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# THE AURORAN

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

Vol. 2 No. 27

Week of April 23, 2002

905-726-2892

## Van would be a limo for Aurora

If Aurora resident Gerry Conetta gets his way, the town will have another limousine service.

He appeared before Aurora's general committee last week seeking approval of the idea.

Conetta would put a van on the road as a licenced limousine.

He claims he meets all the requirements of the current bylaw, but staff is reluctant to issue the licence.

He pointed out that a van can be licenced as a limousine.

However, council was expected to deal with a staff report this week which suggests defeating the recommendation.

Staff felt a van did not qualify as a limousine.

Results of that discussion were not available at press time.

Conetta said he had taken early retirement from teaching and drove a taxi for about a year-and-a-half.

During that period, Conetta says he saw the need for a limo service, especially to take people to the airport.

He pointed out that three limousines were licenced in Aurora and two were out of service.

That resulted in limousines from other areas transporting Aurora passengers.

Committee members agreed to ask staff to prepare a comprehensive report on town policy for the licencing of taxis and limousines.



### Home Show draws 5,500

When the 16th Annual Aurora Chamber of Commerce became history Sunday night, the numbers began to show its success. More than 5,500 paid admissions over the three-day show, into two arenas full of more exhibitors than ever before. Officials said the first time Food & Wine Show was very successful and talk of making it an annual event was heard everywhere. That show replaced the Showcase House, a feature of the event for the past two years. Special guest Bonnie Stern (bottom photo) made three appearances Saturday to demonstrate her abilities in the kitchen, and apparently, she was very impressed with Mayor Tim Jones, who helped her with his kitchen know-how. Meanwhile, Christina DiPaola, 9, face nicely painted, shows her musical abilities at the Piano Studio booth. Piano Studio, currently located in Newmarket, is planning to open a branch in Aurora. Top photo shows an overall view of the show in Aurora Community Centre Rink 2.

Auroran photos  
by Naomi Tobin  
and Matt Haggerty



## Briefly...

### ISLAMIC SPEAKER

Aurora United Church hosts Interfaith Sunday this week with a special guest from the Islamic faith.

Raheel Raza, a much sought after celebrity, will speak at the 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. worship services.

All members of the community are welcome to attend.

### SEARCH FOR THE STARS

They're looking for talent. No, no, not you...your pet.

Abbotsford Animal Behaviour Centre at Yonge and Kennedy is holding its first "Search For The Stars" charity contest, whereby your pet could wind up as a headliner in a Waltham Pet Food production.

It all happens Saturday, May 4, from 11 a.m. A minimum \$10 donation per animal is required with proceeds to the two area hospitals.

Call for an audition appointment - 905-727-7379 or 905-737-4506. Woof. Meow.

### A CASUAL GROUP

If you'd like to play soccer this summer in a "very casual men's league", Scott Sillcox wants to hear from you.

He's organizing players aged in their mid-20s to late 40's, to play Wednesdays at St. Andrew's College starting June 5.

There's a \$50 registration fee.

Interested? Call Scott - 905-727-5685 at home or 905-940-9229 at work.

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## COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

### CONTINUING

Aurora Minor Ball Association limited space still available. Ages 5-21 (born 1997 to 1981). For more information see [www.amba.ca](http://www.amba.ca) or email [famdoro@sympatico.ca](mailto:famdoro@sympatico.ca) or call 905-727-8461.

### APRIL 26

Final day for nominations for Aurora's annual Community Recognition Awards. There are awards for sports, volunteerism, historical building preservation, and more. Nomination forms available at the Town Hall. Award ceremonies take place on June 6.

### APRIL 27

Our Lady of Grace Parish Rummage Sale at Lynett Hall on Catherine Avenue from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you wish to donate or want more information, call Sheelagh Reynolds at 905-727-7761.

### 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 3-5

The 40th Annual Town of Aurora Art Show and Sale takes place at the Town Hall. It's a juried show with more than 100 artists displaying about 300 artworks.

### MAY 4

Aurora Optimist Rec Hockey born 1996 and 1997. Registration from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Aurora Leisure Complex.

### MAY 5

More than 100 clowns will entertain from 1 to 3 p.m. at Aurora Community Centre, Rink 2, courtesy of Clowns Canada. Watch for details.

### MAY 8

Welcome Wagon seeks Aurora moms to attend a Baby Shower this evening. For a free invitation call 905-727-8072.

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# Councillor wants population figures

Councillor Nigel Kean expressed concern last week about the growth projected by Metrus Development for a 112-acre parcel of land on the east side of Bayview Avenue, south of the St. John's Sideroad.

The lands are designated low/medium density residential and form part of a larger area forming what is referred to as the 2B secondary planning area. The Ontario Municipal Board

approved the current zoning.

The applicant has applied for a zoning bylaw amendment to permit the addition of one link house dwelling per lot as an option to the semi-detached units previously approved, to provide more flexibility in marketing the units.

Kean wanted to know what the proposed amendment meant in population growth and suggested the information be included in

all future planning reports.

Staff replied that a public hearing will be held prior to

the May 28 council meeting and the population projections will be provided.



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**\$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!



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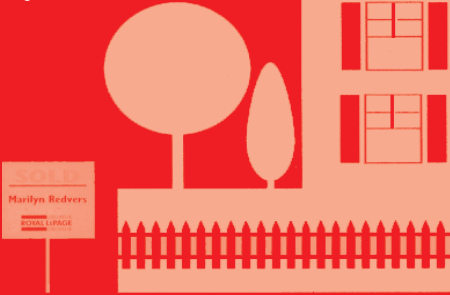
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Spa Director Mina Jafari Roe administers treatment to Tracy Coppola during a recent Aurora Chamber of Commerce After Hours gathering at Sormeh Spa on Wellington Street East.

Auroran photo by Matt Haggerty

## Planned subdivision moves ahead a notch

Aurora's general committee has approved in principle a subdivision of 439 units and a projected population increase of 1,498 on a 94.5 acre parcel of land located on the east side of Bayview Avenue between Wellington Street East and St. John's Sideroad.

In September, 2001, the town received an application to sever the eastern portion of lands to create a parcel to be transferred to Ducks Unlimited.

The eastern portion of the lands contains two ponds which are part of the East Aurora Wetland Complex and will form part of a proposed Wildlife Park.

The severance line is based upon a line set back 35 metres (115 feet) from the wetland complex. The severance was approved last October.

A public planning meeting was held in January and staff were directed to prepare conditions of draft approval and an implementing zoning bylaw, subject to the resolution of outstanding issues and con-

cerns raised by citizens and council members.

Last week, staff advised committee members the draft plan had been revised in order to resolve the outstanding issues and concerns.

The development of the subdivision will occur in

phases with the first phase limited to 250 dwelling units.

No further approvals will be granted for any additional phases until the region and the town have confirmed adequate water and sewer capacity is available.

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## Review signage, he says

Councillor Damir Vrancic, as chairman of the town's Economic Development Committee, expressed the committee's concern about the signage within the Wellington Street corridor from Yonge Street to Bayview Avenue.

He tabled a copy of the Town of Markham sign bylaw as it pertained to provisions of the bylaw dealing with the heritage area.

The bylaw is very restrictive as to the number, size, height and location of the sign.


Committee members agreed to recommend to council that staff review the Markham bylaw for possible incorporation into the town's bylaw and if enacted, how it could be enforced.



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*Poor  
Richard*

## Ward System - is now the time?

*History goes round and round,  
As issues keep coming back;  
It's never dull for council,  
As debates they never lack!*

*Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

Sometime between now and the next municipal election in 2003, there will likely be a request for a ward system for the municipality.

With the rapid growth of Aurora resulting in urban sprawl and the loss of agricultural land, residents in new subdivisions will, in all probability, ask council to implement a ward system.

Residents in the newer areas of the town sometimes feel they are being left out of the local political system and they want more say in the affairs of the municipality, especially for their particular area.

The debate has been ongoing over the years since 1965 when Councillor Jim Murray first suggested a ward system be inaugurated so that new subdivisions like Regency Acres and Aurora Heights would have a representative on council.

When council refused to discuss his suggestion, an angry Murray accused the 1965 council of being "the most quibbling and idiotic council to represent Aurora in many years".

Murray was persistent and reintroduced his suggestion in June 1966.

This time he was more successful as council agreed to establish a citizen/council committee to study the issue of a ward system.

The committee consisted of two members of council, two school trustees and four citizens representing the four segments of the municipality.

There was a lot of good discussion at the committee, pro and con. Finally a consensus was reached that a ward system was premature and possibly should be reviewed when the population reached 25,000.

Council had another opportunity to inaugurate a ward system in May, 1970, during the formative discussions of the structure of York Region.

Council was asked to decide on the size of council and the method of election.

Not knowing what the future held, council decided to stay with a nine-member council elected at large.

Ward systems are normally implemented for geographic or population reasons.

In large rural townships like King a ward system is essential, even though population may be quite limited.

Otherwise, all the elected representatives could come from the same community.

The same applies to large urban areas like Toronto. Aurora is somewhere in between.

An Ontario Municipal Board hearing was held in Aurora on February 12, 1991, to hear a citizen appeal over a council decision not to implement a ward system.

The request came from two ratepayer groups from new subdivisions.

The OMB members rejected the appeal. They ruled that after considering all the evidence it appeared to indicate the dissatisfaction with the performance of some members of council because they voted contrary to the wishes of the petitioners.

The board also noted that the petitioners originated from two areas of the municipality and not from the town at large and there was no apparent groundswell of interest or demand for change.

With the development of the lands between Bayview Avenue and Highway 404, the OMB ruling may be different the next time, and council should start to consider the possibility.

## He seeks veterans

**To The editor,**

The Royal Canadian Legion is interested in obtaining information on the care of veterans in long term facilities.

If you know of a veteran in a nursing home who could use assistance in obtaining proper care, please notify the undersigned.

**Don Dempsey**  
905-713-0342



It's December, 1946, and the Aurora Public School on Church Street is presenting the Operetta "Sitdown Strike in Santaville" by the Grade 4 students. The students are, row 1, left to right, Sally Easterbrook, Lowell (Buddy) Sutton, David Waite, Ron Egan, Muriel Hartsman, Mary Bell and Isobel MacGirr. Row 2, left to right, Yvonne Peterson, ?, Shirley Havey, Alberta Seaton, Elizabeth Hearn, Lorraine Zimmerman, Muriel Gilpin, Marilyn Gray, and Vera Egan. Row 3, left to right, Jon Bunn, Bruce

Gunton, Erna Eveleigh, Ron Fortier, Eddie Griffith, (Santa Claus), Suzanne Hulse, Barbara Williams, Joan Scott and Ralph Dorland. Row 4, left to right, Mrs. Melba England (music teachers), Audrey Coles, Carol Morrison, Mary Corbett, Margaret Barrager, Virginia bunt (pianist) Murray Hodgkinson, Joan Sutton, and Mrs. Olive L. Komar (Grade 4 teacher). The photographer was Garnett Barrager and Mrs. Komar loaned us the picture. Does it jog any memories?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

# McKenzie Marsh should be enjoyed

**To the editor,**

We in Aurora are very lucky indeed. We live in a community that is rich in man-made history and natural history. Many residents take pride in these attributes and work hard to preserve them.

We at LACAC (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee) take pride in identifying our heritage sites and finding ways and means of protecting them and promoting their protection.

We hold as our motto that our heritage speaks of what we are, what we have wrought and what we have thought important enough to preserve.

And so with that in mind we are looking around to see what legacy we are able to preserve for future generations.

We hope that we do an adequate job so that our children will be able to experience and see what life was like in our time and times before.

We are anxious to let them experience an ambiance that speaks of a gentler time where cyber space was not the only reality.

With this in mind we recognized that an unusual feature exists right at our doorstep that is neither fish nor fowl, or rather both.

It is a natural feature with environmental significance, but is man-made, or at least, man-enhanced.

And it is in danger of going the way of the dodo bird.

I am referring to the McKenzie Marsh and its town counterpart the

Atkinson Wetland.

Many residents do not know of it and many others do not realize its significance.

The Marsh spans the St. John's Sideroad, just east of Yonge Street.

It is home to many wetland creatures including its

most notorious tenant, the blue heron.

Unfortunately, to many, the St. John's Sideroad is a quick route between Bayview and Yonge.

But to many it is a great place to play pick-up hockey in winter.

**see page 5**

**THE AURORAN**

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

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"Above the Trio Restaurant"

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Map showing location: N / Mary St. / Wellington St. / Bayview

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# Plethora of murder plans in this comedy

For an evening of good food and exciting and humorous entertainment, don't miss the current production of "Murder at the Howard Johnsons" at

Howard Johnson Aurora. It's a comedy in two acts with an excellent cast.

Director Alan Blenkinsopp auditioned more than 20 performers and the three

selected for the play are perfectly cast and perform their roles with strength and they show a real flair for comedy.

Michelle Leduc plays the role of Arlene Miller who is caught between her love for her husband Paul, and her dentist Dr. Mitchell Lovell.

She recently portrayed the lead role in Markham's Little Theatre production of Noel Coward's "Fallen Angels," for which she won a Thea Award for Best Comic Acting Style.

Husband Paul, a blundering used car salesman, is played by Mark Hayward. He has appeared in several productions of Richmond Hill's Curtain Club, including musical comedy as well as comedies and recently performed the role of Alister Spenlow in the farce "Move

Over Mrs. Markham."

Brian Neale is Dr. Mitchell Lovell, who sees himself as a dashing heroic type, a middle-aged Lothario. He has been involved with several theatre groups in the area, including the Blackhorse Village players in Tottenham, and played many roles.

The action starts in a Howard Johnson during the late 1970s the week before Christmas. Arlene meets Mitchell in the room to which they have worked out a plan to murder Paul, so

they can be married.

Mitchell, pretending to be from Mexico, tricks Paul into coming to the room on the basis he has a hot car to sell. Paul arrives and is surprised to find his wife and his dentist in the room. When he refuses to grant Arlene a divorce, the murder plan goes into action.

And before the show ends, it seems everyone has one plan or another to kill everyone else.

Needless to say all the plans are doomed to failure.

There is continuous action with laugh lines, mirth-provoking situations and extravagant sight gags. It's a very funny comedy written by Ron Clark and Sam Bobrick and well worth seeing.

Produced by Howard Johnson Aurora and presented by the Mainstreet Theatre Company, the play continues every Friday and Saturday evening until May 31st.

Doors open at 6 with buffet starting at 7 and showtime at 8:30 p.m. Call 905-727-1312 for reservations.

Thirty-nine members of Theatre Aurora attended the Association of Community Theatres for Central Ontario Thea Awards Gala at the Inn on the Park last week.

The two productions selected by Theatre Aurora for adjudication were "Shadowlands," a drama, and the musical "Sullivan and Gilbert".

The two productions earned four nominations and two Theas for the local community theatre group.

Chris Cole won a Thea for Best Performance by a Male in a leading role for his performance as C. S. Lewis in "Shadowlands".

David Lye was awarded a Thea for an Adjudicator's Award for a Stage Debut for his performance as the Duke of Edinburgh in "Sullivan and Gilbert".

Nominations for "Shadowlands" went to Lenn Malstrom for best

lighting design, Jeff Burke for best set design and Norma Busby and Jean Mitchell for best presentation of a play.

Nomination for "Sullivan and Gilbert" went to Jennifer Harding for Best Supporting Actress for her performance as Violet.

The gala was organized in part by Jeff Burke, director of Theatre Aurora Youth Group and ACT-CO president.

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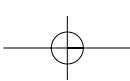
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10 - The AURORAN, Week of April 23, 2002

# Rabies clinic is proposed

Aurora pet owners may have a town sponsored rabies clinic sometime in June providing a sponsor can be found.

In March council asked staff to investigate the feasibility of holding a free rabies clinic in Aurora, similar to one held in Newmarket.

The purpose of hosting the rabies clinic is not only to provide a cost effective means for owners to have their pets vaccinated, but also to assist them in complying with the Ontario Health Protection and Promotion Act.

The act requires all pet owners to have their pets vaccinated against the rabies virus on an annual basis.

As a condition of this clinic, staff is proposing that only town residents be eligible for the program since the clinic would be subsidized by Aurora.

Staff from York Region and the town have volunteered to assist in the clinic.


A veterinarian or a qualified veterinarian technician must carry out the vaccination and staff is in the process of soliciting the services of local veterinarians

to partner in the clinic and volunteer their services.

Based on the experience of other municipalities similar in size to Aurora it is expected that about 300 pets will require vaccinations

at a cost of \$2 each.

Committee members directed staff to continue with the planning and attempt to find a sponsor for the \$600 expenditure for the rabies serum and syringes.



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**Thurs. MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>:** Contemporary 7 pc. dining room suite w/glass top table & brass trim, 7 pc. dark oak & 5 pc. oak bedroom suites, child's single mates bed w/book shelf top, 4 pc. sectional sofa w/double pullout bed, Kneehthead 2 pc. china cabinet, 5 pc. rd. oak table w/chairs, love seat, Kenmore refrigerator & matching 30" range, Kirby 4 vacuum w/attachments, entertainment unit, East Lake platform rocker, Victorian reproduction curio cabinet, cedar chest, pin wheel crystal, cornflower, R.S. Prussia, Crown Ducal, Carnival glass, collectable glass & china, tin wind up toys, tins, Royal Albert cups & saucers, oil paintings, decorator prints, lamps 8 plc. & 6 plc. plus china ware set, microwave, colour TV's, VCR's, dehumidifier, stereo equip. & speakers, good dresses, linens, sports cards, office chairs, plus hundreds of above average household effects too numerous to mention.

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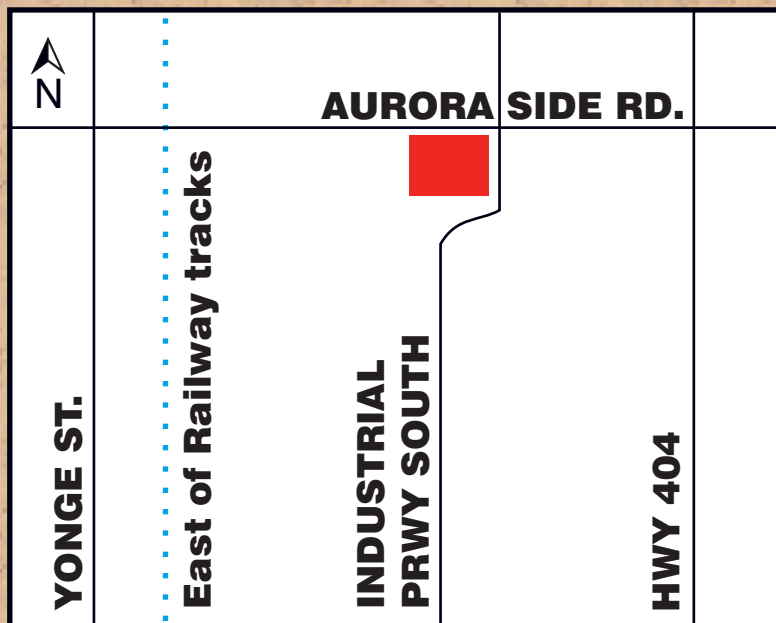
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