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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 8 No. 46

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FREE

Week of September 23, 2008

Briefly

Risers removed

For years, four very heavy risers stayed outside the Legion hall on Industrial Parkway North.

They were used primarily for stages during various events inside.

Last week, all four were taken, and former president Len Whines wants them back.

"Someone had to plan to take them, because they would need a vehicle as they were simply too heavy to carry," he said.

The risers were planned to be used for Friday night's Light Up The Legion party, but hadn't been found in time.

As a result, four new ones had to be built at the expense of the Legion.

Election meeting

Candidates for the upcoming federal election seeking a seat in the Newmarket-Aurora riding will make their pitch to the public Monday, October 6, at Theatre Aurora on Henderson Drive.

The event, presented by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and local newspapers, will get underway at 6.30 p.m. when the public has a chance to talk to the candidates.

A two-hour formal debate will then be held, beginning at 7 p.m., followed by more time to talk to the candidates.

Because of limited seating, participants are advised to arrive early for the free political evening.

Anniversary

Dick and Dorothy Illingworth celebrated their 17th wedding anniversary last week...in wheelchairs.

Both were patients at Southlake Regional Health Centre when the anniversary crept up on them, so their children arranged for the two of them to meet in the hospital.

Currently Dick is still at Southlake, while Dorothy is recovering from an operation and resting in a Bradford nursing home.

Cat dies

Pet Valu's long-time resident cat, Leo, died Saturday.

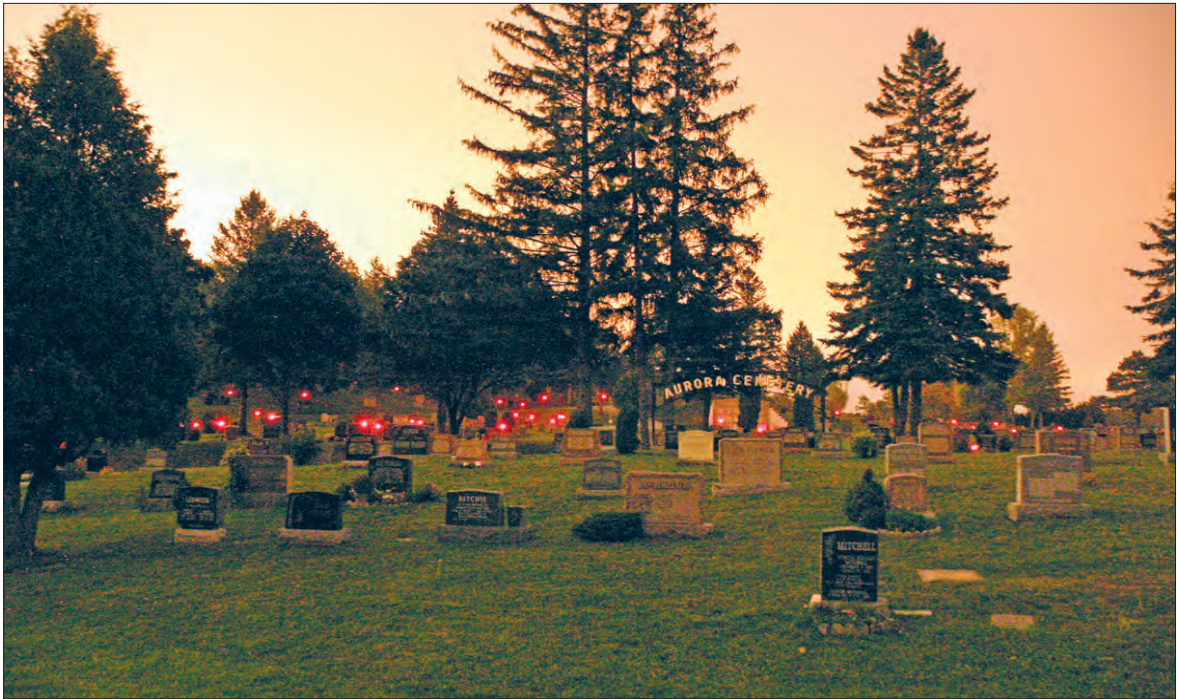
Leo, who had resided at the Yonge and Henderson store for nearly 20 years, had been been in declining health.

Leo and his brother, Pumpkin, an enormous beige cat, made headlines in February, 1995, when Pumpkin was "cat-napped" from the Aurora store.

Fortunately, Pumpkin was returned to the store, unharmed, the next month.

Pumpkin and Leo were together again until Pumpkin's death nearly 10 years later.

In a letter to store customers, owner Gary Foley, said, "Pumpkin's waiting for you, Leo."



Candles, about 350 of them, were placed on veterans' gravestones Saturday night as the Aurora Legion held its annual candlelight vigil at the Aurora Cemetery. Legion members followed up Sunday with a service on the cemetery grounds.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Church Street School efforts bring Wales prize to Aurora

Aurora's efforts to renovate the Church Street School paid off last week.

The Heritage Canada Foundation announced the Town as the 2008 recipient of the Prince of Wales Prize.

Established in 1999 under the patronage of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, the award honours a municipal government for demonstrating exemplary commitment to the preservation of its built heritage.

Since the 1950s, when the historic Church Street School was acquired by the municipality, thereby ensuring the conservation of this significant architectural landmark, the Town of Aurora has worked to preserve and protect the heritage of its community for future generations.

As one of the first communities in Ontario to establish a Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee in the 1970s, Aurora has long recognized the important role heritage resources can play in both social and economic development.

As early as 1975, heritage policies that emphasized the preservation of historic neighbourhoods were included in the Town's Official Plan.

Aurora has demonstrated its commitment to heritage conservation through the designation of individual properties and heritage districts, the adoption of a complete register of properties of cultural heritage value, and the preservation of its railway heritage through the restoration of the historic Aurora Train Station for use as a commuter rail station.

Over the past 25 years, the Town has supported the Aurora Museum, including a recent \$2.5 million investment towards the rehabilitation of the 1886 Church Street School into the Aurora Heritage Centre.

The Town of Aurora has also taken a number of steps to involve residents in the public enjoyment of its history.

The Prince of Wales Prize, which consists of a plaque, framed scroll and pennant with the insignia of The Prince of Wales and the Heritage Canada Foundation, will be presented to Mayor Phyllis Morris at a special ceremony to be held at the Foundation's annual conference this Friday in Québec City.

The Town of Aurora was nominated by Valerie Fleck and supported by the Aurora Historical Society.

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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 will be open 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 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.

Oktoberfest will be held at Christ Lutheran Church, 7 Lacey Court, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Free fun for the whole family. Donations are welcome for the Aurora Food Pantry or the Children's Ministry.

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 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.

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.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19
The Aurora Seniors Association presents a "Celtic Autumn Concert" featuring Sarah Kyle and Joe Likuski.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21
Have a howling good time filled with spooky stories, eerie activities and a creepy craft at the Aurora Library from 6.45 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Admission is free. Ages 6 to 8. Phone 905-727-9493 for further information.

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.

York Chamber Ensemble at Trinity Anglican Church at 7:30 p.m.

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.

Explore the World of Art at the Aurora Library, for children ages 6 to 9, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fee is \$6 per child. For further information, call 905-727-9493.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1
Murder mystery evening at Hillary House, 6 p.m. Wine, hors d'oeuvres, and a three-course meal will be served. This event, because of limited seating, sells out early. For tickets - at \$80 each - call the Aurora Historical Society at 905-727-8991.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15
Trinity Anglican Church Women's Christmas Starlight Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Coffee House at 7.30 p.m. Experience the many talents of Trinity Anglican Church and support the Diocesan choir camp.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
Canadian storyteller Jennifer Cayley will be at the Aurora Public Library from 7 to 8 p.m. to introduce heroes and heroines in the Optimist Room, for children ages six to nine. There is no charge if you book in advance. Call 905-727-9493 for further information.

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Aurora limo driver Alan Hayes brought his community to the Toronto International Film Festival last week when actor Charles Martin Smith, above, booked his Prius Hybrid. Smith is a bit of a green activist ever since he starred in "Never Cry Wolf" with Farley Mowat. That's when he got interested in Global Warming. He wanted a Green Limousine for his week in Toronto so his agent used "Google" to find Aurora's York Region Limousines and hired Alan.

Committee endorses recreation master plan

At a recent meeting of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee members received a report from Todd Brown, President/Principal Planner for Monteith Brown Planning Consultants.

The report provided an overview of the research and consultation process used to compile data and content for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Mr. Brown outlined the timelines and methods that his firm used to gather concise and up to date statistics, information, inventories and a clear understanding of the needs and challenges of the user groups, stakeholders and community at large with respect to indoor and outdoor parks and facilities.

He asked committee members to review the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan and advise if there were any activity or facility needs which are not receiving due consideration within the plan.

He concluded by advising that the next area of research will be a detailed assessment of leisure needs in Aurora and a review, rationalization and prioritization of the municipal service delivery system.

At a following general committee meeting members endorsed the committee recommendation that the consultant's report be received for information.

Last October the Leisure Services Advisory Committee requested staff to draft terms of reference for a Request for Proposal for a Recreation Master Plan and to consider different layouts for the plan which was endorsed by the general committee in November.

It was pointed out at that time the development of a Recreation Master Plan was a critical step in providing a road map for the delivery of services and facilities to the residents of Aurora.

Since the budget for the study was limited to \$50,000,

staff suggested the advisory committee be selective in providing background material so the consultant can focus on the prime directives.

In November, 2007, following a closed session of the committee to select the con-

sultant, the committee resumed in open session to recommend to council that the consulting firm of Monteith Brown Planning Consultants be engaged to provide a Parks and Recreation Master Plan.



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SCHOOL LIFE

1960 - 1961

GRADE ONE

WELLS ST. P. S.

DAVID ENGE STUDIO

This incredible photo of 1960-61 Grade 1 students at Wells Street School was handed in to The Auroran by Lee Williams last week. The teacher - Miss Fyfe - is now Mrs. Genevieve Ball, and she lives at 85 Medonte Sideroad, No. 2, R.R. #2, Coldwater, Ont., L0K 1E0. Mrs. Ball wants to know if any of these students would like to contact her. We

recognize several - Jamie Thompson, Don Lewis, Bev Attridge, for example - who are still in the area. Any others interested in contacting their Grade 1 teacher are welcome to do so. The person in the bottom right of the photograph is unidentified. Anyone know who he is?

Poor Richard

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Politics once gentleman's game at the council table

*Oldtimers used to debate the issues.
And were not critical of the person;
Now newcomers go for the throat,
Which makes local politics worsen!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Municipal politics in Aurora during earlier years was a gentleman's game.

Granted it was rough at times but there were unwritten rules that were seldom challenged.

Local politicians were strong-willed, opinionated and vocal, but they debated issues, not personalities and there's a big difference between the two.

During the 1960s when I first became involved in Aurora politics, newcomers were guided and assisted in the rules of the game by the more experienced members.

There wasn't a procedural bylaw in those days, nor was there a need for a Code of Ethics or a Code of Conduct as members respected each other and the other's opinions and the chairperson controlled the meeting.

In order to speak, a member was required to stand, address the chair and ask questions, make comments and debate the issue before council.

There was no cross table bickering as you had to stand to speak and only one member was allowed to stand at one time.

Following the council meeting it was normal for members of council, staff, media and anyone from the audience to visit the Armouries, as it was the Queen's York Rangers parade night, for refreshments and rehash the meeting in an informal way.

Some issues were discussed into the early hours of the morning and occasionally new ideas were generated and changes made at the next council meeting.

Some of the more complex issues couldn't be settled at the Armouries as there were heated debates and after all the words had been spoken and a vote taken, life went on and the issue remained at the council table.

One such issue was debated for about 10 years before being finally settled.

It was a walkway across the Canadian National railway tracks in the Valhalla Heights subdivision and it was an issue on which John West and I never agreed.

The original idea was spearheaded by West when he was a councillor.

He wanted a walkway from the residential area west of the tracks to the proposed Family Leisure Complex on the Industrial Parkway.

Councillor Earl Stewart saw it as a roadway to the industrial park.

Consequently, two 50-foot residential lots were reserved on Batson Drive along with a 50-foot strip between the industrial lots on the east side of the tracks.

Naturally the residents were upset as they didn't want a new roadway in their residential area.

They pointed out that the subdivision plan on which they purchased their homes did not indicate a roadway.

Although plans for the pathway were rejected due to the opposition of the residents, West was able to convince council to retain the two lots and the strip of land on the other side of the tracks for a future link with the Complex and the parkland.

The four-year moratorium with the developer for the two lots ended in October, 1985, and the whole issue was front and centre once again.

The town purchased the lots.

There was a strong feeling on council that the walkway be retained for a future underpass and I was the lone objector.

I based my argument on the fact that the plan of subdivision previously approved by council did not include a walkway and it was unfair to the home buyers to impose one on them.

The years of debate came to an end in 1991 when council finally agreed to sell the two lots for residential use and an industrial firm used the strip for an expansion.

The debates were quite hectic over the years as each side fought for what they believed but the debate was restricted to the issue and personalities never entered the debate.

Once the decision was made it remained on the council table.

THE AURORAN

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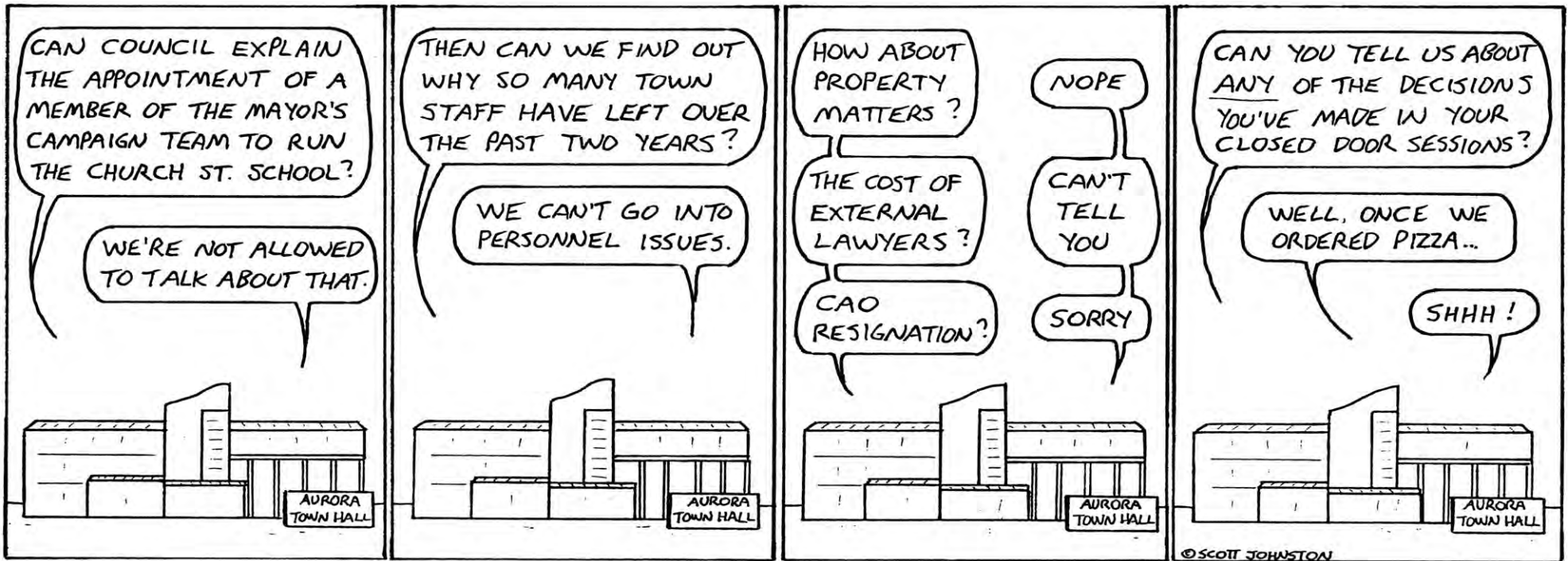
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Money, women and politics

I was a panelist last week on a new local cable show hosted by Newmarket Regional Councillor John Taylor.

The show is called "Focal Point" and it concentrates on local community, political and public affairs issues.

It is a kind of like the old CNN "Cross Fire" television program; a couple of panelists, representing various viewpoints and opinions, discuss and debate topics of the day.

The show moves quickly from subject to subject and Mr. Taylor doesn't let you get away with the easy or glib answer of which I am now painfully aware.

The host does a good job of encouraging a freewheeling debate and also inserts himself into the proceedings on occasion as required.

You can catch the action live every Tuesday and Wednesday on channel 10 at 8 p.m.

The program I appeared on dealt with the federal election. There were people representing the four main federal parties.

I was invited to appear as a former president of the local Newmarket-Aurora Conservative riding association.

We discussed and debated a number of issues, ranging from The Green Shift, to equalization payments to the amount of money used in campaigns and women in politics.

It is these latter two topics I want to address in this column.

Mr. Taylor stated that Democratic Presidential Nominee Barack Obama has raised a staggering \$66 million in this quarter alone for his U.S. campaign.

Mr. Taylor then queried that, although the Canadian system is different, in general, is there too much money in politics?

I don't think so, for two reasons.

First, the limits on the respective national campaigns are about \$18 million.

This may sound like a lot, but for a country this size it is not. Think of all the things that go into a national campaign, and you find that this money gets eaten up pretty quickly.

Second, there are spending limits placed on the 308 local riding associations. Each party is allowed to spend a certain amount per voter.

Each respective campaign team in our area is able to spend about \$90,000, which again is not a lot and, based on a combined Newmarket and Aurora population of 125,000, works out to less than 73 cents per person.

To give you an idea what a very well funded and organized local campaign typically spends this money on: signs, \$15,000; office and leasehold improvements, \$4,000; brochures - printing and Canada Post distribution - \$8,000 per drop (usually two to three in a campaign); computers and website, \$5,000; phones, \$4,000; newspaper advertising, \$10,000; polling, \$5,000 to \$10,000 per shot.

Obviously, most campaigns don't spend anywhere near the limit. But taking on a high profile opponent, and getting your candidate known through out the riding takes money.

The other issue that we discussed was women in politics.

Mr. Taylor offered some statistics about the number of women running for the Conservatives and Liberals and that these numbers don't reflect the make up of the population as a whole.

The Liberal on the panel, Jason Cherniak, a lawyer who is a well known internet blogger, said he felt the quotas were the right thing to do to encourage women and visible minorities to seek office, and that too many games are played in the party backrooms; so the playing field needed to be leveled.

While I agree that we need to have more women and visible minorities seeking and actually attaining elected office, I dis-

agreed with Mr. Cherniak on how best to accomplish this objective.

As a person who has been a party member for more than 25 years and has supported many women for local, provincial or federal offices, I don't want to see a quota or any type of affirmative action program instituted.

I simply want to see us elect people who represent and reflect the best qualities of our community.

We need to elect individuals who are of our community, in our community and for our community.

What is needed is to ensure that there really is an equality of opportunity for all.

This is best done through ensuring that a spending ceiling is placed at the nomination level.

While Elections Canada and Elections Ontario prohibit individuals from spending crazily during elections, no such laws exist at the local party nomination level.

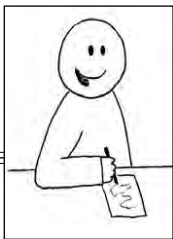
More important is that people should not be given nominations; they must earn them. Don't appoint anyone. In the past various parties have done this. It alienates the workers at the grass roots.

Third, and most importantly, the rules should be changed so that membership does matter.

An individual should be a party member for a certain period of time before they can vote at a nomination convention - say six months or one year.

As the credit card commercial says, "Membership has its privileges".

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

When I looked out of the window last week, there was a Tim Jones sign on my lawn.

But I hadn't asked for one, and had not been contacted by the Liberals.

In fact, I'd never had an election sign of any type on my lawn before.

Realizing it was a mistake, I pulled it out, and put it in the garage.

The next day, I was greeted by Lois Brown's smiling face on her Conservative Party sign, which was in almost the same place on my yard.

As I took it down, too, I was puzzled to see that there were an unusual number of election signs from all parties lining our street.

Later that afternoon, I was doing some shopping in town, and when I returned to my car, I found someone had stuck a Progressive Canadian Party bumper sticker on it.

I was so preoccupied on the way home thinking about how I'd remove it, that I almost pulled into the wrong driveway, because I didn't recognize our house with the Green Party sign out front.

It joined the others in the garage.

I thought that was the end of it, until two days later when I noticed several people at the plaza wearing campaign buttons.

When I casually looked down, I was surprised to see that someone had pinned a "Vote Canadian Heritage Party" button on my coat. This must have happened when I hung it up while getting my hair cut.

Shaking my head, and kind of annoyed, I removed the button,

and put it in my pocket.

By the time the NDP sign appeared in the yard the next day, I'd had enough.

As I was pulling it from the ground, I noticed a phone number on the bottom.

Ready to give the NDP a piece of my mind, I was surprised when my call was answered; "VOTE N-A Headquarters. May I help you?"

"I'm calling about this NDP sign you put on my lawn, and ..."

"Certainly, sir," she leapt in. "Would you like a different sign? Liberal or PC are popular, or how about an additional NDP?"

"No, I don't want any sign on my lawn, and ... wait a minute ... why would the NDP want to put up another party's sign, anyway?"

"Oh, we're not affiliated with any political party. We at "VOTE N-A", the "Voters Out to Engage Newmarket-Aurora" are dedicated to promoting participation in our riding in the upcoming Federal election. Our view is that the more the public sees evidence of the election, the more likely they'll be to vote."

"So you're responsible for my bumper sticker and button, too?"

"Yes, sir," she replied. "But you're not the only one we've enlisted to help out. We're spreading the word through whomever we can. Now, how many lawn signs did you say you wanted?"

"I don't want any! And you can take back the ones you've already given me."

"But, why?" she pressed. "Don't you think it's important for all

Signs of Autumn

Aurorans to be involved in the political process, and to participate in the upcoming election?"

"Yes, but ..."

"And do you realize how low the voter turnout was in the last election in this riding?"

"Well, I ..."

"You have no idea, do you?"

"Umm ..."

"I bet you don't even appreciate how lucky we are in Canada to have such democratic freedom. That's a not a privilege every country enjoys, you know."

"Of course I realize that, but..."

"So, if you truly support a strong electoral voice, what harm is it to help remind your fellow Aurorans about the election? You're not that selfish, are you?"


Our conversation continued, with her making compelling arguments, and me making unsuccessful attempts at getting a word in edgewise.

By the time I hung up several minutes later, I was no longer annoyed.

But I was feeling pretty guilty.

So, if I show up at your door this week-end handing out election fliers, but don't actually know what party they're for, you'll know why.

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



Bouquets & BRICKBATS

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Newmarket/Aurora MPP Frank Klees for his efforts in petitioning the McGuinty government to amend the legislation to protect students and to require school officials to report serious acts of assault on students to the police, but the Liberals refuse to take action.

BRICKBATS to the York Region District School Board for discontinuing the printed brochure of General Interest night school courses, English as a Second Language and Day and Evening Continuing Education Services, as future publications will be available on the website. What about people without access to the website?

BOUQUETS to the members of the Aurora Legion and the Legion's Ladies Auxiliary headed by Jean Anderson for placing a permanent marker on the foundation or side of all memorial stones of people buried in the Aurora Cemetery who served in the Armed Forces in addition to the annual placing of candles in the Candlelight Vigil.

BRICKBATS to the City of Toronto for selling the sidewalk to upscale retail outlets like Holt Renfrew on Bloor Street who purchased a 20 metre lay-by at their front door for three cars resulting in a gain for motorists but a loss for pedestrians. Only in Toronto!

BRICKBATS to the City of Toronto for cracking down on the homeless and other poor people who pick through the curbside recycling bins for whatever they can recover and redeem. City officials claim the scavenging is illegal and bylaw enforcement officers will issue \$360 tickets to offenders.

BOUQUETS to Conrad Black for still radiating resilience after serving five months into his 6th year term in a Florida prison and from all reports is surviving nicely working in the prison library and giving standing room only lectures to fellow inmates. No matter what you think of the man, you have to give him credit for his resilient outlook.

BRICKBATS to the Harper government for exempting the Prime Minister's office and the offices of Cabinet Ministers from the Access to Information legislation and according to the Federal Court if Parliaments wants such documents open to the public, then Parliament must amend the Access to Information Act.

BOUQUETS to U.S. Ambassador William Wood for taking a strong stand on the rising impatience with the Afghan government's stand on opium growing which is alleged to help fund the Taliban war efforts. Canada's voice was among the missing.

BRICKBATS to a justice system that charged a St. Catharines man with manslaughter for shooting an intruder who invaded the man's home and threatened his family. Whatever happened to the right to protect your property?

BOUQUETS to Barbara Strange for her informative letter to The Auroran on the very beginning of the Canada Day celebrations in Aurora and how a neighbourhood street party developed into a town-wide celebration in 1969 which has been an annual event except for 2007 when the traditional parade was missing.

BOUQUETS to Toronto Councillor Rob Ford for pointing out that the city's \$8.5 million soccer fields are sitting locked and unused due to the polluted Portlands they were built on last year. Not only that but the construction costs increased by \$3 million due to soil contamination

BOUQUETS to the Rev. Nicola Skinner, Incumbent of All Saints King City and formerly of Trinity Anglican Aurora, on being appointed Regional Dean for Holland Deanery.

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Letters to the Editor

Wife defends Nigel's efforts at the market

To the editor,

Okay, so now you have had someone who wouldn't sign her name and someone who doesn't live in the Town of Aurora put a negative slant on Nigel Kean and the Farmers' Market.

Then you have a positive and truthful response from someone who served time with him on council, Damir Vrancic.

Now add this to the big guns...Nigel's wife.

I have watched the media from a distance, choosing to let the public voice their freedom of speech, but after the last letter, I cannot stay silent.

I have been with Nigel from the moment of conception of the Farmers' Market, watched the hard ground breaking work, the agonizing reluctance of participation to the ultimate high of politicians using it as their exposure to voters and I can tell you, Nigel deserves every bit of credit for this wonderful local event.

In the early days, I would be there with him, when he would suddenly stop at

local farmers stalls on the highway to tell them about the possible farmers' market in Aurora.

The first four vendors, Hurst, Coopers, Howard, and Van Hart, shared his vision and have stayed with the market.

Nigel would be there first, every morning at 6.15 after picking up the bread at Hurst Bakery, to move garbage cans, picnic tables, place signs, and help vendors set up tents, including the seniors.

This went on for five years.

Our summers for five years revolved around the farmers' market.

Our daughters worked it, our neighbours helped out on the rare occasions we took a much needed weekend to ourselves, and never once did Nigel complain.

He loved what it was doing for Aurora; bringing people together.

In the first few weeks of the market it would always be very small, very dark, and usually very cold, but by fall, parking was tricky and people were asking to extend the market past

Thanksgiving. Donating to the food bank was one of the major charities of the market.

Then there was the pumpkin carving contests, and Doors Open events.

Did he have any support from council?

Very little.

There was no budget.

Any printing was done at his cost.

Our daughter designed the posters he distributed to local business.

And after five years, when he changed jobs that required him to travel through Canada and the US, he had to give up the market.

Before he left, there were 13 active vendors.

He made sure there was a committee in place, which included some of the regular members.

Now, all of sudden, the Farmers' Market has taken on a life of its own, or should I say a politician's life

of its own.

I would love to see which voted official claiming they are responsible for the market, is there at 6.15 every Saturday and staying till the end, not just working the "room" but truly working with the vendors.

It seems to me, this has become the place to meet with the locals, discuss current issues, just like Nigel had envisioned and I might add, is truly happy about.

He applauds the efforts of the vendors, Dave Heard, and Steve Granger and is happy about the change of location and the continued success of the market.

Give credit where credit is due, if it wasn't for Nigel, there would be no Farmers' Market.

And if anyone wants to dispute it, meet me at the market...the one my husband started.

Cathy Kean
Aurora

Liberal leader has courage to table plan, reader states

To the editor,

Response to R. Gee's letter to the editor, The Auroran, week of September 16.

Yes R. Gee, invest the GST reduction and income tax savings from your paycheques.

And, if you have young children or grandchildren, make sure you leave these assets to them.

They are certainly going to need this inheritance in the future to pay for your shortsightedness regarding the existing global environmental problems and the shared obligation all Canadians

have to pay for required action.

Stephane Dion has had the courage to table his proposed "green shift" plan as Canada's approach to deal with the pressing global environmental issue.

The same cannot be said for Stephen Harper who, as Prime Minister, has provided little or no leadership to Canadians on environmental issues.

He has instead continued to do what he does best - viciously criticize the alternatives put forth by others.

A. Smith
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

Private items need public airing, she says

To the editor,

There was an apparent glitch with my microphone at Tuesday's (Sept. 9) council meeting. I was speaking to the motion to approve the agenda and had difficulty being heard. I did not agree with three items being included in the closed session agenda. My opposition caused considerable outrage among colleagues. The mayor most definitely did not wish to allow the discussion. At one point, in an aside to

Councillor Evelina MacEachern, she indicated she intended to "call a recess in a minute". The first item dealt with a crisis in the building department caused by work overload and staff shortage. It was a critical matter and needed an immediate decision. It was deferred from the previous week and as council meetings do drag on, it was quite likely to be deferred again. Two other items dealt with property. A resident apparently

approached the town with a request to purchase land. Their rear lot line was not straight. They wished to acquire land from the abutting property owner. The abutting owner is the town. The land is park land. The argument was the Municipal Act calls for property matters to be discussed behind closed doors. The intent of the Act is to protect the town's interest in the matter of price negotiations in the acquisition or disposition of property. The Act does not intend

that park land can be sold out in secret from under the people who own it without them even knowing such a thing is contemplated. The third item was a recommendation from two citizen members of a sub-committee of a citizen advisory committee that the town purchase a specific property for a particular purpose. No public debate has ever been held, no opportunity for public input, no policy struck by the town to allow for such a purchase and no budget provided. And yet, it could have and

may have been determined in secret that such a purchase should be made. The mayor frequently refers to the need for the public's business to be discussed in the proper forum. My opposition to the closed session agenda was made in

the proper forum and in accordance with the Rules of Order. The Mayor's determined effort to silence all opposition to her plans was definitely out of order. Evelyn Buck Aurora

Is Tim Conservative, reader asks

To the editor,

The coming federal election will result in many changes, both good and bad, but one cannot help being reminded of the adage, "the more things change, the more they remain the same". The one burning question that begs asking of Tim Jones (T.J.) would have to be regarding the cost of changing one's wardrobe from blue to red. Others; can a leopard change its spots or what is a dyed in the wool Conservative? I remember a time when you voted for the

party because you understood what the candidate was about by their association with the political symbol they wore. I never sent Belinda Stronach to Parliament hill as a Conservative and I sure as hell didn't send her back as a representative of a party I had always supported. I was forced to vote Green that time. Now we have to vote for a guy whose only real credentials are that of past mayor, a job he lost, and an ability to ride the coat-tails of his rich benefactor. The archives must be chock a block with photos

of T.J. hobnobbing with Old Premier Mike, maybe even a couple with Billy Bob Harper at some past Hoedown. I remember the nineties under a Mikey regime in T.J.'s glory years. Is T.J. a leopard, a chameleon, or merely an interloper poised to inherit a position in the higher echelon of power? A much nicer pension plan to follow, I might add. Therein lies the dilemma or the conundrum. Do we vote for the conservative in blue or do we

vote for the conservative in red? Me, well I'll just hold my nose and vote for the conservative in green because one must always vote even if only to show disgust. In defense of those who will no doubt take umbrage at my statements criticizing their local darlings (B.S. and T.J.) remember, "the more things change, the more they remain the same". Mark Warburton Aurora

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Big guy gobbles up competition, he says

To the editor,

A few years ago Rogers and Shaw made a deal to trade service areas in the GTA and other Canadian cities in order to eliminate competition in the cable TV business. This was and is, by Canadian competition law, a completely criminal act, yet still to this day has been overlooked by all levels of government. When this dirty deed was done the GTA was completely dominated by Rogers except for the tiny (by comparison) service area of Aurora. Aurora Cable Internet was unique to our town and provided local flavour as part of its basic cable service. It was ours. Rogers just couldn't leave us alone. God forbid someone should dare to challenge the all-powerful Ted Rogers and

his Wal-Mart like dreams of domination. What's the matter, Ted, can't stand a little competition or were you just insulted that we didn't want to be part of your plans? In Wal-Mart style, Rogers has gobbled up or run out of business all local stations in the GTA in order to homogenize and streamline its empire in the name of competition. Now that's irony. You've stolen a piece of us and called it "improved service" and all with the blessing of the CRTC. If you have a shred of decency you will at least restore local programming like RETV, Treasure Hunt and coverage of local events to your basic cable package so everyone can afford to watch. I have to go now. Bell Express View is on the other line. Kenneth Carter Aurora




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Letters to the Editor



Reader wonders if playground has safety helmets

To the editor,

At the top of Bonny Meadows Drive in Aurora, an old playground has been replaced with a new high tech version, but is it safe? Although not complete, the photo shows all of the new equipment including a HEAD FIRST slide. So what is so unique is that there are no safety

sides, so a child can easily fall off. I guess the slide is OK if used as directed (head first and hold on tight) but kids will want to slide down feet first, making their centre of gravity too high and then fall off. I wonder if the park comes with safety helmets

Rob Schuetze
Aurora

July First flags in abundance

To the editor,

I am a little late in sending this as I need to wait for my son who still lives in Aurora to pass on a bunch of back issues of The Auroran. In the issue of August 19 there was a letter from Bob Cooke commenting on the proposed demise of the logo (shame on council). Your editorial comment said that you had the lone surviving Aurora flag. I am pleased to say that is not so - I have

one, albeit it has not flown for many years. I am proud that Aurora is my home town even though I now live on the shores of Georgian Bay just west of Midland. **Erna Gibson**
nee Eveleigh

ED. NOTE: Others have told us they have the flag as well, but the note on the original item said the editor "probably" had the only one in existence. Obviously, that's not true.



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"Picture your house sold"

Event brought many to Merlin's Hollow

To the editor,

Normally we have our four independent open days in May and June and two in July at Merlin's Hollow and then start to breathe, but this year we were invited to take part in Doors Open Aurora on August 16 that proved to be an interesting experience. The diverse crowd of visitors, from toddlers to 80-year-olds, were from many different ethnic origins and not the usual gardening crowd. It is fascinating to see emerging interest in children and teenagers as they walk through the garden and to hear older people's enjoyment as they walk around when they have had to give up their longheld gardens for condo living. Many people said they had been meaning to come for years, while some said they thought they knew all about perennials until they saw Merlin's Hollow's diverse collection of flowers. Several friends volunteered to help welcome our visitors and answer questions and use the clicker to record how many people came. At first I thought that would be a good job for our grandson Booker, a ginger-haired nine-year-old, but then could imagine him getting a tally of 8,972 people as he wielded it as a repetitive weapon. The final tally was 219 which surprised me considering there were 21 sites. We put together two large boards of photographs of how the garden was built. The first photo was of the house, small and stark and surrounded by farm fields, when built from a kit of numbered pieces in the 30s, then the house when we bought it in 1978, an open square of grass with no hedges or changes of level. We had our first open day in 1981. There were some photos of our daughter Beth's wedding. At the time we had no money for a formal dinner in a hall so we said if she had the reception in the garden she could invite whoever she wanted. One hundred and thirty-six people later she said if she invited any more they would be sitting in the flower beds! In that blazing week in August we cooked for 136, it rained every day but Saturday although we had thunder and lightning all around us as we celebrated. David left school at 14 and became a gardener in the Parks Dept. in

Manchester, England where gardening skills were paramount. He later became a landscape architect and has designed provincial and national parks and a botanical gardens in Venezuela. It took him 25 years to build Merlin's Hollow in his spare time, to dig the pond, build the rock gardens and the raised beds in the Fragrant Garden, to create a garden that people could enjoy and learn from but also to provide an environment for the birds, mammals, insects, snakes, frogs and toads who inhabit it with us. For about 25 years he sowed 1000 packets of perennials from many parts of the world that have a similar climate to us, hot summers and cold winters. When we picked Booker up from Toronto the day before Doors Open to stay for the weekend he told me he wanted to be a makeup artist when he grew up and that night spent a long time standing on the toilet and looking into the bathroom mirror while he painted scars and wounds, bloody nose and black eyes on his face. The effect was quite convincing for a first attempt, as if he'd strayed down a dark alley at the wrong time in a dicey neighbourhood. He said he was going to watch TV when people start-


ed drifting in but I persuaded him to join in, then later suggested he stroll through the crowd and if anyone commented on his face to say, "Don't step on the flower beds, look what happened to me when I did!" He liked that idea. Doors Open Aurora was just one day of interesting activities in Aurora. There is the weekly Farmers' Market each Saturday with local produce and crafts for sale in the Town Park where a variety of live music is played from week to week. Recently we went to see The Counterfeiters, a Film Circuit movie and the theatre was packed. Based on a true story, this film delves into one of the most controversial and ethically dubious activities of World War II when Jewish printers, papermakers and counterfeiters were coerced into forging British and American banknotes to undermine the two

economies. Theatre Aurora produces a varied choice of plays that are well cast and presented. There are many concerts happening in town, both in halls and the summer evening concerts in the park, attended by huge audiences. There are more than 20 well maintained green spaces in Aurora, including the Aurora Arboretum, where you can take a long walk in peace with no traffic. There are swimming pools and many sports facilities for children and adults. The rich diversity of activities is available year round in our town because of strong support from the council but also because of the generous hours of organization by public spirited volunteers who are a strong and growing group in Aurora.


Dierdre Tomlinson
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

Aurorans like nature trails:survey

To the editor,

Aurorans like nature trails. A household survey conducted three months ago confirmed - with an exclamation mark - our fondness for trails in natural environments. The survey results showed that 86 per cent of Aurorans already participate in walking or hiking for leisure. That was far ahead of any other leisure activity. The next closest was swimming, at 54 per cent. Most significantly, the results showed that 47 per cent of Aurorans want to spend money on nature trails.

Other leisure amenities on which Aurorans are ready to spend money include youth centres, children's splash pads, and playgrounds, which, at 31 per cent, was the next most favored spending target.

It is this 14 per cent gap between nature trails spending and the spending for the next most favoured amenity that makes the survey results really significant in favour of nature trails.

The survey also revealed that the overwhelming majority of Aurorans who do not participate in leisure activities are in that position because they are too busy.

I cannot think of any other leisure activity that offers a better opportunity to change physical activity habits and relieve stress, all at once, than walking on nature trails, even if it is just to walk to a neighbourhood store or the library, or the next park.

Aurorans who have little time could use nature trails

Sad commentary on democracy, this reader says

To the editor,

I am so disappointed in Stephen Harper and Jack Layton. How could two leaders oppose the idea to allow Elizabeth May, leader of the Green Party, to participate in the leaders' debate?

Now I know they have since changed their tune because there was such a backlash - but, it really calls into question their judgement.

They will puff out their chests and oppose her participation, but, don't seem to have an issue with Gilles Duceppe, leader of the Bloc Quebecois and champion of separating our great country, participating in the debate.

This is a sad commentary on democracy.

We have a Prime Minister who shuts down debate, breaks his own election law, and now has a puffin relieving itself on the Liberal Leader.

Thank you for raising the bar, Mr. Harper.

Cliff Callaway IV
Aurora

spontaneously, whenever they have time, provided there is ready access from their home.

That is where funding would come in handy - to retrofit Aurora with linkages to trails, and to eliminate barriers to the continuity of the trails network.

However, unlike most other sports and leisure participants, trail users are not organized.

Unless there is a club, or other definable public group, not even the most convincing survey results will provide trail users with any comfort that these survey results will be respected in policy formation, and in setting goals or targets as to when and how dollars will be spent on trails infrastructure.

At this time the Town of Aurora is conducting a Recreation Master Plan Study, in preparation of updating the current Master Plan.

The Recreation Master Plan is the document that sets out the Town of Aurora's future intentions regarding what new amenities will be provided for, within what time frame.

It was in the context of that Recreation Master Plan Study that the June 2008 household survey was carried out.

When the Study consultants recently presented the survey results to the Leisure Services Advisory Committee, there was a very cool reception.

It seemed most committee members had a hard time accepting that trails, and nature trails at that, had surfaced as such a favoured recreational activity.

A few members maintained there must have been something wrong with the survey. The consultants assured them the survey was statistically sound, and that in fact the response was exceptional.

What this cool reception indicated to me was that there may be a rough road ahead for nature trails, because the political avenue to success may be paved with boulders, maybe mostly in the form of mindsets.

What generally gets overlooked, too, is the fact that most of the existing and certainly the future nature trails double as alternative traffic corridors, for non-motorized traffic. So nature trails are not just for recreation.

In this context I should mention that the concept of having a nature trails network away from roads corridors, barrier free across regional roads and rail corridors, did not fall on receptive ears at the regional level.

The Region of York recently implemented a Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan that placed just about all of the regional walking and cycling routes smack beside regional roads, with some of them on the shoulders of those roads.

I can't imagine any trails network any less safe than what that Master Plan provides. But more about the regional scene in a future letter.

Back to Aurora. In Aurora we are continuing with a Trails Sub-Committee that started in October, 2007. Three citizens, me included, and two Town of Aurora staff are members.

We are in the process of preparing documents that are expected to be made available to the public, and which would be displayed at a public meeting, hopefully later this year.

Normally this type of undertaking is being carried out with the involvement of consultants. We have done a lot of field visits, mostly to verify the feasibility of potential trail routings.

However, there is no assurance that members of the Trails Sub-Committee's mother committee, the Leisure Services Advisory Committee, and after that, the councillors will be favouring what will be proposed by the Trails Committee.

The cool reception of the survey results gave me reason to have concerns.

Nor can one be overly confident that our politicians will have the courage to implement the vision of a nature trails network by allocating and actually spending budget dollars to construct under and overpasses, or procure lands necessary to establish trails corridors and linkages in already built-up areas of Aurora (the retrofitting aspects of trails infrastructure).

While the mayor and councillors certainly appear to be in favour of such nature trails network, and the benefits are agreed to be substantial, from traffic, recreation, health, and social perspectives, when the

NIMBYism of those who do not favour trails corridors behind their backyards surfaces, the politicians will need nerves of steel and courage to allow the public good to prevail, in the face of the objectors.

From the above you can gather that there may be some bumps ahead.

Since I am in a fairly good position to keep my fingers on the pulse of nature trails network development, it would help me if I knew who all of the supporters are for this vision.

I could then keep the supporters informed if and when bumps or boulders appear on the horizon. Just how supporters might assist under those circumstances could be discussed with any of the supporters who indicate a desire to be involved.

So to establish contact with supporters I am asking that you send me an E-mail.

In the E-mail you may express any ideas, comments, suggestions, and how you think we can, together, best assure that the vision will succeed - and if and how you would like to be involved.

Your E-mails will be kept confidential. They will not be forwarded to anybody, nor will they be published.

My reply to your E-mails will not be sent until early

October, but there will be at least an acknowledgement.

The E-mails, I am confident, will contribute to success. Just how remains to be seen. By sending that E-mail you can become part of building a network that is destined to make Aurora a model for urban trails network development.

Without your support, without being able to say that there is a trails constituency out there, one that could be

mobilized if need be, we could miss out on something really special.

I make no apologies for being an advocate and activist. I just happen to believe in this vision - it can become reality!

Aurorans like nature trails.

My E-mail address is 'ECOPAL@ACI.ON.CA

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Aurora

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Program Cost: **COMPLIMENTARY**
Hosted by: Injoy Yoga & Activewear, 15263 Yonge St., Unit 4, Aurora

THURSDAY, OCT. 9TH, 2008
BUSINESS AFTER FIVE
Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Program Cost: **COMPLIMENTARY**
Hosted By: Wellington Gallery, 32 Wellington St. W., Aurora

THURSDAY, OCT. 16TH, 2008 - LUNCH AND LEARN SEMINAR
Earl Sky - Master Vocal Coach on Public Speaking
Time: 12:00 p.m. Aurora Chamber Boardroom, 14483 Yonge St., Aurora
Cost for members: \$20 Potential Members: \$25

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THE AURORAN SPORTS

Page 12

Week of September 23, 2008

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Provincial Junior A hockey got underway in Aurora for another season Friday night at the Aurora Community Centre. Despite a disappointing crowd of fewer than 300, the Aurora Tigers defeated Upper Canada 4-2. Handling the puck dropping ceremonies was Neil Burton, from the Tigers' front office. Participating were Dominic Monardo, left, of the Tigers and Alex Bezerra from Upper Canada, both captains of their respective teams.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Aurora wins three

Busiest guy in the Provincial Junior A home opener for the Aurora Tigers Friday night had to be Upper Canada goaltender Mike McDonald.

He faced a total of 59 shots, as the Tigers could manage only four goals in their 4-2 victory.

And, in spite of throwing 13 shots at McDonald in the third period, they couldn't score.

A total of 235 fans watched the opener.

It was the first of three games played by Aurora during the weekend. Saturday night in Trenton, Aurora went two up with a 5-3 victory.

And Sunday afternoon, Aurora increased its winning streak to three games with a 5-3 victory over Villanova at York University.

Prior to the first game on the weekend, Tiger coach Jerome Dupont offered, "preparation, taking care of oneself and living the moment will be key to how well we do this weekend".

Biggest question that erupted after the Provincial Junior A league renamed the North Division to the Phillips Division was what happened to the Newmarket Hurricanes and the Stouffville Spirit.

Well, apparently, they have wound up in a new Central Division, a pilot project division within the Ontario Provincial Junior Hockey League (OPJHL), which is as yet unnamed.

In the division are eight teams including Cobourg, Hamilton, Markham, Newmarket, Stouffville, St. Michael's, Toronto Junior Canadians and Wellington.

Even though the Tigers didn't play their best hockey on the weekend they were still able to go three straight wins.

"We are starting to understand that everybody is gunning for us and consequently, to be successful, we need to bring our "A" game every night," Dupont, who got a

penalty in Sunday's match for delaying the game, said. "There is still lots of ground to cover."

The line of David Morley, Domenic Monardo and Cody Smith led the way Sunday recording a total of eight points.

Also having a big game was the line of Kyle McLaughlin (a goal and an assist), Nic Vangog

who continues his torrid scoring pace (one goal, one assist) and big Phil Bushbacher (two assists).

Friday Aurora faces the highly rated Couchiching Terriers at the Aurora Community Centre.

Please see page 13

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Minor Atom Tigers win two exhibitions

The Minor Atom A Tigers hockey team have launched on the right foot last week, coming up with two exhibition victories.

Colin McGoldrick set the pace for the winners scoring three goals as Aurora defeated the Pickering Panthers 7-4 in an exhibition encounter two weeks ago.

Jordan Torres scored twice for the winners, while singles went to Eric McGhie and Kyle Rice.

The game was the first exhibition for the Tigers and training camp paid off as Aurora jumped out to an early five-goal lead.

The line of Jordan Torres, Stewart Gable and Alexander Simardone showed a good chemistry and both goalies, Tyler Thomas and Mark Carpenter, looked solid between the pipes.

A week later, the Tigers doubled the score on Noble King 4-2.

Colin McGoldrick, Stewart Gable, Kyle Rice and Joel Woodcock scored singles in

the victory.

The Tigers jumped out to a lead when McGoldrick stole the puck near centre ice and went in on a clean breakaway to score.

Noble King responded quickly with two goals to end the period with a one-goal lead.

Midway through the second period, the Tigers began to dominate the game controlling the shots as well as the territorial play.

With 3:30 left in the second, and the Tigers killing a penalty, Chris Pettit moved the puck from his end and spotted a speedy Stewart Gable who beat the Noble King defender and slid the puck into the back of the net.

Early in the third period, with the Tigers continuing to press, Alexander Simardone moved the puck from the corner to a ready Eric McGhie.

McGhie quickly passed to Kyle Rice who put the Tigers ahead.

As the period was winding down, McGoldrick put a shot

on net and Joel Woodcock shovelled the puck into the net icing the game for the Tigers.

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Aurora residents Courtenay Fields, left, and Robyn LeLacheur, will participate in the Newmarket Voice Festival scheduled for the week of Nov.3 at New Hope Methodist Church in Newmarket. Anyone wishing to enter the festival still has time to do so. Deadline is Friday. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

Hockey league seeks oldtimers

The York Oldtimers Hockey League is looking for more players in its over 50 division.

The league is entering its 34th season and currently has over 35, over 50, over 60, and over 70 divisions.

Originally, the league consisted of one division for all players 35 or older, but it grew, necessitating subsequent divisions.

For the first time, the over 60 division will play in Aurora this season.

However, it is the over 50 division that is "a few players

short," said Secretary-Treasurer Stephen Forsey. "It is a recreational league. A lot of the guys know each other."

All games are non-contact, since so many of the players have jobs.

Currently, there are 12 teams in the 35 and over league, 12 teams in the 50 and over league, four teams in the 60 and over league, and two teams in the new 70 plus division.

Anyone wishing to join should contact Mr. Forsey at 905-727-3236.

Students first, athletes second, high school football coach says

By ROBERT REVINGTON

For the football teams at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, winning is important, but it isn't everything.

"I think last year we made a huge philosophical coaching change," said Kent Bulmer, head coach of the senior team. "We strive to do our best...but everyone's going to play. It paid huge dividends for us down the stretch. You don't know when it's going to happen. It makes people pay more attention and work harder. Long term, as a coach, the wins and losses, you'll forget about, and you'll remember the experience...you'll remember being part of a team."

The team tries to benefit its players in other ways.

In recent years, particularly for the junior team, the team instituted a program where the players would not practice on Monday afternoons.

Instead, they come to the cafeteria for extra study and homework time, with the coaches there to help.

"We decided to start that simply because we believe in students first, athletes second," said Kent Ravelle, head coach of the

junior team.

Both coaches see a difference in the progression of players from the junior level (Grades 9 and 10) to the senior level (Grades 11 and 12).

"From Grade 10 to 11 there's a huge difference between body type and size and strength," said Ravelle. "They start doing more weight training."

"At the junior level, if you're a good athlete, you can make a mistake and recover and still make the play," said Bulmer.

The level of play in the senior level is "faster" and "you're not going to have time," he said.

Certain adjustments also need to be made between the senior level and the junior level, because the juniors play a four-down league, while the senior level plays with three downs.

"You always have to adapt offensive schemes based on the talent you have," said Bulmer.

He considers himself a run-first, pass-second coach, but adds, "We passed quite a bit last year. But without the run, the pass won't work."

Ravelle believes running is more prevalent at the junior level because of the difference in downs, while the senior-level game "is just like the CFL."

Both coaches are cautiously optimistic about their team's chances.

"We have a really good group of athletes this year," said Ravelle. He predicts a 3-3 record for his junior squad.

For the senior team, Bulmer saw "no reason why we can't finish as well as last year, when we won tier two."

We have 23 returning players. We should progress. It depends on the offensive line and how healthy we can stay."

He predicts the seniors will finish with a 4-3 record.

Regardless of how the two Williams teams finish, the development of the players off the field will be the most important thing.

Bowling Leagues

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9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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Barbarians capture title

With a convincing 39-5 win over the storied Balmy Beach club Saturday, the Aurora Barbarians Rugby Football Club captured their

third consecutive Ontario League Senior men's title.

Aurora finished the season with an impressive 11-2-1 record beating out newly

promoted Toronto Scottish RFC and long-time rival Oakville Crusaders Rugby Club to become the Marshall Premiership Champions, winners of the highest level of rugby competition in the Province.

The season finale was played at Fletcher's Fields in Markham.

Despite a wind disadvantage in the first half, the Barbarians scored with regularity, including a 20-metre drop goal by flyhalf Marco DiGirolamo, to build a 15-0 lead at the interval.

The former Canadian international directed a near perfect offence getting tries from veteran players Shaun Allen, Brock Millar, Andrew Ziricino, and Will Sorensen as well as club rookies Rob Brouwer and Taylor Volkes.

Provincial Jr. "A" Tigers

From page 12
Game time is 7.30 p.m.

AURORA 4 UPPER CANADA 2

First Period

A - Jeff Vanderlugt (Happeney) 1.27
A - Mike Bodley (Monardo, Revell) 4.06
UC - Dwayne Vatcher (MacPherson) PP19.58

Second Period

UC - Justin Wehniainen (Bilski) 1.31
A - Nick Vangog (Happeney, Smith) 3.33
A - Michael Sardella (unassisted) SH 16.00

Third Period
No scoring

AURORA 5 TRENTON 3

First Period

A - Lucas VanNatter (Revell, Smith) 14.48

Second Period

T - Dylan Goddard (Robinson, Pernerowski) 1.10
A - Jeff Vanderlugt (Vangog, Evans) 3.05
T - William McLaughlin (Pernerowski, Robinson) 17.22

Third Period

A - Dominic Monardo (Smith, Morley) 4.40
A - Nick Vangog (Bushbacher, Mooney) 11.43
A - Brandon Happeney (Vanderlugt, Bodley) 12.58
T - Henderson Robinson (McLaughlin, Goddard) 16.06

AURORA 5 VILLANOVA 3

First Period

A - Nick Vangog (McLaughlin, Bushbacher) 6.31
A - Kyle McLaughlin (Bushbacher, Vangog) 13.29
V - Anthony Ranieri (Ceccaneze, Alberga) PP 15.27

Second Period

A - Cody Smith (Monardo, Morley) 0.11
A - Jordan Smith (Monardo, Morley) 2.25
V - Dave Lansdown (Williamson, Rocca) 9.27
V - Mark D'Alessandro (Kinsella, Alberga) 15.36

Third Period

A - Dominic Monardo (Smith, Morley) 15.20

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The Smile Cookies are back, and they're happier than ever. This week, buy a special chocolate chunk Smile Cookie for just \$1.00 each, and we'll donate entire proceeds to Women's Centre of York Region.

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Sue Deighan, a teacher at Aurora's Cardinal Carter High School, right, met with Shirley MacLaine at gala event.

Teacher meets Academy Award winning actress

Recently, Best Buddies Canada held its annual gala fundraiser in Toronto, and one local teacher got the thrill of her lifetime.

About 400 people attended the event, and it raised \$850,000 for the Best Buddies program, but for Sue Deighan, a teacher from Cardinal Carter Catholic High School, the highlight happened when she got to meet guest of honour, Academy Award winning actress, Shirley MacLaine.

Sue said she had a great time and was very hon-

Staffers aim for earlier budget finish

For the past two years of the current council a budget timetable was established with the intent to be completed by the end of December but in both cases in spite of innumerable meetings and constant referrals back to staff the budget was not finalized until April.

It is still the hope of staff to complete the 2009 budget by the end of December for a variety of reasons detailed in previous reports, but primarily to go to tender early in the year when better prices are normally available.

Realizing that council has to feel comfortable that the process has had the appropriate review and that the recommended tax rate is acceptable, staff members suggested the budget schedule conclude at the end of February with budget approval early in March.

Aurora's general committee accepted the 2009 budget timetable with several amendments including details of new hires, department budgets be presented in a common format, a budget open house be held early in the process and changes in some of the proposed meeting dates.

oured to take part in the event.

Best Buddies is a national charitable organization dedicated to fostering one-to-one friendships between people with intellectual disabilities and students.

Held in conjunction with the Toronto International Film Festival every year since 1995, the Gala is the most successful fundraiser for the organization.

Founded in the United States by Anthony Kennedy Shriver, Best Buddies established its first Canadian chapter in 1993.

Across the country, there are 160 chapters. More than 50,000 people have been involved in the program.

Ms MacLaine was honoured for her contributions to various charities through her career.

During her acceptance speech, she reminded all the guests that everyone at the gala was only there because of, and for, the individuals with intellectual disabilities.

"While we may think we are assisting the buddies," she said, "the true teachers in our world are those with intellectual disabilities."

Cost of leisure up 5%

At a recent meeting of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee members received a report from Amy Shepherd of the IBI Group Associates of a user fee study approach being carried out.

The study outlined the results of the stakeholder consultation process which involved a focus group session, user group questionnaire as well as a community open house and questionnaire.

She outlined the recommended guiding principles, activity cost analysis and key findings of the benchmarking analysis.

She concluded by advising that the next phase of research will focus on the categorization of activities/services, recommendations for future cost recovery and will then lead into the presentation of a draft user fee policy.

The advisory committee received the report as information which was endorsed by the general committee at a subsequent meeting.

Last November following a lengthy debate at a budget meeting, councillors wanted to know why a user fee was needed and why it popped up as a one line budget item without consulting the sports community.

It had been proposed that the cost of children's soccer and baseball be increased by five per cent which would have affected about 6,000 children.

Minor baseball officials told councillors that any increase posed a difficulty to group organizers and to parents already squeezed by taxes.

Defending the proposed increase, Mayor Phyllis Morris pointed out that the five per cent increase would cost an extra \$1 to an individual registration fee that could cost in the \$160 to \$180 price range per child.

It was pointed out by Councillor Evelyn Buck that a consultant was

being considered for an across the board user fee policy and council should wait for that report.

Last February the Leisure Services Advisory Committee recommended the consulting firm of IBI Group be engaged to provide a Pricing Policy and Fee Schedule for Leisure Services and that an additional \$8,000 be approved from the Municipal Capital Reserve to finance the proposal which was approved.



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WHEN: Monday, October 6, 2008

6:30 – 7:00 pm
Open Session with Candidates
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Formal Debate
9:00 – 9:30 pm
Open Session with Candidates

WHERE: Theatre Aurora,
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Auroran photos by David Falconer

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Map showing the proposed peaking station site (shaded area) located on Bloomington Road, between Bayview Avenue and Leslie Street. The map includes surrounding streets: Wellington Street, Yondorf Sideroad, Woodbine Avenue, Leslie Street, Highway 404, Yonge Street, and Bayview Avenue. A location marker 'L. Wilson' is also present.

Legend:

- Proposed Peaking Station Site

David Wesenger
Senior Project Manager
Stantec Consulting Ltd.
361 Southgate Drive
Guelph, Ontario N1G 3M5
Phone: 519-836-6050
Fax: 519-836-2493
Email: david.wesenger@stantec.com

Information will be collected and used in accordance with the Environmental Assessment Act, and solely for the purpose of assisting Northland Power in meeting environmental assessment and local planning requirements. This material will be maintained on file for use during the study and may be included in project documentation. All comments will become part of the public record.

Life in Aurora in 1969

Aurora Council supports a petition to the province for a revision of educational grants in order to ease the burden on property taxpayers.

Aurora Council spends \$1,000 to add a separate town-operated indoor swimming pool to the new Aurora High School, but with no grants available decided it couldn't afford the \$400,000 cost of construction.

The new district school board adopted a budget of more than \$30 million, the largest money package in the history of York County at that time and meant a hefty increase of 6.2 mills for Aurora taxpayers. Council noted they were just a tax collection agency for the school board.

Aurora Heights Public School participated in "Project School to School" and twinned with a school on the island of Nevis. First started in 1968 by Education Minister Bill Davis, the project twinned 1,200 Ontario schools with an equal number of schools in 17 Commonwealth countries.

Aurora Council launched a campaign to have a branch of Seneca College in York Region. A site at Bond Lake and the former York Manor facility in Newmarket were suggested but later the Lady Eaton estate was acquired in King Township for the King campus.

A heavy snowstorm and flu decimated attendance at the council inaugural meeting held January 6, 1969. The inaugural was to install newly elected Mayor Dick Illingworth, Reeve Evelyn Buck, Deputy Reeve Bill Trent, and six councillors.

In his inaugural remarks, Illingworth said the coming of regional government was the dawn of a new era and the year 1969 could be crucial to local government. He stressed the need for a team spirit within council and between it and the citizens.

At the invitation of publisher Bob Buchanan, Illingworth started a weekly column called "The Mayor Reports".

A total recount of the votes came about as a result of council's decision. After a recount for deputy reeve, the election night winner of Murray Binions was awarded to Bill Trent.

The recount also confirmed the election of Dick Illingworth over Clarence Davis by a vote of 1,455 to 1,375. The recount cost taxpayers \$779.

The town went to blazes on January 12, 1969, when the annual Christmas tree bonfire went up in flames lit by Miss Aurora Tiger Carol Rawlinson and Mayor Illingworth.

The town purchased a second-hand aerial ladder truck for about \$13,000, the first aerial truck for the department. It was replaced with a \$250,000 truck in 1984.

An Aurora police dispatcher was suspended pending an investigation into an alleged incident in which a woman in childbirth called the police for help and was told to take a taxi. Police Chief Bill Langman recommended the Aurora force be increased from 12 to 15 men.

Council expressed concerns about the resignation of two Aurora police officers, Keith Faulkner and John Mitchell.

It was reported the 1968 Santa Claus parade cost the town \$681 and donations totalled \$710. The Aurora Community Centre reported a surplus of \$490 for 1968.

Council investigated a new snowplow, which was supposedly designed in such a way that it wouldn't block driveways. It didn't work. Council also looked at equipment to plow sidewalks.

Don Glass and Paul Wright were named to join Frank Caruso, Paul Knowles and Bob Hookings on the Community Centre board. And Del Babcock was reappointed to the library board.

Council also considered the appointment of an Industrial Committee to woo industry. Sterling Drug celebrated its golden anniversary. Don Glass was honoured by the Recreation Committee for 20 years of service.

Aurora Library asked for an additional \$6,000 in their budget to keep the library open 40 hours a week,

doubling the hours open to the public.

Aurora Council decided to go to arbitration over the police contract as no agreement could be reached.

The Aurora Police Department received a \$1,100 annual salary increase per man as the result of a judge's decision following an arbitration hearing with the increase bringing a first class constable to \$8,000 annually.

York County Warden Gordon Cook appointed a special committee on regional government following a meeting of the Inter-Municipal Committee of Mayors and Reeves appointed by Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough. He also suggested a county police force.

While urbanization and a \$5 bounty had lessened the fox population of the county, council was told that mice were overrunning the county. Council approved \$150 for fox bounties and \$600 for wolf bounties but nothing for a mouse bounty.

Bilton MacDonald, of Aurora, was appointed welfare officer for York County and carried on after the transfer to regional government

Local equestrians including Jimmy Elder, Tom Gayford and Jim Day, who won the Olympic Gold Medal for jumping in Mexico City in 1968, were named Canadian Team of the Year.

The town started to prepare itself for a hockey invasion as the Aurora Minor Hockey Association was hosting the Little NHL Tournament for the first time.

A cottage-type treatment centre for emotionally disturbed children was proposed for south Aurora. It is now known as Blue Hills Academy on Bloomington Road.

Council rejected an application to build a service station at the southwest corner of Yonge and Kennedy Streets.

A demolition crew ripped the roof off Doan Hall, the first brick building in Aurora. Charles Doan built the elegant provincial house in 1846 at the village cross-roads of Machell's Corners. The site was then occupied by Doane Hall Pharmacy, and now is the site of a Dollarama store.

The York Highland chapter of Sweet Adelines held its first meeting with 12 women in attendance mostly wives of members of men's barbershop organizations.


The Towns of York Toastmasters Club presented awards to Alex Eves, Cliff Bernardo and Doug Witt. Meanwhile, Gord Bell was elected club president.

The three Towns of York - Aurora, Newmarket and Richmond Hill - presented the Corps Flag, the National Flag and the Queen's Flag to the Queen's York Rangers Cadet Corps at a colourful ceremony at the Aurora Armouries.


Aurora residents voted themselves a cocktail lounge they couldn't have. The Liquor Licensing Board requires a hotel with at least 10 rooms to qualify for the licence, which Aurora didn't have. Council petitioned the government to improve its outdated liquor laws.

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Plans were submitted for the Met store in the Aurora Shopping Centre, now a Business Depot. The A & W Drive-In was officially opened at Yonge and Brookland where a strip plaza is now located.



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By BRIAN WARBURTON

Senior programs filling up quickly

The activities and programs for the fall are almost all up and running and most members have joined or signed up for whatever commands their interest and energy.

Some of the activities that continue to attract adherents include bingo, scrabble, horseshoes and card games of every variety, some with origins reaching into the past.

Some attract national and international attention and from the mid 1800s chess has produced a world champion.

Others such as pickle ball and carpet bowling are of more recent vintage, but regardless of when, where or how they developed and attracted a following, they provide recreation, fun, and companionship in our world today.

I note also that the physical and mental energies expended are beneficial, particularly to those who otherwise would have little to occupy their attention.

Dancing is an important component of social life and I note or remind you that line dancing begins Thursday, October 2nd.

On October 22nd, the fall trip to Niagara on the Lake, plus a dinner theatre, is scheduled.

The Music Man at the Stratford Festival must be booked by October 10th, to ensure that the trip takes place October 30th.

For those looking ahead, "The Jersey Boys", on December 3rd, are playing at the Toronto Centre for the Arts.

Some of these trips are possibly sold out but there is no harm in checking for cancellations if you really want to take part.

Trips provide a genuine and imaginative change of tempo and scenery and transport the participants into a vastly different, uplifting and entertaining scenario.

To address one of the responsibilities of life and which becomes pressing in later life, is the issue of "Why a Will is a Necessity" and is a subject we must all reconcile in our minds sooner or later.

This topic will be addressed Thursday, September 25th, between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m., when the ASA presents guest speakers Patrice Graham Brown and Thuy Lam from the Investors Group.

The speakers will address income taxes and your estate and how to understand trust benefits.

If your legacy will comprise an important component of the financial well being of your heirs, your estate should be the subject of a coherent and lucid will, enabling those you leave behind easy access to the financial support inherited

from you, and specialists in these matters will provide a sound and logical plan of action.

Food is never far from our thoughts since we tend to eat at regular intervals daily, so, it is with delight that I announce that the "Budget Bistro" has returned and is available each Wednesday between noon and 1 p.m.

The lunch usually consists of soup, sandwich and coffee or tea and is very popular, drawing a constant stream of seniors.

Just show up and everything should be to your satisfaction.

The Aurora Seniors Association has been equipped with two new signs identifying the Seniors' Centre, both located on John West Way, with one placed guiding the access to the parking lot.

It looks good and will assist visitors to Aurora in locating the centre more easily.

Charles Sequeira advises me that several logos have been designed for the ASA by members Jyette Gillies, Elfriede Gruepner and Louise Williams.

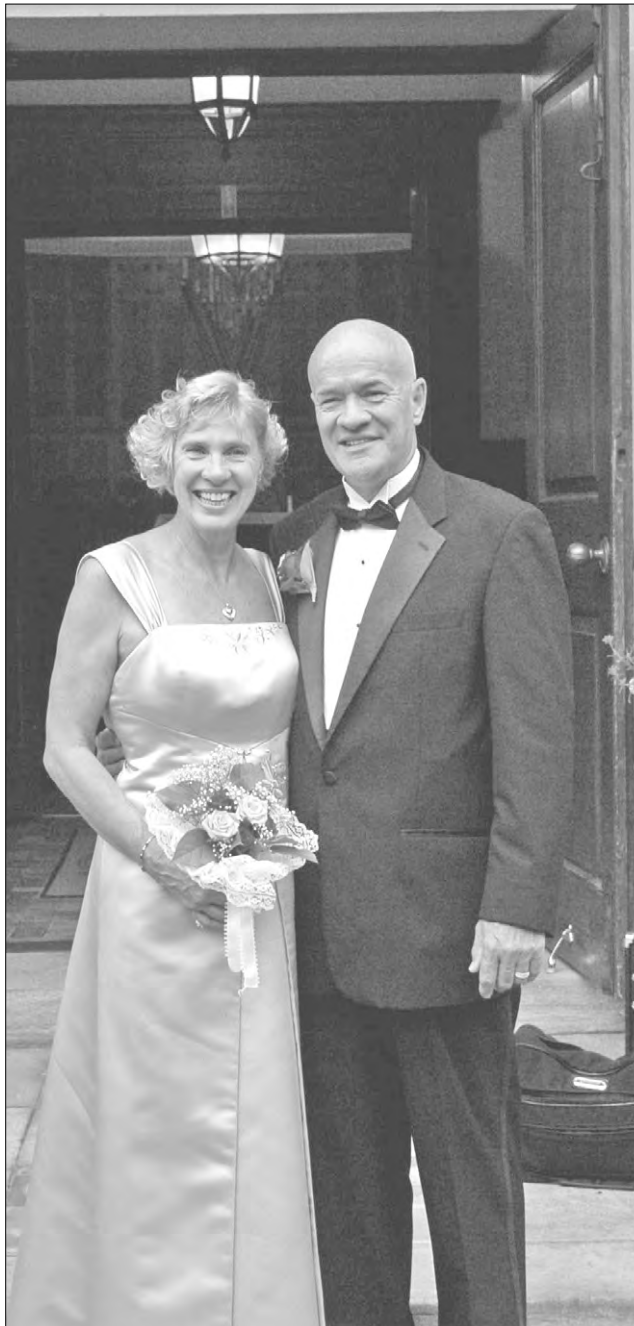
The logos have been presented to the Town for their comments and approval and the final selection should be made public after appropriate consideration and when all parties are satisfied.

The Aurora Farmers Market, located at the Town Park, is always a big attraction for seniors, has organized its second annual "Apple Pie Eating Contest", for Saturday, September 27th.

ASA seniors are invited to enter their favourite home made apple pie or apple crumble pie.

Last year, members from the ASA won second place.

Full details and entry forms are available at the reception desk at the centre, including details on prizes to be won so register your entry by September 26th and present your entry no later than 9 a.m. Saturday, September 27th, with judging beginning at 10 a.m.



Swimming sensation Yvonne Cattrell was married recently to Byron Russell, a previous 28-year resident of Aurora, who is obviously now relocated back to Aurora. The wedding, held at St. Andrew's College in Aurora's north end, took place on Yvonne's 60th birthday.

Senior Centre Duplicate Bridge

Monday, September 8:

North-South - Sue Scott and Ruth Rea; Mary Oglanby and Viktoria Spearin; Frank Lablans and Dennis McFadden. East-West - Inger Kamel and Priscilla Hull; Audrey Robertson and Evelyn Dickie (tie); Noreen Hashem and Marion Warburton.

Monday, September 15:

North-South - Carol Gordon and Brenda Smith; Ada Robertson and Terry Robertson; Irene Kubica and Dorothy Young. East-West - Murray Sinclair and Don Newman; Priscilla Hull and Inger Kamel; Noreen Hashem and Marion Warburton.

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Response to blog question

Question:

Do you plan to vote in the federal election?

Answer	Per cent
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No	5 %

For next week's question, visit www.auroracitizen.blogspot.com

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Map showing the locations of the five garage sales marked with numbered arrows. A man in a suit stands next to a large 'SOLD' sign.

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Harbourfront on Wheels comes to Aurora

In August, 1977, Mike Bebbington, his brother Bob, Bruce Green and Jean Ellis of the Harbourfront on Wheels staff visited the Aurora pool with a message of water safety.

They presented their lessons in humorous skits and were sponsored by the Metro Red Cross Water Safety Committee with grants supplied by Sports and Recreation Canada and the United Way.

Classes began with the viewing of water safety films produced by the Red Cross after which the class was taken to poolside where the skits are performed.

This was the second year of operation for Harbourfront on Wheels as they played at pools province-wide.

Red Cross officials estimated that 40 per cent of Ontario's residents didn't know how to swim and the society planned to continue its hard-hitting campaign to educate the public on water safety.

SANTA CLAUS PARADE MORE POPULAR THAN GREY CUP

In November, 1988, Aurorans proved they were Santa Claus fans first and football fanatics second when they lined Yonge Street to cheer on the town's annual Santa Claus Parade.

There were fears that the Grey Cup game would have an adverse effect on the parade but the fears quickly disappeared when the hundreds of participants and thousands of spectators joined

in to share the parade.

MUSIC TO PLEASE EVERYONE AT WINTERFEST

In February, 1993, there was music to please everyone at Aurora's Winterfest featuring Doug Gibson's Band at the Town Hall and the York Symphony Orchestra at the Aurora High School.

The YSO, under the direction of Roberto De Clara, got the evening off to a rousing start with Donald Coakley's "Bonavist Harbour" capturing the music and magic of Newfoundland.

Meanwhile at the Town Hall, with Doug Gibson on trombone, Mike Nease on trumpet, Scott Alexander on bass guitar and John Roby on keyboard all the old traditional Dixieland classics were played.

While the band was taking a break, members of Theatre Aurora entertained with songs and music featuring the English Music Hall songs with piano accompaniment by Eleanor Harding.

A LETTER FROM THE PAST

While going through some old files Auroran columnist Dick Illingworth came across an undated letter and package from Mathew and Anne Bartley Smith of HighTor, that parcel of controversial land off Bathurst Street, north of the Bloomington Sideroad.

The letter stated that it was obvious from his writings that he shared the same love of

the English language as they did and the package contained the First Folio of William Shakespeare, the actual words, the actual type as the original.

They found the publisher who had published a limited edition and ordered two copies, one for them and one for Illingworth.

It was pointed out that all of Shakespeare's writing might have been lost if it had not been for two former actors, who have been forgotten by history, who decided that someone should collect and preserve the plays of their friend Will.

The letter concluded with the comment that it was thrilling to read the original type of Henry V's exhortation to his troops at Agincourt and Hamlet's soliloquies.

TEA IS THE PEOPLE'S FAVOURITE DRINK

Believe it or not but according to the Book of Tea, more tea was drunk worldwide in 1997 than any other beverage, with the exception of water, as more than 1.5 billion cups of tea were consumed every day.

The Irish were the world's biggest tea drinkers with the British second.

Canada was 26th. A proper afternoon tea was seen as an oasis of tranquility. Mention afternoon tea and the word tradition and a civilized, unhurried ceremony is recalled.

In this modern age of frenzied, split second electronic communication when messages can follow you virtually everywhere, many want to go back to the simple pleasures of a bygone day.

Those were the days when one had time to smell the roses and enjoy polite conversation over a relaxing cup of tea.

It was a tradition brought to Canada by the British and tradition plays an important role in the presentation of a full afternoon or high tea as it is often called.

EATON'S MEMORABILIA LOOKING FOR A HOME

For more than 100 years, Eaton's was one of the most famous retail chains in Canada.

It was founded in Toronto in 1869 by Timothy Eaton, an Irish immigrant.

He expanded the chain across Canada and became a pioneer of mail-order shopping through the popular Eaton's catalogue, but in 1999 the chain filed for bankruptcy protection and later sold 19 of its 64 stores to Sears Canada for \$80 million.

In July, 2008, the court appointed liquidator of the remaining assets filed a motion to wind up the liquidation and make a final payment to creditors totalling about \$4 million.

Once that payment has been made the creditors will have received approximately \$122 million or about 54 per cent of all money owed.

But there is a small collection of documents and records of historical significance and although the memorabilia was offered to the Archives of Ontario, the City of Toronto Archives and the Royal Ontario Museum, all declined the offer.

The Ontario Archives received a collection of Eaton memorabilia as Sears donated 1,600 boxes after it acquired the Eaton stores, but the receiver still has about 3,000 boxes and if nobody wants them, they will be destroyed.

What a come down for the once proud Eaton chain and today the name is hardly remembered except for the Eaton Centre in Toronto.

Timothy Eaton must be twirling in his grave.

The Eatons played a major role in Aurora, too.

Aside from Lady Eaton's estate on Dufferin Street, now home to a Seneca College campus, Timothy Eaton, Jr., lived on old Yonge Street in north Aurora, and ran a model railroad around the property upon which many children rode.

A model railroad fan, he also had a layout in the basement of the house.

Wonder whatever happened to it?

CYFS now equipped to resuscitate animals

Central York Fire Services (CYFS) can now increase the survival chances of furry animals that are suffering from smoke inhalation in Aurora and Newmarket.

CYFS fire trucks are now equipped with specialized pet resuscitation masks donated by Invisible Fence Brand of South Central Ontario.

"In the case of an emergency, residents need to evacuate at a moment's notice and pets are often left behind because the homeowners have to ensure their own safety," said Paul Leslie, Deputy Chief for Central York Fire Services. "Animals become a part of the family. If we are able to rescue a beloved

pet, it provides comfort to families who are going through a very traumatic experience."

CYFS has been utilizing the pet resuscitation mask kits on a trial basis over the summer months. This month, CYFS fire trucks will be equipped with the pet mask kits which are being generously donated by Invisible Fence.

CYFS fire fighters frequently resuscitate animals, but in the past they had to rely upon masks designed for human patients which are not as effective for animals.

"The pet resuscitation masks allow us to provide an additional level of service to our residents and their four-legged friends,"

said Chris Emanuel, Chair of the Central York Fire Services Joint Council Committee (JCC). "The masks provide a more efficient stream of oxygen to animals and can be used on all types of pets including dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits, guinea pigs and birds."

CYFS is a consolidated fire service that provides fire protection, prevention, public fire education and emergency services to the residents of Aurora and Newmarket.

The JCC is the governing body that oversees the operations of CYFS for Aurora and Newmarket – three councillors from Aurora and three from Newmarket sit on the committee.



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