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# AURORAN

*Aurora's Community Newspaper*

Thomas B. McPherson  
Colin A. Brown  
John T. Kalm

Thomas McPherson  
& Associates  
LAW FIRM

T: 905-727-3151  
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Vol. 3 No. 33

Week of June 10, 2003

905-727-3300

## McIntyre Citizen of the Year

Everyone agreed...it was long overdue.

Aurora's 2003 Citizen of the Year, finally, is Dr. John McIntyre, a member of a family long connected with Aurora.

Mayor Tim Jones made the presentation to McIntyre, which came as a surprise to the man who was supposed to have been at choir

practice at Trinity Anglican Church.

"I knew something was wrong when I was kidnapped by Jackie Stuart," he said.

Stuart is curator of the Aurora Museum and had the task of bringing the recipient to the Community Recognition Award Ceremony, held at the Town Hall Thursday night.

McIntyre is the sixth generation of

a family that settled in Aurora in 1817.

He is a long-time member of the Aurora Historical Society and has dedicated his life to the preservation and celebration of Aurora's history.

Probably no one in town knows more about its history than McIntyre.

He was a key figure in ensuring the preservation of Church Street School, as well as negotiating for the space on the second floor for the establishment of the Aurora Museum.

McIntyre has been a long-time member of the Aurora Local Architectural Conservation

**Please see Page 19**

## Amended plan would slow town growth

Provincial legislation requires municipalities to carry out an official plan review every five years.

At the last meeting of Aurora Council, the report of the Five Year Official Plan Review Committee was adopted with several amendments proposed by Councillor Damir Vrancic.

He pointed out once Aurora asked York Region to amend its official plan to extend Aurora's urban area to include lands from the East Holland River to Highway 404, known as the 2C lands, the pressure would be on council for residential development, which he termed premature.

He added that it was not possible to stop growth, but it could be

**Please see Page 17**

## Briefly

### Visit two famous sites

On Wednesday, June 18, Merlin's Hollow, Aurora's famous private garden, will open for the benefit of Hillary House National Historic Site, from 11a.m. to 7 p.m.

As a plus, you can visit Hillary House itself between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. for a tour and tea with homemade refreshments.

Admission at each site is \$5.

Call (905) 727-8991 for any further information.



**Hear Ye! Hear Ye!** Aurora's Town Crier John Webster, bottom photo, makes it official that John McIntyre, top photo, is truly Aurora's 2003 Citizen of the Year. Award was bestowed Thursday night at the Town Hall during Aurora's annual Community Recognition Awards ceremony. McIntyre was expecting to attend a choir practice when he was "kidnapped" and brought to the town hall.

Auroran photos by David Falconer



**Aurora's Laura Snape tests the tomatoes at Aurora's first farmers' market of the season, which opened Saturday in the Temperance Street parking lot, just south of Wellington. Ron Van Hart of Van Hart Greenhouses, one of the vendors, makes the sale. Attendance was low opening day, but organizer Nigel Kean is confident the event will build in popularity over the summer. It's scheduled to be held every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. through to the Thanksgiving weekend.**

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace



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## Coming Events in Aurora

### CONTINUING

Farmers Market, Temperance Street parking lot, every Saturday through Thanksgiving weekend 8 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. Contact Nigel Kean at 905-841-6776.

\* \* \* \*

Registration now taking place for Kids On the Move summer camp to be held at Highview Public School during July and August. Grades 1 to 3 and 4 to 6. Further information 905-841-1638 or 905-841-7742

\* \* \* \*

Gamblers Anonymous, every Tuesday night, Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street, 7.30 p.m.

\* \* \* \*

During the month of June the Skylight Gallery in the Aurora Town Hall will feature the artworks of Mercury Dougherty. Regular viewing hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

### JUNE 13

Last day for application to the Aurora Arts and Culture Fund. If you or your organization need financial assistance to promote cultural and/or artistic activities, apply for a grant from the fund. Send applications to the Arts and Cultural Fund at the Town Hall.

### JUNE 14

Students of Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School are organizing the first ever Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion event. They invite participants to wheel along a designated course on bicycles, wheelchairs, inline skates or scooters to raise funds to help others get off wheels, such as wheelchairs. It starts at 8:30 a.m. at the school.

\* \* \* \*

The Aurora Historical Society has teamed up with members of the Toronto Heritage Committee to create a memorable day to help celebrate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the railway between Toronto and Aurora, then Machell's Corners. The cost for the day trip to Toronto is \$25, excluding lunch. Call 905-727-8991 for further information.

### JUNE 16

Dr. Joel Wallach, Nobel Prize nominee, is guest speaker at the Aurora Public Library. 7.30 p.m. Reservations required. Call 905-727-2199.

\* \* \* \*

The annual general meeting of the Aurora Seniors has been changed to today in the main hall at 10 a.m. The original date of June 9th was changed to a special meeting to allow seniors to discuss the town's options for replacing the seniors' centre.

### JUNE 18

Merlin's Hollow Open Day with the Aurora Historical

Society, with David and Deirdre Tomlinson, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. \$5. More info call 905-727-8991.

### JUNE 20-22

Polo for Heart, Gormley Polo Centre. Leslie Street, south of Bloomington. Game times each day noon and 1:30 p.m. Fields open from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### JUNE 20

Aurora Seniors Annual Picnic in the Park as part of Seniors Week. Rain date is June 27th. Picnic includes hamburger or hot hotdog, munchies, cold drink and dessert, plus games, fun prizes and entertainment. All for \$3 but tickets must be purchased in advance. Starts at 11:30 a.m. Call 905-727-2816 for further information.

### JUNE 21

Let's Keep Aurora Beautiful Day. Garbage bags and gloves will be provided to those who participate. RSVP to Mary McCluskey, 905 727-3123 ext 260, or e-mail mmccluskey@town.aurora.on.ca

\* \* \* \*

Fundraiser at Shoppers Drug Mart (Doane Hall) from 10.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. Proceeds to Southlake.

### 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.

\* \* \* \*

Seminar "Protect Your Money: Schemes, Scams and Flimflams", hosted by MPP Greg Sorbara, will be held at the Aurora Seniors Centre, 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

### JUNE 30

Town of Aurora Yard Waste Collection. Waste must be in clear plastic bags or a clean, rigid, reusable waste container or a bushel basket. Call the town's works department for further information.

### JULY 6

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society Garden Tour. Seven gardens are included on this year's tour. Tickets \$10 from Madge Ford at 905-727-5926 or Sheila Copeland at 905-830-0264.

### JULY 26

Aurora Seniors Annual Garage Sale at the Seniors' Centre from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### AUGUST 16

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Abbotsford Animal Hospital on Yonge Street in Aurora will hold its 7th Annual Charity Dog Wash, rain or shine, with proceeds to the Southlake Regional Health Centre. Call 905-727-7379 for further information.

### 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.

- With files from Info Aurora



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# Aurora Citizen's Alert

The Town of Aurora is about to lose one of its finer eating establishments.

Unless patronage improves dramatically, The Oriental Diner in the Wellington Plaza will shortly close its doors.

If you are interested in the finest and most innovative Chinese cuisine in town, it is imperative that you go to The Oriental Diner as soon and as often as you can, otherwise the opportunity to experience this great dining could be gone forever.

Remember, do not confuse this restaurant with its predecessors, who occupied the same premises.

This ad was written and paid for by a group of self-interested residents who do not want to have to say goodbye to The Oriental Diner for obvious selfish reasons.

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As balloons soar high over the historic Church Street School, members of the Aurora Historical Society executive (inset) braved inclement weather to celebrate the approval of a lease that will allow the group to occupy the entire building. Originally, the Aurora Museum was confined to the second floor, but now will be able to expand throughout the structure. Museum artifacts are currently in storage at Hillary House and the old library building on Victoria Street. A new elevator at the rear of the building will allow access for everyone.

Auroran photos by Ron Wallace

# Society celebrates new school lease for an old school

Pouring rain and cold temperatures failed to deter a hearty group of Aurora Historical Society directors from celebrating their good fortunes last week.

Fresh from approval of a new lease that will give the group full use of the almost-renovated Church Street School, the directors hoped to hold the first part of their regular executive meeting in the school Wednesday.

But they couldn't get the key.

Armed with champagne, balloons and an ancient school bell, the directors celebrated their new lease outside, under the canopy of the old library building on Victoria Street.

Aurora Council last week gave final approval to a lease that will allow the Aurora Museum to expand inside the newly-renovated building.

The Historical Society will become the sole occupant of the school, although it will have the authority to lease out space to other groups.

Currently, the school, which was built in 1886, is undergoing extensive renovations and upgrades,

including a new foundation and the addition of an elevator to the north exterior wall.

Work is expected to be completed early this summer.

Historical displays and artifacts are in storage at both the old library building and the Society's Hillary

House, where Museum Curator Jackie Stuart has been stationed since the school renovations began.

Once back in possession of the school, the Society has plans for major interior renovations of the building, expected to cost in the neighbourhood of \$1 million.

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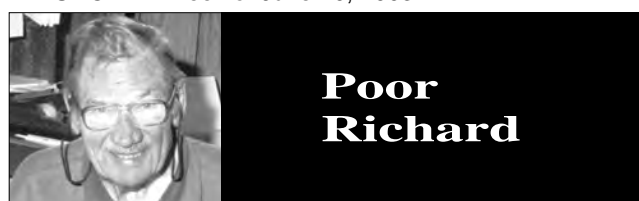
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# From a distance, I got rid of factory

*Now is the time, Poor Richard said,  
To tell some things about the past  
Like bringing back old memories,  
That are disappearing very fast.  
-Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

Sometimes it's possible to help someone do the impossible.

This little tidbit has nothing to do with Aurora or the manufacture of L.S.D. but back in 1968, I helped to get rid of an acid factory.

In my capacity as R.C.A.F. Aide de Camp to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, I was in attendance to the Honourable Ross Macdonald when he was invited to officially open the Elliot Lake Airport.

The Vice-Regal party consisted of the Lieutenant Governor; his granddaughter; the Right Honourable Lester B. and Mrs. Pearson; my daughter Suzanne; and myself.

We flew up to Elliot Lake in a Department of Lands and Forests Twin Otter for the weekend.

While there I met Bill Meawasige, Chief of the Serpent River Reserve, who had played a part in the ceremony opening the airport.

He noted my Air Force uniform and asked that I arrange to have the acid plant located on the reserve bombed.

It seems that Denison Mines, then operating a uranium mining operation in Elliot Lake, arranged with Indian Affairs to construct a large plant on the reserve to produce sulfuric acid as a byproduct of the mining operation.

After a short period, production was discontinued leaving this massive reinforced concrete plant, several storeys high, which could be seen from all parts of the reserve and presented a depressing effect to the whole area.

I made a vague promise to do what I could.

On my return to Aurora I got involved in other things and forgot all about it.

About two weeks later I received a well-written letter from the Chief making a formal request for the removal of the building.

Realizing I had to do something, I contacted Indian Affairs and was told that anything I could do to help get rid of the building would be most welcome, as they had tried several times to have it removed without success.

As it was not a suitable operation for the Air Force Auxiliary, I contacted Brigadier General Gerry Coffin, Commander, Central Ontario Region, to see if the Army might be interested in some form of a tactical exercise involving the militia.

Evidently it was too large a project for the militia and it was passed on to the Regular Force Engineers at Petawawa with the suggestion that it be considered for 1969.

All arrangements were completed and an extensive operations order was prepared for demolition on August 26, 1969.

I was invited by the Army to go to Elliot Lake to witness the event but was unable to get away at the time.

General Coffin told me later that the first attempt was a failure. Evidently the engineers misjudged the thickness of the concrete walls and the first blast went "poof" and raised a bit of dust.

They doubled the charge and the next time the building imploded into a cloud of dust and rubble.

The bulldozers and trucks were called in and soon the rubble was cleared away, the site graded, making Chief Meawasige and the people of the reserve very happy.

Evidently, I made the front page of the Elliot Lake paper that day and I missed the whole event.

One date I would like to forget is my birthday on June 11th when I reach the age of 87.

It's amazing how fast the time goes by, as you grow older. When you're young, old age is far away and the farthest from your thoughts.

The weeks and months pass and first thing you know you're 65 and in most cases, your working days are over and you are expected to retire and live on whatever pension you might have acquired over the years.

I'm often asked when I'm going to retire, but why should I retire when I'm having fun and doing what I like to do.

Besides, it's much better than sitting in a rocking chair wondering what to do and how to put in the day.

Sometimes it gets a bit hectic trying to schedule meetings and telecasts and still have time to write.

It's like being on a merry-go-round and not being able to control the speed.

Either you stay on at the speed it's going or you get off and I'm not quite ready to get off.

The only regret I have is not taking care of myself when I was young.

**ED. NOTE: Dear Dick: The name of the paper in Elliot Lake was, and is, The Standard, a subsidiary of the Sudbury Star, currently part of the Osprey newspaper group. And, with all due respect, if you hadn't taken care of yourself "when I was young", you wouldn't be doing what you're doing today. Happy Birthday from the Auroran crew!!!**



One of the final photographs taken of Aurora's former Queen's Hotel, which appeared in a local newspaper December 2, 1970, is reproduced here. Awaiting the wrecker's hammer, the stately building on the northeast corner of Yonge and Wellington stood its ground for about 120 years. The two-storey section on the rear was an addition in 1932.

## Letters to the Editor

# Thanks for support, she says

To the editor,

As Chairperson of the 8th Annual Aurora Chamber of Commerce Street Festival Committee, I would like to thank all the people who contributed to this very successful event.

This great day was complete with great weather, 627 vendors, entertainment for young and young at heart and 35,000 visitors.

Funding and support from the Trillium Foundation, the Aurora Arts and Culture Fund and York Region went a long way to providing much of the wonderful

entertainment and promotion for the day.

Special thanks to all of our sponsors, ACI - Aurora Cable Internet, Diamond Trim Classics in Aurora, GO Transit, Law Insurance Brokers Limited and Bell Canada.

Thanks very much to the great volunteers who helped out as block captains and to the Town of Aurora staff for coming out bright and early to drop off the barricades, garbage cans and also for the clean up.

Others to thank include the Girl Guides of Canada - 3rd

Aurora Pathfinders, Central York Fire Services, York Regional Police and the York Region Police Auxiliary, the Aurora Radio Club, Don Mills R.E.A.C.T Club, St. John Ambulance, Aurora Esso Centre, Graystone's Restaurant, Kerrson Mechanical, Aurora Toyota, Mary's Flower Shop, Aurora Home Hardware, and Royal Woodworking.

Valuable committee members were Larry Allison (Town of Aurora), Brian North (Ellis Studios), Dawn Irwin, Gary Nolan (Diamond Trim of Aurora), Ron

Wallace (The Auroran), Brenda Snape (Type by Design), Kim Kerr (Kerrson Mechanical), and Tom Beck (Hartwell Thayer Financial Services Group).

Special thanks to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce staff whose tireless efforts make this festival better year after year.

Our sincere appreciation for all the great coverage in the Auroran.

The enthusiastic efforts of these people and the overwhelming participation of our citizens combine to give our town this wonderful community spirit which makes Aurora the best place in the world to live.

Many thanks to all.

**Regina Brown  
Chairperson  
2003 Aurora  
Street Festival**

# SOYRA thrilled with festival

To the editor,

When a team of dedicated individuals makes a commitment to act as one, the sky is the limit.

It always makes you feel good to be able to say "Thank you".

It makes you realize you are surrounded by wonderful people, who have one goal in mind: make life as enjoyable for each other as is possible by assisting where you can assist.

You can do this as an individual, as a business, as an organization or as a political body.

The Society Of York Region Artists (SOYRA) had the pleasure of experiencing this first hand during the week-end of the World's Longest Street Festival here in Aurora.

It all started last year, when the Aurora Chamber of Commerce approached SOYRA with the idea to add an art section to the Festival.

Several of our members went for it and when SOYRA was approached again this year, the idea to turn our part of the event into a fundraiser for the Aurora Public Library was well received.

And not only that, We received such a great co-operation from different directions that the event

turned out to be a great success.

It was nice to see SOYRA members, who do not live in Aurora, join the Aurora members in raising funds for our library.

They all paid showing fees, donated 25 per cent of the sales, gave freely of their time to sell raffle tickets, helped organize the event and supervised it. Nancy Newman, thanks for that wonderful contribution.

To make it even more of a community event we were able to hand out flyers for the art show and sale held at the Aurora Seniors Centre by the senior citizens of Aurora and assist them by directing visitors of the library and the SOYRA show to their exposition.

We even learned some people came to Aurora because they could take in two art shows for the price of one.

We'd like to thank the great staff of the Town of Aurora for their services and co-operation.

A special word of thanks goes to Bryan, Matt, Judy and Greg. What a big help you were. It was nice working with you and we hope we may continue this in the future.

Thank you, Chamber of Commerce, for making our

job as easy as was possible.

We sure look forward to having you on our side for a long time to come. It is a pleasure working with you and if you need us, you can count on us.

Thank you, Aurora Cable, and thank you, "Plugged In", for the opportunity to make our community aware of our fundraiser. You contributed a lot to make it a success.

Ron Wallace, "Mr. Aurora", is always a person you can count on when it comes to doing something for our town. Thank you for being there every time you can be of help.

Cindy, thank you for your sacrifices as the wife of the SOYRA chairperson.

And last, but not least, thank you to all the people who visited our show and sale and showed interest in the works of our regional artists and helped us help the Aurora Public Library.

You made it all worthwhile.

It was with the help of all the people mentioned here that we are in the position to hand over a cheque for \$1,750 to the Aurora Public Library.

Is it not a great feeling to be able to thank, to help and be a part of a great community?

**Bill van Oorschot  
SOYRA Chairperson**

## AURORAN

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Mayor's Report  
By Tim Jones

# Raise the flag; proclamations pour into town

Almost every week, I receive requests to proclaim a day, week or month in recognition of a particular cause or charity.

In the past, these requests appeared on council agendas and were considered and determined by council.

Given the frequency of these requests, several years ago, council authorized the mayor to approve these proclamations and developed a policy for the Mayor to initiate them.

Any such request that was judged not to be able to be dealt specifically within the policy would still be required to come forward to council.

In simple terms, if a municipality chooses to endorse proclamations, it must be inclusive and have a policy by which to do so.

In some cases, municipalities have chosen not to endorse any proclamations and not to become involved in any controversy around what they would or would not support.

Current Town procedure for proclamations includes the following considerations:

- Proclamations are prepared for non-profit organizations only - the Clerk's Department is to be consulted if there are any concerns in this regard.
- The Town maintains an electronic file of all past proclamations for reference
- Proclamations are prepared in a standard format and they are posted at all Town facilities
- All proclamations are signed by the Mayor
- One copy of every proclamation is sent to the Marketing/Communications Assistant who ensures that it is reviewed by the Editorial Committee
- One copy is put in the communications binder in the Councillors' Room at the Town Hall
- In many cases, proclamations also involve flying an organization's flag for the duration of the proclamation period. Arrangements are made for the organization's flag and photo-op, as required, to raise their flag at a pole provided for that purpose at the Town Hall

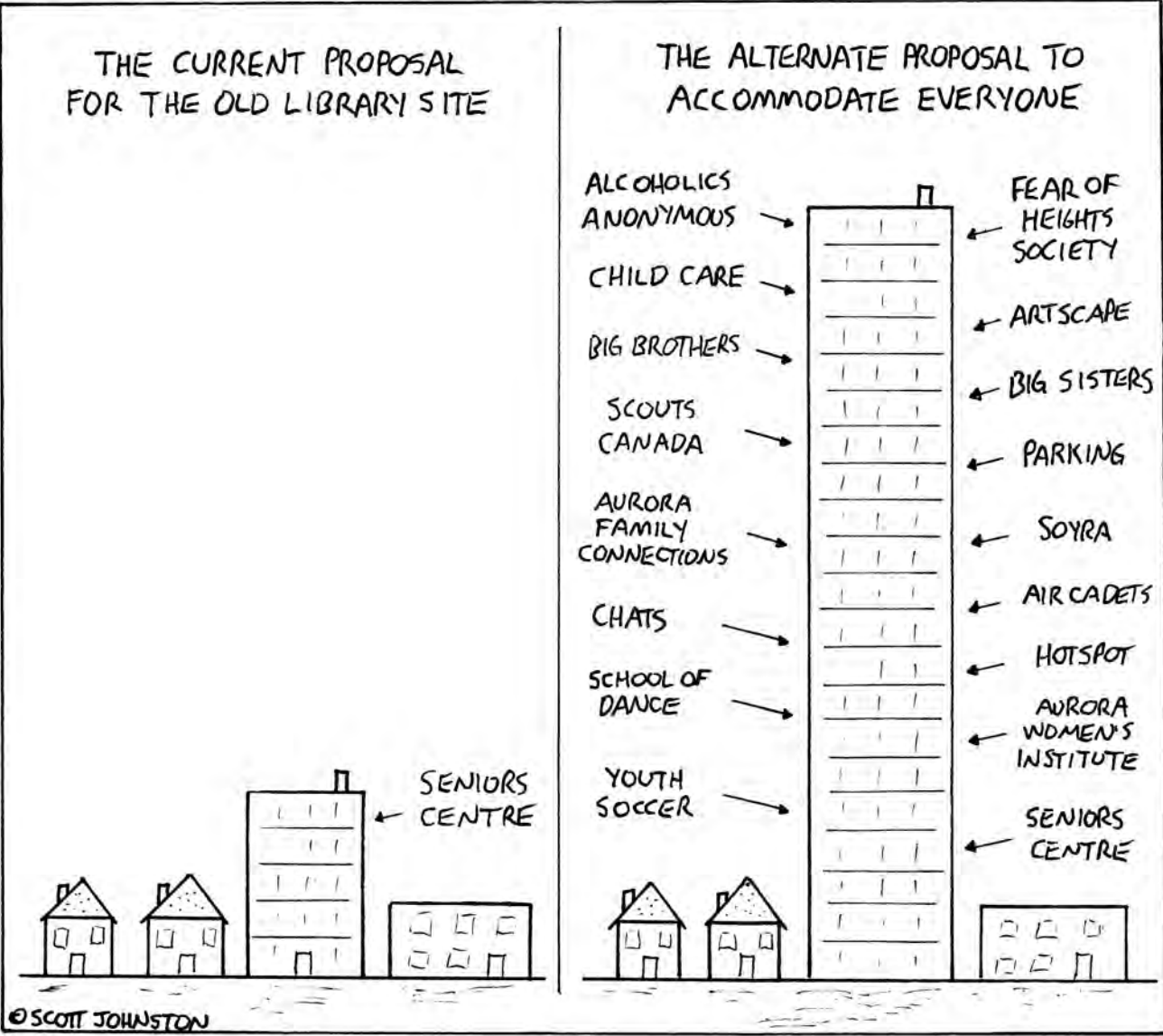
I asked for a list of the proclamations endorsed in 2002.

They include: Child Find Ontario - National Missing Children's Day; Heart and Stroke; Hospice King-Aurora; Alzheimer Society; In Celebration of the Arts; National Volunteer Week; Autism Society of Ontario; Canada's Citizenship Week; Learning Disabilities Association; Canadian Cancer Society; Toronto & York Region Labour Council - Repetitive Strain Injury Awareness Day Toronto & York Region Labour Council; National Day of Mourning; Community Living; Ontario Association of Marriage and Family Therapy - Marriage Check Up Week; Salvation Army; Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month; Mental Health; Health Canada; Clowns Canada; Canadian National Institute for the Blind; Canadian Life Saving Society; Drug Awareness; Easter Seal Society of Canada; National Emergency Preparedness Week; Family Life Centre Ontario; Association of Social Workers; Ontario Pharmacists Association; Organ Donor Awareness; Pitch In Canada; Royal Canadian Legion; Pride; Canadian Red Cross; Community Business Access Centre - Small Business Week; Southlake Regional Health Centre - Nurture the Future; Toastmasters; Ontario Professional Planners; Young Science Foundation Canada.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

## Machell's Corners



### Letter to the Editor

# Parking is crucial if Library Square to develop properly

To the editor,

Let us get it right! Options for Library Square include renovation or redevelopment; renovate or tear down and rebuild.

Whatever is decided, crucial to this development and to the adjoining business and residential area is the question of parking.

If we do not address the parking issue, we do not address a fundamental need.

I say we, because council is listening, they seek our input.

They await results of the Seniors' debate held Monday and they await anything from you or me.

If you have an opinion, make it known.

My opinion is that as things stand or stagnate, the options on the table are flawed by the woeful lack of parking. What to do?

In my layman's opinion, layman in as much as I am not an architect, structural engineer, or a financier, an investment should be made in underground parking, with tiered parking held in reservation as something to do, if needs be, in the future.

To do that, we have to tear down the old existing buildings, and rebuild.

Obviously, if underground parking is to be an option, now is the time to consider it.

Consider the cars parked on Yonge Street. Consider Library Square, as it is now, new and congested. Consider the neighborhood streets, congested.

Aurora has a problem that deserves to be addressed, and we have the means to do so staring us in the face, and get redevelopment.

There is a cost involved, to be sure, and huge long lasting benefits to downtown Aurora and to all who have homes or business in and around Library Square.

Parking spaces take all the use you can give them, and with a little occasional paint job, do one heck of a job.

Over the lifetime of a redeveloped building, additional parking deserves serious consideration.

Briefly, the redevelopment concerns renovating the old library or tearing down the old library along with the old fire hall adjoining it, and building a new 46,000 square foot complex, which would include apartments.

In the normal course of events, I would keep my opinions to myself and leave such matters to professional people, but the voices

addressing council keep asking, almost plaintively, what are you going to do about the parking.

And thus far I have not heard a meaningful reply.

So I am ticked off, big time. If you or I do not speak, you or I will not be heard.

What I say is this, we have a parking issue, with this redevelopment in this area. And I request Aurora Town Council, please address it.

Having said that, I now say this. If Aurora is going to build, Aurora should consider the many years the building will occupy this site, the varying uses to which the building may be put, and the impact the building will have on neighborhood streets including Yonge, an important historical thoroughfare.

No reason or excuse is valid in my opinion, for not taking full care of the necessities, and sufficient parking is a vital necessity.

The Aurora Town Council is to be applauded for its efforts, even though progress has been slow enough to generate criticism, in that they are addressing a need that will grow as Aurora grows.

There appears to be a focus on getting the building up, and not enough on whether the net effect will be

beneficial or detrimental to Aurora.

I believe that with sufficient parking in place, the finished product will enhance its own value and the value of surrounding properties.

I am sure that most of the thought put into developing this property has focused on current needs.

Let us pause, and think now of the impact of the redevelopment on the neighborhood through its life.

The neighborhood will also evolve, for the better hopefully, but if congestion becomes impossible now and over time, then it will be for the worse.

We must marry practicality to necessity. I applaud council for the effort being made to cater to the needs of community organizations, but I am aghast at the problems with parking that are present now and threatening to get much worse.

I am convinced Aurora Town Council could and would enhance Library Square, and the surrounding area, if the parking were addressed. Council, you are up to bat, how about a home run?

Brian Warburton  
Aurora



# Bouquets & Brickbats

By Dick Illingworth

**BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce for their recent donation of \$2,500 to the York Region Community Safety Village. The funds came from the 2003 Home Show and a fantastic Street Festival.

**BRICKBATS** to Aurora Council for once again putting the cart before the horse by agreeing to investigate the feasibility of building a five-storey, 30-unit apartment building combined with a seniors' centre, following the demolition of the old library and seniors' centre. If a developer made the proposal he'd be laughed out of town, but council pushes ahead with this ridiculous scheme, without a public planning meeting and after wasting taxpayers' money on detailed architect's plans.

**BOUQUETS** to former Town of Aurora employee Christine Gardner on receiving the Volunteer Long Term Achievement Award at the recent In Celebration of Women Ceremony. More **BOUQUETS** to Danielle Volpe of Habitat for Humanity for planning and development and Deborah Egan of CHATS for community service.

A special **BOUQUET** to the students and staff of Highview Public School for their musical production of "It's About Time" involving more than 100 students from Grades 5 to 8. Thanks to Marilyn Munslow for the suggestion.

**BRICKBATS** to the inconsiderate telemarketers who invade people's privacy at anytime, but especially after 9 p.m. or on a Sunday afternoon when most people have settled down to relax. They usually start by saying they just want a few answers to a survey, which invariably ends in a sales pitch. If they have to call, it should be during normal business hours.

**BOUQUETS** to Tom Ntoulas the friendly innkeeper of the recently opened Oakland Hall Inn on Yonge Street North in Aurora for being one of two restaurateurs in York Region to be a member of the Endangered Fish Alliance. Members have agreed not to cook endangered fish and to encourage sustainable fishing practices.

**BRICKBATS** to the vandals who broke into the Lester B. Pearson Public School about 11 p.m. May 19th to celebrate Victoria Day indoors. Once inside, they set off fireworks causing a fire, resulting in a \$15,000 cleanup. Central York Fire Services responded and along with the school's sprinkler system contained the fire to one classroom. How stupid can people get?

**BOUQUETS** to Peel Regional Council for listening to the problems of restaurant, bar and bingo hall operators, plus their affiliated charities and delaying a bylaw to impose a regional smoke-free bylaw until June 1, 2010. York Region should follow Peel's example.

**BRICKBATS** to the Eves Tory government for trying to piggyback the legislation dealing with making it mandatory for teachers to continue to provide extracurricular activities, with the legislation forcing the teachers back to work, and blaming the opposition for opposing it. A sneaky way of doing business, but that's nothing new for the Tories!

**BOUQUETS** to the music makers at Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School on continuing to win awards. The school's intermediate, senior concert and senior jazz bands were all rated superior at a recent Montreal Classic Music Festival.

**BRICKBATS** to members of committees, whether they are members of council or volunteer civilian appointees, who fail to show up for a scheduled committee meeting, leaving the committee without a quorum. It seems to be a regular occurrence at the Leisure Services Advisory Committee.

## Letters to the Editor

# With new apartment, where do groups go?

To the editor,

As I try to understand the issue of a proposed seniors' apartment building on Victoria Street, I keep coming back to one question.

What happened to all those groups who applied for space when the Library Square committee was alive?

As I see it, all potential space will disappear if the town demolishes the old library and the old fire hall.

So, if that happens, the seniors will be sent

to another location (where on Industrial Parkway, I wonder) while this new building is erected, then they'll come back and occupy two of the five floors.

But what happens to the air cadets, the soccer people, the Big Brothers, Hot Spot, and all the other groups who sought space in library square?

Any potential space that was available would disappear with the destruction of those two community buildings.

And what happened to the vision?

As I recall, there was never any mention of an apartment building in the library square vision, that linked together the new library, Church Street School, and three other community buildings.

The seniors have made such important contributions to our society, including the ultimate sacrifice. I agree the seniors are going to

eventually need and deserve more space than they will get by moving into the old library, but that's a "down-the-road" project. Let get them settled in the old library now and let Aurora work on a solution to this valuable and central space that will honour all the current and future contributors to our community.

Wendy Gaertner  
Aurora

## Want a green lawn? try growing clover

To the editor,

I'm responding to Anne Allen's letter to the editor in the Auroran, week of May 27.

The only spray that will make your lawn greener in July and August comes from a can of paint.

"Hunter Green" I believe. Relaxing watering restrictions for so-called organic lawn-growers is also not reasonable.

Our fresh water is for people, not vanity.

Grass is supposed to go dormant in the heat of the summer; that is the way the plant grows.

People sprayed for bugs and weeds before Aurora imposed restriction and bans - unlimited water had nothing to do with it, and marketing hysteria everything.

I suggest if you want a green lawn through the summer that you grow clover.

It just stops growing and blooming when the sky dries up.

Otherwise, grass-growers should enjoy their lawns the

way they enjoy the tulips, crocuses, snowdrops, trilliums and cherryblossoms - a lovely but fleeting display of colour.

Why grow something that mosquitoes will lay eggs in?

Elfie Taylor  
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

# Repellant leaves much to be desired, he says

To the editor,

The Ontario Ministry of Health and Pharmacists' Association using Health Canada's research has recommended Deet as a mosquito repellant.

In their Table 1, Registered Insect Repellants in Canada issued May 9, 2002, parents are advised as to its safe use. Do not use for infants under six months. For children six months to two years, up to 10%, use sparingly once daily if there is a high risk of complications from a bite.

How will we know if there

is a high risk of complications before being bitten? Most mothers probably will use 5%. which will give you two hours protection, 10%, three hours.

"Then what's the use?" was one pharmacist's response.

For children two to 12 years, use up to 10% Deet, maximum three applications for nine hours protection. Avoid prolonged use (i.e. daily for several weeks). For 12 and older-up to 30% which will give six hours of protection and can be re-applied as needed.

Deet should not be applied to broken skin, children's hands, head and face to prevent it getting into the eyes and mouth (to prevent irritation or systemic absorption).

If the head and face are unprotected then obviously that's where they will bite. And what will happen at night when the kids are covered with a bedsheet and the head and face are exposed as well as other parts when they kick off the bedding?

Presumably at night they would have had the maximum nine hours of protection during the day.

If you have active kids and they cut themselves where Deet was applied, will they know to take remedial

action? Will you be there to assist?

Aside from the precautions with Deet, they have adroitly omitted mentioning any side effects such as rashes, swelling and itching, eye irritation and, less frequently, slurred speech, confusion, seizures and several cases of toxic encephalophthy (encephalitis) as well as three deaths in children according to the Extension Toxicology Network at Cornell University.

A research paper from Duke University Medical Centre claimed that Deet caused "neuronal dendric loss in rats" i.e. damage to nerve fibres going into brain cells.

Does this sound like the

stuff you want to put on yours and your children's bodies?

There was a caution with citronella - may lead to allergic reactions - no details; lavender oil-significant side effects - again no specifics.

Perhaps the side effects of the natural substances mentioned also occur in small populations as well. But, I have never read or heard of these symptoms, especially seizures and encephalitis associated with the unproven natural

substances.

As a result, I urge readers to read the labels carefully and investigate non-chemical natural repellants - more are coming on the market. Some will work for you, others will not. But the ones that will work will be eminently healthier than the recommended Deet.

Given the skin's absorptive nature, I wouldn't put anything on it that I wouldn't eat.

Jerry Cutler  
Aurora

## Interesting question is posed by Weller

To the editor,

Re: "Reader asks NDP leader for solution" - Auroran, May 27.

From Norm Weller's open letter: "We now have the Aurora Council making a gold stallion out of our former Hydro utility. You are aware of the creative financing and outrageous interest rates charged to our citizens and (Premier) Eves' cap costing us hundreds of thousands...our former hydro utility was owned by our citizens and operated by an elected commission and

responsible to the citizens of Aurora. What would your New Democratic Party do to correct the deregulation mistake?"

That's an interesting question.

Let's hear from you on this, Mr. Hampton.

Personally, I have doubts about that "mistake".

It seems to me deregulation was the end result of earlier mistakes that should not have been made.

Perhaps there's a lesson in that somewhere.

W. John Trusler  
Aurora

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## Letters to the Editor

# Just how tough can it be, mom wonders

To the editor,

The day I volunteered to be linesperson for my son's soccer team was a dark day indeed. In the life of my son, that is.

"You're not seriously going to do it, are you? You don't even know the first thing about soccer," he growled at me, with a look of panic on his face.

"How difficult can it be?" I snarled back at him as I accepted the flag from the referee, determined that I could, indeed would, do it.

I made a decision there and then to hold that flag straight up in the air in the unlikely event of an 'offside' and let the kids figure out which team had to take the

throw in.

After all, I couldn't do everything, could I?

In any case, I happily charged up and down that line, flag at the ready.

I must admit to being somewhat distracted when the ball was kicked to my son who was clearly on the wrong side of the line, but so impressed

was I with his expertise, it really didn't matter to me which side of the line he was playing on. Darn, he was good. I tried not to notice the glaring looks directed my way and the smothered whispers of "well, that was definitely offside". In fact, I was quite enjoying myself.

Having that flag signified having power. You can imagine the disappointment when the referee removed the flag from me at half time and gave it to a kid no older than eight, with the gracious words "you need a rest" directed at me.

However, merely being a spectator also has its advantages. On a positive note, I did get to enjoy the second half of

the game.

Another mother and I were discussing the various skills of the players. Truthfully, I didn't have a clue what their skills were, but after my experience with the flag, I considered myself somewhat of a soccer authority.

As we watched our goalie kick the ball three quarters of the way down

the field, my new friend excitedly announced, "Joseph can really kick that ball. I'd hate to get one of his balls on my head".

Thirteen heads immediately turned our way. All conversation around us ceased. You could have heard a pin drop!

Barbara Anderson  
Aurora

## History will be the judge on American Iraq motive

To the editor,

It is now clear the men and women who lost their lives or were injured in the war in Iraq were not the only casualties.

American relations with France, Germany, Russia, and surprisingly, Canada, were also casualties.

To many Americans the failure of these countries to support the American position in that conflict amounted to an act of betrayal.

France and Canada bore the brunt of American criticism for their failure to support the Americans when they accused Iraq of possessing weapons of mass destruction in violation of the terms of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1441 adopted in 2002.

Americans were convinced France had ulterior motives in refusing to support armed intervention.

Was it to challenge American hegemony and create opportunities to lead the nations opposed to war?

Leadership issues are always involved in disputes between major powers.

Canada was seen as lacking in courage and unwilling to take risks.

Americans were angry and they made sure France and Canada knew it.

French products were boycotted in the United States and Canadians were told to their face they were ingrates.

Canadians visiting in the United States or resident there bore the brunt of American displeasure.

Many were made to feel unwelcome.

The American psyche was traumatized after the tragic event of Nine Eleven and attitudes hardened.

The Canadian view shared by many other nations was that the United Nations arms inspectors should be given more time to complete their task.

Not an unreasonable view under the circumstances.

But Americans held fast to their conviction that Iraq was a rogue state for having flouted past UN resolutions and if force had to be used to dismantle the regime of Saddam Hussein, so be it.

It was an act of courage for Canada to stay on the sidelines.

It signaled to the Americans and the British that Canada can act on its own independent judgment even if that meant displeasing valued friends.

The question of whether

the Americans were justified in going to war in Iraq still remains.

Weapons of mass destruction, chemical or biological, have not been found yet.

What is emerging, however, is a picture of a regime denying its people basic human rights and practicing repression on a massive scale.

Is this sufficient cause for armed intervention?

History will be the judge.

Chris Antoniou  
Aurora

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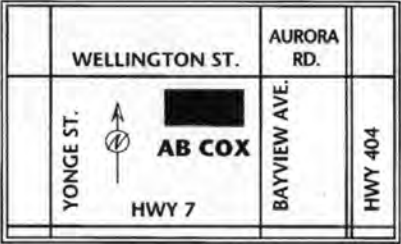
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## AURORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### Have a Safe and Happy Summer

As our 2002/2003 activities come to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their support over the past year.

We will spend the next while planning our events for the year 2003/2004 and look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Our Business Achievement Awards Gala event will take place on Friday, October 24th, 2003 at the Kingbridge Centre. **OUR CELEBRITY KEYNOTE SPEAKER WILL BE DENNIS HULL.**

Please call our office at 905-727-7262 to order your tickets

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Thirteen-year-old rider, top left, awaits transportation to hospital after her horse stopped suddenly tossing her to the ground in the Aurora Horse Show's Grand Prix Friday night. She was not seriously hurt. Grand Prix winner, Margie Sproule, left, signs autographs for fans. Bottom, Aurora's Jim Elder clears a hurdle but failed to make the cut. At right, horses are readied for the show.

The 82nd annual show, Machell Park, under pleasant skies, attracted big crowds to the weekend event in Photos by Tatiana Mitchell & Ron Wallace

## Jaguar Gymnastics



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# AURORA CANADIAN TIRE

## June Festival




The Aurora Youth Soccer Club would like to thank all players, coaches and volunteers for a

## Great Festival Weekend!



# Girls drop 3 of 4 in tournament

The Aurora Squirt Tier 2 girls' team completed their second tournament of the year in Cobourg recently recording one win against three losses. Opening the tournament against Pickering, Aurora lost 10-0 although Meagan Eveleigh nailed two singles in this game. Aurora's fortunes didn't improve much in the second game against Whitby as the locals fell 17-5. A double by Eveleigh and a single by Gabby Chan led the offence. Aurora bounced back in the third game with a 12-2 win over Kanata, played in the rain. Superb plays by Alex Baker, Holly Robson, Meagan Eveleigh and Kathryn Barrett kept a perfect game intact until the last inning. Lauren Renaud pitched a one hitter. In their final game of the tournament, played the next day against a second Whitby team, Aurora was on the wrong end of a 10-5 score. Lauren Renaud had 16 strikeouts in three games. The girls play home games Tuesdays at Fleury Park at 6:30 p.m.

## Aurora Minor Baseball Standings

### Mosquito

May 26 - Aurora Cable Internet 13 D.D. Home Improvements (N2) 10  
May 27 - While Dr. Orschel's Drillers got rained out against Bradford Lions Club, Aurora Cable Internet played Knappett Jewellers (N5) and won 8-6  
May 29 - Dr. Orschel's Drillers 12 Knappett Jewellers (N5) 10  
June 2 - Dr Orschel's Drillers 10 Newmarket Optimist Club (N4) 7  
Hempen Jewellers (N3) 10 Aurora Cable Internet 10  
June 4 - Rained out between Aurora Cable Internet and King City's Filebank giving them each one point  
June 5 - Dr. Orschel's Drillers 12 Fully Completely (N1) 11

### Peewee

June 2 - Strong Renovations (King City) 10 Nature's Emporium (Aurora) 6

### Bantam

June 1 - Braywood Services (Newmarket) 15 Aurora Home Hardware 14  
June 5 - Keswick Marine (G2) 8 Aurora Home Hardware 2

### Midget/Juvenile/Jr

June 1 - Aurora Men's Slo-Pitch League 9 Thornhill #1 2  
June 2 - AMSL 7 Braywood Services (N3) 4

This weekend, Saturday, June 14, is the AMBA Opening Tournament and also Picture Day so players should check with their coach or the web site ([www.auroraminorball.ca](http://www.auroraminorball.ca)) to verify times for both.

## Aurora Minor Hockey Association

The Aurora Minor Hockey Association is currently accepting applications for the Head Coach position of the following teams:

Tyke Select (1996)	Novice Select (1995)	Minor Atom AE (1994)
Atom AE (1993)	Minor Peewee AE (1992)	Minor Bantam AE (1990)
Bantam AE (1989)		

Application packages are available by contacting the AMHA office. Interview dates to be determined.

House League Convenors are required for the following age groups:

Tyke (1996)	Novice (1995)	Peewee (1991)
Minor Bantam (1990)		

These divisions will be unable to start in the fall without a Convenor in place. Please contact House League Vice President, Paula Cooke at the AMHA office for further information.

The AMHA will be hosting the following clinics starting in September:

Coach Level Re-cert. (Sept. 6)	Intermediate Coach (Sept. 10/11/13/14)
Coach Level (Sept. 20, 21)	CHIP (Sept. 20)
Trainer, Level 1 (Sept. 7)	Trainer, Level 1 (Oct. 18)
Speak Out (Sept. 17)	Speak Out (Oct. 15)

All AMHA Coaching Staff must meet minimum coaching certification standards as mandated by the OMHA. House League coaching staff must have a minimum of one certified Coach and one certified Trainer. AMHA members are eligible for 50 - 100% reimbursement on selected courses. Contact the AMHA office for further information or visit the web site to download a registration form.

The AMHA is currently looking for assistance from current and past members to supply photos relevant to AMHA activities past and present. Anyone with photos that they would be willing to LOAN the association for publication on the association website should contact the AMHA office. Photos of historical interest regarding the AMHA are of particular interest.

The AMHA annual Used Equipment Sale will be held on Saturday September 13, 2003. Watch the AMHA website for further information.

November 1st marks the return of the Parents' Auxiliary dance. This year's 70's/80's themed dance will be held at the Howard Johnson Hotel on Yonge Street. Tickets cost \$30 each and include a buffet dinner. Tables will be reserved upon request. Watch the AMHA web site for ticket availability.

AMHA contact information:

Phone 905-727-1480  
Fax 905-727-3812  
Email [aurorahockey@on.aibn.com](mailto:aurorahockey@on.aibn.com)  
Web Site [www.aci.on.ca/amha](http://www.aci.on.ca/amha)



Making the opening of the 82nd annual Aurora Horse Show and Fair official, horse guards and piper from St. Andrew's College led a small parade through the grounds at Machell Park Saturday morning. The tall guy in the background is stiltwalker Ben Burland, who has appeared at numerous Aurora events in the past decade. Photo by Tatiana Mitchell

# Diggers win a pair

Aurora's Novice Diggers girls' ball team came up with their first two league wins last week.

In the first game, the team travelled to Peterborough where they handily beat their hosts 22-2.

Jennifer Kates pitched for the Aurora squad and over five innings struck out seven batters, gave up three walks and allowed only two hits, both responsible for the two Peterborough runs.

Kaylee McDonald went three for three at bat with one of her hits being a triple, while Kathryn Cribbett, Jessica Suddes and Chelsae Lumley each had three hits in the winning effort.

Two nights later, Oshawa came to town and again it was the Aurora pitching that won the game.

Kaylee McDonald went seven innings and faced only 27 batters. She struck out 12, gave up four walks and allowed only three hits to lead Aurora to a 7-0 victory.

Offensively Chelsae Lumley led the Aurora bats going two for four, while Jessica Suddes, Kaylee McDonald, Alyson Murphy, Larisa Weissberger and Jamie Doiges contributed

hits that brought in the runs. Larisa Weissberger also crossed the plate twice in

the winning effort. Aurora's record is now 2-1-1.



## HOSPICE KING-AURORA

*Thanks to all our generous supporters for making our 2003 Gourmet Strollathon a wonderful event. Our appreciation extends to the neighbourhood of Hunters Glen Estates, our strollers, our hosts and their suppliers, individuals and corporate friends alike and the many volunteers who made it such a great day!*

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Prize Winners  
**Brandon Outhwaite,**  
**Marissa Diceman,**  
**Ines Prime**



# Ninth annual Seniors Art Show is best ever

The Ninth Annual Aurora Seniors' Art Show and Sale held last week was bigger and better than ever, according to the many art lovers who came to view the artwork and gift boutique.

The exhibition might have been even larger, but there was a shortage of town-owned display boards on which to hang the paintings resulting in some artists not being able to hang all their creations.

In 2001, the Town of Aurora agreed to purchase a painting from the "Our Kind of Town, Preserve Aurora in Paint" category up to a value of \$300 for the town's permanent collection.

This year Deputy Mayor John West officially opened the exhibition again and selected a painting of "The Chateau" located high on a hill on the west side of Yonge Street at Reuben Street by 90-year-old artist Jesse Coleman

The Chateau, constructed in 1912, was the childhood home of the late Wing Commander Lloyd Chadburn, one of Canada's most decorated wartime fighter pilots.

At age 24, he was killed in the air when his plane collided with another Spitfire over Cherbourg area during the D-Day action.

For his personal art collection West also purchased "The Royal Hotel", a popular stopping place for travellers, which was located at Yonge and Mosley Streets in the late 1800s.

In 2001, West selected a painting of "The Old Fleury Works" (now Bacon Basketware on Wellington Street West) with the historic chimney, since demol-

ished, in the background by Artist Nishimura, and in 2002 he selected a painting of the historic "Field House", a little white cottage formerly located at the southeast corner of Leslie Street and Wellington Street East, previously occupied by the Britton sisters. Pierrette Ajram was the artist.

Also sold from the historic category was a painting of "The Red House" by Kay Nishimura and purchased by Tom Ntoulas, who had

purchased the historic home, for a restaurant. It can be seen in the entranceway to the newly opened Oakland Hall Inn.

The Red House is the former home of art instructor Dorothy Clark McClure and some of her work is in the Red House Studio Lounge.

Every year "The Chocolate Moose Award" is awarded to the artist with the best title for a painting. This year the award went to Pierrette Ajram for her painting of two dogs with the title "2 Hot

Dogs All-Dressed".

During the 4½ hour period a total of 11 paintings were sold plus more than \$200 in sales from the Gift Boutique.

Artists had some of their paintings reduced in size for packages of hasty-notes, bookmarks and other gift items.

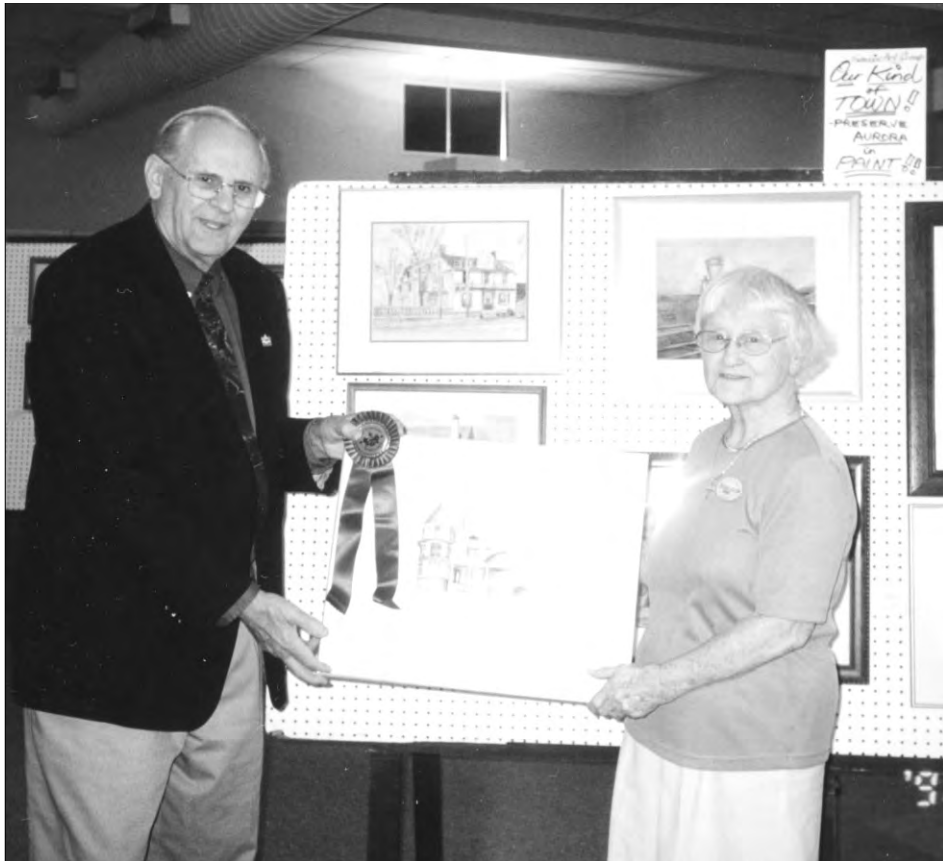
Every Tuesday morning artists gather at the Seniors' Centre to draw and paint. They work under the direction of Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure.

McClure has been teaching the group since 1992 with many of the seniors returning session after session. The town's Leisure Services Department sponsors the 8 to 10 week courses that are held during the fall, winter and spring.

Students range in age from 55 to over 90 and are from beginner to near professional level in talent and

experience. The next course starts September 9, and registration is through the Seniors Centre at 905-727-2816.

In 1994 as the culmination of the year's work, the seniors held their first Art Show and Sale at the Senior's Centre with the artists in attendance and it has continued every year since then.



## Winner

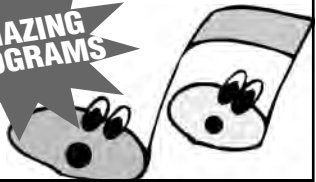
**Aurora Deputy Mayor John West joins artist Jesse Coleman with "The Chateau", his selection for the "Preserve Aurora in Paint" category. The picture will hang in the town office.**

**Auroran photo by Dick Illingworth**

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*The Aurora Agricultural Society extends heartfelt thanks to the following individuals, businesses, and organizations for their support of the*

**82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Aurora Fair and Horse Show**

*held in Machell Park on June 6, 7, and 8.*

**Their support makes it possible to keep this major community family event alive.**

*Thank you all and also many thanks to the people who supported the Fair and Horse Show by their attendance.*

*See you next year!*

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**The Aurora Agricultural Society is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to putting on the Fair and Horse Show for Aurora and the surrounding community.**  
**For information on volunteer opportunities, please call 905-713-6773.**

## Children's Personal Safety Seminar



As a parent, it's scary thinking about what can happen to our kids when we aren't around. We can't be with them twenty four hours a day to protect them. Luckily, we can teach them about the dangers of strangers and what to do if they are approached, just as we teach them what to do in case of a fire or other emergency.

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## Rumours & Rumblings

# Finding the millennium gazebo a home

To celebrate Aurora's entry into the new century, Aurora Council appointed a committee to develop a Millennium town project and to plan various activities to celebrate the event.

In November, 1999, the committee recommended and council accepted a Millennium Garden to be located in the Holland River Valley between Lambert Willson Park and the Town Hall as its primary project.

The focal point of the garden was to be a gazebo and walkways connecting to the trail system.

But when it came time to decide where to locate the \$34,206 gazebo, problems developed. The committee and the Leisure Services Advisory committee couldn't agree on the location.

Funds were raised and staff developed a concept plan and selected a location in the Lambert Willson Park.

The Millennium committee rejected the proposed location, as they preferred a location in the lower part of the valley.

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation expressed concern about the suggested location.

Finally in December, 2001, a compromise was reached and the Millennium gazebo found a home.

It is located on the western limit of the park close to the Leisure Complex and the Nokiidaa trail system.

### THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Back in 1939, prior to the start of the Second World War, postage stamps sold for three cents and ice cream cones or a bottle of pop was five cents.

Believe it or not a gallon of gasoline was 28 cents and at 4.5 litres to a gallon that works out to under seven cents a litre.

A pound of sirloin steak cost about 29 cents and a 26-ounce bottle of Seagram's VO was \$3.10.

If you were a fruit lover, a six-quart basket of McIntosh apples sold for 20 cents.

To put the prices in perspective, the average industrial wage in Canada was \$24.94 per week.

### POSTAL CODE WAS SET TO GROW

Telephone users are now used to 10-digit dialling, but back in May, 1989, Canada Post warned that 10-digit postal codes would soon be necessary.

The existing code, introduced in 1972, identifies groups of addresses such as those on the same residential street or the same apartment building.

The new system, known as the Paradigm Project, was designed to improve mail delivery and reduce sorting requirements and be more accurate.

It would do away with 10,000 to 15,000 members of the agency's sorting and delivery workforce, which at that time numbered 54,000 full-time employees.

It hasn't happened yet and it makes one wonder if the advent of the computer with e-mail and the fax machine may have played a part in delaying Project Paradigm and the 10-digit code for mail.

### WHEN HELEN ALLEN RETURNED

Her name may not be familiar now but for many years Helen Allen, originator of the successful newspaper feature "Today's Child" in the old Toronto Telegram, was well known.

In January, 1971, she returned to Aurora to speak to the ladies of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church about the 3,600 adoptions she helped to arrange through her newspaper column.

She returned to the church where she had sung in the choir and taught Sunday School in her younger years, when an Aurora resident.

Her father, Rev. H.H. Allen, before his untimely death in World War I, was minister at St.

Andrew's. Her mother was a member of the Aurora Library Board as well as many church organizations.

### WHEN LOYALTY WAS THE NORM

Today with corporate restructuring and labour unrest, it's hard to believe there was such a thing as company loyalty.

In September, 1977, management and labour got together at an Aurora plant to recognize 64-year-old Margaret McGhee on the completion of her 50th year of employment with Sisman's Shoes.

A life-long resident of Aurora, she began working in the plant at the age of 14 for \$6 per week

as her family of eight needed the money, even though her father and her sister and a brother also worked at the plant.

Fifty years later she was doing much the same job as when she started.

She had been skiving for the 50 years, or thinning the leather for safety boots.

During those years she saw many changes, especially in 1976 when the company was about to fold and was taken over by new management.

By September, 1982, the tiny 68-year-old woman was honoured once again on her pending retirement for her long years of service by co-workers and company and town officials.

She said working kept her young.

### The Queen Elizabeth Dinner Theatre presents:

## The Foursome

Sunday  
June 15, 2003

4:00 pm - Doors Open  
4:30 pm - Extensive dinner buffet  
6:30 pm - Show Time

### Other upcoming dates:

June 20, July 4, 12, 19 & 26  
6 pm - Doors Open  
6:30 pm - Extensive Dinner Buffet  
8:30 pm - Show Time  
(under 15 price not available)



\$39.95 adult  
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## Father's Day Sunday All You Can Eat Prime Rib Buffet

Sunday, June 15, 2003  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

\$19.<sup>95</sup> per adult  
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\$15.<sup>95</sup> children 4-12 years  
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Co-op students from Aurora High School spent much time with Aurora businesses during the school year and to show its appreciation the school hosted a breakfast Thursday for the employers. Among those attending were Shane Rendell, second from left, of Nauc Technologies and Diane Buchanan, centre, from Decorating Works! Shane's students were A.J. Shirriff, rear left, and Rick MacCallum, while Diane employed Jen Bennett. Mike McClymont, front left, worked at the Auroran through the winter and became the sportswriter covering the Aurora Tigers Junior A hockey team. Course instructor Kerin Harding is at right.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

# Planned St. John's closure upsets residents on street

York Region proposes to close St. John's Sideroad between Bathurst and Yonge Streets for a four-week period in June and July to lower the grade of a hill to improve sight distance at the Cliff Trail intersection.

And that idea isn't sitting well with a couple of the street's residents.

Vladimir Alter said the proposed closure was unacceptable since he's trying to sell his property and, he says, his personal loss would be substantial.

He suggested the town could stop the proposed closure or arrange the purchase of his property at its price of \$1.5 million plus real estate agent fees.

Or, he said, the town could face the legal process.

He was also critical of the notification process and the lack of opportunity for public input.

John Whyte, who also has his property for sale, agreed with the comments of his neighbour and complained about the manner of notification and lack of consideration for the residents, as there was no opportunity to comment.

He suggested that the project be postponed to a later date.

Larry Dekkema, representing Ballymore Development who are constructing a nearby subdivision, said that while he sympathized with the residents, the sight distances on the sideroad were not what they should be, and the developer had worked with the region to correct the situation.

He added that all options had been considered and the company's advertising for the subdivision would bring increased traffic to the area, which would help the residents sell their property.

Mayor Tim Jones said that while he sympathized with the residents, construction projects couldn't be scheduled when properties were for sale and there would be access at all times.

Committee members agreed and confirmed approval to proceed.

When Mrs. Darlene Whyte tried to comment on the committee's decision, committee chairman Councillor George Timpson told her the time for presentations was over and the committee report would be tabled at the next council meeting.

At an April council meeting, Councillor Nigel Kean asked why it was necessary to completely close the roadway for the construction project.

Staff replied that as it was a two-lane road, it would be dangerous to have one-lane open during construction due to the change of grades. In addition, it was pointed out that to keep one lane open with flagmen would require a much longer

construction period.

The sideroad will be accessible to local traffic and emergency vehicles only, but no vehicles will be allowed through the work area during the construction period. The closure will be in effect until July 5.

# Committee rejects bid to ban pesticides from town private property

Aurora will continue to permit the use of legal pesticides on private property although the town has curtailed its use on public parks and other municipal facilities.

With the recent action of Toronto and other municipal councils in restricting the use of pesticides on private property, Mayor Tim Jones told general committee members last week he had received requests from citizens asking what action was being planned by council.

He suggested committee members provide direction, either to reconfirm its current policy, direct staff to prepare a bylaw or hold a referendum during the November municipal election.

Councillor Ron Wallace said council shouldn't tell people what to do with a legal product on their private property. He added, that like tobacco products, if the use is unhealthy, then the product should be banned.

He was successful in con-

vincing committee members that no action should be taken.

The use of pesticides in Aurora has been controversial since April, 2001, when Aileen Booker appeared before the general committee to express concerns over the use of pesticides its effect on health and outlined actions taken by other municipalities.

She told committee members the use of pesticides on lawns for cosmetic purposes was dangerous, especially for children. She added the impact on health was similar to second hand smoke.

Committee members directed staff to research and consolidate all pertinent information on the use of pesticides on public lands.

This resulted in council adopting the Pest Management Practice in May 2001.

At that time there were more than 7,500 registered pesticide products approved for use in Canada.

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# Amended plan would slow town growth

**From page 1**  
managed and that municipalities should be pro-active rather than re-active.

As this was the last Aurora site free of development, he said the amendments were designed to slow down the process and allow staff and council to complete its work of preparing a secondary plan and an environmental impact study for the area.

With assurance from Planning Director Sue Seibert that the proposed amendments were acceptable, council unanimously adopted the report as amended.

During the Open Forum session of the council meeting Don Hill and his wife, residents in the 2C lands, pointed out that developers of the lands were on the review committee but not residents of the area.

Mrs. Hill expressed concern about the lack of water for existing residents with the proposed development. She added that people deserved to live in a country where politicians cared about water, not developers.

Mr. Hill added that the lands were environmentally sensitive and he pleaded with council to carry out a full environment assessment, which is not a requirement of the Planning Act.

Council received both presentations without comment.

It all started back in

December, 2001, when Aurora council sought proposals for the Five Year Review of the official plan and the 2C secondary plan.

Council also agreed that at the end of Phase I review, it would have the option of deciding whether to proceed with the secondary plan or not.

Staff was directed to approach the four consulting teams who had responded to the original proposal and seek submissions for the 5-year review of the official plan, excluding the 2C lands.

While some members of council were happy about the delay in preparing the secondary plan as a means of slowing down development, others, including Mayor Tim Jones, pushed for the completion of the secondary plan as a means of developing the Highway 404 industrial lands.

At a meeting last June, council reluctantly approved the engagement of Hemson Consulting at a cost of \$123,050, as it was the only submission received.

The Five Year Review involves a study of how the growth of the town is occurring in terms of growth management and ensures the official plan is in conformity with regional planning policies and provincial statements.

A working document reported at that time Aurora

was growing by approximately 1,000 people per year, which was high compared with the overall GTA rate but low in terms of York Region.

The employment rate increase in Aurora was three per cent compared with six per cent for the region.

The conclusions of the working document were that the Growth Management Study was meeting most of its objections, with the recommendation that the growth strategy be updated and extended from 2016 to 2021.

Questions were asked about water supply for future growth and the response was that the region had assured the town that there will be sufficient water to meet future growth demands until at least 2021.

In November, the consultants presented a preliminary evaluation of growth option. The major aspects

of the presentation were that Aurora would grow to 69,000 by 2021.

With the current capacity of Aurora's designated urban areas, excluding the 2C lands, between 57,000 to 59,000, it left a shortfall of 10,000 to 12,000 people.

It was also forecast that Aurora would reach 30,000 total employment by 2021.

Using a density of 16 employees per net acre, Aurora will require about 230 acres of gross employment land to meet demands to 2021.

It was pointed out that Aurora had a limited amount of developable land to accommodate future growth, and the 2C lands were the last remaining green field areas of the town with a total of 1,160 acres.

Of that about 380 acres contained environmental features leaving 780 acres of developable lands.

The consultant presented five options ranging from

designating the 780 acres to accommodate growth for 13,000 people with no employment lands to a population of 7,700 and 320 acres of employment lands.

There was general agreement to recommend the mid-option which maximized the amount of employment lands to address the town's economic development goals and consistent with the region's growth targets.

With the region's long-term population forecast of 75,000 for Aurora, it was realized it could not be

achieved due to the environmental lands, resulting in a shortfall of approximately 10,000.

The final report was presented to the April 29 general committee creating a lengthy heated debate resulting in the report being approved by a 4-3 vote.

The general committee report was tabled at the May 13 council meeting and the debate continued resulting in the report being referred to the last council meeting with the public invited to attend and submit comments.

## "A" Jays hang on to edge Bolton 6-5

The Aurora Jays Mosquito "A" team jumped into a quick lead then had to battle to hang on to a one-run victory last week.

Facing the Bolton Braves in Bolton they quickly grabbed a 3-1 lead with some heads-up running by Scott Tonello, Hayden Sands and Eric Seguin.

In the second, Christopher Leslie smashed a drive down the third base line to spark a two-run inning.

Seemingly in total control, the Jays had the bases loaded with two out, but Austin Bryan's line drive was snapped up by Bolton to end the threat.

The hosts turned things around and tied the game 5-5 on a two-run single off pitcher Matthew LaRiviere, Matthew hung tough and fanned out the clean-up hitter with the bases loaded to end the inning.

Andrew Seguin shut down Bolton in the bases loaded third inning with a change up that left the batter scratching his head.

In the fourth and final inning, Derek Tsang doubled to right field and scored the game winning run on a RBI grounder by Connor Murray, and win the game 6-5.

Tsang closed the curtain on Bolton by striking out three of four batters.

The team plays most Tuesdays and Thursdays and home field is the Town Park

## Games held at Aurora locations

Aurora's Senior Centre hosted duplicate bridge competitions last week as the York Region Senior summer games shifted into high gear.

While there were no winners from Aurora, Dorothy Street, of Newmarket, and former executive assistant to the York Region director of education when that body was housed in Aurora's Church Street School, won the gold medal with her partner Roy Hashimoto.

Participation in the event was higher than last year as more than 17 tables were

required.

Silver and Bronze medals were won by players from Markham.

Last Wednesday, the Aurora Legion, along with Richmond Hill Legion, co-hosted the Men's Snooker competitions.

Winners were from Richmond Hill and Keswick.

On Friday, Ford McCorkle of Aurora, won a gold medal in 9-Ball Pool, held at Paradise Snooker in Newmarket. Silver and Gold medals went to Keswick players.

The event wraps up this week.

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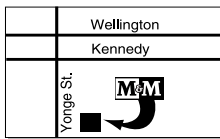
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## Bird's eye view

This aerial photo, taken by Grade 12 St. Andrew's College student, Derrick Kocik, captures the 98th Annual Cadet Inspection of the 142nd St. Andrew's College Highland Cadet Corps held recently on the college grounds. Derrick is a student pilot flying out of the Buttonville Airport. Meanwhile, Reviewing Officer of the event was Tony Fell ('59), currently one of the trustees of the SAC Foundation Governors. Commanding Officers were Drum Major Brian McCue (a drumming instructor at SAC) and Director of Piping and Drumming at SAC Jim McGillivray. Cadet Commanding officer was Col Mitch Myers.

# Swedish flag keeps twinning alive

If citizens noticed a strange blue flag with a yellow cross flying over the Aurora Town Hall last week and wondered if the town had been taken over by a foreign power, stop worrying.

It's the national flag of Sweden and June 6th is Swedish Flag Day. As Aurora is officially twinned with Leksand, Sweden, it became a tradition over the years for Aurora to fly the Swedish Flag on June 6th and for Leksand to fly the Canadian Flag on July 1st.

The tradition was forgotten for a few years but at a recent meeting council agreed to re-establish it and the flag flew proudly over the Town Hall.

It all started in November, 1971, when the Aurora Toyota Midget hockey team visited Sweden for a five-game, 10-day tour, including games in Leksand. Seventy-five players, parents and fans made the trip. Leksand made a lasting impression on the Aurorans.

During the visit, Aurora Councillor Norm Stewart extended an invitation to Swedish officials to make a return visit to Aurora.

That began a series of friendship visits of hockey teams, soccer teams, jazz bands and individuals over the years.

In March, 1974, Aurora Council officially invited Leksand to be Aurora's twin. The invitation was

extended by Councillors Norm Stewart and Jack Williamson during a friendship visit with a school band.

They brought back a tapestry from Leksand as an indication of Leksand's acceptance of the invitation. In August, 1975, more than 300 Swedes invaded Aurora for a return visit.

The official twinning ceremony took place January 3, 1976, during a hockey game between the Leksand Oldtimers

and the Aurora Church Dodgers, with an exchange of documents and flags.

In honour of the 1974 twinning invitation, in 1984, then Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth and Councillors Evelyn Buck and Norm Stewart presented the Mayor and Council of Leksand with a blue calfskin emblazoned with the Town of Aurora crest to re-confirm the twinning.

The two-way friendship visits continued until

# Committee decides against buying election computers

Last February, council authorized staff to proceed with a request for proposals for the acquisition of an automated system for the November 10, 2003, municipal election to tabulate the election results.

Proposals were received from four firms and each was invited to demonstrate their equipment and answer questions from the evaluation team.

Based on proposals submitted, three of the four quotations exceeded the allocated budget by more than nine per cent. The equipment of the lone vendor quoting within the budget limitations did not demonstrate the capabilities of the technical expertise required.

After reviewing the evaluation of all submissions, council requested that Diebold Election Systems and Election Systems and Software submit a final offer based on a scaled down project.

The modified system would include a scanner

at each of the 18 polling stations to scan the ballot and tabulate the results. In addition there would be two touch screens for advance polls for visually impaired persons.

Utilizing the electronic voting system, the counting of the votes and reconciliation of the ballot count would eliminate possible human error, reduce the number of election staff and speed up the election process.

Staff recommended the purchase of the automated election system from Diebold Election Systems at a cost of \$145,347, which was within the authorized capital budget.

However, Councillor Evelyn MacEachern asked why the original low bid of \$83,351 by Dominion Voting Systems had not been considered. Director of Corporate Services Bob Panizza replied that the equipment did not meet the primary requirements and they were unable to demonstrate a touch screen.

In addition, as a new company their equipment

had never been tested during an election whereas the Diebold system was well known to municipalities.

Councillor David Griffith pointed out the ongoing advancement in technology and asked why rental of the equipment instead of purchase was not being considered.

He said the equipment could be outdated in three years and rental was preferable to purchase. Panizza replied that rental and lease to purchase options had also been explored with a one-day rental option at \$49,438 or a lease-to-purchase option with a six-year payment plan totalling \$165,711.

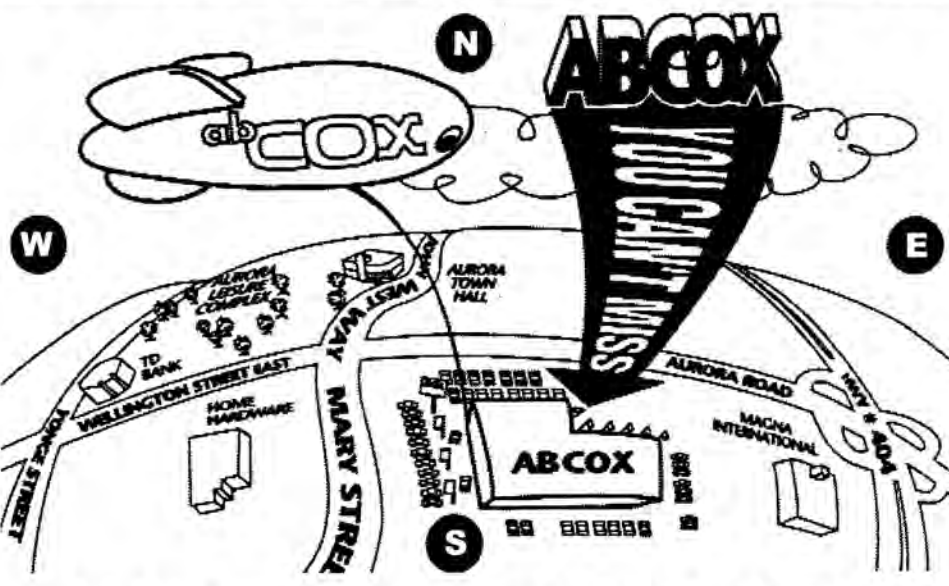
Councillor Ron Wallace quipped that if the Tories proceeded with their election promise of requiring a referendum every time a municipality had to impose a new tax or increase an existing tax, the equipment could be used quite frequently.

Committee members endorsed the rental option on condition that changes might be made at the next council meeting.

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# McIntyre selected town citizen of the year

## From Page 1

Advisory Committee (LACAC) and in 1990 he produced and hosted "Heritage Aurora" on Aurora Cable TV.

He has remained a hands-on conservator of Hillary House and looks after the preservation of this national historic site.

He chairs the Hillary House committee, which arranges numerous special events on the Yonge Street property.

McIntyre is also author of the book "Aurora: A History in Pictures", published in 1988 to coincide with Aurora's 125th anniversary of incorporation.

He wrote "Sticks and Stones", the story of Aurora's municipal buildings over the years.

His other publications include a Centennial history of Aurora High School, and Children of Peace, the story of the religious sect that worshipped at the Sharon Temple. He put together a parish history for Trinity Anglican Church.

In 1999, McIntyre was awarded the Ontario Historical Society's

Carnahan Award for his many years of service to Ontario Heritage.

Following the presentation John Webster, Aurora's unofficial Town Crier, who lives in Markham but has a long family history in Aurora and is a cousin of McIntyre cried a proclamation, which included a message from McIntyre's sister, Mary Beth and family in California.

In accepting the award, McIntyre said it was a "tremendous honour" to join the ranks of past Citizens of the Year and that there were so many people who made Aurora so great.

The Community Recognition Awards night is held annually to recognize individuals, groups and teams who have represented the municipality in provincial, national and international activities.

Presentations are made by members of council.

The standing room only audience in and outside the council chambers was entertained prior to the awards by the Voices of Joy Choir.

Vaughan/King/Aurora MP

Maurizio Bevilacqua and Wendy Ground, Legislative Assistant to Vaughan/King/Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara brought greetings from the federal and provincial governments.

Master of Ceremonies, Aurora's Gord James, of CHUM-FM, for the fifth consecutive year introduced the recipients and kept the audience amused with his humorous patter.

He was surprised when he was presented with a five-year volunteer service award.

Civic Appreciation Awards for Individuals went to Cyril Jackson, Goodie Taylor and Stan Farmer who represented Aurora in the Ontario Lawn Bowling Competition in Kingston and brought home a Gold Medal.

The Aurora Barbarian Rugby Club for Boys under 18 won a Gold Medal in the provincial championships displaying junior excellence with two team members winning scholarships in England.

The Aurora Diggers Midget Girls Softball Team won the Gold Medal in provincial

championship, with nine teams from all parts of the province competing.

The Aurora Minor Midget AA Team won the Ontario Minor Hockey Association Championship for the third consecutive year. Also winning an OMHA Championship was the Aurora Tigers Atom AE Team.

The Youth Volunteer Service Award went to Jordyn Harrison for his program "Kids Helping Kids" by collecting knapsacks, books, toys and other items for foster children who move from house to house. So far he has helped more than 1,200 children and was recently awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

A total of 30 Aurora citizens received the Five-Year Volunteer Service Award for a variety of activities including 140 Air Cadets Squadron, Girl Guides, Oak Ridges Trail Association, Yellow Brick House and CHATS.

A Ten-Year Volunteer Service Award went to Patricia Stade for her work with the Girl Guides.

The 15-Year Volunteer Service Award was presented to Evelyn Hill for her years of work with Helping Hands at Trinity Anglican Church, Lynn Burdt for her work with the Girl Guides and Gary Kryshka with Big Brothers of York.

Johnson's Cultural Achievement Award was presented to Theatre Aurora for providing excellent community theatre over the years to the citizens of Aurora. The award was received by Anne Currie-O'Brien on behalf of Theatre Aurora.

Sixteen community and sporting groups and schools were recognized for adopt-

ing one of Aurora's parks in the Adopt-A-Park program.

The LACAC Heritage Preservation and Promotion Award went to Tom Ntoulas for preserving The Red House, one of Aurora's oldest homes, and turning it into the recently opened Oakland Hall Restaurant.

Ontario Heritage Foundation Awards went to Douglas McGrath, Al FIShe and Larry Gallagher for their restoration of the former Baldwin Mill into Baldwin's Restaurant and to Heather and Gordon McKenzie for their preservation of the wetlands on the St. John's Sideroad, designated by the province as significant.

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6) Community Yard Sale  
Town of Aurora Mun. Office 8 - noon  
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8) 27/33 Moffat Cres. 8 - noon  
9) 4 Laurentide 8 - 1  
10) 53 Snedden Ave. 7 - 2  
11) 141 Spruce St.  
12) 130 Crawford Rose Dr. 8 - 12  
13) Kitimat Cres. 8 - 3

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