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AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Vol. 4 No. 27

Week of April 27, 2004

905-727-3300



Two of the more active members at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce annual Home & Lifestyle Show over the weekend were Sheryl Amirault, the scarecrow, and Heidi Collins, the lion, of Marquee Theatrical Productions. They were in costume throughout the three-day show. Officials said crowds were down Saturday when the weather was nice, but increased Sunday when temperatures fell and the rain started.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Reserve fund shortfall could jeopardize grant

A \$100,000 grant from the Trillium Foundation for the Aurora Historical Society to help renovate the first floor of the Church Street School may be in jeopardy unless council members get clarification of the status of the Church Street School Reserve Fund.

Members of the society believed the fund held more than \$300,000, but the town's records show there is about \$164,000 in the reserve.

It is believed the missing money was used to pay cost overruns on exterior work to the century-old building last year, which saw the addition of an elevator to service the second floor.

Councillors were hoping for clarification at a meeting Tuesday night, but results were not available at press time.

In August last year Aurora signed a lease with the Historical Society for a 10-year period with an option of two additional five year terms.

As part of the agreement a Management Committee was formed to make presentations to the

Leisure Services Advisory Committee for the upgrades, renovations, repairs and operation of the facility.

According to a report from the Management Committee at the time the application was submitted to the Foundation, the Society was required to submit a proposed budget and a copy of the lease with the town.

The Society committed \$240,000 of existing monies to the project as well as launching a capital fundraising campaign.

The Society was under the impression at the signing of the lease the town had a capital reserve of \$311,000 for the school to which the Society had access, according to the lease.

These amounts were provided in the application submitted to the Trillium Foundation.

Although the balance of the reserve account was recorded at \$311,000 as of December 31st, the actual amount was later confirmed as \$164,000.

The Society is concerned that the community risks losing the \$100,000 grant towards the refurbishing of the building plus any additional grants should the Foundation believe the Society's position was misrepresented.

The Management Committee has expressed concern that the depletion of the reserve funds would affect the provision of the Trillium grant as well as the ability to complete interior renovations to the school.

Cost estimate of the renovations to the ground floor of the school is estimated at \$480,000. The application for the Trillium grant was based on the Society contributing \$240,000, the town contribution from reserve of \$140,000 and the Trillium grant of \$100,000.

The existing reserve balance of \$164,000 is sufficient to finance the works on the ground floor renovations, but the Management Committee has requested the original funding amount of \$311,000 be reinstated to help finance future renovation works.

Council poised for 5.5 per cent increase in tax

Aurora Council was expected to approve a budget increase Tuesday that would be the lowest in York Region.

After spending a Saturday morning recently slashing and hacking at what looked like a major taxpayer hit, councillors settled on a 3.5 per cent increase, then added about two per cent to help next year's budget pay for two major capital items.

If approved, the final budget would come in 5.5 per cent higher than last year.

Throughout the slash and burn morning recently, the town's two major proposals - a seniors' centre and a recreational complex that included two ice pads and an eight-lane swimming pool - survived.

Councillors Tuesday night were dealing with the third draft of the budget, and have been battling with the overall budget for months.

In the first draft, the recommendation showed an 8.4 per cent increase in the operating expenditures of the budget.

Councillors had four shots at the second draft of both the operating and capital budgets before finally settling on the 3.5 per cent increase with added monies for next year.

A 5.5 per cent increase means about a \$45 increase on a home assessed at \$250,000.

Money set aside for next year amounts to about \$325,000.

However, as Acting Treasurer Paul Dillman pointed out in a report, money cut from the budget is not necessarily money gone forever.

"It should be noted that the majority of the potential amendments to 2004 budget estimates are not permanent in nature," he said, "merely deferred expenditures to be addressed in future years."

He said the concept of putting money away this year to help pay for items next year should not cause detrimental impacts

on the Town.

This year's capital program is set at more than \$31 million, which includes the two major items planned for the town's east end.

There is some urgency to have the two ice rinks up and running prior to the start of next year's hockey season.

Cash is expected to come from various reserve funds, user groups, donations, and a \$19 million debenture.

The capital budget also allows for the construction of Civic Square Park, near the Town Hall, and the building of a new lit senior soccer pitch.

Tigers advance

The Aurora Tigers left Monday for North Bay as one of four teams in a round-robin tournament seeking Central Canada hockey honours.

Tuesday, April 27, at 3 p.m. they played their first game, against the Sault Ste. Marie Thunderbirds.

The tourney continues Wednesday with a 3 p.m. game against the Fort William North Stars, followed by game three, Thursday night, against the host North Bay Skyhawks.

Assuming they are one of the top three teams following those games, Tigers will enter the semi finals Friday with the finals set for Saturday.

The team finishing first in the opening games gets a bye to the finals.

Tigers practiced Sunday evening at the Aurora Leisure Complex, before heading up north.

Meanwhile, Aurora won the trip to the tourney following a 5-0 victory over the St. Michael's Buzzers in enemy territory last week.

Details of that game may be found on Page 12.



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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 30, May 1 and 9. Call 905-727-1312 for reservations.

APRIL 29

Aurora Grove Public School, 415 Stone Road, presents the musical Annie at 7 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

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church sale. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Gently used books, videos, CDs and Christian resources on sale.

Proceeds benefit the church library. Church is at the corner of Victoria and Mosley.

Deadline for nominations for 2004 Citizen of the Year. Nomination 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 of 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 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. Public 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.

JUNE 12-13

Aurora Fair (horse show continues). Machell Park. Superdogs, petting zoo, free pony rides, juggling, dancing, snakes and other exotic animals, mutt show, Clarol the Clown, and many more new and old favourites.

JUNE 13

Aurora Seniors view the famous Hamilton Tattoo in Copp's Coliseum. Cost is \$72 for members and \$77 for non-members. Call the centre at 905-727-2816 to register.

JUNE 16

Open House Day at Merlin's Hollow Gardens on Centre Crescent from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Hillary House will be open for tours and tea from 1 to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for each site with proceeds supporting Hillary House. Call 905-727-4015 for details.

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.

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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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Town presents annual report to committee

Every year town departments compile statistics related to their operations and present a summary of their accomplishments and initiatives to Aurora Council.

The information is compiled into the town's annual report.

Council received the report last week in a general committee meeting and was expected to endorse it Tuesday night.

Some of the highlights from 2003 included a report about the second year of operation of the Central York Fire Services and the hiring of 19 recruits.

That allows the Fire Services to add additional fire truck service to the roster 24 hours per day.

The building department realized a 100 per cent increase in permit activity during 2003 compared with 2002 and a 140 per cent increase over 2001.

The legal services division experienced substantial increases in planning and development agreements for condominium, subdivision and site plan areas as well as in general real estate regarding purchases, sales, easements, encroachments and road closures.

The leisure services department implemented a new Culture and Recreation Master Plan, completed renovations to various parks, held many successful special events and introduced a total of 62 new programs.

The treasury department released a Request for Proposals for the delivery and implementation of a management information system strategy.

The public works department prepared a review of winter operations, revamped the town's water use bylaw, initiated a drainage bylaw, participated in developing a Model Utility Procedures Manual with several other municipalities, and developed initiatives to maximize capacity of existing sewer systems.

The town appointed an Accessibility Advisory Committee who prepared a plan to remove barriers for people with disabilities.

The Economic Development Officer along with the Economic Development Advisory Committee implemented a number of new initiatives to encourage the town's economic development strategy.

The Five-Year Review of

the Official Plan Review was completed and a strategy developed for a series of projects aimed at revitalizing the official plan to prepare for future developments.

The controversial Oak Ridges Moraine Conformity Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw were completed.

The anti-litter campaign initiative incorporated volunteer groups, citizens and staff to help educate the public about littering and to address areas that needed special attention.

The year 2004 brings many additional challenges including technical, risk management and administrative perspectives.

Major challenges facing the town include preparing and implementing a new Accessibility Plan, implementing a new Community Plan, continuing with the further development of the new Emergency Plan and implementing new programs for seniors, youths, aquatics and fitness.

Other actions include the finalization of plans for the new Seniors Centre and Recreational Complex, implementing a new Financial Information System, continuing to attend to issues related to the proposed Hydro merger

with Newmarket and working on the town's review of the Oak Ridges Moraine legislation.

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Hydro needs a new line through town

If the current plans by Hydro One are realized a new replacement transmission line will be constructed through York Region to ensure a reliable power supply.

However, if selected, the line would follow an existing hydro path.

John Sanderson, President and CEO of Aurora Hydro, and Gary Schneider, Systems Development for Hydro One, appeared before Aurora's general committee last week to outline the proposal.

Hydro One is initiating a consultation process regarding the proposed transmission line project in York.

It is proposed to construct the new line on an existing corridor, extending from Hydro One's transformer station in Markham to its station on Mulock Drive in Newmarket, passing through the east part of Aurora.

Sanderson told committee members the current supply facility was more than 25 years old and was at capacity.

Schneider said the new line was required to ensure reliable delivery of electricity to customers in York Region and will allow region electrical utilities to expand their systems to keep pace with growth.

Construction could start in June next year with the line operational by November, 2006.

MOTHER'S DAY MENU

Seatings (11am / 1pm / 3pm / 5pm / 7pm)

APPETIZERS Choice of:

Goulash Soup
French Onion Soup
Bouillon Cellementine
Caesar Salad
House Salad

MAIN COURSES Choice of:

Wiener Schnitzel
Champignon Schnitzel
Graystone Schnitzel
Grilled Sole
Shrimps in tomato-dill-cream sauce
Sauerbraten

All above are served with vegetables and potatoes

DESSERTS Choice of:

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Creme Caramel
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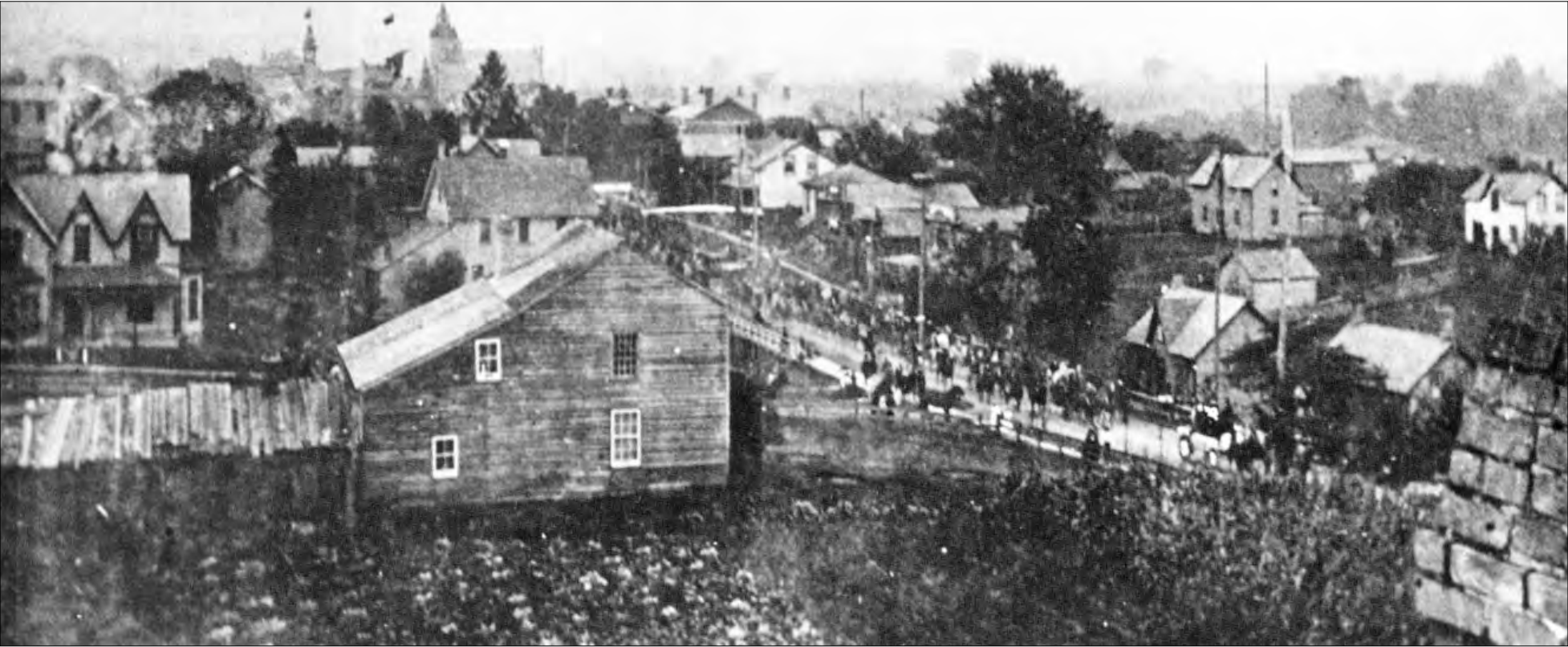
Hwy

Aurora Sd. Rd.

Woodbine Ave.

Bloomington Sd. Rd.

Stouffville Rd.



It may be difficult to see, but this could be a photo of Yonge Street's first traffic jam. Taken from about the site of today's Our Lady Of Grace Roman Catholic Church, the photo shows what appears to be a parade heading north on Yonge, north of Wellington. The picture was believed taken in the early 1890s. In the foreground is "Castle Doan", and a three-gabled house on Catherine Avenue, is visible to the left of the picture. There appear to be two white banners strung across the street, and in the background is the steeple of today's Aurora United Church. That steeple was knocked off by a cyclone in 1893.

Letters to the Editor

Don't spend money we don't have: reader

To the editor,

Re: recreation.

The gentleman who suggested that the new rinks, pool, etc., be financed as a non-profit operation so taxpayers would not have to foot the bill has hit on a good idea. Another method is for those interested in using sports or recreation facilities to buy shares.

When you have enough money, you build the facility. When profit is generated you have a draw each year of share owners and buy back shares related to the project. It seems every time a group goes to the council requesting major changes it happens regardless of whether we have the money or not. Maybe a group of taxpayers

who have not used any of the current sports or recreation facilities could go to council and demand a cut in taxes. The people who lived in Aurora starting in the 80s paid for their facilities. Now with 40,000 people we are paying for them, too. During my first 10 years in Aurora, my taxes went from \$1,172 to \$1,931, an increase of \$759. The past five years they were from \$2,949 to \$3,438, a total of \$489 and climbing. Over 25 years, my services have not changed nor did I use any sport or recreation facility. So the big question is, why should everyone pay for recreation or sports facilities? Maybe council can put their heads together and finance facilities without taxpayer dollars.

Back in the 40s, the first artificial ice rink in my town was privately owned. No problem; you paid the owner for use. It would be time for council to spend time on financing than on street names. If people cannot afford their own sports or recreational facilities they should not have them. Mayor Tim Jones in his write-up about the 50s, 60s and 70s forgot to mention in those times you did not spend money you did not have. No plastic. Let's generate a little action for taxpayers.

R.W. Hanes
Aurora



Poor Richard

Aurora Council is dysfunctional, And there are many reasons why; Parliamentary rules are not followed, Onlookers shake their head and sigh! - Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Citizens of a municipality expect their members of council to debate issues in what they believe to be in the best interests of the community, but they expect it to be done in an orderly and parliamentary fashion and to arrive at a majority decision. Once the decision has been reached in a democratic manner, it should be a council decision with the support of all members of council, including the mayor. Strong debate is expected on the issues facing council members as they are elected as individuals and their only sense of allegiance is to their constituents or their own personal agenda, so there is little cohesion and sense of common purpose. Because of the different personalities and lack of common purpose, a procedural bylaw that is fully understood by all members and enforced is essential for the conduct of productive meetings. Unfortunately, the debate has become more personal, with nit-picking, back-biting, constant across the floor remarks, wandering off topic and at times an apparent lack of control. It used to be that councillors were required to stand to speak and direct their remarks through the chairperson, so that everybody knew who had the floor. Now with councillors remaining seated while they speak, it is sometimes difficult to determine who has the floor resulting in interruptions and cross-table chit-chat. But the major problem is council's inability to arrive at a decision and stay with it, as the issue gets tossed back and forth between council and committee, or gets referred to staff for

Aurora Council is dysfunctional

one reason or another. A good example of council's inability to reach a decision was the ongoing debate over the committee structure, resulting in the committees just being appointed although three months of the year has passed by. During the controversial off-site orientation session in early January, questions were asked about the committee structure resulting in a comprehensive staff report outlining various options listing the advantageous and disadvantages of each. The task was relatively simple, a general committee or standing committees and whether the advisory committees should consist of citizens only or a mixture of citizens and members of council. The task didn't turn out that way. In spite of strong arguments in support of standing committees, a motion to retain the general committee system was adopted by a 5-2 vote. The vote on the advisory committee was tied on a 3-3 vote with the chairperson voting in support of the joint committee of citizens and councillors. Two members of council were absent. When the committee report came to council, one of the absent members argued strongly for a citizen only committee and in the ensuing discussion the whole issue was referred back to committee for further review. At the committee meeting in mid-February a motion was made to approve the general committee structure but to appoint citizens only to the advisory committees. A major discussion took place as to whether the general committee system had been approved or not. Some argued that council had adopted it at the previous meeting, while others argued that the whole report had been referred back to the general committee. The motion was divided into two parts and the general committee was approved without further debate, but the composition of the advisory committee was a different matter. Finally the motion to have citizen only committees was defeated on a 5-3 vote and a motion to maintain the status quo of a joint committee was approved, although there was another prolonged debate on the terms of reference for each committee. Due to the delay and the confusion it was agreed to re-advertise for citizen applicants and appointments were made in April. It was a typical debate.

Volunteers commended

To the editor,

Last Sunday, April 18th, I had the pleasure of volunteering, along with so many Aurorans at the Bob Hartwell Marathon Challenge. The day dawned foggy and gray, threatening the first spring thunderstorm and yet when I arrived at the Town Park, my spirits were lifted by the amazing turnout of enthusiastic volunteers, all ready with smiles to "man their stations". It was these volunteers and all their efforts who helped make the event so much fun and a huge success.

I salute the visionaries and organizers who volunteered so much time and effort to organizing this run. My heartfelt thanks goes to all the wonderful individual volunteers who made this event come to life! Once again you've reminded our community of its "giving spirit" and made it a place we're proud to call home!

Trish Seguin
Aurora Volunteer Centre
(905) 727-3123 ext. 4103

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.



History of the street name

On Thursday, January 18th, 1990, the Planning Advisory Committee for the Town of Aurora met and dealt with an unfinished business item - Report No. CL90-001-001, Street Names - Aurora East Industrial Estates: and a Memo re: Street Names - Aurora East Industrial Estates.

Members of the committee comprised of all of council including then Mayor John West, Councillor George Timpson in the chair, and Councillors Gail McIntyre, Herb McKenzie, Judith Ochalski, Betty Pedersen, and Earl Stewart.

Councillors Tim Jones and Norm Weller were absent.

Councillor Pedersen moved and Councillor Ochalski seconded the motion for several street names to be included on the draft plans comprising the Aurora East Industrial Estates including John West Way in a motion that was carried by the committee.

The minutes of this meeting were considered and adopted by Council on January 24th, 1990.

I asked former Mayor Timpson what his recollection was of the reasoning council adopted the motion with consideration to naming John West Way, and he said, "John was honoured in this way because of his leadership and effort in making the new Town Hall a reality."

As a member of that council I also supported this honour for John as I know how hard he worked and how dedicated he was in identifying the site for the future home of Aurora's last Town Hall.

More than a year later, on September 25th, 1991, council gave two readings to a bylaw to dedicate certain lands on John West Way as a Public Highway.

This naming came into force October 9th, 1991, with the third reading of the bylaw.

Just over 12 years later, council of 2004 was presented with a notice of motion regarding changing the address of the Town Hall and the proposed Seniors' Centre.

This issue was referred to staff to investigate for clarification of the Town policies and associated costs on March 30th, and the staff reported back April 13th, advising that the current street naming policy and public facilities naming policy does not contain any provisions that speaks to the issue of new public buildings fronting on streets named after elected officials.

They indicated that a proposed name of 'Civic Way' was not acceptable to the Region.

Staff indicated implications for a change involved the obvious re-addressing of everything the Town is currently identified on, in or with.

Staff requested that if this was to be considered, that we at least try to use up everything with the current info on it.

There would still be costs associated with reprinting, estimated at a minimum of \$5,000, plus 'considerable' time for staff to notify all that require notification.

Nowhere in the report was there any mention of any benefit to the Town or its residents to support changing the Town Hall address.

During the discussion on this matter April 13th, there were four speakers. Each challenged the need and priority of this item given the number of other real issues in front of council, and the unnecessary costs compared with other financial priorities that we should be dealing with.

And, of course the rationale to change the sentiment and original naming of this street in the first place.

With no description as to the benefit or value of this to the taxpayer, with no comment from five councillors who voted for this change, the vote was called and the motion to change the Town Hall address carried 5-4.

In my opinion, this action is symptomatic of the dysfunctional behaviour of council to date.

We can't get enough councillors to volunteer for existing committees after council passes a motion to have councillors on committees; we defer doing a Strategic Plan for the Town until we can self admittedly get along better.

This previous council passed a resolution declaring the Town a Character Community.

In doing so, we acknowledge positive character attributes that we should consider in our working environment.

RESPECT: has this whole episode demonstrated a desire among councillors to treat themselves and others with consideration, high regard and dignity. I think not!

INTEGRITY: have members of council done what is right and ensured there is no difference between what they say and what they do?

COMPASSION: Have members of council done whatever is necessary to heal the hurts of others or strived to understand and be sensitive to their feelings?

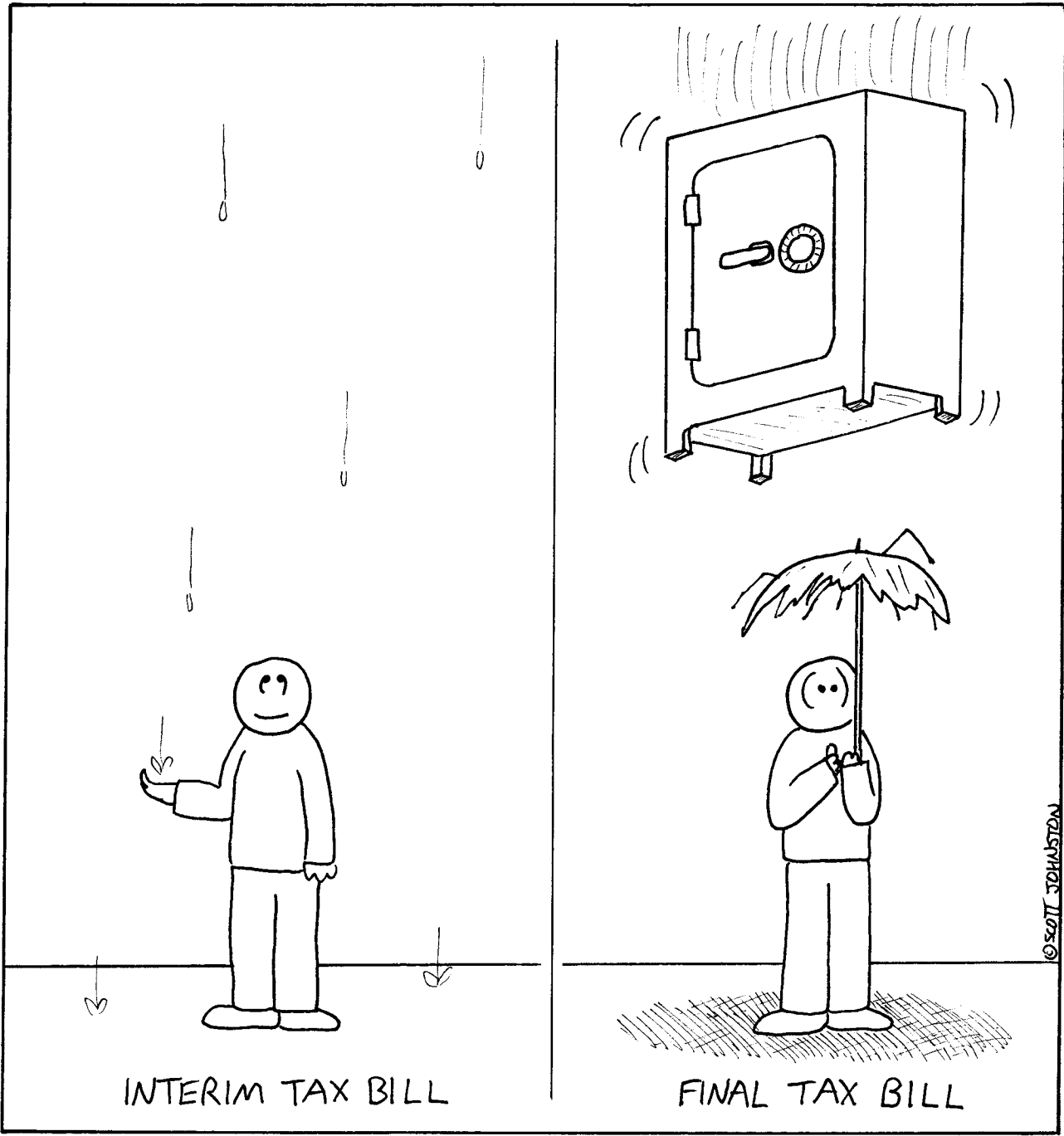
FAIRNESS: Have members treated others in a just, equitable and unbiased manner?

INITIATIVE: Have members recognized what needs to be done and done it, without the prompting of others?

It's time for everyone on council to start thinking for the Town and not themselves. And I am still asking, Why? What are the valid benefits to the Town or for the residents in changing the Town Hall address?

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

Machell's Corners



Cathy's Corner



We're not really a bedroom community

According to my dictionary, an Aurora is a display of arcs, bands, streamers, etc. of light occasionally seen in the skies of polar latitudes.

Aurora is also the dawn.

In Roman mythology, Aurora was the goddess of the dawn.

But that's just trivia.

True Aurorans are confident that we are the star of...um, polar latitudes, and dawn suits us fine because it's a scientific fact that the sun does indeed rise on Aurora every day ... um, except when there's a blizzard, a downpour or a cloud in the process of deciding which it's going to be...which most of the time, there is.

The sun even sets on Aurora, and when it does, some people are riding the train, some are riding the bus, and some are riding someone else's tail on the 404.

It's these people who have given rise to the misguided notion that Aurora is a "bedroom community" - a "sleepy town" north of Toronto.

Aurora is not a bedroom community!

First of all, even though the eight councillors and the mayor occasionally feel compelled to share secrets with each other on pink sheets, this is hardly pillow talk.

At Town Hall, what happens behind closed doors is called an "in camera" meeting, not to be confused with an "off site" meeting, which is not a meeting, so it's okay to sleep and beds are provided for that purpose.

However, notice the bedroom part isn't located in Aurora, so how can Aurora be a bedroom community when councillors leave town to sleep together? (They do what?!? - Ed.)

Second, did anyone happen to consider the fact that Aurora has exactly one hotel?

Doesn't it seem strange for a community to be defined by the word "bedroom" when it has but a single facility that subsists on the provision of beds?

Third, even if you base the entire argument on commuters, you have to subtract the in-coming crowd - including John B., who drives in from Toronto every week to play soccer and doesn't bring his bed.

And what about the people from neighbouring towns who work in Aurora and might pack a brown bag, but never a sleeping bag?

And don't forget the consultants that the Town pays to make up the shortfall.

At the end of a complex calculation, what we determine is that everybody who lives in Aurora sleeps in Aurora - at least most of the time.

And what's wrong with that? Sleeping is a popular, traditionally accepted, historically approved, national pastime - especially with teenagers.

They sleep through alarm clocks, lectures, earthquakes, bull horns and occasionally, exams.

They've been known to sleep on desks, sofas, floors, books, and oddly enough, draped over refrigerators containing chocolate milk.

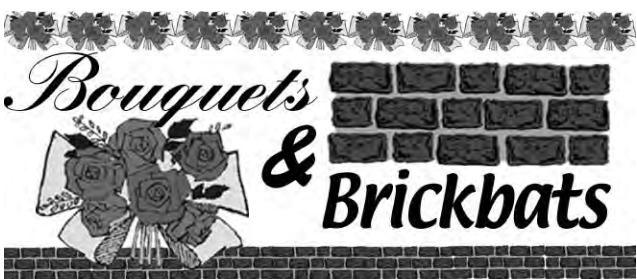
Okay, so they do have beds. So what? As far as I know, everybody in Aurora has some sort of bed. Heck, my dog even has a bed!

But does that make us a bedroom community? Not by a long shot!


Newmarket has more beds than Aurora, Markham has more beds than Newmarket, and Toronto has more beds than all of us put together.


I can't believe Council hasn't addressed this important issue yet! They must all be asleep!


Cathy looks forward to messages from readers at laughingmatters@aci.on.ca





By DICK ILLINGWORTH


 **BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Lions Club for donating \$25,000 for the York Region Community Safety Village. The funds will go to the construction of the community room, the focal point of the education centre scheduled to be opened in September.


 **BRICKBATS** to Aurora Council for releasing the names of citizens appointed to committees on the town's website following an in camera session before being ratified in open council. Council should have learned a lesson from releasing the names of citizens appointed to the Committee of Adjustment and then not including the person in the enacting bylaw.


 **BOUQUETS** to the staff at the Town Hall for the excellent fiscal impact analysis report for the new recreational complex. It should be mandatory reading for all taxpayers so they know the heavy tax burden they are facing to pay for its construction and operation. It's scary!


 **More BOUQUETS** to the same staff for the comprehensive 2003 Annual Report of the town's operations, department by department, and listing some of the challenges the town faces in 2004. Should be compulsory reading for all Aurora citizens.


 **BRICKBATS** to the weatherman for frowning on the Third Annual Bob Hartwell Runners Challenge, but **BOUQUETS** to the 650 runners who faced the inclement weather to pay tribute to Bob.

 **BOUQUETS** to the 10 marathon runners from the Aurora and Newmarket area who participated in 108th Boston Marathon last week along with another 20,000 participants.

 **BRICKBATS** to Premier Dalton McGuinty for believing Ontarians are stupid by claiming the government's proposal to impose the sales tax on meals under \$4 was a means of attacking childhood obesity when it's really the \$200 million per year in revenue he wants. He got the message and cancelled it!

 **BOUQUETS** to the same McGuinty Liberal government for announcing the tuition fees for university and college would be kept the same for another year. It was good news for students who are working this summer to raise funds to further their education.

 **More BRICKBATS** to the McGuinty government for failing to correct the inequities in taxation imposed by the Harris Progressive Conservative government with the GTA pooling policy. Toronto taxpayers get hit with an average \$58 property tax increase after receiving \$79.5 million from York Region, while regional taxpayers get hit with a \$91 increase on the average home.

 **BOUQUETS** to Shelley McAulay, of Orderly Solutions Associates of Aurora, for volunteering her time to the Women's Centre of York Region, as part of National Organizing Week. The week was created to provide professional organizations a chance to give back to the community by supporting non-profit organizations.

 **BOUQUETS** to Samantha Sendel of Aurora who won a Silver medal last October in Germany in the under 13 category trampoline competition, on winning a double Gold in the under 15 category in the Canadian National Championships to take the individual trampoline and the double-mini titles.

Letters to the Editor

Column on Home Show appreciated - Gonsalves

To the editor,

Re: Cathy's Corner "Home Show is a good thing" (April 20th Auroran)

Your article regarding the 18th Aurora Home and Lifestyle Show was very timely.

Thanks for all the "things" you talked about. It was much appreciated.

One of the "things" that I would like to mention, is that Cathy, being a Past President of the Aurora Chamber of

Commerce (1996-1997) and Chair of the Home Show Committee in April, 1996, can certainly appreciate all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes to put on an event of this kind.

There are many "things" to be said at this time and foremost, I would like to thank all of the exhibitors for supporting our Show, once again.

Without your hard work and participation, there would be no show. We look forward to having you again in the year

2005 with all of your "things".

Thanks also to Patty Davidson, 1st Vice-President of the Chamber and Chair of this year's Committee, and her team for their effort in coordinating this event.

Special mention to Dave Rusnell of Artwood Cabinet Makers here in Aurora, who, for the third year, has built our stage kitchen in the Food and Wine section. Dave, we would be at a total loss, without your help. Thanks a bunch!

A big "thingamajig" to the Auroran, Aurora's Community Newspaper, for their coverage of this event and the many other happenings of the Chamber. Your support is always appreciated.

There could be a whole lot more "things" to say. However, it is hoped that those who attended the Show on the week-end found "good things", "nice things", "special things" and the "latest things".

Thanks for participating and attending one of the many "things" the Aurora Chamber of Commerce sponsors in your community.

Rosalyn A. Gonsalves
General Manager

Reader wants own address

To the editor,

While city council seems to be in a spending mood, I'd like a few things myself.

I would like to change my address from 61 Milloy Place to 1 Rob Knetsch Way.

While I'm at it, how about a new street curb? I find my existing one quite unappealing.

Oh, and I may as well put in my request for an extra swimming lane in the new recreation centre.

I would, of course, share that with all the residents living on Milloy Place.

Thank you in advance, Aurora residents, for fronting the money, and city council, for appropriating some of it my way.

of having a street named after me.

No special building was built on this street, but it has lovely homes for families to enjoy.

Maybe we should take your title away as "Mr. Aurora".

This would let you know how it feels to be humiliated by your so called friends for all the time and effort you have put in for the Town.

We have too many want-to-be's on council and none of them will ever give as much to this Town as John West.

Let your sense of decency guide you and present a Notice of Motion at the next council meeting to rescind the one you voted for.

Show you are an honourable man and deserve the title you hold.

D. Wardle
Aurora

Rob Knetsch
Aurora

Street name showed respect for John West

To the editor,

I was watching the Council In Action on the 13th of April and was absolutely disgusted with the action taken by five members of this council in changing the address of our municipal building.

When the council back 12 to 13 years ago made the

decision to name that street "John West Way" (unanimously, I must say) it was to show respect and pay tribute to John for his years of service on council along with all other projects he was involved in for the betterment of the community.

I was an employee of this municipality for 31 years and was given the honour

Progress report good for Chris

To the editor and fellow Aurorans,

April 23rd saw the six-month post unrelated bone marrow transplant of my son Christopher.

I couldn't help but wonder if folks who followed his

Study your hydro bill

To the editor,

Re: new electricity prices.

Have you noticed that the new price increase per kwh is regularly only expressed in numbers; very small numbers, that is.

I'm sure most folks aren't aware the increase for consumption at or under 750 kwh per month is almost 10 per cent (a 0.4 cent increase to 4.7 from 4.3) and for those who use more than 750 kwh per month is 28 per cent (1.2 cent increase to 5.5 from 4.3).

Just thought you might like to know.

Bob Graham
Aurora

story months ago may be wondering how things are going.

I am happy to report that all is going great!

The transplanted marrow is working like a charm and Chris is almost back to living a normal life. He still can't attend school but is getting a tutor.

Again, I would like to thank everyone who helped us during this difficult time. You are all wonderful!

I would like to take this opportunity to once again remind people to get on the bone marrow donor list and also be blood donors.

We have been in contact with Chris's donor, all we know is that it is a female and we send cards back and forth. Hopefully after one year we can meet.


For further updates I have included Chris's online journal for those who wish to follow his progress. It is www.caringbridge.org/ca/christophersfight.

Leslie Gist
Aurora

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Daffodil sale campaign a success

To the editor,

On behalf of the volunteers and staff of the Holland River Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society, I wish to thank the residents and business community of Aurora for their support dur-

ing the recent daffodil campaign.

April is daffodil month, and our annual daffodil sale kicks off our residential fundraising campaign and helps to raise public awareness around cancer.

great success.

Many thanks to the following businesses who allowed us to sell daffodils: Dominion, Winners, Gerry's No Frills, LCBO, Price Chopper, IGA, Sobey's and Home Depot.

who gave of their time to sell, deliver and supervise and the residents of our community who bought the flowers.

our local community transportation program.
Once again, thank you.

Trish Dynes
Daffodil convener
Aurora

Town needs 8-lane pool: reader

To Aurora Town Council,

The town needs an eight-lane pool.

Our support to hockey and soccer has been great,

please allow the Aquatic community meet its needs.

For years our children have waited on lists to attend swim classes! My sons are members of

Aurora Ducks Swimming and have to share lanes with up to 13 swimmers at practices!

limited through the week!

The swim club would benefit and so would the town when meets could be accommodated at the eight-lane pool!

Anda Carter
Aurora



Tiny opening

Operating in what is believed to be the smallest retail space in Aurora, cousins Paula Weir, left, and Debbie Leithwood, have opened the Low Carb Pantry on Yonge Street, just south of Wellington. Aurora Mayor Tim Jones made it official Saturday with the customary ribbon-cutting ceremony. The tiny shop, located near the old town hall on Yonge Street's east side has been a camera shop, a popcorn outlet, a tattoo location and a café during its lengthy history.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

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Some council debates had lively participation

Aurora Council is well known for its spirited debates even before Aurora Cable Internet started to telecast council meetings.

The debates of the past, much like today, were about everything and anything and sometimes, even nothing.

At a June, 1972, council meeting Councillor Norm Stewart charged that Councillor Illtyd Haris was bordering on becoming a menace in an emotion-packed shouting match.

Harris demanded that Stewart retract his statement and after letting the

debate carry on for a few minutes in hopes of clearing the air, Mayor Dick Illingworth threatened to expel them both from the council chambers.

The eruption was sparked by a report from Town Superintendent Mac McGregor who wrote that Harris was on the scene when Wimpey Homes workmen, without notice, shut off a water main servicing Mark Street, causing residents to be without water for about three hours.

McGregor wrote that as Harris was on the site, the Wimpey foreman assumed

Harris was acting with the consent of the town.

He added that Wimpey crews had since been instructed not to touch town waterworks without permission from the town's water foreman.

Harris referred to it as the joke of the year as at no time had he ever said anything to any subdivider or foreman to interfere with anyone's work.

That didn't satisfy Stewart who said he was getting fed up with Harris' attention to staff issues, which created the shouting match.

Stewart said it was known

that Harris had carried out unofficial inspections on construction sites wearing his personal hard hat.

Harris denied he was wearing his hard hat that day and had only worn it on three occasions. The mayor told Harris that his continued presence at construction sites led workmen to believe he was carrying out a staff function instead of a council function.

Council finally adopted a resolution forbidding council members from dealing directly with subdividers or their agents without prior permission of council.

Later Harris challenged Stewart to a debate at a ratepayers' meeting to which Stewart replied that anything he had to say would be said in the council chambers.

Another debate took place involving Harris in August, 1972, when he said that council had goofed when it sold property on the west side of Tannery Creek in Machell Park to a property owner on the east side of the creek.

Harris was appointed in 1971 to head up a fact finding committee regarding the ownership of properties bordering the creek due to the difficulty the town was having in starting a program designed to curb creek bank erosion.

Harris claimed there was an attempt to suppress his report on the sale of the property and claimed he could not get the report on the agenda.

According to the Harris report the town sold property to Ivan Daniels on the east side of the creek but somehow Daniels ended up with property on the west side as well.

Harris contended that council had goofed as the town failed to carry out a check on a survey of the property when it was sold.

In 1971, when the town planned to carry out work on the creek banks, Daniels was reported as refusing to sell the land back to the town, resulting in council indicating it would start expropriation proceedings

to get it back.

Back in January, 1970, council was embroiled in a hot debate over applying for a social membership at the Aurora Highlands Golf Club.

At the time, council was involved with club officials over their non-tax paying status.

A few years before, the Highlands won a costly court battle with the town over the payment of the town's business tax.

The town argued that the club was a commercial operation as it was used for company golf tournaments

and the club house was rented out to any organization, while the club argued successfully it was a private club.

Councillor Norm Stewart opposed a finance committee recommendation that the town apply for a \$60-a-year membership for official town entertaining.

In spite of Stewart's strong objections, council voted 6-3 to apply for membership.

The membership has changed but Aurora Council is still known for its debates, even when there isn't much to debate.



With a federal election in the wind - or not - Conservative Party of Canada candidate for the new riding of Newmarket-Aurora, Belinda Stronach, opened her constituency office Saturday in a location on Yonge Street, just north of Aurora's St. John's Sideroad boundary. Helping her with official opening ceremony duties is Marc Neeb, former Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Aurora and currently an executive at Magna International in Aurora's east end. A decision to open a second office in Aurora has yet to be made, officials said.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

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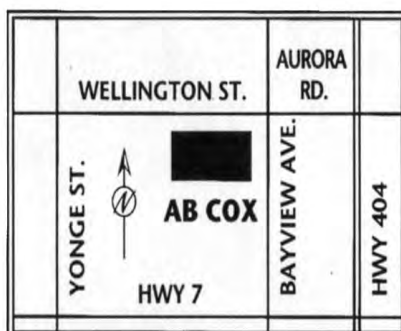
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Monday May 17th

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Mother's Day Buffet
Sunday, May 9, 2004
11am-2pm & 5pm-7pm

featuring:
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Tigers advance to Dudley-Hewitt

There really wasn't a great desire to have the series between the Aurora Tigers and the St. Michael's Buzzers go to seven games.

If home-ice advantage had been a factor, it wouldn't have helped Aurora in a seventh game, since their "home ice" wasn't at home.

It would have been at the Elgin Barrow Arena in Richmond Hill, because Aurora's ice came out to make way for the annual Aurora Chamber of Commerce Home & Lifestyle Show.

So, that meant Aurora,

leading in the series three games to two (all victories on home ice) had to go into enemy territory and win a game.

They did it in fine style last week.

Fresh from an impressive 5-0 victory in Aurora, Tigers duplicated their performance at St. Mike's, dumping the homesters 5-0 to win the coveted Buckland Cup, the reward for capturing all the Provincial Junior A marbles.

The win got them a trip to North Bay and the Dudley-Hewitt Tournament, where they

are this week, battling against three other teams for the right to represent Central Canada in the Royal Bank Cup game in Alberta next month.

Keep your eye on www.Auroraonline.com this week for scores from the North Bay tournament, which is scheduled to wrap up with a championship game this Saturday.

Meanwhile, back to last week's final game with St. Mike's.

The two teams came out strong in the first period, looking to get an early lead on their opponent.

Both goaltenders, Chris Whitley and Kain Tisi, were kept busy facing a number of great scoring opportunities.

Sean Scully opened the scoring with only one minute to play in the opening period as Aurora outshot St. Michael's 15-11.

In the second, Tigers were finally successful in solving the Tisi wall.

Scully scored his second of the game, Matt Bahen extended the lead and Francis Walker added a power play goal to give Aurora a solid 4-0 lead after 40 minutes.

The Buzzers tried to get back in the game, but Walker scored his second of the game just 0:12 seconds into the third frame which pretty well finished St. Michael's comeback attempt.

The Buzzers went on to outshoot the Tigers 14-9 in the period, but could not beat Whitley as he captured his sixth shutout of the playoffs.

FIRST PERIOD
 A: Sean Scully (Walker, Bahen) 19.00

SECOND PERIOD
 A: Sean Scully (Walker) 2.43
 A: Matt Bahen (Joslin, Skwarchuk) 8.11
 A: Francis Walker (Bahen, Kostka) 10.56

THIRD PERIOD
 A: Francis Walker (Scully) 0.12



Aurora Tiger team captain Jordan Brenner, left, holds the Buckland Cup after his squad, joyfully celebrating at right, eliminated the St. Michael's Buzzers in six games to capture the Provincial Junior A championship. Tigers came up with an impressive 5-0 victory in enemy territory last week to secure the championship and win the series in six games. Currently, the Aurora squad, believed to be the best junior team of its calibre in Canada, is competing in the Dudley Hewitt Tournament in North Bay. Winner of that round-robin set (there are four teams involved) will advance to the Canadian championships in Alberta in May.



Photos by Barry Bridgeford



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Top finishers

Hartwell runners' challenge results

HALF MARATHON RESULTS
(Top 30 in order of finish)

Name	Time	City
Janusz Sarnicki	1:15:37	MAKOWPODU
Vince Friel	1:17:02	BARRIE
Marek Szatan	1:17:16	TORONTO
Franciszek Stronski	1:23:36	TORONTO
Murray Mostyn	1:23:48	TORONTO
Scott Gardner	1:26:08	GEORGETOWN
Gary Fryatt	1:27:37	TORONTO
Ed Whitlock	1:28:02	
Jeff Ashizawa	1:28:54	RICHMOND HILL
Lesley Grice	1:29:54	GEORGETOWN
Evan Powell	1:30:30	AURORA
Helen Mcinerney	1:32:16	NEWMARKET
John Bourrie	1:32:26	AURORA
David Spark	1:32:43	JIMPSONVILLE
Joe Jakovac	1:33:05	NEWMARKET
Glenn Sweazey	1:33:15	TORONTO
Mark Graham	1:33:13	BRADFORD
Doug Liversidge	1:33:44	OTTAWA

Sanj Thomas	1:33:46	AURORA
Paul Chenery	1:33:58	TORONTO
Jason Shaw	1:34:12	MOUNT ALBERT
John Wright	1:34:14	AURORA
Michael Olejnik	1:34:25	AURORA
James Wood	1:34:26	OAKVILLE
Craig Steley	1:34:32	TOTTENHAM
George Davidson	1:34:34	NEWMARKET
Marc Duench	1:34:46	UXBRIDGE
Ricky McRoberts	1:34:57	WHITBY
James Stanley	1:35:12	TORONTO
Robert Glazier	1:36:03	TORONTO

RELAY RESULTS
(Top five finishers)

Name	Time	City
Murray Mostyn/Stn Trudeau	1:23:48	TORONTO
Chris Ivey/Katherin Ivey	1:38:01	BARRIE
Sean Allan/Elizabeth Meehan	1:43:54	MISSISSAUGA
Shannon Gasko/Kylan Gasko	1:47:48	
Jessie Playter/Brad Boogaord	1:50:52	NEWMARKET

5K RUN
(Top 15 finishers)

Name	Time	City
Derek Hackshaw	16:03	NEWMARKET
Pedrag Mladenovic	16:07	TORONTO
Matthew Leduc	16:21	AJAX
Paul Leduc	16:31	AJAX
Tyler Pettes	17:25	AURORA
Tania Jones	17:39	MAPLE
Ron O'Hare	17:54	AURORA
Peter Froebel	17:59	VANDORF
Carson Nimme	18:17	AURORA
Colleen Hopkins	18:19	TORONTO
Sean Young	18:44	NEWMARKET
Alex Kane	18:58	AURORA
Stephanie Smith	19:08	AURORA
Paul Bregin	19:27	NORTH YORK
James Hardwick	19:39	NEWMARKET

50 years

Aurora Soccer Club hits major milestone

This year, the Aurora Soccer Club turns 50.

The Club, founded in 1954 by local soccer enthusiasts, has played a major role in the development of the sport in Aurora and surroundings region since its inception.

The Aurora Soccer Club was a founding member of the Aurora-Newmarket and District Soccer Association, renamed the Newmarket and District Soccer League.

Originally, the Club fielded two teams in district competitions.

The 1960's and 70's witnessed unprecedented growth in the sport across Ontario as soccer gained in popularity.

The Aurora Soccer Club added new competitive teams to the programs and new teams were formed in the town.

In 1964, the Aurora Minor Soccer Association was formed by Club members and supporters.

In its second year of operation there were more than 400 boys participating in regular competitions.

From 1967 to 1971, the Aurora Soccer Club organized and operated the youth soccer programs in town.

This duty was handed over to a more youth focussed management group in 1972 and was the starting point for the current successful Aurora Youth Soccer organization.

During this period the Aurora Soccer Club initiated new competitions and opportunities to travel for members.

The annual Labour Day Soccer Tournament

attracted many top flight teams from Ontario and Quebec.

The Tournament of Auroras, a soccer competition for teams from towns in North America named Aurora, saw some great matches against Aurora, Colorado, and Aurora, Illinois, here and in the United States.

These competitions promoted the sport and spectator opportunities whenever they occurred.

Teams from the Aurora Soccer Club have travelled across Canada and the United States, to Venezuela, Thailand, Malaysia, China, Korea, Sweden, Denmark and Germany to compete at the very top levels of competition.

Mementoes from the Town of Aurora and the Aurora Soccer Club adorn soccer facilities all over the world, promoting friendship, sportsmanship and goodwill.

The year 1980 was the turning point in senior soccer operations in Aurora.

The Aurora Soccer Club and the Aurora Hearts Soccer Club amalgamated their operations to form one of the most successful amateur soccer franchises in Ontario.

In 1984, the Club signed a lease with the Town of Aurora for a parcel of land in the south sector of town.

This area was developed into Highland Park with most of the work financed and carried out by members of the Aurora Soccer Club.

The facility consists of a fully serviced clubhouse and patio, modern change rooms and showers, full

sized soccer field with bleacher seating, training field, stadium lighting, and parking.

The Aurora Soccer Club has maintained a long-standing relationship with Leksand, Sweden, Aurora's twin.

The Leksand team visited Aurora for soccer competitions in 1977 and 1984.

Other international teams to compete in Aurora include Rochester, New York; Trenton, New Jersey; Boldmere St. Michaels, England; Kobe, Denmark; and Hamburg, Germany.

The Aurora Soccer Club operates a number of teams in league competitions.

The Aurora Hearts, the Club's top team, plays in the Ontario Soccer league, winning league title and cup honours on a regular basis.

The Hearts were Ontario Cup Champions and bronze medal winners at the Canadian Soccer Championships in 2000.

The Club has two senior teams and two over 35 (and beyond) teams entered in District leagues.

In 1994, the Aurora Soccer Club promoted competitive ladies soccer and currently operates two ladies teams in league competitions.

A 50-year anniversary reunion celebration is planned for Highland Park July 17 and it will include a dinner and a dance.

The event will attract players from the Aurora Soccer Club from over the years to participate and honour the Club.

A banquet, dance, soc-

cer games and golf tournament will be part of the festivities.

Club members are looking forward to celebrating the centenary of operations in 2054.

For more information call Dave Geering at 905-727-2874.

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Quick-start program eyes busy intersection

Soon, regional buses will be zipping up and down Yonge Street...if that's possible, given the popularity of the street with motorists. A representative of the York Region Rapid Transit Plan appeared before Aurora's General Committee last week to outline current construction

plans for the regional rapid transit "Quick Start" system. Plans include the construction of bus bays at some intersection, bus shelters and platforms, with modifications to traffic signals to give rapid transit buses priority. It was pointed out that the work would be carried out in

cooperation with local staff and would take three to six weeks at each construction location. In order to assist the flow of traffic, work would be done for northbound routes in the morning and southbound routes in the afternoon and work would only be carried out at one stop at

a time starting next month. Major among construction locations in Aurora is Yonge and Wellington, one of the Region's 10 worst intersections. Councillor Ron Wallace asked how the work would be carried out at that corner. He was advised that every effort would be made to lessen the impact of construction on the traffic flow. It was also pointed out that the Quick Start project was being implemented over eight years at a cost of \$539 million and that a newsletter was being prepared to keep residents advised. Consultation with residents would take place in June.

Fisch brings York report to Aurora

York Regional Chairman Bill Fisch attended Aurora's last council meeting to present a regional report on activities of regional council during the five months since the municipal election. Although people in the region enjoy a good life style, Fisch said it could be better and noted the dramatic growth, the traffic congestion and air quality and to address those concerns properly the region adopted a \$1.7 billion budget for 2004. The increase will provide an enhanced service on the roads and transit including the reconstruction of the St. John's Sideroad and the addition of 40 new buses and new routes and a new watermain on Wellington Street, plus the addition of 110 police officers. Fisch noted the problems of shipping waste to Michigan and said the region was moving forward with plans for solid waste management by investigat-

ing new technologies and new processes. With the region's new material recovery facility in East Gwillimbury and the start of the three-stream collection system with a pilot project in Markham, it is hoped to meet the provincial target of 60 per cent diversion. He added with the regional rate of diversion currently around 25 per cent, there was a long way to go. Councillor Phyllis Morris asked what action was being taken to lobby the federal and/or provincial governments to exercise more control over the manufacturing and packaging industries. Fisch replied that the federal government has been asked to implement more stringent regulations. Morris pointed out that Aurora was at a disadvantage at the region with only the mayor as a representative, and she stressed the need for a second voice.

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TEAM	DATE	DAY	ARENA	START/END	TEAM	DATE	DAY	ARENA	START/END
1996 & 1997									
Novice A	2-May-04	Sunday	ALC	9:00 AM 10:30 AM	Pee wee AE	16-May-04	Sunday	ALC	11:00 AM 1:00 PM
Novice A	9-May-04	Sunday	ALC	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	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
1995									
Minor Atom A	1-May-04	Saturday	ALC	2:00 PM 3:30PM	Minor Bantam A	1-May-04	Saturday	ALC	5:00 PM 6:30 PM
Minor Atom A	8-May-04	Saturday	ALC	2:00 PM 3:30 PM	Minor Bantam A	8-May-04	Saturday	ALC	5:00 PM 6:30 PM
Minor Atom A	10-May-04	Monday	ALC	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Minor Bantam A	11-May-04	Tuesday	ALC	7:00 PM 9:00 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 Bantam AE	15-May-04	Saturday	ALC	2:00 PM 4:00 PM
Minor Atom AE	16-May-04	Sunday	ALC	2:30 PM 4:00 PM	Minor Bantam AE	16-May-04	Sunday	ALC	1:00 PM 2:30 PM
Minor Atom AE	18-May-04	Tuesday	ALC	6:00 PM 8:00 PM	Minor Bantam AE	18-May-04	Tuesday	ALC	8:00 PM 10:00 PM
1994									
Atom A	2-May-04	Sunday	ALC	10:30 AM 12:00 PM	Bantam A	2-May-04	Sunday	ALC	1:30 PM 3:00 PM
Atom A	9-May-04	Sunday	ALC	11:00 AM 1:00PM	Bantam A	9-May-04	Sunday	ALC	2:30 PM 4:00 PM
Atom AE	15-May-04	Saturday	ALC	4:00 PM 6:00 PM	Bantam AE	14-May-04	Friday	ALC	6:00 PM 8:00 PM
Atom AE	16-May-04	Saturday	ALC	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	Bantam AE	17-May-04	Monday	ALC	8:00 PM 10:00 PM
Atom AE	26-May-04	Wednesday	ALC	6:00 PM 7:30 PM	Bantam AE	25-May-04	Tuesday	ALC	7:30 PM 9:00 PM
1993									
Minor Pee wee A	1-May-04	Saturday	ALC	3:30 PM 5:00 PM	Minor Midget A	2-May-04	Sunday	ALC	3:00 PM 4:30 PM
Minor Pee wee A	8-May-04	Saturday	ALC	3:30 PM 5:00 PM	Minor Midget A	8-May-04	Saturday	ALC	6:30 PM 8:00 PM
Minor Pee wee A	10-May-04	Monday	ALC	7:00 PM 9:00 PM	Minor Midget A	9-May-04	Sunday	ALC	4:00 PM 6:00 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 A	2-May-04	Sunday	ALC	12:00 PM 1:30 PM	Midget A	1-May-04	Saturday	ALC	6:30 PM 8:00 PM
Pee wee A	9-May-04	Sunday	ALC	1:00 PM 2:30 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



A litter reward

There were rewards at the end of a long day of litter removal in Aurora Saturday. The fivesome in the top photo spent much time in the Vandorf Sideroad district, near Bayview Avenue, picking up garbage during an intensive clean-up campaign that was billed a big success by officials. At the end of the day, hamburgers and hot dogs were prepared by Greg Foster of M & M Meats, bottom photo right, and served by Aurora Mayor Tim Jones in the Town Park to the dozens of people who participated in the day-long event. More litter pickup days are planned.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Waste management contract extended

Last February council directed staff to negotiate with Miller Waste Systems for an extension of the waste management contract at the same terms and conditions until such time as the collection of kitchen organic and co-mingled recyclable materials is implemented.

Following negotiations with Miller Waste Systems as to the number of unit counts and increase in the cost of living index, town staff recommended the contract be increased in two stages.

The first phase, starting September 1, would include an additional 122 units and the cost of living index for the period, with the second phase starting September 1, 2005, for another year, with an option for a six-month extension.

An additional funding of \$23,000 was also asked to be included in the budget.

Council endorsed the staff report with the addition of a three per cent cap on the cost of living increase.



Belinda Stronach

A Strong Voice for Newmarket-Aurora



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It's not his real nose, honest. Reg O'Brien, clutching a bottle of something, sleeps it off much to the chagrin of Laurie Campbell as they prepare for the opening of Theatre Aurora's "Moon Over Buffalo". The comedy/farce by Ken Ludwig, plays on certain dates between April 30 and May 15 at Factory Theatre on Henderson Drive. The comedy is full of misunderstandings, misplaced affections and missing persons. For tickets or further information, call 905-727-3669.

Aurora day care centre can't make ends meet

The farmhouse on the former Jack Wood Crescentbrook Farm property on Edward Street has been rented to the York Region Neighbourhood Services for the past three years as child care centre.

Chief Executive Director Patricia Robertson told Aurora General Committee members last week the centre has been expanded to its present capacity of 30 child care spaces.

By providing families with the flexibility of part time care, the program at Crescentbrook serves 36 children, 29 of them from Aurora and three with par-

ents who work in Aurora.

But the group is losing money.

Robertson said the agency continues to incur an operating loss.

The fee structure of the program was created to meet the needs of general income level families and to allow for service to families who are being supported by the regional subsidy program.

As a result it has become necessary to reduce overhead costs to reach solven-

cy. Currently the agency pays \$2,150 per month for the use of the building. Under the terms of the lease the rent will increase to \$2,500 per month by 2011.

She asked that the committee direct town staff to work with the agency to explore ways of reducing operating costs by increasing capacity or by sharing space with other community groups.

The committee agreed with the request.

Audition dates set for Birdie

Aurora's Marquee Productions has set dates for auditions for its upcoming production of "Bye Bye Birdie".

To have a crack at this famous play, auditions have been set for May 11 and 12, and you can book a time by calling 905-713-1040.

Auditions will take place at Marquee's studios at 73 Industrial Parkway North.

The show will take place October 27 to 31 at the Newmarket Theatre and November 3 to 7 at the Vaughan City Playhouse.

Marquee is seeking ladies, men and teen boys and girls who look at least 13 years old, and a young boy who looks to be aged 10 to 13.

This Aurora "first" became a lifesaver

Over the years Aurora has had many firsts from being the Head of Rail in Upper Canada with the arrival of the steam train "Toronto" in 1853 to being the first small community with an in-house computer in 1969 and the first municipality in the region to celebrate July First with a Civic birthday party.

In February, 1996, the town attained another first when the Aurora firefighters became the first in the area to plan for the use of defibrillation equipment.

In November, 1995, Aurora resident Ernie Greenwood suffered a heart attack while attending a social function at the Atrium Ballroom.

A 911 call was placed for an ambulance but one was not readily available.

Although the Aurora fire hall was located next door to the Atrium (now the Tuscany Banquet Hall) the necessary defibrillation equipment was not available.

Ambulance driver Mark Hinton was returning to Aurora from a call and was diverted to the Atrium, arriving in time to use the defibrillation equipment on board to bring Greenwood around for transportation to the hospital where he survived.

Greenwood embarked on a mission to raise funds to

provide the Aurora fire department with defibrillation equipment. He enlisted the aid of the Aurora Rotary Club and members donated \$13,500 to the cause.

Greenwood and Aurora resident Bonnie Ploder of Ploder's Towing and Collision campaigned tirelessly to obtain donations close to \$8,000 for the defibrillator fund.

At the February 28, 1996, council meeting Greenwood presented a cheque to Mayor Tim Jones for \$21,483.50 to purchase two defibrillators, start-up materials and training for firefighters.

In addition to the cheque presentation, Aurora councillors witnessed a demonstration of the equipment under the direction of Dr. Anne Clark, an emergency physician at the Markham-Stouffville Hospital and Medical Director of the York Region Base Hospital Program.

She was supported by Steve Tyukodi, paramedic and program manager for the base hospital, who was responsible for establishing the defibrillation program and was working towards an integrated emergency response program involving ambulances and the fire services for all York Region.

Mayor Jones surprised everyone present with

knowledge of medical terminology and the use of CPR.

During the simulated emergency, he started resuscitation on a rescue doll until the firefighters arrived to apply the defibrillator and later to be relieved by the ambulance crew.

Dr. Clark told council members that 60 seconds can make a big difference because unless help arrives within the first eight to 10 minutes, it's too late.

The next step was to train the firefighters in the use of the equipment and it was planned for the emergency service to be operational by June 1996.

By March, 1996, with the Aurora fire department on 24-hour coverage, the response to medical emergencies increased as often the fire truck arrived before the ambulance.

On arrival firefighters assessed the situation and provided preliminary care, including CPR, until the ambulance arrived, at which time the two crews worked as a team.

The defibrillators were delivered to the Aurora fire department in the early fall of 1996, by which time the firefighters had received training in the use of the equipment.

It was another first for Aurora.

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Who stole the historical plaque from parkette?

On July 1, 1985, the original "Settlement of Aurora" heritage plaque was installed at the parkette at Yonge Street and Catherine Avenue by LACAC and the Aurora Historical Society.

On September 22 that year it was noted that the plaque and support post were missing.

The theft of the \$800 plaque was reported to the police and the insurance company, but it had not been covered by insurance and the police were unsuccessful in their investigation.

Someone, somewhere has the stolen plaque stored away somewhere as a memento and although it has been replaced, the Town and the Historical Society would like to solve the mystery.

Another mystery is the location of the two-foot statutes that Mayor Clarence Davis received from the Aurora Jaycees in July 1966.

The statutes were of Sir John A. Macdonald and George Etienne Carter. They were presented by the Jaycees to mark the 1967 Canadian Centennial.

Mayor Davis promised the Jaycees they would be displayed in the council chambers and they were as long as the council chambers were at 27 Yonge Street.

Where are they today?

SOLVING PARKING PROBLEMS

On-site parking has been a problem for Aurora Councils over the years.

Regardless of the criteria used, there never seems to be enough parking spaces available.

Back in April, 1992, Aurora's Manfred Heidinger was marketing vice-president of Klaus Parking Systems Canada, a system that permits two or even three cars to be parked in one space.

Land costs and growth were the main reasons the Klaus company in Germany came up with the hydraulic parking system more than 30 years earlier.

The ParkLift parks two cars in 50 per cent of the garage by parking one car above the other, allowing the extra space to be used for other purposes.

To permit Parklift, current house designs had to be modified to make the bunk bed parking a reality.

It may have happened in other areas, but Aurora continued to have its parking problems.

IT'S NOT LIKELY TO HAPPEN TODAY

Back in June, 1991, council members learned the town had ended the 1990 fiscal year with a \$1.1 million surplus. It wouldn't happen today, but the kindly provincial government increased grants in lieu of taxes on government property within the municipality.

In addition, investment income increased and expenditures were reduced.

Staff made recommendations as to how the surplus could be used, but councillors couldn't agree.

Some wanted to wait until a progress report was received on the new Town Hall, then under construction, while others wanted it to go into reserve funds as recommended by staff.

The only decision made was to defer debate until a future meeting.

CYCLING TO HALIFAX

It was in June, 1990, when David Burling and his 16-year-old son Sam of Aurora biked across Canada to help fund research into a killer disease of the nervous system, known as Lou Gehrig's disease and to boost public awareness of it.

In 1989 they raised \$35,000 in an Edmonton to Toronto cycling trip and they hoped to double that amount in the Toronto to Halifax leg.

In 1987 a friend was diagnosed with the disease and they decided to do something to help.

During the past few years father and son had cycled from Toronto to Sudbury, from Calgary to Victoria and from Toronto to Quebec City.

They started cycling in Aurora each year as soon as the weather broke.

WHEN GRASS FIRES WERE RAMPANT

You seldom hear of the fire department responding to a grass fire these days but back in the 1970s during the spring of the year, grass fires were rampant in the area, when there were open fields before they were covered with houses and pavement.

In April, 1974, Aurora firefighters had a busy week as the grass fire season got underway. The Aurora brigade responded to 24 calls between Wednesday and Sunday, with seven calls each on the Wednesday and Sunday.

The worst grass fire occurred on the Saturday as firefighters spent six hours extinguishing a blaze off Ridge Road that spread all the way to the railway tracks and firefighters had to use chain saws to cut down trees that ignited in the bush.

The volunteer firefighters received \$8 per call regardless of the length of time it took to extinguish the fire.

It would be nice to smell burning grass once again as it would indicate that municipal politicians hadn't approved every vacant field for development but unfortunately that's wishful thinking.

Town's Safety Council an award-winning group

With the growth of the town, traffic safety continues to be a major problem facing council members as more and more citizens are demanding slower speed limits, more traffic control signals and police enforcement.

Although council has established a Traffic Safety Advisory Board and there is a Police and Community Together Committee (PACT), council continues to be challenged with citizen complaints about unsafe streets.

Over the years Aurora has prided itself on being a safe community.

In 1966, Aurora was one of 30 Canadian communities with a population of more than 10,000 to win recognition for a fatality-free 1965.

The town received a special citation from the Canadian Highway Safety Council.

Members of the Aurora Police Force were very safety conscious and organized safety patrols of senior students to assist younger students in crossing the roads safely.

As a result of a road safety workshop sponsored by the Ontario Department of Transportation, in January, 1968, Aurora Council considered the establishment of a Safety Council to assist the municipality by conducting educational programs concerning all aspects of safety.

Aurora's police chief submitted a list of organizations who wished to find out more about a Safety Council.

By April, 1968, the newly established Safety Council had held its first meeting with Councillor Bill Trent as chairman and William Walker of the Legion and Paul Lynch of the Jaycees as vice-presidents.

The town provided a grant of \$2,000 to get the council started.

It wasn't long before the council was demanding action. In a report to council in June, 1968, they pointed out the dangers caused by the reconstruction of Yonge Street and suggested that boardwalks be placed by the work sites to enable pedestrians to walk in safety.

Also in June, 1968, Betty Pedersen and Marg MacDonald, members of the safety council, had a booth at the Aurora Horse Shoe to increase public awareness of the council by distributing literature on road safety.

The work of the council was not restricted to traffic safety, but safety in its broadest sense. Council

members conducted a course for pre-schoolers during the summer playground program.

In 1969, Russ Kuehl was elected chairman of the council and plans were made for a course for pre-schoolers again as part of the summer parks program.

In addition, a defensive driving course was conducted and certificates were issued to 22 Aurora citizens who participated.

The group recommended to council that stricter enforcement of speeders in residential areas be carried out.

The dangers of aerosol cans were demonstrated at a safety council meeting by Department of Transportation Safety Instruction Officer Don Coombes, a former Aurora police officer.

The year 1970 was a special year for the safety council when the Provincial Carol Lane Award was presented to Kuehl for carrying out the pre-schooler program in the parks as the best safety program in Ontario.

The good news continued when it was announced the Aurora

Safety Council had been awarded the national safety award for the innovative pre-school program in addition to other safety activities.

The safety council continued to be active during 1970 with the launch of a new babysitting course and a safety poster contest. The council also submitted several suggestions to council including traffic flow improvements.

But the town was growing, people were changing and the once-proud Safety Council slowly disbanded after making Aurora safety-proud at the provincial and national levels.



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BUY NORTH AMERICAN



One of several groups to take part in Big Bike activities in Aurora Saturday represented Torcan Chemical. A fundraiser for the Heart and Stroke Association, the Big Bike was pressed into service all day, running a course from St. Andrew's Village to Park Place Manor and return.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Lack of space forces Creative Connections to find larger quarters

Earlier this month Creative Connections, a non-profit cooperative of local artists and artisans, marked another milestone as Aurora Mayor Tim Jones officially opened their new facility located at 15105 Yonge Street, just south of the Aurora Library.

From a small start in St. Andrew's Village several years ago, they moved to Wellington Street East next to the Purple Pig Restaurant, but continued growth and additional community activities made it necessary to find larger facilities.

Their new larger location is much brighter and is accessible to enable the handicapped to take art classes.

All participating artists and artisans pay a membership fee and a portion of their sales goes toward the centre's expenses.

The front part of the shop features artwork and crafts of the members and all items are for sale for home decorating or as attractive and unique gifts.

The non-profit cooperative is dedicated to promoting and teaching arts and crafts.

In January, a new venture was introduced with "Hobby Nights", in which a craft was featured for the evening.

Classes are offered in Folk Art, Watercolour, Oil Painting, Cake Decorating, Glass Painting, Jewelry, Clay Sculpting, Victorian Crafts, Beading, Cross-Stitching, Knitting, Crocheting, Fashion Drawing, Portrait Painting

and much more.

To the rear of the shop is a well-lit workshop and classroom where classes are carried out by members.

This is an opportunity for adults to enjoy a social evening in a warm, creative environment and learn new arts and crafts tips and techniques.

Those attending may purchase materials and participate in the craft or bring their own work.

Currently Creative Connections offers Girl Guides and Cub programs and sponsors class pro-

grams to adults with disabilities including the March of Dimes and other non-profit organizations.

The Centre is a fun and creative place, staffed by volunteer artisans, teaching a wide variety of arts and crafts to adults and children.

It also offers birthday parties, kids' club, youth group classes and a summer camp.

For more information about Creative Connections call 905-841-7474 or drop in to their shop at the east end of 15105 Yonge Street in Aurora.

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Teacher charged

Last week officers from the York Regional Police Child Abuse Unit arrested a 38-year-old Richmond Hill man for sex offences which are alleged to have occurred in 2002.

David Bertram, a teacher at Aurora Grove Public School on Stone Road and Director of the York Region Children's Choir, is facing charges involving two female victims, now 17 years old.

Both victims were members of York Region Children's Choir and had known Mr. Bertram for a number of years, police said.

The incidents are alleged to have occurred in his capacity as choir director and involved inappropriate touching and conversation.

Mr. Bertram, currently under suspension by the York Region District School Board, is facing two counts of sexual assault and two counts of sexual exploitation.

He will appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Newmarket on May 6, 2004.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Constable Cindy Laidlaw at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7887, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

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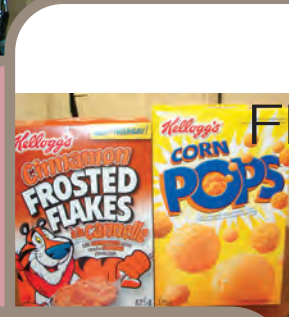
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