# AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



Vol. 3 No. 35 Week of June 24, 2003 905-727-3300

# The night before July First party

Aurora's July First Celebrations wouldn't be complete without a party the night before to get everyone in the mood.

The party used to be called the Birthday Ball and was held in the Community Centre.

There was the grand entrance at midnight of a giant birthday cake decorated with burning candles to mark the important day. It was at that time that the Citizen of the Year was named.

Time marches on and now the pre-birthday party is held out-doors with a Dance-In-The-Park at the Band Shell in the Town Park.

This year the starting event will be led by the music of Haight Ashbury.

Normally one thinks of Tin Pan Alley in New York, Hollywood or the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville as the home of songwriters and composers, but right here in Aurora, local songwriters have their dreams come true with the release of a CD.

and the Aurora-based band Haight Ashbury released its debut CD, "The Big Empty", co-written by Marais and recorded at the Horseshoe Tavern in Toronto.

The band played what Marais called a musical collage of folk, rock and blues.

A few years earlier Marais and drummer friend Andre Mendes decided to form their own group. They met vocalist/keyboard player Connie Scriver and bass player Manny DeGrandis and Haight Ashbury was formed.

Listen to their sounds Monday night.

In addition to all the normal activities planned for July 1, the Queen's York Rangers Army Cadet Corps Support Committee has put together a penny auction with some hefty prizes.

More than \$7,000 worth of prizes is up for grabs, including an 18-signature Toronto Maple Leaf hockey stick.

A \$5 ticket buys you a strip of 25 chances to win more than 150 different prize packages.



As if the Aurora Youth Soccer Club didn't have enough members, they have begun a new program this summer for youngsters four years of age. Here, Clayton Allen, 4, takes a breather with his mom, Leahanne, during a workout at Sheppard's Bush Saturday. Two of the eight sessions have already been played, but this soccer introduction will continue July, August and September.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



Doane Hall's Shoppers Drug Mart fundraiser for Southlake Regional Health Centre's new cardiac unit resumed Saturday after a two-year hiatus. The barbecue and car wash was expected to raise upwards of \$7,000 for the Foundation. And apparently, there was no shortage of soap for the car wash, as these volunteers discovered. They are, left to right, Lyndsey Parfitt, Ashley Wach, Krystyna Fuerst, Jessica Cholewa, Allison Hood and Nicole Goodridge. In the five years the event has been held, more than \$20,000 has been raised for the Newmarket hospital.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Beheaded bull fails bylaw escape

It was the bull, not the bylaw, that was decapitated last week.

Over the past few months motorists driving up and down Yonge Street in Aurora couldn't help but notice the large fibreglass bull on the roof of Oak Ridge Meats, across from the Howard Johnson Hotel.

It had become in Aurora what it had been in Oak Ridges, a land-mark.

It had also become a very controversial sign issue at council.

The current town bylaw prohibits rooftop signs.

Peter Harrison, co-owner of Oak Ridge Meats, appeared before a previous council meeting to request a variance to the bylaw to permit the bull to remain on the roof.

He pointed out that the bull was not a sign as it did not carry any advertising but was a unique landmark, adding character to the town, in the same manner as the moose promoted in Toronto by Mayor Mel Lastman as a tourist attraction.

While several councillors agreed the bull was a landmark and should remain, it was agreed that it was contrary to the town's bylaw.

Staff was directed to review the bylaw along with sign bylaws from other municipalities, but the bull was to remain until the review was

completed.

The staff report was presented to last week's general committee meeting but it was anticlimactic, as the bull had disappeared from the roof.

It seems the previous Sunday night vandals climbed onto the roof and beheaded the poor animal.

The staff report included a comprehensive review of bylaws from several municipalities and the only municipality to permit roof signs was Newmarket, but of a limited size and very few applications had been received.

The report recommended the variance be denied the same as in the previous report.

Although the bull had disappeared, Mayor Tim Jones and Councillors Ron Wallace and Evelina MacEachern opposed the report on the basis the bull carried no advertising and had become recognized as a landmark.

Wallace questioned how Wendy's was permitted a rooftop sign and was advised that inflatable rooftop advertising is permitted for an eight-week period.

MacEachern asked why an exception to the sign bylaw had been recommended to council for the Sobey's store on Bayview Avenue when it was contrary to the bylaw by allowing the sign to protrude above the rooftop.

Staff replied it was a much larger store and council had approved precedents.

So the controversial bull is gone and the town is stuck with a bylaw that grants exceptions to some, but not to others.



The Rainbow Skydivers dropped in for a visit. Actually, they were part of the official opening ceremonies. Of what? See Page 10.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



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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.

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 Dougherly. Regular viewing hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

### **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.

### JUNE 30-JULY 1

July First festivities in the Town Park June 30 and Leisure Complex July 1. Parade on Yonge Street morning of July 1.

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 9**

Concerts-In-The Park start in the Town Park but the traditional Sunday night concert has been changed to Wednesday to attract larger audiences. Kid's entertainer Erick Traplin and the York Highland Chorus of Sweet Adelines entertain from 7 to 9 p.m. weather permitting. BBQ hotdogs and pop available starting at 6:30 p.m.

### JULY 15

Seniors' cruise aboard the Wenonah II. This grand ship is in the style of a 1907 passenger vessel that cruised the Muskoka Lakes. Cost is \$74 for members and \$79 for non-members. Departure and return times to be advised. Call 905-727-2816 to register.

Aurora Council holds its only council or committee meeting for the month at the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

#### **JULY 16**

Big Band Music of the Royal Canadian Artillery Dance Band 7 to 9 p.m. at the Town Park in the Concerts-In-The Park series.

#### JULY 26

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

### **AUGUST 7**

Seniors trip to Port Colbourne and the Theatre-In-The-Round to watch "Ivanka Chews the Fats". Trip includes a driving tour of the Port, lunch at the theatre and following the performance a stop at the Old Country Market. Cost is \$66 for members and \$71 for non-members. Call 905-727-2816 to register.

### **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.

Aurora Children's and Youth Fair in the Town Park with food, contests and games for all ages. There will be a juried Art Show for young artists in graphics, photography, fine art and fabric art. For more information call Info Aurora at 905-727-8214.

#### **AUGUST 22**

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

The Canadian Blood Services will hold the Mayor's Blood Donor Clinic at the Aurora Town Hall from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

### **SEPTEMBER 14**

Aurora Terry Fox Run, Sheppard's Bush (Industrial Parkway South). Registration will take place at 8:30 a.m., and the run starts at 10 a.m. Course suitable for walkers, runners, inline skaters, bikers, wheelchairs, skateboarders, etc.

### **SEPTEMBER 17**

Aurora Seniors visit Stratford Festival to see "The King and I", with lunch at the Walper Terrace Hotel. Cost is \$89 for members and \$94 for non-members. Call 905-727-2816 to register.

### **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.

### **NOVEMBER 21**

The Canadian Blood Services will hold the Mayor's Blood Donor Clinic in the Aurora Town Hall from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

- With files from Info Aurora

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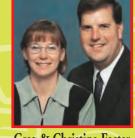
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handcut and aged to bring out its full flavour. A wrapping of smoky bacon enhances the taste and maintains tenderness.

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Finally...summer. With the return of decent weather to the district, several picnics were held over the past seven days. In the photo at left, members of the Aurora Seniors' Centre line up for lunch during their annual picnic held Friday in Fleury Park. In addition to the food, games and draws, the seniors were entertained by accordionist Jerry Cingolani of Thornhill. Meanwhile, in the photo at right, Town of Aurora staff takes a break at Lambert Willson Park while the bosses did the cooking. Serving up meals are Al Downey, left and Allan Evelyn. In both cases, the weatherman was very co-operative.

Auroran photos by Ron Wallace



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AUG. 16 FOR INFO: 905-727-8214

905-841-6411

### Canada Day Parade Tuesday July 1 - 10:00 am

DANCE-IN-THE-PARK

with HAIGHT ASHBURY

BEER GARDEN

Monday, June 30 - 7:00 pm-12:00 am

TOWN PARK

Come out and participate! To reach the parade hotline call (905) 727-5731. Deadline for applications is June 25.

Applications are available at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, the Town Hall and on our web site www.town.aurora.on.ca Be a part of the Sidewalk Painting contest 9:30 a.m. (on Yonge St. between Mosley & Kennedy) To sign up please call Info Aurora at (905) 727-8214

### Leisure Complex Activities

Tuesday July 1 . Starting at 11:00 am

### **BEER GARDEN**

12:00PM - 4:00PM Band Haight Ashbury

### **INFLATABLE BOUNCER**

Under Sea Adventure Children's Inflatable (DIAMOND #2)

### **BEACH VOLLEYBALL**

Drop In All Ages

### SIDEWALK PAINTING CONTEST

9:30AM- 10:30AM (905) 727-8214

### **BOYZ TOYZ CAR SHOW**

TO REGISTER CALL (905) 841-7700

### **FITNESS CENTRE**

Open 8:00AM-2:00PM

### **ALEX LASALLES**

Petting Pals 11:00AM – 4:00PM

### **FACE PAINTING**

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\$3 PER PERSON To Register call Wendy (905) 727-3361

### **FREE SWIM**

9:00AM - 11:00AM OPEN LANE 11:00AM - 2:00PM LEISURE SWIM

#### **FLIPSIDE SKATEBOARD** PARK

Parking Lot 11:00AM - 4:00PM

MIDWAY RACETRACK

FOOD BOOTHS

#### Canadian Helicopters (DIAMOND #4) \$40 PER RIDE

TIGER PAW EXOTICS PETTING ZOO

11:00AM - 4:00PM

**AURORA MODEL** 

AIRCRAFT CLUB

11:00AM - 4:00PM (DIAMOND #2)

**HELICOPTER RIDES** 

#### **CHILDREN'S RACES** 2:00PM (BEHIND LEGION)

**CRAFT SALE** Aurora's Creative Connections

### **FREE SKATING**

12:00PM - 3:00PM

### Dad's BBQ Zone LDA BBQ

Jimmy's Fine Foods
 M&M's BBQ (Optimist Club)

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## The team spirit is lacking at council

A team spirit is important,
That's what the pundits say.
But on council, it's different,
Members don't want to play!
-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Members of council are elected as individual members, not like MPs and MPPs who must answer to party discipline or get tossed out of the party. That's not acceptable in local government.

Once the majority of council has arrived at a decision, it is expected that all members of council and staff, regardless of their personal opinion, will support the majority, following a full discussion with all options and viewpoints considered.

That's when council and staff become a team to ensure council's policy is carried out. For an outspoken member of council, it's not always an easy task. There's a tendency to want to keep debating the decision

In December, 1973, Mayor Evelyn Buck, in looking back over the year, praised the work of council saying it was a team spirit and that she couldn't have worked with a better council.

The same might be said of most past councils.

Issues were hotly debated but there was respect for each other and the other person's point of view.

Times have changed since then and there is no such thing as a team spirit on the current council.

Rather than a team, there are nine individuals all with their own ideas.

It's everyone for himself, often with personalities thrown in, which shouldn't be allowed.

The most recent example is the ill-fated library square redevelopment project. It all started back in 2001 when staff suggested a consultant be engaged to review redevelopment opportunities for the library square.

Council disagreed and said it could be done in house with a council/citizen committee to make recommendations for the allocation of space in the Church Street School, the old library, the old fire hall and Victoria Hall.

It was back to square one in December, 2001, when, during a raucous council meeting, the joint committee was disbanded.

The suggestion that a consultant be engaged was rejected once again.

Council abdicated their responsibility by delegating the whole issue to staff for a report and recommendations

The only decision council made was that the seniors could have the use of the main and upper floor on the old library and funds were included in the 2003 budget to carry out the necessary renovations.

Then like a bolt of the blue in May, three options were presented to the seniors. They included the move to the old library, demolition of the old library and seniors centre to build a five-storey, 30-unit senior apartment building with the seniors centre on the bottom two floors, and seeking a site for a new centre outside the downtown core.

Although Councillor John West insisted the demolition and reconstruction project had been discussed and all members of council were fully aware of the option, it must have happened behind closed doors, as it was never discussed in open council.

While the seniors' steering committee supported the demolition and reconstruction proposal, many seniors objected claiming they had no knowledge of the options. This resulted in a general meeting of seniors.

By this time there was another bolt out of the blue. A new option was presented to the seniors and supported by 58.5 per cent of those in attendance at the meeting.

The new option was to construct a new facility on town-owned land south of the Town Hall. It came as a complete surprise to several council members, as the option had never been discussed in open council, although West insisted it had.

It was merely mentioned during a debate as a casual suggestion by West, leading council members to ask who was leading the project, council or staff.

Too many issues are being discussed behind closed doors or backroom deals are being made by a member of council and staff without the knowledge of other council members.

It's not the way to build a team spirit or to manage a municipality. Changes are needed!



He came to Aurora in the 60s, that guy in the middle, and it seemed at the time, everything he touched turned to gold. He's Omar Khamissa, and he's still around, and may still be found at his Aurora Shopping Centre shoe store where he has successfully operated for more than 35 years. In this photo, Omar is collecting a \$5,500 prize in an Aurora Optimist draw in 1969. At left is Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth, and former Aurora police officer Bob "Moose" Andrews, currently a resident of Espanola. No one seems to know the identity of the man on the right. Can anyone help?

Letters to the Editor

### Coffee grounds stay in Aurora

To the editor,

This is for the staff who make the coffee at Tim Horton's on Wellington Street in Aurora.

Thank you so much for your efforts to help enrich the soil at the Aurora Community Garden.

The gardeners in plots 9, 10, 14, 36 and 43, who are growing fresh food not only for their own families, but the food banks in Aurora, which are perennially short on fresh produce, especially thank you.

The coffee grounds and fil-

ters you diverted from the road to Michigan, and into that strange Bucket Lady's containers for those two weeks in the spring, will grow into fresh corn, lettuce, beans, peas, radishes, tomatoes...

The people in Aurora who must turn to food banks for help will also have you to thank, indirectly, for the fresh vegetables often prices out of their means.

It's yet another example of what Tim Horton's has done for the community, and how such a small effort can have an incremental impact on the environment - and everyone can win: customers buy coffee, Bucket Lady takes the grounds, Tim Horton's reduces its waste, gardeners grow good food, people eat good food, and Michigan can't complain.

You were all very helpful, and your part in our food chain is not unrecognized.

I imagine the worms would thank you, too, if they knew where all that great caffeinated stuff was coming from

I'm just glad I'm not there to hear them yakking all night!

I feel kind of sorry for the corn, that way.

Elfie Taylor "Bucket Lady" Aurora

### AURORAN "Aurora's

Community Newspape

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### Editorial policy

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

### 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.





To the editor,

Regarding the picture in the June 3 Auroran involving Bill Dinsmore.

At left, is a picture of our middle daughter, Deanna, on July 1st, 1970, after Bill Dinsmore presented an award to her for the Best Costume in the July 1st parade.

The dress was more than 100 years old, as it belonged to her great great grandmother.

### Donna Keffer Aurora

ED. NOTE: Bill may have made the presentation but he was not Citizen of the Year. That was the first year for the award, and it was presented to Bob Blick. Bill Dinsmore was Citizen of the Year in 1978.



Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

## Mayor's column is taking a break

As per the Town of Aurora election media policy, this will be my last column until after the November 10th election.

Council has, over the past few elections, also discontinued the broadcast of Aurora Council meetings on Aurora Cable Internet - Cable 10, so favoured exposure is not given to incumbents over newcomers regarding the election.

However, as meetings are open to the public, there is nothing to prevent any news media from covering our meetings with self contained cameras and apparatus.

Through the kindness of the Auroran, I began my column January 8th, 2001, and have submitted 122 columns to date.

I remember following the columns of John West when he was mayor and I appreciated reading the mayor's perspective on issues of the day or about learning something about Aurora or the Region that I didn't perhaps know or fully understand.

When offering an opinion, there were those that I agreed with him on and those that I didn't share the same viewpoint.

His column made me think about what was going on in our town and in some cases would provoke me to get involved or do something about it.

I thank the Auroran and those associated for the opportunity to be able to bring this column to you. In reviewing the reaction overall, I sense that this has mostly been an information piece about everything from provincial, regional or municipal services, numerous events, and various policy and procedural considerations that we must take into

account in dealing with various issues of the day.

There have been a few columns that generated reaction, mostly expressed through letters to the paper the following week, but for the most part, I hope that for those of you who have read the column, that you have become more aware of, learned something about, agreed with or disagreed with, or simply enjoyed what was being communicated.

Although tempted to the contrary at times, as I do regard myself as a real person with personal preferences and passions, I have tried to keep to the high road, and I hope I have demonstrated that.

Through the kindness of Aurora On-Line, should you wish to review past columns, you can go as far back as September 23rd, 2002, and retrieve columns from that point on from their web site at www.auroraonline.com.

In regard to the elections, there are some important dates that anyone running in or following the election should know.

January 2nd to September 26th is the nomination period where if you wish to run for council or your specified school board, you can register to do so at the Town Hall.

No candidate is allowed to raise funds to run for election until nominated.

September 26th is Nomination Day. This is the last day you are allowed to sign up to run for any office.

September 29th is the last day a candidate may file to withdraw if he decides against running.

November 10th is Election Day.

If you wish, you can keep up to date with election details including information on: Who's running; Who Can Vote; Candidate Qualifications; Key Dates; Employment Opportunities; Where to Vote; Voter List Information and Election Results.

The web site is: www.town.aurora.on.ca and click on the election icon.

As we go into the summer, I wish each and every reader a wonderful few months where I hope you will be fortunate enough to find time to spend with family and friends.

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



<u>Letters to the Editor</u>

# Restaurant offered good food, low cost

To the editor,

Two weeks ago, I saw an ad in the Auroran which stated that a local restaurant needed your support, or else it would face closing its doors.

Apparently, the public has not yet realized that a new management has taken over the food business at this location.

The new management was trying to let people know they were offering good service and excellent food at

the restaurant.

I went to try out the restaurant and I was delighted to find several choices of good meals at a great price.

The staff was very friendly and provided prompt service.

Other businesses in town have certainly struggled to keep their doors open to Aurorans.

However, some of these stores are now forced to close.

Yonge Street and other local side streets are not

viewed as attractive sites for pedestrians to pass by the businesses in town.

It is time that the Aurora Council addressed this serious situation, or else the downtown will soon turn into a ghost town. Promotion and marketing campaigns are essential for the people who run these businesses.

Citizens should try out and support the local business and they will find out there are many good services in Aurora

Remember the phrase

"Aurora My Kind of Town"?

Well, support the local businesses and make our town a great place to live.

Jim Jackson Aurora

ED. NOTE: Aurora Council has been addressing this situation for many years...parking lots, planters, street lights, Farmers' Market, etc., but it takes more than a council to guarantee a successful business area.

# Balloons have minimal impact on environment

To the editor,

This is in response to the letter from Nancy Vloet (Auroran, June 17) regard-

ing litter resulting from releasing helium balloons.

Although we do not recommend releasing them, the impact on the environment

# Remember when a real person answered phone?

To the editor,

I read with considerable interest and amusement the Mayor's Report (It really does work; just press 6 and see - the Auroran, lung 2)

une 3). How much better it was when one could just pick up the phone to speak to a

real person!
Progress is sometimes hard to define - as with road traffic congestion.

W. John Trusler Aurora from helium filled latex balloons is minimal.

Helium is a natural gas and

our balloons are made from

natural, rubber tree latex which is biodegradable. Any printing (Happy Birthday etc.) on our latex is

Any printing (Happy Birthday, etc.) on our latex is done with vegetable oil based inks.

When helium filled balloons are released into the sky, they rise to a point in the atmosphere where they shatter into very small pieces, fall to the ground and biodegrade at about the same rate as an oak leaf.

When a customer requests balloons for releasing, we always make sure they

choose the latex kind and we advise them to cut the ribbons off when released, since the ribbon is not biodegradable.

We must all do what we can do prevent litter, but released balloons are not serious contributors to this problem.

We appreciate very much that our customers also "Keep Aurora Beautiful" regularly with our balloons safely and responsibly anchored!

Diane Thomson CBA Brian Burke Balloonacy Inc., Aurora By Dick Illingworth

BOUQUETS to Albert Schwartz, also known as Captain Super Dynamo, at Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School for leading his team through the trials and tribulations to win the giant yo-yo event at York University's Science and Engineering Olympics.

The event requires teams to design and build a giant yo-yo and drop it from a required height to test how far it will rise.

BRICKBATS to movie producers and managers of local theatres who feature such movies as "2 Fast. 2 Furious", which glamourizes road racing in souped up cars, leading impres-

sionable teenagers with modified cars to get involved and get killed. BOUQUETS to York Regional Police for their campaign ERASE program to eliminate street racing.

BOUQUETS to the member of council who will ensure that a written clear-cut definition of what type of art is to be included in the "Preserve Aurora in Paint" category and for the town's permanent collection. At first it was to be historic buildings that could be a casualty of development, then farm fields, rail

fences, pink trees, imaginary gardens and ponds were introduced that are not unique to Aurora. What is the definition? More BOUQUETS if you can also find out why the town's

permanent collection paintings is hidden away on a sidewall of the second floor of the Town Hall instead of being front and centre.

BRICKBATS to Aurora Council for adopting a staff recommendation, without question or comment, endorsing a request from York Region for support in a petition to the federal govern-

ment for amendments to the Income Tax to permit tax exempt transit benefits for regional employees. Why should the rest of Canadians have to subsidize regional employees?

BOUQUETS to the group of self-interested residents who took out an ad in the Auroran to encourage citizens to patronize the Oriental Diner on Wellington Street West who do not want to say goodbye to this fine restaurant for obvious selfish

BRICKBATS to those behind the newly established ArtLink project who are going to a lot of trouble and expense to compile a list of all regional artists, as there is such a list in exis-

tence. In 1999, the Aurora Abstract group of artists received a grant from the Aurora Art and Culture Fund to compile such

BOUQUETS to Rebecca Beaton and LACAC for bringing to council's attention that the old library on Victoria Street was the town's only Centennial project in 1963 to celebrate Aurora's 100 years from the date of incorporation as a village. The old library

should be preserved!

BRICKBATS to the Prime Minister Jean Chretien for pledging that Canada will pay \$1 billion over the next decade to help Russia rid itself of weapons of mass destruction. With all the

problems there are in Canada from SARS, West Nile, Mad Cow, affordable housing, gridlock and other national disasters, charity begins at home.

BOUQUETS to those who were responsible for finally removing the solid wooden fence that was encroaching on town property at the corner of Hollidge Boulevard and Luxton Avenue. The

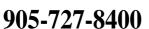
chain link fence and the cedar hedge is much

BRICKBATS to the federal Liberal government for failing to tell local health officials about refugee claimants with inactive tuberculosis whose

infection could be reactivated and contracted to others. York Region Public Health officials brought this to the federal government's attention more than 10 years ago and nothing has been done about it.

### Like a good neighbour, State Farm is there.







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### Letters to the Editor

## Inept computers can't split rate, reader says

To the editor,

To the editor,

the town fathers.

beautiful town.

Stephenson,

year's

Last week I was looking at a water bill which said water rates will increase on April 1. 2003.

My bill was for March 4, 2003, to June 2, 2003, all at

I learned from a reliable

source that my mere presence in council chambers

the other day caused a

major disturbance amongst

That's the power of my

I attended simply because

I was eager to learn a bit

about the issues of your

I no longer wish to associ-

ate with the morally corrupt.

Open letter to Mary Lynn

Thank you for the oppor-

tunity to be part of this

Aurora

Chamber of Commerce.

Sinjakewitsch

says he won't

seek re-election

any office.

peace.

finance lady told me their computer could not pro-rate the bill on rate for March and a second rate for April and May, and add the two

I no longer wish to run for

To be fair, please publish

this truth of me, if you dare,

or be predictable as the

You can now rest in

**ED. NOTE: Your source** 

isn't too reliable. You

hardly caused a "major

guilty usually are.

Your loss,

disturbance".

**Gary Sinjakewitsch** 

So, I was charged more than I should have been for March.

I called the Town and a

rates together.

She also told me the same error occurred in 2002.

The Town is going to purchase new equipment to handle the discrepancy in the future.

It seems strange that they cannot bill March (one-third) at the old rate and bill April and May (two-thirds) at the new rate and add the two together. It is not the money, which

is about \$1.48, but for every 1,000 households at the same usage and time would be \$1,480.

People who have a billing from Feb. 1 to the end of April at the same usage would be \$2.96 or \$2980

A few grand to the Town for the last two years should not happen. What happens to the excess cash?

Maybe they'll use it to purchase a new computer!

The increase in 2003 was \$1.13 for the same usage.

I also noticed that in 2002 on my Dec./01 - Mar/02 bill, a storm sewer charge when from \$8.55 to \$10.75, in increase of \$2.20, in January, 2002. So, there's another 73 cents.

How many more increases are handled this way, ahead of the proper date?

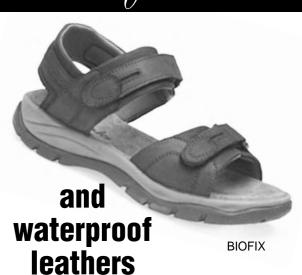
R.W. Hanes **Aurora** 





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### Festival. Joe, Jason and I had a **Patty McLaughlin**

Entertainer had

fun at Festival

Aurora

Street

great time being involved in such a community spirit

With great respect, we acknowledge the efforts that the Chamber of Commerce and other volunteers made to make this day a great success. Great work.

We look forward to being part of the plans for next

Thanks again for including us in this great event.

Aurora

**ED. NOTE: Better known** to her friends at the Auroran as "The Singing Waitress", Patti works at the Purple Pig.

### **STRAWBERRIES**

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### York's oldest house becomes a restaurant

One of York Region's oldest residences has reopened as a high-class family restaurant named Oakland Hall.

Located on North Yonge Street in Aurora, the building has been designated as an historic site under the Ontario Heritage Act as The Red House, 1845.

Tom Ntoulas, owner of Villa Cesere Restaurant in

the St. Andrew's Centre, acquired the former residence in 2001 and applied to have the property rezoned to permit the use of the residence for a 120-seat restaurant.

Residents of Old Yonge Street opposed the application.

A petition with 139 signatures expressed concern about traffic, noise, on-site

parking and lighting and garbage.

With fears that the historic building would be demolished for modern town houses and with assurances that Yonge Street rather than Old Yonge Street would be used as an entrance and the other citizen concerns would be resolved, council approved the rezoning.

Ntoulas and his contractor have done an excellent job in maintaining the integrity of the exterior of the Red House.

An addition was constructed at the rear of the building to accommodate The Red House Studio Lounge, with bar and tables for casual dining.

The bar is constructed from some of the original wood obtained from renovating the interior of the residence.

Also in the lounge area is a grand piano and in the evening it becomes a piano bar, the only one in Aurora.

Also in the lounge are artworks of Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure who purchased the property in 1968 and lived there for eight years.

Her Red House Studio was established there.

In the residence itself much of the brickwork and fireplaces have been maintained. There are two dining rooms on the main floor accommodating 83 diners and two small, private dining rooms upstairs, one accommodating eight and the other about 20.

In 1804, a Pennsylvania Quaker named Reuban Burr brought his bride to Canada and settled in a log cabin in Whitchurch Township and set up his business as a master joiner on what is now the location of the Red House.

It is believed the log cabin is the rear part of the Red House and the cooking fireplace in the reception area of the restaurant was part of the original log cabin.

Burr later built a Regency Cottage, a one-storey frame construction for his growing family.

According to Newmarket Registry Office records, Burr sold the property to the Cosford family in 1828. They were carriage makers and they named their new home "Oakland Hall" after their ancestral estate in England.

A second floor was added with flanking chimneys and gothic peaks. The entire cottage and the top floor were enclosed with local handmade bricks including the original log cabin.

In 1918, George Leacock, a brother of humourist Stephen Leacock, acquired the property, and named it "Sunny Lea Farm". It remained in his possession until 1950.

There were two more owners between 1950 and 1968 when the McClure family purchased it. It was acquired by real estate agent Ken Hale in 1976 and was finally acquired by Ntoulas for his restaurant.

To enjoy the food and service at Oakland Hall and absorb the history and the ambience of the historic Red House call 905-713-6655.

# Piano bar music returns to Aurora

Tom Ntoulas, the friendly innkeeper of Oakland Hall Inn on north Yonge Street in Aurora, not only converted the historic "The Red House", one of the oldest houses in York Region, into a fine eating establishment, he also brought a piano bar back to Aurora, the only one in the region.

Aurora resident Roger Whitnall, a professional musician, came out of retirement to play the grand piano every evening from Tuesday to Saturday in the Red House Studio Lounge, with music to please patrons of all ages.

Also in the Lounge are some of the art pieces painted by Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure, while she and her family lived in the Red House, giving the name to her art studio

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings vocalist Lisa Levy joins Roger as they create musical magic playing and singing for the people.

It was back in August,

1985, when Hotel Aurora introduced a piano bar to Aurora.

It was located on the second floor beside the dining room in what was known as the Abbey Lounge. No longer was it necessary to go to Toronto for evening entertainment.

Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 7 to 11 p.m. pianist and vocalist Pat Watson entertained with her delightful musical stylings. She was a sultry young lady with a remarkable voice.

Her hometown was Sudbury and she got her start in the music field playing at Cassio's, one of Sudbury's favourite restaurants.

She came to Toronto in 1973 and played at most of the popular piano bars, including several engagements at the Skyline Hotel.

She played soothing music during the dinner hour and later let loose with a big voice and a bouncy touch on the piano. She knew a wide range of

songs including some of her own compositions.

After a couple of seasons at the Aurora Hotel, she travelled on and ended up playing and singing in Hawaii, where to the best of knowledge she is still located.

Following Watson was Monica Kim who had played the Toronto piano bar circuit before coming to Aurora. She had formerly been a secretary who taught herself to play the piano and sing.

She had a large repertoire of musical numbers and songs and with a voice similar to Barbra Streisand, she was very popular with music loving audiences.

After a season at Hotel Aurora she went on tour playing in bars in Mexico and South America and is no doubt still playing and singing somewhere.

With her departure, music died in Aurora until it was resurrected in the Red House Studio Lounge for all to enjoy.



At Oakland Hall's official opening last week, Auroran reporter Dick Illingworth and his wife Dorothy Clark McClure, corral Aurora's CTV newsman Tom Clark. More than 100 people were invited to the celebration that included ribbon cutting by Aurora Mayor Tim Jones.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

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downtown flair cuisine and an uptown location. Lisa Van De Ven of the Post City Magazine There are restaurants that make you feel like you've entered a person's home-where food atmosphere, and service are combined to create a welcoming ambience more common in a good friend's house than a restaurant. Punzo's is just

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Please come in and ioin this coupon and receive purchase of any entrée.

Punzo's

Auroran Community Newspaper"



## AURORAN SPORTS



Week of June 24, 2003



Veteran polo player Derek Sifton (3) of Aurora is chased by the competition during the 24th annual Polo for Heart competitions last weekend. Thousands attended the event which was officially opened by the Rainbow Skydivers, Sifton, along with brothers Michael and Cliff, plays for the Toronto Polo Club. Other Aurora residents on the team include Mike Egan, Donna Malloy, Dr. Harry Strawbridge and Terra Sifton.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



### Novice Diggers settle for bronze

The Aurora Novice Diggers won a bronze medal in a six-game tournament Clarkson recently.

In the first game, Aurora thumped Halton Hills 8-0. Kaylee McDonald on the mound for Aurora faced 25 batters over seven and struck out 14 of them, allowing no hits and giving up only one

Amanda Piron and Jessica Suddes led the Aurora bats with three hits each while Jessica Murray and Jamie Doige added two each.

The following morning Aurora fought back to dump Mississauga North 7-3 with Chelsae Lumley as the winning pitcher. She went seven innings, struck out five batters, gave up two walks and allowed six hits.

Mississauga was leading 2-0 when the Aurora bats came alive.

In Game Three, the Aurora streak ended as the team lost 10-4 to Clarkson. Both teams played

scoreless ball until the fifth inning when Jenn Kates singled to bring in Amanda Piron, the only Aurora run. In the sixth, Clarkson took over.

McDonald suffered the loss facing 33 batters with 12 strikeouts.

In the fourth game Aurora hung on to edge Palmerston 2-1 in one of

the best games of the weekend.

Again it wasn't until the third inning that Aurora scored the first run.

James Doige started the inning with a single and Mandy Ince moved her around with another single. Palmerston tied the game with a run in the

Aurora secured the win with a run in the bottom of that inning with Jenn Kates hitting in Amanda

Chelsae Lumley, the winning pitcher, shut down Palmerston for the rest of the game.

Her record was eight

strikeouts, two walks and six hits.

Palmerston

bronze medal.

with a 3-0 victory, leav-

ing Aurora to take the

Offensively Mandy Ince, Kaylee McDonald, Amanda Piron and Chelsae Lumley

each contributed two hits.

On the final day, the elimination rounds began and Aurora met Halton

They proved their earlier win was no fluke, as they guaranteed themselves a medal with an win over Halton.

Then things got serious. Aurora met Palmerston and needed a win to advance to the gold medal game.

But, the Aurora bats

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### Aurora Minor Ball Scores

### **SOFTBALL**

5-Pitch (Mon/Wed)

June 16 - Dr. Steiner's Drillers 16 Aurora Canadian Tire 11

#### Mite Co-Ed

June 10 - Aurora Canadian Tire (A2) 16 Richmond Hill 1 16 Toronto Star (OR1) 12 Greenham's Distinctive Clothier (A3) 8

Standings	W	L	Т	For	Against	TP
Little Caesars (RH4)	2	0	1	34	20	5
Toronto Star (OR1)	2	1	0	32	29	4
XNO3 Design (RH5)	1	0	2	25	24	4
Remington Medical (RH1)	1	0	1	29	28	3
Bero's Tire & Auto (OR2)	1	0	0	12	11	2
Colt Creek Driving (A1)	1	1	0	26	20	2
York Pediatric (RH3)	1	2	0	30	33	2
Aurora Canadian Tire (A2)	0	1	1	24	25	1
Novex Pharma (RH2)	0	2	1	22	36	1
Greenham's Distinctive						
Clothier (A3)	0	2	0	16	24	0

### **Squirt Co-Ed**

June 12 - Nolan's Transmission (OR) 12 Aurora Home Hardware 1

Standings	W	L	Т	For	Against	TP
LowePro (RH4)	2	0	0	27	15	4
Al's Home Renovations (RH3)	2	0	0	32	25	4
Richvale Lioness (RH2)	1	0	0	17	1	2
Fabricland (RH1)	1	1	0	23	16	2
Powell Plumbing (RH5)	1	1	0	22	20	2
Nolan's Transmission (OR)	1	1	0	13	27	2
WWW.RHMBA.ca (RH6)	0	2	0	19	30	0
Aurora Home Hardware	0	3	0	25	44	0

### **BASEBALL**

#### Rookie Ball

June 14 - Casey Transport (A1) June 16 - Tenatronics (N8) 15 June 18 - Casey Transport (A1)

17 Aurora Jays (A2) 12 Casey Transport (A1) 7 11 Aurora Jays (A2) 9

### Mosquito

June 14 - Dr. Orschel's Drillers (A1) 11

ACI (A2) 10

Aurora Cable Internet (A2) 13 June 18 - Kettle Chips (K1) 11

June 19 - Filebank (K2) 6

#### Peewee

June 14 - Natures Emporium (A2) 16

June 18 - Mr. Transmission (N4) 13 June 19 - Shoppers Drug Mart (N5) 18

#### **Bantam**

June 14 - Aurora Home Hardware 12

June 15 - Aurora Home Hardware 27

(N1)3June 16 - Rowan Hardwood Floors (N3) 16 Aurora Home Hardware 2

### Midget

(N2) 3

June 19 - Aurora Men's Slo-Pitch League 6 vs Centre Ice Sports (B1) 3

Minor Bantam Jays (Sponsored by Ward & Patch Sports)

June 8 - In a double-header against Huntsville, the Jays won 16-13

June 11 - Battling the Vaughan Vikings the Jays lost 11-5.

Improvements (N2) 11 Fully Completely (N1) 8 Aurora Cable Internet (A2) 6Dr. Orschel's Drillers (A1) 3

Aurora Jays (A1) 10 (A2) 9 (A1) 8 Aurora Jays (A1) 12 Aurora Jays (A1) 17

Powell Contracting (Oak

Big City Motor Homes

Ridaes) 8

June 15 - Aurora Men's Slo-Pitch League 12 Silva Custom Furniture

#### Rep Scores

and then again 12-5.

mark season opener of minor ball league The day before

Tourney and pictures

Fathers' Day, had dads (and moms) hustling all over town.

The AMBA annual "Opening Tournament" was combined with picture day so if you were passing many of the Aurora ball diamonds or the Library, you were likely to see ball players of all sizes smiling in spite of the overcast day.

To add to the excitement, tickets were being sold for two ball gloves (right and left) and an autographed bat donated by the Toronto Blue

The draw for the gloves was an early-bird draw held that day and won by Michael Whyte and Judy Guyvera.

The bat remains up for grabs until September 28 and tickets are available at \$2 each) Details on the Web Site www.auroraminorball.ca

This fun "official" start to the season allows the Aurora and Oak Ridges teams to face off against each other so that every team plays at least once and for those divisions with an odd number of teams, one of them gets to play a second game.

Whether they won or lost, the commemorative medal and the good luck wishes for the rest of the season had players going home with big smiles.

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It was a musical presentation Saturday as members of the Upper Canada Chordsmen presented a \$10,000 cheque to the South Lake Regional Health Centre Foundation to furnish a room. Members of the group entertained during the event. Kevin Murdoch from the Foundation, is at the left of the cheque, while Aurora's John Parker and Aurora Mayor Tim Jones make the presentation. Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

### <u>38 years later</u>

### The site remains empty.

Municipalities are often blamed for holding up plans for development resulting in the developer launching an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board if the municipality fails to give a decision within 90 days.

It doesn't work the other way if the municipality grants approval for the proposed development and the developer fails to follow through with the development.

Such a case is the former Aurora Arena property on the east side of Yonge Street, immediately north of Park Place Manor.

Currently the site is occupied by an empty sales pavilion and weeds.

The old Arena was demolished following a fire in 1965, caused extensive damage.

Rather than rebuild on the same property because of its size limitations, council of the day decided to construct a community centre on town-owned property on Aurora Heights Drive.

The town invited developers to submit proposals for the old site and Gerald Lambert of Toronto was the successful bidder. The property was sold to him for the appraised price of \$35,000.

In October, 1966, council gave third reading to a bylaw clearing legal steps to the sale of the arena property by stating the land was no longer required for municipal purposes.

Lambert planned to build a hotel or motel/commercial complex on the site

The town failed to include any performance standards in the original sale and for the next four years council and the developer dickered over densities.

In November, 1969, Lambert threatened to take the municipality to court to seek a court order requiring the town to issue a building permit to construct an apartment/commercial complex on the vacant property.

Since the purchase of the property Lambert had submitted several plans for development, including stores, a hotel/motel complex, an apartment and a seven-storey apartment building on the rear part of

the property facing Gurnett Street, which was later constructed.

The rear portion was zoned for 40 apartment suites per acre.

York County planners recommended 50 suites per acre, with the developer seeking 52 suites for the three-quarter acre site.

The Ontario Municipal Board also considered the property in limbo. Earlier in the year when the OMB approved Aurora's new zoning bylaw, it said both the town and the developer had acted hastily in their respective submissions about the parcel of land.

At that time the OMB advised both parties to reach an agreement, with the board indicating the density on the rear portion should be higher than 40 suites per acre.

The discussions between Lambert and council were often heated and at one stage council members told Lambert they would only deal with him through his representative.

By November, 1970, the property was still empty as the stormy saga took a new twist when Lambert put the property up for sale.

In January, 1984, council agreed to hold a public meeting for a proposed commercial/residential building on the Yonge Street frontage of the old arena site, despite a dispute between the town and the developer over sewer improvements.

By this time, Isobel Ralph was the property owner and applied to council for a rezoning to permit the construction of a two-storey building with commercial space on the lower floor and eight one-bedroom apartments on the second level.

A solicitor for the owner told council that the added costs of sewer improvements required by the town would impose a heavy financial burden on such a small project.

The property continued to remain empty and in September, 1998, a new application was submitted and a public meeting held in November resulting in the application for a mixed commercial/residential developapproved in principle.

York Region approved the official plan amendment in August, 1999, and following the appeal period, final approval was given. Approval of the zoning amendment was held pending the completion of a site plan agreement.

In December, 2001, the owner submitted a revised site plan increasing the number of residential units from 24 to 30, plus a request to increase the floor area of the project.

Given the changes in the plan and the length of time since the public planning meeting, staff requested direction from council as to whether another meeting was required.

Council members were divided. Concern was also expressed about the development being proposed for the flood plain and council wondered if it met flood plain criteria.

Staff replied that engineering studies had been carried out, but noted that final clearance had not been received from the Authority. Conservation After further discussion council decided a second meeting was not required.

In June, 2002, staff recommended to the general committee that the proposal for a five-storey commercial/residential complex be approved subject to a satisfactory site plan agreement.

By this time McGrath Hunter was the developer of the property.

Council directed staff to enter into a site plan agreement at the June 25, 2002, council meeting. A resident of Gurnett Street to the east of the development site launched an appeal. Objections included shadowing, flood plain, flooding, and water allocation.

The Ontario Municipal Board hearing was scheduled for October 23 and the requested zoning was approved pending site plan agreement.

As of last month the fifth site plan submission with revised plans was being circulated for comments, but still the former arena site remains empty.

### Aurora, Newmarket differ on planning philosophies

The difference in planning philosophy between Aurora and Newmarket was clearly evident at a public planning meeting on January 28, 1987, as Aurora Council rejected a proposed official plan amendment for a developer while Newmarket Council approved the proposal for the section of the project Newmarket.

The lands are located north of the St. John's Sideroad, on the west side of Bayview Avenue, and overlap the Aurora/Newmarket bound-

The applicants proposed the development of a golf course and a 215-lot subdivision of which 107 would be in Newmarket and 108 in Aurora.

It had been Aurora Council policy to retain the lands north of St. John's Sideroad in a rural state to facilitate an urban separator or buffer between the two municipali-

Newmarket policy was to build right to the municipal boundary.

The lands on the south side of the St. John's Sideroad were zoned rural but were being considered at that time for industrial.

Staff expressed concerns about locating a residential area in close proximity to a proposed industrial develop-

In addition, the question of servicing the proposed subdivision raised other concerns, as the policy, at that time, was to retain servicing the boundary on the south side of the St. John's Sideroad.

Several citizens objected to the proposal on issues such as increased traffic on the St. John's Sideroad, the chemicals that may be used on the golf course, and the golf course interferring with the natural corridor along the Holland River.

In January, 1989, Aurora Council asked Newmarket to provide a larger buffer zone between a proposed 290subdivision and

Aurora's northern boundary. Council also requested that lots abutting the Aurora boundary be larger in area and to be 80 feet deep rather than the proposed 65 feet.

Aurora pointed out that Newmarket should provide some sort of a buffer zone, rather than Aurora having to provide it all.

As only one lot was less than the requested 80 feet, Newmarket Council reluctantly agreed to Aurora's request. The two towns also agreed they didn't want a north-south road joining the Newmarket subdivision to Aurora, as recommended by the region.

In May, 1989, Newmarket Council decided to play games with Aurora by considering an objection to a development proposal in Aurora, just south of the Newmarket boundary.

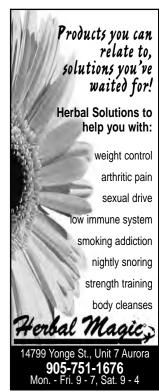
The proposed development was a retirement community planned by the Anglican Church for the Anglican Conference site property on the north side of the St. John's Sideroad, west of Yonge Street.

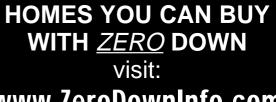
Although Newmarket councillors said they had no serious planning concerns with the proposed development, they said they didn't want the development to interfere with what they might want to do with their lands north of the development.

The retirement home development never proceeded depriving Newmarket of the

retaliation to Aurora's opposition to a Newmarket residential development.

A very different planning philosophy exists between the two municipalities and one of the reasons there isn't a clearly defined green buffer between the two towns.





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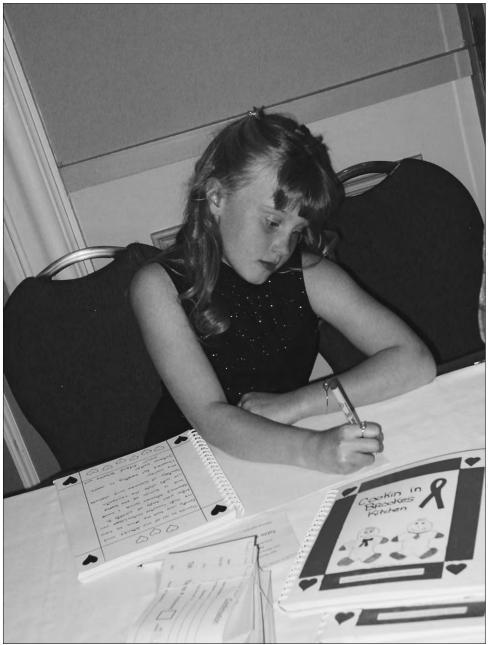
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At the tender age of nine, Brooke Harrison of Aurora has already achieved what many writers only dream about...a book signing. The author of the cookbook, "Cookin In Brooke's Kitchen", she was on hand last week for a gala event arranged to help the Leukemia Research Fund of Canada, where she is directing the proceeds of her book sales. Book is on sale at R & R Revisited, 75 Mary Street in Aurora.

## Hate to mention it, but, winter works scheduled

Although the warm weather is just beginning, the town's public works department is already preparing for next winter.

In a report to Aurora's general committee last week, staff submitted several recommendations for the coming winter season.

One recommendation was to extend the contracts with construction firms for the supply and operation of snow plowing equipment for roadways and sidewalks.

The report also recommended the purchase of a new five-tonne truck and equipment to implement pre-wetting of salt and sand as approved in the 2003 budget.

Due to the increased lengths of roadways and sidewalks caused by Aurora's growth, a revised winter road and sidewalk maintenance standard was approved.

The report states that if the number of assigned routes is not increased, the average winter road service levels could be increased to 5.7 hours salt/sand time and 9.1 hours plow completion time.

The current standards are five and eight

hours.

To bring the service levels back up to the existing standard one additional town-operated winter road maintenance route would be required.

The anticipated addisseason for tional 2003 costs were consideration.

not included in the 2003 budget and additional funding may be required depending on year-end results.

A further report will be prepared after the 2003/2004-winter season for future

### **WINNERS**

Three winners in the Aurora Optimists Father's Day Draw included:

J. Mashinter (Sony 32" plasma TV)
P. Wilson (Sony 20" flat screen)
T. McGhee (DVD/CD/VCD)

Congratulations from the Aurora Optimist Club



## Lots of young talent blossomed in Aurora

It was back in July, 1965, when Jon and Lee and the Checkmates had teenagers screaming all over southern Ontario.

The group featured Jon Finley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Finley of Catherine Avenue in Aurora, as the lead singer.

More than 450 young people danced and screamed to the superb music provided by the group at the Surf Club in Port Carling.

The happy onlookers clapped and stomped to the new, exciting sound along with Jon and his fellow vocalist Lee Jackson.

Jon was the cause of much of this reaction. He put so much emotion and feeling into his work that the audience became involved and could do nothing but feel the song with him and rejoice and scream.

The 19-year-old Jon moved to Aurora in 1957 with his parents and attended Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School. He changed his name from John to Jon so it would sound better with Lee.

Before the Checkmates were formed, he sang for a year with the Esquires, a Toronto rhythm and blues group.

As the Checkmates became better known, it wasn't long before they appeared on the Ed Sullivan, Johnny Carson, Lawrence Welk and Al Hirt TV shows.

They didn't have teenagers screaming but Mac and Paul Butler kept their audience laughing with their zany antics, but good dance music.

Mac (his first name was really Malcolm) Butler was a member of the band Fowl Harmonics when Aurora was the "Chicken Capital of the World."

In October, 1987, the

Butlers acted as masters of ceremony at their variety show of music, sing-along and comedy for the Aurora chapter of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

They were joined in the variety show by comedian Dick Joiner, vocalist Lil Doyle, accordionist Frank Player and country musician Gary Wayne.

In March, 1980, Aurora's Frank Buck, age 26, son of Evelyn and Cy Buck, was hobnobbing with the likes of Johnny Canuck and Captain America.

He was also working on a musical revue to showcase Canadian talent and culture.

He was the on-stage narrator for the Ken Glass play "Hooray for Johnny Canuck".

It was the human staging of a comic book story. During the war the government put an embargo on imported reading material that wasn't considered essential, so the Canadians came up with their own comic book superhero.

Buck was well-known to local theatre audiences as he performed for 10 years with Theatre Aurora and appeared in such productions as "A Man for All Seasons", "Beyond the Fringe", "School for Scandal", "The King and I" and "The Sound of Music".

A talented singer, guitar player and songwriter, he

also performed in "Sworded Sailor," a revue of traditional Canadian music.

Canadian music.
The production included 17 traditional pieces including three of his original compo-

The memories remain.

sitions.

# East end location planned

A site plan agreement has been approved for a new commercial development on the northwest corner of Hollandview Trail and Bayview Avenue.

The current zoning permits a variety of retail and non-retail uses on the 5.6-acre site, such as drug stores, professional offices, banks and restaurants including drive-thru and take-out.

The proposed development is for three buildings totalling more than 50,000 square feet in floor area.

The northern building will include a Shoppers Drug Mart, medical offices, two restaurants and retail stores.

The western building may contain a video store and other retail stores and the third building located in the parking lot is to be a bank.

A total of 309 parking spaces are required on site and 316 parking spaces have been provided.

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### RUMOURS & RUMBLINGS

### Remember when Aurora had a truant officer?

The terms truant and truant officer are never heard in school circles today but back in the 1960s Aurora had a truant officer.

The task of the truant officer was to go after kids who missed school without having permission from their parents.

The former Aurora Public School Board traditionally appointed the Aurora Police Chief as the truant officer with an honorarium of \$50 per year.

There was a much closer relationship then between school trustees and members of council than exists today. (Good point...does anyone know the name of Aurora's trustee on either the public or separate board?)

When the regional school board was established in 1969 they did away with the traditional truant officer and appointed attendance counsellors who were more concerned about what made kids miss school, rather than just finding them.

The board employed five attendance officers including Jim Glover who was responsible for Area #2, which included Aurora.

Their services were also used by the York Region Separate School Board who did not have attendance counsellors at that time.

In some cases it was found that some students entering the high school system were not prepared or mature enough to handle the more independent kind of program found in high schools.

The student starts to miss classes and finds it hard to go back.

Other kids were tied down by so many restrictions at home they took whatever freedom they could find, including missing school.

The modern truant officer does more than just track down truants.

### TRANSITION FROM RURAL TO URBAN

Prior to 1965, some residents of Aurora had a barn in their backyard and kept horses for the use of family members.

But in May, 1965, council received a complaint from a resident of Kennedy Street West, in what was considered a residential area that horses were being kept in the area.

The resident requested her property be rezoned rural, if this was to continue, as it devalued her property.

Staff was asked to report on the zoning on the property and if the horse owner received a building permit to construct the barn.

But it was June, 1980, when council finally got around to adopting a bylaw restricting the keeping of animals other than household pets, after three-and-a-half years of discussion.

Councillor Richard Isaacson (founder of Doane Hall Pharmacy) argued there were areas in the town where a horse or a goat could be kept, and they should be controlled not banned.

Councillor John West said a ban would stop one of the normal enjoyments of growing up, as it was quite normal for kids to have a couple of rabbits or other pets.

He added that people came to live in Aurora because it was in the country, not the city.

It was finally agreed on a bylaw that set out regulations for keeping animals other than household pets.

### **HONOURING AURORA'S JUNIOR CITIZENS**

In April, 1984, the Aurora Newmarket Kiwanis Club presented their Junior Citizen Award to two Aurora sisters, Hillary and Marsha Richardson, at the club meeting at the Aurora Legion.

The award was made as a result of a rescue during an automobile crash in January, 1983, at the Bogarttown curve (today, the closest intersection to the infamous curve is Leslie and Mulock in Newmarket).

The teenage sisters pulled victims from the smoking wreckage of a spectacular three-car pileup, which injured eight people.

The sisters were the first to arrive on the scene. Marsha ran to a nearby home to summon police and ambulances, while Hillary began extricating people from the smoking wreckage. Marsha then returned to help her sister.

The girls, both of whom had first aid training, placed some of the injured in the warmth of their van, and used their coats to cover others.

### WHEN WALLACE WAS A SCHOOL TRUSTEE

In September, 1985, Ron Wallace, at that time co-owner of the R & R Book Bar in the Aurora Shopping Centre and a former newspaper editor announced his candidacy for Aurora school trustee on the York Region Board of Education.

He joined Reccia Rosen and Bob Price in the race to fill the seat being vacated by incumbent Elinora Stoddart.

Wallace claimed that education costs were out of control and he wanted to bring some common sense back to education spending.

He recalled reporting on the first budget of the County Board when it was created in 1969, which was less than \$30 million, compared with the 1984 budget of \$179 million.

He added that he was not running for trustee because he was angry or upset, but because he loved Aurora and wanted to be involved in its future.

There's no truth to the rumour that Wallace's complaints got to the ear of Premier Mike Harris, although both are from North Bay, resulting in the province taking over the control of education spending.



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# Town preparing for Nov. election

The 2003 municipal election will be held Monday, November 10th.

The Municipal Elections Act requires the municipality to establish the dates, times and location of advance voting days by

Aurora's general committee endorsed a staff report to follow the same procedure as in 2000 with the designation of an additional four advance voting days as well as the mandatory advance voting day required by the legislation in order to provide the maximum opportunity for citizens to vote.

The advance days are scheduled for November 1st to November 5th with advance voting at the new Aurora Library.

The voting hours on

Saturday, November 1st are from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Sunday, November 2nd from noon until 6 p.m.

The hours on the three remaining advance voting days are from 4 to 8 p.m.

Traditional hours for the regular voting day on November 10th will remain at 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at designated voting stations.

The Act permits reduced voting hours for

nursing homes and the bylaw establishes the hours for the Willows Estate Nursing Home from 10 a.m. until noon and at Aurora Resthaven Nursing Home from 2 to 5 p.m.

As the town will use electronic tabulating equipment, staff is currently preparing an information booklet for candidates so that they make voters more aware of using the new equipment.





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3) 79 Kemano Rd. 9 - 2
4) 2 Bailey Cres. 9 - 1
5) 1 Hadley Ct. 8 - 1

SATURDAY JULY 5
6) 13990 Bayview Ave. 8 - 1

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