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# AURORAN

*Aurora's Community Newspaper*

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Vol. 5 No. 22

Week of March 22, 2005

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## Aurora Hydro for sale?

Aurora Council was expected to consider the "possible sale of Aurora Hydro Connections Ltd." at a special council meeting this week.

The meeting, which also sought public input, was scheduled for Tuesday night, but results were not available at press time.

It became apparent, according to a public agenda released Friday, that the special council meeting would precede the normal General Committee meeting, to deal with the hydro question.

According to the agenda, council was to consider the results of a private meeting held Thursday night "regarding the sale option of Aurora Hydro Connections Ltd. to PowerStream Inc."

A report was expected to be

**Please see page 14**

## Hydro option outlined

While Hydro One has shelved plans to increase power into York Region, a private company continues to pursue another option.

Northland Power has made presentations to local councils, and last week its chief operating officer addressed members of the Aurora Rotary Club.

Sam Mantenuto, accepting an invitation from Aurora Rotarian and fellow staffer Tony Anderson, told the gathering he has a solution that would provide extra power to York Region "at peak periods".

A natural gas-fired plant, housing six turbine generators, would be built in the Bayview-Mulock area of Newmarket, and would add power to existing supplies when it became necessary.

Mr. Mantenuto said his company had looked at sites in Aurora as well, but settled on Newmarket because of the industrial location.

**Please see page 13**



The March Break program at Aurora's Marquee Productions was a big success this year as many youngsters took part in a variety of activities. This group spent time creating stage sets, jewelry boxes and masks. They are, front row, left to right, Ellie MacDonald, Haylea Foss and Sydney Vogelhut; back row, left to right, Cameron Scott, Kaylah Paquette, Lexie Elbaum, Clara Chen and Courtney Palmer. To see how the youngsters handled March Break at Aurora's historic Hillary House, please see Page 9.

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

## "Aurora Day" once took place at CNE

Aurora is well known for its July First Celebrations, The Longest Street Festival, Aurora Horse Show, Santa Claus Parade Under the Stars, First Night, Arctic Adventure and other civic activities throughout the year.

It's simply a happening town.

Now an "Aurora Day Committee" is planning to spread Aurora's fame further afield by holding an Aurora Day at Ontario Place to celebrate the town on June 18th.

The committee is planning transportation and a full day of activities at Ontario Place including highlighting the town at Festival Square at the huge park.

Aurora once did that, but it was on this side of Toronto's Lakeshore Drive.

Back in the mid-1980s there was an Aurora Day at the Canadian National Exhibition.

In 1982 Toronto Councillor

Derwyn Shea, a CNE vice-president had a vision of a Heritage Village within the park as a miniature community.

It would include a town hall, a band shell and other community facilities.

He worked with staff from the

Ministry of Municipal Affairs in planning the village and encouraged Ontario municipalities

**Please see page 9**

## Swan expert speaks to AHS

Coincidentally, after explaining the sighting of several large white birds in Aurora recently, Aurora's Harry Lumsden wound up as guest speaker last week at an Aurora Historical Society meeting.

The expert on the beautiful Trumpeter Swan, Mr. Lumsden told a small but attentive crowd about the history of the bird, and explained the reasons why the bird was being spotted throughout the community.

Before 1982 there were no Trumpeter Swans in Ontario and

hadn't been for more than 100 years.

The last record was of a bird shot at Long Point on Lake Erie in 1886.

Mr. Lumsden, a former official with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, started a restoration program in 1982 of releasing cygnets raised in captivity and capturing sick and injured birds for treatment.

Along with a number of dedicated workers, he and the Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program continue to

make progress toward the objective of producing a self-sustaining population.

"We're very close to that now," he told his Hillary House audience last Wednesday.

When the program started, it was recommended a minimal target population of about 500 wild birds with 100 mature pairs to maximize genetic variation in Ontario would provide a self-sustaining population.

In the spring of 2003 there

**Please see page 9**

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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.

\*\*\*\*

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.

\*\*\*\*

Until April 9th, Wellington Gallery presents the artwork of Kathryn Bemrose entitled "New and Old". Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment by calling 905-751-0066.

## MARCH 26

Join in the 4th Annual Aurora Easter Egg Hunt at the Leisure Complex with more than 14,000 Easter Eggs to be found. The Aurora South District Girl Guides invites children of all ages to participate in the first hunt at 10 a.m. or the second hunt at 1 p.m. with crafts and face painting starting at 9 a.m. and noon. Pre-register at the Leisure Complex. Call Suzanne Bin at 905-727-0629 for more information.

## MARCH 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 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.

\*\*\*\*

Registration for Aurora Minor Ball Association 2005 season takes place at the Aurora Community Centre from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. New reduced rates for TBall players. Registration form is online at www.auroraminorball.ca or call Gary Drodge at 905-727-8461.

## APRIL 5

Aurora Public Library hosts PEN Canada benefit from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Magna Room. Guest is author Camilla Gibb. Admission is free with ticket, but advance registration is required. Call 905-727-9493, Option 4.

## 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

Yuk-Yuks, the best in stand-up comedy, returns to the Aurora Legion. Doors open at 6.30 p.m., the show is at 8.30 p.m. and a dance follows. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. For further information, call 905-727-9932.

## 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 12

Aurora Public Library in partnership with Canada Customs and Revenue Agency offers no-cost income tax clinics with trained community volunteers. 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. in the Lebovic Room. Same clinic offered April 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Lebovic Room. Clinics income based (\$20,000 individual; \$25,000 family).

## 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.

## APRIL 30

Mayor's Anti-Litter Day, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., followed by a barbeque in the Town Park. Registration necessary. Call 905-727-8214.

## MAY 4

Internet Seminar presented free by Aurora Cable Internet and the Aurora Public Library deals with Spyware and Pop-up. 7 p.m. in the library's Magna Room. Reserve by calling 905-727-9493 or visit www.aci.on.ca.

## 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.

## JUNE 18

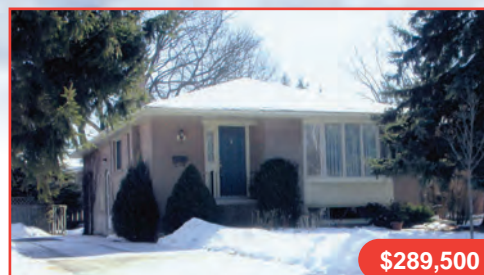
Aurora Day at Ontario Place. For further information, call Kristen at 905-727-3123, extension 4228.

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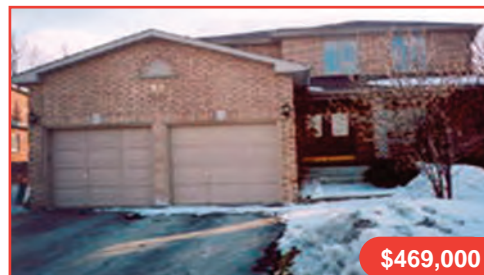
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PROUD TO BE LIVING AND WORKING IN AURORA





**Women's Centre of York Region Communications Director Shelley Lundquist, seated, hosted an International Women's Day seminar in King City recently. Two of the attendees were Barbara Steele, left, and Linda Morrison, both of Aurora. The Women's Centre is located in Aurora.**

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

## McAlpine repositioned in Magna Entertainment

Aurora-based Magna Entertainment Corporation, the largest horse-track owner in North America, suffered losses of more than \$200 million (US) over the past two years and it has cost an Aurora man his job.

The company has replaced chief executive officer Jim McAlpine of Aurora with former banker Thomas Hodgson.

McAlpine will become vice-president of corporate development and will remain a member of the company's executive management committee.

McAlpine was chief financial officer at Magna International during the free-wheeling 1980s and has been president and chief executive officer of Magna Entertainment for the past four years.

The move will allow McAlpine, who owns a Ford automobile dealership in Aurora, more time for several Magna Entertainment projects including seeking legislative approvals for slot machine operations at tracks in several states.

Hodgson joined the board of Magna Entertainment's parent company MI Developments in September, 2004, and has worked as a consultant on the racetrack and gambling company.

Magna founder Frank Stronach also recruited former U.S. Ambassador to Canada, Paul Cellucci, as a

senior executive at the gambling and race track company.

Cellucci's arrival will give Magna Entertainment an inside track into some of the most powerful political circles in the United States and Canada. He was a former Republican Governor of Massachusetts and is close to U.S. President George Bush.

# Project engineer named for Aurora's new fire hall

Construction is expected to begin this year on Aurora's second fire station, this one to be located on Wellington Street East beside the new recreational complex.

The building will follow the layout of a similar station in Mississauga, with some minor design modifications.

That decision followed site visits with the qualified architect, staff, the fire chief and deputy chief in Richmond Hill, Mississauga and Whitby.

The Mississauga structure was built in 1999.

Although there was only one qualified designer that town staff recommended, the firm of Thomas Brown Architects is experienced in the design and construction of fire halls in the Greater Toronto Area.

The requirement for a new fire hall was identified in the Development Charges Bylaw for construction in 2005 with an approved budget of \$1.6 million.

Councillor Damir Vrancic expressed concern that 19 bid packages had been picked up and only one applicant was considered and he asked what happened.

Director of Leisure Services Allan Downey replied that five firms had submitted bids but only one firm met all the qualifications, which included building a fire hall in the GTA within the past

five years.

Vrancic noted that no architect fee had been included in the report and Downey replied that it was planned to duplicate a fire hall on the Aurora site and the fee would be submitted after it was determined just what was needed to meet Aurora's requirements.

Councillor Evelyn Buck wanted to know why there would be an architect's fee when a building was being duplicated.

"A fire hall is a fire hall is a fire hall," she said.

Downey replied drawings were still required but they would be made available at a reduced fee.

Councillor Ron Wallace noted that of the two truck bays on the Mississauga plan, only one had a rear entrance and he asked why.

Fire Chief John Molyneux replied that because of the location, even one rear entrance may not be included.

When asked if the estimated \$1.6 million would be adequate for the facility, Downey replied that staff was not sure at this point and there could be a shortfall.

In response to how the shortfall may be met,

Treasurer Jim Carey suggested the Municipal Reserve to which Councillor Vrancic commented that the reserve must be a bottomless pit.

Council finally endorsed the selection of Thomas Brown Architects as the project architect for the fire hall and for staff to report back to council with the agreement for final approval.

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## Poor Richard

# They flew between the columns of clouds

*It was Easter over the Atlantic,  
As through the clouds we flew;  
It was an enchanting moment,  
For a weary aircraft crew.  
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

During the week prior to Easter, 1944, our aircrew under Captain Gerry Gerrand, an Australian civilian pilot flying with the Royal Air Force Ferry Command, flew from Dorval to Elizabeth City, North Carolina, to pick up a Catalina flying boat for delivery to the United Kingdom.

It was my fourth flight across the Atlantic but the first with Captain Gerrard, who was known to be a tough pilot to fly with and it was my first flight in a flying boat.

His regular navigator had booked off sick and I was next on the list.

After an acceptance flight in Elizabeth City, where we flew over Kitty Hawk, made famous by Orville and Wilbur Wright in 1903, we flew to Bermuda, where we completed a test flight the following day.

It was a stressful day for me as I had to check out all the navigational instruments, which I had never had to do before as it had always been done by staff at Dorval.

However, with assistance from the skipper, it was accomplished and we were ready to tackle the Atlantic.

From what I had heard, the normal Catalina delivery took about five weeks as it was necessary to get almost perfect weather conditions for the non-stop flight from Bermuda to Largs, Scotland, a flying boat base near Prestwick.

But our skipper was in a hurry to get back to Montreal and after sweating out a couple of days due to poor weather conditions, there was a break and we took off from Bermuda on a Thursday about 10.30 a.m. local time.

Our flight plan called for a great circle route which would take us within 350 miles from the southeast tip of Newfoundland on the flight to Largs.

Our estimated flight time was about 20 hours and our planned height was 10,000 feet after burning off some fuel.

The initial stages of the flight were uneventful as we flew at 1,500 to 2,000 feet as planned and enjoyed the beauties of a cloudless sky and a peaceful Atlantic Ocean.

As we approached Newfoundland, we ran into heavy cloud and icing. We tried to climb above it, but the plane's de-icing equipment didn't work, so it was necessary to fly under the weather and this changed our flight plan.

After nightfall, as we were flying at low level beneath the clouds, I was unable to take any astral sextant shots as planned, so had to navigate by dead reckoning and the odd drift and windlane and guesswork.

We kept our fingers crossed and hoped that when we broke out of the cloud, we would be able to recognize some landmark and get back on track.

The hours passed and time stood still as if we were being held in an eternity of space and time.

It was my normal navigation practice to prepare for sunrise by timing the rise of the sun and by making allowance for height I could obtain a longitudinal check.

When I checked my almanac, I realized for the first time that it was Good Friday, but in the darkness at the time it didn't have much meaning.

As we approached the time for sunrise, the clouds started to break and we were flying between layers.

The layers were joined by columns of cloud and it was as if we were flying in a giant cathedral and the pillars of cloud were holding up the ceiling.

After flying for some 20 hours (the total flight was more than 24 hours) and although we were dead tired, it seemed wrong to break those pillars and the skipper steered the plane back and forth to fly between the pillars.

Shortly afterwards we broke into the clear sunshine of Good Friday and our landmarks on the Irish coast were in sight and it wasn't long before we were safe on the water once again.

In his poem "High Flight", Pilot Officer John Magee wrote about slipping the surly bonds of earth and putting out his hand and touching the face of God.

I don't know if we experienced the same feelings as Magee, but it was a moving experience on a Good Friday.



Yet another postcard of an Aurora street showed up in our office last week, this one courtesy of Carl Finkle of King City. Showing Wellington Street East (we believe approximately where the lower photo was taken Sunday), the picture has a remarkable resemblance to last week's early century shot of Catherine Avenue. The most prevalent feature in both pictures was the enormous stand of trees. Those on Wellington grew so large they created a canopy over the street before they were removed in the seventies. New trees planted have now grown to a point where a new canopy is about to be formed, keeping alive the feeling that Wellington is one of the prettiest streets in the province. Even with pavement.

### Letter to the Editor

## Resident seeks early Regency memorabilia

To the editor,

I am looking for anyone who may have lived on Bailey Crescent between 1959 and 1963.

Back then, a family named Walker from England moved into 16 Bailey.

They had a one-year-old boy named Steven and they loved it here.

However, the father became very ill and they had to go back to England.

The people of Bailey Crescent held card parties and a dance to raise money for the fare home

and to employ a nurse to be with Mr. Walker.

Sadly, he died 24 hours after arriving back in England.

Now, Steven, more than 40 years later, is coming to Canada for a visit.

I received a letter addressed to "16 Bailey Crescent, Aurora, near Toronto, Canada".

Since then, we have exchanged letters and now he is planning to visit the area he lived as a very young boy.

So, I am looking for anything relating to that time - pictures, old playmates, old

newspapers, house prices, anything that would reflect life in Regency Acres during its early years.

What I collect I will give to Steven to take home with him.

If you can help make this man's visit a memorable one, I will be very grateful.

He arrives April 2. Please call The Auroran during business hours if you can contribute something to this event.

**C. Bestard**  
16 Bailey Crescent  
Aurora

## AURORAN

"Aurora's Community Newspaper"

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## Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

# Our regional taxes for 2005

On February 17th, the Region of York approved its 2005 operating and capital budget of 1.5 billion dollars.

Last year, approximately 43 cents of every property tax dollar paid by residents of Aurora went to York Region.

That amount will be increased by 5.32 per cent this year to address numerous areas of service.

Including this increase and providing the proportional split stays the same among the Region, the Town and the Province for education taxes, this means in Aurora you will pay the following amounts to the Region from each tax dollar:

- \* Police Services .116
- \* Regional Roads .047
- \* York Region Transit .039
- \* Social Housing .026
- \* Emergency Medical Services .017
- \* Social Assistance .017
- \* Solid Waste .017
- \* Conservation Authorities/GO Transit and Municipal Property Assessment Corporation .013
- \* Ontario Disability Support Program .013
- \* Public Health .013
- \* Viva Rapid Transit .013
- \* Administrative Support .009
- \* Family & Children's Services .009
- \* Long Term Care .009
- \* Planning and Development Services .004
- \* Hospital Capital .004
- \* GTA Pooling .065

Based on an average Regional property assessment of \$336,422, this translates to an increase of \$85.

Budget highlights include:

\* More than \$12 million more to Police Services (\$151 million total) which will include 67 new officers and 35 civilian support staff.

\* \$11 million towards Viva Rapid Transit, (\$14 million total) a new service which will be operational this Fall.

\* \$7 million increase for York Region Transit (\$44 million total) to replace 17 conventional buses and purchase 11 additional conventional buses plus four new terminals and 20 new bus shelters.

\* an additional three million dollars for road reconstruction (\$54 million total) for 90 kilometres of additional lane construction, 60 kilometres of resurfacing improvements to 12 bridges and 29 intersections.

\* \$1.6 million more for Solid Waste Management (\$18 million total) for a new Material Recovery Facility and the start of a Source Separated Organics program.

The budget also included the collection of \$86.7 million for GTA pooling costs which the Region has capped at \$82.4 million to match the budget increase anticipated in Toronto.

By doing so, it is our intent to send a strong message to the Province that York Region requires a new financial deal to meet our own increasing needs as Canada's fastest growing Region.

Given the federal government's surplus positions, it is time the federal government stopped downloading to the Province and the Province stopped downloading to the

municipal taxpayer.

Social Services and Social Housing are not the responsibility of the property owner, they are a Federal and Provincial responsibility to be shared by our ability to pay through our earnings and the sooner the Federal - Provincial members we elect to those positions understand that the

better for all municipal taxpayers.

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](mailto:tjones@town.aurora.on.ca)



## Cathy's Corner



# Who is the Easter Bunny?

A lot of people are wondering what an egg-laying rabbit has to do with the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The answer is simple: nothing.

The Easter Bunny originates in fertility lore that pre-dates Christianity.

In pagan times, the "Easter Hare" was a sacred companion of the goddess of spring, Eostre.

Somewhere along the line, Spring and Easter melted into one, and some mysterious rabbit started performing his own miracles.

Not only does this bunny lay eggs, but these are no ordinary eggs!

They are chocolate, with a creamy centre that looks like an egg, but tastes too good to be good for you.

Legend has it that Cadbury made a sweet deal with the bunny.

Cadbury is very secretive, as we know.

How they get the caramel into the Caramilk Bar is still under wraps, but their biggest secret is the identity of the Easter Bunny.

Could it be Peter Rabbit?

Peter's mother warned him not to go into Mr. McGregor's garden, but he didn't listen.

No, off he went, directly to Merlin's Hollow, and proceeded to stuff himself with produce ... and drive poor Mr. McGregor (and all the other farmers in Aurora) to the brink of breakdown.

And he went home with no clothes on.

Nice bunnies don't do that, so Peter can't possibly be the Easter Bunny.

It can't be the Velveteen Rabbit either. He wants to be real, and that just wouldn't work because real rabbits have personal hygiene problems.

And it sure isn't Roger Rabbit. The Easter Bunny is supposed to be huggable and cuddly, but love-struck?

No, you don't want to know what's going on in that rabbit hole.

Then there's Peter Cottontail, the famous nursery school rock star.

"Here comes Peter Cottontail,  
Hopping down the bunny trail..."

I won't go any further with his hit song because if it gets stuck in your head, you're going to have "a bad hare day" for sure.

Now, Peter Cottontail might appear to be the best candidate - toting a basket of goodies and all, but notice his activities are restricted to "the bunny trail".

The song makes no mention of hopping along Timberline Trail or Buttonwood Trail or Copland Trail or Tamarac Trail or Windham Trail or Skipton Trail or Hollandview Trail or Hunting Trail!

Obviously, any bunny that fails to hop along Aurora trails cannot be the Easter Bunny.

And it can't be the White Rabbit.

We'd be lucky if he showed up before Christmas - he's always late! And he's from Newmarket anyway.

Neither can it be the March Hare. He's as mad as...well, as mad as a March hare!

Some people suspect that the Easter Bunny is really the Eveready Bunny, who rose to power in the advertising business.

But it can't be him. He just keeps going and going and going, and nobody has ever been able to figure out where...or why. And what's with the annoying drum?

Speaking of annoying, there's Bugs Bunny.

Bugs is hardly a cute "wittle wabbit", he's a hare.

Hares are bigger and faster than rabbits, and apparently they can speak...with a Keswick accent.

This doesn't fit with the traditional image of the Easter Bunny. And neither does Bugs Bunny's anger management problem.

Every Bugs Bunny episode starts with: "What's up, Doc?" and ends with: "Of course you realize, THIS MEANS WAR!" Just like a typical council meeting.

Nope, Bugs is more likely to be related to George Bush than the Easter Bunny.

Well that exhausts my inventory of famous rabbits, and still the question remains: "Who is the Easter Bunny?"

Only Cadbury knows for sure.

Happy Easter, Aurora!

Cathy Vrancic welcomes e-mail at:  
[laughingmatters@aci.on.ca](mailto:laughingmatters@aci.on.ca)



# Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

**BRICKBATS** to those in charge of the Aurora Armouries on Wells Street. Every place in town that flies a flag flew it at half staff last week to acknowledge the deaths of four RCMP officers in Alberta. Every place except the Armouries, the federal government operation that should have had its flag lowered first.

**BOUQUETS** to Don Hamilton, who was too ill to attend his retirement acknowledgment at the Aurora Historical Society when he and another long-time Aurora resident Bill Devins retired from the board. Mr. Hamilton had also served many years on the board.

**BOUQUETS** to Aurora's Archie Milne for his possible role in the selection of the Hudson's Bay Company to supply clothing for Canadian Olympic teams. Some time ago he wrote to the head of the Canadian Olympics and suggested the Hudson's Bay blanket clothing as being truly Canadian and Hudson's Bay was selected. The power of the pen!

**BRICKBATS** to Poor Richard for missing the opening performance of "A Run For the Money" performed by the Theatre Aurora Youth Group at the Factory Theatre. He didn't write down the dates to get tickets and he blew it!

**BOUQUETS** to the students at Aurora Senior Public School for jazzing it up at a fundraiser dance-a-thon recently to raise funds for the school's arts, academic and athletic programs. They raised a total of \$8,460 for their efforts including \$2,848 raised by 10-year-old Steven Boyle and his family.

**BRICKBATS** to Mayor Tim Jones for cutting off a speaker asking questions at the public meeting seeking public input for the 2005 operating and capital budgets. You shouldn't invite the public if you don't want to hear what they have to say!

**BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Optimist Club for their ongoing sponsorship of the chess tournament. To see about 300 students from all grades concentrating on their next move restores your faith in the future of Canada.

**BRICKBATS** to whoever selects the colours for printing Canadian postage stamps. The 85 cent stamp required for mail going to the United States has the price shown in yellow ink and it's almost invisible. There's a lesson there for anyone printing anything in yellow!

**BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Seniors' Association for raising \$1,300 at a fundraising dinner for the Tsunami disaster and also to the students and staff of Highview Public School on raising \$9,500 for the same cause.

**BRICKBATS** to Governor General Adrienne Clarkson for planning another tour of European countries at the expense of the taxpayers. She seems to have forgotten that she is supposed to represent the Queen in Canada, not in foreign countries. When is it going to stop?

**BOUQUETS** to the representatives of the Ontario Equestrian Foundation and the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation for sitting down and working out an agreement to change the method of assessing properties where boarding, riding lessons or trail rides are offered. The assessment jumped as much as 110 per cent when changed from agricultural to commercial and their recommendation to the government is for a reversal.

**BRICKBATS** to Premier Dalton McGuinty and Finance Minister Greg Sorbara for attending a private dinner party at the home of Greg's brother, at which the guests, mostly developers, paid \$10,000 a plate. The developers didn't come for the food, they want favours!

## Letters to the Editor

# Rates will surely increase if we amalgamate: Weller

To the editor,

Well, Rosemary, by the time you print this letter the decision will likely have been made to unload our hydro utility to lose control forever, or keep the name Aurora on our utility.

I am sure the best path to follow for our citizens is to allow them to purchase the system and operate it as a private system.

This would ensure our ratepayers of competitive rates and reap millions in capital gains.

A safeguard agreement could be drawn up with complete safeguards for our municipality.

I will e-mail a copy of this letter to the town office, mayor, councillors and, of

course, your editor.

The Auroran must be well read.

My phone lit up after my last letter. Everybody got the same answer. There will be no saving and the rates will go up if we amalgamate.

I've read that the rates will be the same or lower after amalgamation. Who is kidding whom?

The rates will continue to rise and there will be more profit taking.

I read Newmarket budgets one million dollars for inventory. Our inventory is in place and supplies are added and used as needed.

As for meeting efficiency standards, we have a competent staff at Aurora Hydro to guarantee the citizens an efficient and number one

operation.

One thing is for certain: we have enough financial problems facing us in Aurora without losing control of our hydro utility.

The library is sinking, the old library needs three or four hundred thousand dollars in renovations to make it an attractive, revenue-producing property, the old fire hall (now the Seniors' Centre) needs to be demolished to make room for parking, the Community Centre needs three or four hundred thousand dollars in repairs to correct leaks in the ice floor, the walls in our administrative centre are cracking and will likely need major repairs, the new seniors' centre needs to be constructed, we are waiting for

our Olympic-sized swimming pool, the perennial, costly repairs to the Leisure Complex will continue to haunt us, and it won't be long before we will need to complete our new arena with a third ice surface. Will we need a new, pristine office complex for Northridge Power Distribution Ltd?

Remember when the Regional Government was formed and they built the round house on Yonge Street in Newmarket with the multi, multi, multi-millions in cost overruns?

After sitting 10 years on York Region School Board, 12 years on our Aurora Council, three years on the Aurora Hydro after receiving my first paycheque from the Town of Aurora in 1959, there are some who will say that I've been around too long.

My gut and my past experience tells me that our hydro rates will skyrocket.

If you want control of your electricity rates and your Aurora Hydro, don't let them change the name from Aurora Hydro to Northridge Power Distribution Ltd.

Lorna Rummenie  
Director  
Aurora Food Pantry

Norm Weller  
Aurora

To the editor,

This letter is long overdue to thank The Auroran and Councillor Nigel Kean for the great contest at Christmas collecting food and donations for the Aurora Food Pantry.

The past two months have seen an increase in people needing the Food Pantry so the food has been a very big help.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We would also like to thank the community for its support.

Every little bit helps.

Easter is early this year so our Easter Food Drive started March 18 and will continue until April 9.

People may drop off donations at most stores and the fire hall on Edward Street.

Again, several stores will be making up bags and we do appreciate this.

Items that we really need are canned fruit, drink boxes, canned meats and stews, powdered milk, hot and cold cereals, jams, soda crackers, tea and instant coffee.

With your help we will be able to continue helping

those in need over the summer.

## Yonge Street photo dated

To the editor,

I saw the picture of Yonge Street in The Auroran two weeks ago.

The presence of the streetcar tracks and the Rutherford sign on what was later my father's store suggests that the picture

was taken between 1899 and the death of King Edward VII (1910).

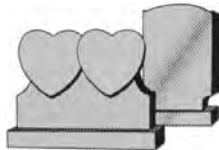
This is confirmed by the absence of the post office which dates from 1914.

W.G. Willis  
Aurora

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Bring your own cameras and don't forget to be first in line and join in the fun!

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Aurora Community Centre, Aurora Heights Drive (1st light North of Wellington, West of Yonge)

April 22 (2 - 9 pm), April 23 (9 am - 7 pm), April 24 (10 am - 5 pm)



# Winter in Aurora - will it ever end?

So you woke up Thursday morning and there it was - yet another layer of snow.

Four days before Spring, just when you thought it was all over, Winter struck again.

And so you hauled snow shovels or snow blowers out of storage, purchased more salt and battened down the hatches, wondering if those noises in the leafless trees are really robins or just wishful thinking.

But Thursday's drop was nothing compared with some of the storms oldtimers may recall from the past when the area was snowbound and traveling almost impossible.

The weekend rain, sleet and snow storm that hit Aurora and area in mid-January, 1967, gave students a holiday and motorists a headache.

The rain and sleet started about noon Sunday and left a mirror-like finish on the highways causing cars to slide off the icy roads.

It turned cold later in the afternoon and eight inches of snow covered an inch of ice.

While other areas reported power failures, Aurora escaped.

The real trouble was on the roads and Aurora streets weren't cleared until late Monday night.

School buses were

pulled off the road giving students a long weekend. Even the Post Office suspended delivery on Monday.

In January, 1968, winter's grip hit the region with the mercury dropping to 30 below celsius and many students unable to attend school as buses were unable to operate.

The Aurora works department carted away 218 truckloads of snow.

In 1971, the worst storm in 100 years hit the area blocking all roads and stranding scores of motorists.

There were hundreds of rear-end collisions as visibility dropped to nil.

Snow banks were a common sight and the pile on the corner of the Doane Hall parking lot was almost as high as the building.

A major snow storm hit the Aurora area in February, 1972, when eight inches of snow fell causing a rash of traffic accidents, countless shivering families as the power was off for up to 10 hours in some areas and an unofficial school holiday for hundreds of snowbound students.

One Aurora resident blamed the storm and the blackout on the politicians.

He called Mayor Dick Illingworth at 6 a.m. to say his house was cold and what was the mayor going to do about it.

A winter storm covered the Aurora area in early January, 1977, and while the schools were open, few students or teachers were in attendance due to the storm, said to be one of the worst in Aurora.

Students requiring bus transportation ended up with the day off after bus drivers were pulled off the roads due to heavy snow and poor visibility.

The students who did make their way through the snow to school, those able to walk, were told to return home before the storm became worse.

Another one hit in December, 1977, when six inches of snow fell in the Aurora area with gusts of wind up to 70 km/hr.

Driving conditions were described as horrible, although all school buses were operating.

In February, 1979, a busload of students from Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School was

stranded by a snow storm near Stayner. They were on their way to Blue Mountain, near Collingwood, for a day of skiing.

The students stayed in a church for about two hours before heading back to Aurora, arriving safely about 4 p.m.

In January, 1982, winter's first big storm of the season blew into the Aurora area bringing frigid temperatures and a blizzard.

Both the OPP and York Regional Police reported numerous minor accidents as winds, gusting up to 50 kilometres per hour, whipped up snow restricting visibility on area roadways.

The fire department received several calls regarding frozen pipes and water leaks as pipes burst as temperatures dipped to minus 28 degrees Celsius.

Although only three to six centimetres of snow fell over the area it seemed worse as the

wind pushed the temperature down and heaped the snow into drifts.

Then in April, 1982, the weatherman played an April Fool's prank on the area with what started out to be an innocent looking snow flurry. It soon developed into a blizzard, blocking roads and stranding motorists.

Aurora snowplowing operations were hampered by abandoned cars, hopelessly stuck or stalled on the streets.

Local hydro experienced one brief power interruption due to the storm. Telephone facilities were taxed over capacity and postal service was interrupted.

In the winter of 2001, January was one of the worst months for snowstorms in many years.

There was snowstorm after snowstorm with few breaks in between with the snow piling higher and higher.

Officials said Aurora had not received that much snow in a single season since 1977, and there were still a few months to go.

The Farmers' Almanac predicted a wild and wet report for this winter but didn't say whether the wet would be rain or snow, depending on location. And it didn't say when winter would end. Hang in there, folks.

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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





A March Break program for youngsters at Aurora’s famous Hillary House last week was completely booked long before the event took place. Among other activities, Aurora’s youth had a chance to use their imagination dying Easter eggs. From the left, Lydia Johnston, Adam Gage, and Gabriel Calderon



display the results of their efforts. Youngsters also constructed kaleidoscopes and learned the inner workings of the Secret Agent Game during their days off school.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

# Lumsden addresses AHS

**From page 1**  
were only 14 captive pairs of Trumpeters to produce stock for release, as five pairs of breeders had been lost since September, 2002.

At that time it was estimated there were 406 wild Trumpeters in southern Ontario, and by September, 2003, it was estimated there were 482 swans with a total of 76 breeding pairs.

The Trillium Foundation agreed to fund the program with a grant of \$60,000 to cover four years of operation.

The \$15,000 per year paid for swan food at Wye Marsh, Seneca College and Aurora.

Contributions were also received from several individuals and groups including the Aurora Library, the Galen Weston Foundation and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

In a 2004 report on the Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program it was noted that the first target of 500 birds had been achieved and self-sustaining population should be assured once the second goal of 100 breeding pairs has been reached.

The number of captive pairs available for production of cygnets for release was reduced during 2004 due to the death of six swans.

Three new pairs were formed among the bereaved birds held in Aurora and for 2005 there will be a total of 15 captive reproducing pairs.

It was estimated the swan inventory in Ontario in 2004 was 504, consisting of 121 cygnets and 383 swans.

It was also estimated there were a total of 64 nesting pairs in 2004 and to achieve the objective of

100 potential breeding pairs would take another two or three years.

Every year sick and dead swans are picked up. For some the cause of death cannot be identified, but lead poisoning is the major cause as a result of swans eating pellets (which they love, by the way) or occasionally fish sinkers.

In 1999, the use of lead shot for hunting waterfowl was prohibited in Ontario, but compliance has not been absolute.

In 1990 Scott Paper Ltd. began to fund the program and provided funding for genetic research and a study of the causes of low hatchability.

Mr. Lumsden says with this help he and his volunteer co-operators were able to acquire enough captive breeding pairs to produce and release at least 30, two-year-old

swans per year.

Analysis of survival data indicates that there was not yet a self-sustaining wild population. To measure productivity and survival, banding and marking with wing tags was a priority.

Such markings were recognized by Aurora residents recently, and Mr. Lumsden was able to identify the birds.

Swans nest on his pond located at the end of Hillview Drive.

Currently there are 12 co-operators who care for captive pairs and produce cygnets for eventual release and Mr. Lumsden says the program could not have operated without dedicated volunteers.

In January, 2004, he received the Order of Canada in the Science category for his work in the Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program.

# Aurora Day at CNE

**From page 1**  
to participate.

Municipalities submitted requests and were granted a day during the CNE when they took over the Heritage Village, located just inside the Dufferin Gates, for the day.

Aurora Day was Thursday, August 21, 1986.

Busess were chartered to transport Aurora residents to the CNE and return.

The Aurora Library, Historical Society, Horticultural Society, Chamber of Commerce, Aurora Eagles Hockey Club and the fundraising committee for the Leisure Family Complex had displays at the site.

At the band shell, Joan Textieras' Jazzercisors started off the talent show, fol-


lowed by the Adam Simson Band, Sean Collins and the Cheryl Thomas Ensemble.

Rainstone took over the band shell, followed by a return performance of the Adam Simson Band, the Ontario Rhythm Cloggers, Marie Devereau Singers, Theatre Aurora, Judy Rodger and Ted McClenny.

Aurora took over the Heritage Village again in 1987 featuring the Rotary Club Choir, Theatre Aurora, Woodgate Irish Dancers, Sandra Purdy Dancers and various vocalists.

Activities at the Heritage Village continued in 1988 and 1989 but the project died soon after.

Perhaps the upcoming adventure at Ontario Place will resurrect another Aurora annual event.



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Page 10

Week of March 22, 2005

## Lead series 3-2

# Tigers finally break out of home ice jinx

The home ice jinx that has plagued both the Aurora Tigers and Newmarket Hurricanes in playoff hockey this year was broken Sunday night.

Teams entered that game with the North Division final series deadlocked at two games each, with all four games won in enemy territory.

That ended Sunday at the Aurora Community Centre when the home town Tigers piled up an impressive 4-1 victory to take a 3-2 series lead.

Sixth, and what might be final game, was scheduled for Newmarket Tuesday night, after The Auroran's deadline.

If the series goes the limit, the final game will be played in Aurora Wednesday night (March 23) beginning at 7.30 p.m.

For some reason, the Tigers, whose home record during the regular season was 22-2, could not beat Newmarket on Aurora ice.

The two losses were both to the Hurricanes.

Then in the first two games of the playoffs on home ice, Tigers came up on the wrong end of the score.

However, in Newmarket, they were warriors and almost invincible.

Sunday's contest was a game of last minute plays, including a goal scored in the first period with two seconds showing on the clock.

Sam Skwarchuk fired that one.

Then, in the second period, with only eight seconds remaining, Josh McNair duplicated Skwarchuk's performance.

Sean Thompson added a goal and an assist to the winning effort, while Michael Tuomi contributed a pair of assists.

In goal, Ryan Dickie turned aside 41 Newmarket shots, including some game savers in the second and third periods.

He was named Player of

the Game.

Tigers scored twice in the first and twice in the second to record the victory.

Neither team scored in the final 20 minutes.

In the fourth game, played in Aurora last week, Tigers came up on the short end of a 5-3 score.

Jeremy Whelan, Tim Whitehouse and Craig Carlyle scored for Aurora.

Earlier, Aurora marched into Newmarket and came away with a 3-2 victory, thanks to a goaltender error with only 1.23 remaining in the third period.

While the Newmarket goalie attempted to clear the puck from behind the net, Aurora swept in, stole the disk and deposited it in the empty goal.

Both teams had scored

twice in the first period, then remained scoreless until the final 90 seconds of the game.



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Rapidly taking shape in Aurora's east end is the town's new recreational complex. When complete, the structure will house two more ice pads, a large swimming pool area and several other recreational facilities. Ice surfaces are expected to be ready by September, and officials say construction is right on schedule. Building is located on the north side of Wellington Street East, just west of Leslie Street.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

# Famous Hartwell Run now a big annual event

It was in October, 2001, when Aurora marathon runner Bob Hartwell collapsed while running in the Canadian International Marathon in Toronto, a qualifying event for the Boston Marathon, in which he had competed three times.

The former Aurora councillor and businessman was rushed to St. Michael's Hospital, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

He was 54. As an avid marathoner it was one of his dreams to have a marathon in his home town of Aurora.

A group of Bob's friends, all Boston Marathoners, led by John Cappelletti, organized a one-half Boston Marathon of 21 kilometres or 13.1 miles to be run within the streets of Aurora in his memory.

The first Bob Hartwell Runners' Challenge was

held April 14, 2002.

The one-half Marathon was registered as a Class "A" Race.

A five-kilometre Friendship Walk was organized for people, other than runners, who wanted to participate.

All proceeds from both events went to the Community Safety Village, one of Bob's favourite projects, which is scheduled to officially open later this year.

About 600 runners and 200 walkers showed up for the event, which was considered an overwhelming success by the organizers and it was decided to hold it annually.

It was a cold, clammy and foggy morning but that mattered little to the runners who were pleased they weren't competing in the heat.

The event attracted runners from as far away as British Columbia, but it was an Aurora runner, Nick Tsiorus, a teacher at St. Andrews College, who won the half marathon with a time of 1:14:43.

Aurora's Patty Davidson was the top female with a time of 1:31:37.

In the two-person relay, Aurorans Chris Williams and Matt Cameron were second crossing the finish line with a time of 1:21:46.

All concerned agreed the event was a wonderful tribute to Bob and his town.

The evening prior to the run, a pasta dinner for the participants had been arranged at Trinity Anglican Church and it was sold out.

Organizers brought in celebrities including

Canada's top marathon runner in the 1990s, Peter Fonseca, who acted as guest announcer.

Ed Whitlock, holder of three official world records and Canadian Hall of Famer, Marnie McBean, from Canada's rowing team, were also in attendance.

The run was repeated in 2003 and 2004 with an increasing number of participants and was considered to be one of the best marathon runs in the province.

The 2005 Bob Hartwell Annual Runners Challenge will be held this year April 10th starting at the Town Park.

For more information call Chris Williams at 905-392-1977.


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## House league Playoff Games

**106 White/Royal TIM HORTON'S LEAFS 11:** Jess Weimer 4G 1A, Sandy Hudson 2G 1A, Jacob Hagias 1G, Taylor Lemmon 2G, Joshua Divincenzo 2G, Christopher Sutherland 2A, Andrew Klinowski 1A. **105 Gold/Black TIM HORTON'S BRUINS 1:** Denzel Speller-Drews 1G.

**103 Red/White TIM HORTON'S RED WINGS 4:** Natthew Leroy 1G 1A, Michael Dilosa 1G, Cole Thiessen 2G, Garrett Wood 1A, Christopher Baggio 1A. **104 Royal/White TIM HORTON'S BLUES 4:** Graeme McDonald 2G, Jack Ellison 1G, Tyler Coletta 1G, Denis Semenoych 1A, James Power 1A, Kyle Bryden 1A.

**108 Grey/Black TIM HORTON'S KINGS 10:** Nick Armour 1G, Matthew Galajda 2G, Matthew Brecht 4G, Matthew Bellerby 2G 1A, Lillian Diaz 1G, Evan Nichols 1A, Josh Capodagli 2A. **107 Maroon/White TIM HORTON'S AVALANCHE 2:** Conor Macpherson 2G, Ethan Mills 1A.

**102 Black/Gold TIM HORTON'S PENGUINS 11:** Alex Popa 1G, Adam Newell 1G 1A, Nicholas Baxter 5G, Nathan Romancych 3G, Graydon Gardner 1G 2A, Jason Omand 2A, John Partland 2A.

**101 Green/Gold TIM HORTON'S STARS 4:** Wyatt Jones 1G, Alex McGovern 2G, Darren Iwai 1G, Nolan Smith 1A.

**106 White/Royal TIM HORTON'S LEAFS 16:** Conor Macpherson 7G 2A, Steven Tsianos 5G 2A, Dylan Pyziak 3G 2A, Mike Hosmer 1G 1A, Kennan Nocon-Willatts 3A, Johnny Sherwood 2A, Michael McLaughlin 1A, Colin Dunlop 1A. **105 Gold/Black TIM HORTON'S BRUINS 5:** Austin Riswick 3G, Noah Spicer 1G, Matthew Caicco 1G 1A, Jeff Stobo 1A, Michael Mckerracher 1A, Trevor Coughlin 1A.

**103 Red/White TIM HORTON'S RED WINGS 10:** Nicholas Baxter 5G, Graydon Gardner 4G, John Partland 1G 1A, Brandon Bilotta 1A, Joey Hodgson 1A, Alex Popa 1A. **104 Royal/White TIM HORTON'S BLUES 3:** Joseph Battiston 1G 1A, Austin Waite 1G, Graeme McDonald 1G, Denis Semencych 1A, Andre Cristillo 1A.

**107 Maroon/White TIM HORTON'S AVALANCHE 14:** Jesse Weimer 4G 1A, Taylor Lemmon 3G, Peter Andreakos 3G, Samantha Hussey 1G 2A, Sandy Hudson 2G 3A, Christopher Klinowski 1G 2A, Adam Hofmann 1A, Andrew Klinowski 1A, Joshua Divincenzo, shutout. **110 Teal/White TIM HORTON'S SHARKS 0.**

**108 Grey/Black TIM HORTON'S KINGS 15:** Matthew Galajda 3G, Matthew Bellerby 7G, Michael Walsh 1G, Austin Inley 2G 1A, Matthew Brecht 1G 2A, Brady Mulhern 2A, Julia Fedec 1A, Alex Negri 1A. **109 Orange/Black TIM HORTON'S FLYERS 8:** David O'Connor 3G 1A, Alex Bernier 5G, Grady Stobbs 1A, Madison Lee 1A, Cameron Screech 1A, Savannah Moody 1A.

**205 DR. STEINER'S DRILLERS 7:** Oliver Jones 2G, Nick Scott 1G, Alex Stewart 1G, Callum Forrest 3G 2A, Tyler Abushinov 1A, Matthew Reynolds 1A, Mitchell Arnew 1A. **202 ALL PRO SPORTS 3:** Matthew D'Allessandro 1G, Mitchell Lamantia 1G, Eric McMurray 1G, Tyler George 1A, Joel Gouveia 1A.

**201 DELPH & JENKINS SURVEYORS 6:** Michael Liscio 1G, Victor Chadarov 3G, Adrian Ramirez 1G, Matthew Heintzman 1G 1A, Morgan Walker 3A, Thomas Finlay 1A, Mitchell Palmer 2A, Tait Snedden 1A, Carson Dupuis 1A. **207 PHARMASAVE 4:** Adam DeRoos 2G, Kevin Siery 2G, Lucas Brutto 2A, Tyler Hindley 1A, Mike Arcuri 2A, Carson Elliott 1A.

**206 AURORA HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE 4:** Riley O'Brien 1G, Matthew Walker 1G, Derek Capone 1G, David Gonder 1G, Ryan McGoldrick 2A, Alexander Cicchino 2A. **203 www.mastermindtoys.com 2:** Parker Baile 1G, Robin Creighton 1G, Cameron Staples 1A, Michael Kantar 2A, Claudio Corsi 1A.

**208 ORR & FORSTER INSURANCE 4:** Blake Wallace 1G 1A, Nicholas Delzotto 1G, Maxwell Brown 2G, Andrew Roche 1A, Ian Coschi 1A, Jamie Wilson 1A, Daniel Wochenmarkt 1A, Alexander McDonald 1A, Jake Detoro 1A, Matteo Campea 1A. **204 NORTH YORK HEATING & PLUMBING 4:** Joseph Veneziano 1G, Michael DeCesare 1G, Matthew Sanita 1G 2A, Christopher Sanita 1G 2A, Gabriel Oulahan 3A, Kevin Willert 1A.

**301 TILEMASTER 1:** Quinn McGowan 1G. **303 DIAMOND GROUNDSKEEPING SERVICES LTD. 1:** Scott Wheeler 1G.

**303 DIAMOND GROUNDSKEEPING SERVICES LTD. 4:** Dustin Partanen 1G, Jason Samide 2G, Sammy Fanone 1G. **306 CONTINENTAL CUSTOM INGREDIENTS 2:** Gavin Matheson 1G, Oylan Goulo 1G.

**301 TILEMASTER 5:** Chris Cherubini 1G, Quinn McGowan 4G, David Roberts 1A, Thomas Scougall 1A. **304 DR. STEINER'S DRILLERS 4:** Paul Louis Steiner 1G, Quinn Harris 1G, Andrew Staples 1G 1A, Curtis Fordyce 1G, Andreas Mikkelsen 1A, Matthew Reeves 1A.

**302 NACORA INSURANCE BROKERS 6:** Jamie Poutney 3G, Connor McQuillan 1G, Brady Sands 1G, Chance Rodin 1G. **305 ROTARY CLUB OF AURORA 5:** Garth McBride 1G, Ryan Dowling 2G, William Brogan 1G, Joshua Lawlor 1G 1A, Alex Seto 1A.

**404 SUPREME COLLISION CENTRE 8:** Joseph Detoro 2G, Cody Cassell 2G, Ward Ben 1G, J. Dinicolationio 2G, Michael David 1G, Brenda Beresford 1A, Ali Akbar 2A, Evan Foxwell 1A. **405 PERMANENT PRESS PRINTING 3:** Ryan DalCin 1G, Robert Bulgareti 1G, Royce Kirby 1G 1A, Madison Schaefer 1A.

**406 AURORA HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE 6:** Myles Mundiger 1G, Cameron Greig 1G, Josh Hubble 1G, Sam Straw 1G 1A, Brendan Kirasack 1G, JP Hudon 1G, Nick Reinholdt 1A. **401 AURORA CABLE INTERNET 5:** Braedon McKenzie 1G, Nick Theodoropoulos 2G, David Marsillo 1G 1A, Wade Mcfarlane 1G, Mike Foresi 1A, Mike Rodrigues 1A, Eamon Rieleay 1A.

**403 EMILIO'S PIZZA 8:** Graham Joiner 1G, Mackenzie Lefleur 1G, Evan Collict 5G, Kevin Grasse 1G. **402 D-MAC FURNITURE 2:** Alex Cachuvoski 1G, Cam White 1G, Geoff Ash 1A, Matt MacEachern 1A.

**403 EMILIO'S PIZZA 7:** Andrew Gibbs 1G, Mackenzie Lefleur 1G, Evan Jones 2G, Andrew Seguin 1G, Graham Joiner 1G, Shawn Hoffman 1G, Zack Pyle 1A, Jeremiah Diaz 1A. **406 AURORA HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE 1:** Brendan Kirasack 1G.

**405 PERMANENT PRESS PRINTING 4:** Ryan DalCin 2G, Royce Kirby 1G 1A, Zack Cook 1G 1A. **402 D-MAC FURNITURE 1:** Andrew Martin 1G.

**403 EMILIO'S PIZZA 11:** Zack Pyle 4G, Evan Collict 5G 1A, Evan Jones 1G 3A, Jeremiah Diaz 1G, Mackenzie Lefleur 2A. **405 PERMANENT PRESS PRINTING 1:** Zachary Cook 1G.

**401 AURORA CABLE INTERNET 6:** Kasey Piper 2G 2A, Braden Mackenzie 3G 1A, Dave Marsillo 1G 1A. **402 D-MAC FURNITURE 1:** Cam Whitelaw 1G.

**404 SUPREME COLLISION CENTRE 3:** J.J. White 1G, Chris Beach 1G, Arun Partridge 1G, Cody Cassell 1A, Ali Akbar 1A. **406 AURORA HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE 1:** Brendan Kirasack 1G, Austin Fenyes 1A.

**406 AURORA HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE 7:** Jean Paul Huddon 4G, Nick Reinholdt 1G, Jack Straw 2G, Brendan Kirasack 2A, Joshua Hubble 1A, Sam Straw 1A. **405 PERMANENT PRESS PRINTING 1:** Zack Cook 1G, Ryan DalCin 1A.

**403 EMILIO'S PIZZA 5:** Zachary Seto 1G, Evan Collict 1G, Graham Joiner 1G 1A, Jeremiah Diaz 1G, Evan Jones 1A, Slava Lobko 1A. **401 AURORA CABLE INTERNET 3:** Greg Olejnik 1G, Braedon Mckenzie 1G, David Marsillo 1G, Matt Hart 2A, Eamon Reilley 1A.

**404 SUPREME COLLISION CENTRE 1:** Cody Casell 1, Brenda Beresford 1A. **402 D-MAC FURNITURE 1:** Andrew Martain 1G.

**508 MANHATTAN TROPHIES 3:** Jordan Gerace 1G, Egan Fennell 1G, Charlie Still 1G, Brandon Bortolin 1A, Adrian Tobin 1A, Alex Dunn 1A. **504 CAA CENTRAL ONTARIO 2:** Brodie Royce 2G, Tanner Brewer 1A, Matthew Brutto 1A, David Scott 1A.

**507 COSENTINO PRODUCE 3:** Zachary Andrews 2G, Cameron Annear 1G 1A, Patrick Dowling 2A, Logan Weber 1A, Mitchell Harris 1A, Jonathon Alcock, shutout. **508 MANHATTAN TROPHIES 0.**

**502 A.D.C. ALUMINUM 3:** Andrew Hunter 1G, Curtis Stobo 1G 1A, Anthony Decesare 1G, Mark Tanel 2A, Robert Denault 1A. **501 MARY'S FLOWER SHOP 2:** John Zorzit 1G, Alex Thompson 1G, 1A, Daniel Fusco 1A.

**505 INFINITY TECHNOLOGIES 10:** Kyle Rojas 3G, Taran McGowan 5G 1A, Christian Avolio 1G, 2A, Braden Drummond 1G, James Wotherspoon 1A, James Forrester 1A, Paul Andrews 1A, Eric Sisson 1A. **506 McALPINE FORD LINCOLN 2:** Michael Takahashi 1G, Christian Davies 1G, Rocco Debartolo 1A, Sean Takahashi 1A.

**509 DOMINION 8:** Kevin McCrudden 2G 2A, Stephen Newby 3G 1A, Jaret Meron 1G, Quinn Tessarolo 1G 1A, Stefan Richardson 1G, Rosario Arcuri 1A, Adam Masciangelo 1A, Wes Seminara 1A, Eric Presacco, shutout. **510 THE BACKYARD POOL & SPA COMPANY 0.**

**503 AB COX PONTIAC BUICK GMC 2:** Aaron Nusbaum 1G, Troy Gouviea 1G, Gianfraco Galluzzo

1A. **504 CAA CENTRAL ONTARIO 2:** Chase Riddell 1G, Tanner Brewer 1G, Jordan Fena 1A, Jeremy Fitkin 1A.

**510 THE BACKYARD POOL & SPA COMPANY 5:** Sean Halley 3G, Jay McConnell 1G, James Phillips 1G 2A. **506 McALPINE FORD LINCOLN 2:** Greg Lacroix 1G, Christian Davies 1G, Sean Takahashi 1A.

**509 DOMINION 8:** Ryan Laird 1G 1A, Stephen Newby 3G 3A, Kevin McCrudden 3G 1A, Jaret Meron 1G, Ethan Morice 2A, Quinn Tessarolo 1A, Eric Presacco, shutout. **508 MANHATTAN TROPHIES 0.**

**507 COSENTINO PRODUCE 5:** Robert Anderson 1G, Lucas Cristillo 1G 1A, Andrew Cosentino 1G 3A, Anthony Selski 2G, Alexander Payne 2A, Logan Weber 1A, Jonathon Alcock 1A. **505 INFINITY TECHNOLOGIES 2:** Kyle Rojas 2G, Jake Hindley 1A, Connor Elliott 1A, Paul Andrews 1A.

**502 A.D.C. ALUMINUM 3:** Curtis Stobo 3G, Clayton Arnold 2A, Andrew Hunter 1A. **504 CAA CENTRAL ONTARIO 1:** Daniel Whitley 1G, Tanner Brewer 1A.

**501 MARY'S FLOWER SHOP 3:** Eric Abel 1G, Griffin Slimkowich 1G 1A, John Zorzit 1G. **503 AB COX PONTIAC BUICK GMC 3:** T.J. Ground 1G, Paul Tuck 1G, Troy Gouviea 1G.

**705 SKATERS FIRST 5:** Marshall McQuillan 2G 1A, C.J. Melicherick 1G 1A, Daniel Korolnek 1G, Robert Revington 1G, William Ballard 1A, Evan Vizzacchero 1A. **708 PIZZA PIZZA 3:** Jason Durst 1G, Steve Foss 1G, John Cardella 1G, Aaron Wochenmarkt 2A.

**704 FRESH WATER INDUSTRIES 6:** Mike Grande 2G, Mike Hay 1G 2A, Ryan Laird 1G, Colin Moffat 1G, Stuart Marsh 1G, Dan Mulroy 1A, Neil Hastie 1A, Kevin Nandlall 1A, Cam Smith 1A. **701 COLL AUDIO & ACCURATE ELECTRICAL 4:** Eric Beveridge 1G 1A, Adrian Clark 1G, Jordan Brown 1G, Julian Kercz 1G.

**703 CENTRAL YORK FIREFIGHTERS 4:** Blair Nimmo 2G, Jay Finch 1G, Devin O'Kelly 1G, Mike Shoesmith 1A, Csey Van Ry 1A. **702 RECREATION LEISURE SERVICES LTD. 2:** Tom Gibson 1G, Brock Baile 1G, Michael McGee 1A.

**706 OMAR'S SHOES 7:** Dane Gregoris 3G, Derek Isidoro 2G, Eric Bailey 1G, Scott Loney 1G, Graeme Smart 3A, Scott Denotter 1A, Jacob Peart 1A, Dylan Calvert 1A. **704 FRESH WATER INDUSTRIES 1:** Kevin Nandlall 1G, Jamie Russell 1A, Mike Hay 1A.

**708 PIZZA PIZZA 6:** Justin Cheong 2G, Ryan Hart 1G 2A, Jacob MacDonald 2G, Aaron MacDonald 1G. **703 CENTRAL YORK FIREFIGHTERS 3:** Jay Finch 2G, Ryan Logue 1G, Mike Shoesmith 1A, Spenser Freeland 1A.

**702 RECREATION LEISURE SERVICES LTD. 9:** Tom Gibson 5G, Michael McGee 3G, Simon Esposito 1G 1A, Eric Alcorn 2A, Trevor Spence 1A. **707 ASA ALLOYS 5:** Jake Thompson 2G, Ken Horner 1G 1A, James Suddes 1G 2A, Taylor Buxton 1G 1A, Andrew Buckley 1A.

**1002 IRVINE ROBINSON INTERIORS 4:** Adam Saunders 2G 1A, Curtis Sands 1G 1A, Stephen Facca 1G, Colin Hullah 1A, David Reeves 1A, Ian McCrone 1A. **1006 White/Royal PIZZA PIZZA 3:** Kyle Wilton 1G 1A, Kyle Shaw 1G, Erik Burrow 1G, Devin Andrews 1A, Dennis Jerret 1A, Sean Devlin 1A.

**1002 IRVINE ROBINSON INTERIORS 5:** Adam Saunders 2G, Colin Hullah 1G 1A, Stephen Facca 1G, Jonathan Turner 1G, Caitlin Kelly 1A. **1008 ASTECH SOLUTIONS 3:** Tanner Keanninaon 1G 1A, Nelson Weese 1G, Jim Harrison 1G, Sean Brennan 1A, Mike Couperthwaite 1A.

**1005 AURORA OPTICAL 6:** Kyle Kaminski 1G, Ryan Comerford 2G 2A, Sean McCartney 1G 4A, Jason Brennan 2G, Terry McCourt 1A, Cameron Walker 1A. **1008 ASTECH SOLUTIONS 5:** Tanner Kinnarinen 3G 1A, Dan Abram 1G 2A, Jim Harrison 1G 2A, Sean Brennan 2A.

**1005 AURORA OPTICAL 8:** Steven Horan 3G 1A, Sean McCartney 3G 1A, Jamie Fenyes 2G, Jason Brennan 2A. **1004 TWIST MARKETING 2:** Derek Roldan 1G 1A, Brock Sweeting 1G, Kevin Scott 1A.

## Rep Results

**NobleKing 4 Novice A 3**  
Lucas Pozzebon 2G, Scott Kostin 1G 1A, Paul Neophytou 1A, Harrison Smith 1A.

**Novice A 4 NobleKing 1**  
Alec Ground 1A, Brett Thiessen 1G, Paul Neophytou 1G 1A, Austin Persaud 1G 1A, Nathan Nealon 1G.

**Novice A 8 NobleKing 2**  
Brett Thiessen 3G, Paul Neophytou 3A, Erik Balkovec 2G, Austin Persaud 1A, Lucas Pozzebon 2G, Evan Jackson 1G 2A, Scott Kostin 2A, Connor Cowl 1A. **Orillia 7 Novice AE 3**

**Orillia 4 Novice AE 2**

**Orillia 3 Novice AE 2**

**Minor Atom AA 3 Uxbridge 0**  
Brooke Webster 1G 1A, Jody Nonnewitz 1G 1A, Kiefer McIntosh 1G, Cameron Nuttall 1A, Stefan Lazzer 1A, Trevor George 1A.

**Minor Atom AA 2 Uxbridge 1**  
Jody Nonnewitz 1G 1A, Brooke Webster 1G 1A, Stefan Lazzer 2A.

**Atom AA 5 Pickering 4**  
Tanner Thiessen 1G 1A, Andrew Papousek 2G, Brian Puskar 1G, Dennis Kim 1G 1A, Ethan Benson 2A, Trevor Best 2A, Nicholas Heintzman 1A, Matthew Roy 1A.

**Atom AA 5 Pickering 4**  
Andrew Papousek 3G 1A, Trevor Best 1G, Marco Ghegin 1G 1A, Brian Puskar 1A, Nicholas Heintzman 2A, Matthew Roy 2A, Ryan Hughes 1A, Adam Balaban 1A, Ethan Benson 1A.

**Atom A 8 Richmond Hill 1**  
Taylor Butler 4G 1A, Ryan St. Germain 1G 2A, Sean Nishimura 1G 1A, Mark Robertson 1G, Kyle Spicer 2A, Rory MacNeil 2A, A.J. Killens 1G, Cooper Riswick 2A.

**NobleKing 3 Minor Peewee A 1**  
Tristan Miller 1G, Michael Vance 1A, Tyler Jensen 1A.

**Minor Peewee A 3 NobleKing 3**  
Kyle McCreedy 2G, Gavin Forrest 1A, Tristan Miller 1G, Michael Bar 1A, Spencer George 1A, James Harkin 1A, Michael Vance 1A.

**Minor Peewee AE 6 Barrie Colts 2**  
Brendan Strachan 1G 2A, Daniel Howie 2G, Dylan Skelton 1G 1A, Luca Battiston 1G, Josh Beaton 1G 2A, Chris Venditelli 1A, Michael Divincenzo 2A, Mitchell Sziraky 1A, Brandon Thompson 1A, Patrick Jones 1A.

**Barrie Colts 4 Minor Peewee AE 2**  
Daniel Howie 1G, Michael Divincenzo 1G, Dylan Skelton 1A, Mitchell Sziraky 1A, Nicholas Silverio 1A.

**Peewee AA 4 Georgetown 2**  
Andrew Whitley 1G, Tyler Sikura 1G, Kevin Zacharuk 2G, Max Lerner 2A, Jordan Tripp 1A, Luke Macleod 1A, Luke Stadnyk 2A, Spencer Arkell 1A, Jesse Cappell 1A.

**Peewee AA 6 Georgetown 2**  
Kevin Zacharuk 2G 1A, Luke Macleod 1G, Jesse Cappell 1G 1A, Jordan Tripp 1G, Louis Lamanna 1G 1A, Luke Stadnyk 1A, James Mildon 1A, Spencer Arkell 2A, Andrew Whitley 1A, Dillon Cappell 1A.

**Peewee AE 3 Whitby 2**  
Andrew McKay 1A, Sean Agostino 1G, Tyler Tisdale 1G 1A, Corey Jefferey 1G, Aaron Beally 1A, Evan Jones 2A, Michael McGorlick 1A.

**Oshawa 3 Bantam AA 1**

**Bantam AA 0 Oshawa 0**

**Bantam A 3 Richmond Hill 1**  
Eric King 1G 1A, Jamie Tuck 1G, Spencer McCartney 1G, Colton Horner 1A, Ross Pizzurro 2A, Greg Gianopoulos 1A.

**Bantam A 3 Richmond Hill 1**  
Chris Finlay 1G, Ross Pizzurro 1G, Jamie Tuck 1G, Jesse Coote 1A, Josh Meron 1A, Nick Crain 1A.

**Minor Midget A 3 Markham 2**  
Jonathan Adams 1G 1A, Memo Nafarrate 1G 1A, Neil Kileeg 1G, Drew Jenkins 1A, Chris Blom 1A.

**Markham 6 Minor Midget A 2**  
Ryan Fennell 1G, Chris Blom 1G, Chad Roberts 1A, Anthony D'Agostino 2A, Robert Cote 1A.

**Minor Midget A 6 Markham 1**  
Connor O'Grady 1G 2A, Iznaur Atiev 1G, Neil Kileeg 1G 1A, Chris Blom 1G 2A, Jonathan Adams 1G 2A, Chad Roberts 1G 1A, Memo Nafarrate 1A, Ryan Fennell 1A, Anthony D'Agostino 1A, Ryan Kesteris 1A.

**Markham 5 Minor Midget A 1**  
Jonathan Adams 1G, Iznaur Atiev 1A .

**Midget AA 5 Barrie Colts 2**  
Kyle Robinson 1G, Peter McNeil 1G, Adam Hankins 1G, Tom Hurley 1G, Sean Mulroy 1G, Vinnie Davenport 2A .

**Midget AA 6 Barrie Colts 4**  
Michael Jack 2G 1A, Kyle Robinson 1G 1A, Tom Hurley 1G, Adam Hankins 1G, Peter McNeil 1G, Brandon Steffan 1A, Sean Mulroy 1A, Vinnie Davenport 1A.



# The fate of Aurora's downtown BIA

With news that Shoppers Doane Hall plans to move north on Yonge Street, and continuous rumours that Price Chopper may close, downtown Aurora seems to be in line for yet another hit.

Over the years Aurora Council and some interested downtown businesspeople have made several attempts to revitalize the historic downtown core to make it the friendly, vibrant, pedestrian-oriented area it once was.

In July, 1977, the newly formed Downtown Aurora Business Association, LACAC and members of council invited downtown business people to attend an information session to consider legislation to designate the downtown core as a Business Improvement Area (BIA).

A BIA was seen as a show of initiative and unity among merchants of a designated area to do together what they were unable to achieve on their own.

The primary aim of the program was to bring life back to the older retail areas of the municipality by creating a new atmosphere, giving it a face-lift and making it a people place.

Local businesspeople and members of council were to be appointed to form a board of management which would

then decide on projects to be undertaken, prepare a budget and set the amount of levy to be assessed to the businesses in the designated area.

The levy was based on the assessed value of the property and was collected by the municipality on behalf of the board of management.

Failure to pay the levy could result in the municipality taking collection action as they would do to collect property taxes.

In November, 1977, at the request of the Business Association, Aurora council adopted a bylaw to take advantage of the provincial BIA legislation.

This resulted in letters of notification being sent to all businesses in the designated area with 60 days to file an objection.

Unless one-third or more of those notified objected, or businesses representing a combined total of more than 50 per cent of the total value of business assessment in the designated area were opposed, the municipality passed the enacting bylaw.

The 1977 application was not successful as more than 30 downtown merchants effectively stalled the plan.

In 1981, another attempt was made to establish a BIA. LACAC suggested that a

strategy be developed to concentrate on filling the retail needs not currently being met and the strategy should be complimentary rather than competitive with the large retail centres in Newmarket and Richmond Hill.

This resulted in council authorizing a \$45,000 planning study of the downtown core by A.J. Diamond Planners.

Recommendations included a distinct downtown character exploiting the many physical assets in the core area, the development of small green spaces, restoration of existing buildings plus a streetscape design of lighting, paving and street furniture to enhance the area.

As Aurora's retail area could not compete with the major shopping centres, it was recommended Aurora develop a specialized role within the retail market and improve the environmental quality of the area, especially for pedestrians.

Before the core area could receive provincial money or qualify for special municipal bylaws, it had to be designated a BIA. Wheels were set in motion with September 3, 1982, the last day for filing objections.

Two objections were received resulting in an Ontario Municipal Board hearing. The hearing was held, the objections rejected and the BIA was officially established in February, 1983.

The BIA board of management prepared a \$35,000 budget, which was approved by council, but was not well received by some of the merchants claiming it was too much for the first year of operation, resulting in their failure to pay the special levy.

By April, 1985, the BIA

had erected entrance signs to the downtown area, designed a logo, set up planters along Yonge Street, built a gazebo next to the United Church, painted old lamp posts and installed more than 20 benches on the sidewalk for pedestrians.

In addition, the BIA was working with the Community Development Advisory Committee consisting of members from the Chamber of Commerce, Heritage Committee, a retail member outside the BIA and three members of council.

The refusal of some merchants to pay their levy created problems for politicians and town treasury staff.

Although the town had authority to collect the special levy by adding it to the property tax bill, they were reluctant to use it and the outstanding debts continued to grow.

By May, 1985, a total of 12 merchants hadn't paid the mandatory levy, amounting to \$3,780.

Merchants claimed the BIA was a dead loss and the money was being wasted due to the disappointing results it had produced.

It was said that one of the problems was a lack of communication between BIA executive and the membership and efforts were made to improve public relations.

Another problem was the failure of the business people to attend meetings of the association. With a membership of 120 the average turnout at meetings was 20 to 25.

The town also came in for criticism for devoting too much time and money promoting industrial and residential development and nothing to preserving the historic downtown core.

In May, 1986, a presentation was made to the BIA membership to join with the town to participate in the Main Street Canada Program.

With 90 per cent of the BIA membership in support, council adopted a resolution requesting Heritage Canada to approve a Main Street Canada Program in Aurora to start in August, 1986.

The BIA reached a boiling point in October, 1986, when several dissident members attended the monthly meeting of the board of management to voice their objections.

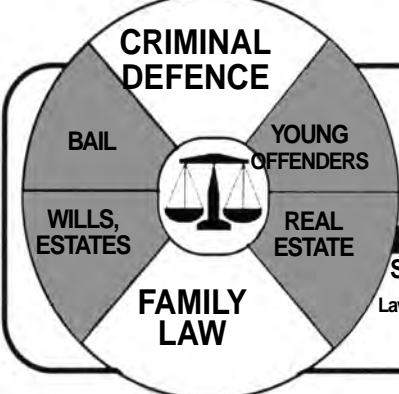
A survey was circulated to all members for a report to council. Fifty-eight members responded and the results indicated a 50/50 split as to whether the BIA should con-

tinue.

The survey also indicated that major problems in encouraging residents to shop in the downtown area included lack of off-street parking, rundown storefronts, lack of retail diversity and traffic congestion.

With only 25 per cent of BIA members in support of the organization, 25 per cent opposed and 50 per cent who didn't care, the BIA was no longer considered viable and council voted 6-1 to disband it.

In spite of the best efforts of a few, the organization designed to create unity to the merchants and business people in the downtown core brought division and animosity instead.



**Susan E. Tucker**  
Lawyer & Notary Public  
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## Hydro option discussed

From page 1

The facility is similar to ones the company already operates in Iroquois Falls, Cochrane and Kirkland Lake.

He said the plant would likely operate about 1,000 hours during its first year and possibly 1,800 hours in its second.

"It will operate mostly during daylight hours on weekdays," he said, "with virtually no operation at night or weekends."

That brought up a question of noise, and he responded that the plant, when operating, would have a decibel reading under 45.

"The noise level will be below the level at the quietest hour during any day of the week at the closest residence," he said.

Mr. Mantenuto said the plant would provide needed power to Aurora, Newmarket, East Gwillimbury, King, Whitchurch-Stouffville and Georgina.

Hydro One, meanwhile, had proposed a year ago that an existing line that runs through Aurora's east end, be upgraded to provide more power, but affected residents from Markham north presented strong opposition to the

recommendation.

As a result, Hydro One withdrew its proposal two weeks ago, leaving the rapidly-growing York Region susceptible to brownouts and blackouts in the future.

While existing towers would be replaced with sleeker ones, the new ones would be higher and more numerous.

Mr. Mantenuto said his plant would provide about 500 person-years of construction employment and 11 full time jobs.

"There would be no cost to the municipalities in York Region," he said.

The project would be constructed at the end of Steven Court in Newmarket and would be enclosed by a 30-foot high architecturally treated wall.

Six exhaust stacks would be about 80 feet high and "will have virtually no odour from burning natural gas", he said.

If all approvals are in place and two planned public meetings go without concern, plant construction could begin as early as next April.

The plant would begin operation in March, 2007.

Public open houses are currently being planned for May and July this year.

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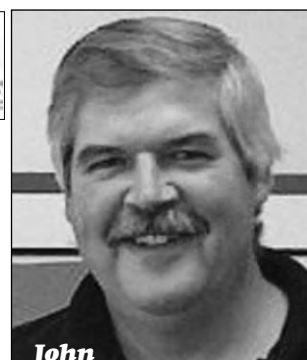
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## RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

# When Williams Secondary had a queen

In May, 1966, during the annual formal dance at Aurora's Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School, crowned as the school's new Queen was Cathy Barlow, with Princesses Betty-Lou McMurchy, Ann Harrison and Wendy Fee.

In May, 1971, Janet Hawley was elected Queen during the school's formal held at the former Aurora Highlands Golf Club, one of Aurora's most popular social gathering spots.

### BALLOON WINNERS

In May, 1983, in conjunction with the opening of the Fitness Trail in Sheppard's Bush, the Opti-Mrs Club of Aurora sponsored a balloon contest.

Helium balloons were released by individuals with their name and address attached.

In July, 1983, Scott Mortensen of Aurora was declared the top winner.

His balloon was found on the farm of Walter Mead in the town of Boylston about 35 miles south of Waterdown, New York.

Many other interesting replies were received from various parts of the northern States from people who had found balloons on their property from other contestants.

### WHEN THE LEAFS INVADED AURORA

In February, 1994, the Optimist Club of Aurora hosted a Sports Celebrity Dinner at the Howard Johnson Hotel to raise funds for NAFAR (New Arena for Aurora Recreation), a group of citizens committed to raising funds for the Leisure Complex.

The master of ceremonies for the event was ex-NHLer and Newmarket Saint, Jim Ralph, who was with Global TV Sports at the time.

Celebrities included Maple Leaf coach Pat Burns, assistant coaches Mike Kitchen and Mike Murphy, former Leaf goaltender Mike Palmateer and forward Sid Smith.

There was also a silent auction of sports memorabilia featuring a number of collector items including bats used by Blue Jay John Olerud and former Jay, Tony Fernandez.

Our guess is that hockey fans would like to see the Leafs today...anywhere.

### TALES FROM THE TAX TROUGH

Believe it or not, but back in January, 2000, the federal government spent \$50,000 on a study of erotic entertain-

ment in Vancouver, with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada funding it.

Professor Becki Ross of the University of British Columbia carried out the study.

She interviewed erotic dancers who performed during the period 1945 to 1980 to gain a better understanding of what she called a misunderstood and much maligned business.

She described it as an art form.

A government agency spokesman said the government provided about \$90 million annually and a peer committee reviews each proposal and only the best projects are funded.

Long before the sponsorship scandal became public knowledge, the government gave a \$615,000 contract to Groupaction Marketing in Montreal to evaluate its own work in spending more than \$7 million of federal money to oversee federal sponsorship arrangements.

The ad company produced a 20-page report containing a list of approximately 200 projects across the country, rather than an evaluation as requested.

The report was not made public at that time.

### IF COUNCIL HAD ONLY LISTENED

Aurora residents have long complained about the unkempt condition of the property at the northeast corner of Yonge and Centre Streets where the former Aurora Dairy and Emilio Pizza were located.

A proposal is now before council which hopefully will proceed to completion to clean up the eyesore once and for all.

But back in December, 1987, if council had listened to LACAC the eyesore wouldn't have existed.

Normally there is a close relationship between council and LACAC but the Christmas spirit was not evident at that time as council, in effect, told LACAC to mind its own business.

Council rejected three recommendations from the citizen committee because some councillors accused LACAC members of trespassing on council's turf by making suggestions about the town's planning policy.

If council had listened to LACAC at that time, Aurora citizens and visitors wouldn't have had to look at the disgraceful condition of the property in Aurora's downtown core.

LACAC had suggested that a demolition permit for the buildings on the site not be issued until the redevelopment plans were approved.

But council didn't listen, the buildings were demolished, and although a small commercial building was built on the corner, the remainder of the property was left empty except for weeds and debris as development plans never proceeded.

### WHERE IS THE OTHER BUILDING?

In February, 1992, LACAC advised council of two buildings of significant historical concern on the site of the proposed Whitwell Development at Highway 404 and Wellington Street East.

One was the Petch log cabin which was safely moved to town-owned property until a permanent location can be determined.

The other was the remaining portion of a Methodist Chapel of square log construction which had been incorporated into a barn.

Where is it now?



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# Council discussing fate of Aurora Hydro

### From page 1

released at the meeting.

PowerStream is the Vaughan-based company that controls hydro in Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan and is the third largest local distribution company supplying hydro power in the province.

At the core of the discussion is whether the Town of Aurora, currently the shareholder of Aurora Hydro Connections Ltd., wishes to merge the service with the Town of Newmarket, a discussion that has been ongoing for nearly a year, or accept an offer to purchase from PowerStream Inc.

Representatives of both PowerStream Inc. and Aurora Hydro Connections Ltd. addressed the private meeting last week to present their points of view.

Preying heavily on councillors is an Ontario government ruling that such a sale or merger could stickhandle around a provincial transfer tax if the transaction took place prior to March 28 this year.

It is the second time the Province has "opened the window" to eliminate the transfer tax, because the Province wants smaller hydro facilities to join larger ones or form larger new ones.

That put pressure on all

parties, since early Easter weekend holidays this year suggested the deal would have to be hammered out, agreed to, and sent to the Ontario Energy Board prior to Thursday, March 24.

However, in an e-mail from Aurora Hydro Connections chairman George Steeves to all town councillors Friday it was noted the transfer tax window may not be closed.

Relying on statements from hydro solicitor Mark Rodgers, Steeves noted "through discussions with

the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Energy that another transfer tax exemption period will likely be granted by the province".

If that were the case, some of the pressure of immediately deciding between a merger and a sale would be lessened.

Offers for the purchase of the Aurora facility were not made public, although it is believed the private Thursday meeting lasted into the early hours of Friday before ending.

A third option, that of

Aurora Hydro Connections continuing as a "stand alone" operation, is also a possibility.

The Auroran will have comprehensive coverage of Tuesday's meeting in next week's edition.

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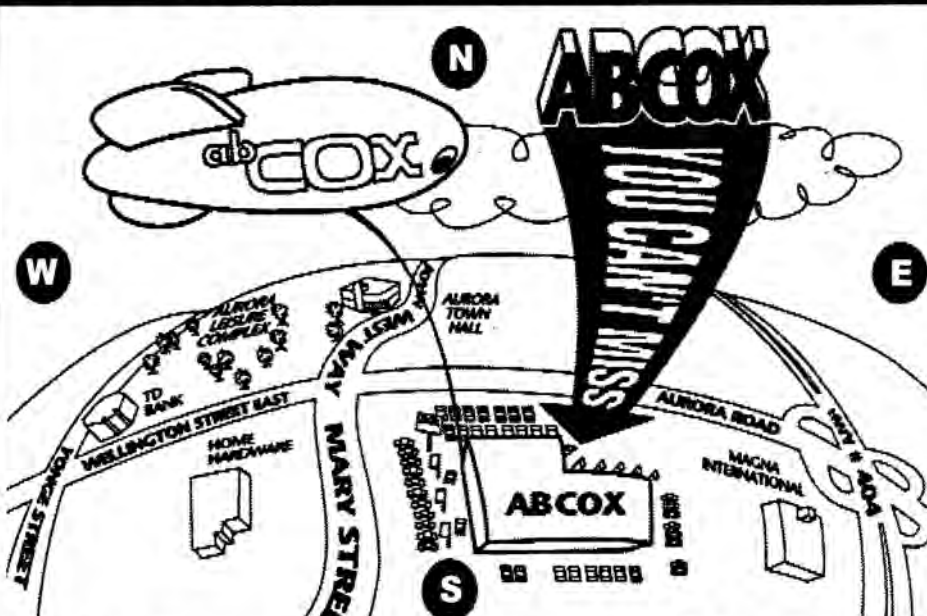
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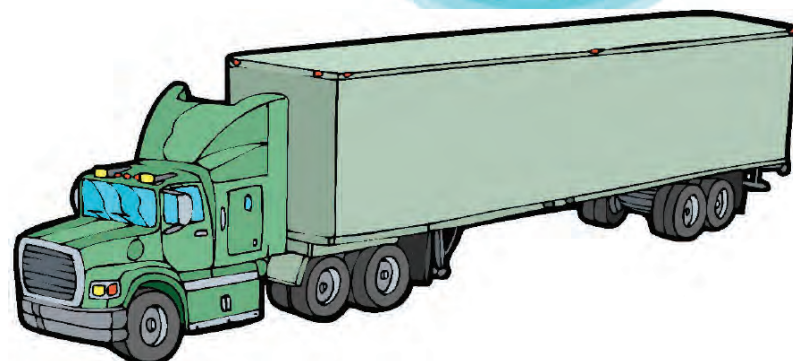
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