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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

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FREE

Week of September 2, 2008



Fresh from winning the York Simcoe Baseball Association Loop, these four members of the Aurora Peewee Select Jays celebrated the victory in Orillia last week. Here, three of the team, Mark Presacco, Greg Gannon and Steven Grandin hoist pitcher Nathaniel Ho into the air after he struck out of the last batter to give Aurora the title. The games, played at Tudhope Park saw Aurora win the semi-final 9-5 over Vaughan, then use extra innings to win the title with a 5-4 victory over the host Orillia squad. The Jays now advance to the Provincial championships.

21st Hoedown next Saturday

On Saturday, September 13, the 21st Magna Hoedown will be held in the largest tent ever constructed in the province on the Magna International property on Wellington Street East in Aurora from 5 p.m. until midnight.

Over 20 years the Hoedown has raised millions of dollars for numerous community groups and non-profit organizations as it has grown to become the largest fundraising event in York Region.

In addition to the delightful Texas-style barbecued food, patrons are

entertained by top performers, and get the opportunity to win prizes and mingle with friends all for a good cause.

It all started in September, 1987, as Frank's Fiesta to raise funds for the Aurora Family Leisure Complex.

Tickets were limited to 1,100 and \$30,000 was raised, with Don Constable as the main organizer of the event.

In 1988, the Fiesta took on a Mexican theme, complete with Mexican music with a pair of tickets to Cancun as the raffle prize, with the

bulk of the proceeds going to the Leisure Complex, plus grants to four other non-profit organizations.

Number of tickets available increased to 2,000.

In 1988, Frank Stronach was the Liberal candidate in the federal election against Tory incumbent Sinclair Stevens. Organizers stressed it was not a political event but was merely carrying on a fundraising tradition.

Frank's Fiesta III was held in June, 1989, with a country music theme featuring the Good Brothers, plus a

Please see page 11

Briefly

Second Open House

Richmond Hill Live Steamers, a non-profit train club with several Aurora members, operating miniature scale model steam and diesel locomotives, will hold their second Open House Saturday, September 6, and Sunday, September 7, at their outdoor layout.

The two-day event begins at 10.30 a.m. and continues until 4 p.m. both days.

Activity takes place in an outdoor woodland setting and train lovers can even take a train ride, weather permitting.

Park on the street and walk in. Admission is free, although donations won't be turned down.

The site is at 15922 McCowan Road at the St. John's Sideroad, or on the 7th Concession of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

For more information, call Sybil 905-277-0969 or visit the group's website: www.geocities.com/richmondhill_livesteam.

Greek Night

Mary Georgopoulos, owner of Jonathan's Restaurant in Hunters Gate plaza, is planning a Greek night for seniors, but you don't have to be a senior to attend.

The event is set for September 25, beginning at 5.30 p.m. with cash bar, followed at 6 p.m. with dinner and 6:30 p.m. for the entertainment.

Dinner will feature a recipe prepared by Jonathan's chef that may be found in the Aurora seniors' cookbook "Treasured Recipes".

To be assured a table, sign up at with the Aurora Seniors' Centre front desk or call 905-726-4767 to register.

The "Treasured Recipes" book will be on sale at the event.

Sign of the Times?

The sign, pictured below, suggesting Tim Jones be re-elected as mayor of Aurora, appeared on Kennedy Street Friday. Since the sign sat on a corner and was not on anyone's private property, it's hard to say who erected it.

With another municipal election some two years away, perhaps the sign is suggesting Mr. Jones should not be running federally, an election that is predicted to be called this autumn.

Mr. Jones, who served four terms as Aurora mayor, is the Liberal candidate for the Newmarket-Aurora riding.



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COMING EVENTS

CONTINUING
Hot Spot has moved back to its original home, the Aurora Community Centre, Fridays at 7:30 p.m. It is closed Sept. 19th.

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 Funnral 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 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.

Meet at Martha's Table, now in its fourth season. Every Thursday from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., you will find comfort food and a sense of community in the hall at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Aurora. A lunch of hot soup, sandwiches, and dessert will be provided. Any funds raised are directed to local community charities.
SEPTEMBER 3 AND 7
From 7 to 10 p.m., Theatre Aurora will hold auditions for the comedy "That Darn Plot". For further information call the Director, Lauren Ecclestone, at 905-727-8853. Four men 20-60 years are required and two women in the 20 to 40 age range.
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
Martha's Table is reopening its doors from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Find comfort food, much of it donated by Presbyterian church members, and a sense of community at St. Andrew's Hall, corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets.
SEPTEMBER 5-7
Aurora's Third Annual Ribfest will be held at Machell Park.
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.

Ontario Power Authority presents an informa-
Please see page 15



17TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Monday September 8th
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Please call for upcoming seminar information





Bruce Butler, second from left, was honoured following his retirement from Aurora Home Hardware last week. He had been with the firm for 16 years, and he and his wife, Cathy, will move to Baie Verte, New Brunswick. Taking part in the ceremonies were Rob Barfitt, left, Russ Barfitt and Chris Barfitt.

Auroran photo by Bob Ince

Aurora part of six to get AMO award

The Town of Aurora, Township of King, Town of Newmarket and Town of East Gwillimbury accepted the AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) P.J. Marshall Certificate of Merit Award for excellence in innovation on behalf of the six northern municipalities, including the Towns of Georgina and Whitchurch-Stouffville, last week.

The six municipalities came together to develop and implement a new waste management strategy.

By setting aside a 'going it alone' mentality, the municipalities came together to save more than \$11 million over the next 10 years by combining communication campaigns on their blue box, yard waste, household hazardous waste diversion and organic waste programs.

The award was accepted on behalf of the group by Phyllis Morris, Mayor of Aurora; Margaret Black, Mayor of the Township of King;

Tony Van Bynen, Mayor of Newmarket; and Councillor Jack Hauseman, Town of East Gwillimbury.

The P.J. Marshall Award is an annual competitive process organized by AMO.

Awards acknowledge municipalities who have demonstrated leadership and innovation in public-private partnerships.

Submissions by Ontario municipalities are judged by a panel on their creativity and success in implementing new, innovative ways of serving the public.

This year a Certificate of Merit and a Plaque were awarded.

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 445 municipal governments.

It supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario and Canada's political system.

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Poor Richard

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Election fever is in the air, but who to vote for is the question

Election fever is in the air,
As Harper looks for a way out;
With many unexploded bombs,
He wants to avoid a rout!

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

There's not much doubt that a federal election is in the air as Prime Minister Stephen Harper claims Parliament is dysfunctional and unworkable and parliamentary committees are in chaos.

If that is so, the Prime Minister is primarily responsible. He is arrogant, a bully and a control freak and has stripped his MPs and even some of his cabinet ministers of the right to speak out on issues of the day.

He promised open and transparent government but his government's tactics are an insult to democracy.

Remember they wrote a secret handbook on how to disrupt parliamentary committees as was quite evident with the chaos created in the Ethics Committee.

The Ethics Committee was reviewing the Elections Canada and the RCMP investigation into allegations that the Harper members had circumvented the legislation pertaining to election campaign spending in the 2006 federal election.

There is little doubt that they created the chaos in the committee in an effort to distract voters from the substance of the Elections Canada allegations.

Then there is the Mulroney-Schreiber inquiry scheduled to start in the New Year, the scandal involving the alleged financial payment to Independent MP Charles Cadman to buy a crucial vote, the NAFTA leak, the environment and the weakening economy and high prices.

The war in Afghanistan could well be his Achilles' heel. Before things get worse, the Prime Minister wants to go to the people this fall in an effort to gain a majority government, or, at least, retain minority status.

If he can't goad Stephane Dion to defeat the government on a non-confidence vote, he will go to the Governor General to request that Parliament be dissolved as being unworkable and a general election be called.

In addition to going to the people an election call will kill the work of the Ethics Committee.

This will present problems for voters as they try to determine which party to support.

The dyed-in-the-wool party supporters will vote the party regardless, but there are a lot of undecided voters who are confused as to what is best for them and the country.

It's a difficult choice. They know Harper and his "My Way or the Highway" philosophy and there is distrust and fear especially if he should form a majority government.

Liberal Leader Stephane Dion is an unknown leader. His appearance, mannerisms and inability to discuss issues in English makes it difficult for the public to get to know him and it's not known if he can spur the Liberals to a comeback, but it's time for him to stand up and fight.

There's no doubt that Dion is rolling the dice with his emphasis on carbon tax and his Green Shift as the major plank in his election campaign.

It could end up in the same way as John Tory's funding for faith-based schools in the last Ontario election campaign.

A tax on energy, even one pledged to be revenue neutral, with the high cost of gasoline and heating oil is a gamble, especially when the public's primary concern has switched from the environment to the economy with the loss of jobs and health care.

What to do and who to vote for is the question facing Canadian voters.

They are unsure of the Tories and hesitant about the Liberals, so many won't bother to vote, which would be a mistake.

Attend all-candidate meetings, ask questions, study the issues and vote for the local candidate you believe will best represent your interests and those of the country as a whole, rather play to individual provinces.

Voters know Harper and his ways whereas Dion is relatively unknown and he should have the opportunity to prove himself with what will no doubt be another minority government.

The election will clear the air so let's get it over with and get on with running the country.



This is a cadet inspection taking place at the Aurora Armoury, possibly sometime during the First World War era. Inspection happened at 138 Larmont Street, at the corner of Mosley, where the Armoury is still located today.

Letters to the Editor

Minority is entitled to be heard: reader

To the editor,

Two principles prevail in a democracy; the majority rules; the minority shall be heard.

I did not attend the meeting when council decided to terminate the CAO's contract.

I was there for the two previous meetings where the objective was clear.

I was recuperating from surgery at the time of the third meeting.

In September, 2004, Larry Allison resigned from the position of CAO.

The post was still vacant until April, 2005.

The normal process to fill the post by competition was

frustrated by three members of council who decided a candidate of their choice should be hired.

Council had once again reached a stalemate in the process.

Because we were in discussion with Newmarket about joining our two hydro services, we had hired an interim Chief Administrative Officer.

Subsequently a suggestion was made to invite John Rogers to meet with council to discuss the possibility of accepting the CAO's position.

He was then serving as CAO in the Town of East Gwillimbury.

The suggestion was

greeted with enthusiasm by several members of council.

One, in particular, informed us of Mr. Rogers' excellent reputation, personal and professional, within the legal community.

The eventual result was John agreed to join the administration of Aurora on a six-year contract.

A clause protected his interest in the event the arrangement ended prior to the contract's expiry.

Such was our reputation in municipal circles that we could only attract a candidate who would write the terms of his own contract.

During my contact with John Rogers in the three years of his association with the Town of Aurora, I found

him to be a man of absolute integrity and honour who conducted himself at all times as a complete professional.

Had I been at the meeting when the decision was made, I would have voted in opposition.

My position on the procedure had been submitted in writing to form part of the record.

The community is entitled to know the decision and the means whereby it was accomplished was not supported by all members of Council.

The Minority is entitled to be heard.

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

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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Second annual mini-walk now taking shape

To the editor,

My sister Brenda and I ran a mini-walk of hope last year, in support of Ovarian Cancer Canada, on behalf of our sister Debbie who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer about one year ago (she is now on the road to recovery, thankfully).

We were overwhelmed with the results of that walk and are thus repeating the walk this year.

Joining us in our planning are two ladies, Jackie, a survivor, and Lisa, whose mom passed away from the cancer a few years ago, both with ties to Aurora.

The National Walk of Hope is run September 7, but due to our small committee's schedules, we are running our walk September 27.

September is officially National Ovarian Cancer

Awareness month.

George St. Kitts has kindly agreed to open in music for us, we will have refreshments, speeches, and a trainer from Timberlane leading us in a warm-up.

It is slightly under 5 kilometres long, beginning at the shelter behind Regency Acres Public School- Murray and Glass Drives at 9.45 a.m., Saturday, September 27th.

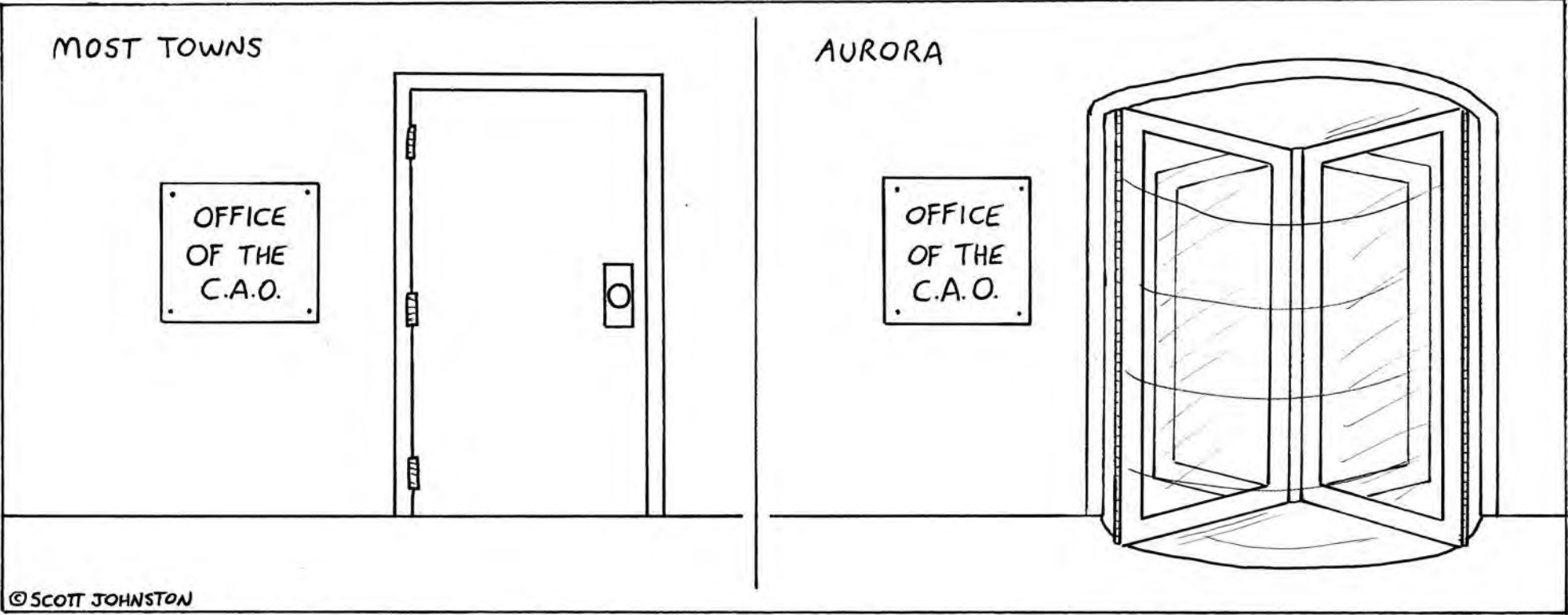
Our goal is a lofty one - \$10,000, double what we raised last year.

We are looking to 'turn up the volume' on a cancer that has silent symptoms.

We want to raise money for a wonderful organization that wants to develop an early detection tool.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Gayle Palmer
Aurora



Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Political polling results

A couple of weeks back I wrote about how 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.

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

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

In 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.

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

But to get the best use out of polling, you need to be asking the right questions.

First, how is the Party and the Party Leader perceived?

This is important because probably 95 per cent of the reason that 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 10 to 15 per cent.

Second, does the public know who the candidate is? Is he or she well known all through the riding, or in just parts of it?

Is the candidate viewed generally favourably or unfavourably?

Again, are the numbers the same throughout the riding?

What are the issues that are important to the voter?

The final and obvious question is, if an election were held

today, who would you vote for?

Let's have a look at the results of some local polling done in 2007 for the provincial Tories in the Newmarket-Aurora riding. (Bob Callow and I were the Co-Chairs of the local Tory campaign, trying to elect Frank Klees).

My thanks to both MPP Frank Klees and John Laschinger of NorthStar Research for allowing me to share some of the polling data with you.

We commissioned NorthStar Research Partners to conduct a poll April last year to establish a baseline of opinion.

Then during the opening part of the provincial campaign last September, we had them do a further poll to see if we were on track or we needed to make some strategic adjustments.

Three hundred and eighty-six people were interviewed last April; the individuals chosen were spread equally between Newmarket and Aurora.

We were told that a sample size of 386 is accurate within a statistical tolerance of +/- 5.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

At the time, John Tory led Dalton McGuinty by 27 per cent in net favourability and by 12 per cent as the best person to be premier.

The April survey confirmed that Frank Klees was ahead in terms of "total awareness and in net favourability" in the riding.

Additional positives for our candidate included having a majority of voters saying it was time for a change in government (51 per cent) and the continuing angst over Dalton McGuinty's broken promises from the last campaign.

Three particular issues stood out. These included:

Increasing the number of family doctors: Roughly three in four residents felt this was an important issue for the Newmarket-Aurora area.

Improving wait times for medical services: Again, three in four

residents felt this was an important local issue.

Protecting green spaces from development: This issue was given high ratings by seven in ten residents (71 per cent).

The April poll had 42 per cent of decided voters favouring the Tories, 35 per cent the Liberals, 11 per cent the NDP and nine per cent the Green Party.

The poll done that September had a sample size of 301 people. The findings:

51 per cent still believed it was time for a change.

42 per cent of respondents felt John Tory was the best person to be Premier, 28 per cent for Mr. McGuinty, while Mr. Hampton trailed with 13 per cent.

PC candidate Frank Klees led the local Liberal candidate Christina Bisanz at the time of interviewing by a solid margin.

Mr. Klees also led Ms. Bisanz in total awareness by a wide margin and had a strong positive net favourability rating.

Voting intentions had increased for the Tories since April: 48 per cent of decided voters favoured the Tories, 33 per cent the Liberals, eight per cent, the NDP and nine per cent, the Green Party.

The final tally on election night: PC's 42.6 per cent; Liberals 39.7 per cent; Green 9.4 per cent; NDP 7.2 per cent.

What happened to the 15 per cent gap?

You might recall a little thing called "faith based" education funding, which became the issue during the campaign and knocked all of our best laid plans for a loop.

Next week: Are there any lessons to be learned for the local campaign teams as they prepare for a possible fall federal election?

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

Big yellow school bus

The first time the big yellow school bus took away my wee little boy, he was only four-years-old.

It just didn't seem right. His knapsack was bigger than him, for heaven's sake!

But I put on a brave front, talking excitedly about this big new adventure of going to the "big school" while the girls exchanged glances.

"Mom's going to cry," Jennifer whispered to Nadia. Nadia nodded.

Of course I didn't cry...much...until the bus was out of sight...

By the time I got home, I had somewhat pulled myself together.

Look at all the time I would have to get things done, start new projects, have lunch with friends even!

I cleared the breakfast dishes repeating this mantra.

Then I walked into the laundry room and saw the little clothes and tiny socks. That did it. I slumped into a pile of laundry, and wept into a tiny t-shirt.

At least this is the last time, I thought.

I was wrong.

When we moved Jennifer into her dorm at University of

Western Ontario, she was only 17-years-old. It just didn't seem right. She brought Winnie the Pooh, for heaven's sake!

But I put on a brave front, talking excitedly about this big new adventure of going to "university" while the kids exchanged glances.

"Mom's going to cry," Jennifer whispered to Nadia. Nadia nodded.

Of course I didn't cry...much...until I got in the car.

Then I cried the whole two and one half hour ride home.

Two years later, we were unloading the car in front of Nadia's dorm at Waterloo University. It just didn't seem right. She took her Scooby-Doo blankie with her, for heaven's sake!

"Mom," she said, "you're going to cry, aren't you?"

I beamed a huge smile, shook my head and well, that's when the floodgates opened. She hugged me and handed me a box of tissues.

Two years after that, we pulled up in front of Tim's dorm at Brock University.

When it came time to say good-bye, visions of the first time I put my wee little boy on the big yellow school bus swirled dizzily around in my head.

It was either faint or cry, so, of course, I cried.

"I knew you were going to cry," said Tim smiling sweetly as he hugged me good-bye.

"Yes, but this is the last time," I told him.

I was wrong.

By the time this is published, I will be unloading the rest of Jennifer's belongings at her new apartment in Windsor.

And at some point while I am talking excitedly about this big new adventure of going to law school, she will get that knowing look in her eyes and hand me a box of tissues for the trip home.

And as I am saying bye-bye to my baby, the big yellow school buses will be weaving through Aurora picking up children and leaving mothers to wonder if it's "normal" to feel this way.

For the record, yes it is perfectly normal to hug your child's teddy bear and weep!

In fact, I already packed one in my car for the long, lonely trip home.

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



Bouquets & BRICKBATS

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

 **BOUQUETS** to Dylann Miller, granddaughter of the late Councillor Pete Miller, on winning the 2008 Aurora Teen Idol Competition with her fantastic yodeling and runner up Courtney Field who entertained with Aurora on my Mind. Both were recognized at a recent council meeting in addition to having a special spot in the Canada Parade.

 **BRICKBATS** to whoever prepared the Notice of council's intention to remove the holding prefix for the Minto subdivision and the St. John's Road Development Corp. The notice was published in the Notice Board for Wednesday, August 13, whereas the meeting was held Tuesday, August 12.

 **BOUQUETS** to Jordan Meron, Thomas Black and Cam Harris of Aurora for being selected among the more than 1,500 ultimate players representing 20 countries at the World Ultimate and Guts Championships. The three graduates of Aurora High School were part of the Ultimate team that won the Gold Medal in 2007 Ontario Federation of School Athletics Associations.

 **BRICKBATS** to the persons responsible for putting motorists in extreme danger by stealing catch basin covers leaving huge gaps along the side of Highway 427. At least 14 sewer covers were missing in two weeks and it is believed the thieves are selling them for scrap metal.

 **BOUQUETS** to Toyota Canada and Toyota dealers for their environmental efforts as they recently donated \$7,500 to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to go towards the protection, enhancement and regeneration of natural watershed resources across the GTA.

 **BRICKBATS** to Prime Minister Stephen Harper for failing to meet his own conflict of interest rules for declaring gifts received. By July, 2008, he had failed to declare a gift since February despite being required to do so within 30 days under new guidelines introduced by his government. Government officials claimed he was in compliance as all gifts were in the process of being appraised and disclosed. Don't do as I do, do what I say!

 **BOUQUETS** to Aurora staff members for being recognized by the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario for their longstanding commitment to the Association and the municipal profession; Paul Dillman for 30 years' service and Chandra R. Dass, Karen Ewart and Kelley-Jo Powis, each with 10 years.

 **BRICKBATS** to the organizers of the Economic Club of Canada for inviting Republican Presidential candidate John McCain to Ottawa for a luncheon speech and sticking the Canadian taxpayers for a \$10,000 bill to pay for 30 RCMP officers to provide security. McCain was accompanied by eight personal security officers, so he was well protected for the six hours he was in Canada.

 **BOUQUETS** to anyone who can explain why international donors are sending billions of pounds of free food to the people of Sudan while the Sudanese government is selling vast quantities of its own crops to other countries, capitalizing on high food prices when millions of people in war-riddled Darfur are close to starvation. Aid groups gave up long ago on the Sudanese government helping the people of Darfur.

 **BRICKBATS** to the 5,643 stupid motorists for getting caught for speeding over the August holiday weekend by the OPP after all the advance warnings that officers would be out in force, A total of 150 motorists had their cars impounded for exceeding the speed limit by more than 50 km/hr.

 **BOUQUETS** to Aurora-based Torcan Chemical who celebrated its 10th anniversary by raising funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation by employees riding the Big Bike and other fundraising activities. Over the years Torcan has contributed more than \$35,000 to the Foundation.

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Letters to the Editor

Make polluters pay, this candidate says

To the editor,

The Green Shift is at the heart of the Liberal plan to address climate change while building a more competitive economy.

It is as powerful as it is simple - we will cut taxes on those things we all want more of, such as income, investment and innovation, and shift those taxes to what we all want less of: pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and waste.

We need to make polluters pay and put every single penny back into the hands of Canadians.

Unlike the current Conservative government, we don't believe that Canadians have to choose between a strong economy and a green environment.

We believe that what is good for the planet can also be good for the wallet.

Energy costs are soaring all over the world.

While energy prices continue to rise, we need to encourage energy efficiency.

We need to change wasteful habits. We need to discourage polluting activities.

But an economic slowdown is also threatening Canada - too many jobs are disappearing.

So we need to create new, well-paying, green jobs.

We also need a fairer and more progressive tax system so that we help the middle class and low-income Canadians become part of the solution to the climate change crisis while protecting the vulnerable - seniors, the disabled, etc. - from rising energy costs.

The Conservative government has done nothing for two critical years. They have no plan for absolute reductions. They have no plan for the 21st century economy.

The Conservatives are trying to confuse, mislead, and scare Canadians - they have already started and they won't stop.

Under our plan, there will be no new taxes on gasoline at the pump.

But the reality is that the problem of rising fuel costs is not going to go away - in fact, everyone keeps telling us it

will only get worse.

Our tax cuts will help Canadians deal with rising fuel prices. And making investments in conservation will help families save more money.

So how does the Liberal Green Shift Plan work?

Over four years, the length of a government's usual mandate, we will put an increasing price on fossil fuels, like coal and natural gas, and their greenhouse gas pollution that causes climate change.

Any higher energy costs will be offset by tax cuts.

We will dramatically reduce other taxes, for individuals and for businesses.

We will make sure that this dramatic tax shift is revenue neutral.

It cannot be, and we commit that it will not become, a tax grab by government.

This commitment will be enshrined in legislation, and we will have the Auditor General look at the numbers and confirm this each and every year to Canadians.

But putting money back in the hands of Canadians is only part of the solution.

Investing in renewable energy and conservation - helping families to use less and pay less - is also key to our plan.

Canadians will have access to a full suite of programs to help them reduce their own carbon footprint and the pollution they produce.

This will allow Canadians to save even more money on their own energy costs, while helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Our plan includes many other tax measures that will ensure no one gets left behind and everyone can participate in this movement - specific measures for low-income earners, for families, for rural and northern residents.

By the fourth year of our plan, we expect that a family with two children and a combined income of \$20,000 will save almost \$2,500; a family with two children earning \$40,000 a year will save nearly \$2,000; a family with two children earning \$60,000 will save more than \$1,300, as will a family earning \$80,000.

So you see what we mean

when we say our plan is broad-based - everyone benefits.

To attract investment and create jobs, our plan will also see corporations having their tax rates cut so they can invest more money in their own practices, reduce their own polluting and increase their energy efficiency.

In the coming weeks and months, we look forward to speaking with Canadians

about our plan. Liberals will be criss-crossing the country holding discussions throughout the summer and we want your ideas - we want to know how you envision a fairer, richer, greener Canada.

To learn more, I would invite you to go to www.the-greenshift.ca

Tim Jones
Newmarket-Aurora
Federal Liberal candidate

Golf tournament would raise funds for Southlake Centre

To the editor,

I am Pete Miller's son, Gerry.

As you know my family grew up here in Aurora.

I left at 19 to attend school and start a career.

I moved back to Aurora from Toronto five years ago so that my children could play Aurora Tiger hockey and enjoy the type of small town childhood that I enjoyed which was to the credit of Aurora citizens like my late father.

In fact, my daughter, Dylann, recently won the Aurora idol competition something that is almost impossible to become a participant in a place like Toronto.

My family has set up the Pete Miller Charitable Foundation (www.pmcf.ca) to continue his efforts in raising money for the Southlake Regional Cancer Centre.

It is by coincidence that both my father and mother died at the hospital that he so often worked tirelessly to raise money.

We hope to have charitable status by the end of the year.

The reason for my letter is to advise you of the Annual Golf tournament that we ran for the first time last year raising \$21,000.

It is scheduled for Thursday, September 11, at Silver Lakes Golf Club in Holland Landing (owned by an Aurora guy).

I would appreciate if you could print this in The Auroran and give the event a "plug".

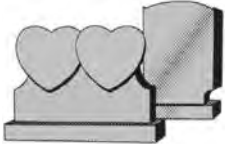
I got your information from your website and I recalled the very kind words in The Auroran when my father died.

Gerry Miller
Aurora

ED. NOTE: When the editor came to Aurora in 1969, Pete Miller was an Aurora Councillor and a huge hockey nut. Every Sunday night, Pete was the timekeeper at Aurora Tiger hockey games. His death was a shock to the community.

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Letter to the Editor

About time government acknowledged victims

To the editor,

Re: Ontario ombudsman announces probe of government monitoring of nursing homes (Letter, The Auroran, August 26)

Considering the years of government incompetence of not ensuring the safety and well-being of every resident in Ontario nursing homes and their demonstrated lack of appropriate action and accountability with the concerns brought forward by families and other members of the public, there can be no justification for the provincial government to not assign oversight authority of long-term care facilities to the provincial ombudsman.

Families who have taken their serious concerns to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care regarding the neglect and abuse of their institutionalized elderly relatives expected the ministry to deal with their complaints appropriately and effectively.

Clearly, that has not been the case.

While the ombudsman does not have the mandate to directly investigate nursing homes, he can investigate how the ministry deals with complaints and matters of compliance.

On July 16, 2008, Ontario's ombudsman Andre Marin announced he will conduct a full systemic investigation into the province's monitoring of long-term care facilities and its effectiveness in ensuring nursing homes meet government standards.

Media reports of abuse and neglect and tragic unnecessary deaths in provincially regulated long-

term facilities have been disturbingly frequent.

The ministry's own documents substantiate deplorable conditions, neglect of care and repeated non-compliance of provincial standards in far too many facilities.

The hundreds of complaints received by the ombudsman's office regarding nursing homes highlights the importance for Marin to have direct authority to oversee nursing homes.

Families who have experienced the substandard and subhuman neglect of their institutionalized parents, which, in some cases, resulted in their tragic deaths, know firsthand such oversight is long overdue.

Considering there appears to be no reason to believe anything will change under the present system,

all political representatives should be speaking out in strong support for the provincial ombudsman to have oversight of long-term care facilities in this province, not just applaud him for his decision to launch an investigation over how the government investigates.

And it isn't sufficient for Health Minister David Caplan to simply say the advice of the ombudsman was "welcomed" or for some MPPs to say the situation in nursing homes is not acceptable.

The government is not "ensuring quality care" is available for all residents in Ontario long-term facilities and the public has grown impatient hearing such false claims since the 1990's.

Ellen Watson
Aurora



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Dr. Craig Dingman



Are You Poisoning Your Kids?

I have written about this topic before and I am still so often surprised by the lack of knowledge in this area. How many of you have felt uneasy over the amount of "diet" soft drinks your children are consuming each day? If your intuition has given you internal warnings, you are correct. As a chiropractor I am very concerned with the increasing use of artificial sweeteners, especially by children. The most widely used of these is ASPARTAME, marketed as "NutraSweet", "Equal", and "Spoonful". At a recent World Environmental Conference, the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) announced that there was an increasing epidemic of Multiple Sclerosis and Systemic Lupus, among others, caused by a then unknown toxin. It was soon discovered that the toxin in question was Aspartame.

When the temperature of Aspartame exceeds 86 degrees F., the wood alcohol (methanol) in Aspartame converts to formaldehyde and then to formic acid which then causes metabolic acido-

sis. If you think this is not a problem, think again. Body temperature hovers around 98.6 degrees, perfect conditions for aspartame to be converted to formaldehyde. Formaldehyde is grouped in the same drug class as cyanide and arsenic - deadly poisons. It is also used to embalm corpses. It has no business being in your child.

Aspartame changes the brain's chemistry and has been responsible for many neurological problems such as seizures, manic depression, rage, violence, etc. This methanol toxicity mimics Multiple Sclerosis; thus people were being diagnosed with MS in error.

In the case of Systemic Lupus, it is becoming rampant, especially among Diet Coke and Diet Pepsi drinkers. It is triggered by Aspartame. With continued use, it can be life threatening. When kids get off Aspartame, those with Systemic Lupus usually become asymptomatic, but the disease cannot be reversed. Those diag-

nosed with MS (when in reality the disease is methanol toxicity), have noticed most of their symptoms disappear.

If your children are suffering from fibromyalgia symptoms, spasms, shooting pains, numbness in the legs, cramping, dizziness, headaches, joint pains, depression, anxiety attacks, slurred speech, blurred vision, or memory loss, they may be suffering from Aspartame Disease.

This product is being promoted to children as a weight-loss sweetener. Nothing could be further from the truth. Aspartame makes one actually crave carbohydrates. Dr. Roberts, a diabetic specialist and a world expert on aspartame poisoning, stated at a Congressional hearing recently that the average weight loss was 19 lbs. in people who got off this chemical. Dr. Blaylock, a neurosurgeon, said that it stimulates the brain causing brain damage of varying degrees.

Why has this chemical not been taken off the market? Well...the manufacturer funds the American Diabetes Association, the American Dietetic Assoc., Congress, and the Conference of the American College of Physicians. Need I say more?

For safe and sweet alternatives to aspartame you can try Fructose, Stevia, Barley Malt, Honey, Dark Molasses, and Demerara sugar, all available at your local health food store. Let's take care of our kids!

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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Letters to the Editor

I feel letter writer shouts at me: reader

To the editor,

I am an Aurora resident who enjoys perusing the community paper and reading the odd articles of happenings, information and controversial opinions. However, I am not at all the type of person who would ever write to the editor and make the comment I am about to make. Largely so because I believe we all have a right to an opinion, that I enjoy my privacy without it being written on public page, and lastly, because I am a professional working mother of two children with many other demands to consider. Often I would read, only to pause while

considering anecdotes. With a cup of coffee in hand, and undoubted respect for those people having the courage to step forward to make their view known, I would read on. Regardless if I agreed with them or not, your paper remains a truly public and community centred forum. However, this week I stopped and decided I would most definitely put to words my own opinion (not so much on a topic but on a particular pattern and tone I find is in much repetition). Nigel Kean is a regular respondent to the Letters To The Editor section. I do not know who this person is, but I vaguely recall seeing his name

in the community. I do not appreciate his manner, which is becoming a consistent staple to The Auroran paper with his weekly angry rants of displeasure often coated with bitterness and resentment. I am wondering why is it so that The Auroran continues to include this "in-your-face" criticisms of constant negativity and nit-picking from Mr. Kean? Is everything Mr. Kean writes accepted in your paper? Each time I read his comments I feel as though I am being shouted at, and am left thinking if all people in Aurora were like him, it would be quite the negative and miserable place to call home. There is more about our community

than his very slanted, judgemental and offensive critiques about people who are trying to move this Town along and are doing their best. He reminds me of the typical "peanut gallery" type of person who is a professional critic and what Channing Pollock describes as "...a legless man trying to teach running". He is an angry man who is allowed to pollute your pages with constant rhetoric. I was curious to find out more about this defensive and highly published community activist, whose weekly sermons in your paper are beginning to sound as if he was a want-to-be-mayor, so I googled him (which now seems to be the course of

action to take when one wants to find out about something). I was not surprised at all to learn that he did run for the position of mayor, and how thankful I am he isn't. Progressive, visionary type of people who want to activate a difference with positivity, peace, social know-how, respect, tolerance, integrity and intelligence are more of what this Town needs. I understand we all have a voice to share, but Mr. Kean's should not be monopolized and given the ink that I so often see and read as a regular. Please consider this comment for future editions and to

give allowances to those who want to do more than just bring morale in this Town down. I write on behalf of myself and to all those Aurora residents who have always wanted a say but never went as far as writing to you.

Anonymous
Aurora

ED. NOTE: The Auroran is aware of the letter writer's identity and it was pointed out to the author that The Auroran prints all letters to the editor, as long as they don't cause the editor to wind up in jail.

Waste of time, money, to check things Aurora already has on file

To the editor,

I got the most amazing letter from the Town of Aurora a few days ago about my little ankle biter, Damien, who lives at my house. Damien wears three tags: one for his shots, of course, one about his microchip and the third, his 2008 Aurora license making him a legal "beagle" (we know he is a heinzie but the pun is fun). The envelope was addressed to "The resident/owner/tenant" and then my address. The first chuckle of the letter: if I am the resident,

wouldn't I be the owner or tenant? After opening the letter it advised me that the doggie/cat police had been to my house and discovered I had a pup! Amazing deduction--anyone coming onto the property has Damien barking, until you start patting him and then he won't leave you alone! Dogs do that. The letter proceeded to tell me that I must buy a license for my dog, etc., etc., but if I had done so to disregard the letter. Second chuckle: needless to say it all went into the "Blue

Box" for pick up today--at least it "might" be recycled, which I doubt... My pup is a neutered male with a microchip and a 2008 licence from the Town of Aurora. The Town has all that on file including the Veterinarian Certificates. Wouldn't some genius check a file? There must be an address list as I get the license renewal stuff by mail from the Town. Duh! Yes, I know about this program, as it was announced in The Auroran some months back. I'm glad the Town is employing students but wouldn't time be better suited for them to do more constructive work and NOT waste taxpayer money canvassing for unlicensed dogs and cats and sending these ridiculous letters?

The postage and paper alone must have cost more than a dollar each. Also how do they find cats? Do they have little fake mice or catnip that they hold up to house windows OR are they actually snooping into house windows or? Maybe they have little "spy planes". Ridiculous - typical of the folks who run our Town. I guess small things amuse small minds and small minds seem to occupy our political arena. That may be a very good thing. At least it keeps me laughing and keeps my mind off the important stuff for a time. I can't believe that anyone on council voted for this. Then again...

Earle Lepofsky
Aurora

This intersection needs more than traffic lights

To the editor,

While the new traffic lights at Edward and Engelhard Streets might be a step in the right direction, I don't think they alone will be enough to prevent all the "numerous" accidents just "waiting to happen". I do, however, believe such a lofty goal can be achieved by augmenting these lights with several back-up enhancements such as - posting all-way stop signs under each bank of lights, placing traffic-calming measures on all approaches (including the firehall area),

declaring the immediate area a "Community Safety Zone - Fines Increased", and finally, utilizing firefighters and paramedics (already stationed at the locale anyway) to assist in directing traffic (between calls, of course). While I'm confident most Aurorans will see the wisdom of the first three proposals, I realize some naysayers will say the last one is just a bit over the top! To these people, I would ask,- hey, if it saves just one life, isn't it worth a try?

Stewart Ivol
Aurora

Reader liked Dick's view

To the editor,

What a great "editorial" this week by Dick Illingworth. It was educational for members of council who wish to take notice; informative for voting citizens. Will we learn of the total costs associated with the "replacement" of five Directors? Probably not. Will it affect our taxes? Definitely, yes. I worked as a senior

bureaucrat in Ottawa for the Federal Government. My job was to give the best advice possible given the "known facts" and not to arrange a decision in any "proposed" direction. Civil Servants are paid by the public (not the politicians) and do "report" to the public. Onto the next chapter of this sad council. Frank Snape
Aurora

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Dr. Renate Grottsch, General Medicine

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Restaurant rating system never saw light of day

Long before dirty dining stories started to grab headlines in Toronto newspapers about restaurants in 2000, restaurant inspections were already a priority for the York Region Health Department.

It was pointed out that with the diversity of the region, new food premises were opening with a vastly different cultural mosaic and it was necessary to teach them the need to meet Canadian standards.

During 1999 the region's 19 health inspectors visited 10,108 food establishments of which 1,623 were given a warning and re-inspected resulting in 58 charges and eight establishments closed.

Restaurants in Aurora were also inspected.

At that time, full menu restaurants were inspected three times a year, take-out restaurants at least twice a year and convenience stores and other low risk establishments at least once a year.

Then in May, 2000, the region's Health Committee, despite the potential legal implications, decided to follow the Toronto initiative and require food premises to post notices of their eateries' sanitary conditions.

Committee members said the region had a moral obligation to let customers know whether they were entering a restaurant that had passed all health inspections or entering a dirty restaurant.

Staff members advised that under the Municipal Act only local municipalities, not regional governments, had the authority to pass bylaws and make regulations for the health, safety and welfare of residents.

They recommended waiting to see how Toronto and other areas handled the issue but some committee members were anxious to proceed.

In August, 2000, the Health Committee adopted a restaurant rating system similar to that proposed in Toronto which would become effective in July, 2001.

Restaurants closed because of health infractions would be required to post a red sign, those with violations not serious enough for closure a yellow sign and a green sign for those who had passed inspection.

Staffers recommended that only the red and green signs be used to designate whether a restaurant was

open or closed but committee members wanted the yellow signs to be included to let patrons know the restaurant operators had been warned.

Regional staff was directed to meet with the local municipalities to request consistent licensing provisions to provide for the three-tier rating system and also with the food industry stakeholders.

Reaction from the food industry was mixed with some operators supportive while others expressed concern.

In general, the food industry representatives indicated they were quite satisfied with the current food premises inspection system.

In June, 2001, York Regional Council adopted a report from the Health Committee on Food Premises Inspection Disclosure and authorized the implementation of a restaurant inspection disclosure system which included the mandatory posting of health inspection reports.

In addition, the council asked local municipalities to adopt a model local bylaw to require mandatory posting of inspection reports starting in June, 2002, but as no response had been received from the local municipalities a second request was made by the region in November, 2001.

A recent survey of 516 households indicated that 74.2 per cent believed regional restaurants were safe to eat in, 4.2 per cent never went to a restaurant, 7.1 per cent didn't know and 5.3 per cent believed restaurants were unsafe.

Although meetings had been held between local and regional staff regarding the adoption of the required enacting bylaw, none of the local municipalities had adopted the bylaw.

In January, 2002, for the second time, Aurora Council rejected the region's request to licence a rating system for restaurants as the majority of members of council said the restaurant industry was still struggling with the region's restrictive smoking bylaw.

The restaurant rating system came to a halt and now it's up to patrons to decide where to eat, knowing that health inspectors are doing their job.

Advertorial



Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris (left) and Wendy Browne, Events Coordinator hone their BBQ skills to promote Aurora's Ribfest September 5-7 at Machell Park. Ribfest week-end promises something or every appetite - Carnivores and Herbivores alike - combined with lots of activities, the "best suds" provided by Aurora Rotary Club and fabulous entertainment.



PROPOSED MERGER OF HYDRO UTILITIES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSIONS

Barrie Hydro Distribution Inc. and PowerStream Inc. invite you to participate in consultation sessions being held to provide information to and receive input from the public regarding a proposal to merge these two local electricity distribution companies. The public consultation sessions will include a presentation on the merger proposal, expected benefits for stakeholders and next steps in the merger process. Staff will be available for a question and answer period following the presentation.

Background

Barrie Hydro Distribution Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of the City of Barrie. PowerStream Inc. is a jointly owned subsidiary of the City of Vaughan and the Town of Markham. In June 2008, the Boards of Directors of Barrie Hydro Distribution Inc. and PowerStream Inc. signed a Letter of Intent to pursue a merger of the two utilities. If, after public consultation, Barrie Hydro Distribution Inc. and PowerStream Inc. decide to proceed with the proposal to merge, approvals will still be required from each utility's respective Boards of Directors, Shareholders, Municipal Councils and the Ontario Energy Board.

Time and Locations

There will be two public consultation sessions to be held on the dates and location as indicated below:

Tuesday September 9, 2008
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Sheraton Parkway Toronto North,
Vaughan East Room
600 Highway 7 East,
Richmond Hill, ON

Wednesday September 10, 2008
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
PowerStream Head Office,
Rooms 101 & 102
161 Cityview Boulevard,
Vaughan, ON

Contact:
Eric Fagen
Corporate Communications
Manager, PowerStream Inc.
905-532-4522



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Page 10

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Locals brought gold medals home in 1968

With the spirit of the recent Olympics in China still in the news, it was 40 years ago when 80,000 people at the Estadio Olimpico in Mexico City gathered to watch the team horse jumping event on the last day of the Mexico City Olympics.

The horsemanship and superb training of equestrians from the Aurora area hit the world spotlight in October, 1968.

In the last competitive event, three Canadian riders and horses outrode and outjumped the world to bring home a gold medal.

Jim Elder of Aurora, Jim Day of King City and Tom Gayford of Gormley wrote their names into history with a breathtaking performance watched by millions.

Elder and Gayford arrived at Pearson International Airport on October 28, 1968, to be greeted by more than 200 cheering and placard-waving spectators.

Unfortunately no civic officials from Aurora or King City were in the welcoming party.

Aurora Mayor Clarence Davis talked to King officials to try and arrange some sort of reception, but all were tied up that Monday evening.

During the 1969 Canada Day Festivities at the Town Park, the three riders were featured and officially recognized by Mayor Dick Illingworth,

Aurora seniors' duplicate bridge

Monday August 25: North-South - Anne White and Barbara Wittmer; Joan Rotenberg and Mary Oglanby; Carol Davidson and Elaine Hunter. East-West - Inger Kamel and Priscilla Hull; Audrey Robertson and Evelyn Dickie; Harold McClean and Dave Barber.

members of council and hundreds of citizens for their Mexico City feat.

The riders were surprised to win the gold, as they figured they rated a fifth or sixth place finish, or if they were extremely lucky they might get a bronze.

Gayford said everything went right for the Canadian team, while the other teams made mistakes.

The first step toward the Olympic gold was taken by Day when he won the Pan American individual gold medal riding Canadian Club.

He joined Elder riding The Immigrant and Gayford on Big Dee for the tough eight-hour Prix des Nations event over the demanding 14-obstacle course.

Consistency plus Elder's brilliant first ride were the keys to victory.

Elder aboard The Immigrant, a sometime troublesome horse, which kicks up its hind legs after each jump, was left with the final round, which would determine

Canada's finish.

He started well, but knocked down four jumps and picked up two time faults for an 18-point total. It was one of the best rides of the day and good enough for the gold.

This was the first time Canada had entered the Nations Grand Prix event in Olympic competition and none of the horses had a great deal of experience in this type of jumping.

After the event the trio turned out smartly dressed in red tunics, white breeches and black boots to receive their gold medal as the Canadian flag was raised and the band played the national anthem.

A world-ranked equestrian for more than 30 years, Elder was a candidate for the Canadian show-jumping team in the Seoul, South Korea Olympics in 1988.

His spirit was willing, but his horses were a little weak and he missed the incredible feat of participating in six Olympiads.

Five Olympic Games

plus gold and bronze medals is an achievement matched by very few.

He won the bronze medal at the Melbourne Games in 1956.

He rode with John Rumble and Brian Herbinson.

He also rode on the show jumping team in 1968, 1976 and 1984.

Elder remained active in the horse world scouting and training jumpers and competed on a regular basis.

Gayford was appointed

chef d'equipe, or head coach, of the Seoul Games passing along a lifetime of experience.

Day is a top thoroughbred trainer for Sam-Son Farms and he saddled the horses that won the Triple Crown of Canadian racing in 1988.

Long before the 1968 Olympics, Elder and Gayford were very experienced riders and regular competitors at the Aurora Horse Show and the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.



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Entertainer Beverley Mahood, who will perform at this year's edition of the Magna Hoedown, sits atop the brand new Cadillac that someone will win at the Aurora event on Wellington Street East, Saturday, Sept. 13. Event starts at 5 p.m. Tickets are on sale all over town.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



The largest tent in the province is currently being put together on Magna International property on Wellington Street East in Aurora. It will house an estimated 5,000 people expected to attend the 21st annual Hoedown Saturday, September 13th. They will be entertained, fed and have a chance to win a new Cadillac during the course of the evening which begins at 5 p.m.

Auroran photo by Rob Scheutze

Magna Hoedown ready to go again

From page 1

giant auction and prize trips to Nashville and New York City with more than 1,000 people in attendance.

Proceeds from the Fiesta were shared by several non-profit and charitable organizations.

By 1993, the attendance had grown and the Hoedown was held in two tents, one for food and the other for entertainment featuring the country music of Desperado and Backstreet. A Celebrity Auction was also held.

The 1994 edition of the Hoedown raised funds to build a new arena to be twinned with the Community Centre. Entertainment was provided by the Good Brothers. More than 3,000 attended and \$50,000 was raised.

By 2002 the name of the event had changed to the "El

Dorado Hoedown" featuring country singers Chely Wright, Chris Cummings and the Pulse Band. There was also a Prospector's Raffle with a new Mercedes Benz as the grand prize.

The event became the "Wild, Wild West Hoedown" featuring Canadian country singers George Crayon, Jimmy Rankin, Barnard and Brohm and Karla Crawford.

More than 2,500 people attended the 2004 Hoedown and a total of \$401,000 was raised for 10 local charities and there was a challenge between Aurora and Newmarket as to which town could sell the most raffle tickets for a Mercedes Benz.

In 2005, both Aurora and Newmarket councils proclaimed the week of September 12 as Hoedown Week and as a kick-off for the

annual event. Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor and Aurora Mayor Tim Jones pinned the symbolic sheriff's star on Frank Stronach.

The 2006 Hoedown included a partnership with the Graystones Restaurant in holding a Country Singer competition called "Showdown to the Hoedown" at the restaurant with auditions three weeks before the Hoedown and the winner singing at the event.

Each year thousands of

local residents and people from far and wide gather under the huge tent on the Magna property for a barbecue dinner, foot-stomping country and western music and good old-fashioned fun.

Over the years the Hoedown has raised millions of dollars for community charities to assist them in carrying on their work of helping people.

It's a fun way to raise funds for worthy charities.

Bowling Leagues All Begin in September Saturday Morning – Sept 6th

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Town seniors' centre scene of culture event

The staff at the Aurora Seniors' Centre would like to invite the public to join them at 'A Celebration of Culture' event being held Wednesday, September 10 at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, 5 Municipal Drive from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"This is a great opportunity for residents to visit the Seniors' Centre, sample a variety of feature dishes from local restaurants and appreciate the different cultures within Aurora," said Virginia Ciuffo, Acting Seniors Coordinator. "We look forward to bringing the community together in this celebration of culture."

There will be a variety of local restaurants featuring cultural foods ranging from

Japanese, Italian, Thai, Austrian, Greek, British, Canadian, and Jamaican.

The event is in tribute to the Beijing Olympics and the diversity and unity in Aurora.

Included in the activity will be entertainment, food sampling, cultural activities, and door prizes. Tickets are now on sale at the Aurora Seniors' Centre and may also be purchased on the day of the event.

Cost per ticket is \$8 for entertainment, seminars, coffee/tea and dessert and \$1 for each food sample selected.

For more information, contact Angie Roylance, Acting Seniors Programmer at 905-727-3123, ext. 3611.



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Senior Scape

Computer course registration upon us

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Registration for computer courses is upon us once more, even though the summer weather has much more to offer yet. But the idea of even attempting to operate a computer fills some members with fear or uneasiness which is a great pity because fear is an intangible, and quite common but often dissipates rapidly during the very first computer lesson.

The urge to access and navigate through today's computer technology has a power which is compelling for many members and only hands on computer experience will provide the answer to the question, "Is it the right thing to do, or not"?

Really, there is only one completely effective way to answer the question, and that is to try it.

We in the computer club make accessible our varied experience, and while not every senior student will succeed, many do and some do extremely well with the rudiments learned in the well equipped computer room at the centre.

Several months ago, some of our members offered a course on scanning digital images from older technology to a computer and from there to a memory key or to any kind of compact disc.

This proved to be a noteworthy course and may be repeated at some time in the future.

In the meantime, anybody who has old photographs, slides, or negatives and who has a desire to preserve them in a more durable form should ensure they possess some minimum computer skills.

It is great if a family member at home, perhaps younger, will do it for you, but the time will come when your own skills will be your only resource.

If you have lagged behind computer technology, take heart and access the computer education offered at the centre.

What basic skills are essential to access computer instruction? The ability to understand and to be able to read and write in English, plus reasonably good health, are enormously important.

Poor English is a problem, and poor eyesight or hands that tremble excessively on the keyboard, may or may not be insurmountable.

The ability to listen to instructions with reasonable comprehension for what is said is important. Nobody is expected to comprehend and remember everything articulated in the classroom, and the lessons are often supported by written handouts.

I believe that most of the students, well into their 70s and beyond, who are diligent in class and who reinforce what they have learned in class at home, through each of the lessons, will succeed.

Steve Pengally has been assigned to another Town facility and we welcome Bill Hawke to the centre as the new caretaker.

The Sewing Club and the Wood Shop will begin their regular hours in September and the Chess Club will resume September 9th at 6 p.m., which is also the movie night.

The Evergreen Choir begins Wednesday, September 3rd at 2.30 p.m. with rehearsals at 3 p.m. Members, please bring all of your music, and for interested non-members, places in the choir are available.

Our world here in Aurora is calm and peaceful mostly, and certainly free from the sound of armies marching or doing battle, but even absent strife, the advance of time snares us all eventually.

Thus, I am sad that time is slowing Dick Illingworth down a little after a truly long and remarkable career.

Dick is a member of the ASA and has decided to retire from his cable television show, "Our Town". Thanks, Dick, for all you have done for Aurora so far, and I hope you remain energized to continue with your reporting of municipal affairs and with your contributions to this newspaper, and for whatever else invigorates you and commands your attention and time.

Also, I understand that Councillor Evelyn Buck (another ASA member) has undergone hip surgery, and this passage is to wish Evelyn a full and speedy recovery.

I am confident that Evelyn will demonstrate the fortitude in recovering from this operation that she displays in advancing her political agenda.



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There's nothing better than watching movies outdoors, and hundreds of people took advantage of the opportunity last week as the Town of Aurora held three movies in three separate parks. At the Town Park, movie-goers saw Humphrey Bogart in Casablanca.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Aurora student captures bursary

Christopher Finlay of Aurora is one of 12 Ontario students to recently win a \$1,000 bursary through the Ontario Teachers

Insurance Plan Bursary Program.

This fall, Christopher will attend Fanshawe College to pursue post-secondary studies.

His name was drawn at random from a pool of students who applied for the bursary, sponsored by OTIP.

"The value of an education isn't measurable, but the cost is," said Randy McGlynn, OTIP's Chief Executive Officer. "We're proud to be able to help these students."

Each year, OTIP Bursary applications are accepted until June 15 for the upcoming academic year. The names of the 2008-2009 winners were recently drawn from more than 1,400 entries received online.

Next year, the bursary will increase to \$1,500.

To apply, students (under the age of 30) must be a child, grandchild or dependant of an OTIP insured member, and must be enrolled as a full-time post secondary student at a Canadian college or university for the upcoming academic year.



It came as a complete surprise for Don Morning Friday afternoon when friends honoured him on his 73rd birthday at the Legion. A cake was brought in to mark the occasion.

Auroran photo by Bonnie Tiffin



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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

More health cards than people

It came as a shock to the Ontario Ministry of Health in December, 2006, when Auditor General Jim McCarter reported that there were about 300,000 more health cards in circulation than there were people in the province.

In his report, McCarter said the Ministry of Health had not yet verified the authenticity of citizenship documents for about 70 per cent of the 12.6 million health card holders.

The potential for fraud in the OHIP system was illustrated during Question Period when a member told about how one of her female constituents received documentation about having a pacemaker installed when she didn't have one.

In response to questions, Health Minister George Smitherman said the Ministry had cancelled 250,000 of the 300,000 excess cards identified by the auditor and monitoring within the Ministry had been increased.

To be eligible for an OHIP card, a resident of the province must be a Canadian citizen or have landed immigrant status and have lived in the province for at least 153 days in a 12-month period.

How did the extra 300,000 OHIP cards get issued in the first place and what's the current status?

CASH IN LIEU OF PARKING?

Back in August, 1986, when Aurora Council was considering the redevelopment of properties on Wellington Street East just west of the Post Office for residential and commercial uses, there was a parking problem with a shortage of four spaces.

Following a review it was recommended that council consider a payment in lieu of parking and after a further review it was agreed that the amount of \$5,060 be collected for each of the four spaces.

The money raised was meant to acquire land for parking in the general area to assist in overcoming the parking shortfall, but nothing happened.

An explanation would be appreciated.

WEIRD MUNICIPAL BYLAWS

Believe it or not but a few years back a Brampton woman received a ticket for having a For Sale sign on her car which she had parked on a Toronto street.

She had a medical appointment and found a parking spot in a metered area and deposited the correct amount in the meter.

When she returned to her car the meter was still running but there was a ticket on the windshield.

It seemed the city's For Sale bylaw prohibited people from using city streets as vehicle sale lot.

Not only that but there was a bylaw that dandelions must be kept under control or the city would harvest them and bill the home owner under the Tidy Lawn bylaw.

Although it was legal to ride a horse on the street, but not on the sidewalk, the Animal Control bylaw prohibited hauling a dead horse down the street on a Sunday.

In Scarborough, it was illegal for swine to wander south of Lawrence Avenue East

There was also a reward for anyone in Scarborough finding a dog in the act of killing a sheep. Feeding geese was illegal in Toronto but was permitted in Scarborough and Etobicoke.

There were also bylaws prohibiting swearing in public and throwing snowballs or other dangerous missiles within Toronto city limits.

In Etobicoke there was a bylaw prohibiting bathtub water levels above 3.5 inches.

Weird but wonderful, but how did they enforce the water in the bathtub?

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AURORA’S RIBFEST WORD SEARCH

by Scott Johnston

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

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

“Who will enjoy Aurora’s Ribfest?”

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

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The answer to the question is hidden on another page



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SEEKING INTERMEDIATE/SENIOR WEB DEVELOPER/PROGRAMMER Should have good knowledge of PHP, MySQL & Java Script Please send resume to hr@auroraonline.com 905-222-2022.

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OFFICE FOR RENT, Yonge and Mosley area. For more information, call Telly at 905-717-4073.

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UPSCALE COFFEE SHOP ON THE BEAN IN AURORA, P/T HELP WANTED FOR WEEKDAYS AND WEEKENDS

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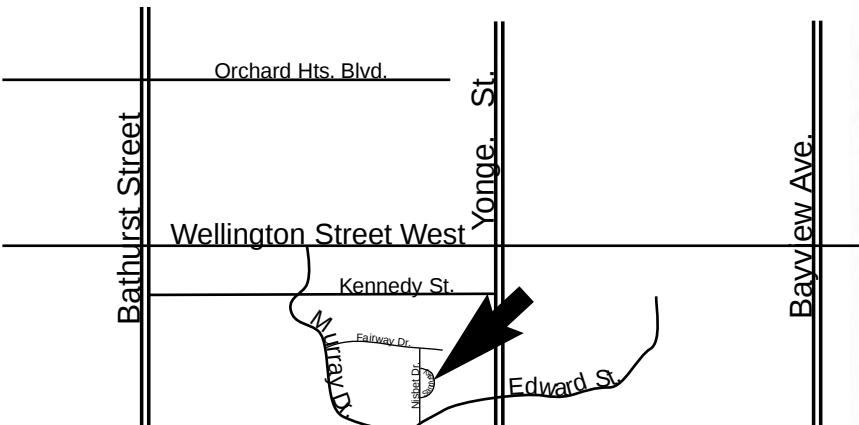
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T & T
Grades 3 to 6

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Grades 7 to 9

Northern Lights Public School
40 Bridgenorth Drive, Aurora
Mondays 6:30-8:15 p.m.
Begins September 8
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for information or to register
www.faith-baptist-aurora.org
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GARAGE SALES Call: 905-727-7128 to book your spot!
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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

DEADLINE CHANGES

We have changed our deadline for classified word, semi-display advertising & Lawn/Garage Sales to **FRIDAY AT 3 PM** for publication the following week.

Thank you.

DANCING
DANCE CLASSES
Next series starts Sept. 8 through Nov. 3rd.
No class October 13
8 pm class-Rumba Foxtrot
9 pm class- Cha Cha Waltz

No experience or partner required.
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Call Steve Miller at 416-439-6557
Email: Steve@SteveMillerDance.ca

COMING EVENTS

From page 2

tion session from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Town Hall to inform residents about new electricity solutions for Northern York Region.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Town of Aurora Mayors Blood Donor Clinic, 1 Municipal Dr. Aurora from 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

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.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

The Aurora/Newmarket Superwalk for Parkinson's Disease takes place at Fairy Lake in Newmarket with registration, a Yoga demonstration and speeches starting at 9.30 a.m. with the walk beginning at 10.30 a.m. For more information call Kim Rouse-Parypa at 905-713-0774 or Paula Hambrook at 905-895-4217.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Aurora council meets as general committee 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.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Amnesty International meets at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria St., Aurora, at 7.30 p.m. Discussion and letter writing about human rights cases. New members welcome. For information, call 905-713-6713.

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.

Ontario Power Authority presents an information session from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Town Hall to inform residents about the new electricity solutions for Northern York Region.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

The Farmers' Market features the Apple and Honey Festival.

Second Annual mini-walk with proceeds to Ovarian Cancer Canada, starts at the shelter behind Regency Acres Public School at 9.45 a.m. Course is slightly less than five kilometres in length.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

York Region Association for Volunteer Administration provides education and networking to support volunteer administration. Attend at the Aurora Public Library from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. or click on www.pavro.on.ca/yra for more information.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

Aurora Chamber of Commerce presents the 2008 Business Achievement Awards at Carrying Place in King Township. The event will feature a "Roaring Twenties" theme.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Harvest Fair at Wesley United Church 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., corner of Woodbine Avenue and Aurora Sideroad (Wellington St). Fair features crafts, baked goods, jams, jellies, preserves and an inexpensive lunch.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society presents Allen Foster talking about "Myths and Magic of Plants" at 8 p.m. at the Aurora Legion, Industrial Parkway North.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

The Farmers Market features Customer Appreciation Day.

A Sketching Workshop with artist Bill Lewochko happens at the Aurora Public Library from 10 a.m. until noon for ages 4 to 9. Pre-registration is required. Fee is \$10 per registrant.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Canadian Federation of University Women open meeting at the Aurora Legion, Industrial Parkway North. Guest speaker is David MacKinnon. Event begins at 8 p.m.

AURORA

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Northern Karate Schools
905-726-8886

Not Just Cards Hallmark
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Oakridge Outfitters
*905-726-4063

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*905-727-9391

Regency Variety
*905-727-6691

Sparkle Pharmacy
*905-727-2322

Staples/Business Depot
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The Source by Circuit City
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- 50 Kirkham Dr., Markham
- 3155 Hwy. #7, Markham
- 140 Northview Blvd., Vaughan

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- 289 Wellington St. E., Aurora

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- 200 McNaughton Rd., Vaughan

True Value Hardware

- 15236 Yonge St., Aurora

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