

COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

Aurora Farmers' Market continues every Saturday in the Temperance Street parking lot until Thanksgiving. Event opens at 8 a.m.

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 cgcyrfn@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.

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 25

Enjoy dinner and a movie at the Aurora Public Library from 7 to 9 p.m. for \$3. The movie is "Garfield: The Movie" starring Breckin Meyer

and Bill Murray. For more information call 905-726-4760.

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.

Blood Donor Clinic, Aurora United Church, 4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

JUNE 30

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

Deadline for applications for the Aurora Arts and Culture Fund. Open to individuals and groups for the promotion of cultural and artistic activities in Aurora. Application should be in the form of a letter outlining the nature and general activities and the specific use to be made of the grant. Send applications to the mayor at the Town Hall.

JULY 1

Various Canada Day 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.

Blood Donor Clinic, Our Lady of Grace Parish, 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

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.



These three young lads from Aurora's Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School have started their own business doing odd jobs for local residents. Rather than seek out the fast food or retail stores for employment, Adam Hankins, Vincent Davenport and Andrew Welch, left to right, have started a company called A.V.A. So far, business has been brisk.

Auroran photo by Rob Schuetze



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ALL SUMMER

Funding announcement brings money to Aurora

Newmarket-Aurora MP Belinda Stronach said Friday's announcement on gas-tax and public transit funding will benefit Aurora and Newmarket.

Prime Minister Paul Martin was in Richmond Hill Friday morning to announce \$1.8 billion in gas-tax funding for Ontario municipalities over a five-year period.

The gas-tax funding is part of the federal government's promised New Deal for Cities and Communities and is contained in the federal budget.

"Today's announcement ensures that federal gas tax

funds will be invested in Ontario's municipalities," Stronach said. "That is welcome news for Newmarket and Aurora. Residents in our riding have consistently said that transportation and public transit are major issues and they have been a key priority of mine since being elected as MP."

The announcement represents an agreement among the federal government, Ontario, Toronto and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, which includes Newmarket and Aurora.

As part of the agree-

ment, Newmarket will receive \$5.34 million in funding over the five-year period, while Aurora will receive \$3.26 million in funding.

A second agreement will provide Ontario municipalities with \$310 million in funding for public transit over the next two years.

York Region will receive \$5.08 million in total funding over the next two years if the budget amendment bill currently before the House of Commons passes.

"Supporting public transit is important in reducing traffic congestion and limiting air pollution and greenhouse gases," said Stronach. "This is a quality of life issue for residents in Newmarket and Aurora and is another example of how different levels of government working together can bring about improvements that will benefit all Canadians."

Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor was in attendance at the announcement; Aurora Mayor Tim Jones had prior commitments and could not attend.

Aurora was represented by Councillors Nigel Kean and Ron Wallace.

Fire hall endorsed

It was back in September, 2004, when Aurora Council agreed to build a new fire hall on the Wellington Street property next to the new recreational complex.

Estimated cost of the facility at that time was \$1.6 million and funds were included in the 2004 budget for design and in the 2005 budget for construction.

Tendering for the project was approved by general committee last week, and expected to be endorsed by council this week.

The new fire hall was identified in the town's Development Charge bylaw for construction in 2005 and companies were invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI).

Last March after several site visits council members and staff agreed that the new hall should follow the same layout as a fire station in Mississauga with minor design modifications.

Councillor Damir Vrancic expressed concern that 19 firms had picked up EOIs but only one application had been considered by staff. He wondered why.

Staff members replied that five firms had submitted bids but only one met all the qualifications, which included building a fire hall in the GTA in the past five years.

They recommended the one bidder, Thomas Brown Architects, be engaged to design the new building.

Council members enquired why an architect was required when the facility was to be a copy of another design and were told drawings were still needed, but would be available at a reduced fee.

Over the months staff members have been working with the architect to refine the design in order to meet specific requirements of the local fire service.

Fire Chief John Molyneaux is satisfied the design will meet the program needs of fire department.

Plans were circulated to the various agencies and a report says the site plan complies with all zoning and setback requirements

and parking requirements for two shifts has been provided.

As the new fire hall has complied with all the major issues, the general committee approved the design and layout of the new fire hall.

Once council endorses the project, staff members will proceed with a tender call in order to meet the construction deadline.

The building will be located in the southwest corner of the property.



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Poor Richard

I wrestled a gin and tonic from the Queen Mother

*Always respect your elders,
Was a message loud and clear;
From many old-time parents,
Children remembered with fear!
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

Although she is no longer with us, the Queen Mother was officially Queen Elizabeth, she was the "Queen Mum" to her people.

It was a Canadian reporter, Lawrence Thompson, on August 4, 1999, who paid tribute to the 99-year-old woman by calling her Queen Mum and the name stuck.

During the period when the Honourable Earl Rowe was Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, I was duty Aide de Camp when the Queen Mother visited Woodbine for the running of the Queen's Plate.

I had the pleasure of greeting the Royal Party on the track at Woodbine in a horse-drawn landau and escorting them to the Royal Box.

Prior to going to the box, the Queen Mother inspected the Guard of Honour of the Toronto Scottish Regiment with Lt. Col. Robert Hilborn as Commanding Officer and Roy Thompson, Lord Thompson of Fleet as Honourary Colonel.

There was a great deal of talk in the Royal Box between the Queen Mother and the Honourable Earl Rowe about the horses entered in the Queen's Plate.

Those of us in the Royal Box placed bets on our individual favourite including Col. Thompson who had difficulty getting his money out of his sporran as part of his Toronto Scottish uniform.

The only winner was the Queen Mum. For more than 60 years there was a love affair between the Queen Mum and Canada.

She visited Canada more often than any other member of the Commonwealth coming here a total of 11 times.

On another occasion, I was duty Aide for a state luncheon for the Queen Mum at the Royal York Hotel.

It was my task to line up the head table in proper sequence and have them piped

in before the official entrance of the Royal Party.

Prior to entering the large Canadian Room for the luncheon, the head table guests were mingling and chatting in an adjoining room.

Everyone was enjoying themselves including the Hon. George Hees, representing the Prime Minister of Canada.

As a typical politician, he was working the room and talking to everyone, even after I had lined up the head table.

It was a real problem trying to keep him in his proper place until the piper piped them in.

Prior to the entry of the Royal Party, the media was allowed into the room to take pictures.

One of my many instructions was not to allow the press to take a picture of the Queen Mum with a glass in her hand.

Her favourite drink was gin and tonic and it had to be either Booth or Gordon's, I've forgotten which one.

As everyone was standing around talking including the Queen Mum, it seemed she always had a glass in her hand.

The media trooped in, cameras at the ready with others slung around their necks.

Just before the flashbulbs started to pop, I looked over and there was the Queen Mum sipping away at her gin and tonic.

I rushed over and without really thinking, I grabbed the glass out of her hand.

I don't know who was the more surprised, the Queen Mum or me.

But it was mission accomplished as the pictures appeared in the paper at her motherly best, without a glass in sight.

The Queen Mother was a very gracious lady and well loved by all.

She was so natural and real and made you feel comfortable and at ease in her presence.

I don't suppose she would ever recall the audacious Aide de Camp who grabbed a glass of her favourite gin and tonic out of her hand, but it was an experience I will never forget.

Of all the Royals, I had the opportunity to meet, she was my favourite.

FROM THE EDITOR

Highland's reputation not being questioned

From the editor,

Every once in a while there comes a time when the editor would like to respond to community issues, but one question always gets in his way: how does the editor write a letter to the editor?

Simple, create a letter FROM the editor.

So, while this may not be a weekly feature, it will show up from time to time.

And this issue is a good one to launch it because it shows how words can be misread by different people, myself included.

The call came from Highland Chevrolet Cadillac shortly after last week's

paper came out and referred to that company losing a tender bid to an out-of-town bidder, whose bid was a couple of thousand dollars higher.

Seems the Highland bid didn't meet all the specs of the tender.

The story was okay, Highland said, but the headlines, both on Page 1 and Page 16 where the story turned, made Highland look inept, the caller said.

Both headlines are accurate, but open to interpretation.

If the headlines made Highland look bad, then the headlines are definitely wrong.

Highland did nothing

wrong in this process and were anything but "failures" as the headlines might have suggested.

I am a huge supporter of Aurora spending taxpayer money in Aurora, and I always turn green when I see it travelling out of town, for whatever reason.

Perhaps this was on my mind when I wrote the headlines, attempting to bring attention to the issue.

Whatever I was thinking, there was no intention to discredit Highland Chevrolet Cadillac or its people, and if I inadvertently did so, I apologize.

**Ron Wallace
The Editor**



Pictured above is Mildred Wickson, sister of Ethelwyn, who lived at Devonshire Place on Yonge Street before moving to the Aurora Retirement Centre where she died some time ago. Mildred, according to Ethelwyn, who had written a note on this photo, went to the Berlin Olympics in 1936 with Boris Volkoff's group of dancers. Ethelwyn estimates Mildred would have been about 29. The photo was given to The Auroran by Diana Wiszniewska.

Letters to the Editor

Rotarians enjoyed Dance Under Stars

To the editor,

WOW!!! Wasn't that a Party!!!

While hundreds of guests enjoyed 'Dancing Under the Stars' to the excellent music of 'The Maze', Saturday, June 4, the Rotary Club of Aurora served refreshments while enjoying the company of family, friends and neighbours.

The countless hours that went into the planning and executing of such an event must be mind numbing.

Our task was made much easier by the help of the volunteer Chamber and Committee members who literally helped 'slog it out in the trenches'.

Heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you.

The Club wishes to extend a special thank you to Kimberley Kerr, Mary Lynn Stephenson, the staff of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and the Street Festival Committee for allowing this venue to be used as a fundraiser for our club.

We greatly appreciated the opportunity to be a part of such a well organized event.

The Rotary Club of Aurora is a service group

whose fundraising monies are returned to the local community where needed, and to specific international projects.

We would especially like to thank all of those who supported the evening with their good humour and presence.

Yes, that would be YOU!

**Frank Mete
President
Rotary Club
of Aurora**

Belinda pays her own way

To the editor,

I would like to respond to Sandra Schildroth's recent letter to the editor where she raised the issue of Belinda Stronach's living accommodations in Ottawa.

Specifically, Ms Schildroth asked who has been paying for the Ottawa hotel room where Belinda lives when Parliament is session.

For the record, Belinda is paying for those lodgings out of her own pocket.

**Steve Hinder
Office Manager
Belinda Stronach
Constituency Office**

AURORAN

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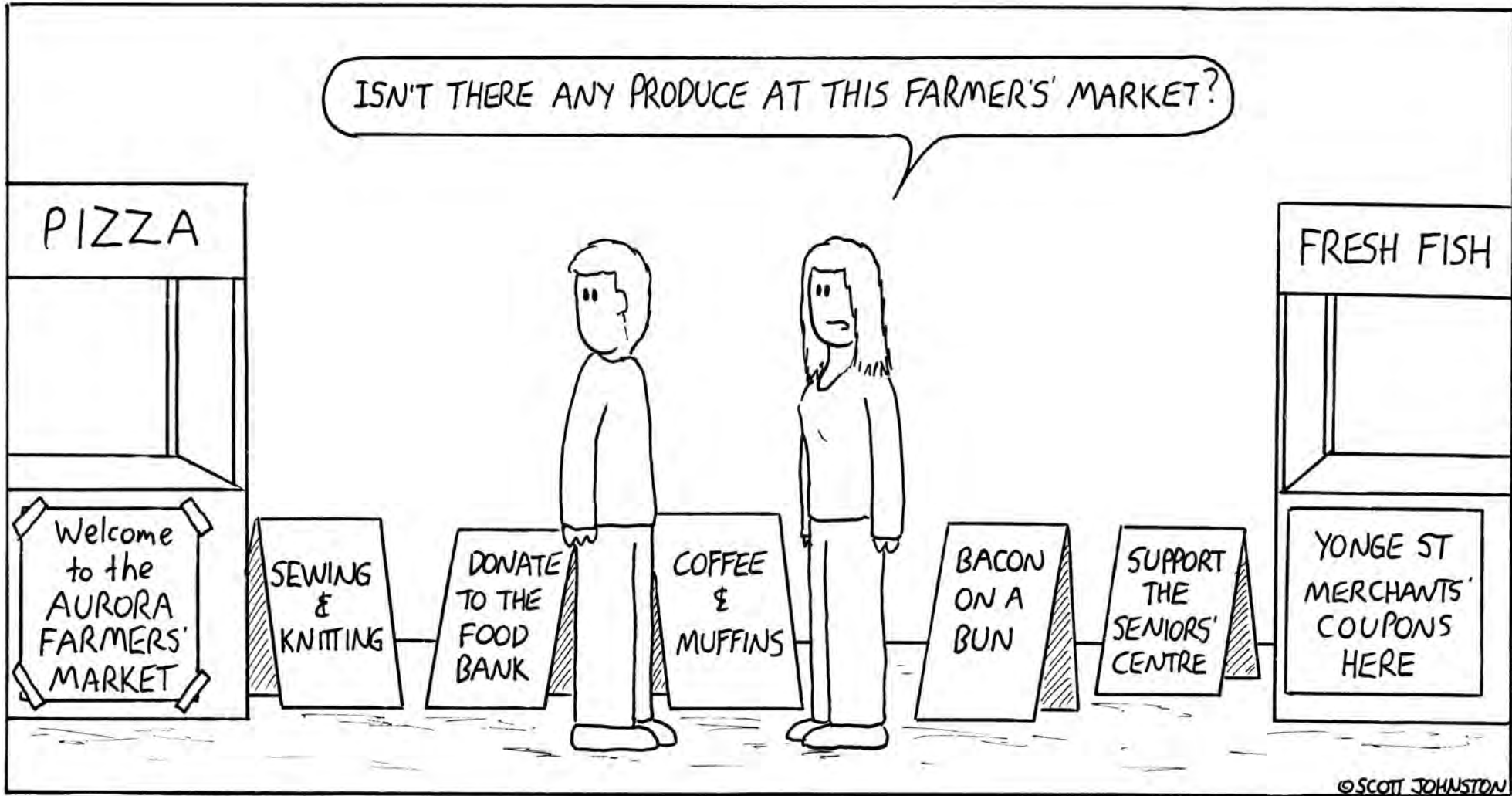
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Mayor's Report
By Tim Jones

Economic & Development Review - York Region

The following statistics and facts were taken from a review recently published by York Region for 2004.

I have limited most of the information in this column to those facts and statistics that influence the Town of Aurora.

Population Growth: Aurora experienced a population growth of 3,400 (the Region grew by 34,600).

The population of Aurora by the end of 2004 was 48,100 (The Region stood at 855,000).

The following represents the age breakdown in the Region as of 2003:

Seniors, 65 plus - 9.2 percent; Pre-Senior, 57-64 years - 6.5 per cent; Baby Boom, 37-56 years - 32.9 per cent; Baby Bust, 24-36 years - 18.1per cent; Baby Boom echo, 8-23 years - 23.1 per cent; The Future, 0-7 years - 10.2 per cent.

York Region is the sixth largest municipality in Canada behind Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, Peel, and Calgary.

There were 14,935 dwelling unit sales in York Region in 2004 with 1,009 in Aurora.

The average single family residential detached dwelling unit in York Region was valued at \$407,896.

Aurora experienced 608 detached sales averaging \$430,410 in 2004, 132 semi sales averaging \$256,363, 242 town/row/attached sales averaging \$255,173, and 27 condo/apartment sales averaging \$204,715.

Aurora's ratio of residential to non-residential taxable assessment in 2004 was 88.1 per cent to 11.9 per cent.

Aurora issued 350 building permits for new residential units in 2004 (down from 1169 issued in 2003).

Favourable to Aurora in 2004 were building permits with the highest value which included the new State Farm Headquarters (\$50 million), the Super Centre (\$15 million), and a business/professional building (\$nine million).

The average York Region person per dwelling unit is 3.25. Aurora, as of 2001 was 3.05, which represents a continual decline over the years (1971-3.68).

Sixty-eight per cent of the dwellings in Aurora are singles (Region average is 73 per cent) and 32 per cent are multiples (Region average is 27 per ent).

Other sections in this report with interesting regional statistics focus on economic activity, strong population growth, property market, building activities and planning activities.

To see the full report, go to www.york.ca.

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



Cathy's Corner



What I love about Aurora

I've heard it said that it takes one woman to give birth to a child, but an entire village to raise that child.

Recently, I had the privilege of being a judge for the "What I Love About Aurora" Contest.

It was quite a treat to get a peek through a window into the world as kids see it.

It's a beautiful world, full of trees and trails, birds and butterflies, parks and Sparks.

It is a safe world, a world of kind neighbours and good friends, a world that can best be described in a single word: "home".

It's Aurora.

It's the kind of village where "people doing grass" would be people laying sod in new subdivisions. Yup, it's Aurora...

Congratulations to Mitchell Cadenhead - our seven-year-old winner (and future mayor!), whose entry will appear in next week's Auroran.

As I'm sure you'll agree, my assigned age group - six to eight-year-olds - are all winners, so here are some notable quotes that tugged on my heart strings, said it like I've never heard it said before, and in some cases gave me enough of a chuckle to start worrying about my job.

Brooke Richards, 8, writes: "I like Aurora because it's wonderful to see people shaking hands and having fun together". She also writes: "I like the birds in our backyard, eating and singing their little hearts, voices, brains and guts out."

Kathryn Munslow-McNeil, 6, says: "I like Aurora because it has lots of friendly people."

Jordan Hookey, 8, enjoys the Victoria Day fireworks, "I get to get cozy in my pajamas and cuddle up with my family."

Austin Pringle, 6, remarks: "Nice people live here and it's safe."

Jordan Levy, 8, relates how moving to Aurora is like coming home. "Overall, the people of Aurora are nice, especially compared to the other place I used to live. I wish that I lived in Aurora in the first place."

Jessica Valentina Pascoe, 7, loves Aurora's parks, library, bakeries, bike trails - and the list goes on, but my favourite line is: "I like that there are nice people in Aurora."

Wyatt Jones, 8, notes: "People help each other in Aurora." Wyatt also notices: "There are not a lot of people in Aurora that try to steal money from banks and we don't have a lot of car-jackers."

Sarah Franken, 7, likes the "nice old homes", the

splash pad at the Town Park, and the friendly people. "I'm glad we moved here," she says.

"What I like about Aurora is that there is a ton of friendly children around," comments Mitchell Arnold, 8.

Julia Garbe, 6, writes: "I like the pancake breakfasts by The Lion's Club in Sheppard's Bush, oh, and I love the yummy suckers at The Purple Pig...Aurora rocks!"

Laura Seminara, 8, says: "What I really like about Aurora is schools care about diseases and try to cure them with donations."

Austin Tripp, 8, comments: "Once someone lives in Aurora, they won't want to move out." Austin concludes: "There is almost no place better than Aurora."

Christopher Sutherland, 7, loves Aurora "because it's a wonderful place and everyone is happy."

Andi Raymond, 8, gives 14 reasons to love Aurora, among them, "at the Town Park, there are small red buckets that splash down on you in the summer."

Planning for the future, Xu Wen (Vanessa) Lin, 7, writes: "I wish I could grow up and I could find a good job in Aurora."

Alain Hong, 8, notes, "Aurora is a beautiful, quiet, peaceful town where anything can happen."

Austin Persaud, 8, loves Aurora because "everybody has a good side in this community".

Hannah Luker, 8, clearly appreciates Aurora's beauty. "All the streets are lovely like Kemano and Gilbank," she writes, "I don't even know words to describe them."

So there it is - a glimpse of Aurora through the eyes of our future.

Congratulations on a job well done to all of our young participants, and to the people of our "village" for creating the wholesome picture that these children have described.

Many thanks to Aurora's outstanding team: Kristen Yemm, Communication and Marketing Coordinator for The Town of Aurora, and Carrie Eastwood, the Committee Secretary.

These two wonderful staff members deserve a standing ovation for their tireless dedication to this labour of love, and for the profound level of respect with which they treated every single entry.

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

BOUQUETS to Aurora's Samantha Sendel on capturing her second consecutive National Youth Trampoline Championship recently in Vancouver. The 13-year-old won the Canada Cup in Ottawa a month earlier.

BRICKBATS to whoever is responsible for failing to replace the "No Heavy Truck Sign" at the east end of Cousins Drive at Edward Street for all the good it will do. Bylaw enforcement officers claim they can't do anything about the monster trucks as it's a moving offence and York Regional Police are conspicuous by their absence.

BOUQUETS to Stephanie Smith, a student at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, on winning all three distance events at the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association Track and Field Championships. She captured the 800, 1,500 and 3,000 metre events to become the first athlete in OFSAA history to win the Triple Crown.

BOUQUETS to Cardinal Carter student Tyler Pettes who participated in the same track and field meet and set a new record in the junior boys 800 metres. He also finished second in the 1,500 metres.

BRICKBATS to the one-third of cigarette outlets in the region, who are selling cigarettes to minors, contrary to legislation. Under the law, anyone, including a parent, who supplies cigarettes to anyone under 19 years of age can be fined up to \$50,000. It's not worth it!

BOUQUETS to Jeff Sleep of Aurora and his girlfriend Kelly Doyle of Tottenham on setting out on a bicycle ride across Canada to raise funds for the Hospital for Sick Children. They start July 1 from Parry Sound on a 3,869-kilometre ride to Vancouver and hope to do it in 30 days.

BRICKBATS to Liberal Senator Michel Biron who appeared in a Joliette, Quebec, court room in support of schoolgirl killer Karla Homolka and to oppose Ontario's request for restrictions following her release. He should resign or be fired, but how do you fire a senator?

BOUQUETS to Sharon Elliott and her daughter Tammy on raising \$1,040 for the Cancer Society Bicycle Ride in Barrie. The Elliott family just moved into the new Wycliffe subdivision on the Vandorf Sideroad and received contributions from their new neighbours.

BRICKBATS to Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty for supporting the spending habits of Economic Development Minister Joe Cordiano for having his riding association pick up the tab for thousands of dollars in restaurant and entertainment expenses. If he's doing that to his riding association, what's he doing to the taxpayer?

BOUQUETS to Aurora's Bill Allison and members of the Whitefeather Pipes and Drums who went together to buy a ticket in the Princess Margaret Home Lottery and won a two-storey, 2,800 square foot home in Aurora valued at about \$528,000 including furniture and landscaping.

BRICKBATS to federal Conservative Leader Stephen Harper for defending Tory MP Gurmant Grewal and supporting his right to tape private conversations. Was it because Harper was part of a sting operation that backfired?

BOUQUETS to former Ontario Premier Mike Harris on his marriage to Laura Maguire in a surprise ceremony at his home in Woodbridge.

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Letters to the Editor

Chamber “beholden” to Town: Buck

To the editor,

My goodness things have been dry...couldn't get a good fight going, no way no how.

Then up pops Rosalyn Gonsalves with her powerful expressions of independence and separateness from the Town of Aurora (letter, The Auroran, June 7).

Ms Gonsalves has been an employee of the Chamber of Commerce since its current format.

Her argument is peculiarly self-serving considering the responsibility of her job.

In the same way the Aurora Historical Society and the Aurora Theatre company have flourished, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce took life when they obtained a building for their exclusive use.

The Town obtained a sales building from a developer when it was no longer required for their purposes.

The Town obtained permission from the Province of Ontario to use the current site.

The Town had the building hauled to the site and connected to municipal services.

Throughout the years it has been the Town of Aurora that provided the maintenance for that building's interior and exterior and I suspect the tally for that service has been substantial.

I am not aware they have ever contributed anything towards the cost of those services.

It has suited the various political administrations not to talk too much about the amount of tax revenues being contributed to the support of the Chamber of Commerce over and above our membership in the organization.

Ms Gonsalves refers to "free space" given to the town at the home show.

Our community centre takes no bookings from the Wednesday preceding the show until the Tuesday following.

That is how long it takes our town staff to set up and clean up after the Home Show.

The Chamber pays rent for Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday.

The shortfall from loss of rental for three days represents a subsidy for the Chamber.

This year they complained about some of their clients being ticketed for parking on an area of the park that was still soggy from the winter melt.

As if it was not their responsibility to make arrangements for the anticipated crowd.

The street sale involves our staff in setting up and cleaning up.

Their beer garden and dance involved the use of a town facility for which no rent was charged while they charged an admission of \$15 a head.

Staff time was involved in setting up and taking down a fence to protect the Cenotaph from the revellers.

These events are much enjoyed by the people of Aurora and it is their support which makes them successful.

The Chamber of

Commerce deserves the respect and support of the Town and they have that. They are an important partner in our endeavour.

Ms Gonsalves might be well advised to give some thought to that before she picks up her pen again to take the Mayor of the Town to task.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is substantially beholden to the Town of Aurora and its staff.

And I will tell you something else for nothing...with her attitude Rosalyn Gonsalves would not last five minutes in the public service of the Town Of Aurora.

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

More
letters
see
page 8

One Wal-mart is enough, he says

To the editor,

ED. NOTE: Precisely why we featured the plans of the proposal. We're not sure downtown merchants are aware how huge - and glamorous - this project is. They had two years to react to Home Depot coming to town and few downtown changes were made. The Home Depot big box pales when compared with this plan.

Your article of May 31, "Wal-Mart definitely" may mean the definite demise of Yonge Street merchants and small shopping centres in Aurora, along with empty parking spaces.

There is a Wal-Mart in Newmarket, which is sufficient for this area.

Reader delivered A & P groceries

To the editor,

The first A & P store was on the west side of Yonge Street, between Caruso's to the north and Ead's Hardware to the south.

The staff included manager Mr. O'Keefe, clerks, Frank Dawson and Eddy

March, and me, the delivery boy.

The store was open from Mondays to Saturdays, half a day Wednesdays and closed Sundays.

Al White
Aurora

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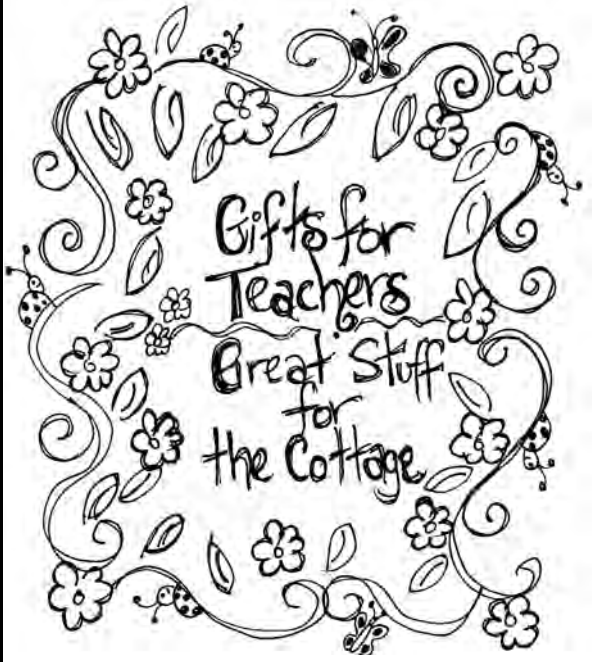
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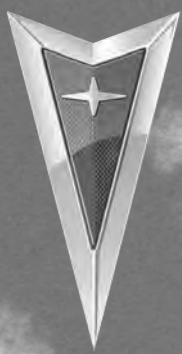
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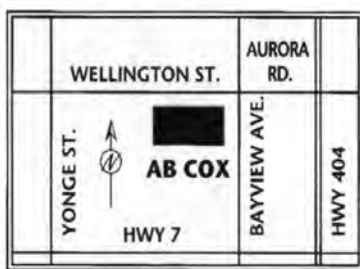
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Letters to the Editor

If it's legal, we'll try it, senior says

To the editor,

The Aurora Seniors Association [ASA] is a not-for-profit corporation formed to provide community leisure services to seniors in Aurora.

As such, it is not expected to be totally self sufficient but is expected to make every effort to generate income.

This can be done with various raffles, dances, sales, bazaars, computer instruction, if an activity is legal, the seniors will try it, and the seniors respond true to form, wherever an opportunity presents itself.

We were present at the recent Street Festival and we have a booth at the Farmers' Market for the summer.

In addition we have such ventures as the brick sale which is, in effect, a donation to our building fund and a calendar portraying our wonderfully daring senior

ladies, in various delightful, tasteful and artistic poses, which will be available later this year, and is already in great demand.

Donations in kind are a great help and Mayor Tim Jones deserves our gratitude for his support with proceeds from his golf tournament.

Under construction by the Town of Aurora as I write, and the construction workers could well be pouring the first concrete as I type these words, is a new centre for the seniors, on Municipal Drive.

Our only neighbour across the parking lot is the Aurora Municipal Town Hall.

Our backyard in effect is the Aurora Community Arboretum and the Holland River Valley Parkway, which I understand the Arboretum has adopted.

I am completely fascinated and charmed at the prospect of a fine new building in such an outstanding

location, and so are many other seniors. My camera and I and the Arboretum and Parkway, are firmly bonded already.

At this time, events continue to unfold in favour of the seniors, largely because of the experienced, professional and indefatigable support of Aurora Council, and also because the seniors responded to opportunity with bold enthusiasm, and have done what was needed, and done it well. Also, circumstances converged wonderfully well; the seniors were about 10 years overdue for a new centre, and council had recognized this and had offered four options, which were decent, but none outstanding enough to forge an agreement.

Council at this time was faced with other leisure time requirements and had needed to be creative in assembling funds.

Thus, we had the funding

and the Town's agreement to develop a new centre, but no location, and then John West, out of the blue it seemed at the time, cemented the convergence into reality, with his chance suggestion of the Municipal Drive location, which instantly breathed life, desire and energy into almost everybody.

This is the location, we are delighted and we accept it, and the ball was set rolling and has not stopped.

Other sources of funding will include Magna Hoedown, in which we expect to participate later this year, and Elder Connections, Aurora Bingo, Ontario Trillium Foundation and New Horizons are possible future sources of funding.

The only major items to which we must attend include an operating agreement with the town, and with the construction and possession of the new centre,

an activity user fee structure for the members that remains within the financial reach of our members and a matter we hope to address later this year.

The seniors are not in any way extravagant; they tend to be financially prudent and have accepted happily in the past, gently used equipment and made good use of it.

We have a membership of about 850, most of whom are gregarious, very active, lively and sociable, who form a solid nucleus of jolly members who can get

things done.

With the construction of the new centre and with prospects greatly improved, the apparent probability of a substantial increase in membership opens the possibility of a rich and warm future for Auroran seniors, and Aurora may by chance, set a standard for fine community projects, it may well be a deciding factor, the catalyst that persuades good families to locate in our sweet town.

Bryan Warburton
Aurora

Old Aurora "not charming"

To the editor,

We have lived in the "old" part of Aurora for 12 years.

Explain reasons further: reader

To the editor,

RE: MP report, The Auroran, June 7.

After reading your MP report in The Auroran, Ms Stronach, I must confess it is difficult to know where to begin.

Let me begin with your stated reasons for "crossing the floor" in parliament.

One, a "majority of people who I spoke with were not in favour of an election"; two, you "could not accept the loss of important funding for our community that would result from the budget being defeated"; and, three, you "could not accept lining up with the separatists...to defeat the government".

The first point raises three questions.

The answers to the question "do you want to see an election?" are "yes", because I want to see the current government taken down or "no", because everyone who is apathetic will say this as well as those who support the governing party at any time.

In view of this, the question seems to be rhetorical. Second, your action could be seen to suggest that elections are to be held only when some poll says it is time.

Third, you state "an election at this time...would stack the deck in favour of the Bloc" yet you give no reasons as to why or how this may be true.

There was a point in time when I spelled "old" with an "e" on the end to denote charm and history.

ment, about "important funding", let me ask, since current spending lasts only as long as its fiscal date for renewal (one year) and at that time the government will face the same threat from the opposition, how does your action ensure that the spending will be continued beyond one year?

Further, what was the decided spending on; the original budget the government presented or the socialist amended budget?

If your true politics is of a capitalist/business ideology, how do you rationalize support for a socialist agenda?

Your final point about lining up with the Bloc, let me ask if you can accept lining up with socialists to gain government spending on special programs.

As well, any legislation on any issue must now maintain this socialist support and is then subject to their agenda, not yours.

How does this type of politics combat the Quebec separatists any better than any alternative?

So, we are left with your stated reasons for your actions that no one wanted an election; Newmarket-Aurora would lose "important funding"; and who you can "accept lining up with".

In view of what I have said, I would say that you must stop just repeating these reasons and explain them further.

Goland Trevize
Aurora

I had a vision and hoped others did, too. I no longer feel comfortable adding that "e", as I am ashamed of our town, particularly the historical section. This town is not charming.

"Old" refers to the historical section as run down, polluted, used and worn out.

We are proud house owners and have put so much time and effort into our home; a true labour of love.

Jackie Stuart, museum curator, kindly wrote a paper on the history of our home and we subsequently had a plaque put on it.

In doing so, we have met two generations of the family, who were brought to tears when they were invited into our home.

Their tears were tears of joy because we were able to maintain the integrity and flavour of the house with a twist of modern décor.

Our family is growing and our charming house is too small. We recognize that we have to move soon but don't want to give up our home.

Running a boutique from it one day is a dream, but

my future business along Temperance Street would surely fail.

After all, its stature is a far cry from other historical streets across York Region.

The fact that it is littered with rentals is not encouraging. I fear we will be forced to rent ours as well.

The adage says, "If you can't beat 'em join 'em". If we sell, I am confident our home will be demolished like other historical homes in the area.

I am frustrated, sad and extremely disappointed in this town. We recently moved back to Aurora from the south in the U.S. only to find we are yearning for its neighbourhoods, old and new.

Feeling like kids in a candy shop, experiencing the architecture was exciting. However, the historical homes didn't preserve themselves. Revitalization is essential.

This endeavour requires vision and perseverance. Perhaps Aurorans need to step outside their little box to come to this realization.

Suzanne DiGiacchino
"Old" Aurora

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New soccer bubble gets council's okay

Aurora and the Aurora Youth Soccer Club may finally have a soccer bubble this winter on property behind the Aurora Legion, known as the Legion Field.

Originally the Club planned to build a bubble on the Sheppard Bush playing fields, however, resident opposition resulted in an Ontario Municipal Board hearing.

In 2001, the OMB allowed construction of the \$200,000 to \$350,000 bubble, but it was never built.

Then in 2003, representatives of two private companies specializing in building and operating sports bubbles, made presentations to the Club and the Leisure Services Advisory Committee.

In 2004, council

endorsed a tri-party Letter of Understanding with the Town, 1446407 Ontario Limited and the Aurora Youth Soccer Club outlining responsibilities for the provision of a bubble.

As a result of this approval staff met with the private partner and the Youth Soccer Club on several occasions to identify issues and address concerns.

Cost to service the property is estimated at \$49,000 and this amount was not included in the 2005 budget.

The facility requires about 80 parking spaces which will be shared between the Leisure Complex and the Aurora Legion under a separate agreement.

It was pointed out that the maintenance and operation of the facility would be the sole responsibility of the numbered company, with external maintenance surrounding the bubble provided by the Town.

As part of the Letter of Understanding the Town will have full use of the facility from May 15 to September 1 each year, as well as be entitled to prime time and non-prime time hours free of charge from September 1 to May 15 each year.

Due to the urgency of construction committee members agreed to waive the re-zoning and site plan agreement and the proposal subject to a satisfactory agreement between the town and the numbered company.

When the report came to council, the debate started all over again.

Councillor Nigel Kean referred to the estimated \$49,000 cost to the town to service the site and asked if there was a cap on the amount.

Staff members said it was an estimated cost based on the best information but staff would have to come back with a report as funds had not been included in the 2005 budget.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner said she did not believe the best interests of the town were being served with the soccer bubble and expressed concern about the lack of air conditioning during the summer months.

In spite of points of order raised by Councillor Evelyn

Buck, council by a narrow margin approved an amendment that staff investigate air conditioning for

the bubble and the amended motion and the committee report was finally adopted.

Aurora team flying

Jays Peewee Selects win 10-1

The upstart Aurora Jays' Peewee Select baseball team travelled to Barrie Father's Day and gave their dads and grandfathers an extra treat, trouncing the Barrie Red Sox 10-1.

The hard-working Jays have surprised their York Region Select opponents this season with a 5-3 win-loss record, coming off a tough 2004 season with only one regular season win.

Head coach Hugh Murray credits the team's success this season to its dedication to off-season practice and using last season to "build character".

In Sunday's tilt with Barrie, the Jays got strong starting pitching from Eric Seguin, who had five strike-outs to win the game.

Seguin gave up only one earned run and pitched his mates out of base-loaded jams in first and second innings and

had a 1-2-3 third inning, thanks to some great defence, especially from left fielder Spencer Palmer and short stop Hugh Turtle.

Dylan Lastuk delivered the key offensive blow with a clutch two-out drive

to left-centre field in the fourth inning, knocking in two runs to spark the Jays to an eight-run outburst.

Both Dylan's father, Gary, and grandfather, William, were on hand to enjoy the treat.

The Jays host Baxter

Friday night, June 24, at the Town Park.

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BASEBALL

Peewee

National Sports 4 Oschel's Drillers 2
Future Stars 8 Oschel's Drillers 7

REP BASEBALL

Major Mosquito

Aurora 12 Richmond Hill 0
Aurora 5 Vaughan 5
Aurora record 4-1-1

Rookie

Aurora 14 Richmond Hill 4
Aurora record 2-5

Minor Peewee

Guelph 9 Aurora 8
Brampton 8 Aurora 7
Newmarket 8 Aurora 7

SOFTBALL

Mite

Master Mechanic 12 Richmond Hill 9
Master Mechanic 10 Goodyear 8
Master Mechanic 12 MBS Steel 6

Squirt

McAlpine Ford 16 Nolan Transmission 14
McAlpine Ford 1 Remington Medical 0

Councillor seeks old library space for youth centre

If Councillor Wendy Gaertner gets her way Aurora's youth will have a centre in the old Aurora Library.

She raised the issue recently during consideration of a Leisure Services Advisory Committee report.

The report listed evaluation criteria for the lease of Library Square, which Aurora Council endorsed. The criteria includes a point system for evaluating type of applicant, residency of applicants, amount of space required, length of lease and amount of parking required.

Last March, council approved terms and conditions for the lease of 20,000 square feet within the old library and current seniors' centre, soon to be vacant.

Terms of the lease include a cost of \$9 per square foot per year plus utilities, estimated to cost \$2 per square foot per year. All leases are for a minimum of one year and a maximum of five years.

It was estimated it would cost \$377,000 to bring the buildings up to standard and through the lease arrangement it was expected to pay off the amount in five years.

Councillor Gaertner had asked that a portion of the old library be dedicated for

a Youth Centre last January and was told that opportunities would be explored when determining the lease arrangements for Library Square.

At a recent council meeting she was given the same answer.

She told council members that youth rallies discussed the issue back in 1964.

At that time, a youth executive was elected and some events scheduled but they were on a hit and miss basis, whenever a town facility was available.

In 1969, a joint meeting of various town organizations was held at the Community Centre regarding the establishment of a

Please see page 14



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- East Side Mario's
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- Ontario Farm Animal Council
- Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency
- Ontario Turkey Producers Marketing Board
- The Ontario Wheat Producers Marketing Board

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Charlie Flynn of the Aurora Rotary Club accepts a cheque from Kimberley Kerr following their assistance in the Aurora Chamber of Commerce dance held last week on Yonge Street. Rotarians acted as bartenders for the event; Kimberley was chairman of the committee responsible for the dance and the following day's Street Festival, which attracted more than 45,000 people. It was estimated about 2,000 showed up for the dance.

Cadets hold 40th annual review parade

The Queen's York Rangers Army Cadet Corps held their 40th Annual Ceremonial Review Parade at the Community Centre last week before a large audience of invited guests.

Reviewing Officer was Lieutenant Colonel B.R. McCullough, Commanding Officer of the Queens York Rangers, 1st American Regiment.

It was a traditional Army parade with the bugle sounding the call for Markers, followed by the fall in of the cadets and the handover of the parade to Chief Warrant Officer J. Dunn, Regimental Sergeant Major.

The Reviewing Officer and Official Party entered to the Queen's York Rangers' Band playing.

Demonstrations followed the inspection with the Precision Drill Team presenting a display of marching and rifle drill and the Renegades Drum Corps did a skit on A Day in the Life of a Cadet.

That was followed by a series of presentations to Cadet teams and individual Cadets including First Year Cadet, Best Turned Out Cadet, Top Fund Raiser, Proficiency Stars and Top Cadet Award.

After remarks by the Reviewing Officer, Aurora Councillor Evelyn Buck representing the Town, representatives of the Army Cadet League, the Aurora Legion as sponsoring body and Major S. A. Lusk, Commanding Officer of the Cadet Corps, the ceremonial parade continued.

One of the touching moments was the March Off of the Outgoing Cadets, those who had reached the

age of 18.

On the arena floor were a number of static displays representing the work and training of the Cadets during the year.

It was back in 1965 when Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School discontinued the school Cadet Corps for lack of interest.

This concerned several ex-servicemen and with the support of Aurora Council, the Queen's York Rangers were asked to sponsor a Cadet Corps.

The regiment was receptive and the Queen's York Rangers Cadet Corps #2799 was authorized by the Department of National Defence effective

September 1, 1966, and activated a month later with the majority of high school cadets as members.

Due to the support of Aurora Council, the mayor is appointed Honorary Commandant of the Corps, a tradition that continues.

In February, 1969, the Aurora Armoury was filled with parents and friends as the Cadet Corps received its first flags from the Towns of Aurora, Newmarket and Richmond Hill.

The Queen's York Rangers Cadet Corps got off to a strong start and have maintained a high standard of training, citizenship and leadership over the years.

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Popular tour of homes ready for another year

Probably one of the most popular annual events in Aurora is the Candlelight Tour of Homes.

A fund-raising project of the Aurora Historical Society, all proceeds from the evening event go towards the restoration of historic Hillary House on Yonge Street.

Already the committee has established a list of Aurora homes to visit and this year's tour will take place Saturday, September 10, from 6.30 to 9.30 p.m.

A variety of 19th and early 20th century homes has been selected, and some locations offer refreshments, in addition to the candlelight welcome found in front of each location.

The AHS, an incorporated, not-for-profit voluntary organization, whose principal objective is to increase awareness of the history and heritage of Aurora, is a registered charity, and as such, official receipts are issued for any donations made to the annual tour.

Hillary House, meanwhile, the beneficiary of the event, has been plaqued by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada because it is an outstanding example of picturesque Gothic Revival architecture.

Within the house, the collection of medical instruments, books, and records has attracted the attention of scholars of the history of medicine.

Constructed in 1862, the house has been home to three families of doctors.

The last of these, the Hillarys, purchased the house in 1876 and members of the family continued to live there until 1992.

Thanks to the generosity of several donors and grant support, the society has

been able to acquire the house and its contents.

Costs of maintaining the structure, however, are high. For more information on

this year's tour, or to inquire about making a donation, call Aurora Museum Curator Jackie Stuart at 905-727-8991.

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

More trucks battling for street space

If motorists think there are too many large trucks on the road now, especially the ones attempting left turns at Yonge and Wellington in Aurora, there's going to be a lot more in the years to come, especially in southern Ontario, with the growth of 18-wheelers outpacing the growth of all other vehicles.

One of the reasons given was the increasing use by manufacturers of "just in time delivery" making the trucks a warehouse on wheels.

The number of 18-wheelers grew nationally to 282,192 in 2003 up 4.4 per cent from 270,155 in 2000, with 10,500 coming to Ontario bringing the total to 106,926.

Motorists must learn that trucks are allowed to make wide turns and that when trucks and cars collide, the car driver always loses.

NO APRIL FOOL'S JOKE

On April 1, 1994, Canada's seniors received an old age pension increase of \$1.93 bring the total pension to \$387.74 per month.

The maximum guaranteed income supplement increased to \$460.79.

Compare this with the pensions received by defeated MPs, who after serving a minimum of six years, were entitled to a basic pension of \$18,000 effective on leaving office, with yearly increases.

A total of 73 recently defeated MPs collected pensions ranging from \$27,000 to \$70,000 per year while seniors received a measly \$4,652 a year after a lifetime of paying taxes.

It was a lousy April Fool joke!

ANOTHER POLITICAL PROMISE

Back in 1993, NDP Premier Bob Rae announced that all Ontario drivers would pay tolls for new road construction but when the roadway was paid for "the tolls will come off".

It was much like the promise federal Finance Minister Thomas White made in 1917 when he said his newly imposed income tax would be removed when the First World War was over.

The war ended but the tax didn't.

But you can't blame Bob Rae for not keeping his promise as it was Progressive Conservative Premier Mike Harris who gave a 99-year lease to a private consortium with almost unlimited powers over increasing fees on Highway 407.

When Leslie Frost was Premier back in the 1960s, he said that toll roads would only come to Ontario over his dead body but they were implemented for the Burlington and Garden Skyways.

When John White became Treasurer of Ontario in the

early 1970s, he soon realized that the cost of manually operating the toll gates was more expensive than the revenue received, so the gates came down.

SCAVENGERS AT WORK

Back in September, 1975, scavengers flocked to the scene of a freight train derailment near King City.

Entire families from toddlers to grandparents packed sacks, pails and plastic bags with grain, bran and flour from the massive wreckage.

Of the 18 freight cars derailed from the 79-car train, eight contained grain, five bran, four sand and one flour.

While crews worked to upright the cars, the Bradford to Toronto train was replaced with buses.

Although CN public relations officials said the company took a dim view of people helping themselves, CN Police appeared to be turning a blind eye to the scavengers, unless they got in the way of the workers.

At one time the CN Police had to call in the York Regional Police to control the traffic tie-up on Keele Street caused by more than 100 parked cars.

No one was injured in the wreck.

ONTARIO'S TERRORISM BILL

With all the current talk and concern about terrorism, it's hard to believe that back in 1964 there was concern about another form of terrorism in Ontario.

For some reason or other, Ontario Attorney General Fred Cass introduced Bill 100, a police bill that gave the Ontario Police Commission unlimited powers.

The powers included such items as forcing witnesses to give evidence in secret, keeping them in jail indefinitely without a charge and imposing a jail term if the person told anyone of the questioning.

A public outcry greeted the bill resulting in Lieutenant Governor Earl Rowe stating that he would refuse to give Royal Assent to the legislation if passed.

To prevent a constitutional crisis, similar to the Byng crisis in the mid-1920s when Governor General Lord Byng refused to grant Prime Minister Mackenzie King dissolution of Parliament, Rowe let his feelings be known resulting in Premier John Robarts withdrawing the bill and Cass resigning.

WHERE'S THE YORK SUBWAY

Back in May, 1988, York Centre MPP Greg Sorbara spoke about the explosive growth of the south-central portion of York Region and expressed the need for a connection with the Toronto subway system.

He stressed that the extension of the Spadina subway line to York University was essential for the entire north-

Don Lewis, Jr., retires from police force

From page 1

given your night-stick and a pistol and off you went. After a day of working alongside an experienced officer, you were on your own."

The other big change he sees is how technology has become integrated into the job.

"Every cruiser has GPS tracking and computers. Today, forces can communicate anywhere and at anytime, and back up assistance is always just moments away."

And, while Mr. Lewis spent some of his career undercover, he enjoyed being in uniform the most.

"I love the contact with people that you get in uniform. You meet such a variety of people," he said. "I also enjoyed the access to places not open to the public, like industrial sites."

Being a builder and renovator in his spare time, the chance to see the inner workings of things was fascinating to him.

But more than anything, Don Lewis will miss the camaraderie and friendships that have developed over the years.

"There's a lot of closeness and trust in police work. You rely on the others in your unit. We're like an extended family and I'll really miss that."

In fact, Sergeant Lewis and his wife Ruth-Anne enjoy a social circle made up almost exclusively of police officers and their spouses.

"It just works better that way, since we understand about shift work and the other demands of the job."

And, speaking of his

wife, he credits Ruth-Anne for his successful and long career.

"She has always been there, encouraging me to take opportunities as they came along. She would say, 'don't worry I'll take care of everything at home'. This job is very tough on the spouses and she made it easy for me."

Don plans to devote more time now to the building and renovating hobby he has always loved.

As well, he's ready to head south when the snow flies.

"We have been planning for retirement for 10

to 15 years," he said.

For Sergeant Don Lewis, it's a retirement that is well deserved and hard earned.

Don was guest of honour at a pig roast last week at his father's Hilldale Road home, where among the guests was York Region Police Chief Armand La Barge.

west quadrant of the Toronto Economic Zone.

He invited municipal politicians to join him in supporting his proposal.

What he termed as the future hub of the region's transit system still hasn't happened and he's Ontario's Minister of Finance.

What happened between his speech in 1988 and today? Where is the subway extension?

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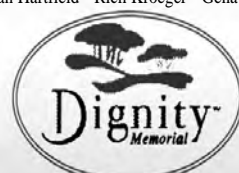
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Tendering: objectivity or favouritism?

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

One of the many difficult decisions for members of a local council is the awarding of tenders when a local businessman has submitted a slightly higher price than an out of town bidder.

The decision is whether to show favouritism by awarding the contract to the local bidder because he's known and pays taxes to the municipality or uphold the integrity of the public tender process by awarding the contract to the low bidder, regardless of the location of the business, providing all the terms of the specifications have been met.

Back in November, 1965, Slessor Motors of Newmarket submitted the low tender of \$3,682.88 for a new truck for the Aurora works department.

Deputy Reeve Ron Simmons asked if the bid from local firms were more than 10 per cent above the Slessor bid and was assured they were.

Simmons said that if one of the local bids had been less than 10 per cent he would have argued like the devil for the local bidder.

At that time council had an unwritten policy to grant the tender to the local firm providing it was within an undefined percentage range of the low bid.

Prior to June, 1968, each department prepared its own purchasing order, which presented problems for the treasury department in making payments, resulting in council establishing a central purchasing system through the clerk's office.

In June, 1969, council approved the hiring of an assistant recreation director, but refused to buy him a desk and chair to sit on or a typewriter to use.

Councillor Walt Davis argued that a man had a basic right to a desk and chair but couldn't convince council members.

Council ran into tendering problems in May, 1977, when Mayor George Timpson accused Councillor Pete Miller of acting improperly when he told one bidder that a competitor had offered a better guarantee.

One company bidding on a tennis court construction project offered council a two-year guarantee. Another company had offered a one-year guarantee but changed it to two years after a conversation with Miller.

Council awarded the contract to the higher bidder even though the cost was \$3,000 more, as the company had submitted the original two-year guarantee. Timpson said it was a matter of ethics.

Miller defended himself by claiming the committee meeting was open to the public when the tenders were discussed and as far as he was concerned it

was a public meeting and he had no problem in providing the information when asked.

As a result council reconsidered its policy of discussing tenders at open committee meetings, which provided competitors the opportunity to see each other's bid before council made a final decision.

It was also learned that the project had never been tendered, as the recreation committee had invited bids from the two companies.

As a result no specifications had been issued and the bids differed as to the amount of fill and other materials required.

In November, 1977, council ran into another problem with a tender call for the painting of the community centre, as only one bidder submitted the required certified cheque along with the tender.

Instead of awarding the tender to the only firm which had complied with the terms of the tender, council debated the merits of awarding the contract to the low bidder, even though the company had failed to provide the required deposit.

Council eventually decided to scrap the paint job for the year and re-tender the following year. This resulted in council adopting the two-envelope system for tendering.

When a contract required a security deposit, the new policy required it to be submitted in a separate envelope, which was opened first. If the proper deposit wasn't included, the cheque and unopened tender were returned to the bidding company.

In October, 1983, a \$68 tender controversy involved council members. Despite objections from Councillors John West and Len Ostick, council accepted the higher bid for a new truck from a local businessman.

Six area dealers were invited to submit bids for the new vehicle and three responded.

Although staff recommended the low bid from a Newmarket dealer be accepted, Councillor Richard Barker argued the contract be awarded to the local dealer as there was only a difference of \$67.82.

At a subsequent meeting, Ostick argued for a tender policy. He pointed out that with the town's unwritten policy of awarding contracts to local bidders, they were escalating their prices, and out-of-town bidders were no longer submitting bids because of council's bias towards local bidders.

Finally in August, 1984, council adopted a policy in which purchases would be made on the tender price alone with no special consideration for local bidders.

Even with a policy, there was another lively

debate in June, 1986, when a Chevy won the war with Toyota over providing a pickup truck for the works department.

The choice was between a truck from Highland Chev Olds for \$10,890 or a Toyota from Wietzes Motors, the Aurora Toyota dealer, for \$9,223, with a promise of better gas mileage.

In spite of strong arguments from Councillor George Timpson for the lowest bidder, council voted for the Chevy.

This brought a complaint from Wietzes Motors that council's tendering policy was biased against foreign dealerships, which council denied.

In September, 1989, council received a letter from Wietzes Motors (now Aurora Toyota) claiming the town had a bias towards so-called imported vehicles.

The letter pointed out that the company had been established in Aurora since 1982 and sales had increased from 200 vehicles a year to between 600 and 700, including tender calls to other municipalities, but none to Aurora.

After all the trials and tribulations of the past, the town's tendering policy is for specifications to be prepared, tenders called and the contract is normally awarded to the low bidder, providing all specifications have been met.

Gaertner wants centre in library

From page 11

youth centre in Aurora.

Comments were many and varied but all expressed a deep interest in the needs of youth. It was suggested that a Quonset hut or a school portable be placed in one of the town parks for the youth.

Later that year a concerned group of young people known as the "Family" organized a meeting in Victoria Hall to discuss the need of a home away from home for young people.

They suggested a building of their own to be open seven days and evenings a week with membership restricted to the 14 to 20 age group.

They gained the support of council who agreed to assist by trying to find a suitable location for the centre.

In 1982, the Aurora Kiwanis club hosted a youth centre at the Church Street School every Friday night.

Currently, Hot Spot opens in the Lions Hall Fridays for youth hosted by Gaertner and volunteers.

In May, 1997, council established a Youth Advisory Committee after a survey of Aurora youth showed 76 per cent of the respondents supported a youth centre.

By 2002 the demand for a youth centre was still strong. Council considered three options, a new building, an addition to an exist-

ing building or renovations to an existing building, but the major problem at that time was the lack of funding.


Council agreed to include funds in the 2003 capital budget for the establishment of a youth centre, but in March, 2004, it decided funding for the youth centre be reallocated to

reduce the tax component of financing the new recreational complex.

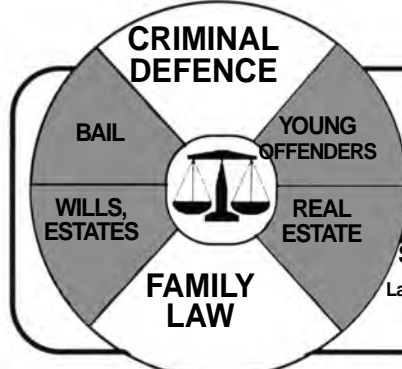
The question whether Aurora's youth will have a centre in the old library remains to be answered, but it won't be for lack of trying by Councillor Gaertner.

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DEMPSEY, Ruth - At the Southlake Regional Health Centre on Sunday, June 12, 2005 in her 76th year. Beloved wife of Don. Dear mother of Ariene and her husband Ken, Marlene and her husband Lorne, Wayne and his wife Annemarie, Donnie, Stephen and his wife Nadine. She will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by her grandchildren Paula, Terri, Lori, Cindy, Meaghan, Noah, Avery and Meg, and 6 great grandchildren. Ruth was the eldest daughter of Harold and Genevieve Johnston and sister to Keith, Patsy, Pauline, George, Joan, Vernon and Willard. Friends called at the Thompson Funeral Home, 29 Victoria Street, Aurora, (905) 727-5421 on Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. Funeral Service was held in the chapel on Wednesday at 11 a.m. interment Aurora Cemetery.

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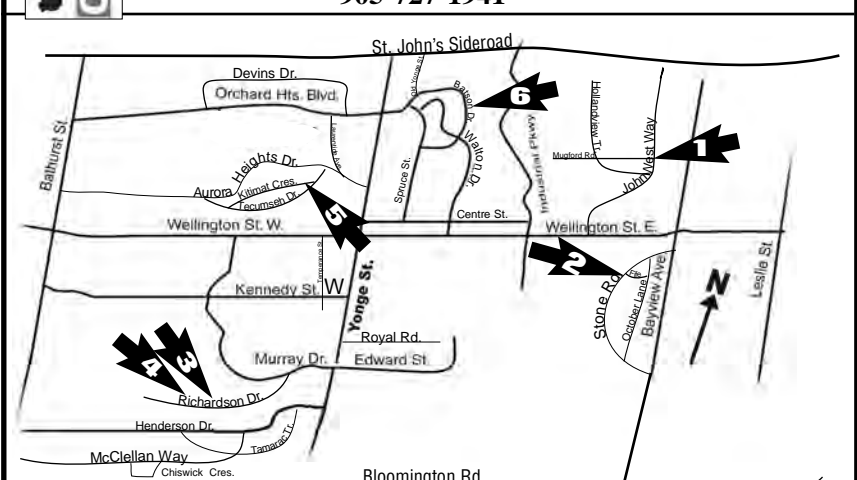
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(FREE TO AURORA RESIDENTS)
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This garage sale locator map is sponsored by
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Garage Sales June 25

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1) Mugford Rd. 8 - 12 | 3) 97 Richardson Dr. 8 - 12
Rain date June 26 | 5) 44 Kitimat Cres. 8 - 12 |
| 2) 27 Fife Rd 8 - 2 | 4) 54 Richardson Dr. 8 - 2
and June 26 - Rain or Shine | 6) 109 Batson 8 - 1 |

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- help students prepare portfolios for college & art school
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Judy studied academic painting and drawing in Florence, Italy. She has appeared on City Line TV.

Judy Sherman (905)726-8883 / mi.design@sympatico.ca

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- **Date:** Wed. July 6, 20 27
- **Time:** 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- **Place:** 2 Orchard Heights Blvd. Unit 16

Call 905-726-1989 to reserve a seat. Seating is limited and will be handled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Call: 905-726-1989 to reserve a seat

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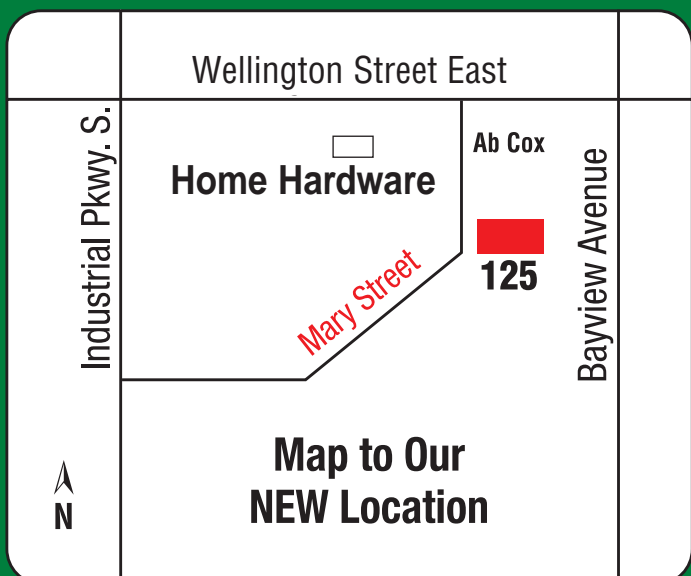
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