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# AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 2 No. 48

Week of September 24, 2002

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## Clean yard bylaw gets a green light

Over the years the town receives about 100 citizen complaints annually regarding condition of properties, including uncut grass and weeds, garbage and debris, inoperable vehicles and derelict appliances.

Traditionally these complaints have been dealt with under the Property Standards bylaw, which regulates the condition and maintenance of properties.

However, according to town staff, the use of the Property Standards process is cumbersome and time consuming.

Following the examples of other GTA municipalities, staff prepared a draft Clean Yards bylaw to speed up the complaint process by dealing more effectively with minor or singular property standards issues.

The Clean Yards bylaw is designed to expedite the process

and obtain compliance within one to two weeks, rather than the three to four months that may be required under the Property Standards bylaw.

If compliance is not achieved, a town selected contractor would enter the property and perform any tasks required, with the costs billed back to the property owner.

When the proposed bylaw was presented to council in June, councillors expressed concern about various sections of the draft and it was referred back for review.

Later in June councillors couldn't agree on a second draft and it was referred and presented to general committee meeting for a line by line review last week.

Councillor John West opposed the bylaw saying he preferred the system that Aurora has been using.

Councillor Nigel Kean expressed concern about seniors and the disabled and the need to give them consideration in enforcing the bylaw, if adopted.

Councillor Damir Vrancic said that while he was in general agreement with the proposed bylaw, he was concerned about enforcement and the right to enter private property, and the need for a method of appeal.

After further discussion, the proposed bylaw was approved by a 4-3 vote. However, it still has to be ratified by council and the results could change.



Three members of the Yonge Street Commerical Downtown Committee team up with vendor Phil Leyzac, right, of Miller's Market, as Aurora's first farmer's market got underway Saturday morning. While the market lacked an abundance of vendors, most who were there sold out and had to replenish supplies before the event ended. Committee members up that early were, left to right, Doug Hubley, chairman Nigel Kean and Mike Evans. Market continues this Saturday morning beginning at 7 a.m. in the Temperance Street parking lot, just south of Wellington.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

## Briefly

The Aurora Car Club, for its last cruise of the season, will hold a food drive this Sunday, Sept. 29, at the Aurora Canadian Tire parking lot at 4 p.m. Everyone in town is invited to drop off food, and if you own a classic car, you might want to consider joining the organization. For more information on this busy group, see the Letter to the Editor on Page 5.

## Renaming policy gets slim approval from committee

After more than seven months of work by members of the Leisure Services committee, the controversial public facilities renaming policy was back before general committee last week.

Councillor John West opposed the renaming policy claiming that

none of the parks or facilities should be renamed, as they all had some historical significance.

Councillor Nigel Kean, chairman of the Leisure Services committee, said the committee was not trying to change history but protect it and the renaming would only apply to parks or facilities with generic names, and he used Tamarac Park as an example.

He pointed out that when a request came to council to rename Willow Creek Park as Elizabeth Hader Park, the town did not have a renaming policy and directed the committee to develop a policy.

There was a division on council as to whether a policy was required or not, with some claiming it was not needed, as council made the final decision, while others argued it was necessary to prevent decisions being made by emotion.

After almost an hour of argumentative, round and round debate that became personal at times and threatened to get out of control, a motion by West that no existing park or facility now named should be renamed was

defeated on a 4-3 vote.

The report as submitted with a minor amendment as to the eligibility criteria was adopted by a 4-3 vote.

As this was a committee meeting, the policy still has to be ratified by council and that debate will take place in October.

## You may pay to dispose your garbage

If you are in the habit of throwing out more than three bags of household garbage on pickup days, you might want to think about changing your ways.

Aurora Council is considering imposing a \$1 a bag user fee for all bags of garbage over three.

This year's waste/recycling operating budget is \$1.7 million. For 2003 the budget is estimated to jump by 26.5 per cent to \$2.2 million due to the closing of the Keele

Please see Page 2



Slated to open sometime in early November, the new headquarters for Aurora's Chamber of Commerce is just about complete. Building replaces a trailer that has been on the Yonge Street/Industrial Parkway South corner for years.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

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# Coming Events In Aurora

CONTINUING

Theatre Aurora's first production of the season is Neil Simon's comedy "Rumors", now on. It continues September 25-28. Call 905-727-3669 for ticket information.

\*\*\*\*\*

The works of three Aurora artists, Mary Cromarty, Dorothy Clark McClure and Vera Worling can be seen at the 50th Anniversary Members' Show of the Colour and Form Society at the J. D. Carrier Art Gallery, Columbus Centre, 901 Lawrence Avenue West, Toronto. Exhibition continues until September 28th during gallery hours, Monday to Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday noon to 4 p.m.

## SEPTEMBER 28

The Farmers' Market returns to the Temperance Street parking lot from 7 to 10:30 a.m. sponsored by the Yonge Street Commercial Downtown Committee.

\*\*\*\*\*

Wesley United Church (Woodbine Ave. and the Aurora Sideroad) holds its annual sale with baking, preserves, crafts, lunch counter, books and treasures from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Further information, call Fran Mason, 905-895-3753.

## SEPTEMBER 29

"Walk for the Moraine" at the Seneca College King Campus on Dufferin Street. Registration from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy a beautiful fall walk on the spectacular trails of the King Campus and help raise money for the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust. The Walk is being organized by members of the Oak Ridges Trail Association. Call 905-841-3678 for more information.

## SEPTEMBER 30

Public information meeting at the Aurora Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. to receive input about the proposed electoral boundary change, which would split Aurora into two ridings for both MPPs and MPs. Your comments are needed to assist council in preparing a brief to be presented to the electoral commission.

## OCTOBER 1

John McIntyre will present a slide presentation "Flights of Fancy: Hillary House in its Architectural Context" in the ballroom at 7:30 p.m. The evening is open to the public and will help mark Architectural Week. Light refreshment will follow. Call 905-727-8991 for details.

## OCTOBER 4

Qualified instructor Barbara West will conduct a 55 Alive four-week driving instruction course at the Aurora Library on behalf of the Aurora Seniors Centre. It starts at 10 a.m. and continues every Friday morning for the four weeks. Registration is through the Seniors Centre at 905-727-2816. If you are facing your age 80 driving test, this course is a must.

## OCTOBER 6

Ninth annual Gourmet Strollathon to benefit Hospice King-Aurora through the rolling estates of Hunter's Glen in Aurora's south end. Registration 1 to 2 p.m. at Steeplechase and Bloomington. Phone 905-833-0356 for information and pledge sheets.

## OCTOBER 25-26

Aurora United Church 18th annual Fall Event. Silent auction, crafts, baking, collectibles, toys, clothes, etc. Admission - 50 cents.

## NOVEMBER 2

The Aurora Minor Hockey Association is holding a dinner and dance at the Tuscany Banquet Centre from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets are \$45 per person for dinner, dancing and wine. Group table reservations for groups of eight and 10 are available upon request. Tickets are now available from Janine Gabel (905-726-3580), Andrea Bentolilla (905-841-8610) or the AMHA Office (905-727-1480)

\*\*\*\*\*

Harmony Showcase 2002 presents "Broadway" at the Newmarket Theatre with two shows at 3 and 7:30 p.m. The concert features the talents of TKO, Ontario District Champion Quartet, Voices of Joy, "Elvis Priestley" and the sponsors, the Upper Canada Chordsmen, plus Henry Shannon as MC. Call 905-953-5122 for ticket information. Proceeds to assist the Ontario Harmonize for Speech Fund. Tickets now available at The Auroran, 75 Mary Street, Unit 3.

## NOVEMBER 8

Aurora CODA (Codendants Anonymous) 10-year anniversary celebration. 7.30 p.m. Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge Street. Everyone is welcome.



After nearly 28 years' service with the Aurora Post Office, Gord Long is looking forward to his retirement. He was honoured recently by fellow employees at the Wellington Street location.  
Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

# Garbage may cost you

**From page 1**  
Valley landfill this year.

In addition to population growth, there will also be an increase in waste transfer and disposal fees due to transporting the garbage a greater distance.

Other factors that may increase the fees above the estimated cost include increased fees for recycling and processing yard fees.

Council is considering adopting a bylaw early in 2003 to implement a pay-for-bag scenario whereby the first three bags are free with a \$1 user fee for each additional bag.

According to a survey conducted in 2000, 85 per cent or 12,000 of the town's households place three or fewer waste bags or containers out for collection.

# 6,000 units on planning applications

Currently there are 72 planning applications under consideration in Aurora.

Thirty-three of the applications are for residential, 19 for commercial, two industrial, five institutional, one golf course and the balance from rural to urban for future development.

The number of residential units in the various applications total about 6,000 including single family, town houses, row houses and condominiums at different levels of the planning process.

Assuming the remaining 15 per cent or 2,000 households continue to put out four or more bags, the estimated revenue would be \$98,000 if a \$1 per bag charge were imposed for all bags over three.

Implementing a user pay program would help increase public awareness in minimizing waste generated and increased recycling and composting.

Staff was directed to prepare a further report after obtaining additional information from the region and prior to the preparation of the 2003 budget.

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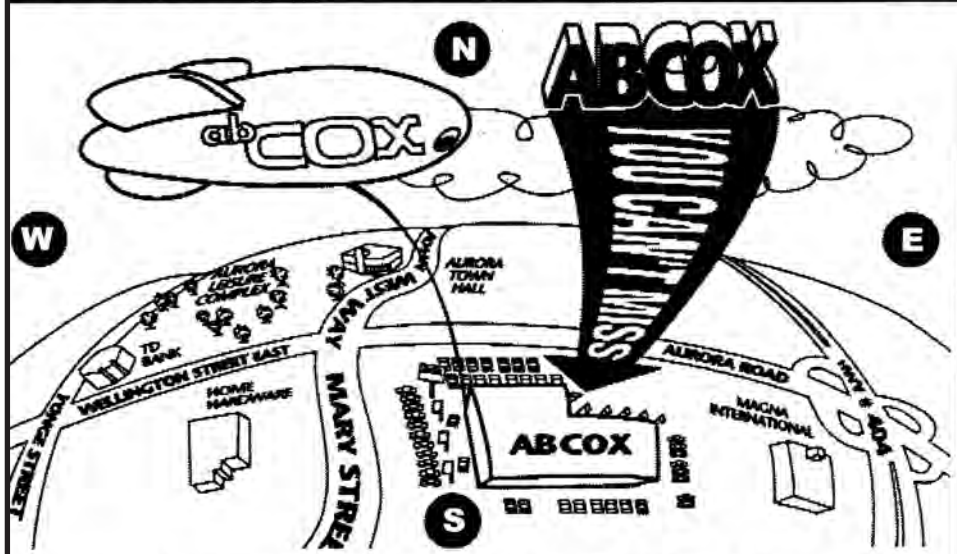
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# Downtown crosswalk will get another look

The pedestrian crosswalk at Yonge and Mosley Streets has existed for several years.

But, with the increase of traffic on Yonge, town staff and citizens have expressed concerns regarding its safety.

There have been nine reported accidents at the crossover during the past three years, mainly rear-end collisions.

Public works staff recently conducted traffic and pedestrian counts and a collision analysis to determine the operating characteristics of the crossover.

The study noted that many pedestrians did not use the crossover safely,

## New Act requires new committee

Under the recently enacted Ontarians with Disabilities Act there is a requirement to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee, or to join in a partnership with other municipalities or the region.

If it is to be a town committee the legislation requires the appointment of one member of council and four citizen members.

Of the four citizen members, three must be people with disabilities and the other a citizen volunteer or a professional from the stakeholder community.

The new legislation is designed to provide independence and opportunities for persons with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in life.

The general committee recommended to council that Councillor John West be appointed to the committee and staff advertise for the four citizen members as mandated in the legislation.

At last week's regional council meeting an interim committee of three council members, the majority of whom are persons with disabilities, plus the regional chairman, was approved.

The interim committee is

## Classes resume

The highly popular cooking and sewing program for children presented at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is ready to begin its fourth session.

Classes begin Sept. 25 and continue until November 27 but registration is limited to 25. Youngsters, aged 10 to 15, participate in a sewing group and a cooking class and will prepare a three-course meal before the session ends.

Cost for the 10-week session is \$20. Further information at 905-727-5011.

creating problems for themselves and Yonge Street traffic. As a result staff investigated a simpler and more understandable alternative to increase traffic safety.

In June committee members endorsed a staff recommendation that the crossover at Mosley be removed and an Intersection Pedestrian Signal be installed at Tyler Street, similar to those currently in operation on Wellington at Wells and George Streets.

Last week, Tely Spasopoulos of the Trio Restaurant opposed the change in location, claiming that pedestrians will not walk south to cross at

Tyler Street and have to walk north again.

He also objected to the loss of parking in front of his restaurant. He suggested traffic lights be installed at the Mosley Street intersection, similar to those at Kennedy Street.

Councillor David Griffith suggested the issue be referred to the Aurora Traffic Safety Advisory Board for a report back to council and the region take no action until after the Aurora report.

Director of Works Wayne Jackson stressed that the Mosley Street crossover was not working, as it should, due to the number of accidents. He noted that traffic lights would be too close to the Wellington Street traffic signals.

Committee members finally agreed to refer the issue to the TSAB and ask the region to defer any action.

At last week's regional council meeting, Mayor Tim Jones was successful in gaining support to delay any action for a month.

to engage in public consultations and with area municipalities and groups representing people with disabilities. It will report back to regional council.



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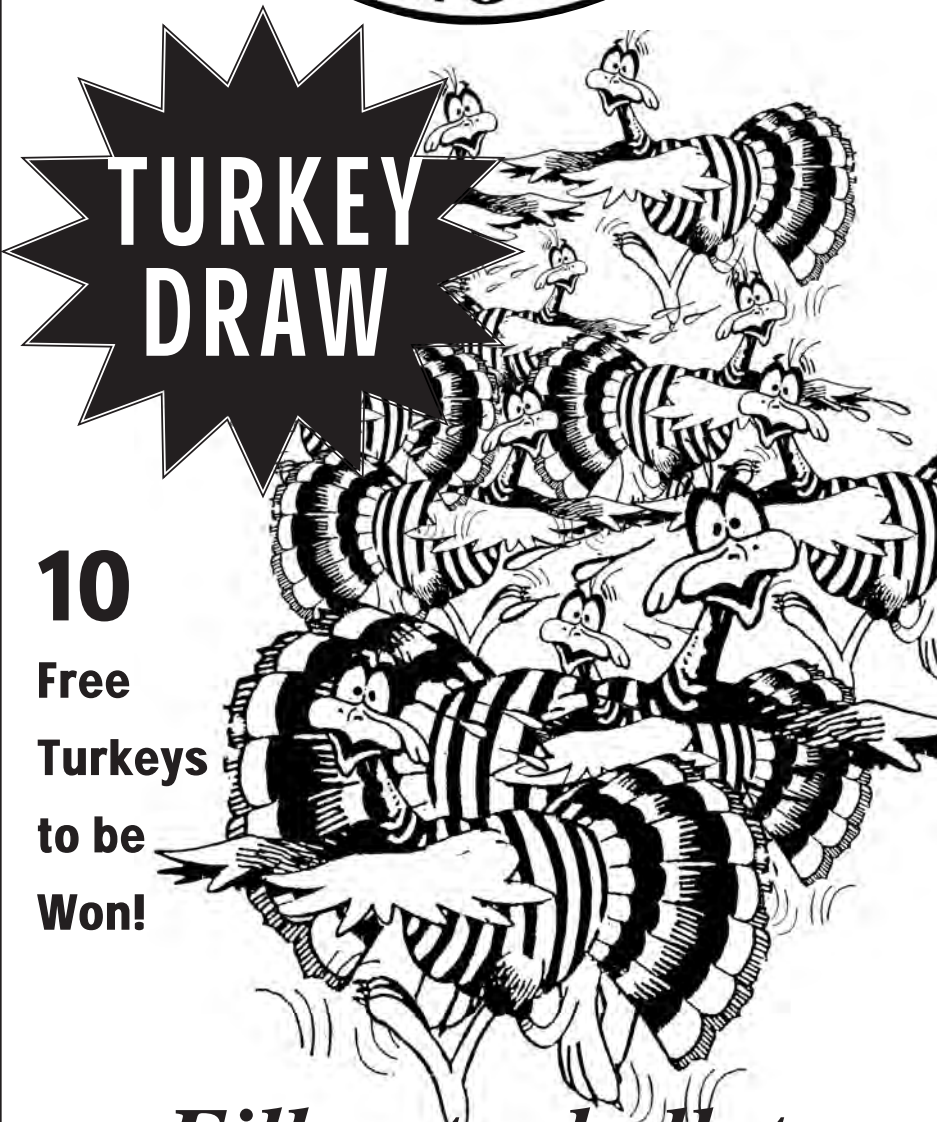
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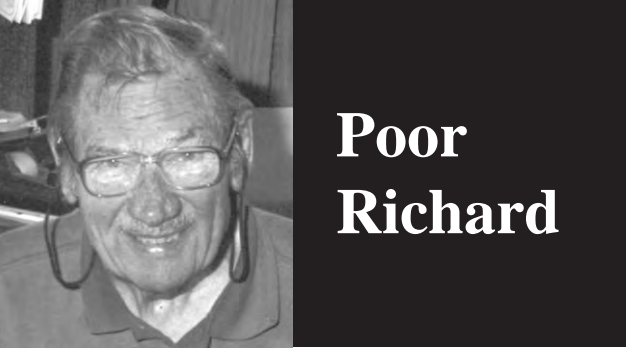
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# Trying to understand your new hydro bill

*Aurora hydro bills are scary,  
With several items of detail;  
It tells you this and tells you that,  
The total is higher without fail!*  
-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Have you checked your recent Aurora hydro bill? If you did, you will have found the results rather scary. In addition to a price increase, there are many changes in the content of the bill including an itemized account of many charges making up the total of the invoice to be paid.

Previously, that is before the Mike Harris Tory government introduced their so-called Common Sense Revolution and de-regulated hydro to lower the cost of energy through competition, all charges were bundled together and the consumer paid the invoice, usually without question.

At that time the invoice was simple and understandable. Now you need to be a forensic auditor to understand it.

In spite of warnings from California, Alberta and other jurisdictions, Harris pushed ahead with his plans for deregulation in his typical bull-in-a-china-shop fashion to please his friends on Bay Street.

There are several charges just for being a customer, such as an administrative charge, a distribution charge, a wholesale market charge and a monthly customer charge.

In addition there is a commodity charge, a charge for the transmission network service, a charge for a transmission connection service and, of course, the ever present GST.

There is also a debt retirement charge, which local hydro commissions had no control over.

With a complete lack of government control, Ontario Hydro officials were allowed to spend high, wide and handsome creating the massive debt, which today's consumers must pay off.

We know that the cost of power has increased, as Aurora Hydro was considerate enough to send out an information pamphlet with the first of the revised bills.

The kilowatt commodity charge was explained as the variable price per kilowatt hour of electricity as purchased under a "standard supply service" arrangement The administration fee is the cost of the administration for the service.

The distribution charge is for the building and maintenance of the distribution system that connects the consumer to the transmission and generating system

The transmission network service is the cost of the transmission of electricity over the provincial electricity grid, or the infamous Hydro One.

The transmission connection service is the cost of moving electricity to Aurora.

The mysterious wholesale market price is the cost of the "Independent Electricity Market Operator", the agency which ensures an adequate supply of electricity for Ontario, as it manages the open market.

The monthly customer charge is a fixed charge for the costs of meter reading, billing and account maintenance. The debt retirement charge and GST are self-explanatory.

Some consumers have signed contracts with electricity retailers to purchase electricity at fixed rates with the cost changing only as their consumption varies from month to month.

The rest of us who stayed with Aurora Hydro have to pay the variable market rate provided through the standard Supply Service with rates going up and down like a roller coaster.

To help customers make comparisons when considering the price of electricity, the costs have been "unbundled" into the numerous components that make up the total cost of receiving electricity.

Sir Adam Beck created a company on May 7, 1906, to bring hydro-electric generated power from Niagara Falls to southern Ontario communities, as "the people's power".

He must be twirling in a grave, as he witnessed the destruction of his creation by the Harris/Eves Tory government.

And, by the way, how do I get people to pay down my debts?



**Then and Now - Back in the late 1930s, this is what the southeast corner of Yonge and Mosley looked like (top photo). Building on the left was a Bell Telephone exchange and next to it was the "streamlined" Cousins Dairy building. Photo below shows the corner today, a single complex owned by the three Spasopoulos brothers, who started in Aurora back in 1972 with the Trio Restaurant. The story about the Trio appears on Page 6. We apologize to John McIntyre, author of the book "Aurora...A History In Pictures" for shamelessly stealing and reproducing the top photo.**

**Bottom photo by Ron Wallace**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Pace of growth - better or worse?

To the editor,

I enjoyed reading your last edition (Sept. 10) of The Auroran.

Of great interest, these words from the Mayor's Report:

"With a planned approach to address the growth pressures imposed upon us by the Province, we are in a much better shape to control our growth and manage how we grow in a manner that is defensible at the Ontario Municipal

Board...What may have been the right way to grow five years ago may not be the way to grow today, and this allows us the right to change directions in a demonstrated and justified manner."

Will this lead to a change of pace?

If so, for better or for worse? We can but wait and see.

With regard to a public meeting in Richmond Hill, November 12, I trust there will be a good response to

your call for public input to help thwart the "subversive plan" of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission, especially when failure to do so could jeopardize Poor Richard's close relationship with Governor John Graves Simcoe - the "guy who blazed Yonge Street through to Holland Landing with the aid of his faithful York Rangers."

**W. John Trusler  
Aurora**

## AURORAN

*"Aurora's community newspaper"*

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

# Aurora Car Club seeking sponsors

To the editor,

This letter is intended to solicit sponsorship for the Aurora Classic and Custom Car Club. We are a new non-profit car club which meets every Sunday night from late May to mid-September in the parking lot at Canadian Tire (in the south end of town). Aside from providing a location for a cruise night and the formation of a car

club, we also raise money for local and children's charities. For example, over the past two years we have raised approximately \$1,000 for the Yellow Brick House, \$231 to the Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School automotive department, \$500 to "Reach For The Rainbow" (charity for disabled children), and we will also be donating \$250 for the Aurora Food Pantry (including a

food drive as well). Funds are raised through a 50/50 nightly draw (with the club sometimes rounding out the difference). We currently have more than 50 paid members and have a turnout of more than 100 cars every Sunday. Our club has doubled in the first year of formation and we expect it to double again by the end of next season. We have participated in local town events, such as

the "street sale" and the Canada Day parade. We will lend our support when asked and charge no admission for our Sunday night cruises. We have several sponsors, including Canadian Tire (Aurora), Mitchell Motor Homes, A & A Cartage, Snap-On-Tools of Canada Ltd., Accurate Industrial Waste Ltd., Choko Motorsports, and Dairy Queen (Aurora).

Our sponsors provide funds to purchase door prizes, trophies (we encourage our sponsors to participate in the cruises including the selection of trophy recipients) to help defray our operating costs. Your sponsorship can be applied in any manner most beneficial to you. For example, Choko Motorsports provides club attire at a reduced rate and Snap-On-Tools provides door prizes to be given away weekly. Other sponsors fund trophies or offer discounts to people who attend our

cruises. All our sponsors are acknowledged on cruise nights, featured in our monthly newsletter and on our web site [www.auro-racarclub.ca](http://www.auro-racarclub.ca). Our club attends other cruises and distributes newsletters and extends invitations to other car clubs to visit us as well. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Paul Lamb at 905-841-6139 or by email at [pwlamb@sympatico.ca](mailto:pwlamb@sympatico.ca).

**Paul Lamb**  
Aurora



Mayor's Report  
By Tim Jones

## New committee requires citizens

While attending the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Annual Conference last month, I took part in a "Chit Chat" session sponsored by the March of Dimes. The session was to review the municipal obligations under the new Ontarians with Disabilities Act, (ODA). The Minister of Citizenship, under whom this Act falls, the Honorable Carl DeFaria, participated in our groups. The purpose of this Act, which is scheduled to be proclaimed next week, is to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the province. Those who are covered under this Act include persons who qualify with a disability that is defined by the Act as:

- (a) any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, a brain injury, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, blindness or visual impediment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment, or physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device,
- (b) a condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability,
- (c) a learning disability, or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language,
- (d) a mental disorder, or
- (e) an injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997; ("handicap").

The Act will bring into law sections setting out specific accessibility obligations on the part of municipalities, the government of Ontario, and the broader public sector,

including public transit organizations, school boards, hospitals and colleges and universities. As an example, on December 31, 2002, Ontario government ministry internet sites will be required to be accessible. Requirements for municipalities under the ODA include:

1. All municipalities are required to prepare accessibility plans and make them public.
2. Municipalities of 10,000 or more residents will be required to establish accessibility advisory committees, and a majority of their members must be people with disabilities. Municipalities with fewer than 10,000 residents must consult with people with disabilities and others and may establish or continue to have an accessibility advisory committee.
3. Municipalities will be required to make accessibility a consideration when purchasing goods and services, in planning and in subdivision approval.

Council is currently looking for four residents to serve on our advisory committee, three of whom are required by the Act to be people with disabilities and one shall be a citizen volunteer or professional from Aurora. If you are interested, I would encourage you to respond to our request which will appear in the local media. Further information can be found on the government website at 'Accessibility Ontario' at: [www.gov.on.ca/citizenship/accessibility/index.html](http://www.gov.on.ca/citizenship/accessibility/index.html) 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](mailto:tjones@town.aurora.on.ca)

## Other reasons for restrictions on water use

To the editor,

I find it ironic that whenever our local and regional politicians, and staff discuss water restrictions they blame consumption and the weather. Certainly conservation is a very important factor, however, they never mention the detrimental impact of inappropriate building and paving of the land which collects the rainfall. Of course, that would be pointing fingers at themselves. Last summer, 2001, Mayor Tim Jones justified the watering of the Town's floral displays by telling us that the water came from a creek, not from the Town supply, therefore it was okay. Does that mean everyone who wishes to put in the effort can get a pump and deplete our streams? Then we have the situation of Council siding with a developer to permit maximum encroachment onto a

Provincially designated wetland. If these examples indicate the extent of environmental understandings by some of our officials then we can expect more growth and drier gardens. It must be the weather!

**Robert Cook**  
Aurora

## Oops, missed the air cadets at Fox Run


To the editor,


Thank you for the coverage on the Terry Fox Run. I missed one group who were very important in helping and should be mentioned, the 140 Aurora Air Cadets. They assisted York Regional Police and REACT with the road closure.


**Ferguson Mobbs**  
Chairman  
Aurora Terry Fox Run


# Bouquets & Brickbats


By DICK ILLINGWORTH


 BOUQUETS to members of the Oak Ridges Trail Association and volunteers for their recent clean up of the town's Case Woodlot located on the south side of Henderson Drive, just east of Bathurst Street. The Woodlot is a beautiful, peaceful area well worth visiting.


 BOUQUETS to Aurora's Senior Squirt Diggers on the wrap-up of the baseball season by bringing back to Aurora a silver medal and placing second overall in the 11-team division. During the season the team won five medals in six tournaments. A good record!


 BRICKBATS to what appears to be a town policy to only act on the enforcement of a town bylaw by the town's bylaw enforcement officers when a citizen files a complaint. Why continue to pass bylaws when they are not enforced? BOUQUETS to Councillor Nigel Kean for raising the issue.


 BOUQUETS to those at GO Transit responsible for the enlargement and improvements to the commuter parking lot on Berczy Street near the railway station and adding a pedestrian crossing from the south end of the parking lot. It would have been nice if some shrubs or greenery had been added.

 BRICKBATS to those on Aurora council and staff for allowing the disgraceful condition of Craddock Park on Yonge Street, north of Batson Drive. Council in committee has approved a Clean Yards Bylaw covering private property, while the Town sets a poor example for public property.


 BOUQUETS to Councillor John West for giving notice of motion dealing with drainage easements in new developments, especially the section of builders constructing townhouses with just one down pipe to serve three to five units causing inconvenience to the owner of the lot stuck with the down pipe. It's long past time for council to stand up to developers and builders.

 BOUQUETS to Aurora's lifeguard team, Team Extreme, on proving that they are among the best in the province by their participation in the recent National Lifeguarding Championships.


 BRICKBATS to the powers that be in government circles, who are responsible for the control of the sale of high-powered handguns. It is doubtful if such high-powered weapons are required for gun clubs or practice shooting, so why are they available? A man was killed in a recent robbery of a Vaughan sporting supply store and 75 such weapons are on the street.

 BOUQUETS to the Central York Fire Services' team for their participation in the recent Canadian Combat Challenge and advancing to within a mere six seconds from advancing to the finals in their first year of competition.

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# Trio: longest official opening in our history

It was Friday May 12, 1972, when the new Trio Steakhouse opened its doors on Yonge Street in Aurora (see photos on Page 4).

Three brothers, Bill, Ted and Tely Spasopoulos, had arrived.

They had previously operated the Three Coins Restaurant in Richmond Hill.

It was hard to believe that the lovely new dining room had been created out of the ice cream making room and the dairy bar of the old Cousin's Dairy, with a bowling alley on the second floor.

The brothers found out that Mother was a popular girl in Aurora just a few days after they opened. They opened on a Friday and had to close early on Mother's Day Sunday when they ran out of food.

More than 500 people showed up for dinner at the newly opened and renovated 124-seat restaurant.

Some waited lined up on Yonge Street for up to an hour for a table and some had to be turned away.

In January, 1973, after eight months of waiting, the Trio finally received its liquor license.

The time had come to peel away the tape hiding the word "Tavern" on

the Trio sign hanging outside the restaurant.

It wasn't quite as simple as it sounds.

The peeling of the tape and the official opening of the tavern and bar will no doubt go down in history as the longest and most difficult official opening in Aurora.

It all started at noon Saturday when then Mayor Dick Illingworth was hoisted up in an Aurora Hydro truck bucket to the sign at the second floor level.

His instructions were simple. All he had to do was grab a corner of the tape and peel it off. Not quite, he learned, as the tape was frozen on the sign and very brittle, coming off in little bits.

Bill Spasopoulos came to the mayor's aid. First he tried a knife, then a scraper, hot water and finally a blowtorch.

By this time a large crowd had gathered on the sidewalk to watch the proceedings.

Then Fire Chief Gord Burling was in the crowd and when he saw the blowtorch come out, he said later he considered calling out the fire trucks, just in case.

The blowtorch did the job and the sign was finally bare for all to see, but only on the south side.

The north side was left for a better day. It was

12:42 when the last bit of tape was finally pulled off. The unveiling took 42 minutes.

The mayor was helped down from the truck and escorted into the restaurant to have the first drink at the bar, strictly for medicinal purposes.

The brothers never looked back. They converted the bowling alleys into a banquet hall and later into offices.

In 1981 they acquired the building to the north of the restaurant, which had accommodated the former Aurora telephone exchange and later a dentist office. The building was demolished and new offices built.

They also acquired the Elwood Davis service station and provincial drivers' license bureau property to the south and built a new structure to match the two-storey restaurant.


When the Bell building was being demolished a time capsule was found in the building's cornerstone laid in 1928. It

contained coins, the annual report of the town for 1925 and other items.

At a time when almost everyone believed Aurora's downtown was dead, the Spasopoulos brothers had faith and put it into action acquiring a total of 182 feet of Yonge Street frontage with parking for 50 cars.

The Trio is still one of Aurora's favourite eating spots.

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## Rumours & Rumblings

# Remembering the Aurora Highlands Golf Club

On May 18, 1972, York Regional Councillors were guests of the Toronto Dominion Bank for a reception and dinner at the now defunct Aurora Highlands Golf Club.

The Aurora representatives were quick to remind their regional colleagues that Aurora was the geographical and social centre of the region. (Well, close enough...actually it's in the middle of Lake Wilcox).

While they didn't agree, they did admit that the facilities at the clubhouse were a definite asset to Aurora.

It was on this occasion when T-D officials presented an architect's rendering of the new bank to be constructed at the northeast corner of Yonge and Wellington Streets in Aurora, the site of the former Queen's Hotel.

The bank is still there.

### CAPTAIN OF THE CLOUDS

Many oldtimers, especially old Air Force types, will remember the movie about the RCAF named "Captain of the Clouds" starring James Cagney.

Believe it or not, there's a small connection between the movie and the Town of Aurora.

In May, 1992, well-known CTV newscaster Tom Clark, a resident of Aurora, was the Inspecting Officer at the annual parade of the Aurora 140 Air Cadet Squadron.

In addressing the cadets after the inspection, he told them that the Clark family had a long connection with the RCAF.

He said his grandfather, Joe Clark, had been in charge of public affairs for the RCAF and was responsible for the film "Captain of the Clouds".

He also told the cadets about his personal experiences covering the actions of Canadian troops in the Persian Gulf conflict as a reporter and how the actions of the Canadian troops made him proud to be a Canadian.

"I have that same feeling today. You make me proud," Clark told the cadets.

(A further connection to Captain of the Clouds: It was filmed in North Bay, home of The Auroran's editor)

### WAS THERE A STAFF REPORT?

Everyone involved in local politics knows that growth should pay for growth, but unfortunately it doesn't, in spite of all the talk.

A lot of the blame must be placed at the feet of the Harris government for making changes in the Development Charges Act to benefit the developers.

Under the amended legislation developers can no longer be forced to pay for the so-called "soft services", such as new arenas, libraries and other cultural and recreational facilities caused by growth.

In addition, developers only have to pay 90 per cent of "hard services", such as roads, water, sewers and other infrastructure caused by growth, with current taxpayers picking up the balance.

It is also well known that a balanced residential assessment is necessary with commercial and industrial assessment to assist in maintaining an acceptable property tax rate for the municipality.

The rule of thumb used to be 65 per cent residential to 35 per cent commercial/industrial.

Back in March, 2001, Councillor John West gained council support for staff to investigate and bring back a report including a policy requiring all residential developers, as a condition of approval, to include some commercial assessment in their overall development.

It could be part of their residential development, or in another part of town.

The policy was used successfully by council of the day back in the early 1960s.

Was the report ever presented to council, and if so, what happened to it?

### GARBAGE COLLECTION

Today taxpayers are used to paying for garbage collection and disposal through their tax bill, but it wasn't always that way for Aurora residents.

Back in 1967, the garbage charge was included with the

monthly water bill. It was later added to the tax bill as a general charge.

### GEARED-TO-INCOME UNITS

In September, 1975, Aurora became the first municipality in York Region to accept geared-to-income rental units under a provincial assistance program.

Council agreed to accept 50 units to be spread between the two new Wellington Towers apartment buildings on Wellington Street West.

Up to an income of \$500 per month, a family paid 20 per cent of its income in rent.

More than \$500 per month, the family paid 25 per cent. The balance was subsidized in the Ontario Housing Corporation project.

### PHONY \$100 BILLS SEIZED

Customers of many local stores are familiar with a sign on the door advising them that \$100 bills are not accepted due to the number of counterfeit bills in circulation.

This isn't anything new.

Back in October, 1974, phony \$100 bills were passed at Aurora Hobby Craft and other stores in the area.

At the time, two young men attempted to change a \$100 bill at the Aurora Branch of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

The teller became suspicious and phoned police who arrested two teenagers from Simcoe County. Police also seized nine \$100 counterfeit bills



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# Tigers win home opener after pair of road losses

After winning their season opener in fine fashion, the Aurora Tiger Junior A hockey team had to use their home opener Friday to find only their second win in four games.

The game against the Stouffville Spirit was just what the doctor ordered as the locals muscled their way to a 4-1win, after dropping a pair of away games last week; 8-6 to Pickering and 6-5 to Markham.

With newly signed Sam Skwarchuk in the line up, Aurora was looking to add some much needed two way play to the team.

Meanwhile, Chris Whitley got the start in goal...and he didn't let the home town fans down. Whitley looked his old form from last year, making some incredible saves to keep the Spirit off the scoreboard until the dying minutes of the game.

Aurora spent most of the second period with a man in the penalty box, in fact, Stouffville had 12 power play opportunities to Aurora's four throughout the entire game.

And Stouffville outshot Aurora 15-9 in the second, but it was the Tigers who capitalized on the only goal as Justin Olden scored, set up by Matt Christie and Mark Poole.

Aurora dominated most of the third, this time out shooting the Spirit 13-7.

A pretty goal by Christie, set up by Olden, gave the Tigers a convincing 4-0 lead early in the third.

Aurora held Stouffville off the scoreboard until just over two minutes left in the game, when the Spirit finally beat Whitley, and the Tigers came away with the well deserved two points.

Last Sunday the Tigers helped the Pickering Panthers open their hockey season.

With five regulars still sitting out suspensions, Aurora was looking to continue the success they accomplished with the Jr. C call ups they used Friday in their league-opening win

## Fundraiser Saturday

The Aurora Minor Bantam "AA" Tigers hockey team will hold a fundraiser this Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the parking lot of Aurora's Canadian Tire Store, Yonge and Murray Drive.

You can get your car washed and buy some doughnuts at the same time.



**It must be winter. Junior A hockey returned to the Aurora Community Centre Friday night as the Aurora Tigers hosted the Stouffville Spirit. As usual, Mayor Tim Jones was on hand to do the routine dropping of the puck, to officially kick off the season. Both team captains did their bit to make the event a success and the Tigers did their part giving the hometown audience a 4-1 victory over the visitors.**

Photo by Barry Bridgeford

over Collingwood.

But it wasn't to be as Pickering scored an empty net goal with only six seconds left in the game to seal an 8-6 victory

Aurora came out flying early in the first period and quickly jumped into a 2-0 lead on goals by Matt Bahen, set up by Derek Doucette and Scott Goheen; and Jordan Brenner, set up by Olden and Chris Ryan.

Pickering managed a power play goal to close the gap to 2-1 before the Tigers fired three more goals by Mike Fiume, set up by Olden; Goheen, from Doucette and Olden; and Steve Mignardi, from Bahen and Alex Eaton.

Pickering did manage to outshoot Aurora 11-8 in the first period.

In most cases, a convincing 5-1 lead after 20 minutes of play should be enough to carry through the rest of the game...but not for Aurora.

Pickering would not go away easily, and some lacklustre play and unnecessary penalties by Aurora put the Tigers on their heels.

The Panthers kept hammering away at the lead, capitalizing on all their opportunities with a power play and a short handed goal to eventually tie the game at 5-5 after 40 minutes of play.

Aurora did manage to outshoot Pickering 13-7 during the second period but that didn't register on the scoreboard.

Pickering continued to capitalize on the few opportunities they received in the third.

They took the lead during the first minute of play in the

third and followed that up with their third power play goal of the night to take a 7-5 edge.

Aurora did manage another goal, by Bahen from Steve Mignardi, but the empty net goal gave Pickering the incredible comeback win

One night later, Aurora was in Markham to play their third game in four nights.

Aurora was finally able to dress a full roster of players after all the suspensions expired.

The Waxers opened the scoring on a poor clearing attempt by starting goaltender Lance King.

Aurora tied the game on a power play goal scored by Matt Bahen, set up by Steve Mignardi.

Markham managed to get another puck past King to give them a 2-1 lead after 20 minutes of play.

Aurora's top line of Jamie Minchella, Matt Christie and Justin Olden were on fire, scoring the next four goals for the Tigers.

Minchella scored 16 seconds into the second to tie the score at 2-2.

Minchella's goal was set up by Olden. Markham jumped into a 4-2 lead by the middle of the second before Minchella closed the

gap to 4-3, set up by Matt Christie and Olden.

The third period seemed to belong to Aurora with Minchella scoring his third goal of the night, set up by Christie and Olden to tie the game at 4-4.

Christie gave the Tigers the lead with 4:25 left in the third, set up by Olden.

But, with 59 seconds left and the Waxers net empty for the extra attacker, Markham not only scored the tying goal, but the go ahead goal as well with 26 seconds left on the clock, giving them a 6-5 win.

Aurora meets the Spirit in Stouffville Thursday, before returning home to host their Yonge Street rivals, the Newmarket Hurricanes Friday evening and the

Collingwood Blues Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p.m.

**PANTHERS 8  
TIGERS 6**

| GAME SUMMARIES                            |  |
|---|--|
| <b>TIGERS 4<br/>SPIRIT 1</b>              |  |
| 1st Period                                |  |
| AUR: Goheen (Fiume, Poole) 5.13           |  |
| AUR: Gault (Brenner, Godfrey) 6.46        |  |
| 2nd Period                                |  |
| AUR: Olden (Christie, Poole) 5.28         |  |
| 3rd Period                                |  |
| AUR: Christie (Olden) 5.15                |  |
| STO: Armstrong (Smithson, Brueisch) 17.13 |  |
| <b>WAXERS 6<br/>TIGERS 5</b>              |  |
| 1st Period                                |  |
| MAR: Ferrante (Unassisted) 7.26           |  |
| AUR: Bahen (Minchella) 15.06              |  |
| MAR: Cribari (Porretta, Brooks) 18.19     |  |
| 2nd Period                                |  |
| AUR: Minchella (Olden) .17                |  |
| MAR: Steane (Guminny) 1.03                |  |
| MAR: Cribari (Wright) 10.42               |  |
| AUR: Minchella (Christie, Olden) 15.42    |  |
| 3rd Period                                |  |
| AUR: Minchella (Christie, Olden) 6.24     |  |
| AUR: Christie (Olden) 15.35               |  |
| MAR: Wright (Cribari, Pain) 19.18         |  |
| MAR: Porretta (Brooks, Cribari) 19.34     |  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1st Period                             |  |
| AUR: Bahen (Doucette, Goheen) .22      |  |
| AUR: Brenner (Olden, Ryan) 1.41        |  |
| PIC: Frachin (Alexiou, Colterman) 6.33 |  |
| AUR: Fiume (Olden) 9.34                |  |
| AUR: Goheen, (Doucette, Olden)14.43    |  |
| AUR: Mignardi (Bahen, Eaton) 18.29     |  |
| 2nd Period                             |  |
| PIC: Gadon (Aston, Taylor) 3.15        |  |
| PIC: Toms (Gadon) 9.42                 |  |
| PIC: Miller (Toms, Taylor) 14.15       |  |
| PIC: Black (Gilbert, Coultice) 16.08   |  |
| 3rd Period                             |  |
| PIC: Miller (Unassisted) .27           |  |
| PIC: Black (Gilbert, Aston) 4.47       |  |
| AUR: Bahen (Mignardi) 11.52            |  |
| PIC: Colterman (Unassisted) 19.54      |  |

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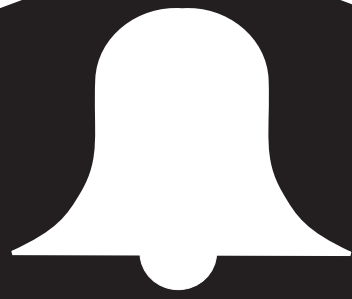
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# Barbarians win a title, but miss one by a hair

Two Aurora Barbarian rugby teams battled for provincial championships last week; one was successful and the other came within a hair.

The U16 boys came frustratingly close to winning

the Ontario title at Fletcher's Fields in Victoria Square against Oshawa, but the U18 boys were successful defeating Lindsay 12-5.

For the U16's, things looked grim early on, when

Oshawa ran up a three-try lead in the first half, but Aurora managed to score a try of its own just before the whistle.

In the second half, Aurora played the majority of the game in the Oshawa end of

the field.

With 15 minutes to go, the Barbs scored a lovely try when the 8-man shuttled the ball nicely to the scrum-half to score in the corner.

The remainder of the game was heartbreaking as Aurora was at, or across, the try line six times, but could not get the ball down. The final score was 15-10.

Aurora's tries were scored by Trevor Short and Daryl Stick.

The U-16s finish the season as Toronto Rugby Union champions and Ontario Rugby Union runners-up.

Meanwhile, the U18 boys took on a strong side from Lindsay for the Ontario championship, and came up winners.

While Aurora seemed to control most of the game, this effort was not translated onto the scoreboard, and the match remained a nailbiter until the final whistle.

Aurora scored 10 minutes into the game when a series of long passes reached the winger, Adam Claus, who scored in the corner.

Despite several opportunities, the half ended with Aurora up 5-0.

In the second half, Aurora's hard efforts were rewarded when 8-man, Ryan Sampson, picked up the ball from the scrum and fought through five tackles to score. Scrum-half, Kai Sorensen, kicked the convert.

The game seemed well out of reach, when a Lindsay breakaway ended up as a try scored under the posts in the final two minutes.

When it was converted, the teams were only a try apart.

With the drizzle turning to rain, ball handling was dicey on both sides, and several Lindsay threats had to be extinguished.

The game ended with Aurora leading 12-5, good enough to make them the ORU U18 champs.



# Midget "AA" Tigers capture tournament

Talk about kicking the hockey season off on the right foot, er, skate.

The Aurora Minor Midget "AA" Tigers won the championship title in the Richmond Hill Early Bird Hockey tournament last week.

In the first game, Aurora was matched with a scrappy Burlington team but it didn't matter. Aurora won the game 4-2.

This tight-checking match saw the teams tied after two frames with goals from Daryl Osborne and Sak Pietila.

Jordan Ofield popped the winner in the third while Kyle Robinson sealed the victory with an empty netter.

Game 2 saw the Tigers up against their arch rivals from Ajax. Ajax came out flying, determined to defeat the Tigers who had eliminated them from playoff action last season and they wasted little time winning 3-0.

The Tigers then met the Toronto Aeros in a must-win game.

The Aeros were City Champs last year, but the hungry Cats played their game and came out on top 5-3.

A strong Tiger effort and goals by Michael Jack, Shawn Beer, Jordan Ofield and David Delzotto put Aurora ahead 4-0 at the end of the first and they

never looked back. Beer added a third period marker to seal the win.

The semi-finals matched the Tigers with the Hillcrest Summits.

This tight-checking, end to end game was scoreless until Jordon Ofield found the mark with 1:25 left in regulation time from Tyson Dover. Shawn Gwilliam was flawless in net to earn the shutout as the Tigers advanced to the finals 1-0.

Aurora would meet Ajax once again in the championship finals.

The determined Tigers came out flying, with victory on their minds.

Shawn Beer led the offence, firing a hat trick while Ryan Bryce netted two, including the winner, as Aurora skated to a 5-2 victory and the tournament title.

Making up the team are Shawn Beer, Ryan Bryce, Matt Cleverdon, David DelZotto, Tyson Dover, Shawn Gwilliam, Bryan Hillar, Tommy Hurley, Michael Jack, Kyle Johnson, David Kennedy, David Martyn, Clinton McCullough, Jordan Ofield, Daryl Osborne, Michael Osborne, Sak Pietila, Nathan Rivard and Kyle Robinson.



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# Writers' Group celebrates first year

By **NIKKI FOSTER**

The Aurora Writers' Group is approaching its first year anniversary this fall.

Nearly 50 people are in the members' listing.

Support inside and out is growing strong as the club put a recent grant from the Town of Aurora's Arts & Cultural Fund to good use.

Part of the group's appeal and continual growth has come from the dedication of its members to each other as well as the group.

Both experienced writers and newcomers are equally welcome and encouraged, whether publishing is the goal or not.

The group has attracted writers from various genres and styles, some of whom have injected a new focus on their work.

Theatrical writers, for example, have given new insights into turning stories into possible plays and pointed out the importance of the director in playwrighting.

One highly popular, and humorous feature is the 'Five Minute Writing Exercise'.

Here a single line quote from

an author is read out and the participants scribble out a short story in five minutes.

Some people who previously pleaded it was an impossible task actually turned in some memorable stories which intrigued the group.

Children's stories are very popular in the group and various markets are discussed.

On the other hand, one writer's World War 2 memoirs were both highly original and intriguing.

Some people have come to the group totally intimidated by the idea of actually putting their

thoughts on paper.

However, the five-minute exercise generally generates motivation. If that doesn't, listening to other people sharing similar experiences about writing usually does.

Hearing other people talk about their personal projects and discussing them can be great encouragement to the aspiring writer.

Most group members have, at one time or another, admitted that their first interest is in joining the group for inspiration.

Having a forum of like-minded individuals is inspiring in itself.

While that becomes the focus during the first half of the meetings, the second half also consists of reading personal work if desired and receiving feedback.

A variety of writing topics is regularly discussed, such as methodology and at-home inspiration.

Favourite books on the topic are often brought in by the volunteer chairperson of each meeting.

Guest speakers have been brought in on occasion as well.

Most recently, Danielle Urhart of Aurora came in to


speak to the group about her success in the Toronto Star short story contest.

Overall, the group is a source of exposure and motivation to enhance one's own writing.

The next meeting is sched-

uled for October 7 at 7:30 in Aurora's Town Hall.

During the group's short life, the Club has also spawned a web page managed by Barry Bridgeford, located at <http://www.littech.on.ca/awg>



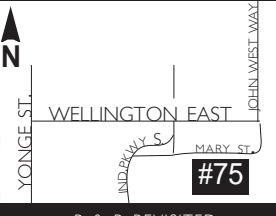
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**WHEN:** Thursday, September 26, 2002 at 7:30 pm  
**WHERE:** Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge Street, (at Church St.)

For more information and to reserve a space please call:  
**Darlene Robinson 416-444-0694 or 1-866-531-8095** (toll free)  
e-mail: [pdj.robinson@sympatico.ca](mailto:pdj.robinson@sympatico.ca)

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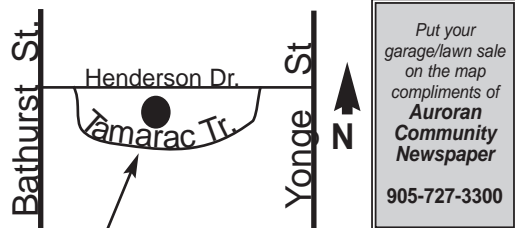
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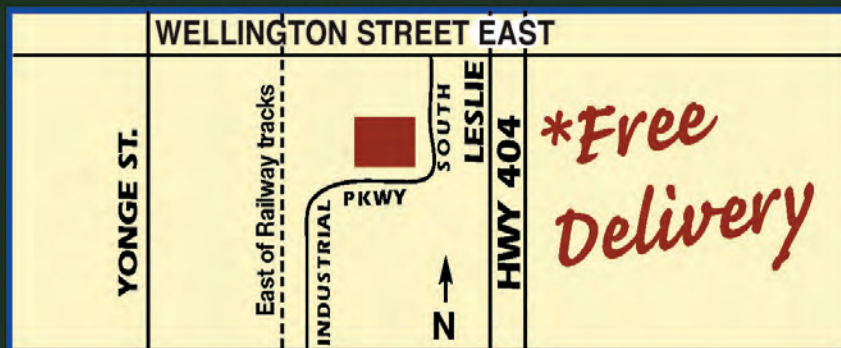


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