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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 8 No. 38 905-727-3300 auroran.com FREE Week of July 15, 2008

Subway plans could assist town commuters

If Aurora commuters can wait long enough, the trip to Toronto may be a bit easier once the Yonge Street subway is extended to the Richmond Hill Centre.

But that's not likely to be a reality for several years.

In June, 2007, the province announced \$17.5 billion in funding for transit projects in the GTA and Hamilton.

Regional rapid transit programs as well as the extensions of the Yonge and Spadina subway lines were listed in the 52 projects Metrolinx recommended to Queen's Park as priority projects.

Later in June, regional council authorized interim funding of \$3 million and directed staff members to begin an environmental assessment and preliminary engineering in coordination with Toronto in order to prepare for the subway extension on Yonge Street.

The March provincial budget included funding for the implementation of the automatic train control signaling system for the Yonge Street subway line, which along with the new subway trains will

provide a significant increase in capacity on the Yonge Street line.

The previous January regional council authorized the establishment of the Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force which prepared a draft comprehensive stakeholder consultation schedule for the balance of 2008.

While the assessment provides an approved process for planning bus rapid transit and light rail transit projects, it does not provide for subway projects so an individual environmental assessment is required.

Once the environmental assessment is formally begun there will be four months to finalize and submit the EA, followed by two months of approval.

Considerable work is currently in progress reviewing alignment options including station locations, the Richmond Hill Centre configuration and integration with other transit modes, with the assessment and approval targeting approval process in early 2009 with the subway scheduled to be in service by 2016.

Street repairs okayed

At a recent general committee meeting the Director of Public Works was authorized to sign an Engineering Agreement with Totten Sims Hubicki Associates for the provision of consulting services for the preliminary and detail design for the reconstruction of Mary Street from Industrial Parkway South to Industry Street and Industry Street from Mary to Sheppard's Bush.

The streets are scheduled for reconstruction in 2009 as part of the 10-Year Capital Plan approved by council.

Both are local roads currently constructed to a narrow two lane semi-urban cross section with ditches and no curbs or sidewalks. The existing roadways are deformed and rutted and in need of replacement.

Three consultants submitted proposals.



Mary Lou Sicoly put herself in the middle of the action last week as the Town of Aurora launched its annual Concert in the Park series. Part of the group of Kidz Kidding, (Paul Adams is the other star) Mary Lou entertained hundreds of children. A different group will appear every Wednesday night in the Town Park and the list of performers may be found in the Coming Events column on Page 2.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

More than a year later, still no committee

In February last year, Councillor Stephen Granger presented a Notice of Motion regarding the establishment of a new advisory committee to be known as the Community Strategic PALS (pooling alliances and linkages) Committee.

He explained that the purpose of the committee was to investigate an educational knowledge networking service to focus on identifying pooling alliances and linkages that could lead to developing or enhancing social and cultural initiatives in the community.

After several questions about the duplication of the proposed committee with existing

advisory committees, it was agreed that Councillor Granger work with staff to draft terms of reference for the proposed committee and report to council.

The proposed terms of reference were presented to a subsequent general committee meeting.

It was explained that the purpose of the committee was to investigate and provide advice to council on social and cultural aspects of the community through the development of a knowledge based networking service.

The committee would consist of seven members with five citizen members with preference for individuals with expe-

rience or association in business, faith, social service and groups or associations in arts and culture.

Councillor Granger presented a letter from the City of Stratford supporting health and welfare in the community and one from Rosemary Parks, an active volunteer in the community.

Committee members expressed concern about the proposed advisory committee as social services was a regional responsibility.

Concern was also expressed about potential duplication of the proposed committee with other advisory committees and the need for

staff support.

It was also noted that York's regional government was looking at various issues including the issues listed in the Granger proposal and that negotiations should be carried out with the region, but Granger said he preferred the committee to remain local.

While there was general agreement with the intent of the proposal, the committee agreed to defer a decision in order that Granger could review it in light of the comments made by committee members.

That was early in 2007 and since then there has been no discussion or agreement on the establishment of the committee.

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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

Free Adult Bereavement Support Group starts again Thursday, Sept. 11, at 33 Mosley Street, from 7 to 9 p.m. Fred Bullen has given the use of Aurora Lions Club and Brent Forrester of Thompson Funeral Home will provide the administrative cost so this seven-week group is free to the community. Contact 416-200-5665 or mariesgriefjourney@yahoo.com to reserve.

Every Saturday until Doors Open Aurora is held Saturday, August 16, Dave Heard will lead a walking tour through old Aurora starting at the Farmers' Market at 10 a.m.

Aurora Opera Company Children's Chorus (AOCCC) is a new treble voice choir dedicated to educating, nurturing and providing opportunities for children to express their musical abilities. It offers professional opportunities to sing with beauty, artistry, and joy. The AOCCC is open to boys and girls in Grades 1 through 12, and is made up of two choirs: Angel Choristers (a training choir for 6 and 7 year olds) and Aurora Opera Company Children's Chorus (open to 8-17 year olds.). To audition, contact general director Sarah Kyle at keepsing-ing@look.ca.

Take a tour of Hillary House to relive the history and the families who lived there. From the old furnishings to the 19th century medical equipment, visitors will get a first hand look at the life of a doctor and some of the equipment used to cure common ailments in Aurora during that time period. Hillary House is open daily through August from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Call 905-727-8991 for details.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tots (age 0-4 years) bring your caregivers for coffee or tea while you enjoy story and playtime every Tuesday from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. Call 905-841-8883 for further information.

TUESDAY, JULY 15

Aurora Council meets at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the Town Hall for the only council or general committee meeting during July. Aurora Cable Internet, now Rogers Cable, will telecast the meeting at 6.30 p.m. the following night and at noon the following Saturday and Sunday.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

Concert in the Park starts at 6.30 p.m. with a barbecue followed by The Fab Four; a tribute to John, Paul, George and Ringo, beginning at 7 p.m. and continuing until 9. This family concert will bring back four decades of Beatles music and costumes. Town Park.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

Artists in the park today at the Aurora Farmers' Market, Wells Street, between Mosley and Metcalfe Streets. For further information, go to www.e-aurora.ca/farmers market.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

Renowned for taking traditional Celtic music and dance, mixing it with rock 'n' roll and blending in their own unique Scottish comedy, the Tartan Terrors are

featured in Aurora's Concert in the Park. 7 p.m., Town Park.

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.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

The Groove Train is the featured band for Aurora's Concert in the Park beginning at 7 p.m. in the Town Park.

THURSDAY, JULY 31

It's Aurora Chamber of Commerce Night at the Red Barn Summer Theatre to see Bernard Slade's romantic comedy "Same Time, Next Year". Tickets are available through the Chamber office at \$21. Contact the office for details.



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Diane and Bob Charlton's garden on Jarvis Avenue was part of this year's garden tour held by the Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society. It was one of seven gardens on the annual tour.

Auroran photo David Falconer

Downtown revitalization is still subject of debate

Back in 1981 Aurora Council received a study "Characteristics and Treatment of Selected Sites with the Historic Business District" which outlined strategies and guidelines for the redevelopment of Aurora's downtown.

Then in November, 1982, it received a "Downtown Planning Study" which had been commissioned. It reinforced the potential for gain from outside markets with a carriage trade of specialty shops and boutiques.

The study determined that Aurora's main problems in the downtown core included parking and access, traffic flow, streetscape and aesthetics and the negative impact of peripheral plaza development.

Early in 1983 the Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee prepared a report on planning considerations for the redevelopment of the Yonge Street corridor as a result of a series of studies.

Then in January, 1986, council adopted a bylaw to establish an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee named "Commercial Development Advisory Committee" to advise and recommend for council's consideration the implementation of a Downtown Planning Study.

Membership of the committee was to include three councillors, a representative of the public, a representative of the Chamber of Commerce, a representative of the Heritage Advisory Committee, two representatives of the Business

Improvement Area and a representative of all Aurora merchants.

In 2008 a report to the general committee pointed out that the success of the downtown revitalization would be largely dependent on input from residents, business owners and other stakeholders within the area.

As such, it was important to ensure that a vision for the area be developed in cooperation with the various interested parties to be achieved through public open houses, workshops and formal public planning meetings.

It was also suggested that an Ad Hoc Committee be established to guide the secondary plan process, which was supported by the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

The report included draft terms of reference for consideration.

In order for the downtown secondary plan to be a success the implementation component must be realistic over the short and long terms, the report said.

One aspect to achieve a quick fix was to jump-start the revitalization through liaison with the Economic Development Advisory Committee pertaining to the disposition of the grant money received from Whitwell Developments.

The town's 2008 capital budget included funding in the amount of \$70,000 for the downtown secondary plan but the total cost of the project will be determined through the Request for Proposal process.

Study components will

include existing local and regional land use policies, review of other successful downtowns, vacant lands and buildings, commercial inventory, existing traffic/parking constraints, limits of the study area and

review of incentive programs, grants and tax relief potential.

Aurora's general committee recently received the report as information and deferred it to a future meeting.



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Poor Richard

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Province may decide where plant is built

*Northern York Region needs more power,
But residents or councils seem not to want it;
When the cold and darkness finally arrives
They will want homes and area well lit!*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Let's face it, the six municipalities in Northern York Region - Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King, Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville - are facing a serious power shortage.

Currently, the only source is the power supplied to the Armitage transformer station in Newmarket via an overhead transmission line from Markham through Aurora.

The Armitage transformer station is operating beyond its capacity for the current population, let alone the projected growth for the area.

About two years ago, Hydro One proposed that the transmission corridor be enhanced to carry an additional load, which met with widespread opposition from residents concerned about health issues and loss of property values.

That resulted in Hydro One cancelling the proposal.

The Ontario Power Authority was assigned the task of providing an alternate source of supply and after working with a group of council members and citizens, it was agreed to support an integrated approach of conservation, local generation and local transmission.

The OPA issued a Request for Proposals with five firms submitting proposals including one from Northland Power to locate the gas-fired peaking station for local generation on an abandoned landfill site on the north side of Bloomington Road between Bayview Avenue and Leslie Street.

For more than two hours at a recent council meeting council members wrestled with the Northland proposal and alternatives, after listening to a presentation by a representative of Northland Power.

Finally, Councillor Evelina MacEachern introduced a lengthy resolution which appeared to be prepared in advance.

The resolution did not support the proposed site, nor a second site known to members of council from another applicant who requested that it be kept confidential.

If the transmission corridor was to be enhanced, the lines should be buried in urban areas, the resolution said.

Due to the complexity of the resolution, councillors requested a recess so that printed copies could be made available to council members.

The motion was eventually adopted on an 8 to 1 vote with Councillor Evelyn Buck opposed.

A large number of citizens was in attendance at the meeting and several pieces of correspondence were received all in opposition to the Northland proposal.

However, the Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade in the region representing 10,000 businesses, urged council members to make the electricity supply issue a top priority to ensure a reliable source of supply.

Members are concerned that without a reliable power supply businesses will face brownouts or even blackouts that will disrupt business, discourage growth and investment and undermine the region's reputation as a good place to do business.

The councils of Georgina and East Gwillimbury, based on citizen pressure similar to Aurora, have also rejected a peaking generation station in their municipality.

Rather than the six municipalities getting together to decide on a common position and by rejecting the OPA proposal they have opened the door to the provincial Ministry to impose whichever alternative they choose, which will likely be the enhanced transmission corridor, but not buried underground.

The Ministry's mandate is to provide power where it's needed and northern York Region needs an additional source of supply and they will supply it by the most efficient and cost-effective method possible, with or without municipal input.

Without looking at the broader picture, Aurora Council may have, as one letter writer noted, snookered itself by taking the action it did.

Literally they have invited the province to impose its preferred option as was suggested by Councillor Buck in her opposition to the MacEachern motion.



The above is a photograph of a hockey team taken in the old Aurora Arena, located, before it burned down, next to the existing Park Place Manor on Yonge Street. It shows players from the east side of Yonge Street with players from the west side. They were known as the Town of Aurora Merchants Hockey Team and the picture was taken during the winter of 1942. In the back row, left to right are Bill Summers, Don Glass, Sr., ?, George Morris, Anson Gilbert, Bill Knowles, ?, and Albert Collins. In the front row, left to right, are Gordon Stephenson, Peter King, Norm Egan, Jim Murray, Chet Osborne, ?, Charlie Southwood. Perhaps someone out there can fill in the names of the three question marks. Thanks to Dorene Stephenson for supplying the photo. Notice, too, the advertisement behind the players "Call Barrager For Photographs". Margaret Barrager is the photographer's daughter who recently celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary with husband Ed Griffith.

Letters to the Editor

She remembers many Sisman employees in Auroran photograph

To the editor,

It was so interesting to see so many familiar faces in the photograph on page 4 of your newspaper.

We were employees of The T. Sisman Shoe Company, having been born in Aurora and lived there for 45 years.

My brother, Harold Bush, was in the back row and he had worked for Sismans for about 35 years.

I wonder if you would know the year this photograph was taken and would appreciate it if you could let me know if possible.

Regarding Gordon Lee's letter on page 6.

I remember the family as they lived on Wellington Street East in the house next to the Taylor House, which was on the southeast corner of Wellington and Wells Streets.

William H.C. Bailey worked for Lorne C. Lee in his office on the west side of Yonge Street for a while, and then opened his own practice in the upstairs office of the little building which is now the laneway from Yonge Street through to Temperance Street.

I started working as a legal secretary for Mr. Bailey in the early 1960s,

and then when he moved his office to 33 Victoria Street I continued working for him until May, 1978 when my husband and I moved to the Owen Sound area, and I worked for a firm of lawyers in Owen Sound.

A year later we came back to Aurora and I worked for John R. Peddle, Jr., for the next 11 years, retiring in May, 1992.

Bill Knowles, in the photo above, is the son of Reg Knowles, the original owner of Knowles Butcher Shop on Wellington just east of Yonge. He lives with his wife in Uxbridge,

and I keep in contact with them.

I taught both Ed and Dave Griffith at the United Church Sunday School when they were little boys.

I recall when I spent a winter in Aurora and was attending Aurora United Church one Sunday, both Ed and Dave's families attended and their grandchildren were being baptized.

Wow, can't believe how quickly the years have

flown by.

I look forward to receiving your newspaper each week and recalling many events, buildings and people that appear regularly.

Keep up the good work.

**Dorene Stephenson
Dundas**

ED. NOTE: The photo Dorene is referring to in the second paragraph was taken in 1951.

Parade judges had work cut out for them

To the editor,

On behalf of the Canada Day Parade committee, I would like to say a very sincere "thank you" to all those who came out and judged the participant floats, walkers and vehicles on July 1st.

We were delighted and greatly appreciate the contribution you all made that day toward the huge success of our parade.

These judges did not have an easy job.

As you may know there were more than 50 entrants to judge in 15 categories with many in more than one category - they definitely had their work cut out for them.

Scores were based on effort, theme, appearance and originality, participation and creativity for a

total of 25 points each.

By the time they were done we were able to determine the winners in each of 15 categories, first, second and third.

A big "Red Hot" heart-felt thank you to judges: Sean Herbinson, Ingrid Kulbach, Gabriel Schacher, Bob Burrows, Perry Tucciarone, Matt Young, Steward McLaren, Vara Zorzit, Ron Hrynyk, Tim Jones, Lowell and Carilyn McClenny, Nigel Kean, Brian Roberts, Lenard Lind, Sharon Wice, Margaret Byers, Wayne Hemington, Sue Williams, Melissa Hrychuk, David and Mary Dishart and Katherine Matheson.

A special thank you to the student judges: Alex Afrasyabi, Matthew Perdeaux, Tyler Bartholomew, Patrick

Mueller, Philipp Mueller, Abhira Paramsothy and David Grimaldi.

Participant ribbons are now available at the front desk of the Town Hall.

Second and third prize ribbons will be available in the lobby on the evening of July 15th and the 'Best Overall' in each category will be presented on July 15th, at 7 p.m. in council chambers.

We are very grateful for the care, consideration and time given to judge each and every entrant on that beautiful and historic July 1st morning.

Thanks for a job well done.

**Cynthia Proctor,
Judging and Trophy
Committee,
Co-chair,
Aurora
Canada Day Parade**

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Next steps for John Tory

This is the last in a three-part series dealing with the provincial Progressive Conservatives policy town hall meeting held a couple of weeks ago at the St. George campus of the University of Toronto.

More than 120 people spent that Saturday talking about policy development.

I was also in attendance, in my capacity as first vice president (responsible for policy and fundraising) of the local riding association.

We spent the day identifying what we believe are the key issues within each of the portfolios.

No suggestions were offered as the party leadership, at this point, simply wants to determine what individual party volunteers feel is important and to identify policy priority areas.

Over the next three years party members will be shaping and developing policy resolutions on a wide range of issues so that by the time the 2011 election rolls around, the party will have a policy platform that has been debated, and vetted by the ordinary volunteer members.

But so what?

The election won't take place for three more years.

And no one currently seems to care about what the Leader of her Majesty's Loyal Opposition has to say.

John Tory probably feels like the Maytag repairman or someone in a witness protection program because his is a lonely task.

However, the strategic decisions regarding the policy path that John Tory takes will have serious ramifications whether or not he and his party gain the seals of high office in 2011.

Let's have a quick look at the alternatives.

It has been said that the first and only job of the Opposition

Leader is to oppose the government of the day.

Mr. Tory could do that for the next three years and then just before the election unveil his platform, based upon the input of the rank and file party members.

This is known as keeping your "powder dry" and possibly taking a page from the Federal Tories - unveiling the campaign platform during the election campaign.

Another approach is to introduce the Tory Blue Book 18 months prior to the election as Mike Harris did before the 1995 election.

He could also try the hybrid approach; lay out a few markers now on issues that may or may not be central to his governing agenda, but that show the party is not bereft of ideas or taking a hard stand on controversial issues.

One such issue would be health care. This issue does merit serious discussion.

First, health care is by far the largest budget item that we have.

The total annual Ontario budget is close to \$100 billion and health care spending is about 40 per cent of this.

Second, the annual, year over year, spending increase in this envelope is not sustainable.

Health care spending is increasing at a rate faster than government revenue growth.

This cannot continue.

The only problem with this approach is that it is too early and the party volunteers have not been consulted.

A fourth way, and one that would not interrupt the policy development process, is that the party could develop a set of first principles. These would be the foundation upon which PC policy would be built.

For instance, on energy policy, a group that I am involved in, The Association of Power Producers of Ontario, have come up with the following set of principles that they developed and adopted in order to be consistent in their approach to dealing with issues and in their advocacy work.

- 1) Electricity prices should reflect the true cost/value of production.
- 2) Robust competition among generators is a critical factor in achieving the optimal electricity cost for Ontario consumers.
- 3) Public and private sector entities should compete on a level playing field.
- 4) Markets with multiple sellers and buyers are the most effective way to harness the benefits of competition.
- 5) Stable and predictable public policy is critical to efficient investment and effective markets.

The PC Party of Ontario could do the same thing.

What I will be watching most closely for, though, is the type of platform that is ultimately introduced to the electorate.

Will the party be "gun shy" from introducing a platform that addresses some controversial topics because of what took place last fall; the PC electoral disaster because of the "faith based" issue.

Or will it be a small "c" conservative platform.

Or, a policy document that is focused on the centre of the political spectrum?

It will be an interesting process for the voters to watch and for the party volunteers in Aurora to participate.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

Three bags full

It's not common knowledge yet, but the town is actively investigating the idea of restricting residents to our traditional limit of three garbage bags.

This would be done by requiring us to purchase "Bag Tags" for \$2 each, and sticking them on each additional bag we put out by the curb.

One of the arguments for implementing this program is that other municipalities have them, so why not Aurora?

By that logic, I guess if all the other towns jumped off a cliff, we would, too.

In any case, while our household usually doesn't throw out a lot of garbage, the average bag does have a finite capacity, no matter how much you stomp up and down on the contents to compact them.

Since it's inevitable that we'll need a few tags to cover us from time to time, such as during spring cleaning, I've resigned myself to buying some at Town Hall once the program is up and running.

But that was before a recent visit to the Aurora Farmers' Market.

I was strolling along the booths admiring all the fresh produce and other goodies, when I came to a table with a big sign that read: "Garbage Tags: \$1".

There was a bit of a crowd, and it took a few minutes to get near the counter.

"I thought the town was only planning to charge \$2 a tag?" I noted to the proprietor. "And I thought you'd only be able to get

them at town offices once the program was in place. I didn't realize you could already get them here at the Farmers' Market."

"You can't. But these aren't the town's Bag Tags. They're 'Doug Tags'. It's a new service I'll be offering."

I picked up one of the tags.

It had a picture on it of the smiling booth owner, who I assumed was Doug, with a garbage bag in each hand.

"How do they work?"

"It's easy. You just put one of these tags on each bag over your limit", he said, peeling the back off of one, and sticking it on a sample bag.

"Every morning I'll drive by the streets in town that the garbage folks are picking up on. I'll time it to get there ahead of the trucks, and just heave the bags with the 'Doug Tags' on them into the back on my pick-up."

"Out of sight - out of mind. It's a real bargain for a dollar," he smiled.

That was a bargain, all right. But there had to be a catch.

"So, where will you dispose of the garbage?" I asked suspiciously. "You won't just dump it out in the country somewhere, will you?"

"No, of course not," he said defensively.

I think I actually hurt his feelings.

"I wouldn't make any money driving out of town. Do you know how much gas costs these days?"

"So, what will you do with it?"

At this point there was bit of a lull in his business. We were alone at his table, but he still looked both ways before responding.

"Well, I shouldn't tell you this, but as I drive around collecting my 'Doug Tagged' bags, I'll just see which houses have put out less than three garbage bags, and just add one or two from the back of the pick-up, until they're at their limit."

He smiled, and spread his arms wide. "Everyone's happy, and no harm done."

It was a simple idea, but most of the best ones are.

"Aren't you worried that people like me will steal your concept, and undercut your price?"

"Will you want to get up at 5 a.m. each garbage day and drive around your neighbourhood looking for spare garbage capacity for less than a dollar?" he asked. "If so, be my guest."

He was right. I could see how the novelty would soon wear off.

But the thought of saving money did appeal, especially when I found out his introductory offer was a book of ten Doug Tags for \$8, so I picked one up.

In fact, I may even go back and get another book next week.

It's inevitable that the town's going to charge us for garbage pick-up sooner or later, and after all, supporting local business is what the Farmers' Market is all about.

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

Bouquets & BRICKBATS

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Bonnie Devine and Ashley Lewis, both graduates of Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School, on being recognized by Aurora Council for their participation in the Katimavik Volunteer Program.

BRICKBATS to those who issue gift cards, especially shopping malls, such as Upper Canada, as some of the stores refuse to accept them, while others discount them. The Ontario government has adopted legislation covering gift cards issued by stores, not third party shopping malls. Meanwhile trusting customers suffer.

BOUQUETS to Aurora Cable Internet, now Rogers Cable, if they will limit the telecast of Aurora council meetings to two hours as Rogers did in Newmarket. It was amazing how the meetings became much shorter when the cameras weren't on.

BRICKBATS to homeowners and small businesses who are turning some rural roads into garbage dumps as they refuse to pay the bag tag fee imposed by some municipalities and which Aurora is considering. Tougher laws are required to stop the dumping.

BOUQUETS to Aurora's Bryan Black, chairman of the recent Southlake golf tournament, on raising more than \$242,000 to help build Southlake's Regional Cancer Program.

BRICKBATS to Prime Minister Stephen Harper for his ongoing partisan nastiness, especially his comments that Stephane Dion's carbon tax would screw all Canadians, as it's not what is expected from a Prime Minister.

BOUQUETS to Bette Stephenson, former Ontario Minister of Education and a student at Church Street School and her husband Dr. Allan Pengelly on their 60th wedding anniversary which they celebrated in Oak Ridges recently.

BRICKBATS to the federal Tories for their cheeky ads attacking Liberal Leader Stephane Dion which ran out of gas before they took off as officials of Fuelcast Network rejected the ads after seeing their content. The Tories' multi-media campaign warned about Dion's carbon tax at TVs mounted at service stations in the GTA.

BOUQUETS to Ronald Lanthier for his lengthy letter to The Auroran about Poor Richard's column about poor judgments by governments including the Aurora Council decision to contest their own official plan regarding the proposed development on Leslie Street. Obviously he missed Poor Richard's suggested condition that the project only be approved if municipal water and sewers were provided.

BRICKBATS to the security officers at the Kelowna, B. C. airport for their knee-jerk action in making a 39-year-old PhD student at York University remove a piece of jewellery cast in the shape of an antique pistol which she wore around her neck as a pendant.

BOUQUETS to Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School teacher Karen Stanton for introducing the Junior Achievement Banks in Action program for Grade 10 students in the school and the two teams who competed in the Canadian competition and won and will represent Canada in the North American competition

BRICKBATS to Stephen Harper for not shifting Ontario MP Jim Flaherty from Finance Minister to some other portfolio or dumping him all together for his actions and words to Premier Dalton McGuinty and the people of Ontario during the recent mini-cabinet shuffle. The man needs help!

BOUQUETS to John Kell on winning the Second Annual Chartwell Senior Star competition sponsored by Park Place Manor, Aurora Resthaven and Barton Retirement Residence with his rendition of "The Music of the Night". Poor Richard was invited to be a judge but missed the special event as he was a patient at Southlake Regional Health Centre.

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Letters to the Editor

Council criticism “unfair”: reader

To the editor,

Recent letters have criticized Aurora Council's decision to not be a welcome host to the 350MW gas generation power plant.

I feel that the criticism is unfair.

Council's decision was made on the basis of the two proposed sites in Aurora, both of which they felt were too close to residential neighbourhoods.

The location in South Aurora is close to two

established subdivisions, and the residents voiced their concerns about the proximity to their homes (500 metres).

In 2006, Mayor Phyllis Morris (then Councillor Morris), learning of the plans and interest to build a gas generation plant at a site near residential homes, arranged a meeting between Northland Power and the residents that would be most directly impacted by the power plant.

Even at that time, when

the proposed plant was to be much smaller (145 MW), the residents were not happy about having it as a next door neighbour.

This has been called just another example of "NIMBY" (not in my backyard).

However, in this case, there are other proposed sites, outside of Aurora, that are not situated close to homes.

If Aurora Council had welcomed the plant with open arms, most likely those other more appro-

priate sites would not be given as much consideration, and we would almost be guaranteed to have the plant built in Aurora.

I understand the concerns and fears about high voltage transmission lines being imposed close to residences, and as a community, we also actively supported S.T.O.P.

The Aurora Council was clear in its opposition to high voltage transmission lines close to homes, and this was again noted in the motion of opposition to the power plant sites.

There are other locations that can satisfy both these conditions, and those locations are not in Aurora.

With all of the municipalities objecting to the plant in their area, it will most likely be up to the OPA to choose the most appropriate site for this facility.

One would hope that a strong and obvious argument against a power

plant in an area would be the proximity to homes.

One would hope that the OPA will recognize this.

It would be a good idea for those Aurora residents who agree with our Council's decision to write letters to the OPA (Ontario Power Authority), about their concerns, and give reasons why they do not think that this is the right place for a power plant.

You can also write a comment on the Town's website.

We have heard from those who criticize the council's decision (and it is their right to do so). However, let's also hear from those who support the council, and who think that the OPA should choose a site which is not in the midst of residential neighbourhoods, AND does not necessitate high voltage transmission lines near homes.

**Bonnie Kraft
Aurora**

To the editor,

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is all about teamwork!

And the 2008 Street Festival was another excellent example of everyone coming together to provide a fabulous day for the people of Aurora.

Our sincere thanks go to all the Aurora businesses that set up booths at the festival.

It is a pleasure to have you showcase your business to the community, and we hope you had a successful day.

This event would not have been possible without the efforts of so many volunteers who went above and beyond to make the day such a success.

To the Block Captains; thank you for showing up on Yonge Street in that fashionable yellow shirt, and taking such good care of the vendors in your block. We really appreciated your time and effort.

To Ron Wallace - you did a great job assisting the closing of the street-Thanks!

To Brian and Phillip North- a HUGE thank you for organizing the north end of the festival. I couldn't have done it without you!

To the Chamber booth volunteers, thank you for representing the Chamber in such a positive manner.

The participants in the festival were treated

to free bags, candy and lots of assistance as required. Your volunteer time was so appreciated.

A big thank you to the Aurora businesses that helped make the event run so efficiently, particularly The Mortgage Sisters, the M&M Plaza owner (Joe), Graystones, Alcorn Cleaning Services, Armata Golf Carts, Ellis Studios, Type by Design, The Partnership Network, The Auroran, the York Regional Police, York Central Fire Services and the many Yonge Street businesses and residents who welcomed the festival participants with open arms.

All those who wandered up and down the street were treated to the foot-tapping music of the McLaughlins and St. Kitts Music.

We would like to send an extra big thanks to George St Kitts who donated his time and his beautiful voice to the event. Thank you, George!

We hope you enjoyed the Car Show, sponsored by Gary Nolan of Diamond Trim, at the south end of the festival, and the Children's Play area put on exclusively by Law Insurance. Thank you both for adding such fun to the day!

A very special thank you to the Chamber staff, Carla, Nancy, Caroline and Allison, who answered ques-

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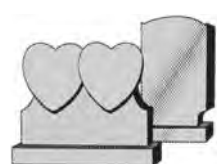
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Letters to the Editor

Without helmet, bike crash would be fatal

To the editor,

My name is Andrew and I am a resident of Aurora.

My hobbies include video games, soccer, and biking.

Over the past three years, I have become an avid biker and I bike as often as I can.

On May 28 of this year, I was in a terrible bicycle accident.

On my way home from karate, I biked

head - first into a tree in the Aurora Town Park.

I somehow lost my focus and I found myself travelling at full speed right into one of the small trees along the walkway.

I bounced off the tree, cutting my right arm, and I fell to the ground.

I was unable to move because I hurt my right shoulder and my back.

When I yelled for help, some adults play-

ing baseball ran to help me and immediately called for an ambulance.

If any of the baseball players who were there remember this, I would like to personally thank you for all the help you gave me that night.

When I arrived at the hospital, I lay in a bed for about five hours, getting x-rays and resting.

The doctor came in and said that other than

internal bruises and the cut on my arm, I was fine.

He showed me why I was okay. My helmet had saved my life that night.

The helmet was cracked right down the middle on the outer frame and a part of the back was chipped off.

I was told that without my helmet, the crash would have been fatal.

I am sharing this

story to inform everyone that helmets are life savers.

When I see someone riding a bike without a helmet, whether they are six or 25, I pray they will be safe.

I look at the scar on my arm and think about how people do not think about how dangerous one little mishap like mine can happen any time.

Little children without helmets upset me because I do not want them to get hurt like I did.

I have always worn a helmet, whether I am riding to someone's house or just going down my driveway.

A helmet can decide whether you get a cut on the arm or a crack through your skull.

My scar and my memories of this night give me the energy to want to promote helmet safety.

I urge every biker to

wear a helmet properly because one day, you might hit the same tree and you will be thankful

you wore that helmet.

**Andrew Simonetta
Aurora**

Glad to have parade back

To the editor,

Many thanks to the organizers of our beloved Canada Day Parade.

We are all very happy to see it back again and with such enthusiasm from the participants, volunteers and community lining

the street.

Also, I want to thank The Auroran for their coverage of the event including the count-down on the front page.

It is so obvious that everyone knows Aurora is Canada's Birthday Town, except the mayor, as it was 2007 (her first year as

mayor) that the parade was cancelled.

Personally, I will not forget this and trust me many others will not either.

I appreciate that The Auroran did not include a picture of the mayor in the parade photo spread and I was disappointed to see her in

the parade, period – although no blame to the wonderful volunteer organizers of the event.

How would our Town cope without volunteers?

Thank you again!

**Jennifer Strange
Aurora**

Staff members consume booze during lunch?

Open Letter to Aurora's administration:

Can someone in Aurora's administration tell me why for years now I have witnessed Town Staff consume large amounts of alcohol during lunch?

Surely Aurora's taxpayers deserve to have competent sober staff serve them.

On more than one occasion I have attended the Town Hall only to be served by someone with a strong, obvious odor of alcohol.

Why is this allowed?

Over the years I have commented directly to senior staff and nothing has ever changed – why is this condoned?

Is there a policy? Why isn't it enforced?

If ANY amount of

alcohol is consumed the employee should be sent home.

Anonymous

ED. NOTE: The Auroran is aware of the author's identity.



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EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING NO. 08-18 HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2008

July 15, 2008

Dear Aurora residents,

On June 24, 2008, in response to the Ontario Power Authority's (OPA) procurement process established to address the electricity supply in Northern York Region, Aurora Council adopted the resolution detailed below. For more information, please visit the Town of Aurora's website at www.e-aurora.ca

Sincerely,

Mayor Phyllis Morris & Council

WHEREAS, input to the OPA (Ontario Power Authority), RFP (Request for Proposal) process is due prior to June 30, 2008, and it is imperative that Council communicate the Town's position indicating whether the Town of Aurora is a willing host or is not a willing host for the construction of a 350 MW Gas Powered Generation Power Plant to be located in the Town of Aurora; and

WHEREAS, there are at least two proponents that have expressed interest in constructing a 350 MW Gas Powered Generation Power Plant in the Town of Aurora; and

WHEREAS, the proponent of the 2nd site, at this time, wishes to retain confidentiality of both their company name and their selected site, but have agreed to permit the CAO for the Town of Aurora to inform Members of Council of their site location and their company name, and as of yesterday this is now known to Members of Council; and

WHEREAS, the OPA may view a non-decision of Council, on this issue, as a willingness to accept a 350 MW Gas Powered Generation Power Plant to be constructed on one of the proposed sites in the Town of Aurora; and

WHEREAS, the OPA procurement process gives points if the site is located within a willing host municipality; and

WHEREAS, a coal powered plant is incredibly polluting, yet based on publications put out by the OPA, the proposed 350 MW Gas Powered Generation Power Plant will generate as much as 40% of the pollutants generated by a coal powered plant; and

WHEREAS, the two sites proposed in Aurora as the future location for a 350 MW Gas Powered Generation Power Plant are in close proximity to established residential neighbourhoods; and

WHEREAS, it has been intimated that if Council does not welcome the construction of the Power Plant, the alternative for Aurora will be overhead high voltage power lines; and

WHEREAS, EMF's continue to pose health concerns to both the residents in our community and the experts in the health field:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Aurora does not support construction of a 350 MW Gas Powered Generation Power Plant in either site that has been selected within the Town of Aurora through the OPA RFP process by Northland Power Inc. or Company "X"; and further

THAT the Council of the Town of Aurora re-affirms the previously held position that any new 230 KV feeders be underground through any urban designated lands; and

THAT a copy of the resolution shall be sent to the Minister of the Environment, Ontario Energy Board, the Regional Municipality of York and the OPA.

On a recorded vote the motion was **CARRIED**.

THE AURORAN Week of July 15, 2008

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Congratulations to the winning team at our recent golf tournament held at Wooden Sticks Golf Club - Ted Gacich, Bruce Bundy, Adam Armstrong and Shelby Knowles. Some projects and signature events of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce:

- Annual Aurora Home Show
- Annual Golf Tournament
- Aurora Town Map
- Business Achievement Awards
- Networking Breakfasts and Business After Five
- World's Longest Street Festival on the World's Longest Street
- Scholarships for Local High School Students
- Seminars & Luncheons with Guest Speakers

Aurora Chamber of Commerce
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Changes coming



Watch for a **New children's section** to be relocated on the main floor of R&R Revisited



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Aurora Minor Ball Association

Mosquito Scores for Tuesday, July 8th

PowerStream 8, Aurora Home Hardware 7
Laurion Law Office 17, Re/Max Derek & Leslie Ho 16
Lakeshore Valumart 15, Priestly Demolition 7

Scores for Thursday, July 10th

Priestly Demolition 11, Aurora Home Hardware 4
Re/Max Derek & Leslie Ho 20, PowerStream 12
Laurion Law Office 11, Lakeshore Valumart 10

STANDINGS

Team	GP	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	POINTS
LAURION LAW OFFICE	12	10	2		20
LAKESHORE VALUMART	12	7	3	2	16
POWERSTREAM	12	5	6	1	11
PRIESTLY DEMOLITION	12	4	7	1	9
AURORA HOME HARDWARE	12	4	8		8
RE/MAX DEREK & LESLIE HO	12	4	8		8

Fans get noticed at Monday event

The Aurora Senior Jays baseball team will hold its second annual Fan Appreciation Night next Monday, July 21.

The event will take place on Diamond 4 at Lambert Willson Park.

Last year's event, even though no game was played due to complications, turned out to be a success for all the kids in attendance as an impromptu fun game was played against the Jays.

This year the Jays will meet division rivals, the Orillia Majors.

Currently, the Jays are in first place of the East Division with 24

points, chased by Bolton, Barrie, and Orillia with 23, 22, and 20 points respectively.

The playoff race is heating up in the North Dufferin Senior League East Division.

Organizers says there will be prizes to give away including autographed Alex Rios and Jesse Litsch memorabilia.

They hope to exceed last year's turnout and provide the younger players in Aurora a glimpse of some well played baseball for which they can look forward to in their baseball careers.

Locals shine at swim meet

Twelve-year-old Jake Silverthorn led the way as Aurora's "Ducks Swimming" captured gold, silver and bronze medals at the Provincial Age Group Swimming Championships in Thunder Bay recently.

Jake won gold in the 100 Butterfly (1:12.0); silver in the 200 Fly (2:39.2); bronze in the 800 Free (10:13.1) and captured two fourth place finishes in other competitions.

According to coach Reg Chappell, Jake's mental preparation and the energy he put into his races was outstanding.

Callum Ross, 17, won bronze in the 400 Free (4:13.5) in an outstanding race against some very tough competition.

His showing brings him extremely close to qualifying for next season's National Senior championships and trials for the World Championships.

Sarah Gillis, 14, was

Graffiti committee completes work

The Graffiti Abatement Ad Hoc Committee completed its work and presented its final report to Aurora Council in March.

Among the recommendations was a direction to staff to apply for funds through Service Canada to offset the costs associated with the hiring of two students for the summer.

In a report to a recent general committee meeting, staff members advised that an application had been submitted to Service Canada based on the hiring of two students for the summer and this was approved in the amount of \$4,204 or \$2,102 per student.

The funds from Service Canada represent half of the hourly provincial minimum wage.

Based on a 40-hour week over a 10-week period and to be eligible for the federal funds, the remaining cost of the students' salaries must be paid by the town in the amount of \$2,413 per student.

In addition to the cost associated with the hiring of the students, the committee identified additional costs related to supplies and equipment as well as the need for a vehicle for the students to use at an estimated cost of \$1,500 for supplies with the vehicle to be supplied by Public Works.

The Committee also recommended partnerships with local businesses and utilities to help offset the costs and staff will continue to pursue sponsorship opportunities.

The general committee approved the hiring of two summer students to undertake graffiti removal from public facilities in town and approved funding in the amount of \$6,326 conditional on staff completing the sponsorship agreement with Service Canada.

Last November, staff members reported to the committee that of the 362 sites identified, 326 were on public property and 36 on private property.

There were 129 post office boxes, 113 hydro boxes, nine Bell Canada boxes and eight Aurora Cable boxes that had been "tagged".

The committee requested staff to bring back a report including a job description and all



Students hired to get rid of graffiti in Aurora will have their work cut out for themselves if they have to clean this "tagging", done recently on the new tower at Ab Cox Motors.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

associated costs pertaining to the hiring of students for a graffiti abatement program.

It was also recommended that the town partner with Crime Stoppers and the York Regional Police to establish a protocol for residents to report incidences of graffiti in Aurora via phone or e-mail, and that the town maintain a graffiti site data base.

Aurora should also partner with community groups, businesses and other interested parties to organize a community beautification day during the summer of 2008, the recommendation stated.

Following the presentation, there were several questions from councilors regarding the financial implications and the need for a bylaw which was recommended by the committee.

It was finally agreed that the mandate of the committee be extended so that members could assist in the preparation of the bylaw.

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ment funding.

It was recommended that a letter be sent to the utility companies seeking permission for the town

to remove graffiti from their utility boxes and requesting a contribution towards the cost of graffiti removal.

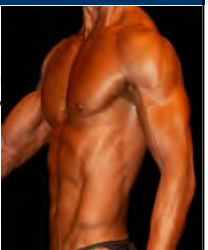
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David is walking through Aurora's history

By **MICHAEL SEAMAN**
Community Planner

When Aurora's David Heard surveyed the view from his stall at the new location of the Aurora Farmers' Market earlier this year, he couldn't help but be inspired by the many interesting historical buildings and places he saw.

He wanted to know more about them.

Many of these locations are marked with plaques provided by the Heritage Advisory Committee, which state the name and date of the structure or site.

The small plaques, however, do not tell the whole story, but do provide a clue for those who want to learn more about the wealth of

history that is available on Aurora's Historic sites through the archives maintained by the Aurora Historical Society.

David, a member of a family with strong roots in Aurora dating back to 1838, wanted to know more about the places he was seeing, so he started to dig a little deeper into the rich history of the community.

Inspired by the many fascinating stories, David decided he wanted to share what he had learned, and so he came upon the idea of starting a regular walking tour of Old Aurora.

Walking tours are popular attractions in historic towns around the world.

They help to inform locals and visitors alike

about local history and provide an attraction for tourists. Aurora has a rich history, and the occasional walking tours provided by Dr. John McIntyre and Jacqueline Stuart for events like Doors Open Aurora have all been well attended.

Imagine his surprise when he was researching his roots on his mother's side at Hillary House when he discovered something he had been hoping to find for 50 years.

"My grandfather was working in Toronto and our family bible became lost and our history was enclosed in it," he said. "I was even going to appeal to the Toronto media to help find our own personal "Grail" we were serching for. This Bible goes

back several generations and a lot of times they are how families passed on history.

"At Hillary House I found a document from The Uxbridge Historical Society dated 1988, with mention of The Hutchinson Family Bible. I took photocopies to my mom and her jaw dropped because it seems the Bible has possibly found a home there.

"If it is there, my mother really would love it to have its proper home at our Museum in Aurora," he said. "That would be a great gift to my mother who loves this Town as much as I do."

David Heard's weekly tour of Old Aurora should be as popular as the others and it is hoped will become an Aurora tradition itself and part of the legacy of the Aurora's year of Arts Culture and Heritage.

Called "A Step in Time", the tour leaves at 10 a.m. each week from David's booth at the Aurora Farmers Market. A large sign posted at the booth indicates the

place for people to gather.

The tour will concentrate on the older homes and historical sites near the Town Park in the southeast old Aurora neighbourhood, an area which contains some of Aurora's oldest homes and streets. This neighbourhood also contains a significant concentration of public buildings and churches, including Wells Street School, Church Street School, the Lions Hall, Victoria Hall and the Town Park, Aurora's most historic public gathering place.

So, if you are interested in learning more about Aurora's history and heritage take a step back in time with David Heard.

David will be hosting his tour each weekend through the conclusion of the Aurora Farmers market in the fall, with the one exception being the weekend of Saturday, August 16th, when Dr. John McIntyre will be leading a special Doors Open Aurora Walking tour as part of the activities of the annual festival.



David Heard, above, spends his Saturday mornings travelling throughout an old section of Aurora. People are invited to join him at 10 a.m. from his booth at the Aurora Farmers' Market.

Photo by
Michael Seaman



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Alex Vegh is seen with Peter Bifulchi of the Aurora Optimist Club accepting his trophy as the winner in the recent Central Ontario District Optimist Junior Golf Tournament held at the Caledon Golf & Country Club. In the 10-11 Boys, he shot a 9 over par 82 and qualified to attend the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships at the PGA national resort in Palm Gardens, Florida, this month. Alex is sponsored by the Aurora Optimist Club



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The first goal is having fun

Wellington St. featured during Doors Open

By **MICHAEL SEAMAN**
Community Planner

The fourth article in the series, features sites on Aurora's Historic Wellington Street that can be seen at this year's Doors Open Aurora which takes place Saturday, August 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year's tour features five sites that can be seen on Aurora's second main street - Wellington Street.

Originally known as the Aurora-Lloydtown Road, Wellington Street was one of the first streets in Aurora to be settled and was vital to the opening up of Whitchurch and King Township from Yonge Street.

Over time a number of larger and unique homes were built here.

Today the street contains some of the best examples of historic architectural house styles in Aurora. While originally the street was primarily residential in character, in recent years the street has seen a number of buildings are converted to office uses.

Thanks to some of Ontario's most innovative policies for residential conversion, developed by former Director of

Planning, Sue Seibert, these conversions have been carried out with respect for the historic architecture and the residential character of the street.

CARPENTER'S HOUSE

One of Aurora's most distinctive architectural landmarks is the Carpenter's House located at 69 Wellington Street East.

The exceptional design of this residence is testimony to the unique architecture of the late 19th Century and the skilled craftsmen who built it.

The house was built by William Atkinson, a local carpenter in 1872.

Prior to building the house, Mr. Atkinson had spent some time in the San Francisco area, where houses similar in style to the Carpenter's House are widely seen.

It is believed that he used a pattern book from California to develop the design of the residence.

MORRISON HOUSE

An outstanding example of a heritage building converted to office uses is the Morrison House located at 74 Wellington Street which was built, as its



Above is an interior shot of the Morrison House on Wellington Street East.

name suggests, by carriage maker George Morrison in 1886.

It later became the home of Aurora businessman, mayor and historian Jessie M. Walton from 1919 to 1945.

The Morrison House is a yellow brick veneered, two and a half storey yellow brick house reflecting a mixture of 19th Century stylistic influences.

The Morrison House contains one of the most beautifully restored Victorian era interiors in Aurora and is well worth a visit on Doors Open day.

DOAN HOUSE

The David W. Doan House, located at 32 Wellington Street, is an Aurora mansion from the

1870s period that was lived in for most of its history by a series of prominent Aurorans who made a significant contribution to the development of Aurora.

The building has been recently rehabilitated and adapted by Mina Roe of the Sormeh Spa.

SMITH HOUSE

The Smith House, located at 89 Wellington Street, was built circa 1882 in the Gothic Revival Style which was popular at the time.

The original owners were James and Jane Stoutenbough.

The longest tenure in the house (1915-1959) was that of the Smith family.

In recent years the house was acquired by Rita Theil who converted the building into a one-of-a kind boutique, featuring home décor items.

SETH ASHTON HOUSE

The Seth Ashton House at 73 Wellington Street East was built in the early 1870s with the influence of the Gothic Revival Style.

The house is unusual in that it has two gothic peaks on the front elevation.

Healing Hands, its current occupant, is a multidisciplinary health centre.

This former 19th-century residence has been converted to office space, while retaining many of its original architectural features, both inside and out.

Visitors to Doors Open Aurora 2008 will be sure to enjoy viewing these former Wellington Street homes that have been converted to office and commercial uses on Wellington Street.

Together they provide outstanding examples of how restored heritage buildings can create interesting and character-filled business and residential space.

Each of these sites is located within easy walking distance and together with nearby sites will allow

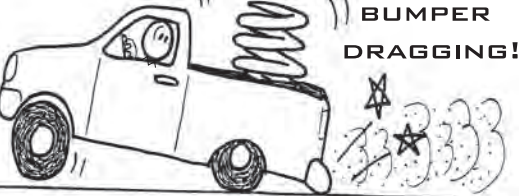
visitors the rare opportunity to see the beautifully restored interiors of these Wellington Street landmarks.

For more information check the Doors Open Aurora website at www.e-aurora.ca/doorsopenaurora.

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Customers feel no change during summer heat wave

As outside temperatures with the humidex climbed to nearly 40 degrees last week, PowerStream, along with several other utilities in the province, activated thousands of customers' peaksaver® load control devices for the first time to help lower power demand on a strained electricity grid.

Peaksaver®, a conservation program funded by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA), enables local electric utilities during high peak demand times over the summer, to remotely cycle down central air conditioning units of participating customers

The activation of the peaksaver® devices between two and six o'clock on last Tuesday involved more than 2,500 PowerStream customers who had previously registered with the program and in return received a free programmable thermostat as well as \$25.

In some cases the cycling down of central air conditioning units may have slightly raised in-home temperatures but the net impact was an overall decrease of electricity demand across the province.

"In light of global warming issues and more local power supply reliability issues facing Northern York Region, I felt compelled to be one of the first families in Aurora to sign up to the peaksaver® program,"

said Aurora's Richard Johnson. "The program offers a win, win, win, win solution for our environment, our home comfort, our power grid reliability and our bottom line with virtually no noticeable downside. What's not to like about that?"

"We were pleased to be one of the utilities involved in the first activation of the peaksaver® load control program," Brian Bentz, President and CEO of PowerStream, said. "It serves as an example of how utilities and customers can work together to maximize our conservation efforts when electricity supply is constrained"

During peak demand times, Ontario has to buy power from other jurisdictions, which contributes to increasing the overall cost of electricity.

By reducing demand, peaksaver® participants help to mitigate the province's need to purchase higher-priced electricity as well as the

impact on the environment from using peaking generators to meet electricity shortfalls.

Participants in PowerStream's peaksaver® program receive a free Honeywell thermostat, valued at \$250, installed in their homes or businesses by a certified technician at no charge.

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To be eligible to sign up for peaksaver®, PowerStream residential customers must own their own home and have a newer central air conditioner.

Business customers are eligible if their air conditioning units are approximately the same size as those used by residential customers.

For more information on the program, visit the PowerStream website at www.powerstream.ca/peaksaver

aksaver or call 1-866-323-0206.

PowerStream Inc. is the third largest local electricity distribution company in Ontario, providing service to more than 240,000 residential and business customers in Aurora, Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan.

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Maude lived in the field that became a park

By **ELIZABETH HEARN MILNER**
Special to The Auroran

When I was very young, Maude was very old, but I never thought about that during the seasons that I knew her.

Maude lived in the field that began at the end of Reuben Street, extended to Kennedy Street to the south and west up to George Street.

At the fenced, north end of the field, there were huge, frightening pits of nasty liquid filled with waste from Collis Leather Company on Tyler Street.

At the Kennedy Street end of the field there was a bridge where you could stand and look out over the field, if you had a mind to do so, and I often did.

Maude belonged to Norman Hope who lived at 30 Reuben Street.

Maude was a horse.

Mr. Hope was the last man to have big, farm animals within the limits of the Town of Aurora.

There were farms that still existed on the edges of the town that had animals, of course, but Mr. Hope had the last place with a barn and farm animals behind his house on an Aurora street.

The Hope's house was a low brick home with a veranda. It was the last house on the right side of Reuben Street in the late forties and fifties.

Behind his house, there was his large barn, whose fragrance annoyed the neighbours when the wind blew in the wrong direction.

Within the barn there were a few dairy cows, some chickens in a coop at one end and my Maude. The cows were allowed into the field to graze only close to the barn and soon they were gone, but Maude remained and spent all of her last days there.

When I got to know her well, she meandered freely over the whole field.

In the early forties I often saw Mr. Hope come down Reuben Street with Maude proudly pulling his wagon.

The wagon would hold sacks of feed, hay, wood, or bushels of apples and other things. This ended soon and Maude was retired to the field.

Maude had a broad body with a concave back, knobby tired legs and big, work-worn feet.

She was soft brown in colour with a darker mane and tail and a rather dull but lighter area down her heavy, sad face.

I remember her wonderful and weary myopic eyes and how she would survey us kids when we enthusiastically ran and greeted her on a summer morning.

How I loved to see her in that field. She was part of many cool mornings, sunny afternoons and that misty twilight time of day just before my mother called me home.

One pleasure of the field for us, and for Maude I suspect, was the stream that ran through it.

It was crossed by a poor, broken, tilted bridge on which we played endlessly,

and inhabited by long-legged, slimy green frogs; warty brown toads; yellow spotted salamanders and millions of quick, black, water bugs that skated frenetically in zigzags on the surface.

We spent hours catching, examining and releasing these creatures, watching the dragonflies and butterflies that came for sips from the stream and picking the wild blossoms that bordered it.

Maude loved the stream, too, and usually she would find a spot beside it.

She would stand there peacefully, nibbling grass, taking drinks, shrugging her coat and flicking her tail to ward off horse flies.

Sometimes we had a treat for her that we had begged from our mothers - a tired half-brown apple or a limp carrot.

With her worn teeth and huge, hot tongue she would delicately graze from our open palms.

Another attraction in the field was a broken-down barn that had likely once belonged to the brick house on Kennedy Street, west of the stream, at the top of the hill.

I don't think any of us, who played in the field, ever left home without hearing, "You can go, but stay away from the old barn".

Of course, we never listened to that message because the barn held secrets such as an old horse collar, strange, square nails, old bits of farm tools, wooden hay rakes and other items that we regarded as treasures of the past.

Maude had no affection for the place and never went near it.

The only other remarkable thing in the field was an ancient apple tree with a gently sloping trunk. The tree was located beside the stream in about the centre of the field not far from the old, wooden bridge.

What a wonderful tree this was, not only because it had little apples on it, in spite of its heroic age, but also because we could walk up the tree trunk and get onto Maude's sturdy, reliable saddle-shaped back.

And so on cool, spring and fall Saturdays and the sticky, hot, summer days of vacation, we would congregate in the field with Maude.

We would pet her, put flowers in her mane, try to braid her tail when she would let us, and get on her back when she positioned herself in the right spot, or let us lead her to the old apple tree.

In spring, Maude ate the new grass and reached her nose to the smells that promised summer. She lopped along through the stream and nibbled on the tender watercress and grasses that grew there. When I think of Maude's field, I see the seasonal changes.

The spring forget-me-nots and the infrequent trilliums that we were reminded at school not to pick. Then, I see Maude among the daisies, buttercups and blue Chicory of summer followed by the Queen Ann's Lace



Bridge leads to Lions Park behind George Street Public School. Before it was a park, Maude lived there.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

and Golden Rod and at last the purple Joe-Pye weed that grew just as school was about to commence once again.

Maude was part of the seasonal display of the field for my springs, summers and autumns for many years.

I saw Maude sometimes in the winter, too, if I tromped through the snow across the field.

In that season, she belonged to Mr. Hope and his two boys because she was in the small fenced area close to the Hope's barn.

I remember Maude's last summer in the field. Mr. Hope's cows were gone, but I believe that chickens remained in his chicken coop.

We had great fun playing in the wild flowers and in the stream once again.

Maude again patiently let us get on her back and sometimes with encouragement took a few steps around the field allowing us to feel we were Roy Rogers or Gene Autry, our heroes at the Royal Theatre on Centre Street, which we were now old enough to visit on Saturday afternoons.

Then, there came the day that Maude was no longer in the field. I can call back the occasion when I went to the field and found her absent.

"Maude's gone," I announced to my family as I ran in the side door that day.

I'm certain that the tone of my voice indicated my distress and that I felt I should have been informed

of any changes being made in Maude's world.

"She's likely gone to the glue factory," said my brother George. "Gone to be made into dog or mink food," he added with a ghoulish look in his eyes waiting for my response.

I felt my eyes filling, but I refused to let him see me cry.

I shuddered silently at the thought of lovely, gentle Maude being killed and made into glue, or another creature's food.

I feared my brother might be correct, however, because John Closs who lived at 28 Kennedy Street had begun to raise minks in cages in a far corner of the field and my brother was going to be paid a little to take food to them.

So, my brother's devastating words could be true, I thought.

Oh, the pain I felt. Poor, gentle Maude had gone forever. I shared the news with my nephew John Willis, who lived at 28 Reuben Street, and the other friends of the field.

We sadly considered the horror of what adults did to wonderful animals and promised one another that we would never be so cruel to animals when we were grown up. Needless to say, our field was never the same after Maude went.

The years went by. The ruined barn was cleared away, the mink cages disappeared and the field became a park.

At first, it was left as rough and natural, but there were picnic tables provided and summer programs were held there for children.

I became the day camp counsellor there when I was in high school. I was paid by the town's Recreation Commission to entertain children who arrived each morning to do crafts, play games, sing, have stories read to them and share a snack.

Then, while I was off at university and working outside of Aurora, the park went through a metamorphosis.

It became hygienic, clipped and tidied with a swimming pool, wading pool and children's play area located behind George Street School.

I marveled at what the ambitious Aurora Lions Club and the generous people of Aurora had done, but I despaired also because the natural space I remembered had disappeared.

The wild flowers, the old apple tree, the broken bridge were gone and Maude was just a memory.

Is there a heaven for old horses that have served men and children well? I hope so.

Dear Maude, how we kids on Kennedy, Temperance and Reuben Streets loved her.

The Lions Park was and is wonderful and Aurora has done a great job at preserving land for parks.

Speaking for myself, however, and perhaps for others with my memories; the tidiest park, the best pool and nicest swing set could

never replace those days with Maude beside the stream and among the wild Ontario flowers in Aurora of the forties.

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By BRIAN WARBURTON

It's cooler

Please be advised that the Aurora Senior Association (ASA) has well regulated temperatures all year long, so if you have, or may have any discomfort from the heat or humidity, be alert to your needs and keep cool by visiting the Seniors' Centre.

The cool weather lingered longer than normal but, now summer time is here and the no nonsense heat must be dealt with, which is a treat for some and a caution for many including some members of the Seniors' Centre who do not handle the hot weather quite as well as in their more youthful years.

Once you are in the centre it is easy enough to find activities and groups to join and share the mood of the moment and time will fly by while you have fun.

Most days card games are available and you are always welcome to join in.

The computer club is usually open and available and if you require instruction, enquire at the front counter and explain your needs and help can and will be arranged, even for complete beginners.

A small and cozy library is also available to suit your literary requirements, and numerous other programs and activities are available at different times.

Table tennis, badminton and pickle ball are available and while they are more active and require partners, they generate good feelings while offering a significant daily quota of exercise, in the form of an attractive game.

When the weather outside is just right, the simplest pastimes provide great pleasure and our new horseshoe pits measure up to that description.

This activity is scheduled for each Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. until noon, but you need to sign out the horseshoes at the front desk.

The walking club has a core of enthusiasts who walk or stroll every Wednesday starting at 9:30 a.m. This is a deliciously simple and enormously healthy exercise providing not only the most suitable and natural exercise, which is walking, but good conversation also.

You do not have to sign up for this, just show up and you are one of the team.

The Thursday barbecues are back from 11.30 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. and includes something from the grill complete with all the trimmings, dessert and coffee or tea.

Another day for your calendar is Tuesday, July 22nd, at 6.30 p.m., which is the "Fun, Food and Film" evening at the Centre.

Bill and Mary Higgins, who operate the ASA kitchen so efficiently, have issued an appeal for donations to a food bank.

Please examine your kitchen shelves and donate generously those items that are unlikely to be used, and are unopened with an unexpired best before date.

They will be picked up from the centre on Friday and delivered to a food bank each Saturday.

This simple and kindly gesture on your part will find a hungry stomach somewhere,

and you will credit your warm compassionate nature with a simple, private and effective good will transaction.

It is better to feel good about a food gift or any gift, than watch it age to the point of worthlessness.

Marie Leone has announced a seminar to deal with preventing and reversing environmental damage in the home.

This seminar is scheduled for 2 p.m., July 24th and will identify critical issues that could and should be attended to. Please sign up for this seminar to ensure seating is available for you.

The ASA is populated with a driving force composed of capable experienced members equipped with a diversity of expertise.

The most profitable way to employ these minds is to stimulate them with fresh and novel ideas of what or how the ASA should plan or conceive new projects.

If you conceive a spectacular idea or even a modest outline of anything that would benefit from input, please make it known and let others attempt to elaborate on your basic model or concept.

If ideas and thoughts are not shared, advanced and developed, no good will arise out of them.

Not to be forgotten and a must to attend is the ASA annual picnic on Thursday, July 17th.

This picnic day has always been a tranquil, comforting kind of day highlighted by the relaxing chaotic games that allow the unconventional, zany behaviour inherent in us, license to exploit our love of the wacky, madcap, off the wall displays of good humour.



George Elliott was the winner of Theatre Aurora's recent fundraising draw held during the run of "Move Over, Mrs. Markham". Joining George are artist Deborah Campo and Show Producer Jo-anne Spitzer, right.

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OPEN LETTER TO THE EAST GWILLIMBURY COMMUNITY

July 7th, 2008

Dear Community:

As you may be aware, the Ontario Power Authority has identified the need for a substantial amount of natural gas-fired peaking electricity generating capacity in their Integrated Power System Plan. The OPA also noted that the Northern York Region is an important location for part of this capacity because of the need to enhance the reliability of electricity supply to the area.

Our Team at EPCOR recently announced our participation in the OPA's Request for Proposals to build the power plant required to provide peaking electricity capacity in this region. Upon further review, EPCOR has decided not to proceed with the proposal in East Gwillimbury due to timing and other competing commercial interests.

We would like to thank the community for their time and valuable input into our process in assessing this project. We met or visited with more than 50 neighbours at their homes or on their doorsteps to introduce ourselves and hear their thoughts about the proposed project directly. We spoke to many more by phone. We would like to thank everyone for their time in speaking with us. We hope to meet all of you again.

If you'd like any additional information, please visit our website at www.epcor.ca/yorkregion, or call us at 905-626-4736. For more information on the Ontario Power Authority's IPSP, see www.powerauthority.on.ca

Thank you again for your time and interest.

Best regards,

[Signatures]

EPCOR's Northern York Region Project Team

EPCOR

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

Next series starts July 7th., through August 25

*No class Aug. 4th

7:30 class: Salsa • Merengue
8:30 class: - West Coast Swing

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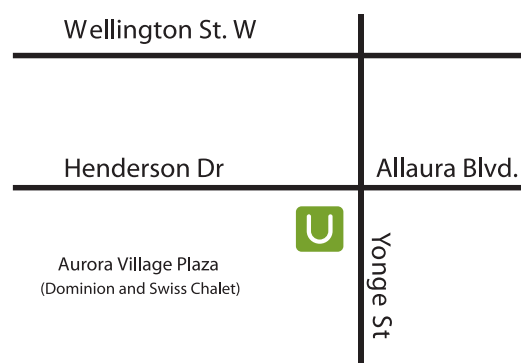
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