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# AURORAN

*Aurora's Community Newspaper*

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Vol. 4 No. 38

Week of July 13, 2004

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## Soccer squad off to England

The Under 12 Aurora Stingers (affectionately known as "The Boys of 92") are about to embark on the trip of a lifetime that will take them to the grassroots of soccer.

Friday, they will depart for an extensive tour of England.

A trip that has been planned for almost two years, the adventure promises to be both educational and a lot of fun.

The team has planned stadium tours of Manchester United, Leeds United and Huddersfield Town, high profile training sessions at both the Arsenal and Sheffield United Youth Academies, many exhibition games, and some traditional sightseeing.

This trip was first proposed by team coaches Chris Speller and Paul Ryan.

"Our good friend Ally MacLean had mentioned how

he had visited Leksand, Sweden, (Aurora's twin) with a girls' team some 20 years ago and what a wonderful time they all had," said Speller. "We immediately decided we wanted to take the boys to England to show them how players their own age, eat, drink and live this game.

"We have a very busy schedule finishing with a tournament held in Huddersfield called The Yorkshire Cup," he said. "The boys will look forward to representing the Aurora Youth Soccer Club and the Town of Aurora and plan on bringing back the Yorkshire Cup to show how soccer has progressed in Canada over the last few years. It won't be easy but you have to know these boys and this team."

The team will be gone for about 16 days.



This crew is off to merry old England this Friday, to, among other things, compete in a soccer tournament. They are, back row, left to right, Paul Ryan, assistant coach; Jacob Downes; Louis Lamanna; Michael Hanton; Chris Speller, head coach; David Campillo; Nicholas Shortill; Patrick Power and Stephen Lerner, team manager. Front Row, left to right, Connor Fordyce; Dylan Huntley; Eric Cigana; Peter Abels; Tristan Gauthier-Reia; Graham Cormack; Colin Lahti; Dexter Speller-Drews and Max Lerner.

## Briefly

### Celtic Night at Wesley

Aurora talent will shine Sunday, July 25, at a Midsummer Celtic Night in Wesley Corners.

Where?

Wesley Corners is located at the intersection of Wellington Street East and Woodbine Avenue, a stone's throw from Aurora's east boundary of Highway 404.

Major structure there is the Wesley United Church, and that's where you can witness the talent of Sarah Kyle, Joe Likuski and Elizabeth Penrice, all of Aurora.

A candle-lit evening of songs from England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and the East Coast of Canada, the event will feature music from Robbie Burns to the Rankins.

Sarah is the feature singer, an internationally acclaimed mezzo soprano who has sung at the Vatican.

Tickets are \$10 at the door and activity begins at 7 p.m.

### Perfect hand

They say a perfect hand in cribbage is akin to a golfer's hole in one.

Pretty amazing.

Well, Richard Galata wound up with one playing crib with a group of friends at the Aurora Seniors' Centre recently.

"It certainly doesn't happen too often," said witness Al White, who, by the way, said he was in the photo in last week's Auroran showing employees at Sisman Shoes. It was taken in 1951, he said.

The perfect cribbage hand - 29 points - comes about when in your hand you have a Jack and three fives and the top deck card is the fourth five which matches the Jack.

## Tiny pond protects big lake

A hole in the ground in Aurora will help save Lake Simcoe.

Workers began last week digging out an area of land on Kennedy Street West that should eventually reduce the amount of phosphorus pollution entering Lake Simcoe by an estimated 37 kilograms a year.

Officials were on hand Thursday morning as workers began digging out a small pond that will act as a filter for stormwater that eventually flows north into Lake Simcoe.

The pond is located west of Murray Drive, adjacent to the new Deerhorn Crescent subdivision.

According to Works Director Wayne Jackson, water draining down Kennedy would be diverted into the pond where the phosphorus would be filtered out before the water continues its journey north to Lake Simcoe.

The Kennedy Street and Deerhorn Crescent Stormwater Management Facility, as it's called by Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, is meant to save the huge lake at the north end of York Region, and could prevent the growth of up to 18.5 metric tons of weeds a year.

Please see page 14



For the second time this year, Aurora has produced a potential leader of a political party. Last week, Aurora's Frank Klees launched his campaign announcing he wanted to lead the provincial Progressive Conservative Party. His wife, Jaïne, shares the moment. Klees has competition from Jim Flaherty and John Tory. Earlier this year, Aurora's Belinda Stronach declared her intentions to seek the leadership of the newly-formed Conservative Party of Canada. She finished second behind Stephen Harper, but then went on to capture the new riding of Newmarket-Aurora in the recent federal election.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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## COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

### CONTINUING

Aurora Farmers' Market, Temperance Street and Wellington, every Saturday morning until Thanksgiving. 8 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.  
\* \* \* \*

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.

### 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 19

This is the last date that an appeal may be launched with the Ontario Municipal Board regarding the increased Development Charge Bylaw enacted by council June 8. File a notice of appeal with the Town Clerk.

### JULY 21

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

### JULY 25

Help break a Guinness World Record and save lives by participating in a 100 metre swim at the Leisure Complex. Register, get pledges and go swimming. For details call 905-727-3123 extension 3123.

### 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.

### SEPTEMBER 19

Terry Fox Run. Sheppard's Bush. Registration (8:30 a.m.) and start of Run (10 a.m.) at Sheppard's Bush Soccer Fields on Industrial Parkway South. Register on-line for the Aurora Run, Site 2, at www.terry-foxrun.org.

### 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.

### NOVEMBER 20

Santa Claus Parade, 6 p.m.



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### TERRIFIC SPACE IN THIS SOLID HOME ON LARGE LOT!

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**\$479,000**

### WONDERFUL FAMILY HOME BACKING TO TREED RAVINE!

This immaculate home in southwest Aurora has a private, pool-sized lot! Many extras including hardwood floors & more! Huge kitchen! Prof. finished basement has pool/games room, bar, sauna & office!



**\$549,000**

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# Town applies to itself to rezone its own land

In March, 2000, Aurora Council authorized the purchase of 89 acres of land on Leslie Street running east to Highway 404 for \$4.2 million, although the lands and building were assessed at \$381,000.

Initial plans for the property included a new recreation complex, fire hall and employment lands.

Then town treasurer Barb Cribbett warned council the town didn't have the funds for such projects.

She said it would be necessary to raise taxes two per cent each year for 10 years to cover the estimated \$5.3 million cost of implementing the leisure services master plan.

As services were not available to develop the lands, additional acreage was purchased on Wellington Street East for the recreational complex and grading and site preparation is scheduled to start later this month.

The external servicing of lands east of Leslie Street and north and south of Wellington Street, including the town-owned lands, was approved by council as part of the 2004 capital budget.

Four tenders were received for the lands south of Wellington Street and at the recent council meeting a tender was awarded at a cost of \$536,791.94 to the low bidder.

Now with servicing soon to be in place the town applied to itself for a zoning bylaw amendment.

The lands are currently designated as Business Park in the official plan and part of the property is within the Oak Ridges Moraine Settlement Area.

The official plan designation provides for a wide variety of uses, whereas the land is zoned Rural General, which does not permit the proposed use of the property which would see a rezoning from Rural General to Business Park and Major Open Space.

The purpose of the application is to permit the

use of the lands for employment and ancillary uses including a municipal water reservoir, a stormwater management facility and possible recreation uses.

The proposed development concept was designed to take into account the larger development context with proposed road connections to the lands to the north and a shared stormwater man-

agement pond.

The plan includes four employment blocks totalling 54.7 acres with a 9.6 acre block designated for employment or recreation.

There are also three blocks totalling 9.7 acres with 3.6 acres for the stormwater management pond and 6.1 acres for roadways.

Please see page 11

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# AURORA



## summer Gift Basket DRAW!

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Deadline for ballots  
July 29th @ 8 p.m.

## 2004 Summer Gift Basket DRAW Ballot

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KODAK IMAGE CENTRE - 726-4243  
LEGACY JEWELERS - 841-3065  
NOT JUST CARDS (HALLMARK) - 727-1547  
OAKRIDGES OUTFITTERS - 726-4063  
OMAR'S SHOES - 727-9391  
RADIO SHACK - 713-0473  
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## Poor Richard

# Go away or stay; that's the question

*A meeting isn't always a meeting,  
If council members deem it so;  
It can be a workshop or retreat,  
And if called, all should go!*  
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

One of the most controversial and heated debates to take place with the current council is the question of when is a meeting not a meeting.

It all started last January when the new council was sworn into office and started to prepare a vision for the next three years.

Traditionally council has gone out of town for the weekend for informal talks to create that vision.

Being away from the stiffness of the town hall and in a more relaxed, informal manner they get to know each other in a business and social way and develop a team spirit, so essential in carrying out the work of council.

It's not known just when the retreats started but the second registered retreat was held in May, 1989, with the cost running around \$1,400, which included meals and accommodation.

Some of the topics discussed included stormwater runoff, erosion and sedimentation during development, municipal bylaw enforcement, the leisure services master plan and reserve fund planning.

The fifth annual think tank held at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston in January, 1992, came under fire from citizens due to the \$2,000 expenditure.

The retreat covered a full agenda of strategic planning and staff presentations.

In spite of the citizen criticism, Mayor John West defended holding the conference outside the municipality as had been the case for the past few years.

He explained that previous attempts to hold an informal working session within the town had failed because councillors didn't show up, were late, left early or were constantly answering or making phone calls.

By holding the work session out of town, the entire council was free from outside distractions and able to concentrate on the work before them.

The worth of the informal get-togethers and the knowledge gained has been confirmed time and time again by newly elected councillors.

At one time the Ministry of Municipal Affairs in conjunction with the Association of Municipalities held a series of seminars for newly elected councillors, which were well attended, without any question or comment about the cost.

The retreat in January, 2004, developed into a very controversial issue when three members of council, Phyllis Morris, Wendy Gaertner and Nigel Kean, refused to participate in the off-site retreat.

Reports from participating councillors who attended the retreat at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston said it was most informative and worthwhile.

Sessions included strategic planning, realities of growth, legal landmines, committee structure and an interpersonal exercise facilitated by Father Philip Poole of Trinity Anglican Church, Aurora.

The controversy continued during consideration to amendments to the procedural bylaw.

In order to comply with the Municipal Act, the town's procedural bylaw required an amendment for such assemblies.

As no agreement could be reached, staff was directed to seek an external legal opinion.

George Rust-D'Eye, a noted authority on municipal law, listed several cases and on the basis of those, concluded that a municipal council is not precluded from assembling its members in an informal workshop or retreat under certain conditions.

The assembly must not be referred to as a meeting, or take place at the time of a regularly scheduled meeting.

No proposals or recommendations for action are to be put before the members, or any votes, decisions, recommendations are to be sought or made.

After considerable discussion, the amendment as recommended by the solicitor was adopted at general committee on a vote of 5-2.

It was hoped that this would put an end to the controversy but when the procedural bylaw amendment came to council, it was defeated on a 4-4 vote, so council is back to square one.



Some time ago - we don't know when - the 1st Aurora Guide Company got together for this shot. Thanks to Margaret Griffith, who dropped the photo off, most of the group is identified. Included are, back row, left to right, Margaret Dennis, Mary Corbett, Mary Annan (Captain), Elizabeth Closs and Suzanne Hulse; third row, left to right, Margaret Higgins, Margaret Barrager, Jean Murray, Doreen Chapman, Pat Henderson, Janice Carter, ?, Doreen Seidel, Erna Eveleigh, Jill Morning and Jane Hodgkinson; second row, left to right, Louise Brome, Beverly Billings, Mary Stocks, Beverly Smith, Peggy Jones and Marlene Beatty; front row, left to right, Rosalie Sutton, Rosemary Gunton, Nancy Stocks, Rosalie Rose, Mary Bell, and Elizabeth Hearn. The photo was taken by Barrager's Studio, and yes, there's a link to Margaret Barrager in the photo, who today is Margaret Griffith.

## Letters to the Editor

# Hydro meet controlled: Ben

To the editor,

Recently on June 29, I attended a meeting at the Town Hall on the feasibility of the proposed 135 or 150 foot Hydro One towers.

It doesn't faze me that this was purely a controlled meeting.

In fact, they hired a consultant, Mark Rose, whose job it was to offer us two minutes each of speaking time for questions.

The fact that Susan Fruscoe and Jenny Cooper of STOP were given extra time to explain their concerns matters not.

If this is what they assume is an information stint, it was a real bust.

In answering most people they just seemed to antagonize everyone, myself included.

The mayor, Tim Jones, was rebuked when his offering that you can't stop development did not sit well with most people.

The audience were not concerned with the building of homes from time to time, known as planned development.

How can a town plan for

42,000 people then turn around and go to 62,000 with the same infrastructure?

You can't, hence we are now looking for potable drinking water, adequate sewage and increased hydro.

That, to me, is terrible planning. One should ask Jane Jacobs how so.

This system, if we can call it that, is not constructive at all. It is simply destroying the hopes and aspirations of those who came and were willing to pay for a better life.

I am talking from experience, as I went through much the same run around and deceit for 10 years hoping to save the McKenzie Marsh.

They used the same multiple of seven to explain the added cost of a bridge versus a roadway.

I guess seven is their lucky number.

They even lied to us when they said they would not go out to the 404 highway.

Now I understand they acknowledge that. So much for Big Brother.

Are they lying now? I think so.

Hear me out. You cannot go up the west side from Vaughan to Armitage station and on to Barrie.

This is a hurricane alley and they know that.

Back some 30-40 years ago a whole trailer camp in Barrie was flattened and many died.

They really mean going up from Markham. Also there is this thin blue line that extends from Newmarket around the east side of Lake Simcoe to where? Maybe Wawa for the diamond mines?

Now I could be wrong but 460,000 volts is big time hot wires and more than we can use.

That is why it is called a corridor.

Then there is restarting the Pickering nuclear station at some five billion bucks.

If the Ontario government can sell this production to a flood of mines, they will become overnight heroes.

What Aurora needs is a ward system so we can turf the laggards in 2006.

Without open transparent government, we are sunk.

We may need the courts on this one.

**Ben Kestain**  
Aurora

## AURORAN

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To the editor,

Having just opened my final Aurora 2004 tax bill and noting the spiraling rates, it was with interest that I read Mayor Tim Jones' report on the visiting delegation from China.

I was especially concerned about the refer-

ence to the fact that one of the expected outcomes will be a reciprocal visit to China.

Mr. Mayor, notwithstanding, the flowery reference to cross cultural understanding and enhancing global opportunities, I suggest that you leave these lofty objectives to the United

Nations.

You and the council were elected to manage the affairs of Aurora in a tax effective manner.

If you want to visit China, I suggest that you do it on your own dime, not mine.

**Dennis Robertson**  
Aurora

# Pay China trip yourself, reader advises mayor



# Aurora gets its very own airport

Aurora has a new airport. Well, sort of...

Recently, I had the privilege of opening the runway for the Aurora Model Aircraft Club.

The Club is situated on the Leslie Street property owned by the Town of Aurora.

As I drove into the property, I was amazed at the tremendous amount of work that this non profit, volunteer group had performed, with the help of our Parks Department in creating a huge runway area for the model aircraft that are used at the club.

When asking about the history of the club, I was told it was formed in 1975 when a group of people got together at the home of Ken Colby in Aurora.

Subsequent meetings were held at Wellington Street's Aurora Senior Public School and then Victoria Hall and on to Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School where they still meet today.

The first activities of the club were free flight and control line flying, in the late 70s.

Radio Control gradually became the main activity as free flight and control line flying gradually ceased.

At first the club flew off the Cossar Farm at the south end of Aurora.

The Cossar Farm was sold and the club moved to Jack Allen's sod farm on Woodbine, a short distance north of Wellington Street.

During the winter and the wet season in the Spring, the club flew off the Lapani sod farm on Bales Road.

Some flying was also done on the Sifton Polo Field as entertainment between polo matches.

In 1985, the club put together a formal constitution.

In 1986, a second flying site was found at Brown Hill.

In 1987, the Jack Allen sod farm was sold and flying ended there in November of 1987. Flying continued at the Bales Road field.

In 1991, a new field was found near Woodbine and Wellington on the Calvert Farm.

This was an excellent field and flying continued there until Mr. Calvert's death in 2000.

The club's lease was not renewed for the 2001 season and the club flew from the Lapini sod farm in Zephyr.

In 2003, the club was given permission to use the property at 15085 Leslie Street in Aurora on the 89 acres owned by the Town on lease and improvement basis.

Considerable work was required to prepare the field and access to the area.

The club applied for and received a Trillium grant. Funding from this grant has been spent to improve the road access to the site and prepare the field for landing and taking off of the model airplanes.

The purpose of this club is for the enjoyment of the leisure activity of flying radio controlled model aircraft.

The common theme among the participants is a tremendous love of aviation.

Many of the members are former or current pilots of full size aircraft ranging from commercial airliners, heavy bombers to high performance fighters and civilian aircraft of the last century.

These pilots all agree that the performance of radio controlled aircraft is very similar to their full size counterparts and that this hobby provides a level of aviation experience that would otherwise be unavailable.

Some of the models include a Spitfire and other high performance aerobatic aircraft.

This hobby encompasses such disciplines as construction, electronics as well as aeronautics.

I am told there is a tremendous learning experience and sense of accomplishment in building an aircraft and then flying it yourself.

Club members frequently collaborate on projects and the resulting camaraderie and friendships thoroughly enrich life and enjoyment of the hobby.

There is an extensive training program where new flyers earn their wings.

The training involves much more than flying skills. Besides teaching the fundamentals of flight, members focus on safety in the air and also on the ground.

They believe their hobby provides a valuable distraction to video arcades and malls.

On average the club trains 20 students per year. The average age of members is 49 ranging from 12 to 80.

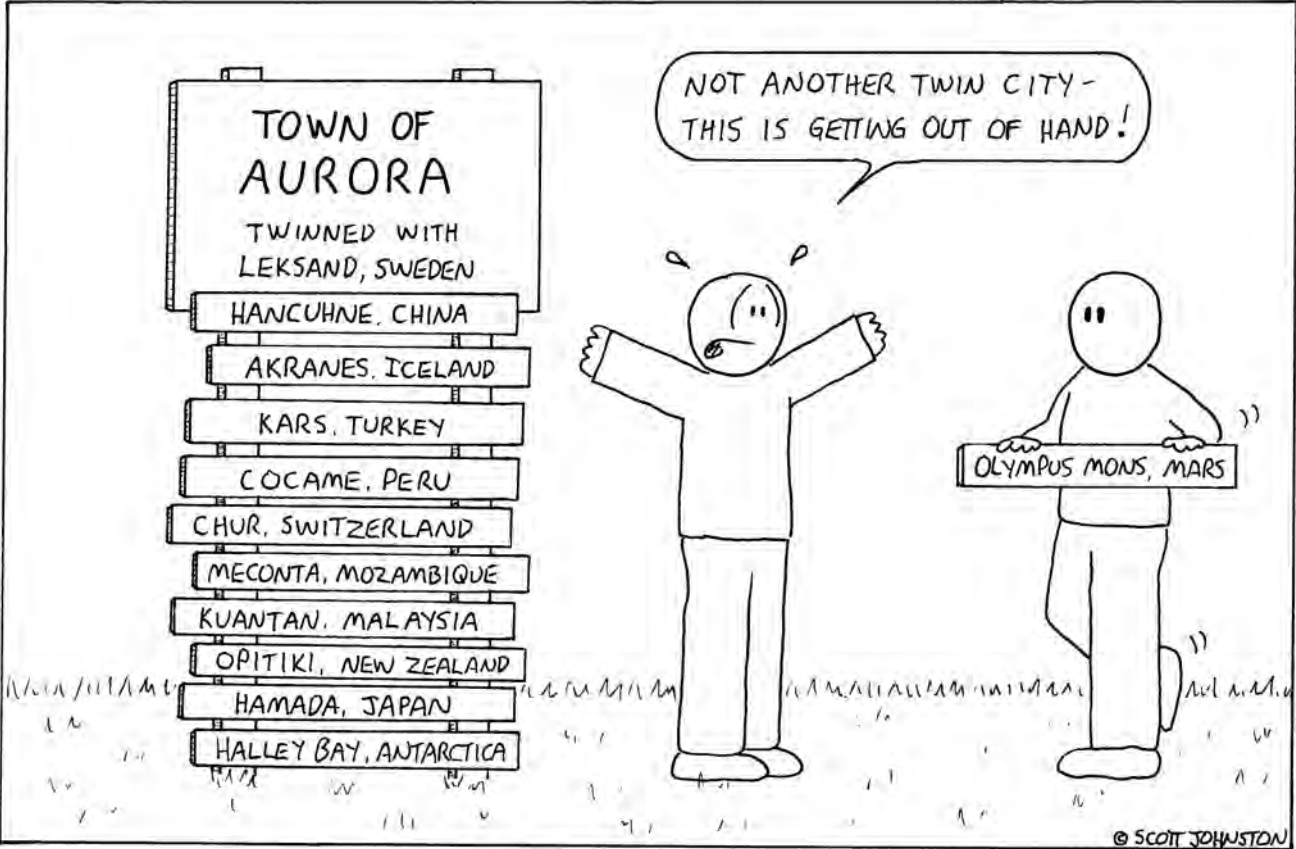
There are currently more than 100 members.

A typical flying season is from May to October and beyond if weather allows.

The field is located a half mile south of Leslie and Wellington. Visitors are welcome as long as a club member is present.

For more information about joining the Aurora Model Aircraft Club you can contact Stephen Schweingenger, Membership Director at 905-473-9570.

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



## Letter to the Editor

# Consolidation may be answer, he says

**To the editor,**

As a former Aurora resident I found of interest - no, more than that, exciting - the Mayor's Report (Week of June 29).

The setting up of two apparently highly successful companies, the Hancuhne Construction Group Corp. and the Hanjian Manufacturing Group Co. in the "model village" of Hancuhne (population 39,000) near Beijing, suggests that with strong enough incentives, businesses of a like nature in and around Aurora could do the same thing.

Consolidation may be the way to go.

This could lead to better industry planning and a more sustainable pace of growth.

It could also bring to the forefront the importance of having profit-making businesses.

The idea that interaction between towns in Canada and China would be worthwhile from a trade viewpoint, however, seems impractical and should be reconsidered.

Better, perhaps, if helpful views and suggestions were exchanged via provincial or federal offices.

There's something else to consider.

Although China may well be "potentially the biggest market in the world for products and services, whose doors are just being opened to free enterprise", it is also under heavy internal pressure to expand its already high share of the world market, arguably more so than many other countries.

Better perhaps to the greatest possible extent, each to his own.

Regardless of variations in history and culture, there's one thing all countries large and small appear to have in common: increasingly heavy internal pressure - debt pressure - to increase production in a finite world market.

**W. John Trusler  
Richmond Hill**



# No more real people

There are no more real people in the world.

I can tell because whenever I try to call anybody, Talking Barbie answers the phone - even in Aurora.

For service in English, she says, press "1". I press "1" before she can repeat the message in French. I'm a real person, on real time, so I'm into shortcuts.

New and Improved Talking Barbie, however, isn't a real person, has no concept of time and proceeds to repeat the message in every language known to mankind, including Latin and Esperanto.

Pressing "1" gets me the English version of the complete history of the company I'm trying to call, every product and service they have ever offered, and their vision for the future - which includes the systematic removal of real people from the world.

Oh, and a selection of five new options.

Apparently, since I failed to have my brain retrofitted with a USB port at birth, my attempts at two-way communication will be primitive at best - poking one of 12 available telephone keys with my index finger.

I am instructed to listen carefully to all of the options before making my selection.

Next, I learn how to spell by pressing "2" once for "A", twice for "B" and three times for "C".

There is no charge for this. Deal, huh?

Finally, Talking Barbie offers to patiently repeat these instructions as many times as I care to obsessively, compulsively pound the "#" key, which was designed to be pounded so that people like me wouldn't be impounded for pounding the living daylight out of poundable things, like real people.

On the off chance that I passed my anger management course, I get to advance to the next level of mental distension - 10 new options.

Being a real person, however, means that real life (from which I have been disengaged for 127 minutes according to my new and improved digital display telephone that Kindergarten Teacher Barbie invented so that she could teach me how to spell with numbers) is about to red-line.

First, the call-waiting beep cuts out options 2 and 3. Second, my son tries to tell me something, pre-empting options 7, 8 and 9. Third, the doorbell rings, obliterating any shred of sanity to which I may have been clinging.

Did I mention we have a dog?

Dogs and doorbells are like George Bush and Iraq. My dog proceeds to reduce my front door to termite kibble.

Jake is a lot like the old Talking Barbie - before somebody tore out her Mattel mini-string and replaced it with an Intel micro-chip. Jake only ever says three things: (1) I want food, (2) I want a walk and (3) I want a piece of whoever is at the door.

Option (1) means Jake drags his bowl to the dinner table. Option (2) would be Jake bolting out the front door, and heading for some undisclosed destination outside Aurora. Option (3) hurts my head. It's like being whacked with a two-by-four with nails in it.

I convulse and pound the "#" key.

"That is an invalid selection," says Talking Barbie, calmly.

Now I know why my son tore her head off and used it as a hockey puck.

My daughter answers the door, which requires the door to be opened. Bad idea. Jake selects Option (2)...and is halfway to Newmarket.

I hang up and mobilize the family into emergency dog retrieval formation: bikes, cars, lassos, tranquilizer guns, biscuits and everybody grab a steak from the freezer.

I call back when the at-large large dog is contained.

"I'm sorry," says Talking Barbie, "our office is now closed..."

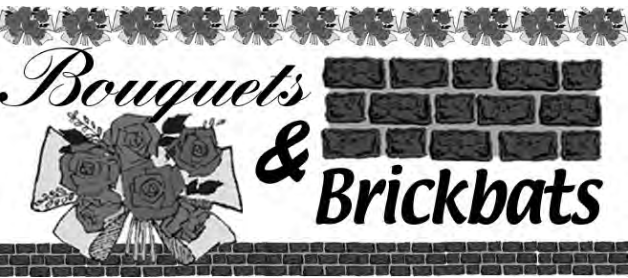
I pound the "#" key until I'm calm enough to ask my daughter who was at the door.

"Nobody," she says. "Our doorbell didn't ring. It was the television."


See? There are no more real people in the world.


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








By DICK ILLINGWORTH


 BOUQUETS to Councillor Ron Wallace and the citizen members of his Special Events Committee and to Julie Geering, Leisure Services Special Events Coordinator for pulling off a Canada Day parade and activities on such short notice as the committee was just appointed by council a couple of months ago.


 BRICKBATS to the residents who attended the recent public meeting on the proposed transmission lines and let their emotions override the rules of courtesy, in spite of the best efforts of facilitator Marc Rose to maintain some semblance of order. They yelled at speakers and jumped up to speak without being recognized, and didn't listen to the answers.


 BOUQUETS to the Aurora Diggers Novice Girls for bringing home a bronze medal for their third place finish in the recent Barrie Storm tournament. Prior to that the team won a consolation Gold Medal in Brantford.


 BRICKBATS to Poor Richard for getting the Aurora Historical Society and the Aurora Heritage Committee mixed up and blaming the society for omitting the historic Red House, now Oakland Hall, from the walking tour of historic homes in Aurora. Poor Richard missed the message that the walking tour only covered older homes in the downtown core area.


 BOUQUETS to Stan Farmer and Cyril Jackson of the Aurora Lawn Bowling Club for making it to the finals before losing out to a team from Richmond Hill. Aurora played host to the 2004 District 13 Men's Pairs Championships recently with 11 teams participating.

 BRICKBATS to the 40 per cent of Canadians who just didn't bother to vote in the Federal Election on June 28th. It may be that some voters held their nose while marking their ballot, but at least they voted. Maybe future ballots should have a line for "None of the Above!"

 BOUQUETS to Councillor Nigel Kean and his bowling teammates on winning the High Roller Trophy and the Most Improved Fundraising Team Award for raising more than \$400 per team member. The team was recognized recently by Big Brothers Big Sisters of York.

 BRICKBATS to the Ontario New Democratic Party for refusing quick passage of the job-protection bill as the session wound down the other week, as they bartered with the government over free postage for their eight members. Their refusal resulted in the Legislature being called back for a 10-minute session, which cost taxpayers an estimated \$100,000.

 BOUQUETS to the students and staff of Aurora's Highview Public School for raising the most money among the northern York Region and South Simcoe schools in the Heart and Stroke Foundation Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart fundraisers for the second straight year.

 BRICKBATS to those at Queen's Park during the days of the Progressive Conservative government who entered into a \$500 million contract with Accenture Canada, formerly Andersen Consulting, for a computer system that can't accept a simple change, resulting in another \$20 million bill to fix it!

Letters to the Editor

# Buck's TV comments offensive to this reader

To the editor,

On Friday, July 2nd, I watched an evening program on our cable 10 Aurora Cable Internet station. Betty Pedersen was interviewing Councillor Evelyn Buck.

I was struck by some of the councillor's comments and as a member of the public, who is offended by such statements, felt that they needed a response.

First, the councillor stated that she doesn't want 'delegations hi-jacking council'.

While this statement is outrageous at best, it is certainly offensive to anyone who takes the time, interest and effort to come and speak to an issue to the entire chamber.

To have delegation status at a council meeting, the issue to which one wishes to speak must be

on the actual agenda for the meeting.

Secondly, Aurora has long had the tradition and openness to include an 'open forum' at the beginning of each meeting at which the public could address elected members.

While the former has no specific time limit, the latter is limited to five minutes, and the Mayor as chair of the meeting, is very good at ensuring speakers respect the time restraints.

Both of these functions hold true to the principle that Aurora has long held as key to government, openness and transparency!

Apparently Councillor Buck does not value those principles.

Her rationale included her frustration that 'council's business is not getting done'.

She complained about the long meetings and the fact that, and I quote, "sometimes I don't know when I'm going to war".

The public, lobby groups or otherwise, are taxpayers - her "boss" - of the town, entitled to speak to their elected representatives and she is required

to listen.

And apparently there are a lot of things going on with which she doesn't agree.

What I can tell you is that during the six months preceding the last election, Mrs. Buck came to council as a taxpayer and sat up in the bleachers to complain about the conduct of the members.

In fact, she would yell from her chair when she disagreed.

Well, I suggest that you view these current proceedings on cable 10, and you will see things are no better.

No, in fact, they are worse.

Perhaps if the councillor didn't speak to every issue, call numerous points of order, points of privilege and need to pursue person-

ality wars with other councillors, there would be more time to hear what the public thinks.

The meetings might even be shorter.

Nowhere in Mrs. Buck's campaign platform did she express her view that once elected she no longer needed to hear from the public.

As one of nine elected representatives, she does not speak for the entire population of Aurora.

The constituents of the Town should influence her views on a continuing basis.

If listening to her 'roar' means no one else can speak, then please, Mrs. Buck, DON'T'.

Al Wilson  
Aurora

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## Another idea for naming streets

To the editor,

As Aurora continues to grow, so too does the need for new street names.

How about naming our new streets after town employees who have joined the Quarter Century Club for 25 years of faithful service, or for local business owners who have been in operation and employed residents for 25 years?

Names like "Blanchard Court" or "Tree Lane" seem much more suitable than naming streets for self-glorifying councillors like "Nigel Kean Wasting Our Tax Dollars Away".

Randy Brown  
Aurora



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*Letters to the Editor*

# TC's impresses this local reader

To the editor,

I would like to draw your attention to the "best" burger place in town - TC's Fish and Burgers on Yonge Street.

You actually had a photo of this brilliant eatery in a past issue where you showed what it looked like "back then" and after the

new addition.

The owners of TC's have been in Our Town for more than 20 years.

Tony (Pops) and Chris (his son-hence the TC's for you who didn't know) had the Mr. Sub shop in the original part of the building which is now TC's - then the addition was added and Mr. Sub was moved and

TC's started its own story.

For those of you who have never visited this brilliant eatery you are missing out on the best fast food in town.

There is a varied menu to suit everyone, the service is fast, the value is phenomenal and the atmosphere is second to none!

Run now by Chris and

his wife Stella (with Pops always close by to help out), TC's is a family tradition in Our Town.

Chris knows all his 'regulars' on a first name basis - he chats about their kids, their job, their sports team, whatever, while flipping burgers, tossing fries or battering fish!

All age groups can be

seen here from teenagers, to families, to seniors, all enjoying great food and a friendly atmosphere.

Of course, I have a slightly biased opinion here - my two sons work for Chris, and have thrived in the family atmosphere that is TC's!

So come on, Aurora, "let go" of that other burger place and try TC's - you'll soon become a "regular"!

Many thanks for taking the time to read my thoughts - they come from the heart as Aurora is my home away from home (Dunmurry, Northern Ireland).

This special eatery is the one thing in Our Town that is very much like "back home".

**Shirley Russell  
Aurora**

# Martha says she'll run again

To the people of Newmarket and Aurora,

Thank you so much for your extraordinary support and encouragement in this election, and for your votes of confidence at the voting booth.

We may not have won, but our whole campaign team was thrilled with the level of support you showed us.

Congratulations to Belinda Stronach, with best wishes for the future in Ottawa.

Congratulations also to Ed Chudak, Daryl Wyatt and Dorian Baxter, who all ran very good campaigns.

Together we participated in a clean, civil and, I'm pleased to say, often very friendly campaign---a testament to the Canadian dem-

ocratic process that we can all be very proud of.

I have enjoyed this campaign immensely. As a first-time politician, I learned a great deal.

Most importantly, I was able to meet far more people than I could ever have done otherwise, and it was an opportunity to work with an outstanding group of hard-working, dedicated, and great fun volunteers.

In the last few short months, you, the residents of Newmarket and Aurora, have made me feel so much more a part of both communities than I ever thought possible when I first moved here 20 years ago, and I have made some wonderful new friends.

I felt honoured and privileged to have been able to participate in this process right from the beginning---I felt even more so on Election Day.

Thank you to everyone, volunteers, financial supporters and voters alike.

I hope to see you all (and if I may be so bold, just a few more of you voters) next time.

**Martha Hall Findlay  
Liberal Candidate  
Newmarket - Aurora**

To the editor,

It was only about a year ago when the issue of a code of ethics was raised and firmly put down by council.

Some councillors took offense and interpreted this as an affront on their morality.

More recently our mayor has been allegedly found to be influencing the salary negotiations between his wife and the town.

This should be a no-brainer in terms of a perceived conflict of interest. But he didn't understand it.

Additionally, at the Street Sale the mayor spent a considerable amount of time campaigning for Belinda Stronach, an activity which implies the endorsement of the town, and can unduly influence voters.

# How come Golf Links, Kennedy, get humps?

To the editor,

I often wonder why there's always so much concern about speeding in Aurora, when it appears to happen only on Kennedy Street and Golf Links Drive.

After all, what other logical reason can there be for spending tax money on speed-bump protection solely on these two streets while all the rest do without?!

Anybody from Town Council care to comment?

No? I didn't think so!

**Stewart Ivol  
Aurora**

Is he going to declare a conflict of interest and abstain from debate in council decisions regarding the Magna lands in the future?

If he didn't comprehend the first conflict, I sincerely doubt he'll get this one.

I am a Professional Engineer and have to live by a code of ethics or risk losing my license.

Doctors, lawyers, and many others who hold a public trust, must also live by a code of ethics.

Sometimes understanding that an ethical dilemma exists can be very difficult, even for

those who are most sensitive to these issues.

Others simply do not see anything which serves their personal interest as possibly being counter to their public duty.

Given these recent events I believe it is long past time for council to adopt a code of ethics.

Councillors with strong moral compasses need not take offense, and councillors with weak ones need to be held to account.

**Darryl Moore  
Aurora**

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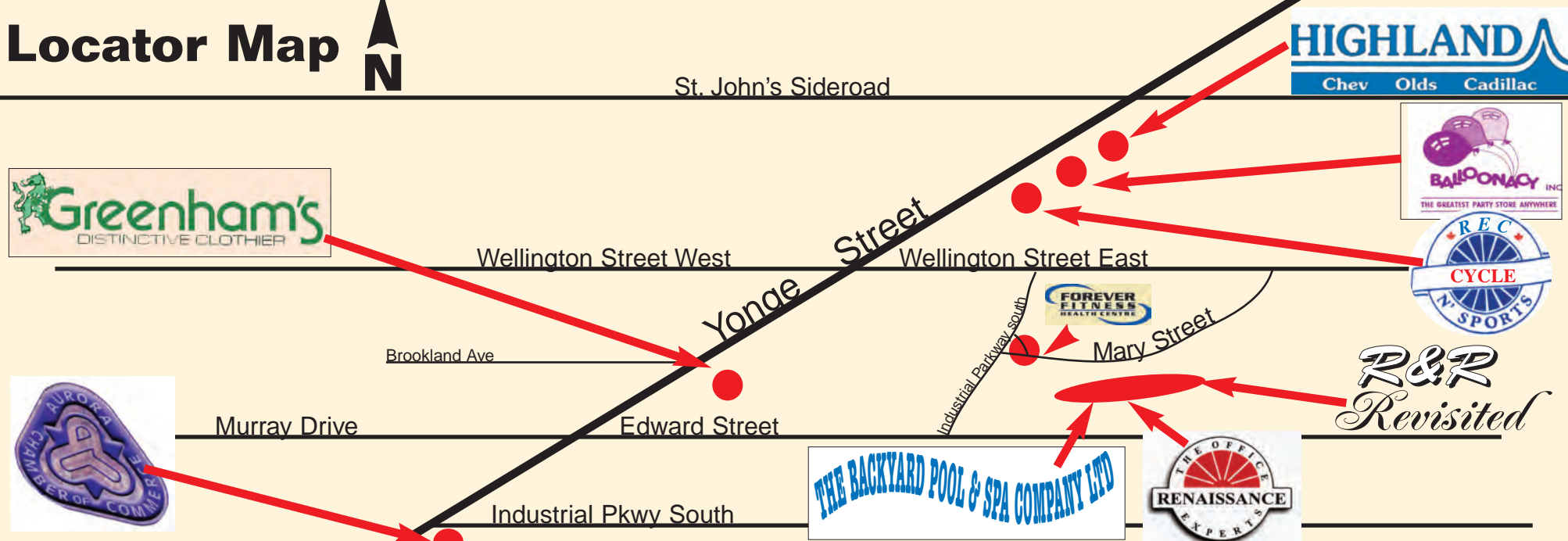
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**Locator Map**



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Wellington Street East

Brookland Ave

Murray Drive

Edward Street

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Page 10

Week of July 13, 2004



The Aurora Minor Ball Association's Minor Peewee Blue Jays got a step closer to Cooperstown, New York, thanks to a fundraiser golf tournament recently. The team will participate in a baseball tournament in late August against other teams from the United States. Participating and benefitting are, left to right, Peter Seguin, Eric Seguin, Darryl Miller, Marc Cascone, Stephen Forsey, Rick Orr and Rob Seguin, the team coach.

## Barbarians name new assistant for U18 boys

The Aurora Barbarians Rugby Football Club has announced the addition of Charlie Harte as assistant coach of the under 18 boy's team this summer.

Charlie, a long time member of the front row union, will focus on improving the forward work, especially in scrums and line-outs.

He joins last year's under 18 coach Sandy Townsend as the team will be trying to return to its form of 2002 when they captured the Ontario crown.

Sandy is a former provincial under16 and current Toronto Rugby Union under 18 coach.

Charlie was a member of the Aurora team that captured the Millennium Cup in 2000 and the Keenan Cup in 2001.

The team will play in the Toronto Rugby Union and plays a schedule that runs to the end of August.

The Ontario Championships will be played on the first weekend in September after Labour Day.

Practices are held

every Tuesday and Thursday night at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary

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# Town applies for rezoning

### From page 3

A letter of objection was received from the landowner to the south on the basis that the town failed to provide information that would satisfy the owners that the proposed development of the lands would provide for southward expansion, in due course, of the Business Park to the lands to the south.

The owners were also dissatisfied with the servicing capacity, location of services and the transportation system planned for the town-owned lands that would accommodate eventual development of the south lands for urban purposes.

At the public meeting a representative from the owners to the south appeared and said they

had a number of concerns, which would be outlined in detail at a later date.

He said the town's application was premature as servicing was not yet available and the owners had not had the opportunity to review the building concept plan. He asked if the services would be oversized to accommodate the lands to the south.

He also requested information on the plan to re-channel the creek and its impact and the location of the stormwater management plan and the water reservoir tower.

Concern was also expressed about the run-off from the town property as it could flow onto the adjacent lands to the south and create a pond.

Council received the report as information.



## Picnic

They belong to STEP...the Seniors' Travelling Entertainment Program, and this trio delighted an Aurora seniors' crowd recently during an annual picnic. They are, left to right, Joyce Jones, Neal Pemberton and Kay Hack. Picnic was held in Fleury Park.



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Jul 6	LaPrairie Inc 16 : McAlpine Ford 16
Jul 8	Dr. Chan 10 : McAlpine Ford 9
<b>Mosquito</b>	
Jun 14	Natures Emporium 16 : Sutton Group 10
Jun 24	Natures Emporium : Optimist Rained Out
Jul 5	Natures Emporium 13 : Home Hardware 12
	Optimists 15 : Dr. Orschel Driller 4
Jul 6	Filebank 11 : Priestley Demolition 9
	Dr. Orschel 15 : Home Hardware 13
Jul 8	Optimist Club 20 : Dr. Orschel Drillers 9
<b>Peewee</b>	
Jun 30	Carstar Collision 11 : Atlantis Digital 10
Jul 6	Atlantis Digital : Smith Williams Bateman R/O
<b>Bantam</b>	
Jun 30	MacIver Dodge 18 : Home Hardware 10
SOFTBALL	
<b>5 Pitch</b>	
Jun 23	Home Hardware 14 : Royal Wood Shop 11
Jun 30	Royal Wood Shop 11: Auto Pro 5
Jul 5	Royal Wood Shop 11: Financialink 8
<b>Squirt</b>	
Jun 30	Franco Trophies 11 : Interworld Paper Overseas 6
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Jun 14 Natures Emporium 16 : Sutton Group 10  
Jun 24 Natures Emporium : Optimist Rained Out  
Jul 5 Natures Emporium 13 : Home Hardware 12  
Optimists 15 : Dr. Orschel Driller 4  
Jul 6 Filebank 11 : Priestley Demolition 9  
Dr. Orschel 15 : Home Hardware 13  
Jul 8 Optimist Club 20 : Dr. Orschel Drillers 9

#### Peewee

Jun 30 Carstar Collision 11 : Atlantis Digital 10  
Jul 6 Atlantis Digital : Smith Williams Bateman R/O

#### Bantam

Jun 30 MacIver Dodge 18 : Home Hardware 10

### SOFTBALL

#### 5 Pitch

Jun 23 Home Hardware 14 : Royal Wood Shop 11  
Jun 30 Royal Wood Shop 11: Auto Pro 5  
Jul 5 Royal Wood Shop 11: Financialink 8

#### Squirt

Jun 30 Franco Trophies 11 : Interworld Paper Overseas 6  
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They were having a good time...until the rains came last Wednesday and put a damper on Aurora's summer Concert In The Park series. Robert Davis and the Snapping Toes entertained the crowd, primarily little ones, prior to the storm. Series continues in the Town Park every Wednesday throughout the summer.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

# Town needs to retain its employment lands

As part of the Five Year Review of the Official Plan, Aurora Council identified a number of initiatives to be undertaken following the review.

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

In December, 2003, council engaged Hemson Consulting to undertake the task.

The main message of the consultant's report is that employment land is a critical land use for the municipality, and any changes should not be considered outside an official plan review, except in limited circumstances.

The draft official plan amendment sets the parameters for compelling reason in which a requested amendment must be considered.

The proponent must demonstrate that the site cannot be developed for valid physical planning reasons such as site configuration, access, or surrounding land uses.

The proponent must also demonstrate that the proposed alternative will not cause any negative effects on the existing and prospective employment land uses.

If these conditions cannot be met, the application should not be approved, the consultant maintained.

If the conditions can be met, the applicant must also demonstrate the proposed amendment is beneficial to the municipality in terms of its contribution to the overall intent and goals of town policies.

Ray Simpson of Hemson Consulting told

council members at a recent public planning meeting there was a shortage of employment lands in the GTA and that if council wanted more homes, it was necessary to provide employment lands and develop tougher policies to retain them.

He said that employment lands were previously designated industrial lands but they now encompass a wide range of uses including institutional, retail and support services.

He pointed out that council will be under pressure from residential developers, but there was a need to protect the employment lands and a strong policy was needed and enforced.

Brian Corbett, a solicitor for St. John Developments supported the retention policy but suggested the definition of employment lands include commercial.

A representative of a landowner on Earl Stewart Drive said the development of the property had been approved in principle at a public meeting in January and negotiations were underway

with tenants for the three buildings.

He said he was not sure how the new policy would affect the property and requested the property be grandfathered. New rules should apply only to new applications, he said.

He added the company was anxious to proceed and requested council for their considered support.

David Bronskill, representing Lebovic Enterprises and Revilis Securities, appeared before council to oppose the employment land strategy, claiming it was unbalanced and unusable.

He said the proposed official plan amendment placed a disproportionate value on the town's employment that is not justifiable and fails to recognize that other land types of urban uses are beneficial to the municipality.

He added that the wording of the draft OPA appeared to ensure that no redesignation of employment lands ever occurs and established tests that are impossible to meet and they should be less restrictive.

John Kovac, owner of property on Wellington Street East, wants to build residential on his 3.7 acres and he asked council for consideration.

Councillor John West recommended that the policy be adopted subject to the comments by the public. He stressed the need for the policy as the way to go in keeping what employment lands the town has.

He recalled that most of the land north and east of the town hall was supposed to be industrial but due to pressure from developers the land was rezoned residential.

He asked where commercial fitted in the policy.

Simpson replied there was a need for caution and the request would have to be studied, and any comment at this time would be premature.

The West motion to approve, subject to the comments received, was adopted.

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They called it "Sirens For Life", a blood donor challenge that kicked off last Tuesday at Aurora's Lynette Hall. Canadian Blood Services employees Jennifer Campbell, left, and Corine Magnusson, right, administer to York Region Emergency Medical Services officer Gord McEachen, while Central York Fire Services Chief John Molyneaux and York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge, look on.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

# Mattamy proposal may be slightly ahead of its time

Mattamy (Aurora) Limited has submitted an application for an official plan amendment and a rezoning for their 33.5 acre property at the northeast corner of Bayview Avenue and the St. John's Sideroad...but it may be a little ahead of its time.

The property is traversed by the East Holland River and the portion of the property that is the subject of the application comprises approximately eight acres and is located right at the busy intersection.

Part of the property is designated Convenience Commercial and Linear and Other Open Space with the remainder east of the Holland River designated Rural and within the 2C secondary planning area and the provincially designated Greenbelt Area.

A building, the home of the late Colonel Richard Blue, has been identified as a dwelling of historical significance by LACAC.

The property is zoned General Rural and an application is on file to rezone the property Convenience Commercial, but the file has been inactive since a February, 2001, public meeting.

The applicant is applying to have the official plan and zoning bylaw amended to Medium-High Density Residential to permit the construction of 110 condominium townhouses on the site.

Town staff noted the applicant had not submitted a conceptual site plan, elevation plans, grading plan, or engineering/servicing plans, nor conceptual stormwater management or traffic plans.

It was also noted that the applicant had not applied for a zoning bylaw amendment necessary to change the zoning from rural to a residential zone in order to

implement the requested amendment to the official plan.

Comments received following an internal circulation of the plan indicate the application is premature and pointed out the close relationship of the lands to the Enbridge Consumers Gas facility near the site.

LACAC advised that the residence is of architectural and historical significance and should be considered for designation.

While not part of the application before council, it was recommended that as a condition of any future plan the developer be asked to incorporate the building into the plan.

Staff also pointed out that a water and sewer allocation would be required for the project to proceed and that there are draft approved lands to the south that cannot proceed due to lack of capacity in local and regional systems.

A letter from a solicitor for Enbridge Gas expressed concern about the application as the gas facility emits high sound frequency levels and residential use would not be compatible.

As the site is adjacent to the Newmarket border, their planning department commented that commercial use would be more appropriate, but that if the residential application was to be approved, it be delayed until Bayview Avenue and the St. John's Sideroad had been widened.

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority requires further information before commenting on the application.

Richard Harrison, a planner representing Mattamy Homes, told council the application included all information legally required by the Planning Act.

He asked council to

authorize staff to work with him and Mattamy to carry out the required studies.

He said the Enbridge facility was to be covered with what he referred to as a "dog house".

Darryl Burke, a resident of Newmarket north of the proposed development, expressed his concern with the application, especially with the lack of information available and he was critical of Mattamy's building practices.

He pointed out that the president of Mattamy was a member of the government's Smart Growth panel, but had left a bad first impression with this application as they have no consideration for the town or the citizens by trying to bypass the normal planning process.

John Mascarini, a solicitor representing Enbridge Gas, expressed concern about the proposed development due to noise emissions from the gas pressure station, which has been located on the site since the late 1980s and operational since 1990. It operates 24 hours a day all year long.

In responding to the comments, Harrison pointed out that Mattamy was the largest builder in Canada and had an excellent reputation and would make every effort to work with the town and the residents instead of appealing to the Ontario Municipal Board.

He added he was under the impression Enbridge had planned to cover the facility due to the residential development to the south, and there had been no objection from Enbridge at that time.

Councillor John West expressed concern about the lack of information and recommended that staff work with the applicant and bring all the required studies

and material back to council.

With regard to the Enbridge facility, he suggested that it would have to be moved with the widening of St. John's Sideroad.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said she couldn't find anything in the presentation to support the application, and as there was no allocation of water and sewage, she wondered why council was even considering it.

With just a bare quorum of five members in attendance the vote was 2-2 on the West motion with Mayor Tim Jones breaking the tie to proceed.

## Concerts continue in the Town Park

Concerts in the Park are back for another season of musical entertainment.

All concerts are from 7 to 9 p.m., weather permitting, in the Town Park and are free of charge. The musical series continues Wednesday nights until August 11th.

On July 21st it's Chicago Tribute paying tribute to the Rhythm and Blues of the band Chicago, covering their 36-year musical career.

With eight musicians, percussion and brass sections, the tribute is packed with energy.

On July 28th music of the islands is played by Dick Smith and Syncona.

A week later is a night for

young people as Erick Traplin takes the stage for an evening of children's entertainment for kids of all ages.

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To wind up the series August 11th Bennie and the Jets will entertain with the ultimate Elton John experience featuring Jeff Scott and the band.

Concerts in the Park started in 1970 as a Sunday evening concert at the suggestion of then Mayor Dick Illingworth.

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# Weird and wonderful bylaws within the town

At one time Aurora's bylaw pertaining to billiard halls required them to close at midnight.

This presented a problem to the operator of Cue Zone Billiards and Sports Bar on Wellington Street West as his liquor licence permitted him to stay open until 1 a.m.

In November, 1995, the operator appeared before council to seek relief from the billiard closing bylaw.

He pointed out that similar operations in neighbouring municipalities didn't have the same restrictions.

Council directed staff to review the request and report back.

While it is not known if the report was ever submitted to council, there have been no further requests from the operator, so he must be happy.

## BE PREPARED

During the December, 1966, municipal election in Aurora, even though the town didn't have a movie theatre, citizens were asked if they approved Sunday sports and Sunday movies and other performances.

The vote in support of Sunday sports was 1,740 to 422 and for Sunday movies it was 1,779 to 381.

It was called forward planning for the day when Aurora had a movie theatre.

And that could be a reality in the near future if a proposal at the corner of 404 and Wellington East gets approval. There's a 10-screen theatre included in the plan.

## AURORA: THE NUDE CAPITAL

The recent July First celebrations were successfully held without comment by Toronto Star columnist Joey Slinger.

In June, 1988, he announced that Aurora was celebrating its third annual Aurora Nude Festival during the Canada Day weekend.

He said the festival was to mark the town's claim that it was the Birthday Suit Capital of Canada.

He also wrote that the town's motto "Sol Meus Testis" didn't mean "The Sun, My Witness" but actually meant "The Sun, My Testicle".

He quoted the Lord Mayor of Aurora as saying the town held a nude festival because it had nothing to hide. Needless to say Mayor John West was not amused!

In October, 1991, Slinger returned to the attack saying Aurora claimed to be the The Birthday-Suit Capital of Canada, a distinction the town marks every Canada Day with the Aurora Nude Festival and the crowning of Mr. and Miss Nude Aurora.

This attack was brought about by an editorial in the local media about the people of Aurora having nothing to hide.

## GET RID OF THE REGION

Back in early 1995 one of the major concerns facing Aurora Council was the formation of Bob Rae's GTA task force.

Council supported a motion by Councillor Herb

McKenzie that a strong letter of protest be forwarded to Rae protesting that York Region was represented on the task force.

Council also approved a suggestion by Councillor Peter Healy that Aurora prepare a brief for submission to the task force stressing the importance of local government and pointing out that if one level of government was to be eliminated, they should get rid of the region.

With everything that Premier Dalton McGuinty has on his plate, plus the request from Mississauga that they be allowed to separate from Peel Region, it is doubtful if the government will be anxious to propose local government restructuring.

## MAPLE LEAF AND AURORA

The former Collis Leather plant on Tyler Street has always been known to locals as Collis Leather and the former chicken processing plant on Yonge Street was known as Choice Cut-Up Chicken, but both were owned by Maple Leafs Foods.

In October, 1991, Maple Leaf Foods announced the closure of the poultry plant in order for the company to consolidate its poultry operation to remain competitive, as it operated six other poultry processing plants in Ontario.

The 40-year-old plant, employing 160 people, was a prime candidate for closure because Aurora had grown up around it and it was located in a residential area.

The Collis Leather building is still standing and is the site of an investigation as a possible source of contamination for Tannery Creek, which is being opposed by Maple Leaf.

The chicken plant has been demolished and the site is currently being developed for apartments.

The Aurora Jaycees used the plant to proclaim them selves as being from the Chicken Capital of Canada.



Officials were on hand Thursday for the start of dredging of a stormwater runoff facility just off Kennedy Street, west of Murray Drive. Participating in the event were Tom Hogenbirk, left, Engineering & Technical Services Manager from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority; Anca Mihail, Town of Aurora Municipal Engineer; and Wayne Jackson, Town of Aurora Works Director. Project is estimated to cost more than \$335,000, but could reduce phosphorus entering Lake Simcoe by 37 kilograms a year.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

# Pond protects Lake Simcoe

## From page 1

"Each unit of phosphorus has the potential of generating close to 500 times its own weight in aquatic plant life," Authority Community Relations specialist Heather McKinnon said. "The new facility will have the potential of cutting back weed growth in local waterways."

Once complete, the \$335,500 facility will treat stormwater runoff from more than 37 hectares of previously untreated residential lands.

Aurora has kicked in \$179,500 toward the project.

"That's great news for everyone who has a connection to Lake Simcoe's \$200 million annual tourism and recreation industry," McKinnon said. "And even better news for all those depending on the lake for their drinking water."

The tough to reach pond, dredged into land behind a residence at 237 Kennedy

Street West, will have a depth of 1.2 metres when it is finished.

As a member of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, the Town of Aurora is committed to reducing phosphorus pollution and this project goes a long way to achieving that goal.

Aurora's representative on the board is Councillor John West.

Lake Simcoe's 2,848 square kilometre drainage

basin sweeps north from the Oak Ridges Moraine through parts of York and Durham Regions, the City of Kawartha Lakes and Simcoe County to cross 23 municipal borders.

From the Aurora project, engineers estimate that up to 67 per cent of the phosphorus found in the runoff will be removed before it drains into the East Holland River via Tannery Creek, and eventually Lake Simcoe.

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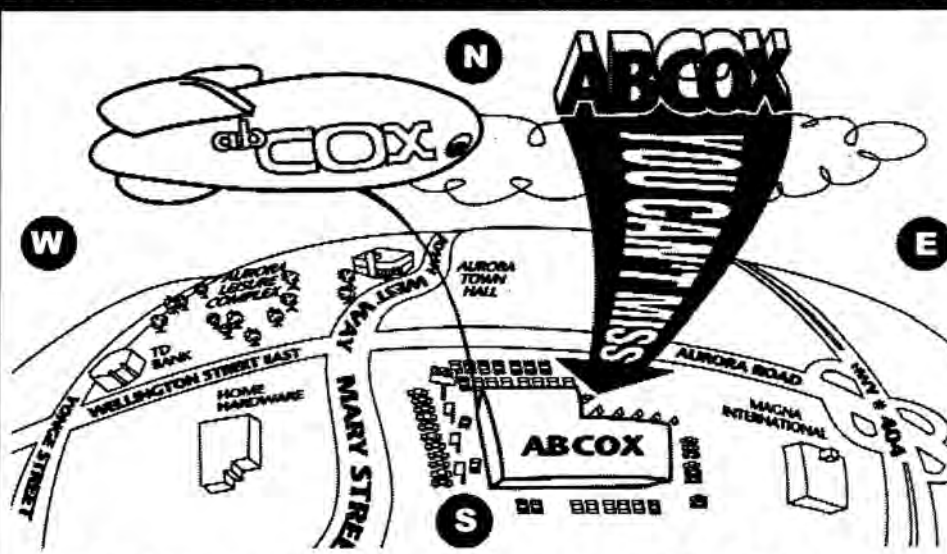
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**Saturday 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

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