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Vol. 4 No. 26

Week of April 20, 2004

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Do you qualify for these awards?

Julie Geering has more awards to give out than she has nominations for them.

And that's not the way it's supposed to work.

With a deadline of this Friday, April 23, only four nominations have been received for eight available awards.

It's all part of the Community Recognition Awards and recipients will be honoured June 2.

Geering, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora, said she sent packages to all service, cultural and sports groups back in February, but only four nominations surfaced.

If you know someone who has

won a championship, volunteered, or made a significant contribution to our community, it's a simple procedure to have that person or group nominated.

Pick up a nomination package at the Town Hall or the Leisure Complex and fill it in.

The eight categories include Citizen of the Year Award; Bob Harman Memorial Award; Johnson's Cultural Achievement Award; Civic Appreciation Awards; Outstanding Achievement Awards; Volunteer Service Awards; Youth Volunteer Service Awards; and Community Organization Awards.

Recreation complex costs keep on rising

While the project still lives, concern is mounting over the costs associated with Aurora's proposed recreation complex.

Construction on a double ice rink and an eight-lane swimming pool is expected to begin this year, with ice pads ready for the start of the 2005 hockey season.

Aurora Council has known for some time there was a need for additional recreational facilities due to the town's growing population.

Dating back to March, 2000, when land was purchased on Leslie Street for such facilities, council has proceeded with plans to meet the need without full consideration of the costs and the impact on taxpayers.

When that property was acquired for \$4.2 million, then Treasurer Barb Cribbett warned Aurora didn't have the funds for future capital projects, without increasing taxes by two per cent a year for 10 years to cover the

\$5.3 million cost of implementing the master plan.

In April, 2003, council approved a revised Leisure Service 10-year facility forecast, which listed a youth centre, a pool, two ice pads and two playgrounds for 2004 at an estimated cost of \$4.8 million for the pool and \$10.1 million for the ice pads.

Then in June last year, the town acquired 32 acres of property on Wellington Street East for \$4.8 million in addition to the estimated cost of \$15 million to build the recreational complex.

The required funding was to come from the tax rate stabilization fund, municipal capital reserve, development charges, cash-in-lieu of parkland and temporary financing of \$2.1 million from the water/sewer reserves.

Council hired a project manager and an architectural firm. By this time the estimated cost of

Please see page 14

So, you decide...

Aurora needs:

**A twin ice pad
An 8-lane pool
Both
Neither**



Send or fax your answer to the Auroran, 75 Mary Street, Aurora, L4G 1G3 or 905-727-2620 (fax).



A portion of the nearly 650 runners entered into the Third Annual Bob Hartwell Challenge Sunday heads out of the starting blocks at Aurora's Town Park. Less than ideal weather conditions were taken in stride by the competitors who made their way around a 13-kilometre course that wound up back at the Town Park.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Runners battle elements in 3rd Hartwell Challenge

It was one hail of a day for nearly 650 runners in Aurora Sunday.

But the third annual Bob Hartwell Challenge got off the mark on time and, as usual, in good order.

While the temperatures were cool - runners like that - the competitors were faced with fog, much the same as the day that started this event two years ago.

But persistent rain, and then hail, made the weather conditions less than ideal throughout the day.

By the time the weather broke,

the event was over.

"I really felt for the volunteers," said David Pearson, one of the officials in charge of the event. "That kind of weather is okay for the runners, but the volunteers freeze."

Other than the weather, though, the event was billed a huge success, as the three sections of the challenge - the half marathon, the relay and the 5K run - got off on time.

A total of 638 runners participated in the Challenge, which started and finished at Aurora's

Town Park.

"That's either equal to or more than last year," he said.

Complete results may be found at www.hartwellchallenge.com.

"What really surprised us," Pearson said, "was the number of local entries."

While one runner was from England, the bulk of runners hailed from Toronto, York Region or Simcoe County.

Many were from Aurora, including 14-year-old Stephanie Smith, who finished third in the 5K race, an event she won last year.

The little plant that grew about to close its doors

Aurora's Bon L plant, an aluminum extrusions company employing 110 people, will close its doors early next year.

The announcement was made last week by Tedegar Corporation in Richmond, Virginia.

Closing date has been set at January 31, 2005.

The William L. Bonnell aluminum extrusions subsidiary of Tedegar plans to move the plant's largest press to the company's facility in Pickering and invest

approximately \$8 million to upgrade the press and enlarge the facility, a press release from the plant's headquarters said. The company said it would offer severance to eligible employees.

"We regret the impact this decision will have on our employees in Aurora," Albert Butler, Bonnell president, said. "However, we're continuing to experience excess capacity and pricing pressure from domestic and foreign competitors."

Please see page 11

IF...

If the Aurora Tigers defeated the St. Michael's Buzzers Monday night, they compete in the Dudley-Hewitt Tournament in North Bay next week.

If they lost, the seventh game will be played Thursday night at the Elgin Barrow Arena in Richmond Hill. Game time is 7.30 p.m.

Because results weren't available at our press time, you can find out by visiting www.auroraonline.com for the Monday score.

For results of earlier games, please see Page 9, Section 1.

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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

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.

Queen Elizabeth Dinner Theatre at the Howard Johnson Aurora presents "Sylvia", a modern romantic comedy about a marriage and a dog April 24, 30, May 1 and 9. Call 905-727-1312 for reservations.

APRIL 23

Deadline for nominations for the Town of Aurora Civic Awards. Pick up a nomination package at the Town Hall or call 905-726-4762 to have one mailed to you.

APRIL 23/24

Aurora Opera Company Show for Seniors at 11 a.m. Friday. At 7 p.m. the children's operetta "HMS Pinafore" featuring youngsters from 5 to 13, will be presented, followed by the teenagers' youth operetta "Orpheus and Euridice" and repeated Saturday at 2 p.m. At 7 p.m. Saturday the adult company presents "Mad About Musicals". Call 905-953-5122 for further information on all productions.

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.

Children's art show. Aurora Library, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

APRIL 23-25

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Home Show.

APRIL 24

Join the anti-litter team and help keep Aurora clean by participating in the kick-off of the Anti-Litter Program with a barbeque at the Town Park from 4 to 6 p.m. Other pick-up dates are May 29, June 26 and September 25. For further information call the Mayor's office at 905-727-4741.

APRIL 25

Volunteers needed to help organize the Alzheimer Society of York Region Euchre Tournament from 1 to 4 p.m. Call the Aurora Volunteer Centre at 905-727-3123 extension 4103 for details.

APRIL 27 & 29

Aurora Grove Public School, 415 Stone Road, presents the musical Annie at 7.30 p.m. in the school gym. Tickets \$5 at the door.

APRIL 29, 30, MAY 1

Pine Tree Potters' Spring Pottery Sale at the St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club, 368 St. John's Sideroad. For further information, call (905) 727-1278 or (905) 727-3495.

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. Nominations are to be addressed to the mayor at the town hall.

MAY 2

Aurora Historical Society 90-minute walking tour "From Collins' Hill to Nob Hill" starting at 2 p.m. from the York Region District School Board parking lot on Wellington Street West. No charge. Call 905-

727-8991 for details.

MAY 4

"Mishaps and Mayhem of Canoe Trip Planning" is the subject of a workshop presented by the author of eight canoeing guides, Kevin Callan, at the Aurora Public Library. Seating is limited. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk. 905-727-9493. 7-9 p.m. Lebovic Room.

MAY 5

Genealogy workshop at the Aurora Public Library with J. Brian Gilchrist will instruct on researching family history from a variety of resources. Seating is limited. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk. 905-727-9493. 7-9 p.m. Magna Room.

MAY 6

York Young Singles Network, a social group for singles ages 20-30, meets at 8 p.m. at the Filly and Firkin, Yonge at Golf Links Drive. To RSVP, go to <http://yysn.cjb.net> or call 905-868-8793.

MAY 8

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society annual plant sale, Aurora Public Library, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Vendors on site.

MAY 15

Charity barbecue 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in front of M & M Meat Shops, Yonge Street. Music and entertainment. Proceeds to the Cohns & Colitis Foundation of Canada.

MAY 19

Aurora Public Library, in association with Aurora Cable Internet, presents free seminar on hub/switch based options at 7 p.m. in the Lebovic Room at the library. To reserve, call 905-727-9494 or log on www.aci.on.ca.

MAY 29

"Spring Fling for the Arts". Aurora Grove Public School's third annual Fun Fair from 11a.m. to 3 p.m. Funds will be used for all Arts related school needs from JK to Grade 8. Fair features inflatable bouncers, obstacle course, children's play area, raffle, food and pie eating contest. Rain or shine.

MAY 29/30

Aurora Seniors Art Show and Sale at the Seniors Centre.

MAY 30

Meet Queen Victoria. Her Royal Highness is coming to Hillary House to consult with Dr. Hillary and has consented to preside at a tea party and concert in her honour at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. Advance reservations are required by calling 905-727-4015. Cost is \$10 and period costume dress is encouraged.

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. The public is invited to walk the course about 5:45 p.m., then watch some of Canada's top horses and riders jump. Followed by a wine and cheese reception.

JUNE 12

Family barbecue, part of the Aurora Horse Show, will be held at the Town Park. Wagon rides, beer garden and entertainment by Haight Ashbury. 5 p.m.



Marilyn Redvers



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Grade Math, a community-based math drop-in centre has registration every Monday and Wednesday evening. Program is based on the Ontario Curriculum for grades 1 through 12. Registration is at the Trinity Church in Aurora. For information please call 905-841-3699.

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Three applications await public planning meeting

A Public Planning meeting will be held May 26, at 7 p.m. in Aurora's council chambers to hear three planning applications.

The first is an amendment to the official plan and zoning bylaw to permit a funeral home to be built at the northeast corner of Yonge Street and the Industrial Parkway where a vacant residence is currently located.

In addition to the funeral home, the applicant is also applying for business and professional office use, including medical on the 1.8 acre site.

As the lands are on the Oak Ridges Moraine, the applicant is required to demonstrate compliance with the Moraine Conservation Plan.

If approved, this would become the new home of Thompson's Funeral Home, which has been established in Aurora for decades.

The second application is from the Town of Aurora for the town-owned 87.4 acres

of property on the east side of Leslie Street, south of Wellington Street East, originally purchased for municipal uses.

It is now proposed to rezone the property from rural general to a business park and major open space zoning.

The purpose of the application is to allow the use of the lands for employment and other uses.

The third application is for an official plan and zoning bylaw amendment for a 1.5 acre site located at the southwest corner of Earl

Stewart Drive and Isaacson Crescent.

The site, off Bayview north of Wellington, is currently vacant.

The purpose of the application is to allow for the use of the lands for business and professional offices including medical and dental offices, clinics, medical and dental laboratories and other accessory uses.

Residents wishing to comment in support or opposition to the applications should plan to be in attendance at the public planning meeting.



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KNIT OR KNOT - 713-1818

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NOT JUST CARDS (HALLMARK) - 727-1547

OAKRIDGE OUTFITTERS - 726-4063

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SOUND CITY - 751-0397

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VAN DE VEN CAR WASH

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YONGE ST. & MURRAY DRIVE • AURORA



Aurora is losing the growth battle

*Come and live in the country,
A healthy lifestyle and fresh air;
But that's not what happened,
Continued growth we can't bear!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

For years many Toronto residents moved to the Aurora area to get away from the crowded and polluted environment of downtown for the wide-open spaces and the small-town atmosphere of Aurora.

It was seen as the perfect environment to bring up their children and enjoy a healthy lifestyle.

But with the rampant growth approved by local politicians, the idealistic lifestyle that brought people to the area may be in jeopardy.

In October, 2003, the David Suzuki Foundation released a study on urban sprawl that calls on the new McGuinty Liberal government to take steps to require municipalities to build higher density communities.

The report points out that people need to understand the unhealthy connection between their car-dependent, gridlock suburban lifestyle and hospital emergency rooms full of seniors and children suffering from asthma.

It could also include traffic accidents.

It also pointed out that people are living in a fool's paradise and that they must start paying attention to the real cost of their suburban lifestyle.

The results of the recent Aurora election may indicate that they are starting to realize the dangers of rampant growth.

The report recommends that parks, ravines, natural areas and watercourses be preserved, that town centres be intensified, downtowns be protected and an urban boundary be established to protect agricultural and rural areas.

At one time Aurora established Bayview Avenue as its urban boundary to protect the prime agricultural land to the east.

Then, in 1992, Magna International announced its intention of building its world headquarters in Aurora.

The proposal included the head office, a research and development centre, a technical training centre, an employee golf course and a residential development, thought to be for employees.

While council members of the day liked the idea of being home to the Magna world head office, the proposal did not meet the municipal official plan, which did not permit development east of the urban boundary on Bayview Avenue.

The town had spent two years developing the official plan, which included nine public meetings and an expenditure of \$120,000 on consultants, not counting staff time.

In addition, the town lacked the water capacity to service the proposed residential development of 720 housing units.

In order to obtain the Magna head office and other industrial facilities for economic reasons, the Bayview Avenue urban boundary was breached and that opened the floodgates for residential development east of Bayview Avenue.

The Suzuki Foundation report is timely as the McGuinty Liberal government has promised to battle urban sprawl with a long-term plan for the management of growth, primarily in the Golden Horseshoe.

Some municipalities have seen the error of their ways and have struggled to reform planning and development policies to follow what they thought was the Progressive Conservative government's Smart Growth strategies, only to have their best intentions overturned by the Ontario Municipal Board.

McGuinty has promised to rein in the powers of the OMB with its record of overturning local planning decisions in favour of developers.

In the past five years GTA municipalities have spent more than \$20 million on legal fees at the OMB.

For some reason cash-strapped municipalities feel compelled to approve more and more subdivisions to fund local services such as new recreational and other facilities, even though experience has shown that growth doesn't pay for growth, but local politicians ignore this fact.

It is to be hoped a more interested public will force politicians to protect what is left of our vanishing open space and bring about a more healthy type of suburban development that encourages walking, cycling and public transit.



War in the Town Park? These members of the York Rangers (127th Battalion) gathered in Aurora's Town Park in April, 1916, (88 years ago this month) prior to boarding radial cars on Yonge Street for the start of a journey that would eventually lead them into the heart of the First World War. On the horse is Robert Michael Hillary, and the building at right is the old Aurora Armoury, originally built in 1872. Armoury is still in use and believed to be one of the oldest in Canada still operating. Photo comes from the book Aurora A History In Pictures by John McIntyre.

Letters to the Editor

Dick needs to share feeling of art show

To the editor,

Art is art. This is a statement by Dick Illingworth.

I guess it is all right then to compare apples to oranges, or to coconuts and grapes. Fruit is fruit.

You can compare classical music to rock and roll, or to western and heavy metal. Music is music.

You can compare mysteries to sci-fi or to medical encyclopedias and editorials by Dick Illingworth. Writing is writing.

Art is art? Dick, you have a wife, who is an artist. I expected you to know better.

Wherever awards are handed out for music, literature or any other form of art, it goes by categories. I cannot understand, why you would need an explanation. And I also wonder what Dick meant when he stated that Leonardo da Vinci would not qualify under SOYRA rules as he didn't draw in black and white and neither do

most artists today!

Art Aurora has categories set up so that any artist will qualify under one or the other.

Furthermore, by talking about "SOYRA rules", Dick insinuates that Art Aurora is a SOYRA show.

He knows very well that this show is owned by the Town of Aurora and is put on in association with SOYRA.

And SOYRA is very happy to be able to work with the Town, volunteering expertise and manpower.

When I received a bouquet from Dick about straightening him out about who paid for the glossy three colour invitation for artists to enter Art Aurora, he was wondering why the sponsor did not receive any recognition on this invitation.

This was the choice of the sponsor, who also designed and printed these invitations, as well as other Art Aurora publicity material.

Dick still doesn't know who

owns the display easels. I confused him with this issue.

And he wants to know. I stated that these easels are co-owned by the Town of Aurora and SOYRA.

Later on in that same statement I talked about "our display easels". If the word "our" confused you, Dick, sorry, I just thought you would understand that this referred to the word co-owned.

Dick, you still have not explained why you can only come up with negative comments about SOYRA and Art Aurora. The show will go on nevertheless.

People who visited this show have enjoyed the variety of art, a colourful display pleasing to the eye.

They have enjoyed the serene and positive atmosphere while wandering amongst a few hundred pieces of art spread out over three floors in Aurora's own Town Hall.

On April 30, May 1 and

May 2 we will do our best to provide this enjoyment again.

It would be nice if you could share in the great feeling it gives to everybody involved.

Bill van Oorschot
Society of York
Region Artists
Chairperson

AURORAN
*"Aurora's
Community Newspaper"*

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Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.

"What strange land is this," I wondered

To the editor,

Re: Cathy's Corner "The Village of Aurora"

Your article hit such a chord with me as I share so many of your sentiments.

We moved here with three little ones from New York City in 1986.

At their age (6, 5, 2), this was just another adventure in their young lives and I found I was the one having the most difficult adjustment of all. My husband is Canadian.

We moved in the day of a blizzard, and it seemed that whenever family came to visit, they ended up spending not only the

night to avoid treacherous driving conditions on their way home, but the entire weekend.

I used to ask my husband, "what strange land have you brought me to?"

Their first day at school, the children were escorted into their classrooms by me and then I stood in the hallway watching their little bewildered faces as the Canadian National Anthem was sung.

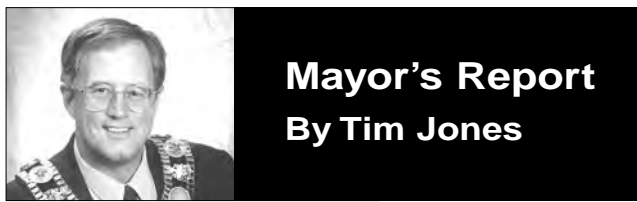
Up to this point, they had only heard it sung at hockey games!

The song brought tears to my eyes as I embraced this new land and we all set about learning the words when they came home that night.

Soon after, the great THAW came and one day with tear-filled, homesick eyes I looked out to our cul de sac and saw my daughter walking her dollies in a stroller with two other little girls; the boys playing a rousing game of hockey in the street; families gathered in garages or wandering the neighbourhood to see what's what; even my husband was out there proudly showing off his purchases from the hardware store!!

At that moment, I put down my housework, walked outside and became an Auroran!

Joanne Vickers
Aurora



Mayor's Report

By Tim Jones

Litter or Litter Free: it's entirely up to us!

They say a picture tells a thousand words - if so, this will be the longest column I have ever done.
If you're like me and wish to have a clean Town I am asking for your help.



I am asking every resident of Aurora to participate on the weekend of April 24th in our Anti-Litter initiative.
Pick up an Anti-Litter kit from the Town Booth at the Home Show (contains garbage bags, gloves, hand sanitizer, water and information), go to an area of your choosing or call Info Aurora at 905-727-8214 and they will direct you to a litter hot spot and we can clean up our Town.



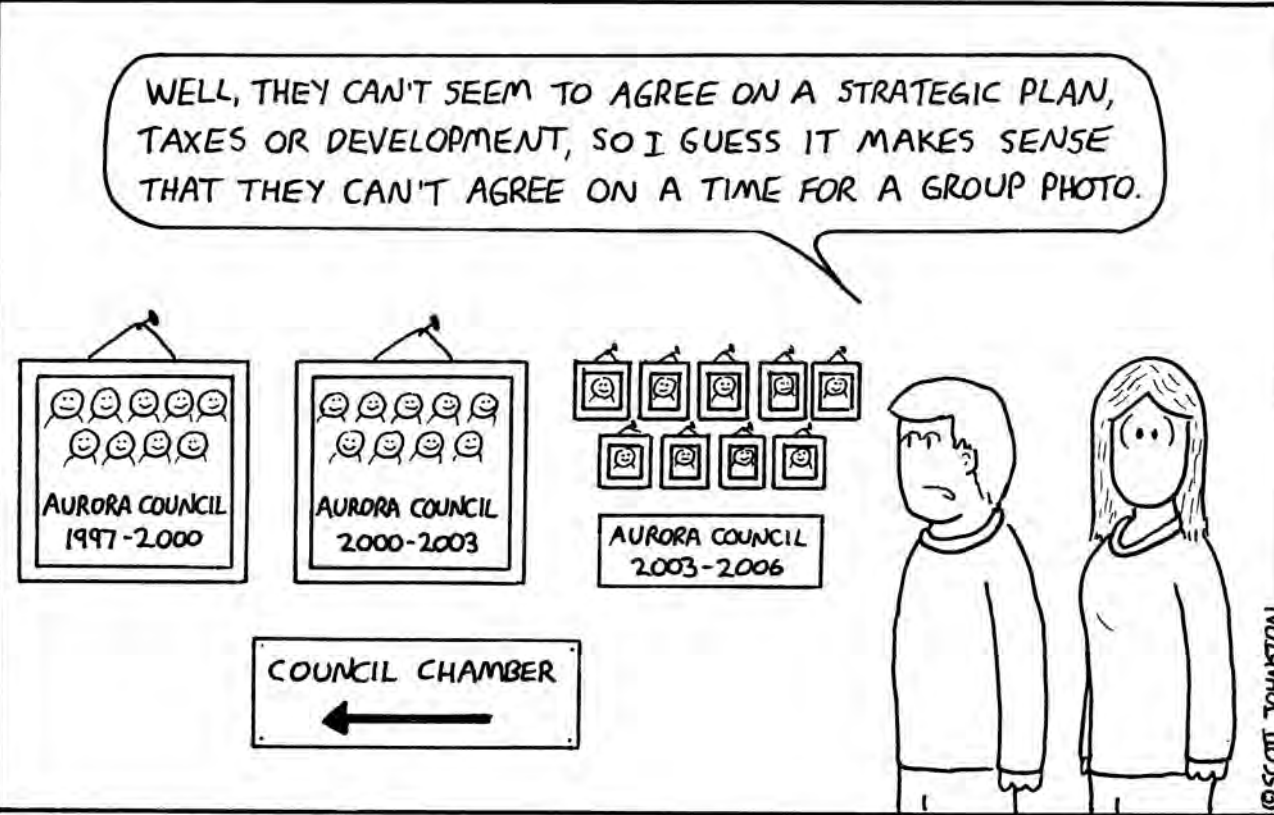
Once clean, I ask you to encourage those who you see littering to pick up after themselves so we can keep our Town clean.
Litter hot spots I pass daily include Bayview Avenue - Bloomington to St Johns; Vandorf - Leslie to Industrial; Industrial Parkway - Yonge to Wellington; numerous creeks and stream areas in our parks where litter has blown over the winter.
If everyone participated just for a few hours, imagine the effect.



Litter bags can be left with your garbage or in designated areas identified when registering for a hot spot.
For all those who participate, M&M Meat Shops is hosting a barbecue at the Town Park from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 24th.
I thank you in advance for taking pride in our Town. I would also like to thank all those businesses, companies and volunteers who have shown such great support to date.

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

Macell's Corners



Letters to the Editor

Downtown farmers' market readies for its second year

To the editor,

Aurora's Farmers' Market starts June 12 and runs until the Thanksgiving weekend.
The market will open Saturday, June 12, for the second complete year.
This year, the hours will be 8 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. every Saturday at the Temperance Street parking lot behind the southwest corner of Yonge and Wellington.
This year we are hoping for many new vendors to join all of the returning vendors from last year.
We are still looking for ven-

dors who will add to the current mix.
Fruit, vegetables, plants, baked goods and hopefully crafts will make this second year even better than last year.
If you, or someone you know, can fill a booth and add to the current mix of vendors please call Chris Alexander or me at the Town Hall.
We are also looking for someone to sell coffee, tea, soft drinks and light snacks.
For local Yonge Street and area merchants this is also a chance to attract market shoppers to your stores by

having coupons or Saturday specials advertised at a booth at the market.
Please call me to discuss the endless opportunities to increase traffic and business.
This letter is to all Aurora residents, 18 years of age and older.
PARKS, a ratepayers' group standing for People Against Restructuring Known Sanctuaries, is looking for new members.
We need people who will

Charities can show for free with prior approval.
Support Aurora's Market.
Nigel Kean,
Town Councillor
905-841-6776.
Group seeks new members
To the editor,
help us save our environment.
Only four meetings a year to attend.
To belong, please call 905-841-3513 and leave a message or send an e-mail to kestein1ben@aol.com
Ben Kestein
Aurora



Home Show is a good thing

So, now that we've all faithfully gotten rid of bad stuff, old stuff, stuff we don't need, stuff we don't want, stuff we don't use - we have room for new stuff.
In case you missed it, that was the whole point behind last week's column.
So now, let's talk about things.
There are good things, nice things, special things and...the thing is, if I keep going, Ron is going to fire me.
So, I'll exclude everything, anything and nothing in favour of something: the thing to do this weekend, April 23, 24, and 25th.
If you have a thing for things, then there will be new things, nice things, good things ... oops, sorry...this weekend at The 18th Aurora Home and Lifestyle Show, presented by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.
Going to the Home Show is an Aurora tradition for those who want to see all the latest things - like baseboards that suck up dog hair, lawns that grow two inches and then stop for the season, and the long awaited riding vacuum cleaner.
Every year I go to the Home Show, just to see if those things have been invented yet.
So far, not a thing.
But, over the years, things like the money machine and the wheel of fortune have been a big thing in our family because you could win thingies, thingamabobs, thingamajigs and coupons.

One year, my daughter won a whole wad of Aurora money.
She thought she was a millionaire at the age of nine because we had to bring the van around to take it home, but then she counted it.
About sixty-five cents.
Not enough for the thingamabob she wanted to buy, so she had to get the rest of it the hard way: twiddling her thumbs.
Every year, someone gives my husband a thingamajig - sometimes a keychain, but always an ice scraper.
He has enough of those things to give Aurora a tropical look.
Then, at the Chamber Christmas Party, Mary Lynn gave him another one. I begged her not to, but she wouldn't listen.
The "Shop Aurora" T-shirt was my favourite thingie. I still paint in it, and when I go to Mac Fleming, all I have to do is point & paint!
This year, however, the attraction is going to be an ugly room - the ugliest room, in fact. No, make that 10 ugly rooms...full of ugly things!
Which is how they got to be ugly.
Now, why would anyone want to go to the Home Show to see 10 ugly rooms full of ugly things?
Because they're not your ugly rooms, that's why.
And if they are, then maybe you should stay home and wait for a phone call. Just a suggestion, Ron.

Bouquets & Brickbats

By Dick Illingworth

BOUQUETS to Councillor Ron Wallace on being named chairman of the joint Newmarket/Aurora council committee for the Central York Fire Services. As a former volunteer firefighter with the former Aurora Fire Department, he has some knowledge of the trials and tribulations of the firefighters.

But BRICKBATS to the same Ron Wallace, this time the editor of the Auroran, for allowing a note to get printed that identified the fire station on Edward Street as the Aurora Fire Department. It really is Station 4-3 of the Central York Fire Services. Old habits die hard.

BOUQUETS to an astute observer for pointing out that motorists do not lose demerit points for driving infractions, but gain them. Drivers have no points to lose but if they break the law they gain points. If they add up to nine points be prepared to be called in for an interview with a ministry traffic counsellor as to why your licence shouldn't be suspended.

BRICKBATS to members of Aurora Council for their continual bickering, personal attacks and waste of time on trivial issues, while other more important issues don't get the review and debate deserved. The last council meeting lasted four hours and little was accomplished except giving the town hall parking lot a street name.

BOUQUETS to Kessler's Bakery for providing Aurora residents and those from surrounding areas for the past 15 years for all the tasty breads and pastries plus exotic treats from other countries. It is understood the bakery will be closing in May and it will be missed.

BRICKBATS to Prime Minister Paul Martin for spending \$344,000 criss-crossing the country in a pre-election blitz before calling the election. This was done at taxpayer's expense. How stupid does he think they are?

BOUQUETS to the Happy Hoppers Square Dance Club for raising \$4,075 at their recent Square Dance for Heart fundraiser with dancers from Peterborough, Alliston, Orangeville and Barrie participating. The club has raised \$72,211.96 in the last 15 years.

BRICKBATS to Jean Chretien's cronies for their efforts in trying to stonewall the Public Accounts committee, as they endeavour to investigate and ferret out the truth in the current sponsorship scandal.

More BRICKBATS to Paul Martin's Treasury Board President Reg Alcock who was caught making untrue statements about the sponsorship scandal being smaller than stated by the Auditor General. The taxpaying public deserves and is entitled to know the truth before the federal election.

BOUQUETS to Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees on running for the leadership of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party with a campaign focusing on doing away with consultants and lobbyists who exercised power and cost taxpayers money under Harris and Eves.

Letters to the Editor



Members of the Aurora Lions Club join with officials of the Community Safety Village to present a \$25,000 cheque to the project which is expected to open this September. Presentation was made recently at Cardinal Golf Club in King Township. See the letter below.

Aurora Lions shine with big donation to Safety Village

To the editor,

More than a year ago, a presentation was made to the Aurora Lions Club at one of their regular Tuesday night dinner meetings regarding the Community Safety Village of York Region.

The Club forwarded a modest donation which was gratefully received.

This past March, the Club requested a second visit to

apprise the group of the current status of things at the Safety Village site at Bruce's Mill.

At the recently held "Celebrating the Community" event hosted by Wendel Clark, Honourary Chairman for the Community Safety Village, service clubs and organizations were recognized for their support for the project.

You can imagine the excitement in the room when the

Aurora Lions Club presented a cheque for \$25,000 to the Village.

A small but mighty group, the Aurora Lions had been working hard in the community throughout the past year to raise this money.

This says so much about the fabric of our Town and what a difference service clubs make.

This donation will go toward the construction of the

"Community Room" which will be the focal point of the education centre.

Way to go, Lions!

The Village is slated to open this September in time for the start of the school year. If you or your group would like more information about the Community Safety Village, please contact me at (905) 717-5393.

Steve Hinder
Aurora

Councillors' actions make reader wonder

To the editor,

I shake my head in wonderment while watching our Aurora councillors in action on our local T.V. channel on Tuesday nights.

Are these the "Mature Adults" we elected to manage the affairs of our town?

To me, they sound like a bunch of spoiled "teenagers" arguing about who is going to get the better of whom!

John West Way IS John West Way, WHY would

anyone WANT to change it??

What will be the next street name to be changed? Yonge Street??

Leave John West Way as it is and just get on with the Town affairs we elected you to manage and with issues that REALLY count.

Daisy Hurst
Aurora

ED. NOTE: John West Way was not changed. The Town Hall was given a new address.

Susan E. Tucker
Lawyer & Notary Public
905 727-7775

CORRECTION: Be advised this T.H.Oliver advertisement REPLACES the ad that appears on Page 7, Section 2. Information in that ad is incomplete.

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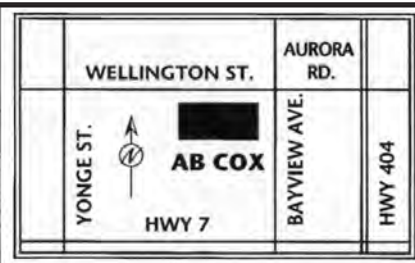
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Takes a lot of houses to pay for items - Ev

To the editor,

The last meeting attended by Allan Evelyn (former treasurer) was the first review of the town's 2004 budget by the new council. I sat beside him and queried an item. He cupped his hand over half his mouth and softly said: "ask how many houses will it take to pay for it." The advice took hold. It is a simple formula. It might be handy for

other homeowners who feel overwhelmed by the magnitude of the budget figures. Average assessed value of a house in Aurora is \$250,000. Last year's average tax bill was \$2,600. The town's share of that revenue is 30 per cent...\$780. Simple, huh! Stick with me; it gets better. The item I queried was \$7,500 for the Farmers' Market. It operates for three

hours on a Saturday morning during the weeks of summer. It takes the revenue from nine houses to finance it. Now we have a forecast of \$5,000 to change the town's stationery when we name the town hall parking lot Municipal Drive....seven more houses. Last year during the election, the town spent \$35,000 tearing up brand new concrete because "the style" of the curb was not pleasing to a couple of residents of Maple and Spruce streets. Some \$27,000 had previously been spent on "consultants" to ensure it would be pleasing.

the advice of the experts. That represents the income revenue from 140 homes. I could go on ...but I won't. It doesn't make for good reading. The significant aspect of the foregoing expenditures is that they were all initiated by councillors. None of them came from the administration. None of them contribute to local services. None of them can be described as necessary or desirable...from my perspective. Since Allan Evelyn gave me that parting tip, I calculate on the basis of the number of houses it takes to pay for this and that. I have become positively obsessive - well more so than before - about how

the money is spent. The normal method of calculating would indicate a \$5,000 item would cost about three cents a house. A couple of colleagues have told me that people in their "circle" want the town to provide a high level of service. It is my experience that homeowners from whatever "circle" do not object to

paying for value received. They fully appreciate the service which improves the quality of their lives. It is the money wasted...and spent with blithe indifference to the ability of the majority to pay that sticks in the collective craw...so to speak. Evelyn Buck Aurora

Credit where it's due

To the editor.

Last week the Liberal government of Ontario announced that the tuition fees for university and college would be kept the same for another year. This freeze in tuition comes as good news to the students who are about to start their summer jobs. In the past few years, tuition fees had soared at the post secondary institutions. This announcement was a promise that the Liberals made during the 2003 election campaign. Unfortunately, the previous government left a large provincial debt and this has made it difficult for the McGuinty government to start to deliver other plat-

form promises. So, let's give credit where it is due. Students get a break. Hopefully, as time moves on, the economy may improve and more Liberal campaign promises can be delivered.

Jim Jackson
Aurora

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HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

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operation with the York Regional Police, will assist in developing a community plan for you. For the program to be totally effective, each resident must take an active role in both security improvement and observation. You will be shown different ways to make your home less inviting as a target for thieves, how to participate in Operation Identification, making your personal property less desirable to burglars, and how to be alert to suspicious activity in your neighbourhood.

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If we wouldn't take it home why would we sell it to you?

Tigers split a pair with St. Michael's Buzzers

The Aurora Tigers could be on their way to North Bay next week.

If, at this moment, they're not, then they're on their way to Richmond Hill Thursday.

And if the latter is true, that means the St. Michael's Buzzers have forced a seventh and final game in this tough series, that Aurora led three games to two going into Monday's battle.

Because of the timing, results of the Monday game are not available on this page, but the score is posted at www.auroraonline.com.

The seventh game, if necessary, must be played at the Elgin Barrow Arena in Richmond Hill because Aurora's ice is being removed this week to make way for the annual Home Show.

Aurora has never made it this late in playoff action, so loss of ice was never an issue before.

Assuming they win (or have won) the St. Mike's series, they'll battle for provincial honours next week at the Dudley-Hewitt tournament, scheduled to begin Tuesday afternoon in North Bay.

Victorious there, the Tigers would head out west (Alberta) to fight for all the Canadian marbles, and again ice would not be necessary in Aurora.

This would fit the pattern set by many fans, both in Aurora and elsewhere, who believe this year's edition of the Aurora Tigers is the best junior hockey team in the country.

Tigers are close to proving them right.

However, last week, Tigers stunk up the area around Bathurst and St. Clair in the city, as St. Mike's took advantage of a poor Aurora performance to pile up a 4-1 victory and knot the series at two games each.

Refusing to roll over and die, Aurora came back Saturday night before a sell-out hometown crowd, to whitewash St. Mike's 5-0, before the game turned into a war.

Late in the contest, with the game securely tucked away, Tigers and Buzzers resorted to a "who can I fight next" routine as battles broke out all over the ice.

By the end of the match, there were barely enough players left on the bench to continue playing.

With the series tied at two games apiece, the Tigers were looking to use home ice advantage to get back to playing the successful way they have all year.

Kain Tisi and Chris Whitley were in their respective nets, with both needing a solid game to keep their teams in the game.

Tigers set the tone early when Jeff Gilbert was credited with the first goal, just under two minutes into the game.

The goal judge put the light on, but officials didn't see the puck enter the net.

During the next stoppage of play, the referee conferred with the goal judge to determine that the puck was in fact in the net and awarded the Tigers the early lead.

Francis Walker and Jamie Minchella gave the Tigers a 3-0 lead before the end of the period.

In the middle frame, Walker scored his second of the game and Jeff Gilbert finished the scoring with a delightful goal as he skated around the Buzzer net, came out front and fired the puck over Tisi.

The third period would be best described as a "gong show", as the Buzzers looked to play an intimidating style of hockey with loads of stick

work, spears and slashes.

The period witnessed three fights and a number of extremely dirty stick work incidences by both teams. To say that bad blood has erupted between these two teams would be an understatement.

Last week it became evident this series was no cakewalk for Aurora.

The Buzzers came out of Game 4 defeating Aurora 4-1 to tie the best of seven series at two each.

The Tigers had a chance to put the hammer down on the Buzzers, but truly one of the weakest efforts of the season by the entire Aurora team has forced them to reload.

Both teams looked a little skittish during the first period, not wanting to create the first mistake.

The Buzzers were successful on opening the score sheet as they capitalized on a power play opportunity with under five minutes left in the period.

Aurora seemed to get some jump in their game in the second as they managed most of the play in the Buzzers zone. But goaltender Tisi came up with several great stops to keep Aurora off the scoreboard.

Whitley was not as busy, but was beaten once more with less than a minute to go in the period.

Aurora made it interest-

ing briefly in the third when Doug Henderson brought them to within one, but an onslaught of penalties took any momentum the Tigers would need away throughout the rest of the period.

The Buzzers added two more and the game was in the bag.

GAME SUMMARIES TIGERS 5 BUZZERS 0

1ST PERIOD

A: Jeff Gilbert (Bahen, Scully) 1.52
A: Francis Walker (Bahen) 11.51
A: Jamie Minchella (Aitken) 18.35

2ND PERIOD

A: Francis Walker (Henderson, Joslin) 3.40
A: Jeff Gilbert (Skwarchuk, Olden) 14.29

THIRD PERIOD

No Scoring

BUZZERS 4 TIGERS 1

FIRST PERIOD

SM: Kevin Schmidt (Skinner, Cogliano) 15.32

SECOND PERIOD

SM: Jeff Kyrzakos (Lozzi) 19.18

THIRD PERIOD

A: Doug Henderson (Lalonde, Gilbert) 2.00
SM: Mike Potacco (Cogliano) 10.39
SM: Tony DiNunzio (Vukovic, Lozzi) 16.26



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The sign says "Bantams" but this group of gritty Minor Bantams from Aurora won all the marbles in a hockey tournament in the Halifax area last week. They were competing in a division of 19 teams, playing at the Bantam level.

Top honours for Aurora's Minor Bantam As in huge International tournament

The Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam A Team have been declared the 2004 SEDMHA International Tournament Champions. SEDMHA? Actually, it stands for Shearwater East Dartmouth Minor Hockey Association and while it may be unfamiliar around these parts, it is a huge

international minor hockey tournament. And, last week, the Tiger Minor Bantams travelled to the Halifax /Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, area to be a part of it. They were but one of more than 250 teams from Canada, the United States and Europe, taking part in one of the largest minor

hockey tournaments in North America. The tournament required 16 ice surfaces, used 450 officials, encompassed 566 games and hosted more than 4,500 players. The Minor Bantam Tigers knew they had their work cut out for them as they were competing in a division of 19 teams, and play-

ing at the Bantam Level (one year older than themselves). The boys completed the preliminary rounds with a perfect record of four straight wins, to earn a bye into the Gold Medal, Division 1 (Odyssey) finals. With grit, determination, and outstanding teamwork, the team played a spectacular final game against the Chipman, New Brunswick, Bantams, and won the exciting game with a decisive 7-0 victory.

J. J. Barron upsets men's Town League with Cinderella win

Priestly Contracting had hopes of demolishing (pun intended) J.J. Barron Real Estate in the championship game of the Aurora Town Hockey League last week, but ran into a wall of resistance. In a hard fought game that was 2-1 in favour of Barron's with only minutes left, the winners exploded for three unanswered goals to take the crown with

a 5-1 victory. And while Barron's netted five, their sharpshooter Raz Khamissa, who scored six goals in a game in February, was kept off the sheet. Barron's came out of nowhere in the playoffs to claim the championship after finishing in last place during the regular season. They gained great momentum after knocking out num-

ber one ranked Highland Chev Olds in their sudden-death match-up, and then ousted Law Insurance to move on to the final game. In the consolation game, Tom and Jerry's Bistro defeated FPL Aggregates 7-5. Braden Goodfellow and Bruce Chappell were commended by the teams for running the league and making it enjoyable.

Another swim record for Cattrall

Aurora's Yvonne Cattrall, representing the Etobicoke Masters Swim Club, set her seventh Provincial Masters swimming record Sunday. She placed first in the 50 metre and 100 metre breast stroke events in the 55-59 age category. Her time of 1 minute 32.61 seconds for the 100 metre event shaved two full seconds off her own provincial record, set seven weeks ago in London.



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Town Hall's new address okayed 5-4

Effective January 1, 2005, the address of the Aurora Town Hall will change from 100 John West Way to 1 Municipal Way.

The decision was made last week on a 5-4 recorded vote.

For some time Councillor

Nigel Kean has objected to the Town Hall being on a street named after a sitting councillor claiming it gives that councillor an unfair advantage, especially at election time.

He said a precedent had been set when the

Community Centre was given the address of 1 Community Centre Lane, although it was pointed out at the time that the action was necessary as the Centre didn't have a street address on Aurora Heights Drive as required under the

911 emergency phone system.

Last month with the location of a Seniors Centre adjacent to the Town Hall almost assured, Kean gave notice of motion regarding the possible address change for the Town Hall.

He proposed the Town Hall and the Seniors Centre be located on a new street named Civic Way with the existing John West Way to remain as it is.

He stressed that public buildings fronting on streets should not be named after elected officials.

At last week's council meeting staff reported that the town's street naming policy and public facilities naming policy did not contain any provisions that address the issue of new public buildings fronting on streets named after elected officials.

Staff also contacted the Region of York, which

reviews proposed street names as part of the 911 coordination. The region expressed concern the proposed name of Civic Way was similar to Civic Square Gate in the same neighbourhood and would not support that name.

Kean recommended the Town Hall address become 1 Municipal Way and the Seniors Centre 5

Municipal Way.

Councillors Evelyn Buck, Bill Hogg, John West and Mayor Tim Jones voted against the recommendation.

An unofficial poll carried out by the Auroran following the first discussion revealed that of the 154 ballots cast, 56.6 per cent opposed the name change, 39.5 per cent support it and 3.9 per cent didn't care.

Aurora high on real estate list

Aurora and Newmarket are in the top 10 of the best places in Ontario in which to invest in residential real estate, says a province-wide study conducted by the Real Estate Investment Network.

The communities rank seventh among 59 cities and towns in Ontario analyzed in terms of their potential return on investment in residential real estate.

"This area will see some spectacular growth in the coming decade, attracting not only new residents but also new major employers," the study says. "Although

the area is well-known for transportation tie-ups, these will be alleviated through an extensive regional transportation plan."

As far as Aurora is concerned, fewer than 10 per cent of Aurora residents commute to Toronto on a daily basis, "which is a very good sign of the strong economy of the region," the study says. "The average income in the area is very high, and 44 per cent of the workforce has a college or university degree.

"The unemployment rate has been consistently lower than the provincial rate due

to an ongoing influx of new businesses."

The report says Aurora's municipal leaders are "committed to strong families and safe streets, which will attract the needed young 'employables'."

Kristen Yemm, Town of Aurora's Communications and Marketing Coordinator, says the research has identified several reasons - including the convenient proximity to Toronto, growing employment base, focus on families, and variety of recreational opportunities, for why Aurora will continue to be very attractive.

BonL plant to close in January

From page 1

Consolidating our Canadian plants should improve customer service, reduce costs and boost profitability."

Bonnell employs about 1,600 in facilities in Georgia, Tennessee, Indiana, Ontario and Quebec.

Aurora Mayor Tim Jones said the announcement was "upsetting".

"Aurora badly needs industry and it's a real blow when we lose a plant of this size," he said.

Located on the south side of Dunning Avenue and on the east side of Edward Street, the Bon L plant has quite a history in Aurora.

It carried on the business of producing, selling and servicing of aluminum products.

The plant building has gone through many changes along the way. It was the little plant that grew, and it set some records along the way.

The Canadian Anodized Products Company was established in an old Aurora match factory in 1946, manufacturing aluminum extrusions and anodizing (coating) them.

The extrusion process involved placing aluminum ingots into an extrusion press where they came out the other end in a variety

shapes and sizes.

Anodizing was an electrical process which gave the aluminum a permanent protective coating, receptive to many colours.

Lin Sauro purchased the company in 1956 and at that time the company had 20 employees.

He moved the firm to a 40 by 80 foot building at the east end of Dunning Avenue in 1960 and that was the start of the building currently on the property.

Sauro added a paint line and that was a first in Canada.

In 1961 the little company joined forces with Alcanco Limited of Montreal and in 1963 a large extrusion press was added along with an addition to the plant.

Then in July, 1965, Alcanco was sold to the Aluminum Company of Canada with Sauro remaining as president and Harry Smallwood as plant manager.

Smallwood had worked at the plant since 1947. By 1965 the firm had 90 employees.

Labour problems surfaced at the plant in April, 1967, but a strike was averted by a last minute settlement, which provided a base hourly rate of \$2.12 with a 10

cent per hour increase in the second year of the agreement.

By July, 1969, business had improved making it necessary to construct a \$1.4 million addition to accommodate a second extrusion press and more painting and anodizing facilities.

The work force increased to 180 employees.

The Aurora firm was honoured in 1975 with the presentation of the Industrial Accident Prevention Association President's Award for showing the greatest improvement in plant safety over the previous year.

The company hit the news again in January, 1977, when thieves broke in and stole 88 aluminum ingots weighing about 90 pounds each.

The loss was valued at

about \$4,000.

In August, 1978, the plant was shut down due to a labour strike.

Workers rejected a 38 cent per hour increase for 1978 and 40 cents per hour in 1979. At that time the base hourly rate was \$5.79 per hour.

After an 18-day strike, the first in the history of the plant, the workers accepted an offer of a 49 cent per hour increase in the first year and a 45 cent increase in the second year of the agreement.

But it was the beginning of the end. The little plant that grew was taken over by Bon L Canada and is now at the end of its line.

With 110 employees, the plant was struck again last summer and some believe that shutdown helped influence the decision to close.

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Sendel adds to her awards on trampoline

Samantha Sendel just keeps bouncing along.

Fresh from her World Silver medal performance last October in Germany in the under 13 category, Sendel, 12, of Aurora recently returned from Canada's National Age Group Championships in Calgary.

Now competing in the under 15 category, she pulled off a double gold medal performance staking her claim to both the Individual Trampoline and Double-Mini Tramp titles.

The effort qualifies her to represent Canada in July at the Indo-Pacific games which will be hosted in Kelowna, British Columbia.

Her medal haul did not stop there, as she finished in a tie for second, (but was awarded the bronze in

a tie-breaker), in the National Youth Canada Cup.

Sam is the youngest competitor in the National Youth category.

This is a holding category until these athletes become old enough (17 normally) to compete in the Senior Elite division.

Girls who meet the qualifying score, and finish in the top four rankings, have the opportunity to represent Canada internationally at Junior World Cups.

Sendel will attempt to secure such a placing at the National Championships (which also acts as the season's second Canada Cup) next month.

Those who beat and tied Sam at this season's first Canada Cup are both 17.

Summer population dwindles for hockey

Bill Channing is quickly learning what many Aurorans already know.

If you can get out of town for the summer, you get out of town.

Channing, Vice President-Adult Safe Hockey League (ASHL), Canlan Ice Sports Corp. is trying to set up a summer league in Aurora, but response has been minimal.

"I'd hate to have to cancel this," he told the Auroran, "but we're just not getting the teams we thought we'd get."

Channing has learned that many people who would like to play hockey in the summer, enjoy going to their cottages a lot more.

"It's an affluent area and I understand many Aurorans head out of town for the summer," he

said.

The operation, billed as North America's largest adult hockey league, would operate Thursday nights from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. beginning May 13.

Games would be played at the Aurora Leisure Centre during May and June and at the Aurora Community Centre in July and August.

Benefits of playing in the league, he said, include balanced schedule, player insurance, opportunity to compete in the Ontario Cup in September, prime time hours, balanced divisions, and a guaranteed amount of games.

Team registration is currently being accepted by calling Channing, at the toll free number 1-877-423-7778, ext. 257.

Registration deadline is April 30.



Aurora Minor Hockey Association



2004-2005 Rep Tryouts

Tryout Fees

1.	hrs.	\$ 8.00
1.	25 hrs.	\$ 10.00
1.	5 hrs.	\$ 12.00
1.	75 hrs.	\$ 14.00
2.	hrs.	\$ 15.00



TEAM	DATE	DAY	ARENA	START	END
1996 & 1997					
Novice AAA	13-Apr-04	Tuesday	EG West	6:00 PM	7:00 PM
Novice AAA	14-Apr-04	Wednesday	EG East	5:30 PM	6:30 PM
Novice AAA	17-Apr-04	Saturday	EG East	7:30 AM	9:30 AM
Novice AAA	18-Apr-04	Sunday	EG East	8:30 AM	10:30 AM
Novice AA	12-Apr-04	Monday	ACC2	6:00 PM	7:15 PM
Novice AA	15-Apr-04	Thursday	ACC2	6:00 PM	7:15 PM
Novice AA	18-Apr-04	Sunday	ALC	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
Novice A	25-Apr-04	Sunday	ALC	9:00 AM	10:30 AM
Novice A	2-May-04	Sunday	ALC	9:00 AM	10:30 AM
Novice A	9-May-04	Sunday	ALC	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
1995					
Minor Atom AAA	14-Apr-04	Wednesday	EG East	6:30 PM	7:30 PM
Minor Atom AAA	16-Apr-04	Friday	EG East	5:30 PM	6:30 PM
Minor Atom AAA	17-Apr-04	Saturday	EG East	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
Minor Atom AAA	18-Apr-04	Sunday	EG East	10:30 AM	12:30 AM
Minor Atom AA	13-Apr-04	Tuesday	ACC2	6:00 PM	7:15 PM
Minor Atom AA	17-Apr-04	Saturday	ALC	2:00 PM	3:45 PM
Minor Atom AA	18-Apr-04	Sunday	ALC	5:00 PM	7:00 PM
Minor Atom A	1-May-04	Saturday	ALC	2:00 PM	3:30 PM
Minor Atom A	8-May-04	Saturday	ALC	2:00 PM	3:30 PM
Minor Atom A	10-May-04	Monday	ALC	6:00 PM	7:00 PM
Minor Atom A	11-May-04	Tuesday	ALC	6:00 PM	7:00 PM
Minor Atom AE	15-May-04	Saturday	ALC	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
Minor Atom AE	16-May-04	Sunday	ALC	2:30 PM	4:00 PM
Minor Atom AE	18-May-04	Tuesday	ALC	6:00 PM	8:00 PM
1994					
Atom AAA	12-Apr-04	Monday	EG West	6:00 PM	7:00 PM
Atom AAA	14-Apr-04	Wednesday	EG East	7:30 PM	8:30 PM
Atom AAA	16-Apr-04	Friday	EG East	6:30 PM	7:30 PM
Atom AAA	17-Apr-04	Saturday	EG East	11:30 AM	12:30 PM
Atom AAA	18-Apr-04	Sunday	EG East	12:30 PM	2:30 PM
Atom AA	14-Apr-04	Wednesday	ACC2	6:00 PM	7:15 PM
Atom AA	18-Apr-04	Sunday	ALC	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
Atom AA	24-Apr-04	Saturday	ALC	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Atom A	25-Apr-04	Sunday	ALC	10:30 AM	12:00 PM
Atom A	2-May-04	Sunday	ALC	10:30 AM	12:00 PM
Atom A	9-May-04	Sunday	ALC	11:00 AM	1:00 PM
Atom AE	15-May-04	Saturday	ALC	4:00 PM	6:00 PM
Atom AE	16-May-04	Sunday	ALC	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
Atom AE	26-May-04	Wednesday	ALC	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
1993					
Minor Pee wee AAA	12-Apr-04	Monday	EG West	7:00 PM	8:00 PM
Minor Pee wee AAA	15-Apr-04	Thursday	EG East	7:30 PM	8:30 PM
Minor Pee wee AAA	16-Apr-04	Friday	EG East	7:30 PM	8:30 PM
Minor Pee wee AAA	17-Apr-04	Saturday	EG East	12:30 PM	1:30 PM
Minor Pee wee AAA	18-Apr-04	Sunday	EG East	2:30 PM	4:30 PM
Minor Pee wee AA	13-Apr-04	Tuesday	ACC2	7:15 PM	8:30 PM
Minor Pee wee AA	14-Apr-04	Wednesday	ACC2	7:15 PM	8:30 PM
Minor Pee wee AA	24-Apr-04	Saturday	ALC	4:00 PM	6:00 PM
Minor Pee wee A	1-May-04	Saturday	ALC	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
Minor Pee wee A	8-May-04	Saturday	ALC	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
Minor Pee wee A	10-May-04	Monday	ALC	7:00 PM	9:00 PM
Minor Pee wee AE	15-May-04	Saturday	ALC	12:30 PM	2:00 PM
Minor Pee wee AE	16-May-04	Sunday	ALC	4:00 PM	6:00 PM
Minor Pee wee AE	25-May-04	Tuesday	ALC	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
1992					
Pee wee AAA	13-Apr-04	Tuesday	EG West	8:00 PM	9:00 PM
Pee wee AAA	15-Apr-04	Thursday	EG East	8:30 PM	9:30 PM
Pee wee AAA	17-Apr-04	Saturday	EG East	1:30 PM	2:30 PM
Pee wee AAA	18-Apr-04	Sunday	EG East	4:30 PM	5:30 PM

TEAM	DATE	DAY	ARENA	START	END
Pee wee AA	12-Apr-04	Monday	ACC2	7:15 PM	8:30 PM
Pee wee AA	17-Apr-04	Saturday	ALC	3:45 PM	5:30 PM
Pee wee AA	24-Apr-04	Saturday	ALC	2:00 PM	4:00 PM
Pee wee A	25-Apr-04	Sunday	ALC	12:00 PM	2:00 PM
Pee wee A	2-May-04	Sunday	ALC	12:00 PM	1:30 PM
Pee wee A	9-May-04	Sunday	ALC	1:00 PM	2:30 PM
Pee wee AE	16-May-04	Sunday	ALC	11:00 AM	1:00 PM
Pee wee AE	17-May-04	Monday	ALC	6:00 PM	8:00 PM
Pee wee AE	26-May-04	Wednesday	ALC	7:30 PM	9:00 PM
1991					
Minor Bantam AAA	13-Apr-04	Tuesday	EG East	8:30 PM	9:30 PM
Minor Bantam AAA	14-Apr-04	Wednesday	EG East	8:30 PM	9:30 PM
Minor Bantam AAA	17-Apr-04	Saturday	EG East	2:30 PM	3:30 PM
Minor Bantam AAA	18-Apr-04	Sunday	EG East	5:30 PM	6:30 PM
Minor Bantam AA	15-Apr-04	Thursday	ACC2	7:15 PM	8:45 PM
Minor Bantam AA	17-Apr-04	Saturday	ALC	5:30 PM	7:30 PM
Minor Bantam AA	24-Apr-04	Saturday	ALC	7:30 PM	9:00 PM
Minor Bantam A	1-May-04	Saturday	ALC	5:00 PM	6:30 PM
Minor Bantam A	8-May-04	Saturday	ALC	5:00 PM	6:30 PM
Minor Bantam A	11-May-04	Tuesday	ALC	7:00 PM	9:00 PM
Minor Bantam AE	15-May-04	Saturday	ALC	2:00 PM	4:00 PM
Minor Bantam AE	16-May-04	Sunday	ALC	1:00 PM	2:30 PM
Minor Bantam AE	18-May-04	Tuesday	ALC	8:00 PM	10:00 PM
1990					
Bantam AAA	12-Apr-04	Monday	EG West	8:00 PM	9:00 PM
Bantam AAA	14-Apr-04	Wednesday	EG East	9:30 PM	10:30 PM
Bantam AAA	16-Apr-04	Friday	EG East	8:30 PM	9:30 PM
Bantam AAA	17-Apr-04	Saturday	EG East	3:30 PM	4:30 PM
Bantam AAA	18-Apr-04	Sunday	EG East	6:30 PM	7:30 PM
Bantam AA	13-Apr-04	Tuesday	ACC2	8:30 PM	10:00 PM
Bantam AA	15-Apr-04	Thursday	ACC2	8:45 PM	10:00 PM
Bantam AA	18-Apr-04	Sunday	ALC	3:00 PM	5:00 PM
Bantam A	25-Apr-04	Sunday	ALC	2:00 PM	4:00 PM
Bantam A	2-May-04	Sunday	ALC	1:30 PM	3:00 PM
Bantam A	9-May-04	Sunday	ALC	2:30 PM	4:00 PM
Bantam AE	14-May-04	Friday	ALC	6:00 PM	8:00 PM
Bantam AE	17-May-04	Monday	ALC	8:00 PM	10:00 PM
Bantam AE	25-May-04	Tuesday	ALC	7:30 PM	9:00 PM
1989					
Minor Midget AAA	13-Apr-04	Tuesday	EG West	9:00 PM	10:00 PM
Minor Midget AAA	15-Apr-04	Thursday	EG East	9:30 PM	10:30 PM
Minor Midget AAA	16-Apr-04	Friday	EG East	9:30 PM	10:30 PM
Minor Midget AAA	17-Apr-04	Saturday	EG East	4:30 PM	5:30 PM
Minor Midget AAA	18-Apr-04	Sunday	EG East	7:30 PM	8:30 PM
Minor Midget AA	14-Apr-04	Wednesday	ACC2	8:30 PM	10:00 PM
Minor Midget AA	17-Apr-04	Saturday	ALC	7:30 PM	9:00 PM
Minor Midget AA	18-Apr-04	Sunday	ALC	11:00 AM	1:00 PM
Minor Midget A	2-May-04	Sunday	ALC	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
Minor Midget A	8-May-04	Saturday	ALC	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Minor Midget A	9-May-04	Sunday	ALC	4:00 PM	6:00 PM
1988 & 1987					
Midget A	1-May-04	Saturday	ALC	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Midget A	2-May-04	Sunday	ALC	4:30 PM	6:00 PM
Midget A	14-May-04	Friday	ALC	8:00 PM	10:00 PM
Midget AA	12-Apr-04	Monday	ACC2	8:30 PM	10:00 PM
Midget AA	18-Apr-04	Sunday	ALC	7:00 PM	9:00 PM
Midget AA	25-Apr-04	Sunday	ALC	4:00 PM	6:00 PM



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RUMOURS & RAMBLINGS

Aurora's first cocktail lounge was the Graystones

It was back in August, 1969, when the Graystones Restaurant received its cocktail licence.

It was the first to be granted in the community, and the name was changed to Graystone Tavern.

The new licence gave the tavern the right to serve alcoholic beverages without customers having to order food to go with them.

Prior to that a customer had to eat food valued at the same amount as the bar bill.

WORLD-WIDE CONTEST

It was in June, 1990, when nearly 100 members of the Aurora Bridge Club joined with 100,000 bridge players in more than 90 countries to compete in the 5th Annual Epson World-Wide Pairs Competition.

Thanks to the magic of computers, the same hands were played in every game on six continents.

According to Epson organizers the underlying theme of the 1990 Epson Competition was a Salute to Universal Brotherhood.

Competitors around the world played the same hands at the same local time on game day.

The winning team received an Epson personal computer and printer for each member.

Two other top pairs received \$1,000 each in Epson products.

AURORA IN 1892

Today Aurora councillors do not receive a list of the monthly expenditures, at least in public session, so the public has no idea how much was spent on what.

Back in March, 1892, some 112 years ago, the grand total for the month was shown as \$125.66.

A major issue of the day was the matter of borrowing funds to pay for the site for a new high school and to erect the school.

It was finally agreed to issue debentures for \$8,000 for what is today the Wells Street Public School.

The Ways and Means Committee asked for more time to work on its report about electric street lights, which were not installed until 1901.

The committee reported they had decided against house numbering, which was carried out in 1949.

Total revenues for 1891 were shown as \$23,185.17 with disbursements showing a surplus of \$634.88.

How times have changed, but the wages of the day weren't so attractive.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TOWN HALL THEATRE?

Back in February, 1992, Councillor Herb

McKenzie came up with the idea of using the council chambers as a movie theatre for seniors after viewing a promotional Canada Day movie on the large screen in the council chambers.

He pointed out that the seniors centre gets free movies once a week from a local video store, but only has a small television screen on which to watch them.

To illustrate his point, McKenzie brought along a copy of "Dances With Wolves", which council watched for a few minutes before referring the suggestion to staff for review.

What happened, if anything?

SOME DUCKS WERE SAFE

In May, 1992, Aurora Council agreed to spend \$150 to put up a sign on the St. John's Sideroad in the area of the McKenzie Marsh in an attempt to warn and prevent motorists from running down ducks crossing the roadway from one wetland to the other.

However council refused to erect similar "Duck Crossing" signs in other areas of the town despite a plea from some members of council.

A special request had been received for a sign for a duck crossing on Brookland Avenue just west of Yonge Street.

OKTOBERFEST COMES TO AURORA

On September 19, 1987, the Aurora/Newmarket Kiwanis Club brought Oktoberfest back to the Aurora Community Centre after an eight-year absence to raise funds for the Whipper Billy Watson CAT Scan campaign for York County Hospital and the Aurora Family Leisure Complex.

In order to ensure everyone a good and a safe time, it was arranged that Aurora town buses would run on both local routes until 1 a.m. A designated driver program was also prepared.

The festival, started in 1979, was phased out because the ice was being returned to the arena earlier each year and Oktoberfest eventually fizzled out, but in 1987 the new Family Leisure Complex accommodated early skaters enabling the service club to use the Community Centre for Oktoberfest.

Ein, zwie, drie and oom-pah-pah with Horst Willard of Aurora who was the band leader for the first Oktoberfest in 1969, headed the 1987 German band The Remnants

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sidered legal tender and according to the Federal Currency and Exchange Act at that time, it was any amount of bank notes or gold coins, a limit of \$10 for dimes or greater, a limit of \$5 for nickels and a limit of 25 cents for pennies. It was a good attempt!

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Aurora group benefits from organizing event

At least one Aurora organization will benefit from National Organizing Week, an annual event that takes place this year from May 3rd to 7th.

Professional Organizers in Canada (POC) has chosen to celebrate this year's theme "Organize NOW" by volunteering time to the Children's Wish Foundation.

In Aurora, Shelley McAulay of Orderly Solutions Associates is volunteering her time to The Women's Centre of York Region Friday, May 7.

Ms. McAulay is a member of Aurora Business.com and the Women's Centre is located on Yonge Street, between Wellington and Tyler.

National Organizing Week was created to

give professional organizers across Canada a chance to give back to the community by supporting other non-profit organizations, and focusing on the benefits of getting organized and staying organized.

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American choir visits

The Kamiak Choir, a group of more than 70 students from Washington, D.C., invaded Aurora's Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School last week to perform with a similar group from Williams. The visit marked the first time an American choir has visited the school.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Red flags go up

Rec complex costs rise

From page 1

the project had risen to \$24.1 million.

Some councillors started to question the rising costs and the ability of the taxpayers to pay, but the project was authorized to proceed under the threat that any delay could jeopardize the planned opening date of the ice pads in September next year.

The draft 2004 capital budget had estimated the cost of the facility at \$18.5 million and it was to be paid for with \$5.5 million from reserve funds, \$1 million from reserves, \$7.8 million from development charges and \$4.8 million through a debenture.

The project was deemed to be affordable without affecting other capital projects with a 10 per cent increase in user fees, a tax rate increase of 2.5 per cent per year for 10 years to repay the debenture and increased development charges.

The net cost to taxpayers for the aquatic centre after revenues were deducted was estimated to be \$338,000 per year and for the ice pads and community space an estimated \$95,000 per year.

With the addition of two lanes to the pool, estimated to cost an additional \$637,000, councillors started to express concerns about the increased cost and the impact on taxpayers.

It was also noted that while the user groups had been involved in the planning process the general public had not been asked.

Last February the revised estimated price for the complex was \$21.5 million, down by \$4 million from the original proposal.

It was suggested that the project be phased, but council was advised that phasing would only increase the overall cost.

Council agreed to proceed to the design phase on condition that it would not be seen as final as that approval would depend on the adoption of the 2004 capital budget.

Last week, the red flags went up.

Town staff pointed out that the original fiscal forecast was based on a cost of \$18.5 million and while funding was stretched, it was possible to proceed providing council approved a debenture for a portion of the construction costs.

With the implications of a larger financial commitment in response to the enhanced facility size and program combined with overall construction costs the report warned councillors that approving changes could jeopardize the flexibility of future councils.

The report also indicated that to ensure adequate cash flow to fund construction of the facility in

2004/2005 debt financing of \$19.3 million would be required.

A 20-year repayment debenture, split between future growth and the tax base would mean a one time tax rate increase of 4.6 per cent.

The report also warned councillors that by shifting more than half the principle and interest cost to future growth over the 20-year period would have a negative impact on the town's development charge rate.

Councillor Evelyn Buck waved the first red flag.

Council was not only taking a risk, they were taking away the flexibility of future councils, she said. She noted the town could not afford the complex.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner expressed concern about the development charge being increased and the risk of a resulting heavier tax load.

Councillor Nigel Kean suggested the town sell off assets like the Leslie Street lands and use the funds to pay down the cost of the complex.

Councillor John West

said the report was a pro-development strategy and would bind future councils, which shouldn't be done. He also expressed concern about the annual operating loss.

He said he was opposed to the way council was proceeding and predicted the final cost of the facility would be in the \$30 million range.

Councillor Damir Vrancic said the sky wasn't falling and when council voted to proceed they knew there would be tax increases.

He suggested that other sources of revenue, such as the sale of lands, and revenue from Aurora Hydro.

He said he was sure the community was behind the project. The sale of the four-acre parcel south of Wellington Street should be used to help pay down the cost of the complex, he said.

Staff pointed out that council had previously committed the revenue from the sale of the four-acre parcel to help pay down the library debt.

The report was received as information.



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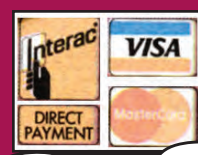
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