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AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



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Vol. 4 No. 23

Week of March 30, 2004

905-727-3300



Skating Carnival Saturday

For these youngsters, and scores more, Saturday is going to be a big day. They'll make up part of the Aurora Skating Club's "Broadway On Ice" carnival, slated for two performances at the Aurora Community Centre. Displaying the publicity poster for the event are, front row, left to right, Alexandra, Stefania and Cristina Rizzardo; middle row, left to right, Ashley Walker, Emily Reier, Gabrielle Perugini, and Julia Steiner; back row, left to right, Alex Woodward, Tori Ellis, Erin Thomas and Caden Armstrong. Shows are scheduled for 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. See the Coming Events on Page 2 for further details. And for a look at past town skating carnivals, see Page 14.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Cobblestone Lodge to get solid zoning

Cobblestone Lodge Retirement Home was back before a public planning meeting last week and this time the application was more successful as council agreed to remove a holding provision in May, 2006, granting Cobblestone permanent zoning.

Located at the corner of Yonge and Kennedy Streets, the home is in an area zoned urban residential, which permits a full range of housing forms and densities including nursing homes, homes for people with special needs, group homes and boarding and lodging homes.

The property is currently zoned third density apartment residential exception zone, which permits a retirement home or a residential care facility.

Two years ago, an application was submitted to amend the zoning bylaw to permit a boarding or rooming house and due to the failure of the town to make a decision within the 90-day period, an appeal was launched with the Ontario Municipal Board.

After considerable negotiations, council authorized its staff to attend the hearing in order to submit a temporary zoning bylaw, with the option of the applicant applying for identical zoning containing a holding provision.

The settlement was presented to, and accepted by, the OMB. The ruling also included the condition that if there were any appeals to the proposed holding zone within one year of the date of issuance, the hearing officer would re-open the hearing. No appeals have been received.

John Gaspar, a co-owner of the retirement home, said he was satisfied with the report and asked council to approve the removal of the holding provision to provide closure to the application.

He said the home had 15 residents and it could handle 16.

He said parking was not a problem as none of the residents owned a car.

No neighbours attended the meeting.

Same building, different night

Repairs to the front of Aurora's VandenBosche Jewellers were almost complete.

It was back in November when a small truck lost control on Yonge Street and slammed, backwards, into the front of the building, causing extensive damage to the structure itself.

Major renovations were necessary, said owner Jonathan VandenBosche, to the extent he has been unable to put a dollar value on the damage.

So, when his phone rang at 3 in the morning Saturday, and the police reported another vehicle had hit his building, VandenBosche was incredulous.

This time, fortunately, only a plate glass window was destroyed and a little framework, but the structure was still sound.

Whoever did it disappeared in a hurry. Police are still looking.

Apparently, according to police, the vehicle, southbound on Yonge Street, attempted to turn onto Centre and simply missed the corner.

Speed and slippery road conditions likely sent the vehicle careening onto the sidewalk and into the window, police said.

Police and VandenBosche would love to speak to anyone who may have seen the early-morning collision.

See photo page 8.

Regional budget slaps Aurora

York Regional councillors got their first glimpse at the 2004 budget last week and all the news was bad.

Unless cuts are made before the \$1.6 billion budget is adopted regional taxpayers will get hit with an eight per cent increase or \$116 on an Aurora home assessed at \$330,000.

That's just the regional budget.

It doesn't include the local municipal budget, or the cost of

education.

Budget discussions in Aurora are continuing, with the latest hike set around the 6.5 per cent mark. The increase amounts to \$53 for the average assessed home in Aurora or about \$1 per week.

The 2004 regional tax supported budget is \$521.7 million of which the region directly controls \$276 million or 53 per cent.

The remainder is for indirectly

controlled expenditures including police, GTA pooling, hospital capital, conservation authorities, GO Transit and court services.

Driving the 2004 budget increases are debt payments on capital projects, wages and benefits and purchased services, such as hydro and insurance. Total mandatory pressures amount to \$7.2 million.

Please see page 7



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

If you can sing, play a piano or tell a joke, Cliff Davies wants to hear from you. As part of the Seniors Travelling Entertainment Program (STEP) he is looking for volunteers to perform in this non-profit operation throughout York Region and Simcoe County. 905-727-2244.

Masons' Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at The Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7:30. For further information contact Bob Butler at h.butler@sympatico.ca or 905-713-3314.

Entrepreneurs. Network marketing is available in Aurora. Aurora-Business.com meets Wednesdays at 7.15 a.m. Group meets at Timberlane on Vandorf Sideroad east of Yonge. Contact Peter Rich at rich.p@mortgageintelligence.ca or 905-727-3800.

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 p.m.

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.

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

APRIL 3

Aurora Skating Club's 'Broadway On Ice' carnival. Aurora Community Centre. Two shows, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. For more information, call 905-713-1442 or visit www.auroraskating-club.com.

APRIL 5

Aurora Writers Club meets at Aurora Town Hall. 7.30 p.m. New members at all levels of writing welcome. Contact Malcolm Watts 905-898-5484.

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.

Aurora Senior School invites everyone to a Heritage Showcase, celebrating Canadian heritage at 7 p.m. at 125 Wellington St. West, Aurora. Special invitation to Royal Canadian Legion members or any past or present military person to attend the performance of "Remember", a play that depicts an interpretation of a soldier's life.

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.

Last day for artists to submit paintings to the 42nd Annual Juried Art Show and Sale. Call 905-726-4762 for further information.

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 Street.

APRIL 18

Hartwell Runners Challenge. Call 905-727-8755 to register.

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 23-24

Aurora United Church annual Spring Rummage Sale Friday from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Church is located at 15186 Yonge Street, south of Wellington, in Aurora.

APRIL 23-25

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Home Show.

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2

Annual Aurora Art Show and Sale. Aurora Town Hall.

MAY 1

Deadline for nominations for 2004 Citizen of the Year. Nomination are to be addressed to the mayor at the town hall.

JUNE 2

Civic Award celebrations at the Town Hall including presentation of the Citizen of the Year.

JUNE 4-5-6

Aurora Horse Show, Machell Park.

JUNE 6

Ninth Annual World's Longest Street Festival. Call the Aurora Chamber of Commerce office at 905-727-7262 to book a spot.

JUNE 11

Aurora Grand Prix Horse Jumping Event. Machell Park.

JUNE 12-13

Aurora Fair (horse show continues). Machell Park.

JUNE 25

Mayor's Blood Donor Clinic, Aurora Town Hall.

JUNE 30

Dance In The Park (Canada Day celebrations). 7 p.m. to midnight. Town Park.

JULY 1

Canada Day celebrations continue. Aurora Leisure Complex.

JULY 11

The Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society annual Aurora Garden Tour of eight gardens including Harry Lumsden's garden and ponds with his Trumpeter Swans. On the tour there will be opportunity to contribute to his cause of restoring the swans. Tickets available at Mary's Flower Shop.

OCTOBER 21

Plans are underway at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce for the "Celebrating Business Excellence in Aurora" Awards. Nominate the Business Person of the Year, Extraordinary Business Achievement, Innovation, New Venture and Young Entrepreneur. Call the Chamber office at 905-727-7262 for nomination forms.

Committee meeting productivity is low

The general committee meeting held last week was one of the least productive meetings in the history of the town.

It hit a new low in behaviour at the council table and a new high in personal attacks and petty bickering.

As a result after four hours of wrangling only half the meeting's agenda was dealt with, with the rest deferred.

Of the nine items on the agenda, eight were lifted for discussion and only four were handled.

Councillor Ron Wallace, committee chairman, had a

difficult time trying to maintain order and keep members on topic.

The one item approved without discussion was to authorize the Director of Planning to enter into a site plan agreement between the town and Van-Rob Realty Investments regarding the construction of an addition to the existing building, subject to resolution of all outstanding issues.

The firm is proposing a 66,305 square foot addition to the existing industrial complex located at the corner of Vandorf Road and

Engelhard Drive, the former Tetra Pak facility.

One of the issues to be resolved is a noise and vibration impact study due to the residential development on the south side of Vandorf Road.

Deferred items included a regional public meeting April 7 regarding the proposed regional centres and corridor plan; the town's strategic plan; construction of a regional watermain on Wellington Street; and a request from an Aurora resident for town support in participating in the 2004 Olympics.

Tiffany's

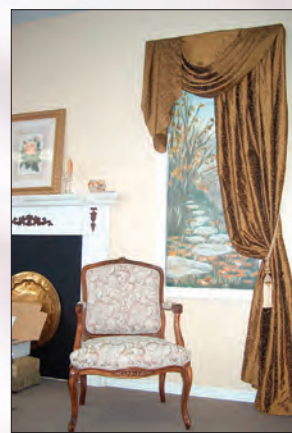
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April 17 - Male Revue "Ladies night out" "CANADA'S MOST WANTED"
April 24 - Jailbreak - Tribute to AC/DC



Sales building and a "for sale" adorn the front of a property on Yonge Street that has been vacant for more than three decades. Owner wants to construct a five-storey apartment building on the site.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Old arena property may see a 42-unit apartment

As far as the owner of a piece of Yonge Street vacant land is concerned, if something doesn't happen soon, the land will be sold.

And to prove the point, owner McGrath-Hunter Properties has already placed a "for sale" sign on the property.

At one time, back in the 60s, the land housed the Aurora Arena, prior to a fire that gutted the building.

The town's waterworks department and police station were located next door on the site of today's Park Place Manor.

Vacant for more than three decades, the property may see some action following a public planning meeting last week, where council accepted a slightly modified application for a proposed apartment building.

Both the official plan and the zoning bylaw permit a residential/commercial complex on the site with a maximum residential floor area of 97 per cent.

The zoning also permits a maximum of 30 apartment dwelling units no higher than five storeys.

McGrath-Hunter's latest application is to change the official plan and zoning bylaw to delete the limited commercial component and to increase the number of residential units from 30 to 44.

In addition, the applicant proposes a reduction in the parking standards from 1.5 spaces per unit to 1.4, which would result in the loss of four spaces.

The land is part of the Historic Core Community Commercial Centre, which incorporates council's policy of encouraging infill, consolidation and redevelopment that is compatible in design, style, scale and function with the surrounding area.

It was also pointed out that the surrounding area contained a great mix of uses with a commercial plaza to the north, a six-storey apartment and single family dwelling to the east, Park

Place Manor to the south and a mixed use of commercial and residential on the other side of Yonge Street.

The design and style of the proposed building is similar to that previously approved and while contemporary in design, staff have worked with the applicant to incorporate some elements of traditional design, with the upper floors terraced back from Yonge Street.

However to maintain the 1.5 parking space per unit it would be necessary to limit the number of units to 41.

Glenn Willems, speaking for the applicant, said the loss of three per cent commercial space was marginal and pointed out that section of Yonge Street did not have a

continuous commercial identity.

He said the marketing of the units approved in the last application did not go well resulting in the new

application.

He pointed out that parking would not be a problem.

Please see page 18

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Poor Richard

Just how gullible can a person be?

*Next Thursday is April First,
The fools come out that day;
To catch the unsuspecting,
As they go merrily on their way!*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

April Fool's Day is a tradition that's been handed down through the ages, since the 16th century, as people try to make fools out of each other on April 1st.

There are many stories as to how the tradition started. The most credible one dates back to the confusion caused by the changeover in Europe from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar in the 1500s.

When the French adopted the reformed calendar and moved New Year's Day to January 1st in 1564, many people couldn't get used to the change.

Pranksters took advantage of the confusion and paid mock visits on April 1st to make fools of their hosts.

Aurora Council and York Region have finally reached agreement on how to improve the Yonge/Wellington intersection and remove it from the top 10 dangerous intersection list.

They have cancelled the age-old plans to make a right-hand turn lane for westbound Wellington Street traffic wanting to turn north on Yonge Street.

Instead they are going to build an underpass for Wellington Street to go under Yonge Street from Victoria Street to Temperance Street with pedestrian access from the underpass to the Wellington Street businesses in the two blocks.

Due to the high cost of building the new recreational complex on Wellington Street East, council has entered into a public private partnership with a professional gambling firm to operate a casino at the site and reduce the size of the arena and swimming pool area for gaming tables and slot machines.

Along the same lines council has cancelled all property taxes and user fees for the next three years at least and will conduct the Aurora Taxpayer Benefit Lottery to raise funds to operate the town. It will be run by the Ontario Lottery Corporation in the same manner as Super 7 and Lotto 6/49.

Members of council have also signed an agreement not to bring up personal issues and to stop all bickering and nit-picking and gave promises to abide by council's Code of Ethics and the Character Community program.

At the federal level Prime Minister Paul Martin has decided not to call an early election. He has proclaimed that Canada is a free state, not bound by any constitution or charter of rights and freedoms and there is no need for an election, unless he is 100 per cent sure he can win a large majority.

He claims he has waited too long to become Prime Minister to have his term cut short by an upstart like Stephen Harper.

He arranged for Canada Steamship Lines to buy memberships in the Tory party to make sure that Belinda Stronach didn't win, as it would have been too embarrassing to go down to defeat by a young, blonde newcomer to politics.

Dalton McGuinty has decided that being Premier is not as much fun as being Leader of the Opposition and has invited Mike Harris and Ernie Eaves to return to office, on condition that he and Greg Sorbara call the shots from the sidelines.

McGuinty says with all the hanky-panky Harris and Eaves pulled while they were in office in rewarding their Tory friends with lucrative contracts and severance packages, he wants to make sure he's on the list in the event his term of office is cut short due to his broken election promises.

On the question of the timing of federal and provincial elections, Prime Minister Paul Martin, with the agreement of all the provincial Premiers, has amended the Constitution for a fixed term of office of not fewer than 20 years.

And a last minute news flash. Ron Wallace, editor of the Auroran, is starting a newspaper in Newmarket to be called the "Newmarketeer".

And if anyone believes any of the above statements, they'd buy the Brooklyn Bridge.

Remember that Thursday is the First Day of April and don't let anyone fool you, especially politicians or columnists.

ED. NOTE: You mean the Brooklyn Bridge is for sale?!!??



Twenty-five years ago, Aurora Mayor George Timpson, second from left, welcomed three Aurora councillor rookies. They were, left to right, John West, Betty Pedersen and Tim Jones. Fast forward two and a half decades. John is still on council; Tim is the mayor; Betty retired last year; and George was defeated in the last election. This installation - it was the 1979-80 council - took place at Aurora High School.

Letters to the Editor

SOYRA irked by negative view

To the editor,

We don't read much about SOYRA in the writings by Dick Illingworth and when we do read something it is a negative comment.

We never see a mention under his Bouquets, but keep an eye on the Brickbats and SOYRA'S name will pop up from time to time.

I don't believe our organization ever received a praising or encouraging word since his wife is not a member anymore.

It just about makes me think that there could be something personal behind these negative comments. But that could not be the case.

A longtime public figure in Aurora would not stoop as low as using his position as editor of a local newspaper to air some of his personal frustrations.

In the week of the March 16 edition you will find the name SOYRA mentioned again in his Brickbats. How dare the Town of Aurora print a three color application form for artists

to enter the Art Aurora Show. And on glossy paper. And an advertisement for SOYRA on it.

Had Dick done his homework before putting his pen to paper, he would have known that the cost of the application was covered through sponsorship.

As for the advertisement, a brief description about SOYRA as an associate has been mentioned for years.

It is nothing more but an acknowledgement of the hundreds of hours SOYRA members donate, assisting in the organizing of this event.

SOYRA just okayed to spend money on repairing and repainting the display easels as well as replacing the pegboards. It was badly needed.

I bet you the seniors of Aurora will appreciate the new look, when they borrow our easels for their next art show.

Dick, your comment on how the seniors did not have enough Town owned easels for their show was uncalled for, since these easels are co-owned.

SOYRA happened to be doing a fundraiser for the Aurora Public Library, an event which had to be in the works for months, therefore needed some of its own easels. All worked out well, I think.

The public coming to the Library Show were given a pamphlet, directing them to the show by the seniors.

Art lovers enjoyed the two shows just around the corner from each other.

The fundraiser turned out to be a success, thanks to the SOYRA members, who not only paid to enter this show, but also donated 25 per cent of the sales.

One SOYRA member donated a painting for a raffle. Every penny went to the Aurora Public Library and SOYRA felt darn good about it.

I guess you forgot to mention this in your column, Dick. And I guess you also forgot to mention the annual donations SOYRA makes to Southlake Regional Health Centre.

For this fall, SOYRA has rented a hall in the Aurora

Legion for a show, which again will involve a fundraiser for this hospital.

See, Dick, there are several things about SOYRA you have decided to ignore, all positive.

And you could really contribute if you could be positive with us.

Bill van Oorschot
Society Of York Region
Artists Chairperson
Aurora

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Community Newspaper"

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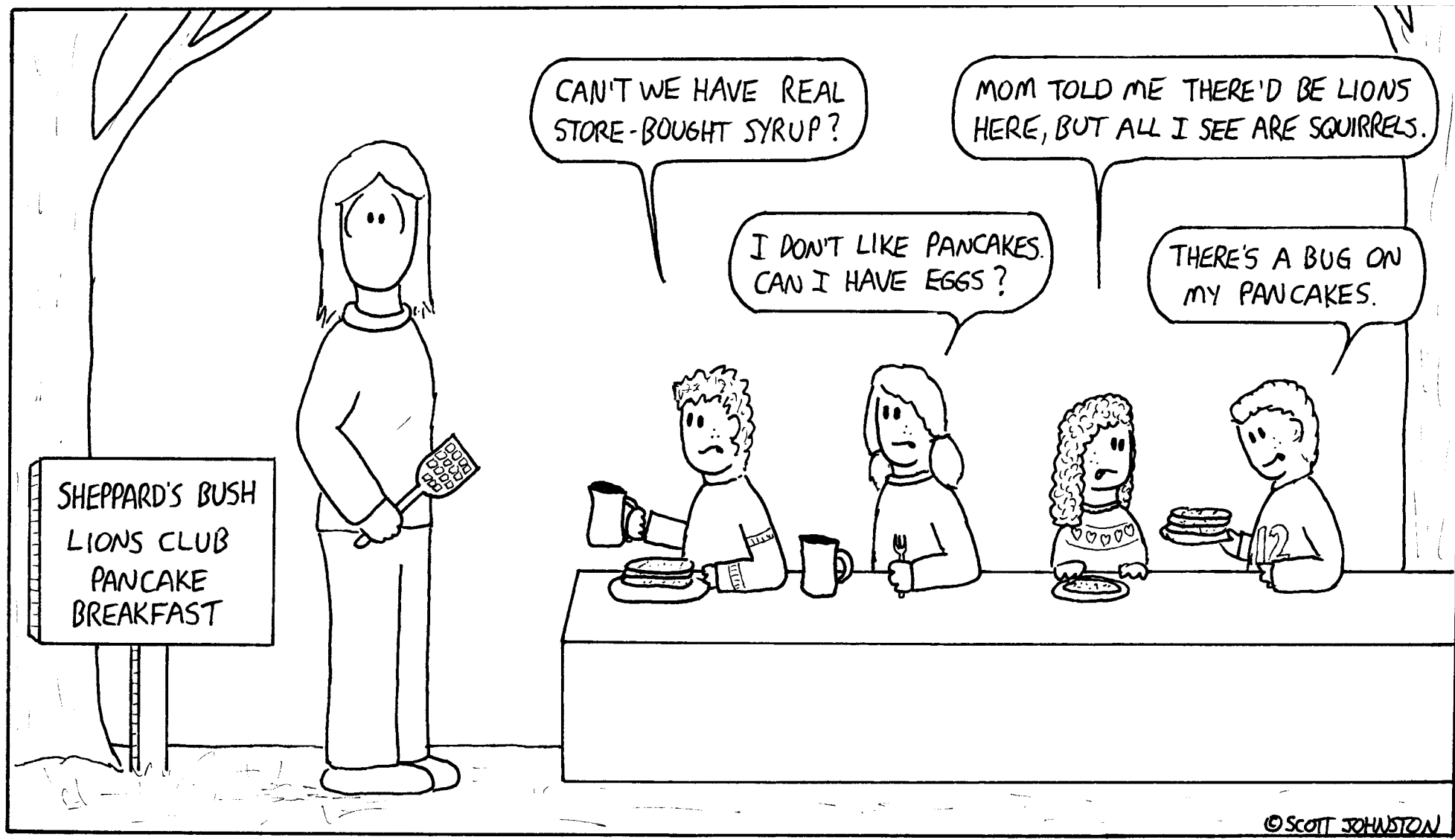
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Little Ronnie Wallace - now a whopping 60 years old as was dramatically pointed out on a huge sign last weekend in front of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce office - is in the above photo, circled, but of numerous entries to a contest two weeks ago, only one was correct. The winner is Robert Grattage of Aurora, who found the cute little boy in the front row of boys, "right behind all the girls", as one office wag described it. Robert wins a non-alcoholic dinner for two at Jonathan's Restaurant in Aurora. To those asking about the origin of the photo, it was taken on the front steps of the Pro Cathedral of the Assumption in North Bay the day these youngsters celebrated their "First Communion", circa 1950.



Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

A friend of mine sent me this piece which, after recalling some phone calls and conversations I have had recently with residents about the way Aurora used to be, made me think.

It is entitled, 'People over 40 should be dead!'

According to today's regulators and bureaucrats, those of us who were kids in the 60s, or even maybe the early 70s probably should not have survived.

1. Our baby cribs were covered with bright colored lead-based paint. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets. (Not to mention the risks we took hitchhiking.)
2. As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags. Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat.
3. We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. Horrors! We ate cupcakes, bread and butter, and drank soda pop with sugar in it, but we were never overweight because we were always outside playing. We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle, and no one actually died from this.
4. We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.
5. We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the street lights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. No cell phones. Unthinkable!
6. We did not have Play Stations, Nintendo 64, X-Boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable, video tape movies, surround sound, personal cell phones, personal computers, or Internet chat rooms. We had friends! We went outside and found them.
7. We played dodge ball, and sometimes, the ball would really hurt. We fell out of trees, got cut and broke bones and teeth, and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. They were accidents no one was to blame but us. Remember accidents?
8. We had fights and punched each other and got black and blue and learned to get over it.
9. We made up games with sticks and tennis balls and ate worms, and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes, nor did the worms live inside us forever.
10. We rode bikes or walked to a friend's home and knocked on the door, or rang the bell or just walked in and talked to them.
11. Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment.
12. Some students weren't as smart as others, so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade. Horrors! Tests were not adjusted for any reason. Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected.
13. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law.

Time to insert some levity

Imagine that!

14. This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever.

The item points out that the past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

It asks us to pass this on to others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before lawyers and government regulated our lives, for our own good.

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



No fooling...it's April First

April Fool's Day originated in the 1500s, when the Gregorian calendar was replaced by the Julian calendar.

That meant New Year's Day moved from April 1st to January 1st which made popping champagne corks on April 1st a little foolish.

Nobody knows for certain how we got from calendar confusion to perpetrating pranks, but there are several theories.

Some say it may have something to do with either the Vernal Equinox or Hilaria, the Roman end-of-winter celebration.

This is when Q-tip use is at its lowest.

Others theorize that it is related to the arrival of spring. Mother Nature is well known for tricking us into thinking winter has ended, then sneaking in two feet of snow.

Personally, I find that theory kind of chilling.

However since April Fool's Day began, it has since evolved into a day of good-natured mischief throughout the Western world.

In Scotland, an April fool is called an April "gowk", which means "cuckoo", the symbol of simpletons.

In England, a fool is called a "gob", "gawby" or "gobby".

In France, the victim of a hoax is called a "Poisson d'Avril," - an April fish, referring to a young fish, which would be one more easily caught.

One Boston teacher has been having a field day with her young fish.

For more than 20 years, she has been writing the day's lesson on the blackboard upside down every April 1st.

Of course, the hope is that the students will notice, so that the teacher can explain she did it while standing on the ceiling.

Adults may be a little harder to trick, but there's no fool like an old fool!

The year that Canada introduced the toonie, DJ's at an FM radio station in Toronto fooled listeners into believing April 1st was the last day that two-dollar bills would be

accepted.

Local banks and the Royal Canadian Mint were overwhelmed with calls!

That same year, another radio prankster had people believing the two-dollar coins had mistakenly been minted from real gold.

But if you think it is too far-fetched to believe a toddler's piggy bank could have enough in it to put him through university, listen to this one...

In 1957, Richard Dimbleby aired a "news report" on BBC's Panorama.

It opened with a line about an early spring bringing an early "spaghetti harvest" in Switzerland. Can you imagine?

With a straight face, Dimbleby explained that spaghetti's uniform length was the result of years of dedicated cultivation, and that the ravenous spaghetti weevil that had ravaged crops in the past was now under control.

He even showed a video of smiling peasant women harvesting spaghetti from trees. Does it get any better?

You bet! Hundreds of viewers jammed the BBC switchboard...most of them calling to ask such staggering questions as: Where could they go to watch the harvesting operation? And, even funnier, where could they buy spaghetti plants?

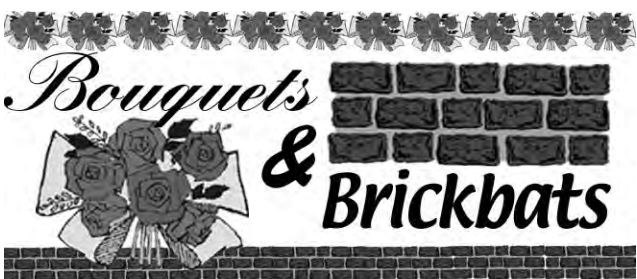
With astounding audacity, Panorama producer Michael Peacock suggested: "Many British enthusiasts have had admirable results from planting a small tin of spaghetti in tomato sauce."

Hmm...I wonder if the spaghetti trees will bloom in Aurora on April 1st.


Stranger things have happened.


I heard that Vic Priestly didn't extract all of the roots of the old water tower, and it is now beginning to grow back.


Mischief-makers are welcome to e-mail Cathy at: laughingmatters@aci.on.ca





By DICK ILLINGWORTH


 BOUQUETS to the unknown temporary employee of the town's Works Department, who stopped his truck on Industrial Parkway recently, got out and stopped the traffic in both directions so that a class of young students from Our Lady of Grace School visiting Sheppard's Bush could cross safely. The kids were so impressed they prepared a poster, which the mayor presented to the works department.


 BRICKBATS to members of Aurora Council for their ongoing outrageous behaviour at a recent general committee meeting, with petty bickering, personal attacks and general poor manners, let alone following council's Code of Ethics or setting an example as a Character Community. After four hours of wrangling, they debated four of eight items, completed three and referred another to a workshop session. It was a waste of time!


 BOUQUETS to Katie Sutton of the Aurora Skating Club on winning the prestigious Central Ontario Section Interclub competition recently. The nine-year-old skater received second place marks for her Fiesta skate and was fourth in the Baby Blues to earn a share of first place.

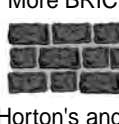
 BRICKBATS to the town's planning department for the recent report regarding an application from MI Developments requesting the closure of an east/west road south of Wellington Street to make way for the Magna Medical Clinic. The report reads as if it was written by Magna officials, not by town planning staff. Move the clinic, don't close the road!


 BOUQUETS to the York Regional police officers for having the sense to call off a high speed police chase due to the suspect's reckless behaviour and disregard for public safety on Highway 404. The suspect was later arrested and justice was served without danger to innocent people because of reckless driving by the suspect or police in pursuit.


 BRICKBATS to the York Regional Police Association and other police associations, who use tele-marketers to raise funds to lobby legislators for political purposes. Police and politics don't mix, especially if the calls are being taped, which might intimidate people.

 BOUQUETS to Karen Ewart, Deputy Clerk of the Town of Aurora, for taking pity on Poor Richard and ensuring he will receive copies of council and committee meetings in future. The previous BRICKBAT is hereby rescinded.

 BRICKBATS to those who are responsible for the littering mess back of the stores in the Hunters Gate plaza at Yonge Street and Dunning Avenue. It's a disgrace and clean-up can't wait until Litter Pick Up Day on April 24, so do it now!

 More BRICKBATS to those responsible for the littering mess at the west end of the neighbourhood shopping plaza on the north side of Wellington Street East at John West Way with the Tim Horton's and Wendy's stores.

 BOUQUETS to those in the City of Singapore for dealing with people caught littering. If caught littering three times, the convicted people have to clean the streets on a Sunday wearing a bib saying "I am a litterer". Aurora should copy!

 BOUQUETS to Lise Bolly for her letter to the Auroran suggesting that the powers at regional government try moving traffic in one direction at a time at the Yonge/Wellington intersection as Ron Wallace has been suggesting for years, but has never been tried. Your letter made his day!

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Letters to the Editor



Some 28 youngsters, aged three to 13 years, await opening of Aurora Bowl for a March break event which didn't happen, reader says below.

Would-be bowlers struck out at lanes

To the editor,

On Thursday, March 18, the Jaguar Gymnastics Club "March Break Campers" set out for their field trip to our local bowling alley, and I am writing the Auroran to let you know about our experience.

We had 28 children, aged from three to 13 years old, excited and ready to blast balls at those pins.

We set out for the bowling alley at 10.10 a.m. and arrived at 10.20 a.m. to find the doors were locked.

We had pre-booked our activity with the bowling alley for 10.30 a.m. so we waited outside in the cold.

As the minutes went by, the kids became frozen.

We waited until 10.55 a.m., then gave up and headed back with our campers, disappointed and

very upset.

Try to explain to a three-year-old that their special trip has been cancelled.

Our question would be to ask why no one showed up to open up.

Why didn't we get a phone call, at the very least, to cancel the appointment and reschedule?

There is a brighter side to this story.

We would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to the Aurora Fire Department who came to our rescue.

They took us in, with such short notice, and gave the Campers a tour as well as activity books for the children to take home.

Everett Woods
Owner
Jaguar Gymnastics

Music teachers thrill audience

To the editor,

The ORMTA.

This letter succession is NOT found in any line-dancing, pop song chorus.

We don't recognize trail hikes for the Moraine.

And we don't do massages!

The ORMTA (Ontario

Registered Music Teachers Association) is an organization that requires and promoted high standards of academic and pedagogical excellence among its teacher members.

Many members are exceptional performers in their own right; many others are studio teachers who quietly

and anonymously dedicated their energies to teaching a musical instrument, theory or composition.

This quiet professional pursuit of excellence typically goes on with little or no recognition of its members; it is the students who serve as testimony of its laudatory goal.

However, last Saturday provided a different perspective.

Our teachers came out of their self-effacing anonymity and performed for the community at Trinity Anglican Church in Aurora.

In their era of vapid pop idols, reality TV, "created" personalities, monosyllabic impact language, consumer argot, societally sanctioned self-absorption, synthetic

polyfill of trivia...I found myself totally engaged in a musical event of substance, in a language rich with nuance, in authentic and committed artistry - from Bach to Sondheim, from ponderous tuba to scintillating soprano recorder, from searing and heart-wrenching to exquisitely ridiculous, from spacious and romantic to epigrammatic and tersely contemporary.

Our teachers spoke to us. Call me old, heading down the autumnal path at the dusk of life, but I prefer ORMTA over the vast majority of available "entertainment" any day.

Wayne Irschick
Tottenham

Venturers' raffle winners

To the editor,

I am the Scout Leader for the 5th Aurora Venturers and we would like to thank the people of Aurora for their generous support received on our recent raffle campaign fundraiser.

We would like to use the Auroran to thank the community for its support and announce the winners of

our March 8th draw.

First prize, two Leaf tickets and \$100 cash, went to Ms. N. Carswell; while Chris Charette won the second prize, a Sony DVD player.

A \$50 third prize was claimed by Kelly Kinsman.

All the winners are from Aurora.

Tom McCrae
Aurora



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Winner of the "Small Business of the Year Award"
For Aurora 2003 - 2004



Enjoying opening day of a three-weekend pancake fest, Catherine Brusso tucks into a stack of Aurora Lions' pancakes at Sheppard's Bush Saturday morning. Lions will cook pancakes for the next two weekends at the bush, and have a few added attractions for the children. Easter weekend will be particularly busy with face-painting and an Easter Egg hunt planned, they say.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Convenience store planned for gas bar

The fourth of four applications to Aurora's planning meeting last week came from Suncor Energy Products, who wishes to construct a convenience retail store of approximately 893 square feet on the site of the Sunoco gas bar at Yonge Street and Orchard Heights Boulevard in the town's north end.

The applicant wants to remove the existing kiosk, provide a vacuum island and a new garbage enclosure.

A reconfiguration of the car wash stacking lane is also proposed with additional parking spaces provided.

Town staff noted the lands were zoned for the existing gas bar, car wash and the proposed convenience store and the proposal was in keeping with community commercial policies.

Staff also reported there were no objections from commenting departments and agencies.

Speaking for Suncor, Alan Holmes said the proposal included an upgrade of the gas bar and he would continue to work with staff to

resolve any outstanding issues.

There were no public members in attendance in support or opposition to the proposal.

After further discussion it was agreed to approve the application subject to the site plan coming back to council for final approval.

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Budgets bite taxpayers

From page 1
Growth and annualization pressures for regional programs will add another \$6.9 million. This includes a full year impact of new transit services, 32 additional LTC beds, debenture payments, new lane kilometres of roads and increase in solid waste costs.

If the operating budget could stop there at \$14.1 million, with a \$16.5 million increase in assessment, the public would have received a tax break, but that was not to be.

With many enhancement pressures suggested during the year including additional transit vehicle hours and routes, acceleration of road programs, increased nursing levels, West Nile program, social housing management and Ontarians with Disabilities Act implementation, the cost is \$12.2 million.

Another list of suggested enhanced programs and services totalling \$9.5 million was not included in the draft budget.

The total of \$26.3 million is for the programs directly controlled by the region or a total tax impact of \$9.8 million or an increase of 2.1 per cent.

Add to this a proposed increase in the police budget of \$26 million to \$140.9 million, \$1.6 million for court services, \$78.8 million for GTA pooling, \$11.1 million for the assessment corporation and \$3.3 million for the conservation authorities for a tax increase of 5.9 per cent, bringing the total tax increase to eight per cent.

The outlook for 2005 is almost as bad as it appears there will be an increase of 9.6 per cent on the tax levy.

The 2004 draft budget has been referred to the standing committees for review, then to the finance committee April 4.

After public consultation the final budget will be presented to council for approval on April 25.

Meanwhile, at an Aurora budget discussion last week, councillors finally agreed to hold another special meeting to discuss budget items.

After listening to presentations from the Aurora Library and the town's Chief Administrative Officer, council sitting in general committee opted to set another budget meeting, Saturday, April 17, at 9 a.m.

That followed 90 minutes of debate, often bitter and un-parliamentarian.

It was pointed out that the impact of partially funding the new recreation complex with long term debt and deferring capital projects financed by the operating budget places an undue burden on future years.

The 2005 outlook projects an increase in the net levy requirement of \$2.7 million or a 15.6 per cent increase, with the increase in 2006 of \$1.7 million or eight per cent.

When committee members began speaking, the questions and comments came fast and furious.

Councillor John West said he had several questions he wanted to ask

about the library budget, which brought a protest from Councillor Evelyn Buck.

She pointed out that West, as a member of the library board, should have asked his questions at the board meeting but he was absent when the budget was discussed.

After further questions about various aspects it was suggested a general committee meeting was not the place to discuss the budget line by line and this should be done in a special budget workshop.

Councillor Damir Vrancic

suggested some direction be given to staff as to process and possibly set a target, which brought an outburst from Buck objecting to his comments claiming the staff were professionals. That resulted in Vrancic saying Buck should act in a more appropriate manner.

Difficulty was experienced trying to find a date for the workshop but it was finally agreed to meet on the 17th with a report from staff as to the several questions and comments made during the discussion.

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Jonathan VandenBosche, left, couldn't believe it when he was told early Saturday morning yet another vehicle had slammed into the front of his VandenBosche Jewellers building. It was the second one in five months. Police believe driver failed to make the corner from Yonge to Centre Street, destroyed the window, then fled the scene. *Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

Almost an accident Davis fell into politics

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Were he still alive, life-long Aurora resident Clarence Davis would be 100 years old this year.

A former Aurora mayor, Clarence got into politics almost by accident.

He explained that in 1952 he just happened to go to a nomination meeting at the Mechanic's Hall (now the Lions Hall at Victoria and Mosley) and a number of people talked him into running.

He was nominated, ran in the election of 1952, and finished third out of six.

After three years as a councillor, the reeve's position was open for a newcomer after the incumbent reeve decided not to contest the seat.

Clarence's bid was unsuccessful but two years later he was elected reeve and held the position until 1963, when he was elected as the 103rd Warden of York County.

In 1964 he won a three-way battle for the office of mayor against Jim Murray and former Aurora Mayor Keith Nisbet.

That was the last of the one-year terms.

During the next few years, with Davis as mayor, Aurora continued to grow with Regency Acres and Aurora Heights subdivisions springing up, the approval of a new community centre, the widening of Yonge Street and the arrival of Sterling Drug.

Aurora also took time out to celebrate Canada's Centennial.

In January, 1967, Davis indicated he would seek the Progressive Conservative nomination as its candidate for York North in the coming provincial election, with the retirement of long-time Tory MPP Lex Mackenzie.

He lost the nomination to former Newmarket councillor, now Mayor, Tom Taylor.

In 1968, Davis lost his bid for re-election to young Councillor Dick Illingworth.

The difference in the hard-fought election battle was 73 votes resulting in a recount, which confirmed Illingworth's win.

Davis was active in the community in areas other than



Clarence Davis

politics.

He was a past president of the Aurora Rotary Club, a member of the Aurora volunteer fire brigade for 20 years and played the bass drum in the town band for 25 years.

The Davis family has a long history in Aurora dating back to 1776 when his first ancestor came to the area and one ancestor served on Aurora's first council.

His father, Ben, was a prominent businessman and was a village councillor in 1912.

In 1925 he went into partnership with his father to operate the family's coal and wood business, which operated at the corner of Wellington Street East and Berczy Street across from the CN station.

By 1981, now 76, he had retired from business and politics and said he was content to smoke his pipe and hoe his garden, but he still took an active interest in the affairs of the town

On March 22, 1984, friends, relatives and former colleagues came to his Wellington Street home to wish the former Aurora mayor and businessman a happy 80th birthday. It was the house he had been born in. He moved back into the family home in 1968 when his father died.

He was the eldest son in a family of four children and attended the old Church Street School and continued his education at the Wells Street School, then known as Aurora High School.

By 1985 Davis had been married to Lorraine for 47 years, having met her on a blind date arranged by his brother Arthur. They lived in several Aurora homes before

returning to the family home- stead in 1968.

One of their prized possessions was the deed to the house, which his father had purchased in 1904 from two Japanese Methodist missionaries for \$1,500. The deed was unique as it was signed in Japan.

Another was his parents' marriage certificate, which was signed by the officiating clergyman, Rev. Edwin Pearson, then minister of the Aurora Methodist Church.

He was the father of former Canadian Prime Minister Lester (Mike) Pearson

Davis could be seen daily taking his walk along Wellington Street to Yonge Street.

He walked straight and tall, shoulders thrust back, with his cane, pipe and jaunty tam-o-shanter and always with a friendly smile. He became known as the Mayor of Wellington Street.

Davis died August 11, 1994, and was buried in the Aurora Cemetery with a fire-fighter guard of honour.

The service was held in the Aurora United Church where he had married Lorraine 56 years before and his parents had been married years before.

He was predeceased by his wife, Lorraine, who died the previous February.

His death ended an era in Aurora and part of Aurora's history was lost forever.

Hey, we had our very own scandal: Well, not quite...

With all the political scandals hitting the news these days from the sponsorship boondoggle in Ottawa to the Hydro One use of public funds to reward Tory friends including former Premier Mike Harris, questions were asked about any scandals in Aurora.

An exhaustive search of the records reveals what amounted to a political scandal in Aurora back in October, 1971.

It all started with a brief item in the Main Street supplement of the Toronto Star about a chat with Aurora Councillor Illtyd Harris by Newmarket writer Ivan Prokopchuk about Harris' experiences as a councillor.

According to the report, Harris is quoted as saying that sometimes developers, in small ways, tried to bribe him.

He also talked about calls from teenagers in jail for whom he frequently acted as an ombudsman and about a woman who burst into a council meeting to produce an ochre-coloured brassiere washed in Aurora's rusty water.

It was the mention of bribe in the newspaper that created the possibility of a scandal. At the council meeting a member questioned Harris about it and said if any bribe had been offered, it should have been made known.

Harris denied that developers had tried to bribe him and that council was blowing the subject out of proportion. After reading the article, Harris issued a statement claiming he had been misquoted and at no time had the word bribe been used.

He added that, as chair-

man of the planning committee, he had taken the writer on a tour of the town and that during the tour some comments had been made off the cuff but that he had never used bribe during the interview.

Previously at a council meeting an agent for a developer snapped at Harris during a debate that he didn't know whose pocket Harris was in, to

which Harris responded that he wouldn't even accept a cup of coffee from a developer.

On a trip to a Burlington subdivision courtesy of Wimpey Homes, Harris insisted on paying for his own meal and while Wimpey officials were reluctant, they finally agreed to his request.

That was Aurora's most noted political scandal.

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Tigers rebound to knot series

So, maybe it was just a hiccup. A brief letdown. Meeting a team with some hockey ability.

Who knows, but whatever it was, it seems to be over now.

The Aurora Tigers suddenly found themselves in a strange position last week, trailing the Oakville Blades two games to none in this latest round of playoffs.

Even during the regular season, the Tigers - billed the "chosen team" this year - didn't lose two games in a row, and until they met up with Oakville, had eliminated three other teams in playoff rounds 12 wins to zip.

Things had to turn around for Aurora Friday night, when the squad was back in town. Winning was

paramount, and with the help of a sold out Aurora Community Centre crowd, that's exactly what they did.

They handed Oakville a 3-0 game, then went back to Oakville's Streetsville rink location Sunday, and pasted the hometowners 7-2.

That victory put Aurora in a best of three series, with the fifth game played here Tuesday night, but results weren't available at press time.

The sixth game is slated for Streetsville Friday, and a seventh game, if it is necessary, will be played in Aurora Sunday afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

If it comes to that, you might want to start looking for parking spaces Saturday night.

Friday, the last thing the

Tigers wanted to do was trail Oakville by three games.

The only way they could stop this was to bring their "A" game, stay disciplined and capitalize on any opportunities they could get.

Chris Whitley, in goal, was a major part of that as he recorded the shutout.

In front of a capacity crowd, the Tigers came out with a vengeance.

The challenge was to get on the scoreboard first and force the Blades to come after them.

Matt Bahen provided just that when he opened the scoring near the mid way point of the period as Aurora dominated most of the period outshooting Oakville 17-11.

But if they were expecting a barrage of goals, it didn't happen that way as Oakville's goaltender Dan Giffen came up with some exceptional stops in the second period to keep the game close.

Experience showed the Tigers the Blades' third period was by far their best as they managed to score a number of goals throughout the playoff's in the final 20 minutes.

Aurora knew they would have to shut them down and the best way to do that would be to add to their lead.

Both teams went back and forth with the Tigers having the better scoring opportunities.

Jesse Olden was the hero late in the period when he provided the insurance Aurora needed.

Sean Scully would add an empty net goal with under a minute to play to secure the win and allow the Tigers back into the series.

Heading back to Oakville's Streetsville location for a supertime game Sunday, Aurora needed to ring Oakville's bell, and ring it they did.

Playing a smart, disciplined game against the Blades is the key to success and Aurora certainly knows how to play that style of game.

Whitley and Giffen were back in goal for their respective teams. But it was Oakville penalties that spelled doom for the series leaders, and the Tigers took every advantage they could.

Six of Aurora's seven goals were scored on the power play, and the seventh, remarkably, was a short-handed marker.

Aurora went two up in the first period on goals by Joel Kitchen and Michael Kostka before Oakville managed to narrow the lead.

Tigers dominated the frame, outshooting their hosts 17-11.

The second period was all Aurora as the Blades ran into some major penalty problems.

Sean Scully picked up the only penalty against the Tigers during the period, but it would be Alex Lalonde scoring a short handed goal to increase the Aurora lead to 3-1.

Oakville would close the gap to 3-2 just after the halfway point of the period, but that was it for the Blades as Aurora stormed back with two more power play goals.

Matt Bahen's goal set up by Jordan Brenner and Michael Kostka extended the Tiger lead to 4-2 before Kostka would add his second power play goal of the game giving Aurora a convincing 5-2 lead after two periods of play.

In this frame, Aurora over-

whelmed Oakville, outshooting them 23-6.

The third period witnessed a steady stream of Oakville players heading to the penalty box, allowing Aurora to capitalize twice more, with the first coming from Scully and Kitchen would end the scoring with his second power play goal of the night.

Results of Game 5 Tuesday were not available at press time and Game 6 is slated for Streetsville Friday night at 7.30 p.m.

If a seventh game is required it will be played in Aurora Sunday afternoon beginning at 2.30 p.m.

Pronosticators, however, believe Aurora will take the series in six games.



Action was fast and furious Friday night at the Aurora Community Centre, as the Junior A Tigers battled to a 3-0 victory over the Oakville Blades before a sell-out crowd, top photo. Below, Aurora's Matt Bahen (21) raises his stick to celebrate his team's first goal in the opening period. Bahen would add an assist to Sean Scully's empty-netter late in the game. Tigers met Oakville Sunday and came away with an impressive 7-2 victory.

Photos by Barry Bridgeford

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Master Ducks finish second in Provincials

Second best in the province.

Not bad considering competition came from 600 challengers representing 72 swim clubs.

But it's becoming routine for Aurora's Master Ducks to enter these competitions and come away with a truck load of marbles.

This event was the Ontario Provincial Masters Swimming Championships held last weekend at the Etobicoke Olympium.

The Ducks sent their largest contingent ever - 40 swimmers - and amassed a total of 2,612 points to attain their second place finish, losing only to host Etobicoke.

And maybe Aurora would have finished first if Aurora resident Yvonne Catrall didn't swim for the Etobicoke team.

A member of the Etobicoke team since 1978, Yvonne told the Auroran scheduling makes it impossible for her to join the Master Ducks.

"They're practicing when I'm teaching," she said.

That would be Aurora's loss, considering Yvonne racked up five gold medals and broke four provincial records in the 55 to 59 category to lead her club to victory.

Catrall is now the holder of six provincial records.

To put the point total in perspective, the Newmarket Stingrays scored 120 points; the Newmarket Masters, 244 points; and the Richmond Hill Masters 84 points.

As is becoming tradition, Wendy Duck led the Aurora squad winning five gold medals, while Dave Wilkin registered six silvers.

Other gold medal winners included Susan Allen, Simon Meredith, Eric Gordon, and Dave Derry.

Silver medal winners, besides Wilkin and Meredith, were Lori Haws, Jim Talbot, Frank Sodonis, Wendy Punchard, Taina Sodonis, and Andrea Sodonis.

A total of 75 per cent of the Aurora swimmers placed at least once in the top 10.

Salzburg Café was more than a restaurant

Aurora music lovers of Mozart and string quartets thought they had gone to heaven in 1995 as the Emperor String Quartet returned to the Salzburg Cafe for the 5th annual Mozart Festival.

Many patrons had attended all five festivals and it was like a family party as tables competed against each other to answer the questions about the music posed by the leader of the quartet.

Until 1990 the Emperor String Quartet had remained in the background as the Orford String Quartet held the top spot in the Toronto area but after 25 years Orford retired and the Emperor String Quartet came into its own.

It was in 1990 when the quartet made its first appearance at the Salzburg Café and it was such a hit that it was repeated every November, featuring the best in classical music in an informal setting.

Music lovers had a choice of three entrees including a half pheasant with red cabbage and rice, smoked salmon with a dill sauce and wild game goulash, and roast veal with vegetables and parsley potatoes, plus a choice of desserts.

Seating at the Salzburg was quite limited and reservations for the festival were

necessary. Regular patrons made their reservation for the next festival before they left the current one.

Aurora's Salzburg Café located on Yonge Street and now occupied by Tom and Jerry's, was a restaurant that was out of the ordinary due to its Austrian cuisine and special events.

New look in grocery stores

The community is a-buzz over Chefs & Grocers, a new retail grocery store opened in the former Goodwill building on Yonge Street between Murray and Dunning.

What is it? Well, first of all, it is, in fact, a grocery store, much like other major grocery stores in Aurora, but it goes a step beyond merely grocery shopping.

The store has a kitchen where homemade meals are prepared on a daily



The winners

Novice hockey team wins big tournament

The Aurora Cable Internet Novice hockey team pulled out all the stops recently as they captured the prestigious Newmarket tournament, going undefeated in three games.

The 38th annual house league tournament saw the ACI team as the only Aurora squad to advance into the playdowns.

Aurora got there by defeating Newmarket 5-3 in the opening game, led by the solid goaltending of Jesse Campoli.

But the game was not without its drama.

Rachel Andrews, one of only two girls on the club, was taken to hospital following the contest to have her appendix removed, forcing her out of further action.

A get-well card from the rest of the club lifted her spirits, and her father, Brad Andrews, who is the assistant coach and trainer of the team, reports Rachel is "doing well".

In the second game, Aurora combined teamwork with sportsmanship to convincingly defeat a club from East Gwillimbury, and earn the right to the championship round.

Trying to keep a cap on the team's jitters, coach Bryan Black settled things down.

"Winning isn't everything, but wanting to, is," he said. "Work hard and play fair, and above all else, the main thing is to go out on the ice as a team and have fun."

It must have worked. The young squad of eight-year-olds came from behind a first period deficit to defeat Whitby 8-1.

Led by the five-goal outburst of Hayden Trask, who was also named most valuable player and first star of the game, Aurora got goals from Scott Wheeler, Dylan Sutton and Eric Bulloch.

Setting things up were Daniel Bunder, Hayley Black, Luke Pizzuro, Mathew Roach and Andrew Boehmer.

In spite of playing scoreless hockey for the first 13 minutes, it took Aurora only seconds to bounce back from the one-goal Whitby lead and put the game out of reach.

Hayley Black, the other girl on the team, was awarded the Heart Trophy, given to the player who "demonstrates dedication, sportsmanship and playing with heart".

choice is limited.

"You can find home made meals at any time," he said. "And all of them are packaged to go."

The new store, which held a soft opening last week, is scheduling a grand opening in the near future.

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Skating Club boasts long carnival history

This Saturday, the Aurora Skating Club will host its carnival, a two-show event the group produces every two years.

The club has a lengthy history in Aurora and over the years has helped many young skaters gain a love for gliding along on their blades, alone or with others.

In April, 1968, as the finale to the season the Club presented the "Wizard of Oz" to a capacity crowd at the newly opened Community Centre.

The production attracted more people to see it than any other event at the centre and officials are hoping for the same response next week.

The 1970 production was "Brigadoon" and one of the highlights was TV weatherman Dave Devall, then an Aurora resident, on skates

as the Master of Ceremonies.

In addition to the production the club produced many award-winning skaters in club, inter-club and other competitions.

In March, 1971, in a club competition Ann Stuart won the free skating division, Susan Currie placed first in the senior ladies division with Jody Coulter second and Laural and Stacy Delahaye won the junior bronze medal dance competition.

In December, 1974, two Aurora skaters, Danny Sorley and Wendy Birch, skated their way to a bronze medal finish in the pre-novice dance event in the Central Ontario Sectional Championships held in Markham.

Aurora skaters continued their winning ways in February, 1975, in a Newmarket competition

with Carol Isaacson taking a first in the silver interpretive, Alexis Small, a first in the pre-juvenile B division and Laura Wright and Alexis Small, the preliminary dance.

Other winners were Fiona and Karen Larsen, second in the bronze dance with Mary Cook and Kim Billings in third place, and Marianne Macfarlane, third in the juvenile ladies.

In April, 1976, the club presented "Carnival 76" combining a "Hans Christian Andersen" theme and a touch of "Nostalgia" to produce a show that many said was the best ever.

It was the first year the club presented three performances.

In November that year the Aurora Figure Skating Club was selected as the site of the Central Ontario Sectional Figure Skating

Championships to be held in December.

Aurora was invaded by more than 200 skaters, their families and friends for the three-day competition.

The hometown audience was thrilled when Aurora's Danny Sorley and Wendy Birch came from behind to take first place as the top novice dance pair. Noted Canadian skater Bruce Hyland presented them with the Hyland Trophy.

The dance pair went on to take an outstanding sixth-place finish in February, 1978, in the Canadian Figure Skating Championships held in Victoria, B. C. and in February, 1979, came second in the novice dance division of the national competition held in Thunder Bay.

More than 250 club members took to the ice in April,

1980, when the annual ice show was held at the community centre. The show was divided into two themes.

The first half featured the junior members of the club with the theme "Children's Favourites" with such acts as Sesame Street, Charlie Brown and some Walt Disney favourites.

The second half, with senior members, presented "The Musicmakers - Then and Now" featuring music of the Beatles, John Denver and Elvis Presley. The Church Dodgers hockey team performed as a special comedy act.

In December, 1981, the club introduced its first "Winter Magic" mid-season production to the community centre with more than 200 skaters in the pre-Christmas show.

The performance featured Rudolph the Red Nosed

Reindeer, Santa Claus, the Snow Queen and a host of winter and Christmas numbers.

A historic moment for the Aurora Figure Skating Club was recorded in March, 1982, when Kristi Elming, a Grade 11 student at Aurora High School, became the first Aurora skater to pass the C.F.S.A. Gold Free Skate Test.

Obtaining the award usually takes about 10 years but Kristi did it in seven.

There have been other productions and other awards and the members of the Aurora Figure Skating Club can be proud of their achievements over the years.

This year's carnival is slated for the Aurora Community Centre this Saturday, April 3, with performances at 1 and 7 p.m.

Call 905-713-1442 for further information.

Soccer sports bubble looks more promising

The 2,700 families and the 3,500 players of the Aurora Youth Soccer Club may eventually be able to play year-round if the latest attempt by club officials to obtain an air-supported air bubble over an existing soccer field is successful.

Club president Ron Weese appeared before Aurora's general committee last week to support a town initiative to construct an indoor sports facility on the field behind the Aurora Legion.

Weese said such a facility would not only provide a

longer season for the Youth Soccer club, but would be available to other sports organizations and he asked councillors for support.

He pointed out that staff and club officials have been negotiating with two private sector groups interested in constructing the facility and the club could work with either of them.

He expressed concerns about the recent proposal to include the soccer bubble on the Burnett lands, the site of the new recreational complex, due to the delay and the soccer club

did not want to compete with other sporting groups for space.

Weese added the Legion site was ideal as it was close to the Leisure Complex, there was plenty of parking and it is a known soccer area.

Weese said the soccer club would be the prime tenant in an agreement with the town.

Committee members referred his presentation to staff for a report as to the current status of the Legion field project.

The rapid growth of the

Aurora Youth Soccer Club has created problems for Aurora Council dating back to October, 2000.

At the time the club was working on a project that would see a bubble rise on a site in Sheppard's Bush scheduled to open in the fall of 2001.

Town staff and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority officials identified a spot on the flat land by the Industrial Parkway, which would require an application to the Committee of Adjustment

for a minor variance, which council supported.

The Committee of Adjustment hearing was held in September, 2000, and in spite of objections from neighbouring residents the committee granted the severance for the bubble to enclose an existing soccer field.

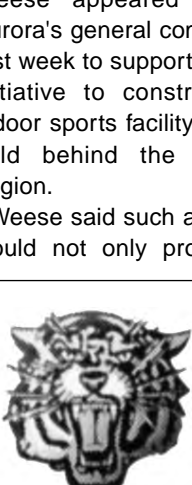
Neighbouring residents appealed the decision to the Ontario Municipal Board, on the basis of increased traffic, noise, lighting, the negative impact on wildlife and the fact that Mr. Sheppard had

donated the parkland for all citizens of Aurora, not one sporting group.

The Ontario Municipal Board held a one-day hearing in January, 2001, with the hearing officer dismissing the residents' appeal and granting the severance.

Although the variance was granted the site plan was put on hold at the club's request due to the loss of the private sector funding.

It now appears as if the soccer bubble is back on the rails and club officials are hopeful this time they will be more successful.



House League League Games

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House League Playoff Games

601 D-MAC FURNITURE 2: Mark Jenkins 1G, Adrian Clark 1G, David Yates 1A. **608 SPITFIRES 2:** Jamie Russell 2G.

606 SKATERS FIRST 2: Mashall McQuillan 1G, Andrew Wilkins 1G. **602 OMAR'S SHOES 0.**

605 FRESH WATER INDUSTRIES BOTTLED WATER 6: Jonathan Comeau 2G, Jay Finch 2G 1A, Christian Hastings 1G, Geoffrey Knaack 1G, Derek Isodoro 1A, Andrew Storms 1A, Eric Beveridge 1A. **603 CHOUNARD BROS. ROOFING 2:** Braun Hause 1G, Jayson Nadeau 1G, Mike Hay 1A.

606 SKATERS FIRST 5: Andrew Wilkins 2G 2A, Daniel Sacchetti 1G 1A, Marshall McQuillan 1G, Jacob Peart 1G, Michael

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Atom A 2 Monroe County Storm 2
Denis Casey 1G, Josh Beaton 1G, Danny McConnell 1A, Brandon Pedersen 1A, Kamran Karamchi 1A, Tristan Miller 1A.

Atom A 5 Pocono Pirates 5
Danny McConnell 1G, Tyler Jensen 1G, Josh Beaton 1G 1A, Matthew Miller 2G 1A, Brandon Pedersen 1A, Ryan Antoniel 1A, Michael Bar 1A, Denis Casey 1A, Tristan Miller 1A.

Atom A 5 Brockport Tri-County Eagles 1
Josh Beaton 4G, Brandon Pedersen 1G 1A, Michael Bar 1A, Danny McConnell 2A, Ryan Antoniel 1A, Blair Cuthbert 1A, Tristan Miller 2A.

Shoesmoth 1A. **601 D-MAC FURNITURE 2:** Zach Roitner 1G, Adrian Clark 1G, Steven Foss 1A.

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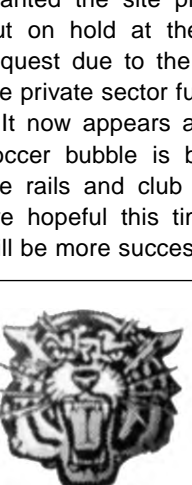
Peewee A 4 Rochester Americans 3
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 7 p.m. - Seven days a week
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assorted 1kg bag

Pepsi Products
6 - 710ml

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*Boneless Skinless
Roaster Size*

3.99 8.80 kg



McCain
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POCKETS
Baked and Tasty

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Pockets
Assorted

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Sealtest 1L

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Drum Stick or Thighs 218 kg

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Mushrooms
Pieces and Stems 228 ml

.59 ea.




Admiral
Tuna
Flaked & Light

.59 ea.

McCain
Cake
Deep and Delicious 510 g

2.39 ea.



RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Visiting library service assisted shut-ins

Back in 1976 the Aurora Library organized a visiting library service provided by volunteers, designed to ensure that all members of the community had access to various materials and services offered by the library.

The aim of the visiting program was to bring the library to seniors, handicapped, persons recovering at home from an illness or accident and others unable, for one reason or another, to visit the library.

Shut-ins registered for the service by calling the library. The applicant's name and phone number were given to a volunteer to determine wants and needs so a book selection could be made and delivered.

About the only requirement to register was a doctor's certificate indicating the current health state of the person who required this type of service.

By August, 1987, the service was well used, but not much has been heard of it since.

BEWARE OF CONDOMINIUMS

Condominium units are quite commonplace but back in June, 1975, they were relatively unknown in Aurora and according to Councillor Ron Simmons, they were fraught with many problems.

He warned fellow councillors to be careful.

Council had received an application for a 110-unit town house condominium plan for the Springburn West subdivision, immediately west of the Aurora Shopping Centre, to be developed by Alan Cossar.

The plan had been in and out of council since 1971 and council approved the latest application in principle in spite of the dire warnings from Simmons and referred it

to the planning committee to work out a site plan.

Under the condominium plan, homeowners would be required to sign a contract to pay for maintenance services including road snow removal.

Simmons warned that council could find that the maintenance of the subdivision could fall back on the municipality, as had happened in other areas.

The original Cossar plan included 180 apartment units, but these were deleted from the plan submitted to council, which reduced the density from 35 to 12.5 units per acre.

RED HOUSE SITE APPLICATIONS

Today the historic Red House located on Yonge Street south of the St. John's Sideroad has been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act and has been restored as the fashionable Oakland Hall Restaurant and the Red House Studio Lounge.

Back in September, 1990, Aurora Council voted to refer an application to build a six-storey condominium on the site to the planning advisory committee, citing concerns about high density and affordability.

The proposed building would be L-shaped, red brick, set back from Yonge Street and the historic Red House would be retained.

It was planned that the units would sell for around \$200,000 depending on the market.

There were concerns the high density would set a precedent for other developments in the area and also a planned underground parking lot exiting on Old Yonge Street was considered dangerous.

from regional approval of the official plan amendment, which, if granted, would make the town the approving authority.

Sam Stein, representing the applicant, said he had contacted the region and they did not see a problem.

He requested the public meeting be adjourned to next week's council meeting, which would allow time for the region to submit its comments and for staff to prepare the enacting bylaw.

There were no members of the public in attendance to support or oppose the application.

Council appeared willing to agree to the postponement until it learned that if the region did not agree, it would then be up to the town to decide.

Mayor Tim Jones said he had no concerns with the application but Councillor Damir Vrancic said it was premature and council should wait until comments were received from the region.

Concern was also expressed that the next council meeting could be a long one. so councillors agreed to adjourn the issue until the next public planning meeting scheduled for late April.

GYPSY MOTH INVADED AURORA

Today the battle is with the Asian longhorned beetle, which is attacking and killing mature trees and causing the destruction of many others.

For York Region the main area of infestation is the Highway 407 area in the City of Vaughan.

Back in May, 1991, it was the gypsy moth and Aurora's attractive Case Woodlot on Henderson Drive came under attack.

In the caterpillar stage, the insect eats the leaves of oak, poplar and birch trees.

While healthy trees could survive one or two years of defoliation, it weakened the trees and made them more susceptible to disease and insects.

By September, 1991, the region was invaded by the moths.

Forestry officials estimated that 11,633 acres of woodlands had suffered moderate to severe leaf loss.

Luckily major damage in Aurora was avoided, although King, East Gwillimbury and Richmond Hill were badly hit.

Hopefully the town will be as lucky with the longhorned beetle.

Magna proposal delayed a month

M I (M a g n a I n t e r n a t i o n a l) Developments submitted an application to an Aurora planning meeting last week to amend the official plan in order to delete a portion of an east/west collector road located south of Wellington Street on the Magna property.

Their efforts were in vain as councillors put the issue over until more information is made available to them.

According to information received from a traffic consultant the road serves no useful purpose and is not required.

It happens to be located on the site proposed for the Magna Medical Centre, which is currently going through the approval stages.

While the town's works department has stated it has no concerns with the application, it was suggested that if the deletion of a portion of the east/west collector was approved, there should be a designated road link with Bayview Avenue.

Staff pointed out that the town has not yet received comments from the region and Magna indicated it will be requesting an exemption

Apartment proposed for rink site

From page 3

as the site was close to three municipal parking lots, on-street parking was available, GO and Regional bus tops were close by and the GO train station was within walking distance, so some residents wouldn't need cars.

Councillor Ron Wallace asked why the "for sale" sign was on the property and was told McGrath-Hunter was keeping all options open after five years of sitting on the property.

Councillor Damir Vrancic expressed concern about the reduction in parking spaces and asked if the application could be changed to 41 units. McGrath replied that for good design planning it was necessary to work with even numbers and that he could live with 42 units.

During the public portion of the meeting Bruce Ewart, owner of the single family residence on Gurnett Street

to the east expressed concern about the additional traffic congestion of the area if the development proceeded. He had expressed concerns about the previous proposal resulting in the OMB hearing.

He pointed out that due to the heavy traffic on Yonge Street, Gurnett Street, which was a residential street, was being used as an alternative to Yonge. He added that it was doubtful if the apartment residents

would walk to the train station or take the Yonge Street bus.

Mike Evans, owner of a property across Yonge Street, stressed the need to take action to approve development of the property.

Vrancic pointed out the benefits of infilling and recommended approval for 42 units, plus the other conditions listed in the staff report.

Approval was finally given

for a five-storey residential building containing 42 units.



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