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# AURORAN

*Aurora's Community Newspaper*

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Vol. 3 No. 27

Week of April 29, 2003

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Colour was the keyword at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce's 17th annual Home and Lifestyle Show held over three days at the Aurora Community Centre on the weekend. Balloon "stars" filled the ceiling of Rink 2 in the top photo, while chairman of the event, Brian North, carries another array of balloons, below. North has been selected by the nominating committee as its choice for the next Chamber president during annual meeting next month. Chamber officials said the first "nice" weekend of the spring kept people outdoors, and the show failed to set new attendance records, however, thousands did attend the popular annual event.

Photos by Rob Schuetze

## Rail celebration is off the tracks

Plans to celebrate Aurora's 150th anniversary of the "Head of Rail" have fallen off the track, but the event will not pass unnoticed.

A three-person committee made the decision Thursday to call off a weekend of events because no train could be found to add to the celebration.

Members investigated the possibilities of a steam train from Tottenham; one from St. Thomas, a historic diesel train from Uxbridge, and even Bombardier's innovative "Jet Train".

However, scheduling and costs made it impossible to arrange for their appearance in Aurora.

GO Transit had granted use of the Aurora station and grounds to the group for the weekend, and

will still allow members of the Aurora Historical Society to hand out collectable cards and information on May 16 to commuters heading into the city.

It was May 16, 1853 - 150 years ago - when the first train left Toronto and headed north to what was then known as Machell's Corners. It was as far as the rails went and the hamlet became known as the Head of Rail.

An ad hoc committee had hoped to set up a weekend of activities at the railway station a week prior to the actual anniversary, but agreed last week that "without something on the rails, we have nothing".

Members of the AHS handing out the collectables on the 16th hope to be dressed in railway attire.

## Slow paperwork caused water fine

Just in case Aurora water users are concerned about recent media reports that York Region had been fined \$16,000 on water-related offences, they can breathe easier as the offences, laid under the Ontario Water Resources Act, were minor in nature, resulting from failure to submit paperwork to the ministry on time.

Regional officials stressed that at no time was public health in jeop-

ardy or compromised in any way.

All municipal waterworks in Ontario are subject to provincial approval under the Ontario Water Resources Act. The approval process results in the issuance, by the Ministry of the Environment, of a Certificate of Approval for each supply facility.

Each certificate contains a number of terms and conditions

**Please see page 13**

## Briefly...

### PROFITS TO CHARITY

To acknowledge National Youth Week, Aurora's hottest youngster spot - Hot Spot - will donate all profits from its Friday, May 9, event to the Campaign Against Child Poverty. Everyone in Grades 6, 7 and 8 is welcome to attend. Admission is \$5. Activities get underway at the Lions Hall, Mosley and Victoria Streets, at 7.30 p.m. Further information, call 905-717-1002.

### STERLING REUNION

Many who currently live in Aurora probably have never heard of Sterling Drug, but into the late 80s, it was one of the town's major employers.

Located at the corner of Yonge Street and Murray Drive, Sterling Drug was basically responsible for the creation of Regency Acres subdivision.

Now, some of the employees want to get together again, so they're planning a reunion, Saturday, October 25, at the Aurora Legion.

Tickets are now available to all former employees. If you qualify, call 905-775-6761 or 905-775-6880.



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# 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.

## MAY 1-3

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

## MAY 2/4

The 41st Annual Town of Aurora Juried Art Show and Sale at the Aurora Town Hall with more than 100 artists participating and 300 art works on display. Friday from 7 to 10 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 905-727-3123 ext. 530.

## MAY 2-11

Aurora's Leisure Services Department has arranged several events including dinner and movie, flipside skateboarding, talent show, ball hockey and more for National Youth Week. Call 905-727-3123 ext. 528 for details.

## 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Opening night of Theatre Aurora's "Waiting for the Parade" at Factory Theatre. Continues May 2,3 7-10 and 14-17. Call 905-727-3669 for ticket information.

\*\*\*\*\*

Seniors Spring Dance at the Aurora Seniors Centre at 8 p.m. \$3 for members and \$3.50 for non-members.

## 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

"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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Awards Banquet and "Woman of the Year Award" at Dinardo's Banquet Centre on Industrial Parkway South. Call 905-953-0871 for ticket information.

\*\*\*\*\*

Aurora council has proclaimed today as "Let's Keep Aurora Beautiful Day". Support from citizens and community groups solicited.

## MAY 13-15

Aurora Seniors Spring Getaway to Ottawa's Tulip Festival. Trip includes 3 days, 2 nights accommodation, four meals, guided tour of the RCMP Musical Ride Centre, Museum of Civilization. For details call 905-727-2816.

## 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 16

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first official run of the first steam train in Upper Canada from Toronto to Aurora, then known as Machell's Corners, the Aurora Historical Society is looking for 12 volunteers to hand out information cards to commuters on the 6:29, 7:19 and 7:51 morning trains. Call Jackie Stuart at 905-727-8991.

## MAY 21

Election and inauguration of Officers and Directors of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce at the Tuscany Banquet Centre, Edward Street at 12:30 p.m. Guest speaker is Mayor Tim Jones. Call the Chamber office to register.

## MAY 24

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Aurora Heights Public School presents "Retrofest Fun Fair", 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 85 Tecumseh Drive. Games, prizes, silent auction, barbecue. Music by Rock 95. Further information 905-727-6902.

## MAY 25

Second "Gourmet Strollathon" to be held in Aurora hosted by Hospice King/Aurora through the estates of Hunter's Glen in Aurora's south end. Call 905-833-0356 for details

## MAY 31

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

## JUNE 1

More than 400 booths have been reserved for the Eighth Annual Aurora Street Festival. If you plan to rent booth space, you should know the festival is already 80 per cent sold out. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call the Chamber office at 905-727-7262.

## JUNE 5

Town of Aurora Community Recognition Awards at the Aurora Town Hall, including the naming of the Citizen of the Year.

## 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.

## JUNE 25

Women's Centre of York Region, in Aurora, charity golf tournament in support of its various programs, at the Mandarin Golf and Country Club. Book a foursome, donate prizes or sponsor this event, call Shelley Lundquist at 905-727-5837.

## AUGUST 22

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

## OCTOBER 25

Sterling Drug reunion, Aurora Legion, 7 p.m. Former employees invited. For tickets call 905-775-6761 or 905-775-6880. Also e-mail at sterling\_reunion@hotmail.com.

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Welcome Wagon Area Manager, Rosemary Schumaker of Aurora, left, and Regional Manager Jackie Carruthers try to find a space on the wall for yet another award announcing Aurora as the Community of the Year in the 35,000 to 60,000 population class. Aurora has won the award four times in the last nine years. Plaques are displayed on the third floor of the Aurora municipal building. Welcome Wagon president Pat Neuman called Aurora an "outstanding community".

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

## Welcome Wagon honour to town fourth in nine years

Moving into a new community can be a nerve-racking experience for anyone.

Newcomers don't know what services are available, and usually don't know the location of shopping areas, medical facilities, schools, library, parks and recreational facilities.

Case in point: a newcomer called last week saying she had seen all the publicity surrounding the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Home Show, but nowhere did it say where the Aurora Community Centre was located.

Perhaps the caller wasn't home when that familiar knock on the door occurred.

She missed hearing those now-famous words, "Hi, I'm your Welcome Wagon hostess".

Welcome Wagon in Aurora is a going concern as council learned again last week, when the Town was named Welcome Wagon Community of the Year...for the fourth time in the last nine years.

Aurora's Rosemary Schumaker, Area Manager for Welcome Wagon and several Aurora Welcome Wagon hostesses were at the meeting to make the presentation.

Schumaker listed the number of newcomers visited, new businesses, new brides, new babies and senior events during the year and thanked the town for its on-going support of Welcome Wagon.

Welcome Wagon employs a national network of community representatives who welcome families on their arrival in the community, providing information on all local civic services, plus participating merchants and businesses.

Every visit begins with the presentation of civic and community information, followed by presentations of gifts from local sponsoring merchants with a description of their location, prod-

ucts and services.

The Welcome Wagon name was derived from the frontier Conestoga wagons in which gifts and provisions were carried to greet new settlers as they trekked westward across the plains.

In more recent years, Welcome Wagon has initiated additional greeting programs including seminars for new parents, newly engaged couples and the 50 plus age group.

## Town talking to you through info package

In December, 1999, Aurora Council adopted a corporate communications policy, which specified the development of a comprehensive annual communications plan to facilitate the coordination of all communications channels for maximum efficiency, impact and delivery of information.

The 2003 Communications Plan focuses on the continuation of many procedures already in place with an emphasis of providing a central focus for the two-way flow of information between the town and its citizens.

Info Aurora was a 2002 initiative and is currently staffed by eight volunteers and open to residents from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

In 2002, Info Aurora answered more than 9,000 inquiries from residents who phoned or visited the centre in the lobby of the Town Hall.

A 2003 initiative is a Volunteer Centre to operate out of the Town Hall.

The centre will match agencies looking for volunteers with individuals interested in giving their time.

Another new initiative for 2003 is to introduce a Town of Aurora newsletter to improve the communication of council policies, initiatives and decisions.

Other initiatives are to develop the 2004 to 2006 Resident's Guide, to design and implement a corporate and community signage program and to

develop a long-term strategy for growing and maintaining a user-friendly, service oriented and sustainable Town of Aurora website.



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## Poor Richard

### Today's volunteers - an invisible army

*Have you ever stopped to wonder,  
As you travel far and near;  
About the busy band of workers,  
The ones who volunteer!  
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

This week, through to Saturday, has been proclaimed National Volunteer Week.

It's a time to celebrate the work of volunteers and to give thanks for the service they provide in so many ways to the citizens of Aurora and every community.

Just imagine living in a community without volunteers. Hospitals would be quiet as you walked down the hallways, the reception desk vacant, rooms devoid of books, flowers and voices. The children's wing would have no laughter and there would be no clowns.

Homes for the aged would be like tombs, with the blind listening for voices that never came. The infirm would be imprisoned in wheelchairs that never moved. Food would grow cold on trays that would never reach the hungry.

Social agencies would have to close, unable to implement programs of scouting, recreation, drug control, unable to help the retarded and the crippled. The schools would be strangely quiet with no field trips and no volunteer aids on the playgrounds or in the classrooms.

Flowers on the church altars would wither and die. Children in day nurseries would lift their arms but no one would hold them.

That's how late author Erma Bombeck saw a community, or a world, without volunteers. It's a frightening thought, yet that's the way it would be if we didn't have volunteers. Canadian society as we know it could not function without dedicated volunteers.

They come in all ages, shapes and sizes from every walk in life, but they all have at least two things in common.

They share a genuine desire to help others and they don't want to get paid.

They just seek the satisfaction that comes when time and talent is given freely to help make life better for everyone.

Today's volunteers make up an invisible army. A recent national survey by the federal government found that one in four Canadians volunteer through the many groups and organizations across the country.

Using the same ratio, Aurora with a population of 43,000 has more than 10,000 volunteers.

They work for community committees, churches, recreational programs and cultural activities. They raise funds, they sit on boards and start new agencies as required, such as food banks.

At one time, the traditional volunteer was a middle-class housewife with time on her hands and charity on her mind. This started to change in the 1970s and in her place came a wide range of volunteers.

The new breed of volunteers included senior citizens with time on their hands, the unemployed who can help to maintain their self-esteem by volunteering, teenagers who wish to gain experience in their chosen field and those who just wanted to give something back to the community.

It became the age of the volunteer, as men started to volunteer in ever increasing numbers.

The volunteer coaches, managers and trainers are the backbone of minor sports in any community and they are often overlooked and never receive the accolades they deserve.

But it isn't just sports that keeps volunteers busy in Our Town. They are active in every phase of everyday life. So much so that there is a tendency to take the dedication and the work of volunteers for granted.

Every person knows at least one volunteer in the community.

National Volunteer Week is an excellent opportunity to express appreciation for the work that person does for you and the Aurora community.

If you have time on your hands and would like to volunteer for a worthwhile cause, but don't know where to start, call the Aurora Volunteer Centre at the Aurora Town Hall, manned of course, by volunteers.

They have a list of about 160 agencies needing volunteers and will be pleased to help you. Long may the spirit of volunteerism live in Aurora.



In honour of the Aurora Tigers excellent Provincial Junior A hockey season just past, we give you the Tiger edition of 1984-85, surrounding colourful coach Ted Tobias. This team was part of the Centennial Cup in May of 1985, a tournament involving teams from Aurora, Orillia, Peterborough, and Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia. On the club were Aurora residents Jody Matthew, Shane Joachim and Don Timbers. Players drafted by the National Hockey League who participated in the tournament included Aurora's Brian Fogarty and Joe Murphy from Peterborough. Orillia won the cup that year. Over the years, the Provincial Junior A launched several NHL careers, including current Aurora resident Mike Palmateer, Newmarket's Jamie Macoun and Stouffville's Keith Acton.

### Letter to the Editor

# Complicated Aurora Hydro restructuring is explained

To the editor,

The Auroran for the week of April 22 contained an article by Dick Illingworth entitled "Aurora Hydro - What's going on?"

We have considerable sympathy with the general sentiment that it continues to be difficult for the general public to understand all the many changes associated with the restructuring of the Ontario electricity sector which have occurred over the past decade.

We fully agree that the restructuring has been an immensely complicated undertaking.

An ongoing challenge remains for employees, management and the board of directors of Aurora Hydro to respond to the new and ever changing legal and regulatory requirements to which we are subject, not to mention adapting to the evolving policy positions emanating from Queens Park.

Aurora Hydro would like to clarify the following matters raised in Mr. Illingworth's article.

Firstly, in 2000 the Town was directed by law to transform the former electric commission to a corporation under the Ontario Business Corporations Act. The status quo was not an option available to the Town.

Secondly, local hydro commissions have not been de-regulated.

In fact, today local distributors face far greater regulation than ever occurred under the former Ontario Hydro regime.

For example, in the restructured electricity sec-

tor the Ontario Energy Board became the new regulator of distributors throughout Ontario, including Aurora Hydro.

The Ontario Energy Board determines what distribution rates we can charge and deems the proportion of equity to debt utilities must have based on their size.

Aurora Hydro has followed, and continues to follow, the rate making requirements of the regulator.

As such, Aurora Hydro was structured to the OEB deemed 50/50 debt equity ratio, with the Town as the sole shareholder retaining a 50% interest in the utility in the form of a promissory note creating the required debt.

Thirdly, in the past the former electric commission was a tax exempt entity.

In the new market Aurora Hydro pays 43% tax to the Province of Ontario.

If Aurora Hydro neither had debt nor paid interest to the holder of that debt (our shareholder, the Town of Aurora), we would make larger tax payments to Queens Park.

This is because the interest charges are tax deductible.

Accordingly, our debt obligation allows us to keep more utility revenues directly within our community. To our knowledge all other

Ontario distributors have followed this same approach.

Finally, the corporatized and commercial orientation of the new electricity sector requires a board of directors with a wide range of different experiences and skill sets which were simply not required in the former local commission regime.

Aurora Hydro has significant new financial credit obligations and market rules imposed upon it by the Independent Market Operator (which is akin to the stock exchange of the electricity market), various Ontario Energy Board Codes of Conduct with which we must comply, and the Business Corporations Act which mandates the rules by which the corporation is governed.

Our understanding is that the fees paid to directors of Aurora Hydro is comparable and consistent with what every other distributor across Ontario pays its directors.

Aurora Hydro and the Town both continue to be well served through the expertise, dedication and hard work of our board in what continues to be a dynamic and challenging period of industry reform.

Aurora Hydro remains premised on the overriding goal of providing safe, reliable and reasonably priced distribution services to the

citizens of Aurora.

While we continue to adapt to the new corporate and business model as directed by the Province, we shall ensure that achieving our fundamental objective is sustained.

**George Steeves,  
Chair  
Borealis Hydro  
Electric Holdings Inc.**

## AURORAN

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**Editorial policy**

Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of the Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published. Names may be withheld assuming a compelling reason to do so. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.

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**More letters  
pages 5 & 6**



# Transit feedback reveals numerous rider statistics

Much has been in the media about gridlock, road and transportation improvements, road reconstruction and transit.

One would think that if more people took transit, there would be less pressure on our roads.

However, the convenience of personal auto travel is what keeps most people in their cars and SUV's and out of transit.

The Region assumed all municipal transit a year and a half ago, and in the process of doing so, has made a number of improvements to try to increase ridership by making routes and times more convenient.

Don Gorden, the York Region Transit General Manager, has been working hard with the Region's Transit Committee, one of the committees I serve on, to survey riders and meet with municipal officials and representatives from business to be able to put out a service that meet the needs of those who use and would use it.

To his credit, ridership has risen in the Region and continues to do so.

Results from a recent Customer Satisfaction Survey demonstrated the following:

- 60.2% riders are female, 39.8% male
- 28.4% riders are in under \$25k income
- 33.6% make \$25-49,999k
- 20.6% make \$50-75k
- 17.4% make over \$75k
- 15.4% of riders are 17yrs or younger
- 26.6% are between 18 and 24yrs
- 20.1% are between 25-34yrs
- 17.5% are between 35-44yrs
- 13.2% are between 45-54 yrs
- 7.3% are 55yrs of age or older
- 57.6% of riders go between municipalities
- 42.4% of riders travel within their municipality
- 68.7% of transit use is weekdays only
- 1.9% of transit use is weekends only
- 29.4% of transit use is both
- 54.6% use transit to go to work
- 27.4% use transit for school
- 4% for shopping
- 4.8% personal business
- 2.7% social/recreation
- 6.5% for other purposes

When asked about their overall satisfaction with York Region Transit, riders indicated the following:

- 55.7% were satisfied
- 18.9% were very satisfied
- 22.5% were somewhat satisfied
- 2.9% were not at all satisfied

In Aurora, 77.8% of the users indicated they were satisfied with their service.

In the concluding remarks of this survey, it highlighted the demographic fact that the majority of the riders are female, between 25 and 44 years of age and have household incomes below \$50,000.

In usage, the majority travel between municipalities, pay using tickets, use YRT only on weekdays and use the YRT to go to work.

A similar survey has been sent to the registered users of the Mobility Plus service for feedback and benchmarking and will be reported on once compiled.

You can get more information on York Regional Transit by going to the Region's website at [www.region.york.on.ca](http://www.region.york.on.ca) and clicking on the transit tab.

\*\*\*\*

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

## Machell's Corners

by Scott Johnston



### Letters to the Editor

# Aurora's downtown core, a "slum", reader claims

To the editor,

I am so totally disgusted with how our downtown core looks that I don't have the energy to compose a proper letter.

To put it bluntly, Aurora's downtown core is a slum.

My husband and I live on Temperance Street, in what we consider a handsome, century home.

We have put our whole beings into this house over the last 10 years.

Our dream was to make a difference, to raise the bar, so to

speak, in the neighbourhood.

To our dismay, we see garbage (Bacon Basketware), torn pieces of cardboard (Thompson's), dilapidated homes, chipped paint jobs, unkempt yards and unruly gardens.

The list goes on.

We are totally embarrassed to live here. It does not have to be this way.

If town council had some vision, Temperance Street could be a quaint promenade, lined with cafes and shops...not a back alley.

The current state of this street does not lend itself to the aforementioned and I fear my own dream of opening a boutique will be crushed.

I have nothing to work with.

Shame on town council for letting our historic section go to pieces.

Not only does it attract others who have a very "laissez faire" attitude in life, but it welcomes crime.

Growing up in Unionville, I witnessed the town's main street go from a shambles, to a lovely, charming street.

I hold my head high when I visit olde Unionville.

I hang my head in shame when I walk through olde Aurora.

I know we are living in a "bedroom community" but enough is enough.

Nothing can survive (let alone thrive) if there is no core.

Wake up, Aurora.

As a taxpayer, I would like these businesses to be notified immediately to have their garbage picked up and maintained in that manner.

**Sue DiGiacchino  
Aurora**

# Telemarketers invade this reader's privacy

To the editor,

The majority of people, I would assume from having heard numerous complaints, are fed up with telemarketers. And until a lobby group approaches the government to ban their intrusion of our rights in our own homes, we will continue to be inundated with them.

Plain and simple, I pay for the phone in my residence and telemarketers do not have the rights to use something I'm paying for my convenience to become theirs.

They are taking advantage of the fact I need a phone.

They are exploiting my rights to own a phone.

Telemarketing companies with intent - call on their own behalf to infringe upon my freedom of rights in my home to hound me with their marketing tech-

niques. They're not invited.

This is - plain and simple - a form of harassment.

They are using a format of intimidation in the manner of their call to make the owner of the residence feel compelled, obligated to listen, befriend them and in doing so spend money on some product or service they likely would never have purchased in the first place.

They are working on the adage many people want to be accepted so by formatting their promotion (usually typed out for someone to read over and over again) they are trained to catch a good volume of prey who feel happy if they can help out the person behind the voice calling them.

Albeit we try to be mannerly and nice to get rid of them - but alas they keep prodding on.

I start, saying right off the bat, "is this telemarketing?"

Upon hearing "yes", I immediately and quickly say, "I'm sorry, I'm not interested. Goodbye", and hang up before they go on...and on...and on.

Then it's no, they are not telemarketers, they are taking a survey.

Excuse me, I don't answer to surveys over a phone - period.

I have called companies back and their response is, "when they call just tell them you are not interested".

But I don't want the phone ringing, you door-knobs! Not if I'm being interrupted just to answer a telemarketing call.

Does it ever occur to these companies that some person may be frustrated by their calls worried they may be missing a call from a loved one in dire need? They could be waiting

for an important call.

How about the elderly trying to make it to the phone thinking it is a call they want?

Do they ever think that someone may just want to unwind in the 'privacy' of their own home. That's the key word - 'privacy'. Like No Trespassing. Is there not a law that can be applied here?

And for those who claim it gives jobs to people, I'm sure if telemarketing were to be banned country wide, companies would find another means of advertising that might just give these people more meaningful employment.

When are people going to realize they have a right to expect their rights not to be exploited or infringed upon? And, no, I'm not interested...good-bye.

**Sue Laceby  
Aurora**

# Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

**BOUQUETS** to Marilyn Redvers, Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year, on being appointed by council as an Aurora Business Ambassador. She joins a group of more than a dozen residents whose job it is to boost Aurora.

**BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Minor Midget AA hockey team on winning its second Ontario Minor Hockey Association Championship in three years with a victory over the undefeated Chatham Maroons.

**BRICKBATS** to those at the Aurora Town Hall for not advising the Theatre Aurora executive that the Factory Theatre lease was on the agenda for the April 8th council meeting, so they had no opportunity to make a presentation. The last time this happened, council reserved making a decision until the theatre group was heard, but it wasn't done this time.

**BOUQUETS** to the members of the Towns of York Toastmaster Club for being good neighbours, as they assisted in the formation of the Speak for Success Toastmasters Club in Bradford.

**BOUQUETS** to Geoffrey Dawe and Jim McAlpine who co-chaired the fundraising drive for the new library and all the donors whose names are enshrined on the Donor Wall at the Library. Look for it the next time you visit the library.

**BRICKBATS** to the weatherman for causing budget problems to Aurora council and citizens. If the weather in November and December, 2003, is anything like the dreadful weather experienced in the early part of the year, the budget for cleaning roads and sidewalks will be exceeded for the second consecutive year.

**BOUQUETS** to Iris Kovar-Gough, Julie Gambell and Hayley Turtle of Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School on being among the top debaters at the Model United Nations conference held recently at the University of Western Ontario.

**BRICKBATS** to federal Finance Minister and Liberal Leader candidate John Manley for spending more than \$600,000 to redecorate his deputy prime minister's office, not including what he spent on redecorating his finance minister's office, and people are going homeless through lack of government funding

**BOUQUETS** to Samantha Sendel, a grade 6 student at Lester B. Pearson Public School, for gaining a position in the national competition after her excellent performance in the women's individual novice division in Oakville recently. Her ambition is to represent Canada at a future Olympics.

**BOUQUETS** to Rebecca Beaton for proposing and the Traffic Safety Advisory Board for acting on a review of the entrances/exits onto Murray Drive from both the Aurora Shopping Centre and the Canadian Tire/Winners plaza and convening a meeting of store operators to work out a solution. The present right-in/right-out on the south side isn't working.

**BOUQUETS** to Grade 12 Aurora High School student, Nara Kim, on the successful launch of his water and air-powered rocket at the York Region Science Fair held recently at Brother Andre Catholic High School in Markham. Brother Andre students revived the science fair after a decade-long absence.

**BRICKBATS** to those at York Region for not following through on the province's Walkerton law and being fined \$16,000, which the taxpayers will have to pay. The region pleaded guilty on four charges under the Ontario Water Resources Act.

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# Letters to the Editor

## GO Train parking inadequate, he says

To the editor,

Re: "Aurora Train Station Replicated at Village", Auroran, April 8.

It is interesting to note that a model of Aurora's historic GO Train station building will be built at the new Community Safety Village.

Apparently, the government funded Ontario GO

Transit will contribute \$50,000 to the project.

Volunteers have worked hard to develop this project for years to get this project going and they deserve our congratulations.

However, is something else missing from this announcement?

Have you seen a parking lot at a GO Train station in

the York Region lately? There is a lack of adequate legal parking and cars are parked all over the place.

Cars are spilling out of the miniature sized lots and are forced to park on nearby lawns and up and down the neighbourhoods' side streets. These historic sites now look like junkyards by the poor planning for parking.

The Tory government has yet to realize that the public really wants to take the GO Train to work.

Still today, there is no sign of any constructive planning to accommodate the transportation needs of the York Region's commuters.

GO Train service remains to be very limited to the large number of York Region commuters who work in Toronto.

Why isn't tax money spent

here, in Aurora, rather than the MOT miniature building project.

It now makes sense to get people to take an alternative transportation, such as the GO Train to Toronto.

GO Train service could help solve the gridlock problems, which face York Region, and it would help reduce the Co2 emissions from the cars travelling and burning fossil fuels.

The Conservative government, however, misses the point and overlooks any sensible strategy to solve the gridlock problems in the GTA region.

In fact, this government has no vision for a transportation policy to help the commuters and the people who live in York Region.

**Jim Jackson  
Aurora**

## Users should pay for rink facilities

To the editor,

I hear Aurora needs more ice rinks (Auroran, April 22).

There is one thing that irritates me is taxpayers' dollars going for recreation purposes.

Any recreation programme should be a break even, user pay, situation.

Have private companies build the rinks and run them as a business.

Back in the 40s and 50s, rinks were a private enterprise with no tax collection involved.

What percentage of Aurora taxpayers use the recreation facilities?

I have lived in Aurora for 27 years and have not used any recreation facilities.

And they say development does not cost money.

**R.W. Hanes  
Aurora**



**Aurora Councillor Nigel Kean has the post position on the Heart and Stroke Association's Big Bike for Reebok Saturday morning. Nearly a dozen Aurora groups participated in the day-long fund raiser that sees about 30 people pedal the contraption through the streets of Aurora for each group. Final tallies aren't in, but officials expect thousands of dollars were raised by the Aurora organizations.**

Auroran photo by Naomi Tobin

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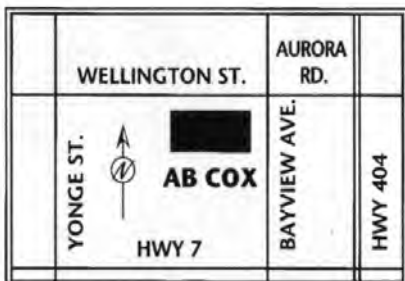
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Members of the Aurora Minor Atom Select Tigers are jubilant following a final series win 3-0 over the Whitby Wildcats recently. The squad overcame tremendous odds to defeat the Wildcats, who were heavily favoured to capture the series. The event took place in Whitby.

# Senior games begin May 26

From May 26 to June 13, seniors have the opportunity to participate in the York Region Ontario Senior Games at various leisure service facilities around the region.

The games are open to seniors 55 plus.

There are currently 40 districts in the province participating in the Senior Games of which York Region is District #14.

Meeting during the year, a volunteer executive plans the events and makes arrangements for the use of various facilities.

In 1982 the Older Adult Centres Association of Ontario developed the concept of the Ontario Senior Games. With financial assistance from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, the Games continue to flourish.

In 1984, the OCAO established the Ontario Senior Games Committee, which coordinated district and provincial competitions until 1997 when the Ontario Senior Games Association became an incorporated body.

The OSGA program is designed to attract amateur athletes in an effort to promote a healthy, active lifestyle as well as competition for adults

55 plus.

Each senior pays a registration fee, normally \$5 an event. Some games such as golf and bowling are more expensive.

Registration deadline is May 9 and forms are at the Aurora Seniors Centre (905-727-2816).

Events include Carpet Bowling, Contract Bridge, Cribbage, 5-Pin Bowling, Floor Shuffleboard, Duplicate Bridge, Darts,

Bocci, Men's Snooker, Ladies Snooker, Table Tennis, 9-Ball Pool, 10-Pin Bowling and Swimming.

Other events include Golf, Tennis, Bid Euchre 4-Hand, Lawn Bowling, Outdoor Tennis, Horseshoes and Prediction Walk, as well as Opening and Closing Ceremonies. Medals are presented at the closing banquet.



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# Minor Bantam AA Tigers end hockey season with tournament victory in US

The Aurora Minor Bantam "AA" Tigers finished off the hockey season travelling to Livonia, Michigan, for the Sportsweekend International tournament recently.

After a long journey during an ice storm, the Tigers used the first period of game one to get their legs back, before winning over Farm Hills 3-1.

In game two, against Dearborn, the first period was back and forth and remained scoreless.

Mike Pantalone got the Tigers on the board from Kevin Shetler and Tyler Virgoe and the Cats never looked back.

Pantalone, Shetler and Jake MacDougall each added singles as Aurora skated to a 4-1 victory.

The final round robin match pitted Aurora against Canton.

The Tigers came out flying and early goals by Kevin Shetler and Connor O'Grady gave the only Canadian team a 2-0 lead.

The Cats continued to dom-

inate with Mike Pantalone adding an insurance marker in the middle frame that would hold up and give Aurora a 3-0 win.

Aurora ran into some penalty trouble in the third period and goaltender Darren Gwilliam made some keys saves as Aurora killed off two five-on-three penalties, to preserve the shutout.

The championship final was a rematch with Farm Hills. The opposition came out strong and had the lone goal until late in the game.

Netminder Jonathan Newby made some keys saves to keep the Cats alive until Michael Osuszek battled through and drove the net to force overtime with only four minutes remaining.

Osuszek was the overtime hero as he beat the goalie with a wrist shot to give Aurora a 2-1 championship victory.

Making up the team were Darren Gwilliam, Harrison Jones, Adam Lebar, Tyler

Virgoe, Chris Blom, Kevin Shetler, Mike Pantalone, Michael Englehutt, Ryan Fennell, Aaron Mansbridge, Anthony D'Agostino, Matt Boyd, Tyler Pettes, Connor O'Grady, Jake MacDougall, Michael Osuszek, Neil Kileeg and Jonathan Newby.

# Resolution endorsed

Aurora Council endorsed a resolution from the Town of Newmarket last week asking the province to provide 100 per cent funding for the implementation of York Region's plans to fight the West Nile virus.

In addition, the resolution asks the \$9 million of funding announced last fall be bolstered to implement regional plans and the province provide a single standard, rather than a patchwork of different plans providing different levels of protection.

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# Only three so far in the running

The next municipal election will be held November 10 and the final day for nominations is September 26.

While the nomination period stated January 2, only three candidates had registered with the municipal clerk at the end of last week.

They were Mayor Tim Jones, who is seeking another term as mayor, and two incumbent councillors, George Timpson and Nigel Kean.

One wonders where all the other candidates are.

Until registration takes place, it is illegal to receive campaign donations or spend money on the election.

To be eligible for office, a candidate must be a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years old, not disqualified from holding public office and be a resident of the municipality or a non-resident owner or tenant.

Council candidates are required to pay a nomination fee of \$100, but the fee is \$200 if you want a crack at the mayor's job.

A candidate is entitled to a refund if he gets at least two per cent of the votes.

The Municipal Elections Act contains a number of requirements regarding the acceptance of campaign contributions and record keeping, and candidates should become familiar with the provisions of the Act.

All contributions, which have been accepted, must be reported in the financial disclosure filed with the

municipal clerk by the candidate. This includes the total amount of funds raised for a candidate at any fundraising event.

The limit on contributions in money, goods or services from any individual, corporation or trade union is \$750 to any one candidate.

## Frills sent tenders through the roof

Aurora Public Works department head Wayne Jackson admitted he tried to get a few frills when explaining why three tenders came in hundreds of thousands of dollars higher than budget.

The original call was made for annual maintenance and monitoring of stormwater management facilities, covered a three-year period, and had an option for two one-year extensions.

During a consultant's study it was estimated the cost would be about \$278,000, but when the tenders were opened, prices ranged from a low of \$588,335 to a high of \$1,029,940.

Council agreed with a recommendation that the tender not be awarded and that staff reconsider the project with a view to creating a program that will meet the town's goals at a cost closer to the budget.



**Aurora's Pat Stade of the York Regional Police receives award from Police Services Board chairman Dave Barrow at annual Police Chief dinner Thursday night. She won the honour for "outstanding service to the community", based on her efforts as a Girl Guide Commissioner.**

## Police chorus seeking eight additional voices

If you're a bathroom singer but would like to sing in public, here's your chance.

The York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for eight male singers over the age of 16 to add to the 42 current singers in the chorus.

Although it is an asset, it is not necessary to be proficient in reading music. So if you think you would look good in a uniform and you want to volunteer by providing enjoyment to seniors and/or helping fundraising for non-profit groups, join the chorus.

The Male Chorus was

founded in 1991 and includes a group of volunteers who wanted to strengthen the link between the citizens and their police service.

One of the mandates of the chorus is to assist non-profit organizations in their fundraising endeavours.

To date, more than \$100,000 has been raised for churches of all denominations and non-profit organizations throughout York Region and Ontario.

A further \$30,000 was raised for similar organizations during two trips to Northern Ireland and one to the city of Dublin,

Ireland.

This dedicated group, which includes civilians, retired and active police officers continues to make its mark representing the force through music.

The chorus has produced two CDs entitled "In Harmony with the Community" Volumes I and II, which are available at their concerts.

Musical director is David Curran, associate musical director is Maria Lim and accompanists are Jeanne Whetstone and Lois Brown.

Volunteer Supervisor is Aurora's Lowell McClenney, a founding member of the chorus.

For further information call 905-727-9676.

## Lengthy hearing by OMB averted

A week long Ontario Municipal Board hearing scheduled recently at the Town Hall was averted as town staff and officials for Preserve Homes reached agreement on all outstanding issues.

The lands in question are located at the northeast corner of Bayview Avenue and Wellington Street East and consist of 104 acres currently used for agricultural purposes.

The application for 597 residential units was heard at a public planning meeting in March last year, although the applicant had already filed an appeal to the OMB based on the failure of the town to render a decision within 90 days of the filing of the application.

Over the next few months the applicant submitted revised plans taking into consideration the issues and concerns raised by the public and council members.

The final revised plan and zoning amendment was submitted in January and following further discussion with staff, final issues were resolved resulting in a half-day hearing to advise the OMB the appeal had been withdrawn.

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The entire cast of Peter Pan relaxes at Factory Theatre in Aurora, where they entertained sold-out audiences and had to add an extra performance. Admission was a food donation, some of which can be seen in the background. Auroran photo by Dick Illingworth

# Peter Pan wows sold-out audience

The story of Peter Pan, the boy who never wants to grow up, is familiar to almost everyone.

Theatre Aurora's Intermediate Youth Group captured the magic of Peter Pan and the Never-Never Land at the Factory Theatre recently with admission a contribution to the Aurora Food Bank.

Under the direction of Marianne Langford, the young people, aged 10 to 12, performed like professionals before a full house of proud parents, grandparents and friends at a Saturday and Sunday matinee.

With a sold out house for the Saturday matinee an extra performance was staged Saturday evening.

Langford made her directorial debut with the Youth Group, but she has been involved with community and school theatre over the years as a performer, technician and director.

As a Grade 5 teacher, she co-directed 120 students at Lake Wilcox Public School in the Wizard of Oz and has directed two productions a year at Meadowbrook Public School, in Newmarket, where she now teaches.

She met with members of the youth group last January and read over three plays before Peter Pan was selected.

Auditions were held and rehearsals started. All members of the group were included in the cast as the lost boys or as Captain Hook's pirates.

Wendy Darling, the eldest sister, was played by Jenna McDermott, her brothers John and Michael, by Zachery Reynolds and James White.

Helen Doucher played the mother and Curtis Reid, the father, with Annemarie Petejan as Liza, the maid, and Diane Black as Nana, the pet dog.

Jessica Lastuk was Peter Pan and Chelsea Kuhlmann was Tinkerbell.

The Lost Boys included Hayley Sarjeant, David Ing, Christie McLaren, Allyson Oman, Annemarie Petejan and Derrick White.

The evil Captain Hook was played by Melissa McLaren and pirates included Allab Roberto, Andrew Spatafora, Trevor Cooke, Mason Cooke, Diane Black, Curtis Ricci, Helen Doucher and Derrick White.

Diane Black also played Tiger Lily, an aboriginal girl.

Some of the actors were stage veterans having performed with other youth group productions, while others were making their acting debut, but all played their parts well.

Theatre goes in Aurora and Theatre Aurora have no need to fear about a shortage of talented performers for future productions as long as there is a Theatre Aurora Youth Group.

# Aurora Opera players shine in Secret Garden

The musical "The Secret Garden" is not one of the better known Broadway musicals, but it has a beautiful story line, and wonderful music by Marsha Norman and Lucy Simon.

With a strong, talented cast, the Aurora Opera Company presented "The Secret Garden" at the Newmarket Theatre last week.

It was directed by Sarah Kyle, who also played Lily Craven, with musical direction by David Kyle

The Secret Garden is a spiritual play as the angels bring love, comfort, encouragement and support to those left behind.

Mary Lennox, who carried much of the play like a professional, is eight-year-old Calleigh Kyle.

She sings the haunting "I Heard Someone Crying"

and joins Martha, Dickson and Ben in "It's a Maze", and in the garden with the help of the angels sings to Colin "Come Spirit, Come Charm."

Joe Likuski had the challenging role of Archibald Craven and Sarah Kyle was his wife Lily, who dies during childbirth. Both are strong performers with excellent voices.

Eleven-year-old Jeremy Loughton had the difficult role of Colin, and performs it most capably.

Linton Meyer as Dr. Neville Craven played the envious brother, who had been in love with Lily and who wants to take over the estate.

Jackie Kursikowski was Mrs. Medlock, the gruff but kindly housekeeper, and Susan Cresswell was the haughty Mrs. Winthrop, headmistress of the Aberdeen School for Girls.

Adding a lighter touch to the play were the delightful Kara Dymond as Martha, the maid, her brother Dickson, well played by the energetic Manuele Mizzi and kindly Dave Greig as Ben, the gardener.

The Angels, deceased friends and family included Debbie Watt as Mary's Indian nanny, Adam Meyer as her son, Judith Thompson Bouchard as Rose Lennox and Brad Fuller as Captain Lennox, Mary's mother and father, Lisa Cruickshank as Betsy Shelley, Jonathan Kramer as Major Shelly, Sandra Loughton as a cousin Estelle Shelley, Susan Cresswell as Louise

Holmes, Murray James Bosch as Major Holmes, Laurelle Knox as Molly Wright and Michael Barker as Lt. Wright.

The vocal harmony and the choreography of the Angels was excellent and one of the many highlights of the performance. Another highlight was Mary's rage when the headmistress comes to take her to school.

The deceased children from the English school in Bombay who added to the choral singing included Clara Bouchard, Rhiannon Kyle, Laura Allan, Kayla Keast, Nicole Doucette, Rachel Morihovitis, Sophie Arkell, Allison Collier, Ellen McDonald Kramer, Jenny Thunem, Sydney Cobbold, Brittany Nealon, Alyssa Fuller and Melissa Prickaerts.

## Final play of season in rehearsal

Rehearsals are now underway for Theatre Aurora's last production of the 2002-2003 season, "Waiting for the Parade" by John Murrell.

Set in Calgary during World War II, this play points out that the wounded are not always at the front.

Five women gather to work for the war effort while the men they love are away.

In a series of snapshot vignettes, Murrell focuses on the women who share a common purpose: to serve the war.

It is the character choices of how to survive that Murrell seems most interested, asking that the audience view them with a sense of compassion and understanding and without moral judgment.

Cast members are Kay Valentine, Diane Haskett, Flo McLellan, Sarah Southwell and Katie McClure.

The show runs May 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17. Curtain is at 8:15 p.m. at Factory Theatre, 150 Henderson Drive, Aurora.

To purchase tickets call the Theatre Aurora Box Office at 905-727-3669.

# Odd Couple is a hit at Howard Johnson

It was the regular Friday evening poker session at Oscar's slovenly apartment. Oscar is a slob and the apartment looks like it, with garbage bags sitting in the centre of the room, pictures hanging askew on the walls and papers all over the place.

It's the start of the Neil Simon comedy "The Odd Couple" now playing at the Queen Elizabeth Dinner Theatre at Howard Johnson Hotel and continuing Friday and Saturday nights until May 10.

The poker players at the table include Michael Kazarian as Speed; Gareth Rees as Roy; John Waites as Vinnie; and Tiffany Crain as Murray.

One player is missing, as Felix has failed to show up and the group learns from Felix's wife that after 12 years of marriage, they have separated and Felix is

out walking the streets.

Eventually Felix moves in with Oscar and the fun begins.

Felix immediately starts to clean up the apartment. Even the poker game is changed as Felix insists they use the coasters. But he goes too far when he washes and sterilizes the playing cards.

In an attempt to get Felix out of his depression, Oscar suggests a blind date with the Pidgeon sisters who live in the apartment building. Felix finally agrees and instead of going out to a restaurant says he will cook a special meal for them.

Oscar arrives home late, which upsets Felix claiming that the roast will be spoiled. The giggling sisters arrive with Veronica Cecil as Gwendeline and Jackie Watts as Cecily.

Felix doesn't know how to

carry on small talk and while Oscar is out making drinks, Felix blurts out the story of his separation and breaks into tears, causing both girls to do the same.

By this time the dinner is ruined and the girls invite them up to their apartment to eat, but Felix refuses to go, which upsets Oscar.

During the next poker game, Gwendeline, one of the "Coo-Coo" sisters visits the apartment to pick up Felix's belongings, as they have invited him to move in with them.

Billie Mintz has the challenging role of Felix Unger and James Shannon Nelligan is Oscar. They are perfect foils for each other and play the parts to the maximum, as they did in the previous production at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre of "Below the Belt".

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RUMOURS AND RUMBLINGS

Rule for one but not for the other

In February, 1982, Aurora council agreed to a new policy of not releasing in advance any information concerning the attendance of council members at any convention.

Such information, council reasoned, would give would-be intruders ideas about vacant houses during the absence of the town fathers.

It was obviously assumed that members of council would be taking all members of their family to the convention leaving the home vacant and an open invitation to the would-be intruders.

But councillors failed to provide the same protection to staff members who were authorized to attend conventions in various locations with the dates of their absence made known.

Councillors may have had another reason for keeping their conventions secret, such as not wanting the taxpayers to know the frequency of their trips.

ONE FOR RIPLEY'S

It may be hard to believe but in April 1980, Aurora's High School students were making the transition from french fries with gravy to healthful, low-calorie salads for lunch.

It was a result of the board's two-year nutrition program and a change of emphasis in the foods served in high schools.

A comparative study of student food purchasing habits during 1978 and 1979 in York Region schools revealed french fry consumption was down 64 per cent, while special sandwiches and salads were up 65 and 36 per cent respectively.

The sale of hamburgers, historically the favoured teen food, was down 20 per cent.

Trustees of the York Region Board of

Education voted to spend \$2,800 in the 1980 school year to continue to promote nutritional meals. Interesting!

ONE WAY CENTRE STREET

With traffic generated by the Wellington Towers apartments, the post office and the potential traffic to be created by the recently approved residential complex on Wellington Street backing on to Centre Street, road conditions on the narrow street could become a nightmare.

It was bad enough back in June 1993 when some residents petitioned council to convert Centre Street from a two-way street to a one-way street to improve traffic safety.

There was almost immediate opposition from other Centre Street residents and residents of adjacent streets who were concerned that such action would merely move the problem from one street to another.

As a result no action was taken, but council may want to revisit the area and possibly restrict parking on both sides of Centre Street.

WHEN AURORA HAD PANACHE

Back in 1985, Nancy Williams and Nancy Chappelle created Panache Productions to combine a fashion show and show business into glitzy productions that could come from Broadway.

There was singing and dancing in a unique way to showcase clothes and it all took place at the Aurora Highlands Golf Club.

The performers were some of Chappelle's former colleagues from the Canada Wonderland shows, something she did for three years.

Clothes featured in the show came from Country Lady, Kent Clothes, Colours and the Highland Golf Pro Shop.

Panache Production was a part-time venture, which they hoped would become full-time as

they moved away from fashion shows to full scale Broadway-style productions.

PROVINCE DOWNLOADING

The Mike Harris Tory government made a name for itself by downloading provincial programs and services to the local level of government without the financial resources to pay for them, allowing the provincial government to cut taxes and local government to increase them.

But downloading started long before Mike Harris.

In March, 1985, it was called "passing the buck" when it came to funding sewer projects to local municipalities within a regional government.

A municipality outside a regional government received a 85 per cent provincial grant for the capital costs of eligible sewer projects, but municipalities within a regional government only received a 60 per cent provincial grant, with the region picking up the missing 25 per cent.

Maybe that's where Harris got his downloading ideas.

WHERE'S THE WINDMILL?

In October, 2001, the planning conflict between the Abbotsford Animal Hospital and the town's planning department over an application for a new animal hospital on the former Shell property at Yonge and Ransom Streets was over.

Included with the new building, a windmill was planned to help supply energy and help reduce greenhouse gases.

Some concern was expressed about the noise of the windmill, but with assurances the design selected was quiet, council approved the project.

Construction of the well designed animal hospital is nearing completion, but where's the windmill?

Dog steals the show as Kostick hits town

A little Chihuahua dog named Napoleon almost stole the show from his owner Ken Kostick at a recent Aurora Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting held at the King's Riding Golf Club on Bathurst Street.

And the dog almost did it again Saturday as the pair were featured at the Chamber's annual Home and Lifestyle Show at the Aurora Community Centre.

Kostick is host of the Ken Kostick and Company of Food Network and "What's For Dinner" on Life Network and Global TV. He's also a best selling author and a columnist.

His line of soup pots, soup stocks and spices are also big hits with consumers and are available nationwide. He uses organic food products and prepares recipes that anyone can use.

He says he doesn't like

carrots and often forgets to include them in the recipes.

Napoleon is a constant companion and appears on his TV shows and personal appearances. Kostick also has two other dogs, Pearl and Benny, which he talks about, but Napoleon travels with him.

He told Chamber members how he got started in the food and TV business.

His mother cooked during the week and on the weekends, he and his father took over.

They did the shopping and cooked the meals and this started his interest in food products and cooking. He liked to cook and later met a TV producer at one of his cooking parties.

This led to a TV show on cooking, along with Mary Jo, a female colleague, who bantered back and forth on an unscripted show. His

mother, Helen, often appears on his shows with her caustic and sarcastic comments.

Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure attended the luncheon to present a limited edition print of her Yonge Street Bicentennial painting for the Chamber's new office.

She said the Chamber was linked with the history of the world's longest street and now the longest street festival and she made the presentation in honour of the Chamber's new home on the historic street.

The next Chamber luncheon meeting will be held May 21 at the Tuscany Banquet Centre on Edward Street.

It's the Chambers' annual election and inauguration of officers and directors. Guest speaker is Mayor Tim Jones who will give his traditional "State of the Town" address.

Paperwork problem costs York Region \$\$

From page 1 specific to the facility, which the owner must fulfill. Typically, the terms and conditions include capacity restraints, sampling requirements, monitoring, reporting and upgrade requirements.

As part of its "Operation Clean Water" initiative, the ministry has issued Certificate of Approvals for all water supplies in the province, including 12 from York Region.

Each requires an annual Compliance Report, including the Aurora Water Supply System. It was received at last week's regional council meeting.

The Compliance Report for the Aurora system states that the raw water

from the production wells and the treated water delivered into the Aurora distribution system consistently met the stringent requirements of the Ontario Drinking Water standards.

The report adds that the Aurora water supply continues to provide an adequate,

sustainable source of high quality drinking water to the residents.

The Aurora system consists of six production wells, two elevated tanks on Ridge Road and one in the northwest quadrant of the municipality, two reservoirs and three pumping stations.

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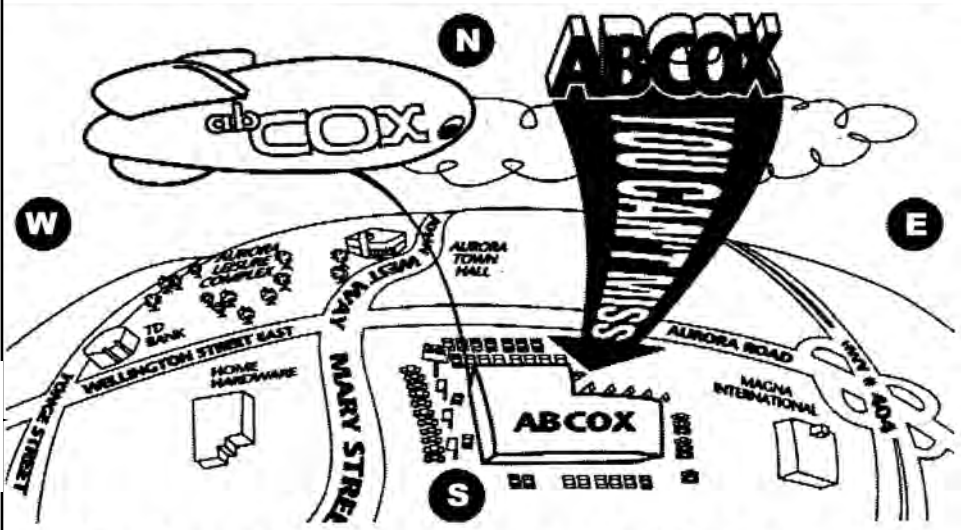
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# Fire fighters calendar big success

If you haven't seen the 2003 Fire Fighters of York Region calendar you haven't seen the 12 photographic studies of fire fighters carrying out various tasks associated with their work.

Only thing missing is the beefcake, but it was planned that way.

Paul Horton and Shawn Mitchell representing the Fire Fighters Calendar Committee appeared before Aurora council last week to make a presentation in appreciation of the town's support.

They pointed out the purpose of the calendar was to accent the positive work of

the consolidated fire department and steer away from "beefcake" photographs.

Through the support of councils and citizens across the region calendar sales near the \$200,000 mark, \$120,000 which was donated to the three regional hospitals for breast cancer research.

A competition was held to select the fire fighters for the calendar pages and with 26 applying, the judges had a tough time selecting five.

In accepting a plaque for the town, Mayor Tim Jones said the calendar was a quality product because of the quality people who made it possible.

## Dog goes missing

Five-year-old Kyle Blanchard is heart broken since his 18-week old American Staffordshire Terrier puppy went missing from the family vehicle in front of Aurora's McDonald's Saturday evening at 9:30.

Kyle left the window open a crack and went shopping with his dad. When they returned Odie was gone.

"Please help me find my puppy," Kyle said.

The dog has a red nose, is fawn coloured with a white diamond shaped spot on his neck and has a white underbelly.

If you have any information call Geordie at 905-841-8013 or 416-653-4584.



Chairman of the Joint Council Committee of the Centre York Fire Service, Victor Woodhouse, left, of Newmarket, and member George Timpson of Aurora, right, receive fire fighter calendars from Shawn Mitchell, centre left, and Paul Horton, during recent meeting. Calendar fund raiser netted \$120,000 which will go to York's three hospitals to help fight breast cancer. Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

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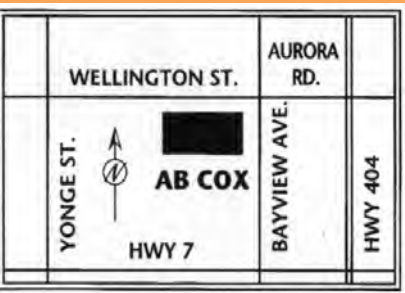
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