

# AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Vol. 4 No. 30

Week of May 18, 2004

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For the third time, M & M Meats owner, Greg Foster, right, has hosted a fund raising event to battle Crohn's and Colitis, and Saturday's activity at his Yonge Street location was another resounding success. Joining Foster as they admire a wealth of supporters whose names are posted on the store's front window is Aurora Home Hardware owner Russ Barfitt. Barfitt joined members of the Old Chiefs older-timer hockey team to help make hot dogs and hamburgers during the day. Total campaign raised more than \$4,000.

*Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

## 33 town staff workers may strike next week

Some 33 Town of Aurora workers will be in a strike position next week, but officials say, if that happens, the town will continue to function.

Since late January, negotiations between the Town and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 905 have been in progress, in order to settle on a new collective agreement for the outside Public Works and Leisure Services employees.

In April, unable to reach a resolution, a Provincial Conciliation Officer was appointed to broker a settlement between the Town and CUPE, however, efforts to arrive at mutually agreeable

terms have been unsuccessful.

As a result of the issuance of a "No Board Report" by the Ministry of Labour, a work interruption could occur as early as Monday, May 24.

"At this point in time, we remain optimistic that an agreement will be reached with CUPE," said Aurora's Chief Administrative Officer, Larry Allison. "The Town will continue to work towards resolving the issues and will seek to minimize any impact to the services we deliver. As events unfold, we will do our absolute best to keep residents informed."

The Town of Aurora will continue business as usual, he said.

## TIGERS WIN

We're Number One! Best in the land! Numero Uno!

Write your own cliché, but the fact remains, Aurora is home to the best junior hockey team in Canada today.

The Aurora Tigers, who are the Central Region junior hockey champions, have gone the distance and captured the 2004 Royal Bank Cup, Canada's National Junior A Hockey Championship.

Tigers did it Sunday evening defeating the Kindersley (Sask.) Klippers 7-1, in front of a boisterous crowd of 2,721 at the Crystal Centre in Grande Prairie, Alberta. This is as far as an Aurora junior team has ever gone and is only the second team from the Provincial Junior Hockey League to win the Cup.

Aurora finished the tournament with a convincing 5-1 record, with their only loss coming at the hands of the host team, the Grande Prairie Storm in the opening game last week.

Actually, Aurora can thank the Klippers for some of their success.

Kindersley, which Aurora had already beaten 5-0, put the Storm out of the finals with a narrow 4-3 victory Saturday, thereby eliminating the only team able to crack the Tigers' armour.

Aurora got to the finals by dumping Nepean 7-2 Saturday.

Sunday, with a national audience on The Sports Network watching, the Tigers took a 4-1 lead into the second period, and sailed to the 7-1 win.

## Have tea with Queen

Her Majesty Queen Victoria will visit Aurora's Hillary House Sunday afternoon, May 30, and you're invited to join her for tea in the ballroom that afternoon.

A program of music and recitations is planned in her honour, along with the tea served in true Victorian style.

Rumour has it that the Queen is planning to visit Aurora in order to consult with Dr. Hillary regarding a recent bout of ill health and to obtain a supply of his celebrated

**Please see page 15**

Francis Walker, playing in his third RBC Royal Bank Cup, led the way for the Tigers with a goal and two assists.

Named the tournament's Top Goalie, Aurora's Chris Whitley, made 21 saves in the victory.

It was the first time ever that an Ontario team has captured the Royal Bank Cup since the RBC Financial Group became the title sponsor of Canada's National Junior A Hockey Championship in 1996.

Prior to that, the championship was known as the Centennial Cup and the last Ontario team to win it was the Thunder Bay Flyers in 1992.

"Our league hasn't gotten much

respect when it has come out to this tournament," Tiger coach Marty Williamson said. "When we won our league, everybody came to us and said 'bring it back to Ontario' and we really wanted to."

Aurora dominated the final game from start to finish, outshooting the Klippers 57-22.

Francis Walker paced the Tigers' attack with a two goals and an assist, while Sean Scully scored once and set up two others.

Defenceman Mike Kostka chipped in with a goal and an assist, while Jesse Olden, Andrew Hotham and Michael Tonelli also scored.

"We were able to come in here,

**Please see page 12**

## Aurora man receives Major Dutch honour

By EVERT AKKERMAN

Every year on April 30th, Dutch Queen Beatrix shows her appreciation to a select number of people who have made an exceptional contribution to the Dutch community, either in the homeland or abroad.

This year, an Aurora man was one of those honoured.

Her Majesty Queen Beatrix, through the Consul-General of the Netherlands in Toronto, Jan Hesseling, made Aurora's Marten A. Mol a Knight of the Order of Orange-Nassau (RIDDER in de Orde Van Oranje Nassau).

Marten Mol came to Canada in May of 1952, when he was seven years old. Marten and his own family eventually settled in Aurora in 1972.

Giving back to the community runs in the Mol family. Marten's parents helped thousands of Dutch immigrants settle in Ontario.

Marten worked several jobs before striking out on his own in 1976 and formed a Management Consulting firm called Martec Corporate and Personal Advisory Ltd.

It specialized in interim management, psychology testing and evaluations, placement both in and out, business development

and mentoring.

In 1988, he sold the business and began Mentoring, Advising and Business Development work under Marten A. Mol & Associates Ltd. a venture that continues to this day.

In 1986, Marten bought a travel agency called DCA Travel & Cruise Services Inc. He manages the business with a full-time staff and office manager.

It is one of the largest agencies

**Please see page 18**



**Aurora's Marten Mol receives distinguished Dutch award during a recent ceremony from the Consul-General of the Netherlands in Toronto making the Aurora man a Knight of the Order of Orange-Nassau.**

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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@sympati-co.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 20

Aurora Women's Institute annual bridge and euchre fundraiser, Victoria Hall, 1 p.m. Tickets \$5.

\*\*\*\*\*

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 28/29

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

### 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Annual garage sale at Christ Lutheran Church, 7 Lacey Court, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Barbecue and bake table.

### 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Northern Lights Public School first annual Fun Fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Includes a show by Cat World, barbecue, garage sale, book exchange. Northern Lights is located in Aurora at 40 Bridgenorth Drive. For more info call 905-727-4224, ext. 3001.

### 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.aurorafair.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.



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## New one in 2005

# Firefighters' calendar a hit

Shaun Mitchell, a member of the Central York Fire Services and the 2004 Firefighters' Calendar committee, appeared before Aurora Council with two colleagues last week to thank members for their support.

Sale of the calendar has raised more than \$200,000 which has been shared with the three regional hospitals and the Breast Cancer Society.

In addition firefighters portrayed in the calendar have participated in more than 70 charity events.

He said the firefighters were happy to participate and were looking forward to the 2005 calendar.

Councillor Phyllis Morris, who had represented the town at the Annual "In Celebration

of Women" Awards event, introduced two of the Aurora women receiving awards.

Beth Egan received the Charity Achievement Award for her work with many local charities and Patricia Ristich received the Large Business Achievement Award for her work in hair styling for Canadian women.

Not present at the

council meeting but who had received awards were Jackie Hilchuck and Jane Shore of Aurora.

Hilchuck won the Small Business Achievement Award for her development of a garden tool belt and Shore received the Pharmaceutical Achievement Award for her work in continuing education for pharmacists.

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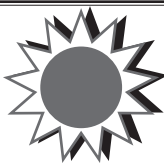
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THURS & FRI 8AM - 7PM  
SAT 8AM - 5PM  
SUN 9AM - 5 PM**



## New boss

For 10 years, Lisa Knappett, standing, served as manager of the Toronto Dominion Canada Trust branch at Yonge and Wellington in Aurora. She now takes over as manager of the branch on Davis Drive in Newmarket. Replacing Lisa is Karen Medd, who comes to the branch from TD's operation on Bayview Avenue in Aurora.

*Auroran photo  
by Ron Wallace*



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## Poor Richard

# Costs keep climbing for new rec complex

*Truth is stranger than friction,  
And, often more comical too;  
The antics of local politicians,  
Cause taxpayers to turn blue!*  
-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

It if wasn't so serious it would be funny, like a comic opera.

Can you imagine a family going out to buy a beautiful new home, adding extras, and renting out part of it with no idea of how they were going to pay for it?

In effect that's what council did with the planning for the proposed recreational complex to be built on Wellington Street East.

After listening to all the user groups as to their needs and desires, engaging a project manager and an architect, they are now trying to figure out how to pay for it without placing an undue burden on the already hard-hit property taxpayers, and it's not a pretty picture.

It was back in June, 2003, when council took the first step toward a major recreation facility estimated to cost \$15 million, designed to meet the needs of the town's population until at least 2012.

After purchasing 89 acres on Leslie Street for municipal purposes, including a proposed recreational complex, at a reported price of \$4 million, it was announced in July that a 32-acre parcel had been purchased on Wellington Street East for a reported \$4.8 million as it was serviced.

It was planned to build a 100,000 square foot facility to accommodate two ice pads, an indoor pool, a youth centre and general purpose rooms, with playing fields, active and passive parklands and possibly a fire station on the surrounding lands.

In September, 2003, more than 125 sports supporters attended an Open House to hear details of the concept plan with almost every sporting group in attendance to present their needs.

The general public was conspicuous by its absence.

In November, 2003, prior to the municipal election, at the request of the Aurora Swim Club plans were made to enlarge the pool from six to eight lanes and add learning and leisure pools.

By February, 2004, in spite of prior warnings by treasury staff about the impact of the proposed complex on the tax rate and the town's reserve accounts, councillors got into a flap about the escalating costs.

As far back as March, 2000, when the Leslie Street land was purchased, former Treasurer Barb Cribbett warned council members that the municipality didn't have the funds for future capital projects without increasing taxes by two per cent a year for 10 years.

The warnings were repeated by former Treasurer Allan Evelyn, but nobody was listening.

By this time the estimated cost was in the \$25 million range and they started to look around for ways and means to reduce costs but still live up to their commitments to the sporting groups.

Discussions dragged on about the construction and costs and even a public/private partnership was considered, but was never proceeded with.

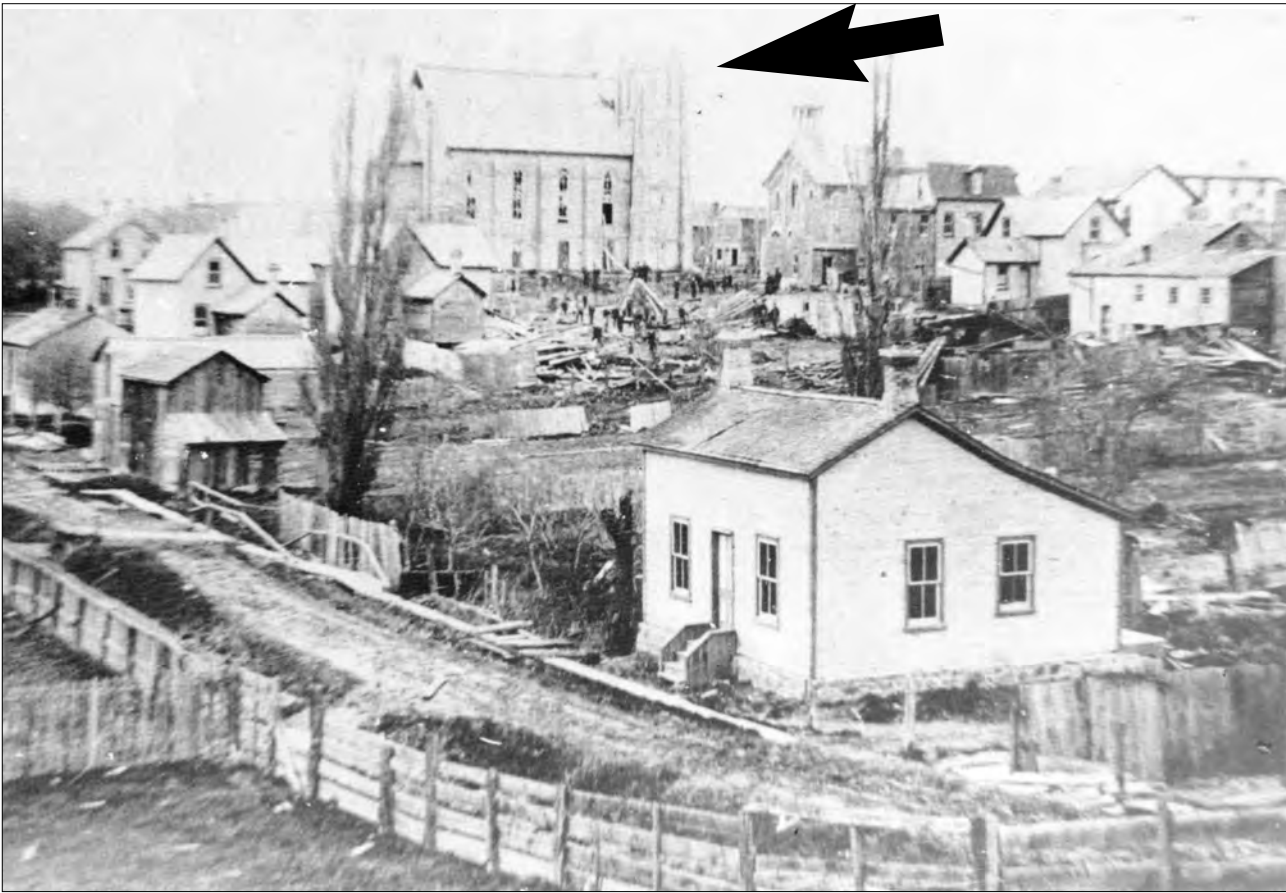
The draft 2004 capital budget estimated the cost of the facility at \$18.5 million, to be paid for with \$5.5 million from reserve funds, \$1 million from reserves, \$7.8 million from development charges and \$4.8 million through a debenture.

Staff warned that while the project was feasible it was stretching the financial status to the limit, even with a user fee increase of 10 per cent, a tax rate increase of 2.5 per cent per year for 10 years to repay the debenture, plus an increase in development charges.

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

Finally in April, 2004, on learning the projected cost had increased to \$24 million and the complex was expected to operate at an annual loss of \$500,000 mostly on the pool, the red flags went up over the cost and the impact on the taxpayer.

The strategic plan calls for a well-managed and fiscally responsible municipality. You decide!



It was 111 years ago this week when an ill wind - better known as a cyclone - ripped through Aurora and tore the steeple off of what is today the Aurora United Church. At the time, it was the Aurora Methodist Church. This photo was taken from Temperance Street, looking northeast. Across the street from the Church may be seen the old town hall that housed the fire department, police department and library. Both buildings also suffered smashed windows, and huge pins were later installed in the old town hall to keep it in one piece. The little house in the foreground still stands. Actual date of the devastation was May 23, 1893.

### Letters to the Editor

# Swimming often only exercise for seniors

**ED. NOTE: The following letter was copied to the Auroran.**

#### Dear Councillors:

I was disheartened to hear that the Town of Aurora is considering a three year deferral regarding the construction of a previously approved new pool in Aurora while the construction of a new hockey rink is still on track.

This would mean it would be at least five years before new swimming facilities would be available to the citizens of Aurora.

Surely, when the original plans were drawn up, the cost of running a pool must have been considered.

This cannot come as a surprise to anyone on council. Why the sudden change in direction?

Swimming facilities will

serve the recreation/exercise needs of a far greater portion of the population than will a hockey rink.

Swimming, as any doctor will tell you, is one of the best forms of physical exercise for ALL ages, right from toddlers up to senior citizens.

Hockey, on the other hand, while a great form of exercise, is only available to a very small portion of the population.

All one needs to swim is a bathing suit and an optional pair of goggles - very low cost.

To play hockey, one needs a great deal of prohibitively priced protective equipment.

This makes swimming more available to a greater number of residents than does hockey.

As one who swims in the pool at the Aurora Leisure Complex every weekday, I

can tell you from experience that 90 per cent of the people I see in the pool WOULD NOT be making use of a new hockey rink, whereas that same 90 per cent WOULD make very good use of a new pool.

The other 10 per cent might avail themselves of both.

A swimming pool is the better option for the most people - a wise choice for our tax dollars.

Hockey is an optional form of exercise for relatively young people.

Swimming is often the ONLY form of exercise for older people and for handicapped people and for people rehabilitating themselves from physical injury.

Again, a much wiser choice for our tax dollars as it does the most good for the most citizens.

The Aurora Leisure Complex pool is, from personal experience, overcrowded.

Lane swimming at 3 p.m. is often cancelled to make public swimming available to children during Christmas and Easter breaks as well as all summer.

This is the only available exercise for many seniors, and a new pool would certainly go a long way towards making this available to them.

I have signed the petition that was made available at the Aurora Leisure Complex and hope that the members of council take it into consideration before making a final decision on postponing the construction of the new pool.

**Doreen Dawson  
Aurora**

**Bruce Wilson  
Aurora**

## AURORAN

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**Owner & Publisher**  
Rosemary Schumaker

**Editorial**  
Ron Wallace  
Dick Illingworth

**Photography**  
David Falconer

**Display Advertising**  
Bob Ince  
Kathy Bitove  
Diane Buchanan

**Production**  
Cynthia Proctor  
auroran@neptune.on.ca

**All Departments**  
905-727-3300

**Classifieds**  
905-727-7128  
auroran@neptune.on.ca

**Facsimile Machine**  
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Advertising Department  
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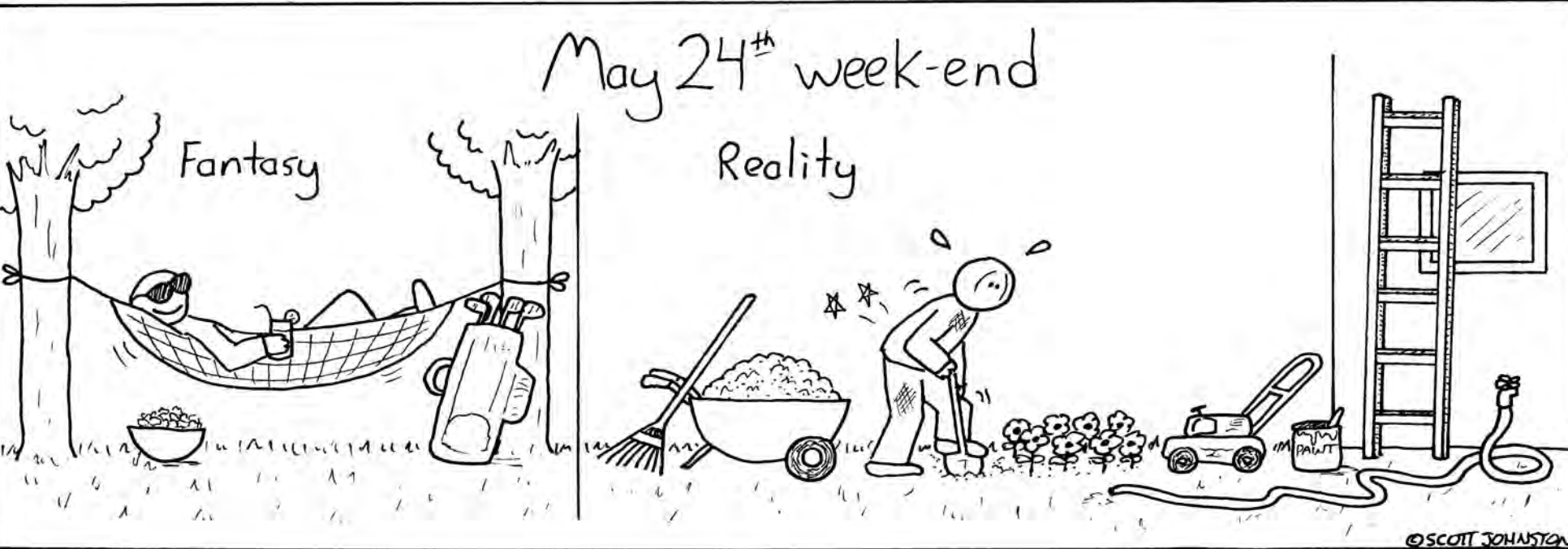
Editorial Department  
rwall9999@aol.com

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**Mayor's Report**  
By Tim Jones

Looking at growth  
in Aurora and York

As taken from the York Region Employment and Industry Report 2003, I would highlight some interesting facts about our Region and our Town.

- York Region's total population, as of December 31, 2003, was estimated to be 866,800, an increase of 34,500 (4.2 per cent) in one year. Aurora's population went from 44,100 in December 2002 to 45,400 in December 2003, an increase of 3 per cent.
- York Region contains 15 per cent of the GTA population as well as 15 per cent of The GTA's employment population.
- Employment growth in York Region has outpaced both National and Provincial averages between 1998 and 2003 at an annual rate of 7.1 per cent (National -2.3 per cent and Provincial - 2.7 per cent).
- In 2003, 83.4 per cent of York Region's 26,000 firms employed fewer than 20 people.
- On an average annual basis, the fastest growing employment sectors in York Region between 1998 and 2003 were business services (9.6 per cent), retail trade (7.7 per cent), education (7.5 per cent) and the finance and real estate sector (6.7 per cent).

In Aurora specifically:

- There were 969 businesses and 15,211 jobs.
- The major employment sector is in the manufacturing area (24.3 per cent), which includes transportation equipment manufacturing, printing and machinery manufacturing.
- Our average annual employment growth stands at 6.9 per cent while our average business growth is at 2.5 per cent.
- The wholesale trade sector experienced the largest employment increase since 1998, rising 62.5 per cent, which included 1,077 new jobs. Business services (47.4 per cent) and manufacturing (41.1 per cent) were second and third.
- Aurora experienced a slight decline in the type of employment with full time dipping from 76.3 per cent to 75.2 per cent from 1998 to 2003. Conversely, part time employment increased from 18.8 per cent to 21.2 per cent.
- Business mobility continued to be low with 4.7 per cent of businesses either closing or moving since 1998 which led to the loss of 1,112 jobs, however, since then we have experienced 3,917 new jobs and 103 new businesses.
- Business by employee size:

	1998	2003
Small (1-19)	86.2%	84.5%
Medium (20-99)	11.5%	12.3%
Large (100-499)	2.3%	3.0%
Very Large (500+)	0.0%	0.2%

• Major employers in Aurora include Magna International, Quebecor World, Sinclair Technologies Inc., York Region Catholic School Board, Canada Law Book, Reebok Canada.

- Total non-residential building permit values were 19.1 million dollars in 2003, down 25.6 per cent from 2002 levels. Industrial permit values dropped 67.2 per cent and institutional values were down 30.7 per cent. Commercial building permits increased 24.2 per cent.

These statistics were extracted from the most recent York Region Employment and Industry update publication.

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](mailto:tjones@town.aurora.on.ca)

Letter to the Editor

Name change debate  
is a conflict for some

To the editor,

Aurora Council has been labeled "dysfunctional" because, of late, their debates have been lengthy and personal. A closer look at this label appears in order. The democratic process allows for lengthy debates; that is part of the nature of the beast. As far as the personal nature of the debates is concerned, that seems to be mostly related to the proposed change of the

municipal address. The root of that issue goes back to a former council's decision to bestow upon themselves the honour of having a street named after them. Before even considering a debate, the affected councillors should have declared a conflict of interest. If they had declared a conflict, then no vote could have been taken on the issue, for lack of a voting quorum. And this is where I get

personal. I couldn't believe the gall that the then sitting council flaunted, when I found out about that decision. The council got carried away with self-serving interests; they acted like egomaniacs. Hence, the members of that council who are still around today are not in a position to cry foul when the debate turns to the Town Hall address change. A belated declaration of conflict of interest is very much in order (for anybody

who still has the opportunity) - and other than that, I'd recommend to swallow hard! My wish for the present council: please keep up the debates; that's part of the task of serving the public. With all points of view on the table, and being debated, it is less likely that self-service will carry the day. That's what I call a functional council.

**Klaus Wehrenberg**  
**Aurora**



**Cathy's  
Corner**

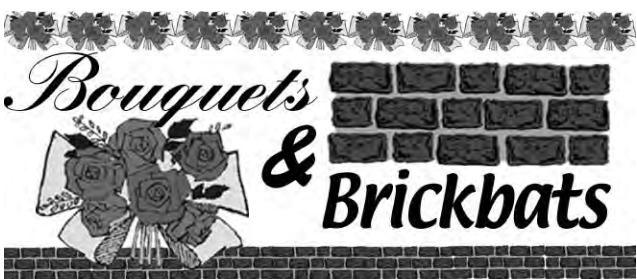
Stressed out in Aurora

I'm stressed. I have to write a column, and I don't know what to write about. It happens...oh, about once a week. My husband says, "You should write about stress." I tell him that I'm too stressed to write about stress! He says, "Isn't that funny! So is everyone else in Aurora!" Really? They write columns too? You don't have to write a weekly column to overdose on stress, but it helps. So do phones, cell phones, faxes, mail, and e-mail...and anything else that has the ability to impose and compress deadlines. It's called progress. Yesterday, technology accelerated the speed of life, and invaded our personal and private lives. Today, competition forces us to depend on technology to stay alive. Tomorrow, we'll face the challenge of getting the four year old to switch to decaf. In the meantime, we eat fast, eat fast food, eat fast food fast, eat when we should fast, and fast when we should eat. No wonder we're fed up. More and more, all over Aurora, people rush around, dispensing with once upon a time luxuries like common courtesy, smiles and a few pleasant words. That really stresses me out! Because these are naturally occurring stress busting opportunities and taking advantage of them makes us feel good about ourselves, and our community. It gives our bodies a little rest, our hearts a little lift, and our souls a chance to touch one another. We need it. Because, these days, there's no such thing as tense. There is only alert, very alert and exceptionally alert. Alert would be about 7 a.m., when caffeine and sugar


levels peak...and the phone starts ringing. Very alert would be around 10 a.m., when the levels have redlined, and the cell phone is already on its second battery pack. And exceptionally alert would be about 2 p.m., when all we want in the whole wide world is to recharge our batteries...if only we ran on batteries. Recently, I was in Virginia Beach. On my first night, I left the balcony door open and fell asleep to the soothing sound of the ocean. When I came home, the crocuses at my front door had come into their full glory. The next morning, I woke up to the sound of birds chirping. It made me wonder why we "look for" things to help us cope with stress. They're all around us all the time, begging us to take notice. We tune them out so that we have more time and energy to spend worrying about, working on and fighting over things that don't matter. If we thought about it, we'd know they don't matter because they won't matter in a couple of months, we won't remember them in a couple of years, and getting hit by a truck would make them not matter - instantly! Ironically, stress does to our bodies slowly what getting hit by a truck does quickly. And that's no laughing matter. But it should be. Laughter lowers blood pressure, reduces stress hormones, increases muscle flexion, and boosts immune function. Laughter also triggers the release of endorphins, the body's natural relaxing, painkilling "feel good" chemicals. Which is a good thing to know when you have people to see, places to go...or a column to write.


Cathy welcomes e-mail at: [laughingmatters@aci.on.ca](mailto:laughingmatters@aci.on.ca)








By DICK ILLINGWORTH


 **BOUQUETS** to Robert Walker on being awarded the Best of Show at the Pine Tree Potters' Spring Exhibition for his entry "Awakening Light". The piece will be entered into the Overall Design Award competition sponsored by the Ontario Crafts Council. It marks the first time a Pine Tree artist has had a piece go to that competition.


 **BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Tigers on winning the Dudley-Hewitt Cup and capturing the Central Canada Championship and the right to play in the Canadian finals in Grande Prairie, Alberta, where they also emerged victorious Sunday. Go, Tigers Go!


 **BRICKBATS** to Bell Canada for not enclosing a return addressed envelope with their monthly bill for those who like the old-fashioned way of paying by cheque.


 **BOUQUETS** to Aurora High School Grade 9 student Michelle Wong and the other Aurora High students on having their beautiful locks shorn to raise \$7,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society. Their hair will be used to make wigs for cancer patients.


 **BRICKBATS** to Aurora Council for delaying the recruitment of a new part-time parking control officer until November, 2004, at a saving of \$7,000. As Councillor Wendy Gaertner pointed out an efficient bylaw enforcement officer could more than pay his or her salary by enforcing the town's no parking bylaws. Lots of signs but no enforcement!


 **BOUQUETS** to Aurora's aquatic division on winning two awards, the Scarborough Cup, which is given to the municipal affiliate of the Lifesaving Society with the largest lifesaving program in a community with a population between 10,000 and 50,000. The town was also awarded the Single Facility Fundraising Award for the second year in a row for raising the most money for the Water Smart Drowning Program.

 **BRICKBATS** to the members of Ontario's Police Services Boards for rejecting a proposal made by the York Region's Police Services Board to oppose the decriminalization of the possession of marijuana. York board members made the proposal based on the position taken by Canadian Association of Police Boards.

 **BOUQUETS** to Sheila of Aurora for being able to identify the first few bars of the theme music for the TV show "Friends" on Foxy- FM recently. Morning man Gary Gamble plays a few bars of the theme music for a different TV show every morning and people phone in with the answer.

 **BRICKBATS** to the on-going politicians' gravy train at the expense of Canada's downtrodden taxpayers. Outgoing MPs, whether defeated or retiring in the coming election, will receive a severance package of at least \$70,000, the equivalent of six months pay.

 **More BRICKBATS** to the powers that be for the lack of control over wasteful government spending in Ottawa. Not only did Alfonso Gagliano spend millions of dollars on Quebec advertising firms, he spent \$7,000 on a week trip to Italy that included five days of unexplained expenses after one-day of government business. When is it going to stop?

 **BOUQUETS** to Bob MacWilliam of Aurora on winning the overall men's title at the North Eastern Natural Bodybuilding Championships in Ottawa recently. It was his first victory in four attempts.

## Letters to the Editor

# Proposed pool not a matter for deferral

To the editor,

I refer to the general committee of Council motion which I understand was passed Tuesday, May 4, to defer the construction of the New Aquatic Complex.

First let me declare my interest. Both my sons are competitive swimmers with Aurora Swim Club and members of Aurora Leisure Centre as am I.

Both my sons have done well in the Canadian rankings for age group swimmers and indeed my eldest has consistently ranked in the top eight in Canada for his age over the last four years.

They and many other swimmers in the club clearly have the ability and ambition to get to the top in their sport.

To date their achievements have been realized despite the woefully inadequate swimming facilities in Aurora as compared with their competitors across the country.

However it is clear to me that unless we get new facilities in Aurora they and others like them will have great difficulty realizing their dreams without a move to another facility, out of area.

However my own interests are only a small part of the picture. Swimming is a wonderful sport and discipline and an excellent form of exercise for all ages, particu-

larly for the very young and the elderly. I believe there are something like 1800 swimmers at ALC presently registered for swim lessons. Many of these are very young swimmers.

With continuing growth in population in the area these numbers will continue to increase and soon we will have a real problem accommodating them.

Similarly, baby boomers will soon be entering retirement age...an age where sports they have undertaken in the past such as hockey, running, etc. are no longer viable due to a myriad of issues.

Many of these active retirees will seek other forms of exercise including swimming.

This will only serve to exacerbate the problems with the existing facilities which, frankly, will be an injustice to those people who have paid their taxes and other dues in the area throughout their working lives.

I, for one, have great difficulty understanding the motion and indeed what is generally perceived as an abrupt about-turn from previous discussions.

I originally hail from Scotland where my mother still resides. She is 76 and continues swimming for exercise. She is not a good swimmer but the exercise

does her the world of good. She is not alone...many of her elderly friends do the same and while I have no stats to prove it, I would guess these activities improve their physical and mental health and well-being thereby reducing the health care costs for these people.

Why do they go there?? Because its a pleasant environment...a well equipped full size pool...

It is not overcrowded and simply put, because "it is there".

There was a movie called "Field of Dreams" where I was taken with a key line "If you build it, they will come".

In my view there is a lot of truth in that...it takes courage and commitment to take the first step especially where money is involved but I believe the legacy will be the right one for the community.

I also refuse to believe it cannot pay its own way, managed properly.

There are a great many people out there in the community, those already involved with swimming and those not so involved who

have the experience and ideas which can help to make this a very viable proposition and I implore you to listen to them.

I realize this is an emotional plea without regard to the financial analysis.

However, as an accountant by background, I am painfully aware of the reality of financial constraints and the fear of being burdened with loss making ventures.

No meaningful venture is risk free but by taking a well planned and measured approach those risks can be managed and monitored.

I therefore urge you to reconsider your motion and do the right thing for the community now...not in years from now when the growing population has rendered the situation totally intolerable and costs have escalated to a more prohibitive level.

This is not a matter to defer or abdicate to a future council.

Thanks for your time and attention.

Alan R. Ross  
Aurora



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## Reader seeks response from town councillors

To the editor,

In his letter of May 11 (Auroran) Peter Healy, who served as an Aurora councillor for nine years, has hit the nail on the head when he stated so succinctly, "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 a change benefit any resident?"

My understanding of the job of councillor and, I

assume, the reason people seek this position is to make our town a better community.

In this vein I would like to ask Councillors Gaertner, Morris, Kean, Vranicic and Wallace why they voted to change the address of the Town Hall and how the cost, effort and confusion of doing so will make Aurora a better place to live.

I await a reply with interest.

Graham Wride  
Aurora


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Letters to the Editor

Nancy should "get real", this reader maintains

To the editor,

I wish to respond to Nancy Black's letter in last week's paper, re "Unbelievable if new pool isn't built". In her letter she states "get real, the average cost to the households in Aurora to get this thing built is \$70 per year!" I would like to say to her, "get real, \$70 per year per household is no small

amount, especially when added to all the other costs of living that the average citizen has to absorb". Soaring gas prices, increased utility costs, and the general rise in the cost of living are a few examples. Not everyone who lives in Aurora enjoys an affluent lifestyle. Many, many families are barely scraping by. Nancy Black states that

she felt sick to her stomach upon hearing that we may not be getting a new pool. Well, there are many things that can make me feel sick to my stomach, but not spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on a community pool is not one of them, and I'm sure it does not rank high up there on the lists of people who continually have to accept a lower standard of living,

year after year. There is no question that additional recreation facilities are needed for our town, and that the pool at the Leisure Complex is inadequate, however, the cost of replacing and upgrading cannot be put solely on the backs of the taxpayers.

Before any decision to proceed is made, the partnerships, sponsorships and other methods of fundraising Ms Black has suggested have to be firmly in place. If Aurora Council goes ahead without these in place, the council will have failed to meet the needs of all of our citizens, just to satisfy the wishes of a minority of citizens.

Laurie Uetz  
Aurora

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**Susan E. Tucker**  
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Tigers left their mark

To the editor,

As host city for the RBC Cup, Grande Prairie has been treated to a great week of hockey! On Tuesday, May 11, the students and staff at I.V. Macklin Public School were given the opportunity to host some of your Aurora Tigers. What a wonderful group of gentlemen they were! Cheering fans, a Tiger escort - I think the players were surprised by the level of support they received. What good sports! They answered questions,

participated enthusiastically in "skills" competitions, visited classrooms and signed a million autographs. Mr. (Andrew) Hotham was a huge hit! The students couldn't believe their luck that "Mohawk Man" would actually visit us! "We got him! We got Mohawk Man!" the students yelled. Thanks also to Mr. Hotham for reading to our Grade 1 students. They appreciated not only the story, but the undivided attention that he gave them. The longest autograph lines belonged to goaltender Mr. (Chris) Whitley! After getting the coveted autograph, I noticed one younger student head back

to the end of the line. When I asked him what he was doing he calmly replied, "he gave me his autograph - now I'm going to give him mine!" I.V. Macklin was given the opportunity to meet a group of well-spoken, keen (and eventually RBC Cup Gold Medal winning) hockey players. These gentlemen were excellent ambassadors for the Town of Aurora, the Tigers organization, the players' families, and the game of hockey! Thank you for giving us the pleasure of their company! Nancy Ingram  
I.V. Macklin Public School  
Grande Prairie, Alberta


Frank's in Angus

To the editor,

Although we have not seen him, we do know that Frank Szeler is living in Angus just off Highway 90. We do not know what he is doing these days.

Larry & Liz Sutton  
Innisfil

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
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# T.H. would be thrilled with today's technology

By CHRISTINE WOODLEY

If T.H. (Howard) Oliver could witness the lightning fast technological advances of today's digital age, he'd surely be in his glory.

In fact, his reaction would probably be very similar to the way he embraced the emerging electro-mechanical and electronic technologies of the early 20th century.

His knowledge and thirst for learning helped create Aurora's T.H. Oliver Heating and Air Conditioning, which celebrates its 80th Anniversary this year.

His son Leslie sums up his father's legacy this way: "He believed in the power of technology to improve the quality of people's lives and to heighten our sense of community."

Born in 1899 to hardworking Methodist farmers, Howard Oliver left the family's Whitchurch farmstead with a Grade 8 education and a keen fascination for all things mechanical.

He arrived at a very opportune time.

The first quarter of the 20th Century saw a revolution of industrial innovations that created a new type of consumer - families craving the comforts and amenities now available to most people.

He arrived in Aurora in 1923 and went to work at Morning's Garage, which was probably the first automotive service garage in the area.

The next year he married Leta Sproxton.

Soon after, he began developing his own business after hours, and was soon forced to leave the automotive garage due to two bouts of pneumonia, worsened by the lack of ventilation in the shop.

His new business was poised to begin, except for the worsening economic conditions of the time.

However, markets continued to develop for exciting new products such as batteryless radio (developed in this area by Ted Rogers), electric home appliances and central home heating.

The Oliver family (now with three small children, including twins born in 1929) was now living at 81 Spruce Street.

Business continued to grow as Aurora's proximity to Toronto made it a "hot" market for the new innovations available.

In 1939, the family moved to a larger home at the corner of Spruce and Maple, where Leslie resides today.

The lovely Victorian Italianate home was renovated to provide workshop, garage, office and warehouse space for the family business.

The start of World War II was a challenging time for the business, however the company provided installation of refrigeration equipment to Corvette convoy ships being outfitted in the Midland and Collingwood shipyards.

The company continued to prosper during the post-war years, eventually moving from the family home to a spacious new building in Aurora's downtown.

Before being sold in 1973, the company had evolved, in under half a century, from an agricultural and resource-based economy, through an industrial boom, and into an information driven, post-industrial environment.

Leslie Oliver notes a key element to his father's business success.

"He had a strong belief in the sanctity of work and that hard work enriched both your own life and the lives of others," he said. "His moral fibre was part of the business and personal parts of his lives - they were really as one. In fact, his complete business records are on display at the Archives of Ontario.

Still operating under the T.H. Oliver name, the company, now located on Wellington Street East, has narrowed its focus to warm air heating and air conditioning and is owned by Steve Desjardins.

Mr. Desjardins knows that the legacy of T.H. Oliver is both a responsibility and a gift.

"We use that foundation of commitment to integrity and technical advancements that Mr. Oliver laid before us, he said. "We have a strong connection to many of the original Aurora families that he served."

Today's digital world would indeed be fascinating to T.H. Oliver, but he would most certainly approach it with the same meticulous values he practiced during his own eventful life in Aurora.



**Leslie Oliver, left top photo, and Steve Desjardins study an old compressor in the same room on Spruce Street where T.H. Oliver, below, ran his business several decades ago.**

*Top photo by Ron Wallace*



**T.H. Oliver Heating & Air Conditioning celebrates its 80th anniversary in Aurora this year, now operating from this building on Wellington Street East, just east of the railway tracks.**

*Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*



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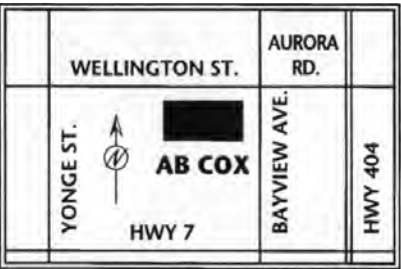
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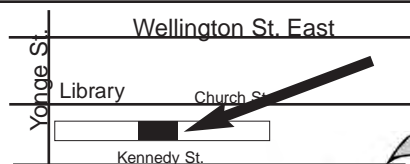
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## Tigers are Canadian champs

**From page 1**

stick to our game plan and come out on top," Scully said. "You don't want to come all this way to lose the final game. Everybody came out and played hard and wanted this right from the start."

After struggling to beat Nepean 3-1 in the round-robin on Thursday, Aurora poured on the pressure during their semi-final win over the Raiders.

"It seemed to be one of those games that the puck was going in for us," said Williamson. "We got some seeing-eye goals."

While Sean Scully played three seasons with the Ottawa 67's and won an Ontario Hockey League championship in 2000-01, both Matt Bahen and Francis Walker have previously competed for the National Junior A Championship.

As a 16-year-old rookie, Bahen played for the Thornhill Rattlers when they qualified for the Royal Bank Cup in Flin Flon, Manitoba.

This is Walker's third straight national championship having played previously for the host Charlottetown Abbies, who

went 1-3 at the 2003 Royal Bank Cup, and for the Ottawa Jr. Senators, who lost 9-7 in the semi-finals of the 2002 Royal Bank Cup to the host Halifax Oland Exports.

"I wanted to do it this year," Walker said.

After the game, Walker was grinning from ear to ear while skating around the ice snapping photos with his disposable camera and getting his picture taken with various teammates.

"The third time's a charm, that's what they say," Walker said. "It's pretty exciting right now."

Despite the lopsided loss, Williamson commended the Klippers on their effort at the event.

"Kindersley had a great tournament," he said. "They

never quit."

The player of the game for Aurora was Scully, while Curtis Bazylnski took home the honours for the Klippers.

The 2004 RBC Royal Bank Cup set a new attendance record with 35,953 fans over the course of the 13 game, nine day tournament.

And what about the Tigers? Fifteen of them are in their last year and won't be back next year, and even Williamson is rumoured to be moving on.

That's for then; this is now. A reception for the winning team is currently being planned.

### TIGERS 7 KLIPPERS 1

#### First Period

A: Francis Walker (Scully,

Kitchen) 8.19  
A: Mike Kostka (Gilbert) 9.25  
A: Jesse Olden (Brenner) 12.38  
K: Jason Fleck 15.43  
A: Sean Scully 19.00

#### SECOND PERIOD

A: Andrew Hotham (Scully, Walker) 6.25  
A: Mike Kostka (Walker, Bahen) 15.43  
A: Michael Tonelli (Minchella, Henderson) 18.52

#### THIRD PERIOD

No scoring



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## How they got there

May 9: Grande Prairie 5, Aurora 3  
May 10: Aurora 4, Nanaimo 2  
May 12: Aurora 5, Kindersley 0  
May 13: Aurora 3, Nepean 1  
May 15: Aurora 7, Nepean 2  
May 16: Aurora 7, Kindersley 1


## Ducks flying west

A large contingent of Ducks are flocking to Edmonton to compete at the Canadian Masters Swim Championships this weekend.

The event is being held at the Kinsmen Sport Centre.

The Aurora Master Ducks will be the second largest team (behind the host club) at this showcase of adult swim competition.

Although many of the swimmers may set National and Provincial records, most are competing for the love of it and will be trying to achieve personal best times in this Olympic distance (50 metre) pool.



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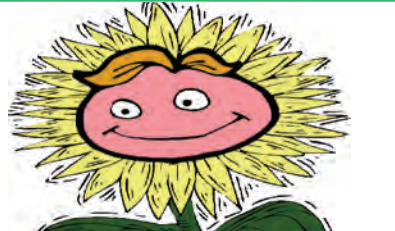
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# Skating results

Results have been made available from two recent events that were attended by members of the Aurora Skating Club.

## THORNHILL FUN COMPETITION RESULTS

Pre-preliminary I Ladies Freeskate: Flight 8 Danielle MacAskill, 8th; Flight 14 Nina Malek, 1st; Flight 17 Kaitlin VanWinckle, 4th; Flight 27 Caylin Butler, 7th.

Pre-preliminary II Ladies Freeskate: Flight 5 Kendall Mannella, 4th; Flight 8 Tayler Sim, 1st; Flight 10 Robyn Kosmidis, 2nd; Flight 12 Taylor MacDowall, 2nd; Nicole Relke, 2nd; Flight 14 Hailey Riggs, 1st; Flight 21 Megan Gunning, 1st; Flight 22 Emma Laverty, 4th; Flight 24 Alana Fabbicino, 1st; Flight 27 Christina Relke, 4th.

Pre-preliminary III Ladies Freeskate: Flight 6 Cierra Snell, 3rd.

Pre-preliminary 1 Men's freeskate: Hugh Babb, 1st.

Pre-preliminary 3 Men's freeskate: Alex Woodward, 1st.

Pre-preliminary Team Elements: Flight 3 Alana Fabbicino/Megan Gunning, 2nd; Flight 2 Kendall Mannella/Taylor MacDowall, 6th.

Create-a-skate: Flight 6 Megan Gunning, 2nd; Flight 7 Alana Fabbicino, 2nd; Taylor MacDowall, 4th.

Canskate Freeskate: Purple flight 3 Laura Watt, 3rd; Burgundy flight 8 Samantha Duncan, 4th.

Preliminary Ladies solo dance: Flight 2 Tayler Sim, 3rd; Flight 3 Nina Malek, 3rd; Flight 4 Kaitlin VanWinckle, 7th; Flight 7 Caylin Butler, 6th.

Junior Bronze Ladies solo dance: Flight 2 Hailey Riggs, 3rd; Flight 5 Emma Laverty, 5th; Flight 6 Cierra Snell, 3rd.

## SCARBOROUGH RESULTS

Pre-preliminary Ladies Freeskate: Flight 4 Robyn Kosmidis, 7th.

Preliminary Ladies Freeskate: Flight 2 Jordana Goldman, 6th; Flight 3 Emma Slimkowich, 5th; Flight 3 Allie Sutton, 6th.

Pre-juvenile Ladies Competitive Freeskate B: Final Maya Goldman, 3rd.

Juvenile Ladies Freeskate: Flight 2 Chelsea Kerr, 6th.

Junior Bronze Ladies B Freeskate: Flight 1 Fayme Cockshutt, 3rd; Flight 2 Jamie Stephenson, 5th; Flight 3 Emma Hayzelden, 1st; Flight 3 Meaghan Jones, 5th.

Senior Bronze Ladies Freeskate: Flight 2 Amy Thompson, 2nd.

Pre-Juvenile Men A: Caden Armstrong, 2nd.

Pre-novice ladies short: Flight 2 Lauren Cooper, 2nd, short finals, 7th, Flight 3 Carolyn Armstrong, 3rd, short finals, 8th.

Pre-novice ladies Long: Flight 4 Lauren Cooper, 5th; Flight 3 Carolyn Armstrong, 5th.

# Ducks enter tough race

Seven Aurora Master Ducks swimmers participated in the St. Croix fi Ironman event appropriately called "Beauty and the Best" earlier this month.

It is so named because of the great scenery on a gru-elling course.

The race is comprised of a

two kilometre swim in Christiansted Harbour; a 90 kilometre bike 'ride' and 21 kilometre 'run' through St. Croix.

Nearly 600 athletes competed for 30 spots available for the famous Hawaii Ironman race.

Aurora's team was bedecked in jerseys with the message on the back: "Kiss My Tail Feathers" for competitors to read as the Ducks raced by them

Dave Derry finished second out of seven and qualified for the prestigious Ironman Hawaii.

Other results showed Karen Bonham 9th out of 28; Spencer Lavis 41st out of 85; Mark Angela 33rd out of 87; Brian McGee 49th out of 87; John Ramsell 59th out of 87; and Mark Gilbert 16th out of 40.

The pool is heating up, and it hasn't been built yet.

It wasn't an agenda item last Tuesday but the possibility that a proposed aquatic centre could be postponed or deleted from the new recreation complex brought out the swimmers to voice their objections.

Several residents addressed council during Open Forum and their message was much the same. While they agreed ice pads were needed, they stressed the pool was needed, too.

A member of the Aurora Ducks Swim Club explained the club's needs and the importance of fitness for all ages, which it was claimed would drive the costs of health down

Other citizens said the pool at the Leisure Complex was overused and asked council to reconsider, as the pool was needed for health and the quality of life.

After 30 minutes of Open Forum, even with three citizens waiting at the podium, Mayor Tim Jones tried to terminate the session claiming he was doing so in

accordance with the procedural bylaw.

He noted the pool was not an agenda item and the issue would be fully discussed next week.

His ruling was challenged by Councillor Phyllis Morris, who claimed the provisions of the procedural bylaw had never been used before and was successful in gaining council support for the three remaining citizens to speak.

Anda Carter said she had a petition with more than 1,000 signatures and would have more by the time the issue was discussed. She was also listed as a delegation, but when she went to speak at that time Jones ruled her out of order as she had spoken at Open Forum.

Again his ruling was appealed and she was allowed to present her petition to council.

A member of the Masters Swim Club said club members travelled all over Canada to compete in swimming meets and spread the name of the town wherever they went.

It was suggested that with a proper pool, the club could invite swimming

meets to Aurora, bringing revenue and assisting the economy of the town.

During the delegation section of the meeting, three members of the community, Jeff Allen, Nancy Black, president of the Aurora Master Ducks, and Janet Mitchell addressed council in addition to Anda Carter.

In an emotional presentation, Black said that as there had been no opposition from the general public, she assumed the pool was a "go".

She also stressed how club members travelled across Canada and the U.S. to participate in swimming meets and bring awards back to Aurora.

She noted the agenda item in which council was being asked to proclaim

Aurora Tiger Week, but little recognition had been given to the swimming club.

Janet Mitchell, a member of the Master Ducks Swim Club, suggested town staff check with Whitchurch Stouffville officials about the costs of operating their pool as the operating costs are lower than those estimated for Aurora.

She pointed out that the operating deficit for the Stouffville pool was \$320,000 and that included the cost of operating the library, which was located in the same facility.

The various presentations were received and the presenters advised that staff had been directed to investigate ways and means of reducing the project cost and to report May 25th.

# Jaguar Gymnastics



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# Hike covers two trails in Aurora

The Oak Ridges Trail Association has many interesting hikes coming up in the Aurora-Newmarket area in June and one in particular will stay within the bounds of Aurora.

On Tuesday, June 8, at 11 a.m. a hike on the Oak Ridges Trail and the Nokiidaa Trail, from Yonge Street to the Aurora Arboretum will begin.

Hikers should meet at the car park on Yonge Street, adjoining Aurora United

Church, one block south of Wellington Street. The hike will cover seven kilometres at a slow pace and take approximately three hours to complete.

Contact Stan at 905-773-3960 for further information.

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Aurora Chamber of Commerce Home Show draw winner at the Hartwell Thayer booth recently was Joanne McLaughlin. Presenting the stained glass prize is Hartwell's Tom Beck.

# New fire arrangement awarded OFM approval

It was on January 1, 2002, when the Towns of Aurora and Newmarket merged their fire departments into the Central York Fire Services.

While the two municipalities maintain separate identities, a joint fire and emergency services committee with representatives from both towns coordinates the activities of the fire services and the fire chief reports to the committee.

The agreement between the two municipalities recognizes that the fire chief has the ability to access both councils should the need arise.

The Office of the Fire Marshal conducted a Municipal Fire Protection Information Survey of the two municipalities, with Peter Guiry as the Fire Protection Advisor.

He attended a recent council meeting, listed various checks that had been carried out, and presented Mayor Tim Jones with a Certificate of Compliance.

The purpose of the survey was to assist municipalities in complying with the minimum requirements of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act and to enable the Office of the Fire Marshal to meet its responsibilities in monitoring the level of fire protection services.

The focus of the survey included simplified risk assessment, smoke alarm program and home escape planning, distribution of public information and fire prevention inspections upon complaint or request.

At the time of the survey there were two fire stations

in Newmarket and one in Aurora with 104 firefighters, five fire prevention officers and two training officers.

The report indicated that with a strong prevention team in place, public education and inspection programs were being provided in a more consistent manner than was previously possible.

It also noted with the addition of four platoon chiefs and the hiring of 14 new firefighters in 2002, the service level of the merged departments was expected to exceed that of two stand

alone departments.

The report reviewed in detail various aspects of the survey and reported that based on the information gathered, the fire service was providing the minimum required services in fire prevention and public education according to the legislation.

Three councillors from each town sit on the board. Aurora is represented by Phyllis Morris, John West and Ron Wallace.

The report and presentation was received without comment or debate.

## New horses gallop onto Magna streets

In January last year, without comment or debate, Aurora Council approved street names for the Magna Adena Meadows condominium development, all based on well-known race horses.

Approved street names included Red Bullet, Adena Meadows, Awesome Again, Macho

Uno and Glorious Song.

Last week, Magna asked that two of the names be revised, but still in keeping with the theme of the development.

Again, without comment or debate, council approved changing the name Macho Uno to Sirona's and Red Bullet to Northern Dancer.



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# The creek runneth over...

There are usually good reasons why the provincial government prescribes guidelines for development close to wetlands or streams.

Hopefully Aurora will not experience the same problems with development in the northeast quadrant as the town did several years ago long before the guidelines were established.

Recently council approved a development application in spite of provincial guidelines, even when a private citizen appealed the decision to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Back in the days when Regency Acres was built in the late 1950s and early 1960s, council of the day had little planning experience with large subdivisions and was literally in the hands of the developer.

As a result houses were allowed to be built close to the creeks traversing the area.

There were few problems if the creek ran between properties in the back yards, but problems developed when the creek ran between two houses such as on Glass Drive.

With erosion the creek banks crept closer and closer to the residence and by 1971 the driveway of at least one property had disappeared into the creek bed.

Many of the property owners were original owners and had been told by the developer's agent, without the town's knowledge, that the creek bed would be filled in within a few years.

This never happened, nor was it planned.

Delegation after delegation came to council to complain about the condition of the creek and to ask when it was going to be filled in.

Council investigated several ways to overcome the problems but there was always the matter of cost.

In checking the development agreement it was found that some of the creek beds had been deeded to the town and were a town responsibility, while for others the town was granted an easement for

drainage purposes,

Maintenance of the bed belonged to the property owner.

The problem of the collapsing driveway on Glass Drive continued to haunt Aurora Council and by April, 1986, the South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority was asked to assist.

The authority agreed to prepare terms of reference for the project and invite selected consultants to submit engineering designs and cost estimates, subject to a resolution from Aurora Council agreeing to pay for the costs.

By October, 1986, the authority recommended a gabion wall at a cost of \$21,000 to \$28,000 rather than extending the culvert as had been proposed by

council.


Council agreed with the authority proposal and asked the authority to supervise the project.

In May, 1987, the contract was awarded for a gabion wall on the west bank at a cost of \$23,117.

When the work was in progress it was noted that the east bank also needed remedial action and council authorized the work at an additional cost of \$20,680.

After 28 years the problem had been solved.

Hopefully neither council of the day nor the residents, will have to experience a similar experience when development occurs near provincially significant wetlands in the northeast quadrant, which was approved in spite of the guidelines.



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# Hillary House is seeking volunteers for its garden

How'd you like to spend a morning digging in nearly two acres of lawns, perennial beds, and wild land right on busy Yonge Street, less than two blocks from Wellington?

The chance is yours Saturday, May 29 from 10 a.m. to noon.

You'll be on the grounds which surround Hillary House, Aurora's National Historic Site, owned and maintained by the Aurora Historical Society.

The Society is hoping to add to its list of volunteers who can help maintain this green oasis, beginning with a work bee the 29th.

The focus of the morning's

activities will be to remove as many invasive Garlic Mustard plants as possible.

Garlic Mustard, also known as Hedge Garlic, is not native to Canada; however, it is displacing native species in many areas.

In parts of central and southwestern Ontario, it is found throughout deciduous woods, floodplains, and gardens and grows in abundance along many roadsides.

Ironically, at this time of year, it is also a very beautiful plant, with white clustered flowers atop a long leafy stalk.

The problem is that it tends

to take over from almost everything else around it and quickly spreads from place to place if allowed to go to seed.

Whether you can attend on the 29th or not, the Historical Society would still

like to hear from you if you can volunteer at other times for gardening tasks during the summer.

Hillary House is located at 15372 Yonge Street and may be reached at 905-727-4015.



**Queen for a day - Queen Victoria, aka Dorothy Gummersall, will be guest of honour at Aurora's Hillary House Sunday, May 30 where she will attend two tea parties, one at 1.30 p.m. and the second at 3.30 p.m. Cost is \$10 if you wish to attend and reservations are required. Call 905-727-4015.**

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

#### From page 1

tonic.

Buckingham Palace has been quick to say, however, that the Queen is in remarkably good condition for someone who is now 185 years old.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our community to enjoy 'living history' at Hillary House," said John McIntyre, Chair of the Aurora Historical Society's Hillary House Committee. "Like our popular Murder Mystery Dinners, tea with Queen Victoria will be a memorable event-especially if participants come in Victorian costume and really get into the spirit of things."

There will be two sittings, at 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. Tickets at \$10 per person must be ordered and paid for in advance by calling Hillary House at 905-727-4015.

Hillary House, at 15372 Yonge Street, is owned and operated by the Aurora Historical Society.

Built in 1862, it is a National Historic Site, one of

Canada's finest examples of Victorian Gothic Revival architecture.

All proceeds from this event help the Society in its ongoing work of preservation and operation of this Aurora landmark.

## Students plan walk for funds

More than 200 students of Aurora's Wells Street Public School will tie up their laces for diabetes research next month.

Beginning at 1.15 p.m. Friday, June 4, the students will begin a walkathon to raise awareness and money for diabetes research.

Beginning at the school opposite the Town Park, the students will trek to Sheppard's Bush and back.

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 are expected to participate.

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

This Aurora volunteer nominated by teacher

In June, 1992, Aurora's Susanna Vose was nominated by her Aurora High School teacher Larry Halliday for a Canada Day Award of Excellence for her many volunteer activities.

One of her efforts was to write letters to Amnesty International to free political prisoners.

She was also involved in the Students for Students group that was raising money to help Kheale Secondary School in South Africa.

She was a member of the Aurora High School Wellness Council and the Environment Club.

Susanna moved to Aurora in 1989 with her family from the political climate in Ottawa.

She went to her first peace vigil to protest the legislating of the death penalty in June, 1987, at age 15.

SPRINKLERS FLOOD CIVIC CENTRE

Taxpayers sometimes say that members of council and school trustees are all wet, but in January, 1976, it almost happened.

A frozen sprinkler system line thawed and broke over the weekend and a large part of the main floor of the new Civic Centre on Wellington Street West was flooded before anyone moved in.

The carpeting had to be replaced in most of the building to be occupied y the York Region Board of Education.

The board was still able to move in by mid-March and the town in April, 1976.

PIPERS BLEW LIFE INTO DOWNTOWN AURORA

In June, 1973, downtown Yonge Street came alive for four days ending with the whole town becoming alive with its July First celebrations.

Some people thought it was a dumb idea, but others were impressed that a few downtown merchants showed signs they wanted to do business.

Ten stores were involved in the four-day sidewalk sale and at times Yonge Street looked like a carnival.

Pipers marched up and down Yonge Street followed by shoppers and when they stopped in front of a participating store prices went down five per cent.

Participating stores included Ardill's Department Store, Norm Cook's Men's Wear, Golden Horseshoe Feeds Limited, Jay-Lyn Sportswear, Knapp's Paint Service, Lavender Lounge, Mary's Fruit and Flowers, Ray's Floor and Wall Covering, Thompson's Furniture and Wilson Home Hardware.

WHEN FOX SIGHTINGS WERE NORMAL

In March, 1993, Aurora residents who might see a red fox in their backyard were told not to panic.

Ministry of Natural Resources officials said it was likely the animal was just travelling through part of its territory or had a bad case of spring fever.

A number of sightings were reported, particularly in the Tannery Creek area, and ministry officials said it was quite normal for a fox's territory to include part of a person's backyard, especially if it was close to a natural area.

They added that the only time residents should become concerned with the presence of a fox was if it appeared ill.

WHEN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE MADE MONEY

The auditor's report for the year ending December, 1968, was submitted to the Community Centre Board and council in March, 1969, and it was good news.

Revenue for the year was \$78,319.62 and expenditures

\$77,829.34 or an operating profit of \$490.28.

This was operating only and did not include any payment towards the debenture debt charges.

ANOTHER FIRST FOR AURORA

In June, 1992, Aurora, Canada's Birthday Town, achieved

another first.

With the help of the Aurora Legion the town raised the Official Canada 125 flag, the first in the town to do so.

Helping out were Legionnaires Ray Preston, Jim Rank, Jack DeGraaf, Carol Preston and Alex Edmiston plus the late Councillor Herb McKenzie, chairman of Aurora's special events and Aurora's Canada 125 committee.



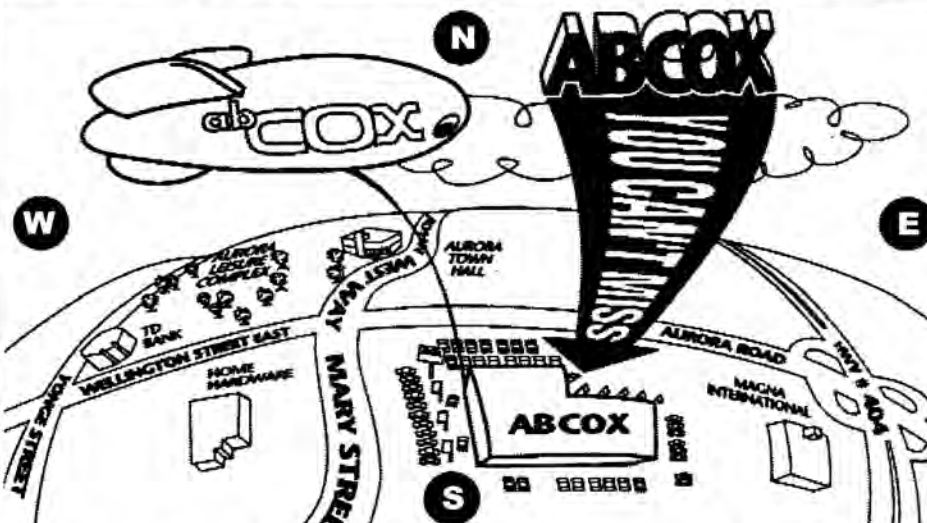
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# Aurora man wins honour

**From page 1**  
for travel to The Netherlands and cruises for the Caribbean and Alaska.

Marten also owned a number of building development firms for estate and apartment development, which he sold in 1993. He also ventured into the world of finance and since 1978, has served as a director for DUCA Financial Services, eight years as Vice Chairman and 17 years as Chairman of the Board.

He also served as a director on 16 private corporate boards, as well as Non Profits such as EPI, CTS Television and Crossroads Christian Communication Inc. (CCCI).

DUCA became one of Marten's passions.

"The moment I was elected as a Director of the Board of Directors back in 1978, I knew that this was my place to serve," he said. "I felt comfortable with its vision and mission. I love mentoring managers and associates and then seeing them grow and do their functions well.

Marten says he likes the motivational aspect of his influence the most.

"Getting people and organizations to believe in themselves and to grow further than they had ever dreamed or believed they could," he explains. "Leadership and having a vision for what is possible. Showing real results through the empowerment of other people. Bringing leaders and businesses back from despair or their lowest moments into a positive and encouraging envi-

ronment for success and growth."

Marten tries to devote most weekends to his family.

The Mols' eldest daughter, Yolanda, married Frans Amelink, the son of wife Anne's childhood friend.

Son Kevin is married to Jarmila, who is a nurse. Kevin also graduated from Western University in Business and works at CIBC World Markets as an Equity trader for the bank itself.

Youngest daughter, Allison, is graduating from Dr G.W. Williams Secondary School and will enter university this year.

Marten has played a prominent role in a number of networks and organizations in York Region and

across Canada.

Within his Dutch heritage for which he was knighted he was one of the founders of the Canadian Netherlands Business Professional Association, serving many years as Vice President. He also was President of Netherlands Luncheon Club in Toronto and also many various Canadian and local organizations.

"I hope that people will say my contribution to any organization or individual influenced and changed their lives for the better and that they in turn will help others," he said.

Marten will continue to contribute to the community all the same, but now he has a royal stamp of approval.

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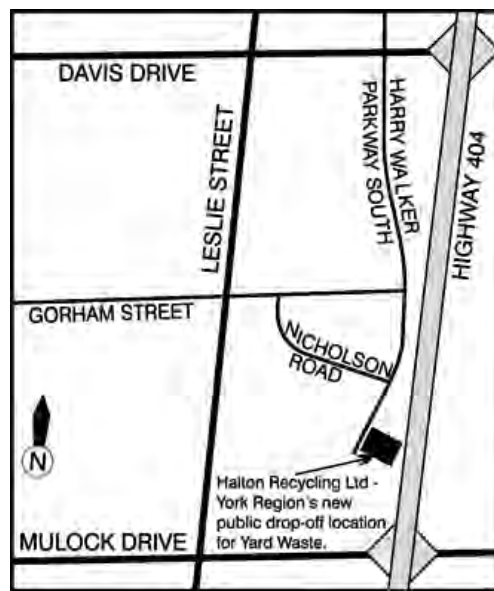
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As of April 1, 2004, Regional residents can drop off their yard waste **FREE OF CHARGE!**

## THE NEW LOCATION

The new drop-off location, operated by Halton Recycling Ltd., is in the Town of Newmarket at 395 Harry Walker Parkway South. **Please note that Miller Waste Systems is NO LONGER accepting yard waste dropped off by the public at its 1351 Bloomington Road location in the Town of Richmond Hill.**



## DROP-OFF LOCATION HOURS

**Monday to Friday**

April 1 to Nov. 30 (except statutory holidays) 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
**Evenings**

April 1 to Nov. 30 Tuesday evenings only to 8:00 p.m.

**Saturdays**

April 1 to Nov. 30 (except statutory holidays) 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

## WHAT'S ACCEPTED

- ✓ leaves
- ✓ grass clippings
- ✓ shrubs
- ✓ branches

- ✓ weeds
- ✓ vegetable garden waste
- ✓ flowers and garden plants
- ✓ sod (maximum three bags)

## WHAT'S NOT ACCEPTED

- ✗ tree branches and brush larger than 152 mm (6 inches) in diameter and 1.8 m (6 feet) long
- ✗ stumps and root balls
- ✗ driveway and road sweepings

- ✗ kitchen and food waste
- ✗ animal droppings
- ✗ rocks and stones
- ✗ dirt and topsoil
- ✗ yard waste in plastic bags (must be emptied on site)

## OTHER OPTIONS

Each municipality in York Region has a leaf and yard waste collection service in place. Watch for notices from your municipality or visit their website for further details. York Region residents can also access the City of Toronto's drop-off locations, however, a fee may apply. For more information, please visit their website at [www.city.toronto.on.ca](http://www.city.toronto.on.ca) or call York Region at (905) 895-1200 and press 3 for waste management information.

## QUESTIONS?

Visit the York Region website at [www.region.york.on.ca](http://www.region.york.on.ca) or call York Region at (905) 895-1200 ext 5717.

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**SATURDAY MAY 22<sup>TH</sup>**

1) 29 Gilbank Dr., @ McLeod 8 - 2 p.m.  
2) Street Sale Moorcrest Dr. @ Batson 8 a.m.  
3) 34 Kennedy St. W. 8 - noon  
4) Multi-family Tecumseh Dr. @ Aurora Hts. Dr. 9 - noon

**Post Dates:**  
**May 29**  
5) 70 Ochsalski Rd. @ John West Way  
6) (Multi-family) Primeau Dr @ Stone Rd.  
**June 5 - (Rain Date June 6)**  
7) Poplar Crescent @ Henderson Drive - Town House Complex 106 families

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