Home Show opens Friday afternoon



AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



At two years old, Aurora's Justin MacPherson is already a pro when it comes to hunting for Easter eggs. He was on the job Saturday at the Aurora Leisure Complex with scores of other children as the annual Easter egg hunt got underway, and he came up with a bucketful of eggs. The big guy on the right was there to help with the count.

Auroran photo by Naomi Tobin

Park proposition changes location

The subject of a leash-free park for dogs and their owners was first brought to council's attention in December, 1999.

At that time council directed staff to investigate the possibility of establishing a leash-free zone in the municipality, subject to a dog owners' group being formed to assume responsibility.

Things have changed since then. A public meeting was held in November to explain the project to the community and establish a

More than 50 residents attended the meeting and eight members were appointed to the Bark Park

Last week, committee member Rob Schuetze appeared before the general committee to outline new location proposals for the park, a first for Aurora.

He pointed out that the proposed use of the Hydro corridor to the east of the Town Hall was not suitable for walking dogs and offered property on the east side of the

Historic district won't get historic streetlights

The streets may maintain their historical appearance but Maple and Fleury will do without historic streetlights.

Since late 1999 the two streets have been the subject of two complete engineering designs, the focal point of an Urban Design Review and the subject of at least four public meetings and seven reports to council.

In December, council directed staff to survey the streets' residents to see if they'd be willing to

home and more information on our

Call (905) 727-8991 to reserve

Hillary House is at 15372 Yonge

Street, on the west side, in the

second block north of Wellington.

volunteer program.

your spot.

Volunteer hours are in abundance

Hillary House, an architectural and historic treasure, stands beside busy Yonge Street in the heart of Aurora.

The Aurora Historical Society, which owns this National Historic Site, operates the home as a

As the former home of four physicians who lived and practised there, Hillary House offers the unique opportunity to view the lives and possessions of a family through three generations.

It also includes the added attraction of a collection of medical instruments and equipment.

Of course, you already know all

Currently the Hillary House Committee is launching an appeal for individuals who are looking for a meaningful opportunity for volunteer service.

The committee has identified four areas in need of assistance.

Volunteer gardeners, willing to weed, water, hoe and plant, are required to help in the extensive Hillary gardens.

Docents (guides) interested in the history of the house and its family are needed to provide information to visitors.

Gift Shop assistants with an interest in antiques and collectables will enjoy the unique atmosphere of the Hillary House gift shop.

And finally, for the 'behind the scenes' type of person, the home needs careful, conscientious individuals who will keep the museum sparkling clean and dust free.

If these opportunities to help preserve an important part of Aurora's history appeal to you please plan to attend at Hillary House this Sunday, April 27, from 2 to 4 p.m.

pay for the historic street lighting. Estimated cost for the lighting is \$37,500.

In a report to the general committee meeting last week, staff reported that the survey failed to meet the approval rate.

Based on criteria of the Local Improvement Act, approval from 66 per cent of the landowners representing 50 per cent of the assessed property is required before an LIA project is approved and the project did not make the arade.

Without comment or debate, committee members endorsed a staff recommendation that heritage street lighting not be installed at this time and to complete the design and tender as soon as possible.

But can it cook? Napoleon, that's the dog, is nattily attired for his owner, Ken Kostick at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce luncheon last week. Kostick, and friend, will appear at the Home and Lifestyle Show which opens Friday and continues through Sunday at the Aurora Community Centre. The expert chef, from Food Network, will demonstrate his talents at two shows Saturday afternoon.



Coming Events in Aurora

CONTINUING

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.

The comedy "The Odd Couple" continues at the Queen Elizabeth Dinner Theatre at Howard Johnson Aurora every Friday and Saturday evening until May 10th. Hot and cold buffet at 6:30 p.m. with Showtime at 8:30 p.m. Call the hotel at 905-727-1312 to reserve.

* * * *

During the month of April, the Skylight Gallery in the Aurora Town Hall features the artwork of Diane Croker. Regular viewing hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

APRIL 25

Beginning today and continuing for four consecutive Friday mornings at the Aurora Public Library there will be a refresher driving course for seniors under the auspices of the Senior Centre and theTown of Aurora. To register call Kim Hinder (905-727-2816) or Barbara West (905-713-6833).

APRIL 25-26

Aurora United Church annual Spring Rummage Sale Friday, 1 to 8 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to noon. Clothing, accessories, linens, toys and household items. Church is located at 15186 Yonge Street, south of Wellington, at Tyler.

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.

Cheerful Hearts of Aurora information meeting for Operation Christmas Child. First Baptist Church, Wellington & Victoria, 9.30 a.m. RSVP to 905-727-2861; 905-713-0539 or 905-726-4074.

APRIL 27

Smart Serve Training Program at Aurora Legion, Industrial Parkway North, 9 a.m. to noon. Thirty spaces available on a first come, first served basis. \$30 per person. Instructor is Julie Geering from the Town of Aurora Leisure Services Department. For further information, call Cheryl White at 905-727-5642.

MAY 1

York Region Transit open house at the Aurora Public Library from 6 to 9 p.m.

Last day to submit entires for the Ambassador of the Fair competition. Winner, a man or a woman between 16 and 21, will represent the Aurora Agricultural Society at the Aurora Fair and Horse Show in June. Entry forms at 905-713-6773.

MAY 1-3

Pine Tree Potters' Spring Pottery Sale at the St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club, 368 St. John's Sideroad. For further information, call (905) 727-1278 or (905) 727-3495.

MAY 2

Deadline for nominations for the Citizen of the Year Award to be presented June 5th at the Civic Awards Ceremony. If you know a worthy citizen over the age of 16 you believe has made a significant contribution to the municipality, submit a nomination to the Mayor at the Town Hall.

MAY 3

Fourteenth annual auction and casino, presented by Girls Incorporated of York Region (formerly Big Sisters). Auction at 7 p.m., casino at 8 p.m. at Tuscany Banquet Centre, Edward Street. Tickets \$50 each. Further information at 905-727-4897, extension 305.

Last Night of the Prom with the York Symphony Orchestra at Trinity Anglican Church, Aurora at 8 p.m. Call 416-410-0860 for ticket information.

Registration for Aurora Optimist Recreational Hockey for 2003-2004 season. Aurora girls and boys born 1997 and 1998, Aurora Community Centre main lobby (#2) 9-11a.m.

Find Out What your Home is Worth **On-Line** visit:

www.QuickOnlineEvaluation.com

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"Leather 'N Lace", a versatile band playing music of the 60s and 70s, is featured at the Aurora Legion at 7 p.m. \$15 admission includes hot and cold buffet. Advance tickets only. Call 905-727-9932.

MAY 13

Aurora Public Library and York Region Health Services present "Together We Can Stop Bullying" for adults in the library's meeting room 3. 7 p.m. Pre-registration required. 905-727-9493.

MAY 24

Second Annual Spring Fling, Aurora Grove Public School, 415 Stone Road, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Special guest Johnny Bower.

MAY 31

Family Fun Day, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Holy Spirit Catholic School, Stone Road.

JUNE 1

Nearly 400 booths have been sold for the Eighth Annual Aurora Street Festival. If you plan to rent booth space, you should know the festival is already 75 per cent sold out. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call the Chamber office at 905-727-7362

JUNE 6

Aurora Grand Prix in Machell Park. Walk the course at 6 p.m. prior to competitions and meet the riders afterwards.

JUNE 7

Family evening barbecue at Machell Park as part of the Aurora Fair and Horse Show. Evening entertainment begins at 5.30 p.m.

JUNE 7-8

Aurora Fair and Horse Show in Machell Park. Tons of events and competitions.

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HOME OF THE WEEK



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SOUTHWEST AURORA - INGROUND POOL!

Fabulous pie lot with beautiful 14' x 28' inground swimming pool and mature landscaping! 2 walkouts to pool! Formal dining room! Hardwood floors! Crown moulding! Extra space on lower level!

Other GREAT HOMES



TERRIFIC SEMI IN POPULAR NEIGHBOURHOOD!

Excellent floor plan in town hall area in east Aurora...near shops and walking trails! 2nd family room with gas fireplace...great for office or getaway! Open concept kitchen/family room with gas fireplace!



ELEGANT BUNGALOW TOWNHOUSE IN SOUTH AURORA!

Fabulous condo has hardwood throughout main floor! Stunning dining rm. with cathedral ceiling! Open concept kitchen/great room with w/o to deck! Fin. walkout basement has 4th bedroom! It's



4 ROLLING, TREED ACRES IN AURORA
Absolutely charming log home sitting on beautiful, rolling land within 5 minutes of Yonge Street or Highway 404! Finished walkout basement adds extra living space! Detached double garage with workshop!



2 BEAUTIFUL ACRES IN SOUTH AURORA!

Prestigious estate area on quiet cul de sac! Stunning renovated kitchen with granite counters and 2 french door walkouts to large deck! Incredible rolling property offers privacy and lovely views!

BUSINESS
PERSON
OF THE YEAR
IN AURORA - 2002

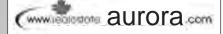


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Canada Law Book Executive Vice President David Ritter, left and Aurora Mayor Tim Jones dig at site of new 16,000 sq. ft. expansion.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Expansion underway at Canada Law Book

Canada Law Book Executive Vice President David Ritter and Aurora Mayor Tim Jones drove the shovel into the ground last week as the huge book producer embarked on an expansion of its Edward Street site.

Several members of the firm were on hand for the ceremony which marked the beginning of construction of the new home for the company's magazine publishing division, CLB Media.

The 16,000-square-foot expansion, at the rear of the existing building, will accommodate about 75 CLB Media employees in September.

According to Ritter, that's less than a third of the staff expected to join the group over the next 10 years, as the company continues its plan to become one of the largest business-to-business firms in Canada.

"Since 1999, we have gone from a stable of three publications to today's total of 18," he said. "By 2014, CLB Media will have 50 titles and employ more than 250 publishing professionals."

Ritter heads up the division and oversees the company's magazine acquisition program, along with Canada Law Book President Stuart Morrison

This phase of office expansion will bring together employees from three separate locations, including Markham, Burlington and those currently working at the existing Aurora office.

"By consolidating our employees in the new facility, CLB Media continues our long-standing involvement in the Aurora community," Ritter said. "We are very pleased to be committed local corporate citizens and we look forward to providing employment opportunities in the area as our business continues to grow.

CLB Media's current titles include: Advanced Manufacturing, Canadian Electronics, Canadian Canadian Lawyer, Occupational Safety, Canadian Security, Design Product News, Electrical Business, the Industrial Sourcebook, Law Times, Manufacturing Automation, Metalworking Production and Purchasing, Produits

pour L'industries Quebecoise, PEM Plant Engineering and Maintenance, Sales Promotion, Security Products and Technology News, Structured Cabling, Woodworking and Workplace News.

The company also offers magazine websites, custom publishing, direct mail lists

and creative services

Canada Law Book, CLB Media's parent company, is a major information supplier to the legal profession, through print and electronic products.

The company employs 160 people and has been in Aurora, at its Edward Street location, just east of Yonge, since 1982.

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Poor Richard

Aurora Hydro -What's going on?

Many answers are needed, As to how Aurora Hydro works; Who is in actual control. And who's enjoying the perks? - Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Long before former Progressive Conservative Premier Mike Harris decided to de-regulate Ontario Hydro and local hydro commissions, the operation of the utility was a relatively simple matter.

Two elected hydro commissioners and the mayor formed the Aurora Hydro Commission and meetings were held monthly for which the commissioners received a small stipend, of about \$200 per month.

Power was purchased from Ontario Hydro at that time and if a local utility wanted to increase hydro rates, it was necessary to apply to Ontario Hydro for approval at least two months prior to the proposed date for the increase.

Hydro bills were sent out every two months with just the total amount of the bill shown, with a small discount if paid before a certain date.

It was a relatively simple, but efficient, operation and Aurora users bought their hydro service at cost, as Aurora Hydro was a non-profit agency.

Then in 1998 the province adopted the Ontario Electricity Act, and it completely changed the landscape for the Aurora Hydro Commission and other local hydro

For those municipalities, like Aurora, who decided to retain their local utility rather than sell it, the imposed legislation resulted in the dissolution of the historic non-profit hydro commissions and the creation of for-profit corpo-

Municipalities and citizens are now shareholders in their local electrical utilities.

Even though the municipality appoints the directors, their responsibility is to the utility, which may not be in the best interests of the municipality or the taxpayer.

While municipalities do not have access to all the corporation's records, the Business Corporations Act provides the municipality as the shareholder some degree of protection.

The municipality can remove any director from office, or modify the rights and powers of the directors.

Members of the public as taxpayers do not have access to any of the corporation's records except for articles of incorporation.

Even with the Municipal Freedom of Information Act, the public has no access to the records.

On October 3, 2000, Aurora Council approved the transfer of employees, assets, liabilities, rights and obligations of the Aurora Hydro Commission to a corporation and a subsidiary corporation in accordance with the provincial legislation.

Subsequently, council incorporated a wires company known as Aurora Hydro Connections responsibile for electrical distribution within the town, to be known as

The transfer bylaw excluded the hydro building on the Industrial Parkway.

The other corporation is the Borealis Hydro Electric Holding Inc, known as HoldCo.

Council agreed the number of directors would be a minimum of five and a maximum of seven with the board comprised of one serving member of council plus up to five citizens. with a citizen member as chairperson

It was also agreed the citizen members of the initial board would receive \$5,000 per annum plus \$400 per meeting with the chairperson receiving an additional \$2,500 per annum.

One has to wonder why council approved the salary for the directors, plus a per meeting payment, when the former hydro commissioners, elected by the people, received only a small fraction of that amount.

It is more than school trustees receive and people elect the trustees.

That's one question you might want to ask members of council, and what they are going to do about it, when all candidate meetings are held in this election year.

Another question you might want to ask is the financial status of the hydro corporations and what appears to be some creative financing, as it is understood somebody borrowed around \$12 million at 7.5 per cent interest for some reason or other.

There are many other questions of concern about what's going on at Aurora Hydro and councillors and candidates had better find the answers before the election, as the public has a right to know.



100th anniversary of the "Head of Rail". We're not sure who the lady on the left is, but to her left are Clarence Davis, Lorraine Davis, Helen Rose, wife of Dr. Clayton Rose, Florence Murray, Deputy-Reeve James Murray, Evelyn Jones and Councillor Victor Jones. Next month, the town will celebrate the 150th anniversary, marking the first train to leave Toronto on a journey that ended in Aurora, then known as Machell's Corners. Dressed in period garb, this group is waiting for a steam train to arrive, less of a challenge then than now as only one or two steam trains are still running.

Letters to the Editor

Many supported us during difficult time

To the editor,

On January 20th, our family lost a wife, mother, sister and daughter, Letty Jane

Letty was connected to many schools and community groups in the Oak Ridges and Aurora area.

She was past chairperson of Lake Wilcox Public School council along with working on the fund-raising committee for the 1st Oak Ridges Pathfinders to attend an international meet in Florida this coming

At the same time, she was looking to return to university to further her education in order to be qualified to teach special needs chil-

Also, she was actively involved with the Head Injury Support Group of York Region.

We would like to thank the many people and groups who supported us during our time of sorrow; the teachers, parents and students at Lake Wilcox Public School who generously supplied our family with dinners, desserts and snacks for two weeks; Devins Drive Public School for their generous donation; all departments of the Town of Aurora; members of the Aurora Seniors Centre; and also the ladies of the Royal Canadian Region, Branch 385 in Aurora, who helped by supplying the wonderful tea for the reception after the funeral.

Many thanks to those who donated to the York Region Children's Aid Society Christmas fund and to those who came to pay their respects and offer their condolences

We would like to extend a special thanks to our friend Barbara McGowan of Aurora who came to the house and handled many tasks every day for us in our busy time and to the many friends and family for their support.

If we have missed any person or group in our thanks, please know that you are in our hearts and thoughts.

Letty was a person very dedicated to everything she put her mind to and many were touched by her hard work and acts of kindness.

She will be greatly missed but never forgotten.

Matt, Nicole, Shauna and Ryan Young Lorne and Betty Cunningham Oak Ridges

"Aurora's community newspap

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lowing edition.

Volunteers made marathon success

To the editor,

I had the great pleasure Sunday, April 13th, to play a small part in the Hartwell Marathon Challenge, in honour of the late Bob Hartwell, one of Aurora's outstanding citizens.

The day was glorious in every way: sun shining, the promise of spring warmth, a fun party atmosphere, but the part that lifted my spirits the

most, was the record number of volunteers who turned out in hordes to "man their stations".

It was these volunteers and all their efforts that helped make the event a huge success.

How proud I was to be an "Auroran"!

Runners from all over Ontario came to Aurora, and felt the true meaning "Connecting Community" through our enthusiastic giving spirit!

Hats off to the visionaries and organizers who volunteered so much time and effort to the run!

To all the wonderful individual volunteers, who made this event come to life, my many thanks, for once again renewing my faith in the giving spirit of this community we call home!

Trish Seguin **Aurora Volunteer** Centre

by Scott Johnston

Dragon Boat Youth Racing

Dragon Boat Racing - and if you haven't tried it I would encourage you to read on.

The Canadian Mental Health Association, whose headquarters are located at 15150 Yonge Street opposite the library in Aurora, is holding its first Dragon Boat Festival this summer, Saturday, August 23rd at Recreation Island, Seneca King Campus only minutes from Aurora on Dufferin north of Bloomington.

Events will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will feature rock climbing, swimming, children's activities and, of course, Dragon Boat Races for youth and adults

The Canadian Mental Health Association is looking for residents from Aurora and other regional municipalities to help with this event and if you are interested, you are invited to attend a meeting at their offices in Aurora, 15150 Yonge, on Thursday, May 1st at 7 p.m.

For those residents who have been to our twin town of Leksand, Sweden, this is not unlike the church boat races that occur there and that a number of us tried during our visit many years ago!

Dragon boats race over a 500-meter course, three to four boats per race.

The race takes between three and five minutes to complete and is run in heats with the heat winners continuing to the finals.

More than two million people worldwide participate in Dragon Boat racing.

The purpose of these races is to raise funds for the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Funds raised go directly to the Association - there are no administration fees, only the direct costs associated to the event.

The cost to acquire a boat to race is \$700.

As there are 20 paddlers, this works out to \$25 per person.

As well, there are various sponsorship categories for this event and Dragon Boat participants are encouraged to get sponsors of their own.

The funds raised during the day will go to support Youth Wellness programs and workshops which are presented free to students in both elementary and secondary schools.

These programs target youth at risk.

The aim of the association is to increase awareness, expand their programs and address the stigma of suicide and mental illness, especially among our youth.

Topics covered include confidence and self esteem, as well as dealing with stress and bullying. Other topics that are included in this youth program include supportive counselling, anger management, and support for depression.

This is accomplished through a variety of social and support services through awareness, education and intervention.

They include social programs like youth coffee clubs, support groups dealing with bereavement, self injury, outreach to the homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless, and Youth Net - York Region, a mental health promotion and early intervention program run for youth by youth.

This is a first time event with plans to become an annual event in support of youth and the Canadian Mental Health Association.

If you would like more specific information, I would encourage you to call 905-841-3977 ext 0 and a representative of the Canadian Mental Health Association would be glad to tell you all about it.

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





Letters to the Editor

Pat Barber: A life well lived

To the editor,

Recently, Pat Barber died. She was diagnosed on the previous Tuesday. All she said was "I hope it will be quick." It was.

Family and friends gathered to celebrate her life. The family was small; friends were many. The chapel was full.

One woman spoke of a friendship that spanned 50 years. They were both artists, and their experiences together were filled with fun and laughter.

A young woman read a poem of appreciation of her grandmother.

Cathy, Pat's daughter, was able to read the eulogy...told of a great childhood ...a home that welcomed all the children in the neighborhood ...and the love of her mother for her father.

Pat's son, Doug, said how his mother had done all the things she wanted to do. She lived in the same house on the same street for more than 40 years. She was a good neighbour...a founding member and a staunch supporter of our artist community.

It has flourished and no doubt will continue to do so because of people like Pat. This was a life well lived.

Meanwhile, we have been given a preview of Premier Ernie Eves goodie-bag which will be distributed if we are good boys and girls and reelect his government.

Toronto will receive a million dollar helicopter for the police department.

Toronto is apparently the only large police department that doesn't have its own helicopter...what a shame.

That would indicate that homeowners elsewhere have already paid for their million dollar whirly-birds...with no help from the provincial government.

Are we, the homeowners outside the city, supposed to be grateful for that?

It has been said that

seniors will receive a

rebate of \$450 on property tax as relief from school taxes.

People on fixed incomes have been able to claim a "shelter exemption"

rebate since the Region

was created in 1971.

That was 32 years ago.

The allowable rebate has never changed. This additional amount will not much improve the situa-

While incomes have stayed the same, property taxes and other costs have steadily risen.

There has been continual dumping of responsibilities which are rightfully provincial onto the shoulders of homeowners.

Add to that the changes in the way we pay for municipal services. We pay for sewer service in a separate bill. We pay an additional amount for miscellaneous services and indications are we will soon be paying separately for garbage collection.

Then there's the whopping share we pay for Toronto's housing and social services (\$83 million) and the fact their property tax increases are a mere fraction of our own this year and every year.

I think homeowners in the Region of York and elsewhere might be forgiven for thinking this vision of sugar plums dancing in our heads is not exactly that.

Shame on you, Mr. Eves, shame on you.

That stunt of presenting your statement of goals and objectives to the coalition of the willing in Brampton has not gone unnoticed.

Evelyn Buck Aurora

Adventures in driving to work

To the editor,

Further to Dick Illingworth's brickbat about drivers in the Auroran recently, I'm sure we all have stories to tell about adventures in driving, but driving seven miles to work each day is more than an adventure - it's downright dangerous and sometimes very entertaining.

There are those drivers who drape the newspaper or a book over the steering wheel and read while they drive.

Then there is the idiot

driving an expensive SUV, fixing her hair and makeup, talking on the cell phone and drinking designer water while weaving aimlessly through the traffic. Who's driving the SUV?

Let's not overlook the nose picker! He's really special! We're all tired in the morning, we want to get to work on time and try to have a good day. We're usually hungry and dying for that first cup of coffee. The nose picker pulls up right beside you - his finger buried right to the bridge of his nose. You try not to

look, but your eyes go right to him. Your stomach does a flip flop and you look away, only to find your eyes shifting right back in his direction. Finally, the light changes and he's gone.

Of course, right in the middle of the hustle and bustle of everyone trying to get to work on time, someone's dear old dad pulls out of a side street. He's got nowhere to go and all day to get there. The gas pedal's stuck at 10 miles per hour as dear old dad creeps along holding up five miles of traffic.

And, the day would not be complete without the token juvenile with the baseball hat on backwards, windows wide open forcing everyone within 100 miles to listen to his choice of nonmusic and endure the thumping of the bass speakers pounding in the

Driving to work is only the practice run. The real challenge comes on the drive home at the end of the day. But....that's another story.

Heather Sinclair Oak Ridges

A tree bylaw for the town?

To the editor,

Herewith the gist of my recent letter to you after reading Dick Illingworth's piece in the Auroran on trees.

Although I read the article

at least three time, I could not find any part that outlined the Town of Aurora's stance on the tree situation, either through the provincial act or a corresponding municipal act.

In the case of the latter,

many municipalities have enacted bylaws in order to save our/their trees, including those situated on both private or public property.

I subsequently talked to Dick and he agreed to date the Town of Aurora has not

implemented a tree bylaw.

He also stated that perhaps his piece might cause the Town Council to do something.

J.A.S. Milne Aurora

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS Toronto and former York Regional Police Chief
Julian Fantino on being awarded the
Commander of the Order of Merit of the Police
Forces in a ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa,
with the presentation by Governor General

Adrienne Clarkson.

BOUQUETS to the management and staff of Howard
Johnson Aurora for contributing \$5 for every person in attendance at the dinner theatre during
the opening weekend performances of "The Odd
Couple" to the Canadian Cancer Society in

remembrance of the hotel's late general manager, Tom Fisher.

More BOUQUETS to the eight talented cast members of The Odd Couple for their share of the proceeds from the opening night performance for the same purpose.

BRICKBATS to the blonde young lady driving a catering truck who can't read or obey a stop sign.

She came wheeling south on Industry Street, failed to stop at Mary Street and should be a proceeding west on Mary.

almost wiped out a black car proceeding west on Mary Street, which had come to a full stop and was starting up again.

BOUQUETS to the management of Mary's Flower Shop on Yonge Street on the 90th anniversary of serving the Aurora and district community from the same location and with the same excellent service. The wooden floors and tin ceiling have been

skillfully combined with exposed brickwork, preserving the ambience of yesteryear. The Carusos have the prestigious distinction of operating the oldest-family owned business in Aurora since 1913.

BOUQUETS to Fiona Stephenson for her recent letter to the Auroran about Canada's unimaginable immigration system, where regular immigrants have to go through a long process and pay a \$1,500 pro-

cessing fee, while refugees turn up at the border and are admitted without documentation of any kind. Hopefully someone will listen.

BRICKBATS to the owners of the downtown Yonge Street shop previously occupied by Pizza Pizza and now with its windows covered with

kraft paper and the garnish orange checkerboard logo that remains. It's a disgrace for what is supposed to be Aurora's heritage district. If the town doesn't have the power to control such conditions, it should. Thanks to John and Joan Harold for the idea.

BOUQUETS to the organizers, the more than 600 participants and 240 volunteers, plus the weatherman, for making the Second Annual Bob Hartwell Challenge Run on April 13th so successful. There was also a sold out pasta dinner the night

BOUQUETS to the 228 AMHA 2002/2003 House League Esso Medallists listed in the Auroran. There were 76 most dedicated, 76 most improved and 76 most sportsmanlike. Congratulations!

before the run at the Timberlane Athletic Club.

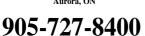
BOUQUETS to eight-year-old Mathew Stewart of Aurora on winning the limited edition print of the Ron McLean/Don Cherry painting at Jonathan's Restaurant with funds going to the Rose Cherry home. More BOUQUETS to Jonathan's on 14

years of feeding hungry Aurorans.

BOUQUETS to Mark Lariviere, an 11-year-old Aurora boy who visited Mexico two years ago and was appalled at the poverty he saw. He returned home and began collecting money to help them, and to date, has raised more than \$2,000.

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PETER VIRTANEN. CLU

Letters to the Editor

Reader talks about the tender process

To the editor,

I read with great interest the Mayor's column in the Auroran recently.

In it he expresses the point of view that elected officials are not expected to "manage the business".

On this level I feel that the mayor and some members of council have succeeded beyond their wildest expectations.

However, as a taxpayer, I would prefer it if there were more members on council who defined themselves in less grandiose terms as visionaries and planners with vague responsibilities and it seems no accounta-

bility for the projects they approve.

Council needs practical realists who are concerned with escalating municipal taxes and making responsible financial decisions.

Let's consider the sad recent history of town building repair costs.

The swimming pool in the leisure complex is costing taxpayers \$300,000.
The town hall landscaping

project has ballooned to \$500,000.

The leisure centre roof

boasts a price tag of \$215,000.

In the case of the swimming pool and landscaping the problem could have

been caused by drainage problems that should have been recognized in the initial planning stages.

The new library cost taxpayers millions in cost overruns as the location chosen again posed landfill problems.

Is there a pattern here? Consider these questions:

1. Once the tenders are received, how many are considered?

2. Does a committee narrow the choices?

3. Who is responsible for making the final choice?

4. When assessing the tenders do those responsible investigate the

competing firms through letters of reference, visiting previously built sites, and examining repair records? 5. Is the final deter-

5. Is the final determining factor cost alone?6. Does the final contract include performance clauses of both mate-

rials and workmanship? If not, why not? In a newspaper article, Al Downey was quoted as saying "sooner or later

Hopefully, the same may be said for some town politicians and administrators.

J. Salmon Aurora

roofs do go".

Colleges in trouble, this reader states

To the editor,

Re: Tory Government Neglects Community Colleges.

The Ontario's Colleges of Applied Arts face huge obstacles next year.

The double cohort of students will arrive at institutions, which have already been crowded for the past decade.

Even though there have been some buildings constructed to deal with this surge of enrollment, the students will find that colleges have limited space for libraries, student clubs, computer rooms and classrooms.

The biggest problem facing colleges is the difference in the amount of money they receive for post secondary programs compared to the universities.

A release from ACAATO - the Association of Ontario Community College Administrators - reports that over the past decade college enrollments have increased by 34 per cent; while operating funds have decreased by 42 per cent.

This translates into a drop from \$7,552 per student in 1990/01 to \$4,379 per student in 2002/03, a difference

of \$3,173 less per student.

Another problem for col-

leges is that a significant proportion of the teaching staff is now hired on a part-time basis (often 50 per cent or more of a division's staff composition).

What type of "quality education" is this for the students?

The number of full-time staff will soon dwindle even more due to retirements

Bark park

From page one

Industrial Parkway, across from the Aurora Montessori School, as an alternative.

The committee has proposed the use of approximately 10 acres of the 50-acre parcel and as it is floodplain, it is not subject to development and is separate from residential areas.

He stressed there would be no cost to the taxpayer as the Aurora Animal Clinic had entered into a partnership agreement with the committee to sponsor fencing the park.

Committee members referred the presentation to staff for further discussion with the Bark Park committee.

and there is no sound plan to replace them. Class sizes are growing

larger and the professors are dealing with students with a wide range of academic and special needs.

In reality, colleges are

beginning to crumble. Due to years of underfunding by the Conservative government, the educational equipment and learning resources urgently need updating.

Colleges have been neg-

lected and they face a crisis. Unfortunately, the Tory government is doing nothing to solve it. Colleges should not be treated as second class institutions.

Jim Jackson Aurora



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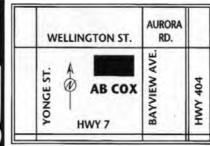


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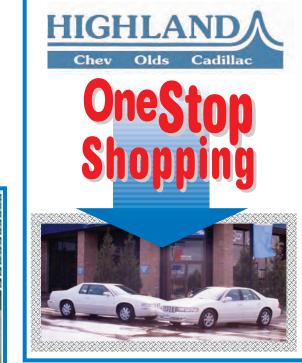
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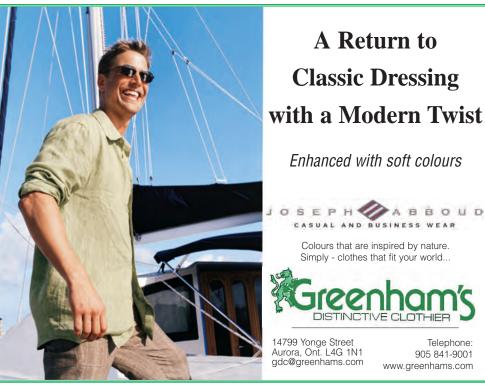
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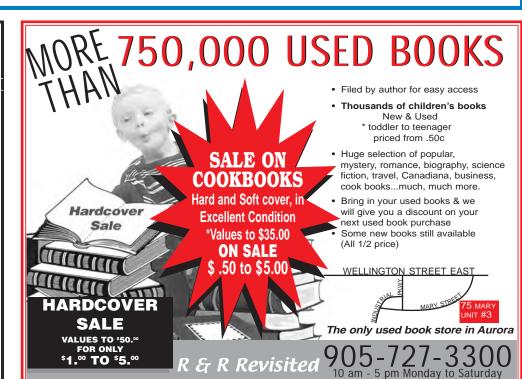








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AURORAN SPORTS



It's over in six

Call it "psychological warfare".

You learn as much as you can about your opposition, you discover their weaknesses, then you attack.

Aurora Tigers had a weakness...his name was Chris Whitlev.

Whitley, one of the best goaltenders in the league, could be goaded. And the fans, the ones who sat in the infamous "whiskey section" of the so-called Duke-dome, knew it.

Wellington Duke fans to the end, they knew they could "get to him" and, apparently, that's what they did.

It all blew up in game three when, deep in the heart of Prince Edward County, Whitley fired the puck over the glass and bought himself a five-game suspension.

According to reports, he had been warned twice

Perhaps a tad severe, the infraction was listed as an "intent to injure" and Whitley was given the old heave-ho.

Enter Aurora's only resident on the Tiger team, Lance King, a formidable goaltender himself, who finished the game that Aurora lost 4-3, the first of four straight wins for the Dukes.

Then, in game four, King gets hurt, and now the Tigers' hole is so deep there's no light in it.

Game five, Aurora is blown out of Duke-dome 13-4.

Aurora had resorted to a Junior C goaltender from Georgina, and putting him in the game at that stage would be like putting Whitley into the NHL for a Stanley Cup game.

And good goaltending, in any playoff series, is an essential.

"The obvious answer is the goaltending," said Tiger coach Marty Williamson. "But other than that, there wasn't much difference at all; we had four games decided by one goal and a blowout."

Game Six, played before a sellout crowd at the Aurora Community Centre, saw the Tigers do everything in their power to send the series to a seventh and final match except win

match...except win.
King was back in goal, and after a shaky first period, the whole team settled down and kept Wellington to a 3-3 draw until the final four minutes of the contest.

Tigers offered fans some of the best Junior A hockey Canada has to offer; and when talent wasn't enough, they drove on using pure heart and emotion, but the odds were too tough to overcome.

They had followed up their magical regular season with a march through the playoffs and reached as far as the provincial championship round against the number one ranked Junior A team in Canada.

Williamson described the Tiger run as "wonderful. To win the division and the conference, it has been fantastic".

Going into Game Six, trailing by a game, the Tigers needed to pull everything out of their bag of tricks. However, it wasn't trickery that kept the Tigers fighting, it was heart and dedication.

King admitted it was tough being thrown into the fire against the number one ranked Dukes, but he insisted that "it's still the same game we're all playing".

He was scored on twice in the game's first six minutes, but as the Dukes began to relax, the Tigers began to claw back.

Justin Olden got the first Tiger goal with three minutes left in the first frame.

But a bad Tiger giveaway led to a third Wellington goal with only 44 seconds remaining in the period. Once again, Aurora had to fight an uphill battle.

Matt Christie got the ball rolling early in the second with a nifty shorthanded goal.

Down only one, Aurora lim-

ited the shots taken on King and constantly found themselves on the Dukes' door step. They outshot Wellington and continued the fight into the third.

Thanks in part to some important face-off wins, Aurora tied the score in the third. A face-off win by Scott Goheen in the Wellington end gave Kyle Aitken a clear blast.

As they've done all series, the Aurora Tigers battled back from a deficit and accepted no excuses. But it wasn't to be. With 3:43 left in regulation time, Wellington put the nail in the coffin and won the championship with a 4-3 win.

Aurora's run was incredible. The Tigers gave their fans showcase after showcase of the best Canadian Junior A hockey, including a total of 61 wins.

"I'm extremely proud of them, they fought hard to the last seconds," said Coach Williamson.

With a list of injuries and a goaltender controversy, the Tigers still managed to push Wellington near the edge. Wellington played well, but

the goaltender incident was the turning point of the series.

The Wellington Dukes now head to Fort Frances to continue the playoff series.

With files from Mike McClymont

Clean up

There's more to hockey than games at the local arena as Don Farnum's Fabulous Flyers found out recently. This Aurora House League Tyke team replaced hockey sticks with garbage bags as they handled a spring clean-up in the area of Aurora's Cenotaph.

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If it doesn't sparkle, it's not Sparling's!

Express captures Aurora tournament

The rules are simple. If you want to host the tournament, you must win the tournament.

So, a year ago, the York Simcoe Express, Minor Novices then, won it, and the tournament was scheduled for Aurora.

And when the ice chips had settled at the Aurora Community Centre, the Express stood there holding the gold medal, and the Mission Cup.

And thinking about the tournament back here next year.

After winning the 2001-2002 Minor Novice championship, the Minor Atoms became the first York Simcoe team to repeat as champions.

The tournament started with the Express defeating the Richmond Hill Stars 4-1, and the Oakville Rangers 6-

The following day, the Express shutout the Clarington Toros 4-0.

Express lost only one game, dropping a 7-4 encounter to the Halton Hurricanes, in game four.

Ironically, it would be the Hurricanes the Express would face in the final.

The Gold Medal game saw the Express capture all the marbles by an identical 7-4 victory.

Head Coach Maurice Catenacci, Assistant Coaches Pat Dinallo, Steve Rumble, Brock Neuman, and Team Manager Mark Murphy brought the team to its successful conclusion.

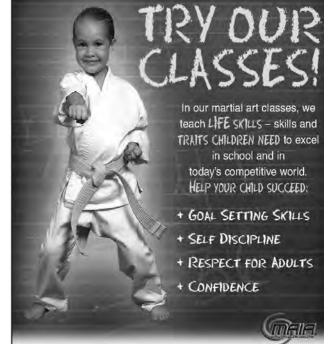
Making up the team are Jeffrey Dinallo, Daniel Catenacci, Ryan Rumble, Eric Hoey, David Iacono, Cameron McKee, Richard Occhipinti, John Livingston, Jeffrey Stewart, Ryan Murphy, Chanelle Hassard, Christian Weidauer, Alex Leader, Hayden Neuman and Jason Pucciarelli.



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The Under 11 Aurora Minor Soccer Girls' Rep Team, shown here, recently won the Richmond Green Indoor League title even though they finished only fourth at the end of regulation league play. A unique coaching technique by Warren Payne - playing everyone in different positions, including the goalie to give each player equal time - paid off as the team went on to win the championship in the playoffs. They beat the second place finishers 2-0, and won the title over the first place finishers with a 3-2 score.

Skating group says town needs three new ice pads

Darryl Iwai, a founding member of AOKS (All Our Kids Skate), appeared before council recently representing the collective needs of 10 Aurora ice user groups.

The council chamber was filled to capacity with children and parents in support of the presentation.

Simply put, they said, there's not enough ice in

The objective of AOKS is to create awareness through partnership with community organizations to meet the rink facility needs of Aurora residents.

Aurora ice users are fully prepared to carry all their costs of operations without taxpayer subsidies.

A survey carried out by AOKS estimates the total number of the 10 major Aurora user group participants at 4,059, and this represents an estimated 3,000 families.

The cumulative unsatisfied demand for ice time in Aurora is 186 hours per week. With each pad supplying 60 hours of prime ice time, a total of three new ice pads are required.

In comparing current lev-

els of the number of rinks to population, the survey reveals Aurora is dead last. It was pointed out that the town had budgeted for one ice pad to be constructed in 2005, while the need is for three ice pads immediately, and although the need was known, no action has been taken since 1999.

AOKS members association collectively purchased 365.5 hours of ice time for the 2002/2003 season outside Aurora at a cost of \$566,758.

In addition member groups could not obtain 1,285 additional hours, representing an opportunity cost of \$199,175.

According to the group, approximately \$766,000 of ice revenue is lost annually

to the town

It was also noted that the groups had waitlisted 545 potential users who were unable to participate because of lack of ice time and this number is growing.

Since January 1, 1996, a \$20/hour ice user surcharge has generated \$1.12 million to ensure the construction financing of the second ice pad at the Aurora Community Centre.

To date an excess of \$420,000 has been generated and should be considered as the ice users contribution towards the capital costs of new ice pads.

This fee generates an annual surplus of \$60,000 over current operating costs

If this pricing policy remain in place, the annual surplus would rise to approximately \$160,000 with the addition of three ice pads, the group noted

It was also pointed out that all ice users pay more than just their operating costs, while other organizations receive a subsidy, so that ice users are not a burden to taxpayers.

It was suggested the town seek new financing options such as debt financing against future development charges and/or private/public partnerships.

AOKS recommended a new three-pad facility so

that all kids could skate in Aurora, business would stay in town and attract tournaments and competitions to Aurora and obtain business from other communities.

Iwai asked that AOKS be recognized by council as a collaborative organization partnering with the town to explore the options to find a solution to meet the needs of the user groups.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern, a member of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee, pointed out that the Leisure Services Master Plan included other priority projects such as a youth centre, seniors centre, aquatic facility as well as ice pads, and ice pads shouldn't be considered in isolation.

Council members agreed that AOKS be asked to work with the Leisure Services Advisory Committee in an attempt to resolve the issues.

"Beautiful" day

Last March council adopted a resolution to participate in the GTA Anti-Litter Campaign.

At last week's general committee meeting, it was agreed to declare May 3 as "Let's Keep Aurora Beautiful Day" and to seek support from the community.



Setback ignited Forrester's fire

By CHRISTINE WOODLEY

One centimetre.

That was the shortfall that prevented Aurora's Nicole Forrester from competing in the 2000 Sydney Olympic games.

Even worse, this talented Auroran athlete had met the Olympic standard (but not Canada's) and was a three-time National Women's high jump champion.

Even so, the harsh disappointment she felt soon gave way to a new emotion - steely determination.

So much so, that Nicole now sees the setback as "probably the greatest thing that could have happened to me, because it created an intense fire within me to be the best".

Since then, this Commonwealth Games bronze medalist has simply turned her sights to the next challenge.

While studying for her Master's degree at the University of Texas, Nicole trains 30 hours a week, working with former Donovan Bailey coach Dan Pfaff.

Her regimen includes sprinting, weight lifting and, of course, jumping.

At 26, Nicole realizes that 2003 will be a defining year in her high jump career.

"The significance of this year is immeasurable. The year of the World Championships (in France in August) is also the eve of the Olympics in Athens," she said.

Indeed, the rest of the year reads like a travel

journal for Nicole, with meets and qualifiers in Russia, Japan, France, Belgium, Monte Carlo and all over North America.

But, after her setback four years ago, there's one competition that stands above all others - the Athens Games next year.

"The Olympics are especially personal to me."

For someone with Nicole's

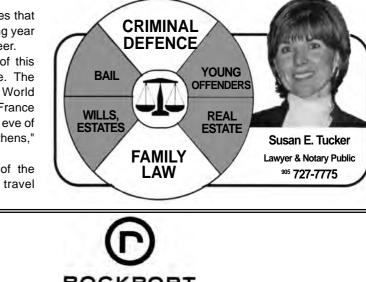
strength of character and perseverance, the high jump was a natural choice.

"Unlike team sports, I don't depend on anyone else's performance, just my own," she said. "I am in control. It requires mental toughness."

If that's the case, then Nicole Forrester is well equipped for the challenges that lay ahead.









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Mayor Tim Jones has a plethora of merchandise to offer Teresa Cook, centre, and CITY-TV celebrity Liz West during the official opening of Cupid & Psyche, a ladies' accessories store in St. Andrew's Plaza. It's the second store for owner Teresa Cook, who operates another location in Cookstown.

Maintaining the balance a difficult task in Aurora

The battle to maintain a balance between industrial/commercial and residential assessment is one that faces many municipalities, and Aurora is no exception. Back in 1965, then-Mayor

Clarence Davis called for a renewed drive to attract industry to Aurora.

"Unless this is done, I don't know what taxpayers will do in the future," he said at the time.

The same statement could well be made today. In 2003, Aurora homeowners will receive a double whammy, as draft operating budgets for both the region and the town showed a substantial tax increase.

Back in the 1960s and 1970s Aurora councils tried to keep the balance around 65 per cent residential and 35 per cent non-residential.

Often, plans of subdivision were stalled pending industrial/commercial growth.

Reassessment in 1969 didn't help as it presented new challenges for council members in trying to prepare the 1970 budget.

Prior to reassessment the residential tax base was 67 per cent with industry and commerce paying 33 per cent.

After reassessment the residential tax base jumped to 79 per cent with the balance of 21 per cent assessed to industry and commerce

This resulted in a dramatic increase for homeowners, as they had to pick up approximately 250,000 in actual tax dollars, which was transferred from the non-residential sector.

Residential taxpayers are in much the same position today as residential growth is rampant and industrial and commercial growth relatively stagnant.

During the first half of 2002 the value of residential construction in York Region increased by 13 per cent, while commercial construction decreased by 62 per cent and industrial development by 63 per cent compared with the same period the previous year.

In considering the committee structure for the present term of Aurora Council, it was decided that the roles of the former Community Core Review Committee and the Business Development Committee would be combined into a new Economic Development Advisory Committee.

The new committee has a membership of nine, including five citizens appointed by council, a representative of the Chamber of Commerce and three members of council.

The mandate of the committee is to make recommendations to council on matters relating to the attraction and retention of business in Aurora, identify niche markets and actively assist in fostering a positive community image, a viable core and a healthy business environment.

The town recently hired a full-time economic development officer to work with the committee in promoting Aurora as a good place to carry on a business and live.

The reason given for the delay in employing a development officer was said to be the lack of available serviced employment lands until the lands at Highway 404 and Wellington Street East are available for develop-

According to a York regional planning report in September, 2001, Aurora had a vacant land inventory of 430 net acres or a 18.1 year supply based on absorption rates at that time, of which 84 net acres had been registered and draft approved.

The town did have another 50 acres of serviced employment lands in the Bayview Wellington area but on September 22, 1999, by a 6-2 vote approved a request from the developer to rezone the lands from industrial to residential.

The alleged lack of available industrial land is a relatively new problem for Aurora, as three municipal industrial parks had been successfully developed in the 1970s and 1980s.

In the late 1980s council designated 400 acres of land on the west side of Bayview Avenue between Wellington Street and the St. John's Sideroad.

Developers quickly stripped the area of trees, grass and topsoil in preparation for servicing and development but the industries never came.

Beavertop Developments spent between \$3 and \$5 million installing water and sewer services and constructing roads on 215 acres of the land parcel before going into bankruptcy in 1992.

Bavview Wellington, a consortium of Cadillac Fairview, Eaton's and Cooperators Insurance, purchased the southern 197 acres for a shopping mall, housing, community theatre, library, retirement home, church and school sites.

The developers were not optimistic about development on the industrial lands in the foreseeable future, as the recession had changed plans for industrial relocation and expansion.

At that time it was reported there was a 40-year supply of serviced or designated lands in the GTA. The town has industrial

land available, has an experienced economic development officer and a strong committee committed to bringing new development

The big question is whether residential property owners, especially those on a fixed income can hold on until new non-residential growth can bring the assessment and taxable balance back

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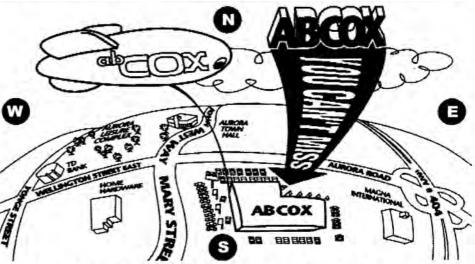
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1973: It was a very good year

In December, 1973, in looking back over the year Mayor Evelyn Buck said she couldn't have worked with a better council and said it was a real team spirit that brought about several accomplishments during the year.

In picking out the highlights she pointed to the calling it a real community project, backed 100 per cent by council and with strong citizen support.

She also noted the work of council in encouraging the York County Board of Education to remain in Aurora as they searched for a new site for board offices and the possibility of constructing a joint administrative structure with the town.

Buck cited the progress made in the expansion of the sewage plant and the federal Local Initiative Program grant to renovate the old cement factory into what is the Factory Theatre

She also referred to the progress made in drafting an official plan for the town. There was also discussion during the year about reducing the size of council from nine to seven.

Concern was expressed that relationship between

council and citizen groups had become confrontational, as the citizen groups were demanding domination, rather than participa-

Consideration was given to the future of the Jack Wood farmhouse on property acquired for the industrial park. Buck said she could see it as a potentially beautiful display centre for local handicrafts. The house is currently used as a day care centre.

She said it had been a good year and the town never had such optimistic future.

Terry Fox Run signs would be located at town's entrances

of the Terry Fox Run in Aurora, appeared before council's general committee last week to seek approval to erect signs at the four major entrances to town.

He explained the signs would include a picture of Terry plus details on the run/walkathon to be held this year September 14 and the name of the sign's sponsor.

Fischer said he needed town approval before he could contact local businessmen regarding sponsor-

He said he would work with the Works Department as to the best location, the signs would be put up approximately two weeks in advance of the run and would be taken down after-

Because the signs would be on regional roads, the Region of York's approval will also be necessary.

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What to do with yard waste in York Region!

SPRING CLEANING YOUR YARD?

Remember, organic yard waste should not be sent to landfill sites in order to conserve space. If yard waste cannot be composted in the backyard, residents and businesses may take these materials to York Region's Organic Yard Waste Composting Facility.

COMPOSTING FACILITY HOURS

Monday to Friday April 1 to Dec. 31

(except statutory holidays) 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Saturdays April 1 to Dec. 31

(except closed at 1 p.m. on Dec. 27) 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

<u>Sundays</u> April 20 to June 8 **Evenings**

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

April 1 to Nov. 25 <u>Winter</u>

Tuesday evening only

to 8 p.m.

Jan. 2 to Mar. 31 Monday to Friday

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WHAT'S ACCEPTED

- leaves
- grass clippings
- shrubs
- branches
- weeds
 - fruits, vegetables & pumpkins
 - flowers & garden plants

· kitchen & food waste

animal droppings

NOT ACCEPTED

- tree branches & brush larger than 100 mm (4 inches) in diameter & 1.8 m (6 feet) long
- stumps & root balls
- rocks & stones • dirt & topsoil
- driveway & road sweepings
- \$2.00 for cars.
- \$3.00 for all sport utility vehicles and vans, except cube vans.
- All other vehicles, including cube vans, pickup trucks, and anything that is pulling a loaded trailer will be weighed and charged \$40.00 per tonne plus GST, with a minimum charge of \$4.40 plus GST for any load.
- Payment by cash, VISA, Mastercard or Interac.
- People delivering yard waste in bags and/or containers will be asked to empty them at the Composting Facility. Kraft paper yard waste bags do not have to be emptied.

COMPOST FOR SALE

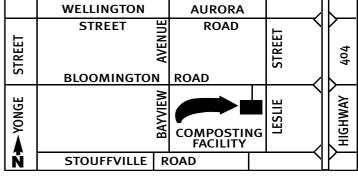
Buy compost at the facility for:

\$1.99 per bag (plus GST & PST); 20x30 inches; already filled.

\$13.00 per tonne (plus GST & PST); loaded onto your pickup truck or trailer; minimum charge \$13.00 (plus GST & PST).

Landscaping companies, farmers, contractors and other large quantity users can purchase bulk quantities of compost. Call Miller Compost at (905) 773-9876 for details.

The Composting Facility is located in Richmond Hill at 1351 Bloomington Road (south side), just west of Leslie Street.



MUNICIPAL LEAF AND YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Where curbside leaf and yard waste collection is available:

- USE RIGID, REUSABLE CONTAINERS, such as bushel baskets, if possible, to cut down on waste.
- If plastic bags are unavoidable, USE ONLY CLEAR PLASTIC BAGS, rather than coloured. This will allow collection staff to see if any contaminants have been included accidentally. Clear bags are available at many larger stores. Most yard waste collection programs allow tree and shrub clippings
- to be put at the curb provided they are tied in bundles no longer than 1.2 m (4 feet) and not heavier than 23 kg (50 lbs.).
- Watch for notices from your municipality for further details.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION Visit the York Region web site at: www.region.york.on.ca

York Region



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RUMOURS & RUMBLINGS

Aurora gets its post office back

In October, 1981, the late John Dol of Model Builders removed the metal grille, which for the previous 10 years or more had hidden the façade of the historic 1914 Post Office.

While the interior had been recycled as modern office space, the exterior was restored to what it was when the Yonge Street landmark with its clock tower first opened in

And that clock in the tower, stopped for years, started running again.

AURORA FIREFIGHTERS IN A MOVIE

It was April, 1985, and a movie was being made in Toronto for the mini TV series Kane and Abel based on Jeffrey Archer's bestseller.

The Toronto fire department had been asked to provide three antique fire vehicles for the movie but could only find

Someone said there was one in Aurora so the call went out.

Aurora's 1926 International, the town's first motorized fire vehicle, was quickly loaded and transported to the city, along with four would-be actors.

Making their debut, after the costume department blackened their faces and outfitting them in the uniform of the day, were Les Steiner, Jim Allen, Art Bellar and Brian Patrick.

The setting was Chicago in the early 1930s.

Directors almost got away with it, until one shot showed a new Toronto streetcar in the background.

Meanwhile, the four actors are still around today, three of them still with Central York Fire Services, and the movie actor truck is on display in a "fire museum" at the Edward Street hall in Aurora.

REBEKAH LODGE REMEMBERED

On June 1, 1979, the Aurora Elma Rebekah Lodge No. 146 celebrated 65 years of service at the Aurora United

Four 50-year members of the Lodge were on hand to share in the festivities and each had a role to play.

Dorothy Griffith and Evelyn Kerswell cut the birthday cake. Lillian Lubbock lit a candle for the future of the Lodge and Marjorie Andrews lit a candle in memory of departed Sisters

Past achievements of the Lodge included contributions to the Barrie Lodge Home, flowers placed in alternate churches each June in memory of departed Sisters, and donations to York County Hospital and the Newmarket Music Festival.

AURORA TIGERS IN TROUBLE

The present day Aurora Tigers Junior A hockey team is suffering deja-vu.

Back in September, 1985, they were having financial problems, just like they're having today.

The club had legally folded and the town was considering legal action to obtain outstanding debts of \$12,839 from the

In October, 1985, the town decided to sue both parties due to the on-going doubt as to who owned the team.

The Tigers pulled out of the Ontario Junior Hockey League after weeks of uncertainty about the team's future. The team folded due to a controversy that saw two parties claim ownership to the team.

Ted Tobias, the coach and one of the parties claiming ownership, decided not to ice a team.

The other party, nine Aurora and Toronto businessmen. claimed ownership, pointing out that Tobias still owed them money for the team.

The trouble facing council members was who to sue for the outstanding debts.

WOMEN'S SPRING BREAK

Spring Break is normally associated with the school system when schools close down for a week in March every year. Back in the 1980's there was a Spring Break for

The York Region Women's Committee held its 8th annual Women's Spring Break on May 8, 1985, at the Aurora Highlands Golf Club with a full day of activities, including two seminars, lunch with guest speaker Kim Ball and an information centre.

The committee was formed in 1976 by Seneca College's Continuing Education Department to give women living outside Toronto the opportunity to hear outstanding speakers on important issues of interest to them without the need of travelling to the city.

AURORA APPROVES SECOND HIGH SCHOOL

In March, 1968, approval of Aurora's share of a \$73,000 site for a new high school on the western edge of Aurora was given in about seven minutes.

The Aurora and District High School Board estimated the new school, to accommodate 700 students, would be required by 1970.

Mayor Clarence Davis urged speedy approval of the school site on the Aurora/King border (today it's Murray Drive) and suggested the town move to annex the site to have two high schools in the municipality.

The lone dissenter was Councillor Evelyn Buck who claimed school building was out of control with the pending takeover of local school boards by a County Board of

And it was that county board that named the structure "Aurora High School", discarding the recommended "Aurora Secondary School", for obvious reasons.

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GARAGE SALE **SATURDAY APRIL 26** 7:30 am - 12:00 noon 53 Petch Crescent Aurora

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NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS in the estate of HAROLD WILLIAM GRAHAM. All claims against the estate of HAROLD WILLIAM GRAHAM, late of Town of Aurora, in the Province of Ontario, who died on or about February 20. 2003 must be in my hands by Friday, May 30th, 2003, after which date the estate will be distributed, having regard only to claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice. Dated April 4, 2003 KENNETH SHUGART, Estate Trustee, by his solicitors SHUGART & ASSOCIATES P.O. Box 486 Aurora, Ontario, Canada, L4G 3L6

OFFICE SPACE

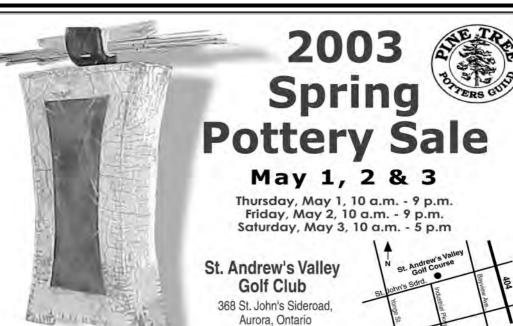
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AURORA COMMUNITY CENTRE

April 25th.....2:00 pm - 9:00 pm

April 26th.....9:00 am - 7:00 pm

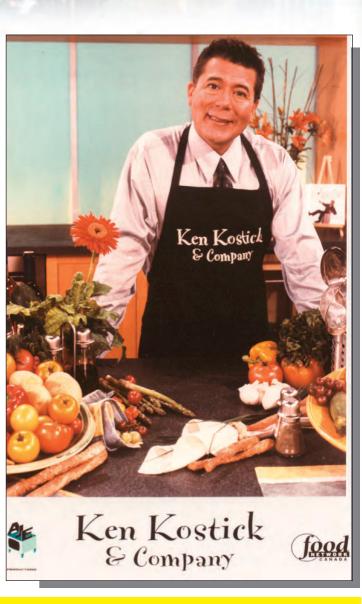
April 27th....10:00 am - 5:00 pm

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