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Vol. 5 No. 24

Week of April 5, 2005

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Theatre Aurora Intermediate Youth Group cast members from the production of "Twelfth Night - A Kids' Version" take time out between two performances Friday night and Saturday morning, both held at the Henderson Drive theatre. Patrons helped with donations to the Aurora Food Pantry.

Auroran photo by Naomi Tobin

And the survey says...

Eighty-five per cent of us like it here.

So says a survey conducted recently to find out what Aurorans think of Aurora.

Only two per cent of the more than 600 people called rated Aurora as poor or very poor.

When asked if the town was changing for better or worse, opinions expressed were tied at 38 per cent for each question.

The top 10 most important issues facing the town relate to growth, taxes, need for recreation

centres and roads, according to the respondents.

In the overall ratings 85 per cent were satisfied and two per cent dissatisfied with overall level of safety, 56 per cent satisfied and six per cent dissatisfied with services provided by the town and 31 per cent satisfied and 27 per cent dissatisfied with the way the town communicates with its citizens.

Overall, questions in the category of planning and development were rated as the highest priority including land use planning,

appearances and the notification about public participation input related to new developments.

Garbage collection and recycling were seen as other top priority service areas, followed by winter road maintenance.

The survey noted that Aurora residents share the same concerns as other residents of the GTA when they relate to growth and sprawl gridlock.

With this level of concern among voters in Aurora and

Please see page 13

Budget approved, increase at 7.9%

Normally the adoption of an annual budget is a major event in the life of a council as it is the planning document for the year, but Aurora's 2005 budget was adopted with little discussion last week.

This was not through lack of interest but by the number of previous meetings when two drafts of the budget were reviewed in detail.

In addition there was a public meeting to receive input with only three citizens addressing council.

It was also planned to discuss the budget at the March 22nd general committee meeting, but due to the length of the meeting regarding the sale of Aurora Hydro, any discussion was deferred to last week's council meeting.

At the meeting, Councillor

Wendy Gaertner asked questions about reducing contributions to reserve funds for several items and suggested adoption of the budget be delayed until the information was available but could not obtain a seconder to her motion.

The approved net tax levy requirement of the 2005 operating budget was \$19,295,000 for an increase of 7.9 per cent or about \$65 on a house assessed at \$250,000.

The approved capital budget was \$10.6 million payable from development charges and reserved funds.

The budgets were approved on a 4-2 vote with Councillor Phyllis Morris absent through illness and

Please see page 13

Councillor is offended by Newmarket remarks

During last week's Aurora Council meeting, Councillor Damir Vrancic lashed out at comments made in the press by Newmarket councillors following the break-off of hydro merger negotiations between the two towns.

Subsequently, Aurora Hydro was sold to PowerStream, Inc., the company that supplies power to Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan.

He noted that details of the sale were covered by a confidentiality clause in the agreement of purchase and suggested that when possible a comprehensive report be prepared to provide a clear understanding for all citizens.

He noted the comments as reported in the press put Aurora Council in a bad light and the comments were unfair, as council had acted in good faith for what was considered best for the citizens of Aurora.

"I find the comments offensive," he said. "I'd like an apology."

Prior to the meeting Mike Evans, of TruValue Hardware on Yonge Street in Aurora, expressed his concern about the sale of Aurora Hydro without issuing a Request for Proposal to obtain the best offer.

He asked what happened to the negotiations with Newmarket after almost a year as it left everyone out

to dry. He also asked who received the commission on the sale of the utility.

Interim CAO Scott Somerville replied that council had looked at

Please see page 13



Belinda Stronach

Belinda's column

The rules were simple: if you want to write a column, keep it local.

And so the first Member of Parliament to represent the new riding of Newmarket-Aurora, Belinda Stronach, did just that.

Her first column, which will appear in The Auroran monthly, may be found on Page 14.



Brian



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

Friday nights at the Legion. Wildberry Express Jam Night. Free admission, 8 p.m.

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.townsofyourk.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.

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.

Hot Spot Youth Club celebrates Youth Week from 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Profits will go to the YRAP fundraising campaign. All Grades 6, 7 and 8 students are welcome at the Aurora Lions Hall. Admission: \$5. For further information call 905-717-1002.

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 Straight Lines, 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 23

Big Bike for Stroke rides in Aurora today. Raise a minimum of \$50 in pledges to reserve your seat on the Big Bike by calling Bryce Wilson at 905-727-3123, extension 3104.

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.

Aurora Woman's Institute Euchre and Bridge at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, Victoria Street, at 12:30 p.m. Tickets \$5 per person available at the door. Portion of the proceeds goes towards the new Seniors' Centre.

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 7

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society annual plant sale at the Aurora

Public Library, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

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.

JUNE 4

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

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Students at Wells Street school were at their healthiest best Friday as they participated in a “Wellness at Wells Street” program. Kristen Allen was no exception as she took part in the school’s “salad bar” lunch. It was one of several projects undertaken by the students to mark Nutrition Month.

Auroran photo by Naomi Tobin

Large industrial project okayed in short meeting

In one of the shortest public planning meetings held in Aurora, councillors approved two applications subject to site plan approval in under 30 minutes.

No one attended to support or oppose the applications.

The first application was submitted by Vincent Congiusti to build two industrial buildings consisting of 20 units to be built in four phases on eight acres of land on Industrial Parkway South, which had been originally purchased from Hugh Cousins.

Currently, the land is used in the summer as a parking lot for the adjacent Sheppard’s Bush soccer fields.

The application meets the requirements of the industrial designation of the official plan, but a rezoning is required to restore the industrial uses originally intended in the zoning bylaw.

The property was

rezoned in 2002 to permit other uses due to a possible sale which never took place.

The restored zoning would permit a variety of industrial uses.

Proposed uses include warehousing and industrial, contractor yards, food processing establishments, light metal product plants, machine or welding shops, plumbing shops, printing establishments or sheet metal shops.

Because of the possibility of noise or odours, staff recommended the industrial uses be located a minimum of 60 metres from the residential property line.

The applicant has also proposed a banquet hall or restaurant, excluding a drive-thru not to exceed 10 per cent of the total floor area, but zoning does not permit either.

The applicant said he would like to have the restaurant that would be used by tenants and visitors to the buildings.

Staff advised that they did not believe a banquet hall was compatible with the proposed uses and recommended a smaller area for the proposed restaurant.

The Public Works Department has some con-

cerns with the safety of traffic movements at the south access point and questioned the three entrances to the site. Leisure Services have some concerns about landscaping.

Staff advised there are outstanding issues that must be resolved prior to preparing an implementing bylaw, including layout of the site, parking, access points, landscaping and the types of uses permitted.

The applicant said he was willing to work with staff to resolve all outstanding issues.

Councillor Damir Vrancic recommended the application be approved in principle subject to outstanding issues being resolved.

He recommended the banquet hall be denied.

After questions and the need to warn new residen-

tial purchasers in the area of possible noise problems, the Vrancic motion was adopted.

The second application was from Hugh and Shirley Cousins whose residence is located adjacent to the property in the previous application.

The property is designated industrial in the official plan but the residence was built in 1967 prior to the approval of the official plan, making the building legal non-conforming.

The owner has applied to rezone the property to recognize the existing dwelling.

Solicitor Tom McPherson appeared before council on behalf of the applicant in support of the staff report.

Council adopted the staff report and directed staff to prepare the implementing bylaw.

June 4

Street dance allowed noise bylaw exemption

Street festival members want to make some noise to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the World’s Longest Street Festival on the World’s Longest Street.

So, they’re planning a Yonge Street dance Saturday, June 4, the evening before the annual event.

It will take place between Murray Drive and Henderson Drive from 7 p.m. to midnight.

The Aurora Rotary Club is assisting the Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event and food will be provided by local restaurants and food vendors.

The Chamber has hired off duty police and a local security company and last week sought an exemption from the town’s noise bylaw for the dance.

The section of Yonge Street was selected by the Chamber as having the least impact on residential areas.

However, Aurora resident Sandee Forfar wrote to council concerned about the impact of noise on the residents in houses behind the Canadian Tire store.

She also expressed concern that it was an adult only dance and noted that when children are present, adults tend to be better

behaved.

She suggested the dance be moved to Industrial Parkway.

Staff recommended that if approved, residents be advised of the exemption and the Chamber arrange to dis-

tribute notices door to door to residents near Yonge Street, Henderson and Murray Drives.

Council granted the Chamber’s request for a noise exemption without comment or debate.



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Poor Richard

How long should council term be?

*How long should councils serve?
Should it be for three years or four?
If you get a dysfunctional council,
It's too long to show them the door!*

-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Prompted by provincial initiatives and the requests of some members, mainly from the larger centres, the Associations of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) undertook a review of the municipal election term.

The Ontario Liberal government enacted legislation to provide for a four-year term for provincial MPPs and regular general elections.

The next general election is scheduled for October 4, 2007, unless the Lieutenant Governor dissolves the Legislature earlier.

Currently in Ontario the municipal term of office is three years and voting day is the second Monday in November with the new council assuming office on December 1st.

In the early days of the last century voting day was the first Monday in January, although special legislation allowed some municipalities to have an earlier voting day.

Then in 1946 the Municipal Act was amended to permit municipalities to select an election date between November 15 and January 2 with some municipalities, mostly rural, on a one-year term and others having two years.

This was the case until 1972 when the legislation was amended to mandate uniformity of a two-year term with the election date on the first Monday in December and council assuming office on January 1st.

Then in 1977 the legislation was amended again to set the second Monday in November for the election, which is the current practice.

Then in the early 1980s the pressure started to grow, again from the larger urban centres for a three-year term.

There was considerable heated debate as some of the more rural municipalities wanted to return to the one-year term.

Advocates for the three-year term argued municipal life had become so complex that a longer term was required for proper planning and budgeting and to get larger projects completed during the term of council.

Others argued that a three-year commitment was too long for a successful business or professional person to commit and it was a deterrent to well-qualified persons wishing to make a contribution to their community.

When Municipal Affairs Minister Claude Bennett visited York Regional Council in July, 1981, he made it clear that he favoured the longer term and the three-year term was adopted starting with the 1982 term of office.

There was considerable opposition to the legislation from citizens and some municipal politicians who claimed the three-year term would reduce the accountability of councils to the electorate.

While working in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs as the Director of the Provincial Municipal Affairs Secretariat, I was partially responsible for delaying the implementation of the three-year term when Tom Wells was Minister of Municipal Affairs.

In the late 1970s the pressure was on for a longer term and during a ministry policy session, I was asked to comment on the longer term.

To the shock of most of my bureaucratic colleagues I told the Minister that if he implemented the three-year term of office the government would likely be defeated as they would lose every rural seat in Ontario.

The Minister listened and the longer term was forgotten.

Two years later the issue came before a ministry policy session again with Claude Bennett as Minister.

When the time came for my comments, I indicated that with all the talk of a longer term the opposition to it had softened and this was as good a time as any to proceed and the Bill was adopted.

I still have mixed feelings about the loss of the two-year term.

Granted it may cost more for more frequent elections but if you elect a bad council, you can dump them in two years.

If it's a good council they will get re-elected and there was much more citizen political interest in the shorter term.

Aurora Council is to be commended for opposing the four-year term and it is hoped the citizens will do the same.



Another classic photograph has been delivered to us by Bill Babcock, the man who shared last week's 1945-46 hockey team with us. Above, this august group of men is doing what? No one seems to know. Nor does anyone seem to know where the photo was taken. In the back row, left to right, are Asa Cook, Frank Underhill, ?, Rod Smith, Archie Cousins, H.M. McKenzie, and ?. In the front row are, left to right, E. J. Maughan, E.J., "Doc" Henderson, ?, Ross Linton and Herb Stocks. Anyone have any additional information? Meanwhile, Aurora's Robert Wright shed some light on last week's hockey picture. It was taken, he said, in the "warm room" of the old arena. It was called the "warm room" because that's where you bought hot dogs and hot chocolate. The door on the rear wall on the right was the ladies' washroom, and the men's was on the other side.

Letters to the Editor

Doctors: a special breed

To the editor,

In this community, we are very lucky in the doctors who take care of us.

But in the face of the continuing increase in York Region population we must realize our good fortune may not last much longer.

I have had a lot to do with them over a lifetime going on well past 80 years.

I have gladly put myself at their mercy to have my anxieties and pains relieved, my wounds treated and attacks by viruses and microbes for supremacy of my body repulsed.

I have fished with doctors, shared our families' lives with them. I have partied with them. I have shared the hazards of combat in war with them. And to a man - and woman - I am grateful our lives have come together.

Students raise \$740 for Lewis

To the editor,

Devins Drive Public School recently embarked on a student-driven fundraiser to support the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

All students, Grades 1 through 8, made a letter bead bracelet which spelled out one of the 10 attributes from the "Character Matters" list; i.e., respect, empathy, integrity, honesty, etc.

Each child made a bracelet for himself/herself and one to sell for a toonie.

In a four-day sales blitz,

They are a special breed.

When they become doctors they undergo a transforming change.

For the rest of their working lives, their function is to help people through pain and suffering from birth to death.

Think of the huge burden of care and conscience they must assume. Think of the long years of arduous training they received in preparation.

It was not the goal of high income that attracted and sustained them. They knew that the practice of medicine does not carry this reward. Nor is personal status any longer expected or received.

Canadians have been taught they have a right to health care, the most important right they own.

Any call for treatment must be provided at once. Anything short of this from a doctor, regardless of the reason, is a

we raised \$740!!

With the generous donation of all supplies by Buck Or Two, we are donating 100 per cent of monies raised to the Stephen Lewis Foundation, helping children devastated by the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa.

Well done, Devins Drive...you showed your empathy for children across the globe and we are proud of all of you.

**Trish Dynes
Devins Drive
School Council**

denial of their right and their profession probably needs to be better controlled by the state.

As an appropriate comparison, take heads of banks. They carry a lot of responsibility, too.

Their basic function, defined by the fraternity of the financial marketplace, is to maximize the return to their shareholders and only to that end they may consider the needs of others, such as employees and customers - a far cry from the doctors' unqualified and sole function of care for other human beings.

And a far cry from doctors' incomes to the multiple millions paid bank bosses.

It is not surprising that all across York Region we have a shortage of doctors and nurses.

Young Canadians are shying away from professions in the health care field that demand more of the individual than any other occupation.

What to do?

Apparently we are agreeable to the enticement of doctors from poorer countries that desperately need them. What has happened to our self respect?

If we show the regard due to physicians and nurses in the front line, we will ourselves be rewarded by the continuance of existing high standards of the health professions.

But if we continue the trend to consider them as providers of our most precious right, properly controlled as no other people in our country, we will be cursed by a decline in the morale of

those "health providers" to the point where medicine will no longer attract our brightest and best.

**Joseph A.P. Clark
Aurora**

AURORAN

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Community Newspaper"*

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Mayor's Report

By Tim Jones

Set aside April 30 for anti-litter day

Spring must be coming, the warm weather, rain and the snow is disappearing at a quick rate. That's the good news! The bad news is that without the snow, we are starting to see litter everywhere!

For 2005, I am asking for your help in pitching in to "KEEP AURORA BEAUTIFUL". This can be done in a number of ways.

1. Don't wait - simply go outside around you house, your neighbourhood or local park or trail and bring some garbage bags with you and pick up litter. You can dispose of the bags in your normal garbage.
2. Join the thousands across the GTA on Friday, April 22, for a 20-minute makeover by picking up litter at a location of your choosing that needs it.
3. Join me on Saturday, April 30, for the Mayor's "KEEP AURORA BEAUTIFUL" - ANTI LITTER day.

We are indeed fortunate to have almost all of our 2004 supporters returning to assist with Keeping Aurora Beautiful. Info Aurora has agreed to be the contact point for all residents to call to register to pick up litter April 30.

You can simply advise them of where you will be picking up litter or they can assign you or your group a "Hot Spot" location to help clean up.

They will also distribute bags, gloves and other supplies you may need. Please call 905-727-8214.

M&M Meats big gun Greg Foster is once again hosting a BBQ at Town Park between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. for all those who have registered through Info Aurora and have picked up litter on the 30th.

Mac's Convenience Stores, through the kindness of Arshad Shah, will be supplying drinks at the BBQ.

And, new this year, Topper's Pizza is adding free pizza for litter picker uppers between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Town Park on the 30th.

Home Hardware is back with a supply of bags for our volunteers as is Home Depot who are supplying water and bags.

Shoppers Drug Mart - Doane Hall - will be supporting us with hand antiseptic and Tim Horton's has come through again with gloves and water. Canadian Tire is also assisting again with garbage bags.

Miller Waste has volunteered a truck for special pick-up during the 30th for bags that are put out at roadside in areas that we have identified as hot spots and in areas where volunteer groups advise us they will be cleaning up.

Thus, I would stress your co-operation in calling Info Aurora to register and identify where your clean-up area is so we will know where to pick up the bags.

Also new this year is our partnership with the Town of Aurora.

As well realizing the importance of holding events such as this, we need to focus on education and promotion.

Through the efforts of Sue Walmer of the Environment Committee, we are running a poster contest through the Grade 4 classes open to all Aurora schools with the winner being announced April 30th and recognized at a televised meeting of Aurora Council.

The theme of the poster is "What does litter mean to you?"

Poster submissions should be 11" x 17" with an area, 3" x 11" left blank at the bottom.

The student's name should be written on the back along with a phone number, teacher's name and school.

Posters must be delivered to the Town Hall by Friday,

April 22, at the front desk on the main floor to qualify.

The Environment Committee is also reviewing ways to maintain the focus on anti-littering throughout the year.

Finally, even with this huge volunteer effort, there are costs associated with this event and I would like to acknowledge support from Merkur Holdings Inc., Senator Homes, and First Pro Shopping Centres for their continued financial support.

I would appeal to all residents, community groups, classes at schools who wish to make a project out of this, students who wish to use the event as a way to fulfill 40 hours community service (please check with the school first to ensure qualification) to participate.

This will be my eighth column on litter in the past two years.

We need to impress upon our friends, colleagues, neighbours and others the need to be sensitive to littering.

Aurora is a great community, as evidenced by the terrific participation by those identified so far.

I will acknowledge others who choose to support this event financially or in kind in my event wrap-up column. Thanks to all who have supported us to date.

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



God save the Queen

Camilla Parker Bowles...Queen?
God Save the Queen!
Now, don't get me wrong - I neither like nor dislike the lady.

I'm not a big enough fan of "The Bold and The Beautiful" to invest that much emotional energy into any of them.

No, I'm content to leave all that melodramatic bowing and wowing to the U.K. Department of Social Scrutiny.

After all, I'm not "Young and Restless" anymore. I have to think about putting "All My Children" through university now, and besides, I only have "One Life To Live"...and it isn't even tax deductible.

But this is just too good. Prince Charles is going to marry Camilla...right in the middle of tax season!

Maybe he thinks we won't notice? I heard Queen Elizabeth II put up some resistance. Can you just picture it?

"No, Charles," she says, licking her hand and patting his hair into place. "You may NOT have the car tonight, and that is final! Now eat your caviar."

See, this happens to common folk in Aurora every day. Except in Aurora, it's a little bit different.

The heir to the dashboard is more likely to be 16 than 56, so we mothers of gallivanting sons have more hair to pat down.

And there's another difference too. We're common folk, so shopping at "Dominion" is about as royal as it gets. We're talking broccoli, folks.

Oh, and another little difference: like every other mom in Aurora, I'm planning to go to my son's wedding.

But like I said, who am I to scrutinize the scandalized? I've got my own problems.

Yesterday, I found mould in the fridge. At first, I thought it was caviar, but then I remembered that we don't do that kind of thing.

We're Canadian.

More than half our household income goes to income tax, GST, PST, property tax, gas tax, health tax, et cetera tax, tuition and Adrienne Clarkson's majestic budget.

Yup, we're talking broccoli...99 cents a bunch... And besides, there's been an unusual shortage of fine Russian roe ever since the Empress of Excess took office.

This is a big problem - even for Camilla. Whatever will she serve with the champagne?

No wonder the Queen isn't going to the wedding! But like I said, I have bigger problems. See, it isn't just the caviar that's missing from my life.

In 2003, while Canadians waited between four hours and four days to be seen at the local "General Hospital", we kind of, sort of noticed that there was a big, huge Governor General where 41 million dollars used to be.

Maybe she thought we wouldn't notice? That year, our very own surrogate blue blood followed her "Guiding Light" and spent a king's ransom on a "northern identity" tour to Russia, Finland and Iceland.

Why? To see if it's as cold there as it is in Canada. Gadzooks! "As The World Turns", a million dollars says it is! So, now that we have something in common, we can be friends!

Bow! Curtsy! Wow! Ever since I heard about this, I've grown very fond of the phrase: "God Save the Queen". I say it a lot, and whenever I hear it, I say "Amen!"


Because, as an over-taxed Canadian, I don't want to have to be the one to do it.


But what do I know? I'm just a commoner. I think the only Monarch worth saving is a butterfly.


Besides, I can't afford queens...especially not in the middle of tax season.


In these parts, they don't even qualify as "dependents".


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


 **BOUQUETS** to Ferguson Mobbs for having his video "On Watch to Strike" covering the background and present day capability of 400 Tactical Helicopter Squadron accepted by the Canadian National Library in Ottawa.


 **BRICKBATS** to the man hanging out around the Aurora Shopping Centre, begging for money supposedly to buy gasoline for his car. His targets are usually mature women who are shopping alone. One woman was approached by the same man three times. Is this a case for the bylaw enforcement officers?


 **BOUQUETS** to Brianne Gilbert of Aurora on seeing her dream come true. She loves hockey and on more than one occasion she was told she was good enough to make a boy's hockey team but her gender was against her. She refused to give up and was invited to attend Cornell University and play for the university team.


 **BRICKBATS** to Aurora Council for its unorthodox and secret handling of the Aurora Hydro sale. After a year of negotiations with Newmarket Hydro as to a merger of the two local hydro utilities, and spending thousands of dollars on a consultant, they pulled the plug at the last minute and sold Aurora Hydro on a single offer.


 More **BRICKBATS** to the same council for excluding Aurora Hydro officials and members of the board of directors, appointed by council, from taking any part in the sale of the utility, as the board supported the merger.

 Still more **BRICKBATS** to the same council for calling another secret meeting to approve the removal of all powers from the current board of directors and as shareholder assume those powers. Citizens, as stakeholders had little say in the process, but may have at the next election.


 **BOUQUETS** to 10-year-old Spencer Maxwell of Aurora on being selected one of 12 Ontario Junior Citizens of the Year for his work in Africa with orphans who had lost their families through HIV/AIDS. He established the Hopes and Dreams Kids Team.

 **BRICKBATS** to those behind the Gomery sponsorship scandal inquiry for laying criminal and/or civil charges partway through the inquiry instead of at the end, which will enable them to say they can't answer as the issue is before the courts.

 **BOUQUETS** to the Nigel Kean team for once again leading the way in raising funds in the annual Big Brothers Big Sisters bowl-a-thon with pledges of nearly \$2,000. Team members were Tom Beck, Diane Buchanan, Alycia Beck, Rebecca Beaton and Brenda Snape.

 **BRICKBATS** to the ghoul who planted four rusty double-edged razor blades in the lining of a child's coat that ended up in a church sale in Tottenham recently. The mother found the razor blades stitched into the armpit of her 2-year-old son's jacket. How sick can you get?

 **BOUQUETS** to Magna International on becoming the fourth-largest auto parts maker in the world. The Aurora-based company jumped past two competitors with \$20.7 billion (US) in sales in 2004, up 35 per cent.

 **BRICKBATS** to a justice system that sentenced a single mother to only three months in jail and probation for abandoning her 3-year-old son for hours to go drinking. Firefighters rescued the little boy from a second-storey window as he was calling for his mother. A mere slap on the wrist!

Letters to the Editor

What did that student hear the chairman say?

To the editor,

The summer I was 15, I was a telegraph messenger. Home phones didn't exist...families were separated...split asunder...scattered.

The envelope people dreaded had a blue band.

Terrible news was delivered by a tall, skinny girl on a bicycle.

At 16, I enrolled in a training program for nursery nurses.

We looked after the children of mothers who worked shifts in munitions plants.

The children came on a Sunday evening and went home on Friday...like orphans in an institution.

There were army camps, naval bases and air fields.

Dick Illingworth landed there a few times when he

was ferrying aircraft around the world.

Most husbands were absent but other women's husbands were there in the thousands.

We had the entire Polish army living in quonset huts for years.

We even had an Italian prisoner-of-war camp in the sand dunes on the edge of town.

They worked on farms during the day and in the evening they lolled on the dunes at the side of the road playing accordions and harmonicas and serenading the girls who promenaded past.

We had a company of marine commandoes living in private billets. Periodically a personnel carrier would appear at a corner...usually in the evening.

The commandoes would

come out of the houses in camouflage, faces blackened and branches with leaves fastened to their helmets.

They'd be gone a few days and then some would return.

The missing would be replaced and the exercise would be repeated.

There wasn't much talk about a future.

It wasn't clear that we had one.

The war was on long enough for the abnormal to be normal.

We lived one day at a time and until it was over, it just got worse all the time.

Afterwards we came in waves to Canada.

We worked at modest jobs for modest wages.

We bought homes and built universities and col-

leges and hospitals, a universal health care system and we provided grants for post-secondary students to encourage education and a better life for our children.

In 1972, I was a reporter covering York County Board of Education.

At a meeting the chairman presented an award to a student for academic excellence.

He said her generation would make the world a better place...unlike the mess his generation had made of things.

I thought, "Jackass".

It was clear he had never contemplated the image of a young airman wrapping his arms around a wounded comrade, in the hopes that one parachute would save both their lives...and leaving the torn and bleeding bodies of their five crewmates behind in a burning plane...none of whom were much older than the student receiving a shiny trophy for academic achievement.

I have wondered since if that student heard what the chairman said.

Did she proceed through life believing her parents' generation had made a mess of things, and therefore, no respect was warranted?

And is she standing in front of a classroom now teaching her students that with all their worldly experience, they can sit in judgement of others and they certainly have no need to respect their elders?

Good, bad news about sale

To the editor,

Borrowing a line from Dick Illingworth, bouquets to Councillor Wendy Gaertner for voting against the sale of our hydro utility at the recent special council meeting.

However, there is a bright side to the sale of our utility.

Council fired the \$50,000-a-year appointed board.

A recent article I read places utility poles at as much as \$5,000 each, installed.

Our hydro head office, with its office complex, board

room, garage and maintenance shop in today's real estate market should fetch a couple million dollars.

So much for the good news.

PowerStream, Inc. is not a charitable organization.

They want to make big bucks on their investment and use every loophole in government regulations to increase your electricity rates. Shareholders will be looking for ever-increasing dividends, so the future is grim.

Gone is the million dollars

plus a year profit that council used to reduce the budget and lower your taxes.

Dalton McGuinty, before the last provincial election, promised to return hydro to public hands.

This made a third option open to council: to explore with the true and proper owners and the Provincial Government to return control to the citizens of Aurora for the benefit of our town, but that's water under the bridge.

Surely McGuinty would not back down on another election promise??

About the fire department

To the editor,

Re: The new fire hall

Councillor Damir Vrancic asked Mr. (Al) Downey why of 19 bids from architects only one applicant was considered.

The reply is mundane at best.

Of 19 bids only one qualified because of a very weird requirement of building a fire hall in the GTA in the past five years.

Question.

1. Did you have the same question in the bid for the swimming pool and

hockey rinks?

2. How did you arrive at the budget cost of \$16 million without an architect or architect's drawings?


3. How does a Director of Leisure Services become involved in capital projects? Is he an engineer?

4. Why would the other 18 architect companies bid if they thought your question on building a fire hall in the past five years was a valid question?

R.W. Hanes
Aurora

Norm Weller
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Garbage costs on the way up

During budget talks, Aurora Council agreed to defer the 3-stream waste management program budget of \$390,000 until 2006. Funding was for purchase and distribution of green bins necessary to implement the system.

While it is assumed the existing arrangement for the collection and disposition will remain as is for the time being, there are issues to be resolved.

These include additional material to be collected in the blue box, additional leaf and yard waste collection, improvement to the Public Works yard collection system, start date of the 3-stream collection and impact on the existing collection contract.

In July, a number of new items will be allowed in the blue box, including aerosol and metal paint cans, aluminum foil, trays and plates, plastic bottles, jugs and jars, plastic food containers, beverage cartons and boxes.

The quoted price increase to collect the additional material on a bi-weekly collection schedule is \$33.71 per household and for the period July 4 to the end of the year amounts to \$45,000 more than the existing cost.

Staff advised there are funds in the budget to accommodate the additional \$45,000 and council agreed to increase the cost per household from

\$27.36 to \$33.71.

With the elimination of plastic bags for the collection of leaf and yard waste and as a potential trade-off to the additional cost of paper bags or open rigid containers, the cost to provide up to two additional leaf and yard waste collection days was investigated.

Current contractor Miller Waste quoted the cost as \$24.13 more per tonne than the existing cost or about \$9,500 per year.

Funds are available and council approved the increase per tonne from \$93.99 to \$118.12.

Residents and businesses may drop blue box material at the Public Works yard on Scanlon Court and over the years the amount of material collected has increased to the point that larger waste containers and more frequent collections are required.

The cost to increase the size of the container, more frequent collections, especially for the collection of cardboard is \$4,000 and council agreed to increase the cost of collection from \$171 per month to \$258.28 per month.

Council also adopted a staff recommendation that the start date for the 3-stream collection be September 1, 2006, when a review of the collection system will be undertaken.



More than 300 youngsters turned out for the fourth annual Easter Egg hunt held last week near the Leisure Complex. Top photo, the throngs spread out looking for the hundreds of hidden eggs, while the Easter Bunny himself spent some time with Faryl Reisman, left, and Lisa Kenney inside the Complex. At left, Aurorans Heidi Sunnerton, left and Laura McCrudden passed the time handing out coupons for Topper's Pizza.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

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Sally and Steve Walker, top photo, are welcomed back to Steve's childhood home at 16 Bailey Crescent in Aurora, by current owner Connie Bestard, right. Below, Steve, circled, joins classmates for Grade 1 picture taken at Regency Acres Public School in 1962.

Man returns to his "roots"

Steve Walker, who lives just south of London, England,



Under the tree his mother planted more than 40 years ago, Steve Walker returned to his "roots" at 16 Bailey Crescent Saturday morning.

remembers his mother planting a tree in the front yard of 16 Bailey Crescent, Aurora, four decades ago.

He stood under that tree Saturday morning.

More than 40 years after he left, Steve, with his partner Sally, returned to the Bailey Crescent house where he spent the early years of his life.

In the house now is Connie Bestard, who knew he was coming.

She greeted the couple with a plethora of memorabilia, including newspaper clippings of the event which caused the youngster to leave Canada.

The quick trip back to Canada was the result of a Christmas present and Steve thought, until he landed on Canadian soil, that it was all a joke.

Steve and Sally arrived Friday, checked into the Royal York Hotel in

Toronto, visited Aurora Saturday, headed to Niagara Falls Sunday and were back on the plane to England Monday.

"I'll be back, though," he promised.

Steve has not been to Canada since his father became ill and was flown, with family in tow, back to England, where he died two days after his arrival.

Neighbours in the then brand new Regency Acres subdivision banded together and raised the necessary funds to return the family to England.

Because he required a nurse and had to lay down throughout the flight, the father required the purchase of several airline seats, and through the generosity of neighbours, enough money was raised to make the trip possible.

During his brief visit to Aurora, Steve was driven to Regency Acres Public School where he attended Kindergarten and Grade 1 back in the early 60s.

He remembered the layout of the house on Bailey and knew exactly where his bedroom was.

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Symphony draws standing ovation

By THOMAS DAVEY

In both its concert repertoires and performances, York Symphony Orchestra has consistently delivered orchestral diversity and excellence. Its most recent concert at Aurora's Trinity Anglican Church, the orchestra soared to new heights with a program comprising works from Sibelius, Beethoven and Schumann.

In Sibelius' Valse Triste, haunting melodies evoke the macabre dances of scenes in a play written by his brother-in-law in 1903.

The dirge-like beat, punctuated by the melancholy beat of the big base, which, despite its size, is often the forgotten instrument of classical music. Not so in this performance.

Beethoven's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, written almost a century earlier, has not seen its evocative composition diluted by the passage of time.

Guest solo violinist, Joseph Peleg, gave a virtuoso rendition of the cadenzas.

The first movement was awesome in his musical pyrotechnics; the second somewhat poignant with the third movement displaying his

dazzling finger work and mastery of the violin from the soloist - all punctuated with the throbbing beat of the big base.

The triumphant finale drew a most enthusiastic standing ovation at the conclusion.

Schumann's Fourth Symphony in D minor began with a journey from darkness into light, with a sombre melody from the bassoons and second violins which evolved into a sublime transition between the third and fourth movements.

Hushed strings give way to trombones whose ominous sounds evolved into a steady crescendo culminating into surges of energy which gathered strength like some acoustical tsunami.

York Symphony's standards of excellence extend well beyond its range of musical performances.

Its symphonic program notes are almost scholarly interpretations of its orchestral repertoires - as well as giving historical backgrounds of compositions.

These can add so much to the understanding and enjoyment of patrons as well as giving insights to York Region's many musicians in high school orchestras.

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April 25 - May 1  Book TV	September 12 - 18  Discovery Kids
May 2 - 8  Fashion TV Canada	September 19 - 25  Documentary Channel
May 9 - 15  MTV Canada	September 26 - October 2  Scream TV
May 16 - 22  MTV 2	October 3 - 9  I Channel
May 23 - 29  TV Land	October 10 - 16  ONE: Body, Mind, Spirit
May 30 - June 5  BBC Kids	October 17 - 23  G4 Tech TV
June 6 - 12  BBC Canada	October 24 - 30  Biography
June 13 - 19  Deutsche Welle	October 31 - November 6  Sportsnet Pacific
June 20 - 26  Showcase Action	November 7 - 13  Animal Planet
June 27 - July 3  Showcase Diva	November 14 - 20  Discovery Civilization
July 4 - 10  IFC	November 21 - 27  CTV Travel
July 11 - 17  National Geographic Channel	November 28 - December 4  NHL Channel
July 18 - 24  Discovery Health Channel	December 5 - 11  ESPN Classic Sports
July 25 - 31  Fine Living	December 12 - 18  Leafs TV
August 1 - 7  Dejaview	December 19 - 25  CBC Country Canada
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Aurora falters in battle against Georgetown

By SCOTT ZOLTOK

Following a disappointing 4-1 loss for the Aurora Tigers Provincial Junior A hockey team Saturday night in Georgetown it became clear the Raiders weren't about to go down without a fight.

Despite the loss the Tigers were still leading the series after the buzzer three games to two and Aurora has home ice advantage with the next game scheduled here.

Saturday's game began well with the Tigers taking an early lead and ending the first period 1-0, but at the start of the second, the wheels began to fall off, with Georgetown scoring three goals that period, followed by a final marker in the third frame.

Scoring for the Tigers was Clay Costoff, with Daniel Michalsky and Jeric Agosta registering assists, while Jeremie Dupont had a relatively good night in net making 40 saves against a Georgetown offense that just wouldn't quit.

It was clear from the start Georgetown was controlling the tempo, registering 44 shots against Aurora's 27.

The loss came as quite the surprise to Aurora fans, who had seen an energetic win in Aurora the night before.

Friday night's game featured a 4-1 win for the Tigers, who were playing in front of an arena that was almost packed.

The game featured a shutout until Georgetown scored on their final shot of the game with only five seconds left in regulation time, robbing goaltender Jeremie Dupont of the goose egg.

He still came up with 52 saves.

Scoring for the Tigers was Jeremy Whelan with two goals including the game winner, as well as

Sean Thompson and Clay Costoff.

The win was not due to an overpowering offense, as the Tigers were outshot 53-27.

The game featured no end of penalties against Georgetown with Aurora receiving a few, until the third period where a fight broke out between Michael Tuomi of the Tigers and Glen Hartwell of the Raiders.

The game came as a much needed boost for the Tigers, who had just faced a disappointing

defeat two nights earlier in Georgetown.

The loss can be mainly attributed to a lack of ability to capitalize on power plays, leading Georgetown to a 3-2 triumph over Aurora.

Scoring for the Tigers was Jeric Agosta and Sean Thompson, while goaltender Ryan Dickie stopped 33 of 36 shots.

Two nights prior to that Aurora experienced a resounding win at home, taking the game 3-2 while Georgetown was slow off the mark.

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Ontario Minor Hockey Association Champion Aurora Novice AA Tigers are shown here celebrating their victory. They are, front row (on ice), Ryan Manson, Quentin Campbell, Zack Landry; kneeling, Jack Caldwell, Liam Coll, Sean Foxwell, Konner McMillan, John K. MacDonald, Spencer Green, and standing, Connor Graham, Jordan Nanos, Kyle Locke, Ian Dunlop, Matthew Iwai, Branden Fennell, Austin Lane, and Jordyn Thomson. In the back row are John A. MacDonald, Jim Fennell, Tony Lane, Alex Nanos, Glenn Manson. *Photo by Jason Thomson*

Aurora Novice AA Tigers cap a successful season

Since capturing the OMHA Championship in front of a huge home town crowd last week at the Aurora Community Centre, congratulations have been pouring in for the Aurora Novice AA Tigers from fans and rivals alike.

The Tigers' victory over a spirited and classy squad from Orangeville in the OMHA final series marked the pinnacle accomplishment of an incredibly successful season for the young group of Aurora 8 and 9 year olds.

Needing six points to win

the series, and already having four in their pocket, the Tigers defeated Orangeville 3-1 in the final game.

Earlier they had racked up 3-2 and 6-2 wins.

"This is a strong team and represented the Town of Aurora well in all its travels," said Head Coach, Jim Fennell after the big win.

Indeed, the OMHA title can be added to the Tigers' growing collection.

Previously this season, the Novice AA Tigers were winners of the 46th annual Preston International Hockey Tournament and the

Canadian Cup in Montreal.

"Coach Jim" also remarked upon the special camaraderie between players and their families in this close knit group.

"We met our goals of having a fun and successful season and the kids will realize in years to come how memorable some of the hockey moments we enjoyed this year really are," he said.

Becoming OMHA champions took a lot of effort and teamwork. From their first practice in early September to the OMHA Finals Game, the Novice AA Tigers were on the ice 119 of 196 days over the course of the 28-week season.

Even getting to the OMHA Championship series was quite an achievement.

After officially finishing first overall in the York Simcoe Novice AA West Division and getting a bye in the first round the of the OMHA Playdowns, the Tigers had to win three straight playoff series against Markham, Richmond Hill and Whitby respectively.

The team is comprised of 17 players picked from a talented pool of Aurora Minor Hockey Association (AMHA) players born in 1996.

They compete during the regular season in the York Simcoe Novice AA West Division of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association.

The squad is led by head coach Fennell, assistant coaches Alex Nanos and John A. MacDonald, and trainer James "Tony" Lane.

Doane Hall moving, with or without name

The question of what happens to the name Doane Hall in the future when Shoppers Drug Mart Doane Hall moves to the former D-mac Furniture store at Aurora Heights Drive and Yonge Street hasn't arisen yet but it might.

In June, 1996, the site of the former residence of one of Aurora's founders, Charles Doan, received historical recognition from the town.

There has been a dispute as to whether the correct spelling of the name should be Doan or Doane. According to LACAC the correct spelling is Doan and the historical plaque is spelled that way.

But there are branches of the family which have added the "e" and Richardson Isaacson used that spelling when he named his pharmacy.

Shoppers Drug Mart Doane Hall received a plaque from the Local Architectural Conservation Authority Committee designating it as an historic site.

Charles Doan was Postmaster and with the arrival of the first steam train to Machell's Corners in 1853, he renamed the village Aurora after the Goddess of the Dawn.

He also served as first Reeve of the village when it was incorporated in 1863. He built the town's first brick house in 1853 on the site where the pharmacy now stands.

Following the death of Doan in June, 1885, the house passed through a series of owners and at one time it was suggested to be preserved as reading rooms for an expanded Aurora library.

However, the house was demolished in 1969 to make way for the pharmacy.

In 1995, Isaacson sold the pharmacy and it became part of the Shoppers Drug Mart family. Now the pharmacy is moving to larger facilities and the future of the current drug store and the name Doan, or Doane Hall is unknown.

As the drug store has used the name Doane Hall since 1969 Shoppers may wish to continue to use the name but it will not have the same meaning on a new site.

As it was the site that was designated by LACAC and the town in 1996, the name and the plaque should remain in its current location, but that remains to be seen.

It's a problem waiting to be solved.

Colouring contest winners named

Following is a list of winners in the recent Aurora Shopping Centre colouring contest.

Prizes were awarded in age divisions.

Five & Under - Kennedy Schultz, Austin Riggs, Jayson Perkins.

Six & Seven - Evan McKenzie, Julia DiCarlo, Adam Hunter.

Eight, Nine & Ten - Jennifer Tasich, Jonathan Rankel, Courtenay Field.

Eleven & Twelve - Emma Jean Emms, Natalie Petrosse, Jenny Rankel.

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**Aurora Minor Hockey Association****Results up to 9 AM Sunday, April 3**Website: www.aci.on.ca/amha**House League
Playoff Games**

204 NORTH YORK HEATING & PLUMBING 4: Christopher Sanita 2G, Matthew Sanita 1G, Adam Petit 1G. **207 PHARMASAVE 2:** Kevin Siery 1G, Kristen Grasse 1G.

206 AURORA HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE 7: Derek Capone 1G, Ryan McGoldrick 2G, Graham Killby 1G 1A, Billy Haddock 2G 1A, Alexander Cicchino 1G, Riley O'Brien 1A, David Gonder, shutout. **202 ALL PRO SPORTS 0.**

208 ORR & FORSTER INSURANCE 3: Jamie Wilson 1G 1A, Mitchell Carter 1G, Max Brown 1G. **201 DELPH & JENKINS SURVEYORS 1:** Tait Snedden 1G, Adrian Ramirez 1A.

205 DR. STEINER'S DRILLERS 5: Callum Forest 3G, James Powell 1G, Tyler Abushinov 1G 1A, Calvin Morache 2A, Ian Chappell 1A, Oliver Jones 1A. **203 www.mastermindtoys.com 4:** Parker Baile 2G, Chris Downs 1G, Robin Creighton 1G, Alexander Harrison 1A, James Johnston 1A.

306 CONTINENTAL CUSTOM INGREDIENTS 4: Gavin Matheson 1G, Chris Tsianos 1G, Dylan Gould 1G, Dylan Sutton 1G 1A. **302 NACORA INSURANCE BROKERS 2:** Connor McQuillan 2G, Jamie Poutney 1A, Brady Sands 1A.

304 DR. STEINER'S DRILLERS 2: Andreas Mikkelsen 2G, Brandon Plourde 1A. **303 DIAMOND GROUNDSKEEPING SERVICES LTD. 1:** Scott Wheeler 1G, Luke Pizzuro 1A.

301 TILEMASTER 5: Trevor Stephens 1G, Dylan Lyons 1G, Quinn McCowan 3G, Ethan Cullen 1A, Trevor Rice 1A. **305 ROTARY CLUB OF AURORA 5:** Jordan Duke 1G, Ryan Dowling 4G, Joshua Lawlor 1A, Alex Seto 1A.

405 PERMANENT PRESS PRINTING 3: Royce Kirby 2G, Madison Schaeffer 1G, Ryan Dalcin 1A, Liam Judges 1A. **402 D-MAC FURNITURE 3:** Joseph Romano 2G, Cameron Whitelaw 1G, Andrew Martin 2A.

401 AURORA CABLE INTERNET 5: Wade McFarlane 2G, Gregory Olejnik 1G, Eamon Reilly 1G, Michael Rodrigues 1G, 1A. **404 SUPREME COLLISION CENTRE 1:** Jeremy Warner 1G, J.J. White 1A.

403 EMILIO'S PIZZA 2: Evan Collict 1G, MacKenzie Lefleur 1G. **406 AURORA HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE 2:** Brandon Kirasack 1G, Josh Ashfield 1G.

706 OMAR'S SHOES 5: Derek Isidoro 2G 1A, Eric Bailey 1G, Jacob Peart 1G, Scott Loney 1G, Dane Gregoris 4A, Ben Slimkowich 1A. **701 COLL AUDIO & ACCURATE ELECTRICAL 5:** Jordan Brown 2G, Conor Dellar 1G 1A, Conor Sands 1G, AJ Ciciarelli 1G 1A, Eric Beveridge 2A, James Collett 1A, Peter Martin 1A.

706 OMAR'S SHOES 6: Dane Gregoris 2G 1A, Graeme Smart 1G 1A, Derek Isidoro 1G 1A, Dylan Calvert 1G 1A, Ben Slimkowich 1G 1A, Eric Thunen 1A, Eric Bailey 1A. **707 ASA ALLOYS 2:** Taylor Buxton 1G, Andrew Buckley 1G, Jake Thompson 1A, James Suddes 1A.

708 PIZZA PIZZA 3: Steve Foss 1G, John Cardella 1G, Jason Nadeau 1G, Jason Durst 2A, Justin Cheong 1A. **702 RECREATION LEISURE SERVICES LTD. 3:** Madison Weber 2G, Matthew Perdeaux 1A, Trevor Spence 1A.

703 CENTRAL YORK FIREFIGHTERS 6: Mike Shoesmith 4G 1A, Jay Finch 2G 2A, Brendan Harrington 4A. **707 ASA ALLOYS 2:** Jake Thompson 1G, Michael Seymour 1G, Andrew Buckley 1A.

705 SKATERS FIRST 6: C.J. Melichercik 2G 3A, Marshall McQuillan 2G, Daniel Korolnek 1G 1A, William Ginther 1G, Daniel Saccetti 1A. **704 FRESH WATER INDUSTRIES 1:** Mike Grande 1G.

705 SKATERS FIRST 3: C.J. Melichercik 1G 1A, Marshall McQuillan 2G, Robert Revington 1A. **701 COLL AUDIO & ACCURATE ELECTRICAL 1:** Julian Kercz 1G.

806 I.O.O.F. AURORA LODGE 148 F.L.T. 4: J. Adams 1G, E. Davenport 1G, R. Casselden 1G, N. Whelan 1G 1A, T. Mickolczy-MacDonald 1A, L. Leddy 1A, R. Van Winckle 2A, M. Holland 1A. **801 Green/Gold PIZZA PIZZA 2:** Dylan Brennan 1G, Ray Mullins 1G, Dan Creighton 1A.

903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 1. 902 OPTIMIST CLUB OF AURORA 0.

905 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 5: James Weber 2G 1A, Jamie Fenyes 3G 1A, Steve Horan 2A, Joe Han 2A, James Connolly 1A, Tom Horner 1A. **904 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 2:** Alex Smith 1G, Drew Brown 1G, Jesse Gattellero 1A, Ian Mulhern 1A, Jon Aleksich 1A, Kiefer McBride 1A.

901 AURORA CANADIAN TIRE 5: Dan Kupraty 2G 2A, Rob Kaptny 1G 1A, Mike Perretta 1G, Evan Magill 1G 1A, Dan Coates 1A. **906 White/Red PIZZA PIZZA 4:** Alex Ginther 1G 2A, Justin Torma 1G, Cam Harris 2G, Brad Wilkens 1A, Brandon Fitzgerald 1A, Taylor Jefferies 1A.

901 AURORA CANADIAN TIRE 11: Dan Kupraty 2G 1A, Dan Coates 5G 1A, Chris Torresano 3G 3A, Luke Muirhead 1G 1A, Eric James 1A, Evan Magill 4A, Dale McDonald 3A, Paul Magill 2A. **902 OPTIMIST CLUB OF AURORA 8:** Ryan Joynt 3G 3A, Bryan Dunjko 4G 2A, Jake Teel 1G 2A, Ethan Lebovic 3A, Charlie Teel 1A, Brett Scott 2A.

906 White/Red PIZZA PIZZA 5: Jamie Rundle-Sanderson 1G, Brandon Fitzgerald 1G 1A, Brad Wilkens 1G, Alex Ginther 1G, Cam Harris 1G 2A, Justin Torma 1A, Courtney Lockhart 1A. **904 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 5:** Torrey Duckworth 1G 2A, Kiefer McBride 1G, Jesse Gattellero 1G, Ryan Jones 2G, Kevin Michie

2A, Alex Smith 2A, Jon Aleksich 1A.

905 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 1. 903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 0.

906 White/Red PIZZA PIZZA 5: David Petrosovic 1G, Brad Wilkens 1G, Cam Harris 2G 2A, Justin Torma 1G 1A, Derek Hurst 1A, Rob Ruskanen 2A, Maegan Bastarache 1A. **903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 2:** James Seymore 1G 1A, Jason Tuck 1G, Jeff Seymore 1A, Omar Popet 1A, Curtis Wilton 1A.

904 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 6: Steve Pitts 1G 1A, Ryan Jones 1G 1A, Bill Spasopolous 2G, Jon Aleksich 1G, Torrey Duckworth 1G 1A, Ian Mulhern 2A, Steve Gray 1A, Kiefer McBride 1A, Alex Smith 1A, Kevin Michie 1A. **901 AURORA CANADIAN TIRE 3:** Dan Kupraty 1G, Chris Torresano 1G, Mike Perretta 1G, Braden Bonner 1A.

902 OPTIMIST CLUB OF AURORA 4: Jake Teel 2G, Andrew Rowan 2G, Ryan Joynt 2A, Harrison Brooke 1A, Matt Preston 1A, Chris O'Conner 1A, Ethan Lebovic 1A, Morgan Mittlestaedt 1A. **905 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 5:** Jamie Fenyes 2G, Joel Stock 1G 1A, James Weber 1G, Jesse Barker 1G, Tom Horner 1A, Greg Youtoff 2A, Ryan Cain 2A, Steve Horan 1A.

902 OPTIMIST CLUB OF AURORA 7: Harrison Brooke 1G 1A, Chris O'Conner 1G, Ryan Joynt 1G, Andrew Rowan 1G 3A, Matt Preston 1G, Morgan Mittlestaedt 1G 1A, Jake Teel 1G 1A, Jason Markovich 1G 1A, Bryan Dunjko 1A. **906 White/Red PIZZA PIZZA 3:** Cam Harris 1G, Derek Hurst 1G, Jamie Rundle-Sanderson 1G, Courtney Lockhart 1A.

905 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 4: Brendan Cooke shutout, Andrew Kines 1G, Joe Han 2G, Jamie Fenyes 1G 1A, Jesse Barker 2A, Jacob Evelyn 1A, Steve Horan 2A, Tom Horner 1A. **901 AURORA CANADIAN TIRE 0.**

904 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 5: Ryan Jones 1G 1A, Drew Brown 1G, Steve Pitts 1G, Jon Aleksich 1G, Alex Smith 1G, Torrey Duckworth 1A, Bill Spasopolous 1A, Ian Mulhern 1A. **903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 4:** Tyler Cappell 2G 1A, James Seymore 2G 1A, Jeff Seymore 2A, Peter Walker 1A.

905 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 5: Jesse Barker 1G 1A, Joe Han 1G, Steve Horan 1G, Jamie Fenyes 2G, Ryan Smyth 2A, James Weber 1A. **906 White/Red PIZZA PIZZA 4:** Jamie Rundle-Sanderson 1G 1A, Cam Harris 1G 1A, Taylor Jefferies 1G, Brad Wilkens 1G 1A, Alex Ginther 1A.

904 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 7: Torrey Duckworth 2G 2A, Ryan Jones 2G, Kevin Michie 1G 1A, Steve Pitts 2G, Kiefer McBride 2A, Jon Aleksich 2A. **902 OPTIMIST CLUB OF AURORA 2:** Ryan Joynt 1G, Brett Scott 1G, Jake Teel 1A, Harrison Brooke 1A.

1002 IRVINE ROBINSON INTERIORS 9: Patrick Bowie 3G, Andrew Onorati 2G 1A, Colin Hullah 1G, Curtis Sands 1G 2A, Jonathan Turner 1G, Jamie Marton 1G 2A, Ian McCrone 2A, Ryan Thiffault 1A, Caitlin Kelly 1A, Neil Irvine 2A. **1004 TWIST MARKETING 2:** Jonathan Peterkin 1G 1A, Kevin Scott 1G.

Rep Results**Georgina 7 Tyke Select 5**

Novice A 2 Innisfil 4
Scott Kostin 1G, Erik Balkovec 1G, Liam Beresford 1A, Nathan Nealon 1A.

Novice A 2 Innisfil 0
Sean O'Donnell 1G, Brett Thiessen 1A, Connor Cowl 1G, Austin Persaud 1A, Nathan Nealon 1A.

Innisfil 3 Novice A 1
Alec Ground 1G, Austin Persaud 1A.

Newmarket 6 Minor Atom AA 2
Eric Ludwig 2G, Brooke Webster 1A, Stefan Lazzar 1A, Jody Nonnewitz 1A.

Uxbridge 6 Atom AA 1
Andrew Papousek 1G.

NobleKing 7 Atom A 1
Taylor Butler 1G, Rory MacNeil 1A, Cooper Catt 1A.

Minor Peewee A 3 Applewood 3
Kyle McCreedy 1G, Tristan Miller 1G, Stephen Demarco 1G, James Harkin 2A, Jack Steffan 1A, Tyler Jensen 1A.

Minor Peewee A 9 Meadowvale 0
Kyle McCreedy 3G, Tristan Miller 3G 3A, Jordan Figueiredo 1G 2A, Tyler Jensen 2G 1A, Spencer George 2A, Stephen Demarco 2A, Gavin Forrest 2A, James Harkin 2A, Ryan Antoniel 1A.

Minor Peewee A 5 Malton 4
Kyle McCreedy 3G, Stephen Demarco 1G 2A, Tristan Miller 1G 1A, Ryan Antoniel 1A, Danny McConnell 1A, Tyler Jensen 2A, Michael Vance 1A, Jordan Figueiredo 1A.

Oakville 7 Minor Peewee A 3
Tyler Jensen 1G, Michael Vance 1G, Tristan Miller 1G, Jack Steffan 1A, Kyle McCreedy 1A, Gavin Forrest 1A, Jordan Figueiredo 1A, James Harkin 1A, Michael Bar 1A.

Peewee AE 3 Whitby 2
Michael McGorlick 1A, Andrew McKay 1G 1A, Tyler Tisdale 1G, Matthew Pellegriini 1G, Evan Jones 1A, Matthew Semeredy 1A, Geoff Gianopoulos 1A, Corey Jefferey 1A.

Bradford 3 Bantam A 2**TNT 4 Minor Midget A 3**

Neil Kileeg 1G 1A, Drew Jenkins 1G, Jonathan Adams 1G 1A, Ryan Kesteris 1A, Chris Blom 1A, Robert Cote 1A.

Midget AA 7 Pickering 1**Midget AA 10 Pickering 0**

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**Registration AFTER April 30, 2005 will be subject
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**Any RETURNED CHEQUES will void the player's
registration.**

RE-REGISTRATION FEE is \$25.00.

Tearing up Aurora's roads

Last year Aurora Council considered continuation of the 10-year road reconstruction program.

It was pointed out that the 10-year funding forecast for road construction resulted in a shortfall of \$5.2 million in spending over the period meaning the overall network condition rating would fall to 65 from the current 71 by 2015.

With the 2005 capital

roads budget approved two major projects, exclusive of the Vandorf Road, include George Street and Fairway Drive plus a number of other, smaller road sections.

Fairway, it was decided, would be put on hold for a year.

The George Street project includes George from Wellington West to Tyler Street, grouped with Bell

Drive and both ends of Hammond Drive.

Reconstruction for Bell and Hammond includes watermain fixing.

The Fairway Drive project, when it happens, will include Fairway from Murray Drive to Stoddard Drive grouped with Eldon Crescent, Glenview Drive and the east end of Devlin Place.

That reconstruction will

include watermains on Fairview and Glenview.

Fairway was postponed due to the uncertainty of a traffic calming proposal for that street and potential implications on Golf Links Drive.

Funds will remain in the budget.

Without comment or debate council approved the delay of the Fairway Drive project.

Survey shows we like it here

From page 1

across the GTA, growth, sprawl and infrastructure capacity are expected to top the list of issues in the next

municipal elections in the GTA.

Communication was another major issue in Aurora as only three in 10

residents approve of the way the town communicates with its citizens.

While 85 per cent agreed it was important that citizens

be notified about public participation for new developments, only 25 per cent were satisfied with the town notifying them about opportunities.

The complete survey results have been referred to the town's Finance Advisory Committee for review and analysis.

The contract was awarded to OraclePoll Research in the amount of \$14,000 with hopes that results would assist council and staff to better understand the priorities of residents and to assist in determining budget priorities.

In addition to the telephone survey, questions were also posted on the town's website.

Summaries are available on the web site and a complete copy is available for viewing at the Information kiosk at the Town Hall and at the Aurora Library.

Newmarket wants cash

From page 1

more than price when the decision was made and that no commission had been paid.

He said the sale was in the best interests of the municipality as the security

of supply was a big plus over the long-term.

At a recent meeting of Newmarket Council, staff was directed to list all out-of-pocket expenses for council and Newmarket Hydro including consultants,

lawyers and auditors involved in the merger negotiations.

Newmarket councillors are looking for financial compensation from Aurora estimated to be in the \$30,000 range.

Town budget is approved

From page 1

Councillor Nigel Kean out of town on business.

Mayor Tim Jones did not take part in the vote as he declared a conflict of interest due to a spousal relationship.

As a result of cuts by council, adjustments were made that decreased net operating expenditures by \$1.2 million reducing the increase to \$1.4 million or 7.9 per cent over 2004.

In addition, Aurora tax-

payers will get hit with a 5.2 per cent York Region increase for 2005 which translates to about \$83 on the average assessed home in the region, plus educational costs still to be determined by the province.

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Hydro hits federal level

As your representative in Ottawa, I've been actively working on a number of issues that are of concern to residents here in Aurora.

One of those issues is the proposal announced last year by Hydro One to build a high-voltage transmission line through several Aurora neighbourhoods.

Since becoming your Member of Parliament, I've been working with concerned residents in seeking alternatives to the Hydro One proposal.

I spoke in the House of Commons in late February on this issue and reminded the Minister of Health that many of my fellow citizens in Aurora are very concerned about plans to run transmission lines through our back yards.

I further stated my belief that Health Canada has a responsibility to regulate the possible health risks posed by the electro-magnetic fields generated by hydro towers.

Last month's announcement by Hydro One that it is temporarily withdrawing plans to construct a 24-kilometre hydro corridor through Aurora was welcome news.

However, it's important to remember that the withdrawal is only temporary and is being done to give the newly appointed Ontario Power Authority time to investigate a number of options, including the original Hydro One proposal to build high-voltage towers.

In the meantime, I will continue to work together with Aurora residents and various government agencies and officials toward achieving a satisfactory resolution to this issue.

CONVENTION

Many of you no doubt saw highlights from the successful Conservative Party of Canada national policy convention held in Montreal last month.

I was one of the delegates from our riding and was joined by Aurora residents Ken Wakeman, Rob Sinclair, Stephen Sommerville, Steve Hinder and Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees.

The Conservative Party emerged from the convention strong, united and ready to offer Canadians a fresh and effective alternative.

ROTARY ANNIVERSARY

Please allow me to extend my congratulations to the Aurora Rotary Club, which recently celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Rotary International. I'll be speaking to members of a combined Aurora-Newmarket Rotary Club meeting Monday, April 25, at the Graystones at 7.30 p.m.

ST. ANDREW'S

Another Aurora institution will also be marking an important anniversary next month.

The #142 St. Andrew's College Highland Cadet Corps will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Saturday, May 7 with a formal military inspection and parade.

Dignitaries in attendance will include Mayor Tim Jones, Chief of York Regional Police Armand La Barge, and special guests from the Canadian Forces.

I'll also be in attendance and am honoured to serve as the Reviewing Officer.

As Reviewing Officer, I will inspect the battalion and will present an award to the top cadet.

I'll also say a few remarks to the battalion, parents and invited guests, expected to number close to 1,000 for this special centenary event.

HARTWELL RUN

This Sunday, April 10, I'll be lacing up my jogging shoes to assist with the Bob Hartwell Runner's Challenge, starting from the Town Park.

We all know what a wonderful community leader Bob was and what a great event this has become.

Once again, the proceeds will be supporting Bob's favourite project, the Community Safety Village of York Region, which is due to open later this spring.

ON-LINE SURVEY

I've launched a new online survey open to all local residents. You can fill out the survey by visiting my website - www.belinda.ca - and clicking on the Survey tab.

It's a quick and easy way to let me know what your priorities are.

In Ottawa, I'm often asked by people I meet to describe our community. I'm proud to call Aurora my home town and I tell people that my fellow residents share that same sense of pride and community spirit - in fact, it's one of the characteristics that makes Aurora such a great place in which to live and work.

If you require assistance with a government matter, please drop into the constituency office or give us a call.

And if you're ever in Ottawa, be sure to call my office - we'd be happy to help you in any way we can during your visit to our nation's capital.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve our community.

RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

A fashion show with a difference

It was in September, 1985, when a fashion show was held in the Newmarket Community Centre to raise funds for the Newmarket Recreation Complex.

The fashion show featured Newmarket Mayor Ray Twinney, Newmarket Councillor John Cole, Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth and Frank Stronach, chairman of Magna International as models.

BUSY PLACE

Aurora must be a municipality full of readers.

During 1994 the Aurora Library had 23,925 users. In the three years since 1991, the circulation of materials had increased by 25 per cent from 305,456 to 381,389.

There was a 13 per cent increase in information service requests from 29,638 to 33,622, but the largest increase at 115 per cent was in the reserve or hold requests jumping from 6,865 to 14,770.

Individual visits increased from 256,464 to 315,226 or 23 per cent.

It was also pointed out that these increases had been achieved in spite of the Monday closing or an 18 per cent reduction in weekly public service hours.

1930 DEPRESSION

It's almost forgotten today but the depression in the early 1930s knocked Canadians to their knees. Unemployment increased from three per cent in 1929 to 30 per cent by 1933.

Farms were foreclosed, especially on the Prairies where crops were lost to drought, hail and grasshoppers.

Farmers were paid a penny a pound for starving cattle.

In four years annual per capita income in Canada fell by nearly half from \$471 to \$247, while total income fell by 90 per cent in Saskatchewan in just two years.

There was no Canada Pension Plan, employment insurance, welfare, family allowance, drought insurance, medicare or job-creation programs.

Unemployed men worked on government projects for six cents a day.

The country was hit as hard physically as it was socially and economically.

Prairie dust storms blocked the sun, stopped trains and suffocated birds in the sky.

Ships' crews far out in the Atlantic swept decks covered in prairie dust.

In 1936 the nation's deadliest heat wave killed 1,180 people, twisted steel rail lines and baked fruit on trees.

For those who lived through it, the memories will never be forgotten.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

In 1965, Aurora Council appointed Len Rosenberg to the York County Hospital board of directors.

Appointments to the Recreation Committee included Cathan Shoniker, Don Glass, Ed Griffith, Dick

Buchanan, W.H. Bell, Dan Morris, Bill Dinsmore, Frank McFalone and Bob Hookings.

For the town's first Committee of Adjustment, council appointed Frank Wims, Gord Stephenson, Alf Child, Lorne Evans, Doug Richardson and Bill Stoddart.

Other appointments included Alf Bolsby, Ken Bennett and Jim Wilson to the Aurora Memorial Arena Board and Mrs. A. Hess to the Aurora Library Board.

SPCA PULLS SHELTER

Back in 1969, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) had contracts with Aurora and most of the surrounding municipalities for canine control.

At that time the Society operated an animal control centre on Industry Street at the southwest corner of Mary Street, near the entrance to Sheppard's Bush.

In 1969, the Society advised Aurora Council that the contract to operate the shelter would be terminated at the end of the year.

The reason given was that the province had enacted legislation which did not exempt the Society from giving up impounded animals for research.

Council decided to take a wait-and-see attitude to the dogfight between the SPCA's Tom Hughes and the provincial government and tabled the information until September.

The Society suggested that participating municipalities appoint members to a joint committee to discuss the future of the society's facility in Aurora.

Aurora Council decided that if the society was firm in its decision to close the shelter, council would consider acquiring it and continue to operate it in conjunction with the other municipalities on a cost-shared basis.

In November, 1974, the Society once again threatened to cancel its services operating out of the Aurora shelter effective January 1, 1975 unless the municipalities agreed to a 56 per cent rate increase from 80 cents to \$1.25 per capita.

Council was divided on which course to take with some members supporting the society and others wanting to go on their own.

Staff was directed to obtain information from private firms as regarding rates and control programs.

In 1976 council signed a contract with Kennel Inn for the provision of animal control services on a year-to-year basis which is still in effect.

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The Aurora Chamber of Commerce presents

Meet & Greet with
Dora the Explorer

Saturday, April 23rd between 11am - 2pm.

The opportunity to take your child's photograph with Dora is included in the price of adult admission to the Home Show (children under 12 accompanied by an adult are free). This offer is limited to the first 600 children.

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)