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Vol. 4 No. 36

Week of June 29, 2004

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Stronach wins riding-barely

Belinda Stronach has a job for the next four years.

But only barely.

Following Monday's Federal election, in which Stronach battled to victory in the new riding of Newmarket-Aurora, the popular blonde who made sure everyone knew she was born and raised in the Newmarket-Aurora area, breathed a sigh of relief.

"I never took anything for granted," she told The Auroran. "I ran this race believing I was always 10 points behind."

And, apparently, she was.

Late numbers put her only about 500 votes ahead of Liberal Martha Hall Findlay and with only a few polls to be heard from, suggested Stronach was the narrow winner.

Despite that, she said, "I'm going to keep going, and I will continue to do so as long as

I have the support of the community.

"I'm in it for the long haul," she told The Auroran in an exclusive interview.

Since January, Stronach has been running - sometimes literally - for this political position.

She put a spark into the newly formed Conservative Party of Canada when she announced she would seek the leadership.

Suddenly, the woman who was Chief Executive Officer of Magna International became a national figure.

She finished a respectable second behind Stephen Harper, who lost out being Canada's next prime minister as the voters decided to stay "with the devil" they knew Monday night, giving Paul Martin a minority government.

That puts Belinda in the back

Please see page 7

Briefly

Oops!!

Aurora's Gail Livitsanis, owner of The Service Arts, jumped on the bandwagon when Mayor Tim Jones announced his multi-pronged anti-litter campaign recently.

She immediately called to volunteer, and was assigned to collect litter on the Bloomington Sideroad, between Bayview and Yonge.

"I did a great job," she said. "I picked up every piece of litter, bagged it and drove it to a pickup point."

But when she got to the pickup point, and started loading her bags of litter on the side of the road, an irate resident approached and gave her a tongue-lashing.

He said many people had dumped garbage in front of his house and he was miffed.

Gail explained what she was doing and said a truck would be along to collect the bags.

"I told him I had just picked up all the litter on Bloomington Sideroad as part of this campaign," she said.

"Good for you," he replied. "This is the Stouffville Sideroad."

Ms Livitsanis thinks the Town of Richmond Hill should pay her for helping clean up that community.

And, yes, she did drive two concessions north and clean the street she was supposed to clean in the first place.

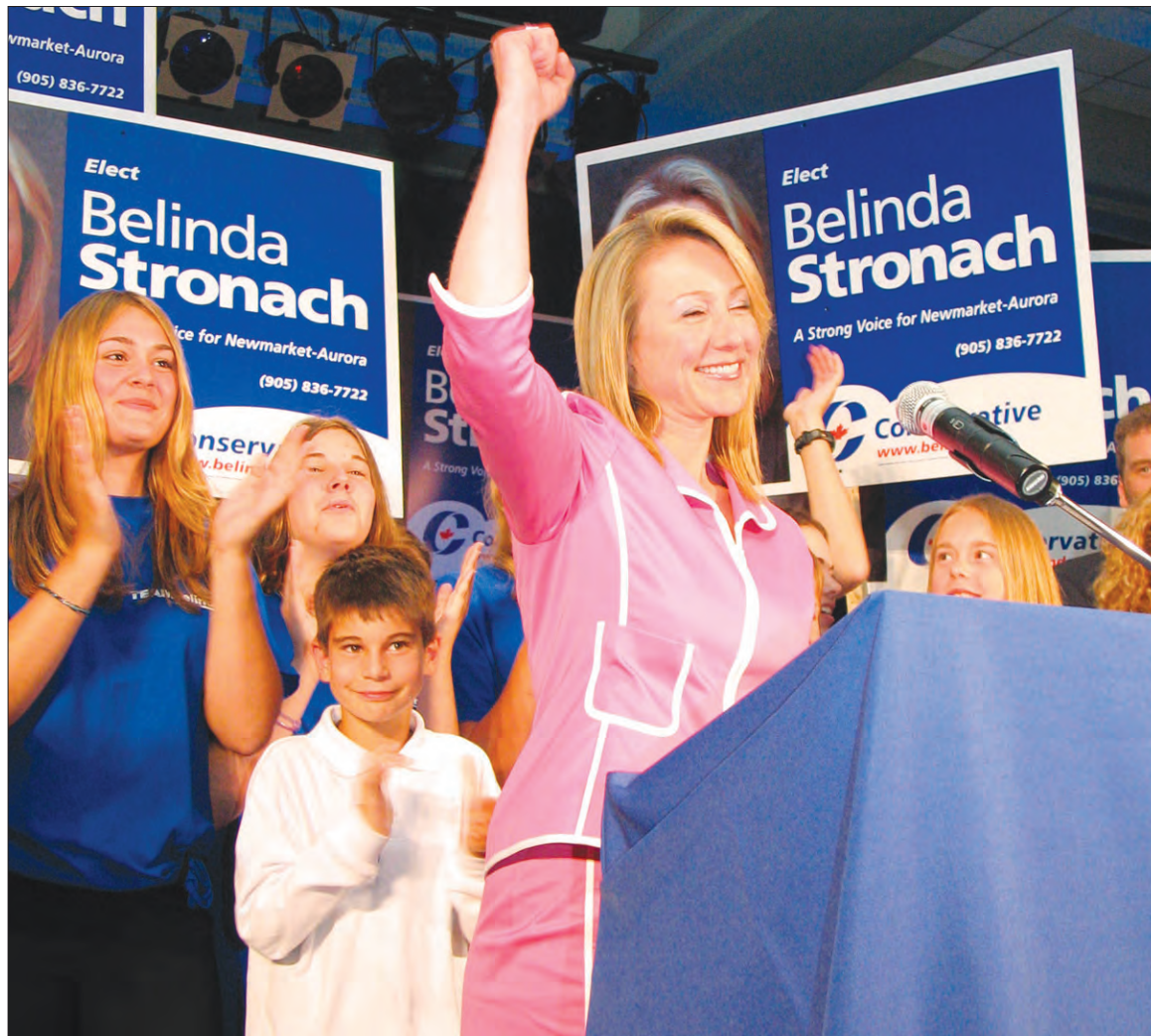
Deputy Mayor hurt

Aurora's Deputy Mayor Phyllis Morris was heading to Southlake Regional Health Centre last Monday evening, but wound up in an Orangeville Hospital, having been taken there by ambulance.

Phyllis was a passenger in a car driven by her husband, Brian, that was rear-ended in front of their Timpson Drive home as they were enroute to Newmarket to participate in the official opening of Southlake's new building.

"We had just backed out of the driveway, I was putting my seatbelt on, and we got hit," she said.

She suffered whiplash and a compression fracture in the neck. Brian has a sore neck and a minor knee injury.



A jubilant Belinda Stronach greets her supporters Monday night at DiNardo's in Aurora following a federal election race that was almost too close to call. When push came to shove, Stronach eked about a victory of about 500 votes over Liberal challenger Martha Hall Findlay. The battle see-sawed all night long.

Photo by Rob Schuetze

Car dealership would spell end of old house

In days gone by, the intersection of Bayview Avenue and Wellington Street East was known as Hartman Corners and the Hartman family home is located on the southwest corner.

The house is believed to be about 150 years old.

The building was the home of Vic Priestly until a few years ago when it was converted to a Montessori school.

Soon the building could be nothing more than a pile of history.

An application was received at a Public Planning meeting last week from Aurora Toyota to relocate its

car dealership on the site, and remove all existing buildings.

They would be replaced by a new building of approximately 22,000 square feet in size.

A conceptual plan illustrates the proposed extent of the site development, including the location of the building and associated parking areas, to accommodate more than 300 vehicles.

The Aurora Heritage Committee recommended council consider the significance of the Hartman House and recommended the town and owner attempt to preserve and incorporate the building in the

development of the site.

But Aurora Toyota owner John Chapman said the house was beyond saving.

"I have been through it, my daughter went to school there, and I don't think it could be saved," he said.

The town also received a letter from Jim and Robin King, who are the owners of a residence backing onto the site.

They were concerned about noise, privacy and lighting.

In support of his application, Chapman told the meeting that

Please see page 7

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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.

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. Canada Day parade begins at 10 a.m. from St. Andrew's Shopping Centre.

JULY 2

Hot Spot celebrates Canada Day with a Prize Night at 7:30 p.m. in the Lions Hall.

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 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.

- With files from Info Aurora



Marilyn Redvers



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Hydro opposition continues to grow

At the recent public meeting regarding Hydro One's proposal for a replacement transmission line from Markham to Newmarket through East Aurora, resident Jennifer Cooper, of the Aurora STOP (Stop Transmission Lines Over People) committee, made a strong presentation

on behalf of residents regarding lack of communication, health and fiscal impact concerns. She was back before council during Open Forum last week to repeat her concerns. She told councillors that 1,200 concerned citizens had registered on STOP's website.

They were concerned about the lack of consideration by Hydro One of the impact of the higher voltage line on residents, the need for improved communications by Hydro One and Aurora Council, health hazards and the potential decrease in property values.

She pointed out that the York District Catholic School Board had engaged a consultant to study the potential effect on the health of children by the electromagnetic fields (EMS) but that Hydro One had shown no concern.

She noted that 10 years before Mayor Tim Jones had told a group of new residents who had purchased homes adjacent to the transmission line that the line would be buried.

She asked that council oppose the Hydro One proposal, as had been done by Markham Council, the Catholic School Board and the region's planning committee at a July 13th meeting.

Mayor Tim Jones replied that Aurora Council would deal with the issue following a June 29th meeting with Hydro One arranged by Aurora Hydro. He explained that due to

the short notice of the previous public meeting, members of council had prior commitments and were unable to attend.

He assured Cooper and the residents in attendance that council would make its decision following the June 29th meeting.

Results of that meeting were too late for the Auroran's press deadline, and will be reported next week.



Laden with trophies, Aurora Councillor Nigel Kean and his bowling team did very well as honours were handed out last week by Big Brothers Big Sisters of York. Known as Nigel Kean and friends, his crew won the High Roller Trophy, as the squad raised more than \$400 a person; and they also won the Most Improved Fund-raising Award by a team. For BBBS, the bowling tournament is one of the group's major annual fundraisers in the Region.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

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A foursome might want to share a ticket at \$25 each



Poor Richard

More openness needed at town's council meetings

*Openness at council is essential,
The public has a right to know;
Why and how the money is spent,
And where they find the dough!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

At the end of almost every council meeting members retreat into the back room to discuss what is listed on the agenda as a personnel or a property matter, without providing any details, which should be compulsory. Almost every issue involves people or property to some extent, so there is always a question as to the need for a private or "in camera" session.

The basic reason for supporting open meetings at the local level was to foster and promote values considered essential to the democratic process.

If electors are to select their leaders intelligently, evaluate decisions and judge the decision-makers, they must have correct information and see and hear how they respond to policy initiatives shaping the community and this can't be done when decisions are made behind closed doors.

To become knowledgeable and involved, citizens need access to the same information as the decision-makers have before the decisions are made.

The public should be aware of the considerations upon which council members make their decisions and this can only be done in open council.

There are benefits that accrue where information is available and meetings are open, including more accurate information and reporting and hopefully a higher level of public debate.

In such an environment, citizens are more likely to understand the significance of the issues and accept decisions that have been made, resulting in local government becoming more responsive and accountable.

If significant changes are to be made, it will require a fundamental change in local attitude more than legislative reforms.

But deciding whether meetings should be open or closed can't be left to individual councils.

The province has legislation that provides uniformity across the province in allotting minimum standards within which municipalities must operate, leaving to them the option of strengthening the provincial standards if they so desire.

In the old days of Aurora Council there was seldom an "in camera" meeting as everything was discussed in open council.

Other municipalities weren't quite as open as decisions were made in private and rubber-stamped in public.

Back in 1978, Aurora had a very active citizens' group called ENDOW.

In June, 1978, members clashed with council members when it was learned that the details of the proposed reconstruction of Victoria Street would be dealt with "in camera".

Council had received an unexpected additional subsidy of \$150,000 from Queen's Park and decided to advance the Victoria Street project and said they couldn't discuss the project in public before going to tender.

ENDOW members recalled the problems experienced by the residents of Machel Avenue when reconstruction was tendered, without local residents having the opportunity to examine the plans and they didn't want the same thing to happen to residents of Victoria Street.

There was absolutely no reason why the issue was discussed behind closed doors.

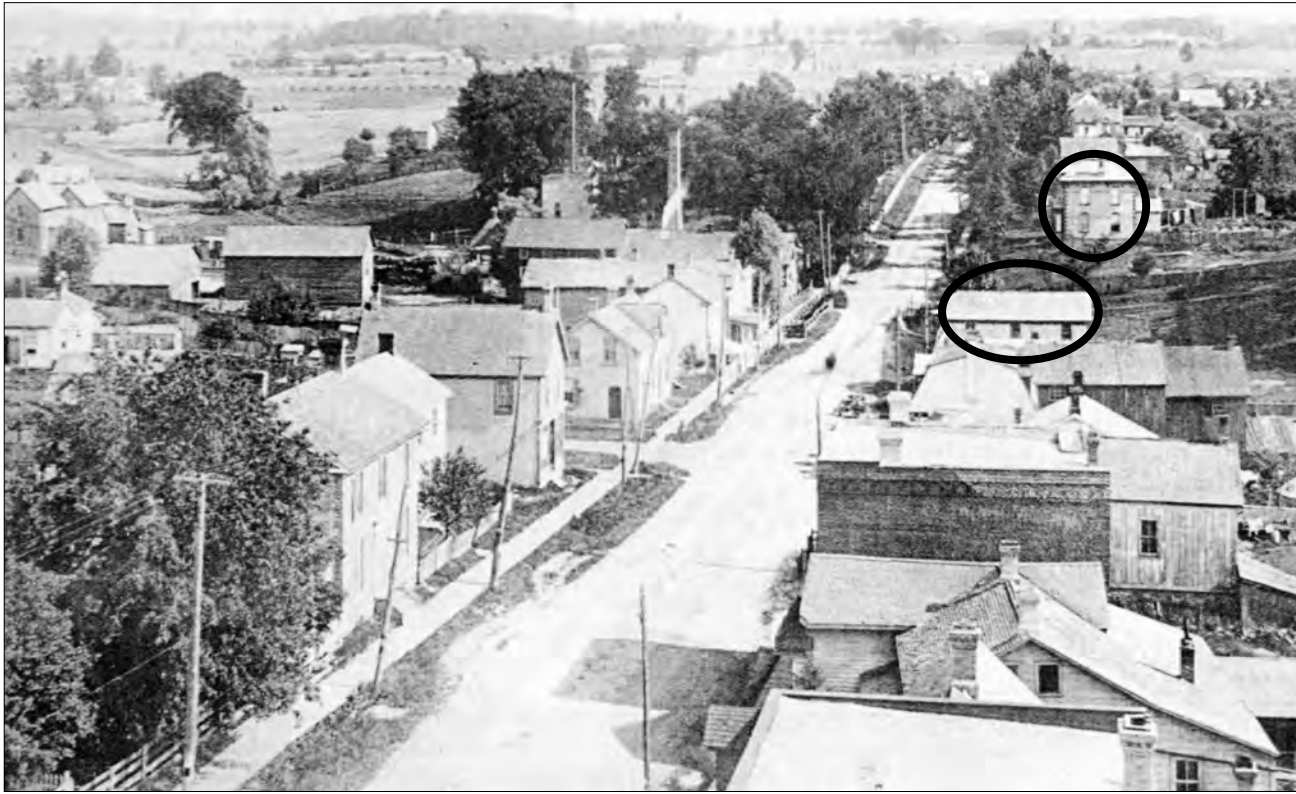
It was public business involving tax dollars and citizens had a right to know.

Similar issues have occurred over the years and although councillors are often elected on promises of more open and transparent government, after the election they are just as quick to assemble behind closed doors as their colleagues.

But things may be changing as at a recent meeting Councillor Phyllis Morris questioned the need to go "in camera" to discuss a legal opinion regarding Aurora Hydro, when another legal opinion pertaining to the procedural bylaw was to be discussed in open council.

More recently, when the vote came to go into private session, council members rebelled and for whatever reason voted against it, and the meeting was adjourned.

It's not much but it's a start to bringing public business back into the public.



Here is a remarkable photo comparison. Both pictures were taken from exactly the same spot, 114 years apart. Looking south on Yonge Street from the tower of the Aurora United Church, the two photographers saw a different Aurora. We spotted two structures (circles) that appear in both shots. One is the house currently owned by Michael Evans, and the other is a building currently occupied by a lighting company. At one time it was a church. Aurora, in 1890, didn't extend very far. Once you got south of Kennedy, you were pretty much into rolling farmland. We have no idea, of course, who took the top picture, but we're grateful to Town of Aurora staffer Barry Bridgeford, who recognized the shot from John McIntyre's book *Aurora: A History In Pictures*, and duplicated it while on a heritage assignment for the Town.

Letter to the Editor

Our community responds to 11-year-old burn victim

To the editor,

We are writing to thank the incredible community we live in.

Living in Aurora is a special gift we all share.

When a tragic event happens, we realize how lucky we are to live in a community full of compassion.

We are the co-trustees to a trust fund started to help support the family of an 11-year-old burn victim here in town.

The Friends of Saxxen have been successfully fundraising this spring.

An enormous effort has been made by many individuals and we would like to thank each and every person who has donated their time, support or sponsored our cause.

We have had a Walk-A-Thon and a Dinner, Dance and Silent Auction to date.

An extra special thank you

goes out to John Lester, Sheri Moody, Tracey Mead (Mead Electric) Tracy Tompkins, Wendy and Pud Hamilton, Marianne Willcock, Lynn Sandell and everyone's spouses who contributed enormously.

Tremendous gratitude goes out to Jenny from Mr. Sub (Yonge & Murray) and her sponsors Coca Cola and Frito Lay.

Our Dinner Dance could not happen without the support of St. Andrew's Valley Golf and Country Club.

Thank you to Megan and all the staff for a wonderful evening of great food and cheer.

Honourable mention goes to The Lush Kings who put on an incredible performance for us.

This is just a very short list of individuals and business who have been incredible with

their support and efforts.

Thanks to all of you, for helping a local family during a difficult time.

We know how much this means to them and also wish to thank them for allowing us to fulfill our need to help their family during this emotional time.

The incredible response from our community has been so overwhelming that we have to quote the words from Saxxen's mother: "How did I get so lucky to live in a community like this?"

It really feels comforting to know we live in such a great town.

Special thanks to all of you.

**Vicki Dietz,
Jacky Shoesmith,
Trustees
Friends of Saxxen
Trust Fund**

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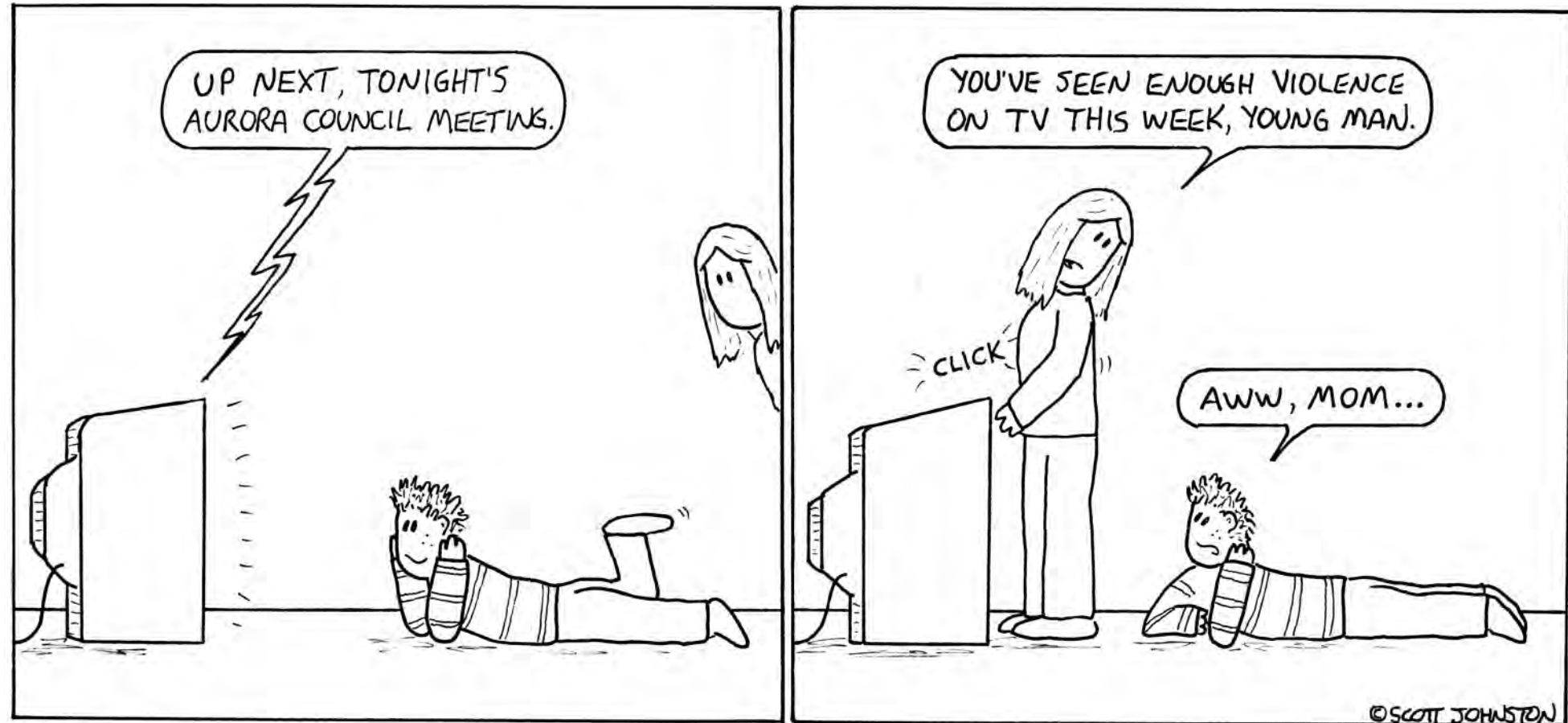
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Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

Aurora hosts Hancuhne delegation

Last August, I advised the previous council that we had been approached by representatives of the Chinese Consulate as a community of interest to receive a delegation of high ranking officials from Hancuhne, China.

They expressed an interest in exploring economic, trade and investment co-operation opportunities with Aurora in order to create a formal relationship with our Town.

Council passed a resolution authorizing the Town to proceed with arrangements to host such a delegation.

As we were fast approaching municipal elections, it was determined to request that this visit be held off until 2004, once the new council was installed and arrangements could be facilitated.

Hancuhne is a model village of 39,000 people about 45 km from the major business and cultural centre of Beijing.

In 1994, they set up the Hancuhne Construction Group Corp. consisting of 19 firms, 96 construction teams, 1,600 technicians and 6,000 employees.

Today it is the second largest township and village construction enterprise in China.

Also prominent from this area is the Hanjian Manufacturing Group Co. which was established in October, 1978, and is now one of the biggest private enterprises in China with real estate as their largest division, followed by manufacturing and numerous subsidiary companies.

Many Canadian industries are increasingly seeking investment opportunities outside Canada to help build their global supply chains.

China is potentially the biggest market in the world for products and services, whose doors are just being opened to free enterprise.

At the request of the officials from Hancuhne, an itinerary has been assembled that would include the sharing of information and visits to places of government, industry and education.

Our guests include Mr. Yu Yinghu, Mayor of the Town of Hancuhne, Mr. Tian Jie, President and Vice Chairman of the Hanjian Group, and Mr. Sun Tiaoshan, Senior Advisor.

On the first day of their visit, and to address the governance and cultural objective of this visit, I greeted our guests at the Town Hall with members of council at a welcome reception and tour of our municipal offices.

That was followed by a luncheon at a local restaurant, the Orchid Thai in Aurora.

Our guests then participated in a Historical Walk through our Town followed by a driving tour of residential and employment areas in the rest of Town, including refreshments at Hillary House.

On day 2, with an eye to business and industry, our guests toured Van Rob Stamping facilities, and the Magna Headquarters and facilities followed by a luncheon hosted by Magna International.

They also toured Alutron Modules before enjoying a rest break courtesy of Howard Johnson's in Aurora.

Following a tour of Seneca College, a reception and dinner was held at Eaton Hall with representatives from the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Advisory Committee and Aurora's own Business Ambassadors along with members of Council and other special guests.

As is customary in visits such as this, gifts were exchanged and a proclamation signed to formalize a relationship between Aurora and Hancuhne.

One of the expectations of such a relationship is that representatives from Aurora will reciprocate with a visit to Hancuhne in the future.

On their final day in Aurora, the delegation visited various educational venues including the York Region District School Board - Northern Lights Public School and St. Andrew's College for presentations on our Education system and then they travelled to Toronto to attend a

luncheon and presentation hosted by the Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance.

It is hoped through visits and the establishments of relationships such as this we can enhance opportunities on a global basis for local business and industry in our Town as well as learn more about other cultures and people we interrelate with more and more in a growing world.

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



I AM CANADIAN!

The trouble with Canadians is that the only thing we're united on is that we're not American.

We sit on chesterfields, drink pop, eat chocolate bars, say "eh" and "zed", go on holidays and write letters when we get miffed - all of which proves that we're not American.

They sit on couches, drink soda, eat candy bars, say "y'all" and "zee", go on vacation and go to war over the same stuff we write letters about.

I think it's time for an "I am Canadian!" revolution that goes deeper than pride in the fact that our beer cases have handles that are big enough to get your hands into with mittens on.

Okay, so it's cold up here. Most Canadian children learn the facts of life by freezing their tongues to something metal and living to tell about it. The facts are simple: there's cold...and there's Canada.

Canada happens to be the world's second largest land mass - almost as big as Russia, which includes Siberia...which might explain why nobody wanted them either.

But we've made the best of it. We invented snowmobilies and ice-cleaning machines. If I'm not mistaken, Aurora has more ice making machines than buses.

Toques are also Canadian. And if they're not, then toques with matching thermal underwear should be. I want mine to have little red maple leaves on them. I would have said "maple leaves", but I am Canadian. People say "Maple Leafs" with passion in these parts.

After all, we invented hockey! And the people of the world have Canada to thank for baseball, lacrosse and basketball. Trouble is, they never do.

I think it's because we picked the beaver as our mascot. We should have picked Tarzan.

Canadians gave the world the telephone, short wave radios, zippers, Velcro, and a full set of Robertson screwdrivers.

We gave space the Canadarm, which is standard equipment on all U.S. space shuttles, and outdid ourselves with

Canadarm2, which comes with a hand. I think some chest pounding is in order, don't you?

Oh, and Superman is Canadian, too. So is Winnie the Pooh (root word, Winnipeg), and, believe it or not, apple pie!

So we have mosquitoes...the size of moose. So what? In case you didn't know, that's our national bird.

And our national pastime is, of course, shovelling snow. In any given winter, Canadians put more mileage on the snow blower than the car. And yes, we did invent the snow blower because, as you know, July can get pretty rough!

Most Canadians know that global warming is a myth. Heck, I can see the polar ice cap from my backyard! No wonder Mary Lynn keeps giving my husband ice scrapers!

In Canada, we have four seasons: almost winter, winter, almost done with winter, and construction.

In spite of that, Canadians have a lot to be proud of, and we don't need to compare ourselves to anybody else to be proud. Our provinces are bigger than most countries and we didn't have to kill anybody to get them that way.

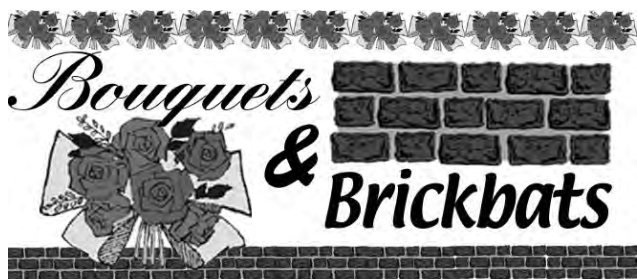
We're a peaceful bunch - as far as I know, we never started a war and never withdrew, surrendered or stood defeated anywhere, to anyone at any time. We took our fourth territory, Florida, by peaceful means - the Americans still don't have a clue.

We don't need weapons of mass destruction. I'll bet every house in Aurora is protected by...um...a stick. Probably a hockey stick with the blade snapped off, but it could be a lacrosse stick, a baseball bat, a broom or something that once was the stick part of a rake.

I know it's hard to feel macho waving a broken stick, but the fact that you'll probably never need it is a pretty good reason to be proud to live in a place like Aurora, Ontario, Canada.


Yup, I'm proud to be Canadian. Even if my tongue still hurts.


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





By **DICK ILLINGWORTH**


 **BOUQUETS** to Maurice Blanchard, a town employee in the parks department, on joining the town's Quarter Century Club with 25 years of service.


 **BRICKBATS** to those at the Town Hall for arranging a public special council meeting as the annual shareholders meeting of Aurora Borealis Holdings at 5 p.m. June 22nd without a single citizen in attendance. This was a very important meeting and should have been well advertised, not just a single line on the town's Notice Board, which few people read.


 **BOUQUETS** to the town for replacing the eight signalized intersections with the new Light Emitting Diode Traffic Signal Head, which provides a brighter, clearer signal, especially when facing the sun. But why replace the flashing green light for left turns with a green arrow? The flashing green is more noticeable!


 **BRICKBATS** to the Traffic Safety Advisory Board for their recommendation regarding parking on Gurnett Street. The problem isn't north of Connaught Avenue but south around Kennedy Street due to the lack of off-street parking at the medical centre. If the parking problem was cleared up, the multi-way stop at Kennedy and Gurnett wouldn't be needed.


 **BOUQUETS** to Canada Post in Aurora for returning the Post Office to a real postal facility rather than the commercial centre it has been in the past, including the processing of passport applications. But what about the little retail stores who took on the role of post office, during your period as a commercial centre?


 **BRICKBATS** to the Chretien Liberal government for adopting changes to the Election Act, by which the taxpayers finance the election and support all parties. This federal election is estimated to cost \$57.6 million, more than double the \$23.9 million for the 2000 vote.

 **BOUQUETS** to Durham Regional Council for amending its tough no smoking bylaw to allow seniors to smoke in designated smoking areas in long term care facilities. It was argued that elderly, particularly veterans, should not be stopped from smoking in what, in effect, was their home. York Region, please copy!

 **BRICKBATS** to the Martin Liberal government for keeping secret a report recommending that MPs salaries be increased 20 per cent to \$168,000 a year plus a housing allowance, free travel and other perks. This is on top of the 20 per cent increase in 2002 and the eight per cent increase since then. It's a lot of money for trained sheep.

 **BOUQUETS** to the Ontario Liberal government for approving a 70 per cent increase in funding of \$1 million for the OPP's efforts in fighting child pornography. Now if they can arrange for judges to give tougher sentences for possession and distribution, it might help to reduce the crime.

 **BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Lions Club and all the other dedicated volunteers who work so hard to make the annual Polo for Heart such a success as a fundraiser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. So far the event has raised more than \$3.5 million.

 **BRICKBATS** to members of council for attempting to delay a debate until a future meeting just because a member of council wasn't in attendance. A quorum is five members and as long as five members are present, it's a legal meeting.

Letters to the Editor



Senior citizen Charles Sequeira fields questions from the audience for Conservative Party of Canada candidate Belinda Stronach. Her behaviour at the Aurora Seniors' Centre gathering last Tuesday morning impressed the writer below.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Belinda impresses this senior citizen

To the editor,

Belinda Stronach's visit to the Aurora Senior Centre was a success, her approval rating moved upward with her portrayal of a confident and competent young politician.

Her address was powered by her articulate description of what the Conservatives have done for Canada merely by unifying themselves into a coherent, authoritative alternative to a Liberal party grown fat and inefficient.

This was before a group of discerning seniors who demand competent, effective and democratic leadership, sought to replace the present concentration of power in one man, the Prime Minister.

She could have said we presently have too much Prime Minister, and not enough Cabinet, and too

much Cabinet and not enough rank and file M.P.'s.

She clearly won the hearts of the seniors who asked questions of her without rancor, and who in the end appeared to be won over by a very attractive lady of obvious merit, grace and charm, which she mingled well with an underlying grit and determination.

Clearly she is young and attractive, with a mountain of learning before her, and with the apparent capacity and grit to get done what needs to be done.

She brings a balance of femininity, youth and glamour, not seen in Canada for a while, which certainly bodes well for raising the image of the Conservative party, and if that quality resides in Aurora, I will vote Conservative.

**Bryan Warburton
Aurora**

Winners named from Horse Show

To the editor,

As one of the organizers of the Aurora Fair & Horse Show's 3rd annual "Junior Arts, Crafts, & Photography Competition," I would like to congratulate the competitors who won "Best of Show" in our four age groups this year.

For the "Amateur Art" category, the winners were Olivia Digirolamo, Claudia Digirolamo, Cassie Little, and Erin Jewell.

For the "Crafts" category, the winners were Kate Harken, Rebecca Azzaro, Alison Cheeseman, and Brendan McDermott.

For the "Photography" category, the winners were Madalene Lauris, Fraser James, and Michelle Proulx.

For the "Specials" category, the winners were Nicole Marshall, Jocelyn Arnew, Debbie Ho, and Michelle

Proulx.

The winner of the Poster Competition was Kevon Lu.

The winners of the People's Choice Awards were Kate Harkin, Jocelyn Arnew (two awards) and Alison Cheeseman.

Congratulations to all of our winners!

And thank you to all of the other fine young artists, artists, and photographers who participated!

For more information about the competition, check out the Aurora Fair's website at www.auro-rafair.ca.

Congratulations, also, to the winner of our Jelly Bean Counting Contest, Amanda Barraclough!

**Linda Schneidereit
Director,
Aurora Agricultural
Society**

No doubt about Collis pollution in 30s: reader

To the editor,

I read your article about Collis Leather in last week's Auroran.

No one who lived in Aurora in the 1930s could have any doubt that Collis Leather put a lot of pollution into the central branch of the Holland River.

I can remember smelling the odour of it on Mosley Street near the Salvation Army Church, 150 yards east of Yonge Street.

I also saw a lot of mess in that creek beside Mill Street.

There was no such mess in the same creek at the factory near Yonge and Reuben Streets upstream from there.

The only factory on the banks of that stream between the two locations was the Collis plant on Tyler Street.

Now I ask you. What conclusions would you draw from the above-mentioned facts?

**W.G. Willis
Aurora**



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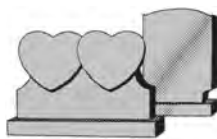
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Stronach wins Aurora-Newmarket by a hair

From page 1
seats of the government for a while which would be a good thing for the mother of two who confided she would never return to the executive towers of Magna. "Many think I'd just go back to work at Magna if I lost the election," she said. "It won't happen immediately."

Watch for your new riding Member of Parliament to appear in Thursday's July First parade on Yonge Street in Aurora.

"We always have the local political dignitaries in this parade," said Parade Chairman Ron Wallace. "It was a little tougher this year, having to wait until Monday to find out who it would be."

In the race, Stronach zig zagged from the beginning, setting a trend that was almost established during the advance poll.

More than 5,000 people

cast ballots early in Newmarket-Aurora, suggesting there was a change in the air. Advance voting across the country set new attendance records.

But it wasn't that apparent.

When push came to shove, the federal upset that seemed to be in the air, wasn't happening.

And, putting up a valiant battle against Stonach was Martha Hall Findlay, the Liberal candidate who had the unenviable job of picking up the riding party after their first choice for candidate - John Taylor - pulled out because of the Liberal problems.

Findlay, who currently lives in Newmarket, and lived there 20 years ago, held her own in political debates and ran just as hard as Stronach trying to win over voters.

"We're hoping for a win regardless of the outcome,"

she told The Auroran Monday night. "Our team has worked incredibly hard. We succeeded beyond anyone's expectations."

Elvis imitator and minister Dorian Baxter ran for the original Progressive Conservative party, although officially the name was changed to Progressive Canadian, finished dead last although confusion between that group and the new Conservative Party of Canada suggested he might finish higher.

If nothing else, Baxter was entertaining and won the hearts of many he preached fire and brimstone at all-candidates' meetings throughout the riding.

One person in Aurora suggested he should be Speaker of the House whether he was elected or not.

New Democratic Party candidate Ed Chudak finished third and the Green Party was in fourth.

For Stronach, it's an about-face from what she's been used to.

Overseeing a huge empire of some 70,000 workers, and earning millions of dollars each year, Stronach will now settle into Ottawa life serving the very people who worked for her.

She will have a constituency office in the riding, but those details will be sorted out in the weeks to come.

Right now, it's time to

celebrate.

In spite of campaign signs she didn't like - "I don't even wear red lipstick" - Belinda Stronach swept to a brand new power Monday, and it will probably start to sink in as the week unfolds.

For now, the 5 a.m. mornings, the handshaking on railway platforms, the

tours through senior citizens' buildings, the meetings, the coffee parties, the door knocking, the never-ending schedule, all those things are over.

It will be interesting to see if she slows down, and it will also be interesting to see if she finally puts some vodka into her soda water.



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A happy Martha Hall Findlay awaits her moment to address supporters following her strong finish in Monday's election. Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Car dealership would replace historic house

From page 1
consistent growth of the dealership made it necessary to find a new location as it was not possible to expand at his Yonge Street location.

James Bennett, a planner for the applicant, said parking to the rear of the building adjacent to the backyards of the townhouses would be "inventory" with limited movement, with a six-metre buffer, double the size required between the site and the residences.

He pointed out the increased assessment the development would bring to the town. He also noted that low intensity lighting would be used and outstanding issues could be resolved at the site plan stage.

Jim Hill, a resident of property to the south of the site, said he had received a

verbal commitment regarding noise and lighting and asked that the commitment be included in the record.

He also noted the number of motor vehicle accidents on Bayview and suggested access to the site be from Wellington Street rather than Bayview.

Councillor John West recommended staff work with Chapman and take into account comments made by citizens and advise residents when the official plan amendment was to come to council.

Councillor Ron Wallace asked if anything could be done to save the Hartman House.

Chapman offered to donate the house to Wallace or any organization as there was nothing he could do with it.

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Mayor Tim Jones gets a Segway riding lesson at recent Aurora Street Festival

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Aurora Lawn Bowling Club players Cyril Jackson, left, and Stan Farmer got to the finals in District 13 Lawn Bowling playdowns in Aurora last week, battling against 10 other teams.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Aurora twosome battles to finals

It may not be the most exciting sport in the land, but lawn bowling championships in Aurora last week saw a pair from here almost win it all.

As it turned out Stan Farmer and Cyril Jackson from the Aurora Lawn Bowling Club got to the finals before losing out to a team from Richmond Hill.

Aurora played host to the 2004 District 13 Men's Pairs Championship over two days last week, and the winners advance to the Ontario Championships and then to the 2004 Canadian Lawn Bowling Championships, this year slated for British Columbia.

Eleven teams participated in the Aurora event with three teams making it through to the finals.

Final results showed Gord Legacy and Frank Zazzara of Richmond Hill in first place, with Aurora's Farmer and Jackson and Ray Williams and Ron Geniole from Orillia, the other competing finalists.

The event attracted the best lawn bowlers from across the district and provided great competitions for the spectators.

In the provincial final, District 13 winners will compete against 15 other districts.

Volunteers from the Aurora Lawn Bowling Club

helped ensure the success of the two-day event.

The club is headquartered at Aurora's McMahon Park in the Maple-Fleury Street area.

<u>AURORA MINOR BALL ASSOCIATION</u>		
<u>BASEBALL</u>		
<u>Rookie Ball</u>		
Jun 15	Optimist Club (18) vs. McAlpine Ford (9)	
Mosquito		
Jun 17	Dr. Orschel Drillers (8) vs. Reagens (7)	
Jun 21	Dr. Orschel Drillers (13) vs. Hempen Jewellers (6)	
Jun 22	Priestly Demolition (12) vs. Optimists (11) Nature's Emporium (9) vs. Re / Max Omega (7)	
Jun 23	Filebank Records (10) vs. Dr. Orschel Drillers (9)	
<u>SOFTBALL</u>		
5 Pitch		
Jun 21	Financialinx (8) vs. Ontario Auto (7)	
Jun 22	Steiner's Drillers (13) vs Aurora Home Hardware (3)	
Squirt		
Jun 24	Interworld Paper Overseas Ltd vs. Apotex: Rainout	
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Aurora Jr. Novice Diggers win bronze in tournament

The Aurora Diggers Junior Novice girls followed up their consolation gold meal win in Brantford by winning bronze in the annual Barrie Storm tournament last weekend.

They started off round robin play on Friday night with a disappointing 7-6 loss to Barrie.

Saturday saw the team lose 11-0 and 10-0 to Chinguacousy Tier Two and Tier 1 teams respectively.

However, the girls rebounded in their final game of the day to defeat Ancaster 14-3.

Highlights included a triple and two singles by Heather Wilson; a double and a single by Meagen Eveleigh; three singles by Emily Andrews and two singles by Hannah Hallsworth, Elizabeth Harris, Alana Rose, Alexandra Baker-Nevills and Kathryn Barrett. The win qualified the

team for the playoff round on the tournament's final day.

The first playoff game saw Aurora lose 11-1 to the Chinguacousy Tier Two team putting them into the bronze medal game with a rematch against Barrie.

This time, Aurora trampled the host team 13-2.

Led by Lauren Renaud and Kelly Hobson, who hit three singles each, the team was helped by Hallsworth and Eveleigh

who each had two singles and Wilson who had a triple and a single. Highlight of this game came in the sixth inning with a spectacular catch in right field by Eveleigh.

Although Barrie had several base runners throughout the game, the girls played strong defensively to prevent them from scoring.

Pitching duties throughout the weekend were shared equally by Renaud and Wilson.




Jaguar Gymnastics

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Southlake officially opens building

While it's true Southlake Regional Health Centre is in Newmarket, there's no doubt in anyone's mind it's Aurora's hospital, too.

And many from Aurora were on hand last week as Southlake celebrated the official opening of its new six-storey multi-million-dollar building.

Just two days after the hospital's 82nd anniversary, staff, physicians, volunteers, dignitaries and special guests came together to celebrate the official opening of Southlake's new building.

In addition to representing a major milestone in the hospital's \$180 million redevelopment project, this new building will provide key programs with desperately needed space, which will ultimately result in enhanced comfort and privacy for patients and their families.

"This is a monumental

day for Southlake and this community," stated Hospital President and CEO Daniel Carriere. "Our effort to expand this facility and develop regional programs has been tireless, and I believe this building will serve as a testament to our dedication to meet and exceed the health care needs of this community."

The day's events included a morning reception for staff, physicians and volunteers and an afternoon official opening ceremony, which was attended by Health Minister George Smitherman, Belinda Stronach, honorary chair of the hospital foundation's "Nurture the Future" capital campaign and Joe Dales, son of hospital founder, Dr. Lowell Dales.

A plaque was unveiled in the lobby of the new building and the dedication of a time capsule to the staff, physicians and volunteers was

made by Mr. Dales.

The time capsule will be reopened on the Hospital's 125th Anniversary June 20, 2047.

In addition, about 1,000 community members had an opportunity to tour the new facility.

"Many people came together in a determined effort to raise the funds that were needed to build this new facility," said Mr. Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. "Along with the hard work and far-sightedness of the hospital's board and management, that community effort went a long way toward making the dream of this new facility come true."

Toward the massive project, the provincial government has contributed a total of \$88.3 million. The Regional Municipality of York contributed \$24.3 million, and Simcoe County added \$2.4 million.

Through the "Nurture the Future" campaign Southlake's foundation has surpassed its initial commitment of \$15 million and has raised in excess of \$16.6 million.

"Our commitment to this project simply would not have been enough," said Carriere. "The financial support and moral backing we received from the province, the region and the countless number of donors who contributed to our capital campaign have made today possible."

Levels one and two of the new building opened in December and facilitated the introduction of cardiac surgery.

Occupation of levels three through six is scheduled to take place in early July and will include the relocation of the maternal child, cardiac, cancer and musculoskeletal programs into their new space.

Perhaps one of the most highly anticipated benefits of this project will also be realized when the emergency department moves into a space three times its current size.

Following occupation of the new building, renovations will begin on the two existing towers to expand

and modernize the patient care areas.

In order to facilitate the construction of the hospital's Regional Cancer Centre and five-storey parking structure on the west side of the property, demolition on the north-west side of the property will begin in early 2005.

Gurnett parking restriction to get a six-month trial

Parking on Gurnett Street has been a problem for some time due to the lack of off-

Cobblestones gets bylaw

It has been a two-year journey for John Gaspar to obtain council approval for a rezoning bylaw to permit him to operate a retirement home and a residential care facility on the corner of Kennedy and Yonge Streets.

It was back in June 2002 when council received an application from the new owner of Cobblestone Lodge seeking an exception to the bylaw to permit a boarding or rooming house or a group home in the building.

Previous use of the building was a retirement home, which existed as a legal non-conforming use, as the property was zoned for apartments.

A public meeting was held at the time and citizens and staff expressed concern about the term "boarding house",

Because council failed to make a decision on the application within 90 days, Gaspar appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board.

An OMB pre-hearing was held in early 2003 resulting in the hearing officer suggesting the town and applicant try to resolve differences. That didn't happen and a full OMB hearing was scheduled for May.

Prior to the hearing Gaspar appeared before council to request a temporary bylaw so that after three years of satisfactory compliance, the temporary use would become permanent.

An informal public information meeting was held in April 2003 at which time Gaspar provided a draft zoning bylaw setting out planned uses.

They included continued use as a retirement home, respite care, assisted living and special needs such as providing room and board for persons

street parking for the medical facility located at the corner of Yonge and Kennedy

with mental illness, schizophrenia or persons who were developmentally delayed.

At a public planning meeting held March 24, 2004, with no neighbours in attendance, council directed staff to work with Gaspar towards finalization of an implementing bylaw, with a holding provision to remain in place until May, 2006.

Town staff met with a concerned neighbour and it was determined the issues which had been raised appeared to be licensing requirements and monitoring, which would be better addressed by the region.

York officials advised that the region requires facility operators to enter into a Domiciliary Hostel Agreement in order to obtain a licence.

However, the agreement and the governing bylaw addressed physical aspects of the operation such as zoning compliance, building code, fire regulations and other health/safety issues, which did not address the concerns raised by the neighbour regarding care of the people residing in the facility.

Last week, with little debate, council approved the adoption of the permanent bylaw at the termination of the holding provision in 2006.

Street East.

At a meeting of the Traffic Services Advisory Board earlier this month, it was recommended a multi-way stop sign be approved for the intersection of Gurnett and Kennedy.

It was also recommended that parking be prohibited on the east side of Gurnett from Connaught Avenue to a point 40 metres north and that all affected citizens be advised.

The report came to council last week and Diane Schormans, a resident of Gurnett Street, wanted to know why her home on Gurnett was the only one affected and if the bylaw was to be enacted it should be for Monday to Friday when the medical centre was open, leaving the weekend free for visitor parking.

Councillor John West suggested that visitors should park on Connaught, but Mrs. Schormans said it was not a good spot due to the grade.

He suggested council consider the request for the Monday to Friday restriction as a temporary move and it be monitored for a six-month period.

Councillor Damir Vrancic said he was reluctant to take away the right of any citizen to park in front of their house and suggested some form of a permit system, which would allow a homeowner to park in a restricted zone.

It was finally agreed to enact a Monday to Friday bylaw for a six-month trial causing Councillor Ron

Wallace to comment that he had requested a similar six-month trial period for the Kennedy West/George Street intersection two years ago and was still waiting for a report.



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Yellow Brick House celebrated the Fourth Anniversary of the Pathway of Peace in Aurora last week. Taking part in the ceremonies are, from the rear, Steve Dekter, Pathway of Peace Chairman of the Board; Aurora Mayor Tim Jones; Mark LaVigne, Pathway of Peace Co-founder; Filomena Williams, Pathway of Peace Co-founder and Executive Director; and Margaret Haynes, Executive Director, Julliette's Place in Scarborough where the second Pathway of Peace will open shortly.

Kennel Inn opponents continue their fight, but council okays contract

At an Aurora general committee meeting recently, Carol Mernick, representing the Aurora Residents Pet Care Association, expressed concern about a staff report recommending a one-year contract extension with Kennel Inn for canine control, which the committee endorsed.

She was back at a council meeting last week in an attempt to get council members to reject the committee report.

It didn't happen.

She said the association had followed all protocol and provided council members with detailed information about Kennel Inn.

She noted that after 29 years of providing canine control for the town they still didn't have proper facilities.

She added that while the conditions at Kennel Inn may not be a top priority for council, it was for pet owners.

At a previous meeting due to association complaints, council had directed staff to investigate.

Association members offered to help in the investigation but they hadn't been

contacted by staff or council members.

She added that she was shocked at the lack of concern on the part of council.

She requested immediate action be taken to terminate the contract with Kennel Inn and make temporary arrangements with

the Georgina municipal pound until more permanent arrangements could be made.

Council received the presentation and re-confirmed its previous position that the contract with Kennel Inn be extended for one year at a cost of \$105,000.

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Collis owner fights back

At a previous Aurora General Committee meeting, council endorsed a staff report containing an evaluation of Tannery Creek both upstream and downstream from the former Collis Leather site on Tyler Street.

This was in spite of strong opposition from Jeffrey Miller, representing Maple Leaf Foods, owners of the site.

He said it was possible other industries could be responsible for the contamination.

Earth Tech Canada had been engaged by the town for the study and a copy had been forwarded to the property owners.

Miller said there had not been sufficient time to study the report and he would provide more information at the following council meeting.

In spite of his opposition, the committee agreed a copy of the report on Surface Water and Sediment Sampling be forwarded to the Ministry of the Environment, with a request that they require the property owners to carry out investigations on their site and determine if the contamination poses a threat to aquatic life.

It was also approved that the report be forwarded to the region's health department, transportation and works department, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Environment Canada and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Staff was also directed to arrange a public information session to inform property owners abutting Tannery Creek in the general area from

Wellington Street to Aurora Heights Drive

Last week at a council meeting, Ian Kerr of Barenco Environmental Engineering and Site Remediation Services, acting for Maple Leaf Foods, addressed council.

He pointed out that in the limited time they had to study it, it was obvious the Collis property was the selected target for the investigation and the investigation was based on the erroneous assumption that Collis was the only potential source of contamination.

The investigation failed to mention seven other major historical industries and possible contributors, including two tanneries upstream of the Collis site and two major metal implement manufacturers on Tannery Creek at Wellington Street.

The investigation, he said, also failed to mention numerous other recent and current opera-

tions that are potential contributors, not necessarily directly on the watercourse.

It was noted that in many municipalities it was acceptable to discharge industrial waste into storm sewers until the 1960s, and some of these connections may still exist.

A map was provided listing the locations of eight potential sites previously occupied by woolen mill, Fleury Plough, Gurnett Tannery, Daville Tannery, Hart Industries, a potash works and an unnamed tannery.

Kerr suggested the recommendation contained in the general committee report be rescinded as it was made upon the interpretation of limited data.

It was finally decided that it was not up to council to amend the report but to send all information to the Ministry of the Environment and York Region Public Health to take action.

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Delegation gets whirlwind Aurora tour

By **DICK ILLINGWORTH**

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

In 1994 several people set up the Hancunhe Construction Group Corporation consisting of 19 firms, 96 construction teams, 1,600 technicians and 6,000 employees.

Today it is the second largest township and village construction enterprise in China.

The Hanjian Manufacturing Group was established in October, 1978, and is now one of the largest private enterprises in China.

The company's real estate division is the largest of the company, followed by their manufacturing division.

Their subsidiary companies include architecture designing, real estate development, and the manufacture of a variety of products.

Three residents, including the mayor, visited Aurora for three days last week.

Included were Mayor Yu Yinghu of Nancunhe; Tian Jie, President of the Hanjian Group; and Sun Tiaoshan, senior advisor.

Last August Aurora Mayor Tim Jones was approached by representatives from the Chinese Consulate on behalf of the Town of Hancunhe. They expressed an interest in exploring economic, trade and investment opportunities with Aurora.

A preliminary meeting of some council members with Su Zhe, Consul for Science for the Consulate of China was held that month.

The discussion covered areas of business, with the knowledge that Magna International planned to locate a facility in China.

Council agreed the best way to develop any potential partnership would be for a delegation from Hancunhe to visit Aurora, view the town's facilities and businesses and to enter into discussions.

A month later, Mayor Jones said he had received information that a delegation would like to visit the municipality in November, after the municipal election and asked council's direction.

Councillor John West said any decision regarding partnership should be left to the incoming council, and there was a need to know just what was involved.

Other members disagreed pointing out that this was a fact-finding mission and would provide an excellent opportunity for members of council and the business community to obtain information without committing to anything.

The invitation was extended.

But they didn't show up...at least not until last week, causing a minor frenzy at the Town Hall as officials struggled to assemble an itinerary.

Once here, the Chinese delegation spent three days visiting various industries and educational facilities.

Industrial tours included Magna International, Van Rob Stamping and Alutron Modules.

St. Andrew's College and the York Region District School Board were

also visited.

In addition to a walk around Aurora's historical downtown core, the delegation visited Hillary House and the gardens of Merlin's Hollow.

One of the highlights of the visit was a reception and dinner at Seneca College's Eaton Hall, with business, Chamber of Commerce, provincial government representatives and members of the Town's Economic Development Committee in attendance.

The evening was hosted by Deputy Mayor Phyllis Morris and Councillor Nigel Kean.

In welcoming the guests, Aurora Economic Development Officer Dino Lombardi said was the start of a new relationship between the two municipalities.

Deputy Mayor Morris said the visit laid the groundwork for friendship and further cultural and business exchanges which would be of mutual benefit for both municipalities.

She described the quality of life in Aurora with its many advantages, the Chamber of Commerce, service clubs and golf courses and said the town was open for business.

Speaking through a translator, Mayor Yu Yinghu said it was a wonderful experience to visit the Town of Aurora and noted how the delegation had been welcomed with open arms.

He expressed the hope that the relationship would continue.

He described his town with a population of 39,000

and the need to foster the relationship between the towns and Canada and China to share economic growth for the benefit of all. He extended an invitation to visit China in 2004 or 2005.

Following his remarks the

heads of both municipalities signed a proclamation to further the cultural and economic relationship.

Then there was the traditional exchange of gifts.

Aurora had arranged to purchase a framed limited

edition sepia print of the historic Church Street School by Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure. The artist was in attendance and was asked to assist in the presentation to the visiting mayor.



Aurora Deputy Mayor Phyllis Morris greets Hancunhe Mayor Yu Yinghu during a reception Thursday at Seneca's Eaton Hall. A trio from Hancunhe visited Aurora last week and had a look at several major operations in town. An invitation was extended to Aurora officials to return the visit.

Three visitors from Hancunhe, China, and local officials were kept busy Thursday viewing several major Aurora operations. In the top photo, a tour of Magna International was a must, while guests are greeted at Alutron Modules Inc., below.

Photos by Rob Schuetze

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Someone stole team's soccer nets

Believe it or not, but in September, 1975, a thief or thieves, took off with a set of goal nets from the field at Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School valued at \$125.

The nets belonged to the Aurora Hellenics soccer team and the players wanted them back.

Team captain George Seretis said he couldn't understand why anyone would need a set of soccer nets.

A YOUNGER BOB McROBERTS

Bob McRoberts is well known in Aurora as a math teacher at Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School and for his work in the community with the Aurora Heritage Committee and the Historical Society.

In 1971, he was a Grade 12 student at Williams and vice-president of the student council.

On April 1, he was called to the school office and asked if he would like an all-expense paid trip to Vancouver, sponsored by the provincial and federal governments.

He accepted.

On August 2, he joined a group of 24 Young Voyageurs at Union Station in Toronto on the CN Super-Continental for the three-day trip to Langley, British Columbia, a small town about 30 miles from Vancouver.

On arrival the students were met by students their own age with whom they were billeted.

During the week, they met every morning at the high school ready for the day's adventure including 25 tours and visits and many new friends.

In September, 1973, the same Bob McRoberts, now a student at Waterloo University, tied with another person in a vocalists' contest at the CNE to win half a scholarship. He was one of 19 competitors.

ROTARY HELD A TRADE FAIR

In 1968, the Aurora Rotary Club organized an annual Trade Fair which was held at the Community Centre.

In 1970 club members decided to give the fair a new name and accent.

They decided to widen the scope of the affair and call it the Rotary Home and Trade Show featuring the latest in home furnishings and appliances.

After an absence for a few years the Rotary Trade Fair returned to the Community Centre in May, 1978.

Now the Aurora Chamber of Commerce holds a similar annual event using two ice surfaces at the Aurora Community Centre location.

OPTIMIST CLUB'S MILE OF QUARTERS

Also in May, 1978, the Aurora Optimist Club stretched a tape along the east side of Yonge Street from Murray Drive to Wellington and invited donors to contribute a quarter to help pay for the renovations and addition to the old Victoria Street Library.

For every dollar raised towards putting the finishing touches on the library, Wintario agreed to match the amount dollar for dollar.

At the same time the Club celebrated its 10th anniversary with a dinner dance at the Aurora Highlands, with all proceeds from the dance for the Library fund.

AURORA CHAMBER TRADE SHOW

In May, 1997, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce held a Trade Show at the Atrium Ballroom with about 35 exhibitors.

It was the Chamber's first trade show in several years.

The guest speaker was Frank Stronach, who stressed the importance and potential of people.

He provided a brief outline of how Magna had grown from a small tool and die business started in a Toronto garage, how the business had blossomed and explained his fair enterprise charter.

The company has a corporate constitution which predetermined what it did with its profits.

He explained that 10 per cent went to employees, 20 per cent to shareholders, six per cent to management, seven per cent for research, two per cent for charity and the balance reinvested in the company.

He said he wanted to stay in Aurora and York Region and spoke about the new cultural centre being planned, which could be used by the community.

AURORA HIGH GOES AROMA-FREE

Back in March, 1999, two student groups at Aurora High School petitioned school officials for the school to become scent-free.

They wanted to assist those students who had allergies to scented products.

While agreeing that controlling scents couldn't be legislated or mandated, officials said students would be requested to respect others' sensibilities.

Unlike the push for a smoking ban, York Region health officials said there was no policy in place to eliminate scent from public places.

The students pointed out that there were 1,400 people working in one location, it was necessary to work and live

together and have consideration for those who are affected by allergies.

It was also noted that many scented products contain volatile organic compounds, which can cause a variety of adverse reactions among 20 per cent of the population who suffer from breathing problems, such as hay fever, asthma and environmental sensitivities.

Council selects environment group

During the final days of the former council in 2003, it was suggested an Environmental Advisory Committee be established to advise council on environmental issues.

Council adopted the suggestion and referred implementation to the incoming council.

In February, after a heated discussion on the committee structure, council approved the re-establishment of advisory committees with the addition of an Environmental and a Finance Committee.

An advertisement sought applications for the committee and following a private meeting the following citizens were appointed to the committee: Robert Cook, Mary Hill, Ellen Mole, Darryl Moore, David Tomlinson, Susan Walmer and Klaus Wehrenberg.

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There was no lack of vehicles and no lack of volunteers to clean them recently when Aurora Home Hardware became the scene for a fund-raising Armor-All Car Wash. Money raised goes to the Aurora Army Cadets. Here, left to right, Graeme Sherman, Sean Crilly, Kirsten Broadbent, Brenda Dickens and Ryan Troy, get serious in their cleaning efforts.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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Silly & BJ



LAPROCINA Valerie

Graduated from Seneca College, with her Early Childhood Education Diploma on June 22, 2004. Val is a graduate of Dr. Williams SS -Aurora.

Congratulations Val!
We are very proud of you!
Love Mom, Marc, & Mike



DAVIS Jacqueline
Graduated
Dr. G.W. Williams

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Family & Friends



Graduates



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SEMINAR



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Old Town Hall in Newmarket
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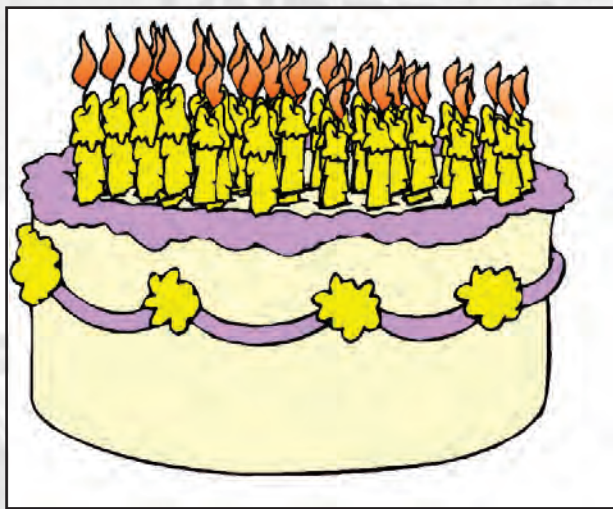
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SAT - 9 - 5
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