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Vol. 6 No. 11

Week of January 10, 2006

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Catholic Church property history

The east side of Yonge Street between Catherine Avenue and Maple Street has gone through many changes over the years and is about to change again with the proposed move of Our Lady of Grace

Sales start for festival

With snow still on the ground, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce announced last week that three booths for the 11th annual Street Festival have already been purchased.

The festival, which started as a one-year street sale to celebrate the 200th birthday of Yonge Street in 1996, has blossomed into an annual event that attracts upwards of 40,000 people a year.

This year, the festival, which sees Yonge Street closed for a day from Murray Drive to Wellington Street, is scheduled for Sunday, June 4th.

A committee, led by Aurora realtor Sean Herbinson, has begun regular meetings to co-ordinate the event.

By the time the festival is ready to start, about 500 booths will have been reserved.

Parish to a seven-acre site on Bayview Avenue donated by Frank Stronach.

The Parish was founded in 1946 and used the old Fleury House at the corner of Yonge and Maple Streets for its services until the original white frame church was built in 1953.

Built in 1886 by Herbert Fleury, the son of the founder of the Fleury Farm Implement Works and Reeve of Aurora from 1873 to 1880, the house was called Inglehurst.

After being purchased by the Parish, it was used as a church and a rectory until it was demolished in October, 1980, to make way for the present day church.

Members of the Fleury family wrote to Aurora Council asking the town to stop any attempt at demolition of the historic building and to designate it under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Council, not wishing to cancel the demolition permit which had already been issued, agreed to meet with church officials and seek a delay while alternatives were considered.

The town was successful in obtaining a two-week delay but the future of Inglehurst was gloomy as the cost to preserve the house was estimated in the \$150,000 range.

Church officials advised the town

Please see page 8



Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School student Alyson Murphy will be one of several students visiting Europe this spring. The Grade 10 student is part of the International Student Exchange program, and her adventure will take her to Geneva, Switzerland. Other Williams' students will be traveling to France and Spain. Here, she spends a perfect winter's day at Aurora's Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Briefly

New Year's baby

Aurora's first baby at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket waited until the afternoon of New Year's Day to make an appearance.

He is James Robert Legace, and weighing in at seven pounds, four ounces, arrived at 1.18 p.m. Jan. 1.

James is the first child for Ines Donato-Legace and Paul Legace.

Candidates meet

At least four candidates in the January 23rd federal election are expected to take part in an all-candidates meeting for the Newmarket/Aurora riding slated for the Aurora Council chambers of the Aurora Town Hall, Wednesday, Jan. 11, beginning at 7.30 p.m.

Three running ...so far

As of 4 p.m. Friday, three people had declared their intentions to run in the upcoming November municipal election.

Current Aurora Councillor Nigel Kean officially entered the mayor's race, while two newcomers will seek seats on council.

Aimé Martin, a former councillor from Point Claire, Quebec, and Bob McRoberts, currently a teacher at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, officially threw their hats into the ring.

Second half of Aurora's 2005 is revisited

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

The second half of 2005 got off to a good start with another successful July First Party as Aurora, Canada's Birthday Town since 1969, took time to celebrate Canada's Birthday. One of the features of the Parade were Veterans from the Aurora Legion riding in Jeeps to commemorate the Year of the Veteran.

Council approved a new roof to the 1986 Leisure Complex at a cost of \$342,000 including repairs to the skylight.

Council rejected a staff report recommending councillors and staff participate in a business trade mission to Hancunhe, China, as a follow-up of a trade mission from the Chinese municipality to Aurora

in 2003.

Whitwell Developments gave the town \$130,000 to assist in the redevelopment of the downtown business core with payments made as their commercial/office complex opened at Highway 404 and Wellington Street East. At year's end, council hadn't decided what to do with the money.

The No Frills store in the Aurora Shopping Centre wants to expand to the south, but by doing so, the west entrance to the plaza and the parking lot will have to be reconfigured, which presented safety concerns to councillors. The proposal was referred back to staff and council is still waiting for the report, as the applicant has not submitted a traffic report.

The loss of trees due to the reconstruction of the Vandorf Sideroad was of concern to members of council, but it was pointed out that the environmental assessment and identification of the trees had been carried out five years before and evidently no one remembered.

Aurora lost one of its finest citizens in July with the death of Colin Keith Nisbet, a former councillor, mayor and school trustee.

He served as mayor from 1961 to 1963 and was mayor when Aurora celebrated its Centennial as an incorporated village.

Council approved the relocation of the existing sports field lighting system from the Legion Soccer Field to the Sheppard's Bush field,

due to the construction of the soccer bubble on the Legion field scheduled to start in August.

Without prior approval of regional council or any of the local municipalities or the public, York Region submitted a Letter of Intent to host the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Following approval by regional council, a Bid Book was submitted, but in December the region was advised, after spending half a million dollars, that it lost.

Tender for the construction of the new fire hall on Wellington Street East was awarded to BWK Construction at a cost of \$1.8 million. Of the 14 bids received, BWK was one of two meeting all requirements including finishing the building before the end of the year. At

year's end the date of the official opening had not been announced, and the building wasn't finished.

Final Aurora tax bills were put in the mail early in August with due dates on August 15th and September 30th. In addition, council directed staff to develop a new methodology in preparing the 2006 tax bill and to schedule public input earlier in the process and to include a business plan for each department.

For the first time in the recent history of the town, the gross 2006 operating budget was approved in December in the amount of \$40.2 million with a net of \$21.6 million up 12 per cent over 2005, but with growth factored in the increase is

Please see page 11



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

Winter parking restrictions are now in effect until April 15th from 2 to 6 a.m. for snowplowing activities.

"Martha's Table" offers comfort food and a sense of community at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets. Available are hot soup, sandwiches, and dessert in the hall. Church-sponsored initiative runs every Thursday.

Aurora Agricultural Society (organizer of the Aurora Fair & Horse Show) meets on the second Tuesday of every second month, at 7 p.m., at the Aurora Community Centre. New members welcome. For more information, call 905-713-6773 or info@aurorafair.ca, or see our website at www.aurorafair.ca.

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.

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.

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.

Gamblers Anonymous, every Tuesday night, Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street, 7.30 p.m.

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night. Aurora Legion. 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

Canadian Federation of University Women welcomes new members throughout the year for monthly meetings with a variety of speakers. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

Dancing at the Legion, 8 p.m. every Friday night.

Bid Euchre at the Legion 1 p.m. every third Sunday.

Queen's York Rangers Army Cadet Corps, boys and girls, ages 12 to 18. Camping, canoeing, target shooting. Aurora squadron meets every Friday evening. For more information, call 905-726-8600.

Towns of York Toastmasters Club meets every second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Park Place Manor, 15055 Yonge St. in Aurora. For more information see the club web site at www.townsofyork.org or phone Elena Silaev at 905-726-9750.

JANUARY 11

All-candidates meeting for the upcoming federal election. Aurora Town Hall council chambers, 1 Municipal Drive, 7.30 p.m.

JANUARY 16

This is the one and only pickup day for Christmas trees. Residents should have their trees at the curb by 7 a.m. and 6 a.m. on Yonge Street and the Industrial Parkway. Do not put tree in plastic bag. Remove all tinsel and decorations as the trees will be chipped, mulched and recycled.

JANUARY 17

Aurora Council meets at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the Town Hall. The meeting will be telecast by Aurora Cable Internet at 6:30 p.m. on the following Wednesday night and at noon hour the following Saturday and Sunday.

JANUARY 18

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Luncheon meeting at the Howard Johnson Hotel with Showcase at 11.45 a.m. and lunch at 12.30 p.m. Guest speaker is Greg Skinner, Manager

Corporate Affairs for TPL Group, operators of Tim Horton's. Pre-register by calling the Chamber office at 905-727-7262.

JANUARY 19

The Wellington Gallery will hold Class Act II, a juried exhibition of student works until February 28. One hundred pieces will be accepted for consideration and there will be feedback from one of the three jurors. Prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 will be provided plus a \$500 donation to the art department of the first place winner's school. Entry fee is \$90. For more information call 905-751-0066.

The rivalry continues between Newmarket and Aurora as Newmarket Council has challenged Aurora Council to attend the Newmarket Hurricane hockey game against the Aurora Tigers at the Twinney Memorial Complex with the council of the losing team wearing the winning team's jersey at the first council meeting in February. Aurora Council was quick to accept the challenge and everyone is invited.

JANUARY 20

Blood donor clinic, Town of Aurora Municipal Building lobby, 1 Municipal Drive. 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

JANUARY 21

The Aurora Writer's Group will launch their first book "Aurora Storyalis" at the Aurora Library from 1 to 4 p.m. The 64-page book is a collection of poetry, prose, memoirs, and commentary by members of the group. Featured at the launch will be readings by the authors and live jazz.

JANUARY 23

Federal election day.

JANUARY 25

A public planning council meeting will be held in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m. to consider two planning applications. One application is to permit a fitness centre as a permitted use on Hollandview Trail at McMaster Avenue. The other is for a 75-single unit subdivision south of the Vandorf Sideroad east of Bayview Avenue.

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society's guest speaker is Lori Seymour. 8 p.m. Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway N., Aurora.

JANUARY 26

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast at the Aurora Sports Dome, 115 Industrial Parkway North, behind the Aurora Legion, 7.30 a.m. Free.

Blood donor clinic, Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, 2.30 to 8 p.m.

JANUARY 27

Family Literacy Day at the Aurora Public Library, in partnership with The York-Simcoe Literacy Council. Stories and activities for children three to five years of age with parents or caregivers in the Lebovic Room from 2 to 2.30 p.m. Pre-register at the children's information centre or phone 905-727-9493, option 5.

JANUARY 31

Aurora Public Library presents Scrapbooking for Beginners with Tracey Borg. Registration limited to 10 adults. 6.30 to 9 p.m. in the Magna Room. Register at the adult information desk or phone 905-727-9493, option 4.

FEBRUARY 1

Save money, stay warm and reduce greenhouse gases. Learn how at Down Draft, a seminar on home energy conservation. Presented by the Windfall Ecology Centre and the Town of Aurora's environmental advisory committee as part of its Get Eco-Fit series, 7 p.m. at the Aurora Public Library. For information, call 905-841-6264.

FEBRUARY 7

140 Royal Canadian Air Cadets open house for youth ages 12 to 18. Event is slated for Cardinal Carter Catholic High School (back entrance) from 7 to 9 p.m. Call 905-727-4692 for further information.

FEBRUARY 8

Aurora Public Library presents Backyard Astronomy for Beginners with Bryan Sansom, 7 to 9 p.m. in the Magna Room. Ages 12 and older. Registration limited. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

FEBRUARY 22

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society's guest speaker is Jason Gray, 8 p.m. Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway N., Aurora.

MARCH 1

Aurora Chamber of Commerce presents its New Member Trade Show from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Tuscany Banquet Centre on Edward Street.



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Aurora and Newmarket Rotary Club presidents get together Thursday night following an "invasion" of Aurora Rotarians to the Newmarket meeting. Aurora president Wendy Browne and Newmarket president Ken MacLeod ran the two-hour meeting attended by eight Aurora Rotarians.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace



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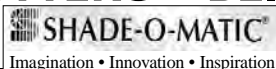
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Poor Richard

Roberts' Rules would assist chairpersons

*It's too late for Christmas,
But for candidates in need;
Give this book of knowledge,
They'll appreciate the deed.*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

If you have a friend or family member who is thinking of running for office in the municipal election scheduled for November 13, 2006, or is a member of council and may be called on to chair a meeting, a perfect gift is Roberts' Rules of Order or Procedure at Meetings in Canada by Arthur Beauchesne.

In general, the chairing of public meetings leaves a great deal to be desired.

Chairmen, chairwomen or chairpersons (I refuse to call them "Chair" as that's a piece of furniture) talk too much, interject comments, lose control and let councilors ramble on, allow debates with delegates and fail to follow normal parliamentary procedures.

The chairman's main duties include the enforcement of the rules of procedure, maintaining order, putting the question on every motion made and declaring the result and deciding points of order relating to members' comments.

A chairman should not only be familiar with parliamentary procedure and usage but set the example for strict conformity and in order to control others it is necessary to control one's self.

One of the most common problems with many chairpersons is their desire to enter the debate.

In his book, Roberts makes it very clear that when a chairman wishes to enter the debate, he calls a member to assume the chair.

Roberts also points out that this should rarely be done and never in the case where much feeling is shown and there is a difficulty in preserving order.

Roberts goes on to say that if the chairman has even the appearance of being partisan, he loses much of his ability to control those who are opposed to the question.

In his book "You and Your Local Government", C. R. Tindal writes that the current structure of municipal government is not designed to provide strong leadership as the head of council has few specific powers, and even those are quite vague and general.

He points out that the head of council has only one vote, the same as other members of council, and that he has no specific hold over the loyalties of other members except by persuasion.

Roberts makes it clear that in debate, a member must confine himself to the question before council and to avoid personalities.

"It is not the man but the measure that is the subject of the debate," he writes.

The chairman cannot criticize any action of council unless he intends to conclude his remarks with a motion to rescind such action.

One of the most common problems occurs when a point of order is raised by a member.

All debate should cease until the member has the opportunity to state his or her point of order and the chairperson rules on it.

If the point of order is not supported by the chair, the member may appeal the ruling in which case the chairman puts the question to the council as to whether they support or oppose his ruling, before debate continues.

Another common problem is the number of times a member of council speaks to the question. Members are expected to study the agenda items in advance of the meeting, ask any questions for clarification and come to the meeting prepared to speak in support or oppose the question and vote.

Normally a person should only be permitted to speak once, although the Aurora procedural bylaw permits two opportunities, which is seldom obeyed as debate goes on and on.

A member should only be allowed to speak again when an amendment is introduced and then only on the amendment.

This is not a curtailment of free speech but to provide some rules of procedure to the debate.

Being a good chairman or council member is not an easy task, but because of your thoughtful and timely gift, a person in that position may be better prepared to act.



Annually, popular local dance instructor Sandra Purdy would arrange a dance revue so parents could see what their youngsters had accomplished. We don't know when the above photos were taken and, frankly, we don't know who the dancers are. Do you?

Letters to the Editor

Inquiry was thorough, this reader maintains

To the editor,

Brian Warburton has discovered the satisfaction of expounding his views to Auroran readers on a regular basis.

The exercise is probably better for his health than anything the national health care system can do.

A civil dialogue of different viewpoints is healthy for our community as well.

Brian is right that the sponsorship scandal should not be disregarded. It has not.

Probably the last thing we will learn is the millions it cost to hold the inquiry.

Why were Harper, Layton and that other fellow so anxious to have an election before the final report had been submitted?

Could they not afford to let the public make their own judgement?

Brian contends there was an incomplete investigation into the scandal.

I respectfully disagree.

As a senior and a political groupie, I have the time and the interest to watch a good deal of the Gomery Inquiry.

It is just not reasonable to suggest it was not thorough.

Brian claims Mr. Harper

has established a reputation for integrity in government.

When exactly did he do that?

I am not aware that he has ever carried the weight of responsibility for any level of government, let alone a government which is arguably the most difficult to accomplish with all of its various regions.

Yet Harper has acquired a reputation.

He has declared he would have followed the Americans to war with Iraq.

Had he been in charge, we, too, would have been counting the body bags returning from that place.

In his entire political career, former Prime Minister Jean Chretien never stood so tall as when he vowed not to send Canadian soldiers to kill and be killed in Iraq.

Furthermore, it is my belief that Harper and his extreme right-wing agenda are the reason the Liberal party was able to survive the sponsorship scandal.

The virulent quality of Conservative campaign advertising does nothing to convince me the people behind it have the conscience and decency that

would give me comfort in the next federal government.

**Evelyn Buck
Aurora**

Print names of writers, reader says

To the editor,

I always thought that papers printed the names of letter writers unless they asked for it not to be, and with good reason.

Whoever wrote the letter supporting Belinda has to be hiding their connection to either her or to the Liberal party.

I think it was wrong of you to print that letter without the author's name, letting somebody pass themselves off as joe ordinary.

I am not afraid to let my name be at the bottom of any letter I have sent to any newspaper, no matter how much I may feel that my view might be a tad unpopular.

Please don't get in the habit of doing this.

**Dave Watson
Aurora**

AURORAN

*"Aurora's
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Cartoonist looks at the year in Aurora

ED, NOTE: As has become tradition, The Auroran's cartoonist, Scott Johnston, has been writing his version of annual events. Here's his look at 2005.

Jan 1 - Aurora's summer water ban commences.

Jan 15 - A wave of devastation is followed by a wave of generosity as the local Tsunami telethon nets \$77,900.

Feb 12 - Mrs. Aurora is crowned. No word yet on the status of the Dr. Aurora, Uncle Aurora or Captain Aurora competitions.

Feb 24 - Council expense reports reveal that the mayor claimed \$22 for scissor sharpening after attending 137 ribbon-cutting ceremonies in 2004.

Feb 27 - Rejecting the proposed Aurora tagline of "Road Construction Capital of Ontario", the town canvasses residents for a new slogan.

Mar 8 - Reebok announces it will demonstrate how well its sports equipment allows one to move, by moving out of town in 2006.

Mar 12 - A proposal to separate Aurora's garbage into three streams is met with the observation that much of the town's trash already ends up in three streams: the Holland River, Tannery Creek and Humber River.

Mar 16 - The groundhog reappears to predict a further six weeks of winter.

Mar 22 - After three years of debate, Council recommends to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario that the length of term for a municipal politician should be three years.

Mar 29 - The town provides thirty-four and a half million reasons for its sale of Aurora Hydro to Powerstream, Inc.

Apr 1 - In what turns out to be an April Fool's joke on local non-profit organizations, the town requests proposals for the use of space in Library Square.

Apr 5 - A telephone survey of Aurora residents reveals that most are opposed to being called at dinnertime to answer long-winded surveys.

Apr 10 - Belinda Stronach foreshadows her eventual defection to the Liberal Party with the topic of her first Auroran column; "Change is Good".

Apr 12 - Aurorans are advised that the budget increase this year will be 7.9 per cent, and that "You're in Good Company".

Apr 19 - The construction at McKenzie Marsh is to include a boardwalk, viewing area, benches, landscaping - everything a resident could want - except a way to get there, as Council rejects a proposal to allow any parking in the area.

Apr 30 - The first Mayor's Clean-up Day of the year results in the collection of three tons of garbage, and 692 traffic cones.

May 17 - "Belinda Stronach - Conservative Party" campaign buttons suddenly become much sought after collectors' items.

May 20 - The Aurora Historical Society considers relocating from Church Street School when it is revealed that a building on Wellington may be an even older schoolhouse.

May 24 - Council diverts the public's attention from the town's lack of a fireworks display on Victoria Day, by starting a very colourful debate on whether Aurora actually has a Deputy Mayor.

May 28 - A proposal comes forward to divide Yonge Street into three districts through Aurora to be called "Construction Ahead", "Expect Delays", and "No Parking".

June 7 - The World's Longest Street Festival is followed by the World's Longest Street Clean-up.

June 11 - Good news for parents who enjoy driving their kids to soccer games and practices all summer; construction starts on a Sports Dome that will allow them to shuffle their kids to soccer games and practices all winter, as well (between hockey games and practices, of course).

June 14 - Both residents and council continue to be anything but calm over proposed traffic calming initiatives.

June 18 - The "Why I Like Aurora" contest receives more

than 130 submissions, 88 of them from developers.

June 21 - It's announced that Aurora will receive \$3 million in Federal transit funding - most of which will be spent on "Lot Full" signs for the GO train parking lot.

June 26 - The town spends six hours cutting down 30 mature trees on Vandorf Sideroad, and six months defending this action.

July 1 - Despite the opportunity to meet local politicians, residents enjoy the town's Canada Day festivities.

July 6 - Residents downtown expressing concerns about the noise soon to be generated at the Concerts in the Park receive little sympathy from residents on the west side of town, whose noise concerns stem from the proposed widening of Bathurst.

July 9 - Despite the cost savings incurred through the leaky roof refilling the pool with rainwater on a regular basis, a new roof is approved for the Leisure Complex.

July 13 - Thompson Funeral Home's move of two kms proves to be about 10 metres too short to receive an address on Yonge Street.

July 19 - From No Frills to no access, as the supermarket proposes an expansion that will eliminate a main access road within the Aurora Shopping Centre.

July 25 - Council decides to treat new twin city Hancunhe, China, equally to existing twin city Leksand, Sweden, by not sending town representatives to visit it, either.

Aug 5 - The age of some of the outstanding items on council's pending list is called into question, when it is revealed that one item is the original discussion about changing the town's name from "Machell's Corners" to "Aurora".

Aug 11 - Construction on Wellington Street East enters its 17th year.

Aug 14 - A report on areas of increased tension in the world notes the trouble spots of the Middle East, North Korea, and Aurora Council.

Aug 18 - While local bookies are unsure of the odds about which we'll see first in Aurora - a resolution to the library square issue, or a house for Habitat for Humanity - they do agree that anyone placing such a bet is unlikely to see any winnings for quite some time.

Aug 26 - The Aurora seniors prove so successful at fundraising for their new centre, that council requests their assistance in tackling next year's budget shortfall.

Please see page 13



Cathy's Corner



Too much stuff

At times like these, it seems like my life revolves around...STUFF!

In case you're not sure what I mean by "times like these", I'll refer you to your handy dandy calendar which, assuming you got a new one for Christmas like everybody else in Aurora, should indicate that it is January, 2006.

If you got the Firefighters' Calendar, you are probably too busy admiring abs and pecs to notice the piles of stuff to be put away, stuff to be returned, stuff to be thrown out, and the bunches of wrapping paper by the baseboard that look like little dust bunnies wearing little Christmas suits.

Such has not escaped my notice.

I got the "Just for Mom" calendar - "a calendar for my amazing, loving, extraordinarily smart, beautiful and hardly-ever-in-a-bad-mood Mom".

That would be me. Sometimes.

As Boxing Day entered its second week, the caption quoted David Fyfe: "It is dangerous to confuse children with angels".

Now why did they wait until after Christmas to bring us this important message?

The damage is done!

Confusing children with angels has made gift certificates the number one gift this past Christmas, and factoring in that the devils who got them are spending somebody else's money, then adding in the bonus of 50 per cent off by the time they get to the mall...well, that would be...roughly...give or take...TWICE AS MUCH STUFF!

Girls are the worst.

To Jennifer and Nadia, life is stuff, and stuff is life.

Their closets are stuffed full of stuff, their drawers are over-stuffed with stuff, and once upon a time there was a floor in each of their bedrooms, but nobody has seen it in years...because of all the stuff.

Girls dream about stuff, worry about stuff, and talk about stuff for hours on the phone.

Worse than that, they buy stuff, collect stuff, save stuff, and fight over stuff!

When they move out of residence, they bring home all the stuff they bought, collected, saved, and clawed their sisters' eyes out to get.

Then they get a whole bunch of new stuff when they move into their own apartments, because, of course, the stuff they bought for residence isn't the right stuff.

As a result, there are bags of stuff, boxes of stuff, and piles of stuff...everywhere.

Just when I thought I was done sorting, storing and regretting all that stuff...Christmas!

Oblivious to the dangers, I brought out all the Christmas stuff.

I stuffed the stockings. I stuffed the turkey. And I still can't explain how the stockings got in the turkey.

I wrapped the rest of the stuff and stuffed it under the tree.

I stuffed all the stuff out of the way when the guests arrived...hey, maybe that's how the stockings got in the turkey!

When the guests left, I felt...stuffed. So, I stuffed away the Christmas stuff.

And when that was done, I felt a lot better.

Then they came home from the mall.

Is it just me, I wondered, or is it getting kind of stuffy in here?

I ran over to my handy dandy calendar to see if they might go back to school before Boxing Day enters its third week.

"Laugh and the world laughs with you," reads today's message from Comic Laurie Kuslansky. "Cry and you cry with your girlfriends."

At times like these...it's good to have girlfriends.

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

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BRICKBATS to those who destroy campaign signs during elections. It's expensive for candidates and it suggests the only way to win a riding is to damage the other candidates' signs. Anyone seeing this destruction should call police.

BRICKBATS to motorists, who wait until they are within inches of a corner, then put their turn signals on to indicate a turn, while drivers, who could enter an intersection, are forced to sit there and fume. Worst corner for this type of activity in Aurora is Edward Street and Engelhard Drive in front of the fire hall.

BOUQUETS to the students and staff of Aurora Heights Public School for their pre-Christmas food drive for the Aurora Food Pantry. They collected more than 2,000 food items.

BOUQUETS to the students and parents of the Aurora Montessori School for delivering Christmas gifts and turkey dinners to 11 less fortunate families with the turkeys donated by Peter's Food Shop in Aurora.

BRICKBATS to officials of York Region Transit for their lack of control over the agency which handles advertisements in the buses, especially the one advertising a law firm specializing in drunk driving charges, at the same time York Region Police fights it. They eventually came to their senses and pulled the ad!

BOUQUETS to anyone who can explain where and how the tradition of cutting a red ribbon to open a new business or venture started? Also, why is the ribbon usually red?

BRICKBATS to Mike Duffy, CTV personality, for his complete lack of control over his guests on "Mike Duffy Live", an interesting and informative show about political events of the day, but spoiled because he lets his guests talk over each other, so nobody is heard. Just like an Aurora council meeting!

BOUQUETS to Bev Hollingsworth, a volunteer with CHATS, who picks up seniors at their homes and drives them to local shopping malls for two or three hours, picks them up and drives them home. CHATS Shopping Club is available year-round, but seniors found it very useful before Christmas.

BRICKBATS to the federal government for lack of fiscal control over Crown corporations and agencies, such as a federal audit of the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corp. which has spent more than \$30 million since it was created in 2001, much of it on contract irregularities and questionable overseas travel.

BOUQUETS to 16-year-old Jordon Samonas and 17-year-old Megan Paterson from Aurora on winning a Canadian dance team gold at an international competition in tap dancing as part of Team Canada.

BRICKBATS to the Supreme Court of Canada for approving Swingers' Clubs as meeting community standards, when it is doubtful if the majority of citizens would agree. Will prostitution, pimping and drug dealing be next if it is done by consenting adults behind a closed door? Why do Canadians bother with elections when the courts make all the rules, rather than elect politicians?

BOUQUETS to Prime Minister Paul Martin for confirming that when Canada participates in an international conference, it speaks with one voice after Conservative Leader Stephen Harper tried to buy votes in Quebec by promising that Quebec could send its own representatives to international cultural conferences.

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Letters to the Editor

Warburton letter slanted perceptions, reader says

To the editor,

Mr. Warburton, now is our chance to straighten your track out.

I have read your letter in The Auroran January 3 at least a dozen times now and the picture I get is a lot of gibberish and slanted perceptions.

In the first 20 days of the election, Stephen Harper used the same approach hacking away at the scandal in Quebec and got nowhere.

It has only been since one of his advisors told him to switch to policy that his promises are gathering steam.

It should be pointed out that as a background he has little going for him except his tenure as chair of the citizens' coalition on income tax reform.

His claim to fame is taking meager funds from the poor single moms

and giving them to the corporations as tax breaks.

Is this the man that you coin as a decent, pragmatic person?

You point to the \$40,000,000 fiasco in Quebec but you should be reminded that Peter Lougheed in Alberta tolerated a trust company that went bankrupt for millions of dollars, lost a multitude of savings, and left seniors swaying in the breeze.

At some point you mention about the Sea King helicopters and offer a ride to the politicians.

There is no argument they should be replaced but we bought three subs from Britain and they took us to the cleaners.

I hasten to say that Canada, since WWII, is recognized the world over as a peacekeeping force.

On the other hand, Mr. Harper wants Canadian

troops in a combat role along with another right winger, George Bush.

It could be your hidden desire also?

Reflecting on some other Progressive Conservatives - Bennett, Diefenbaker, Harris and Mulroney - none of them ever devised one piece of legislation to advance the common man's lot one iota; not for education, health or housing.

Are we to believe that someone who cavorts with Gilles Duceppe, offering him greater autonomy, is good for Canada?

It appears that you want the Liberals out in the worst way and you may be financially better off than most of us in our declining years but attacking health care for

the perception of a private system leaves me cold.

And, by the way, should this come to pass, there will be a lot of people looking to you to help them with their \$1,000-a-day hospital stays.

Another American gem that seems to suit your philosophy.

Ever since the Magna Carta and the passing of the divine right of Kings to the Houses of Parliament, Conservatives, wherever they are, use that famous line: "you elected us to govern and that's what we are doing".

Much like Mike Harris who went on to hack us to pieces.

Ben Kestain
Aurora

Reader needs to slow down

To the editor,

One accident is too many if it can be prevented!

This is in response to the letter that appeared in the Dec. 13th issue of The Auroran regarding this issue.

Mr. Ivoll wrote that the intersection at "Murray and Mosaics has been blessed by the dumbest all-way stop signs..."

First of all, just because you have never seen an accident at that junction (or any other one) doesn't mean they haven't happened.

I'm assuming you haven't been standing at those spots 24/7, since the stop signs have been put up!

Secondly, besides the two major shopping centres on either side of Murray Drive, there are also hundreds of people (including

children) living behind Winners who have to get in or out of their places through that intersection.

Wouldn't that, in itself, be a reason good enough to justify stop signs, if not a light?

Finally, what's more important than trying to save lives?

If you are that much in a rush that you can't stop for two seconds at a stop sign, may I suggest that you need to slow down.

If you still think that "we end up with so many inane traffic restrictions in this town", nothing prevents you from moving somewhere else.


I, for one, am happy that, in this town, someone cares more about people than about speedy drivers.

Lise Lesage
Aurora


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Letters to the Editor

Our Canadian attitude explains their contempt

To the editor,

Good, honest order is the foundation of a just society and for this to be Canada's destiny we must ensure we do not vote to power men of questionable repute, or vote for those who are joined with them in careless compatibility.

The Liberal Party is flawed by corruption.

This corruption is acknowledged by the Liberals since it cannot be denied and they continue to compound corruption by failing to inform the electorate.

The electorate needs to know who is accused, at a time I add, when this knowledge is vital to informed judgment.

This contemptible conduct of silence tarnishes all Liberal candidates with suspicion, the good and the bad.

Tough words and true beyond doubt, and yet many Canadians refuse to acknowledge what is irrefutable.

The Liberal Party did receive Canadian taxpayers' money for Liberal Party use, that it should not have received; and this is a fact that is documented and acknowledged by Paul Martin's Liberal administration.

The Liberal Party, deeply embarrassed, did return more than \$1,000,000 of taxpayer's money to the government.

'The Triumph of Hope over Experience' seems reasonable phraseology for seemingly confused acceptance by die hard Canadians of continual Liberal wrong-doing, again and again. How else can one explain the unintelligible?

Regardless of what is illogical, we are faced with an election that demands a majority of the responsible electorate face up to what must be done; this

time the election is critical to Canada's very foundations; foundations largely built on trust established when Canadian governments had a much higher moral standard than today's Liberals.

If we consider the events from the start of the war in Iraq, and the lack of Canadian support for the American and British war effort, and even the lack of comfort we offered our nearest neighbour and friends, can we be surprised at the reaction of the Bush government?

I suggest that the imbroglio over lumber and beef would have been settled in a professional manner, expeditiously and with little rancour, if Canada had made clear its independent position on Iraq, and then found some way to offer support in a non-belligerent capacity.

I dare speculate that much of the grief suffered by the Canadian cattle industry and the lumber industry could have been averted by courageous men of honour, striding the corridors of Canadian power, on legitimate government business.

I suggest that the American attitude to Canada is one of derision for our inept performance in executing our responsibilities on the world stage, and for the lack of support we offered to our brothers, the Americans.

No matter how badly George Bush has handled and continues to handle the Iraqi file, Canadian indifference to the USA and Britain is contemptible, which helps to explain the contempt the USA returns to Canada at the present time.

Canadians do not deserve the contempt of the USA but the Liberal administration of Canada deserves contempt in full measure.

Would it be reasonable to conclude, in dismay, that the condition of the Canadian armed forces renders this branch of Canadian government incapable of performing on the world stage in a competent manner?

And if this is a reasonable conclusion, would it not be reasonable to hold the Liberal administration to account?

I am not defending the war in Iraq, I am not defending the way it has been conducted or the

results obtained for the treasure expended, but I do hold strongly to the viewpoint that Canada should have found a way to express its independence of policy, while offering some form of support to our friends, our very good friends the United States of America, and the United Kingdom.

Shame on the Federal Liberal Administration!

Nor do I condone the way the USA has handled the lumber issue or the beef issue, although it

does appear to me that with a more supportive Canada, the issues would have been handled in a more civilized and legal manner.

Statesmen are in short supply in Canada and the USA and a change of the guard is long overdue in both countries.

Whoever is elected to form the next Federal administration has a monumental Liberal cesspool to clean up, and if we trust or think the Liberals will clean their own mess, we

delude ourselves.

Therefore, I urge all sincere Canadians to vote to power a new Conservative administration, and put behind us this present administration of malfeasance and shame.

Let the Liberals clean their house the way the Tories have cleaned theirs, before they are considered once again, as candidates to govern Canada.

Brian Warburton
Aurora

It's not just what you lose, it's what you *gain*.



Belinda explained reasons for decision

To the editor,

We are thankfully entering the election campaign homestretch and I am tired of hearing all the sourpuss Conservatives complain about Belinda crossing the floor.

They keep saying she has some explaining to do.

Well, I have heard her explain her reasons in great detail in all major national newspapers, on CFRB, on television to Don Newman, Mike Duffy and a host of other politicians, all of our local newspapers and various public forums.

She also has a full explanation handout available at her campaign office.

I, for one, am very

satisfied with her answer.

People who oppose her might not be happy that she crossed the floor, but please, let's get off this subject and talk about substance and what our candidates plan for Newmarket-Aurora.

Lois Brown's only campaign strategy to date has been to bash Belinda and to idolize Stephen Harper.

Lois, what are YOU going to do to be our strong representative in Ottawa?

You need to show how you could do a better job than Belinda Stronach. So far you simply don't measure up!

Kathy Constable
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The official opening of “Circa 1866 - Lost But Found Collectibles Country Store”, took place on Aurora’s Centre Street in December. Aurora Mayor Tim Jones handled the ceremony while owner Wendy Timbers and her husband, Wayne, assisted.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

History behind church site

From page 1

there were two options: demolish it or sell it to others for preservation.

By September, 1980, despite efforts by local historians and Fleury family members, church officials decided to proceed with demolition.

Later in the month an auction sale was held for the contents of Inglehurst with some items donated to the Aurora Historical Society including the front doors with their stained glass windows and a marble fireplace.

The feeling of the community about the loss of Inglehurst was described in a poem by Grade 3 students from Wells Street Public School who witnessed the demolition:

*"We felt sad yesterday
As we watched you die;
Woods smashing,
Bricks crumbling,
Pipes twisting, shingles
splintering:
You were old and beautiful,
You were part of our history,
Goodbye, Fleury House,
Goodbye!"*

In June, 1979, Father M.R. Lynett, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church, celebrated the 45th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

To commemorate the occasion, an Apostolic Blessing from Pope John Paul II was bestowed on him.

Special masses were also offered for Father Lynett in recognition of his 33 years of service as pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church. At the time he was recovering from surgery in a Toronto hospital.

In 1980, when members of the Historical Society were

still upset about the decision to demolish the Fleury House to construct the new church, they learned that Castle Doan located at Yonge Street and Catherine Avenue might suffer the same fate.

Castle Doan was built in 1795 and was the home of Charles Doan, postmaster of Whitchurch Township.

It opened in 1846.

An American hunter built the original hunting cabin. Over the years there were several additions resulting in a 10-room house with its unique swooping Cape Cod roofline.

Later, Doan built a much grander home, known as Doan Hall at the corner of Yonge and Wellington Streets and operated a general store and post office at the intersection. He was the first Reeve of Aurora in 1863.

Castle Doan was placed on the market in 1970 and by 1979 housed a number of apartments while still retaining its exterior appearance.

By 1980 the Toronto owner of the property told council he had no intention of demolishing the old house but would retain it as part of a town-house project being planned.

However in September, 1981, he sold the property to the Catholic Church to allow

the building of the new church for a growing congregation. Castle Doan was offered to the town subject to removal from the property.

Council appointed a "Doan Castle" committee to investigate grants and the suitability of various locations and to recommend a course of action.

But by June, 1982, a group of private investors who had previously agreed to move and rehabilitate the house backed away from the plan because of the costs involved and the damage done by vandals.

Bulldozers moved in July 2, 1982, and Castle Doan was demolished. A few fragments of the building were saved as a reminder of Aurora's dwindling architectural heritage.

In September, 1983, the new Our Lady of Grace Church was dedicated with Cardinal Carter, Archbishop of Toronto participating with parish pastor Father Paul McCarthy.

More than 1,200 parishioners and guests celebrated the Solemn Mass of Dedication with standing room only in the main church. The downstairs auditorium was filled to capacity for video

viewing.

The church contained a worship hall for 800 people compared with 345 in the original church, a banquet hall, meeting rooms and a pastor's residence.

About 70 per cent of the church was built by volunteers, supervised by John Dol of Model Builders of Aurora.

The general contractor was Don Hawke Construction, a firm that specialized in the building of churches, especially with volunteer help. More than 450 volunteers contributed a total of 8,400 hours.

The current facility, worth an estimated \$2.5 million, will be sold with proceeds going towards the building fund, so Yonge Street between Catherine and Maple will obviously undergo further changes in the future.



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A tradition has been started by the Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA) in making a donation to the Aurora Library. Recently, artist Kathryn Bury, left, and SOYRA president Bill Van Oorschot, presented Chief Librarian Colleen Abbott with a cheque.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

FCM conducts survey

Councillor seeking federal candidate input on issues

Aurora Councillor Phyllis Morris is calling upon Newmarket/Aurora federal election candidates to take the national election check-up on municipal issues.

With the next Leaders' debates scheduled for this week and cities and communities on the agenda, she's seeking a candidate commitment to erasing the \$60-billion national infrastructure deficit.

To assist in securing this commitment, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is mounting a national

grassroots effort to check where candidates stand on federal help to erase the infrastructure deficit.

The checklist of four items forms the core FCM's election platform and includes the erasure of the infrastructure deficit within 20 years; locking the 20-year gas tax transfer in law; maintaining existing infrastructure funding; and involving municipalities in deci-

sion-making.

"As an Aurora councillor, I'd like all residents living in Newmarket and Aurora to get the chance to hear from all candidates their vision of the role the Government of Canada has in fixing our communities," she said. "Residents of Aurora and Newmarket have a right to know where the candidates stand and whether they see a role for the

Government of Canada in solving these problems, including the infrastructure deficit."

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Tigers lose one at home, win on the road

After suffering a rare home ice loss, the Aurora Tigers Provincial Junior A hockey team bounced back with two victories in a row last week.

Last Wednesday night,

after edging an all-star team from Russia 5-4, the Tigers dropped a 3-2 decision to the Wexford Rangers, only their third loss before a home town crowd this season.

"Worst game of the year," said Tiger coach Jerome Dupont. "We got outworked all night."

To add insult to injury, the visitors scored three power play goals against a team

known for locking the door when it's short-handed.

Scoring for the Tigers were Josh McNair and Mike Martinelli.

Following that match, Aurora set out on a five-

game road trip, and in the first two contests came up with similar 3-2 victories.

Friday night, the team was in Huntsville and Saturday it met the Seguin Bruins.

The result was identical. Two 3-2 wins to add to their total.

The Tigers continue their road trip this week with games in Collingwood Friday night, Oshawa

Saturday night and finishing up against Newmarket next Thursday, January 19, at 7.30 p.m. at the Ray Twinney Complex.

Following that match, the Tigers are then home for the balance of the regular season with six consecutive games.

Their next home game is against the Oshawa Legionnaires Friday, January 20th, at 7.30 p.m.

Old arena site proposal dies

After many years of desolation the old Aurora Arena property on the east side of Yonge Street, just north of Park Place Manor, looked like it might finally be developed.

In 2002 subject to site plan approval, approval was given to McGrath-Hunter to construct a five-storey residential/commercial building on the site.

The original application was for 24 residential units above retail stores on the main floor.

Later, the application was revised to increase the number of units to 30 and the number of parking spaces from 43 to 52.

Zoning was appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board and was approved by the OMB in October, 2002. A new application was received to increase the number of units and elimi-

nate the commercial spaces.

According to the Planning Status Report dated November, 2005, a letter was sent to close the file, so what happens now?

It was a cold February 25, 1965, when disaster, in the form of a fire, struck the old arena, destroying it. It was a cold barn of a building with a "warm room" at the west end overlooking the ice surface.

It was home to the Aurora Tigers, the Aurora Figure Skating Club and recreational hockey.

In February, 1966, there were unconfirmed reports a motel was going to be built on the site. Council approved the sale of the property to a developer for \$35,000, but the deal was never completed.

In April, 1966, the property was advertised for sale

and a conditional offer of \$30,500 was received from a Toronto developer for a nine-storey apartment complex with a density of 150 units on the site. As the height limitation at that time was 35 feet, council rejected the offer.

By July, 1966, two offers had been received with one from F.H. Lambert and the other from A. Saytar. Lambert was a Toronto developer and Saytar had recently received approval to build a 56-unit apartment complex on Temperance Street.

The Lambert proposal was accepted for \$35,000 in 1967 for a motel/commercial complex and an apartment building. Council expressed concern about the proposed density of 85 suites and parking.

Lambert said the 85 suites were necessary to

make the project viable, but in April, 1968, he modified the proposal to 50 units per acre resulting in council granting approval for a 90-foot residential development and a 60-foot commercial development on the site.

By January, 1969, Lambert was barred from speaking at council due to his abusive treatment of council and staff members, after he was asked to submit a site plan for the apartment building.

In May, 1969, Lambert's representative appeared before council to request a one-year mortgage extension due to the delay in approvals, which he blamed on council.

Council, in turn, blamed Lambert claiming he had promised the town a hotel complex and then changed his plan to apartments. The

Please see page 12

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Looking at Aurora's last six months of 2005

From page 1

7.9 per cent or about \$85 on the average residential assessed property. The capital budget was approved at \$10.4 million.

The overcrowding at Cardinal Carter High School will be partially alleviated with the building of a new French Catholic High School at Bloomington Road and Bathurst Street.

It was a joint application with Ballymore Homes to build 60 residential units on the site. The rezoning for the site was approved by council but servicing for the school is still to be decided.

Council approved a three-year contract with Broadview Advertising for the facility advertising in the Community Centre, Leisure Complex and the new Recreational Complex with a guarantee of \$12,000 to \$14,000 per year.

Regular visitors to the Aurora council chambers received good news in July as council signed a \$132,500 contract with Duocom Canada to replace the audio equipment in the chambers, after several complaints over the years.

In August, York Regional Police noted that more people had been killed on regional roads so far in the year than all of the previous year. A total of 21 people had been killed to date, including four pedestrians, compared with a total of 20 last year.

Following in the ways of his ancestors, 23-year-old Chris McLeod, a graduate of Aurora High School, joined six other Metis youth in an historic adventure spanning 2,300 kilometres of trade routes used by his ancestors from Thunder Bay to Batoche, Sask., in a voyageur canoe.

Council adopted a bylaw appointing John Gutteridge, formerly of Cobourg and Victoria County, as treasurer of Aurora. He replaced Jim Carey who left the position without an explanation by council in January after about six months of employment.

In mid-August, citizens learned the Bank of Montreal clock, a landmark at the intersection of Yonge and Wellington Streets for years, was about to disappear.

At the end of August, Councillor Nigel Kean announced he would be a mayoral candidate in the November 13, 2006, municipal election. He made his political debut in 1997 when he challenged Mayor Tim Jones but lost and was elected councillor the following term. In the last election he finished second in the council race.

Councillor Ron Wallace, editor of The Auroran, received the Paul Harris Fellowship from the Aurora Rotary Club.

In September, council received word that the Ontario Energy Board had approved the sale of Aurora Hydro to PowerStream, Inc.

ending months of uncertainty, following an intervention by Newmarket Hydro. The sale became effective in November.

After a valiant fight against breast cancer, Rosemary Schumaker, an area manager with Welcome Wagon and publisher of The Auroran died at age 60.

Council received the 2004 year-end report from Fire Chief Molyneaux. During the year the department handled 4,048 calls for assistance including 6.9 per cent for fires, 24.1 per cent false alarms, and 39.3 per cent medical.

Fire damage in Aurora was reported as \$48,300 with no fatalities. The Smoke Alarm Program visited 557 homes, installed 289 smoke alarms and replaced batteries in 132 smoke detectors.

For the fifth year candles glowed on veterans' graves in the Aurora Cemetery thanks to the efforts of the Aurora Legion and the Candlelight Vigil Committee.

Former Aurora Councillor Jan Ochalski and one-time owner of the Aurora Animal Hospital, died in Ottawa. He is survived by his wife Judith who also served as a councillor and a member of the Aurora Library Board.

Although ice was available in the new recreational complex in early September it could not be used due to occupancy and safety problems, as construction was ongoing.

Naming rights for the centre and fundraising were also discussed but nothing decided. At year's end the question of naming rights and fundraising by user groups was still unknown.

The legacy of Terry Fox lived on in Aurora in mid-September as Rolf Fischer and the organizing committee arranged the traditional run/walkathon to take place at Sheppard's Bush.

The 18th Annual Magna Hoedown was also held in mid-September, with thousands gathering under a huge tent for a barbecue, foot-stomping country music and old-fashioned fun. Over the years hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised for local charities.

The reconstruction of Collins Crescent was back before council as resident Wayne Bando returned to complain about issues resulting from the reconstruction two years before that were still outstanding.

In one of the most disorganized and lengthy debates in council's history it was finally agreed to accept a staff report recommending support for a proposed integrated solution recommended the Ontario Power Authority as an alternative to increasing the capacity of the transmission towers with conditions.

The Authority proposed reduction through conserva-

tion, a local transformer station and additional supply. Council agreed to accept a transformer station with limitations but objected to a generating station.

According to the region's planning department, the total supply of employment land's in Aurora was 405 acres with 209 acres registered and draft approved.

The percentage of full-time employment decreased between 1998 and 2004 from 77.1 per cent to 72.5 per cent in 2004, but part-time employment increased from 18.2 to 23 per cent.

Council will participate in the Communities in Bloom initiative in 2006 but only after a lengthy debate, when the registration fee of \$750 was finally approved.

In order to make street addresses on Yonge Street easier to recognize, Councillor Ron Wallace recommended that Yonge Street be divided into three heritage districts, which was endorsed by the Economic Development Advisory Committee with the cost of signage to be considered in the 2006 budget.

In early October after another heated council meeting with points of order, interruptions and personal attacks, council was unable to agree on a staff report recommending allocation of space to community groups in the old library and seniors building and the issue went back to square one.

A week later the old library was back in the news again with a recommendation from the Heritage Advisory Committee that a heritage plaque be placed on the former library to recognize its historical significance as it was opened in 1963 to commemorate Aurora's Centennial as a municipality. The recommendation was adopted on a split vote.

A recommendation from the Traffic Safety Advisory Board that a six-hour parking limit be imposed for all areas of the town was defeated on the basis that overnight parking restrictions would impact families who have friends or relatives visiting them.

Lack of parking at the GO railway station has long been a problem with many commuters parking on the streets around the Town Park resulting in several homeowners' complaints. Council agreed to impose parking restrictions on the affected streets.

A proposal by CAO John Rogers regarding changes

in civic administration to improve efficiency was sent back by council for further study, but was later adopted.

In mid-October Jackie Stuart, curator of the Aurora Museum since 1981 submitted her resignation due to the illness of her mother, but expressed a willingness to assist on a part-time basis during the conversion of the Church Street School into a Heritage Centre.

Aurora and eight other Ontario municipalities were recognized in a special ceremony in Burlington with a Play Works Youth Friendly Community Recognition Award for providing opportunities for the growth and development of youth through play.

In November, Aurora property owners received their revised assessment notices on which property taxes are based. The average increase for residential properties was 12.27 per cent compared with 11.14 per cent across the region and 12.68 per cent across the province.

Council voted 6-2 against establishing a child care centre in the Town Hall for the children of employees.

In mid-November Prime Minister Paul Martin visited Aurora High School and later a reception hosted by Newmarket/Aurora MP Belinda Stronach. It was the first time a Prime Minister had visited Aurora since 1971 when then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau was here.

The seniors moved into their new centre during November and were thrilled with the facilities. They also announced they had met their fundraising target of \$250,000 towards the cost of the centre.

The question of whether it was worthwhile to hold general committee meetings was before council on a few occasions during the previous few months as too many items were lifted for further discussion at the subsequent council meeting.

The annual Santa Claus Parade, one of the largest ever, thrilled children of all ages as it travelled down Yonge Street under the stars, taking more than an hour to pass a given spot.

In December the Traffic Safety Advisory Board recommended school crossing guards be removed from several intersections during the noon hour to which council agreed.

With the resignation of

Councillor Bill Hogg from the Finance Committee, council decided to disband the committee and assign its mandate to the general committee.

A movie theatre returned to Aurora after an absence of more than 50 years with the opening of the 10-screen Cineplex Odeon on Bayview Avenue.

It is doubtful any other issue has generated as much discussion at Aurora Council as to what to do

with the \$34.5 million from the sale of Aurora Hydro and a decision has been left over to the New Year following public consultation.

It was a sad commentary, especially at Christmas time that 44,000 residents in York Region, including 19,000 children, had to use the eight regional food banks during the year. That's equivalent to the population of Aurora.

And that was the year that was.

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Another arena site proposal bites the dust

From page 10
town in preparation for a hotel on the site held a liquor plebiscite in anticipation of the hotel and denied the request for a mortgage extension.

No conditions were included in the original sale and the land sat idle for five years while council dickered with the owner over apartment density.

The site was zoned for 40 apartments per acre, but on

the recommendation of York County planners this was increased to 50 units per acre. Lambert wanted 52 suites on the three-quarter acre site.

At the Ontario Municipal Board hearing the Board listened to both arguments and ordered the parties to reach an agreement. Then in November, 1970, the saga of the old arena site took a new twist when the property was put up for sale.

The first concrete steps

towards the development of the property came in March, 1971, when council gave first reading to a bylaw amending the zoning to permit a seven-storey apartment building of 48 suites on Gurnett Street, at the rear of the arena property.

In 1974, builder Mel Dancey constructed the apartment building but the Yonge Street site remained empty.

In January, 1978, council received a proposal for a

five-storey, 36-unit apartment/commercial development on the Yonge Street frontage. The proposal included nine retail outlets on the ground floor and four floors of condominium units above.

In March, 1978, floodplain regulations doomed plans for an apartment building on the arena site, which lies almost entirely in the floodplain, including a covered section of Tannery Creek.

Officials of the South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority warned that a regional storm could put parts of the property under 10 feet of water, but a commercial development might be acceptable.

In January, 1979, a new proposal was submitted for a two-storey office and commercial building, which met the current zoning requirements, but the plan never materialized.

Other development plans

were submitted but the Yonge Street property remained empty waiting for a shovel to go into the ground, which it was thought would happen with the June 2002 proposal.

However, now it looks like it's back to square one for the old arena property.

Currently, the building on the property is being used as a campaign office by Lois Brown, the Conservative candidate in the upcoming federal election.



House League Tyke

104 Tim Horton's Sharks 12
106 Tim Horton's Red Wings Tyke HL 0

106 Tim Horton's Red Wings Tyke HL 6
105 Tim Horton's Flyers 1 - Michael Dacostas 1G, Adam Leader 1A, Kerstin Palmer 1A.

108 Tim Horton's Blues 6 - Matthew Tyndall 1G, Jamie Finlay 1G, Colin Kostin 4G, David Townshend 1A.
102 Tim Horton's Rangers Tyke HL 0

107 Tim Horton's Bruins 15
108 Tim Horton's Blues Tyke HL 1 - Graham Sandford 1A, David Townshend 1A, Cameron Zinner 1G.

101 Tim Horton's Leafs 4
108 Tim Horton's Blues Tyke HL 1 - Colin Kostin 1G.

107 Tim Horton's Bruins 7
105 Tim Horton's Flyers Tyke HL 4 - Michael Dacostas 1G 1A, James Eydt 1A, Adam Leader 3G, Kristin Partanen 2A, Jake Schachter 1A, Brian Suominen 1A.

104 Tim Horton's Sharks 9 - Bryan Manweiler 1A, Adam Wilson 1G, Jared Brown 1G 1A, Adam Caicco 1G, Anthony Orlandi 3G, Tyler Wilson 1A, Brendin Ramsay 2G 1A, Louie Kirkos 2A.
105 Tim Horton's Flyers Tyke HL 0.

104 Tim Horton's Sharks Tyke HL 10 - Bryan Manweiler 1G 2A, Adam Wilson 1A, Jared Brown 1G 1A, Anthony Orlandi 2G 4A, Brendin Ramsay 4G 3A, Jared Reeves 1A, Ryan Simmons 1G, Louie Kirkos 1G 1A.
103 Tim Horton's Blackhawks 2.

Minor Atom

305 All Pro Source For Sports Minor Atom HL 4 - Morgan Walker 2G, Mitchell Palmer 1G, Michael Slack 1G 2A, Brady Harris 1A.
306 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre 4 - Thomas Finlay 3A, Alexander Jonasson 1G, Michael Liscio 1A, Scott Taylor 1G 1A, Andrew Walter 1G, Jamie Wilson 1G.

305 All Pro Source For Sports Minor Atom HL 5 - Morgan Walker 2G, Victor Chadarov 2A, Mitchell Palmer 1G 1A, Kristen Grasse 2G, Lucas Brutto 1A, Brendan Harris 1A.
307 Optimist Club of Aurora 1 - Robin Creighton 1G.

306 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre Minor Atom HL 2 - Thomas Finlay 1A, Michael Liscio 1G, Scott Taylor 1G.

304 Chouinard Bros. Roofing & Windows 1.

306 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre Minor Atom HL 2.
303 Dr. Steiner's Drillers 1 - Alexander Stewart 1G.

307 Optimist Club of Aurora 6 - Derek Capone 1A, Adam Deroos 1G 1A, Tyler Hindley 2G 1A, Mitchell Arnold 1G 1A, Matthew Walker 1A, Grant Mulholland 1A, Alex Cicchino 1A, Robin Creighton 2G.
308 Delph & Jenkins Surveyors Minor Atom HL 0.

302 Laurion Law Office 7 - Kevin Wood 1A, Mac Cawfield 2A, Alexander Harrison 1G 2A, Jason Glionna 2A, Matt Sanita 4G 1A, Matthew Pelkola 1G, Chris Downs 3A, Chris Sanita 1G.
308 Delph & Jenkins Surveyors Minor Atom HL 0.

302 Laurion Law Office 3 - Kevin Wood 1A, Christopher Bridgeman 1G, Mac Cawfield 1A, Jason Glionna 1A, Matt Sanita 1G, Matthew Pelkola 1G, Tyler Futterer 2A, Ian Coschi 1A.
307 Optimist Club of Aurora Minor Atom HL 1.

303 Dr. Steiner's Drillers Minor Atom HL 3 - Maxwell Brown 1G, Nicholas Steiner 1G, Alexander Stewart 1G 2A.

304 Chouinard Bros. Roofing & Windows 2.

303 Dr. Steiner's Drillers Minor Atom HL 4 - Maxwell Brown 2G, Riley O'Brien 2A, Alexander Stewart 2G, Calvin Morache 1A.
301 ADC Aluminum 4.

302 Laurion Law Office Minor Atom HL 3 - Jason Glionna 1G, Matt Sanita 2G.
301 ADC Aluminum 2.

Atom

403 Dr. Steiner's Drillers Atom HL 7.
402 McAlpine Ford Lincoln 4 - Andreas Mikkelsen 1G, Zachary Ferry 3G, Jesse Borin 1A.

401 Nacora Insurance Brokers Atom HL 8.
402 McAlpine Ford Lincoln 2 - Dylan Gould 1G, Zachary Ferry 1G, Jesse Borin 1A.

405 Rotary Club of Aurora 4 - Kyle Davy-Vass 1G, Quinn McGowan 1A, Matthew Roach 2G, Eric Stauble 1G.
406 Continental Custom Ingredients Atom HL 2.

405 Rotary Club of Aurora Atom HL 6 - Scott Wheeler 1G, Quinn McGowan 2G 1A, Matthew Roach 1G 1A, George Plukov 1G, Drew Davison 1G 1A.
402 McAlpine Ford Lincoln 6 - Andreas

Mikkelsen 1G, Zachary Ferry 4G, Duncan Eveleigh 1G.

405 Rotary Club of Aurora Atom HL 9 - Andrew Staples 1G, Ryan Byerlay 1A, Scott Wheeler 2G, Michael McCreesh 3G 1A, Quinn McGowan 2G 2A, Matthew Roach 1G, Christopher Kinsman 2A, Brady Sands 1A, Drew Davison 1A.
404 Optimist Club of Aurora 3.

Minor Pee wee

502 Supreme Collision Centre Minor Pee wee HL 2 - Arun Partridge 2G, Mackenzie Lafleur 1A.
503 Winchurch Environmental Inc. 2.

502 Supreme Collision Centre Minor Pee wee HL 5 - Arun Partridge 1G, Liam Judges 1A, Wade McFarlane 2A, Joey Romano 4G, Geoffrey Ash 1A.
501 Chevalier Chrysler 2.

502 Supreme Collision Centre Minor Pee wee HL 4 - Arun Partridge 2G, Liam Judges 2G, Andrew Seguin 1A, Geoffrey Ash 1A.
505 Pizza Pizza 1.

503 Winchurch Environmental Inc. 5.
501 Chevalier Chrysler Minor Pee wee HL 2.

505 Pizza Pizza 5 - Micheal David 1G, Jake Langford 2G, Andrew Luck 1G, Nicholas Theodoropolous 1G.

506 Diamond Groundskeeping Services Minor Pee wee HL 3.

506 Diamond Groundskeeping Services Minor Pee wee HL 5
504 The Backyard Pool & Spa Company 1 - Jonathan White 1G. JP Hudon 1A.

504 The Backyard Pool & Spa Company 5 - Jonathan White 2G, Brendan Kirasack 1G, Cole Roffey 2A, Cameron Greig 1G, Zachary Cook 1A, JP Hudon 1A, Matt Noseworthy 1G 2A.
505 Pizza Pizza Minor Pee wee HL 4.

504 The Backyard Pool & Spa Company Minor Pee wee HL 11 - Samantha Minchella 1G, Jonathan White 1G 1A, Brendan Kirasack 2G, Cole Roffey 2A, Cameron Greig 1G 1A, James Procher 2G 2A, Ryan Dal Cin 1G, JP Hudon 1G 2A, Matt Noseworthy 2G 2A.
503 Winchurch Environmental Inc. 4.

Rep Games

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 6 - Erik Balkovec 1G, Paul Neophytou 1A, Parker Baile 2G, Austin Persaud 1G 1A, Logan Blaser 1A, Evan Jackson 2A, Robert Stokes 1A, Scott Kostin 1A, Ian Dunlop 2A, Lucas

Pozzebon 2G, Alec Ground 1A.
Guelph 2.

Burlington 5.
Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 3 - Erik Balkovec 1A, Paul Neophytou 2G, Evan Jackson 1A, Connor Cowl 1G, Scott Kostin 1A, Brett Thiessen 1A.

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 8 - Erik Balkovec 1G, Paul Neophytou 1G 1A, Parker Baile 1G, Austin Persaud 2A, Evan Jackson 1G 1A, Robert Stokes 1A, Scott Kostin 1G 1A, Ian Dunlop 1A, Lucas Pozzebon 1G 1A, Brett Thiessen 2G 1A.
Duffield 1.

Oakville Rangers 1
Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 0

TBD 2
Aurora Tigers Minor Pee wee A 1

TBD 3
Aurora Tigers Minor Pee wee A 2

TBD 4
Aurora Tigers Minor Pee wee A 3

Aurora Tigers Minor Pee wee AE 9 - Cooper Catt 1A, Lucas Leslie 3A, Jason Lockhart 1G, Jesse Bentolila 2A, Dylan Hussey 2G 1A, Anthony Selski 2G, Evan Collict 1G 3A, Kevin Lukezc 1G, Brett Wilson 1G, Adam Balaban 1G 1A.
North York Knights 0.

Aurora Tigers Minor Pee wee AE 5 - Mackenzie Wooder 1A, Jason Lockhart 1G, Evan Collict 1G, Dylan Woyslaw 1G 1A, Brett Wilson 2G 1A.
North Toronto 0.

Aurora Tigers Minor Pee wee AE 3 - Cooper Catt 1A, Jesse Bentolila 1G, Kevin Lukezc 2G.
Whitby Solar Bears 1.

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE 6
East Gwillimbury 3

Aurora Tigers Bantam AE 3
Redmen 1

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget A 1 - Spencer McCartney 1A, Darcy (Bucky) Pelosse 1G.
Hamilton 1.

Vaughan Rangers 5
Aurora Tigers Minor Midget A 2 - Ian Weston 1A, Travis Hooper 1G, Patrick McMurray 1G, Joshua (Josh) Meron 1A.

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget A 3 - Jeremy Cohen 1G 1A, Greg Gianopoulos 2A, Darcy (Bucky) Pelosse 1G, Ross Pizzurro 1G.
Amherstburg Stars 1.



RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Aurora United Church helped people of Biafra

There's lots of news coming out of Africa today about the poor living conditions of the people, but the tragedy isn't new.

In October, 1969, the Aurora United Church sponsored a Meagre Meal Talk-In to organize fundraising projects for the people of Biafra.

It was also to generate political pressure to aid the starving Biafrans and to work for an end to the Biafra-Nigeria war between the two countries.

The keynote speaker was Dianne North, an Aurora nurse who had recently returned home for a visit from a Biafra mission hospital and before returning wanted to educate Canadians about what it was like in Biafra.

Teenagers were invited to the meager meal and agreed to organize a 40-hour fast to raise funds and were successful in raising the \$2,500 needed to send a Canairelief aircraft to Biafra with food supplies.

Adults attending the meager meal were encouraged to pressure the federal government to work for the lifting of the blockade and for an end to the war.

YOUTHS PREVENT MAJOR YONGE STREET FIRE

In March, 1985, Aurora Fire Chief Joe Hunwicks recognized Peter Jermolow and roommate Ryan Fleming at an Aurora Council meeting for preventing what could have been a large fire on Yonge Street.

The two youths, students at Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School, lived in a second floor apartment on Yonge Street in an old building south of Mosley Street.

One evening they smelled smoke.

Fleming called 911 and Jermolow grabbed a fire extinguisher, kicked in the door of the downstairs' apartment below his and put

out the fire.

He waited for the arrival of the fire department and directed them to where the fire had occurred. Chief Hunwicks said there was the potential of a large fire as it was an old structure close to other buildings.

Jermolow said he had learned to use fire extinguishers when he worked during the summer at Canada's Wonderland, where regular fire drills were conducted.

STUDENTS DO IT BETTER

A consumer survey carried out by the Aurora Business Association during the spring of 1970 was a failure.

In June, 1970, it was announced that although the survey reached an estimated 8,000 people only 65 replied.

As a result of the failure of the survey, 16-year-old Bryan Keizerwaard, of D-mac Furniture fame, then a Grade 11 student at Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School decided to carry out his own survey.

With the help of his geography teacher, Russell Rees, and 60 of his fellow students they carried out a traffic count on Yonge Street, mapped the main business section and did a consumer survey.

The consumer survey received answers from more than 1,000 people.

The students compiled the results and later made a presentation to the association.

JULY FIRST BALLOON RACES

During the early days of the July First Festivities the Balloon Race was a popular feature.

Cartoonist's view of 2005

From page 5

Aug 30 - Proving that it's not just the voters who are anxious for a municipal election, Councillor Kean announces plans to run for mayor in November, 2006.

Sep 7 - The Bank of Montreal "lollipop" clock takes a licking, and stops ticking, as this fixture at Yonge and Wellington is replaced with a new sign.

Sep 13 - You can get everywhere but here, when York Region's Viva bus service commences operations, but only as far north as Richmond Hill.

Sep 15 - As a concession to the fact that the building is still under construction, users of the rinks at the new Rec Complex must replace their hockey helmets with hardhats.

Sep 20 - The new sound system in the Council Chamber limits the number of speakers at any one time to three; which is about three too many.

Sep 27 - The town proposes to address the pot hole problem by planting flowers in them as part of Aurora's entry in next year's Communities in Bloom competition.

Oct 7 - The decision to extend the Farmer's Market season again this year is met with the observation that if this trend continues, by 2012, the market will run 365 days a year.

Oct 11 - From "Plugged In" to unplugged, as local television host Angie Dawson leaves Aurora Cable.

Oct 14 - A proposal to bring the 2014 Commonwealth Games to York Region notes that some facilities are already in place, including the Skateboard Park in a backyard on Windham Drive.

Oct 20 - A new budget planning process is approved that will let us know even sooner that we're in for a huge tax increase the following year.

Oct 24 - They said it wouldn't last five issues, but The Auroran celebrates its fifth anniversary.

Oct 25 - A local restaurant is fined \$500 by health inspectors for having a dirty ashtray. Fines of \$200 for an untied shoelace, and \$350 for a squeaky door hinge are later dropped.

Oct 27 - Thieves break into The Auroran offices and steal computer equipment and our small-town sense of security.

Oct 31 - It's a scary Halloween in Aurora, as an unusual number of children Trick or Treat dressed as construction pylons.

Nov 2 - GO adds a fourth train to its Aurora service, which changes the ratio of trains to parking spots at the

Aurora station to almost 1:1.

Nov 6 - The town is overrun by overweight squirrels after volunteers plant 10,000 acorns at the new Rec Complex.

Nov 9 - In a one-on-one meeting with the editor of The Auroran, the Prime Minister discusses potential employment opportunities at the paper after January 23rd.

Nov 10 - Updated property tax assessments show homeowners that they're both richer and poorer than they thought.

Nov 15 - In their efforts to raise funds for their new centre, the seniors successfully sell naming rights to the kitchen, a meeting area, three hobby rooms, the lounge, four closets, 12 cupboards, a stairwell, and an electrical panel.

Nov 20 - GO is gone, as the transit system drastically reduces bus service in town with the arrival of Viva.

Nov 22 - Council agrees to endorse the question on next year's ballot of splitting Aurora up into separate wards, as long as the number of wards does not exceed one.

Nov 28 - To address the concerns of Golf Glen residents that their new speed humps are too low, council approves the addition of speed humps on the speed humps.

Nov 30 - The Aurora tree lighting ceremony is delayed in order to find an extension cord long enough to reach to the Powerstream offices in Markham.

Dec 2 - In a follow-up study of the new sound system in the Council Chambers, citizens note they were better off when they didn't know what the councillors were saying.

Dec 6 - ACI proposes a compromise to residents of Ridge Road concerned about the company's proposed windmills to be constructed on their street: build the towers, but rename the road "Don Quixote Drive".

Dec 9 - The new Aurora Cinema opens, allowing residents to view first-run movies three weeks before they are available on DVD.

Dec 13 - Two companies vie for the rights for the concession stand at the new Rec Complex: "We'll Never Make a Profit Snacks", and the "Negative Return on Your Investment Food Company".

Dec 18 - Canada Post letter carriers start collapsing under the weight of election mailings, Christmas cards and Boxing Day fliers.

Dec 25 - Santa receives a ticket for parking his sleigh overnight on an Aurora street.

Dec 31 - Aurora's summer water ban is lifted.

Kids would line up to pay a quarter to buy a balloon at the Community Centre and watch them sail away.

Each one was attached with a shipping tag where the sender filled in his/her name and address. Instructions were also included for the person who eventually found the balloon to return it to the sender with both being eligible for prizes.

The balloon which travelled the farthest distance was the winner and one long-flying balloon was found off the coast of Massachusetts.

The event was abandoned because nobody wanted to man the helium tanks.

WHEN A SECRET ISN'T A SECRET

In March, 2001, Aurora's general committee met in an in camera (closed door) meeting to discuss endorsement of the proposed name for the planned merger of the Newmarket, Aurora, Markham and Vaughan Hydro utilities.

The committee's report was presented to a subsequent council meeting for ratification in public session and adopted without comment.

Following the meeting, when a member of the media requested a copy of the report that had been presented to members of council in public session regarding the name to be given to the merged utility, he was told it was a "secret".

He asked that if it was still a secret why was the report presented and adopted in public session but got no reply.

However Mayor Tim Jones did utter the new name before he was poked by Chief Administrative Officer Larry Allison.

Anyone paying attention would have heard the name "Unipower" so the secret was out, but it didn't make much difference as the merger never took place so the "secret" name was never used.

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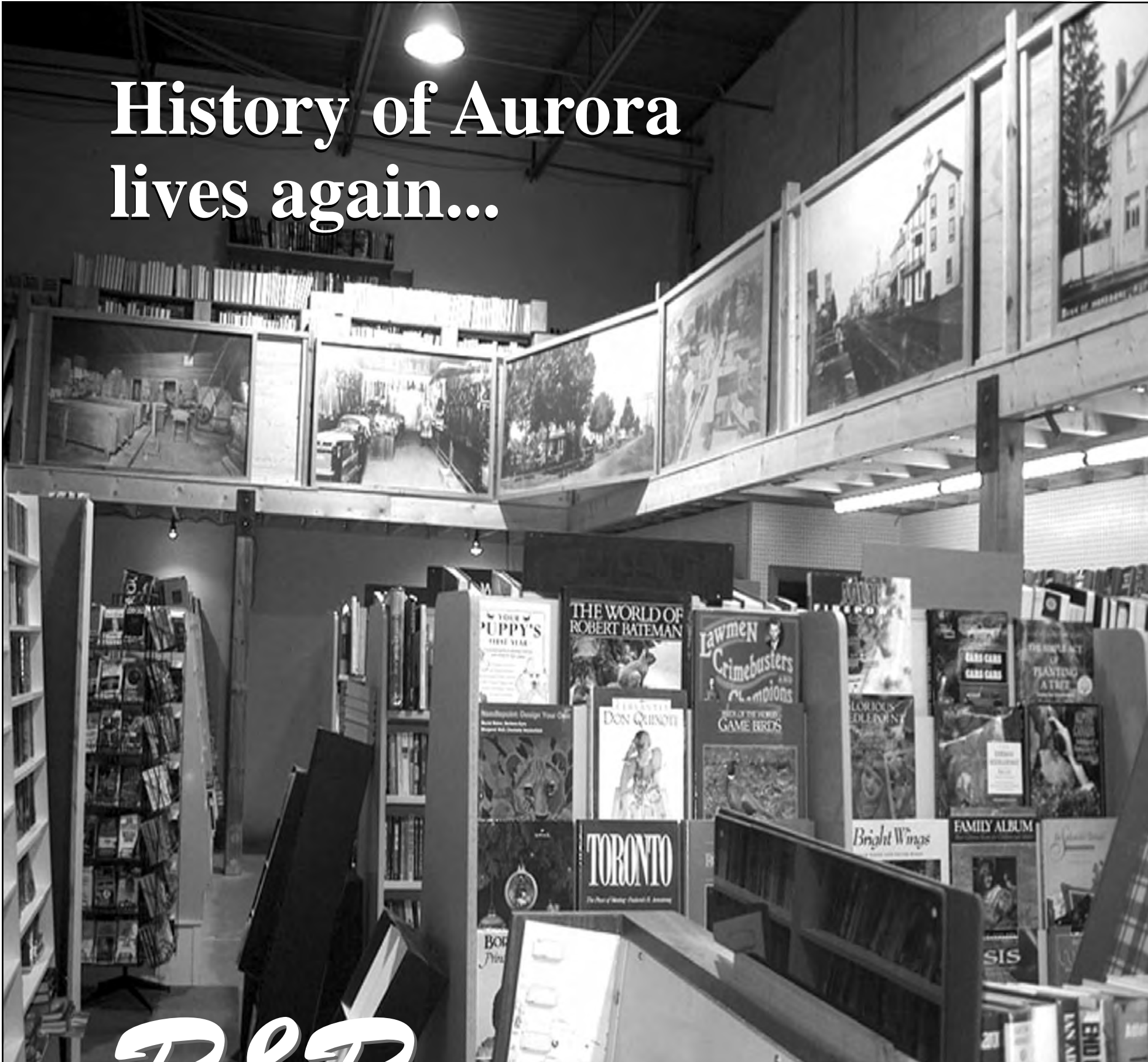
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