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AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Sean Herbinson

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Vol. 4 No. 41

Week of August 10, 2004

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Briefly

Bowl 4 The Soul

It's a unique way to support the fight against breast cancer and it has nothing to do with bowling.

R & S Ceramics, on Mary Street, is involved, for the second year, in a project where a person paints a bowl then donates it to Sunnybrook.

You purchase the bowl of your choice, R & S provides a class to paint it at \$10 a person, and Sunnybrook sells tickets for the bowls.

People who purchase the \$40 ticket head to Sunnybrook in October to enjoy a bowl of soup, and they keep the bowl.

If that sounds too confusing, call R & S at 905-713-6887 for details.

The bottom line is pretty simple though. You're helping to fight breast cancer.

Uninspiring names

When the Region of York gets its rapid transit system up and running, there will be designated bus stops along Yonge Street in Aurora.

The Region recently officially named the stops.

The official names are Batson-Orchard Heights (Orchard Heights is the abbreviated name); Wellington Street; Dunning-Golf Links (Golf Links Drive is the abbreviated name); Henderson-Allaura (Henderson Drive is the abbreviated name); and Bloomington Road.

The Region has yet to answer the question about whether the bus will stop at Murray Drive or Aurora Heights Drive, two major Yonge Street intersections in Aurora.

Meanwhile, watch for roadwork at the named intersections, and an alteration to the traffic light system as buses will be able to program the signals to green when they need to move through an intersection.

“Flea” to dog wash

For the seventh year in a row, (well, actually, last year's was cancelled due to that huge power failure) Aurora's Abbotsford Animal Hospital presents its dog wash, with all proceeds going to the Southlake Regional Health Centre.

Sheila St. Hilaire, the dog wash co-ordinator hopes to soap up more than 100 dogs during the event, and says those who bring in dogs will receive a loot bag containing two ballots which may be used to select prizes.

The event takes place this Saturday, Aug. 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the animal hospital's new digs at 14958 Yonge Street at the corner of Ransom.

The event happens, rain or shine.

For further information, call 905-727-7379.

Frank Klees gains leadership ground

In Aurora, everyone has heard of Frank Klees.

Until now, however, it hasn't been that way in the rest of the province for the Aurora resident who is seeking the leadership of the provincial Progressive Conservative party.

With three people in the race, it has been the assumption throughout Ontario that Klees would finish a distant third.

However, a survey conducted

by the Ottawa Citizen this week, suggests Klees is running neck and neck with John Tory, while Jim Flaherty appears to have been relegated to third.

The Citizen conducted an informal poll of riding presidents, and results show Klees, the largely unheralded outsider, will strongly contend for the party's leadership next month.

The survey of riding associa-

Please see page 14



Even Pellerude, foreground, coach of the National Women's Soccer Team, was in Aurora last week to offer tips to the Aurora Stingers Girls Under 15 squad. From Norway, Even spent time with the team in a series of practices at Fleury Park. Team photo appears on Page 11.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Pelican makes Marsh pit stop

Was it lost? Exploring? Stopping for food? Looking for a new home?

Who knows, but what some people know is that a large white pelican used McKenzie Marsh on the St. John's Sideroad Thursday afternoon as a pit stop and hung around for a couple of hours.

The sighting was not surprising to Aurora's guardian of the Trumpeter Swan, Harry Lumsden.

"Some birds are wanderers," he said, agreeing that the graceful creature was indeed a pelican.

"Pelicans nest in the Lake of the Woods," he said. "There are mockingbirds breeding in Moosonee."

Mr. Lumsden said when he was called by Gord and Heather McKenzie he immediately thought the bird might have been a Trumpeter Swan and asked if there were yellow markings on its wings.

The tell-tale beak was proof the bird was not a swan.

The pelican likely won't be around to watch as St. John's Sideroad is widened to a four-lane road this summer, and our coverage of the issue begins on page 3 and continues on page 9.

Construction was expected to begin on the weekend.



The first Member of Parliament for the new federal riding of Newmarket-Aurora, Conservative Belinda Stronach is officially sworn in during a ceremony in Ottawa last week, while a House of Commons Deputy Clerk oversees the proceedings. Next on the Aurora MP's "to-do" list is to establish and staff a constituency office in the riding. Information on that task is expected to be released next week. Stronach, representing the new Conservative Party of Canada, won the riding in the recent federal election by a slim 700 votes as the country elected to return the Liberals to power.

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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.

Probus Club of Aurora meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of every month at the Aurora Legion. Club is for retired or soon to-be-retired business and professional people and guests are welcome.

During the month of August the Skylight Gallery will feature the artwork of Randell Neudorf. Regular viewing hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

AUGUST 14

Abbotsford Animal Hospital will hold its 7th Annual Charity Dog Wash from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with proceeds going to Southlake Regional Health Centre Pediatric and Infant Care Unit. For more information call 905-727-7379. Located at Ransom and Yonge Streets.

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.

AUGUST 17

Aurora Council meets in the Council Chambers at 7 p.m. This is the only council or committee meeting to be held in August. If you can't get to the meeting, it will be telecast at 7:30 p.m. on August 18 on Aurora Cable Internet, Channel 10 after the First Local newscast.

AUGUST 20

Mayor's Blood Donor Clinic from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Town Hall. Call 1-888-2-DONATE to book an appointment.

AUGUST 21

Second Annual Lifeguards on the Beach Volleyball Tournament to support the Lifesaving Society's Watersmart Drowning Prevention Campaign. Call 905-727-3123 extension 3123 for details.

SEPTEMBER 1

Aurora Cable Internet and the Aurora Public Library free internet seminar to learn how to find what you want on the world-wide web. 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Aurora Public Library. Register online www.aci.on.ca or call the library information desk 905-727-9493.

SEPTEMBER 3

The draw for artists to exhibit their work for a month in the Skylight Gallery of the Town Hall takes place at 4:30 p.m, if the artist has not exhibited in the past 12 months. Fifteen names will be selected for the 12 months with three

on standby. For details call Julie Geering at 905-726-4762.

SEPTEMBER 8

Cameron Hastings, President of Magna Services speaks to the Aurora Probus Club on "Fair Enterprise - The Magna Story" at 10 a.m. at the Aurora Legion.

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 11

From 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. enjoy a Candlelight Tour of Homes to raise funds for Hillary House, sponsored by the Aurora Historical Society. Visit six private homes of the 19th and early 20th centuries, plus the historic Hillary House. Call 905-727-4015 for details.

SEPTEMBER 18

Annual Magna Hoedown. 5 p.m.

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 online for the Aurora Run, Site 2, at www.terryfoxrun.org.

SEPTEMBER 25

It's the Aurora Children's and Youth Fair in the Town Park hosted by the Town and Aurora Family Connections. A Showcase of Community and Talent for Youth starting at 2 p.m. For further information call Info Aurora at 905-727-8214.

SEPTEMBER 30

Aurora Seniors visit St. Jacob's Market and visit the picturesque Village of Elora to view the falls and the gorge. Bus leaves Community Centre at 8:30 a.m. returning about 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$49 for members and \$54 for non-members. Call the Seniors Centre at 905-727-2816 to register.

OCTOBER 12

Seniors fall day trip to Ontario's famous Cranberry Harvest in Bala includes a scenic and informative wagon ride around the colourful marsh. Leave the Community Centre at 8:30 a.m. return around 6:30 p.m. Cost for members is \$57 and \$62 for non-members. Call 905-727-2816 to register.

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.



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St. John's Sideroad: the work has started

For better or for worse the reconstruction of the controversial St. John's Sideroad is underway and only history will determine if the right decision was made.

This is a regional project, but the first suggestion for reconstruction of the roadway to four lanes was a town initiative.

It was back in February, 1990, when Aurora Council announced plans to widen the road east of Yonge Street to the Industrial Parkway to four lanes.

The plans were said to include the protection of the wetlands with a plan worked out with the Ministry of Natural Resources, to include a duck underpass.

A public open house was held in the Works Building with only two residents in attendance.

Later as the proposal became better known, the Valhalla-Tara Hill Ratepayers Association became involved and at a May 1990 council meeting claimed the town had not properly informed residents of the project.

A spokesman for the association said residents were concerned that four lanes would destroy the sensitive wetlands and drive wildlife from the area.

Council pointed out that the project had been in the works for years and was even part of the town's 1975 official plan and that several public meetings had been held regarding development along St. John's.

Aurora Council had engaged a traffic engineer consultant to undertake a traffic impact study in conjunction with the proposed extension of the Industrial Parkway to the St. John's Sideroad.

The consultant recommended the sideroad become a six-lane highway to link up with Highway 404 when extended northward and that the region should assume control of the roadway.

In late 1990 council asked the region to assume costs of maintaining the sideroad due to the amount of regional traffic using the

Please see page 9

Susan Talbot Nancy Oxford

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AUGUST 18 - SEPTEMBER 4

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Poor Richard

People need to know hydro line dangers

Who is right and who is wrong.
Experts tell a different story;
They say nothing is conclusive,
Giving people cause to worry!

Poor Richard's Scrapbook

The dangers of electric and magnetic fields, or EMF, close to hydro transmission lines has been brought close to home with the proposal of Hydro One to replace the transmission line running through East Aurora.

For decades the controversy of whether it's safe to live near hydro transmission lines has been raging.

It was back in the late 1970s when the potential danger was first introduced that power lines might trigger leukemia in children.

British physicists claimed that electromagnetic fields generated by power lines and even by small electric household appliances could cause such cancer.

According to their studies the electromagnetic fields associated with the power lines could concentrate a cocktail of potential carcinogens.

A statement from the American Physical Society stated that a review of more than 1,000 papers on the subject indicated there was no consistent, significant link between cancer and power line fields.

Studies by Health Canada and other research bodies were inconclusive.

In May, 1995, York Region became involved in the issue as a result of a public meeting in Richmond Hill to discuss a proposed regional centre on the Langstaff Jail Farm site.

Concern was expressed at the meeting regarding the potential heath hazards on people from exposure to EMF from the hydro transmission line crossing the site.

A health staff report stated; "The link between EMF and increased cancer rates including childhood leukemia has not been fully explained nor has the level of magnitude of EMF exposure that may be a hazard been established".

The staff report concluded that there appears to be a relationship between health and exposure to EMF.

York Regional Council requested the province for province-wide safety standards for exposure to EMF, and in the meantime to investigate a policy of prudent avoidance.

York Region became the first municipality in Ontario to include the potential impact of EMF in its planning.

In August, 1997, the largest study to date carried out by the U.S. National Cancer Institute as to electric-ity and cancer found no solid evidence that living near high power lines caused childhood leukemia.

But still the fear remains as none of the studies is conclusive.

Even the health experts from Hydro One said at a public meeting in Aurora that they depend on health reports from the World Health Organization and Health Canada and Heath Canada's position is that a causal link had not been established between EMF and child-hood leukemia.

In other words there is no guarantee that there is or isn't a link between the two.

That's not good enough, when human lives could be at stake.

When Hydro One officials came to Aurora Council last March to propose the replacement line to provide more power to accommodate growth in the Aurora/Newmarket corridor, no mention was made of higher towers or towers being placed closer together.

For all intents and purposes the message left by Hydro One officials was little change from what had been there for more than 50 years, so at the time it did-n't seem like a major issue.

It was only after the public information meetings that the full story came out that the height of the towers was to be increased from 80 feet to 135 feet and the towers would be closer together to carry 230 KV double circuit lines that the public became concerned about the increased health hazards and potential loss of proper-ty values.

No one can blame the residents for being concerned.

It's long past time for Health Canada to call for an independent study of the potential risk to health due to the proximity to power transmission lines and settle the question for all time.

The people have a right to know.



The year is 1963, and new Aurora Mayor Keith Nisbet, right, is welcomed into Aurora's Centennial Year by former Mayor Dr. Crawford Rose. During that year, Aurora would let out all the stops to celebrate its 100th birthday as a town, and one of the first events was the presentation of a brand new chain of office. Mr. Nisbet, owner of the famed Westview Golf Club, still lives in Aurora, as do most members of his family. Mr. Nisbet also served as Aurora's first school board trustee when the York Region Board of Education was formed in 1969. The photograph comes from the currently out-of-print book "Aurora: A History In Pictures" by historian John McIntyre

Letter to the Editor

Reader selects several from Sisman photograph

To the editor,

Please find enclosed my cheque representing a renewal of my one-year sub-scription to your newspaper.

I always look forward to the very interesting articles in each issue, together with pic-tures of people and buildings, etc., from bygone days.

Your picture in The Auroran, July 6, of the employees of the T. Sisman Shoe Company Limited, brings back memories of many of the people who worked there, especially my father and my brother.

My father, Frederick Charles Bush, was a shoe-maker, and worked for the Underhill Shoe Company in Markham.

When the Underhill Shoe Company became the Underhill and Sisman Shoe Manufacturing Company in 1901, my father came to Aurora and worked in the shoe factory there until just before his death on March 16, 1944.

My father married my mother, Lulu Augurtha Willis, on November 11, 1903, and the night before their mar-riage, the Aurora baseball team, of which my father was the pitcher, gave him a black marble clock as a wedding gift.

My son, Gary Stephenson, has this clock.

Another member of the Aurora baseball team was the Rev. E.A. Pearson, who was minister of the Methodist Church, now the United Church in Aurora, and was the father of a former Prime Minister of Canada, Lester B. Pearson.

About a year after I was born, on September 19, 1926, my parents wrote to the Rev. Pearson asking if he would come to their home at 82 Wellington Street East and baptize me, which he did.

My grandfather, James Willis, was a leather tanner at Collis Leather on Tyler Street, and his son, Cederic Willis,

was clerk of the Town of Aurora at one time.

Cederic Willis' wife was the organist at the Aurora United Church for many years, and their son, Jim Willis, lives at Wasaga Beach. (...and subscribes to The Auroran - editor.)

I probably should have started this letter off by saying that I can identify some of the employees in the T. Sisman Shoe Company photograph.

Unless my eyesight fails me, some of the people in the photograph are as follows:

Back row, 15th from left, Jim Shore, who still lives at 31 Cousins Drive.

Fifth row, 10th from left, Fred Rowe, who I believe still lives in Aurora.

Fifth row, 21st from left, Bruce Collins, son of Albert Collins who worked for Wilson Hardware. Bruce married Muriel Stephenson, my husband Gordon's sister. Bruce now lives in Ottawa and remarried quite a num-ber of years ago.

Fifth row, 23rd from left, Cecil Holman, who lived at 69 Larmont Street.

Third row, 18th from left, John Sisman, son of the owner of the T. Sisman Shoe Company.

Second row, fourth from left, Lina Holman, sister of Cecil, who also lived at 69 Larmont.

Second row, second from right, Reuben Holman.

Second row, far right, Harold Bush, my brother, who lived at 246 Wellington Street East.

First row, fourth from right, Robert Hodgkinson, who lived at 61 Wellington Street East.

I have seen many changes over the years while growing up in Aurora.

I married Gordon Stephenson on September 14, 1946.

Gordon bought Aurora Cleaners from Gordon Hunt, which was situated at 74 Yonge Street South, in August, 1960, having worked

for Mr. Hunt for approximately 10 years learning the dry cleaning business.

Gordon successfully ran the dry cleaning and laundry business for 16 years, then sold it along with the building, which he also owned.

I began working in Aurora as a secretary first for Mr. Frank Underhill in August, 1945, then for William H.C. Bailey from August, 1960, to about August, 1978.

We left Aurora for a year but came back in 1979 and I worked for John Peddle as a legal secretary for 11 years, retiring in May, 1992, when my husband and I retired to our winterized cottage just south of Port Elgin for the summer months, spending three months in Florida.

My husband died on June 15, 1995, and I continued to spend summers at the cot-tage and winters in Aurora for eight years.

Sadly, I sold the cottage and found a lovely little bun-galow here in Dundas, not far from my daughter, her hus-band and two boys.

I go to Aurora periodically to visit my son, Gary, his wife and two children.

My son, Gary, is a partner in business with Gary McKenzie at Greenham's Distinctive Clothier, 14799 Yonge Street.

Being involved with clothes is the closest that Gary wanted to get to the cleaning business!

So, there you have it, some history trivia of our fam-ily in Aurora.

I look forward to receiving many more issues of your most interesting newspaper.

Dorene Stephenson
Dundas

ED. NOTE: While there is nothing wrong with Dorene's eyes, there's nothing wrong with her mind either. She pointed out, rightly so, that the Sisman photograph ran in The Auroran June 19, 2001,

our 34th issue, and at that time it stated the picture had been taken in July, 1951. The editor was too lazy to look it up. The editor does, however, have fond memories of meeting Gord Stephenson on many occasions for breakfast at the former Trio Restaurant back in the 70s.

AURORAN

**"Aurora's
Community Newspaper"**

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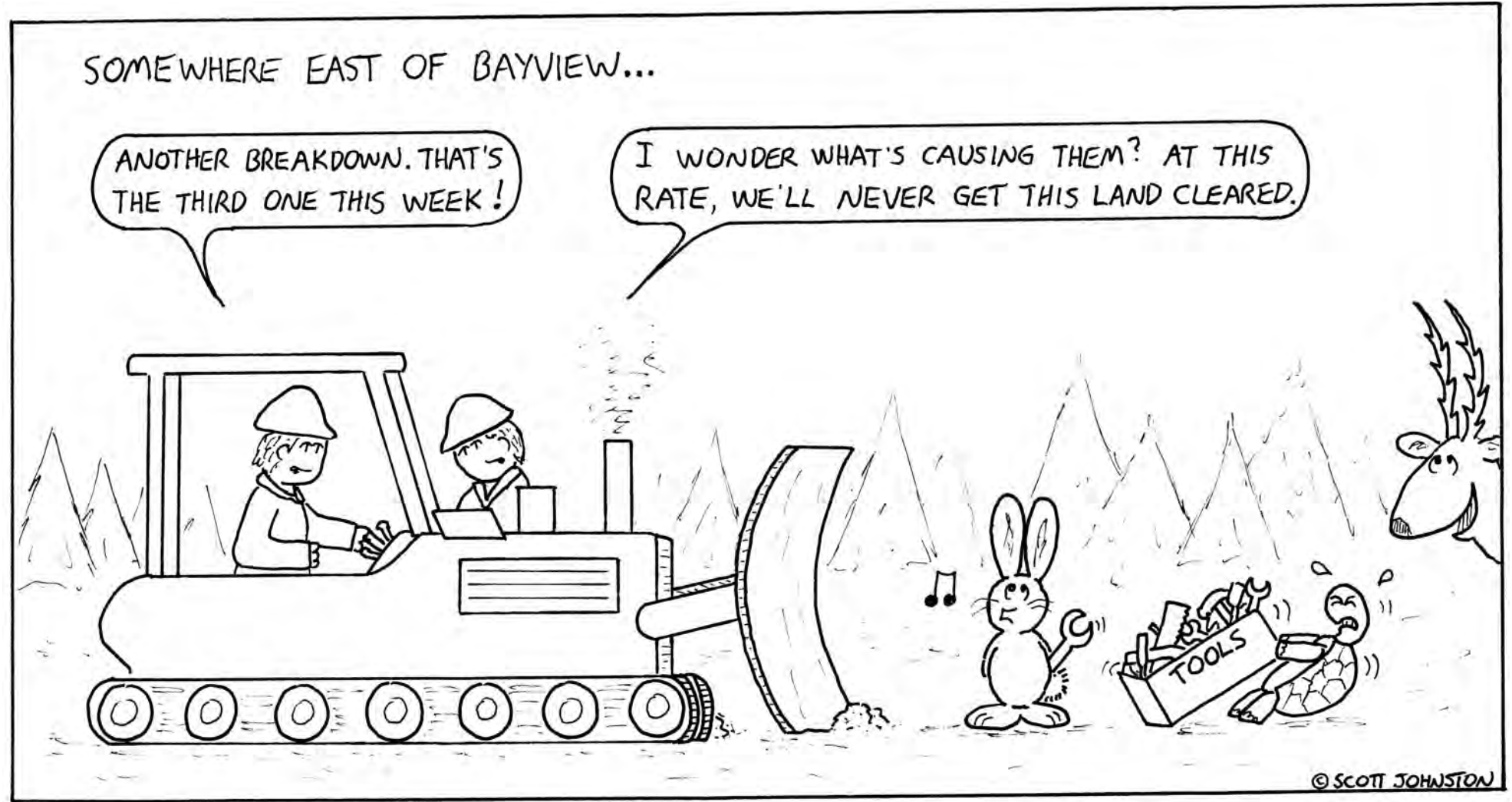
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Editorial policy

Opinions expressed by colum-nists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of the Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published. Names may be withheld assuming a com-pelling reason to do so. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copy-right.

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Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

On Tuesday, July 13th, the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog representatives, accompanied by a number of volunteers and their dogs, recognized the Town and the staff of our Bylaw Department for their initiative in assisting them to introduce the "Play It Safe with Dogs" program to students in Aurora's public schools.

The St. John Ambulance York Region Therapy Dog division has a membership of approximately 165 volunteers with about 150 dogs who visit more than 50 facilities each week in Aurora.

In addition to the "Play It Safe With Dogs" program, these dogs and volunteers visit hospitals, hospices, nursing and retirement residences as well as other health facilities.

Nationwide, there are well over 1,000 dogs, each tested and screened for reliable temperament and manner.

Approximately 10,000 hours of voluntary work is expected to occur by the end of the year.

The dogs are certified annually by their veterinarians as being up-to-date on all inoculations and preventative medications, as well as being parasite-free.

They are also thoroughly groomed before each visit.

As taken from the remarks made at the meeting:

"The Canadian Safety Council estimates that dogs bite 460,000 Canadians annually.

"In looking at Aurora statistics, Aurora does not get its proportionate share because of the vision, leadership and support demonstrated by staff and Council.

"The St. John Ambulance Therapy Dogs, York Region and the OSPCA formed a partnership in mid 2000 to educate both children and adults (teachers, parents and guardians), on how 'not to get bitten by a dog' and 'responsible pet ownership'."

In mid 2001, the Town of Aurora through staff of our Bylaw Services, joined the program and helped to establish it in Aurora public schools.

More than 4,000 children have seen the videos and practiced what to do when they meet a dog they have never met before.

I am advised that 2,500 children were from schools in Aurora and the remainder from special interest groups such as the Cubs, Brownies, Sparks, Girl Guides, Beavers and Summer Camps.

As part of the program, St. John Ambulance volunteers with their canine partners go into the schools so that the children can have a 'hands on' practice with their specially tested dogs.

Those who complete the program receive an "I play it safe with Dogs" button.

Reports of dog bites in Aurora have significantly decreased since this program was started.

The Town of Aurora is the only municipality that has this program, and I would personally credit our staff for its initiative to partner with St. John Ambulance as well as St. John Ambulance for their co-operation and enthusiasm in developing this team effort.

I would also express appreciation to the OSPCA who has been fully supportive of this project.

To be eligible to participate in the overall Therapy Dog program, all volunteers must attend a Pre-Evaluation seminar where participants find out about program commitments, rules and requirements.

As well, your dog must also pass an evaluation, which includes basic obedience and temperament analysis.

Column goes to the dogs...

Further information on this program and St. John Ambulance can be found on the web at: www.sja-yorkregion.org.

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



Saga of a soccer wife

Summer just wouldn't be summer without an official Cathy's Corner soccer saga.

To my athletically apathetic reader, I apologize. I know how you feel. I used to be one.

When my husband first registered the kids for soccer, my response was rolling eyes punctuated with a yawn.

Game after game, I sat in my lawn chair, sipping coffee, yawning, and watching my kids run after the kids who ran after the ball. I didn't get it.

Most of the kids didn't seem to get it either.

They swung from the goal posts and did cartwheels, but show them the ball, and they would all dive into the grass looking for four leaf clovers.

The only one who seemed to get it was the dog.

At one game, Tasha - picture size extra large German Shepherd - made a leap for stardom, stealing the ball and making for the net on a perfect breakaway...with a lawn chair attached to her leash.

At a tournament, we discovered that she could do the same thing with a cooler full of freezies.

In a more dramatic episode, she lunged for the ball, taking me with her, because, that time, I happened to be attached to her leash.

Just when I was starting to figure it out (i.e. bring the dog or bring the coffee, but not both), my husband told me he had registered himself for soccer. I went out to watch him play.

Clearly, this was a different game.

Standard equipment for this advanced level of play includes knee braces, Advil, and deep heating rub.

The cheers are different, too.

We shout things like: "Watch your knees!" and "Pull up your shorts!"

You know, the kind of encouragement a man expects from his wife.

After the game, the players need to put back what the game took out of them, so the cooler is full of malt flavoured Gatorade.

It comes in a brown bottle and says "Alexander Keith's" on the front of it.

After the "after game", the players head straight home to Aurora.

To Shoeless Joe's, where the beer is cold, and the hos-

pitality is delightfully warm.

It was there that Anna, Todd's wife, unveiled the new cheer she wrote for the team. It goes like this:

*Be careful! Don't swear!
Just pull up your underwear!
Watch your knee,
Make sure you pee,
Tuck in your shirt
And don't get hurt!*

*Watch out for the pole!
Was that a goal?
Did it go in?
Let's get a win!*

Anna wrote the cheer at a game in Newmarket after she was inspired by the other team's fans.

Almost a dozen young girls were assembled on the sideline, performing nonstop cheers and cartwheels.

"Wanna?" asked Anna.

"You've got to be kidding!" I said, from under my blanket.

Not only can I not do a cartwheel, I have never been able to do a cartwheel!

The only time I came close was when I was trying out for my high school field hockey team.

Thanks to a collision, I was involuntarily airborne and witnesses say it would have been a perfect cartwheel if I hadn't landed on my head.

But I did join Anna on one thing: we both secretly almost hoped that Newmarket would score, just to see what the fans would do.

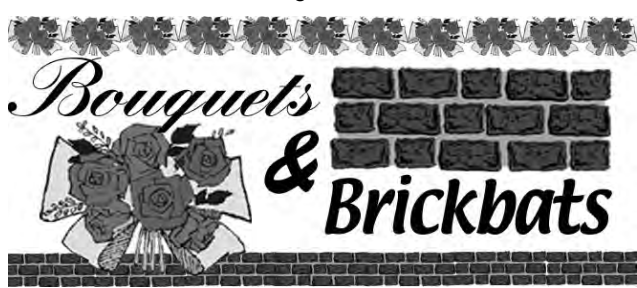
I know that sounds bad, but soccer isn't about winning and losing.

The victory is in the game, the team and the friendships that will last a lifetime.

Which basically means that the Aurora Spurs win every game.

See, I get it now!

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



By **DICK ILLINGWORTH**

BOUQUETS to 11-year-old Bowman Webster of Aurora on being selected to play with Team Ontario at the National Peewee Lacrosse Championships in August. Lacrosse runs in the family as his father, Tom Webster, played on a silver medal team in 1975.

BRICKBATS to those at the Town Hall for adopting a bylaw to install a three-way STOP at the intersection of Kennedy Street East and Gurnett Street. The intersection isn't the problem - it's parking too close to the intersection on the south side of Kennedy and the west side of Gurnett south of Kennedy.

BOUQUETS to the York Region District School Board for finally finding the funds to repave the circular drive at Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School before one of the students was lost in one of the potholes!

BRICKBATS to those in charge of booking artists for month-long exhibitions in the Skylight Gallery of the Town Hall. During July the artist was from Everett, Ontario, when there are several local artists who help to pay the taxes on the town hall that would have been pleased to exhibit!

BOUQUETS to those in the bylaw enforcement branch of the town and/or Esso officials at the Yonge Street and Cousins Drive station for having the privacy fence between the service station and the adjacent residences repaired.

BRICKBATS to those in the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources for planning to open the fishing season for the rare Aurora Trout in the Sudbury area on August 1st as a trophy fish with a one-trout limit. The opening has been cancelled as the Aurora Trout is an endangered species and falls under the federal Species at Risk Act.

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Jays minor mosquito baseball club for advancing to the semi-finals in a recent tournament. They were stopped short of the championship by the Guelph Royals in a hard fought game.

BRICKBATS to those in Ottawa for spending \$50,000 of taxpayers' money, to study cow burps in an effort to find out how much methane gas is produced. Possibly the government will establish a new Department of Bovine Science or BS.

More **BRICKBATS** for failing another review of the federal government's advertising files, which revealed shoddy management practices, including missing files and improper invoice procedures. There were no significant improvements. Maybe some heads should roll!

BOUQUETS to the National Citizens Coalition for publishing its latest Tales from the Tax Trough booklet, which tells everything anyone wants to know about the sponsorship scandal including the \$6,000 paid to the Challenge Budweiser beach ball tournament held in Paul Martin's riding.

BRICKBATS to those in the former Harris Tory government for granting the Highway 407 consortium the right to require the government to deny licence plates to motorists who owe the consortium money. The Tories suspended the practice after it was swamped with complaints about unfair billing and the Liberals continued the policy. Now the consortium is suing the government claiming that it's in the contract.

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Letters to the Editor

Town's elected officials not supporting residents

To the editor,

July 13, 2004, council meeting at Aurora Town Hall.

It is a beautiful summer evening, and hundreds of people, rather than spending time with their loved ones, have jammed the Town Hall to show their concern for the ill-conceived Hydro One idea of doubling the electrical capacity for York Region.

Statistics Canada has reported that the birth rate is slowing, and recent immigration strictures have significantly slowed the rate of

growth of our population.

This is especially manifest in suburbs, with many baby boomers moving back to Toronto condos.

Despite this, Hydro One expects the electrical need to double for Central and North of York Region over the next 10 years.

What do they know that all the other government agencies do not? Who do we believe?

Stats Canada with a proven track record or Hydro One mentality of: "If you build, they will come."

In a perfect world - let me rephrase that - in a normal

Farmers' Market popularity grows

To the editor,

I would like to thank all of the residents who continue to support the Farmers' Market every Saturday morning.

Each week we are getting more new faces at the market and that has attracted more vendors.

We now have vendors not only selling vegetables and fruit but also newer vendors selling crafts, organic bread, jams and jellies and the Seniors' Centre selling their well made knitted products plus great baked goods.

We also have Gabriel's Cafe selling bacon on a bun and coffee.

I would also like to thank Festa Restaurant and True Value Hardware for the support they have given by handing out discount coupons for visiting their locations on Yonge Street.

If you have not visited the market yet, we are open each Saturday morning in the Temperance Street parking lot from 8 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. right through until Thanksgiving weekend.

Nigel Kean
Aurora Councillor

Her solution to train's "damn" night whistle

To the editor,

The other night I shot bolt upright in bed wondering what the heck was going on.

The noise was so deafening that I could swear that train had come clean through my front door, chugged its way through the hall and down into the basement, finally to emerge back upstairs and made its exit through the patio doors!

And the antidote?

Yes, folks, there is an antidote that doesn't involve endless debate or appealing to local authorities.

Simply this. Incorporate that noise into your dreams

and no matter how many notches he turns the thing up, he truly can't touch you.

As for me, I'm going to crank up my own dreams a notch or two.

Tonight I think I might take a train ride of my own, along the rugged coastline of northeast England, and enjoy gazing out at the misty gray sea and endless beaches.

I'll make sure that damn whistle is blown as we whizz past all my old stomping grounds.

Rock on, train driver!

Jane Morgan
Aurora

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world, we as residents would have our local elected officials fight for us, ask the tough questions from Hydro One, demand answers and report back to the constituency.

In an Aurora World, we need to fight our own battles one round at a time, and when one morning we wake up and find out that Aurora Hydro has been amalgamated with Newmarket Hydro (Translation: given away) then perhaps the residents can take their fight to a different rink: namely Newmarket Town Hall.

For now be prepared to ask questions and not get answers, to get cut off at Open Forum by the mayor when citizens ask tough questions, because he doesn't have and doesn't care enough to find the answers, or perhaps he is too busy keeping his proceedings with Aurora Hydro secret from the taxpayers who own the corporation.

Of course he could

resign from the board and let council give his seat to someone more responsive to the taxpayers and who has something to contribute to Aurora Hydro.

Perhaps treating the citizens with contempt is the mayor's way of telling them that he is firmly in charge of the council proceedings and he will respond to their questions and concerns once the council is done attending to the "measured development" (Translation: Rezone all available farmlands to high density residential).

The simple question for the mayor is: Are you supportive of residents on this matter and if yes what have you done for us?

We all could wait for an explanation from the Town's mayor either in this paper or through glossy brochures in our mailboxes, as long as we don't hold our breath.

Homer Farsad
Aurora

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Industrial Parkway South veers around Sheppard's Bush, left.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Story behind Industrial's curves

Motorists and truckers drive up and down Industrial Parkway South today without any knowledge of the controversy the unusually curved roadway caused.

It was in November, 1970, when Reg Sheppard, owner of Sheppard's Bush with 32 acres in Aurora and 26 acres in Whitchurch Township first approached the town regarding the future of his property.

He believed a good portion of his land would make an excellent park site for the people of Aurora, especially with the growth of the municipality east of the railway tracks.

He said he would be willing to dedicate the property to the town for park use with an agreement that he would have the use of his house and property tax-free until his death when it would transfer to the town.

In March, 1971, negotiations were underway with Mr. Sheppard's lawyer and a draft deed was prepared in favour of the town containing a covenant that the lands to be conveyed would only be used for parkland.

A couple of months later when he returned from a holiday in California, Reg advised that he planned to donate the land to the Ontario Heritage Foundation with the stipulation that 20 acres of the cleared land be made available to the town as a fairgrounds and a site for the Aurora Horse Show.

He said he had changed his plans after learning that in other municipalities, future councils had not always lived up to the original agreement.

In February, 1973, a debate broke out at Aurora Council that created protests which would continue throughout the 1970s

when it was suggested a study be made of the feasibility of opening up Industry Street north to the St. John's Sideroad and south through the bush to a point south of the railway tracks.

Opponents were quick to mobilize with the battle cry that since the trees couldn't fight, they would.

In May, 1973, council was advised that the extension through the bush would not be considered because the Ontario Heritage Foundation was a Crown corporation, making Sheppard's Bush crown land.

The issue surfaced again in November that year when further discussions took place, but council was in a no-win situation.

Not being able to route heavy traffic through the bush meant heavy truck traffic on residential streets.

Sheppard opposed the proposed roadway claiming he had donated his land so Aurora families would be free to roam the 58 acres in perfect safety.

In May, 1974, council suggested the existing Industry Street curve to the west, close to the edge of the existing bush and southerly parallel to the railway tracks.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation advised it was its intention to preserve the area as parkland and the agreement it had reached with the South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority for day-to-day operation, was that the property be used for conservation purposes only.

In October, 1975, council once again discussed the need for a continuation of Industry Street and the only possible way was over the Sheppard property.

Citizens were quick to

mobilize and the consensus of opinion was that the roadway was incompatible with the bush property.

In February, 1976, members of Aurora Council met with former Ontario cabinet minister Bert Lawrence, and the Foundation agreed to consider it.

But the South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority opposed the proposed roadway with the board of directors agreeing that to split the bush in any way would be a mistake.

On September 29, 1976, council held a public meeting to discuss the proposed roadway, claiming it was a must to divert the heavy traffic from residential streets.

By April, 1977, the discussions took a different turn.

Councillor George Timpson defeated Mayor Evelyn Buck by strongly opposing a road through the bush.

About the same time

Sheppard gave his approval for the proposed roadway on condition it skirted the bush lands and received the approval of the Heritage Foundation.

In May, the conservation authority gave its approval and by August the OHF approved the roadway if the town donated two acres of property to the bush area.

The final citizen objection to the new roadway was former Mayor Buck.

She filed a formal objection with the Ontario Municipal Board in the fall of 1977 but did not pursue the issue.

Construction started on the million dollar project in April, 1978, and today motorists and truckers use the roadway on a regular basis without thinking of the many hours of controversial debate that made it all possible.

But now they know why the road has so many weird curves in it as it passes Reg's bush.

This Toastmaster district the best in North America

Clubs in the Northern Division of Toastmasters, District 60, which includes the club from Aurora-Newmarket, have reached a new level of excellence.

Toastmasters International of California has named District 60 as the most accomplished District in North America and the third best in the world.

Spokesmen were quick to point out the "amazing accomplishment".

"Considering that Toastmasters International has more than 8,800 clubs with more than 175,000 members in 80 countries around the world, it is

amazing," said publicist Roy Bannon.

In addition to the Aurora-Newmarket club, the district is also home to clubs from Bradford, Simcoe and Orangeville.

The mission of a Toastmasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn fosters self-confidence and personal growth.

For more information visit the Toastmasters website at Toastmasters60.org or phone Bannon at 905-853-0859.



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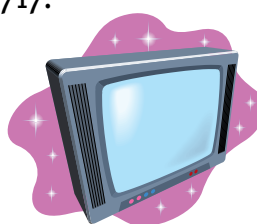
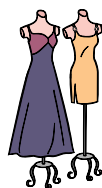
GIVE US YOUR GOODS!

Do you have items such as clothes, shoes, books, toys, housewares and electronics in good condition that you no longer want? Don't throw them away, donate them to charity!!

The Regional Municipality of York, in partnership with Goodwill Industries, will have a truck available to collect reusable goods on Saturday, August 14, 2004 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the parking lot at the East Gwillimbury Sports Complex located at 1914B Mount Albert Road in Sharon. Here, you will be able to donate reusable goods to charity.

This is your opportunity to help reduce the amount of garbage that we ship to Michigan for disposal.

For further information, please contact the Region at (905) 830-4444, ext. 5717.



Please note that the Environmental Services Committee of East Gwillimbury is also holding a plastic drop-off day on Saturday, August 14, 2004 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the parking lot at the East Gwillimbury Sports Complex located at 1914B Mount Albert Road in Sharon. Non-blue box plastics except #3 polyvinyl chloride (PVC) will be collected. Please pack items in clear plastic bags.

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St. John's reconstruction now underway

From page 3

roadway.

Regional Council responded that the region's financing of major road improvements was controlled through the roads reconstruction budget and no funds were available for the Aurora project.

At the time, St. John's was carrying 1,000 to 1,500 vehicles a day between Yonge and Bayview, with about 50 per cent of the traffic having origins and destinations north of Aurora.

Regional officials suggested St. John's be constructed as a two-lane roadway, with appropriate turning lanes at intersections and with grading for a four-lane road in the future.

In 1994 Aurora Council once again asked the region to assume control due to high maintenance costs caused by heavy regional traffic on the roadway.

It was pointed out that the roadway was an important east/west link of the regional road system and carried a weekday traffic volume of more than 10,000 vehicles, which was more than capacity for the two-lane roadway.

Before assuming control in 1995 the region carried out a study which included an environmental assessment of the roadway between Yonge Street and Woodbine Avenue including the McKenzie Marsh.

The study revealed it was not a safe roadway for the level of traffic carried.

Following a public information session in June, 1997, a group, known as PARKS (People Against Restructuring Local Sanctuaries) expressed concerns about the impact on the McKenzie Marsh.

At a second public information session in October that year several citizens expressed similar concerns and questioned the need for a four-lane roadway.

In January, 1998, the region's transportation committee received a consultant's report regarding the class environmental assessment on the roadway, especially the environmentally sensitive McKenzie Marsh area and the impact of the reconstructed roadway on the marsh.

The report described the features and functions of the wetlands on both sides of the roadway and made recommendations for a road design that would mitigate the impact of the road widening.

As a result of the strong interest in the project a third public information session was held in March, 1998.

Because of the concern, Aurora Council requested a presentation from the Region.

At the presentation the region committed to engage a wetland ecologist to provide an independent opinion on the impacts of a possible road widening on the marsh and to recommend mitigation measures that would minimize the impact.

By March, 1998, it appeared the reconstruction of the road would proceed in spite of potential damage to the wetlands.

In June, 1998, Aurora

Council asked the region to provide a feasibility review and cost estimate for a bridge over the wetlands. According to regional officials the additional cost for the bridge would be in the \$11 to \$14 million range.

They pointed out that it was difficult to justify consideration of a bridge over the marshlands at such a large additional cost with no distinct advantages.

The disadvantages to the bridge were said to be the detrimental effect on residential entrances, in addition to the costs.

In January, 1999, the consultant described the features and functions of the wetland and made recommendations for the road design that would mitigate the effects of the widening through the wetlands.

With the proposed roadway to be widened from 13 to 18.7 metres, the consultant recommended a retaining wall on the south side to prevent road kills, with a boardwalk to view the marsh on the north side. The proposed roadway would require approximately one-half acre of the 25-acre wetlands.

It was also recommended that three culverts be included in the road design, one to be a wet culvert for marine life and the others dry culverts for turtles, frogs, etc. A nesting area for turtles was to be included.

It was noted that although a half acre of the 25-acre wetlands would be lost, the recommended improvements would more than make up for the loss. They pointed out the merits of the dry and wet culverts in providing safety to wildlife moving between the north and south wetlands.

On November 11, 1999, regional council approved the reconstruction and widening project conditional on the completion of the environment assessment process at an estimated cost of \$4 million.

During a December Open Forum at an Aurora Council meeting, citizens stated their continued oppo-

sition to York Region's proposal to reconstruct and widen St. John's Sideroad to a four-lane roadway between Yonge Street and Bayview Avenue through the McKenzie Marsh.

Later in the meeting, representing PARKS, Ben Kestey said if a four-lane roadway was constructed, council could say goodbye to their parkland and wetland on the south side of the roadway.

This followed a petition with more than 2,000 signatures that was presented to Aurora Council in September, 1999, petitioning council to make the preservation of the McKenzie Marsh a millennium project.

The petition had no effect as in November, 1999, Regional Council endorsed a committee report that staff be authorized to advertise

the region's intent to widen and reconstruct the sideroad from Yonge Street to Bayview Avenue.

The proposal was to provide a basic four-lane roadway with left-turn and right turn lanes at key intersections. The proposal also included the reconstruction of the section of the sideroad between Bayview Avenue and Leslie Street as a basic two-lane road.

This followed a class environmental assessment and preliminary design for the Yonge to Bayview section. At that time construction was planned for 2001 at an estimated cost of \$4 million.

The region continued with its planning in spite of the strong opposition from Aurora residents.

In January, 2000, Regional Council adopted a bylaw to authorize the works

as originally proposed and the beginning of negotiations for the acquisition of the necessary lands.

In March, 2004, council approved an upgraded landscape design concept for the reconstruction and widening of the roadway with upgraded street lights, boardwalk, landscaping and planting areas.

At a public information meeting held in last month, regional officials announced the first phase of the reconstruction project would begin this month and the section of the roadway between Old Yonge Street and Industrial Parkway North would be closed until December.

Residents at the meeting expressed concern about noise, safety and the need for a place to park.

They asked for a barrier to lessen traffic noise from the

roadway and sought traffic signals at Old Yonge Street and the access to Hadley Grange.

With the construction of a boardwalk on the north side of the roadway for visitors to view the McKenzie Marsh, residents pointed out that no provision had been made for visitor parking. The marsh area is also popular in winter months for outdoor family skating.

Regional officials responded that no provision had been made in the plans for traffic signals at Old Yonge Street, nor visitor parking. Although not raised the plans did not include a means of access from the raised roadway for family skating during the winter months.

Construction may be underway but citizen complaints will no doubt continue.



Artist's concept shows a finished St. John's Sideroad looking west, top, and a viewing area of the McKenzie Marsh, below.

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Minor Mosquito Jays

Ball team enters playoffs on winning note

The Aurora Jays are looking forward to this weekend after closing out their regular season on a winning note recently.

The minor mosquito baseball club wrapped up their schedule with a

resounding 10-5 victory over the Richmond Hill Phoenix.

The win was significant.

It not only gave Aurora a season series victory over the Phoenix, but

also marked the first error free game for the Jays this year, two considerable accomplishments for this young squad.

Starting pitcher Wes Howe and Mathew Stuart, in relief, shut down the

Phoenix and sent their Aurora squad into the York Simcoe playoffs this weekend on a winning note.

A three run triple down the right field line by Mark Robertson was the

offensive highlight of the night.

The playoffs begin Friday, August 13th, and run through that weekend, and will be played at various diamonds in the host municipality, the City

of Vaughan.

The Jays are also looking forward to competing in the Ontario Baseball Association Tournament being held on Labour Day weekend in Bolton.

Watson survives first stage of Black Belt Test

Stage One is over and Mike Watson is still standing.

Watson, of Aurora's Watson's Family Karate School, has just returned from his first The Ultimate Black Belt Test Masters Training Event: a five-day eco-adventure, backpacking trip in the Sierra Nevada Mountains near Lake Tahoe, California.

The trip, a requirement of The UBBT training program in which he's enrolled, also included a martial arts masters training camp.

Designed by martial arts master Tom Callos, the Ultimate Black Belt Test (UBBT) is the most challenging and innovative black belt test in the world and is administered to only 30 people at a time.

Each participant must be a serious, professional, career martial artist.

The UBBT lasts a year (minimum) and requires a complete physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual transformation in each participant. Participants must be a 1st degree black belt or higher.

The first test began in April and the final exam is scheduled for May 6 and 7, 2005 at Ernie Reyes' Black Belt Test in San Jose, California.

Last week's event involved climbing up and down the 9,000-foot high Sierra Navadas along the pacific crest trail in 80 degree days and camping out tent-less under the stars in near freezing mountain

air at night.

"Each day began at 6 a.m. with martial arts training and ended the same way, with a leg of the 34 miles of mountain trail sandwiched in between," Watson said. "I feel great, although I am a bit sore and my knees are tender. But that is only the end of the first third of the challenge. There is much to do and accomplish before the next event in October."

Some of the candidates were not able to complete the trip due to injuries suffered in the mountains or fatigue due to the extreme conditions.


Watson, too, suffered a minor setback on the first day when the thin mountain air laden with smoke from nearby California forest fires triggered an asthma attack.

"I needed to adjust my pace to accustom my body to the altitude and the thin air," the 48-year-old said. "Once that was accomplished, I found the trek a challenge, but not insurmountable."

Some of the minimum requirements that raise people's eyebrows are the 52,000 push-ups, 52,000 (abdominal) crunches and 1,000 rounds of sparring that all must be accomplished by the end of the year, in addition to the martial arts specific training and Masters Training events.

The final test will be held in May at Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, CA.

Jaguar Gymnastics



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 Priestly Demolition 12 : Sutton Realty 6
 Priestly Demolition : Nature's Emporium (Forfeit)
 Sutton Group 10 : Dr. Orschel Drillers 4

Peewee

Atlantis Digital : Decorators Edge (Rainout)
 McDonalds : Centre Ice (Rainout)
 McDonalds : Carstar Collision (Rainout)
 Carson Cat. : Atlantis Digital (Forfeit)
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Appointments in 1965

Here are a few appointments from the year 1965. Some names and groups may rattle a few memories.
 Len Rosenberg was appointed to the York County Hospital Board. Newmarket's York County Hospital is today Southlake Regional Health Centre.
 Appointments to Aurora's Recreation Committee included Cathan Shoniker, Don Glass, Ed Griffith, Dick Buchanan, W. H. Bell, Dan Morris, Bill Dinsmore, Frank McFalone and Bob Hookings.
 Aurora Council appointed Frank Wims, Gord Stephenson, Alf Child, Lorne Evans, Doug Richardson and Bill Stoddart to the town's first Committee of Adjustment.
 Other appointments included Alf Bolsby, Ken Bennett and Jim Wilson to the Aurora Memorial Arena Board and Mrs. A. Hess to the Library Board.



National Women's coach in Aurora

The Aurora Youth Soccer Club Under 15 girls took time out from their training sessions with Even Pellerud, Canada's National Women's Team Coach, to sit for this team photograph. Even was in Aurora last week to run training sessions with the local squads in Fleury Park. Aurora Youth Soccer Club Head Coach Vito Colangelo, invited the Canadian National Coach to work with the Club's major girls' teams to prepare them for upcoming Ontario Cup, Ontario Summer Games as well as League Cup matches that occur this month. In addition to the U-15 girls, Even, seen in the back row fourth from left, also held a session for the U-16 girls' team. Colangelo's goal was to expose the girls and the AYSC coaches to the country's best coaching.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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Peaceful Aurora Cemetery, located on Yonge Street in the town's south end, has had anything but a peaceful history. *Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

Aurora Cemetery history was anything but peaceful

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Cemeteries are usually considered to be quiet, non-controversial places where people can visit and meditate, or recall memories of other days.

It is normally expected that when it's time to go, there will be a place to go to.

But back in the 1980s the ongoing struggle between Aurora Council and the Aurora Cemetery Board suggested the future of the 14-acre cemetery was in doubt.

At that time the number of available plots was said to be less than a year's supply.

The Aurora Cemetery Company acquired various conveyances of land from 1869 to 1916 in the Township of Whitchurch, now within the Town of Aurora.

Seven people donated \$7 each for the land to start the cemetery, and a board comprised of leading citizens operated it.

In 1976, the board asked the town to purchase a 20-acre parcel of land adjacent to the cemetery, which officials said would meet burial needs for the next 20 years.

Even though the Cemetery Act provides for a town council to be able to expropriate lands adjacent to a cemetery if believed to be in the public interest, council of the day failed to take any action.

In 1979, the cemetery board asked its solicitor to

write to the owners of the Hazelburn Farm property to the north regarding the purchase of a portion of the property and advised the town and the region accordingly.

Neither Regional nor Aurora Councils took action, as the requested portion of land would reduce the planned subdivision by 12 estate-type lots.

The cemetery board then looked to the property to the south and asked the solicitor to write to Michael Sifton, then on the board of the Toronto and North York Hunt Club, owners of the property.

A joint committee of town staff and cemetery board members was established to meet with Hunt Club officials to investigate the possibility of acquiring land for cemetery expansion, without results.

By 1982, the cemetery board made another appeal to council and another meeting was arranged with Club officials in an effort to acquire 10 to 15 acres adjacent to the south boundary of the cemetery lands.

Before negotiations could get underway, the Hunt Club was sold to Beacon Hall for a proposed subdivision including a golf course.

It was back to square one for the cemetery board and council, as the new owners were reluctant to sell any of their lands.

However the town was able to obtain a commitment that the municipality

could acquire a section of the property along the Yonge Street frontage adjoining the south boundary of the cemetery.

The proposed land was not acceptable to the cemetery board as they claimed it was wet and had a watercourse running across it.

In addition, they claimed the salt and dirt from Yonge Street would splatter the monuments, although the existing cemetery has Yonge Street frontage.

The board was advised that the town, through the subdivision agreement, would ensure the lands would be brought up to the standard required for burial grounds.

This was still not acceptable to the cemetery board, even though they were getting the lands at no cost.

In 1987, the town sought a final answer from the board and was advised the land was not suitable and they would continue to operate the old cemetery until it was full and then close it, in accordance with the Cemeteries Act.

When council members suggested that the municipality operate a municipal cemetery on the 10 acres of land acquired from Beacon Hall, the board refused to grant the town access to the cemetery road system to gain access to the land.

Staff advised council

members in July, 1987, that a search of the Corporations Register revealed the Aurora Cemetery Company was not listed.

Although board members claimed they had documentation that gave them authority to operate, they were unable to produce it.

It seems that in 1976 the board of the Aurora Cemetery Company stopped holding public meetings, which was contrary to the Corporations Act.

In addition board elections had not been held since that date. According to board officials, no one from the public ever attended the meetings.

Council was also advised that under the Cemeteries Act, if a cemetery is abandoned, it becomes the responsibility of the local municipality to continue maintenance of the property and operation.

Trust funds are available to provide perpetual care of the grounds.

As council and the cemetery board could not resolve the stalemate, board members resigned and council established a council/citizen cemetery committee to operate the enlarged cemetery.

At least now, if you have to go, there's someplace to go to.

Actors replace stage with ball diamond

"Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" may have been a popular song from the 1940s, but diamonds were also popular with Aurora and district girls in another way...baseball diamonds.

In addition to providing entertainment on stage by the various community theatres in York Region, starting in 1987 the girls joined with their male counterparts to provide entertainment on the baseball diamond.

The ball tournament was never listed on the season's playbill but it was always a series of hits - and misses.

It was the start of the Annual Inter-Theatre Three Pitch Tournament with the

winning team hosting the next year's event.

After the ball games there was a dinner dance with entertainment by the host team with proceeds going to a local charity.

They played a modified game of slo-or lob-ball.

It was what they referred to as theatre ball.

Each team had to have at least four female performers playing at any time so that the male performers wouldn't dominate the play.

Even with a player from the home team pitching to his or her teammates, the game was limited to seven innings or one hour, whatever. **Please see page 14**

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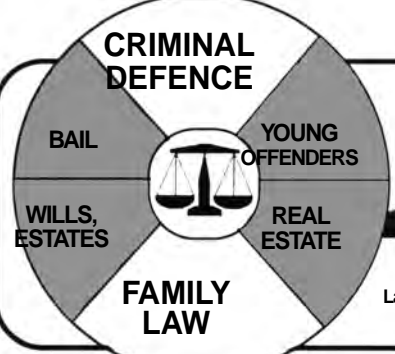
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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Remembering when Pearson lived here

Lester B. Pearson was the 14th Prime Minister of Canada after leading the Liberal Party to victory in the April, 1963, election.

He was past chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and President of the United Nations General Assembly between 1952 and 1953.

Not too well known is that he attended the Aurora Public School (Church Street School) from 1901 to 1902 and was a resident of Aurora from age five to eight, as his father, Rev. Edwin Pearson, was the minister of the Aurora Methodist Church (now Aurora United) from 1900 to 1903.

In November, 1968, he returned to Aurora to speak from the pulpit of his father's old church to commemorate its 150th anniversary.

He recalled that it was in Aurora that he spent the first Christmas he could remember and his first day of school.

He also recalled participating in his first student revolt by following the older students when they protested that they hadn't been given a holiday on the 24th of May.

INDECISION NOT NEW TO AURORA COUNCIL

The current Aurora Council has a problem making a decision and sticking with it.

Decisions are made in general committee and then changed when the committee report is presented at council.

Sometimes when they can't decide what to do at council the issue is referred back to committee for another go-round.

Appointment to town committees was a good, or bad, example.

But indecision isn't something new for Aurora Council.

Councillors had a similar problem in February, 1967, when they attempted to name members to serve on the proposed Industrial and Economic Development Board.

A bylaw had been adopted to authorize a seven-member board; three members to serve two years and the remaining four members to be appointed for three years.

Until this point everyone was in agreement, but when it came time to propose names there was little agreement.

Sensing that council was getting nowhere, Reeve Jim Murray was able to get council support to refer the issue to the Bylaws Committee for clarification and how many should be appointed to the board.

Sound familiar?

WHEN AURORA WAS A POLICE VILLAGE

The term Police Village is never used today because, since 1965, it is no longer a form of local government.

After several decades as the small hamlet of Machell's Corners,

Aurora was constituted as a Police Village in 1854 under bylaw 43 of the United Counties of York and Peel.

At that time Aurora was just a 285-acre rectangle centred on Yonge and Wellington Streets.

As a Police Village, Aurora was not an incorporated municipality but remained under the jurisdiction of King and Whitchurch Townships.

In January, 1855, three trustees were elected at a public meeting, who had certain limited powers.

Aurora obtained full village status in 1883 and was incorporated as a town in 1888, but it wasn't until December 1950 that the first woman, Thelma Fielding, was elected to council.

WORDS THAT COME BACK TO HAUNT

Back in December, 1988, when Greg Sorbara was the Minister of Labour in the David Peterson Liberal government, he was critical of York Regional government for the absence of a master plan for green space.

He said it wasn't too late to act as opportunities remained for preserving public parkland from development, especially along the Yonge Street corridor.

He suggested that Bond Lake in Richmond Hill (Oak Ridges) could become a regional or provincial park.

He was critical of the municipalities of Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan for accepting more than \$6.8 million from developers in lieu of parkland.

In spite of Dalton McGuinty's promise before the election to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine from development including the area around Bond Lake, it is now a sea of houses and Sorbara's parkland is long forgotten.

WHAT AURORA MIGHT HAVE BEEN

Back in June, 1968, the province released the Metro Toronto and Region Transportation Study, five years in the making, to cover planning for the area until 2000.

The plan called for a Yonge Street corridor, north of Toronto, to be a low-density series of towns like Aurora and with the surrounding townships to form a hallway of town living and rural quiet, compared to the bursting population growth to the south.

The proposed population of the Yonge Street towns like Aurora and Newmarket was to be in the 5,000 to 10,000 range.

Now the region is planning a Regional Centre and Yonge Street Corridor concept to focus growth and infrastructure investments in centres and corridors as part of the region's growth strategy.

What happened to the Metro Toronto and Region Transportation Study?

Ain't *THIS* the truth?

People over 35 should be dead

Here's why:

- * According to today's regulators and bureaucrats, those of us who were kids in the 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's, or even maybe the early 70's probably shouldn't have survived.
- * Our baby cribs were covered with bright coloured lead-based paint.
- * We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets. (Not to mention the risks we took hitchhiking.)
- * As children, we would ride in cars with no seatbelts or air bags.
- * Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat.
- * We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. **Horrors!**
- * We ate cupcakes, bread and butter, and drank soda pop with sugar in it, but we were never overweight because we were always outside playing.
- * We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle, and no one actually died from this.
- * We'd spend hours building go-carts out of scraps and then rode down the hill, only to discover we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.
- * We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the street lights came on.
- * No one was able to reach us all day. **NO CELL PHONES!!!!**
- * **Unthinkable!**
- * We did not have Playstations, Nintendo 64, X-Boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable, video tape movies, surround sound, personal cell phones, personal computers, or Internet chat rooms.
- * We had friends! We went outside and found them. We played dodge ball, and sometimes, the ball would really hurt.
- * We fell out of trees, got cut and broke bones and teeth, and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. They were accidents. No one
- * We had fights and punched each other and got black and blue and learned to get over it.
- * We made up games with sticks and tennis balls and ate worms, and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes, nor did the worms live inside us forever.
- * We rode bikes or walked to a friend's home and knocked on the door, or rang the bell or just walked in and talked to them.
- * Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment.
- * Some students weren't as smart as others, so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade. **Horrors!**
- * Tests were not adjusted for any reason. Our actions were our own; consequences were expected.
- * The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke a law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law. **Imagine that!**
- * This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever. The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.
- * We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.
- * Give this to others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before lawyers and government regulated our lives, for our own good!!!!

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The ugly room isn't ugly anymore. Julia and Brian Sherman of Aurora won the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Ugly Room contest during the annual Home Show, and with it went \$2,000 worth of renovations and upgrades. The design team included Interior Vision Concepts - Jusinta Kaur; Flume Interiors - Mary Flume; First Impressions - Jane Thompson; Aurora Home Hardware - Russ Barfitt; Extreme Property Service - Bruce Ewart; and Distinct Interiors - Danny Merlino. They provided products and services at cost. Also taking part in the project was Mike Kursikowski of New-Gen Electric Ltd. The Sherman room was one of 10 finalists in the contest, and the winner was selected by people visiting the Home Show.

Klees gains ground

From page 1
tion presidents from across the province suggests Klees and Tory are locked in a close, two-way race with both candidates having the backing of more than one-third of decided presidents.

"The issue of integrity is an issue that keeps coming up time and time again," The Citizen quoted Vanessa Clarke, president of the Eglinton-Lawrence riding association, who once worked for Mr. Klees. "I think it's a challenge for our party. And it's probably his strongest quality and it's drawing people toward him. The fact that they can trust him, not only as an individual, but as a politician."

Observers credit Klees with creating a lasting grassroots network when he served as the party's policy chairman in the early '90s, the Ottawa story said.

A social conservative who is openly anti-abortion, Klees has said he will allow more private delivery options in health care.

He supports a private school tax credit, and will send teachers and boards to binding arbitration to settle disputes.

Klees has also pledged to amend the party's constitution to put power back in the hands of elected officials. The German-born entrepreneur had cabinet roles in successive Tory governments.

"He's speaking openly about cleaning things up," said Algoma-Manitoulin president Jim McBane. "He's not going to let outside consultants determine party policy."

The Citizen attempted to contact all 103 riding presidents in the province by phone between July 26 and Aug. 8. Forty-one did not respond. Of the 62 presidents who did, 30 either hadn't made up their minds or have sworn neutrality because they are involved in the election process.

Of the 32 who had decided, 14 are backing Tory while 12 support Klees.

Much of the appeal Flaherty held in the last leadership race appears to have waned. At least two of the eight current MPPs backing him will not have the support of their riding association president when the party votes Sept. 18.

"I don't know what (Mr. Flaherty's) all about," Jean

Twocock, president of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke said. "I know he's very right wing. And in view of the way Stephen Harper was treated, I was wondering whether a right-wing person would be popular in Ontario."

Ms. Twocock's MPP, John Yakabuski, is backing Flaherty. Ms. Twocock will support Tory.

"We seem to have a riding of voters that really make up their own minds," she said.

Tory supporters noted his deep roots in the party, extensive business experience and his fundraising acumen. The party is almost \$10 million in debt.

Although never elected to public office, Tory impressed observers in last year's Toronto mayoralty race, where he placed second to David Miller.

Tory party membership sales ended Saturday, leaving about 60,000 eligible voters to pick the next leader of the party.

This Friday is your day, you triskaidekaphobite

If you suffer from triskaidekaphobia you had better plan to stay in bed this Friday.

It's Friday the 13th in Aurora and the fear of the number 13 is a long held superstition called triskaidekaphobia.

Most people are superstitious, but some won't admit it.

Yet, they won't walk under a ladder, they have problems if a black cat crosses their path and they believe breaking a mirror means seven years of bad luck.

This has resulted in some hotels omitting the 13th floor and some airlines never use row 13.

Throughout history the number 13 has been linked with the occult. The tarot card of death is number 13 and a coven is 12 witches and the devil.

The most popular belief for the fear of the number 13 dates back to the Bible.

Christ was the 13th guest, along with the 12 apostles, at the Last

Supper held on a Thursday. The next day, Friday the 13th, Christ was crucified.

Friday is also considered a bad luck day on its own. Adam was tempted by Eve on a Friday, Noah had to get the ark on a Friday and the Temple of Solomon fell on a Friday.

Superstitious belief ran so rampant in England in the 1800s a group of journalists formed the London 13 Club to debunk the myths behind the number 13.

They entered their clubrooms carrying open umbrellas, smashed mirrors, walked under ladders and dined 13 to a table.

Sailors are said to be among the world's most superstitious people. Shipmasters consider it unlucky to set sail on a Friday, especially if it's the 13th.

The Cunard liner Acquitania once delayed its sailing from New York

on a Friday the 13th due to protests from passengers and crew.

If you should survive this Friday, August 13th, you can relax, as you won't have to face another one this year.



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Ball diamond

From page 13
er came first.

Not only that, the game could be called after five innings as a complete flop at the box office if one team was ahead by 10 runs or more.

In 1993 Theatre Aurora hosted the seventh Annual Tournament at Confederation Park.

Following the game the ball players were entertained at Factory Theatre with a pot luck dinner and dance.

After watching the performers on stage and on the ball diamond, some were obviously more suited for the stage, but it was always a fun day and it's unfortunate the tradition no longer exists.

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