AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



Thomas McPherson & Associates A FULL SERVICE LAW FIRM

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Vol. 4 No. 19

Week of March 2, 2004

905-727-3300

New rec complex, seniors' building get council's nod

For a while last week, it looked as if plans for a new recreational complex had run out of steam and had been derailed due to the \$22 million cost and its impact on the property taxpayer.

But, in the end, council agreed to move to the next step with both the complex and a proposed senior citizens' building.

Included in the recreational discussion was a proposal from Jeff White and Tony Furiato of the Mentana Group regarding a public/private partnership for the facility.

Furiato said in a similar operation in Vaughan, rates were set at

\$250 per hour and the municipality paid a subsidy to the hockey association. He added that Vaughan was their client and the municipality designated the playing times. At the time they were hosting 8,000 to 10,000 players per week.

When asked about including the aquatic centre, he said pools did not make money and they didn't want to operate the pool.

Their submission was referred to staff to meet and discuss in detail and report to council.

During discussion of the proposed recreation complex by council it was pointed out that an aquatic centre was costing about \$8 million without a commitment by user groups for fundraising.

Concern was also expressed about the estimated annual shortfall of \$698,500 in operating the facility. Operating costs were estimated at \$1.7 million and after deducting \$732,000 for ice revenues and \$274,000 pool revenues the cost to taxpayers was close to \$700,000.

It was suggested the town property on Leslie Street be sold to help offset the cost of the new facility, as citizens were overburdened with taxes.

Please see page 13

Town to study basement units

The hidden population living in illegal apartments will be the subject of a task force to be established by Aurora Council.

Following discussion at a recent general committee meeting it was agreed that prosecutions of illegal tenants would only take place on the basis of a complaint.

That was changed after last week's council meeting when the committee report was presented.

It was in 1984 when the NDP government adopted legislation that permitted secondary dwelling units as a right in single family areas subject to meeting applicable building and fire codes.

Then in 1995 the Progressive Conservative government rescinded the legislation and returned the authority of regulating secondary dwelling units to local municipalities.

The Aurora official plan includes general policies permitting accessory dwelling units under certain conditions as a means of intensification.

In September last year staff was asked to look into the viability of adopting a bylaw permitting the establishment of basement apartments within the municipality.

The staff reported was presented in February and provided three

options for council direction. One was the current status that illegal apartments would be prosecuted only after a complaint was received.

The other options suggested that the apartments be made legal or a task force be established to examine local issues involved with basement apartments.

During the discussion it was pointed out that there was a shortage of housing, especially for low income families and some homeowners depended on the income from the illegal apartments to help pay the mortgage.

Councillor Damir Vrancic suggested a task force be appointed to study the issues, but the majority of committee members voted to remain with the status quo and act only on complaints.

At the council meeting, Councillor Nigel Kean re-opened the discussion in support of the task force to study local issues.

He stressed the need to register the illegal apartments so that they would meet necessary standards and the municipality would have a record of the number of

Please see page 13



She called him a "curmudgeon" but in the nicest way. Former Ontario Minister of Education Bette Stephenson, left, was the guest speaker last Wednesday as the York Region community honoured one of its best known citizens - Dick Illingworth. Dr. Stephenson, who currently lives in Oak Ridges, once attended Church Street School in Aurora. Dick, a media mogul who also writes for the Auroran, was in the spotlight at the sold-out gathering sponsored by Community Living - Aurora/Newmarket District and held at Carrying Place Golf and Country Club in King Township. Among the speakers were Aurora resident and Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees, York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge, Aurora Mayor Tim Jones and Auroran editor Ron Wallace.

Auroran photo by Naomi Tobin

Boredom Breakers for kids

Why sit at home during the March Break watching the same old TV programs and playing the same old video games?

Youngsters are invited to Hillary House to try something new for an afternoon.

Grades 1 to 3 students may visit on Wednesday, March 17, to make a snake for St. Patrick to drive out of Ireland or listen to some Irish tales.

Grades 4 to 7 students are wel-

come Thursday, March 18, to celebrate spring by creating a bead turtle key chain for a coat or backpack.

Both programs run from 2 to 4 pm at Hillary House, Aurora's National Historic Site located at 15372 Yonge St., just south of Aurora Heights Drive on the west side.

The cost is \$5 per child and includes a snack.

To register your child or for more information call 905-727-4015 or e-mail HillaryHouse@aci.on.ca.

Crossword begins today

A new feature begins in your Auroran this week.

The Auroran crossword puzzle, with clues basically about Aurora, is located on Page 15.

Created by Auroran cartoonist Scott Johnston, the puzzle will become a monthly feature in the newspaper.

Answers will be provided the week following the puzzle.



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

Helping Hands: Gently used clothing for women and children, at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, every Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. For more information, call 905-727-6101.

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

Queen's York Rangers Army Cadet Corps camping, canoeing, first aid, orienteering in two to six week camps for males & females 12 to 18. Call 905-726-8600.

Co-Dependents Anonymous, every Tuesday, Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge Street, Aurora. 7.30 p.m.

Until April 15th winter on-street parking restrictions in effect to enable snow plowing crews to clear the roadways.

On four consecutive Fridays in March - 5, 12, 19, 26 - the 55-Alive Driving Refresher Course for Seniors will be held at the Aurora Public Library from 9.30 a.m. to noon. Call Kim Hinder 905-727-2816 for further information.

Girl Guide Cookies - did they miss you at your door? Call 905-841-1170 to order the chocolate and vanilla cookies. (Until March 30)

The Canadian Cancer Society, Holland River Unit, is looking for Aurora residents to be part of their residential campaign in April. For information, can mtaylor@ccsont.org. MARCH 4 905-830-0447

Aurora Public Library, partnering with Epilepsy York Region, presents a free workshop on seizures and first aid. Event will be held between 7 and 9 p.m. in the Magna Room. Preregister at the adult desk or phone 905-727-

Aurora Council has called a special general committee meeting at 6 p.m. regarding the draft 2004 capital budget

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church World Day of Prayer service. 7.30 p.m. For further information, call 905-727-5011

MARCH 6

International Women's Day Celebration. 10 - 4. Lebovic Room at the Aurora Public Library. Free, open house exhibit of local women's For more information, Maguire 727-2255 matthewj@on.aibn.com.

Registration for softball and baseball with the Aurora Minor Ball Association at the Aurora Commununity Centre from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Programs are available for ages 5 to 21. Visit www.auroraminorball.ca or call 905-727-8461.

MARCH 8

Aurora Writer's Group meeting, 7.30 p.m. in Aurora Town Hall Offices, John West Way, Aurora. Both experienced and inexperienced writers are welcome

MARCH 9

Nomination meeting to represent the new federal Conservative Party of Canada for the Newmarket-Aurora riding at the Aurora High

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categories and have not been contacted by us,

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Aurora

School with registration at 6:15 p.m. Candidates are Lois Brown and Belinda Stronach.

MARCH 10

Free seminar "Analyzing Dreams" with Stephen Crowther, will be held at the Aurora Library from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the adult desk or phone 905-727-9493.

MARCH 11

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce invites 12 persons to participate in "Leverage Night" sponsored by Action International in the board room of the Chamber office from 6 to 9 p.m. The game of Leverage teaches how to improve a business. Fee is \$25. Call 905-727-7262 to register.

MARCH 13-14

All Season Tennis Centre First Annual Polar Bear Tennis outdoor fundraising event for Bounce the Ball, a program to introduce tennis to local primary schools. McMahon Park tennis courts. To register call 905-841-8914 or visit www.astc.ca.

MARCH 15

Aurora Seniors travel to St. Agatha, near Waterloo, for an afternoon of Irish fun. Cost is \$51 for members, \$56 for non-members. Call the centre at 905-727-2816 to register.

MARCH 10

Aurora Probus Club guest speaker is Dan Carriere, president and CEO of Southlake Regional Health Centre. Meeting takes place at the Aurora Legion, 10 a.m.

MARCH 17

Free seminar, presented jointly by the Aurora Library and Aurora Cable Internet, studies who has access to your computer, your files and your personal information. 7 p.m. To reserve, call the library at 905-727-9493 or register on line at www.aci.on.ca. SOLD OUT. See April 6.

St. Patrick's Day Irish stew dinner, Aurora Legion from 5 to 7 p.m.

The Aurora Historical Society meets at Hillary House at 8 p.m. Guest speaker is Dorothy Duncan who will discuss her recent book "Nothing More Comforting: Canada's Heritage Food" and will bring samples. Call the society 905-727-8991.

MARCH 19

Blood donor clinic. Aurora United Church, 4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

MARCH 20

The Registered Music Teachers of North York/York Region are presenting their annual "Teachers In Recital" at Trinity Anglican Church in Aurora at 7.30 p.m. Tickets \$10, \$7.50, and a \$25 ticket covers two adults and three children. Call (905) 727-572

MARCH 24

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Networking Dart Tournament at Charley FitzWhiskey's from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. Register by calling the Chamber office at 905-727-7262.

Aurora Public Library, with Canada Customs, hosts a no-cost income tax clinic from 5 to 9 p.m. Drop in clinic is income based (individual \$20,000 - family \$25,000).

MARCH 25

Blood donor clinic. Aurora Legion. 2.30 p.m. to * * * *

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce will be accepting reservations in person only from 10 a.m. on a first come, first served basis for the

* BLINDS

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WALLPAPER

Chamber Golf Tournament to be held at Carrying Place Golf and Country Club June 16. Call the Chamber at 905-727-7262

MARCH 27

Aurora Public Library, with Canada Customs, hosts a no-cost income tax clinic from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Drop in clinic is income based (individual \$20,000 - family \$25,000).

Registration for softball and baseball with the Aurora Minor Ball Association at the Aurora Commununity Centre from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Programs are available for ages 5 to 21. Visit www.auroraminorball.ca or call 905-727-8461.

Symphony Orchestra "Triumphant Spirit" at Trinity Church Aurora at 8 p.m. Call 416-410-0860 for ticket information.

MARCH 28

Aurora Optimist Recreational Hockey registration - boys and girls born 1998, 1999 - 8 - 11a.m. Aurora Leisure Complex lobby. For more information call Kim Downs 905-726-2906.

Progressive Euchre at the Aurora Legion. Register at 12.30 p.m. Play begins at 1 p.m. **MARCH 29**

Aurora Rotary Club will host clubs in the 7070 district at a 'joint club' dinner meeting at DiNardo's Mansion, Industrial Pkwy S, Aurora, at 6 p.m. Open to the public. **APRIL 6**

Free seminar, presented jointly by the Aurora Library and Aurora Cable Internet, studies who has access to your computer, your files and your personal information. 7 p.m. To reserve, call the library at 905-727-9493 or register on line at

www.aci.on.ca

APRIL 8

Easter Ham Dinner at the Aurora Legion, 6 p.m. Progressive Euchre \$3, live entertainment in the lounge with Ken Mann

APRIL 10

Aurora Easter Egg hunt. 1 p.m. Aurora Leisure Complex.

APRIL 14

Aurora Probus Club guest speaker is Henry Shannon, CFRB traffic reporter. Aurora Legion, 10 a.m.

APRIL 16-17

The Catholic Women's League of Our Lady of Grace Parish annual Spring Rummage Sale Friday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Lynett Hall, 16 Catherine

APRIL 18

York Regional Police Male Chorus presents the 2nd annual "Breath of Spring" concert, 7 p.m. at Madsen's Greenhouse, 160 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket. Tickets \$10, advance sale only. Call 905-727-9676 for further information.

APRIL 23

Deadline for nominations for the Town of Aurora Civic Awards. Have a say in the selection process by nominating someone who has won a championship, volunteered or made a significant contribution to the community by picking up a nomination package at the Town Hall or call 905-726-4762 to have one mailed to you. **APRIL 23-25**

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Home Show. **APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2**

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Mar. 20 - Male review \$10 Cover

Mar. 27 - Heroes - Tribute to David Bowie \$5 Cover

April 24 - Jailbreak - Tribute to AC/DC \$5 Cover



More than \$8,500 was raised last week when the Holland River Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society held a Grand Dessert event in Aurora. Seated at the special guests table are, left to right, Carol Turriff, Regional Director, South Central Region, Canadian Cancer Society; Daniela Purves, Fundraising Consultant, South Central Region, Canadian Cancer Society; and Alexandria Weatherup-Leach, Chair, Volunteer Development, Holland River Unit. The successful evening was held at DiNardo's Mansion.

Photo by Tatiana Mitchell

Town seeks nomination for Citizen of the Year

It's that time of the year again when the town invites nominations for the 2004 Aurora Citizen of the Year.

The award is open to all citizens of the municipality 16 and over, with the exception of elected members of council.

Nominators are asked to provide a brief synopsis of the candidate that would qualify him or her as Citizen of the Year.

Judging is based on the nominations received and the information contained. Emphasis is on the allround activities of a community nature, rather than one specific area. Opinion of judges is final.

Deadline for nominations is May 1 and the award will be presented during the Civic Awards celebrations to be held June 2 in the Town Hall.

Nominations are to be submitted to Mayor Tim Jones, 100 John West Way, Box 1000, Aurora, Ontario L4G 6J1.

Originally the Citizen of the Year award was presented during the Birthday Ball on the evening before the July First festivities, but was later included with the Civic Awards.

While the July First celebrations started in 1969, the first Aurora Citizen of the Year was named in 1970 and the idea came about in rather a strange way.

During the latter part of 1969, R.K. Smith, a history teacher at Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School, appeared before council to suggest a council of students be established as a means of learning about local government.

Town staff assisted in the election of the student

council from Smith's Grade 10 classes. The elected members attended two Aurora council meetings and sat at the council table with their senior counterparts

Then the students held their own council meeting at the school to which parents, friends and members of council were invited to attend. Most of the discussion revolved around issues then before Aurora Council.

But they came up with at least one original idea and that was the annual selection of a Citizen of the Year.

Aurora councillors were quick to pick up the idea and in March, 1970, approved the Citizen of the Year Award.

The late Bob Blick, one of the town's most ardent workers on behalf of boys' sports, was named Aurora's First Citizen of the Year on July 1, 1970.

From there, winners included Annabelle Black

(1972), Don Glass (1973), Jack Wood (1974), Rev. Homer McAvoy (1975), Dr. Crawford Rose (1976), Fred Bolsby (1977), Bill Dinsmore (1978), Omar Khamissa (1979), Jack Williamson (1980), Eric Smith (1981), Vic Paraninfo (1982), Dr. Leslie Oliver (1983), Lowell McClenny (1984),Bill Coleman (1985),Fred Conklin (1986), Nora McRoberts (1987),Norm Stewart Dick Illingworth (1988), (1989).Arnold Miller (1990),Buck McLarty (1991),Jack DeGraaf (1992), Wanda McKenzie (1993),Diane Harrison (1994),Susan Gwilliam (1995), Steve Hinder (1996),Gerry (1997), Ferguson Mobbs (1998), Vic Priestly (1999), Jackie Stubbs (2000), Ken Smith (2001), Bob Hartwell (2002) and Dr. John McIntyre is the town's current Citizen of the Year.

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Speaker fails to show

Chamber can do without too many firsts like this

Over the years the Aurora Chamber of Commerce has been involved in many firsts, but they had a first at their last luncheon meeting they don't want to repeat.

David Olive, a columnist with the Toronto Star, was supposed to be the guest speaker but he didn't show up.

When Chamber officials contacted him at The Star it was learned he had the dates mixed up and thought the engagement was the following day.

An experienced business affairs writer for various publications, Olive has won 12 writing awards and honourable mentions and is a founding member of the Canadian Centre for Ethics and Corporate Policy.

A large crowd of chamber members showed up at the Tuscany Banquet Centre for the luncheon to hear Olive speak on business topics and corporate ethics but were disappointed when they learned what had happened.

The meeting wasn't a total loss as Aurora Mayor Tim Jones provided an impromptu state of the town address and answered questions on various subjects.

In response to a question about economical development, Jones replied that construction of State Farm Insurance was underway with completion scheduled for 2006 and negotiations

had begun with Sam's Club and Wal-Mart, with a possible hotel and a movie theatre on adjacent property along Highway 404.

He also indicated that a new building concept had been suggested for an office building, in which firms would rent space for a type of satellite office hooked to the main office by computer links so staff could work closer to home.

The next luncheon meeting is scheduled for the Tuscany Banquet Centre April 14 and the guest speaker will be Michael Serruya, Co-Chairman of Cool Brands International.

Chamber officials do not expect a repeat of the last luncheon.

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New tools help municipalities contain growth

More and more homes are coming, Whether they are wanted or not; Municipalities may now have tools Which if used, could help a lot!

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

With the introduction of Bill 26, the Strong Communities Act, for first-reading in mid-December, 2003, the McGuinty Liberal government may start to regain the confidence of some local municipalities.

The Bill provides that any decision, comment, submission or advice made or provided by municipal councils, ministries and government agencies, including the Ontario Municipal Board, that affects land use planning shall be consistent with provincial policy statements issued under the Planning Act.

This is a much higher compliance test in land use planning matters than the previous requirement under the former Progressive Conservative government which required that municipalities and developers simply have regard to the

The policy might as well not have been written as few had regard to the policy, especially members of the OMB as developers usually got what they wanted either through an OMB hearing or council's throwing in the towel and giving in to the developers to avoid an OMB hearing.

The wetlands in the northeast quadrant of Aurora are an example. The wetlands had been declared significant by the province.

A buffer of 120 metres from the wetlands and any development was required by the government to ensure that there was no negative impact on the natural features or ecological functions for which the wetlands had been identified.

There was a provision in the ministry guidelines to the effect that if it could be proven by a qualified consultant that a lesser buffer would not negatively impact the wetlands, a lesser guideline could apply.

In 2002, the developer and the town were quick to jump on this provision and accepted a buffer of 15 to 35 metres.

A citizen appealed and, in spite of excellent evidence about the damage to the wetlands and wildlife, the OMB ruled in favour of the town and developer.

The town had a perfect out but sided with the developer. That's having regard to the provincial policy and the town's strategic plan.

More important Bill 26 also increases the length of time from 90 to 180 days that municipalities have to review and render a decision on a development application before the developer can appeal directly to the OMB.

The government also introduced Bill 27, the Greenbelt Protection Act, as the first step towards the creation of a permanent Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt, in an effort to deal with the environmental issues of urban sprawl.

The Bill establishes a one-year moratorium that would temporarily prevent new urban uses outside existing urban boundaries in the Greenbelt Study Area, which includes the 2C lands in East Aurora.

The Greater Toronto Home Builders Association was quick to oppose the government's action by cautioning the government that they provide more than 125,000 jobs in the GTA and contribute \$10 billion a year to the economy.

They brag about the 40,000 new homes sold in each of the past four years, which they claim has kept prices low.

With the proposed government legislation, which they claim is ill-conceived, they warn if they can't continue to build at that rate, prices will rise, jobs will be lost and the economy will suffer.

Municipalities now have the choice of putting into action what they have been complaining about for years, the loss of local planning control.

But it doesn't look as if the legislation will benefit the citizens of Aurora.

During the lengthy discussion about how taxpayers will pay for the new recreation complex, it was pointed out that more and more residential development will have to be approved in order to collect the development charges required to help pay for the project.

An open invitation to developers.

Councillors know that growth of residential development doesn't pay for the growth and existing homeowners have to subsidize the newcomers.

Yet they still rush into development to help pay for a commitment they made before the last election, without considering the impact on the taxpayer, especially those on a fixed income, another breach of the strategic plan.



thought we'd see how it would look anyhow. Joyce teamed up with Doris Pringle, Marge McGhee and Maxine Nisbet to attempt to identify this class from Church Street School taken sometime in the 20s. In the back row, left to right, are Fred Southwood, Howard Anderson, Cliff Chapman, Don Cowieson, George Browning, Doug Seath, ?, Bill Mugford, Wes Stephenson and Reggie Bennett. Next row, Barbara Simmerson, Elizabeth Wilcox, Marian Thompson, Isabel Stephenson, ? Harmon, ? Clubine, Mac Cameron, ?, and Margaret Cook. Next row, Pauline McKenzie, ?, Nellie McGhee, Dorothy Doolittle, ?, Louise Browne, ? Christine Kirkwood. Front row, left to right, ?, Harry Spragg, Arthur Hill, Lloyd Watson, Orly Morning, Barton Teasdale, Clayton Doolittle and Bill McGirr. The principal, standing at left, is John G. MacDonald.

Letters to the Editor

o quorum for budget meeting

To the editor,

It had to be disappointing for more than just myself to learn that the budget meeting that was scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 19, did, in fact, not take place.

There wasn't a quorum.

On the agenda were some of the biggest, most important decisions council has to make for our community, not just for this year, but for many to come.

I'm glad it did not go forward.

Issues such as whether and/or where to build million dollar structures should not be left to a few.

The burden of such huge

decisions needs to be shouldered and addressed by all concerned.

I'd like very much to think that once rescheduled, this meeting would be perhaps the best-attended meeting of this new year, by each and every elected council member.

There were those of us who looked forward to find out about seniors' centers and rec complexes, and, oh yes, that little "park" at Civic Square, an eight-year-old project that we anxiously await closure on.

(I'm trying not to calculated what eight years of lost growth in inches and feet of trees would be, and dearly

hope that I won't have to add in a ninth year of loss...)

Tree planting is never a mistake. It isn't even hard.

Realistically that is all we've ever asked for, along with a few benches. Just an esthetically pleasing green space. It is not a large pro-

Dare we jump into mind boggling million dollar projects, when we have yet to complete the more basic ones?

Actually, it is commendable what council is attempting to do, and we all have high hopes for the continued growth and development of a community of which I am proud to be a part of.

I, for one, am happy to wait a week or two more to make sure that it is done right, with all members of council contributing.

Ann Winship Aurora

Published weekly by The Auroran Publications Inc.

Owner & Publisher Rosemary Schumaker

> Editorial Ron Wallace Dick Illingworth

Photography David Falconer

Display Advertising Kathy Bitove Diane Buchanar

Production

All Departments

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Editorial Department rwall9999@aol.com

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Resident pleased with search

To the editor,

I am writing in reference to the article published in the Auroran, week of Feb. 24, regarding the police bust of Charlie's Diner in the north end of Aurora on Feb. 20.

Congratulations to York Regional Police for finally moving in.

I know these things take a while to collect the info they require to make a bust worthwhile.

Now at least all parents in Aurora and Newmarket can danger that sits in our

If those charged are convicted, I hope Charlie's

liquor licence is revoked and I hope the police continue to monitor the actions of all those involved.

Don't sit by and let this just become another story be aware of the potential in the paper. It is our children who are the targets.

> **Concerned parent** Aurora

Wells crosswalk not green light

To the editor,

Why do persons driving on Wells Street at the Wellington Street intersection feel it is okay for them to break the law and proceed through the pedestrian crosswalk?

I understand this set of lights is to allow pedestrians to cross the street safely but numerous vehicles make left turns to continue north or south on Wells crossing the pedestrian crosswalk while the traffic Wellington Street is obeying the red light by stopping.

There is no set of lights facing Wells Street, hence they do not have a green light.

Even the crossing guard will push the button to turn the lights red to allow vehicles to proceed from Wells Street.

pedestrian crosswalk should be moved to the southeast corner or the northwest corner before one of these drivers runs over a pedestrian he does not see.

If this is to be allowed, the

Otherwise, the situation should be monitored and tickets given.

Mrs. B. Cordell Aurora

AURORAN, March 2, 2004, 2004 - 5





Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

2004 regional budget so far seeks 8% hike

Currently all councils are going through their 2004 budgets, both operational and capital.

In January, I was elected to be the Vice Chair of the Region's Finance and Administration Committee.

This committee vents all departmental budgets prior to going on to Regional Council for approval.

Currently, the Regional budget request stands at an eight per cent increase over 2003. This represents a net increase of \$53,719,000.

Of significant note in the Regional budget is the cost for policing.

Throughout the recent election many of us heard the call for added policing and this call has been addressed by the Police Services Board with a budget request of 22.1 per cent increase over last year.

This would bring their net operating budget to \$137,100,000, or \$24,800,000 more than last year.

This amount would account for 53 additional uniformed officers and 57 officers in other specialized areas including criminal investigation (19), drugs and vice (8), intelligence (6), community oriented response (5), support services (4), recruiting and training (6), and community services (2).

This totals 110 additional police officers as well as 35 additional civilians who do duties that do not require an officer.

Other interesting statistics that were presented to the Finance and Administration Committee with respect to the Police budget include:

- * In 10 years, demands for service for our police have gone from 143,148 in 1993 to 266,793 in 2003 (a demand for service is defined as a request to the police that generates an incident number for tracking purposes in Communications).
- " Since 1993, demands have increased 86 per cent greater than the rate of population growth.
- " 550,797 telephone calls were received in Communications in 2003.
- " Since 1993, York Region's population has increased from 553,000 to 867,000.
- " York Region Police to population ratio has increased from 1:816 to 1:880 in the same time period.

This increase in our policing service is part of a five-year plan to enhance policing in the Region.

Plans are also on the books to add 67 additional police officers each year until 2008.

It is important to note that policing is not just police on the streets but it also includes criminal investigation, forensic identification, courts, support services, community services, recruiting and training, information management, financial services, human resources, planning and research, drugs and vice, intelligence, information technology, as well as staff services.

Other areas of budget influence include:

TRANSIT: this involves both the regular transit system as well as the new rapid transit initiative. Approximately \$39,598,000 is allocated for transit, a 21.6 per cent increase over 2003.

TRANSPORATION AND WORKS: this includes roads maintenance and solid waste management and

they are looking for \$69,545,000.

HEALTH SERVICES: including emergency medical services, long term care and public health is at \$41,958,000.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HOUSING: which covers social assistance, family and children's services and housing and residential services is at \$78,124,000.

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: comes in at \$4,233,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT: which includes the Office of the C.A.O. as well as Finance and Corporate Services is proposed to be \$40,823,000 and the Chairman and Regional Council costs are at \$1,579,000.

Other than the Police Services, other Board bud-

gets, including the Conservation Authorities, Go Transit, Hospital Capital funding and Property Assessment are at \$24,340,000.

And finally, a figure that troubles everyone at the Region is the mandated GTA Pooling cost of \$78,812,000.

The Region through its various committees will be working very hard to limit the cost increases while at the same time enhancing services like Police and Transit

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



Cathy's Corner



Four days, three and a half seniors

When my mother suggested I hop on a plane and spend a few days in Florida with her, the winter wonderwuss in me jumped at the opportunity to flee Arctic Aurora.

She schemed, plotted and planned, and masterfully inserted four blank squares on the calendar where my life once was written.

Getting out of Aurora was easy. At 4 a.m., the dogs don't even bark around here.

Getting out of Toronto was the hard part. Between Customs and Airport Security, I was lucky to be allowed to take my teeth with me on the plane.

They were particularly fascinated by my belt buckle, which could potentially be used to skewer an olive...if it happened to be in my navel, given that the buckle was sewn securely to the jeans I was wearing.

I'd like to say that the weather was glorious, and worth having my teeth extracted for, but alas, it wasn't.

Overcast, windy and almost identical to Aurora minus the snow.

But I went there to spend quality time with my mom...right?

And so the story of four days with three seniors begins. I arrived on the same flight as two of my mother's friends: Dana, 71, and Julie, 83.

Little did I know, I would play the role of surrogate grandchild for the duration. What a treat!

Every morning, Dana would call and ask my mother: "What would Cathy like to do today?"

And as if that wasn't enough, she would also ask: "What

would Cathy like to eat today?"

At the mall, they found dresses for me to try on, and I

made my selections based on the level of applause.

At the register, they got me seniors' discounts, which made it my turn to applaud.

At Dana's house, they cooked up a storm for me and made me tea with lemon.

My love of coffee has been forever compromised, but worse than that, the expansion of my recipe collection is having a corresponding effect on my waistline.

For the grande finale, they sent me home with an enormous bag of grapefruit picked fresh from Dana's back-yard.

It was so big and heavy that the Security Official looked at me sternly and shouted: "It is illegal to take that much sunshine out of Florida!"

To which I responded: "Please, sir! Aurora needs it badly. Our snow banks are taller than your palm trees!" It's nice to hear men in uniform chuckle once in a while. But in spite of dragging a lot of extra baggage back to Aurora, I feel surprisingly lighter.

Like anyone who is engaged in the process of life, my three companions have had their share of grief, disappointment and hardship. But somehow, it doesn't show.

Oh sure, it might be because they're retired, basking in the Florida sun for weeks, sometimes months at a time. It might be because they have time for ...everything.

But I don't think that's it. It seems to be the perspective they bring to everything they do, all of the time.

I must have heard the word "beautiful" ten thousand times.

Talk about stopping to smell the roses, these ladies celebrated every orange grove, every garden, and every quaint little house as if seeing it for the very first time.

It rubbed off on me.

Not that I'm prepared to admit defeat in the wrinkle war, the grey rebellion, or the battle of the bulge! But now I know what aging gracefully really means.

And so I'm comfortable calling my story: "Four Days, Three and a Half Seniors".

Cathy welcomes messages laughingmatters@aci.on.ca

ages

at:

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees (who lives in Aurora) on being a runaway winner as the best dressed male Member of Provincial Parliament in a Valentine's Day poll at Queen's Park.

BRICKBATS to members of Aurora Council for introducing irrelevant information to the topic under discussion and prolonging the debate. The recent general committee meeting started at 7 and went to 11 p.m. Most of the time was wasted by not staying on topic in spite of the best efforts of the chairman.

BOUQUETS to Dave and Dixie Howie for their dedication and Mard work in maintaining an outdoor rink in James Lloyd Park in the Stone Road area of Aurora for the benefit of the kids and families.

BRICKBATS to members of Aurora Council for not being more receptive to a proposal from Deborah Egan of CHATS that the agency for seniors work closely with the building committee of the seniors' centre on joint programming and possibly use some of the spare space, especially for the day program, not used by the seniors. It was a win-win situation!

BOUQUETS to Aurora Hydro for working towards implementing a pre-authorized payment plan for monthly hydro bills within the next couple of months. It's ideal for hydro users with forgetful memories.

BRICKBATS to Aurora council members for looking a gift horse in the mouth. Aurora Family Connections, a non-profit organization, has provided a volume of the volume of the provided a volume of the provided a volume of the vo the past two years on a Trillium grant. The grant has now expired and they have requested \$25,000 from the town to keep the useful service going, but some members of council can't see the

BOUQUETS to Newmarket Council for being quick to act in providing a "warming centre" in the Old Town Hall during the recent frigid cold spell. Although Councillor Phyllis Morris requested similar action in Aurora it is still under discussion. By the time a decision is made, it won't be needed!

BRICKBATS to Poor Richard for not checking further to find a phone number for Aurora's Kennel Inn. Newcomers wouldn't know the name of the

operation, so it is listed in the blue pages under "Animal Services" and in the white pages under Animal Control Centre. The number, by the way, is 905-727-4646.

BOUQUETS to the MP or MPP who will seek legislation to eliminate the title of Honourable for all Cabinet Ministers and the

Right Honourable for the Prime Minister and Governor General. In a recent poll, politicians were low man on the trustworthy poll with 14 per hent, behind used car salesmen at 19 per cent. Firefighters topped the poll with 95 per cent.

BRICKBATS to the federal government for the ongoing scandal of the Employment Insurance program,

which currently is running a \$44 billion surplus, but still charges part-time and occa-

sional workers who have no opportunity to claim.

BOUQUETS to York Regional Police Officer Bernadette Cwenar for her knowledge and quick response to a neigbour's request for help when her child had experienced a seizure and stopped breathing. Her quick action saved the child's life.

BOUQUETS to the York Regional staff for the preparation and publication of "YorkLink Directory" listing all the community service providers and the programs and services available. It provides up-to-date comprehensive information of almost 700 community

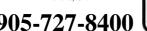
agencies. It is available in various libraries and government offices

Like a good neighbour, State Farm is there.



PETER VIRTANEN, CLU

220 Industrial Pkwy S. Unit 37 (Across from Aurora Hydro





He has suggestions to rejuvenate Yonge

To the editor,

There is lots of controversy about the success and failure of former city of Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman.

One of the least controversial successes of his tenure. more specifically as mayor of North York, was his success at turning Yonge Street north of Sheppard Avenue from a pedestrian unfriendly highway full of strip malls into a vibrant commercial district with theatre, cinema, sidewalk cafes, classy restaurants and shops, and companies tripping over themselves to establish there.

How did he do it? Lots of ways.

From financial incentives redevelopment changes and variances in zoning. The details could fill another letter.

The important thing is that he had a clear vision of what he wanted Yonge Street to become, and the ability to influence events to promote it.

What Aurora needs right now is a mayor who has a vision for Yonge Street here as clear and as far sighted as Mel Lastman had for Yonge Street in North York 30 years ago.

I don't think we need to duplicate what Mel did in North York. I think there are equivalent models which can redevelop Yonge street in more of a small town tra-

The key, though, is to increase commercial and residential densities along the street and to keep the concerns of motorists a distant second to those of pedestrians and shopkeep-

Here are some ideas.

First, get the cars off Yonge street. Industrial Parkway was initially envisioned as a Yonge street bypass. There is no reason it cannot continue to be so.

It can be widened and the

sharp bends can be moderated somewhat to allow the diversion of Yonge Street traffic with minimal environmental and commercial disruption.

Reduce Yonge Street to one lane of traffic in each direction with all day parking on both sides of the street. (There's something Aurora has been missing for a long

Unfortunately we can't move the buildings at the south end of town closer together but here's a thought.

How about we widen Yonge Street even more and create two rows of diagonal parking right in the middle of the street in traditional European fashion? Then get rid of the strip mall parking lots and put the sidewalks up along side the

Allow for greater building densities on the street. There was a beautiful proposal a few years back. A the row housing on Yonge Street across from Price Choppers and replace it with a seven-story building with ample first floor commercial and above it several stories of professional and residential.

The idea was turned down by town council because council would not allow the seven stories that the developer required in order to financially justify the ambitious project.

We need to encourage, not discourage, this kind of redevelopment.

Much of this would not be easy to do. It would require money, and help from the region and other levels of government. But it could be

But only by a council and mayor with a good strong vision, and the fortitude to fight for it.

Darryl Moore Aurora

Bridge the Marsh, reader says

To the editor,

On Tuesday, Feb. 24, as I addressed Aurora Council in open forum, I stated that having a bridge through the McKenzie Marsh is a sensible alternative for the money they are prepared to spend.

Further, even though I have put 10 long years into wanting to portray an Eden and place of pick-up hockey and general enjoyment, certain members on council have rejected it.

I am at my wits end trying to make them see how logical long-term input

pays lasting dividends.

However, the town is hell bent to have a \$30 million ice palace and the pitch men were there laying out their user fees.

What kind of profit they could both envision? One that I am sure will prohibit the poor kids and adults from enjoying.

Some of the benefits of a bridge in the Marsh.

1. Putting up a steel superstructure bridge would finish the job in two months as opposed to six. 2. We would not have to shut the road down as the structure is detailed off site and moored into posi-3. This would have two lanes open, as the bridge

is shifted south and angled to escape the scorching sun. 4. No light would be nec-

essary at Old Yonge & Hadley Grange.

5. The sight lines would be correct to meet the rail

6. Some of the present road would be integral.

7. All users would enter and exit the road in safety. 8. The ride would be smooth and enjoyable.

could be used to tunnel later on.

10. The money saved from not using three feet of fill (which is useless) can be applied to steel

11. A lot of the sunrays will be buffered and shuttered.

12. The present design is not well thought out, inefficient and a waste of taxpayers money.

13. True, I have had five minutes to cover 10 years of thought and time, but I am entitled to equal time.

Tunneling would be better.

didn't raise

To the editor,

I would like to clarify a statement that was made in the Auroran on Feb.24.

Under the picture of Councillor bowlers at the Aurora Bowl it states that I personally raised \$2,200 for Big Brothers.

My team raised the money and everyone should get recognition.

The other members were Rebecca Beaton, Diane Buchanan, Evelina McEachren, Brian Morris and Phyllis Morris.

It was all of these people and their sponsors who helped us get to almost \$2200.

Once again the gen-

erosity of people in Aurora show that we do

I would also like to thank the many volunteers in Aurora who make an event as large as this one work.

Nigel Kean Aurora

Ben Kestein

Aurora



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On behalf of Emma, I want to say a big thank you to Ron Wallace of the Auroran for printing my letter regarding Emma's difficulty getting into our church. (Auroran, Feb. 17)

Also, a big thank you to the people of Aurora who so generously supported our fundraiser for Emma's

It was a great day.

We raised money and received an offer from a builder in Aurora who will donate his labour to build the ramp, so pat yourselves on the back, Aurora, and

thanks to the little paper for printing my letter and showing up the bigger ones from Aurora, Newmarket and Richmond Hill who failed to print the letter.

So thanks to the people of Aurora and the Auroran. You saved the day.

Connie Bestard, Emma's ramp fund

ED. NOTE: To refresh your memories, Emma is a 12-year-old girl suffering from cerebral palsy, who had to be lifted into St. Paul's United Church in Oak Ridges.

Driver safety required at level crossings

To the editor,

With the recent tragic events which occurred at the Engelhard Drive level crossing, there has been much sadness and outrage voiced regarding the dan-

I make this suggestion to every driver...SLOW DOWN AND LOOK BOTH WAYS BEFORE CROSSING ANY RAILWAY TRACKS.

This is something I've consciously done for as long as I can remember.

shocked to see that virtually

Paul Riley

Oh dear! Not again?

To the editor,

It's my wife's turn this week to query a possible spelling error.

In her article "Table is part of the family" (Feb. 24 Auroran) Cathy states "There has been laughter and tears, the pouring out

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of hearts and the bearing of souls".

If we understand her meaning, we think the spelling should be..."the baring of souls".

Robin and Zara Stuart-Jones Aurora

•••••

Give it a try, and after safely crossing the tracks, look in your rear view mirror to see what the next driver

Like me, I'm sure you'll be nobody else does it.

Aurora



Rob Dyer, 19, centre, has started his incredible twocountry skateboard challenge in an effort to raise money to fight cancer. If nothing else, he'll get a good night's sleep, thanks to the Tempur pillows donated by Aurora's Sam Kerbabian, right, of Sleep Comfort Superstore on Yonge Street. With them is tour manager Kyle Massaar. Dyer started his nearly 5,000 mile skateboard adventure this week from Los Angeles, California, and is expected to arrive in the Aurora-Newmarket area sometime in October. Meanwhile, a bus sponsored by School Bus Surf Shop will follow the young skater, and is has been equipped with a complete sound system courtesy of lan Davis and Chris Hine of Noize Boyz in Aurora.

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Arctic Char, Mushroom Ragout, Hijiki Salad ~24~ BBO Striploin, Green Chile Mac N' Cheese, Onion Rings ~36

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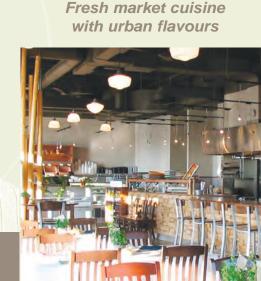
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AURORAN SPORTS



Page 10 Week of March 2, 2004



Top player

This young Grade 3 student from Oak Ridges is showing all the traits of becoming the world's next Bobby Fischer. Ranked as #1 in his Grade 3 class and in the top 10 in his age group across Canada, Nikita Gusev puts away opponents with ease. He was busy doing just that last week as the Aurora Optimists sponsored their annual chess competition at the Aurora Legion.

Auroran photo by Naomi Tobin

Skating Club plans carnival, Saturday, Apr. 3

Only a month to wait until the Aurora Skating Club's big show.

Saturday, April 3, the club is presenting 'Broadway On Ice', and it will have about 200 stars.

The show will feature ASC skaters from Canskate level Advanced, more than 200 local children, and as a special guest skater, Ben Ferreira, who placed second in Canada, will per-

He should be in great shape since he will just be back from competing at the World Championships.

The event is produced only every second year, and officials are looking to two sellout crowds.

There will be a 1 p.m. show, and a 7 p.m. show, which Aurora Mayor Tim Jones will officially open.

Tickets, \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and seniors, go on sale Saturday, March 13. from 11.15 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex.

From March 15, they will be available at regular skating sessions.

For more information, call 905-713-1442 or visit www.auroraskatingclub.com.

Bring on the Hurricanes

Thanks to their second double overtime game in a the Newmarket Hurricanes will be the next guest in Aurora as the Provincial Junior A hockey playoffs continue.

Newmarket put away the Stouffville Spirit Sunday night, after coming from behind a 3-1 deficit to win the game 4-3 after two overtime periods.

Hurricanes got the win after tying the game with only one second remaining in regulation time.

One game earlier. Stouffville did the same thing, using two overtime periods to secure its only win of the series and force Sunday's fifth game.

It is expected the next round will open in Aurora this Friday night.

And, of course, it will be a repeat of last season when the two rivals met and Aurora emerged victorious. This year may not be quite

as easy. Newmarket was the only team to defeat the Tigers in

regular season play...and they did it twice. Meanwhile, the Tigers moved to this plateau

knocking out the Collingwood Blues in four straight, with two wins last And while their fourth win

was a cinch - Tigers won 4-0 - it wasn't that easy a series with the former shipbuilding town.

In Game Three, for example, Aurora only managed to squeeze by their opponents with a 5-4 win, matching the hometowners goal for goal and being on the right side of the balance sheet when regulation time ended.

Simply put, Tigers kept finding ways to win.

In the third game, after Aurora had secured two home town victories, the Tigers were hoping to get their game back and dominate.

Little did they know the Blues had other ideas for

With the Blues forcing overtime and challenging the Tigers goal for goal in the first two games, Aurora had to show some respect for their opponents.

Luke Oshell got the call in goal, making his second appearance during this playoff run.

The Blues stayed with star goaltender Jesse Boyd who has been a big part of why Collingwood has made the games as close as they have been.

It was Collingwood's turn to come out strong early in the first period, firing a number of good scoring opportunities at the Tiger netminder.

Jamie Minchella got Aurora on the board first but the Blues tied it up when a tipped shot found its way to the back of the net.

Alex Lalonde got the Tigers back in the lead on a pretty short-handed goal but again Collingwood would not go away as they tied the game just under a minute later.

Collingwood outshot Aurora 14-9, but the two teams had to settle for a 2-2 tie after 20 minutes of

Aurora seemed to come out with a little more jump in the second period, dominating the shot clock outshooting the Blues 15-6.

But the solid play of Boyd kept the Blues in the game.

Jamie Minchella collected his second goal of the game to give the Tigers a 3-2 lead after 40 minutes of play.

The third period showed both teams attempting to take charge as they both got some great scoring opportunities.

Collingwood tied the game at 3-3 early in the third, but Kyle Aitken's shot from the point found its way into the corner of the net giving Aurora a 4-3 lead.

But the Blues would just not go away and tied it up when Aurora got into penalty trouble being two men

Both teams went back and forth until Steve Mignardi became the hero with the winning goal.

The Tigers returned to Collingwood Friday to play game four and a solid effort by Aurora allowed them to sweep the Blues four straight with a 4-0 victory.

Chris Whitley earned the shutout facing a total of 18

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Collingwood shots, but it was Jesse Boyd who must have felt he was in a shooting gallery stopping 61 of 65 shots the Tigers fired at him throughout the evening.

Tigers came out with quite a bit more enthusiasm in the game, looking to get an early jump on the Blues.

Jordan Brenner jumped on a loose puck in the slot to open the scoring.

Francis Walker capitalized on a power play with a goal that gave Aurora a 2-0 lead after 20 minutes. The second period saw the

Tigers running into penalty problems and at one stage played two men short for more than four minutes. But the solid play of

Whitley and the penalty killing team kept the Blues off the board. Alex Lalonde managed to

increase the Aurora lead with the only goal of the period. Killing off penalties in the second period seemed to

take the momentum out of the Blues. Darren Salmon capitalized on one of the many power plays Aurora was given, the only player to beat Boyd in the frame, allowing the

Tigers to sweep their sec-

ond consecutive series.

GAME SUMMARIES

TIGERS 5 BLUES 4

FIRST PERIOD

Jamie Minchella (Henderson) 6.17 McMahon Nathan (Collins, Crittenden) 9.32

A: Alex Lalonde (Minchella) C: Tyler Allen (Crittenden,

McMahon) 17.43

SECOND PERIOD Minchella Jamie

(Lalonde, Henderson) 16.35 THIRD PERIOD Andrew McBride (McMahon) 3.25

A: Kyle Aitken (Mignardi, Walker) 5.20 C: Kyle Begley (Beleskey, Hampton) 8.26

A: Steve Mignardi (Olden, Scully) 17.05

> **TIGERS 4 BLUES 0**

FIRST PERIOD

A: Jordan Brenner (Bahen, Scully) 8.06 A: Francis Walker (Joslin, LeClair) 13.23

SECOND PERIOD

Lalonde Alex (Skwarchuk, LeClair) 13.19 **THIRD PERIOD**

A: Darren Salmon (Gilbert, Henderson) 18.00



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The men and woman behind the creation of Aurora's outdoor rinks are shown here. They are, left to right, Paul Kreuzer, Maurice Blanchard, Don Harrison, Steve Scott, Don Spence, Bill Tienkamp, Sara Tienkamp, and Doug Foote. Probably not the most desirable job in the winter, the task brought these people out when the wind chill temperature was hovering around minus 30, but if nothing else, it was perfect ice-making weather. Aurora's three outdoor rinks get constant use from the public and the group's challenge is to keep the rinks active as long as possible. That may be fun later this week as temperatures are expected to soar.

Students' survey showed they wanted youth centre

In early 1962, Aurora Council established a cultural and citizenship committee to study the possibilof establishing YMCA/YWCA facilities in

As a start, the committee decided to carry out a survey of youth in Grades 7 and 8 and all high school grades.

It was agreed the survey would include a questionnaire in which the students would answer specific questions.

It soon became obvious Aurora was going to find out a lot more about its youth than it had asked for.

Permission was obtained from the school board and the school principals to carry out the survey during May, 1962.

Of approximately 690 students in the Aurora and District High School, 175 responded to the survey. with 69 living outside Aurora. Of the 290 students in grades 7 and 8, 241 responded and all lived in Aurora.

As only 175 of a possible 690 high school responded, it was clear to the committee the survey did not represent an accurate sample. It was believed those replying were likely good and enthusiastic students.

It was found that the students responding all led busy lives, but it was obvious that television was the biggest thing in the life of a teenager.

All were able to list at least

six favourite programs. Many said they studied while watching TV.

Most of the students in Grades 11, 12 and 13 had definite career choices. whereas those in Grades 9 and 10 hadn't made up their minds.

There did not appear to be any systematic times for homework as it was fitted into odd times by most students, with clear tendency to catch up on homework over the weekend with about five hours per week the average.

Of the 175 responses, 71 replied that they dated fairly regularly and all but 14 declared that whether they did it or not they approved of it for their age and grade.

In a question about things to ask for, there was a strong desire for a movie theatre in Aurora as students listed trips to theatres in other municipalities.

There were also requests for a youth centre, a recreation centre and more parks.

A pattern of activity emerged with 66 respondents indicating they played on a sports team during the school term and 54 declared they watched sports on a regular basis.

Students were asked if they saved money and for what purpose. To obtain an education was the frequent reply. Five wanted a sports car and one a helicopter. Some planned to travel or purchase sports equipment.

For high school students the average percentage in examinations was 65. Of the 116 who listed their ambition, 23 wanted to be a teacher, 17 a secretary, nine nurses, five stewardesses, five pilots, three hairdressers, three veterinarians, six engineers, two ministers and one priest.

Others covered a wide range of trades and professions from police officer, farmer, doctor, to a sports instructor or a movie star.

For the elementary schools, 123 replies were from Grade 8 and 118 from Grade 7. Although the questions differed, there was no major difference reported in the pattern of living.

There was more leisure time shown in the elementary school results, with an indication of boredom. Active in sports were 85

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Skating results

The following Aurora Skating Club members competed in Caledon last weekend and following is a list of results.

Pre-juvenile Ladies B Freeskate, Maya Goldman, fourth. Gold Ladies Freeskate, Brinlee Brown, sixth. Senior Bronze Men's Solo Dance, Tavish Armstrong, third. Senior Bronze Ladies Solo Dance, Maya Goldman, sixth. Junior Bronze Ladies Freeskate, Amy Thompson, eighth. Preliminary Men's Freeskate, Caden Armstrong, second. Preliminary Men's Solo Dance, Alex Woodward, second. Preliminary Ladies Solo Dance, Kate Sutton, first.

Pre-preliminary Men's Freeskate, Alex Woodward, second.

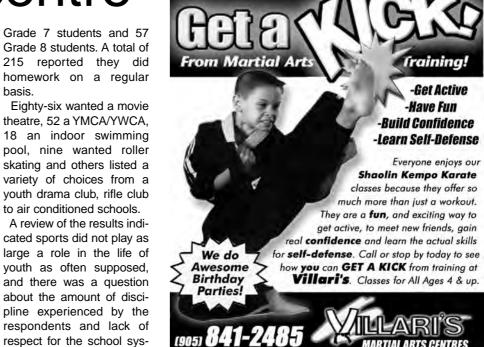
Monday Night Hockey Standings, Feb. 23

TEAM	W	L	Т	GF	GA	PTS
Highland Chev Olds Geo Cad	16	4	1	95	57	33
Law Insurance Brokers	13	7	1	85	73	27
Tom & Jerry's	12	7	2	82	72	26
Rec Cycle N' Sports	10	9	2	79	70	22
Priestly Demolition	9	11	1	79	107	19
FPL Aggregates	7	13	1	41	59	15
J.J. Barron Realty	6	13	2	74	86	14
Masterclean Contracting	6	15	0	67	88	12
		_	_			

Results, Feb. 23

FPL Aggregates	7	Highland Chev Olds	4
Priestly Demolition	3	Law Insurance	3
Rec Sports	4	Tom & Jerry's	5
Masterclean	3	Barron Realty	3









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- $\sqrt{\text{Test battery condition}}$
- $\sqrt{\text{Test anti-freeze strength}}$ $\sqrt{\text{Lubricate grease fittings as required}}$
- $\sqrt{}$ Lubricate door hinges and hood latch
- $\sqrt{\text{Perform a 21 point inspection}}$

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706 AURORA HOME HARDWARE BUILD-ING CENTRE 4: Ryan Van Winckle 2G, Nick Whelan 1G 1A, Matt Holland 1G, David Kerekes 1A, Joe Smith 1A, Ryan Casseldon 1A. 702 EDWARDS-MURPHY PAINTING & DECORATING 3: Brad Juffs 2G, Tyler Flanagan 1G, Adam Brutto 1A, Alex Munn 2A, Greg Haralampopoulos 1A.

HOUSE LEAGUE PLAYOFF GAMES

201 AURORA CABLE INTERNET 11: Eric Bulluck 2G 1A, Andreas Nuttleson 1G, Scott Wheeler 1G 1A, Luke Pizzuro 2G 1A, Drew Bryan 1G, Dylan Sutton 2G 1A, Daniel Bunder 1G, Matthew Roach 1G. 203 **NORTH YORK PLUMBING & HEATING 2:** Ryan Baskin 1G, Matthew Reeves 1G.

202 DR. STEINER'S DRILLERS 5: Seth Rodgers 1G, Matthew Warner 1G, Paul-Louis Steiner 1G 1A, Stephen Wilkens 1G, Ryan Dowling 1G, Peter Teti 1A, Katie Hullah 1A. 204 NACORA INSURANCE 5: Zacg Ferrt 2G, Connor McDavid 3G.

208 DIAMOND GROUNDSKEEPING SER-VICES 7: Zachary Kecz 5G 1A, Christopher Tsianos 1G, Quincy Ing 1G 1A, Aiden Slind 1A, Jamie Poutney 1A. 206 **CONTINENTAL CUSTOM INGREDIENTS** 5: Calvin McHugh 2G, Matthew Pryse 1G, Connor Moody 1G, Braden Gerace 1G, Jake Martin 1A, Lucas Hussey 1A.

202 DR. STEINER'S DRILLERS 6: Eric Kimmerer 2G, Ryan Dowling 1G, Jesse Borin 1G, Matthew Warner 2G, Joshua Carducci 1A. 203 NORTH YORK PLUMB-ING & HEATING 3: Ryan Baskin 3G, Scott Schmitt 1A, Tyler Clement-Groggon 1A.

208 DIAMOND GROUNDSKEEPING SER-VICES 8: Christopher Tsianos 1G 1A, Zachary Kercz 4G, David Roberts 1G, Quincy Ing 1G 1A, Nicholas Bertrand 1A, Trevor Stephens 1A, Massimo Longhin 1A. 205 DELPH & JENKINS SURVEYORS 6: Stuart Mattilla 2G 1A, Diego Nafarrate 1G, Ben Hankins 3G 1A, Kentner Arkell 1A, Paul Ashbourne 1A, Connor Allen 1A.

206 CONTINENTAL CUSTOM INGREDI-ENTS 3: Calvin McHugh 1G 1A, Matthew Iamonaco 1G, Connor Moody 1G, Lucas Hussey 1A, Ben Bryant 1A, Broden Gerace 1A, Michael Perryman 1A. 207 ROTARY CLUB OF AURORA 3: Colton Lee 3G.

201 AURORA CABLE INTERNET 5: Eric Bulluck 1G 1A, Luke Pizzuro 1G, Matthew Roach 1G, Andreas Milkelson 1G 1A, Scott Wheeler 1G, Hayden Trask 1A. 204 NACO-RA INSURANCE 3: Zack Ferry 2G, Chance Rodin 1G, Conor McDavid 2A, Austin Bourdreau 2A.

208 DIAMOND GROUNDSKEEPING SER-VICES 3: Jamie Poutney 1G, Christopher Tsianos 2G, Kevan Cress 1A. 203 NORTH YORK PLUMBING & HEATING 3: Matthew Reeves 1G 2A, Tyler Clement-Croggon 1G, Joshua Lawlor 1G, Alexander Seto 2A.

207 ROTARY CLUB OF AURORA1: Dustin Partanen 1G, Dylan Lyons, shutout. 202 DR. STEINER'S DRILLERS 0.

201 AURORA CABLE INTERNET 3: Andrew Boehmer 1G, Scott Wheeler 1G 1A, Dylan Sutton 1G, Andrew Mikklesen

204 NACORA INSURANCE 5: Chance Stevens 1G, Clavin McHugh 1G.

Ryan Hastie 1G, Andrew Hunter 1A, Andrew Smitten 3A, Mark Tanel 1A. 407 REC CYCLE N' SPORTS 3: Brent Lockhart 2G, James Philips 1G, 702 EDWARDS-MURPHY PAINTING & Jonathan Alcock 1G, James **DECORATING 3:** Greg Haralampopoulos Wotherspoon 1A.

9: Stephen Newby 2G 2A, Ryan Laird Bastarache 1G. 3G, Dylan Jolviet 2G 2A, Jaret Meron 1G 1A, Ethan Morice 1G, Kevin McCrudden 1A. 409 OPTIMIST CLUB OF AURORA 6: Michael Takahashi 1G 1A, Gregory Lacroix 2G 1A, Christian Davies 2G, Colin Sandquist 1G, Sean Takahashi 2A.

402 JUNIOR TIGERS 6: Troy Gouveia 3G 1A, Aaron Nussbaum 1G 2A, Paul Tuck 1G 4A, Thomas Gans 1G. 401 MARY'S FLOWER SHOP 5: Jordan Gerace 3G, 804 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 3: Joel Piovesen 1A, Dakota Hendy 1A.

405 McALPINE FORD LINCOLN 1: Chase Riddell 1G, Robert Bradford, shutout. 406 LANGDON'S COACH 802 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 3: LINES 0,

DRUG MART - AURORA 2: Rhys Gander Stock 1G, Jesse Barker 1A. 2G, Joseph Lombardi 1A.

TRICAL 4: Andrew Wilkins 3G, Marshall 2G, Peter Walker 1G, James Taylor 1G, McQuillan 1G, Eric Shoesmith 2A, Jacob Chris O'Conner 1A. 803 CHOUINARD Peart 1A, Devin O'Kelley 1A. 608 SPIT- BROS. ROOFING 1: Ryan Joynt 1G, FIRES 1: Jamie Russell 1G.

603 CHOUINARD BROS. ROOFING 3: Dniel Korolnek 1G, Ben Slimkowitch 1G, Nick Cascone 1G, Derek Lockhart 1A, Braun Hause 1A, Graeme Smart 1A. 601 D-MAC FURNITURE 3: John Rizzo 2G, Zach Roitner 1G, Connar Dellar 1A, Jordan Brown 1A.

604 COLL AUDIO & ACCURATE ELEC-TRICAL 7: Aaron MacDonald 3G, Brendan Stenzel 1G 1A, Peter Durst 2G, David Staeuble 1G, Dylan Duome 1A, Jason Durst 1A, Peter Martin 1A, Kyle Partenan 1A. 602 OMAR'S SHOES 3: Madison Weber 2G, Simon Esposito 1G 1A, Dylan Calvert 1G, Hunter Warden 2A.

601 D-MAC FURNITURE 6: Zach Roitner 5G, Adrian Clark 1G 1A, Connar Dellar 1A, Jordan Brown 1A, John Rizzo 1A. **607 PERMANENT PRESS PRINTING 1:** Ryan Hart 1G, Scott Denotter 1A.

OMAR'S SHOES 5: Michael Hartman 2G, James Suddes 2G, Madison Weber 1G 2A. 605 FRESH WATER INDUSTRIES BOTTLED WATER 3: Jay Finch 1G 2A, Ryan Laird 1G, Derek Isidoro 1G.

706 AURORA HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE 2: M. Holland 1G, C. Robinson 1G. 702 EDWARDS-MURPHY PAINTING & DECORATING 1: Adam Brutto 1G Tyler Flanagan 1A.

703 CHOUINARD BROS. ROOFING 5:

1A, Daniel Bunder 1A. 205 DELPH & Ryan Cain 2G 1A, Dan Cress 1G, JENKINS SURVEYORS 1: Ben Hankins Anthony Paolucci 1G, Ryan Rojas 1G, 1G, Steven Grandin 1A, Paul Ashbourne Taylor Tripp 1A, Mark Horton 1A. 704 **SMITTY'S PAINTING & DECORATING 1:** Michael Nealon 1G, Chris Ramsay 1A.

Rodin 1G, Connor McDavid 2G 1A, 705 I.O.O.F. AURORA LODGE 148 - FLT Curtis Fordyce 1G 1A. 206 CONTINEN- 6: Connor Ryeland 5G 1A, Alex Strapp TAL CUSTOM INGREDIENTS 2: Justin 1G 2A, Meaghan Keslick 2A, Keith Hannah 1A. 701 MANHATTAN TRO-408 AB COX PONTIAC BUICK GMC 5: PHIES 4: Christian DiVincenzo 1G 1A, Liam McGoldrick 1G, Daniel Howie 3G, Raymond Mullins 2G, Dylan Brennan 1G, Jordan Streigler 1A, Chris Wong 1A, Ben Promane 1A.

1G 1A, Tyler Flanagan 1G, Alex Munn Adam McNellis 2A. 410 THE BACKYARD POOL & SPA CO. CHOUINARD BROS. ROOFING 1: Cody **MANHATTAN TROPHIES 6:** Christian DiVincenzo 1G, David Hilchuk 3G, Raymond Mullins 1G 2A, Jordan Streigler 1G 1A, Sam Caldwell 2A, Darren Giroux 1A. 706 AURORA HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE 4: J. Smith 2G, M. Holland 1G, R. Van Winckle 1G 1A, N. Whelan 1A, C. Robinson 1A, M. Spick 1A.

Tyler LaMantia 1G, Brandon 1G 1A, Stephen Horan 1G, Landon Smith 2G, Andrew Cosentino 1A, Logan Weber 1A, James Weber 2A, Kevin Mayne 1A. 806 ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION 1: Tyler Cattapan 1G, Cameron Harris 1A, Alex Ginther 1A.

Stephen Pitts 1G, Torrey Duckworth 1G, Daniel Lewis 1G, Paul Magliocchi 1A, 404 A.D.C. ALUMINUM 2: Egan Fennell Omar Popet 1A, Jake Teel 1A. 801 ALL 1G 1A, Curtis Rose 1G. 403 SHOPPERS PRO SPORTS - NEWMARKET 1: Joel

805 RAEDAN FREIGHT SERVICES INC. 604 COLL AUDIO & ACCURATE ELEC- 5: Jamie Fenyes 1G 3A, Nathan Taylor Maegan Bastarache 1A.

SELECT **TOURNAMENT GAMES**

Novice 3 East Gwillimbury AE 0 Lucas Hussey & Andrew Stobbe, shutouts

Novice 14 Cayuga 0

Stuart Mattila 1G 1A Zachary Ferry 3G, Quincy Ing 1G, Zachary Kercz 3G 2A, Colton Lee 2G 1A, Jake Martin 2G, Eric Bulloch 2G 1A, Heather Tillsley 3A, Matthew Pryse 1A, Hayden Trask 2A, Evan Romano 2A, Liam Devlin 2A, Erik Kimmerer 1A.

Novice 5 Port Stanley 1

Stuart Mattila 1G, Liam Devlin 1G, Hayden Trask 1G, Heather Tillsley 1G 1A, Eric Bulloch 1G, Zachary Ferry 2A.

Novice 5 Milton 4

Stuart Mattila 1G, Zachary Kercz 2G 1A, Ryan Baskin 2G, Heather Tillsley 1A, Eric Bulloch 1A, Hayden Trask 1A, Connor Moody 2A, Colton Lee 1A, Matthew Pryse 1A.

Novice 7 West London 6

Colton Lee 1G, Zachary Ferry 1G, Eric Bulloch 1G, Stuart Mattila 2G, Zachary Kercz 1G 1A, Hayden Trask 1G 1A, Matthew Pryse 1A.



SELECT PLAYOFF GAMES

Tyke Select sponsors Tyke: Ricoh / DotCo

Tyke 7 Richmond Hill Green 1

John MacDonald 1A, Brenden Lukezic 2G, Konner McMillan 2G 1A, Spencer Green 1G, Connor Graham 1A, Quentin Campbell 1G 1A, Jerryd Jensen 4A, Liam Coll 1G, Matthew Iwai

Novice 7 Oshawa 0

Zachary Kercz 1G, Zachary Ferry 1G, Eric Bulloch 3G, Stuart Mattila 1G 1A Hayden Trask 1G 1A, Ryan Baskin 1A, Liam Devlin 2A, Heather Tillsley 4A, Matthew Pryse 1A, Lucas Hussey & Andrew Stobbe, shutouts.

REP PLAYOFF GAMES

Novice Rep Sponsors AA: Rogers/AT&T Wireless A: Luminart

Novice A 0 Stouffville 4

Novice A 1 Stouffville 4

Novice A 0 Stouffville 3

Minor Peewee Rep Sponsors AA: Gringler, Iskov, Lerner, C.A.'s A: FM Window's & Doors Manufacturing **Venture Steel AE: Pembridge Insurance**

Minor Peewee AA 4 Markham 0

Dillon Cappell 1G 1A, Luke MacLeod 1G 1A, Jordan Tripp 1G, Kevin Zacharuk 1G, Max Lerner 2A, Kyle Murphy 1A.

Minor Peewee AA 3 Markham 1

Max Lerner 1G, Jordan Tripp 1G, Andrew Whitley 1G, James Mildon 2A, Louis Lamanna 1A, Kevin Zacharuk 1A.

Minor Peewee A 3 TNT 0

Stephen Di Nallo 1G, Michael McGolrick 1G, Dylan Cross 1G, J.J. Lam 1A, Ernesto Spagnuolo, shutout.

TNT 4 Minor Peewee A 2

Taylor Nuttall 1G, Dylan Cross 1G, Jeffrey Sanderson 1A, Aaron Beally 1A, Evan Casselden 1A, Derrick Hamner 1A.

Bantam AA 4 Barrie 2

Michael Osuszek 2G, Jordan Blaser 1G 1A, Colin McCullough 1G, Anthony D'Agostino 2A, Anthony Simone 1A, Michael Englehutt 1A, Sam Warden 1A, Tyler Pettes 1A, Darren Gwilliam 1A.

Bantam AA 4 Markham 2

Neil Kileeg 1G, Tyler Pettes 1G 1A, Colin McCullough 1G, Jordan Blaser 1G, Adam Lebar 1A, Michael Englehutt 1A.

Bantam AA 3 Markham 1

Jordan Blaser 2G, Colin McCullough 1G, Neil Kileeg 1A, Michael Osuszek 1A, Anthony Simone

> **Midget Rep Sponsors** A: Greyfield Construction

Bradford Bulldogs 3 Midget A 2

Mark Smith 1G, Ryan Kines 1G, Keith Mitchell 1A, Marc Oppedisano 1A, Matt Cleverdon 1A.

Two major projects okayed by

From page 1

Councillor John West expressed concern about the cost and the impact on property taxpayers. He suggested the rinks be built first and the aquatic centre two or three years later to lessen the impact on the taxpayer.

The project manager said costs would increase if construction was to be phased in and it would be necessary to know the length of the delay.

Other members of council supported moving ahead based on a fundraising commitment from the user groups in a similar manner as for the seniors centre.

It was noted that the previous council was opposed to growth and now growth was necessary to help pay for the facility.

It was suggested that the project should be delayed until the private/public partnership is explored, but others objected pointing out that Aurora's rate was \$145 per hour for ice time. whereas it was \$250 per hour under the public/private partnership

pointed out that up until now citizens have not objected to the cost and any delay will increase the costs and still have to be funded from the same pockets.

He suggested council take the plunge and vote to proceed. Others said they couldn't support proceeding with a possible tax increase.

Councillor Ron Wallace pointed out that both facilities were badly needed and the demand was there. Phasing it in would cost more and the taxpayer would still have to pay.

"Build it now and get it over with," he said.

A motion to phase in the development was defeated 5-3 with Councillors Buck. Wendy Gaertner and West in support. The motion to proceed was adopted by a 6-2 vote with Buck and opposed. Gaertner Councillor Phyllis Morris was absent.

Council confirmed that the new recreational complex will include an aquatic facility incorporating a 25-

leisure pool and learning pool, a double-pad ice surface and related spectator seating, a pre-school program area, support office and canteen and a reduced common space/lobby area configuration.

The facility will be designed to allow for future expansion to include up to two additional ice surfaces and/or a double gymnasium and related community space and/or an indoor soccer facility.

The site plan is also to take into consideration the provision of a temporary bubble structure to accommodate the needs of the Aurora Soccer Club and the public private partnership for an indoor tennis facility subject to satisfactory agreements.

Meanwhile, the proposed senior centre to be built south of the Town Hall has finally been given a green light to proceed and the architect approved, but not without a great deal of haggling and the imposition of some conditions.

The go ahead was given last week, much to the delight of the many seniors

lines should be established

to ensure the safety and

protection of the tenants

and the task force could

Council confirmed the new facility will contain 7,000 square feet of dedicated space for the seniors and 7,000 square feet of permitted space for the community generally in accordance with the revised schematic design and site plan previously approved, on condition the total cost of the project does not exceed \$3.1 mil-

The capital budget prepared by staff included a total of \$3.3 million including \$275,000 for land, and \$3 million construction

As the facility will sit on a portion of the Town Hall site staff recommended that the cost of land be included so the development community pay for a portion of the land cost, as the Town Hall was built prior to the development charge legislation.

Questions were asked about the estimated operating costs of the facility with staff indicating it would be \$62,444 in 2005 and \$118,782 in 2006.

It was reported the seniors had raised \$50,000 to date and have agreed to increase their fundraising efforts.

Council agreed the seniors be encouraged to take the necessary steps to fulfill the \$250,000 objective, excluding Trillium funding and that staff confirm, prior to the award of the contract that the seniors have a work plan in place to achieve the goal.

It was also agreed that the

project manager be authorized to complete the schematic design phase, finalize the space program and work with the project architect, finalize design and preparation of tender documents as soon as possible.

Council agreed that a workshop of approximately 700 square feet be included in the building but the Emergency Operation Centre as requested by the fire department not be included.

Councillor Damir Vrancic said the seniors must become incorporated, there must be an operating insurance agreement, requirements to be clarified and a need to look at alternatives for staffing needs.

During the Open Form

section of the meeting Brian Wilburton and Florence Murray spoke in support of the seniors' centre. Wilburton said the centre was urgently needed in order to increase the number of programs available to seniors.

Florence Murray expressed support for the new facility, as being designed to meet the needs of the seniors and the seniors had struggled hard to get where they are. She added the seniors will raise funds and help the town make it happen.

When the smoke had cleared the project was given a green light to proceed through the design phase subject to a satisfactory agreement with the architect.

metre, eight-lane pool, Basement apartments to be studied by town

From page 1

illegal units.

Councillor Evelyn Buck argued that while the apartments may not be desirable housing, there was no alternative as no public housing

She said the problem had been studied before and there was no way the units could be made legal and the only solution

The New Venture Award win-

ner will have exhibited excel-

lence in starting his or her

Aurora business within the

Nominees may have exhibit-

ed an originality of business

concept at the time of start-up,

innovative/effective marketing

of the new enterprise, a posi-

tive impact on the industry or

a special service to the com-

The Young Entrepreneur

Award is an individual award

to a person under the age of

30 who has developed his or

her own Aurora-based enter

For nomination forms or

further information contact

Chamber seeks applicants for business awards dinner

production.

past 36-months.

munity.

Once again this year, the Chamber Commerce will celebrate success with the 2004 Business Achievements Awards at DiNardo's Mansion Industrial Parkway South.

The event has been slated for October 21.

Nominations for the five awards are now open with a closing date of March 31.

Nominees do not have to be members of the Chamber, but may be encouraged to join. Nominees may be nominated in more than one category and businesspeople may nominate

Nominations are invited in the following five categories: Business Person of the Year, Extraordinary Business Achievement, Innovation, New and Entrepreneur.

The Business Person of the Year is an individual award and is presented to the nominee who has demonstrated individual excellence in vision and leadership, innovation and achievement, business growth and excellence in community involvement and contribution.

The Extraordinary Business Achievement Award is open to any size company.

The award is based on exceptional business achievements related to a variety of areas including growth, research and development, new markets, products, services, environment, and marketing tech-

The Innovation Award is in

governments to provide was available. housing. Vrancic said that guide-

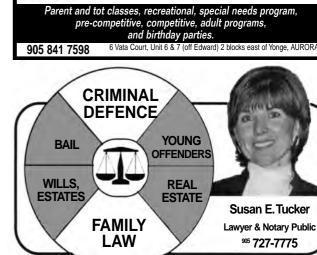
make recommendations Councillor Ron Wallace, a former volunteer firefighter, described the horrors of a recognition of a successful basement apartment fire innovative business, with with only one exit and a emphasis on the creative use man trying to escape with of technology, marketing, and his clothing on fire.

> He said he couldn't support basement units unless there were two exits.

> Councillor Bill Hogg said the rental of basement units to help pay the mortgage was a reality, and homeowners were going to rent out their basements, but using a complaint driven policy wasn't fair.

He added that if the municipality was going to allow basement units it was necessary to make them as safe as possible.

On a 4-3 vote council agreed to establish a task force to study and report on the local issues pertaining



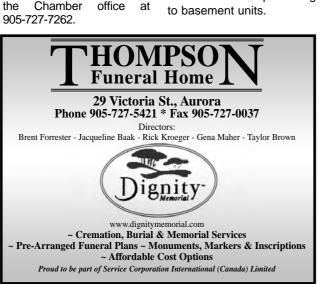
Jaguar Gymnastics

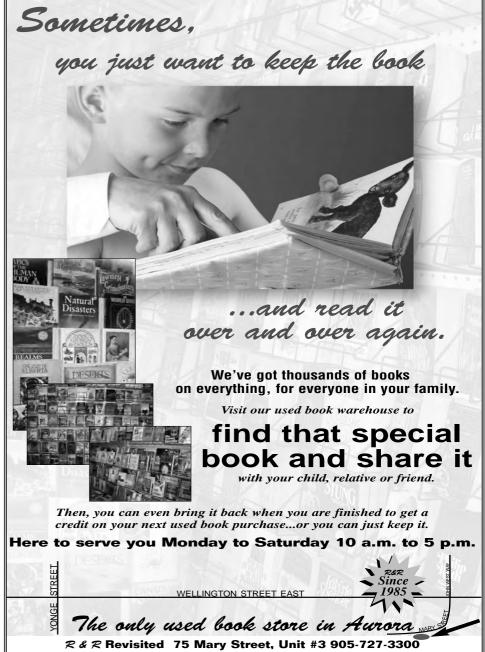
NOW TAKING REGISTRATIONS

MARCH BREAK

& SUMMER CAMP

FULL & 1/2 DAYS AVAILABLE





RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Fable performance held here included workshop

In September, 1975, the New Global Village Story Theatre, one of Canada's most innovative and progressive theatre groups, performed a series of modern fables at the Factory Theatre for the Aurora Public Library with a grant from the Ministry of Cultural and Recreation.

The fables were performed in pantomime by the group, as a narrator read the fable.

The performance was followed by a workshop and discussion with the primary purpose of developing sensitivity for body language as expressed through pantomime.

The theatrical group was completing a 13-city Canadian tour performing in libraries, schools, hospitals and other centres, where they performed with a minimum of props and sets.

TREE PLANTING IN AURORA

Councils are frequently criticized for tree cutting or allowing trees to be cut, but back in January, 1991, council authorized the town to enter into a five-year agreement with Trees Ontario for tree-planting in various parks and open spaces in Aurora.

Trees Ontario was a non-profit foundation administered by the Ontario Forestry Association and supported by the Ministry of Natural Resources

The areas selected for planting included the Jack Woods Park open space, Craddock Park, Machell Park and Lambert Willson Park.

Although there was no cost to the town for tree planting, tree maintenance was a town responsibility.

Which brings up an interesting observation. The trees on Jack Woods property don't look too healthy.

MONEY FOR COMMUNITY SPACE

Back in 1995 during negotiations with Bayview Business

Parks, developers of a shopping plaza on Bayview Avenue, agreement was reached between the developer and the town for the developer to provide 30,000 square feet for community use as a possible location for a new public library.

The Aurora Library Board declined the offer and as the developer was anxious to proceed with the site plan application for early construction, agreement was reached at a special council meeting that the town release the developer for the commitment for community space on payment of \$250,000 for community use.

It would be interesting to find out what happened to the \$250,000 and what community use it went to.

WHO AND WHERE IS BARBARA WILSON?

During 1993 and 1994 there were ongoing discussions between Magna and the town regarding Magna's controversial development proposal to be constructed on the Stronach farm on Wellington Street, east of Bayview Avenue.

The proposal was for a world head office and other facilities plus a golf course and a residential complex contrary to Aurora's official plan.

As Aurora Council was a little hesitant about the proposal, a Barbara Wilson from Newmarket started a letter writing campaign in support of it.

She even started a petition but nobody seemed to know who she was, why her strong crusade for Magna and why she was trying to force Aurora Council to fast-track the development without going through the normal planning process.

From what could be learned about the mysterious Ms. Wilson she said she had no allegiance to Magna and was only interested in economic development of the area.

But the question remains, who was Barbara Wilson?

SOMETIMES YOU CAN BEAT CITY HALL

A court decision in the fall of 1993 reduced the taxes on condominiums with an overall financial impact on Aurora of about \$1 million, of which \$220,000 was from the town's portion of the tax bill, with the balance shared between the school boards and the region.

The appeal to the courts was launched by a condominium group seeking lower tax assessments, based on the fact the market value for condominiums had decreased but the assessment under market value hadn't.

Because the court ruling was precedent-setting, Aurora

Council appealed the court's decision, but was not successful.

The new ruling was to the effect the assessment on a 1,000 square foot condo would be the same as on a 1,000 square foot house.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HOUSING STATEMENT?

Back in November, 1990, council had a housing statement, which included among other things that the official plan incorporate a policy stipulating that 25 per cent of all new residential construction to be in form of affordable housing to people of low and moderate income.

Also that the town should require that a certain proportion of land in subdivisions be identified for affordable housing and that the lands be either retained by the developer and developed as affordable housing, or sold to a private cooperative or regional non-profit housing producer.

In addition to providing a diversity of housing types to meet a full range of housing needs, the town was to undertake to improve and maintain a healthy tax base through the promotion of industrial and commercial development, so as to not unduly burden existing and future residents.

What happened?

Town ready...in case it happens

It's not known if Aurora's reputation was that of a rather staid, purist municipality or not, but the town hadn't been bothered with adult entertainment parlours, such as the former Fantasia in Richmond Hill or Lookers in Newmarket, but there was concern it could happen.

Aurora Council established an ad hoc committee of members and staff in November, 1992, to determine the best means of regulating adult entertainment parlours, places of amusement and billiard

In recognition that municipalities did not have the authority to prohibit places of business, the committee agreed the industry should be regulated as strictly as possible in order to minimize the potential impact of an adult entertainment parlour on the residential and business communities of the town.

As the Municipal Act permits municipalities to pass bylaws to license and regulate such establishments, it was agreed that council would enact an appropriate bylaw to control such a business, if an application should be received.

In a report to the March 1, 1993, council meeting, the committee made several recommendations.

These included the prohibition of parlours from locating on major roadways such as Yonge and Wellington Streets, and a minimum required distance separation of 300 metres from residential zones, schools, churches, public

parks and open spaces, day care centres and other adult parlours.

They would only be allowed in facilities in conjunction with an existing eating establishment or tavern where food, other than snacks, was served, excluding hotels. The bylaw required the premises to be licensed under the Liquor Licence Act.

The proposed bylaw was to include such matters as signs and advertising, hours of operation, age restrictions, as well as administrative provisions similar to those set out in bylaws obtained from other municipalities.

The maximum number of adult entertainment lounges was to be restricted to two.

The report and recommendations were referred to a public planning meeting scheduled for April 29, 1993. There was general agreement that council should adopt such a bylaw.

On October 4, 1993, council delayed the bylaw to regulate strip clubs and adult video stores, in spite of a warning from Mayor John West that council couldn't delay too long as inquiries had already been received from potential operators.

With the restrictions included in the draft bylaw, the only area where the businesses could be established was the almost empty industrial park on Bayview Avenue, to which some existing industrial plant officials objected.

Council agreed to meet with company officials to discuss their concerns, resulting in the bylaw finally being adopted.

In September, 1995, on a 5-3 vote, Aurora Council supported a request from York Region to oppose lap dancing within the region, rather than just receive it and take no action.

Councillor Chris Sorley suggested no action as he claimed the issue was outside the mandate of local government. Councillor David Griffith gained the support of the majority of council when he pointed out that just to receive the region's request would send the wrong message.

Adult entertainment, such as strip clubs or adult video parlours never came to Aurora, but Aurora was prepared.





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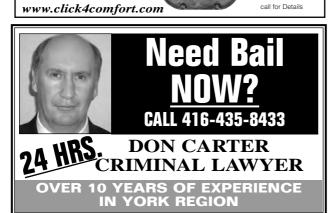
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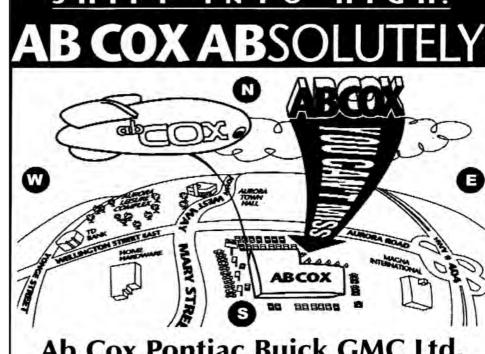
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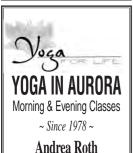
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45. A "Tiger" may get one of these

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Arctic Adventure month (abbr)

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Hill

R&R has over 750,000 of them

It stops at Aurora Station

"Auroran" street

Commuter bus

Fleury products

Santa Under the

Winter footwear

Sept West fest

A bee sting may do this

"Walking together" trail

Historic town shoe man

Aurora's Swedish twin

38. Hydro wires may do this

He named the to

Height (abbr) 37. Cul-de-sac: dead

44. Volunteer group:

47. Second "R" in R&R

Winter cross-country slider

Local Olympic gold medalist

Some Council discussions: in

Aurora

Thrill on West end creek

19. Merlin's

21.

Factory

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Down Across

Shopping buggy Leisure Services kids' activity

1828 "house" colour

"Pine Tree" people

Theatre Aurora (abbr) Aurora's National Historic site (2 wds)

Older Hot Spot user

Home & Lifestyle Show month (abbr)

Sheppard's

Spring road hazard (2 wds)

"Brick House" colour Editor's furniture

Transit group (abbr)

Andrews 27.

28. for Heart

Trail group (abbr) 29.

Billings . 32. Park

Animals once associated with Aurora 35. 39. ACC surface

40. These Aurorans may need licenses 41. Concerts the Park

Aurora softball group 43.

First "R" in R&R 46.

Voting options: Yea

49. Number (abbr)

Council

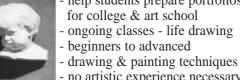
51. East end river

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