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Clean yard bylaw OK'd

Aurora Council adopted the controversial Clean Yard Bylaw last week on a 5-3 recorded vote.

Mayor Tim Jones and Councillors David Griffith, Betty Petersen, Damir Vrancic and Ron Wallace supported the bylaw while Councillors John West, George Timpson and Evelina MacEachern were opposed.

Councillor Nigel Kean was not at the meeting.

Prior to the vote, Mike Evans appeared before council's Open Forum on behalf of Ben Kestain and sought a one-month deferral so that Kestain could appear on behalf of the New Deal Ratepayers Association.

He added that Kestain had suffered an abuse of power by being called before the Property Standards Appeal Board and then a month later all charges were dropped.

Councillor John West, who has opposed the bylaw since it was first proposed, asked for the deferral, but his motion was defeated by a 4-3 vote.

Councillor Damir Vrancic opposed the motion to defer claiming that council had plenty of opportunity for discussion and he was prepared to implement the bylaw, which resulted in the recorded vote.



Pretty Olga Bondareva of Aurora enjoys an Ida Red apple, freshly picked from one of the numerous apple orchards in the Aurora area. Some orchards are already "picked out" but this one - Pine Farms Orchard in King Township - is still open to the public. Auroran photo by David Falconer

Council rejects its own proposal for Habitat home

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

In July, after reviewing two possible town-owned sites for a Habitat for Humanity home, Aurora Council determined a former hydro substation site on Murray Drive was the most appropriate and recommended the site be rezoned to accommodate a residence.

Last week, with only one councillor in opposition and bowing to pressure from neighbouring residents, Council squashed the recommendation.

The official plan and zoning

bylaw listed the site as public open space and the proposed amendments would change it to urban residential.

Residents opposed the proposal in August and pleaded with council members to retain the last little bit of green space on Murray Drive.

John Volpe, a volunteer representing Habitat for Humanity in York, an Aurora resident, assured residents the organization would not want to build a home in a community where it would not be

Please see page 2

Briefly

Make a mess

Wanna make a mess?

Pick and carve your own pumpkin...that should create the mess, but the good news is, the staff at the Aurora Leisure Complex will clean it up.

On Saturday, October 26, at 1 p.m. you choose the pumpkin, pay between \$5 and \$7, and the Complex staff will supply the necessary materials to create the best Halloween jack-o-lantern ever!

Supplies include paints/brushes, carving utensils, stickers, candles and even plastic bags to take home the seeds.

Call the Leisure Complex at (905) 841-7529 to reserve a spot. For more information, contact Julie at (905) 727-3123 ext. 530.

Items needed

Organizers putting together the Sixth Annual Wells Street Public School Fall Fair are looking for items to be used in their Silent Auction.

The fair, scheduled for the Town Park October 26, has raised more than \$39,000 over the past six years, including \$9,200 last year, of which \$3,200 came from the silent auction.

If you can help, call Marsha Morassutti at 905-727-6461

Last chance

The third and final Farmer's Market experiment will be held Saturday and Councillor Nigel Kean promises even more booths and selection than ever.

Last week's market brought out a few more vendors and sales were brisk, he said.

The market is set up in the Temperance Street parking lot, just south of Wellington Street West.

Booths will be operational from 7 a.m.

Go ahead, back up

An employee at Granny's Tarts invited The Auroran to visit the plant Friday as it was the historic firm's last day in business. Perhaps do some pictures to record the event for posterity. We agreed.

When our photographer arrived, a very stern employee informed him there would be no pictures taken in that building that day, and in so many words, said, get lost.

Which employee was the worker and which was the management? Any guesses?

Washroom proposal nixed

Aurora's Department of Leisure Services is considering the construction of a public washroom facility to be located on the north side of Hollandview Trail near Snedden Avenue.

The facility would be designed for the use of residents using nearby soccer and baseball fields.

But neighbouring residents have other ideas. They don't want it.

Greg Haines, representing the Bayview Greens Ratepayers

Association, attended a recent meeting of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee to express the association's concerns about the proposed facility.

He said many of the issues raised included safety for children, vandalism, potential for loiterers, potential for a gang hang-out and the possibility for attack or abduction to take place in or near the washrooms.

He provided a petition of 117

names of residents in the area who are opposed to the facility.

That report was presented to last week's council meeting, with a large number of area residents in the audience.

Michael Tough, of the ratepayers' association, attended the meeting to confirm the residents' opposition to the proposed washroom facility.

He listed a number of such attacks that had occurred recently

Please see page 2

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Coming Events In Aurora

CONTINUING

Artist R.N. Staley presents "Nature's Own Forest Art" in the Skylight Gallery at the town hall. Also an exhibit of oils and watercolour paintings by artist Ann Judin. Until October 31, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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 5

Downtown Farmer's Market - Temperance Street parking lot. 7 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.

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 7

Earlier announced date for Aurora Writers' Group meeting has been changed to October 21 in the Holland Room at the Aurora Town Hall. Everyone is welcome. 7.30 p.m.

OCTOBER 9

Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at Mail Boxes Etc., 5.30 - 7.30 p.m. Free. Register 905-727-7262.

OCTOBER 25-26

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

OCTOBER 26

Sixth Annual Wells Street Public School Fall Fair will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Town Park and at the school. Features include a Haunted Tower, face painting, pumpkin decorating, Jump Castle, Mummy Wrap, games for prizes, cookie decorating, Where's Waldo? hunt, Monster Mash Karaoke, and more. Event is presented by the Wells Street School Supporters.
* * * *

Evening silent auction in St. Andrew's Hall at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 32 Mosley Street, Aurora. Tickets covering dessert, refreshments, and entertainment are \$5. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for viewing.

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

NOVEMBER 12

Enjoy a visit to Niagara-on-the-Lake to see a performance of Noel Coward's comedy "Hay Fever" with the Aurora Seniors. Depart the community centre at 9 a.m. returning about 6:30 p.m. Members \$74, non-members \$79. Call 905-727-2816 to register.

Habitat proposal rejected

From page 1
welcomed.

It was pointed out that the only other possible site, located at the corner of Mary Street and the Industrial Parkway, was not considered suitable for a home.

While there was general agreement that the Habitat for Humanity was a good program, the Murray Drive property was not suitable, residents maintained.

Last week, Director of Planning Sue Seibert said her staff had reviewed the property and determined that sufficient land existed to the east to permit the relocation of one park bench.

It was also noted that the existing open space covers approximately four acres and the proposal to convey the lot to Habitat for

Humanity would reduce the green space to 3.8 acres.

Seibert said there was sufficient space to allow for the continued use of the lands for an informal walking trail, along the stream area, and the addition of another residence was not expected to cause negative impacts on the neighbourhood.

Several residents expressed concerns about the development of the property, such as using park property when there was so much open land in the municipality, the market value of the property and traffic safety danger, as the property was located on a curve on Murray Drive.

Others pointed out that children use the property to play and senior citizens use the park benches to rest after shopping at a nearby centre.

Speeding complaints pour into committee

The Traffic Safety Advisory Board reported last week that several complaints had been received from residents regarding speeding on Aurora streets.

Police have been asked to increase enforcement of the posted speed limits on Tyler and George Streets, but did not recommend a school crossing guard at the

intersection as the required warrants had not been met.

Police have also been asked to increase enforcement of the speed limit on Golf Links Drive.

Complaints were also received about speeding and traffic volumes on the St. John's Sideroad, which was forwarded to the region for action.

Speeding and traffic concerns on McClellan Way were referred to staff for review.

Washrooms

From page 1
in other municipalities.

Councillor John West requested a status report on the proposed facility and was advised it was being considered for the 2003 capital budget and was part of the master plan.

Councillor Ron Wallace asked if the facility would be available for the public when events were not scheduled for the park and was told the washrooms were only open when games were scheduled and were locked when the park was not in use.

The project was referred back to the committee.

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Council was criticized for making a decision on the property prior to the public having an opportunity to comment.

After commenting on the traffic hazards, one citizen said, "I don't want to come back and say I told you so."

Councillor George Timpson said that as the member who suggested use of the lot, he had read the letters and listened to citizens' comments and he recommended the proposed amendments be denied.

Other members of council suggested the property be designated as parkland to prevent similar issues in the future.

Councillor Ron Wallace

was the lone dissenter as he supported the use of the lot for a Habitat for Humanity home.

He noted the former hydro substation had the appearance of a home and nobody objected.

He said the site wasn't a park, only green space, and he had occasion to pass the site several times a day and had never seen children playing there.

"Any parent who would let children play soccer in that space needs help," he said, to boos from the audience.

Volpe was an interested viewer of the discussion.

Following the meeting, although disappointed, he noted, "it was democracy in action".

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Still alive and kicking following their Terry Fox Run at Cardinal Carter High School in Aurora recently are these students, left to right, Ross Riabinin, Sal Gabrielli, Tom Caravaggio, Laura Pitoscia and Carmen Lafrata. Paul Cozza is in the front holding the certificate. More than 1,200 students took part in the event, raising upwards of \$40,000.

Auroran photo by Matt Haggerty

Town joins fight to change rules

During the mid-1990s the Planning Act was amended to allow applicants to appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board prior to local elected representatives considering the application and in some cases before all information is available to hold the statutory public meeting. It's known as the 90-day rule. This has resulted in many applications being appealed to the OMB at considerable cost to the municipality, as Aurora taxpayers are well aware. The appointed members of the OMB have broad


Meanwhile...

A good example of the 90-day rule is an appeal by Preserve Homes due to council's failure to make a decision on their application for the development of 128.4 acres of agricultural land located at the northeast corner of Bayview Avenue and Wellington Street East. The company submitted an appeal to the OMB February 25 well before the public planning meeting held by council March 27. At that time council directed staff to work with the applicant in an attempt to resolve the issues and concerns raised prior to the OMB hearing scheduled for next week. Staff recommended outside legal counsel to represent the municipality causing Councillor Ron Wallace to ask about the cost. Town solicitor Shelley Pohjola replied that it was "a moving target" and could range from \$25,000 to \$110,000 depending on the number of issues and the length of the hearing.

planning policies and can make decisions in the absence of a local planning decision, providing an incentive to the applicant to bypass the municipal process. This issue has been a source of concern for many municipalities in the fast-growing GTA due to the added expense to the taxpayer and the loss of local control in planning and development decisions. As a result, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has established a Planning Task Force to review the OMB process

and how best to serve municipal interests in resolving planning conflicts. AMO is encouraging municipal members to adopt resolutions that state the 90-day rule is being abused by the development industry as an interim step. At last week's council meeting, unanimous support was given to a resolution urging the province to conduct a critical review of the process and requirements for appeals to the OMB. Councillors also want to know why municipal taxpayers have to pay to

defend decisions on official plans that have been approved through a public process.



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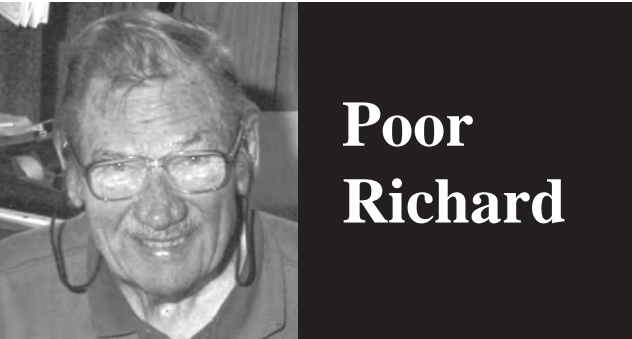
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Poor Richard

This issue doesn't fit the routine

*Councils often adopt policies,
Which are not supposed to be broken;
They are primarily staff guidelines,
Until other councils have spoken.
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

There have been many long and idiotic debates over the years in the Aurora council chambers, but one of the worst has to be the ongoing debate over a renaming policy for Aurora parks and public facilities.

It lasted for almost an hour at a recent general committee meeting before being adopted on a 4-3 vote, but will no doubt break out again next week when the committee report comes to council.

Policy is defined as "any plan of action, especially in government or business administration", along with other definitions. Councils normally set a policy for ongoing issues, as a guideline to staff.

If applications are received from citizens for something covered within a council policy, staff members are normally authorized to deal with it, rather than everything coming to council for approval.

But not everything can be covered by council policy and the renaming of parks and public facilities is one of them.

It's an issue that doesn't fit into a set of rules and regulations, which can be delegated to staff.

If a renaming is considered necessary, and I don't know why it should be, it becomes a political decision, and that can only be done by the council of the day.

A more positive step would be to develop a naming policy, as has been done for street names.

The issue came to light some time ago when a request was received to change the name of Willow Creek Park to Elizabeth Hader Park, as a tribute to the young Aurora girl who lost her life in a horseback riding tragedy.

Her death brought about changes in legislation requiring stricter controls for riding stables in hopes that such action would prevent similar-type accidents.

In response to the request, council agreed to rename the park.

Some members of council believed the name change was more a result of emotion, rather than reason, and suggested the Leisure Services Advisory Committee develop a renaming policy, which council in their wisdom, or lack thereof, approved.

The division on council was caused by members who argued that having a renaming policy could change some of the historic names set by a previous council, while others argued that they were protecting history by setting a policy for the future and future councils.

They seemed to forget, or didn't realize, that one council cannot bind the hands of future councils, except by legal means such as a 10 or 15-year debenture for a capital project, or a road or other major project that overlaps council terms.

At the same meeting, these councillors broke a policy that had been set by a previous council.

Some years ago, council set a policy dealing with identification signs on buildings. It was designed to be fair to all applicants, as the size of the sign is to be related to the size of the building.

At the meeting, approval was given to variances to the sign bylaw for Pizza Pizza and Home Depot and at a previous meeting for Winners.

If the sign request had been within the laid down policy, it would never have reached the council table, as staff members would have dealt with it.

But renaming a public park or facility does not fall within the same category and each request must be dealt with politically, not administratively, and that becomes a decision of the council of the day.

Not only was the time wasted, the debate became heated and personal, with behaviour that should not be tolerated in a council chamber.

Obviously members of council have forgotten the provisions of the controversial Code of Ethics, which was adopted by a previous council in 1996.

The code was based on the premise that council members understand democratic and representative government, which requires that they be independent, impartial and responsible to the people of Aurora.

They are also expected to accurately communicate the decisions of council, even if they disagree with the majority decision. In addition, they are expected to follow the procedural bylaw, the Aurora Corporate Values document, whatever that is, plus all applicable provincial legislation.

An excellent Christmas gift for our members of council is a copy of Robert's "Rules of Order" or "Procedure at Meetings in Canada" by Arthur Beauchesne.



We're not exactly sure what's going on here, but this is a gathering of high school teachers in front of the stage of what is now Wells Street Public School. Principal Jack Knowles (arms folded) appears to be holding court. In the back row, left to right, are Bob Smith, Arnold Miller (he became a principal at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School), Wilf Adams, Knowles, Norm Johnson, Roland Moddle and Frank Gregoire. Seated are, left to right, Lois Spooner, ?, ?, Grace Griffin, Mary Fletcher, and Madame Cameron. Can anyone help with the two question marks, and can you put a date on the photograph?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

I'm going swimmin' in a dirty pond...

To the editor,

I live in the north end of Aurora.

We have a beautiful trail that goes forever. We also have a beautiful conservation across the street from my house.

There's a long winding stream whose current flows north instead of south. I love walking my lab through those areas.

It never ceases to amaze me during my walks how many people I come across who almost jump out of their skin when they see my lab swim in the ponds.

They let out a gasp, "don't you know how filthy that pond is?"

I always reply, "yes, I do, there's a sign right there that tells me this pond is

hazardous to MY health, my dog's health, my CHIL-DREN'S health and YOUR health. I CAN read".

Then I say, "ya know, if I listened to all the hype and all the warnings and NEVER let my lab swim in a dirty pond where is a lab to go for a swim?"

Then I wonder to myself is a Labrador Retriever doomed to swim in the family chlorine filled pool? Sheesh, say it ain't so!

The chlorine can't be good for his skin either!

So, dirty, filthy, wretched, toad filled, ponds it will have to be for my lab.

He already breathes our smog filled air, wanders and sniffs on pesticide-poison sprayed lawns, and, yes, he occasionally has a leftover of hormone shot- up chicken tidbits!

Life is not worth living to a lab if he can't swim!

Let me remind you, humans are not supposed to drink coffee ever, right? Wrong.

The bright lights in the white gowns who reported that No-No came out this year reporting they were wrong. Coffee is okay now.

Oh, okay then, even though I never stopped having my two cups of coffee a day I will now swallow easier! Give me a break!

Every day we pick up the paper or look at the news and hear about a new warning. Any food with red dye or blue dye or that tastes good is bad for you! I've had enough.

I'm going to eat meat, chicken, pasta (yes, those

terrible carbohydrates, in small portions, of course) and chocolate for dessert and I'm going to enjoy it!

Then I'm going to swim in a disgusting, dirty pond with my lab.

**Yvonne Murphy
Aurora**

AURORAN

"Aurora's community newspaper"

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

Aurora Village Co-op celebrates anniversary

To the editor,

The Aurora Village Co-op celebrated its 20th anniversary on Saturday, Sept 14.

Mother Nature provided the perfect weather for this outdoor event. The children enjoyed a full afternoon and evening.

A real dunk tank was set up, where they could soak their parents,

neighbours, friends and the members of the Board. There was a fish pond, a bouncing castle, a candy floss maker, a scavenger hunt and a basketball game.

Together with the grown-ups they participated in a pie-eating contest and a tug of war. A chip wagon was brought in and volunteers of the co-op made

sure everybody got their fill of hamburgers, hot dogs and corn on the cob.

It is on days like this you realize what a fantastic neighbourhood a housing co-op can be.

Thanks to The Auroran for the picture in last week's paper.

**Bill van Oorschot
Aurora**



Wise water ways would curb waste

Like most residents, I have let my grass go and spent the time we are allowed to water, (in my case, on the odd numbered days, my address is 83, other than Mondays when watering is disallowed), filling my watering can and going back and forth to my flower pots and garden to keep my flowers alive during July and August.

In a way, I'm a little angry, for as I learned at Council recently, this whole exercise would not be necessary if every resident knew and abided by proper watering habits.

Aurora, Newmarket and East Gwillimbury are served by a deep aquifer through a number of wells that the Region operates to bring water up to the borders of these three municipalities who in turn provide the infrastructure to deliver this water to our homes and businesses.

The water in this aquifer is plentiful and flows continuously.

This aquifer is supplied by rain water which takes many years to travel through the ground to recharge.

The supply is at risk when we take more water out of the aquifer than there is water running through the aquifer at a given time.

The flow remains the same as it always has been, however, the problem arises when "draw out" becomes more than "flow in".

As soon as restrictions are put in place, the level of the aquifer returns pretty much to normal, according to charts we saw at this meeting.

Since June of 1999, the Town has had a year round watering regulation in effect that regulates our watering lawns, washing cars, sidewalks and driveways with a hose to those of us with an odd number street address to odd numbered days between 4 p.m. to 10 a.m. the following day, and those with even numbered street addresses to even number days for the same time period - with no water use permitted on Mondays.

Exceptions are made for people to water new sod for up to 3 weeks between 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. the next day, as well as businesses whose livelihood and employment depends on the use of water as it is not the purpose of this regulation to put people out of work.

In looking to the future to accommodate growth, water is also being added to this supply from Toronto and Peel.

The Toronto water supplement began recently.

The normal use of water includes watering our grass and flowers to sustain a green and healthy looking property.

Normal use is considered one inch of water a week for this purpose.

Water over and above one inch, I am advised, can actually be harmful to grass as it forces shallow root growth, which means the grass is less able to cope with dry periods.

I was most interested to hear what Deborah Korolnek, Director of Water and Wastewater for the Region of York, had to say.

Deb is also an Aurora resident, so she knows the effect of water bans.

If we all kept ourselves to watering an inch a week for our flowers and lawn, we would not need to impose water restrictions.

With this August being the driest since 1937, and with only half the normal average rainfall this summer, we found ourselves in an extreme situation.

Normally rain once a week will be enough to minimize our water consumption.

It has been suggested to me by a resident that one way to help to control those who water excessively with no regard to the ban is to set a standard water use regulation, proportionate to the size of property and zoned occupancy, over which one would be recognized for extra water use and billed a surcharge accordingly.

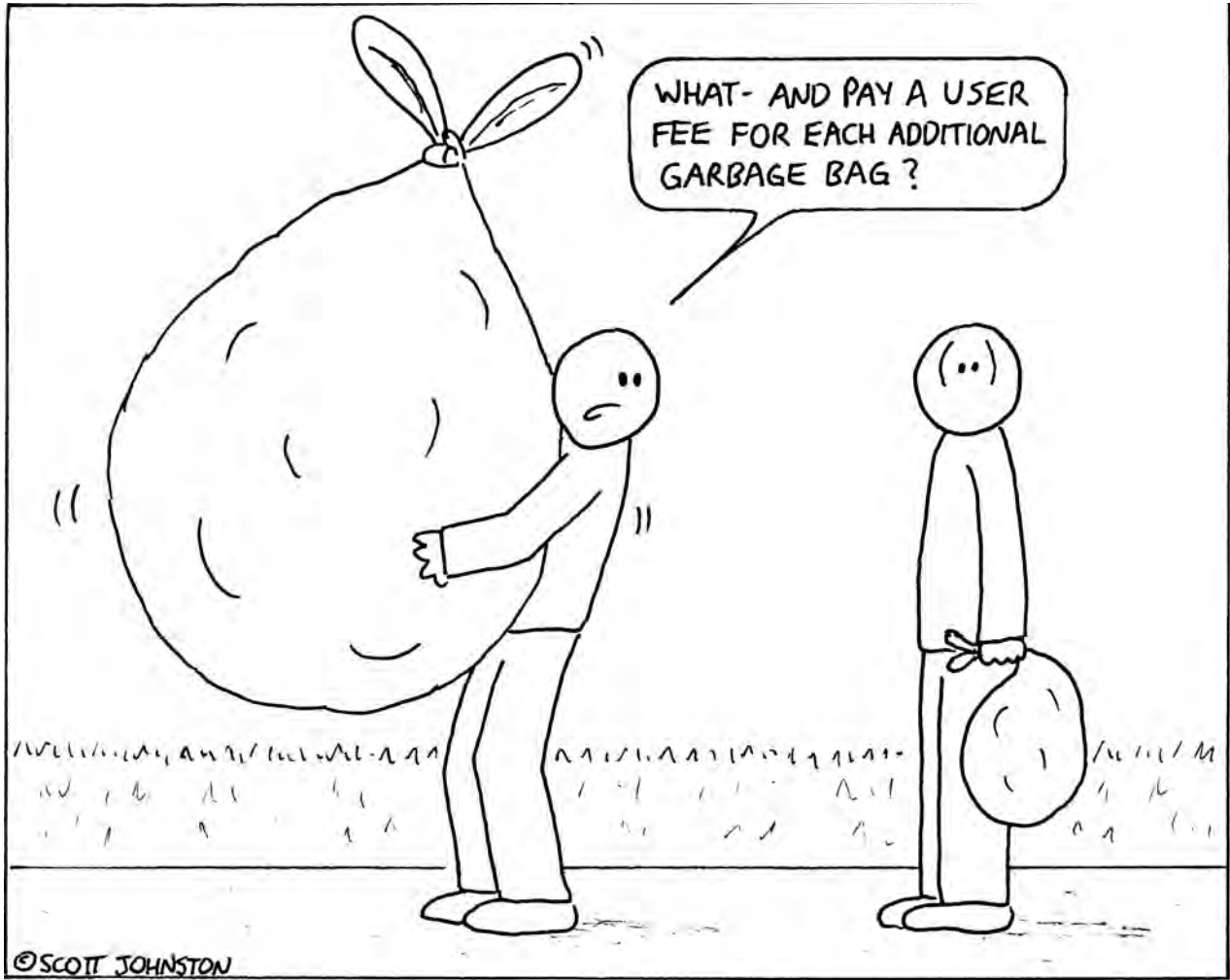
The thinking, as explained to me, was that this may be enough to avoid mandatory bans in dry seasons.

However, it then becomes a user pay application for those who can afford it, and does nothing to prevent the abuse of the excessive water taken by some in the first place.

Hopefully this extreme circumstance of mandatory controls in dry spells is a phenomenon and not a regular expectation.

However, it bears watching and addressing carefully for the future.

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

GARBAGE

Just a few questions

To the editor,

RE: Proposed three-bag garbage limit.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but some time ago, Council was toying with a two-bag garbage limit. Oh well, three bags is better than two bags.

There are, however, a few questions I have about paying for extra bags.

1) - What size would those bags be?

2) - Are we penalizing larger families who obviously generate more garbage?

3) - Would residents now start to search the neighbourhood to find places where less garbage appears at the curb in order to deposit their excess there?

4) - What happens when large objects are placed at the curb, such as rolls of old carpet, etc.

5) - Could a resident get some sort of credit for religiously recycling and composting and normally never having more than one bag at the curbside, so that once every 10 or 20 years, or when moving, he could clean out a basement? Or does the resident need to store the excess for weeks and thereby defeat the whole purpose of his cleaning effort?

6) - As an alternative would the town consider to increase that portion devoted to garbage collection and leave things as they are, but step up the education about recycling and composting?

In principle, I would agree to such a difficult to enforce by-law.

It is just that the grey matter popped up these questions.

Tom van den Elshout
Aurora

Garbage bag charges

To the editor,

I was thrilled to read recently that the Town of Aurora is planning on charging people for throwing away excess garbage.

My question is, when is this policy going to take effect?

People I know, a family of six (four children and two adults) continually throw away 10 bags of garbage a week.

Not the small garbage bags, but the largest ones money can buy.

My ears cringe when I hear the garbage men hefting their bags full of bottles and cans on to the truck.

I thought that everyone knew that we are running out of landfill space.

I thought everyone knew that bottles and cans will not decompose.

It is effortless to put the recycling bins out on the curb every two weeks.

While legislating this new policy to charge people for excess garbage, perhaps council should consider imposing higher fines for people who throw away recyclable non-decomposing material.

Particularly when this negligence is due primarily to laziness and ignorance.

Instead of just talking about this alleged change to garbage policy, I want to see it happen soon.

Sadly some people only respond to change when it costs them money.

Clearly preserving the environment does not seem to matter to everyone.

What exactly is the town waiting for to implement this policy?

Concered resident
Aurora

HABITAT

Selfish whiners killed proposal

To the editor,

The recent vote of Aurora Council to squash plans for a Habitat for Humanity home disgusts me.

However, not nearly as badly as the selfish whiners living on Murray Drive and Wiles Court, near the area proposed.

Cheers to Councillor Ron Wallace for his stand in favour of the project.

I believe it's not so much preservation of "green space" as closed-minded attitudes of what sort of people might move in.

In the years I have lived here, I have rarely seen that space used.

Another access to the land and stream behind is only a few feet away.

I wonder if the same acid negativity would have arisen had it been other than Habitat (home) for Humanity (family)?

Where's your humanity, Aurora snobs?

Gail Livitsanis
Aurora

"Not in my back yard" alive & well in Aurora

To the editor,

My husband and I attended the Aurora Council meeting to discuss the proposed Habitant for Humanity site on Murray Drive last Tuesday night.

As I listened to the arguments presented by the neighbours against this site, I felt an overwhelming sense of loss for our community.

The Town of Aurora offered this site on Murray Drive to Habitant for Humanity for the purpose of providing a home for a low-income family.

The neighbours argued on one hand that this green space provided a place for their children to play and on the other hand said this site is much too dangerous, because of the volume of traffic in this area, for a home to be built.

I can't understand, as a parent, anyone allowing their children to play in an area where, according to the neighbours, there have been so many serious car accidents.

Unfortunately, the "not in my back yard" syndrome seems to be alive and well in Aurora.

Jane Nielsen
Aurora

Rumours & Rumblings

Landing on a four-lane runway

After landing a home-built Emeraude aircraft on Highway 401 July 22, 1984, Aurora pilot Ron Murchie said it was awful nice to be alive.

Along with his 17-year-old daughter, Patty-Ann, Ron had flown to New Brunswick to pick up the plane for a friend.

They left early in the morning in order to make the return trip in daylight, and although they arrived before noon, the plane was not ready until 2:30 p.m. delaying their takeoff.

After leaving Drummondville, Quebec, the plane's radio suddenly died eliminating all contact with the ground. As a result, they had to make a detour around Montreal air space, eating up valuable fuel and time.

He was unable to contact the Kingston control tower to light the runway for a refueling stop, so he decided to press on to the military base at Trenton.

Before he could get there the engine quit so his only choice was to land on Highway 401.

A motorist sensed the pilot was in trouble and moved to the centre of the highway and used his four-way flashers to slow the traffic behind him to enable the plane to land in front of the line of cars.

After obtaining fuel and spending the night in the plane, the pair watched as the police closed the highway the next morning to allow the plane to take off and fly home.

A pilot for 33 years including six years in the Air Force, Murchie had more than 12,000 hours of flying time in everything from a crop duster to a jet.

FROM HOCKEY TO REAL ESTATE

In 1986, former Toronto Maple Leaf goalie Mike Palmateer traded his hockey equipment to open a restaurant in Aurora and later sell real estate as a member of York Group Realty, the Aurora office for Re/Max.

After playing with Toronto and Washington for about 10 years, he played for the Edmonton Oilers for a brief time where he lost out on a contract due to his bad knee.

When his stay in Edmonton was cut short, he stayed temporarily with his brother-in-law in Aurora.

He liked the town so much, he bought a house here. He also acquired the former Tymes restaurant and opened Palmateer's, a sports bar and restaurant, which he later sold to Joe Bedali, which is still operating as Jersey's.

Selling his house and restaurant gave him the confidence to launch his real estate career with Re/Max.

MORE ABOUT RE/MAX

In December, 1985, the historic Sprague House on Yonge Street South in Aurora entered a new era in the town's history, with the official opening of Re/Max York Realty, where the agency is still located.

The original owner of the Sprague property was Benjamin Pearson, a town merchant. It was a small portion of the 210-acre Crown Patent received by William Kennedy dated 1803.

The house was built shortly after Pearson purchased the property in 1855 and was originally oriented to face south.

Charles Tucker purchased the house in 1913 and lived there until 1920. When he acquired the property the land was valued at \$650 and the house at \$1,200.

Tucker sold the house to Joseph Mitchell who lived there until he sold the property to Lillian Zoe Sprague in 1939. She lived in the house until her death in 1984.

MORE REAL ESTATE NEWS

On September 24, 1987, Aurora's W. R. Case Realty officially opened its new office at the corner of Berczy Street and Wellington Street East.

The firm was started by Aurora native Bob Case more than 20 years before. At that time the council was trying to turn Wellington Street East into a professional service area and asked Case to lead the way with its new building. The site was the former location of the Davis Coal Company warehouse.

Case became a licensed broker in 1953 and started his own firm in 1966 with an office on Yonge Street. He was also president of two companies, with developments in Aurora and other areas.

HALLOWEEN RUINED BY TEACHERS' STRIKE

Halloween, 1997, wasn't quite the same for Vic and Sheila Parainfo when their 24-year-old tradition of treating students from Wells Street Public School to candy was affected by a teacher strike.

The Parainfos, who own Vic's Shoe Repair, prepare bags of candy every Halloween for the students who parade from the school. The annual tradition was started the first year they opened the repair shop.

They pay for the candy themselves.

They're assisted at the parade by community service York Regional police officers, who help hand out the candy bags along with safety pamphlets.

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BLUES 3

**HURRICANES 6
TIGERS 5**

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Rugby

Barbs hand Waterloo a convincing drubbing

The Aurora Barbarians Ontario Rugby Union 1st team (Keenan Division) finished the regular season with a strong statement, defeating Waterloo County, 77-7 last week.

The Barbs scored 12 tries in a game where most of the time, Aurora players ran at will through the Waterloo defense.

Try-scorers were: Marco DiGirolamo with three, J.P. Rosevear, Oliver Atkinson and James Nicol with two each, followed by Mark Franklin, Ivan Barron, and

Anton Alexeyenko.

Fullback Mark Healey, kicked 17 points for the day: seven converts and one penalty kick.

Honourable mention goes to coach Sandy Townsend, who started on the wing.

The win placed the Barbs in third place in the hotly contested division.

Aurora begins the playoffs in the Marshall Cup next week. Opponents will be announced once the standings are official.

Meanwhile, the Aurora Barbarians ORU 2nd Team

(Keenan Division) lost their final game of the regular season to Waterloo County 2, by a score of 47-17.

Waterloo scored twice early in the game, and Aurora played catch-up for the rest of the match.

The Barbs fought back several times to make it a one-try game, but simply ran out of gas late in the second half.

Aurora's tries were scored by Graham Brown, Gavin Damstra and Tom Damstra.

The lone convert was kicked by Brian D'Anbrade.

The 2nds also begin their playoffs this weekend but opponents have yet to be announced.

The Aurora Barbarians Toronto Rugby Union 1st Team travelled to Lindsay, only to lose their last regular season game 38-18.

Aurora's tries were scored by Gary Kassob (two) and Jason Currie. Mario Diaconu kicked one penalty kick.

The TRU team is now looking forward to the Keenan Cup playoffs which begin next Saturday.



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Aurora Minor Hockey Association

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Website: www.aci.on.ca/amha



REP TEAMS

Exhibition Games

Peewee A (5) vs NobleKing (4)

Jeremy Cohen 2G, 2A Josh Meron 1G, 1A Steven Keane 1G, 1A Ethan Davenport 1G

Minor Midget A (2) vs Collingwood (6)

Craig Waites 1G Ryan Kines 1G PJ Speciale-Plouffe 1A

Midget AA (1) vs Barrie (2)

Mark Smith 1G, Dan Nacarato 1A, Jared Pignataro 1A

League Games

Novice AA (5) vs Markham (2)

Mitchell Harris 1G,1A Taylor Chick 2G Kyle Spicer 1G Cooper Catt 1G Jesse Bentolilla 1A Dylan Sikura 1A

Minor Atom A (10) vs Orillia (1)

Tristan Miller 3G Matthew Mears 2G Eleeza Cox 1G,1A Jamie Hawkins 1G,3A Stephen DeMarco 1G,1A Spencer George 1G Jack Steffan 1G Brandon Pederson 4A Josh Beaton 2A Patrick Jones 1A Chris Piron 1A

Minor Atom AA (10) vs Peterborough (0)

Barclay Goodrow 2G,2A Justin Nice 1G Taran McGowan 4G Craig Johnson 1G,1A Dylan Kovacs 1G,2A Jamie Cherutti 1G Chris Smith 3A James Harkin 1A Gavin Forrest 1A Matthew Burns SO

Minor Atom AA (3) vs Whitby (1)

Dylan Kovacs 1G,1A Kyle McCreedy 1G Taran McGowan 1G,2A James Harkin 3A

Minor Atom AA (8) vs Georgina (0)

Jamie Cherutti 1G Ben Hanlon 1G Craig Johnson 1G Justin Nice 2G Taran McGowan 1G,1A Christopher Smith1G,2A Kyle McCreedy 1G Barclay Goodrow 1A Dylan Kovacs 1A Ryan Bailey 2A Gavin Forrest 1A Matthew Burns SO

Atom A (3) vs Innisfil (4)

Louis Lamanna 1G Jeffrey Sanderson 1G Derrick Hamner 1G,1A Corey Jeffery 1A

Atom A (6) vs Georgina (1)

Paul Keilty 2G Dylan Cross 1G Michael Delplavignano 1G Derrick Hamner 1G,1A Justin Brown 1G Louis Lamanna 3A Jake Boyle 1A Jeffrey Sanderson 1A Nathan Brown 2A

Atom AA (5) vs Oshawa (0)

Max Lerner 1G,1A Taylor Nuttall 1G Jesse Cappell 1G Shawn MacEachern 1G Kevin Zacharuk 1G Luke MacLeod 1A Sean Ellison 1A

Andrew Whitley 1A Peter Abels SO

Atom AA (2) vs Markham (1)

Kevin Zacharuk 1G,1A Luke MacLeod 1G,1A Peter Abels 1A

Bantam A (2) vs Innisfil (2)

Derek Roldan 1G,1A Justin Fabro 1G Keon Karamchi 1A Stephen Facca 1A

Bantam AA (6) vs Georgina (2)

Nolan Rundle 2G,1A Adam Hankins 1G Vincent Davenport 1G Peter McNeil 1G,1A Patrick Bowie 1G,2A Cal Simmonds 4A Sean Mulroy 1A Taylor Campbell 1A Andrew Welch 1A Taylor Dinner 1A

Midget A (2) vs Stouffville (6)

Ryan Angotti 1G,1A Chris Amato 1G Jason Lupo 1A Alex Lukkas 1A

Midget A (4) vs Newmarket (3)

Ryan Angotti 3G Gary Domanico 1G,1A Chris Amato 2ASam Battaglia 1A Steven Black 1A Sean McCartney 1A

Midget AA (2) vs Georgina (5)

Scott Hurst 1G Mike Keon 1A Joey Leo 1A Mark Scriver 1G Geoff Campbell 1A

Midget AA (1) vs Barrie (5)

Joey Leo 1G Ian Gabel 1A

Midget AA (4) vs Ajax (5)

Mike Keon 1G,2A Mark Smith 2G Marc Oppedisano 1G Ian Gabel 1A Jared Pignataro 2A Geoff Campbell 1A

Midget AA (2) vs Barrie (5)

Mark Smith 1G Joey Leo 1G Ian Gabel 1A Mark Scriver 1A

TOURNAMENTS

Minor Atom AA (3) vs Newmarket (3)

Ryan Bailey 1G,1A Justin Nice 1G Taran McGowan 1G Gavin Forrest 1A

Minor Atom AA (6) vs North Toronto (2)

Barclay Goodrow 1G Ben Hanlon 1G James Harkin 1G,1A Taran McGowan 1G,1A Scott Bromley 1G Kyle McCreedy 1G Justin Nice 1A

Minor Atom AA (5) vs HumberSide Huskies (0)

Craig Johnson 1G Taran McGowan 1G Dylan Kovacs 1G Barclay Goodrow 1A Jamie Cherutti 2A James Harkin 1A Christopher Smith 1A Matthew Burns SO

Minor Atom AA (5) vs Richmond Hill (1)

Craig Johnson 3G Ben Hanlon 1G James Harkin

1G Barclay Goodrow 3A Gavin Forrest 2A Taran McGowan 1G Christopher Smith 1A Kyle McCreedy 1A Jamie Cherutti 1A

Minor Atom AA (2) vs Whitby (1) Championship Game

Dylan Kovacs 1G,1A Taran McGowan 1G,1A Gavin Forrest 2A

Minor Bantam AA (7) vs Humber Valley (1)

Matt Boyd 1G,2A Harrison Jones 1G Kevin Shetler 1G,2A Mike Pantalone 1G Jake MacDougall 1G Aaron Mansbridge 1G Neil Kileeg 1G Connor O'Grady 1A

Minor Bantam AA (7) vs Hillcrest Summits (0)

Jake MacDougall 3G,1A Ryan Fennell 1G Mike Pantalone 1G,1A Kevin Shetler 1G Michael Englehutt 1G Anthony D'Agostino 3A Matt Boyd 1A Jonathan Newby SO

Minor Bantam AA (4) vs Vaughan (1)

Kevin Shetler 1G,2A Mike Pantalone 1G,1A Connor O'Grady 1G Aaron Mansbridge 1G Matt Boyd 2A Tyler Pettes 1A

Minor Bantam AA (5) vs Leaside (4)

Kevin Shetler 3G,2A Matt Boyd 1G,1A Mike Pantalone 1G,1A Harrison Jones 2A Anthony Simone 1A

Minor Bantam AA (1) vs London (5) Championship Game

Anthony Simone 1G Kevin Shetler 1A Aaron Mansbridge 1A

Bantam A (4) vs Leaside (1)

Keon Karamchi 2G Nick Leggieri 1G,1A Carson Nimmo 1G Justin Fabro 1A Derek Roldan 1A Sandy Craig 1A

Bantam A (6) vs Hamilton Rosedale (3)

Derek Roldan 2G,2A Carson Nimmo 2G,1A Sandy Craig1G,1A,Tim Gerrits 1G Kelly McGowan 1A Keon Karamchi 1A Michael DiNallo 1A Nick Leggieri 1A Tom Keane 1A

Bantam A (2) vs Pickering (4)

Nick Leggieri 1G Derek Roldan 1G Graeme Fleming 2A Keon Karamchi 1A Carson Nimmo 1A

Bantam A (4) vs Ajax (3)

Semi Final in Double Overtime

Derek Roldan 2G Carson Nimmo 2G Sandy Craig 2A Nick Leggieri 1A

Bantam A (2) vs Pickering (7) Championship Final

Tom Keane 2G Derek Roldan 1A

Minor Midget AA (4) vs Burlington (2)

Daryl Osborne 1G,1A Sak Pietila 1G,1A Jordan Ofield 1G Kyle Robinson 1G,1A Michael Osborne 1A Kyle Johnson 1A

Minor Midget AA (0) vs Ajax (3)

Minor Midget AA (5) vs Toronto Aeros (3)

Shawn Beer 2G David Delzotto 1G,1A Michael Jack 1G Jordan Ofield 1G David Kennedy 2A Michael Osborne 2A Tommy Hurley 2A Sak Pietila 1A Kyle Robinson 1A

Minor Midget AA (1) vs Hillcrest Summits (0) Semi Finals

Jordan Ofield 1G Tyson Dover 1A Shawn Gwilliam SO

Minor Midget AA (5) vs Ajax (2)

Championship Finals

Shawn Beer 3G Ryan Bryce 2G David Ofield 1A Michael Osborne 1A

AMHA Dinner and Dance

The AMHA is holding a Dinner and Dance at the Tuscany Banquet Centre from 6PM to 1AM on Saturday November 2, 2002. Tickets are \$45 per person for dinner, dancing and wine. Group table reservations for groups of 8 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).

Tigerwares

Tigerwares will be on sale in the Lobby of ACC2: from 8AM to 2PM on: Saturday Oct 5 Saturday Nov 16 Saturday Dec 14 Last date to order melton leather jackets and hockey bags is Nov 23. See the AMHA web site for prices

AMHA Office Hours

The AMHA Office is located in ACC1. Office hours are: 7 to 9PM Wednesdays 10AM to 1PM Saturdays

Even though growth no longer pays Town of Aurora continues to grow

It's hard to believe but back in the early 1950s, Aurora had a population of only 2,900.

There was some infill development on Cousins Drive, Royal Road and Dunning Avenue.

The late 50s and early 60s became a period of rapid growth for Aurora with the building of homes in Regency Acres in the south and Aurora Heights on the north, bringing the population to approximately 8,000 residents.

After this rapid growth, construction slowed down. By 1978 the population had grown to about 12,000 and by 1983 was shown as 16,673 with a projected final population in the 19,000 to 21,000 range.

Aurora missed the population boom of other municipalities due to a shortage of water and sewage capacity. In addition mortgage interest was hovering in the 19 per cent range.

Then came the York Durham Sewer System (YDSS), commonly referred to as the "Big Pipe".

It was built by the provincial government and operated under a tri-party agreement with the province and the Regions of York and Durham.

Interest rates fell, water and sewage was available

and Aurora was discovered by developers, home builders and people looking for a nice place to live.

The region allocated Aurora a final population of 33,000 due to the capacity of the Big Pipe, and this was soon changed to a population projection of 47,000 by 2011.

Council was advised that staffing wasn't keeping up with the growth and this was creating tension and frustration among staff members due to the increased workload.

Council members expressed concern about hiring additional staff who may not be required when the town reached its population limits.

By July, 1985, council agreed to engage a consultant to study the efficiency of the various town departments

On October 7, 1985, the consulting firm of Woods Gordon was selected to carry out the review at a cost of \$15,000. The consultant made a verbal report to a closed meeting of council in late-November 1985 listing its initial conclusions. The report was never released to the public.

On December 16, 1985 council authorized a more in-depth study by the consultants at an estimated cost of \$19,500.

Councillor Evelyn Buck expressed concern about the secrecy behind the report and said it should be debated in public as it was paid for by taxpayers.

Mayor John West and other members of council argued that as the report dealt with staff, it fell under the personnel category of provincial legislation, which was always discussed behind closed doors.

Subsequently, a one-page report was released, which simply summarized what had taken place, but no conclusions or recommendations were included. In September, 1986, council announced the Woods Gordon report had been adopted, but the report was not released and since all the debate took place behind closed doors, the public had no idea what had been recommended or adopted.

Two recommendations, which were later adopted, were the elimination of standing committees of council, replaced by a committee of the whole, and the position of clerk and chief administrator divided into two posts. With the new administrative structure in place, council agreed in 1987 to engage

a consultant at an estimated cost of \$24,500 to assess the town's new structure, and conduct a job performance evaluation of the CAO and department heads.

A third study, estimated to cost \$16,875, was authorized in June that year to review the operations and effectiveness of the public works and leisure service departments and the town's private engineering consultants.

In October, 1997, council was advised the town would need about \$11.5 million in new community facilities within the next 10 years, according to a municipal master plan for cultural and recreational services.

The plan was based on a population projection of 47,000 by 2007.

The plan called for the consideration of three new tennis facilities for 2004, a new arena in 2005, and an additional lighted baseball facility for 2008. It also called for feasibility studies for a teen centre and a theatre/performing arts centre.

The plan noted that it will be more difficult to fund recreational projects in the future because of provincial legislation resulting in a 10 per cent reduction in the fees charged developers for parkland development and recreational facilities.

In December, 1997, a major challenge facing the incoming council was a consultant's report dealing with an evaluation of water and sewer reserves for the municipality.

The estimated cost of replacing the 571.5 kilometres of existing sanitary sewers, watermains, and storm sewers was \$124.7 million. Over the next 10 years, the cost of infrastructure replacement was estimated at \$8.7 million.

In 1989, funds were incorporated into annual sanitary sewer and water rates and an annual contribution was made to the water and sewer reserve.

Dating back to 1973, Aurora Council realized that existing residents were going to get hit with escalating taxes to help pay for the new services required by growth unless something

was done. That resulted in the introduction of a lot levy.

Over the years municipal politicians have insisted that growth should pay for growth and the lot levy increased over the years in spite of opposition from developers and homebuilders.

The Harris government listened to the development industry and amended the development charge legislation so that growth no longer pays for growth and existing taxpayers are subsidizing newcomers to the municipality.

Yet Aurora continues to grow.

During the five-year period from 1996 to 2001, the growth rate was 15.2 per cent, increasing from 35,857 in 1996 to 40,167 in 2001, with several subdivisions in various stages of the planning approach.

Guys & Dolls coming to TA

Opening November 8 at Aurora's Factory Theatre is the delightful musical "Guys and Dolls" with music and lyrics by Frank Loesser.

There are such popular songs as "Luck Be A Lady", "Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat", "More I Can Not Wish You" and "A Bushel and a Peck".

Theatre Aurora will bring to life the characters of Sarah Brown, Sky Masterson, Adelaide and Nathan

Detroit, in a romantic comedy that reflects the spirit of Broadway as it introduces a cast of vivid characters.

The cast includes Sheryl Amirault, Alan Blenkinsopp, Lise Boily, Katie Brice, Martin Buote, Rochelle Coleman, Heidi Collins, Phil Cook, Matt Corker, Jennifer Corless, Quinn Dagleish, Jason Evens, Sarah Hankins, Jenn Harding, Mark Hayward and Gail Henderson.

Also in the cast are Linda Henshaw, Betty Kelly, Qasim Khan, Randy Kirch, Cadina Meadus, Joe Mercuriano, Jean Mitchell, Kyle Moore, Kynsi Neumeyer, J. C. Paquet, Karen Park, Sarah Parkin, Dave Simpson, Jo-anne Spitzer, Frank Srebot, Dave Town, Steve Wolfer and Nicky Wood.

Julie Wood is artistic director, Michael Leach musical director, and choreography

will be handled by Baiba Senecal and Lauren Ecclestone.

Rehearsals are currently underway and Theatre Aurora promises an amazing set and gorgeous costumes assuring this production will live up to the high standard of previous Theatre Aurora musicals.

Show dates are November 8 and 9, 13 to 17, and 20 to 23, 2002. Call 905-727-3669 for ticket information.



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905-895-9991

Sunday 10:30 & 18:30
Wednesday 19:30
We are a Pentecostal Church
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ANNOUNCEMENT



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GARAGE SALE SAT. OCT. 5TH. Antique park bench, Honda power washer. Something for everyone! 36 Larmont St. Aurora.

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T: 905-727-3300 F: 905-727-2620

GARAGE/LAWN SALE



Garage/Lawn Sale
36 Larmont St. Aurora
Sat. October 5th



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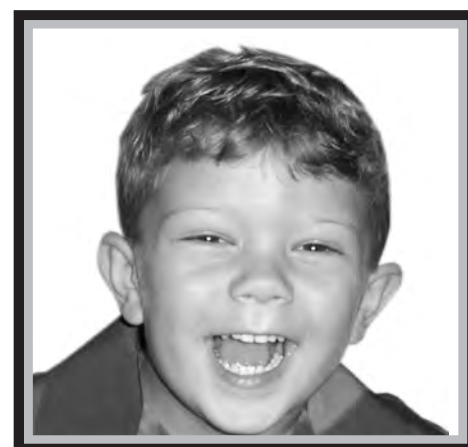


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