

Street named Hartwell

A major thoroughfare in Aurora's east end will be named Hartwell Street, after popular former councillor Bob Hartwell, who died last summer.

Aurora Council was expected to endorse a general committee recommendation this week that approved several street names in a proposed residential development on the east side of Bayview Avenue, south of St. John's Sideroad.

The Town of Aurora's street naming policy provides developers with the option of requesting specific street names for proposed new developments, subject to approval by the regional planning department and acceptance by the fire department, and subsequently council's approval.

The St. John's Road Development Corporation's wish to proceed with the clearance of conditions of draft approval for their proposed development have selected names from council's approved Name Bank.

The names included in the Bank are those of historical persons or families and others within the municipality who have made outstanding, significant and/or exemplary contributions to the municipality.

The late Mr. Hartwell will be remembered by a main east/west collector road through the subdivision that will cross the valley lands and extend into the future planning area to the east.

THE AURORAN

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

Vol. 2 No. 30

Week of May 14, 2002

905-726-2892

Lake Ontario water expected this month

Like it or not, Lake Ontario water is coming to Aurora by the end of May or early June, a York Regional official says.

The initial blending will be about three per cent at first increasing to about 30 per cent over the next 30 years depending on growth.

Regional council endorsed the strategy of supplementing the limited ground water supplies in the Aurora/Newmarket area with a City of Toronto based water supply in July, 1999.

Ilmar Simanovskis, York Region Operations Support manager, attended last week's general committee meeting to present a status report.

He explained the change was necessary to increase available water supplies to Aurora and to further protect the groundwater sources.

The water program includes construction of interconnecting links between the two systems.

Following the hookup a comprehensive testing program was implemented to ensure that all aspects of the Drinking Water Protection Regulation would be met when the two supplies were mixed.

After the testing, Ministry of the Environment approval was received for ammoniation of the groundwater supplies, which will permit the blending of the two water systems.

City of Toronto water is fluoridated to prevent dental decay, but with the blending of the water the amount of fluoridation will not be significant.

He explained the modifications required for the blending of the waters and the community information program and three groups of consumers who need to be aware of the change.

Home kidney dialysis patients should consult with their doctor. Tropical fish hobbyists should contact a pet store for information on dechlorinating agents and commercial/industrial consumers with process equipment sensitive to water quality should contact their equipment supplier for instructions, he said.

The key changes in the water supply system are the introduction of ammonia to the chlorinated water to produce chloramine and the presence of fluoride.

Councillor Nigel Kean was critical of the short time interval between the time the public information program was initiated and the introduction of Lake Ontario water into the system. He predicted there would be a public backlash.

Councillor John West expressed concern about the fluoride in the water, as many people were opposed to it. Simanovskis replied that with the blending of the water the amount would be insignificant.

Councillor Ron Wallace pointed out that in previous reports the initial amount of Lake Ontario water to be introduced ranged from

seven to 10 per cent and now council members were hearing that it was three per cent and he was curious about the differences and the impact. Simanovskis agreed to return after the changeover and report.

Questions were also asked about Toronto's odour and smell

problems with Lake Ontario water. Simanovskis replied that Toronto had added powered activated carbon to remove the objectionable taste and odour problems and it was successful.

He also assured members the blending system had been used successfully in other jurisdictions.

Briefly...

TOPPING HALF A THOU

The Seventh Annual World's Longest Street Festival On The World's Longest Street now has more than 500 vendors signed up, and only precious few spots remain unsold.

The Sunday afternoon event - this year slated for June 2 - usually attracts up to 15,000 people who visit booths on Yonge Street from Wellington to Murray Drive.

If you have something to sell or display - and if you hurry - you may still be able to grab a 10-foot space on Yonge.

Call the Aurora Chamber of Commerce at 905-727-7262 for further information.

OPEN HOUSE

With their 50th anniversary only one year away, the Aurora Nursery School, one of York Region's oldest non-profit co-op pre-schools, will hold an open house Wednesday, May 29, from 6.30 to 8 p.m. to answer inquiries about the Fall 2002 registration.

The school is located in the historic Lions Hall, 33 Mosley Street, at the corner of Victoria, in the heart of Aurora.

Programs are available in the Toddler, Nursery, Fours and Junior Kindergarten categories.

DON'T ADJUST YOUR SET

The Auroran's e-mail address - Auroran@msn.com - is acting up. Truth is, it's probably the editor's computer's fault.

Whatever the reason, the editor cannot access Auroran mail at that address, even though he knows there are 48 pieces in there waiting for him.

If you have sent material to that address in the last week or so, please send it again to RWall9999@aol.com until further notice.

The editor wishes he had his typewriter back.



After getting a mighty heave off the top of the ramp, Scott Denotter heads to the finish line of a soap box derby race held last week on Aurora's Canadian Tire Store parking lot. The Third Aurora Tuesday Cub Pack arranged the event and Cubs spent several weeks building their own modes of transportation. Leader of the Cubs, Bill Newman supervised the activity. Royal Woodworking's and Canadian Tire's generosity made the event a success.

Auroran photo by Matt Haggerty

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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 or email famdro@sympati-co.ca or call 905-727-8461.

MAY 19

Twin Dragon kick boxing - five title fights. Aurora Community Centre. Further information or tickets 905-727-3114 or 416-229-1280.

MAY 22

Aurora Neighbourhood Employment Resource Centre True Colours Personality Type Testing 1 - 4.30 p.m. Aurora Library. To register call 905-726-3702.

MAY 23

Spring Health & Wellness event featuring Dini Petty at Howard Johnson Aurora hotel. 6 - 9 p.m.. Ticket proceeds to Southlake Regional Health Centre Cancer Clinic.

MAY 25

The Aurora Seniors' Art Group will hold their 8th Annual Art Show and Sale at the Seniors Centre from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The art exhibition is the culmination of the artists' paintings completed during the year.

Aurora Grove Public School First Spring Fling at the school located at 415 Stone Road from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Events include tethered hot air balloon rides, dunk tank, silent auction and lots of games and races.

Christ Lutheran Church garage sale, 7 Lacey Court. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Further information, 905-713-1691.

MAY 26

York Regional Police Male Chorus will join forces with the Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir from South Wales, UK, at Marylake Shrine, 13760 Keele Street North, just west of Aurora. 7.30 p.m. Tickets, \$10. All proceeds to the Big Brothers of York. Further info at 905-727-1251, extension 304.

MAY 27/JUNE 14

The York Senior's Games are open to all York Region citizens 55 plus. For more information or to pick up a registration form, contact the Seniors' Centre on Victoria Street or call 905-727-2816.

JUNE 2

Michael Leach will entertain at 4 p.m. on the new Phoenix 3-manual organ at Trinity Anglican Church. Tickets \$8. For more information call the church at 905-727-6101.

Seventh Annual Street Festival on Yonge Street from Wellington to Murray. More than 480 vendors, entertainment, and something for everyone.

JUNE 7

The jumpers return to the Annual Aurora Horse Show sponsored by the Aurora Agricultural Society at Machell Park with a Grand Prix jumping competition

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.

“Dearly Departed” one of Theatre Aurora’s best

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Over its 40 years of community theatre, Theatre Aurora has presented many excellent performances and the current comedy “Dearly Departed” has to be near the top of the list.

The laughs start almost from the opening curtain and continue until the final curtain with humorous situations and witty lines, written by David Bottrell and Jesse Jones.

Co-directors Cy Buck and Bill White have selected a strong cast of veterans and newcomers, all particularly suited to the role of characters they are portraying, and they are characters.

The story takes place around the towns of Tula and Timson, somewhere below the Mason-Dixon Line, and affords the opportunities for comedic accents and actions.

Ben Turpin dies and the family has to decide what kind of a funeral he should have. Several sub-plots unfold and infidelities are discovered along the way. The play is full of life’s problems treated with great comedy.

Maggie King plays Raynelle, the long-suffering wife of Ben for 39 years and shows little sorrow at his passing. When discussing what words to place on his tombstone, she suggests “mean and surly.” As always, she lives the role and gives a strong performance.

Diane Wilton, another veteran with Theatre Aurora, is Marguerite, Ben’s fast-talking sister. She speaks fondly of her late brother and suggests wordy, flowering words for his tombstone.

Stewart McLean portrays the lazy son of Marguerite and accompanies his mother to the funeral, running out of gas on the way. In his first on-stage role, he portrays the lazy character with a flair for comedy.

A highlight of the drive is their fight over the type of music they are listening to on the car radio. The mother wants soothing music suitable to the occasion, while the son wants rock and roll.

Raynelle has three children, sons Ray-Bud and Junior, and daughter

Delightful. Heather Nassler plays the indulgent, always eating Delicious, who lives in a dream world of food.

Robert Ball plays Ray-Bud, the elder son with a chip on his shoulder. He is married to Lucille, played by Gail Henderson. Both are well cast and play their roles to perfection.

Junior is Peter Shipton who captures the role of the irresponsible philandering husband of tearful, ever-talking Suzanne with strength and vigour. Suzanne is played Karen Parks and plays the role to the maximum.

One of the most exuberant characters in the play is George Houston as the Reverend Hooker. Other roles are played by Brian Farrar as Bud Norval, Christine Waechter as Veda, David Russell as Clyde, Kyla-Rae Dover as Nadine and Marianne Langford as Juanita.

The story is told in a series of vignettes with different stage settings, with as many as three different sets on stage at any one time. The set changes are very well done and the lighting and sound are of a very high standard.

“Dearly Departed” continues at the Factory Theatre May 15, 16, 17 and 18 with curtain at 8:15 p.m.

Call 905-727-3669 for ticket information.



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Spirited Group

Led by her unwavering determination, Mary Georgopoulos and her team from Jonathan's Fine Foods Restaurant set a financial record in the recent Big Bike Ride. She and her 30 or so riders brought in \$12,004 to set a provincial, and possibly a Canadian record. In all, nine bike rides held that day amassed a total of more than \$43,600, a total of \$10,000 more than was raised in Aurora last year. Other bikes were sponsored by Torcan Chemical, Slidemaster, Curves For Women, Heart Beats, the Town of Aurora, Re/Max York Group, Opti-Mrs./Sinclair and the Robert Graham team. Jonathan's also won the Spirit Award.

Auroran photo by Matt Haggerty

Ever so slowly, C of C building nears reality

For the past several years, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce has occupied a former subdivision sales office at the corner of the Industrial Parkway South and Yonge Street.

The property is currently owned by the province, leased to the town and sub-leased to the Chamber.

Last July, the town entered into an agreement of purchase and sale for the acquisition of the lands from the province and approved a 20-year lease with the Chamber in support of the Chamber's proposed initiative to replace the current structure, which has badly deteriorated.

The agreement for the lands includes a cost-sharing agreement in which the province and the town share the costs of certain works required to decommission wells located on site and supply a water connection to the provincial buildings at Yonge and

Bloomington prior to the date of the sale.

The Chamber, under the new lease, is required to pay minimum rent in an amount equal to the cost of the purchase of the lands, plus the town's portion of the cost-sharing of the required works.

In February council gave the Chamber permission to use the old library as a temporary office from May 1 to September 1, while construction of the new facility was underway.

Due to a provincial strike as well as the Legislature

not sitting, the town was advised that the closing date would be extended to September 30.

As a result of the extended closing date and to alleviate the Chamber's timing issues, staff carried out discussions with provincial officials. They recommended the town execute a permission to enter and construct agreement with the province and the Chamber.

This will permit construction to proceed prior to the closing date. The committee endorsed the staff recommendation.

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No kidding, Wellington work is on schedule

It may not feel like it, but reconstruction of Wellington Street East is on schedule.

And that schedule says it won't be finished until this fall.


According to a staff report to the Aurora's general committee, the York Regional project, which started a year ago, is on time and on budget.

The project includes sidewalks, bikeways, streetlights, raised centre medians, sanitary sewers and watermain.

The raised centre medians between Bayview Avenue and John West Way will be complimented by unique landscaping and distinctive street lighting fixtures to promote a gateway concept to Aurora.

Ultimately, sidewalks will be provided on both sides of Wellington street East for the entire length.


In the short-term, sidewalks will only be constructed from the CN tracks to Bayview Avenue and a two-way bikeway on the south side from Mary Street to Bayview Avenue.



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AB Cox pdf



Poor Richard

Art selections are curious

Art Aurora 2002 has come and gone,
And disappointments there are many;
Preserve Aurora in Paint is the main one,
As available subjects there are plenty!
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

The 40th Annual Town of Aurora Art Show and Sale was held at the Town Hall last weekend with 108 artists submitting more than 300 works of art.

In general, the diversity of the art submissions and media used were of a high standard, but the jurying of the show left much to be desired.

In my opinion, the selection of paintings was very uneven, especially figures, which were out of proportion, with big heads on small bodies, etc. .

Normally there are three jurors from different parts of the art world, such as a professional artist, a director of an art gallery and maybe an art teacher. For Art Aurora there were two jurors, one a very qualified artist, and the other a potter.

What a potter was doing judging an art show can only be answered by the powers that organized the show. There is always the question of responsibility.

Is it the town's Leisure Services Department or the Society Of York Region Artists (SOYRA)?

The Aurora Art Show and Sale started out as a small local art exhibition in 1963 in Victoria Hall under the direction of Cathan Shoniker, a volunteer member of the town's Recreation Committee.

At that time, as is still the case, local artists did not have a local venue to display and sell their works of art and the Art Show and Sale was designed to provide a suitable showcase for them with the emphasis on sales.

I have been a close observer of the Aurora Art Show since its very beginning, as well as art exhibitions in other parts of the region, as at one time I contributed a column on art shows and artists to various local media.

The Aurora Art Show has changed considerably over the years as it is open to all artists from everywhere and is known as Art Aurora with no mention of sales.

One of the categories is Preserve Aurora in Paint and this is my major beef.

Concerned about the loss of so many Aurora heritage buildings, LACAC (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee) suggested in 1973 the Preserve Aurora in Paint category as a means of maintaining some record of Aurora's historic past.

In 1983, during the period I was mayor, council agreed on a 5-4 vote to spend up to \$500 annually to purchase a painting from the Preserve Aurora category for the town's collection, which is now on permanent display on the second floor of the Town Hall.

The original concept of the category was to capture in paint the historic buildings of Aurora before they were demolished in the interests of growth and development.

This has all changed as now anything, whether it has a connection with Aurora or not, is accepted.

In Art Aurora 2002, while the majority of the work is of historic and other buildings, there is one painting, entitled "Serenity" which had absolutely no business in the Preserve Aurora category.

Last year there was a painting called "Secret Garden," which was a mythical garden and had absolutely nothing to do with Aurora.

It makes one wonder who is responsible for accepting paintings for this category and who does the jurying, if anyone.

One also has to be critical of the town's representatives who are responsible for the selection of the painting for the town's permanent collection, as paintings of golden wheat fields and rail fences have been selected, which could be anywhere in the country.

It's long past time for members of council to demand a review of the terms of reference for the Aurora Art Show and Sale and the unpublicized agreement with SOYRA before this very special event is destroyed.



From the files of the Aurora Museum comes this little gem with no identification at all. Taken on the steps of Aurora High School (if it looks a bit like today's Wells Street School, that's because it is) this group of cadets looks pretty snappy in their uniforms. So, questions abound. Who are they? What year was it? Are they just officers or cadets? We await your input.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

This day turns beauty around

To the editor,

May 15th is "Turn Beauty Inside Out" Day.

"Turn Beauty Inside Out" Day is supposed to help change the judgemental sense of mind towards superficial outer beauty to the - more important - inner beauty.

We often aim goals on improving ourselves physically instead of refining our

I'm the one with pigtails

To the editor,

I was just reading the February 5 issue of The Auroran and came across the photo of the Grade 8 class of Aurora Public School in 1949.

Imagine my surprise to see my face looking back at me!

I am at the end of the second row next to Shirley Ellis...I am the only one with pigtails.

Our son saves the papers for us and brings them along when he comes to visit (if he doesn't forget, that is).

The letter to the editor on page 6 also brought a lot of

Rabies clinic bad decision

To the editor,

Why is the council wasting its time talking about a rabies clinic?

Do they think a veterinarian will donate his time to rabies shots and then go and charge his clients for the same shots? Amen!

Using tax dollars for the purpose of rabies clinics is a bad decision.

If one cannot look after a pet then they should not have a pet.

R.W. Hanes
Aurora

personality.

The idea of inner beauty is spreading, and gradually our society is becoming more aware of personality, instead of looks.

Have you ever noticed that 'personality' starts with 'person'?

To me, that is a strong indication that we should look to the personality of a person and how someone acts instead of looking to

memories too.

Mr. Adams was well known for throwing chalk and would do so quite often when anything displeased him.

He was a good teacher at that.

Erna Gibson
(nee Eveleigh)
Perkinsfield, Ont.

what the person looks like.

In Canada, we have passed laws that keep us from discriminating against people because of their race, religion, or gender, but physical appearance is still a big factor in our society.

We have improved our judgment of people generally with the exception of good looks.

We are continuously exposed to TV shows, movies, books and ads that focus on physical beauty, but we are starting to see examples of a different sort.

Example: a lot of companies are starting to use bigger models, ones who aren't perfect.

Also we are starting to see truer views of female characters in movies, shows and books.

Being happy with who we

are is important. Be YOU without embarrassment, show others who you are.

With everyone's help, slowly, but surely, we are changing our old outlook on people and on life.

If you are a certain religion, and you believe in that religion, live it with pride.

On "Turn Beauty Inside Out" Day, go all out without hesitation and be happy.

It's our land, our life, and our future.

We don't need to think poorly of each other based on appearance in order to be happy to live in harmony.

May 15th is "Turn Beauty Inside Out" Day, and that's just what I expect to do.

Katherine Turnbull
Grade 8
Lester B. Pearson School
Aurora

THE AURORAN

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

Published weekly by The Auroran Publications Inc.
"Above the Trio Restaurant"

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Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

Ward System - Pros and Cons

Prior to 1971, Aurora was represented by a Mayor, Reeve, Deputy Reeve and five councillors.

When Regional Government was created in 1971, the makeup of council changed to a mayor and eight councillors, elected throughout the community.

In 1990, Council was taken to the Ontario Municipal Board by the Valhalla ratepayers group, supported by the Tamarac ratepayers group, to be forced to create a ward system in Aurora.

The arguments favouring a ward system included the deduction that it would be less expensive for people to run in a small ward than across the Town as a whole.

And, that it would be easier for candidates to know their ward and its constituents, which in turn, could encourage more residents to vote for someone they knew.

As well, it would ensure representation from each ward area, which is not guaranteed at this time.

If the Town was divided into wards today using Yonge-Wellington as the basis for SW/NW/NE/SE ward boundaries, we would have the following representation, (out of those who ran in the last election, in brackets), NW-1(2), SW-6(8), SE-1(1) and NE-0(1).

Arguments against a ward system in this OMB hearing included the fact that the proponents represented two specific areas in town only and that there did not appear to be an "at-large" interest in the division of the municipality into wards.

As well, it was viewed as apparent that the current system was working very well.

It was further stated that, "The evidence has revealed that no sectorization, geographically, ethnically or socially, within the municipality tempting separation for the purposes of having representation on Council".

Arguments in favour of staying with an 'at large' system concluded that Aurora "was indeed a single, cohesive community whose services have been provided, from all appearances, consistently on a single community basis such as a library, a fire hall, a cemetery, etc.

And further, "there has been nothing in evidence demonstrating any historical inequity with regard to distribution and representation in respect of the electorate..."

In bringing this issue forward to today, we should consider some of the realities out there - Aurora is the size of almost any single ward in Toronto which has 1-2 representatives, not nine.

People keep advocating for less government, not more.

In our Strategic Plan, we proudly boast about our Town and the community spirit we, as residents, have in collectively supporting the many Town events and activities.

A ward system has the potential to divide our town into specific area interest groups and I am concerned about that.

Ward councillors may support and vote the way of their specific interest areas, if they hope to get re-elected, and this may not always be with the best interests of the entire town.

There is the potential for more of a "me" sectorization as opposed to the "we" in the best interests of the town at large.

Ward elections help to perpetuate and even accentuate differences and divisions within the municipality.

The budget process could be a good test of that observation.

Having councillors at large gives any resident in town the opportunity to call all councillors for help, not just one or two.

As it stands today, you will always find someone willing to listen and help you at any time.

In a ward system, if your representative(s) is not on board, it may be more difficult to find help.

For those who feel their chances might be better to get on Council in a Ward design, you do not have to live in a ward to be elected to it.

Conversely, residents could find that they were being represented by someone who did not live in their ward.

Municipalities that are geographically spread out with hamlets and villages like King, Georgina and Whitchurch-Stouffville, have wards to represent these distinct areas in a large geographic area.

Municipalities like Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Markham, with large ethnic diversity as well as populations well over 100,000 have wards for these reasons.

However, I do not consider Aurora a comparable in these areas to these municipalities and would strongly advocate the "at large" system to allow for the eight best candidates to serve all residents of our Town in a manner that is equal and fair to all.

Machell's Corners

by Scott Johnston



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

Are we second class citizens?

To the editor,

Recently Mayor Tim Jones took issue with taxpayers who see the downside of unreserved growth.

In his defence he states growth is inevitable.

He also relates to the York Durham sewer system that is a major component and precursor to that growth.

What he unabashedly infers is that others have opted for and planned for our present malaise.

The fact is Tim Jones is an old hand around the council halls and sat in on these very important discussions from Day One.

He seems totally adamant about unrestrained growth and makes no bones about it. So much so that his inevitable view is 75,000 people for Aurora. To paint a picture that he is a victim of some third party plan is both deceitful and unkind.

In this middle of his article he stresses the province has figures of some 1,200 homes immediate reserve and 4,000 backup.

These figures are superfluous since construction just opened east of Bayview entails 5,000 homes.

To my knowledge no builder working in Aurora has ever been held up as long as he performs as per the planning act.

The result is double the population in some 12 years and counting.

He talks about official plans and other means of control and about how some builders press for amendments and change.

How he and other members of council defend against this at the OMB is not entirely true. In a majority of contests builders

have little trouble obtaining greater densities or rezoning as per required.

In the townhouse complexes to the north and east of the town hall they have compromised densities and road widths so as to restrict parking severely.

Owners have friends on the weekend and are embarrassed by the bylaw severity. Thus we find many disturbed owners selling and moving on. It is certainly not a testament to decent planning, etc. It should be noted most of these lands were originally zoned industrial and commercial.

During the last real estate bust, some investment companies had stripped the lands bare. There was nothing to contain the mudslides and ugly wash ways ran down hills in torrents. They sat that way till the nineties.

When interest rates became attractive the rush was on to rezone to residential units.

I personally sat in some of the meetings and took the floor in favour of rezoning. Little did I know the horrible maze of town homes they had in mind.

Had the Town pressed to develop commercial/industrial projects we would now have a better mix. More tax dollars and more peace and quiet. Factories and shops close at 5 p.m., and are really only part time densities.

In other words we could be laughing without having to go to 10 per cent annual tax increases.

In closing, tell me why we have to struggle so to save our wetlands? The McKenzie Wetlands are the only natural attraction in

town worthy of investing into a year long park. The town spent a bundle on the new library, why can't it spend a few million on something that will be here forever?

Most everything is there now...the trees, the land, the water. Sure it needs cleaning up, but that can all be done over five or 10 years.

That's the beauty of a project like this. It doesn't put an immediate burden

on the taxpayer. It can be amortized over, say, 10 years.

Are we in Aurora not as good as the people in Richmond Hill, Mississauga, Scarborough or Toronto. Are we second class citizens?

Get with it. Show some spine, and do something endearing that you will long be remembered for.

Ben Kestain
Aurora

Info Aurora very helpful, reader says

To the editor,

Information Aurora is helpful!

On two separate occasions lately, I have had the good fortune to speak to the volunteers located at the new Information Aurora desk in the lobby of the Aurora Town Hall.

They went out of their way to help me find the information I needed, and answered my questions with genuine and sincere interest.

This is a great service for the community, and super way to learn about what is available, how to access it and the best part is that it doesn't cost the taxpayers a dime!

I would encourage residents to call or visit the desk if they are looking for information about things in Town.

A thank you to the volunteers who operate it.

It's things like this that make 'Aurora, a place we are proud to call home!'

Al Wilson
Aurora

Single "staff"

To the editor,

Correct me if I'm wrong, but is not the term 'staff' a singular word requiring the word 'is' to follow it, rather than 'are'.

May I suggest "members of staff are..." but otherwise staff as a whole should be referred to as "staff is".

If it's "council is" then it should be "staff is".

I see this kind of grammar constantly in many newspapers and I believe it is incorrect.

Sheena Griffith
Aurora

ED. NOTE: Your point are well taken.

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Skaters' fun competition results

Fun competition results to wind up the Aurora Figure Skating Club season were recently announced.

Please note the number in brackets preceding the name indicates the flight.

Pre-Preliminary Freeskate: (2) Hugh Babb, 4th; (11) Amanda Alberton, 4th; (12) Emma Laverty, 7th; (18) Alana Fabbicino, 2nd; (19) Christina Relke, 4th; (21) Katelyn Hagarty, 2nd; (23) Mackensie Jordan, 2nd; (25) Taylor McDowall, 6th; (32) Tayler Sim, 3rd; (34) Kendall Mannella, 8th.

Pre-Preliminary II Freeskate: (1) Spencer Shields, 1st; (3) Caden Armstrong, 7th; (6) Amy Bellefeuille, 4th; (8) Meagan Hay, 5th; (13) Stephanie Fonceca, 3rd; Janet deVries, 6th; (16) Sara DeViney, 6th; (18) Cierra Snell, 3rd; (19) Amy Thompson, 1st; Jenna Williams, 4th; (26) Aeiell Kwan, 2nd; (27) Allie Sutton, 2nd; (31) Lauren Bellefeuille, 7th; (33) Emma Slimkowich, 5th.

Pre-Preliminary Solo Dance - Dutch Waltz: (4) Nina Malek, 6th; (5) Hugh Babb, 4th.

Preliminary Solo Dance - Fiesta Tango: (4) Cierra Snell, 1st.

Junior Bronze Solo Dance: (5) Tiffany Jordan, 3rd, Janet deVries, 7th; (7) Mackensie Jordan, 7th.

Senior Bronze Solo Dance: (4) Meaghan Jones, 2nd.

Pre-Preliminary I Team Elements: (1) Ice Magic, 2nd; (2) Ice Angels, 6th; (3) All-Stars, 4th; (5) Janna's Bananas, 6th; (7) Diamond Duo, 4th; Purple Poodles, 5th.

Pre-Preliminary Create-A-Skate - Individual - Disco: (1) Janet deVries, 4th; (2) Cierra Snell, 3rd; (3) Jenna Williams, 3rd.

Preliminary Create-A-Skate - Individual - Disco: (1) Tiffany Jordan, 3rd.

Pre-Preliminary II Team Elements: (1) Ice Bandits, 3rd; 'J' Girls, 3rd; (5) Steph & Aleks, 5th; (6) Ice Stars, 2nd; Slimgolds, 5th.

Speed Races - Perimeter: Tyler Thomas, 2nd.

Pre-Preliminary Ice Dancing - Couples: (1) Tayler Sim & Caden Armstrong, 4th.

CanSkate Freeskate - Green: (3) Kayla Mete, 6th; (4) Sierra Lerner, 1st; (6) Jacqueline Reike, 3rd, Nicole Miklovich, 5th; Burgundy: (2) Nina Malek, 5th; Purple: (1) Tyler Thomas, 3rd; Blue: (3) Danielle MacAskill, 4th; Maya Malke, 5th; Orange: (3) Hillary Burke.

Big crowd expected for school's "Fling"

A planned Spring Fling at Aurora Grove Public School is expected to draw more than 1,000 people, organizers say.

The four-hour event is slated for Saturday, May

25, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Highlight of the day will be a hot air balloon, which will take riders on a 90-foot tethered vertical trip to overlook the Aurora Grove area.

Also included in the activities will be a dunk tank, silent auction, inflatable obstacle course, lots of games, races and prizes, and, of course, food.

"The fun fair will be a wonderful place for fami-

lies in our community to get together for an old fashioned good time," said school principal Barb Duncan.

The school is located at 415 Stone Road, west off Bayview Avenue, south of Wellington Street East.

Kick-boxing battle happens this Sunday

A 10-round Women's World Title battle takes place at the Aurora Community Centre this weekend.

Featured is Aurora's Chantal Nadon, a three-time World Kick-Boxing Flyweight Champion.

She will attempt to defend her title against challenger

Jackie Milles of Scotland, Sunday.

The battle is expected to be the highlight of six divisional fights featuring kick-boxers from as far away as Russia.

Call 416-229-1280 for ticket and other information.

Tickets start at \$20.

Group seeks players

Nothing to do on a Sunday afternoon?

How about some softball?

The Aurora Grove Softball League is looking for adults to play in a co-ed setting on Sunday afternoons.

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If you're interested, call Robyn Toffolo at 905-841-6244 or e-mail Alison at thesanzos@bigfoot.com



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10 - The AURORAN, Week of May 14, 2002


Bouquets & Brickbats


BY DICK ILLINGWORTH

 **BOUQUETS** to the Optimist Club of Aurora for their ongoing work on behalf of Aurora's youth. They had Chris Catania, Aurora's Youth and Community Development Coordinator, as a guest speaker and were so impressed by his remarks they donated \$5,000 for the Flipside Skateboard Park and \$500 for the Youth Newsletter.

 **BOUQUETS** to St. Joseph's Catholic School Grade 6 students for raising nearly \$600 through their Easter Fair for the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

 **BRICKBATS** to those responsible for cleaning out the section of Tannery Creek running through Fleury Park and past the Community Centre, and adjacent to the shopping plaza on Aurora Heights Drive. Maybe there aren't enough litter containers available?

 **BOUQUETS** to members of the Oak Ridges Trail Association, St. Andrew's College, Girl Guides and Boy Scouts and the Cadets for cleaning up various areas of the town. If your organization wants to help call Colleen Breen with the town's Parks Department at 905-727-1375.

 **BOUQUETS** to Aurora's David Tomlinson for his recent comments regarding the biased Ontario Municipal Board hearing, when he appealed the town's approval of a subdivision plan, which disregarded provincial guidelines pertaining to wetlands. The hearing officer definitely favoured the town and the developer.


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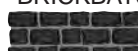


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 **BRICKBATS** to the boorish sport fans in the United States for booing the Canadian national anthem in Detroit before a Raptor playoff basketball game and more recently at the Maple Leaf/New York Islanders playoff hockey game. Canadian fans responded with class, as they cheered The Star Spangled Banner.

 **BOUQUETS** to Mary Georgopoulos, of Jonathan's Fine Food Restaurant, for organizing the annual Big Bike Ride on Yonge Street recently to raise funds for the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation. Her bike brought in more money than anyone in the province, and possibly, in the country.

 **BOUQUETS** to Aurora Councillor Betty Pedersen on winning the Community Services Award at the recent Celebration of Women Awards banquet. She has served on council for 15 years and has been an active member of Beta Sigma Phi for 41 years.

 **BRICKBATS** to those at Aurora's Town Hall for not taking appropriate action to negotiate with the contractor after first noticing that the interlock brick and concrete steps around the building required replacing. It was reported that this was known shortly after the completion of the building. Now, 10 years the taxpayers are hit with a hefty repair bill.



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 **BOUQUETS** to the members of the Aurora Swim Club on bringing home 26 medals at the recent Provincial Triple A team championships, including 14 Gold, six Silver and six bronze.

 **BOUQUETS** to Aurora's Archie Milne, formerly an officer with the Canadian Grenadier Guards, for describing the proper way to carry a casket on the shoulders of the pallbearers, without the casket wobbling side to side. And, as has been pointed out by several readers, the correct word in Canada is "casket", not coffin.



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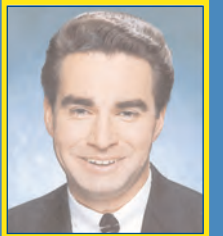
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