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AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 8 No. 33

905-727-3300

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FREE

Week of June 17, 2008

A greener Aurora may be on the way

Aurora could be getting greener.

Aurora Council has adopted two motions put forward by Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas that could see an increased emphasis on both xeriscape landscaping, and green procurement.

Xeriscape landscaping incorporates drought tolerant, and energy efficient plants that require less water, fertilizers and pesticides than traditional grass lawns.

It is estimated that 50 per cent of water goes towards outdoor use, so these types of plantings, coupled with other sustainable and low-maintenance landscaping practices could significantly reduce the amount of water used by the town.

This is especially important in Aurora with its annual summer water bans.

Apart from the additional water that is needed, traditional landscaping requires a great deal of time and resources to maintain, and often has to be replaced on a regular basis.

There is also considerable air pollution associated with gas lawnmowers and trimmers.

Sustainable landscaping should result in less maintenance and pollution.

It was noted that while town staff had initiated a number of informal sustainable initiatives and practices of this sort, there was no for-

Please see page 9



From the performance "Seven Old Ladies Locked In A Lavatory" (yes, there are eight people in the picture), this group participated at the Aurora Seniors' Centre in the "Silver Stars" seniors' variety show Friday night. Hard to believe, but that's Cliff Davies on the left. Other participants included Shirley and Dick Douglas, Donna-Marie Gray, Bob Brooks, Lorraine Worrall, Ruth Church and Virginia Bodnar. Group played to a sold-out audience and more details may be found in the Senior Scape column which appears on Page 13 of your Auroran this week.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Traffic signals rejected

As far back as May, 2006, the developer of the property had advised the general committee that the region would accept a full access intersection, providing Aurora Council adopt a resolution supporting in principle a break in the existing boulevard median to allow for the traffic light.

However, town staff had provided several reports which did not support the full signalized access, in part due to traffic flow concerns, and because the median was established along Wellington to be a gateway to Aurora.

A subsequent request to council by the applicant in October, 2007, also resulted in no approval being given.

Following the presentations and discussions at a general committee meeting in February, council requested an updated report from staff members.

This issue was again before a general committee meeting

June 3.

John McGovern, of Rice Commercial Group, returned to address the committee, and reiterated his request for a full-turn, signalized intersection on Wellington.

He noted that York Region had provided approval, and there were other benefits to the intersection associated with safe traffic flow, and pedestrian access across the Holland River Trail.

He also said Central York

Fire Services had noted a right-in/right-out access would not be acceptable for emergency vehicles.

Mr. Longo, who also was in attendance, reminded council that one of the factors considered in locating his store was ease of access, and the traffic signal was essential to allow this.

A representative of the Bank of Montreal noted that without this traffic signal, his bank

Please see page 2

BRIEFLY

"Red" Shea dies

A popular figure on the streets of Aurora for the past several years, musician Red Shea died last week.

His real name was Laurence Milton Shea, but he was known to hundreds of Aurorans as "Red".

He died two weeks after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

He was 70.

A visitation was held at Thompson Funeral Home last Thursday, and a memorial was held Friday at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses on Bloomington Road.

Red was a renowned Canadian guitarist who was self-taught. He was a regular on the the Tommy Hunter Show.

Meanwhile, World War II veteran George Rickard died at Southlake Regional Health Centre last week.

The Aurora resident was a member of the Aurora Legion.

Services were held at Thompson's Saturday morning.

Christmas in July

It was a success last year, so, organizers figured, why not do it again?

Christmas in July will take place Thursday, July 24, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Gateway Cafe and Lanes, 210 Edward Street, at the corner of Dunning Avenue.

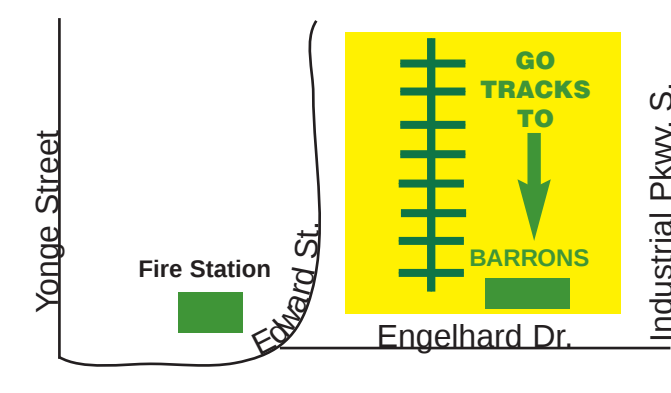
This is a food drive, which means if you bring a non-perishable food item you can bowl for free.

All food collected will be donated to the Aurora Food Pantry.

The event will feature Christmas music and decor and everyone is welcome to attend.

This is the location of the former Aurora Bowling Alley.

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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

Thursday barbecue is 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. The ever-popular bingo is being played Friday afternoons.

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.

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

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

A drop-in centre operates every Wednesday at the Community Bible Church on Bathurst Street just south of Henderson from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. It's open to all parents, grandparents and caregivers. For more information e-mail Judy Hoffmann at jhoffmann@sympatico.ca.

Scottish Country Dancing every Friday morning at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m.

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday evening at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members are welcome. For further information call 905-841-1352.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge 148 meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at 15216 Yonge Street, south of Wellington. For more information call 905-830-9205.

Masonic Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at the Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7:30 p.m.

Robertson Masonic Lodge meets the third Saturday each month at 57 Mosley Street at 10:30 a.m. Coffee Club at 9 a.m. and lunch at noon. Call 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080.

Gamblers Anonymous meets every Tuesday night at Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street at 7:30 p.m.

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night at the Aurora Legion at 7:30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

Canadian Federation of University Women holds monthly meetings at the Aurora Legion with a variety of speakers. There is also a selection of interest groups. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Choir practice in the West-McKenzie Hall of the Seniors' Centre, every Wednesday from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. under the direction of Tom Rainsford and Enid Maize. For more information, call 905-841-9706.

Tots (ages 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.

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

A Health and Information Fair will be held at the Aurora senior citizens' building from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

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

JUNE 20-22

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

MONDAY, JUNE 23

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

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

The Aurora Seniors visit the Royal Alexandra 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.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

Turn your trash into other's treasures at the next Great Curbside Giveaway. Take unwanted items to the curb and mark them free for others to pick up. To keep Aurora attractive, please remove leftovers by 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 1

The return of the July First parade. Parade

starts at 10 a.m. from Yonge and Orchard Heights Blvd., and proceeds south to the Aurora Cenotaph.

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 from noon to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at R&R Revisited, 95 Edward Street; Caruso & Co., 15210 Yonge Street; Flowers by Terry, 14799 Yonge Street; and Pathways to Perennials in Pottageville. Call 905-727-5926 for more details.

SUNDAY, JULY 13

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

THURSDAY, JULY 24

Christmas in July at the Gateway Cafe & Lanes, 210 Edward Street, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Bring a non-perishable food item and bowl for free. Food will be donated to the Aurora Food Pantry.

SATURDAY, JULY 26

Turn your trash into other's treasures at the regular Great Curbside Giveaway. Take unwanted items to the curb today and mark them free for others to pick up. To keep Aurora attractive, please remove leftovers by 6 p.m.

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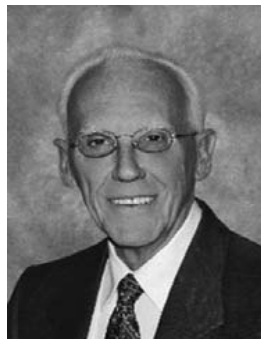
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Council rejects signals

From page 1

could not be competitive with other sites.

After considerable discussion general committee members once again defeated the motion to support a full-turn signalized intersection.

Instead they approved an additional right-in/right-out access from Bayview, to supplement the right-in/right-out access previously approved for Wellington.

But that was not the end of the discussions.

Despite both town staff's and council's agreement that the traffic light should not be installed, one week later the issue was re-opened when Councillor Al Wilson presented a motion that the full-turn intersection be approved.

He referenced as new information several letters that had been received that week from Longo's, The Bank of Montreal and CIBC, all requesting the new traffic light, and all suggesting that without it, their respective stores may not be built.

He noted that the site represented \$1 million a year in potential tax base, and approx-

imately 200 full-time jobs, plus a number of part-time jobs.

The proposed jobs were "important and high quality" and the proposed tenants would be "a great asset to the community".

Councillor Bob McRoberts observed that council had already discussed this for an hour and a half the previous week.

He said the latest staff report stated that the Central York Fire Services had no problem with a right-in/right-out access.

The report also suggested that Longo's estimate of 65 per cent of their customers coming from the west was more likely to be around 25 per cent.

Councillor Stephen Granger agreed with Councillor Wilson, saying that these were major cornerstone companies, and important proposed tenants.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said that this was a traffic issue, and that it was the town's responsibility to ensure "that it (traffic) moved smoothly, efficiently, and without needless hazards".

She also asked that "if we say 'yes' to this one (exemption request), then how do we say

'no' to any others?"

She felt it was critical that council remain consistent, and that they defer to the recommendations of town staff members, who are competent to advise in moving traffic, and who were recommending the intersection not be approved.

She also observed there was an existing vacant grocery store west of the site on Yonge Street.

With new councillor John Gallo declaring a conflict on the issue, when it was time to vote, the remaining eight members of council split 4-4.

The tie defeated the Wilson motion for a full signalized intersection.

In two subsequent votes, council approved both the right-in/right-out access on Bayview that had been recommended by the committee a week earlier, and that the region be informed of its decision.

After being repeatedly turned down in this request for a signalized full access intersection, it is not known if the developer will pursue this further, either with council or through an appeal with the OMB.

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Work is continuing on the reconstruction of Engelhard Drive from Edward Street to Industrial Parkway South, and the finished job can't come too soon for motorists, who have had to deal with a rough road if they wish to cross the railway tracks at that location. Reconstruction will provide new sidewalks and an easier turning radius for southbound Industrial Parkway traffic turning right onto Engelhard.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Council rejects proposal to change zoning bylaw

A public planning meeting was held recently to hear the town's application for an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw in order to include bylaw provisions specific to infill housing or monster homes.

The proposed bylaw was defeated by Aurora Council.

Some of the proposed new provisions dealt with height, set backs, housing depth, coverage of accessory structures, garage projections and garage/driveway widths.

The bylaw covered a considerable part of older Aurora both east and west of Yonge Street from Wellington Street south to Dunning Avenue.

What started out as resident complaints about monster homes being constructed in built-up areas in 2006 developed into a controversial infill housing issue with considerable public opposition to the proposed bylaw resulting in amendments to the bylaw and more public meetings.

The general thread of the opposition of all delegates from the older part of town was the inability to make improvements to existing housing, loss of property value and for council to leave things alone.

A major source of complaint was the lack of notification in the town's Notice Board.

For the recent public meeting a notice was distributed to all property owners in the affected areas and a large audience was in attendance for the meeting.

A comprehensive staff report was available providing information on the background to the issue, the chronology of events, a detailed description of the proposed changes and options.

It was noted that the bylaw had been drafted based on citizen comments and council's direction and every attempt had been made to draft a bylaw that would achieve the goals of maintaining the character of Aurora's existing neighbourhoods while

ensuring new development does not impact on the quality of life of existing residents.

Several residents addressed council and all were opposed to the proposed bylaw.

Finally, after all the delegates had been heard and the questions answered, Councillor Evelyn Buck moved a motion to deny the bylaw as it was no longer warranted.

Other than opposition from Councillor Bob McRoberts, who supported the need for such a bylaw, there was general agreement among council members to defeat the bylaw to the applause of the audience.

Fire department report is presented to council

Fire Chief John Molyneux of Central York Fire Services recently presented his annual report to Aurora Council.

He noted that in 2007, the department's budget was approximately \$14.5 million.

Of that, about 40 per cent was spent in Aurora, and 60 per cent in Newmarket.

He observed that this was in line with the two towns' populations.

There are currently four fire stations, two in each municipality. Between them they have five trucks on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

There are usually 21 fire fighters on duty at any one time.

The Suppression Division handled 4,302 calls in 2007.

There were two fatalities last year, both of them in Newmarket.

CYFS also covers small parts of Whitchurch-Stouffville and King Township, under contract, but these municipalities represent a very small percentage of the calls received.

Training is carried out throughout the year in a variety of ways, and includes rapid-intervention, ice water rescue training, live fire scenarios at the fire college in Gravenhurst, drive live (using a simulator to practice driving large vehicles in emergency situations), and hazardous materials exercises.

The department also looks at how it performs through the completion of post incident analyses.

These provide an evaluation of what worked well, what could

be done better, and allows the CYFS to continue to modify and improve its procedures.

Fire prevention staff conducted inspections on several large construction projects in 2007, such as the new Aurora Walmart and Magna Centre in Newmarket, and the expansions at Upper Canada Mall and Southlake Health Centre.

In all, 1,435 inspections were carried out by fire prevention staff, and 13 fire investigations conducted.

Public education continues to play a large role for the CYFS. Open

houses have been conducted in both municipalities, and events have been held to raise money for worthy causes, such as muscular dystrophy.

Upon the conclusion of the presentation, Mayor Phyllis Morris asked the chief to comment on a recent improvement in response time.

The chief confirmed that historically, response times had averaged around six minutes, but were now closer to 5 minutes and 22 seconds, which also included the time for the operator to take the original 911 call.

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New application for second hotel

Mainstay Suites Hotel has submitted an application to the town to build a four-storey, 109-suite hotel at 4 Don Hillock Drive on 1.98 acres located at the northeast corner of Don Hillock Drive and Leslie Street, south of Wellington Street East.

The application meets the requirements of the official plan and zoning bylaw, although some variations may be required such as side yard, maximum floor area and permission to allow a hot plate and microwave in each suite, which were approved by the Committee of Adjustment.

Aurora town staff is satisfied with the overall site layout, landscaping, parking, and will work with the applicant towards finalizing the building elevations.

Accordingly, staff members recommend that council approve the site plan in principle subject to council's approval of the final building elevations at a future council meeting addressing any comments made by council.

Aurora has only one hotel currently, the Howard Johnson on Yonge Street, north of Aurora Heights Drive.

It originally started as Hotel Aurora.

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Poor Richard

Poor judgment is not restricted to big governments

*Politicians are elected to make decisions,
And good judgment should be used;
But by their recent decisions and actions,
Their judgment has been badly abused!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

The affair of Canada's deposed top diplomat and the ex-biker chick who brought him down may or may not be over as they are scheduled to appear before the Commons Public Safety Committee aimed at finding out if their romantic ties jeopardized national security.

If nothing else, their affair gave some indication of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's poor judgment. First he appointed MP Maxime Bernier from Quebec to the important position for Foreign Affairs Minister. Bernier is without any experience or background in Foreign Affairs.

It was likely done to curry favour in Quebec.

Harper hoped to gain enough seats to give him his long-desired majority government, without any thought of the welfare of the country in dealing with other nations.

Harper showed poor judgment in not requesting a security check on Julie Couillard, as her association with biker gangs and past links with the mafia and other characters is known to the police.

But Harper took a cavalier dismissive attitude to the issue of national security calling the opposition busybodies.

He showed poor judgment in not taking action against Bernier after his stupid remarks in Afghanistan about firing a governor and then promising to fly a planeload of food to Burma, in a plane Canada didn't have, making it necessary to lease a Russian transport plane at a cost of about a million dollars.

Bernier would still likely be Foreign Minister except that he left some classified documents in his girlfriend's apartment for five weeks before she returned them resulting in Bernier's resignation which Harper accepted.

Harper also showed poor judgment in his handling of Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor who after many mistakes wasn't fired or asked to resign but was shifted to another Ministry where he remains very quiet as if muzzled by the Prime Minister.

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty has shown a number of examples of poor judgment from his election promise to stop development on the Oak Ridges Moraine to his latest giveaway of millions of tax dollars to Ford and GM without obtaining a guarantee of keeping jobs in Canada.

Even at the local level poor judgment is often exercised by councils in dealing with problems brought to them by a few citizens.

One example is the ill-fated, controversial infill or monster home bylaw which originated by a single complaint and developed into a council-driven two-year campaign with several public planning meetings and, in spite of citizen opposition, pressed on until finally the light dawned and the proposed bylaw was rejected, but at what cost?

Then there was the more than \$250,000 spent on traffic calming measures in the northeast quadrant of Old Aurora because residents complained of speeding and heavy traffic.

Speeding is a law enforcement issue and instead of going to the York Regional Police Services Board to complain about lack of police traffic activity in Aurora as had been suggested in this column, the traffic mess was created which pleases very few except the citizen who is now happy that his son can learn to ride his bicycle on the roadway.

Then more recently poor judgment was exercised by council in deciding to fight an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board at an unknown expense over the development of a parcel of land on Leslie Street for residential use and a golf course, even though the town's official plan permits development.

Granted the development is on the Oak Ridges Moraine but is grandfathered as the application was submitted before the Moraine Conservation legislation was adopted.

As the communal water system was a major issue to the residents, a condition of approval could have been a connection to the municipal water system, which wasn't done.

Poor judgment is not restricted to any level of government.



"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

Rotary Club of Aurora

CHARTER NIGHT

AT

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Wednesday, April 11th, 1951

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"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

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40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

AT THE
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Aurora - Ontario

Friday May 3, 1991

at 6:30 p.m.

The Aurora Rotary Club became a reality in 1951, celebrated its 40th birthday in 1991, and will host its 57th changing of the guard later this month. Above are covers of the programs marking the two occasions. Each contained a list of Rotarians plus a list for that evening's activities. Charter members of the club in 1951 included Bill Stollery, president; Burt Gilbert, vice-president; Floyd Corner, secretary; George Duffield, treasurer; Jack Bowser, Jr., Bob Gundy, Gordon Hoffman and John Sisman, directors; while members included Mac Anderson, Ted Istrati, Earl Attridge, Bill Knapp, John Bowser, Sr., Albert Morrison, Peter Fobert, Lees Owram, Harold Greenhalgh, Harry Seston, Ernie Holman, Carol Taylor, Doc Hutchins, and George Walker. Forty years later, the executive consisted of Ray Hawman, president; Charlie Flynn, past president; Dave Harrison, vice-president; Terry Serson, treasurer; and Demos Demosthenous, secretary. Directors were Barry McDonough, Bruce Walkinshaw, Frank Newell, Geoff Dawe, Paul Cooke and Vic Priestly. There were 23 members including Gerry Arthur, John Kubik, Don Bassett, Brian Mercer, Ross Brethour, Don Moyer, Paul Brooks, Greg Petit, Carl Clutchey, Bill Reyonolds, Bill Croker, Paul Runsteadler, Kenn Cromarty, Luigi Scanga, Dave Fleischman, Rosemary Schumaker, Joe Gaspar, Jack Sidley, Dave Griffith, Bob Singer, Gene Huenick, Eric Smith and Ken White. Of that list, McDonough, Priestly, Petit, Newell, Scanga and Smith remain as members today.

Letter to the Editor

Canada could not have happened without trains

To the editor,

Re: train whistling.

Once again I am the object of revile.

I have had the temerity to suggest the cost of an undertaking might influence the answer when people are asked to respond Yes or No to a particular question.

I moved the matter be referred back to staff for costs to be determined. The mayor conscientiously forwarded a copy of the motion to Barbara Best who lobbied four years to have the 2 a.m. train whistle stopped.

Consequently, my name is mud. Four residents, including Barbara Best, have taken me to task for miscreant behaviour.

I have engaged in dialogue with a resident who has been fair-minded enough to respond to my points of reference without significant castigation.

The report to council shows potential costs of between \$74,000 and \$120,000 for measures needed to accommodate the cessation of the whistle. The figures are not firm at this time.

Residents who are in favour of silencing the whistle are confident they know everything that needs to be known to accomplish their objective.

From my perspective, there are other aspects that need to be determined, not the least of which is the 2008 budget which was struck with fanfare just a few weeks ago. So far as I am aware,

there are no funds allocated for this project.

The idea of a survey to determine public support for the project was not mine.

But since the public is being asked, it seems sensible to me the ins and outs of the matter should be readily available.

I acknowledge my experience makes me less than eager to leap on any band wagon. I need to be convinced.

I enclose my last communication with a resident who favours the 2 a.m. train whistle ban:

Good morning neighbour,

Thank you for continuing the dialogue. I keep being reminded of the political maxim "The less you say the less likely you will be misunderstood." I wrote that one myself. I don't follow it, of course, as you have noted this morning in your reference to my tirade and yesterday my diatribe.

I did not tell you of my childhood experience of living in the vicinity of a railway station and then a signalling yard to entertain you or bore you to death so that you will never make the mistake of communicating with me again.

Recently I spoke to someone closely involved in the question, who told of living in an apartment in Scarborough that backed onto a railway line. When the trains

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SUBDIVISIONS

MOM, MY FRISBEE'S STUCK ON THE CACTUS!

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Two weeks ago both the National Post and the Globe and Mail published articles about the Archdiocese of Toronto's refusal of Frank Stronach's offer to build a new Catholic church in Aurora.

It's an old story since it appeared on the front page of The Auroran back in January.

However, the National Post reported that the reason was "that the Magna international founder wanted too much control over the design".

The article went on to note that "the deal, two years in the making, fell through after Archbishop Thomas Collins saw a mockup of the new Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, and after seeking parish input, decided Mr. Stronach and his team were asking for too much say on both the outside and the inside."

The new structure would have been built on seven acres of land near the Magna golf course, and would have replaced Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, located on Yonge Street, just north of Wellington Street.

According to the article, "Mr. Stronach initially pledged \$500,000, then \$1-million, and ultimately promised to cover about three-quarters of the cost, plus donate the land, for a total value of \$19-million."

This whole episode troubles me.

As someone who was married at Our Lady of Grace, had my son baptized there and attends the weekly Sunday services, the building has a special place in my heart.

Some time ago the parishioners were told that the existing facility was not large enough for the 5,000 families who regularly attend the church and that it would be too costly to erect another church on the existing land.

As well, they were told that fixing up the existing build-

ing did not make economic sense.

So, a new parish was the only solution.

Okay. Fine. No problem.

Now our parish community is offered a tremendous financial gift - and we can't come to terms on the design of the building?

Come on now! Please tell me this isn't so!

Lots of people attach strings when they provide gifts.

In my book, as long as Mr. Stronach didn't want a life-sized statue of himself out on the front lawn, I have no problem with him controlling the way the outside looks.

It would make perfect sense that he wants to ensure the new church blends in with the rest of the surroundings.

As far as the inside design goes, I don't know what has been proposed and what the exact issues are, but it doesn't really matter.

The representatives of our parish and the executives at Magna should be able to reach a reasonable agreement.

What about the rule supposedly laid down by the Archdiocese - that the congregation must be wholly involved in the fundraising for the construction of the new church?

I fundamentally disagree with the Archdiocese on this point.

For those who attend religious services - whether one is Catholic, Jewish or subscribes to any other particular faith - besides deepening your faith and enjoying worship in the community of others, it is a time for both introspection and reflection.

A time to think about one's actions, one's words and one's deeds.

The \$19 M pledge

The emphasis should be on action and deeds and how one can make a difference in other's lives; a simple way of doing this is through the weekly financial offering.

On the back of the Offertory envelopes, there is a place to mark down how much of the weekly donation one wants to see go to the "Sunday Offering" and how much to "Church Improvements".

Also on the back of the church offering envelope it says, "Help me to help others - today!"

I know that the \$19 million that our parishioners would not have to spend on a new church could be used to make a difference in a lot of other people's lives.

The church could make a sizable donation to the Aurora Food Pantry.

Or, it could make a large donation to the Welcoming Arms Ministry. This is an ecumenical outreach partnership serving those in need in Aurora.

Four Aurora churches are involved: Aurora United, Our Lady of Grace, St. Andrew's Presbyterian and Trinity Anglican.

The volunteers from the four churches work together to provide 'visitors' with a warm greeting, a caring, listening ear, encouragement and hope wrapped in a sense of dignity.

There are many different and worthwhile causes that \$19 million could be spent on.

I don't know if this issue is a lost cause; I hope not.

This writer kindly suggests that both sides meet and try again to reach an agreement.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Drive-throughs have been in the news these days, and usually not in a good way.

With Aurora's population on the rise, and with it the number of fast-food establishments, the increasing proximity of homes to drive-throughs is inevitable.

This has resulted in a growing concern of neighbouring homeowners about the noise and pollution associated with more traffic, idling engines, and squealing intercom systems.

You know the intercoms I mean; those garbled communication devices that seem not to have been upgraded since the 1950s, and that force you to loudly repeat that no, you hadn't ordered a "koala with eyes", but a "cola with ice".

Would it hurt so much, local residents argue, for people to just park and walk 50 feet into the building?

Actually, while a brisk 50-foot walk can be refreshing, sometimes it's nice to stay cocooned in your car, especially if we're experiencing the extremes of heat, cold, wind, snow and rain that we get here every season.

Admit it; the humidity we've had already in June has been a bit much at times.

But another advantage of drive-throughs, and one I hadn't stopped to think about until a recent visit to my local donut shop, is that they can also provide surprising and unexpected lessons in life.

It was a typical Saturday morning.

I was out running errands, and decided to stop for a coffee.

There was the usual chaos at the drive-through, with cars arriving from every direction, and jockeying to get in line.

I was in no particular hurry that morning, so I let a pick-up truck in ahead of me.

While I like to think that altruism was my true motive, the fact that both the vehicle and driver were a lot bigger than me may have played a small role in my decision.

Anyway, I didn't think much more about it, as we crawled slowly forward.

Eventually, I placed my order into a speaker that sounded like Marconi himself was on the other end.

Pleased that I only had to repeat myself twice, I continued on, and eventually, as the truck in front of me drove away, I found myself at the pick-up window.

The attendant - who was not Marconi, by the way - handed me my drink.

Before I had a chance to give her any money, she gave me a big smile, and said the gentleman in the truck ahead of me had paid for my order, and asked to pass along his thanks for letting him in line.

It was a wonderful and completely unexpected surprise, and not just because I'd decided to splurge at the last minute and order

an extra large coffee.

It was a small gesture, but as I drove away, I felt great.

It really made my morning.

You know, not to take anything away from Sue Walmer, who was a terrific choice, but if the nominations had still been open at that moment for Aurora's Citizen of the Year, I would have voted for that guy in the truck.

Because his simple action reminded me that we're fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers in town who coach our children, watch over our seniors, and support our various community groups.

But it's also the little everyday kindnesses that Aurorans make towards each other every day, such as holding open doors, helping each other with yardwork and household repairs, sponsoring neighbourhood kids' skip-a-thons and cookie sales, and yes, treating a stranger to coffee, that make this town the great place that it is in which to live.

And although drive-throughs may have some negative aspects, I wouldn't have had that positive message reinforced without one.

So the next time I'm out running errands, and someone lets my car in line ahead of them, the coffee's on me.

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

BOUQUETS to students from Cardinal Carter Catholic High School for dominating the Aurora Legion Remembrance Day Poster Contest with Nicole Cosentino and Michelle Petricone, both Grade 12 students placing first, with second place going to Caroline Chang and Aimee Canavan and to John Gaitan and Ava Ghoneim for third place.

BRICKBATS to Mayor Phyllis Morris for claiming at a recent council meeting that block voting didn't take place at Aurora Council when all she has to do is look at the voting record as she and Councillors Evelina MacEachern, Wendy Gaertner, Stephen Granger and Al Wilson are the Gang of Five, although Wilson acts on his own occasionally.

BOUQUETS to Carol Bartlett on being elected President of the Optimist Club of Aurora along with President-Elect Ken Banks, Vice-Presidents Glen Sharpe and Brian Marshall and Directors Tom Litwiller, Rob Gaby, Diane Buchanan, Bill Otton, Tony Caceres and Barb Steele. Patricia and Peter Bifolchi are Sgt.-At-Arms, Past-President is Gary Way, Alex Ansell is Secretary and Tom O'Conner, is the Treasurer.

BRICKBATS to Radio Station Foxy-FM and the Cardinal Golf Club for their incessant ads of someone with a phony Scotch accent extolling the benefits of playing golf at the Cardinal 54-hole course. The ad is an insult to all true Scots.

BOUQUETS to whoever can explain how a Notice of Motion for Reconsideration can be debated and voted on at a recent general committee meeting when motions can't be made during new business. A Notice of Motion is an announcement of an issue to be introduced at a future meeting when the debate and the vote takes place. Explanation, please?

BRICKBATS to any federal MP, especially York-Simcoe and House Leader Peter Van Loan who can explain why Canadian port workers who have to reveal details about their current and former spouses in order to obtain a security clearance, which is much stricter than Cabinet Ministers like the recent furor over Foreign Affairs Minister Max Bernier.

BOUQUETS to Samantha Sendel of Aurora on finishing third in the Olympic Women's Trampoline selection competition held recently in Quebec.

BRICKBATS to the police on Vancouver Island, who used excessive force on a 15-year-old girl by handcuffing her, tying her feet together then tying her to a locked jail cell door. She was left in that position for four hours without food, water or access to a toilet.

BOUQUETS to NDP firebrand MPP Peter Kormos for petitioning Attorney General Chris Bentley to launch an immediate appeal into the one-day sentence of a St. Catharines man who pleaded guilty to manslaughter after the strangling death of Stephine Beck because he had spent 15 months in jail pending his trial. This is justice?

BRICKBATS to the lazy and careless staff in the federal Heritage Ministry for giving two Tory MPs the exact same speech during a debate on official languages which were delivered about 30 minutes apart. The Minister's office writes the speeches to ensure that MPs follow the party line and don't screw up. It's just another example of control in the Harper government.

BOUQUETS to House of Commons Speaker Peter Milligan if he will use the authority of his office to improve the conduct of the Members of Parliament in the House of Commons, especially House Leader Peter Van Loan, and make it function more effectively for the benefit of the country.

BRICKBATS to a justice system that took more than eight years and three trials before a jury found Kirk Klymchuk guilty of second-degree murder of his wife in April, 1998. The first trial ended in a conviction which was overturned on appeal, the second trial ended in a hung jury and third and last trial reached a guilty verdict, which is open to appeal.

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Letters to the Editor

Of tire taxes and tire recycling

To the editor,

Nineteen years ago this May the Honourable R. F. Nixon - then provincial Treasurer in the Peterson Liberal

What's wrong using waste containers?

To the editor,

There have been notices in the press, and also on the Town web-site regarding disposal of pet waste.

Specifically it is not to be placed in the waste containers in the parks and at the trails.

The green bin does not want the plastic bags most people use for this purpose, and it is impractical to empty the poo from the plastic bag into the green bin.

What is wrong with using the waste containers?

Be thankful most people pick up their dog poo.

Jackie Simone
Aurora

Government - introduced a \$5 tire tax in Ontario.

The tax was supposed to "...help fund efforts to support recycling and environmentally sound disposal."

Just nine months later, in February of 1990, a 14-million tire stockpile in Hagersville burned.

Despite this dramatic event, by the time the Bob Rae NDP Government repealed the tire tax in 1993 the province had accrued more than \$150 million in revenue from the tire tax yet had spent less than one-tenth of that amount on promoting scrap tire recovery and recycling.

Upon repealing the tax, then Finance Minister Bud Wildman stated that, "What the industry said is quite true, that the whole amount was not used for recycling and for new technologies related to rubber. The revenues, of course, went to the consolidated revenue fund..."

While several other Canadian jurisdictions

took the approach of establishing provincial tire collection programs (B.C. in 1991, Alberta in 1992 and Quebec in 1993), successive Ontario Governments have chosen to reduce tire stockpiles by enforcing landowner clean up of existing tire piles and enforcement against the formation of new ones.

Unlike virtually every other consumer product (except maybe beer bottles) tire consumers leave their used product at the location where they buy their new tires.

Tire dealers typically charge a fee - of which nothing accrues to the government - on each scrap tire left with them after a tire change to cover the costs of accepting, handling and storing scrap tires and to pay scrap tire collectors to collect, sort and finally haul scrap tires to legitimate end markets.

The Ontario scrap tire collection system works well - there are no significant tire stockpiles left in Ontario and 95 per cent of the 12 million or so scrap tires currently

generated in the province annually are diverted away from stockpiles.

Nonetheless, to virtually eliminate even the small number of tires that find their way into stockpiles, scrap tire collectors should be accredited and approved by the Government of Ontario to be eligible to collect tires.

By extension, tire dealers should be required to enter into commercial arrangements only with accredited collectors.

Records regarding the pickup, transport and deliveries of scrap tires to end markets should be available for scrutiny

by the Ontario Ministry of Environment.

But there is a much more pressing scrap tire issue in Ontario than a few dumped tires.

Even when scrap tires are collected and delivered to "legitimate" end-uses, these end-uses are often less than environmentally optimal and in some cases environmentally deleterious.

In the face of the rising price of oil energy, thirsty manufacturing processes are constantly searching for cheap fuels.

The synthetic rubber in tires is manufactured from crude oil - as a result a single tire con-

Please see page 7



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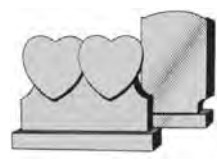


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Tire manufacturers promote recycling

Please see page 8
tains 25 per cent more energy than its equivalent weight in coal.

Producing cement in a cement kiln by burning scrap tires rather than natural gas saves well over \$20 for each tonne of cement produced (though this does not account for the environmental cost of the associated increase in pollution).

So, it's not surprising that industrial boilers and cement kilns in Quebec and the United States willingly receive scrap tires in lieu of buying conventional fuels.

Almost half the tires generated annually in Ontario are shipped out-of-province for burning as industrial fuel.

However, what this means is that a number of Ontario rubber recycling companies that produce value-added products (e.g. automotive moldings, blast mats, playground surfacing, rubberized asphalt, roof shingles etc.) are struggling.

Their value-added and environmentally

superior products are inherently more costly to produce than simply sending scrap tires up in smoke.

Complicating matters is the fact that a cement kiln in Bath, Ontario, has recently been granted an approval by the Ontario Government to burn tires.

While the approval is facing a legal challenge, if it is ultimately upheld, it will mean that the flow of tires out of Ontario for burning will be redirected to burning in Bath, Ontario.

With other cement kilns following suit it is likely that in the absence of a system to promote scrap tire recycling burning tires will quickly become the predominant form of scrap management in the province.

In this regard Ontario needs to establish a tire recycling fund that will be used to provide a system of consumer-based buy-recycled rebates for products containing recycled rubber as well as funding rubber recycling research and develop-

ment.

As an example of how such a rebate system would work, an automobile manufacturer using rubber components manufactured with recycled content would be eligible for a rebate on their purchases based on the recycled content of the product in question.

The tire recycling fund and the system for registering tire collectors and tracking the flow of collected tires should be established by tire manufacturers or "brand-owners" and by tire importers if they bring in tires on behalf of brand-owners.

This system of "extended producer responsibility" for promoting rubber recycling will complement Ontario's existing high tire collection rate ensuring both high rates of scrap tire collection and recycling.

In 2005 a proposal by tire manufacturers and big box retailers would have seen the current province wide system for tire collection suspended

in favor of a centralized system for funding the collection and processing of tires and clean-up of the few existing stockpiles.

This system was to be funded by a \$4/tire point-of-sale fee on new tires.

The plan was publicly

rejected by the Premier of Ontario as a tax, was confirmed by Ontario Government lawyers as such, and was subsequently shelved.

Certainly Ontario doesn't need to reinvent the wheel with regard to scrap tire collection nor

does it need a new \$5/tire tire fee or tax (such as that in British Columbia).

With the existing collection system and modest annual investments by tire manufacturers to promote recycling, Ontario could easily

establish the most environmentally and cost-effective scrap tire collection and recycling system in Canada.

Glenn Warnica
President
Ontario Tire
Dealers Association

Trains must continue to blow whistles: reader

An open letter to the mayor and councillors of the Town of Aurora

I'm writing a letter to you about the issue of train whistles in Aurora.

Strictly from a safety point of view, trains must be allowed to continue to blow their whistles at all crossings, despite what other communities in Ontario do.

They are many kilometres of train track that run through Aurora.

Most of the track is accessible by anyone on foot at dozens of locations.

People should not be using the tracks for any purpose, but the reality is that they do.

In the case of children, they do not always have the best judgment.

At least the train whistle, which can be heard a long way away, gives anyone on or near the tracks warning that a train is in the area and will soon come barreling by.

As for people in new homes who are bothered by the whistle, did they not notice the train tracks and station when they decided to buy a home located close to them in Aurora?

Did they not think to check with the town about how much use the tracks get?

You cannot use the defense that the builder's sales agent said use was minimal or

any other excuse.

Buyer beware.

As a letter writer to The Auroran said last week "...train whistles are a part of our small town charm. Adapt."

We have had much

of the uniqueness of our small town taken away over the years.

Let's leave some things in place.

Laurie Sleeth
Aurora



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This decision not logical, reader says

An open letter to the mayor and councilors of the Town of Aurora

My purpose in writing is to express my dismay at the signs that are now being pasted onto garbage bins all over Aurora.

Briefly, they advise that pet owners who

pick up after their pets are no longer allowed to dispose of the pet waste in the town garbage bins.

If the bins continue to be used for pet waste, then they will be removed entirely.

Am I the only one who sees the idiocy of this logic?

Pet owners are still

going to use the bins for waste, the garbage bins will be removed completely, and Aurora Council will be looking for a way to control the resulting litter around Aurora.

As a long-time tax-paying citizen of Aurora, I am curious why some of my tax dollars aren't being used to put a

more environmentally friendly system in place that will benefit everyone, instead of removing all the garbage bins in the town.

Let's have at least two and sometimes three refuse containers at each location - one for recyclables, especially needed at our many sports fields, one

for food and animal waste (similar to our green bins) and one for actual garbage.

Don't tell me it will be difficult to manage or pick up.

It's not that difficult - work it out.

It sometimes seems that decision makers sometimes take the easiest way around a prob-

lem, not necessarily the smartest or logical way.

I would like to see this decision revisited by the parks staff, or

whomever has made the decision.

**Laurie Sleeth
Aurora**

Evelyn defends her position

From page 4
passed the entire building vibrated and windows rattled. The first time it happened, they thought it was an earthquake. After a month they no longer heard it.

When people were exercised about the proposal to put higher voltage power lines in the existing corridor, a man in a crowd of protesters demanded to know the name and address of a hydro official. He needed it, he said, for when his 10-year-old son would be diagnosed with leukemia and he would file suit against that particular official. His neighbours cheered and applauded his comment. But I thought, "My God, man! Do you hear what you are saying?"

Recently, I had an angry e-mail from a woman who said her children are falling asleep at their desks in school because of a lack of sleep at home. She suggested I was rambling and incoherent.

I have to say, if I believed where I lived would be the cause for a child of mine to be diagnosed with cancer, I would not be waiting for the wheels of bureaucracy to take care of the problem. I would be out of that place in a nanosecond. The same principle applies if any or all of my children were getting insufficient sleep in their

own beds at night as to cause them to fall asleep in the classroom.

The safety and well-being of my children was always my responsibility.

It did not rest with a nameless, faceless train driver who is responsible only for safely operating a train on a railway track.

Where we live is a personal choice we all make

You have nine people at a council table to consider your problem. In turn they each have several thousand people who are interested in how the matter is resolved.

It should not surprise or offend anyone if there is more than one viewpoint expressed at a council table. In fact, if you have several people expressing exactly the same viewpoint, you might rightly suspect their intellectual autonomy.

If I am satisfied the problem is valid and that stopping the train whis-

tle at two o'clock in the morning is a sensible and safe solution; if the cost of the measure is not prohibitive; if there is no question of serious liability to the Town of Aurora or the Region of York for that matter, I will support the measure.

But I have to tell you, I am not without experience or prejudice, as I have tried to illustrate.

I have knowledge of families devastated by a collision between a car and a train.

One such family lived at 24 Murray Drive.

Four children at home still in bed at seven o'clock in the morning; mother, father and another person killed instantly on the level crossing on Centre Street, on their way to work while the children slept. That memory is not an easy one to erase. Those children were classmates of my own.

You have your experience. I have mine.

My decision will be based on mine with all

the information that can be assembled and the strength of the argument presented.

I do not react positively when someone tells me I am rambling and incoherent. My inclination is to chuck some of that right back.

James Watts was the inventor of the steam engine and the father of the Industrial Revolution.

Pierre Berton would have known all about

him and credited him along with John A. Macdonald for the reality of Canada.

It's for certain, it could never have happened without trains.

"The Last Spike" came after. I learned about James Watts in elementary school history. Most of the great inventors were Scots, you know.

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

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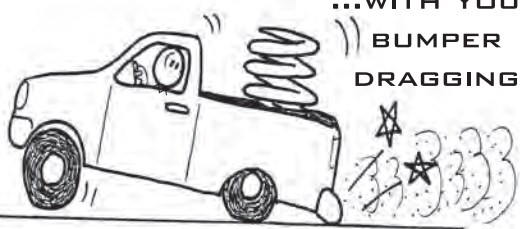
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Building boom launched Aurora in 1960

Aurora entered the 1960s celebrating one of the largest building booms in the history of the town.

Building inspector Sam King reported that during 1959, some 340 building permits totalling \$7,846,340, was more than the total of building permits issued during the previous six years.

The record-setting total was mainly residential development with more than 750 homes built in Regency Acres and Aurora Heights adding 1,500 new Aurora residents.

St. Andrew's College announced two new buildings would be added, the Great Hall and a classroom auditorium. A campaign was underway to raise \$1,195,000.

In his inaugural

address, Mayor Jim Murray said the town's population had reached 6,500, had more than doubled in two years, and predicted it would double again by 1962.

In 1958 before the development boom, the town's population was 4,386 soaring to 8,735 by 1961.

Members of Council included Reeve Clarence Davis, Deputy Reeve Stu Patrick and Councillors Ray Hammond, Cliff Corbett, Alf Child, William Stoddart, William Davidson and Harvey Bell.

One of the highlights of the year was a survey by the Post Office as the first step towards establishing door-to-door mail delivery. At that time residents had to visit the Yonge Street Post Office

to pick up their mail.

The federal government announced a 38 by 43 foot addition to the rear of the Yonge Street Post Office, and home mail delivery started later in the year.

Construction began in February, 1960, for a shopping centre at the corner of Yonge Street and Murray Drive. Initial plans called for a Loblaws store and 10 retail stores. It is now the Aurora Shopping Centre.

Land was optioned at Yonge Street and Edward Street for a Canadian Tire Store. While the gas pumps are still there, the store is now a Shoppers Drug Mart.

Council approved a request for liquor and brewers' retail stores to be built in the central downtown district as a first step toward a redevelopment of the downtown area. They never materialized and ended up in the south end instead.

Al Jubb was appointed Aurora's building inspector to replace retiring Sam King.

Aurora Council contributed \$1,300 as its share of the \$3,800 granite Altar of Sacrifice to be placed at the foot of the Aurora War Memorial, which recognized the men from Aurora, King and Whitchurch Townships who made the supreme sacrifice during the First World War.

The Altar of Sacrifice

also paid tribute to the men and women from the three municipalities who failed to return from the Second World War.

The month of February will long be remembered for having one of the worst snowstorms of the century with drifts as tall as 18 feet. Roads were blocked and travellers searched for safety in any available accommodation.

Sterling Drug signed its first agreement with its employees, members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International union in March, 1960.

Aurora Council set the 1960 budget at a special council meeting with an increase of three mills. Aurora Hydro announced an increase of 15 per cent in hydro rates.

A highlight in the month of April was a special liquor vote which brought Aurora back to wet status, after being dry since 1916. The vote for liquor and beer stores was 1,707 for the stores, with 947 opposed.

Aurora passed Newmarket for the first time in assessment. County assessor Ed Jones reported that Aurora's assessment was

\$12,249,790 compared with Newmarket at \$12,015,622.

Aurora's merchants decided to stay open until 9 p.m. on Thursdays.

In July it was reported that unemployment in the Aurora area had increased by 35 per cent. The week ending June 30th showed 1,187 people seeking work at the federal unemployment office, compared with 795 at the same time in 1959.

Traffic lights were finally installed at Yonge Street and Murray Drive in July.

A plan to build 417 single family homes plus two apartment blocks providing 40 to 50 apartment units in Aurora Orchards was presented to council in September.

Jack Ardill and Archie Cousins, two Aurora businessmen, and five others spent an uncomfortable night on a small island off Parry Sound after being shipwrecked.

Regency Acres Public School was officially opened, bringing the total number of classrooms in Aurora to 41 and Aurora's school population jumped

by 1,250 new students, 25 per cent over 1959.

In October, Hart Manufacturing at Cousins Drive and Edward Street officially opened its 8,900 square foot addition.

In November, it was announced that Canada's famed international jumping team, which included Jim Elder of Aurora and Tom Gayford of Gormley, had been disbanded.

Just in time for Christmas, the Aurora Shopping Centre was officially opened in early

December with the Aurora Town Band and town officials in attendance.

Keith Nisbet defeated incumbent Jim Murray for the office of Mayor and Clarence Davis was acclaimed as Reeve. William Stoddart was elected Deputy Reeve along with Councillors Vic Jones, William Davidson, Alf Child, Ray Hammond, Cliff Corbett and Jean Moffat in the December election.

That was Aurora in 1960.

Aurora Selkies cause splash at final meet

Five members of the Aurora Selkies Swim Club came home with medals after attending the Pickering Last Gasp Swim Meet recently at the Pickering Recreation Centre.

This was a debut meet for four of the Selkies' swimmers who all captured first place in their events in the Novice Class.

They included Christopher DaSilva, 9,

Dominique DaSilva, 10, Marco Covassi, 11, and Jonathan Bouchard, 12.

Kiril Climson, 11, competed in the Boys 10 & 11 Competitive Category and came home with an impressive second-place finish in the 50 metre free and a third-place finish in the 100 metre free.

Head Coach, Aurora's Yvonne Catrall, was delighted with the results.

Green Aurora

From page 1
mal council-directed policy in place to support them.

This motion, which included input from staff and interested environmental parties, would expand and build upon these practices.

It was suggested that these provisions be included in all future site plan agreements for industrial, commercial, institutional and mixed use developments, as well as in future subdivision agreements as they pertain to boulevards only.

The second motion was for the establishment of a green procurement policy for Aurora, that would provide a greater focus on ensuring goods and services

purchased by the town have the least impact on the environment.

For example, the increased use of reusable and recyclable products would decrease the amount of waste going to landfill.

This would help reduce the town's carbon footprint, and make it more environmentally responsible.

After some discussion, there was some minor re-wording of both the xeriscape and procurement resolutions.

But in the end, council voted unanimously to endorse both motions that staff be directed to bring back reports on each issue, including possible recommendations, and any financial or other implications.



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Page 10

Week of June 17, 2008

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On space usually reserved for the Aurora Tigers Provincial Junior A hockey team, members of lacrosse teams play in a 25-hour lacrosse game, believed to set a record for the longest con-

tinuous lacrosse game ever, at the Aurora Community Centre Friday and Saturday. The game may have raised as much as \$40,000.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Lacrosse game sets record

About 30 men and women, over the week-end, played in the longest game of box lacrosse

recorded in modern history. And it happened in Aurora.

Aurora Masters lacrosse and the Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness started

the initiative and the Town of Aurora proclaimed Friday DOVE Day.

The DOVE 2008 campaign (Determined to Oppose Violence Everywhere), with the support of the town behind them, was considered a success Saturday afternoon.

On Friday, at 3 p.m. the 25-hour lacrosse game started and finished at 4:15 p.m. Saturday.

It was a single continuous game between two independent teams officiated under the sanction of the Ontario Lacrosse Association's Master Division and will be verified by a well respected record acknowledging organization.

Teams will be composed of Masters players from across the province, local minor players, Toronto Rock and NLL players.

Bikes and cars must learn to co-operate

With the push towards making municipalities bicycle-friendly with bicycle paths, motorists must learn to share the road with cyclists.

Over the years a growing number of Canadians cycle every day to work, to run errands or for pleasure.

Cyclists have the right to travel most of the same roads as cars, with the exception of freeways, but they travel slower and are sometimes hard to see.

Just recently a cyclist was killed after his bike hit the open door of a car.

The biker flew over his bike, landed on the road and was run over by a truck.

According to Toronto Police there have been 12 bicycle related fatalities in Toronto since 2004 and in 2007 there were a total of 1,163 reported collisions between cyclists and vehicles.

The Toronto Cyclists Union is calling for charges to be laid against the motorist who opened a door without checking for cyclists.

By June, 1991, pollution and traffic jams were dominating the headlines and the bicycle was seen as a pollution solution which had been overlooked by previous Ontario governments.

It resulted in the Ministry of Transportation developing

a provincial bicycle policy.

Even at that time there was war on the streets as motorists and cyclists jockeyed for space and the surge in the number of cyclists caught everyone by surprise.

About the same time York Region Council agreed to bicycle lanes along new and resurfaced paved rural roads by adding one metre to the roadway.

In March, 1993, Aurora Council discussed the need for designated bicycle paths in Aurora and on regional roads and adopted a resolution supporting their designation.

Not much was done about bicycle paths on local roads until 1998 when former Councillor Peter Healy proposed bicycle paths to link local neighbourhoods to commercial areas to reduce the use of the automobile.

As there were a number of conflicting opinions about

on-street bicycle lanes and while they were seen as a benefit, there was concern about liability for the municipality.

In mid-1999, due to the lack of an overall policy to establish the design parameters as well as the future routing of bicycles, council agreed to appoint a committee to review the issue.

In 2001, the Bicycle Review Committee submitted a report to council which included a series of proposed bike routes and sign locations.

The committee pointed out that the signs were a critical component of the routes as they would create awareness among motorists as to the existence of the bikeways and make it easier for cyclists to find and navigate the routes.

While council approved the proposed bicycle routes they rejected the request for \$8,500 for the signs.

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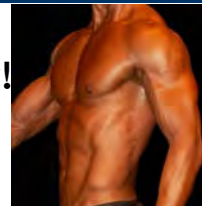
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OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Pictured are the winners of the 1st Annual Optimist Club of Aurora Junior Golf Tournament held Sunday, May 25th at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Course in Aurora.

"Six of the above will be competing in the Central Ontario Optimist Junior Qualifying Tournament to be held June 23 in Caledon with two winners being invited to play in Palm Beach Gardens in July as part of the Optimist World Junior Golf Championship"

Back row: Danny McConnell (3rd place 14-15), Harris Bundy (1st place 14-15), Alex McKee (1st place 16-18), Keegan Tyers (2nd place 16-18)

Front Row: Jordan Bakhsh (2nd place 14-15), Jonathan McConnell (1st place 12-13), Alex Vegh (1st place 10-11)

In the girls category: (12-13) winner was Aurora's Victoria Kuncans

RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Flying the Swedish flag in Aurora

Although the friendship visits of citizens and sporting and cultural groups between Aurora and its twin community Leksand, Sweden, seem to have dried up, at least one tradition remains.

June 6 was Swedish Flag Day and since 1976 Aurora has flown the Swedish flag over the Town Hall on that date.

It was in January, 1976, when Swedish representatives presented Aurora Council with a Swedish flag to be flown June 6.

In return, council presented the Swedish visitors with four sketches of historic Aurora by Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure.

The Swedish officials also noted that the Aurora and the Canadian flags would fly over the Leksand Town Hall on July First.

It was in March, 1974, when Councillors Norm Stewart and Jack Williamson delivered a letter to the Mayor and Council of Leksand from the Aurora Mundialization Committee officially inviting Leksand to become Aurora's twin community.

On their return from Sweden the councillors presented council with a woven tapestry from the peoples of Leksand and for many years the tapestry hung proudly in the Wellington Street Civic Centre but has not been on public view since moving to the new Town Hall.

In March, 1979, Swedish artist Hans Prins, on a visit to Canada, stopped off in Aurora and presented Omar Khamissa, local chairman of the Twinning Committee, with an illuminated scroll from the citizens of Leksand as a further token of friendship.

It was subsequently presented by Mr. Khamissa to Mayor George Timpson and councillors for safekeeping in the Town Hall but it hasn't been on public display since.

Where are the Leksand gifts from the people of Leksand to the people of Aurora?

A LITTLE AURORA IN OLD SWEDEN

Hidden away in the vaulted cellars of an old building in Gamla Stan (The Old Town) the oldest part of Stockholm, Sweden, is the Kallaran Aurora, an upper class restaurant.

It was visited in 1984 by a few residents of Aurora who were in Sweden on a friendship visit with the St. Andrew's College Jazz Band.

The epicurean delights of the Kallaren Aurora started in 1565 with Goran Petersson's herb garden and continued over the years.

Beneath the vaulted ceilings of the cellar, the historical and culinary traditions of the restaurant became interwoven.

Charcoal fires glow in the hearth where competent chefs prepare delicious courses on rotisserie grills and the Table of Plenty displays an abundance of delicacies.

Here you can enjoy food and drink in Gustafva's Cellar, the Cadet Corner, the Little Society or in one of the other intimate hide-aways.

The wine of your choice is brought to your table from Patron Herman's Wine Cellar.

It was said the area took its name from the beautiful Aurora, the mistress of August who in vain tried to influence Karl XII.

By 1757 the house was sold to the retailer Herman Petersen and on his death in 1763 it was left to his family.

Unfortunately, the Aurora visitors didn't have enough time to enjoy the fine food but settled for a drink in the bar room with its wooden ceiling.

They learned a little bit about the history of Kallaren Aurora.

FLAHERTY OWED MONEY

Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is known for his tight-fisted fiscal policies with the exception of lowering corporate taxes and his

on-going battle with his home province of Ontario.

But back in February, 2006, he owed the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party as much as \$64,000 after running a \$320,000 deficit in the 2004 leadership race in which he finished second to John Tory.

Flaherty, a former Ontario Deputy Premier, was also a runner-up in the 2002 provincial leadership contest to Ernie Eves and he later switched to federal politics and was elected as MP for Whitby Oshawa.

Flaherty's fiscal advisors said the money would be paid, but was it, or does Canada's Finance Minister still owe money to the Ontario Tory Party?

According to some records he owed \$124,371 after the 2002 leadership race and only paid \$67,000.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE NATIONAL ROYALTY CROWN?

It was in March, 2005, when Aurora's Maria Natividad heard that the Brampton International Pageants were looking for new faces and she signed up.

After answering some questions and submitting photos she was named Ms Aurora Royalty to vie for the national title of Ms Canada Royalty.

As a delegate-at-large representing Aurora where she has lived for 10 years, the single mom of two will be making several appearances to promote the title and the pageant.

She works at Bunn-O-Matic Corporation on Industrial Parkway in Aurora and outside of work enjoys movies, dancing, reading and cooking, as well as being a member of Toastmasters International.

What happened and who became Ms Canada Royalty?

Klees successful arranging meetings

Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees last week secured a commitment from the Minister of Energy that the members of the original Working Group would be invited to

participate in meetings to be arranged by the Ontario Power Authority to discuss the rationale for the gas-fired power plant proposed for Northern York Region.

Aurora-resident Klees has expressed concern at how the process was handled by the Ontario Power Authority, and has called for clarification of the rationale behind the OPA's proposal for a 350-MW gas-fired power plant.

While he supports the need for additional generating capacity, Klees wants the OPA to explain how they got to the 350 MW size plant from the 60 to 100 MW plant endorsed by the Working Group that was formed in 2005.

That Group consisted of 21 municipal, industry and citizen members plus 12 consultant and power industry representatives and had reached a consensus on the region's electricity supply requirements.

"What concerns me is the disconnect between what the Working Group had agreed is the need, and the OPA's proposal," he said. "No one can deny the need for additional electricity generation for Northern York Region and I'm not saying that 350 MW is not warranted. I'm simply asking that the OPA give a comprehensive explanation for its recommendations and that the members of the original Working Group be

included in that discussion."

The Minister has asked the OPA to arrange for public meetings in each of the municipalities at which the OPA will outline the rationale for the procurement decisions.

Aurora Seniors Duplicate Bridge

Monday, June 2: North-South - Sue Scott and Ruth Rea; Frank LaBlans and Bill Nebbering; Mary Oglanby and Joan Rottenberg. East-West - Priscella Hull and Ed Smereka; Lucille Sequeira and Judy Salmon; Carolyn Liddy and Christine Woolley

Monday, June 9: North-South - Rose White and Nan McLean; Frank LeBlanc and Hazel MacFee; Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin. East-West - Lucille Sequeira and Judy Salmon; Peter Schneider and Betty Saley; Ada Robertson and Terry Robertson.



Penny Davey and Aurora's Geoff Scott attend a recent Water Environment Association of Ontario meeting. Geoff is one of the few people outside the United States who has been President of the Virginia-based Water Environment Federation, one of the largest technical environmental groups in the world.

Sales director gets induction

Penny Davey, sales director of the Aurora-based Environmental Science & Engineering magazine, was honoured by induction into the 5S society, an international group of environmental professionals.

Geoff Scott, of Aurora, was one of the founding figures of the Ontario Section. The 5S society has members around the world.

Geoff said that one cannot apply for membership in the 5S Society but that members are selected for their environmental activities.

In addition to her work on ES&E magazine, Penny is active in Water for People, a group of volunteers who provide equipment and expertise to supply drinking water in the Third World providing services without any fees.

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2/ July 21st—August 1st, 2008

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Newmarket-Aurora federal Green Party held its second annual tree planting ceremony recently at the Aurora Arboretum. About 70 maple saplings were planted. Taking part in the event were, left to right, Denis Van Decker, Anne-Marie Finn, John Uppington, Mollie Fisher, Green Party candidate Glenn Hubbers and Armando Milani. In the foreground are Carter and Corwin Apps.

High gas prices should keep residents at home

With the high price of gasoline prevalent today and no relief in sight, it's doubtful many Aurora residents will be making long motor trips this summer.

It does, however, provide an opportunity for local municipalities in York Region to promote what they have to offer for visitors.

In Aurora, there is the historic Hillary House, a national heritage site, picturesque Sheppard's Bush and the Sheppard House, Merlin's Hollow and a tour of the historic downtown core.

There's also the Chamber of Commerce Street Festival, which attracted thousands of people two weeks ago, the July First Parade and festivities, Farmer's Market, Music in the Park and RibFest.

Unfortunately, the Aurora Heritage Centre won't be open for the summer and the Aurora Agricultural Fair and Horse Show was cancelled after more than 80 years of service.

For golfers, there are numerous golf courses in Aurora and area and possibly a golf tour could be arranged including accommodation with three or four golf courses included.

In nearby Sharon, there is the famous Sharon Temple built by the Children of Peace, a religious sect that was born, flourished and died in the 1800s and

the Concerts at the Temple.

Aurora resident John McIntyre is currently the curator of the Temple.

For art lovers there is the McMichael Gallery in Kleinburg, The Fred Varley Gallery in Unionville, the Latham Gallery in Stouffville and the Georgina Arts Centre in Sutton.

There are dozens of hiking trails in Aurora

and neighbouring municipalities, including the Oak Ridges and Nokiidaa Trails and the Aurora Community Arboretum or Museum of Trees and the York Regional Forests.

Most municipalities offer family-friendly museums of days long gone and cultural sites well worth seeing.

There is a lot to see and do in the municipalities of York Region.

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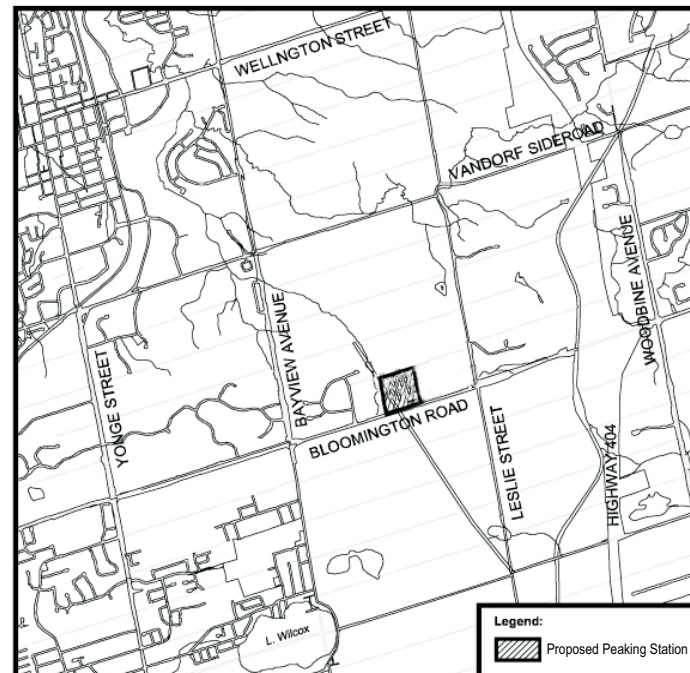
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NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FOR THE PROPOSED TOWN OF AURORA PEAKING GENERATION STATION

Northland Power Inc. is preparing a bid to the Ontario Power Authority ("OPA") to select Northland's proposed Town of Aurora Peaking Generating Station, a 340-400 MW gas-fired "peaking" station (the "Project"). The OPA has launched a competitive bidding process to respond to the need for electrical generating capacity in northern York Region identified by the OPA, in its Integrated Power System Plan released in August, 2007. Northland's site is located at 1166 Bloomington Road in the Town of Aurora (see map). Power generated from the Project would be delivered to a 230 kV Hydro One transmission line in southern Newmarket via 7.2 km of buried 230 kV cable, that will use an existing Hydro One transmission line right of way. The proposed Project will use state-of-the-art low emission, high efficiency technology.

The proposed Project is subject to the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act (the "Act") and Regulation 116/01. Under this Act and its supporting regulations, the Project will be subject to an environmental screening (conducted in accordance with the environmental review stage) that requires: examining the Project's potential impacts on the environment including land, air, water, and noise; developing suitable measures to mitigate potential impacts; and conducting public consultation.

Northland Power is committed to consulting and working with the public and stakeholder groups throughout the development of the Project. The consultation process will seek public and stakeholder input regarding local environmental and socio-economic conditions, facility design, project benefits and impact management plans.



As part of the consultation process, Northland Power will hold an initial public information session, as follows:

Howard Johnson Hotel, Wellington Room (I, II & III)
15520 Yonge Street
Aurora, Ontario
Wednesday, June 25, 2008
4:00 PM - 9:00 PM

For more information about the need for electricity supply in northern York Region and the Ontario Power Authority's Northern York Region electricity generation procurement process, visit:

http://www.powerauthority.on.ca/gp/Page.asp?PageID=1224&SiteNodeID=182&BL_ExpandID=271

For more information about the Ontario Ministry of the Environment's Regulation 116/01, "The Guide to the Environmental Assessment Requirements for Electricity Projects (March 2001)", visit:

<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/gp/4021e.pdf>

To obtain additional information or to advise Northland Power of concerns you may have, visit northern York Region link on our website at www.northlandpower.ca/yr, and/or contact:

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Information will be collected and used in accordance with the Environmental Assessment Act, and solely for the purpose of assisting Northland Power in meeting environmental assessment and local planning requirements. This material will be maintained on file for use during the study and may be included in project documentation. All comments will become part of the public record.

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Thursday, June 26th, the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) will present a barbecue event, hosted by MP Belinda Stronach.

Belinda is a lady with a busy schedule, which she divides between her duties as a Liberal member of parliament and her profound responsibilities among the many business interests of her family.

Nevertheless, Belinda will create time for this social event and will be our host and the ASA from the “Hill to the Grill BBQ” will be graced by her presence.

You need to purchase a ticket for the barbecue, which will run from 11.30 a.m. until 1 p.m. and provides opportunity to everybody to enjoy a photo op right in the ASA backyard.

So prepare your photographic mind to recognize the good shots and your trusty camera to record them as outstanding photographic memories for yourself.

It was a pleasure to see the Town of Aurora recognize Flo Murray for the Volunteer Service Award of 15 years or more.

The volunteer work and fundraising activities of Flo are of impressive proportions and rightly elevate her to the status of a symbol of volunteerism in seniority.

The eagerness and enthusiasm of Flo Murray characterize her long life, which is one full of high spirits and vitality and illustrates the power of her mind, which has carried her through to success both in private and in public life.

Well worthy of mention is the successful campaign Flo organized to fund the ASA, during the first few years and the gratifying impact of her successful fundraising, with enormous support, particularly from John West.

Among the present day satisfactions of Flo's accomplishments is the ASA book club, which Flo conducts and which is a haven for friendship.

Flo had a total knee replacement in March at York Central Hospital and is recovering very well, and to be sure, good wishes for her complete recovery and well being radiate from her many admirers.

ASA members Luba

Nickerson, Judy Salmon, Charles Sequeira, Lydia Schuster and Brian Warburton all received the five-year Volunteer Service Award.

For our weekly Tuesday night film, the ASA presents on June 24th, “The Bucket List” starring: Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freedman.

The plot concerns two terminally ill men who escape from a cancer ward and head off on a road trip with a wish list of things to do before they die.

The new Computer Club Executive Committee consists of co-chairmen, Bruce Millar and Tom Yates and committee members Ron Humenchuk, Virginia Bodnar, Brian Warburton, Barbara Stoecklin, Dee Smith, Herb Koller, Jeffrey Walker, Allan Church, Elfriede Greupner and Steve London.

Lucas Hilts is leaving his post as acting seniors' coordinator. Lucas has proved excellent in everything he turned his hand to, but a new career opportunity seizes his interest and draws him elsewhere. We wish him well in his new position.

In two months, Kelly Elliot is expected to return from maternity leave to her post as coordinator and in the meantime, Virginia Ciufu will be a capable acting seniors' coordinator.

Who has arthritis? We all do to some degree and to address our concerns, Physiotherapist Dzintra Schlotter will give a presentation at 2 p.m. Thursday in an attempt to unlock the secrets of arthritis.

Discussion will cover the different types of arthritis, especially Inflammatory and Osteoarthritis, and includes anatomy, physiology and different treatments and management strategies for each.

In the York Region Senior Games, included in the third week 5-Pin Bowling winners, was ASA member Joan Best with a gold medal and in carpet bowling Jeff Walker and Dan Zecchino with bronze medals.

On Friday evening and to nobody's surprise, the ice cream bar was very popular and the Variety Show was a sell out with an enthusiastic audience encouraging our jolly ASA entertainers to give their all and then some.

The art of entertainment

Belinda flips Thursday, June 26th

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Health and Information Fair

Wednesday June 18th, 2008

From 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

At the

Aurora Seniors Centre

5 Municipal Drive

Free Seminars

Sign up for seminars at the seniors centre reception desk

Free Admission



CHATS

Sunrise Senior Living

Southlake Arthritis Clinic

Ontario Senior's Secretariat

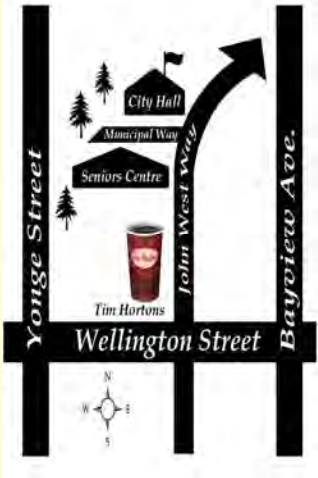
Alzheimer Society of York Region

AND MANY MORE.....

For more information call 905-727-3123 ext. 3610

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A complimentary traditional English Tea will be served from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. *For Health Fair Participants Only *Tickets are given on a first-come, first-served basis at 12:00 p.m.



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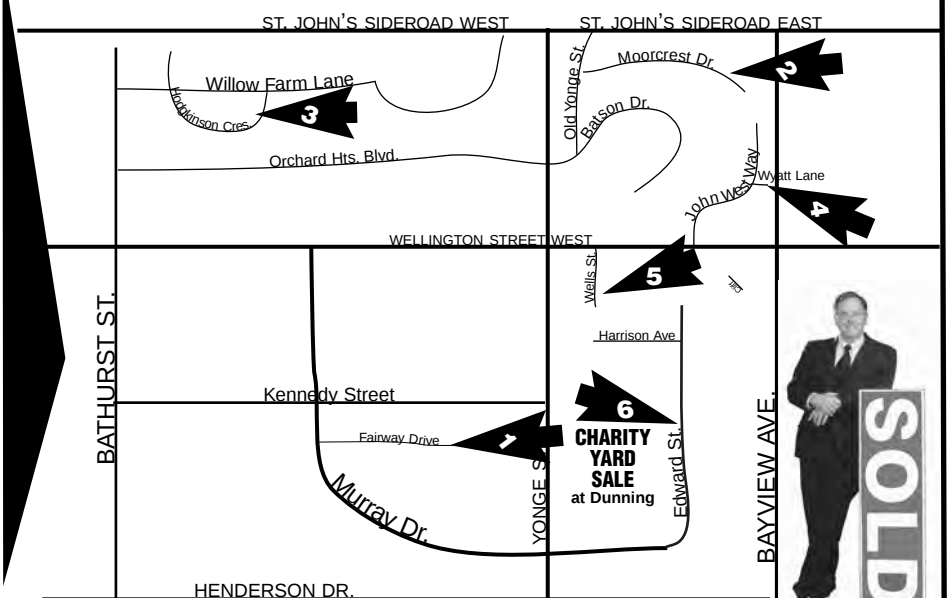
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- 57 Fairway Dr. 9 - Noon
- 31 Moorcrest Dr. 8 - 1 p.m.
- 89 Hodgkinson Cres. 8 - 1 p.m.
- Wyatt Lane 8 - Noon
- Wells St. STREET SALE 8 - 1
- 210 Edward St. 7 - 3 p.m.

THE AURORAN
Garage/lawn sales are Sponsored by
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905-727-1941

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DEADLINE CHANGES

We have changed our deadline for classified word, semi-display advertising & Lawn/Garage Sales to **FRIDAY AT 3 PM** 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.
mi.design@sympatico.ca

ADVERTISING DEADLINE CHANGES

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thank U

Rachel

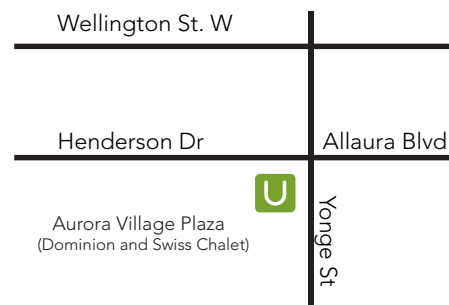
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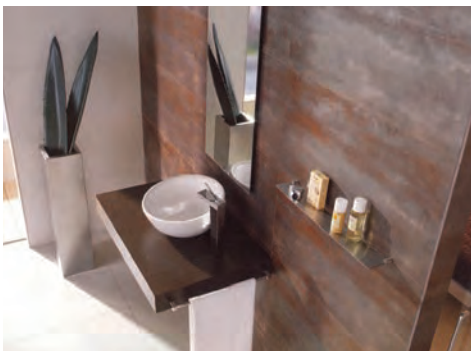
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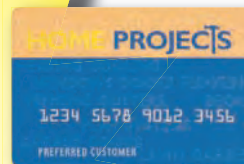
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