



**Paige Sillcox, left, and partner, Lori Paslawsky, inspect yet another batch of delicious cookies headed to the Cookie It Up oven.**  
**Auroran photo by Ron Wallace**

## Cookie It Up

# Twenty years later, her summer job still in the dough

By CHRISTINE WOODLEY

It was the summer of 1983, and 21-year-old Paige Sillcox needed a job.

She considered mowing lawns, but couldn't afford the capital expenditure - the mower.

She could, however, afford a bag of flour and a pound of butter, and thus was born Cookie It Up.

Paige took orders from employees of Aurora's then-Yonge Street business, making treats for the cashiers at IGA, the tellers at Sterling Trust and agents at Aurora Vacations.

The product must have been awfully good, because word-of-mouth grew the business quickly and steadily.

Twenty years later, Cookie It Up employs 10, and supplies cookies to gourmet shops, coffeehouses and basket companies across Canada and into the United States.

In fact, the cookies are sold at Holt Renfrew, Laura Secord, and in Manhattan's Lincoln Centre, at the world-famous Dean and DeLuca outlet there.

Local distributors include Gift Baskets and More, Hurst Bakery and Mary's Flower Shop.

And, of course, at the Cookie It Up outlet at 225 Industrial Parkway South, in Aurora, where it has been for some two decades.

But if the road to cookie fame and fortune sounds smooth and golden, think again. Paige Sillcox remembers the struggles of the early years.

"I bought our oven (which can bake 36 trays of cookies simultane-

**Please see page 13**

By RON WALLACE

Breathing room.

A total of 34 charities who depend on the Aurora Bingo Centre for revenue are breathing a little easier today after learning the centre would stay open until September 30, and not close at the end of

June as was originally announced.

Members of the Aurora Bingo Sponsors Association met Sunday with president of the Aurora Bingo Centre Inc., Henry Klein and came to agreement on the extended deadline.

The Association also agreed it

did not want to get involved in the ownership of the business "These groups are in the business of raising money and don't want to be part of the business operation,"

**Please see page 11**

## Briefly

### Garden's open

The famous Merlin's Hollow English flower garden opens to the public this Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Created by Dierdre and David Tomlinson, the impressive garden is located at 181 Centre Crescent, near Centre Street and Industrial Parkway North in Aurora's east end.

Saturday will be the only open house in May. Another will be held June 14, with two others scheduled for July.

The one acre garden was started in 1981 and features more than 2,000 different plants.

### Auroran winners

Three winners were selected in the Auroran's Home Show draw made last week.

M & M Meats won a quarter page ad; Jaguar Gymnasium won an eighth-page ad; and Richard Arnold of Aurora won a classified.



**The attendance wasn't that great, but these two took full advantage of the "Crazy Hats" program at the Aurora Library Saturday. Dominic Faoro and Lynn Lamont model the results of their efforts. Auroran photo by Naomi Tobin**

They're purple and gold and they stand out like a broken thumb.

They're also valuable.

Lapel buttons, advertising the World's Longest Street Festival - this year slated for Sunday, June 1 - will be sold at a buck each and allow the purchaser access to several featured attractions.

"This will not only help finance the festival," said Chairman Regina Brown, "but it is a nice souvenir of this fun event and could easily become a collector's item."

Buttons are currently on sale at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Balloonacy, Flowers By Terry and the Auroran newspaper offices, and advance purchase also gives the buyer a chance to

win one of several prizes.

The buttons went on sale last weekend at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Home & Lifestyle Show, and they will be sold the day of the festival by yellow-shirted Festival Block Captains.

Meanwhile, the festival committee - which is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Aurora - met for the last time Thursday, to finalize plans for the eighth annual event.

Nearly 500 booths have already been reserved in the huge show, expected to draw upwards of 25,000 people.

The committee this year added an hour to the festival's operating time, with the show opening at 11

**Please see page 7**

# Trio tradition ends

A Yonge Street landmark is closing, but should re-open later this year with new owners and a new name.

Bill, Ted and Tely Spasopoulos, the three brothers who came to Aurora in 1970 and opened the famed Trio Restaurant, told the Auroran Friday the establishment would close June 1.

"We are going to be open for Mother's Day, May 11," Tely said. "It will be our last Mother's Day."

The brothers have been negotiating with another Greek trio, two brothers and a sister, from Toronto, who will shut the restaurant, renovate the building, then re-open it in about two months, under the name believed to be Wellington's.

Included in the plans is a front

façade facelift including the addition of an outdoor Yonge Street patio.

The three brothers will maintain office space on the property to handle the real estate end of the business. They own the commercial block from Mosley Street to the north end of the new Aurora Library, on the east side of Yonge.

The brothers made their way to Aurora from Richmond Hill where they operated a restaurant called the Three Coins.

The Trio was destined to be a success that same year when it ran out of food during a Mother's Day event.

"It's fitting that we close on such an occasion," the brothers agreed. "And we won't run out of food this time."



*Happy Mother's Day from*

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# Coming Events in Aurora

## MAY 10

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society Plant Sale, Aurora Seniors Centre, 52 Victoria Street, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Spring Fling at Devins Drive Public School, Aurora. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Games, pony rides, inflatables, craft make and take, music & food! For more info call 905-727-2022

## 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 if interested.

## 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 Fair Event, Holy Spirit Catholic School, 315 Stone Rd, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Special guest Wendel Clark. Highlights: Toronto Maple Leaf Developmental Zone, Merlin's Party Bouncers, catered by M & M Meats, silent auction, raffles, children's games.

\*\*\*\*\*

Aurora Seniors Art Group annual Art Exhibition and Sale from noon to 4:30 p.m. Exhibition is culmination of a year's study with Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure. In addition to viewing the art, enjoy the harp music from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. with Gwyneth Reid.

## JUNE 1

Nearly 500 booths have been reserved for the Eighth Annual Aurora Street Festival. If you plan to rent booth space, you should know the festival is almost 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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**\$439,000**

### 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!



**\$479,000**

### 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 Gorgeous!



**\$599,900**

### 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!

## BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR IN AURORA - 2002

As selected by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce

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aurora.com





Students at St. Andrew's College in Aurora got a first hand look at what firefighters and police officers deal with on a routine basis last week. A mock traffic accident was staged on the Yonge Street property followed by a frank discussion in the auditorium later. After the event, SAC's student council presented a \$500 cheque to the Community Safety Village. Participating were Central York Fire Services Fire Prevention Officer John Adema, left, OAC student Drewe MacIver, and Rodney Sine from the York Regional Police. Photos by Tatiana Mitchell



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*Mother's Day at The Trio*

**After 33 years, the TRIO is closing.**

*So, we're opening*  
*Sunday May 11th*  
*4 - 10 pm*

*Just for Mom!*

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SAT 9.30 - 6 SUN 10-5

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Winner announced Friday, May 9  
Deadline, Thursday, May 8 - 9 p.m.  
Fill out the ballot below and drop it off at  
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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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AURORA SALON SECRETS - 727-1044

BARRONS - 841-5454

BEER STORE - 727-4741

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CLOTHING OUTLET - 841-7652

CREATIVE COLOURS FASHIONS - 727-0552

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KAREN & TINA'S FLOWERS - 727-9865

KESSLER'S SWISS PASTRIES - 727-8492

KITCHEN ACCENTS - 841-0885

KNIT OR KNOT - 713-1818

KODAK IMAGE CENTRE - 726-4243

LEGACY JEWELERS - 841-3065

NOT JUST CARDS (HALLMARK) - 727-1547

OAKRIDGE OUTFITTERS - 726-4063

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**Poor  
Richard**

## Reading of bylaws hardly traditional

*Traditions are old but effective,  
It's a shame to see them fall.  
In a rush to get things done,  
The past is beyond recall.*

-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

For a few years Aurora was unique in the modern age of municipal government.

It was one of the few municipalities that maintained the tradition of giving bylaws three separate readings, rather than bundling them together and adopting them all with one vote, as was the practice in other municipalities.

Over the years, it was tradition for Aurora council to treat bylaws as a legislative function.

They were introduced for first and second reading at one council meeting, but third reading was held over until the next council meeting, two weeks later.

In an emergency there was a clause in the procedural bylaw that permitted three readings at the same meeting, if council agreed to waive the bylaw provisions.

First reading was primarily introductory and normally adopted without debate.

Second reading was the debate stage at which time councillors had the opportunity to consider other methods of reaching the proposed objective, and amend as may be required.

The two-week interval before third and final reading of the bill provided councillors and members of the public sufficient time to give sober, second thought to the contents of the law away from the initial pressure for change.

Decisions of council are expressed in the form of bylaws or resolutions.

Resolutions generally express less permanent rules of municipal government and are difficult to defend in court.

In so many cases in the past, the time interval provided new information that when added to the bylaw made it much more effective.

One example was the snowmobile bylaw introduced in Aurora Council in the early 1970s.

Council members had received so many complaints from citizens about the noisy machines, they rushed to adopt a bylaw to ban the machines from the municipality.

During the interval, members of the Aurora Snowmobile Club met with council members and suggested ways and means of achieving council's objectives, without an outright ban.

The bylaw was amended during third reading and worked successfully for all.

Another good example was the bylaw to regulate horse-riding establishments and provide for safety measures while riding at those establishments.

The bylaw was given two readings in June, 1999, and circulated for comments and became a model bylaw.

In Ontario, unlike several other provinces, there is no statutory requirement that bylaws must be given three separate readings, although certain statutes, such as the Drainage Act, stipulate the bylaw must receive three separate readings.

The Ontario Municipal Act grants municipal councils the authority to adopt bylaws, including a procedural bylaw, which should establish the bylaw enactment process to be followed by council members.

In the old days before copying machines, it was necessary for the municipal clerk to read the bylaw, as that was the only copy.

Now, as councillors have their own copy of the bylaw, it was decided that the triple reading served no useful purpose.

That may be true for routine non-controversial bylaws, but intricate or controversial ones requiring time for review should be treated in the traditional way, without the reading by the clerk.

Granted Aurora councillors have the right to "lift" an individual bylaw for separate discussion, but in general after a brief debate at council the bylaw is adopted at the same meeting, without the opportunity for public comment.

The enactment of a bylaw by a municipal council is as much a part of the legislative process as an enactment of a statute by the provincial legislature.

If councils wish to be recognized as legislative bodies, and not be seen to be merely performing administrative functions, then the bylaw enactment process should be accorded respect.



This elementary class from May 12, 1941, poses in front of the venerable Church Street School, and we have a pretty good idea who most of the students are. Top row, left to right, Tom Yore, Cliff Bell, Stew Delahaye, Gord Lee, Bill Fortier, Bob Walker, Don Stephenson, Norm Rank, Phil Davidson, Charlie Reid, ?, Dennis Davies, Walt Bunn. Third row, left to right, Clare Thomas, June Coleman, Betty McKenzie, Beverly Fleury, Barbara McGirr, Doris Michael, ?, ?, Ruth Knowles, Gladys Wythe, Helen Fleury, Lillian Holman, and Donald Webster the teacher. Second row, left to right, Marion Cook, Edna Simpson, Doris Dunham, Carol Underhill, Clare Bryan, Barbara Cook, Mary Thomas, Lillian Rose, June Caulfield, Mary Komar, Helen Egan, Joan Hill. Front row, left to right, Baldy Ellis, Phil Harrison, ?, Gordon Gunton, Donny Watson, Rob Crabtree, Tommy Brody, Dave Urquhart, Harold Foot, Dave Johnson, and Hugh Cousins.

### Letters to the Editor

## Home Depot's policy prohibiting community groups clear, he says

**To the editor,**

It was with much interest I read Councillor Nigel Kean's defensive response to my letter disavowing the wonderful attributes that he sees in the future Home Depot coming to Aurora.

How thoughtful AND considerate of them to provide the many donations to the town as outlined in that response.

However, I wonder just how generous they will be once the building is up, it's busi-

ness as usual and they have no further use or need for Councillor Kean's unconditional support and the town's misplaced gratification.

Will they still be as generous with material things as well as the more intangible gifts?

I think not!

However, there may be an opportunity for a good Community Services Coordinator who can assist in facilitating all the potential requests in the future.

Councillor Kean suggested

that I should contact Home Depot's head office to find out their policy regarding community groups such as Boy Scouts and Girl Guides presenting their respective items on Home Depot property.

Well, I am delighted to report to the councillor that I did, indeed, make that contact and was advised by a lovely lady named Cindy that Home Depot has a firm "No Solicitation" policy..."in any way, shape or form" and that it applies to all such

groups.

I understand that this may come as a surprise to the good councillor and begs me to ask once again "does this really constitute being a good corporate citizen?"

If it is, then God help us!

I'll still do my shopping at Home Hardware, etc.

**Ross Sturge  
Aurora**

**AURORAN**

"Aurora's community newspaper"

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Rosemary Schumaker

**Editorial**

Ron Wallace

Dick Illingworth

**Photography**

Naomi Tobin

**Display Advertising**

Bob Ince

Kathy Bitove

**Production**

Cynthia Proctor

**All Departments**

905-727-3300

**Facsimile Machine**

905-727-2620

**E-Mail**

Advertising Department

auroran@neptune.on.ca

Editorial Department

rwall9999@aol.com

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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.

**Advertising policy**

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

## Some people are litterbugs

**To the editor,**

What happened to putting garbage in the garbage can?

The mayor of Mississauga claims she has a problem with garbage littering.

Does the mayor of Aurora believe we also have a similar problem?

I notice in the April 29 issue of the Auroran under Community Events in Aurora - May 3 - Aurora Council has claimed the day as "Let's Keep Aurora Beautiful Day".

What do they have in mind? The mayor cutting a

ribbon on that day?

Also, Page 5, same issue of the paper, "Aurora's downtown core a "slum".

I believe the writer is overstating the problem but is on the right track.

Some people in Aurora are just plain litterbugs and toss their garbage anywhere.

When finished drinking coffee, pop, milkshakes, etc., why not throw the container in a garbage receptacle?

Some areas are worse than others, vacant lots, plazas, the entrance off Murray Drive to the Aurora Shopping Centre, and cul-

verts on side streets. A good example is the vacant lot at Yonge and Tyler Streets.

Aurora could be made more beautiful inexpensively.

Each homeowner, industry, and shopkeeper should pick up the debris on their own property.

The use of a can of paint here and there wouldn't hurt either.

It's up to each individual to do his part to make Aurora a nicer town.

**Don Wylie  
Aurora**

## Where is citizens' money, he wonders

**An open letter to Mayor Tim Jones:**

Deregulation of hydro gave our council two options: establish a for-profit or not-for-profit corporation.

A not-for-profit corporation would have allowed for "flow-through" costs of hydro and maximum benefit for taxpayers.

Instead, the choice was taken at the local level to

incorporate a for-profit corporation. WHY?

You saddled the citizens of Aurora with a \$13 million hydro debt by using a creative financing strategy. WHY?

You are charging us 7.8% interest, a rate only charged to high risk customers, the highest rate allowed by our government. WHY?

You have collected \$300,000 in 2001; \$960,000 in 2002; \$320,000 so far in 2003.

Where is the citizens of Aurora's money?

Tim, please cut the red tape and help the citizen of Aurora get their utility back.

I have received phone calls asking me to run for council. My answer is yes...if Dick Illingworth, my former mayor and memo king, runs for mayor!

**Norman Weller  
Aurora**





Mayor’s Report  
By Tim Jones

The complex world  
of town tendering

Tendering is a unique process that has developed over the years to keep individual preference and favouritism out of a bidder selection process.

Although the objective is admirable, getting the desired item for the best conditions as laid out including cost, timing, materials etc., tendering does not always guarantee the perfect product we would hope and expect.

A letter writer in a previous edition of the Auroran expressed displeasure at the difficulties the Town has experienced with various Town facilities that were tendered for construction.

In each of these instances, these facilities were tendered through a rigorous Town tendering process.

Requests for tenders are prepared, and in the case of most of the bigger facilities, they are prepared with the help of consultants experienced in the type of buildings that we were constructing.

Everything that we require is detailed and described in the request so that bidders can quote comparatively and objectively.

Requests for tenders are both publicly advertised as well as directly targeted to known bidders.

Companies have a defined time period to return their bid directly to the Municipal Clerk who date stamps each submission. A date and time are set after which submissions will not be received.

Tenders are opened in a public forum with a representative from the user department present along with the Town's Purchasing Co-ordinator and a representative from the Clerk's Department.

Deposits, if required are also received at the same time.

Information related to the project included in the tender is then checked for completeness and if everything is in order, the tenders are then compared for the best price.

Various other requirements are also checked including WSIB certificate of clearance, insurance certificates and performance bonds.

Reports are prepared for Council for projects such as large facilities and Council compares the tender results, reviews the Department Head's recommendations and selects by vote, the chosen proposal.

Specifically to the writer's issues:

" Once the tenders are received, how many are considered - all tenders that are properly filled out are considered

" Does a committee narrow the choices - as evidenced on the reports submitted to Council, all properly filled out tenders are objectively summarized and compared for Council to confirm the successful candidate.

" Who is responsible for making the final choice. - In the case of the projects identified by the writer, all members of Council vote on the final choice.

" When assessing the tenders do those responsible investigate competing firms through letters of reference, visiting previously built sites and examining repair records - all these items are normally considered by Town staff and/or through the specialized consultants that Council contracts to prepare requests for tender, as required. For example, councillors were invited to the Barrie Library to see an example of the architect's previous work

" Is the final determining factor cost alone. - not always, other factors can play a role. The Town's purchasing policy encourages open and competitive bidding to obtain all goods and services at the right time and price having appropriate quality and quantity in an efficient and cost effective manner.

" Does the final contract include performance clauses of both material and workmanship? - Guarantees as allowed by law are included in all our contracts, and performance bonds are normally required from a surety company.

As per the Town's purchasing policies, staff at various levels and responsibilities have dollar limits they are permitted to purchase goods, to expedite the business of the Town without going to tender.

However, in projects of the magnitude described in the writer's letter, (Library, Town Hall, Leisure Complex), these are complex projects and the Town engages consultants who specialize in these types of facilities.

Once the tenders have been prepared, bid on and identified as acceptable, the ultimate decision rests with all the members of Council.

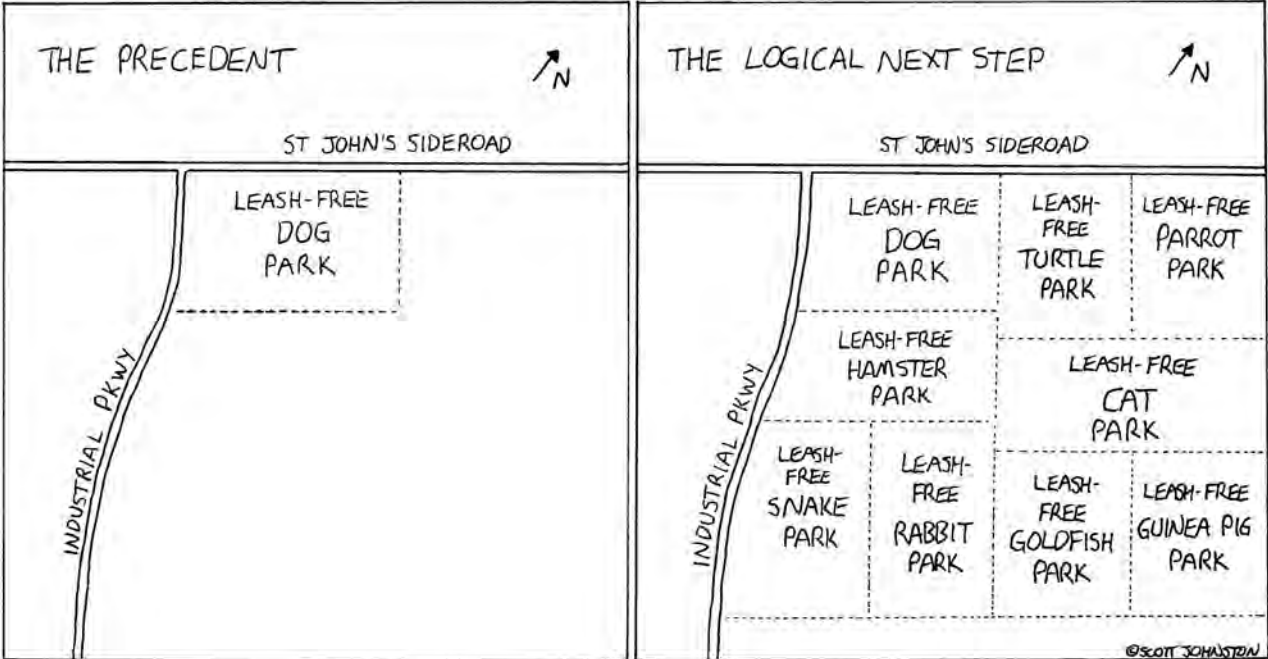
It is at this level we do 'manage' the business of our Town.

All public tenders, quotations and request for proposals are advertised on our website at [www.town.aurora.on.ca](http://www.town.aurora.on.ca)

\*\*\*\*\*

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



Letters to the Editor

SARS causes group  
to change location

To the editor,

Since 1969, Towns of York Toastmasters in Aurora has served York Region in many different locations.

Toastmasters is an organization dedicated to improving public speaking and communication in general.

The mission of the Towns of York Toastmasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn fosters self-confidence and personal growth.

Since early April, the club,

which meets the second, fourth and fifth Wednesday every month at Park Place Manor in Aurora, has had to find temporary meeting space due to precautionary measures established as a result of SARS.

Listed below are our temporary meeting places and coordinating dates for May and June 2003:

May 7 - Aurora Library;  
May 14- Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North;  
May 28 - Aurora Library - Lebovic Room;  
June 11 - Aurora Legion;  
June 25 - Aurora Library - Lebovic Room.

For changes and updates

to the above schedule, please be sure to visit our web site at [www.townsofyork.org](http://www.townsofyork.org), and click on "Location and Guest Info".

You may also contact our President, Eric Solowka at 905-880-1613 or our VP, Public Relations, Andy Walton at 416-993-7575 for further assistance.

The Towns of York is recognized as a "President's Distinguished Club" for 2002-2003 by Toastmasters International.

The first Toastmasters Club was established in 1924 in Santa Ana, California.

Today there are more than

9,200 clubs and more than 170,000 members in 70 plus countries around the world. We invite you to join us at one of our meetings and observe us in action. Visitors and new members are welcome anytime.

Our sincere appreciation is extended to the Auroran for helping us to meet our 2002/2003 goals of "Building Community, One Word at a Time."

**Deborah McGrath,**  
Deputy VP,  
Public Relations  
Towns of York  
Toastmasters  
Aurora

Letter showed "disrespect": reader

To the editor,

Shame on you, Evelyn Buck, shame on you!

You should have stopped your letter about my friend Pat Barber with that line about a life well lived, it was indeed that.

You have done her memory and her family a great disrespect by launching into a rant about the present government and its policies.

Have you lost your mind

finally? What does one have to do with the other?

Maybe in your mind there is some connective thread to these two issues; but I fail to see it. If there is why not write two letters?

Pat was a friend of our family from the time we moved to Aurora 44 years ago, she was our neighbour for the first eight years of my life and I knew her to be one of the true gentle souls in this world.

She was still a part of our lives right up to the end, and I will miss her terribly.

Unfortunately I was out of town when she passed away and could not attend her service.

I felt I owed her that much for the support she gave our family when my father died.

I find it appalling that you could be so insensitive, and to use that letter to try and make some political point of your own was a disservice

to the memory of a fine person.

Maybe I'm too sensitive about this; but I found that to be totally tasteless and rude.

**Michael Dickie**  
Aurora

**ED. NOTE: The last thing we need to do is defend Evelyn Buck, but we're convinced she meant no disrespect to Pat Barber.**

How to handle telemarketers

To the editor,

The letter from Sue Lacey (Auroran, April 29) struck a

Reader thanks nurses  
for effort with SARS

To the editor,

Hats off to all the "front line" workers of the SARS epidemic.

In particular, all the health care workers for 'hanging in there' and being willing to put their own health 'on the line' to serve the rest of

chord.

I know what she is writing about.

Through the Internet, I was

us.

When you next ask for a raise, I sincerely hope that the general public will support you better than has been the case in the past.

God bless you all!

**P. Hajdu**  
Aurora

given the following advice:

When you get a telemarketer call, and when they start giving you their spiel, interrupt by saying, "just a moment, please" and then put the telephone down.

Continue with what you were doing before the call.

After a few minutes, you will hear the busy signal. Then hang up the phone.

Obviously, the telemarketer could not wait any longer and will now proceed to pester somebody else.

Unwanted junk mail, instead of throwing it in the garbage or paper recycling, should be sent back where it

came from.

Most of this mail has a postage-free envelope.

Insert in this envelope all the unwanted stuff, including the envelope it came in.

No free envelope? No problem, do the same as before and stick it in a mailbox and let the post office handle it.


After all, that's where it came from.


I know, it might take a little effort on your part, but maybe the telemarketers and junk mailers might take the hint.


**Tom van den Elshout**  
Aurora


## Bouquets & Brickbats


By Dick Illingworth


 **BOUQUETS** to 18-year-old Kevin Allen of Aurora on winning a silver and a bronze medal at the Canadian National Series Snowboarding Championships in Calgary recently. He won the silver in the senior open category and the bronze in the giant slalom. He was also voted the most promising youth boarder.


 **BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Tigers hockey team for an exciting play-off series for Aurora fans. The team went to six games in the final series against the Wellington Dukes but couldn't pull it off with the loss of goalie Chris Whitley. Maybe next year?


 **BRICKBATS** to the members of Aurora Council for forgetting the Code of Ethics they signed at the beginning of the term for the internal bickering and personal attacks at one of the most raucous and poorly controlled committee meetings ever held. It's a good thing it wasn't televised, as viewers would have been shocked.


 **BOUQUETS** to L. Christensen for a letter to the Auroran about loose papers lying around after the recycling truck passes by. One way for householders to control loose papers is to bundle them up with an elastic band.


 **BOUQUETS** to Paul Knappett, of Knappett Jewellery in Newmarket, for donating a Bulova clock for the reception area of the new Aurora Chamber of Commerce building on Yonge Street at Industrial Parkway South, and to Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure for donating a limited edition print of her Bicentennial painting of Yonge Street, Aurora, to the same building.


 **BRICKBATS** to Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman for his embarrassing performance on CNN TV recently with regard to the SARS crisis and the warning about visiting Toronto issued by the World Health Organization. He should have learned by now that it's much better to remain quiet and be thought dumb than to speak up and remove all doubt!

 **BOUQUETS** and a warm Aurora welcome to Teresa Cook on the opening of Cupid and Psyche, a ladies' accessories store in St. Andrew's Plaza. She has a second location in Cookstown.

 **BRICKBATS** to the Premier Ernie Eves government for forgetting the dietary needs of seniors living in long-term care facilities in the recent budget. The current dietary allowance for long-term care residents is \$4.49 per day per resident for breakfast, lunch, dinner and evening snack, far less than what is spent to feed prisoners in Canadian prisons.

 **BOUQUETS** to 17-year-old Lindsay Wolf, a Grade 12 student at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School, on winning two events at the recent York Region Athletic Association indoor track and field meet, taking first place in the 60 metre sprint and the 60 metre sprint hurdles.

 **BOUQUETS** to the members of the volunteer committee for working so hard to arrange the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first steam train in Upper Canada when the steam engine Toronto chugged its way from Toronto to Aurora. The plans fell off the rails when they were unable to arrange for a train, but the event won't go unnoticed as members of the Historical Society will be at the station on May 16th to hand out information of the historic event to commuters.

 **BOUQUETS** to George Steeves, chairman of Borealis Hydro Electric Holdings (formerly Aurora Hydro) for his attempt to explain the complicated Hydro structure after provincial deregulation. More **BOUQUETS** if he produces a financial statement to let the shareholder taxpayers know where they stand.

## Letters to the Editor

# There is nothing haphazard about the tendering process

To the editor,

In a letter recently, J. Salmon asked some pointed questions about the tendering process. Actually there is nothing haphazard about it. Plans and specs are drawn up, which include materials to be used and tenders are called.

Interested contractors pick up the documents, prepare their bids on the basis of same. There is a dead-line for receipt of bids and a certified cheque must be included. The deadline includes a specific hour of closing. Opening tenders is a public process. Bidders are usually present. The figures are recorded and subsequently the bids are examined to determine they are in accord with plans and specs.

The lowest bid is not necessarily accepted. Work and financial background of contractors are checked.

Contractors themselves are the best safeguard for the integrity of the process.

A great deal of work and expense goes into preparing a bid. If they are not dealt with fairly, they have the right to challenge the decision.

Having said all of that, the author's letter reminded me of a particular experience of mine.

I was appointed by the region to York County Hospital Board...two terms. It was during a ten million dollar building expansion.

The hospital board is elected annually. I never attended an

election, probably conflicting meetings. I have no idea who has the right to vote.

There is a medical advisory committee to the board. They advise of hospital privileges to be granted or not. If a doctor doesn't have hospital privileges, he cannot make a living. In effect, the medical advisory committee in those days decided who would practice in the hospital district.

The Hospital Auxiliary has a representative on the board. Except for myself, she was the only woman.

The Auxiliary had to ask permission to hold fund-raising events. Once I asked "why"?

Nobody knew why. After an awkward pause, the auxiliary member said in a voice heavy with exasperation and forbearance, "We do not mind, Mrs. Buck." And, that was that.

I was appointed to the building committee. It was my first experience on such a major building project. It was enlightening but not in the way one might imagine.

A person was hired to supervise the project. He was eventually fired but not until the project was almost complete.

There was a myriad of change orders. Two that amazed me most were the oversight of drainage from the sluice room (where hospital equipment is sterilized) and piping for anesthetics to the operating rooms. Change orders always add to the cost.

A person was hired to pur-

chase furnishings. He informed us he had ordered patient chairs to be custom made. I asked if there were no ready-made chairs available from hospital suppliers.

"None to suit the character of this hospital," he said.

At this same meeting, a board was propped across three chairs. It reminded me of a Scottish cowshed.

"What is that," I asked.

"What do you mean?" asked our intrepid decorator.

I pointed. He still professed not to understand the question.

"Well, what is it?" I persisted.

The board, about four feet by two feet, had a hank of rope across the middle. Above the rope the surface was white and below it was dung-coloured.

"It is ART," he assured me in ponderous tones

"What is the cost?" I inquired.

I think it was over \$4,000. No one on the committee appeared to have any concern...and it had already been purchased. So that was that.

The connecting link between the old building and the new was twice as wide as it needed to be for practical purposes although it was probably needed for the structure. As an afterthought, the decision was made to provide a medical library in the space for the doctors.

Another item regularly up for discussion was the per diem cost of a hospital stay and because of it the continuing need to reduce the time a patient could stay in hospital.

I remember commenting that a person could stay in the Royal York with complete room service for less than the hospital per diem.

The government of the day kept the pressure on for boards to reduce spending.

On more than one occasion I warned that if the board did not, they would find decisions being made by civil servants far-removed from actual operation of the hospital.

The day arrived for the opening of the new addition. The government ordered that two of the new floors were not to be opened.

On the big day, I was in the staff restaurant speaking with a doctor. The cowshed art was on the wall. Money from the auxiliary had been used to pay for it.

I drew attention to the object and mentioned the price. The doctor, a very agreeable man, said, "what's wrong, Evelyn, are you not in favour of helping sick people get well?"

I had not planned to be disagreeable. I never do...plan it, I mean. But I had to say "because we have indulged ourselves in every luxury we could think of, there are people elsewhere in this province who had hospitals and now have none."

This is a story of 30 years ago. I doubt much has changed. Now, instead of an administrator we have a hospital president. His salary is \$100,000 more than that of the premier of the province.

No doubt it is still all about helping sick people get well.

Evelyn Buck  
Aurora

## We'd gladly pay to use new rink

To the editor,

I would like to respond to Mr. Hanes' comments (Auroran, April 29).

Obviously, the writer has not been paying attention to the ongoing saga of the rinks not being built in this town.

The majority of users of this type of facility would welcome a private builder and operator into the community and would gladly pay the fees to use such a facility.

But, the powers that be don't appear to want such free enterprise around.

You see, Mr. Jones told the electorate during the last election that he had a

builder and an owner of property and all he had to do was put them together.

He still hasn't been able to put them "together".

The town is not interested in having private enterprise operate any type of facility that might decrease the use of their facilities and their revenue.

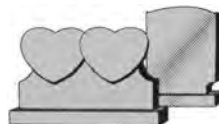
Your question whether or not development costs money, I think you should ask why development fees were used to offset tax increases instead of being used to develop infrastructure.

Paula Cooke  
Aurora

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Chief Executive Officer of the Leukemia Research Fund of Canada, Rudy Putns, presents an award to Aurora's Brooke Harrison for her efforts in assembling a cookbook as a fundraiser for the organization. Cookbook is now on sale at R & R Revisited on Mary Street.

# Cookbook sales assist children with leukemia

By CHRISTINE WOODLEY

You may remember Aurora's 13-year-old Jordyn Harrison, who recently was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for his "Kids for Kids" charity, providing duffel bags and backpacks to foster kids on the move. Well, now sister Brooke, who is nine, has begun a crusade of her own. The Devins Drive student has created a cookbook, called Cookin' in Brooke's Kitchen, to raise funds for the Leukemia Research Fund of Canada. The book came about after Brooke's young cousin was diagnosed with leukemia and Brooke wanted to do something to help the doctors make her, and kids like

her, better. The book features donated recipes, with drawings and cover art by Brooke herself. So far, 300 books have sold, another 400 are selling fast and an additional run of 400 books has just been released. The organization recently recognized Brooke's efforts with a certificate and will feature the cookbook at their Leukemia Gala at the Royal York Hotel this month. As well, Aurora's Port Royal Mills have donated the dry ingredients for the book's muffin recipe. The cookbook, which sells for \$10, is currently on sale at R & R Revisited book store, 75 Mary Street, Unit 3, Aurora.

# Festival buttons worth admission

From page 1  
in the morning, and closing at 5 p.m. The festival - started in 1996 to celebrate the 200th birthday of Yonge Street - closes the famous road from Wellington Street south to Murray Drive. Booths line both sides of the street, and food and

activities are everywhere. This year, the festival will be visited by a number of clowns who are in town that weekend at a convention. There will be two rock climbing walls, motorized vehicles for youngsters, and the famed mini-train, sponsored by GO Transit, will again run from one end of the event to the other.

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# Yucks galore at AWG meeting

Humour is one of the most personal forms of writing with satire often the most effective way to win debates on contentious issues, members of the Aurora Writers' Group learned last week. Intelligent humor often gives real pleasure to millions while informing them on serious issues which may affect their lives, AWG President Thomas Davey said at the Aurora Town Hall meeting. People in power do not like being laughed at so satire throughout the ages has proved to be one of the sharpest literary weapons in the writer's armory, he said. "It can also be the dangerous in all literary forms including journalism, novels, theatre and film scripts," Davey added. "I am sure there were not many Saddam or Hitler jokes during their evil and vicious tenures. By contrast, Chretien jokes seem to be a permanent growth industry here. "The troubles of our Sea King helicopters have had more air time than the aircraft themselves, most of them being older than their pilots," Davey told his audience. "But to live in a society which can laugh at its

leaders is usually healthy. The Reform Party's Stockwell Day - in his day - provided great fodder for satire and the new NDP leader, Jack Layton is already receiving his share of jibes." Outlining its history, Davey traced humour back as far as Aristophanes in the 5th century BC. The Romans greatly admired Greek culture and it was the Romans who gave Alexander the Great the name by which the world knows him today, he said.

Davey spoke of American newspaper columnist H. L. Mencken; journalist and broadcaster Rex Murphy, The Globe's Jeffery Simpson, and The Star's

Jennifer Wells during his presentation. The Aurora Writers' Group meets monthly at the Town Hall, and new members are welcomed.

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July 7 - 11

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## Aurora: centre of horse country

Like Aurora, the little Village of Chantilly, about 25 miles north of Paris, France, is in the centre of horse country.

In addition to the running of two important races on the European continent, Chantilly is home to one of the best equipped centres in the world for training thoroughbred horses.

Much like Elderberry Hills and Joker's Hill Farms of the past, hundreds of people

come to enjoy the excitement of the competitions.

In Chantilly it was thoroughbred racing; in Aurora it was show jumping, dressage, heavy horses and ponies.

Chantilly became known as "Cite du Cheval" and it is a title that Aurora rightly deserves as being the "Centre of Horse Country".

While Aurora may not be home to the National Show Jumping Championships as

the Elderberry Hills Farm was with its Tournament of Champions and Canadian Jumping Derby, and Joker's Hill with its many equestrian events, it is still the cite du cheval or the centre of horse country.

In October, 1978, the Tynedale Pony Club represented Canada in the Washington International Horse Show with Aurora's Terry Duck on Cricket, Sian Pugh on Seaspray, and

Chris Ives on Silver Duchess as team members.

In February, 1979, Stewart Burnett of Wellington Street East, former Reeve of Whitchurch Township and after regional government a resident of Aurora, won the Grand Championship over all breeds at the Horse Show preceding the 26th annual draft horse auction in Toronto.

The winner was Betty Ann DeBruille, a registered Belgian mare raised and trained by Burnett. The mare brought the highest price at the auction selling for \$6,400.

The runner-up at the sale was Kendale April DeBruille, a half-sister of the winner, also raised and trained by Burnett which fetched the second highest price at \$4,650.

In the fall of 1977, Aurora's Jim Day, an internationally known Olympic rider, traded his spurs and helmet for binoculars and a condition book when he took over as trainer at Sam-Son Farm.

Along with Jim Elder and Tom Gayford, Day was a member of the gold medal winning Canadian equestrian team at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City.

In April, 1979, he decided to return to international show jumping competition with his favourite horse

Steelmaster.

In September, 1979, Shelagh McPherson of Aurora jumped into the forefront of young equestrians after winning the Coca Cola Cup at Seneca College King campus.

Of the 15 riders in the competition, she was the only one to complete all five rounds without incurring a fault on Something Brewing.

Jeff Biggs, also of Aurora, came second with just one knockdown in five rides.

In October, 1979, the Toronto North York Hunt Club, then located where the Beacon Hall Golf Course is now, hosted the annual Prince of Wales Cup Race, the oldest consecutive steeplechase races in North America.

By March, 1980, Welsh ponies were becoming a major section of equestrian interests and activity.

Aurora's Elizabeth Redshaw was one of the growing ranks of Welsh Pony breeders, along with her pony Colwyn Blodwen.

Redshaw and Colwyn scored well in the circuit shows over the season, including the Aurora Horse Show, the Sutton Fair, the Canadian Pony Breeders held at the Aurora Hunt Club and the culmination of the season, the Royal Winter Fair.

In July, 1980, three York Region riders rode away with top honours when the selections for the 1980 Canadian Olympic Dressage Team were announced, with two from the Aurora/Newmarket area.

They were Aurora's Cindy Neale and Cedar Valley's Christilot Boylen with Queensville rider Ed Rothkranz selected as reserve.

Members of the Tynedale Pony Club took top honours for the Canadian Championship at the 1982 Royal Winter Fair and were invited to ride at the Royal Windsor Horse Show's Prince Phillip Games in May, 1983, with Queen

Please see page 14

## Will he return?

Will Jim Elder return to the saddle to defend his title at this year's Aurora Invitational Grand Prix?

Last year, amid a field of highly qualified competitors, the venerable Aurora rider welcomed Grand Prix jumping back to the Aurora Horse Show by winning the event.

The organizers, Aurora Agricultural Society, are hoping he can be persuaded to participate again after finishing first after two rounds in last year's

semi-inaugural.

The Grand Prix, once the major event of the Aurora Horse Show drawing thousands of spectators and being televised across national television, hasn't been in Aurora since a cigarette sponsor was forced to withdraw its support.

After a gap of many years, the Aurora Invitational Grand Prix was reintroduced last year and promises to become an annual event as the "kick off" to the Aurora Fair and

Horse Show.

Competition is limited to 25 riders and includes entries this year from Jay Hayes, Jennifer Foster, Doug Henry, Mike Grinyer, and Greg Kuti.

The public is invited to walk the course with designer and Pan Am gold medallist, Danny Foster, before the competition about 6 p.m.

The Grand Prix will be held in Machell Park Friday evening, June 6, and will be followed by a VIP reception and wine tasting in the big tent. Members of the public will have an opportunity to meet the riders and obtain autographs.

For more information phone 905-713-6773.

## Skating results

Following is a list of results showing the efforts of Aurora Figure Skating Club members at a recent meet in Thornhill.

Tyler Thomas, Canskate freeskate Burgundy 6th; Men's Canskate Stroking Blue 1st.  
Courtney Tidona, Canskate freeskate Burgundy 2nd.  
Hillary Burke, Canskate freeskate Green 7th.  
Jacqueline Dixon, Canskate freeskate Purple 5th.  
Taylor Foote, Canskate freeskate Blue 3rd.  
Danielle MacAskill, Canskate freeskate Green 6th.  
Alex Woodward, Men's Pre-Prelim 1 freeskate Flight 1 1st.  
Hugh Babb, Men's Pre-Prelim 1 freeskate Flight 2 1st.  
Jacqueline Relke, Ladies Pre-Prelim 1 freeskate Flight 2 5th.  
Nicole Miklovich, Ladies Pre-Prelim 1 freeskate Flight 3 2nd.  
Kendall Manella, Ladies Pre-Prelim 1 freeskate Flight 5 3rd.  
Alyssa Simon, Ladies Pre-Prelim 1 freeskate Flight 5 7th.  
Brett Hagerty, Ladies Pre-Prelim 1 freeskate Flight 8 3rd.  
Taylor Sim, Ladies Pre-Prelim 1 freeskate Flight 8 4th.  
Malysa Tidona, Ladies Pre-Prelim 1 freeskate Flight 12 3rd.  
Kaitlyn Van Winckle, Ladies Pre-Prelim 1 freeskate Flight 12 7th.  
Nicole Relke, Ladies Pre-Prelim 1 freeskate Flight 12 1st.  
Hailey Riggs, Ladies Pre-Prelim 1 freeskate Flight 15 4th.  
Coral Snell, Ladies Pre-Prelim 1 freeskate Flight 17 1st.  
Nicole Calvert, Ladies Pre-Prelim 1 freeskate Flight 18 5th.  
Nina Malek, Ladies Pre-Prelim 1 freeskate Flight 23 1st.  
Robyn Kosmidis, Ladies Pre-Prelim 1 freeskate Flight 30 1st.  
Taylor McDowall, Ladies Pre-Prelim 1 freeskate 2nd.  
Katie Sutton, Ladies Pre-Prelim 2 freeskate 4th.  
Emily Jerome, Ladies Pre-Prelim 2 freeskate Flight 3 6th.  
Mackensie Jordan, Ladies Pre-Prelim 2 freeskate Flight 12 1st.  
Megan Gunning, Ladies Pre-Prelim 2 freeskate Flight 14 2nd.  
Ariel Kwan, Ladies Pre-Prelim 2 freeskate Flight 15 3rd.  
Alana Fabbicino, Ladies Pre-Prelim 2 freeskate Flight 16 4th.  
Jenna Williams, Ladies Pre-Prelim 2 freeskate Flight 21 1st.  
Cierra Snell, Ladies Pre-Prelim 2 freeskate Flight 22 1st.  
Alysa Nichols, Ladies Pre-Prelim 2 freeskate Flight 22 2nd.  
Emma Warburton, Ladies Pre-Prelim 2 freeskate Flight 30 3rd.  
Jennine Brunton, Ladies Pre-Prelim 2 freeskate Flight 30 1st.  
Amanda MacAskill, Ladies Pre-Prelim 2 freeskate Flight 30 5th.  
Caden Armstrong, Men's Pre-Prelim 3 freeskate Flight 1 1st.  
Jordana Goldman, Ladies Pre-Prelim 3 freeskate Flight 1 5th.  
Emma Slimkowich, Ladies Pre-Prelim 3 freeskate Flight 1 2nd.  
Allie Sutton, Ladies Pre-Prelim 3 freeskate Flight 3 1st.  
Kaitlyn Van Winckle, Pre-Prelim Solo Dance Flight 5 6th.  
Emily Jerome, Prelim Solo Dance Flight 1 2nd.  
Hailey Riggs, Prelim Solo Dance Flight 3 3rd.  
Nina Malek, Prelim Solo Dance Flight 5 4th.  
Caylin Butler, Prelim Solo Dance Flight 6 7th.  
Emma Warburton, Jr. Bronze Solo Dance Flight 1 3rd.  
Jenna Williams, Jr. Bronze Solo Dance Flight 3 5th.  
Cierra Snell, Jr. Bronze Solo Dance Flight 31st.  
Mackensie Jordan, Jr. Bronze Solo Dance Flight 1 3rd.  
Taylor Sim & Caden Armstrong, Pre-Prelim Dance Couple Flight 1 2nd.  
Amber Cioffe, Pre-Prelim. Elements 1 5th.  
Christina Kubiew-Kalashnik, Pre-Prelim. Elements 1 5th.  
Jennine Brunton, Pre-Prelim. Elements 2 1st.  
Amanda MacAskill, Pre-Prelim. Elements 2 1st.  
Jenna Williams, Introductory Create-a-skate 1st.  
Megan Gunning, Introductory Create-a skate 2nd.  
Alana Fabbicino, Introductory Create-a skate 5th.

*Happy Mother's Day*



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# "Aurora's Way Ahead" strategy began in 1992

The Town of Aurora's Strategic Plan sets out the municipality's overriding goals, and describes what actions are necessary to achieve them.

A letter was sent to residents in October, 1992, advising them the town was engaged in the preparation of its first Strategic Plan, an umbrella document for other activities carried out by the municipality.

The work was carried out under the overall direction of a Strategic Plan steering committee. The Randolph Group was engaged to assist the committee in the preparation of the plan.

The process was scheduled over a six-month period and involved three phases of work; "Knowing Where We Stand", "Determine Where We're Going", and "Getting There".

In order to obtain citizen input a short questionnaire was distributed to residents, interest groups and businesses.

The town's first strategic plan was adopted in 1993. It included a corporate mission statement, six value statements with objectives and strategic actions for each value.

In March, 1998, council decided to update the

Strategic Plan to plan for the period leading up to 2000.

In 1999, the updated strategic plan, "Aurora's Way Ahead" was approved. It was a broad-brush description of where the municipality was heading, and took into account current issues and influences on the municipality and the sentiments of residents.

The updated plan was seen as a snapshot in time, which attempts to describe the goals and aspirations of the people who live, work and play in Aurora.

The Mission Statement of the plan states: "Aurora is a town which we are proud to call home. We are committed to providing our citizens with business, employment, housing and leisure opportunities in a community, which values the following goals:

- To maintain a well managed and fiscally responsible municipality,
- To support a healthy business environment that attracts new business and is responsive to the needs of our present business community,
- To continue well planned growth,
- To conserve our natural and cultural heritage,
- To promote accessible municipal government,
- To encourage, support and recognize volunteer involvement in community activities and special events."

A further update was carried out in 2001 to bring the language and tangible issues of the objectives up to the present day.

Council adopted that update May 22, 2001.

The revised plan noted the introduction of current value assessment and the impact of downloading from the province challenging the municipality in new and different ways in controlling its taxation and service levels.

It was also noted that reassessment had created a redistribution of the tax base, which placed significant pressures on the residential sector.

Currently, all reports to council include a section which decides how the report recommendations align with the direction of

the Strategic Plan.

It is expected that further updates will take place in the coming months and years and citizens should

be prepared to add their comments in meeting the objectives of the Mission Statement, and suggestions for the future.



## Expensive wine

His is a very expensive wine and Tom Eddy was on hand at Baldwin's Restaurant recently to promote it. The Tom Eddy Winery, located in California's Napa Valley, bottles and presents a top-of-the-line wine for its customers. Welcoming the celebrity to Aurora is Baldwin's General Manager Richard Arnold, right.

Auroran photo by Naomi Tobin

# Bingo goers get reprieve

From page 1

said Association President Bruce French, who attended Sunday's meeting.

Klein indicated at the meeting he would attempt to find a buyer for his operation, in an effort to keep the business operating on a more permanent basis.

Failing that, the five-month extension won't solve the problem of what would happen once the license expires and the charities find themselves without the estimated \$1.3 million they share annually from bingo receipts.

"You can't raise that kind of money from bake sales," French told the Auroran.

The huge centre, covering about 25,000 square feet and originally built as a roller skating rink at the corner of Edward Street and Engelhard Drive, has been home to a bingo parlour for about 15 years.

Klein has owned the bingo business for nearly 10 years.

In his letter to sponsors, Klein said "it is with deep regret that we notify you that Aurora Bingo Centre Inc. will close its doors permanently..."

Still hanging over everyone's head, even with the temporary extension, is the York Region smoking bylaw, which would force a separate room for smokers,

a cost which could top half a million dollars.

"Cost of retrofitting is the big thing," Klein said. "The Region mentioned a 'grandfather' clause, but I'm not so sure."

"There is no guarantee the region won't change the bylaw and prohibit smoking altogether," French added. "It's really a crap shoot."

Rough estimates indicate more than 75 per cent of regular bingo-goers are smokers.

Aurora's Director of Corporate Services Bob Panizza said the town has been meeting with the Sponsors' Association and "we want to support any initiative they come up with".

Town officials met with the involved parties last week in an effort to come up with a solution.

Mayor Tim Jones was

delighted when he learned of the extension.

"This is good for everyone involved, including the town," he said.

Jones said he would not agree to a change in the regional bylaw that would prohibit smoking altogether.

"The Region is under great pressure to do just that," he said, "but there would have to be compensation to businesses that have spent money to comply with the existing bylaw."

For the bingo hall, it would have to have a designated smoking room constructed before June 1, 2004, to adhere to the existing bylaw.

Meanwhile, a public meeting to discuss zoning changes to the property to allow for a storage facility, will likely go ahead as scheduled on May 28.

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# Regency Acres student greets Man in Motion

It was December 4, 1986, when Rick Hansen's Man in Motion world tour rolled into the Upper Canada Mall. The 29-year-old athlete was travelling around the world to raise money for spinal cord research. His stop at the mall was long enough to receive a presentation on behalf of York Region's Public Schools, which was presented by Jana Douglas of Aurora's Regency Acres Public School. The region's Separate Schools, the Newmarket Kinsmen, the Telephone Pioneers and the federal government made other presentations, plus a cheque for \$13,000 from the McDonald's Restaurants located within the region was presented to Hansen.

## THE MAIL ALWAYS GETS THROUGH

Some days are better than others, as former Mayor Dick Illingworth found out in July, 1984. He received a letter at the Town Hall through Canada Post addressed to "Dumb Dick". That was bad enough but the postman knew where to deliver it. It all came about as the result of a housing survey carried out by a consultant engaged by the town and partially funded by the province. As part of the survey the mayor was asked to write a letter to the citizens inviting them to a meeting more than two weeks away. The consultant mailed the letter and the survey, but many residents didn't receive them until three or four days after the announced date of the meeting, resulting in the "Dumb Dick" letter.

## WHEN AURORA WATER RAN BROWN

Today with the rapid growth and hot summers, homeowners are frustrated when they can't water their lawns or wash their cars due to a water shortage. Prior to 1967 homeowners were frustrated when the water from the tap ran brown. At one council meeting an irate citizen threw his laundry on the council table with brown stains all over the clothing due to the rusty water. When other citizens phoned the Works Department to complain about the rusty water, they were told to let their tap run for a couple of hours. That was before water

metres. On one occasion the Choice-Cut-Up Chicken processing plant had to shut down operations due to the rusty water. They threatened to sue the town for damages. At that time water was pumped from relatively shallow wells with a high iron content. Rust would build up in the pipes and when there was a change in pressure, the rust would let go and spill out through the taps. In 1967, council approved a pilot project at a cost of \$3,200 to find a solution, which was only partially successful. The situation didn't improve until deeper wells were dug into what is now known as the Yonge Street aquifer.

## BOMB THREAT AT THE REGION

On September 18, 1991, a phone call bomb threat forced the evacuation of the former York Regional building. Mayors, councillors and staff milled around outside on the front lawn, while York Regional police searched the building, but could find no evidence of any explosives. It was the first time in the region's 20-year history that a bomb threat had been received. Ironically, police met with public health staff during the afternoon for a previously scheduled seminar on how to deal with bomb threats. It wasn't a rumour, but the truth.

## REMEMBERING EARL MCCREADY

Earl McCready was a former professional wrestler and a resident of Aurora in the mid-1950s. He wrestled with such greats as Jim Londos and many others. Aurora and District High School students will remember the big man with the cauliflower ears who came to the school at the invitation of Principal J. H. Knowles to demonstrate the art of wrestling to the boys. Originally from Saskatchewan and with bouts in Eastern Canada and New York State, he made his home in Aurora. He was four times Canadian champion, a winner at the British Empire Games, a member of the Canadian Olympic team and was named to Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in 1952. After leaving professional wrestling he moved to Seattle and worked as a massage expert.

In 1996 he lost his left leg as the result of a wartime accident in an aircraft plant, but continued to work with high school wrestlers and football teams near his home.

## GOVERNMENT ACTION TAKES TIME

In August, 1986, the late Dave Merkur, owner of the Aurora Shopping Centre, asked the town to review the right-in, right-out Yonge Street access to the shopping centre and make it a full entry and exit. It wasn't until 2000 with the reconstruction of roadway and the addition of a centre lane that action was taken. Hopefully it won't take so long to correct the problems on Murray Drive.

# Theatre war play timely

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

In these days of unrest and fighting in various parts of the world, what could be more timely than a play about war? Most plays about war are about gallant soldiers marching off to fight the enemy. "Waiting for the Parade" currently being presented at the Factory Theatre by Theatre Aurora is a war play with a difference. Instead of the marching soldiers, this play is series of vignettes about life on the home front in Canada during the long years of World War II. It's a play about the women left behind, their quiet courage and the hardship of loneliness, fear and sorrow as they battle on at home and wait for the return of their loved ones. The play, written by John Murrell and directed by Gail Henderson, presents the story of five women in Calgary who gather together to work for the war effort. The audience views the war through the eyes of these five women in a series of snapshot vignettes, as they tell their poignant stories of loss

and longing during their struggle to survive. Diane Haskett is Janet, a take charge person who is almost paranoid in her efforts to fight the fight to make up for her husband who remains at home as a radio newscaster claiming it is an essential service, and she portrays the role with strength and conviction. Her take-charge attitude is evident in her handling of three of the other women as they gather to roll bandages or wait at the station to distribute fruit and goodies to men on the troop trains travelling through. There is also the episode of training for an evacuation, which causes the women to rebel. But she has a softer side as she sits at the piano and plays and sings war songs like "Lili Marlene". Sarah Southwell has the challenging role of Catherine, the rebel of the group. Her performance in the drunk scene following receipt of a telegram that her husband, Billy, is missing in action is very dramatic and strong. Katie McClure is Eve, the youngest and most immature of the group. She has difficulty coping with the

war and often breaks into tears, especially with the overpowering Janet. Her performance in the evacuation episode is a highlight. She has an excellent singing voice and brings back memories with her rendition of war songs of the day. Veteran performer Kay Valentine plays the role of Margaret, the eldest member of the group. She displays considerable patience with the activities of the other women and provides a quieting influence, as she worries and prays for her two sons. Last but not least is Flo McLellan who portrays Marta, a German woman who came to Canada at age 9 and is a Canadian. But because of her background and her father in an internment camp, she is ostracized by Margaret and Janet but accepted by Eve and Catherine. It is a very challenging role and she performs it most capably. Her singing of Lili Marlene in German is a highlight. Waiting for the Parade doesn't have a real story line, but is a play that demands strong acting, with limited action, but considerable dialogue, and director Henderson

and her technical crew bring it altogether in a play worth seeing. During intermission and before and after the performance, patrons are requested to support Theatre Aurora and keep it alive in their lease negotiations with the Town of Aurora. The play continues May 14 through 17. Call the box office at 905-727-3669 for ticket information.



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Employees of Canada Law Book, Edward Street, and Goodwill, Yonge Street, teamed up last week to clean the creek that separates the two properties. They retrieved bags of garbage, including an old adding machine. Participating on the cold, rainy day were, left to right, Hope Bennett, Brenda Heffron, Jean Pritchard, Sandy Halliday, Tara Clements, Steffanie Wallace, Janet Thompson and Dianne Bates. Auroran photo by Naomi Tobin

## Raucous council debates OP review

Last week's meeting of council's general committee to discuss the final report of the Five Year Official Plan Review Committee developed into one of the most raucous meetings of the current council.

There was complete disregard of parliamentary procedure, personal attacks and continuance of the deep division on council between the old guard and the newcomers.

In the end, committee members approved the review committee's report on a 4-3 vote, but that won't be the end of the debate.

## Cookies

From page 1

ously) in 1985 and could hardly scrape together the \$11,000. I still remember writing that cheque in fear," she said. "When I asked the guy about delivery, he shrugged, 'that'll cost an extra \$5,000. It's in pieces in the back!'"

A weekend of hauling with her dad's pickup truck ensued, and since then the huge oven has turned out gourmet cookies daily for 18 years.

Three years ago partner Lori Paslawsky joined the company and focuses on financial matters.

The staff also includes an office manager and, of course, the cookie makers, who deal in the currency of Toblerone chunks, California walnuts and all that butter.

So what's the secret of Cookie It Up's success?

"The finest ingredients and consistency," Paige said. "Each cookie is hand made."

She notes with pride that the company uses only butter from Alliston Creamery. As well, Cookie It Up is Kosher Certified, meeting a strict code of quality and process guidelines.

But, aside from product excellence, Paige and Lori have another winning formula.

They treat their employees like "a little family," and encourage flexible hours to allow their staff to attend to children and to other realities of life. Happy employees make for long-term, quality work and, you guessed it, better cookies.

Councillor Damir Vrancic gave warning that he will re-introduce his opposition to one of the recommendations when the general committee report is presented to council next week.

In December, 2001, council authorized staff to request proposals to undertake the Five Year Review of the Official Plan, required by the Planning Act, plus the 2C (land in the Wellington-Leslie area) Secondary Plan.

At a subsequent meeting council agreed that at the completion of the Phase I Review of the official plan, it would have the option of deciding whether to proceed with the 2C Secondary Plan or not.

The work plan for the review called for the preparation of three reports, Assessment of the 1996 Growth Management Strategy, Evaluation of Growth Options and a Strategic Directions Report.

Each report was presented to the council/citizen review committee and refined in accordance with its input and direction.

The final Strategic Directions Report was presented to the committee in March and committee members requested further information on several matters.

The committee had concerns about the cost of growth, provision of opportunities for business development concentrated on the Highway 404 corridor and that growth does not compromise the environmental integrity of the town nor happen prematurely.

In recognition of landowner interests, particularly in the 2C lands, the committee heard delegations from landowners about their development aspirations.

The completed report includes the many amendments requested by committee members.

At last week's meeting, Ray Simpson, representing Hemson Consulting, provided a brief overview of the work of the committee and the final report.

He noted that growth was meeting the objectives of the Growth Management Study, which was adequate for 2016, but there was a need to extend the planning horizon to 2026 with the inclusion of development of the 2C lands in order to reach the regional population target.

With environmental constraints, such as the wetland and the Oak Ridges Moraine, the development possibilities of the 2C lands were reduced and the best estimate for population growth was 66,000 rather than the regional target of 75,000.

Concern was expressed that pressure may be exerted to change industrial land to residential, as had happened in the past, and Simpson was asked if there were controls that could be included in the plans to prevent such conversion.

He replied that it was an ongoing problem in the GTA and that some jurisdictions had developed conversion guidelines, which could be included in the official plan.

Don Hill, who owns property in the 2C lands, expressed concern about the regional proposal to construct a trunk sewer across the 2B lands and its potential impact on the wetlands and wells in the area.

He suggested council may have broken the law in approving development adjacent to a provincially significant wetland in the 2B lands and he wanted some assurance they would do the right thing for the 2C lands.

Councillor Nigel Kean, who chaired the review committee, expressed the need to protect the environment of the 2C lands and suggested

that the environmental study be carried out prior to the secondary plan.

Following a motion to receive the delegations, committee members took over and the meeting started to deteriorate with internal bickering.

Councillor Damir Vrancic expressed concern about the recommendation requesting the region to amend the regional official plan to include the 2C lands in the urban area pointing out that it would open the door to development, and would remove any defense the town has against OMB appeals.

He requested the recommendation be deferred to get a legal opinion, but that was defeated on a 4-3 vote.

In spite of the defeat, Councillor John West continued to debate the issues, until he was finally ruled out of order. After further discussion, the report was adopted as presented on a 4-3 vote.

In spite of the long debate, the issue will be re-introduced at the council meeting when the report is presented, if Vrancic carries through with his warning and request that councillors reflect on the issues.

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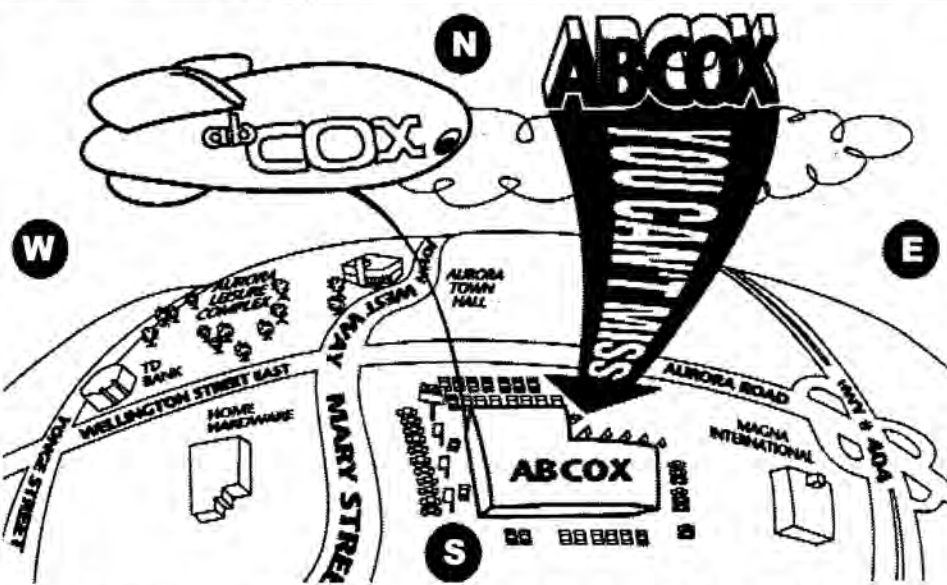
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# Pottery Sale

Another successful Spring Sale was held last week by the Pine Tree Potters Guild at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club in Aurora. Among the vendors were, top photo, left to right, Nina Delisi-Cromwell, Margaret Tilling, Jabette Bulin-Scott and Robert Walter, all of Aurora, who had their wares on display for buyers Cheryl Gardner and Juergen Daurer, right. Auroran photos by Naomi Tobin



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# Blue box recycling nets \$\$\$

Householders taking time to separate waste by using blue boxes for recyclable goods helped keep costs of transporting garbage to Michigan down last year. And it made a profit for the municipality.

York Region's Material Recovery Facility in Markham is operated by Miller Waste Systems and accepts blue boxes from Aurora, King, Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Whitchurch-Stouffville. Georgina, East Gwillimbury and Newmarket are serviced by LaRue Waste and Recycling in Georgina.

Both companies act as marketing agents for the recycled materials and during 2002, Miller processed 35,519 tonnes of material and LaRue 4,440 tonnes. Average material sales price was \$100.85 per tonne, generating revenues of approximately \$4 million.

After all payments to the contractors for processing the material, there was a net surplus of \$1.2 million, which will be distributed among the participating municipalities.

Average price for aluminum cans, used for carbonated drinks, was \$1,696 per tonne and

an average of 36 tonnes was sold each month. Ferrous (containing iron) metal cans brought an average \$73 per tonne with about 18 tonnes sold each

month. This year, the region will assume all waste disposal and diversion costs and will retain all revenue from the sale of material.

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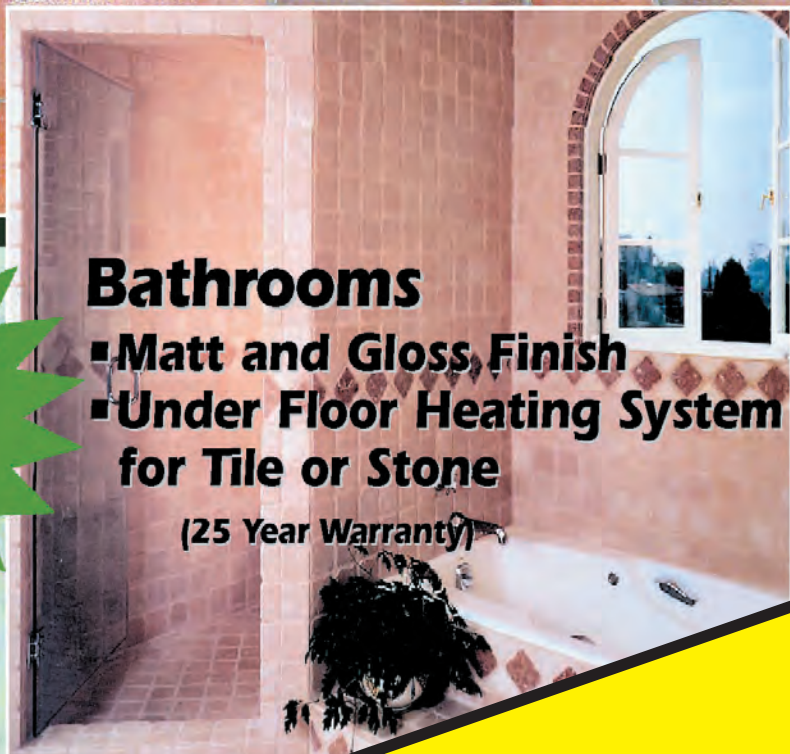
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