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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 9 No. 4 905-727-3300 **auroran.com** FREE Week of November 11, 2008



Lawyer Chris Sorley points to the 15 solar panels installed on the roof of his business on Yonge Street. Inset, he starts up the system which is expected to produce about 3,500 kilowatts of power annually.

Auroran photos by Ron Wallace

Solar panels produce power

The warm sunshine that Aurora felt last Wednesday morning was put to good use when Aurora lawyer Chris Sorley flicked a switch and began turning that sunshine into electricity.

His offices, on Yonge Street at Reuben, had just been fitted by Solera Energies with 15 solar panels capable of producing 3,500 kilowatts of power per year.

That type of power will, in its lifetime, prevent 56 tons of coal from being burned and 932 pounds of sul-

phur dioxide from being emitted into the air.

The amount of electricity produced in a year by the panels is enough for one to do 14,282 loads of laundry, listen to a stereo for 35,700 hours or make more than 89,000 slices of toast.

The power is not actually used on site but is sold back to PowerStream, Inc., at a rate of 42 cents per kilowatt hour.

This compares with the 11 to 12

cents per hour a customer pays for hydro. The contract is expected to generate \$1,500 per year.

Although a solar generation contract is available to any person or business in Ontario, it is a first for Powerstream, Inc., which services Aurora, Richmond Hill, Markham and Vaughan.

"Aurora Council may wish to take note as they appear to believe that hydro grows on poles," Sorley told The Auroran.

Report may be clue to firing

A report, included in this week's Aurora Council meeting, could provide clues as to why Chief Administrative Officer, John Rogers, was terminated.

The report shows that for several months council has been discussing, in closed session, the authorization of payments for bulkhead repairs to the new Stronach Aurora Recreation Centre.

As required under Provincial legislation, council aired the matter Tuesday and the report is startling.

Several payments were made by the Town that were not authorized by

council.

In responding to the report, Mayor Phyllis Morris would only say, "council's focus is to ensure that the taxpayers are protected and that the repairs are made."

The building of the new recreation facility, located on Wellington Street East, was approved by Council in May, 2004, at a cost of more than \$25 million, of which \$19 million was borrowed from the Region.

Over the course of 20 years, residents of Aurora will continue to pay down the loan by almost a million

Please see page 9

Habitat for Humanity home unsure in Aurora

By SCOTT JOHNSTON

residential areas.

Please see page 12

Doreen Barfitt dies

Doreen Barfitt, who with her husband, Stuart, established one of Aurora's most successful businesses, Aurora Home Hardware, on Wellington Street, died Saturday.

In 1968, Doreen and Stuart opened their store on Aurora's downtown Yonge Street.

In 1975, they moved the store across the street to a bigger building near Wellington and Yonge.

The continuing success of the business meant another move, in 1986, to their current store on Wellington Street East, west of Mary Street.

Since the beginning, Doreen's three sons worked alongside their parents.

Now in its fifth decade as a fixture in Aurora, the store is still operated by Doreen's sons.

Doreen is survived by her husband, Stuart, her children, Russ, Randy, and Robert, six grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Service will be held from Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, Wednesday at 1 p.m.

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COMING EVENTS

Continuing

On Tuesdays, until June, the Navy League has a Cadet program for children 9 to 12 years from 7 to 9 p.m. Contact Cliff Davies at 905-727-2244 for details.

On Tuesdays, until June, a Sea Cadet program for youths 13 to 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. Leave message at 905-895-3038.

Aurora Opera Company's Children's Chorus is a new treble voice choir dedicated to educating, nurturing and providing opportunities for children to express their musical abilities. The chorus is open to boys and girls in Grades 1 through 12 and consists of two choirs: Angel Choristers, a training choir for 6 and 7 year-olds and the Children Chorus, open to 8 to 17 year-olds. To audition, contact general director Sarah Kyle at keepsing-ing@look.ca.

CHAT'S Community Home Assistance to Seniors is looking for volunteers to assist with the activities in its Adult Day Program. The positions call for a commitment of a few hours a week at its Aurora location. Various times are available. Call Christine at 905-713-3494.

Every Tuesday from 9.30 to 11 a.m. it's Story and Playtime at Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South for tots (age 0-4 years) and their caregivers for coffee or tea. Call 905-841-8883 for further details.

Every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age 3 to Grade 4 and the Junior High Club for boys and girls, Grades 5 to 8, will be held at the Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. For more information call 905-841-8884.

A drop-in centre will operate every Wednesday at the Community Bible Church on Bathurst Street just south of Henderson from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information e-mail Judy Hoffmann jhoffmann@sympatico.ca.

Scottish Country Dancing every Friday morning at St. Andrews's Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome.

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

for more information.

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. 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.

Tots (age nine months to four years) bring your caregivers for coffee or tea while you enjoy story and playtime every Tuesday from 9.30 to 11 a.m. at Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. Call 905-841-8883 for further information.

Meet at Martha's Table, now in its 4th season, every Thursday from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. A lunch of hot soup, sandwiches and dessert will be provided. Any funds raised are directed to local charities.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

The Aurora Seniors are planning a trip to Casino Rama and the \$5 fee includes coach transportation and a buffet lunch.

NOVEMBER 13 TO 15

Pine Tree Potters Winter Pottery Sale at the St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club, 368 St. John's Sideroad East in Aurora. Free parking, free admission and a door prize. All proceeds from the Charity table will go to CHATS. Call 905-727-1278 for further information.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Aurora Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting at the King's Riding Golf Club, 14700 Bathurst Street sponsored by PowerStream with Denise Marek, author and TV host as guest speaker. Showcase at 11.30 a.m. with luncheon at 12.15 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Trinity Anglican Church Women's Christmas Starlight Bazaar from 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. with luncheon between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Coffee House at 7.30 p.m. Experience the many talents of Trinity Anglican Church and support the Diocesan choir camp.

Annual TOAST (Town of Aurora Staff Together) silent auction and bake sale in

HOT SPOT SCHEDULE

HOT SPOT will be CLOSED Dec.12th HOLIDAY PARTY Dec. 26th

the main lobby of the Stronach Aurora Recreation Centre, 1400 Wellington Street East from 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. All proceeds go to the York Region Children's Aid Society Holiday Gift Program to benefit local families in need.

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Women's League's 13th Annual Christmas Fair and Artisan's Sale in Lynett Hall, 16 Catherine Avenue from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. includes a fish pond, face painting, silent auction, bake table and a visit from Santa Claus with a raffle every half hour.

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 6 to 9. There is no charge if you book in advance by calling 905-727-9493.

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Aurora Legion presents Aurora Borealis featuring Endless Summer with a tribute to the Beach Boys and ABBA, Call 905-727-9932 for tickets at \$35 for

general admission and \$25 for Legion members.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Annual Aurora Santa Claus Parade.

Local artist and author Nancy Hallas will tell a tale about a clever mouse then offer children between the ages of 6 and 9 the opportunity to model their own mouse character at the Aurora Public Library beginning at 2 p.m. The fee is \$6 per child.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. at M & L Photographics, 15032 Yonge Street.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Aurora Senior Citizens' Christmas Bazaar at the centre from 9.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Included will be a silent auction, collectible table, crafts, sewing, and wood-working, and 28 outside vendors. There will also be a 50/50 raffle, which will take place at 2 p.m.

NOVEMBER 29-30

Aurora Optimist Club annual book sale at the Aurora Public Library, Yonge and Church Streets, Saturday, November 29 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, November 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Please call for upcoming seminar information





Admiring the sign that replaced the one advertising the location of the Belinda Stronach constituency office, are Steve Hinder, left, and John Crowell from Neighbourhood Network. The site will accept food and toys for the holiday season.

Network sets up shop to collect toys and food

"Neighbourhood Network", the community non-profit organization established by former Member of Parliament Belinda Stronach, will accept food and new toy donations this upcoming holiday season at their office at 14996 Yonge St. in Aurora.

The office is the former site of Stronach's constituency office.

The donations will be passed along to Neighbourhood Network's community partner organizations who will distribute them to individuals and families in Aurora and Newmarket who are in need.

This can be an especially difficult time of the year for people in the community and every little bit helps.

Quality food and toy donations will go a long way to helping individuals or any families enjoy the holiday season.

If you have any donations that you wished to be picked up, contact Neighbourhood Network at 905-726-3737.

A "Magna for Community" initiative, Neighbourhood Network is a non-profit organization that matches volunteers

from Newmarket and Aurora with local charities and community groups. For more information, visit www.neighbourhood-network.org.



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Poor Richard

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Curious to know what's going on with these lands

*An explanation is required,
Of what is happening to the land;
The reasoning behind the changes,
As secrecy is getting out of hand.*

-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

The town-owned Leslie Street property has been a controversial issue since the town purchased the 89 acres in 2000 for \$4.2 million to be used for recreational and industrial uses.

The property, with an accompanying old farmhouse, was only assessed at \$381,000.

A local real estate agent said at the time that the town was robbed as they paid too much for the property.

A consulting firm was engaged in January, 2002, to prepare development concepts for the land and following several working sessions, council received a development concept incorporating a mixture of employment, recreational uses and a fire hall.

Then in June, 2003, following a private, or in-camera meeting, council approved the purchase of 32 acres of land on Wellington Street East for \$4.8 million for a recreational complex, parkland and a fire hall.

With the purchase of the Wellington Street lands there was no longer a need to provide recreational facilities resulting in a change of concept plans and increasing the potential of the Leslie Street lands for employment uses.

A draft plan of subdivision was approved by council in April, 2006, and it was approved by the Ontario Municipal Board with conditions.

Staff members suggested three options for the land: sell it by tender, sell it through a real estate broker or retain the land for municipal purposes.

The Leslie Street lands were seen as viable employment lands and should receive top price as they were zoned Business Park and designated as employment lands in the official plan.

In addition, under the Places to Grow legislation and regional policy one job had to be created for every two residents and it was necessary to ensure that employment lands were available.

The staff report listed the pros and cons of the tender process versus utilization of a real estate brokerage and recommended the real estate brokerage process.

It recommended that staffers be authorized to take all necessary steps to sell the Leslie Street lands "save and except Lots 1, 2, 3, 9 and 12".

Although there had been a long in-camera discussion, councillors questioned the reasons for not including lots 9 and 12, as it was realized that lots 1, 2, and 3 were being saved for a York Regional Police facility along with property on the Hallgrove Estates to the north.

Staffers explained that lot 9 was open space due to a stream that crossed the property and lot 12 was for a storm water management pond, which was objected to by some council members as a loss of employment lands.

Councillors had a difficult time arriving at a decision and finally in June, 2007, agreed to issue a Request for Proposals for a real estate brokerage firm and in September, 2007, following an in-camera session, approved the retention of Colliers McAulay Nicholls Brokerage to market the property.

Last April following a closed session of council it was reported that an offer had been received to purchase parts or all of the property but the offer had been rejected with no reasons given, although it was known that the price was below what the town paid for the property.

In July, following an in-camera session there was an alleged leak to the media about a potential sale which resulted in an investigation and ended up with the imposition of a Code of Conduct.

After several in-camera meetings it was agreed to advise Colliers International their offer for the property, whatever it was, be rejected with no reasons given.

Then, last June council directed staff to issue a Request for Proposals for a licensed real estate brokerage service to handle the sale of the property, with five firms submitting bids.

After careful evaluation staff recommended that the firm of Cushman & Wakefield LePage be engaged on a one year contract.

It would be interesting to know what went on behind closed doors that caused council to change brokerage firms and why the contract with Colliers was terminated.

We also wonder how much that cost.



Busiest spot in Aurora Sunday morning was in front of the Alter of Sacrifice at the Aurora Cenotaph as the Aurora Legion members held Remembrance Day ceremonies. The Alter was dedicated in 1960 to commemorate "those who died during the Second World War" according to the information that accompanied this photo in John McIntyre's out of print book "Aurora: A History in Pictures". That's The Auroran's Dick Illingworth, right, who was aide-de-camp to several Lieutenant Governors, including J. Keiller Mackay, seen here helping Mrs. Cecil Walker dedicate the Alter.

Letters to the Editor

Volunteers will help the windrow problem

To the editor,

In response to B. Gaspar's letter published in The Auroran November 4 regarding the Town of Aurora's recently announced windrow snow clearing service, Neighbourhood Network and local volunteers have been working on a pilot project to provide a free service for seniors and people with disabilities in need.

Neighbourhood Network is a Magna for Community initiative that brings together volunteers with local organizations that assist Newmarket and Aurora residents.

With this as our general mission statement, Neighbourhood Network is launching a pilot project where volunteers are linked with low income seniors or persons with disabilities to clear snow from the resident's windrow, sidewalk and front walkway.

The challenge of this program is recruiting enough committed volunteers to deliver the service throughout the season.

Volunteers can either assist a resident in their local neighbourhood, or they can be part of a mobile team that delivers this service throughout both Newmarket and Aurora.

So far we have a limited number of willing volunteers, but many more are required if we are to tackle this worthy community challenge.

If you are interested in signing up as a volunteer for this program, please contact our office at 905-726-3737 or sign up online at www.neighbourhoodnetwork.org.

In order to recruit volunteers, we have met with local high schools.

We have also met with Councillor Bob McRoberts who has publicly expressed an interest in assisting with the recruitment of students.

We have received a great deal of encouragement and support to date but we need more to be successful.

In order to qualify for this service, a resident must be 75 years of age or older who currently receives a Seniors Tax Credit, or be any resident with a disability documented by an Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) cheque stub, a wheel chair parking pass or a doctor's note, regardless of age.

In addition, there must be no additional able-bodied adults living at the address.

Because this is a pilot program, not all applicants will receive this snow removal service.

Applicants will be matched according to the

availability of volunteers, starting December 1st.

Non-matched applicants will be put on a waiting list and contacted only if a volunteer becomes available.

This is a real community need that has been recognized for quite some time.

We are committed to working toward making it a reality in this great community we have chosen to call home.

We are looking for people who would like to help someone in need of this service.

Neighbourhood Network is committed to building better communities together.

**Steve Hinder,
Coordinator
Neighbourhood Network**

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Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.

You need to see this show, director says

To the editor,

A "thank you" to a special client, a gift for a star employee, a night out with the staff or just because you enjoy a darn good laugh are all great reasons to purchase a ticket or two (or ten!) to Theatre Aurora's next production at the Factory Theatre on Henderson Drive.

And the plot?

Mark W. Transom, a playwright in Alberta, has just 11 hours to write a play.

The clock is ticking as our hero, a tad whiskey-worn and weary begins to write...and as the play comes to life, the characters he creates start to take over.

Enjoy the talents of these

fine Aurora thespians and share in the laughter as a member of the audience at your community theatre.

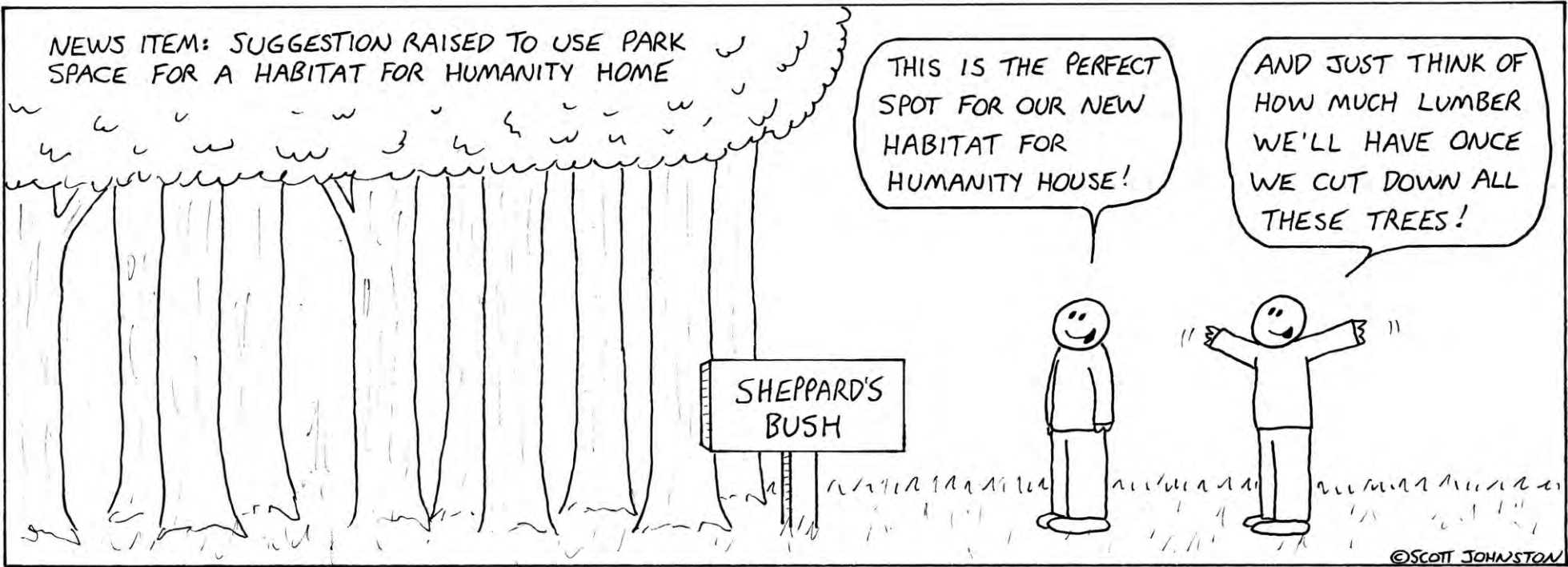
"That Darn Plot!" opens November 28th and runs to December 13th with a Sunday matinee on December 7th at 2 p.m. Evening show time is 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$19 and can be ordered by phone: 905-727-3669 or e-mail: taboxoffice@bellnet.ca

Some nights are close to being sold out so order soon!

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**Lauren Ecclestone,
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Readers may recall that last week I mused about three local governance issues; the ward system, the introduction of term limits and the realization of another Aurora representative on York Region Council.

In response to my column, I received the following from Councillor Al Wilson.

Term limits:

"I do agree that some politicians stay too long; it is my belief that the true test of leadership is to know when to leave, however this not always the case. I have no problem with politicians who run for different positions, i.e., councillor, then mayor or regional councillor.

"I think their experience would/might be an asset, however, I also believe that the value of a mayor or councillor who stays on for 20 years is diminished by blocking the way for new blood, fresh ideas and different times. What the figure limit is, I honestly don't know."

The ward system:

"I think we are almost there. By the time we reach the expected 72,000 population, I think that ward representation is essential. It is interesting, however, that although we are just reaching the point, some other municipalities i.e., Oshawa for example, are looking to remove the ward system!

"We will be looking at the entire current governance process during this term and I believe some concrete and positive recommendations will be coming forward to the people so that they can have input into how they believe Aurora should be governed

in our future."

Regional representation:

"It is important that we at the very least make it known that as we are over the 50,000 population mark, some attention must be given to the fact that our representation is out of whack.

"The argument for Georgina having two seats has been due to their inflated summer population, to me that argument is supporting double representation for people who live/own two homes.

"However, it does raise the issue of how large should/could a council get when the population in York Region is slated to reach 1.5 million in 2030? At the very least, the deputy mayor should be allowed to attend York Region meetings in the mayor's absence or should be allowed to participate on some committee level where the decisions are actually debated/made."

As Mr. Wilson writes, Aurora does indeed have a "rep by pop" issue, and we are being treated unfairly.

York Region is comprised of nine municipalities (March 31, 2007 population in brackets) - Aurora (49,716), East Gwillimbury (22,721), Georgina (46,026), King (20,386), Markham (283,297), Newmarket (79,448), Richmond Hill (178,327), Vaughan (250,032) and Whitchurch - Stouffville (27,788).

Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Whitchurch-Stouffville and King each have one seat, while Georgina and Newmarket have two seats, Richmond Hill, three, Vaughan, four, and Markham, five.

Aurora, based upon the fact that its current population is greater than Georgina, should have two seats.

I received this from the mayor's executive assistant:

An extra Regional seat

"York Region Council will be holding a special educational workshop on November 27 and the mayor has asked that this issue be placed on their agenda for discussion. She will be asking questions and getting information at that time".

Assuming we do get a second seat, would we have a direct election for a regional councillor, like in Newmarket, or would we simply have the person with the second most votes - the deputy mayor - as the representative?

Having this extra seat could dovetail quite nicely with the introduction of a ward system in Aurora. If the additional representative is directly elected by us town folk, he/she would also sit on Aurora Council as an "at large" councillor.

The arguments for Aurora having another seat, while no doubt sound, doesn't mean this is a slam dunk by any means. After all, we are talking about Aurora receiving something extra, which implies another municipality losing out.

Moreover, true rep by pop does have its limitations. If having a population of 50,000 people means having two region seats, then the good people in Markham and Vaughan may start clamoring for additional seats to preserve the status quo.

I will keep you posted on any new developments in this area.

**Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com**

ED. NOTE: Views expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect the views of The Auroran.



Cathy's Corner

By Cathy Vrancic

The first time Stephen Harper got elected, I happened to be in Florida.

The night of the election, I was channel surfing in the hope of finding some election coverage but apparently, the Canadian election didn't even make the late night news in America.

The next morning, I walked to a nearby convenience store to buy a newspaper. There were four different papers but only one reported the election results...on the last page...in about one line.

Why, I wondered, do Canadians take such an avid interest in American politics when the Americans don't seem to take any notice whatsoever in Canadian politics?

Well, now I know: Entertainment!

Canadian politicians are boring next to these American "mavericks"!

Why, they even have a "talent" portion to their public appearances. Speaking in South Carolina, John McCain was asked when he thought the US Military might "send an air mail message to Tehran".

Breaking into song, he boldly changed the words to the popular Beach Boys tune "Barbara Ann" to "Bomb bomb bomb, bomb bomb Iran".

Well, I guess that demonstrates his level of courage but what I'd like to know is how much of the campaign he spent in the doghouse...

At a biker rally in South Dakota, John McCain suggested that his wife, Cindy, should compete in the "Miss Buffalo Chip" Pageant and proved conclusively that what you don't know CAN hurt you. Ummm...the contest features topless (and occasionally bottomless) contestants, John. Oops...

Sometimes I wonder where that man's mind is...or was...

Last June, speaking about his use of the veto pen to eliminate wasteful spending, John McCain declared, "I will veto every single beer, um, bill with earmarks."

Still, McCain was nowhere near as entertaining as his sidekick, Sarah Palin. Her talent routine included not only being a joke, but making jokes.

You know the difference between a hockey mom and a pitbull? According to Sarah, it's lipstick.

I don't know about you, but to me a pitbull with lipstick would be Hillary Clinton!

Actually, John McCain used the expression "lipstick on a pig" to describe Clinton's health plan and Barack Obama used the same expression in a slightly different way: "You can put lipstick on a pig - but it is still a pig."

So we don't know if Sarah adapted the expression...or simply got it wrong. But hey, what can you expect from a maverick who can't name the three members of NAFTA or tell you what the Vice President of the United States actually does...well, aside from shopping.

Not that our politicians don't go shopping, mind you. But Stephen Harper just doesn't have the Palin pizzazz. He bought a few boring knit sweaters and vests to make him appear warm and fuzzy while he growled at Stephane Dion, but still hardly worth knit-picking.

Now Sarah...well, Sarah and her brood went to town like "a band of Wasilla hillbillies looting Neiman Marcus from coast to coast" according to McCain's aides. You've got to love the visual on that description, huh?

Understandably, the Republicans are upset that she managed to spend \$150,000 before they cancelled her

credit cards. So upset they sent a lawyer to Alaska to retrieve the clothing which I wouldn't be surprised to see on E-bay any day now.

So log on, Aurora! We just don't get that kind of entertainment in these parts. Why the worst gaffe (or best, depending on your point of view) I remember in Aurora politics was when Gord James was Emcee for an event and introduced our new Mayor, Phyllis Morris as "Mayor Phyllis Jones".

Seems Gord got "pranked" by his speech writer...who has probably been exiled to Alaska now...and is probably employed by Sarah Palin...

So don't be thinking Canadians don't have a sense of humour! We did get the last laugh, or shall I say "put the last nail in the Palin coffin".

Our own homegrown Canadian pranksters sure gave our bellies a jiggle when they impersonated French President Nicolas Sarkozy and embarrassed poor Sarah beyond redemption.


We have all suffered the occasional embarrassing incident of "foot in mouth" syndrome, but this was more than that.

It conclusively proved that Sarah Palin is Homer Simpson's intellectual equal.

The sad part is that even as this election has transcended racial barriers, it has reinforced gender barriers.


It has sent the message that women can't handle high office when the truth is that there are most certainly women who can! Sarah Palin just doesn't happen to be one of them.


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





Bouquets & BRICKBATS


By DICK ILLINGWORTH


 **BOUQUETS** to all the Legionnaires and the citizens who paused to remember on this Remembrance Day the brave men and women who made the supreme sacrifice to give us freedom. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember.


 **BRICKBATS** to Aurora Council for failing to follow up on Traffic Safety Advisory Committee reports asking York Regional Police to monitor certain streets in town when traffic and safety complaints have been received. This action was taken for Cousins Drive last April and police cruisers are conspicuous by their absence.


 **BOUQUETS** to the Town of Newmarket and York Regional Police on the launch of a joint Safety Drive designed to encourage motorists to observe safe driving habits in the neighbourhoods of the municipality. It's a project Aurora might well follow.


 **BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Barbarians rugby team on getting all the way to the finals for the McCormick Cup, only go down to defeat by the Toronto Irish. The Barbs posted a 12-2 record to finish atop the Ontario Rugby Union this season and were making a third consecutive appearance in the final.


 **BOUQUETS** to staff of the Wells Street Public School, now located in the Aurora Grove Public School for arranging to bus students to Yonge Street where Aurora's little shoemaker, Vic Parainfo, now retired, continued his 35-year tradition of treating the students.


 **BRICKBATS** to whomever decided Prime Minister Stephen Harper needed such tight security it has cost the taxpayers nearly \$30 million from 2006 to the end of the 2007/2008 fiscal year and the costs are increasing, as partial costs for the current fiscal year are \$5.6 million.


 **BOUQUETS** to Ajax Mayor Steve Parish for pressing for change in Durham Region with a request the representation on regional council be reviewed by council. Whatever happened to Aurora's bid for a second seat?

 **BRICKBATS** to Canada Post for forgetting to include the St-Jean-Baptiste holiday on the 2008 calendar and upsetting Quebecers. The issue was raised in the House of Commons resulting in a reprinting of the calendar and the cost was not made known. Canada Post shouldn't forget that Quebec is the favoured province in Canada.

 **BOUQUETS** to Canada Post for putting Stompin' Tom Connors, Canada's most patriotic country singer on a postage stamp to be available next June. The design for the stamp came from the album cover of his 1979 release At the Gumboat Cloggeroo.

 **BRICKBATS** to some of the unemployed people who haven't taken advantage of a \$355 million training program called Second Career available through the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. The program was designed to accommodate 20,000 laid-off workers and only 1,000 have enrolled.

 **BRICKBATS** to Noric Gaming Corporation for trying to blackmail the Ontario government and other stakeholders by threatening to cancel live racing at the Fort Erie track unless the firm receives financial help. Company officials claim the firm has lost \$4 million annually the past four years due to gaming competition in Niagara Falls.

 **BOUQUETS** to York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge on being recognized by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies for his enforcement role in hate crime justice and commitment to officer sensitivity training. The Chief was also named Chairman of the Special Olympics.

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Letters to the Editor

Mom moves out and memories take over

To the editor,

On Thanksgiving weekend we moved my mother, Jean McMurchy, from the home that I and my siblings grew up in.

The McMurchy family moved there in June of 1958.

I will miss 40 Victoria Street but that last weekend we all got together for one last Thanksgiving dinner minus our father who passed some years ago.

It was a warm, bitter-sweet weekend, a time of realizing how special our time was there.

A time to remember.

I remember old Jock Willis across the road who chased me out of his garden so many times he finally relented and then started to show me arrowheads, hatchets and other neat stuff that fascinated a young boy.

Dr. Urquhart lived next door and always had time for me when I ran headlong into goal posts or some

other immovable object.

The Baldwin's had the first colour television and Mrs. Baldwin who would serve up potato chips as I watched the Santa Claus parade on the colour set.

The Knowles next door with the big dog, Goldie, that I must admit to terrorizing on an occasion or two.

It was never my fault, of course, it was always that mean dog.

I'm not sure if my dad went for that or not.

The Peterson's and the Johncox's who had boys, Jimmie and Kent, my own age. We were the three musketeers from ages 3 to 5.

There were the Hess's, the Black's, the Lee's, and others who escape my eroding memory just now. I remember playing hide and seek in the Baldwin's garden.

I knew this was a strict "no-no" and when they happened to test the Nuclear Threat Alarm at the old fire station on Victoria Street

that day, I thought they had caught me and I was in for it.

You can imagine my relief when I found out it wasn't about me. I stayed out of the garden after that, just in case.

As we moved my mother's possessions I saw the stickers on the back of her bedroom furniture that stated they were manufactured by the Krug Brothers and delivered by Thompson's Furniture in 1958.

Mom always bought her furniture there and always will.

She doesn't need to buy much anymore; a statement to her meagre needs and to the quality of the furniture.

Thanks to the Thompson family and particularly to Jamie Thompson who currently runs the family business.

They were always very kind to our family as many of the long time Aurora merchants are.

A special thanks also to the Pearson's, current neighbours who kept an eye

out for mom in these later years.

This brings me to my mother's birthday, November 11, 1918.

She was born on the first Armistice Day.

She says her mother told her that the minister wanted to call her Peace but grandma went with Jean. In the 60s, Peace might have won out!

I can remember as a young boy going to the Cenotaph on her birthday. She talked of old relatives that really didn't mean much to me but I sensed it meant something to her so I went without too much complaining.

A few years ago I was with my mother on Remembrance Day and looked up at the names.

I noticed a name, Aubrey Marshall, which sounded familiar. She told me again of my grand uncle who went to the Great War and died overseas in 1918.

I asked about the picture that has been around our family, on walls, in closets but always around. Yes, that is your grand uncle on your grandmother's side, on your father's side. I still have trouble keeping it all in order but now that name meant so much more.

I now have my great uncle's picture on my wall. I include a photo of this young man in his uniform from so long ago. Look for his name. It is there.

November 11 - A time to remember

My mother now has the comfort of her new home at Park Place Manor.

Ross McMurchy
Merrickville, Ont.

To the editor

If my friend Mary Georgopoulos doesn't think much of the media these days, it is hardly a surprise. The recent front page article (Week of Nov. 4th) was totally uncalled for, and shows how low journalism can sink in order to increase circulation or "invent" news.

The headline read "Aurora's Jonathan's remains open despite radio report" and that was the first thing wrong.

Our Jonathan's remained open because it had nothing at all to do with the restaurant in Burlington with a similar name.

It had nothing to do with "in spite of" as the radio report referred to a restaurant in Halton Region.

Even the restaurant name is spelled differently.

Your headline makes

the clear implication that Aurora's Jonathan's was remaining open despite a radio report that did not even refer to it.

I am pretty sure that in today's economy, Mary Georgopoulos can do without your inflammatory headline which in spite of pointing out that it was not her restaurant still creates a link in your reader's minds between her popular Aurora establishment and E. coli, voluntary closure and the health department.

The same lack of thought that went into the original radio broadcast has been displayed in The Auroran, and you should be ashamed of yourselves for such a cheap shot at "news".

You owe the owner and staff and patrons of Jonathan's an apology for your misguided and misleading article.

Vaughn Dues
Aurora

ED. NOTE: The story was written because some people had phoned Aurora's Jonathan's expressing surprise the restaurant was still open after they had heard on the radio it was closed. The radio report, which did not spell the name of the restaurant, did not give a location of Johnathan's, even though the newspaper story in The Toronto Star did.

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Letters to the Editor

Stoecklin responds to Kroon's letter

To the editor,

Thank you, Mr.Kroon, for replying to my letter (Letter confused him, The Auroran, Nov. 4).

You have shown to be an eager yet judgemental learner.

Your queries have opened up the opportunity for me to explain the facts.

I just want to let you know that I can handle your attacks on my person and my family name.Remember I believe in peace.

Since starting to speak out, I have experienced much worse.

Little do Canadians realize there is a price for freedom of speech and challenging the establishment in our country.

One of my supporters was beat up this summer after rallying support for my charges.He was told to cease and desist and was accused of treasonous behaviour.

Needless to say, I don't sleep well and on a daily basis continue to endure traumatic stress.However, I continue to move forward as I am committed to exposing the truth for someone has to be the voice of the children.

Something tells me, many of my fellow Aurorans, young and old, may not have appreciated your insults of me nor you cursing my little town.

When 41 per cent of the voting population don't vote, and who knows how many voted with the sole purpose of "anybody but Harper", I think as a society we seriously have to ask "What is wrong with this picture?"

Too many voices go unheard.

Don't say it's my fundamental democratic right to vote when our choices don't care about the common citizen, peace or the environment.

Thank you for asking what the Rotino'shon:ni Women Title Holders are.

Federal Investigator Carol Clarke knew exactly who I was talking about.

The Rotino'shon:ni are also known as the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy on Turtle Island (the America's).Their traditional territory encompasses Caledonia.They are the people who, one month ago, literally, had guns pointed to their heads.

They are the people, "including grandmothers

and children, who on April 20, 2006, were attacked by a heavily armed force of the OPP when none of their people was armed.Many were severely beaten up and assaulted with batons, pepper spray and taser guns.Sixteen were arrested."

They are the people who about one month ago had guns pointed to their heads by the police.

The request they made of the G.G.was simple, "that everyone should put their documents on the table so that everyone can see who owns what and that Canada immediately end its ongoing aggression and institute an open and public process of dialogue between nations."

Canadians are going to be shocked to learn that our history books have been botched and Canada has been founded on lies, broken promises and agreements.

We have been victims of deception.

This request was suppressed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

He has no choice because to honour this request would be the admission that the State of Canada and the Crown are guilty of conspiracy in committing Genocide and it would publically bring into question the brutality of our police state.

Who knows how many tax paying dollars has been spent in covering up this truth and paying the police to be the enforcer.

Harper's and all past governments'silence and denial is directly responsible for the promotion of hate against the Six Nations and other Indigenous Groups struggling to be heard in Canada since colonization.

Every Canadian has to wake up to this reality as the culture and way of life of the Indigenous people in Canada is on the verge of extinction.

The assimilation policies adopted by the State of Canada since inception are almost complete.Each one of us has to decide if we wish to continue being complicit in the extermination of the Red Man.

If you have a computer, search under the Rotino'shon:ni Women Title Holders and read specifically the letter addressed to G.G.Michaëlle Jean.

This clearly explains the truth from the early 1900s. Also search any site on Native Genocide and Hidden from History.Read Pagans in a Promised Land to begin to understand how "Colonial superiority" began.

Leonard Peltier and Omar Khadr are both political prisoners.Leonard Peltier has been imprisoned in the U.S.A.for 30 years for a crime he didn't do.The evidence heard during his trial was at best inconclusive, and at worst, phony.

Some have shown a convincing argument that the FBI officers were killed in their own crossfire while shooting at the Wounded Knee warriors, who were opposed to uranium mining in their territory.

He was a strong and powerful activist who the authorities wanted shut up.

Omar Khadr is a Canadian who has the been jailed in Guantanamo Bay for the last six years without trial.He was 15 when detained and has been tortured.

Torture and complicity to torture is illegal under International Law and the Principles of the Nuremberg Tribunal of 1950 and the Geneva Convention.

This young man has not even been given a trial and is imprisoned whereas George W.Bush has been found guilty of initiating an illegal and immoral "War on Terror"by the International Commission of Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity. He is responsible for the killing of 100s of thousands of people and displacing millions, yet he walks as free man.

Omar's sister, Zaynab, is presently on a hunger strike on Parliament Hill asking Harper to repatriate her brother.I just don't understand the justice.It seems to me that Harper enjoys pun-

ishing young people.This young man should be freed on compassionate grounds. He has endured enough abuse.

In regards to Haiti, Mr. Kroon, the question is "what does Canada and the USA have against Haiti?" Canadian foreign policy backed the overthrow of Haitian President Jean-Betrand Aristide in February 2004.

Since then Canadian and UN peacekeepers have been accused of widespread human rights abuses.I do not understand why this is happening in Haiti but from what I read it is horrendous what the Haitians are experiencing under the Canadian name..."Behind the mask of humanitarianism, Canada is carrying out a murderous and destructive foreign policy in Haiti."

Our peacekeepers are being used to do bad things. As citizens we have to be aware of this.

The granting of the 2010 Olympics to Vancouver/Whistler is perhaps the gravest recent human rights abuse committed by Canada.

Jacques Rogges and the International Olympic Committee were asked not to grant the bid to Vancouver because of British Columbia and Canada's continued human rights abuses and suppression.

The IOC, who is supposed to consider human rights issues in the bidding process, denied the public information given to them by the grassroots Indigenous people reporting these claims.This suppression is the same reason why the people of Tibet and China charged the Olympics for human rights abuse.It is organized crime.

Canadians won't believe the destruction happening in B.C.for the Olympics.So

much beautiful, untouched pristine wilderness gone and the bears and animals are all being pinched from their homes.It's heart-breaking and it's just for the Olympics!

Watch the movie "5 Ring Circus"to see how the Olympics is affecting Vancouver's disadvantaged and the destruction which Premier Gordon Campbell turns a blind eye to.

Understanding the threat of Independent Power Projects is not just important for Canadians but for the whole world.We need to be very concerned about the implications of IPP's.

While we are being distracted by the economy, war and oil prices, our water is being stolen right from under our eyes as our rivers are privatized.

Fresh water is a rare commodity and must be protected for future generations.British Columbia holds some of the world's last abundant sources of fresh water but it is under great threat.1,100 IPP's are proposed to be put onto the river systems in B.C.

They are not environmentally friendly and are very intrusive and damaging.If there is an energy

crisis, we do have alternatives.IPPs are also threatening the river systems in Quebec, the country of Columbia and others.

Heidi Stoecklin
Aurora

They liked the story

To the editor,

On behalf of The War Amps and our Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program, I would like to thank you for your recent article on Aurora resident, Morgan Frey, and her attendance at our Multiple Amputation Seminar in Toronto.

We are very proud of Morgan, who exemplifies our "Winner's Circle"philosophy - that of overcoming amputation and living life to the fullest.

She is a fine example of what one can achieve when they embrace this approach.

Those wishing more information about CHAMP can contact The War Amps at 1-800-250-3030 or www.waramps.ca,

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Carved tree might preserve heritage

There may soon be some additional faces around town.

At last week's General Committee meeting, Aurora resident Myriam Schut encouraged council to support the carving of a large

face into the trunk of a maple tree that had been cut down on her boulevard.

The tree had recently died of natural causes.

When town staff arrived to remove it, she had asked they leave about 15 feet of

the trunk standing.

Her intent was to determine if the tree was a suitable candidate to have a large face carved into it. She explained that by only carving one side of the tree, it preserved the bulk of the

trunk, and therefore part of the town's heritage.

The carving would then become an attractive new cultural amenity.

During her presentation, she introduced tree carver Colin Partridge, who she

proposed would do the work.

Mr.Partridge said he had done similar carvings in Barrie, Orillia and Orangeville on both public and residential properties and the roadside carvings had proven very popular with residents.

Cost depended on the amount of time spent on the project, but a single carving tended to be around \$1,500, while carving faces on both sides of a tree would be just under \$3,000.

As part of his explanation, Mr.Partridge showed a series of pictures of his recent work. One of these was carved on a live tree.

In response to a question, he advised that he had carved several live trees, and that none had died yet.

The key, he explained, was to ensure the trunk was not girdled, so that sap flow was not interrupted. It was also important to seal the surfaces to keep out insects.

He confirmed that the portion of trunk left on Ms Schut's boulevard was an excellent candidate for carving.

Councillors were intrigued by the proposal, and asked several questions of both Mr.Partridge, and the town's Director of Leisure Services, Allan Downey.

Mr.Downey noted that while his department had complied with the request from Ms Schut to leave a portion of the trunk stand-

ing, this was not a standard practice.

If additional trees designated for removal were to be preserved, his department would need direction from council.

He also cautioned that there would need to be consultation with residents, as some may want a carved tree in their boulevard, while others may not.

Mayor Phyllis Morris said she was "enchanted" with the idea, but cautioned against raising expectations.

If a tree trunk was preserved in front of someone's house, they may expect it to be carved, she said. This could cause problems, since a source of funding to do this work has not been identified.

She suggested that perhaps if the town preserved some trees, the cost to carve them could be donated or auctioned off.

Ms Schut noted that her neighbours were supportive of the idea, and asked if the town would be willing to fund this proposed trial carving, either in whole or in part.

Mayor Morris observed that there may still be some funding available through the Arts and Culture fund, and that she would assist Ms Schut in exploring that option.

In the end, council received the presentation, and voted to refer it to the Arts and Culture Committee, and to staff members for further information.



Seated at the head of the table, Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees conducted a "summit on the economy" last week at the Aurora Town Hall. Many local business owners showed up for the early morning event.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Report could provide clues to dismissal of Town's CAO

From page 1

dollars a year.

In May, 2006, prior to the completion of the new centre, numerous problems involving condensation and the deterioration of the bulkheads were discovered.

In September, 2006, the Town commissioned an independent building science report which was provided to NORR Limited Architects and Engineers, the original architects of the building.

The report suggested air flow in the building and at the bulkheads separating the arenas from the warm viewing area was causing the problem.

On January 17, 2007, Town staff sent a letter to NORR asking that the bulkhead structure design and construction be remedied.

In February, 2007, NORR conducted its own tests and concluded there were deficiencies at the bulkhead structure.

In March, 2007, NORR issued a tender for the redesign of the bulkhead and recommended that Michael Thomas Group Inc. (MTG) perform the necessary work.

On May 7, 2007, NORR sent a letter to the Town suggesting "recommended payment procedures". Included in the letter was a proposed process of compensation that would be paid through their insurance company, Pro-Demnity Insurance.

Instead of NORR incurring the expense of hiring MTG to perform the necessary work and all related costs, Town staff processed a purchase order to MTG in the amount of \$438,220.87.

This purchase order, authorizing MTG, on behalf of the Town, to begin repairs, was not approved by Council, and contravened the Town's procurement bylaw.

During May and June, 2007, the remedial work on the bulkhead structure was performed and a cheque was issued by Town staff to MTG on July 13, 2007, for \$385,992.70.

Again, Council was not advised and the required authorization was not obtained.

On July 17, 2007, Town staff wrote to NORR requesting compensation, only to be told by NORR's insurance company they were denying any claim pending further investigation.

Despite the July 2007 notification by the insurance company denying payment to the Town, the report states that an additional cheque was issued by staff to MTG on October 26, 2007, for \$56,404.09.

Council had not authorized such a payment.

In November, 2007, another independent study was conducted by Technical Support Services which indicated that even after the bulk-

head reconstruction had been completed, construction deficiencies remained.

As a result, staff members authorized outside legal counsel to pursue a claim against NORR for the cost of the bulkhead repairs and Bondfield Construction, the company that built the centre.

At the time council was never advised by staff that outside legal counsel had been retained nor that legal action had been started by Bondfield Construction against the Town.

In July this year, John Mascarin of Aird & Berlis LLP was retained by council to review the processing of the purchase orders and the payments to MTG and concluded that the procurement bylaw and the payments to MTG, in the total amount of \$442,396.79, were not properly authorized by council.

The report, written by the Town's Director of Corporate Services, does not name the Town employee or employees who authorized the expenses, nor does it address what, if any, disciplinary action was taken, however, the following month the Town's CAO was terminated.



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Point of Viewing

by **Todd McGinnis**

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THE AURORAN

SPORTS

New coach wins one, loses one

The Craig Evans era in Aurora began with a shutout loss followed by a resounding win as the Aurora Tigers split a pair of games last week.

The big news, however, was the departure of four-year coach Jerome Dupont who announced last week he was leaving

Aurora for the Gatineau Olympiques of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League.

This represents a bold move up the ladder for Dupont who clearly had nothing left to prove at the Jr. A level after winning a national championship in the spring of 2007.



Craig Evans

Aurora Tigers part of hockey card plan

The Provincial Junior A Aurora Tigers will participate in the production of team hockey cards that contain safety tips and character messages.

York Regional Police are partnering with seven Junior hockey teams based in York Region and the Tigers are one of them.

Each set of cards represents players on the Junior teams and features the player's photo and profile along with crime prevention and character messages.

The cards are free and will be distributed at upcoming home games.

Also participating are Junior A teams from Newmarket, Markham, Vaughan and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Two Junior C teams, from Georgina and Schomberg, will also participate.

The hockey cards will be introduced at two separate events this month: this Friday in Markham and on Sunday in Newmarket.

York Regional Police mascots will be on hand and members of the pipes and drums band will perform.

Police Chief Armand La Barge will drop the puck for the ceremonial face-offs.

PHILLIPS DIVISION								
Team	GP	W	OTW	SOW	OTL	SOL	L	PTS
Couchiching	21	14	0	1	1	4	1	35
Aurora	20	14	2	1	0	0	3	34
Orangeville	22	11	1	4	0	0	6	32
Huntsville	20	11	0	4	2	0	3	32
North York	19	10	1	0	0	3	5	25
Collingwood	22	7	1	1	3	1	9	22
Dixie	20	5	2	1	0	1	11	17
Upper Canada	19	5	1	0	1	0	12	13
Sequin	20	4	0	0	0	1	15	9
Villanova	21	2	0	0	1	2	16	7

His departure resulted in assistant coach and General Manager Evans assuming the head coaching duties.

If that name sounds familiar, it's because he was the assistant coach of both Aurora national championship teams in 2003 and 2007, plus the former head coach of Aurora's AAA affiliate, the Richmond Hill Stars.

As General Manager and Head Coach, he has the challenging task of helping identity talent and dealing with his coaching responsibilities. To his credit he has done a tremendous job to date.

His personal hockey experience includes playing professional hockey in Denmark.

Coach Evans lives in Aurora with his wife Helle and son, Thomas.

By virtue of a 4-0 drubbing at the hands of the Couchiching Terriers Thursday night, the Aurora Tigers gave up first place and now trail the Terriers by one point.

Tigers, however, have a game in hand.

It was a rude welcome for the new head coach.

Meanwhile, Dupont's debut in Gatineau was spoiled by the Junior Club of Montreal 6-3.

It looked pretty good for Dupont and the Olympiques after the first period as they jumped into a 3-0 lead, but couldn't hang on giving up three goals in the second and three more in the third.

And for Couchiching coach Greg Hotham, Thursday's win must have tasted especially good.

Hotham once played for the Aurora Tigers, and carried his hockey career

to the National Hockey League level.

He played defense for the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Pittsburgh Penguins, back in the 80s, and took over the Couchiching reins at the start of this season.

Following their road loss to Couchiching Thursday, the Tigers were looking to recoup some momentum.

At the Aurora Community Centre Friday evening, the Tigers scored five second period goals en route to an 8-3 win against the Collingwood Blues.

Less than three minutes after the opening faceoff, Aurora's Lucas Van Natter opened the scoring.

With 5:41 remaining in the first period, Kyle McLaughlin of the Tigers made it 2-0.

The Tigers dominated the middle period, starting with a David Morley goal. He then set up line-mate Michael Sardella for the team's fourth goal at 6:52.

Tim Revell made it 5-0 at 9:22.

Aurora captain Dominic Monardo produced the next two goals, before Collingwood finally got on the scoreboard with 2:18 to play in the period.

Early in the third, Morley scored his second goal of the game to give the Tigers an 8-1 lead.

Collingwood did not give up, and managed to score two goals in the last five minutes.

Aurora outshot the Blues 50 to 23.

The game was very chippy all night and at times looked like it could break out into some really nasty fights, however

calmer heads prevailed and there were no major penalties handed out.

The Tabbies host, for the first time this season, the Vaughan Vipers Friday at the Aurora Community Centre.

Game time is 7.30 p.m. Sunday afternoon, Aurora travels to Milton for a 2.30 p.m. contest.

Aurora's record is now 17 wins and three losses.

COUCHICHING 4 AURORA 0	
First Period	
No scoring	
Second Period	
C - Tyler Swan (Black, Collins) 6.28	C - Andrew Csumrik (McLaughlin, Jackson) 10.46
C - Tyler Swan (Cousineau, Black) 17.15	
Third Period	
C - Tyler Swan (Cousineau, Smyth) PP 18.57	
AURORA 8 COLLINGWOOD 3	
First Period	
A - Lucas Van Natter (Sardella) SH 2.26	A - Kyle McLaughlin (Vangog, Virgoe) 14.19
Second Period	
A - David Morley (Jordan Smith, Evans)	

PP 3.06	A - Michael Sardella (Morley, Ramieri) 6.52
	A - Tim Revell (Van Natter, Jordan Smith) PP 9.22
	A - Dominic Monardo (Morley, Ramieri) 11.15
	A - Dominic Monardo (Morley, Ramieri) 16.59
	C - Andrew Ciampichini (Gard, Zeggil) 17.42
Third Period	
	A - David Morley (Monardo) 4.57
	C - Brian Doust (Fennell, Taylor) PP 15.25
	C - Andrew Ciampichini (Belanger, Stewart) PP

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Building Southlake Regional Health Centre

Currently the construction cranes are visible at the Southlake Regional Health Centre as the hospital continues to expand in Newmarket.

It wasn't always that way as in January, 1977, the then York County Hospital rejected the opportunity to start an addition.

York North MPP Bill Hodgson told a Newmarket audience that provincial Health Minister Bert Lawrence had approved the construction of the east wing in two stages the previous June, but the hospital board had refused to proceed.

He explained that he had obtained the Minister's approval to proceed in two stages at the request of hospital administrator Al Roeder and Aurora board member Larry Rubin, but was rejected by the board as they didn't have the final architect plans.

Hodgson pointed out that the first stage was for the underground work and the second stage was for the balance of the new hospital wing.

He added that if the board had proceeded with the two-stage proposal, it wouldn't now be caught in the province's hospital program freeze.

How times have changed!

THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT

In 1998, November was proclaimed Wife Assault Month across Canada and the Yellow Brick House in Aurora and

Sandgate Women's Shelter in Georgina worked on a joint promotion called The Clothesline Project.

It was an opportunity for women to bear witness to their personal experience of violence and celebrate their transformation from victim to survivor.

The concept of the Clothesline Project began in 1990 when members of the Cape Cod Women's Agenda hung a clothesline across the Village Green with 31 T-shirts designed and painted by survivors of assault and rape.

By 1998, the project had grown to 300 plus clothesline projects with an estimated 35,000 painted shirts.

In York Region, women who had left an abusive relationship were encouraged to decorate a T-shirt for the region's clothesline project.

Municipal councils were asked to hang the clothesline in their municipal offices or community centre for a couple of days in November and for all the clotheslines to hang in the regional building in December.

WHEN AURORANS TOOK TIME TO VOTE

The voter turnout in the recent federal election was 59.1 per cent, well down from previous federal elections, but high for some municipal elections as only about 31 per cent of eligible voters cast a ballot in the last municipal election in Aurora.

It was always that way in Aurora as in 1985 there were 15 candidates for members of council and a three-way race for mayor with Councillors John West and Earl Stewart challenging incumbent Dick Illingworth.

There was a voter turnout of 41.8 per cent with West receiving 2,574 votes, 350 ahead of Illingworth and 1,484 ahead of Stewart.

Although the percentage of voters was higher than the provincial average, it didn't meet the 49.4 per cent in the 1982 Aurora municipal election.

APPOINTMENT OF A CAO IN AURORA

Aurora is currently recruiting for a Chief Administrative Officer as it was in March, 1995.

At that time in spite of opposition from Councillors Chris Sorley and Phyllis Morris, council approved the engagement of a search consultant to fill the position in a plan suggested by Mayor Tim Jones.

Then in 1998 council authorized the payment of \$3,000 to Carolyn Kerns of the Randolph Group to facilitate council's dispute over the role of the town's CAO.

Tensions first surfaced on council when former CAO Marc Neeb was given a \$10,000 bonus that was approved behind closed doors.

The conflict escalated when Neeb resigned in September and council argued bitterly over how long he should remain on the job and what work he should be allowed to do.

The dispute reached a fever pitch in October when councillors voted down a motion to begin recruiting a new CAO then deferred the issue until the following February.

COMMUNITY CENTRE BOARD

Long before there was a Department of Leisure Services and a Leisure Services Advisory Committee in Aurora, the Community Centre was governed by a Community Centre Board of citizen volunteers.

In January, 1969, council failed to re-appoint former Reeve Stewart Patrick who had served as vice-chairman of the previous board and Bill O'Neill, also a former member and who was in poor health.

New members to the board included Don Glass and Paul Wright and re-appointed were Frank Caruso, Paul Knowles and Bob Hookings, who had been chairman of the board since its inception.

Council's representatives to the board were Councillors Walt Davis and Norm Stewart.

There was also a Parks and Recreation Committee and the appointed members included Larry Keffer, Mrs. Cathan Shoniker, Jack Williamson and Bob Blick.

Council reviews treasurer's 2007 investment summary

In accordance with Aurora's investment policy there is a requirement for the treasurer to report to council annually on the status of the municipality's investments.

The current policy requires that the report contain a summary of items including a listing of individual securities held at the end of the preceding year, a summary statement about the performance of the investment portfolio during the period and such other information that council may require or in the opinion of the treasurer should be included.

One of the objectives of the treasurer was to maintain a better cash and investment strategy, to maintain secure diversification and address both long and short term exposure to various sectors and institutions.

The report provides the estimated value and the market value of the investment portfolio with the estimated value shown as \$60,589,133.41 and the market value as \$56,163,413.33 and that all investments were acquired in accordance with town policy and the Municipal Act.

The difference between the estimated value and the market value is because the estimated value shows the value at maturity while the market value is the value if sold at this time.

It was pointed out that the last half of 2007 was a difficult time because of the Bank of Canada raising the bank rate to 4.5 per cent in the expectation that the rates would increase again, plus the fact some securities linked to the U.S. housing market created liquidity concerns.

With this uncertainty there were large spreads

between Treasury Bills to Bankers Acceptances as the market seemed to seek shelter in Treasury Bills and a wide spread in different Bankers Acceptance rates which was unusual.

By the end of December the municipality earned \$2,341,588 in interest up from \$3,090,042 in 2006.

Of this, return interest was paid to the town's Reserve Funds in the amount of \$19,958,119 up from \$1,614,461 in 2006 with the balance applied to general tax levy.

Minor Atoms get point in three hockey games

Aurora's Minor Atom A Tigers played three hockey games last week but could only manage a single point as they tied one and lost two.

In the tie, Aurora got goals from Alex Wyndham-West, Colin McGoldrick, Joel Woodcock and Eric McGhie as they tied King-Noble 4-4.

The Tigers had an

opportunity to add points to their standings against a team below them in the standings but the King-Noble Knights were not to be denied.

Next day, Tigers lost a heartbreaker to the Stouffville Clippers 2-1.

Wyndham-West scored the lone Aurora goal.

Tiger goaltender Tyler Thomas made several key saves, to keep Aurora

in the game.

As the second period wound down, Wyndham-West gave the Tigers a one-goal lead.

However, with less than a minute left in the period, the Clippers scored the tying goal.

And with just over one minute left in the game and the Tigers playing shorthanded, the Clippers scored to take the lead.

On Saturday, Aurora lost 5-3 to East Gwillimbury.

Jacob Cann, Kyle Rice and Eric McGhie scored for Aurora.

The Tigers took the first game against the East Gwillimbury Eagles

and were looking to do the same in the game, but the Eagles had other ideas on their minds, opening the scoring early in the first period.

Aurora roared back when Cann popped a beauty.

Midway through the game, the Tigers found paydirt again when Rice knocked in a rebound.

Thirty seconds later the Eagles, however, opened it up, tying the game and then adding two more goals to jump into a commanding lead.

East Gwillimbury secured the victory with an empty net goal in the third.

Monday Night Hockey standings

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Tom & Jerry's	5	2	0	36	24	10
Highland Chev-Cad	5	2	0	32	19	10
Baldwin's	4	3	0	32	26	8
FPL Aggregates	4	3	0	29	27	8
Masterclean Contracting	4	3	0	26	31	8
Law Insurance Brokers	3	4	0	25	32	6
Rec Cycle N' Sports	2	5	0	21	30	4
Priestly Demolition	1	6	0	21	34	2

Results

Highland's Chev	5	Masterclean	2
Tom & Jerry's	3	Rec Sports	1
FPL Aggregates	7	Priestly Demolition	4
Law Insurance	4	Baldwin's	2

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Clock keeps time for Aurorans

For almost 100 years the old post office clock on Yonge Street in downtown Aurora has been ringing out the hours and telling the time for Aurora residents.

The former post office, with the historic clock tower, is located on the east side of Yonge Street, a few buildings south of Wellington Street.

The historic building is now in private ownership and used for commercial offices, although the town had first right of refusal to purchase it for a municipal building in 1966 but, on a 5-4 vote, rejected the offer due to the high cost of renovations.

The old federal building became surplus to the needs of the government when they decided to spend \$300,000 to build a new federal building on Wellington Street East to replace the Yonge Street facility.

The old post office with its familiar clock tower opened for business on November 24, 1915, and soon it became a focal point of the downtown core. Before the days of home mail delivery, the post office was the town meeting place.

Moving the post office to its new location, although

only a short distance, was a matter of concern to many citizens, especially old-timers.

They liked the central location of the old building and the meeting place under the clock tower.

Their petition had no impact and the new post office was opened with suitable fanfare in November 1967.

In January of that year the federal government wrote to the town to advise that the building and property was to be sold and the municipality had the first right of refusal.

Consideration was given to converting it into a Town Hall.

Although the building and property could have been acquired for \$35,000, an engineer's report indicated it would cost about \$170,000 to renovate plus about \$50,000 to meet fire and building code requirements so the offer to purchase was refused.

In April 1969, Crown Assets put the property on the market for public sale and it was purchased by the late John Dol, owner of Aurora-based Model Builders.

He renovated the building and several small busi-

nesses call it home.

The clock on the old post office tower kept chiming out the hours for Aurora citizens.

It had been manufactured by J. B. Joyce and Company of Whitchurch, England, and installed in 1916.

In 1993 the clock fell silent and people soon noticed that something was wrong. Dol hired one of the few antique and tower clock specialists in Canada, David Abernathy of nearby Gormley.

It was found that the bushings had worn and had to be replaced in addition to a through cleaning and citi-

zens were able to hear the chimes again in time for the Christmas season.

In addition to spending more than \$2,500 to get the old clock ticking again, Mr. Dol wound the manual clock himself once a week.

The inner mechanism of the steel and machined cogs of the clock could be seen from one of the interior offices on the second floor and entertained patients of Dr. Wilf Black as they waited for their dental appointment.

Many changes have taken place in Aurora since those early days, but through the years the old clock continues to tick on and on.

Habitat home

From page 1
supportive of Habitat as a concept, the group was split on pursuing this option.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said that it was "a noble cause, but (the town) shouldn't be looking at severing parkland for this or any other purpose".

In the end the town was "a business, not a philanthropic institution".

If the town was really concerned about housing financially disadvantaged people, Councillor Buck maintained, they should focus on the issue of unsuitable basement apartments.

In contrast, Councillor Al Wilson was "intrigued by the motion". Councillor John Gallo also supported going through the process.

Asked for his opinion as Director of Leisure Services, Allan Downey commented that he was in favour of as many parks as possible, and that "we should hold our parkland precious".

He also stated there was a process for the disposition of town land, and that if any parkland was declared surplus, residents would be allowed to provide their comments and opinions on any potential rezoning of the property.

It was felt that there would be a significant out-

cry of residents to any loss of existing parkland, and that should the rezoning go through, the eventual Habitat family was less likely to be warmly welcomed into the community.

To that point, Councillor Stephen Grainger noted that "if they (Habitat) are not welcome, they're not coming".

Mayor Phyllis Morris suggested the town should first check to see if Habitat's Board of Directors would support taking up park space.

In her opinion, the best course of action would be for Habitat to work with the development community to identify opportunities.

In fact, she noted Habitat was doing just that, and was currently in communication with a developer, which may result in one or more properties becoming available for Habitat builds in 2010 or 2011.

In the end, the option to adopt the proposal was defeated on a vote of 5-3, with Councillors Wilson, Grainger and Gallo in opposition.

A subsequent motion not to endorse the use of parkland for a Habitat home, and to support Habitat working with the development community, passed 6-2.

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Fate of historic oak tree still unknown

In October last year, the Heritage Advisory Committee received a letter from former Aurora Councillor Gail McIntyre, regarding a tree at 15278 Yonge Street adjacent to the former Price Chopper store.

Her request to protect the tree was referred to the Community Planner for a report.

She pointed out that 20 years before with the aid of the then manager of the IGA store, the tree was saved. She was afraid that as Price Chopper had closed, the property might be sold and the tree destroyed.

She claimed natural heritage was just as important as the built heritage and she asked that the tree be designated

and saved just like historical buildings.

At the December meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee it was agreed the burr oak tree be approved for designation under the Ontario Heritage Act and staff be authorized to publish council's intent to designate as required by the Act and to prepare a Designation Bylaw.

The tree is approximately 80 years old and is thought to have grown up next to a blacksmith's shop in the early years of Aurora's growth as a town.

It has a strong historical association with the growth of Aurora from a small industrial village to a bustling, developed town of the 21st century.

It is a species of oak tree native to North America which typically grows in the open, away from the forest canopy.

It is among the hardiest of oak trees, tolerant of urban conditions, fire-resistant and relatively drought-resistant due to its long tap roots.

These trees commonly live to be 200 to 300 years old and under ideal conditions may become significantly older.

The burr oak tree has been a strong visual contributor to the Yonge Street streetscape for its approximately 80 years' existence and situated in a parking lot has provided a shady green oasis for pedestrians and motorists in recent years.

Last August Ms

McIntyre appeared before council to ask that the town perform maintenance on the oak tree and her request was referred to staff.

Staff members pointed out that although the tree has been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, the town does not have the jurisdiction to enter onto private property to maintain the tree or to compel the property owner to address the condition of the tree unless it poses a threat to person or property.

The general committee agreed the mayor's office should send a letter to the owner of the property asking that maintenance of the designated oak tree be undertaken.



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AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Results to Sunday, November 9



House League Tyke

104 Tim Hortons Flyers 3 - Will Sherman 2G, Cory Read 1G, Owen Romano 1A, Camden Graham 1A. **106 Tim Hortons Penguins 1** - Carson Williams 1G, Leo Douvinos 1A, Joseph Furfaro 1A.

102 Tim Hortons Bruins 8 - Blair Crabbe 3G 1A, Rony Wahab 2G 2A, Gian Luca Santocono 1G 1A, Chris Siarkas 1G, Maverick Bondi 1G 1A, Justin Harburak 2A, Jack Campbell 2A, Anthony Miranda 1A, Anthony Albano 1A, John Dol 1A, Hunter Wong 1A, Zoe Rodger 1A. **108 Tim Hortons Wild 3** - Kyle Trumper 1G, Jason Iaboni 1G, Jason Gage 1G, Zach Diaz 1A, Michela Venosa 1A, Anthony Iacovetta 1A, Ryan Funston-Clarke 1A, Christian Zenteno 1A, Geoffrey Wilson 1A.

101 Tim Hortons Flames 7 - Justin Hicks 2G, Cole Forhan 1G 1A, Noah Johnston 2G 2A, Cameron Lang 1G, Robert Kniss 1G 1A, Christian Romas 2A, Mason Barone 2A, Todd Fischer 2A, Jack Bar 2A, Jake Smith 1A, Tommy Collins 1A, Cole Forhan 1A. **103 Tim Hortons Senators 4** - Justin Foster 1G 1A, Andrew Park 2G, Ethan Moulds 1G 1A, Dylan Dacosta 2A, Bryson Posa 2A, Meghan Anderton 1A.

107 Tim Hortons Lightning 3 - Adam Wloka 2G, Ryan Cunniham 1G 2A, Jean Francois Merrimen 1A, Sam Ashton 1A, Evan Robertson 1A. **105 Tim Hortons Leafs 1** - Trey Angco 1G.

Novice

205 Caravan Kids Leafs 6 - Dylan Clark 2G, Christian Ridd 2G, Jack Fournier 1G 1A, Tristan Hicks 1G, Mathew Broad 2A, Michell Levy 2A, Jessey VanSoest 1A, Dane Kerkkamp 1A, Vaughan Hewgill 1A. **203 Caravan Kids Senators 2** - Stephen Silverio 2G, Ryan Ruskanen 1A, Chris Sands 1A, Dylan McFee 1A, Brayden Reid 1A.

201 Caravan Kids Flames 9 - Jack Hosmer 2G 1A, Benjamin Godber 2G 1A, Jacob Turiff 2G 3A, Dillon Varone 1G 2A, William Reid 1G 2A, Bryce Davison 1G

1A, Nicholas Robinson 1A, Adam Dipiero 2A, Noah Cepelek 3A, Jack Chivers 2A. **204 Caravan Kids Flyers 1** - Liam Patterson 1G, Brendan Dodd 1A.

206 Caravan Kids Penguins 6 - Nicholas Vamvarakis 4G, Alexander Mueller 1G, Thomas Morra 1G, Raffaele Parente 2A, Brittney Fraser 1A, Benjamin Pitre 1A, Callum Gorrell 1A, Matthew Bolger 1A. **202 Caravan Kids Senators 4** - Matthew Winters 1G 1A, Christopher Walsh 1G, Jacob Yap 1G, Wayne Freeman 1G 1A, Matthew Romano 1A.

Peewee

508 Tilemaster 4 - Ryan McGoldrick 1G, Owen Woodcock 1G, Jake Anderson 1A, Matt Pelkola 1A, Tyler Hindley 1A, Dan Wochenmarkt 1A. **507 Sgt. Pepper's Bar & Grill 1** - Tyler Futterer 1G, Scott Dunlop 1A, Keith Jarvis 1A.

502 Omar's Shoes 5 - Robert Ruscica 1G, Alec Ground 2G 1A, Alexander Stewart 1G, Michael Liscio 1G, Scott Taylor 1A. **505 Laurion Law Office 3** - Russell Johnson 2G, Michael Arcuri 1G.

501 Perfect Moves 6 - Matthew Sanita 1G, Andrew Roche 2G 1A, Christopher Sanita 1G, Joel Gouveia 1G, Justin Chalmers 1G, Samantha Sanita 1A, Mitchell Arnold 1A, Mitchell Carter 1A. **506 Wikoff Colour Corp 1** - Harry Smith 1G.

504 Pizza Pizza 4 - Michael Tanel 1G, Brendan Elliott 1G, Declan Johnston 1G, Max Brown 1G, Michael Tanel 2A. **503 Greenpoint Laser 2** - Brayden Beswick 2G,

Rep Games

Aurora Novice A 7 - Fin Reeves 3G, Andrew Jorgensen 2G 2A, Nicholas Rountes 1G 1A, Justin Evans 1G, Anthony Magnate 1A, Nicholas Keller 1A, Connor Iwai 1A, Francesco Scuglia 1A. **Barrie Colts Novice A - 0**

Innisfil Novice A 3. Aurora Tigers Novice A 2 - Andrew Jorgensen 2G, Anthony Magnante 2A,

Nicholas Keller 1A.

Atom

Aurora Tigers AE 9 - Connor Downs 2G, Cameron Anderson 1G, Tristan Kuchar 2G, Jeffrey McKay 2G, Alistair Johnston 1G, Riley Walsh 1G, Alistair Johnston 2A, Tristan Kuchar 2A, Jeffrey McKay 1A, Charles Bennett 1A, Christian Arcuri 1A, Zachary Fletcher 3A, Connor Downs 1A, Cameron Anderson 2A, Connor Gonsalves 1A, Spencer White 1A. **Orillia Terriers AE 0.**

Aurora Tigers AE 3 - Christian Arcuri 2G, Keegan Matthew 1G, Cameron Anderson 1A, Alistair Johnston 1A, Keegan Matthew 2A. **TNT Tornadoes AE 0.**

Minor Bantam

Aurora A 2 - Colton Lee 1G, Casey Severini 1G, Collin Laird 1A, Vincent Ruscica 1A. **Newmarket 2.**

Aurora A 3 - Ryan Baskin 1G, Andrew McDonald 1G 1A, Braden Casselden 1G 1A, Evan Romano 1A, Peter Sandwell 1A, Quincy Ing 1A. **Markham 1.**

Bantam

Aurora Tigers AA 4 - Andrew Papousek 1G, Lukas Leslie 1G, Dylan Rochon 1G, Kyle Spicer 1G, Matthew Roy 1A, Dylan Woyslaw 1A, Cooper Riswick 1A, Reid Sisson 1A. **Newmarket Redmen AA 2.**

Newmarket Redmen AA 5. Aurora Tigers AA 3 - A.J. Killens 2 G, Andrew Papousek 1G, Rory MacNeil 1A, Dylan Rochon 1A, Matthew Roy 1A, Dylan Hussey 1A, Christopher Bull 1A.

Aurora Tigers AA 4 -Andrew Papousek 2G, A.J. Killens 1G 1A, Dylan Hussey 1G, Dylan Rochon 1A, Kyle Spicer 1A, Sean Nishimura 2A, Cooper Riswick 1A, Mark Robertson 1A. **TNT Tornadoes AA 1**

Aurora Tigers AA 5 - Andrew Papousek 1G 2A, Kyle Spicer 2G, Dylan Hussey 1G 1A, A.J. Killens 1G 2A, Sean Nishimura 1A, Christopher Bull 1A, Mark Robertson 1A. **TNT Tornadoes AA 2.**

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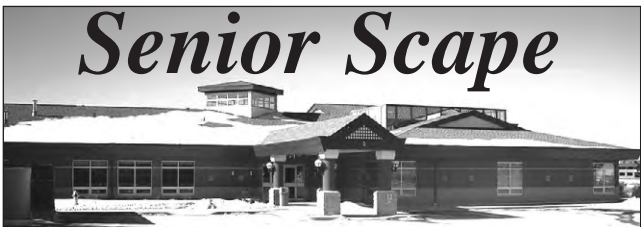
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Christmas activities beginning to emerge

By BRIAN WARBURTON

The seasons change remarkably quickly; it has only been a few weeks since we were enjoying summer-like weather, and now the light is fading, the leaves are falling and Christmas is coming.

To prepare our minds for the family festivities ahead, the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) annual Christmas Luncheon is planned for Wednesday, December 10th, and tickets are now on sale for members, and will be available for non members starting November 17th.

It will be a traditional turkey luncheon with all the trimmings, a cash bar and entertainment by Maggie Vida.

Please note, tickets are limited and will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Tickets for the New Year's Eve dinner and dance are now on sale at the front desk.

To ensure so far as is possible that we fend off the flu for the festivities and right through the winter, the York Region Health Services will conduct a no charge Flu Clinic this Thursday, November 13th, from 1 until 8 p.m.

Everybody is welcome, members and non-members alike, but a health card is required.

The many people protected from the flu virus, seniors and others, will help maintain their own immune system against other infections and assist in keeping the number of infected people to a minimum and lessen the number of infected people who communicate the virus.

The annual ASA Memorial Service for those who passed on was conducted by Reverend McKay from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Aurora, and Enid Maize accompanied the singing of hymns on the piano.

During the well-attended service, the names of those who passed on in the preceding 12 months were read out, and memories of those and so many others, engaged the private thoughts and feelings of the congregation.

With the Memorial Service concluded, members resumed their regular activities, and starting at 4 p.m., the ASA opened a membership drive designed to showcase the activities of the ASA and present opportunities available for retired people.

So often the elder years create a period in life when circles of friendship decline, and even the prospect of solitude looms in the lives of some seniors, but not so for members in the ASA.

And yet, even in the elder years, life can be so good and full for people of similar age and memories.

The ASA is alive with seniors resonating with the lives they live now, and your presence would make us all so much stronger and happier.

Everybody has a birthday, and on November 19th, at noon, the ASA will have an "Everyone's Birthday" luncheon. Please obtain your ticket in advance to allow the kitchen staff to provide and prepare sufficient food.

The entertainment will be a musical performance of singing and dancing by Cara Chisholm, who many of us will remember for her previous superb dancing and singing routines.

Louise Williams, who is a long-time volunteer at the ASA, had her painting, representing the Aurora Dairy-1938, chosen to honour Aurora's Heritage.



Gary Stephenson

Clothier gets a sole owner

After becoming the sole owner of Greenham's Distinctive Clothier, Aurora resident Gary Stephenson promised to "just keep going forward the way we are".

"My partner, who just retired, had been doing it since the '70s," he said.

Stephenson had been a partner with Gary McKenzie since the late 1980s, and bought him out when McKenzie retired.

For his part, Mr. Stephenson has been in the business since 1976, which coincides with when the store moved across the street from its original location.

The store is located on the east side of Yonge Street, just north of Murray Drive.

"I'm a local boy," said Stephenson. "We do higher-end men's clothing, but we sell a lot of casual clothing as well as dress clothes".

Born and raised in Aurora, today Stephenson lives on Connaught Avenue.

Stephenson explained the store offers "everything from golf shirts to suits".

He became sole proprietor at the beginning of November.

"A bunch of people showed up," he said.

The event included a cake and was attended by both the mayor and MPP Frank Klees.

The store is located on 14799 Yonge Street and has been in business since 1964.

Don Greenham founded the store in 1964, originally starting in the building across the street.

The store moved in 1976.

Greenham drops by on occasion, although he no longer has any controlling interest in the store.

"It's a recognizable name now," said Stephenson, who has not entertained any desire of changing the name.

Stephenson is content to keep doing what has worked for the business in the past.

Music Festival may be a 3-day event

Michael Moran appeared last week before Aurora's General Committee meeting to present a proposal for an Aurora Arts and Music Festival.

The three-day festival would be held from Friday afternoon to Sunday evening the last weekend of September.

The venue would be Town Park, with the Aurora Community Centre filling in as a back-up location, in the event of poor weather.

A diverse range of cultural groups and musical artists are expected to participate.

Tickets would cost \$10 for one day, or \$20 to \$25 for the full three days.

It is anticipated that the event could draw upwards of 100,000 people.

Mr. Moran estimated that after expenses, the event could generate a net profit of \$4,200.

However, he asked that the town guarantee up to \$25,000 to counterbalance bad weather and/or revenue.

He noted the Leisure Services Advisory Committee (LSAC) had tentatively approved the festival.

Councillors were supportive

of Mr. Moran's efforts and enthusiasm, and lauded the amount of thought and detail that had gone into the festival.

However, they were leery of the scale of the event.

Councillor Bob McRoberts noted the pressures on parking in the area from the thousands of people expected to come from out of town.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern observed that LSAC had raised concerns about the scale, as well.

Aurora's Director of Leisure Services Al Downey echoed the sentiments of councillors, saying that despite input into the proposal from the town's Special Events coordinator, the proposed event was larger than any the town had ever dealt with, and his department had some concerns.

As a compromise, Mayor Phyllis Morris suggested that at least for the first year, Mr. Moran scale the event down to one day.

With the proposed festival almost a year away, it is expected that further discussions and refinement of the details will be carried out before the event gets approval.

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Resignation causes change in committees

With the resignation of Councillor Grace Marsh and the appointment of John Gallo to fill the vacancy, changes in the council appointment to committees became necessary.

Following a closed session of council, it was announced that Councillor Al Wilson had been appointed to the Aurora Library Board and Councillor John Gallo will be appointed to the Joint Council Committee on Fire Services and to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

Council also accepted the resignation of Councillor Stephen Granger from the

Economic Development Advisory Committee and agreed that Councillor Evelina MacEachern be appointed to that committee.

Council also agreed that

the terms of reference for the Environmental Advisory Committee be amended to appoint a third member of council and that Councillor John Gallo be appointed accordingly.

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