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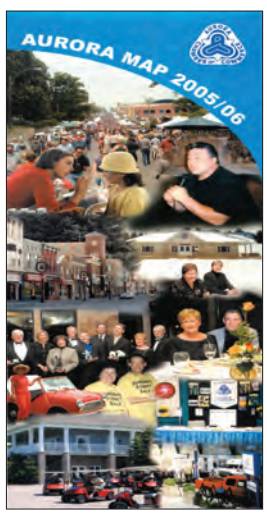
Vol. 5 No. 27 | Week of April 26, 2005 | 905-727-3300

Briefly

Map inside

Inside your Auroran today, you will find a copy of the latest Aurora street map, courtesy of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. If the map is not included with your paper, please call us at 905-727-3300.



Seniors at it again

Probably the most active group in Aurora, the town's senior citizens continue fund-raising for their new building with a dance later this month.

On Friday, April 29, the seniors will hold a 'Spring Fling' dance from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. and participants are invited to dress in their brightest and gaudiest spring colours with hats, bowties and braces.

It'll cost members $3 to get in ($3.50 if you'd like to be a member) and the admission includes prizes, snacks, some food and big band dance music.

Singles are welcome.

Doors at the Seniors' Centre on Victoria Street open at 7.30 p.m., and seating is limited.

Seniors are hoping it won't be quite so limited once they get in their new building, currently under construction.

Speaking of seniors

If you're over 55 and interested in participating in the York Region Games, check at the Aurora Town Hall for further information.

The games are scheduled to begin May 24 and continue through June 15.

Closing date for entry is May 14.

Competition exists in golf, tennis, snooker, bocce, darts, horseshoes, euchre, swimming and other related sports.

Further information is also available at www.cybersenior2000.com/yorkregion.

Fab Four again

Perhaps The Fab Four Beatles band should change its name to The Aurora Four.

Already slated to appear in Aurora May 14, the popular group will return to town Saturday, June 11, as part of the Aurora Fair Family Fun Night.

The group appeared in Aurora last year in the town's Concert in the Park series, and was a big hit at the Dance in the Park event last June 30.

They'll help the Aurora Optimists celebrate their 20th anniversary on May 14, then join the Aurora Agricultural Society for Horse Show festivities in June.

That June night will also feature the finals of the Aurora Idol competition, the finals of the Aurora Ambassador competition, a beer garden, lots of great food, face painting and a "balloon clown".

Learning Garden

This Friday, the opening ceremony and initial dig of Regency Acres Public School's Environmental Learning Garden will take place.

Students, teachers, parents and community partners will participate in the event, scheduled to begin at 9.15 a.m.

Northland approved once more

Last December a representative from Northland Power outlined to Aurora Council the merits of providing extra power to York Region's northern hydro supply.

The proposal was to construct and operate a 300-megawatt gas-fired peaking facility which would run on gas-fired turbines.

It was noted the generator station could defer the proposed controversial transmission line for up to 10 years, with the scheduled opening of the facility by December, 2006.

Council received the delegation and presentation and referred it to staff to review.

In the meantime, Aurora announced that Aurora Hydro had been sold to PowerStream, Inc., a utility serving Vaughan, Markham and Richmond Hill and controlled by Vaughan and Markham.

In a report to last week's general committee, staff pointed out that there didn't appear to be any downside to Aurora's endorsement of Northland Power, providing the company undertakes all environmental work necessary to receive approvals and that there are no capital or operating costs in the proposal for Aurora.

Councillor Ron Wallace noted that Northland Power had arranged for three Newmarket councillors to visit a similar plant the company operates in Iroquois Falls and wondered why Aurora councillors weren't invited. He supported the proposal as a great idea.

Councillor Evelyn Buck disagreed.

She said she understood Northland Power was an investment group and questioned whether it was an operator or an investor raising funds for the proposed plant. She said Aurora should not become involved.

Councillor John West supported the endorsement, claiming there was nothing wrong with it as it could help Aurora in the long run.

Due to Buck's question as to whether Northland was an operator or an investor, Wallace suggested a Northland representative be invited back to council to explain.

Please see page 12

Incoming Aurora Chamber of Commerce President Steve Forsey and his three children, Carolyn, 6, left, Alison, 4, and Laura, 10, met with Dora the Explorer Saturday at the 19th annual chamber Home Show. Crowds were enormous and children waited patiently for the chance to meet the popular television star and have their pictures taken. Dora was a highlight of the three-day show which ended Sunday.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Town should shine after this Saturday

This this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. , Mayor Tim Jones invites all Aurorans to join in a massive Anti-Litter Day to clean up the town after the long drawn-out winter.

Citizens can get together to collect litter and debris off their street, a neighbourhood park or wherever there is a need.

If citizens can't think of a suitable spot that needs cleaning up they can call Info Aurora at the town office for a list of hot spots in the town that need a clean up.

Anti-litter kits are also available.

All Grade 4 students in Aurora have been encouraged to design an anti-litter poster with the winner being announced at the Mayor's Bar-B-Q in the Town Park between 4 and 6 p.m., assisted by M & M Meats and Topper's Pizza.

All participants are invited to the Bar-B-Q after their day's contribution to help make Aurora beautiful.

The anti-litter campaign is not

Please see page 3

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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.

* * * *

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

* * * *

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.

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.

* * * *

Opening night for Theatre Aurora's comedy/farce by Ray Cooney "Out of Order". Continues on April 30, May 4 to 7 and 11 to 14. Call 905-727-3669 for tickets.

* * * *

Also opening is the dinner theatre production of "Apologies Accepted" in the newly redecorated Queen Elizabeth Ballroom of the Howard Johnson Hotel. Continues Friday and Saturday nights during May. Call 905-727-1312 for reservations.

* * * *

Nite at the Movies for 14 to 17 year-olds from 8 to 10 p.m. at the Aurora Library. Featured movie is "The Whole Ten Yards". Cost is $3 per person and pizza will be served. For more information call 905-726-4760.

APRIL 29/30, MAY 1

Art Aurora presents its 43rd Annual Juried Art Show and Sale at the Town Hall. Open Friday from 7 to 10 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

APRIL 30

York Symphony Orchestra presents "Pictures at an Exhibition" at Trinity Anglican Church at 8 p.m. with guest artist pianist Michael Berkovsky. Call 905-410-0860 for ticket information.

* * * *

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 Senior Centre.

* * * *

Dinner and a movie for 11 to 14 year-olds at the Aurora Public Library from 7 to 9 p.m. Movie is "Johnson Family Vacation". Cost is $3 per person including pizza. Call 905-726-4760 for further information.

MAY 1

Hospice King-Aurora 3rd annual Hike for Hospice takes place at Fairy Lake in Newmarket. Call 905-773-0155 for further information.

* * * *

Deadline for nominations for Aurora's Citizen of the Year with the winner being announced June 1 at the Town Hall. Open to all citizens of Aurora 16 years of age and older, with the exception of elected members of council. Submit nominations to the Town Hall, c/o of the Mayor.

MAY 2

Blood Donor Clinic at Our Lady of Grace Church, 16 Catherine Avenue, from 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

* * * *

Aurora Food Pantry Annual General Meeting at the pantry 15213 Yonge Street (basement of building with clock tower) at 7.30 p.m. Anyone interested in the work of the Food Pantry is welcome to attend.

* * * *

Buddhism: A Philosophy for Living seminar (Part 1) at the Aurora Public Library, Lebovic Room. Free Admission. 6.45 p.m. to 8.15 p.m. Part 2 on Monday, May 9, from 6.45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

MAY 3

Ontario Safety League Babysitting Course every Tuesday from today to May 31 from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. at the Leisure Complex. Cost is $45 for the five weeks. Call 905-841-7529 for details.

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 5

The Aurora Public Library, with FOCUS, York Region Learning Connections, presents "Steps To A New Career", a free workshop for women. 9.30 to 11.30 a.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

MAY 6

Blood Donor Clinic at the Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive, from 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

MAY 7

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society annual plant sale at the Aurora Public Library, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

MAY 8

Luncheon at Hillary House. Noon to 2 p.m. $15 per person. Call 905-727-4015 or 905-727-8991 for reservations.

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.

* * * *

National Charity BBQ Day at M & M Meat Shop on Yonge Street from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Music, children's entertainment and other activities planned. Proceeds to the Cohns and Colitis Foundation of Canada. Further information at 905-727-1250.

MAY 17

Devotional meeting sponsored by the Bahai's of Aurora at Aurora Public Library at 7.30 p.m.

MAY 25

Aurora Public Library hosts "Analyzing A Series Of Dreams", part 2, with Stephen Crowther, from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. in the Lebovic Room. Registration is limited. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

MAY 30

Lake Scugog Cruise and Casino visit for the Aurora Seniors with the day beginning at the Great Blue Heron Casino in Port Perry. 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.

MAY 31

Aurora Public Library hosts a creative writing workshop with Aurora author and instructor Marnie Maguire. 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. in the Marjorie Andrews Room. Registration is limited to 15. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

JUNE 1

Surfing and Searching - a basic overview of navigating the internet free seminar presented by Aurora Cable Internet and The Aurora Public Library at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room at the library. To reserve, call 905-727-9493 or visit www.aci.on.ca.

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 8

Third annual Charity Golf Classic tournament, sponsored by Aurora's Women's Centre of York Region takes place at the Briars in Jackson's Point. To register call Golf Tournament Co-ordinator Shelley Lundquist at 905-727-5837, extension 107.

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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Practising for Saturday's anti-litter day, this foursome got right into it near Sheppard's Bush last week. Cleaning up the area are, left to right, Aurora's Marketing and Communications co-ordinator Kristen Yemm; Mayor Tim Jones; Aaron Karmazyn from Leisure Services; and Karen Oreto from Info Aurora. All will be in action this week as hundreds of volunteers scrub the town clean.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Town gets a cleaning Saturday

From page 1

new to Aurora but is a carryover

from previous years which were most successful.

In an effort to make the public more aware of the problems associated with littering and in an attempt to clean up the dirt and debris left from the winter months, council proclaimed years ago "Pitch-In Days".

Students were encouraged to clean up around the schools. Service clubs were asked to adopt a park and clean it up.

The Chamber of Commerce and the business associations were requested to contact their members and encourage them to clean up around their place of business.

In 2003, Aurora Council agreed to join Mississauga in a joint GTA Anti-Litter Campaign so that a consistent anti-litter message would be delivered across the GTA.

Although council members supported participation in the campaign, members of council had some interesting comments.

Councillor Ron Wallace, a former school trustee, suggested that if students of Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School wanted to obtain their 40 hours of community service to graduate, they could clean up Dunning Avenue in front of the school.

He described it as a disaster area following the melting of the snow. Other councillors made similar remarks about other problem areas.

Some members of council said the campaign was a waste of money as parents should assume responsibility for their children.

In May, 2003, Sgt. Heidi Schellhorn of the York Regional Police, a resident of Aurora, arranged for a number of her colleagues from the Police Service to pick up litter along bordering sideroads.

Many other citizens of Aurora pitched in and picked up litter in various parts of the municipality

The next year the town held the first of four pick up days and more than 500 residents participated.

The Grade 4 class at Highview Public School picked up the challenge and held a poster design contest won by Sean Nishimura.

Grade 4 teacher Colleen Davidson arranged the poster contest and in June 2004 attended the council meeting with her students who brought along their posters making the council chambers look like an art gallery.

The poster was used to promote last year's anti-litter days held in May, June and September.

Based on the successful efforts of the past, Mayor Jones is looking for a real effort this weekend to make Aurora beautiful.

Police seek pair after home hit

York Regional Police hold-up squad is seeking the public's help identifying and apprehending two suspects responsible for a home-invasion robbery that occurred last week in Aurora's south end.

Just after 9 p.m., last Tuesday night, two armed men entered a Ridge Road home and demanded cash from the 48-year-old homeowner, who was alone at the time.

The victim was taken to one of the bedrooms which the suspects searched.

After locating a quantity of cash and jewellery, the pair fled from the residence in an unknown direction.

The victim, although shaken, was not hurt during the attack.

Police are looking for two men, possibly Filipino, 5'4", average build, wearing all black, armed with handguns.

Anyone with information is asked to call York Regional Police at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7873, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS, or leave an anonymous tip online at www.crimestoppersyr.ca.

Two garages burn

York Central Fire Services were kept busy in Aurora last week fighting two separate garage fires.

The first broke out at 42 Tyler Street last Monday night and officials suspect the blaze was caused by a linseed oil-soaked rag.

It took 18 firefighters about 20 minutes to bring the fire under control.

Damage is estimated at $5,000.

A second garage fire caused more than $100,000 damage when flames broke out in the structure at 185 Murray Drive Thursday night.

Again, officials believe the fire was started by spontaneous combustion, noting a pile of wet leaves stored in one corner of the garage.

Some 20 firefighters worked for more than an hour to put the fire out.

There were no injuries in either incident.

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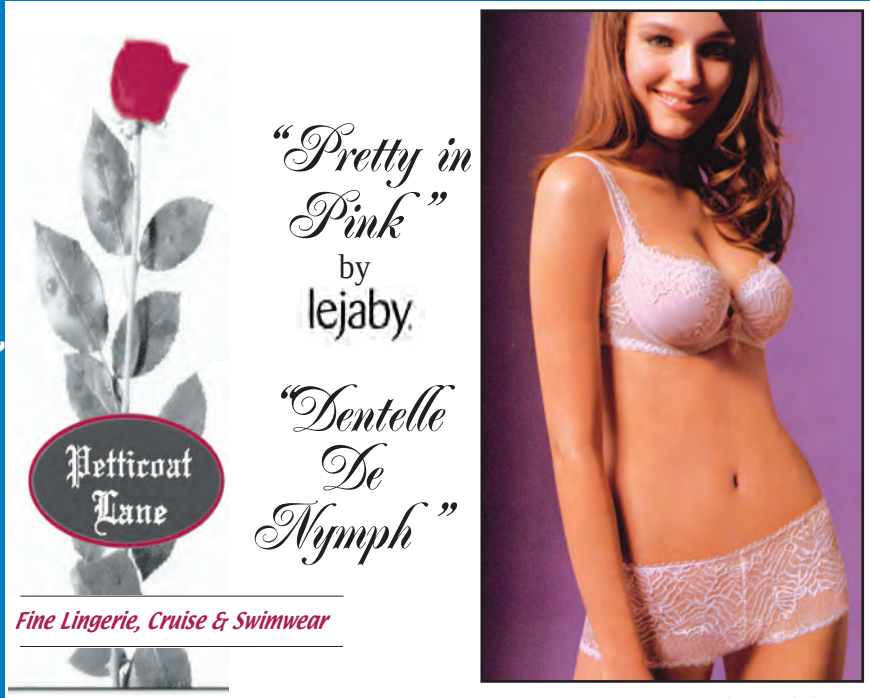

2 Orchard Heights Blvd., St. Andrew's Shopping Centre **841-0654**
DIAMOND TEA SPANX PIEGE

Poor Richard

Sign bylaw constantly is ignored

Signs to the right of me,
Signs to the left of me;
Unless council controls them,
There'll be nothing left to see!
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

The Ontario Municipal Act provides municipal councils with considerable powers in prohibiting or regulating signs and other advertising devices.

Merchants claim they need the signs and advertising to help them promote business, especially a new business, a change in management, or a sale.

Citizens want a clean, esthetic streetscape and an end to what is termed visual pollution, which places council right in the middle.

In August, 1969, at the suggestion of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, council of the day adopted a bylaw setting minimum standards for signs outside buildings and requiring town approval for signs.

In addition, new signs overhanging the street in front of the business were banned in order to improve the streetscape, and existing overhanging signs were to be phased out.

In October, 1980, a new sign bylaw was adopted, which was quite specific in limiting the number and type of signs per premise.

One section of the bylaw stipulated that one trailer or mobile sign could be used on a lot to advertise a special event such as a grand opening.

Maximum permitted time per event was 30 days and there was a limit of one sign per premises every six month period.

A $200 letter of credit was required to ensure the sign was removed on time.

This was the section of the bylaw that was the most controversial. Businesses complained to council that if they were forced to remove their mobile signs, business would suffer.

Council enforced the bylaw.

Another section of the bylaw, which caused problems especially on Yonge Street was the portable or "A"-type signs.

They were not allowed except to advertise a special event, a charity or public service group.

In June, 1983, several complaints were received about "A" signs in the downtown area.

Merchants were advised to remove the signs, but claimed their business dropped after their removal.

The Downtown BIA (Business Improvement Area) merchants asked council to amend the bylaw to permit limited display on the sidewalk in such a manner that pedestrian traffic would not be obstructed.

While council members were sympathetic to the plight of the businessmen, there was a concern about the town's liability if a citizen should trip and fall as a result of a sidewalk sign. That resulted in a bylaw review.

The bylaw has been amended time after time, but regardless of the provisions of the bylaw, requests for variances to the bylaw are routinely approved by council, making one wonder why they bother to have a sign bylaw.

In December, 2002, council reluctantly approved a sign variance for the Beer Store in the Aurora Shopping Centre to project above the roofline as council members were concerned it would set a precedent.

Within a few months similar requests were received from several box store operators, including Home Depot, Sobey's, Zellers and more recently Shoppers Drug Mart.

All were approved without comment or debate as the precedent had been set.

Shoppers Drug Mart on Bayview Avenue requested an additional variance.

The store included four false windows on the east side for what officials call lifestyle pictures, not advertising, but it's contrary to the bylaw.

Council wisely deferred the request for two weeks to obtain more information, but if approved there would be nothing to stop an adult entertainment parlour from advertising their wares on an exterior wall.

You can't say yes to one and no to another.

But sometimes council does just that.

In January, 2003, Hakim Optical requested a variance to place the company logo, a pair of glasses, on the tower of the shopping complex at Murray Drive and Yonge Street, which was denied.

Later, Winners made a similar request which was approved.

So, in Aurora, if you're big you get it and if you're small forget it.

You should see a repeat of this photo in the next couple of weeks. This one was taken in May, 1948, and shows the 142 St. Andrew's College Highlander Cadet Corps marching on Yonge Street. This year, as part of the 100th Anniversary celebrations of the Corps, there will be a Freedom of the Town Parade in Aurora on Wednesday, May 4, and the ceremony involved shouldn't be missed.

Letters to the Editor

"Proud to be Liberal": Martha

To the editor,

These are tough times to be a Liberal.

In the last week or so I have been counselled, even asked, informally, to 'cross over' to the Conservatives.

Many people see a good fit - they know me as a business woman, and fairly 'conservative' with regard to fiscal and economic policy. Others want to see me elected to Parliament, regardless of party politics, because they respect my record and what I stand for.

And given the current Liberal fortunes, they worry about my chances in the next election.

But my answer is this: I am very, very proud to be a Liberal.

Don't get me wrong - I am as angry as anyone at what is being revealed at the Gomery inquiry.

I'm ashamed that some of those involved have been Liberals.

I have long and loudly urged that the whole truth be found and that those responsible be punished.

If my party benefitted from any ill-gotten money, it must be repaid.

But I will not let a few corrupt people and their past actions damage what I stand for, and what the Liberal Party stands for.

It is wrong to tar, with the stain of a few, all the honest, hard-working Liberal volunteers in this riding, and in this country.

In an age of increasing apathy, these volunteers - indeed those of all political parties - deserve our respect and our thanks for participating in the process and for trying to make Canada a better place.

The whole cannot be blamed for the actions of a few; were that the case, no political party would be exempt.

I am proud to be a Liberal because I believe that Liberal policies and values are the ones to take this country successfully into the future, economically and socially.

I'm proud that my party, and my Prime Minister, insisted on a full inquiry, in addition to criminal charges, to find the truth, despite the potentially damaging political consequences.

We are not perfect. We have made mistakes - politics is a human endeavour. Nor have we accomplished all that we wanted to.

A democracy is, of necessity, an exercise in compromise, so it's harder, and takes longer, to get things done.

But despite what some in the media may have us believe, there are many politicians in this country, of all parties, who have made significant financial and personal sacrifice to do what they have done - people who have worked hard to accomplish good for us all, with honesty and integrity.

They may not have been perfect in either their views or execution, but they have done it for the right reasons.

I hope, someday soon, to try to fill some of those shoes.

It is time that we all, instead of looking backward, insist on electing people for the future who promise, simply, to work hard, with ability, honesty and integrity.

Our campaign slogan is "Raise the Bar".

I challenge everyone in Aurora and Newmarket to join us in raising that bar as high as we can.

Martha Hall Findlay
Newmarket

Recycling education needs improvement

To the editor,

Have you noticed the large number of clear plastic bags, full of leaves and yard debris, sitting by the roadside this year?

According to the 2005 Waste and Recycling Calendar, these bags will not be accepted for yard waste pick-up.

Now, leaves will only be picked up in kraft paper yard waste bags, or in a yard waste box, or any rigid open top container.

It seems the public is unaware of this new regulation and many clear plastic bags of leaves are not picked up and dot the sides of the roadways in town.

This setting is an eyesore. I'm bagged out!

It seems that the public attitude for recycling yard waste is positive; however, people continue to get mixed messages at the local hardware stores, since the clear plastic bags are still being advertised and sold for recycling purposes.

Perhaps a better educational program, on cable 10 TV, and through the local newspapers could be started to make people aware of this new policy for recycling yard waste.

Jim Jackson
Aurora

AURORAN

"Aurora's Community Newspaper"

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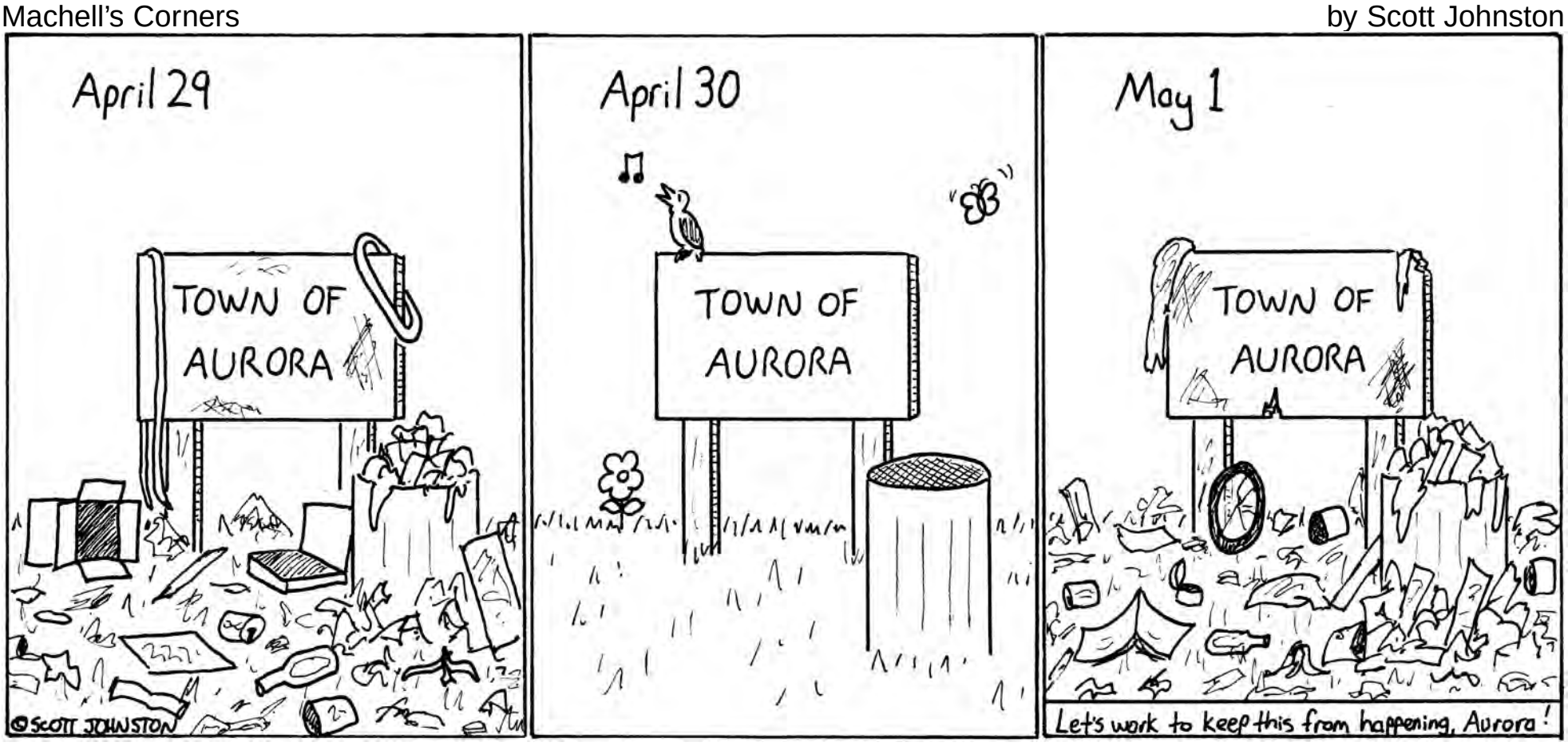
Machell's Corners

by Scott Johnston



Mayor's Report
By Tim Jones

Aurora Day at Ontario Place

Mark Saturday, June 18, in your calendars!

This day has been designated "AURORA DAY" at Ontario Place.

This event got its start when Councillor Evelyn Buck expressed her desire to celebrate Aurora, who we are and how we got to be the way we are, specifically through the conscious efforts of our planner Sue Seibert and the diligent work of past councils, staff and residents.

At the same time, Kristen Yemm, our Marketing and Communications Co-ordinator, was approached by Ontario Place to determine if we would be interested in having an Aurora Day at Ontario Place - the connection was made and the plan was started!

A small committee of staff and council got together to identify what our objectives would be for this day.

Of course, we want to bring focus to our Town and who we are in this wonderfully active setting. This meant facilitating affordable access to the site for the day.

Working with David Marskell and resident Kelley Mathews, both of Ontario Place, we arrived at a reduced fee of "2 for 1" on a 'PLAY ALL DAY PASS' admission.

This means instead of $30 a person, the cost for Aurora residents is only $15 a person for an all inclusive pass for Ontario Place.

This special rate can be obtained with a coupon which will be available on the Town's web site, at the Home Show - Town of Aurora Booth, several other selected locations in Aurora including Info Aurora and in The Auroran newspaper.

To help promote this special day, we are running a visual arts and creative writing contest with the theme "WHAT I LOVE ABOUT AURORA".

Entry categories are for 0-5 years, 6-8 years, 9-11 years, 12-14 years, and 15-18 years of age.

The guidelines are simple. Write up to 300 words on what you love about Aurora, OR, create a work of art demonstrating what you love about Aurora.

A total of 10 winners will be chosen, each of whom will receive a free Ontario Place family pass (value $120) for June 18, a pizza party with me, a one year's supply of free pizza courtesy of Topper's Pizza, and two free Cineplex Odeon movie passes for Aurora's new movie theatre coming this Fall.

The winners' essays and art will be published in The Auroran and recognized in the "Aurora" area, Festival Square, at Ontario Place June 18.

My thanks to Avant Imaging and Information Management Inc. Aurora for assisting us with the contest flyer, Topper's Pizza, Cineplex Odeon, Ontario Place and The Auroran for their roles in supporting the committee to realize our first AURORA DAY at Ontario Place.

We have also reached out to Chartwell Seniors Housing to join with us, along with the Society of York Region Artists, Theatre Aurora, Foxy 88.5 radio and Pine Tree Potters.

We are also able to have a limited number of community groups in Aurora who may wish to demonstrate their skills, talents and services in the space that Ontario Place has designated for Aurora. Again, please call if you would be interested in participating on this day.

To date the Aurora Historical Society and some entertainers have indicated their desire to participate with us.

Groups displaying or entertaining will be given free admission for the day.

We are also looking for sponsors for this event who would like to showcase their specific Aurora products, i.e. homes, and have approached realty companies and builders in the Aurora area with the opportunity to exhibit June 18 for a fee.

I am pleased to announce that Ballymore Building Corp, Royalcliff Homes, Starlane Home Corporation, Greenpark Homes and Monet Gardens have already committed to either be present at Aurora Day or donate to its success.

If you are interested in participating or sponsoring, I would welcome your call at 905-727-3123 Ex. 4741.

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

Super-she returns

I am now beginning to realize that "Super-She Dragon Mom" is seasonal employment.

The decline in demand appears to coincide with the school year, when two thirds of my brood flies west in pursuit of higher education, and there is an abundance of peace and quiet that directly correlates to a shortage of big kids forced to inhabit small spaces.

In other words, it's really hard for kids to fight when there is only one of them.

But, now is not the slow season.

One of my girls (a.k.a. "Little-She") is home for the summer, and the other "Little-She" is due back this week.

Two times Little-She equals big heaps.

Hence, nuclear scale bickering appears imminent as mountains of laundry lay exposed, and the vulnerable hand washables run the risk of being inadvertently fed to the washer, before reaching melting point in the innocent looking weapon of mass destruction (not to mention shrinkage), the dryer.

Someday, I'm going to put my tax bill in there, just to see what happens.

In the meantime, it occurs to me that teaching my son to do laundry may not have been such a brilliant idea after all.

He's going out but alas, he has no clean clothes…again.

Worse than that, it's not his turn to declare dominion over the laundry room. Little-She reigns supreme at this hour.

I calculate the risk as I scramble to assemble my superhero duds.

Oh-oh. One of my trademark socks is missing - the one that looks like a polar fleece toque.

Something ate it. From where I'm standing, the washing machine looks guilty, but the dog looks guiltier. Sometimes I forget to feed Jake.

At such times, the master of the house comes home from work, and Jake rushes up to greet him most enthusiastically…laying his bowl at Damir's feet. The dog is a snitch.

Hey, I get busy with community service in the summer.

My volunteer work includes preventing Aurora from becoming a crater that anthropologists will someday study under the heading: "Super-She Dragon Mom and Other Coping Mechanisms of 21st Century Aurora."

And thanks to Jake, here I am trying to save the world with only one sock.

It's hard to feel whole and complete with only one sock.

How am I going to pull off my superhero grand entrance, i.e. slide into the laundry room, seeming to appear out of nowhere…with only one sock?

What if I lose my balance and land face first in a pile of…socks?

I deem the risk too great and decide to sneak out the back door.

An hour later, I make my furtive approach back to the laundry room.

What a sight!

His clothes are in the dryer, hers are neatly folded on top of the dryer.

There are no holes in the walls, no signs of struggle, and no emergency vehicles flashing lights in the driveway. My jaw drops…into a pile of socks.

Little-She slides into the laundry room, seeming to appear out of nowhere.

"Oh, there you are, mom!"

I pick up my jaw and spit out a Fleecy sheet.

"Okay, what happened?" I motion suspiciously at the peaceful operations of the laundry room. Little-She smiles.

I feel the urge to shout: "What did you do with my son?"

I suspect she strangled him with one of her delicate hand washables.

"We negotiated. He had a Toblerone bar. Now, I have a Toblerone bar." Little-She smiles wider. "Oh, and I found your sock."

"My sock?"

"Your polar fleece sock - the one that looks like a toque? It's hanging from your lip."

I am now beginning to realize that Super-She Dragon Mom might be…out of a job.

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

Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Scott Somerville, Aurora's interim CAO for the past several months, who came in on very short notice and held the fort in a most capable manner while council searched for and hired a permanent CAO. At his last meeting, Scott told council the town has a fabulous and loyal staff.

BRICKBATS to Aurora Council for failing to explain why it is necessary for Paul Dillan, Deputy Treasurer, to fill in due to the absence of Treasurer Jim Carey over the past several weeks. Carey was appointed to town staff in May, 2004. The public has a right to know!

More **BRICKBATS** to the same council for not releasing details about the loss of staff over the past several months and the amount taxpayers had to pay in severances and the reasons why they left or were asked to leave. The public has a right to know!

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Optimist Club on their 20th anniversary and for the service the club has provided to the community over the years. As a Friend of Youth, Optimists provide local programs such as Optimist Hockey, Chess, Minor Ball, Santa Claus Parade and Aurora Girls Hockey to name a few.

BRICKBATS to those at the town or the region, or both, for spending money to build a boardwalk on the north side of the St. John's Sideroad when reconstruction of the roadway is complete to view this unique area and not make any accommodation for visitors to park their cars.

BOUQUETS to Rosemary Schumaker on her 60th birthday which she celebrated at a surprise birthday party with her family and many friends.

BRICKBATS to a justice system that permits Stan Koebel, the bumbling water manager whose negligence led to Walkerton's deadly E. coli outbreak to be freed from jail after serving less than four months of a one-year sentence, in order that he can accept a job in a new community. The Walkerton tragedy of May, 2000, killed seven and made thousands sick.

More **BRICKBATS** to the same justice system that awarded a rookie Toronto cop who killed an elderly woman when he made an improper right turn from the left turn lane and has to give up 40 hours' pay as a result of charges under the Police Act. He was fined $500 last summer when he pleaded guilty in court. It's a cheap price for a life!

BOUQUETS to Newmarket/Aurora MP Belinda Stronach on being selected the Best Dressed Female according to the 13th annual Hill Times survey. MP Peter MacKay retained the title of Sexiest MP for the seventh year in a row but lost the Best Dressed Male MP to Public Works Minister Scott Brison.

BRICKBATS to those who fail to take action to ensure windows in high rise apartments can be secured in such away they can't be opened by young children. There was another unfortunate case recently of a four year old girl falling eight stories who luckily survived. Other children haven't been as fortunate.

More **BRICKBATS** to those who fail to take action to curtail high speed police chases. The most recent chase involved the death of one passenger and the serious injury of another plus considerable property damage. It all happened because the driver failed to stop for a traffic violation.

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Tigers for battling right through to the 7th game of the semi-finals before going down to defeat at the hands of the Georgetown team, said to be the third best team in Canada. Wait till next year!

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Letters to the Editor

Hydro sale disappoints reader

To the editor,

I am totally disappointed by Aurora Connections sale and purchase by PowerStream Inc., a private for profit company.

More profoundly all the secret and strange dickering behind closed doors and the mayor's post haste (after the fact) articles on contentious issues.

Would not the tried and true procedure through delegate status have been more appropriate?

With reference to the mayor's uncertainty and governance by the Provincial Electricity Act, would not PowerStream be subject to the same or similar act now that we have sold it to them?

Stranger still, while Newmarket and Aurora have been in discussion for some eight months, along comes PowerSteam with an unsolicited offer to buy all the outstanding shares, hokum.

What are the proponents doing making all the privacy rules to the exclusion of all other tenders?

To sell a utility that was bought and paid for by generations of Aurorans is a perverse and distasteful act.

The mayor's remark about the OEB about uncertainty and reliability is a real downer.

All the other referrals about the best deal for the people of Aurora are pure speculation.

Historically many other hydro sales have shown to be frightful as evidenced by Alberta, Great Britain and California.

Can we really expect better?

And what about escalating costs? Before the ink was dry on the contract we got a nine per cent raise.

Council says "it has nothing to do with us". True, certainly not after you have sold it to a private company.

By the way, who are the chief owners of PowerStream?

They are not a numbered company so don't the public have a right to know whom you sold us to?

It would seem the province had a lot to do with the Town's move.

Certainly the savings of a 33% transfer fee is a great inducement.

On the other hand, an old Liberal like Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor did not fall for it.

It appears he knows better how important it is to keep control of one's hydro rate.

The mayor believes bigger is better but if Enron is any example, we are in trouble.

For the benefit of good character and transparency, a full-blown inquiry by Energy Probe or the Sierre group is in order.

Ben Kestein
Aurora

ED.NOTE: PowerStream is owned by the Town of Markham and the City of Vaughan. The nine per cent rate hike was approved prior to the sale to PowerStream.

This group should pay own way: reader

To the editor,

I think it is time when special interest groups want something they pay for the excess cost.

French Immersion costs more per student than public school.

They are like a private school with smaller classes and more teachers per number of students.

The public board and the separate board publish their budgets showing numbers of students, numbers of schools, etc.

A clear picture of where the money is being spent.

I have never seen a budget published on French Immersion or core French schools in York Region.

I wonder why?

It is time we stop spending money on a language that few will use in the future.

We are spending tax dollars to maintain someone else's language.

Let them look after their own language.

Special interest groups should pay their own way.

R.W. Hanes
Aurora

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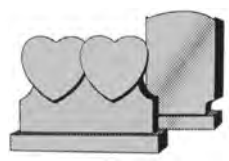

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Williams students awed by European trip

For four teachers, five parents and 30 students from Aurora's Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School, it was a trip to remember.

They visited battlefields of Europe during March Break.

They left March 9 and visited Paris, Amsterdam, Belgium and other interesting European sites.

Some of the more interesting parts of the trip included visits to the Ypres battle site, the D-day beaches and the time spent in Paris, as well as a visit to Napoleon's tombstone.

Last February, Les Kerr, a history teacher at the school, visited Aurora Council to expain the trip and seek financial assistance.

Council agreed to provide the group with Town of Aurora pins and referred the request for funds to the Leisure Services as to eligibility under the grant policy.

Kerr and two students returned to Aurora's general committee last week to describe the trip.

According to Kerr, the students really got a feeling of "Canada's contribution to the war" which is what he was hoping for.

The trip had a profound effect on the students, bonding them as well as changing their outlook on life.

During the two years of preparation for the trip the teacher and students gathered information from the Cenotaph and Legion members about Aurora soldiers, sailors and airmen who lost their lives during both World Wars and were buried in Europe.

By checking on the internet with the Commonwealth Graves Commission they were able to find the location of the graves so that they could visit the cemeteries.

Five cemeteries were visited in France, Holland and Belgium where Aurora servicemen were buried.

Kerr said they were proud to represent Aurora and witness the sacrifice these men had made for Aurora and Canada.

Pictures of the headstones were taken and these will be shown at a special evening at the Aurora Legion next month.

The two students told committee members it was a fabulous trip and one they would always remember.

They spoke about the rows and rows of crosses and the young ages of the soldiers who had given so much.

They also spoke about the architectural style of the old buildings, the friendliness of the people and how the trip made history come alive.

Kerr said it was hoped that the trip could be repeated in two or three years as it took a while for students to raise the money.

Their presentation was received by committee members with thanks.

Colouring contest winners selected

Following is a list of winners from the Elementary School Art Contest, held in conjunction with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Home Show last weekend.

Winner of a bicycle, compliments of the Chamber, was Tristam Lerner of Lester B. Pearson Public School.

Other winners included:

Grade 1 - Natalie Wieland (LBP), first; Madeline Wanless (OLG), second; and Emily Oriotis (LBP), third.

Grade 2 - Natasha Ramsinghani (AM), first; Kyle Hunter (AM), second; Kate Jones (AM), third.

Grade 3 - Tristam Lerner (LBP), first; Adam Pitit (OLG), second; Catherine Perna (OLG), third.

Our Lady of Grace Catholic School will receive a $250 donation from the Chamber for submitting the highest percentage of entries to the contest.

Entries were displayed at the Aurora Community Centre during the three-day Home Show.

CODE: LBP=Lester B. Pearson Public School; AM = Aurora Montesorri; OLG=Our Lady of Grace Catholic School.

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Shrimp Cocktail
~ 12 ~
Hearts of Romaine, Smoked Bacon, Stilton, Soft Egg, Grainy Dressing
~ 9 ~
Mixed Greens, Grape Tomatoes, Chevre, Raspberry Vinaigrette
~ 9 ~
Grilled Calamari, Browned Butter, Olives, Capers, Dried Tomatoes
~ 11 ~
"Panko" Crab Cake, Corn Salsa, Lime & Coriander Jus, Pepper Aioli
~ 13 ~
Fried Oysters, Smoked Bacon, Garlic Spinach, Parsley Salad
~ 14 ~
Smoked Salmon, Sweet Onions, Grainy Mustard Cream
~ 10 ~
Waldorf Salad, Apple, Celery, Grapes, Strawberries, Walnuts, Lemon Vinaigrette, Créme Fraiche
~ 11 ~
Marinated Chicken, Mixed Greens, Tomato, Onion, Carrots, Mozzarella, Blue Cheese Dressing
~ 11 ~
Traditional Eggs Benedict, with Mixed Greens
~ 12 ~
Eggs Florentine, Poached Eggs, Smoked Salmon, Spinach, Mixed Greens
~ 13 ~
Lobster & Chevre Omelette, Warm Asparagus & Hollandise
~ 12 ~
Pepper, Spinach & Goat Cheese Omelette, with Mixed Greens
~ 10 ~
French Toast, Fresh Berry Compote, Créme Fraiche
~ 11 ~
Grilled Striplion, 3 Eggs, Frites
~ 15 ~
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~ 14 ~

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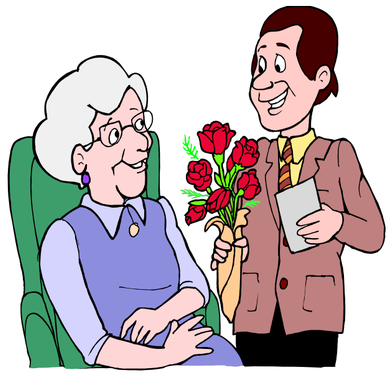

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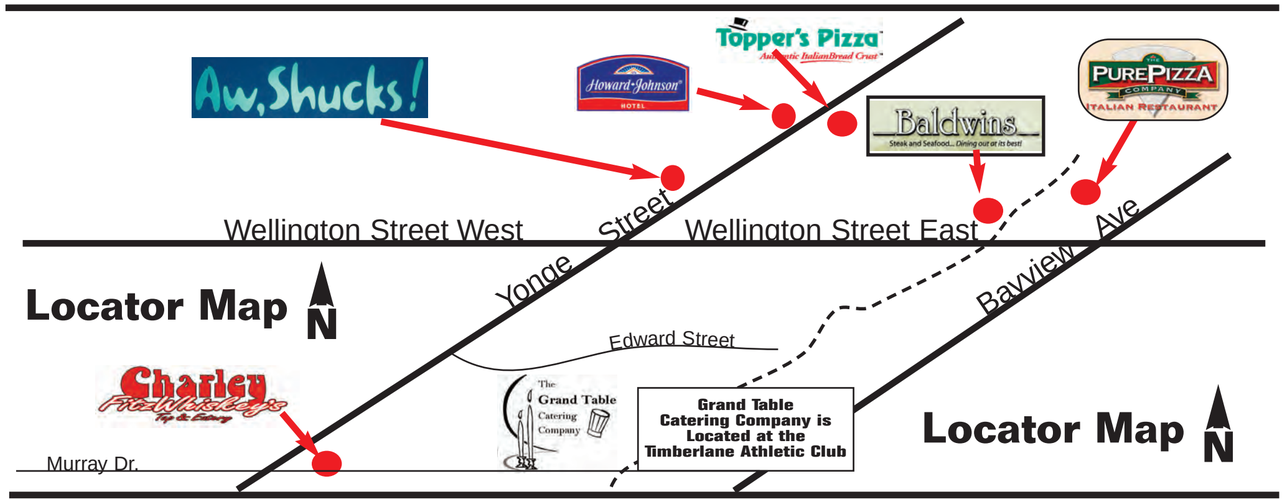

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Laurie Ann Muenzer, Canadian Gold Medal cyclist, is greeted by Aurora Mayor Tim Jones at Cyclissimo Sports & Equipment on Wellington Street East Saturday. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

Aurora Skating Club Results

Following are the results of a recent Aurora Skating Club test day.

Preliminary Dance:
Dutch Waltz: Savannah Hendy.
Baby Blues: Sabrina Brochu, Katrina Thunem, Carley Steiner, Samantha Duncan.
Jr. Bronze Dance:
Swing Dance: Courtney Tidona
Fiesta Tango: Emily O'Conner, Alessia Chiovitti, Zahra Rajan. Alicia Saunders.
Willow Waltz: Hailey McGrath, Emma Schellingerhoud, Austin Bushell, Kaitlin VanWinckle
Sr. Bronze Dance:
Ten Fox: Jihyun Cha, Samantha Galati, Caylin Butler.
Fourteen Step: Taylor McDowell, Alex Woodward.
European Waltz: Malyssa Tidona, Alana Fabbricino.
Jr. Silver Dance:
Keat's Foxtrot: Amber Ciolfe, Amanda Alberton.
American Waltz: Hailey Riggs.
Rocker Foxtrot: Lauren Bellefeuille, Janet deVries.
Sr. Silver Dance:
Paso: Ariel Kwan, Allie Sutton, Julia Ranson.
Starlight Waltz: Amy Bellefeuille.
Blues: Emma Hayzelden, Mackenzie Jordan, Jacqueline Miklovich.
Gold Dance:
Argentine Tango: Maya Goldman, Chelsea Kerr.
Preliminary -Skills: Emily O'Conner, Alessia Chiovitti.
Junior Bronze Skills: Julia Chiovitti, Tayler Sim, Caylin Butler.
Senior Bronze -Skills: Hailey Riggs, Nicole Relke.
Jr. Silver Skills: Emma Slimkowich, Alana Kelly, Stephanie Fonceca, Mackenzie Jordan.
Sr. Silver Skills: Fayme Cockshutt.
Free Skate Elements:
Preliminary: Tejia Rom-Colthoff, Malyssa Tidona.
Senior Bronze: Amanda Jamieson, Jacqueline Miklovich.
Gold Elements: Sarah Gray
Preliminary Solo: Malyssa Tidona, Sophia Perugini, Jihyun Cha, Samantha Galati.
Junior Bronze Solo: Ariel Kwan, Alex Woodward, Lauren Bellefeuille, Alysa Nicols, Jenna Williams, Cierra Snell, Mackenzie Jordan.
Senior Bronze Solo: Christine MacCallum, Amanda Jamieson, Jacqueline Miklovich.
Sr. Silver Solo: Sarah Gray.

Northland

From page 1

Councillor Bill Hogg also expressed concerns about the endorsement and questioned its value for Aurora. He suggested that the report be received, but not endorsed.

Buck came back to the attack by claiming the company was seeking publicity to attract investors and repeated that the town should not become involved.

When the vote was called on the Wallace amendment to invite a Northland representative to attend a council meeting, it was defeated on a 4-3 vote.

A subsequent vote on the main motion to endorse the Northland proposal was adopted.

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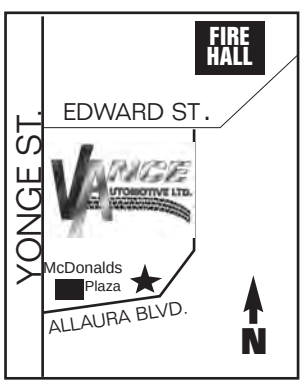

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Hydro meeting agenda not available to public

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Aurora Council published a public notice last week that a special meeting of the shareholders of Borealis Hydro Electric Holdings Inc. would be held following a recent general committee meeting.

Although the meeting was held in public, neither the agenda nor background information was made available to the public or the media.

When this was questioned by this reporter, Mayor Tim Jones replied that the meeting was being held under the Business Corporations Act, not the Municipal Act, and as such it was not necessary to make the information available.

The meeting came about as a result of council assuming the powers of the board of directors last month when council as the shareholders of the utility amended the Shareholder Declaration to provide for the removal of all powers from appointed board of directors and invested those powers in council.

A meeting of council as the shareholder of Borealis Hydro Electric Holdings Inc. was convened following the special council meeting to confirm the action at the council meeting and to appoint the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor as the signing officer on behalf of the shareholder.

In a tersely worded letter to council, George Steeves, Chairman of the Hydro Board for the past three years, submitted his resignation effective April 1 as he was critical of council for its handling of the sale to PowerStream, Inc.

He wrote that in clear conscience he could no longer participate in a process which was not clear and transparent.

He added that the sale did not provide for the long term benefit of the shareholder, the customer or the employees.

At a subsequent meeting, Councillor Damir Vrancic suggested that as council had assumed the powers of the board of directors, action must be taken to decide the fate of the appointed members as soon as possible.

It was also suggested minutes of previous board meetings and financial accounts be made available to members of council.

The first item on the agenda was obviously the minutes of the board of directors which were adopted. It was also agreed to discuss the minutes in camera, as personnel was involved.

The second item was the accounts with the balance sheet as of December 31, 2004.

Questions were asked about more recent statements and it was agreed that unaudited statements would be made available to council members.

Another agenda item was the Share Purchase Agreement which was adopted without comment or discussion.

Councillor Phyllis Morris noted the advertisement regarding the sale published by the Ontario Energy Board requesting comments and said she understood two objections had been submitted.

Former interim CAO Scott Somerville replied that he was aware of one objection and it would be up to the Energy Board to decide if a hearing should be held.

The cost would be the responsibility of PowerStream.

With the business concluded, the meeting was adjourned without making a decision as to the fate of the appointed board of directors, Dan Sooley, Jane Murray, and Calvin White.

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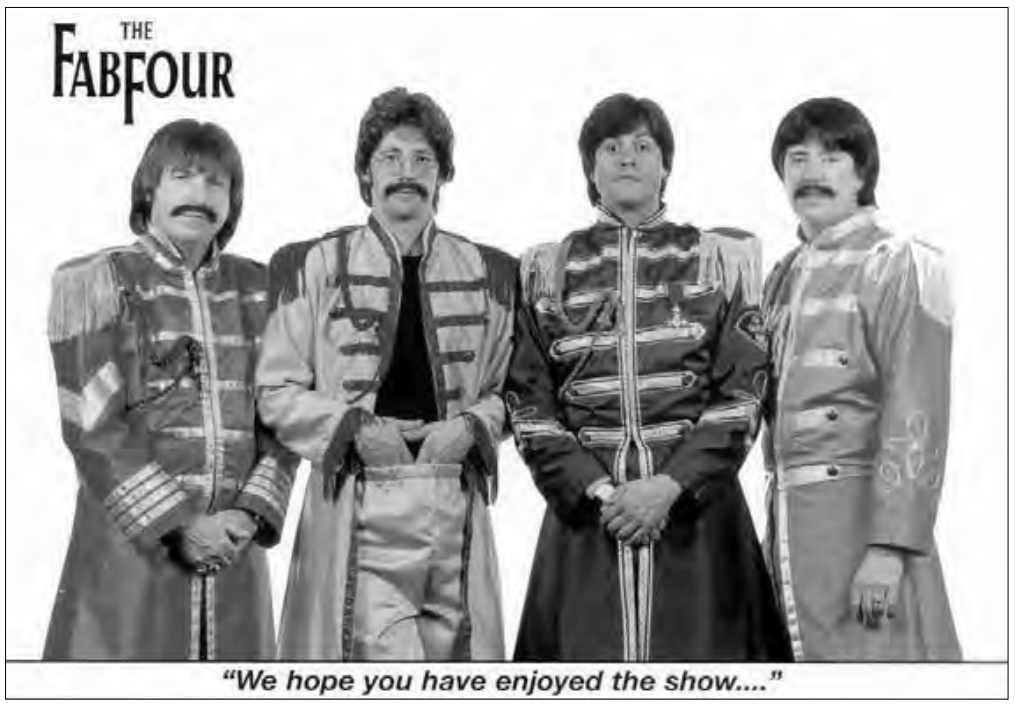

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

What happened to proclamations?

Back in the days when Aurora was a little smaller, local organizations and agencies would come to council and request that a certain day or week be proclaimed such as "Pitch-In Week", "National Wildlife Week" or a hundred other names.

As a public relations gesture, council dutifully published a proclamation in the local paper outlining the name of the week, its purpose, etc. signed by the mayor and paid for at public expense.

Then councils started to realize the cost of the number of proclamations issued over the year and the practice of printing it was stopped, but the proclamation was read in council, and usually posted at the Town Hall.

Whether agencies have stopped asking or their requests are being ignored, but today there is never a request for a proclamation on the agenda.

DIFFERENT CHALLENGES

Mayors of municipalities today face many challenges but none compare with the challenges thrown at mayors several years back.

Back in October, 1970, Lindsay Mayor John Eakins, who later became Minister of Municipal Affairs in the David Peterson Liberal Government, challenged several mayors to participate in the Mayor's Plowing Championship at the International Plowing Match being held in Lindsay.

Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth accepted the challenge even though he had never driven a tractor before, let alone one dragging a plow.

The objective was to drop the plow at a certain point, plow a straight furrow for about 100 yards, turn around and plow another straight furrow beside the first one.

The mission was accomplished wearing a beige coloured coat and a fedora which caused some of the old-timers to scratch their heads at the sight.

He finished, but not with the winners, as the championship was won by East Gwillimbury Mayor Gladys Rolling.

WHEN WOLVES WERE A PROBLEM

Another challenge facing members of council in the early 1970s was the wolf population in and around Aurora and York Region.

Municipalities, usually the more rural ones like King and East Gwillimbury, spent thousands of dollars in claims for sheep killings.

If the sheep were killed by dogs the municipality was responsible, but if killed by wolves, the bill was sent to the province for payment.

In order to determine if the sheep were killed by a dog or a wolf, the municipality had to hire a livestock valuer to determine how the sheep were killed and the amount of damage done.

When was the last time council hired a valuer?

ANOTHER ENDANGERED SPECIES

Back in July, 1993, Rick Stephenson assembled a group of professional musicians from the local area to establish the Endangered Species Big Band of 18 members to ensure that live big band music would never become an endangered species.

They released their first CD in March, 1994, which was self-titled and included the sounds of Basie, Dorsey with vocals by Stephenson in a style reminiscent of Frank Sinatra.

Later the band released another CD featuring Stephenson titled "From One Blue Eyes to Another".

The band played various gigs in jazz clubs and restaurants around the region, anywhere with room for a big band and in November, 1997, played the Newmarket Theatre.

Not much was heard about the Endangered Species Big Band or Rick Stephenson after that and unfortunately we assume they became an endangered species.

EXCURSION TRAIN TO TORONTO

It was in September, 1994, when Aurora's Ron Wallace journeyed to Toronto to make a pitch to the Waterfront Regeneration Trust for an excursion train run to Aurora, historically known as the Head of Rail.

The Trust was considering turning the site of the John Street roundhouse into an historic railway park, and it seemed to Wallace that the park wouldn't be complete unless it had the excursion train to Aurora.

The Trust completed its report and while it's not known what happened to the roundhouse site, the excursion train idea never materialized, but it wasn't for lack of trying.

(ED. NOTE: They tore up the rail leading to the roundhouse. Tough to have a train excursion without tracks.)

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Notice of Public Meeting

Electricity Supply to York Region - Public Consultation Launch

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) invites you to attend a public meeting on the future electricity supply to York Region.

Background
As part of the electricity industry's long-term planning process, the north part of York Region was identified as an area where demand for electricity would soon exceed the capacity of existing facilities. Subsequently, Hydro One recommended that the existing transmission corridor between Parkway Transformer Station (TS) in Markham and Armitage TS in Newmarket be upgraded to accommodate a two-circuit 230 kilovolt transmission line. Hydro One's plan was opposed by affected municipalities, residents and regional school boards. A criticism was that only transmission options were being considered, and generation and demand management options had not been identified. The consultation process was stopped in early 2005.

With the introduction of Bill 100 in the fall of 2004, the Ontario Power Authority was established. OPA's broad mandate is to conduct long-term integrated power system planning for the province of Ontario, and to contract for investment in new generation projects and conservation initiatives to reduce the demand-supply gap for electricity in the province.

OPA's specific mandate for York Region will be to:

- reassess the need for electricity supply in the region
- develop and analyze a broad range of options to fulfill the assessed need, including generation, transmission, distribution and demand management
- conduct a public consultation process to invite public participation in the assessment of a range of options and integrated solutions
- submit OPA recommendations to the Ontario Energy Board

Purpose of Public Meeting
Ontario Power Authority is seeking public participation and would like feedback on the planned public consultation process that allows stakeholders to participate. At this meeting OPA will describe the process, answer questions and invite comments from those in attendance. Please note that Ontario Power Authority staff do not have any recommendations or solutions selected at this time.

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Contact Us for More Information
For information please visit our website at www.powerauthority.on.ca, and click on Power System Planning / Projects / York Region Electricity Supply. Alternatively, a written request can be sent to:

Ontario Power Authority
175 Bloor Street East
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PIANO FOR SALE - 1987 Zimmerman, in perfect condition - have recent appraisal done for $7,500 will sell for $6,000 cash. Call John or Dale 905-773-5134

2 ADJUSTABLE BEDS (Fold away) Electronic Remote control. 39" x 80". $2500 brand new, each - asking $950 ea. Call 416-907-4895

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HELP WANTED

MATURE MALE/FEMALE. With vehicle to assist with general/variety of light work duties. Indoor/outdoor. Some experience required. Please call 905-773-6936. Aurora.

MATURE FEMALE/MALE SALES: Fan & lighting store. Minimum 30 hours per week. Drop off brief resumé. Unit 3 - 220 Industrial Pkwy. S., Hours - Wed - Fri 10 to 6 Sat 10 to 5.

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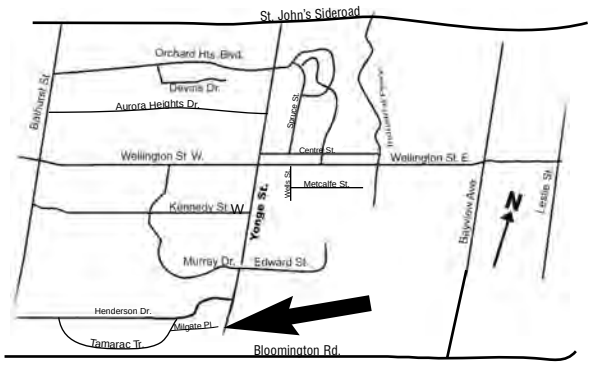
GARAGE/LAWN SALE MAP - FREE!

(FREE TO AURORA RESIDENTS)

Call **905-727-7128** *to advertise your garage/lawn sale*

Milgate Place Street Sale



This garage sale locator map is sponsored by:
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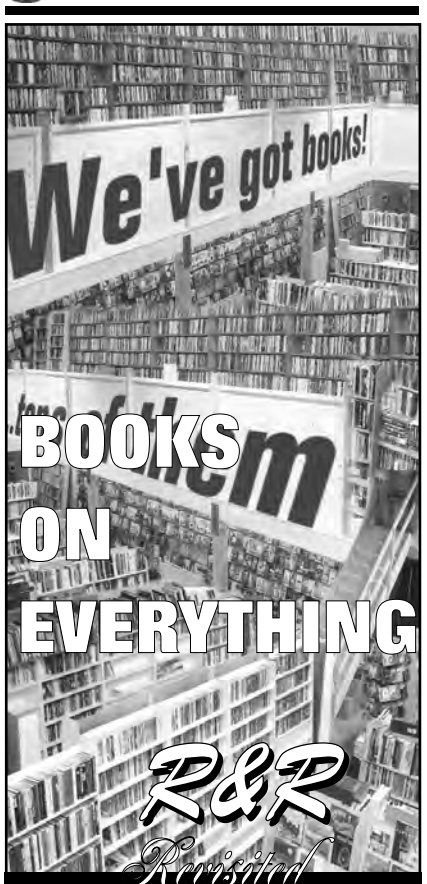
The fifth annual Milgate Place Street Sale is happening April 30th from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Look for the Sean Herbinson Garage Sale Signs for a great sale. Sale is located in the Henderson/Tamarac area.

USED BOOKS



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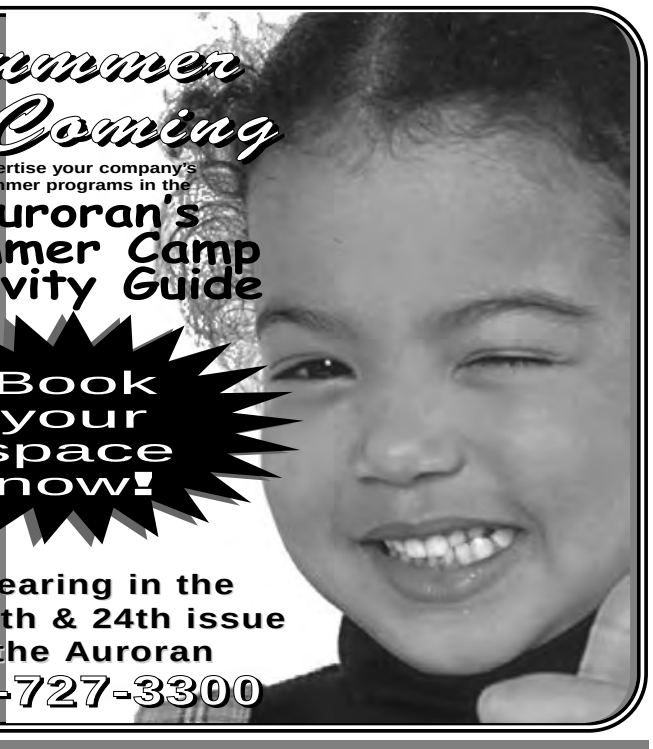
Summer is Coming



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Call: 905-726-1989 to reserve a seat

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Guidelines:

Write up to 300 words on what you love about Aurora OR
Create a work of art demonstrating what you love about Aurora

Entry Categories:

0 - 5 years 6 - 8 years 9 - 11 years 12 - 14 years 15 - 18 years

Winners

A total of 10 winners will be chosen!

One creative writing submission and one visual art submission will be chosen from each entry category

- Winners will be invited to Ontario Place for Aurora Day on June 18th and will receive one FREE Family Pass (4 Play All Day passes = $120 value) to be used on June 18th
- Winners will be honoured at Ontario Place by Mayor Jones as part of Aurora Day celebrations
- Winners will have their creative writing and visual art published in the Auroran Newspaper
- Winners will be invited to attend a Private Pizza Party with the Mayor (date to be determined)
- Winners will receive a 1 (one) year supply of FREE pizza from Topper's Pizza (maximum of 2 pizzas per month/some restrictions apply)
- Winners will receive 2 FREE Movie Passes from Cineplex Odeon Theatres (coming to Aurora this Fall)

ALL ENTRIES MUST CONTAIN:
Full Name of Participant
Age of Participant
Full Mailing Address
Parent or Guardian's Name
Contact # for Parent/Guardian

PLEASE SEND ENTRIES TO:
"What I Love about Aurora"
c/o Town of Aurora, P.O. Box 1000
1 Municipal Drive, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1
Attention: Kristen Yemm
Written submissions may be e-mailed: kyemm@town.aurora.on.ca

Entry Deadline: Friday, June 3, 2005 at 4:30 p.m. Participants must be residents of Aurora.

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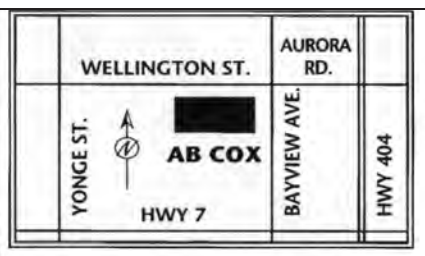

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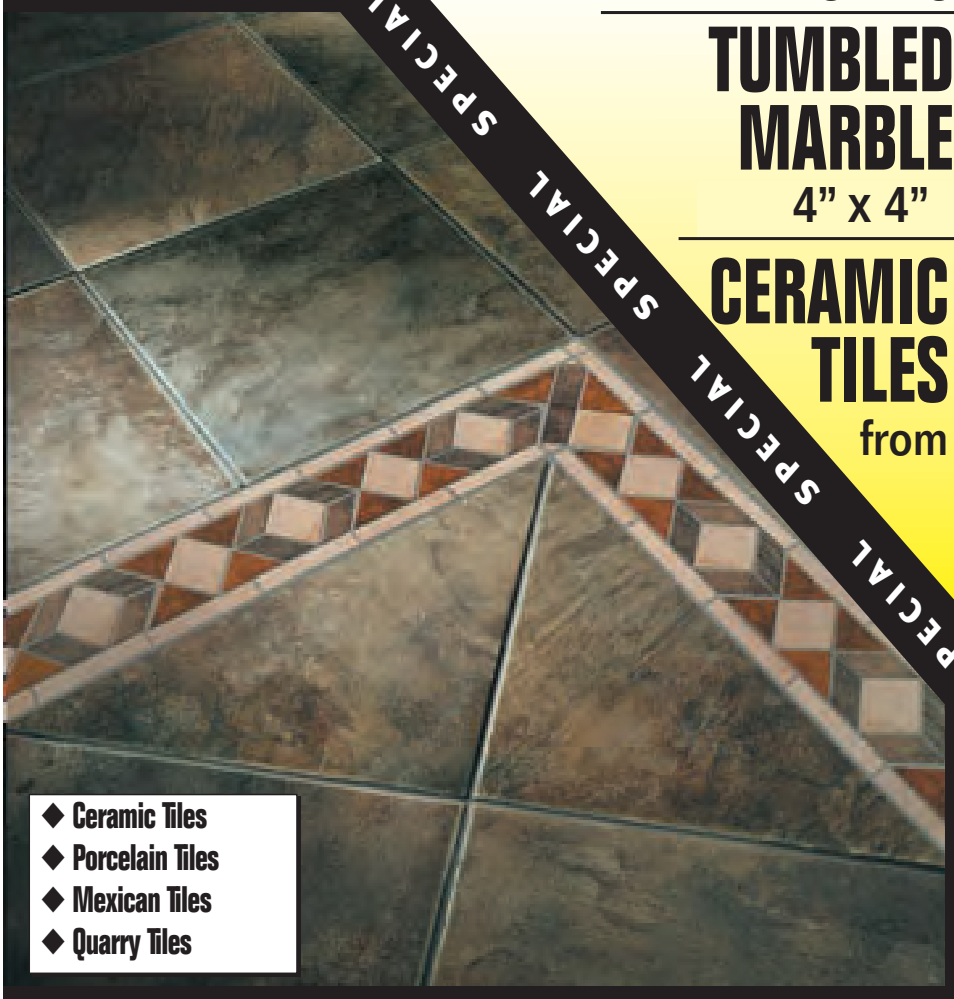

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