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# AURORAN

**Aurora's Community Newspaper**

**Thomas B. McPherson  
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John T. Kalm**

**Thomas McPherson  
& Associates  
LAW FIRM**

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Vol. 3 No. 42

Week of August 19, 2003

905-727-3300

## Town cuts power by half

The Town of Aurora has cut itself in half this week, at least as far as power is concerned.

Following last Thursday's massive power blackout, town officials are following provincial advice that municipa-

lities and businesses should attempt to operate with only half their required power.

In Aurora that meant:

- air conditioners off, except at the seniors' centre where the device

would not activate until the temperature reaches 78 degrees Fahrenheit.

- Fitness centre programs cancelled.
- Ice bookings cancelled.
- Library meeting room bookings cancelled.
- Tuesday night town council meeting cancelled.
- All outdoor activities requiring lights cancelled.
- All town hall booked meetings cancelled.
- No lights in parking lots.

Plans to install ice at the Aurora Community Centre, rink 1, will be delayed. Ice making was expected to begin on the weekend.

The strategy was put into effect Sunday afternoon after senior town officials met with Mayor Tim Jones to discuss electrical conservation techniques.

It is unknown how long the restrictions will remain in effect.

The town's chief administrative officer Larry Allison also met with York Region officials Sunday afternoon to hear regional plans to curtail the use of power.

While most power returned to the area Friday, getting the system back to normal has not been that simple.

Because of huge power demands expected Monday when the province attempted to return to work, Ontario Premier Ernie Eves recommended businesses and municipalities attempt to operate on "half load".

Saturday, Mayor Jones arranged  
**Please see page 8**



**John Miniotas holds a portion of the liner he says the town cut into pieces when they dismantled his above ground backyard pool on Mosley Street. Walls of the pool are stacked in the yard.**

*Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

## Resident charges town ruined backyard pool

An Aurora man has charged that the Town's bylaw department ripped apart his swimming pool after he had replaced stagnant water with clean water.

The bylaw department, agreeing it had ordered the pool dismantled, didn't see it that way.

John Miniotas told the Auroran last week that the town came onto his Mosley Street property with police escort and tore apart his above ground pool.

"They ruined it and cut the liner into pieces so it can never be used again," the owner of the now-defunct Club Café said.

While Bylaw Enforcement Services Co-ordinator Chris Alexander agrees the pool was dismantled, he said circumstances warranted it.

"The pool hasn't functioned in a long time," he said, "and even though he had changed the water, it still wasn't operating."

An owner of Backyard Pool & Spa, the company that dismantled the pool, agreed.

"The liner was ripped and there were holes in it," said Don Smith. "It could not function as a pool."

Alexander said the town had received numerous complaints about the condition of the pool and he has been trying to get the owner to fix it for about a year.

"Operate it or move it," was the advice offered to the pool owner.

"This year, with the West Nile Virus scare, and with the stagnant water there, we were forced to do something," Alexander said.

Miniotas agreed the water was stagnant and he had the pool drained and refilled with pure water.

"But they still tore it apart," he said.

Smith said the condition of the liner was so bad the pool could not be filled more than a third capacity.

"We tried to give the owner every opportunity to fix the problem," Alexander said, "but when it became a health issue we had to act."

Miniotas said he is considering legal action against the town.



**If you closed your eyes, you'd swear John, Paul, George and Ringo were on stage Wednesday in Aurora. The "Fab Four", top photo, delighted a record crowd of some 1,400 people at the town park as they put the cap on this summer's Concert In The Park series. Town of Aurora officials said changing the date from Sunday to Wednesday substantially increased the attendance at the popular event.**



**Talk about gridlock. The lot of the Beaver gas station in Aurora Friday morning was jammed with cars as motorists jockeyed for a shot of precious gasoline following Thursday's massive electrical blackout. Cars were lined up out Mary Street and west on Wellington to Industrial Parkway, and while most motorists tolerated the situation, a few tempers were obviously on edge. By Friday night, there wasn't a drop of gasoline left in Aurora, although stations began to re-open Sunday.**

*Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*



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## COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

### CONTINUING

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

Summer public skating at the Leisure Complex every Friday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. until August 29. Cost is \$2.  
\*\*\*\*\*

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

Until August 31, the Skylight Gallery in the Aurora Town Hall features the work of Jim Watson and Judy Sherman. Viewing hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

### AUGUST 22

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.

### AUGUST 23

First "Lifeguards on the Beach" volleyball tournament will be held at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex beach courts. Teams of four may register. Registration forms at the Leisure Complex. Further information call 905-727-3123 ext. 523.

### AUGUST 25

A summer clay camp with the Pine Tree Potters for ages 8 to 16 Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to noon. Call 905-989-5685 to register.

### SEPTEMBER 6

Aurora Historical Society annual tour of homes from 6:30 until 9:30 p.m. Seven private homes, from the 1860s to the 1950s, will be on view. Tickets \$20. All proceeds support Hillary House, Aurora's National Historic Site. Tickets may be purchased at Hillary House, 15372 Yonge Street, Wednesday through Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. or at the Auroran, 75 Mary Street, Monday through Saturday. For more information, call (905) 727-8991.

### SEPTEMBER 8

Public information meeting regarding the proposed concept plan for the new recreational complex on Wellington Street East in the Magna Room of the Aurora Public Library at 7 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 9

Aurora Council meets in the Town Hall at 7 p.m. Council meetings will not be telecast by Aurora Cable Internet until after the Nov. 10 municipal election.

### SEPTEMBER 10

Open house from 6 to 8 p.m. in the council chambers to discuss bringing Aurora's official plan and zoning bylaw into conformity with the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

### SEPTEMBER 12

Theatre Aurora begins its 2003/2004 subscription series with James Prideaux comedy "The Housekeeper". It continues September 13, 17-20 and 24-27 at 8:15 p.m. Call 905-727-3669 for ticket information.

### SEPTEMBER 13

Aurora Minor Hockey Association annual used equipment sale, 9 a.m. - noon. ACC1 Lobby. Drop off dates September 11 and 12, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., ACC1 Lobby.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Annual Magna Hoedown. 5 p.m. - 1 a.m. at Magna Headquarters, Wellington Street East. Eleven charities will benefit.  
\*\*\*\*\*

The York Regional Police Male Chorus, comprised of several Aurora residents, will hold a parking lot sale to aid fundraising for their upcoming "Goodwill" tour to England and Wales in 2004. North parking lot of the York Region Administrative Centre, 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain date Sept. 20, same time.

### 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 16

Seminar entitled "De-Mystifying the Municipal Approvals Process for Business", sponsored by the town and the Aurora Chamber of Commerce in the Magna Room of the Aurora Library from 8:30 a.m. until noon. Call 905-727-3123 extension 250 by September 8th to register.

### 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.

### SEPTEMBER 20-21

3rd annual Candlelight Vigil at Aurora Cemetery. Begins Saturday afternoon, continues Sunday with full Drumhead Service.

### SEPTEMBER 21

Aurora Rotary Club hosts annual Rotary Foundation Walk. 9 a.m. - noon. Walk covers 2.5 kilometres and is centred from the Town Park.

### SEPTEMBER 23

Catholic Women's League fall Fashion Show, Lynett Hall, 16 Catherine Avenue, 7.30 p.m. For tickets and further information, call Pat MacDonald 905-727-1509.

### SEPTEMBER 27

Wesley United Church, Woodbine and the Aurora Sideroad, annual Applefest. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Further information, call Jean Stroud, 905-841-1490.



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# Approval process will be unravelled at planned seminar

For many businessmen with other problems on their mind, trying to understand the municipal approval process is a totally mystifying experience.

In an attempt to unravel the mystery, the Town of Aurora in conjunction with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, is sponsoring a free seminar entitled "Demystifying the Municipal Approvals Process for Business" on September 16 in the Magna Room of the Aurora Library.

The seminar is intended to provide an instructional and entertaining overview of the various municipal approval pro-

cesses that impact on the operation of local business.

Staff representatives from the town's Planning, Building and Finance departments, as well as from the Economic Development Division will conduct the sessions.

They will focus on requirements for obtaining an official plan/zoning bylaw amendment, securing site plan approval or new facilities or an addition/extension to existing facilities and how to obtain a building permit, sign permit, etc.

There will be a ques-

tion and answer period after each session.

The seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a pre-seminar networking breakfast, with the working session starting at 9 a.m. The seminar will end at noon with a light lunch and post-seminar gathering.

Participants should register by September 8 by contacting Michelle Davis in the administration department at the Town Hall at 905-727-3123 - extension 250.

For further information regarding the seminar contact Dino Lombardi, economic development officer at extension 255.

## Buses free on holiday weekend

If you use York Region Transit buses in Aurora on a weekend, you can ride them free if there's a summer holiday attached.

At this stage of the game, that leaves Labour Day.

There will be no fare charged Saturday, August 30 and Sunday, August 31, but there's a catch.

You must show a York Region Stay 'n Play card.

It's part of York's "Stay 'n Play" SARS Recovery Program and the card was part of its Road Map to Savings and Excitement brochure.

If you do not have the brochure, you can find a copy at Aurora Town Hall and the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

Failing that, the brochure will be mailed to you by calling 1-888-448-0000.

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Poor Richard

If you don't vote, don't complain!!

Your vote works for you every day,  
Even if you don't realize it;  
By voting you help select the team  
Around the council table to sit.  
-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

November 10th is election day for municipalities in Ontario.

It's the day when residents have the opportunity to vote for the candidates of their choice to make decisions on their behalf during the next three years.

But your vote works for you every day, so it's important that you make an informed choice when you cast your ballot.

Many people who regularly make up their household or business budgets often abdicate their responsibility when it comes to community housekeeping.

Statistics reveal that the average voter turnout for municipal elections is around 30 per cent or less than one in three taking the time or effort to vote.

Casting a vote is your way of contributing to the direction and quality of life within your municipality.

Votes cast in a local election work for you on a day-to-day basis to keep basic services operating, traffic flowing, water running and your protection through fire and police services.

Elected members of council supervise the planning and leadership of these and other services, and in these difficult times there is a need, as never before, for the electors to share this responsibility by making informed decisions when casting their ballot on November 10th.

By not exercising your franchise you abdicate your civic responsibility and are indirectly weakening the public mandate behind local government.

The effect of casting a vote at the municipal level is more important than at any other level of government.

Many factors can influence voter turnout: the weather, the number of candidates in the running for the various seats, the number of seats contested, whether there are hot local issues and if there is a lively contest for the head of council.

There is often a lack of awareness of the local issues and the role and responsibilities of local government and here the local media have a role to play.

But even if the local media and local cable television fully cover the many issues before council, taxpayers have a responsibility to keep members of council aware of their comments and concerns about town affairs during the year.

Democracy is much more than voting in the election, it's taking an interest in what decisions are being made on your behalf as your vote works for you every day of the term.

Voting is the key action that keeps the political system alive and healthy.

If candidates care enough to seek public office, it shouldn't be too much to ask for the public to give them a solid mandate by turning out to vote for the candidates of their choice.

By doing so you are giving them a mandate to act on your behalf and spend your tax dollars on services for your community.

It is often overlooked that a simple vote has a kind of hidden power.

In Aurora, the councillor polling the highest number of votes becomes deputy mayor, who has the right to assume all the duties and powers of the mayor when absent from office.

Some qualified electors claim the reason they don't vote is the complexity of the municipal ballot and their lack of knowledge of the candidates and rather than make an uninformed choice they prefer not to vote.

Voters have some responsibilities in getting to know the candidates running for office in their municipality to make an informed decision.

Local media outlets, including Aurora Cable, provide information of all candidates on the ballot.

But the best way to get to know the incumbents is by attending a council or committee meeting to see your elected representatives in action and the candidates in attendance at the meeting to gain some ideas of the issues facing council.

Attending an all candidates meeting should also be a must.

After all this, if you don't vote, you have abdicated your right to complain!

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

In an attempt to get everyone's letter to the editor in the paper this week, we have temporarily abandoned our historical picture which usually appears in this space. The popular feature should return next week, but in the meantime, enjoy what your fellow readers have to say.

Letters to the Editor

Enough yearbook bashing; our volunteers are wonderful

To the editor,

Enough is enough!!!!

Instead of the constant bashing towards the Highview school yearbook, several of us Highview parents would like to take a moment to publicly thank the yearbook committee and comment on what a wonderful job they have accomplished.

This much debated yearbook contains hundreds of photos of happy faces of children of all abilities, ages, genders, and nationalities, all put together for our posterity.

This committee was composed of a very small group of dedicated parents.

They gave freely of their time despite their own fami-

ly commitments and busy schedule, to accommodate yearbook deadlines and produce an album for more than 850 students.

Teachers, support staff, and administration, as well as these volunteers needed to coordinate their time and efforts to create this special book.

And yes, human error can occur, but to blame it on discrimination is totally misleading.

In Highview's 10-year history, it is conceivable that other student pictures have been missed, and we're quite certain this has happened in other schools as well, but does every parent feel it is necessary to berate and insult a volunteer group in a local newspaper?

Through our experience with the school, we have noted that all students, regardless of their abilities, are treated equally and included in all activities.

This was indeed evident at our Grade 8 graduation ceremony, where other students from the special needs class participate fully along side of their peers during this event.

It is unfortunate that Kailey was unable to attend the graduation ceremony for whatever reason.

But it is important to note that her picture was in the graduation composite and her name included in the graduation program. She was not being excluded in any way.

Brickbats to Dick

Illingworth who, of all people, should understand accidental editorial omissions; and as a result, he has done nothing to promote the excellent effort of volunteers.

An apology is in order to the many volunteers who give freely of their time in our schools today.

They do not deserve to have their hard work scrutinized by the misinformed public, the local newspaper or Dick Illingworth.

**L. Wilkins,  
M. Burns,  
C. Kean  
Highview parents**

**ED. NOTE: The yearbook committee offers its view of this issue in the letter below.**

No staff input to Highview yearbook, committee says

To the editor,

We read with interest the letter to the editor, July 15, regarding the missing graduate photo of Kailey Hayes and her class picture in the 2003 edition of the Highview Public School yearbook.

We would like to say the onus lies with the staff member responsible for the class.

The classroom team is in charge of providing accurate information regarding class pictures and graduating students.

Our book is based on information provided by staff members.

It is important to note that there was no staff liaison for this edition.

We read with interest the letter to the editor, July 15, regarding the missing graduate photo of Kailey Hayes and her class picture in the 2003 edition of the Highview Public School yearbook.

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It is important to note that there was no staff liaison for this edition.

Photos are taken in September. The multiple handicapped class was on a field trip that day.

On "retake day" the staff member was unavailable to have a class picture taken; she had an appointment.

Requests for an actual class picture and listing were requested several times from October until the last week of March.

Our deadline was extended one week in the hope of giving the full page to the class.

We verbally requested information and pictures and were advised maybe in two weeks we could have that information.

At this point, we went to the administration and advised them of the situation.

We were advised to proceed with publication in order to provide students with their yearbooks in June.

Was the Hayes family not aware that a class picture was missing since Kailey did not come home with one in September?

We were never provided with the information that she, in fact, was graduating and do not recall seeing a grad photo from this year.

It is the teacher's responsibility to advise us that specific students are indeed graduating.

Last, but not least, we are a group of volunteers.

This publication happens because of the dedication of only a handful of parents giving up family time and countless hours to provide the children with an opportunity to purchase a yearbook at minimal cost.

tray an accurate cross-section of our Highview family and its activities and achievements.

Please note that invitations to join the Highview Yearbook Committee have gone unanswered, and therefore, the same handful of volunteers have committed themselves to doing their best to provide our families with some wonderful memories for the future.

Again, we sincerely apologize to those people whose pictures were not in the yearbook, and for any other errors or omissions.

**Highview Public School Yearbook Committee  
Aurora**

**Park concert big success**

To the editor,

Went to the "FAB FOUR" concert in the park last week...it was absolutely fabulous!

Hurray for Aurora for bringing in a group that everyone could relate to and who kept the audience well entertained for over two hours.

The weather was great, the crowd was great, the band was great.

Thanks, Aurora, and to those who organized the evening's entertainment.

Can't wait to see them again.

**Heather Sinclair  
Oak Ridges**

**AURORAN**

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Community Newspaper"

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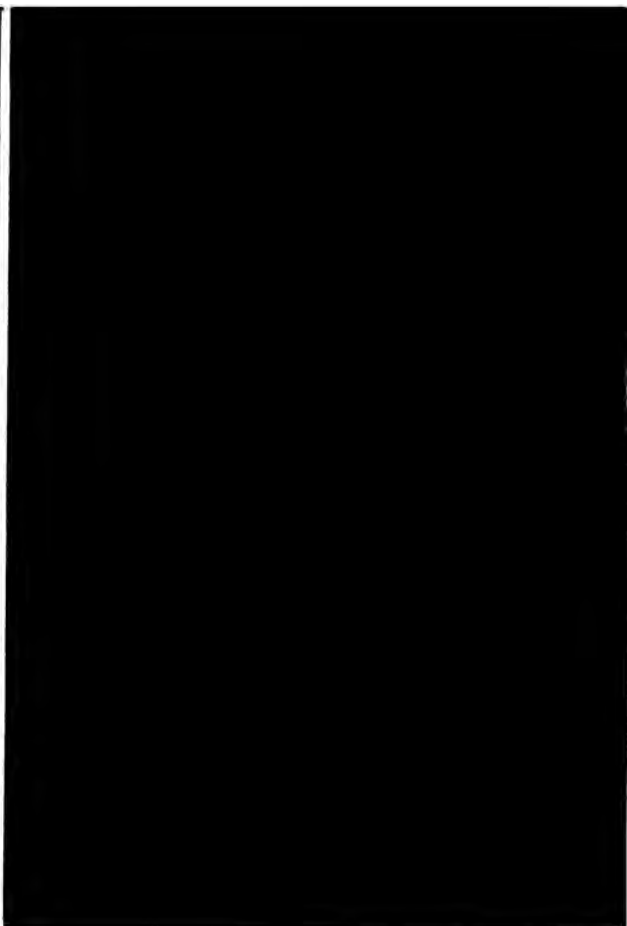
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**Editorial policy**

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

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Letters to the Editor

# Council candidate responds to letter writer's requests

To the Editor,

As a candidate for the town council I find it my duty to respond and to state my position on the issues that were raised by your reader: (letter to the editor August 12, Darryl Moore)

Water: nobody is happy with the water situation (lack of it, odor, black sludge, its cost, etc.). Is leadership lacking? I believe we deserve good, clean and plentiful water at a reduced cost.

Seniors: Vote buying will not do the council any good if the majority of senior citizens who are on fixed income will not use the extravagant new facilities but will pay for it through property tax increases. The original idea was well thought of and the new lame idea will

hurt the very same group that it is supposed to help. Children of Aurora do need an indoor amusement park that either Town of Aurora or a private enterprise must provide. These young families need to make their vote count and vote for people such as myself to champion on their cause.

Development: Developers know very well that in order to build they need to preserve or create a greenland. Status quo is unacceptable and cementing of Aurora is the greatest injustice. I am strongly pro environmental issues.

Taxes: I don't think we are getting our property tax monies worth, accountability is lacking on the part of city council and the theme of the present council has changed from tax and spend to

spend and tax, hence creating a financial crisis that council denies exists. Citizens of Aurora will have a tax increase as a result of provincial property assessment and the town's projected tax increase of 9.2% (2004 Budget), which does not take into account the new senior citizens Centre. This additional increase will be on top of the provincial re assessment increase, for 2004. I stand for fiscal responsibility and keeping the lid on any tax increases.

Ward System: Of course it would bring accountability and people would have only one person to go to and follow his/her voting pattern, and when they are not happy with their ward council they can vote for someone else but this normal democracy will

result in fresh blood and would throw out the old guard and unless one of my eight council persons wants to champion the cause of democracy and allow the citizens of Aurora to vote for one alderman, it won't even get on the ballot as a proposition. I stand for accountability and the ward system for Aurora is long overdue.

Pesticides: It's amazing that educated citizens of Aurora would use pesticide that is not environmentally friendly and expose their children and pets to harmful chemicals. Perhaps the town should get the message out more effectively, before passing another bylaw that may result in people removing the pesticide sign from their lawn instead of abiding by the bylaw. I stand

for responsible neighbour as well as responsible council.

Further, I stand for better public transportation, roads, traffic flow and getting our fair share of ser-

vices from the regional government that pockets a good portion of our property taxes.

**Homer Farsad  
Aurora**

## Hot Spot will cure 'do-nothing' blues

To the editor,

I recently read a letter in the Auroran written by Meaghan Rose, who stated "this town has nothing for us kids to do", and although I agree somewhat with her, I also know first hand that there is at least one alternative to child boredom.

Every Friday the Hot Spot is open and it has for 12 years been a fun friendly environment for Grades 6, 7, and 8, which over the years hundreds of kids have enjoyed socializing and listening to their favourite songs under adult supervision.

If you ask anyone from Aurora aged 12-25, they would probably share a good memory of enjoy-

ment.

The Hot Spot is a great place for kids to have fun, stay out of trouble and not spend a lot of money doing it.

The price of admission is only \$5 and snack bar items are only \$1.

For three hours of fun on a Friday night is this really too expensive compared with \$20-30 trips to the movies or lazer tag?

It's in Aurora, so accessibility is handy.

Meaghan, if you are reading this, we do know that there is not much to do but "we are trying".

**Kevin Temple  
Senior Staff  
Hot Spot  
Youth Club**

## ACI ad "sexist": reader

To the editor,

Well, Aurora Cable Internet has just hit a new low. Their full page ad in the August 12th Auroran is hard to believe.

If their market is teenage boys, they hit the nail on the head.

Would it be possible to find a more sexist photo of three young women sprawled on a flight of steps? I don't think so.

I guess someone at ACI thought it would be wildly funny to portray these "internet geeks" as members of the world's oldest profession. Sure, they're "serious students..."  
I would suggest that ACI

concentrate on the people who already subscribe to their hit-or-miss service and leave soft core porn to their cable stations.

My "service" has been off at least five times in the past week, and the response is always that they are working on it.

Perhaps if they invested in some decent equipment instead of advertising, their present subscribers would promote them by word of mouth rather than taking every opportunity to let friends know how dreadful their "service" really is.

**V. Dues,  
Aurora**

## Cathy's Corner



I am not afraid of the dark.

When I was a little girl, our house in the Beaches had one of those big grey furnaces in the basement.

The kind that looks like a headless monster with too many arms.

It was tucked in behind a wall my father built in an effort to hide it, so it was pretty dark back there. That's what I liked best about it.

It was a good place to hide whenever I was in my father's bad books, and a good place to plan my career as an Auroran columnist.

The dark is full of mystery and imagination. It is the realm of dreams and miracles - the place where "possible" begins...and never ends.

When you look at the dark in this light, it isn't scary at all. And when you look at Aurora in the absence of light, we shine pretty bright.

Everyone I've talked to agrees that the blackout last week was an inconvenience - with many treasured side-effects.

Desperate situations call for desperate measures, so I learned how to make coffee on the barbeque.

A survival skill I will find useful for the rest of my life, no doubt.

It didn't matter that every flashlight in the house had dead and corroded batteries in it.

As a side effect of being an incurable romantic, I had

## The light of dark

enough candles to be in danger of torching the neighbourhood!

And, as a mom who has endured the life shattering trauma of active participation in a teenager's quest for a driver's license not once, but twice, it was a bumper to bumper dream.

I have suffered more than my fair share of impatient, rude, and outright hazardous drivers.

But all of them must have called in sick that day. Because, with few exceptions, the roads were a symphony of patience and courtesy.

I got up Bathurst from Bloomington to Wellington in less time and stress than it normally takes. And through Yonge and Wellington with fewer prayers.

I'm going to write a letter to the powers that be and ask them if we can do this again sometime.

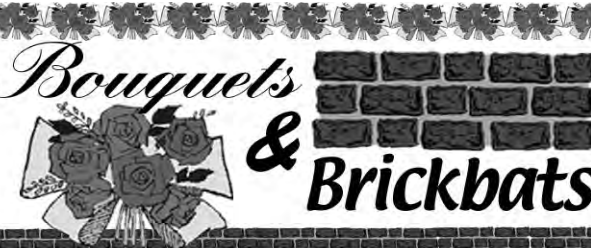
It was an amazing community bonding experience. Everywhere I went, I had an overwhelming urge to jump out of my car and hug someone...a couple of times I did.

It was enough to make me consider running for Council on a platform of support for a "power-less" Aurora - at least once a year. But I'm having too much fun saying what I really think.

Besides, if you're on Council, you can't afford to be in the dark.

And I like it there.





# Bouquets & Brickbats

By Dick Illingworth

**BOUQUETS** to Aurora's Ashley Speller, a 16-year-old student at the Country Day School, on her record-setting pace in track and field competitions at the school, the region and the province.

**More BOUQUETS** to Brian Harvey, a Grade 12 student at St. Andrew's College on being awarded the Canada Day Youth Award, which he received at a recent Aurora Council meeting. The award recognizes the outstanding achievements and contributions of young people to their communities.

**BRICKBATS** to the tennis players who use the courts at Summit Park and leave their empty water bottles inside the court. There were 27 bottles plus other garbage Thursday morning.

A large garbage can outside the gate is ignored. Town staff has done a great job maintaining the courts with surface repair, new white lines, new net posts and net wires. What happens? Some irresponsible people have sat on the netting, broken the tightening mechanism so that the net is almost on the ground and the court cannot be used. (Submitted)

**Belated BOUQUETS** to Susan Gwilliam, Aurora's 1995 Citizen of the Year, all her hard-working volunteer helpers and generous contributors for raising approximately \$8,200 for the Southlake Regional Health Centre's new Cardiac Unit. This brings the six-year total for the annual Shoppers Drug Mart Doane Hall BBQ and car wash to more than \$28,000 for the hospital.

**BRICKBATS** to the Ontario government for paying up to \$195 per day for government employees to take courses in resume writing and job interview skills for nailing down a new job. It's either a taxpayer funded job hunt, or getting ready to leave a sinking ship.

**BRICKBATS** to the people at the Town Hall responsible for the contents of the town page. It is announced that a reception would be held in the Skylight Gallery featuring a new art exhibition on Tuesday, August 7. The problem is Tuesday is August 5th and Thursday is the 7th. Which was right?

**BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Junior Jays ball club on winning the Quebec Provincial AA Tournament over 15 other teams in Drummondville, Quebec recently. The team won three straight games and then defeated Ville Marie 2-1 in an exciting final game for the championship.

**BRICKBATS** to the federal government for dithering over legislation about marijuana possession leaving local police officers in an absurd position of being required to investigate possible thefts of an illegal product. Although an Ontario court has ruled it legal to possess fewer than 30 grams of marijuana and federal government legislation has been introduced, it hasn't been passed.

**BOUQUETS** to those at Molly Maid for their innovative program to assist the Aurora Food Bank. In addition to removing the dust and dirt from homes, they left behind an empty food bag. They got back more than 160 bags of food and delivered it to the Food Bank Saturday.

**BRICKBATS** to the Eves Tory government for adding another \$1 million to the reported \$2 million previously committed for infrastructure at the Toronto SARS concert on the pretext it will help a fund set up by Molson's for health-care training, while hospitals are screaming for assistance.

**BOUQUETS** TO Stephanie Smith, a 13-year-old student at Highview Public School, on winning the women's 5,000-metre race at the junior track and field championships in Saskatoon recently to become a Canadian Champion.

## Letters to the Editor

# He wants hydro system returned to the public

**To the editor,**

While looking at the pictures in Rosemary's Auroran, I sat and wondered how could Aurora Hydro lose money?

I personally know that before the Provincial Government took your utility, gave it to council, and fired Gord Lytle and myself (Hydro Commissioners) there were no financial problems and it never lost money.

The truth is your utility was running like a well-oiled machine, making a profit and was operated by a dedicated top notch staff that included a well qualified and dedicated treasurer.

Council, after acquiring your utility, decided to make it a for-profit instead of a not-for-profit utility as it was from the first day power was sold.

The truth is that if they return your \$1.1 million council took off the top in 2002, it made a tidy profit, more than needed and that should be returned to the taxpayer.

If my information is correct, your next premier will keep the cap and continue paying hundreds of thousands in subsidies, look to conservation and encourage new sources of generating power.

Hampton will reverse the legislation and Ernie???

It is quite possible the cost of purchasing energy at peak times is greater than the government cap.

The loss will have to be made up after the cap is removed by you, the customer.

When you figure in the shortfall and the hundreds of thousands your conservative government is paying to maintain the cap, you know it will cost more for power and increased Provincial taxes.

Don't forget to add in the over \$100,000 a year you are paying for council's new board (your old elected board cost \$7500).

Rumours around the power circuit are your utility will be

sold within two years with a market value of between 30 and 40 million dollars.

The money will look real good for a short term gain, but the pain of losing control will live with us forever.

If the new owners charge the same outrageous interest rate (7.25%) your council charges, your hydro bill will go through the roof.

There is a solution; we need the help of large manufacturers, small businesses and every ratepayer in Aurora.

We need a group of citizens to put together a list of candidates for council in the November 10th municipal election who will work for you and when elected will return your voice and ownership of Aurora Hydro.

I have some names in mind and I'm sure you do, too.

Your municipal election is November 10th.

Plan to take back control of your hydro utility.

Tell your new council before election that you want a say in its future, stop adding millions of dollars to your hydro bill, and return the millions of dollars already taken and stop making your hydro a new source of taxation.

Circle November 10th on your calendar to elect a majority of councillors who see the light.

**To the editor,**

It is uplifting and heartwarming to see the outpour of compassion and support for Kailey Hayes that has resulted from bringing her unfortunate experience into public awareness.

I find it sad, however, that the incident continues to generate outrage from letter-writers as a preface to their congratulations, as well as allegations that omitting her class from the yearbook was a deliberate act of discrimination.

Personally, I find it hard to believe that a group of volunteers who got together to put time and effort into a project with the express purpose of celebrating achievements could possibly have huddled together in a conspiracy to discriminate against an entire classroom of deserving kids.

I find it hard to imagine them smirking, laughing and giving each other the high-five.

More likely, the people who made the mistake are just as devastated as Kailey and her family.

But according to the most recent letter from Ms Henriksen, our community's compassion doesn't extend far enough to forgive them - nor even give them the benefit of the doubt.

She insists on condemning them whether the mistake was intentional or not. Isn't

that a little harsh?

She suggests that society needs fixing. Could be so.

Ms. Henriksen states: "Disability does not mean that a person is broken or something for someone to fix."

I don't recall that being the issue.

Nowhere in the original letter did Kailey's mother cry discrimination.

She merely expressed her disappointment that a very special class was omitted from the yearbook.

If we are a society of people who assume cruel intentions, jump to conclusions and condemn without evidence, then indeed, we need some fixing.

But more likely, we are all

human enough to make the same oversight as the committee.

I have seen Kailey's pretty face in the Auroran twice, but so far, the rest of the class still looks pretty "left out" to me.

Next time, just say "congratulations".

It's not necessary to bash anyone to do so.

**Cathryn Vrancic**  
Aurora

**Norm Weller**  
Aurora



**Susan E. Tucker**  
Lawyer & Notary Public  
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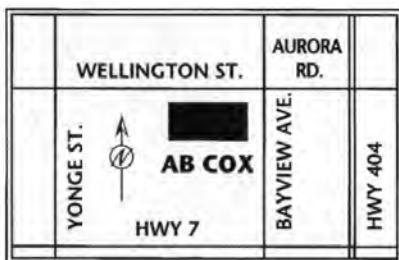
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Staff and family members of Aurora's Molly Maid literally dumped on the Aurora Food Pantry Saturday morning. They dumped a total of 160 bags of food, collected in a three-week drive where the company left bags behind following regular house cleaning activities. They asked their customers to fill the bags and Molly Maid would pick them up. The customers complied...donating upwards of 2,000 pounds of food. Here the gang prepares to unload their prize at the food bank.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

# Town cuts its power by a half

From page 1  
to have letters hand-delivered to Aurora's top energy producers seeking their assistance in reducing power requirements.

Town officials also learned of a spill at the St. John's Regional Pumping Station, that dumped about 200,000 litres of sewage into Tannery Creek and the Holland River system before being curtailed.

Local sewage facilities operated without a problem throughout the blackout, Allison said.

One event that did proceed over the weekend was a fund-raising four-hour hockey game at ACC2.

Originally scheduled for Saturday, the event was shifted to Sunday morning and organizer Shawn Burt told the Auroran the game raised more than \$17,500 for a children's cancer camp near Parry Sound.

Aurora residents got the rude awakening about 4 p.m. last Thursday.

They, and about 50 million

others, got a taste of what it was like to live in the 19th century, when something turned off their lights late in the afternoon.

And didn't turn them back on, until some time Friday.

But, as most residents learned, you just cope, that's all.

What else can you do? No TV, no computer games, no theatres, no restaurants, no gas, no nuttin.

Aurorans jumped to each other's aid, taking care of seniors, directing traffic, helping friends, much the way everyone expected they would.

Okay, so someone broke into the liquor store, but, hey, there are bad apples everywhere.

Aurora Mayor Tim Jones, on behalf of his council, paid tribute to the citizens.

"I would express our appreciation to all residents of Aurora who have weathered the storm by coping with intersections with no lights and all the other inconveniences caused by no power," he said.

"I also recognize Town staff who have ensured the essential services required are still up and running, to the Police, Fire Services, Hydro and E.M.S. who have responded to a record number of calls."

The mayor said the town isn't out of the woods yet, even though power is back on.

"Our crisis is not over, and I appeal to everyone, residents and businesses included, to use the power we have frugally," he said.

"Aurora is a town of good neighbours. I would ask that we all take the time to check on our neighbours to make sure everyone is all right," he said. "Aurora truly is a town we are proud to call home."

Meanwhile, grocery store employees were still coping over the weekend with lost perishable goods.

All major supermarkets in Aurora were forced to throw out perishables that sat for a day without refrigeration.

One store estimated about \$200,000 worth of food had to be tossed out.



## Mac Fleming Paint & Wallpaper Aurora, Ontario: 50 years of success!

Mac Fleming Paint & Wallpaper has always been a family-operated business. Macdonald Fleming first opened Mac Fleming Paint & Wallpaper in 1952. Upon Mac's death in 1966, his wife Margaret and son John took over the business. John has run the business ever since.

Today, three Flemings work in the store: John, his wife Jude, and their son Stephen, (the manager). With over 51 years in business, the Flemings have been proud to carry Benjamin Moore paint exclusively. They have evolved into much more than a paint and wallpaper store; with the Benjamin Moore Signature signage beaming bright on Yonge St. in Aurora, Ontario, they have become a full-service decorating centre where customers feel confident to come in and experience all the facets of home decor.



John, Jude and their son Stephen proudly pose with the crystal cube presented to them in recognition of their accomplishment!



# ATTENTION AURORA RESIDENTS!

Along with local businesses and residents, the Town will reduce energy consumption while the Hydro situation exists.

Although our offices will be open during normal business hours, the Town will operate at

**50% of normal capacity**

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Daily Updates

For continued updates on how the power outage will affect programs and facilities, please visit the What's New section on our website: [www.town.aurora.on.ca](http://www.town.aurora.on.ca) or call 905-727-3123 or 905-841-PLAY (7529)

### Emergency Services

Dial 911 for Fire, Police or Ambulance services - emergencies only!

### Leisure Services Programs

call or visit our website for an update on hours of operation and program cancellations for the following:

- The Fitness Centre
- The Pool
- Ice Programs

All programs requiring outdoor lighting. i.e Tennis, Soccer and Baseball

### The following programs will not be affected by the Power Outage:

All Day Camps and other daytime programs

### The following facilities will remain open:

The Aurora Town Hall  
The Aurora Seniors' Centre  
The Aurora Community Centre  
The Aurora Family Leisure Complex

### Splash Pad

Providing relief from the heat, the Town of Aurora's Splash Pad located at Town Park will be fully operational. (Mosley and Wells)

### Cooling Centre

The Aurora Seniors' Centre will be open to all residents 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. 52 Victoria Street

### Garbage & Recycling Pick-up

Regular schedule

### Hydro

Although hydro has currently been restored in Aurora, rotating blackouts are still a possibility. Please be aware of this and try to conserve as much electricity as possible!

**General Aurora Hydro Inquiries: 905-727-4612**

The Town of Aurora encourages residents and businesses to reduce their use of unnecessary hydro wherever possible. Thank you for your co-operation and patience!



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Members of the Mosquito "A" Jays, above, had a rewarding weekend recently at a York Simcoe Baseball Association tournament. Finishing second in the finals against Barrie, Aurora had to eliminate Markham, the Aurora "AA" Jays, and Nemarket to get to the final match. The T-shirts indicate the team made it to the finals.

## Aurora's Flanagan chosen as Terry's Team Member

The Terry Fox Foundation encourages local Run organizers to invite a member of the community to be a Terry's Team Member. What's a Terry's Team Member?

He or she is a cancer survivor who represents the hope that Terry Fox held for the discovery of a cure for cancer and is also someone who symbolizes the courage and determination that Terry demonstrated during his Marathon of Hope.

A Terry's Team Member not only participates in the local Run but, if asked, is willing to talk to groups.

This year the slogan for the Terry Fox Run is "Unbreakable Spirit" and Aurora's Jerome Flanagan, who has agreed to be Aurora's 2003 Terry's Team Member, is living proof of having an unbreakable spirit.

In 1998, Jerome had trouble swallowing and was soon after diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

Always very involved in community activities, he had just agreed to coach the minor novice rep hockey team, Aurora's Upper Canada Glass-Hogan's Inn Tigers.

Rather than back out of his commitment while undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments, Jerome kept right on coaching the young hockey players.

When he lost his hair to chemotherapy, his bald head did not concern his young players, they just took to rubbing it for good luck.

Jerome has now spent almost five years free of cancer and during this time has coached hockey, T-ball, lacrosse, and soccer.

Jerome, his wife Laurie and children, Tyler and Paige, will be participating in this year's Terry Fox Run at Sheppard's Bush, Industrial Parkway South, Sunday, September 14.

Registration is at 8:30 a.m. and the run begins at 10 a.m. If you are a cancer survivor, the organizers invite you to wear a yellow ribbon as identification and join Jerome.

You can register or collect pledges on line by going to [www.terryfoxrun.org](http://www.terryfoxrun.org).

Jerome is also collecting pledges on line and if you would like to support him, follow the links to his name.

Donations of \$20 or more automatically qualify for tax receipts.

This year's Terry Fox Run T-shirts are available every day at the Leisure Complex and at the Aurora Farmer's

Market from 8 a.m. to noon on August 23, September 6, and 13.

For more information, contact Sylvia Gilchrist at 905-841-6989.

## Barbarians roll along

Aurora came out playing some aggressive rugby and totally dominated their Ontario Rugby Union Under 16 Men's game with Lindsay 54-5.

The win keeps Aurora in first place.

Trevor Shortt had an outstanding game scoring two tries and the reliable Matt Prevoe also added two tries.

Single tries were scored by Patrick White, Sandy Craig, Will Johnston and Kevin Whelan.

Kyle Cresswell added conversions on seven of the eight tries to complete the scoring.

## Squirt Diggers finish fourth In tournament

The Aurora Squirt Diggers completed their fourth tournament of the year in Niagara Falls recently, winning two games and losing one.

Their efforts landed them in a fourth-place tie out of 12 participating teams.

In their first game, Aurora thumped Halton Hills 7-2.

All Aurora runs came in the fourth inning.

Contributing singles in the rally were Meaghan Eveleigh, Alex Baker, Amanda Morier, Lauren Renaud and Lanny Rose.

Walks to Katherine Barrett, Abby Krol, Maeghan Clemenston and Holly Robson helped the cause.

Lauren Renaud pitched the four-inning game recording five strikeouts and allowing only two hits.

Aurora went two up in their second game with a 14-7 win over Whitby.

Scoring 11 runs in the fourth inning broke the game wide open for the Diggers.

Leading the way were Lauren Renaud with two singles and a double, and Katherine Barret who had a single and a double.

Amanda Morier and Maeghan Clemenston contributed two singles each.

Singles went to Gabby Chan, Maeghan Eveleigh, Abby Krol, Alex Baker, Holly Robson and Marissa

Rasso.

Lauren Renaud recorded seven strikeouts and allowed six hits for the win.

The wheels fell off in the final game when Aurora met Stratford, the eventual tournament winner.

Aurora fell to the powerful team 18-1 with Amanda Morier scoring the lone Diggers run.



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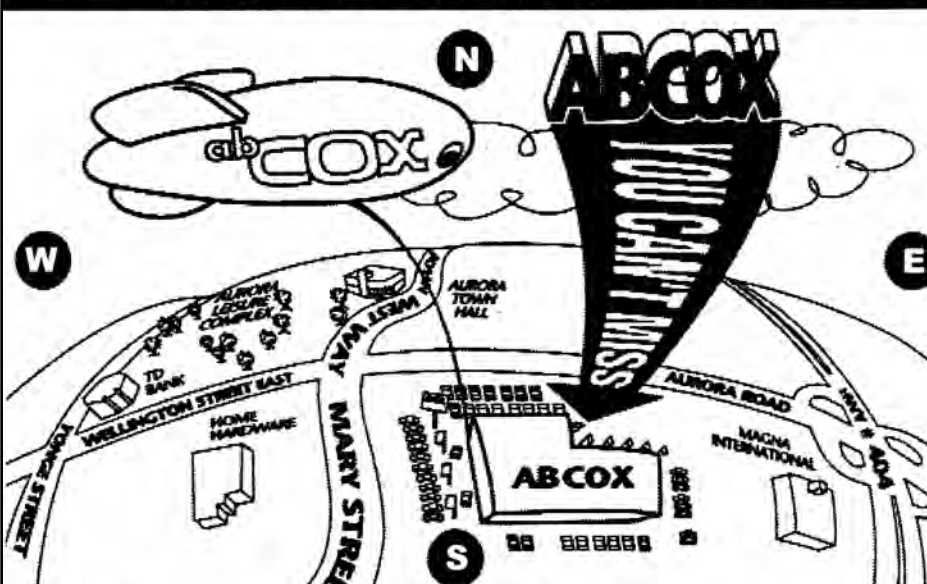
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# Novice Diggers split two games

The Aurora Novice Diggers ball team split two games last week.

In the first, the team travelled to Whitby where they lost 5-1.

The girls played a great game defensively but could not get the bats going.

Kaylee McDonald pitched the loss with six strikeouts. She allowed two walks and gave up 10 hits.

There were some good defensive plays made by numerous players. Jenn Kates, Jessica Suddes and Hayley Davies each had two put outs for the infield while Kathryn

Cribbett and Jamie Doige each made moving fly ball catches in the outfield to stop a couple of rallies by Whitby.

Offensively Aurora came up with only three hits. Kathryn Cribbett, Jenn Kates and Jessica Suddes each had singles and Jessica Suddes was the only Aurora player to cross the plate.

She was hit in by Kathryn Cribbett's single.

The next night saw a different squad on the field.

Aurora defeated Oshawa 7-3 over seven innings.

Kaylee McDonald was the winning pitcher with 12

strikeouts, giving up six walks and allowing only five hits.

Hayley Davies at third had two putouts, Jenn Kates at second base contributed three more putouts while Jessica Suddes at first base had two puts out of her own.

Aurora took the lead in the third inning and Oshawa was unable to come back.

Offensively the Aurora bats came alive. Kathryn Cribbett and Alyson Murphy each had three hits and crossed the plate once each. Jenn Kates went two for four and

scored twice for the winning effort.

Jamie Doige also went two for four at the plate and scored once.

Aurora's other run was scored by Kaylee McDonald who was hit in by Amanda Piron.

The team plays its last League Game Monday at Fleury Park against the Ajax Raiders, then it will host the North York Women's Softball League Playoffs at Fleury and Town Park.

The Aurora team will play out of Fleury Park on the weekend of Aug 23 and 24.

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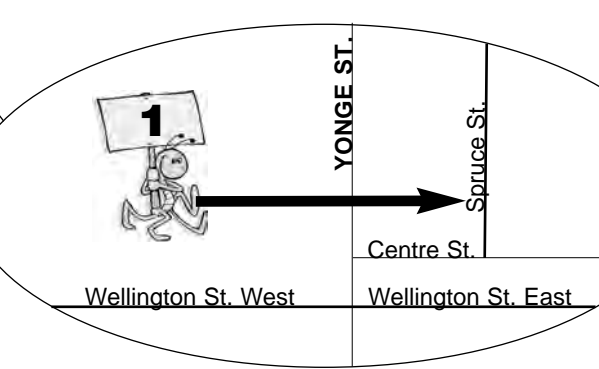
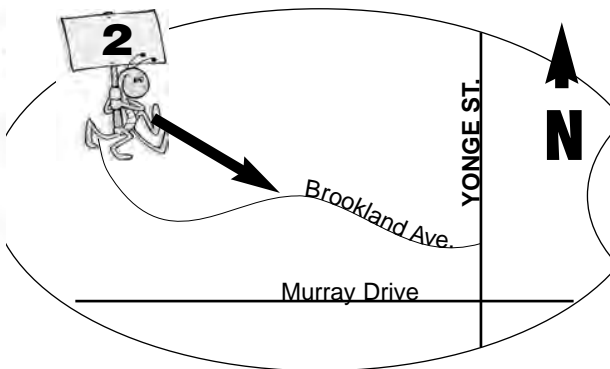
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\*FREE to Aurora residents only. Information can be submitted up to Sunday 3:30 pm for Tuesday publication.

**FREE LISTING**

**SATURDAY AUG 16**

1) 174 Spruce St. 9 - noon  
2) 24 Brookland Ave. 8 - noon



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### AURORAN KIDS FALL REGISTRATION

#### KIDS FALL REGISTRATION GUIDE

will appear in the August 26th issue of the Auroran and published a second time September 9th. Special rates if you select both issues. **Book NOW!**  
Call Kathy or Bob in our display advertising department. 905-727-3300 (Booking deadline August 20)

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| 6 pm - 10 pm  | Live Entertainment for your listening and dancing pleasure. |

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\* prices are subject to applicable taxes and gratuity

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*- by Neil Simon -*

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