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Vol. 5 No. 34

Week of June 14, 2005

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U-Who the Clown kept smiling during the weekend as rainy weather tried to dampen Aurora's 83rd annual Horse Show and Fair at Macell Park. Several events got a little damp Friday evening. More pictures on Page 14.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

## Society seeks change in contract

Two years ago, Aurora Council approved an agreement with the Aurora Historical Society making the Society sole tenant of Church Street School for a period of 10 years with the option for two additional five-year terms.

The lease included funding arrangements and provided the

Society with the right to sublet space to other organizations with the consent of the Town and Management Committee provided 50 per cent of any revenue generated is contributed to the Building Capital Fund.

The existing Management Committee is comprised of mem-

bers of the Society, council and staff reporting to the Leisure Services Advisory Committee.

Last year council agreed to provide a loan of \$149,500 at no interest, to the Society to be repaid over a five-year period.

The Society's solicitor has advised members are not pursuing the loan at this time and as a result of discussions with staff the Society is seeking amendments to the existing agreement.

The amendment revises the membership to Society representatives and council members only and includes reporting directly to council.

It also extends the lease to a 20-year term with two further 10-year terms.

It proposes a change in name by replacing "Historical" with "Heritage".

It also proposes the Management Committee be replaced by the Historical Society Capital Works Committee consisting of two Society members and two members of council, reporting directly to council.

Councillor John West pointed out that the original intent was to provide the Society with exclusive use and the proposed amendment gave the town the right to rent the facility which was

Please see page 3

## New funeral home seeks new address

The move of the long-established Thompson Funeral Home from its current location on Victoria Street to a new facility at the corner of Industrial Parkway South and Yonge Street has been littered with complications.

It was in 1988 when the business, founded in 1922, was sold.

During early 2004 the new owners acquired the Industrial Parkway property and a public planning meeting was held to consider an amendment to permit a funeral home and professional office building on the site.

Although no member of the public attended the meeting, councillors had concerns about parking and conformity with Oak Ridges Moraine legislation.

Council approved the application subject to all the conditions being met during the site plan stage, but in November an appeal was launched with the Ontario Municipal Board by a citizen over the proposed height of the professional building.

Following negotiations with the citizen by staff and company representatives the appeal was withdrawn and another hurdle had been crossed.

The final hurdle landed at a general committee meeting

last week.

Brent Forrester, Location Manager for the funeral home, requested a change of address from the assigned 530 Industrial Parkway South.

He pointed out that Industrial Parkway was not an appropriate address for a funeral business and sought a Yonge Street number like the Aurora Chamber of Commerce across the street.

He said a Yonge Street address would make finding the funeral home easier.

Forrester added that he had contacted police and other agencies and no one objected to the change of address, but he does not have confirmation from Central York Fire Services.

He asked the committee to authorize a change in street address.

Thompson's property does extend to Yonge Street.

Construction of the facility is currently underway.

The committee agreed to refer the request to staff for a report including written comments from the fire department.

## Low bidder loses order

Unionville Motors will get an order from the Town of Aurora to provide new vans even though they were underbid by an Aurora dealer.

Part of the town's Works Department budget included replacement of a waterworks service van and two new full size cargo vans with power inverters.

A tender call for the two cargo vans was issued in April and two bids were received.

Unionville Motors submitted a bid of \$77,304.24 which did not meet two minor specification items, however the low bid from Highland Chevrolet Cadillac at \$75,258.50 could not meet a couple of major specification items and some minor items.

Please see page 16



Councillor Evelyn Buck and Mayor Tim Jones frolic in one of the many play areas at Ontario Place, site of Aurora Day this Saturday. Town has taken over one area of the popular Lake Ontario park and will promote itself from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with entertainment, demonstrations and booths. Among the entertainers are popular singer Patty McLaughlin and a jazz band from Aurora High School. Two for one admission tickets are available for download on the town's website. See a schedule of events on Page 17.



Lightning stripped the bark from this tree at the end of Mahogany Drive Friday as storms swept through Aurora causing flooding and power failures.

Auroran photo by Rob Schuetz



Brian



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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 Saturday, July 2 and Sunday, July 10, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Garden is located at 181 Centre Crescent.

\*\*\*\*

The Wellington Gallery, Wellington at Machell, features local painter Josie Schwarzli and wood sculptor Bob Staley in an exhibit titled "Hidden Beauty" until July 10. Hours of operation are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with other times by appointment. Call 905-751-0066.

\*\*\*\*

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 cgcyrn@bellnet.ca.

\*\*\*\*

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 905-830-9205.

\*\*\*\*

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.

### MONTH OF JUNE

The Aurora Legion is looking for senior veterans to ride jeeps in the Town's July First parade. To reserve a seat in the parade call 905-727-5642 or 905-727-9932.

### JUNE 17

Aurora Seniors' Centre dance at the Victoria Street hall. Dance begins at 8 p.m. Members pay \$3 and non-members \$3.50 which includes prizes, fresh homemade sandwiches, and good dance music.

### JUNE 18

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

### JUNE 20

Monthly meeting of the Aurora Writers Group at the Aurora Town Hall. Writers 18+ of all levels and genres welcome to participate in writing exercises and share their work. Contact Malcolm at 905-898-5484.

### 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.

\*\*\*\*

General committee meets in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

### 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.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society monthly meeting and flower show. 8 p.m. Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Guests welcome. \$2. Guest speaker is Kristin Ego-McPhail.

### JUNE 28

Aurora Council meets in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m. If you can't get to the meeting tune into Aurora Cable Internet Channel 10 for a complete telecast the following evening at 7:30 p.m.

### JUNE 29

Public planning meeting in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

### JUNE 30

July First activities begin with a party in Town Park this evening.

### JULY 1

Various activities, including parade, beer garden, horseshoe tournament and fireworks display occur all day. Most events at the Leisure Complex.

### 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.

### JULY 10

Garden tour hosted by the Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society, noon to 5 p.m. Tour eight gardens. Tickets, at \$10 each, are available at Mary's Flower Shop, Flowers By Terry and R & R Revisited.

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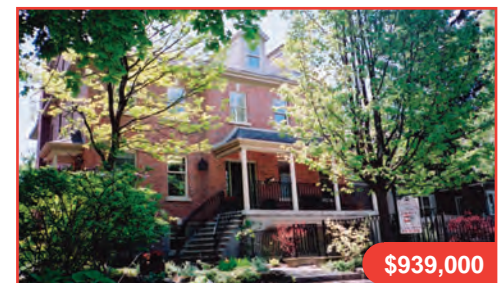
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## SPRING'S DEFINITELY HERE

There's no denying the fact spring has arrived on Aurora's Hilldale Road. This huge leaf came off a maple tree in front of Don Lewis' home last week. Measuring 18 inches wide and more than a foot high, the leaf was the only one of its size on the tree. Most were normal, about the size being held by Kathi, Don's wife. No one's quite sure where to look to find out if this is some sort of record.

*Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

## Mix history with garden Wednesday afternoon

Next Wednesday, June 22, residents have a chance to visit Aurora's famous garden, Merlin's Hollow, avoid the usual weekend crowds and chat with the garden's creators, David and Dierdre Tomlinson.

They also will be able to have tea at Hillary House National Historic Site and see some exciting new restoration work just getting underway.

Merlin's Hollow, a magical oasis at 181 Centre Crescent, just west of Industrial Parkway and north of Wellington Street in central Aurora, will be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Hillary House, at 15372 Yonge Street, will be open for tea and tours from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Residents may visit either one for \$5 per person or enjoy a discounted price of \$8, including tea, and visit both.

At Hillary House, visible will be the first stages of a project to restore the plaster ceilings and walls of the main hall, stairway, and adjacent doctor's consulting room and dispensary.

Built in 1862, Hillary House is plaqued as a National Historic Site and

recognized as one of Canada's best examples of Victorian Gothic Revival architecture.

It is owned and operated by the Aurora Historical Society.

Now a museum, it is furnished with the possessions of the Hillary family who lived there for three genera-

tions.

Afternoon tea will be served outdoors on the back verandah or upstairs in the air-conditioned ballroom, depending on the weather.

All proceeds will help the Historical Society in its ongoing restoration of Hillary House. For more information, call 905-727-

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## Society

From page 1

a contradiction that required clarification.

He stressed the need to determine which definition was correct as it was necessary to clarify now rather than later. He also noted that under the lease the Society is responsible for payment of all utilities.

Councillor Damir Vrancic referred to the proposed composition of the committee with two members each, which could result in a deadlock.

Councillor Evelyn Buck expressed concern about the need of the longer lease and the lack of a staff member on the committee.

It was finally agreed to refer the issue to a future general committee meeting when more information was available.

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# Ethics Code for council? Forget it!

*Council has a Code of Ethics, Citizens often wonder why; It's a most dysfunctional council, Enough to make grown people cry!*  
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Last November Councillor Phyllis Morris gave Notice of Motion that she would bring forward amendments to council's Code of Ethics.

Nothing was done and last month she advised council members that she was still researching the issue and would present her amendment in the fall.

It's respectably requested she forget the whole thing as it will generate another heated, controversial debate which won't accomplish anything but a waste of time, when it could be used for more beneficial issues.

Council has had a Code of Ethics since 1997, which was designed to control the conduct of members of council.

Although members of council sign the Code after an election, it isn't worth the paper it is written on.

Back in October, 1996, Councillor Morris suggested a Code of Ethics due to what she perceived was the public perception of politicians and said such a Code would be in the best interests of council members and citizens.

Her proposal was not well received by some members of council who claimed they were subject to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, the Municipal Elections Act and the Municipal Act in addition to their oath of office.

In spite of their strong arguments council on a 5-3 vote supported a Morris motion to establish an Ad Hoc Code of Ethics Committee of civilians and council members to develop a Code of Ethics for members of council.

In May 1997 on a 6-3 vote council adopted a Code of Ethics prepared by the committee which covered such areas as role and responsibilities, relationship with staff, gifts and benefits, public input, transparency and professional development.

The Code became part of the orientation presentation for newly elected members of council who were required to sign the code and review their adherence to the provisions of the Code on a regular basis or when requested by council.

It wasn't the first time a Code of Ethics had been proposed for Aurora Council as in April, 1996, council rejected such a suggestion as not being required.

In May, 1997, Councillor George Timpson suggested council members needed such a Code to guide their conduct.

His proposal included such items as conflict of interest, fraternization with staff and acceptance of gifts, but he was unable to convince members of council that a Code was necessary.

The issue came to life again in October, 1996, when council supported a motion by Councillor Morris to establish an Ad Hoc Code of Ethics Review Committee to develop a Code of Ethics for council members.

The Code ended up pleasing no one.

Councillor Morris argued that it wasn't strong enough and had no teeth.

Other councillors argued that the Code was unnecessary as members of council had to swear an oath on taking public office.

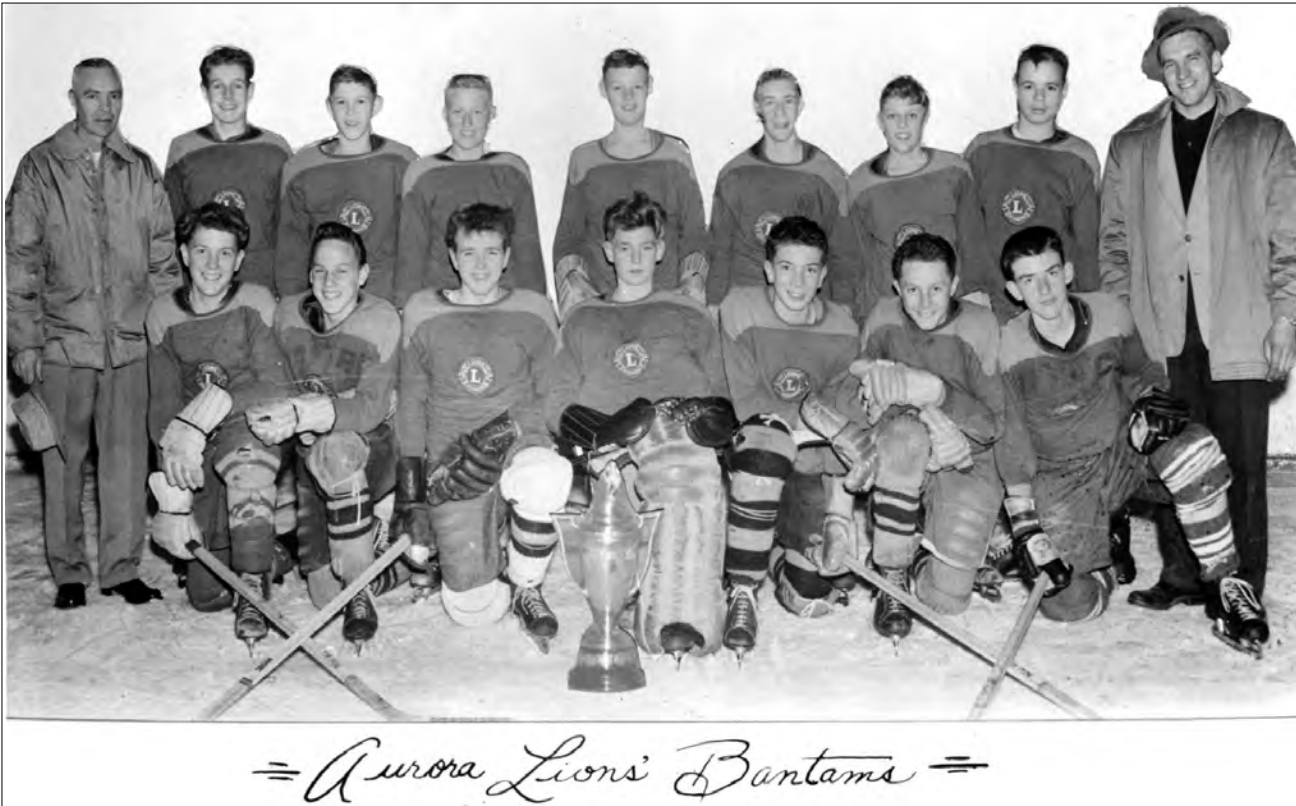
In November, 2002, Councillor Nigel Kean proposed that the Code of Ethics be strengthened by introducing tough guidelines especially as it related to accepting gifts from corporations.

He was accused of looking for evil where none existed and the debate deteriorated into a shouting match and was defeated on a 6-3 vote, as was a motion to establish a review committee.

It was argued that a Code was unnecessary as the public would judge the actions of members of council at the next election.

One of the provisions of the Code is that members of council must accurately communicate the decisions of council, even if they disagree with the majority decision of council, to show respect for the decision-making processes of council.

This provision is broken at almost every council meeting as issues are repeated again and again as councillors try to force their point of view, and the rules of procedure are broken, so forget about the Code of Ethics and let the people decide who should run the affairs of the town.



Aurora's award winning Lions' Bantam hockey team is shown here in 1957, and some names you will associate with the National Hockey League. Top row, left to right, Percy Preston, coach; Charlie Leeming, Tim Taylor, Terry Stone, Keith Wright, Ken Taylor, Brian Knowles, Paul Sisman and manager Doug Harrison, who owned the Aurora Dairy Bar at the time. Front row, left to right, Derek Scott, Robert Wright, Paul Hughes, Peter Dol, Don Taylor, Bob Wall and Norm Denis.

## Letters to the Editor

# Political changes are coming, reader says

To the editor,

Whatever murky understanding was reached between Belinda Stronach and the Liberal Party, it resulted in the Liberal party increasing its strength by one seat, and the Conservative party becoming diminished by one, albeit the same seat and one of enormous significance.

Worth mentioning is that this letter was initiated and inspired by a resentful and spirited discussion I overheard among four customers in a food store, a conversation in which I was startled to hear words of disgust at the present unprincipled condition of the federal

political parties, which I cannot recall hearing ever before.

Maybe the voters have had enough finally, and if so, what next?

The Liberals are clearly a national party but they have been too long in power, and they have members in high places, whose tarnished honour and principles sadly need renewal.

The Conservatives can also claim to be a national party, albeit, one which has been torn apart by strife and which, has had to be reborn.

The old guard is out and the new guard has now formed itself into an uneasy alliance, although infighting still smolders in their ranks

about who plays what role.

And while they do seem intent on good honest government, they need to lighten their image and soften their policies, and find a way to present themselves as a united harmonious party serving all of Canada.

An influx of new blood, spurred by an election, would brighten the Conservative picture considerably, and I would opt for this choice.

I do not see any other choice!

Democracy best serves any state when periodic changes in government occur, and Canada is long overdue.

We lack a strong univer-

sally popular opposition, and we have a tainted federal government, which should resign and clean house.

Therefore we have an opposition power vacuum and a federal power vacuum and politics abhors a vacuum, which is why I predict confidently, great changes loom and soon.

**Brian Warburton**  
**Aurora**

# I'll support Belinda in the next election

To the editor,

Upon my return from vacation I heard with surprise that Belinda Stronach had decided to cross the floor to the Liberal party and although I supported her in the last election, I am not quite ready at this point to hang her out to dry as a lot of your readers seem to indicate in their scathing letters.

I can understand why so many who put in a lot of effort to support Belinda in the past feel let down, however, first and foremost, Aurora/Newmarket should be voting for the best candidate who will support and work for our well being.

Belinda makes a good

case for her change because she supported the latest budget which further helps municipalities and their support services, in addition a majority of Canadians do not want an early election.

I also believe that Belinda saw a very negative picture of the philosophies and strategies of her previous party and could not in good conscience continue the facade.

How many of us look in the mirror and want to make a change but haven't got the guts to do it?

I'm sure Belinda has the resources to enable her to change her mind and take new risks (a lot more than most of us) but looking at the situation in

the most cynical way when was ambition and opportunity a crime in Canada?

It is quite ironic that Peter MacKay not long ago dragged his remaining Conservative MPPs over to the Alliance party with promises that were made and promises that he did not keep.

How soon we forget!

I have never met Belinda Stronach but I believe she has done a good job for our community so far and she will get my support in the next election.

From a member of the 'silent majority'.

Are there any others out there?

**Neil Allison**  
**Aurora**

## AURORAN

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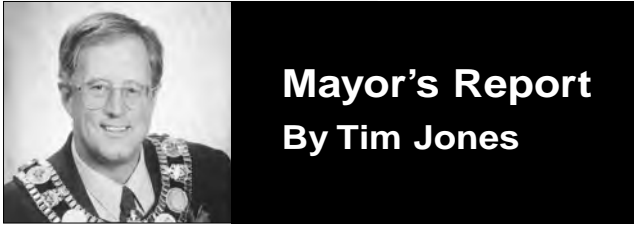
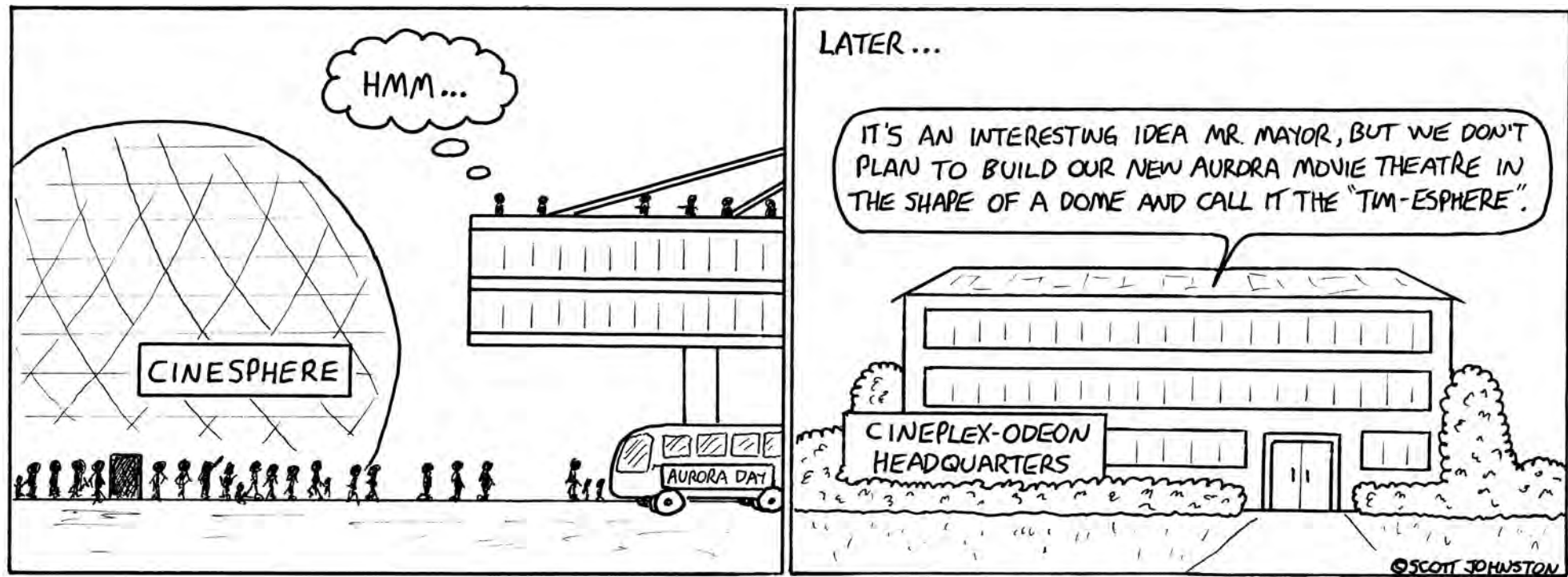
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Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published. Names may be withheld assuming a compelling reason to do so. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.

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**Mayor's Report**  
**By Tim Jones**

# The life we lead today

According to my record keeping, this is my 200th column in The Auroran. To celebrate, I thought I would pass along some humour that I came across recently.

This was sent to me through e-mail and I had to chuckle as I have caught myself doing a number of these things that I would have never done 15 years ago.

Perhaps you have also been in a similar position. Enjoy.

**You know you're living in 2005 when...**

1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
6. You go home after a long day at work and you still answer the phone in a business manner.
7. You make phone calls from home, you accidentally dial "9 to get an outside line.
8. You've sat at the same desk for four years and worked for three different companies.
10. You learn about your redundancy on the 11 o'clock news.
11. Your boss doesn't have the ability to do your job.
12. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home.
13. Every commercial on television has a website at the bottom of the screen.
14. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
15. You get up in the morning and go online before getting your coffee.
16. You start tilting your head sideways to smile :-).
17. You're reading this and nodding and laughing.
18. Even worse, you know exactly to whom you are going to send this message.
19. You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list.
20. You actually looked back up to check that there wasn't a #9 on this list.

AND NOW YOU'RE LAUGHING at yourself.

If you see something in this column that you wish to respond to, I welcome your comments, either through the paper, to the Town Hall by mail - Box 1000, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 6J1 or e-mail at [tjones@town.aurora.on.ca](mailto:tjones@town.aurora.on.ca)

## Letters to the Editor

# Dance, festival huge success

To the editor,

I would like to compliment the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, especially Kimberley Kerr and the Street Dance and Street Festival Committee for the excellent job they did to arrange and run the two great events last weekend.

The street dance had approximately 2,000 people and it was great to see every-one of every age dancing and enjoying the festivities on Saturday night.

As late as 11:45 p.m. there were people of all ages still dancing.

The dance was the kind of

event that shows that Aurorans still get together to enjoy each other's company as we did so many years ago.

The event went on without any problems and everyone was courteous and friendly.

On Sunday at the Street Festival again Aurorans got together to show the rest of the GTA what kind of a great Town Aurora is.

More than 40,000 people walked up and down Yonge Street buying product and supporting the many great charities and teams that were collecting money by selling goods and services.

I am so proud to be part of

this great Town, both as a resident and as a councillor.

Thanks also to the Town Staff who did such a great job of cleaning up after the events.

They deserve so much

credit as they were out early in the morning and late at night to get the streets back to normal.

**Nigel Kean**  
**Aurora**

## Street clean as whistle

To the editor,

I live on the third floor of Park Place Manor with an uninterrupted view of Yonge Street.

On my return to my suite after dinner on Sunday, I was amazed to look out and see Yonge Street as clean as a whistle after all those

festivities Sunday after-noon.

I assume that the Aurora Department of Public Works would have been involved and maybe others.

To all, my congratula-tions on a job well done.

**Archie Milne**  
**Aurora**



## Cathy's Corner



# Hugs for Dad

Being a mom, I know a few things about being a dad.

True, I've never been one, but I've had one of the best all my life, and the one I picked out for my kids is as excel-lent as they come.

I know that fathers can be strict and demanding and, at times, seem like they just arrived from Planet Party Pooper...and I know they can be the instillers of self-dis-cipline the voice of reason, and the builders of character, that we finally appreciate when we have kids of our own.

I also know that dads love hugs.

So, this Father's Day, I send hugs to dads, young and old; hugs to dinosaur dads, and hugs to the cool dudes.

And royal hugs to dads who wonder how they got princesses without getting to be king.

Hugs to dads on diaper duty, and size extra large hugs when the job involves getting out of bed at 2 a.m. to brave rain, sleet and snow because the last Huggie is on the baby...and the baby is no longer huggable.

Hugs to sleep deprived dads who get handed the baby right after breakfast...just in time to go to work with drool on their shirts.

And big bear hugs to those who wear it like a badge of honour.

Hugs to dads who push strollers, and more hugs to dads who tirelessly piggyback cranky tots all day...because, of course, the stroller is stuffed full of everything that failed to amuse the little devils.

Hugs to dads who proudly remove training wheels from bicycles, and hugs to dads who put them back on in frustration.

Hugs to dads who rake leaves, and hugs to dads who bake banana bread.

Hugs to dads who take out the garbage, and hugs to dads who disembowel dead machinery and refuse to throw anything away.

Hugs to pops who bring home pups, and cuddles for feeding, walking and picking up after the 95-pound mutt when the novelty wears off.

Hugs to dads who lecture; hugs to dads who listen.

A high five to dads who know when to do which...and an "E" for effort to those who always seem to get it wrong.

Hugs to dads who teach sons to treat women with respect, and hugs to dads who raise daughters to com-mand it.

And big bear hugs to dads who teach all their children that it works both ways.

Hugs to dads who pass on everything they know, and to those who worry that their kids are barely passing because they already know everything.

Hugs to dads who teach boys the art of do-it-yourself, and hugs to dads who think getting in touch with their feminine side means teaching a girl to throw a football.

Hugs to dads with millions of ties and billions of socks, and double hugs for those with enough cologne to mari-nate instead of shower.

Oh, and kisses for acting surprised every time.

Hugs to dads who suffer back-talk, hugs to dads who wonder if their kids are still there underneath the ear-rings, tattoos and neon hair...and extra soft sympathetic hugs to dads who suffer from PMS in silent bewilder-ment.

Hugs to dads who pass on wisdom, advice, and old cars, and forever thanks to dads who have passed on, leaving a legacy of love, a lifetime of precious memories, and a model to emulate.

Hugs to stepfathers, grandfathers, fathers-in-law, sin-gle fathers and father figures for being there to make the world a better place.

Father's Day is a day to celebrate the huggable men in our lives who became fathers by chance, and "dads" on purpose.

And since a hug is the kind of thing that never runs out because you can't give without getting, go ahead, Aurora, give your dad all the hugs he deserves all day long!

Happy Father's Day!

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



By DICK ILLINGWORTH

**BOUQUETS** to Aurora's Yvonne Cattrall on winning six medals at the recent Canadian Masters Short Course Swimming Championships including her sixth World title by setting a new world record in the 100-metre breaststroke event. In addition, she broke two Canadian records in the 50-metre breaststroke and the 50-metre butterfly.

**BOUQUETS** to the 80 members of the Aurora Master Ducks Swim Team for competing against 134 clubs in the same swimming meet and bringing home nine Gold, 18 Silver and 19 Bronze Medals in individual events and seven Gold, nine Silver and four Bronze in the relay events, plus two Canadian records.

**BRICKBATS** to the federal government brass who authorized the payment of \$32 million taxpayer dollars last year to provide 91 per cent of the senior civil servants with a performance bonus. With all the shenanigans going on in Ottawa, it's hard to believe they deserve a bonus, or maybe it was a report for keeping quiet!

**BOUQUETS** to the member of council who will ask what happened to the Bob Harman Memorial Award and the Johnson Cultural Award at the recent Community Recognition Awards Ceremony. Were they forgotten for a lack of nominations or just forgotten? It's the first time they have not been awarded.

**BRICKBATS** to inconsiderate motorists, who are so anxious to get to a garage sale on a residential street, that they park anywhere including blocking driveways.

**BOUQUETS** to all the organizers and volunteers who worked so hard to arrange the recent Street Dance and the Street Festival on the following day, and to all the participants who attended and made it all worthwhile and to the weatherman for providing good weather.

**BRICKBATS** to Premier Dalton McGuinty for promising to lower limits on political donations and to set up a citizens' jury to consider what the limits should be prior to the election. According to Elections Ontario in 2004 the governing Liberals received \$6.8 million in political donations compared with \$4.31 million for the NDP and \$4.28 million for the Tories. Money follows power!

**BOUQUETS** to the management and the store operators of the Aurora Shopping Centre for flying the Canadian flags, which blow so proudly in the breeze, over the stores on a full time basis. It's a beautiful sight!

**BRICKBATS** to the Toronto Police for stealing a bicycle and a lock from a homeless person, because it was believed it might have been stolen. A Good Samaritan came to the man's assistance by obtaining a copy of the bill of sale from the store and reclaiming the bike. More **BRICKBATS** to Insp. Paul Vorvis for protecting the police officer. Police shouldn't investigate police.

**BOUQUETS** to the St. Andrew's College Saints on winning a Silver Medal at the All-Ontario High School B Division Field Lacrosse Championships in Hagersville recently. The team lost out to the home team in the finals.

**BRICKBATS** to the former Eves government for signing a contract to integrate the justice system computer network with a consortium. It was cancelled when the cost doubled from \$180 to \$350 million. The companies sued the government and the McGuinty government had to fork over \$63 million to settle the claim.

**BRICKBATS** to the RCMP brass for providing four officers in their red dress uniform to attend Justin Trudeau's swank Montreal wedding, regardless of whether they volunteered for the job or not. It was an inappropriate use of police officers.

## Letters to the Editor

# Prez thinks Belinda Stronach should host Town Hall meeting

To the editor,

After her neatly scripted appearance on the local cable television channel last week, her one page paid advertisement "Open Letter" placed in both local papers, and her M.P.'s report in The Auroran last week, voters within Newmarket and Aurora are still left with few answers to Belinda Stronach's sudden and dramatic departure to the Liberals.

I considered Belinda a friend the week before her departure to the Liberals and I still consider her a friend one week after her departure.

However, I can neither understand her actions nor condone them.

It seems to me that opportunity has trumped selflessness in this case.

This is exactly the type of behaviour that breeds public cynicism of our politicians.

What is particularly galling is that, in addition to being made Minister of Human Resources, Belinda is now responsible for democratic renewal.

If it were not for the seriousness of her actions, it would be laughable.

Might I suggest that one step, albeit a very small one, that may provide answers to voters' questions surrounding her actions and also to begin the dialogue regarding the 'democratic deficit' in our country, would be for Ms. Stronach to hold a Town

Hall meeting - with a format that permitted a real flow and exchange of information and ideas.

I know that Belinda is not averse to the concept of such a meeting, as she has already held a Town Hall Meeting on public safety.

I would submit that most people, unencumbered by political party membership, simply want straightforward answers and more clarity regarding her public utterances to this point.

I would attend such a meeting and I am even willing, as a gesture of political goodwill, to provide her, in advance, with my four simple questions;

1. In return for crossing the floor, did you request a cabinet seat or did the Prime Minister offer it to you?

2. The "Open Letter" stated that, "To accomplish defeat of the government would have required alliance with the separatist Bloc Quebecois..." How can you reconcile this position with the unmistakable fact that the only reason that public support for the Bloc in Quebec has risen is due to the sponsorship actions of the party that you are now joining?

3. Why did you not consult with the Board of your Conservative riding association that you were thinking of crossing the floor?

4. I understand that an NDP private member's bill, C-251, requiring a parliamentarian to first sit as an independent and then to face a bi-election before cross-

ing the floor, may come before the House in the near future. Would you vote in favour of such a bill?

I feel for the hundreds of volunteers and thousands of Conservative voters who put their faith and trust in Belinda as our Conservative Member of Parliament.

She broke that special, and dare I say it, fragile, bond of trust with the voters and in effect, disenfranchised the thousands of Conservative voters in the riding.

I ask voters not to despair.

Our riding association is moving forward.

Twenty-five of 30 Board members and five of six executive officers have re-affirmed their commitment to our Leader and also to the aims, objectives and principles of our party.

By the time that you read this, we will have already had our nomination convention and cho-

sen a new Conservative candidate.

Our riding association is very fortunate to have three outstanding candidates vying for the nomination; Lois Brown of Newmarket, Bob Pritchard of Unionville and Brian Walker of Newmarket.

I look forward to working with our new candidate to prepare for the election to come and to prepare our party to take the seals of high office once again.

In the end, the good people of Newmarket - Aurora will be the final arbiters regarding Belinda's actions.

I urge all voters in our riding - at the next opportunity - to make Belinda a 'private' citizen once again.

**Stephen Somerville  
President,  
Newmarket - Aurora  
Electoral District  
Association  
Conservative Party of  
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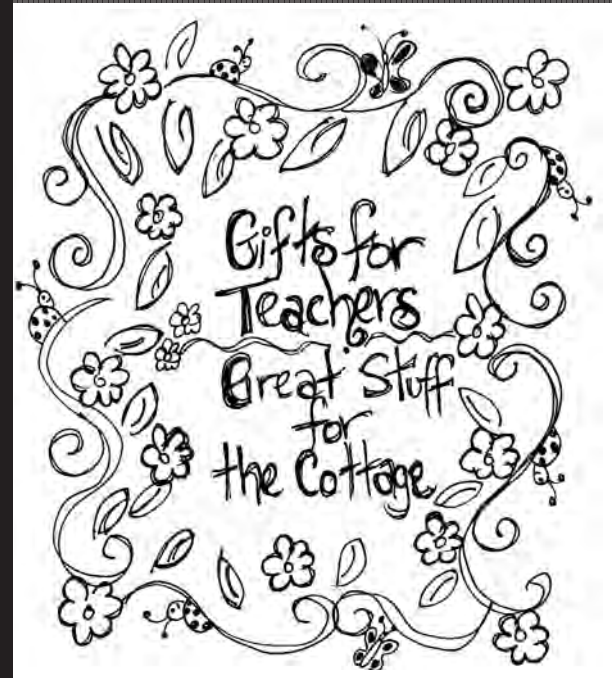
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Letters to the Editor

# Party doesn't provide direction, reader says

Open letter to Stephen Somerville

After reading your letter to the editor in The Auroran (May 31, Page 7) you have confirmed what I have thought of your party since it was called the Reform Party.

Then, as now, there are three things of note about

your party's politics:

One, your party has now, as it did in its beginning, no coherent direction in pursuing an independent Canadian foreign policy.

Two, a clear disclosure of what your party would cut from the government ministries to achieve significant tax reduction for all Canadians.

Three, a strategy on how your party will, if in government, deal with Quebec separatism.

On Canadian foreign policy your party must address the following:

One, what are the specific changes in material used by our military forces to be?

Two, how this change will impact on Canadian peace-

keeping efforts in the world.

Three, how your party will pursue a direction in international policy that is not made in the US White House.

With tax reduction and government ministries three things come to mind.

First, would your party, if in government, transfer financial powers over to the provinces in a manner that the Ontario Tory party did with municipalities in Ontario?

defecting to your opposition would only underscore the lack of an independent foreign policy, little or no policy on how to implement reduction of taxes, and no clear strategy for dealing with Quebec separatism.

This defect in your party's policy platform persists still even now that you call yourselves Conservatives.

I would expect that you will reply to this by saying that your party's policy conventions have addressed all of these questions.

To that, I reply that no leader or member of your party has delivered clearly and precisely what direction your party has resolved to take.

In view of this I cannot think that the interests of the people of Newmarket-Aurora or Canada will be best served by electing yours or any political party that cannot provide the needed direction for our country.

Goland Trevize  
Aurora

# Watch Belinda's agenda

To the editor,

This is a response to letters to the editor from J.A.S.Milne and S. Schildroth regarding Belinda Stronach.

This is an issue that needs to be put to rest.

The defection of Belinda Stronach from one political party to another is hardly the issue here.

The media frenzy covering this defection is fully intended to keep the Canadian public marginalized and concentrated on what is touted as Canadian values.

reform, rising above partisan politics and the need for checks and balances are a direct mirror of her father's own statements.

We should be very nervous and take very seriously the view that we are being represented here by an unashamed monopoly capitalist, no matter what political coat she wears.

It is my personal view that Belinda, like so many others, will crusade tirelessly against government interference in the life of monopolies, that they may prosper.

When the electoral process is fuelled by money and influence, the people - that's you and me - are disempowered.

Our voices are diminished and our interests as a populace, take a back seat. We are barely on the agenda.

Schildroth asks in her letter (item # 4) how Belinda is able to forfeit her parliamentary pledge, taken under oath to represent her constituents?

I believe she is still under that oath. What has changed?

When anybody of any political stripe is duly elected by a majority vote in any constituency that MP has an obligation to represent not just those constituents who voted for, donated to, or worked for that candidate in an election campaign, but the ENTIRE CONSTITUENCY.

I may not vote Conservative, I may not vote Liberal, but nonetheless, I engage in the political process as it is, exercising my franchise (which is my only voice) and accepting democratic decision as it falls.

Belinda is my elected representative in Ottawa, whether I like it or not.

And she is still obligated to represent me and my neighbours and my co-workers in this riding, to the best of her ability.

Is that not what democracy is?

Are we so unfamiliar with the process of democracy that we do not have the grace and will to accept the decision of the majority?

It doesn't matter what hat she wears.

Move on from that and watch her agenda. The proof is in the pudding.

# Driver invited to stay away

Invitation to David Peirce (letter, Auroran, June 7)

We cordially invite you to stop driving through "our historical streets" neighbourhood and we invite you to drive your "palladium go kart" on the high speed main thoroughfares Yonge and Wellington Streets, where there are no "garbage pails rolling around in the roadway".

Where there are no Day Care students, and no stop signs.

No need to cut through our "quiet neighbourhood" and add to your "chagrin".

No need to RSVP, just leave our residential neighbourhood alone.

David, how can you tell the difference between a large plastic garbage container and an eight-year-old child, when "swerving 23 times" in one block?

Where do you live, David, we'd like to come and enjoy driving through your neighbourhood.

David, do you hear any of the actual residents of "our historical streets" complaining?

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Letters to the Editor

# Author's objections are incorrect, reader says

To the editor,

Mr. Hanes, the Reform Conservative author (letters to the editor, The Auroran, May 31) has a lot to say about the Liberals, but all of his objections are ill-founded, out-of-touch and incorrect.

MacKenzie King, the wartime prime minister did, at no time, rescind the Conscription Act to placate Quebec, as he states.

Mr. King did not agree with conscription even with his minister of defense Col. J.L. Ralston, who contemplated resignation at one point.

King was a great observer and having seen what

Robert Borden, the Conservative PM achieved with conscription in 1917 (a total exit from Quebec) King, in a positive way, managed to keep Canada united.

To this day, Conservatives have no voice in Quebec.

So, Mr. Hanes, I can understand your bitterness.

On the other hand, your abject reference to Zombies (the living dead) is reprehensible.

You should be required to address the living relatives of those valiant troops, the Chaudiers, Vandoos and Montreal Black Watch, who suffered enormous losses in the Italy campaign and are recognized by historians the

world over.

With respect to representation and seats in the house, which you believe unjust, Quebec has the second largest amount of people after Ontario. They are aptly covered.

About monetary disparity vis-a-vis immigrants, a loss to Ontario of some \$3,000 a head, I can only say Mike Harris was here for some nine years with his head in the sand, now Dalton McGuinty is addressing this important issue.

Mr. Harper's claim to fame that the \$4.5 billion did not go to corporations but to much needed health care, housing, child care,

education, etc., is a bust.

Tell me, Mr. Hanes, don't you think that Canadians, by and large, know the difference about justice and work-

ing towards an enlightened society?

Yes, Mr. Hanes, Canada is a wonderful country and I was proud to serve it.

Something above your scope and vision.

Ben Kestein  
Aurora

## An earlier Aurora A & P

To the editor,

A little postscript to your useful article on the history of A & P in Aurora.

The very first A & P in town opened in part of what is now the Caruso's building.

The store opened in September of 1933, and closed in the late summer of 1938.

Jacqueline Stuart  
Curator  
Aurora Museum

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2005 BUDGET UPDATE 2005 BUDGET UPDATE 2005 BUDGET UPDATE 2005 BUDGET UPDATE 2005 BUDGET UPDATE 2005 BUDGET UPDATE 2005 BUDGET UPDATE 2005 BUDGET UPDATE



## Greg Sorbara, MPP

Vaughan-King-Aurora

### What the **2005 Budget** Means for You:

The 2005 Ontario budget is all about investing in people and strengthening our economy.

The budget makes key investments in areas Ontarians said are their top priorities – education, health, and a strong economy – while making significant progress toward eliminating the deficit.

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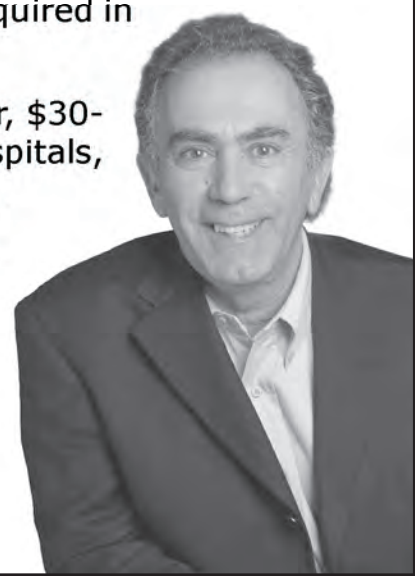
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- ✓ In postsecondary education – with a historic \$6.2 billion infusion, the largest multi-year investment in 40 years – and by maintaining the tuition freeze for 2005-06.
- ✓ In education – with more child care spaces, smaller classes, and peace and stability in our school system.
- ✓ In health – with more doctors and nurses, shorter wait times, and a \$32.9 billion investment in health care this year, a \$1.8 billion increase over last year.
- ✓ In deficit reduction – by reducing the 2004-05 deficit we inherited by almost half to \$3 billion – and balancing the budget in 2008-09 at the latest. It will balance a year earlier if the reserve is not required in 2007-08.
- ✓ In infrastructure – with a five-year, \$30-billion plan for roads, transit, hospitals, schools, colleges, and universities.
- ✓ And no new taxes or tax increases.





# What life was like in Aurora in 1995

It was just 10 years ago but some of the same debates are still current and others are forgotten, at least for now.

One of the stories that continued during 1995 and afterwards was the question of regional restructuring and boundary changes. At that time the acronym GTA for Greater Toronto Area, so popular today, was unknown.

There were stories of a possible merger of Aurora and Newmarket, Georgina swallowing East Gwillimbury, Vaughan taking over King and Markham doing the same to Whitchurch-Stouffville. There were many other scenarios introduced during the year.

One of the big January news stories was Guy Paul Morin being acquitted of the 1984 sex murder of nine-year-old Christine Jessop, a Queensville neighbour, based on DNA evidence, after he spent years in jail.

Also in January Aurora's library board began lobbying for a new \$6.3 million library and York Region launched a \$5 million claim against architect Douglas Cardinal for alleged negligence in the design of the new regional headquarters.

Just like today, the

region's environmental committee reported the area was running out of water to accommodate new development and upset Aurora councillors by imposing a uniform water rate which increased Aurora's rate by 69 per cent.

Aurora Council received another shock in February when Magna International announced its world headquarters would be considerably smaller than originally planned.

In March the region engaged the former Municipal Affairs deputy minister to help steer the region's restructuring plans and Anne Golden was named chairperson of the provincial task force to recommend how local government should be restructured.

Aurora Council received still another shock when developer Cadillac Fairview pulled out of the proposed Aurora shopping mall at Bayview and Wellington as it no longer had the financial ability to proceed.

April brought about budget time and regional council was able to hold the line, the public board increased by 1.8 per cent and the separate board hiked taxes three per cent.

Aurora Council

declared a tax freeze for the fifth year in a row.

Spring also brought the opening shots in the provincial election campaign as York Mackenzie Liberal incumbent Charles Beer faced NDP Susan Wakeling and PC Frank Klees.

The election started to heat up in May as leaders Mike Harris and Lyn McLeod made campaign stops in the riding. NDP leader Bob Rae sent his wife Arlene Perly Rae to campaign for him.

The Tory election sweep was the big news across Ontario in June and York Region was no exception. Frank Klees and Julia Munro were elected locally and the region obtained two cabinet ministers in Al Palladini and Dave Tsubouchi.

In Aurora Marc Neeb was appointed chief administrative officer replacing Jay Currier.

In July five years of controversy in the local area ended when the Harris government killed the Interim Waste Authority to the joy of res-

idents living near the three prospective trash dump sites selected by the NDP, but they had no answer as to where the waste would go.

According to Statistics Canada, York Region communities were among the wealthiest in Canada. Aurora led the region with a median income of \$28,100, the 19th highest in Ontario and 55th in Canada.

In October all Canadians held their breath waiting for the results of the Referendum in Quebec. Here at home in Aurora auto parts giant Frank Stronach and Mayor Tim Jones officially launched the \$200 million Magna International headquarters.

Stronach told the audience that if he looked to be too pushy, he apologized to the citizens of Aurora.

Winter came early as the season's first storm caused havoc in November.

As 1995 came to an end the separate school board announced a tough new safe schools policy

and Aurora agreed to hire four more full-time firefighters giving the town 24-hour fire protection.

The year ended with restructuring still an issue as regional council had 17

different maps of new municipal boundaries from which to choose and all of it was a waste of time and money as the status quo was maintained.



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**Thanks** to our members and everyone for their support of all of our 35 activities over the past year. We will spend the summer months planning our numerous events including networking gatherings, luncheons, 20th Home Show and 2006 Street Festival.

Congratulations to Ruth Francey of Aurora, the winner of the diamond earrings at the Yonge Street Dance. We hope you enjoy them.

We were also pleased to present the Rotary Club of Aurora with a cheque for more than \$2000 for their efforts at the Street Dance.

**Enjoy the Summer and be safe!**

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Combatants representing soccer teams from Toronto and Clarkson do battle on the St. Andrew's College field Sunday as the Aurora Youth Soccer Club hosted the Ontario Cup Tournament Rounds. The event was for players under 12 and under 13.

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

## Downtown glitter without the drive

Love the multi-media show at Toronto Blue Jay games but hate the idea of driving downtown?

The problem is solved and leaving Aurora is unnecessary.

Aurora's own Jays - the major mosquito version - are offering the same atmosphere this year without the hassle of driving to that big ball park in Toronto.

This year, the locals have commissioned Tom Job from Wayne Jones DJ Service to play at all home games (Leisure Complex, field 3, most Wednesday nights at 6.30 p.m.).

There are rock hits and foul ball sounds to keep the crowd in the game.

In addition, Jays' players get their choice of song when coming up to bat, just like the big leaguers.

And, everyone stands to hear a rousing rendition of "O Canada" before the umpires make their famous call to "play ball".

The 10 and 11-year-old players seem to love it.

"It really gets me pumped up," said West Howe, who handles pitching and outfield duties. "I think I hit better when

the music is on."

His team-mates include Zachary Cook, Ward Benn, Sam Copeland, Ryan Belz, Matthew Sheffit, Matt Stewart, Mark Robertson, Jordan Cattapan, Erin Albaum, David Baccellieri, Carter Chapley, Arielle Pollock and Andrew Seguin.

The musical motivation

must be working since the Jays boast a record of four wins, a loss and a tie as they battle for first place.

The hometown crowd also seems to enjoy the added entertainment.

Parents can be seen bopping along, especially when Tom wisely programs "oldies" into the mix.

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# July First parties over the years

With Aurora's annual July First festivities only a couple of weeks away, it seems fitting to review some of the fun we had getting here.

In July, 1969, when Aurora Council decided to hold a Civic birthday party to celebrate Canada's Birthday and to proclaim itself as Canada's Birthday Town, it also passed a bylaw to restrict the opening of retail stores and businesses on July First.

As the town had no control over the industrial sector, the operators were encouraged to observe the holiday and let their employees enjoy the festivities.

Some did and some didn't.

At the time there was considerable discussion in political circles about the July First holiday.

Some suggested the event be celebrated on the closest Monday rather than the day itself, which Aurora Council opposed.

In 1978, when July First fell on a Saturday, Councillor Pete Miller expressed concern about the festivities when he saw cars backed up on Yonge Street heading north on Friday evening.

He jokingly suggested council pass a bylaw forbidding anyone from leaving town on a July First weekend.

His suspicions were partially confirmed as the wine and cheese party and teen dance scheduled for the Friday evening were poorly attended. In addition crowds along Yonge Street on Saturday morning were down in numbers.

Among the events attracting the largest crowds during the four-day celebration was Musicfest '78 on Thursday night, which raised about \$1,000 for the Victoria Street library building fund, Saturday's magic show for the kids and the traditional beer garden with music by Mac Butler and his band.

Another highlight was the softball game between the Aurora Juvenile Diggers and the Oshawa All-Stars, which ended in a scoreless tie in Fleury Park.

The number of floats and marching bands for the July First parade declined slightly but it was still a good parade, well enjoyed by those left in town to enjoy it.

One of the cancelled events was the traditional bed race between Aurora and Newmarket councillors, when the Newmarket team backed out due to lack of numbers.

Not to disappoint the crowd gathered on Aurora Heights Drive, with Councillor George Timpson at the wheel and Councillors Len Ostick and

Kel Tonner pushing, the Aurora team put on a show.

During the firefighters' competitions in Machell Park on Saturday afternoon, the Keswick team walked away with top honours. They placed first in the men's and women's waterball and tug-of-war with Aurora teams placing second.

In addition the firefighters participated in the hose race, won by the Alliston brigade, the ladder race with Schomberg winning and the bucket race also won by the Alliston team of firefighters.

Miller and other July First committee members questioned the four-day festival, claiming people were selective about what they attended and some events lost out.

In 1984 Celebration Chairman Brian Butler said the weekend's July First activities went well, even though the crowds were smaller than expected as residents took advantage of the warm weekend weather to get out of town.

To kick off the activities a good crowd attended the giant bingo at the Aurora Legion.

Also on Friday, the Aurora Horticultural Society judged the garden competition with Joan and Terry Love winning the top prize for best flower garden and Bud Gilbert for the best vegetable garden.

A minor soccer tournament took place Saturday morning with finals on Sunday. The Stouffville team gained top honours in the six-team competition, with Aurora Hair-o-Matics in the runner-up spot.

While parents and others enjoyed the beer garden in the community centre sponsored by the Aurora Kiwanis and the Beta Sigma Phi sorority,

the children were entertained in the auditorium by a clown show.

The Birthday Ball on the Saturday night attracted an overflow crowd. It was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and featured the crowning of Cindy Wood as Miss Aurora.

The 17-year-old defeated nine other contestants in the annual pageant.

Lowell McClenny was named as Aurora's 1984 Citizen of the Year for his continuing efforts to help the community's youth through minor hockey and lacrosse.

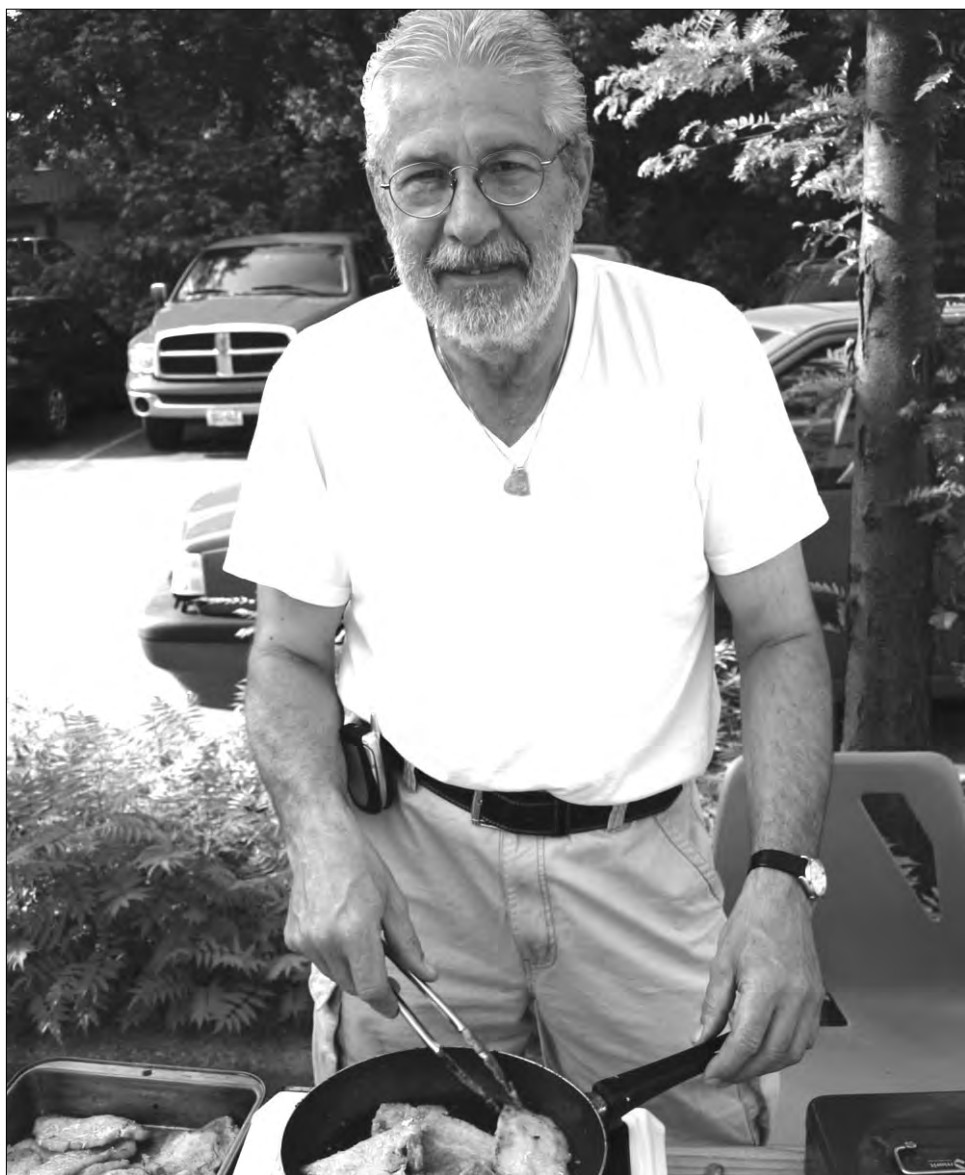
Sunday was the big day with activities for everyone. It got underway at 8 a.m. with the Kinsmen Club's annual run, followed by the traditional July First Parade.

The Aurora Downtown Business Improvement Association float was judged as the winner of the Best Commercial Float Award with Welcome Wagon second.

The Non-Commercial Award went to the Aurora Library's multiculturalism float with the Aurora Leo Club's birthday train second. The Best Street Float Award was won by the friends and neighbours of Collins Crescent.

There were other awards and other events and although the activities, awards and people have changed over the years, the ongoing enthusiasm and enjoyment of the July First Celebrations by the citizens of Aurora continues.

This year the Aurora Special Events committee is preparing for the 36th annual celebration, highlighted by the Dance in the Park June 30, the traditional July First parade and activities and entertainment for all ages in Lambert Willson Park.



Gabriel Schacher of Gabriel's Cafe, serves up breakfast as the Aurora Farmers' Market opens for another season. Organizer Nigel Kean reported Saturday morning's business was brisk. Market is located in the Temperance St. parking lot.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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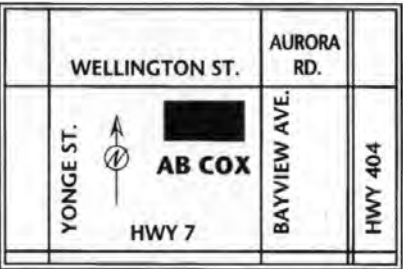


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Weather co-operated during Aurora's annual street festival to give residents a tethered ride on Pilot Insurance's hot air balloon last week. In the photo are, left to right, Barbara Hartwell, president of Hartwell Thayer Insurance; Patricia Flynn from Yellow Brick House; and Bill Perkins from Pilot Insurance. Yellow Brick House benefitted from Pilot's Hot Air Balloon Program and was presented with a cheque for \$500.

## Another change proposed for this Yonge St. property

The former residential building at the southwest corner of Kennedy Street West and Yonge Street has had many uses and is about to undergo another change, as new owners have applied for concessions.

Prior to 1985 the property was home to Mary Gilbert's York Fine Art Gallery.

At that time she planned to move one house south on Yonge Street as Dr. Marcus Cole had purchased the building for his Abbotsford Animal Hospital. Neighbouring residents expressed concern about the possibility of noise from the animal hospital and lack of off-street parking for both operations.

Councillors listened but were pleased that the municipality was able to attract this type of small business and retain the heritage homes and approved the applications.

Abbotsford Hospital later moved to a new facility at Yonge and Ransom and the heritage building went on the real estate market.

At last week's general committee meeting, Gerry Mintz representing the new owners, pointed out they

are continuing the request for rezoning started in 2003 by the Abbotsford Animal Hospital and as a condition of the rezoning a site plan agreement is required.

He advised the site plan was completed except for agreement on two requests by the town, deemed to be onerous for the small property.

One was a request for a 2.5 metre road widening on Kennedy Street and the other deals with a quality control structure on the storm water drain from the catch basin to an off street existing manhole located on the property to the south.

It was noted council had adopted a report in May, 2001, that approved the

reconstruction of Kennedy Street based on the existing road allowance making a road widening unnecessary.

Owners have agreed that a quality control storm water feature will be installed.

Council was expected to continue discussions on the report this week.

## Local dealer fails in bid

From page 1

One necessary requirement was to supply a heavy duty alternator, which was required to operate the power inverter.

The power inverter provides the ability to operate electrical tools and equipment off the van's power supply without the necessity of keeping the vehicle's motor running.

As a result staff recommended awarding the contract to Unionville Motors.

Meanwhile, the town's Leisure Services capital budget included funds for the purchase of a replacement vehicle for the 1992 full size cargo van used for Youth Programming needs primarily associated with the Flipside Skateboarding Park.

The vehicle is also used during the off-season to transport various goods and supplies between buildings and

facilities.

Only one bid in the amount of \$29,954.05 was received from Unionville Motors and staff recommended that the bid be accepted.

The committee approved the tender awards and council was expected to endorse the report this week.

The committee also approved the purchase of a new Olympia Millennium ice re-surfacing machine for the new recreation complex.

It will cost \$76,814.25 plus GST.

Two bids were received and the one selected met all the required specifications and was the low bidder.

The committee also endorsed a recommendation to delay the replacement of the playing surface floor of Community Centre rink one until next year and include the funds in the 2006 capital budget.



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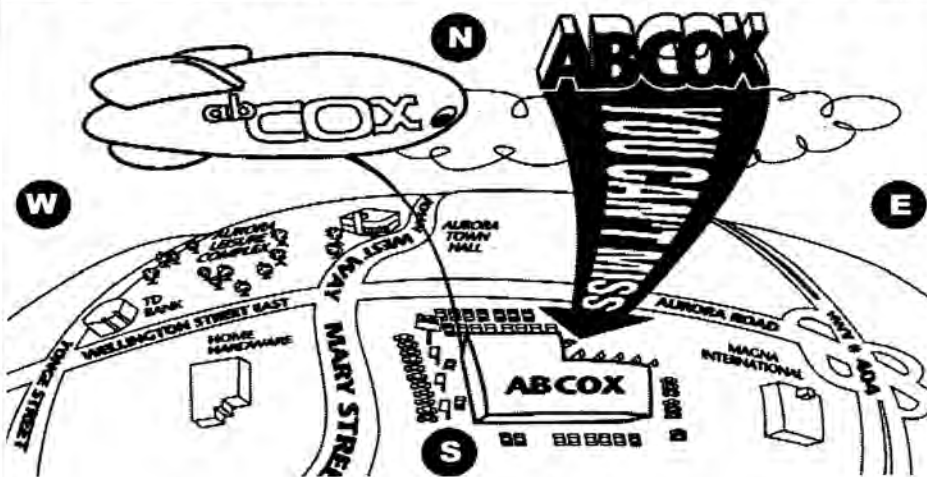
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## RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

# When Legion branches were legally dry

It's hard to believe today but back in the mid-1960s Royal Canadian Legion branches including the Aurora branch didn't have a liquor licence.

The clubhouse at that time was a nice, small, homey Legion Hall on Yonge Street immediately south of the Graystone's Restaurant.

Although the hall wasn't licenced, there always seemed to be a few cases of cold beer available.

In February, 1969, Councillor Norm Stewart gained council support to petition the provincial government to permit Legion Branches to obtain a liquor licence.

Other municipalities were asked to endorse the petition.

By April, 1969, five municipalities had agreed to endorse the petition and a meeting was arranged with York North MPP Bill Hodgson and appropriate government officials to present the petition.

Hodgson went to work and before long an amendment was made to the Liquor Act to allow Legion branches to serve beer and liquor when their application had been approved by the Minister, and the sale of alcohol in the Aurora Legion became legal.

### CANADA DAY HIGHLIGHTS OF 1992

July First is always important in Aurora, Canada's Birthday Town, but in 1992 there was something special.

A group of about 70 residents, agents and friends of Red Carpet Sterling Realty, divided into 12 teams, started at 5:45 a.m. and blanketed the town with more than 6,000 Canadian flags.

Most Aurorans woke up on Canada Day to discover a small Canadian flag flying proudly on their lawn.

The tradition continued for a few years but has been missed recently.

### TOWN HALL GOES AUTO VOICE

In September, 1991, council agreed to equip the new Town Hall with an automated telephone system to streamline calls and reduce the number of messages by receptionists and secretaries.

The Call Express 3 System by Kaynell Enterprises, installed at a cost of \$46,970, handled routine calls for information, rout-

ed calls directly to the proper extension and recorded messages, all without bothering a live receptionist.

A survey of calls to the Town Hall in June, 1991, showed the main receptionist handling an average of 572 calls a day, but you can still get a human voice when you call.

### MOZART FESTIVAL IN AURORA

Aurora's Salzburg Café was located on Yonge Street North, which is now a Tom and Jerry's. It was a little bit of Austria in Aurora with Austrian dishes, traditional dress and the Mozart Festival.

Another feature of the restaurant was the Stammtisch-Runde.

It was a traditional table for strangers or regulars who didn't like to eat alone and they gathered at the table to eat, chat, or play a game of cards.

The main feature of the year was the Mozart Festival.

A string quartet was engaged for the evening and in October, 1995, the Asten Edelweiss Austrian Dancers performed.

The menu included three selections including an appetizer, salad and the main dish pheasant with red cabbage and rice, wild game goulash with spatzli or veal roast, vegetables and parsley potatoes, plus dessert and beverage.

It was a wonderful evening of good food, good music and a touch of Austria. Willkommen and Guten Appetit!

### LOTS OF PARKING SPACES

It was in May, 1990, when Manfred Heidinger of Aurora-

based Heidinger Marketing Services introduced the ParkLift, which he believed was the answer to parking problems in the GTA.

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**Aurora Day**

*10 am - 4 pm*

*Saturday, June 18, 2005 at*

 **ontario place**

*Join us in Festival Square at Ontario Place,  
one of Ontario's premier attractions,  
for a celebration of Aurora!*

*We look forward to sharing our arts, culture  
and history with you as you wander through  
the displays, enjoy the music, dancing, martial arts  
and inspect the wares of our local vendors!*

*Take advantage of the tremendous savings being  
offered by Ontario Place. Get a 2 for 1 Play All Day  
Pass Coupon valid for June 18th, on our website.*

*Visit [www.town.aurora.on.ca](http://www.town.aurora.on.ca), click on "What's New"  
on our home page and look for "Aurora Day Coupon!"  
Just print it out ... and come on down to Ontario Place.*

*Program*



*Special Presentation*

*11:00 a.m. - Mayor and Council Members recognize  
Winners of "What I Love About Aurora" Contest*

*Performances & Demonstrations*

*11:30 am - Patty McLaughlin - Folk Music*

*12:30 pm - Aurora High Jazz Band*

*1:30 pm - Patty McLaughlin - Folk Music*

*2:15 pm - Scottish Country Dancers*

*2:45 pm - Aurora Seniors' Line Dancers*

*3:15 pm - Watson's Karate*

*Throughout the day - Pottery Wheel Demonstrations*

*Exhibitors & Vendors*

*Ramtin Sotoadeh Homes*

*Royalcliff Homes*

*Creative Connections*

*Society of York Region Artists*

*Aurora Stained Glass Works*

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Aurora's Community Newspaper





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*Saturday, June 18th  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

*at*

 **ontario place**

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Arts  
Crafts  
History  
Demonstrations  
Displays*

*Celebrate our  
community*

*Experience  
Aurora*

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## GARAGE/LAWN SALE

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