

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 but re-opens Sept. 26th with a Back To School prize night.

During the month of September the Skylight Gallery in the Town Hall will feature the artwork of Mary Lou Leitch. Viewing hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Thursdays (September to June): Navy League (Children nine to 12 years) Cadet program 7 to 9 p.m. Contact Cliff Davies at 905-727-2244 for details.

Tuesdays (September to June): Sea Cadet (Youths 13 to 18) program 7 to 9 p.m. Leave message at 905-895-3038.

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.

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 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. moms/caregivers and tots are invited to Story and Playtime at Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. Call 905-841-8883 for more information.

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 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. under the direction of 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.

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.

The Rare Book Roadshow returns to the Aurora Library with a free information session with antiquarian book expert John Ford. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk at 905-727-9493, option 4. Meet in the Magna Room from 7 to 9 p.m. Free on-the-spot book appraisals for the first 10 registrants.

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.

Aurora Public Library in partnership with community agencies presents a free workshop for parents/caregivers of toddlers. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk or by calling 905-727-9493, option 4. To be held in the Magna Room from 7 to 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Opening night for Theatre Aurora's production of "Jennie's Story" at the Factory Theatre, continuing on September 20, 25-28 and October 1-4. Call 905-727-3669 for ticket information.

Light Up the Legion Kick-off event begins at 6 p.m. and continues to midnight at the Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway. For further information, call 905-727-9932.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Start of an eight-week Art Therapy Program at King/Aurora Hospice, 155 King Road, in Oak Ridges. Call 905-773-0155 or www.hospicekingaurora.ca for further information.

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.

Trinity Anglican Church Fall Fair from 9.15 to 11 a.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Yard waste collection in brown kraft paper bags or clean, open rigid reusable containers to be at curb-side by 7 a.m. to ensure pickup. Also, collections Oct. 6 and 20 and Nov. 3, 10 and 17. For more information call 905-727-3123 ext.3447.

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.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

It's Greek Night for seniors at Jonathan's Restaurant but you don't have to be a senior to attend. It begins at 5.30 p.m. with a cash bar, with dinner at 6 and entertainment starting at 6.30 p.m.

Blood Donor Clinic at the Aurora Legion from 2:30 to 8 p.m. Call 1-888-2-DONATE for an appointment or more information.

It's Graffiti Clean Up Day in Aurora.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

A 12-hour Spin-a-Thon will be held at Timberlane from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. the following day with proceeds going to the Southlake Regional Cancer Centre. Volunteers and donors are needed and the contact is

Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas at the Town Hall.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

The last Great Curbside Giveaway for the season. Take unwanted items to the curb for others to treasure. Remove leftover items by 6 p.m. to keep the town attractive.

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.

Aurora owners of those sleek greyhound dogs will be part of a "meet and greet" event at Fairy Lake in Newmarket. The event will be held between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m., and, in case of rain, will be held the next day.

The Farmers' Market features the Apple and Honey Festival.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Deadline for applications for the Town of Aurora Arts and Culture Fund.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Start of an eight-week session which ends November 19 will be held at Aurora United church, for adults experiencing the death of a loved one. There is no fee for this program which is open to all in the community. For information and registration, call Mary

Smith at 905-727-6984.

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/yrava for more information.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

Aurora Film Circuit presents the film "Brick Lane", based on the book by Monica Ali. Tickets are \$10 and available at Aurora Public Library and R&R Revisited. All screenings take place at the Cineplex Aurora, with door prize at 6.45 and film at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit out-of-budget programming at the library.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

Fundraiser to raise money for Southlake's cancer program will feature Aurora's own Randy Skelcher, as Pauly and the Greaseballs lead the fundraiser at the Roman Palace, 1096 Ringwell Drive, in Newmarket. Tickets are \$30 each. Included in the event will be music from the 50s, 60s, and 70s, a 50-50 draw, snacks and door prizes. Call 905-836-7584 for further 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.

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Tim Jones has a record of delivering results for our community.

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Tim will fight hard to increase federal funding for GO Transit, municipal infrastructure, and healthcare.

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elect

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Legion ready for Candlelight ceremony

It is probably one of the most spectacular sights in Aurora each year.

For the past several years members of the Aurora Legion have placed candles on the graves of all ex-service people buried in the Aurora Cemetery who served in the Armed Forces.

This year it will happen on Saturday, September 20, as the candles burn through the night followed by a graveside service the next day.

This year, members of

the Legion's Ladies Auxiliary have placed markers on the headstones of veterans, and were astonished when they found a decaying, green-looking, marker lying on the ground, belonging to William Smith, a World War I veteran.

They cleaned it, restored it, added the marker to it, then put it back where it belonged at the Aurora Cemetery.

There will be a candle beside it next

Saturday night.

Like in previous years, late in the afternoon of a Saturday a small candle will be placed on all known veterans' graves.

More than 300 have been ordered.

In 1995 the citizens of the Netherlands held a special ceremony to commemorate the liberation of their country by Canadian forces in 1945. In this ceremony Dutch children placed lighted candles on the graves of fallen Canadian soldiers.

To honour them, the candles burned overnight in silent tribute and the candle lighting ceremony has become an annual event in Holland and other European countries.

In 2000 the Veterans Commemoration Committee, in conjunction with the Aurora Legion, carried out a similar ceremony with the assistance of local school children, the Queen's York Rangers Cadets and the 140 Squadron Air Cadets.

Chairman of the committee, the late Jack DeGraaf, a former member of the Dutch Marines, requested the assistance of citizens to identify the graves of all Commonwealth ex-servicemen and women buried in the Aurora Cemetery and invited citizens to attend the ceremony.

The tribute is to honour and keep the memory alive of those who answered the call to fight

against tyranny.

The tribute was to coincide with Legion Week to remember veterans who returned home from the Wars of the 20th century and the peacekeepers. Many returned home suffering from their wounds and spent time in hospital recovering.

Yet despite all this, the veterans worked hard, raised their families and contributed in making the communities a safe and wonderful place to live and enable citizens a safe and free environment and enjoy the freedoms people have today.

The Candlelight Tribute is a way for the community to thank the veterans.

The public is invited to attend the graveside Memorial Service in the Cemetery Sunday, September 21st, beginning at 2 p.m.

In the mid-1990s, Penny McLachlan, an employee of Veterans' Affairs Canada in Vancouver, attended a moving Annual Christmas Memorial to Canadian soldiers by school children in Holland. In this ceremony a candle is placed at every Canadian soldier's grave in thanks for the sacrifice those Canadians made to regain Holland's freedom.

After returning home, Penny had a dream which was to see candles lit across Canada in remembrance of the walking wounded, those who served their country and were able to return home to carry on with their lives

in the community.

Not all returned whole – many had physical disabilities, others had disabilities which were not readily visible. All had scars.

The first year of the program saw candles lit and placed on 1,200 veterans' graves; the next year more than 1,500 candles were lit in British Columbia.

Two years later, the late Comrade Sam Daggart,

who served in the Irish Regiment of Canada in WWII, started the Candlelight Tribute in Ontario.

The first Candlelight Tribute in Ontario was held in Sutton in 1999; then it spread to Aurora, then Richmond Hill, Newmarket, Fenelon Falls, Kirkland Lake, and Ottawa. It has also spread to Nova Scotia.



President of the Aurora Legion Ladies Auxiliary Jean Anderson replaces the marker of William Smith, a World War I veteran, who is buried in the Aurora Cemetery. The marker was found lying on the ground, and Legion members were able to restore it. They then added the insignia to the bottom of it, indicating that a candle will be placed near the marker next week when the Legion holds its annual candlelight ceremony. It's expected that more than 300 candles will be lit for the spectacular event that lights up the cemetery for one night each year.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace



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MP1345 (10/2007)

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Poor Richard

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Citizens lose battle between council, staff

*Council's team spirit is missing
As relations with staff will show;
It's "we" and "they", not "us"
And taxpayers are feeling the blow!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

The relationship between staff and council is always a dynamic one, a work in progress.

As such, it is important for elected representatives and staff to view their relationship as a working partnership.

Although both parties are not always going to agree on every issue, each partner is essential to the other if the municipality is to be successful as a local government and a provider of community programs and services.

Elected representatives are concerned, or should be, about policy and community relationships while staff is concerned with the practical, administrative, logistical and budgetary considerations.

It is vital that each party in the relationship understands its own goals as well as understands and respects the goals and responsibilities of the other.

The Chief Administrative Officer makes two very important contributions to council and the municipality.

The CAO must coordinate municipal operations including the implementation of policies taken by council and must coordinate the provision of policy advice from staff to council so that better decisions can be made.

Coordination is a key role of the CAO plus the development of a management team to bring about conditions under which various departments collaborate to achieve common objectives rather than working in isolation.

A recent example of the breakdown in this relation and an indication of the growing gap between council and senior staff and the distrust of some members of council with the professional opinions of staff was evident in the preparation of the 2007 Annual Report.

The town's Annual Report provides considerable information as to the general state of the municipality.

Over the past several years staff provided council with a summary of each department's activities and accomplishments for the preceding year.

The annual report not only provides a summary of the previous year's performance, it also provides ongoing activities and the challenges and strategies for the coming year.

The draft 2007 Annual Report was presented to the general committee last May.

It provided in detail the continued initiatives of staff in providing the highest and best level of service possible for the residents and business they serve.

When the report came to the general committee, some committee members expressed concern that it was a staff report without any council input.

Staff referred to a previous discussion in October, 2007, when Mayor Phyllis Morris had discussed an alternative method in preparing the Annual Report with two sections, with one section for council to be discussed at a future meeting.

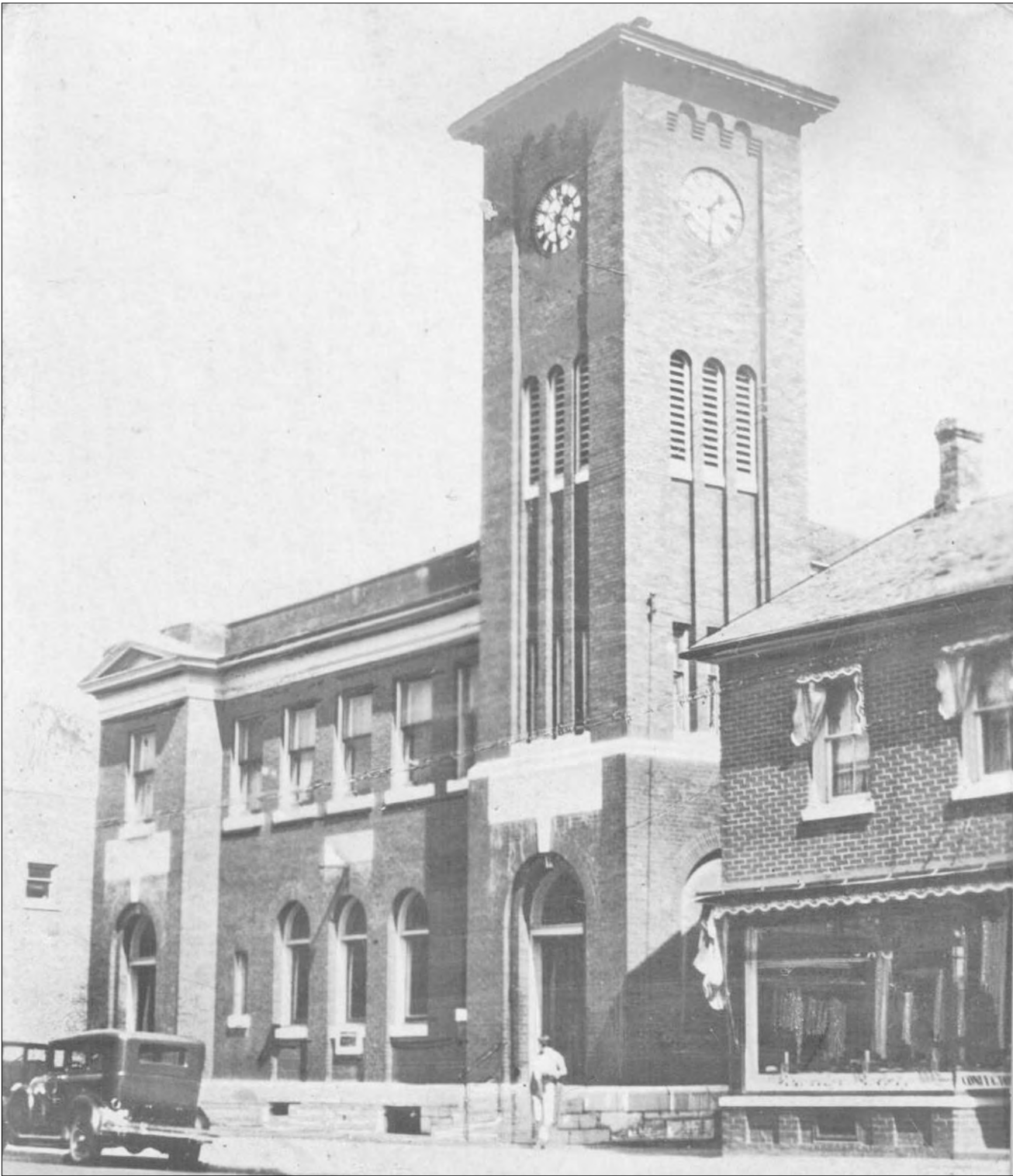
Then in November, 2007, the mayor announced she was preparing a 2007 Year in Review Report.

She said she was in the process of preparing a 10-page report of the many achievements of council which would be a report to the community from the Mayor and Members of Council and that possibly it should be blended with the town's Annual Report into one document.

After considerable discussion, the committee finally agreed to receive the town Annual Report as information and for the Mayor and the CAO to work together on one Annual Report for the municipality.

It is not known if the meeting took place, but the mayor published her personal report of the activities of her office and council for 2007 and here in mid-September citizens of the town are still waiting for the 2007 town's Annual Report of the achievements of the town's various departments as has been received for the past several years.

In the battle between staff and council, the citizens are the losers.



Familiar landmark. The old Aurora post office, complete with its working clock, has been a Yonge Street landmark in Aurora for decades. Buildings around it have changed, but this one remains the same. Now it's used for several offices and is the home of the Aurora Food Pantry.

Letter to the Editor

Illegal election signs are a sign of disrespect: reader

To the editor,

As a new resident to Aurora this year, I must say that although I have been made to feel welcome by the local community, I find myself frustrated and turned off by the current election scene.

With the recent call of the federal election, I immediately found myself inundated with Lois Brown signs that were not only installed before the election began, but a large number of them were placed in prohibited areas, and remained in violation for far too long.

While my concern may seem insignificant, I believe it is a reflection of the larger problems of campaigning and elections that affects us all.

Stephen Harper set the tone when he said that he anticipates a 'very nasty' election, as though to prepare Canadians for negative campaigning or winning-at-all-cost tactics.

Does this then justify his party's candidate deliberately breaking very clear election policies by placing illegal signs?

I now find myself begging the questions: should I or any-

one vote for someone who doesn't play by the rules?

And is this the type of individual who we hope to represent us on the national stage?

I believe that the only things candidates can ask for from voters is to judge them on their values, their positions, and their personal involvement within their communities.

In return, I believe that we, as voters, deserve candidates who respect their constituents, their opponents, and especially the rules of campaigning.

While voters in Newmarket and Aurora may not be able to influence the conduct of and tone of the nation-wide election, we do have the power to hold our own candidates accountable to follow the rules and run respectful and honest campaigns.

This is not too much to ask, especially since candidates are supposed leaders who must set the examples of conduct within the communities they wish to represent.

John Crowell
Aurora

THE AURORAN

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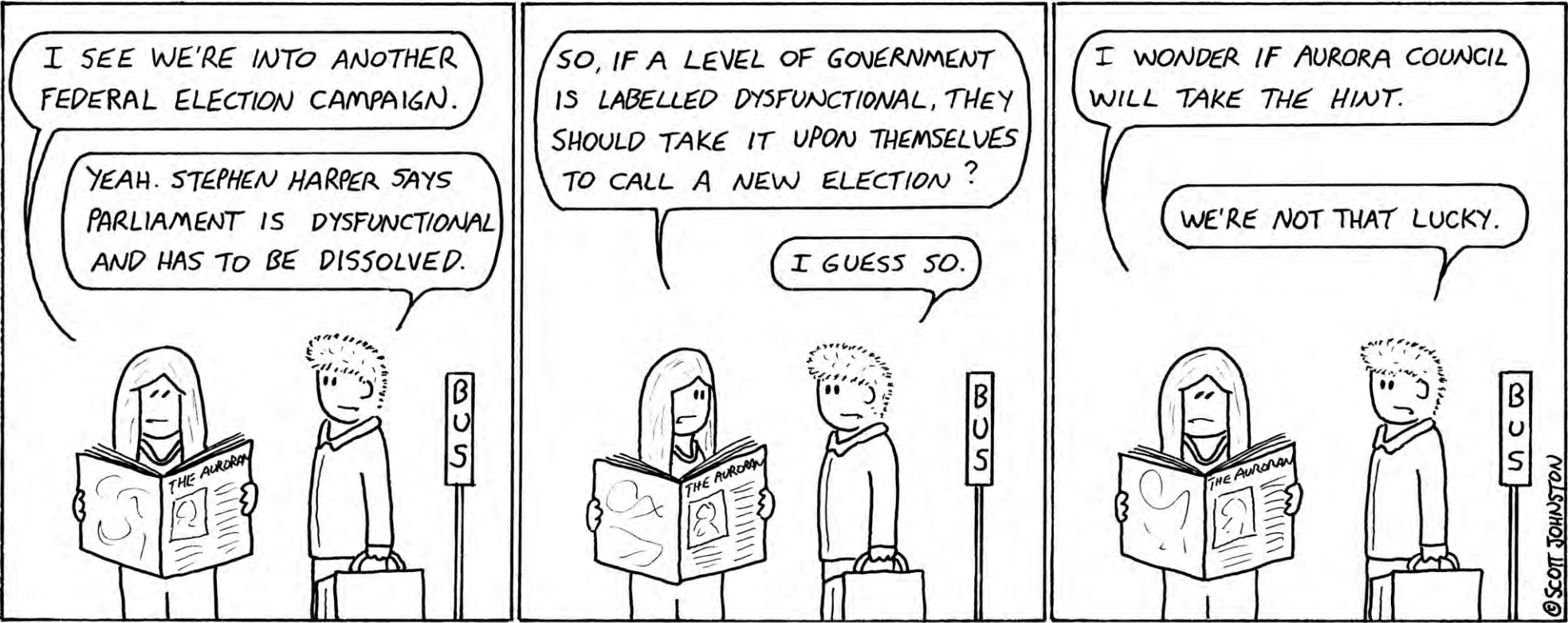
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Election

The federal election campaign is in full swing, evidenced by the ever-increasing amounts of lawn signs that dot our community.

By the time that you read this, voters will have fewer than 30 days in which to assess the Party Leaders, their policy platforms and the local candidates.

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 say, 10 to 15 per cent.

Whether or not we have good government fundamentally comes down to the occupants of the locally elected seats.

These are the individuals whom the Prime Minister can either bestow Cabinet status or designate for important Committee assignments.

We don't necessarily need to be governed by the best educated or by those with the highest incomes.

In fact, if you look at the experience of our contemporary leaders, they come from many different backgrounds.

The current Prime Minister is an economist by training, while the last one was a millionaire businessman. The premier of Ontario is a lawyer while the former premier of Alberta was once a television news reporter.

Instead we need to elect people who represent and reflect

the best qualities of our community.

We need people who truly are of our community, in our community and for our community.

They need to put the nations' interest ahead of their own career self interests. And the people we elect should have as their goal simply quality of, and selflessness of service.

Our parliament needs people from all walks of life, who have enthusiasm and energy to burn, and who work hard and get things done.

It is up to you, the voter, to make that critical choice.

An assessment can begin with the candidate brochures and the information contained on the respective candidate's website.

Look for information on four broad areas; education, professional/vocational background, volunteer endeavours and accomplishments and the issues and answers that the candidate has identified as important.

You should be looking at the whole person. For instance, someone might not have much of a formal education, but their professional/vocational or volunteer accomplishments would make up for it.

Regarding education: do they have any post secondary training? If so, in what area? Do they have any specialized knowledge, i.e. energy, public safety, health, social work, education?

Have they participated in any volunteer activities? If so, for how long and in what capacity? Are they, or have they been in the past, a coach, referee or administrator for any of the local sports organizations?

The local town forums will play an important part in this campaign, and there are lots of issues out there to discuss at these events: health care, Afghanistan, the economy and the environment, to name just a few.

These venues provide the voter with a tremendous chance to assess the relative strengths of the respective candidates.

A voter gets to see how a candidate defends a platform position under cross-examination and also pick logical holes in their opponents' arguments.

But more important than seeing who is the better debater, these sessions - if the right questions are asked - can provide voters with the reasons why a particular candidate is seeking the office and what specifically the aspirant is hoping to accomplish on behalf of this community.

The choice that you will make on October 14 is important.

Take the time to thoroughly examine the merchandise before you buy.

Good luck.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

Plight of the phoneless

I used to think having a cell phone was a luxury, but now I know better.

Last month I found myself phoneless in Windsor. It was a nightmare!

I had arranged for a land line at Jennifer's new apartment. According to the phone company, nobody needed to be there and service would just magically appear August 28th so I fully expected to arrive, plug in the cordless phone I had already charged and hear a dial tone.

I even expected to make a free phone call to Aurora since I had also arranged for long distance service. But noooo...

Okay, I thought. I'll pay the 30 cents and use my cell phone. But noooo...

Apparently my last little juice bar dried up during the four-hour trip. So I did the only thing left to do: I got in the car and went searching for a payphone. Just so you know, I do not recommend this desperate measure.

Back when I was a kid, using a payphone was easy. All you needed was a dime. But noooo...

Not anymore. Now you have to have a GPS system to guide you to the nearest city that has a payphone and then you need a Visa card with a high credit limit to use it.

Oh, and you also need nerves of steel, the patience of Job and if you are serious about touching the grungy thing, lots and lots of disinfectant!

Needless to say, it was a very frustrating experience as the machine repeatedly told me to insert my credit card while telling me "the number you are dialing does not exist...please try again". Say what?

I did try again...and again...and again but eventually I lost my composure and started pressing zero so obsessively that people going by made wide circles around me.

Finally, I got an operator.

"Are you a real person?" I asked the polite man on the line suspiciously. Some of these automated attendants can fool you. They even have names (like "Emily") so I just wanted to be sure I wasn't pleading my case to a talking Barbie doll. "Tell me something about yourself - your dog's name, your wife's name - what's your favourite colour?"

He was very helpful - even offered to put me through to the local crisis centre for free! Hey, I thought he had a sense of humour, but noooo...

I managed to convince him I am sane enough to make a phone call and he put me through to my house but the answering machine would not accept the charges. This did not look good on me.

So I picked another number and he advised me that you can't make a collect call to a cell phone.

Apparently making a phone call is no longer a "simple" thing. I would have kicked something, but I was wearing Crocs.

The next day, my cell phone was charged so I called the phone company. Talking Barbie told me that the number I was dialing was not available from my calling area.

It took a bit of Einstein logic to figure it out - my cell phone had roamed and picked up a Detroit signal so calling Windsor from Windsor was out of the question. I was in the "twilight zone"...

Well, I have neither the technologically savvy nor the emotional stability to deal with this situation so I waited until Jennifer arrived. She took my phone, pressed a few buttons and handed it back to me.

"There, that should do it," she said.

"It should do what?" I asked, hoping the answer would be "make telephone calls" which is what phones used to do before they started to surf the net, take pictures and play music!

"I told your cell phone that it is not allowed to go roaming without permission."

Wow! And it listened?

I breathed a sigh of relief. At last, I could call the phone company. But noooo...

Talking Barbie answered. Then she said: "We are experiencing technical difficulties."

"Yeah, me too!" I shouted. "That's why I'm calling you!"

But it was too late. She hung up.

Once upon a time, phones were simple devices and even considered luxuries, but not anymore. People can't have a fender bender without a cell phone anymore, never mind go grocery shopping or send someone a love letter.

The plight of the phoneless is a serious social issue, folks.

Here we are nestled in Aurora...thinking we are safe but it is my duty to warn you: this could happen to you!

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



Bouquets &

BRICKBATS

By **DICK ILLINGWORTH**

BOUQUETS to town staffer Heather Green on single-handedly raising more than \$12,000 for the York Region United Way and living up to her commitment to have her hair shaved off if she raised more than \$10,000. Not only that but her Dragonboat racing team raised the most funds by a team coming up with \$13,328 for the United Way.

BRICKBATS to whoever is spreading the rumour that Newmarket/Aurora MPP Frank Klees is considering switching from provincial to federal politics and to contest a riding in the coming federal election. The closest possible riding in the GTA is Halton. Don't go, Frankie, don't go!

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Writers' Group on the launch of its second "Aurora Storyalis" book later this fall. For information call Malcolm Watts at 905-898-5484.

BRICKBATS to the federal government for designating up to 11 lakes and rivers across Canada as toxic dumps for mining companies with some of the lakes in pristine wilderness areas. Environmentalists want to stop what they claim is the permanent destruction of Canada's wilderness for profit.

BOUQUETS to Greg Foster of Aurora's M & M Meats for being on hand with his barbecue menu at almost all community events including the Movie in the Park on August 26 at Hickson Park, August 27 at the Town Park and August 28 at Confederation Park.

BRICKBATS to the Harper government for all their negative advertising on radio and TV regarding the Stephane Dion carbon tax proposal. Election ads should be positive and point out what the advertising party has to offer, or maybe the Harper people have nothing to offer!

BOUQUETS to Tim Wakefield of the Villari's Martial Art Centre on attaining the level of go-dan, or 5th degree black belt, one of only 10 Canadians to obtain this level in the martial art of laido.

BRICKBATS to the justice system and police officers of the Estavan Police who ticketed a volunteer firefighter driving his pickup to the fire station to answer a fire call and while he knew that two police were following him, it wasn't until that night that the police delivered a ticket carrying a \$230 fine. The fine was reduced to \$70 in court but the conviction stood, in spite of protests from the public.

BOUQUETS and a happy retirement to OPP's Sgt. Cam Woolley who is retiring after three decades of keeping one hand on the Highway Traffic Act and the other handing out tickets to bad drivers who commit all sorts of highway sins. He will carry on as the traffic voice of a TV station.

BOUQUETS and a happy retirement to Deputy Fire Chief Ken Bone of the Central York Fire Services after 33 years of service to the community. He started as a volunteer in July, 1975, and became a full-time firefighter in September, 1978. During his career he served as Aurora's deputy chief for a year prior to the amalgamation of the Aurora and Newmarket fire departments.

BRICKBATS to Trentway-Wagar, a chartered bus company, for its opposition to car-pooling. It petitioned the Ontario's Highway Transport Board to shut down PickupPal Online, which brings drivers and passengers together on their website, like a dating service and charges no fee for the service. Queen's Park is reviewing the law.

BOUQUETS to the Aurora citizen for asking in a letter to The Auroran what was happening at the Aurora Town Hall to cause the departure of senior staff at such an alarming rate. Unfortunately, citizens will never hear the answer in spite of being promised an open, transparent and accountable government.

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Letters to the Editor

Town kept market going, not Kean, reader states

To the editor,

Regarding last week's letter from Mr. Vrancic wherein he states of Mr. Nigel Kean: "His vision and drive created the highly successful Farmer's Market, and he devoted all of his Saturday mornings to it until it became self-sustaining."

Well...that is not entirely true.

Yes, it is true that Mr. Nigel Kean had the inspiration to start a Farmers' Market here in Aurora (which I'm thankful for).

However, Mr. Kean decided to leave the still fledgling market once his campaign for mayor proved unsuccessful - two years ago.

This departure, without developing a succession plan, made the market far from sustainable.

After he left it was questionable if the market would continue.

It was a small group of seven entrepreneurial vendors who decided to try to continue with the market at the beginning of the 2007 season, still in its old location in the parking lot behind Thomson's Furniture and

without a town representative.

These vendors approached the town for support and luckily for all of all of us, a renewed vitality was blown back into the Farmers' Market by actions taken after Mr. Kean left.

Actions by the people of the Town of Aurora, support from the town was provided with a new Town Liaison, Stephen Granger, who has been providing direction and leadership to the market and is there every Saturday, support from Madame Mayor who also attends the market every Saturday, community volunteers and friendly vendors.

That's who is now giving the Market a renewed vitality and life...it's definitely a positive team experience that is contagious!

Now, it's at its new home at the Town Park, with a new organized management structure (including a working Farmers' Market Committee and Constitution formed this year...again, not under Mr. Kean's guidance).

Under this new management the Aurora Farmers' Market is thriving and grow-

ing into a truly amazing achievement of the community.

It's become a meeting place on Saturday mornings where you can meet your friends and neighbours.

It truly has become Aurora's "special meeting place".

Today there are eight major special events during the season and more than 20 vendors...and all this happened within the last year.

Oh, and there's now a waiting list to participate in the Aurora Farmers' Market.

The market has grown in leaps and bounds, in size absolutely, but more importantly in community spirit.

The community spirit is the product of those individuals who stepped up to the plate after Mr. Kean took his leave of the market.

Absolutely the start of the market was important to cre-

ate the vision of why Aurora needs a Farmers' Market, which Mr. Kean is welcome to lay claim to.

And I thank Mr. Kean for that.

That's where the credit to Mr. Kean should stop.

Any credit for sustainability and the current success of the market goes to the Market's current Town Liaison, Councillor Stephen Granger, the continuing support from the mayor and Town Council and most importantly, its citizens.

The Farmers' Marketeers have a saying that "It's all about community!"

When we see faces of our Aurora patrons having a good time at the Market, then that's the success all market participants can share in.

Barb Foster
Holland Marsh

Rider wants to know rules for election candidates campaigning at GO stations

An open letter to Newmarket-Aurora federal candidates:

Dear Candidates,

Let me wish you good luck with the result of the upcoming election.

I expect that I will see you out during my regular commute.

Below is a request that I sent to the Customer Service people at GO Transit.

I will be sure to let you know about any response I receive.

If you have an opinion on this or your own policy, then I would welcome that information.

David Hodgson

I am writing ask you to verify for me what the policy is

regarding political candidates and their workers using the paid areas of GO Transit to communicate with GO riders before having paid the fare that allows them entry to the paid area.

Would you also kindly verify for me what the GO Transit policy is regarding such people parking in GO Transit parking spaces without paying for and taking a trip on the GO.

I am not aware if there are Federal or Provincial regulations that supercede GO Transit's policies on the use of GO parking and paid areas.

It is my expectation that as a Provincial entity, you would be aware and could let me know.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

David Hodgson
Aurora

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"All things come of thee..." Being responsible with finances. **October 19**

What good can I do? Reaching out to a needy world. **October 26**

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Letters to the Editor

Regency kids played on Porkchop Hill

To the editor,

Further to The Auroran's query of "Porkchop Hill", growing up in Aurora in the 60s, many of the fields that we played in town had names including:

Porkchop Hill - green space behind Richardson Drive to Yonge Street where the town homes now stand. Subway Sideroad (now Henderson) ran from Bathurst Street to a dead end at almost Yonge Street. One portion many years prior was a garbage dump, which produced the best sand. There was a swampy pond with quicksand. Rumour was Jack Woods lost a team of horses and wagon in that

quicksand.

Huge in our young eyes, was a fairly large hill, for tobogganing, etc. which we called Porkchop Hill. The town home subdivision's pool and tennis court now sit where Porkchop Hill was. Later I found out that Pork Chop Hill was a battleground which came to be remembered as a symbol for the entire Korean War.

Ess Bends - which is now Tamarack subdivision. Along Subway Sideroad to the tracks, west of Case farm was fields of corn. The fields south of these corn fields were dirt trails where we would motorbike or dune buggy in the summer and snowmobile in the winter. This included the

forest now called Case Woodlot.

Salamander Pond - corner of Bathurst and then Subway Sideroad. There were always challenges as to who could cross the pond on logs and sticks without falling in. The best place in Aurora for frog catching and salamander searching.

Crystal Pond - between the railway tracks and Ridge Road there was a small pond on Mrs. Watson's land. She loved it when we would go and spend time there. The water was crystal clear, hence the name, and we used to swim, rope jump, picnic, camp and, I believe, a lot of my peers had their first kiss there. The water is

no longer good for swimming, but the memories are bountiful.

The Orchard - the great apple orchard of the north which sits under the Wimpy Home development called Orchard Heights. The water reservoir there was well known as 'The Tit'.

Dead Man's Leap - a very popular hill of the Highlands Golf Course for tobogganing. If the snow was fast, you'd have to bail or stop your run, else you'd end up in the stream. The walks home were always painful from having too much fun in the cold. Accessed from the far end of Regency Acres through Morning Crescent.

Case Farm -Wrestling!!!
Jack Woods Farm - Mr.

and Mrs. Woods always opened their farm to the local children. You could hang in the barn, help milk cows, brush the horses, sweep the floors; always chores to be done. More often than not, Mrs. Woods would bring out home made cookies to us to enjoy with the fresh milk. Absolutely wonderful, big hearted people.

Church Hill - behind the white United Church at the then end of Murray Drive, where the Retirement Home now sits, was quite the forest for trick biking and tree climbing. A popular hanging place for Regency Acres kids.

Stone Bridge - To the west of then Loblaw's and behind the old barn where the river ran, there was this large concrete dam that served as a challenge to jump. A place to

go and enjoy the treats bought at the convenience store.

These were some of the stomping grounds we enjoyed as kids in the 60s to mid-70s.

It would be interesting to know where the kids of the 40s and 50s were stomping, prior to the development of Regency Acres and Aurora Heights.

**Barbara Strange
Aurora**

ED. NOTE: Anyone else with memories of old Aurora may send them to the editor of The Auroran, or may read about them in Elizabeth Milner's book "Aurora 1945-1965" which sells for \$19.95 at R & R Revisited, 95 Edward Street, or at Hillary House on Yonge Street.

Christopher Poppe will be sorely missed

To the editor,

On August 29th, a young man by the name of Christopher Poppe, who resided in Aurora, would have turned 27.

However, he lost his valiant battle with cancer on July 14th, 2008.

Chris was not given time to start a career, get married, have children and see them grow up, generally enjoy life that some of us take for granted.

He was cut down in the prime of life by a horrible, insidious disease

I, like most of us, have been touched by death, a lot by cancer.

Included are my husband, Doug, by a fire fighter work-related cancer; and our good friends Lindsay Christie (many called him Elsie, for his initials), by colon cancer and Rosemary Schumaker, by breast cancer.

But, I can't help thinking that having a child die before you is somehow inconsolable and just plain wrong.

Chris Poppe could have been the one to find a cure for cancer, win a Nobel Prize, or solve our environmental crisis. We will never know!

I do know that Chris had the special quality of giving and receiving friendship and love by all those who came in contact with him.

This became evident to me when I attended first a garage sale (I know I'm called the Garage Sale Queen) that was organized by his friends to fund cancer research.

At that time I saw that Chris, who I knew was fighting the fight of his life, looked tired and very thin. Then I went to "Poppy Fest" held at the Aurora Community Centre again organized by his friends with Chris in attendance.

A few of us parents participated but generally this was a young person's party.

I had a lot of fun and once again all proceeds went to cancer research.

When Chris decided enough was enough, as far as his treatments went, his friends rallied and never left his side.

Some came to the house directly after work, some had their final exams extended to be with him but all were unfailing in their dedication to be by his side whether it was to play computer games, talk, etc.

It really didn't matter - they were all there to support him.

This complete devotion did not go unnoticed as Chris ordered big rings specifically for all his friends to be given on the eve of his funeral and he made arrangements for the distribution of his worldly goods.

To all those who think


that this generation of young people is not sensitive, or are selfish and unfeeling individuals I say, phooey.

I always knew these "kids" were great (my house was always that one that all the kids played at and most all of these wonderful, caring young people have been at my home at one

time or another, including Chris).

I witnessed the most selfless gift anyone can give to another: unconditional love and friendship. Thank you, Chris for being you, if only for a short time, and you will be sorely missed!

**Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges**



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Proceeds of the evening support Operation Renovation, an initiative to update and redecorate the Col. Fred Tilston V.C. Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in Aurora, to better serve the community.

This member recommends everyone should join Legion

To the editor,

The Royal Canadian Legion has been supporting the community of Aurora providing a place for community and service groups to gather;a reasonably priced place to celebrate weddings, birthday parties and a great venue for many social ceremonies.

The Legion has been actively protecting, preserving and promoting our uniquely Canadian lifestyle for many years.

It's an important part of our Canadian heritage.

Today any Canadian can become a Legion member and the Royal Canadian Legion is asking you to join.

Our forefathers fought two wars protecting our values and beliefs and preserving a country wherein peace, tolerance and freedom of expression thrive - our fantastic Canadian lifestyle.

They gave their lives so that we all could enjoy ours. The sacrifice continues today.

In 2008 Canada is involved in a global mission to protect global freedom. For this, some Canadian families are paying the highest price imaginable.

The renewed purpose of the Royal Canadian Legion is becoming ever clearer as the world is once again beset with troubles sur-

rounding peace and the preservation of democracy and freedom.

Branch 385, of the Royal Canadian Legion in Aurora boasts more than 700 members, however many of them are over 70 years of age and can no longer do all that is necessary to keep the Royal Canadian Legion in Aurora self-sustaining into the future.

In 1984 it had more than 650,000 Canadian members.

That number has plummeted to only 380,000 as of 2006 and continues to dip. However, we can all help by simply joining the Legion.

When you help the Legion you are helping

yourselves, your children, your families, your business and your community.

You honour our forefathers and help to preserve this great nation and you are supporting our troops!

What can you do? Help with Operation Renovation to rebuild the Legion.Purchase your membership.It's \$50 per year and provides an amazing array of benefits for you, your families and your business.

Consider giving the Legion a great boost by becoming one of our VIP members for just \$250.Join the Legion today.

Enjoy membership benefits and the satisfaction

that you are preserving an important piece of our past, present and future! Call 905-727-9932.

Come out to these spectacular Shows at our Legion - Sept.19, George St.Kitts Band & Motown Show;Oct. 24, The Impersonators; Nov.21, Endless Summer Beach Boys and ABBA

Show;Dec.5th, The Newcomers (Legion of Legends).

Light Up the Legion Kick-off event is Friday, Sept.19 from 6 p.m.to midnight at the Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway.

**Sher St.Kitts
Legion member**

Legion preparing for candle event

To the editor,

Every year in the Netherlands, the country holds a very moving Christmas Memorial to our Canadian soldiers done by school children.

In this ceremony a candle is placed at every Canadian soldier's grave in thanks for the sacrifice those Canadians made to regain Holland's freedom.

In the 1990s, a movement began which was to see candles lit across Canada in remembrance of the walking wounded, those who served their country and were able to

return home to carry on with their lives in the community.

Not all returned whole - many had physical disabilities, others had disabilities which were not readily visible.

But all had scars.

On Saturday , September 20th, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 385 is proud to announce that it will be holding its eighth annual "Candlelight Tribute" at 5 p.m.at the Aurora Cemetery.

Here, members of the Legion and Cadets will place candles and Canada

flags at each veteran's grave.

The candles will burn all night long to serve as a reminder to those who pass by, of the many who answered the call to serve our country in both war and peace.

The next day, Sunday, September 21st at 2 p.m., a Drumhead non-denominational church service will be held at the cemetery in remembrance of those who were willing to risk their lives so that we may enjoy the type of life that we live today and I am sure that most of us can spare an hour to attend

this touching and moving service to offer our thanks.

On November 11th we remember our war dead.

On September 21st, with these special candles and this Memorial Service, we remember those who came home and have since passed on.

We invite all members of the public to come out and share in these ceremonies as it means so much to the members of the Legion and their families to have the community's support.

**Ian Sweet
Public Relations Officer
Col.Fred Tilston VC
Branch 385
Aurora**

Visit Aurora Cemetery

To the editor,

On the weekend of September 20-21, the Aurora Legion is having their candlelite vigil at the Aurora Cemetery.

This annual event is to honour all our veterans who have passed away and remember all the sacrifices these soldiers gave so we may live in freedom.

On Saturday, the 20th, the candles will be lit at 6 p.m.

I highly recommend

everyone who can to take a few minutes after dark to drive past the cemetery, or better yet, slowly through the cemetery.

It is a moving experience to see the number of persons willing to serve their country and keep us free.

On Sunday, the 21st, a short ceremony is held on the south part of the cemetery at 2 p.m., with all age groups taking part.

This includes a drum head service which was used before going into bat-

tle.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Please take the time to come and honour our soldiers.

I am sure you will find it very interesting.

**Mrs. B. Cordell
Aurora**

ED.NOTE:For anyone who doesn't know,the Aurora Cemetery is located on Yonge Street,south of the railway overpass.

Newmarket seems to be in a different time zone

To the editor,

I recently attended the Newmarket Mayor's golf tournament.

I attended as a guest of a Newmarket business.

I thought I had crossed into a different time zone.

Not only was every member of council there to support the mayor and the cause, but most senior

directors as well as many staff members who had taken the day off, were also in attendance.

Mayor Tony VanBynen respectfully introduced all staff present and publicly thanked them all for their efforts and support.

That's the way it's supposed to be.

The mayor, council, senior and junior staff alike all

working together to support others.

Seems pretty simple.

The leadership in this town spends time berating, belittling and bullying staff resulting in a poisoned environment.

What a shame.What leadership?

**S. Browne
Aurora**

Just because the Winter's cold doesn't mean your meals have to be as well.

Remember last winter when frozen meals were a blessing because it was so difficult to go shopping? Remember dreaming about delicious hot homemade meals or daily fresh fruits and vegetables?

This winter don't let bad weather affect your good nutrition and health. Call us today for an appointment and see for yourself just how deliciously enjoyable winter... and all the rest of the year can be!

Take charge of maintaining your independence. Reserve your suite this Fall, spend the winter with us.

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Letters to the Editor

Jones and company:stay out of my pocket

To the editor,

Because Mr.Jones is a "new" Liberal candi-date, I did read his letter re:the Libs "green shift" platform.

I was not surprised, but also disappointed to learn that nothing about the Libs has changed.

Their "green shift" is exactly that;they will shift a lot more green (dollars) out of all of our paycheques in the form of higher taxes for every-thing that is produced in our economy that uses any amount of carbon based fuel.

Now I'm no scientist, but, I know that every factory and office and business runs on energy and people.

The Liberals want to tax that energy, and want to tax us people more as soon as we get out of bed and turn the light on.

Then we will pay high-er taxes when we jump in the shower, cook our breakfast, travel to our work, do our job, eat our lunch, travel home again, and turn on the TV while cooking supper.

I can see why Libs call it their "green shift".

Now they have the audacity to try and pull the wool over our eyes (again) by saying they will reduce our taxes to offset the huge tax increases we will incur in our everyday living!

This part of their "green shift" is called

"B.S".

Stephane Dion reject-ed Stephen Harper's REDUCING the GST.

I distinctly remember him saying something about how he opposed reducing the GST because the Government knows better how Canadians want their money spent.

What an idiotic social-ist (Liberal) statement.

Sorry, Dion, I know what I want to spend my paycheque on, and, it isn't your socialist bleed-ing heart welfare plat-form.

Why is it Liberals can tell Canadians they will reduce taxes but think we're all stupid?

I remember one Liberal who said, "I won't

lower your taxes, but I won't raise them either".

Now, years later, we continue to pay the Liberals highest tax hit in decades every time I do my taxes.

I just don't believe any Liberals anymore, espe-cially after the Adscam, and Human Resources debacles, and, the fraud and corruption cases of the previous Liberal gov-ernments.

They clearly are not trustworthy with my money, so, how dare they demand more of it.

I had to laugh when Jones complained that Harper hasn't done any-thing for two years.

I take that to mean that Jones is complain-ing because Harper has-

n't raised my taxes in two years - in fact - he's reduced the GST by two points, and reduced my income taxes.

It's already tough enough to keep a decent

standard of living in this country.

Jones & Co., stay out of my pocketbook!

R.Gee
Aurora



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Reader thanks council for lights

To the editor,

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Mayor and the Members of Council who have helped us

out in the past year and a half.

I would also like to thank all of the staff members who worked behind the scenes.

I live in the Mosaics

behind the Canadian Tire store and as many of you know we have been trying to get lights on the roadway for no other reason than safety.

Last night at the council

meeting it was finally approved.

Thank you.

T. Brown
Aurora



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OPERATION RENOVATION

On September 19, 2008, help us "Light Up The Legion" by joining us for a night of entertainment featuring Juno-nominated singer George St. Kitts. Proceeds of the night will help renovate Aurora's branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, named in honour of Col. Fred C. Tilston, recipient of the Commonwealth's highest military honour, the Victoria Cross. Let's keep his legacy of public service alive.

Reserve your tickets:
General admission -\$55 each
Legion members \$45 each
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Sincerely,
The Executive
Colonel Fred. C. Tilston, V.C., Branch 385
Royal Canadian Legion



THE AURORAN SPORTS

Page 10

Week of September 16, 2008

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Tigers split two as season opens

Following two away games to open the Junior A hockey season, the Aurora Tigers have a pair of points to show for their efforts.

Saturday night, they managed to edge the Dixie Beehives 5-4 after losing to the Huntsville Otters 7-3 in Huntsville a night earlier.

All three stars in the first game, played at the Jack Bionda Arena, were from Huntsville.

They were Rob Waddell, Justin Dicks, and Greg Cerilli.

Despite four weeks of training camp and more than enough preparation, including five exhibition games, the Aurora Tigers came out lame and before the northern Ontario game had barely started were down three goals versus the Otters who went on to pound Aurora Friday night.

"Embarrassing would be the only way to describe our efforts tonight, instead of taking the game to the opposition we sat back and watched for most of the game," said a more than disappointed Coach Jerome Dupont. "Allowing 39 shots and taking as many weak penalties as we did is a recipe for disaster."

Scoring for the Tigers were newcomers Tim Revell with a pair while first year player and local boy Nick Vangog added a single.

Saturday, Tigers fell a goal behind early in the game, but managed to hang on to the slim victory after scoring three in the final 20 minutes. Aurora and Dixie traded goals in the first frame, then played through a scoreless second period.

Minor Atom AA team wins title

A 2-1 victory over the Milton Winterhawks clinched the 2008 Richmond Hill Early Bird Tournament championship for the Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AA hockey team recently.

The Tigers opened the tournament with 6-2 and 12-0 wins over the Clarington Toro's and York Toro's.

However, the Tigers fell to second in the round robin after a 4-2 loss to Milton.

Aurora rebounded from the loss to defeat the Georgina Blaze 2-1 in the tournament semi-final, before facing Milton again in the finals.

Under head coach Jay Malowney and assistant coaches Paul Sarazin and Paul Wolanski, the Tigers were not fazed by their earlier loss to Milton.

Trainer John Belgue called the championship "A great way to start the season."

Tigers open at home this Friday night when they meet an expansion team from Upper Canada College. It's the first of three games the team will play this weekend.

Game time is 7.30 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre.

The following night, Aurora travels to Bowmanville to take on the Trenton Hercs then on Sunday, they meet the Villanova Knights at 2.30 p.m. Sunday, September 21st, at York University.

Meanwhile the Ontario Provincial Junior Hockey League (OPJHL) has looked to its past as it builds for the future.

Gone will be the geographical references to the divisions, being replaced by the MacKinnon, Ruddock and the Phillips Division as a tribute to three longtime volunteers and OHA executive members.

Aurora, once in the North Division, will now be in the Phillips division, along with teams from Collingwood, Couchiching, Dixie, Huntsville, North York, Orangeville, Seguin, Villanova and Upper Canada.

The division is named after Newmarket's Cliff Phillips, who was president of the OHA from 1974 to 1976.

The old West Division, which will include Bramalea, Brampton, Buffalo, Burlington,

Georgetown, Milton, Mississauga, Oakville, Streetsville and Vaughan for the 2008-2009 season, will now be known at the MacKinnon Division as a salute to former OHA Chairman of the Board Bob MacKinnon who held that post from 1984 to 1986.

The Ruddock Division, in honor of Toronto's William Ruddock, will replace the East Division. Ruddock was the first Chairman of the OHA Board and last elected president. He held the chairman's post from 1974 to 1976.

Teams in the division for the new season will include Ajax, Bowmanville, Kingston, Lindsay, Peterborough, Pickering, Port Hope, Trenton and Whitby.

HUNTSVILLE 7 AURORA 3

First Period

H - Chris Wiggin (Dicks, Crawford) 0.30
H - Tyler Crawford (Whitelaw) 2.37
H - Rob Waddell (unassisted) 13.20

Second Period

A - Tim Revell (VanNatter, Smith) PP 5.03
H - Jesse McConney (Pinkney, Whitelaw) PP

7.54
H - Greg Cerilli (Pinkney, McConney) PP 8.35
H - Justin Dicks (Pinkney, Crawford) 12.38
A - Tim Revell (Sardella, Evans) PP 14.53
A - Nick Vangog (McLaughlin) 18.49

Third Period

H - Rob Waddell (Dicks, McConney) PP 3.02

AURORA 5 DIXIE 4

First Period

D - Michael Colavecchia (Zdrilich, Quinn) 2.54
A - Jeff Vanderlugt (Hellyer, Smith) 9.35

A - Cody Smith (Monardo) 14.30
Dixie - Michael Colavecchia (Kurt Zdrilich, Justin Monaghan) 18:41

Second Period

No scoring

Third Period

A - Lucas VanNatter (Revell, Sardella) 1.47
A - Jacob Mooney (Vangog, Bushbacher) 3.27
A - Dominic Monardo (Evans, Hellyer) PP 7.54
D - Eric Windmueller (unassisted) PP 12.52
D - Eric Windmueller (Quinn, Colavecchia) PP 13.34

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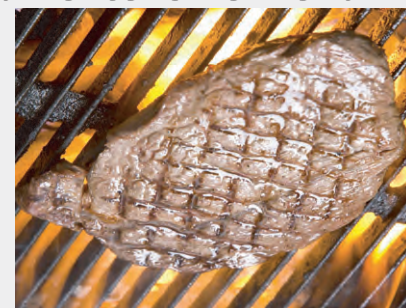
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This Aurora Stingers girls' soccer team acted as one of the hosts over the weekend as the Aurora Youth Soccer Club welcomed 80 teams from the area to the annual All-Star John Traganitis Tournament. Aurora's only boys' entry in the tourney, the Under 13 Stingers Black won their final, edging a team from Leaside 1-0 Sunday. Two female teams, the Under 11-12 girls and the Under 13-14 girls, advanced to the finals in their respective divisions, but results were not available at press time. The event had its kickoff Saturday morning on the soccer fields at Sheppard's Bush, but games were played throughout Aurora during the weekend. The tournament is considered by the AYSC as the most "historic" of tournaments held by the group. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

Underdog Tiger team wins Etobicoke tourney

Despite playing a tier above their usual competition, the Aurora Tigers Minor Pee wee AE hockey team beat the Cooksville Phantoms 1-0 to win the West Mall Lightning Early Bird "A" tournament last week.

Andrew Klinowski of the Tigers scored the game's only goal, and goaltender Brenden Bilotta made several saves in the final minutes to earn the shutout.

Aurora reached the finals after a 5-2 victory over the Humber Valley Sharks.

Liam Gray of the Tigers

scored twice in that game. In the preliminary round, the Tigers tied both the West Mall Lightning and the Port Credit Storm 3-3. In Aurora's third game, Michael Fisher scored the winner in a 1-0 win over Humber Valley.

After the finals, Aurora head coach James Wansbrough told his team: "The improvement that you showed from Thursday night to the final on Sunday proves that you all deserve to be playing here, and you have the heart and drive to be real competitors."

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Who is Officer Dan Hunter of the OPP?

By CYNDY SKILLINS



We often see the Black & White cars of the OPP on the 400, 404, 407 and Hwy 48. We frequently see (now retired) Sgt. Cam Woolley and Officer Dave Woodford on the TV news talking about traffic concerns and safety. But what does an OPP officer do? They are by name OPP, Ontario Provincial Police, our provincial police service. They have all the responsibilities, duties and requirements to uphold and enforce our Provincial and Federal laws. The primary focus of the Highway Detachment located here in Aurora is Highway safety and they oversee the one Provincial Park in York Region. "The Ontario Highway Traffic Act notes: "the privilege of driving on a highway is granted to, and retained by, only those persons who demonstrate that they are likely to drive safely". Therefore, those who abuse the privilege or otherwise compromise the safety of the general public must be held accountable to the full extent provided in law."

From: www.opp.ca/opp_001805.html

PACT has been fortunate to have had 2 active OPP officers on our committee over the past few years. Lisa Basso was our first Officer liaison and for the past year it has been Dan Hunter. In discussion with many officers, including their Staff Sergeant Hazel O'Brien, there seems to be one common thread; they all are remarkably service minded with a passion for community involvement.

So who is Officer Dan Hunter?

Dan was 24 years old when he became an OPP Officer on January 1st 2007. He grew up in Caledon, is married, has a wonderful black & white Spaniel and when winter vacations come around he loves to ski. When I asked why he became

an officer he paused for a bit and replied that he was looking for a new challenge and career and he "fell into it". However when you talk with him it is quite clear why he is in this profession. There is a degree of independence he has with his day to day activities. He manages his cruiser so that others on the street are safe. There is need to enforce laws when drivers disregard other's safety, and their own. Dan does this through indirect and direct methods. Do you ever wonder why a cruiser drives a bit slower or a bit ahead of the posted speed on the highway? There are reasons for this and an experienced officer reads the traffic and will coach the energy of the day or hour in a manner that a herder will attend their flock. In the course of this interview I was able to see first hand what this means and it was truly amazing to watch. When asked the question is there a quota for tickets, the response was that there are no quotas, but tickets do happen when Officer Hunter sees people disregarding the safety of others on the road. We had the wonderful fortune of being in the right place at the right time to catch someone racing. To my amazement "racing" under section 172 of the Highway Traffic Act the individual needs not be racing another car only needs to be racing in traffic. This driver clearly had no regard for the safety or wellness of others as he sped in and out of traffic at an unsafe speed with erratic lane changes. He is now without his license and car for 7 days and will have towing and impound charges for the week. Once convicted the costs only go up. It was interesting while at the road side writing the ticket how many cars gave a honk of appreciation. My only guess was that this driver had frustrated or infuriated

drivers for many kilometres. On other parts of the ride-along with Officer Hunter there were cars at the side of the road that he would check to see if they needed assistance, there was a collision that needed traffic control while the other 911 personnel did their jobs safely and a few other routine stops when the drivers were driving in a 'selfish manner'. If you see something wrong while driving, when safe, call *OPP (* 677) on your cell phone. This way you can help be eyes on the roads, assisting the OPP do their jobs helping us all.

Officer Hunter said an attraction for him to join the OPP was the diversity of the profession. There are a lot of opportunities to pursue different careers within the same company. While the shift work can take a bit of a toll he really enjoys his job and the steep learning curve along with the challenges. He says that you need to trust your 'spidey senses'. When asked what his most scary moment has been so far, he told of a situation when outside his car he heard a loud bang and just got out of the way of a huge 30 + lb truck tire fragment coming his way. When asked what his best moment was; he said that there was no one moment that stood out, but there were times that things fell into place and he was there to act on what people wanted and needed. He cited a time when an older person got disoriented on the 400 and was driving the wrong way. Dan was there with other officers to avoid any mishaps and returned the person safely to their family.

PACT is remarkably fortunate to have Officer Daniel Hunter as our liaison officer from OPP, like Lisa Basso before him they have added immeasurably to our group.

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Residents get lights

From page 1
residents as a pedestrian walkway and that it was dangerous at night as there were no lights along the path.

The request was referred to staff to follow up and report back to council.

In March, 2007, staff reported that the town had little role to play in the agreement between Canadian Tire and the Condominium Corporation except as a mediator and so far had been unsuccessful.

The general committee referred the issue back to staff to find resolution to the issue.

In June, 2007, a comprehensive staff report was presented to council providing background information and suggested that the town take no further action with regard to the lighting dispute as it was a private issue between the two parties and the town had no authority or obligation with regards to the lighting.

Claiming it was a safety issue, council approved that the town pay for the operation of the three lights along the pathway.

Staff members noted that the lights in the parking lot were owned by Canadian Tire and it would be necessary to separate the three lights from the rest of the parking lot which would have to be negotiated.

In a report to the general committee, staffers reported they had worked closely with Canadian Tire and the Condominium Corporation and had negotiated a resolution acceptable to both parties.

The town's responsibility is to operate street lighting within municipal rights of way and since these three lights are not on a municipal right of way it is necessary to enter into an agreement with Canadian Tire detailing an operation and maintenance agreement to address the concerns of the residents.

Canadian Tire and the Condominium Corporation will cost share the work required to convert the existing three lights to the town's system on

a 50/50 basis.

The general committee approved the staff recommendation to accept the maintenance and operating costs for the three light standards in the Canadian Tire parking lot to service

the condominium residents and for staff to develop an agreement with Canadian Tire to acknowledge the transfer of responsibility.

Work won't proceed until an agreement has been finalized.

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By BRIAN WARBURTON

International food delights seniors

A Celebration of Culture was highlighted last Wednesday at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, and the culinary temptations provided by fine local restaurants and others were outstanding.

Not only was the food excellent but the overall presentation was accomplished in a professional manner, and those who seized the attention and caressed the gastronomic appetites of everybody in the seniors centre are: Graystones Restaurant, Honba Japanese Restaurant, Jonathon's Restaurant, Park Place Manor, King Henry's Arms, Mamma Mia Trattoria, Thai Spring Rolls, and Tweedy's Patties.

The seniors' centre was packed with members and guests, who sampled the wide variety of tempting foods with gusto, and everybody was delighted by specific types of food or more often, by the pure temptation of the diversity of food preparation originating from all over the world.

Food is the great promoter of our social relationships and binds family and friends closely, while also offering the familiarity of sharing food with unfamiliar but friendly faces.

The distinctive style of everyday life at the seniors centre blended well with the vibrancy of the occasion and was gastronomically speaking, outstanding and the event is well worthy of repetition.

Mayor Phyllis Morris opened the event and Lois Brown was the guest speaker. Tim Jones, who always enjoys public events, circulated among the seniors talking with many, and councillor Al Wilson was present wishing ASA members well.

The entertainment consisted of a medley of music presented by different musicians and singers, and for those with energy to spare dance lessons for the Rumba and Cha Cha and Belly Dance lessons for beginners.

There were Origami Paper Crane demonstrations and also Japanese Calligraphy and Henna Body Paint.

The day was a triumph for ASA volunteers and organizers and the participating businesses, while the continuing excellence of the ASA is a credit to the municipality of Aurora.

Now that the evening shadows lengthen earlier, the ballroom dancers want a dancing partner in their arms.

Therefore everybody is invited to the Friday night dance at the ASA, September 19th, from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m., when Charles Sequeira presents big time dance music, aided by Lucille and Angus. Everybody is welcome.

And to ASA member Ernie Wall, congratulations on winning silver at the 2008 Canada Games 55+ in New Brunswick.

To describe this achievement as fantastic is absolutely accurate, and to describe his success as the thrill of a lifetime is no exaggeration, either.

Ernie won his silver medal at golf and very many of his colleagues and those he has played with over the years must be thrilled for Ernie and wishing they could emulate his success in any golf tournament.

The chess season is open, games have been played, and we are eager to organize a chess tournament to get the season off to a competitive start, probably with a Swiss style competition.

The Swiss format allows the stronger players to be matched after the opening round, and so on down to the weaker players.

This achieves the desirable result of matching players by strength and the eventual winner has to earn victory, and will feel like a winner when all is done.

In addition, a large number of players can be accommodated, and the number of rounds can be fixed to suit a reasonable time frame.

To the best of my knowledge, ASA chess is the only organized chess available in Aurora except for school chess, so come on out and exercise your chess playing faculties with players near to your calibre.

Please note, none of our current players have played chess for decades and while we have some good players, all are recreational class chess players.

ASA chess is played Tuesday evenings starting between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., ending at 8.45 p.m. Further, you are required to be a member of the ASA to play chess, or to take part in any ASA activities.

The Evergreens Choir has purchased a new keyboard which allows great flexibility in performing where a piano is not available and is also convenient for rehearsals.

Enid Maize says new members are welcome, particularly male altos, and that anybody who is interested is welcome to come to the Wednesday rehearsal from 2.30 p.m. until 4.30 p.m.



They celebrated culture at the Aurora Seniors' Centre last Wednesday, and members of the ASA (Aurora Seniors' Association) as well as members of the public got to sample foods from around the world. Bringing out the best from the Graystone Restaurant were owner Petra Wiedemann (top photo, left) and staffer Dorothy Antoniadis, while in the photo below, Kathy Wride, left, and Steve Mattison wowed the crowd with their efforts from Park Place Manor. Foods were sampled from Japan, Italy, Austria, Greece, Britain, and Jamaica, as well as Canada.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Response to blog question

Beginning this week, we'll bring you results of the question asked in the Aurora Citizen, a new website that started a couple of weeks ago.

Last week's question was "Are you happy with the selection of restaurants offered in Aurora?"

A total of 28 people

responded to the question and of that 15 answered "yes" and 13 answered "no".

Next week's question is "Do you plan to vote in the federal election?"

If you'd like to participate in this survey, click on www.auroracitizen.blogspot.com and have a look around.

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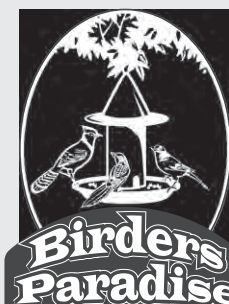
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United Church celebrates another milestone

From page 1

Church archivist Helen Roberts said the 190th anniversary prompted her to go back into the archives and look more closely at its history.

But she's not only looking backward - she's looking forward, too.

"What we're celebrating is all the work of people who have gone before us, and then building on that," she said.

Gracing the front of the church is a banner bearing the symbol of a compass and the words "Travelling Together".

The compass logo was designed by artist and member Holly Williamson.

"The images used in this vision mandala are the people of the church, who share in the vision as a circle of community journeying together," Williamson said.

Guest speaker for the special service will be Rev. David McKane, from First-St. Andrew's United Church in London, Ont. His topic is "Don't Forget Your Compass".

Among the hymns will be one penned by Rev. McKane himself, who is an accomplished singer and composer as well as a gifted preacher.

Other musical treats include a Grade 7-8 band under the leadership of

Steve Falk, and a bagpipe postlude by St. Andrew's College student and piper Mitchell Arnold.

There will also be a symbolic candlelighting ceremony involving three candles representing past, present and future, to be lit respectively by a longstanding member, a newer member and a child.

Supply minister Rev. Tim Dayfoot will lead the service, along with several members of the congregation, and youth leader Paul Shepherd will do a special presentation for kids about what church and Sunday school were like in the "olden days".

Over the past few weeks, members of the church have been contributing their own memories, whether historic, funny, poignant, long ago or recent.

The written reminiscences appear on cards that will be posted along a Memory Path.

Ada Johnson, 105, who has been a member of the church for 100 years, recalled that the church was the centre of people's social lives.

Congregants went to two services every Sunday, in the morning and in the evening, and there were separate Sunday school classes for girls and boys, she said.

Longtime member Isobel

Miller recalled this memory from the 1960s: "Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson marching down the aisle to ascend the pulpit his father had occupied many years before was a highlight of the year."

Edwin Arthur Pearson, father of the former PM, was the church's minister in the early 1900s, and the family lived in the manse at 39 Catherine Street.

The church has a colourful history that mirrors the history of Aurora. It began in 1818, when local landowner William Tyler sold an acre at the corner of Yonge and Tyler streets to four trustees for the grand sum of five shillings, for the building of "a house of public worship, for the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Province of Upper Canada."

In those early days, various branches of Methodism appeared, occupying not only this church, but also the present Masonic Hall on Mosley Street and the Salvation Army Hall on Centre Street.

It would be more than 100 years before the Methodists would merge with the Congregationalists and most Presbyterian churches to form the United Church of Canada in 1925.

That first church building in 1818 was a humble log cabin. Since ministers had to

travel over muddy, backwoods trails on horseback to visit settlers in their homes, they became known as "saddlebag preachers".

Among the church's early preachers were William and John Ryerson, brothers of Dr. Egerton Ryerson, after whom Ryerson University is named.

By the mid-1800s the growing congregation decided to build a larger church and move the little log cabin to the back of the property for use as a Sunday school. But during the move it slid back off its rollers, prompting the incumbent minister to joke that while he'd seen Methodists backslide, he'd never seen a meeting house commit the same offense.

In 1877, fire partly gutted the new frame building, along with all its documents. But a new church was built the following year, for a hefty \$8,915, including a 100-foot spire.

To help cover expenses, members had to pay rent to use the pews. Fees began at \$1 a sitting but were then open to the highest bidder. Pew rents weren't abolished until 1912.

Throughout the past century, the church has undergone many internal and external transformations: steeples blown down and replaced, a gym added and removed, staircases built,

rooms altered, an elevator installed, upgrades done on everything from furnace pipes to organ pipes.

But some things never change.

"From adult Sunday School classes and boys' bands to Couples Clubs and women's groups, to men's hockey teams and Out of the Cold programs, the members have served, rejoiced, played and worshipped in ways that reflected the lives and times of each generation," archivist Roberts said.

Everyone who attends the special service will be invited to sign the mat of a

large print of the church by Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure. The print will be on permanent display in the church after the celebrations.

In addition to Smith, Roberts and Williamson, the working group coordinating the anniversary event includes Donna Keffer and June Yates.

The 190th anniversary service takes place at Aurora United Church Sunday, Sept. 28 at 10.30 a.m. For more information visit www.auroraunited-church.ca or call 905-727-1935.

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