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Vol. 4 No. 29

Week of May 11, 2004

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A good walk enjoyed

If it ever warms up, a walk through downtown Aurora may be in order.

A few brave souls tried it last week when the Aurora Historical Society, led by Museum Curator Jackie Stuart, attempted a walking tour, but the rain and cold took much of the fun, and the crowds, away.

Although many of Aurora's historic buildings have been demolished in the interests of development, several still remain.

It's impossible to appreciate the beauty and the intricate design of these buildings, when driving around the municipality, so once the nicer weather arrives, plan to take a walk around the historic core.

Saunter through the older parts of downtown Aurora and get a small glimpse of what Aurora was like in the early days of the community.

It's so easy to forget the classic Georgian facades, Italianate designs and High Victorian homes that are lost behind the rows of trees that line most of the core area.

With the arrival of the steam railway in 1853, Charles Doan, John Mosley and others saw the increased importance of the area and the potential for growth.

To address the past and to promote awareness and knowledge of the history of the area the Aurora Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) developed a walking tour of the historic district.

The tour includes 32 homes and landmarks contained within a small area from Temperance

Please see page 14

Aurora Tigers drop opener

For only the seventh time this season, the Aurora Tigers have lost a hockey game.

They did it Sunday night in the opening round of the Royal Bank Cup losing 4-2 to the host team, the Grande Prairie, Alberta, Storm.

The complete story is on Page 12.



Saturday morning in the hat shop. Aurora's Marilyn Redvers, right, and Marilyn Ferguson, adjust each other's hats as they embark on a shopping spree with 29 friends to raise funds for a group of 15 youngsters heading off to Mexico in July to refurbish an orphanage. Owner of the Newmarket store, the Stock Exchange, Lisa Thomas, (rear inset) donated 10 per cent of her sales to the group. Also enjoying the morning out was Chevaune Morris, (left inset). Most of the ladies wore their hats to Trinity Anglican Church Sunday, and others expressed disappointment that they missed Redvers' "hat fantasy". It could be the start of a "Red Hat Society" chapter in Aurora, but that remains to be seen.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Proposed pool in jeopardy

If council ratifies a recommendation of the general committee last week the construction of the proposed aquatic centre in the new recreational complex could be postponed for three to five years or until the taxpayers are in a position to pay for it.

Construction on the beginning of the complex is expected to begin shortly in order to have two ice surfaces ready for the hockey season is 2005.

The complex would be built on the north side of Wellington Street East, just west of Leslie Street.

Last February, council

approved proceeding with the design phase for the proposed new recreational complex, but indicated consent to proceed with the design was not final as that would be part of the 2004 capital budget process.

Town staff also referred to the ongoing work of Hemson and Associates who are updating the development charge bylaw.

Their preliminary analysis of the estimated \$24.3 million cost of the proposed facility indicated that \$7.7 million would be paid by existing taxpayers, \$10.8 million during the next development charge period and \$5.8 million

from future growth.

Last September when the cost of the project was estimated at \$18.5 million it was decided it was manageable, although stretched, providing council approved a debenture for a portion of the cost, plus the sale of other assets.

It was pointed out that with the larger financial commitment, debt financing necessary to ensure adequate cash flow to fund construction immediate would total \$19.3 million.

A 20-year fixed repayment rate debenture would require principle and interest payments

totalling \$1.6 million.

In addition to a 4.5 per cent increase on the tax bill of existing taxpayers, the recreational component of the development charge will have to be increased from \$3,200 per unit to approximately \$6,000 per unit, without considering any other increases.

Even without the proposed increase Aurora has one of the highest development charge rates in the Greater Toronto Area.

In addition, it will be necessary to sustain a steady growth rate of approximately 400 residential

Please see page 18



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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 John Patterson at 905-727-1941.

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.

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 17

Five Secrets to a Great Pregnancy and Birth; a two-part series from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Aurora Public Library. Space is limited. Call 905-841-0400 to reserve seats.

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 20

Free seminar entitled "The Basics of Export Marketing" in the Magna Room of the Aurora Library beginning at 8:30 a.m., with a networking breakfast and concluding at 11 a.m. Sponsored by the town's Economic Development Division. Call 905-726-4740 for registration details.

MAY 29

"Spring Fling for the Arts". Aurora Grove Public School's third annual Fun Fair from 11 a.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 28/29

Aurora Seniors 10th Annual Art Show and Sale at the Seniors Centre. From 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

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 5

125th anniversary of the Army Cadet League. Corps will hold a reunion of former cadets dating back to 1965. Reunion at the Aurora community Centre at 6:30 p.m. and attendance is limited to 600. Pre-registration can be done online by going onto the website qyrang.org and clicking on cadets, scroll down to the link.

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 7

Annual general meeting of the Aurora Seniors at the Seniors Centre at 10 a.m. Call 905-727-2816 for details.

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.

The Farmer's Market returns to the Temperance Street parking lot from 8 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. every Saturday until Thanksgiving Day.

JUNE 12, 13

Aurora Fair and Horse Show at Machell Park featuring the Superdogs, petting zoo, farm animals, pony rides, Clarol the Clown, and many new and old favourites. Information: 905-713-6773 or www.auro-rafair.ca.

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 19

Howard Johnson Aurora presents Yuk Yuks on Tour and Dinner Theatre for a Father's Day Celebration. Call 905-727-1312.

JUNE 25

Mayor's Blood Donor Clinic, Aurora Town Hall.

JUNE 29

Aurora Seniors visit the Canadian Automotive Museum to view historic and famous cars and then visit Cullen Gardens. Call 905-727-2816 to register.

JUNE 30

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

JULY 1

Canada Day celebrations continue. Aurora Leisure Complex.

JULY 7

Aurora Seniors head to the Orillia Opera House with lunch at the Ossawippi Express and shopping at the Mariposa Market. Cost is \$69 for members and \$74 for non-members. Phone 905-727-2816 to reserve.

JULY 27

Seniors visit the historic village of Port Perry, the Great Blue Heron Casino and then cruise Lake Scugog. Call 905-727-2816 to register.

AUGUST 16

Aurora Seniors visit Roy Thompson Hall for the 16th Annual Royal Bank Seniors' Jubilee Concert. Cost is \$64 for members, \$69 for non-members. Call 905-727-2816 to reserve.

OCTOBER 21

Plans are underway at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce for the "Celebrating Business Excellence in Aurora" Awards. Nominate the Business Person of the Year, Extraordinary Business Achievement, Innovation, New Venture and Young Entrepreneur.

- With files from Info Aurora

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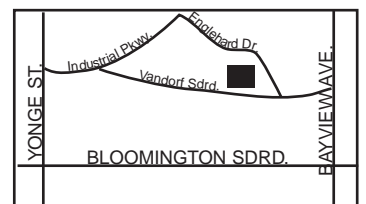
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Aurora's newest public elementary school held its official opening last week, and all the big guns were there. Above, left, Director of Education Bill Hogarth, left, and Chairman of the Board Bill Crothers, right, check the evening's agenda with Northern Lights Public School principal Jim Forbes. At right, a long line of dignitaries, including Vaughan-King-Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara, third from left, took part in the ribbon cutting ceremonies. The school is located on Bridgenorth Drive in Aurora's north end.

Auroran photos by Ron Wallace



Lack of notification changes planning meeting

What was billed as a public planning meeting to hear an application for what could be a major

Finance committee for council

Last month Aurora Council approved the terms of reference for a finance committee to help council fulfill its fiscal responsibilities by reviewing the long range corporate financial planning process, capital planning initiatives and fiscal impact analysis.

The terms of reference called for the appointment of five council members to the committee.

The terms were discussed at last week's general committee meeting.

Mayor Tim Jones pointed out that a five-member committee represented a majority of council so that in effect a committee decision was a council decision.

He suggested a three-member committee, which was adopted.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner suggested any decision be deferred due to the absence of Councillors Phyllis Morris and Bill Hogg, but that didn't fly.

She also suggested that at least four citizens be appointed to the committee similar to other council committees.

Gaertner's motion was defeated.

commercial development on Wellington Street East between Leslie Street and Highway 404 turned out to be an information meeting only recently.

The Planning Act requires that property owners within 400 feet are to be notified of applications to amend the official plan and zoning bylaw.

For some reason proper notification was not provided which turned the item from planning to information only.

That resulted in a poor turnout of citizens, especially downtown business owners and operators who believed the meeting had been cancelled.

Whitwell Developments

has submitted applications for official plan and zoning bylaw amendments to permit a regional-serving commercial use on the Wellington Street part of the 80-acre property.

The application envisages 561,775 square feet of regional-serving commercial development on the site including a discount warehouse, warehouse membership club, either a large format supermarket or a home improvement outlet, a 10-screen cinema, service commercial uses and office commercial.

Bantered around are a Wal-Mart and a Sam's Club.

The State Farm application for its Canadian head

office is not subject to this application.

That project is currently underway.

Last year a consulting team undertook an independent review of the proposed official plan and zoning bylaw amendment justification.

Please see page 17

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Poor Richard

So, what happened to these unfinished pieces of business?

*The list is growing longer,
Of tasks that are not yet done;
Maybe the staff is overloaded,
But answers there are none!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

One of the worst things about being a pack-rat is that you seldom throw anything away.

As result you accumulate a lot of bits and pieces of this and that until the last piece arrives to complete the puzzle.

Some of the bits and pieces deal with council business which may or may not have reached a conclusion, satisfactory or otherwise.

They are items which have been referred to staff for a report and to the best of knowledge have disappeared.

For better or for worse here is Illingworth's list of some items of "Unfinished Business" that to the best of his knowledge are still outstanding.

He'd like to get answers so he can complete the puzzle and get rid of it.

Answers on the town website are not satisfactory for several reasons.

First of all, many citizens do not have access to the website, but most importantly, any issue raised in open council should be reported back to open council.

The same applies to internal E-mail among councillors.

In April, 2002, Councillor Damir Vrancic, then chairman of the economic development committee, expressed concern about the signage within the Wellington Street corridor between Yonge Street and Bayview Avenue.

Staff was asked to review the Town of Markham sign bylaw dealing with heritage areas and bring a report for consideration.

Staff noted that it would be difficult to regulate signs in the heritage area until council defined such an area.

At the time both LACAC and the Business Development Committee were in the process of addressing the issue of a heritage district, so a review of the sign bylaw could be carried out.

Still waiting for a report in open council!

During the summer of 2002, council authorized staff to call tenders for the town's eight signalized intersections.

By August, 2002, only one tender had been received at a much higher price than anticipated.

This resulted in staff recommending re-tendering at a later date and also to investigate piggy-backing on the regional contract.

Council agreed with the possibility of piggy-backing on the regional contract with a report back to council.

It is assumed that the lights are still being maintained, but under what contract?

To the best of knowledge a report never came back to council.

On December 16, 2003, Bob Luery, a board member of the Aurora Cornerstone Church, appeared before council to ask if it was possible for the church to purchase the town-owned land on Industrial Parkway South, immediately north of the church.

He explained the church had been built in 1997 and the current facilities were too small to accommodate the growing congregation, especially the youth ministry.

He added that the church wanted to remain a part of the community but had two options, one was moving to a new site on five acres, or to expand the current facility by acquiring the town-owned land.

The request was referred to staff for a report but there is no record of a report being received in open council.

As a property matter it might have been discussed in camera but any action would have to be ratified in open council, but wasn't.

Following a presentation to the general committee on January 20, 2004, by John Volpe regarding the status of a Habitat for Humanity site in Aurora, staff was asked to identify possible sites and report to council. Still waiting!

At the same meeting Councillor Vrancic complained once again about the poor quality of the sound system in the council chambers and asked what was being done to improve it.

The sound system is still unsatisfactory and with the forgetfulness of some councillors to switch on their desk microphones, their mouths are seen flapping but nothing coming out.

There is still no improvement or a report.

So endeth Chapter One of Poor Richard's list of unfinished business.



The first shovelful of dirt marking the beginning of Aurora's St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall was turned in 1952 by this august group of people. They are, left to right, John Bowser, Mrs. L. Watts, Mrs. C. Osborne, Mrs. W.J. Baldwin, Mrs. M. Rank, William Case and Dr. William Orr Mulligan. The hall is attached to the church at the corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets, and the photo was discovered following a recent sale in the hall. Mr. Bowser, by the way, designed New York's Empire State Building.

Letters to the Editor

How come it's personal, former councillor wonders

To the editor,

It is with a great deal of regret and sadness I read of the weekly activities of Aurora Town Council.

I could never imagine a situation where those elected by their peers to represent them at a table of council in debate and decision making would resort to personal attacks both across the table and through the press.

My read is that the whole idea of an 'address change' for the Aurora Town Hall is personal, for reasons I am as yet unaware. How can such change benefit any resident?

I was first elected to council in 1993 after the new Town Hall was built and the street named.

As a newcomer, anti-development type of guy, I was warned by many that I might be in for, and was to be wary of, personal intimi-

dation, ridicule and an 'old guard' front that would do anything to stop my message.

In the early months many a vote were recorded as 8-1 losses by yours truly.

However in the second and subsequent years votes became 6-3, 5-4 and eventually during second and third terms these same councillors were supporting a new mind set and an evolving political landscape that truly represented their peers in the community.

I always had that feeling that we were pulling in the same direction, together, for common purpose.

I look back on the qualities of the people I served with. The single minded determination of John West (if it is not good for the people of Aurora, it is just not good enough), George Timpson (the best debater around a Municipal Council table I ever saw), Betty

Pedersen (didn't say much but in 10 words could identify the problem), Tim Jones (who never stopped trying to help a new guy with the procedures and always explained later that his lack of support for my motions was not personal, he just did not get my point) and Herb McKenzie whose quiet love for the town and its people carried many a vote.

My point is that while I lost countless motions, votes and procedural bylaw arguments in attempts to further my ideas of what makes a great community, it was never personal.

Very early in my first term I came to realize that I was not the only one who cared. In fact it became obvious to me that the others cared as much.

My problem was I had to learn how to convince them that there was a better way. It was my problem and only mine. And it certainly was not personal.

I am proud of those nine years. I am proud of the fine men and women who served with me and appreciated as I did the honour of doing so. I remember distinctly many debates, lost and won votes, and subsequent discussion of the same issues in Herb McKenzie's basement to the early morning hours after regular council meetings, with the press a silent witness to our ongoing debates.

I learned that I do not have a monopoly on righteousness. I alone do not know all the answers and further, no one really expects me to.

My colleagues are not opponents but partners, equal partners. They may have a different perspective on issues than I but they also have the same love of

community that drove me to put my name on election signs.

Sadly that is in the past.

Town Council debates never seemed personal then. It was never personal nor should it have been. Why is it now?

**Peter Healy
Temagami**

AURORAN

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Train not only small; it's fast

To the editor,

In conjunction with the letter written by Barbara Best entitled "Noisy little freight train keeps residents awake" (Auroran, letters to the editor, May 3) I would just like to add that the speed at which this train passes through our town is not only dangerous but appalling!

I was travelling on Wellington with my pregnant fiancée at around 3 a.m.

As I approached the tracks and could hear a train, instinctively I slowed down to a stop before the tracks. Only to see nothing, no warning lights or bells,

no nothing.

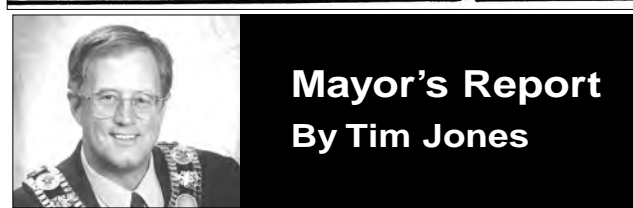
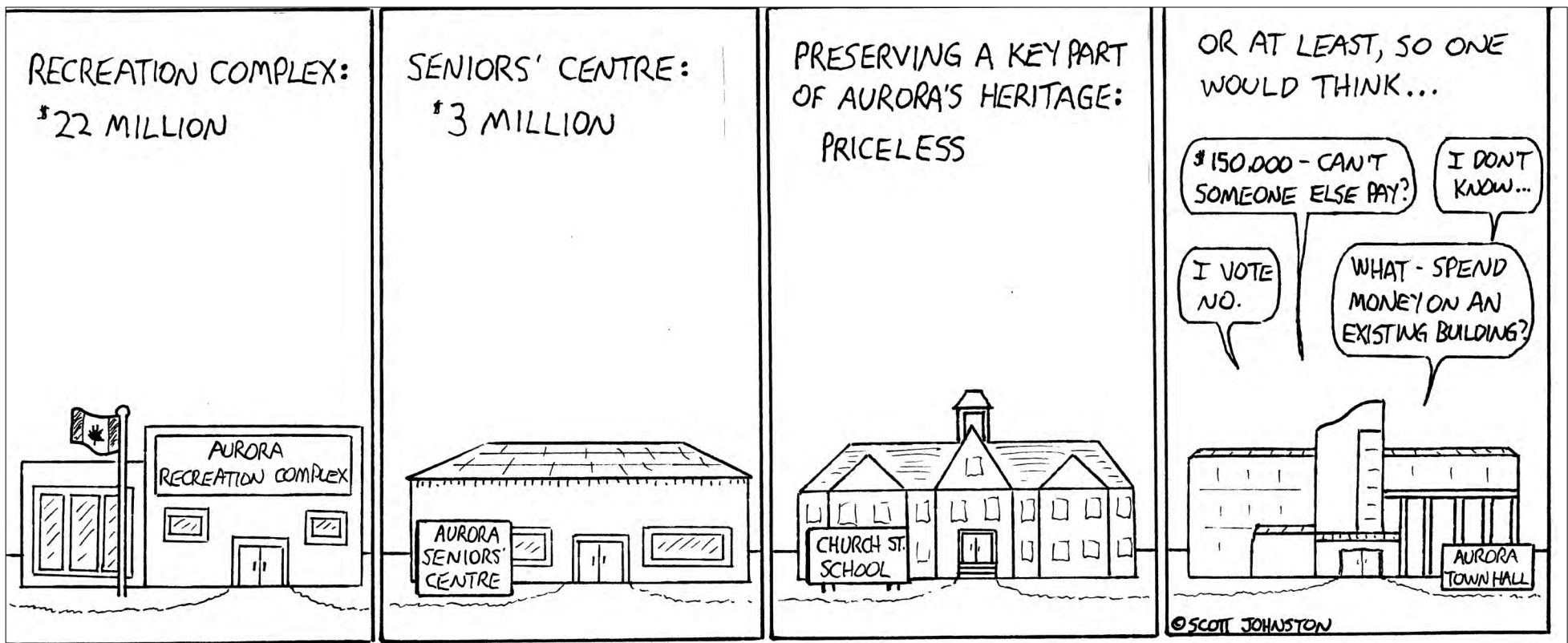
But I could hear the train. Then, all of a sudden, within a span of about three seconds the railroad lights came on and a small freight train came passing through at amazing speed.

Needless to say, if I had been listening to the radio and not heard the train's horn, I would not be writing this letter.

At that speed the chances of survival are extremely minimal.

I will always remember that night as the night my budding family was almost killed.

**Lucky to be alive
Aurora**



The New Leisure Complex

In approving the budget recently, Council still has to confirm its intent on whether to go forward with the a new leisure complex which is proposed to house two ice rinks with minimal seating, an eight-lane pool with a learning pool and a leisure pool as well as a pre-school/children's area.

The estimated cost for this project stands at \$24,400,000.

Funding for this project comes from three major sources. \$5.4 million is currently on hand in our reserves, \$12.7 million will have to be debentured but it is fully payable from future (10 years) development charges, and \$6.4 million will have to be debentured over 20 years and repaid from annual budgets and user rates over a 20-year span through a one time 3.75 per cent tax increase to be put into effect in 2005.

Town staff has been very clear from the outset that this is a 'do-able' project, but that to stay within the projected pay back scheme, it depends on a number of variables. Those variables include:

- The Town must increase its development charges for all new housing to include this project cost. To do so will give Aurora the distinction of having the highest development charges in the GTA.

- The economy will need to stay strong
- Our growth rate, which averages approximately 400 new homes per year, will have to be maintained to allow for the collection of the development charge (this is an interesting consideration given the concerns expressed by some members of council in regard to managing our growth.)

- Regional infrastructure for water and sewer will need to be available by 2006/7.

- In maintaining a growth rate required to address the development charges required, it will mean that the Town will have to be ready to open the 2C lands (north of the complex) for development by 2009. This means environmental studies and other reviews should be commenced in time to accommodate this target.

The approval of our budget last week does not indicate that this project is approved.

Council must still approve working drawings and then proceed with those drawings to a final award of the tender before this project is final and commenced.

With consideration to these risks, council has been presented with options to reduce the cost.

They include:

- reducing the debt with a substantial fundraising effort. We must be sensitive to the fact that there are already other fundraisers going on at this time
- restructuring the debenture parameters
- sale of surplus lands in Town
- acceleration of the Leslie lands for sale for business purposes
- continued tax surcharge of 1 or 2 per cent
- further partnerships with the private sector
- Naming rights for a significant financial

contributor

- Allocation of any surpluses to the debt

For every million dollars of funds applied to the cost of this project, the annual effect on reducing the taxes would be \$5 per year.

By continuing to proceed with this project, council will be making a philosophical decision to embrace significant recreational infrastructure designed to meet the needs of the future residents prior to the need being in place.

This will create a reliance on growth being maintained at historical 10 year rates of 400 units per year.

And, council would be committing to a taxpayer supported debt financing scheme for the first time in many years, having maintained a pay-as-we-go philosophy for more than 15 to 20 years.

Another option could be to phase in this facility,

especially with consideration to the fact that the pool has a projected \$700,000 annual operation budget which will need to be considered in addition to the capital costs.

There are cost implications with this approach which council will need to consider.

Either way, your council is faced with a significant decision which has some major tax risks associated.

This information is taken from a memo prepared for council by the Chief Administrative Officer dated April 19.

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



Cathy's Corner



Is the cure as bad as ailment?

Margaret Mead said: "Never doubt that a small group of conscientious hardworking people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Over the past decade, I have undertaken a variety of volunteer efforts and it has been a privilege and a pleasure to be a part of such small groups as Margaret Mead describes.

During the times when I have scratched my skull, wondering what in the world would cause me to add a few more meetings, errands and responsibilities to my already overbooked schedule, the above quotation has been my mantra.

It reminded me that standing on a soccer field (in rain, sleet and snow!) with a bunch of seven-year-old girls intent on finding a four leaf clover...even as the ball bounced off their faces and into the net...was worth it.

Is there any effort that quite matches touching the life of a child? Now, don't get me wrong. It is highly unlikely that I touched the life of any child enough to sculpt the next Pele!

Once, a parent pointed out to me that I was coaching my team in the wrong direction. I forgot they switched sides at half-time and...well, I'll go down in history as the coach in need of a compass.

Remember that I'm the only Auroran to mistake Lake Wilcox for Yonge Street, okay? At least my team didn't drown.

They emerged quite victorious...in spite of me.

And I got to touch the life of a child. My child.

My daughter will be coaching young girls in soccer this summer.

I guess she figured if I could do it...well, that would explain why I've traded in the lawn chair for a straight-jacket. Oh, and you might want to pack a life jacket...just

in case.

Because changing the world can be a perilous journey.

Especially when there is deemed to be a big difference between touching the life of a child, and touching a child.

Like many child and youth organizations today, the Aurora Youth Soccer Club has adopted a "no touch" policy.

Coaches are instructed not to hug players - not if they're happy, not if they're sad, not if they're hurting, not even if they are the coach's own children.

The policy is designed to protect both players and coaches by eliminating the player's risk of being touched in an inappropriate or unwelcome manner, and the coach's risk of being accused of same.

While the policy is proactive, responsible and well intentioned, I wonder if the cure isn't just as bad as the ailment.

I read somewhere that kids need one hug to survive, two to grow and three to thrive.

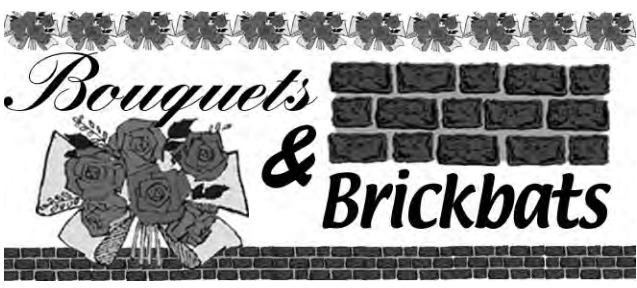
Cute, you might say, except there are numerous studies to support a connection between hugs and healthy mental and emotional development in children.

Sadly, it is not a small group of conscientious, hardworking people who are prohibited from touching the children whose lives they touch.

In a place like Aurora, it is a very large group of people (both adults and children) who are going to struggle to balance their affectionate natures with the direction that society must take to protect them.

And so the sad reality is that a small group of ill meaning individuals can deplete the world for all of us. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Cathy welcomes e-mail at: laughingmatters@aci.on.ca



By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to John Sanderson, president and Chief Executive Officer of Aurora Hydro and George Steeves, chairman of Hydro board of directors, for inviting Poor Richard to an informal meeting to answer some of his questions about the operations of Aurora Hydro.

BRICKBATS to those at the Aurora Town Hall who believe they have carried out their communication responsibilities to the citizens by making information available on the town's website. Not everybody is on the web, so there must be a better way, such as tabling the information during an open council session.

BRICKBATS to the York Region traffic department for failing to install any street name signs at the intersection of Woodbine Avenue and Green Lane. If it wasn't for the advance warning sign driving south on Woodbine, you'd never know it was Green Lane.

BOUQUETS to those in the federal government for taking action to recover some of the lavish spending by former privacy commissioner George Radwanski, by withholding his \$80,000 severance package.

BOUQUETS to the Ontario McGuinty government if they can develop a similar plan to recover some of the taxpayers' money wasted by former Premier Mike Harris, while in office, including the secret deal he made with the Ontario professional sports teams, which could cost of tens of millions of dollars.

BRICKBATS to those at Correctional Services of Canada for permitting prisoners to order in a variety of tasty treats like pizza, Chinese food or Kentucky fried chicken, with the possibility of drugs being smuggled in along with the food. It was thought they were sent to jail as a punishment for a committed crime, not to a resort with special privileges.

BOUQUETS to Joe Persechini, an aspiring actor and long-time organizer of the Persechini Easter Seal Run/Walkathon, on being appointed by the province to sit on the York Region Police Services Board for a two-year term. A worthy appointment.

BRICKBATS to those at OMERS (Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System) for the way they handled an outsourcing deal that involved the management of nearly one-third of its assets and cost the corporation nearly \$100 million in the last year. It enriched a few investors at the expense of 340,000 active and retired municipal staff and politicians.

BOUQUETS to the long-suffering Aurora senior staff, who have to sit through hours and hours of council drivel, bickering and personal attacks without being able to speak, unless being requested to do so.

BRICKBATS to the merchandisers for Labatts Blue or Blue Light for promoting a free glass with a jug of beer, and the adding in small print "No purchase of alcohol is necessary!" Does that mean you can get a free glass without drinking?

BOUQUETS to Aurora's Beth Egan and Pat Ristich of Aurora on being recognized at the recent Celebration of Women Awards. Beth received the Charity Achievement Award and Pat the Entrepreneur Large Business Achievement Award.

Letters to the Editor

Unbelievable if new pool isn't built: reader

To the editor,

After hearing that Aurora Council had decided to potentially defer the building a new pool in Aurora, I felt sick to my stomach and that is the sentiment of anyone I talk to in town: "What do you mean, we're not getting a pool?" Disbelief.

As the head coach of the Master Ducks Swim Club, I know this will obviously affect our program - I am the biggest proponent of fitness for adults and swimming is still the Number One leisure activity in the country.

This is for everyone and I personally wanted to expand our program to include Cardio

Swimming; Fit + 55 swim programs; senior rehab in the pool; not to mention the existing programs we have for adults in Stroke Development, Fitness and Competition.

Speaking of adults, do most of you know that adults scrape their knuckles on the bottom of the pool at the Leisure Complex while they swim in the shallow end?

Does someone see the irony of the diving blocks that have rusted away because the 'deep' end is too shallow to dive?

As a resident of this town, I am amazed that anyone would suggest that the tax increase is 'too much for our residents'.

Get real, the average cost to the households in Aurora to get this thing built is \$70 per year!!!!

This is for a recreation complex that we are sorely lacking - everyone in town knows that, it is almost a laughing matter.

As for involvement or reaction from the community, no one showed up at the numerous public meeting to voice any concern - unlike in other communities that undergo this process - all have been supportive.

Your residents want it!

This paper ran a quasi-survey to which fully two-thirds of the respondents said YES; they wanted the facility with

pool, rink and/or both!

Why did you suggest that MOST did not want it?

Although I am not a mathematician, 100 no and 200 yes votes usually means the MORE want it than not - and let's not forget that usually, it's the 'anti' anything groups that respond the most.

Although I think we absolutely need the ice pads too; MOST respondents opted for the pool first.

As a mother of four, I wonder, "how can you NOT build this facility?"

How can you possibly think that the dinky little four-lane, shallow pool at the Leisure Complex could possibly serve the 45,000 residents now and even come close to future growth?

In a country where swimming is king, you offer your residents a pauper's pool.

As a businessperson, I don't understand what all this 'operating budget deficit' talk is about?

You have been given the most conservative (negative) fiscal scenario imaginable.

Can't we factor in any possible revenue scenarios? Partnerships, sponsorships, donations, expanded and creative programming, space rentals - nothing has been added to the financial picture to improve this and make it happen.

Come on, Aurora, speak out. Don't be such nice Canadians who just take it!

Thanks for your help

Nancy Black
Aurora

ED. NOTE: Last week's decision was made at a committee meeting and was not a final vote.

The following letter has been copied to the Auroran.

Dear Mayor Jones and Members of Council,

It is with total dismay that I heard of your decision to delay building the new pool in Aurora.

I moved to Aurora almost 11 years ago with my young family thinking that I had found the perfect place to raise my children.

For the most part I had.

Aurora is friendly, has a real community feel and people are involved.

My children have done all the normal kid things: hockey, soccer, music lessons, Beavers, Cubs, Sparks, Brownies and swimming.

I have coached hockey, soccer and have been a Beaver leader.

All of these activities have been wonderful with the notable exception of swimming.

The first thing I noticed about swimming 10 years ago was the fact that I had to line up at 5:30 a.m. to even give my kids a chance of get-

ting into swim lessons. After two or three years of this I gave up.

Saturday and Sunday afternoons I would take my kids to the ALC for the family leisure swim.

It has gotten so crowded during these swims that you can hardly move.

My children were getting accidentally hit by other swimmers who were trying to play, so we gave up going.

Since then my children have joined the swim club.

I am now concerned that there is not enough pool time for the swim club. There are children who are ready to move up to a faster group, but cannot be moved up as there is not enough space in the next faster group.

The swim club cannot grow any more because there is no pool capacity available.

The Masters Swim Club, which my wife and I belong to, cannot grow anymore because it is at capacity. We need more pool space.

The pool in Aurora is undersized. The lanes are far narrower than any other pool I have seen.

When you swim in the shallow

end your hands touch the bottom. The pool is far too shallow even in the "deep end" to teach anyone to dive.


Ten years ago there were two ice pads, one pool and 30,000 people in Aurora.

The ice facilities were a little cramped, but adequate. I have never had any problem registering my son for hockey or getting in for the family skates.

The pool facilities were totally inadequate across all demographics.

If you delay this pool you will have failed miserably in your duty to provide for the needs of this community.

Andy Mitchell
Aurora



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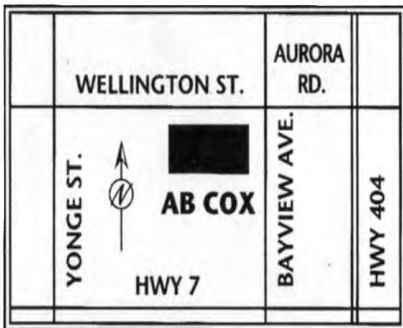
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Letters to the Editor

Seniors seek help planning new building

To the editor,

The proposed new Aurora Seniors' Centre long a dream, has now morphed from dream to vision.

And with its splendid proposed location perched above the beautiful Holland River Park, near to the Memorial

Arboretum, and across the parking lot from the Aurora Town Hall, it has the seniors enthused, entranced and captivated.

However, these are times and circumstances that compel us to issue a call to those possessed of administrative skills, to volunteer their services to join and assist the Aurora

Seniors to realize their new Centre.

We need strong help to complement those now giving direction and leadership.

The Aurora Town Council and Administration, together with the Seniors Representatives are proceeding determinedly and with prudence to bring

this project to fruition.

Much remains to be planned and considered by the Town and by the architects and by the seniors, and the first sod will not turn until we are all satisfied in full, that we have indeed plotted a course that will bring us to our haven.

Note that the money and

land that will be invested are the expensive raw materials that will require the skill and artistry employed by administrators to fashion into a work of art.

The passage from dream to reality must be orchestrated in part by those pragmatic seniors possessed of vision.

The seniors committees are and will continue to be staffed by able and dedicated volunteers, however, we seek additional capable administra-

tors to assume responsibilities, for which they are suited, either to assist or to direct, or to expand our pool of executive caliber members.

If you believe you can help, you probably can, and we will welcome your expression of interest, in person at the centre, or by calling 905-727-2816, and leaving your name and telephone number, so that we may contact you.

Brian Warburton
Aurora

Costs keep increasing for our town's facilities

To the editor,

Here we go again. Rec complex costs rise.

When the old (10 years) town hall was sold to the school board, the saying was, do not worry, we can build a new town hall for four million dollars.

After a few years, a new town hall was built. The price of \$16 million was mentioned.

Also, the building was built 20 per cent larger than needed; the first ever building built for expansion. I have never seen a final cost of land and building of the current town hall.

Then there was the new library, built on shifting subsoil.

The mayor was going to tell taxpayers the cost at each stage of the building. It did not happen.

I did not see the actual costs of the library, including costs of houses purchased, land, cost to fix subsoil problems, cost of the building, costs of moving and buying new equipment.

Maybe 15-16 million dollars.

Now two new ice surfaces and a new swimming pool. Land purchased on Leslie Street for \$4.2 million.

Estimate in April, 2003, for two ice rinks was \$10.1 million; the pool, \$4.8 million; more property on Wellington Street, \$4.8 million.

We are now in 2004 and the price is \$19.8 million.

After hiring a project manager and an architectural firm, the cost is now \$24.1 million.

Before we get hosed again, the council should

wait until the architect has final drawings of what the council wants, not what the users' groups want.

That should have been decided before the architect was hired.

Preliminary estimates mean nothing. Sometimes they are in the ball park.

Before any final direction from council you must have final drawings from the architect on what you want.

Then go for firm bids built to drawing and architect specifications. Then you have a good chance of knowing what the cost will be.

Then you can decide if you can afford two rinks and a pool or just two rinks.

Finished drawing and specifications can cost a little more but it is a lot more firm.

A project engineer has nothing to do until you start building.

It is rather amusing where the money is coming from and what the money was originally earmarked for.

Also using water and sewer reserves is a smart way to build up money for other uses instead of the initial purpose.

Reserves for specific purposes should not be used as a bank.

If the reserves are high enough, then stop charging the taxpayers.

R.W. Hanes
Aurora

Pool is required for town

To the editor,

It is with great disappointment that I write this letter.

I understand now that there is a chance the budget for the new pool is at risk of being cut and therefore we may lose our eight-lane pool.

I am an adult who swims and have recently gained tremendous benefits from this sport - health and mind.

My children also benefit greatly from this sport.

Having a pool that accommodates both leisure and competitive swimming is key.

Please consider as you vote this coming week how valuable this facility would be to so many people in Aurora.

Children and adults alike need to focus upon lifestyle balance and fitness - and many of us rely on swimming as the way to make it real.

Save the pool!

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Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

A student's view of all that hair coming off

ED. NOTE: At the last minute, a week ago, we asked Aurora High student Lauren Nisbet to write something about the "Shave Your Head For Cancer" event that was staged at the school. She did so in a great rush, and we,

ingrates that we are, didn't use it. So, without her permission, we're going to show you what she wrote, and we're going to disguise it as a letter to the editor. After all, she did write it for the editor. Thank you, Lauren.

To the editor,

Image and appearance are probably the most important things to a teenager. Hours are spent in front of the mirror curling, straightening, gelling and dyeing their hair to make

it look just the way they want it to.

This week, however, students from Aurora High School put aside all of their pride and shaved it all off for a good cause.

Their peers stood and cheered as students watched their coveted locks fall to the floor of the school cafeteria.

The hair was swept into large plastic bags, and labeled with stickers which read "Canadian Cancer Society".

The school donated all of the hair from this event towards the making of wigs for victims of cancer.

The money raised by the teenagers attending Aurora High amounted to more than \$7,000, almost half of which was raised by one student alone.

Grade 9 student, Laura Town, shaved off her beautiful long hair to raise approximately \$3,000 for the cause.

The combined efforts of the students at Aurora High School will greatly benefit the Canadian Cancer Society, as well as bringing today's youth closer together in their eagerness to help others.

Perhaps this event will open people's eyes to see that teenagers don't necessarily think only of themselves.

Lauren E. Nisbet
Aurora

Here's how taxes work

To the editor,

What the heck is wrong with people?

No one wants to improve their town and be able to offer the people in the community more facilities

no matter what.

Let's explain it this way to R.W. Hanes.

Your tax increase is there to sustain the services and facilities that already exist.

The new taxes and the increase paid for by all the new residents in Aurora who moved in after you are for the new facilities.

I do think your letter has some credence, but let's not stop there.

Heck, I haven't had a fire at my house so deduct the cost of fire service.

If I collect my own rain water I wouldn't have to pay my water bill and anyone who hasn't set foot in the library please come to the Town Hall for a full refund.

Paul Cooke
Aurora

Name change asinine cause

To the editor,

Can Aurora councillors think of nothing better to spend taxpayers' money on, other than change a street name that has become recognizable with City Hall?

I'm talking about the street, John West Way.

For one, why are they naming a parking lot?

It makes absolutely no sense.

I can think of a lot more important things in town to spend the money on.

I'm sure if one of the

councillors had a street named after them and a future council wanted to change it, they would be insulted.

Come on, council, get a life.

Do what you were voted in to do, not spend money needlessly on such an asinine cause.

Maybe there's a deep underlying reason for this?

I urge other Aurorans to write to council, if you, too, feel this way.

Judy Paputsis
Aurora



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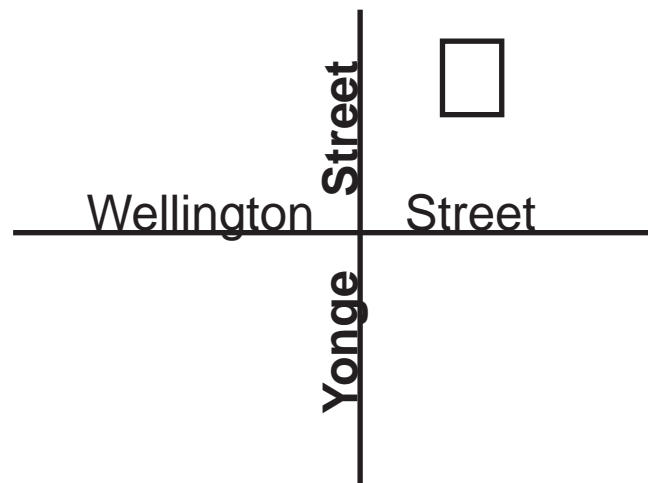
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Aurora loses opener in Canadian championship

It's Aurora Tiger Week here.

It could have been opening night jitters in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

While Aurora Mayor Tim Jones was signing the proclamation "in recognition of the outstanding achievement" of the hockey team, the Tigers had their hands full trying to deal with the host Grande Prairie Storm, and 3,100 screaming hometown fans Sunday night.

While it has appeared the Tigers like to instill a false sense of security in their opponents by playing less than adequate first periods, the play didn't work Sunday.

Aurora fell behind 3-1 after 20 minutes, closed the gap to 3-2 before the second period was a minute old, but couldn't do any more than that as they lost 4-2 to their

hosts.

For Grande Prairie, it was their second victory of the week-long tournament that will result in one of five teams capturing the coveted Royal Bank Cup and the Canadian Junior Hockey championship that goes with it this weekend.

Results of Aurora's second game, slated for Monday night against Nanaimo, B.C., were not available at press time.

The opening night loss may set Aurora back on its heels but won't deter them in their search for the title.

It just puts a little more pressure on the highly-ranked squad during activity for the rest of this week.

Aurora fell behind at 7.07 of the first when they coughed up a short-handed goal to Josh Welter, but they respond-

ed quickly when Jeff Gilbert knotted the score only a minute later.

However, Grande Prairie added two more before the end of the frame and held a 3-1 lead going into the second.

And that's when Tigers were expected to pounce.

They did...33 seconds into the frame, but that's all they did.

Finding the equalizer proved to be impossible.

With only 42 seconds left in the frame, Grande Prairie restored its two-goal lead on a power play, and, after a scoreless third period, that's how it would end.

Grande Prairie outshot Aurora 38-30, another unusual turn of events.

Aurora's second goal was scored by Mike Tonelli as Tigers were ending a power play that

went into effect in the first period.

Matt Bahen was named Aurora's player of the game.

Chris Whitley, in goal for Aurora, was extremely busy in the first period making 20 saves as his team fired only eight shots at Jonathan Cayer in the Grande Prairie net.

STORM 4 TIGERS 2

First Period

S: Jonathan Welter 7.07
 A: Mike Gilbert (Scully) 8.22
 S: Scott McCullough (Radke, Welter) 15.35
 S: Jean Bourbeau (Dutchyshen, Jubb) 16.10

Second Period	McCulloch) 19.18
Third Period	No scoring
A: Mike Tonelli .33	
S: Kyle Radke (Welter,	

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Mayor hurls first pitch to open minor ball year

Aurora Mayor Tim Jones will be on hand to throw out the first pitch at the Aurora Jay's Minor Mosquito home opener Wednesday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m.

The game will be held at the Aurora Leisure Complex, diamond 3.

The team, consisting of mostly 10 year olds, is part of Aurora's rejuvenated rep baseball system.

Last year, they enjoyed a successful rookie ball season, playing teams from Newmarket, Bolton, Richmond Hill and beyond.

This year's team is made up of Jordan Cattapan, Kevin Langdon, Andrew Seguin, Carter Chapley, Matthew Stewart, Zachary Cook, Kurtis Lindner, Andrew Welsman, Ward Benn, Wesley Howe, Arielle Pollock and Sam Copeland.

Coach Wes Pollock is optimistic about the season ahead.

"We came a long way last year and are excited about continuing to develop this year," he said. "We've been working hard on newer skills like pitching and base stealing."

For more information about Aurora Baseball, go to www.auroraminorball.ca

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Swimmers off to Italian meet

Two members of the Aurora Ducks Swim Team will represent Canada at a swim meet in Italy next week.

Francesco DeRose and Marika Iannucci were selected at time trial to be on the Canadian team.

They will compete in this international swim meet, May 14 to 21 against other Grade 7 and Grade 8 students of Italian heritage from around the world.

This is becoming a tra-

dition for the Aurora year. Ducks Swim Team, as Guido swam anchor on the 200 metre medley relay team that earned a 2nd place medal for in this same event last Canada.

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An Aurora man has won the 7th annual Yellow Brick House Harley raffle. Above, Reg Prevost, a logistics planner for Plaxair Canada, and a resident of Aurora, offers a ride on his new bike to YBH Executive Director Filomena Williams following the draw recently. In seven years, the fund-raiser has amassed more than \$120,000, which is used for YBH programs and services.

Local martial arts instructor facing tough 13-month test

Don't mess with this guy. Aurora martial arts instructor, Mike Watson, is one of only 30 people on the planet, and the only Canadian involved, participating in the world's most difficult and challenging martial arts black belt rank examination - the Ultimate Black Belt Test.

The test, first of its kind, lasts 13 months and requires extensive daily physical training, meditation, and dieting.

Over the course of the test, each participant must complete 52,000 pushups and sit-ups, 1,000 rounds of sparring, 1,000 repetitions of a "kata" (a fight with an imaginary opponent), 20 hours of kickboxing, a self-defense course, and 1,000 Random Acts of Kindness.

"Then they go to break-fast," laughs the test's designer, veteran martial arts master, Tom Callos of Placerville, CA. "This is what being a master-level martial artist is all about -living a 'fitness lifestyle' and defending oneself from complacency."

Callos has designed the test as a solution to what he

sees as a deterioration of values and leadership in the martial arts industry.

"Advanced black belt ranks (most styles of martial arts have nine black belt levels) should be earned by accomplishment not by political affiliation. The black belt, at any level, should be more than an indicator of someone who has 'been around' for a long time; it should be awarded for mastery of the technical aspects of martial arts. What's more, the black belt should be a sign of a centered, self actualized person."

Watson, who has been teaching martial arts in Aurora and area for 15 years, says he's both honoured to be one of the 30 - and in awe of the responsibility.

"Sure, I'm shocked by all of the requirements," Watson says, "but just the act of committing to the test has already brought me good fortune. I'm finding resources and strengths I didn't know I had."

Which of the requirements does Watson consider the most challenging?

"The diet for sure. I love

to eat."

For more information, call Watson at (905) 727-7144.



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AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

TEAM	DATE	DAY	ARENA	START/END	TEAM	DATE	DAY	ARENA	START/END
<u>1995</u>					<u>1991</u>				
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 P
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
<u>1994</u>					<u>1990</u>				
Atom AE	15-May-04	Saturday	ALC	4:00 PM 6:00 PM	Bantam A	9-May-04	Sunday	ALC	2:30 PM 4:00 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					
<u>1993</u>					Bantam AE	14-May-04	Friday	ALC	6:00 PM 8:00 PM
Minor Pee wee AE	15-May-04	Saturday	ALC	12:30 PM 2:00 PM	Bantam AE	17-May-04	Monday	ALC	8:00 PM 10:00 PM
Minor Pee wee AE	16-May-04	Sunday	ALC	4:00 PM 6:00 PM	Bantam AE	25-May-04	Tuesday	ALC	7:30 PM 9:00 PM
Minor Pee wee AE	25-May-04	Tuesday	ALC	6:00 PM 7:30 PM					
<u>1992</u>					<u>1988 &1987</u>				
Pee wee AE	16-May-04	Sunday	ALC	11:00 AM 1:00 PM	Midget A	14-May-04	Friday	ALC	8:00 PM 10:00 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					

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Walking tour highlights history

From page 1
Street on the west, Catherine Avenue to the north, Metcalfe Street to the south and Ross Street on the east.

The tour included the Church Street School, built in 1886 with its unique belfry and weather vane at which former Prime Minister Lester Pearson was once a student, and is in the process of being refurbished to become the Aurora Heritage Centre.

The Mechanic's Hall (1870) located on Mosley Street was where lectures, concerts and classes were held in the early days. The Greek Revival building is now home to the Aurora Lions Club.

Medical Hall (1885) on Yonge Street, Aurora's first skyscraper with its three storeys, was long the home to Rutherford's and Willis' drug stores and is still used commercially.

Located on the southwest corner of Mosley and Wells Street is the Rising Sun Masonic Lodge. It was built in 1877 as the Methodist Episcopal Church. At that time there were two Methodist Churches in Aurora and in 1884 they amalgamated and 57

Mosley Street was put up for sale.

The Rising Sun Lodge of Freemasons purchased the Church and it remains a Lodge Hall to this day. The Grand Room, while remodeled as a Masonic Lodge Hall, maintains the lines of a church and much of the original wood mouldings remain.

At 15032 Yonge Street is Elmwood Lodge (1875), an L-shaped house plan popular in the late 1800s. It was built in 1875 for Reuben Kennedy who gave his name to two nearby streets. Now it is a place of business.

Farther north on Yonge Street is Popular Villa, or the Chateau, which is situated high above the street. The picturesque Queen Anne style house, built in 1912, has a large turret with a conical roof. It was once home to the late Wing Commander Lloyd Chadburn, one of Canada's most decorated pilots in the Second World War.

There is also the Methodist/United Church (1878) at Tyler and Yonge Streets, a site of Methodist worship since 1818, but its graceful spires were destroyed by a tornado that

ripped through the town in the late 1800s.

Trinity Anglican Church (1884) on Victoria Street has been the site of Anglican worship since 1846 with the rectory behind it on Metcalfe Street. The Parish Hall was recently demolished to make way for a much larger church, but the old Gothic exterior church with its elegant spires and windows remain.

Victoria Hall (1883) located at Mosley and Victoria Streets, still used by community groups, was once the Disciples of Christ Church. This small Gothic building has had few exterior changes.

On Mosley Street was once the New Connexion Methodist (1856), which served two Methodist groups and the Salvation Army before becoming a day care centre.

Now known as the Wells Street Public School, this building was once the Aurora High School. It was built in 1923 in the Classical Revival style.

Across the Town Park is the Drill Shed (1874) or the Aurora Armouries, the oldest original drill shed still in use.

Farther east is the Grand

Trunk Railway Station (1900), which was restored to its turn of the century appearance and cheerful multi-coloured paint.

Across Wellington Street from the station is the Railway Hotel (1855) with its mixture of styles and is still in use.


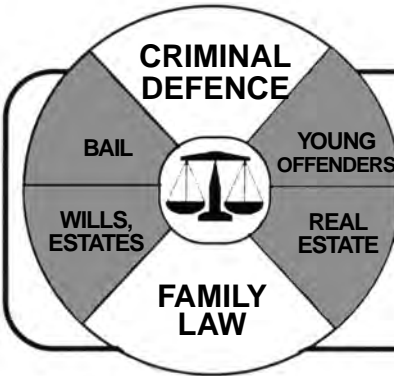
On Wellington Street west of Yonge Street is the Fleury Implement Works (1859-1941), now Bacon Basketware. The historic chimney of the implement works was recently demolished.

On Yonge Street in the downtown core is the Old Post Office (1915), now designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. This Aurora landmark has a rusticated stone foundation and a fine Tuscan tower complete with round headed windows with the tower housing the town clock.

Farther north on Yonge Street at Wellington is Whimster's Store (1889), at one time Aurora's leading department store and from 1928 to 1974 Ardill's Ladies Wear. It is now Larter Associates with the exterior mural on the north wall.

Just around the corner on Wellington Street is the Knowles Butcher Shop (1885) which served Aurora residents over the years by the Knowles family until recently when the building was renovated to house Shugart and Associates.

Just a few of the historic buildings in the downtown core worthy of a look as you travel around Aurora, to bring back memories of former days.



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Youth group invades Aurora

In March, 1992, Aurora was invaded by a youth group as guests of the Aurora Rotary Club.

Five members of Generation 2000 arrived in Aurora and visited Aurora High School, where they presented a brief theatrical performance about the environment and held workshops.

In the group were Nicole DeLory from Halifax, Nova Scotia; Darin Bagshaw, Cremona, Alberta; Tonya Makletzoff, Yellowknife, NWT; Ian Mac Donald, Toronto; and Robin King of Pickeral Lake, Ontario.

They were part of 38 young Canadians travelling across Canada on Youth Tour '92.

Generation 2000 was a non-profit, non-partisan organization run by youth on behalf of youth.

It was dedicated to the creation of programs which stimulated communication and interaction, increased appreciation and understanding, and demonstrated youth's ability to affect positive change upon the future.

Through interactive theatrical presentations and discussions the visitors hoped to inspire youths to broaden their perspectives and interact with their peers from different regions in Canada in order to work towards solutions.

Youth Together '92, as it was called, joined youth from across Canada with the aim of breaking down regional and cultural stereotypes.

It was the first cross-country tour sponsored by Generation 2000.

While in Aurora, they met with students of Aurora

High School and found that Aurora students were interested in the opinions of their peers from other regions.

They were keen to discuss Canadian identity, the environment and aboriginal self-government.

The theatrical presentation looked at issues affecting the youth of Canada.

It was followed by discussions on the importance of communication between different regions and cultures.

The workshops also focused on how increased communications created more opportunities for youth to participate in the resolution of the many com-

mon issues they face,

The four-month, cross-country adventure brought Generation 2000 to more than 200,000 people in schools and community centres across the country.

Data from the tour and the survey was designed to provide pertinent information on the state of the youth in Canada, their perception of other regions and cultures, and their hopes for the future of youth involvement.

Generation 2000 is long forgotten but it is to be hoped that some of the messages they left with students of Aurora High School have been remembered.



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Art Aurora attracts some 300 paintings

The 42nd annual Aurora Art Show and Sale was held at the Town Hall last week with 113 participating artists and approximately 300 paintings on exhibit in this juried exhibition.

Art Aurora is sponsored by the Town of Aurora and since the late-1980s by the Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA).

Artists were invited to submit entries in seven categories, oils, acrylic, watercolours, mixed/alternative media, pastels, sculpture and preserve Aurora with a winner and honourable mentions in each category.

The three jurors were Gary Evans, a landscape artist and instructor at Georgian College School of Design and Visual Art; Doris Hamilton, a member of the Society of Canadian Artists; and Gita Karklins, an artist.

In a statement the Jurors said the works they picked as winners were, in their opinion, successful in their intensity and originality.

There was an articulate point of view and clarity of purpose, displayed through a control and enjoyment of the chosen media jurors said.

In the Oil category Edward Abela was awarded the red ribbon for his painting "Vegetation". Honourable Mention went to Anthony Palmer for "The Cardinal" and Judy Sherman for "Peanuts".

James Jennings received the red ribbon in the Acrylic category for "Self Portrait". Honourable Mention went to Ronit Kushnir for "Peace in the Garden", Hernert Pryke for "Eagle Lake" and Lola Wellwood for "Galaxy Serge".

In the Watercolour category Sonia Sproul was the winner for her painting "Massif Antarctica" with Honourable Mentions to Marianne Broome for "Rosa Peace" and Linda Housser for "The Brown Bag".

Sonia Sproule repeated her success in the Mixed/Alternative Media category with "Rippling Stream". Jacqueline Okuhara received an Honourable Mention for

"Portrait of Justine", as did Marlene Bulas with "Newfoundland at Night" and Julie Renwicke for "Tropics".

Shelagh Marzouk won the red ribbon in the Pastel category with "The Long Road" with Honourable Mentions to Jennifer Heaton for "Tranquility" and Heather Kertzer for "Natures Gift".

There were few entries in the Sculpture category with the red ribbon won by Joe Lorincz for an abstract wood carving "Untitled" and an Honourable Mention to Richard Biggs with "Hollow Vase".

One of the more popular categories is the Preserve Aurora with the red ribbon going to Johanna VanKempen with "100 Wells Street".

An Honourable Mention went to Edward Abela for "Sunday Afternoon" and Elizabeth Gordon with "Trinity in the Morning".

It was in 1975 when the Preserve Aurora category was introduced as a means of preserving in paint some of the historic buildings and sites in Aurora before they were demolished by the bulldozers of the developers.

In 1983 the Aurora Heritage Committee suggested the town purchase or have the right of first refusal for the winning painting in the Preserve Aurora category to start a permanent collection for

the town.

Council approved an annual expenditure of up to \$500 to purchase the painting.

As a result the town has a growing collection of local buildings and scenes by local artists, which are on display on the second floor of the Town Hall.

This year the town purchased a watercolour painting titled "McKenzie Marsh" by Christine Valentini, the third painting in a row the town has purchased from the artist for its permanent collection.

Other paintings included the old Radial Car station, the Chateau, the Sugar Shack at Sheppard's Bush, a Horse and Carriage on the St. John's Sideroad and other scenes of the McKenzie Marsh.

The Aurora Art Show and Sale started out as a small local art exhibition in 1963 in Victoria Hall under the direction of Cathan Shoniker, a member of the Aurora Recreation Committee.

At that time local artists did not have a venue to display and sell their artwork and the Aurora Art Show and Sale was designed to provide a suitable showcase for their art with an emphasis on sales.

Many changes have taken place over the years as it is now open to all artists and is known as Art Aurora.



Christine Valentini and Aurora Mayor Tim Jones display the mayor's selection in the "Preserve Aurora" category, a depiction of the McKenzie Marsh, during the 42nd annual Art Aurora show held recently. Chair of the Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA), Bill van Oorschot, looks on.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



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How Toronto became known as "the Big Smoke"

If you've wondered how Toronto received the nickname "The Big Smoke", you can stop wondering because the mystery has been solved.

According to former Toronto Star wordsmith Lew Gloin of Aurora, the man responsible for coining the term was the late, great Bob Buchanan, editor and publisher of The Aurora Banner, a one-time local paper. Bob died in 1973.

(Buchanan was responsible for hiring the current editor of The Auroran. Little did he know).

He used to greet visitors from Toronto with a hearty "What's new in The Big Smoke?"

Aurorans picked up on the term and it spread from there.

Back in the 1970s, smoke from the factory stacks billowed over the city and could be seen from Aurora in the distance.

Now you know!

ELECTION PROMISES OF THE PAST

During the November, 1966, municipal election Deputy Reeve Ron Simmons challenged incumbent Mayor Clarence Davis.

Simmons told the residents at the public nomination meeting the town was dormant and Davis lacked leadership.

Simmons lost by a wide margin.

Reeve Stu Patrick was challenged by Councillor Jim Murray. Patrick also claimed the town had been dormant and unless it attracted new industry, it had had it.

Murray said Aurora was a wonderful town and that council had to work together as a team. Murray squeaked through to a close win.

Council candidate Evelyn Buck received the loudest ovation at the nomination meeting when she took a jibe at incumbent Councillor Dick Illingworth.

Jokingly, she threatened that as the only female on council she might attend meetings "in a plunging neckline and a mini-skirt but then Illingworth would find some way to legislate against them".

AURORA'S DRUG FIGHTER

Aurora old timers and former students of Aurora High School and Dr. G.W. Williams will no doubt remember Frank Szeler and his one-man controversial Project Sierra service to stop the sale and use of illegal drugs in high schools.

In September, 1986, he shut down his Project Sierra for 40 days to launch a public awareness campaign on the dangers of a new narcotic coming on the market known as crack.

Crack, a heated and concentrated form of cocaine, was readily available in Toronto and was making its way into the region.

He was concerned that the addictive drug would become common in the region's secondary schools.

His campaign was aimed at pressuring the government to enact tougher penalties against drug dealers and to give police more powers to crack down on dealers.

Anyone know where he is?

AURORA LIONS HOLD A HOUSE DRAW

In May, 1988, members of the Aurora Lions Club sold 3,000 tickets for the Aurora Lions Win-A-Home Sweepstakes for a finished three-bedroom, two-storey brick home by Tannery Creek.

Whipper Billy Watson, who was leading a fundraising campaign to finance a CAT Scan for York County Hospital, was invited to select the winning ticket as the Lions Club planned to donate \$50,000 to the campaign.

The 3,000 tickets at \$100 each were all sold within 89 days and the house draw was the culmination of several months of draws for various prizes.

Somebody won the house, but there is no record of who the lucky person was. Does anybody know?

AURORA MAN HEADS UP TORONTO SCOTTISH

On December 14, 1985, Jerry Chowzan of Aurora assumed command of the Toronto Scottish Regiment in a colourful ceremony at Fort York Armoury in Toronto with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

He started his military career as a cadet with the Queen's York Rangers in 1954 at Weston High School.

In 1962 he joined the Queen's York Rangers as an Officer Cadet and was commissioned in 1963, serving in several major appointments with the regiment in Aurora and Toronto and was appointed Deputy Commanding Officer in 1974.

He was posted to Toronto Militia District Headquarters as a staff officer for two tours before being reclassified to the Infantry in 1980 and transferring to the Toronto Scottish, where he served as a Company Commander and in 1982 as Deputy Commanding Officer.

Guests at the change of command parade included Colonel Fred Tilston, V.C., former Councillor Norm Stewart, Councillor George Timpson, Major Ken Reid of the Queen's York Rangers with his wife Morag and former Aurora residents Bert and Madge Graves. .

GEESE LUCKIER THAN DUCKS

Back in May, 1992, one week after approving the erection of a Goose Crossing sign, Aurora Council rejected a request for a Duck Crossing sign by a vote of 5-3.

The issue was introduced as the result of a duck being killed while crossing Edward Street.

Councillor Betty Pedersen suggested drivers might slow down a bit if there were a few warning signs posted around the community.

Councillor George Timpson argued that requests would be received for squirrels, cats and dogs leading to sign pollution.

Councillor Norm Weller said the ducks should have equal rights with geese.

Mayor John West put an end to the debate by stating that ducks should fly across the road instead of walking across.

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Eleven-year debate ends with lot sale

If you think council has a tough time making a decision today on such things as seniors centres, recreational complexes or what to do with the old library, they are nothing compared with an issue that was born in the eighties...and lasted into the nineties.

At that time one of the longest debates on Aurora Council was held over two residential lots on Batson Drive.

In June, 1981, staff had discussions with Canadian National Railway officials regarding the town constructing an underpass under the tracks to provide a walkway from Batson Drive to Industrial Parkway to the proposed parkland and Family Leisure Complex.

Council had placed a hold on two lots on Batson Drive and also protected a 50-foot strip of land east of the tracks for the proposed walkway.

A year later, the long discussed pedestrian underpass came one step closer to construction. Council agreed to ask the Canadian Transport Commission and CN for approval in principle to build the underpass.

As the option to acquire the two lots expired in 1985, council decided at

the November 5, 1984, meeting to request a two or three year extension or until the Leisure Complex was built.

It was also learned that because of the depth the proposed walkway would require some form of retaining wall to prevent earth from adjoining properties eroding the walkway.

A revised engineering report and cost estimate in November, 1984, revealed the total cost of construction of the walkway, retaining walls and underpass would top \$220,000.

In May, 1985, council rejected a request from residents to release all restraints on the two lots so two more houses could be built.

Residents expressed concerns about increased night noise, loss of security, increased litter, increased traffic and parking on Batson and the potential of a loitering area and hangout in the tunnel, if constructed.

Councillor John West insisted the lots should remain empty until the leisure complex was built, so council could decide at that time if the walkway was needed.

He said the lots had

1981

always been designed as a walkway because of concern about children crossing the railway tracks to get to the park.

Mayor Dick Illingworth opposed the walkway for many of the same reasons expressed by the residents in that it had not been included in the plan of subdivision and had the potential of becoming a hangout. Council approved leaving the lots vacant.

The residents wrote to council in June, 1985, expressing disappointment that their concerns had not been addressed and they requested reconsideration.

They were advised that under the town's procedural bylaw the issue could not be reintroduced within 90 days following a council decision, and the earliest date that could happen was September 3, 1985.

Finally in April, 1991, after monitoring the use of the leisure complex for three years, council agreed the underpass was no longer necessary and decided to sell the

two lots.

This was as a result of a staff report which said the underpass in that location could not be justified given the costs of construction and the ongoing vandalism and maintenance costs that would be incurred.

Council was criticized by the Aurora Friends of Nature, an environmental group, for agreeing to sell the two lots instead of using them to construct a walkway to the Holland River valley for the residents.

They claimed it was the last opportunity for an east-west link across the tracks.

They asked council to reverse their decision. Members explained the link was only meant for access to the Leisure Complex not the walkway system.

Continued fears about the safety of the underpass plus learning it would cost in the \$800,000 range to construct an underpass convinced members of council to reject the proposal and to sell the lots.

In September, 1991, Klaus Wehrenberg appeared before council in a final attempt to save the underpass.

He pointed out that the

idea of an underpass had been included in the Holland River Valley Parkland Study prepared by consultants with a steering committee of citizens.

The report also included the concept of a museum farm on the old Willson farm, but council had allowed the farm to be razed.

Wehrenberg conducted a survey of homeowners in the northwest corner of the town, including the area where the opposition originated.

He claimed that 118 homeowners had been visited and 111 or 93 per cent had some members of the family takes regular walks and about 77 per cent rode bicycles.

Sixty-three families indicated they used the Leisure Complex of which 92 per cent would use the underpass and would spend the tax dollars to build it.

At the same meeting a

representative of the adjacent homeowners appeared in support of their continued opposition to the underpass.

West, who had been a strong supporter of the underpass, but had lost when council members refused to endorse it, said the underpass should have been paid for by the developers, not the taxpayers and that he was not now in favour of it.

In March, 1992, a consulting firm estimated it would cost \$263,940 to build an overpass and \$345,180 to build an underpass and once again staff recommended against the project saying the number of people using it wouldn't justify the cost.

That was the end of the project, as council reaffirmed its earlier decision to sell the two lots resulting in two houses being built on the property and the long debate finally came to an end.

Planning meeting changes format

From page 3

The review is underway but will not be completed until after consideration has been given to comments or issues that are raised as part of the public process.

In addition to the applications being considered by the town, the applicants have also submitted applications to York Region.

Cost of the reviews is being charged back to the applicants who are required to submit a Letter of Credit to cover the total cost of the review.

Representatives for First Professional, the applicant, told the council members present, that the plan was for the Aurora Gateway Centre, and reminded council members that the applicant had completed the Canadian Tire and Winners stores in south Aurora.

It was stressed that there would be high quality design as required by the Wellington Street Corridor plan.

It was also pointed out that the project would contribute about \$350,000 in annual taxes to the town and provide thousands of permanent jobs.

Joel Farber, a solicitor for clients in Richmond Hill and Newmarket, expressed concern about the potential impact of the proposed regional centre on businesses in both communities.

He added that it was unusual to put offices in the

centre of a shopping centre.

Betty Reid, a local resident, said she had been told the meeting had been cancelled and there was considerable confusion about it.

She noted how Aurora has changed since she moved here nine years ago and with all the rapid development predicted it would become the Regent Park of the North.

She asked how many jobs would be lost in other parts of Aurora if this project proceeded.

She stressed the need for council to take control and decide what the people wanted for Aurora and not leave planning to developers and the OMB.

Don Hill, a Leslie Street resident, said he had no objection to the proposal provided it was done right and could bring Aurora shoppers back to Aurora.

He stressed the need for a comprehensive review of traffic, water and landscaping, as he didn't want another Newmarket.

Following the information

session Councillor Phyllis Morris asked about the next steps.

She was advised by staff that it had been helpful to hear the comments but it was not possible to finalize anything until after a public meeting was held.

Morris pointed out that the general public was not in attendance and three council members were absent.

She suggested that the presentations be received and two public meetings be scheduled.

Councillor John West said he couldn't support the Morris motion because it was up to council to determine how many meetings may be required.

Councillor Damir Vrancic said there was a need for greater circulation of the proposed development as it was a major decision for the community and citizens and business people were not in attendance.

He noted the room was packed when the Home Depot application was discussed.

He added that council is

working to support revitalization of the downtown core, but the merchants weren't invited to the meeting, the results of which could have a major impact on their business and change the character of the community.

After further discussion the Morris motion to receive the information and have at least two public meetings, after a wider circulation, was adopted on a 4-2 vote with West and Councillor Evelyn Buck opposed.



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Councillors cool toward proposed pool

From page 1
units per year in order to recover sufficient development charge funds to pay the principle and interest.

It was pointed out that a slowdown in the economy, the building industry or a successful appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board over the proposed increased development charge could result in a greater hit on the tax based funding to make up the funding shortfall.

It was also pointed out that out operational costs have been updated indicating that even with a 10 per cent increase user fee, the total net operating cost was estimated at approximately \$500,000 or a tax increase of 6.75 per cent or about \$54 per year on the average assessed home.

In April, council approved the 2004 capital budget subject to a further report setting out options that would serve to reduce the tax based component of the recreational facility.

At the committee meeting Mayor Tim Jones reviewed various options provided by staff and recommended staff investigate and report further on all but restructuring debenture parameters and the use of additional existing reserve fund allocations towards the project.

Councillor Damir Vrancic noted the operating loss of half-a-million dollars and asked for more information regarding the projected loss. Staff replied that in

general the ice pads broke even and the aquatic centre ran a deficit.

Vrancic said he was having second thoughts about the pool and since it would serve a larger area than Aurora, partnership agreements should be discussed with Newmarket and Oak Ridges.

Councillor Ron Wallace asked if the pool was to be eliminated or postponed. He referred to a pool in Etobicoke which attracted swim meets from all over the province and was revenue-producing.

He said that with proper promotion the Aurora pool could do the same.

Councillor John West said the projected loss in operating the pool was well-known and had been discussed before. He said there was already an operating loss at the Leisure Complex pool and if the new pool is built the loss will increase.

He suggested the ice pads proceed as planned but the pool be delayed until Aurora reached a population of about 65,000.

To proceed at this time would require council to be pro-development, he said.

It was finally agreed that staff investigate the various options to reduce the tax supported debt and report May 25th along with a re-worked plan for the ice pads without the aquatic centre.

That vote carried 6-1 with Wallace in opposition..

In response to a previous request that a restaurant be included in the complex rather than a snack bar, the project manager pointed out that additional space would be required at an estimated cost of \$50,000 to the capital cost of the project.

It was agreed not to proceed with the restaurant at this time.

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35. Town Park street (first of two)
37. ACI Show: Plugged ____
40. Aurora hockey team member
42. Aurora registration service (hyph)
44. Remove this with 31 Across
46. She has a "Day" in May
50. Re-write an *Auroran* article
52. Arts ____ Culture Fund
53. Television (abbr)
54. Don't own
55. "Rumours" partner

Down

1. Road cleaning activity (1st wd)
2. Flowering ornamental tree
3. "Granny's" product
4. Home & Lifestyle ____
5. Compact Disk (abbr)
6. Town Park street (second of two)
7. Assessment acronym
10. A "Day" celebrated with fireworks
13. Bird's home
14. Art Show & Sale venue (1st wd)
- Aurora's ____ Terrace or Parkette
17. Road (abbr)
18. Council meeting's written recap
21. These will tell you a tree's age
22. Former post office feature (2 wds)
24. Art Show & Sale venue (2nd wd)
25. Obtain this before building a deck
27. Sticky road repair material
30. Road cleaning activity (2nd wd)
35. 46 across quote " ____ are not amused"
36. Lane (abbr)
38. Compass direction (abbr)
39. 140 Aurora Air ____
41. Tamarac ____ Park
43. Company
45. Banned pesticide (abbr)
47. Total (abbr)
48. Participated in Hartwell Challenge
49. These may be "classified"
51. Trail (abbr)

Solution will appear next week

You may find your favourite titles in the following sections:

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- Mystery - Business • Travel - Games
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