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Aurora's Community Newspaper



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BEACH ZONE 2 ALLAURA BLVD., (BY MCDONALDS)

Vol. 3 No. 19

Week of March 4, 2003

905-727-3300

Anniversary gets GO okay

GO says go. Organizers of the 150th anniversary of the Head of Rail celebrations learned last week that GO Transit, owner of the Aurora railway station, has given permission for the group to use the property for a weekend in May.

"Now we can really begin planning the event," said committee member John McIntyre.

The celebration - slated for the weekend of May 10 and 11 - will mark 150 years since the first train came to Aurora in 1853.

That train - hauled by a locomotive named Toronto - left the city, and two hours later arrived in Machell's Corners, as Aurora was known then.

It was the first train in Ontario - and some believe Canada - to leave a built-up area and travel into the country.

Committee members have been meeting to plan the weekend, which should include displays and booths in and around the station Saturday, May 10, and Sunday, May 11.

The train actually came to Machell's Corners May 16, 1853, but that date this year falls on the Memorial Day weekend, causing the committee to

set the event a week in advance.

It was hoped to have a steam engine on display at the station, but so far, that feature does not look promising.

Still active, however, is a planned train excursion and possible shuttle from Union Station to Aurora, either on vintage railway stock or a brand new GO Train.

At the city end, a group known as the Toronto Historical Railway Committee is planning similar activities and would participate in the excursion planning.

Chairman of that group, Derek Boles, will be the guest speaker of the Aurora Historical Society's monthly meeting March 19 at the Aurora Seniors Centre on Victoria Street.

He will speak on the history of rail-roading in Ontario and will likely use a portion of his talk to promote the May event.

Space is available for anyone who may wish to set up a booth, and display or demonstrate railway-related artifacts.

If you wish to rent space, please call 905-727-3300 during business hours and ask for Ron.

Council denies developers conditional building permit

A plea by developers to have the town speed up clearance of draft conditions fell on deaf ears at Aurora Council last week.

Development and sales of dwelling units east of Bayview Avenue and the timing of subdivision agreements and subsequent clearances have raised concerns among builders regarding closing dates.

Builders claim the four to six week construction delay caused by the clearance of draft conditions forces them to delay closings.

Rather than "inconvenience future residents of Aurora" the builders asked town staff to see if partial construction could begin within the four to six week time frame.

The Ontario Building Code sets out provisions where conditional permits may be issued, staff members said.

But Council was not impressed and denied the request.

Councillor Nigel Kean expressed concern about the town changing the rules to please the builders and said builders should provide more realistic closing dates.

Kean was supported by Councillor

Evelina MacEachern who added there was no benefit to the town and there could be pitfalls but it was a nice try by the builders.

Councillor Ron Wallace referred to the staff report that noted the delay could inconvenience future residents and wondered if the builders had written it.

Council voted unanimously to take no action.



Central York Fire Services personnel were kept busy in Aurora over the weekend, dealing with a garage and barn fires. Above, a garage behind a Yonge Street home, just south of Aurora Heights Drive, goes up in smoke Sunday afternoon. Monday morning, firefighters cancelled a presentation at St. Andrew's College to battle a barn blaze, east of Bayview Avenue, south of the St. John's Sideroad. Both fires are under investigation. Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Budget final; increase is 5.9%

With little fanfare or debate council adopted Aurora's 2003 operating budget of \$30.4 million and capital budget of \$9.4 million last week.

The net tax levy of \$15.5 million represents a 5.9 per cent increase or about \$50 on a residential property assessed at \$225,000.

The mandate going into the budget process last November was to maintain 2002 service levels, increase provision for contributions to reserves for major facility rehabilitation and maintenance, replenish

legal reserves, and incorporate a three per cent general inflation factor, based on two per cent assessment growth.

The first draft of the budget forecast a net tax levy of \$17.1 million representing an increase of 17.7 per cent.

In November, significant salary related adjustments to the fire services budget, eliminated enhancements to 2002 service levels for library services and the transfer of waste disposal costs to the region reduced pressures on the budget.

The second draft was presented in January and an opportunity was provided for public input. By this time the budget had been reduced to a 5.9 per cent increase.

Staff was directed to review the public and council members' comments and present the third draft last week for approval and adoption.

As 2003 is a reassessment year, the implications of the tax increase will vary depending on the property-by-property change in assessed value.

Another promotion for Klees

"It was huge," Aurora's Frank Klees said after being named Ontario's Minister of Transportation last week.

Klees, who was still getting his feet wet as Minister of Tourism and Recreation, met with Premier Ernie Eves to discuss his role in a minor cabinet shuffle.

"At first I was reluctant," he said. "I told the premier I'd prefer not to accept and that if he could find someone else, he should."

But Premier Eves was adamant Klees was the man.

With a \$10 billion commitment to transit and transportation hanging in the balance, Premier Eves felt the Aurora resident was the man for the job.

Two hours after he was sworn in, Frank Klees was at a Good Roads convention, introducing himself as the new minister.

"There was simply no time to waste," he said. "I hit the floor running."

Signs of an early provincial election?

"I know when the election is," he deadpanned. "There will be an election before June, 2004."

Klees now has the choice of keeping his Queen's Park staff members or selecting new ones as he moves from his office in Hearst Block over to MacDonald Block.

Klees, who holds the Oak Ridges seat, has been nominated in that riding for the next election.

He, and his wife, Jayne, have no plans to leave Aurora.

Briefly

CANCELLED

The March 14 opening night and the complete run of the Aurora Theatre Youth Group's presentation of "Bloodsong", a contemporary vampire tale, has been cancelled.

It was to continue March 15/16 and March 21, 22 and 23.

Call the box office at 905-727-3669 for further information.



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Queen's York Rangers Army Cadet Corps offers camping, canoeing, target shooting, first aid, orienteering, in two, three and six week summer camps. Open to males and females 12 to 18. Call 905-726-8600 for further information.

MARCH 7

The 2003 World Day of Prayer will be held at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church at 7:30 p.m. Participating churches include Aurora United, Christ Lutheran, St. Andrew's Presbyterian, First Baptist and Trinity Anglican. Everyone is invited to this inter-denominational prayer service.

The Second City National Touring Company appears at Howard Johnson Aurora Queen Elizabeth Ballroom at a dinner show with their new production "The Puck Stops Here". Call the hotel at 905-727-1312 to reserve.

MARCH 8

Free one-hour adult "fast defense" course at Watson's Karate. 2 to 3 p.m. Call to reserve 905-727-7144.

MARCH 9

Trinity Anglican Aurora Jazz Vespers at 7:30 p.m. Continues April 13th, May 11th and June 15th.

MARCH 11

The normally scheduled meeting of Aurora Council on the second Tuesday of the month has been cancelled due to the Spring Break.

MARCH 13

Aurora members of the Seniors Centre have until today to sign up and receive a \$25 early booking bonus for an overnight trip to Ottawa from May 13 to 15 for the Tulip Festival. Trip includes transportation, accommodation, four meals and other activities. After March 13 the trip is open to non-members. Call 905-727-2816 for details.

MARCH 14

Skate Break, a skateathon for all ages, 2 p.m. Aurora Community Centre, Rink 2. Four members of Canada's World Figure Skating Team will be there. Tickets \$15 unless pledge sheets top that amount. Registration 1 p.m. For more information, or pledge sheets, call 905-841-3977 or 1-866-345-0183, ext. 0.

MARCH 16

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at Hillary House with the fiddle-playing Turrets, modern day Celtic musicians. Homemade refreshments and tours of the historic home will be available from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Cost for adults is \$5 and \$2 for children under 12.

MARCH 22

It's Orchestral Fireworks at Trinity Anglican Church, Aurora, with the York Symphony Orchestra featuring guest pianist Elissa Miller-Kay. Call 416-410-0860 for ticket information.

MARCH 24/APRIL 4

Guided tours of Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area. Includes a wagon ride. Call Nadine Partridge at 905-895-1281, Ex. 241 for further information or visit www.lsrca.on.ca.

MARCH 27

Free 90-minute seminar focusing on food safety. 7 p.m. Aurora Public Library public meeting room 1. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493.

Casino Rama trip with the Aurora Seniors. Trip includes buffet luncheon. This trip is a fundraiser for the centre and the cost is \$3 per person. Call the centre at 905-727-2816 to register.

MARCH 29

Teachers In Recital, 7.30 p.m. Trinity Anglican Church, presented by the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association. Further information 905-727-5727.

MARCH 30

Visit Trinity Anglican Aurora at 7 p.m. to hear the 75-voice Tri-City Gospel Chorus as they present an evening of inspirational gospel music.

APRIL 13

Second Annual Bob Hartwell Runners' Challenge Half Marathon, Half Marathon Relay and 5K Race.

APRIL 25-27

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce 2003 Aurora Home and Lifestyle Show featuring food and wine at the Aurora Community Centre.

APRIL 26

Get a team together for the Heart and Stroke Foundation Big Bike Ride for Stroke in Aurora. It's a fundraising event where teams of 29 get together to ride the 30-seater bike (a driver is provided) along Yonge Street. Call Rachel at 905-853-6355 for information

JUNE 1

Booths are selling fast for the Eighth Annual Aurora Street Festival. If you plan to rent booth space, you should know the festival is already 25 per cent sold out. Activities will open to the public at 11 a.m. and continue to 5 p.m. Call the Chamber office at 905-727-7262 to book a booth.

AUGUST 22

Cardinal Carter Pioneer Class of 1993 Reunion. Pioneer students and faculty invited. For ticket information, call Joanna Jannetta 905-773-6717.



Adriana Barni

Ciao, Bella

By CHRISTINE WOODLEY

She lit up a room. That observation, made by a former customer after learning of Adriana Barni's death this month, is one that many Aurorans would second. The long-time restaurateur (Prego, Joia and Festa) touched many with her kind and funny ways.

Adriana died of cancer at the age of 58.

Her husband and long-time partner, Cesare, was by her side, as he had been since the two young Italians arrived on a ship called the Olympia at Halifax harbour in 1965.

After their arrival, the couple lived for a time in Halifax, and then Vancouver, before settling in York Region (Bradford, then Newmarket) in 1985.

They rented space in the home of Erica Radocchia, who had just opened a new restaurant in Aurora called Prego.

For the next seven years the two fast friends worked side by side.

Adriana, showing her incredible work ethic, was the first to arrive and the last to leave.

Sometimes, during special seatings, as many as 200 diners would be served by just four wait staff, with Adriana "running" the meals and overseeing the service.

It was an incredible sight, as Erica fondly remembers.

"She was amazing. She made sure everyone got what they wanted, when they wanted it. And, she could carry plates up and down each arm. She used to have burns on her arms from hot plates. I had to tell her not to

work so hard."

But the work was her life and, when the Radocchias sold Prego in 1992, it was a very emotional time.

"Neither of us had children and the customers and the restaurant meant everything to us," Erica said.

When the deal went through, Erica was in Vatican City and saw a special postcard that she sent to Adriana. Its English translation reads, 'Whatever you obtain with love will always be yours.' The words summed up the labour of love that Prego had been to both women.

In 1995, Adriana joined the Radocchia's newest venture, Joia, in the north end of Aurora.

When illness forced them to sell a year later, the new owners of both Prego and Joia were anxious to have Adriana's special brand of humour and unstoppable work ethic.

She ended up back at Prego's until she and Cesare realized a dream and opened Festa (along with a partner) in 2000, in the location formerly occupied by Rob's Place.

After she became ill, they sold their share in the restaurant. Cesare cared for his wife day and night until she was forced to enter palliative care where she died.

Erika remembers her as "giving, happy, strong and pure." Her customers enjoyed her wit and delighted in her special nickname for them all - Bella.

Adriana Barni was cremated and Cesare will spread her ashes this month in her hometown of Rapallo in the Genoa area of Italy.

Town gives up pieces of road

With assurances from town staff that the sale would not impact the marshlands, Aurora Council has agreed to sell four small parcels of land on the north and south side of the controversial St. John's Sideroad to York Region for the appraised value of \$2,775.

The small triangles of land are required by the region in conjunction with the proposed widening and reconstruction of the roadway from Yonge Street to Bayview Avenue.

The lands being acquired

are zoned either Environmental Protection or Open Space and form a portion of the Open Space System owned by the municipality in the area.

The region is acquiring the land to accommodate the 2.9 metre bike path/sidewalk on one side of the roadway and a 1.5 metre sidewalk on the other.

Staff advised that if the municipality refused to sell the region would have no option but to expropriate, which could prove to lengthy and expensive.

Doan House designated

In November an application for rezoning of two properties on Wellington Street East and one property on Centre Street was received by the town's general committee.

It was proposed to build a four-storey, 36-unit residential condominium integrated with the historic home of D.W. Doan built in 1864. The application was referred to a December public planning meeting.

The house is on the town's

list of Heritage Properties and the Canadian inventory buildings worthy of recognition. The house had not been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act and originally the owner was unwilling to designate it, but promised not to demolish it.

Since then, however, after discussions with local historian John McIntyre, the applicant has agreed to the designation of the historic home.

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OMB to decide Kennedy fate

The development application for four single-family homes and a private roadway at 240 Kennedy Street West to be constructed in accordance with the Condominium Act has created more controversy and divisions at Aurora Council than many large subdivisions and now the decision is up to the Ontario Municipal Board.

In April, 2001, owner of the property, Lenard Lind, a local real estate agent, had his application rejected by Aurora Council after strong opposition from residents at a public planning meeting.

Then in December last year, without a further public meeting council approved

the application for a rezoning on the basis it was infilling and in accordance with provincial and town policy.

In the meantime Lind had referred the denial to the Ontario Municipal Board.

As the roadway to provide access to the four homes and the existing single family residence was set far back on the property, it was necessary for Lind to apply for a condominium development.

That application created the same controversy as the rezoning application and the two issues became entangled with the same opposition from neighbouring residents and the newly formed Kennedy Street

West and Area Ratepayers Association.

Last month there was a long and confusing debate at the general committee at which the condominium application was approved subject to 72 conditions.

Council had previously authorized staff to attend the April 9 Ontario Municipal Board hearing to support the rezoning subject to conditions.

Last week, Jan Nardi appeared before council on behalf on her husband Sam to urge councillors to withdraw their support of the application. She pointed out that the private roadway was just 10 feet from their lot line, which would have a

negative impact on her family and their privacy.

She said about 200 people had signed a petition supporting the Nardis.

Resident Bob Sherwood said the ratepayers association had received legal and planning advice and will try to help the Nardis defend the property where they have lived for 24 years.

He said councillors should be embarrassed with the decision they made in December, which was contradictory to the earlier decision at the public meeting. He asked council to support the community.

Planning consultant Peter

Please see page 11

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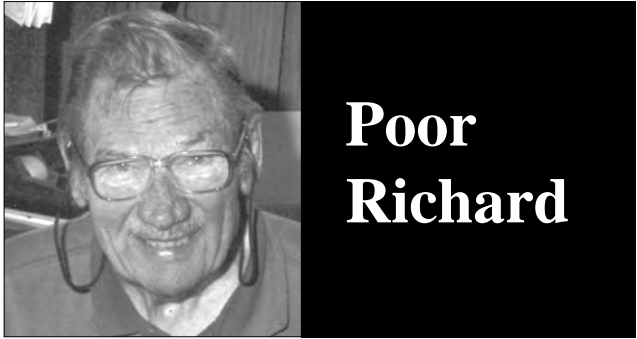
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Address: _____

Phone: _____

Age: _____





Poor Richard

Your tax bill - up, up and away

*Nobody likes to pay taxes,
But like death, they are there;
They are used to protect us,
Possibly more than we can bear.*
Poor Richard's Scrapbook

"The art of taxation consists in so plucking the goose as to obtain the largest amount of feathers with the least amount of hissing," Jean Baptiste Colbert, a 17th century French finance minister is quoted as saying.

Aurora town fathers may have to put up with some hissing when the 2003 budget figures are announced. Property taxes in Aurora have increased dramatically over the years, but so have salaries and the demand for services.

It may be hard to believe today, but back in 1959 the total property tax on the average Aurora home was \$209.80 payable in three installments.

In 1960 the taxes jumped to \$220.22 and \$247.60 in 1961. By 1962 the property tax on the average assessed home in the municipality was \$255.30 increasing to \$283.71 in 1963.

When Aurorans receive their 2003 tax bill with a tax levy of \$15.5 million with a 5.9 per cent tax increase, it's hard to believe that the 1965 levy was for \$1.4 million.

Taxpayers sometimes forget the many services they receive for their property tax dollar. Police patrol the streets, firefighters and paramedics are ever ready to spring into action when the alarm sounds.

Work crews are always ready to maintain the roads, sewer and water services, including snowplowing of the streets day and night.

There's also library, parks, museums and recreational facilities for residents of all ages to help fill their leisure time.

Tax dollars are also needed to support those who are less fortunate and need assistance to survive.

Property tax dollars are also used to assist the City of Toronto to meet its social welfare and social housing costs on the basis that needy people migrate to Toronto from the surrounding regions.

This takes 17 cents out of every regional tax dollar.

Although the Mike Harris Progressive Conservative government assumed some of the costs of education through the provincial/municipal restructuring program, and in spite of a promise from Premier Harris that the transfer of responsibilities would be revenue neutral, municipalities soon found they were on the losing end of the restructuring deal.

The government lulled Ontario taxpayers into a false sense of wellbeing by reducing taxes and downloading services to the local level.

The end result was an increase in property taxes and the imposition of more user fees to cover the costs of administering the municipality.

In most cases the majority of property taxpayers were worse off than they were before, thanks to the Tory government.

But local governments can't throw all the blame on the province for tax increases.

Today's budget is not simply a booking statement of revenue and expenditures, but a planning document, both for the present and the future and not making expenditure commitments in isolation.

Consequently the budget requires careful consideration of both short-term and long-range objectives, always bearing in mind the ability of the taxpayer to pay.

Aurora's nine-year record of freezing taxes came home to roost in 2000 with a tax increase of 5.6 per cent or about \$40 on the average home.

This was followed by an 8.4 increase or about \$60 in 2001, and in 2002 it was up 8.8 per cent or a \$69 increase on the average home.

Over the past three years taxes have increased \$169 on the average home, plus approximately \$50 for 2003 and that's just the town's portion.

To that must be added the regional and educational levy for the total tax bill. For 2003 the regional increase will be in the \$60 to \$70 range on the average home.

The primary reasons given for the 2003 tax increase are the new library, fire services, labour relations and growth.

As growth no longer pays for growth, there'll be more tax increases in the future, as Aurora continues to grow.



So you think last week's dump of snow was something, huh? Here's Aurora's Tony Blue, a resident of St. John's Sideroad, and a very tall man, standing beside his car ON the St. John's Sideroad, near Bayview, back in the early 70s. He was looking for his driveway. One open lane was the best the plows could do following this snow dump.

Letters to the editor

Aurora volunteer receives help from plow operator

To the editor,

Early in February I attended an information meeting for the Out of the Cold Program held at the Aurora United Church every Saturday and Sunday through February and March.

Expecting to be one of a handful of people, I was amazed to see about 60 enthusiastic people there ranging from teenagers to 80 year olds.

This program is well organized, practical and sensitive to the needs of homeless people.

Organizers looking for volunteers

To the editor,

Organizers of the 2003 Bob Hartwell Runner's Challenge Half Marathon Relay and Half-Marathon are looking for volunteers to assist at the April 13th event to be held in Aurora.

This is a great opportunity for students to gain community service hours.

Volunteers are needed to assist at water stations, as well as baggage checks, the lost and found food station and finish line. Training will be provided.

For more information, call 905-727-8755.

David Pearson
Aurora

We were given an overall talk about the program then divided into smaller groups to visit various points in the room where more detailed information was given about the different activities you could be involved in, such as donations table for clothes, the foot care clinic, security in the church during those week-ends, etc.

My first shift was 5-8 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23, after the largest dump of snow this winter.

As I left the house at 4.45 a.m., I remembered the instructions to leave body-piercing jewelry at home, to wear baggy clothes (not tight or fashionable), and with difficulty exited the deep snow of our "private road" which is no longer plowed by the town.

Wellington Street was a mess of deep ruts through snow, Yonge Street was no better and the United Church entrance was difficult to find as I crept along.

Once at the church I was welcomed by several of the volunteers who had been there for the night shift or had made it before time although coming from destinations farther than mine.

I was invited into the kitchen to help Linda who had organized the breakfast for that day.

A group of us scrambled eggs, cooked sausages, toast-
ed English muffins with a slice of cheese on top, while others set out glasses of juice, coffee, tea, yogurts and toast.

Twenty-seven of the group of "guests" bussed up from Finch

subway had chosen to sleep at the church the night before, after dinner and a social evening.

Wake-up time is 6 a.m. and, as they filtered into the dining area, they were quietly talking at the tables before breakfast was served.

By 7 they are usually piling onto the bus to drive back to Finch subway, but it was still storming and the bus hadn't arrived.

Two and a half hours into the shift I braved the snow to see if I had left my lights on, and I was met with some cheery enquiries by the fellows who, having been wakened at six, had to wait around for the bus to return for them.

When the shift was over it was heartening to remember all the people (not just from Aurora) who had worked there that weekend with such enthusiasm, energy and efficiency.

They were generous and helpful to the "guests" and friendly to each other.

Going home I attempted to turn into our road but the upward slope refused me.

As I tried backward and forward with no success I spotted a snowplow on Centre Street and walked to the driver for help.

It was Fred Flood, who that day was 11 feet tall in a suit of shining armour.

He plowed out my car from the drift it had slid into, plowed our short road and the driveway, and then waited while I drove out and turned into my driveway.

The small town values I admired when we came to live here in 1973 are still alive and well.

Thank you all.

Dierdre Tomlinson
Aurora

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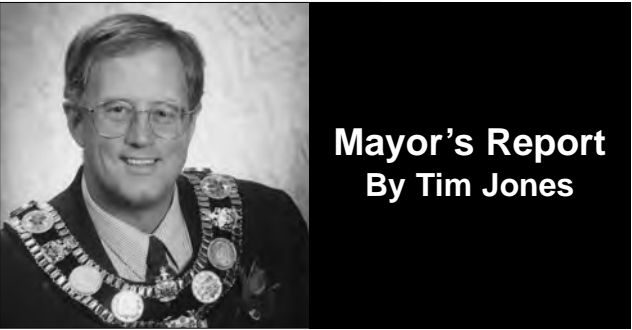
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Aurora sets its budget priorities

On Feb. 25, Aurora Council passed the 2003 Town of Aurora Budget.

After months of deliberations, adjustments, public meetings and further refinement, we will be increasing net levy requirements by 5.9% over 2002 to maintain and enhance the services that are offered to our residents.

In 2002, the distribution of the residential tax burden saw approximately 29 cents of each tax dollar deployed to support local municipal services, while 43 cents was allocated for Regional services and 28 cents for Education purposes.

The Town's portion of the taxes collected for 2003 will be allocated as follows:

Protection (Fire-People and Property) 24.5%; Transportation Services (Roads) 20.6%; Leisure Services 18.7%; Library 13.6%; Administration 9.0%; Environmental Services (Waste/Water/Sewer Services) 8.4%; Planning 2.6%; Mayor and Council 2.6%

The major budget pressure for the Town continues to be for Fire Services.

This comes as a result of increased service level standards imposed on all municipalities by the Province for responders available for fire calls.

To this end, Aurora and Newmarket merged their fire departments to minimize the effects of these increases and to create major cost avoidance opportunities for the future as we will be able to improve response coverage and also share in the cost of new vehicles and equipment.

It is estimated the increase in this area alone to meet mandated Provincial standards makes up approximately 4.1% of the 5.9% increase.

The balance of the tax increase is spread about in the areas of road reconstruction - the Town recently completed its 10 year road reconstruction plan and is embarking upon an ambitious schedule of road improvements.

Aurora has 160 lane kilometers of roadway with an estimated replacement value of \$130 million. Ten per cent of that has been earmarked directly from the tax budget for general road repair and rehabilitation.

The Town maintains 350 kilometers of underground works with an approximate value of \$170 million.

This year marks the final stage of our life cycle funding program which will now see this infrastructure sustained through our water/sewer user rates.

Although the Region has assumed the responsibility for waste disposal, the Town still is responsible for waste pick up and we will be working with the Region to develop a long term waste management strategy to minimize waste required to go to land fill.

In the Leisure Services capital plan, \$2.2 million is planned for major facility construction, repairs and maintenance.

This will be directed towards our youth and seniors this year as well as provisions for ice and swimming facilities in the future.

The Town maintains 750 acres of active and passive parkland.

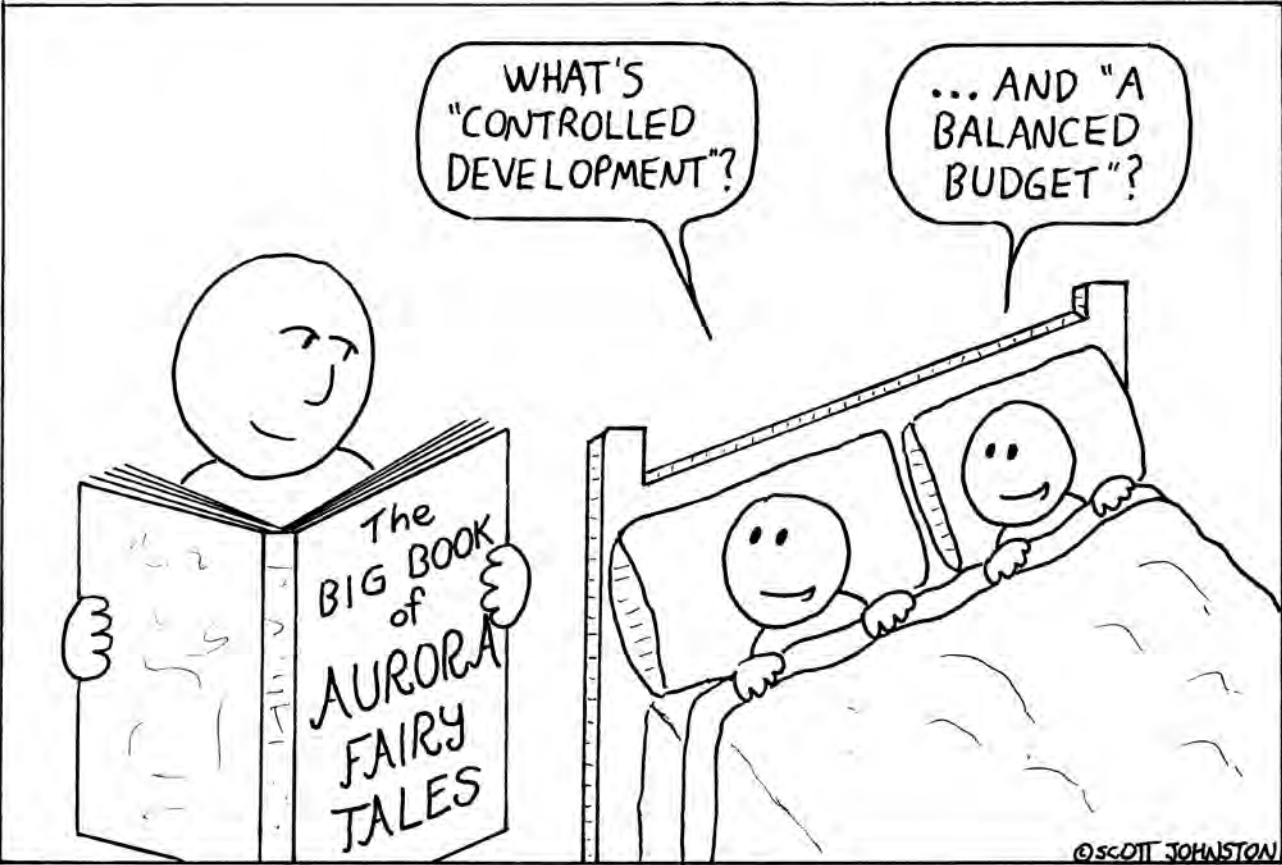
For 2003, if the Provincial Government follows the same process of reducing education property tax rates, the town's portion of the tax dollar from residential tax payers is estimated to be 30 cents while the Region is 43 cents and education is 27 cents.

For a residential property assessed at \$225,000, the Town's increase will be approximately \$50 (excluding the impact of changes in property valuation due to re-assessment).

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

by Scott Johnston



Letters to the editor

Support recycling techniques: reader

To the editor,

I am responding to the Mayor's Report in the January 28 issue of the Auroran.

With regard to water resources - each of us can help by not watering unnecessarily, by using soaker hoses or drip irrigation, having water barrels to catch an available rain water, mulching heavily around plants, trees and vegetables and not watering established lawns.

"Grey" water can be saved and used for watering plants, e.g., water used for rinsing dishes, peeling vegetables, etc.

Every little bit helps.

Perhaps refusal could be made for any future applications for private swimming pools. They use vast quantities of water, plus chemicals.

Why have ice rinks all summer? Hockey should not be the be-all and end-all of anyone's existence, where there is plenty of activity outside in the summer.

How many lights are left turned on when not needed? How often are air conditions left running when not needed? We tried two little solar lights last year at our driveway

entrance and they worked really well.

Even small savings from everyone could add up to fairly large reductions in demand.

I once had the privilege of a visit to Keele Valley dump, and was absolutely appalled at the continuous line of trucks dumping load upon load of garbage.

There is no way we should be producing this much, and no way we should be asking another country or town to accept our trash.

What is the reason, for instance, for all the plastic

water bottles left all over the soccer fields in the summer?

Are parents so rich that they buy new ones all the time, instead of refilling them?

Why are so many parts of cars and machinery now made that they have to be replaced, not repaired?

Please let us give support to as many recycling and diversion techniques as possible, so that we can mitigate our devastating plunder and rape of this beautiful earth.

**Margaret Shearman
Aurora**

Thank you, Dominion

To the editor,

It was a typically busy Wednesday for me, and during my last stop at Dominion I left, or I think I left, as sadly I am not even sure, my wallet in a cart in the parking lot at Yonge and Henderson.

I happily returned home and did not even realize I had lost my wallet until approximately 9:30 p.m.

I called Dominion because that was the last place I knew I had used my wallet and sure enough they had found a wallet.

They had looked to the wallet for a clue as to where to phone, but as my number is not listed, they were unable to contact me. They placed my wallet in their safe.

Relieved that my wallet had been found I confirmed that I would be right over to pick it up.

Cynically, I said to my husband, "Well, I guess I have to kiss the \$60 goodbye..." (as that was the amount of cash in my wal-

let) and I was happy to at least get my wallet, cards, and ID back.

I was resigned to the fact that there was no way the money would be in the wallet and figured that I was lucky it was only \$60.

When I picked up my wallet it was totally intact and

my money was all there.

I thank the professionalism of the staff at Dominion, who apparently take better care of my wallet than I do, and a special thank you to Johnny, who I was told found my wallet and very honourably turned it in.

In this day and age I think we get into the habit of living to expect the worst and I am so happy to relearn that the goodness of the human spirit is alive and well in Aurora!

**Anne Allen
Aurora**

Group seeks donations for rummage sale event

To the editor,

The Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Aurora, are co-hosting the annual Our Lady of Grace Rummage Sale, to be held Friday, March 28th from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, March 29th, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Lynett Hall, 16 Catherine Street, Aurora.

We will be very happy to

receive any donations of clothing, books and videos, jewelry, children's toys, equipment, household goodies, electrical kitchen appliances, furniture, linens, material and wool, baby clothes, accessories and furniture and musical instruments.

They may be dropped off at Lynett Hall Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, March 25-27 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.


This event is open to the community of Aurora as well as surrounding areas and we look forward to making our fourth annual rummage sale successful and pleasant for everyone.


The funds derived from this sale will be used by both organizations for parish endeavours.


**Sheelagh Reynolds
CWL President**


Bouquets & Brickbats


By DICK ILLINGWORTH


 **BOUQUETS** to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for making a grant of \$33,500 to the Oak Ridges Trail Association to purchase trail maintenance equipment and provide safety training for volunteers who maintain the 200 kilometres of walking trail across the Oak Ridges Moraine including routes in Aurora.


 **BOUQUETS** to the Pine Tree Potters Guild for donating some of the proceeds from their annual winter sale to CHATS in support of the agency's work in helping seniors. The guild's next sale, scheduled for May 1 to 3, will offer proceeds to Hospice King Aurora.


 **BRICKBATS** to members of the region's health committee and regional council for adopting a resolution contrary to their bylaw on no smoking restrictions for public places. After several restaurants went to considerable expense to construct a designated smoking room in accordance with the bylaw, now council has requested the province to prohibit smoking in all public places.


 **BOUQUETS** to Jim Willis of Wasaga Beach and a former Aurora resident and Al White of Aurora for their letters to the Auroran about Aurora of the past. They recalled events that even Poor Richard had forgotten.


 **BOUQUETS** to Aurora Kennel Inn for arranging for the adoption of dogs and cats on the internet, so that anyone in search of a pet can check out the animals from the comfort of their own home. Kennel Inn provides animal control services for Aurora, Bradford, King, Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan.


 **BRICKBATS** to Don Cherry for his obnoxious radio commercials promoting some Italian chicken sandwich. It's so obnoxious that it is likely to do more harm than good. The sandwich may be delightful but the advertisers should get someone else to promote it.


 **More BRICKBATS** to radio and TV stations who repeat the same commercial time and time again in the same hour of programming, especially that public transit ad were an elderly lady loudly proclaims; "I'm going to see my boy friend".

 **BOUQUETS** to the 19 new members to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce as listed in the Chamber's latest newsletter. They have joined a very dynamic and active organization and if they become involved they will only benefit from the experience.

 **BOUQUETS** to all the executive members of the Aurora Historical Society on being returned to office for another year at the recent 40th anniversary meeting. It's what happens when you do a good job.

 **BRICKBATS** to the Ontario government for talking a good show but failing to put their money where their mouth is. The federal government claims it is ready to put up its \$50 million for York Region's proposed rapid transit system providing Ontario does the same, but so far Ontario is quiet!

 **BOUQUETS** to all the Aurora bowlers who participated in the annual Big Brothers Bowl for a Boy at the Aurora Bowl and raised more than \$15,000 for the work of the agency.

 **BOUQUETS** to 14-year-old Stephanie Cholyk of Aurora, a grade 9 student at Aurora High School and a member of the Stingray Swimming Club on qualifying recently to compete in seven individual events at the Ontario junior age championships.

Letters to the editor

On garbage, taxes and promos

To the editor,

Shipping garbage to Michigan is insane. The idea that stuff we ourselves generate should not be disposed of in our own neck of the woods is sheer lunacy.

That we should imagine it is okay to foist our rubbish on people in Michigan is quite unconscionable. Quite apart from the cost of the operation.

I've been wondering how long it would take Michigan residents to realize what is going on. Judging by the news reports, it has not been long. It will be interesting to see how the drama unfolds from here on in.

There is no reason to assume the folks over there will be less passionate about the issue than the denizens of downtown Maple.

It seems York Region would be wise to start thinking about sensible alternatives. It's ironic. I sat next to Bob Forhan in the regional council 30 years ago. He was saying we should be making plans for an alternative to the Maple dump.

Former Premier Bob Rae's idea for a site within the region, large enough to ensure there are not now nor ever neighbours to be inconvenienced, should be whipped down off the shelf and dusted off.

I also think Toronto should be looking for their own site within their borders. Downsview comes to mind.

I attended a conference on solid waste management years ago. It is not a new problem.

Small countries with huge

populations have faced the problem years ago. Just about every method of disposal has been tried and considered, including incineration. Every time it comes back to landfill as the most practical and least problematic to the environment. I don't believe there is any time to lose.

Speaking of garbage and excessive spending on frills and fancies, has anyone out there spotted the recent publication from York Region? It came in the mail a couple of weeks ago, hardly distinguishable from the junk mail we find in our boxes.

It is called York Works. It seems this was the second edition.

The plans are to produce two a year. I don't remember what was in the first one. Things are different now. I don't have to go about the house or garden muttering to myself about all the things that are going on.

After I had read the various items in this latest offering, I called the region to find out how much it had cost. Fifty-thousand dollars an issue. That means one hundred thousand a year plus the cost of staff to put it out.

I was told my questions were the first negative reaction to the project. Many people had called to express their appreciation of the effort.

I went back and re-read the stuff to see what I had missed. The back page features photos of the regional councillors, the mayors complete with regalia. The photos were arranged in a horseshoe format. In the

centre were the names and phone numbers of the municipalities within the region.

Now who is it that needs the region to provide them with that information?

An inside page carries a list of several winter events going on in various municipalities.

There were photos, too, although the events are yet to be held. No doubt each event is already promoted at the municipal level. Why does the Region need to duplicate that effort and expense?

I was told it was part of tourist promotion. I hardly think a family from Maple coming to an event in Aurora could be considered as tourism, though it would be right neighbourly.

On the front page is a feature called Kids Zone, complete with cartoon character, inviting children to get involved with their questions and ideas. If you can't get adults interested why would we imagine kids would respond?

That reminds me of something I did recently. I often wonder about those questions TV stations pose to viewers. You phone one number if you agree another if you don't.

The results are then posted as an "unscientific" poll of public opinion.

One evening, I decided to test their unscientific poll. For a full hour, I just kept dialling one of the numbers. I probably registered 20 votes. No voice ever came on the line to challenge my ballot. It really, really, is unscientific.

There was one item in the Region's news that would have been of interest, if it had been complete.

It seems Regional Transit ridership has increased 10 per cent. I'm not driving when people go to work or school, so I don't see the buses during the rush hour. When I do see them, they are empty, except for the driver, of course. Ten per cent of nothing is nothing.

Using thousands of acres precious land for parking lots at schools and shopping centres is a terrible extravagance. Enticing people out of their cars and thereby reducing pollution and congestion is a laudable objective, but difficult (I am not volunteering).

But having fleets of empty buses touring the town at great expense to the taxpayers is no way to win friends and influence people.

We note the Region's forecasted spending will increase by 5.7 per cent this year. The chairman says that will mean between \$70 and \$80 on an average home assessed at \$287,600. I called to see how they made that calculation. I didn't get an answer. Aurora's increase is 5.9 per cent. Together that makes an 11.6 per cent increase. We still have not seen anything from the school boards.

That means, in Aurora, if your taxes were \$2,500 last year, they will be up by almost \$300 this year.

My income is the same this year as it was last and for several years before that. It has been noted that York's average income is the highest in Canada, more than \$70,000.

I am certainly not one of those and I fancy I am not alone.

I have been perusing Aurora's financial documents the last few weeks, asking questions here and there. Town staff tells me people are not like they used to be, they don't want to do things for themselves any more. They want the town to do everything for them.

I don't feel inclined to believe that. I raised a family. They are all employed and raising families. They are no more inclined to be paying excessive taxes for extravagant and needless services than I was, and am.

Local Beta Sigma Phi chapters thank residents

To the editor,

Over this past Christmas season, the Beta Sigma Phi chapters in Aurora were pleased to be once again involved with a very significant fund raising event.

For more than 20 years, the Newmarket chapters of this international women's organization have provided a gift wrapping service for the shoppers at Upper Canada Mall.

For the past few years, the Aurora chapters were invited to assist and many of the members from Aurora's seven chapters were pleased to be part of this exciting and important

initiative to benefit several charitable organizations.

On behalf of more than 80 Aurora members of the sorority, I want to express our sincere appreciation to the Aurora residents who patronized the gift wrapping service and made it possible to continue donating funds to enhance a number of important community agencies.

There was a total of \$15,000 raised and the cheque presentations were made recently to several recipients.

The Aurora chapters of Beta Sigma Phi requested that a portion of those funds be directed to the Community Safety Village

of York Region.


The committee apportioned \$1,500 to the safety village, with other contributions going to the Newmarket Food Bank, Breast Cancer Research, Sandgate Women's Shelter and Southlake Regional Health Centre.

The sorority thanks the community for helping us to ensure success for this important fund raising event.


Betty Pedersen
Secretary, Alpha
Omicron
Master Chapter
of Beta Sigma Phi

Evelyn Buck
Aurora


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Minor glitch as Tigers bury Blues

By **MIKE McCLYMONT**

Just one little glitch, but other than that, things are rolling along nicely for Aurora's powerful locomotive - the Aurora Tigers.

The Junior A hockey team advanced to the third round of the playoffs eliminating the Collingwood Blues in five games.

Tigers did falter last week when the Blues thumped them 7-3 in Collingwood.

But they gave their hometown fans something to cheer about Sunday night with a 3-1 victory over the challengers to take the series four games to one.

Aurora will now meet the Stouffville Spirit, who battled the Newmarket Hurricanes to a series-limit seven games on the same night.

Sunday night at the Aurora Community Centre, Chris Whitley started in net and Derek Doucette, suffering an earlier eye injury, was cleared to play, a definite aid to Aurora's defense.

With the image of the 7-3 Game Four loss still fresh in their minds, Aurora came out hitting and playing hard at both ends of the ice.

Collingwood continued their solid play from Friday night. Both teams knew they had to win Game Five.

Neither team dominated in period one. The back and forth style of play kept the fans excited and anxious for the game's first goal.

Both Collingwood and Aurora played a "bend but don't break" defense. Aurora managed only four shots on goal and the Blues had seven at the end of the scoreless period.

The Blues took control at the beginning of the second period. Collingwood managed to keep the puck in the Aurora end and it paid off when a Tiger turnover at centre ice led to a break-away Collingwood goal.

The surprisingly strong play of the Blues frustrated the Tigers, leading to plenty of whistles and penalties.

With 8:30 left in the second and the Blues on the power play, Steve Mignardi caused the Blues to cough up the puck and he scored a short-handed goal, to tie the game.

That goal lifted Aurora's spirits. The Tigers stole the momentum and began to get more scoring chances.

With exactly one minute to play in the period, Corey Gault scored a controversial Tiger goal. Blues goalie David Alexander stopped the Tigers first shot between his pad and the goal post. Gault took a few hacks at the puck and forced it in.

Immediately after, Collingwood challenged the goal. Their complaint was

that after the initial shot was saved, they heard the Tiger's goal music go on and stopped playing. The referee wasn't convinced and the goal counted. Aurora took a 2-1 lead into the final period.

The Tigers carried their momentum into the final frame. Through hustle, Aurora caused numerous Collingwood turnovers and in return, they had plenty of shots on net.

With four minutes left, Will Wellman got a centering pass from Jesse Olden for the Tiger's third goal to give Aurora some breathing room.

With two minutes to go, Collingwood pulled their goalie in hopes of scoring with a man advantage. A delay of game penalty; the first of the period, caused the Tigers to play the final minutes shorthanded two players.

Whitley and the Tiger defense came through and Aurora held on for the 3-1 win.

Whitley said the difference between Games Four and Five were "the little things. We weren't chipping the puck last game, we weren't doing the little things right like finishing checks."

The glitch came Friday night in Collingwood when the Blues surprised Aurora with a 7-3 pasting. It was possibly the worst game the Tigers have played all year.

Aurora was just too confident and may have looked past Collingwood. They also uncharacteristically allowed Collingwood to

dominate in time of possession. But power play goals proved to be the difference, the Blues cashed in on them, Aurora didn't.

Due to a right eye injury suffered in Game Three, Derek Doucette, Aurora's strong defenceman and January Player of the Month, sat out.

"He's one of the leaders on our team and one of the top defencemen. I think it hurt the whole team knowing he and (Matt) Bahen weren't in the lineup," said Whitley.

With their backs against the wall, the Blues played with more passion and fought their way back into the series.

Collingwood controlled the game from the outset. They set the tempo and held the momentum.

Aurora immediately dug themselves a hole with an early penalty. Collingwood responded with a power play goal.

The Tigers first shot on net came five minutes into the game. It seemed as if both clubs reversed roles for Game Four, the Blues defense was stingy and the Tigers offense was unproductive.

After fighting off a penalty, the Blues scored again and took a 2-0 lead into the dressing room.

Aurora gained some hope in the second period. Two Blues penalties gave the Tigers two minutes with a two-man advantage. Collingwood's defense fought hard while Aurora squandered a great opportunity.

MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY

February 24

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
FPL Aggregates	12	7	2	70	63	26
Law Insurance Brokers	9	6	6	84	61	24
Rec Cycle N' Sports	11	9	1	80	75	23
Home Hardware	11	9	1	102	88	23
Tom & Jerry's	11	9	1	86	74	23
J.J. Barron Realty	8	12	1	67	79	17
Highland Chev Olds Geo Cad	7	11	3	94	97	17
Masterclean Contracting	4	10	7	62	99	15

Results, Feb. 24

Home Hardware 4	Law Insurance 3
Barron Realty 3	FPL Aggregates 0
Tom & Jerry's 7	Highlands 8
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The Tigers would manage to get on the board though. Will Wellman took a soft shot from past the blueline that managed to get by the Blues goaltender.

Even with the goal, Aurora couldn't take the momentum away from the Blues. Aurora's defense allowed Collingwood to take back their two goal lead.

Late in the period, Tiger penalties led to a Blues advantage, one in which the Blues made no mistake and took the lead 4-1.

Lance King started the third period in net for Aurora, but that did not change the Tigers fortune. Five minutes in, the Blues scored for the third time with a two-man advantage. Collingwood would score twice more before the 10 minute mark, putting the score well out of reach.

Down 7-1, Aurora's Kyle Aitken and Will Wellman scored late goals to make the score digestible at 7-3.

"We weren't mentally focused. We tried coasting through the game and they threw it right back at us," Whitley said.

Last Tuesday, Aurora took a 3-0 series lead with an 8-3 win at the Aurora Community Centre.

Aurora got goals from Scott Goheen, who scored two in less than a minute, Kyle Aitken, Derek Doucette, Sam Skwarchuk, Will Wellman, and a pair of late markers from Mike Fiume.

After Wellman's goal, three separate fights broke out, resulting in six double misconducts.

"It's hard to stay focused.

Collingwood's a chippy team," Fiume said. "Nerves can only take so much, we just gotta be more disciplined."

At this moment, it appears the first game of round three will be Thursday night at the Aurora Community

Centre, when the Tigers meet the Stouffville Spirit.

The full playoff schedule will be released on the Tigers' website at www.auroratigers.com or you can phone the Tiger Hockey Office at 905-841-3627.

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TIM HORTON'S/timbits 203 7 (Andrew Papousek 5G Andrew Gibbs 1G Mitchell Shaw 1G Kyle Coughlin 1A Jeremy Warner 1A) TIM HORTON'S/timbits 201 3 (Dennis Kim 2G Cooper Riswick 1G Brandan Kirasack 1A Jack Angela 1A Andrew Luck 1A Vincent Duggan 1A)

TIM HORTON'S/timbits 203 4 (Andrew Papousek 2G,1A Zachary Cook 1G Jesse Van Rooyen 1G,1A Evan Foxwell 1A) TIM HORTON'S/timbits 201 1 (Wade MacFarlane 1G)

Minor Peewee

PERMANENT PRESS PRINTING 4 (Taylor Buxton 1G Christopher Burns 1G,2A Blake Rodger 1G Andrew Wilkins 1G,2A Ryan Logue 1A Andrew Mueller SO) FRESH WATER INDUSTRIES BOTTLED WATER 0

EUROPEAN STEEL 3 (C.J. Melichercik 1G Daniel Mulroy 1G Jamie Russell 1G Braun Hause 1A) SKATERS FIRST 2 (Eric Bailey 1G Scott McCrae 1G Jacob Peart 1A)

PERMANENT PRESS PRINTING 5 (Andrew Wilkins 3G Taylor Buxton 1G Ryan Logue 1G Blake Rodger 1A Casey Van Ry 1A Matthew Symington 1A Bruce Phillips 1A Christopher Burns 2A Daniel Filippi 1A Devin O'Kelly 1A) SKATERS FIRST 0

COLL AUDIO & ACCURATE ELECTRICAL 4 (Jay Finch 2G Dylan Dusome 1G Michael Shoesmith 1G Marshall McQuillan 1A Eric Shoesmith 1A Michael Hartman 1A Steven Foss 1A Conor Johnston 1A) OMAR'S SHOES 1(Mark Jenkins 1G Christian Hastings 1A)

SHOPPERS DRUG MART - AURORA 5 (Trevor Spence 1G 1A Simon Esposito 3G Eric Beveridge 1G Michael Grande 1A Blair Nimmo 1A Alexander Mackrell 2A) AURORA CANADIAN TIRE 2 (Michael Hay 1G Tom Gibson 1G William Ginther 1A)

FRESH WATER INDUSTRIES BOTTLEDWATER 1 (Aaron Macdonald 1G Ryan Hart 1A) EUROPEAN STEEL 1 (Jamie Russell 1G)

Peewee

D-MAC FURNITURE 2 (Sean Kipfer 1G Ray Mullins 1G Ryan Van Winckle 1A) CHEVALIER CHRYSLER 1 (Tyler Flanagan 1G Greg Marlow 1A Paul deRoos 1A)

AURORA CABLE INTERNET 5 (Patrick McMurray 1G,2A Joe Doucher 3G Connor Ryeland 1G,1A Fraser Kegel 3A) JUNIOR TIGERS 3 (Mike Nealon 1G Mike Roberts 1G,1A Alistair Bogart 1G Jeff Kay 1A)

ATLAS SPECIALTY STEELS 5 (Joe Smith 2G Dylan Brennan 2G Dan Creighton 1G Steven Logue 1A) SLATER STEELS - STAINLESS 2 (Sam Caldwell 2G Darren Giroux 1A)

D-MAC FURNITURE 2 (Tyler Miskolczy-Macdonald 1G Nick Whelan 1G Ryan Van Winckle 1A James Floros 1A) SLATER STEELS - STAINLESS 2 (Mike Davis 1G Sam Caldwell 1G,1A Charlie Teel 2A)

SMITTY'S PAINTING & DECORATING 3 (Geoff Harrison 1G Alex Strapp 2G Greg Haralampopoulos 1A Brooke Dickie 1A Dane Colligan 1A Derek Smith 1A) JUNIOR TIGERS 1 (Josh Finlayson 1G Alex Pagnotta 1A Alex Gitto 1A)

AURORA CABLE INTERNET 9 (Mike Sanita 1G,1A Joe Doucher 1G Adam Brutto 1G Connor Ryeland 1G,2A Fraser Kegel 1G,4A Patrick McMurray 2G,1A Amir Ashan 1G Niles Avaasalmi 1G Mike Spick 2A)

EDWARDS-MURPHY PAINTING & DECORATING 6 (Michael Damecour 1G Garrett Kerkamp 3G,1A Matt Aleksich 1G Brendan Murphy 1G,2A Cameron Buchanan 1A Christian DiVincenzo 1A)

Minor Bantam

HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 4 (Dan Lewis 1G, Michael Rowe 1G 2A, Morgan Mittelstaedt 1G, Kevin Michie 1G 1A, Scott Kunitzky 1A, Dale McDonald 1A, Brent McClenny 1A, Jesse Barker 1A, Jon Aleksich 1A) IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LE PAGE 1 (Jason Tuck 1G, Nathan Taylor 1A, Tom Horner 1A)

LOCKLEY STAINLESS 3 (Andrew Boyle 1G

Aurora Minor Hockey Association
Results to 9 AM Sunday March 2nd, 2003
Website: www.aci.on.ca/amha

Mitchel Brown 1G Nicholas Verdugo 1G Bill Spasopolous 1A Rob Ruuskanen 2A Bryan Dunjko 1A) PHILADELPHIA STAINLESS 3 (Jamie Fenyes 1G,2A Tyler McGhee 1G,1A Harrison Brook 1G,1A)

AURORA HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE 5 (Jesse Gattellaro 2G Keith Bradford 2G Patrick O'Doherty 1G Jason Baran 1A James Weber 3A Stephen Pitts 2A Justin Torma 1A) JUNIOR TIGERS 2 (Erin Devlin 1G Brett Scott 1G Luc Muirhead 1A Brendan Fitzgerald 1A Eric James 1A)

HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 4 (Micheal Rowe 1G,1A Morgan Mittelstaedt 3G Jon Aleksich 2A Meagan Bastarache 1A Dan Coates 1A Dan Lewis 1A Jesse Barker 1A Brent McClenny 1A) LOCKLEY STAINLESS 2 (Rob Ruuskanen 1G,1A Eric Wakeman 1G Mitch Brown 1A)

AURORA HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE 5 (Jordan Beally SO Tyler Cappell 1G Patrick O'Doherty 1G Jesse Gattellero 2G,1A Jamie Rundle-Sanderson 1G Joel Stock 3A Justin Torma 2A Michael Mariani 1A) IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LE PAGE 0

PHILADELPHIA STAINLESS 5 (Tyler McGhee 1G,2A Harrison Brook 1G,1A Liam McNeely 1G,1A Evan Magill 1G,1A Jamie Fenyes 1G) JUNIOR TIGERS 1 (Greg Youtoff 1G Brett Scott 1A)

Bantam

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - AURORA 2 (Luke Roth 1G,1A Jon Turner 1G) AURORA OPTICAL 0

IRVINE ROBINSON INTERIORS 4 (Evan Bonnell 1G,1A Michael Panetta 1G Michael Fancie 1G David Johnson 1G Matt Robertson 1A Bobby Haskin 1A Cory McPherson 1A) ASTECH 0

ASTECH 3 (Dennis Jarrett 1G Mike Paravano 1G Dan Abram 1G Spencer Phillips 1A Ryan Rozalowsky 1A Mike Bellamy 1A Jeremy Dawson AO) CHEVERIE COMMUNICATIONS 0

Minor Midget

BETZ CUT STONE LTD. 3 (Will Jonston 2G Michael Sotoadeh 1G Stephen McGill 1A David Reeves 1A Andrew McGhee 1A Brandon Morton 1A) ASA ALLOYS 1 (Jesse Collins 1G)

DIAMOND GROUNDSKEEPING SERVICES LTD. 7 (Matthew Bloom 2G,1A Erik Burrow 1G,2A Graham Gabel 2G Kyle Wilton 1G Derek Smith 1G Jake Warden 2A) CAA CENTRAL ONTARIO 3 (Kari Paivio 3G Andrew Beal 2A Daryl Clark 1A Ian Shenstone 1A Lance Matthews1A)

I.O.O.F. AURORA LODGE 148 - F.L.T. 6 (Mike Froio 4G,2A Adam Wood 2G,1A Devin Andrews 2A Brendan McNeely 1A Karl Domes 1A) TILEMASTER 2 (Graham Coote 1G Bob Haralampopoulos 1G Chad Coley 1A Alex Esposito 1A)

BETZ CUT STONE LTD. 3 (Will Jonston 2G Michael Sotoadeh 1G Stephen McGill 1A David Reeves 1A Andrew McGhee 1A Brandon Morton 1A) ASA ALLOYS 1 (Jesse Collins 1G)

Midget

PHILADELPHIA STAINLESS 7 (Andrew Gerrits 2G Britton Stanbury 2G Colin Gerrits 1G,3A Brandon Fyfe 1G,1A Jeff Jamieson 1G Sean Graham 1A) FIDELITY STAINLESS 3 (Scott Bennett 2G,1A Fraser Bye 1G Dan Henderson 2A Steven MacDonald 1A)

ASA ALLOYS 2 (Chuck Hamilton 1G Tyler Forget 1G Kevin Meek 2A Drew MacMartin 1A Adam Henry 1A) LAURION & ASSOCIATES 2 (Mackenzie Kemp 1G Daniel Guerra 1G Jeff Calder 2A)

DGN MARKETING SERVICES LTD. 4 (Oscar Szydlowski 2G Brian Wong 2G Taylor Hayworth 1A Drew Hurlbut 1A Scott McIvor 1A David Hamilton 1A) MAGNA STAINLESS 3 (Steve Pendergast 3G Matt Tobin 1A)

LOCKLEY STAINLESS 5 (Joe Gatt 2G Sean Perry 1G Lenny Richardson 1G Chris Hartley 1G Mark Neufeld 3A Michael Burns 2A Mark McKay 1A Candace Webb 1A) FIDELITY STAINLESS 1 (Michael Granatto 1G Scott Bennett 1A Brandon Parsons 1A)

DGN MARKETING SERVICES LTD. 3 (Braden Simmonds 2G Brian Wong 1G,2A Drew Hurlbut 1A SO Adam Rice/Warren Savage) ASA ALLOYS 0

LAURION & ASSOCIATES 6 (Colin Hullah 2G,1A Mackenzie Kemp 1G Jeff Calder 1G,1A Mike Pyziak 1G,1A Mathieu Fowles 1G,1A Mike Pierce 3A Jonathon mondino 1A Andy McMullin 1A Eric Jorens 1A) PHILADELPHIA STAINLESS 2 (Colin Gerrits 1G,1A Rory Mayne 1G Jeff Jamieson 1A Britton Stanbury 1A Andrew Gerrits 1A)

House League Standings
The House League Standings to date are available on the AMHA web site.

Select Teams	
Sponsors	
Tyke	Venture Steel
	McLean Travel
Novice	Butler's Landscaping
	Priestly Electric
Minor Atom	City-Wide Electrical
	Joriki Juice
Minor Bantam	Bill & Brenda
	Jenkins@Re/Max York
	Group Realty Inc
	Duckworth Insurance &
	Financial Services
Minor Peewee	Astech Solutions Inc

League Games

Tyke (3) vs Vaughan (8)

Kiefer McIntosh 2G,1A Liam Killops 1G,1A Burke White 2A

Playoff Games

Tyke (4) vs Georgina (2)

Kiefer McIntosh 2G Daniel Jones 1G,1A Stefan Lazzar 1G,1A Burke White 1A Liam Killops 1A Jeffery Lam 1A

Tyke (3) vs Georgina (4)

Liam Killops 1G Quinn McGowan 1G Kiefer McIntosh 1G, 1A Trevor George 1A Kevin Casey 1A Eric Archibald 1A Burke White 1A

Tyke (4) vs Georgina (5)

Kyle Zacharuk 1G Quinn McGowan 1G Burke White 1G Trevor George 1G Stefan Lazzar 1A Eric Archibald 2A Kiefer McIntosh 1A Jeffery Lam 1A

Rep Teams	
Sponsors	
Novice AA	Dymind Steel
	Dave Wood Mazda
Minor Atom A	Charley FitzWhiskey's
	Mike & Ike
Minor Atom AA	Cosma International
	Masterclean Contracting & Cleaning
Minor Peewee AA	Jade Acoustics
	Craig Proctor
Bantam A	Highland Transport
Bantam AE	Gallaughner Contracting
	Viking Fire
Minor Midget A	Law Insurance Brokers
	Scotia Capital
Midget A	B&M Produce
	Dome Interiors
Midget AA	RBC
	Summer's & Smith

Exhibition Games

Atom AE (2) vs Oak Ridges (4)

Johnny Haralampopoulos 2A Tyler Tisdale 1G Oliver Boettcher 1G

Playoff Games

Novice A (1) vs Georgina (2)

Eric Perrin 1G Jason Lockhart 1A

Novice A (5) vs Georgina (1)

Ethan Benson 1G Ryan Hughes 1G,1A Eric Perrin 2G Brian Puskar 1G Matthew Roy 1A Tigers move on to Semi-Finals !

Minor Atom A (3) vs TNT (4)

Spencer George 1G Steadman Dinning 1G Eleeza Cox 1G Cody Weese 1A Tristan Miller 1A Patrick Jones 1A Josh Beaton 1A Brett Matthews 1A. Lost in overtime

Minor Atom A (4) vs TNT (5)

Spencer George 2G Eleeza Cox 1G Chris Piron 1G Jamie Hawkins 2A Stephen DeMarco 2A Brandon Pedersen 1A. Lost in Overtime

Atom AE (3) vs Newmarket (8)

Oliver Boettcher 1G,2A Johnny Haralampopoulos 1G,1A Tyler Tisdale 1G

Atom AE (4) vs Newmarket (2)

Michael McGolrick 3G,1A Matthew Pellegrini 1G,1A Andrew McKay 2A Johnny Haralampopoulos 1A

Atom AA (0) vs Markham (2)

Minor Peewee A (2) vs Orillia (2)

Andrew McDonald 1G Quenton Hunt 1G Carter Hassard 1A Cory Blom 1A Matthew Joynt 1A

Minor Peewee A (3) vs Orillia (3)

Carter Hassard 1G,1A Anthony Ranieri 1G Brett Dutchyshen 1G Michael Morson 1A Andrew McDonald 1A Darrell Evans 1A



Minor Peewee A (3) vs Orillia (3)

Darrell Evans 1G Quenton Hunt 1G Anthony Ranieri 1G Trevor McCartney 1A Michael Morson 1A Cory Blom 1A

Peewee A (2) vs East Gwillimbury (6)

David Cigana 1G Chris Finlay 1G,1A Steven Keane 2A Ryan Finlay 1A

Peewee A (4) vs East Gwillimbury (3)

Ethan Davenport 2G David Cigana 1G Mark McCrudden 1G Josh Meron 1A Ross Pizzurro 1A Chris Finlay 1A Travis Hooper 1A

Peewee A (3) vs East Gwillimbury (5)

Josh Meron 1G,1A Jeremy Cohen 1G Steven Keane 1G Ethan Davenport 1A Ryan Finlay 1A Ross Pizzurro 1A Jesse Coote 1A

Peewee A (2) vs East Gwillimbury (6)

Steven Keane 1G Ethan Davenport 1G Ryan Finlay 1A Curtis Robinson 1A

Peewee A (2) vs Innisfil (4)

Ross Pizzurro 1G David Cigana 1G Ethan Davenport 1A Steven Keane 1A Josh Meron 1A Jesse Coote 1A

Peewee A (7) vs Innisfil (0)

Jeremy Cohen 2G,1A Chris Finlay 1G Steven Keane 1G,1A David Cigana 1G,1A Ryan Campbell 1G Ethan Davenport 1G Ross Pizzurro 3A Keegan O'Leary 2A Josh Meron 1A Ryan Finlay 1A Colton Horner 1A

Minor Bantam AA (1) vs Richmond Hill (4)

Michael Osuszek 1G Matt Boyd 1A

Minor Bantam AA (3) vs Richmond Hill (2)

Mike Pantalone 2G Chris Blom 1G (OT) Matt Boyd 2A Kevin Shetler 2A Jake MacDougall 1A Connor O'Grady 1A

Minor Bantam AA (4) vs Richmond Hill (3)

Kevin Shetler 2G Neil Kileeg 1G Ryan Fennell 1G Jake MacDougall 2A Chris Blom 1A Michael Osuszek 1A Aaron Mansbridge 1A Harrison Jones 1A

Minor Bantam AA (5) vs Richmond Hill (2)

Kevin Shetler 3G Mike Pantalone 2G Matt Boyd 1A Jake MacDougall 1A Michael Osuszek 1A. Aurora wins series 3-1

Midget A (7) vs Newmarket (6)

Chris Amato 2G,2A Mark Johnson 1G,1A Sean McCartney 1G,1A Steve Black 1G Trevor Williams 1G Tim Tutton 1G Adam Chale 2A

Midget A (1) vs Newmarket (5)

Mark Johnson 1G Chris Amato 1A Julian Matamoros 1A

Midget AA (6) vs Barrie (4)

Mike Keon 3G Joey Leo 1G,2A Ian Gabel 1G,1A Mark Smith 1G,2A Duncan Kluwak 1A Scott Hurst 2A Marc Oppedisano 1A Stephen Heikkila 1A

Midget AA (8) vs Barrie (7)

Mike Keon 4G,1A Stephen Heikkila 1G Joey Leo 1G,4A Jared Pignataro 1G,2A Marc Oppedisano 1G,2A Justin French 1A Mark Smith 4A

Midget AA (2) vs Barrie (3)

Joey Leo 2G Mike Keon 1A Ian Gabel 1A

Tournaments

Novice A (2) vs New Jersey (2) Ethan Benson 1G,1A Jody Nonnewitz 1A

Novice A (5) vs Dual State Huskies (1)

Can AM Championship Game

Ethan Benson 1G Eric Perrin 1A.

2003 - 04 Rep Team Coaches	
2003/04 Rep Team Coaches Applications for Rep Team Head Coaches for the 2003/04 season are now being accepted. Contact the AMHA Office at 905-727-1480 or aurorahockey@on.aibn.com for further details.	

Annual General Meeting	
The AMHA Annual General Meeting will be held at 7:30PM on Tuesday May 6, 2003 at the Aurora Community Centre Auditorium.	

Coming Events	
House League Banquet	Mar 29/30, 2003
Rep Banquets	Apr 26, 2003
Annual General Meeting	Tues May 6, 2003



Aurora's Minor Atom Select Tigers, shown here, were successful in capturing the Canadian Cup tournament in Montreal recently. For the most part, they played teams older than themselves and won all the marbles in an overtime shootout. Team coach is Dick Jensen.

The growth of Aurora's bantam hockey tourney

During the successful 1969 Little NHL Tournament held in Aurora and hosted by the Aurora Minor Hockey Association, there was some discussion about the town hosting a Town of Aurora tournament. Shortly after the season ended, Jack Macfarlane and Doug Hotham brought the idea up again and volunteered to head a committee to organize the tournament. The association voted to accept the proposal.

It was decided to name it the Town of Aurora Annual Bantam Hockey Tournament to which council agreed and donated the Town of Aurora Trophy to go to the champions.

It was one of the most impressive trophies that had been put up for hockey competition anywhere. It was three feet tall with four hockey figures on a walnut pedestal with a large bowl mounted on it.

The Optimist Club donated a trophy for the losers of the championship game and the Kiwanis Club donated a Trophy to go to the consolation winners. Other trophies were added over the years.

The town and the two service clubs also donated smaller replica trophies for presentation to the players of the winning teams.

Planning got underway in September, 1969, for the January, 1970, event. Committees were established to handle all aspects of the tournament from billeting and feeding the expected 300 boys to selling ads and publishing a program.

A mothers' group was formed to assist in the serving of meals and arranging billeting, plus making and selling souvenirs.

Twenty-five teams applied for a position in the tournament with 16 teams accepted, including one from Amherst, New York. It was believed that was all that could be comfortably accommodated.

A Richmond Hill team

defeated Aurora in the finals and the consolation winner was from Whitby.

Jack Brownschilde from the Amherst team was named the Most Valuable Player.

The success and popularity of the tournament placed Aurora in the forefront of tournament circles in Ontario. Facilities were declared among the best in the province and the organization of the event was top-notch.

By September, 1970, planning was underway for the 1971 tournament, which the organizers said would be bigger and better. It was decided to stay with 16 teams, of which 14 had participated the previous year.

The Toronto Red Wings won the championship in 1971 defeating the Kitchener Kings in the final game with the Barrie team as the consolation winner.

More than 3,000 people watched the games, up 1,000 from the previous year.

In the 1972 tournament Barrie United Rubber Workers defeated Brampton Kiwanis 2-1 in the final game to win the championship.

News about the quality of the tournament continued to spread and by 1975 participating teams were coming from Michigan, New York and Quebec as well as Ontario.

Officials of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association threatened to stop the championship game in the 1975 tournament because

they claimed the Sault Ste. Marie goalie was wearing an illegal facemask.

The young goalie was wearing a Jacques Plante type mask without a helmet attached, which was legal in the Northern Ontario League but not in the OMHA.

After a 20-minute delay a suitable helmet was found and the Soo team defeated Richmond Hill for the Championship.

The 1976 tournament was a race between Kitchener and Newmarket and it appeared Newmarket was the stronger team but they lost 1-0 to Kitchener in the finals with Sault Ste. Marie winning the Consolation Trophy in overtime over Brantford.

The Kitchener Kings repeated their championship win in 1977 by defeating the Bowmanville Toros 3-2 in the final game. Grosse Point, Michigan, won the championship in the 9th Annual Bantam Tournament defeating Thornhill 9-2, with Kitchener winning the Consolation Trophy defeating Sudbury 6-2.

By this time the auditorium of the Community Centre was used as a lounge with a bar resulting in an increased attendance.

The Town of Aurora Annual Bantam Hockey Tournament continues but it would not be possible without the dedicated work of many volunteers who serve in so many ways to make the tournament a success.

Bantam AA Tigers win Ottawa tourney

The Bantam AA Tigers went undefeated recently as they skated their way to the International Ottawa Winterlude Tournament championship.

Climbing to the top of the pack, the squad won four games and tied one.

In the first game, the team blanked the Burlington

Bulldogs 5-0, with Michel Saccone registering the shutout.

Trailing three-zip in the second match, Aurora stormed back to upset the Capitol Crusaders 6-4, then tied the New Hartford, Connecticut, team 2-2 to advance to the semi-finals.

The Pennsylvania

Quakers were the victims as Aurora advanced to the final via an 8-4 win, then met the Crusaders again to win 3-2 in the final.

Making up the squad are Adam Hankins, Derek Meyers, Andrew Welch Nolan Rundle, Michel Saccone, Matt Malone Sean Mulroy, Brandon Steffan, Taylor Dinner, Michael White, Calen Simmonds, Taylor Campbell, Patrick Bowie, Vincent Davenport, and Peter McNeil.

The coaching staff is made up of Mike Meyers, Michael Dinner, Val Steffan, Scott Hankins and Pat Mulroy.

Skating Results

Following are the results of the Aurora Skating Club's recent Star Skate Challenge:

AMY THOMPSON - Pre-Preliminary Ladies (Flt.4) - 3rd; FINAL - 2nd.

CADEN ARMSTRONG - Pre-Preliminary Men - 1st.

EMMA HAYZELDEN - Jr. Bronze Ladies (Flt.3) - 4th.

TAVISH ARMSTRONG - Jr. Bronze Men (Flt.2) - 4th.

CAROLYN ARMSTRONG - Sr. Bronze Ladies (Flt.3) - 2nd; FINAL - 9th.

LAUREN COOPER - Sr. Bronze Ladies (Flt.2) - 1st; FINAL - 2nd.

EMMA HAYZELDEN & TAVISH ARMSTONG - Jr. Bronze Dance - 1st.

As a result of placing in the top three, Amy Thompson, Caden

Armstrong, Lauren Cooper and Emma Hayzelden & Tavish Armstrong will advance to the 2003 Trillium Star Skate Championships in Whitby March 15 and 16.

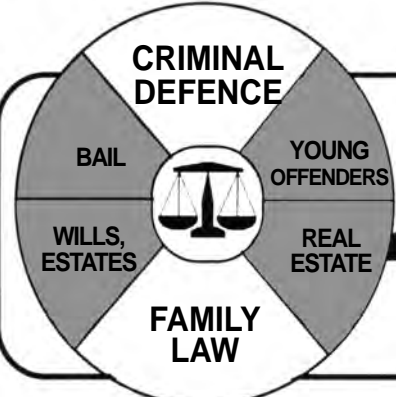



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Development history of Elderberry Farm

Situated on the west side of Yonge Street between Ridge Road and Elderberry Trail is a 19.8 acre parcel of land, the last remaining section of Elderberry Farm owned by Olympic gold medallist Jim Elder.

The site was once used as an equestrian boarding and training centre and contains three dwellings, a swimming pool, tennis courts, paddocks and stables.

Sometime in the near future construction of 40 residential units will begin on the site after a long period of time, several applications and an expensive OMB hearing, as council gave draft approval to the project last month.

On February 24, 1999, an application was received for an amendment to the official plan from Estate Residential to Urban Residential to permit medium and high-density residential condominium units.

The application included 140 apartments, 32 stacked town-houses and 124 on-street town-houses for a total of 296 units. This was later increased to approximately 400 units.

The density proposal was 15 units per acre. This was in conflict with OPA #17, which stipulated that development in the area be low density in the general range of two units per acre, as the property was located on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Council had the option of not scheduling a public planning meeting on the application pending the report on the secondary plan study required by OPA #17.

As the secondary plan process had just initiated, council opted to hold the meeting, which was scheduled for March 25, 1999.

It was believed that public input would be of value to the secondary planning study.

Residents of the area were quick to respond to the proposed rezoning, especially the proposed density. As a result the application was later reduced to 190 units

Residents also expressed concern about the water supply, protection of the Moraine, impact of the development on schools, increased traffic and noise and the loss of character for the surrounding community

As a result of council's rejection of the proposal an appeal was launched with the Ontario Municipal Board.

A pre-hearing was held in May, 2000, resulting in a six-week hearing scheduled for October that year.

It was a bittersweet victory for the town.

The OMB ruled that the town's official plan restricting growth to two residential units per acre be upheld, but the hearing cost taxpayers \$300,000.

In April last year, a revised proposal was submitted seeking 40 units in two main clusters on 12 acres with 4.6 acres of open space and storm water management ponds.

At the time of the revised application the Oak Ridges Moraine Protection Act was in force, which froze the development until such time as the province adopted the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

Neighbouring residents were still concerned about the impact of the development on adjacent private wells and the use of pesticides and road salt.

Concern was also expressed about safety issues at the entrance to Elderberry Trail from Yonge Street and schooling for children as schools in the area were already overcrowded.

Due to the outstanding issues the report was referred back to staff to consider the comments received and to provide details of the Conservation Plan.

Another public planning meeting was held.

Staff reported the revised proposal was in general conformity with the official plan. As the application had been filed before the development freeze on the Oak Ridges Moraine, the site was not subject to its provisions.

Staff also advised that a small amount of servicing capacity was available if council wished to allocate it. The region had allocated a ceiling of 52,000 persons and at that time the projected population was 52,513 persons. The proposal for 40 units would increase the population by 140 persons.

In a November general committee meeting staff requested authority to proceed with the preparation of conditions for draft approval for review by the

applicant and the residents.

Following such review the draft plan and conditions would be presented to council for approval along with water allocation, as draft approval and water allocation should go together.

After considerable discussion it was agreed staff would prepare conditions for draft approval, but the question of water allocation be deleted and considered at the time of draft approval.

That time came last month as staff recommended draft approval subject to more than 100 conditions being fulfilled prior to final approval. Council was requested to determine its position on water allocation, as without the allocation, draft approval could not proceed.

Ron Webb, solicitor for the applicant, appeared before council in support of the staff report and requested council to adopt it.

Councillor Damir Vrancic asked what would happen if some of the conditions could not be fulfilled. Webb replied in the case of dispute, they would try to resolve it with staff, or council and if unable to agree an appeal to the OMB.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern expressed concern about water allocation. She pointed out that the proposal was premature, as additional water sources for Aurora would not be available for two years.

Staff replied that the water allocation chart had been revised and allowing 200 units for infill, the projected population was for 51,513 persons, under the regional allocation of 52,000, so there was water if allocated.

Councillor John West noted the more than 100 conditions for a 40-unit development and asked what more was needed, as staff would ensure they were fulfilled.

He added that if council rejected the staff report, the applicant would likely appeal to the OMB. This would result in the decision being made by the OMB members, not by council.

On a recorded vote, council adopted the staff report including water allocation on a 7-2 vote with MacEachern and Vrancic opposed.



This panel of people was kept busy last week answering phones as the Aurora Minor Hockey Association held its 12th annual auction on Aurora Cable Internet. As usual, the event was termed a success, although a huge snowstorm later that day prevented many from picking up their purchases until the following week. Officials report more than \$20,000 was raised for the organization.

Auroran photo by Naomi Tobin

Mystery still surrounds resignation of town CAO

In December, 1987, a split Aurora Council sought the resignation of Chief Administrative Officer Bud Rodger.

To this day, there has never been a public explanation as to why the action was taken.

It's an unsolved mystery.

It was known that some members of council including Norm Weller, Evelyn Buck, Richard Barker and Martin Paivio had been after Rodger for some time for what they alleged to be mismanagement and not keeping councillors fully informed.

The latest incident and the one that appeared to trigger the resignation request was a change in plans of the Aurora Golf Club condominiums, which council had approved, but claimed they didn't have the complete information.

A \$35,000 management consultant's study of the town's administration in 1986 recommended that Rodger's job function as clerk-administrator be split to create the positions of chief administrative officer and clerk.

Rodger, an employee of the town since 1967, was named to the CAO position in November, 1986.

He had been in municipal administration since school days. He started with the Town of Weston as an office clerk and in October, 1959, was appointed welfare administrator.

In June, 1963, Rodger was appointed clerk-treasurer of the Town of Tilbury.

In 1967, Aurora Council decided to split the duties of clerk-treasurer and as the incumbent Bill Johnson preferred to remain as treasurer, Rodger was hired as clerk.

In 1971 he was appointed clerk-administrator.

In a split decision at a closed-door meeting of council on December 16, 1987, council voted to seek the resignation and he was given a month to respond.

In June, 1987, Fred Horvath resigned as Director of Leisure Services and Kelly Cerswell resigned as treasurer later in the year. It was a period of increased tension between members of council and staff.

Council paid a consultant \$24,500 for two administrative reviews, which included a six-month and a one-year review of Rodger's performance.

The reviews were discussed privately by council, but the results

were never made public.

Another factor in council's decision was believed to be a million-dollar lawsuit filed against the town over the Highland Green condominium development parking garage being built about three metres away from the lot lines of Ransom Street residents.

On January 14, 1988, Rodger, after 21 years of service to the municipality, submitted his resignation as requested by a split council.

Later in the month he was quoted as saying that with the amount of infighting and animosity exhibited by some members of council, it was the most difficult group he had worked with in 31 years of municipal life.

He also noted that staff had to work under adverse conditions, and for the past few years were severely understaffed.

He urged citizens to start taking a greater interest in the affairs of the town, and he urged council members to settle their differences and work more effectively for the betterment of the community.

Later in January, 1988, the public and the media questioned the request for resignation and an explanation of council's blunt action.

Citizens were loud in their praise of Rodger and his work on behalf of the town and its citizens.

They wanted an explanation, which was not forthcoming.

By February, 1988, a citizen's movement petitioned the provincial government for an inquiry into council's actions in the wake of Rodger's resignation.

Under the Municipal Act at that time, the Minister of Municipal Affairs had the power to call a commission of inquiry into the affairs of any municipality if a

written request was received from more than 50 ratepayers of the municipality.

The resignation cost Aurora taxpayers approximately \$130,000 in a severance payment to Rodger based on two year's service.

In addition, council agreed to pay \$28,175 to an employment consulting firm to find a replacement.

Because of a so-called agreement, councillors refused to discuss the reasons why they asked Rodger to resign, so it remains a mystery.

Hillary House will open for St. Patrick's

St.Patrick's Day will be marked at Hillary House in Aurora, Sunday afternoon, March 16.

The historic house will open its doors between 2 and 4:30 for an Irish Celebration.

Visitors may tour this National Historic Site, owned and operated by the Aurora Historical Society, and enjoy upbeat Celtic music by the father-and-son duo of Felix and Tim Turrent.

The day's Irish theme is in keeping with the story of the Hillarys who came to Canada from Dublin, Ireland, in 1856.

Hillary House today is fully furnished with items belonging to three generations of the Hillary family.

Hillary House is at 15372 Yonge Street, a block and a half north of Wellington, in the heart of Aurora.

Admission at the door is \$5 for adults and \$2 for accompanied children, 12 and under. For further information call 905-727-8991.

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