Vol. 4 No. 45

AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Outdoor Luxury
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255 Industrial Pkwy. S., Unit 7, Aurora

Week of September 7, 2004 905-727-3300



Tamara Estabrooks

Our Mrs. Aurora has message and mission

By CHRISTINE WOODLEY

Tamara Estabrooks is living proof that small moments can change one's life.

The Aurora newlywed was getting her car oil changed at Newmarket Honda a couple of years ago when a service woman told her about the Mrs. Canada Pageant and suggested she get involved.

Tamara thought it might be fun to contribute to the pageant in some small way, until she realized the woman meant that she should compete for the title.

Soon after, while wrestling with the idea of entering the pageant, Tamara's mother was diagnosed with cancer

Her mother encouraged her to enter, and the pageant preparations became a welcome diversion for the family.

"My parents were both doctors, and living in New York City, so I was down there a lot," Tamara said. "My mom and I spent so many wonderful hours together, getting ready for the pageant."

Unfortunately, Tamara was forced to forego the pageant when her mother took a turn for the worse. She took that time to spend with her mother, who died in July last year.

After establishing a scholarship

Please see page 3

Briefly

Going the distance

If you qualify to vote in the upcoming provincial Progressive Conservative leadership race, you may have to go that extra mile.

Actually, you have to go SEVERAL extra miles.

Aurora's Frank Klees, one of three seeking the leadership in the September 18 vote, advises there is only one voting station in the Vaughan-King-Aurora riding, and it's in Vaughan.

Located at 120 Whitmore Drive, Unit 8, the location is in Woodbridge, and Klees, who is depending on much Aurora support, has his work cut out for him making sure his supporters find their way to Vaughan.

The unruly riding is expected to change in the next provincial election, and Aurora will be in a riding similar to the new federal Newmarket-Aurora riding.

But, in the meantime, it's off to Vaughan to vote.

An advance poll (same location) will be held from 4 to 9 p.m. Monday, Sept. 13, with polls open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, the 18th.

For a look at how the leadership race is going, please see page 13.

Graffiti growing but no message

For many years the Canadian National Railway overpass at the south end of Aurora was recognized as the gateway to town.

Visitors and citizens often enquired why there wasn't some welcoming message on it.

In January, 1993, Aurora Council asked town staff to contact CN officials to determine if it was possible for the town to paint a mural on the overpass.

Two months later, CN officials advised they had no objection to the town's proposal provided it was carried out at Aurora's expense and to CN's liking.

CN requested a detailed proposal including access, method of surface preparation, type and number of coats of paint, and future maintenance.

Council referred the correspondence to staff to contact CN to determine if it was possible to paint the mural on a frame and attach it to the overpass.

In April, 1993, staff reported that while exact costs had not been determined, it was estimated it would cost at least \$90,000 to sandblast and paint the outer faces of the girders. Council of the day decided to take no action.

Then in January, 1996, Councillor Ron Wallace contacted CN officials to explore the possibility of covering the overpass with a mural, possibly depicting Yonge Street as it was at the turn of the

Wallace, a member of Aurora's 200 Years Yonge committee, met with Brian Larter, of Larter Associates, who had the first outdoor mural painted on the north wall of his building at Yonge and Wellington. He also discussed the idea with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

The Wallace plan was to bolt several panels to both sides of the 56-year-old overpass for the murals.

In July, 1996, council and the committee were advised CN needed more detail of the proposal, including an artist's rendering of the mural and a stamped-engineer's structural drawing of the

Please see page 3



Elizabeth Brims, left, Executive Director of the York Region Food Network, joins Aurora Food Pantry Director Lorna Rummenie after delivering scores of backpacks to the Aurora location last week. Backpacks are filled with essential back-to-school supplies for children of low income families.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Program helps some students with supplies

About 250 children from low income families will go back to school this week carrying essential school supplies in a brand new backpack.

A pilot program of the York Region Food Network, funded by the Community Development Investment Fund of York Region, will provide more than 250 backpacks filled with essential supplies, including about 50 in Aurora.

The Aurora supply was delivered by the Aurora Food Pantry last week.

Distribution will take place through five food banks in York Region.

The Aurora inventory was donated in part by the Aurora Optimist Club along with support from Zellers Aurora and Staples Aurora.

On average, food banks in York Region provide assistance to 3,314 York Region residents a month, York Region Food Network Executive Director Elizabeth Brims said.

Sixty-one percent of food bank visits are from families with schoolage children, she said.

York Region Food Network recently participated in the 2004 Daily Bread Food Bank survey of food bank clients.

The survey revealed that more

than half the food bank clients with school-age children said there were things their children needed for school that they could not afford.

The backpack program will not only provide basic school supplies, not currently provided by local school boards, directly to low income children, but it will also increase self-esteem and confidence of at-risk children, reduce financial and emotional stress for parents unable to provide back to school supplies and lessen the need for low income families to take funds from their food budget to purchase required school supplies, Ms Brims said.

Organizations interested in participating in the program should contact the YRFN at 905-967-

Meanwhile, Aurora Food Pantry Director, Lorna Rummenie is dealing with a shortage of food.

"Right now we badly need hot and cold cereal, small bags of rice, peanut butter, jam, canned fruit and vegetables, pork and beans and canned meat," she said.

Items can be dropped off at the Food Pantry (in the old post office building on Yonge Street) any Saturday or at the Edward Street station of the Central York Fire Services.



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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-

Robertson Masonic Lodge meets the third Saturday each month at 57 Moslev Street at 10.30 a.m. Coffee club at 9 a.m., lunch at noon, Conact 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080.

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 Aurora squadron meets every Friday. For more information call 905-726-8600, Tuesday evenings between 7 and 9 p.m..

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.

Women's Centre of York Region is offering a program called Enterprising Women, which helps women successfully start their own business. Orientation sessions will be held September 14, 16, 21 and 23, with classes starting on October 12. For more information and to register for an orientation session, call 905-727-5837.

Towns of York Toastmasters meetings are free and open to the general public. The meetings are held every second and fourth Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway N. Aurora. For more information see the club's web site at www.townsofyork.org or phone Roy Bannon at 905-853-0859.

Meditation classes in Aurora Wednesday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m. from Sept. 8 to Dec. 15. Above the Needles & Knits Wool Shop, 15040 Yonge St., just north of Kennedy St. Further information, 416-762-8033 or info@meditationintoronto.org. No pre-registration required. Donations

Month of September, HOT SPOT Youth Club celebrates "Back To School" with prizes from Silver City.

Network marketing for entrepreneurs in Aurora. Aurora-Business-com meets Wednesdays at 7:15 a.m. at Timberlane on the Vandorf Sideroad. For further information call John Patterson at 905-727-1941.

SEPTEMBER 10

Theatre Aurora opens its new season with the light drama "Painting Churches" by Tina Howe. It continues September 11, 15 to 18 and 22 to 25. Call 905-727-3669 for tickets.

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

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Hillary House. Call 905-727-4015 for details

Robertson Masonic Lodge hosts Grand Master of the Philippines, Roberto Q. Pagotan, 10 a.m. at 57 Mosley Street. Breakfast at 8 a.m. hosted by the Rising Sun Lodge. Banquet at noon. Contact 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080.

SEPTEMBER 13

York Regional Police Male Chorus 12th annual Music For a September Evening fundraising concert. Crosslands Church, Millard Avenue, Newmarket. Berlin Police Chorus is special guest community choir. Proceeds to Big Brothers Big Sisters of York. For tickets call 905-727-1251, ex. 311, or e-mail at events@bbbsy.ca.

Aurora Writers Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at Aurora Town Hall. Writers of all genres and skill levels, aged 18 and over are welcome. Contact Info. Malcolm, 905-898-5484

SEPTEMBER 14

If you are over 55 years of age and feel creative join the Aurora Seniors Art Group at the Seniors Centre every Tuesday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for 10 weeks. Open to all levels of artists with instruction by Dorothy Clark-McClure. Call 905-727-2816 to register.

SEPTEMBER 17 Queen's York Rangers Cadet Corps will hold an Open House at the Aurora Armouries from 7-9 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 18-19

Fourth annual Candlelight Vigil at Aurora Cemetery. Late Saturday, lighting of candles. Sunday, 2 p.m., Tribute Service.

SEPTEMBER 18

Magna Hoedown. A night of entertainment and food with proceeds to

11 local non-profit organizations. It starts at 5 p.m. and goes to 1 a.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 20**

Aurora Public Library, partnering with York Region Health Services, presents "Kids Have Stress, Too" in the library's Lebovic Room from 7-9 p.m. Pre-register at the adult information desk, or call 905-727-9493,

SEPTEMBER 22

Cruise and Travelogue Presentation at the Seniors Centre from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. It's free, but registration is required.

SEPTEMBER 24

Queen Elizabeth Dinner Theatre at Howard Johnson Aurora presents the female version of "The Odd Couple". It continues Friday and Saturday nights with some Sunday buffets until October 30. Call 905-727-1312 to

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 27

Aurora Public Library presents "Analyzing A Series Of Dreams" with Stephen Crowther, an Anglican minister and candidate-in-training at the Ontario Assn. of Jungian Analysts Training Program. Limited to 20 participants, 7-9 p.m. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727 9493, Option 4.

HOME OF THE WEEK



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Bridge has no message

From page 1

proposal, plus a proposal as to the annual rent the town would pay CN.

While it was agreed to carry on negotiations with CN officials, no agreement was ever reached.

By 1997 the condition of the overpass had deteriorated to an unsightly, rusty structure that was an embarrassment to the town, resulting in many citizen complaints about the unattractive entrance.

repaint the structure, council

requested authority to paint

it at the town's expense. CN

officials agreed providing

the painting was carried out

in accordance with their

which was suitable to CN.

agreed to sandblast and

paint the overpass for

logo and a municipal greet-

ing of welcome such as

"Aurora, My Kind of Town"

be included, but CN denied

Transit acquired the line

from CN. Council authorized

the mayor and staff to meet

with GO Transit officials to

explore the cost and terms

relating to the possibility of

placing a Welcome to

Aurora sign on the over-

green overpass has attract-

ed artwork in the form of

graffiti on the south face, but

as far as a message is con-

cerned, citizens of Aurora

and their visitors are still

waiting.

Today, the newly painted

Two years ago, GO

The town suggested its

A private sector firm,

specifications.

\$50,000.

the request.

Aurora Council made several requests to CN to have the overpass repainted, which they refused to do as the overpass was structurally sound. The last time it had been painted was in

Aurora woman seeks title

From page 1

in her mother's name for the Miss Teen category, Tamara was asked to run in 2004 instead.

She now holds the title of Mrs. Aurora, and will compete for Mrs. Canada International next year.

And, if you think Tamara is all about lipstick and high heels, think again.

The 31-year-old has her Masters of Science degree in speech pathology and works in that vein for the Community Care Access Centre for York Region.

She works with school boards, providing speech therapy to children.

This work has become a passion for Tamara and she has incorporated it into her

pageant work.

"Each contestant is asked to choose a platform and mine is 'creating awareness, establishing a purpose' for the early intervention and identification of speech problems in young children," Tamara explained. "There are so many resources out there for families, but they must be aware of them to give their child the best chance."

As for the future, Tamara and her husband are using this time to travel before they start a family.

And, there may just be a new title for this remarkable young woman, when the Mrs. Canada International and Mrs. International pageants are held next year.

Brothers Leif, left, and Owyn Robinson, enjoy light snacks at a recent Afternoon Tea, hosted by the Aurora Historical Society, at the historic Hillary House on Yonge Street.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



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Poor Richard

Multi-way stops: they're everywhere

More multi-way stops are coming, On every corner there will be one; There's no rationale for all of them, Another hurdle for motorists to run! - Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Once upon a time North York was said to be the municipality with the most multi-way stops in the GTA. If a check was carried out today, Aurora would be at the top, or close to the top, of the list.

In spite of warnings by traffic experts that stop signs were designed to control the entry of vehicles to a road with higher traffic volumes, stop signs are approved for a variety of reasons, but usually to con-

The Aurora Traffic Safety Advisory Board seems to believe that by putting multi-way stops at every intersection all the traffic problems will be resolved and council members are happy to rubber stamp their recommendations.

In case you haven't noticed there is a new three-way stop at the intersection of Kennedy Street and Gurnett Street.

The original complaint for this area was on-street parking on both sides of Gurnett Street as the parking lot at the medical centre at Yonge and Kennedy Streets could not handle enough parking.

All the reports and recommendations from the TSAB dealt with the parking issue but north of Connaught Street, where there wasn't a problem.

The reason given was to provide safe passage for children crossing Gurnett Street to the parkland on the west side of Gurnett Street.

Somehow or other the last TSAB report included the multi-way stop, which had never been previously discussed at an open council meeting.

It was approved by council in the report without comment or question.

When a citizen came out to oppose the bylaw after the fact, his presentation was referred to Other Business and conveniently forgotten.

In the old days of council there was a two-week period between the introduction of a bylaw and the final reading to allow time for citizens to react.

Now bylaws are rushed through with three readings at the same meeting as an administration function, rather than with sober reflection as a legislative func-

Without comment or debate, council approved a recommendation from the TSAB that multi-way stops be installed at Temperance Street at Kennedy Street West and also at Tyler Street.

In addition a review was authorized for multi-way stops at Richardson Drive and Lee Gate and at McClenny Drive and Wardle Gate.

For some reason the TSAB rejected a request for a multi-way stop at Stone Road and the intersection at Milloy Place/Millcliff Circle.

But no reasons were given why they approved some and rejected others and councillors obviously weren't curious as no questions were asked.

Back in March, 1988, council authorized a \$30,000 study of vehicular and pedestrian operations on roadways in Aurora by Delcan Corporation consultants.

A major recommendation was that council should change its practice of using all-way stops to slow traffic on residential streets.

The report pointed out that of the town's 16 multi-way stops at that time, nine were unnecessary and should be removed to allow a better flow of traffic on major

The consultant explained that multi-way stops create a sense of false security and are dangerous as impatient drivers who believe the all-way stop is unnecessary, simply ignore it or try to make up time by speeding between signs.

No action was taken on the consultant's report or recommendations.

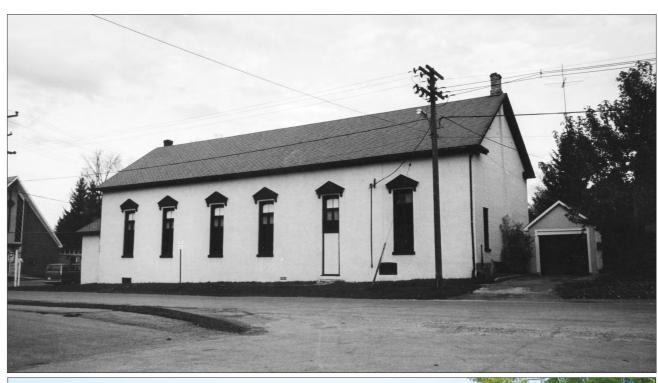
The consultant added that the only way to effectively control speeding on residential streets is continuous policing, rather than just occasional patrols.

When this was done on Orchard Heights Drive several years ago due to the unfortunate death of a little girl, the majority of drivers caught for speeding on the street were residents and neighbours.

Having multi-way stops at many corners in residential areas is also confusing to motorists as they don't know whether the intersection is a multi-way stop or

They should all be multi-way stops or none, except for the normal hierarchy of roads.

TSAB and council members should read the 1988 traffic study before approving more multi-way stops.





Not much has changed in the four decades between these two photos. Originally, the Mechanics Hall and built around 1870, this structure is now owned by the Aurora Lions Club and used by Hot Spot, a weekly activity for pre-teens. The colour photo shows two doors, a ramp and a stairway have been added to the side of the structure. Building is at the corner of Mosley and Victoria.

Letters to the Editor

First, we charge them; then we charge them...

To the editor,

Last council meeting, Canadian Tire asked to extend the hours permitted to allow a concrete floor to be

The town has arbitrary hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for contractors to work.

When concrete is to be poured, the job cannot stop until the job is done.

After debate, common sense prevailed.

Permission was given, the contractor was told to inform the neighbours that it would be a one-time project and why it was necessary to complete the job once start-

The staff report indicated that when the original structure was built, Canadian Tire had been prosecuted and convicted for ignoring the town's bylaw which sets out arbitrary hours.

That was in 1997. How could that have happened, I thought? It set me on a trail.

Taxpayers might be interested in what I discovered.

The beauty of writing this stuff is that I do not have to watch anyone's eyes glaze over with the tedium of listening to a bunch of figures.

You can read it...or not. You are not my captive. You can put it down and pick it up again. You can talk it over with your neighbours. You can keep it for reference.

You can have a better sense of the business of a municipal corporation and if you have invested in a property...you need that.

Canadian Tire's current assessment is \$5.081 mil-

Last year they paid the town \$161,624.89 in taxes.

They provided 40 full-time and 40 part-time jobs in the community. They pay full benefits and profit-share with their employees.

The new addition will likely create half a million dollars more assessment. More tax revenue to the town...maybe more jobs.

For the privilege of expanding their space and growing their business, they paid to the town the following fees: \$1,200 site plan amendment application; \$9,365 building permit; \$749 fire department fee; \$75 plumbing fee; \$43,674 town development charge; \$95,939 region development charge; \$4,589.31 education development charge; \$3,300 cash in lieu of parkland.

We have a strategic plan which states high-minded goals and objectives. We will

support and encourage business in the municipality.

As noted above, in 1997, when the above table of fees was probably 10 times as high, the town prosecuted Canadian Tire for not abiding by the arbitrary hours within which they had to work.

The town, in the matter of pouring a concrete floor, gave them no option.

They were convicted and fined...probably \$500.

Two weeks ago, when the request came to council asking for the necessary extension, Councillor Kean moved the request be denied.

He said there were young children in the homes nearby who needed to be asleep

Evelyn Buck Aurora

Remember

To the editor.

On Saturday morning, September 11, will all Aurorans take a moment when they hear the fire reels, police and ambulance sirens to remember the tragic morning of 9/11/01?

Byron Gohn Aurora

AURORAN

"Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Owner & Publisher Rosemary Schumaker

> Editorial Dick Illingworth

Photography

Display Advertising Bob Ince Diane Buchanan

Production Cynthia Proctor auroran@neptune.on.ca

> **All Departments** 905-727-3300

Classifieds 905-727-7128 auroran@neptune.on.ca

Facsimile Machine 905-727-2620

E-Mail auroran@aci.on.ca

Editorial Department rwall9999@aol.com

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Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

Last anti-litter day Sept. 25

The final formal anti-litter day in Aurora is scheduled for Saturday, September 25th and I am appealing to all community groups, schools, and residents in Aurora to consider getting involved!

Earlier this year I promoted anti-litter days in April, May and June, all of which were well attended and had a huge positive effect on reducing the litter situation in Aurora.

Thanks to several hundred caring residents, we removed literally tons of litter that would otherwise have stayed in the gutters and ditches of our town all summer.

The plan for September 25th is simple.

If you or your group are interested in participating, a quick call to Info Aurora (905-727-3123 ext. 4104) to let us know where you will be picking up litter will be all that is needed.

If it is easier, we can assign individuals or groups to a locaion.

You will also be advised where to leave your full bags of litter collected at that time.



Garbage bags and gloves will be available from the Parks Department on Scanlon Court from 9 to 10 a.m. on September 25th or from Info Aurora during business hours at the Town Hall the week of September 20th to 24th.

For all those who participate, Mac's Convenience Stores are hosting a BBQ at Fleury Park from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, September 25th, to show appreciation for your commitment to keeping Aurora clean.

I thank you in advance for taking pride in our town.

I would also like to thank all those businesses, companies and volunteers who have shown such great support to date.

With your help, we can keep Aurora clean.

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

Letter to the Editor

MPP monitoring Hydro One issue

To the editor,

Over the past number of weeks, I have heard from many constituents who have expressed concern relating to the proposed changes to hydro towers within the existing transmission corridors in York Region.

I want to assure my constituents that I have been monitoring the approvals process relating to this application with a view to ensuring that the issues

raised are given every consideration.

Before Hydro One can proceed with their proposed changes, they are required to file their detailed proposal for approval.

It is my understanding that this filing will be formalized in early October.

Once filed, there will be a 30-day period during which interested parties will have the opportunity to express their views and register their objections.

Following this 30-day review period, the Minister of Environment has the authority to either approve Hydro One's proposal or order a full environmental assessment through which the concerns raised in the 30-day period can be fully addressed.

It is my intention to participate fully in this process, and to formally register the concerns of my constituents.

In discussion with Hydro

One, I have been assured that although they will be filing their preferred transmission proposal, they will remain open to alternative solutions that may include generation, conservation and alternative distribution options.

I want to assure my constituents that their concerns will be given every consideration.

Frank Klees MPP Oak Ridges



Cathy's Corner



Aurora grinds itself to a stop

Without notice, warning, or any sign of cerebral functioning, York Region has launched a program designed to fully and completely congest Aurora by the fall of 2004.

Why? Nobody knows for sure, but there are several theories.

Some speculate it might be an attempt to boost Aurora's nonexistent tourism industry.

It does seem pointless to spend money building hotels, motels and a lake when you can trap people who have entered Aurora, and prevent them from leaving for at least a week with the cheap and effective strategic placement of pylons.

Others have suggested that the Region has finally decided to support Aurora's claim that we are a distinct community - by promoting Aurora as the "City of Stop and Slow".

Apparently, Council gave the impression that we are a "red light district" by supporting residential speed humps, high density stop signs, and one-way traffic lights that only turn green when you bulls-eye the red light with a sling shot.

Some say that things have improved since Aurora went "slo-mo".

It now takes 45 minutes to get from one end of Aurora to the other, creating the illusion that we are a city.

Unfortunately, all notions of grandeur immediately shatter when one realizes that Aurora has no roads...we're down to speed humps and line-ups!

This is why I subscribe to The Pylon Theory.

My first introduction to this profoundly American phenomenon was in 2002, while returning from Virginia Beach. We spent 10 hours in the pylon zone.

Unlike Canadians who are accustomed to four seasons (almost winter, winter, almost done with winter and construction), many Southern States have only two seasons: pylon planting season, and pylon harvesting season.

In preparation for global warming, when we, too will be reduced to two seasons (ice pylon season and slush pylon season), rumour has it that York Region has commissioned

Dr. Seuss to design a revolutionary new pylon dispensing machine, especially for Aurora.

I also heard that The Cat In The Hat has signed a 10-year contract with the Region.

In a special deal, the Cat will operate the amazing machine (a.k.a. Thing One) until 2014, when Thing Two (the pylon pick-up machine) is expected to be invented.

ahead of us.

According to OPP statistics, the systematic reduction,

You know how it is - the Americans are always a little

According to OPP statistics, the systematic reduction, obstruction and destruction of roads means that we'll soon be catching up to the Americans in Road Rage.

Canadian Road Rage goes like this:

- Traffic gets so bad that people write letters while they wait.
- nru.
 3. People abandon their cars and walk to the post office.
 Well, not exactly walk.

2. People complain that the post office has no drive

They kind of jump up and down, shout, punch air and kick things like tires, pylons and occasionally other people who are also jumping, shouting and kicking pylons.

This is why The Town of Aurora and York Regional Police have teamed up, taking measures to protect citizens...and fill coffers.

Bylaw officers are posting "no parking" signs everywhere and issuing tickets, mostly to people who ran out of gas while waiting at the lights.

The police are doing their share, lurking in the shadows at Yonge and Wellington (a.k.a. The Aurora Zoo), giving tickets to pedestrians and other animals for jaywalking...or kicking pylons...or trying to hit the red light with a sling shot...it's sad.

But I have the solution.

I'm going to invent Thing Three.

Yup, I'm going to build a machine that squashes pylons!

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

Successful Farmers Market draws big downtown crowds

Market.

Located in a parking lot off weeks ago. Temperance Street, walking and

Farmers' Market, basically show, left to right, Miloslav Temperance Street. the brainstorm of Aurora Prikvyl, selling organic bread. The market runs from about Councillor Nigel Kean, looks for Linden Bakery, which is 8 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. like it's going to be a permanent fixture in Aurora during the summer.

This year, the Market will remain open every Saturday morning until Thanksgiving.

Some downtown merchants have taken advantage of the new supply of customers, offering deals and coupons to potential shoppers.

Gabriel's Café, a small Yonge Street restaurant, will cook you up a nice breakfast while you stroll through the market.

As summer draws to a The Auroran's phographer now looking for a permanent close, one attraction that David Falconer has attempt- home in Aurora; continues to grow in popular- ed to capture the mood, the Hughes, offering bacon on a ity is the town's Farmers' product and the people in this bun from Gabriel's; and Irene display, shot a couple of Herring, whose baked items

Below, popular Aurora resibooth. have attempts to raise money to may have to be found for it. increased since its opening. help pay for its new home. Now in its third year, the Below that, the three photos morning

are sold in the Seniors'

distance from Yonge and dent Flo Murray is in charge Councillor Kean says if the Wellington, the Market has of the Aurora Seniors' booth, market continues to be as gained in popularity all sum- which offers a plethora of successful as it was this summer long, as both vendors items for sale, as the group mer, a new, larger location

> In the meantime, Saturday action









Dorothy responds to SOYRA

To the editor,

In response to Bill van Oorschot's letter to The Auroran (Aug. 24) regarding Dick Illingworth's comments about the art scene in Aurora, his comments border on defamation of character.

In Dick's 88 years on this planet, no one has been able to get him to put pen to paper about something he doesn't believe in.

Hen-pecked he ain't, his own man, he is! I am quite capable of speaking for myself.

A synopsis of the correspondence that follows, dated March 2001, may answer many questions and concerns.

It was hand-delivered to a SOYRA (Society Of York Region Artists) meeting by its then secretary, Mary Ellis, and was never acknowledged.

The same letter was mailed to Director of Leisure Services Director Allan Downey and Mayor Tim Jones. The mayor graciously acknowledged the letter, but no acknowledgement was ever received from Mr. Downey, even though a duplicate was sent.

The letter reads: "I regret to say I will not be submitting artwork in the 39th Aurora Show and Sale, especially in the Preserve Aurora category. As I have participated in most of the 38 shows, except for the period I was in the United States, this was a very difficult decision.

"Perhaps professional artists in the area should be polled as to why they no longer submit artwork. We look forward, hopefully, to changes for the 40th year.

"Some years ago, a discussion I had with your predecessors, Fred Armstrong and then President Bob Garden, proved fruitless. A binding contract between SOYRA and the town was mentioned. I believe it is time that this contract, if it exists, be brought forward and reexamined.

"Shocked by the ongoing quality of the jurying handled in the past by SOYRA, I took it upon myself to contact Visual Arts Ontario for direction and advice. This option was always open to the then SOYRA executive. Since that time I am happy to say the town appears to have taken responsibility for acquiring impartial jurors.

"This has improved the quality of the awards and credibility all around. However, given past experience, I would suggest the jurors' names be printed in advance as is frequently done elsewhere.

"The selection of jurors should not be a last minute decision. In addition, during the actual jurying, the gallery should be cleared of all staff or anyone connected with the art show".

The remainder of the letter dealt with suggestions and copies of information packages from other juried art shows, including entry forms, which are simplified from the several mailings of the Aurora show. It is expensive for the town and the participating artists.

I also mentioned the "category system" used at the Aurora art show. Whoever instituted this had no understanding of fine art, as no other art show in North America, to my knowledge, uses categories.

The only category in the Aurora art show should be the "Preserve Aurora in Paint" as it was originally intended. This category should be juried by members of the Aurora Heritage Committee or the Aurora Historical Society to ensure the paintings are Aurora buildings or scenes that cannot be duplicated in other areas of the province.

Categories are ridicu-

Art is art and one presumes responsible and accredited jurors are able to select "Best in Show" along with a 2nd and a 3rd plus multiple Honourable Mentions.

Having categories with a winner in each category literally means an Art Show for each category, rather than a single art show.

I also suggested that the SOYRA artworks would be more appropriately located in the Regional building as they are a regional organization with only a limited number of artists from

There were many other comments and suggestions about the Aurora art show including a report to council after each show as to the number of sales, costs, expenses etc. and suggestions as to ways and means of encouraging more people to view and purchase art on opening night when the artists were in attendance.

You may now understand, Mr. van Oorschot, why I "disassociated" myself from the art show.

Not because of the talented artists who make up the rank and file of SOYRA, but because of the ridiculous, cumbersome, unprofessional way the SOYRA executive of the past had dictated the new criteria and set-up that changed the long tradition of the Aurora Art Show and Sale.

You should also note, Mr. van Ooschot, that many other Aurora and area professional artists have also "disassociated themselves from this travesty of an art show!"

Having given up on the ability of the SOYRA executive to answer their mail I wrote a second letter to Mr. Downey, the Mayor and Councillor Nigel Kean, then Chairman of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee, dated May 2, 2002, repeating many of the previous comments and suggestions and once again there was no acknowledgement.

This year I celebrated a 50-year Retrospective as a professional fine and commercial artist, 1954-2004.

It was necessary to hold the show in Sutton for the simple reason that was the only public gallery and art centre available. We have nothing like it in Aurora at the present time.

I had hoped my comments and suggestions would have been of some interest and use in bringing the Aurora Art Show back to the level of professionalism it used to be, but my correspondence went unnoticed and was ignored.

It is long past time that this so-called "binding contract" between SOYRA and the town is made public so that everyone knows the commitments the town has made to SOYRA in conducting the annual art show, the use of the Skylight Gallery and the use of the Seniors' Centre for their meetings.

One of my memberships is with the Markham Group of Artists and members pay for their monthly meetings in the town library and also for hanging space, once a year, in the Markham Theatre lobby.

Like SOYRA, this group of artists has very few Aurora artists, but we pay our way to the community. When I questioned a SOYRA executive member about the Skylight Gallery, I was told the draw for artists from all over the region and beyond was to "educate the public".

AURORAN, Week of September 7, 2004 - 7

With the exception of a few genuinely talented participants this has not been the case, as there is no control over what is exhibited, unless you consider bad art as an educating experience.

And like Dick Illingworth, I believe it's time for Aurora artists to take back "their" Gallery in "their" Town Hall, as it was originally meant to be.

Dorothy Clark-McClure, C.F.S. Aurora



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No diesel fuel to be had here, reader states

To the editor,

Perhaps you weren't aware but there is nowhere in Aurora for those of us driving diesel vehicles to buy fuel since the Pioneer gas station on Yonge Street at the north end of town closed down.

In most towns, Sunoco sells diesel, but not our Sunoco.

When the Canadian

Tire station was remodelled, I was told it would have diesel, but, alas, no diesel.

Oak Ridges has diesel,

Vandorf has diesel and Newmarket has diesel, all competitively priced. Can council not insist

Can council not insist that any new gas stations being built supply diesel?

M. Hindle Aurora

More letters,
Bouquets & Brickbats,
see page 8



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By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Al Wilson, a regular visitor to council meetings, for his suggestion that a clear, easyto-read financial plan be prepared for the new seniors' centre, so taxpayers know the true picture of the cost and how it is to be paid now and

in the future, so there will be no surprises. He might have asked the same for the new recreational complex.

BRICKBATS to motorists who park in handicapped parking spots, especially in shopping plazas. Drivers hop out of the car, run into the store to do their shopping and to hell with any handicapped driver who may be looking for a

reserved parking spot. Who's responsible for enforcing the

BOUQUETS and HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Ada C. Holway. She celebrated her 100th birthday at the Resthaven Nursing Home recently with family and friends.

BRICKBATS to Town of Aurora officials for issuing a demolition permit for a residence on Cameron Avenue so the purchaser could **EXECUTE:** Build two dwellings on the property. The Committee of Adjustment denied the application for a sev-

erance, which will likely be appealed to the OMB. In the meantime the property sits idle. The demolition permit shouldn't have been issued until the Committee of Adjustment made its decision!

More BRICKBATS to members of Aurora Council for listening to a presentation by Dave Watson about the unnecessary stop signs on

STATE Gurnett Street at Kennedy Street when parking is the problem and being told his presentation would be referred to Other Business as it wasn't an agenda item and then forgetting to deal with it.

BOUQUETS to Jane Zanibbi Reeves of Cousins Drive for requesting a 40 km/hr speed limit on Cousins Drive and to members of council for approving it, in spite of objections from Councillor Evelyn Buck. York Regional Police

could make their daily quota by monitoring traffic infractions on the Cousins Drive raceway, including heavy trucks.

BRICKBATS to members of the Traffic Safety Advisory Board for believing they can solve all

problems by more multi-way stops. They **SECOUNTY** IN THE REPORT OF TH multi-way stops at Temperance and Kennedy Streets and Temperance and Tyler Streets and authorized studies at

Richardson Drive and Lee Gate and McClenny Drive and Wardle Gate.

BOUQUETS to the Sierra Legal Defence Fund for fighting the case and the Supreme Court of Canada for ruling that governments can sue polluters who damage trees, wildlife and water. The court said governments may act as

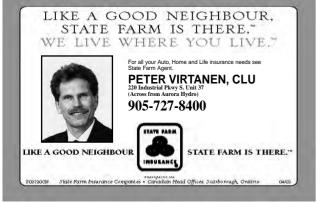
trustees of the public good, seeking compensation for negligence. Why don't they?

BRICKBATS to Councillor Bill Hogg for forgetting the rights of residents when he argued for a

blanket exemption from the town's Noise Bylaw for Canadian Tire to permit construction to carry on until 9 p.m. from the 7 p.m. deadline because Canadian Tire was a big taxpayer.

BOUQUETS to York Regional Police for making every effort to hire visible minorities as police officers. The latest group of 63 new constables includes

19 or 30 per cent visible minorities with the ability to speak several languages. With all these new officers, they may be more visible on residential



Letters to the Editor

Cartoonist tells it like it is

Sometimes a picture can say more than 1,000 words and in the case of the weekly 'Machell's Corners' by Scott Johnston, this is the case more often than not!

Scott is obviously a creative communicator who can put a smile on our faces in a way that makes the truth stare back at us all.

messages always about our community and often not ones that flatter us, but the truth can be ruthless, painful and helpful. If we can't laugh at our-

selves then all is lost. The more important issue

is not to take umbrage with it but rather look straight in the mirror and learn something.

Whether it is the politics, business, community issues or just everyday life, humour can truly be a great tool and Scott's interpretations are usually right on target.

I can just see the next one now: 'Gridlock hits

By the way the Region has decided to reconstruct Aurora you would think they just realized that we are growing too fast.

children that while they may

be at higher risk for

leukemia they can at least

say they didn't subject oth-

ers to a "pointless and futile

book states, "Everything I

Need to Know, I Learned in

Councillor Buck, to educate

a whole generation of kids

on the benefits of giving up,

avoiding accountability and

When did "Hear me roar"

turn into a succumbing

abdicating responsibility.

Kindergarten".

whimper?

Aurora

Jim Morrison

As the title of a popular

Now is your chance,

Along Wellington the pylons start at Leslie, Yonge, then then Yonge and St. John's Murray/McDonald and finally at Bathurst.

I know it's a regional road, (and they can do what they want) but what is the new reduced speed limit Bathurst between Wellington and Orchard Heights all about; a cash cow for speeding tickets?

Sideroad closed, Bayview is

a dust bowl, Yonge and Henderson and just about

Wellington; I am not sure

who is doing the planning for

these much needed projects

but did they all have to start

at the same time?

entire length of

Sometimes it's hard to figure out who is running the asylum?

The Auroran should take great pride in Scott's contribution, second to none to those big city papers and the likes of a Andy Donato, because we have our own Machell's Corners!

Keep up the good work, Scott, and don't let us off the

Al Wilson Aurora ED. NOTE: Scott's a

Buck needs to explain

To the editor,

Upon reading Councillor Buck's comments in The Auroran (letters, Aug. 31) regarding what she considers a "futile" battle with Hydro One, I was profoundly disappointed and frustrat-

The frustration set in not because of my disagreement with Councillor Buck. but rather because I would once again have to explain to my children why the actions of a "grown up" were not okay for them to emu-

As many of you know, young children are impressionable and often mimic what they see and hear.

Earlier this year I had to explain to our five-year-old that while Councillor Buck may be able to assault other members of council during meetings the same would

not be tolerated of him in his junior kindergarten class.

Now I am faced with a whole new challenge.

As Councillor Buck has professed her deep seated wisdom, I make a public plea for her help.

Help me explain to my children that while I believe a cause is worth fighting for I should throw in the towel because the odds seem stacked against me.

Help me explain to my children that while I believe their health has no monetary value, a public official believes it is worth less than \$25,000 and considers the investment in their safety a "useless expenditure".

Help me explain to my children that the choice of fighting the good fight should only be made after considering if you like others taking up the cause.

Help me explain to my

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Higher voltage equals a lower EMF, he says

To the editor,

All this talk of EMF.

If people would just use the full title, then perhaps a layman could understand that there is also 'WMF' which is much more powerful than EMF from hydro

I have personally had more experience with EMF (Electro Magnetic Field) and microwaves than most people in Canada.

After standing in front of a radar antenna before a date with a girl, I can assure you (five children later) that the effect is not permanent.

If anyone would like to apply to the town as a consultant on this, all they have to do is buy a cheap magnetic compass and, keeping it away from magnetic materials in the so called EMF

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area, then if it oscillates at 60 cycles per second, they have found EMF opposed to WMF, the World Magnetic Field.

While they are at it, try it

at home where they could find many EMF areas particularly the cables to 1,000 watt heaters. You see, EMF is pro-

duced by the current in a wire, not the voltage; where the higher the voltage the lower the current - lower current , less EMF!!

So to mention the kilovolts being used on the hydro lines infers a much lower EMF from that wire.

See, you're getting to be experts already.

Cliff Davies ex Chief Radio Electrical Artificer, R.N. Aurora

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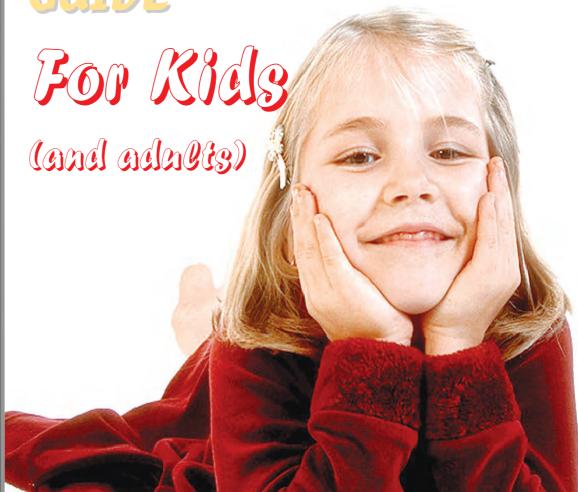
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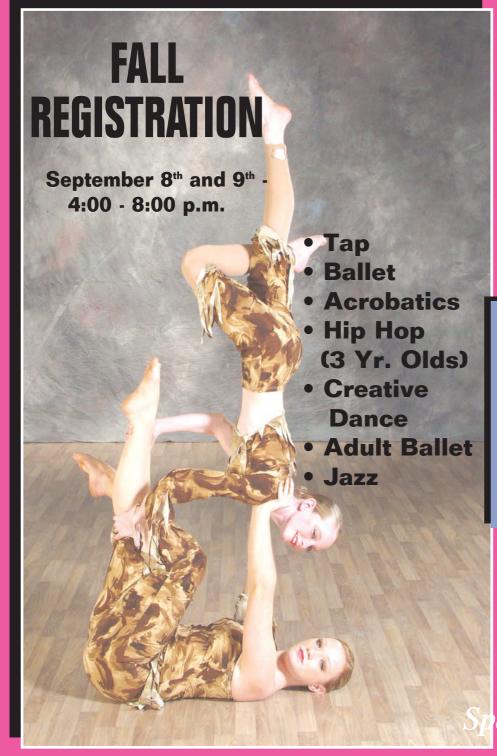
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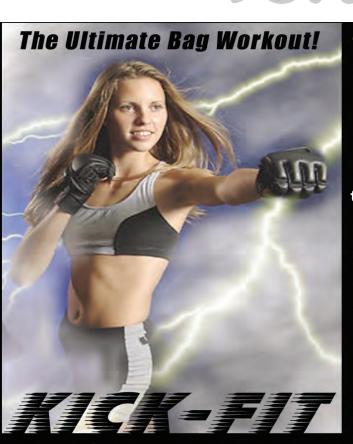
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Klees gaining as battle heads to the wire

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Following the Progressive Conservative loss in last year's Ontario election, two questions faced the Tory faithful: would Ernie Eves guit and if he did, who would replace him?

Jim Flaherty was quick to announce his plans if Eves decided to step down. Others expected to join the race were Aurora's Frank Klees, Jim Wilson, and Tim Hudek.

Flaherty's bid was strengthened with the defeat of Tony Clement during the election.

In January Eves told his caucus in Niagara Falls that he would sit as party leader through the spring legislative changes but wanted to see a new leader by the fall.

With his announcement, Flaherty and Klees started to woo support as a potential replacement and John Tory, under pressure to run, was also gauging support.

Flaherty supporters were hoping for an early departure for Eves and an early leadership election as they had a

The lateness of the Eves departure was seen as giving Klees and Tory more time to get a campaign team together.

One of the problems facing the party going into a leadership contest was a debt said to be between \$8 to \$10 mil-

based on attacking the cabal of high-paid Harris/Eves lobbyists, Flaherty emphasized the need for a grassroots cam-Klees held a public forum in Richmond Hill May 11 to

Facing a challenge from Klees, whose campaign was

hear from Ontarians about property tax concerns. He noted skyrocketing property taxes were hurting seniors and families on fixed incomes.

He said market value assessment was intended to make the tax system more equitable, but it let some fall through

Labelling himself a responsible Conservative, Klees claimed the McGuinty government was turning its back on hard-working families and entrepreneurs by cancelling the property tax rebate for seniors and lifting the PC cap on increases in commercial tax.

Tory scored a major coup in May when former Health Minister and Deputy Premier Elizabeth Witmer joined his election team. She was a candidate in the 2002 leadership race won by Eves.

In June, following the official resignation of Eves as leader, the party executive named September 18 as the

On June 30th Flaherty launched his second bid to lead the provincial conservatives drawing heavily on the hardright platform he used in his failed 2002 effort.

About 150 supporters cheered when he said the party needed to follow the path of traditional conservatism, not the

Minor Mosquito Jays advance to semi-finals

sure to a successful sea-

son for the A J's who made

a great stride forward over

last year's rookie ball sea-

Chapley anxiously awaits

the opening of next year's

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minor ball season.

Assistant Coach Paul

Aurora Minor Mosquito Jays were rolling along nicely on the weekend, until they ran into a team from North London.

While the eyes of Aurora were focused on the Ontario Baseball Association peewee tournament being held in town last weekend, the Aurora Minor Mosquito Jays marched to the semi-finals of their OBA tournament being held in Bolton.

The Jays opened the weekend Friday night with a 10 - 6 victory over tournament favourite Tecumseh Rangers, but lost Saturday to the Guelph Royals.

Saturday night, the team rebounded and beat the St. Thomas Cardinals.

But it all came to a screeching halt Sunday

This time the Aurora Jays wound up on the wrong side of a 10-6 semifinal game with the North London Nationals.

The loss, while a disheartening way to end the tournament, brought clo-

Aurora's Frank Klees John Tory is considered a red Tory. On July 6, Klees launched his campaign. He said the party was hungry for internal change and it

so-called red Tory route if it wanted to win the 2007 election.

needed a leader who could bring together the different wings of the party with a vision that balances fiscal responsibility with social responsibility.

He promised to do whatever it takes to ensure the health care system is sustainable and if that meant challenging the Canada Health Act, he was willing to do that in order to

He added that he was open to the possibility of expanding private investment in the heath care system, but that he was not proposing a two-tier health system.

Tory, the only candidate who did not serve in the previous government insisted he couldn't be blamed for its prob-

Flaherty billed himself as the Harris heir apparent and Klees was seen as the long shot in the race.

By early August, the battle was heating up as candidates tried to define what the party should stand for and what direction it should take.

While Klees and Flaherty have subtle policy differences they are united in the view that there is unfinished business left over from the Harris Common Sense Revolution.

They favour more tax cuts, smaller government and are not adverse to the confrontational Harris style.

Tory's vision is to move the party back to the centre of the political spectrum long occupied by former Tory Premier Bill Davis.

Flaherty's workers blame Tory's team for releasing information that Flaherty's 2002 leadership campaign had a deficit of \$57,000, which the party executive wrote off.

In early August, a survey conducted by the Ottawa Citizen suggested Klees was running neck and neck with John Tory, with Flaherty in third.

The Citizen conducted an informal poll of riding presidents and the results indicated that Klees, formerly considered a long shot, was a strong contender for the leadership,

having the backing of more than a third of decided presi-

On August 10, Tory released his campaign platform designed to set him apart as a moderate after the Harris

He says he won't be bound by the ideology of the former Conservative government and would rather take a responsible approach to such things as tax cuts.

On August 17, the three contenders went at it in the second debate in Sudbury. Topics ranged from the Common Sense Revolution, the spring bear hunt, public ownership of the LCBO, auto insurance and the cost of post-secondary About the only issue they agreed on was the McGuinty

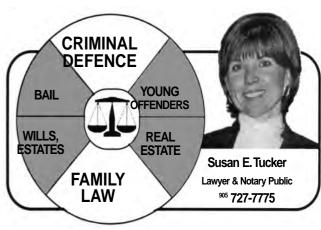
Liberal government was a one-term government. Tory, considered the frontrunner, was given the roughest ride by the other candidates. On August 26, Flaherty said he was not sure if he would

remain in provincial politics if Tory beat him. He said he was running neck-and-neck with Tory and that it was a two-way race and he would have no trouble beating Klees. Whereas the last leadership race was not only to deter-

mine a party leader, the winner became Premier.

This time the winner on September 18th becomes the Leader of the Opposition with 24 seats to the Liberals 72

The leader will be determined by a vote of all members estimated to be about 60,000 based on a riding-by-riding formula, so that the vote in a small rural riding has the same weight as votes in a large urban riding.





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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Name for new town hall was pretty simple

There was a recent controversy on council about changing the address of the Aurora Town Hall.

Back in June, 1991, there was a discussion on what to call the building, then under construction.

Four names had been submitted for the facility including Aurora Civic Complex, Aurora Civic Administration Centre, Aurora Civic Centre and Town Hall, which was an easy win-

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Back in December, 1987, some of Aurora's elected officials made their New Year's resolutions public and their words may come back to haunt them.

Aurora Public School Trustee Ron Wallace wanted a new gym for Regency Acres Public School, the school board to take over the town offices to keep the board in Aurora and to open a book store. (Three for three: ED)

Mayor John West resolved to help Newmarket with their planning proposals and to help the three municipalities in the south of the region realize what the meaning of sharing

Councillor Tim Jones said he lost 40 pounds in 1987 and for 1988 he resolved to keep it off. Councillor Betty Pedersen resolved to cut down on smoking.

HOW IT STARTED

Today Aurora Council meetings are telecast by Aurora Cable Internet.

The idea of telecasting council meetings goes back to October, 1975, when Doug Worling asked Aurora Cable TV owner Jim Irvine about the possibility of televising council

During council's Open Forum, Worling said he believed people were only getting the bare bones of discussions and asked if council had considered cable television.

This resulted in Mayor Evelyn Buck saying it would probably help councillors to straighten up their act, prompting Councillor Walt Davis to tell her to speak for herself!

WHO WAS IT?

Believe it or not but in April, 1972, one unnamed York Region municipality ran out of parking tickets.

As a result, York Regional Police were unable to enforce the municipality's parking bylaws.

At that time there wasn't a uniform traffic bylaw and police officers had to carry traffic tickets from each municipality and according to Police Chief Bruce Crawford it was very unwieldy, especially when a town ran out of parking

IT HAPPENED IN 1963

Aurora Reeve Clarence Davis became York County's 103rd Warden for Aurora's Centennial Year.

Aurora Hydro installed special lights at both ends of Yonge Street proclaiming Aurora Centennial Year 1863-1963.

The Aurora 7 Mercury Space capsule, the second manned spacecraft to orbit the earth, was a special exhibit at the Aurora Armouries during Centennial celebrations. Aurora was plunged into darkness two nights in a row but

it wasn't the fault of Ontario Hydro.

Local power was knocked out by lightning one night and a car slammed into a hydro pole the next night.

A total of \$4,041.24 was paid out to nine Aurora homeowners who suffered flooding damage to their basements during a severe rainstorm in 1962.

Excel Metalcraft opened a new 6,000-square-foot addi-

It was the third addition since the plant was built in 1961.

AURORA LEADS THE WAY

In September, 1989, Aurora Council agreed to spend \$250,000 converting almost 1,000 street lights to energy efficient, high pressure sodium lamps.

According to Ontario Hydro, Aurora lit the way to saving energy and money.

It was reported that the former fluorescent, mercury and incandescent units were 20 to 30 years old and were difficult and expensive to service.

By converting to the sodium lamps, it was estimated the town would save \$77,000 in hydro bills over five years, plus what would be saved on repair bills.

In addition the lights would be much brighter and safer.

10 CENT PHONE CALLS

In November, 1971, Bell Canada announced the cost of making a pay phone call would be increased from 5 to 10 cents and people thought that was too much.

The Ontario Mayors and Reeves Association launched an appeal against the increase and requested municipal support. The request generated a hot debate at York Regional

Council. Some councillors argued that the association's legal bat-

tle was a waste of time and money, while others argued the price should be kept low so people could afford to use the

Eventually, on an 8-7 vote, council refused to support the association's request.

Summer's nearly over that was a summer???

It's been said the only predictable thing about the weather is that you can't predict it, as that's been obvious this year as even the forecasters had trouble.

It's been an odd summer in Aurora, if you can call it a summer with one or two sunny days surrounded by

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attention? Have

rainy days. Not just warm showers to water the lawn and plants, but torrential downpours, some with hail.

It was different back in August, 1998. when Canada Environment reported the first seven months of 1998 were the hottest ever in Canada and throughout the world, and July was the hottest month recorded in Canada in the past 50 years.

It was a continuing trend that had climatologists, physicists and citizens talking about the significant anomalies.

Based on preliminary data, the national temperature for the first six months of 1998 was 2.7 degrees C above normal.

Each month of the year

had shattered record highs, and July had been the hottest ever. Temperatures during the month were in the 36C range with one town in British Columbia reporting the temperature hit 42.8C.

The summer of 1987 was also remembered for being long on sunshine and short on rain. The sale of air-conditioners skyrocketed and Ontario Hydro reported a nine per cent jump in the use of energy.

The hot weather started in April when restaurants opened their patios and the temperature hit 27.8C on April 21st.

June continued the trend with an average high of 25.7C, but the jewel of the summer was July with most

days over 30C. It was the warmest month since 1955.

Oldtimers may recall July, 1936, when the mercury almost went through the top of the thermometer, as urban people grabbed a blanket and spent their nights at the closest beach trying to gain relief from the oppressive heat.

In the rural areas, farmers were having a hard time saving their fowl from the heat.

There isn't much you can do about the weather except complain, and according to the weather experts this year is as good as it's going to get.



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AURORAN SPORTS



Page 15 Week of September 7, 2004



In the famed Cooperstown ballpark, the Aurora contingent takes a few minutes to enjoy the surroundings. They are, left to right, Coach Rob Seguin, Eric Seguin, Marc Cascone, Ernesto Spagnuolo, Michael Gray, Coach Rob Gray, Evan Jones, Michael Delplavignano, Joshua Herrington, Coach Steve Clements, Tyler Clements, Ryan Berube, Coach Tom Berube, Andrew Larter, Coach Don Gillespie, Derek Tsang, Jake Boyle and Corey Jeffery.

Six days in August...memories for a lifetime

By CHRISTINE WOODLEY

Picture this: 80 peewee teams playing on 18 perfectly groomed baseball diamonds.

That's thousands of 12-year-olds, living in club-houses, trading team pins, and living out their baseball dreams for six days in August.

That was the scene in Cooperstown, New York, last month as the Aurora Minor Peewee Jays attended this very special place and represented not only Aurora, but all of Canada as the only Canadian team to attend the week's tour-

Players, coaches and parents knew how tough the competition would be, and so the team made a collective goal of winning one game at the prestigious tournament and win

They beat a tournament team that draws players from all over the southeastern United States.

They also competed well against many more top-notch teams, with close scores all around.

When they heard stories from other teams about 1,500 kids trying out, and flying in ace pitchers for the finals, they were even more proud of their performance.

Competing against arguably the best 12-year-old baseball players in the world helped to achieve another goal - developing the Aurora Jays own play and striving to become stronger with each passing game

Assistant Coach Steve Clements feels this was accomplished.

"We really saw them bring their game up a level as they met the challenge," he said. "It was a pleasure to watch."

In addition, fielder Ryan Berube was selected as a finalist in the Golden Arm skills competition, throwing balls from the outfield to a target at home plate. Considering Ryan is a year younger than the rest of the boys, his selection was quite an achievement.

But, above all, the week provided a chance for the boys to meet players from all over the U.S., compare notes about culture, politics and, of course, baseball.

Player Evan Jones

summed it up: "The best part was walking around the village, meeting guys from all over, and just taking it all in."

For the Aurora Minor Peewee Jays, it was an experience of a lifetime.

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Catch all the action live as the Canadian & Provincial Junior A champs, The Aurora Tigers, return to defend their title. Don't miss a minute of the action.

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Fourteen-year-old Nathaniel Gery, of Aurora, won the Boys U14 National Junior Championship at the Ottawa Tennis and Lawn Bowling Club recently. He beat Philip Anderson of Halifax in the final.

Photo by Mike Carroccetto WildFire photo (Nepean, Ontario)

Gery upsets favourites to win title

Nathaniel Gery of Aurora won the Canadian under-14 outdoor tennis championships last weekend at the Ottawa Tennis & Lawn Bowling Club.

Gery, the third seed, upset the number one seed Milos Raonic of Thornhill 2-6, 6-3, 6-1 in the semi-finals and went on to play a teriffic final round defeating Phillip Anderson of Halifax 6 - 1, 6-4

As a prize Gery won a one-week training session at the International Tennis Academy in Delray Beach,

Florida.

It has been an extremely busy summer for the 14-year-old Gery who represented Canada in Europe playing tournaments in Holland, France and Germany.

He capped off the summer with his first National

Next on the agenda for Gery is to represent Team Canada at three major tournaments (Eddie Herr, Prince Cup and Orange Bowl) in Florida in November and December of this year.

AURORA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Atom A

Aurora Tigers - 2 West Mall Lightning - 0 Kyle Spicer 1G, Chris Youtoff 1G, Jesse Bentolila 1A, Matt Noseworthy 1A, Matthew Skoulikas 2A.





Tigers add another two players; home opener this Friday evening

Aurora Tiger Junior A hockey coach Jerome Dupont added some more strength to his team this week.

Trying to follow in the footsteps of last year's national winners, Dupont announced the signing of two more experienced players to bolster this year's roster.

Brian McGarry played with the Sudbury Northern Wolves and led the NOJHL in scoring with 37 goals and 49 assists for a point total of 86.

Chad Kenny, a defenseman, toiled with the Brampton Capitals last season and has come over to the Tigers.

Chad led the Capitals defense corps scoring nine goals and adding 20 assists for 29 points.

A heady player, Kenny is expected to bring speed to burn to the Tigers.

Tigers have also

Operations.

Beauchamp has a wealth of experience

named Dave Beauchamp

as Director of Business

having previously managed the business operations of the Newmarket Hurricanes and the Stouffville Spirit.

Tigers home opener is Mike's Buzzers.

this Friday, September 10th, at the Aurora Community Centre beginning at 8 p.m., when they meet the St. Mike's Buzzers.



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Team wins house league title...one more time

For the fourth consecutive year, Aurora played Bradford for the Midget minor ball house league championship and for the fourth consecutive year Aurora won.

The final score, for the second consecutive year, was 4-3, and for the fourth consecutive year the championship game was decided by one run.

One thing is for sure, according to head coach Stan Rycombel, Bradford always plays Aurora hard and should be congratulated for an outstanding effort and for playing such an exciting and spirited game.

Aurora finished tied for first place with Bradford during the regular season with a record of 14 wins and four losses.

Aurora had come into the championship game having won each of its four playoff games: 14-0 over Travelogue Travel; 4-2 over Bradford: 17-4 over Silva Custom Furniture and 13-0 over Braywood Services.

Aurora had a powerful offence and an equally powerful defence and without having registered a loss, would have to be beaten twice by Bradford to lose the championship.

The championship game was played at Whipper Watson Park in Newmarket and started with Aurora batting first.

In the top of the first,

Aurora scored two runs. Mike Wilson scored on a single by Tyler Bransfield who came into score on a single by Wes Bristol.

Bradford got one back in the bottom of the second.

Aurora answered that in the top of the third with Bransfield scoring his second of the game on Bristol's second RBI.

Bradford tied the game in the bottom of the fourth on a two-run double with no one out.

Aurora regained the lead in the top of the fifth inning as Wilson hit a two out solo home run.

Bradford made the game interesting in the bottom of the seventh.

With two out, Bradford loaded the bases giving them a chance but it was not to be.

Bradford's number five hitter grounded out to first base giving Aurora the championship.

Justin Harber started the game for Aurora throwing four strong innings for the win. Bristol came in to pitch the final three innings to register the save.

The Aurora house league team is sponsored by Greenham's Distinctive Clothier this season and was coached by Stan Rycombel and Joe Drebnicki.

"We look forward to

pursuing the fifth consecutive championship next summer," Rycombel

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	7152-412	2	Soccer Shin Pads	12.99	4.00		
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			- Bi-Fold/Sliding- 24" to 72"	40.00 to	80.00		
	123		Interior Doors - Various Sizes	5.00			
	123		1 X 8 P.T. Privacy Lattice	4.79	1.00		
	1M	27	Plywood - 4' X 8 ['] X 1 3/16	49.99	34.00		
	123		Assorted Hardwood Flooring	1.00/sq. f	t.		
	123		4' X 8' Cedar Lattice (Weathered)	17.69	5.00		
	123		Storm Doors - Various Conditions		10.00		
	123		4" Flashing Tape	14.99	2.00		
			F In-Stock Storage Sheds				
	Weathered Lumber - Priced To Clear - P.T./Spruce/Cedar						

PLUMBING SKU QTY ITEM REG SAL 123 25 China Sink Bowls 2.00 61229 5 Black Towel Bar 13.79 6.00 61329 5 Black Towel Bar 15.29 7.00 62429 5 Tissue Holder 12.69 5.00 61529 5 Towel Ring 11.99 5.00 63029 5 Robe Hook 8.19 3.00 63021 6 Robe Hook 8.19 3.00 3214-346 3 Tub Wall 139.99 50.0 3214-266 3 Tub Wall 189.99 70.0	0					
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3214-266 3 Tub Wall 189.99 70.0	0					
	00					
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91191 4 Passage 12.99 6.00						
91182 2 Privacy 16.99 8.00 91181 1 Passage 15.99 7.00						
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91142 4 Passage - RH 24.99 12.0 12.0 12.0 12.0 12.0 12.0 12.0 12.0						
91121 2 Privacy - LH 26.99 12.0						
91151 4 Privacy - LH 26.99 12.0						
91152 4 Privacy - RH 26.99 12.0						
91132 1 Entry - LH 39.99 20.0						
91131 3 Entry - LH 39.99 20.0	0					
91162 3 Entry - RH 39.99 20.0	0					
91161 2 Entry - LH 39.99 20.0	0					
91183 1 Entry 19.99 10.0						
91112 1 Passage 24.99 10.0	0					
3640-812 3 Malibu Lighting 49.99 25.0	0					
3854-494 1 24" Almond Range Hood 49.99 25.0						
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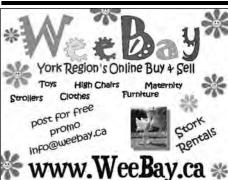
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