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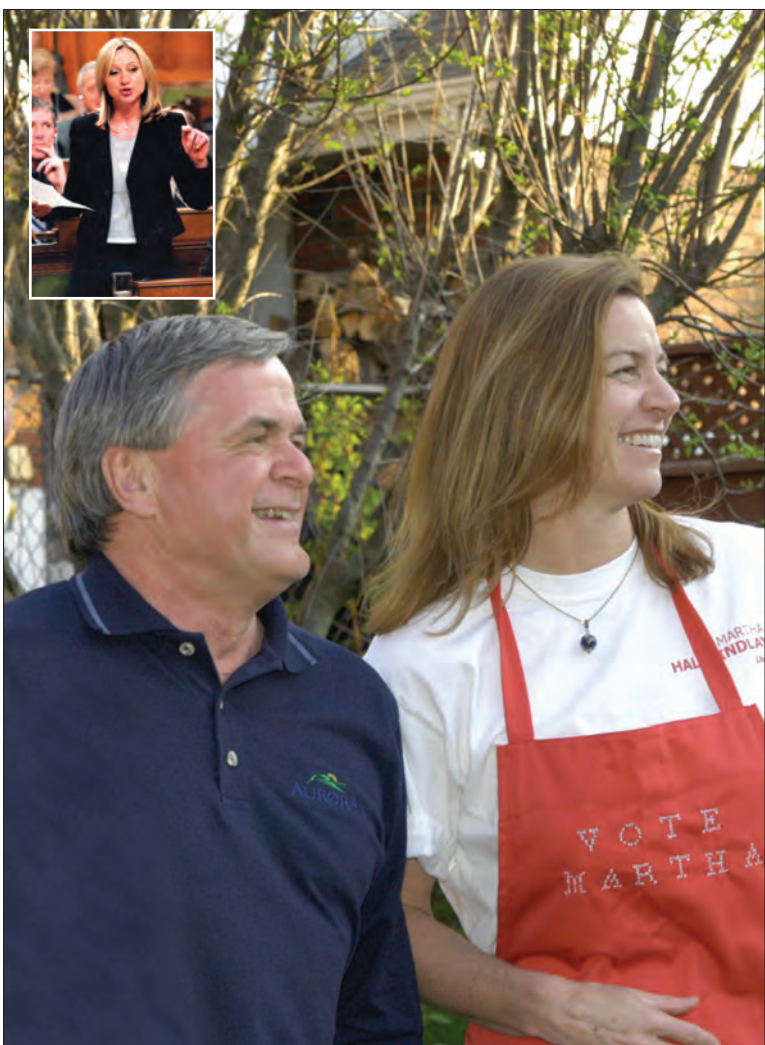
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Vol. 5 No. 31

Week of May 24, 2005

905-727-3300

Vacating for Belinda "the right thing to do"



Party on...

Aurora Councillor Nigel Kean and Liberal Martha Hall Findlay enjoy a quiet moment at a fund-raising barbecue at Hall Findlay's Newmarket home Wednesday night, in spite of the fact she was now without a riding to contest. Her opponent in the last federal election, Belinda Stronach, (inset) crossed the floor a day earlier and shifted her hat from Conservative to Liberal taking the spot Hall Findlay had hoped to win in the next federal election. About 100 people attended the barbecue.

Auroran photo by Naomi Tobin

The last thing Martha Hall Findlay was thinking Monday as she prepared for a Liberal fund-raising barbecue was re-packing her parachute.

Still bouyed by nearly knocking off heavily-favoured Conservative Party of Canada's Belinda Stronach in the last federal election - the first one ever held in the new riding of Newmarket-Aurora - Hall Findlay was looking for another crack at it.

She had been parachuted into the riding from her home in Collingwood and came within 700 votes of upsetting the Aurora millionaire.

Because of her links to the Aurora Newmarket area, Hall Findlay recently moved to Newmarket and was in the process of arranging her Wednesday night barbecue to raise a few bucks as she continued her plan to paint Newmarket-Aurora red instead of blue.

Stronach saved her the trouble. While the deal was struck sometime Monday, details of Belinda's trip across the floor of Ottawa's House of Commons didn't go public until Tuesday morning.

Please see page 18

BELINDA on the inside

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Cathy's Corner: Page 5
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Letters: Pages 6 to 8
Belinda replies: Page 15
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Big boxes a step closer

Aurora's "big box" site took another step forward last week.

A plot of land on Wellington Street East at Highway 404 is expected to become home to at least two "big box" stores and a group of smaller commercial buildings.

After a long debate Tuesday Aurora's general committee

agreed to support the development in principle.

The vote was not unanimous as citizens, some members of council and other area shopping centres expressed concerns but the majority of council moved the proposal to the next stage.

The proposal dates back to September, 2003, and a public

planning meeting was held in June, 2004.

An additional public meeting was held in September and town staff indicated most issues had been resolved.

Since that time, the proposal has been revised as a result of comments by council, staff

Please see page 16

Briefly

First a web site

Speculation grows as work continues on one of Aurora's historic gems. People wonder what's going to happen to the Church Street School, now gutted and looking like it looked more than 100 years ago.

Eventually, the building will house a museum and become a Heritage Centre, but that's not expected to be a reality for about a year.

So, in the meantime, members of the Aurora Historical Society, who have been working forever on this project, have put up a website so people can follow the building's progress.

Enjoy the trip at www.auroraheritagecentre.org.

Response is slow

Entries to date in the "What I Love About Aurora" contest have been wonderful, but there aren't enough of them, the Aurora Day Committee says.

There are five categories for youngsters up to the age of 18, and contestants may write or draw what they love about the town.

Written submissions should be kept under 300 words.

A plethora of prizes awaits the winning entries, which must be submitted prior to Friday, June 3, to the Town of Aurora, attention Kristen Yemm.

Aurora Day, meanwhile, promises to be an eventful time at Ontario Place, Saturday, June 18. Winners of the contest will be invited to the Aurora Day event and receive a family pass to Ontario Place worth \$120.

Forsey named president

Aurora's Chamber of Commerce has a new president.

A luncheon meeting last week at the Tuscany Banquet Centre started a new year for the Chamber as Stephen Forsey of Jones Gable and Company was sworn in as president making the current leader Patricia Davidson of Avalon Training Group past president.

Other executive members include Sharon Culver of

Whitehots, Inc., first vice president; Kathy van Nostrand of Kathy van Nostrand Certified General Accountant, second vice president; Don Larke of First Pro Shopping Centres, treasurer; and Kimberley Kerr of Kerrson Mechanical, secretary.

The Board of Directors includes Vern Cunningham, Timothy Hill, Geoffrey Dawe, Edna Findlay, Donna Gerrits,

Please see page 14



New president Stephen Forsey accepts gavel from Patty Davidson



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday evening at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members welcome. For further information, call 905-841-1352.

Merlin's Hollow English garden open houses have been set for the summer. Garden will open Saturdays, June 11 and July 2 and Sunday, July 10 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Garden is located at 181 Centre Crescent.

York Region Food Network invites you to join the Aurora Community Garden. Vegetable plots (10' x 20') are available at no charge. Call Catherine Cook, Community Garden Coordinator, at (905) 967-0428 or e-mail at cgcyrfn@bellnet.ca.

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 councillors' 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.

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.

MAY 27

Nite at the Movies for 14 to 17-year-olds at the Aurora Public Library from 8 to 10 p.m. featuring the movie "Soul Plane" starring Tom Arnold, Kevin Hart and Snoop Dog. Cost is \$3.

MAY 27/JUNE 3

Howard Johnson Aurora dinner theatre production of the romantic comedy "Apologies Accepted" in the newly renovated Queen Elizabeth Ballroom. Doors open at 6, buffet dinner at 6.30 with showtime at 8.15 p.m. Call 905-727-1312 to reserve.

MAY 27/28

Aurora Seniors Art Group Art Show and Sale at the Seniors' Centre Friday from 7 to 9.30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Artists will be in attendance and refreshments will be served.

MAY 28

"Lilac Tyme Luncheon," featuring salads and ham, with strawberry cheesecake, will be held from 11 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, corner of Victoria and Mosley Streets. Event is sponsored by St. Andrew's Guild. Tickets: \$8 for adults; \$4 for children under 12.

The York Chamber Ensemble, with the Trinity Festival Chorus, tackles the wonderful Dixie Dominus, by Handel, and works by Abos and Suk in a choral concert, conducted by Aurora's Tony Browning. Tickets for the 7.30 p.m. concert at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, cost \$15 or \$10 for students and seniors.

Aurora's Devins Drive Public School dinner dance with live band and silent auction at the Optimist Youth Centre on Forhan Drive in Newmarket. Tickets at \$45 are on sale at the school.

The 140 Aurora Royal Canadian Cadet Squadron's 16th Annual Inspection is at 1 p.m. at the Community Centre.

The George Street Public School and the Aurora Senior Public School will hold their Annual Spring Fair at George Street School from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Raffle baskets, bake sale, games, races and refreshments. For more information call 905-727-4921.

MAY 29

"Meet me at the station!" Walking tour of Aurora railway station area. Meet at the GO station for an easy one-hour stroll. Rain or shine; no charge. Call the Aurora Museum at 905-727-8991 for information.

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. Advance tickets at \$10 on sale at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce office; R & R Revisited, 75 Mary Street; Flipside, Yonge and Dunning; Oakridge Outfitters in the Aurora Shopping Centre; and Aurora Canadian Tire.

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. Nearly sold out.

Aurora Public Library annual book sale in conjunction with the World's Longest Street Festival. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JUNE 7

10th Annual Pain & Symptom Management Conference. PalCare Network invites doctors, nurses and allied healthcare professionals to Tuscany Banquet Centre, Edward Street. To register call 905-895-3628 ext. 294.

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.

Hospice Palliative Care Symposium. PalCare Network invites personal support workers, volunteers and palliative caregivers to Tuscany Banquet Centre, Edward Street. To register call 905-895-3628 ext. 294.

JUNE 9

Annual General Meeting at 10 a.m. at the Aurora Seniors' Centre main hall. There will be elections for four positions on the Board of Directors. Elections by secret ballot from Friday, May 27 to Friday, June 3. Phone the centre at 905-727-9693 for details.

JUNE 10/11/12

The 83rd Annual Aurora Fair and Horse Show will be held at Machell Park with several equestrian events over the three days including the Grand Prix on the Friday evening. For more information call 905-727-9493.

mation call 905-713-6773.

JUNE 11

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

Calling all students for Parks Spring Clean-Up from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre and Fleury and Machell Parks. An easy way to obtain community service volunteer hours. For more information call 905-726-4760.

Local musician Kathy Reid-Naiman launches her CD "Reaching for the Stars" and performs some of the songs with Ken Whiteley at the Aurora Public Library from 10.30 to 11.30 a.m. Free with ticket available in advance.

Aurora Historical Society bus tour to Bowmanville. All inclusive price is \$47. Call 905-727-8991 to reserve.

JUNE 15

To celebrate Seniors' Month, the Aurora Public Library, in partnership with the Ontario Pharmacists' Association presents Safe Medication Use for Heart Health with pharmacist Calvin Brown. Refreshments to follow. 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

JUNE 18

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

JUNE 21

Visiting Library Services information tea, 1.30 p.m. in the Aurora Public Library's Lebovic Room. Must be 18 or older and able to volunteer two to three hours every three weeks to bring library services to shut-ins.

JUNE 22

The Aurora Historical Society teams up with David and Diedre Tomlinson for a visit to Merlin's Hollow, the Tomlinson's spectacular garden on Centre Crescent between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. with the \$5 fee going directly to Hillary House renovations. The House will be open for afternoon tea from 2 to 4 p.m. with an additional charge for tea.

JULY 4

Baseball summer camp starts at the Aurora Leisure Complex and offers a full-day camp experience for kids aged 5 to 14 until August 26. Campers will be divided into five age groups and will receive baseball skills training as well as the chance to play in a game each day.



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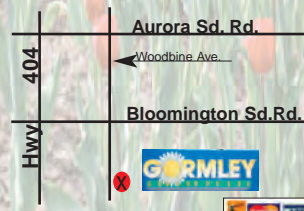
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Aurora Optimist president Brian Walsh, left, and York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge, right, honoured Constable Matt Pike at the annual Optimist Respect for the Law Dinner held at the newly opened Community Safety Village Wednesday night. PC Pike is a member of Aurora’s Police And Community Together (PACT) committee and was honoured for his police work in solving numerous break-ins and car thefts that occurred in the south end of Aurora last summer. Over a period of four nights, PC Pike and others investigated 42 people and laid 21 criminal charges ranging from break and enter to possession of stolen property. In addition, six charges were laid under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and another six were laid under the Liquor Licence Act. Last week’s event was attended by Optimists from Aurora, Newmarket, Keswick and Richmond Hill.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Wellington tunnel now being built

York Region is in the process of constructing a trunk watermain from the Wellington Street East/Berczy Street intersection to the Orchard Heights Reservoir via Wellington and Bathurst. If you thought traffic on Wellington was chaotic, just wait.

In 1999, the town entered an agreement with the region and east end landowners to provide water and sewer capacity to the Highway 404/Leslie Street area.

The agreement resulted in the installation of watermain from Magna Drive to the East Aurora Pumping Station and then out to Leslie Street with the work being done during the reconstruction of Wellington Street East.

At the same time the region installed a section of a large trunk watermain between Berczy and Bayview. This was the first section of the trunk watermain to connect the East Aurora Pumping Station with the Orchard Heights Boulevard Reservoir.

The portion of the project west of Yonge Street was tendered for construction in 2004.

The last and most difficult section of the project is the Wellington Street East section from just west of Yonge to Berczy.

However, problems with buried infrastructure, extremely tight working area, damage to trees and severe disruption of traffic, it was decided to tunnel the whole project.

The plan is to construct the tunnel in sections, starting with the most westerly section

west of Yonge Street to Victoria Street. The Wellington/Victoria intersection is currently closed.

Three following sections include Victoria to Wells, Wells to Larmont and Larmont to Berczy. To hold tunnelling equipment

and provide a location to remove the excavated soil, a shaft will be sunk at each of the intersecting side streets.

Each section of the tunnel will take about five weeks to complete.

The project is expected to finish in early October.

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Hiding behind closed doors

*Council is becoming more secretive,
Town business is done behind a door;
Decisions are being made quietly,
It's time for taxpayers to start to roar!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Back in the mid-1800s, French politician Alexis de Tocqueville wrote: "Local assemblies of citizens constitute the strength of free nations. Municipal institutions are to liberty what primary schools are to science, they bring it within people's reach, they teach men how to use and enjoy it".

If de Tocqueville is correct that municipal institutions constitute the basis of our democratic institutions and educate the citizens in the ways of democracy, then freedom of information is of great importance.

The public has a right to know what is being planned and done by their elected representatives and it must have a voice into the affairs of their community, otherwise the municipality is run by bureaucrats.

Council and committees have a responsibility to the public and must carry out public business in public.

The media have a responsibility to report the business of council accurately and objectively and also report the public's reaction to it.

When attending a council meeting, the press has no greater right than the general public, but no less.

In addition, the media have the responsibility of informing the public about the actions and decisions of their elected representatives and the decision-making process.

Communication is a two-way street and elected representatives need to know how the public reacts to their decisions.

Whenever the flow of information is interrupted, both council and the public are the losers.

Previously whenever a piece of information was distributed to council in public session, it was released to the media at the same time as council members.

Just recently the town solicitor distributed a memo to members of council in public session and when this reporter asked for a copy was refused, and it was only through the kindness of Councillor Evelyn Buck, who remembered the old days, that the press obtained a copy.

Quite often questions are asked by members of council during a public session and referred to staff for a response.

Instead of reporting back in a public session, a memo or e-mail is forwarded internally to members of council, but not to the media.

Unless the issue is raised again in public session, the public is not informed as to the actions of their elected representatives.

Some members of council believe they are elected to run the municipality and it's nobody's business how they do it, as people might start asking questions.

While the legislation permits a limited number of specific issues to be discussed behind closed doors, the actions must be ratified at a public meeting.

This isn't always the case as last June council decided to issue a separate contract for the pre-grading of the site for the new Seniors' Centre. The contract was awarded in September to the low bidder for \$239,000.

For some unexplained reason in private session the contract was re-awarded to the third low bidder at a price of \$312,302, up more than \$73,000 of taxpayers' dollars without a report or a word of explanation in public session.

Not only that, but the pre-grading work has stalled on the project for some time with no word to the public as to the reasons why, or if there was an additional cost.

Treasurer Jim Carey is obviously no longer working for the municipality but no report has been made in public session as to whether he jumped or was pushed and what it might have cost the town in severance.

There have been other terminations, especially in Leisure Services, without a report as to who and why and what the severance package might be.

There's the sale of Aurora Hydro and many other issues dealt with behind closed doors and never reported and ratified in public session, that the public has a right to know and is denied by the secrecy of council and staff.



The above photograph has been pieced back together after the brother of the person who submitted it "loved to destroy things and this picture was one of the results". That explains the tear marks and the white space in the bottom left corner. But we were fascinated by the picture because of the boy whose face is almost missing in that corner (arrow). He's Billy Holman, now deceased, who was a fixture on Aurora's Yonge Street for decades. Most particularly, Billy - remember he used to collect clocks? - was featured in an edition of the old Aurora Banner as "carrier extraordinaire" because he delivered the paper to Yonge Street businesses every Wednesday morning. The photo, owned by Lorna Hortensius (nee Elmer) of Barrie, was taken May 23, 1947, some 58 years ago almost to the day and she wondered if someone might have a better copy of the picture. From her memory, here's who she believes are in the picture. Top row, left to right, Miss Humphries, Roy Bolton, ? Beasley, Don Collins, Ray Preston, Alex Sulek, ? Ward, Bill Crysdale, Ron Ryman, Peter Hodgkinson, Dave Brome. Second row from top, left to right, Barbara Snow, Eileen Cole, Nan Dennis, Marilyn Hill, Edith Bake, Trevor Yake, Dan Patrick, Harold Bunn, Terry Besley, David Fines. Third row from the top, left to right, Frances Hill, Lorna Elmer, Catherine Baldwin, Marilyn Stoutt, Frances Hartman, Marilyn Waite, Lorraine Fortier, Agnes Friesen, Dawna Case. Front row, left to right, Bill Holman, Ken Holman, ?, Archie Smith, Norm Ireland, ?, Jack Murby, ? Armitage and David Zimmerman.

Letters to the Editor

Speed bumps slow emergency vehicles

To the editor,

Why would anyone want to slow the response time of ambulances and fire trucks?

That will be the effect of putting speed bumps on Dunning Avenue.

The speed limit on Dunning is already down to 40 km.

Speed bumps and a

three-way stop sign at Cameron will do nothing but cause drivers to race between stop signs (or ignore them completely) and give the students of Williams even more delusions of safety.

You cannot protect teenagers who willingly cross against a red light and have to wait to let a York Region cop car pass in front

of them (and the kicker is that the police car never even stopped to warn them).

This was witnessed on Yonge Street in front of the liquor store the last week of April.

Maybe better police enforcement of realistic speed limits would be better and then we could actually start getting rid of some of

the unwarranted multi-way stops in Aurora, thereby improving the flow of traffic.

**Dave Watson
Aurora**

M & M raises a ton of money

To the editor,

This is just a short note to say thank you for supporting our National Charity BBQ Day where we raise money for the Crohns and Colitis Foundation of Canada.

It is contributions by people like yourselves that make this event the huge success that it has come to be.

We are proud to advise

that our Aurora location will be making a contribution to the CCFC in the amount of \$4,539.

The Charity BBQ raised \$2,339, our Star Program raised \$1,550 and other fundraising initiatives contributed an additional \$650.

These are awesome numbers that we are very proud of.

In addition, we also surpassed our corporate

goal of \$1,500,000. The M & M Meat Shops chain raised a whopping \$1,550,000.

This puts M & M Meat Shops' total contribution to CCFC over \$10,000,000.

Once again, we would like to say thank you for the picture in The Auroran. It is deeply appreciated.

**Greg & Christina Foster
Aurora**

Happy Birthday, Optimist Club

To the editor,

I would also like to congratulate the Optimist Club of Aurora on the accomplishment of their 20th Anniversary!

I read the May 17th Auroran article with great interest as the success of

HOT SPOT Youth Club goes directly back to the foresight and seed sponsorship of this Optimist Club.

My sincere thanks.

I wish for their continued success as their mandate is of great importance, the needs and best interests of our Youth.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to also thank the Town, the Opti-Mrs. Club and Ron Wallace for their early and very welcome support.

**Wendy Gaertner
HOT SPOT
Youth Club**

AURORAN

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At 75 Mary Street, Unit #3
Aurora, L4G 1G3

Owner & Publisher
Rosemary Schumaker
rosemary@auroran.com

Editorial
Ron Wallace
ron@auroran.com
Dick Illingworth
dick@auroran.com

Photography
David Falconer

Advertising
Bob Ince
bob@auroran.com
Diane Buchanan
diane@auroran.com

Production
Cynthia Proctor
cynthia@auroran.com

All Departments
905-727-3300

Classifieds
905-727-7128
classified@auroran.com
Facsimile Machine
905-727-2620

Editorial Department
rwall9999@aol.com

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Mayor's Report
By Tim Jones

Running a business

Since I entered politics, I have had many people over the years come to me and advise me that government should be run more as a business than the political process and procedures that seemed apparent out in the public domain.

Last week, I saw this request to run government like a business applied in full when our Member of Parliament, Belinda Stronach, crossed the floor to join the Liberals.

Like everyone else, my first reaction was one of disbelief and shock.

How could someone who has played such a catalytic role in uniting the Alliance and the Progressive Conservatives to form the Conservative Party of Canada, a unification that has actually given many across Canada a more credible choice for government, do this?

Well, here's my spin on it.

Belinda, as I have watched over the past year, is a woman of principle, a corporate business women first and foremost. Since leaving Magna, her new company is now Canada. She has respect for and listens to the people who form her company, all Canadians.

She works hard at it, travelling across the country to speak to issues of national significance as well as spending a lot of time in her riding of Newmarket-Aurora, or as I like to say, Aurora-Newmarket.

She is at numerous luncheons and dinners in the community, speaking to special interest groups, as well as participating in many community events.

In the last election, it appeared that, with weeks to go, Belinda was way ahead in the polls.

Yet when the election happened, she won by only 600 plus votes.

My read on this is that while people liked the person in Belinda, the Liberals ran a very credible opponent in Martha Hall Findlay.

Although voters liked Belinda they had trouble supporting her party leader Stephen Harper and she lost a lot of votes in that circumstance.

Since being elected, Belinda has demonstrated that she is her own person.

She stood against the party line in the same sex marriage issue and she openly declared her opposition in the riding for an election at this time.

So, as a corporate business leader for this company called Canada, Belinda's crossing the floor which as I see it, demonstrated a number of decisions which will benefit the company.

1. By crossing the floor, there is a strong possibility there will not be an election, an election that the majority of this company called Canada have said they don't want.

2. By crossing the floor and avoiding an election, we also avoid strengthening a potential independence situation in Quebec, with the understanding that only the Bloc would gain with an election in Quebec.

3. By crossing the floor she possibly creates a majority vote for the Liberals to pass the budget, a budget that means the start of the gas tax and infrastructure monies to flow to the towns and cities across Canada including the GTA and Aurora.

4. By crossing the floor, given her business acumen and personal principles, she can objectively address the problems and issues that the Liberals are currently facing with the Gomery commission as someone who had absolutely nothing to do with this issue.

Am I upset? No.

Will I continue to support the person, Belinda? Yes.

She has brought a tough but effective business perspective to federal government and I am proud of our representative.

Letter to the Editor

Many helped welcome Steve back to Aurora

To the editor,

Steve came with pictures of his Grade 1 class at Regency Acres Public School and I found out my big maple tree on my front lawn was planted by his mother.

We are going to stay in touch and he wants to come back for a longer stay.

Once again, thank you...you know who you are.

You helped make his dream come true and I met two wonderful people from England and two from Bancroft.

There were calls from Bancroft and Florida - The Auroran sure gets around.

Connie Bestard
Aurora

Machell's Corners



Letter to the Editor

Title issue "ludicrous", reader says

An open letter to Aurora Council:

This is getting really ludicrous.

Some councillors and our mayor, want to pass a motion saying: "that the Acting Head of Council not be referred to as Deputy Mayor

unless that person is actually fulfilling the role of Acting Head of Council in the absence of the Mayor".

Following your logic in the motion as proposed - you're suggesting that we call the Vice President of the USA Mr. Jones instead of Vice

President Jones when he is not acting instead of the president.

I don't think so.

In Ms Morris's case, she was appointed Deputy Mayor, according to your own procedural bylaw, so she should be able to use the title of Deputy Mayor.

So if this motion passes - to stop her being called Deputy Mayor only on very limited occasions - do we the public just put this down to your envy and fear of her popularity within the town?

**Monica Day
Aurora**



Cathy's
Corner

Oh, Canada!

She changed her mind. It's a woman's prerogative.

Come on now, you didn't really think that Belinda Stronach earned the distinction of being the best dressed MP on Parliament Hill without that stylish predisposition to suddenly tear off that dowdy blue suit and slip into something more comfortable...something with a little more sizzle...something a little more ambitious...in red, let's say.

I can see how it could happen. Stephen Harper can't.

He said: "I told my wife only a few days ago that I thought it had become obvious to Belinda that her leadership ambitions would not be reached in this party regardless of whether or not we won the next election."

Hmm...sounds like he was hoping she'd get the hint.

She did.

He didn't...get the hint. Not even a clue.

It seems the roaring westerner not only confused leading the opposition with realizing his dream of oppressing Central Canada, but he forgot that not every member of his team is "Reformed" enough to have the "heart of Alliance".

So the bombshell shocked him.

But it isn't as if nobody has ever crossed the floor before.

Scott Brison walked the walk in 2003, and Belinda even noticed.

She said: "It's unfortunate that Scott Brison did not stay, did not roll up his sleeves if he didn't like something...Don't run from it. Help shape the direction of a new party."

Now here's a woman who knows how to roll up her Prada sleeves and help shape a new party from the inside out.

While out negotiating with Liberal strategists, she sat on the inside - the Conservatives' candidates school, learned their secrets...and shaped the party.

Hey, "rough shape" is a shape.

She simply changed her mind about Paul Martin, that's all. It's an ambitious woman's prerogative.

It might have been the scandalous revelations of the Gomery Inquiry that made the Liberals a better fit for her, or it might have been that she suddenly found Paul Martin a lot more attractive than Peter MacKay, and was overwhelmed with the urge to slip into something a little more comfortable...a cabinet post, let's say.

Come on now, you didn't really think that Belinda Stronach was going to try to save the country from the back benches?

That would take too much integrity, and we're fresh out of that stuff in this country.

No, far more dramatic to demonstrate to everyone in Newmarket-Aurora that their vote can be rendered as inconsequential as democracy itself. All it takes is the pitter patter of Gucci heels...not running from anything, mind you.

Running to something...the spotlight, let's say.

But let's not be too hard on Belinda.

She simply changed her mind. It's a defector's prerogative.

The fact that it changed every vote in her constituency...well, let's not get carried away here.

This isn't about Newmarket-Aurora. It's all about Belinda.

If you didn't vote for Belinda, you probably voted for Belinda.

And if you did, a vote for Belinda was a vote for the Conservatives...which turned out to be a vote for the Bloc which...oh my God...is now a vote for the Liberals...which doubles as a vote for the NDP.

That's quite a vote, huh?

Oh, Canada!

Belinda can't even speak French, but she sure can walk the talk!

And all she had to do was change her mind.

How powerfully disenchanting.

How better to disempower everyone who voted for her...and everyone who didn't.


Now, in Newmarket-Aurora, "one size fits all".


Oh, come on now, you didn't really think that Aurora's own superhero billionaire's heiress meant it when she said: "Give me 40 days in the campaign trenches with Paul Martin, and I will give you the keys to 24 Sussex Drive."


Clearly, she would be no more willing to part with the most coveted keys in the country than Paul Martin has been, or Stephen Harper would be.


And somehow, it doesn't look like she's going to change her mind about that.


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


 **BOUQUETS** to all the Grade 10 students in both York school boards for achieving an average pass mark of 87 per cent with the provincial average at 82 per cent. It was a big improvement for both boards over the previous two years.


 **BRICKBATS** to people at the Sunday Sun for getting their regions mixed up. The first week's delivery brought the York Sun to Aurora readers, the second week readers received the Durham Sun, but on the third week it was back to York.


 **BOUQUETS** to Aurora Shopping Centre management for enhancing security at the plaza for the safety of patrons. A previous Brickbat was about the man hanging about the plaza begging for money. He was spotted by the security guard and has been banned from the plaza. Management is providing 24-hour security to make the plaza a friendly people place.


 **BRICKBATS** to federal Immigration Minister Joe Volpe for attempting to buy votes by announcing that parents and grandparents of family members in Canada would be admitted without any consideration of the health costs to the already over-burdened taxpayer. Canadians are getting restless!


 **BOUQUETS** to the organizers, volunteers and contributors to the recent United Way of York Region fundraising drive. Record contributions raised a landmark total of \$6.7 million of which more than \$4 million will be distributed among 37 agencies.


 **BRICKBATS** to Official Opposition Leader Stephen Harper for teaming up with the Bloc Quebecois to force a vote to adjourn the House of Commons before noon hour resulting in the business of the House grinding to a halt. Martin may be a poor Prime Minister, but Harper doesn't deserve the office with his unethical tactics.


 **BOUQUETS** to Penny Sedore and Don Bowles and all the students in the Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School Senior Concert Band and the Senior Jazz Band for being awarded superior/gold ratings and the concert choir for being awarded an excellent/silver at a recent music festival in Chicago.

 **BRICKBATS** to those in the federal government for helping to rob poor motorists with the high price of gasoline. They are laughing all the way to the bank with the extra \$200 million or so the GST brought in as the higher the price of gas goes, the more tax dollars they rake in.

 **BOUQUETS** to author Linda Gandfield who visited Aurora's Lester B. Pearson Public School and read from her books which were written and designed to make the stories of Canada's war veterans come alive. Her books should be mandatory reading for all students.

 **BRICKBATS** to York Region and their design consultants for the reconstruction of St. John's Sideroad through the Marsh area without making any provisions for families to get down to the ice surface of the wetlands during the winter months for skating, although it was brought to their attention several times. Neither they nor Aurora Council was listening.

 **BOUQUETS** to John Trusler, now a resident of Richmond Hill, for maintaining his strong interest in Aurora and letting all and sundry know his well thought out comments and suggestions for improvement. Good to hear from you, John!

 **BOUQUETS** and best wishes to Denis Van Decker on his appointment by council to fill a vacancy on the Aurora Committee of Adjustment.

Letters to the Editor

Belinda: a glamorous minnow

To the editor,

The political landscape in the land of the Tories is fractured and mired in financial audacities in Liberal land.

And now we have our very own Belinda Stronach [B.S.], with minimal warning or discussion with her Conservative federal friends and colleagues, paddling across her version of the Rubicon, otherwise known as the floor of the House of Commons, from the Conservative benches to the Liberal benches, an event of major political proportion, magnified by the ugliest of timing.

My first reaction to the story as reported was one of aversion and after a day of astonished reflection, much the same.

There are standards of conduct to be maintained, adhered to and reinforced

and B.S. appears not only to have lowered the bar, but to have dropped it altogether.

B.S. cites pending Conservative cooperation with the Bloc Quebecois, as impelling her on her course of action, to which I request of her, humble enlightenment, what if she had been party leader, how then would she have chosen to act, and how then would events have unfolded?

I think a double standard might emerge as the truth.

Regardless of the quoted reasons for her astounding conduct, I choose to reflect on and consider her political impact on the Conservative Party in Canada and in particular on the electorate in Ontario, and it is quite easy to conclude that in the grand scheme of things, she is a glamorous minnow, attractive and possibly an effective and capable executive, and then possibly not, but

Belinda: move took courage

To the editor,

What Belinda Stronach did took a lot of courage, and I believe it is in the best interests of Canada and the people of Newmarket-Aurora.

Belinda entered politics with the goal of moving the Conservatives from a party of extremists to a more progressive, inclusive party so it could become a viable alternative.

Stephen Harper obviously does not share those ideals, and perhaps feels threatened by them, or by her leadership rivalry.

His treatment of Ms Stronach is deplorable, and he obviously cares more about his own political obsession to be Prime Minister than the good of Canada.

Why did he not attempt to appease her the way we expect a progressive, inclusive party leader to act?

Instead he chose to trample on Belinda's views, and denigrate her with bullying demands for blind obedience.

He has marginalized Belinda Stronach ever since the Leadership Convention

18 months ago.

Stephen Harper's behaviour should be the focus of the Conservative Party's soul searching.

His behaviour is more consistent with his extremist Alliance Party roots, which are a detriment to anyone who values Canadian unity and a functioning parliament.

I was proud to campaign for Belinda's rival Martha Hall Findlay in the last election, and I know Martha will make a great contribution of her own. Now, I am just as proud to welcome Belinda Stronach as the Liberal MP for Newmarket-Aurora, and I look forward to supporting her in the next election campaign (whenever that might be).

Bill Chadwick
President Newmarket-Aurora
Federal Liberal Association

More
Belinda
letters
pages 7 & 8

certainly not an electrifying political force, attracting and unifying voters with her charm, charisma and promise of success to come.

She had the opportunity to seize the minds and support of Ontario voters and with that support, an authentic opportunity to seize the leadership of the Conservative Party and the next Federal election.

But her impact thus far has been minimal, and her career is now characterized by her abandonment of the Tory party, friends, supporters and colleagues.

That she should embrace a Liberal party mired in financial scandal of the first magnitude and accept a cabinet position with that party, leads one to believe that her actions are largely self-serving.

My perception of her as an impatient young woman, greedy for power and allured by odious opportunity is difficult to dismiss.

In our North American culture we have reverence for successful families as leaders who get things done, and so we revere the Stronach family. The scions of such families are accorded respect and opportunity, perceived somewhat as royalty,

but oft times the royal jelly is missing, and in the case of B.S., this appears to be one of those times.

I view her political actions as unprincipled and the manner of her abandonment of party and friends as obscene, and the thought of B.S. as future prime minister leaves me aghast.

She appears to me now as a rich girl who wants what she wants, and wants it now, capable, ruthless and self centered, lacking the fortitude of those who have endured earlier struggle.

Now I see cannon, loaded and loose, heavy metal that has shifted suddenly to the jeopardy of those who thought it fast, savagely tearing at the very hearts of those who loved Belinda Stronach.

To Peter MacKay I say, turn the page guy, you can do better.

I understand as we all do that audacious political maneuvering calls for tough and unambiguous action, but the stigma of an unnecessary betrayal will cling to the perpetrator for a lifetime and beyond.

Brian Warburton
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

Stronach: opportunist or real political rep

To the editor,

Many people fought hard to support Belinda in the last election.

It is a story of local girl makes good.

Not only in father Stronach's corporate world does she make a mark, but politically running for the leadership of the Federal Conservative Party.

It became immediately evident that most successes come from the strength of personal relationships.

Mr. Harper, her former party leader and Belinda were not an emotional or corporate match.

Her comments about Paul Martin and government leader of the day were not very complimentary to say the least while running for the Conservative Leadership.

Now these two strange bedfellows in politics are partners in their own home-made cabinet.

I am not disagreeing with Belinda wanting to make up her own future or non future in politics.

I do, however, struggle with the issue with a political culture that does not breed trust.

We need good women and men who engender trust in their actions, their organi-

zations, and the politics and policies they put forward.

That is why corruption should be exposed and proper controls put in place.

It is also important not to exaggerate Belinda's move across the aisles of parliament as much as the scope of corruption.

It is also important that those representing us in the House of Commons not be seen to be acting merely out of partisan political motives as Prime Minister Martin clearly seems to capture as much political gamesmanship on the hill today from all parties.

No political motives

should be engaged other than for the good of you and me as her constituent, as well as the good of the country.

"Belinda Stronach" politics may or may not measure up to the what is good for this country but she is a gutsy lady and I hope she keeps fighting for what is right for everyone.

I also hope she is not captured by the big Liberal machine into losing her fighting spirit and independence of thought, now that she serves a new master within a ruling cabinet.

Many funnier decisions have been made in the past

in the name of democracy.

This one move called one's democratic right in our own backyard of "our town" Aurora will make for a very interesting next election not only for our town but also for

the future of MP Belinda Stronach. The corporate world may return quicker than one may want.

Marten A. Mol
Aurora

How could we have been so duped?

To the editor,

When Belinda Stronach was elected to federal parliament by the people of Newmarket-Aurora we had expectations.

One of these was to be a Conservative.

I hope her victory in the Liberal party is short-lived.

Obviously, I did not vote for Martha Hall Findlay and don't particularly like her; however she did do a lot of hard work to try to achieve a position as the federal MP

for Newmarket-Aurora.

She is the one who, at all-candidates' meetings, took the hit for the federal Liberals' astounding money-laundering scheme.

She is the one who works hard at rebuilding Liberal credibility.

I guess, in booting her out of her office, the Prime Minister has agreed to compensate her somehow. (If not, I guess Ms Hall Findlay will be self-employed).

In making her decision, Ms Stronach says she was

advised by her father to follow her heart.

Follow your heart? This is shocking.

Canadian citizens do not vote for political candidates to follow their hearts, because what we feel in our hearts can change from day to day; and this should not be the foundation of someone in politics.

Canadian citizens vote for candidates and political parties who best represent their beliefs and aspirations.

Perhaps Mr. Stronach would have been better to advise his daughter to do the job she was elected into office for - represent her constituents, who at this time are a Conservative majority.

I don't think Ms Stronach has any idea of the ripple effect of her defection.

I now realize she cares only about herself.

How could we all have been so duped? We were her footstool.

Mary Swan
Aurora

Belinda drove the bar lower

To the editor,

Last week I felt my disillusionment with politicians was at an all-time low.

However, I underestimated my federal representa-

Belinda should resign

To the editor,

I am appalled and disgusted at the unethical act committed by Belinda Stronach.

Fewer than 12 months ago, I along with thousands of other residents elected Stronach to represent us as a Conservative Member of Parliament.

I considered my vote a contract between myself and Stronach with the understanding that she would represent me in Ottawa as a CONSERVATIVE Member of Parliament.

She has broken this contract, this trust; and in so doing she has disenfranchised all those who voted for her.

If she had any decency or integrity, she would resign and enable us to vote in a by-election for a party of our choice, not hers.

Given the hypocrisy, deceit and betrayal she has shown, Belinda should fit in very well with the antics of this Liberal party.

Graham Wride
Aurora

tive Belinda Stronach's ability to set the bar still lower.

I supported the party and voted for Ms Stronach as an unknown entity because I felt the country needed a change after the Chretien era of entitlement and embarrassing the country in both official languages on the world stage.

The newly-formed Conservative party seemed to reflect a principled, energetic, and youthful alternative to the tired same old, same old...and hopefully would effect change.

Over the past year I

watched events unfold in Ottawa and felt Belinda represented us well.

Last week I was totally shocked by this traitorous reversal.

Perhaps Ms Stronach felt her 685-vote majority was not sufficient enough to guarantee a win next time.

If the party switch was done for opportunism and power at any costs I feel she will fit in perfectly with her new colleagues in the Liberal party.

Judy Salmon
Aurora




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Letters to the Editor

Belinda betrayed me, reader says

An open letter to Belinda Stronach:

Maybe I was enthralled with you, like Peter Mackay. But I campaigned for you because you promised to let fresh air into politics. You promised to return ethics in politics. You promised me the moon. But you only delivered anguish, despondency, and utter disappointment. You not only betrayed me, who had faith in you, but you betrayed your leader, whom you stabbed in the back. You betrayed your lover, Peter Mackay; but most importantly you betrayed everyone in Aurora and

Newmarket who voted for you as a Conservative. We are the ones who struggled for you and campaigned for you. We, who voted Conservative, we the people who strived, and worked hard in order to get you elected. Instead of fresh air you left a smell in parliament that won't go away. Instead you jumped in bed with Paul Martin. Instead you threw all ethics out the window. Instead you left your young followers, who had faith in you, believing that politics is corrupt, but you were not. Instead you abandoned us to satisfy your own raw

greed for power. You couldn't wait until you had enough experience to be our leader. Your avarice took hold of you. You wanted to jump the queue and switch sides because you saw an opportunity, not for Canada, but for Belinda Stronach. My only hope now is that the Conservatives find a strong opponent to you in our riding, and return honest, ethical politics in this area. And, if you will pardon the expression which is not sexist, beats the pants off you.

**Hugh Allen
Aurora**

Pundits overlook voters

To the editor,

It was all right for the erstwhile political icons who clustered around Frank Stronach to encourage Belinda to believe she was a credible choice for leader of the "new" Conservative party and Prime Minister of Canada. They believed her

high profile in business, her father's resources, her youth, style and beauty were enough to convince people Belinda was an alternative, first to Stephen Harper, and second to Paul Martin and the Liberal machine. They were wrong. Despite all the hoopla,

money and energy that went into it, Belinda was not a clear winner in the last election. The Liberal riding organization had tossed the towel at the same time as the scion of Taylor reneged on his nomination after the sponsorship scandal began

Please see page 16

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- Any life threatening situation
- A suspicious person(s) in an inappropriate location (i.e. - a person peeking in your neighbour's window, someone checking all the car doors on a street)

- A fire (car, business, home or field)
- There are many reasons we reach out for assistance. Often there is confusion about the best resource to call. Here is a quick reference.
- All Emergencies **911**
The York Regional Police **905 895 1221**
(non-emergency)
www.police.york.on.ca
- The Bylaw Office of Aurora **905 727 1375**
ext 4751
www.town.aurora.on.ca/live/bylaw
- York Fire Prevention & Permits
905 895 9222
- The S.P.C.A. **905 898-7122**
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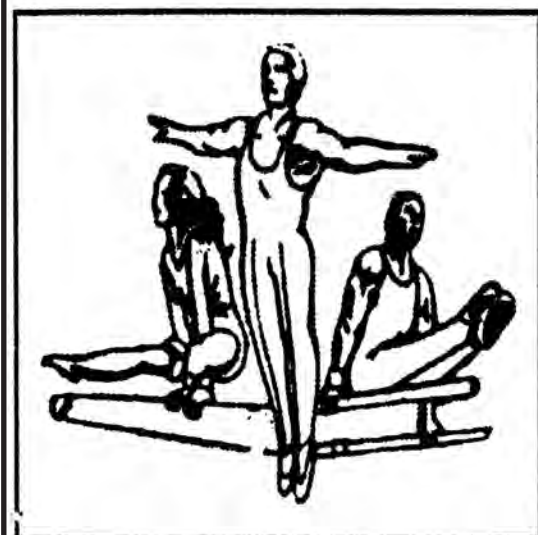
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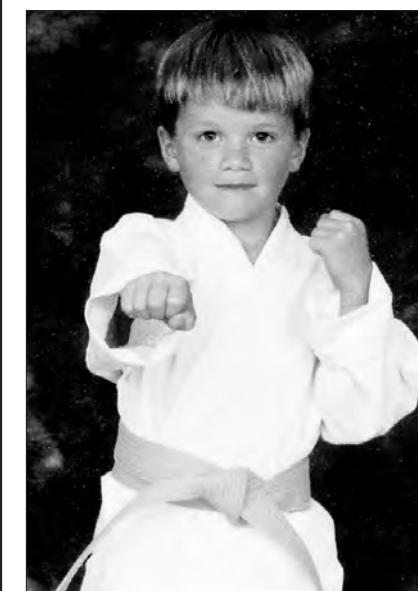
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Greg Foster and Kim Read, treasurer and sponsorship chairperson for the Aurora Minor Ball Association, prepare for a three-day blitz in June that will see 10 per cent of purchases being donated to the AMBA.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

M & M program will help ball association

Greg Foster is at it again.

The affable operator of Aurora's M & M Meat Shop outlet on Yonge Street has a three-day event that will benefit the Aurora Minor Ball Association.

Beginning Thursday, June 9 and continuing through Saturday, June 11, the organization will donate 10 per cent of their sales to the AMBA. Customers merely have to report to the cashier they're supporting the AMBA and 10 per cent of this bill will go to the asso-

ciation.

In addition, customers will have the opportunity to win a \$50 gift from M & M, by filling out a ballot.

The Aurora Minor Ball Association is also working with Futurestars Sports Camp to make baseball an enjoyable and fun experience while learning at the same time.

Futurestars is sponsoring a summer camp and a number of free baseball clinics in the area.

The camp and the clinics are designed to ensure children learn the funda-

mentals of the game in a friendly environment.

For more information visit Auroraminorball.ca, or the Futurestars website at future-stars.net.

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## Remember when Argos trained at St. Andrew's?

Today the Toronto Argonauts, defenders of the coveted Grey Cup, probably don't mean much to most Aurora residents, but back in the 1960s and early 1970s, it was an entirely different story.

In those days, Aurora football fans were in their glory as the Argos took over St. Andrew's College during the month of June for their annual pre-season training camp.

The football scrimmages under the direction of head coach Leo Cahill were played on the Yonge Street fields of the college and always drew a large crowd of local spectators.

Although the players and staff lived, ate and worked-out at the college, they were familiar figures in town and often participated in town events.

In 1969, Cahill and the Argonauts were presented with the Key to the Town as part of the July First festivities.

Originally established by the Argonaut Rowing Club in 1874, the team was sold in 1957 to a group that included newspaper publisher John Bassett. He assumed full control with a \$2.3 million buyout in 1971.

Since then the team has gone through several owners including William Hodgson (not the North York MPP) in 1974 but after five straight losing seasons, the team was sold to Carling-O'Keefe Breweries in 1979.

It didn't help...the losses continued.

Harry Ornest acquired the team in 1988 for \$5.3 million. He made money in

1989 but lost in 1990, selling the team to Bruce McNall in 1991 for \$5 million.

Labatt Brewing/Interbrew bought the team in 1994 for \$6.5 million and lost \$16.5 million between 1995 and 1999 resulting in the team being sold to Sherwood Schwarz, a New York insurance magnate in 1999.

The CFL began advancing money to the Argos before the start of the 2003

season after Schwarz made it known he was unable to underwrite the team's losses through a fourth season.

In November, 2003, when it appeared the Argos were heading for the Grey Cup, it looked like the Canadian Football League would present the cup to itself, since it was financing the club.

The Argos continue to function, but their Aurora training days are long gone.



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Pictured is Courtney McNamara, director of "Look Back in Anger", which opens Friday at Aurora's Factory Theatre and continues Saturday and Sunday, then repeats itself next Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Friday, Shadowpath Theatre Productions has partnered with Artslink York Region to host a gala opening night reception at Theatre Aurora. Following the show, the audience may mingle with cast members all for the price of \$20 each. The theatre is located at 150 Henderson Drive in Aurora's south end. Shadowpath Theatre Productions is a professional company founded in 2002, and registered as a not-for-profit organization. McNamara, Alex Karolyi and Chantal Forde are the main people behind Shadowpath.

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*



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# Wellington Art Gallery exhibition ends Saturday

This is your last chance to see the current exhibition of Toronto-based artist Karen Curry "Full Exposure" as she exhibits her photographs in conjunction with her paintings for the first time at Aurora's Wellington Gallery.

The exhibition closes May 28.

Although the subject matter of the two media differs there is a connection between them.

Her panoramic photo-

graphs from her recent series "Points of View" and "Avenues to Stillness" deal with elements of remote landscapes and are beautiful.

Her large scale paintings on birch, mainly from her recent series "Carriers of the Past" investigate stone objects eroding as they are slowly reclaimed by nature as seen by the artist.

The use of photographs in the exhibition was a departure from using photo-

graphs as a resource for painting, but to acknowledge that photography should be recognized in its own right.

The artist has sought out the natural world through her camera lens for more than 20 years, taking thousands of photographs to begin the development of each new series of paintings.

She says her method of painting is related to erosion and excavation. The paintings are mixed media, pri-

marily acrylic, on birch, with the technique of layering and glazing then sanding and scraping to reveal the pigments and textures trapped beneath the surface.

The exhibition's hours are from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment by calling 905-751-0066. The gallery is located at 32 Wellington Street West at Macchell Avenue.

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Making up the executive portion of Aurora's Chamber of Commerce board of directors this year are, left to right, Kimberley Kerr, Kathy van Nostrand, Don Larke, Sharon Culver and last year's president Patricia Davidson. They and other members of the board were sworn in at a luncheon meeting last week by Aurora Mayor Tim Jones. Stephen Forsey is the new Chamber president.

Auroran photo by Rob Schuetze

## Senior Art Show ready for its 11th anniversary

Every Tuesday morning from 9:30 a.m. until noon or longer a group of seniors gathers at the Aurora Seniors Centre to draw and paint.

They work under the direction of well-known Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure.

McClure has been teaching the group since 1992.

The course is sponsored by the town's Leisure Services Department and is held during the fall, winter and spring.

"It's never too late to learn", McClure said. "They experience the magic of painting, the gift of creating something and a new way of seeing".

Students, 55 to over 90 years of age, range in talent and experience from beginner to near professional.

In 1995 as the culmination of the year's work, the seniors held their first Art Show and Sale, with the artists in attendance.

The art show and sale has continued over the years and this year's event will be held with an opening reception Friday, May 27, from 7 to 9.30 p.m. and Saturday, May 28, from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at the Seniors Centre, 52 Victoria Street.

The student artists will exhibit watercolours, drawings, monotype prints, mixed media and intuitive art.

Paintings will also be shown in a special category "Historic Aurora: Our Kind of Town" which captures the building and sites of Old Aurora.

Since 2001, at the opening of each of the shows, one of the paintings will be

purchased by the Town of Aurora to add to its permanent collection.

In 1995 to celebrate the first show, Aurora Hydro purchased a floral water-colour "Hydrangea" by Mildred Arthur.

Councillor John West officially opened the 2001 show and selected a painting of the "Old Fleury Works", now Bacon Basketware on Wellington Street West, with the historic chimney, now demolished, in the background by artist Kay Nishimura.

In 2002, the town purchased a watercolour painting of the heritage "Field House" located on Wellington Street by Pierrette Ajram.

The following year, a painting of "The Chateau" located on the west side of Yonge Street was purchased. It was painted by 90-year-old Jesse Coleman.

The Chateau was constructed in 1912 and was the childhood home of the late Wing Commander Lloyd Chadburn, one of Canada's most decorated wartime fighter pilots.

Last year, after opening the show, Councillors Phyllis Morris and Nigel



Kean selected a painting of Aurora's oldest church, the New Connexion Methodist Church, built around 1856 and still standing and in use on the north side of Mosley Street. The painting was done by Irma Gutsh.

Over the years paintings were purchased by the Purple Pig Restaurant, Ab Cox Pontiac Buick, Jersey Joe's Restaurant, Howard Johnson Aurora, Embassy Publishing, Graystone Restaurant, Oakland Hall and Wireless World.

A highlight of the 1999 show was the presentation of a limited edition print of Hillary House and Downtown Aurora, painted by Dorothy Clark McClure to commemorate 200 Years Yonge, to the Seniors Centre in memory of Hannah Knoll, a long-time member of the Seniors Art Group.

The art show and exhibition continues to be an enjoyable social affair as art lovers and friends mingle, talk to the artists, and admire the art, which is of near professional standard.

If you are over 55 and want to enhance your creative talents, register for the art course starting September 6th.



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# New board elected

### From page 1

Sean Herbinson, Brenda Snape and Marion Tripp.

A tradition that has carried on over the years is for the Mayor of Aurora to preside over the induction of the new executive and directors and administer the oath of office.

Prior to that ceremony, Mayor Tim Jones listed some of the town's accomplishments including approval of a new fire hall, recreation complex, seniors' centre and the current construction of a multi-screen movie theatre.

Jones paid tribute to the Chamber of Commerce and staff for the many events that help to promote the Town of Aurora and it proved that "You're in Good Company", the town's new tagline to go with the town logo.

Presentations were made to the retiring board members for their participation during their term of office including a pair of golden running shoes with wings to Patty Davidson for her participation in the Hartwell Half-Marathon.

Guest speaker was Dan Carriere, president and CEO of Southlake Regional Health Centre.

With the aid of pictures and diagrams, he described the changes taking place at the hospital.

He spoke about the hospital's purchase of the former Arbor Living Centre

after it went into receivership and under the name of Southlake Residential Care Village, became a facility accommodating 192 long term care beds.

He also pointed out the location of a new medical arts building on the north side of Davis Drive to be connected with the hospital at the second floor level

with an enclosed passageway over Davis Drive and a new five-level parking garage and helipad at the west end of the hospital.

In describing the cardiac centre he noted there were only a limited number of cardiac surgeons in Canada and Southlake was able to hire two of them.

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## Open Letter to the Citizens of Newmarket and Aurora

Many of you will have been surprised by my decision this week to join the government. Let me outline why I took that hard decision after much soul-searching.

I entered public life to be the strongest voice possible for you in Ottawa, and to help make our country stronger and better.

I made my contribution to creating the new Conservative Party because I thought it was key to have several vibrant political parties to strengthen democracy. And there are many good and talented people in the Conservative Party.

Over time it became clear to me that the Leader of the Conservative Party did not truly understand the needs of communities like our own. His attempt to defeat the government over a budget that contained important funding for municipal infrastructure, local transportation and many other services needed right now, forced the timing of my decision.

To accomplish defeat of the government would have required alliance with the separatist Bloc Québécois, something that I just could not accept. An election now would have stacked the deck in favour of the separatists. The consequences of an election in Québec at this time pose a serious threat to national unity – which I care passionately about.

Many of you have lost trust in the integrity of our political system. There is so much political partisanship that the national interest is lost. Our country must come first.

I concluded, after much deliberation, that I could be your strongest voice inside government. I am proud that the Prime Minister has entrusted to me coordination of the *democratic renewal* of our political system and responsibility for learning and skills development to keep Canada competitive.

As your representative, I will continue to do everything in my power to improve the quality of life in Newmarket and Aurora.

Belinda Stronach  
Member of Parliament, Newmarket-Aurora  
Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and  
Minister responsible for Democratic Renewal



# Big development a step closer to reality

**From page 1**

and citizens. The retail component has been reduced and the business park area increased.

The proposal now includes 540,000 square feet of commercial development including a department store, warehouse membership club, and either a large format super-market or a home improvement outlet.

Tenants most often referred to include Wal-Mart and Sam's Club.

The business park will provide 350,000 square feet on the remaining land, which is already zoned and is not part of the current application.

Staff recommended the committee adopt the official plan amendment and enact the bylaw.

The town's Economic Development Officer noted said revisions to the proposal were an improvement.

A report from Earth Tech, a consulting firm studying the internal traffic patterns, reported significant vehicle congestion can be expected during peak hours.

Michael Evans, a hardware store owner in downtown Aurora, said that a year ago he had told council about the number of vacant stores in the downtown area and that number has increased.

Councillor Nigel Kean said the stores may be vacant for reasons other than the proposed develop-

ment, and that downtown merchants had to be more creative in attracting customers.

Whitwell Developments spokesman Don Larke said company officials would continue to work with staff on the outstanding issues including traffic concerns.

Councillor John West recalled that when Cadillac Fairview planned to build an enclosed mall on Bayview Avenue and similar concerns had been expressed about the impact on the downtown core, they offered money to help the downtown. He asked if Whitwell would do that.

Larke agreed that Whitwell would be willing to do so and suggested a committee of council be established to work out the details.

Councillor Ron Wallace enquired about the future of the historic Petch cottage which had been located on the Whitwell lands and moved for safe-keeping to town-owned lands until a permanent location was determined.

Larke replied that he understood town staff was reviewing possible locations and the company would pay for relocation costs when a permanent location had been decided.

Committee members worried about internal and external traffic patterns and urban guidelines as they pertained to the rear of the retail outlets backing onto Wellington Street, the entrance to Aurora.

Larke said he was confi-

dent the traffic pattern design would accommodate requirements as the peak hours of the business park were different from the commercial component.

He also assured committee members that through design and landscaping the entrance to Aurora would be attractive.

Leslie Street resident Betty Reid also addressed the committee and suggested that the commercial/retail component would attract low-paying jobs.

After almost half an hour of presentations and delegations, Mayor Tim Jones recommended the bylaw be enacted.

Councillor Phyllis Morris said she couldn't support the motion in view of the staff comments about traffic problems and urban design guidelines.

Considerable debate took place regarding traffic flow, urban design and landscaping.

Councillor Damir Vrancic said he was not happy about the box stores and referred to north Yonge Street in Newmarket and

expressed concern about the traffic flow.

As the development was planned as a regional centre, he pointed out that Aurora's roads were not designed to handle that kind of traffic. He suggested a deferral until more information was available.

West disagreed with a deferral saying the development had been before council for two years and the municipality needed the assessment and the taxes.

Councillor Bill Hogg questioned the rush to approve the application when council was going to negotiate with the applicant for money. He added that no matter how much money was received the major problem with the downtown core was the lack of off-street parking.

Finally after noting the application had been previously approved by council in principle, it was recommended the proposal proceed but that final approval be held until outstanding issues had been resolved.

Discussion on the subject was expected to continue at council this week.

## Belinda Stronach

**From page 8**

to emerge.

They were wrong.

A scant review of our political history might have warned them.

It always amazes me how little weight the pundits give to the collective ability of the voters to make sense of what they are hearing...and reading.

The Prime Minister did this wrong...the opposition leader made that blunder...the media muddled the waters...everybody is responsible except the people who vote.

The right to vote is precious to those who exercise it.

We do not use it lightly.

Despite the sponsorship scandal, the voters of this riding decided Stephen Harper was not the alternative needed.

That scandal might have been the very thing to revive the party Brian Mulroney made moribund.

Now Belinda, the babe who was thrown to the wolves, first it was all right to use all she had to offer - status in the business community, financial resources, youth, style and beauty - then cry foul when she proved to be something more than they thought.

The old boys' club is alive and well and as unintelligent as ever.

I guess no one will ever call her Barbie again.

Whether she will still have the stomach for politics after they've finished shredding her remains to be seen.

They will have to re-think the "ditherer" moniker they tacked on to Paul Martin as well.

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Not much has changed over the years

Back in January, 1998, the Chambers of Commerce of Aurora, Richmond Hill and Vaughan sponsored a workshop for newly and re-elected municipal councillors at the Atrium Ballroom in Aurora.

About 40 people were in attendance. Guest speaker Michael Smither, editor of Municipal World, gave a three-hour audio-visual presentation, which must have made some of his listeners wonder why they had ever run for public office.

After explaining the history of local government in Ontario, he listed the problem areas facing municipal councils under the Mike Harris Progressive Conservative Common Sense Revolution, including downloading of programs and fiscal restraints.

He pointed out that although local government was closest to the people it was the least understood, as municipalities are creatures of the province.

They have no constitutional status, no independent autonomy and may exercise only those powers which are conferred on them by statute.

He concluded his presentation by quoting Voltaire: "The trouble is that common sense is not so common".

SPECIAL DOG FOR SPECIAL BOY

In June, 1995, an eight-year-old handicapped boy was the recipient of a special skills dog through the generosity of Toronto District 6 Masons, which included the Rising Sun Lodge in Aurora.

The \$10,000 cheque was presented by the Masons to Chris Fowler of Special Skills Dogs of Canada at Rising Sun Lodge Rooms.

The unknown boy would be matched with Beacon, a 14-month-old black Labrador retriever.

Fowler said it would take five to six months to train Beacon depending on the special needs of the young boy.

A special skills dog is individually trained for physically handicapped people, included those afflicted with epilepsy.

The skills taught include pulling wheelchairs up ramps and along sidewalks, turning off/on switches, opening doors, retrieving articles, getting help and other specific needs.

The sponsorship fee was \$10,000 to train and place each dog, but they are made available free to all qualifying Canadians.

TRYING TO CONTROL SPEED IN AURORA

In an attempt to control speeding on residential streets, Aurora Council bows to public pressure and approves lower speed limits, more and more multi-way stops and now speed humps.

In July, 1995, Mayor Tim Jones suggested to regional council that since the provincial government had prohibited the use of photo radar on provincial highways as a cash cow, the region should investigate the possibility of acquiring the equipment for use on residential streets.

Council sent his suggestion to the regional solicitor and Police Chief Bryan Cousineau to determine legalities and enforcement possibilities.

The Chief was quick to respond by stating he was opposed to the use of photo radar and had never supported its use as a deterrent to speeding. He supported the traditional method of having officers stop violators and issue tickets under the licence point demerit system.

Unfortunately, today residents have neither method as today's police are conspicuous by their absence on residential streets and more and more stop signs and speed humps are approved.

WHEN STUDENTS STARVED

Back in November, 1969, more than 150 young people gathered at Aurora United and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Churches for a 40-hour starve-in to raise funds for a Canairelief flight into the war-torn nation of Biafra in Africa.

The objective was to raise \$2,500 and by achieving this goal, a flight would arrive in Biafra on Christmas Eve.

Because of their efforts and self-denial, they raised more than \$6,000.

A youth committee initiated the Starve-In after listening to Diane North of Aurora, a nurse who spent time in Biafra.

On a trip home to Aurora, she visited schools, youth groups and church organization to tell about the need for food.

SCHOOL BOARD GETS NEW LOGO

It wasn't only the Town of Aurora who went through the agony of developing a new corporate logo, as back in June, 1998, the York Region District School Board had much the same experience.

After more than 30 years, the Rose of York was retired as the board adopted a new look and a new name.

The new logo featured a red and black stylized Y and R with a dot in the middle to represent a child.

It was a look the board had been struggling to achieve and when the York Region Board of Education was told by the province to change its name, it was decided to develop a new logo.

A student contest was held and after reviewing more than 200 submissions, the board decided to commission a professional designer at a cost of \$9,300.

By using the new, standard logo on all board materials, it was estimated that \$100,000 would be saved every year.

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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

Notice of Public Meeting  
Electricity Supply to York Region - Public Consultation Launch

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.

*This meeting is a repeat of the May 4 session to provide residents of York Region who were unable to attend that session with another opportunity to learn about the OPA process.*

Thursday, May 26, 2005, 7-9 PM

Newmarket Community Centre  
200 Doug Duncan Drive  
Newmarket, Ontario

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Email: [yorkregion@powerauthority.on.ca](mailto:yorkregion@powerauthority.on.ca)



# Belinda: influential business woman

When Belinda Stronach dropped her bombshell last week and vacated her federal Conservative seat for a Liberal one, people started wondering about the person who had burst onto the political scene fewer than 18 months ago.

She was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Magna International in February, 2001.

In spite of snide comments that she was daddy's girl getting a plum position, under her leadership, Magna International had record sales and profits in each year and its stock value nearly doubled.

She resigned from Magna in January last year to pursue the leadership of the brand new Conservative Party of Canada.

When the rich heiress and political debutant announced she was running for the leadership, she became an instant media sensation.

She was 38, a college dropout who had never held political office.

She took leave of her \$9 million salary as head of Magna International to seek the leadership and a seat in the new federal riding of Newmarket-Aurora.

Her announcement that she was seeking the leadership of the newly merged Conservative and Alliance parties came as a surprise to many oldtimers, although she was instrumental in bringing the two parties together.

The oldtimers recalled the spirited fight her father Frank put up to win the York Simcoe riding for the Liberal Party in 1988.

He made his announcement at a Newmarket hall with more than 600 in attendance.

In addition to the party faithful, there were the curious.

They wanted to see and hear this man who had arrived in Canada from Austria at age 21 with about \$300 in his pocket.

Unable to find a job at first, he swallowed his pride and spent what little money he had left to buy a bus ticket from Montreal to Kitchener where he got a job as a dishwasher in a local hospital.

Soon after he found work in a Toronto machine shop and worked there three years, when he rented a garage and went into business for himself.

He was successful in getting contracts and by the end of the first year had 10 employees

Magna International was born.

Stronach stressed the importance and the potential of people and described his Fair Enterprise Economic Charter which shared company profits with employees. It became the major theme of the campaign.

Also seeking the Liberal nomination was Tom Taylor, a long-time Liberal supporter and thought to be favoured over this newcomer.

Many in the audience

were Magna employees who had been given the afternoon shift off to attend the meeting.

The outcome was clear, Stronach won the Liberal nomination by a good margin but in the election he went down to defeat at the hands of Tory John Cole who received 26,326 votes to Stronach's 19,326.

In many ways, Stronach defeated himself as at all-candidate nights, he seldom gave a direct answer to questions asked, but twisted his answer around to refer to his Economic Charter.

His defeat came as a shock, as it was rumoured at the time that he had visions of winning the election as the first step to becoming Prime Minister of Canada.

During the election campaign Magna International ran into problems when some branch managers of Magna's 90 plants decided to go into business for themselves.

By September 1991 Magna had a heavy debt load of \$817 million and teetered on the verge of collapse, but weathered the storm and was soon turning a profit.

In 2004, after a rocky start, Belinda Stronach righted herself and cruised through a day of campaigning on the West Coast without a major gaffe or even a minor misstep.

Although imprecise on many issues, the freshest face in Canadian politics impressed a curious Chamber of Commerce

luncheon meeting.

She stuck closely to the issues in her campaign statement in Aurora.

She called for an end to capital taxes and the gun registry, while endorsing increased military spending, more free votes in the House of Commons and same sex marriages.

Following the June 28, 2004, federal election when Stronach was made the Conservative MP for Newmarket-Aurora, she was named to the Official Opposition Shadow Cabinet as critic for international trade.

She was also named a member of the party's senior leadership team in the House of Commons.

In 2001, the National Post identified her as the most important businesswoman in Canada and in the same year, the World Economic Forum named her a Global Leader of Tomorrow.

In 2002, she was ranked by Fortune Magazine in its list of the world's most powerful women in business and named in Canada's Top 40 Under 40, an annual awards competition that honours the country's top business innovators under 40 years of age.

In April, 2004, Time magazine ranked her as one of the world's most influential people.

How crossing the floor will affect her chances of re-election in Newmarket-Aurora in the next federal election remains to be seen.

Many die-hard Tories see

her as a turncoat and feel betrayed.

Others who voted for her because she was a bright new face will join with the Liberal faithful and provide support.

Politics and elections have always been interest-

ing in the Aurora Newmarket area since the defeat of Liberal MacKenzie King to Aurora lawyer Herb Lennox in 1925.

King had won the riding, once held by his grandfather William Lyon MacKenzie King, in the 1921 election.

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## Hall Findlay ponders future

**From page 1**

"I was contacted Monday and met with Mike Eizenga, President of the Liberal Party of Canada," Hall Findlay told The Auroran. "The situation was explained and I was asked if I would step aside in favour of Ms Stronach."

Perhaps wondering where her parachute was, Hall Findlay agreed.

"The decision was mine," she said. "It was not forced in any way."

Cancel the barbecue? Never.

The more than 100 people who did show up at her Newmarket home certainly had plenty to talk about.

While the shock was still in effect, the bottom line of the barbecue seemed to be clear - Martha Hall Findlay is a class act.

She admitted to The Auroran it was not an easy decision.

"However, this was clearly the right thing to do," she said. "What happened this week and Thursday's vote were very important for the country. I have long been saying how important it was for Newmarket and Aurora to get the budget passed."

"To her credit so has Ms Stronach and the events of this week will help that happen."

Stronach, meanwhile,

publicly said she made the decision because she wasn't happy with the stance her party was taking. She was not getting along with Stephen Harper, the party leader, and she was having difficulty with the party's link to the Bloc Quebecois.

And apparently, in rejecting her own party, she also said goodbye to Peter MacKay, the party's deputy leader, who has accompanied Stronach to several Aurora events since her election.

Constituents in her own riding felt betrayed by her actions, and bombarded her Newmarket riding office last week.

Constituency Office manager Steve Hinder, of Aurora, said he was "stunned" when he learned what had happened.

"But I was hired to run this office and that's what I'm going to do," he told The Auroran.

That concept seemed to fly in the face of what Stronach had done.

A number of "letters to the editor" (there are three pages of them beginning on Page 6), suggests Stronach made the wrong decision.

Constituents believed she was elected as a Conservative and she should have stayed a Conservative.

Meanwhile, Hall Findlay is now looking at somewhere else to hang her political shingle, and she could return to the riding she only recently vacated...Simcoe-Grey.

"I have been asked about Simcoe-Grey, and a couple of other ridings," she said, then revealed other political parties have approached her as well.

"A couple of other parties, for that matter," she said, "but I am not making any quick decisions."

"I want to stress that the Liberal party, including the Prime Minister, has treated me with grace and respect through this. Many have recognized how difficult this is for me, given the commitment I have made to the area, making Newmarket my home, becoming so involved in the communities of both Newmarket and Aurora, and making so many good friends."

One of them, Aurora Councillor Nigel Kean, thinks she should stay in this riding and run as an independent.

"She'd win," he said.

Hall Findlay isn't quite sold on that idea.

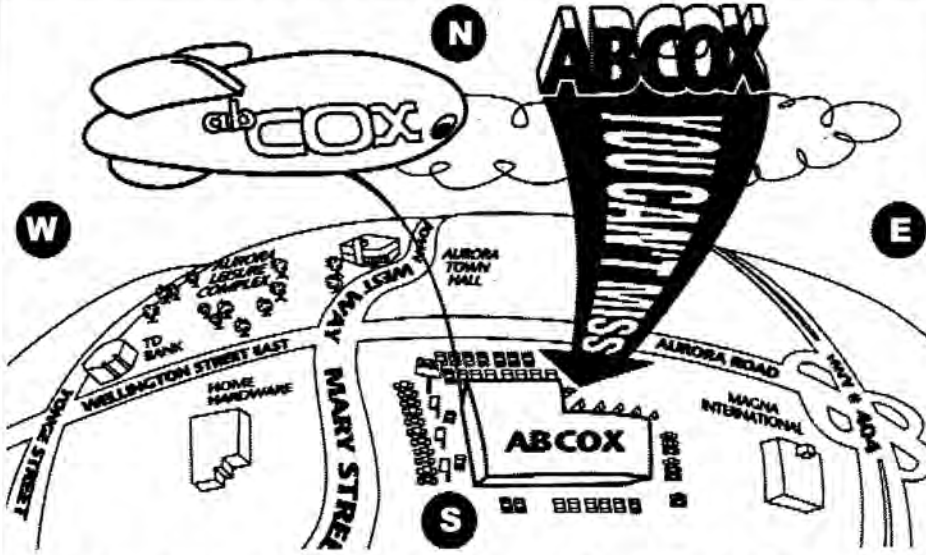
"But my goal, ultimately, is to make a difference through public office and I am being strongly encouraged to run," she said. "I

remain committed to 'raising the bar' in politics and I look forward to that opportunity wherever I can make the best contribution."


Meanwhile, Stronach was asked for written comments on her decision for The Auroran, but had not done so by press time.

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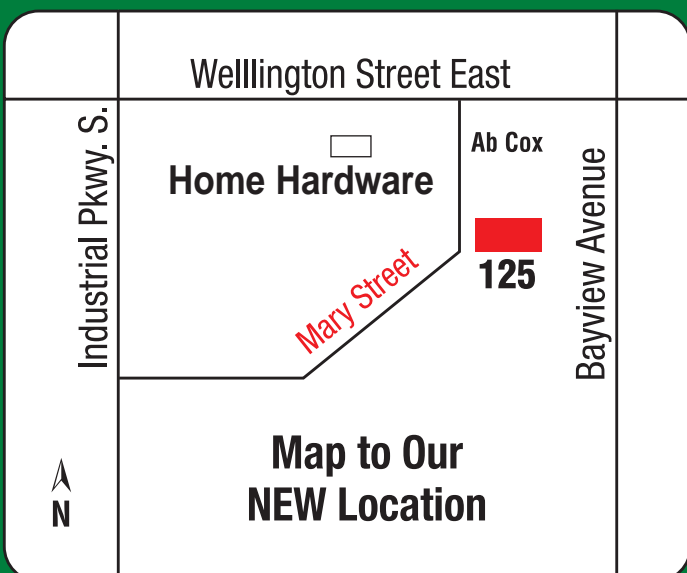
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