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AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Vol. 4 No. 35 Week of June 22, 2004 905-727-3300

Political debate was “polite”



Newmarket-Aurora Liberal candidate Martha Hall Findlay makes a point during Wednesday’s all-candidates meeting held at the Aurora Town Hall, while Progressive Canadian candidate Dorian Baxter studies his notes in the background. More than 200 people attended the three-hour event that was termed “polite” by organizer Councillor John West. All five candidates fielded numerous questions from the audience.

Photo by Matt Haggerty

It was probably the most polite debate on record.

Aurora's federal all-candidate debate was held in the Town Hall last week and it was a much more civilized event than that displayed by the leaders on national TV the night before.

However, polite as it was, the knives were out for Conservative Party of Canada candidate Belinda Stronach from the other four candidates and the audience.

With more than 200 people in attendance from the Newmarket-Aurora riding, it was an animated and informative session that lasted nearly three hours.

Candidates in attendance in addition to Stronach were Daryl Wyatt of the Green Party; Ed Chudak of the NDP; Martha Hall Findlay of the Liberals; and Dorian Baxter of the of the Progressive Canadian Loyalist Party.

The all-candidates meeting was organized and moderated by Aurora Councillor John West.

West later noted that the meeting was very civilized as both candidates and audience showed a great deal of respect for each other.

“It was a very polite evening,” he said.

As the event got underway, West outlined the rules of procedure which included a three-minute opening statement by the candidates, questions from the audience and a two-minute closing

statements by the candidates.

Stronach fielded the bulk of the questions from the audience and took a couple of shots from her opponents, however, she seemed to keep her cool.

In his opening statement, Wyatt made reference to the leaders' debate in which the leader of the Green Party was not allowed to participate even though the party was running candidates in all 308 ridings and were at seven per cent in the polls.

He stressed the need for a new vision for Canada, one that included the environment, a more peaceful world and a better place to live.

Martha Hall Findlay provided a brief outline of her family life and career including her community volunteer activities.

She then spoke about the record of the Liberal government and how Paul Martin had bal-

anced the books and listed the promises kept, saying she was proud of the Liberal record of action.

Dorian Baxter, a minister and Elvis impersonator, said he was proud to represent the party of Sir John A. Macdonald and he was critical of Peter MacKay and others who carried out the "dastardly" act of joining with the Alliance and sold out the party for "30 pieces of silver".

He provided a brief outline of his career.

Ed Chudak spoke about his teaching career and his work with the teachers' federation and being an advocate of people.

He noted the NDP stands for publicly-funded and delivered health care, child care, post-secondary education and the compassionate role of Canada in the

Please see page 15

Briefly

Chinese delegation

The mayor and two companions from the Town of Hancunhe, China, are in Aurora this week, and a twinning of the two towns could occur.

Mayor Yu Yinghu, will be joined by a senior advisor Mr. Sun Tiaoshan and president of the Hanjian Manufacturing Group Mr. Tian Jie, and the threesome will tour several major sites in the area.

The trip will be highlighted by a reception and dinner in their honour Thursday night at Eaton Hall.

While here, the group will visit Magna International, Van Rob Stamping, Hillary House, Alutron Modules, St. Andrew's College and the York Region Board of Education headquarters on Wellington Street.

They will also walk through Aurora's historical downtown core.

Hancunhe is a model village, located about 45 kilometres from Beijing.

Currently, Aurora is twinned with Leksand, Sweden, but there's no law restricting community twinning to one location, Mayor Tim Jones said.

Time's running out

You'll need to hurry if you still want to be part of Theatre Aurora's "Li'l Abner", the hilarious hillbilly musical that will be performed in November.

Only two audition dates remain: June 23 and 24 at The Factory Theatre on Henderson Drive.

The theatre is looking for all ages, teens and up. Book an appointment by calling 905-830-9227.

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Aurora Optimists hold 1st official function at Village

By RON WALLACE

It seemed only fitting.

The Aurora Optimist club, the organization that breathed life into the soon-to-be-opened Community Safety Village (CSV), held the first official function at the site Thursday night.

Auroran
photographer
tours the site.
See page 10

Their venue, the community room of the Village's 10,000 square-foot main building, had few walls, no windows and was equipped with a temporary lighting system.

Never mind. It was an honour for those in attendance to be part of the historic moment, as the Optimists hosted their annual "Respect For The Law" dinner.

The meal was catered, there was no alcohol, and if you wanted to eat, you served yourself.

But the moment was electric.

From the building that will become the Village's main education centre, one could look to the

rear and see the miniature community that will become a hands-on learning centre for thousands of York Region students...probably this September.

The train station, church, school, and a clutch of businesses dot the half dozen streets of the new village. There's even a hydro-electric tower that will have a kite attached to it.

Soon miniature cars will be driven by miniature people as students learn the many aspects of safety, and deal with everyday perils.

Please see page 15

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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.

During the month of June the Skylight Gallery in the Aurora Town Hall will feature the artwork of Nancy Newman. Regular viewing hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Reception from 7 to 9 p.m. on June 15th.

JUNE 25

Mayor's Blood Donor Clinic, Aurora Town Hall.

From 7 to 9 p.m. at the Family Leisure Complex you can learn how to make boating safer. Bring the whole family to see the educational booths, get loot bags and have fun. For more information call 905-727-3123 extension 3123.

JUNE 26

It's Litter Pick-Up Day in Aurora. On April 24th the first of four litter pick-up days, volunteers picked up 2.7 tons of litter and roadside debris. Info Aurora is assisting the town and assigning residents to "hot-spot" areas. Call 905-727-3123 extension 4104 for details. Garbage bags and gloves are available.

JUNE 28

Vote today.

JUNE 29

Join the CHATS Adult Day Program as they celebrate Canada Day with a program of activities and special events at the Presbyterian Church at 11:30 a.m.

A public information meeting regarding the proposed Hydro corridor expansion will be held at the town council at 7 p.m. Attend and find out the details and the possible impact on the community.

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

Join the Yellow Brick House Charity Golf Tournament at Silver Lakes Golf and Country Club for a day of golf, lunch, cocktails, dinner and an auction. For information call Lisa at 905-727-0930.

JUNE 30

Dance In The Park (Canada Day celebrations). 7 p.m. to midnight. Town Park. Features music by the Fab Four, a tribute to the Beatles.

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 6

Hike north Aurora parks and the Nokiida Trail. 9 km, slow pace, 3 1/2 hours. Meet at the car park on Yonge St. adjoining Aurora United Church, one block S of Wellington St. For further information, call Stan Butcher 905-773-3960.

JULY 7

Concert In The Park: The Robert Davis Snapping Toes Family Music Show. Town Park, 7-9 p.m. weather permitting.

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 10

Join the run to help Rebecca in the third annual Rebecca Run for Spinal Muscular Atrophy at Fairy Lake in Newmarket. This event has raised \$175,000 in two years and organizers hope to go past the \$250,000 mark this year. Rebecca is the 4-year-old daughter of long-time Aurora residents Adrienne and Piep van Fraassen. More information can be obtained at www.rebeccarun.com.

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.

Garden Tour, hosted by the Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society. Visit nine gardens between noon and 5 p.m., including a zen retreat, a Trumpeter Swan habitat and traditional perennial gardens. Tickets, at \$10, available at Black Forest Nurseries, Flowers By Terry, and Mary's Flower Shop.

JULY 14

Concert In The Park: The Toronto All-Star Big Band. Town Park. 7-9 p.m. weather permitting.

JULY 14 and 21

Enjoy tea on the verandah of Hillary House with family and friends from 2 to 4 p.m. The cost is \$5 which includes a tour of the house. No reservations required. If the weather doesn't cooperate tea will be served in the ballroom. Also on August 11 and 18.

JULY 21

Concert In The Park: Chicago Tribute Band. Town Park. 7-9 p.m. weather permitting.

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.

JULY 28

Concert In The Park: Dick Smith and Syncona. Town Park. 7-9 p.m. weather permitting.

AUGUST 4

Concert In The Park: Erick Traplin, children's entertainer. Town Park 7-9 p.m. weather permitting.

AUGUST 11

Concert In The Park: Bennie & The Jets. Town Park 7-9 p.m. weather permitting.

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.

SEPTEMBER 8-16

It's an East Coast Adventure for Aurora Seniors where they visit interesting sites in Halifax, Lunenburg, Peggy's Cove, Cabot Trail and the Bay of Fundy. Call the Seniors' Centre for details at 905-727-2816.

OCTOBER 20

Aurora Seniors head to the Stratford Festival to see the Cole Porter musical "Anything Goes". Lunch at the Walper Terrace Hotel. Depart the Aurora Community Centre at 9 a.m. returning about 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$93 for members, \$98 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.

Advertisement



Wendy Gaertner, Aurora Town Councillor and organizer of HOT SPOT Youth Club and Colin Temple, Manager of HOT SPOT, left, congratulate Perry Kereakou on his wonderful new Bingo facility. "We thank Perry for keeping Bingo alive in Aurora. We wouldn't be able to operate our Friday night social evenings without the money we make from our Bingos. Many of our local charities and non-profit organizations also depend on these Bingo funds."

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"Building a reputation on service"



It was easy to see why Bill Davis was a popular Ontario Premier some years ago when he and Conservative Party of Canada Newmarket-Aurora candidate Belinda Stronach visited Aurora Resthaven Nursing Home last week. Without fanfare or hoop-la, the pair arrived at the Home and spent an hour talking to staff and residents. Many people remembered when Davis was premier, and one even asked if he was the son of the former premier. In the top photo the pair field questions from resident Dorothy Moore. Below, Mr. Davis and Ms Stronach speak with Resthaven employee Liz Zinn.

Auroran photos by Ron Wallace

Collis plant blamed for creek pollution

Is Collis Leather, out of business for more than a decade, responsible for polluting Tannery Creek?

Collis Leather operated a tannery on Tyler Street from 1910 to 1988.

While a report suggests Collis is the culprit, current owners of the building don't agree, and point out there have been numerous tanneries dumping into the water over the years.

A town staff report noted that in a typical tanning operation, hides were pickled in salt and sulfuric acid then soaked in a solution of chromium salt.

The principal concern was the use of chromium salt. To ascertain impacts the operation may have had, or continue to have, on the creek, a sampling of surface water and sediment was taken.

Earth Tech Canada, the consultant, took samples upstream and downstream from Collis in an effort to isolate effects from the plant.

But results were inconclusive.

The two surface water Please see page 13

Town extends Kennel Inn contract one more year

In spite of a detailed brief and a presentation by the Aurora Residents Pet Care Association, Aurora general committee endorsed a staff recommendation approving a one year contract extension with Kennel Inn for animal control services at a cost of \$105,000.

In addition the committee directed staff to pursue the option of a joint venture with neighbouring municipalities for a municipally operated animal control service and pound.

Representing the Pet Care Association, Carol Merrick expressed concern about the report. She said in December the association voiced their concerns regarding conditions of the Animal Control Centre as well as the need for the issue to be resolved.

She pointed out that after reading the staff report, association members were disappointed in the lack of action addressing concerns of the residents regarding the continued use of the facility.

Councillor Bill Hogg asked for background information on the group, including numbers of members.

Merrick said the association had been formed more than a year ago and the membership was close to 100.

It was noted animal control was comprised of two operational components; the enforcement section to apprehend stray dogs or cats and to

Please see page 13

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Poor Richard

Councillors need to take control

*Councillors do the strangest things,
Their wonders to perform;
Some decisions are questionable,
Causing taxpayers to storm!*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

After almost 40 years of participating in and observing municipal council meetings, I still have trouble sometimes trying to understand why and how municipal councils make their decisions.

Decisions are often hard to come by, but in the broadest sense, before making a decision there should be considerable planning and forethought given to the project before deciding to do something.

That includes reviewing all available information, especially in terms of money, time and human and physical resources.

For example if a member of council was required to decide whether to take a holiday in Europe or buy a new car, the first step would normally be to examine your finances and make a decision as to which one you prefer.

Once you have done this, you visit an automotive dealer or a travel agent.

It's called planning. Finances should come first, not after the decision.

But in two recent cases, the new recreational complex and the seniors centre, a commitment was made to the seniors and to ice and pool users, without having a clear idea of how they were going to pay for them.

Tenders have yet to be called but the estimated cost of the rec complex is \$22 million and \$3.6 million for the seniors' centre.

In order to meet some of the costs from future development charges, the town is required to grow by about 400 new homes a year for the foreseeable future.

This is in spite of commitments made by several councillors during the last municipal election that they wanted to bring rapid growth under control.

It is now known that the new rec centre will add about \$54 to the annual tax bill for the average homeowner.

The fiscal impact of the seniors centre on the tax bill has not yet been determined.

The strange part of this scenario is that the seniors didn't ask for a new one-storey 14,000 square foot facility.

They were quite happy with council's decision to renovate the former library for them at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million.

Then out of the blue and without any discussion in open council the seniors were offered three options; move into the old library as previously approved, demolish the library and seniors centre to erect a seniors' public/private apartment building on the site with the seniors using the first floor and the basement as a centre, or have their own building on another site.

Naturally, they indicated their desire for their own building.

But all this came about without any discussion in open council before it had been discussed with the seniors and they had expressed their wishes.

Much of the blame for this rests with members of council as in many cases they have abdicated their elected responsibilities and merely rubber stamp staff recommendations.

Elected councillors are supposed to debate and set policy for the municipality and appointed staff is expected to administer those policies.

Somewhere along the way the line between policy and administration has become blurred.

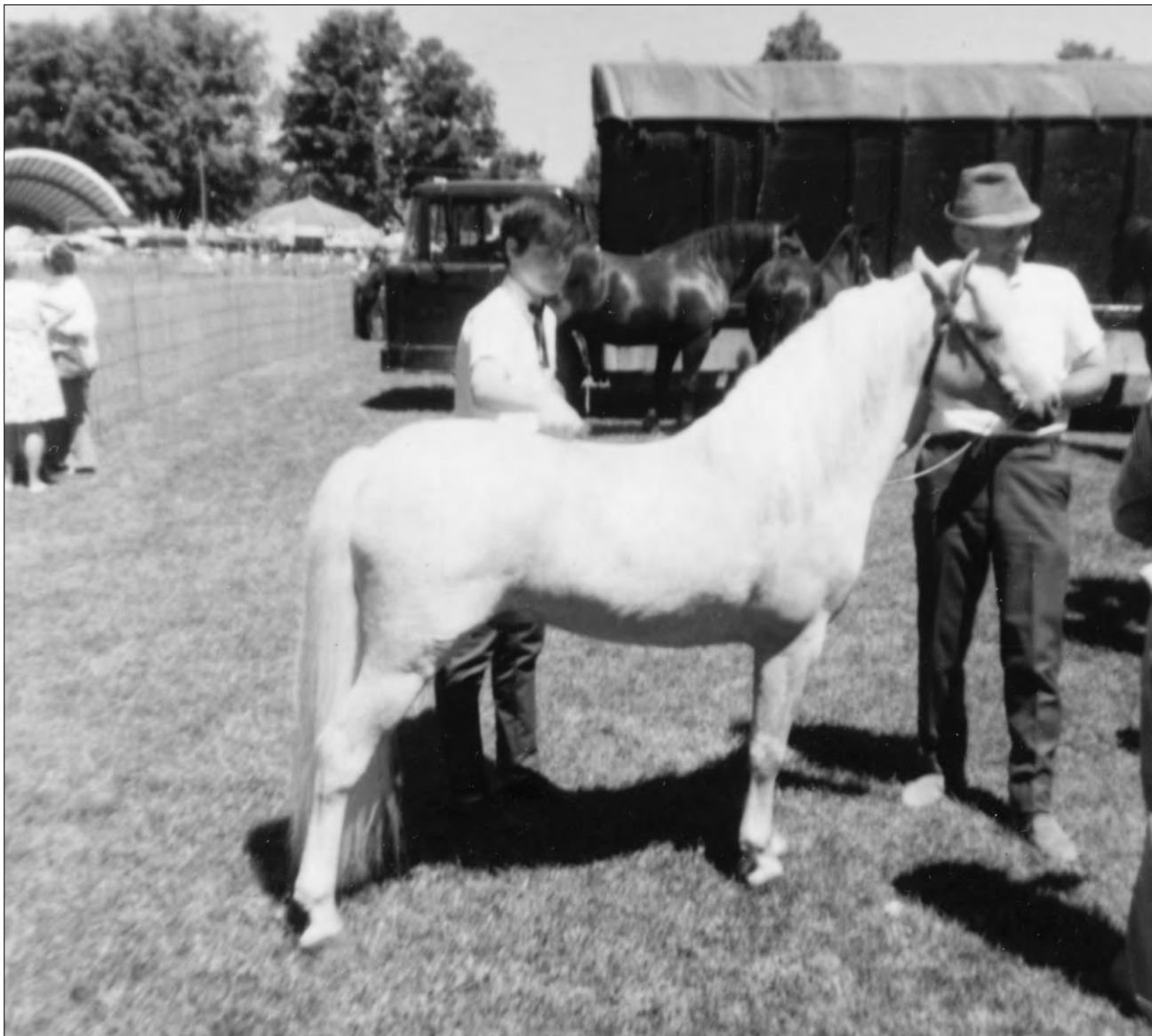
Staff are assuming more and more control over the actions of council, as councillors continue to refer issues to staff for a report rather than carrying out any investigations of their own.

They seem to have forgotten that they are elected to represent the public interest, and that staff are appointed by council to carry out council directives, not the other way around.

In most cases you can't blame the staff as they are merely doing what council directed, although at times they may go too far and make commitments without council's knowledge or consent.

If order is ever to come to council, councillors must learn to take control, ask more questions, learn more about what the people want, and take action accordingly.

It's called democracy!



There was a time when the Armstrong family was synonymous with the Aurora Horse Show. Elton Armstrong was president of the event from 1935 to 1945, his son William held that post in 1975 and 1976 and his son Munro, was president for 10 years, from 1983 to 1993. William and Munro are seen in the above photograph, taken in 1970, the last year the event was held in the Town Park. Note the old bandshell in the background. The Horse Show was moved to Macell Park and has been there ever since.

Letters to the Editor

Street Festival chairman praises workers, sponsors

To the editor,

Re: Street Festival Best Ever!!!!

The weather was perfect for the 9th annual Aurora Chamber of Commerce Street Festival on Sunday, June 6th.

A year of planning and organizing ended with estimates of crowds as high as 40,000.

Everyone enjoyed the sights and sounds of over 600 vendors and entertainers.

I would like to thank The Auroran for the wonderful coverage of this event and our sponsors ACI-Aurora Cable Internet, Aurora Lodge #148, Aurora Retirement Centre, Bell Canada, Bell Financial, Diamond Trim Classics, General Automated Packaging, Howard Johnson Hotel, Kerrson Mechanical Ltd., Law Insurance Brokers Ltd., Lenard Lind - L.H. Lind

Realty Inc, Sylvan Learning Centre and T.H. Oliver Heating and Air Conditioning.

We would be remiss not to acknowledge the businesses that provided assistance and help the day of the festival: Aurora Esso Centre, Aurora Home Hardware, Aurora Toyota, Aurora True Value, Graystone's Restaurant and Lounge; Hallmark Cards, Maria Sweets, R.C. Sherwood Sales, Royal Woodworking, and Sigma Promotions.

Thank you also to the many dedicated Block Captains who arrived on Yonge Street in the early morning to mark out the booth spaces and to direct the vendors, together with the Town of Aurora staff, for their continued support of the festival.

Special thanks to the veterans who opened the festival, by releasing 60 white doves to mark the

60th anniversary of D-Day. Your words were emotional and reminded us that freedom is very precious.

Valuable committee members were Gary Nolan (Diamond Trim Classics), Larry Allison (Town of Aurora), Brenda Snape (Type by Design), Debbie Scott (Aurora Retirement Centre), Kate MacLean (Jersey's Bar and Grill), Jim Beechy (Beechtree Marketing), Jim Patterson (Burger King), Tom Beck (Hartwell Thayer Financial Services Group), Ron Wallace (Auroran Newspaper) and Brian North (Ellis Studios). Your advice and guidance made the festival the success it was.

And a special thank you to Rosalyn, Mary Lynn and Kathy, Aurora Chamber staff.

You cannot imagine the amount of work they put into the organizing and execution of the festival.

We are already well underway planning some special and exciting events to celebrate our 10th Anniversary in 2005.

**Kimberley Kerr,
Chairperson
Aurora Chamber of
Commerce
Street Festival
Committee**

**Chris Armstrong
Aurora**

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Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

Hydro line public meeting June 29

Recently, the issue of electricity took a new turn for some residents of Aurora with a proposal from Hydro One to supplement the hydro transmission lines through the existing hydro corridor in Aurora.

With all the growth in our Region, the need to supplement the power supply has become a real issue.

Without additional power, existing development at this time may suffer brownouts as early as 2006 or 2007, according to Hydro if not upgraded.

This also translates to power for both new residential as well as for new industry and business.

On Tuesday, April 20th, John Sanderson, President of Aurora Hydro, and Gary Schneider of Hydro One appeared as a delegation to General Committee of Council updating Council on options for future growth regarding the proposed reliable transmission supply to northern York Region.

Mr. Schneider indicated that it was early in the process and that Open Houses would be held in order to receive public input.

He indicated that the Open House pertaining to the Aurora/Newmarket area was to be held in Newmarket April 29, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

At that time I moved and Councillor Morris seconded that the comments be received.

The issue came back to our attention after a Town of Markham Council meeting where Hydro One plans to enhance the corridor through that municipality resulted in a large resident turnout who were opposed to the increase in both the tower size and quantity through their existing corridor as well as the increase in power transmitted through the lines.

Issues included the aesthetic intrusion in the area of the corridor, effects on property values and the increase in potential electromagnetic transmissions from the new lines.

At the General Committee meeting of Council held Tuesday, June 1st, following the outcome of the Markham meeting and calls and e-mails received by members of Council on this issue, I requested that council initiate a Public Meeting through our Aurora Hydro Company, to be facilitated by Hydro One, and open to all residents of our Town as well as members of Council so that we could hear first hand about what the plans were for this expansion and be able to ask questions about any concerns and options that existed.

At that time Councillor Morris also made council aware of a constituent meeting she had planned with some residents who had contacted her in the Town Hall cafeteria for June 10th.

At the Aurora Street Festival on June 6th, representatives of concerned residents in both Markham and Aurora canvassed the people at the Festival making them aware of the meeting Councillor Morris had arranged, and, quite quickly this meeting went from 10 to 20 residents to over several hundred.

This meeting, scheduled for June 10th, was switched to the Council Chambers.

Many points were covered on June 10th, unfortunately several members of council, including myself, were unable to attend given other commitments, but also knowing that there was going to be the Public Meeting authorized by Council on the 29th of June at the Town Hall.

I have asked for a synopsis of the points raised at this meeting so that we can ask that Hydro One address these issues on the 29th and hopefully move further along with an outcome.

Depending on what transpires at this public meeting on June 29th, council, whose next meeting after the 29th is on July 13th, can determine how they wish to deal with this.

In the meantime, I have asked the Mayor of Markham to keep me up to speed with how they are dealing with this should it be to our mutual

advantage to follow up together.

With appreciation to the emotions that are out there and the different levels of understanding of what this project entails, once members of council have all had the opportunity to objectively hear from all sides and to understand the options that are out there, we can discuss our approach to this issue.

My understanding is that a decision on the route by Hydro One is not to be made until the Fall, which gives council time to understand and develop its approach.

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



Cathy's Corner



Life is made of moments

Over the past year, writing a weekly column has made me realize that life truly is made of moments.

I like to think of this column as a Special Moment, because it's my 50th!

In an effort to celebrate this Special Moment, I printed off all 49 published columns and put them into a binder.

Apparently, the festivities will not include fireworks, the Tarzan call, or breakfast in bed.

The binder looks like it would hold The Complete Works of Shakespeare. The trouble is, it also looks like it doesn't.

I am, therefore, forced to continue crystallizing moments in black and white, and thankfully, there are millions and millions and...here's a sample:

Nostalgic Moments: When getting knocked into next week by a safety bar at the top of a slide that you shouldn't be on (because you're over 30) just before you ram your spine another six mm into your brain seems like "the good old days".

Proud Moments: Telling a Nostalgic Moments story like it was a good thing and leaving out the part about where the surgeon found your tail bone.

Humble Moments: When a two-year-old tells you you're too big for the slide.

Stupid Moments: When you take out the blue box on the way out of the driveway ... then take out the roller blades, the power washer and the sprinkler on the way in. Also known as "a bad day".

Smart Moments: Putting the blue box on your husband's side of the driveway.

Awestruck Moments: When your children teach you amazing things you thought you didn't know, and when you ask them where they learned that, they say: "From you."

Boring Moments: These are extended moments, commonly a couple of hours in a doctor's office. Occasionally, children can turn these into Embarrassing Moments by point-

ing directly at the young man with long hair and an earring, and asking in a very loud voice: "Mommy, is that a boy or a girl?"

Macedonian Moments: When your Macedonian aunt tells your other Macedonian aunt how creative you are for baking cookies in the shape of little bones. You try to stop her, really you do. But you just don't tell your aunt that they are dog biscuits right after she eats one because...well, it's just too late.

Kodak Moments: When you manage to get a rare picture of your daughter shooting whipped cream into her dad's mouth...right before you get a rarer picture of dad shooting whipped cream into his own mouth...and missing.

Private Moments: When the pictures are not for sale.

Tender Moments: When your honey brings you fresh coffee and The Auroran on a Tuesday morning.

Courageous Moments: Claiming "Barbie" as a dependent on your tax return.

Serious Moments: When you stay up all night writing an essay, and your boyfriend stays up all night typing it for you, and in the morning, he decides to go to work and you decide to marry him.

Nervous Moments: Asking him to marry you as he's pulling out of the driveway.

At the end of our lives, we will not remember entire days, much less weeks, months or years.

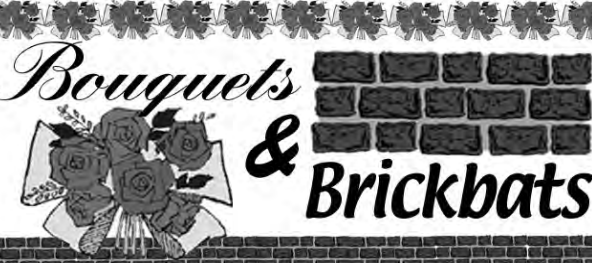
We will remember single moments - moments that imprint themselves on our hearts, minds and souls.

We will bookmark moments that we know with unshakable certainty, altered the course of our lives, and moments we will forever wish we had allowed to do so.

Because life really is made of moments.


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


6 - AURORAN, Week of June 22, 2004





Bouquets & Brickbats


By DICK ILLINGWORTH


 Belated BOUQUETS to the Aurora Master Ducks Swim Team on being named the second best Masters Swim Team in Canada, with only the home team from Edmonton ahead of the Aurora swimmers who battled 86 teams to win second spot.


 BRICKBATS to those on the Aurora Historical Committee for publishing a Town of Aurora Historical Walking Tour Map and omitting Aurora's oldest house. It's the Red House, now Oakland Hall Inn, on North Yonge Street.


 BOUQUETS to the Aurora Novice Diggers for bringing home a Silver Medal, after playing seven tough games in Cobourg. They played Whitby in the final game and lost by a score of 7-2 to take second place.


 BRICKBATS to young men, who should know better, who take a young lady to a nice restaurant for a Sunday brunch and sit there wearing a baseball cap during the meal. What an insult to the young lady. Men wearing hats in restaurants should be banned like cell phones!

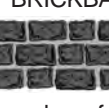
 BOUQUETS to the Aurora Soccer Club on the celebration of their 50th anniversary on July 17, 2004. The celebration will take place at Highland Park on the Industrial Parkway South and more than 300 members and former members are expected to attend.


 BRICKBATS to those responsible for preparing the town's notice board. A recent item regarding the Aurora Arts and Culture Fund advised that the deadline for applications was June 18, 2004 with decisions to be made by July 30, 2005, and awards presented in the Fall of 2004. The 2005 date was later corrected to read 2004.

 BOUQUETS to Queen Elizabeth on her 78th birthday, which she celebrated on June 12th, with a grand show of royal pageantry. Her real birthday was April 21st, but her birthday is always celebrated on a Saturday in June.

 BRICKBATS to those at the town hall for spending considerable time developing a communications plan and then not clearly communicating with ice user groups and imposing a \$20 per hour surcharge to help pay for the new rec complex after the ice users had started to register at the previous rate. Bouquets to council for deferring the charge until next year, rather than changing horses in mid-stream.

 BOUQUETS to Councillor John West for organizing and hosting an all - candidate meeting for federal and provincial elections over the years in the council chambers of the Town Hall since 1993. In May, 1997, the town's administration committee recommended the town's policy of charging for the use of the council chambers be upheld. It was defeated on a 5-3 vote after a lengthy debate.

 BRICKBATS to Aurora Council for attempting to override the Municipal Act with the town's procedural bylaw. The legislation is quite clear that the mayor, or a committee chair, as a member of council is required to vote on all issues. Failing to do so is a negative vote. Why does council keep insisting that the only time the mayor votes is to break a tie? The people have a right to know where the mayor stands on issues. What's there to hide?

 BOUQUETS to Gaetan Triggiani's Grade 11 class from Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary School for the honourable mention the class received from the Office of Francophone Affairs and the Commissioner of Official Languages. The students created a website titled "Aurora, une communauté francophone en emergence".

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Letters to the Editor

Council succeeds with tough decision

To the editor,

Recently, Aurora Town Council agreed to allocate funds to the proposed building of a new Aurora Seniors Centre, a development estimated to cost 3.6 million dollars.

Seniors' affairs have long been a backwater of community initiatives.

However, with Aurora's population of seniors growing in number and vitality, a new senior organization of vigour has emerged, bent on being recognized, and promises made to the senior community long ago, are merging with newly recognized opportunities of

site and development funds.

A new spirit has seized council that will not be denied, resulting in new funding to a segment of our Town's community long overlooked.

Council debated long over this matter, including excellent commentary, interposed with posturing and the inevitable clashes with councillors wanting to talk interminably, instead of voting on motions when called.

Ultimately, council has succeeded in accomplishing a difficult task, and I praise them for their individual wisdom, and for their collective wisdom as a

council.

The money they have allocated, while substantial, is well within the realm of affordability, while in my view, the opportunities they are in the process of creating for today's seniors and for generations of seniors to come, appear to me to be of the highest order.

The value that this development contributes to seniors is very much a value of opportunity, and time and the seniors' spirited pursuit and development of opportunity will loom ever increasingly in importance.

Fifty-five is the age which qualifies those who live in and around Aurora to join the seniors' centre, and the idea of lowering that age to 50 is gaining interest.

A flaw in the original estimate of cost of construction escaped detection and was presented to council.

Council accepted the estimate in good faith, and employed it to allocate funds.

This permitted the project to proceed, only to be confounded subsequently,

when it was discovered that the estimate failed to account for a commercial kitchen, which is required by our very own health department, and either a sprinkler system or reinforced asphalt to accommodate fire trucks, required by our fire department.

Finding a way to get any project moving is highly commendable, but costs, which should be recognized easily with basic expertise in planning, but not incorporated into a crucial estimate, are valid grounds for councillors to complain.

And to add further insult to the whole process, the soil tests on the building site, proved to be inadequate, and costly to remedy.

Council has the power to identify and correct any weakness, in the methods and systems employed to estimate and arrive at any of its projected costs, and I hope this exercise in frustration will produce a healthier way of conducting public affairs in the future.

**Bryan Warburton
Aurora**

Contributions appreciated

To the editor,

On Saturday, June 5th, The Friends of Saxxen Walk-a-Thon was held at Regency Acres Public School.

The walk-a-thon was held in support of a young boy who had suffered 3rd degree burns to a large portion of his upper body in an accident on Tuesday, May 4th.

A number of students, staff and friends from the community attended the walk-a-thon.

They had collected sponsors door-to-door and the donations and support they received was fabulous.

Many businesses also contributed with donations, food and prizes. Their support is greatly appreciated.

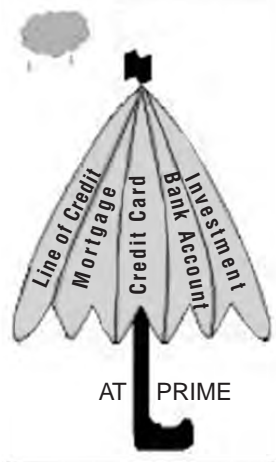
All the donations will be going to support Saxxen and his family and the many expenses they will incur.

To all of those whose efforts made this Walk-a-

Thon a tremendous success we would like to extend our heartfelt thank you!


**Friends of Saxxen
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Letters to the Editor

More silly stuff...

To the editor,

In October I wrote a letter to the editor who was kind enough to publish same.

I'm told it was the longest such letter published, although only five items were noted.

The results now of the five items are as follows:

1. There has been no reconsideration of the Liberal party leadership convention. Since that non-event and ascension of Mr. Martin, the

situation has resulted in more "silly stiff".

- a minority government is forecast;

- a quarter million dollar scandal has been discovered;

- Mr. Martin as Prime Minister from October to June, has not done anything and is having trouble defending "non-action".

Silly Stuff.

2. The Premier of Ontario won a majority government and then shot his foot off by raising taxes - something he

pledged not to do.

Silly Stuff.

3. Greg Sorbara, before the provincial election acting in a "holier than thou" manner called for investigation of the Aylmer meat situation and the resignation of several ministers because of the tainted meat. On being elected Mr. Sorbara claimed "no comment" because of the on-going police investigation of the tainted meat. Or was he so quiet because of his problems with the Ontario Securities Commission investigation and his role in a public company? And he forgot to tell Dalton?

Silly Stuff.

4. The provincial Liberals were going to cease "privatization" of hydro, according to their election propaganda. Last week they set up a new agency to determine hydro needs - public and/or private. The agency is to have no political interference - except how will the Liberal party get bodies to fill the positions in the agency?

More Silly Stuff.

5. We'll have to wait to see the outcome of Aurora Hydro - the company with one shareholder - namely the Town of Aurora.

Silly Stuff.

D. H. Peirce
Aurora

This 1947 Buick was one of several vintage Buicks on display during Aurora's Ninth Annual Street Festival held recently. Former Aurora resident Keith Horsfall was impressed by the event and is looking forward to next year's 10th anniversary, he says in a letter below.

Street Festival crowd, activity wows visitors

To the editor,

We awoke to a cool sunny day in Alliston and left early for our drive into our previous home town, Aurora, where for the past nine years Yonge Street has been closed to vehicular traffic from Murray Drive to Wellington Street while vendors line the curbs and people fill the street.

For the past five years, Diamond Trim in Aurora has sponsored a car show in conjunction with the street festival, usually attracting 100 cars of various years and interest, some restored, some customs and some modified.

Diamond enlists the help of the Aurora Classic and Custom Car Club to make sure the car show is a success.

This club holds a cruise-in in the Canadian Tire parking lot on Sunday evenings and all are welcome.

By the time we arrived in Aurora, it was cloudy and still cool, however the mood was hot and fun was to be had, along with lots of food and other items on vendors' tables.

We lined up in our assigned spot, close to Murray Drive, and managed to save two spots for our friends, Hugh Schedlich with his 1965 Riviera and Linda Smith with her 1973 Riviera (Linda was also vending in the street sale).

After visiting for a while, Wendy and I set off to judge the cars then wandered up and down Yonge Street visiting along the way.

More than 40,000 people showed up to enjoy this annual event and

the numbers have been steadily increasing over the years.

All the vending spots had been sold, however, the possibility of rain scared some of them away.

There was live entertainment at various spots up and down Yonge Street, including a pretty good Elvis impersonator.

Two fearless people strolled up and down the street on very high stilts, having fun with kids and adults alike.

At the close of the car show, awards were given out as a result of car owners' voting, a beautiful 1957 Chevrolet picked up 1st place, a red Corvette, 2nd, and a 1956 Lincoln 3rd, all in all a great show.

Oh yes, the owners also participated in a draw for gifts donated by various sponsors, mainly Diamond Trim.

Next year's event will be the 10th anniversary. I suspect the organizers of this fantastic day will have some surprises up their sleeves.

Congratulations to the tireless people who put long hard hours into setting this event up and making sure everyone has a good time.

Keith Horsfall
Alliston



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Do you have an investment portfolio or a collection of what used to be good ideas?

To the editor,

If federal politicians involved in the election campaign are truly committed to improving health care in this country, they should be addressing a serious disease that costs Canada more than \$10 billion a year in health care costs, absenteeism and lost productivity.

The disease is diabetes. Juvenile, or Type 1 diabetes, is the most severe form of diabetes as it strikes infants, children, and young adults.

It has affected our family's life.

Our 16-year-old son has had Type 1 diabetes since age 6, and he has to take insulin to survive.

He is at risk of developing devastating complications which include: blindness, end-stage kidney disease, nerve damage, heart attack, stroke, amputation and even death.

There is no cure but Canadian researchers have made tremendous advances towards a potential cure.

We are world-leaders in this area but the lack of federal funding for Type 1 diabetes research programs has held us back.

Take a look at the United States - it recently committed \$750 million to funding Type 1 research. Yet the Canadian government has all but ignored this important research area.

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), the world's largest non-profit, non-governmental funder and advocate of diabetes research, is helping fund researchers.

Its commitment in Canada over the past few years has been more than

\$75 million.

It is time for the federal government to provide funding for cutting-edge research that is needed to find a cure for this life-threatening disease.

We ask all candidates during this election campaign to answer this question: If elected, what actions will you and your party take to increase federal research funds for Juvenile (Type 1) diabetes?

If you really care about health care - step up to this challenge.

Jim and Corey Jackson
Aurora



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Letters to the Editor

Neighbourhood noise goes on continuously

To the editor,

Various neighbours on Kennedy Street West have had to endure the daily construction noise at 200 Kennedy Street West, which has been going on now for close to two years as the people living there have undertaken a massive landscaping project.

This is in addition to another

year and a half it took to build the house there.

This noise goes on daily, with loud saws cutting through rock, and bobcats, which seem to run continuously for 12 hours a day, six days a week - winter and summer!

As a result, for the third summer now, we are unable to use our backyards, and enjoy a reasonable quality

of life as a result of the noise.

There is continual dust, and, as a result, the various neighbours are unable to open windows.

The noise is so loud that we are even unable to enjoy peace and quiet inside our homes.

Today, for instance, is a beautiful Saturday.

Once again, we are unable

to enjoy our backyard as a result of the noise.

It is 6:45 in the evening now, and we are unable to enjoy a quiet evening as the noise continues.

The matter has been raised over the past year with local bylaw officers and town councillors.

Although quite sympathetic, however, as the construction is taking place during

permitted hours there is nothing they can do.

Upon querying the town councillors about changing the bylaws to prohibit such long and noisy construction periods in built up residential areas, there was a reluctance to change the bylaws, as, according to them, this would set a bad precedent for any developers coming to town.

So, in other words, the town is more concerned about keeping the needs of developers happy than the

needs of its residents.

As a result, we have no alternative other than to launch a costly and lengthy law suit should we wish the noise to be stopped.

The town should seriously consider changing bylaws to prohibit neighbours so inconsiderate such as this which allow construction projects to go on for close to two years (and who knows how much longer?)

Berend Koopmans
Aurora

Election is about trust, reader says

To the editor,

It's all about trust.

I am surprised that many people in Newmarket-Aurora are still unaware that Liberal candidate Martha Hall Findlay is a parachute candidate from Collingwood.

I attended the candidates' debate in Aurora and was appalled that she skirted

around a question about her contributions to the community, a question asked by a former Citizen of the Year in Aurora.

She spoke about the Couchiching Institute and other organizations...none of which are in our riding!

She is apparently renting in Newmarket and has contributed and volunteered nothing to Newmarket and

Aurora.

Just like the Liberal Party, she needs to come clean and stop beating around the bush.

On the other hand, Dorian Baxter is claiming on his signs and literature and in his speeches that he represents the Progressive Conservative Party.

He is obviously doing this to create controversy and

draw attention to himself to promote his church.

He is making a mockery of Elections Canada and our whole elections process.

Dorian, a Minister of the Cloth needs to tell the truth.

He represents the Progressive Canadian Party as confirmed by Elections Canada.

Just so you're clear, Dorian, Belinda Stronach is the Conservative candidate in our riding.

This display by these two candidates as they attempt to mislead the voters of this great riding is disgusting.

This election is all about trust.

I urge my neighbours to consider the truth before casting your ballot June 28th.

Steve Hinder
Aurora

Candidate chose Newmarket twice

To the editor,

I would like to address a number of questions about where I live.

I live in Newmarket.

I was not born there.

I actively chose to be there - twice.

I first moved to Newmarket 20 years ago, with two small children and a third to come.

Our first house was on Hamilton Street, just south of Gorham.

This is, therefore, the second time I have chosen Newmarket as a place to live, something which I think speaks volumes about my commitment to the community.

The important qualifications for an MP are not where one is born, but how well and how effectively your choice can represent you in Ottawa.

I have lived and worked in other parts of Canada, too, including Alberta, and abroad - experiences that will make me all the more effective as the MP for this riding.

Most recently I have lived in Collingwood because of my children's involvement in competitive ski racing which is headquartered there.

I am proud to be regarded by the Liberal party as a 'star' candidate; encouraged to run here because of my ability, my skills and my experience, and to do so in a riding with which I clearly have a connection.

Indeed, when I started my own firm eight years ago, my first client was a business in Aurora, and I am pleased to have since had several others here.

Frankly, I believe that my life experiences, such

as putting myself through university and law school, starting and running a small business, worrying about the mortgage, and juggling the needs of a growing family, are experiences

with which most of the residents of Newmarket and Aurora can identify.

Martha Hall Findlay
Newmarket

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Letters to the Editor

Reader wonders about mayoral conflict

To the editor,

If you believe Mayor Jones, you'll believe that somehow he wasn't aware that negotiating his spouse's pay increase was a conflict of

interest. That's what he claims.

He stated that it was a resident that made him aware of his conflict.

Councillor Kean, to his credit, publicly chal-

lenged Mayor Jones on the events leading up to the mayor's belated declaration of his conflict. He also challenged the Mayor's recollection of his role during the nego-

tiations.

Mayor Jones claims he only facilitated the meeting and did not participate in the discussions.

What the mayor is telling us is that as the

CEO of our Town and as member of the Finance Committee, during negotiations about hundreds of thousands of dollars, he sat there and had nothing to say!

Councillor Hogg, in an attempt to reach closure on the issue and move on, claims that he has been aware for at least two sessions of council that the mayor's wife worked for the Town. And that nobody would be surprised to find the mayor in a conflict of interest.

It sounds like everybody but Mayor Jones knew that he was in a conflict of interest and shouldn't have participated in, or even facilitated, the

meetings.

This is interesting, because during the 2001 non-union (Mayor's spouse) salary negotiations, the mayor declared his conflict prior to the issue being voted on.

If he knew he had a conflict of interest then, how was it he didn't know he had one this time?

The question, contrary to Mayor Jones' claims, is not to what degree he participated in the meetings, but more importantly when was he really aware that his spouse worked for the Town and negotiating her salary was a conflict of interest?

Walter Mestrinaro
Aurora

Storm drain not a kids' playground

To the editor,

Sitting on my front porch, I noticed an alarming situation.

Children are swimming in the sewer run off/catch basin on Birkshire Drive in Aurora and entering the storm drain to play.

This "pond" is not safe for either activity.

It contains dog, cat, goose and duck feces (poop) and pesticide run off.

Children with open sores can get infections and if the water is swallowed can lead to intestinal problems.

This applies to all catch basins, not just Aurora.

To parents, please instruct your children that

this is not an appropriate activity.

With the summer break coming soon, the urge to cool off needs to be countered with education.

To the Town of Aurora, please consider "no swimming" warning signs and a better system to prevent children from entering into the sewer system and

exploring well under the street.

By the way, Aurora, when will this park be landscaped properly so that other than looking aesthetically pleasing, the illegal dumping of yard waste can be stopped?

Randy Brown
Aurora

Writer blaming wrong politician

To the editor,

Re "McGuinty should be charged" by Diane Schedlich.

I could not agree more with your annoyance and outrage at the current state of affairs in our provincial government, however, I'm surprised that you think that McGuinty should be charged with fraud when it was Harris/Eves who overspent by \$25 billion

- all the time telling us how fiscally responsible they were.

I agree that "government books should be open to all political parties at all levels prior to an election...."

However while I am very upset at the recent budget - especially with regards to the changes in the health system, I do feel that the blame for the money shortage should be placed at the feet of the people who

created it, not the ones who inherited it.

JBP Smith
Aurora



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Martha Hall Findlay

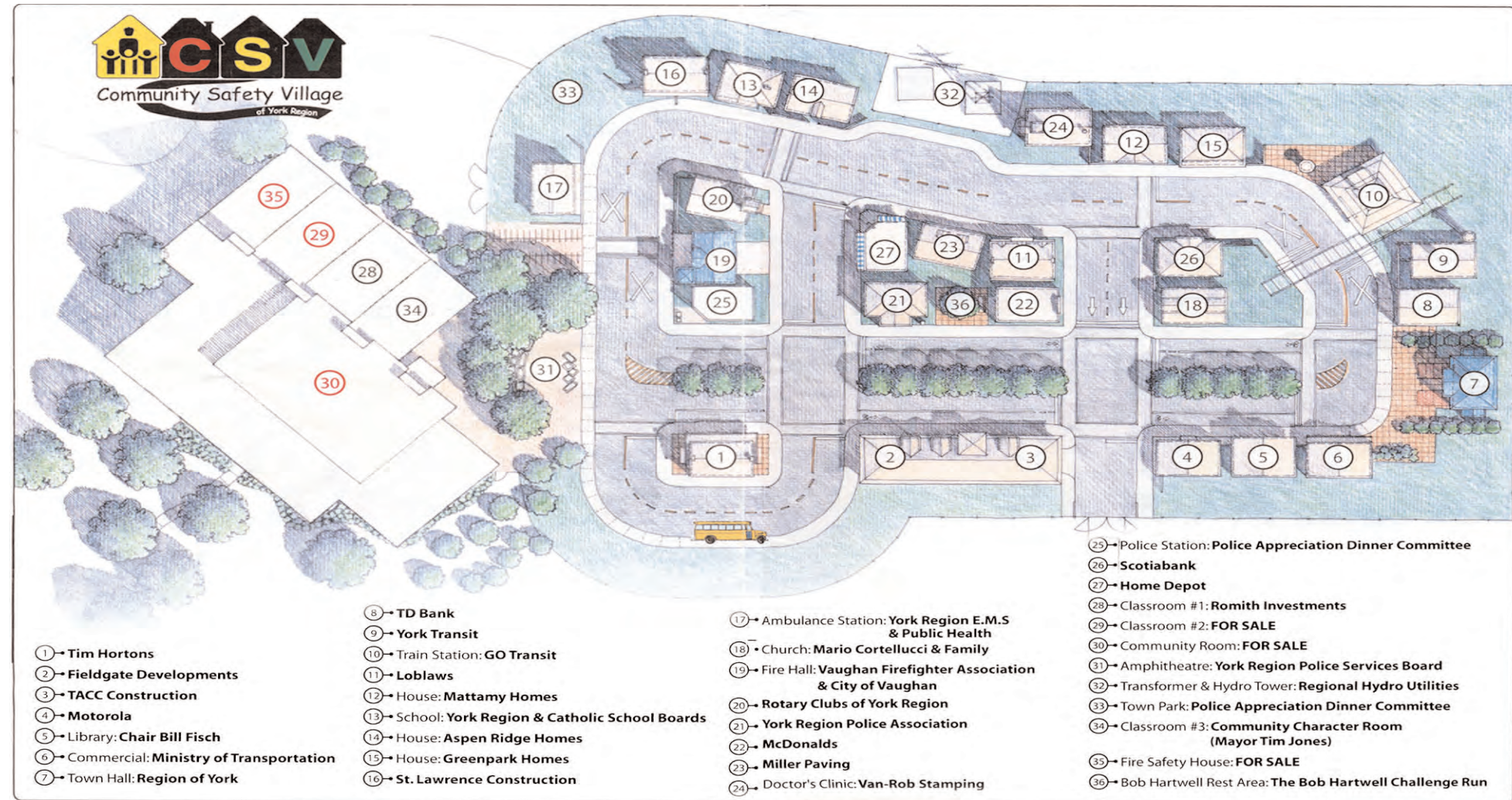
Newmarket - Aurora

www.marthahallfindlay.ca 905 895 2444



Authorized by the official agent of Martha Hall Findlay





Village readies for opening

Within months of its official opening, York Region's Community Safety Village hosted its first function Thursday night when the Aurora Optimists held their annual "Respect for the Law" dinner there. At the top is a layout of the village, including a list of firms involved in the project. To the right is a series of pictures taken during a tour of the site. At left, Optimists gather in the still to be finished community room of the 10,000 square foot education centre. Below, the presentation is made to Police Officer of the Year Stuart Betts, centre, by Aurora Optimist President Ken McIsaac, while York Region Police Chief Armand La Barge looks on. Below, a surprise presentation was made to The Auroran for its ongoing coverage of the Village. Auroran Editor Ron Wallace, centre, receives the award from former Optimist Rich Boyne, left, and Steve Hinder. The Village, expected to officially open in September, is located at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area on the Stouffville Sideroad, southeast of Aurora.



Scenes from Aurora's annual Horse Show



*Auroran photos
by David Falconer*






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Turnout for the annual Rick Hanson Wheels In Motion event last week in Aurora's Town Park was disappointing, according to organizers. Only a handful of participants showed up to take part in the Saturday afternoon event.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Barbs' teams lose and tie rugby games

The Aurora Barbarians First Women's Rugby Team (OWL) lost their first game to last year's champions, the Toronto Scottish, Saturday, 44-8.

The score, however does not accurately reflect the game on the field.

Scottish scored a quick opening try but the Barbs then pinned them behind their 22 for 10 full

minutes.

Aurora, however, could just not put a try across.

The game featured hard nose-to-nose contact broken up by some break-away tries by the Scottish backs.

Aurora took some consolation by scoring their prettiest try this season.

The Barbs took a ball through six phases before it was finally punched

through the 8-man Virginia Edwards.

Tara Doctorow also kicked a penalty.

Both women's teams play the Toronto Irish on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Aurora Barbarians Second Women's Rugby Team (TRU) played a re-scheduled game Tuesday night at Sunnybrook Park against the Scottish 2s.

Although the Scottish

featured some really big forwards, the Barbs gave as good as they got.

Scottish scored first, but Aurora was able to answer soon after.

The rest of the game was a chippy see-saw battle that ended in a 17-17 draw.

Barbs' tries were scored by scrum-half Karen Chrobak and winger Sarah Moussadji. Fullback, Val Evans, kicked one convert.

AMBA – Scores June 20/ 04

Baseball / Date	Division	Team	Score
June	Mosquito	Priestly Demolition	10
		Remax Realty	8
June 15		Natures Emporium	14
		Dr. Orschel Drillers	13
June 17		Priestly Demolition	10
		Fully Completely	7
June 09	Bantam	Home Hardware	10
		Aurora Cable Internet	9
SOFTBALL / Date	Division	Team	Score
June 16	Squirt	Interworld Paper Overseas	12
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June 17		Powell Plumbing	16
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Kennel Inn gets new contract

From page 3
enforce the provisions of the municipal animal control bylaw, and the pound facility, which provides care for pets picked up or abandoned.

The committee discussed the possibility of establishing a municipally-operated pound to be funded by participating municipalities, but more research was required.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said Kennel Inn had provided service to the municipality for more than 29 years with no problems and it was a local firm employing local people.

Councillor Ron Wallace noted that one of the questions asked by the association was if members of council had visited the facility.

Wallace admitted he hadn't but paid Kennel Inn

a surprise visit earlier that day.

He said it was old and run-down and needed a facelift, but the care and the concern for the animals was good.

Additional contract costs were blamed on higher fuel and insurance costs, and higher fees for leased vehicles.

Clerk Bob Panizza said the increase was over budget and attempts would be made to cover it from other areas.

He noted that to use the a similar facility in Georgina would cost \$128,000 to \$140,000.

The motion to approve the year extension was adopted, with an amendment that staff continues to research alternatives for consideration prior to the 2004 budget.



Central York Fire Services Captain Art Bellar, second from left, received his long service medal in a ceremony held in Mississauga recently. Bellar has been involved in local firefighting for 25 years, dating back to the days when Aurora was served by a volunteer fire department. His wife, Brenda, also attended the event. From the Fire Marshal's office, Bernie Moyle, left, and Doug Crawford, made the presentation.

Lawyer says it's all right to hold offsite workshops

How council meetings are conducted and how effective they are depends on established rules of procedures, the personalities involved and how the procedural bylaw is understood and enforced.

A bylaw governs the workings of council and helps ensure all issues are dealt with consistently and all councillors are aware of the ground rules.

Aurora has had a procedural bylaw over the years and it has been amended periodically by members of council.

Back in March enquiries were made about a review of the procedural bylaw, which had been discussed at a previous meeting. It had been suggested a workshop session be held to review the bylaw.

Councillor John West disagreed with a workshop and gained support for councillors to submit comments regarding changes to the bylaw.

The issue came to the fore following a retreat held in January at the Nottawasaga Inn following the municipal election.

Councillors Phyllis Morris, Wendy Gaertner and Nigel Kean refused to participate as it was held outside the municipality and that it was not a meeting in accordance with the Municipal act.

Other changes to the procedural bylaw have

been recommended and the issue arrived at council's general committee meeting last week with committee membership and workshop meetings still unresolved.

At the meeting Councillor Phyllis Morris asked for clarification on the section dealing with workshops.

George Rust-D'Eye, of the legal firm of Weir Foulds, provided a legal opinion and concluded a municipal council is not precluded from assembling its members in an informal workshop or retreat, with or without the presence of staff, to receive information or advice under certain conditions.

The assembly must not be referred to as a meeting, nor take place at the time of a regularly scheduled meeting, his report said.

No proposals or recommendations for action could be put before the members, or any votes, decisions, recommendations be sought or made, it said.

He prepared a draft bylaw as a proposed amendment to the procedural bylaw to enable the holding of workshops or retreats.

Councillor Ron Wallace recommended the workshop section including the draft proposed by the solicitor be approved.

Morris opposed that saying councilors were

agreeing to a proposal to make sure it wasn't a meeting and council wasn't protecting the public.

This resulted in accusations that there were insinuations council was doing something wrong, which was denied by Morris, claiming she was only concerned about taking business away from the public.

Others pointed out the only way council could adopt anything was in open council and the issue had been debated to death.

The vote was 5-2 in favour of the Wallace motion.

Just when it was thought the debate was over, Councillor John West questioned why it was necessary to amend the bylaw to require the head of council or committee chairman to vote on all issues.

He said he couldn't

accept the amendment as the practice used in the past of the head of council only voting to break a tie had worked well and there was no reason to change it.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said if councillors wanted to know where the head of council stood on an issue they could call for a recorded vote.

The town solicitor advised committee members that in accordance with the Municipal Act, all members of council had a vote and failure to use it is deemed to be a negative vote.

In response to a suggestion that council invoke a notwithstanding clause to the effect that the head of council's failure to vote would not be considered a negative vote, the town solicitor agreed to check it out and report at the next meeting.



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AUSOM night

The Aurora School of Music (AUSOM) held its annual musical show last week in Aurora. Above, guitarists Julia Henderson, left, and Devon Miller, prepare for their number "Hold My Heart", while pianist Daniel Walker, plays the "Pink Panther" theme. Dozens of musicians performed for a large audience at Tuscany's and numerous awards were presented.

Auroran photos
by David Falconer



Fundraising committees for projects discussed

Last April Aurora Council approved the establishment of two fundraising committees for the new seniors' centre and the recreation complex.

The target set for the seniors' centre was \$250,000 but no target had been set for the recreation complex.

Staff prepared terms of reference for two sub-committees, which were presented to a general committee meeting last week.

The sub-committees would report through the finance committee.

The membership for the seniors' centre committee would include one

member of council, one representative of the seniors centre, one member of the public and a liaison representative from the finance committee.

The membership for the recreation centre was the same except representation would come from the ice users and the aquatic users.

Councillor Evelyn Buck pointed out the seniors had established their own committee and had already collected \$40,000, and those efforts shouldn't be curtailed.

Questions were asked if the terms of reference had been discussed with the seniors

and the ice and aquatic users and if the finance committee's terms of reference included the two sub-committees.

It was also suggested there be a coordinating body, so they could work together on some projects and on their own with others.

It was also suggested the seniors be left on their own and two committees be established, one for the ice users and the other for the aquatic users.

Due to the urgency of getting started, it was agreed staff would meet with the three user groups and bring back a report as soon as possible.

Computer reluctantly welcomed in the 70s

Today computers are taken for granted in business, schools and at home with even young children computer literate, but it wasn't always that way.

In March last year, council authorized its staff to engage a consultant to update the 1997 computer systems study and submit a comprehensive report and recommendations.

Council was advised there was a need for a new technology plan due to increasing demands for greater access to public information.

Other problems identified included old technology in hardware and software, including the need for a new financial system designed to integrate human resources and payroll.

The report suggested a five-year implementation plan estimated to cost a total of \$1.8 million with \$610,000 required in the first year or about a one per cent tax increase on the 2004 tax bill.

It was quite a bit different back in 1969 when then Clerk Treasurer Bill Johnson recommended to council that some type of an accounting/billing machine be acquired for tax billing purposes.

At that time tax bills were issued once a year and were prepared manually.

They were usually issued in September or October and by that time the town was required to borrow heavily from the bank for town operations until taxes were received.

With the growth of the community and the change from a rural to an urban setting, it became obvious that changes were needed.

At the time the town had a population of about 10,000.

Council authorized Johnson to investigate what machines were available and to make a recommendation.

During his investigation he discovered a small computer unit from McBee, which was compatible to the town's billing system, as McBee cards were being used.

In his report to council, Johnson recommended the McBee unit on a \$7,000 a year lease agreement for a trial period.

Included in the report was a recommendation that the town convert to an interim billing process to generate cash flow to reduce the amount borrowed from the bank.

Some of the old-time members of council opposed the idea of acquiring a computer on the basis the town had got along without one for years and there was no need to change.

The very thought of issuing four tax bills a year, two interim and two final, almost drove them into a frenzy.

They claimed the citizens would ride members of council out of town on a rail.

In spite of opposition, council approved leasing the computer unit and to start issuing two interim bills and two final bills after the budget had been set.

Aurora became the first small town in the province to have its in-house computer and was written up in Civic Administration, a national municipal magazine.

As a result of obtaining the unit staff was able to process the tax bills much faster and with prompt payment of taxes, the improved cash flow not only covered the town's operating expenses, it provided a bank balance gaining interest.

In 1972, for the first time, the town didn't have to borrow money from the bank for operating expenses, not only saving money but gaining approximately \$20,000 in interest.

By this time the council old-timers thought the computer was the greatest thing since sliced bread and readily agreed to a switch to three interim and three final installments to increase the

cash flow.

Taxpayers liked the smaller payments, even though they had to make more of them.

Some senior citizens even asked for 12 payments so they could budget on a monthly basis, but that was too much for the staff.

Some time later the town returned to two interim payments and for 2004 the payment dates were February 23rd and April 26th.

Besides getting the tax bills out sooner and more often, the computer proved invaluable in printing out cost breakdowns for projects, especially those which received a provincial subsidy.

A monthly statement showing revenues and expenditures with a comparison to the budget was provided to members of council with up-to-date information as to the financial situation of the municipality.

By 1976, a larger computer was required and this time there was no opposition from council members, the computer had proved itself.

Since then the system has been updated several times and is now used for several purposes, all designed to provide more efficiency in carrying out the town's business and keeping staff, council and the public better informed.



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Safety Village opens in September

From page 1
Students will even learn how to escape a burning building, and while there won't be fire, there will be smoke, and doors that are hot to the touch.
The site is located on 5.7 acres of land at the Bruce's Mill Conservation

Area, on the Stouffville Sideroad, just east of Highway 404, south and east of Aurora.
And if there is one disappointment among the group who worked so hard to make this concept a reality, it's the fact the Village isn't in Aurora.

Not that people didn't try.
From an idea that was born five years ago at an Aurora Police And Community Together (PACT) meeting, the Optimists fronted the project with \$30,000 in seed money, then set out to find a nice spot in Aurora for the Village.
Three years later, a dozen leads exhausted, the club was still without a site.
Driving force behind the project, former police officer and current Aurora resident Steve Hinder was Master of Ceremonies Thursday, as the Optimists hosted York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge and honoured police officer of the year, PC Stuart Betts.

Optimists from Richmond Hill, Newmarket and Keswick attended the historic event. Everyone had a guided tour of the property.
The \$3 million project, being built under the watchful eye of VanBots Construction, is within \$350,000 of its goal.
Three rooms in the main community building are still for sale, but the rest of the project belongs to developers, banks, fast-food outlets, governments, and one building is sponsored by every Rotary Club in York Region, Aurora included.
"Five years ago, this was just a dream." Aurora Optimist President Ken McIsaac told the Thursday audience. "Steve Hinder has worked his butt off on this

project."
Outside, one area, on the main street, remained empty, too small for a building.
The Optimists have named it the Bob Hartwell Rest Area, in honour of the popular former Aurora councillor who died while participating in a marathon run in October, 2001.
Once opened, the Community Safety Village is expected to handle about 120 students a day.
Sixty will be scheduled in the morning, and the remainder in the afternoon.
Of the 60, half will study with a uniformed police officer and the other half will learn fire prevention. Before each class ends, the two

groups will switch.
The educational curriculum is currently being written by both York Region school boards.
The program will target students in Grades 1 through 3.
Meanwhile, the Village will not sit idle after school hours.
Plans are to accommodate programs covering young driver training, women's safety, pedestrian safety for seniors, drug awareness, Neighbourhood Watch, internet safety, street-proofing, among others.
Actual grand opening date has not been set, but officials are hopeful it will coincide with the start of the upcoming school year.

Candidates' battle turns into polite gathering

From page 1
world.
Ms Stronach said Newmarket/Aurora was her home and that it was a great community to live in and raise a family.
The former Chief Executive Officer of Magna, she outlined her career and her work over the past 15 years with the Hoedown that had raised millions for local charities.
She stressed the need for a strong voice in Ottawa as citizens of the area deserved better.

the question of the legality of the party was before the courts and the party could be dissolved prior to the election.
There were other flurries among candidates as the evening wore on but West kept strict control of the meeting and all candidates thanked him for organizing the meeting.
In their closing statements the candidates summarized their platform and asked for the support of voters.
It is doubtful if the debate changed the opinion of many voters in the audience or the wider audience on Aurora Cable Internet, but it provided the opportunity to see the candidates in action on a one-to-one basis.

During the question period approximately 20 questions were asked of which more than half were directed to Stronach, which she handled quite capably, as did the other candidates in their responses.
The questions included the future of health care, disability legislation, future of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, gay marriages and abortion, Koyoto Accord, tax cuts, star wars, sponsorship scandal, deficit, proportional representation, volunteerism, multiculturalism and the role of the military.
A French student asked a question in French which Hall Findlay answered in French. Stronach made a brave attempt and added she was working on it. Chudak added some levity to the evening by saying he was bilingual and spoke in Polish.
Stronach and Baxter fought it out over the legal name of Baxter's party with Stronach claiming use of the words "Progressive Conservative" was illegal.
Baxter retaliated by saying Stronach's party was illegally conceived and

Stronach defeated Lois Brown to obtain the nomination as the candidate for the Conservative Party of Canada.
At that time it was thought John Taylor, son of Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor, would be the Liberal candidate.
Both he and Stronach had attended Newmarket High School and for a while it looked like a re-match of the Stronach/Taylor battle in 1988 when Frank Stronach, Belinda's father, defeated Tom Taylor for the federal Liberal nomination, which Stronach won, only to be defeated by Tory John Cole.
Later Taylor withdrew his name from the nomination race claiming the ever deepening scandal surrounding Liberal government expenditures caused him to back away from federal politics.
This resulted in the nomination going to Martha Hall Findlay.

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It was a colourful event recently at The Rising Sun Lodge of Aurora Masons when Roy Lacey, David Bradley, and Gerald Arthur were presented with their 60, 50 and 25 year Long Service Pins. In the photo are, front row, left to right, Gordon Forbes, District Deputy Grand Master, Toronto District 6; Gary Atkinson, Deputy Grand Master; Gerald Arthur, David Bradley, Past Grand Master; Paul Andersen, Worshipful Master; and David Todd, Past Grand Piper. In the back row are, left to right, Douglas Hotham, Terry McLean, Chairman of the 150th Anniversary of The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, to be held next year; Harold Foote and Jack Patterson.

Employment lands should stay that way, consultant suggests

As part of the five year review of the official plan Aurora Council identified a number of initiatives that were to be undertaken following the review.

The development of a strategy to retain employment lands was established as a priority.

Last December council authorized the engagement of a consultant to undertake the task of developing a strategy, with the guidance of planning staff, the economic development officer and legal counsel.

The main message in the report, which was presented to council recently, is that employment land is a critical land use for the town and as such changes to lands designated in the official plan for employment uses will not in general be considered except in limited circumstances.

The strategy points out that an amendment to the official plan should only be considered if the applicant can demonstrate that the site cannot be developed for valid planning reasons, such as site configuration, access, or surrounding land uses.

The consultant pointed out that council will

face on-going pressure for the re-designation of employment lands for other urban uses, especially residential, in order to increase the value of the land.

Employment land refers to land previously designated industrial and which now refers to business park designation which permits an integrated mix of employment activities including limited institutional, community facilities, retail sales and service commercial uses.

It was also noted that it is important to maintain a balance between population and employment.

Employment growth is beneficial to the community in promoting a better live-work relationship, a greater diversity in property assessment and a longer term net fiscal benefit.

The current designated net supply of employment land in Aurora is

about 360 acres, of which 240 are located in the Wellington/Highway 404 business park area.

That area is the subject of a public planning meeting this week.

The other 120 acres are distributed throughout the town's older, largely developed industrial areas.

In addition to the current designated supply, approximately 200 acres of employment land has been proposed for the lands northwest of Leslie and Wellington, commonly known as the 2C lands.

It was recommended that studies submitted in support of the re-designation of employment land be subject to a full peer review.

Council received the draft strategy without debate and directed staff to continue to work with the consultant.

It was unfortunate the strategy was not in

place in 1999 when council came under pressure from Bayview Wellington North regarding an official plan amendment to re-designate employment lands to residential.

Council gave into the pressure and rezoned several acres of prime industrial land south of the St. John's Sideroad between the Industrial Parkway and Bayview.

Creek pollution

From page 3

examples submitted for metal analysis had concentrations of aluminium, iron and phosphorous exceeding the water quality objectives.

In the sediment samples there were no metal concentrations that exceeded the lowest effect level upstream, but there were a number downstream from the Collis location and the creek was significantly polluted, according to MOE sediment quality guidelines.

Confirmation, however, could only occur if appropriate site investigation is undertaken, but since the site is private, the owner should be asked to conduct the investigation and report the findings to the town and the MOE.

Staff recommended the report be forwarded to the Ministry of the Environment with a request that they require owner Maple Leaf Foods to identify the extent of the contamination.

It was also recom-

mended a plan be designed to prevent any further off-site migration and to remediate the property.

A public information meeting to inform property owners abutting Tannery Creek in the general area from Wellington Street West to Aurora Heights Boulevard is also planned.

Spokesman Jeffrey Miller, representing Maple Leaf Foods, told committee members he had only received the report days earlier and asked for time to properly review the report.

He said there had been two or three tanneries upstream from Collis Leather, plus metal-working and other industrial plants which should be investigated as possible problem sources.

Miller said information on the other sites would be available for council this week.

In spite of Miller's request for a deferment the committee endorsed the staff report.



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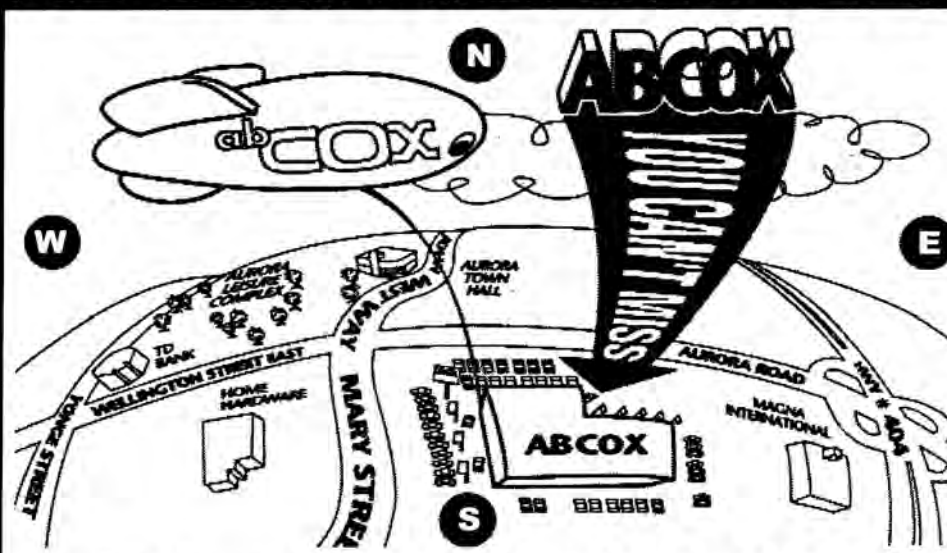
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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Lions Club came to the rescue for this man

Back in early 1989 a resident of Richardson Drive was driving to work in Toronto when he hit a patch of black ice on Bloomington Road, spun out of control and ended up in the ditch.

He was thrown out through the passenger door and ended up 40 feet from the vehicle with a broken spine and was told he would never walk again.

After nine months in hospital and a rehabilitation centre, he returned to his home in August, 1989, which had been renovated for his needs with members of the Aurora Lions Club doing most of the work saving the injured Dennis Burke more than \$16,000. A caring community!

RADIO STATION HELPED

In August, 1991, Jennifer Laughlin, Kristine Chandler and Shelagh McCartney, all 16, of Aurora, hoped to go to Cuba to play field hockey in the Canada/Cuba Sports Festival.

However, they had difficulty raising funds to cover air fare and accommodation.

A community-based campaign headed by CKAN Radio in Newmarket took on their cause and raised the required \$2,700 the girls needed and they headed off for Cuba.

LET'S FRAME IT

Council members are used to getting complaints, but receiving a compliment is rare, especially when it comes from an unexpected source.

In October, 1968, the Holland Valley Conservation Authority, now the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, complimented the town for its far-sightedness in its expansion of the sewage treatment plant.

For previous years the town had been a bit of a villain to the authority for its overtaxed sewage facilities causing pollution downstream into Newmarket

and Lake Simcoe.

But the new contact stabilization process recently installed at the plant, described as sophisticated by authority officials was seen as benefitting the whole area resulting in the letter.

Following reading of the letter at the council meeting, Councillor Dick Illingworth suggested it be framed and hung in the municipal offices.

BUILDING IN AURORA IN 1970

The rapid growth taking place in Aurora today is a major change from the more serene days of the 1970s.

There was a total of 170 residential building permits issued in 1970 with the average permit value \$14,829 compared with 184 permits in 1969 at an average value of \$15,820.

Of the 170 units in 1970, 22 were for apartments.

WHAT HAPPENED?

In 1903, a provincial government commission of enquiry recommended a provincial government agency should be given the responsibility of providing cheap electricity.

Three years later, another enquiry said the province should also own and operate all electrical transmission facilities.

As a result, the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, the forerunner to Ontario Hydro, was born.

Sir Adam Beck established the Power Commission on May 7, 1906, to bring hydro-electric generated power from Niagara Falls to southern Ontario communities as people's power.

The motto of Hydro at that time was Dona Naturae Pro Populo Sunt (The Gifts of Nature are for the People).

What happened over the years?

A MAIDEN SPEECH

It was Friday, January 12, 1973, when York-Simcoe MP Sinclair Stevens gave his maiden speech in the House of Commons.

He noted that the riding covered an area that had sent many distinguished representatives to the House.

He listed the Right Hon. William Mulock, Hon. Sir Allen Aylesworth, Herb Lennox and the Right Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King, who represented a portion of the riding for a brief time in the 1920s, but had a tough time holding the seat.

(In 1925 Herb Lennox defeated Prime Minister Mackenzie King).

From 1925 until 1963 the northern part of the riding was represented by the Hon. Earl Rowe.

Stevens said that to follow in the steps of such gentlemen was a great honour and a challenge.

At that time the riding of York-Simcoe covered the area from just north of Toronto to the outskirts of Barrie and included such urban areas as Stouffville, Aurora, Newmarket, Bradford and Tottenham.

Issues at that time included in Stevens' speech were the Pickering Airport, commuter rail service in York Region, red tape in housing programs and the cost of housing and gridlock on the Don Valley Parkway.

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- Use discreet, hard to crack passwords.
- Minimize the number of credit cards you carry.
- Keep items with personal identification in a safe place.
- Give out your social insurance number only when necessary.
- Shred all old bills, bank statements and any correspondence containing personal information that you no longer need.
- Never give out personal information on the phone, through the mail or over the Internet, if you don't know with whom you are dealing.

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Merlin's Hollow : A peaceful sanctuary

When you think Merlin's Hollow, you think David and Dierdre Tomlinson. One belongs to the other and vice-versa.

People come from far and wide to see the more than 1,800 species of flowering plants on view in the series of gardens that has become known as Merlin's Hollow.

This year the gardens will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., July 3 and July 11. The garden is also open at other times for special events to aid local non-profit organizations.

But to landscape gardeners across the nation, David Tomlinson is the winner of two prestigious awards, the Honour Award from the Ontario Society of Landscape Architects and the Award of Merit from the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects.

The awards were for his design of the 18-acre Fletcher Wild Life Garden on the Experimental Farm in Ottawa.

He was commissioned by the Ottawa Field Naturalists to design a six-acre site and a 10-acre site as a natural habitat for birds, waterfowl, butterflies, and other creatures.

It was part of the Community Wild Life Involvement Program spon-

sored by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to design and implement a practical hands-on wildlife management project.

Winning awards is nothing new to Tomlinson. Prior to coming to Canada from England, he won several in his native land.

His first award on arrival in Aurora on August 14, 1977, was for his design of the Mono Cliffs Provincial Park with Aurora heritage artist Dorothy Clark McClure doing the illustrations for his proposal.

Tomlinson also won awards for his design of the Botanical Gardens in Venezuela and a recreation facility for the mentally and physically handicapped in Alberta.

He was born in Manchester, England, in 1934. Gardening came easy to him as his father, grandfather and uncles were all professional gardeners working on large English estates.

He quit school at age 14 to become a gardener and other than his two years in the British Army, he worked for the City of Manchester parks department until he was 26. He later worked at the Royal Botanical Gardens and Kew Gardens.

By this time he had become involved in development control as a planner

and the design of open space areas as a landscape architect.

He worked on the planning of Skelmersdale, one of the first new towns in England.

He also worked with Manchester as chief landscape technical officer on the new town of Milton Keys and won awards for both projects.

Shortly after his arrival in Aurora, he and Dierdre started Merlin's Hollow, a horticultural heaven in their backyard and added to it over the years.

It's a magical space, as there are a series of gardens within a garden, with plants from all over the world.

It may be hard to find but it's worth the search.

Merlin's Hollow is located on Centre Crescent, off Centre Street, just west of Industrial Parkway.

It was in February, 1977, when Deirdre Tomlinson put a provisional offer on the property on what she described as a little piece of Paradise, about three-quarters of an acre and a house, subject to approval by David when he returned home from a commission in Calgary.

Originally the property had been an orchard for the farm at the end of the road. They didn't do much the first couple of years except plant

a few shrubs around the perimeter of the property.

In subsequent years they cut beds which they filled with plants collected from horticultural society auctions and by the third year it looked so colourful and varied that they decided to share it.

From that modest beginning, they planted more than 1,500 plant species, some not normally

found in Canada. Word soon spread and the number of visitors increased until now more than 2,000 arrive each year on their open days.

Throughout the years the gardens continued to evolve with each spring bringing something a little different, from the traditional to the exotic.

The gardens were designed by David and each has its own distinct character

from the winter garden to the perennial, fragrant and rock and water, including a frog pond.

The garden has become a sanctuary for wildlife including more than 90 different species of birds over the years and several species of butterflies. It's a sanctuary for people, too, as some return year after year.

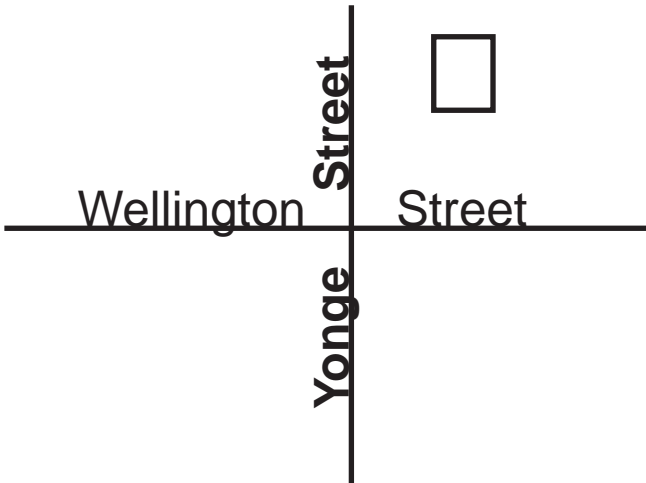
For further information call 905-727-8979.



Dierdre Tomlinson spends as much time in Merlin's Hollow as she does anywhere, and her efforts, along with husband, David, are visible for all to see. The incredible gardens feature plants from all over the world, and the area is open to the public on certain days throughout the summer.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

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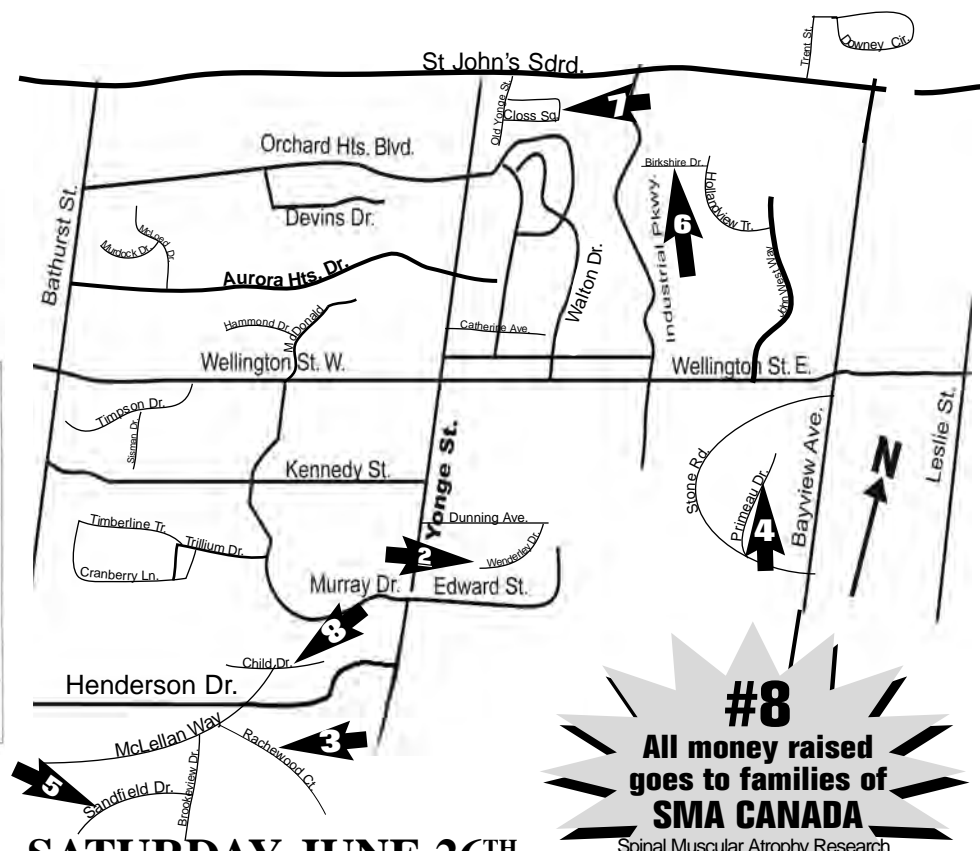
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