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THE AUROAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

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FREE

Week of July 22, 2008

No action taken on "replica" guns

Without comment or discussion Aurora Council received a staff report To Regulate the Sale and Possession of Replica Firearms as information and decided to take no further action.

In March, 2006, council directed that a resolution from the Greater Toronto Mayors and Regional Chairmen Group be referred to staff members for a report, using the Township of Scugog as a model to regulate the sale and possession of replica guns.

Staffers presented a report to council in July with a draft bylaw which was referred back with a request to circulate the report and draft bylaw to other municipalities in the

region and the York Regional Police.

A further staff report was presented to council in March, 2007, seeking direction from council in either supporting the draft bylaw or taking no further action.

Council referred the report and draft bylaw back to staff members with the request that staff consult with York Regional Police to address their concerns regarding enforcement and to consult with other area municipalities with a view to developing a uniform bylaw.

As directed by council, staffers reported that during the past year several meetings were held with police officials and representatives from other municipalities.

As a result of the discussions it was determined the enactment and enforcement of a bylaw to regulate the sale and possession of replica firearms would not be practical.

Reasons given included definition of imitation firearms, search and seizure, sale and purchase, use to cause intimidation and fear and public nuisance.

In the event council wished to proceed with the enactment of the bylaw, enforcement would be the responsibility of the York Regional Police.

In September, 2000, as part of its Law and Order focus, the Progressive Conservative government announced the next step in its campaign was the sale of replica guns.



Ada Johnson, who has lived in Aurora longer than anyone, celebrated her 105th birthday last week with a party at Park Place Manor, where she makes her home. Ada came to Aurora about 100 years ago, and has been here ever since.

Please see page 11



Look who came to town. Former Premier of Ontario Mike Harris, right, was one of the invited guests at a party at Aurora's St. Andrew's College last week. He soon caught up with former Member of Parliament Sinclair Stevens.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

BRIEFLY

Back in hospital

Dick Illingworth, who celebrated his 92nd birthday last month, was rushed to hospital again last week, suffering from an unknown pain.

His wife, Dorothy, said Dick woke up and complained of a "911 pain", which caused her to call for an ambulance.

"I don't think Dick would complain if he lost an arm," she said. "So, if he says he has pain, then, for sure, he has pain."

At press time, details of Dick's condition were unknown, but he was resting comfortably at Southlake Regional Health Centre.

Dick, who writes for The Auroran, also has a cable television show that has been seen on Channel 10 for more than 25 years.

Hydro building future may soon be known

The former hydro building on Industrial Parkway South has been empty for almost two years waiting for a council decision on its future, and an answer may be forthcoming.

Council has approved retaining the firm of Mayhew and Associates as space planner for a contract price of \$49,850 plus disbursements.

The Request for Proposal was split into two parts, the Public Works and Parks component and then the Town Hall component with the hydro building being an option for either.

Seven firms responded to the proposal call and the firm of Mayhew received the highest marks.

Last March at a general committee meeting it was agreed a space planner was needed to review the needs of the Public Works and Parks Operations.

The project is scheduled to have a final report to council in October.

It was also recommended that council consider a strategy for all town buildings and schedule a special meeting in September to discuss future uses in all currently vacant town-owned buildings.

Aurora Hydro was sold to

Glen Heise dies at 55

A familiar person around the Aurora Legion has died.

Glen Heise was 55.

The son of the late Eleanor and Bruce, Glen, for several years, acted as the bartender at the Aurora Legion.

He had belonged to the Royal Canadian Legion for 36 years, and was an employee of Giant Tiger in Sutton.

He died from cancer in Newmarket's Southlake Regional Health Centre last Wednesday, and was buried with his parents in

PowerStream in November, 2005, and the building was vacated in May 2006.

It has been empty since.

The Hydro facility was built in 1987 on 3.1 acres of land with a fenced yard. The main building contains 20,500 square feet on two floors.

There is an elevator connecting the two floors. In addition to the building, a significant quantity of office furniture was left when vacated by PowerStream.

Council had previously identified the need for a new animal shelter that could service adjacent municipalities and it was suggested the building be converted into an animal shelter that would produce revenue through the lease of the building to other municipalities.

Also considered was a Youth Centre.

In July, 2006, staff presented detailed plans of suggested uses for the building including the transfer of the Parks Department from the Works Building to free up needed space for the growing Works Department.

It was also suggested that the fitness centre be moved from the Leisure Complex which would free up space for a Youth Centre.

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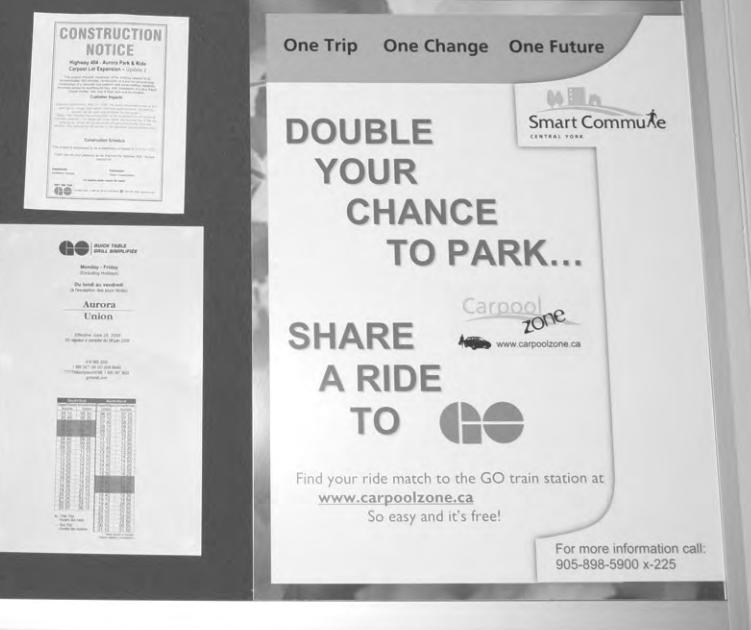
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Aurora



Sign in the Aurora GO station gives information on how commuters can car-pool, and cut down on the parking spaces required at the station.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Program provides commuters with information on car-pooling

There may be more parking spaces for commuters in Aurora if a program currently underway pays off.

Smart Commute Central York, a non-profit program dedicated to providing sustainable transportation solutions that reduce the number of single occupant vehicles commuting to work, is alive and well in Aurora.

In other words, the group wants commuters to "car-pool". They have sent a message to Mayor Phyllis Morris outlining their program.

"As you know, the GO Train parking lot in Aurora is under severe pressure due to a steady increase in demand for parking," wrote program manager Ron Groves. "Despite several parking lot expansions over the years, the lots continue to fill to overcapacity every day."

"An unfortunate result is that desperate commuters who arrive for the last train have no place to park legally, and so park illegally on the grass or cross hatches, receiving expensive tickets for their efforts," he said. "Despite plans for a new GO parkade to open on Wellington in the spring, it is conceivable that it too will soon fill to capacity. We could continue to pave over more land in Aurora, but this is not an affordable or sustainable option."

The Smart Commute people approached GO management and offered a solution a couple of months ago. Using a carpool ride matching website - carpoolzone.ca - commuters could find others who drove to the train station and carpool with them.

If every commuter who parked at the GO station did this, the group said, it would decrease the number of vehicles needing to park by 50 per cent and double everyone's chances to find a space. "GO was very pleased with this idea and encouraged

us to proceed," Mr. Groves said.

Earlier this month, four signs were posted in the Aurora GO station and on platform shelters that promote the carpool zone website as an alternative to finding a way to the GO station.

The GO Stationmaster has been acquainted with the program and has a quantity of leaflets to distribute if questions arise.

The group's phone number is on the signs as a contact for more information.



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Nokiidaa connection won't come together

Aurora Council last week received a staff report on the completion of Nokiidaa Trail Connection as information and authorized the Trails Sub-Committee to embark on a public notification and input process to obtain input from the public on the location of the proposed Nokiidaa Trail connecting link.

During the 2006 capital budget deliberations council approved \$250,000 for the construction of the final section of the Nokiidaa Trail connection, the Aurora section of the trail into Newmarket.

Council approved the funding conditional on the Town of Newmarket providing a viable trail connection to facilitate the joining up of the two municipal trails.

Unfortunately the Town of Newmarket was not able to commit that their portion of the trail would

be in place in 2006 and in fact the town remains non-committed in terms of an exact date that the connection will be made at the Aurora border, due to ongoing difficulty in obtaining a key parcel of private property required to facilitate the connection.

As a result this important connection remains on hold despite the fact the Town of Aurora would be in a position to move quickly in completing this final trail section.

Meanwhile, town staff was successful in receiving a funding allocation in the amount of \$80,000 from the region's Municipal Partnership Program for advancement of the regional Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan.

The funding was to be directed to the construction of the final section of the Nokiidaa Trail linking the two towns during the

2008 construction season. As a result of the delay, a request has been submitted to the region to carry the funds over into 2009 when it is expected the Newmarket property issue will be resolved.

At a previous meeting Councillor Wendy Gaertner gave Notice of Motion requesting a staff report on the status of the linkage for the Nokiidaa Trail between Aurora and Newmarket which was approved at the June general committee meeting.

Seniors Duplicate Bridge Results

April 14 - N/S: Sheldon Fast and Eva Guttman; Mary Oglanby and Joan Rotenberg; Carole Bell and Isobel Garrett. **E/W:** Lucille Sequeira and Bob Hull; Ev Dickie and Audrey Robertson; Rose White and Gloria Smith.



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The first goal is having fun



Poor Richard

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Train whistles fascinating

*There's something about a train whistle,
That brings pictures of exotic places;
But not everyone feels that way,
Off to council they go to present their cases.*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Over the years, at least since 1978, several residents have appeared before council to complain about loud train whistling at level crossings in Aurora, especially at night.

Little action has been taken by council.

Then in March, 2004, Aurora resident Lee Cudlip appeared before the town's general committee to request the elimination of train whistling at level crossings in Aurora.

Her case was picked up by Councillor Nigel Kean and council authorized staff to formerly initiate the process to ask Canadian National Railways to eliminate the train whistling by a freight train that passed through Aurora in the early hours of the morning and that \$15,000 be authorized to carry out the safety audits.

In addition, York Region was asked to take similar action for the level crossings at Wellington Street and the St. John's Sideroad, as they are regional roads.

Since then, the issue has bounced back and forth with the region questioning the status of legal liability if train whistling is eliminated.

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

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

Then, in May, the general committee endorsed a staff recommendation that council solicit public feedback for an anti-whistle policy in Aurora.

When the committee report came to council, members flip-flopped and referred the issue back to staff members for further information.

A lot of time and energy has been expended on this initiative and I have to wonder if it was worth the effort, as I have a fascination with trains and have no objection to train whistles at any hour of the day.

The whistle means travelling and my thoughts go to exotic places.

When I was a kid in York Township, my Dad and I went for a walk every Sunday morning to the Lambton train station, near Lambton Park, to watch the trains go by.

The station was no longer in use and the freight trains slowed down before entering the freight yards in West Toronto, so we got to know some of the train crews as they waved as they passed slowly by.

When I was a little older I used to go to the roundhouse near Runnymede Road and St. Clair Avenue where my Uncle Skene was locomotive foreman.

On occasion, he was required to move an engine from one track to another and I was allowed to sit in the engine cab with him and he let me blow the whistle.

During my days in the Royal Canadian Air Force at Manning Depot, Toronto, as a drill and PT instructor, I was often detailed to escort a draft of airmen by train to their training station after completing basic training at Manning Depot.

It was always a thrill whether the trip was to Winnipeg, North Bay or Dartmouth, to travel by train and enjoy the countryside and the whistling of the train at level crossings.

Then, later in life as a bureaucrat with the Ontario government, I rode the train from Vancouver to Newmarket due to an airline strike and it was the thrill of a lifetime.

I called it a two book, two bottle trip as I read two books and in my little compartment drank two bottles of sherry.

And we must not forget that Aurora has a long history with trains as it was in May, 1853, when the steam engine "Toronto" chugged its way from York, now Toronto, to Machell Corners, now Aurora, to make this community the "Head of Rail".

The trip took hours to complete.

Aurora was almost home to a Railway Museum as the municipality was offered several train engines, coaches and a dining car but that's another story.

Frankly, I can't get too excited over train whistles as I love trains.



The date on the back of each photo is July 6, 1963, and this parade was definitely on Wellington Street heading towards Yonge. Councillor Bob McRoberts, who supplied the pictures, guesses this may have been Aurora's first Centennial parade. In the meantime, we have learned that John's Groceria (The Auroran, Page 4, July 8) was at the corner of Yonge and Wellington, in the building currently owned by the Armadas. John was Johnny Matheson and the store eventually became a Dominion. Meanwhile, Bill Summers, who was in the photo on Page 4 July 15, identified the three question marks as Raymond Rogers, Earl Scarlett and a Yonge Street hairdresser named Rankin, who apparently lived above Paul's Barber Shop. Scarlett, Bill said, was a taxi driver. Bill also believes the photo was taken in 1946-47, and not 1942 as printed. Thanks to everyone for your help.

THE AURORAN

Letter to the Editor

This group opposes OPA megawatt plan

Open Letter to Members of Legislative Assembly of Ontario

We are a non-partisan, grass-roots citizens' collective gaining a rapidly expanding family membership from across York Region.

MegaWHAT? was formed to oppose the Ontario Power Authority's plan, directed by Energy Minister Gerry Phillips, to locate a 350 megawatt, fossil-fuel burning electricity plant in northern York Region.

According to emissions data from SENES and the OPA, this plant will contribute significant amounts of Greenhouse Gases, Nitrogen Oxide and Particulate Matter 2.5 to our airshed.

As a consequence of the foregoing and much

The Ontario Medical Association states that there is "no safe level" of this type of pollution.

We have observed MPP Julia Munro (York-Simcoe), MPP Frank Klees (Newmarket-Aurora), MPP Peter Tabuns (Toronto-Danforth) and MPP Helena Jaszczak (Oak Ridges-Markham) publicly question this decision by the Hon. Gerry Phillips and the Ontario Power Authority.

Furthermore, Town of Georgina Council has declared its municipality an "unwilling host".

Mayor Jamie Young and Council of East Gwillimbury formally stand in opposition to the plan.

The list is ever growing.

else, we understand this power plant plan to be outdated, outmoded and wholly the result of not considering healthier alternatives and conservation strategies—in a rigorous manner.

We respectfully ask you, as responsible legislators, to defend the environmental and human health of Ontarians by supporting, in the autumn session, MPP Peter Tabuns' Private Member's Bill 79 that was first introduced on May 15, 2008.

Have a thoughtful summer vacation.

**Debbie Gordon,
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**Brad Smith,
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

I played golf a couple of weeks ago with two elected councillors who hail from a rural part of this province.

During our round, we discussed a great many topics, including natural gas-fired power generation plants and wind projects, wheat and corn yields, and the state of Tiger Wood's surgically repaired knee.

We also got around to one of my favourite topics - term limits for elected officials.

I definitely believe in the concept of term limits; we have to help the politicians help themselves. Many of them don't seem to know their own "best before" date.

As I have written in this space before, federal and provincial politicians should be limited to two four year terms if a majority government has occurred and three terms if they are serving minority terms.

Now that municipal politicians serve four years instead of three, they should also be limited to two terms.

The major reason for this is if you can't make a positive change within eight years, it ain't going to happen.

Besides, if the President of the United States can only serve two terms, why shouldn't everyone else be limited to this?

The two councillors didn't quibble too much with me on this, although they thought a three-term limit would be good, with the added proviso that the person could not seek the same office again.

Where our conversation took an interesting turn was regarding pensions and severance for defeated local politicians.

First, some statistics.

Federal back benchers make about \$150,000 annually while their provincial counterparts make about \$100,000.

Aurora's councillors are all deemed to be part-time and are paid \$23,719 annually.

Madame Mayor Phyllis Morris is full-time, and she also serves as our town's representative on York Region Council. Her total remuneration is about \$100,000 per annum.

Federal MPs only receive a pension if they manage to serve six years. That means they need to be elected twice.

Provincial MPP's used to have a pension plan but this was done away with under then premier Mike Harris.

Aurora councillors and the Aurora mayor have no such pension plan.

I was mentioning to my golfing partners that our last mayor had first served as a councillor and then mayor for 12 years, and he received nothing when he was defeated last November.

He was not entitled to either a pension or any type of severance.

These two first term councillors felt this was not right.

"He has given more than 20 years' public service to the community - at the very least, he should have received a severance package."

I tend to agree; it is not right.

On the one hand, as I stated above, I do not think politicians should be staying that long.

Public duty is about the nobility of public service and it is not about the length of service but the quality of that service that counts.

However, sometimes it can be difficult for a publicly elected official to find something to do afterwards. And they should be given something to tide them over.

So, what to do?

I am not advocating an increase in the salaries of our elected officials.

When they ran for the job, they all understood what the remuneration would be.

But a couple of things should be done.

First, the premier should restore pensions for all provincial members of the house.

If certain members do not want to accept the pension - fine, they can give it to charity or not accept it.

Unless, of course, we want to make being a politician a game in which only the very wealthy or those with their own business can run.

Second, a politician should receive a severance at the end of his term.

This would help them to figure out what they will do next.

Part-time councillors would be given a small honorarium.

We are extremely fortunate to have members of our community come forward to serve.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic



On the morning of Nadia and James' engagement party (a.k.a. the "Pre-Wedding Wedding") Mother Nature's mood was miserably misty.

She boxed Aurora in with such thick walls of fog that you wouldn't have been able to see the big white tent except for the poles.

Oh, so that's what those things are for...

Thankfully, the sun did come out and the fog did burn off by the afternoon.

When it did pour, most of our guests went inside to partake of the two billion calories worth of gooba and baklava my mother had baked for the sweet table.

Even so, we have so much leftover food that no one in my house will bother asking "what's for dinner" for the next three months.

It's a good thing that I managed to talk my father out of roasting pork and lamb for the occasion.

It really wasn't that hard to discourage him once I reminded him of the time when this highly acclaimed Macedonian tradition got him into trouble.

It happened maybe 18 years ago when my kids were very small.

I think Jennifer was perhaps five years old, Nadia three and a half and Tim only two.

My parents were preparing a traditional Macedonian celebration and we went over to help them get ready.

Not too long after we arrived, we heard a blood-curdling scream coming from the kitchen.

We all ran to see what was the matter and found all three of my kids wailing in horror in front of the kitchen sink.

"Mommy," cried Jennifer. "Baba killed the Three Little Pigs!"

My mother was mortified. Sure enough, she had innocently left her little pigs in the kitchen sink to be seasoned.

My father was struggling to stifle his laughter as the grandchildren accused my poor mother of being the Big Bad Wolf!

But his chuckling quickly subsided when my mother said: "No, Sweetie! Baba would NEVER do that! It was Dedo!"

Poor Dedo!

And so it was decided that there would be no customary roasting of either pigs or lambs at the engagement party.

After all, children would be present and the last thing my father needed was to slave over a hot, smoky barbecue and have someone to come along and say: "Hmm, that smells good! What are you roasting, Dedo? Mary's Little Lamb?"

I guess we'll just have to save that for the wedding!

Dancing with pigs

Nadia and James have decided to add the traditional Macedonian Pig Dance to their wedding itinerary.

This involves a group of traditionally attired Macedonians.

They dance into the reception bearing bottles of wine, knives and forks, and, of course, a beautifully seasoned and garnished roasted pig on a silver platter.

The music and dancing continue until the pig is "sold".

Let me explain.

In the old Macedonian tradition, the bride and groom don't have attendants.

They have godparents - a kym and a kyma.

It is the godfather's responsibility to purchase the roasted pig as the dinner for the guests.

So the dancing goes on as the godfather haggles with the pig bearer - a hilariously entertaining negotiation!

Since Nadia and James won't have godparents, the tradition will have to be adjusted somewhat but one thing is for certain: We are definitely having a Big Fat Macedonian Wedding!

Cathy welcomes e-mail at:
ccaurora@rogers.com



Bouquets & BRICKBATS

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Ron Wallace, editor and publisher of The Auroran, on being named President of the Aurora Rotary Club for the coming year.

BRICKBATS to Prime Minister Stephen Harper for increasing his claim for financial compensation by a million dollars from the Liberal Party in the Cadman affair on the grounds of misappropriation of personality. What personality?

BOUQUETS to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for paying tribute to York Region's six northern municipalities, Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King, Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville for their collaborative waste management and green bin program.

BRICKBATS to those in Ottawa for allowing thousands of blank forms used to issue work permits and other valuable documentation for visitors to Canada. The forms are highly coveted on the black market.

BOUQUETS to Aurora's Samantha Sendel on winning the Gold Medal in the individual competition in the Junior Women's category at a World Cup Trampoline event in Switzerland. She also combined with Mariah Madigan of Toronto to win Gold in the synchronized competition.

BRICKBATS to those in Ottawa who are supposed to be in control of Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) for allowing the agency to routinely destroy documents and tape recordings in sensitive cases. In a 9-0 decision, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled the policy violated the CSIS Act. CSIS, like the RCMP, must be held to account!

BOUQUETS to Bob Saunders on being elected President of the Aurora Probus Club. George Woolley is Vice President; Jim McCulloch, Secretary; Ron Canham, Treasurer; and Marilyn Munslow, Past President.

BRICKBATS to a justice system that permits an Ontario Judge to toss out evidence of illegal firearms and cocaine trafficking because the Ottawa Police Services drug officers flagrantly violated the defendant's constitutional rights. Charge the police officers!

BOUQUETS to Bill van Oorschot and Nancy Newman of SOYRA (Society of York Region Artists) for their response taking exception to Poor Richards remarks and inviting him to attend an executive meeting, which he declines with thanks. His big beef is more with the town than SOYRA for hanging the town's permanent art collection on a side wall of the second floor of the Town Hall instead of front and centre on space currently used by SOYRA members to sell their paintings.

BRICKBATS to Canadian politicians for their low standing in a public opinion poll when Canadians were asked: "Which politician do you admire the most?" Barack Obama topped the list with 26 per cent and Stephen Harper at 21 per cent. Hillary Clinton received 16 per cent to Jack Layton's nine per cent and Stephane Dion's five per cent.

BOUQUETS to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for reopening its investigation into why Maher Arar was apprehended in 2002 at a New York airport and sent to Syria where he was tortured, instead of to Canada, where he held citizenship, based on inaccurate information from the RCMP and intelligence officers. Better late than never!

BRICKBATS to a health system in Canada which would permit the country to have 4 million people without a permanent family doctor. According to Statistics Canada, 15 per cent of Canadians, 12 and older, reported they didn't have a family doctor in 2007.

BRICKBATS to Ministers of the Harper government for combining party fundraising with official business so they can stick taxpayers with the travel tab for the entire trip, and in many cases the government business was an afterthought.. Is there no honour among politicians?

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Letters to the Editor

Red Hot Canadian movement born here, parade leader says

To the citizens of this wonderful, unique and special Town of Aurora:

Thank you for believing that we can all make a Parade together!

As the organizer of your 2008 Canada Day Parade and one who has previewed to all of the details that led to its rebirth I wish to share the following information with you for future reference.

Together we did create a huge success and truly great Canadian parade.

For me, it started with the sudden realization that the parade had been cancelled on or about June 17th of 2007...

I was shocked - as you all know full well by now!

My letter was published by the editor of The Auroran - much to my surprise - and the following Sunday I received a call from your mayor - Phyllis Morris.

I had never spoken with her before and was surprised to get the call.

We spoke for almost an hour about the history of the parade in Aurora and how she too was unhappy the parade had been cancelled.

At that late time it was too late for us to get it back.

She asked me if I would be willing to head up a committee to bring

your parade back to Aurora. Not understanding what this meant, never having worked on such a committee or created a parade before in my life - I decided that if I have the energy to 'complain' then I should put that energy to a positive use and said "I don't know what I'm really agreeing to do but yes I will".

With the support of those who had previously volunteered to create the parade and some newcomers - I had the pleasure of a fantastic 'team' ready to build the new parade.

Everyone asks - why did it fail in 2007 - so I had to try to unravel the history for myself.

I found that there was much mis/non-communication between those who were vital to the creation of the parade.

The volunteers, Town Staff and the Town Council all wanted the parade but were not communicating effectively with one another nor with YOU, their community.

So, it boiled down to lack of communication.

I don't believe there was ever any deliberate attempt to 'stop' the parade, just not sufficient communication and not enough citizen awareness to assist in its creation and support.

It is a lot of work - it truly takes a whole Town to create - but it's also a lot of fun!

So I set out to open channels of communication by making Parade News and Parade Events to get everyone thinking about their Canadian identity and working together once again towards the common good - a whole and healthy community showing their true Canadian Pride.

A parade kick off party in April was key to our success this year.

As many of you know, I showed up dressed in "Canadians" to surprise and engage discussion whenever possible.

I read up on Aurora's past; contacted many of the forefathers/mothers of Aurora.

Discussions with as many people as possible helped as a guide to understand what they loved about the parades of the past and discover their visions and dreams of a really great parade in Aurora.

To that end, the Red Hot Canadian movement was born first here in Aurora!

Armed with a new citizen based awareness and a bevy of keen supporters, the Canada Day Parade Subcommittee

and all of its Very Important Volunteers pushed forward garnering more and more community support to create this amazing Parade.

Now Aurora can once again claim the title of Canada's Birthday Town with pride!

In future, I believe we may have the best Canada Day Parade in all of Canada....we can build it.

A Great Canadian Canada Day Parade must be 'inclusive'...inclusive of all who are Canadian in and around our little Town!

We need to invite and embrace all the people of different cultural backgrounds who have now made this space their home.

Red Hot Canadians should never be separated by race, creed, culture or politics!

We all live here together and we need to share the space honouring one another.

We can do this by offering respect and help to each other rather than harsh words and negative criticisms.

In this way we can create a place everyone wishes to live in! It is up to each one of us.

Aurora is a great place to live, full of good, caring people!

I am thrilled that in our parade in 2008 we had

representation of most factions of our community!

We had our political leaders, community leaders, schools, businesses; our special needs citizens, our amazing seniors, our award winning youth - and even a youth band!

We surrounded all of them with music, marching bands, pipers, history and even the Governor General's Horse Guard.

We had a parade fit for Royalty - and we all deserve that.

We created it together in the spirit of abundance.

I wish to thank you all for supporting the idea of the Red Hot Canadians and bringing back our sense of national pride in Aurora.

I intend to build on that with your help to bring us an even better parade for 2009!

They will come from far and wide to see the Town of Aurora honouring itself, its citizens and our home, Canada.

Sher St. Kitts Snowball

ED. NOTE: Even though the letter's author lives in the hamlet of Snowball, on Wellington Street, in King Township, she was made an honorary citizen of Aurora by the mayor following the Canada Day parade.

Pre-schoolers must be in the loop

To the editor,

I was happy to read an update on the progress of Wells Street school in the July 1 edition of The Auroran.

The future public information sessions, tentatively planned for Fall 2008 / Spring 2009, are

important to the community.

However, I wonder if The Town of Aurora and the YRDSB will specifically include their future

students in the advance notice for these information sessions?

Parents, such as myself, who have preschool children who are in the catchment area for Wells Street school, need to be kept informed.

School readiness starts many years before kindergarten, and many of us are already making pre-school, daycare and other plans for our children that can not be easily changed.

While the present students of Aurora Grove school will certainly be affected by the re-opening (or not) of Wells Street, the youngest members of our community deserve consideration in this process, too.

Elizabeth McKenzie
Aurora

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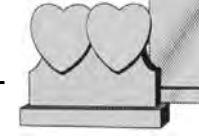
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Letters to the Editor

Group seeks answers to water supply questions

To the editor,

Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink?

Further to a meeting called recently with a group of concerned citizens on our water and distribution problems during the summers, I submit a brief report of some questions and findings that we have found.

We found that, in all areas in question: i.e., Aurora, Newmarket, Georgina and West Gwillimbury, the apparent overuse of water during dry summer weather has, and will continue to be a problem. Policing has had little or no effect on the overuse of potable water (drinking water) during these times because we don't have an alternative

non-potable water system in place.

Drinking water, only, is used to water our lawns and gardens.

The bi-daily watering sequence for lawns and gardens, i.e., odd numbered houses and buildings on odd numbered days 1,3,5,7, etc., has been disregarded in some cases, and thus, puts a great burden on the reservoir storage areas to the point that the emergency reserve levels are compromised.

The low level in the reservoirs and towers has made it necessary, on at least one occasion, to shut off water to residences entirely. The fire department has the power to authorize this. (And rightly so.)

This, of course, brings up

a number of questions that the concerned citizens are trying to find answers.

A meeting is being anticipated with the Regional Director to alleviate these concerns.

We have come up with many questions but in order to pre-submit to the Regional Director, we have limited them to the following five questions:

If your readers have any further concerns that we can submit it would be appreciated if you could forward them to us.

Please remember, in the questions that your readers may forward, there is no apparent water shortage from our Artesian wells and water from Lake Ontario but rather

the means to refill the reservoirs and towers faster than they are depleted.

Questions are:

- Is it, in fact, true during approval for Subdivision Agreements, for an area to be built (past and present), Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) requires a water test of continuing running water of three days that measure a minimum flow and volume, plus 25 per cent for emergency? Is this flow and volume added to an accumulated total for all subdivisions in the area in question?

- When total volumes and flow rates are combined with sites and other areas, is adequate supply from Artesian wells and Lake Ontario water enough for the treatment cen-

tres and pumping stations to supply the reservoirs and water towers?

- Is the piping and are the reservoirs adequate to accommodate the present systems? Are they adequate

for future expansions?

- Does the future include drawing water from Lake Simcoe or Huron?

- Does York Region send a quarterly update information service to local newspa-

pers to update citizens as to the timetables and progress of York Region water supply issues?

**E.A. (Ted) Strachan
Aurora**

They enjoyed the story about Maude, the horse

To the editor,

Thanks so much to Elizabeth Hearn Milner for her story about the Lions Park (The Auroran, July 15).

We are the proud owners of 30 Reuben Street today and have been for the past 22 years.

It's so nice to learn more of the history of our house and this community.

We, of course, knew that Mr. Norman Hope was a former owner but we knew nothing of Maude. The Willis' were our neighbours when we moved in and Mrs. Willis filled us in on much of the history.

The neighbours around the Lions Park, with leadership from the Peddes' on Kennedy Street, the Town Parks staff and the students at George Street Public School, have all contributed to bringing back some of the local natural heritage that was mentioned in the article by naturalizing the stream banks and cutting as little grass as possible while still maintaining the playing fields.

The park is returning to some of its natural beauty after 20 years of "naturalizing".

We sincerely hope that one day we can once again enjoy many of the natural

creatures that once occupied the little valley such as spotted salamander, etc.

The diversity of the flora and fauna has increased dramatically in the past few years and fish have returned to our stream.

Congratulations to Aurora

Parks for naturalizing our stream corridors -- this will pay off in the future.

Thanks again for a great story about Maude and our community.

T. Smith
Aurora



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Enjoyed the article

To the editor,

I write to say that I very much enjoyed Ms. Milner's story of days gone past in Aurora (the Auroran, July 15).

Her story instantly evoked vivid memories from that time in me, and the clear focus on the

sounds, surroundings and activities of the moments she described was quite charming.

Nostalgia is under-valued today.

Thank you very much, Elizabeth.

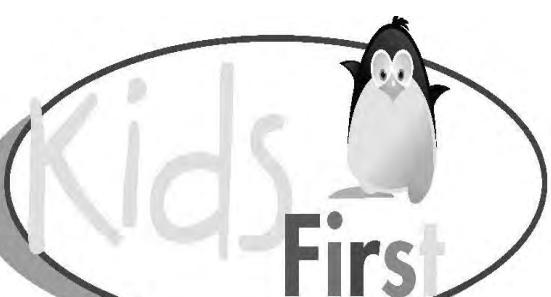
**Frank Johansen
Aurora**



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Dr. Craig Dingman

We are being taught to fear the effects of the sun and think of them as dangerous. It is important to remember that the sun produces essential vitamin D in our bodies; the vitamin D you receive from food enrichment or supplementation is not quite the same as what we receive naturally from the sun. Furthermore, we are being told that exposure to the sun can cause melanoma, a form of cancer that kills tens of thousands of people each year. The research is very inconclusive on this theory. Skin cancer and melanoma rates continue to rise dramatically despite (or perhaps because of?) increased sunscreen use. If sunscreen was effective in reducing our risk, we should see cancer rates declining as the use of sunscreen increases. If this is not the case, why use sunscreen? Why slather chemicals on your skin, the body's largest organ, unless there is a really good reason? The skin is also highly absorptive. Anything that goes on your skin goes into your body. So a good rule of thumb is to try not to put anything on your skin that you wouldn't put in your mouth.

Perhaps the most compelling research about the sun and cancer is surfacing in the field of nutrition. Back in 1993, an Australian study pointed to the possibility that omega-3 essential fatty acids may convey protection against normal skin cells turning to cancerous cells. In 2001, a comprehensive review by the National Academy of Sciences concluded that omega-3 fats are protective against tumor-changing cells. Omega-6 fatty acids did not protect at all; in fact, they stopped the omega-3 fatty acids from doing their protective job. Therefore, it has been concluded that the ratio of omega-3 to omega-6 fatty acids in the diet is the most important factor in your risk for melanoma. Let me re-state this another way: if you eat too many foods containing omega-6 fatty acids compared to omega-3 fatty acids, you are increasing your risk for melanoma, and the amount of sunscreen you use is not the issue.

Omega-3 foods: fish, flaxseed oil, hemp oil, walnut oil

Omega-6 foods: corn, soy, canola, sunflower and safflower oils

Once again, it is about what you do from the inside-out for health and not outside-in. Sunscreen is an outside-in approach that should be used as a last resort. It is important to state here that you should never let your skin burn. Burning is extremely damaging. We have a family cottage, and when we go out for an afternoon on the boat, it is impossible to escape the sun. That is when we would use sunscreen. There are many natural sunscreen products to try from health food stores that do not contain the chemicals found in most. In fact, there is some new research suggesting that broccoli juice is one of the most effective sunscreens available! (I can just see the town water park full of little green "hulks" running around). It makes the most sense, however, to cover up with light cotton or Sunveil clothing when in the sun. Avoid the most intense sun rays of the day (10 am until 2 pm). Increase your exposure to the sun gradual-

ly at the beginning of the season. Finally, take a look at your diet. If you are eating a lot of the omega-6 rich foods, make sure they are balanced with an appropriate amount of omega-3 rich foods. Most people do not eat enough fish, so supplementing with a good fish oil high in DHA and EPA is the way to go. If you put good things into your body, you generally will get good things out. Do not forget that cancer is a process that is caused by the immune system not being able to suppress or fight cells that are abnormal in our bodies. The better your body functions, the better your immune system will be able to fight tumour-producing cells.

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

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Southeast Aurora a Doors Open highlight

By MICHAEL SEAMAN
Community Planner

With its many beautiful and historic buildings and mature trees, Historic Old Aurora is one of the most enjoyable places to walk in all of York Region.

In assembling the list of sites for this year's doors open, event organizers have sought to build on this amenity by concentrating many of the sites within easy walking distance in this area.

A focal point of Doors Open Aurora 2008 is the southeast part of Old Aurora, which is Aurora's oldest neighbourhood and one which contains a significant concentration of historic public and private gathering places.

The best place to start your tour is the Doors Open Aurora information booth at the Aurora Farmers Market, now located on Wells Street between Wells Street Public School and the Town Park.

Visitors to this six-year-old traditional farmers market, which runs from 8 a.m. to noon, can enjoy a taste of local produce and baked goods, or buy one of the unique creations of local artisans like Carrie Eastwood whose locally made jewellery has gained a popular following in Aurora.

Leaving from the Doors Open Aurora booth at the Farmers Market at 11 a.m. will be a walking tour, conducted by renowned Aurora Historian Dr. W. John McIntyre.

Dr. McIntyre has a vast knowledge of Aurora's history and architecture. He is a past president of the Aurora and District Historical Society, taught for many years at Seneca College and has written and lectured widely on aspects of Canadian architecture, furniture and social history.

He is currently Curator of the Sharon Temple Museum and a member of the Heritage Advisory Committee of Aurora.

There are a wide variety of sites that can be seen in the southern part of Old Aurora on Doors Open Day.

The Grimshaw House, located at 15 Mosley Street, and one of the most popular sites on last year's tour is a welcome return for 2008.

Built around 1857, the Grimshaw House is a good example of the Georgian influenced homes built on the original village survey, after the arrival of Ontario's first railway in 1853.

Like many early Aurora houses, the Grimshaw House was built of wood, and designed with the influence of the Georgian and Neo-Classical styles of architecture.

In recent years the property was acquired by Paula Bell, who did so with the intention of adapting the building for use as a home décor store.

In the building's new use as "Bluetiful Living", the adaptation undertaken is particularly complementary to the building's historic residential character.

Ms Bell came up with the idea to feature home décor

products in a particular room that would typically have been seen in that room.

Items for the kitchen, for example are featured in the kitchen.

Opened in 2006, Bluetiful Living is part of an exciting new trend in downtown Aurora of businesses clustering which feature products and services related to home decoration and renovation.

Another new and unique home décor store in south Aurora which is part of Doors Open this year is "Pomegranates and Clementines", located at 15120 Yonge Street.

The building is a reconstruction/adaptation of the historic Atkinson House, and the owners of the property used many features of the original building in the new structure. If the wood floors look like they have been there 100 years, they have been.

Located in the lower level of the Aurora Library at 15145 Yonge Street, the Pine Tree Potters Guild will also provide visitors with an opportunity to add to their home décor as the guild opens up their studio for Doors Open Day.

Visitors to the site can see artisans create works of pottery art.

Moving eastwards along Church Street is Trinity Anglican Church, a welcome returning site from the 2006 Doors Open event. The first Trinity Anglican Church was built in 1846 on the same site as the current church. This small, wood frame Gothic style church cost \$1,600 to build.

As Aurora's population grew, attendance at church increased as well, and in 1879 the congregation began fundraising for a larger church.

The small frame church was demolished, and work began on the construction of the new building which was completed in 1884.

A growing congregation led to further changes to the church in 2001, when a new Gothic inspired church was built on the property.

The award winning design for the new church building is an outstanding example of modern addition to a heritage building, clearly modern in its origin but respectful of the past.

The 1884 church is now used as a chapel, and it



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remains the best example of Gothic Revival church architecture in Aurora.

During your visit to Trinity Anglican Church, notice the stained glass windows, elaborate dormers, and stencilled ceiling and interior walls of the 1884 chapel.

A new addition for Doors Open Aurora 2008 at Trinity Anglican Church is the Anglican Rectory, built in 1862 and located east of the Church at 44 Metcalfe Street.

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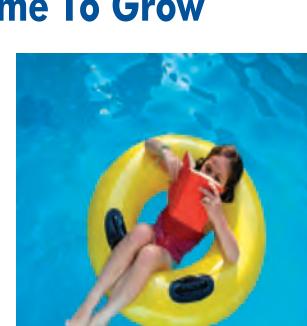
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After taking time to visit other nearby south old Aurora sites such as The Pines, at 78 Wells Street, the Aurora Farmers Market and the Aurora Armoury, at 89 Mosley, visitors to Doors Open Aurora will enjoy the Rising Sun Masonic Lodge, located at 57 Mosley Street, which has one of the most spectacular interiors on this year's tour.

Originally a Methodist Episcopal Church built in 1877 in the Gothic Revival Style, the building's life as a place of worship was relatively short lived.

In 1885, it was acquired

by the local Masonic lodge who have owned it ever since.

The interior of the building is rich with Masonic Symbols and is little changed from how it appeared a century ago.

A final stop on the Doors Open Aurora tour in Southeast Old Aurora, and sure to be the most popular with model train enthusiasts is the Lions Hall, located at 33 Mosley Street.

The building was constructed around 1870 by the Aurora Mechanics Institute and Library Association, an organization with origins in

England to advance the education of "mechanics" as all tradesmen, craftsmen and factory workers were known at that time.

Since that time it has seen countless meetings, auctions, sales, lectures, dances, plays and concerts.

On display on Doors Open day will be the spectacular "HO" scale model train layout of the Scarborough Model Railroaders.

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

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THE AURORAN

SPORTS

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Week of July 22, 2008

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Pictured with San Jose Shark Joe Thornton and the trophy they shared in winning are the Aurora Tigers 2007-2008 Peewee AA OMHA Champions and OHF Provincial Silver Medalists. They are, left to right, Cameron Nuttall, Taylor Coveart, Jody Nonnewitz, Stefan Lazzer, Scott Schmitt, William Reid, Burke White, Greg Baskin, Keifer McIntosh, Jordan Dunin, Liam Killops and Connor Fennell. Absent when the picture was taken were Collin Laird, Eric Ludwig, Stuart Mattila, Andrew McDonald and Brooke Webster.

Team meets star at opening

The Aurora Tigers Peewee AA team was invited to attend the grand opening of the Pro Hockey Life store in Mississauga recently.

The team had an opportunity to meet Joe Thornton of the San Jose Sharks, who 15 years earlier, had won the same Peewee AA OMHA 'Doug Harvey Championship' trophy when he played in St. Thomas.

The trophy still bears his name, as it will the members of the Aurora Peewee AA team.

The Tigers team had a very successful season with a record of 53 wins, 15 losses, and eight ties.

That included 18 shutouts, as well as attaining the divisional lowest goals against mark.

The team successfully battled through a tough playoff series against Newmarket, who they were unable to secure a win against during regular season.

After losing their first playoff game, the Tigers went on to take the series with three consecutive wins, capturing the final game with just two seconds to go.

After defeating the Pickering Panthers in the semi-finals, the Tigers moved forward to take on a very strong Oakville Rangers team for the OMHA title and secured the OMHA

Championship in four riveting games.

The Aurora team continued on to Timmins in April, as the OMHA representative in the OHF Championships, and

won a Silver Medal after losing to the Humber Valley Sharks.

The squad also won the Georgetown 'Best of the Best Thanksgiving Tournament', and qualified for an invita-

tion to the 'Quebec International Peewee Tournament' where they played teams from England, Slovakia, and Switzerland.

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Junior Jays rally to down Etobicoke

The Aurora Junior Jays bounced back from a 6-1 deficit to defeat the Etobicoke Rangers 14-7 in Toronto-Leaside baseball action Monday night at Connordale Park.

Evan Boileau and Johnny Bethune drove in three runs each to pace the Jays' offence.

Boileau's triple cashed two runners in the third inning and his RBI single in the fourth inning sparked the Jays' comeback as they rallied to tie the game 7-7.

The Jays jumped ahead to stay in a "bat-around" sixth inning as they plated six more runners as the Rangers' relievers couldn't find the strike zone.

Eric Wakeman added two RBI's and scored two runs.

Dylan Kelly, Darrin Goodale, Tyler Cattapan, and Ryan Pontone scored two runs each.

Jesse Barker earned the win in middle relief and struck out two Rangers over two innings of work. Eric Wakeman pitched a perfect final frame by striking out the side to nail down the Jays' second consecutive victory.

Shortstop Johnny Bethune was the outstanding defensive player of the game.

Thursday, the Jays defeated the Scarborough Stingers 8-4.

Zack McKay pitched a complete game to lead the Jays. He struck out 14 Stingers - a season high for Aurora Jay pitchers.

Tyler Cattapan and Ryan Pontone scored two runs each to pace the Jays' attack.

Darrin Goodale's triple to lead off the fifth inning was followed by Evan Boileau's double.

Boileau's hit was the game-winning RBI as the Stingers mounted a comeback to narrow the Jays' lead to four in the eighth inning.

However, McKay shut the door with some impressive late-game heat to close out a hard-fought game that also involved a managerial ejection in the fourth inning.

The ejection seemed to spark the Jays who plated three runs in the bottom of the fourth on three consecutive extra-base hits.

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Aurora Jays Select

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 London 8, Aurora 5 (Home runs: Matt Miller, Trevor Best)
 Brantford 12, Aurora 3 (3-run triple: Scott Tonello)
 Listowel 18, Aurora 6 (Home run: James Harkin)

Peewee Jays Select

July 13 (Double header)
 Aurora 13, Bolton 2
 Aurora 13, Bolton 10

Minor Mosquito Dalton Engineering Jays

Aurora 9 Royal York 9

Bantam

July 10 - Canadian Mechanical Solutions 14, Scotiabank 13
 July 15 - Scotiabank 15, Canadian Mechanical Solutions 5

Peewee

Scores for Monday July 14th:
 Gabby's 5, Royal LePage - Larry Willert 3
 Minto 9, Greenpoint 5
 Rotary 10, Aurora Cable 9

Scores for Wednesday July 16th:
 McAlpine 13, Rotary 9

Peewee Standings

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS
Gabby's	11	9	2	0	18
Rotary	11	7	4	0	14
Royal LePage	12	7	5	0	14
McAlpine	12	6	5	1	13
Minto	13	5	5	3	13
Greenpoint	12	5	5	2	12
Aurora ACI	13	0	13	0	0

Mosquito

ReMax Derek & Leslie Ho 5, Lakeshore Valumart 20
 Laurion Law Office 15, Aurora Home Hardware 11



The U9 boys soccer team battled through Friday and Saturday's games at the Aurora CanAm Tournament last weekend. The team was undefeated as they went to the final game against Ajax Impact on Saturday afternoon, coming out of it with a second place finish. Currently undefeated in their regular season, the team is, back row, Trainer Ennia Accardi, Coach Thomas Seidel; middle row, left to right, Dimitri Mikrogiannikis, Niklas Seidel, Gabriel Jodhan, Andrew Sergejewich, Giuliano Accardi, Coach Casey Futterer; front row, left to right, Matthew Minchella, Kairav Juta, Jordan Torres, Cameron Dyer, Jack Camplin, and Brady Futterer.



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After 23 years, CHATS first executive director to resign

The CHATS Board of Directors has announced the resignation of Executive Director Deborah Egan, effective the end of July.

She will take on a new challenge as director of the new Capacity Building Initiative for the

Central Support Services Network representing 44 organizations.

Egan has been with CHATS for the past 23 years and was the agency's first executive director.

She has worked with

the board and staff building CHATS into one of the best known and respected organizations in York Region and an organization that is a household name in the homes of seniors.

A Search Committee has been established to seek out a new leader to carry forward the CHATS vision and values in an exciting time of opportunity and partnership.

Anyone seeking further information should contact the Board Search Committee through Denise Tierney, Executive Assistant at d_tierney@chats.on.ca.

Deborah Compton will take over as interim Executive Director.

She has been a senior management member of CHATS for the past

10 years and has worked closely with the board and staff in various capacities over the past several years.

The CHATS Board acknowledged with thanks the contribution that Deborah Egan has made to CHATS and it looks forward to working with her in her new role.

CHATS (Community Home Assistance To Seniors) is playing a key role in expansion of its services through the Aging at Home strategy, launched last summer in a three-year, \$700 million initiative of the provincial government.

The provincial program allows seniors to live healthy, independent lives in the comfort and dignity of their own homes.

The strategy aims to

match the needs of seniors and their caregivers with the appropriate local support services, including community support services, home care, assistive devices, and assisted living/supportive housing.

CHATS have received provincial recognition by being selected to exhibit two programs at the Celebrating Innovations in Health Care Expo 2008.

The CHATS Wellness Framework, as well as its partnership program with Human Endeavour, were picked for display at the event.

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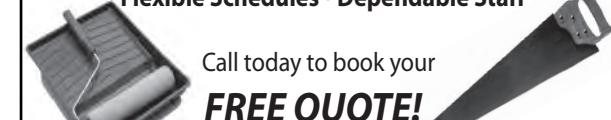
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Replica guns

From page 1
 Regional Police, attended council to make a presentation regarding the prohibition of selling and possession of replica guns in Aurora.

In his presentation, Inspector Pedersen said replica guns were a complex issue, a threat to the community and a concern to police officers.

The federal Criminal Code refers to replica guns as being "exact" copies of the real gun.

Provincial legislation covers imitation or replica guns that "reasonably" could be mistaken.

He questioned why anyone, other than collectors, would purchase replica guns.

There was no good reason for them to be waved around in schools or parks and it was not always young people and it indicated a sub-culture of violence, he said.

While there was a need for the federal and provincial governments to improve their legisla-

tion to limit the gaps, action was welcomed at the local level to help overcome some of the gaps.

There were several questions from councillors as to the type of store that sold replica guns, the number of incidents involving replica guns and enforcement under a local bylaw.

Inspector Pedersen replied that it was normally hobby shops that sold replica guns and he was not aware of any such shops in Aurora, but they were easy to get and noted a raid on a Markham store where 60 guns were seized for being imported and sold illegally.

He expressed some concern about bylaw enforcement officers enforcing a local bylaw as some replica guns were difficult to detect from the real gun and even trained police officers often had difficulty telling one from the other.

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Senior Scape

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Protection of financial assets is a matter of paramount importance.

No senior needs to be advised that earning power is a thing of the past, and therefore conservation of remaining assets is a matter of crucial importance.

Most retirees are no-nonsense and practically minded, particularly concerning financial matters, and to maximize this desirable characteristic and to achieve the greatest possible benefit, the Investors Group invites you to a special presentation to be held Thursday, July 31, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., entitled: "Protecting Your Estate: Keeping it safe from Creditors, Taxation and Your Family".

Nobody needs to be warned that anybody, including seniors, can lose their wealth in a variety of ways, stripping away their financial independence

and leaving behind a shell of a formerly proud and independent retiree.

A presentation on conservation and protection of wealth will serve to heighten awareness and improve self accountability concerning how wealth is held, invested, loaned or disbursed haphazardly, squandered indiscriminately or lost in any manner whatsoever.

World economies, including the Canadian economy, are confronted with challenging issues and now would be an appropriate occasion to listen to financial advice concerning how to design and manage a personal estate to minimize taxes and protect assets.

This presentation will address financial mistakes, including reducing taxes and protecting assets.

It is designed to benefit everybody in some way

and will be delivered by Daniel Collison, CFP, TEP.

Aurora Council at its weekly meeting last week, recognized the Canada Day Parade organizers and the floats that were judged best in different categories including the Aurora Seniors, and put an official seal of approval on a robust and dignified turning point in community pride and involvement in community affairs.

The Canada Day Parade in Aurora this year was an unqualified success generating a high level of good feelings and general optimism among everybody connected with the parade.

Confidence to repeat and even improve the parade next year now rests on a rock solid bed, created by the success of this extraordinarily fine year.

Talented and motivated people equipped with the tools to achieve further

success, have been motivated strongly to ensure that what transpired on the streets of Aurora this year will blossom again next year.

This year a call to our hearts, our pride in self and community and our great country Canada together with its great democratic tradition, resulted in a sea change of enthusiasm and passion demonstrated clearly by the surge of spontaneous uninhibited fervour that was exhibited along Yonge Street, and down through the heart of Aurora.

A very commendable trait of the ASA coordinators is their constant supply of 'Trips and Special Events', the latest of which was the annual picnic and BBQ held last Thursday.

The picnic was held, among the trees of the Arboretum at the rear of the seniors centre under a gloriously sunny sky.

Always in attendance at such events are many friends and members who seldom miss any event and

always present are many new faces, young and old.

Altogether the picnic was well attended with lots of participation early in the day in the crazy games we play.

In the afternoon the temperature got to be a little too warm and just a few of us got soaked tossing water filled balloons and sponges to each other, but we did provide lots of amusement for those watching.

Before I dealt with the water filled balloons, I had conversation with Derek Murray, a man who I recognized but to whom I had not spoken previously.

Later, I joined members of the dance committee who mixed a little business with pleasure, which I expect to address in my next column.

And I want to issue an apology to Don Zecchino who won a medal for carpet bowling at the senior games only to see his name misspelled on two occasions. I hope these words compensate a little.

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Challenge issued by Blood Services

Being a hero on the job, by saving lives and leading by example, is something emergency services staff have to be ready for on any given day.

For the sixth straight year Canadian Blood Services is challenging Police, Fire, and EMS to give blood during Sirens for Life, the annual emergency services blood donor challenge in central Ontario.

And, they can do it in Aurora, Thursday, July 24 at the Aurora Legion, between the hours of 2.30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Frontline emergency services will be jockeying for beds at local blood donor clinics until September 1st as they compete against each other to donate the most blood.

Although the competition for bragging rights is friendly, all Police, Fire and EMS employees know the importance of every donation.

The goal of Canadian Blood Services and Sirens For Life 2008 blood donor challenge participants is to collect 2000 units of blood by September 1st to help meet patient needs this summer.

All across the region, special events will be held to mark the participation of these day-to-day heroes in saving lives not only within their local community but everywhere in Canada.

You can support the Sirens for Life blood challenge by making blood donation a personal priority this summer.

Call 1-888-2-DONATE to make an appointment, learn clinic locations, or to learn more about eligibility requirements.

Canadian Blood Services is a national not-for-profit charitable organization that manages the blood supply in all Canadian provinces and territories (except Québec) and oversees OneMatch - the

Stem Cell and Marrow Network.

A team of 4,800 staff and 17,000 volunteers enable Canadian Blood Services to operate 40 permanent collection sites and more than 20,000 donor clinics annually.

While Canadian Blood Services is a non-governmental organization, it receives operational funding from the Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Health, and is regulated by Health Canada.

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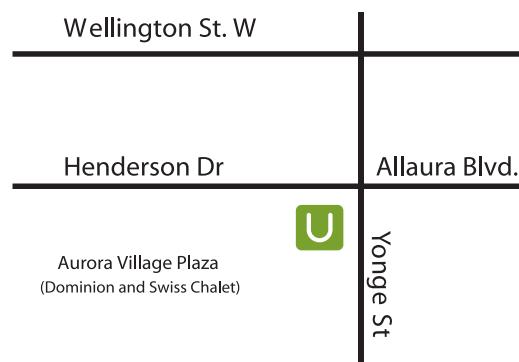
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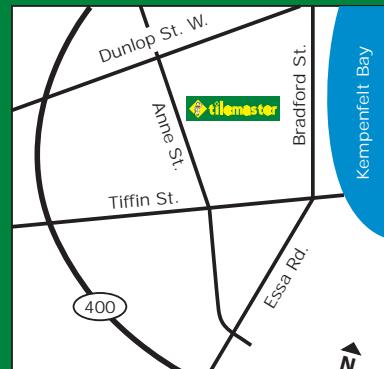
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