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Vol. 5 No. 21

Week of March 15, 2005

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It was Ryan Knierim's birthday recently so he combined it with the first anniversary celebration of Aurora's Creative Connections in their new location. Aurora's Creative Connections is in Unit 5, at 15105 Yonge Street, south of the library, where they have, among other things, hosted numerous birthday parties for the past 12 months.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Briefly

Seniors turn green

This Friday, March 18, the Aurora seniors +55 dance committee will host a St. Patrick's Day dance from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Seniors' Centre main hall on Victoria Street.

Organizers hope participants will dress up in their "greenest" outfits, and they say, "let's have a party".

When Aurora seniors congregate anywhere a party usually breaks out, so this one promises to be a good one.

Admission for members at \$3 and non-members at \$3.50 includes prizes, late snacks and big band music.

Singles are always welcome but seating is limited.

Speaking of parties

To celebrate the Aurora Optimists' 20th anniversary of community service to the community, the club will host a toot at the Aurora Legion featuring the popular FabFour.

What is The FabFour?

The FabFour is a well-known band throughout York Region, one of Canada's few successful Beatles impersonation bands.

You may remember them from Aurora's July First celebration last year when they performed in the Town Park the night before and more than 2,000 spectators showed up, an all-time high for that event.

They'll be back Saturday, May 14, and tickets, at \$40 a pop, are almost gone.

If you're lucky, there will still be some available at Royal Lepage, 14799 Yonge Street.

“Aurora Day” set for Ontario Place

Aurora is going to celebrate itself.

And, in spite of a heavily scheduled month of June, it has selected Saturday, June 18, as the day to do it.

A group of people, called the Aurora Day Committee, have agreed to pursue the idea of an "Aurora Day", and will work in conjunction with officials from Ontario Place to pull it off.

For that day, Aurora will be highlighted in Festival Square at the huge park sitting on the shores of Lake Ontario in Toronto.

The idea came about when Councillor Evelyn Buck noted Town Planner Sue Seibert would retire this year after 30 years of service.

Councillor Buck believed the town had benefitted under the planner's control and it should acknowledge her contribution.

Town hires new CAO

Aurora has a new Chief Administrative Officer.

Town councillors announced at the end of last Tuesday's meeting, that an agreement had been reached with John S. Rogers, currently the Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of East Gwillimbury.

He will begin his duties in Aurora April 11, replacing Aurora's interim CAO Scott Somerville, who was hired on a temporary basis in July of 2004.

Mr. Rogers has been CAO in East Gwillimbury since 2001.

"We are very pleased that Mr. Rogers will be joining us as our new CAO," said Mayor Tim Jones. "This is a time of progress and growth for the Town of Aurora and we look forward to working with him as he serves to strengthen Aurora in this leadership role."

A lawyer by trade, Rogers has been on both sides of the political fence.

Prior to holding the position of CAO in East Gwillimbury, he served as an assistant solicitor with the Town of Newmarket after several years in private law practice.

From 1982 to 1988, he worked the political arena, serving as Mayor for the Town of Georgina and as a member of Regional Council.

While on Regional Council, Rogers chaired the Engineering Committee and was a member of the Administrative Committee and Regional Centre Building Committee.

A resident of Keswick, Rogers currently serves on the Markham-Stouffville Hospital Research Ethics Committee and Board of Directors for United Way York Region.

He has also served as Chairperson for the York Region District Health Council and the York Region Abuse Program, among many other volunteer pursuits.

The filling of the position ends a struggle that has been ongoing since the surprise resignation of CAO Larry Allison, who assumed a similar post with the Town of Innisfil last year.



John S. Rogers



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

During the month of March the Skylight Gallery in the Town Hall presents the artworks of Edward Abela. Regular viewing hours are from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

On the first Wednesday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon, a satellite constituency office for Vaughan/King/Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara will be open in the council lounge at the Town Hall. Call 1-877-880-6770 for information.

Every Friday night from 8.15 to 10.15 p.m. at the Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School gym there will be a Basketball and Volleyball Drop-In for ages 14 to 18. Call 905-726-4760 for further information.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge #148 meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at 15216 Yonge Street (south of Wellington). For more information, call 905-830-0205.

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. Call 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. 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.

Overnight parking restrictions in effect until April 15th from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. on all town streets.

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.

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 old Victoria Street library building. Call 905-773-7024 for details.

Canadian Federation of University Women Aurora/Newmarket welcomes new members throughout the year for monthly meetings and special interest groups. Contact Barb at 905-713-3587. Trinity Anglican Church, Aurora.

Cooking and Sewing Classes for kids ages 10 to 14 years - every Wednesday 3.45 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church corner Mosley and Victoria Streets. Classes end March 30th. Cost \$20 for materials only.

The Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Aurora Legion, Industrial Parkway North, at 8 p.m. For more information, call 905-727-4946.

MARCH 19

First Baptist Church at Wellington and Victoria hosts the Bernard Pears Choral and Friends at 7 p.m. in a St. Patrick's Day concert of sacred and traditional Irish music. For further information, call 905-727-4531.

It's dinner and a movie at the Aurora Library for 11 to 14-year-olds from 7 to 9 p.m. Film is "Bulletproof Monk" starring Sean William Scott and Chow Yun-Fat. Cost is \$3 per person. For information call 905-726-4760.

MARCH 20

Aurora resident and artist Herbert Pryke will be displaying his artworks at the Mill Pond Gallery, 314 Mill St., Richmond Hill from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. Herbert's primary subject matter are the landscapes, barns and 'just trees' of the North York Region, a commodity quickly being depleted.

MARCH 21

Aurora Writers Group meets at the Aurora Community Centre at 7.30 p.m. Note change of date and venue. Writers, 18 and older of all genres and levels welcome. Free. Contact Malcolm at 905-898-5484.

MARCH 21, 28

Aurora Public Library presents genealogy workshop with Ruth Burkholder. 7 p.m., Lebovic Room. \$10. Limited registration. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

MARCH 22

Square dancing at Aurora Lions Hall. 1 p.m. Call the Aurora Seniors' Centre at 905-727-2816 or Norm Weller at 905-727-6434 to register.

Applications close at 4.30 p.m. for the five citizen members to participate on a Task Force to review issues surrounding basement apartments in Aurora. Applications must be submitted to the town clerk.

Try Synchro at the Aurora Leisure Complex Pool from 6 to 7.30 p.m. hosted by the Newmarket Synchronized Swim Club. Call 905-726-4763.

MARCH 23

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, offers income tax clinic, 6.30 p.m. For more information, call the library.

MARCH 24

Chamber of Commerce Business After 5 at Almac Conveyor Company, 155 Engelhard Drive. 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.

MARCH 25

Aurora's Yellow Brick House presents a rock concert at the Newmarket Theatre featuring Sony BMG artist Liam Titcomb, Harpoon Dodger, Dala and Pat Robitaille to raise funds for the Pathway of Peace. Concert starts at 7:30 p.m. Call the theatre box office at 905-953-5122.

MARCH 31

Last day for submitting nominations to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce for Business Awards.

MARCH 31, APRIL 2-3

Aurora Opera Company musical My Fair Lady stars Aurora residents Sarah Kyle as Eliza Doolittle; Joe Likuski as Professor Henry Higgins; and Dave Greig as Alfred P. Doolittle. Aurora Opera Company's 10th season production is at the Newmarket Theatre Thursday, March 31st at 7 p.m., Saturday April 2nd at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday April 3rd 1 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.

APRIL 2

Optimist Hockey League registration in the arena lobby at the Leisure Complex from 10 a.m. to noon for girls and boys born in 1999 and 2000. Games played Saturday and Sunday morning from September to April. Bring child's health card. Call Scott Sutherland for further information at 905-726-2998.

APRIL 6

The annual Bob Hartwell Runner's Challenge needs volunteers. A volunteer orientation session will be held at the Town Hall at 7 p.m. For more information call Chris Williams at 905-392-1977.

From 7 to 8.30 p.m. in the Magna Room at the Aurora Public Library in conjunction with Aurora Cable Internet. A general open forum will be held to answer computer related questions.

Pre-register at the library information desk, or on line at www.aci.on.ca.

APRIL 8

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Aurora, is holding a silent auction in aid of Campaign Dignity for Toronto's Evangel Hall at 7 p.m. Dessert and coffee will be served. Tickets cost \$5.

APRIL 9-10

Aurora Community Tennis Club registration Saturday at the Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge St., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday at Straightlines, 15483 Yonge St., from 11.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

APRIL 10

Bob Hartwell annual Runners Challenge starts at Aurora's Town Park, with routes throughout the community.

APRIL 15

Last day for entry forms for the Town of Aurora 43rd Annual Juried Art Show and Sale to be held April 29/30 and May 1.

APRIL 19

Heritage Fairs Program, a new community-based Fair program is being introduced in Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville this year. The Aurora event will be held at Aurora Legion Hall (105 Industrial Parkway North) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

APRIL 22-24

Aurora's Living in Style Home Show sponsored by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. For booth space call the Chamber office at 905-727-7262 to reserve.

APRIL 27

Theatre Aurora invites 80 seniors to see their next production "Out of Order" at the Factory Theatre

at 8 p.m. Sign up at the Seniors' Centre.

APRIL 29

Join the Aurora Seniors as they head to Woodbine for a day of racing and the slots. Cost is \$59 for members and \$64 for non-members. Call the centre to register at 905-727-2816.

MAY 14

16th Annual Girls Incorporated auction. Tuscany Banquet Centre, Edward Street. Admission \$60 each or \$110 per couple includes entertainment, dancing, appetizers and door prizes. Reserve by calling 905-727-4897, extension 305.

Aurora Optimists present the FabFour at the Aurora Legion for a fundraising dance and to celebrate the club's 20th anniversary. Tickets on sale at Royal LePage, 14799 Yonge Street.

MAY 30

It's a Lake Scugog Cruise and Casino visit for the Aurora Seniors with the day beginning at the Great Blue Heron Casino in Port Perry to play the slots and have a buffet lunch. That's followed by a cruise on Lake Scugog. After the cruise, there will be time for shopping in Port Perry. Cost is \$69 for members and \$74 for non-members. Call the centre to register at 905-727-2816.

JUNE 4

Street dance on Yonge Street between Murray and Henderson, 7 p.m. to midnight.

JUNE 5

Tenth annual World's Longest Street Festival on the World's Longest Street. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Yonge Street will be closed to vehicular traffic from Wellington to Murray.

JUNE 11

Annual Farmers' Market opens in Temperance Street parking lot near Yonge and Wellington. Every Saturday morning until Thanksgiving.



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Jonathan's Restaurant co-owners Dave Georgiou and Mary Georgopoulos share a glass of bubbly with pianist/singer Kathryn Lynn last week as the popular Yonge Street restaurant celebrated its 16th birthday.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Handful of people shows up for public budget meeting

It was advertised as a special general committee meeting to obtain public input regarding Aurora's 2005 capital and operating budgets.

But only 10 citizens, two of them members of the library board, took the time to attend and three made presentations.

The meeting ended in 30 minutes.

Mayor Tim Jones announced at the start of the meeting that there would be no council debate as the idea was to hear from the public.

There have been several meetings on the budget, which were open to the public and it is planned to discuss the budget in general committee March 22nd and give final approval March 29th.

It all started last April when the finance advisory committee reviewed the current budget preparation process and recommended that the public input session be held earlier in the preparation process and a community survey be carried out.

It was also recommended that the capital budget be approved prior to the operating budget in order to expedite the tender process for capital projects.

In December, Aurora Council had its first peek at the budget and it wasn't good news.

When the \$16.9 million 2004 budget was approved, the outlook for 2005 was shown as a 19 per cent increase. That was the starting point for the preparation of the 2005 budget.

Using a property valued at \$250,000, the total 2004 property tax was \$2,786, of which the town received 30 per cent or \$832, the region 44 per cent or \$1,214 and education 26 per cent or \$740.

Since then there has

been almost a million dollars of assessment growth which lowers the tax rate of the estimated \$17.8 million 2005 operating budget.

On the revenue side, it was estimated that there would be a decrease in building permit fees, investment income and provincial legislative changes, especially Bill 124, an Act to Improve Public Safety and to increase efficiency in Building Code Enforcement.

Expenditures increased due to staffing costs, higher rates for public utilities and part-year debenture, the cost of the library and operating costs for the new recreational complex.

For the same property valued at \$250,000 the estimated average tax for 2005 is \$2,916 with \$898 to the town, \$1,278 to the region

and \$740 plus any increase for education.

The 2005 proposed capital budget is \$10.6 million of which \$3.5 million will be from reserves, \$5.7 million from reserve funds, \$1 million from the operating budget and \$325,000 from other funding services.

In order to bring the capital budget down, several capital projects were deferred, including the replacement of two backhoes, a vacuum for the pool, installation of traffic lights and the Victoria Street library.

In a presentation to members of council and the public, Treasurer Jim Carey reviewed the budget process to date, and the tax increase currently stands at \$1.4 million or 7.9 per cent,

Please see page 17

Longer council term? No thanks, town says

A three-year council term is long enough, Aurora councillors believe.

At a previous general committee meeting, Councillor John West said he would bring a background paper and survey from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario regarding the length of term for municipal councils. He suggested the item be discussed publicly.

It was noted the deadline for submissions was March 1 and West expressed concern about the delay in the survey coming to council.

Staff replied that a copy had been forwarded to every member of council for completion but only two members of council responded.

Because of the deadline, it was decided to complete the survey in open council.

In response to a question as to whether the municipal term of office should be increased from three to four years and if the municipal election should be held in the same year as the provincial election, Aurora Council voted "no" to both questions.

Council members were asked if they supported a change in the time of year for municipal elections and if so, what month. Council

members suggested September.

There was also agreement that school boards be elected at the same time as members of council, but councillors rejected the suggestion that the voting age be reduced from 18 to 16.

Currently in Ontario, municipal terms are three years and voting day is the second Monday in November with the new council assuming office

December 1st.

Five of the 13 provinces and territories have a four-year term of office, six have a three-year term, rural Saskatchewan has a two-year term and the term of office in the Northwest Territories varies between two and three years depending on the size of the municipality. Voting age in all jurisdictions is 18.

It is understood AMO will make a presentation to the province later this month.

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Poor Richard

Beware the Ides of March

*"Beware the Ides of March",
The old soothsayer did say;
Julius Caesar wouldn't listen,
The warnings hold true today.
-Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

If the soothsayer was around today some of his warnings might be directed to local politicians and others for this March 15th.

He would likely warn Aurora councillors to get their act together during the last two years of their term or forget about running in the next election as their actions are an embarrassment to many citizens.

Another warning would likely go to Councillor Bill Hogg to advise him that if he can't get to council meetings on time and stay until the end of the meeting, he should consider whether he has the time for town business.

In addition, there is more to being a councillor than attending council and committee meetings, as participation in community functions are also important.

Another warning would likely go to Councillor John West for forgetting that the other members of council were elected by the public the same way he was and have every right to express their opinions, whether he agrees with them or not.

All members of council, especially Councillor Evelyn Buck, are warned that when they fail to activate their desk microphones they can't be heard by the TV audience and they look silly with their mouth flapping and nothing coming out. On the other hand, perhaps it's better that way.

The soothsayer suggests that all members of council be required to watch themselves on Aurora Cable Internet and write an essay about their appearance and the impression they make on the viewers.

The soothsayer also wants to sympathize with all staff members and the media who are forced to sit through council meetings and listen to the incessant babble that emanates from the meeting without having the opportunity to bring some sanity to the proceedings.

Attending a regional council meeting, the soothsayer was amazed at the role and actions of Regional Chairman Bill Fisch, who wasn't elected by the public at large, but by the members of regional council, and warns that's not democratic.

The soothsayer also wants to know how a growing region like York can get by with only one public council meeting a month, instead of the traditional two meetings, while members of council continue to draw a full salary.

He warns members of council that if they aren't careful, staff will take over completely and they won't be needed at all.

At the provincial level, the soothsayer warns that unless Premier Dalton McGuinty stops breaking promises and running around like Chicken Little, he will be a one-term wonder.

The soothsayer says McGuinty has been in office more than a year now and has to stop blaming former Premier Mike Harris and Ernie Eves for the deficit and other problems the government is experiencing and start accepting some responsibility.

He warns Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory not to listen to some of the old guard of the party who served under Harris or Eves as they may lead him down the same path that brought McGuinty to power.

He also warned that the Tories should stop using the same Caledon riding as a stepping stone to power. First Ernie Eves was parachuted in and now Tory.

It's not fair to the constituents, the soothsayer says. At the federal level, the soothsayer throws up his hands in disgust due to the complete lack of leadership of both the major parties.

He says that Stephen Harper is a dead loss as a leader and warns the party membership that unless they get rid of him and get someone with some personality and who represents the wishes of the party, they will be in the wilderness for a long time.

As for Prime Minister Paul Martin, the soothsayer would only say that Canada got what it deserved, so beware the Ides of March.



Once again we have a photo of Old Aurora and no idea when it was taken. The postcard of Catherine Avenue was located on the internet by former Aurora Banner reporter Bob Cooke and sent to us via e-mail. He said he was going to buy the postcard then donate it to the Aurora Museum, but he lost the item when someone outbid him at the last minute. Wonder who? Today's photo of Catherine, bottom, while in a completely different season, begs one obvious question. What happened to all the trees? In our contest two weeks ago, the minute the lines were opened, two people simultaneously phoned with the correct answer. Both identified former Minister of Education Bette Stephenson as the little girl who lived there and both said the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce now sits on the site. That's the answer we had. Only one who disagrees is Bette Stephenson. "I never lived on Yonge Street," the current Oak Ridges resident said. "I lived on Ransom." Either way, Dorothy Pattenden and Margaret Griffith have \$50 each to spend at Festa Restaurant in Aurora.

Letter to the Editor

Concert for Riley a success

To the editor,

"It takes a whole village to raise a child" - ancient African proverb.

The Wells Street Public School "village" of parents, staff, students, families and friends joined together on the evening of Sunday, February 6, to enjoy a benefit concert to support Riley Bailey, a JK student at Wells Street Public School, and her family.

Riley is in rehabilitation at the Bloorview-MacMillan Centre in Toronto after brain surgery.

She is progressing well and was able to attend the concert with her sister and parents.

Our sincerest thanks

and appreciation are extended to the York Regional Police Male Chorus who donated their time and talent to perform for us.

We thank Reverend Nicola Skinner and Trinity Anglican Church for donating the use of their facility.

Acknowledgement and praise is forthcoming for Erina Kelly and her volunteers who initiated and orchestrated a very successful fund raising event to support the Bailey family.

We thank The Auroran for its generous support in promoting the event for several weeks prior to the activity.

To the individuals and organizations who pur-

chased tickets and made generous donations, we are indebted to your support and thank you for your commitment to helping a child and her family overcome the challenges ahead.

You have illustrated how small gestures can build a community commitment to provide a positive future for a young child.

On behalf of the staff and students at Wells Street Public School, we thank all of you, our community, in joining together to make a difference in Riley's life.

Jean Beard
Principal
Wells Street
Public School

AURORAN

*"Aurora's
Community Newspaper"*

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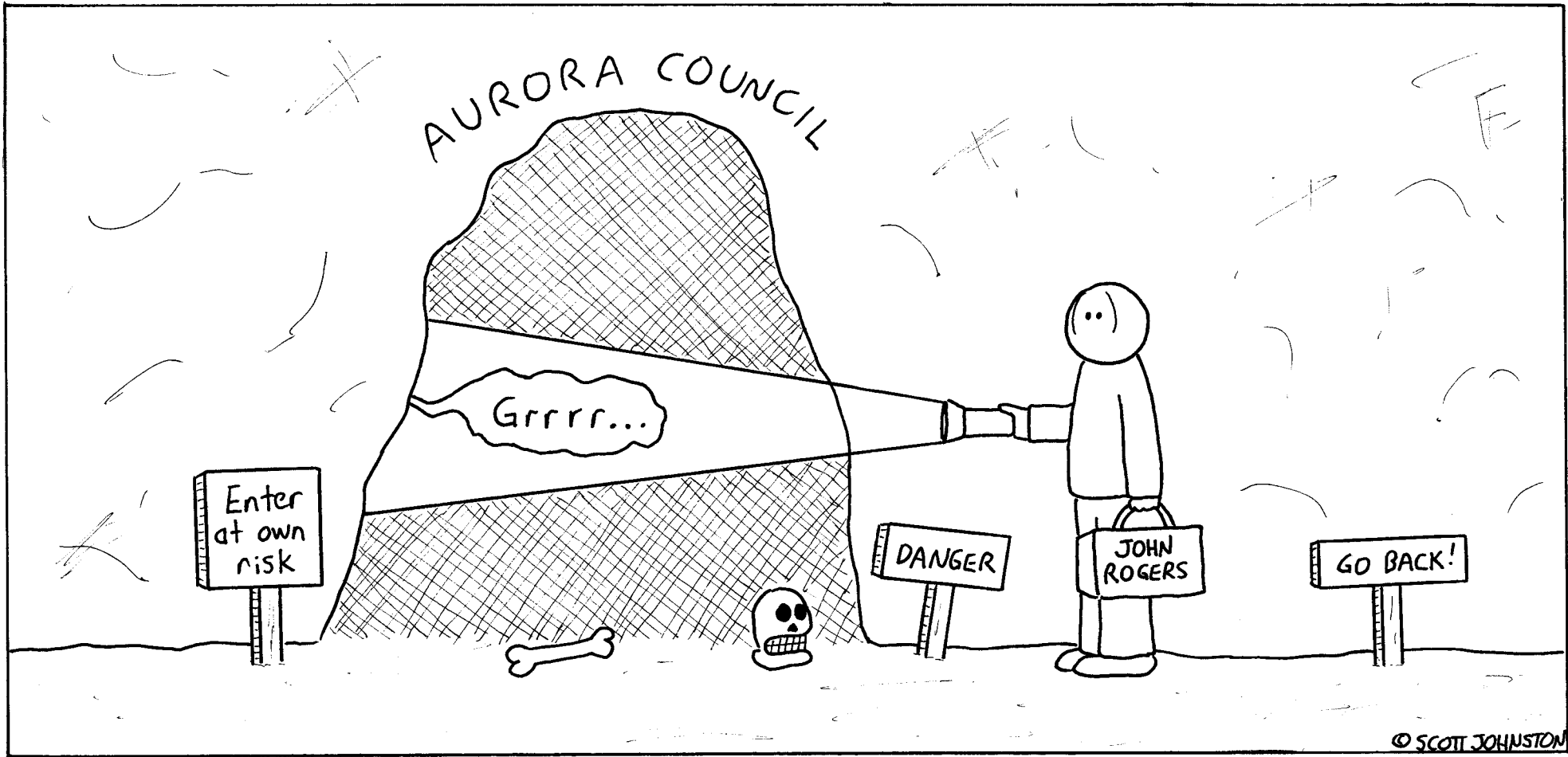
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Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

"Celebrating Success"

The 2005 Business Achievement Awards Gala will take place Friday, October 21st, at DiNardo's, The Mansion, Aurora.

Nominees for each of the following awards, must be Aurora-based businesses.

Business Person of the Year: (Individual Award). The successful nominee has provided a high standard of excellence in the Aurora Business community. He/she demonstrates excellence in vision and leadership, innovation and achievement, business growth/development strategy, and has shown excellence in community involvement and contribution.

Business of the Year (under 20 employees)

Business of the Year (21-50 employees)

Business of the Year (51 & up employees)

In each of the above, the business of the year must demonstrate exceptional business achievement relating to a variety of areas including growth; research and development; creative use of technology; new markets, products, services, environment, marketing techniques etc.

These achievements can be within Canada or in the global arena.

New Venture Award: This award winner has exhibited excellence in starting and operating his/her own Aurora-based business within the past 36 months. Nominees may have exhibited an originality of business concept at the time of start up, innovative/effective marketing of the new enterprise, a positive impact on its industry, or special service to the community.

Young Entrepreneur Recognition Awards: Open to persons under the age of 30 who have developed their own Aurora-based enterprise. The nominated individuals, male or female, must demonstrate entrepreneurial skills/basic business concepts in any of, but not limited to the following areas; organization, management, marketing, "hands-on" customer experience and leadership potential.

The Rules: Nominees must be Aurora-based businesses, but do not have to be members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce - you will be encouraged to join! Nominees may be nominated in more than one category and you may nominate yourself. Financial statements are not required and previous nominees are also eligible.

Nomination forms are available at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce at Yonge and Industrial Parkway South, or at the Town Hall, Mayor's Office.

You may also download from the Chamber's web-site www.aurorachamber.on.ca.

Nominations can be mailed or faxed to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, 6 - 14845 Yonge Street, Suite 321, Aurora, L4G 6H8, fax: (905) 841-6217 telephone: (905) 727-7262.

Nomination forms can also be delivered to the Chamber Office.

The deadline is Thursday, March 31st.

I have the pleasure of being an ex-officio member of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and it is truly inspirational to watch the Board in action.

At the time of preparing this column, corporate

membership stood at 747 with a goal of reaching 750 for this fiscal year, which comes to a close shortly.

If you have been thinking about joining, please call the office and Rosalyn, Mary Lynn or Kathy will be glad to assist - please mention that you are reacting from reading this column!

Other events sponsored by the Chamber include the upcoming Home Show (April 22-24th at the Community Centre), and the popular Street Festival (June 5th on Yonge Street, between Wellington and Murray Drive) and NEW this year to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Festival, a STREET DANCE Saturday, June 4th in

the evening on Yonge between Murray and Henderson Drive.

Aurora has many reasons to feel good about itself.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce and the community events they sponsor, are major players in our Town in this area.

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



Nightmare on Municipal Drive

I had a nightmare.
I dreamed I was on council.
It's not as terrible as you're thinking. It's worse.
I dreamed I was the mayor. Of Aurora.
Yeah, I know...you're thinking this is the funniest column I've ever written.

I don't know what caused it.
It could be that there is some latent desire to don chains and cut ribbons buried deep in the recesses of my slightly bent sense of humour.

Or, it might be early onset of midlife crisis.
I say "early" because I had it neatly scheduled for 2010, when I will have saved enough to nip and tuck myself back to 1990.

Or, it might have just been the nachos. I ordered them with extra jalapenos.

I may never know what caused it, but I know this was the scariest nightmare I have ever had.

It beat my nightmare on Mary Street by far. I had to write TWO columns!

Which is how it all started in the first place.

You see, in my nightmare, the mayor went to Florida and I filled in for him just like Ron filled in for me when I went to Florida.

Except, unlike me, I didn't write about Fred, and the mayor didn't freeze his tootsies off, so he didn't come back.

The next thing I knew, I was in chains and ribbons up to my eyeballs, and my e-mail box was filling up faster than my Florida shopping cart!

Now, usually I am happy to get e-mail.

I light up like the aurora borealis...and gush...and my husband is lucky to get a word in edgewise. For weeks. Sometimes months.

But not in this dream. E-mail was a bad thing in this dream.

I didn't get a single message from the mother of the cute one.

That would be Gary - the cute one...from Greenham's. I like Gary. He's cute. I like his mother, too. She writes. Instead, I got e-mail from "residents".

I don't know who these people are, but they are armed and dangerous!

They've got ideas, big vocabularies, and letter writing capabilities. Some of them even vote.

I started to panic and did the unthinkable.

I went to council and...um...well...complained. That's like whining. Except when you complain, you expect somebody to do something about it - yesterday!

I said (screamed, actually...in a very no-nonsense, I-mean-business kind of squeaky, whiney voice...with hiccups): "This is really wrong, hic, I don't want to be the mayor, hic! I want Dick Illingworth's job, hic!"

The truth is, I don't even want Dick's whole job, hic - I just want the "Bouquets and Brickbats" part, hic!

But, as often happens in dreams, the timeline was subject to change without notice, hic, and Dick was...hic!...the mayor!

I had unwittingly fallen through the rabbit hole that instantly converts columnists into victims of foot-in-mouth syndrome. And gives them hiccups.

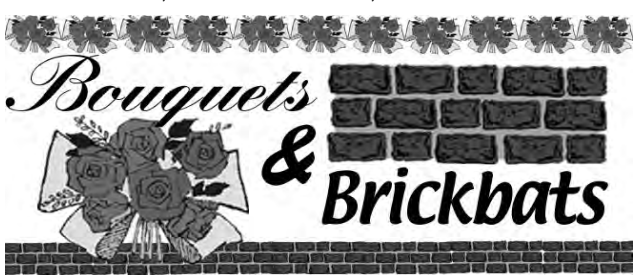
And after that, I didn't have to write TWO columns.

Nobody would let me write ANY columns! It chilled my blood, I tell you.

I woke up with the suspicion that I get nightmares when my sense of humour loses its grip on reality. Or maybe it's when my grip on reality loses its sense of humour.

Or it might have just been the nachos.

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



By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Linda of Aurora for submitting the 8.30 Joke of the Morning to Foxy - FM 88.5 recently. It was about a husband and wife arguing who should make the coffee in the morning. She proved it was the husband's job by pointing out that the Bible says "Hebrew!"

BRICKBATS to Aurora Council for adopting bylaws and spending money to erect signs to control speeding and banning heavy trucks on residential streets when there is no enforcement. More than a year ago a letter was sent to York Regional Police requesting enforcement of the heavy truck ban on Cousins Drive. The police are conspicuous by their absence but heavy trucks are still travelling the street.

BOUQUETS and a warm Aurora Welcome to Leo Riccio, Paul Cridland, Monica Nunez and George Psonas on the opening of the new Fitness Clubs of Canada location in the former Goodwill store on Yonge Street across from the Aurora Shopping Centre.

BRICKBATS to members of Aurora Council for not including naming streets after Citizens of the Year as suggested by the late Jack Moore, while amending the street naming policy recently. And while we're at it, Mr. Moore should have a street named after him.

BOUQUETS to the members of the Aurora Master Ducks who competed in a 24-hour Swim for Heart Challenge to raise funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The male team was named the "Strokes" and the female team the "Hearts". Pictures appear elsewhere in this week's Auroran.

BRICKBATS to the sidewalk snowplow operator in the John West Way area of town for tearing up peoples' lawns. In order to protect their lawns some residents are shovelling the sidewalk in front of their house but it doesn't make any difference as the plow still manages to tear up sod even with a clean sidewalk.

BOUQUETS to the brave skiers who participated in the annual Aurora Chamber of Commerce Ski Day at Osler Bluffs on one of the coldest days of the year. Hearty souls!

BRICKBATS to the five MPs who didn't go skiing, but took a tax-funded junket to the sunny Caribbean to visit Jamaica and Bahamas to meet with their political counterparts. It's a pretty thin excuse to enjoy a holiday in the warmth at the taxpayers' expense.

BOUQUETS to Don Oates for taking Poor Richard to task for his Brickbat to the court system for not identifying the accused in a case where a nine-year-old girl was sexually assaulted. Don is quite correct in pointing out that to name the accused might indirectly identify the victim. Thanks Don!

BRICKBATS to Ontario Energy Minister Dwight Duncan for supporting the 35 per cent pay increase given to Tom Parkinson, CEO of the provincially-owned Hydro One, who was earning \$1.5 million per year. He also has an exit package of \$2 million if he should get fired without cause.

BOUQUETS to the two lady joggers who stopped to assist a senior citizen shoveling snow from the front steps and the driveway. As the senior said in a letter to The Auroran, "It is nice to know that we have people in Aurora such as these and my neighbours who lend a helping hand." Amen!

BOUQUETS to Gary McNeil, CEO and Managing Director of GO Transit, for responding to an Aurora Council request for a representative to bring council members up-to-date on current issues involving the town and the agency.

Letters to the Editor

Aurora Council needs younger blood: student

To the editor,

RE: Al Wilson's response to the Town Council.

I am a student currently enrolled in Grade 10 at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School.

During this semester, we have briefly touched on politics and issues that are dealt with in government.

We were instructed to send a letter to a local newspaper where we could discuss an issue that is most important to us.

While scanning The Auroran (looking for my hockey scores) I stumbled upon Al Wilson's letter (Auroran, Mar. 1).

It touches on an issue I think is important in politics right now and I'd like to voice my opinion.

I think that Al Wilson's

letter of discontent with Evelyn Buck, and a majority of the Town Council, touches on a brief number of matters that are wrong with politics.

I go to high school, I see debates that end in name calling and conduct appropriate for school children.

It is most uncomplimentary to see insults thrown around at school when an argument takes a personal turn.

Now, think about how it makes people feel when they see the leaders of their municipality act in the same manner as school children.

I was taught that hitting was not the way to solve arguments, and to use my words to solve disputes.

How am I able to take this advice to heart when I hear about a councillor, a leader of an entire municipality, doing the same?

In elementary school we held debates on topics that were personal; we had to put our feelings aside to argue our side of the debate.

The town's councillors have to learn to put their personal feelings aside. They are elected to represent the whole town, not their personal beliefs. It is in their best interest to do what's right for the town, and not necessarily themselves.

One final thing that I find wrong with the council is the age group.

The town council has become a kind of circle of elders (with the exception of one or two).

Aurora is a new generation of town.

It is flourishing with new businesses and townspeople.

It is a completely different

town from what it was 7-10 years ago.

We need fresh blood on the council, someone who can diminish the personal flare that is so prominent in meetings.

The councillors have known each other for quite some time now, and over that time rules and ethics have given way to personal feelings.

I believe an excellent example of a new age politician is Belinda Stronach.

Not everyone agrees with her ways of operating, but she is good at what she does.

She tackles the things that are wrong in politics; she refuses to back down in the face of adversity.

I find her most admirable, because she works morally and ethically, something that has seemed to erode over the years.

This is just one 15 year old's opinion, but I believe that your paper could use more input from the upcoming generation.

Things change, albeit not always for good, but the more issues that are discussed by our different generations will allow us to breach the gap and in the end we can accomplish a common good.

Setting the record straight

To the editor,

Unfortunately the March newsletter regarding activities at the Aurora Seniors' Centre failed to announce the start-up of the Aurora Seniors Art Group on Tuesday, March 29, as the first class of the Spring session from 9.30 a.m. to noon.

In addition, the most recent mailing of the Leisure Services Spring and Summer Programs unfortunately published the starting date of the Art Class as April 19 and running for six weeks to May 24, instead of

nine weeks, starting March 29 for a fee of \$63.

That's the same week as the 11th Annual Seniors' Art Show and Sale featuring the seniors' art work completed during the art programs.

The opening of the Art Show is Friday evening, May 27th from 7 to 10 p.m. and continuing on Saturday, May 28th from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at the Seniors Centre.

Artists at all levels are invited to join the art classes and participate in the annual Art Show and Sale which grows bigger and better

every year.

Remember, first class is on March 29th and not April 19th as published. Register for classes as soon as possible at the Seniors' Centre, 52 Victoria Street, phone 905-727-2816.

Dorothy Clark-McClure
Instructor

Tyler Virgoe
Aurora

Senior wants his \$20 back

To the editor,

Thursday morning, shortly after 11 a.m., I purchased groceries at the IGA on Orchard Heights Blvd. in Aurora.

Arriving home shortly after, I discovered I was \$20 short.

Returning to the store immediately, the cashier said a mother and son found the \$20 but did not turn it in

to the cashier.

I am appealing to you to teach your son honesty by returning the money to the store where I left my name and address with the cashier.

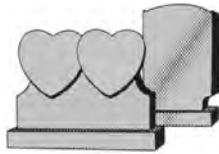
Twenty dollars will go a long way towards next week's groceries.

A senior citizen
on a pension
Aurora

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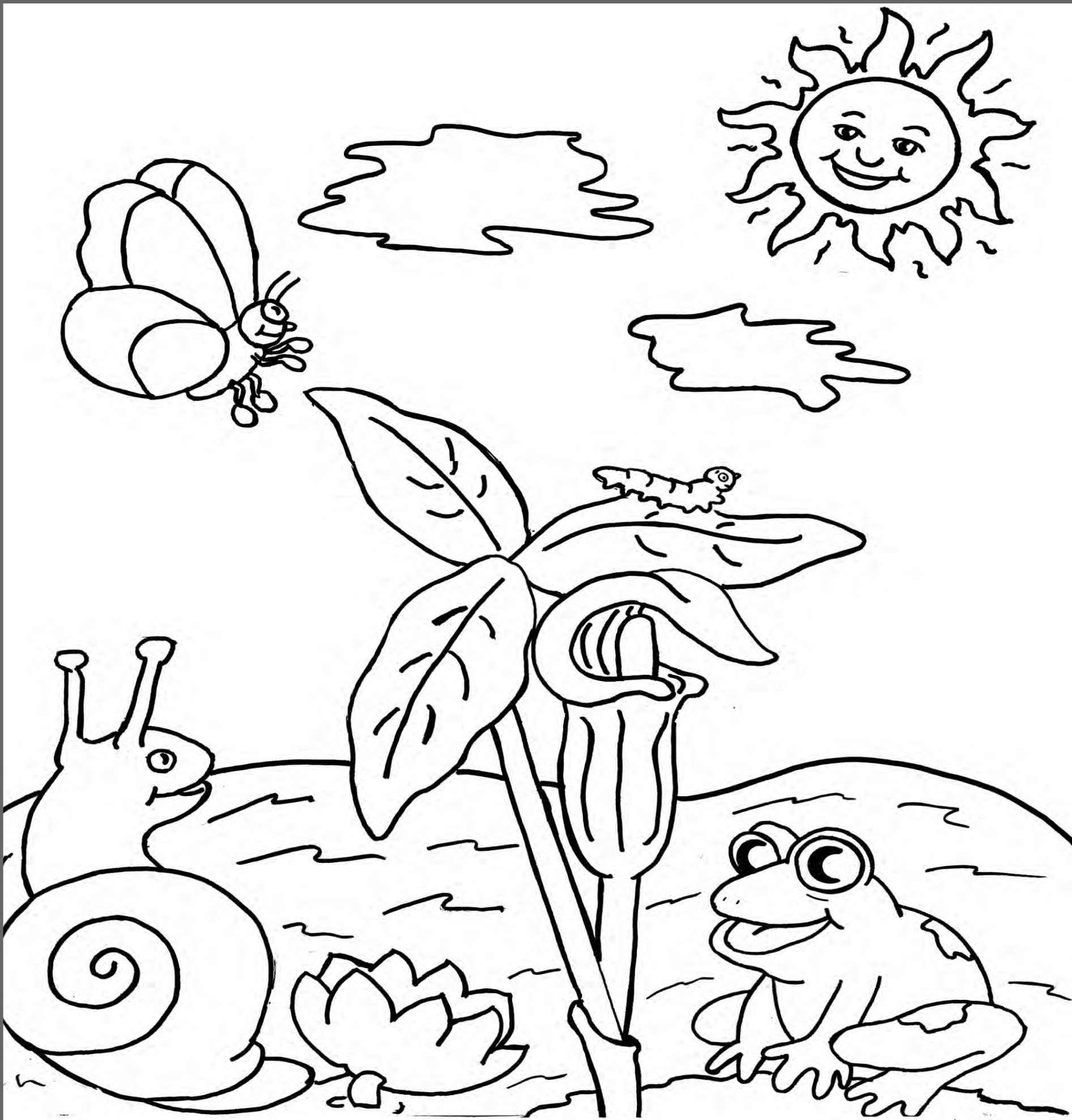
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04/02

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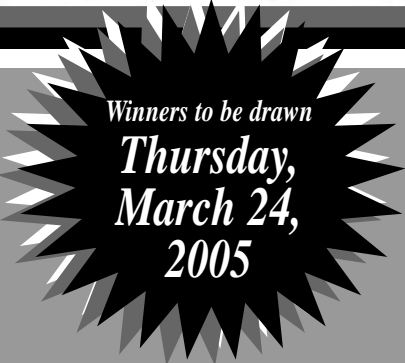
- 5 and under
- 6 and 7 years old
- 8 to 10 years old
- 11 and 12 years old

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Age: _____



Deadline for entries March 23rd. Drop off points include:

- OMARS • CREATIVE COLOURS
- SPARKLE PHARMACY • FABULOUS FLICKS



Letters to the Editor

Give Aurora Hydro back to citizens: reader

To the editor,

I believe all citizens of Aurora should have a clear picture.

Remember when we had an Aurora Fire Department?

I wonder how much money has been saved since Aurora and Newmarket Fire amalgamated?

I hope our Council takes a good look at the invoice for 2005 fire protection when it arrives from Newmarket. Did amalgamation save you money?

Will this be the writing on the wall with our electricity?

At the last Provincial election one section that caught my eye said municipal corporations were

allowed to establish a not-for-profit corporation which would allow for flow-through costs of hydro and maximum benefit for ratepayers.

Instead, the choice was taken at a local level to incorporate a for-profit corporation and create the large, artificial debt. You know the rest.

It has cost you, the tax-

payer, about 10 million dollars.

You have read about the obscene 34 per cent raise to Hydro One's CEO in the past. This could happen here.

Let's start off with a real simple solution.

Give our Aurora Hydro back to the citizens.

Let them elect the Hydro

Commission that will be answerable to you, the taxpayer.

Let the new commission set up a limited for-profit utility that will pay the town one million dollars a year. (This is less than we pay now).

We can build on this scenario and keep control of our hydro rates, no risk and after paying one million a year for 40 years, the present value of our utility will be paid.

Aurora would still own and control a utility that could be worth as much as \$80 million.

This would be less than we are paying now and ownership and control stays in Aurora. Forgive the pun, but Aurora has been left in the dark. We need answers.

* Will Council open the books and give you a complete statement as to the finances since the new board came into power?

* Will the new amalgamated board double their retainer and per meeting salary?

* Will the new board raise the artificially created debt?

* Will the interest charged to us on the above be raised?

* Where is the 2 million

dollar reserve account? The two million could be used to buy smart meters for our homes saving the taxpayers \$60 a year plus tax to rent them.

* I think there was \$1.1 million in the bank when the old board was fired. What was it used for?

* Will the new board continue to receive a \$100,000 per year budget for travel and conventions?

You, the citizens of Aurora lost your Hydro utility to a board that answers only to Council behind closed doors.

If we don't take action your Hydro utility will be lost to Aurora.

Remember the sad day Aurora Fire became Central York Fire Department? This will happen to Aurora Hydro if we don't take action.

Phone your Mayor and Councillor and tell them that we, the citizens who paid for the Hydro utility want some answers.

When the above questions are answered we need a second public meeting.

Do you want our Hydro utility to amalgamate with Newmarket? Yes or No.

Norm Weller
Former Hydro
Commissioner

Much of the recycling material winds up in local landfill sites

To the editor,

Yucky stuff from Toronto is being processed in Newmarket at the Halton Recycling Plant.

I forbore to mention it because I wanted to have at the character-driven Mayor of Markham, Don Cousens, who was having at us less than virtuous mortals for not getting with the program...the three stream

recycling jobbo, that is.

Toronto has gone for three-stream recycling in a big way.

Now, after the fact, they have had a study of the program. They are apparently collectively shocked.

Seems 25 per cent of the stuff still ends up in landfill. Eighteen per cent is methane gas.

That means 43 per cent, because methane gas is a

product of landfill.

It just takes a bit longer to produce, that's all... but of course, it is gas...and gas escapes...or explodes.

Either way it is not a good thing.

It's the 32 per cent that goes into the sewer that should cause us to sit bolt upright and shout "WHOA, hey, just how much sense does this scheme make???"

At our end of the Pipe, we know the limit.

We have been carefully allocated space for our yucky stuff.

Based on our water consumption, we pay for every litre that flows into it.

In Aurora, we ration space in the pipe by the residential unit.

We are currently hoarding 200 units for possible development in the core. Actually, it is only 198 because the apartment building at Yonge and Cousins Drive has two more units than it's supposed to have.

And now we find that, unbeknownst to us, garbage from Markham and Toronto and who knows where else is being diverted from Michigan landfill into the Big Pipe in Newmarket to be carried down to Duffin's Creek and into Lake Ontario.

Where are all the environmentalists? Who is on watch, for Pete's sake? Was everybody taken in by the "kitchen organics" euphemism?

Please tell us it isn't so.

One thing I know that is so; the region has been making compost bins available to residents at a subsidized price, to encourage homeowners to compost in their own backyards.

This year, they removed that item from the budget.

thank the following sponsors for their donations: Aquacentre Swim School, B&B Automotive, Carcone Auto Recycling, Zeifman and Company, Go Automotive, Chevalier Chrysler, LG Electronics, Total Image Esthetics, Scotia Bank and the life-guards from the Aquacentre who donated their time.

Quite often, we report that we race and compete.

We do more than that: we care.

Many of the swimmers who took part are fitness swimmers who swam for the cause.

It was a great event!

Nancy Black
Head Coach
Master Ducks
Swim Club
Aurora

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

Master Ducks swimathon raises more than \$10,000

To the editor,

Do you know how far it is to swim from Aurora to Niagara Falls?

That is how far the Aurora Master Ducks Swim Club swam during its 24-hour Swim for Heart event held March 5 - 6.

To raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, over the course of a 24-hour period, 61 swimmers covered a total distance of 150 kms.

There were two teams involved with the women (Hearts) challenging the men (Strokes).

Each swimmer swam between half an hour and 90 minutes in a continuous relay format and the teams had great fun since prizes were awarded for best theme, most number of lengths swum and even special prizes for those who took the time to come and swim at 3 a.m.

The original fundraising goal of the team was to raise between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

Through the hard work of

the swimmers and the generosity of numerous contributors, the Aurora Master Ducks raised more than \$10,000 with more funds expected.

The money raised is to be presented to Anne Lee via the Heart and Stroke Foundation during the Provincial Championships in Sault Ste. Marie April 1-3, 2005.

It will be made in memory of her husband, Dr. Hui Lee, the former head coach of the Soo Masters Polar Bear Swim Club.

As many will recall, at the age of 39, Dr. Lee collapsed and died last year at the Ontario Provincial Championships in Etobicoke.

On an individual basis, one of our swimmers raised more than \$3,000.

Jim Talbot works at Southlake Regional Health Centre and got a tremendous outpouring of support from his co-workers - the Master Ducks are thankful to you all!

The Aurora Master Ducks would also like to

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Maundy Thursday March 24	Worship at 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday March 25	Worship at 7:30 p.m. (with our Chancel Choir singing Fauré's 'Requiem', with orchestra)
Easter Sunday Sunday March 27	Full services at 9 and 10:30 a.m. * with communion

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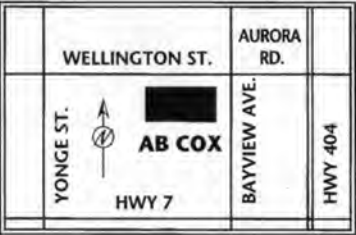
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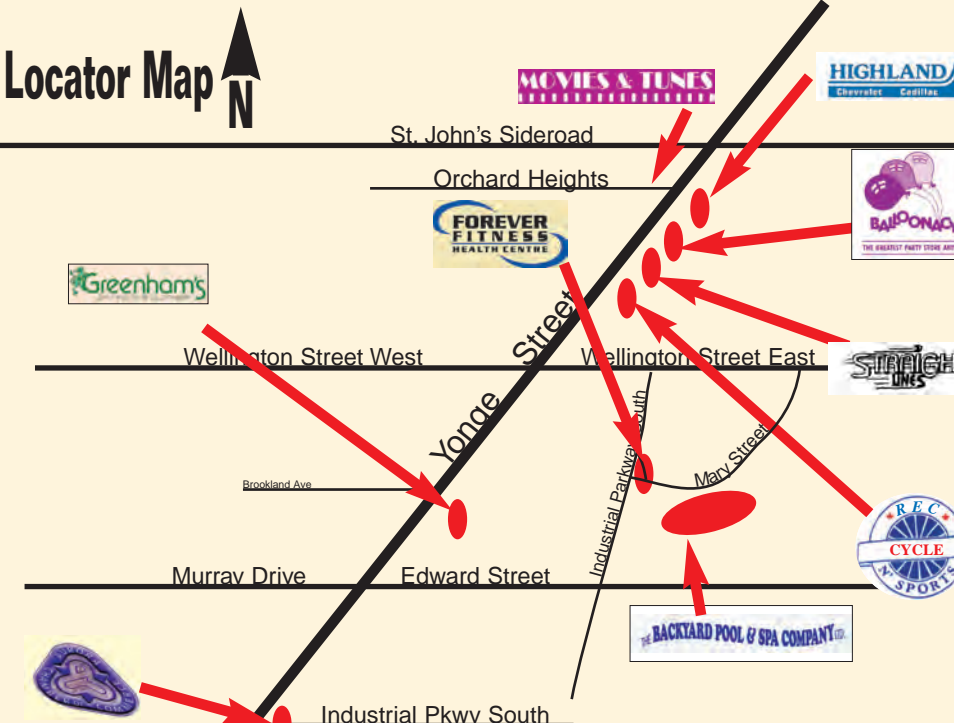
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Page 12

Week of March 15, 2005



It must have been tough on the judges to see the entire entry at once, but Carolyn Bishop, top photo, won the best costume prize as the Aurora Master Ducks raised \$10,000 for the Heart & Stroke Foundation in a 24-hour swimathon last week. Also participating were, in the bottom photo, left to right, Kelly Chester, Carolyn Bishop and Nick Rottman. See Nancy Black's letter to the editor on Page 8 of this week's Auroran.

Major Mosquito ball team ready for summer action

Aurora may still be up to its ying-yang in snow but that that hasn't stopped the Aurora Jays Major Mosquitoes Baseball Club from planning for the summer.

According to assistant coach Paul Chapley, the season is already shaping up with tournaments booked in Brampton, Newmarket, North York and a trip to Niagara Falls, New York, to compete for a chance to go to the East Coast World Series.

The regular season, he said, will begin in May and Aurora will face teams from Newmarket, Bolton, Richmond Hill,

Vaughan, Barrie, Markham, and possibly teams from Georgina and Thornhill.

The Jays are made up of 12 boys and two girls (all 10 or 11 years old) and will play home games at the Aurora Leisure Complex Diamond Three.

Mayor Tim Jones has confirmed his attendance at the home opener and will throw out the first pitch.

Date of that game has yet to be confirmed.

The Jays will host the Ontario Baseball Association Tournament for Major Mosquitoes which will be held at the Leisure Complex dia-

monds over the Labour Day weekend.

The Jays have been preparing for the season with regular winter workouts, using the gym at Northern Lights School on alternate Friday evenings.

The parental unit of the

team has also been busy on the sponsorship side of team sports.

The goal is to see the team raise \$10,000 before the first of May.

So far the team has raised close to \$4,000.

Hurry, summer.

Jaguar Gymnastics



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Drop 5-2 decision to Newmarket

Tigers lose opener

Aurora Tigers Provincial Junior A hockey team discovered Sunday night you can't spot the opposition four goals and expect to win the game.

Especially when that opposition is the powerful Newmarket Hurricanes.

And so, jumping into an early 4-0 lead, the up-the-street rivals, coasted to a 5-2 win at the Aurora Community Centre, before an estimated 1,200 fans.

The Newmarket victory gave the winners a decided advantage as the best-of-seven final playoff series got underway.

"You can't expect to compete against the good teams unless you play 60 minutes," said Tigers Coach Jerome Dupont. "People don't remember the shot count after a game where you lose." Tigers poured everything but the kitchen sink at the Newmarket goal, outshooting the winners 56-26.

Scoring for the Tigers were Josh McNair who did not play in the last series against Huntsville due to illness and Sean Thompson.

Tigers advanced to the final round the hard way, knocking off the Huntsville Otters on Huntsville ice last Tuesday night.

They say that closing out a playoff hockey series on the road is the toughest thing to do but that didn't seem to phase the Tigers when they fought tooth and nail to beat Huntsville 3-2 and in doing so win their best of seven series versus

the pesky Otters four games to two.

Leading the charge was standout Sean Thompson with two goals and an assist and rock solid Ryan Dickie who stopped 30 of 32 shots.

Cale Tanaka added the other Tigers' marker.

At the same time, Newmarket was eliminating the Stouffville Spirit in six games, to set up the current series, expected to be the highlight of the junior hockey season in Aurora.

It was believed the series would have started last Friday night, but ice arrangements could not be made in time.

As a result, the Tigers

and Hurricanes met for the second game Tuesday night in Newmarket, but results were not available at press time.

The third game is also scheduled in Newmarket Thursday, March 17, at 7.30 p.m.

The fourth game is back in Aurora Friday, March 18, at the community centre beginning at 8 p.m. and the fifth game - Aurora fans truly hope there is a fifth game - will also be played in Aurora.

If it becomes a reality, it will happen Sunday, March 20, at the Aurora Community Centre beginning at 5.30 p.m.

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MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY STANDINGS AS OF MARCH 7

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Law Insurance Brokers	17	3	4	96	61	38
Priestly Demolition	12	9	3	97	81	27
Tom & Jerry's	11	9	4	84	70	26
FPL Aggregates	11	9	4	92	75	24
Masterclean Contracting	9	11	4	79	80	22
J.J. Barron Realty	7	10	7	77	92	21
Highland Chev Cadillac	9	13	2	95	106	20
Rec Cycle & Sports	5	16	3	62	113	13

MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY RESULTS MAR. 7

Rec Sports	3	FPL Aggregates	3
Barron Realty	3	Masterclean	3
Highland Chev	4	Law Insurance	6
Priestly Demolition	0	Tom & Jerry's	6

MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY PLAYER STANDINGS

PLAYER	TEAM	G	A	Pts.
Jason Muise	Priestly Demolition	36	15	51
Mark Sedore	Priestly Demolition	24	24	48
Bruce Chappell	Highlands Chev	14	31	45
Pat O'Mahoney	FPL Aggregates	27	17	44
Steve Robertson	Highlands Chev	17	25	42
John Yaremko	Law Insurance	21	20	41
Ralph Berry	Masterclean	13	27	40
Steve Kavanaugh	Barron's Realty	11	29	40
Ed Jackson	Barron's Realty	22	16	38
Darren Yaremko	Law Insurance	17	18	35
Steven MacDonald	FPL Aggregates	17	17	34
Gerald Briand	Law Insurance	13	19	32
Ken Rumble	Highlands Chev	13	16	29
Dave Caverley	Law Insurance	12	16	28
Jerome Flanagan	Tom & Jerry's	10	16	26
Vince Greco	Tom & Jerry's	17	8	25
RJ Farnsworth	Highlands Chev	17	8	25
Peter Briand	Law Insurance	9	16	25
Mark Lemmon	Tom & Jerry's	12	12	24
Kevin Brown	Highlands Chev	11	13	24
Mark Swirla	FPL Aggregates	12	11	23
Bruce Ing	Masterclean	10	12	22
Paul Fujiwawa	Highlands Chev	15	6	21
Doug Adair	Rec Sports	7	13	20
Dan Smith	FPL Aggregates	5	13	18
Charlie Steinhorse	FPL Aggregates	4	14	18
Kerry Heintzman	Priestly Demolition	3	15	18
Brad Wilson	Priestly Demolition	8	9	17
Raz Khamissa	Barron's Realty	8	9	17
Doug King	Rec Sports	6	11	17
Dave Skelcher	Highlands Chev	8	8	16
Pat Davies	Priestly Demolition	7	9	16
Chris Neal	Rec Sports	6	10	16
Mike Caicco	Barron's Realty	4	12	16
Mike Nisbet	FPL Aggregates	3	13	16
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	3	13	16
Steve Reswick	Masterclean	6	9	15
Ron Theson	Barron's Realty	5	9	14

YM/YWCA proposal fails to get off drawing board

1962

Way back on January 15, 1962, William Jones appeared before Aurora council on behalf of a group interested in the possibility of establishing a YMCA/YWCA in Aurora.

It never happened. He said a meeting had been held a month earlier with officials of the YMCA and information was acquired about obtaining such a facility for the municipality.

About 40 people attended that meeting.

At the January gathering, council established a citizen committee to investigate the possibilities of a YMCA/YWCA in Aurora.

The committee was asked to carry out a survey of existing facilities for recreation and citizenship training in Aurora and to consider the needs.

It was reported that while sports activities were highly organized, there was a lack of a facility for the hobby-minded or activities of an individual participation type.

There was a lack of space due to church and school activities and there did not appear to be any available courses for the study of citizenship, municipal affairs, current affairs, economics, nor were there any debating societies.

In February, 1969, during discussion about the establishment of a youth

centre in Aurora (yes, they've been talking about it that long), a special committee of council was named to investigate the feasibility of a YM/YWCA in Aurora, with a year-round swimming pool and the use of school gyms after school hours.

The Aurora Jaycees asked council to carry out a poll of the citizens regarding the formation of a "Y" in Aurora.

At the March, 2002, meeting of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee, members endorsed a Newmarket resolution supporting the establishment of a YMCA in the area.

The Newmarket resolution indicated the municipality would be supportive of a shared-use facility in Aurora, such as a youth recreation centre or a family care centre, but would not support a full-scale facility as proposed by the YMCA.

YMCA representatives had sought a funding formula that would require the municipalities to provide one-third of the money, with one-third to be raised by community fundraising and one-third provided by the YMCA.

The municipalities would be required to provide sufficient land along the Aurora/Newmarket border to accommodate a 45,000 to 60,000 square foot recreational complex.

It was proposed that the complex include a full-scale fitness centre, pool, gym, meeting rooms, an employment centre, family care centre and a youth centre.

Newmarket council expressed its willingness in partnering with Aurora and YMCA in the shared use facility, other than for the fitness centre pending discussions with private fitness

centres in both municipalities.

A survey of the fitness operators indicated that a publicly-funded fitness facility in the area would be detrimental to their livelihood.

Aurora residents attended a subsequent committee meeting in support of the YMCA proposal claiming it would be beneficial to the community.

It was suggested the town receive public input on the proposal and proceed, despite vocal opposition from private fitness centres.

Aurora Council endorsed the committee report recommending support of the Newmarket resolution on condition that no public

funds were used.

The YMCA officials said they were not interested in pursuing a partnership unless a full-scale fitness centre was included and that ended the negotiations.

The Young Men's Christian Association was founded in London, England in 1844 by George Williams, a dry goods clerk and 11 fellow employees. It was designed to improve the spirit and mental condition of young tradesmen, to draw them away from the evils of the day.

The first Canadian Y was established in Montreal in 1851 and in Toronto in 1853, but one has never located in Aurora or Newmarket.



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Hydro project dormant

Hydro One may have stopped its proposal to increase power into York Region, but one Aurora politician warns citizens must remain vigilant.

Frank Klees, MPP for Oak Ridges, joined local municipalities and mayors in welcoming the reprieve offered by Hydro One on the issue of the super-sized transmission lines in the York Region corridor.

"While the Ontario Power Authority reviews alternatives, we must remain vigilant to ensure that the original Hydro One proposal doesn't become the proposal of choice," said Klees. "No one should be fooled into believing that the fight is won."

Hydro One has been proposing for nearly a year, that a power line that carves through the eastern section of Aurora on its journey to Newmarket, be upgraded to provide more juice to the rapidly-growing region.

The company proposed the existing towers, which have been in existence for more than half a century, be replaced by sleeker, albeit taller and more numerous, towers.

Opposition from citizens along the route has been intense since Hydro One announced its intentions.

Klees raised the issue in the Ontario Legislature on several occasions, citing health and safety concerns and demanded that Hydro One withdraw the proposal as early as November 2, 2004, calling the proposal flawed and an affront to the residents of York Region.

At an earlier meeting Aurora Council asked that the hydro proposal be bumped up to an individual class assessment.

In a letter to council Hydro One replied that all documentation including Aurora's request for a bump up had been forwarded to the Ministry of the Environment.

The letter pointed out that such a request could result in a lengthy delay to the plan.

It also noted the delay would place York Region, including Aurora, in jeopardy, which it claimed was confirmed by Aurora Hydro Connections.

However based on statements in the Legislature earlier this month the struggle over the controversial transmission line is over, at least for the time being.

In January the Minister of Energy referred the issue to the newly created Ontario Power Authority, which is to oversee plan-

ning for Ontario's electricity supply.

Although the transmission line is dormant, it's not dead.

There is a chance the Ontario Energy Board, which makes the final decision, may decide the upgraded line is the best way to solve the regional shortage.

It is expected the review will take about 10 months.

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House League Playoff Games

205 DR. STEINER'S DRILLERS 3: Callum Forrest 2G, Oliver Jones 1G 1A, Matthew Reynolds 2A, Alex Stewart 1A. **201 DELPH & JENKINS SURVEYORS 1:** Tait Snedden 1G, Melissa Verge 1A.

206 AURORA HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE 3: Matthew Walker 1G, Ryan McGoldrick 1G, David Gonder 1G 1A, Riley O'Brien 1A, Joey Stel 1A. **204 NORTH YORK HEATING & PLUMBING 2:** Michael Tanel 1G 1A, Adam Petit 1G 1A, Mitchell Srouji 1A, Joseph Veneziano 1A.

207 PHARMASAVE 5: Adam DeRoos 1G 1A, Kevin Siery 3G, Christopher End 1G, Nathan Sinclair 1A. **202 ALL PRO SPORTS 4:** Zachary Cowl 3G, Tyler George 1G, Jonah Blaser 1A, Mitchell Lamantia 1A, Zachary Kroll 1A.

203 www.mastermindtoys.com 5: Robin Creighton 3G, Tyler Futterer 1G 1A, Parker Baile 1G, Cameron Staples 1A. **208 ORR & FORSTER INSURANCE 3:** Max Brown 3G, Jamie Wilson 1A, Andrew Roche 1A, Alec Barnett 1A.

904 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 4: Torrey Duckworth 1G, Jesse Gattelerio 1G 2A, Kiefer McBride 1G 1A, Ryan Jones 1G, Kevin Michie 1A, Ian Mulhern 1A, Stephen Pitts 1A. **903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 2:** Keith Bradford 1G, Mike Rowe 1G, James Seymore 2A.

905 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 5: Steve Horan 2G, Jamie Fenyes 2G, Ryan Cane 1G 1A, Jesse Barker 2A, Jacob Evelyn 3A, Ryan Smyth 1A, Nick Verdugo 1A, Andrew Kines 1A. **903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 3:** Mike Rowe 3G, Peter Walker 1A, Jason Tuck 2A, Kurtis Wilton 1A, Nathan Taylor 1A.

906 White/Red PIZZA PIZZA 4: Brad Wilkens 1G 2A, Cam Harris 2G, Courtney Lockhart 1G 1A, Phil Saunders 1A, Brandon Fitzgerald 2A. **904 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 2:** Ian Mulhern 1G, Alex Smith 1G, Jesse Gattelerio 1A, Patrick Madden 1A.

901 AURORA CANADIAN TIRE 3: Chris Torresano 1G, Mike Perretta 1G, Dan Kupraty 1G 1A. **902 OPTIMIST CLUB OF AURORA 3:** Harrison Brooke 1G, Andrew Rowan 1G, Matt Preston 1G, Ryan Joynt 1A, Alex Disera 1A.

902 OPTIMIST CLUB OF AURORA 4: Bryan Dunjko 3G, Brett Scott 1G, Andrew Rowan 3A, Jake Teel 1A, Morgan Mittlestaedt 1A, Ethan Lebovic 1A. **906 White/Red PIZZA PIZZA 3:** Cam Harris 3G, Courtney Lockhart 1A, Alex Ginther 1A, David Petrasovic 1A.

903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 7: Tyler Cappell 1G 1A, Nathan Taylor 1G, Mike Rowe 2G 2A, Kurtis Wilton 2G, Peter Walker 1G, James Seymore 3A, Doug Bainbridge 2A, Jason Tuck 3A. **904 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 2:** Ian Mulhern 2G, Torrey Duckworth 1A, Ryan Jones 1A, Jon Aleksich 1A.

905 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 12: Nick Verdugo 1G 3A, Jamie Fenyes 2G, Steve Horan 2G 1A, Joel Stock 2G 2A, Ryan Cane 1G, Jesse Barker 2G, James Weber

2G 1A, Ryan Smyth 2A, James Connolly 1A, Joseph Han 1A, Jacob Evelyn 2A, Cameron Spence 2A. **901 AURORA CANADIAN TIRE 1:** Braden Bonner 1G, Micheal Perretta 1A.

904 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 3: Torrey Duckworth 1G, Bill Spasopolous 1G 1A, Ryan Jones 1G 1A, Steve Pitts 1A. **901 AURORA CANADIAN TIRE 3:** Dan Kupraty 1G 1A, Braden Bonner 1G, Mike Perretta 1G.

905 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 2: Steve Horan 1G, Ryan Cane 1G 1A. **902 OPTIMIST CLUB OF AURORA 2:** Andrew Rowan 2G, Bryan Dunjko 2A, Ethan Lebovic 1A.

906 White/Red PIZZA PIZZA 4: Cam Harris 3G, Taylor Jefferies 1G, Maegan Bastarache 1A, Justin Torma 1A, Alex Ginther 1A, Brad Wilkens 1A. **903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 1:** Nathan Taylor 1G, Mike Rowe 1A.

1005 AURORA OPTICAL 8: Ryan Gennaro 1G, Sean McCartney 3G 1A, Ryan Comerford 1G, Mickey Sotoadeh 1G 1A, Andrew MacDermid 1G, Kyle Kaminski 1G 1A, Nicholas Hamilton 1A, Cameron Walker 1A, Keon Karamchi 2A, Jayde Woodruff 1A. **1009 Orange/Black PIZZA PIZZA 3:** Alex Cancelli 1G, John Parkhill 1G 1A, Luke Stinson 1G, Jake Warden 1A, Michael Hegarty 1A.

1006 White/Royal PIZZA PIZZA 2: Kyle Wilton 2G, Agi Bova 1A, Graham Coote 1A. **1001 Green/Gold PIZZA PIZZA 1:** # 19 1G, # 10 1A.

Rep Results

Whitby 5 Novice AA 3
Liam Coll 1G, Spencer Green 1G 1A, Quentin Campbell 1G, Kyle Locke 1A, Konner McMillan 1A.

Novice AA 3 Whitby 1
Liam Coll 2G, Connor Graham 1G, Jordan Nanos 1A, Jack Caldwell 1A, Branden Fennell 1A, Kyle Locke 1A, Konner McMillan 2A.

Stouffville 3 Novice A 1
Erik Balkovec 1G, Paul Neophytou 1A.

Novice A 3 Bradford 2
Brett Thiessen 1G, Erik Balkovec 3A, Evan Jackson 2G, Scott Kostin 1A.

Novice A 3 Bradford 1
Erik Balkovec 2G, Evan Jackson 1G 1A, Brett Thiessen 2A, Connor Cowl 1A.

Novice A 4 NobleKing 1
Austin Persaud 1G, Liam Beresford 1A, Nathan Nealon 3A, Lucas Pozzebon 1G, Erik Balkovec 1G, Brett Thiessen 1G 1A, Sean O'Donnell 1A.

Richmond Hill 2 Novice AE 1

Novice AE 6 Richmond Hill 4

Novice AE 4 Richmond Hill 1

Minor Atom AA 5 Uxbridge 3
Stefan Lazzer 1G, Collin Laird 1G, Brooke Webster 1G 1A, Jody Nonnewitz 1G 2A, Cameron Nuttall 1G 1A, Kiefer McIntosh 1A, Graeme Allison 1A, Trevor George 1A, Kyle Zacharuk

1A, William Reid 1A.

Atom AA 4 TBD 3
Andrew Papousek 3G, Johnny Knowles 1G 1A, Tanner Thiessen 1A, Devin Watson 1A.

Pickering 8 Atom AA 4
Andrew Papousek 3G, Ethan Benson 1G, Tanner Thiessen 1A.

Atom AA 4 Pickering 3
Andrew Papousek 2G 1A, Tanner Thiessen 1G, Sean Nishimura 1A, Kyle Spicer 1G 1A, Reid Sisson 1A, Trevor Best 1A, Marco Ghegin 1A.

Richmond Hill 3 Atom A 1
Rory MacNeil 1G.

Atom A 5 Richmond Hill 0
A J Killens 2G 2A, Kyle Spicer 1G 2A, Ryan St. Germain 2G 1A, Sean Nishimura 1A, Alex Woodward 1A, Chris Youtoff 1A.

Atom AE 3 Oak Ridges 1

Lawfield 4 Atom AE 0

Minor Peewee AA 1 Georgina 0
Justin Nice 1A, Brandon Pedersen 1A, Kamran Karamchi 1G.

Georgina 5 Minor Peewee AA 2
Brett Matthews 1A, Steadman Dinning 1A, Justin Nice 1A, Cody Weese 1A, Matthew Miller 1G, Brandon Pedersen 1G.

Minor Peewee A 5 Orillia 3
Kyle McCreedy 3G 1A, Stephen Demarco 1G 1A, Tristan Miller 1G, Michael Nonnewitz 1A.

NobleKing 2 Minor Peewee A 1
Kyle McCreedy 1G.

Minor Peewee A 5 NobleKing 5
Kyle McCreedy 2G 2A, James Harkin 1G, Tristan Miller 2G, Gavin Forrest 4A, Michael Vance 1A.

Minor Peewee AE 1 Barrie Colts 1
Dylan Skelton 1G, Chris Venditelli 1A, Michael Divincenzo 1A.

Barrie Colts 5 Minor Peewee AE 3

Peewee AA 4 Oshawa 0
Kevin Zacharuk 1G 1A, Dillon Cappell 2G, Jordan Tripp 1G, Luke Macleod 1A, Tyler Sikura 1A, Tyler Smilsky 1A, Max Lerner 1A.

Peewee AA 2 Oshawa 2
Andrew Whitley 1G, Kevin Zacharuk 1G, Luke Stadnyk 1A.

Peewee AA 5 Oshawa 3
Kevin Zacharuk 1G 1A, Tyler Sikura 1G 1A, Jordan Tripp 2G, Max Lerner 1G, Luke Stadnyk 1A, James Mildon 1A.

Peewee AE 4 Barrie Colts 0
Matthew Semeredy 2G, Michael McGorlick 1G 1A, Tyler Tisdale 1G, Shawn MacEachern 1A.

Peewee AE 5 Barrie Colts 4
Sean Agostino 2G, Michael McGorlick 3G, Aaron Beally 1A, Patrick Lee 2A, Tyler Tisdale 1A, Darcy

Eveleigh 1A.

Peewee AE 6 Barrie Colts 0
Darcy Eveleigh 2A, Patrick Lee 2A, Aaron Beally 1A, Michael McGorlick 3G, Tyler Tisdale 1G 1A, Sean Agostino 2G, Andrew McKay 1A.

Whitby 4 Minor Bantam AA 3
Tyler Hanlon 1G, Matthew Mikhaili 1A, Adrian Dirosa 1G, David Roper 1A, Ryan Besse 1A, Christian Stankiewicz 1G, Connor McQuestion 1A.

Whitby 4 Minor Bantam AA 3
Tyler Persaud 1G, Ryan Findlay 1G 1A, Christian Stankiewicz 2A, Tyler Hanlon 1G 1A, Johnny Borsellino 1A.

Innisfil 7 Minor Bantam A 1
Michael Morson 1G.

Georgina 6 Minor Bantam AE 5
Cory Blom 1G, Zacharie Roitner 1G, Braun Hause 1G, Matthew Scrimmes 1G 3A, Brandon Giniotis 1G, Curtis Hough 1A.

Georgina 1 Minor Bantam AE 0

Bantam AA 3 Oshawa 1
Johnathan Meikle 2A, Karl Pelan 1A, Jeremy Ellison 1G, Taylor Postill 1A, Steven Donches 1A, Jordan Koen 2G.

Oshawa 3 Bantam AA 1
Jeremy Ellison 1G, Ben Sherritt 1A, Daniel Curci 1A, Johnathan Meikle 1A.

Beeton 4 Bantam A 3
Eric King 1G, Jake Hurlbut 1G 1A, Jamie Tuck 1G, Chris Finlay 1A, Colton Horner 1A, Josh Meron 1A, Jeremy Cohen 1A, Fraser Kegel 1A.

Bantam A 9 Beeton 1
Chris Finlay 3G, Jeremy Cohen 2G 1A, Jake Hurlbut 1G 1A, Spencer McCartney 1G, Josh Meron 1G 1A, Ross Pizzurro 1G 1A, Nick Crain 3A, Jesse Coote 1A, Colton Horner 1A, Travis Hooper 1A, Eric King 1A, Fraser Kegel 1A, Robert Lee 1A.

Bantam A 5 Beeton 1
Fraser Kegel 1G 1A, Spencer McCartney 1G, Nick Crain 1G, Jake Hurlbut 1G, Josh Meron 1G, Darcy Pelosse 2A, Greg Gianopoulos 1A, Jesse Coote 1A, Robert Lee 1A, Chris Finlay 2A, Jeremy Cohen 2A.

Bantam A 3 Richmond Hill 2
Jeremy Cohen 1G, Darcy Pelosse 1G, Eric King 1G, Josh Meron 1A, Robert Lee 1A, Ross Pizzurro 1A, Jake Hurlbut 1A, Jesse Coote 1A.

Minor Midget A 4 East Gwillimbury 1
Drew Jenkins 2G, Ryan Kesteris 1G, Jonathan Adams 1G, Connor O'Grady 2A, Robert Cote 1A, Ryan Fennell 1A.

Midget A 4 Stouffville 0
Ryan Kines 1G 2A, Chris Statchuk 2G, Andrew Jamieson 1G, Mike Parkhill 1A, Frazer Klein 1A, Jordan Ofeild 1A, Craig Waites 1A, Corey Berube 1A, Justin Fabro 1A.

Stouffville 3 Midget A 2
Corey Berube 1G, Craig Waites 1G, Jordan Ofeild 1A, Matt Cleverdon 1A, Ryan Kines 1A.

RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

A few 1969 events in Aurora

The York County Board of Education took over from local school boards and Aurora invited the board to take over the Church Street School as an Education Centre to keep them in Aurora.

The historic school, now being rehabilitated as a museum, was later leased to the board for a dollar a year.

A demolition crew ripped the roof off historic Doan Hall, the first brick building built in Aurora.

It was constructed by Charles Doan in 1846 at the village crossroads of Machell's Corners. It is now the location of Doane Hall Pharmacy, but soon won't be.

GO North chairman Bob Sillcox led a delegation to Queen's Park to request an extension of the GO system north to York County and possibly Barrie.

A total of 35 police officers from the nine York County Police departments raided a party held by members of Satan's Choice and Paradise Riders motorcycle gangs at the Blue Bird Inn, located at Yonge and Mulock and of the 150 people at the party, 16 were arrested.

Aurora Council spent \$1,000 for architect designs to add a separate town-operated indoor swimming pool to the Aurora High School, soon to be constructed, but as no grants were available, council decided it couldn't afford the cost of construction.

Representatives of town organizations met at the Community Centre to discuss a Youth Centre.

HOW NOT TO STOP A WITNESS

In June, 2003, two North Bay men didn't want a witness they believed lived in Aurora to testify in an impaired driving case to be heard in Huntsville. They took a rather unusual case to stop him, even though he didn't live here.

They stole a bulldozer from a construction site near Bayview Avenue and the St. John's Sideroad and planned to demolish what they thought was the witness' home.

But a hydro tower in the controversial Markham to Newmarket corridor got in the way and they knocked it over disrupting power to areas of Aurora and Stouffville.

They were arrested without incident and faced charges of mischief, weapons, theft and fraud.

JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

It was in February, 1996, when an Aurora student was one of three in York Region to be selected as a Junior

Citizen of the Year by the Ontario Community Newspaper Association.

Cory Wright was an OAC student at Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School.

Despite having cerebral palsy and losing his father at an early age, he overcame his hurdles with a positive attitude towards life.

At the time he was Deputy Prime Minister of the York Region's President's Council.

He also served as president of his student council and during the summer worked at a Big Brothers' camp.

BOMB THREAT EMPTIES HIGH SCHOOL

In May, 1969, more than 1,000 students from Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School were given an unexpected afternoon off when an anonymous caller warned that a bomb had been planted in the school.

A two-hour search by Aurora Police and school staff members failed to turn up any explosives.

Principal Arnold Miller said the voice was identified as that of a man, but could not be distinguished between an adult and an older student.

A few days later a similar call was made to the Aurora Senior Public School resulting in another police search with the same results, no bomb. But later the doors of the furnace were blown open with a loud burst.

Caretakers blamed the incident on a pop can which had exploded in the heat.

WHEN STUDENTS SAT ON FLOOR TO EAT

It's hard to believe now but back in April, 1994, parents of students attending Regency Acres Public School were upset that budget cutbacks had forced students to eat lunch sitting on the gym floor.

A letter to the parents advised that due to custodial cutbacks, children would be required to eat in one of the school's two gyms.

The reason given was the 20 classrooms where students had previously eaten their lunch could no longer be adequately cleaned, as the position of a caretaker had been eliminated.

At the time about 400 of the school's 600 students brought their lunch to school and the school did not have any lunchroom facilities.

Parents suggested that tables be set up in one of the gyms, but school staff said staff wasn't available to put up and take down the tables and the gym was needed for activities.

By September, 1994, following a survey of the parents, the school agreed that Grades 1 and 2 pupils would resume eating in the classroom, lunch time would be extended by 10 minutes to a full hour so students would have more time to eat before going outside to play.

In addition, it was agreed to set up a few tables so students could take turns eating at a table rather than sitting on the floor.

Aurora Day celebration planned in TO

From page 1
the street festival, horse show and Canada Day activities vying for publicity, and he hoped the event didn't get lost in the shuffle. Committee members agreed to use every available method of communication to publicize the day.

On the committee are Mayor Tim Jones, Councillors Buck and Wallace, Kristen Yemm from the town's communications department, Karen Oretto from Info Aurora, Cooky Ellis, Carrie Eastwood and Chris Catania.

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Sunday, March 20th Palm Sunday

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Blessing of the Palms
Trinity Chapel

9:15 & 11 a.m. Blessing of the Palms, Procession
and Holy Eucharist*

**Nursery Care will be available.*

Wednesday, March 23rd

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist ~ Trinity Chapel

7:30 p.m. Tenebrae ~ Trinity Chapel

*An ancient service of shadows, reminding us of
Christ's death and resurrection.*

Thursday, March 24th Maundy Thursday

7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist ~ Trinity Church

*Maundy Thursday recalls the institution of the
Lord's Supper, the washing of feet and the
Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

Friday, March 25th Good Friday

10 a.m. Solemn Liturgy and Dramatic Presentation

A solemn reflection on the Crucifixion of Our Lord.

**Nursery Care will be provided.*

10 a.m. The Way of The Cross

*For the children in Binions Hall, led by members
of the Youth Group. Following worship, come
downstairs to see the children's representations of
the Stations of the Cross.*

12 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. Sacrament of Penance
(Private Confession)

A Priest will be available in Trinity Chapel

1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. Good Friday Choral Meditations

The service concludes with Evensong.

*You are invited to come and stay for this whole
period, although you may leave between
Ante-Communion and Evensong*

Saturday March 26th Easter Vigil

7:30 p.m. Family Choral Eucharist

*This ancient Service begins in tomb-like
darkness and includes the lighting of the
New Fire (a symbol of Resurrection),
Baptism, and the joyful celebration
of the first Eucharist of Easter.*

*A Resurrection Party will take place in the
Common Room following the Service.*

Sunday, March 27th Easter Day

*6 a.m. Sunrise Holy Eucharist Service in
Trinity Church led by Alan Ferguson,
followed by a light breakfast in Binions Hall.*

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist ~ Trinity Chapel

9:15 & 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist ~ Trinity Church

**Nursery Care and Church School available*

***Come and Celebrate the Festival of
the Resurrection – Easter Day!***

***We are reminded that life
overcomes death;***

Hope overcomes despair

And the love of God overcomes all!

Sunday, April 3rd

Second Sunday of Easter

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist ~ Trinity Chapel

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Confirmation and
Holy Baptism* -

Visit of George Elliott, Area Bishop

Please note time change for service.

**Nursery Care and Church School available*

Trinity Anglican Church

79 Victoria St., Aurora



It was party time at the Aurora Seniors' Centre last week as Anneliese Mitchell celebrated her 80th birthday, shortly after Mel Mitchell turned 90. Best wishes came from Mayor Tim Jones and numerous relatives and friends.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Our Town Sketches captured character of municipalities

It still appears on some TV programs, but when "Sketches of Our Town" first appeared on Hamilton's CHCH-TV in November, 1989, it was a hit.

Aurora was one of 13 municipalities featured on the program, a nationally syndicated show seen in 17 markets from Atlantic Canada to Manitoba. Host of the show was the late broadcaster Harvey Kirck.

The show was produced by Unionville-based production company, Beaver Creek Pictures.

It took a folksy, gentle approach to the communities it featured.

Local organizers raised \$10,000 to help pay the production costs.

The town and the Aurora Chamber of Commerce each contributed \$1,000, and local fundraiser Don Constable raised the balance.

Sketches of Our Town focused on Aurora's rural heritage, its churches, streams and schools but mainly, its people.

Aurora Museum curator Jacqueline Stewart and John McIntyre of the historical society took the viewers on an in-depth look at the town's history.

Kirck also visited Harry Lumsden, a former employee with the Ministry of

Natural Resources, who runs a bird sanctuary on his Aurora property, and was primarily responsible for saving the Trumpeter Swan.

Kirck also interviewed former Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth in the Town Park.

It was a wide-ranging discussion about how Aurora got its name, the historic rivalry between Newmarket and Aurora, the coming of the Big Pipe and the explosion of growth that followed.

They discussed the famous "Aurora Speech" by Edward Blake delivered in the Aurora Drill Shed in the Town Park on October 3, 1873.

On November 10, 1989, several citizens watched a preview of the show courtesy of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and the general consensus was that Aurora was made to look good.

Some thought it depicted the town as being a little too rural, but agreed it presented the town as a viable community, with its own identity and character.

During the final credits, the cameras briefly caught the interior of Vic's Shoe Repair and Mary's Fruit Store on Yonge Street.

Centre exit gets council approval

A driveway behind the historic Morrison house on Wellington Street East will exit onto Centre Street, Aurora Council confirmed last week.

At an earlier general committee meeting, members listened to residents Dan Rivington and David Walker oppose a proposed exit onto Centre Street.

The residents prepared two alternative plans which retained the 10 parking spaces but eliminated the exit onto Centre Street and asked the committee to consider the options.

The committee also heard from Richard Harrison, a planner representing the applicant.

He told committee members the application was in keeping with the official plan and the nature of the business would generate very little traffic in or out of the site.

He urged the committee to support the application.

Following discussion the committee agreed to rezone the property as requested to allow the lands to be used for business and professional offices and include the exit to Centre Street be approved.

When that report came to council last week, the chamber was partially filled with residents from Centre Street and the surrounding neighbourhood in opposition to the Centre Street exit.

Prior to the meeting, six residents publicly opposed the exit plan and supported the plan submitted by residents.

In addition to those speakers, four others, Quinn Bingham, David Walker, Dan Rivington and Ken Pearson opposed the Centre Street exit.

Bingham said residents had spent time and money to improve their properties on Centre Street as part of the heritage area of the town and they were proud of their unique neighbourhood and they were opposed to a parking lot in a residential area.

Walker quoted from sections of the official

plan which he claimed supported the residents' position to protect residential areas.

Rivington said the site plan prepared by the residents was a compromise and while the residents had no objection to the use of the Morrison House for professional offices, they objected to the Centre Street exit.

Pearson said he represented the Olde Aurora Ratepayers Association and the membership supported the Centre Street residents in their opposition. He presented a 57-name petition.

Also speaking again was Richard Harrison and he repeated that the application was in conformity with the town's official plan.

He noted that even though Centre Street was used as an alternative to Wellington Street, the traffic from the site would be barely measurable.

He said the applicant's plan included considerable landscaping on Centre Street and, if necessary, the applicant would install control gates to discourage any drive through traffic.

He couldn't understand why anyone would want to cut through, as the property is close to Wells Street, which links Wellington with Centre.

Councillors John West and Evelyn Buck supported the committee decision to permit the Centre Street exit, with a control gate, if necessary.

Councillor Nigel Kean supported the residents.

He pointed out that several businesses on Wellington and Yonge Streets had exits onto those streets

without problems.

Councillor Damir Vrancic noted the many changes to Centre Street including the proposed commercial development at Yonge Street, the Wellington Place apartments and the Post Office.

He noted other changes on the street and how small houses on large lots were being redeveloped and there was little that could be done to stop them.

Even with the property in question, it was large enough for a house to be built on Centre Street, so that the heritage aspect of the street was

changing, he said.

Councillor Ron Wallace asked staff what options were open if council should support the plan submitted by the residents and was advised that the applicant could appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board.

When the vote was taken, the committee recommendation including the exit onto Centre Street was adopted with Councillors Kean and Gaertner in opposition.

Councillor Phyllis Morris who had opposed the application at the committee meeting was absent from the council meeting.



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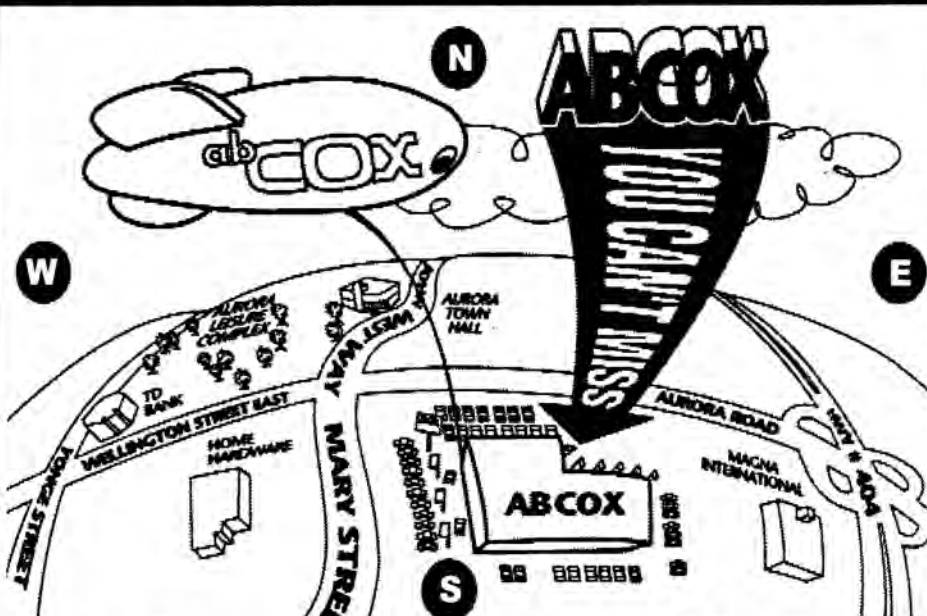
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Students, teachers and a few parents left Wednesday from Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School for a March Break trip that will carry them to battlefields in France, England and Germany.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

History abounds for students on this European adventure

By STEVE ZOLTOK

After two years of preparation, several students from Dr. G.W. Williams

Secondary School have finally left on their long-anticipated trip through Europe.

Organized by Les Kerr of

the Williams guidance department, the adventure, which left the high school last Wednesday, includes 30 students of all grades, five teachers and four parents.

The group returns this Friday.

The trip will span across Holland, Belgium and France and will include visits to various war memorials such as Dieppe and the Juno Beaches, as well as visits to several historic monuments and museums.

Such an adventure didn't come cheaply.

It cost each student \$3,150, which includes accommodation, flights, transportation when in Europe, sightseeing and admission costs, a medical package and meals.

The purpose of the trip is for students to get a better look at the amount of history that is embedded throughout Europe, as well as to get students to honour local war veterans.

Kerr said students need

to realize the future is in their hands.

There have been procedures prepared in case someone is injured or falls ill, and the nearest hospital along with directions is known to the group leaders at all times.

During an interview with Kerr it was apparent he was just as excited about the trip as the students, saying that despite the amount of effort that was needed to be put into the trip, it will be more than worth it.

Several of the students have relatives who died during the world wars and are buried in various European locations.

If all goes as planned then the students will have an educational yet enjoyable time, experiencing the amount of history as well as the significance of the wars up close, returning with more knowledge and understanding of the past than they could have ever hoped to achieve by staying in Canada.

Town public budget meeting draws few

From page 3

which would amount to an increase of \$65 on the average assessed home.

The major cost for the 2005 operating budget was the environment at 24 per cent, leisure services 22 per cent, protection to persons and property 16 per cent, transportation and administration at 13 per cent each.

The library uses seven per cent of the budget, planning and development three per cent and mayor and council and town hall operations, one per cent each.

Resident Al Wilson was very critical of the budget and the process.

He said it was a bad budget, the worst he had seen in the past several years and that it was a mistake to use reserve funds to reduce the budget rather than cut expenditures.

He pointed out that during the period 2001-2005 property taxes in Aurora had increased 40 per cent, and that the public session should have been called much earlier, rather than two weeks before council approved it.

He noted that on the revenue side new assessment was being used but with many new subdivisions it was sometimes up to three years before the taxes started to flow, which could present a cash flow problem for the town.

Later in the meeting it was pointed out that council had no control over the timing of the assessment as that was the responsibility of the Municipal Property

Assessment Commission.

Wilson also referred to comments and suggestions he had made the previous year and nothing had been done.

He suggested council go back and take another look at the budget as "several red flags were waving".

He listed several proposed expenditures, such as consultant and legal costs which he said were out of control and noted the 100 per cent increase for the Committee of Adjustment and a 20 per cent hike in salaries for the library.

Rebecca Beaton also expressed concerns about using reserve funds instead of cutting expenditure, and the lateness in presenting the budget. She was also critical of the use of consultants when staff was available to do the work, plus the system used to prepare the budget, claiming a person had to be a mind reader.

She sought information on the total staff complement including part-time workers and the final financial details of the cost of the new recreational complex.

Ron Prieur, a resident of Ridge Road for 34 years thanked members of council for living up to their commitment to reconstruct the west section of Ridge Road in 2004 and expressed the hope they would do the same for the reconstruction of the east section in 2005.

Council received the public comments and referred them to staff for consideration.

National Library accepts video from Aurora resident

An Aurora man, who produced a video about a helicopter squadron, has had his work added to the Canadian National Library in Ottawa.

Ferguson Mobbs is pleasantly surprised, because he doesn't know who discovered the work.

The video, entitled "On Watch To Strike", was directed, written and produced by Mobbs and it covers the historical background and present day capability of 400 Squadron which is a Tactical Helicopter Squadron located at Canadian Forces Base Borden.

It took more than a year to complete the

project, he said.

Mobbs participated in summer and winter exercises with the Canadian Air Force Squadron, "and as I am still a serving officer I was able to take part".

"I don't know how they discovered my video," he said. "I received an official letter requesting a copy to be considered to be added to the Canadian collection of Films and Videos for Canada."

Mobbs complied by sending a copy, which was accepted.

"I am very surprised and very honoured to have one of my videos in the National Library," he said.

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NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS. All claims against the estate of Jack Frederick Chinell, late of the Town of Aurora in the Regional Municipality of York, who died on or about the 21st day of August, 2004, must be filed with the undersigned Estate Trustees on or before the 24th day of March, 2005; thereafter, the undersigned will distribute the assets of the said estate having regard only to the claims then filed. DATED at Aurora this 24th day of February, 2005. Kathryn Mary Chinell Orsi and Thomas B. McPherson, Estate Trustees, by their Solicitors, THOMAS MCPHERSON ASSOCIATES, 15220 Yonge Street, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 3H4. Attn: Thomas B. McPherson. 905-727-3151

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Lovingly remembered, sadly missed.

Marilyn Munslow & family

NOTICE

AURORA CEMETERY CORPORATION

"Aurora Cemetery Corporation intends to file in the immediate future revised by-laws for the Corporation with the Registrar, Cemeteries Act (Revised). Any person wishing to review such by-laws may obtain a copy from the office of the Corporation during regular business hours. Such by-laws are subject to the approval of the Registrar."

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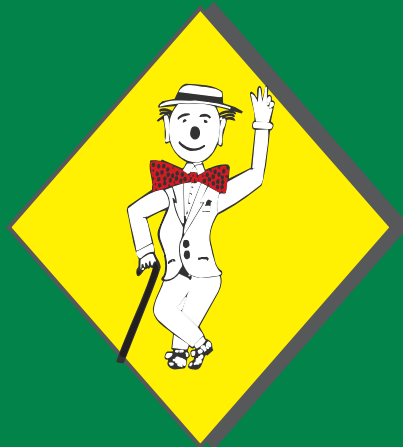
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