





# COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

## CONTINUING

During the month of January the Skylight Gallery in the Town Hall will feature the artwork of Beth Boudreau including a variety of watercolour paintings of landscapes, outdoor gardens and nature scenes. Viewing hours are from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

\*\*\*\*

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. Next meeting is Tuesday, March 14. 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.

\*\*\*\*

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 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.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with ACI, presents "Internet Explorer & Outlook Express", the sixth of a series of free computer workshops. Workshop to be held in the Magna Room at 7 p.m. Register on-line, at the adult information desk or phone 905-727-9493, option 4.

## 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 9

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast at The Carter Centre, 1335 St. John's Sideroad East, Southdown Institute Entrance. Event begins at 7.30 a.m.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Tech Thursday. Topic is "Communicating with your customers in the most effective way possible". Lunch is provide free for Chamber members, \$10 for potential members. Event is slated for the Aurora Chamber boardroom, Yonge Street and Industrial Parkway South. Noon.

## FEBRUARY 11

A Valentine Craft Extravaganza for ages 6 to 9 at the Aurora Library from 2 to 4 p.m. Fee is \$6 and each child will walk away with awesome Valentine decorations.

## FEBRUARY 15

Aurora Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting, 12.30 p.m. at DiNardo's The Mansion, 400 Industrial Parkway South. Guest speaker is "Pinball" Clemons, Toronto Argonauts head coach.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, presents "Stress: The Heart of the Matter", in the Magna Room at 7 p.m. Register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

## FEBRUARY 18

Aurora Public Library presents "eResearch" for students, a free hands-on workshop to learn how to use the library's electronic research resources effectively. Workshop begins at 9.30 a.m. and is limited to six students per session. Pre-register at the adult information desk or phone 905-727-9493, option 4.

## FEBRUARY 21

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast at Howard Johnson Hotel. Theme is "Hawaiian Day" and participants are asked to dress accordingly. Event begins at 7.30 a.m. and is \$15 for members; \$20 for potential members.

## 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 Tuscan Banquet Centre on Edward Street.



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# Question remains: what to do with \$\$

It is doubtful if any other issue has generated as much discussion and confusion at Aurora Council as the sale of Aurora Hydro. Big question is what to do with the \$34.5 million the town got for the sale. Last October council agreed the money should be invested and that before

any re-allocation council establish a policy for its use. It was also agreed the public should have a say in it. It was suggested management of the funds be linked with the town's Strategic Plan to develop a long term operating and

capital forecast. In a report to council last month, Treasurer John Gutteridge recommended that before hearing from the public, council should determine the objectives it is trying to achieve. It was also recommended that once council had established its goals the

next step would be to determine how to obtain input from the residents. In Richmond Hill, which went through a similar exercise, staff produced a discussion paper describing the situation and the different options available for the public sessions. After receiving public input, the municipality prepared a strategy on how it planned to spend the proceeds.

As the proposed process could be time consuming, staff recommended an individual be engaged on a contract basis to perform the duties. Last week, CAO John Rogers said discussions were underway with an individual who is in the process of preparing a quotation for assisting, as directed by council at a December meeting.

The CAO suggested it might be wise to delay the timing of the project slightly so that council would have the advantage of the work plan for the Strategic Plan Review currently underway. He said it was important to have the appropriate strategic direction in place prior to making a decision on the hydro proceeds. After considering several dates to review the Strategic Plan, it was agreed to meet January 21st prior to the official opening of the Seniors' Centre.

# Viva service accepted by public, she says

Last week, Mary-Francis Turner, Vice-President of York Region Transit, appeared before Aurora's general committee to provide an update on the status of the Viva rapid transit program. Since the official opening of the service south to Finch Avenue subway station from Richmond Hill and along Highway 7 last September, Turner told members of the committee that the number of passengers was growing steadily. In November, the Yonge Street service was extended north from Richmond Hill to the Newmarket

Terminal to serve Aurora and Newmarket with a 10 to 15-minute daily service with more frequent service during peak hours. She said the buses operated on the honour system and passengers must have a valid ticket and ticket inspectors are issuing warnings and fines of up to \$150 for those without valid tickets. She also mentioned that passenger surveys indicated it was an intelligent, user friendly, customer service driven system and was a great leap forward for public transit. Efforts are being made

to increase public awareness and ridership and to promote transit as a viable alternative for commuters, and she pointed out that market research was positive and exceeding public expectations. Councillor Damir Vrancic pointed out that Aurora closed Yonge Street for community activities such as the Street Festival, the July First and the Santa Claus Parades and asked if Viva had planned for that. Ms Turner said Viva operational staff was aware of the events and plans had been made so there was no conflict. Councillor Ron Wallace said he was not a Viva fan as GO Transit was providing an excellent service and he wondered what GO had done to cause this new form of transportation. Ms. Turner replied it was not a GO Transit-Viva conflict but a means of providing a better service to residents of York Region and to provide an option for commuters.



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# If you don't vote, don't complain

*There's an election coming,  
It will be held next week;  
No matter who gets elected,  
The outlook is very bleak!*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Next Monday is election day in Canada and the final result will be known after British Columbia voters cast their ballots.

It will no doubt end in another minority government, but the big question is, who will be Prime Minister?

It's an election nobody really wanted as campaigning had to be carried out during the winter months and especially over the Christmas season when people's thoughts are on family and friends, not politicians.

Yet an election was necessary to clear the air in Ottawa as the business of the country had ground to a halt as the parties bickered back and forth, played political games with little or nothing getting done.

Major issues in the campaign are trust and leadership.

The people are being asked to vote for parties that are untrustworthy, unknown or ungovernable.

With the Gomery inquiry into the sponsorship scandal, the Shawinigate affair with Jean Chretien, David Dingwall's claim that he is entitled to his entitlements and the recent RCMP investigations, the Liberal government is considered untrustworthy.

Stephen Harper and the philosophy of the Conservative Party are really unknown as he says one thing and then later says another.

However, he and the Conservatives have waged a very successful campaign and are away ahead of the Liberals in the polls.

While the electors may be willing to trust him with a minority government, they are unlikely to trust him with a majority as predicted by some pollsters and will likely switch their vote to another party as the Conservatives are considered unknown.

Jack Layton comes across strongly but is being caught in a squeeze play between the other two parties and while he may end up as the kingmaker in the next Parliament, the NDP will not win enough seats to form a government and are ungovernable.

So what's the choice?

Party faithful will vote the party line and the local candidate, hell or high water.

The undecided will toss a coin or more likely decline to vote wishing there was a line on the ballot which read "None of the Above."

The Liberal Party is reverting to its campaign themes which have worked well for them in the past such as fear of Stephen Harper and social conservatism, the only party defending national unity and in this campaign the fear of the Bush administration and the United States.

Stephen Harper is trying to prove to the electorate that he isn't scary, that he is human and that he believes in many of the same things as Martin agreed with in 2002, that the Kyoto Accord won't work, that missile defence is advantageous and gay marriages need another look and the Liberals are untrustworthy.

The New Democratic Party is feeling the strength of power after forcing the Liberals to accept its budget last spring to buy the NDP votes and save the government from defeat at that time.

With the possibility that Harper may form the next minority government, Layton is hedging his bets, ready to work with either winner, but attacking both the Liberals and the Tories and offering the NDP as the third option.

Minority governments can work if the politicians would stop playing political games and work for the good of the country.

Some of the best legislation in Ontario came in a minority government regime when Progressive Conservative Premier Bill Davis teamed up NDP's Stephen Lewis in order to stay in power.

There have also been successful minority governments at the federal level but there has to be a political will to make it work and that is sadly missing.

One of the most worrisome aspects of federal elections is the low voter turnout as over the last 16 years there has been a 14 per cent decline in balloting, as voters throw up their hands and ask what's the use of voting?

Until some form of proportional representation is introduced so that the popular vote better reflects the number of seats a party receives, Canadians will accept the first past the post system and vote the party or the person.

So, if you don't vote, then don't complain about the government.



This is what Aurora's high school looked like in 1910. Today, on this site is the Wells Street Public School. The post card was produced by A.J. Lahmer and sent to The Auroran by Bob Cooke of Orillia.

## Letters to the Editor

# Mark St. shouldn't be a highway

To the editor,

Local residents of Mark Street in Aurora are very concerned with regards to the reckless speed that is occurring on Mark Street.

Motorists are using this street as a main by-pass in order to avoid the Yonge Street and Wellington Street intersection.

The 40 km. speed limit is too often being totally disregarded.

Many children from this neighbourhood use a public walkway between #64 and #60 Mark Street to reach Ecole St. Jean and Lester B. Pearson Public Schools.

This walkway ends abruptly in the middle of Mark Street.

There isn't a school zone sign or crossing guard in place for this area, and there are approximately 2,000 motorists and 54 school buses that use Mark Street every day.

Residents are very apprehensive of an acci-

dent-waiting-to-happen.

Many children use the walkway to skateboard or bicycle and although they may have been taught to watch carefully for cars, sometimes they forget.

Mark Street is three blocks long without any stop signs.

Residents feel a three-way stop sign at Oak Court and Cedar Crescent would slow down irresponsible motorists and would give some protection to the children and pedestrians using the walkway.

A petition for some action was presented to the TSAB (Traffic Safety Advisory Board) and town council.

Council proposed a study be taken of the street and TSAB reported that stop signs, crossing guards, and a Community Safety Zone were not warranted!

This is not acceptable.

Radar was recommended by Councillor Phyllis Morris and Mayor Tim Jones contacted York Regional

Police to set it up.

Officers have been on the street twice and handed out speeding tickets.

Residents feel this would be acceptable if police and radar were available on a consistent basis, but know this will not occur.

There are only three traffic officers for all of York Region and many streets to patrol.

A pedestrian crossing sign was recommended by TSAB but residents feel this will be ignored by motorists and will not contribute to slowing the traffic on Mark Street.

The TSAB has stated that stop signs don't work but have failed to offer a solution that does.

The traffic is being funneled onto Mark Street from southbound Yonge Street via the left turn lane. Streets to the south (Catherine and Centre) have restricted left turn lanes in the morning.

Is the safety of our children being compromised by

the town promoting traffic to use Mark Street as an alternative to Yonge and Wellington?

The TSAB will present the Mark Street study to Aurora Council on Jan. 17th.

Residents are hoping council will demonstrate "common sense" and give this situation very serious thought before a child is injured or killed.

Mark Street should not be a highway!

**Diane Lalonde**  
Aurora

**AURORAN**

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**Publisher Emeritus**  
Rosemary Schumaker

**Editorial**  
Ron Wallace  
ron@auroran.com

Dick Illingworth  
dick@auroran.com

**Photography**  
David Falconer

**Advertising**  
Bob Ince  
bob@auroran.com

Diane Buchanan  
diane@auroran.com

**Production**  
Cynthia Proctor  
cynthia@auroran.com

**Main Number**  
905-727-3300

**Classifieds**  
905-727-7128  
classifieds@auroran.com

**Facsimile Machine**  
905-727-2620

**Editorial Department**  
rwall9999@aol.com

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# Reader has ideas about cash

To the editor,

I read with some concern a letter to the editor in last week's Auroran, the idea that we should not pay down debt with our "large windfall that was received on the sale of Aurora Hydro".

By paying down the debt we would be increasing the Town of Aurora's equity by \$34,000,000 and also be reducing the annual debt by somewhere in the area of \$2,040,000.

Aurora will still be ahead by \$1,020,000

annually, which is the difference between the loss of interest of \$1,020,000 on the \$34 million and payment of debt using 3 per cent for interest and 6 per cent for debt.

Where do you get the idea this is a windfall?

This was built up from the pockets of ratepayers going back decades. When new development was not covered by the development costs associated with new home purchases, an increase was necessary on your hydro bill sometimes as much as

10 per cent.

Who do you think picked up the tab to build new substations at more than \$500,000 each to supply power to these new homes?

So, I, for one, would prefer not to increase taxes associated with the \$34,000,000 debt that could be reduced by using our so-called hydro windfall, for the next 20 years and reap the benefits I have already paid for.

**R.G. Jamieson**  
Aurora

# Questioners gave edge to candidate

To the editor,

Re: All Candidates Meeting, Town Hall, January 11.

Five candidates met in Aurora on Wednesday. Seventeen people put

questions to them.

Each other candidate gets a one-minute response.

A directed question allows that candidate a two-minute answer - one extra minute. Seemed a reasonable rule.

Three questions were general, directed to all the candi-

dates. Therefore each was allocated a minute to speak.

Two questions were directed at Liberal Belinda, so she got two extra minutes.

One question went to Green Glenn, for one additional minute.

The remaining 11 ques-

tions gave Conservative Lois 11 additional minutes of talking time.

A cynic might believe that stacking the line up of questioners could give one candidate a competitive edge.

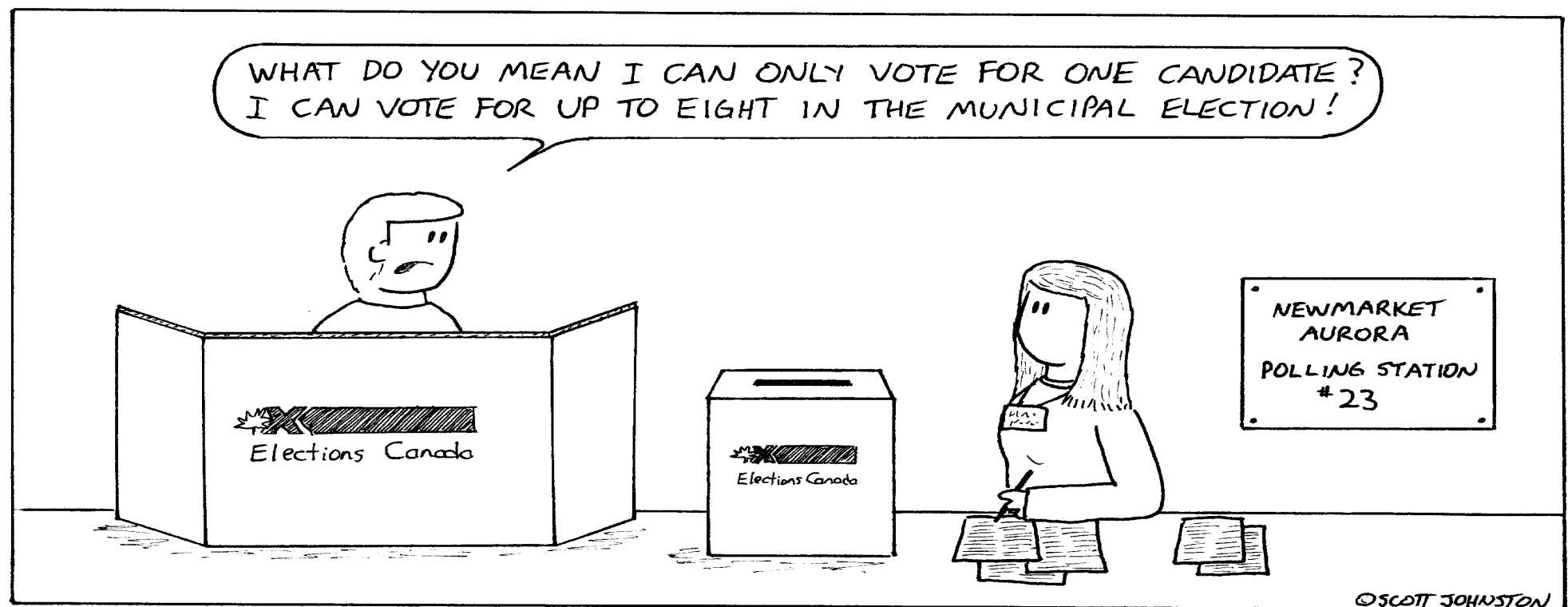
It worked for Conservative Belinda last time.

It worked for Conservative Lois this time.

Let's change the rules for next time.

Give each candidate equal time.

**Gordon Barnes**  
Aurora



# Mayor's puppy Reports

By "J.J." Jones

# I don't plan on running away ...but what if I do?

In April, 2005, I was scooped up from the breeder where I was born and brought to my new home in Aurora.

I have found the end of the rainbow - my own kennel and enclosure with all the toys, a fenced back yard to run around in and food twice a day from my new 'parents' who love me.

I am a cockapoo, (cocker spaniel/poodle), and will be one year old on the 21st of this month.

Dad bought me a license at the Town Hall, and when I was old enough, he had me micro-chipped, just in case.

I don't plan to run away, but in a moment of excitement or if the gate door is left ajar accidentally, I am curious enough to want to explore the surrounding neighborhood.

I have been following Council's deliberations on facilities that, if I did wander off my property and couldn't find my way back, I might be put in a position to have to use.

I understand there are a lot of sympathetic people out there who love us dogs and cats and want the best for us in this situation.

I also understand there are options that Aurora Council members are reviewing with both service and cost considerations to the residents of Aurora in mind.

Apparently the existing service provider, a business that has been in and serving Aurora for 31 years, is providing a service that is deemed acceptable under provincial standards as it has had a passing grade every time it has been inspected.

I was told that a former feline sister of mine was adopted from this facility and lived a healthy 18 years with

my new parents.

That said, even the owners will admit that this facility requires upgrading to address the age and requirements for future services.

I think it would be great if this service could stay in Aurora for the convenience of Aurora residents who may need to pick up their pet if found after wandering off.

While it is not the "Fido Fairmont", it does provide the necessities and as I have heard from others recently, it has undergone some improvements with new facilities for animals being held for adoption as well as for those animals that must be kept in isolation for a period of time.

A new roof has been installed on the main facility.

In an ideal world, it would be wonderful if all the municipalities could get together, build or work with Animal Control to improve these facilities. After two years of exploratory work, a committee comprised of staff representatives from Aurora, King, Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan have been visiting other similar facilities to identify all options for the provision of this service.

A joint expression of interest was issued by all municipalities for a specific level of service but none of the responses could meet the services asked for.

A "Fido Fairmont" staffed by experienced pound staff would be ideal - but as I see in the report that went to Council, the building alone, without consideration to paying staff and operational expences, would cost more than the new Aurora Seniors' Centre.

A new building for this purpose was estimated to be

\$2,642,500 with annual operating costs of \$3,024,500.

Assuming all municipalities participated, Aurora's contribution would be \$168,000 for construction and \$192,300 to operate.

It is important to note that in 2004, Kennel Inn handled 92 dogs and 147 cats.

I'm not old enough yet to do the math but it seems like a lot to spend!

To look at the staff list from Kennel Inn, they have many years' experience at this facility - they appear to me to sincerely care for us animals.

If they have a weakness, it is letting us know more about them, who they are, what they do and what their future plans are.

I understand they are open to public and/or private partnerships to assist in upgrading.

If it costs more to provide this service, perhaps the Town should also consider increasing the rates associated with owning a pet and dealing with pets who are saved and cared for at Kennel Inn.

And, on a personal note, they are a Town business providing a service convenient to residents in our Town.

I hope they find a way to remain as such.

\*\*\*\*

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



# Cathy's Corner



# Please don't eat your ballot

It is a serious breach of the Canada Elections Act to eat your ballot.

If you do, the RCMP will come after you. They won't have guns, but this time of year, they will be wearing toques!

I got that alarming bit of late-breaking news from the Elections Canada website, and now I'm thinking maybe I should stay home on the occasion of Canada's 39th General Election Monday.

Considering the smorgasbord of "candy-dates" that Newmarket-Aurora is serving up, I'll surely be tempted to chow down on my ballot and whine: "Oh, why didn't I save those little packets of ketchup!"

Perusing the local menu, I might shock the Returning Officer by saying something like:

"I think I'll have the 'Consiberal' today!"

I might be tempted to be a good girl and opt for the Preacher. Except the image of Elvis Baxter belting out: "You Ain't Nothin' But a Hound Dog" on Parliament Hill leaves me "All Shook Up!"

No thank you - thank you very much!

Some might be tempted by the goodies the Reform...I mean Alliance...I mean Conservatives are cooking up, but not me. I'm not a big fan of Western omelets.

Neither am I fond of alphabet soup.

Last time I saw NDP simmering on the Provincial front burner, it spelled "Nothin' Doin' Putz", and the richest

Province in the country went the way of Old Mother Hubbard! It gave me heartburn.

I could go "Green" this time. But then again, my daughter has a point: "You may like broccoli, mom, but remember, it's still a vegetable!"

Hey, whatever happened to the Rhino Party?

For a long time now, I've been having caffeine-induced dreams of a serious alternative - someone to come up with an innovative, creative, inspiring idea like...hmm...how about shorter wait times at the coffee shop drive-thru?

Clearly, the menu has plenty of palate pleasers for those who are in the mood for lean cuisine.

But where's the beef?

Most people agree that Belinda Stronach and Lois Brown are the meat and potatoes in our riding, which parallels the national pork and beans platter: Paul Martin and Stephen Harper.

The latest poll indicates the Conservatives could taste a majority. That would make the Liberals...well, chopped liver.

Whether or not such a change would be healthy for our country continues to be the topic of sizzling debate.

People seem to have forgotten that Harper's Conservatives are not as moderate as the rotten eggs we relegated to the back burner in 1993.

So if Paul Martin is looking more and more like the leftover ham at the back of your fridge, keep in mind that

Stephen Harper still has a frozen turkey leftover in his fridge. That would be Preston Manning.

That might explain why some of Harper's policies are a little hard-boiled, while others are a little half-baked, and the rest may be harder to swallow than cod liver oil.

In spite of the fact that some voters insist on frying Belinda for having the mustard to cross the floor, who can say that our riding hasn't ended up a little more "well done" for falling under the proprietorship of a Cabinet Minister?

So, maybe the question boils down to: Can Lois Brown represent Newmarket-Aurora better than Belinda Stronach?

"It's about trust," claims Lois' literature, but when asked for a simple "yes" or "no" to the question: "Are you pro-choice?" she waffled.

True, this issue is a hot potato, but I relish the idea of a representative I can trust to take Newmarket-Aurora's views to Ottawa, while one that would impose the governing party's views on us leaves a bad taste in my mouth.

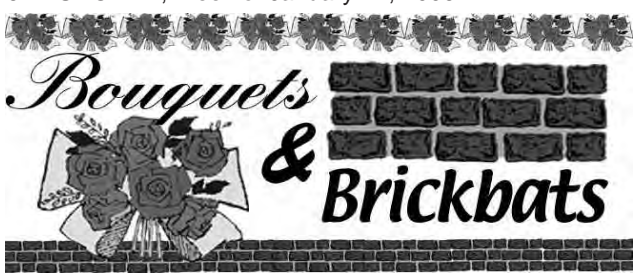
So maybe it is as much about listening as it is about trust.

It's a tough decision that faces Canada, so please, have the meatballs to go out and VOTE!

Even if it does mean bringing your own barbeque sauce!

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





By DICK ILLINGWORTH

**BOUQUETS** to the world's timekeepers who added one second to the length of December 31st to make up for the slowing down of the earth, and for giving everyone an extra second of sleep.

**BRICKBATS** to the contractor or whoever was supposed to supervise the reconstruction of Henderson Drive from Lee Gate to Yonge Street during 2004 as the section east of Lee Gate in the vicinity of the Factory Theatre has a series of shallow pot holes. What happened and who is responsible for paying for the necessary repairs? The taxpayers have a right to know!

**BOUQUETS** to the council of East Gwillimbury for adopting a 2006 budget with a 2.8 per cent increase, or about \$30 on the average assessed home, which they claim is the lowest to date in the GTA for local services.

**BRICKBATS** to the 14 motorists stopped by York Regional Police and charged with impaired driving during the holiday RIDE spot checks for not getting the message about drinking and driving. A total of 32,427 cars were stopped so several motorists did get the message.

**BOUQUETS** to Terry Gibson who left the 80 degree weather of Fort Worth, Texas to spend the Christmas holidays with Deborah Campo's family in snowy Aurora. Deborah says she dined with President Bush as Terry brought some of Bush's Best Black Eyed Peas with him.

**BOUQUETS** to the federal government for giving low-income taxpayers a break by increasing the basic personal amount a person can earn tax-free in a year before the income tax kicks in and decreasing the lowest tax rate from 16 to 15 per cent for those earning less than \$35,595. It's better than nothing! But Stephen Harper wants to cancel it, if elected.

**BRICKBATS** to Prime Ministers who appoint young people to the office of Governor General, as there is little they can or should do after serving a five-year term. Ed Schreyer was appointed at age 43 and cheapens the office by running in the federal election as an NDP candidate. Michaelle Jean was appointed by Paul Martin last year at age 48.

**BOUQUETS** to the Trafalgar Brewing Company for adding some fun to the election campaign with their "Vote with your Throat" event with four Trafalgar beers; Lib Red Lager, Old Tory Lager, Worker's Brown Ale and Sovereign Ale.

**BRICKBATS** to the Dalton McGuinty Liberal government for another broken election promise. First the tax-happy Liberals whacked Ontarians with the new health tax, then they went after cottagers, horse farm operators, trailer owners, and maple syrup farmers with skyrocketing taxes, now it's people who own waterfront boathouses on Crown property.

**BOUQUETS** to Aurora's Dave Gourlay, on winning the first Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association Award for his service at the Thornhill Country Club.

**BRICKBATS** to the Liberals and Tories for their negative advertising in the current federal election campaign. As any good salesman will tell you, every knock is a boost for the opposition.

**BOUQUETS** to the Toronto mother who had the courage and future well-being of her son in mind. She turned him into police after finding a loaded AK-47 assault rifle in his bedroom. The 17-year-old young offender was charged with 13 offences including a violation of a one-year probation set in 2005 on another weapons charge.

## Letters to the Editor

# Reader wonders what Stronach's position is

To the editor,

In a desperate attempt to salvage the election results of the most corrupt government in the history of our great country, Liberal Belinda Stronach has come out swinging against Stephen Harper, while embracing and praising Paul Martin.

My, how times have

changed.

Just 18 months earlier Stronach was declaring that the Liberals were corrupt and that Paul Martin was incompetent.

Case in point is Stronach's speech at the Canadian Empire Club in downtown Toronto where she stated that the Liberals were corrupt and that if "I ran

## Disabled need our attention

To the editor,

Last Thursday, the all-candidates meeting for the Aurora-Newmarket riding, at the Howard Johnson Hotel, highlighted the need for more social action for people with disabilities.

The event was an all-access meeting.

People in wheelchairs could find their way to the meeting room and there were sign language interpreters for the hearing impaired.

A large TV screen was placed at the front of the room, to show a text message of each word of the candidates' presentations, typed in a large font. People could easily read the candidates' speeches.

There were also attendants to hand over a microphone to any of the audience members who were blind, or visually impaired, for the question-answer period.

This was a meeting where everyone could be involved in our democratic process. This meeting was a breakthrough for our society.

## Enough already

To the editor,

Are we going to be subjected to long winded letters from Brian Warburton in EVERY edition of both local newspapers until the end of the elections?

Heaven help us.

It is at the point now that as soon as I see another of his letters, I immediately close the newspaper and put it into the recycle bin.

In Canada, approximately 13 percent of the population has a type of disability. Disabled people often endure unemployment, or else they can only work part-time due to their disability. Hence, a large proportion and number of the disabled people are living at or below the poverty line.

The most common type of disability in our society is the loss of physical mobility. Senior citizens make up the majority of this group and they urgently require more funding for walkers and wheel chairs for mobility.

Many children may suffer from a form of a learning disability at school and more special education teacher assistants definitely need to be hired for the classrooms.

During the meeting, the disabled spoke up and told us that the supply of social services for the disabled is not keeping up with the demand.

Every social service is "stretched to the limit" and there are many people in society with a type of disability, such as mental illness,

Would it be asking too much of the editors to refrain from printing these political diatribes in the future?

We got your point a long time ago Mr. Warburton - please spare us in the future.

This request goes for ALL political letters.

J. Smith  
Aurora

my company the way Paul Martin ran the finances of this country, I would have been fired".

Wow, fired, so does she still hold that position?

Of course not, because she will stand for anything so long as there is personal benefit in it for her.

Now Paul Martin is criticizing the former premier of

Ontario, Mike Harris. On January 6, 2006, Martin said in Whitby that "Canadians should be scared of politicians with close links to former premier Mike Harris! Really?"

Interestingly enough, Belinda Stronach cites Mike Harris as one of her most significant mentors.

She told the Toronto Star in January 2005 that "I believe Mike Harris made the most significant mark on Ontario and I did go to him seeking advice."

Should we, therefore, be scared of Ms. Stronach?

I would guess so according to the Prime Minister's statements.

With yet another contradictory message from the Liberal party, the people of Aurora have a simple question for Ms. Stronach: Do you stand behind your previous criticisms of Paul Martin's handling of the economy and conversely of the significant contribution made by Mike Harris?

Or have you flip-flopped again?

If so, how will anyone ever know what you really stand for?

Will you simply change your mind every few months when it is convenient for you?

D. Coulter  
Aurora

Jim Jackson  
Aurora



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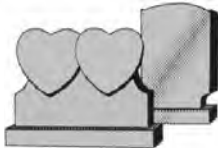
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## ***ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF NEWMARKET - AURORA***

### **OPEN LETTER TO THE VOTERS OF NEWMARKET - AURORA**

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the collective eyes of this nation will be focused upon Newmarket - Aurora.

Newmarket - Aurora is unique amongst all the 308 ridings in this country; our MP crossed the floor to prop up a floundering government and she accepted a cabinet position in return.

The question on election day is simple:

#### **Do you want a change in Ottawa?**

Paul Martin has stated that this election is about values and he is right! It is about trust, integrity and accountability and which person will treat tax-payers hard-earned money with the respect they deserve. That person is your **Conservative candidate Lois Brown**.

As your neighbour, an active member of our community, volunteer, mother, and owner of a small business with her husband Kelvin, Lois knows first-hand the challenges faced by the citizens of Newmarket - Aurora.

Our Party has offered a detailed and fully-costed election program. The five priorities;

1. Federal Accountability Act - to restore ethics in Ottawa
2. Tax Relief - through a reduction in the GST and several targeted tax cuts for families, seniors, students and small business owners
3. Ensure Safer Communities by cracking down on crime and guns on our streets
4. Choice in Child Care - giving parents \$1,200 per year per child under six years of age
5. Commitment To Public Health Care - patient wait times guarantee to insure that people receive medical treatment in a timely fashion

When you approach the voting booth next Monday, you are not simply casting a ballot for the next MP from Newmarket - Aurora, but you are also casting a ballot that is of national importance.

***Make no mistake Canadians are watching - your vote can send a strong message to the rest of Canada that democracy is truly alive and well in Newmarket - Aurora!***

I urge all Newmarket - Aurora voters to send a message to the rest of Canada by voting to send **Lois Brown** to Ottawa.

Stephen Somerville  
President, Newmarket - Aurora  
Electoral District Association,  
Conservative Party of Canada

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## THURSDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 2006, NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Time: 7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Program Cost: FREE

Place: The Aurora Sports Dome, 115 Industrial Pkwy. North, Aurora  
(behind the Aurora Legion)

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH, 2006, NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Time: 7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Program Cost: FREE

Place: The Carter Centre, 1335 St. John's Sideroad East, Aurora  
(enter the driveway of Southdown Institute and follow the signs to the Carter Centre)

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH, 2006, LUNCHEON MEETING

Showcase: 11:45 a.m. Luncheon: 12:30 p.m.

Program Cost: \$32.00 Members - \$35.00 Potential Members

Speaker: Mike "Pinball" Clemons, Head Coach Toronto Argonauts  
(Motivational)

Place: DiNardo's - The Mansion, 400 Industrial Pkwy. S., Aurora

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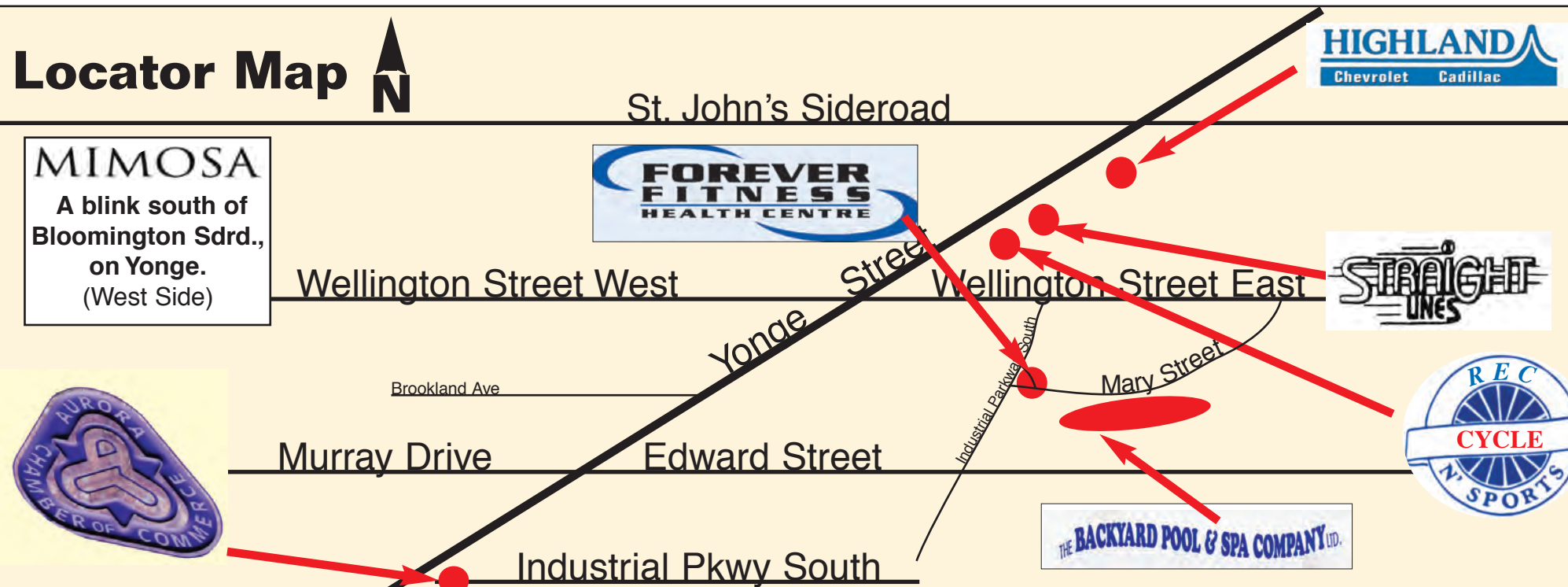
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## Beat Collingwood, Oshawa

# Tigers add two more wins

Austin Corredato wasted no time last week making his mark with the Aurora Tigers Provincial Junior A hockey team.

He scored singles in both games over the weekend, as Aurora added another two victories to its impressive year.

Friday night, they edged the Collingwood Blues 3-2 and Saturday night, defeated the Oshawa Legionnaires 3-1.

Both games were out of town as Aurora has been on a six-game road trip.

It winds up this Thursday with a game in Newmarket against the Hurricanes.

Friday night, with players out of the lineup, two players tossed out early and two others handed 10 minute misconducts, somebody had to pick up his game and deliver the goods.

That's just what Matt Caranci did as he scored the game winner and assisted on Aurora's other two goals to lead the Tigers to the narrow win over the Blues.

Corredato was equally as impressive scoring his first goal as a Tiger roofing a loose puck and working hard every shift he hit the ice.

Mike Martenelli added the other converting on a nice feed from Caranci one-timing a cross ice pass into the net for his eighth goal of the season.

Then, moving from ski country to car country, the Tigers met Oshawa Saturday night and Jeremie Dupont had a shutout happening until the third period when the Legionnaires finally found the mark.

But by then it was too late as Aurora went on to capture the 3-1 victory.

Doug Henderson led the way for the winners with a pair of goals, while Corredato added the other, giving Aurora a 3-0 lead going into the final 20 minutes.

The two victories bring Aurora's record to 30 victories, against eight losses and four ties.

They have been beaten only twice on home ice, and the two wins

bring their current games in a row. unbeaten streak to four It all starts Friday, January 20th, when games.

Once Thursday's game Oshawa returns to is over, Aurora closes out Aurora for a 7.30 its season with five home encounter at the Aurora

Community Centre.

Sunday afternoon, the Blues from Collingwood are in town for a game that gets underway at 2.30 p.m.

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## AYSC 2006 Speaker Series

### Aurora Youth Soccer Club

H O M E   O F   T H E   S T I N G E R S



*This season the AYSC will be running 4 Speaker Series aimed at keeping our membership informed and engaged during the winter months. Last year over 120 members attended our sessions. The sessions are free to all AYSC members (\$10 for non-members) but you must reserve your seat. All sessions will run from 7 - 9pm. Contact the office for more information or visit us online.*

**Thursday, January 26th - The True AYSC Experience**

**Speaker: AYSC Board Members & Staff representatives**

**Town Hall - Holland Room - 7:00pm - 9:00pm - No charge to AYSC members (non-member fee of \$10)**

The Aurora Youth Soccer Club is a volunteer directed, non-profit, community-based organization offering soccer programs to over 4,000 participants. Come find out more about the AYSC, the true volunteer experience, what programs will be offered this season, how prices are set, how you can help, what support we provide and a whole lot more. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Thursday, February 16th - Mental Toughness - Food for thought! Speaker: Carol Fazari**

**Library - Magna Room - 7:00pm - 9:00pm -No charge to AYSC members (non-member fee of \$10)**

Carol Fazari is a registered holistic nutritionist and author of "Healthy Choices" a cookbook with healthy, simple great tasting recipes. Carol is dedicated to working with families, mothers, infants and children. She regularly lectures, teaches workshops, facilitates cooking classes and has a nutrition practice in Aurora.

What makes a great athlete a great all round player? Brain Power! In this session you will learn how to provide balanced nutrition to the young athlete that supports both the body and brain. You will learn how food affects the body from a scientific perspective; and you will learn how you can provide optimum nutrition to help your child focus, concentrate and ultimately as an athlete.

**Thursday, March 23rd - Women in Coaching - Engaging Female Coaches**

**Town Hall - Holland Room - 7:00pm - 9:00pm - No charge to AYSC members (non-member fee \$10)**

Although female sport participation is at an all time high, recruiting and retaining female coaches is still a difficult task. There is definitely a distinct advantage to developing and having strong women coaches and leaders in the sport community.

Sheilagh Croxon, Olympic Synchronized Swimming Coach and Women In Coaching Consultant will share her insight and ideas on how to effectively reduce the barriers facing women in coaching as well as provide tools for success.

**Thursday, April 20th - Coaching 101 - Got Coaching Questions? We have the answers**

**Location - TBA - 7:00pm - 9:00pm - No charge to AYSC members (non-member fee \$10)**

Is this your first time coaching and need some guidance? Are you moving from the mini field to the standard field this year and need to know what to expect? Are you unsure of the offside rule? Do you want to know what time commitment is needed to be a team coach? If you have the questions, we will have the answers (and if we don't we will get it for you).

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Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AA hockey team became the 2006 Bell Capital Cup Champions recently, and are seen here following their win in Kanata. They are front row (on ice, left to right), Cody Child, Ryan Manson; kneeling, Sean Foxwell, Kyle Locke, Jack Caldwell, Spencer Green, Quentin Campbell, John MacDonald; standing, Branden Fennell, Liam Coll, Jerryd Jensen, Justin Pirie, Austin Lane, Konner McMillan; back row, John A. MacDonald, Dick Jensen, Jim Fennell, Barry Locke, Glenn Manson. Absent is Matthew Iwai.

*Photo by Vincent Green*

# Minor Atoms capture huge Ottawa tourney

For the fourth time this season, the Aurora Minor Atom AA Tigers are tournament champions.

The team celebrated New Year's Eve in fine style at the Corel Centre in Ottawa as they took home the banner from the illustrious Bell Capital Cup Tournament.

After fending off the Scarborough Young Bruins 3-1 in the semi-final match, the Tigers won the final Bell Capital Cup contest 4-1 over their tournament rivals, the GTHL Mississauga Braves.

The 7th annual Bell Capital Cup brought together minor hockey teams from eight different countries.

The 2006 edition of the tournament featured more than 750 games played on 30 different ice surfaces in 20 facilities, occupying more than 50 per cent of the ice pads in Ottawa.

This year, 420 teams participated in the 20-division festival, which included more than 7,000 players.

The entire tournament hosted 18,000 players, coaches and family members.

Since capturing the OMHA Championship last season, this team has won all the tournaments it has entered: The Flamborough Early Bird, the Georgetown "Best of the Best" Thanksgiving Challenge as well as the

Silver Stick Regional Qualifying tournament in Whitby.

The Tigers have also clinched first place in the York Simcoe Minor Atom AA West Division of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA).

Tigers were entered in The International Silver Stick North American Finals in

Newmarket last week-end, but results were not available at press time.

The Aurora Minor Atom AA Tigers are comprised of 15 top players picked from a talented pool of Aurora Minor Hockey Association (AMHA) players born in 1996.

Staff consists of Head Coach Jim Fennell;

Assistant Coaches Dick Jensen and John A. MacDonald; Trainer Barry Locke and Manager Glenn Manson.

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# Baldwins

## Winterlicious Prix Fixe Menu

### Appetizers

Soup of the day  
Warm mushroom salad

Caesar Salad  
Mussels in a spicy jerk concaseé

### Entrees

Beef medallions in a wild mushroom cream sauce with roast potatoes and vegetables  
Pan seared Arctic Char with a fresh dill beurre blanc with basmati rice and vegetables

Suprême of chicken with fresh tarragon, pearl onions in a red wine reduction with basmati rice and vegetables

Linguine Aioli with grape tomatoes, onions, mushrooms and spinach

### Dessert

Tiramisu  
Blueberry cheesecake followed by coffee or tea  
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Sunday - Thursday • Jan 17th - March 2nd, 2006  
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# MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY

## Standings Monday, Jan. 9

TEAM	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Masterclean Contracting	12	4	0	80	50	24
Highland Chev Cadillac	11	4	1	82	57	23
Priestly Demolition	10	4	2	73	36	22
Tom & Jerry's	9	6	1	61	56	19
J.J. Barron Realty	7	6	3	61	60	17
Law Insurance Brokers	5	7	4	56	71	14
FPL Aggregates	2	12	2	42	83	6
Rec Cycle N' Sports	1	14	1	42	85	3

## Results, Jan. 9

Tom & Jerry's	6	Barron Realty	8
Masterclean	3	Rec Sports	5
Law Insurance	3	Highland Chev	3
Priestly Demolition	3	FPL Aggregates	2

## PLAYER STANDINGS Jan. 9

NAME	TEAM	G	A	TOTAL
John Archibald	Highland	24	20	44
Mark Sedore	Priestly	14	24	38
Steve Robertson	Highland	14	23	37
Jason Muise	Priestly	14	17	31
Ken Rumble	Highland	12	18	30
Tom Hussey	Masterclean	15	14	29
Steve McDonald	Tom & Jerry's	11	15	26
Steve Kavanah	Barron's	9	16	25
Pat O'Mahony	Barron's	10	12	22
John Yaremko	Law Insurance	6	16	22
Ralph Berry	Masterclean	11	10	21
Scott Thomas	Tom & Gerry's	11	9	20
Gerry Briand	Masterclean	9	11	20
Dean Iwai	Tom & Jerry's	8	12	20
Bruce Ing	Priestly	8	11	19
Frank Balkovec	Law Insurance	3	15	18
Ed Kilroy	Rec Cycle	8	9	17
Phil Podstatski	Priestly Demolition	12	4	16
Cam Mitchell	FPL	8	8	16
Darren Yaremko	Law Insurance	7	9	16
Glen Bince	Law Insurance	6	10	16
Bruce Cheppell	Highlands	6	10	16
Jerome Flanigan	Masterclean	7	8	15
Angelo Nasto	Masterclean	7	8	15
Mike Nisbet	Priestly	6	9	15
Les Nip	Barron's	5	10	15
Kevin Brown	Highland	4	11	15
Ron Theisson	Barron's	6	8	14
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	4	10	14
Doug Adair	Rec Cycle	6	7	13
Chris Neal	Priestly	6	7	13
John Sibner	Masterclean	6	7	13
Bob Ince	Rec Cycle	5	8	13
Ed Jackson	Barron's	5	8	13
Pat Davies	Priestly	2	11	13



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**Aurora Minor Hockey Association**  
Results to 9 AM Sunday, January 15, 2006  
Website: [www.aci.on.ca/amha](http://www.aci.on.ca/amha)



## House League

Dylan Hussey 1A, Evan Collict 1A, Dylan Woyslaw 1A, Brett Wilson 1A.

## Minor Pee wee

**502 Supreme Collision Centre Minor Pee wee HL 6 -**  
Arun Partridge 3G 1A, Liam Judges 1A, Zach Zeto 1G 1A, Kyle Duvall 1G 1A, Joey Romano 1G. **504 The Backyard Pool & Spa Company 0**

**501 Chevalier Chrysler Minor Pee wee HL 9 -** Sam Straw 4G, Marshall McGaffey 2G 2A, Eamon Reilly 1G, John Dinicolantonio 1G 1A, Evan Jones 1G, Nick Reinholdt 1A, Peter Hillar 1A. **503 Winchurch Environmental Inc. 3**

**506 Diamond Groundskeeping Services Minor Pee wee HL 2. 505 Pizza Pizza 2 -** Daniel Laflamme 1G, Jake Langford 1G, Andrew Luck 1A, Nicholas Theodoropolous 1A.

**Aurora Tigers Minor Pee wee AE 6**  
**Duff's Tires 2**

**Aurora Tigers Pee wee AA 4 -** Eleeza Cox 1G, Josh Beaton 2G, Tristan Miller 1G 1A, Cody Weese 1A, Chris Venditelli 1A, Jack Steffan 1A, James Harkin 1G. Shutout: Jamie Casey.  
**Markham 0**

**Georgina 8**  
**Aurora Tigers Pee wee AA 1 -** Brandon Pedersen 1A, Tristan Miller 1G.

**Richmond Hill 5**  
**Aurora Tigers Pee wee AA 1 -** Brandon Pedersen 1A, Cody Weese 1G.

**Aurora Tigers Pee wee A 3**  
**London North 1**

**Aurora Tigers Pee wee A 5**  
**St Thomas 0**

**Aurora Tigers Pee wee A 7**  
**Rosedale 1**

**Aurora Tigers Pee wee AE 3 -** Spencer George 1G, Sean Halley 1A, Michael Takahashi 1G, Aaron Nusbaum 1G, Mark Tanel 1A.  
**Bradford 3**

**Redmen 4 -** Shutout: Charlie Vaccaro  
**Aurora Tigers Pee wee AE 0**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AA 4 -** Jeffrey Sanderson 1G, Anthony Marsillo 1A, Nathan Brown 1A, Dylan Cross 1G, Shawn Clark 1G, Louis Lamanna 1G 1A.  
**Georgina 3**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE 4**  
**Georgina 0**

**Grimsby 6**  
**Aurora Tigers Bantam A 1**

**Aurora Tigers Bantam A 4**  
**Burlington 0**

**Aurora Tigers Bantam A 4**  
**Thorold 3**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AA 8 -** Steven Keane 1G 4A, Fraser Kegel 1G, Chris Lockhart 2G, Karl Pelan 1G 1A, Eric Sarracini 1G 2A, Kyle Scott 1G 4A, Jeremy Ellison 1G 3A, Taylor Postill 1A.  
**Evergreen Lawn Sprinklers Inc. Redmen 2**

**PricewaterhouseCoopers Redmen 6**  
**Aurora Tigers Minor Midget A 2 -** Jeremy Cohen 1G 1A, Cody Bastarache 1A, Brendan Hamner 1G. Shutout: Michael Doherty.

**Innisfil 6**  
**Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AE 1**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AE 2**  
**TNT Tornadoes 2**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AE 2**  
**NobleKing Tournament 1**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AE 3**  
**NobleKing Tournament 3**

**Redmen 9 -** Mike Goodman 2A, Tyler Hogue 1A, Taylor Geoffrey 1A, George Slinko 1G 4A, Ryan Pageau 1A, Kirk Nordello 2G 1A, Alex Bergin 1A, Andrew Buck 4G, Jeff Blackburn 1G 2A, Brandon Binns 2A, Cameron McQuaid 1G.  
**Aurora Tigers Midget AA 2**

**Barrie 6**  
**Aurora Tigers Minor Pee wee AE 2 -** Jesse Bentolila 2G,

**Whitby 2**  
**Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 1 -** Erik Balkovec 1A, Paul Neophytou 1G.

**Aurora Tigers Novice AA 5 -** Jake Appleby 2G 2A, Matthew Caicco 1A, Graeme McDonald 1A, Nicholas Papousek 1G, Austin Riswick 3A, Jesse Wiemer 2G.  
**Georgina 1**

**Aurora Tigers Novice AA 5 -** Nicholas Baxter 1G, Matthew Caicco 1G, Hayden Hassard 1A, Theodora Issaris 1A, Ian Reid 1G 1A, Austin Riswick 2A, Jesse Wiemer 2G.  
**Markham 3**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 1 -** Parker Baile 1G, Connor Cowl 1A, Brett Thiessen 1A.  
**Rayside Balfour 1**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 4 -** Erik Balkovec 1A, Paul Neophytou 1A, Parker Baile 1G, Austin Persaud 1A, Logan Blaser 1G, Evan Jackson 1G, Connor Cowl 1A, Lucas Pozzebon 1G.  
**Georgina 2**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE 1 -** Tyler George 1A, Kyle Strachan 1A, Jordyn Thomson 1G.  
**Stouffville 1**

**Woolwich 4**  
**Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE 1**

**Ingersoll 3**  
**Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE 0**

**TNT Tornadoes 6**  
**Aurora Tigers Atom A 3**

**Aurora Tigers Atom AE 3 -** Connor Moody 1G, Jack Straw 1G, Vincent Ruscica 1G, Eric Bulloch 1A.  
**East Gwillimbury 0**

**Gananoque Islanders 1**  
**Aurora Tigers Atom AE 0**

**Richmond Hill 5**  
**Aurora Tigers Minor Pee wee AA 2 -** Tanner Thiessen 1G, Trevor Best 1A, Andrew Papousek 1A, Ethan Benson 1G, Taylor Butler 1A.

**Aurora Tigers Minor Pee wee AE 3 -** Mackenzie Wooder 1A, Dylan Hussey 2A, Anthony Selski 1G, Evan Collict 1G, Kevin Lukezc 1A, Thomas Hagias 1G, Dylan Woyslaw 1A, Ty Brochu 1A.  
**Georgina 1**

**Barrie 6**  
**Aurora Tigers Minor Pee wee AE 2 -** Jesse Bentolila 2G,



# RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

## Aurora Council rejects antique car collection

Councils sometimes have to take action when complaints are received about abandoned vehicles, or cars without licence plates in driveways or backyards, but in October, 1981, they took action of a different kind.

An unidentified man who had lived in the area for several years offered to donate eight shining vintage automobiles to the town as a tourist attraction.

The oldest of the classics was a 1923 MacLaughlin touring car.

After considering the offer, council regretfully declined it due to concern about housing and maintenance costs.

### MORE DONUTS THAN PIZZAS

At one time it seemed Aurora was home to the greatest number of pizza stores, now it's donut shops. In July, 1994, an application was received for a Country Style franchise on a vacant former Texaco station at Ransom and Yonge Streets.

Neighbouring residents objected on the basis of noise, smell, garbage, loitering and 24-hour operation but as no rezoning was required, council had limited planning powers.

In order to prevent traffic from the donut shop turning right to enter the residential area, a "No Right Turn" sign was posted but to the best of knowledge a bylaw was never enacted to make the sign legal and it is still being disregarded on a regular basis.

### HOMELESSNESS

Back in 1987 the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 1987 as International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

In Ontario, the government held a competition and planned a ceremony to recognize the outstanding efforts of organizations and individuals who worked with homeless people in communities across Ontario.

It is not known if any awards were made as the problem is still with us and little is being done to correct the problem, except talk.

### BELIEVE IT OR NOT

In March, 1995, the weather in Aurora was so warm Tom Williams of Pals Restaurant, Aurora's most innovative politically incorrect restaurateur, opened his patio for business and it was packed.

He said the opening broke the Guinness Book of World

Patio Records as the first patio day was usually in April.

Tom took the restaurant over from the Irish Rovers who opened it as the Unicorn Pub.

It is now a Shoeless Joe's outlet and the patio is still there and well used, but only in the summer months.

### ANOTHER BELIEVE IT OR NOT

It's not often that Aurora Council gets a letter of praise about a service they provide but it happened in March, 1983. Aurora resident Claude Arcand wrote to council to express his satisfaction of the service provided by the Aurora Animal Control Service.

He wrote that it was important for citizens to let the town know when they receive good service as well as letting them know when poor service was provided.

After they got over their surprise council agreed to pass on the compliment to Kennel Inn, the firm that runs the service.

### COMPUTER CHECKOUTS

Today grocery shoppers are quite used to lining up at the checkout counter as the clerk electronically scans the bar code of each item and the item and the price flashes on the screen with the total dollar amount as each item is scanned.

It's fast, efficient and well accepted by customers.

It wasn't always that way.

The move to computerized checkouts began in supermarkets in 1974 and the consumer reaction was quite negative, largely because the supermarkets removed individual pricing on products.

In November, 1975, Aurora Council took up the challenge and launched a formal protest against the new pricing system.

Council petitioned the Ontario government to ban computerized checkouts claiming the new system reduced the price awareness for customers.

Council circulated the resolution to other municipalities and received widespread support from municipal organizations including the Organization of Small Urban Municipalities, now part of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

As a result of the combined pressure from municipal councils and the negative reaction of customers, the installation of computer scanners slowed down, but didn't go away.

Today, it's doubtful if anyone wants to go back to the old days.

## Hodgson gets room at centre

### From page 1

Hodgson was a lifetime resident of King Township. He began life as a farmer's son and continued in farming until his election to the Legislature.

Prior to 1950, he served as a school trustee in what was then York County. From 1950 to 1953, he served as a councillor in King Township and then as deputy reeve for that township.

For seven years Bill Hodgson served as the reeve of King and in 1959 became warden of York County.

He was chairman of the King Township planning board from 1963 until Canada's centennial year, 1967.

He acted as chairman of the committee that built York Pines United Church in Kettleby.

He was an active member of the Pottageville Lions Club and an honorary member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 426 in Newmarket.

He was born in Nobleton in 1912, one of seven children, predeceased by three of his siblings and his mother who, at the age of 102, died five months earlier.

Hodgson lost his seat to

Liberal Greg Sorbara in 1985.

"This recognition, made possible through the generosity of friends of Bill Hodgson and his family, is a

fitting tribute to Bill's 25 years of dedicated public service to the people of York Region as a Member of Provincial Parliament," Klees told The Auroran last week.

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## Notice of IESO Voltage Reduction Tests

### Thursday, January 19, 2006

**The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is planning a voltage reduction test for Thursday, January 19, 2006. The test will consist of two province-wide voltage reductions:**

1. 3%, from 9:30 EST to 11:00 EST, and
2. 5%, from 17:30 EST to 19:30 EST.

The purpose of the test is to establish and record the load reduction resulting from a system wide voltage reduction and to locate potential operational and customer problems that may occur. It is an important part of training for emergencies for the IESO and market participants.

It is expected that the vast majority of consumers will not notice the voltage reductions as they are still expected to be within the industry standards specified for electrical equipment used by residential and commercial consumers. However, sensitive equipment may be affected by a wide variety of causes such as local distribution conditions and consumer equipment configurations.

Information on voltage reductions is available on the IESO website at [http://www.ieso.ca/imoweb/siteShared/voltage\\_reduction.asp?sid=bi](http://www.ieso.ca/imoweb/siteShared/voltage_reduction.asp?sid=bi) or by contacting IESO customer relations at 1-888-448-7777.

PowerStream customers can also find information about the voltage reduction tests on the company's website at [www.powerstream.ca](http://www.powerstream.ca)





Candidates Baxter, Stronach and Brown listen to questions from constituents during all-candidates' meeting in Aurora Wednesday night.  
Auroran photo by David Falconer

# Hundreds hear federal candidates

**From page 1**  
the point where they were standing on the stairs to the second floor of the municipal building.

"The next time I do this, and I hope it's not for a while, I'll find a bigger location," Councillor West told the audience, many who were grateful after standing for the duration of the plus two hour meeting.

Five candidates were on hand for the debate, which, with a few exceptions, was polite.

Dorian Baxter, representing the original Progressive Conservative party, kept the audience giggling with his light banter, and Elvis Presley look.

"Thank you, thank you very much," he would say when introduced, and at the end, gave the audience his version of some Elvis gyrations.

Other candidates included Ed Chudak for the NDP and Glenn Hubbers for the Green Party.

Each candidate was allowed three minutes for an opening statement and two minutes for a closing statement with the speaking order drawn by lot.

Belinda Stronach led off stressing she was a home town girl, who chose to live here.

She spoke about Canada's strong economy, low unemployment and stressed the importance of the election for Canadians.

NDP candidate Chudak said that after 12 years of broken promises the Liberals did not deserve votes and the Tories couldn't be trusted, leaving the NDP to provide true values.

He referred to the work NDP Leader Jack Layton and his MPs had done in revising the Liberal budget to include programs for people, the environment, post-secondary education and affordable housing.

Conservative candidate Lois Brown promised the Tories would bring positive change for working people and families, safe streets, cut taxes, and restore trust in government by enacting the Federal Accountability Act.

She said the Conservatives would reduce the GST from seven to five per cent which would benefit all Canadians. There would be safe

neighbourhoods with better enforcement of criminal laws and mandatory sentences.

Green Party candidate Glenn Hubbers said electors had a fourth option with the Green Party and they were the fourth national party with a candidate running in each of the 308 ridings.

He said the Green Party had a different version of Canada, one in which people voted for a government, not against. He added that the old parties were the same and were not parties that people should vote for.

He stressed that the electoral system needed reform and there was a need for all three levels of government to work together for the betterment of the people and asked electors to vote Green for a change.

Dorian Baxter said he represented the oldest political party in Canada, the Conservative Party of Sir John A. MacDonald and that Stephen Harper, Peter McKay and Canada's Chief Electoral Act had committed an "illegal, cowardly act" in the way the two parties were merged.

He described the current court case brought about by former MP and cabinet minister Sinclair Stevens on the basis that the merger of the parties was illegally carried out.

He also pointed out that Harper wanted to put the provinces against Canada and the Progressive Canadian Party would "stand on guard for

Canada".

Some 17 attendees asked a variety of questions of the candidates before time ran out.

Questions covered a range of topics from programs for the disabled, health care, same sex legislation, day care, aboriginals and the environment.

One questioner asked Brown to explain the policy on cutting taxes as it sounded like the policies of Ontario Tory Premier Mike Harris by putting the country in debt.

Brown pointed out that the Liberal government had generated large surpluses and the Tories would put this money back in the hands of Canadians. Chudak noted the Tories would cut the GST but increase income taxes.

Baxter referred to the decrepit government of Mike Harris and Harper. Hubbers stressed the need to change the economy for all Canadians and the Green Party would cut the GST for specific items.

Stronach pointed out Liberal governments had eliminated the deficit and had eight surplus budgets.

One questioner asked Stronach who gave her the right to select any party she wanted.

Stronach replied that her loyalty was to the people of Newmarket and Aurora and she had left the party because of Harper and his record and her loyalty was to the people not the party.

In general the other can-

didates said that she should have sat as an Independent or resigned for a by-election.

A question dealing with same-sex marriage was directed at Brown. She replied her government would not use the notwithstanding clause but there would be a free vote in the House as the only way to solve the issue.

Baxter said judges should not be able to overrule the powers of the elected representatives and while he had no objections to a "same-sex union", a marriage was between a man and a woman.

Hubbers asked what would happen after the free vote if the government wasn't going to override the court.

Stronach said she agreed with equal rights but questioned where the Tories stood on other issues.

In closing, Stronach said that in the previous election she had promised a strong voice in Ottawa and to stand up for the people of Newmarket and Aurora and she had done that.

She said she disagreed with Harper and his vision for Canada and that she would continue to fight for Canadians and for Canada and speak up for what she believed was right.

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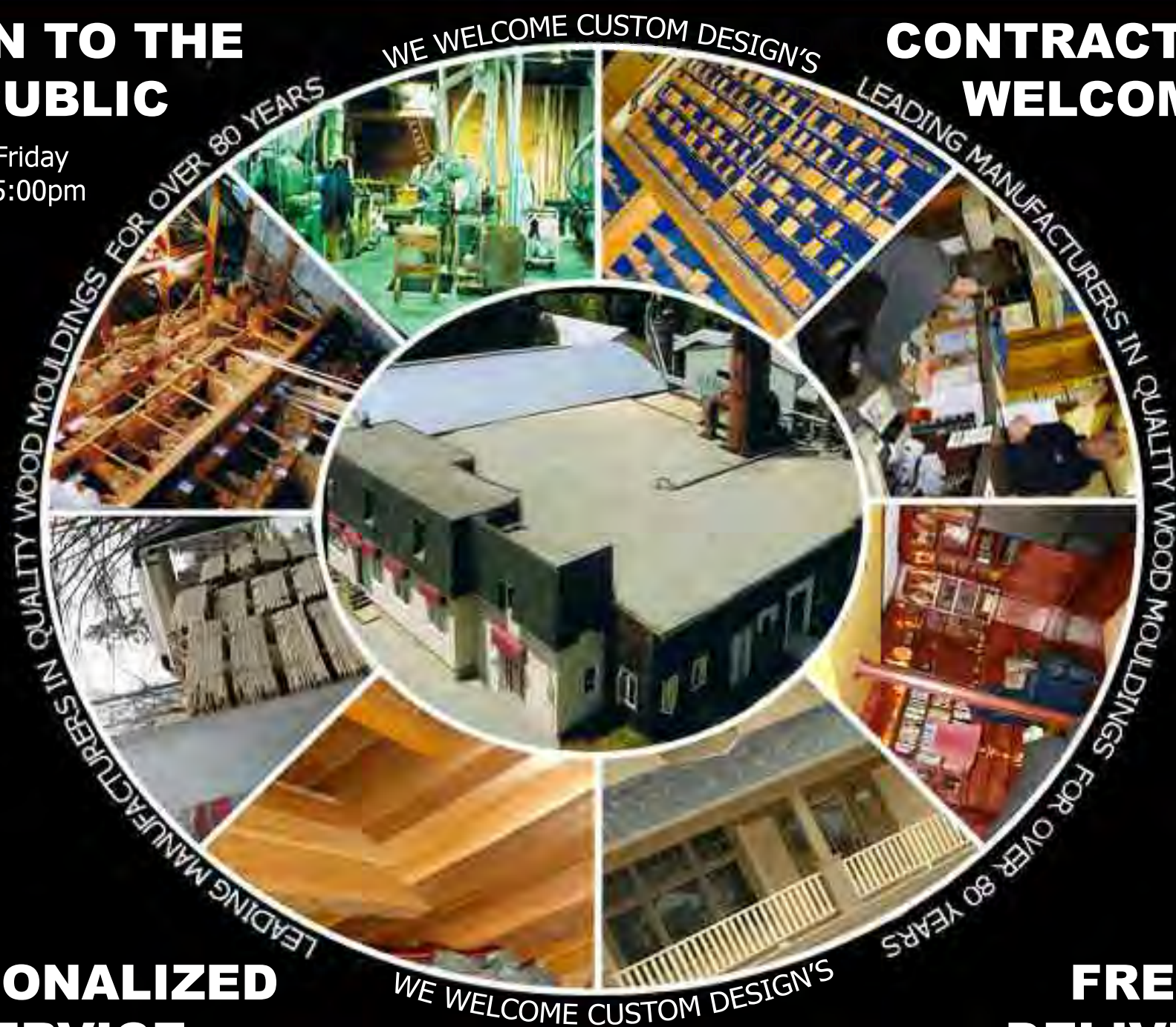
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