



HERB MCKENZIE

Herb dies

You didn't know Herb McKenzie unless you spent some time in his back yard on Morning Crescent.

And over the years, thousands of people did.

The 63-year-old former Aurora Councillor died last week following a bout with cancer.

With his death goes one of Aurora's major supporters.

Although he had sold the Morning Crescent property and had moved to the Peterborough area to be closer to his children, Herb wore Aurora on his sleeve.

He opposed widespread development, and at a nomination meeting some years ago, he told a newcomer who was complaining about the growth, "if I had my way, you wouldn't be here".

Born and educated in Aurora, Herb McKenzie lived and loved his town. He fought against the regional takeover, especially the

see page 16

Herb McKenzie: Our Bobby Gimby

"With my resident's hat on, I saw Herb McKenzie as Aurora's Bobby Gimby - he was the leader of the parade, the guy with the town spirit that moved us all.

"There wasn't a July 1st parade, or beer garden that Herb wasn't involved in one way or another that I can remember.

"I believe it was Herb who also had the courage to switch the Santa Claus parade from a daytime parade to a night event.

"I remember one of those first evening parades when it was started off with a huge explosion from fireworks - it certainly grabbed our attention. Now it's a GTA phenomena, still only one of a very few evening parades.

"And, at Council, Herb had a knack of keeping us focused on what was best for the Town.

"The gatherings at his house after Council meetings for members of Council, staff and even members of the press were invaluable, demonstrating the openness and sincerity of the man.

"During the amalgamation discussions, I saw a Herb McKenzie who was prepared to bear arms and stand at Aurora's boundary to keep our community an independent one.

"Herb was passionate about Aurora and the people who lived here.

"We will all miss his honesty, patriotism and good natured approach to all that he did."

Tim Jones
Mayor

THE AURORAN

"If it's good for Aurora, it's good for us"

Vol. 2 No. 25

Week of April 9, 2002

905-726-2892



Skaters wait in the wings for their turn at Saturday's highly successful "Making Memories" ice show at the Aurora Community Centre. An afternoon and evening perform-

ance played by the dozens of members of the Aurora Skating Club clearly delighted the nearly sold-out crowds.

Auroran photo by Matt Haggerty

Town may face another hearing

ClubLink Properties and Verdiroc Construction plan to build a seven-storey, 184-unit retirement home on the site of the former Aurora Highlands Golf and Country Clubhouse.

And while a public meeting last October found a few flaws with the plan, the developer never addressed them back to council.

The concerns included density, traffic problems, property devaluation, buffering, loss of privacy and lack of parking facilities.

At the time, council directed staff to continue to work with the applicant to resolve the concerns raised by citizens and members of council and to report back to council prior to council finalizing its position.

That never happened.

Now, council has learned, ClubLink plans to take the issue directly to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Since that public meeting, staff has endeavoured to communicate with the applicant without success.

As ClubLink did not receive council's decision within the 90-day time-frame as outlined in the Planning Act, it appealed to the OMB. A pre-hearing has been scheduled for April 23.

Staff advise while they have had no formal contact with the applicant, they have been verbally informed that plans are underway that would reduce the building height and scale.

Councillor Nigel Kean asked if council had done everything it should have according to the

Planning Act, and was advised that everything had been done, but it was the 90-day time limit that forced the issue..

Councillor Ron Wallace said he was becoming more incensed about the powers of the developers. He pointed out that council had done everything possible yet the applicant still went directly to the OMB.

There was general agreement that council take a firm stance and fight fire with fire.

A recommendation will go to council that outside counsel be

engaged to appear on the town's behalf at the pre-hearing.

The decision of seeking costs on the basis of bad faith bargaining by the applicant is being left until after the pre-hearing.

In the proposal, the ground floor would contain an extensive range of services, including a dining room, auditorium, library, chapel and medical, hairdressing and administrative services.

At the west end of the first floor, a golf clubhouse is proposed to include change rooms and a snack bar.

Briefly...

SQUEAKY-CLEAN AURORA

The Girl Guide Districts of Aurora, with the support of the Town, are making an effort to keep Aurora beautiful.

On Sunday, April 28th, from 1 p.m., Sparks, Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders and their families will be hitting the streets, creeks, forests and parks of Aurora gathering garbage and putting it in its place.

Officials ask that motorists drive extra carefully that afternoon.

Everyone is welcome to join in the effort!

TIGERS OUT IN FOUR

A valiant season came to an abrupt end for the Aurora Tigers Sunday afternoon when they dropped their fourth straight game to the Brampton Capitals. Story on Page 15.

16th annual
2002
AURORA HOME AND OUTDOOR
lifestyle
APRIL 19, 20 & 21, 2002
AURORA COMMUNITY CENTRE
show

featuring...

**a Celebration
of Food & Wine!**

Special appearances
by Bonnie Stern

Saturday, Apr. 20
11 a.m.,
1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

2 - The AURORAN, Week of April 9, 2002

COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

APRIL 12-14

Ninth Annual "Skate Mate" invitational hockey tournament. Aurora Community Centre. Further information 905-841-2018.

APRIL 13-14

Aurora Opera Company presents "Kidding" in concert at the Newmarket Theatre. Children perform music from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour at 2 p.m. both days. An all-girls group will stage "The Mikado" on Saturday at 8 p.m. and the "Kidding Gala" on Sunday at 7 p.m. Call 905-953-5122 for ticket information.

April 14

Aurora Youth Soccer Club First Aid/CPR course offered to all members, coaches and referees, age 9-adult at Aurora Community Tennis Club from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details of the course visit www.thelifesavingco.com. Cost is \$25. Visit the AYSC to enroll.

APRIL 17

Spring Fashion Show, presented by Creative Colours Fashions. Dinardo's Banquet Hall. 6 p.m. Ticket information 905-727-0552

APRIL 18

The Big Sisters of York 21st Annual Meeting at the Aurora Town Hall. For details call 905-727-4897.

APRIL 19-20

Aurora United Church spring rummage sale. Friday from 1 to 8 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. At the church, Yonge & Tyler.

APRIL 19-21

Aurora Chamber of Commerce 16th annual Home Show, Aurora Community Centre. Further information 905-727-7262

MAY 3

Deadline for nominations for Aurora's Citizen of the Year. Award is open to all citizens of the town 16 years of age and over, with the exception of members of council. Provide a brief, but detailed synopsis of the activities of the candidate that would qualify the applicant for consideration as Citizen of the Year. Mail to Citizen of the Year Award, Town of Aurora, Box 1000, Aurora, L4G 6J1.

MAY 5

One hundred clowns will entertain from 1 to 3 p.m. at Aurora Community Centre, Rink 2, courtesy of Clowns Canada. Watch for details.

SEPTEMBER 15

Long way off but this is the date for the 20th Annual Aurora Terry Fox Run. Mark this on your 2002 Calendar now. If you have questions, call Ferguson Mobbs at 905-727-8987.



Doug Hartwell, right, guzzles water during a promotion for this weekend's Bob Hartwell Runner's Challenge. Officials are expecting hundreds of runners to turn out for the half-marathon and half-marathon relay which begins and ends at the Town Park Sunday. Run starts at 9 a.m.

Auroran photo by Matt Haggarty



Marilyn Redvers



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HOME OF THE WEEK



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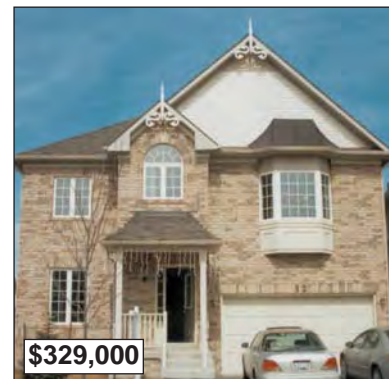
Other GREAT HOMES in Aurora



\$229,000

CHARMER IN OLD AURORA

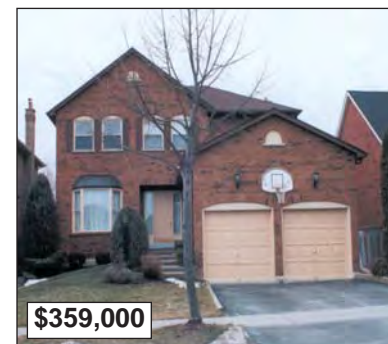
Just listed, this adorable home takes you back in time! Original pine floors, deep baseboards! Convenient location is walking distance to Yonge Street! Lovely yard with mature trees and gardens.



\$329,000

BETTER THAN NEW IN EAST AURORA!

Terrific open concept floor plan! 12' cathedral ceiling & gas fireplace in fam. rm... open to kitchen! A light & bright home! Master has 4-pc. ensuite! Interior access to double garage! Great neighbourhood!



\$359,000

QUIET CRESCENT IN WEST AURORA!

Wonderful family home, immaculate and beautifully decorated! Hardwood floor in family room! Lovely master with sitting room and 4-pc. ensuite! Property backs to estate lot with trees! Trails nearby!



\$669,000

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More streets to have 40 km/hr speed limit

Complaints of speeding on residential streets continue to be received from homeowners in various parts of Aurora.

The latest came from residents on Cranberry Lane and McClenny Drive who asked that speed limits be reduced to 40 km/hr and the radar board be made available.

Councillor George Timpson said the normal Traffic Safety Advisory Board meeting had been cancelled and he asked the general committee to direct staff to erect new speed signs.

Councillor Ron Wallace asked why it wasn't possible to post signs at all entrances to the town that Aurora is a 40-km/hr municipality and avoid the cost of erecting signs on all streets.

He was advised that under the Highway Traffic Act the speed limit on local streets is 50-km/hr unless otherwise posted.

It was also noted that Aurora had previously sought amendments to the Highway Traffic Act and the province had rejected the request.



Another big boost to the new Library's Grow Your Mind campaign occurred last week when the Aurora Optimist Club added \$50,000 to the pot. Optimist members and library officials were on hand for the cheque presentation at the library. The million-dollar campaign has now collected more than \$750,000.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Fire consolidation amends Aurora's building bylaw

With the consolidation of the Aurora and Newmarket fire departments into the Central York Fire Service in January, it became necessary to amend the Aurora building bylaw.

The staff report was presented to the general committee last week.

Previously, the Aurora Fire Department, through the fire prevention officer, was involved in both subdivision development and the site plan review process.

With the establishment of the Central York Fire Service, it became necessary to revise the existing bylaw to provide for the change in service providers.

At the same time, staff used the opportunity to review the process for subdivision and site plan review and the issues presently dealt with by the fire service.

Site plan issues such as fire routes access and design, water supply, hydrant location, and use and occupancy classification are clearly delineated in the Ontario Building Code and are within the responsibility of the building department.

While the legislated responsibility for plans review and inspection lies with the building department under the Ontario Building Code, staff reports

there is merit in Central York Fire Services being provided an opportunity to comment on design standards during the plan review process.

The staff report points out that while the building department staff is qualified to complete plans review and inspections in accordance with the Ontario Building Code, there are crossover areas such as automotive refuelling stations and restaurants where there is overlapping jurisdiction with the Ontario Fire Code.

Under the amendment to the building bylaw, it is not the intention to eliminate Central York Fire Services from the review process but to involve them as deemed appropriate by the director of building administration.

It is intended to circulate plans to the fire service as an outside agency for comments as is done for other agencies.

Museum's gotta go

What to do with a Museum?

The Aurora Historical Society, at a board meeting last week, wrestled with their biggest challenge in some time...where do you store a museum?

The Aurora Museum, currently the only occupant on the second floor of the Church Street School, must vacate quickly as repairs to the school are scheduled to begin in June.

It is expected the museum could be closed for up to a year.

Most of the files and stored material will be moved to the old library, while artifacts and other materials will be taken to Hillary House.

Although none of the material will be on display, Hillary House will be open to the public, since museum staff will carry out their duties from that location.

And Hillary House is a museum unto itself, loaded with age-old medical equipment.

Board members are looking for volunteers to help in the massive moving project.

Other tenants in the Church Street School having to move to temporary space are the Big Brothers of York and the Pine Tree Potters.

Susan E. Tucker
Lawyer & Notary Public
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Don Hamilton

Aurora man wins award from electric association

The Robert H. Hay Award of Exceptional Merit is the most prestigious award afforded a Hydro Commissioner in Ontario.

The board of directors of the Municipal Electric Association selected Don Hamilton, formerly of Aurora Hydro Commission, to receive the award in tribute to his many years of service to the citizens of Aurora and Ontario.

He is the First Commissioner to receive the award in York Region.

Initiated in 1985 by the OMEA, the award is named after Robert H. Hay, a 30-year contributor to the industry in Ontario.

It is given to recognize outstanding qualities as a citizen, as evidenced by personal integrity, unselfish, devoted and energetic services to the association, and through it, to the people of Ontario.

Hamilton was a member of the Aurora Hydro Commission from 1954 to 1985, and rejoined the commission in 1988 until the commission was disbanded due to the changing of the hydro industry by the provincial government.

During this period, he served as commission chairman.

In 1969, with the coming of regional government,

Hamilton was elected chairman of the York Region Hydro Association, which studied the restructuring of electrical utilities in the region.

Over the years he served on many OMEA committees and was association president in 1977.

He also served as the OMEA representative on the Hogg Royal Commission, which studied restructuring all nine regional hydros.

In making the presentation to Hamilton, OMEA President Jim MacKenzie described him as the "epitome of a Hay Award recipient."

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*Poor
Richard*

We need solutions to control speeding

*Trying to control speeders in town,
Is an on-going, impossible bind;
Police officers can't be everywhere,
So other solutions, we must find!*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Speeding on residential streets is a problem facing all municipalities.

Motorists frustrated with rapid growth and growing gridlock conditions seek shortcuts through residential areas to make up for lost time.

Over the years Aurora council has bent over backward trying to control speeding on local streets.

They have approved stop signs in various locations to satisfy local residents even though those signs did not meet the warrants..

They did this even though all traffic studies report stop signs are not effective in slowing down through traffic in residential neighbourhoods.

While cars slow down for a few metres before the signs, they speed up between signs as drivers try to make up for lost time.

Council also approved hiring off-duty police officers with radar equipment to catch speeders in highly travelled residential areas.

It was so successful that other municipalities requested the same treatment, resulting in the police department cancelling the program for all municipalities.

A radar board was purchased and placed on various residential streets to alert drivers to the speed they were travelling.

This was in conjunction with the Road Watch program in which citizens report speeding and aggressive drivers to police.

Many streets have been posted at 40 km/hr with little effect.

The latest effort is speed humps, which are receiving mixed reviews.

Still citizen complaints are received about speeding on residential streets.

The police can't be on every street, every day, so something else has to be done.

It is reported that some European countries have learned to balance the concerns of traffic planners with those of pedestrians and homeowners.

Residential streets are developed into living yards, where cars are guests and forced to navigate slowly around carefully placed trees and other landscaping.

The Town of Markham has a few suggestions to control speeding. Markham council is seeking municipal support to petition the province to increase the current fines for speeding violations, as they are insufficient to deter motorists.

They are also concerned that police officers allow up to a 16-km/hr margin before issuing a ticket on residential streets.

As they believe speeding on residential streets is a low priority for police, they are seeking provincial action to permit local bylaw officers to enforce speeding and stop sign violations on local streets.

Aurora council has referred the proposal to staff for a report, but it is doubtful the province will agree to the proposal, and there may be little support from the police services board, but something must be done.

Motorists have forgotten that driving is a privilege, not a right.



Working for Sisman Shoes in Aurora meant you had a lifetime job as these photos attest. In the top picture, eight employees had been with the company for more than 35 years, while a total of 42 (centre photo) were members of the 25-year club. Sisman's was a huge firm located on Berczy Street. Below, employee Al White is dwarfed by boxes of Sisman Shoes ready for shipping. Al has contributed photographs to The Auroran. All photos were taken in 1951, and were loaned to the paper by Fred Rowe.

THE AURORAN

*If it's good for Aurora,
it's good for us*

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FAX

Editorial
905-727-2620

MAILING

14845-6 Yonge St.
Suite 381
Aurora, ON
L4G 6H8

E-MAIL

auroran@msn.com

EDITORIAL

Ron Wallace
905-727-1470
auroran@msn.com

CLASSIFIEDS

Cynthia Proctor
905-726-2892

ADVERTISING

Bob Ince
Kathy Bitove
905-726-2892
oquest@istar.ca

Fax

905-726-8589

PRODUCTION

Terry Weller
Marg Goldsack
905-726-2892
905-726-3701
oquest@istar.ca

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Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

Electricity: what will happen when the market opens?

As former Aurora Hydro Commissioners, Deputy Mayor John West and I were discussing the effects of the changes to Hydro services and billing as a result of calls we have both had from concerned residents wanting to know what changes they should expect with their hydro billing and rates.

The following information highlights our discussion. Residents have two basic options.

They can stay with Aurora Hydro and pay the actual fluctuating market price of hydro or they can sign a contract for anywhere between one and five years with the marketers who are calling and knocking at our doors for a fixed cost for energy, which will be identified on your bill as the "Electrical Supply".

From what we have seen, rates being offered by marketers at this time range from \$.0569/kWh (kilowatt hour) for three years to \$.0595/kWh over five years.

Currently Aurora Hydro is at approximately \$.0430/kWh but that will revert to the average hourly charge once the market opens.

Because we have yet to experience this system of purchasing our hydro, it is difficult to tell which is the better system.

Many have chosen to wait it out and stay with Aurora Hydro until after the market opens and we fully understand the effect of the new billing and what the effects of our options will be.

As I understand it, the new bill will have the following components.

(The only component we as consumers have any choice with is the "Electrical Supply", where we have a choice to stay with Aurora Hydro at a fluctuating market rate or sign with an energy company at a fixed rate.)

Electrical supply - This is the electricity we actually use. The rate is set by the utility, or the electricity marketer, whoever you buy from. Electricity supply is the only part of the electricity system that is deregulated. All other parts of our bill will still be regulated and controlled by the Ontario Energy Board. This is not identified separately on any utility bills yet. It is currently combined with Transmission, Debt Retirement and System Operation.

Distribution - The cost of delivering the electricity from the utility's border to your home or business. This pays for the construction and maintenance of the wires and systems. It is a regulated rate payable to the utility. Identified separately only by a few utilities to date.

Transmission - The cost that your electricity supplier has to pay to get the electricity from where it is generated to you. It is also a regulated rate payable to the utility. Not identified separately yet, but is combined with the electricity supply.

Debt Retirement - This is a charge to help pay down the accumulated debt of the former Ontario Hydro, estimated at about 21 billion dollars. They accumulated this debt building the electrical system in Ontario. It is not identified separately yet, but combined with electricity supply.

System Operation - This represents the costs of the operation of the provincial electricity system and the facilitation of the wholesale hourly spot market by the Independent Market Operator.

Rural Rate Assistance - This is an equalization charge paid for by the urban customer to assist with the much higher cost of power in rural Ontario regulated by the Ontario Energy Board.

Customer Monthly Administration Charge - This is a fixed monthly charge to compensate the utility for the cost of making sure that you always have access to electricity. It also pays for the cost of connecting and billing.

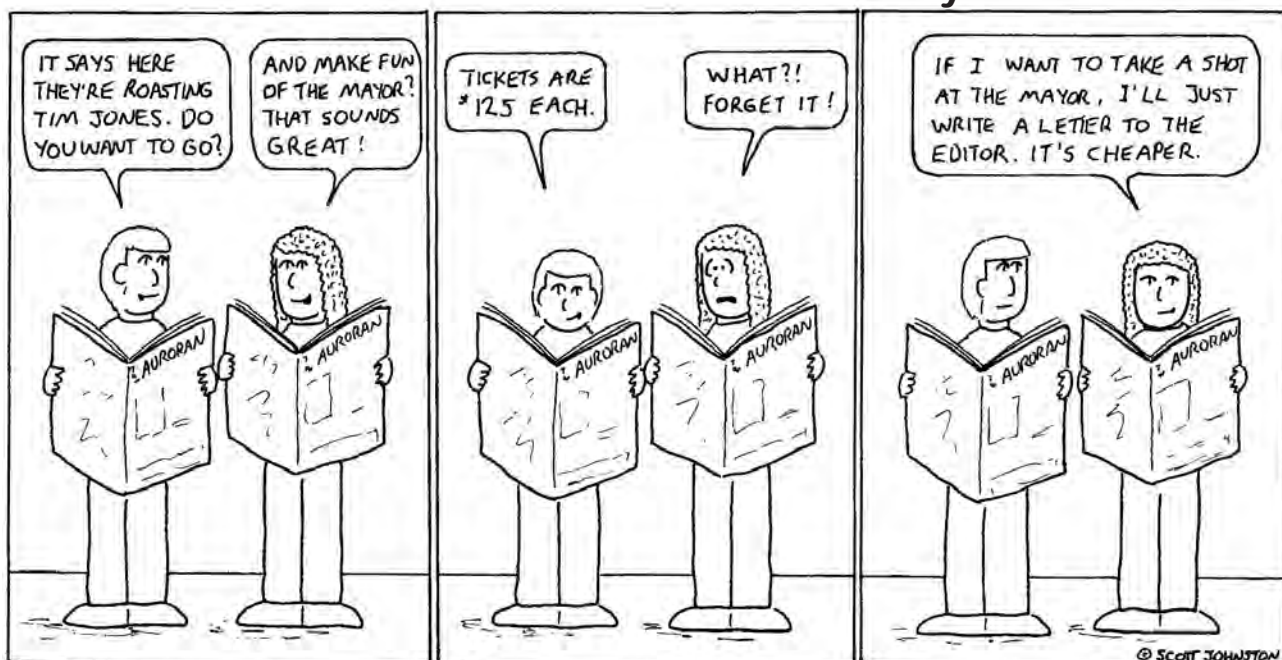
Current estimates indicate that after May 1st, your electrical bill will increase, partially due to the regulation required to monitor this system, in addition to added administrative charges to make the system work and of course, to pay off the Ontario Hydro debt.

Time will tell if, in the long term, this process will avoid greater costs than if the system did not change at all.

Aurora Hydro is available to answer any questions you may have during this transition. They can be reached at 905-727-4612.

If you see something in this column that you wish to respond to, I welcome your comments, either through the paper, to the Town Hall by mail - Box 1000, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 6J1 or e-mail at tjones@town.aurora.on.ca

Machell's Corners



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

Chickens galore at railway station

To the editor,

That story about the Aurora railway station got my attention.

I used to work there. Between 1957 and 1964, when I worked there, we shipped chicken five days a week.

On an average day, we would ship, in hampers and crates, from 1,000 to 1,500 units per day.

We had a siding set up on the east side of the main line where we loaded the chicken into cars.

The agent for all business was my uncle, Cleveland Hickson.

He and a local trucker, Dick Buchanan, shared the express agency.

We shipped chicken from Choice Cut-up Chicken which was up on Old Yonge Street and Skyline Farms, which was near Kettleby.

Graham Transport

CWL, youth plan third rummage sale

To the editor,

The Catholic Women's League and the Our Lady of Grace Youth Group of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Aurora, are co-hosting a parish rummage sale Saturday, April 27, in Lynett Hall, 16 Catherine Avenue, from 8.30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We will be very happy to receive any donations and clean and usable items may be dropped off at Lynett Hall April 24, 25, and 26 between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon; 1 to 4 p.m., and 7 to 9 p.m.

This event is open to all the community of Aurora as well as surrounding areas and we look forward to making our third annual Rummage Sale successful and pleasant for everyone.

The funds derived from this sale will be used for parish and youth endeavors.

Sheelagh Reynolds,
CWL President

brought the Skyline chickens in.

Harry Graham had large pickup and delivery contracts for living and dead chickens with both outfits.

My job was listing the chicken choice brought in and doing a lot of loading.

I also handled the claims. I was kept busy. After Cleve retired, I went

to work for CN Express from which I now have a pension.

W.G. Willis
Aurora



The man with his back to the camera is Aurora's Bill Trimble talking with King George VI and the Queen Mum, who died two weeks ago. The Kennedy Street resident tells the story behind the photo in the letter below.

A special encounter with a gracious lady

Larry and I came down to London from Glasgow after a disastrous voyage through the War at Sea.

We were checking in at Canada House when a young lady, obviously distraught, came towards us.

"I need your help. There is an all-service canteen across the road, and the King and Queen will arrive any minute. We only have air force and army in there and we need some navy, too. Come quickly."

Larry and I followed her to the canteen and we were each given a bun and a mug of tea, I guess to make it look as if we belonged there.

Sure enough, in a few minutes, in came The Queen followed by her husband, King George VI.

As she walked past me she must have seen the "Canada" on my buttons.

She stopped, looked up at me and said, "I see you are from Canada. How long have you been over here?"

"We arrived yesterday."

She smiled her gracious, warm smile. "How was your trip over?"

It was on the very tip of my tongue to say,

"I'm sorry, that's classified".

I caught myself just in time as I realized she was not likely to be a security risk.

I made some general remarks about the great work done by the Royal Navy, and the King and Queen proceeded with their visit to the all-service canteen.

I was not aware of any photographers, and no one asked our names, but a couple of weeks later, Larry and I each received photos of our visit with the King and Queen.

The same photo still hangs in our house, and it is a constant reminder of a very special encounter with a gracious lady in the all-service canteen.


Bill Trimble
Aurora


ED. NOTE: Mr. Trimble says the "Larry" mentioned in the article is Larry Hynes, who today is a prominent Toronto lawyer, and the two were friends during the war. "He was an usher at our wedding," Bill said. The photograph was taken in 1941.


6 - The AURORAN, Week of April 9, 2002


Bouquets & Brickbats


BY DICK ILLINGWORTH

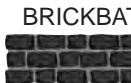
 **BOUQUETS** to Ildi Conner for her letter to The Auroran pleading for more full-service gas stations in the Aurora area like there used to be in the good old days. Many seniors and others sometimes have difficulty filling their tank or checking the oil and they seek a station where this service is provided.


 **BOUQUETS** to the staff at the Esso station located at Yonge and Royal Road for giving motorists a choice. The front pumps are self-serve, while the pumps in the rear are full-service, and there's usually a lineup.

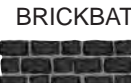
 **BRICKBATS** to members of Aurora council for failing to ask staff questions as to what's going on with the regional contract for the reconstruction of Wellington Street East. It's been going on for ages with no end in sight at a great inconvenience to Aurora motorists. The same might be said for the unfinished condo building at Wellington Street and Industrial Parkway. Both are a disgrace!


 **BOUQUETS** to the Girl Guides of the Red Willow Creek District for helping to raise more than \$2,000 which will be divided equally between the new Aurora Library and Big Sisters of York. The money was raised by a Danceathon.

 **BOUQUETS** to Vivian Hould and the dozens of volunteers working with the St. John Ambulance dog therapy program. The volunteers are visiting Grades 1 to 3 in Aurora schools with their "Play It Safe with Dogs" program

 **BRICKBATS** to the provincial government if they even consider a potential request from the Highway 407 corporation to reinstate the process of refusing to renew licence plates of any car owner who has overdue toll charges. This practice was suspended in February, 2001, after several motorists were not allowed to renew their plates. They claimed they had been billed incorrectly. The government should not be a party to the private sector.

 **BOUQUETS** to Angela Jones, Jack Spiers, Dave Woodhead, and Liz Allen Van der Val and other Royal Le Page real estate agents on winning various sales awards.

 **BRICKBATS** to those telemarketing firms who require their operators to phone residents on a Sunday afternoon at 5:45 p.m. Sunday is supposed to be a day of rest and an opportunity to relax after the last week and prepare for the next. When is somebody going to take action to stop these annoying pests?

 **BRICKBATS** to the Region of York - if a story in a recent Toronto Star is true - for spending nearly \$90,000 to find salamanders on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Better the region should invest the money in speeding up construction on Wellington Street.

What's wrong with brown spots?

ED. NOTE: The author has addressed this letter to her neighbours and provided The Auroran with a copy.

Dear Neighbour,

I have never thought of myself as a "busy body", and I know that by sending you this letter I run the risk of being called just that, but I feel so strongly about something that I can't sit idly by without at least sharing an opinion with you.

As the snow melts and reveals our sodden lawns our minds turn to spring and what to do to renew the beauty of our gardens and lawns. Soon crocuses and daffodils will start poking through the earth and it will be time to re-seed our yards so that the grass grows evenly and thick.

Many of us, however, feel the need to do much more than that. We feel compelled to say "yes" to one of the numerous lawn care companies who offer us their sales pitch of a grub-free lawn that rivals the colour of the local golf course. But at what cost?

The chemicals and pesticides we spray on our lawns are toxic. The people who work for these companies wear boots, masks and gloves while they spray. They leave signs behind warning people to stay off their lawn for several days.

Many of us have children and cats and dogs who play on this grass, breathe the air after they spray, and then rub their eyes and put their fingers in their mouths.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

Reader responds to columnists

To the Editor,

Re: Automobile is King in GTA (Poor Richard) and Growth is Inevitable (Tim Jones) The AURORAN, April 2.

Some necessary comments on Poor Richard's and the Mayor's recent columns on urban growth.

Richard, your column was the closest I have seen anybody in this town get to hitting the nail on the head.

The connection between land use planning and transportation, I've discovered, is not made by a great many people. I was so glad to see that you identified that "Public transit is thought about long after the homes have been built". It truly is, as you say, a chicken and egg paradox.

Everybody has cars, and therefore wants neighbourhoods which can accommodate them, and everybody lives in public transit unfriendly neighbourhoods and therefore wants a car to get around.

I was looking forward to a good argument about how this was a wrong headed approach, and should change.

Everything in your column made terrific sense, until the part about caving in to "...demands of developers for higher density, smaller lots and narrower roadways..."

With this sentence and the conclusion that "What is needed is a national program of subsidy for regional transit systems..." you ended up not making any argument at all, but simply illustrating the problem you took so much effort to identify.

While a financial plan for our public transit is important, what is more important is some intelligent urban planning, so that the public transit can be fast, convenient, and affordable.

To do this it is absolutely necessary to have "higher density, smaller lots and narrower roadways".

Efficient public transit requires a high population

density. That is why subways work well in Toronto but do not work in Keswick.

The specific example you raise of the Bayview / Wellington subdivision, fails not because of its design or density. It is an excellent design.

It fails because it is isolated from both a good public transit system, and most amenities. Put that same development between Yonge street and the railway tracks, add a few more amenities along Yonge street, run all day GO train service, and you will quickly see the number of two car families tumble.

Achieving that is another kind of chicken and egg paradox. We can't put in the transit and amenities because there aren't the people to support it, and there aren't the people to support it because the transit and amenities aren't there.

What we need now is a good plan for how to trade in this current chicken and egg, (sprawling subdivisions and cars) for a better pair, (well planned towns, and public transit).

Now we come to the mayor's column.

Sir, you argue that growth is inevitable and unstoppable, and the best we can

do is control it.

Forcing it to only "(grow) from the core out to our boundaries and not just anywhere there is pressure."

Is there any way we can accommodate the inevitable population growth, but maintain our development boundaries, and improve our neighbourhoods for public transportation?

I think so. The first step is obvious, not to allow development densities which are so low as to make public transportation in these areas unfeasible. (i.e. nix any and all estate housing developments).

The next step is to encourage redevelopment of areas which have very low densities. This can be done with tax incentives, and is justifiable because high density developments are a

much lower per capita drain on town resources.

The next step is to discourage the development of lands which are as yet untouched. This probably cannot be done without assistance from the province as it would require imposing some sort of extra development tax that is currently prohibited.

But a start at least would be lobbying the province for this power.

This is the kind of argument I was hoping to hear from Richard, and that I would like to see some serious consideration of, from all levels of government.

Indeed it is the only way to stop perpetuating this damn chicken and egg business, and create a greener future.

Darryl Moore
Aurora



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

On town's growth issue, management falls apart

To the editor,

Re: Mayor's report April 2, "Growth is Inevitable" says Mayor Tim Jones.

Well sir, perhaps it is.

But is pell-mell, hell bent for election, pave over every blade of grass by Tuesday kind of growth inevitable?

I for one don't think so, and I suspect there are plenty of my fellow taxpayers and Aurora electors who agree.

Aurora for the most part is a well managed town, no doubt.

The garbage gets picked up on time, the snow gets cleared, and the Town's finances appear to be in good shape.

I thank you and your fellow councillors for your good work on these issues.

However, on the growth issue, the management falls apart.

There is no doubt in my mind that when it comes to development, the developers rule the roost.

Basically the developers get what they want from Aurora, when they want it, where they want it, with the bare minimum of conformance to the Official Plan.

Need an OPA? No problem, it'll get passed PDQ. Need some slow selling Industrial zoned lands rezoned Medium Density Residential? Yes sir, coming right up! Need to get another few hundred homes built and sold? We'll get that organized for you right away!

Now why is this rapid pace of residential development so inevitable?

Certainly the OMB plays a role. This is not a demo-

cratic organization. We do not directly elect its members. In recent years their decisions appear to be mostly developer friendly. There is certainly an "OMB appeal chill."

Municipalities are reluctant to pay for the necessary legal expenses to do the appeals, so there is a tendency to cave in to the developers' requests, or to "plea bargain" a settlement to avoid an OMB hearing.

We as voters and our Municipal and Regional officials need to lobby our MPPs to correct the powers and composition of the OMB.

Please, Mr. Mayor, don't lay the inevitability of growth entirely on the OMB's doorstep.

You have an obligation as the Town, to bite the bullet and fight the OMB on our behalf, when necessary.

As well, there appears to be something of a symbiotic relationship between the developers on the one hand, and the staff and elected councillors of the town on the other.

This Town is addicted to the increasing assessment afforded by development.

If the development were to suddenly stop, the residents would continue to demand new facilities and amenities to support earlier development.

Without the development revenue, elected councillors would be faced with the Hobson's choice of either saying no, or of raising taxes to pay for the new goodies.

It's easier to keep the bandwagon rolling.

Just don't plan to be around when the music

stops, because the whole deal is like a pyramid scheme - it only works as long as you keep adding new development, and only at an accelerating pace at that!

Town managers and professionals are hooked on the development needle for the same reason.

How would the various departments fare without growth?

Fewer promotions, smaller pay raises, less toys to play with, fewer interesting projects to work on, etc. Career prospects are certainly enhanced if you have plenty of development dollars rolling in to finance it all!

So, Mr. Mayor, you and your fellow Councillors do have choices.

You can continue to roll over for the developers, and keep it all rolling until the day comes, (in the not too far distant future) when all the vacant lands are developed; or you can start to wean the Town off the development addiction now.

The question you need to ask yourselves, and it's a tough one, is "what's best for the long term future of Aurora?"

Sadly, not enough of our residents give this matter much thought, as witnessed by the pathetically low voter turnout for municipal elections.

But, who knows, maybe one day this development issue will catch fire, and the voters will rise up.

If and when they do will you be able to defend your record?

John Megarry
Aurora

Information flowing on Aurora's history

To the editor,

I have just returned from spring break.

Thanks for sending the information from Ken Elmer. I remember that name, but cannot put a face to it.

He certainly remembers the downtown area a little before my time.

I have also heard from Keith Kincaid whom I remember. I expect some good material from him.

I have linked in by e-mail

with the library in Aurora. The librarian who answered my e-mail is called Charlene.

I hope I have made her interested enough in my project to find some dates for me.

I have put together some introductions to chapters now I need more memories from contemporaries. Can we push for material again and perhaps add a special public thanks to Ken Elmer and Keith Kincaid.

I'm not willing to give up yet.

Elizabeth Milner
Rosseau, Ont.

ED. NOTE: Ms. Milner is attempting to write a book about early Aurora and is looking for first hand accounts of the town as it was years ago. If you can add anything, please call our offices and we'll forward all material to her.

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April 19, 20, 21.

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Under bright, sunny skies, Aurora Mayor Tim Jones snips the ribbon to officially open the 25th Hock Shop store Saturday. This branch, located on Allaura Blvd., had a day long celebration, and offered proceeds to the Yellow Brick House. Attending the opening were company president Andrew Martin, left, and founder and partner Bill Hockley, right.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Aurora Wine Circle

Enjoying the fruit of their labours

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

It was in 1974 when Werner and Ursula Roesener gathered a few Aurora amateur winemakers together and established the Aurora Wine Circle Club.

The club exists today.

By 1976, the club had 12 members who met on a regular basis to share ideas or test one another's expertise as connoisseurs of wines.

The Aurora club was affiliated with the Amateur Winemakers of Ontario, an association of 40 clubs around the province at that time.

Members of the club must not only enjoy drinking good wine but be able to make it with their own blends as well.

At that time an amateur winemaker could get enough equipment and fruit to prepare his first batch for around \$25.

The monthly meetings were held in the homes of club members and sometimes they would engage in a blindfold taste test to see how the homemade blends stacked up to commercial varieties.

Or they might sample some unique drinks, such as gingerroot or dandelion, which were not available in the stores. Other meetings included a guest speaker, possibly a professional wine taster.

"Winemaking is an art that never stands still. There's always something new to learn," Roesner was quoted as saying in January 1984.

That's how he explains his infatuation with winemaking over the past 25 years.

A native of Germany, he remembers his parents making wine when he was a young boy, but he didn't become interested until he settled in Aurora in 1958.

Over the years the quality of his wines improved as he developed different blends and techniques. He noted a marked improvement when he joined other winemakers to form the Aurora Wine Circle.

The best wines of the club are entered into a provincial competition organized by the Association of Amateur Winemakers of Ontario. The Aurora Club hosted the 1984 convention.

At that time, Roesener was making several different classes of wine, including red and white table wines, dessert wines, sparkling wines, sherry and social wines.

In addition to winemaking, the Aurora Wine Circle is also a social club as members and their families get together for Christmas parties, beach parties, theatre nights, conventions and trips to wineries.

In October, 1984, his 1983 champagne won first prize

and best of show award out of 420 entries at the annual provincial competition of Amateur Winemakers of Ontario.

The same wine won first prize and best in show award at the national competition.

Roesener appeared on a recent "Our Town" TV show on Aurora Cable Internet. The Aurora Wine Circle Club is still active and meeting monthly in members' homes.

In addition to the Wine Circle Club, Roesener started the Wine Tasters Guild Aurora in 1983 to learn more about good wine. Members meet monthly to taste and judge commercial wines from a list of wines previously selected by the membership.

Originally they met in the Aurora Museum in the Old Church School but when the Liquor Control Board of Ontario changed the rules, they had to start meeting in members' homes, which restricted their membership.

Currently the membership is full, but names will be accepted on a waiting list.

To learn the art of wine-making or to obtain more information about the Wine Circle Club call Roesener at 905-727-9040 or Gordon Barnes at 905-727-2623. To get on the Wine Tasters Guild of Aurora list, call Roesener.

Aurora's airport did not get off the ground

It was the age of flight and Aurora council decided to explore entering that age with an Aurora Airport.

On February 14, 1966, council approved in principle the establishment of an airport in the area.

A group of interested businessmen in the district approached the councils of five municipalities, Aurora, Bradford, Newmarket, King and East Gwillimbury to receive their approval in principle for the plan.

The promoters of the plan, a group of private pilots, made surveys of the industries in the district to obtain an indication of their interest in an airstrip.

They suggested a \$25,000 investment by each municipality would represent the total municipal investment necessary.

King and Bradford rejected the proposal, at least for the time being. Aurora, Newmarket and East Gwillimbury expressed lukewarm interest, although they agreed to appoint representatives to a joint committee.

Before the joint committee could begin its work, on February 28, 1966, Councillor Bill Trent suggested a heliport for Aurora.

He said that such a project would be inexpensive and would require little land.

The three-municipality partnership to build an airstrip north of Toronto met in private session on several occasions.

It was learned that one major Aurora industry supported the proposal and offered financial assistance for the airstrip.

Federal Department of Transport officials indicated they were eager to assist in locating smaller landing facilities north of Toronto to help relieve the pressure on Toronto International Airport.

While no location for the airport had been announced it was understood the committee was considering a location close to Yonge Street in the Aurora/Newmarket area.

Frank Orsi accumulated a total of 152 acres east of the railway tracks, north of Wellington Street for industrial and residential development. His planning included a landing strip for aircraft near the hoped for industrial park.

1966

On October 28, 1971, the York Regional Airport Association was formed at a meeting at the Aurora Highlands Golf Club and Dr. Peter Levers was elected president.

Levers told the audience that a York Regional Airport would spur industrial growth.

By December, 1971, aerial photographs of five potential sites for the proposed landing strip were under consideration, all within 15 minutes of Aurora and Newmarket.

By March, 1982, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce gave their support to the proposed airport.

Dr. Levers attended their

meeting and showed the film, "A Highway to the Sky," showing how one mile of airport runway compares with several miles of a multi-lane highway.

Levers was not as successful in showing his film to Aurora or York Regional councils. Regional council refused to view it and requested a written submission instead. Aurora council failed to respond to the request from the airport association.

There was little public support for the proposed airport and most comments heard were negative with noise, need and cost being the major concerns.

With the announcement by the federal government of an airport in the Pickering area, the Aurora airport faded away.



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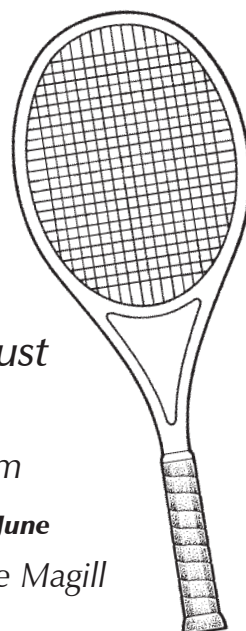
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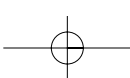
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Newspaper box issue has lengthy history

At a recent meeting of Aurora's general committee, a letter was received from a resident who complained about the proliferation of street boxes used to distribute daily newspapers and other publications, as being outdated, unsightly, and unnecessary.

Committee members agreed it was a timely opportunity for staff to investigate and report back on the feasibility of regulating the street boxes.

This isn't the first time the problem has been studied.

In November, 1969, council of the day received complaints about the haphazard placing of the news boxes and apparent lack of control.

Some councillors toured the town and agreed something must be done.

Letters were mailed to various media outlets with news boxes requesting a meeting with their local distributors.

It was difficult to find a date suitable for everyone and for various reasons the meeting was delayed and delayed, and eventually dropped off the list.

The issue came up again in June, 1971, when more complaints were received.

The clutter of the boxes at a number of spots added nothing to the aesthetics of the community, residents said.

Various suggestions on how to improve the situation and still allow citizens to obtain their papers were made.

One suggestion was that the papers join together to provide, at their expense, some neat form of common vending unit for all papers.

A meeting was scheduled for July 21, 1971, with the circulation manager, or a representative of all the papers using street boxes.

Following the meeting newspaper representatives moved the boxes in question to provide a better appearance. They also agreed to take further corrective action.

The Municipal Act of the day included a section on newspaper boxes. It provided the municipality with the right to "permit any person under such conditions as may be agreed upon to place and maintain boxes for the dispensing of newspapers upon a sidewalk or the untravelled portion of a highway under its jurisdiction."

By May, 1984, the complaints had ceased but council was concerned about the proliferation of the boxes and the unsightly clutter in various areas.

It was learned that Scarborough, in an effort to clean up its sidewalks, planned to mount the boxes on a concrete pad and charge newspapers \$50 to install each vending box, plus \$10 per year for each box. Staff was asked to investigate and report back.

Scarborough forwarded information including copies of their committee reports and a meeting with newspaper representatives. The

report was referred to staff to review, with the request that a policy be considered

to control the total number and location of all boxes.

The staff report indicated



Aside from moving from one side of the sidewalk to the other, not much has changed in the appearance of newspaper boxes in the last 30 or so years. Photo at top was taken prior to October, 1971 (we know that because there is a Toronto Telegram box second from left) and shows five newspaper boxes and a waste receptacle. Lower photo, taken Saturday, has newspaper boxes down to three, but the waste receptacle is still there. Citizens say the boxes are unsightly. But, according to the story, that's nothing new. They've been complaining about it for decades.

Lower photo by Matt Haggerty

The AURORAN, Week of April 9, 2002 - 13

Sales trailer policy to be reviewed

In view of recent concerns and complaints respecting information to the public about the sales of new homes in subdivisions, staff deemed it necessary to review and update the existing policy for temporary sales trailer permits.

In addition, developer requests for permits prior to final approval of plans has revealed it would be preferable to put in place a system requiring the posting of securities to discourage builders from opening sales trailers for business prior to receipt of all approvals.

This would provide staff with the ability to ensure that all information would be in a form and location to better provide public information in alerting purchasers to issues of concern such as location of sidewalks, walkways, utilities, etc.

Growth in Aurora to continue

In a planning application status report to last week's meeting of the general committee, staff noted they were dealing with 69 applications for various official plan amendments and rezonings.

The applications included 19 commercial properties of various sizes, one industrial application, two institutional, one golf course and four applications to rezone rural properties to urban.

Residential growth continues with approximately 25 applications for a wide range of housing units.

There are just under 5,000 residential units in various stages of the planning process.

Catherine Avenue

Parking restrictions delayed

Catherine Avenue was the subject of a lively debate at last week's council meeting following a Traffic Safety Advisory Board recommendation that parking be prohibited on the south side of the street between Yonge and Spruce Streets.

Rino Roncadin said he had lived on the street for 15 years, was not aware there was a problem, and wondered why the issue was being raised.

He noted there were some parking problems on Sundays at Our Lady of Grace Church and for some events at Lynett Hall.

He added the problem was aggravated during the winter months, but school buses and garbage trucks had no difficulty with parking permitted on both sides of the street.

He asked council to reject the recommendation.

He was supported by George Steeves, a 10-year resident of the street, who pointed out that it was only a Sunday problem and

even with parking on both sides there were still two lanes of traffic.

He said the TSAB was using a sledgehammer to kill a fly.

Graham Creelman, a 35-year resident, also spoke in opposition to the recommendation. He said the problem lasted for about one hour on Sundays and wasn't a big deal.

David Amborski expressed some concerns about safety and the ability of emergency vehicles to access the street with parking on both sides, but winter weather was the major problem. He added that he

didn't have a problem with the recommendation in the interests of safety.

Councillor Nigel Kean opposed the recommendation claiming fire trucks were able to access the street with parking on both sides and still have room to open their side doors.


He agreed the main problem was snow and suggested it be pushed farther back.

Councillor George Timpson, who chairs the TSAB, advised members that the board had reviewed the parking issue and safety was the main reason for the recommendation.

He asked council to support the recommendation and that the public works department staff review of the parking prohibition after a six-month trial and report back after the review.

Councillor Damir Vrancic

was successful in gaining council support on a 5-2 vote to delay the bylaw and trial period until the November 15th to April 15th period as the winter months appear to be when most problems occur.



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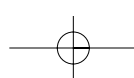
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Aurora Tigers fall in four

Sweep. Swept.

The Aurora Tigers Junior A hockey team, after eliminating Newmarket in four straight games, had the same thing done to them by the Brampton Capitals Sunday afternoon.

Brampton defeated the Tabbies 5-1 for their fourth win in a row and the second in a row by the same score.

But the Tigers have every reason to hold their heads high and be extremely proud of their accomplishments during the 2001-2002 hockey season.

Credit must go to the owners, management, coaches, staff and most importantly the players for making the season not only successful, but a lot of fun.

From finishing second in the Northern Division after the regular season, to winning three big playoff series, including the four-game sweep against the Newmarket Hurricanes to win the Northern Division Championship, advancing to the Semi Final Conference finals against the Brampton Capitals, this year's Aurora Tigers will be

a part of OPJHL history.

Probably the only people really cheering, and not because they dislike hockey, are officials at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, who were looking at a temporary wooden floor had Aurora advanced in the playoffs.

The Chamber's annual home show is scheduled to open next weekend at ACC 1 and 2, and a floor over the ice would have caused numerous problems.

That problem disappeared Sunday when the curtain came down on this victorious team.

The Capitals came out flying in the first period, looking to put an end to the series in four games.

Chris Whitley started for Aurora and faced a total of 18 shots in the period.

Brampton got on the score sheet first, but Aurora was quick to tie the game on a beautiful goal by Rob Godfrey, set up by Scott Goheen and Justin Olden.

Brampton's special teams kicked in again and fired two power play goals past Whitley to take a 3-1 lead

after 20 minutes of play.

The second period was very evenly played, with the Capitals outshooting the Tigers by a narrow margin of 11-9.

Lance King played goal in the second period and ended up finishing the game for Aurora.

Whitley was a huge factor in the success of the Tigers this year, particularly during the Newmarket series and after facing 18 shots in the first period, the coaching staff decided to switch the goalies to try and change the momentum the Capitals were building.

The period ended scoreless with the Capitals still leading 3-1.

Brampton dominated the third, outshooting Aurora 11-2.

King played an incredible couple of periods for the Tigers, but the high powered offence of the Capitals managed to get two goals past him, giving them the 5-1 victory.

Meanwhile, in Game 3, Tigers headed back to Brampton, facing an uphill battle after being down 2-0 to the Capitals.

The Tigers knew it would take a solid disciplined game in order to get back into the series.

Aurora came out flying in the first period, setting the tone with some strong forechecking and hard hits.

Special teams again turned out to a big factor in this game, as in the past two.

The Tigers opened the scoring on a beautiful short handed tipped shot by Mike Tuomi, set up by Nevin Hamilton.

Although Brampton outshot Aurora 13-7, the Tigers led 1-0 after 20 minutes of play.

Aurora continued their strong game for the first ten minutes of the second, holding onto the slim lead, but Brampton finally beat Chris Whitley at the 11.56 mark of the second to tie the game.

This goal seemed to wake the Capitals up and put the Tigers on their heels, as they quickly added to their score with two more goals, the last one coming on the power play.

Aurora seemed to come unglued in the third and started to take a number of undisciplined penalties.

Brampton outshot Aurora 14-6 and capitalized twice on the power play giving them the convincing 5-1 victory and more importantly a strong 3-0 lead to set up the fourth game in Aurora Sunday.

SUNDAY SUMMARY

CAPITALS 5

TIGERS 1

1st Period

BRA: Silveria (Mignardi) 2.33

AUR: Godfrey (Goheen, Olden) 7.05

BRA: Giordano (Efthimiou, Visser) 17.19

BRA: Hristovski (Visser, Efthimiou) 19.06

2nd Period

No Scoring

3rd Period

BRA: Efthimiou (Visser) 8.47

BRA: Healy (Brannen, Sousa) 10.53

THURSDAY SUMMARY

CAPITALS 5

TIGERS 1

First Period

AUR: Tuomi (Hamilton) 7.50

2nd Period

BRA: Brannen (Healy, Sousa) 10.56

BRA: Visser (Hristovski, Glead) 11.50

BRA: Silveria (Hristovski) 12.31

3rd Period

BRA: Brannen (Healy, Thompson) 5.12

BRA: Sousa (Glead, Healy) 12.57

Four tournament wins for Minor Atom Selects

For the Aurora Tiger Minor Atom Selects, winning tournaments just seems to come naturally.

Latest on the list - their fourth in a row, actually - came when they claimed all the marbles in the West Mall Lightning Select Tournament.

In four games, Aurora coughed up only one goal...and that didn't happen until the championship round.

To get there, they thumped Faustina, 10-0; West Mall 14-0, and Streetsville 4-0, before meeting Toronto Parkwoods in the final.

They gave up the first goal of the game, and of the series, but wasted no time rebounding for a 5-1 victory.

Andrew Mangialardi, Darrell Evans, Mathew Scrimmes, Blair Nimmo and Andrew McDonald scored for the winners.

Showing exceptional goal-tending talents throughout the tournament were Mark Suominen and Jonathan Anastasi.

Those two were amazing as well in the team's third tournament win, the one-day Millbrook Atom Select Hockey Tournament.

Playing against teams a year older than themselves, the squad blanked Oshawa 9-0 in the first game, then kept the

shutout streak going with a 3-0 win over Millbrook.

In the final, they held on to a 4-3 victory over a determined Orono team.

Mike Suominen is the coach of this tournament-hungry group of hockey players.



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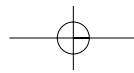
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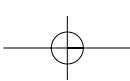
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A long road to second ice surface

It was in July, 1971, when the Aurora Minor Hockey Association petitioned Aurora council for a second artificial ice surface for hockey and other skating activities. The group offered to assist in any fundraising efforts to finance the project.

Council was also asked to review the ice allocation time in the Community Centre to allow Aurora groups to obtain prime ice time.

The association brief listed groups such as the Town League with only 15 per cent registration from the town, Sterling Drug hockey and St. Andrew's College.

Back in March, 1968, Councillor Pete Miller proposed an additional artificial ice sheet outside the Community Centre.

He said the sheet should be in operation for the coming winter due to the heavy

demand for ice time and suggested a Quonset-type roof could be used to protect the surface.

In May, 1972, Recreation Administrator Ernie Batson reported that the town already had a need for 38 more hours of prime ice time.

At that time, council was negotiating with the Aurora Lions Club, who had offered to build an ice surface, primarily for non-hockey use, in the Town Park.

But representatives of various hockey groups stressed the need for a second arena. It was pointed out that Aurora Minor Hockey and the Aurora Tigers Junior team had to rent ice time out of town.

Other groups complained about the lack of available meeting rooms at the Community Centre and the lack of facilities for ballroom dancing and symphony

1971

concerts.

In June, 1972, the Lions Club rejected a request that it join with the town and St. Andrew's College to build a \$250,000 arena on college land.

Club officials said they would prefer to proceed with their original proposal of installing an open-air ice surface in front of the band shell in the Town Park.

By November, 1973, council agreed to establish a special committee to investigate the construction of another ice surface. The funding for such a proposal was to be discussed in a closed session of council.

In May, 1974, council dismissed a subdivision proposal, which would have given the town almost \$1 million in recreational facilities.

The proposal to build approximately 600 single family detached dwellings and townhouse clusters included an offer to build and give to the town a year-round ice arena, a swimming pool and tennis courts.

The location was in the northwest sector of town, west of St. Andrew's College.

The proposal was considered premature, as any construction would depend on the services and road patterns, as there was no allotment of sewage available. The offer to build the recreational complex was termed a "carrot" by some members of council.

In order to finance a new arena, it was suggested that a municipal lottery be held and staff was directed to investigate how such a lottery could be carried out. A public meeting to discuss

the possibility of a lottery was held November 13, 1974.

Meanwhile, the special council committee, with service club reps, was trying to channel several ideas into a fundraising strategy.

It was later reported that council by law could not run a municipal lottery, and it was suggested a local organization consider holding the lottery as a community-wide project.

The question of whether a lottery should be held to provide funds for a sports complex produced many levels of support. Some questioned if another arena was really needed. A committee was established November 17, 1974, to further study the feasibility of a lottery.

By March, 1975, the committee reported that holding a lottery was not feasible, as the province had announced an Ontario Lottery, which would take away support for smaller local lotteries.

Faced with a severe shortage of ice time, in September, 1975, Aurora council once again considered construction of a second arena.

It was suggested that developers be forced to pay the major part of the cost as cash in lieu of the normal parkland dedication required from new subdivisions.

By October, 1975, Don Glass, who was instrumental in bringing the George Street swimming pool to Aurora, agreed to serve as chairman of a committee to investigate the feasibility of building a sports complex to include a new arena, pool and tennis courts.

In February, 1976, the committee and the town were negotiating with developer Frank Orsi for a possible site on Industry Street.

By June, agreement had been reached with the developer for a donation of

10 acres in lieu of parkland for a subdivision to the east of the sports complex site.

As there were objections to the proposed subdivision resulting in an Ontario Municipal Board hearing, in July, 1977, the Glass committee reported a delay in acquiring the promised 10 acres of land for the complex.

Because of the delay, the feasibility of creating a second ice surface and making other major renovations to the Community Centre was discussed in December, 1978.

Meanwhile in June, 1981, another feasibility study was carried out for the Industry Street sports complex.

The study was presented in May, 1984, and the proposed sports complex including an ice surface, swimming pool, racquet courts and fitness centre was estimated to cost \$5.4 million.

The ice pad was opened to the public in October, 1987, with the remainder of the complex opening in January, 1988, at a total cost of \$6.5 million.

With the aid of the Canada/Ontario infrastructure program a second ice surface was added to the Community Centre giving the town three arenas.

It was a long time coming and with continued growth the pressure is already building for another ice surface in Aurora.

Volleyball teams net two titles

Aurora Storm teams showed well in recent Ontario Volleyball Youth Division Championships, nailing down a first and second in two of the three Bantam Girls tiers.

In competitions at Huron

Heights Secondary School in Newmarket, Aurora's Storm Cyclones defeated Birch Cliff Crush 25-20 and 25-11 to win the quarter final round.

In the semis, they needed three games to defeat

Durham Attack Black, then finished second after losing to the Scarborough Titans.

In Tier 3, the Aurora Storm Blizzard won all the marbles with victories over the Markham Stingrays in

the quarter-finals, the Georgian Cubs Grey in the semis, and took two straight from the Burlington Blaze in the final.

Tier 3 games were played at Waterdown District High School.

Herb McKenzie

Former councillor dead at 63

from page 1

introduction of Lake Ontario water into Aurora's water supply.

He was convinced Aurora was the best community in the country and he vowed to keep it that way.

But when he decided not to seek re-election last term, Herb admitted even he couldn't stop the town's progress.

Several tried to convince him to seek re-election, but he was adamant.

"I want to travel," he said, but he never strayed far from his Morning Crescent home.

His final position - with Canadian Tire - came to an abrupt end a couple of years ago, when he fell at work, reinjuring a bad knee.

He was on long-term disability when the cancer was discovered.

For many years he was the chairman of the town's special events committee and made Aurorans proud of the many events taking place in the municipality. He was instrumental in bringing the colourful evening Santa Claus Parade to Aurora.

During his school years and after school, he helped his uncle at Spence's Bakery on Yonge Street. The business was sold to the Broadbent Bakery in Newmarket and Herb went along with the business.

He was an excellent baker, and many locals

enjoyed wedding cakes he carefully crafted.

For 20 years of his life he sold cars for many local car dealers before joining Richmond Hill Auto Parts.

For a brief time, Herb ran a restaurant in what is today the Filly & Firkin.

In 1985 when he decided to run for council, he made up his mind that he would buy a business in Aurora so he'd be readily accessible to the people.

About that time, Highland Chev Olds purchased Aurora Automotive for their auto campus on North Yonge Street, Herb decided

to open his own auto parts business.

He purchased the Aurora Furniture store on Wellington Street East (now the Purple Pig Restaurant) and converted it into his auto parts store.

It was a family affair with his late wife, Wanda, as bookkeeper, son, Herb Jr., as store manager and his daughter, Susan, as driver of the parts truck.

But while he was on council, Herb McKenzie belonged to Aurora. Every event carried his signature, from night time Santa Claus Parades to day time July

First parties.

On many occasions, meetings were held in the basement of his home, or around the pool. There was nothing formal about Herb McKenzie.

Services were held from the Trinity Anglican Church Monday morning.

In addition to son, Herb, Jr., and daughter, Susan, he is survived by two other daughters, Lori and Kris.

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If you recognize either of these two women, you have probably moved to Aurora sometime in the last 10 years. Karen Skinner, left, and Bobbie Whittington are recent winners of the Welcome Wagon Ltd. Hostess of the Year award. Karen, the Community Welcome Hostess of the Year for Ontario, is a three-time winner of the award. Bobbie, who works with Karen in the Aurora Community Welcome program, was named Special Event Hostess of the Year in Ontario for organizing Welcome Wagon Baby Showers for expectant parents. They will receive their awards at the provincial conference in Ottawa later this month.

Auroran photo by Matt Haggerty.

The postmaster who named us

The story has been told a thousand times before, but some new residents to the municipality may wonder how Aurora got its name.

The year 1804 is said to be the time that a little hamlet got its start at the corner of Yonge and Wellington Streets.

The first merchant to open a store at the intersection was Robert Machell, and the little hamlet soon became known as Machell's Corners.

More than 190 years later, Machell Avenue and Machell Park were named to pay tribute to the town's first entrepreneur.

A school contest was held to name the park on the north side of Aurora Heights Drive and the winner was Machell's great-great-granddaughter.

Machell's Corners was the name of the hamlet when Charles Doan entered the picture in the mid-1800s and that man was responsible for giving Aurora its current name.

He was the hamlet's first postmaster and reeve when the little village was incorporated in 1863, but he had already renamed the hamlet in 1854.

As a mythology student he named the hamlet after the Roman Goddess of the Dawn, as the era of a new beginning.

He also gave the hamlet its Coat of Arms bearing the motto, "Sol Meus Testis", or "As the Sun is My Witness".

The little hamlet became the head of rail in 1853. The first steam train, the "Toronto" of the Ontario,

1854

Huron and Simcoe Railway, chugged its way up from Toronto to Machell's Corners,

Doan sensed that the tracks leading into the hamlet represented a new era and that the improved business and trading centre was worthy of a more suitable name.

If the town has a colourful history, it is because citizens such as the one-time postmaster and merchant brought their own customs to their new home.

The beginning of the Doan family in North America came from Deacon John Doan, a Puritan, who arrived at Cape Cod in Massachusetts in 1620.

He settled in Eastham and some of his descendants remain in the Cape Cod area where the Doan Rock is located.

A Doan family association is still active in the area, with some spelling their surname Doan, others Doane.

Tiny Machell's Corners became the centre of rebel country in 1837 when the fiery William Lyon Mackenzie marched down

Yonge Street in his ill-fated attempt to seize York.

Many local residents were sympathetic to the rebels and joined Mackenzie in his march, Charles Doan being one of them. The marchers saw it as a peaceful mission, but others saw it differently.

The militia was called out and the rebels arrested. Charles, then 29 years old, on December 10, 1837, was thrown into jail for his participation in the uprising. Two men were hanged for their part, including Samuel Lount, a highly respected citizen of Holland Landing.

Charles escaped the hangman's noose and was released from jail in May, 1838. During his stay in jail, he carved two small wooden boxes, later acquired by the Aurora Museum.

An ambitious young man, Charles eventually moved from Sharon to Machell's Corners to become the postmaster of Whitchurch Township. He built Castle Doan at the corner of Yonge Street and Catherine Avenue. The street was named in memory of his wife.

When the house was demolished to make way for Our Lady of Grace Church, only a few pieces, including

the front door, were salvaged. The door is at the Aurora Museum.

Charles also built Doan Hall just north of the intersection of Yonge and Wellington Street, where Doane Hall Shoppers Drug Mart is now located.

His store became the new post office. It, too, was demolished in 1963 despite efforts to save it.

He was elected the first reeve in 1863 when Aurora was incorporated as a village. He retired as reeve in 1870 but continued as postmaster until 1882.

He died June 18, 1895, at the age of 86, having outlived six children and two wives.

Later, the family bible, which was passed from John to Charles, was presented to Aurora council as a gift from the Doan family.

Bayview widening discussions continue

A public hearing on the region's proposal to widen Bayview Avenue from Wellington Street East in Aurora to Mulock Drive in Newmarket was held several months ago in accordance with the Municipal Act.

Although staff recommended the enacting of a bylaw authorizing the construction of the widening project, members of the region's transportation committee asked that staff investigate and report back on a specific issue of concern related to the project.

Currently Bayview Avenue is a two-lane paved road with gravel shoulders and roadside ditches.

Existing traffic counts indicate the section of Bayview Avenue north of the St.

John's Sideroad is beyond the capacity of a two-lane road and the section south of the sideroad will soon reach capacity.

The staff presentation at the public hearing indicated that the proposed widening would be taken equally on both sides of the existing road, in the vicinity of a natural area on the north side of Ballymore Drive.

During the public deputations it was asked why the widening could not be taken entirely on the opposite side of the road given that the lands on the opposite side are currently undeveloped. This would eliminate the need to remove any trees. Staff was directed to investigate.

The valley lands are owned by Aurora and regulated by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

These trees provide a natural visual and acoustic screening of Bayview Avenue currently enjoyed by the homes that back onto the watercourse.

Area residents consider the area as a valuable local natural/park feature.

The region's study team met with two local residents to discuss these concerns then invited all Aurora councillors and staff for a site visit.

In January, four members of Aurora council, two staff and two local residents met with regional staff on site to review the natural area in question.

At the meeting regional staff demonstrated the extent of effect on the trees in the area.

Indications from those who attended were that the encroachment of the proposed roadway grading into the natural area would not impact the area as greatly as originally believed.

As a result of the on site meetings, the Class EA study's preferred design alternative has been refined so as to not significantly impact the natural area.

Regional and Town of Aurora staff will work together to determine opportunities to further protect and enhance this natural area as part of the Bayview Avenue widening project.

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Rumours & Rumblings

LLBO used Aurora for Sunday testing

Today it is quite common to go shopping at the LCBO on a Sunday but it wasn't always that way. Back in November, 1992, Liquor Licence Board officials held informal discussions about test marketing on a Sunday and Aurora was on the list as one of the pilot projects.

The government had agreed earlier in the year not to lay charges against storeowners who opened Sunday, although the legislation hadn't been formally adopted.

The move prompted wine stores, owned by private businesses, to push for Sunday openings. This started the LCBO officials thinking and discussion started.

The concept of Sunday openings was not well received and the LCBO shelved the idea for the time being.

KING COLE DUCK FARM

It was back in 1947 when Jim Murby launched his King Cole Duck Farm on Temperance Street where the Temperance Street apartments are now located looking over the Lions Park where the former town outdoor swimming pool once resided.

He tried Hereford cattle and then poultry but neither project was successful, so he moved into ducks and never looked back. He started with six birds and now sells about 1.5 million birds a year.

The King Cole Duck farm is now located in a rural area of Whitchurch-Stouffville. The entire operation is mechanized.

When the ducks reach seven and a half weeks, about five pounds, they're ready for the market, as older birds are not easily plucked.

The operation is much more modern than the Aurora days when on a warm summer night the pungent odour of the duck farm is still remembered by many Aurorans.

THREATS OF BOMBS IN AURORA

In October, 1970, two bomb scares sent people scurrying from the Sterling Drug plant on Yonge Street and from the Aurora Senior Public School on Wellington Street West.

Sterling Drug received a phone call shortly after 1 p.m. warning that a bomb would explode at 1:30 p.m.

The building was cleared by 1:25 but no explosion

occurred.

Four Aurora police officers were dispatched to the scene but no explosive device was found.

The next day an anonymous caller told officials at the Senior Public School that a bomb would go off at 3 p.m.

The school was evacuated but again no device was found and classes resumed shortly afterwards.

Then in November, 1971, York Regional police alerted 27 York Region industries, including five in Aurora, after receiving a threat through the RCMP that all American firms located in Canada would be bombed if nuclear testing continued.

The Aurora firms were Sterling Drug, Checkerboard Farms, Sisman's Shoes, Excel Metalcraft and OEN Electric. All the plants closed for the day and sent employees home.

There were no bombing incidents anywhere in Canada and the Amchitka blast went off as scheduled.

TEACHER TRAINING RECALLED

A few issues ago the letters to the Editor of The Auroran filled the pages with letters pro and con about comments made by Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School mathematics teacher Bob McRoberts regarding teacher training.

In May, 1995, McRoberts received the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in Science, Technology and Mathematics.

The award was made to teachers who have made a major, proven impact on student performance and interest. He was selected as one of 53 winners across Canada from 222 nominations.

At the same time he was named as a finalist in the Toronto Sun Teacher of the Year contest, and named by the York Region Board of Education for outstanding service.

This is a teacher that the Harris Tory government requires teacher training!

WATER PROBLEMS IN AURORA

Aurora residents have suffered through water problems over the years including rusty water staining clothes, smelly water and water shortages.

With the creation of York Region in 1971 the region assumed control of the source and storage of water with the local municipality responsible for distribution.

In April, 1977, there was a hot debate at Aurora council as to whether Aurora was facing a shortage of water with Councillor Richard Isaacson claiming there was and Councillor Evelyn Buck arguing there wasn't.

Isaacson pointed out that the region said there was a shortage and as they must approve subdivision approvals, Aurora must take action.

The controversy broke out again in April, 1979, when Mayor George Timpson argued at regional council that control of the municipal water supply should be returned to the local municipality.

Timpson pointed out that prior to regional government the local government owned and controlled its wells and pumping facilities.

When the region took over they assumed control of the wells and pumps and charged the local municipality for drawing the water, maintenance and new projects.

He also charged that by controlling the water supply, the region was controlling development.

BRITISH PHONE BOOTHS ON CALL

Back in December, 1998, Aurora residents thought they were going to get a touch of merry olde England thanks to an offer from a private firm to locate two authentic British telephone booths in the downtown area.

Tardis Enterprises imported 33 British phone booths and made them available for free to Ontario municipalities.

As a result of approvals by the CRTC, Tardis was licensed to operate pay phones.

The cast-iron booths, weighing approximately 2,000 pounds each, were to be placed by the Old Post Office on Yonge Street and either by the Billing's Well parkette near Murray Drive or in front of the Doane Hall Pharmacy, but it was obviously a wrong number as they never arrived.

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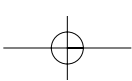


DEATH NOTICE

Allen, Lorraine (nee Hudson) passed away peacefully in the Aurora Retirement Centre on March 31, 2002 in her 82nd year. Lorraine was predeceased by her husband Stan in 1985. A loving mom to Rob (Gail), Roy (Lynn) and Jim (Toby). Proud Gramma to Mark, Glen, Paige and Josh and Greatgramma to Jacob. Lorraine was a long time resident of Aurora and owner of Hudsons Confectionery from the 1930's to 1963. Arrangements were entrusted to the Thompson Funeral Home in Aurora (905) 727-5421

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