

Town to buy 32-acre parcel

2 rinks + 1 pool = 2 years

If everything goes according to plan, Aurora will have two more ice surfaces and a new swimming pool within two years.

A series of negotiations has come to an end over the purchase of 32 acres of land on the north side of Wellington Street, between Bayview and Leslie, which will allow the town to plan a huge recreational site.

A 100,000 square foot facility could house two ice pads, an indoor pool, a youth centre, and general purpose rooms.

Outside would be playing fields, active and passive parkland, and possibly a fire station.

The 32-acre property, of which 27 acres are developable, is currently owned by the Burnett family.

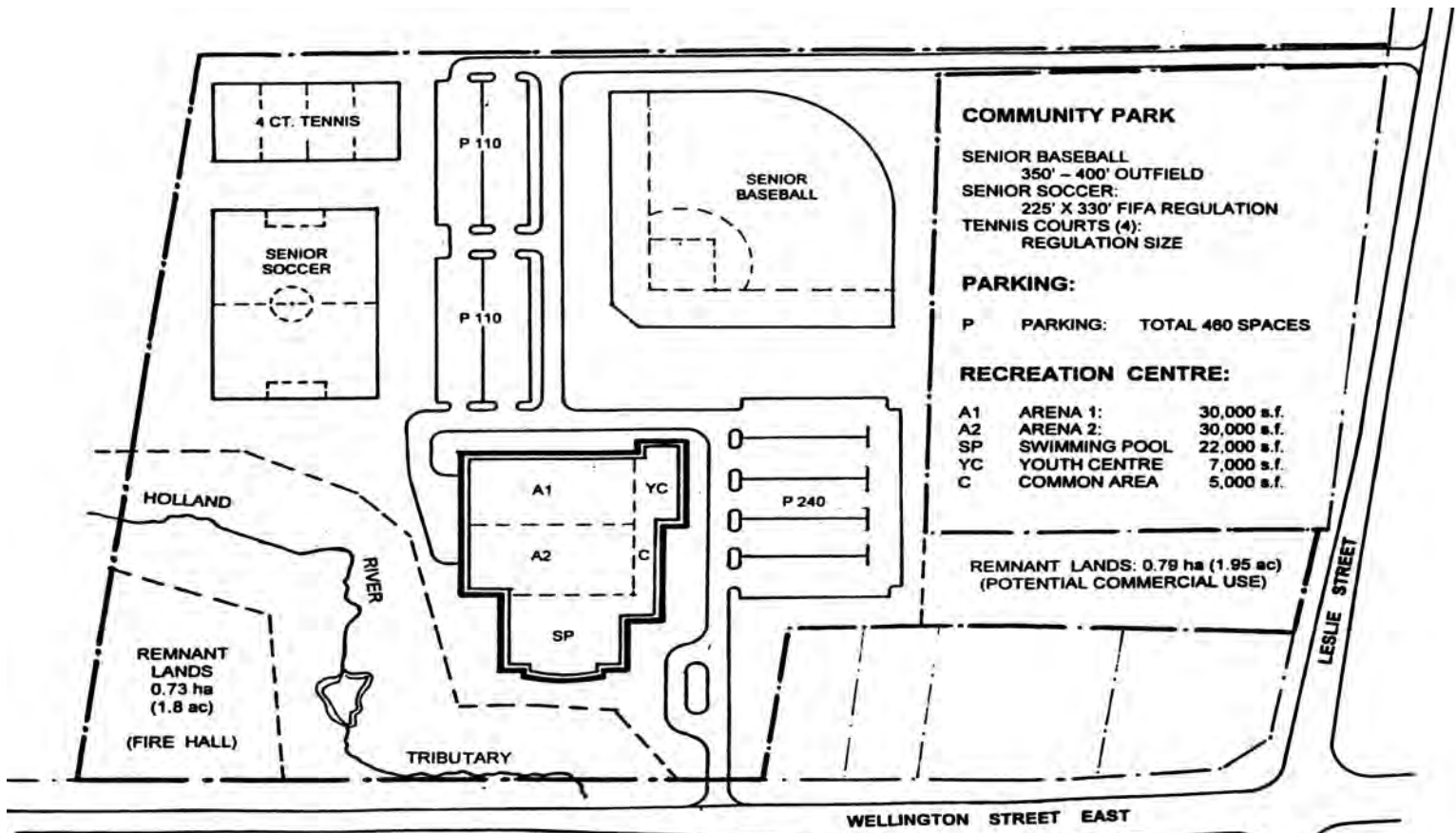
Stewart Burnett was the reeve of Whitchurch Township back in the 60's when his homestead was located in that municipality prior to the formation of Regional Government, which saw the land come under the jurisdiction of the Town of Aurora.

Purchase price has been estimated at nearly \$5 million.

The town already owns 89 acres of land on Leslie Street, south of Wellington, but made the decision to add the Burnett property because it is serviced.

"We have serious pressure right now to add these recreational facilities," said Mayor Tim Jones. "Because the Burnett land is serviced, we can start building almost immediately."

The 89-acre parcel on Leslie will likely be sold off to the private sector, however, there still is a possibil-



One of a number of options being proposed for 27 acres of land in Aurora's east end is shown above. One building would house two ice pads, a swimming pool and possibly a youth centre. Aurora Council will continue the discussion to purchase the "Burnett lands" at a special meeting this week. Land fronts on Wellington Street, at Leslie.

ity a proposed fire station could be built on that site.

Council will hold a special meeting this week to consider the purchase.

Changes to the town budget and a bylaw to give final approval are expected to take place at the council meeting July 15.

"In order to facilitate the identified improvements to the service level

standards, changes to the approved 2003 capital budget are necessary," Director of Finance Allan Evelyn said in a report.

The Town actively pursued several sites for the facilities, including property adjacent to Sheppard's Bush.

Closing date for the Burnett deal is October 30.

Three Burnett families currently occupy the site and all will move within 24 months. The last family to go is on land not immediately required by the town.

An existing capital plan for culture and recreation services identified a need for another ice pad in 2005 and an indoor pool in 2007.

But the rapidly growing recreation

demand prompted Council to move to provide as many facilities as quickly as it could.

Presentations have been made from several groups outlining the lack of facilities in Aurora, and a number of reports have indicated Aurora is falling behind its neighbours when it comes to providing recreational facilities.



"Uncle Bill" Menton greets wellwishers as the long-time Aurora resident celebrates his 90th birthday. The spry gentleman has lived at the family homestead on Yonge Street in Aurora's south end for 73 years. A pillar of the Knights of Columbus, Bill was honoured by Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church with a Mass and reception Saturday afternoon. More than 100 people were on hand for the celebration. Full story on Page 10.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Briefly

History Camp

Aurora youngsters will get a chance to step into the past at historic Hillary House for a program of arts, crafts, and games this summer.

The five-day program, running Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to noon, costs \$25 for the week.

Students entering Grades 2, 3 or 4 will enroll from July 14 to 18 or from August 11 to 15.

Students heading into Grades 5, 6 or 7 will register for the week of July 21 to 25 or August 18 to 22.

For more information or to book a space, call (905) 727-8991.

Hillary House is located on the west side of Yonge Street, between Wellington and Aurora Heights Drive.

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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.

History camps at Hillary House for youngsters during the summer. Several week-long programs available. Call 905-727-8991 for details.

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 8:30 a.m., 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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Economic strategy approved by council

Back in 1996, while considering the Growth Management Study, Aurora Council approved retaining a consultant to prepare an economic development strategy for its employment lands.

The final report was presented in August that year but never adopted.

In early 2001 council created the Economic Development Committee through the consolidation of the former Community Core Review and Business Development Committees.

Recognizing the need for an economic development strategy to guide the committee and council in policy-setting and decision-making, the committee appointed an ad hoc group with a mandate of reviewing and updating the 1996 strategy.

It was agreed that an economy development strategy was essential to future economic growth and the first draft of strategy was presented in April.

In addition the strategy was circulated to local economic development interests including the town-appointed Business Ambassadors, the Chamber of Commerce and members of council.

Last week, Economic Development Officer Dino Lombardi presented the 100-page final strategy to council.

Key recommendations include ensuring the availability of sufficient employment lands, giving priority to processing non-residential development and improving the town's economic development function.

The model is designed to attract new business to Aurora and to encourage business retention and long-term business investment in Aurora.

Council endorsed the strategy.

Council committee members are Councillors Damir Vrancic (chairman), David Griffith and Nigel Kean.

Citizen members include David Amborski,

Elizabeth Brims, Brian Corbett, Lisa Cruickshank and Stephen Dupuis. Steve Hinder is the Chamber of Commerce representative.

Aurora Business Ambassadors include Bob Callow, Elizabeth

Caruth, Don Constable, Vern Cunningham, Geoffrey Dawe, Frank Giogio, Peter Miller, Brian Morris, Marilyn Redvers, Rosemary Schumaker, Gary Speight, Belinda Stronach, Lawrie Strong and Calvin White.



Unfinished street light, currently being installed in new subdivisions east of Bayview Avenue and north of Wellington Street, have fat bases to accommodate services provided by Bell Canada and Aurora Cable Internet. Called the Trafalgar, street light eliminates other service boxes.

New street light has added duty in subdivision

To reduce the number and nuisance of street utility boxes in new Aurora developments, a street lamp, known as the Trafalgar Pole, that doubles as a home for two utilities, has been designed and implemented.

The street light would house almost 85 per cent of the Bell Canada and Aurora Cable utility boxes in new development areas.

The pole is basically a street lamp pole with an enlarged base and will be assumed by the town and continue to serve as a street lamp pole. In order for it to be used by the two utilities, an agreement on

the use and maintenance is required.

The agreement provides for the purchase and supply of the initial poles by the developer, with a contribution from the two utilities.

The developer assumes responsibility for the maintenance of the poles until such time as the town takes over the infrastructure of the subdivision.

At the same meeting, council approved a one-year extension to the street light maintenance contract with Mead Electric in order that an inventory project currently underway may be completed.

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August 6 - Children's Entertainer
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**Poor
Richard**

Canada Day - a great party

*Our history is disappearing,
It's going slowly bit by bit;
Many Canadians are happy,
Others feel as if they got hit!*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Tuesday was Canada Day and it was celebrated, as it has been since 1969, in true Aurora style, with a colourful parade, games, entertainment, food and much more.

The idea of a civic birthday party originated from a street party held on Davis Road and organized by the late Norm Stewart, a resident of the street in 1967.

He remembered the street parties held when he was a kid in England, and organized the party as a fitting climax to Canada's Centennial celebrations.

It was so successful it was repeated in 1968.

Norm was elected to council and brought the idea with him.

Council agreed that if a street could organize a party, there was no reason a town couldn't organize one for the whole town.

The first one was held in 1969 and as Aurora was the only municipality in the area to celebrate Canada's birthday with a civic party, it became known as "Canada's Birthday Town".

At that time the July First holiday was known as Dominion Day and the change to Canada Day was not well received by many Canadians. It wasn't so much the change in name but the sneaky way it was done.

The 1867 Constitution Act states Canada is "one Dominion from sea to sea". The term didn't mean that Canada was a colony or an indication that Canadians were subservient.

Leonard Tilley, Premier of New Brunswick, one of the Fathers of Confederation, used the words from the 72nd Psalm; "He shall have dominion from sea to sea" and coined Canada's official motto "A mari usque ad mare" (from sea to sea).

At the time it was deemed a wise choice as it gave visions of its future as a great nation, with the word dominion evoked the concept of a vast and beautiful country with a unique identity.

But the word "dominion" did not readily translate into French, resulting in some federal politicians demanding change.

So, on a Friday afternoon, July 9, 1982, then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau with only 13 members present in the 282-member House of Commons, seven short of a quorum, changed the name from Dominion Day to Canada Day in five short minutes.

Unlike the Americans, Canadians are not as demonstrative in proclaiming their affection for their country.

Patriotism or love of country is a more personal thing, possibly a hold over from our British background.

It was in this sense that Aurora Council decided to proclaim a civic birthday party on the day in an attempt to celebrate living in a country where people can enjoy freedom and a satisfying life.

For those who have experienced it, there is something stimulating about seeing the children lining the parade route waving their little Canadian flags and feeling the pride when the celebrations end with the singing of "O Canada".

More and more citizens are flying the Canadian flag at their homes and the Aurora Shopping Centre is a blaze of colour with bright new Canadian flags flying from every pole on the roof of the centre.

Yonge and Wellington Streets have red and white pole banners fluttering in the breeze.

There has been general acceptance in the change of names and whether it is called Canada Day or Dominion Day it is a day to celebrate.

It is to be hoped that there will not be the same acceptance to moving the holiday to the closest Monday to make it a long weekend.

But if we want Canada to be a united country from sea to sea as our Fathers of Confederation saw it, maybe we should consider returning to Dominion Day, but let the celebrations continue.

Celebrations like the Aurora party don't just happen. It is the result of hard work of many dedicated volunteers who devote their time and energy in keeping Aurora as Canada's Birthday Town.

Long may it last.



In honour of this week's Canada Day festivities in Aurora, we offer you two views of an early July First parade, when children decorated just about anything that moved. In these two photos, we see a young Jenny Gloin mixing in with the crowd, left, and joining her neighbour friend, Philip Blouin, right, for the event. Father Lew Gloin can't be sure but he suspects these photos were taken in the very early 70s. Neither Jenny nor Philip, we believe, will be impressed when they see these pictures.



Letters to the Editor

Aurora's seniors enjoy a frolicking good time

To the editor,

Friday, June 20, saw Fleury Park invaded by fun loving seniors, intent on a good time.

Diversions, games, jesting, amusements, whatever generated a smile or a chuckle or a deep belly laugh, that was on the menu, along with hot dogs, hamburgers, dessert cold drinks, and many friends of like mind.

The day was beautiful, and the birds were singing as well they might, they couldn't ask for much more.

The park was clean, green and verdant is the way to describe it. Mother Nature did herself proud, and park staff did an excellent job in displaying her beauty.

Smiling faces were arriving from 11 a.m. on until more than 100 people were gathered there.

Food was an early item of interest, and soon a line up developed at the barbecues, amazingly, the provisions worked out splendidly, everybody was satisfied, and there was very little waste.

Councillors attending included Betty Pedersen with her husband Bob Scott, Ron Wallace with camera never far away, Tim Jones, our indomitable Mayor of Aurora, and our Director of Leisure Services, Al Downey.

Nor were they just waving the flag, they were relaxed and enjoying the activities as was everyone else.

With the hot dogs and hamburgers fulfilling their destiny, Kim, our fearless coordinator, organized an egg-tossing contest, and decorum humbly departed the scene.

It is difficult, while desperately reaching for an egg hurled in your direction, and catching it while landing on your back, and shrieking, with legs in the air, to maintain any semblance of dignity. So dignity followed decorum.

The winners were the last two with an unbroken egg, plus all those doubled over laughing. Next, we were tested with water filled balloons, tossed the same as the eggs, and no matter how well one concentrates, and

as a contestant, I bear witness, that when a water filled balloon, flies toward your head, you do tend to focus closely.

To no avail for some contestants who were thoroughly soaked, but all in good fun, and everybody seized this day of fun and foolishness, and joined in without reservation.

For those a little less active, a scavenger hunt was organized, followed by the shoe-kicking contest, with no lack of participants. It appears that Kim Hinder and Al Downey had a private score to settle, regarding shoe kicking, and Al clearly kicked his the farthest, but not by much, if we factor in a little handicap for Kim being of the fairer sex, we have a tie.

Well done, Kim! This score remains to be settled, another day, another challenge. Sorry Al!

And an important announcement was made. We wanted a warm, caring, enthusiastic, involved person to be named Good Will Ambassador, and we got a dandy, Robena Reed, by

popular vote.

Congratulations, Robena! And this I might say was no shoe in; we have more members who could fill this position, with grace and good humour, so it is a credit to Robena to be chosen.

Robena, may I address you as, 'Madame Ambassador'? Now that sounds good. That sounds really good.

**Brian Warburton
Aurora**

AURORAN

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CTC prices in Aurora higher than Newmarket

To the editor,

Having recently moved to your fine community, we have just come to learn something quite disturbing.

The Aurora Canadian Tire situated at Yonge Street and Murray Drive routinely charges more for services equivalent to the Canadian Tire stores elsewhere in the GTA.

You merely have to travel 10 minutes north on Yonge Street to pay as much as 60 per cent

less for the exact same services.

We found this outrageous.

How can the Canadian Tire in Aurora justify \$105 for a tune up versus \$69.99 in Newmarket for the same car?

Unfortunately, this is a consistent practice.

Changing winter tires to summer on our car is \$52 in Aurora, while Newmarket charges \$32.

Baffled, we spoke to the Aurora Canadian Tire

representative.

He looked us in the eye and said, "Aurora is one of the highest per capita income areas in the GTA and that is why we can charge more".

Does this offend anyone else?

**Mia & Julius Toth
Aurora**

ED. NOTE: When so many are fighting so hard to keep shoppers in Aurora, yes, this offends...



Letters to the Editor

Germination - in the mind of a boy

To the editor,

I have a valued circle of six friends with whom I correspond regularly, including eight years with a prisoner, as well as many, many more who write occasionally.

In May of last year the circle expanded by one.

A friend asked if she could bring her niece and children to see the garden. Alyssa was eight and Ben was 11, serious and contained.

I gave him a plan of the garden and he immediately explored to find the mason bee box, butterfly box, bat box, butterfly log pile, snake hibernaculum, etc.

Two weeks later he sent me a letter enclosing a copy of a plan he had drawn for an imaginary garden.

When I wrote back to say how honoured I was he sent me the original and so our

correspondence began and continues every few weeks.

He had planted some Stargazer lilies but wondered what they would look like so I photocopied a page from a colour section on that lily in a bulb book and later sent a photo I'd taken of a bucket of Stargazers outside a florist shop in England.

In one letter I told him about Linnaeus giving Latin names to all the flowers, with the second word (the specific epithet) being an adjective specific to the plant which may be derived from the colour, e.g., coccinea (red); a characteristic, e.g. rigida, flaccida, obtuse (the last two always make me smile); country of origin, e.g. hispanica, chinensis, siberica; or after the plant hunter who found it, e.g. Wilsonii, Royleana,

Delavayii.

I wrote that people call their daughters Lily, Rose, Hyacinth, Primrose, etc. but that I had been potting a plant recently called Glumicalyx gaseloides, and asked Ben to imagine a girl in his class with such a name, maybe called Glumi by her friends?

He sent me a photo of his garden this summer, it was immaculate!

His Christmas card included a note that winter had taken him by surprise, before he had prepared the garden, sounds familiar?

Here's hoping he will continue to write, it has been a privilege for me and delightful to see how an 11 year old's interest can be triggered.

It reminded me of me at five in a tiny London garden with my nose almost on the

soil watching the beard of annual seeds germinating, quite unaware of how that interest would explode decades later.

We must encourage a child's interest in gardening and a curiosity in wildlife, no matter how messy, or how that interest may lie dormant during some years - they will be the gardeners and conservationists when we are pushing up daisies.

And yet a sudden interest in the delights of gardening can attack at any age - a young couple with their first garden, a newly retired person with time to breathe out at last, somebody recently bereaved or convalescent, aching for something to soothe, a new immigrant with an apartment scrap of land.

It can happen as easily as explaining something to a

passerby as they watch you gardening; sharing some seeds at work; lending books or articles; sitting next to a stranger at a meeting; giving a bunch of small flowers (sometimes overlooked by the unpracticed eye) - I used to answer people on the bus about them;

or visiting to "admire" a garden; leaving divisions curbside with a note "free to good owner".

Whenever you spark that interest the gift always flows both ways.

**Dierdre Tomlinson
Aurora**

He remembers arch bridge

To the editor,

In last week's paper you had an article on the Bathurst Street bridge.

I remember it as having the form of an arch, high in the middle and low on either side.

When I was growing up in Aurora, Wellington Street was the only paved road in the county.

It was very poorly done. All the other roads were

gravel.

The intersection of Bathurst and Wellington was blind on the south side.

The road had been cut down to the level with Wellington but the land beside it was all natural.

There was also a one-room school in the hollow on the northeast side.

**W.G. Willis
Aurora**

Here's a bouquet for a bouquet

Bouquets and Brickbats is a popular feature every week in the Auroran, and the idea has been used in other newspapers as well.

The North Bay Nugget presented a bouquet to Aurora's Harry Lumsden recently, so to honour that move, the Auroran presents a bouquet for a bouquet.

Here's how it read in the Nugget:

"Bouquet-Trumpeter swans: More than 400 people were at Centennial Park in Callander this week to watch and cheer on Harry Lumsden as he released 14 trumpeter swans into Lake Nipissing. There were only supposed to be 12 swans released into Lake Nipissing, but Lumsden brought along two extra because he believes this is such a great place for them to grow, live and prosper. As each bird

swam away from the shoreline, there was a cheer from the crowd. Callander is the farthest north the trumpeters have been released. Lumsden has been working to restore trumpeters since 1982. When he heard about two that were shot in Cranberry Marsh, he shipped three breeding pairs to Callander in 2002. One died of poisoning from lead shot. Anyone who has seen these birds knows what a treat it is to have them living in this area. Once native to Ontario and North America, they were once on the verge of extinction. There are now only 348 in Ontario, but with the help of people like Lumsden, we hope the swans are here to stay."

In case you're wondering, Callander is located nine miles south of North Bay on Highway 11.

Cathy's Corner



ED. NOTE: Mayor Tim Jones wrote his last column prior to November's municipal election last week.

He left us with a hole to fill.

We found Aurora resident Cathy, who felt she could help. After reading her first effort, we tend to agree that we have found the mayor's replacement.

Enjoy.

It isn't so much that things change, it is that we let them change us.

Like any other pre-millennium Auroran, I am easily engaged in a "those were the good old days" conversation, getting as weepy and sappy as the best of them.

Not to mention even a little competitive about who has been here longer.

For the record, 1987. Sixteen years this week. So there.

Not that anyone will be impressed. I just like to act like I discovered it because I have something to hide.

The secret is that my husband discovered it and dragged me here kicking and screaming all the way.

I'm a little sensitive about my "grew up in the Beaches, die hard city girl" attitude, given that I've been humble for many moons now.

And like the old-timers I strive to emulate, I can't say that I like all of the changes that I have experienced since then.

I'm still grieving the mature birch trees that had to go to make room for the shortest Tim Horton's drive-thru in the northern hemisphere.

I miss the old Aurora Highlands club house where I used to take my kids for swimming lessons because I loved getting my seat by the window to the pool, then sitting back and imbibing obscene amounts of coffee - enough to fuel my supermom act

Ahh...the good old days in town

for the rest of the week.

But then again, I miss having three kids under the age of 10, too.

Now that they're 15, 17 and 18, they wouldn't buy the supermom act even if I connected my IV to an authentic Tim Horton's coffee machine.

Yup, those were the good old days.

In the good old days, you could get from anywhere in Aurora to anywhere else in Aurora in fewer than five minutes.

Now, it takes twice that long to find a parking spot. Sometimes, I feel like a vulture: circling...circling...MINE! Hey, you! Scram!

I think that's the real reason the supermom image got shattered. They've heard me cuss too many times.

Hell is not a swear word, I tell them. It is a place. Look it up on the map. My kids go to a Catholic School. Surely they know somebody with a map.

According to the map, Hell's in Toronto. But not the Beaches, okay.

It's in the part where people honk at each other, shout out of windows and use universal sign language to ensure effective communication.

And nobody lets anybody in front of them. Kind of like Yonge and Wellington.

You know, where, ever since they installed a countdown on the lights, everybody plays "beat the clock", so they can't lose time for anything as uncommon as courtesy.

Some things have changed in ways that we don't like. But do we have to change in ways we don't like?

If we let our environment dictate who and what we become, we contribute to losing precisely what we claim to value preserving. The good old days will be gone in the flash of a finger.



Bouquets & Brickbats

By Dick Illingworth

BOUQUETS to those responsible for setting up the fund for Marlene Lewis, a school crossing guard at Orchard Heights and Hill Drive, who was hit and seriously injured by a vehicle, while riding her bike, proving once again that Aurora is a caring town.

Belated BOUQUETS to the citizens and students of Aurora for continuing to show the Spirit of Aurora by assisting the Denotter family after the tragic fire that damaged their home on Temperance Street recently. Although Aurora is growing, long may it continue the small town philosophy of neighbour helping neighbour.

BRICKBATS to persons who leave their dogs shut in a closed car on a hot day. A little gray dog, barking furiously, was left in a dark blue van-type vehicle in a south end parking lot recently with all windows closed. Thoughtless people shouldn't have pets!

BOUQUETS to creative Grade 1 and 2 teacher Aynsley Maxwell at Wells Street Public School, who uses teddy bears, donated by Canadian Tire. Each teddy bear is given to a traveller through a friend in the travel industry, with the teddy bringing back a story of where it has been.

BRICKBATS to the vandals who beheaded the fibreglass bull on the roof over Oakridge Meats on Yonge Street across from the hotel. The vandals not only ruined the bull, they spoiled what might have been a good debate at council on the town's discriminatory sign bylaw.

BOUQUETS to 18-year-old Christine Baikowski of Aurora on winning a scholarship to play hockey next season for the Clarkson University women's team in Potsdam, New York. She started to play hockey at age six under the Optimist Club recreation program and later played for the Aurora Tigers rep team and the Aurora Panthers.

BRICKBATS to the courts and Parliament for the confused messages regarding the use of small amounts of marijuana leaving police forces in a quandary. The Ontario Court of Appeal overturned a youth's conviction for being caught with fewer than 30 grams of pot. One federal department is appealing the ruling while another is considering decriminalizing simple possession. What a mess!

BOUQUETS to Mayor Tim Jones for coming to the aid of a lady in distress when she locked her keys in her car at the recent Seniors BBQ. Jones retrieved his trusty putter from his golf bag and managed to unlock the door to the applause of the seniors. He didn't smash the window, but was able to get the putter in through slightly open window and lift the latch.

BRICKBATS to Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Liberal MPs for even suggesting an expenditure of \$100 million to construct a political museum in Ottawa plus an unknown amount for yearly operating expenses. Citizens have enough bad memories of politicians and don't need a museum to remind them, but it may be the only way for Chretien to find a legacy.

More BRICKBATS to the same PM and government for adjourning Parliament early, especially when there are a number of critical issues, such as SARS, West Nile and Mad Cow.

BOUQUETS to York Regional Police and regional hydro utilities for joining together in Operation York Connection to stamp out marijuana-growing houses which illegally bypass hydro meters.

BOUQUETS to Dr. Steve Armata for making the vast improvement to the appearance of his building at the southwest corner of Wellington and Yonge Streets. Hopefully his actions will encourage other property owners to spruce up the exteriors of their buildings in Aurora's historic downtown core.

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Letter to the Editor

Everything fine if board gets its way - Buck

To the editor,

At last week's council meeting Dave Snelgrove and Bruce Aldridge, officials from our two school boards attended with guns blazing. They were backed by a phalanx of women...a school trustee, a principal, a president of a school association and sundry others.

They were opposed to a couple of fairly innocuous ideas put forward in a committee report which had yet to be presented to council. The ideas were for possible improvements to Confederation Park in my neighborhood.

Mr. Snelgrove referred to years of successful partnership between the town and the two school boards. I know something about that partnership. A review might be of interest to Aurora's taxpayers.

First it started in 1969 when county boards were formed. The town made a building available to the board for a rent of one dollar a year.

Fifteen years later when the board needed more space, the town made a site available and entered an agreement with the board for a joint administrative centre. The board

provided maintenance for the building. The town looked after the exterior maintenance. They paid one thousand dollars a year which we used to landscape the property.

When the board needed more space, the town moved out. We sold our share of the building and a multi-million dollar site, for a pittance.

At the time of construction of the second ice surface at the community centre, a sliver of land was needed for access and egress of the ice cleaning machine. It was a corner of the Aurora Heights Public School property. The board wanted to be paid. The town deeded away a chunk of Regency Acres park to the board in a swap.

A recent agreement with the town for another giveaway has allowed the two boards to construct new parking and a bus loop. Without the town's co-operation the project would not have been possible. We took back the property swapped for the land at Aurora Heights.

In April, Rebecca Beaton went to the leisure services committee with some ideas for the Regency

Acres park improvement project. I tagged along. We went again in May...readers may remember that was the month when there was no quorum.

We went back a couple of weeks ago. Rebecca thought a hedge to screen the unsightly view of the buildings from the park might be viable. She also thought a soccer pitch could be re-arranged...and some trees planted.

I thought the park would be substantially improved if the parking lot was moved to be contiguous with the public school parking lot. The town's committee, except for the hedge idea, were receptive to the ideas. Councillor Damir Vrancic, whose children play soccer at the park, had an idea of his own to be explored.

Apparently the police do not like hedges on public property. According to Mr. Snelgrove, they park in the school parking lot and from the vantage point of the driver's seat of the cruiser, a hedge would obstruct the view.

According to Councillor George Timpson the town has already lopped off tree

branches for the same reason.

Before the ideas could even be discussed by council, the two boards were there to oppose them. They said to consider such ideas meant they would be unable to proceed with their summer work project for which one tender had already been let and another was at the point of being considered.

It was hard to see the rationale for that contention. But that did not stop Councillor John West from supporting their position. He asked what would happen if they could not proceed. Following that cue, Mr. Snelgrove stated the project would be delayed by a year.

Councillors Evelina McEachern and Vrancic, professed confusion. How could that be? The committee's recommendation was for the ideas to be explored and they pertained to town property.

That was when Mr. Snelgrove referred to our

happy partnership through the years and how the board had no interest in having anyone drive over their property to reach town parking. It seemed to me there was a substantial contradiction in his position. The partnership was joyful so long as the board was getting everything it wanted...the first time the town might potentially seek some amenity in return, the story changed considerably.

Councillor West gave them their cue again and the same statement was repeated. The board would not be able to proceed with their plans for another year and the safety of students was at stake.

That piece of flim-flamery was allowed to stand and eventually, though it was not clear exactly what was being voted, the usual cloned voting pattern happened and somehow the committee's recommendations which had as yet to be presented were already rejected.

At this point there is something I have to get off my chest. When Betty Pedersen ran for council in the last election, I felt it was up to the voters to decide if they needed a Newmarket resident to represent them on council. I thought I knew how they would vote.

Obviously I did not. Now, I find myself resentful of having a Newmarket resident cast votes in opposi-

tion to how I myself believe the vote should be cast.

I have similar feelings of resentment against the authority of our leisure services director. He lives in Brampton. I believe his job calls for an in-depth knowledge of the people in the community, of the particular interests of people in specific neighborhoods. I don't see how that knowledge can be acquired

without living in this community and sharing our interests and concerns.

Evelyn Buck
Aurora



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Brian North, President; Meagan Honsberger, Past Director; Dr. Janice McMinn, Director; and Ian Johnson, Past President; were part of the 155 golfers who participated in the 22nd annual Aurora Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club last week. More than \$300 was raised for Big Brothers of York as a result of a putting contest. Winners of the tournament were Tom Davies, Ken Valliquette, Doug Adair and Rick Sainthill. At the dinner following the tournament, CFTO's Lance Brown was master of ceremonies.

Photo by Rob Schuetze

Junior Jays stun 15 teams to win Quebec tournament

The Aurora Junior Jays surprised 15 of the top Junior teams from Quebec last weekend by winning the Quebec Provincial AA Tournament held in Drummondville, Quebec.

The 16 team tournament spanned two weekends.

After advancing to the quarter-finals two weeks ago, the Jays returned to Drummondville winning three straight and defeating Ville Marie 2-1 in an exciting and close final game.

In the final, leadoff hitter Jason Sukhraj set the tone in the top of the first with a monster home run to left field.

With the score 1-0 Jays in the bottom of the first, Ville Marie thought they had the game tied with a deep routine sacrifice fly to centre field, but Mark Spence gunned down the runner at the plate.

Billy Keir manufactured a run in the third by stealing a base and scoring on a passed ball at the plate. Ville Marie cut the lead to 2-1 in the bottom of the third,

but it was great defense and superb pitching from Matt Douris and Brad Keffer that held the opposition to only four hits.

The Jays defeated top seeded St-Jean Chrysostome 13-3 in the semi-final as Dave Rocca and Matt Sellers went 2 for 3, with 2 RBIs each.

In the quarterfinal, the Jays defeated Cosaks du Nord 7-3 with great pitching from Andrew Carruthers and Mike Robinson as catcher Ryan Baker went 3 for 4 with three RBIs.

The first weekend saw the Jays drop the first game to hometown Drummondville 6-2, then later defeat Sherbrooke 8-6 to advance.

Manager Jordan Christoff stated that this was perhaps the best team effort his team has ever performed as every player contributed significantly to winning the tournament.

Included in the lineup are Darryl Knox, Chris Fisher, Ryan Baker, Matt Thompson, Justin Rakovsky, Billy Keir, Mark Spence, Dan

Christoff, Jason Sukhraj, Mike Robinson, Andrew Brad Keffer, Dave Rocca, Carruthers, and Owen Matt Sellers, Matt Douris, Somerville.

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Diggers add pair of wins in league play

Aurora's Novice Diggers ball team continued their winning streak last week in league play.

In a contest against arch rival Newmarket, Aurora whipped the opposition 12-0.

Kaylee McDonald pitched the win going six innings with 12 strikeouts, four walks and allowing four hits.

Amanda Piron led the Aurora bats with a three for three game, hitting a single, a triple and a grand slam home run.

Chelsae Lumley also contributed three hits to the winning effort while Kathryn Cribbett, Alyson Murphy, Jenn Kates and Jessica Suddes added two each.

The following evening

Peterborough came to town and once again, thanks to strong Aurora pitching, the locals defeated the visitors 16-4.

In only her second outing as a pitcher, Jenn Kates went seven innings, had five strikeouts, only one walk and gave up eight hits.

Larisa Weissberger led the Aurora bats with three hits, two of them doubles, while Amanda Piron, Mandy Ince and Jessica Murray each contributed two hits each.

The team is on a hiatus until July 9th when they host Cobourg in the first game at 6.30 p.m., then Whitby in the nightcap at at 8:30 p.m.

Both games are slated for Fleury Park.

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ASHLEY SPELLER

Hobby blossoms into track career

By **CHRISTINE WOODLEY**

Only a year ago, Aurora's Ashley Speller considered track just a hobby.

Then, her Country Day School coach, Bill Gairdner, suggested she continue training over the summer holidays and invited the 16-year-old to join the York Flyers track and field club.

Since then, the Grade 11 student hasn't looked back.

At a track meet held at Country Day School in May and organized by the Conference of Independent Schools Athletic Association, Ashley posted personal best times in the Junior 100, 200 and 500 metre races.

She also anchored the school's Cyclones Relay Team to victories in the 4x100 and 4x400 heats.

Then, on May 28th, Ashley represented her school at the Central Regionals of the OFSAA (Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations) and had another excellent day of competition.

She finished first in her heats for both the Junior Girls' 200 metre dash, and 400 metre dash.

Both times were again personal bests for Ashley.

At the OFSAA finals in St. Catharines a week later, Ashley finished seventh in the 400 metre dash (again a personal best) and 11th in the preliminaries for the 200 metre dash.

Ashley is thrilled with her quick and steady progress.

"It's so rewarding, because I've been able to see the results of my efforts paying off pretty quickly," she says. "It's a lot more fun that way."

Not surprisingly, the soft-spoken, cheerful teen was named her school's track MVP for this year.

Ashley credits Coach Gairdner as well as her school's strong athletic programs for contributing to her success.

As for the future, Ashley hopes her track successes may pave the way to an exotic and exciting university career.

"I visited the University of Hawaii recently and saw how beautiful it is there. Maybe I'll be able to get a scholarship someday," she said.

Not bad for a sport that was just a hobby a short time ago.

Canadiana rink was top facility

In June, 1979, retired Metro Toronto police officer and developer William Mitchell and his wife, Glenice, purchased an acre of land on Edward Street in the town's industrial park for \$50,000.

They planned to build a 24,000 square foot roller-skating rink.

Mitchell told council at that time he planned to build a roller rink with 160 by 80-foot professional skating floor with a hard rock surface in a no-beam, one-storey building.

He added there would be high quality skates for rent, a sound system and professional instruction. There would also be a beginner's floor and a broadloomed snack area.

Mitchell was no stranger to roller-skating, as he skated at every opportunity in his youth and took his roller skates to war with him.

He then taught friends for fun in Malaya and England before coming back to Canada.

After his marriage to Glenice, they took up roller-skating together in 1971 and became both provincial and national champions.

In 1979, as the sport had been accepted for the Pan Am Games as a competitive sport, it became their dream to see roller-skating become an Olympic sport.

When they considered building a roller rink, they selected Aurora as being the hub of the York Region area. At that time the closest roller rinks were in Scarborough and Barrie.

The Mitchells, along with

instructor Beverley Preston, a former North American champion, and the winner of several medals, helped to develop a nationally recognized program of roller-skating skills under "Skate Canada".

It wasn't the first time for roller-skating in Aurora.

When Aurora Council decided to build the community centre to replace the burned-out old Yonge Street arena, they visited several other municipalities for ideas.

They were impressed with the Port Elgin arena as it was used during the summer months as a roller rink. Arrangements were made to install a special trap-rock floor at the Aurora facility and for a few years roller-skating was popular during the summer months, but people found other interests and the fad died.

Aurora's Canadiana Roller Rink opened to the public on February 21, 1980, with a special reception for invited guests the night before to view the facilities.

Lori Beal and Robert Dalgleish, bronze medal winners at the 1979 Pan Am Games, and other Canadian skaters entertained the guests with a display of roller-skating.

After the customary ceremonies, visiting dignitaries were invited to don skates and christen the new rink. Mayor George Timpson was assisted around the rink by

top Canadian competitive skaters Wendy Prosser and Karen Krolicki.

On opening night, when skating was free, more than 3,500 showed up to try out their skills on the floor. The following Sunday was the first Family Night and 225 families participated.

There was also a disco dance floor with disco lighting and sound system and Friday and Saturday nights were set aside for youths and "roller boogie" was introduced in Aurora.

In July, 1981, Jeff Brabant, 18, of Aurora and a regular roller-skater at Canadiana skated his way to a national roller-skating title with an innovative freestyle routine at the Canadian National Roller-Skating championships held in Mississauga. He had won the Ontario title earlier in the year.

Brabant qualified for the World Championship sched-

uled for New Zealand later in the year. In all, Aurora skaters brought home 14 golds, three silvers and three bronze medals from the Mississauga competition.

In January, 1982, the Canadiana Roller Rink hosted a major skating competition with more than 200 skaters participating. Prosser captured eight awards and eight-year-old Kathy Smith of Aurora won two first-place awards.

By March, 1983, the roller skating fad appeared to be on the wane, as attendance was down and the Mitchells became concerned, as they had all their retirement savings tied up in the rink.

Although 13 skaters from the Canadiana advanced to the national championships, it was the beginning of the end.

Today, the building is a bingo hall, and even its future is in doubt.

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Aurora Minor Ball Results					
SOFTBALL					
5-Pitch (Mon/Wed)					
June 25 - Dr. Steiner's Drillers 11 Aurora Canadian Tire 6					
5-Pitch (Tues/Thurs)					
June 24 - Tooth Platoon (Aurora)17 Home Hardware (OR2) 12					
Mite					
June 17 - Richmond Hill (1) 19 Colt Creek Diving (A1) 14					
Richmond Hill (5) 15 Greenham's Distinctive Clothier (A3) 14					
Richmond Hill (4) 19 Toronto Star (OR1) 8					
Bero's Tire & Auto (OR2) 18					
Richmond Hill (2) 10					
Richmond Hill (3) 13 Aurora Canadian Tire (A2) 11					
June 19 - Toronto Star (OR1) 14 Aurora Canadian Tire (A2) 10					
Standings	GP	W	L	T	Points
Little Caesars (RH4)	4	3	0	1	7
Toronto Star (OR1)	5	3	2	0	6
XNO3 Design (RH5)	4	2	0	2	6
Remington Medical (RH1)	4	2	1	1	5
Bero's Tire & Auto (OR2)	3	2	1	0	4
Colt Creek Diving (A1)	4	2	2	0	4
York Pediatrics (RH3)	4	2	2	0	4
Novex Pharma (RH2)	5	1	3	1	3
Aurora Canadian Tire (A2)	4	0	3	1	1
Greenham's Distinctive Clothier (A3)	3	0	3	0	0
Squirt					
June 18 - Richmond Hill (1) 19 Nolan's Transmission (OR) 0					
June 19 - Richmond Hill (3) 19 Aurora Home Hardware 8					
Richmond Hill (4) 19 Nolan's Transmission (OR) 5					
Standings	GP	W	L	T	TP
LowePro (RH4)	3	3	0	0	6
Al's Home Renovations (RH3)	3	3	0	0	6
Fabricland (RH1)	4	3	1	0	6
Powell Plumbing (RH5)	4	2	2	0	4
Richvale Lioness (RH2)	3	1	2	0	2
WWW.RHMB.A.CA (RH6)	3	1	2	0	2
Nolan's Transmission (OR)	4	1	3	0	2
Aurora Home Hardware	4	0	4	0	0
Tri-Township Girls Bantam					
June 26 - Constant Temperature Control (Aurora) 12 Richmond Hill 8					
Standings	W	L	T	TP	
Maple	5	0	0	10	
Aurora (Constant Temp Control)	1	2	0	2	
Richmond Hill	0	2	0	0	
East Gwillimbury	0	1	0	0	
Tri Township Girls Midget					
Cheltenham	5	0	1	11	
Caledon Major	3	2	0	6	
Aurora 1 (McDonalds)	2	2	0	4	
Aurora 2 (Mastercut)	1	2	1	3	
Caledon Minor	1	4	0	2	
Maple	1	3	0	2	
BASEBALL					
Rookie Ball					
June 10 - Aurora Jays (A2) 15 404 Dental Office (N5) 9					
June 16 - Aurora Jays (A2) 13 Dave Wood Mazda (N3) 12					
June 23 - Default Aurora Jays (A2) 1La Prairie (N4) - 0					
Mosquito					
June 23 - Optimist Club (N4) 7 ACI (A2) 6					
Dr. Norm Orschel (A1) 16 Hempen Jewellers (N3) 6					
June 24 - Dr. Norm Orschel (A1) 13 Knappett Jewellers (N5) 9					
June 26 - ACI (A2) 15 D.D. Home Improvements (N2) 6					
Peewee					
June 23 - Dr. Chan (B1) 13 Natures Emporium (A2) 10					
June 25 - Aurora Jays (A1) 20 Dr. Chan (B1) 17					
June 26 - Young Drivers of Canada (N6) 14 Aurora Jays (A1) 10					
Bantam					
June 22 - D.D. Home Improvements (N4) 14 Aurora Home Hardware (A1) 6					
June 23 - D.D. Home Improvements (N4) 15 Aurora Home Hardware (A1) 7					
Midget/Juvenile/Junior					
June 22 - Aurora Men's Slo-Pitch League (A1) 24					
Remax Omega Realty (N4) 5					
June 25 - AMSL (A1) 11 Thornhill (T1) 4					

"Uncle Bill" celebrates 90th birthday

Simply stated, his name tag read "Uncle Bill".

Nothing formal for 90-year-old William "Bill" Menton, and the hundred or so people in the room knew that.

Of course, for many of them, Bill Menton was their uncle.

While he has no children of his own, Bill Menton, the subject of all the fuss Saturday afternoon, has about 30 nieces and nephews living all over the province.

Many of them were in Aurora Saturday to celebrate Bill's nine decades on earth with a Mass at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church and a birthday party in Lynett Hall.

Since 1929, some 73 years, Bill has lived at the family homestead on the west side of Yonge Street, in south Aurora, a property adjacent to one purchased by his father in 1911 and sold for a horse.

Bill and Our Lady of Grace church have a long history together. He's still a member - has been since the original days in 1946 - and still addresses the congregation as a lecturer.

There may be more bull to come.

Even though it's no longer on the roof - having some prime parts lopped off - the controversial bull atop a Yonge Street butcher shop will get another day in court.

At a recent general committee meeting, members re-endorsed a staff recommendation banning roof signs, which would have forced the fibre-glass bull back to the ground, but before the bylaw could be enacted, someone chopped off the bull's head.

The bull contained no advertising - in fact it served as a thermometer - and in the minds of some councillors and citizens, it was a landmark and should be allowed under the bylaw.

Peter Harrison, co-owner of Oakridge Meats, had already sought a variance to the bylaw to allow the bull to remain.

While there was general support for the retention of the bull, it was contrary to the existing sign bylaw.

Staff was directed to review the bylaw along with bylaws from other municipalities. The bull could stay until the review had been completed.

The staff report reconfirming their previous recommendation was presented to the general committee meeting, but it was anticlimactic, since the bull had disappeared.

Vandals had climbed onto the roof and beheaded the animal.

As a result the committee rubber-stamped the Staff recommendation.

But the issue came to life again when Harrison wrote to council seeking a deferral until the next meeting on July 15th. Council agreed.

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Rumours & Rumblings

Eric's moment in the light needed a fuse

Everything was ready for the first baseball game under the lights at the Town Park back in August, 1974.

The 32 lights, perched on their brand new standards, had been installed a week earlier and the wiring was complete.

A team from Oshawa had been invited to face the hometown squad for the big event.

Both ball teams stood by as Eric Smith, proud as a new papa, went to the control booth to throw a switch, which would flood the ball diamond with light.

Smith pulled the lever, but nothing happened. The field remained in darkness.

He couldn't believe it since he had spent months appearing at council, writing letters, heartbreaks and disappointments, trying to get the lights installed. This was to be his finest hour.

The Oshawa team stood around for an hour or so before returning home.

Officials fiddled around trying to find the problem and finally there it was...a missing fuse.

The lights came on and the field was flooded with light, except there was no one there to see it. They had all gone home.

Another official lighting ceremony was planned but Smith wasn't there to enjoy the moment, as he was on holidays.

COMMUNITY CENTRE MADE A PROFIT

Believe it or not but the town's audited statement for 1970 reveals that the Community Centre actually made a profit of \$7,940.04. Total revenue was \$101,901.03 with roller-skating contributing \$7,919.73 while total expenditures hit \$93,960.99.

The Aurora Library ended 1970 with a deficit of \$357.94. Revenue was \$43,744.17 including a grant from the town of \$26,662 and from the province of \$9,588.

The town also handled a debenture payment of \$6,472.50. Expenditures totalled \$44,102.11 including \$13,564.07 for the purchase of books and magazines.

The population of Aurora at the end of 1970 was 11,391 and the town had an area of 1,703 acres and a total of 52 employees, compared with 9,167 persons, 1,601 acres and 42 employees in 1962.

Total revenue in 1970 was \$2,408,706 including \$1,982,832 in property taxes and \$2,395,976 in expenditures for a surplus of \$19,860 including \$7,130 from 1969.

THE PROBLEM SIGN BYLAW

Aurora Council has been plagued with sign bylaw problems over the years. Currently the issue is whether a bull on the roof of a Yonge Street butcher shop without any writing on it is a sign.

Back in September, 1983, the issue was over an extra sign for Wietzes Motors, now Aurora Toyota, located on Yonge Street. The company purchased an adjacent 60-foot strip of land for a used-car dealership and requested an additional sign.

The town's sign bylaw only allows one pylon sign

per owner in a commercial zone and Wietzes already had a sign for its new-car dealership.

Staff recommended that the sign bylaw be amended to permit the extra sign for all car dealerships selling new and used cars from the same property.

Then Mayor Dick Illingworth said the sign bylaw was too restrictive and should be reviewed to make it more realistic. He suggested council accept the staff recommendation and amend the bylaw.

Other members of council said the proliferation of signs was creating visual pollution and on a vote of 7-1 rejected the staff recommendation.

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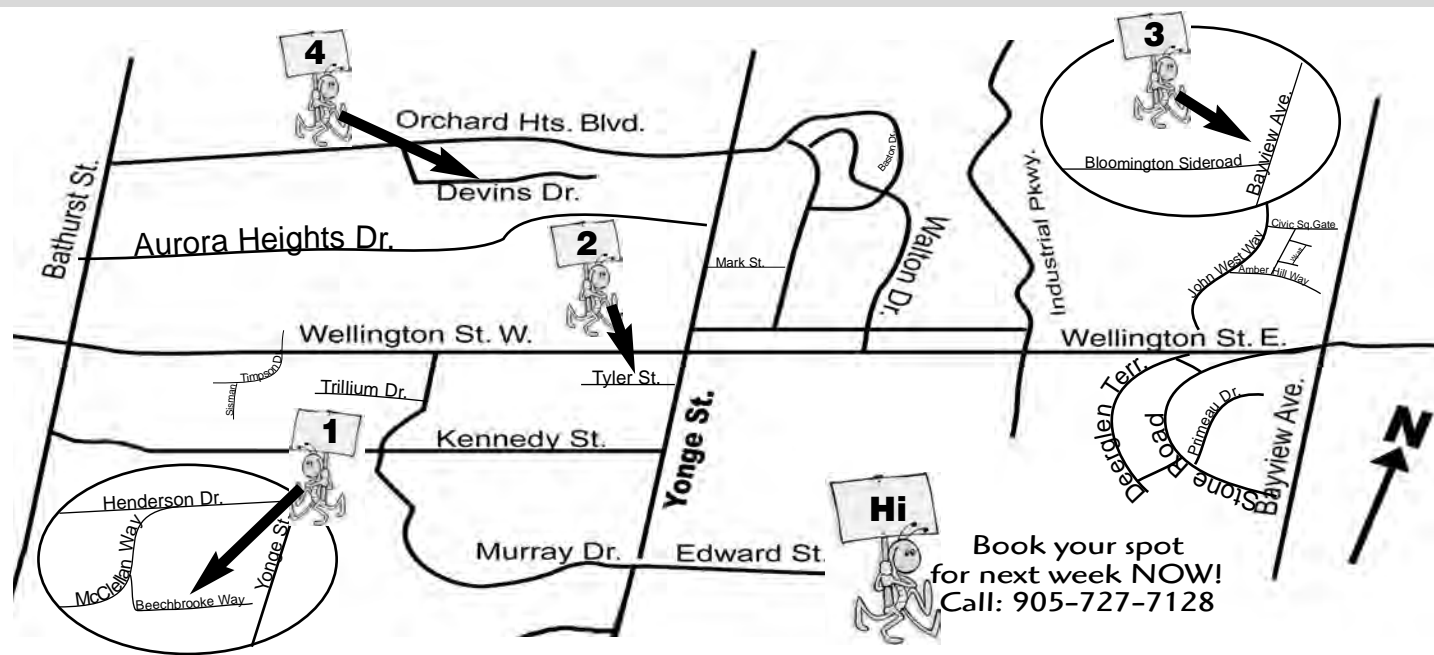
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