

AURORAN

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Aurora's Community Newspaper

905-727-3300 Vol. 6 No. 16 Week of February 14, 2006

Briefly

Square dancing

The walls will be rocking in Aurora's new senior citizens' building Saturday, March 4th, from from 7.30 until 11 p.m. when seniors and friends participate in an evening of square dancing

Organized by Aurora's Norm Weller, the event will feature Canada's best square dance caller, Bill Hands.

If you don't know how to square dance, lessons will be given at 7.30 p.m. Cost is \$5 for members and \$6 for non-members.

The new centre is located at 5 Municipal Drive, off John West Way. For further information, call 905-727-2816.

Got any extra postage?

Nancy Nares, a teacher from Aurora's Wells Street Public School, is on a year's leave of absence and has chosen to do volunteer work in Guatemala.

She has found the country very lacking in educational resources, so to help with this shortage, the Wells Street community collected picture books to send to

Two boxes of supplies have been collected but the cost of shipping the packages to Guatemala is proving to be prohibitive for a small school.

So, Wells Street School is searching for a community or corporate sponsor who may be able to help get these books to the children who need them.

If you can help, please contact the school at 905-727-4722.

Meanwhile...

Two Grade 5 students at Holy Spirit Catholic School on Stone Road hit on an idea that has proven to be very successful.

Lyndsay McKerracher and Julia Livia wanted to help children who are sick in hospital, so they decided to sell heart-shaped cookies for a buck each.

Working with a school population of 326, the girls have sold 636 cookies and they were distributed Tuesday...Valentine's Day.

After announcing proceeds from the sale would go to the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, the girls issued a challenge to other schools to raise funds for

Aurora is prepared for any emergency

Should Aurora ever be in a true emergency situation, it will be ready. In support of the town's Emergency Response Plan, town staff prepared a comprehensive 54page Crisis Communications Plan which the general committee endorsed at last week's meeting and was expected to be approved

by council this week. The Emergency Response Plan and the Crisis Communications Plan empowers town staff to be active participants in any crisis situation, from terrorist attacks to ice

The plans focus on planned emergency responses, procedures and policies that will help staff be better prepared to manage situations and deliver clear messages to all stakeholders involved.

When notice of a crisis has occurred, the Chief Administrative Officer, or designate, will immediCommunications/Marketing Coordinator to jointly establish the

Please see page 3



Aurora's Arctic Adventure Saturday to enjoy this indoor activity, despite its intimidating look. Perfect winter weather conditions brought hundreds to the parks around the Aurora Community Centre for the annual event. More pictures, see Page 9.

Martha Hall Findlay seeks top post

Wouldn't it be a hoot if Martha Hall Findlay wound up being Belinda Stronach's boss?

Hall Findlay, 46, announced her intention to seek the leadership of the Liberal Party of Canada last week, a position that is not yet available.

"Paul Martin, former Canadian Prime Minister, has not resigned the post yet, but won't seek re-election," she told The Auroran Thursday.

And Belinda Stronach, currently the Liberal Member of Parliament for the riding of Newmarket-Aurora, has not in 2005 but stepped aside when said one way or the other whether she'll go after the job.

Actually, several big names who might have been considered for the post have already declined.

"Imagine, I actually want the job," Hall Findlay said.

Hall Findlay Newmarket-Aurora Liberal candidate in the 2004 federal election and nearly knocked off then Conservative Stronach.

Hall Findlay was acclaimed again as the Liberal candidate

Stronach crossed the floor of the House of Commons.

When he was in the area, Prime Minister Martin told The Auroran the Liberals had made no offers to Hall Findlay about running in another riding.

Martha Hall Findlay is a corporate lawyer, businesswoman and successful entrepreneur.

She has also raised three children, Katie, 24; Everett, 22 and Patrick, 20, is fluently bilingual, and has extensive non-

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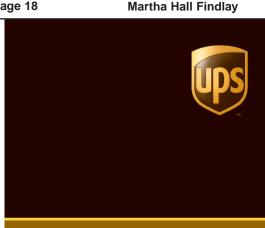
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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

During the month of February the Skylight Gallery in the Town Hall is featuring the artwork of the husband and wife team of Joan Chalmers and John Walmsley. 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 visit 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

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 vear for monthly meetings with a variety of speakers. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

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

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

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.

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

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 16

The Aurora Youth Soccer Club presents registered holistic nutritionist and author Carol Fazari who will speak on "Mental Toughness -Food for Thought" in the Magna Room of the Aurora Library from 7 to 9 p.m. No charge for AYSC members, \$10 for non-members.

FEBRUARY 17

Third "Defence Against the Dark Arts" program slated for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, is called "Boggarts: Facing Down Anxiety Disorders, Fear, and Phobias", 7 p.m.

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.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids Sake at the Gateway Café and Lanes in Aurora for Aurora Community Day. Get a team together and call 905-895-0289 to register.

The Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee will sponsor an "Old House Restoration Workshop" at the Seniors' Centre. The five-hour workshop starts at 10 a.m. Call 905-727-3123 extension 4351 for tickets.

FEBRUARY 18 and 22

Boat Operator Accredited Training course, sponsored by the Lifesaving Society, February 18 from 8.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and February 22 from 5.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. Fee is \$52.50. Call 905-841-7529 to register.

FEBRUARY 20

Aurora Writers Group monthly meeting, 7.30 p.m. at Aurora Town Hall.

Aurora Seniors' trip to Vaughan Mills Shopping Centre and Toronto Wineries departing at 10 a.m. returning about 5 p.m. Cost is \$28 for members and \$33 for non-members. Call the Seniors' Centre at 905-727-2816 to register.

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 mem-

FEBRUARY 22

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

First interim property tax installment is due.

Aurora's Marquee Productions family musical "Beauty and the Beast" opens at the Newmarket Theatre and continues February 23, 24 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. and February 25 and 26 at 2 p.m. Call 905-953-5122 for tickets.

Public Planning meeting in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m. with four planning applications dealing with official plan and zoning bylaw amendments and a plan for a retirement home at John West Way and Hollandview Trail.

FEBRUARY 23

Aurora Optimist Club 11th annual Student Chess Tournament to be held in the Aurora Legion for Grades 1 to 12 with several Aurora school chess clubs participating starting at 9 a.m.

FEBRUARY 25

Seniors' Centre membership drive/open house, at 5 Municipal Drive, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

FEBRUARY 26

Special behind the scenes tours focusing on the "structural archaeology" of 144-year-old Hillary House, 15372 Yonge Street. Regular admission \$3 but reservations necessary. Call 905-727-4015.

FEBRUARY 28

3rd Aurora Scouting Group annual community Pancake Supper from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m., in the social hall of the Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge Street. Tickets \$6 per person or \$20 per family (maximum five) available at the door.

MARCH 1

Aurora Chamber of Commerce presents its New Member Trade Show from 6 to 8 p.m. at 52 Victoria Street. Free admission and everyone is

Aurora Seniors will journey to Stage West Dinner Theatre to see "Forever Plaid". Cost is \$75 for members and \$80 for non-members. Call 905-727-2816 to register.

MARCH 4

Olde Time Square and Round Dance at Aurora Seniors' Centre, 5 Municipal Drive, from 7.30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets now available. For more information, call 905-727-2816.

Aurora Minor Ball Association will hold in person registrations at the Aurora Community Centre, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The AMBA has programs for boys and girls ages five to 19. First time T-Ball players can enroll for the summer for \$50. For more info call registrar Gary Drodge, at 905-727-8461 or visit www.auroraminorball.ca.

York Chamber Ensemble salutes youth in its Third Annual York Region Youth Concert, "Swells of Spring." The concert, conducted by Aurora's Tony Browning, will be held at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 and \$10, and are available at the door.

Aurora Ladies Softball League fund-raising progressive euchre night at 7.30 p.m. at the Aurora Legion. Cost is \$10 per person, includes cash and door prizes as well as a light lunch.

MARCH 5

Aurora Legion Seniors' Club bid euchre tournament, 1 p.m. Cash prizes. \$5 per person.

MARCH 7

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Luncheon meeting. Speaker is Michael Kergin, special advisor to the Premier of Ontario for United States border issues, and former ambassador of Canada to the United States. King's Riding Golf Club, Bathurst Street at 12.30 p.m. Showcase begins at 11.45 a.m.

MARCH 8

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at McAlpine Ford Lincoln, 15815 Yonge Street. 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.

MARCH 21

Aurora Chamber of Commerce networking breakfast at Costco Wholesale, 18182 Yonge Street in East Gwillimbury, 7.30 a.m.

MARCH 23

The Aurora Youth Soccer Club presents "Women in Coaching - Engaging Female Coaches" with Women in Coaching consultant Sheilagh Croxon in the Holland Room of the Town Hall from 7 to 9 p.m. No charge for AYSC members, \$10 for non-members.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Lunch and Learn seminar in the chamber office with lunch provided for all attendees. The topic is "Open Source Tools for your Business". No charge to Chamber members, a \$10 charge for potential members. Call the Chamber office at 905-727-7262 to register.

York Symphony Orchestra presents "Virtuosic Showpieces", Trinity Anglican Joanna Tang, Church, 8 p.m. Guest Artist,

MARCH 25

Winners of the local Optimist Student Chess Tournaments in Aurora, Newmarket, Keswick, Richmond Hill and Markham will compete for the Regional Championship in Grades 1 to 12 at the Aurora Legion starting at 9 a.m. MARCH 30

Aurora Chamber of Commerce networking breakfast at L.H. Lind Realty, 15105 Yonge Street, beginning at 7.30 a.m.

MARCH 31

Deadline for nominations for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce 2006 Business Achievements Awards. Call the Chamber at 906-727-7262 for details.



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To celebrate the 100th day of the school year, teachers at Wells Street Public School implored students to fill out "acts of kindness" which they have performed, on 100 hearts...and they did. By Friday, they had met their goal. Teachers involved in the project included, left to right, Janice Butler, Grade 1; Shannon Brown, intern; and Christine Nattress, Grade 2.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Signs go up first, then theatre seeks approval

Cineplex Odeon, the new theatre on Bayview Avenue, west of the Zeller's store, submitted an application to display movie posters of current and upcoming movies, which are bigger than Aurora's sign bylaw permits.

Staff met with theatre officials to discuss the variance for the posters and it was learned the business owners wanted to maintain an identifiable national appearance and an economically viable theatre.

The theatres were designed with provisions to display four movie advertising posters, with the posters depicting events.

Staff said the proposed

posters would be attached to the east elevation of the building facing Bayview Avenue and it was their opinion the variance would have minimal impact on the residents.

Staff recommended council approve the request from Knight Signs on behalf of the theatre operators for the variance to the sign bylaw to permit the four movie advertising posters.

But Councillor Ron Wallace asked why council was being asked to approve the recommendation, as the signs were already in place.

"What do you need us for?" he said. "You're asking for forgiveness, not permission."

Councillors Vrancic and

Councillor Hogg missed 10.

by the general committee

seven;

The report was received

five; Councillor

West,

Morris.

A spokeman replied it

was an inadvertent error as two sign companies were involved and there was a misunderstanding about obtaining the necessary approvals and both companies thought they were in

place. Wallace added that the request put council in an position in awkward approving signs that were

already there.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said the sign bylaw caused more problems than it solved as business operators knew best about how to promote their business or service, and council was only making work for itself.

Councillor Damir Vrancic pointed out that the town had lobbied for a theatre for years and there was a need to support it by approving the variance.

After assurance from the town solicitor that council was not setting a precedent by approving the variance, as all applications were considered on their own merits, the general committee approved the variance with Councillor Wallace opposed.

Council report card released

Just like students at school, Aurora councillors will now have to take home their attendance report card to prove they were at a council or committee meet-

Last Tuesday, the general committee received an extensive staff report listing councillors' attendance at the various meetings for the years 2004 and 2005.

The action was taken as a result of a request by Councillor John West at a council meeting in January.

For the 32 council and

special council meetings during 2005, Councillors Evelyn Beck and John West had the best attendance record with one missed meeting each with Mayor Tim Jones close behind with two missed meetings.

Councillor Bill Hogg had the worst attendance record with 16 missed meetings, followed by Councillor Phyllis Morris with seven, Ron Wallace with five, Councillor Damir Vrancic with four and Councillors Nigel Kean and Wendy Gaertner with three each.

During 2005 there were general committee meetings and Councillors Hogg and Morris missed eight each; Councillor Kean missed seven; Councillor Wallace, six; Councillor Vrancic, five; Councillor Gaertner, four: Councillor West, two.

Jones Mayor Councillor Buck had perfect attendance.

Eight public planning meetings were held during 2005 and Mayor Jones and Councillor Buck attended every meeting.

Councillors Morris, West and Vrancic missed four each, Councillors Hogg and Wallace, three each and Councillors Kean Gaertner missed two meetings each.

During 2005 there were 30 private meetings with Councillor Hogg missing 19 and Councillor West, 13.

Councillor Morris missed eight; Councillor Gaertner, six; Councillor Wallace, five; Councillor Kean, four; Councillor Buck, two; and Mayor Jones, one.

Councillor Vrancic attended every private, or

There were 30 council and special council meetings held in 2004 with .lones Mayor and Councillors Gaertner and Evelyn Buck recording perfect attendance records

Councillors Vrancic and Wallace missed three each; Councillors Morris and West, four each; Councillor Kean missed six; and Hogg missed eight.

There were 24 general committee meetings and Councillors Buck Gaertner had perfect attendance records, while Mayor Jones and Councillor Wallace missed one meeting; Councillor Kean, four;



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Committee okays emergency plan

From page 1

level of communications support that may be required to assist operations.

Communication Coordinator will assemble the required resources that will effectively meet the needs of the crisis and provide communications support to the emergency operations team, mayor, council and municipal control group.

The overall function of the team is to manage all communications for the town and its residents, so that only one, clear message is heard.

The team's tasks include managing all media relations and communication activities, establishing open lines of communication with key internal and external stakeholders and developing and communication managing strategies.

Councillor Ron Wallace, who noted that he had some knowledge about the media, said the proposed plan was unduly complicated, and pointed out media personnel would do what they have to do to get their story.

Councillor Phyllis Morris questioned who had prepared the report and noted that it was the first time that members had seen the pro-

posed plan and there was a need for feedback and suggested it be sent to committee for review.

Staff replied that the preparation of the report was the result of several staff members and was a tool for how staff should deal with the media in the event of an emergency.

After further questions for clarification the report was endorsed as presented.

"in-camera", meeting. GRAYSTONES RESTAURANT gourmet to go Schnitzels our specialty MARDI GRAS Feb. 17 to **Paneed Chicken** Mor. 26 \$17.50 **Trout with Pecan-Butter** \$18.50 Shrimps "Creole" \$18.50 Beef "Jambalaya" \$19.95 **Blackened Medallions of Beef** \$22.50 905-727-9561 14889 Yonge Street, Aurora www.graystonesrestaurant.ca

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Poor Richard

A February break for a day is badly needed

Tomorrow should be a holiday, To forget the winter blues; It is badly needed by all, To recover from the news!

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Although this winter hasn't been too bad, there's been a lack of sunshine, the credit card bills are piling up from pre-Christmas spending, Canadians have another minority government and David Dingwall dings the taxpayers for more than \$417,000 as his entitlement, Canadians need a holiday.

At this time of the year, we need a mid-winter break. That was the way I felt back in 1966 when as a relatively new councillor, on a 4-2 vote, I was successful in gaining council support for a motion requesting the federal government to proclaim February 15th as National Flag Day.

This was a follow-up to the controversial debate in the House of Commons which culminated in the raising of the new Canadian Flag on Parliament Hill on February 15, 1965.

I hoped that such a holiday might instill some patriotism and support national unity.

Prime Minister Lester Pearson - once an Aurora schoolboy - acknowledged the resolution and advised it had been forwarded to the Secretary of State, which was the last we heard of it.

When Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau visited Aurora in June, 1971, I had the honour of presenting a brief to him on behalf of the mayors of the newly-established Region of York.

One of the items in the brief was a recommendation that the government establish a national holiday during the month of February, perhaps February 15th as National Flag Day in order to provide a much-needed break in the long and depressing winter.

Nothing happened, until February, 1973, when York-Simcoe MP Sinclair Stevens introduced a bill in the House of Commons to establish a national holiday during February as Discovery Day and falling on the last Friday in February every year.

In introducing the Bill, he said that for some time he had believed that Canadians paid too little attention to the pioneers who had established the country and who had contributed to its success through the years.

His Bill received first reading and with the unanimous consent of the House of Commons was referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs along with two other Bills labeled as Sir John A. MacDonald Day and Canada Flag Day.

Late in November, 1973, the Committee reported that while members agreed it would be nice to have a national holiday during the chilly month of February, they weren't sure that a ninth statutory holiday was necessary.

Then in January, 1977, the federal government cleared the way for the creation of two additional statutory national holidays, Boxing Day and Heritage Day to be celebrated on the third Monday in February.

Support was so strong at the time and with every assurance that the Bill would pass, that the Heritage Day holiday was written into some labour contracts.

But in October, 1977, Secretary of State John Roberts, the same John Roberts who represented this area and was responsible for getting the regional mayors together to prepare the brief for Prime Minister Trudeau, announced that Heritage Day had been put on hold in view of the economic implications of the legislation.

In 1979, some members of Aurora Council tried to resurrect the idea of a February holiday but could not gain council support.

It was said that Aurora employers would be up in arms if they knew council was even considering another statutory holiday.

No one seems to think about the morale and wellbeing of employees and others as the stretch between New Year's Day and Easter is the longest and dullest period of the year without a break.

At the 1965 flag-raising on Parliament Hill, Prime Minister Pearson said; "If our nation, by God's good grace, endures a thousand years, this day will always be remembered."

How soon we forget!



Okay, here's one for you. What's going on here, and who are the people in the photograph? We know the two guys standing on the truck are Ernie Holman and former Aurora Mayor Clarence Davis, but we don't know when the picture was taken, or why. Do you? And, by the way, can anyone give us details about the fire truck? Several answered last week's question about the poster announcing the burning of Christmas trees. The year was 1968. Ironically, Clarence Davis was mayor at the time and he lit the fire...supervised by the Aurora Fire Department.

Letters to the Editor

Generous landowner stopped by neighbour

To the editor,

It was very nice of Dick Illingworth to publicly thank Mr. Routledge for allowing the many people from around here to use his land for dog-walking.

For myself, I have been able to walk my dogs for the past three years, some people for a lot longer. But all that is about to change, as it seems the new owners of 1010 Sixteenth Sideroad, have hit Mr. Routledge with some kind of legal paper

Reader liked Cathy column

To the editor,

Re: Cathy's Corner, The Auroran, January 24.

Great stuff, Cathy!

I live in Aurora so was fortunate enough to get to read this great article you have written as an ode to your Mother.

So much of it rang "dead-on" true to how I feel about my Mother.

I have not yet managed to get her to take me away somewhere hot and sunny for a week, but one can only hope!

I wondered if it's possible to get a copy of your article via e-mail which I can forward to her?

Unlike you, my parents live in Sault Ste. Marie so email is a great way to keep in touch.

Keep up the great work.

Brent Swain Aurora work, that if he did not shut down his property to dog walkers, they would take him to court.

The man is in his mid 90s, and does not need this aggravation, hence the land now is shut off for dog walkers.

The new owners at 1010 have also gone to the King Township people to restrict car parking on the 16th Sideroad, which also happens to be the entrance to the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The talk is that only four parking spaces will be available, this is to force people to stay away from the area.

Now, please correct me if I am wrong, but I was under the impression that the 16th Sideroad, and the O.R.M. trail, were public property, both being paid for with public funds to some degree.

The people at 1010 told a King Township Council meeting that people could park at Seneca, which charges \$3.50 to park, but does not let dogs in.

So, what will happen if a family decides to park at the Dufferin entrance of the O.R.M. on the side of a busy road?

It will take only one dog or small child jumping out of the car to have a serious

The people who have used Mr. Routledge's land, have found it an excellent way of not only getting their dogs socialized with other dogs, but to teach their kids not to be afraid of other dogs.

The people use it to keep up on the times, what vet or food to use, who grooms or

walks your dog. It has become a way of life for many people, it gets them out into the fresh air and some exercise.

I was told that Mr. Routledge's land was some 52 acres. Walk that and you will know it!

There are many seniors, including our John West and his wife who have used it to walk their dog.

The 1010 people actually hired a security man to monitor how many people went on to Mr. Routledge's land after the no trespass signs went up.

He sat in his car at the entrance to the O.R.M. and let non-dogwalkers use it, to walk or even cross-country

So, what do we have here? New residents come to town and throw the lives of at least 200 people in disarray, because they did not do their homework before they bought the house.

This sounds like homeowners at the airport complaining of the noise of the planes.

Now we have almost a daily visit from Kennel Inn. Currently, they just sit there, with the odd walk along the trail, looking for dogs off the leash, or expired tags.

So, my fellow dog walkers and I would like some answers on where we stand.

If King Township lets these people get away with this, do we start boycotting the businesses of King as our way of showing our displeasure?

lan Allison Aurora

AURORAN

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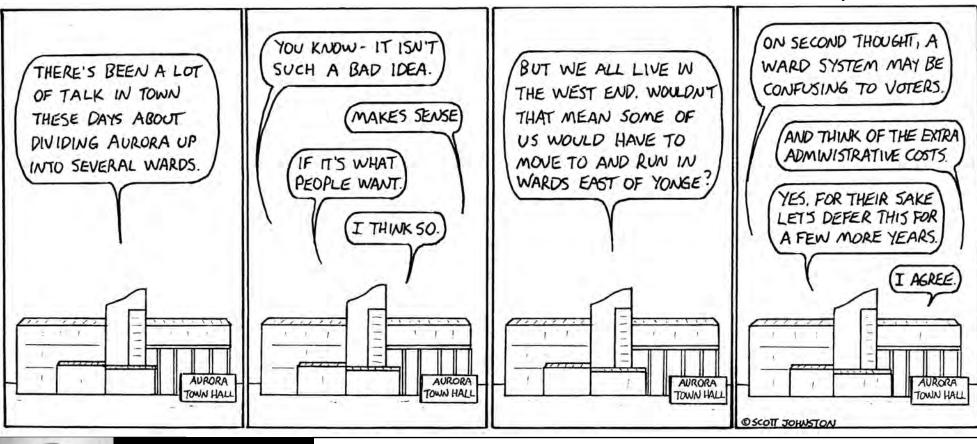
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AURORAN, Week of February 14, 2006 - 5





Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

Sidewalk plowing

This winter Aurora councillors have been getting inquiries on the method of how we plow our sidewalks.

I've even noticed a few letters to the editor in the local papers.

Most calls have to do with the grass that is accidentally dug up during a plow.

I have also noticed this on the court where I live. When I asked if we had changed anything in regard to our plowing techniques, or, were we using new operators, did we have new or larger equipment,

I was informed of the following: With the unusual weather we're experiencing this winter, residents will have noticed that our sidewalk plowing operaters have been facing some unique challenges that may have caused some damage to sodded boulevards.

In typical winters, by this time the sodded boulevards are frozen firm and the location of sidewalks are clearly marked by snow banks.

However, due to the recent mild conditions, the snow banks have melted and the ground adjacent to the sidewalk is extremely soft.

Add this to the fact that when we receive a new snowfall that completely covers and hides the sidewalk borders, the plow operator must guess the location of the sidewalk and where it starts, where it

This may be somewhat easier for staff who have been with the Town and know the sidewalks, but even for them in addition to the staff we use who are seasonal and are not as knowledgeable on the sidewalk locations, this is not an exact science.

Veering off the sidewalk occasionally leads to deep tire ruts or damaged sod.

I was further advised that equipment used for this has not changed and has been of the same plow width dimensions for at least 15 years.

When the sod is damaged and the snow melts as it has this winter, damage is much more visible and noticeable.

Some other snow clearing facts:

The Town's Public Works Department is responsible to plow all public sidewalks, business block laneways and the walkways that lead to super mail-

The sidewalks in new subdivisions that are segmented and not fully completed yet, cannot be plowed because of operator safety reasons.

The current total length of sidewalks in Aurora is 118 kilometres and we try to have them all plowed 36-48 hours after the end of a snowfall. Typically, sidewalk plowing commences at about 6 a.m. and runs continually until all routes have been completed.

For winter sidewalk maintenance, we currently divide the Town into six routes; four contracted out and two using in-house town staff.

Each route is then divided into primary and secondary sidewalk routes. Primary sidewalks near schools, seniors' homes, commercial sections, etc., are plowed first then we start on secondary routes.

As continues to be the Town Policy, we assure residents that all damage will be fully repaired in the Spring and we encourage residents to make us

aware of any areas of concern by calling the Public Works Dept. at 905-727-3123, ext. 3444.

If you see something in this column that you

wish to respond to, I welcome your comments, either through the paper, to the Town Hall by mail - Box 1000, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 6J1 or e-mail at tjones@e-aurora.ca



Cathy's Corner



Love and the shrimp cocktail

If you want to know the status of your romantic relationship, there is no better oracle than the shrimp cock-

This astounding discovery was made by author Judith Viorst, and below, I have taken the liberty of expanding on her "shrimp tale" for the good of my Auroran commu-

It works like this:

STAGE 1: He always offers her the last shrimp in his shrimp cocktail, and she always accepts.

They are at the beginning of the romance.

She calls him "Darling", he calls her "Sweetheart" and they both wear sexy underwear.

On Valentine's Day, she gets lucky: he gives her roses, chocolates, lingerie, perfume, and a piece of jewelry that exhausts his credit limit. Needless to say, he aets lucky, too.

He thinks she's the sexiest thing to ever wear lipstick, and she thinks he puts the MAN in roMANtic.

Concluding their sojourn in Stage 1, one day, she asks for a glass of white wine...and he brings her a glass

STAGE 2: He doesn't offer her his last shrimp, but Il happily give it to her if she asks for it.

They are in the middle of the romance.

Sometimes she calls him "muffin," sometimes he calls her "donut." Sometimes...he sleeps on the couch.

She is queen of the house. She has taken control of every closet - including half of his. He marvels that she has more shoes than there are feet in Aurora, but he would never say that out loud.

He is king of his favourite chair and the only thing he controls is the remote.

Every Valentine's Day, he buys her cooking chocolate, and she buys him a new 6-pack of Fruit-Of-The-Loom tightie-whities. They both hope to get lucky, so they play

When they go out, he still offers to get her a drink. She says, "I'll have some wine."

He comes back empty-handed, confirming that his inability to dress himself is not his only deficiency. He could swear she said "I'm just fine."

She turns to her friend and says, "My husband suffers

Her friend understands "Husband Inattentiveness Syndrome". It is a common affliction among middle stage

Untreated, the condition can rapidly deteriorate to the point where he forgets their anniversary and her birthday, and begins to answer all of her questions with "yes, dear"...including "Honey, do I look fat?"

This has been known to abruptly plunge couples into

STAGE 3: Not only does he not offer her his last shrimp, but she wouldn't take it even if he did!

The romance is over.

He calls her "the wife", she calls him "the oaf", and they bicker so much that not even a thong could save

Every Valentine's Day, they both see red. He gives her a migraine, and she gives him heartburn.

Her idea of a mood enhancer is nagging, and her mood swings are always at him.

His idea of excitement is a threesome: beer, chips, and the sports channel, which conflicts with her idea of fun: vacuuming during the Super Bowl.

He never offers to get her a drink anymore, and she never asks him for one because she's afraid he'll slip a sedative into it like last time.

Then one day, they are in the car together. They stop for a red light and notice something that makes them

An elderly couple is sitting on a park bench. The old man leans in to kiss the old woman tenderly on the lips.

They are at the heart of the romance. He thinks she has aged like the finest wine. She

thinks he is the champagne of her life. Every Valentine's Day, he tells her he loves her - just like he does every other day of the year. It isn't always

with words, but it is a language she understands. Everywhere they go, they hold hands. Someone watching might think he's holding her up, but her smile

says they hold each other up. They walk slowly. Not because they can't walk fast,

but because there is no place they would rather be. Okay, so he doesn't offer her his last shrimp anymore.

But that's because he doesn't order the shrimp cocktail anymore - it's too high in cholesterol.

Instead, he offers her everything he has.

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

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Stephen Granger for asking council to consider including a question on the November 2006 municipal election ballot whether Aurora should have a ward system or not, but brickbats to council for fail-

ing to take action one way or another.

BRICKBATS to members of Aurora Council for acting so shocked when they heard that the ice and aquatic users had raised very little funds towards their \$2 million target to assist in paying for the capital costs of the new recreation centre when they showed little or no interest towards the status of the fundraising all during the construction period in spite of a couple of BRICKBATS for failing to show

BRICKBATS to staff for not keeping council members advised about the lack of fundraising activity, and that the swimming clubs will only use about seven per cent of the time at the new pool when it opens next month.

BOUQUETS to the Chamber of Commerce or a service club who will volunteer to hold a debate on the advantages and disadvantages of a ward system for the Town of Aurora. It could be very informative and

interesting. BRICKBATS to the unknown person or persons who threw a rock from an overpass on Highway 401 east of Oshawa seriously injuring a 28-year-old woman

driving on the highway and bouquets to any witness who comes forward to help police arrest the perpetrator of this stu-

BOUQUETS to Aurora student David Cowl on winning a second place award in a recent competition in landscaping and lawn care.

BRICKBATS to Imperial Oil for maintaining high gas prices at the pumps while posting a profit of \$2.6 billion for 2005, surpassing the 2004 record of nearly \$2.1 billion while the poor motorists suffer.

BOUQUETS to "Pinball" Clemons and the Toronto Stop the Violence Campaign for their on-going fight against gangs and guns in Toronto and their award of \$25,000 each to four groups trying to combat guns and gangs to further their work with young people.

BRICKBATS to what appears as a separate justice system for police officers and the rest of us. A Peel police officer has been suspended with pay for allegedly

trying to lure young girls into his vehicle while off duty. He faces no criminal charges, but just one charge of discreditable conduct under the Police Act. He should be treated the same as a civilian picked up on the same charge.

BOUQUETS to Mayor Tim Jones for his recent column in The Auroran recalling his 1994 visit to Leksand, Aurora's twin community in Sweden and noting that the exchange visits between the two municipalities are still occurring with the visit of a youth hockey team in April, but it would have been nice if he had mentioned the late Norm Stewart, who was the originator of the friendship visits.

BRICKBATS to former Prime Minister Paul Martin and the Liberal government for paying out \$417,780 to David Dingwall, former head of the Royal Canadian Mint and known for his "entitled to my entitlements" speech three days before the election and keeping the payout secret until after the election. Just another sleazy act!

BOUQUETS to Magna's Frank Stronach who was the founder of the "Next Great Prime Minister" competition for senior high school students in 1995 and which has carried on over the years. The recent competition was the first one to be telecast on CTV and it was excellent and a credit to the five finalists. Mr. Stronach presented \$50,000 to the young lady who was selected by four previ-



Letters to the Editor

He advocates ward system with two councillors in each

To the editor,

Over the past year, residents and local newspapers have had numerous discussions regarding the Town of Aurora implementing a ward system.

With plans of subdivisions currently filed with town, population growth is imminent.

Personally, I would like Aurora to try a four (4) ward system. Each ward would be represented by two (2) councillors.

Possible four boundaries:

Ward One: North of Wellington Street - West of Industrial Parkway.

Ward Two: North of Wellington Street - East of Industrial Parkway. Ward Three: South of

Wellington Street - West of Yonge. Ward Four: South of

Wellington Street - East of Negative Interpretations

of a ward system include: 1. Council is unable of taking a broad view of the

overall needs of the town. 2. A ward council is only looking out for their wards specific or best interests.

3. Councillors tend to be concerned only about their own ward when election time draws near rather being concerned about the good of the entire town.

4. It has been stated that some councillors get elected on a ward basis that may not have been chosen if they were running over the entire munic-

5. Election by general vote is felt to result in stronger, better qualified candidates since they must have support throughout the municipality.

6. A ward system creates the possible situation in which one candidate receives 2,800 votes in a ward but finishes out of the running, while in another ward a candidate receives 1,500 votes and tops the polls.

If all the above is true, why do most municipalities throughout North America have a ward system? The majority of municipal councils throughout Canada have a true love for their communities and a willingness to serve them.

A ward system better helps to identify and resolve problems, issues, requests, and complaints.

Positives of a ward system include:

1. A ward system ensures that all areas of Aurora would be represented on council.

2. Candidates would not have to campaign over the entire town. A candidate would only be required to concentrate their campaign within their own ward.

3. Campaign overhead costs would be greatly reduced for candidates. Excessive costs eliminate the possibility of some excellent better qualified residents from running.

4. The electorate (voters) are limited in choosing from only the candidates within their particular ward. This makes a lot more sense to me.

Having a ballot with 10, 20, or more names makes it difficult for most.

How can the electorate possibly know every candidate before an election?

The possibility is high that the ballot may contain a name that does not look too familiar. A voter may not vote at all, spoil the ballet, or play the lottery.

With a four ward system, a resident would only be required to vote for a mayor and two councillors. Would this not be easier?

Residents are much more likely to become familiar with the limited range of candidates from whom to choose within a ward system.

5. A ward system would eliminate the possibility of one higher profile councillor becoming burnt out, inundated with e-mails, phone calls, and extra duties.

6. Candidates within a ward system are said to be much more aware of the particular needs, problems, requirements, and interests within their ward since the probability is high that the candidate actually lives within the ward he or she will represent.

7. Residents would have a choice of two councillors to contact.

8. Two councillors per ward would allow the resident/ward/town a backup in case of an absence of one councillor within that ward. (Example: sickness, vacation, conflict of interest...)

9. According to readings, a ward system brings a higher voter turnout.

Let's try a four ward system, Aurora!

A ward system would make it more likely for you to actually know your candidate as individual/neighbour/friend, not to say the minority of residents do not today.

If you feel as strongly as do, please call/write/email your councillors at large and request them to consider adding this question to the upcoming electoral ballot.

I would recommend that if 65 per cent of the electorate state "YES", a four ward system would be implemented. The cost of adding this question to the ballot should be minimal.

Can we really be any worse off?

On another note, we should all be very happy that Ontario has only a three-year term for public unlike office. Newfoundland, Scotia, and Quebec who have four-year terms.

I would like to request The Auroran to publish attendance summary records of all councillors for their term in office.

The attendance of councillors should include late arrival and early departure times from all council, public planning, general and advisory committees, including task force meetings along with the councillor's reasons.

The log should help voters in making an informed decision.

Eric McCartney Aurora

Council has no business supporting any candidate

To the editor,

RE: Belinda Stronach, MP Report, The Auroran, Feb. 7.

Ms B.S. column thanks Mayor Tim Jones and the town council for their support.

Mayor Jones supported Ms B.S. as a Conservative and now as a Liberal.

Seems he also "crossed the floor".

The Aurora Council has NO business in their public office to support political can-

If Mayor Jones stands for re-election this move could cost him heavily on election

I would like to know what members of the council support Ms B.S.

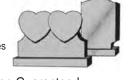
Was there a motion to endorse her as our riding

Perhaps Ms B.S. should have a ghost writer.

W. Devins

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This story is far from over...

To the editor,

Shakespeare and his cohorts were the political commentators of their day. They were dangerous times. No guaranteed right to freedom of expression then. They had to camouflage their characters. But not so much they would not be recognized.

I have patiently waited for the drama of recent political events in our riding to be told. Never happened.

So, although nobody asked me, I will tell it myself.

There are three main characters in this play: Belinda, Lois and Martha.

All women. All young.

Each as competent as any man who ever offered to serve. It is remarkable that has not been noted considering the argument that women need to be enticed into politics.

The tale begins with the riding's creation. Two corners were chipped from a couple of old ridings. Two towns, each older than Canada herself. Each with a history of passion for politics...even to the point of rebellion.

But each with a very different character.

My own theory for the difference is that Newmarket's roots are Irish Catholic and Aurora's are c o t c hPresbyterian...Liberal and Conservative.

When we were joined, no assumptions could be made about our political bent. History alone could not be an indicator because of the huge influx of population...young folk in the main and coming from everywhere.

The first dramatic event was the emergence of Belinda, scion of Frank. Her bid for the leadership of the hybrid party masquerading as conservative took everyone by surprise. That she was unsuccessful did not.

Then the question was: would she follow through and make a bid for a seat in Parliament. She did.

Enter Lois...despite the months of national publicity Belinda had enjoyed - not all of it favourable - Lois decided the nomination should not be a coronation.

Lois gave a good account of herself, but she lost.

In the meantime, John Taylor, scion of Tom, Mayor of Newmarket, received an acclamation for the Liberal nomination.

Subsequently, the sponsorship scandal erupted, Belinda was nominated, Taylor ran for cover and reneged on his nomination.

Enter Martha...via parachute...(ED. NOTE: Martha will not like you for using that word "parachute") from parts north.

Martha had solid Liberal connections, excellent credentials, and conducted herself admirably on the hustings.

But the riding organization was in disarray. The Liberals conceded before the race began.

In contrast, Belinda had a head start...excellent organization, all the resources needed for a winning team...but it was-

Belinda scraped in with the votes cast by the Snowbirds.

They had voted and scarpered before the conversation started. They knew about the sponsorship scandal. They knew little about Stephen Harper.

But the drama was just beginning. Belinda said she was going to Ottawa to represent the people of the riding. She would support the government if she believed their programs were right. She would not oppose just for the sake of it. What a novel idea!

Soon after that she enunciated a couple more of her principles; she supported a woman's right to choose and the constitutional rights of all people to choose life partners.

Well, well, I thought, she may still not know it...but Belinda is on the wrong side of the house.

The next point of con-

Harper's impatient intention to bring down the government.

Belinda indicated people in her riding were not in favour of an election on top of an election.

We held our breath...what now, we thought.

Soon we heard. Harper called our girl Belinda to his office. His screams of outrage over the precocious behaviour of the member from the new but historic riding of Newmarket-Aurora were heard and reported throughout the land. Not a wise move on his part.

Our Honourable Member, despite or perhaps because of her inexperience took the position that she was in Ottawa to represent the best interests of her constituents, according to how she perceived that to be.

She thought for a bit and obviously decided since she could not do that in Stephen Harper's hybrid party, she would go where she could. And she was welcome.

There was a heavy price to pay. Would she endure? Would she have the stomach for the unforgiving business of politics?

Meanwhile, Martha. re-located having Newmarket, no longer a parachute

(Oops, there's that word again: ED.) buoyed by her excellent showing... and anxious to take up the challenge again...had accepted the Liberal nomination for a second time.

along Then came Belinda, newly-minted Liberal, ushered by the Honourable Prime Minister Martin, and Martha, seemingly obligingly, stepped aside.

There was something wrong with that picture. People who think of themselves as potential leaders do not at the same time envisage themselves as martvrs.

They are far more likely to fight than lay down their weapons. In that respect, women are not different from men. But besides that, people like to see fairness done.

Barely missing beat...we were again into an election with no certainty of outcome. We heard of angry

hordes descending on the riding from far-flung places to ensure Belinda's political demise.

Writers of many letters to the editor gleefully indicated how they would take their terrible revenge.

Lois came back fighting, with obviously replenished coffers, and with an air of confidence not previously noticed. Electricity was in

The battle was enjoined. And an epic battle it was.

The Prime Minister was

everywhere. Sometimes it seemed in several places at once. Belinda often at his side, the full glare of the spotlight on her small per-

She was tireless and relentless. Despite the heaping steaming hostility, she never faltered, never lost her composure, never shouted anyone down, never complained, and until and throughout the day of the election she was still shaking hands with her constituents.

She never saw an editorial acknowledging courage or integrity. Even after it was over the pundits dismissed her triumph as due to the value of celebrity.

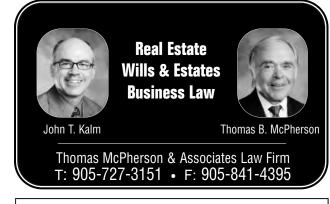
It mattered not a whit. Belinda undoubtedly drew her strength from the people. They gave her a plurality of 4,800 votes. That was no mean feat in the face of an implacable enemy.

It deserves to be acknowledged.

Belinda, Lois Martha...they all deserve to be acknowledged for their separate roles in the first chapter of the political saga of the brand new but historic riding of Newmarket-Aurora.

Stay tuned...Martha has her hat in the ring for the Liberal leadership.

Evelyn Buck Aurora





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Would another set of stop signs hurt?

To the editor,

In regard to stop signs in Aurora, I have some questions to ask.

They are kind of interesting in a general way but Mark Street is an example.

Is the goal supposed to be, speed up the traffic, or slow it down?

I see traffic calming and threats of higher fines in some areas, especially west of Yonge Street so I presume that it is preferable to slow it

Some people think you can get a sense of false security if you have too many

Well, you had better develop a sense of constant awareness and keep it honed no matter the signs!

What happens if someone gets hurt, or worse, after vou have been warned about Aurora

the risk?

Why wait for an accident? Would it hurt if you put up at least one set of stop signs to calm the traffic and to respect the wishes of residents in the area?

Why not try to put a fourway program in the traffic lights at Wellington and Yonge?

It works very well at Davis & Yonge and you won't have left turners stranded in the intersection.

Is it because of the NIH (Not Invented Here) factor?

Once traffic is north of Wellington there are no holds barred, it's open

Some by-passers may even prefer it!

Thank you for your consideration.

W. Lindsay

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Hope springs eternal following federal election

To the editor,

If the recent election had been a heavyweight fight, then the Conservative party has won a split decision!

And that puts the Tories in the driver's seat and the Liberals, authors of their own disgrace, out to grass.

To contest any election and lose must be a humbling experience for anybody no matter how strong a character.

To retain a seat while government colleagues lose seats and power, must be galling and infuriating to any competitive member, especially to a proud cabinet minister who must now sit in opposition as an ordinary MP. Even so, congratulations to Belinda Stronach. Tory support is formidable and not to be taken lightly in this neck of the woods, but Belinda prevailed over a gutsy Lois Brown.

Stephen Harper is now the Prime Minister designate of Canadian politics. With a thin minority to be sure, but nevertheless, he has a tenuous mandate to fashion his views to the Canadian political scene. He instantly becomes the Polar star of Canadian politics about which all that is political and momentous whirls

He has been on a formidable and relentless power trip these past few years, with nothing coming to him on a platter, and nothing stopping him.

Foreign affairs, in particular with the USA, lend itself to revision and rapprochement and should be fertile ground for an improved relationship with our friends across the border.

As I write, President George Bush has offered his congratulations to Stephen Harper, while the Liberal appointed ambassador to the USA Frank McKenna has offered his resignation.

Neither Americans nor Canadians can afford to be seen as too compliant with each other, but both sides want to bring closure to the present dilapidated state of affairs.

This state of affairs was brought about by difficult international threats, and clumsy management of a difficult Canadian situation, by our outgoing Liberal government.

I attribute the confused situations in the ongoing beef and lumber disputes to poor Canadian international policies, particularly those concerning the Americans, which in turn has led to American intransigence, lack of cooperation and deep disruption to Canadian beef and lumber exports. We could have made our independent foreign policies apparent to our friends in a friendlier manner, but we failed abysmally.

We occupy our thoughts too much with American power and not enough with their personal feelings.

We do not get along with them nearly as well as we should!

They are deeply aware of friendly countries like Canada who at times, do not support them, while they seem to aid crises the world over.

Whatever our logic, which I perceive as coherent but capable of a more accommodating approach, the American psyche remains hurt.

Whether the Americans

are right or wrong, whether or not their policies work eventually or not, they are engaged in a very difficult task.

They have feelings for which many of those they considered friends have shown contempt.

Canada under the Liberal administration was brutal towards the Americans and we continue to pay a heavy price in the border war over lumber and beef.

Quebec has caught my attention with a wind of change all its own that manifested itself in 10 Quebec seats won by the Tories.

I suspect the Quebecers, deep down, see little potential in the Bloc Quebecois and its continuing, unprofitable marginalized opposition to Canada.

We share the same land and institutions and have much more in common than perceived differences. I think many Quebecers would be very happy to become once more, part of mainstream Canada.

Can Stephen Harper and his Conservatives fashion a rapprochement with the sovereigntists? I certainly hope so! And I believe the chance is much greater than zero.

For change to be wrought at home and abroad, meaningful consultations must take place at the highest levels of government, and I feel confident that will happen.

Changes in finances and areas of administration and authority might need to be made with Quebec.

We may not like everything that we must do to effect meaningful change, but if we want to improve either or both of these situations, we must be prepared to do what must be done.

Canadian relations with Quebec have festered for 20 years since the Meech Lake accords failed, with little or nothing in new initiatives in that long period.

A fresh cautious approach with a new administration has credibility and hope as ever springs eternal.

Brian Warburton Aurora



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Canal Road needs fixing

To the editor,

I was extremely saddened to read about the tragic passing of a mother, Cassandra Read, and her young son, Taylor, in the icy waters beside Bradford's Canal Road.

Just last fall, coming home from Wasaga Beach we took a wrong turn off the 400 Highway and wound up on that Canal Road.

I remarked at the time what a dangerous and poorly lit road, with "S" curves and 45 degree turns, it was. I was happy when we left

Two immediate changes would help motorists navigate this road.

The first would be to prioritize salting and sanding through stormy periods, and the second, to have signs warning people about the poor conditions ahead and directing them to Highway 11 or 400.

This would provide some temporary relief.

The more important task, which applies to us all, is to ban cell phone use while

driving, period.

I am aware that a bill has twice been tabled to do just that, but has been shot down by Dalton McGuinty with the terse remark that we cannot have a law for everything.

This, to me, is the height of nonsense.

If we can spend millions of dollars to have Cam Wooley and crew catch speeders and check for seat belt usage, surely saving lives is as important as the treasury building.

As a case in point, just last week I was driving south on Yonge Street at Wellington in the curb lane when a young woman in a high-powered import rudely squeezed me toward parked cars.

She was on the cell phone and gave no thought whatsoever to common road courtesy.

Surely, we all see this daily when we're out and about.

If our legislators do not correct this flaw in the law, the insurance companies will kill us.

Ben Kestein Aurora

What about the Emerson move?

To the editor,

My question to all of the angry, or should I say rabid, writers to the papers over Belinda crossing the floor, where are your letters of disgust over David Emerson?

Not only did he cross, he had no reason to, he stated in his victory speech the day before Stephen Harper called him that he would be in Harper's face every step of the way.

The next day he gets a call and, lo and behold, he has an epiphany and Stephen is the best thing.

Belinda sat in Harper's government for a long time and proclaimed a reason for leaving.

What is Emerson's, other than "I think I would be better as a Minister"?

Now, he has the right to cross as did Belinda but

it's amazing that the Conservative voters who demanded an ounce of blood out of Belinda are now jumping for joy.

What does this say about the angry, hateful messaged people who have been writing in since last year?

I leave that up to you to decide.

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> Call 905-727-5421 to reserve your seat Space is limited

A community event sponsored by Dignity Memorial Funeral Services





Highlights of Aurora's Arctic Adventure









ANNOUNCEMENT

We have exciting news to share!

Kathy van Nostrand

is pleased to announce

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<u>kathy@kvncga.ca</u> or <u>brian@kvncga.ca</u>

popular attraction at many Aurora events, was on hand Saturday for the annual Arctic Adventure day. In the photo, top left, U Who entertains Cathy lezzi and her son Blake. A hockey game, top right, took place in Machell Park, dog sled rides were popular, and Tracy Stevenson and

U Who, the clown, a

her son Sean took advantage of perfect winter conditions to

go sledding.

Auroran photos
by David Falconer



AURORAN, Week of February 14, 2006 - 1





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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1ST, 2006 **NEW MEMBERS' TRADE SHOW**

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Program Cost: FREE

Place: 52 Victoria Street, Aurora Between the Old Library and Victoria Hall. Come out and support the newest members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce

TUESDAY, MARCH 7TH, 2006 **LUNCHEON MEETING**

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

Program Cost: \$32.00 Members

\$35.00 Potential Members

Speaker: Michael Kergin, Special Advisor

> to the Premier of Ontario for U.S. Border Issues and former

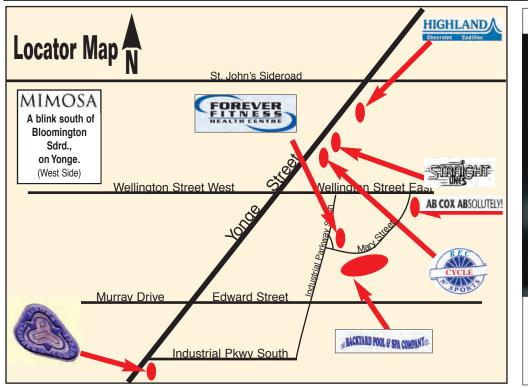
Ambassador of Canada to the

United States.

Place: King's Riding Golf Club 14700 Bathurst Street, King City

Booth space still available for the Aurora Home Show, April 21, 22, 23 CALL NOW TO BOOK YOUR SPOT

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AURORAN SPORTS



Page 12 Week of February 14, 2006



Lopsided victories

Not much competition as Aurora wins a pair

It's unlikely you'll see the Bancroft Hawks in Aurora again this year.

They're the first-round playoff challengers to the powerful Aurora Tiger Junior A hockey team, and so far, they haven't shown the locals too much.

In two games played in Aurora over the weekend, the Tigers have outscored the Hawks 20-5, winning the opener Friday night 11-3, and adding to their total Sunday afternoon with a 9-2 victory.

Two games are now scheduled for Bancroft this Friday and Saturday, February 17th and 18th and should Bancroft manage to get lucky, a fifth game would be played in Aurora Sunday, February 19th and start at 7.30 p.m. as opposed to the usual 2.30 p.m. start Tigers are

11-3, and adding to their used to on a Sunday after-

Frankly, it's probably not necessary to book a babysitter.

Last Friday, Aurora enjoyed a very good first period and an equally good third frame which amounted to enough for the Tigers to beat the Hawks 11-3 as the playoff round got underway.

Please see page 13

Icy job

Recent cold temperatures have helped Aurora's outdoor rinks this season. Here Don Spence and Doug Foote put another layer of base on the rink at Machell Park. Other town employees involved in this winter project include Dave Kiratzis, Brent Harrison, Maurice Blanchard, Sara Tienkamp, Henry Tettman and Don Harrison. Many of them volunteer to do an unscheduled midnight shift whenever the cold weather presents itself.



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Spring Programs (starting March 20th) & March Break Camp (March 13-17)

⊗ Summer Programs (starting May 23rd) **⊗**

MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY Standings as at Monday, Feb. 6

TEAM	W	L	Т	F	Α	Pts
Highland Chev Cadillac	14	5	1	107	76	29
Masterclean Contracting	14	6	0	94	63	28
Priestly Demolition	11	7	2	86	54	24
Tom & Jerry's	11	7	2	86	74	24
J.J. Barron Realty	8	8	4	78	78	20
Law Insurance Brokers	6	9	5	71	94	17
FPL Aggregates	4	13	3	63	97	11
Rec Cycle N' Sports	3	16	1	53	103	7

Results, Feb. 6

Tom & Jerry's Highland Chev	6 4	FPL Aggregates Law Insurance	6 0	
Rec Sports	3	Barron Realty	5	
Masterclean	1	Priestly Demolition	2	

PLAYER STANDINGS As at Feb. 6

TOTAL

NAME

John Archibald	Highland	34	23	57
Steve Robertson	Highland	19	28	47
Mark Sedore	Priestly	19	25	44
Ken Rumble	Highland	14	23	37
Tom Hussey	Masterclean	17	18	35
Jason Muise	Priestly	15	20	35
Steve McDonald	Tom & Jerry's	16	18	34
Steve Kavanah	Barron's	12	21	33
John Yaremko	Law Insurance	9	22	31
Pat O'Mahony	Barron's	13	14	27
Ralph Berry	Masterclean	14	12	26
Gerry Briand	Masterclean	10	16	26
Ed Jackson	Barron's	10	16	26
Bruce Cheppell	Highlands	8	18	26
Scott Thomas	Tom & Gerry's	11	14	25
Dean Iwai	Tom & Jerry's	10	15	25
Darren Yaremko	Law Insurance	9	15	24
Pat Davies	Priestly	6	16	22
Frank Balkovec	Law Insurance	3	18	21
Cam Mitchell	FPL	9	11	20
Darryl Thompson	Tom & Jerry's	9	11	20
Phil Goodenough	Barron's	7	13	20
Les Nip	Barron's	6	14	20
Glen Bince	Law Insurance	8	11	19
Bruce Ing	Priestly	8	11	19
Charlie Steenhorst	FPL	5	14	19
Phil Podstatski	Priestly	12	6	18
Ed Kilroy	Rec Cycle	9	9	18
Vince Greco	Rec Cycle	8	10	18
Brad MacMillan	Tom & Jerry's	7	11	18
Darryl Iwai	Highlands	6	12	18
John Leeder	Highland	10	7	17
Ron Theisson	Barron's	9	8	17
Jerome Flanigan	Masterclean	8	9	17
Angelo Nasto	Masterclean	7	10	17
Mike Nisbet	Priestly	6	11	17
Dave Holden	Law Insurance	10	6	16
Dave Libari	Barrons	7	8	15
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	4	11	15
Kevin Brown	Highland	4	11	15
Larry Preston	FPL	4	11	15
Chris Neal	Priestly	7	7	14
John Sibner	Masterclean	7	7	14
Doug Adair	Rec Cycle	6	7	13
Bob Ince	Rec Cycle	5	8	13

Ladies softball league plans big fundraiser

Aurora Softball League is getting ready for another season and to help it along will hold a fund raising progressive euchre night, Saturday, March 4.

The event, slated for the Aurora Legion, will begin at 7.30 p.m.

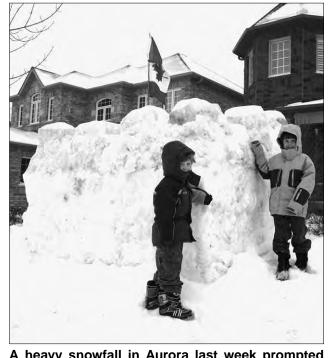
At \$10 a person, the admission includes cash and door prizes as well as a light lunch.

Spokesperson Sheila Tipton says advanced sales of tickets are preferred, and she can be contacted at 905-727-8285.

Meanwhile, the league is also looking for players for the 2006 season.

The league, which has

been operating for numerous years, plays its games Wednesday nights at the Town Park.



A heavy snowfall in Aurora last week prompted these two brothers to built a snowfort, complete with a Canadian flag, that was the talk of Benville Crescent. Callum, left, and Liam Gorrell cleverly used a recycling box as the mould for the snow blocks.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

ligers easily win opening two contests

lead after 20 minutes of play, lost the second period 3-2, but replied with three unanswered goals in the third to win the laugher.

Leading the way for the home side were Austin Corredato with two goals and three assists and Mike Martinelli with a pair of markers and an equal number of assists.

Josh McNair in his first game in five weeks fired two power plays goals and added an assist while Fraser Smith contributed three assists.

McNair was back at it Sunday afternoon as he fired four of Aurora's nine goals and assisted on two others.

Over the two games, McNair racked up a total of nine points, including six goals.

"McNair has always been a natural goal scorer but his game is so much more complete now that we can play him in all situations," said Coach Evans. "He's Craig threat every time he hits the ice."

Also making big contri-

From page 12 butions to the victory were Colin Williams with a Aurora opened a 6-0 goal, three assists and a plus seven rating and Brandon Roshko with a goal and three assists.

Andrew Knobel, Nathan Oke and Josh Diamond added points each.

In Sunday's game, Aurora opened up a similar 6-0 lead, but took two periods to do it, scoring once in the first and adding five in the second.

They outscored Bancroft 3-2 in the final 20 minutes to record the victory.



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FRIDAY NIGHT ACOUSTIC CAFÉ Hosted by Juno Award Nominee Glen Marais

All Ages Welcome

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for a chance to win 8 hours of recording time with Glen Marais and Peter Swann of Attitude Recordz.

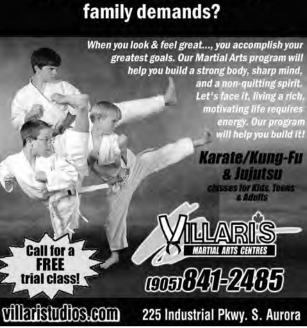
Proceeds from the contest will be donated to the

Stephen Lewis Foundation, an organization devoted to helping HIV/AIDS Victims.

For details, please call John Russell - 905-727-7759 or Glenn Marais - 905-841-5683

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LIBRARY SQUARE PUBLIC MEETING

A Special General Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday March 7, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to receive input from the public regarding the possible future uses of the Old Town Library and the former Seniors' Building both located on Victoria St. north of Church St.

In addition to any feedback from the public, Members of Council will also be considering a number of options related to these buildings including but not limited to the following:

- Initiate a new review of the expressions of interest utilizing a new decision matrix.
- Accept the recommendations of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee with appropriate
- Declare the land and buildings surplus and sell them on the open market.
- Undertake a review of the Expressions of Interest utilizing the current decision matrix approved
- Demolish some or all of the buildings on the property to increase parking for the New Library and Church Street School after assessing the need for parking in the area.
- Find a primary tenant and lease the buildings to the primary tenant for \$1.00 per year on the basis that the primary tenant would be responsible for all capital repairs including the \$377,000 of renovations determined to be required to bring the buildings up to
- Use some or all of the facilities for Town purposes.

The meeting will be conducted in an open forum format; therefore speakers will be permitted to address Committee without the need to request delegation status prior to the meeting. A copy of a report on this subject is available at the Town Hall or on the Town's Web Site in the What's New Section. Any other inquiries regarding the Library Square buildings can be directed to Mr. Al Downey Director of Leisure Services 905-727-1375 or through e-mail www.e-aurora.ca.





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Aurora Minor Hockey Association

Results to 9 AM Sunday, February 12, 2006

Website: www.aci.on.ca/amha



House League Tyke

106 Tim Horton's Red Wings Tyke HL 13 Jack Bishenden 3A, Matthew Liscio 1G 2A, Joshua Mills 2G, Robert Thomas 8G 1A, Patrick Servideo 2G 2A, Connor Reilly

105 Tim Horton's Flyers 3

101 Tim Horton's Leafs 4 102 Tim Horton's Rangers Tyke HL 2

108 Tim Horton's Blues Tyke HL 3 -Zachary Fletcher 1A, Jamie Finlay 1A, Colin Kostin 3G, Cameron Zinner 1A. 107 Tim Horton's Bruins 3 - Evan Cherubini 1A, Andrew Daniell 2A, Austin Kiraly 1G, Tristan Kuchar 1A, Nicholas

Sansalone 1A, Cole Thiessen 2G.

103 Tim Horton's Blackhawks 5 - Andrew Badali 3G 1A, Micheal Dowling 1A, Jacob Fenchak 1A, Taylor Kauffeldt 1G 1A, Jacob

104 Tim Horton's Sharks Tyke HL 2 -Connor Braund 1A, Jared Brown 1G, Brendin Ramsay 1G.

Novice

206 Emilio's Pizza Novice HL 6 - Ryan Donovan 1A, Andre Cristillo 1A, Connor Kemp 1A, Nolan Smith 3G, Kory Wansborough 3G 1A, Anthony Georgieff

202 Mastermind Toys.Com 2 - Eric Cumiskey 1A, Evan Woodhead 1A, Ryan Batten 1G, Ryan Ouwroules 1G. Shutout: Wyatt Jones.

205 HS Financial Serivces Novice HL 4 -Eddie Duffie 3G, Jacob Hagias 1G, Samantha Hussey 1A.

201 McAlpine Ford Lincoln 0

Centre 2

204 North York Heating & Plumbing Novice HL 5 - Denzel Speller-Drews 1G, Ian Orr 1A, Nick Armour 2A, Michael McKerracher 1G, Dylan Pyziak 2G 2A. John Partland 1A, James Power 1G 2A. 203 Aurora Home Hardware Building

Minor Atom

305 All Pro Source For Sports Minor Atom HL 5 - Joel Gouveia 1G, Morgan Walker 1G 1A, Victor Chadarov 2A, Tait Snedden 3G, Brendan Harris 1A. 307 Optimist Club of Aurora 4

306 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre Minor Atom HL 5 - Wilson Black 1G, Joe Ekstrom 1G, Alexander Jonasson 2A, Nathan Sinclair 1G, Scott Taylor 2G, Owen Woodcock 1A, David Gonder 1A, Jamie Wilson 2A.

308 Delph & Jenkins Surveyors 3

301 ADC Aluminum 5 303 Dr. Steiner's Drillers Minor Atom HL

302 Laurion Law Office Minor Atom HL 2 - Christopher Bridgeman 1A, Alexander Harrison 1A, Matt Sanita 1G, Tyler Futterer 1G, Ian Coschi 1A.

304 Chouinard Bros. Roofing & Windows 2

Atom

403 Dr. Steiner's Drillers Atom HL 2 -Ryan Dowling 1G, Christopher Cherubini 1G, Cody Mulhern 1A.

402 McAlpine Ford Lincoln 2 - Andreas Mikkelsen 1G, Zachary Ferry 1G, Braden Gerace 1A.

406 Continental Custom Ingredients 3 -Curtis Fordyce 2G 1A, Nicholas Bertrand1G 1A.

401 Nacora Insurance Brokers TNT Tornados 2 Atom HL 1

405 Rotary Club of Aurora Atom HL 7 -Matthew Johnson 1G 1A, Andrew Staples 1A, Ryan Byerlay 2G 1A, Quinn McGowan 1G 1A, Matthew Roach 1G 2A, James Hubay 1A, Mackenzie McIntosh 1G, George Plukov 1G, Drew Davison 1A. 404 Optimist Club of Aurora 2

Minor Peewee

501 Chevalier Chrysler Minor Peewee HL 4 - Sam Straw 1G, Marshall McGaffey 1G 1A. Michael Foresi 1A, Eamon Reilly 3A, John Dinicolantonio 1G, Matthew Hart 1G. 506 Diamond Groundskeeping Services 3

505 Pizza Pizza Minor Peewee HL 4 -Christopher Beach 1A, Joey Detoro 1A, Daniel Laflamme 2G 1A, Jake Langford 1G, Cody Rundle-Sanderson 1G, Nicholas Theodoropolous 2A.

504 The Backyard Pool & Spa Company

Minor Bantam

704 Aurora Montessori School Minor Bantam HL 5 - Johnathon Siery 1G, Nick Orsatti 3G, Mattheus Vloet 2A, Andrew Osmond 2A, Marco Santella 1G, Dexter Speller-Drews 1A. Shutout: Kyle Scott. 701 I.O.O.F. Aurora Lodge 148 F.L.T. 0

704 Aurora Montessori School Minor Bantam HL 6 - Nick Orsatti 1G 1A, Michael VanBakel 1G 1A, Marco Santella 2G 1A, Adam Stubbs 2G 2A.

703 Dial Tone Communications 1

705 Aurora Canadian Tire Minor Bantam HL 3 - Keenan VanRooyan 1A, Adam Gitto 2G, Peter Durst 1G 1A. Shutout: Scott Glaysher.

702 Highland Chevrolet Cadillac 3

703 Dial Tone Communications Minor Bantam HL 4 706 Formtech 1

Midget

1008 ASA Alloys Midget HL 3 - Daniel Abram 1G, Jon Alexsich 1G, Robert Danis 2A, Kevin Michie 1A, Luke Stinson 1A, Nathan Taylor 1A, Brendan McDermott 1G, Michael Panetta 1A.

1005 Barb Blaser Re/Max 2

Select

Richmond Hill 4 Aurora Tigers Tyke Select 2 - Cole Thiessen 1G, Robert Thomas 1G,

Pickering Red 6 Aurora Tigers Tyke Select 3 - Colin Kostin

Rep games

Aurora Tigers Novice AA 7 - Jake Appleby 1G 1A, Graydon Gardner 1A, Nicholas Baxter 1G, Matthew Caicco 3G 1A, Theodora Issaris 1A, Jesse Wiemer 2G. **Richmond Hill 1**

Aurora Tigers Novice AA 2 - Matthew Caicco 1G, Theodora Issaris 1A, Tara Morning 1A, Austin Riswick 2A, Jesse Wiemer 1G. **Richmond Hill 1**

TNT Tornados 6 Aurora Tigers Novice A 3

Aurora Tigers Novice AE 4 - Kyle Bryden 1A, Zac Phillips 1G, Alex Popa 1G 1A, Garret Wood 1G, Brendan Ruuskanen 1G.

Aurora Tigers Novice AE 4 - Erick Bortolotti 1A, Zac Phillips 1A, Alex Popa 1G, Conor MacPherson 1G, Garret Wood 1G, Adam Newell 1G 1A.

TNT Tornados 3

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AA 3 - John MacDonald 1G. Austin Lane 1A. Matthew Iwai 1A, Spencer Green 1G 1A, Quentin Campbell 1G, Jack Caldwell 2A. Century 21 Redmen 1

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AA 4 - Justin Pirie 1G, Konner McMillan 1G, Kyle Locke 1A, Branden Fennell 1G 2A, Austin Lane 1A, Matthew Iwai 1A, Spencer Green 1G, Quentin Campbell 2A. Century 21 Redmen 3

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE 1 - Alex Perez 1A, Graham Robinson 1G. Redmen 0

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE 14 - Ben Ashton 3G 1A, Josh Bell 2G 2A, Liam Beresford 2G 2A, Tyler George 2A, Ben Goldman 1A, Shannon Murray 1G 2A, Alex Perez 1G 1A, Graham Robinson 2G 1A, Kyle Strachan 1G, Jordyn Thomson 1G 2A, Nathan Nealon 1G 2A.

TNT Tornados 0

Aurora Tigers Atom AA 1 Evergreen Lawn Sprinklers Redmen 0

Evergreen Lawn Sprinklers Redmen 1 Aurora Tigers Atom AA 0

Aurora Tigers Atom AA 3 Evergreen Lawn Sprinklers Redmen 0

Evergreen Lawn Sprinklers Redmen 4 Aurora Tigers Atom AA 3

Innisfil 2 Aurora Tigers Atom A 1 - Hayden Trask

Innisfil 1 Aurora Tigers Atom A 0

Richmond Hill 3 Aurora Tigers Atom AE 2 - Sammy Steenhorst 1G, Eric Archibald 1G, Jack Straw 1A, Vincent Ruscica 1A.

Markham 5 Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AA 3 -Matthew Roy 1A, Cooper Riswick 1A, Mitchell Harris 1G, Ethan Benson 1A, Brian Puskar 2G, Taylor Butler 1A.

Markham 5 Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AA 2 -Matthew Roy 1G 1A, Mitchell Harris 1A, Taylor Butler 1G.

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee A 7 - Ryan St. Germain 2G. Sean Nishimura 1G 2A. Matthew Skoulikas 2G, Kyle Spicer 1G 1A, A.J. Killens 2A, Daniel Whitley 2A, Daniel Delbello 1G 1A, Chris Youtoff 1A. Innisfil 1

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AE 8 -Cooper Catt 2A, Lucas Leslie 3A, Jason Lockhart 1G, Jesse Bentolila 1A, Anthony Selski 1G 1A, Evan Collict 2G, Kevin Lukezic 2G, Thomas Hagias 1G 2A, Dylan Woyslaw 1G, Brett Wilson 1A, Andrew Buchanon 3A, Ty Brochu 2A. Shutout: Kevin Lanadon. Orillia 0

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AE 2 - Jesse Bentolila 1A, Dylan Hussey 1G, Evan Collict 1G 1A, Andrew Buchanon 1A. Shutout: Justin Manweiler. Orillia 0

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AE 3 - Lucas Leslie 1A, Graham Loney 1A, Jason Lockhart 1G, Jesse Bentolila 1A, Dvlan Hussey 1A, Evan Collict 1G, Kevin Lukezic 1A, Thomas Hagias 1G. Shutout: Kevin

Langdon. Orillia 0

Aurora Tigers Peewee AA 2 - Michael Bar 1G, Tristan Miller 1A, James Harkin 1G.

Aurora Tigers Peewee A 8 - Matt Schmitt 1A, Kyle McCreedy 3G 1A, Ryan Antoniel 1A, Luca Battiston 1A, Scott Kimmerer 1A, Gavin Forrest 1G 1A, Chris Smith 3G 1A, Kamran Karamchi 1G. Shutout: Nick Skillins.

NobleKing 0

Aurora Tigers Peewee A 3 - Kyle McCreedy 1G, Scott Kimmerer 1A, Chris Smith 2G, Danny Mcconnell 1A, Kamran Karamchi 2A. Orillia 3

Bradford 4

Aurora Tigers Peewee AE 3 - Spencer George 1G, Tyler Jensen 1G 1A, Brendan Strachan 1A, Mark Tanel 1G, Alex Thompson 1A, Michael Di Vincenzo 1A.

Aurora Tigers Peewee AE 3 - Brett Allen 1G, Spencer George 1A, Sean Halley 1A, Daniel Howie 1A, Aaron Nusbaum 1G, Nicholas Silverio 1A, Michael Di Vincenzo 1G.

Bradford 1

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AA 2 - Dylan Cross 1A, Derrick Hamner 2G, J.J. Lam 1A. Barrie 1

Barrie 5

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AA 4 - Oliver Boettcher 2G 1A, Dylan Cross 2G, Derrick Hamner 4A, Sean Ellison 1A, Peter Axiotis

Barrie 3

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AA 2 Anthony Marsillo 1A, Oliver Boettcher 1A, Louis Lamanna 1G, Taylor Nuttall 1G.

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam A 6 - Tyler Tisdale 1G 1A, Aaron Beally 2G 2A, Jakub Sykora 2A, Spencer Arkell 1A, Matthew Semeredy 1A, Michael McGolrick 1A, Dillon Cappell 3G.

TNT Tornados 2

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam A 2 - Aaron Beally 1A, Darcy Eveleigh 1A, Spencer Arkell 1A, Michael McGolrick 1G, Dillon Cappell 1G. **TNT Tornados 3**

Aurora Tigers Bantam AA 3 Barrie 1

Aurora Tigers Bantam AA 4 Barrie 3

Aurora Tigers Bantam A 4 Richmond Hill 2

Aurora Tigers Bantam AE 3 - Chris Burns 2A, Brett Dutchyshen 2G, Darrel Evans 1A, Kyle Henwood 1A, Andrew Mangialardi 1G, Brendon Stenzel 1A. Redmen 2

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AA 3 Richmond Hill 1

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget A 7 - Michael Doherty 1A, Robert Lee 2A, Ian Weston 1G, Patrick McMurray 3G 1A, Jake Hurlbut 1A, Jeremy Cohen 3A, Joshua (Josh) Meron 1G 1A, Ross Pizzurro 2G 2A Brendan Hamner 1A. Shutout: Mitchell Greene.

NobleKing 3

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AE 4

Barrie 5 Aurora Tigers Midget AA 0

Aurora Tigers Midget AA 6 Barrie 5

HiTor lands remain sleeping controversy

Well into another year and Aurora Council and citizens still wonder about the future of the HighTor lands in southwest

Anne Bartley Smith and her husband Matthew spent years of their lives on a significant reforestation project on their 97-acre property known as HighTor located on Bathurst, just north of Bloomington.

In 1968 they fought an expropriation order to take the frontage of their property, which they appealed to the OMB and won.

Then in 1978 they battled with York Region over plans to widen and reconstruct Bathurst from the King Road to Wellington, which could cause the loss of 150-year-old Maple trees that lined their frontage.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Smith continued the reforestation project as was evidenced by a forest management plaque from the Ontario government which still remains on the site.

An environmentalist, she held off attempts by the town to rezone the property from rural to residential. In 1986 council adopted an official plan amendment, the Aurora South West Secondary Plan, which originally included the Smith lands.

Lands to the north were developed and Brookeview Drive and Allandale Drive terminated in temporary turning circles as both streets had been intended to provide access to the Smith lands when developed.

Due to her death in 1987 the town did not seek approval for the part of the plan covering her lands and they were designated a Special Study

Her will left her estate to the Ontario Heritage Foundation to be preserved as environmental lands, or to the town as a public park if not accepted by the Foundation, on the basis the foundation's vision was the same as her vision.

The OHF is a provincial government agency committed to the preservation, protection and promotion of Ontario's cultural, architectural and natural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of Canadians.

The OHF accepted the offer, and acquired it in 1992.

Foundation officials appeared before council to introduce a program administered by the Ministry of Culture and Communications.

It was pointed out that this was a new venture for the foundation as it was the first time a municipality had been invited to be involved.

They said the foundation intended to accept the Smith lands, sever and sell the existing house and utilize the remainder as open space parklands.

Foundation officials asked the town assume custody of the property, with the foundation assuming capital costs of a public open space development, such as walking trails and park benches when funds

became available through land sales.

The town would be required to assume the ongoing maintenance costs for the remaining open space and to provide an answer by May,

Staff estimated the annual cost of maintenance at \$3,000 and recommended council approve, in principle, entering into an agreement with the foundation.

In April 1992, council agreed, in principle, to enter into the agreement as recommended, but added that the foundation establish a maintenance fund in perpetuity from the proceeds of the sale of the house and a portion of the property in order to pay the costs of the municipality.

In May, the foundation agreed to set up a \$50.000 trust fund in the name of Anne Bartley Smith providing Aurora paid half the maintenance

The foundation officially took over the property in June, 1992, hoping to open the park in August with a ceremony to pay tribute to honour Mrs. Smith, but it never happened.

In September, 1998, the foundation approached the town with a revised proposal that about 40 acres of the high land adjacent to an existing subdivision be developed for homes, and the remainder left to the town as parkland.

Foundation representatives suggested that prior to any further discussions, nearby residents should be made aware of the proposal, and arranged a public information

At the meeting Foundation officials insisted its plans for the 97-acre property would honour the spirit of the will left by Anne Bartley Smith, but they were unable to convince the more than 200 hostile residents attending the meeting.

Officials said the proceeds from the sale of the property would fund conservation projects across Ontario, adding the town would get its park-

A group of Aurora citizens fought the proposal and questioned the foundation's interpretation of the Smith will, claiming the proposed sale for development was a money

Foundation representatives said they had met with the executor of the Smith estate and he had no objection to the sale of part of the property, but were unable to provide any written proof and the executor had since died.

Citizens pointed out that Smith had planted more than 19,000 trees on the property and was opposed to development. On her death, her ashes were scattered over the property, something that would not have happened if she had known her property was to be opened up for development.

They also pointed out that the will clearly stated the executor was "to offer my real estate property 'HighTor' to the Ontario Heritage Foundation and if that organization does not accept the gift, then to offer

dedicated as a public park and failing acceptance shall form part of the residue of the

There was standing room only at an October, 1998, council meeting with most of the people in attendance there to hear about a development proposal that wasn't on the agenda.

Thirteen citizens had arranged delegation status to speak on the proposed development for the HighTor prop-

Prior to hearing the delegations Mayor Tim Jones advised them that no formal application had been received from the Heritage Foundation.

A month later, council was asked to take a more active stand in the HighTor controversy and place a heritage easement on the property to block development in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act.

In January, 1999, a foundation representative presented another proposal for the Smith property.

It included a gift to the town of a significant portion of the land for a park, but suggested selling the remainder of the

The proceeds from the sale of the property would be used to support the park and other heritage properties in Aurora in memory of Mrs.

Several residents, including Richard Himel, Mrs. Smith's only son, objected to the proposed development of a portion of the property.

As a result, council appointed a committee with three councillors and three citizens, two representatives from the foundation and the town's planning director in an attempt to reach a solution.

The committee engaged an independent legal firm to provide an opinion as to the legal right of the foundation to dispose of part of the land.

In her presentation to council, solicitor Kimberly Morris said she had applied the rules of interpretation of wills to the Smith's will. As a result, it was her opinion that it gift of HighTor was to be held in trust for a purpose beneficial to the community as a whole.

She also noted that if the foundation were able to sell the lands, it was her opinion the funds should be used to maintain and preserve the remainder of HighTor.

In 1999, councillors were told a copy of the legal opinion had been forwarded to the foundation but there had been

By the end of August, a solicitor for the Foundation insisted the development proposal would never have been submitted, if the Foundation's lawyers hadn't believed it would stand up to a legal chal-

After several meetings of the HighTor committee, a report was endorsed at the May 9, 2000, council meeting that the offer of the gift of parkland be declined, as the committee and the foundation representatives were unable to establish common ground regarding the proposal.

In February 2001 the foundation said it had no plans to sell any of the land at that time. Due to extensive vandalism to the Smith home, the foundation sought and received a demolition permit, as the condition of the home presented a public safety hazard.

It was suggested that town staff investigate the possibility of leasing the flat land of the property for recreational purposes from the foundation for a 10 to 15 year period.

The town wrote again to the foundation in 2001 enclosing a proposed concept of playing fields, soccer pitches and a parking lot, but received no reply.

The property sits idle and no action was taken until York Region recently negotiated with the Foundation to acquire three acres for an in-ground water reservoir and pump house as part of the project to bring Lake Ontario water to

This activity could awaken the long-sleeping issue so Aurora Council and citizens should prepare for some form of action in 2006.

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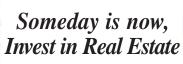
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The growth of a bustling town

From being a small, rural quiet village to becoming a vibrant urban centre which more than 45,000 people are proud to call home is the story

James Johnston, in his now out-of-print book "Aurora Its Early Beginnings" described it best.

"The soft padded footsteps of Indians, the solid plod of Quakers, the angry march of mud-spattered rebels, our town has known all these," he wrote. "Then a chugging engine hooted its way through the woods and the crowds cheered the arrival of Upper Canada's first train. An ingenious Joseph Fleury built a better plowshare and Aurora's future was cast as firmly as any plow from young Joe's foundry".

In 1793, Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe gave orders to blaze Yonge Street from Muddy York to Holland Landing.

It was planned for military purposes but developed into a road of commerce, which led to the founding of Aurora.

It was named after Sir George Yonge, British Secretary of War and a friend of Simcoe.

As Yonge Street went north it had to curve around a marshy, impassable area resulting in "Old Yonge Street" near its northern boundary.

By 1801 there were about 10 log homes on the street in what is now Aurora.

Further development was encouraged by the initial survey which provided for an east/west sideroad that is Wellington Street, named after the Duke of Wellington.

The importance of the crossroads was consolidated in 1834 by Richard Machell, who opened a general store at the southeast corner of the intersection resulting in the little hamlet becoming known as Machell's Corners.

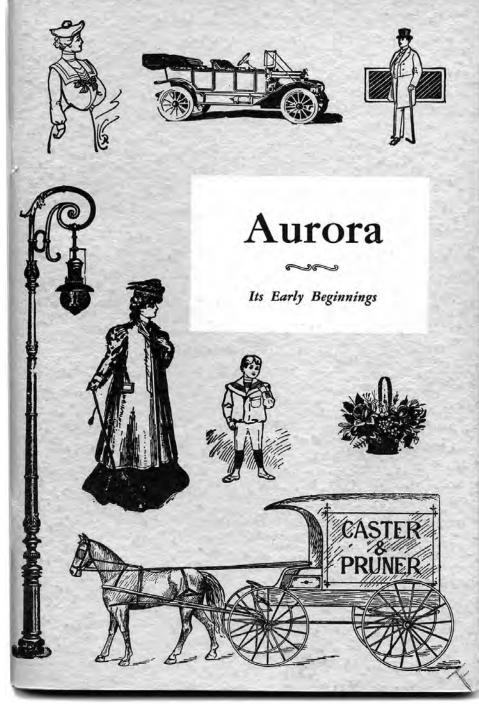
Several French settlers made their homes in the Oak Ridges area and Aurora might have French, except that the northern Crown grant to the French group was the land at the pinnacle of Aurora's southern boundary, where the provincial government offices are now located.

The settlement of Quakers to the north of Aurora had a profound effect on the community as it provided the forefathers of many of Aurora's older families.

Until 1980, Aurora's first house stood at the corner of Catherine Avenue and Yonge Street. It was demolished to make way for the new Our Lady of Grace Church in spite of many attempts to save it.

Legend says it was built in 1795 by an American who liked to visit the area for hunting. It was an enlarged Cape Cod "salt box" which was relatively rare in early Ontario construction.

It was later occupied by Charles Doan, who operated the Whitchurch Post Office although it then stood in the wilderness.



named after his first wife Catherine Willson and the house was known as Castle Doan.

On May 16, 1853, the engine Toronto chugged its way north from York, now Toronto, and Machell's Corners became the "head of rail" for the Ontario Simcoe and Huron Railroad, often referred to as "Oats, Straw and Hay".

The Toronto pulled three passenger coaches and a freight car and the trip was successfully completed in a little over two hours. The rail line was extended to Collingwood by 1855.

The Centennial of the train's arrival was celebrated in Aurora in 1953 when the CNR Museum Train arrived with Ontario Premier Leslie Frost aboard.

In 1963, a locomotive bell was mounted at the then new Victoria Street Library to commemorate the town's historic position as "head of rail" 110 years before.

Although the library has moved, the bell is still at the Victoria Street building.

The arrival of the train sig-

FAMILY LAW LAWYER

nified a new era for the little hamlet and postmaster Charles Doan suggested to postal authorities that the name of the post office be changed from Whitchurch to Aurora, a classical name for the Goddess of the Dawn.

The name Aurora was adopted by the post office on January 1, 1854, and the name was soon applied to the village as well.

Villagers achieved a degree of independence in 1866 when Aurora became a Police Village with three

It obtained full incorporated village status in 1863 with Charles Doan as the first Reeve. The village was incorporated as a town in 1888.

The arrival of the first train brought with it further development. Among those to take advantage of this new means of transportation was village blacksmith Joseph Fleury.

By 1859, Fleury began to concentrate on the manufacture of plows.

After some false starts he designed a sturdy cast-iron plow that found a ready market across Ontario and

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The Fleury works operated in Aurora for 80 years and helped carry the municipality from the pioneer days of 1859 to the more modern era of 1939, when the company merged to become Fleury-Bissell of Aurora. The Aurora plant is still located on Wellington Street West and is now occupied by Bacon Basketware.

Aurora entered its second century as York County's leading industrial centre with more than 30 manufacturing businesses.

The town had \$2.6 million in industrial assessment, almost as much as the combined total of Newmarket and

In 1907, the first building of the Sisman Shoe Company was built and during its peak employed more than 200 peo-

In 1911, Collis Leather came to Tyler Street in Aurora.

The first telephone came to Aurora in 1881 for Fleury Plow Works and by 1882 an exchange was established in John Lloyd's stationery store at Yonge and Wellington with about 12 subscribers.

In 1869, Aurora had four hotels; the Machell House, Railway Hotel, Aurora Hotel and McLeods.

After the demolition of the Queen's Hotel to make way for a bank at Yonge and Wellington, Aurora was without a hotel for several years until Frank Orsi built Hotel Aurora in the mid 1970s, now Howard Johnson.

In 1875 the town fathers

built a town hall which stood until 1956 at the corner of Yonge and Mosley Streets.

It was also the fire hall and library. The fire bell from the belfry is now at the Edward

Street fire hall. Later the town hall was located in an old bank building at 27 Yonge Street South and in 1973 moved to Wellington Street West in a facility shared with the York Region Board of Education.

It's now located north of Wellington Street East.

In 1893 the town had its first street lights. Two of the lights were erected at Yonge and Wellington and Yonge and Mosley and 23 incandescent lights in other parts of the

So from its humble beginnings, Aurora has grown and prospered and now about 45,000 residents call Aurora home.

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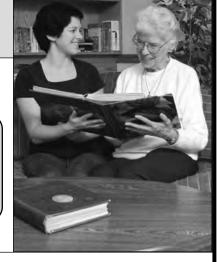
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Auroran editor Ron Wallace was one of several citizens invited by Aurora Heights Public School to take part in their annual Family Literacy Day recently. Here he quizzes a Grade 5 class.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Musical opens Friday at TA

With its first show scheduled for this Friday, Feb. 17, Theatre Aurora presents Gilbert and Sullivan's classic musical comedy, "The Pirates of Penzance".

The show runs on various dates through to March 4 at the Factory Theatre on Henderson Drive

The cast and crew have been working since early October to prepare to stage for the delightfully funny operetta.

At the helm of this show is a long-time member of Theatre Aurora and multiple Thea winner Ken

He has directed and starred in many productions at Theatre Aurora including "Fagan" in Oliver and "Scrooge" in A Christmas Carol.

Ken has put together an amazing cast to blow life into the sails of this show.

The Pirate King is played by Phil Cook who works professionally in film and on stage.

He was last on stage at Theatre Aurora in Guys & Dolls as "Nicely, Nicely Johnson" for which he won a Thea. He was also "Archibald" in The Secret Garden.

Lisa Kyriakides plays the hard of hearing "Ruth".

She has been vocal and musical director for many shows in York Region having just finished a successful run of Grease at the Stephen Leacock Theatre this past fall.

Playing the romantic leads are two newcomers to Theatre Aurora. Amanda Bell is Mabel and plays the role with a maturity well beyond her years. There is barely enough theatre to contain her magnificent voice.

Adam Miceli plays Fredrick with an equally strong voice.

He has competed in the Newmarket Voice Festival for the past few years with very positive results.

When he isn't singing or at school Adam is playing Junior "A" hockey with the North York Rangers.

The rest of the cast is filled will many talented

Some are making their debut on the Theatre

Aurora stage and many are familiar faces from past great shows.

Show dates are Feb. 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, Mar. 1, 2, 3, 4 at 8 p.m., with two matinees, Feb. 19 and 26 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$19 and can be booked through the box office at 905-727-3669

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

The dreaded Dutch Elm disease

Today, it's other pests attacking trees but back in the 1960s, it was the Dutch Elm Disease.

In November, 1966, Aurora Council awarded the contract to the Richmond Hill Tree Service to cut down trees affected by the disease at a cost of \$5,177.

According to a survey carried out there were 72 trees on private property and 15 on town-owned property to be cut.

The price quoted included cutting trees at ground level and removing cut portions, but did not include stumping.

By March, 1969, Aurora's landscape was marred by dead and dying trees caused by the killing disease and manmade causes.

During 1968 a complete survey was taken of all diseased trees in hopes the municipality would qualify for the federal Winter Works Program, but unfortunately the government cancelled the program without notice.

Because many of the trees were reported to be in serious condition, staff recommended to council that an expenditure of up to \$10,000 be approved for removal of the dangerous dead and dying trees.

Tenders were called and eight bids received with the contract awarded to Olsen Landscaping for the low bid of

Town staff made efforts to replace the trees along the boulevards on town-owned property, but unfortunately the little trees were destroyed by vandals.

STUDENTS, BUSINESS FORM PARTNERSHIP

In March, 1994, principals and teachers from Aurora schools of both school systems met with members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and town officials at the Town Hall to launch the Partnership in Learning Program.

Going beyond the student Co-Op program, the new committee matches business with classes, and the possibilities are limited only by the imagination of students, teachers and professionals.

The program was primarily the creative exchange of human resources and ideas to get things happening for business, students and teachers. The program also ensured graduates were prepared for the challenges ahead.

Under the proposal, a school and a business formed a partnership which was designed to eventually provide a better source of well-trained potential employees through meaningful input into school programs and visits to the

ed students to make an easier transition from the world of school to the world of work, and brought reality to the world

It was an excellent program, but nothing has been heard about it for awhile and it is not known if any of the partnerships are still active.

BRINGING RADIO TO YORK REGION

By February, 1974, two groups were vying to operate an AM radio station in the region at 1480 on the AM dial.

One was Allan Bestall who planned to start a regional radio station in Newmarket and the other was Ken Foss who planned to operate in Markham.

Foss said his proposed station would be dedicated to serving the region and programming would give top priority to regional matters, with Metro, Provincial, National and International taking their place in line after that.

Bestall said his station, if approved, would emphasize public access and development of the community among all the municipalities of the region and the station would be a unifying and integrating influence in the entire region.

Newmarket Councillor Ray Twinney and businessman Robert Hewett were partners with Bestall in the proposal.

In November, 1977, the CRTC held a hearing for a proposed AM station in the region. CKAN 1480 and Aurora Council supported the applica-

The station hoped to be on the air by November, 1978, but the decision was delayed to provide another applicant the opportunity to reapply.

DML Broadcasting had previously applied but was refused at the time on the basis the area did not need a radio station.

Another hearing was held in June, 1978, and CKAN was awarded the licence.

Studios were located in Newmarket and the transmission towers were placed east of Yonge Street and south of Bloomington Road.

The call letters stood for Keswick, Aurora, Newmarket.

One of the programs was York Simcoe Review, a live half-hour show on events of the day with News Director Roy Green and former Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth, which was broadcast every Sunday at noon hour.

The station had quite a history bouncing from one owner

to another and from AM to FM and is now Foxy FM 88.5 on the dial.

AURORA ENGINEERS

J. Ronald Crabtree of Aurora was elected Chairman of the York Chapter of Professional Engineers of Ontario for

Also elected from Aurora was Frank Wims as Secretary and Donald Hamilton as a member of the executive committee.





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Hall Findlay seeks top job

From page 1

profit, policy and volunteer community experi-

"The Liberal Party faces a time of tremendous opportunity, to renew and reaffirm what it means to be Liberal in Canada today," she said. "It is a big challenge, one that needs energy and enthusiasm. We will acknowledge the past, learn from our mistakes, and build on our success-

"I want people to vote Liberal because of our commitment to a vision for Canada's future, and the policies and strategies needed to get there. I recognize that some will question my limited political experience. answer is that 46 years of experience, substance and accomplishment, in various aspects of life, count for a lot.

"I believe that what I have done, and how, combined with my views on what the future can hold and how to get there, will resonate with Liberals and with all Canadians."

The lawyer, who had already committed to helping Aurora Councillor Nigel Kean in his bid to become mayor, said she would stay involved in his campaign.

"I may be really busy," she said. "I'm not sure how much time I can devote to it."

Official candidacy for the leadership of the Liberal party will depend on the rules and timing established by the party in the months to come.

"The convention is in the spring," she said. "One doesn't have to be elected to become leader of the party."

Hall Findlay is the founder and principal of The General Counsel Group, management and legal consultants.

Prior to forming The General Counsel Group, she was Vice President, Corporate Development and General Counsel of The Rider Group; General Counsel and Corporate

Secretary for Mobility Canada and corporate counsel for the Bell Mobility group of companies; and lawyer with the international law firm of Baker & McKenzie in Toronto, practising international corporate and commercial law.

While still finishing law school, she co-owned and operated two retail stores.

She graduated from the University of Toronto's International Relations Programme and then from Osgoode Hall School.

She is currently a member of the new York Community Region Foundation Strategic Planning group, assisting with initial corporate and governance needs.

In her youth, she was a competitive skier, overall silver medallist in the Canadian Championships

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in 1976. She was named to the Canadian National Training Squad before retiring and pursuing her formal education.

She is currently Vice President, Policy of the Ontario Women's Liberal Commission, and is an active participant in Equal Voice, a multi-partisan organization dedicated to promoting involvement by more women in politics.

She recently sold her home in Newmarket and moved to Toronto.





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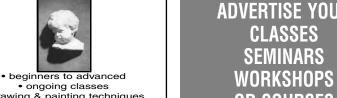
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LEGAL NOTICE

Legal Notice

Bayview Road, Aurora, Ontario, being an heir of Herbert Victor Spence, also known as Victor Herbert Spence, also known as Herbert Spence, also known as Victor Spence (the "Deceased"), who died in the City of Nanaimo, in the Province of British Columbia, Canada on April 23, 2004 (the "Deceased").

You may be a beneficiary of the estate of the Deceased, Pursuant to an Order of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, you must provide the Executor's legal counsel with proof of your claim as a beneficiary of the estate within 21 days of the date of publication of this Notice. Proof of your claim must be received at the following

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More info call the church office

905-727-6101

