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# AURORAN

*Aurora's Community Newspaper*

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Vol. 4 No. 31

Week of May 25, 2004

905-727-3300

## Behind the scenes at Aurora Hydro

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Only history will record the impact the Harris/Eves Progressive

*Hydro is doing well...financially*

The financial statement for Aurora Hydro Connections will no doubt be presented at the annual shareholders meeting scheduled for next month.

The financial statement for the year ending December 31, 2002, indicates revenue derived from the distribution and sale of power during the year was \$36,702,151 compared with \$30,246,624 a year earlier.

Cost of power for the year was \$31,504,535 leaving a gross margin of \$5,197,617 compared with power cost in 2001 of \$27,410,209 and a margin of \$2,836,415.

In 2002, revenue from other sources amounted to \$357,202 compared with \$1,737,034 in 2001.

Expenses for 2002, including distribution, administration, depreciation, billing and collecting totalled \$4,358,532 compared with \$3,964,631 in 2001.

Earnings before interest and income taxes for 2002 were \$1,196,287 of which \$1,154,200 was paid to Aurora as interest on the long term debt, so the earnings before payments in lieu of taxes was \$42,087 in 2002 compared with \$608,818 in 2001.

In April, 2002, Aurora Hydro Connections issued an unsecured promissory note to the Town of Aurora in the amount of \$12,736,000 effective Nov. 1, 2000.

The financial statement for Borealis Hydro Electric Holdings, the parent corporation for Aurora Hydro Connections, was not available.

Conservative government had on Ontario with its Common Sense Revolution and its attempt to deregulate Ontario Hydro.

Bill 35 not only deregulated Ontario Hydro it deregulated local hydro utilities and converted them from a not-for-profit utility to a for-profit corporation.

On September 27, 1999, Aurora Council adopted a resolution providing for the incorporation of one or more business corporations, which would be charged with the responsibility of operating the municipal hydro utility on a for-profit basis as required by the legislation.

Two corporations were established: Borealis Hydro Electric Holdings Inc. and Aurora Hydro Connections Limited as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Holding Company.

About two months later, council endorsed a recommendation of the management committee which called for the appointment of five private directors and two onside directors, one to be the CEO of the Hydro holding company and the other to be the mayor or a member of council.

The town advertised for private directors to represent a broad cross section of the community.

The aim was to obtain candidates who would bring attributes of technical college, maturity, judgment, integrity, private sector experience and an awareness of public policy issues.

After interviews, George Steeves was appointed to a three-year term, Calvin White and Dan Sooley to two-year terms and

Please see page 13



**Canadian Union of Public Employee (CUPE) workers from Aurora and other municipalities in York Region set up an "information session" picket line last week in front of Aurora's municipal building. Thirty-three outside workers in the town's public works and leisure services departments are without a contract and were in a legal position to strike Monday.**

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

## Town braces for strike

At a special council meeting last Tuesday, Aurora Council agreed to amend the town's administrative procedures to prepare for contingency measures in the event of a strike of 33 public works and leisure service workers this week.

Workers were in a legal strike position Monday, but a decision on their actions occurred after the Auroran's deadline.

The workers are member of CUPE Local 905.

The union and the town have been negotiating since January in an attempt to settle a new collective agreement.

Unable to reach a solution, a provincial conciliation officer was appointed in April, but efforts to arrive at mutually agreeable terms were unsuccessful.

Please see page 14

## Festival sold out

Got your booth yet for the 9th annual World's Longest Street Festival On The World's Longest Street?

Too bad.

Aurora Chamber of Commerce spokesman Mary Lynn Stephenson told the Auroran Friday, the 600 available booth spaces were gone.

"It's not the earliest we have sold out," she said. "But we are sold out."

That ensures plenty to see and do for the 9th Festival, set for a closed-up Yonge Street, Sunday, June 6.

Because the event, which is normally held on the first Sunday in June, falls this year on the 60th anniversary of D-Day, the Aurora Legion has arranged for the release of 60 doves in a short ceremony at 11 a.m. in the parking lot of the Graystones Restaurant.

Meanwhile, the finalists in the Chamber's Music Quest contest will be judged at the same location by radio announcer Punch Andrews of Mix 99.9.

Festival Chairman Kimberley Kerr told an audience at a regular Chamber of Commerce luncheon last week she has done everything, including bribing the weatherman, to ensure a pleasant day for the 30,000 people who are expected to attend the six-hour event.

Yonge will be free of vehicular traffic from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Children will need a button to make use of various activities, including the rock climbing walls, the mist tent, bungee run, children's bouncer, and, weather permitting, tethered hot air balloon rides on the fields of Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School.

The \$2 buttons are on sale in advance and will be available at various locations on the street.

Half the money will be donated to charity.

## Aurora Guides reunite Saturday

Seventy-five years later, the Aurora Girl Guides are as active as ever.

You'll see that this weekend at the Aurora Town Park.

Between 1 and 4 p.m. Saturday afternoon, the Aurora Guides will show you displays and crafts and provide activities for the children, and, they hope, welcome home a lot of former Guides.

It was in May of 1929 when Aurora's first Girl Guide Company registered with Girl Guides of Canada.

It was called, what else, 1st Aurora Guides and they met at the Aurora United Church.

The first Captain of the Company was Miss Edna Izzard with Miss Pauline Bonisteel and Miss Rosalind Ledson as her Lieutenants.

Guiding first came to Canada in 1910 but took another 19 years to land in Aurora.

In 1917, the Canadian government recognized the value of Guiding by passing an Act of Parliament approving the Constitution of the Canadian Girl Guides Association. By another Act of Parliament in 1961, the name was changed to Girl Guides of Canada - Guides du Canada.

In the years since then, it has become the largest organization for girls and women in

Canada with nearly 169,000 members.

Currently in Aurora, there are approximately 800 members.

Organizer Pat Stade of Aurora hopes several former Guides will show up Saturday and bring along any copies of old photos of their favourite Guiding times and friends for posting on Memory Lane.

Official welcome has been set for 2 p.m. and Campfire is at 3 p.m.

For more information call 905-841-1170. Everyone, even if you aren't or weren't a Guide, is welcome to join in Saturday afternoon's festivities.



**Fast forward to 1994, Guide Commissioner Patricia (McClenny) Stade, the daughter of Sharon, discusses Guide items with her daughter, Megan.**



**In 1947, Guide Commissioner Hannah Knoll hugged her daughter Sharon (Knoll) McClenny at an Aurora Guide function. (See photo at right).**



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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 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. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

### MAY 29

"Spring Fling for the Arts". Aurora Grove Public School's third annual Fun Fair from

11a.m. to 3 p.m. Funds will be used for all Arts related school needs from JK to Grade 8. Fair features inflatable bouncers, obstacle course, children's play area, raffle, food and pie eating contest. Rain or shine.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Armor-All National Car Wash Day in Aurora at Aurora Home Hardware. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain date Saturday, June 5. Proceeds to the Army Cadets.

### 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, barbeque, garage sale, book exchange. Northern Lights is located in Aurora at 40 Bridgenorth Drive. For more information, call 905-727-4224, ext. 3001.

### JUNE 6

Ninth Annual World's Longest Street Festival.

### 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Merlin's Hollow Gardens Open House. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 181 Centre Crescent. North of Centre Street, east of the railway tracks.

### 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 3

Merlin's Hollow Gardens Open House. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 181 Centre Crescent. North of Centre Street, east of the railway tracks.

### 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 11

Merlin's Hollow Gardens Open House. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 181 Centre Crescent. North of Centre Street, east of the railway tracks.

### 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

## LAN party is planned on June 4

What is a LAN party anyway?

By now most residents of Aurora and Oak Ridges have seen the commercial about a "LAN Party" taking place at the Aurora Community Centre June 4.

To answer the question, a LAN party occurs when people get together with their computers and play games over a Local Area Network or "LAN".

Such a party is organized because when you play online over the internet it is much slower than if you were in the same room with your opponents and a LAN party is an excellent way to make contacts, meet opponents, have structured tournaments and prizes.

According to organizers, this LAN tournament is the biggest Aurora has ever seen as more than 200 players are expected to participate in five tournament games.

There will be prizes for top teams and individuals.

For further information visit [www.aci.on.ca/lan.party](http://www.aci.on.ca/lan.party).



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## Aurora Guides Are 75!

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Come and reunite with the friends you made.

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**1pm - 4pm**

**Town Park, Aurora**

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**Official Welcome at 2pm.**  
**Join us for Campfire at 3pm.**

**Activities for the kids and Displays**  
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❖ Bring your children. Bring your parents. Bring your friends. Bring your camera. Bring your memories.

❖ Bring photocopies of your favourite photos for display!

❖ Register for next year while you are there! See [www.girlguides.ca](http://www.girlguides.ca) for more info on Membership.

❖ Lost touch with someone? Come and place a note on the Message Board.



Uniform or Guiding-wear optional (but it would be nice!)

Contact us at [maplekeymem@hotmail.com](mailto:maplekeymem@hotmail.com) or 905-841-1170

# Town seeks cultural fund applications

Back in 1973, the late David Merkur, owner of the Aurora Shopping Centre, asked council to establish the Aurora Arts and Culture Fund with a \$25,000 donation payable in equal installments over a 10-year period.

He told council members he wanted to give something back to the community for being so good to him and merchants of the shopping centre over the years.

He was hopeful his contribution would encourage other corporations to do the same.

The fund has continued over the years with ongoing funds from the Merkur family and since the mid-1980s by Joe Lebovic of Lebovic Enterprises, a local developer and builder.

It is still hopeful other corporations will contribute to the fund.

The fund is administered by the town and grants are made based on applications submitted by local organizations or individuals for specific purposes in the promotion of cultural and/or artistic activities.

Applications should be submitted in the form of a letter outlining the nature

and general activities of the individual or group, the specific use to be made of the grant and any other pertinent information.

Due to the number of applications that are received each year the amount of the grants may vary, with the total annual distribution approximately \$10,000.

For 2004 applications will be received until Friday, June 18, with the decision to be made by July 30 and the awards to be presented at a council meeting in the early fall of 2004.

Send applications to the Arts and Cultural Fund, c/o Mayor Tim Jones, 100 John West Way, Box 1000, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 6J1.



**Patty Davidson accepts the gavel from Brian North last week as the presidency of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce changed hands at election meeting held at King's Riding Golf Club.** *Auroran photo by Rob Schuetze*

## Patty Davidson named new Chamber president

By tradition the May meeting of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is the election of officers and the inauguration of the incoming board of directors by the Mayor of Aurora.

Last week's meeting at the King's Riding Golf Club was no exception.

Patty Davidson took over as president with Stephen Forsey as 1st vice-president and Sharon Culver as 2nd vice-president.

Brian North turned the gavel over to Davison to become past president.

Gregory Short is treasurer and Jane Thompson is secretary.

Former president Jane Murray retired from the board.

Elected to the board of directors were Kimberley Kerr, Vern Cunningham, Bruce Johnson, Dr. Janice McMinn, Marilyn Redvers, Kathy van Nostand, Rob Schuetze and Timothy Hill.

Incoming president Davidson paid tribute to North for his work on behalf of the Chamber and noted he had attended every Chamber event during the year.

Guest speaker was the Rev. Canon Philip Poole of Trinity Anglican Aurora, who talked of a recent white water rafting adventure.

While his talk was given in

a humorous manner, there was a message in all the points listed in the rules for a safe journey in white water.

Following the inaugural Mayor Tim Jones gave his traditional update of the business community in Aurora.

He noted that the town continues to be healthy, vibrant and active through the activities of residents, community groups and businesses large and small.

During the 26 weeks of the new council, approval has been given for a new seniors' facility and the town is moving ahead with plans for a new leisure services facility, he said.

Jones noted council met several times on the 2004 budget and refined it from a double digit percentage increase to 5.5 per cent.

He described the merging of the Aurora and Newmarket Fire Services and the potential merger of the two hydro utilities, which is currently being discussed.

On the economic development front, he noted how the town and the Chamber had worked together on joint projects, and provided information on the development status of the State Farm headquarters, Loblaw's, Magna Medical Centre and other businesses.

He also listed several projects council was planning for 2004 including enhancing and realizing increased business development and revamping the promotional brochure package.

He paid tribute to the board and members of the Chamber for their efforts in promoting Aurora.

One of the highlights of the luncheon was the attendance of seven-year-old Ardis Cole, a young entrepreneur and businesswoman who prepared and published her own cookbook, which she sold at the Chamber's Home Show.

She attended to make a \$40 presentation, part of the proceeds from the sale of her book at the Home Show to the Aurora Food Pantry.

The Chamber also made a presentation of \$1,000 to Joan Shaw representing the Food Pantry.

Shaw noted that need of the Food Pantry by Aurora residents had increased by 21 per cent in 2003 over 2002 and had increased another 13 per cent so far this year. The Pantry served on average 430 people per month of which 210 were children.

Currently the Aurora Chamber has 725 companies as members, making it one of the largest in the Region.

Susan Talbot
Nancy Oxford

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## Poor Richard

### What's private and what's not?

*Actions taken in secret,  
Very seldom make the news;  
Councillors like the secrecy,  
When they express their views!*  
-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

It may not be as noticeable to the general public as to those who attend council meetings on a regular basis, whether it is at the local or regional level, but there is an increasing tendency to go "in camera" to discuss public business at almost every meeting.

It has become a tradition.

The reason given on the agenda for the "in camera", or private, session is that council has to discuss a personnel or legal issue.

That could cover a multitude of sins as almost every topic has a legal or personnel component.

Citizens attending a council meeting for the first time must be puzzled when it is announced that council will meet "in camera" or behind closed doors to discuss an issue, which they may feel is public business.

While provincial legislation requires all meetings of council, committees and boards to be open to the public, the Municipal Act permits councils to convene an "in camera" meeting to discuss specific issues.

"In camera" is Latin for "in private".

In camera meetings are permitted when open discussion in council may jeopardize the privacy or security of certain issues that may relate to property matters, personnel matters about an individual, labour relations and litigation.

But before going into a closed council meeting, it is necessary to state the general nature of the material to be considered and if the report will be made public following the meeting, but this is seldom done.

While the discussions and the action to be taken are carried out in private, according to legislation ratification must be made in open council.

Many local politicians run on a platform of more open government, but when elected there is something about elected office that turns ordinary human beings into secretive politicians who resent living in a fish bowl.

It happened so often on the Ontario municipal scene that in 1983 the province established a joint provincial-municipal committee to review the legislation in force at that time.

As Mayor of Aurora at the time, I was appointed co-chairman of the committee.

We met for several months and reviewed all aspects of open and closed council and committee meetings and the reasoning behind holding the closed meetings.

It was found that several municipal councils held lengthy "in camera" meetings to discuss items in detail and then went into open council to ratify their decisions without comment or debate.

Electors were deprived of the opportunity to see their council in action, the information on which they based their decisions and how the property tax dollars were spent.

The report recommended all council and committee meetings be open to the public and the press with stated exceptions such as personnel matters about an individual person, labour relations, litigation and some property matters where premature release could jeopardize the municipal position.

The report gathered dust on the shelves at Queen's Park for a few years as the Progressive Conservative government of the day didn't want to be seen as Big Daddy imposing the legislation on municipalities, but tried to encourage them to hold open meetings by other means.

It didn't work and in April, 1990, the government of the day announced several changes to the legislation involving municipalities including closed meetings and election funding reforms.

All council and committee meetings were to be open to the public with the exceptions listed above.

But that legislation died on the Order Paper.

Finally on January 1, 1991, the David Peterson Liberal government adopted the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act.

As a general rule, it was supposed to uncloak a lot of municipal information from committee reports to environmental studies.

It was also intended to prevent personal information being given to third parties.

But the legislation didn't make it clear how to balance the public's right to know and the individual's right to privacy, and, therefore, "in camera" meetings continue.



Aurora High School, 1950, and here's what Grade 10-B looked like. The class here is posing in front of what today is Wells Street Public School, but at the time, was Aurora's first and only high school. In the back row are, left to right, Earl Kaaka, Jack Mann, Jack (Moose) Andrews, Shirley Wright, Jackie Seaton, Sheila Attridge, Barbara Specht, Dorothy Armstrong, Eva Willimze, Ron Brooks, ?, John Loblaw. Second row from the top, left to right, Marion Dion, Marg MacDonald, May Westbrook, M. Comfort, Coleen Bremner, Edna Cole, Ellen Wilson, Joan Robertson, Mary Ann Nyshal, Ruth Hazyes, Carol Taylor, Peter Boyd. Only a few other students have been identified from the remainder. They include Bud Ingledew, Grant Edwards, Edith Geary, Gladys Middleton, Jill Moffat, and Grant Snow. We apologize if some of these names are wrong. They were all written on the back of the photo, contributed by Carol Knowles, and some were difficult to read. If you can put names to the anonymous faces, we'd love to hear from you.

### Letters to the Editor

# Chris back in hospital and costs are rising

To the editor,

You may remember Chris Gist who lives in Aurora and has had cancer twice and a bone marrow transplant.

This has been going on since he was 15 years old. He is now 18 and will be 19 this Saturday.

A couple of weeks ago Leslie Gist wrote the Auroran with an update on her son's condition after the bone marrow transplant, which went really well.

A couple of days after giving you the update, however, Chris started feeling very nauseous, couldn't eat and had a gruelling back-ache.

Leslie took Chris to Southlake where they did a scan.

The scan results showed Chris has a tumor the size of a grapefruit in his stomach!!

The doctor exclaimed that this is extremely rare especially with having an unrelated transplant.

The chances are one in

500,000! Poor Chris. Poor family.

So here they go again.

Chris was sent to Princess Margaret Hospital where he will remain for the next month. He is undergoing rigorous chemotherapy and the tumor seems to be shrinking.

He isn't feeling all that well, mouth and throat sores, can't eat, has rapid heart beating, and a cough.

Chris will be in hospital for his 19th birthday.

They are now thinking this is leukemia. He may even have to have another bone marrow transplant!

As you may or may not know, having cancer is very expensive.

All health care is covered, thank God.

What isn't covered is parking (\$16 per day), TV in room (\$15 per day), telephone in room (\$3 per day), food for Leslie who is there 24/7 (\$25.00 per day), etc.

This all adds up to extra expenditures of approximately \$2,500 for the six-

week stay in hospital and then they will have to go down to Princess Margaret at least twice a week for the next two years!!!

I can't even begin to calculate the extra cost that this will be.

I am a friend of the family and am, once again, trying desperately to generate some financial support for Christopher.

We had a lot of caring people donate their time, money and food to the family last year.

His family is having great financial problems due to only one income in the household. Leslie had to quit her job to take care of her son.

Here is the web site that his mother is using as a journal: [www.caring-bridge.org/ca/christophers-fight/index.htm](http://www.caring-bridge.org/ca/christophers-fight/index.htm)

You can go into "read journal history" on a daily basis to find out how he is feeling and what is going on.

If you are willing to make a donation, please make it out to Leslie Gist, 22 Glenview Dr., Aurora, L4G 2G8.

If you own a restaurant and would like to donate dinner meals for pick-up, that would be amazing.

Making sandwiches for the three "boys" for lunch would be a godsend.

Organizing some sort of fund raiser, having a garage sale, soliciting neighbors for donations...anything that would generate some extra money for this family would be amazing.

Once again let's hope and pray for this strong young lad, Chris Gist. Thank you.

Chris would appreciate cards and visitors. He's in Room 706 at Princess

Margaret Hospital, 610 University Avenue, Toronto.

Julie Cox  
Aurora

## AURORAN

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

## A new name for Liberals

To the editor,

After this recent budget brought down by the provincial Liberals I can not in good conscience call them Liberals any more. (The only thing liberal about them seems to be their spending habits with our tax dollars).

So they must be renamed to more accurately reflect

their true nature: they are now to be known as the LIEberals.

All they are capable of doing is lying to us just so that they can get elected.

Please remember this fact the next time you go to vote in either a federal or provincial election.

Dave Watson  
Aurora



### Mayor's Report

By Tim Jones

## Your efforts are still required!

On Saturday, April 24, we had the first of four litter pick up days in Aurora. Even though we were competing with the popular Chamber of Commerce Home Show and a number of other community events that day, we believe that more than 500 residents participated to some degree in litter pick up around Town, and it shows.

Mario Gosselin of Miller Waste advises me 2.79 tons of litter and roadside waste were picked up that day!



These bags every 10 to 15 feet along the Vandorf Sideroad, thanks to Heidi Schellhorn and her group of volunteers, demonstrated to me the whole reason why we need your help in keeping our Town clean.

Unfortunately, along that same road just a week later I saw this disgusting example of how someone simply picked an area by the road in a quieter part of Town to dump waste.



I would encourage anyone seeing anybody dumping waste to note their license number and call it in to the police or to me at the Town Hall and we will follow up.

As well, I received an e-mail from Chris Freeland, on behalf of the employees at the LCBO store on Yonge at Brookland who are regularly picking up in the area of their store.

He says, "Our staff enjoyed getting out and cleaning up our section of Yonge Street last Saturday. We were also impressed to see a number of citizens pitching in at the west end of our parking lot, in a low grassy area. There were two ladies in there cleaning up - one was on a motorized wheelchair, and her companion was 70 years old. That is a tremendous example, and it really motivated us to get out and do a good job".

Since the pick up day, I am pleased to report that the Grade 4 class at Highview Public School responded to my request to design a poster to promote our next three litter pick up days.

The class created several terrific posters with great messages about not littering and the one selected to promote the next three Aurora pick up days is this one done by Sean Nishimura.

Thanks to Principal Margaret Roberts and Grade 4 class teacher Colleen Davidson and her students for a great effort!



With one successful litter pick up day behind us, I would encourage you to take an hour or two to go to a hot spot in Town Saturday, May 29th, and help clean up the litter.

Info Aurora is assisting us in tracking and assigning residents to 'hot spot' areas. You can call them at 905-727-3123-4104.

Garbage bags and gloves will be available from the Parks Department on Scanlon Court from 9 to 10 a.m. or from Info Aurora during business hours at the Town Hall this week.

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

## Machell's Corners



### Letters to the Editor

# Another kudo from Alberta for our Tigers hockey team

To the editor,

As someone who grew up in Barrie, it was with great pleasure that I accepted a volunteer position with the Royal Bank Cup committee here in Grande Prairie to assist in hosting the Aurora Tigers.

It was a tremendous experience made a little better by the fact that the local team lost its semi final game so I didn't have to cheer against the Tigers in the final.

The team and organization

were first class the entire time they were in Grande Prairie.

I was able to meet all of the boys and they were all polite and friendly.

They were also very committed to obtaining their ultimate goal.

Not many people get to be national champions and each and every one of them can be very proud of their achievements.

Marty, Greg, Craig and Tom, the coaching staff, were

approachable and friendly and did a great job.

I worked primarily with the Kevins (Collins and Emo) and Kelly and was made to feel a part of the team.

They were great in that each knew what had to be done.

In a very short time I think we became good friends who were able to say what we thought and get along very well.

I spent a lot of time watching all 13 games in the tour-

ney and running errands as required.

It was a tremendous experience that I will remember for a long time.

In closing, my heartfelt thanks to the Aurora Tigers organization.

The Town of Aurora can be very proud of their representatives who returned home as Royal Bank Cup champions.

Larry Smith  
Grande Prairie, AB



## Cathy's Corner



# Glass walls a safety hazard

I really like the idea of Aurora's new recreation complex, however, I have one small request.

Please don't build any big, clear glass windows, doors...and especially walls.

My phobia dates back to 1991. With my son off to kindergarten, I thought it would be a good time to go back to school. I decided to apply to Seneca College at the Newnham Campus.

The brochure said applicants had to have a Grade 12 diploma. I couldn't find mine, so I took my York University degree off the wall and packed it in my briefcase.

I figured that if I went to university, it would be obvious that I finished Grade 13, and if I finished Grade 13, it would be proof that I finished Grade 12. It's not rocket science, right?

When I produced my "proof" at the registrar's office, the clerk was not impressed by my claim to be over-qualified. She looked down at the degree and began to laugh. It was in a frame - the same frame as my graduation picture. It's all my mother's fault.

Neither was the clerk impressed with my MENSA calibre deductive reasoning capabilities...and accompanying argument.

Needless to say, it was a frustrating experience. In other words, I left in a huff.

When you leave in a huff, walking into a glass wall is not the kind of dramatic exit you hope for. So much for the university degree, huh?

I had never walked into a glass wall before that. I had only seen it done. It's harder (I mean really!) than it looks!

I recall the first time our cat saw a bird through the window. You know how cats take that low to the ground hunting posture? Well, she did that. Then, she pounced! Then, she bounced...off the glass.

The cat swore off birds after that.

The second time, it was my daughter. She was about four years old. We went to my mother-in-law's house and Jennifer tried to run into the backyard. But that's not what she ran into...first.

My mother-in-law swore off Windex after that.

The third time...it was my turn. It made me decide not to apply to MENSA.

I know more than those guys.

I know that glass is harder than it looks, but easier to run into than it looks. I also know that the first part of the body to connect is the knee...followed by the nose...followed by the rest of the face. The nose hurts the most.

I know that the first thing a person does when they have bounced off a glass wall is to look around to see if anybody is watching.

If there are no witnesses, the injured individual will check the damage... before getting up.

If, however, there are witnesses, getting up becomes top priority, with getting out being a close second.

Also, it is customary to wait until you are alone in the almost soundproof privacy of your car before saying how you really feel.

I swore...a lot after that.

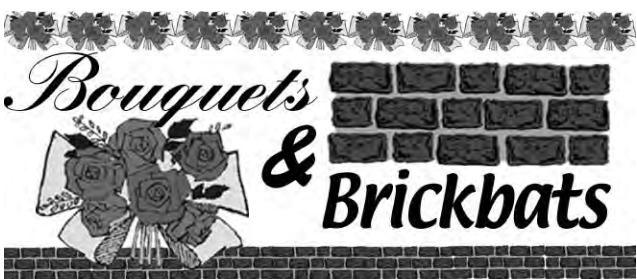
Recently, my memory of these unfortunate events was reawakened when our dog got up and ran at the sliding glass door...three mornings in a row.

Sadly, he still hasn't sworn off bunnies, so...I guess he won't be applying to MENSA either.


So, if Aurora's new recreation complex has any big, clear glass windows, doors...and especially walls, it should be built right next to a walk-in clinic.


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








By DICK ILLINGWORTH


 **BOUQUETS** to the more than 500 volunteers who participated in last month's Anti-Litter clean-up day to help keep Aurora as "Our Kind of Town". More **BOUQUETS** to the community business sponsors for their contributions and support. See the Mayor's Report this week for a follow-up.


 **BRICKBATS** to Mayor Tim Jones for trying to cut off Open Forum during the recent council meeting after half an hour with three more citizens waiting to speak, claiming it was in accordance with the procedural bylaw. Aurora has prided itself over the years for its Open Forum and the right of citizens to ask questions or make comment. If it's in the procedural bylaw, change it. A time limitation per speaker if necessary, but not a ban!


 **BOUQUETS** to former Aurora Councillor Peter Healy, now a summer resident of Temagami, for his recent letter to the Auroran about his dismay over the weekly activities of Aurora council. His letter should be mandatory reading for all members of the current council.


 More **BRICKBATS** to the same members of council for their disgraceful display towards each other and the rules of procedure at the recent council meeting, which was one of the worst yet. It wasn't telecast, which is just as well, as citizens would be demanding a recall vote.


 **BOUQUETS** to Reg Provost of Aurora on winning the 7th Annual Yellow Brick House Harley raffle and a big, new Harley Davidson for the summer months. The raffle has raised more than \$120,000 over the past seven years, which is used for Yellow Brick House programs and services.

 **BRICKBATS** to members of council who believe because they missed a council or committee meeting, they have the right to question the action taken or re-introduce the topic so they can have their say. A quorum of council is five members and as long as a quorum is present, it's a legal meeting and the decisions made are valid.

 **BOUQUETS** and Best Wishes to Aurora martial arts instructor Mike Watson, as he sets out on a 13-month Ultimate Black Belt Test. Only 30 people were invited to participate in the world's most difficult and challenging martial arts black belt test and Watson was the only Canadian.

 **BRICKBATS** to Prime Minister Paul Martin for his flip-flops in selecting local riding candidates. In the case of Sheila Copps, he said it was a local issue and he wouldn't interfere, but in British Columbia and other areas he overruled the local preference for his choice. Did Art Eggleton jump or was he pushed in York Centre?

 **BOUQUETS** to Aurora's Marika Iannucci for being one of eight Canadians selected to participate in the Games of the Young swim meet in Italy. She is a first-year member of the Aurora Ducks Swim Club and a student at Light of Christ Catholic Elementary School in Aurora.

 **BRICKBATS** to the federal government for refusing to eliminate the GST on the 10 cents tax the federal government imposes and the 14.7 cents per litre the Ontario government imposes on the price of a litre of gas. Paul Martin is laughing all the way to the bank, as millions of dollars in revenue is received due to higher gas prices.

## Letters to the Editor

# Get those gas prices up, this reader says

To the Editor,

The price of gasoline is going up. Motorists are mad.

The Conservatives are trying to make it into an election issue.

And I find myself far outside popular opinion, and risk being labeled a heretic by my neighbours.

I've been wanting to see the price of gasoline top a buck for years now.

Nothing could be better for Aurora or the environment or the country than to see the price of gas continue its trek north, and stay there!

A higher price for gas would mean fewer people would be willing to drive monster gas guzzling SUVs.

It would mean people would be less willing to drive great distances to get to work.

It would mean more people looking at alternatives for their transportation needs.

All this would translate into smaller and fewer cars on the road; residential developments of higher density being built closer to urban centres; and greater ridership on public transit, bicycles and feet.

This in turn would save precious farm and wild lands, reduce gridlock, and improve the efficiency of public transit.

In 2002 the federal government raised \$4.7 billion on a gasoline excise tax of 10 cents a litre.

If this was gradually raised to 50 cents over several years it could generate an additional \$15 billion, even considering the drop in demand due to the higher price.

That \$15 billion could do fantastic things to improve public transit and the condition of our roads.

To give you an idea of what it could do, consider that the combined budgets of TTC, GO, and Via are less the \$1.5 billion and of that, the various levels of government contribute less than \$500 million.

It would be good for the national economy as well.

Part of that money could be used to offset the increased transportation

costs for business, but most importantly by creating a more efficient public transit system and removing the gridlock on the roads, the competitive position of business would be improved.

Just look at the success of the British initiative for getting vehicles off the streets of London.

Yes, if the Conservatives succeed in making the price of gas an election issue, it will be the political party with a platform closest to what I've outlined above that will get my vote.

The pity is that mine will be their only vote, and that won't get them elected.

Darryl Moore  
Aurora

# Aurora's pool facilities "woefully inadequate"

To the editor,

I urge you to vote in favour of the eight-lane pool facility for the Town of Aurora.

Aurora and its surrounding area are desperately in need of a top quality recreational facility.

The present pool is woefully inadequate and does not address the needs of the community.

I have heard from several parents that they have looked elsewhere for swimming lessons for their chil-

dren as lessons at the Leisure Complex were full.

This town is experiencing a growth explosion. Surely with the amount of development taking place there must be developer funds available for this new facility.

The concept of new urbanism (people friendly towns) calls for recreational and green space where people can play. Fitness should be a priority in reducing the strain on the health care system.

## If business uninterrupted, why do we need workers?

To the editor,

With reference to your article "33 town staff workers may strike next week" as published in your issue of the week May 18, I would like to know how the Chief Administrative Officers thinks that services will not be cut if and when there is a strike.

I do not think that the Town of Aurora could continue business as usual.

If that would be the case, why then does the Town employ those 33 staff

workers?

If GM or Ford goes on strike, no cars would be produced.

If the garbage collectors go on strike, no garbage would be collected.

We've seen that in Toronto a few times.

I think you'll get my drift.

If those 33 workers would go on strike, I'm sure that all services provided by the 33 staff workers would be severely affected.

Tom van den Elshout  
Aurora

The Australian swim team is one of the best in the world. Australian athletes win more medals at the Olympic games than Canada. It is a country similar to Canada, but it promotes athletics extensively.

As well as residential and commercial development, Aurora needs to promote excellence in athletics. The proposed facility will meet the needs of the community for a long time.

This is an affluent community that can afford a tax increase if necessary.

If the pool is managed properly it should be able to cover operating costs. As with hockey tournaments there are also spin off effects when swim meets are hosted. Out of town competitors will often stay at local hotels and frequent restaurants and other businesses.

Demonstrate vision and take the plunge.

Vote for a state of the art facility which will serve

constituents far into the future.

Janet Downer  
Teacher-Librarian  
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Hidden in a plaza on Industrial Parkway South is the leather manufacturing firm of Majd Corp, which opened Aurora operations last week. Aurora Mayor Tim Jones was on hand with his trusty scissors to make it all official. Helping out are Alex Majdpour, left, Lucy Yu, and Amir Majdpour. While much of the leather work is created at the site, a small retail operation also exists. It's located at 225 Industrial Parkway South. *Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

Letter to the Editor

# Stop rec project right away: reader

To the editor,

With increasing dismay I have been following the ongoing ice rink/swimming pool farce.

Prior to moving to Aurora I was led to believe that the residents of the community were a "cut above" those in the surrounding area.

What a disappointment!!

To those who have filled your and other local papers with "I want...", "We must have...", "I'm embarrassed to live here...", allow me to add the following: "Fiscal responsibility," "We can't afford," "Huge projected operating deficit," "No proper public consultation," "No demonstrated need," and for good measure "Fiscal responsibility."

The financing plan for this project is nothing more than wishful thinking straight from the pages of Nortel.

At the absolute best it would saddle taxpayers with a surcharge for tens of years; it depends on likely unsustainable growth rates and raising development charges with a wave of the arm, which will certainly be challenged in court.

Aurora taxpayers are already faced with amongst the highest tax rates in the GTA and have little or nothing to show for it.

I, for one, have had

enough. Stop this project now.

Anyhow, isn't there another street that needs to be renamed? We'd

best save some money for that.

**John R. Sullivan**  
Aurora


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# Basement apartment issue still unresolved

It will depend on this week's council meeting whether a task force is to be appointed to evaluate legalizing secondary dwelling units in Aurora.

Last February Councillor Nigel Kean proposed the establishment of such a task force to examine local issues pertaining to bylaws of various municipalities in the GTA.

He sought a staff report recommending next steps, which was adopted.

Prior to that, staff was asked to look into the viability of adopting a bylaw permitting the establishment of basement apartments.

The staff report provided three options.

One was the current status that illegal apartments continue to be prosecuted only after a complaint had been received.

Other options suggested apartments be made legal or a task force be established to examine local issues involving basement apartments.

During the discussion it was pointed out that there was a shortage of housing, especially for low income families and some homeowners depended on the income from the illegal apartments to help pay mortgages.

In spite of the best efforts of Councillor Damir Vrancic that a task force be established to study the issues, the majority of committee members voted to remain with the status quo and act only on complaints.

Councillor Evelyn Buck argued that while the apartments may not be the most desirable accommodation, there was no alternative as public housing was not

available, and until the government provided housing, basement apartments are necessary.

When the committee report came to council the debate started again and this time the arguments about safety and the need to protect the tenants was successful and council voted 4-3 to establish the task force.

The report with recommendations as to the establishment of the task force was presented to last week's general committee meeting and the debate erupted again.

It was recommended the task force be comprised of two members of council as well as appropriate staff plus six citizen members.

Buck continued her opposition to the appointment of a task force as it would be a waste of time and due to the lack of policy on affordable housing the problem of illegal apartments would continue, as people have to live somewhere.

She said there was no advantage of having a registry, as it would only create another level of bureaucracy.

She opposed the establishment of the task force.

Kean argued for the need of the task force to investigate various issues such as absentee landlords, street parking and the drain on public ser-

vices.

He said that while he didn't want to ban the illegal apartments he wanted them made safe for the tenants, and the appointment of the task force was a good starting point.

Councillor Ron Wallace declared a conflict of interest and did not participate in the discussion.

When the vote was called it was 3-2 in opposition to the appointment of the task force with Buck, Councillor John West and Mayor Tim Jones casting the three ballots.

Kean noted that Councillor Phyllis Morris,

chairperson of the committee meeting, hadn't voted and said she should declare her intention.

After checking the procedural bylaw it was declared that the chairperson only voted in the event of a tie.

Morris said if she was

required to vote, it would have been in support of the task force, which would have made it a tie, or a lost motion.

The committee report will be presented to council this week, when the debate is expected to start again.

## Loblaws gets green light to proceed

In October last year, Aurora Council delegated approval of the site plan agreement between the town and Loblaw Properties Limited for a supermarket at the southwest corner of Bayview Avenue and the St. John's Sideroad subject to the resolution of all outstanding issues.

At that time, a holding category was placed on the lands to ensure they would only be used for the purposes outlined in the bylaw.

As the applicant has met all the conditions required by the town, a request was received to remove the holding category and the enacting bylaw be adopted.

Based on the assurance by staff that all conditions had been met, council endorsed the report and enacted the bylaw removing the holding category allowing the development to proceed.

When complete, the site will be one of the largest

Loblaw supermarkets in the country.

Plans also include a common road off Bayview Avenue to be shared with a proposed liquor store.



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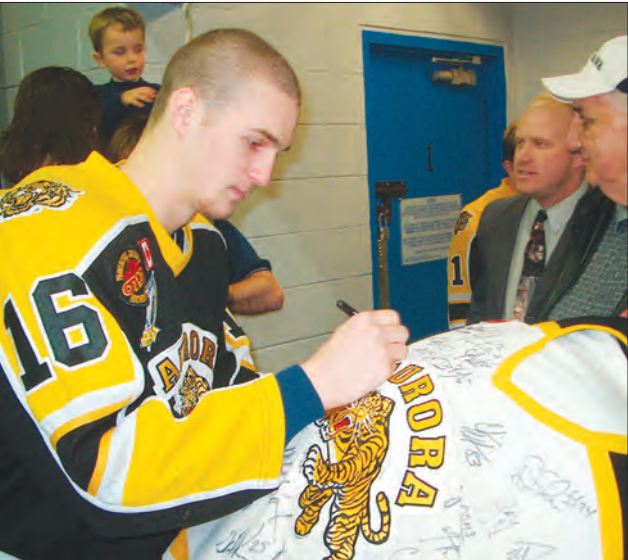
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Collage of a championship hockey team, above, was put together by Aurora's John Cooper marking the achievements of Canada's best junior hockey squad, the Aurora Tigers. The talented club knocked off four championships before heading out to Grande Prairie, Alberta, for the Royal Bank Cup, which they easily won in five games, losing only one. Throughout their successful year, Tigers lost only seven games. A reception for the team was held at the Leisure Complex Thursday and players posed for pictures and signed autographs. Below, defenseman Andrew Hotham adds his name to the Tiger shirt being worn by Aurora's Graham Catt.

*Collage by John Cooper; photo by Ron Wallace*



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# Three Aurora players bolster team

While the name may say Markham, the players say York Region and for three of them, Aurora.

With the overwhelming majority of players coming from Richmond Hill, Newmarket, Markham, and the three players from the Town of Aurora, the Markham Junior B Lacrosse team truly represents the central core of York Region.

With the first half of their season completed, the Markham Junior Lacrosse Club has a 7 and 3 record.

Not only are they winning, but, they're winning against some pretty strong competition scoring in the win column against both the Barrie Tornado and the Clarington Green Gaels.

Both of these teams are former Founder Cup Champions.

The Founder Cup is the Canadian Junior B Lacrosse title.

The win against the Barrie Tornado, 2003 Founder Cup Champions, was a sweet victory for this third year club.

The game was a back and forth event with both sides remaining even throughout the three periods of regulation play.

Markham pulled off a 9-8 victory over the Barrie club in the 10-minute overtime period.

Local Aurora talent plays a key role in Markham's depth of strength this year.

Returning veterans Geoff Kelly and Craig Dickie are entering their third year with the club and are key players in the defensive zone.

Geoff and Craig are both graduates of the Newmarket Northstars field program, which is now part of the East Gwillimbury/Newmarket Redbirds Lacrosse organization, as well as the Markham Minor Lacrosse Box program.

Kelly was a member of the U19 Northstars Field Lacrosse Club in its inaugural year during the fall of 2002 and also played defence for the Richmond Hill High School field lacrosse team during his tenure there.

Geoff has just finished his first year at the University of Waterloo where he is enrolled in

their Arts program.

Dickie is a graduate of the U19 Northstars Field Lacrosse Club having competed during the last two seasons.

He also played attack for the Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School team during that school's initial season in the High School field lacrosse program.

Craig has just completed his first year at Georgian College, where he is studying Automotive Marketing.

Adding strength to the forward line in his first season with Markham is 17-year-old Tommy Hurley.

A student at Aurora's Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, Tommy plays a key role on Williams' attack line this year.

He is a graduate of the East Gwillimbury/Newmarket Redbirds Midget team, and also will continue to play with the Northstars U19 program this September.

Tommy plans on studying to become a fire fighter upon graduation from Williams next year.

This year's coaching staff - Ron Reed, Vic Emberson, Dan Ransom and Wally Christen - replace last year's coaching team headed by Tim Clarridge.

Clarridge's coaching staff was recognized within the league for the continued improvement of the club with the "Coaching Staff of the Year" award.

Receipt of this award carries with it the honour of becoming the coaching staff of the Eastern Conference team at this year's All Star Game.

Clarridge remains with the club in the position of President.

The team looks forward to continued improvement under Reed's direction and earning its first berth

in the playoff schedule.

The Aurora players invite lacrosse enthusiasts from the Aurora area to come out and cheer them on at one of their upcoming home games.

Their next two games in Markham are Saturday, May 29 at 7:30 p.m. and Tuesday, June 2 at 8 p.m.

All home games are played at the Markham Centennial Arena on McCowan Road one light north of Highway 7.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

Seniors are free.

The Markham players will be holding a silent auction and dinner at the Aurora Community Centre on the evening of June 4th.

Businesses wishing to support the local Aurora players may contribute items to the auction by contacting Martha Dickie at 905-841-1748.

Ensuring that the club can support the efforts of these players requires a significant operating budget and this fundraiser will be a large part of that effort.



Thirteen-year-old Aurora resident and Lester. B. Pearson Public School student Nathaniel Gery has been selected by Tennis Canada to represent the country in three junior tournaments in Europe this summer. He will compete against the best 13-year-olds in the world in Holland, France and Germany throughout July. This is Nathaniel's first European tour. He represented Canada as part of the 12 and under Florida tour in 2002.

## Skating results

Aurora Skating Club skaters held their final test day of the season recently.

Following are the results.

Dutch Waltz: Jennifer Strathearn, Alicia Alberton.

Canasta: Phoebe Look, Shauna O'Conner, Sierra Thompson, Zahra Rajan.

Baby Blues: Austin Bushell, Shelby Olesovsky.

Swing: Samantha Galati, Kortney Weichel, Robyn Kosmidis, Jackianne Abbey.

Fiesta: Jihyun Cha, Kaitlin VanWinckle, Teija Rom-Colthoff.

Willow Waltz: Nicole Calvert, Taylor MacDowall, Caylin Butler, Kayla Mete.

Ten Fox: Sophia Perugini, Amanda Alberton.

Fourteenstep: Hugh Babb, Kate Sutton, Emma Dillon, Hailey Riggs, Malysa Tidona, Jacqueline Relke, Amber Ciolfe.

European Waltz: Jenna Williams, Emma Laverty, Avery Gagnon, Cierra Snell.

Keats Foxtrot: Stephanie Fonceca, Lauren Bellefeuille, Alana Kelly.

Harris Tango: Meagan Hay, Tavish Armstrong, Allie Sutton, Mackensie Jordan.

American: Tavish Armstrong, Emma Slimkowich, Emma Warburton, Paige Flanagan.

Rocker: Emma Warburton, Julia Ranson, Amy Bellefeuille.

Starlight Waltz: Amber Bowman.

Blues: Maya Goldman, Fayme Cockshutt, Heather Cole, Amy Thompson.

Killian: Emma Hayzelden, Chelsea Kerr.

Viennese: Michelle Wong, Tori Ellis.

Westminster: Brinlee Brown.

Quickstep: Lauren Cooper.

Argentine: Sarah Gray.

Preliminary Skills: Emma Schellingerhoud, Courtney Tidona, Teija Rom-Colthoff.

Sr. Bronze Skills: Mackensie Jordan, Emma Warburton, Jory Goldman, Alys Nichols, Ariel Kwan.

Jr. Silver Skills: Avery Gagnon.

Gold Skills: Christine MacCallum, Sarah Gray.

Preliminary Freeskate Part I: Amber Ciolfe, Emma Dillon, Amanda Alberton, Robyn Kosmidis, Hailey Riggs, Nicole Relke, Emma Laverty.

Preliminary Freeskate Part II: Amanda Alberton, Emma Dillon.

Jr. Bronze Freeskate Part I: Mackensie Jordan.

Senior Bronze Freeskate Part I: Meaghan Jones, Jamie Stephenson, Stephanie Fonceca, Amy Bellefeuille, Paige Flanagan.

Senior Bronze Freeskate Part II: Jamie Stephenson, Amy Bellefeuille, Stephanie Fonceca.

Jr. Silver Freeskate Part I: Jenna Porteous.

Gold Freeskate Part I & II: Carolyn Armstrong.

Juvenile Competitive: Maya Goldman.

Pre-novice Competitive: Amy Thompson.

Novice Competitive: Carolyn Armstrong and Lauren Cooper.

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## RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

# This meeting was long, but also productive

Recently Aurora council held a four-hour meeting in which only four of eight agenda items were actioned with the other four referred to another meeting.

It was a little different from a 4½ hour council meeting in May, 1971, when the agenda included 115 items of correspondence, three delegations all dealing with development applications.

During the meeting, seven reports with 79 items and recommendations were discussed and four resolutions considered.

Quite a night!

### BUT STILL WITH CONTROVERSIAL DEBATE

In January, 1970, a proposal that the town hold off signing subdivision agreements in new areas until school sites had been negotiated was strongly opposed by Mayor Dick Illingworth on the basis it was handing the town's planning control over to the school boards.

The councillors supporting the proposal claimed land prices had increased for school sites once a subdivision agreement had been signed and such a move would save taxpayers money.

The mayor argued that council should cooperate and assist the school boards in every way possible, but it was up to the school board to negotiate their own deals.

Council agreed to meet in private with both school boards to discuss the issue resulting in council agreeing with a three-month delay to permit school boards to complete their negotiations.

### A BUILDING WITHOUT LIGHT SWITCHES

With the potential shortage and the high cost of electric energy today, York taxpayers are fortunate regional officials took action to dim the lights at the new regional building in February, 1995.

It's hard to believe but the building was constructed without light switches.

In their efforts to cut costs during the design of the building, regional council dropped the switches in favour of a lower-cost computer lighting system.

That meant the lights could only be turned off in large blocks not room by room.

Due to ongoing complaints from taxpayers council approved a new computer system to control the lights on individual relays, saving an estimated \$125,000 per year.

Better late than never!

### AURORA'S SPONSORSHIP SCANDAL

It was back in May, 2003, when Aurora Council placed itself into an embarrassing situation.

After considerable discussion at council about the need for replacing its 16-year-old ice-cleaning machine, it accepted sponsorship money for a new machine.

The money was accepted and applauded before council had approved or even debated replacing the machine.

With an offer to pay \$60,000 of the \$65,101 cost of the machine on condition the sponsoring car dealership could put its logo on the machine, the deal was agreed to without debate.

### DON'T FEEL SORRY FOR DALTON

If you feel sorry for the Dalton McGuinty Liberals about getting stuck with a \$5.6 billion deficit from the Harris/Eves Progressive Conservative government after they bragged about balancing the budget, you should also feel sorry for former New Democratic Party Premier Bob Rae.

Back in 1990 when he was sworn into office as Ontario's economy was in a freefall into recession, the \$26 million surplus that the David Peterson Liberals bragged about turned into a \$700 million deficit.

Due to the failing economy, the provincial sales tax, which at that time accounted for 21 per cent of all


provincial revenues, was stagnant, putting Rae even further behind the eight ball.

While Ernie Eves and the Tories lied a little about balancing the budget, Peterson and the Liberals lied a little about their surplus, but that's politics.

### BLASTING MAYOR'S COLUMNS

Mayor Tim Jones shouldn't feel wounded by attacks on his columns by fellow councillors as back in June 1971 Mayor Dick Illingworth was criticized in council for a column he had written about a land development, which some members of council questioned.

It goes with the territory!



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# Theatre Aurora celebrates an award-winning season

Aurora's popular Theatre Aurora, an institution on Henderson Drive for decades, celebrated a successful season in 2003-4, scooping more than a dozen nominations and winning four awards.

The group entered two productions into the Association of Community Theatres of Central Ontario (ACT-CO) Drama Festival, including "Anything Goes" and

"Communicating Doors". Among the winners were Joanna Megraw, "Best Actress in a Leading Role" in "Anything Goes" and Quin Dalglish, "Best Actress in a Supporting Role" also in "Anything Goes".

Simon Chung won an award for "Best Newcomer" in "Anything Goes".

For her performance in "Communicating Doors",

Dalene Flannigan won "Best Actress in a Leading Role".

In addition to the success of "Anything Goes" and "Communicating Doors", two members of Theatre Aurora fared well with other groups.

Bill White was nominated for lead actor in a musical (Cabaret) and Kay Valentine was nominated for supporting actress in a drama (Death Trap).

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# Hydro questions answered

## From page 1

Gord Lytle and Jane Murray to a one-year term as incorporating directors of the holding company.

This was in addition to Mayor Tim Jones and John Sanderson, President and CEO of the holding company.

At the end of the first year, Lytle retired and then-Aurora Treasurer Allan Evelyn was appointed in his place and Murray was reappointed.

After reviewing payments to board members in other jurisdictions, Aurora Council decided on a schedule for the board of \$5,000 per year, plus \$400 per meeting.

This includes the mayor and town treasurer but does not include Sanderson.

When asked about the high payments to appointed board members compared to the approximately \$2,000 per annum, without a fee for meetings, received by the former elected hydro commissioners, it was pointed out that as the utility was now a private corporation, the directors were personally liable.

Over the years questions have been asked about the financial status of the utility, governance and the relationship of the utility as a for-profit corporation in comparison with its previous relationship as a non-profit utility with elected hydro commissioners and the mayor as the governing body.

This issue was raised at the June 24, 2003, council meeting.

Questions were asked as to the status of council members and the general public in the affairs of the two corporations as the Corporation of the Town of Aurora is listed as the shareholder.

It was pointed out that as both are private companies board meetings are not open to the public or members of council, other than the mayor who is a member of the board.

It was requested that council direct staff to obtain a written legal opinion in order to clarify issues considered by council as the shareholder, which would exempt council from the requirements of the Municipal Act which requires all meetings shall be open to the public.

Earlier this month, the Auroran had an exclusive meeting with John Sanderson, President and CEO and George Steeves,

chairman of the board, to confirm and clarify various issues that had been previously raised.

It was confirmed that council made the appointments and re-appointments to the board and that council set the annual salary and fee per meeting.

It was also confirmed that the Corporation of the Town of Aurora, or the council, is the shareholder and the taxpayers are stakeholders.

Steeves said the board of directors was responsible to Aurora Council.

Sanderson said the annual meeting, scheduled for next month, would be open to the public.

It was pointed out that the so-called public meeting held in June, 2003, developed into a two-hour private meeting with councillors and when they reported in open session, the public that had been in attendance had gone home.

Sanderson admitted that last year's meeting had been badly handled and this year's would be different without a long private session prior to the public session.

The province later provided municipalities with an option to reconfirm their desire to remain for-public or return to non-public status and council, on the advice of Hydro officials decided to remain as a for-profit utility.

The reason given at the time was that with the future of local utilities in doubt over the next few years, the assets were more valuable as a for-profit utility rather than a non-profit and would bring more on the market if sold.

Asked why more information had not been made public, Sanderson replied that the first year had been very difficult for local utilities due the constantly changing positions of the provincial government and requirements of the Ontario Energy Board.

It was pointed out that the local utility had control of less than 15 per cent of the monthly hydro bill.

Questions were also asked about the status of the proposed merger of the Aurora utility with the Newmarket utility and when council members and the public would have the opportunity to present their views.

It was pointed out that earlier in the year Aurora and Newmarket Councils had agreed to engage a consul-

tant to investigate the benefits of merging the two hydro utilities in a similar manner to the previously merged fire departments.

According to information made available at the time it appeared the decision would be made by the hydro board of directors without input from members of council or the public.

When the issue was raised in council about the \$26 million asset being discussed without input from council, councillors agreed they should be included in the

discussions, but the mayor said that wasn't necessary as he represented council and the stakeholders on the board.

Sanderson replied that wasn't the intention because as soon as the investigation is complete and there is something to report, public meetings will be held in both towns.

People interested in the local hydro utility will be able to attend the annual meeting in June and another meeting on the proposed merger at a later date.



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## Outstanding Band

The best high school band in all the land proved it again recently when they won the "Most Outstanding Band in All The Festival" award at the Atlantic Band Festival held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Led by Penny Sedore (middle) Aurora's Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School senior band outshone more than 3,000 musicians who attended the event earlier this month.

# CUPE outside workers fail to reach settlement

From page 1

Councillors and citizens arriving at the meeting were met by approximately 50 pickets carrying placards and banners marching across the entrance to the Town Hall and blocking access.

In addition to local picketers CUPE workers from neighbouring municipalities joined in the march to provide support, as other negotiations are also underway.

Details of the union's position and the town's response are not available as negotiations continue.

Council agreed to modify the hours of work for non-union employees in order to perform tasks after hours and on weekends if necessary and to provide for overtime payment as required.

Various proposals were recommended by staff in order to respond to issues that may arise as a result of the potential labour disruption.

The only recommendation that concerned some members of council was that advisory committee meetings be cancelled during a potential strike.

Both Councillors Wendy Gaertner and Nigel Kean argued that as the committees had such a late start, they should be allowed to continue.

Chief Administrative Officer Larry Allison replied that if the strike

takes place, the non-union staff will have difficulty keeping the town operating, and it could put the citizen committee members at risk of potential conflicts.

It was suggested committee meetings be moved to another municipal building or a third-party location, resulting in a response that staff may not be available and the possibility of labour conflict would follow.

When the vote was

called to endorse the staff position the vote was 3-3 with Major Tim Jones voting to support the staff recommendations.

Councillors Bill Hogg and Damir Vrancic were absent from the meeting.

Aurora has enjoyed labour peace over the years.

In April, 1998, the town and CUPE negotiated and ratified a three-year agreement terminating in March, 2001, and

another three-year contract that just expired.

The 1998 agreement included a one per cent increase on April 1 and October 1, 1998, and on January 1 of 1999, 2000 and 2001 plus certain improvements in benefits.

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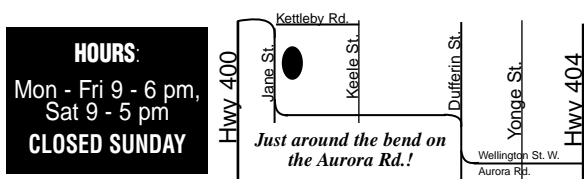
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*World's Longest Street*

**NEW THIS YEAR!!**  
Aurora Chamber  
**Music Contest**

**YONGE STREET**  
from Wellington to Murray  
Limited Booth Space Available  
905-727-7262 • 11 am to 5 pm

### SPONSORS TO DATE FOR THE STREET FESTIVAL

- Diamond Trim Classics in Aurora
- T.H. Oliver Heating & Air Conditioning
- Law Insurance Brokers Limited • Bell Canada
- Aurora Retirement Centre • White Wings Worldwide
- R.C. Sherwood Sales

Lapel buttons (\$2 each) are required for admission to the following events:

**Two climbing walls • Mist tent • Bungee run**  
**Children's bouncer • Hot air balloon**

(Sponsored by: Pilot Insurance Company)

Buttons available at The Chamber office, Seniors Centre and the Auran.

Thanks to the following for their support of Music Quest  
Aurora Lodge #148 - Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
General Automated Packaging (G.A.P)  
Kerrson Mechanical Ltd.  
Lenard Lind - L.H. Lind Realty Inc.

EVENT  
PRESENTED BY





**F: 905-727-2620**
**CLASSIFIEDS**
**T: 905-727-7128**
**\$5**  
 Advertise for  
 as little as  
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Special rates for non-commercial word ads: \$20.00 (+g.s.t.) four weeks \$15.95 two weeks (+g.s.t.) maximum 15 words (Applies to word ads only)

**\$5**  
 Advertise for  
 as little as  
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## FOR SALE

**ONE QUEEN SIZED MATTRESS/BOX SPRING** and frame. Excellent condition, good for home/cottage. Best offer. 905-751-0413

**CARPET** - I have several thousand yards of new Stainmaster and 100% Olefin carpet. I will carpet your living room & hall for \$389. Price includes carpet, pad and installation (30 square yards). Steve 905-898-0127.

**2001 TOMOS TARGA TPLX MOPED.** 2 speed automatic 8000 km. No license required. Accessories \$1750 - 905-751-1096

**MEDIUM OAK, WITH BRASS TRIM** wall unit/bookcase, 2 glass doors plus open shelves, 3 drawers, excellent condition, overall size 6' x 6' \$100.00 Call: 905-727-9344

**60 IN. ROUND GLASS** (beveled) table top \$150, 2 - solid oak bar stools \$150, jade green carpet - Dupont Stainmaster 20 x 16 \$200, 12 x 18 area rug-rose color \$200. 905-841-1033

## YOGA CLASSES

*Yoga*  
**YOGA IN AURORA**  
 Morning & Evening Classes  
 ~ Since 1978 ~  
**Andrea Roth**  
 Call: 905-888-1549  
 www.yogaforlife.ca

## MINISTER SERVICES

**WEDDING CEREMONIES**  
  
 Rev. Laura Stangret  
 Non-denominational Minister  
 905.717.1797

**GRADUATION PHOTOS SPECIAL RATES CALL CLASSIFIEDS 905-727-7128**

## MURALS

**MURALS PLAYFUL WHIMSICAL** to classical realistic. Any room in your home or office. Classically trained artist in Florence, Italy. On City Line TV - Home Day. Call Judy 905-726-8883

## FULL SERVICE PRINT

**FULL SERVICE PRINTING: FLYERS & distribution.** Do you have your own layout and design or would like it built? Competitive rates. Call Cynthia for an appointment. 905-727-7128.

*Have your message read by thousands of people every week in the*  
**AURORAN Classifieds**  
**905-727-7128**

## HELP WANTED

**DISH WASHER SUMMER STUDENT** 3-4 days per week, 4 hrs. per shift. Please fax resume 905-727-0785

## DAYCARE AVAILABLE

**AURORA-BILINGUAL**, excellent program/routine/setup. nutritious meals/snacks. CPR/FA, references, experienced. 905-726-9567

**DAYCARE LOVING EXPERIENCED** mother of 2. FA/CPR. References & receipts. F/P Time. Call Valerie 905-841-3780

## DAYCARE WANTED

**FOR 15½ MONTH OLD GIRL** your home. Pick-up & drop off required. Experienced. References. #905-726-4073

**FREE LISTING**  
 ON AURORAN GARAGE SALE MAP  
**SPRING SUMMER FALL**

**HELP WANTED BY** any off duty Central York Region Professional Fire Fighters to help serve and mingle with the ladies of Aurora who are attending the "Martini & Manicure" Party in an evening of fund raising for M.S. at "Aw Shucks". Needed June 7th between 6 and 8 PM Rick, a.k.a Mike, may apply for this position. If interested please contact Carol Farquhar at 905-727-4209 Aw Shucks at 905-727-5100 or Flowers By Terry 905-726-1549.

## CONDO FOR RENT

**GREAT LOCATION** 2-bdrm, 2-bath fully equipped. Across from beach Ft. Myers Beach Florida from \$500 US. 905-841-8965 www.captainsbay.com

## APARTMENT FOR RENT

**AURORA YONGE & WELLINGTON** 1 bedroom basement apt. Bright Modern. \$750 plus 1/2 utilities. July 1st. 905-726-4073

*It's Time!*  
 ...to put your Lawn Sale on the map again this year with Auroran Classifieds  
**(905) 727-7128**  
 Aurora Residents Only

## GRADUATION

*Special*  
  
**GRADUATION PHOTOS**  
 Publish graduation photos in the Auroran Book your spot now.  
**905-727-7128**

## UPCOMING NETWORKING GROUP MEETING



**KENNETH D. CAMPBELL MBA "THE PROFIT COACH"** ENG Canada and Kenneth Campbell are proud to present: "Goals Workshop" June 8th 8:30 - 10:30 at The Old Town Hall on Botsford

Street, Newmarket. Kenneth has an MBA with majors in Marketing and Management. His experience includes business strategies, team building, marketing, branding and sales planning. Join us for this power packed session. Entrepreneur/business owners, corporate and private visitors welcome. "Goal Cards" are FREE at ENG! Info: engcanada.ca or call 905-841-3925

## ART COURSES

**LEARN HOW TO DRAW & PAINT...** just like the Masters



- beginners to advanced
- ongoing classes
- help students prepare portfolios for college & art school
- drawing & painting techniques
- life drawing
- no artistic experience necessary

Judy studied academic painting and drawing in Florence, Italy. She has appeared on City Line TV.  
 Judy Sherman (905)726-8883 / mi.design@sympatico.ca

## DOG WALKING

**PUPS IN MOTION** professional dog walking service. Call Jessica for your consultation. 905-713-1049

## ESTATE AUCTION SALE

**ESTATE AUCTION SALE**  
**MONDAY MAY 31, 2004 - 6 p.m.**  
 KING CITY COMMUNITY CENTRE - King City, Ontario  
 Hwy 400 to King Rd. East 3 kms to First St. East of Keele St. South off King Rd.  
 Furniture, Glass, China, Artworks, Figurines, Jewelry, Lighting, Ephemera, books, Tools & Collectibles  
**PREVIEW: 5:00 p.m.** Day of Sale.  
**TERMS:** Cash or Cheque w/identification  
**AUCTIONEER DAVID BEASLEY, ICCA, CPPA**  
 Phone/Fax (905)727-6585  
 Full Details At: [www.auctionsfind.com/beasley](http://www.auctionsfind.com/beasley)  
 e-mail: cbeasley@aci.on.ca

## NOTICE

**AURORA CEMETERY CORPORATION**  
 TAKE NOTICE that The Aurora Cemetery Corporation will be Setting new Cemetery in ground Cremation Interment rates effective 1st June 2004. With the approval of the Province of Ontario in regulation with the Cemeteries Act, R.S.O. 1990 of the revised Statutes of Ontario 1990

## COMPUTER SERVICES

Providing Solutions & Remote Possibilities  
**TED ARSOVSKY**  
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 Service Solutions Sales Resolutions Troubleshooting & Training For York Region  
 Computers Digicams Printers Scanners Modems Networks Software & Hardware Upgrades  
 Free On-Site Assessment **mixer@aol.on.ca 905-841-6877** Call to Book an Appointment  
 www.modemmixer.com  
 Available Some Evenings and Weekends Also Available Evenings & Weekends

## BUSINESS SERVICES

**MBE MAIL BOXES**  
**AURORA'S BUSINESS SERVICE CENTRE**  
 • Digital Colour  
 • Courier Service  
 • Laminating & Binding  
 • Fax Service  
 • We print brochures, flyers etc.  
 14845 Yonge St. Unit 6 Aurora  
**905-713-1632**  
 Fax: 905-713-1633  
 mbe73@mbe.ca

## CLEANING SERVICE

**TRADITIONAL, METICULOUS** and trustworthy euro cleaning call Eva 905-726-8719 416-737-8795

## SUMMER SERVICES

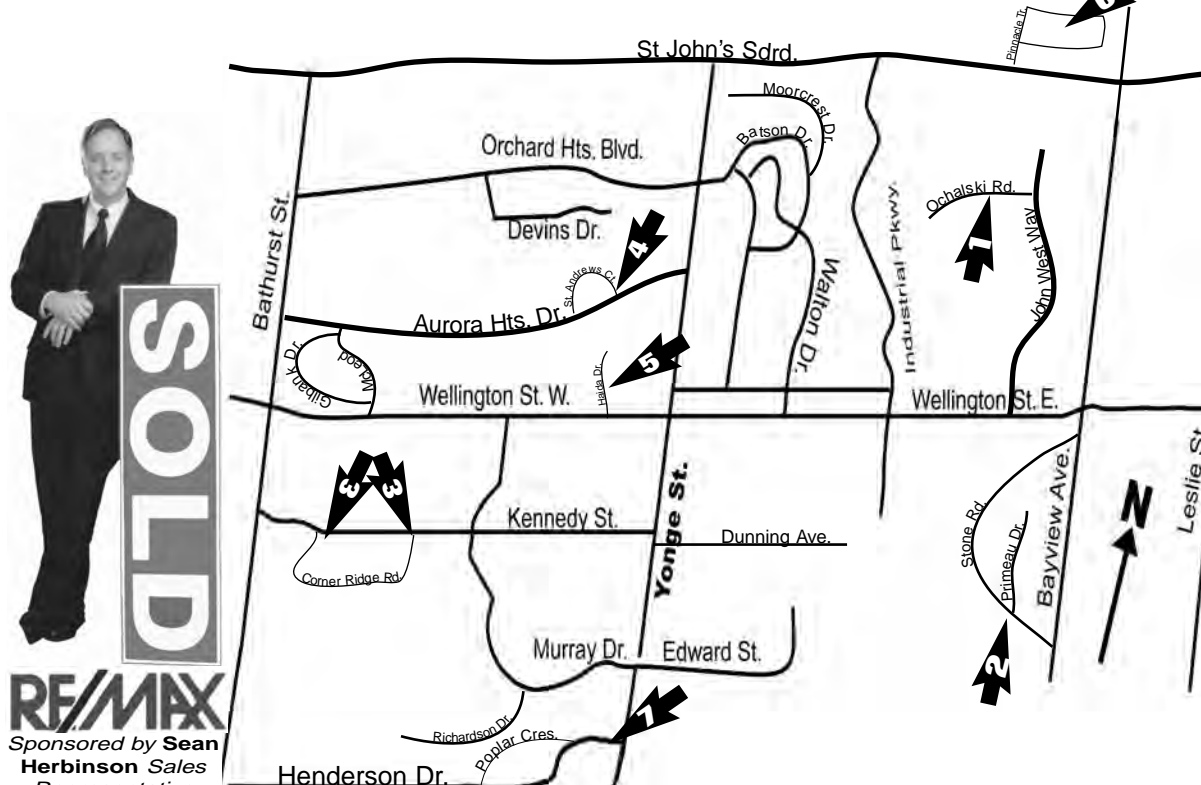
**Lawn Services**  
  
**C.L. SMALL ENGINES**  
*"Repairs to all makes and models"*  
**Gordon Davidson**  
 Bus: (905) 727-5538  
 Cell: (905) 717-7208

**Call today to book your summer services**

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**LAWN CUTTING SERVICE**  
 • Weekly Lawn maintenance  
 • Shrub and tree pruning  
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 Serving York Region  
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 From **\$49.99** A Month  
 Landscaping & Design  
 Call Eric for a free estimate  
**416.564.1781**  
 Residential & Commercial  
 www.weekendgardener.ca

*Upcoming Lawn Sales*  
**Put your lawn/garage sale on the map again this year - FREE!**  
 Call 905-727-7128 to advertise your garage sale (FREE TO AURORA RESIDENTS)



**SOLD**  
**RE/MAX**  
 Sponsored by Sean Herbinson Sales Representative  
**REMAX YORK GROUP REALTY INC.**  
**905-727-1941**  
 sean@seanherbinson.com  
*Selling homes in Aurora for more than 12 years*

- SATURDAY MAY 29TH**
- 1) 70 Ochalski Rd. @ John West Way
  - 2) (Multi-family) Primeau Dr @ Stone Rd. Rain Date 30th
  - 3) (Multi-family) 62 Corner Ridge Rd. @ Kennedy St. W.
  - 4) (Street Sale) St. Andrews Crt. @ Orchard Hts. 8am-1
  - 5) 54 Haida Dr. @ Wellington St. W. 7am - noon
  - 6) 384 Pinnacle Trail 8am - 1

**June 5 - (Rain Date June 6)**  
 7) Poplar Crescent @ Henderson Drive - Town House Complex  
 106 families



# "HURRY IN" LAST CHANCE!

## TRUCKLOAD MATTRESS

# Sale!



*Purchase any size  
Perfect Sleeper Mattress On Sale  
and get the matching  
foundation for*

**\$1** that's right  
.....a loonie



### Queen Perfect Sleeper Set

Mattress \$679.95 **NOW \$680<sup>95</sup>**  
Base \$1.00 **Reg. \$899**

**SALE ENDS MAY 31ST.**

*Free delivery, set-up and disposal  
of your old mattress set  
Even Into Cottage Country.*



Don't miss these  
**Hot buys**

on all the coolest  
La-Z-Boy styles



**hot buy**

La-Z-Boy  
Classics®  
High Leg  
Recliner

Assorted  
Fabrics

Reg. ~~\$799~~ **Now Only \$449**



**hot buy**

Reclining-Rocker®  
Chaise Recliner

Reg. ~~\$799~~ **Now Only \$549**



**hot buy**

Reclining-Rocker®  
Chaise Recliner

Reg. ~~\$999~~ **Now Only \$649**

No other **recliner**  
gives you all these  
**exclusive** features:

**The most  
reclining positions**

- 18 comfort levels
- Back & footrest recline independently

**All  
recliners  
are not  
created  
equal...**

The **one** and only  
La-Z-Boy® recliner

**Total body &  
lumbar support**  
in *all* positions



**Patented  
La-Z-Boy®  
mechanism**  
with adjustable  
reclining tension

**Strongest  
frame construction**  
for long lasting durability

**Secure  
locking footrest**  
for safety & support



**hot buy**

Leather-  
Finesse  
Reclining-  
Rest®  
Rocker  
Recliner

Reg. ~~\$1299~~ **Now Only \$699**



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Top Grain  
Leather  
Reclining-  
Rocker  
Recliner

Reg. ~~\$1499~~ **Now Only \$799**



**hot buy**

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Top Grain  
Leather  
Rocker®  
Recliner

Reg. ~~\$1599~~ **Now Only \$899**

**get into  
leather at the lowest prices ever!**

**SALES EVENT ENDS WEDNESDAY JUNE 2 AT 7:00 P.M.**

# D-mac Furniture

#1-15408 Yonge St., Aurora

**905-727-6403** toll free 1-877-663-6626

**Expert  
Delivery &  
Set-up**  
at no charge.  
Even into  
Cottage Country

### HOURS:

Mon. - Wed. 10:00 - 7:00  
Thurs. & Fri. 10:00 - 8:00  
Saturday 9:00-5:00  
Sunday 12:00-4:00

Visit Our Trade-in Dept.