 50 years," is becoming a laughing-stock throughout York Region and even beyond. I believe that there should be the immediate creation of a citizens' committee to monitor the performance of council going forward over the next several months.

I would suggest as founding members of this committee, Nigel Kean and Bill Hogg, both former councillors who have voiced their outrage at the mayor's recent comments and actions. This committee should include the names of all those Aurora citizens who expressed opinions on the by-election issue to replace Grace March, those signatories of petitions dealing with this, and any other Aurorans who feel strongly enough to lend their names and support that might end up nominating and supporting a slate of candidates for office in 2010 to replace the failures who presently occupy council seats.

If such a citizen's committee came into being we might all take comfort in its role and its ultimate effect on Aurora politics.

**George Hervey
Aurora**

Memo to mayor and councillors; you work for me, reader states

To the editor,

After coming from Mississauga about 12 years ago, I've always told people that I didn't mind paying my taxes in Mississauga because the mayor ran a tight ship. I realized immediately the difference because at that time Tim Jones was only a part-time mayor for a population of about 35,000.

Why at that time was his priority not 100 per cent? This was a job that he did at his convenience, and it truly showed. With the past group of councillors overseen by Mr. Jones, we've had many, many financial fiascos such as the new library (to keep the downtown area viable was the argument at that time) draining a lot of our resources.

Good stores and restaurants will keep the area alive. Yes, we have an apathy for voting in municipal elections, but Aurora is like every other municipality. Mississauga's turnout is horrid in any election because everyone just assumes Hazel will get in again. I've always voted in every election, because I believe that my right to complain is based on my

right to vote. In regards to my previous letter about attending a council meeting, and occasionally falling on a televised meeting, I will reiterate my main comment. Councillors and mayor, you work for me, the TAXPAYER, the one who pays your salary. As your employer, I don't want to see people wasting time, showing up late for meetings, not

doing their homework, and open disrespect to each other and the people who work for the Town in the different departments. Check your EGOs at the door. In regards to Nigel Kean, the only time my husband has written into the paper was because he was so tired of Nigel Kean harping on issues, like the artificial turf. Just for the record, it saves hundreds of thousands of gallons of water, no fertilizer or pesticide is required (to pollute the sewers), no mowing (air and noise pollution) and reduces green waste (lawn clippings).

My husband wanted Nigel Kean to get over the fact that he isn't mayor. Remember taxpayers/voters, we want people to check their EGOs at the door, and based on the past letters that Nigel Kean has written this will be one EGO that won't FIT THROUGH the door.

**J. Mills
Aurora**

Too many "I's", not enough "we's" in mayor's report

To the editor,

Symptomatic? Couldn't help but notice that for the first time ever, the mayor has prepared and selectively distributed, as well as put on the Town website, <http://www.phyllismorris.net/downloads/personalreportweb.pdf> her 'I' accounting of the past year. I do not recall this ever having been done before

as the mayor's comments are normally part of the "we" Town's annual report. I comment on this as I believe this type of action is symptomatic of the dysfunction at council with too many "I's" and not enough "we's" in consideration of the work and priorities of the Town. Many councillors and the mayor want only to score the goals and hog the puck instead of pass,

play-make and win as a team. This was evident in the way the mayor cut off the opportunity for the council to discuss the merits of a by-election and cast the deciding vote to deny the residents of our Town the opportunity to vote for a team player of their choosing. Oh yes, if you are interested, along with taking credit for the accomplishments of the current

council and inferring personal credit for accomplishments of the past council, by page nine in her report the words I, ME and MY had appeared 45 times. The word WE finally showed up again after appearing once on page three. Final count for the entire document - 54 to 6! **B. Heffer
Aurora**



Dr. Craig Dingman



Readin', Ritin', and Ritalin Part II

Last week we talked about some of the diagnostic criteria for ADD/ADHD. Rather than use the term ADHD, Dr. Breggin, in his studies on this phenomenon, called it DADD - Dad Attention Deficit Disorder. He feels that a lack of parental attention and lack of discipline very often leads to the diagnosis of ADHD. I'm not sure that I agree, however, what I do see is that increased parental attention and involvement almost always helps. Other health professionals feel ADHD is caused by a lack of certain minerals and neurochemicals in the body. The late Dr. Robert Mendelson, M.D., one of the most respected pediatricians in North America, and a self-proclaimed medical "heretic" once said that it is our perception which may be at fault. "Is it the child who is hyper-active," he asked, "or is it that the average earthling is no longer excited about life?" Interesting thought!

To treat this "affliction" children are placed on the drug Ritalin, a Class II narcotic. To bring this into perspective, Class I narcotics are

those substances for which there is no legitimate use. Substances that even a licenced physician can't prescribe, eg., heroin, etc. Class II are those substances that are also addictive but have limited medical value, eg., Ritalin, Cocaine, etc. Class III and IV are substances which have the potential for abuse, such as Valium and other barbiturates. Most parents may not realize that Ritalin is highly addictive and is placed in the same class as Cocaine and Opium. Ritalin is a psychotropic drug; it alters behaviour and a child's perception of the world. The purpose of this drug is to force the child to obey! I feel it robs children of their individuality and I wonder if we are not turning our children into robots! This drug is so popular that toddlers are the new market! As a matter of fact, other drug companies, in their quest for a share of the market, are now suggesting that children be placed on Prozac. This is not OK!

There have been few conclusive research studies

done on the long-term effects of Ritalin, however, Johnson and Stewart found that: 83% of children had trouble with frequent lying 60% of children were still overactive and rebellious 59% had contact with police 52% were destructive 34% threatened to kill their parents 15% contemplated suicide Definitely not popular side-effects! There has to be a better way!

Chiropractic doctors have been successfully helping ADHD children for years. We often find that an interference to the function of the nervous system, caused by a vertebral subluxation in the spine, is at the heart of the matter. These vertebral subluxations are often the result of a difficult birth and interfere with normal nervous system function. A vertebral subluxation is an irritant to the nervous system. It is similar to having a pebble placed in your

shoe that you can't get rid of! Chiropractic care is directed at correcting these subluxations thereby making the child's nervous system function normally. It's that simple. If your child has been labelled ADHD or is in the process of being labelled, my suggestion would be to consult a pediatric chiropractor without delay.

I am holding a workshop on alternative ways of dealing with ADHD at 7 pm on Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at Timberlane Athletic Club, 155 Vandorf Sdrd., Aurora. Please call our centre to reserve a space.

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

This vet is a hero in our community

To the editor,

Growing up most kids had a dream car, I had a dream dog.

A few weeks after my wedding, I convinced my husband to have a "look" at some border collie puppies and we instantly fell in love with a clumsy little guy we later named Piper.

Soon we were immersed in the joy of being new puppy par-

ents, with chewed shoes and holes in the carpets as proof.

Like all dogs, Piper has a certain uneasy feeling about the yearly visits to our vet Dr. Doug Legallis and often did the backwards walk once he got a sniff of the office and would try desperately to blend in with the furniture.

Piper soon developed a reaction to his vaccines and it was Dr.

Doug who would personally call on evenings and weekends to check on Piper in case of further reactions.

We were so grateful that he took the time to check in on Piper when we knew he had not only a busy practice but a young family at home.

Piper soon became a source of support for my husband and myself as I underwent four years of fertility treatment, and

good old Piper waited patiently for Mom to finish her daily regime of fertility injections and offer his own form of cuddle therapy.

When we had our little girl in 2005, Dr. Doug was so thrilled for us that he even sent us a congratulatory card signed by him and all of the staff.

Piper was an excellent and attentive big brother and watched

over his little growing family with an intensity known only by Border Collies.

Shortly after Christmas, Piper became ill and required on site treatment at LeGallis Veterinary Clinic. Piper continued to get sicker, the testing increased and still we were without answers.

Dr. Doug amazed our family with his genuine concern and compas-

sion for our dog.

He would often call us on several occasions throughout the day, weekends and holidays included. He would make medication changes, diet changes and just be there to offer his support and frustration with us.

Piper never got better.

After great discussion, tears and heartbreak, we decided to end Piper's suffering.

With tennis ball in hand I held my very dear friend as he drew his last breath and made his journey to rainbow bridge.

My dream dog was just that, only my dream ended just shy of his 8th birthday.

The dignity and

respect Piper was given by Dr. Doug and his staff continues in his death.

This week, I received a hand-written note from Dr. Doug expressing his sorrow for our loss and he assured us that in heaven they have an endless supply of tennis balls.

Dr. Doug, your compassion and love of animals great and small, astounds us.

The dignity and respect you and your staff give our pets comforts us and them in all stages of their treatment.

You are the hero for so many in our community... one paw at a time.

Christine C. Stewart
Aurora

Meeting may answer infill queries

To the editor,

Re: Infill in Aurora

A quick lesson in demographics.

In 1955, the Aurora population was about 4,000.

By 1975, it was about 14,000.

By 1995, it was around 35,000.

We are now about 50,000 and if the provincial/regional projections come true, in the next 23

years Aurora will house 70,000 folks.

And what is "planned" for the 25 years after that? Another 30,000?

Large numbers are sometimes hard to comprehend.

To reach the 70K target, Aurora will grow about 1,000 a year or about three people a day.

While this seems doable, consider the world situation.

The 6.6 billion of us are now seeing increasing

food shortages, earthquakes and flooding.

Suggestions abound for more of the same.

Averaged out over time, we in the world are dying at a rate of about 110 per minute.

However, the birth rate is about 260 per minute.

Yes, that is a net gain in world population of 150 a minute - another billion people every 15 years.

How does this affect Aurorans and the Infill Bylaw being considered

on Wednesday, May 28th?

The law seems designed to preserve low density neighbourhoods in the older sections of town.

The newer sections of town, built in the tradition of the past half century - urban sprawl - are unlikely to see the intensification necessary to house Aurora's 40 per cent growth increase.

If the C2 lands are designed for cars rather than bicycles, the only place left for intensification

is the Yonge Street corridor.

Is it wise to make long lasting decisions about properties before we have a debate about where and how a growing population will live in town?

Do these decisions about the older neighbourhoods affect just those residents, or the whole town? We may find out on Wednesday.

Gordon Barnes
Aurora

I apologize to former mayor: Kean

To the editor,

This is an open apology to former Mayor Tim Jones. During the last election,

I made a speech blaming him for the dysfunctional council that I sat on.

I apologize for that speech.

Unfortunately I cannot change the past but I can work for a better future in Aurora.

After sitting through last

week's disgraceful council meeting at the Town Hall I drew a conclusion that I should have known all along.

The most common factor between the last so called dysfunctional council and this totally dysfunctional council is Phyllis Morris.

Her frowns of disgust as councillors she disagrees with speak or as staff members answer questions, show her true colours.

I found it disheartening that the mayor and two of her followers totally ignored what the public had asked for, a by-election.

I found it interesting that there just happened to be a letter of interest from the ninth place candidate on the agenda last Tuesday.

Why wasn't there a letter from the 10th or 11th finishing candidate on the same agenda? I would say great foresight from the ninth place finisher.

Unfortunately there is another two and half years of this council.

Let's hope the memories of Aurorans are just as long.

Reader upset with McGuinty ruling

To the editor,

I am disgusted and offended by Premier Dalton McGuinty's announcement that the

Liberals want hard-working Ontario taxpayers to pay for the sex-change operations.

This is the same government which took

away parents' right to have our kids eye examinations covered by OHIP, and, the same bunch of immoral legislators who refuse to

fund treatment for our autistic children!

Yet, when it comes to homosexuals wanting what is clearly a lifestyle and optional operation, these immoral Liberals are forcing taxpayers to fund this immorality.

It's bad enough McGuinty lied to Ontario taxpayers when he promised no new taxes, then imposed the health tax, but now we are told we have to fund the optional gay lifestyle but no eye exams!

Why are people stupid enough to vote for this guy?

If McGuinty wants a sex-change operation he should pay for it himself!

Councillors should be ashamed

To the editor,

The refusal by members of council to vote for a by-election to replace Grace Marsh is an outrage. Councillors Wendy Gaertner, Stephen Granger, Evelina MacEachern, Al Wilson and

our mayor Phyllis Morris should be ashamed of themselves for choosing to appoint rather than elect a replacement councillor.

While our troops are fighting in Afghanistan to bring democracy to that region, the "Gang of Five" would rather act more like

the Taliban and deny us our right to elect a representative.

They should be severely punished by the voters in the next election and for the remainder of their terms.

The appointment of John Gallo does not let him off the hook for his duplicity in this matter.

His willingness to participate in this travesty makes his character even more questionable.

John Galt
Aurora

R. Gee
Aurora

Nigel Kean
Aurora

Shame on you: reader

Open letter to Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris,

It is most unfortunate that you chose to deny the residents of Aurora who elected you to office their democratic right.

You are the people's representative, and are entrusted to protect their

rights and interests.

Your decision to vote against a by-election, without providing an explanation, reveals your contempt for democracy. SHAME!

Rosalyn Gonsalves
Aurora

Johnson was in second row

To the editor,

N.F. Johnson (Ada Johnson's late husband) is third from the right in the second row (not the row below the top row).

A fine group if there ever was one!

Dave Johnson (son)
Aurora

ED. NOTE: David is referring to the Page 4 photograph reprinted in last week's Auroran, showing a group of "Aurora Boys" during the first world war. We took the information that was printed below the nearly 100-year-old photograph as true. Obviously it isn't. Wonder how many more people are misidentified.

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users of Ontario



Since 2005, the electricity users of Northern York Region have been asking many questions about how their future electricity needs will be met. The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) is pleased to provide these electricity users, and all the electricity users of Ontario, with the answers to the most critical questions we've heard. This communications is the first in a series of two, the second of which will be published in the next edition of your newspaper.

Why does Northern York Region need additional electricity supply? How much is needed? Who says so much more electricity is needed? Can we conserve our way out of the problem? Why is generation being proposed rather than transmission? What is the right size of the facilities? And more?

How much is needed?

Right now, if immediate demand is only considered, the Region is short about 30MW on a sultry summer day – because the peak in demand is during hot summer days.

BUT: electricity facilities take 3 or 4 years to get into operation once approval is given.

Northern York Region is growing at 3.5% per year and the variety of electricity uses is only going up in the future. Look at the growth of:

- Plasma TV's
- Hybrid cars (which need to be charged)
- Computers in homes and business
- Electrically activated wash room facilities in malls.

Newmarket and Aurora continue to grow rapidly with new subdivisions, malls and box stores. Next, Queensville is planning for 30,000 new residents.

So, Northern York Region needs to have 350 MW of power to be available when needed – for peak demand, for reliability on the system, for security to ensure power is there – as communities grow and electricity use intensifies.

Who says so much more electricity is needed?

The Ontario Power Authority, the Independent Electricity System Operator, both-government created organizations, as well as PowerStream, Newmarket Hydro, and Hydro One distribution, all agree that more power is needed now to ensure reliability and for tomorrow to provide security. Northern York Region power supply today does not meet North American standards for reliability and security. Surely, Northern York Region should not be substandard.

Can we conserve our way out of the problem?

We'd all like to do so. In fact, the OPA is spending a million dollars a day, province wide, to build conservation. In York Region, we have a very successful demand reduction program which is in place and must grow. Aggressive conservation programs for the area have already been incorporated into the OPA's planning and will continue to be required to complement local generation. Residents are strongly encouraged to conserve by PowerStream with its Peak Saver program.

We can work together to reduce peak demand by conservation, but reliability and availability has to be provided, before electrical use can be made more efficient by conservation.

If you haven't signed up for Peak Saver yet, please do – call PowerStream at **1-866-323-0206** and make sure to switch to energy saving CFLs too. Other energy saving tips can be found on the OPA website www.ontariopowerauthority.on.ca or www.conservationbureau.on.ca.

Here are the answers ... and more

Why does Northern York Region need additional electricity supply?

Northern York Region needs additional electricity supply because:



- a) There is only one major transmission line serving the entire region (not 7 as some claim) and that line, as it comes into the region is already at its capacity – it is close to being maxed out.
- b) This means that there is a reliability issue when added demand occurs – unless more supply is available – brownouts or worse, failure.
- c) It also means that if the line fails – burns out, damaged by a windstorm, deliberate sabotage or a major problem on the supply system outside of York Region – there will be NO POWER AVAILABLE to the residents, public institutions or businesses in the region.

Why is a new generation plant being proposed in Northern York Region rather than a new or expanded transmission line?

In 2005, an intensive community based assessment of the region’s needs was undertaken. Municipal staff, elected representatives and community residents from Markham, Aurora, Newmarket, King, Bradford, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch/Stouffville participated. In fact, community representatives were organized into a special working group to examine two options: transmission or generation.

A comprehensive report was completed (to see the report, go to http://www.powerauthority.on.ca/Page.asp?PageID=122&ContentID=886&SiteNodeID=139&BL_ExpandID=) which concluded that local generation was preferred over transmission. Among the reasons for the choice was cost, esthetics, restrictions on current line capacity and difficulty in securing a right of way.

But why does it have to be located in my community?

It may not be located directly in your community – the location is yet to be decided. BUT, it does have to be located close enough to you, to ensure that you have sufficient electricity when you need it.

Well, why doesn’t the government or somebody just say “it is going there”?

Actually the provincial government could do that – it has the legal authority. We recognize that today, we live in a world in which citizens like to have their say and municipalities like to be consulted. As well, a competitive process with several

companies bidding to build a project means that the ratepayer – everyone who pays for electricity service – gets the most cost effective and cost efficient supply. The proponent who wins the Request For Proposal (RFP), likely issued at the end of May, will have put together the project that best meets the specific site, environmental and technical requirements and financial tests, as well as community needs.

Why is there more than one site and when will we know the really final site?

Each proponent has the right to propose one or more sites as has been the case in the Request For Qualifications (RFQ) just completed. Now as proponents participate in the RFP process, the sites they think best will become clear and once the RFP closes, then the final sites will be known and it is from these proposals that the final single proponent and site will be chosen.

Isn’t York Region being asked to solve a provincial problem?

No. The Northern York Region is a dynamic, growing community. The region needs the electricity this project will provide. In this case, the solution ensures that both the Northern York Region and the province benefit. The region is assured of the electricity it needs, when it needs it, and the province is able to replace coal-fired generation with cleaner fuels. Replacing the coal plants is a major step in addressing public concern about “climate change”.

Have more questions?

Visit www.powerauthority.on.ca



The 29th Annual PACE Polo For Heart kicked off recently at Southlake Regional Health Centre. This year's edition will be held June 20-22 at the Gormley Polo Park, south of Aurora, and is expected to raise \$250,000. Proceeds will be split between Southlake's Regional Cardiac Care Program and Heart & Stroke Foundation's Chase McEachern Tribute Fund, named after a late, young hockey player whose dream was to have a life-saving defibrillator in every school and hockey arena in Ontario. In the photo, left to right, are Dr. Byung Moon, Staff Cardiac Surgeon at Southlake Regional Health Centre; Neila Poscente, President and CEO, Southlake Hospital Foundation; Aurora resident Larry Smith, President and CEO, PACE Credit Union; Enrique Bauzada, on the horse, a PACE Polo For Heart competitor from Argentina, and Cliff Sifton, Honourary Chair, PACE Polo For Heart.

Gormley polo tourney beginning to heat up

PACE Polo For Heart, Canada's largest and most prestigious international charity polo tournament, last week unveiled details for this year's event taking place June 20-22, south of Aurora at the Gormley Polo Centre.

Organizers announced Southlake Regional Health Centre's Regional Cardiac Care Program and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario's Chase McEachern Tribute Fund as beneficiaries from an

estimated \$250,000 in proceeds.

Honourary Chair Cliff Sifton introduced PACE Credit Union as title sponsor for the third consecutive year.

PACE President and CEO Larry Smith, of Aurora, said, "we are proud to support PACE Polo For Heart, a unique and entertaining

Please see page 13

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Huge polo tourney happens June 20th

From page 12
extravaganza that is exciting to watch and full of family activities. I invite everyone to come out June 20 to 22 to enjoy an afternoon in the country and support two worthwhile programs that benefit the entire community."

Dr. Byung Moon, Staff Cardiac Surgeon at Southlake Regional Health Centre noted, "funds from this year's PACE Polo For Heart will help to purchase life-saving diagnostic and treatment equipment resulting in lives saved at Southlake. This tremendous event will assist Southlake to continue to play a leading role in Canada's achievements in the treatment of heart disease."

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario CEO Rocco Rossi was also thrilled at the announcement. "PACE Polo For Heart has been a tremendous friend of the Heart and Stroke Foundation and has raised more than \$3.5 million to date for research into heart disease and stroke."

Polo For Heart began in 1979 by Col. Michael Sifton, a member of the Toronto Polo Club, who helped raise \$25,000 that year for the Heart Action Committee.

The event has since grown in scope and size and attracts more than 10,000 people

each year.

Often likened to "hockey on horseback", polo is one of the world's oldest and most demanding team sports.

A typical polo match involves horses easily switching from charging 35 miles an hour to stopping on a dime, as riders strive to drive a ball through their opponent's goalpost.

Many of the world's top polo players from as far away as Argentina, Ireland and South Africa will compete with Canada in the Nations Cup Challenge series over the three days.

The 29th Annual PACE Polo For Heart takes place in the hamlet of Gormley, on Leslie Street, just south of Aurora's Bloomington Road.

Two daily action-filled

polo matches will highlight the three-day festival.

Visitors are invited to enjoy an afternoon in the country, bring a chair and picnic and be eligible for the Best Hat and Best Picnic contest.

Guests can enjoy ongoing activities in the Children's Village or stroll through the boutique tents of local vendors and artisans.

Half-time entertainment includes skydivers, kite flyers, a Polo Pony Parade and the popular champagne divot stomp that gets everyone on their feet, on the field.

Tickets are \$15, free for children under 12, and can be purchased at the gate or online at www.poloformheart.org.

Game times are 12.30 p.m. and 2 p.m.

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An early photograph of the Aurora Church Dodgers was produced when the team posed for this picture inside the Aurora Community Centre. There are some familiar, albeit young, faces in this crowd. The team was offered ice time on Sunday mornings, thus explaining the club's name. Captain of the team at the time was Tom McPherson, (19) front row centre.

The history behind the Aurora Church Dodgers

Back in 1968, Ernie Batson, Aurora's Recreation Director and Arena Manager, contacted a group of Aurora businessmen who wanted ice time to play hockey.

He offered them the 11 a.m. to noon time slot at the new Aurora Community Centre every Sunday and the Church Dodgers Oldtimers Hockey Team was born.

Selection of their name was obvious.

Not only did it provide the players an opportunity to relax from the business world for a few hours, the team established the Old Timers Hockey Tournament in Aurora and over the years contributed the proceeds to various worthy causes.

In 1974, the Church Dodgers toured Sweden and played in Aurora's twin municipality, Leksand.

The next year, the team hosted two Swedish teams from Leksand with exhibition games in Aurora.

In 1976, the team hosted the famous Flying Fathers in exhibition play and also the NHL Oldtimers, with "Crazylegs" Ron Wallace as the shell-shocked Church Dodger goaltender.

For more than 20 years the Church Dodgers occupied the 11 a.m. to noon time slot every Sunday in the Community Centre.

Then during the summer of 1998, without consultation, team members were advised their regular ice time would no longer be available but they could have 9.30 to 10.30 p.m. every Thursday.

In August, 1998, team members wrote to Mayor Tim Jones and Chief Administrative Officer Marc Neeb seeking restoration of their Sunday ice time, but received no response.

This resulted in team member Tom McPherson,

accompanied by team members, appearing before council as a delegation in November, 1998.

Some of the team members accompanying McPherson were Peter Healy, Herb McKenzie, Walt Davis, Richard Isaacson, Ron Simmons, Ron Wallace, Fred Bolsby and Lowell McClenny.

McPherson pointed out that the Aurora Church Dodgers were the second longest registered oldtimers hockey club in Ontario and the club was still going strong.

They were a special group of men, he said.

He added that during the 31 years of existence, the team had served as Ambassadors for the town on numerous occasions and had played host to visiting teams from other municipalities, provinces and countries.

In addition, the team had raised funds for many worthy causes.

At the time the Church Dodgers had 33 members of which 85 per cent lived in Aurora and 95 per cent lived or worked in Aurora and 100 per cent did business in Aurora.

In his submission to council, McPherson asked for fairness and suggested that council apply its ice allocation policy to all groups requesting ice time

and not in the selective manner that was being carried out at the time.

He noted that the team had written to council and failed to receive a response and the change in ice time had occurred without consultation.

He added that the policy, adopted by council in 1995, required any group to have at least 80 per cent resident population to qualify for prime ice time and at least one group granted prime ice time had only 35 per cent resident population.

He also suggested that minor hockey organizations double up teams for ice practice as had been done successfully previously for several years, freeing up ice time for other groups.

Staff members pointed out that the demand for the youth of Aurora to acquire ice time was so great, the town had to re-evaluate its ice allocation policy and had shifted minor hockey to the Sunday morning time slot.

At the council meeting it was noted that the issue had never come before the Leisure Services Committee, and council ended up referring the presentation to staff for consideration.

But it was the beginning of the end for the Sunday Church Dodgers.

Goodyear Jays slam Bolton 23-0

A dominating no-hit pitching performance by Matt Miller, and a power-hitting demonstration by James Harkin led the hometown Aurora Goodyear Jays to a 23-0 win over the rival Bolton Braves in Bantam Select action last week.

Harkin belted two home runs.

Miller fanned nine Braves hitters with blazing fastballs and kept the opponents off-balance with pinpoint control on his change-up.

He handed the ball over to Andrew Seguin who maintained the no-hit game for the Jays with his first save of the season.

The Jays got on the board quickly in the first inning after Seguin drew a lead off walk and Harkin drilled the first pitch he saw over the right field fence to stake the local boys to a 2-0 lead.

Billy Ferguson and Chris Fafalios scored on a line-drive single by Brian Baran and after a bases loaded walk and Scott Tonello doubled home two runs to contribute to a seven-run inning.

In the second inning, the Jays erupted for 11 more runs including a grand slam

off the bat of Harkin, scoring Kurtis Lindner, Nick Theodoropolous and David Baccieleri.

Later in the inning, Baran scorched another line-drive up the middle to cash in Fafalios and Ferguson, and Tonello cranked his second double to deep left to drive in Trevor Best, who singled to right field earlier in the frame.

Joe Ariganello lined an RBI single to right to com-

plete the scoring, plating Tonello and the rout was on.

Ryan Laird, Fafalios, Best and Baran all had RBIs in the third inning to contribute to the team win.

The Jays hope to continue their winning ways in Mississauga later this month as they compete in the annual Tiger's tournament where they expect to meet the best teams in Ontario.

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Searching the lonely airwaves

One of the thrills of early radio was trying to find far-away radio stations and receiving a verification card from the station.

It became known as "DXing".

The DX comes from Morse Code for long distance.

After midnight was the best time as the AM signals could then be clearly received.

For verification purposes, it was necessary to send the station a detailed log of the program heard plus date and time.

In those days for true DXers the verification cards were more important than hockey or baseball card collections today.

Even as late as September, 1999, fanatic DXers were still searching the air waves to pull in strange, small stations from far afield, as a Guelph DXer pulled in a five-kilowatt radio station from Mexico.

Even with the introduction of Internet, the dedicated DXer stuck with DXing.

It had become part hobby, part fixation and part lifestyle.

In many ways DXing was like fishing as they were always after that special fish or radio station.

CELLPHONES IN CARS

Today the use of hand-held cell phones while driving has been banned in some provinces, but not Ontario although the pressure is on to do so due to the problems some motorists experience on the highways as other motorists drive one-handed with a phone glued to their ear.

It was in June, 1947, when Bell Canada announced that Toronto and Montreal motorists could make telephone calls while travelling down the highway as permission was granted for the car telephone system.

All that was necessary was for the motorist to lift the receiver and ask the mobile operator for the number he wanted.

To call the motorist, it was necessary to dial 110 for the special mobile phone operator who would notify the motorist.

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW

When a motorist approaches a police cruiser, fire truck or

ambulance with lights flashing, it is necessary to slow down and move over and pass only when it is safe to do so.

The move over law has been in effect since 2002 and if the motorist fails to move over there is a \$490 fine and the loss of three demerit points for the first offence.

After that, if caught the fine increases up to \$4,000 and/or six months in jail.

In addition the driving licence is suspended for up to two years, so it's not worth the risk.

Besides, it endangers the life of the police officer or the emergency worker at the side of the roadway.

Believe it or not, but 16 charges were laid in York Region last year and so far this year about a dozen drivers have been charged.

SAVING THE SUGAR BUSH

Aurora motorists who drive down Bathurst Street couldn't help but admire the large sugar bush located at the northwest corner of Highway 7, especially in the springtime during maple syrup time.

It has been used for maple sugar production since 1820 by the Baker family but in the late 1990s was sold for development as a residential subdivision with some commercial uses.

In 1999, due to public opposition, the famous sugarbush was spared from destruction and development after an agreement had been reached to bring it into public ownership and after marathon negotiations with Vaughan council under Mayor Lorna Jackson, the 30 hectare woodlot was purchased for \$2.25 million down from its original price of \$7 million.

The purchase was made by the City of Vaughan, York Region and the Toronto Region Conservation Authority and there were hopes that the province would pay half in accordance with a 1970 agreement which required the provincial government to buy the bush if it was threatened by development.

WHEN THE REGION PONDERED TAKING OVER SCHOOLS

In June, 1971, Newmarket Mayor Bob Forhan said that the York County School Board couldn't handle its job and that York

Regional Council would be glad to take over the school system.

At the time the school board was trying to obtain a \$950 per residential lot as a levy to help pay for new schools and requested local politicians support their petition.

Newmarket School Trustee Jack Hadfield had asked Mayor Forhan to bring up the case of the dwelling unit levy for schools before regional council and get it accepted as a policy for development before the county board went bankrupt.

Mayor Forhan pointed out the school board had already presented a brief advocating the lot levy to Education Minister Bill Davis, later Premier, and their request had been rejected.

Forhan said at the time that the government should pay 100 per cent of the cost of education, but if the trustees wanted to abdicate their responsibilities, he was sure regional council would agree that education be made a responsibility of the newly-established regional government.

THE AURORA CRAB APPLE TREE

In January, 1984, Aurora Council received a letter from the Royal Botanical Gardens located near Hamilton inviting the municipality to participate in the Garden's celebration of Ontario's Bicentennial Birthday.

It was proposed that interested municipalities donate \$50 for the RBG to purchase one of a species of crab apple trees, to be planted by the mayor of the municipality to be included in the Bicentennial Grove Mayor's Walk.

In February, 1984, council agreed to donate the \$50 as requested and for the mayor and members of council to participate in the Tree Planting Ceremony scheduled in May.

The Bicentennial Grove Mayor's Walk contains approximately 150 different species of crab apple trees, each one donated by an Ontario municipality.

Then Mayor Dick Illingworth went to the Botanical Gardens in May along with the Heads of Council of other Ontario municipalities to plant the Aurora Tree, so if you ever visit the Gardens look for the Bicentennial Grove and the Aurora Tree.

Pick a meeting, ...any meeting

The current Aurora council is well-known for its lengthy meetings with the normal council and general committee meetings lasting anywhere from four and a half to five hours, not including the private session which follows almost every council and committee meeting.

It came as a complete surprise recently when a special general committee meeting was called to order at 8:17 p.m. and adjourned at 8:23 p.m. with all agenda items deferred to a future meeting.

It seems there were two meetings scheduled at the same time and members agreed to defer the agenda items and attend the other meeting.

Pesticides bylaw is a step closer

From page 1
Education and St. Andrew's College.

Also the committee sought to include a definition for Playing Field in the bylaw, the removal of the exemption in the bylaw for cemeteries and that an appropriate number of town staff be trained in order to become accredited under the Integrated Pest Management Program for turf care.

Another recommendation suggested a letter be sent to the Minister of the Environment encouraging the province to extend the ban on pesticides to golf courses.

The staff report included considerable background material

including public consultation, open forums, online survey and delegations to council.

The survey revealed that 81 per cent of respondents said the bylaw should restrict the sale of pesticides in Aurora, 77 per cent said the bylaw should prohibit the use of pesticides on both public and private property, and 64 per cent did not use pesticides on their property.

Kyle Tobin, President of Lawnsavers Planet Health Care, requested delegation status but failed to attend the meeting.

Gloria Marsh, Chairperson of the York Region Environmental Alliance, was in atten-

dance to express concern about the proposed amended bylaw and requested that the exemption for playing fields be removed, due to the risk to public health and cost to the environment.

She pointed out that the province was preparing legislation and, if passed, municipalities would not be exempted and the town's bylaw would have to be amended.

She suggested Aurora Council should lead by example for residents.

In response to a question about infestation on the playing fields, she replied that infestation could be controlled by the use of

organics which would restore the integrity of the soil.

Concern was expressed about the possible loss of playing fields for periods of time.

Ms Marsh replied that she hadn't heard of any problems and suggested a check be made with other municipalities.

Her presentation was received.

Councillor Bob McRoberts recommended the bylaw remove the exemption from town-owned parks, town-owned properties, town-owned playing fields as well as the recommendations of the Environmental Advisory Committee plus ceme-

teries as a health measure.

Members of council expressed their support for the motion with staff members pointing out there would be capital costs to implement the program especially in regards to playing fields as the use of pesticides in parks had been reduced by 90 per cent.

After further questions and discussion the McRoberts motion was adopted by the committee to be effective in January, 2009.

Staffers were also asked to prepare a public awareness and education program.

The recommendation is expected to be endorsed by council this week.

Anti-whistling issue back on table

From page 1
30, which will likely be extended as the general committee report will not get to a council meeting until May 27.

Further information may be obtained by calling 905-727-3123, extension 4374,

Aurora resident Lee Cudlip appeared before the general committee in March, 2004, to request the elimination of train whistling.

Her cause was picked up by Councillor Nigel Kean and council authorized staff members to formally initiate the process to ask CNR to eliminate train

whistling and that \$15,000 be authorized to carry out the required safety audits.

In addition, the region was asked to take action at Wellington Street and the St. John's Sideroad. But it wasn't the first time that citizens had called for the elimination of train whistles at night as in 1990 citizens complained as they had been doing dating back to March, 1978.

In June, 2005, staff reported the results of the safety audits which identified a number of trespass locations.

Region officials noted

that they weren't entirely satisfied with the proposed elimination of train whistles as there was a question of legal liability.

In January, 2008, Ms Cudlip again appeared before the general committee to ask why no action had been taken to implement a bylaw similar to Newmarket and other municipalities across Canada.

Her presentation was received and the committee agreed to request the region to respond and for staff to investigate an anti-whistling bylaw.

At last week's gener-

al committee in response to a question, staff members replied the ad would be included in the Notice Board and on the town's website as well as given to the residents who had appeared before council or general

committee in the past.

Councillor Evelyn Buck enquired about the cost of implementing the staff recommendation and replied a report would be forthcoming and the report was adopted as presented.



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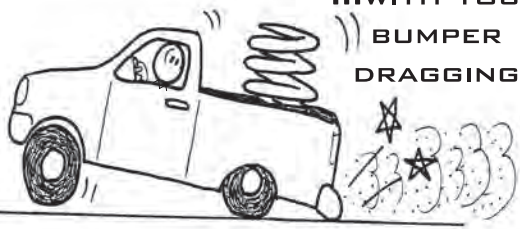
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COMING EVENTS

From page 2

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 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.

The Aurora Seniors Movie Night features the comedy "Bernard and Doris" starring Susan Sarandon and Ralph Fiennes.

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.

MAY 30 - JUNE 1
SOYRA will hold an Art Show and Sale at the Aurora Public Library with the Opening Reception May 30 from 7 to 9 p.m. and the show continuing May 31 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and June 1 from 11 a.m. to 5 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.

The Aurora Cornerstone Church at 390 Industrial Parkway South, will hold a yard sale and car wash from 9 a.m. to noon. Money raised from the Yard Sale will go to Teen Challenge, while money raised from the car wash is going to Youth Missions Trip.

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 500 vendors are expected to attend the sold-out event. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JUNE 4 & 5

Northern Lights Kids' Club is hosting an Art Show from 4 to 6 p.m. at the school, 40 Bridgenorth Drive. Children are ages 5-11 years of age.

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.

Hartman Public School Fair. 3.30 to 9 p.m. features bouncers, slides, movies, games, music, silent auction, raffle and food. Hartman is located at 130 River Ridge Blvd. (northeast of Bayview & Wellington). For more information, call 905-727-5938.

Deadline for submissions to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce for the 2008 Business Achievement Awards Celebrating Business Excellence in Aurora.

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.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

Boxing returns to Aurora after more than 20 years as the Point Blank Boxing Club presents "The Brawl Behind the Hall" at the club, 240 Industrial Parkway South with doors opening at 6 p.m. and the bouts, featuring local boxers, starting at 7 p.m. General admission is \$25 or \$35 at the door with ringside seats going for \$50. For tickets call 905-727-7300.

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 transporta-

tion, 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.

SUNDAY, JULY 6

The Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society will hold its garden tour featuring seven Aurora gardens.

SUNDAY, JULY 13

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

WORLD'S LONGEST STREET SALE WORD SEARCH

by Scott Johnston

Find and circle in the puzzle the words from the list below. Words may run horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forwards or backwards. Letters may be used more than once.

Once you have found all of the words, the remaining uncircled letters will answer the question:

"What can you do this Sunday on the world's longest street?"

S	M	A	J	T	H	G	I	N	S	R	U	H	T
M	L	R	E	C	O	R	D	A	N	C	E	H	M
A	W	A	U	R	O	R	A	W	O	L	I	A	U
E	E	E	D	D	I	M	L	S	I	R	T	K	R
R	N	T	L	N	N	B	M	M	T	T	S	E	R
C	I	I	K	L	A	O	S	E	A	L	R	O	A
E	H	S	P	L	I	S	E	T	R	S	I	P	Y
C	S	D	L	E	R	N	T	S	T	C	F	T	T
I	R	O	H	E	T	S	G	A	S	L	E	I	S
B	O	O	T	H	S	S	H	T	N	U	N	M	E
N	N	F	Y	E	E	D	B	E	O	B	U	I	G
A	I	E	R	O	D	N	E	V	M	N	J	S	N
T	A	P	H	C	E	A	T	R	E	A	T	T	O
R	R	S	O	A	P	B	O	X	D	E	R	B	Y

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CLUB
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DRINKS
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MURRAY
OPTIMIST
PEDESTRIAN
PETS
PRESS
RAIN OR SHINE
RECORD
REST
SANDALS
SHOES

SMILE
SOAP BOX DERBY
STILTS
TASTE
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Aurora Bunn-O-Matic employees, above, helped their health staff walk a total of 61 million steps. Their goal was 45 million by completing a health promotion program which saw the lion steps, about the same as walking around the world.

Bunn-O-Matic employees walk for the health of it

Bunn-O-Matic, Aurora's well-known manufacturer of commercial and home beverage equipment, has joined the Good for You! health promotion program offered by La Capitale Insurance and Financial Services with the aim of improving the overall health of its 180 employees.

To kick the program off, employees set an objective of 45 million steps (approximately

45,000 kilometres, equivalent to the distance around the world) over a six-week period.

Motivated by this challenge, Aurora employees were not content to simply meet their target, they went above and beyond it to reach a total of 61 million steps.

To get this ambitious program up and running, a health promotion specialist from La Capitale met with Bunn-

O-Matic members on site to support and encourage employees to get on board.

"The Good for You! health promotion program offered by La Capitale has been a great success at Bunn-O-Matic, as seen by our participation rate of over 90 per cent," said Stephane Lauzon, Vice-president of Finance and Human Resources. "During the past six weeks employees have

learned all about healthier living by participating in a Walk-A-Thon and attending various kiosks. We have well surpassed our original company-wide goal of 45 million steps."

Various activities have been organized for the company's employees over the past weeks to promote health and wellness: a lifestyle and stress awareness campaign, mini-health checkups by profession-

als at manned booths, with the focal point being the launch of the Walk-A-Thon contest.

All contest participants received a pedometer and were challenged to walk at least 7,000 steps a day for the duration of the contest to help reach the overall group goal of 45 million steps.

They hit that target and surpassed it, adding another 16 million steps.



Senior Scape

The voices of the Evergreen Choir, in concert Wednesday evening, gave an excellent performance under the direction of Enid Maize, accompanied by the fine piano playing of assistant director, Tom Rainsford, playing in his final performance with the choir.

This was the final concert of the season and was well supported by an enthusiastic audience.

The choice of music was well suited to the audience, and blended well to suit all tastes.

Next season will be here soon enough and with some new faces and most of the old, the Evergreen Choir is expected to improve further its ever increasing reputation, and at some point in time, recognition or an award of some kind will be earned.

The Street Festival scheduled June 1, is almost upon us, and for the many seniors, who meander along the length of the Yonge Street from Wellington to Murray, this will provide the kind of day and event that should be indulged in the form of relaxed pleasure.

This will be a day meant to deliver satisfaction to everyone, merely by being present and looking wide eyed at the enjoyment, satisfaction plus the excitement and people all around just content to be part of the good feeling

evident everywhere.

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) will have a booth at the festival, offering crafts and knitted goods.

A chess player will be on hand during most of the day, willing to play all comers.

Please stop by and say hello, and if you require information regarding the Seniors' Centre, this is a good place to get it.

Those who throng to the Street Festival will be greeted by a spectacular celebration of what Canadian entrepreneurs can do with a mile or so of Yonge Street, and the publicity generated for Aurora by this event travels by word of mouth far and wide.

But as always, it is the people from all walks in life, who stamp approval on the value of the event by showing up year after year in droves, and with their awesome presence, admiration for this event continues to flourish.

The Canada Day Parade has awakened from a year of hibernation and this year promises a huge parade, full of floats, marchers and musicians.

It's expected a colourful crowd will be on the sidewalks cheering enthusiastically, as never before.

I participated in the ASA Canada Day Parade committee meeting recently, and I report that

interest is passionate and exciting.

We are in for an unre-servedly fervent display of passion for Canada on Tuesday, July 1, at 10 a.m.

Kay Valentine from Theatre Aurora recently requested help from the ASA in building sets for their stage productions.

This led to a meeting at which Kay informed the ASA that some stage sets are relatively easy to construct while others demand much more care and detail.

Volunteer help to perform this work is in chronic short supply, she said.

Kay continued that stage sets for each production must be constructed and in place before electrical work can be put in place and before the furnishing, decorating and accessories can be com-

pleted.

To address this long standing deficiency of volunteer set constructors, Kay has turned to the ASA for help, since the ASA has about 50 members active in the wood working shop during most weeks, with sufficient skills and even a prosperity of skills available.

At a meeting which included Dick Douglas, Mike Varcoe, George Woolley, Bob Collard, Ron Coe, Cliff Davies, Bill Moore, Marlene Ash, Charles Sequeira, Lucas Hilts and Brian Warburton, Kay articulated the ongoing problem clearly.

No decision was reached but interest was clearly apparent and Kay has connected with good people who will help after they have investigated further what is required.

Evergreen Choir hits a high note

By BRIAN Warburton

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2) 86 & 82 SEATON DR. 8 - NOON
3) 339 MCCLENNAN WAY 8 A.M.
4) 2 WENDERLY DR. 8 - NOON

5) 6 TEASDALE CT. 8 A.M.
6) 59 TECUMSEH DR. 9 - NOON.
7) 52 OCTOBER LANE 8 A.M.
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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.

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



weight loss™
clinic

"Now I feel fantastic...
I love the way I look."



thank U

Rachel

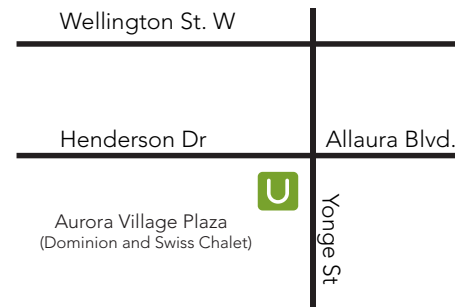
Location: Georgetown
Before U: 180 lbs
New U: 140 lbs
Weight Loss: **40 lbs**

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
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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



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MAY 31, 2008

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Saturday

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