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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 8 No. 41

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FREE

Week of August 19, 2008



Fundraiser supreme. Town of Aurora staffer Heather Green singlehandedly raised more than \$12,000 for York Region's United Way. Heather made a pledge two months ago that if she personally raised more than \$10,000 for United Way, she would have her hair shaved. It's the third year in a row that she has won individual fund-raising recognition. Her hair came off Friday. Meanwhile, her Dragonboat racing team won the B division paddling championship and secured the honour of raising the most funds by a team (\$13,328) during competitions held Saturday at Seneca College, west of Aurora.

Auroran photos by Rob Schuetze

CAO Rogers terminated

One day after he was released from his contract with the Town of Aurora, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) John Rogers was offered a job as a consultant.

Although he was a little more than half way through a six-year contract with the Town, Mr. Rogers is not worried about finding future employment.

And, in spite of the turn of events, the former CAO, once on the Board of Directors for York Region's United Way, showed up Saturday to participate in the town's entry in the annual United Way Dragonboat races at Seneca College.

"I was asked to be there," he said, "and they said they needed another paddler."



John Rogers

The Town's entry in the event pulled off a victory in its division. Mr. Rogers had been hired by

the former council more than two years earlier, and it was his idea to finish the contract then retire.

He is 61 and would be 64 when the contract ended.

Because of the circumstances surrounding the contract termination, Mr. Rogers had little to say publicly.

"This is not the way I wanted to do it, but I will now spend some time working on the house and cottage in Haliburton," he told The Auroran.

The contract was terminated Wednesday and Mayor Phyllis Morris informed town staff Thursday by written memo, which started off "On behalf of the Town of Aurora Council, please be advised that Mr. John Rogers employment with the Town of Aurora ended as of

yesterday, August 13, 2008".

He paid tribute to his staff and said he couldn't comment on whether anyone would follow him out the door.

He said he was back in the Town Hall over the weekend to clear more stuff from his office.

"It was all my furniture," he said, "so I got it out and put it in storage."

Mr. Rogers was hired after Aurora Council hired a CAO, Scott Sommerville, on a six-month contract following the resignation of Larry Allison, who accepted a similar position in the Town of Innisfil, just south of Barrie.

Since Aurora first introduced the CAO position, there have been a few rough times.

Dick Illingworth looks at the history behind the post on Page 9.

New police building is coming to Aurora

It's been a long time coming but in the near future York Regional Police will submit a site plan application for a 237,000-square foot building on Leslie Street, south of Wellington Street.

But it won't be a new headquarters location for the overcrowded group.

Police Chief Armand La Barge said the new facility would accommodate such specialty units as homicide, traffic, sexual assault, forensic identification, canine, air support and emergency response currently accommodated in leased space in four locations around the region.

The proposed building will also accommodate a new forensic lab and about 430 staff. It will be designed to accommodate future growth, and it's estimated the construction costs plus the purchase of land, building permits, and other costs will total approximately \$81 million.

It was in May, 2006, when Aurora Council agreed to sell 2.4 acres of town-owned property on Leslie Street to York Region for an estimated \$25 million to accommodate a new York Regional Police facility designed to accommodate more than 400 officers and support staff.

The town-owned site will be added to 5.1 acres purchased from Hallgrove Estates to the north.

The new facility will replace four leased facilities in the area including a property on Industrial Parkway South in Aurora.

If all goes as planned it was expected the building would be complete in 2008 or 2009 and it is now hoped that construction will start this winter.

Town officials were hopeful the building of the police facility would be a catalyst for development of the town's 87-acre business park.

Briefly

Book on its way

Aurora's popular Writers' Group organization is on the verge of launching its second "Aurora Storyalis".

The anthology is expected to be released this fall.

Author Malcolm Watts, a member of the Aurora Writers' Group, has further information about the book. Call 905-898-5484.

Meanwhile, the group welcomed Heather Lambert to its meeting earlier this week.

She shared her recent experiences attending the Romance Writers of America Conference in San Francisco.

AWG welcomes new members aged 18 and over to join.

It doesn't matter to the group where your level of writing experience or genre of interest is.

Superwalk again

The Aurora/Newmarket Superwalk for Parkinson's Disease takes place again this year at Fairy Lake in Newmarket Sunday, September 14.

Registration, a Yoga demonstration by The Royal Pathways Inc. and speeches begin at 9.30 a.m. under the main pavilion closest to the Water Street entrance.

The walk begins at 10.30 a.m.

For more information call Kim Rouse-Parypa at 905-713-0774, Paula Hambrook at 905-895-4217 or e-mail krp@acanac.net

For more information on Parkinson's or to register on-line visit www.superwalk.com.



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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING

For the remainder of August the Skylight Gallery in the Town Hall will feature the artwork of Margit Sampogna and Fran Andreana. Subject matter consists mainly of native and garden flowers, fruits and vegetables. Regular viewing hours are from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

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 Funneral 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.

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 keepsinging@look.ca.

Take a tour of Hillary House to relive the history of 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.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

Elvis music will be the feature at the town's last concert of the season in the Town Park at 7 p.m.

Discover the ancient Japanese art of paper folding with the introduction of origami for 6-9-year-olds at the Aurora Public Library. By using their hands, their mind and their creativity, they can turn paper into decorative figures. Fee is \$6 per child. Call 905-727-9493 for further information.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

The Farmers Market' features the Mayor's Barbecue and Corn Roast Charity event.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

Movie in the Park is "Horton Hears a Who" at Hickson Park beginning at dusk.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society presents speaker Glen Fidler talking about "New Trends With Glen" at 8 p.m. at the Aurora Legion, Industrial Parkway North.

Movie at the Town Park is "Casablanca" beginning at dusk.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

Movie at Confederation Park in Regency Acres is "E.T.". Enter that park from either Glass or Seaton.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

Great Curbside Giveaway. Put unwanted items at the curb for others to take. Remove leftovers by 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

The Aurora Skylight Gallery Draw will take place at the Town Hall by the Leisure Services Department. Twelve names will be drawn and the selected artists are invited to have a one-month art show in the Skylight Gallery. For further information contact Shelley Ware, Aurora's Special Events Coordinator.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Aurora's Probus Club resumes meetings after the summer break at 10 a.m. at the Aurora Legion, Industrial Parkway North.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Magna Wild West Hoedown celebrates its 21st anniversary at the Magna property on Wellington Street East. This year the Hoedown will assist 15 local agencies. For more information call the Hoedown Hotline at 1-800-872-5803.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Aurora council meets as general commit-

tee at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the Town Hall.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Guest speaker Ivan Harris, Curator for the CBC's Broadcast Museum, returns to the Aurora Historical Society at 8 p.m. at Hillary House. He will speak about the changing technology up to early 1900s, the different uses for light bulbs and lead discussions on the spectrum showing the infrared lamp to the ultra-violet.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Gently used clothing and equipment sale sponsored by Newmarket Parents of Multiple Births Association at Our Lady of Grace Childcare Centre, now located at 185 Industrial Parkway North from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cash only.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Final installment of 2008 property tax bill due. If not paid, the town charges interest at the rate of 1.25 per cent per month or 15 per cent per annum on all property taxes past due.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

The Farmers' Market features the Apple and Honey Festival.

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MP1123 (10/2007)

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Aurora Dominion store will soon become Metro

Aurora shoppers used to shopping at the Dominion store, formerly the A & P store, will soon find another change as Dominion will become Metro.

The Quebec-based Metro, Canada's No.3 supermarket, is planning to consolidate its five Ontario food banners under the Metro name in an effort to boost efficiency and spark growth in a \$200 million makeover.

The move will create a network of 376 Metro stores.

As a result the historic Dominion store name along with A & P, The Barn and Ultra Foods and Drug will disappear with work starting in September to renovate some stores, offer a wide range of food products and launch a new marketing campaign.

Founded in 1919, Dominion was once synonymous with supermarkets and was once owned by Conrad Black who broke up the chain piecemeal and fired hundreds of employees resulting in the chain losing much of its relevance.

A & P Canada bought the remnants of Dominion from Black's Argus in the late 1980s.

A & P was founded in 1859 as the Atlantic and Pacific chain and expanded into Canada in the 1930s. Then in 2005 Metro bought A & P.

The first A & P store in Aurora was opened in September, 1933, and was located on Yonge Street in part of what is now the Caruso building.

The staff included a manager and clerks Frank Dawson and Eddy March with Al White as delivery boy.

The store was open from Monday to Saturday closing a half day Wednesdays and all day Sundays. It remained in business until the summer of 1938.

The next A & P store in Aurora was opened at Yonge and Aurora Heights where D-Mac Furniture was

later located.

The building is now a Shoppers Drug Mart.

A reminder of this A & P store is a red light and a notice requesting citizens to call police or the store manager if the red light was flashing, which indicated the freezer wasn't operating.

The red light and notice were removed from the exterior of the building and saved through an arrangement with Shoppers Drug Mart.

In June, 1985, the new A & P store was officially opened on Henderson Drive and it operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

A few years ago the store was enlarged and completely renovated as a Dominion store.



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Aurora lawyer David Peirce dropped in to see the model railroad layout at the Aurora Lions Hall on Mosley Street Saturday morning. The display, put on by the Scarborough Model Railroad club, was part of Doors Open, which attracted more than 3,500 people to 21 sites in Aurora Saturday. More pictures on Page 8.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Three movies planned for various Aurora parks

Let's all go to the movies.

The Town of Aurora is offering a unique alternative to the modern movie theatre and you're invited.

With the family and a few blankets or lawn chairs, you can enjoy an evening of cinema under the stars.

Due to the success of the 2007 Movie in the Park night, the Town of Aurora has decided to offer three exciting movies in 2008 at three different locations.

"Horton Hears a Who", "Casablanca", and "E.T." can be viewed on jumbo outdoor screens starting at dusk at various parks in Aurora.

M&M Meat Shop, headed up by Greg Foster, will be on hand with a barbecue menu.

Activity gets underway at 7 p.m., with the shows beginning at dusk.

Instead of an admission fee, movie goers are asked to bring a donation for the Aurora Food Pantry.

In case of inclement weather, call Special Events at 905-726-4762 for regular updates.

Horton will be shown Tuesday, August 26, at Hickson Park, at the corner of Borealis and Conover, while Casablanca will play at the Town Park the next night, August 27, followed by E.T. August 28 at Confederation Park in Regency Acres. Enter that park from either Glass or Seaton.

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2008
AURORA



Poor Richard

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Military Institute faces a new life

*The Military Institute has surrendered,
And pleasant memories it has taken;
For many soldiers, sailors and airmen,
When they heard the news were shaken.*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

For several years when I worked in Toronto, especially at Queen's Park, I was a member of the Royal Canadian Military Institute on University Avenue.

I stayed on as an out-of-town member for a few years after I retired in 1982, and didn't get to Toronto too often, so eventually, I resigned as a member.

During my years as a member the Institute was a military men's club with an excellent dining room, a large reference library, an attractive bar area and a few rooms for rent, with a membership of about 1,500.

As it was a men's club, women were not allowed in the front door but there was a Ladies Lounge at the rear of the building with an entrance off Simcoe Street attended by a woman who welcomed the ladies and then went off to find their husbands for a quiet drink or a visit to the dining room.

This was later changed when women were commissioned as officers and they were permitted to enter by the front door, providing they wore a skirt.

Cash was never used as members charged everything and paid at the end of the month when an invoice was received. The menus in the dining room were very interesting as guests received menus without prices, while the member received a menu with the prices listed.

About every month of so there would be a dinner meeting with an outstanding speaker on military affairs or current events of the day. The events were always well attended.

There were other festive occasions such as a Father and Son Dinner. Once as a board member, I complained about always having dinners for sons and never for daughters. I was successful in obtaining a Father and Daughter night which was so successful it became as regular event.

The stately home of the Royal Canadian Military Institute, a city landmark that graced University Avenue for more than 100 years now faces voluntary demolition to make way for a high rise condominium, but the building's Edwardian façade, flanked by two 19th century cannons will be saved as a reminder of its rich heritage.

In a deal with the developer, the Military Institute will retain the first few floors to house the club's facilities including the library and museum with more than 30,000 volumes and historical artifacts.

Among its museum artifacts is the seat from the plane of the Red Baron, the First World War German flying ace.

The controversial plan will save the private member club from having to spend \$5 million to \$6 million in repairs to the decaying building, money it didn't have and it will save the club from extinction.

As the members will be without a home for approximately two years during the construction period, arrangements have been made to use the nearby University Club for social and professional events including the public lecture series.

The heritage Military Institute was originally two separate buildings with one fronting on Simcoe Street dating back to 1907 and the other on University Avenue built in 1912.

The buildings were later combined into one address fronting on University Avenue, which at the time was a quiet, tree-lined boulevard.

But the Military Institute predates the building as it was founded in 1890 by the Officers of the Toronto Garrison as a way to better train militia officers.

Although now open to civilian members, the Institute maintains its focus on defence and security issues.

It was a decidedly traditional club, eschewing spas and fitness rooms for a card room and billiard room, with a main lounge, long bar and dining room modeled after the officers' mess of a bygone era.

Despite the membership's love of history, the financial case was compelling and it is to be hoped that the members can recreate the Institute's ambience as was experienced by its members.

It was a treasure and holds many happy memories.



This was a double wedding held in Aurora in July, 1913. It marked the wedding day of Florence Mulloy with Clare Clifford Hartman and Olive May Mulloy with James Strachan. The ceremony took place in front of the Mulloy Home at 32 Wellington Street East. The brides' father was C.W. Mulloy, public school inspector and former principal of the Aurora High School, which was then located on Wells Street.

Letter to the Editor

We had good logo but ignored it, reader says

To the editor,

I note your reply, in the July 8 issue of The Auroran, to Frank Fries regarding use of the terms "Canada Day" and "July 1" when referring to the parade held in Aurora on the day before July 2.

(I'm almost afraid to call it anything else.)

Your ED. NOTE brought to mind something that has been bothering me for some time, that being the relatively recent 'search' for and adoption of a logo and slogan for Aurora.

In your note, you mention the fact that the town's slogan once was "Canada's Birthday Town".

Something not mentioned, but of which I know you are aware, was that the town's eye-catching logo was the "Aurora swirl" which, if memory serves, was devised for and owned by the then Aurora Banner, when that publication was a real newspaper, if I do say so myself.

So I was perplexed, bewildered, chagrined, dismayed, annoyed and disappointed to see council apparently forgetting Aurora's well-known and long-established logo and slogan, instead choosing to change them to what we see today.

Bad enough that the town has experienced - and in my

opinion continues to suffer - seemingly uncontrolled development at the expense of its very identity, not to mention its trees.

Now the town has lost what marked it as unique and which gave its citizens a prideful rallying banner (note the small 'b').

How many current Aurorans know the history behind those symbols?

During my all-too-short time of residency and employment in Aurora, from January, 1970, to mid 1975, I saw those symbols as proudly proclaiming a small town as THE Birthday Town in Canada and a great place to live.

Mr. Editor, I know you remember when the CBC nightly television news opened with film footage of Aurora's Canada Day fireworks display.

The town was instantly famous right across the country, albeit fleetingly, but its citizens were infused with a sense of pride that continued for years.

You and I are also aware of the street celebrations conducted to observe Canada's Birthday when, led by a former town councillor, the late Norm Stewart, residents closed their street and took to it, happily celebrating our country's birth in the true

Aurora community spirit of that time.

Subsequently, the Canada's Birthday Town slogan and Aurora swirl logo were adopted by council of the day.

Now both are gone.

It's heartening, however, to see that the spirit still lives on, at least in the hearts of The Auroran and of those volunteers who worked so hard to make the 2008 Aurora Canada Day parade a success on July 1.

Congratulations all.

Canada's Birthday

Town lives.

Now then, where's that Aurora swirl?

Bob Cooke
Orillia

ED. NOTE: A full-size flag, featuring the Aurora swirl, is currently flying proudly in a trailer park, north of Burk's Falls (see photo). I know that, because I own it, and it's probably the only one left in captivity. The swirl was designed by then Aurora Banner cartoonist Lyle Glover.

THE AURORAN

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Publisher Emeritus
Rosemary Schumaker

Editorial
Ron Wallace
ron@auroran.com

Dick Illingworth
dick@auroran.com

Photography
David Falconer
dfalconer@sympatico.ca

Advertising
Bob Ince
bob@auroran.com

Diane Buchanan
diane@auroran.com

Production
Cynthia Proctor
cynthia@auroran.com

Main Number
905-727-3300

Classifieds
905-727-7128
classifieds@auroran.com

Facsimile Machine
905-727-2620

Editorial Department
rwall9999@aol.com

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Machell's Corners

NEWS ITEM: COUNCIL DEFERS A DECISION ON APPROVAL OF WASHROOMS
FOR PLAYING FIELDS UNTIL AFTER THE SUMMER



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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Political polling

We are inundated every day with the results of public opinion polls.

It seems that whenever we turn on the television, listen to the radio or open a newspaper there is a story about polling.

We are canvassed for our thoughts on everything from Canadian tax policy to whether or not we feel Britney Spears is a better parent than Michael Jackson.

But most of the emphasis in the media is placed on political polling.

I am not sure if it was the first, but the most well known is the Gallup Poll, named after its inventor, George Gallup.

Dr. Gallup founded the American Institute of Public Opinion, the precursor of The Gallup Organization, in Princeton, New Jersey, in 1935. They have been surveying political opinions ever since.

But why the need for political polling?

Brian Walker, a candidate for the Newmarket - Aurora federal Conservative nomination in 2005 put it aptly: "representative government was born hundreds of years ago when MPs travelled to far off cities, and there, out of touch with their constituencies, made decisions for them. We don't live in such times anymore."

Politicians continually listen to their constituents. Today's elected officials certainly have the resources: web sites, mail-outs, town hall meetings and other media at their disposal. Included in this arsenal is polling.

Governments, political parties and individual politicians conduct polling primarily for two reasons.

Between campaigns, politicians want to know whether or not the public thinks they are doing a good job or they may desire feedback on a specific issue.

During an actual election campaign, respective national or provincial campaigns use polling to see if a particular strategy they have employed is working, and if not, why not, and what the campaign should be doing differently.

Look at the U.S. where the Clinton campaign started to make inroads at the end of the primaries by painting Barack Obama as an elitist, and out of touch with the average voter's concerns.

More recently, John McCain has climbed back into a statistical tie with the presumptive Democratic nominee by painting the Illinois Senator, as inexperienced, a "celebrity" liberal and a light-weight. The lines of attack were based on polling.

Reliance on polling can also lead to electoral disasters.

How else to characterize the faith based initiative launched by the provincial PC Party last fall? Obviously, this policy would not have been introduced unless the campaign strategists felt it was a potential "wedge" issue that could drive masses of voters into their camp.

Closer to home, polling does have its place; reinforcing to the local campaign that the communications strategies being employed are indeed working.

However, it is becoming harder to be heard and also to influence voters at the local level.

Probably 95 per cent of the reason a person votes is based on the Party and the Leader.

In some instances, where there is a very high profile person or highly ranked cabinet minister, then the local campaign probably accounts for, say, 10 to 15 per cent.

The results of a strong local organization will really matter when the race is extremely tight; every vote counting.

Looking back to the fall of 2007, as a member of the local PC campaign team, the team was cautiously optimistic.

Our candidate was Frank Klees, the long-time Aurora resident and 12-year member of the legislature who was a former leadership contender and cabinet minister and also a high profile member of the John Tory team.

We had a high profile candidate, a great volunteer organization, sufficient funds to run a campaign, and our initial polling showed us in good shape.

The Green and NDP Parties nominated strong local candidates in John McRogers and Mike Seaward, respectively.

But the main opposition would come from the Liberals who nominated first timer Christina Bisanz. While she had a very good resume and - as we saw during the campaign, she handled herself very well at the public forums - she was not very well known at all.

We felt we would win. And we did. But it was close - just 1,347 votes.

The local communications strategy that was developed - reinforced by tracking - was figuratively thrown out the window during the campaign because the faith-based issue sucked the air out the Leaders' campaign balloon.

And, don't get me wrong, The Tories deserved what they got. The voters, as the saying goes, are always right.

But suppose the Progressive Conservatives had not raised the faith-based issue.

What would the campaign have been about in Newmarket-Aurora last fall?

What were the issues that you folks told the pollsters were important?

Are there any lessons to be learned for the local campaign teams as they prepare for a possible (probable?) fall federal election?

Next week I will examine the results of some local polling done in 2007 for the Newmarket-Aurora riding to see if we can answer the above questions.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

New reality show

The trouble with having an empty nest is that you have to empty it out before it is empty. This can be quite complicated.

Sometimes I feel like my life is taking on the semblance of a reality show that should be called "Empty Nest-Full Nest", where contestants compete for...um, their sanity.

How many times have I written about the kids moving out...and the kids moving back? Well, here we go again...

In this episode, Damir wakes up Monday morning and rushes off to his early morning workout. His shins hurt from being kicked too many times on the soccer field. His arm hurts from being twisted too many times by clients with deadlines.

But worst of all, his wallet is looking a little anorexic since all the wedding deposits have come at the same time as all the tuition bills.

Yes, the new season opens with three out of three Vrancic kids pursuing higher education. Or should I say "more higher education"?

Tim is back at Brock. Nadia will continue nursing studies at the University of Ontario in Oshawa while working at Southlake part time and planning her wedding the rest of the time. I guess that knocks her out of the game for good - or so we hope.

Meanwhile, Jennifer is going to law school in Windsor - a grueling eight-hour round trip which means that endurance will definitely be put to the test.

Hence the workout is a pre-requisite to emptying the nest.

Damir will pick up a truck in Barrie, load it full of Jennifer's "stuff" in Aurora on Saturday and unload it in Windsor that same day. We are talking dressers, bookshelves, sofas, suitcases, a

desk, a bed and a ridiculous number of boxes containing shoes.

In a previous episode, all the "stuff" Nadia brought home from Waterloo two years ago has already been moved to her new digs in Newmarket and Tim's "stuff" has already been moved from one apartment in St. Catharines to another...twice now.

This would explain why Damir and Cathy have developed more biceps than vacation photos this summer.

As they ponder whether the truck they have reserved will be big enough for all the shoes, Nadia is busy planning a barbeque dinner for her wedding attendants on Sunday...at the nest that is about to be emptied.

Did I mention that Nadia is in high wedding planning gear this season? Overdrive, actually...

Our wedding team has places to go and people to see - a photographer in Etobicoke, a violinist in Scarborough, a decor company in Thornhill...the list goes on...and so does the driving.

In between meetings Cathy is seen either packing boxes or shopping for more stuff to pack into boxes...or cars or trucks, as the case may be.

"I bought a bed for Jenn," she tells Damir. "It will be delivered on Friday. It has to go on the truck because shockingly, Aurora stores don't deliver to Windsor."

Damir winces, rubs his lower back then scratches his head. "Why do I feel like we keep buying beds?" he asks.

"Because we do," Cathy says matter-of-factly.

"What happened to Jenn's bed from London?" he asks.

"Tim took it to St. Catharines. Don't you remember dragging it

there, honey?"

"Oh," he frowns recalling the day...many extra-strength Advils ago. He looks at the list Cathy has given him. Sofa? Loveseat? Desk? Bookcases? Etcetera?

"Cathy," he says, "I don't know if you noticed but this is most of the furniture and etcetera in our house!"

Cathy is nodding. She knows perfectly well that the kids have cleaned them out of light bulbs, toilet paper, postage stamps and just about everything that comes in cans or boxes.

"Will we have any furniture left when she's gone?"

"Not much...of anything," she says, switching from nodding to shaking her head.

"What are we going to do? Guests on Sunday, remember?"

Cathy thinks for a moment. "Go shopping, of course!"

In this final dramatic scene, Damir falls to his knees clutching his chest and gasping for breath. "Please," he pleads, "PLEASE, promise me you won't buy any more shoes?"

And so concludes this episode of "Empty Nest-Full Nest".

Tune in next time when Damir tries to force feed his anorexic wallet the vitamin enriched protein shake Cathy makes for him on Friday morning before she heads for Jennifer's apartment in Windsor... equipped with newly purchased painting and cleaning supplies and, of course, Damir's Visa.

I'm thinking maybe we should rename this reality show: "Empty Nest-Empty Wallet".

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



Bouquets & Bricks

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

 **BOUQUETS** to Danielle McKinnon of Aurora who was named to a four-rider Ontario dressage team representing Canada at the 2008 North America Junior and Young Riders' Championships held in Colorado.

 **BRICKBATS** to Aurora Council for being unable to make decisions. It keeps referring reports back to staff members or a committee. Staff members recommended portable washrooms for some of the town parks as requested by park users and sporting groups, but it was referred to a committee which doesn't meet until September when the major part of the summer is over.

 **BOUQUETS** to Southlake Regional Health Centre on being awarded the BD Gold Level Safety Recognition Award from BD Canada, along with a \$2,500 educational grant. The award was designed to recognize health care institutions that are committed to providing a safer environment for their patients and staff.

 **BRICKBATS** to men of all ages who wear baseball caps in restaurants showing a lack of pride in their appearance and ignorance of good manners. Maybe it's time for restaurants to adopt a dress code.

 **BOUQUETS** to Andrew Simonetta for his excellent letter to The Auroran regarding his recent unfortunate accident while bike riding. He stressed the need for all bike riders to wear helmets.

 **BRICKBATS** to the shameful soccer fans at he BMO Field in Toronto for booing The Star Spangled Banner during the pre-game ceremony at an exhibition match between the Major League Soccer All-Stars and West Ham United. The fans were upset because God Save the Queen was played for the British team and The Star Spangled Banner for the All Stars and O Canada was omitted but that's no excuse for booing.

 **BOUQUETS** to Aurora tennis player Evan Magill on receiving a partial scholarship to attend Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana, to play on the Gent's tennis team and study biology. The Aurora High School graduate played several sports and about three years ago he selected tennis as his top priority, which was rather natural as his mother Catherine is a tennis instructor at the Aurora Community Tennis Club.

 **BRICKBATS** to the federal governments, past and present, for allowing the Library and Archives Canada building to suffer numerous floods and leaks over the years that has damaged thousands and books and documents, which are irreplaceable. The Harper government should act quickly to prevent further damage.

 **BOUQUETS** to the City of Toronto for approving a scramble intersection at Yonge and Dundas Streets as all traffic comes to a halt in all directions allowing pedestrians to cross the intersection diagonally as well as the usual north, south, east and west and then it's the traffic turn as traffic moves north and south and then east and west in three phases. Formers Councillors John West and Ron Wallace suggested a scramble intersection for Yonge and Wellington a long time ago.

 **BRICKBATS** to Canada Post for destroying thousands of boxes of documents in the months before the Access to Information Act came into force. The Crown Corporation implemented a purge of 1,170 boxes of documents and Canada Post officials said they didn't have a system for managing documents and it was not a purge to beat the deadline but to get records in order so they could better respond to information requests.

 **BOUQUETS** to the Saskatchewan Police Commission for exercising caution by deciding not to authorize the use of Tasers by regular municipal police officers at least for now, pending more information. Other police forces please copy!

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Peter Virtanen
CLU. Agent, Aurora



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Letters to the Editor

Website still lacking some vital information

To the editor,

I trust that all Aurora councillors have now seen the link on the town's website that reads "additional maps", which is located beside the Northland presentation.

I'm wondering why the emissions dispersion maps and charts are not also posted here as well, as they, too, tell quite a compelling story.

Given that no one has raised significant emissions issues before as far as I'm aware, I would love to know how the projected annual emissions of the two proposed local

peaking plants compares with the emissions from the following places:

Bayview and Wellington intersection; Bayview and Bloomington intersection; Smart Centre/Wal-Mart Plaza; the hundreds of new homes and cars recently built on the northeast corner of Bayview and Wellington; i.e. on the east side of Bayview, between Wellington and St. John's Sideroad; Highway 404, at Aurora Road cut off.

Any further information that can be provided with regards to the town's recent efforts to address

this issue as well as other developments would be greatly appreciated.

I have heard nothing about the proposed mayor's summit, the OPA Working Group meeting arranged by MPP Frank Klees and the Town of Newmarket's response reveals nothing that we did not already know before.

As you are aware, I am very concerned that if we do not ensure adequate mitigation measures are in place should a solution be imposed on Aurora we will miss a significant opportunity to address these issues proactively

and constructively in order to gain the maximum benefit of Aurora.

Given the great efforts and expense made by the Town of Markham on our behalf and given that Aurora asked for the OPA's involvement and conditionally supported the 2005 Working Group resolutions, I feel strongly that we need to clarify not only specifically why we have now rejected the proposed solution but also how we feel our power supply needs should be met.

We need a long term and comprehensive power supply solution and I'm very concerned that council has adopted a stance on this issue without all councillors meeting with the proponents or even seeing the renderings of the proposed power plants as well as the emission dispersion models.

The list of potential benefits that this infrastructure could offer our town is significant and the impacts need to be put into proper perspective, which is precisely what the OPA, APPrO and the proponents have offered to do.

Theatre's latest worth seeing

To the editor,

On Monday last the lucky senior citizens of Aurora were invited, free of charge as usual, to the dress rehearsal performance of Aurora Theatre's latest offering.

Entitled "The Last of the Red-Hot Lovers", this Neil Simon play was beautifully performed by just four people: one man

and three young women, all of whom must be complimented on their acting skills.

In addition to their enormous talent, these young women were a feast for the eyes, while the man's part was also played to perfection.

We could hear every word of the very humorous dialogue and enjoyed every minute.

President supports Ken's appointment

To the editor,

The Aurora Heritage Centre (now the Church Street School Cultural Centre) began as a vision of the Aurora Historical Society in early 2000.

Now, eight years later, it is on the verge of becoming a reality.

With the approval of council, the Town of Aurora has assumed responsibility for the Centre, construction is underway, a business and strategic plan has been approved and exciting plans are in the making.

Until such time as a full-time director can be hired, the project needs an interim manager to handle communications

and the initial start-up phase.

And who better to fill this position than someone who has worked closely on the project as a volunteer committee member for the past eight months?

Ken Whitehurst has the knowledge, the expertise and the commitment to this project to guide it through its initial phase.

As someone who has seen this vision through from its very beginning stages, I am pleased to support Ken's appointment to this job.

Helen Roberts
President
Aurora Historical Society

Alma and Joe Durkin
Aurora

Richard Johnson
Aurora



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New town mayor equals new rules, he says

To the editor,

Mayor Phyllis Morris has been advocating the need for a new, tougher Code of Ethics for years, yet she has trouble meeting the existing code.

The Code of Ethics posted on the Town website states: CODE OF ETHICS for

Members of Council

The Town of Aurora's Members of Council fundamentally understand that;

1. the proper operation of democratic and representative municipal government requires that they be independent, impartial and responsible to the people,

2. there are open and proper channels for decision making and approval of policy,

3. conflicts between private interests and public responsibilities are unacceptable and must be avoided, and

4. as leaders of the com-

munity, they are held to a higher standard of behaviour and conduct.

How does appointing a prominent member of her campaign team -- he was her representative when candidates were invited to evaluate the electronic voting machines -- to a paid position

without posting the position follow points 2, 3 or 4?

Was the appointment process open? No, the public was not able to apply for this position.

Has the potential conflict between private and public interest been avoided? No, a prominent campaign team member was appointed without competition to find the best candidate.

Does the transparency of this appointment meet a higher standard of behaviour and conduct? No.

Further, as a current member of the Arts & Culture Committee he is also personally in conflict of interest with the code of conduct he agreed to.

He made the motion that eventually resulted in this job.

A temporary leave of absence does not fix this.

They may have followed the letter of the law, but the

smell of a conflict of interest alone should have made council avoid this decision.

This looks like pork-barrel politics as never seen before in Aurora.

Is this the first patronage appointment to come?

When Mayor Morris said she would bring a different kind of government to Aurora. I don't think the voters thought this was what she meant.

If Tim Jones had hired a friend when he was mayor, Councillor Morris would have had a band of lawyers working on this, screaming about conflict of interest.

How the rules have changed now that she is mayor.

I think this would be a great test case for the new Integrity Commissioner to have a look at.

Bill Hogg
Aurora

To the editor,

When I sat on council with then councillor Phyllis Morris, I often listened to Ms Morris about how disgusting she thought the mayor was at that time for naming his friends (as she thought) to citizen of the year.

She also claimed that the mayor also hired his friends

to fill certain positions.

Well, now that the shoe is on the other foot, I guess it is okay.

Not that I don't think that Sue Walmer is not a good choice but she is one of the mayor's best friends.

Now, to top it off, her past campaign manager, Ken Whitehurst, is named the interim manager of the

Church Street School foundation.

I thought that patronage appointments were only handed out at the federal or provincial levels of government.

I know that council had to approve the appointment but with the block voting on this council that was a given.

What happened to the promise of open government?

What happened to cutting down the number of closed door meetings?

I thought that the parade was over but this one just keeps going and going.

Nigel Kean
Aurora

Who really cares what the score is?

To the editor,

The mayor wants to keep track of all unanimous decisions by her team to demonstrate to the public how much they actually agree, so that we, the naïve voters can see they are not as dysfunctional as they seem.

This will include all those items that are not pulled for discussion at a council meeting and are agreed upon unanimously.

Does she really think we're that stupid?

Does she really think we care about the box score?

If you are doing the right

thing and making good decisions, the results will speak for themselves. How petty. How childish. How paranoid.

Who cares what the score is?

What residents of this town want is a leader and a council that makes decisions that will benefit the

majority of the people living in this community.

That will be the true test of whether or not the job is getting done.

I'm not holding my breath.

S. Williams
Aurora

Special council meeting had 11 “private” items

To the editor,

I noticed in the paper that the mayor had called a special council meeting for Monday, July 22nd.

I checked the town website to see what this "spe-

cial" meeting was all about.

The agenda listed 11 items to be spoken to "in camera", as in out of the view of the public, as in "in private".

There seems to be a whole lot of "in private"

sessions chaired by the mayor who spoke of her transparent and open government.

I guess it is one thing to say it and another to actually do it.

I think those matters

that are addressed in private have to be reported in public.

I hope someone is keeping track!

S. Lee
Aurora



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Dr. Craig Dingman



You are wondering why such a zany title. After all, you hate dirt. As a matter of fact, so does your family, friends, and the vast majority of North Americans. We are obsessed with dirt and the unclean. We are fastidious, fussy, and clean obsessed. Let me show you. How many of you take off your shoes when entering the house? Look at a glass before drinking from it? Wash your hands compulsively? Wear a hospital gown to hold your newborn? It has more bacteria on it than your infant! Wash your clothes after wearing them only a few hours? Scrutinize the table wear before eating? Or any of the other million idiosyncrasies we all have.

So why do we do this?

Well,.... we have been taught that germs are bad. That one can get germs from anything and everything. That germs should be eradicated, wiped out, killed. That no mercy should be shown.

"Take no prisoners" our parents told us. So we do what we have been taught. This sterile obsession we then pass onto our children and the myth of clean is propagated.

Our obsession with cleanliness is causing our own

demise. I am not referring to personal hygiene; rather, I am referring to our "everything-spotless-and-clean" mentality.

More and more authorities are convinced that everyday dust and even dirt is actually good for you. Our search for sterility is actually harming us and our children. I realize this may sound a bit alarming for many of you, but read on!

Our health is based on a properly functioning nervous system, immune system, and endocrine system. The new science connecting these components is called, psychoneuroimmunology. Many feel that the immune system, the endocrine system, and the nervous system are one and the same. This new science investigates the relationships between these systems and how they integrate and interact together for the health and well being of the individual.

What has this to do with dirt you ask?

Bart Classen MD, of Classen Immunotherapies in Maryland, a vaccine researcher, stated that the immune system of today's child is in serious trouble. He feels that because of our search for cleanliness and sterility,

our immune system is no longer being exercised as it has been in the past. These thoughts are echoed by Steve Marini D.C., Phd. a chiropractor and immunologist, Philip Incao MD, and countless others.

More and more scientists are realizing that most of the childhood diseases are innocuous and are there in order to exercise a young immature immune system of a child. You probably think that a child having measles, chickenpox, etc., is a terrible thought. Not so. These diseases actually teach the immune system how to deal with the myriad of viruses and bacteria of his world. This is a good thing. In fact, I tell my patients that even the common cold and flu has a place; they teach the immune system how to fight! This is good. Just because you feel sick when you have the flu doesn't mean you are. It simply means your body is doing exactly what it has been programmed to do. This is not sickness. This is an expression of health! I am not saying that you have to like it, but ultimately it is for your benefit. To circumvent this system is not in your best interests.

There are a number of supplements I sometimes recommend which increase the function of the immune

system; after all that is the name of the game.

- Manganese
- Vitamin B complex and Pycnogenol
- Vitamin A plus carotenoids
- Zinc and copper
- Bovine colostrum
- Garlic
- Amino acids (L-Arginine, L-Cysteine, L-Lysine)

Some of these need to be taken in restricted quantities, so be aware and talk to your health practitioner.

So...don't be so fastidious. Let some dirt into your life. You'll be a healthier person for it.

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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The 21 sites selected for this year's Doors Open Aurora attracted more than 3,500 people Saturday. At top left, Rema Thompson shows her skills as she participated in open air artistry. Below, members of the Aurora Legion, left to right, Cliff Davies, Ian Sweet, Vic Buckingham and Don Dempsey, welcomed visitors to the cenotaph on Yonge Street in Aurora's south end. Below that, "The Pines" at Wells and Metcalfe Streets, was open for viewing. The trees are Aurora's first to be historically designated. Top right, Aurora historian John McIntyre led a tour through the streets of old Aurora, while earlier that morning musicians George St. Kitts and Patty McLaughlin entertained the crowd at Aurora's Farmers' Market.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

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Door is swinging as Aurora dumps another CAO

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

For some reason, there appears to be a swinging door for Chief Administrative Officers in Aurora, which started with the town's first CAO Bud Rodger, who was appointed to the position in 1986 after serving the community as Clerk and Clerk Administrator.

After 21 years' service with the town, in December, 1987, Rodger was asked to resign by a split Aurora Council.

His option was to quit or be fired.

With no reason given to the public for the request, he resigned, resulting in a citizen movement petitioning the provincial government for an investigation.

His forced resignation cost taxpayers \$130,000 in severance pay based on his years of service plus \$28,175 to engage a recruiting firm to find a replacement.

In 1988, the town hired Jay Currier as CAO on a three-year contract which was later extended for another five years.

Then changes started to

appear in his relationship with council and the public and at times he demonstrated rather irrational behaviour.

In August, 1994, he submitted his resignation with no reasons given resulting in Town Clerk Larry Allison being appointed Acting CAO.

It was well into 1995 before council decided to engage a recruiting firm to find a replacement.

In June, 1995, Marc Neeb was selected as CAO.

By the end of April, 1998, a controversy broke out when Mayor Tim Jones

announced that Neeb had been awarded a \$10,000 bonus in recognition to his service to the community.

Then in September, 1998, Neeb submitted his resignation to join Magna International and Allison was once again appointed Acting CAO.

In March, 1999, he was confirmed in the position.

He resigned in July, 2004, to accept a similar position in Innisfil resulting in council hiring Scott Sommerville, former CAO of Vaughan as Interim CAO on a six-month contract while

searching for a permanent replacement.

Council then hired John Rogers who had been CAO of East Gwillimbury.

A lawyer by profession, Rogers, in December, 1979, while serving as a councillor in Georgina and President of the York North Law Association was instrumental in the creation of a new judicial district for York Region and bringing a Court House to the area.

He later served as Mayor of Georgina before joining East Gwillimbury as CAO and was very active in many community organizations and agencies.

Rogers was escorted from Aurora's Town Hall Wednesday, but no reason was given for his termination.

A memo to staff members from Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris noted his "employment with the Town

of Aurora ended as of August 13."

The mission of the office of the Chief Administrative Officer is to provide effective and efficient administration service to three groups, council, staff and the public.

The CAO is the senior bureaucrat responsible for the proper administration of the municipality.

In an article in the June, 1989, issue of Municipal World, Geoff Cuff, a management consultant and Mayor of Spruce Grove, Alberta, wrote that much of the success or failure of a municipality was in large measure a reflection of the relationship between council and the CAO.

The CAO is the administrative head of the municipality and the Mayor and Council are the political heads and the narrow line between the two should not be crossed.



Arm outstretched, John Rogers, top row right, was a member of the Town of Aurora's Dragonboat entry Saturday at Seneca College, even though his contract with the town had been terminated three days earlier.

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Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Program Cost: **COMPLIMENTARY**
(members only - pre-registration mandatory)
Hosted by: Sunrise Senior Living
3 Golf Links Drive, Aurora

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Time: 7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Program Cost: **COMPLIMENTARY**
Hosted by: Injoy Yoga & Activewear
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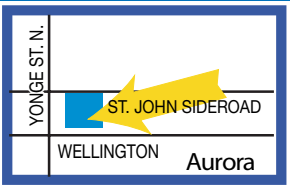
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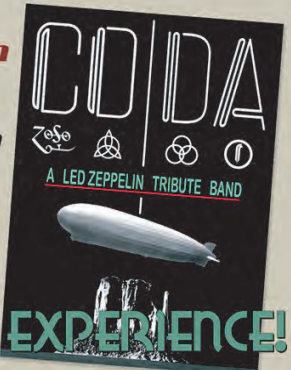
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This Month's Business Features



**Aurora
Chamber of Commerce**



**THURSDAY, SEPT. 18TH, 2008
BUSINESS AFTER FIVE**
Joint event with the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce
Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Program Cost: **COMPLIMENTARY**
Hosted By: Johnson Financial Group Inc.
2 Vata Court, Unit 1, Aurora

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 25TH, 2008
AGM - MEMBERS' SEPTEMBER SOCIAL**
Presentation of our 2008 Audited Financial Statements will be from 5:30 to 5:45 p.m. immediately followed by complimentary food and refreshments.
Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Program Cost: **COMPLIMENTARY**
(members only - pre-registration mandatory)
Hosted by: Sunrise Senior Living
3 Golf Links Drive, Aurora

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 30TH, 2008
NETWORKING BREAKFAST**
Time: 7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Program Cost: **COMPLIMENTARY**
Hosted by: Injoy Yoga & Activewear
15263 Yonge St., Unit 4, Aurora

To register please contact the Chamber at
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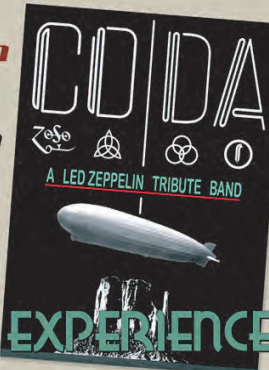
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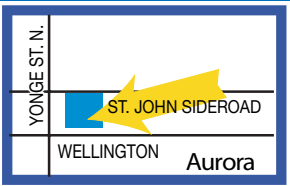
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Yvonne once feared the water

Newcomers to Aurora may not be familiar with the name of Yvonne Cattrall, except through recent news items describing her attempts to obtain equal time for pool lanes in Aurora's recreational facilities for her Aurora Selkies Swim Club.

Born in England in 1948, she was quite fearful of the water as a child.

At the age of 10 she conquered her fears and learned to swim and swam internationally for England in the 1960s winning numerous awards

At the age of 20 she gave up competitive swimming to get married and raise a family.

After a 10-year break, now relocated in Aurora, she decided to return to swimming and in 1977 began training for the 1978 Masters.

In March, 1983, she captured seven gold medals at the Ontario Masters Swimming Championships. The meet attracted nearly 300 swimmers ranging in age from 25 to 80 from all over the province.

In the 100-metre breaststroke she broke her own Ontario and Canadian records.

She also won individual gold in the 200-metre breaststroke and in the 100-metre individual medley. Her other medals were won in relay races.

Later that year she won a silver medal and two bronze medals at the United States Masters Swimming Championships with a second place win in the 100-yard breaststroke.

She came third in the 200-yard breaststroke and the 50-yard event.

In September, Yvonne launched a swimming program at Slater's Pool where children could learn to swim in an informal atmosphere with parents taking an active role in the instruction.

Family swimming was encouraged.

In January, 1984, she opened the doors of her new fitness and general self-improvement centre, called the Swim Gym in the Old Post Office on Yonge Street.

She offered a variety of programs from modeling, fitness and drama for children.

She also conducted lunchtime fitness classes for adults as well as several different dance classes, plus an exercise program for seniors.

At the same time she was coaching Aurora swimmers at Slater's Pool in Vandorf as there was no indoor pool in Aurora at the time.

She looked for investors to build her own fitness and swimming centre but was unsuccessful.



Yvonne Cattrall

In April, 1984, she participated in the World Championships for Master Swimmers in New Zealand where she set two records, one in the 100-metre breaststroke and the other in the 200-metre breaststroke.

She won a total of 10 medals and was voted the most Outstanding Female Athlete at the meet which had 1,200 competitors from 16 countries.

On her way home she stopped off at the Canadian National Masters Swimming Championships in Edmonton where she won four gold medals in the 35 to 39 age division.

She was tops in the 50-metre breaststroke, the 100-metre breaststroke, the 200-metre breaststroke and the 200-metre individual medley.

After a three-month rest in August she competed in the U.S. National Long Course Masters Swimming Championships where she won a gold medal and two silver medals, winning the 100 metre breaststroke and coming

second in the 200-metre event and the 50-metre championship.

By December, 1985, she held three world, eight Canadian and 16

Ontario records and continued her winning ways by winning four gold medals at the Scarborough Masters with 250 swimmers competing and in May 1986 she won three gold medals from the United States Masters.

In May, 2005, she swam her way back into the record books more than two decades after setting her last world record by establishing a new mark for the 100-metre breaststroke in the women's 55 to 59 age category at the Canadian Masters Swimming Championships held in Etobicoke.

She won three other individual events at the Etobicoke pool setting Canadian records in the 50-metre breaststroke and butterfly events and was a member of the mixed medley relay team winning a gold medal.

Since she started coaching in Aurora in

1978 at Slater's Pool and St. Andrew's College she has coached and assisted more than 25,000 local swimmers and now

with her Aurora Selkies Swimming Club look for more medals and broken records by Yvonne Cattrall.



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Canadians are living longer, study shows

It must be the water or something but Canadians are living longer by about 1.5 years more than the average citizen of the 23 nations of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development which includes most European countries, Canada and the United States.

Life expectancy at birth in 2005 was 80.4 years for Canadians placing the country fifth among the 29 nations compared with the OECD average of 78.9 years.

Canada also ranked fifth in total per capita health care spending doling out \$3,678 per person from both private and public sources for health care in 2006 compared with the OECD average of \$2,824 per person. The U.S. spent \$6,714 per person.

The figures reflect generally strong health status for Canadians compared with other rich nations and Canada's strong ranking on longevity has political scientists urging more money for research on how to slow the effects of human aging.

CHATS SENIORS' SITTING GARDEN

A few years ago as you passed by the entrance to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall on Victoria Street, you couldn't help but notice the transformation that had taken place.

There was a patio with potted trees, chairs, umbrellas and a group of happy seniors.

It was the Seniors Sitting Garden which was officially opened in August, 1999, with fitting ceremonies.

The garden was made possible by a grant from the provincial Seniors Secretariat International Year of the Older Person.

The concept for the garden was conceived by Joanne Cameron, Adult Day Program Coordinator for CHATS, and was a community partnership of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, the Town and the Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society.

The Adult Day program was designed to meet the needs of elderly people living at home and was held in a small group setting with the program providing the seniors with a personalized plan of care.

For the senior, the CHATS Day Program offered assistance in all activities of daily living ranging from personal care to recreational, intellectual and social stimulation.

The program also provided a break for the caregiver with the knowledge that their loved one was being well cared for.

Opening ceremonies included a welcome from Deborah Egan, CHATS Executive Director, greetings from Rev. Beeton of St. Andrew's Church, Aurora Mayor Tim Jones and Lois Brown representing MPP Frank Klees.

There was also the unveiling of the Sitting Garden Plaque and at the base of the pedestal there was Time in a Bottle containing a thumb print scroll of the seniors group.

The Adult Day Program continues but at the CHATS facility on Wellington Street West and the Sitting Garden is no more.

MAKING NEWMARKET EAT DUST

Back in the 1980s as part of the Canada Day activities there was a friendly but spirited baseball game between Aurora and Newmarket councils, with Aurora promising to make Newmarket eat dust.

It didn't work that way as for three years the Aurora team was trounced by its northern neighbour and ended up eating crow with the 1987 game ending 20-10 in favour of Newmarket.

But in 1988 the Aurora team lived up to their word and defeated Newmarket 16-10 in a see-saw battle until the final inning when Aurora scored seven runs.

The late Newmarket Mayor Ray Twinney said Newmarket let Aurora win as it was Aurora's 125th birthday.

Other than the Battle of Yonge Street hockey game between the Aurora Tigers and the Newmarket Hurricanes when councillors of the losing team have to wear the sweaters of the winning team at a council meeting, the friendly rivalry between the two councils at baseball, bed races and other events has disappeared.

MR. AURORA SOCCER REMEMBERED

Soccer is a very popular sport in Aurora today and a lot of that was due to the late John Traganitis. His name may not be familiar to many of today's soccer players but back in the 1960s and 1970s for Trag, as he was affectionately known, soccer was his life.

He called soccer the world's most popular sport, long before it reached today's popularity.

When his playing career was ended by a broken leg in his mid-20s, he jumped into the administrative level and never stopped.

He was a life member of several soccer associations, including the Ontario Soccer Association, an organization he once served as president.

He was involved with the Toronto and District Association and also served at the national level.

But the Newmarket and District Soccer League was his baby. He was the main person behind senior soccer in York Region and over the years kept it all together.

The respect the soccer community held for John Traganitis was unequalled. At times he was controversial and perhaps a little confrontational, but no one could deny his ultimate goal was his interest and love for the sport.

Trag died in August, 1994, after suffering a heart attack in his sleep. He was 58. He was survived by his wife Janet and six children, Tom, Sonia, Christy, Paul, Nick and Yvonne.

"Last of the Red Hot Lovers" entertains Theatre Aurora fans

Barney Cashman has been married for 23 years to his childhood sweetheart.

He has three children and operates a seafood restaurant that he inherited from his father.

He's 47 years old, feels he's in rut and wants to break loose and have a sexual fling before his life is over.

"The Last of the Red Hot Lovers" is a comedy written by Neil Simon.

Directed and produced by veteran performer Kay Valentine with Elizabeth O'Brien as stage manager it is currently playing at the Factory Theatre by Theatre Aurora.

The action takes place in a small apartment that belongs to Barney's mother in New York City during the late 1960s.

His mother is absent in the afternoon so his romantic interludes are time sensitive.

It's an afternoon in December when he arrives for his first fling and from his brief case he brings out a bottle of Scotch and two glasses, pulls the chesterfield into a bed, tries it out and returns it to a chesterfield.

The door bell rings and his first fling, Elaine Navazio, arrives and is prepared for the afternoon love nest.

Barney met her at his restaurant and wrote the address of his mother's apartment on her bill with the date and time.

Poor Barney, still dressed in his three-piece blue suit is very stiff and formal. He offers Elaine a shot of Scotch which she knocks back like a trooper while Barney takes a sip and nearly chokes.

Elaine is ready but Barney wants to talk and the Neil Simon words and situations make the play. She wants a cigarette but Barney doesn't smoke and as nothing was happening, she decides to leave.

He asks her to go out and ring the bell once again and things will be different as they start over. She does but nothing changes and the party's over.

The next fling takes place the following August with Bobbi Michele, a mixed-up blonde, who is a former night club singer who has dreams of becoming a musical star on Broadway, that he met in the park and said he was a writer.

She talks so much about some of her experiences and her kidnapped dog that a more relaxed Barney has trouble getting a word in. She wants a cigarette and this time

Barney has brought several packages, but she said she preferred her own, which was marijuana...much to Barney's dismay.

She offered it to Barney, but he refused but later said she wouldn't leave until he tried it. As time was getting short, he tried it and it had an almost immediate effect as he got high and his antics were one of the highlights of the performance.

In September he tried again but this time it was entirely different as his date was Janette Fisher, a long-time neighbour and a friend of his wife.

Evidently Barney thought she had made a play for him at a dinner party a few nights before and extended the invitation.

She arrived but wasn't in a party mood as she felt

guilt and asked why she was there and broke into tears and accused Barney and herself of being indecent. Matters went from bad to worse and she left.

Peter Shipston was outstanding as Barney Cashman as he was on stage for the whole play with the challenge of remembering all his lines and changing from a mild man into one with some spirit.

All three actresses were different and played their parts to perfection. Elaine Navazio was played by Taisa Ballard, Bobbi Michele by Kerrie Lamb and Jeanette Fisher by Nicole Downie.

It's a fast moving play with lots of witty lines and situations and will continue at the Factory Theatre on August 20, 21, 22 and 23 with curtain at 8 p.m.

Call 905-727-3669 for ticket information.



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Senior Scape



By BRIAN WARBURTON

Arboretum offers great walking trails

Time flies when holiday fun fills the day and cares and responsibilities are relegated for later attention.

Touring last week provided a welcome change of pace.

The change clearly refreshed my wife, Stella, and me, and we arrived home with enthusiasm renewed for our regular daily interests.

The Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) continues on its summer course sedately, though a little quieter than usual but, with plenty to interest to the many seniors who continue to attend during the holiday season.

A walk through the park and Aurora Community Arboretum, which is the seniors' local environment, revealed a lush area with many more trees planted and growing vigorously, which is not surprising since many trees flourish in weather that is cool and wet.

The park is frequented by cyclists, joggers and many people including lots of seniors who enjoy a quiet stroll.

In fact, the park often provides the route for the weekly ASA Wednesday walk from the seniors' centre.

Aurora is a strong and exciting urban centre and provides excellent theatre for those attracted to sophisticated stage productions such as those presented by Theatre Aurora.

Members of the Seniors Centre often comprise a substantial part of the audience for Theatre Aurora dress rehearsals, which allows so many ASA members to enjoy a live theatre production rehearsal, before presentation to the public.

"Last of the Red Hot Lovers" by Neil Simon and starring Peter Shipston with Taisa Ballard, Kerrie Lamb and Nicole Downie as his red hot lovers, provided excellent theatre to many more senior theatre lovers from the ASA than I could count.

There is no substitute for the good times, particularly when surrounded by familiar faces and at Theatre Aurora, good times are nurtured as the way of life and are always in fashion.

Preparations for September activities are underway including the ASA Evergreens choir, which resumes rehearsals on September 3rd.

The choir will be expanded in all sections up to a maximum of 40 members so if singing is something you enjoy, attend the ASA on September 3rd at 2.30 p.m. and introduce yourself and your voice and you will have a fruitful and enjoyable day.

The dart players have formed a darts club and play on Tuesday evening in the

pool room.

This is a game which is not physically demanding and is open to any level of skill.

The darts club would be delighted to attract more players, male and female, so come on over and join in the fun.

And horseshoe pitching is available daily at 10 a.m., so bring a friend and enjoy this game while the weather holds.

Thursday, August 21st, Manulife Income Plus will present a seminar dealing with a segregated annuity fund that guarantees retirement income and allows growth of principal and also access to the principal if required.

The ASA is organizing interested members into a gardening club, with the grounds surrounding the ASA designated to receive the loving care of those who participate.

Sufficient cultivated ground is available now and since gardening only ends when the ground is frozen, the time is right to join the club now.

Once members are familiar with each other, the first issue to discuss would be the development of a gardening plan, determine what gardening measures would be appropriate in the near future, and to seek approvals as required.

By the time the club is organized and requirements are determined, at the very least spring flowering bulbs will need to be planted.

Crocus, daffodils, tulips and other spring flowering bulbs, for example, get planted in the fall, lay down their root system while the ground is warm enough and then remain dormant during the winter. With the advent of spring they arouse from winter's iron grip and herald the lengthening days and the new spring with their presence.

If gardening is for you and you would be thrilled to see your handiwork in bloom every time you visit the ASA, call Judy at 905-841-2385.

The sewing group resumes Friday, September 5th, between 9.30 a.m. and 3 p.m., so if you sew or would like to sew, join the group and you will be very welcome.



Marissa McGaffey

Aurora student introduces product

Marissa McGaffey, a 17 year-old Aurora high school student, had always wanted to start her own business.

This summer, she was accepted into the Government of Ontario's Summer Company Program, that offers funding and a mentoring program to help students begin and run a summer business.

It is an opportunity that Ms McGaffey has truly made the most of and now owns her own business, McGaff Innovations, which has successfully launched its first product line, "The Bench!"

"Now that I'm in, I don't regret a moment of it. There are problems and hard work, but between the mentors' help and an end -of-summer goal, to have created and run my own business, all of it works out and has been extremely worthwhile" she said.

"The Bench!", a portable soccer mat, was the first product released in the line.

It is a portable two foot by eight foot long mat that can be rolled up and carried wherever people go. The idea for "The Bench! Portable Soccer Mat" came from the need for soccer players to sit together as a team while on the sidelines instead of being scattered around, thereby solving many organizational issues and increasing the whole soccer experience.

In addition, it encourages players to sit rather than stand, so spectators don't have their view of the game blocked.

"The Bench! Portable Hockey Mat" was released in July, and is a two-person mat that rolls into a compact roll and functions as a place for parents

and spectators to sit while watching hockey games.

It creates a comfortable, clean, padded surface that makes sitting on the wooden stands in a chilly arenas more comfortable.

The uses of "The Bench!" products are not limited to a soccer field or hockey arena though. Depending on the situation, either one or both of "The Bench!" products can be taken almost anywhere with the family, including the beach, a picnic, camping and even fireworks.

In fact, it is McGaff Innovations' mission to encourage healthy activity in a calm environment, which increases the enjoyment and positive overall experience of the event.

Recently, "The Bench!" has been considered as a sponsorship product, where team sponsors can have their logo placed on it and donate it to their team.

"The Bench!" has amazing potential and is sure to be a huge hit with players and families alike," McGaffey said. "The future is looking good."

For more information about "The Bench!" products or to receive a demonstration model, contact marissa.mcgahey@live.ca or phone 647-296-8291.

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Long-time Aurora resident Joe DeGeer was guest of honour at a surprise retirement party given in his honour recently at the Aurora Legion. DeGeer, a former Aurora volunteer firefighter, told his guests he was truly surprised by the event. He thought he was going to the Legion for dinner. *Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

Another plan coming for controversial site

Michael Rice of the Rice Commercial Group appeared before council recently to provide an update on the group's plans for the Aurora Gateway Centre planned for the northwest corner of Bayview Avenue and Wellington Street.

He pointed out that since council denied a full access to the proposed commercial development to satisfy potential tenant requirements, major tenants, including Longo's, were lost.

As York Region was increasing development charges, permits were taken out at the old rates. He had met with town staff to develop a new plan but it wasn't ready.

It would be by September, he said.

He said he wanted to work with the town and potential tenants and would be back before council to present the revised plans. His presentation was received as information by council.

Later in the meeting, Councillor Bob McRoberts referred to the Rice presentation and as the new plan could include an access requirement he asked if a Motion of Reconsideration was necessary to allow discussion when the revised

plan was received.

Staff members replied that a Motion of Reconsideration was necessary and it would require a two-thirds vote of council and as Councillors Evelyn Buck and Alison Collins-Mrakas were absent, it would be necessary to obtain five votes out of seven for the motion to pass.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern objected claiming as it was a revised plan a Motion of Reconsideration wasn't necessary, but staffers pointed out that if the revised plan included an access from Wellington Street, the motion was necessary.

In a recorded vote the Motion of Reconsideration was adopted on a 6-1 vote with Councillor MacEachern in opposition.

Last February Joe Longo of Longo Foods, a major potential tenant, was one of several delegates to appear before the general committee to request full Wellington Street access to the proposed commercial development.

Dan Kopniak of the Bank of Montreal who planned to open a drive-thru facility made the same argument.

Fire Chief John Molineux of the Central York Fire Services advised the committee that they would prefer the full access in the event of a fire when equipment from the Edward Street fire hall was required.

John Chapman of Aurora Toyota which is located on the south side of Wellington Street opposite the proposed commercial development also supported full access.

Representatives of the Rice Group pointed out that York Region would accept a full access providing Aurora Council adopted a resolution that council supported a break in the median boulevard to allow for full turns.

A staff report to the general committee did not support the full access or changes to the median. It was pointed out that the median was established by the region with financial support from Aurora to create a gateway to Aurora.

The debate raged back and forth and finally it was agreed to refer the presentations and comments to staff members for a report.

At a March meeting of council without comment or discussion members adopted a staff report that the proposed full access not be supported.

At the June general committee meeting, repre-

sentatives from the Rice Group plus Joe Longo and a representative from the Bank of Montreal spoke in support of a full access off Wellington Street and once again the request was defeated.

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The Aurora Arts and Culture Fund has nothing to do with the Church Street School Cultural Centre but is a fund to promote cultural and artistic activities by individuals and groups in Aurora.

If Aurora-based individuals or organizations need financial help to promote cultural and/or artistic

activities, help may be available from this fund.

Interested groups need to submit a completed application form which is available from the Town Hall and outline the nature and general activities of the individual or group, the specific use to be made of the grant and any other pertinent information.

Due to the large number of applications received each year, amounts granted vary and the total annual distribution is approximately \$10,000.

Deadline for applications is September 30 and decisions will be made by October 15th.

It was in 1973 when the late David Merkur, owner of the Aurora Shopping Centre, asked council to establish the Aurora Arts and Culture Fund with a \$10,000 donation payable in equal installments over a 10-year period.

He told councillors that as Aurora had been good to him and his merchants, he wanted to give something back to the community. He was hopeful that his contribution would encourage other businesses to join in.

Theatre Aurora and the Aurora Historical Society were the first recipients

from the fund in 1973.

Ten years later in 1983, Mr. Merkur increased the grant to \$25,000 with \$2,500 to be paid annually and he was still hopeful other businesses would join in and contribute to the fund.

Then in March, 1988, he increased his grant to \$50,000 over a 10-year period.

By this time Joe Lebovic of Lebovic Enterprises, a developer in Aurora, joined the fund with matching annual contributions.

The fund is administered by the town and grants are made based on the applications.

Presentations are normally made at a council meeting by Shauna Tepperman, daughter of the late David Merkur, and Joe Lebovic.

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Tuesday, August 5 - Brenda Smith and Carol Gordon; Carole Bell and Elaine Hunter; Mary Oglanby and Joan Rotenberg.

Monday, August 11 - North-South: Sue Scott and Ruth Rea; Jodie Bagan and Edward Smereka; Irene Kubica and Dorothy Young. East-West: Don Newman and Murray Sinclair; Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin; Audrey Robertson and Evelyn Dickie.

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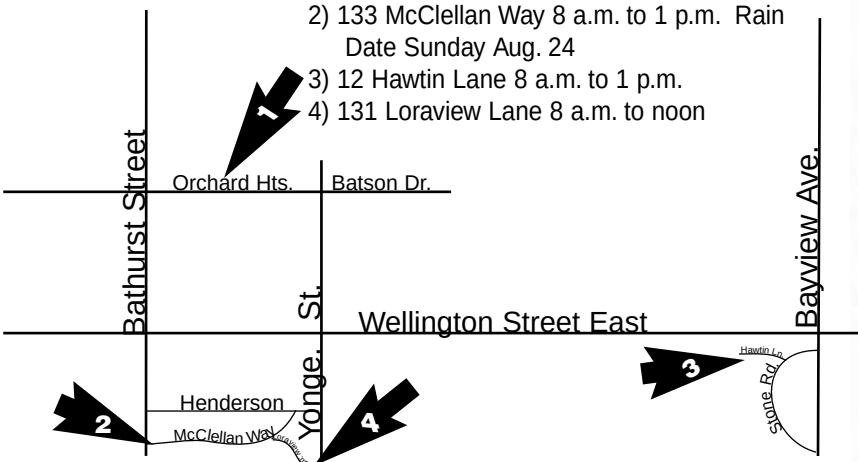
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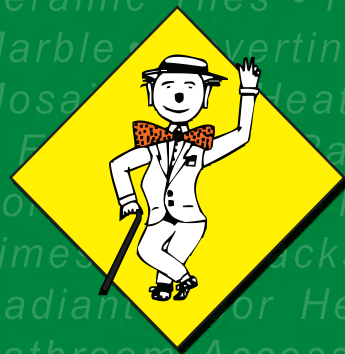
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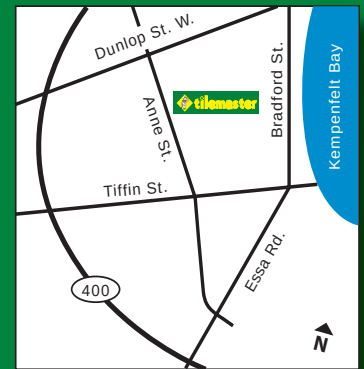
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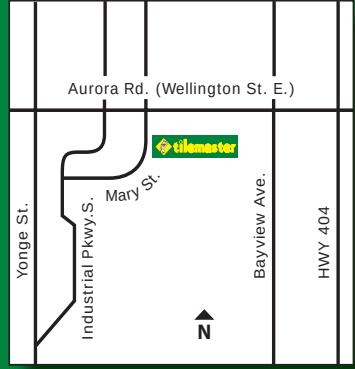
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