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Aurora's Community Newspaper

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(BY MCDONALDS)

Vol. 3 No. 14

Week of January 28, 2003

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Tower request denied

According to Councillor Evelina MacEachern, there is far too much signage on Yonge Street.

Speaking to a request to install another sign on a tower in a plaza at the corner of Yonge and Murray Drive, the councillor wanted to know if an existing sign on the tower could be removed.

The discussion came about following a request from Hakim Optical to place the company logo of eyeglasses on the tower.

A spokesman pointed out the company has approximately 100 stores and all carry the logo, except Aurora.

He said the logo was a key factor in their marketing plan and the landlord had approved its location as part of their lease.

Hakim Optical had originally requested the logo in the fall of 2001 but on the advice of John Williams, the town's controlling architect, council rejected the request on the basis the eyeglasses would be overwhelming.

In the interim, staff recommended and council approved the installation of a logo for the new Winners store atop the tower, on the basis the store did not have a Yonge Street presence.

Councillor McEachern wanted to

know if that sign could be taken down.

Councillor Ron Wallace said approval of the Hakim request would turn the tower into the town's tallest billboard.

Councillors agreed that if Hakim's request was approved, every retailer in the plaza would want space on the tower.

In a report, staff suggested council might consider having the eyeglasses reduced in size and lowered to the existing signage, which was acceptable to the company.

However, the committee rejected the Hakim request.

Reconsideration motion rejected by a single vote

At a public planning meeting held in December, council gave draft approval to amend the official plan and zoning bylaw to permit a four-storey, 36-unit residential condominium integrated with an existing historical residence on Wellington Street East, immediately east of the Post Office.

The project would cover land from Wellington right through to Centre Street.

While council continues to approve the project, its LACAC (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee) continues to reject it.

The lands currently contain residential and office uses in the home built in 1864 by then owner David W. Doan, a well-known local businessman.

The house is acknowledged in

the Town of Aurora List of Heritage Properties and the Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings as worthy of recognition.

It has not been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, and the owner is unwilling to designate the property.

In spite of concerns expressed by Councillor Evelina MacEachern about approving the application without comments from LACAC and the lack of designation, council members endorsed the application.

At a council meeting earlier this month, a strongly worded resolution was received from LACAC expressing the committee's several concerns, including the lack of designation.

In an attempt to address the concerns of LACAC, Councillor

MacEachern was successful in obtaining council agreement that approval of the official plan amendment be subject to review of the site plan and that the historic house be designated as part of the approval.

Councillor MacEachern is a member of LACAC.

Last week at the general committee meeting, Mayor Tim Jones presented a notice of reconsideration for the action taken by council a week earlier.

In order for the motion of reconsideration to be effective, it was necessary to obtain a three-quarters vote of the councillors present.

While six votes were required for the reconsideration motion to proceed, only five councillors voted in support and the motion was lost.

Yonge & Wellington: what to do, what to do?

Away back in the early 1800s when Robert Machell opened his general store at what is now Yonge and Wellington Streets and Governor John Graves Simcoe blazed Yonge Street through to Holland Landing, they never visualized the problems they created for future motorists and councils.

For more years than councillors want to remember traffic problems at the Yonge/Wellington intersection continued to frustrate motorists and pedestrians and haunt council

members, as they tried to find a solution.

The existing roadway was not wide enough to provide left or right-turn lanes and although the traffic signals were modified several times over the years nothing worked.

Regional traffic engineers met with Aurora council members on April 16, 1997, to discuss traffic problems at the intersection.

They admitted there had to be a better way, but didn't know what it was, except that there was too

much traffic for the intersection to handle.

As there was no room for dedicated left-turn lanes, it was suggested that all turns be prohibited, which was not acceptable to Aurora councillors.

It was explained that the traffic cycle at that time was the normal 100 seconds, as longer cycles frustrate waiting motorists.

With increased traffic, it was suggested a study be carried out to determine the number of vehicles

making turns versus those going straight through.

It was pointed out that the delay at the intersection was causing motorists to seek alternate routes through residential neighbourhoods.

Councillor Ron Wallace suggested a four-cycle advance green system in which each direction of traffic, in turn, would have the right-of-way to make turns or drive straight through.

With the widening of Wellington

Street East from the railway tracks to Leslie Street, council approved the design of a westbound right-turn lane at the northeast corner of Yonge and Wellington.

Construction was to be delayed until all possible operational traffic control measures had been explored and tested, and until the need for construction had been confirmed in consultation with the Town of Aurora.

In November, 1998, York Region

Please see page 15



Sometimes those official opening ceremonies aren't too hard to take. Sunday afternoon, Mayor Tim Jones clinked glasses with the owner of the Pride Of Dublin, John Breen, left above, as that pub officially opened. Helping mark the occasion were Irish Dancers, top, Christine Matthews, left, and Brandi-Rae Campbell. Pub is located in the Arch Plaza, just north of the Howard Johnson Hotel.

Auroran photos by Naomi Tobin

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Aurora Councillor Nigel Kean, left, and the town's Economic Development Officer Dino Lombardi, join retailer Diane Thomson of Balloonacy, during an informal breakfast Thursday at the Aurora Library. Councillor Kean, chairman of the Yonge Street Commercial Downtown Committee, brought the retailers together to meet town staff. About 20 participated in the early-morning event.

Auroran photo by Naomi Tobin

Semi-annual fire report

35% of calls originated here

Central York Fire Services Chief John Molyneaux appeared before last week's general committee meeting in Aurora to present his semi-annual report.

It is his second report since the Aurora and Newmarket fire departments were merged at the beginning of 2002.

The suppression division of the 97-member service handled 3,579 calls for assistance during the year, in addition to attending public education opportunities, vehicle and station maintenance, providing station tours and assisting in fire prevention with the School Fire Drill Program.

Of the 3,579 calls there were 1,289 or 36 per cent for medical assistance, 812 or 23 per cent were false alarms, with only nine per cent fire calls.

Thirty-five per cent of the calls originated in Aurora.

There was a total fire loss of \$2.2 million of which 45

per cent or just over one million dollars occurred in Aurora.

The fire prevention division conducted a total of 1,053 inspections including 344 homes. The Smoke Alarm Program involved 817 homes, installed 276 smoke alarms and replaced 217 smoke alarm batteries.

Chief Molyneaux told councillors he was concerned by the number of dead batteries found by his

men.

He also described the work of the training and administration divisions and outlined some upcoming projects including a contribution to the planning, construction and operation of the Children's Safety Village, scheduled to open later this

year at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area.

Chief Molyneaux told the meeting carbon monoxide detectors are required in all new homes, and while there is no requirement for older homes, there isn't much of a problem convincing people to install them.

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10AM - 4PM

For all ages

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Main Lobby-ACC #2

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS WINTER CRAFT SALE

11:00AM - 4:00PM - Main Lobby of the New Arena

Children's Make & Take Crafts for ages 4 and up

SNOW SCULPTURES (Fleury Park)

(Weather Permitting)

MACHELL PARK 10AM-4PM

PREDATOR/PREY - BOWMANVILLE ZOOLOGICAL PARK

Wildlife Presentation 1:00PM to 3:00PM (Outside)

2 Reindeer, Wolf, Raven or Hawk (Interactive).

TOBOGGANING (Machell Park)

10AM - 4PM

For all ages

LEISURE ACTIVITIES ACC Auditorium Upstairs

Arctic Expedition-Children's Inflatable (Ages 2-10)

PUBLIC SKATING FREE-OUTDOOR RINK - Machell Park

10:00AM - 4:00PM

WINDRIFT KENNELS PRESENTS... Siberian Husky Dog

Sled Rides $\frac{1}{4}$ Mile \$2 a ride (Machell Park)

10:00AM - 4:00PM

SPABOUND-2 Hot Tubs Outside ACC #1

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Poor Richard

Who should pay for what on our playing fields?

*Who should pay for what,
Is a question often asked;
Just users or all taxpayers,
Presents council with a task!*
-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

A very interesting debate took place at a recent council meeting dealing with capital and maintenance costs for recreational facilities.

It started with a well-prepared brief presented by Ronald Weese, Acting President of the Aurora Youth Soccer Club.

He pointed out that since the year 2000 the town has increased its user fees to the soccer club annually.

The first significant increase came in 2002 when field costs jumped from \$46,910 to \$78,485. The club was told there would be no increase in 2003.

Then on December 2, 2002, the club was notified the fees would increase to \$173,097 for 2003, a jump since 2000 of 368 per cent.

Weese added that a comparison with other municipalities revealed charges were as much as 400 per cent lower than proposed in Aurora.

He requested the town keep fees at the 2002 level. He also asked that the soccer club be invited to participate in meaningful consultation with the town with respect to fees charged in an effort to develop a strategy for the future.

It was a good debate and finally it was agreed on the recommendation of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee that the Youth Soccer Club continue to receive their current level of subsidy, at 56 per cent based on the projected 2003 sports field maintenance costs.

In addition it was agreed that club representatives would be invited to participate in future consultation.

Why this was necessary is hard to understand, as it is assumed that consultation with user groups is an ongoing process, rather than a dictatorial edict from on high, which seems to be the case.

When the community centre was built back in 1967 after the old Yonge Street Arena was destroyed by fire, council of the day decided all taxpayers would pay for the capital costs, as theoretically the facility would be available to all taxpayers.

It was also agreed that user groups would pay for the operating costs, on the basis if you use it, you pay for it.

During the first few years, a small operating profit was generated some years and a small deficit other years.

In general, the operation of the community centre at that time was not a burden on taxpayers.

It is hoped when community user groups sit down with the powers that be, and more than just the youth soccer club should be involved, the discussion will take place on operating costs only.

Although user groups may request more facilities, it is up to council to decide if the additional facilities are needed and if taxpayers can afford the capital costs.

That's the reason they approve a five-year master plan.

Remember the philosophy that facilities such as a library, community centre or a playing field are available to all residents, if they want to use them, so all residents should contribute to the capital cost of the facility.

This should also include a reserve fund for replacement.

The question of operation and maintenance costs is a different issue.

Those who use the facility should just pay for the cost of operation, but only for the time they are using the facility.

If there aren't enough groups to use all the available time, then it's up to staff to attract other users from within the municipality or from other municipalities.

When the period of ice between 11 a.m. and noon-hour became available at the community centre on Sundays, then Recreation Director Ernie Batson encouraged a group of professionals and businessmen to play hockey and the famed Church Dodgers hockey team was born.

If the Aurora Youth Soccer Club just use unlit soccer fields, the only operation costs should be grass cutting and line marking, so how is it possible that a cost of \$173,097 was originally made for 2003?

The club may be willing to do the line marking, as was done at times in the past.

More than a strategy is required. Council must review and adopt a recreation philosophy for both capital and operating costs in order to be fair to both users and taxpayers.



Taken in the late 1940s or early 1950s, this is a photo of Aurora Council (seated) and town staff (standing). According to the back of the picture, the photograph was taken in the "old bank building". Begs the question - What old bank building? Anyone know?

Letters to the editor

From the past, I remember...

To the editor,

Lawton Brothers (a car dealership) started with a small strip of property at the north end of town.

I was called once for help with a problem. They were very intense young men.

I believed they had the feeling that it was them against the world.

Bob Buchanan (publisher of the then Aurora Banner) told me how he had to refuse an ad from them once.

They wanted to denote

How about job creation, reader asks

To the editor,

We want you to become familiar with staff, and for the staff to meet you, so that together we can make the Yonge Street corridor a better place for all businesses, states Aurora Councillor Nigel Kean. (Letter, Auroran, Jan. 14)

At first glance, that seems more a make-work program for council staff.

On second thought, this could be a step in the right direction.

For a possibly quick response, why not present this question to local business owners - especially medium-to-large size retailers and banks:

Is there, by any stretch of the imagination, anything more you could do to improve the situation for yourselves, for the town and for its residents in terms of job creation?

W. John Trusler
Aurora

their Christianity. Buchanan said the implication would be that a non-Christian would not be honest and that would not be kosher.

That decision would be a hard thing to do, considering how everything depends on advertising and prompt payment of same.

When I was first elected - third try - Bob told me he couldn't publish any more of my letters, now that I had the forum of council to expound my views.

Besides, it wouldn't be fair to other councillors for me to have space in the newspaper to promote my side of any and every argument - which I was quite likely to do.

I was miffed.

Being a councillor, I wanted to share the experience with the people who put me there. I had everything to learn and everyone there was more than willing to teach me.

Clarence Davis, the mayor, said this would be a wonderful year. It was after all, 1967, our Centennial year.

Bill Johnson, clerk-treasurer, always had time to explain the Acts and regulations that governed town practices.

The first meeting I attended as a councillor, I brought notes.

Afterwards, Buchanan said, "You're not going to keep doing that, are you?"

I replied yes, otherwise I was afraid I might forget my points. He dismissed that as a piece of nonsense and told me members of parliament are not allowed to speak from notes. The reason: debate is not just about talking, it's also about listening. It's about everyone's views being heard before a decision is made.

Buchanan was a seasoned journalist. Politics

was his beat.

He did not believe that writing could be taught. He said that a reporter had to learn by doing and without a lively sense of curiosity they could never be good.

No quotes ever appeared in the paper without attribution. That was an iron rule.

The fearsome power of a newspaper should never be used against an individual. The person targeted has no defense.

Councillors Walt Davis and Ron Simmons were always great for snippets of memory, both of their time and their parents.

They both grew up near the railway tracks on Metcalfe Street, went to school together, played hockey, were volunteer firefighters and now they were councillors.

Aurora was always a hockey town. The league was made up of the towns and villages situated along the length of the railway. Fans and players travelled together on the rail car.

Walt said that if they won their game, "that old car would rock from side to side so hard it was a wonder it never came off the rails."

They told about Sheppard's Bush being their place for adventure.

If "Old Sheppard" were around he would set his Alsatian dogs on them.

Ron went there with his dad to hunt rabbits and put a meal on the table. It was the Depression. There was a tramps' camp. Men rode the rails all over Canada looking for a chance to work.

During the 60's, when the snow was melting, I would take the kids for a drive over the hills to Orangeville. We'd have an ice cream and take a stroll.

I wrote once about the groups of people, here and

there on the sidewalk, laughing and talking, obviously catching up on the gossip.

Walt told me later, "that was how it used to be in Aurora on a Friday evening."

The farmers and their families in town for shopping and the town's folk out doing the same. Walt said there were so many people on the sidewalks a person would have to step onto the road to make any headway.

Please see page 6

AURORAN

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Mayor's Report
By Tim Jones

Respecting resources

In just the last six months, I have really noticed a huge and demonstrable increase in reaction to limitations and reaction to change in regard to several of the resources most of us have been taking for granted.

I am specifically referring to water, hydro electricity and solid waste disposal.

Given the seriousness of the effect of these limitations, politicians at the municipal, regional and provincial level are forced into taking dramatic actions that are causing concern among some residents and users of these resources.

These are complex issues that have been discussed for many years, however, given the sensitivity of raising rates or limiting usage in times when we were not suffering shortages, this has now brought us to the point where action is required due to limited resource and supply.

We are also part of the problem through our unlimited and abundant use of these resources.

However, if everyone takes ownership to the problem, I believe we can quickly experience solutions that are in everyone's best interests.

Over the past number of years, much of our focus regarding our resources has been on preserving green space and open space.

To that end, Aurora has been proactive in such areas as purchasing and protecting green space, developing a trail system, planting trees and caring for our parks and woodlots.

Land purchases at Henderson and Bathurst in the Salamander Pond area, and at Leslie and the 404 for future park use, are tangible examples.

Protecting green space in areas like the Anne Barkley Smith property, and in all plans of subdivision in the areas being developed between Bayview and Leslie, north of Wellington, and giving input and agreeing to development standards through negotiated examples in south west Aurora which helped to guide the Oak Ridges Moraine development demonstrate our interests in this area.

However, in the past six months, we have experienced limitations on our water use, spikes on our hydro needs and as of January 1st, 2003, the hole where all our garbage has been dumped for as long as I remember at Keele Valley is full and our garbage must now be hauled to far off areas in Michigan until a better solution is devised.

Whether we like to hear it or not, many of us tend to abuse our use of these resources, opting to pay a little more for the privilege.

The reality is that simply paying more is not the answer. We need to conserve our use of water in high demand times, as our reservoirs and supply cannot keep up to abusive demand in excessive dry periods.

We need to moderate our use of electricity, as our ability to generate electricity is not up to the standard that was expected.

Alternate means of generating electricity should be investigated.

Charging more for these commodities today is required to pay for increased costs of the resource but the resource is not endless.

Increased fees may act as a deterrent to abuse, but bottom line, we all must conserve our use in these areas to have a real effect.

Simply look at the spike in electricity use when the Province capped the rate, or the huge increase in water consumption when the ban was lifted - this excessive use is not necessary!

With waste, we have spoken about recycling for years but have taken a soft approach to encouraging it.

We need to do more to divert waste from landfill.

By charging for bags in excess of three, we are addressing an increase in the costs to pick up as well as hopefully encouraging waste producers to recycle and compost to keep their waste and cost down.

We must look to alternate disposal methods like gasification.

We are fortunate to live in a country where we have been able to enjoy the resources we have so abundantly.

If we all do our part, we will continue to live at the standards we enjoy today.

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

Machell's Corners

An "Auroran" Quiz

Aurora Council is proposing the lowest tax increase in three years because:

- (a) It hasn't finished spending all of the money from the previous three tax increases
- (b) Most of Aurora's services have been transferred to the Region of York
- (c) It was found that more money could be saved by closing the library every day
- (d) It's an election year
- (e) All of the above

IT'S EXPENSIVE BEING A CHARACTER COMMUNITY

TAX BILLS

© SCOTT JOHNSTON

Letters to the editor

Kennedy street proposal upsets nearby residents

To the editor,

In April, 2001, the owner of 240 Kennedy Street West, a well-known local real estate agent, had his application for converting his property into a condominium project turned down by local town council after strong opposition by local residents and other concerns regarding the project.

Unbeknownst to the residents of the area, there were various back-room meetings and dealings going on between the owner of this property and the town during the period April, 2001, and December, 2002, in order to get the subject property converted into a condominium.

At a council meeting on December 17, 2002, without any consultation with local residents, town council approved the application to turn the subject property into a condominium contradicting its original decision made in April, 2001.

This shows the utter disregard that town council has in listening to the concerns from its own citizens.

Everything seems to have been done to avoid informing local residents about these back-room dealings and informing local residents that the issue would be brought up again at council to reverse the original decision made.

This shows clear evidence on whose side council is on - the developer.

Residents should keep this in mind in the upcoming municipal election.

Residents should also be very vigilant of what is going on in their neighbourhoods.

It seems to be quite possible in Aurora that one day you may wake up and find out that the house next to you is being torn down and is being replaced with a condominium without your knowledge, even though town council originally rejected the project.

**Berend Koopmans
Aurora**

ED. NOTE: There are two issues here. The first, a zoning bylaw amendment, was turned down by council, and the applicant appealed the decision to the Ontario Municipal Board. A hearing is expected in April. The second is for approval of the four condominiums, which, if denied, will also likely be appealed to the OMB. Once at that level, decisions are out of council's hands.

Hearing disabled need help, too

To the editor,

I am very aware and respectful this month is dedicated to Alzheimer's awareness.

On a very personal level I can't help but have empathy for those inflicted or affected, as my late grandmother developed the disease in her 80's.

We have many people living in our community with different levels of hearing loss.

Some people have the assistance of hearing aids, some the help of a hearing ear dog or others have never and may never hear a sound in their lives.

I have never met a child or an adult who has let this disability stop them from achieving their goals and creating families of their own.

I have noticed at times a small percentage of people who may not be acquainted with people of the deaf or hard of hearing community.

As we struggle to learn more about Alzheimer's and other diseases, let us open our minds and hearts to those who might struggle a bit, living in both the hearing and non-hearing worlds.

The Alzheimer's and hearing impaired people definitely have similar needs: love, patience and respect.

**William G. Willis
Aurora**

ED. NOTE: According to our information, the group mentioned in the story was the town's first "senior" team.

**Brian Jones
Newmarket**

I do not recognize the

Lacrosse dates back to 1910 in Aurora, according to book

To the editor,

In this week's Auroran (Jan. 14) on Page 15, there is a heading "Town once had sr. lacrosse team".

That was not the first one.

On Page 87 of the book, "Aurora - A history in pictures" by John McIntyre, there is a picture taken in 1910 of an Aurora lacrosse team.


My father, John Francis Willis, is the tallest one in the back row, with a cap.


Near him, peering out between two others, seems to be Charles Davies of C. Davies and Son, painters and decorators.


I do not recognize the others, but someone else might.


Bouquets & Brickbats


By **DICK ILLINGWORTH**


 **BOUQUETS** to the members of the Aurora Minor Midget "AA" Tigers on being crowned champions for the second consecutive year in their home tournament. They defeated the Etobicoke Canucks in the final match 2-0.


 **BOUQUETS** to the students and staff of Cardinal Carter Catholic High School for the excellent production of a film providing a lasting record of the school's participation in the procession of the World Youth Day Cross. The cross was carried from the school along Yonge Street to Our Lady of Grace Church last June.


 **BRICKBATS** to Aurora council members for their lack of consistency in making decisions. They granted approval to Winners to place their corporate logo on the building tower at Yonge Street and Murray Drive but rejected Hakim Optical. Then they approved theme racehorse names for roads in a Magna development, while previously rejecting California theme street names by another developer. Would you like to live on a Macho Uno?


 **BOUQUETS** to Karen Ewart on her appointment as deputy clerk for the Town of Aurora. She comes to the Aurora Municipal scene from Newmarket.


 **BOUQUETS** and a Warm Aurora Welcome to Marsha Lawrence and her Hip Action Dance Studio, which recently opened on McClellan Way in Aurora. If you want to learn the salsa, mambo, cha cha or ballroom dancing, call Marsha at 905-751-1113.


 **BRICKBATS** to those who decided hydro users should pay off the multi-billion dollar Hydro stranded debt by making a contribution of several dollars every month on their hydro bill. Get used to it as you will be paying for the next 12 to 17 years.

 **BOUQUETS** to eight-year-old Maggie Brims of Aurora for having her long hair cut off so that it could be used to make wigs for children who had lost their hair through cancer.

 **BRICKBATS** to the Eves Tory government for once again getting their priorities mixed. With hospitals and health care centres screaming for more funding, the government approved a 51 per cent pay, or a jump of \$77,431 for the province's chief medical officer from a salary of \$151,192. A healthy bonus!

 **BOUQUETS** to Evelyn Buck for her series of informative letters to the Auroran about issues of the present and former days in municipal politics. Evelyn first started to write letters to the editor back in the late 1950s and early 1960s prior to running for council. Are the current letters an indication of a repeat in November 2003? (Ev's not saying - ED.)

 **BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Tigers on taking three of six awards at a recent general managers' meeting. The Best Defenseman Award went to Rob Godfrey, Coach of the Year to Marty Williamson and Most Valuable Player to goaltender Chris Whitley.

 **BRICKBATS** to those in the federal government who were unable to manage military funding resulting in all of Canada's eastern and northern reserve units being stood down until April, as there is no money to pay them. Reserve units, like municipalities, can't run deficits.

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Letters to the editor

Reader recalls way it was

From page 4
After the second war Aurora lost population. People had to leave to find work.

The two Dons, Hamilton and Glass, were hydro commissioners for years

Hot Spot Friday night is "exciting"

To the editor,

I would like to thank Hot Spot for giving us such an exciting and joyful place to go on Friday nights.

I feel it's special to have a place for people just my

age (Grade 6, 7 and 8).

Happy birthday, Hot Spot.

Thank you, Mr. T. and Wendy.

**Katie McNama
Aurora**

Justified, if muddled

To the editor,

Evelyn Buck's letter, Jan. 21, refers to matters that were, and remain, serious concerns for residents of Aurora and elsewhere.

It also contains a quote: "The past is not dead...it isn't even past."

As I see the problem, today's aim should be to relegate the past to where it belongs, and for area

residents to make a stronger stand.

There will, of course, be a strong counter-argument: The Ontario government's actions regarding market-value assessment during those troubled times were well justified, even if somewhat muddled.

**W. John Trusler
Aurora**

and Charlie Copland had been a hydro manager forever.

They were always happy to explain the ins and outs of hydro.

In fact, Aurora had hydro before a lot of other towns because we had the electric street railway.

These people were active with Ontario Hydro as well. There was a close working relationship as there was with every provincial government department. And let's not forget Gord Lytle who was a mainstay of Aurora Hydro.

One of my assets was that no one expected me to know much.

I could ask anything that occurred to me without losing face.

It's different for men, they have to pretend that they know everything. It was not always to my advantage.

Angus McGregor was our

works department supervisor. Once, we were discussing using the old waterworks property and McGregor said, "You'd need a sky hook to get in there," and I replied, "Well, why don't we get one of those."

They all laughed. It took me a second to realize: there's no such thing.

This letter has not gone in the direction I intended, but it seems your readers enjoy hearing about the way we were and goodness knows I enjoy the telling.

**Evelyn Buck
Aurora**

ED. NOTE: Former Aurora councillor and mayor, Evelyn, at one time, was the author of a weekly newspaper column called "Buckshot". Her current letters are somewhat gentler than her former column.

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St. John's widening gets York approval

Following York Regional Council approval of a recommendation from the transportation and works committee last week, design work for the reconstruction for Aurora's St. John's Sideroad will begin.

The committee recommended, and council agreed, the firm of R. V. Anderson Associates would be engaged to carry out the preparation for the widening of St. John's from Yonge Street to Bayview Avenue at an upset limit of \$238,800.

The staff report states this section of the roadway is not of a standard to accommodate present and expected future levels of traffic. The pavement is rough and intersection geometrics are deficient.

Proposed construction is currently scheduled for 2003.

This project has not proceeded without opposition.

During Open Forum at a December, 1999, Aurora council meeting, citizens stated their opposition to York Region's proposal for the road.

At risk was the sensitive McKenzie Marsh wetlands.

Representing People Against Restructuring Known Sanctuaries (PARKS), Ben Kestain said if a four-lane roadway was constructed, council could say goodbye to their parkland and wetland on the south side of the roadway.

This followed a petition with more than 2,000 signatures that was presented to Aurora Council in September that year asking council to make the preservation of the McKenzie Marsh a millennium project.

It had no effect as regional council endorsed a committee report that staff be authorized to advertise, in accordance with the Municipal Act, the region's intent to widen and reconstruct the sideroad from Yonge to Bayview.

The proposal was to provide a basic four-lane roadway with left-turn and right-turn lanes at key intersections. The proposal also included the reconstruction of the section of the sideroad between Bayview Avenue and Leslie Street as a basic two-lane road.

The preliminary design included a retaining wall on the south side of the roadway to minimize loss of the wetland area and to reduce wildlife fatalities by preventing access to the road from the wetland.

Construction on the north side included a steep slope and other measures to minimize

loss of wetland and to make it difficult for wildlife to travel from the wetland to the roadway.

It was also proposed to construct a wooden sidewalk on the north side, which could act as an observation lookout for the wetland.

In addition, installation of large culverts, two wet and one dry were planned to provide wildlife the opportunity to move from one part of the wetland to the other beneath the roadway.

The region continued with its planning in spite of the strong opposition from Aurora residents.

It was back in January, 1987, when council gave consideration to reducing the width of St. John's between Bathurst and Yonge, then under Aurora council's control, from a 100-foot road allowance to 66 feet.

The Official Plan Review Committee recommended the reduction on the basis the roadway should be treated as a minor residential collector road.

Staff expressed concern about the narrower width, especially if traffic signals were approved, as requested, for the intersection of the roadway at Yonge Street. As a result council rejected the committee recommendation in February, 1987.

In June, 1994, Aurora Council asked the region to assume control of the sideroad due to the high maintenance costs caused by the heavy regional traffic on the roadway.

The road was seen as an important east/west link of the regional road system and carried a weekday traffic volume of more than 10,000 vehicles.

Peak hour traffic at that time was approaching capacity for the two-lane roadway and traffic was predicted to increase due to development in the north part of the region.

Following a traffic study of the roadway, the region claimed it was not a safe roadway for the level of traffic being carried.

In September, 1997, a group of Aurora residents hoped to convince York Region that widening St. John's was not an environmentally viable solution to traffic problems on the busy roadway.

It was pointed out that the McKenzie Marsh, which borders the sideroad between Yonge Street and the CN railway tracks, was an environmentally sensitive area. It was claimed the wetland was home to at least 100 species of wild life.

At a public information meeting citizens suggested the roadway be reconstructed as a two-lane road to save the marshland, or to bypass the marsh by rerouting the road to the north.

Councillor Ron Wallace suggested building a causeway over the environmentally sensitive land but was told it was too expensive.

The region held another public meeting on March 10, 1998, and a large number of concerned Aurora citizens attended.

Regional staff pointed out that not only was the road inadequate for traffic at that time, plans had to be made to accommodate the projected growth over the next 20 years.

They also claimed that the roadway had to be upgraded to improve safety concerns by improving visibility at Old Yonge Street, the CN tracks and east of Leslie Street.

According to the regional officials the roadway was not adequate to support existing or proposed traffic and it would continue to deteriorate.

That was then and in spite of all the studies and opposition, the project now continues to move ahead.



Natural ice is a natural draw for residents along St. John's Sideroad in the winter. Parking is prohibited on one side of the narrow road.

St. John's premium parking

In spite of the fact that parking is prohibited on the north side of the St. John's Sideroad in the vicinity of the McKenzie Marsh, cars park on both sides during the winter months while people skate on the ponds.

The ongoing parking and safety concerns were discussed at last week's council meeting and it was agreed the parking prohibition on the north side would be strictly enforced.

Councillor George Timpson expressed concern about parking in the area due to the narrow width of the roadway and the narrow shoulders.

He suggested the region be requested to adopt a bylaw prohibiting parking on both sides of the roadway in the vicinity of the marsh.

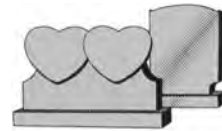
Councillor John West disagreed with Timpson's suggestion claiming that it would be more dangerous for children walking on the roadway to the ponds to skate, as the parked cars acted as a barrier to protect the children.

Council defeated the Timpson suggestion, and agreed to enforce the parking restrictions on the north side of the St. John's Sideroad.

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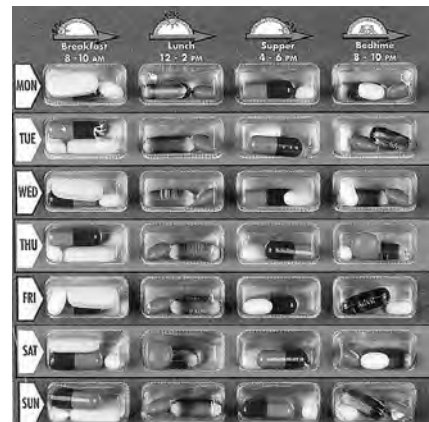
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Just what is the OMB anyway?

In the old days the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) was completely independent as members were appointed for life and most had some municipal experience, either as a politician or a staff member.

Normally, if a municipality had a well-prepared official plan and zoning bylaw, the board ruled in favour of the municipality.

Hearings were fair and unbiased, as hearing officers listened to elected officials and the public.

In many cases, developers were willing to negotiate with the municipality rather than face an OMB hearing.

Then everything changed. OMB members were appointed for three years, subject to reappointment by the government.

The Harris government made it known that it supported development, so in effect, the OMB became an arm of the provincial government.

Then to add insult to injury, the government imposed the 90-day rule.

In response to appeals from developers and the Urban Development Institute about the long delays experienced in obtaining municipal approval for subdivisions, the government amended the legislation in favour of the developers.

If an answer was not received from the municipality within 90 days, the developer could appeal directly to the OMB, and

the clock starts ticking when the application is filed.

In many plans of subdivision, various studies, such as traffic and environment, which are time consuming, made it often impossible for municipal councils to make a decision within 90 days.

Aurora Council and taxpayers have had to face more OMB hearings in the past few years than ever before.

In June, 1998, Aurora Council eventually approved a four-storey complex with stores and 14 apartments on the former Scanlon Bakery site, on the east side of Yonge Street south of Wellington.

Property owner Mario Toteria had originally planned a five-storey building with 20 apartments.

The zoning was already in place for the larger building but Toteria made a number of concessions at the request of council and neighbouring businesses.

Although the planning proposal had been before council three times since March, some councillors still had problems with the proposed development.

There was concern that the building would obstruct the view of the historic clock tower in the Old Post Office building next door.

Parking and access was another concern. The Committee of Adjustment approved the fifth floor as a minor variance.

Aurora resident David Amborski challenged the

committee's ruling resulting in the OMB hearing.

In October 1999, the Ontario Municipal Board approved the controversial fifth floor, which historically-minded citizens claimed overshadowed the town's historic clock tower.

The OMB normally rules on planning issues before development occurs, but in this case the fifth floor had been completed.

In October, 1999, the Ontario Realty Corporation, an Ontario government agency, took the town to the OMB over council's refusal to allow a housing development in the municipality's southwest quadrant.

Council refused to enact a proposed amendment to the official plan and zoning bylaw to redesignate lands west of Yonge Street and north of Bloomington Road from institutional to urban residential.

In March that year council ruled that the development application was premature and that a secondary plan should be prepared for the south Aurora area.

Council also ruled that the overall density of any future housing developments in the area should be in the range of two units per acre.

During 2000, Aurora taxpayers spent more than \$500,000 in OMB hearings, more than it had in at least a decade.

With the growth of the town and the possibility of having planning decisions appealed to the OMB, a

reserve fund was established.

In January, 2001, the OMB ruled that the town could limit growth on South Yonge Street to two units to the acre in accordance with the official plan.

The policy was set after major reviews and reports and considerable public input.

When the policy of two units to the acre was approved, most of the landowners wishing to develop in the area took exception.

They objected and appealed to the OMB.

The hearing took place over several weeks with the

board supporting council's planning policies.

The good news was that the town and the public were able to put up a strong and coordinated defense. The bad news was the hearing cost taxpayers \$300,000.

In July, 2001, David Tomlinson, a retired landscape architect and strong environmentalist, appealed to the OMB council's decision to permit a reduced buffer zone between development and a provincially significant wetland.

After a week-long hearing, the Tomlinson appeal was dismissed.

In spite of the Ministry of

Natural Resources guidelines that 120 metres was required as a buffer, the hearing officer said establishing such a line was not reasonable and that it was expropriation without compensation.

Based on the recommendations of an environmental consultant hired by the town, council approved a plan of subdivision that permits construction of residential units up to 35 metres from the wetlands.

The town wins some and loses some but in either case the hearings cost money, and in every case, the bill has to be paid by the poor taxpayers.

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Kennedy St. West and Area Residents

Council at its meeting on December 17th, 2002, supported the approval of four new condominium homes at 240 Kennedy St. West, north-west corner of Kennedy and Murray Drive. The new homes would face west and be served by a condominium road located in the general area of the existing driveway.

We and many other homeowners in the area consider this to be poor planning that could set a precedent for similar development approvals on other large lots in the area. General Committee of Council will be considering further approvals of this application at its meeting on **Tuesday, February 4th, 2003 at 7:00 pm.** It is vital for us to request Council to refuse the application and support the residents of the area. Please attend the meeting and contact the Mayor and members of Council to express your concerns, 905-727-1375. We are circulating a petition that will be forwarded to Council. For further information call Bob Sherwood at 905-713-2171.



EMILY VAN NOSTRAND

This champion rider dreams of Olympics

By CHRISTINE WOODLEY

Aurora's Emily Van Nostrand was eight years old when she got her first taste of horseback riding. The "horse" was a pony named Sugar, and Emily was with her grandfather, who worked at a farm.

From that day, there has been no looking back. The following Christmas, Emily begged her parents for riding lessons and equipment. And, it seems that Emily has made the most of that memorable gift.

Three years later, the Grade 6 student at Aurora's Lester B. Pearson Public School is a champion rider with dreams of the Olympics.

Emily, who rides at Pause A While Equestrian Centre in Vandorf, competed in a series of divisional events last summer, including walk, trot, cantor, jump and obstacle course.

From these events, Reserve (second place) and Champion riders were advanced to an invitational Tournament of Champions.

After all the points were tallied, Emily became overall Champion for 2002 for York Region.

The final Tournament of Champions featured many riders with much more experience than Emily, who has been riding at the centre for 18 months.

And while Emily dreams of owning her own horse, she realizes the hard work and commitment it requires.

"I would love it, but you need to be there at least four times a week, grooming and exercising. For now, it's better that I get used to lots of

different horses."

One horse, Pacer, specializes in showing beginner riders the ropes. Emily remembers him with fondness.

"He's great. He teaches you all the tricks horses will use to get out of working. He tries them all and gets you pre-

pared for the other horses."

When Emily is 14, she'll be eligible to work as a member of the tack-up staff, helping beginners, grooming and saddling.

Until then, 11-year-old Emily will continue to train, compete and to follow her dream.

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Fence on town property

In July last year, a homeowner on Hollidge Boulevard requested permission to allow a chain link and board privacy fence to remain on town property at the corner of Luxton Avenue.

After a review by town staff officials, the request was denied and the owners were told to remove the two fences.

Steve Brocklestein, representing the owners, appeared before the general committee last week to discuss the relocation of the fences.

He pointed out that when the fences were installed, it was not known that they

encroached on town property and he requested reconsideration.

Director of Public Works Wayne Jackson said the encroachment was one foot at the north end narrowing to six inches at the south end

and there was concern that granting the encroachment could set a precedent.

In order to obtain a better knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the issue, the committee requested a staff report.

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Hockey season is winding down for award winning Aurora Tigers

BY MIKE McCLYMONT

It has been a busy month for the Junior A Aurora Tigers hockey club as the regular season draws to a close.

A week after having their 31-game undefeated streak snapped, Tiger coach Marty Williamson was awarded Northern Division "Coach of the Year" for his efforts.

Joining Williamson in the winners' circle were "Best Defenceman" Rob Godfrey and division "Most Valuable Player" Chris Whitley.

Last Wednesday, Whitley and Tiger forwards Scott Goheen and Steve Mignardi were selected for the OPJAH (Ontario Provincial Junior A Hockey League) All Star game.

Whitley had thoughts on the team's latest achievements.

"It's pretty overwhelming for myself and for the team, (the awards) reflect how well the team's done."

Through it all, Aurora has managed five wins, a loss and a tie this month, including a 1-0 victory over the Huntsville Wildcats Sunday afternoon.

Friday's game was a goalie showcase.

Playing the second of a home and home series against the Couchiching Terriers, Aurora was looking for another win after defeat-

ing their hosts 5-1 Thursday night.

Aurora took over from where they left off a night earlier, dominating the entire first period.

They constantly attacked the Terrier goaltender, but he was a brick wall.

Aurora's fast pace never gave Couchiching's offense a chance to develop.

With two and a half minutes left in the period, Tiger forward Corey Gault deposited the loose puck after Will Wellman's initial attempt from behind the net.

That turned out to be the difference in the game.

Aurora played the second period with the same attack mentality as they looked for a two-goal cushion, but Terrier goaltender Mike Ouzas continued to give the Tiger offense fits.

Though Aurora dominated time of possession, the offense couldn't manage to increase their lead.

With 15 minutes left in the game and the score still 1-0, the Tigers' frustrations continued.

Though Whitley and the Tiger defense allowed nothing from the Terrier's offense, the Tigers played as if they trailed.

"Coach stressed that in the first two periods we were playing pretty flat," said Whitley. "We had to play pretty defensively even though we had a one-goal lead."

Aurora battled hard and their opening period goal held up for the victory.

Though the Tigers outplayed Couchiching, Chris Whitley knew why the Terriers stayed in the game so long.

"Their goalie. He was unbelievable, I think he made like 55 saves."

Actually he made 52 stops.

"He was definitely the story of the night, (the score) could have easily been 7 or 8 to nothing," added Whitley.

Sunday afternoon, the Tigers welcomed the Huntsville Wildcats; the bottom feeders of the Division, and whipped them 13-1.

Lance King gave Chris Whitley a rest and started the game in net.

Aurora's defense made sure King faced a minimal amount of Wildcat shots.

Though their record proves Aurora is the better team, the Tigers opened the game seeming a little uninterested. It was as if they knew who they were playing and couldn't get going.

Tiger forward Jesse Olden admitted the team didn't start out motivated.

"Yeah, it's always hard, but once you get the first goal, the rest follow."

That tally came eight minutes into the first period. Justin Olden caused a Wildcat turnover and scored on a breakaway.

Later in that period, Will Wellman scored on a pass from Jesse Olden. Then, Scott Goheen found the open net after Steve Mignardi put some moves on the Wildcat goaltender.

The Tigers dominated throughout the second frame.

Adrian Bennett scored three minutes into the period off of Derek Doucette's point shot.

Then, Aurora scored four markers in the span of four minutes.

First off, Mignardi scored a goal assisted by Jamie Minchella.

Doucette added a goal assisted by Jesse Olden, then Olden scored an unassisted goal to go with his four assists on the night.

Minchella vaulted the score to 8-0, assisted by Justin Olden

Huntsville's pain continued that period as Brent Franklin scored his first goal since returning from injury, and thus he was named "Player of the Game".

Mike Fiume, Jordan Brenner and Goheen scored for Aurora and Huntsville added a late goal to end the second period scoring spree with Aurora on top 12-1.

Kevin Martel scored for the first time since returning for a second stint with the Tigers and that ended all scoring for the afternoon.

Aurora's final home game of the regular season is this Friday against the Stouffville Spirit; the same team that ended Aurora's 31 game undefeated streak. Game time is 8 p.m.

On Saturday, they will wrap up the season with a game in Huntsville.

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Another cliffhanger tournament victory for Peewee AA

The Aurora Peewee AA rep hockey team came up with an electrifying overtime victory to capture the 31st Annual Royal City Power Play tournament in Guelph recently.

The squad qualified for the finals defeating Milton 4-1, Brampton 8-3, and Warren Park 7-2.

They lost their qualifying game to Alliston in the dying seconds of the match, then met the same club in the final.

Trailing 4-1 with only eight minutes remaining in regulation play, Aurora turned the tables with goals from Karl Peland, Daniel Curci and Spencer McCartney and sent the game into overtime.

Playing four on four for two minutes, neither team could score, which set up a three on three situation.

Clearing the puck from in front of the Aurora goal, Ian Middleton sent a perfect pass to Steven Donches, who skated the length of the ice and outwitted the Alliston goaltender.

It's the second time in as many tournaments that Aurora has claimed

all the marbles in this fashion.

In October, Aurora won the Georgetown tournament with a third overtime goal by Jamie Tuck, who scored the first goal in the final against Alliston.

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House League	
League Games <i>Novice</i> TIM HORTON'S/timbits 206 3 (Braedon Mackenzie 2G Tanner Thiessen 1G Evan Collict 1A) TIM HORTON'S/timbits 207 2 (Ryan DalCin 1G Jonathon White 1G Daniel Laflamme 1A Shane Arcangeli 1A) TIM HORTON'S/timbits 205 13 (Joshua Klinowski 4G,1A Jake Langford 1A Dan Delbello 5G Matt Hart 1A Connor Peace 1A Kevin Lukezic 3G,1A Andrew Curci 3A Shane Laverty 1G) TIM HOR-TON'S/timbits 208 3 (John Paul Hudon 1G,1A Graeme Ralph 1A Stephan Richardson 1G Nick Theodoropolous 1G) TIM HORTON'S/timbits 204 4 (Robert Bradford 1G Dylan Hussey 2G Mackenzie Wooder 1G Graham Loney 1A Thomas Kerr 1A) TIM HOR-TON'S/timbits 206 1 (Tanner Thiessen 1G) DBSA CONSULTING INC. 202 5 (Nicholas Heintzman 2G,1A Josh Ashfield 2G Chris Bull 1G Wade McFarlane 1A) TIM HORTON'S/timbits 207 4 (Ryan DalCin 1G Taylor Butler 1G,1A Brandon Farr 1G Kevin Langdon 1G,1A) TIM HORTON'S/timbits 203 9 (Andrew Papousek 6G,2A Madison Schaefer 2G,1A Matthew Clarke 1G Kyle Coughlin 1A) TIM HORTON'S/timbits 208 1 (Stefan Richardson 1G) <i>Bantam</i> AURORA OPTICAL 2 (Dean Hamman 1G Blair Plewman 1G Mike Smyth 1A Chris Govan 1A) TWIST MARKETING 1 (Augustino Bova 1G Brad Finch 1A) IRVINE ROBINSON INTERIORS 6 (Travis Freeland 1G Alec Follett 2G Michael Panetta 1G Michael Fong 2G Michael Fancie 1A Neil Irvine 1A Matt Robertson 2A Corey McPherson 1A David Johnson 1A) CHEVERIE COMMUNICATIONS 6 (Marc Quagliarini 4G Kyle Kaminski 1G Ryan Sterling 1G Lawrence Cheverie 1A Tanner Kinnarinen 1A) Playoff Games <i>Minor Atom</i> MANHATTAN TROPHIES 5 (Ryan Kennedy 1G,1A Egan Fennell 2G Matthew Schmitt 1G Michael Takahashi 1G Troy Gouviea 1A Jamie Bleakley 1A Philip Mueller 1A) REC CYCLE N' SPORTS 2 (Jordan Gerace 1G,1A Andrew Cosentino 1G) THE BACKYARD POOL & SPA COMPANY 7 (Dylan Jolivet 2G Wesley Seminara 2G Brett Richardson 1G Jarett Meron 1G Stephen Newby 1G Brendan Strachan 1A Thomas Varvaris 1A Benjamin Center 1A) LANGDONS COACH LINES 3 (Austin Haines 1G Adam Tomlin 1G Adam Mahon 1G Brandon Thompson 1A) OLBERT METALS 6 (Luca Battiston 1G Paul Andrews 1G Alex Dunn 1G Brett Lockhart 1G,1A Stephan Pagura 1G Zack Armstrong 1G Nick Skillins 1A) REC CYCLE N' SPORTS 1 (Jordan Gerace 1G) DELPH & JENKINS LEVELERS 6 (Jarred Reid 2G Kyle Rojas 2G Thomas Gans 1G Scott Kimmerer 1G Andrew Bolton 1A Patrick Dowling 1A Curtis Johnston 1A Adam Jamieson 1A Matthew Carter SO) INTER-WORLD PAPER 0 MANHATTAN TROPHIES 7 (Michael Takahashi 3G,2A Troy Gouviea 2G,1A Ryan Kennedy 1G Matthew Schmitt 1G Brandon Bortolin 1A Sean Takahashi 1A) TRIO RESTAURANT 6 (Chris Vendittelli 3G,1A Scott Tonello 1G, 1A James Phillips 1G,1A Griffen Slimkowich 1G,1A Ethan Morris 1A Paul Tuck 1A James Wotherspoon 1A) MARY'S FLOWER SHOP 7 (Mark Tanel 1G,1A Michael Vance 3G Alex Payne 2G D. Scott 1G Brodie Royce1A) DOMINION 4 (Logan Weber 1G Curtis Stobo 1G Gregory Lacroix 1G Cameron Annear 1G Peter Collins 1A David Bolsby 1A Evan Thomson 1A) <i>Midget</i> PHILADELPHIA STAINLESS 3 (Andrew Gerrits 2G Colin Gerrits 2G,1A Jeff Jamieson 1A Brandon Fyfe 1A) FIDELITY STAINLESS 3 (Steven MacDonald 1G David McKay 1G Ryan Myers 1G,1A Jesse Teel 2A Dan Henderson 1A Brandon Parsons 1A) LAURION & ASSOCIATES 5 (Mathieu Fowles 2G Mackenzie Kemp 1G Colin Young 1G Josh Livingstone 1A Daniel Guerra 1A AJ Underwood 1A Collin Hullah 1A Jon Mondino 1A) ASA ALLOYS 2 (Steve Gould 1G Mike Reynolds 1G	

Aurora Minor Hockey Association Results to 9 AM Sunday January 26, 2003 Website: www.aci.on.ca/amha																																							
Drew MacMartin 1A Chris Williams 1A) LOCKLEY STAINLESS 7 (Kevin Parry 3G,1A Sean Perry 1G Ken McArdle 1G Lenny Richardson 1G,2A David Carlson 1G Chris Hartley 1A Mark Neufeld 1A Mark McKay 1A Michael Burns 1A) AMERICAN STAINLESS 3 (Andrew Carlson 2G Andrew Younes 1G,1A Adam Saunders 2A Ryan Simmons 1A Steve MacLean 1A) MAGNA STAINLESS 5 (Darryl Gallagher 1G Steve Pendergast 1G,1A Jon Peterkin 1G Sean Roszell 1G,1A Ian Harvie 1G,1A Mike Falcioni 1A) DGN MARKETING SERVICES LTD. 2 (Drew Hurlbut 1G Adam Krichbaum 1G Martin Wales 1A Kevin Lower 1A Taylor Hayworth 1A Brian Wong 1A) AMERICAN STAINLESS 2 (Andrew Carlson 1G,1A Adam Saunders 1G Luke Smallbone 2A) LAURION & ASSOCIATES 1 (Collin Hullah 1G Jeff Calder 1A Daniel Guerra 1A) FIDELITY STAINLESS 4 (Steven MacDonald 1G,1A Cam Fleming 1G,1A David McKay 1G Jesse Teel 1G Dan Henderson 1A Michael Granatto 1A) MAGNA STAINLESS 4 (Darryl Gallagher 2G Matt Tobin 1G Steve Pendergast 1G,2A Ian Harvie 1A) DGN MARKETING SERVICES LTD. 6 (Brian Wong 2G Scott Mclvor 1G Fraser Masters 1G Martin Wales 1G Oscar Szydlowski 1G,1A Braden Simmonds 1A Adam Krichbaum 1A Colin Dickie 1A Adam Rice 1A) PHILADELPHIA STAINLESS 2 (Mike Sgro 1G,1A Sean Graham 1G Scott Gillison 1A) <table><tr><th colspan="2">House League Standings</th></tr><tr><td colspan="2">The House League Standings to date are available on the AMHA web site.</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="2">Select Teams</th></tr><tr><td>Sponsors</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Tyke</td><td>Venture Steel McLean Travel</td></tr><tr><td>Novice</td><td>Butler's Landscaping Priestly Electric</td></tr><tr><td>Minor Atom</td><td>City-Wide Electrical Joriki Juice</td></tr><tr><td>Minor Bantam</td><td>Bill & Brenda Jenkins@Re/Max York Group Realty Inc Duckworth Insurance & Financial Services</td></tr><tr><td>Minor Peewee</td><td>Astech Solutions Inc</td></tr></table> Exhibition Games <i>Minor Atom (4) vs Applewood (1)</i> Michael Nonnewitz 2G Jonathon Poulakos 1G Dylan Skelton 1G Danny McConnell 1A Nicholas Silverio 1A <i>Minor Atom (5) vs Brampton Bombers (2)</i> Jonathon Poulakos 3G Matthew Miller 1G, 1A Michael DiVincenzo 1G Danny McConnell 2A <i>Minor Atom (4) vs Brampton Bombers (2)</i> Jonathon Poulakos 1G Matthew Miller 1G Dylan Skelton 1G, 1A Mitchell Sziraky 1A Michael DiVincenzo 1A Nicholas Silverio 1A League Games <i>Tyke (2) vs Barrie (5)</i> Daniel Jones 1G Trevor George 1G,1A Burke White 1A <i>Tyke (1) vs Barrie (6)</i> Kyle Zacharuk 1G Kevin Casey 1A Cameron Nuttall 1A <i>Minor Atom (0) vs Newmarket (0)</i> Evan Carlisle SO <i>Minor Atom (4) vs Richmond Hill (1)</i> Jonathon Poulakos 1G Mitchell Sziraky 2G Matthew Miller 1G Michael Nonnewitz 2A Daniel McConnell 1A Michael Bar 1A Ryan Antoniel 1A <i>Minor Peewee (1) vs Ajax (5)</i> Mike Curci 1G Anthony D'Antonio 1A Memo Nafarrate 1A <i>Minor Bantam (5) vs Richmond Hill (1)</i> Jimmy Hastings 2G 1A Drew Jenkins 1G, 1A Sam Warden 1G Steven Horan 1G Kevin Mayne 1A Tournaments <i>Tyke (2) vs Barrie (2)</i> Quinn McGowan 1G Daniel Jones 1G,1A Kyle Zacharuk 1A Cameron Nuttall 1A Stefan Lazzar 1A <i>Tyke (3) vs Vaughan (6)</i> Liam Killops 1G Collin Laird 1G Stefan Lazzar 1G Daniel Jones 1A <i>Minor Peewee (3) vs Newmarket (3)</i> Matthew Scrimess 1G Greg Buchner 1G Andrew Mangialardi 1G Curtis Hough 1A David Iwai 1A Brandon Galante 1A Ryan Crockett 1A <i>Minor Peewee (4) vs Brampton (1)</i> Matthew Scrimess 2A Ethan Shore 1G Emilio Nafarrate 1G Curtis Hough 1G Adam Bloom 1G Brandon Giniotis 1A Scott Quaglarini 1A <i>Minor Peewee (4) vs Oshawa (3)</i> Drew Jenkins 1G 1A Chad Roberts 2A Torrey Duckworth 1G Anthony D'Antonio 1G Memo Nafarrate 1G Alex Ginther 1A Jimmy Hastings 1A Andrew Rowen 1A <i>Minor Peewee (3) vs Uxbridge (4)</i> Jimmy Hastings 3G Drew Jenkins 1G Chad Roberts 2A Steven Horan 1A Sam Warden 1A Andrew Rowen 1A Eddie McLaughlin 1A <i>Minor Bantam (11) vs Downsview (0)</i> Steven Horan 4G, 1A Drew Jenkins 2G, 2A Anthony D'Antonio 2G, 1A Chad Roberts 2A Jimmy Hastings 3A Memo Nafarrate 1G Torrey Duckworth 1G Cam Harris 2A Andrew Rowen 1A SamWarden 1A Eddie McLaughlin 1G Alex Ginther 1A Phil Saunders SO <table><tr><th colspan="2">Rep Teams</th></tr><tr><td>Sponsors</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Novice AA</td><td>Dymin Steel Dave Wood Mazda</td></tr><tr><td>Minor Atom A</td><td>Charley FitzWhiskey's Tap & Eatery London Guarantee Insurance Company</td></tr><tr><td>Minor Atom AA</td><td>Cosma International Masterclean Contracting & Cleaning</td></tr><tr><td>Bantam A</td><td>Highland Transport</td></tr><tr><td>Bantam AE</td><td>Gallaugher Contracting Viking Fire</td></tr><tr><td>Minor Midget A</td><td>Law Insurance Brokers Scotia Capital</td></tr><tr><td>Midget A</td><td>B&M Produce Dome Interiors</td></tr><tr><td>Midget AA</td><td>RBC Summer's & Smith</td></tr></table> Exhibition Games <i>Atom AE (2) vs Milton (2)</i> Michael McGolrick 2G Andrew McKay 2A <i>Minor Peewee A (3) vs Nobleking (2)</i> Michael Morson 1G Matthew Joynt 1G Ben Mulholland 1G Carter Hassard 1A Trevor McCartney 1A Anthony Ranieri 1A Quenton Hunt 1A Luca Ghegin 1A League Games <i>Novice A (1) vs Nobleking (5)</i> Eric Perrin 1G Matthew Skoulikas 1A Playoff Games <i>Novice A (0) vs Tottenham (1)</i> <i>Novice A (3) vs Tottenham (4)</i> Eric Perrin 1G,2A Matthew Roy 1G,2A Eric Ludwig 1G,2A <i>Novice A (1) vs Tottenham (0)</i> Eric Perrin 1G Ried Sisson 1A Dylan Woyslaw 1A Jason Barron SO <i>Minor Atom A (2) vs Nobleking (1)</i> Eleeza Cox 1G Tristan Miller 1G Josh Beaton 1A Brandon Pedersen 1A Steadman Dinning 1A Matthew Mears 1A Brett Matthews 1A <i>Minor Atom A (2) vs Nobleking (0)</i> Matthew Mears 1G Brandon Pedersen 1G Tristan Miller 1A Steadman Dinning 1A Eleeza Cox 1A Josh Beaton 1A Daniel Howie 1A,SO <i>Atom AA (7) vs Richmond Hill (0)</i> Luke MacLeod 2G,2A Dillon Cappell 2G Taylor Nuttall 1G,1A Jordan Tripp 1G,1A Andrew Whitley 1G Max Lerner 3A Spencer Arkell 1A <i>Atom AA (4) vs Georgina (2)</i> Kevin Zacharuk 2G Luke MacLeod 1G Spencer Arkell 1G,1A Max Lerner 2A Andrew Whitley 1A Jordan Tripp 1A Taylor Nuttall 1A <i>Minor Peewee A (4) vs Bradford (2)</i> Andrew McDonald 1G Matthew Joynt 1G Darrell Evans 1G Carter Hassard 1G,1A Michael Morson 1A Quenton Hunt 2A Anthony Ranieri 1A Luca Ghegin 1A		House League Standings		The House League Standings to date are available on the AMHA web site.		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AMHA Information	
<i>Minor Peewee A (6) vs Bradford (0)</i> Quenton Hunt 1G,1A Anthony Ranieri 1G,1A Darrell Evans 2G Andrew McDonald 2G Matthew Joynt 1A Brett Dutchyshen 1A Carter Hassard 3A Michael Morson 1A Lucas Boyd 1A Mark Suominen SO <i>Peewee A (3) vs Newmarket (2)</i> Second round playoffs, game 1: Jeremy Cohen 2G Steven Keane 1G,1A David Cigana 1A Ryan Campbell 1A <i>Bantam AE (4) vs Stouffville (1)</i> Kyle Fitkin 1G Zach Andrews 2G Brandon Polsinello 1G,1A Sean Fodey 1A Mark Witing 1A Matt Kerr 1A <i>Bantam AE (8) vs Bradford (1)</i> Kyle Fitkin 1G Sean Fodey 2G,1A Corey Berube 1G,1A Matt Kerr 1G Brandon Polsinello 2G,1A Jordan Williams 1G,2A Zach Andrews 2A Mark Short 1A <i>Bantam AE (6) vs Stouffville (2)</i> Corey Berube 3G,1A Jordan Williams 1G Brandon Polsinello 1G Kyle Fitkin 1G,2A Mike Parkhill 2A Scott Daly 2A Sean Fodey 1A Derek Lynham 2A Timi Sotoadeh 1A. Aurora wins series 3 games to 0 <i>Minor Midget A (1) vs East Gwillumbury (3)</i> Jamie Marton 1G Corey Hopkins-Straker 1A <i>Midget AA (3) vs Georgina (1)</i> Mike Keon 1G,1A Mark Scriver 1A Mark Oppedisano 1G Peter Nykyforchyn 1A Jared Pignataro 1G Mark Smith 1A Joey Leo 1A <i>Midget AA (4) vs Georgina (3)</i> Jared Pignataro 1G Joey Leo 2A Mike Keon 1G,2A Stephen Heikkila 1G,2A Ian Gabel 1G,1A Duncan Kl 1A <i>Midget AA (3) vs Georgina (1)</i> Mike Keon 2G Joey Leo 1A Duncan Kluwak 1A Jared Pignataro 1A Stephen Heikkila 1G <i>Midget AA (1) vs Newmarket (2)</i> Jared Pignataro 1G Scott Hurst 1A Mike Keon 1A Tournaments <i>Novice A (5) vs Oshawa (0)</i> Eric Perrin 3G,1A Ryan Hughes 1G,1A Matthew Roy 1G Eric Ludwig 3A Devin Watson 1A Jody Nonnewitz 1A Dylan Woyslaw 1A Jason Barron/Kelley Hudson SO <i>Novice A (0) vs Ottawa (7)</i> <i>Novice A (1) vs Belleville (5)</i> Eric Perrin 1G <i>Novice A (0) vs Ottawa (1)</i> <i>Novice A (2) vs Port Colborne (2)</i> Dylan Woyslaw 1G Eric Perrin 1G Brian Puskar 1A Game MVP Eric Perrin <i>Novice A (0) vs Grimsby (3)</i> Game MVP Matthew Roy <i>Novice A (2) vs Stoney Creek (0)</i> Shutout Kelley Hudson/Jason Barron Game MVP Matthew Roy Tournament MVP's: Jason Barron, Kelley Hudson, Eric Ludwig, Jody Nonnewitz, Reid Sisson <i>Atom A (4) vs Warren Park (4)</i> Derrick Hamner 2G Paul Keilty 1G Jeffery Sanderson 1G Evan Casselden 1A Michael Delplavignano 1A Justin Brown 1A Dylan Cross 1A John-Caleb Ross 1A <i>Atom A (3) vs Cobourg (0)</i> Derrick Hamner 2G Dylan Cross 1G Jeffery Sanderson 1A Paul Keilty 1A Kyle Marren SO Wesley O'Beirne SO <i>Atom A (2) vs Peterborough (2)</i> Jeffery Sanderson 1G Justin Brown 1G Dylan Cross 1A Louis Lamanna 1A <i>Atom A (5) vs Barrie (0)</i> B Division Champions Derrick Hamner 2G,1A (First Star) Louis Lamanna 1G,1A (Second Star) Evan Casselden 1G,1A Paul Keilty 1G,1A Justin Brown 1A John-Caleb Ross 1A Michael Delplavignano 1A Wesley O'Beirne SO Kyle Merren SO	
Coming Events	
AMHA TV Auction	Sat Feb 22, 2003
House League Banquet	Mar 29/30, 2003
Rep Banquets	Apr 26, 2003

RUMOURS & RUMBLINGS

When the "no parking" signs changed sides

It was back in 1965 or 1966 when council of the day passed a bylaw prohibiting parking on the east side of Edward Street north of Cousins Drive.

It was adopted as a safety concern as young soccer players used the field north of the Oak-Hart plant located at the intersection.

Some members of the Oak-Hart staff complained to Mayor Clarence Davis, Reeve Stew Patrick and Deputy Reeve Jim Murray about the loss of their parking spots on Edward Street.

The trio held an unofficial council meeting in Ray's Café (now Moon Gardens) and without advising other members of council, directed staff to put the No Parking signs on the west side of the roadway instead of the east as stipulated in the bylaw.

It took almost two years and many strong arguments to get the signs posted on the east side, where they rightfully belonged.

AURORA'S CRAB-APPLE TREE

Believe it or not, but Aurora has an official crab-apple tree in the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton. If you have the opportunity to visit the Gardens, look for it in the crab-apple section.

Evidently there are about 150 different species of crab-apples and in order to have a tree of each species, the Gardens invited Ontario municipalities to purchase a tree for \$50 and have it planted in the name of the municipality.

Members of several municipal councils, including Aurora, visited the Gardens for a special tree-planting day in 1984, as part of Ontario's bicentennial celebrations.

BUSINESS ON THE MOVE

In July 1985 the Royal Wood Shop Limited, the specialty lumber and moulding shop moved from the Industrial Parkway to the firm's Wellington Street East mill operated as Royal Woodworking Company Limited.

Prestige Printers moved its operations from Wellington Street East to a new building on the Industrial Parkway. Owner Sam Isgro said the move would allow his other business, Aurora Copy Masters to double its retail space.

In May, 1986, Dashwood Window and Door Centre opened a large showroom on Yonge Street North to display an extensive array of products. At the time, it was the largest showroom of its kind in the GTA.

WHEN A PET ROCK WAS THE FAD

Believe it or not but in December 1975 people actually bought a rock as a pet. They were sold in a ventilated carton bearing the notice "This box contains one genuine pedigreed Pet Rock". The selling price was \$4.

Inside was nothing more than a stone, but it had some features that other pets may not exhibit. For

example, it didn't make a noise, it didn't destroy the furniture, or you didn't have to put it out at night, and somebody made a fortune.

WE MAY HAVE BEEN A FRENCH SETTLEMENT

French royalists, many of them nobility, were the first settlers in central York County and had they succeeded, Aurora and Oak Ridges might have a decided French culture today.

All refugees from the French Revolution, they

Yonge/Wellington woes continue

From page 1
published a list of its 10 most dangerous intersections and the Wellington/Yonge intersection was included.

The intersection had an inordinate number of accidents, both in total numbers and collision rate based on traffic volume.

At the same time the owners of two businesses on the south side of Wellington Street, just east of Yonge Street, requested the parking restrictions in front of their buildings be relaxed during the morning peak period.

The request was supported by Aurora Council but rejected by the region, as any restrictions to traffic flow through the intersection would make a bad situation worse.

In spite of trial periods of restricting left-turns at peak hours and other measures, including the on-going controversial parking restrictions on the south side of

Wellington Street, few improvements were noted in traffic movement.

In May, 1999, council requested a status report for the proposed westbound right turn lane, which had been placed on hold.

The region advised that the lane would be included in the Wellington reconstruction project, provided the region was able to obtain the required property.

Some members of council expressed concern about potential problems for pedestrians with the widened roadway, but decided to proceed with the project.

The proposed right-turn lane was not constructed as part of the Wellington Street project, traffic at the intersection is still heavy, motorists are still seeking alternate routes to avoid the intersection, Wallace's suggestion was never tried, and Machell and Simcoe rest peacefully, not knowing the havoc they created.

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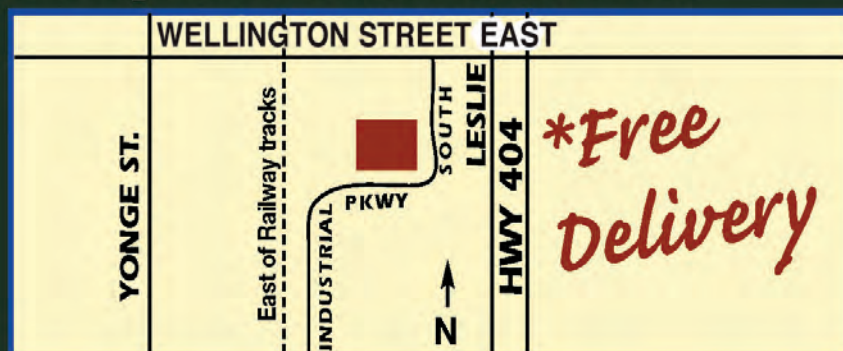


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