



How do you spell team spirit?

In a demonstration of their team spirit and community pride, members of the Aurora Tigers Peewee AA hockey team gathered last week to spell out the name of their favourite town, with the help of the Central York Fire Services and some willing siblings. Traffic stopping activity took place in front of Aurora's Edward Street fire station and the photo became a reality when an

aerial "squirt" truck was imported from Newmarket to provide the height to get the picture. Tigers are embarking on another hockey season, hoping to defend the Ontario Minor Hockey Association championship they won last season. They are off to a great start, winning their first two games of the season. Idea was the brainstorm of hockey mom Wendy Cappell.

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Vol. 4 No. 49

Week of October 5, 2004

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Briefly

Market drop-off

This Saturday is the final day for Aurora's highly successful Farmer's Market and since it happens to be Thanksgiving weekend, organizer Nigel Kean has come up with a good idea.

He's asking residents who attend the market to drop off non-perishable goods that will be delivered to the Aurora Food Pantry in time for the holiday. There will be drop-off boxes at the market and Kean is hopeful a substantial amount of food will be donated.

Meanwhile, the Market, in conjunction with local businesses, will sponsor a mini-pumpkin decorating event Saturday. For \$1, aspiring artists, 10 years and under, can decorate mini-pumpkins and receive a gift certificate for a kid's menu hamburger and fries, courtesy Jonathan's Restaurant. Proceeds will be donated to the Pantry.

In case you haven't been to the market this summer, it's located on the parking lot on Temperance Street, just south of Wellington.

For further information, call Kean at 416-697-1345.

Anniversary auction

It's too bad the Aurora Opera Company has to perform in Newmarket, but without a facility like the Newmarket Theatre here, they have no choice.

So, while we don't relish the idea of sending you to Newmarket, we will recommend this activity.

Sarah Kyle advises the group is planning a "Tea and Tunes 10th Celebration", to acknowledge their 10th season, featuring much music, and for those hockey starved residents a silent auction with some awesome prizes.

Following a session of Gilbert & Sullivan music, the audience will be able to mingle with the cast who will serve them free sandwiches and goodies, while they peruse the silent auction table.

Highlights of that include an NHL alumni autographed hockey stick signed by Johnny Bower, Harvey Howell, Norm Ullman, Mike Palmateer, Mike Pelyk, Allan Stanley, Keith McCreary, Gerry Cheevers, Dave Schultz and others; a hockey sweater autographed by Wendell Clark; and a glass-cased original hockey puck signed by Mike Palmateer.

However, you must go to the Newmarket Theatre to participate. It all happens Sunday, Oct. 17 beginning at 4 p.m. and the \$15 ticket includes refreshments.

Order tickets by calling 905-953-5122.

Shadow cabinet

Aurora's Frank Klees, unsuccessful in his bid to lead the provincial Progressive Conservative party, was not forgotten when it came time for new leader John Tory to announce his shadow cabinet last week.

Klees will take on the role of P.C. Education Critic.

An MPP for the riding of Oak Ridges, Klees, when the Progressive Conservatives were in power, served as a minister of transportation and a minister of tourism, in addition to being deputy house leader and chief government whip.



One of the largest superstores in the area, Loblaws is within weeks of opening this building at the corner of Bayview Avenue and St. John's Sideroad in Aurora's northeast section. It will house several services including photo and medical within its walls and job fairs are currently being held to hire the scores of people required to make it all work.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Wal-Mart a step closer

Aurora may soon be home to a Wal-Mart big box store and a warehouse club, but anyone looking for a 10-screen theatre in the neighbourhood will have to look elsewhere.

Following a long and at times heated debate, the application for a regional shopping plaza on the southern portion of a 170-acre property at the corner of Highway 404 and Wellington Street East was approved on a 4-2 vote with Councillors Phyllis Morris and Wendy Gaertner in opposition.

Councillors Bill Hogg, Damir Vrancic and Nigel Kean were absent for the vote.

It all started with the Bayview Northeast Area 2B Secondary

plan being adopted by the town as Official Plan Amendment (OPA) 30 in March, 2000, and approved by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) in July, 2001.

The OPA established land use designations and policies for a residential component located in the proximity of Bayview Avenue, and a business park component in the proximity of Highway 404.

Within the business park lands on the north side of Wellington Street East was the landholding of Whitwell Developments and State Farm Mutual Insurance Company.

The landowners submitted a draft plan of subdivision for the joint development of their lands, which was approved by council in

October, 2002.

In April this year, a planning consultant for the applicant presented an outline of the proposed development.

The proposed development was to include a Wal-Mart store, a warehouse membership club, a large supermarket or home improvement outlet, a mix of smaller retail stores, a 10-screen cinema plus commercial services and office components.

At the time there was minor objection to the proposal.

Staff pointed out that a "peer review" was being carried out and the peer reviewers were in attendance to hear the comments. It

Please see page 18



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

Aurora Farmers' Market, Temperance Street and Wellington, every Saturday morning until October 9th. 8 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Food bank donations requested.

Masons' Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at The Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7.30 p.m.. For further information contact Bob Butler at h.butler@sympatico.ca or 905-713-3314.

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

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

Helping Hand: Gently used clothing for women and children, at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria St., every Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. Wednesdays 5.30 - 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16/30, 9 a.m. - noon. 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.

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

Meditation classes in Aurora Wednesday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m. to Dec. 15. Above 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 only.

Hospice King-Aurora is taking registrations for an October start for its Bereavement Support Group for Children, ages 6-12. Ten-week activity-based sessions. Trained facilitators, professionally supported. Presented in cooperation with Bereaved Families of Ontario. Call Hospice King-Aurora for more information about this free program at 905-773-0155.

During the month of October the Skylight Gallery in the Aurora Town Hall presents the artwork of Philippa Hajdu. Regular viewing hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

OCTOBER 12

Seniors fall day trip to Ontario's famous Cranberry Harvest in Bala includes a wagon ride around the marsh. Leave the Community Centre at 8.30 a.m. return at 6.30 p.m. Cost for members is \$57, \$62 for non-members. Call 905-727-2816 to register.

OCTOBER 13

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.

OCTOBER 16

The York Chamber Ensemble, formerly the York Strings Orchestra, gets its 2004-2005 season under way with a concert featuring Suk's Serenade for Strings. The Aurora-based orchestra, conducted by Tony Browning, plays music at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street. Concert time is 7.30 p.m. Tickets, available at the door, are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students.

OCTOBER 17

Aurora Opera Company 10th season celebration. Musical & silent auction. Newmarket Theatre, 4 p.m. For tickets call 905-953-5122.

OCTOBER 18 AND 20

Theatre Aurora will hold auditions from 7 to 10 p.m. at Park Place Manor for the play "Wait Until Dark" to be performed in February. The director is looking for two females, one 10-14 years, the other 25 to 35 and four males between the ages of 30 and 35. Call 905-895-1764 for details.

OCTOBER 18-22-25-29

Refresher driving course for seniors at the Aurora Town Hall (Municipal Offices) under the auspices of the Aurora Senior Centre. Each session runs from 9.30 a.m. to noon. Call Kim Hinder at the Aurora Senior Centre 905-727-2816 to register.

OCTOBER 19

Aurora Public Library presents Linwood Barclay, reading from his new novel "Bad Move". Admission free with ticket. 7 p.m., Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk.

OCTOBER 20

Aurora Seniors head to the Stratford Festival to see the Cole Porter musical "Anything Goes". Lunch at the Walper Terrace Hotel. Depart the Aurora Community Centre at 9 a.m. returning about 6.30 p.m. Cost is \$93 for members, \$98 for non-members. Call 905-727-2816 to reserve.

OCTOBER 21

Aurora Chamber of Commerce "Celebrating Business Excellence in Aurora" Awards. For tickets, call the Chamber at 905-727-7262.

OCTOBER 23

Wells Street Public School annual fall fair. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Games, prizes, music, food and fun for the family.

Gift Fair. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street. Local artisans exhibiting and selling handcrafted items. For more information call Linda at 905-727-5675.

Fall event, Aurora United Church, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., garage sale, bake

sale, country kitchen. Free admission.

Upper Canada Chordsmen present 12th annual show, "Hey, Look Us Over: Harmony Showcase 2004" at Newmarket Theatre, at 7.30 p.m. Show features the Upper Canada Chordsmen, local award-winning barbershop harmony chorus, Shaleena Clements, Budda Boom Budda Bing, and The Cameo Jazz Band and Backroads. Tickets are \$20, available from the Chordsmen, The Auroran or the theatre box-office, 905-953-5122.

OCTOBER 27

Aurora's Marquee Productions presents the musical "Bye Bye Birdie" at the Newmarket Theatre and the Vaughan City Playhouse until November 7. Call 905-713-1040 for ticket information.

OCTOBER 30

Murder Mystery Dinner at Hillary House. This year's mystery takes place in 1897. The Hillarys leave the house in the hands of the eccentric Dr. F. Raud who is determined to turn Dr. Hillary's Tonic into a patent medicine phenomenon of the day. Tickets are \$60. Call 905-727-4015.

OCTOBER 31

Girls Incorporated of York Region presents its 25th Annual Thrill on the Hill at St. Andrew's College. Registration starts at 8 a.m. There will be a five and 10-kilometre run and a three-kilometre "Trick or Treat" hike. Call 905-727-4897 extension 305 for details.

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Chairperson of the Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA), Bill van Oorschot, presents Chief Librarian Colleen Abbott with a \$2,000 cheque as a result of funds raised for the library during SOYRA's Art Show and Sale during the annual street festival in June. It was the second SOYRA Art Show and Sale at the Aurora Public Library. SOYRA members paid for exhibit space and donated 20 per cent of the sales. Donnah Cameron II, water color artist from Newmarket and SOYRA member, donated her work "Beach bums" to be raffled off. Winner was Ursula Coolen from Bradford.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Buck memo creates council controversy

Aurora Council and staff have received a number of complaints recently regarding the blowing of train whistles at night.

In August town staff was asked to investigate the issue and determine options available.

At a subsequent meeting council members were advised that the Canadian Rail Operating Rules specify that all trains must sound the whistle one quarter of a mile before all public crossings regardless of the type of crossing warning system in place.

The whistle must be sounded while approaching the crossing and until the train has fully passed the crossing. Train engineers are required to follow a detailed set of instructions approved by Transport Canada and the whistling sequence to be used.

Councillors were advised there were ways to get the whistling stopped, but it isn't free.

Following a formal request from council a safety audit is undertaken by the railway authority and any required infrastructure must be installed by the municipality to the satisfaction of the railway authority.

A municipal bylaw is approved and the railway authority requests elimination of the train whistling requirement from Transport Canada and it's up to Transport Canada to approve or deny the request.

As both CN and GO Transit operate trains on the line, both agencies would be involved. In addition, since the Wellington Street East and the St. John's Sideroad crossings are on regional roads, the region would be required to take action.

In August a motion by Councillors Phyllis Morris and Evelyn Buck agreed that staff initiate the procedures to eliminate train whistling at Engelhard Drive and Centre Street and ask

the region to do the same for Wellington Street and St. John's Sideroad.

Funds up to \$15,000 would be allocated for the required safety audits.

Last week, Buck submitted a memo stating she had seconded the motion under a misunderstanding on her part.

She said that prior to the meeting she had been informed by staff that the cost of the safety audits would be taken from the engineering portion of the development charges and with that information, seconded the motion.

It was then learned that the funding wouldn't come from that source and said in a memo that she has consistently opposed spending taxpayers' money to fund legal challenges.

She said she considered train whistles in the same category as the Hydro One transmission line challenge.

She added that from reviewing e-mail exchanges between residents who are anxious to have train whistles stopped, she understood that the residents are confident of the support of Councillors Morris, Damir Vrancic and Nigel Kean.

Kean called the memo offensive and asked that it be withdrawn.

This started a discussion as to what should be included on the agenda and pointed out the need for the proposed council workshop on the procedural bylaw as had previously been discussed.

Kean's motion to have the memo withdrawn was lost on a 4-4 vote with Mayor Jones and Councillors West, Wallace, and Buck in opposition. Councillor Bill Hogg left the meeting at 8 p.m.

A motion to receive the Buck memo and take no action was adopted by council.

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Poor Richard

Recalling horror of the hurricane we called Hazel

*Hurricane Hazel came and went,
The memories of the night are clear;
We didn't know the dangers then,
Or we would have been full of fear.
-Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

It was Friday, October 15, 1954.

There was a Halloween Party at the Officers' Mess at the RCAF Station on Avenue Road in Toronto and it was well attended as always.

The heavy rains of the past few days and newspaper headlines that Hurricane Hazel was heading towards the Toronto area did not deter the partygoers.

After all, whoever heard of a hurricane in Toronto?

Over the music and the enjoyment of the party there were rumblings about people having flooded basements due to the heavy rains, but no one thought too much about it, and as the band continued to play and the drinks continued to flow, the rain was forgotten.

Around midnight stories started to circulate about severe flooding in several areas, especially in the Humber River Valley around Weston.

Wing Commander "Mac" Cliff, then Commanding Officer of 411 Squadron, had recently purchased a new boat with a heavy duty motor and wanted an opportunity to try it out.

He talked a few squadron members to join him and they left the party to go with him to try out his boat.

We didn't find out until later that Mac and his crew were responsible for saving a few lives that night as they pulled people from the normally placid Humber River.

It had become a raging torrent.

Because of the news reports that were starting to drift in and the continuous heavy rain, the party started to break up early, that is for Air Force parties, and we left around 1 a.m.

At that time the Illingworth family lived in Willowdale, so we didn't have far to go and in spite of the heavy rain and flooded streets we arrived home safely.

I didn't get up too early Saturday morning as it wasn't my week to fly and at that time I didn't have any community activities to keep me busy.

I turned on the television and watched pictures of the dreadful flooding without any knowledge of where it was occurring.

A little later in the morning I took my daughter Suzanne, who was about two at the time, in the car to pick up a few things at the store.

We drove east along Sheppard Avenue towards Leslie Street and I was shocked to see the damage caused by the flooding of the Don River.

By the time we returned home radio and television were full of stories about the death toll and the damage caused by Hurricane Hazel, including the loss of five volunteer firefighters of the Kingsway/Lambton Fire Department who were drowned in the Humber River.

As a youngster living not too far from the Humber River, I found it to be a favourite spot in the summer for swimming and family picnics.

It was hard to believe that the same Humber River was responsible for the death of those brave men.

Later, not far from the river, a plaque was placed to honour them and for years afterwards flowers were placed at the memorial in their memory.

A few days later I was in the Weston area and visited Raymore Drive where 38 people lost their lives when the Humber River swept them away and caused extensive damage to the houses.

The whole area was out of bounds and under police protection, but a friendly police officer on duty took the time to escort me around as he told some of the dreadful stories of that fateful night.

The weekend after Hazel I was flown over the Holland Marsh and viewed the massive inland lake covering the 7,000 acres of reclaimed rich, black soil. Houses had been ripped from their bases and were left stranded as the waters started to recede.

Altogether 83 people were killed by Hurricane Hazel and it was a night never to be forgotten.



It was field day at Aurora High School in 1946 when these three student athletes took a moment to pose for a picture in the park across the street from what today is Wells Street Public School. They are, left to right, Bill Babcock, Gar Doolittle and Pete Crysdale. Doolittle's untimely death in November of that year resulted in the birth of a memorial trophy presented each year to the school's top athlete. The presentation is made at the school's commencement exercises. More than 60 names are on the 57-year-old trophy because of dual winners in a couple of the years. This year, the trophy will be presented at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School by Gar's younger brother Claire. The photo was submitted by Jolyne Bernardo of Aurora.

Letter to the Editor

Seven reasons why we should support proposal

To the editor,

Re: Town approves \$25,000 grant (Auroran, Sept. 21)

Hats off to Councillors Evelyn Buck and Ron Wallace.

They have the sense to oppose the town grant of \$25,000 to fight Hydro One's proposal to replace an existing transmission line with a larger one.

Granted the amount of money is relatively small but it is money that could have been better spent.

There are a number of reasons why the hydro proposal should be accepted and encouraged. They are:

1. The findings of major EMF research reviews of scientific studies shows there is insufficient evidence to conclude that EMF causes a risk of cancer. This is the position taken by Health Canada.

2. The proposed power

line will be constructed within current EMF standards for borderline properties.

3. The new power line is to be built on an existing right-of-way and replaces an existing smaller one. Any resident in close proximity to this or any other right-of-way must be aware that future changes are possible. In this regard one only has to remember back a year or two ago when the Conservative government under Ernie Eves was proposing the sale of Hydro One including all transmission rights-of-way. The public furor was great that private concerns could take control of such valuable property which could be used for such future purposes as roadways, express bus routes and even rail systems.

4. With regard to the impact on housing values close to the right-of-way, Hydro One is on record stating that past experiences with similar situations has

shown no lasting financial effect.

5. It is not fair to promote the abandonment of the proposal if it will result in residents in some other locations being asked to accept it. The NIMBY approach.

6. The proposed power line will give Aurora the lowest cost means of meeting its future electricity demands. It is also the most reliable supply due to its shortness compared to a much longer alternative route.

7. The proposed line is perhaps the only new supply to Aurora and Newmarket which can be built in time to ensure a continued adequate and reliable supply to the essential electrical power demands of a large, rapidly growing and important geographical area. Preventable blackouts are not wanted in 2006 and 2007.

**J. Harris
Aurora**

AURORAN

*"Aurora's
Community Newspaper"*

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Advertising policy

Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.

Correction

Last week, a letter that His real name is Tom Norwell, and we messed it up. We're sorry.



Places to Grow - growth planning guidelines

Members of Council met in General Committee recently and discussed the Province's Growth Plan proposal for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Given the growth curve that Aurora is on at the moment, this plan is particularly interesting for our Town as it deals with how the Province wants to see our area grow over the next 30 years.

Aurora has averaged about 350 to 400 units a year for the past number of years.

We have done so in a fluctuating manner of which we are at a high at the moment.

Although most of us would rather not grow, we are required to develop Official Plans to guide our growth in accordance with Regional and Provincial expectations.

As municipalities are responsible to the Province, the best we can do is manage our growth.

Growth does have some benefit.

It increases our assessment for tax collection and provides housing for people to work here and improve our economy.

Aurora has many small businesses, several operating out of private homes.

Growth also provides the Town with development charge revenue that helps to pay for new facilities like the Leisure Complex, rinks and pools, as well as a new Seniors' Centre that council has committed to providing for our residents.

Economic growth also provides assessment and job opportunities for our residents.

Many of the initiatives in this plan originated from the Provincial Smart Growth reviews that have been ongoing during the past few years.

Principles of maximizing expensive infrastructure like water, sewer and hydro, and of higher density along major routes to take best advantage of improving transit to get people out of their cars are considerations in this plan.

It is recognized that by moving from lower density development to more compact and efficient development patterns, over 20 per cent of infrastructure costs could be saved.

This plan identifies Newmarket as an emerging centre, and as such it could be interpreted that there would be an increased expectation of higher density, additional affordable housing and improved transportation opportunities for Newmarket.

Given our proximity to Newmarket, we will need to carefully review what we have in our town relative to density and composition as to best address the Provincial guidelines and at the same time be compatible with what already exists.

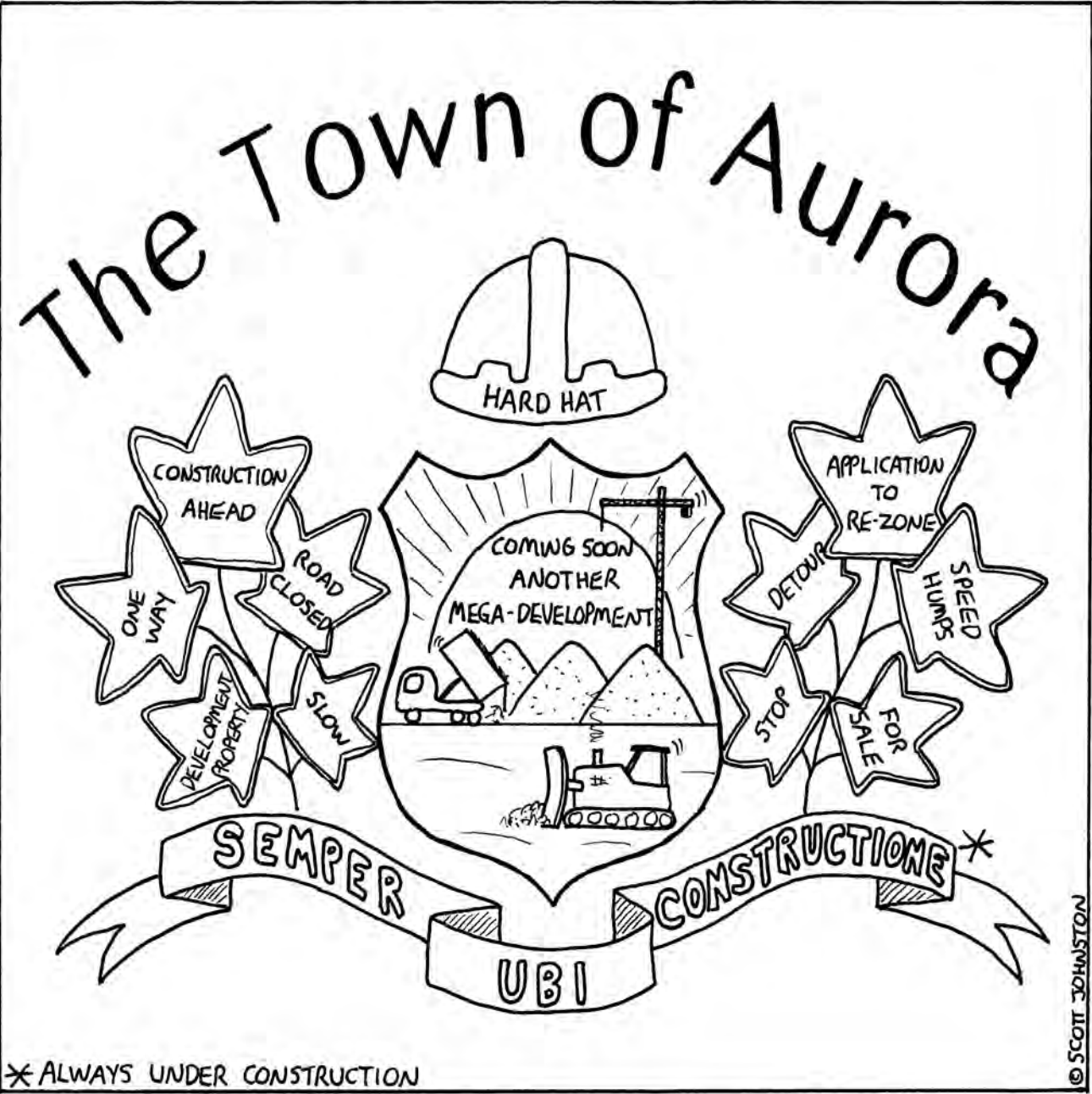
Our planning staff members point out in a report to council that "conventional subdivision developments do not fit with the vision set out in "Places to Grow". It is important that with denser development, urban design controls are strengthened and that careful thought is given to the public realm to create livable compact communities while respecting historic neighbourhoods and landscapes."

And, further, in a response to Infrastructure Minister Caplan, on behalf of the Town, it is stated, "Aurora is a growing municipality that prides itself being well managed, controlling growth, having high quality, environmentally friendly development, preserving built heritage, while remaining attractive to new and existing businesses. It is hoped that the outcome of the Provincial policy proposals currently being considered will contribute to our continued success in these goals."

Part of this plan also calls for all day, two-way service along GO rail corridors including the line that goes through Aurora and the Richmond Hill line which is recommended to be extended to Bloomington and the 404.

Growth is never a simple issue, but it is a responsibility of council to consider what we hear from our residents while at the same time having to conform with policy dictated to us from the Province.

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



What would the world be like?

Most of us celebrate the harvest season with turkey, pumpkin pie and a Pepto-Bismol hangover to remind us of how much our cup runneth over. Three days straight!

And quite understandably, it's hard to feel grateful on day three, listening to Grandpa's war stories (again), graphic descriptions of Grandma's bodily functions (again), and Junior's whining, complaining and burping (again and again and again), especially if your pants have just become your own personal torture device.

And taking them off is not an option because you opted for a thong instead of those sensible boxers. For the occasion, of course.

But what if Thanksgiving is not an occasion? What if "thanksgiving" is a philosophy of life? What if gratitude is a belief system...with the power to change the world?

I have always believed all people share a single common purpose of existence: to make the world a better place.

I know it sounds corny, but I took it seriously enough to pass it on to my children.

When they were little, I taught them to measure actions by simple criteria: what would the world be like if everybody did this..would you want to live in such a world?

What would the world be like if Thanksgiving was not an annual occasion, but a year round way of life? We'd burst, right?

In a manner of speaking, but before that, there would be acceptance and tolerance.

There can be no discrimination, no prejudice in the heart that believes: "there, but for the grace of God, go I."

There would be empathy and compassion.

We'd be bursting with gratitude, and there would be no jealousy, no competition.

When we're busy appreciating what we have, we're not coveting our neighbour's Ferrari.

As we shift our focus away from what's missing in our lives, we develop a concept of enough, and

miraculously, enough becomes plenty.

We might even feel like going out and washing the Honda.

With a mindset of abundance, we can stop allowing our environment to dictate to us what we should want and have, and begin demanding from our environment what is really important to us.

Things like family, friends, health and time to enjoy them. And isn't time the currency of life? No point wasting time pursuing things.

The more we pursue, the more we want.

It feels like a rat race, a treadmill because the more we have, the more we have to worry about, fix, clean, upgrade and maintain - it robs us of our most precious resources: time and energy.

When we see the world through the eyes of gratitude, we always have time to tuck the kids in, listen to what's going on in the lives of the people we love and say "I love you" (again and again).

We have our priorities straight, so we might decide that the Honda doesn't need a wash as much as the kids need a hug, or the dog needs a walk or the spouse needs a kiss.

My grandmother used to say: "blessed is he who has nothing." Now I understand!

In a world of gratitude, there would be no whining, no complaining...and oh no, The Auroran would run out of letters to the editor!

Perhaps not.

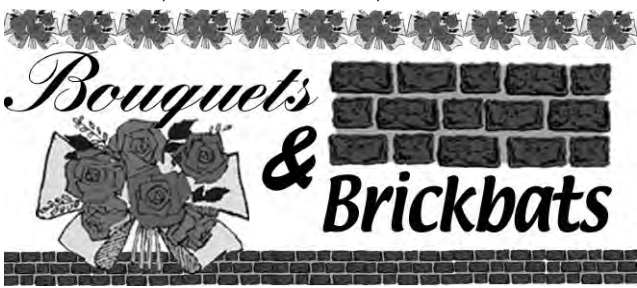
Maybe The Auroran would be inundated with letters of praise, gratitude and love for the people, places and things that make Aurora a wonderful place to live, work and play.

I believe that all of us want to live in such a world.


And we can, simply by opting for those sensible boxers...and counting our blessings - every day.


May your Thanksgiving be blessed, and may you be blessed with thanksgiving all year long!


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





By **DICK ILLINGWORTH**


 **BOUQUETS** to Sarah Van Nostrand on the opening of her Wellington Gallery on Wellington Street West at Machell Avenue. It is not a framing or a print gallery but a real art gallery with original fine art by contemporary artists. Well worth a visit.


 **BRICKBATS** to members of Aurora Council for their petty childish behaviour while dealing with the town's business. It's an embarrassment to themselves, the staff and citizens. If they were children, they would get spanked. Bouquets to the Mayor for finally taking a tougher stand.


 **BOUQUETS** to the town and Family Connections for organizing the Children and Youth Fair in the Town Park, which provided a showcase for parents and youth about the many services and programs available in Aurora.


 **BRICKBATS** to architects of modern restaurants in Aurora for forgetting to consider the acoustics of the building when customers are dining. The noise level is so great in some recently opened restaurants that it is impossible to carry on a conversation.


 **BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Mosquito A Jays on winning the Ontario Baseball Association A Championship at the Labour Day tournament in Sault Ste. Marie. It is believed to be a first for an Aurora team.


 **BRICKBATS** to federal MPs for even considering a 10 per cent salary increase providing them with a basic salary of \$155,000 up from \$141,000 with cabinet ministers going to \$229,400 and the Prime Minister to \$310,000 when they won't approve a small increase for federal civil servants who are in a strike position.


 **BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Optimist Club for donating \$10,000 to the children's services department of the Aurora Public Library, as part of the club's \$50,000 commitment.

 **BRICKBATS** to those in Canada's penal service for lack of supervision of Canada's first privately-run jail in Penetanguishene. They allowed an inmate to die due to a cut finger because of inadequate medical attention. Looks like cutting costs to make a profit!


 **BOUQUETS** to Aurora Cable Internet for its donation of \$2,700 to the Canadian Cancer Society. The money was raised as the result of a golf tournament, which attracted 108 golfers.

 **BRICKBATS** to those in Ottawa who awarded Alfonso Gagliano a federal performance bonus for his good work as Ambassador to Denmark. This is the same guy who is at the centre of the \$250 million sponsorship scandal. A bonus for incompetence!


 **BOUQUETS** to the six Aurora and area women who participated in the Walk to End Breast Cancer and raised \$14,000 for the Princess Margaret Hospital. In total 4,565 walkers participated in the 60-kilometre, two-day event and raised a total of \$1.7 million.

 **BRICKBATS** to those at the Town Hall who were responsible for preparing the agenda for the recent public planning meeting. The Whitwell Development application should have been the first item as taxpayers had to pay the high price of the peer review consultants sitting around for a few hours waiting to do their stuff. It was a waste of money that a little planning would have overcome.

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Letters to the Editor

Try alternatives to pesticides, reader advises letter writer

To the editor,

Re: the pesticide issue.

Well, I don't know about the rest of the population in Aurora, but I, for one, am really tired of having to tolerate Mr. Kroon's letters to the editor!

His long-winded tirades are utterly boring, full of assumptions, and do nothing to further the debate pertaining to pesticide use.

Mr. Kroon, I firmly agree with Mr. Davey that you "missed the mark" in your first letter and further that your continued insults in your second letter towards anyone who doesn't agree with you, again, fall flat.

In my opinion, Mr. Kroon needn't say more. He has confirmed that he benefits financially from spraying pesticides. I don't benefit financially from not spraying pesticides.

I, as mentioned in my previous letter, am a health care professional who has had the opportunity to view reports from a variety of sources pertaining to pesticide use.

I merely have public interest at heart.

Mr. Kroon, do you honestly expect anyone to trust your opinion?

You state that you feel I don't have the "depth of comprehension in this mat-

ter". That is simply laughable.

I don't even care to expand on my qualifications because it would just seem so boastful to do so, compared to you.

Mr. Kroon states that "...these products [pesticides] are deemed safe for use by those agencies entrusted with protecting the public..."

Mr. Kroon, I think history has taught us a lesson that sometimes these, and similar agencies, make mistakes.

For example, it was once common practice to provide Aspirin to children with fevers, until the identification of Reye's syndrome; DDT was an approved substance; and Thalidomide was also an approved medication given to pregnant women until the emergence of specific birth defects.

Just to name a few.

Awareness of the risks associated with pesticide use is increasing.

Perhaps this is an opportunity to "teach an old dog new tricks" and suggest that you try expanding your business to include organic alternatives.

Since safe organic alternatives are already in existence and since pesticide use still seems to be required by farmers, shouldn't we try to 'cut corners' where we can?

To use pesticides on grass just seems abusive.

Further, Mr. Kroon, I wouldn't credit yourself with having caused a "stir" as your initial letter was written in response to my letter, wasn't it?

Lastly, remember "brevity is the soul of wit".

To the editor,

How safe do you feel riding in a taxicab in York Region?

After having some problems myself, I approached the Town of Aurora with my concerns and discovered that we really should not feel very safe at all!

Did you know that criminals are permitted to drive taxicabs in this region?

Apparently, not only are they permitted to drive people to and from various locations in and around the region, they are also protect-

ed by the Town of Aurora's bylaw office.

I have had serious problems over the past year with one driver in particular and am now involved in court proceedings to try and have him charged after being harassed, threatened and stalked for several months on end.

This particular person has a criminal record and holds a taxi license in Aurora.

I went to the town office to speak with the person responsible for licensing these drivers and was told in these exact words "just

Join this club or risk pension

To the editor,

This is a letter to all British pensioners living in the area.

As you know, British pensions are frozen at the rate you first receive them.

Not so in the United States and Europe.

They receive a raise every time the pensioners in England do.

Together we can help rectify this injustice by becoming a member of CAPB, short form for Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners.

The cost is just \$20 a year.

You will receive their quarterly magazine Justice For Expatriate British Pensioners.

In a recent development, one of Canada's largest legal firms, McCarthy Tetrault, has studied the case and has

agreed to go to bat for British pensioners.

This firm has 800 lawyers and they are doing it for free.

Also, the British government has started sending out pamphlets to British pensioners and if you don't reply within two months they will just assume you are deceased and your pension will be stopped.

This information and much more is to be found in their 3rd quarterly, 2004.

If you're interested in getting your pensions unfrozen or need to apply for a retirement pension, the address is Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners, 605 Royal York Road, Suite 202, Toronto, Ontario, M8Y 4G5.

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Aurora**


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Letters to the Editor

Noise and hydro in the same category

To the editor,

I had an early call from a resident on Wednesday morning.

He had an earlier call and received some misinformation and he wanted some clarity.

I offered an explanation, which he did not accept, and he told me he had no time for "that political crap".

He said only "the old ones" had not responded to his e-mails "probably because we didn't know how to use the internet" and then he hung up on me.

The problem is the train whistle in the middle of the night.

My difficulty was that I agreed to \$15,000 for a safety audit assuming the money was to come from

development charges reserves.

I then learned the funds were coming from property tax revenues.

I not only voted for the audit. I seconded the motion.

Further to that, on reviewing the e-mail discourse it became obvious the matter had arrived at the point of funding without ever receiving a formal request from the citizens affected.

It was also clear the objective was for the town to do whatever is needed to make the noise stop now.

The expenditure necessary for that to happen is closer to \$300,000.

It is no secret I have refused to provide financial support to homeowners

who back onto the hydro corridor who have serious concerns about hydro's plans to intensify the use of that corridor.

Candian National Railway is doing the same thing with the rail line. The two problems are in the same category.

I filed a memo with council last Tuesday evening clarifying my position.

I noted the residents were already confident of the support of three members of council and I named them: Morris, Kean and Vrancic.

I stated my objection to the public's business being conducted via e-mail.

My early morning caller was right.

I don't know everything I could know about the inter-

net.

But I know how to write on it...ergo my letters to the editor.

E-mailers should know that when you correspond with the town's administration, your dialogue is not private, nor should it be.

If you need council's attention to a particular problem the protocol is to appear as a delegate or write a letter to the mayor and council.

There is no place for behind the scenes manipulation.

I regularly advise residents with a problem to form an association. Adopt a constitution. Register the association, hold an election of officers and that way one person has the authority to speak for the group.

There are meetings to

determine strategies to deal with the problem. Everyone is on the same page...there are records and accountability.

Things like plastering your own neighbourhood with obnoxious signs that hurt no one but yourselves could never happen.

One more thing... Canadian Tire's floor pour started at seven in the morning and ended at three the next morning.

The neighbours were informed of when it was

happening and why. There were no complaints.

Mission accomplished to everyone's satisfaction.

I see the town as a single unit...businesses and families together.

We need each other.

I don't see the town's political affairs as a game of dungeons and dragons.

There is nothing we have to deal with that won't stand the light of day.

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

Neighbours "aghast" at new site

To the editor,

The Auroran has confirmed that ClubLink has been quietly negotiating a change in the previously announced location of its clubhouse on Golf Links Drive.

Neighbours in the Highland Green condominium across the street, who

had heard rumours of the change but dismissed them as illogical, are aghast.

The previous location was fine by us and welcomed by golfers.

The new location is impossible to understand.

The structure on this spot will cause new problems for traffic along Golf Links Drive and for the

golfers accessing the parking lot directly across the street.

It is extremely unlikely they will use the forbidding pedestrian tunnel under the street.

New traffic safety problems for pedestrians will arise.

It is an example of bad planning akin to the

approval of a drive through eatery at the entrance to a busy residential street off Yonge Street.

The seven-story, 184-unit monstrosity, which was to cover nearly every square inch of the site referred to in your story, was a condo, not a retirement home.

Joe Clark
Aurora

October Autism Awareness Month

To the editor,

October is National Autism Awareness Month and, on behalf of Autism Society Ontario, York Region Chapter, I would like to thank the many volun-

teers and community supporters who give so generously in order to assist families in York Region living with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Located in Richmond Hill, ASO York Region

Chapter offers support meetings and information workshops several times a month as well as providing telephone/e-mail support, access to our extensive database of community services and a resource lending library.

For more information, please visit our website www.autismsociety.on.ca, e-mail us at aso-york@axxent.ca or call us at 905-780-1590.

Cenza Newton
President
Aurora

Merlin Hollow urban wasteland?

To the editor,

In reference to Hugo Kroon's letter ("Pesticide debate continues" Auroran, Sept. 21) as the owner of a lawn that has not been treated with herbicides or pesticides for a season or two - in fact for more than 25 years - I wonder if the majority of the thousands who have visited our garden, Merlin's Hollow, would consider it an urban

wasteland?

David Tomlinson
Aurora

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Representatives of the Aurora Welcome Wagon contingent were out in full force to honour long-time program sponsors. In the top photo, Mike Caruso, of Mary's Flower Shop accepts a 20-year plaque from Bobbie Whittington, Karen Skinner, Terri McKerracher and Rosemary Schumaker, while Jonathan VandenBosch of VandenBosch Jewellers is awarded a 10-year plaque in the bottom photo.

Auroran photos by Ron Wallace

Bicentennial program launches in Aurora but on the wrong date

It's not every municipality in Ontario that is selected to launch a government program but that happened in Aurora in July, 1984.

In spite of criticism that Ontario had declared 1984 to be Ontario's Bicentennial Year for political purposes, the Bicentennial Showcase opened in Aurora to kick off a province-wide tour on July 3 at the Community Centre.

Dinah Christie was one of the headline stars of the Showcase, a 90-minute family variety program based on Ontario's 200 years of cultural development and featuring some of Ontario's top entertainers.

Other performers included Liliane Stilwell, Shirley Eikhard, Denis Simpson, the musical group Cano, Audrey Brownlow, Grant Cowan, Rene Highway and Donald Poliquin.

The Aurora performance was the start of a 26-stop tour.

In addition to the entertainers, the \$1 million production included more than 1,700 colour slides projected on huge background screens and coordinated with video scenes and live video playback of the performers and audience.

Walter Pitman, executive director of the Ontario Arts Council and Arthur Gelbur, chairman of the Ontario Bicentennial, was in the opening night audience.

Other guests were CN Tower director David Garrick, Major General Richard Rohmer and Bicentennial committee members Steve Otto and Norm Best.

The show opened with the entire company singing the lively Bicentennial theme song "Celebrate Ontario."

It moved on to focus on the decades since the turn of the century with themes such as Our Northland, The Seventies, Folk Spirit, The

Sixties, The Classic Arts, The Fifties, the Big Bands Entertain and The Forties.

The second half of the show took the capacity audience back to Ontario's Beginnings and offered a challenge for the future in "Watch Us Grow".

The finale was a tribute to the late classic pianist Glenn Gould.

The debate over the correct date for the Bicentennial was long and heated.

The province of Upper Canada (Ontario) was created by the Constitutional Act of 1791 and became effective December 26, 1791.

That date came and

Odd Couple truly odd with a cast of females

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

If you want an idea of what girls do on their night out, make sure you see the current production of the female version of "The Odd Couple" at the Queen Elizabeth Dinner Theatre of Howard Johnson Aurora.

The play, originally written by Neil Simon from a male perspective, is presented by Stellar Productions.

It's a hot summer night in Olive Madison's New York City apartment, as the girls gather for their weekly game of Trivial Pursuit.

Olive is a slob and the apartment shows it with a garbage bag in the room and papers and magazines everywhere. Even the soft drinks are warm as the fridge is broken.

She's separated from her husband but he keeps calling asking for money, which she sends, much to the dismay of the girls who try to stop her.

Florence Unger is late for the game and then they hear that she and her husband Sidney have broken up after 14 years and she is out on the street. Concern is expressed she might be suicidal.

Finally Florence arrives with the girls pretending they don't know what happened and trying to act normal, but watching Florence's every move.

Olive invites Florence to share the apartment and Florence goes right to work cleaning the place. Florence gets muscle spasms and at other times goes through rigorous methods to clear her ears.

Soon, Florence's housecleaning habits gets on Olive's nerves. In an effort to cheer themselves up, Olive arranges a double date with two Spanish brothers who live in the same building.

In the original play, the two were the Pigeon sisters.

Of course, everything goes wrong, from ruined food to Olive being late coming home and in the end, Florence and the two brothers wind up in tears.

Matters go from bad to worse between Olive and the girls due to Florence's cleanliness habits until Olive tells her to leave and you'll be surprised where she ends up.

There are many hilarious scenes and actions in the play and Neil Simon's script provides lots of opportunity for the cast to make the most of them, which they do to the delight of the audience.

The girls are Nora Kunopaski as Sylvie, Gloria Block as Mickey, Diane Wilton as Renee and Ann Green as Vera and each brings something special to the play.

While playing Trivial Pursuit at the table, they might want to speak a little louder as it was sometimes difficult to hear their words.

The two bothers are Lee Meakins as Manola Costazuela and Nicholas Jackson as Jesus Costazuela. Their Spanish accents and mannerisms are a joy.

Flo McLellan has the difficult role of Florence with her many changes of moods but her facial expressions are a highlight and Karen Park as Olive Madison has to put up with her. Both are very strong in their roles.

Director Gail Henderson has brought together a talented cast of local performers, familiar to regular community theatre-goers.

She is assisted by Betty Kelly as stage manager, David Russell as technical designer and operator with set construction by Peter Kelly.

Future performances are October 15, 16, 22, 23 and 30 with buffet at 7 p.m. and showtime at 8.30 p.m.

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Phil retires

One of several gifts offered retiring school teacher Phil Horsman of Aurora was this painting of a challenging golf hole, top photo, during a celebration held at Aurora Senior Public School last week. The popular teacher at that school who is also an Aurora Citizen of the Year received numerous gifts during the presentation, witnessed by scores of students, below.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

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Committee seeking five subs

A report of the newly established Environmental Advisory Committee came under fire by some council members at last week's meeting.

One of the recommendations was that five sub-committees be created: Naturalization/Wildlife, Bylaws/Policy, Planning, PublicAwareness/Education and Waste Management.

Councillor John West expressed concern about the number of sub-committees and as there were nine members on the advisory committee, said there was no need to advertise for more members.

Councillor Phyllis Morris replied that additional members were needed for the sub-committees due to the workload and it was up to council to appoint the members.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner, also a committee member, added that the advisory committee terms of reference provided for sub-committees as long as one member of the advisory committee was also appointed.

Councillor Evelyn Buck noted that the committee had requested that the Director of Public Works attend a meeting to provide an overview of the Three-Stream Source Separated Waste Program's and the

town's potential participation.

She questioned if the director would receive time off in lieu of attendance at the meeting and asked why a committee member couldn't meet with the director

during normal business hours and relay the information to the committee.

After further questions and discussion the committee report was adopted as presented.

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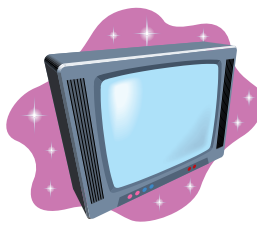
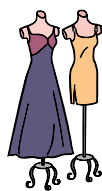
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Do you have items such as clothes, shoes, books, toys, housewares and electronics in good condition that you no longer want? Don't throw them away, donate them to charity!!

The Regional Municipality of York, in partnership with Goodwill Industries, will have a truck available to collect reusable goods on Saturday, October 16, 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, October 16, 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.

Goodwill

York Region



Sunrise of Aurora, a 76-unit, four-storey retirement home, officially opened Thursday afternoon with a party attended by scores of people. During the course of the event, the usual ribbon cutting was held, attended by officials of the corporation, Aurora Mayor Tim Jones, right, and Oak Ridges MPP, Frank Klees, left. Klees told the residents he was available in the event they had any concerns, since he lives on the same street. The building is located on Golf Links Drive, just west of Yonge Street, and some suites overlook a golf course. Sunrise has residences throughout Canada and the United States. The closest one to Aurora is located in Richmond Hill.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

The tunnel that never was...

Other than some of the older residents of the Valhalla Heights subdivision, especially residents of Batson Drive, most Aurorans may not be aware of the proposed tunnel under the railway tracks that was never dug.

Back in 1984, Aurora Council made an agreement with the subdivision developer not to build on two lots as consideration was being given to provide access to an underground tunnel under the tracks.

Purpose of the tunnel was to provide walking accessibility from the east side of Batson Drive to the west side of Industrial Parkway North to allow residents safe access to the planned Family Leisure Complex.

In addition, the tunnel would provide access to residents working in the industrial park and save them from driving east on Wellington Street and north on the Industrial Parkway to get to their place of employment.

Councillors John West and the late Earl Stewart were strong advocates for the pedestrian walkway.

Residents of Batson Drive were quick to react.

They said the two lots had been shown on the plan of subdivision as "sold," there was no indication the lots would be used for anything but houses and the lots were fully serviced. They expressed con-

1984

cern about the increase in non-resident street parking, increased traffic on Batson, noise, litter, and a potential hangout and loitering area.

Council sought cost estimates of the proposed tunnel and were advised it would be in the \$222,000 range.

While there was general approval that actual designs for the proposed underpass were needed before any final go-ahead was granted, council agreed that the Canadian Transport Commission (CTC) be asked to grant approval in principle to build the underpass.

Councillor Evelyn Buck suggested the final action be deferred until residents had an opportunity for input.

There was concern on the part of some councillors that if the CTC granted approval in principle, council would want to proceed.

It was also considered strange that council was

willing to spend thousands of dollars to provide recreational facilities to help keep citizens in good shape, then spend thousands more to create shortcuts so they wouldn't have to exert themselves to get there.

Finally in April, 1991, council abandoned plans for the underpass due to the cost, then estimated at \$500,000, continued neighbourhood opposition and potential vandalism problems.

Two houses were later constructed on the fully serviced lots.

As an alternative, it was suggested an overpass be built farther north in a park along Moorcrest Drive.

However, a large industrial building east of the railway tracks on the Industrial Parkway blocked this route.

Batson and Moorcrest homeowners can breathe easy as the tunnel was never dug and citizens are still able to get to the Leisure Complex and to their jobs in the industrial park without disturbing the peace and quiet of a residential neighbourhood.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER: WARREN JESTIN, Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist, Scotiabank

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Week of October 5, 2004



Aurora Mayor Tim Jones had the enviable task of officially launching Junior A women's hockey in Aurora Thursday night. Taking the faceoff are Brittany Selina, captain of the Etobicoke Dolphins, right, and Diana Cholakov, captain of the Aurora Panthers. There are 16 teams in the new league, consisting of women, 21 and younger, and they'll battle this year for the Provincial Women's Hockey League title. Etobicoke won the game 5-2 played before a crowd of about 150 spectators at the Aurora Community Centre.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Blaze at Aurora's arena spawns community centre

The debate is over and construction underway on the new recreation complex on Wellington Street East.

When the arena part is complete next September, it will add two ice pads bringing Aurora's total to five.

Let's go back to January 25, 1965, when the debate over new ice rinks and community centres really started.

That was the night the old Aurora Memorial Arena on Yonge Street caught fire and the front part of the structure was gutted.

While the site itself is still pretty much vacant, the arena was located next to present-day Park Place Manor.

It had been the home of champion and near champion teams.

In 1943 the Aurora Army team captured the Ontario Hockey Association intermediate "A" crown.

In 1946 the Aurora midgets brought home the first Ontario Minor Hockey Association title.

The Aurora Lions ban-

1965

tam team won the provincial crown and the Aurora Belaires won the intermediate "C" title in 1957.

The fire was spotted by a police officer at about 1 a.m. and by 3 a.m. on a bitterly cold night half of Aurora watched as the firefighters tried to save the building.

Newmarket and King firefighters assisted.

Of unknown origin, the fire burned through the front section of the arena containing the snack bar, dressing rooms and meeting room.

The rear section containing the ice surface was also partially damaged with the steel girders bent by the heat. Several teams lost all their equipment.

The rear part of the arena was opened in the 1930s. The front section or "warm room" and artificial ice equipment were installed in 1951.

Council explored possible ways to restore the arena for completion of the winter season, but to no avail.

Teams borrowed equipment and finished the season the best they could.

By November, 1965, the search was on for a site for a new arena.

An architect was engaged to design a community centre to be built on town-owned land on Aurora Heights Drive.

Shortly after the fire council established the Aurora Recreational and Agricultural Community Centre Committee, headed by Alf Bolsby, to plan a multi-use arena and community centre including auditorium, meeting and craft rooms.

It was proposed the Agricultural Society could set up its show rings for the Annual Horse Show in the adjacent parkland, with the community centre used for displays.

Aurora, at that time had a population of about 10,000

and it was expected that residents of King and Whitchurch Townships would also use the facility.

The community centre opened in February, 1967, just over two years from the date of the fire at a cost of about \$750,000, which was debentured over a 20-year period.

While Aurora needed a community centre, it is wondered if council of the day would have committed the taxpayers to such a large expenditure, if the old arena hadn't been destroyed by fire.

Some taxpayers objected to the expenditure and called the proposed facility an "ice palace".

This brought a response from community centre manager Ernie Batson in his weekly column in the local press, which outlined the many activities taking place at the centre.

"Ice palaces" in Aurora have always been controversial and the town's fourth and fifth pads will be no exception.

PWHL launches in Aurora and 15 other locations

Okay, so there's no Toronto Maple Leafs to watch this year, or any other National Hockey League team.

What to do? What to do?

Try the Ontario Women's Hockey Association which has just launched the Provincial Women's Hockey League, and they chose Aurora for the inaugural game.

That happened Thursday night at the Aurora Community Centre and although the local Aurora Panthers went down to a 5-2 loss at the hands (flippers?) of the Etobicoke Dolphins, more than 150 fans were entertained by some great hockey.

That game was the first of 240 regular season games to be played in this newly formed high performance league.

The PWHL operates under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association which is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year.

"This league features the top level of competition at this age level anywhere in the world," said Fran Rider, Executive Director of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association. "Many players have played for Provincial Championship as well as for Provincial and National Representative Teams. Many more are vying for future positions for various universities, Team Ontario and Team Canada."

Sixteen teams of players who are 21 years or younger as of December 31st this year hope to capture the first PWHL title.

Included in the league are Aurora Panthers, Bluewater Junior Hawks, Brampton Junior Thunder, Burlington Junior Barracudas, Cambridge Four River Fury, Chatham JR. Outlaws, Durham West Lightning, Etobicoke Dolphins, Hamilton Jr. Hawks Team Flite, London Junior Devillettes, Markham Stouffville Stars, Mississauga Chiefs, Oakville Jr. Ice, Stoney Creek Junior Sabres, Toronto Junior Aeros and Windsor Wildcats.

According to League President Bob Bell, "The interest in the PWHL has been incredible and competitive exhibition play confirms an exciting season is ahead of us."

This league will also showcase the Ontario Women's Hockey Association officials who have been selected to work PWHL games.

Many of these officials have Provincial, National and International experience.

The officiating program is under the direction of OWHA, Referee-in-Chief, Laurie Taylor-Bolton who has has an extensive background as an Instructor, supervisor and on-ice official.

She refereed at the 1998 Olympics in Nagano.

Jaguar Gymnastics

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Tigers clinging to division lead despite 2-1 loss

In spite of losing a heartbreaking 2-1 decision to North York Sunday afternoon, the Aurora Tigers maintain a slim lead in their Provincial Junior A Hockey division standings today.

Tigers, who won the National Royal Bank Cup last year, lost 17 players to age and were not expected to perform as well this season.

However, new coach Jerome Dupont has other ideas and after 12 games, has his team at six wins, five losses and an overtime loss to hold a slim one-point lead over Newmarket and Huntsville.

Both those teams, however, have four games in hand.

Since Sept. 26th, Tigers had a three-game winning streak going before meeting North York on their turf Sundayafternoon.

Aurora opened the streak with a 6-3 win over second-place Huntsville Otters in a game played in that northern community.

Sean Thompson, who toils at left wing and centre, scored a pair of goals and added three assists for a five-point night.

Huntsville opened the scoring before Aurora took over in the third period outscoring the opposition 3-1.

Two days later, Aurora headed to Collingwood where they edged the Blues 5-4.

Again the Tigers gave up the first goal before fighting back and break-

ing a 4-4 tie with less than two minutes remaining in regulation time.

Left winger Brian McGarry was the hero potting the winning goal after finishing off passes from Doug Henderson and Daniel Michalsky.

It was no contest Friday night as the home town Tigers clobbered the Couchiching Terriers 8-1, in a game that saw goaltender Jeremie Dupont come within two minutes of recording a shutout.

Aurora was breezing along with an 8-0 lead when Couchiching broke the goose egg with a goal at 18.10 of the third period.

Terriers, even though the score might suggest otherwise, were not blown out of the Aurora Community Centre.

In the first period, although trailing 2-0, Couchiching outshot Aurora 18-6.

Josh Diamond led the Aurora scoring parade with a pair of goals, while singles came from McGarry, Michalsky, Henderson, Thompson, Adam Kudynski and Brandon Vanderloo.

Tigers do not return to the Aurora Community Centre until Friday, Oct. 15 when they tangle with the Stouffville Spirit.

A home game scheduled for this Friday, Oct. 8, has been rescheduled to Oct. 27 at the Elgin Barrow Arena in Richmond Hill.

Opponents are the Thornhill Thunderbirds and game time is 7.30 p.m.



Champs

Sixteen teams were involved in the prestigious Pee wee hockey tournament held in Newmarket last week and the Aurora Tigers Pee wee AE squad emerged victorious with a 3-2 win after a hard fought battle with the Flamborough Sabres in the final. Michael McGorlick was the game's most valuable player and scored the winning goal. Also on the team are Myles Fisher, Corey Jefferey, Matthew Pellegrini, Evan Jones, Matthew Semeredy, Jakub Sykora, Andrew McKay, Geoff Gianopoulos, Aaron Beally, Darcy Eveleigh, Patrick Lee, Shawn MacEachern, Tyler Tisdale, Sean Agostino, John-Caleb Ross and Ryan Ceresino. Coach is Bob Tisdale, and he's assisted by John Howard and Ken MacKay. The trainer is Brian MacEachern and Wendy Agostino is manager.

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Aurora Youth Soccer Club Scores and Standings



COMPETITIVE GIRLS LEAGUE RESULTS

U14 GIRLS YRSL TEAM-

JULY 27- Another tremendous victory for **Aurora** against **Lake Simcoe** 4-0. Goals scored by K. Levac, J. Neale, L. Nunn and L. Smith.

AUGUST 5- A winning game for **Aurora** against **Lake Simcoe** 7-0. Amazing hat trick by N. Luck (3 goals scored!), single goals for both H. Boonstra and K. Levac and two goals by A. Ghegin with her brand new soccer boots!

AUGUST 10- Seventh win for Aurora 2-1 against **Alliston**. Aurora goals scored by A. Ghegin and K. Levac.

AUGUST 17- Awesome game played by **Aurora** against **Bradford** resulting in another win for Aurora 4-1. H. Boonstra popped two goals in, followed by single

goals by L. Nunn and N. Luck.

U14 GIRLS ADVANCE TO CUP SEMI-FINALS

AUGUST 26- Preliminary YRSL Cup game - **Aurora** against Lake Simcoe resulting in a 4-0 win for Aurora. Aurora U14 Girls Team advance to the semi finals September 11th. Game goals scored by M. Bertenshaw and L. Nunn with two goals scored by A. Ghegin (those boots are still working!). Incredible goaltending by C. Kanen.

AUGUST 24- An exciting game played by **Aurora** against **Newmarket**, resulting in a tie game 2-2. Goals scored by M. Bertenshaw and K. Sukhraj with a beautiful corner kick by A. Ghegin.

AUGUST 31- Last game of the season ended in a win for **Aurora** against **Lake Simcoe** 2-0. Goals scored by K. Levac and J. Neale with a complete shutout

thanks to the goalkeeper, C. Kanen and a great defense line up!

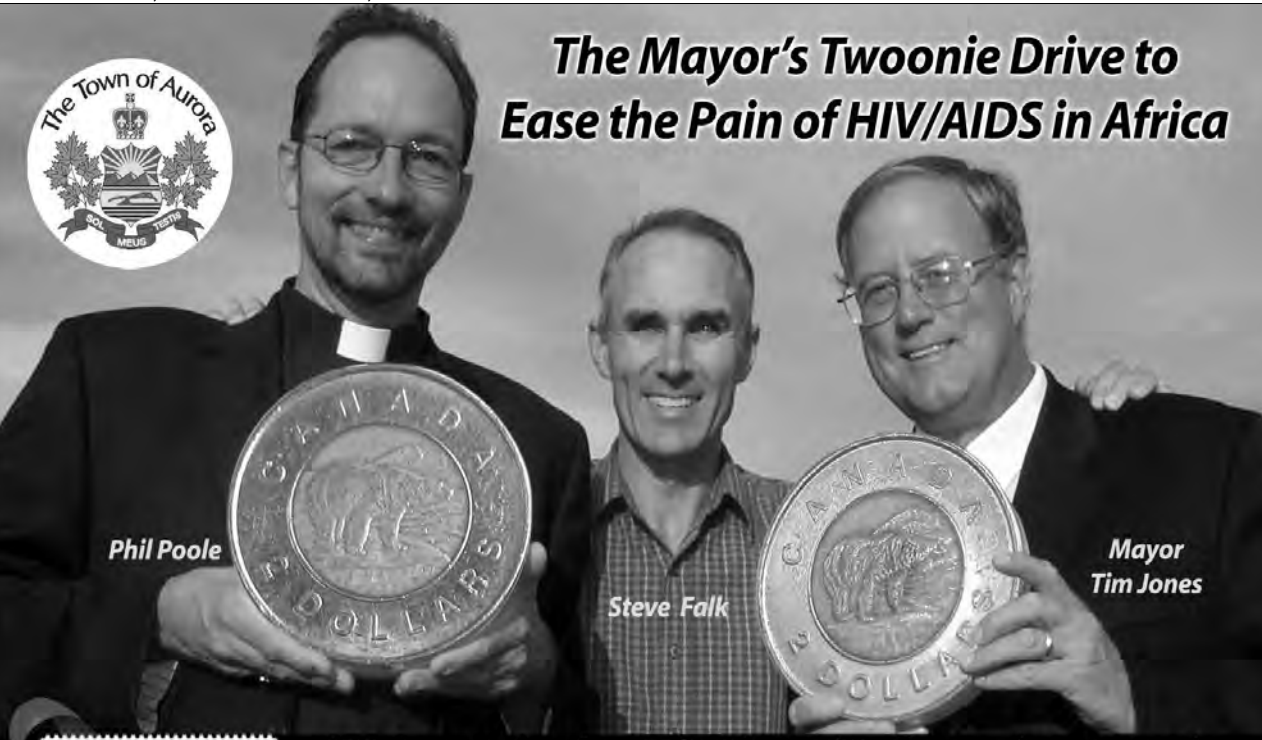

U16 CGSL PREMIERE - SEPTEMBER 7-

Aurora Stingers vs Woodbridge Strikers. Aurora won 3-0. A huge team effort earned the win to advance the Stingers to the Cup semi finals. Stinger goals scored by M. Wiley 2, and G. Landry. Shutout earned by A. Belanger. May your "heart and hard work" continue to pay off girls. Good luck!!!

SEPTEMBER 18- CUP SEMI FINALS- Aurora Stingers vs Barrie Spirit. Aurora won 2-0. From start to the end of the game, the Stingers dominated the play. G. Landry finished the job with two goals for the Stingers. Shutout earned by keeper A. Belanger.

SEPTEMBER 19- CUP CHAMPIONSHIP- Aurora Stingers vs Whitby

Iroquois. Aurora won 3-2. With a strong team effort behind them, G. Landry, M. Vucko and L. D'Aguzzo put 3 goals in during the first half to take a strong lead in the Cup Final. Fighting hard to stay on top during the second half, the Stingers held their own and came up with the deserving win to secure the Cup Championship. CONGRATULATIONS girls on winning both the CGSL Premiere League and Cup. You have proven once again the "hard work" and "heart" bring home rewards. Good Luck next year in the U17 division of the Ontario Youth Soccer League. With sincere thanks to Ermes Lena (Coach), Peter Landry (Assistant Coach), Janice Goodrow (Trainer), and Carol Smith (Manager). Also thanks to Andy Vucko for your help with fitness training. And finally, thanks to our sponsors COSMO International, deWinter Masonry Ltd., and Kris King Sports Consulting.



The Mayor's Twoonie Drive to Ease the Pain of HIV/AIDS in Africa

Phil Poole *Steve Falk* *Mayor Tim Jones*

The York Region Committee in support of the
Stephen Lewis Foundation
Easing the pain of HIV/AIDS in Africa

"We hope to inspire each citizen of Aurora to give a twoonie so we can help those suffering in Africa."

Money to be disbursed by the Stephen Lewis Foundation to those most in need.
www.york4stephenlewis.ca and www.stephenlewisfoundation.org

Get used to this picture...you're going to see it alot. This photo, of Rev. Philip Poole of Aurora's Trinity Anglican Church, Steve Falk and Aurora Mayor Tim Jones will appear on about 50 coin collection boxes to be circulated around Aurora to raise money for the Stephen Lewis Foundation and the fight against AIDS in Africa. The trio, led by Falk, is asking each resident of Aurora to consider donating a "twoonie" to go towards a goal in York Region of raising \$1 million to give to the Foundation at an event in early November.

Chiropractic group seeks new location

Brian Moore, operator of the Moore Chiropractic Group currently located in the Edward Street Plaza, appeared before a recent meeting of the Aurora Heritage Committee to present his proposal for an addition to the front of 14996 Yonge Street.

He told committee members he planned to relocate his practice there and needed the addition to accommodate a new client reception area.

The committee asked that he consult with his architect to redesign plans to relocate the addition to the side and rear of the building.

The former residence located on the southwest corner of Yonge and Kennedy Streets was once home to the York Fine Art Gallery and more recently, Abbotsford Animal Hospital.

Currently the property is designated as urban residential in the official plan, which permits a full range of housing forms and densities.

The plan also includes


policies which permit limited commercial uses such as small scale professional or business offices and studios that are compatible with residential uses.

Following the move to their new location the owners submitted an application for rezoning to permit the property to be used for a greater variety of professional or commercial uses.

Staff indicated that without some idea as to the property's proposed uses, it was impossible to determine the number of parking spaces required. There was also concern about buffer strips and access points.


Co-owner of the Abbotsford Animal Hospital Dr. Jory Bocknek said it was difficult to determine what the use would be until the property was sold.

After further discussion at that time as to how to proceed, staff was directed to clarify the outstanding issues pertaining to the use of the property and parking requirements.



Aurora Minor Hockey Association

Results to 9 AM Sunday, September 26
Website: www.aci.on.ca/amha



Rep Results

Atom

Atom AE 10 East Gwillimbury 1

Dylan Hussey 2G, Kevin Lukezic 2G 1A, Lukas Leslie 1G 2A, Brett Wilson 1G 3A, Jason Lockhart 1G, Jake Langford 1G 1A, Mackenzie Wooder 1G, Dylan Woyslaw 1G.

Atom AE 2 Innisfil 2

Dylan Hussey 1G, Kevin Lukezic 1G 1A, Dylan Woyslaw 2A, Thomas Hagias 1A.

Novice

Novice AA 9 Ajax 1

Liam Coll 1G 2A, Ian Dunlop 1G 1A, Quentin Campbell 1G 1A, Konner McMillan 1G, Jack Caldwell 1G 1A, Connor Graham 1G 1A, Sean Foxwell 1A, Spencer Green 1G, Austin Lane 1G, Branden Fennell 1G, Kyle Locke 1A.

Novice AA 10 Barrie Colts 1

Branden Fennell 2A, Sean Foxwell 3G 1A, Matthew Iwai 2A, Quentin Campbell 1G, Spencer Green 1A, Jack Caldwell 1G 1A, Konner McMillan 1G, Liam Coll 2A, Jordan Nanos 2G, Connor Graham 2A, Kyle Locke 1G, Austin Lane 1A, Ian Dunlop 1G.

Novice A 3 Markham 0

Austin Persaud 2G, Evan Jackson 2A, Brett Thiessen 1A, Scott Kostin 1G, Lucas Pozzebon 1A, Paul Neophytou 1A.

Stouffville 6 Novice A 4

Lucas Pozzebon 2G, Alec Ground 1A, Harrison Smith 1A, Scott Kostin 1G 1A, Paul Neophytou 2A, Erik Balkovec 1A, Evan Jackson 1G, Brett Thiessen 1A.

Novice AE 2 Ajax 1

Graham Robinson 1G, Eric Middleton 1A,

Josh Bell 1G, Ben Ashton 1A.

Richmond Hill 3 Novice AE 1

Eric Middleton 1G, Shannon Murray 1A.

Peewee

Peewee AA 6 Uxbridge 2

Tyler Sikura 1G, Dillon Cappell 3G 1A, Matthew Tuck 2G 1A, Jesse Cappell 1A, Andrew Whitley 2A, Louis Lamanna 1A, Jordan Tripp 2A.

Peewee AA 6 Pickering 0

Matthew Tuck 1G, Luke MacLeod 1G 2A, Spencer Arkell 2A, Jordan Tripp 1G, Louis Lamanna 1A, Dillon Cappell 3G 1A, Tyler Smilsky 1A, Tyler Sikura 2A, Andrew Whitley 1A.

Minor Atom

Richmond Hill 3 Minor Atom AA 2

Stefan Lazzer 2G, Burke White 1A.

Minor Atom AE 5 Stouffville 1

Liam Devlin 1G, Zach Ferry 1G, Ben Hankins 2G, Erik Kimmerer 1A, Jake Martin 1A, Bailey Miller 1A, Matthew Pryse 2A, Vincent Ruscica 1A, Sam Steenhorst 1G.

Minor Atom AE 3 Newmarket 3

Conner Moody 1G, Bailey Miller 1G 1A, Zach Ferry 1G 1A, Erik Kimmerer 1A.

Atom

Atom A 5 Markham 0

Matt Noseworthy 2G 1A, Taylor Butler 1G 1A, Kyle Spicer 1G, Ryan St. Germain 1G, Alex Woodward 1A, Rory MacNeil 1A, Cooper Riswick 1A.

Atom A 3 Bradford 3

Ryan St. Germain 1G, Matt Noseworthy 1G, Taylor Butler 1G 1A, Mark Robertson 1A, Kyle Spicer 1A, Cooper Riswick 2A,

Rory MacNeil 1A.

Minor Peewee

Minor Peewee AA 2 Ajax 0

Chanelle Hassard 1G, Justin Nice 1G, Matthew Mears 1A, Blair Cuthbert 1A, Chris Piron 1A.

Minor Peewee AA 3 Markham 3

Eleeza Cox 1G, Matthew Miller 1G, Chanelle Hassard 1G, Matthew Mears 1A.

Minor Peewee A 4 Barrie Colts 3

Michael Bar 1A, Tristan Miller 2A, Spencer George 1G, Kyle McCreedy 3G.

Minor Peewee AE 7 Whitby 4

Mitchell Sziraky 1G 1A, Brendan Strachan 1G 1A, Dylan Skelton 2G, Brandon Thompson 1G 2A, Michael DiVincenzo 2G, Patrick Jones 2A, Daniel Howie 2A, Luca Battiston 1A, Josh Beaton 1A, Chris Venditelli 1A.

Minor Peewee AE 9 Bradford 2

Daniel Howie 2G, Mitchell Sziraky 3G 1A, Jamie Hawkins 2G 1A, Josh Beaton 2G 2A, Michael DiVincenzo 1A, Alex Thompson 2A, Adam Reid 1A, Dylan Skelton 1A, Nicholas Silverio 1A.

Peewee

Bradford 4 Peewee A 2

Kyle McCreedy 1G, Jordan Figueiredo 1G, Stephen DeMarco 1A.

Peewee A 3 Barrie Colts 1

Shawn Clark 1G, Derrick Hamner 2G, Jeffrey Sanderson 1A, Oliver Boettcher 1A, Taylor Nuttall 2A, Paul Keilty 1A.

Peewee A 3 Bradford 3

Dylan Cross 2G, Ryan Jones 1G, Justin Brown 1A, Sean Ellison 1A.

Minor Bantam

Bradford 5 Minor Bantam A 4

Barrie Colts 4 Minor Bantam A 0

Bantam

Bantam AA 8 Barrie Colts 2

Bantam A 5 NobleKing 1

Spencer McCartney 1G, Nick Crain 1G 1A, Fraser Kegel 1G 3A, Josh Meron 1G 1A, Eric King 1G 1A, Colton Horner 1A, Greg Gianopoulos 1A, Chris Finlay 1A.

Newmarket 4 Bantam A 2

Colton Horner 1G, Eric King 1G 1A, Greg Gianopoulos 1A, Jamie Tuck 1A, Josh Meron 1A.

Minor Midget

Minor Midget AA 5 Georgina 0

Jonathan Adams 1G, Michael Pantalone 2G 2A, Anthony Simone 1A, Harrison Jones 1A, Tyler Virgoe 1G, Jordan Blaser 1A, Alex Fodey 1G, Michael Osuszek 1A.

Windsor 4 Minor Midget A 0

Midget

Midget AA 3 Georgina 2

Taylor Campbell 1G, Nathan Rivard 1G, Michael Osbourne 1G, Tom Keane 2A, Micael Jack 1A, Vinnie Davenport 1A.

Midget AA 2 Oshawa 1

Micael Jack 1G, Daryl Osbourne 1G, Michael Osbourne 1A, Nathan Rivard 1A, Michael White 1A, Brandon Steffan 1A.

Orillia 5 Midget A 2

Ryan Kines 1G, Marc Quagliarini 1G, Calen Simmonds 1A, Dylan MacKinnon 1A, Craig Waites 1A, Matt Cleverdon 1A.

Councillor’s “sham” remark nearly gets Buck evicted

When the report of the Economic Development Advisory Committee was presented to Aurora Council last week, Councillor Evelyn Buck created a heated discussion when she referred to the committee as a "sham".

Councillor Damir Vrancic, committee chairman, took exception to the remark noting that citizen members and the Economic Development Officer were working hard to promote Aurora.

He said the comments were unfair.

Mayor Tim Jones asked that Buck retract her words which at first she refused to do.

However, when threatened with expulsion from the council chambers in accordance with the procedural bylaw, she retracted her comments.



The Oak Ridges Trail has officially been extended through one of the prettiest sections of Aurora...the Case Woodlot off Henderson Drive. Officials held a celebration last week. Marking the occasion are, left to right, Colleen Breen, Stan Butcher, Kim Gavine, Rob Johnston, Mayor Tim Jones, Bill Smith, Ray Matsella and Harold Sellers.

Photo by Courtney Kidd

Minor lacrosse bloomed for a while

Lacrosse was the big game around here in 1884.

At that time -120 years ago - Aurora was selected as the site of the championship games of the western division of the league with teams from Richmond Hill, Brampton, Orangeville, Fergus and Orillia.

More than 600 lacrosse fans watched the final games on October 12, 1884, when the Richmond Hill Young Canadians defeated the other teams to take the title and the trophy, donated by Aurora, back to Richmond Hill.

Fast forward to June, 1967, when Bob Hookings, Larry Keffer, Jim Ivey and others enthusiasts encouraged 40 to 50 boys to attend practice sessions. They hoped to form a four-team league.

They arranged a clinic at the community centre to support the building of a town league.

Sticks for the program were obtained through the offices of the Ontario Athletic Commissioner. Practices were held at the community centre with its shatterproof glass ends said to be ideal for box lacrosse and the league operated until 1970.

In 1978, Pat Harris attempted to renew interest in lacrosse in Aurora by holding a series of clinics for young players.

As president of the Aurora Minor Lacrosse Association (AMLA), he was anxious to remove the stigma that lacrosse was a "goon" sport.

As a result, the game cleaned up its act and the sport started to catch on with residents. In 1980 the Aurora Pee wee team won

the zone "B division.

In June, 1981, the AMLA ran its first open tournament with eight pee wee teams participating.

In April and May, 1982, lacrosse clinics continued for boys and girls between the ages of 10 and16 years interested in learning about "Canada's Fastest Game on Two Feet".

With a grant of \$250 from the Town of Aurora, the second annual open tournament in June, 1982, featured seven teams including Pelham and Huntsville.

The Aurora Mac Fleming pee wee rep team made it to the finals against Erindale losing 8-4. The Aurora Pee wee Selects, an all-star team from the house league, lost to Orillia in the consolation final.

In July, 1982, the season for the Aurora Re-York Midget rep team seemed over.

An incident, which resulted in game suspensions after the team's 16-6 loss to Barrie at the community centre left it with a severely depleted roster.

But in August, the midgets came out of the Ontario Provincial D tournament as silver medalists.

Armed with a nucleus of regular midget players and four reps from the bantam team, the Aurora squad lost the first match to Brampton, then won three in a row before being defeated in the final by Belleville.

But the trophy-winning team was in trouble and on the edge of folding.

A dwindling roster caused Coach Ron Palmer to leave it up to the remaining players to make the decision.

At the third annual

Aurora Open Tournament in 1983, the Guelph pee wee team was too powerful for the Aurora Mac Fleming pee wees in the championship final.

The locals lost 11-3 after defeating Toronto Beaches in the semi-final and Brampton in the opening game.

The Aurora Selects, made up of house league players who had never played as a team, were defeated 14-2 by Barrie in the opening game.

In August, 1983, the Aurora Hewlett's Sports bantam reps reached the second round of the provincial championships before losing to Gloucester 10-2.

By February, 1984, the Aurora Minor Lacrosse Association was gearing up for another season with Colin Graham as association president.

That season the AMLA had registered 86 players and Graham hoped for more than 100 in 1984.

But there was a drastic drop in registrations. and in May that year, registration was 57, resulting in a cut-back in the number of teams and the loss of the house league.

In order to encourage more young players the AMLA decided to take a new approach for 1986 by concentrating on the house league, in addition to fielding travelling rep teams.

In past years the AMLA experienced difficulties with rep teams because of the amount of travelling involved.

However, it didn't work and minor lacrosse, the fastest game on two feet, disappeared from the Aurora sports scene.

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PARTY TIME - Some Aurora members of the York Region Branch of St. John Ambulance attended the SJA Member Appreciation Picnic/BBQ at Sheppard's Bush last week. More than 70 members and 10 therapy dogs from across the region were there. Aurora Lions Club members donated their time to be "chefs" for the day. St John Ambulance is a volunteer organization providing emergency response, emergency first aid assistance, First Aid Training Programs, Baby Sitter Training Programs, Car Seat Check Clinics, Therapy Dog Programs and leadership training for youth. York Region's branch is located at 13025 Yonge St., at the King Sideroad in Oak Ridges. If you are interested in becoming a member or taking a course, call 905-773-3394 for further information.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Provincial plan studies where growth should go

The Ontario government has prepared a growth strategy for the Golden Horseshoe in the form of a discussion paper entitled "Places to Grow", and municipal comments were required to be submitted before the end of September.

The intended outcome of the discussion paper and consultation was a growth management plan for the Golden Horseshoe area over the next 30 years.

The plan includes deciding where growth should occur, it encourages more compact growth and it protects greenlands.

It was in December when the Liberal government promised a greenbelt around the Golden Horseshoe.

The proposed area was designed to protect 600,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land and farmland along the Oak

Ridges Moraine and the Niagara Escarpment.

The government announced a year's development freeze in the study area until it decides which lands are to be protected.

The proposed greenbelt was seen as a means of curbing urban sprawl and encouraging good development in compact, mixed use communities.

Bill 27, the Greenbelt Protection Act, established a moratorium that temporarily prevented new urban uses outside existing urban boundaries in the study area that included a great deal of York Region and the 2C lands in Aurora.

The 2C lands are east of the East Holland River, east of Bayview Avenue to Highway 404.

The development of these lands has been a major issue for Aurora Council since the Growth Management Study.

Last March, following a

lengthy debate, council voted 6-3 to proceed with a natural heritage study for the 2C planning area and directed staff to issue a Request for Proposal to undertake the study.

Council also directed that the study be done to ascertain if any of the lands would meet the regional criteria for inclusion in the regional Greenland system, which would provide for a higher level of protection.

In view of the provincial development freeze staff pointed out that council had the option of delaying the study until after the freeze, but the freeze pro-

vided an opportunity to carry out the study without the pressures of development.

Councillor Evelyn Buck suggested the staff report be adopted and to encourage development of the 2C employment lands.

Councillor Nigel Kean argued it was a waste of time and money to proceed with the study until the province made a decision.

After further discussion, the vote was called and on a 6-3 vote council decided to proceed with the study with Councillors Kean, Wendy Gaertner and Phyllis Morris in opposition.

Aurora man is awarded certificate

On behalf of the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Aurora Mayor Tim Jones presented a Certificate of Commendation to Aurora resident Wade Wanis Khoury last week.

Two years ago, on a pond in Tottenham, a family of five capsized in their small boat. Other boaters in the area helped bring some of the people to safety.

Meanwhile Khoury and another man ran into the water from the shore to bring one child to safety.

The Certificate of

Commendation was created in 1993 to be issued to those who have made a significant contribution by providing assistance to another person.

The commendation is not automatic as eligible candidates are selected through a voting process.

Mayor Jones presented the certificate to Khoury to the applause of members of council and the audience in attendance.

In accepting the award, Khoury stressed the need to wear life jackets in boats.

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Aurora's Own Baby - Almost Three And Look How Big He's Grown!

It was almost three years ago that Gerry took his first baby steps in starting what was to become Aurora's very own Limo/Van Services. He asked for a chance to appear before Aurora's town council.

In an articulate presentation to that august body, he proposed that the town amend its bylaws to allow the unprecedented formation of a new kind of limousine service.

Instead of the ubiquitous Lincoln Town Car or the traditional stretched limousine that immediately spring to everyone's minds, Gerry tried to convince the councillors that a Town and Country minivan could be just as luxurious as a sedan or a small stretch and could do everything that BOTH of them could. It would, of course, have to have a leather interior, a premium Infinity sound system, and a DVD entertainment centre. Council almost unanimously liked the

idea, but voted to send it to staff for a quick feasibility study. Although staff recommended rejection of his idea, Gerry had anticipated this outcome and was ready with a rebuttal presentation. This second presentation was a winning argument and his was the FIRST minivan limo in York Region. Kudos to a council open to new ideas! After a somewhat underwhelming first few months, Gerry realised that his focus was wrong. He had been trying to compete with the local taxi service. Then the penny dropped.

He awoke to the fact that, if people were going on \$4000 to \$8000 trips and cruises and were "shopping around" to save five or ten dollars on

their transportation to the airport, then these were not the client base needed for a successful limousine business. He reasoned that now he should compete with other limo companies. He would have to provide a service that the taxis failed to. He would show up ten minutes before the scheduled pickup time unlike taxis which would be there MAYBE around customers'

departure time dependent, of course, on availability. He would be wearing a suit and tie, driving a more upscale car, opening doors, loading any and all luggage, and make arrange-

ments to pick up clients on their return. So, he purchased a Lincoln Cartier sedan for this upscale service.

Then, he began to see the need to offer an even more exclusive service for his growing clientele. He now provides a black six-passenger stretch for airport, "night out", sightseeing, and corporate services. And now, they can reserve a limo by telephone (905) 726-5885, fax (905) 841-0096, e-mail <reservations@limovan.ca>, or on the Internet <www.limovan.ca>.

The one major hurdle Gerry has had to face in his almost three years has been the inertia of Aurorans in embracing new businesses in their town started by their very own neighbours. He has watched that slowly changing and hopes that they will increasingly "shop locally".

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Aurora Art Show and Sale more than 40 years old

°By DICK ILLINGWORTH

The 7th Annual Aurora Art Show and Sale was held in May, 1969, at the Aurora Community Centre with more than 500 in attendance and numerous paintings were sold.

In addition, ceramics, candles and pastel portraits were displayed and sold.

It was probably the best show and sale held since the event's inception in 1962.

Cathan Shoniker, a member of the Recreation Committee, organized the three-day event, which started with a wine and cheese party on the Friday evening, June Lackie of Newmarket won the Best of Show Award with an Honourable Mention going to Bill Jackson, also of Newmarket.

In the non-professional class, Valerie Ives of Aurora captured top spot with second place going to Lina Grottler of Newmarket.

WHAT GOES AROUND...

The McGuinty Liberal government is currently pushing its discussion paper "Places to Grow, Better Choices, Brighter Futures" designed to contain urban sprawl by limiting growth to 26 key areas.

This follows the Harris Progressive Conservative government "Smart Growth" policy and other government plans to contain urban sprawl which was all talk and little or no action.

These were not the first attempts to curb urban sprawl and prevent the loss of agricultural land.

Back in April, 1991, a representative of the Ministry responsible for the Greater Toronto Area made a presentation to Aurora Council on the Urban Structure Concepts Study.

The study was produced in an effort to begin to analyze how to manage the growth anticipated in the GTA during the next 30 years.

The study examined three concepts for growth: continuing with urban sprawl, centralizing growth within existing areas and creating nodes or compact communities.

It was recommended that the most reasonable approach was a compromise of the latter two concepts.

But there has never been a political will at the provincial or the municipal level of putting action to the words.

Thompson project moving again

A long established Aurora funeral business plans to move to a new location at the northeast corner of Yonge Street and Industrial Parkway but the plan has been fraught with complications.

Final approval was granted at last week's council meeting but not without controversy.

Thompson's Funeral Home, a family business since 1922, was sold in 1988, although it continued to use the name.

The new owners recently acquired the former Chapman property at the across from the Aurora Chamber of Commerce for

a new funeral home, moving it away from Victoria Street where it had been since its inception..

A public meeting was held in May and no one spoke in support or opposition to the application.

An official plan amendment including a condition pertaining to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan was approved by council in June.

Some concern was expressed about parking and staff replied that number of parking spaces exceeded the parking spaces required by the zoning bylaw.

Stop signs irk councillor

Aurora Councillor Evelyn Buck questioned a report of the Traffic Safety Advisory Board at last week's council meeting, noting Dave Watson of Gurnett Street had appeared before the Board to indicate the multi-way stop at the intersection of Gurnett Street and Kennedy Street East was not needed.

Watson also appeared at the August council meeting to object to the

multi-way stop and Buck said she agreed with him.

It was pointed out that council had previously approved the recommendations of the TSAB and Watson had appeared at council after the fact and had been only been allowed to speak as a courtesy.

It was also noted that the action taken by council was on a six-month trial basis and the issue would resurface at that time.

FAIRY TALE COMES TRUE

It was in 1984 when 23-year-old Shan Sheehan wrote a song about the Queen's Plate, the longest running horse race in North America.

She loved music and horses and combined the two.

She made a tape of her song, accompanied by Roger Cassey on guitar. She sent it to the CBC. They advised they couldn't use it, but didn't return the tape.

She continued to write songs mainly for her own pleasure with the hope that something might develop in the future.

She was active with Theatre Aurora and performed in "Gypsy" and "Evita".

She also appeared on stage at Howard Johnson Aurora.

Then, in 1988, she received a call from Dave Naylor of CBC Sports Weekend. He found the tape and was able to track down the songwriter.

He asked her to sing the song for a video to introduce the running of the Queen's Plate.

As she sang the lyrics, accompanied by Cassey, pictures of the horses and other actions were taken to accompany the words.

CLEANEST CRUISERS IN ONTARIO

Back in September, 1969, in the days when the monthly accounts were included as part of council's agenda, Councillor Norm Stewart referred to an item of \$60 for car washes for the town's two cruisers and noted they must be the cleanest cruisers in the province.

Council asked its police committee to look into the police department's cleanliness drive.

A DRIVER HIT AND RAN FOR A CAN OF PAINT

Believe it or not but back in September, 1969, there was some honour in individuals who broke the law. An unknown driver who damaged a parked car on Foreht Crescent didn't get caught but he tried to make amends.

According to police whoever did the damage tried to undo it. The culprit apparently returned to the scene later and covered the damage with black paint.

BEST LAID PLANS

In May, 1991, it looked as if Aurora teens would soon

It was recommended that a traffic and parking study be carried out, as there was concern about high attendance funerals.

Council approved the application subject to all the conditions being met.

On the property is a stone pier from the former radial railway and Thompson's has agree to preserve it.

Two buildings are proposed for the site with the one-storey funeral parlour to the west and a two-storey professional building to the east.

At a recent general committee meeting staff reported that all conditions had been met and recommended the Director of Planning be authorized to enter into a site plan agreement with the applicant.

However, some committee members still expressed concern about parking and the issue was referred back to staff.

Last week, Gary Templeton, a planner representing the applicant, appeared before council and said the parking was adequate.

He pointed out that the zoning bylaw required one parking space for every five seats in the chapel and with 120 seats, 24 spaces were required.

There were two sitting rooms with an additional 50

seats requiring a total of 34 spaces, but 55 are being provided, he said.

If necessary, extra parking could be provided in one section of the property planned for landscaping.

This was confirmed by a staff memo. It was also noted that the existing Victoria Street facility had only 37 spaces.

After questioning by Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who had originally raised the parking issue, the report was adopted.

The next controversy involved the enacting bylaw.

Councillor John West moved the adoption of the bylaw, but others objected claiming it wasn't on the agenda and copies of the bylaw had not been circulated.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said it was difficult to understand all the delaying tactics being used, and quoted figures as to what the new facility would mean to the town in increased assessment and taxes.

She pointed out that for many years there had been very limited parking at the Victoria Street location until the neighbouring house had been purchased and demolished to provide parking.

Council allowed the bylaw to be circulated and adopted, allowing the project to continue.

have a club of their own, complete with a sound system for dancing, video games and pool tables.

Leisure Services Director Allan Seabrooke suggested a teen committee be established to help plan and operate the drop-in centre.

He pointed out that during the past few years the department had attempted to offer a variety of organized programs for teens and for the most part they were unsuccessful, as the teens liked to organize and operate the activities themselves.

He pointed out that the recently completed Master Recreation Plan stressed the urgent need for a teen meeting place and suggested the Church Street School.

What happened...the youths are still waiting for their long-promised centre.



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RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

Proposal would see big boxes in east end

From page 1

was suggested the meeting be considered as an information session and a formal public planning meeting be held at a future date.

Council members agreed and directed staff to convene two or more meetings following completion of the peer review.

A special council meeting was scheduled for July 29 but the meeting was never held and the subdivision agreement for the State Farm development was approved at a September council meeting on a 7-2 vote with Councillors Morris and Gaertner in opposition.

It was reported that the market study indicated the town needed the additional commercial space due to growth and to stop the annual outflow of approximately \$137 million to neighbouring commercial areas.

It was also pointed out the proposed project would create 2,100 jobs and \$350,000 in municipal taxes.

At last week's public planning meeting staff reported that a revised conceptual plan had been received providing a larger component of office space and improved urban design.

David Butler and Scott Morgan of the peer review team pointed out that the market study indicated the town had matured to the extent that additional retail commercial was required with a strong regional orientation to attract regional trade and to reduce the outflow.

The proposal now is to add a 540,000 square feet retail/commercial power centre on 81 acres with 49 acres for the retail/commercial power centre, 23 acres for an office/business park and the remainder for roads and a storm water management pond, but does not include a theatre complex as originally proposed.

They stated the planning analysis indicated neither the downtown core nor the Bayview Wellington shopping area would be significantly weakened by the Whitwell development.

It was also suggested the Bayview Wellington commercial area be given first opportunity to secure a cinema complex.

Betty Reid, a resident of Leslie Street, said it had been her understanding the Whitwell property had been designated as a Business Park, not a commercial/retail centre. She strongly opposed the

inclusion of a Wal-Mart.

She pointed out that 220 communities in the United States wouldn't allow a Wal-Mart store and some Canadian cities were taking the same action. She stressed Aurora didn't need a Wal-Mart.

Tim Fleming, a resident of Leslie Street, expressed concern about the loss of wildlife habitat if the development proceeded. He also expressed environmental and traffic concerns.

Another resident expressed concern about the land being cleared before approval was granted and claimed the town was putting the cart before the horse. He also expressed concern about the cost to taxpayers of the peer review team and questioned if they had a conflict of interest.

He said the town was getting a parking lot at the eastern entrance to the municipality and approval of the development could mean the death of the downtown core area.

Other speakers also expressed concern about the adverse impact the proposed development would have on the downtown core area and council should proceed with the original designation of a Business Park.

It was also suggested that if the development should proceed the developers be required to contribute \$250,000 to the merchants in the downtown core as was done in Huntsville.

Another speaker said the tax base of the new development was needed and jobs would be provided by the development. But he suggested that the developer be required to be more creative in implementing the development to make it look more attractive.

On a motion by Councillor John West and Evelyn Buck staff was directed to prepare the official plan and zoning bylaw amendments subject to the resolution of outstanding issues, on the basis it would provide additional assessment and taxation and provide employment.

The previous evening at the council meeting during the discussion on the approval of the State Farm plan of subdivision when there was some confusion with the Whitwell application, Buck shared Mrs. Reid's concern about big box stores at the entrance to the municipality.

It was pointed out council had approved the big box

store concept when they approved the application for Home Depot on Bayview Avenue, so it would be difficult to oppose it now.

Councillor Phyllis Morris opposed the motion claiming the site had been designated a Business Park and it should remain that way, as council had been advised there were no decent employment lands available, and council was flipping prestige industrial lands to retail.

Buck replied that the lands were being used as employment lands and they had been analyzed to death and the project would benefit the municipality. She added that the remaining downtown merchants had survived for years and

would continue to survive.

Councillor Ron Wallace said that while he was not in support of big box stores and would not likely ever enter a Wal-Mart he would support the project as it was good for the town.

He noted that none of the downtown merchants were in attendance to oppose the proposed project.

He also pointed out that State Farm had submitted an application four years ago and there had been nothing but roadblocks when the town needed commercial assessment.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner said she had several problems with the proposal including the entranceway, the need of protection for the downtown

merchants and the future of the 2C lands.

She noted a memo from the Economic Development Officer that said the revised conceptual plan was better than the original as it provided for a more functional, efficient and marketable office campus, but identified some issues relating to access, streetscape and concern that the power centre not overwhelm the office campus.

It wasn't the first time Whitwell had submitted an application to build a shopping centre on the site. Back in the early 1990s Aurora Council was considering three applications for shopping plazas and Whitwell was included.

The Whitwell proposal

included a community library and sports centre, a theatre, cinemas and a hotel with the first stage ready to proceed in 1998/99.

The other two were Markborough Properties at the southeast corner of Bayview Avenue and Wellington Street East and the Bayview Wellington Developments on the west side of Bayview Avenue north of Wellington Street.

After several public meetings and considerable controversy, council selected the Bayview Wellington proposal, but after receiving approval, Cadillac Fairview declared bankruptcy.

Another developer completed the project but not as an enclosed mall, which had originally been proposed.

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OCTOBER 9
1) 59 Primeau Dr. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. & October 10.
2) Moorcrest Dr. at Old Yonge - MOVING SALE 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

CLASSES • SEMINARS • WORKSHOPS • COURSES

Directory

BUSINESS SEMINAR

WEALTH CREATION and Protection Strategies

For BUSINESS OWNERS Breakfast Seminar

Hosted by:
John Ridd, Wealth Advisor
and
Robert W. Parypa, Investment Advisor

BMO Nesbitt Burns on
Wednesday, October 13th, 2004
7:30 am to 8:30 am
at Jonathan's Restaurant

14845 Yonge Street, Aurora.
Seating is limited.
Please RSVP to Christina.
Northcott@NBPCD.com
905-830-4175

BMO Nesbitt Burns
Private Client Division

YOGA CLASSES

YOGA IN AURORA
Mon., &/or Wed. evening 7:30pm - 8:30pm
Mon. &/or Fri., morning 9:15am - 10:30 am

NEW TEEN SESSION STARTING OCT 5th TUES. 4:45 - 5:45pm

Andrea Roth
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- ADULT WED. MORNING CLASSES
- CHILDREN SAT. CLASSES
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- BIRTHDAY PARTIES

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- life drawing
- no artistic experience necessary

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Judy Sherman (905)726-8883 / ml.design@sympatico.ca

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October 12th, 2004
Old Town Hall in Newmarket
8:30 am - 11:30 am
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\$10 - Front door main floor - everyone welcome - includes light breakfast

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