Wells St. School does it again See page 9

905-727-3300



Vol. 5 No. 2

AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Week of October 26, 2004

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Winners in the annual Aurora Chamber of Commerce "Celebration of Business" event last week took time out for the cameras, above. Jaguar Gymnastics Club Inc. was selected Business of the Year, and Everett Woods accepts award from Chamber director Bruce Johnson, left, who was chairman of the event, while Robin Tidd of Canada Law Book won top honours as Business Person of the Year, right. All results appear in your Auroran this week on Page 7.

Photos by Rob Schuetze



Leash-free park opens Thursday

The Town of Aurora, with the support of its volunteer Leash-Free Park Committee members, will open Aurora's first leash-free park Thursday.

The concept for the leash-free park came about five years ago, when local residents brought the idea to Town staff.

Bylaw Services Coordinator, Chris Alexander, established a committee, made up of four residents, to begin the process of researching and putting all the proper steps in place to

make it happen.

"After much hard work and dedication by our volunteer committee members, we are excited to finally see the park become a reality," he said. "We are confident that many residents and their pets will realize hours of enjoyment in this safe, leash-free environment.'

Residents and their pets are invited to the grand opening of the park, scheduled for 1 p.m. at the site on the east side of Industrial Parkway North, just south of St.

John's Sideroad.

Membership in the park will be free to all residents and their pets until the end of 2004.

As of January 1, residents using the park must purchase a \$10 membership for their pet.

Membership revenue collected by the Town will be used to maintain and add landscaping features throughout the park.

Based on research conducted by animal behaviour experts, leash-free zones allow dogs an opportunity to become better

socialized, resulting in more positive behavioural traits.

The Town's leash-free park will also allow residents an opportunity to meet with like-minded neighbours, while allowing pets some recreational freedom, with an expectation of reducing the number of dogs running-at-large.

For more information on how to purchase a pet license or about membership fees for the leashfree park, contact the Bylaw Services Division at 905-727-3123 ext. 4240.

Parade planning kicks into high gear

The leaves may still be on the trees, and there's no snow (thankfully) to be seen yet, but that hasn't stopped Aurora's Special Events Committee from planning the annual Santa Claus Parade.

And once again, following on the successes of previous years, the parade, officially known as Santa Under The Stars, will be a nighttime extravaganza.

Scores of float entries have already been received by the committee, ensuring, once again, that the parade will be the largest in York Region, and certainly larger than any other parade in

An estimated 40,000 people are expected to watch.

Special Events Coordinator Julie Geering issued a reminder this week that Yonge Street will be closed from St. John's Sideroad to Orchard Heights Blvd. from 3 to 5.30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 27, to allow for the parade's forma-

Yonge Street, south of that area, will be closed to south of Murray Drive, once the parade gets underway and remain closed until 8 p.m.

"If you have guests coming in from out of town, they should know about these closures," she said.

"Thank you for your patience concerning this event, and we hope this has not inconvenienced you too much.

It's still not too late to enter a float. If you wish to do so, call Julie at (905) 727-3123 ext. 4762. Deadline is November 19th.



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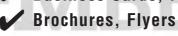
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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

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

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 Street, every Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. Wednesdays 5.30 - 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, call 905-727-6101.

Gamblers Anonymous, every Tuesday night, Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street,

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

Co-Dependents Anonymous, every Tuesday, Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge Street, Aurora, 7.30 p.m.

9 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 tobe-retired business and professional people and guests are welcome.

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

Meditation classes in Aurora Wednesday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m. 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.

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night. Aurora Legion. 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

Operation Catch-Up presents free "Tutoring and Homework Help" for ages 10 to 18 years every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. during the regular school year at the Victoria Street Library. Call 905-773-7024 for details.

Each Monday in November, yard waste will be collected if the waste is curbside by 7 a.m. Yard waste must be in clear plastic bags, open containers or kraft paper bags for visual inspection. For more information as to what is eligible for pick-up call 905-727-1375 extension 3447

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 905-71 et information.

A public information session will be held at 7 p.m. in the Holland Room of the Town Hall to provide information regarding an application to redesignate lands north of the Leisure Services Complex from industrial to residential for a seven-storey, 82-unit apartment building and 191 townhouses

OCTOBER 29

Fabulously Freaky Friday Hallowe'en Party at the Leisure Complex. Games and pumpkin carving. Costumes mandatory. 7 - 9 p.m. Register in advance, 905-841-7529.

This is the last day for submitting applications to serve on one of the sub-committees of the Environmental Advisory Services Committee. Sub-committees are naturalization/wildlife, bylaws/policy, planning, public awareness/public education and waste management. For more information call 905-727-3123 extension 4220.

Aurora Seniors' Hallowe'en Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the Seniors Centre Tickets \$4 and space is limited. At 8 p.m. it's Broomstick Ball Masguerade Dance. Call the centre at 905-726-2816 for further information.

Refresher driving course for seniors at the Aurora Town Hall (Municipal Offices) under the auspices of the Aurora Seniors' Centre, 9.30 a.m. to noon. Call Kim Hinder at the Aurora Seniors' Centre 905-727-2816 to

Fish Fry, Aurora Legion. 6 p.m. Call 905-

OCTOBER 30

Hallowe'en Party. Aurora Legion Lounge. 8 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

OCTOBER 31

Girls Incorporated of York Region presents its 25th Annual Thrill on the Hill at St. Andrew's College. Registration at 8 a.m. with a warm-up at 9.45 for a 10 a.m. start. Call 905-727-4897 extension 305 for details.

NOVEMBER 2

Aurora Seniors visit the Stratford Festival to see the musical "Guys and Dolls" with lunch at the Walper Terrace Hotel. Depart the Community Centre at 9 a.m. returning about 6.30 p.m. Cost is \$93 for members and \$98 for non-members. Call the Seniors Centre at 905-727-2816 to register.

NOVEMBER 3

Computer workshop "Outlook Express Email" at Aurora Public Library in conjunction with Aurora Cable Internet. Magna Room, 7 p.m. Register at the adult information desk or phone 905-727-9493, Option 4.

NOVEMBER 4-5

Aurora Rotary Club hosts the 2nd Annual Magic Show, featuring Claude Haggerty, at the Aurora High School. Two shows, 7 p.m. each evening. Tickets on sale at Highland Chev Cadillac, The Auroran, Ideal Tile & Carpet and from any Rotarian.

NOVEMBER 6

The York Highland Chorus of Sweet Adelines concert at the Newmarket Theatre called "Harmonize for the Cure" to raise funds for the Canadian Breast Care Foundation of Canada.

NeighbourLink Heart of York, a network of 10 local churches, including Aurora Cornerstone Church, is holding a Christmas dinner and silent auction at the Newmarket Community Church, 145 Pony Drive, beginning at 6 p.m. For tickets and information call the NeighbourLink Resource Centre at 905-895-0615.

Trefoil Guild of Girl Guides of Canada holiday bazaar at Trinity Anglican Church, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Table space available. Call 905-841-2874.

York Regional Police Male Chorus 12th Annual "In Harmony With the Community" fundraiser at the St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Leslie Street, Newmarket. 7.30 p.m. Music provided by Ottawa, Toronto, Waterloo, and York with guest community choir The Crusaders from the Holland Marsh. Tickets \$10. Event is usually a sell-out. Call 905-727-9676 for tickets.

NOVEMBER 13

Trinity Anglican Church holds its annual ACW Christmas Bazaar at the church from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the theme "Sugar-n-Spice". Tables will include attic treasures, jewelry and Christmas gift items. For more information call June Harkness at 905-841-

Our Lady of Grace Parish Catholic Women's League 9th Annual Christmas Fair & Artisans Sale at the Parish Hall, 15347 Yonge Street, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A hot "spud" luncheon and baked goods table will highlight the Christmas Bazaar sponsored by St. Andrew's Guild. The bazaar runs from 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Victoria and Mosley streets; luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets: \$5 for adults, \$2 for children ages 4-

NOVEMBER 14

Bid euchre, Aurora Legion, 1 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

NOVEMBER 16

Travel photography slide show with Ralph Brunner of Aurora Nature Photography at the Aurora Public Library, 7-9 p.m. in the Lebovic Room. Pre-register at the adult information

NOVEMBER 20

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of York Region Gala Auction at Dinardo's Mansion,

Industrial Parkway South. Call 905-727-1251 for further information.

NOVEMBER 23

Local author Dan Bortolotti discusses his new book "Hope In Hell: Inside the World of Doctors Without Borders" at the Aurora Public Library in the Magna Room, 7 p.m. Pre-register at the adult information desk.

NOVEMBER 27

Santa Claus Parade, 6 p.m.

DECEMBER 5

Celebrate Christmas at Hillary House. Drop in from 2 to 4 p.m. Adults \$5 and children 12 and under \$3.

DECEMBER 8

Aurora Seniors travel to Toronto for the musical comedy "Hairspray" followed by dinner at Joe Badali's Restaurant. Cost is \$99 for members, \$104 for non-members. Call the Seniors' Centre to register at 905-727-2816.

DECEMBER 11

The Hillary House Players at 7 p.m. \$10 per person. Call 905-727-8991 to reserve.

JANUARY 15 - 23

Leave the winter behind and join the Aurora Seniors for a luxury cruise aboard MS Westerdam for seven days of warmth and pleasure on a Western Caribbeam cruise that includes ports in Bahamas, Jamaica, Grand Cayman and Mexico. Book early as space is limited. Call Kim Hinder at the Seniors' Centre to register at 905-727-2816.

- With files from Info Aurora

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To support the Thanksgiving Food Drive, students from Aurora's Lester B. Pearson Public School collected more than 195 pounds of apples for the York Region Food Network. The Network delivered the apples to the Aurora Food Pantry and the Women's Centre of York Region, which is also located in Aurora. In the photo, left to right, are Patty Albert, parent volunteer; Isabel Brims, Grade 2; Mitchell Albert, Grade 2; Elizabeth Bishenden, Network Director; Stuart Bishenden, Network volunteer; Christian Bilé, Grade 2; and David Simpson, Pearson principal.

become a collector Aurora may

If you purchased a General Motors Aurora model of Oldsmobile back in 1995-1997 when they were manufactured, hang on to it as the orphan may become a classic.

When the Aurora model was first introduced in the fall of 1994, Aurora Mayor John West made an attempt to have GM launch the new model right here in Aurora but it was unsuccessful.

According to so-called car experts, the Aurora will become a classic because it was a desirable car when new, it was only manufactured in 1995-97 and at the end of 2004, it becomes an

All Auroras were fourdoor sedans and were powered with a 250-hp, 4.0-litre V8 mated to a four-speed electronically controlled automatic.

With its unique styling, it resembled luxury Japanese cars of the day more than anything else from GM.

With the name alone, it deserves to become a





*based on full program, excludes product, offer expires Nov 2/04

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to our Ten Thanksgiving Draw Winners!

Pia Amsler, Heather Cooper, Pat Penney, Goldie Sutton, Emma Weidemeyer, Mary Haberer, Valerie Sweet, Rhonda Sanders, Ilse Dunlop, Nancy Jane Collard



Promotional Director Marjorie Saunders presented two turkeys to Blue Hills **Child and Family Services**

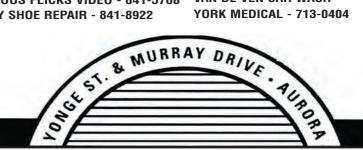
The Turkeys were donated by the merchants of the Aurora Shopping Centre



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Poor Richard

Confusion surrounds daylight saving time, but fall back Sunday

The time has come to fall back, The evenings become dark and cold; Daylight Saving Time is over, Change the clocks, we are told!

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

The nights are closing in with the approach of the winter season and the full extent of the loss of the evening hours of daylight will hit home this weekend when daylight saving time (DST) ends with darkness falling an hour earlier.

We take daylight saving time for granted as we put the clocks forward an hour in the spring and back an hour in the fall, without any legislative authority, unless it was approved recently.

The Ontario Time Act provided the Lieutenant Governor in Council with the authority to make regulations varying the reckoning of standard time but under the Act there was no authority for municipalities to change standard time to DST or vice versa.

I can recall when first elected to Aurora Council in 1963 the town receiving a letter from the Railway Association asking council to proclaim the period from the last weekend in April to the last weekend in October in order that the railways could prepare train

Aurora, issued a proclamation which was published in the local press.

The majority of urban municipalities, including

Most rural municipalities remained on standard time, or as the farmers called it, "cow's time".

The custom was generally accepted and it wasn't long before the annual letter from the Railway Association stopped coming and municipalities stopped proclaiming it, but DST continued, without legislative authority.

Back in 1784, Benjamin Franklin, while stationed in France, first proposed the concept of giving families more daylight, but it was rejected.

Then, in 1907, an English builder, William Willett, expressed concern about people wasting daylight hours as valuable recreation time and published a pamphlet "A Waste of Daylight".

Daylight Saving Time was first used in Canada as a federal war measure during the First World War.

Following the war it became a provincial or municipal responsibility until September, 1940, when the federal Minister of Munitions and Supply announced an extension of DST in Ontario and Quebec.

In January, 1942, Ottawa changed the DST legislation to apply to all of Canada in order to conserve energy for war production and the time change remained in effect until September, 1945.

By 1973, most provinces had adopted legislation pertaining to daylight saving time, with the exception

In the absence of province-wide legislation, there was considerable confusion as some municipalities proclaimed the change and others didn't.

In 1974, the federal government advised all provinces that the National Research Council was carrying out research on DST and it was suggested that a federal/provincial technical committee be established to carry out the review in an effort to get uniformity across Canada and the United States.

I was selected to represent Ontario on the technical committee, which was a most interesting and challenging assignment.

After a period of study it was agreed that as sunrise on March 1st was nearly identical with sunrise on November 1st, DST should commence on the first weekend in March and terminate on the first weekend in November.

It was believed that our proposal would add more than a billion man-hours of useful daylight in Canada. would reduce motor vehicle accidents and save on hydro bills.

I submitted my report and recommendation to the government that Ontario adopt the March to November period of DST, but a poll indicated that the majority of the public, especially in rural and Northern Ontario were content with the status quo.

In 1987, the government compromised by extending the period of DST from the last weekend in April to the first.

So, in April, Ontarians spring forward and in October fall back, as they try to understand daylight

It's not mandatory that you stay up, but the official time to fall back is 2 a.m. Sunday.





We can't answer basic questions, like when these photos were taken or who was in them, but we are fascinated with the two front yard views of Church Street School and the railings in place at the time of each picture. Obviously the top photo is the older of the two and the stairs' railings are massive. The top photo actually was a postcard. The bottom photo, meanwhile, shows major change to the railings, and what you're looking at is a Grade 8 class, but we don't know exactly when it was taken. Now then, everyone grab your copy of last week's Auroran and turn to Page 4. That's Illtyd Harris playing the piano. Thanks to Joan Patterson (you'll find her there as Joan Holder), here's who else is in that photo. Back row, left to right, Jill Morning, Shirley Faulkner, Gayle Milne, Barbara Hayes, Shirley Wright, Beverly Billings and Lorna Maxwell. In the front row are Robin Noble, Shirley Hayes, Joan Holder, Sandra Heany, Lorna Elmer, Eileen Cole, Audrey Cole, Ruth Hayes, Nan Dennis and Marda Seidel. The girl standing alone beside the piano is Elizabeth Buchanan. Joan relates to the signficance of "small-town Aurora" pointing out the Hayes girls are all sisters and are nieces of teacher Isabel Hayes, the two Cole girls are sisters, and Gayle, Sandra, Elizabeth and Joan are cousins. We also acknowledge the help of Margaret Griffith identifying some of the singers. She says the picture was taken in October, 1949.

Letter to the Editor

Nathan will get his service dog

To the editor,

Further to our letter in The Auroran in May, our family is thrilled to report that, with the assistance of many people in Aurora, all the funds needed for our 14-year-old son Nathan to receive a trained service dog have been raised!

Nathan has autism, is deaf and has a severe seizure disorder that prevents him from attending school on a regular basis.

His service dog is in the training program now and we anticipate receiving the dog in the spring.

This dog will be a best friend and companion for Nathan, keeping him safe at

home and in the community. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the many people who Auroran who not only facilitatresponded to our letter.

We received donations from friends, family, neighbours and fellow Aurorans who we did not even know or hadn't seen in years, but who read about Nathan and called us to help

Thanks to all of them, plus organizations responded so generously: the Optimist Club of Aurora, St. Andrew's College Association, the Rotary Club of Aurora, T.O.A.S.T. (Town of Aurora Staff Together). Stantec Consulting, Aurora Senior Public School, last year's Grade 6's at The Country Day School, and friends on staff at both The Country Day School and St.

Andrew's College. Special thanks to The ed all this by "spreading the word", but who also donated generously to National Service Dogs on Nathan's

National Service Dogs,

based in Cambridge, specializes in providing children with autism with trained service

behalf.

Families are required to help raise \$12,000 in order to receive a trained dog as the organization receives no gov-

ernment funding. Our family is so looking forward to this wonderful opportunity for Nathan, and we have many people in Aurora to thank for making this a possibility for our son!

The Jackson Family Aurora

"Aurora's Community Newspaper"

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Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

Small business alive and well

A few months ago, the Town's Economic Development Officer and I met with representatives from the Federation of Independent Business who were somewhat critical about the fact that we appeared to be in fairly good shape with our small business in Town but no one seemed to know about it.

In response to that, our Economic Development Officer has assembled some interesting information in this regard which I would like to share with you.

He writes: "the vast majority of business enterprises in Ontario are small, with nearly three-quarters of the province's businesses having fewer than five employees.

However, one should not be misled about the critical role these types businesses play in the Province's and Canada's overall economy.

In fact, SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) employ more than half of working Ontarians, create most of the net new jobs, and are a reliable barometer for the province's economy. The Town of Aurora's economy is especially reflective of the

Provincial situation. In 2003, SMEs (companies employing fewer than 20 employees) comprised the majority of Aurora's businesses,

representing almost 85 per cent of the total number.

In the last five years, Aurora's small businesses have continued to grow and prosper laying the foundation for an expanding economy that has attracted a number of larger sized firms and reinforced the Town's attractiveness to business invest-

Town officials believe the reason for Aurora's continued success in this regard is its commitment to improving its overall tax ratios and the creation of an almost balanced tax system.

A Positive Story for Aurora in Two Major Studies

Aurora's progress in balancing its tax system, which has resulted in commercial and industrial tax ratios that are among the lowest in the province, was recently recognized by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB).

In an August 2003 Press Release, which highlighted the conclusions outlined in their 2003 report entitled, "Paying Down the Property Tax Overdraft - A Progress Report on Municipal Taxation Practices in 66 Ontario Municipalities, 2000 to 2002," the CFIB formally applauded Aurora for being one of the few municipalities in Ontario to markedly improve its tax system, writing that Aurora's tax system, "not only shows great sensitivity to the needs of local business, but its smart municipal policy gives Aurora a real competitive edge."

Aurora Tax Ratios - 2004

Property Class	Total	Municipal	Provinci
Residential	1	1	1
Commercial	2.4	1.2	5.7
Industrial	2.7	1.4	6.3

Aurora Tax Ratios - 2000

Property Class	Total	Municipal	Provincial
Residential Commercial Industrial	1 2.5 3.2	1 1.2 1.5	1 5.6 6.9

Another study prepared by the firm Bruzzesse, Minshull & Associates (BMA) entitled the '2002 Municipal Competitiveness Study', which provides a comparative baseline examination of 54 Ontario municipalities, also presents evidence to underscore Aurora's progress in balancing taxes for all sectors.

The results of this Study confirm that Aurora's taxes are extremely competitive and the data corroborates the following:

"Aurora's tax rates are lower than the average percentages in all property classes for all of the municipalities surveyed;

"Tax ratios in York Region as a whole are among the lowest found in the survey, with the lowest comparative ratios in the commercial and industrial classes. This is important since tax ratios represent a clear incentive to encourage commercial and industrial activity:

"The comparative tax burden on commercial properties in Aurora is 'Low';

"Aurora's tax rates for industrial properties are 'Low' in comparison to other municipalities."

It is clear both from the CFIB Report and the BMA Study that the Town is doing its part to create a more competitive and equitably distributed tax rate that lessens the burden on the local business community.

Even with other non-municipal (i.e., Provincial and Education) taxes added to the total, Aurora's non-residential tax rates continue to be relatively low when compared with many other GTA jurisdictions.

The result is that business investment in the Town is growing, along with the local economy."

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





Letter to the Editor

Machell's Corners

Who entered Irene's name?

To the editor,

It was just great.

The SOYRA (Society of York Region Artists) Fall Show and Sale, held for the first time in the halls of the Royal Canadian Legion in Aurora, was attractive.

There was lots of praise from the public for the quality of art on display.

This appreciation was not idle talk. Many of the pieces now have a new place in the homes of our visitors.

Artists as well as the public enjoyed the fine facility. Our organization had the super co-operation of the staff from "The Legion". A great bunch of people.

Many thanks also to our other sponsors, whose support made it a lot easier to make it all happen: Graystones, Jonathan's, Auroran, GO Auto, Biggs' Gallery and Framing, Extreme Property Care and Lads and

Lasses have shown themselves as true friends of Aurora art events.

Barb Cotton volunteered her time and services during opening night by having us put her fee towards the funds we raised for the new cancer centre to be built in Newmarket.

Joe Oppenauer, who entertained us with his classical music on guitar, did the same.

Phyllis Morris took time out of her hectic schedule, wearing two hats, deputy mayor of Aurora and chairperson of Southlake Regional Health Centre Special Gifts Capital Campaign.

She not only opened the show and handed out the certificates of merit, but also pleased the artists by minding

Councillor Ron Wallace, always around to support a worthy cause, was there, camera in hand. God only knows how many hats this

man wears

Thank you so much, Mrs. Morris and Mr. Wallace. Aurora is lucky to have you.

And thank you, members of the public, for standing behind your local artists and for supporting us by not only purchasing their artwork, but also the raffle tickets to assist us in the fight against cancer.

You made it a successful event. It is you who give us the strength and the encouragement to keep going.

And what happened to the

painting, so generously donated by SOYRA member Anthony Palmer?
The draw took place

Sunday afternoon and the winner is Irene Vernon of Aurora.

Irene has been informed

she now has to come up with some photographs of a place very dear to her. This photograph will be turned into an oil painting by Anthony Palmer.

The question at the

person who put Irene Vernon's name on the raffle

ticket?

Irene lives in a seniors' home and did not feel well enough to attend the art show.

Hopefully, the person who wrote Irene's name down will read this letter and put an end to her search.

Thank you, unknown per-

son, you not only supported

the fight against cancer, you also pleased an elderly lady by so unselfishly entering her name instead of your own.

People, as I'm writing this I

can't help but feeling so darn lucky and happy to keep on running into one great person after another. SOYRA is grateful for

being a part of this wonderful community and it's my hope we can please each other for a long time to come.

Bill van Oorschot SOYRA Chairperson



Cathy's Corner



Let's talk about 21 Wellington East

Aurora is a small town.

The thing about a small town is that when you don't know what you're doing, everybody else does.

When you don't know what you're doing, and you're doing it at Yonge and Wellington, chances are, somebody will stop and ask: "What are you doing?"

They know perfectly well what you are doing. They just want to see if you do.

I thought I knew what I was doing.

Last fall, we renovated our kitchen. But by the time the dumpster had been fed a ground floor, and side orders of ceramic chips, mashed drywall and fried ceiling fans, I was no longer sure that "renovating" was what I was doing.

No, it felt more like I was building my very own unnatural disaster.

I knew I was in trouble when I started running out to the curb on garbage day, singing "Please Mister, Please!"

Yes, I thought I knew what I was doing then, but now...so does everybody else in Aurora.

Does 21 Wellington Street East sound familiar?

If you have happened to be taking the pylon challenge lately (that is, driving through the four corners of Aurora), and admiring the stately red-brown house with the unsightly dumpster, even more unsightly johnny-on-the-spot, and the ever so gruesome parking problem, then you might have wondered: what the hell are they doing over there?

I've had the same question on my mind.

Except I would be the one in charge, so it is not cool to say "duh...".

Like I said, I thought I knew what I was doing, but now I know that you haven't really renovated until you've renovated

. . .

When we first began the project, we thought it was going to be "fun"...no, make that "FUN!"

Hey, what could be more physically invigorating, mentally revitalizing and emotionally soothing than an intimate weekend with an axe, a sledge hammer and a crowbar?

For a while, it was almost as therapeutic as paintball.

You wouldn't believe how many people wanted a piece of the action! Thank God for friends like Brian and Ali. And God bless

Phillip, Michael, Zach and Tim. See, God made testosterone for a reason.

Oh, and let's not forget the child labour: Matthew and Justine.

They chiseled away, cleaning bricks from the garage to be reused elsewhere for repairs, and at the end of it all, the brick-layer said they don't have to go to university after all.

He's guaranteed them employment for life. Bargain, huh?

It has been a long and dusty road, full of surprises (future column), secrets (stay tuned) and revisions (a.k.a. budget overruns) along the way, but the nightmare is almost over and the dream is about to begin.

In November, the house that Damir and I fell in love with at first sight, and stared at lovingly from across the street for years will finally be home to his law office.

It is good to know what you're doing, but is even better to

Cathy Vrancic welcomes e-mail at: laughingmatters@aci.on.ca - especially from anyone who has stories, memories or historical information about the house at 21 Wellington Street East, Aurora, built in 1925.

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Councillor Phyllis Morris for introducing a motion to make council more open and accountable when dealing with public business by requiring the list of unfinished business items be made public as requested by Poor Richard for the past several months but brickbats to Councillor Evelyn Buck for opposing the motion.

BRICKBATS to the current council for being the most secretive in recent years, by making it difficult for the media and the public to obtain **SECOND SECOND S**

Previously, any information tabled or discussed at a public meeting was a public document. Now documents are circulated internally or by e-mail and discussed in open council but not seen by the public or the media. Why the secrecy?

BOUQUETS to Newmarket/Aurora MP Belinda Stronach for being the only local MP or MPP to take an interest in the Markham/Aurora/Newmarket Hydro One transmission dispute by asking Health Canada to take a firm position on whether EMF poses a health risk to the people living in neighbouring residences.

BRICKBATS to the Dalton McGuinty Liberal government for setting wrong priorities on their legislative schedule. With all the problems facing **SECURITY** The province from health care, affordable housing, homelessness, garbage disposal to the protection of the environment, one of their top priorities is bring-yourown-bottle legislation in spite of opposition from the hospitality industry, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, the Tories and the NDP.

BOUQUETS to Dr. Avis Glaze formerly with the York Region District School Board and more recently Director of Education with the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board on her appointment as head of Ontario's new Literacy Secretariat in the Ministry of Education.

high-rise apartment buildings for failing to make windows and screens secure. A six-**Malton** boy fell to his death from a seven-storey apartment building. The window was open and there wasn't a screen. The boy was alone in the apartment with other children.

BRICKBATS to the apartment owners and the tenants of

BOUQUETS to the members of Rising Sun Masonic Lodge for their donation to the Hospital for Sick Children's Cochlear Implant Program, as part of their "Help to Hear" program through the Masonic

BRICKBATS to federal Defence Minister Bill Graham for pushing the controversial U.S. missile defence program for political rather than **SECUTION** Security reasons. Before any decision is made, there should be a debate in the House of Commons

BOUQUETS to any Aurora businessman or corporation who picks up the challenge issued by the late David Merkur of the Aurora Shopping Centre in

and a free vote, otherwise why do we elect MPs?

1973 for other businesses to contribute to the Aurora Arts and Culture Fund, which he initiated. In the mid-1980s Joe Lebovic of Lebovic Enterprises accepted the challenge but there have been no other takers. It's a good fund and could do with more financial support.

BOUQUETS to Wells Public School teacher Diane Gerritsen for creating "Play Fair", the head and claws of a turkey and inviting students to add the decorated feathers with a message on the back describing what they were thankful for. It's in the front hall-

way of the school.

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Kroon won't make it as an investigative reporter: reader

To the editor,

Hugo Kroon writes that an exhaustive search failed to locate the book mentioned in my letter in The Auroran.

Sherlock Holmes he is

book, 'Crisis', was published by Macmillan of Canada and St. Martin's Press in New York. (Library of Congress catalogue card No. 70-

'Crisis' is a 350-page collection of essays from notable scientists and three journalists. Three authors in 'Crisis' dealt with pesti-So much

painstaking research.

Prior to 'Crisis,' an essay had been published earlier in a Southam environmental magazine under my byline following several interviews with Dr. Philip Jones, then a U of T Professor

It focused on the dangers of eutrophication of our lakes through the lavish use of phosphates.

Some three years later, Macmillan of Canada requested permission to republish it in a questionand-answer format which duly appeared in this 350page anthology in 1971.

I took a copy of this book which so eluded him - to The Auroran to affirm its very existence.

If Mr. Kroon will buy the coffee, I will show him the book. He may even be allowed to handle it, enviously, perhaps, for this piece was widely quoted and reprinted in several daily newspapers.

Dr. Jones was also interviewed by the CBC, the Globe & Mail and other media following publication of the article.

As Mr. Kroon could not locate a 350-page collection of essays, in a hard cover book no less, despite professional help, he would be wise to stay in the weed killing business, oops, to

leave unturned, lawn care.

There is simply no future for him as an investigative reporter but he could secure a position as a proof reader where nit picking is valued.

Even when such legendary publishers as Macmillan and St. Martin's Press were involved, the Kroon trademark sneer emerges. I wonder if this is an acquired talent, or is it hereditary?

Mr. Kroon seems to think it is demeaning to write for money. Yes, rejection slips are legendary but it is possible - even when lacking the odd verb - to get paid for articles, essays and fiction when writing for magazines, newspapers and television.

Regrettably, others have subjugated their literary ambitions, some resorting to owning lawn care businesses, or other careers unrelated to converting creative thoughts into published works.

By the way I only got involved because I did not like the way Mr. Kroon attacked, in print, two concerned ladies who had the audacity to debate the

I did not even mention pesticides in my first letter, indeed I complimented him on his rather baroque style.

But at least one of the ladies has impressive medical credentials which are not so easily dismissed.

Clearly these ladies are seriously concerned at the potential health effects of applications. Their letters posed an opportunity for reasoned debate, instead they got sarcasm.

It's true that warning signs are posted following lawn care chemical applications, but young kids can't read, neither can pets.

Hudson, Quebec, was the first municipality to ban the use of pesticides for homeowners, followed by Halifax last vear.

Now Toronto seems to favour restrictions. Mr. Kroon's market may be shrinking which, alas, will give him more time to write letters to the editor.

Thomas Peter Davey Aurora

Final pesticide word

To the editor,

Well, the debate regarding urban pesticide use seems to be never ending. I initially forwarded in a letter in July that was fueled by emotion but met with some misguided opposition.

Consequently, I feel compelled to provide some facts that support concerns pertaining to cosmetic pesticide

To confirm, I do not base my opinion on the propaganda of fear mongering groups, and I really do not consider myself to be part of any environmentally zealous 'ilk'.

The fact is that the Environmental Health Committee of the College of Family Physicians conducted a study that concluded pesticide exposure increases one's risk of developing certain cancers, neurological diseases and adverse reproductive effects.

In addition, Dr Basrur (Toronto's Medical Officer of Health at that time) stated in a news release from April 8, 2002 that, "there is enough compelling evidence to warn the public of health risks that may result from long term exposure to pesticides. It's time to shift to alternatives".

Further to this, a report from the Toronto Public Health department stated that, "a growing body of research suggests that even low levels of pesticides can have negative effects on human health".

In my opinion, that speaks directly to cosmetic pesticide use.

In regards to the opinion pertaining to the role of local government, Mr. Kroon, who has been leading the 'propesticide' campaign, claims that: "...it is not the function of local councils to second guess them [agencies entrusted to protect the pub-

The truth is that in 1990 the municipality of Hudson, Quebec, passed a bylaw restricting the use of cosmetic pesticides for both public and private property.

After a challenge from two lawn-care companies, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the right of the municipality to pass the bylaw and, therefore, the precedent has been set.

I also feel that I must challenge Mr. Kroon's opinion that the chemical lawn products are legislated, legal, and that the agencies in charge of looking after them are doing a good job.

Chapter 1.1 of the report from the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development committee conducted in 2003 states that, "Despite substantial improvements in some areas over the last eight years, the federal government is not adequately ensuring that several pesticides used in Canada meet current standards for protecting health and the quality of the environment. The range of weaknesses we identified raises serious questions about the overall management of the health and environmental risks associated with pesticides."

In a previous letter, I stated that pesticide signs are like beacons that identify the user as being selfish and ignorant - caring more about the appearance of their lawn than the health of their children or yours.

This may seem like too harsh a statement for some, but consider the following.

Children are particularly vulnerable to pesticides for many reasons. Children eat and drink more per kilogram of body weight than adults. Their skin is more permeable and also, their livers do not excrete as efficiently as adults.

In addition, their hand-tomouth behaviour increases the chance of ingestion.

Further, pesticides that are tracked indoors on shoes are more persistent once indoors than they are outdoors where the pesticide is exposed to sunlight.

All of these factors make children more susceptible to the dangers of pesticides (as outlined in the report from the Environmental Health Committee). By forwarding these let-

ters, my goals are threefold.

First of all, I am hoping to share my concerns regarding cosmetic pesticide use, and therefore secondly, see a MAJOR reduction in the number of pesticide signs around town.

Thirdly, I am hoping that Mayor Tim Jones has 'gotten wind' of this debate and that he is already working on an action plan for Aurora!

Anne Allan

ED. NOTE: This debate

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Don't change Town Hall address, citizen asks

ED. NOTE: The following was presented to Aurora Council's General Committee last week and a copy provided to The Auroran for reprint.

Over the past several months I have written a number of letters, as have others, to our newspaper, The Auroran, requesting an answer as to the reasons and the necessity of changing the address of the Town Hall.

I rather naively expected an answer, however, to date, have not received one.

It has been suggested that I did not receive a response because councillors don't wish to debate Town business in the columns of a newspaper.

Granted, in the past this was true, however, over the last term or two, Councillor Kean, the sponsor of this motion, has quite often taken advantage of this form of communication.

It was also suggested that I didn't publish my address or telephone number and therefore I couldn't be reached.

There is only one G. Wride in the phone book and I have lived at the same address for 33 years so I shouldn't be too hard to find.

At first I was angered by this lack of response because as you are my representatives, in a way my employees, I felt it somewhat arrogant of the councillor(s) to whom I addressed my letters that I did not receive a response to what I feel is a legitimate and serious question.

I now realize I'm more disappointed and saddened than angry.

Disappointed because this council has made much of being open, approachable, accountable and transparent, however, when it came to the test this does not appear to be so.

In my opinion the changing of the address of the Town Hall will not only be confusing, a waste of tax-payers' money and staff time, but also a direct slight and insult to Councillor West with no apparent benefit to this Town.

There were a number of letters to The Auroran concerning this subject, none of which supported the change of address.

In fact, The Auroran conducted an informal poll, the results of which showed the majority of citizens in Aurora wanted the Town Hall address to remain as it is.

I have known and been a friend of Councillor West for 47 years and I have helped on his election campaigns, so I confess I am biased; however I would like to think that I and each one of us here would have a friend or somebody who would speak up and try to right an injustice against us.

Having lived in Aurora for 45 years, I am also strongly biased to my Town and what is happening here is wrong and discredits our council and our community.

Approximately 12 years ago, the council of the day unanimously decided to honour Mr. West, who I believe was mayor at that time, in recognition of 14 years of continuous public service to the Town of Aurora, not only as a councillor and mayor, but also for his involvement in fundraising, charitable organizations, and all other aspects of town life.

This honour would take the form of naming the street upon which the Town Hall would be located John West Way and also specifically, the address of the Town Hall as 100 John West Way.

Now 13 years later, for no legitimate reasons that I have heard, you wish to take this honour away from an individual who has now publicly served the town continuously for 26 years.

This is not only an insult to Mr. West, the council of the day 13 years ago who bestowed this honour, but also to myself and the thousands of Aurora citizens who have supported him and who he has represented over the years.

In the April 6th issue of The Auroran, Councillor Kean was quoted as saying "I believe municipal buildings should have their own street names".

Can we now expect further cost and confusion as Mr. Kean proposes we change the address of our public library from 15145 Yonge St. to One Library Lane; our Family Leisure Complex at 135 Industrial Parkway N. to One Recreation Road; or Victoria Hall, located at 25 Mosley St. to One Victoria Hall Hollow?

As you can see this suggestion is not only inappropriate and impractical, it's just plain silly.

An article in the April 20th issue of The Auroran quotes Councillor Kean as saying that a precedent had been set as the Community Centre was given its own address.

This was done because it never previously had an address and therefore is a totally different situation.

In this same article the following quote appears: "for some time Councillor Nigel Kean has objected to the Town Hall being on a street named after a sitting councillor, claiming it gives that councillor an unfair advantage, especially at election time."

In the last election, Mr. West only just made it onto council, avoiding defeat by only a couple of hundred votes and although there were certain mitigating circumstances which we won't get into, the fact the town hall is located at 100 John West Way didn't appear to give him any advantage.

I also assume that if Mr. West does not seek re-election this will be a moot point.

By removing the name of John West from the address of the town hall, I feel council has set an unfortunate and dangerous precedent.

What would prevent this or future councils from removing the name Weller from Weller Park or Herb McKenzie from Herb McKenzie Park or Jack Wood from Jack Wood Park, thus dishonouring these contributors to our

The Aurora Town Hall is located on John West Way and will always remain so, that is a physical and geographical fact.

Whatever each individual councillor's reasons for wishing to change the address, and this is what I and other citizens are trying to ascertain, I can tell you unequivocally that the perception in town is that it's being done for personal reasons.

Councillor Kean particularly appears to have a problem with the Town Hall address and made this a priority by tabling this motion as one of the first items of business for this present council.

This certainly helped set the confrontational tone and is, I'm sure, a contributing factor to the dysfunctional label that has been hung on this council.

I would respectfully urge Councillors Wallace, Gaertner, Vrancic, Morris and Kean to reconsider their position and allow our Town Hall to remain where it is at 100 John West Way.

I would ask you to do this out of respect for a person who will by the end of this term of office have devoted 28 years of his life to the citizens of Aurora.

I would ask you to do this to honour the wishes of your predecessors, the town council of 12 years ago as I trust future councillors will honour your wishes and lastly, I would ask you to do this because it is the hon-

ourable and right thing to do.

It would also send a message that you are willing to set aside differences and partisanship in order to work together to make our town an even better place to live.

Thank you for your attention. And I await your response.

Graham Wride Aurora



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Posted signs are eyesores

To the editor,

When driving through the historic part of town, by the Trinity Church, you can see signs posted up on trees and on telephone poles advertising for "Garbage" disposal.

These free advertisements for a garbage disposal service are unethical and an eyesore.

The owners of this company should pay to have them removed.

Or, better still, citizens should phone the telephone number listed on the sign and ask the company to take away this garbage and put it where it belongs.

I wish to have my name withheld, thinking the company may try to get back at me, somehow.

Name withheld Aurora

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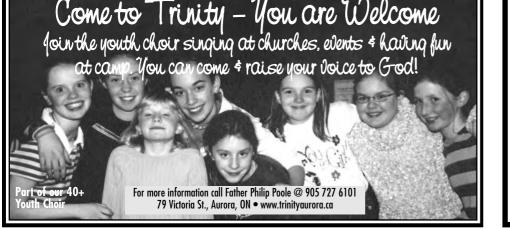
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Letters to the Editor



Former employee remembers Aurora Textiles employment

To the editor,

A friend recently gave me a copy of your newspaper, The Auroran.

She had seen the picture on Page 4 "Where was this located?" and she knew I had worked there (Auroran,

The Aurora Textiles was located on the west side of Yonge Street, the general area where there is now a strip mall and liquor store.

At that time, I believe, the lands to the south of it were owned by John Bowser (Empire State Building).

Possibly the land Textiles was built on was purchased from Mr. Bowser.

I started work at the Textiles in 1949. It was then located at the southeast corner of Victoria and Mosley

Our hours began at 7.30 a.m. and ended at 5.15 p.m.

My take home pay was \$27 a week of which I paid \$15 room and board. I left work there in 1953 and returned for a brief period in 1956.

I saw so many familiar faces in the picture, including my mother, Nell Roffey and my brother Jim.

In fact, there were two mother-daughters other employed at the Textiles.

I recognized the owner, Mr. Greenhall; the general manager Frank Stollery; foreman Clare Downey; our lead hand Mrs. Skinner; Olive (Collett) Quantz and her daughter Jean (Collett) Brown; Annie Gritten and her daughter Anne; Nellie Higgins; Kay (Payne) Bishop; Nora Lloyd; Marian Timbers; Shirley (Anderson) Wright; and Tracy Barriger, among oth-

There are faces I recall but after 53 years the names just won't come to

In the picture, I was known as Nen Roffey.

Thanks for the memo-

Edith DeGeer Newmarket



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Destroy marijuana grow equipment, Belinda says

To the editor,

To the editor.

train whistles.

Canada.

this category.

York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge is urging the federal Minister of Public Works to ensure that marijuana grow lab equipment, seized by the police, is destroyed and not

I have just read with

interest, the article, and the

letter to the editor from

regarding the problem of

understand

Transport Canada sets the

standards for the blowing of the whistle at train cross-

ings, however, certain engi-

neers sound the train whis-

tle far more that the standard set forth by Transport

This is particularly of

There seems to be two

Surely there is a watch-

trains a week that fall into

dog somewhere who can

monitor this acitivity and

concern in the middle of the

night, say at 3 or 4 or 5 a.m. when residents are sleep-

Certain engineers

violate standards

that

Barge's view on this matter.

Equipment, previously seized by police, has been re-sold by agents for the Public Works department and discovered in another grow operation in our region.

These grow operations have turned up in our I fully support Chief La neighbourhoods and are a

end the misuse of the whis-

Buck's statement that noise

and hydro are in the same

the vicinity of the railway

tracks trying to sleep and

see if she feels both prob-

lems are the same.

I also object to Ms.

Let her spend a night in

continuing threat to the health and safety of our community.

Our government needs to act responsibly when selling any item that might

public service, our police are under budgetary constraints that require them to use their limited resources wisely.

criminal.

I can only imagine the effect on the morale of our police officers knowing that their efforts have been undermined by government sloppiness.

Jackie Simone Aurora

be used to commit a criminal offence.

Like all members of the

It takes considerable time, effort and tax dollars to investigate, charge and

Seizing criminal property and then having the federal government return it to circulation is simply wrong.

Belinda Stronach, MP **Newmarket-Aurora**

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Auroran photos by David Falconer









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AURORAN SPORTS



Page 12

Week of October 26, 2004

Aurora Tiger Sean Thompson (16) does battle with Wexford opponent Friday night at the Aurora Community Centre, but it appears the linesman is keeping the puck well hidden. Aurora went on to win the Provincial Junior A hockey game 4-2 then vaulted themselves into first place Sunday afternoon with a 5-2 win over the Collingwood Blues. Collingwood returns to Aurora for another go-round this Friday evening at 8 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre.

Photo by Barry Bridgeford



Rec complex payment plan outlined to general committee

After repeated requests from Aurora resident Al Wilson for a comprehensive breakdown of the costs of the recreation complex and the seniors' centre and how both facilities were to be financed, a report was submitted to council's general committee last week.

During his appearances at council meetings, Wilson stressed the need for transparency in conducting public business and his inability to obtain information, such as the financing of the two facilities.

He also noted he had written a letter which went unanswered and this lack of accountability made a strong case for a ward system.

At the general committee meeting an update on financing the two facilities was presented and received as information.

The construction tender for the recreation centre came in at \$16.9 million and was under the \$18.6 construction budget by \$1.6 million. The 2004 approved capital budget showed debenture funding to be a total of \$19 million, which could be reduced to \$17.4 million to be addressed in a future report.

The total estimated budget for the recreational complex is shown as \$24.4 million of which \$12.6 million will be paid from future

development charges.

In order to have sufficient funds in the development charge account it is necessary to issue 400 single family permits each year for the next 10 years, plus an additional 185 single family permits each year for 10 years to pay the annual debt of \$1.7 million.

It is also planned to use \$5.3 million from reserves which will deplete the reserve fund over the 10 year term. The remaining

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tax base debt portion is shown as \$6.3 million resulting in a one-time 3.75 per cent tax rate increase.

Total annual estimated operating costs are shown as \$494,500 and the total tax base impact on the average home is shown as \$54 per year.

The tax rate increase as a result of the financing and operating costs of the two projects is forecast at 3.2 per cent in 2005 and 4.82 per cent in 2006.

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Aurora's Peewee AA hockey team shows elation after they won the Georgetown "Best of the Best" tournament recently. The team was short four players for the whole tournament but was able to win all four round robin games and then go on to meet Burlington in the finals, the same Burlington team Aurora beat in last year's OMHA finals. The game started fast with Burlington scoring the first goal but Aurora tied it before the end of the first period. Aurora took over and fashioned a 7-1 victory to capture the championship

Master Ducks capture first meet of the season

They may be a year away from a brand new swimming pool, but that hasn't stopped the Aurora Master Ducks Swim Team from being the best in the province.

They proved that recently when they won the Fall Sprint Splash at the Wayne Gretzky Sports Complex in Brantford recently.

Hosted by the Brantford Aquatic Club, the meet attracted swimmers from across Ontario, and Aurora Coach Nancy Black was pleased with the results.

"The veteran swimmers looked great in the water and set a great example for the rookies as demonstrated in the many personal bests in each of the age groups," she said. "Well done to all the new swimmers making their first splash."

A new eight-lane swimming pool is scheduled to open in Aurora next November.

the team are working out at Aurora Leisure Complex and St. Andrew's College her first meet as pools.

BR and 25 FLY, 3 FR, 3rd in 50 BK.

Casey Jacob her first meet as Duck and placed

Following is a list of esults:

Gary Billington, 1st in 25 Freestyle (FR), 50 FR, 100 FR and 200 FR.

Kit Carrothers swam

personal bests in 25 FR, 25 Breaststroke (BR) and 50 BR shaving 2.5 seconds.

Carol Chappell swam in her first meet as a Master Duck and placed 1st in 25 Backstroke (BK) and 3rd in 25 FR.

Wendy Duck, 1st in 50 FR, 50 BK, 50 BR and 1st with personal bests in 25 Butterfly (FLY), 50 FLY and 200 FR.

Tania Edwards swam in her first meet as a Master Duck placing 3rd in 25 FR and 100 FR.

Julia Freixa, 1st in 100 FR, 200 FR, 2nd in 50 BK and 1st in 50 FR, a personal best by more than 2.5 seconds.

Julie Goodwin swam in her first meet as a Master Duck and placed 2nd in 25 BK, 50 BK, 50 BR, 3rd in 200 FR.

Shannon Harris swam in her first meet as a Master Duck and placed 2nd in 25 BK, 3rd in 25 BR.

Ovember.

Currently members of BR and 25 FLY, 2nd in 50 BR and 25 FLY,

Casey Jacob swam in her first meet as a Master Duck and placed 1st in 25 BR and 50 BR, 2nd in 100 FR and 3rd in 50 FR.

Bill Jenkins, in 25 BK and swam personal bests 100 FR and 200 FR placing 2nd.

Mark McCann swam in his first meet as a Master Duck and placed 2nd in 25

Andy Mitchell swam personal bests in 25 FLY, 25 BK placing 1st, and 25 FR placing 2nd and 100 FR shaving more than 2.5 seconds

Janet Mitchell, 1st in 25 and 50 FLY, 2nd in 25 FR and 3rd in 50 BR.

Jim Moultray, 1st in 25 BR, 3rd in 25 FLY and 2nd in 25 BK and 50 BR, a personal best.

Gwen Norkus, 2nd in 25 BK.

Erika Prikrylova swam personal bests in 50 BK and in 50 BR shaving more than four and nine seconds respectively.

Brian Purves, 3rd in 25 FR and 50 FR.

Colin Simpkin, 3rd in 100 FR, 25 BK and 25 FR, a personal best.

Frank Sodonis, 1st in 50

FR, 25 FLY, 2nd in 50 FLY and 2nd in 25 FR, his personal best.

Taina Sodonis, 1st in 25 FR, 2nd in 25 BR, and 3rd in 50 FR and 25 BK,

Chris Templeton, 1st in the 200 FR, 50 BR, 25 FLY and 50 FLY.

Cheryl Walker, 2nd in 50 BK shaving over 2.5 seconds for a personal best, 2nd in 50 BR, and 3rd in 25 BK and 25 BR.

Dave Wilkin, 1st in 50 FR, 100 FR, 25 FLY, 50 FLY and 1st in 25 FR, a personal best.



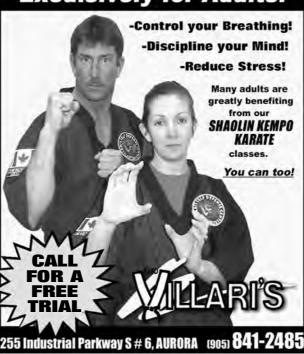
We would like to thank our clients for contributing to the growth of our business in Aurora for 2004.

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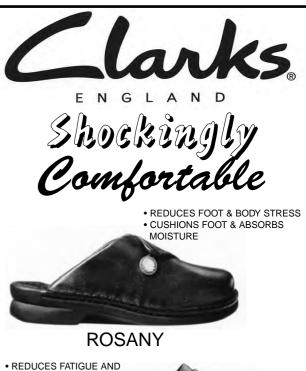




Aurora's Marquee Productions of Bye Bye Birdie at the Newmarket Theatre opens this week and final rehearsals suggest the show will be a huge success. On the phones are, front row, left to right, Nathalie Niesing, Chris Cullum, Kaitlyn Killoran; middle row, left to right, Karine White, Sarah Parkin, Elliott McCormack; top row, left to right, Natalie Diluccio, Courtney Lamana and Katie Mauti.

Auroran photo by David Falconer





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Aurora Minor Hockey Association

Results to 9 AM Sunday, October 24 Website: www.aci.on.ca/amha

House League Exhibition Games

102 Black/Gold TIM HORTON'S PENGUINS 10: Alex Popa 1G 1A, Graydon Gardner 6G, Nathan Romanchych 1G, Nicholas Baxter 2G, Brenden Bilotta 1A. 103 Red/White TIM HORTON'S RED WINGS 6: Christian Baggio 2G, Matthew Leroy 4G, Christopher Baggio 1A.

101 Green/Gold TIM HORTON'S STARS 5: Garrett Wood 3G, Alex McGovern 1G, Ryan Batten 1G 1A. William Stroud 1A. Matthew Neice 1A. 105 Gold/Black TIM HORTON'S BRUINS 4: Matthew Caicco 3G 1A, Jeffrey Stobo 1G, Darren Trec 1A, Austin Riswick 1A, Ben Robinson 2A.

106 White/Royal TIM HORTON'S LEAFS 8: Sandy Hudson 2G 2A, Taylor Lemmon 2G, Joseph Battiston 2G, Peter Andreakos 2G 1A. Maroon/White TIM HORTON'S AVALANCHE 6: Tyler Boston 5G 1A, Michael McLoughlin 1G 1A, Ethan Mills 1A, Conor MacPherson 1A, Steve Tsianos 1A.

109 Orange/Black TIM HORTON'S FLYERS 8: Brendan Ruuskanen 1G. Alex Bernier 3G 1A. David O'Connor 3G 1A, Madison Lee 1A, Savannah Moody 1A. Frick Bortolotti 1A. 104 Royal/White TIM HORTON'S BLUES 5: Graeme McDonald 2G, Connor Rice 1G, Ross Benn 1G, Kyle Bryden 1G.

108 Grey/Black TIM HORTON'S KINGS 7: Matthew Galajda 4G, Matthew Brecht 3G. 110 Teal/White TIM HORTON'S SHARKS 5: Jake Appleby 1G, Griffen James 2G, Matthew Ruggerio 2G.

206 AURORA HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE 2: David Gonder 2G. 204 NORTH YORK HEATING & PLUMBING 1: Matthew Sanita 1G, Joseph Veneziano 1A.

202 ALL PRO SPORTS 6: Jonah Blaser 3G, Tyler George 1G, Liam Batulis 2 G, Landon Kirby 1A. 207 PHARMASAVE 4: Nathan Sinclair 2G, Kevin Siery 1G, Lucas Brutto 1G, Adam

205 DR. STEINER'S DRILLERS 3: Nicholas Steiner 2G, Francois Bicego 1G, Callum Forrest 1A, Mitchell Arnew 1A. 201 DELPH & JENKINS SURVEYORS 2: Tait Snedden 2G, Victor Chadarov 2A.

203 www.mastermindtoys.com 3: Patrick Merritt 1G, Parker Baile 1G, Cameron Staples 1G, Jason Glionna 1A, Tyler Futterer 1A, Alexander Harrison 1A, Claudio Corsi 1A, James Johnson, shutout.

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708 PIZZA PIZZA 2: Jason Durst 1G, Jason Nadeau 1G, Steve Foss 1A. 705 SKATERS FIRST 2: CJ Melichercik 1G 1A, Marshall McQuillan 1G. Danial Saccetti 1A.

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904 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 6: Ryan Jones 2G, Kyle Apps 1G 1A, Torrey Duckworth 2G, Jon Aleksich 1G 1A. Jesse Gattelero 2A. Liam McNeely 1A, Stephen Pitts 1A. 903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 5: Bryan Dunjko 1G 1A, Keith Bradford 1G 1A. Peter Walker 1G. Micheal Rowe 1G 1A, Tyler Cappell 1G, Omar Popat 1A, James Seymore 1A, Doug Bainbridge 1A, Erin Devlin

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906 White/Red PIZZA PIZZA 4: Brad Wilkins 1G 1A, Cam Harris 2G, Alex Ginther 1G 1A, Rundle-Sanderson 1A, Bastarache 1A. 901 AURORA CANADIAN TIRE 2: Daniel Coates 1G, Micheal Perretta 1G, Luke Muirhead 1A, Daniel Lewis 1A.

903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 6: Jeff Seymore 2G 1A, Tyler Cappell 1G, Micheal Rowe 1G, Kurtis Wilton 1G 1A, Bryon Dunjko 1G, Jason Tuck 2A, Peter Walker 1A. 902 OPTI-MIST CLUB OF AURORA 3: Morgan Mittlestaedt 1G, Andrew Rowan 2G 1A, Sam Mulholland 1A.

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Rep Results

Novice AA 2 Whitby 1

Konner McMillan 1G, Ian Dunlop 1A, Austin Lane 1A, Branden Fennell 1A, Spencer Green

Novice AA 1 Markham 0

Jordan Nanos 1G, Sean Foxwell 1A, John MacDonald 1A.

Novice A 5 NobleKing 3

Brett Thiessen 1G, Evan Jackson 1A, Liam Beresford 1G 1A, Erik Balkovec 1G 1A, Scott Kostin 1G 1A, Lucas Pozzebon 1G 1A, Paul Neophytou 1A, Nathan Nealon 1A.

Novice AE 3 Pickering 0

Josh Bell 1G, Alex Perez 1A, Graham Robinson 1G, Shannon Murray 1G, Spencer Robb 1A.

Minor Atom AA 2 Newmarket 1

Kiefer McIntosh 1A, Jody Nonnewitz 1G, Eric Ludwig 1G.

Richmond Hill 3 Minor Atom A 1

Andrew McDonald 1G, Eric Damecour 1A, Peter

Minor Atom AE 3 Ajax 0

Zach Ferry 1A, Matthew Pryse 1A, Jake Martin 1A, Sam Steenhorst 1G, Ben Hankins 1G, Colton Lee 1A, Ryan Baskin 1A, Bailey Miller

Minor Atom AE 3 Ajax 2

Georgina 6 Atom AA 0

Atom AA 10 Markham 3

Atom A 2 East Gwillimbury 2 A J Killens 1G, Rory MacNeil 1G, Josh Klinowski 1A, Jesse Bentolila 1A, Taylor Butler 1A.

Innisfil 5 Atom AE 4

Graham Loney 1A, Lukas Leslie 1A, Daniel Laflamme 1G, Jake Langford 1G 1A, Kevin Lukezic 1A, Dylan Hussey 2G.

Atom AE 5 Aiax 2

Thomas Hagias 1G 1A, Dylan Woyslaw 2G 1A, Lukas Leslie 1G, Brett Wilson 2A, Dylan Hussey 1G, Tyler White 1A.

Barrie Colts 4 Minor Peewee AA 2



Cody Weese 1G, Kamran Karamchi 1A, Eleeza

Minor Peewee AA 4 Peterborough 1

Eleeza Cox 1G 1A, Brett Matthews 2A, Justin Nice 1G, Matthew Miller 1G 1A, Dylan Skelton

Minor Peewee A 6 Newmarket 1

Stephen DeMarco 1G 1A, Michael Vance 1A, Spencer George 1G 2A, Kyle McCreedy 3G 1A, Jordan Figueiredo 1A, James Harkin 1G, Danny McConnell 1A.

Minor Peewee AE 8 Brampton 4

Peewee AA 3 Richmond Hill 2

Luke MacLeod 2G, Max Lerner 1A, James Mildon 1A, Matthew Tuck 1G 1A, Andrew Whitley

Peewee AA 2 Newmarket 2

Luke MacLeod 1G, Jordan Tripp 1G, Dillon Cappell 1A, Matthew Tuck 1A.

Peewee A 1 Beeton 1 Dylan Cross 1G, J.J. lam 1A.

Peewee AE 3 Georgina 1

Andrew McKay 2G, Aaron Beally 1G, Evan Jones 1A, Jakub Sykora 1A, Michael McGorlick 1A, Matthew Pellegrini 1A.

Peewee AE 7 TNT 4 Michael McGorlick 4G, Conor Sheridan 1G,

Sykora 1A, Matthew Pellegrini 2A, Darcy Eveleigh 1A, John-Caleb Ross 1A. Minor Bantam AA 4 North Bay 1 Marcus Tochett 1G, Ryan Besse 1G, Lucas Bovd

Tyler Tisdale 1G 2A, Andrew McKay 1G, Jakub

1A, Matthew Mikhaili 1G, Connor McQueston

1A, Alex Denault 1G, David Roper 1A, Emilio Nafarrate 3A, Adrian DiRosa 1A. Newmarket 3 Minor Bantam AA 2

Matthew Mikhaili 1G, Adrian DiRosa 1A, Tyler

Hanlon 1A, Emilio Nafarrate 1G, Christian Stankiewicz 1A, Brandon Galante 1A.

Minor Bantam AA 6 Peterborough 1 Adrian DiRosa 1G, Tyler Hanlon 1A, Matthew

Mikhaili 1G 1A, Ryan Findlay 1G, Christian Stankiewicz 1G 1A, Connor McQueston 1G, Emilio Nafarrate 1A, Tyler Persaud 1G 1A, Alex Denault 1A, David Roper 1A.

NobleKing 5 Minor Bantam A 3

Minor Bantam AE 4 Ajax 2

Curtis Hough 2G, Matthew Scrimes 1G 1A, Andrew Mangialardi 1A, Brandon Giniotis 2A, Braun Hause 1G 1A.

Markham 3 Minor Bantam AE 2

Brendon Stenzol 1G, Andrew Mangialardi 1G, Brandon Giniotis 1A, Braun Hause 1A, Scott Quagliarini 1A, Zacharie Roitner 1A.

Richmond Hill 5 Bantam AA 2

Bantam AA 6 Pickering 1

Bantam AA 11 Ajax 0

Bantam A 5 Orillia 0

Chris Finlay 2G, Fraser Kegel 1G 1A, Travis Hooper 1G 1A, Nick Crain 1G 1A, Jake Hurlbut

Midget AA 3 Peterborough Petes 1

Michael White 1G, Nathan Rivard 1G 1A, Sean Mulroy 1A, Peter McNeil 1A, Taylor Campbell

Midget AA 8 Ajax 3

Vinnie Davenport 3G, Dave Martyn 1G, Tom Keane 2G, Taylor Campbell 2G 1A, Michael Jack 3A, Adam Hankins 3A, Kyle Robinson 2A, Brandon Steffan 1A, Peter McNeil 1A, Michael White 1A, Sean Mulroy 1A.

Midget A 5 Beeton 0

Chris Statchuk 1G, Keith Mitchell 1A, Ryan Kines 2G, Marc Quagliarini 1A, Brent Gallaugher 1A, Scott Daly 1G 1A, Dylan MacKinnon 1A, Craig Waites 1G, Andrew Welch 1A. Frazer Klein 2A.

Orillia 7 Midget A 0

Midget A 5 Stouffville 4

Justin Fabro 1A, Corey Berube 1G, Andrew Welch 1A, Dylan MacKinnon 2G 1A, Scott Daly 1A, Matt Cleverdon 1A, Marc Quagliarini 1G, Chris Statchuk 1G 2A, Andrew Jamieson 1A, Frazer Klein 1A.

East Gwillimbury 3 Midget A 2

Dylan MacKinnon 1G 1A, Marc Quagliarini 2A, Matt Cleverdon 1G 1A.



It was the usual Aurora United Church Fall Event, but the sale of the church's old organ parts was a tad unusual. Ralph Birtch demonstrates one use for the 1931 organ pipes, which ranged in size from one foot to six feet in length, and sold for \$10 each. Yes, the church is getting a new organ.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

New high school advances but subdivision put on hold

District Scolaire de Catholique Centre-Sud submitted an application for an official plan and zoning bylaw amendment for a 45acre site on the northeast corner of Bloomington Road and Bathurst Street to construct a French Catholic High School.

It was a joint application with Ballymore Homes for the development of a new residential neighbourhood of 59 units on large lots on 25.8 acres in keeping with the South Street Secondary Plan and the Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

At a public planning meeting recently, the high project was approved, but the subdivision was stalled.

The school board plans to relocate their existing high school from within the Cardinal Carter Secondary School to the proposed new site to eventually accommodate 500 students.

It was also noted that servicing plans at that time required the construction of a new sanitary pumping station and significant watermain construction.

As capital costs for those services would be high, it was decided the board and Ballymore would unite in a joint project.

Councillor John West

suggested support of the request and scheduling a public planning meeting as soon as possible.

Other members of council argued there were too many unanswered questions, but it was adopted by council on a 4-3 vote.

At the public planning meeting, town staff said they were unable to recommend draft approval due to servicing constraints and other technical issues.

However staff added that the proposed school building had merit and would provide a desirable architectural gateway to the community.

The residential component generally met the requirements of the official plan and was compatible to the residential estate development to the east.

It was recommended that given the outstanding issues staff be given time to work with the applicant and the community.

A representative of Ballymore Homes said it was realized additional work was required and negotiations were underway with Richmond Hill for servicing which would eliminate the need for a pumping station.

A representative of the school board explained the need for early approval of the school site due to the overcrowded conditions at Cardinal Carter and the

need for French students to have their own high school.

Although only 150 French students would be transferred from Cardinal Carter to the new school, the French elementary school in Aurora was overcrowded and up to 200 students would be transferred to the new school.

It was explained that when a new school site was considered more than two years before, town staff had

suggested the partnership concept and the board did what was suggested.

Councillor West recommended approval in principle of the school application but asked to reserve decision on the residential component until services were available.

The West motion was adopted on a 5-2 vote with Councillors Phyllis Morris Wendy Gaertner opposed.



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The Morrison House

Morrison Home parking proposal irks neighbours

A public planning meeting was held recently to consider an application to convert the Wellington Street East "Morrison Home" into professional offices

Neighbours are not amused with the plan. The property fronts on Wellington and backs onto Centre Street.

The building is Included in the Town of Aurora List of Heritage Properties and was built in 1886.

The property has been plaqued by the Aurora Heritage Committee and designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

There are no plans to change the exterior of the building.

However, a proposed eight-spot parking lot with exit to Centre has not impressed neighbours.

Two more parking spots would be provided in an existing garage.

Vehicles entering the property from Wellington would exit on Centre.

As the parking lot would only be used by staff members of the software business planned for the building, the Public Works department does not anticipate increased levels of traffic on Centre Street.

Heritage Committee has no objection to the proposal and requested the Director of Corporate Services review the final landscape draw-

Several Centre Street residents opposed the application claiming Centre was narrow and not a regular-sized street.

It was stressed Centre Street was residential, not commercial, and the heritage area should remain as it is.

Concern was also expressed that the oneentrance off Wellington Street and exiting on Centre Street could be used as a cut-through after hours and the Centre Street access should be eliminated.

Councillor John West recommended the application be approved in principle and staff, the applicant and citizens should meet in an attempt to resolve outstanding issues.

Councillor Phyllis Morris said she was opposed to the application as it was not compatible with the residential area. She suggested it be deferred until a traffic study was completed. She supported Councillors Nigel Kean and Wendy Gaertner.

The vote was tied 3-3 with Councillors Bill Hogg and Damir Vrancic absent. Mayor Tim Jones supported the resolution to break the tie and it was adopted.

In 1977 University of Toronto student Sharon McKenzie completed a 150-page catalogue of historic homes, businesses and churches in Aurora.

The catalogue was used by the historical society to urge the town to designate certain properties under the Ontario Heritage Act.

One of the larger designated homes was the Morrison House named after its original owner dat-

ing back to 1886. The property was originally owned by Robert Machell who subdivided it in 1853 but the lot on which the Morrison House was eventually built remained in the Machell family until 1869.

It changed hands a few times but none of the owners made any attempt to build on it.

Morrison, a carriagemaker by trade, purchased the property in 1886 and engaged Josiah Hall, a local builder, to build his grand home and he and his family moved in on December 10, 1886.

Morrison died eight years later in 1895 but the house remained in the family until 1919 when it was sold to Jesse Walton, a local private banker and Mayor of Aurora from 1923 to 1928 and 1939 to 1940.

Walton died in 1946 but the family remained in the house until 1969 when it purchased was Douglas and Vera Worling and over the next several years they restored many of the original features that had been altered over the

Now the historic home is about to start a new life.

Stronach seeks answers to hydro EMF questions

Earlier this month Newmarket/Aurora Member of Parliament Belinda Stronach wrote to the federal Minister of Health on behalf of her constituents regarding the potentially hazardous EMFs transmitted from a planned expansion of Ontario Hydro transmission towers.

Mindful of the question of federal/provincial jurisdictions, Stronach wrote that she believed the Government of Canada and more specifically the Health Department would have the responsibility for national guidelines associated with exposure to

She pointed out that to date several international studies had concluded there were definite health risks that derive from living in close proximity to transmission such sources.

She added that several European countries had implemented national standards to ensure the safety and good health of their citizens and numerous studies and groups are exploring the question in North America.

Stronach wrote she was not aware of any current activity on the part of the federal government to deal with the issue.

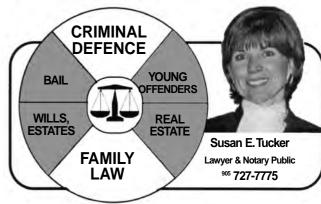
She invited the Director General of the Consumer and Clinical Radiation Protection Bureau of Health Canada, which has the responsibility for monitoring the issues surrounding EMFs, to a town hall meeting in Aurora to explain the approach of Health Canada on EMFs to interested constituents.

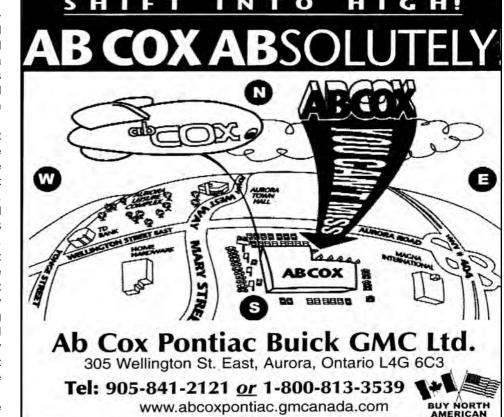
Stronach requested the Minister to facilitate the invitation but at press time there was no indication if the invitation was accepted.



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This group wanted multi-way stop eliminated

With all the requests council members receive from residents for more multi-way stops at intersections to control speeding today, it's hard to believe, but back in January, 1993, a delegation came to council to request that a multi-way stop be eliminated.

The request was for elimination of the multi-way stop signs on Haida Drive at McDonald Drive, just north of Wellington Street.

It was pointed out that vehicles proceeding south on Haida were on a downgrade and could slide through the intersection on a snowy day.

Cars proceeding north on Haida had difficulty getting started once they had stopped.

The signs may have been removed then, but if they were, they were replaced because they are there now, and no doubt, the cars are still sliding through.

PARKING BYLAWS

In the early days of York Regional Police, police officers had time to enforce local on-street parking bylaws, rather than local bylaw enforcement officers.

By April, 1971, council was besieged with citizen complaints about the flurry of tickets that had been issued and the police had gone overboard in enforcing the bylaws.

It was pointed out that the police had issued more parking tickets in three months than had been issued in the previous 15 years

It was also pointed out that tickets had been issued at the Community Centre when parents dropped off their children for hockey games, resulting in council amending the parking bylaw to include loading zones.

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You are cautioned to slow down by your doctor instead of the police.

Getting lucky means finding your car in the parking lot,

the twinkle in your eye is merely the light glinting off your bifocals and your memory is shorter and your complaining is longer.

- Shamelessly lifted from the Aurora Seniors' Newsletter.

FRIGHTFUL NIGHT AND SCARY SUCCESS

It was in October, 1990, when the Opti-Mrs. Club of Aurora held its infamous Halloween dance to raise funds for the Aurora-Newmarket Family Life Centre, a non-profit counselling agency that served families and individuals in distress.

Mayor John West, Dorothy Clark-McClure, Judy Ford and Dick Illingworth had the difficult task of selecting the best costumes.

Mayor West drew the lucky \$1,000 travel voucher won by Liana Di Tommaso of Oak Court in Aurora.

The Opti-Mrs. Club was formed by the wives of the original Aurora Optimist Club members and in those days, since they couldn't join the men's club, they formed their own.

When the Optimist Club disbanded the ladies kept going and carried out many community projects over the years.

Now the Optimist Club is back, bigger and better than ever, with female membership, but we wonder whether the Opti-Mrs. Club still exists. Anyone know?

AURORA STUDENT IS TOP TREKKIE

Most television watchers are familiar with Captain James T. Kirk of the spaceship Enterprise, but not too many have heard of Aurora's Captain Dave Raitt, president and fearless leader of Queen's University's Star Trek Club in 1991.

He graduated from Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School in 1989.

When he wasn't leading the university's Star Fleet Command, Raitt was a serious student in a third-year cognitive science major, a discipline that combined psychology and computer science.

The 30-member club met once a week to watch the latest episode of the program and discuss what they have seen.

He ignored detractors of the Star Trek culture, claiming the show dealt with many current issues of the time, the arms race, racism, and drug addiction.

REMEMBER WHEN

In September, 1965, Aurora's Jon Finley, of Jon and

Lee and the Checkmates participated in a super Show of Shows in Aurora sponsored by the Aurora Recreation Committee.

Also in September, 1965, Bell Canada held an Open

Also in September, 1965, Bell Canada held an Open House at their new facility on Yonge Street, north of Cousins Drive, to view the amazing switching apparatus which automatically connected calls.

Automatic dialing came to Aurora in 1979.

Mayor Clarence Davis led a team of council members to Port Elgin to inspect their new Community Centre as a model for Aurora including the trap rock floor for roller skating.

Don Glass was appointed fundraising chairman for the Centre with representatives of service clubs.

FIRST COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

It was in 1965 when Aurora council appointed its first Committee of Adjustment to rule on minor variances to the town's zoning bylaws, although a minor variance was never defined then and hasn't been since.

The original members were Frank Wims, Gord Stephenson, Alf Child, Lorne Evans, Doug Richardson and Bill Stoddart.



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During an open forum session of a council meeting last year, a resident said that while she was treading in uncharted waters, she was supportive of a ward system for Aurora.

She said a ward system would ensure every citizen would have a representative on council, who would be a resident of the ward.

The representative would know the people and the issues of the ward and be more pro-active in representing the constituents, and they would have someone to relate to.

She added that a ward system was democracy at its highest level and she encouraged councillors to consider placing the question on the ballot for the next municipal election.

Mayor Tim Jones explained it was too late to include the question on that election ballot and it would be up to the next council.

Homer Forsad, at the time a candidate for council who later changed his position and ran for the mayor's seat, said a study had been carried out and the information was available and questioned why it was too late to have a ballot printed.

Mayor Jones explained that in accordance with the Municipal Act and the Municipal Elections Act, certain rules and regulations pertaining to a referendum had to be carried out and the deadline had passed for submission to the province for approval.

Aurora Council has debated a ward system over the years usually at the request of a citizen or a ratepayers' association.

However, one of the first requests for a ward system

Winners at the recent

Society of York Region

Artists (SOYRA) art show

and sale held at the Aurora

Oil: Anthony Palmer

Water colour: Donnah

Pastel: Peggy Whiteside

Acrylic: Carol J. Beaver

Alternative media: June

Miller "Old World Charm"

(water colour); Christine

(water colour);

"Peindre a la place du

Cameron II "At rest on the

Mediterranean".

Hills "The Rose".

went to:

'Sunday Afternoon".

"Pastural Excitement".

Legion are as follows:

came from a member of council.

In 1965, Councillor Jim Murray said that with two new areas in town, Regency Acres and Aurora Heights, a ward system should be in place for the December 1966 municipal election.

The question came up again in 1966 and council established a council/citizen committee to study the

Later in the year council rejected the special committee recommendation that a ward system be established on the basis that such a system would divide the town between the old and the new.

With a population of only 10,137 at that time, council agreed to reconsider a ward system when the population reached 25,000.

With the coming of regional government in 1971, Aurora Council had the opportunity in 1970 to decide if it wanted a ward system so that it could be written into the regional legislation but opted to remain with the status quo.

At the council meeting April 3, 1972, council confirmed its position regarding a ward system on the basis that members of council should represent the whole town rather than just a particular area.

This resulted in a delegation from the Aurora Orchards Homeowners Association, who requested reconsideration of a ward system.

They suggested that the town be divided into five wards with one councillor each and the mayor and three members of council be elected at large.

association's

winners

Joseph Kiefer "Senator Falls" (water colour); Anthony "Government Cove" (water Last Hurrah"

Palmer Wharf, Peggy's Cove" (oil): Pamela Newman "White Tulips" (acrylic); Elizabeth Gibson Poppy Profusion" (dye on silk); Heather Kertzer "Dog Tired" (pastel); Anne West "Breaking Free" (ink and water colour); Hans Martin "Rural Cuba. Truck" (ink and water colour): Sharon Nielsen "June Favourites" (water colour); Angela Honourable Mentions Lombardi "St. Paul de Vence I" (water colour); Nancy Newman Janice Kobold "Atlantic "Evening Blossoms" (water colour); Heather J. Eleanor Howard "Peonies -(water colour); Graham Ames Valentini "Spring's First "Screw-Head" (Multimedia sculpture).

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request received a cool reception at council, as the majority were of the opinion a ward system would encourage division in the

However they agreed to discuss the request at a committee meeting, where it was agreed no action would be taken.

The issue was quiet for a few years but in 1990, it surfaced again with a request Valhalla Ratepayers Association for a ward system to make councillors more accountable for their actions.

The association's brief referred to council's actions regarding reconstruction of the St. John's Sideroad, which would destroy the sensitive wetlands.

Council rejected the request resulting in an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board.

In an effort to avoid the OMB hearing, council made efforts to convince the association to drop the appeal, and in November, 1990, established a citizen/council committee to review the ward system.

The committee recommended the issue be included on the ballot for the 1991 municipal election, but as the OMB hearing had been scheduled, council took no

After listening to six witnesses from the ratepayer group and six witnesses from the town, plus viewing

16 exhibits, the OMB rejected the association's appeal.

In his ruling the OMB hearing officer said he was loathe to impose a change in the electoral system, unless there were clear and urgent reasons for so doing and that evidence was not forthcoming.

He added that the time would come when the town would need a ward system, and council of the day would know when to implement it, as the signs would be obvious.

Obviously, council is still waiting for the signs to appear.

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6:30 pm First Local 7:00 pm Jr.A Hockey

11:00 am Daytime

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8:30 pm 2 Fit Chicks 9:00 pm Plugged In! 9:30 pm York Region Living 10:00 pm First Local

Tuesday

11:00 am Daytime 5:00 pm Jr.A Hockey 7:00 pm First Local 7:30 pm Sportsbeat 8:30 pm Plugged In! 9:00 pm Current Affairs * 9:30 pm 2 Fit Chicks 10:00 pm First Local

Wednesday

11:00 am Daytime 5:30 pm Sportsbeat 6:30 pm Body, Mind & Spirit 7:00 pm First Local 7:30 pm Council/Current Affairs*

10:00 pm First Local

<u>Thursday</u>

11:00 am Daytime 5:30 pm 2 Fit Chicks 6:00 pm Plugged In! 6:30 pm Our Town 7:00 pm First Local 7:30 pm The Tigers This Week 8:00 pm Body, Mind & Spirit

8:30 pm @aci The Internet Show 9:00 pm York Region Living 9:30 pm The Tigers This Week

10:00 pm First Local

11:00 am Daytime 5:30 pm The Tigers This Week

6:00 pm Sportsbeat 7:00 pm First Local 7:30 pm Our Town 8:00 pm York Region Living 8:30 pm 2 Fit Chicks 9:00 pm Body, Mind & Spirit

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*Current Affairs includes:Council in Action, Oak Ridges News & Views, IMPACT

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