

**WILL THERE
BE A CURE
FOR CANCER?**

SEE PAGE 3



AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Vol. 16 No. 19

AURORAN, Week of March 7, 2006

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Catherine home sets off council discussion

Aurora Council was caught between a rock and a hard place last week as councillors needed to make a decision between the rights of an individual and the community good.

In mid-February, George Steeves, a resident of Catherine Avenue, appeared before council to protest proposed renovations and an addition to a historic home at 34 Catherine.

The Phillips-Doolittle house was built in 1877 and had been plagued by the Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee.

It had recently been sold and the new owner planned to increase the size from 1,545 square feet to 3,400 square feet, an increase of 120 per cent.

Steeves suggested it was the thin edge of the wedge and sought council's support to stop the plans.

Councillor Damir Vrancic expressed concern about the

number of old homes being demolished on large lots and larger homes constructed, especially on Kennedy Street West. He said there was need for a debate on the issue.

He also noted council had authorized the expenditure of funds to engage a consultant to define a Heritage District which included Catherine Avenue.

He was advised a report was expected in late March or early April and council agreed to wait.

Steeves, Vaughan Dues, Rino Roncadin and Michelle Haney-Kileeg appeared before a recent Heritage Advisory Committee to express their concerns about the proposal for 34 Catherine Avenue.

Russ Gregory of Woodland Construction appeared before the committee on behalf of the new owner, John Maugeri. He acknowledged the concerns expressed by the residents and agreed to resubmit plans to staff.

The new owners, John Maugeri and Christina Harding, have since made numerous changes to the proposal, including retention of a rare Gambrel roofline, but neighbours still don't want the structure altered.

The staff report noted that 34 Catherine Avenue was one of more than 130 properties of heritage significance in the northeast quadrant of Old Aurora.

The committee recommended that council pass a bylaw establishing a heritage conservation district study area in Northeast Old Aurora and that it designate the property under the Ontario Heritage Act and recommend that the Community Planner continue to work with the owner to achieve a design that was more in keeping with the character of the neighbourhood.

That's what faced councillors and a roomful of residents last
Please see page 12

Triple murder in Aurora

The innocence of "small town" Aurora came suddenly to an end early Sunday morning as York Regional Police discovered the bodies of a woman and two children in a home on Yonge Street.

A man was arrested by police following a chase on Highway 400 that ended just north of Barrie.

Police stopped the car using a spike belt which had been placed across the highway. The vehicle

swerved to avoid it and police boxed in the driver near the 400-Highway 11 interchange.

A woman, and two children, both under 10, were found dead in a house on Yonge, north of Wellington, in a grizzly event that
Please see page 13



Cameron Denieuwe, an Aurora resident who attends Aurora High School, is a friend of a 16-year-old boy who survived the triple murder Sunday in Aurora. He spoke to media across the street from the house saying he has known the survivor for about four years.

Photo by Rob Schuetze

Dog killed by truck

A 14-month-old pure bred retriever dog was killed Thursday in Aurora's only leash-free park.

The dog perished after being hit by a truck that was delivering wood chips to the park, located on Industrial Parkway North.

According to reports, the dog was owned by Sarah Bartram.

"Town staff are dealing with the dog's family and remedial action has been undertaken," Town official Bob Panizza said.

Mayor Tim Jones said an extensive investigation into the occurrence is currently underway.



It was a lavish affair last week as the annual fashion show to raise funds for the Southlake Cancer Centre took place at Aurora's DiNardo's Mansion. Above, organizer Brenda McArthur discusses last minute details with the evening's master of ceremonies, Aurora radio personality Gord James. Fashions were provided by five Aurora and area firms.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Nora McRoberts dies

"Nora of Aurora" has died.

Life-long Aurora resident Nora McRoberts died last week following a courageous battle with cancer.

She was in her 73rd year.

A former Citizen of the Year, Nora was the daughter of John and Iva Knowles.

Better known as J.H. Knowles, he was at one time principal of Aurora's first high school.

Nora was also the sister of Ruth Johnson, wife of Malcolm (Mac) McRoberts, mother of Bob and Joe, grandmother of Marnie, Kyle, and Aaron, sister-in-law to Dave, mother-in-law to Kim and Belinda, and aunt to Jenny, John, Bruce, and Bud.

She spent her whole life living at 76, then 59 Catherine Avenue

in Aurora.

A Memorial Service was held Saturday afternoon at the Aurora
Please see page 11



Nora McRoberts

Briefly

Seniors at it again

If you're over 55 and interested in participating in the York Region Games, check at the Aurora Seniors Centre for more information.

The games are scheduled to begin May 9 and continue through June 14. Closing date to apply is Tuesday, April 25.

Competition exists in golf, tennis, snooker, bocce, darts, horseshoes, euchre, swimming and other related sports.

Further information is available at www.yr55plusgames.org.

At the Legion

The "White Heather Pipes and Drums" are putting on a St. Patrick's night, Friday, March 17, at Aurora Legion.

Activity gets underway at 7.30 p.m.

All proceeds go to Aurora's Legion Branch 385.

For further information, contact Ed Madden at 905-727-8293.



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

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

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

Aurora Agricultural Society (organizer of the Aurora Fair & Horse Show) meets on the second Tuesday of every second month, at 7 p.m., at the Aurora Community Centre. New members welcome. 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 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

MARCH 8

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

The Probus Club of Aurora meets at the Royal Canadian Legion, Industrial Parkway North. Guest speaker is Steve Forsey, President, Aurora Chamber of Commerce. 10 a.m.

MARCH 15

General meeting of the Aurora Historical Society at 8 p.m. at Hillary House. Guest speaker is Ivan Harris, curator of the CBC Museum.

March Break Mix for ages 6 to 8. Crafts, games, and a light snack. At Hillary House from 2 to 3.30 p.m. Admission is \$5. Hillary House is located at 15372 Yonge Street. Pre-registration required by calling 905-727-8991.

MARCH 16

March Break Mix for ages 9 to 12. Crafts, scavenger hunt, and a light snack. At Hillary House from 2 to 3.30 p.m. Admission is \$5. Hillary House is located at 15372 Yonge Street. Pre-registration required by calling 905-727-8991.

MARCH 19

At 2 p.m., an Oak Ridges Trail Association hike will start in Sheppard's Bush, travel to Vandorf and return. The four-kilometre hike is expected to last 1.5 hours. Hikers should meet in the Sheppard Bush north parking lot at the end of Industry Street. For further information, call Harold at 905-853-3518.

MARCH 20

Aurora Writers Group monthly meeting, 7:30 in the Aurora Town Hall cafeteria. New members 18 and over are welcome. For more information, call Malcolm at 905-898-5484.

MARCH 21

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

MARCH 22

Aurora Horticultural Society presents Gardening Workshops on Seeding, Potting, Forcing Branches and Preserving Flowers at the Royal Canadian Legion, 8 p.m.

MARCH 23

The Aurora Youth Soccer Club presents "Women in Coaching - Engaging Female Coaches" with Women in Coaching consultant Sheila 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 Church, 8 p.m. Guest Artist, Joanna Tang, Violin.

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.

APRIL 8, 9 AND 12

Aurora Minor Hockey Association 2006/07 registration. For details call 905-727-1480 or check the website, www.aci.on.ca/amha.

APRIL 9

Fifth annual Bob Hartwell Run starting at the Aurora Town Park at 9 a.m.

APRIL 19

Creative Colours Fashions presents Fashion Plates Fashion Show in support of York Region Food Network. Tickets \$50 and are available at Creative Colours Fashions, Aurora Shopping Centre. Guest appearance

by members of the Central York Firefighters, men's fashions provided by Crossing's and Hair by Chimes Hair Group.

APRIL 21-23

Annual Home Show at the Aurora Community Centre.

APRIL 24

Second interim property tax installment is due.

APRIL 26

Aurora Horticultural Society presents a lecture on "Gardening & Spirituality" at the Royal Canadian Legion, 8 p.m.

MAY 16

Contract Bridge competition to be held at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, 5 Municipal Dr. at 1 pm. For more information go to website www.yr55plusgames.org or visit the Seniors' Centre.

JUNE 4

Eleventh Annual Street Festival on Yonge Street between Wellington and Murray. Booth space available by calling 905-727-7262.

JUNE 22

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce will hold its 2006 Golf Tournament at the Westview Golf Club in Aurora. Westview can accommodate 200 golfers. Additional information and application in the March newsletter and spaces will be assigned as forms are received.

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PROUD TO BE LIVING AND WORKING IN AURORA



After two years of fundraising, volunteers responsible for the new playground at Lester B. Pearson Public School on Odin Court in Aurora were on hand last week to watch the facility officially open. Mayor Tim Jones handled the duties while hundreds of students watched. Two of the fundraisers were Marion Tripp and Rick McKnight, seen here with children Connor Tripp, Paden McKnight and Sally Falk.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

No Frills expansion gets town approval

A planned expansion of Aurora's No Frills store won approval last week at a public planning meeting.

In July last year, the Aurora Shopping Centre submitted an application for the expansion which would include changes to the west entrance from Murray Drive and a change in the configuration of the parking lot.

Councillors expressed concerns about the proposal as it pertained to the west entrance and the configuration to the parking lot and it was referred back to staff to attempt to work out a compromise.

At a September general committee meeting, a planner representing the shopping centre said his client was in the process of obtaining necessary approvals.

Last week, town staff said the proposed expansion would add about 7,400 square feet to the south of the existing store.

No one appeared at the meeting to oppose the application.

The revised plan has reinstated the centre access aisle and proposed a new ramping configuration for the western Murray Drive access ramp to address council's concerns.

In addition, an exclusive outbound left turn lane is proposed for the eastern Murray Drive access ramp.

Planning staff said they have no objection to the rezoning application, but agree with comments made by the Leisure

Services Department about snow storage, consolidation of waste disposal and screening and general lack of landscaping.

A planner representing the shopping centre said he would continue to work with staff on the revised site plan.

Councillor Evelyn Buck pointed out that the No Frills store brings shoppers to Aurora and moved approval of the application subject to the

resolution of outstanding issues. Council agreed.

The original No Frills store was opened in August, 1988, by hockey star Eddie Shack and council proclaimed the day as Eddie Shack Day in Aurora.

He helped Janet and Paul Kalmykow open their No Frills franchise, the 11th in Ontario.

The store was part of a chain of limited line grocery stores introduced by Loblaws in

1978 to offer customers better prices through reduced marketing costs.

Click an apple to aid food bank

It started last week and Aurora's food bank will benefit.

The York Region Food Network began hosting an "Apple Count" on its website at www.yrfn.ca.

One click on the basket of apples will result in the donation of a fresh apple to a local food bank, provided by Pine Farms Orchard, 2700 16th Sideroad in King Township.

The orchard has been in operation for more than 50 years.

"We are pleased to support such a worthwhile program as the Apple Count," said Pam Rolph, of Pine Farms Orchard. "We believe that as a York Region business, we have an obligation to support our community."

"Sadly, the Apple Count is much needed," said Rosanne Rodgers, spokesperson for YRFN. "Food banks not only provide food basics such as pasta and peanut butter, but as the working poor struggle to carry on, food banks are also trying to provide other healthy necessities, such as fresh fruit, to support low-income families."

Last year, York Region food banks fed 46,166 people; an increase of 28

per cent since 2001. Some 20,746 food bank clients were children; equivalent to feeding the entire population of more than three York Region elementary schools every month.

Officials said an average of 3,800 individuals use a food bank each month.



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Poor Richard

Four-year term anti-democratic

It's hard to understand what possessed Premier Dalton McGuinty to suddenly announce without any consultation or warning that, effective with this November's election, local councils will serve four years instead of three years.

It's hard enough now for a newcomer to knock off a sitting inefficient councillor who has the advantage of name recognition and the contacts with corporations and developers to assist with campaign expenses.

A four-year term will only further entrench the has-beens who've turned municipal politics into a lucrative retirement scheme rather than a calling.

Over the years, advocates of municipal election reform in Ontario have repeatedly called for new rules to ease some of the fundraising and electioneering advantages enjoyed by incumbents, and the Premier's action only accentuates the problem.

Rather than facing the electors every three years and accounting for their conduct, municipal politicians across Ontario will now enjoy four years in power, making it much more difficult for a newcomer to win a seat on council.

The term of office for municipal politicians in Ontario has had a long and turbulent history going from a one-year term in the mid to late-1800s to about 1940 when municipalities could vote and decide whether to have a one or two-year term.

It was in the mid-1960s when Aurora adopted a two-year term of office, although many rural townships and villages remained on the one-year term, while the City of Toronto went to a three-year term.

In an effort to increase voter interest and turnout in 1972 the province set a uniform fixed election date, the first Monday in December, and a two year term of office.

This was later changed to a November date for better weather conditions.

By 1972, the pressure started to build for a three-year term of office, especially from the urban areas on the basis the two-year term wasn't long enough to carry out major projects.

A year or so later, as Director of the Provincial/Municipal Affairs Secretariat in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, I played a part in delaying the three-year term of office.

Then Minister of Municipal Affairs Tom Wells called a staff directors' meeting to discuss possible legislation for the coming session of the Legislature and one of the issues was the three-year term of office, which was supported by some of my fellow directors.

When it became my turn I told the Minister that if he imposed the three-year term, the government would likely lose every rural and Northern seat and he delayed the legislation.

By 1979, at a similar meeting called by then Minister of Municipal Affairs Claude Bennett to discuss the three-year term, there was much the same discussion.

When it became my turn to speak, to the surprise of everyone I said the mood had changed and if the Minister wanted to implement the three-year term, this was the time to do it and it started with the 1982 election.

In October, 2004, Toronto Council started the push for a four-year term.

By a vote of 9-5, York Regional Council endorsed a staff report to extend the term from three to four years with Newmarket, Aurora and Richmond Hill members as the main opponents.

A four-year term isn't necessary and is anti-democratic.

If a member of council is doing a good job, he or she will be re-elected.

But if they are non-productive, the electors have the opportunity to turf them at the end of three years, which is a good argument for the return to a two-year term.

The current Aurora Council is the best possible argument in opposition to a four-year term.

Citizens should flood MPPs and council members with letters and phone calls to stop this erosion of local democracy, which will only create voter more apathy and full-time municipal politicians.

Fight it!



Before a cyclone ripped the steeples from the top of Aurora United Church, here's what the building looked like when viewed from Mosley Street. Obviously taken prior to May 23, 1903, this view shows a very gracious-looking church, that, at the time, was the Aurora Methodist Church. In addition to the steeples, the cyclone smashed church windows then raced across the street where it severely damaged the Aurora Town Hall, then located on the north-east corner of Yonge and Mosley.

Letters to the Editor

Dog's death in park an "outrage"

To the editor,

On Thursday, March 2nd, the unthinkable happened in Aurora's Pooch Park!

A 14-month-old dog was killed - not by another dog but by a truck! How could this happen?

A truck hauling chipped

wood into the park drove down the hill, dumped its load and headed back up the hill to the open gate when a young lady's much loved pet was crushed before her eyes!

Mistake number one - the driver left the gate open.

Mistake number two - the driver never so much as

spoke to the people in the park warning them of what he was doing.

Mistake number three - allowing a truck inside the park at four o'clock in the afternoon.

This park is the one place in town where dogs can run and play without restriction.

This is a leash-free space!

This was no stray dog running at large, it was someone's pet.

This dog belonged to someone who cared enough to drive it to a "safe" place to play on a cold winter day. That dog could have been a small child running around the park.

There are many unanswered questions here:

How could the town employ someone like this? Someone who opened a wide gate, drove a truck inside and left the gate wide open; someone who presumably could see that there were dogs running around?

How could the town allow the chips to be dumped at four o'clock in the afternoon when the park is likely to have several dogs and their owners in it?

This is not only a tragedy - it is an outrage!

Nothing will bring back that young lady's beloved pet.

Some people might shrug and say "Oh, it was only a dog" but they do not understand that people who own dogs and cats consider the animals to be members of their family and it is very sad when they die.

It was just lucky for my dog that we were leaving the park just as that truck arrived with its load of chips.

That sad note attached to the bouquet of flowers at the gate to the park says it all. Let's not allow this to happen again!

win an election.

Ben Kestain
Aurora

Dick should get "bouquet"

It is now time that the Town of Aurora (Our Town) recognize Dick Illingworth for the many contributions he has made to our community.

His "Bouquets and Brickbats" commentaries are excellent and keep us informed of local politics and items of interest to the community.

If anyone deserves a "Bouquet", it is surely Mr. Illingworth.

Jane Bolton
Aurora

Eleanor Thomson
Aurora

Tory comments made to win election

To the editor,

I am certainly glad to see the potential civic strike averted.

As I have stated previously, it would have served no useful goal, save to fortify the Conservative attempt at winning the 2007 provincial election.

Make no mistake, this is John Tory's avowed wish, and also an integral part of Stephen Harper's desire to win a majority in the next federal election.

They have learned by now that the Conservatives must win in the major cities of Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, etc.

John Tory is hard at work building bridges.

That is quite evident by the voluminous media attention he garners wherever he may be.

Part of his mantra is to attack Medicare although his parries are subdued.

One of his recent quotes is as follows: "I believe in private enterprise".

Does that mean more P-3 clinics, etc?

He says all medical bills and hospital stay costs should be shown to the public.

Think of the expense of setting up such a system and to what avail?

This, to me, looks like the thin edge of the wedge.

We all know the delivery of Medicare eats up

most of our budget, so what else is new?

The most significant John Tory remark recently floored me: "We are not going to be all things to all people".

In reference to our health system this to me sounds like a discriminate system, that some people will be treated different from others.

Some of this ideology goes right back to Mike Harris. Doesn't that shock you?

Make no mistake, John Tory appears nice. He is clean-shaven has good diction and is very presentable, but he is also a headhunter.

He will say anything you want to hear, but it's all to

AURORAN

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Mayor's Report

By Tim Jones

Long term water supply

Recently, Aurora received information in regard to various infrastructure works that will be occurring in our Town that is related to our Long Term Water requirements.

Given that both the Region, as well as Aurora, has been experiencing residential and employment growth, it is also natural to expect that the infrastructure for our water and sewer needs to expand. The existing ground water under Aurora and Newmarket is not sufficient to meet these needs, indeed we are already hooked into the Toronto water supply to address our current demand.

In December, 2003, the Region completed a Class Environmental Assessment study which identified a preferred route for this new supply, which includes a feeder main along Wellington at Bathurst and preferred sites for a new pumping station and reservoir.

The source for long term water for our area has been identified as coming from Lake Ontario in Peel, and thus this water will be routed from Peel through the Maple Reservoir up Keele, east on the King Vaughan Road and north on Bathurst to Wellington.

In Aurora, this means a new water pipe from Bloomington north on Bathurst to Wellington to hook up with pipes there, along with a reservoir on the east side of Bathurst, just north of the Bloomington. We have been advised that all construction of the water pipes and reservoir will be done in compliance with the Town's policies on hours of work, noise restrictions and dust control.

The reservoir has been proposed at the highest elevation along Bathurst Street to supply the Aurora system and act as a storage facility for drinking water to Aurora's local municipal water distribution systems.

The height is necessary to ensure adequate water pressure in the system.

Buried under a grassy knoll, the only visible aspect of this reservoir will be a small building to allow access, and house the system of valves.

The construction of the water reservoir will require about a three-acre parcel of land, fronting on Bathurst which the Ontario Heritage Trust has sold to the Region.

Construction is expected to take about eight months and begin this Spring.

York Region and the Ontario Heritage Trust are working together on appropriate materials, roofing and cladding treatments that will compliment the property.

Landscaping and plantings will be selected to keep the maintenance low and avoid interference with or damage the reservoir structure or the security of the water supply.

A new access from Bathurst will be provided, suited to the property.

This water main installation will be combined with a widening of and road improvements to Bathurst Street from Bloomington to Wellington.

The improvements include widening of Bathurst from two to four lanes with left and right turn lanes at the intersections, new storm sewers, culverts and ditching, twinning the bridge at the CNR crossing, new transit facilities and illumination and traffic signals.

Road construction is planned to begin in 2006 and end in the Fall of 2007.

As this is a new watermain and reservoir, existing water service is not anticipated to be disrupted.

If you have a driveway onto Bathurst, you will be provided access at all possible times.

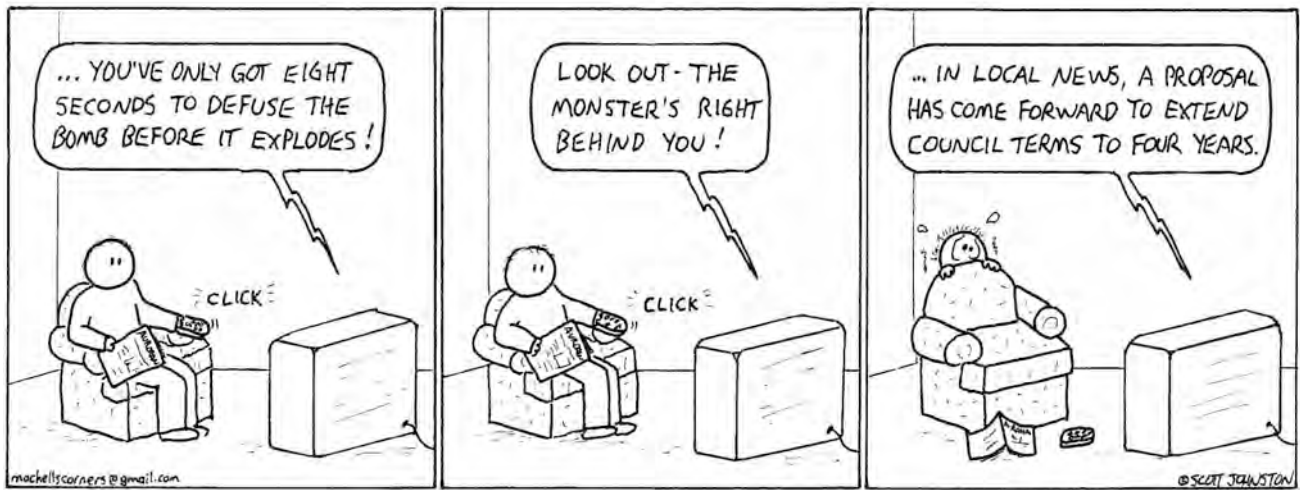
If there is to be a disruption (i.e. pouring of cement for curbs) residents will be given a 24-hour notice.

It is not planned to close Bathurst during construction, however periodic interruptions with flag persons may be required.

Noise barriers are not included in this contract, however, York Region's noise policy has recently been updated and this project on Bathurst will come under the requirements of this new policy, with some areas requiring noise abatement as requested by some of the residents living along Bathurst. Where noise barriers are justified, they will be installed under separate contract.

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

Machell's Corners



Letters to the Editor

Lawn bowlers seek maintenance expert

To the editor,

The Aurora Lawn Bowling Club is the oldest sports club in Aurora.

Lawn bowling was played by Aurora residents in the late 1890s and early 1900s.

Around 1900 a club was formed in Aurora and played on a large green to the east of Trinity Church.

In 1912 a lawn bowling and tennis club was formed in connection with Trinity Church.

This is the earliest recorded reference to the Aurora Lawn Bowling Club.

In 1930 an application to use McMahon Park was made on behalf of the Aurora Lawn Bowling Club and a green was constructed at that location.

A log building was moved from Pepperlaw and reassembled in McMahon Park for use as a clubhouse.

In 1973 a new clubhouse for lawn bowling and tennis was constructed by the Town of Aurora with a financial contribution from the Lions Club of Aurora.

Our club has always been very competitive and successful as witnessed by the many banners and trophies on display at the clubhouse.

However, in the past year, a sad reality has introduced itself.

We have always been self-sufficient in that we maintain our own greens, surrounding gardens and clubhouse.

The town contributes to our upkeep with fertilization, weed control and coring in the fall.

The past few years of limited rainfall, water restrictions and a tempermental irrigation

system have led to a serious deterioration of the green.

This has been compounded by a loss of our greens experts who have moved out of the district, retired from the sport, or have joined other clubs.

We now find ourselves at that awkward age, caught between an older membership who have provided excellent service for many years and a younger population who are still working full time.

Last year saw Stan Farmer, Bev White, Cyril Jackson, Carl Cooper and John Brown, all gentlemen in the 75 age range, labour three or four times per week to groom the grass for club activities and tournaments.

We also employed a private individual to help with the cutting once per week.

So we find ourselves looking at the coming of a new season and at a crossroads.

Without the additional support of the parks and rec service we may be forced to accept reality and ask the Newmarket Club to absorb our membership, currently at 53, about the same as their club.

However, before we raise the surrender flag we did a little research.

We contacted the 14 clubs which comprise our district as to the amount of support and maintenance they receive from their municipalities.

The results varied widely and are as follows:

Five clubs - Aurora, Beeton, Midland, Stayner and Uxbridge - maintain their own greens with the towns providing the services which must be licensed.

Four clubs - Collingwood, Georgina, Markham and Newmarket - received Cadillac service with the town accepting total responsibility.

Barrie relocated their club to a dome, therefore no maintenance.

Stouffville subsidizes their club \$5,000 per year.

Richmond Hill is privately owned.

Midland is a large club, with 100 plus members, and pays greens experts \$6,000 per year for maintenance.

Orillia could not be contacted; we can only assume they have relocated to Florida for the winter.

Our purpose is to make you aware of our situation.

We realize we are not a glamour club but today's seniors are enjoying a much more active lifestyle than previous generations.

Lawn bowling provides gentle physical exercise, although when you have spent seven hours playing three 14-end games in 30 degree plus temperatures, the gentle adjective is debatable.

Lawn bowling also provides a wonderful social opportunity to meet like-minded individuals in the spirit of competition and friendship.

Please help us to continue to enjoy our time in the sun and on the green.

Alan Dean
President
Judy Salmon
Secretary.

Local chess competition marks 10th anniversary

To the editor,

If spectators could have seen the excitement at this year's Aurora Optimist Chess Tournament, they would have thought chess was more an active participant sport, rather than a quiet activity of players hunched over their chess pieces.

There was certainly a whole lot of fun for everyone with happy headaches for all the volunteers!

This was the 10th annual event for the Aurora Optimist Club, held at the Royal Canadian Legion Thursday, February 23rd.

It featured 245 qualified participant players from 17 surrounding schools. They competed in Grades 1 through 12.

Credit should be given to each of these students who attended because they qualified for our tournament after playing and winning at their respective school chess clubs.

This would have meant that at least 500 plus students would have been playing in chess clubs throughout all these schools in the Aurora area. That's a whole lot of brain power!

Overall, there are a total of five area tournaments which are held separately similar to

Aurora's, featured by other Optimist Clubs.

A grand total of 1,400 students have played in this year's qualifier tournaments.

Winners of each area tournament will be promoted to attend the York Regional Optimist Chess Final at the Aurora Legion, Saturday, March 25th.

This will mark our 10th anniversary for the Optimist York Regional Tournament. To date there will have been at least 13,000 students who will have participated. Wow! How time flies for busy minds!

Aurora will be well represented this year with the following individuals having won 1st, 2nd or 3rd positions:

Grade 1: Matthew Minchella, Ryan Reid, Owen Worrall.

Grade 2: Jarvis Harrison, Alex Sesto, Tristan Kuchar.

Grade 3: Jeff Blair, Jesse Joynt, Alexander Popa.

Grade 4: Jonathan Lemesurier, Brett Scully, Evan White.

Grade 5: Conor Fennell, Mateen Mehri, Eric Damecour.

Grade 6: Michael Blair, Jeffrey Lean, Billy Ferguson.

Grade 7: Farzad Korhani, Ian Davidson, Egan Fennell.

Grade 8: Scott Ashbourne, Dylan Lastuk, Jeff Marchment.

Grade 10: Chris Porter,

Daniella Gandel, Kirsti Karjala.

Grade 11: Donovan Hogan, Elka Metani.

Grade 12: Ken Okubo, Patrick Prevoe, Robert Smith.

Also, best overall school chess performance pennants were given to those clubs whose winning results were the highest amongst all the 16 school groups attending.

Of these the 2006 chess pennant winners were:

Primary Division: Holy Spirit Catholic School.

Junior Division: Our Lady of Grace Catholic School.

Intermediate Division: Nobleton Senior Public School and St. Joseph's Catholic School.

Senior Division: Dr. G.W. Williams (Still undefeated.)

Many thanks to the superb coverage from The Auroran and ACI - Plugged In for giving the kids a chance to shine!


We appreciate your 10 years of support!


It also would not have been possible without the great help from the many school teachers and volunteers.


Come visit March 25th at the Chess Regionals and see some powerful young minds at work!


Stephen Granger
Aurora Optimist Club
Chess Tourney Chair


By DICK ILLINGWORTH


 **BOUQUETS** to the unknown Good Samaritan who rescued Poor Richard's garbage can from the roadway and brought it up the drive and delivered it in its proper place. Thank you.


 **BRICKBATS** to Aurora Council members for discussing the proposed naming of a street which was to be named after a former councillor and submitted in accordance with the town's street naming policy. The policy requires developers to submit names from the town's pre-authorized bank of street names. If you disagree with the policy, change it, don't ignore it!


 **BOUQUETS** to anyone who can advise why the Aurora Traffic Safety Board was called a board instead of a committee similar to all the other advisory committees of council. Councillor Evelyn Buck asked the question in February, 2005, but never got an answer.


 **BRICKBATS** to the officials of the Can-Spell National Spelling Bee to be held in Ottawa in April for requiring Canadian elementary students to spell words the American way. Colour becomes color and grey becomes gray.


 **BOUQUETS** to anyone who can explain why well-paid pro hockey players were selected to play for Team Canada in the Olympics. The Olympics should be for amateurs, not professionals.


 **BRICKBATS** to Premier Dalton McGuinty for announcing, without prior consultation or debate, that electors voting for their local council on November 13th will be electing them for a four-year term. The people were never asked and if they get a poor council, they're stuck for four years!


 **BOUQUETS** to the McGuinty government and CUPE officials for agreeing to a last minute deal that averted a province-wide illegal strike by 100,000 municipal and school workers over Bill 206. The government promised to introduce a companion piece of legislation to Bill 206 that would guarantee a full review of the OMERS pension plan by 2012 and that was enough to call off the strike.

 **BRICKBATS** to homebuyers who purchase a home in a new area without checking with the municipality regarding the future uses of the vacant land around them and then wanting it changed. This was evident at a recent public planning meeting when they complained about a proposed development when the land had been rezoned before they purchased their homes.

 **BOUQUETS** to the Canadian women's hockey team for repeating their Gold Medal Win at the Turin Olympics. It's unfortunate the Canadian men's team of NHL players with total annual salaries of millions of dollars couldn't have done the same.

 **BRICKBATS** to the outgoing federal Liberal government for using their last days before the election to approve 212 patronage appointments, including ambassadors, directors of Crown corporations, trustees of national museums and even promotions in the senior ranks of the RCMP. A government of higher moral standard would have left the appointments until after the election!

 **BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Seniors for organizing the recent Open House to provide citizens and potential new members an opportunity to see the beautiful new facilities and the many programs available for seniors, but why was the cloakroom made so small?

 **BRICKBATS** to York Regional Council for purchasing another five 60-foot articulated rapid transit vehicles at a cost of \$3.8 million plus taxes, plus intelligent transportation system equipment at an additional cost of \$250,000 plus taxes, when the buses up and down Yonge Street through Aurora almost travel in convoy and are usually almost empty!

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Letters to the Editor

Homeowner's rights abused, councillor says

To the editor,

There have been too many e-mails on the subject of 34 Catherine Avenue to answer individually.

I appreciate hearing from people but it is disturbing to realize how much mis-information there is out there.

The house in question has been purchased by a young Aurora family.

Their first home was on Nisbet Drive and they currently live in Aurora Grove which is a picture-post-card modern neighbourhood in the south-east quadrant.

They have lived in Aurora 10 years.

They have long admired the neighbourhood in the north-east quadrant and finally they purchased 34 Catherine.

They paid \$320,000.

The house has a crawl space, lead pipe plumbing, ancient wiring and ceilings held up with fibre board tiles.

The insurance costs as much as the property taxes because of the high

risk conditions.

Before they bought, they researched real estate values and determined they could safely invest the resources needed to adapt the house to the needs of a modern family.

They also contacted town planning staff to determine what they could and could not do.

When the deal was sealed, they immediately contacted Michael Seaman, the town's heritage planner and asked if he could recommend an architect with expertise in restoration of old homes.

After 12 weeks, work was completed and Mr. Seaman advised the Heritage Advisory Committee that the plans conformed to the town's requirements.

There was an addition planned and that conformed to the zoning bylaw. The over-all style conformed to the neighbourhood.

George Steeves, who owns the house next door, attended the meeting and demanded the committee

To the editor,

RE: Bylaw 477.06.D To Establish a Heritage Conservation District Study Area of Northeast Old Aurora

I am writing to express my concern about the plans to renovate the historical home located on Catherine Avenue.

I believe that it is imperative that action be taken to preserve and protect our heritage properties.

While I respect the rights of new homeowners to undertake renovations necessary to personalize and update their home, I believe that such changes should be in keeping with the historical and architectural

landscape of the community.

Further, I find it disturbing that new, and often transient property owners, are given free liberty to make the kinds of major changes that are not in keeping with existent homes in the neighbourhood.

Purchasing an older, heritage home is a decision that must be undertaken with the intent to preserve and protect.

The trend to demolish and redevelop properties in the older, established neighbourhoods of Aurora must be tempered by bylaws that place limits on the kinds of changes that can be made to heritage homes.

I beseech you to pass the bylaw to establish a

not approve the plans. The committee obliged.

Within days, without direction from council, a bylaw was prepared which would have the effect of stopping the plans from proceeding.

Taxpayers of Aurora spend approximately \$80,000 a year to provide a free consulting service to owners of old houses.

The objective is to preserve the historic character of the community.

Last year we authorized a \$45,000 study of the north-east quadrant for the same purpose.

The money comes from the general tax levy. Everybody pays.

The planner did his job spending many hours working with co-operative home-owners. In the end, it was all for nought.

Council passed the bylaw and took away the owners' rights.

Their time and resources and our time and resources were squandered in the process.

Natural justice demands that all property

owners have the same rights. No one group has more rights than another.

No just law could support that principle. Yet in Aurora, we found a way.

I, myself, am quite happy in my ticky-tacky box in the south-west quadrant. I think my street is the best in town because I live there.

But, if other people need to take their sense of importance from the importance of the house they own...I can live with that.

What I do not understand is how people can fight to deny a neighbour's rights without realizing they are surrendering their own in the process. And what kind of a neighbour is that anyway?

From my perspective, I could never agree to depriving the rights of an individual because of pressure from a crowd.

That is the least taxpayers have a right to expect from their elected representatives.

Also from the town's business perspective, there are some relevant factors.

Left alone, the house will undoubtedly fall into ruin. Leased to tenants it might suffer a similar fate.

The owners' research indicates that with their investment the property has a good chance of standing for another 100 years; the real estate value will double; the market value will increase to the same degree and tax revenue to the municipality will increase accordingly.



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Letters to the Editor

The other side of the soccer story

To the editor,

As a soccer parent and a town councillor I am concerned about the press release that recently went out from the Aurora Youth Soccer Club and the recent letter to The Auroran from their president, Ron Weese.

Both seem to accuse Aurora Council and the Leisure Service Advisory Committee of not supporting the association.

First I would like to give some facts related to youth soccer.

It is true that Aurora youth soccer association pays the Town approximately \$56,000 per year for 3,777 children and teens to play on the Town fields.

However, it does cost the Town's residents \$368,000 to maintain these fields.

Therefore, the town subsidizes the AYSC considerably.

My rough calculations show the AYSC collects about \$600,000 or more per year.

In 2005, there were 3,777 players of which 835 (22 per cent) are non-Aurora residents.

In the press release it states that 850 kids would not be able to play if the town followed the staff recommendation of field usage.

If the Association only

allowed Aurora residents to play there would be enough room for all Aurora kids to play.

The association gets a special rate based on having 80 per cent or greater Aurora residents.

There is also a claim that two future fields scheduled for 2008 are at risk.

This is not true as the Culture and Recreation Plan states that one field be built in 2005, one in 2008 and another in 2011.

The Town's staff is looking at opportunities for locations for these fields.

The AYSC stated that the Club Field Manager was prohibited from making any statements at the recent LSAC meeting.

In fact, Mr. Weese stated that he was sending this person as an advisor only.

Chairman Damir Vrancic did ask that if there something that the Field Manager wanted to say she could. She elected not to speak.

The policy suggestions that were given at the LSAC meeting were sent to the league for comments before the meeting and discussions were held between Town staff and the league.

Town staff were led to believe that these changes would not have an adverse

impact on the league with the exception of the proposed one game per day on the senior lighted field.

The staff proposal of the one game per 24 hours was defeated on a motion by myself and supported by the committee.

The AYSC claims that Council has deliberately fallen behind in soccer fields and that the Culture and Recreation Master Plan was being ignored.

This statement is not valid based on the ongoing commitment of Council to fund capital and maintenance programs.

To date not one organization has had a cap or limit put on their registration.

Council has approved the construction of a new senior soccer field at Optimists Park.

Council has also approved the Soccer Bubble and a new lighted soccer field at

Sheppard's Bush.

Council, in the past six years, has built a new library, a new seniors' centre, a new recreation centre including two new rinks and a great pool facility, and a new fire hall.

There have also been many upgrades in the numerous facilities and fields in the Town.

While soccer is very important in Aurora we as a Council have other groups vying for better facilities.

I hope that this letter will clarify that Council does try to work with all groups including soccer.

I have received numerous e-mails and calls from concerned soccer parents and have tried to answer them all.

Perhaps the press releases should give all sides of the problem.

Nigel Kean
Aurora Councillor

Omid named "most congenial"

To the editor,

The Aurora Agricultural Society would like to congratulate Omid Salari, the Ambassador of the Aurora Fair & Horse Show, 2005, for making his hometown proud!

At the annual convention of the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies, held in Toronto two weeks ago, Omid was chosen to receive the "Most Congenial Ambassador Award".

Omid received this award based on a vote taken from amongst all of the fair ambassadors in attendance at the convention, each of whom was representing one of the more than 200 agricultural fairs in Ontario.

It was Omid's great sense of humor and charming personality that inspired his peers to choose him for this coveted award.

The Aurora Agricultural Society is very proud to have Omid representing

our hometown Fair.

Be sure to visit the Fair this year in Machell Park, from June 8 to 11, where you can meet Omid, and perhaps ask him to give you a tour of the many fun activities on the fairgrounds.

For any local young men and women (aged 16 to 21) who are interested in competing in the Aurora Fair's 2006 Ambassador Competition, we invite you to call the Fair Hotline at 905-713-6773 for more information, or visit our website at www.auro-rafair.ca.

Congratulations, Omid!

Michelle Lothlorien Proulx
Junior Director
Aurora Agricultural Society

Lack of respect shown Constable

To the editor,

RE: Street Name Suggestion Causes Uproar

As a family we were dismayed at the lack of respect shown to Mr. Constable at the General Committee meeting of February 21, 2006.

We find it quite peculiar that the most dysfunctional council in the history of Aurora would cast judgement on the contributions made by any past councillor.

Mr. Wallace's point that Mr. Illingworth only has a "dinky, little cul-de-sac" named after him is mute.

It should be seen as an honour to be selected at all and we should not spend

any time measuring the size of one's strip of pavement.

As a town, we should continue to adhere to present policy and in turn, be proud to have both past and present contributors honoured with such distinction.

Let's not forget that a person's contribution to a town should not be judged by one or two acts, but by a lifetime of selfless giving.

The preceding best describes Mr. Constable.

As is always the case with this council, personal political objectives have been placed in front of the needs of the town, or better stated in this case, honouring one of its present day contributors.

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ORTA trails not public, executive director says

To the editor,

Re: Parking prohibited on King Township 16th Sideroad

As Executive Director of the Oak Ridges Trail Association I have read with great interest the many letters from citizens

concerned about the loss of parking privileges on the 16th Sideroad west of Bathurst. Members of our association, as well as members of the public, have contacted our office.

ORTA is the builder and manager of the Oak Ridges Trail.

Over the past 14 years

our volunteers have built 250 kilometres of hiking and walking trails across the Moraine.

Today we have a continuous route stretching from Palgrave in the west to Rice Lake in the east.

To correct one misconception held by at least one of your readers, the Oak

Ridges Trail is not public property nor was its construction paid for by public funds.

ORTA does not own any of the land on which the trail route exists.

The land is still with the original owners, who - be they municipalities, conservation authorities or private

landowners - have granted ORTA permission for the trail to exist on their land.

We pay no fees to any of the landowners.

Once approval is received from the landowner, our volunteers construct the trail, again with landowner input.

For the most part, the

trail's construction is paid for out of membership fees and donations from our members.

We have about 650 members. From time to time, and for specific projects, we do seek grants from other organizations, various levels of government or foundations.

The Oak Ridges Trail is a public trail, meaning it is open to the public to use at no cost.

If someone appreciates the trail, we hope they will show their support by becoming a member.

We want people to use the trail and we're pleased that so many people have obviously been doing so.

Given the current situation on the 16th Sideroad, ORTA would like to remind everyone that the trail is still open.

There are many great sections to walk.

Not all landowners permit pets on their properties, so that should be checked out in advance and we ask that everyone obey laws and landowners' wishes.

Those who don't yet have one, can pick up a copy of our trail guidebook at various bookstores and outdoor supplies retailers, as well as from ORTA.

One of the things it will tell you is where to park.

Harold Sellers
Executive Director
Oak Ridges
Trail Association

Should hikers park on Bathurst Street?

To the editor,

I am disgusted with the NIMBYism of the people who apparently signed a petition re prohibiting parking along the 16th Sideroad.

I am not a dog owner, although I sympathize with their situation.

I write as a hiker and member of the general public.

These landowners are

already fortunate to live on several acres of land. What about individuals and families wanting to keep fit and enjoy the outdoors, walking along the PUBLIC road allowance?

I am familiar with the area and parking at Seneca is nowhere near the eastern end of this stretch of the Oak Ridges Trail, which was created for PUBLIC enjoyment and use.

Some people aren't able to walk long distances, whether from their homes to the trail or on the trail itself.

It's not as if walkers are trespassing onto these owners' properties, though I might add that ORTA (Oak Ridges Trail Association) has the cooperation of many more civic-minded landowners elsewhere. Furthermore, there is absolutely no safety issue involved here.

Cars are not in front of a school or busy area.

This is a dead-end road! How often do these owners even exit their driveways in a given day? Would the Township rather the public parked on Bathurst?

Mark my words, if they do, a plague of No Parking signs would follow, like those that were no doubt instrumental in helping put Miller's fruit and vegetable stand out of business.

Are you happy with garbage pickup?

To the editor,

I'm writing this letter to The Auroran to get feedback from the residents of Aurora re their garbage pickup.

Are you happy with the quality of service or are you

dissatisfied with their sloppiness re your garbage and recycling being strewn on the road?

Not all of it gets in the truck and you have to go out and pick up the mess afterwards.

Also do your garbage cans get thrown around after being emptied and end up on the street or the sidewalk?

One time last spring I watched with amazement as a company employee threw

the garbage can and just missed a student walking to school who had to jump to avoid being hit.

My past experience is all of the above and I have just been outside to pick up the mess after the truck has just gone by.

I complained to the town last year with no real results. Certainly the company and especially its employees don't seem to care at all.

I sure don't think they deserve the town's business and need to be sacked.

Your comments please to this newspaper.

Needless to reinvent naming policy: reader

To the editor,

RE: Aurora's street naming policy

It was entertaining to read The Auroran article concerning Aurora Council's recent deliberations on this topic.

However, the general tone of discussions and council's request for another report from Town staff appears puzzling.

The recent controversy came about with an attempt to name a street in honour of a former member of council.

That was in keeping with the current Town policy on street names. However, through the course of discussions it became obvious this particular individual did not want a street named in his honour bearing his surname.

You would think the mood of the room and calm action would have recognized the obvious choice.

Accept the former councillor's wishes and choose a different street name. The follow-up action by council was the most disturbing.


They felt duty bound to ask staff for a report on the entire street name policy.

For what reason?

A minor faux faux was made in attempting to pass a street name where there was no desire by the honouree for that recognition.

Why attempt to recreate the wheel over a relatively minor incident?

Mike Gough
Aurora



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Newmarket-Aurora Federal Liberal Association

**CALLING ALL
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You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Newmarket-Aurora Federal Liberal Riding Association. Come and participate locally in the first steps towards the renewal of the Federal Liberal Party, featuring a keynote address by:

Guest Speaker
Belinda Stronach, M.P.
Tuesday, March 28, 2006
7:30pm - Madsen's Garden Centre
160 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket.
(North of Davis Drive, West of Prospect St. - East of Main St.)

Admission is free for Members. You may join or renew at the meeting, however to vote at the AGM you must become a member before 7:30PM, March 21st, 2006.

Annual Membership Fees:
Adults: \$10.00. Family: \$20.00. Seniors: \$5.00.
Young Liberals - ages 14-25: \$5.00

The meeting will include election of officers for our riding association, and selection of delegates for the Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario) AGM in May. For details see our website, E-mail: info@nafla.ca or call Bill Chadwick: (905) 853 0955.

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President of the Aurora Historical Society Helen Roberts, centre, welcomes two new members to the board, Sara Fayle and Martin Watson, who were elected last week to a three-year term. Elections took place at the annual meeting held at the historical Hillary House. *Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

When Lester Pearson came back to Aurora

It was in November, 1968, when Lester Pearson came home to Aurora. He didn't come as a former Prime Minister, Nobel Prize winner or President of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

He came home for the 150th anniversary of the Aurora United Church.

He came back to the scene of his first remembered Christmas and his first day of school to talk playing baseball with his sports-loving minister-father and about an age which was slower moving and had time for the blessings of life.

He gave the address to the morning service to an audience that overflowed the big church on the main floor, balcony and into the aisles.

He spoke with obvious feeling of his parents. His father, Rev. Edwin Pearson, was minister of the church, then Methodist from 1900 to 1903.

The Pearsons lived in the parsonage at the corner of Spruce and Catherine Streets.

During that period, the elder Pearson, a first-class ball player, was a regular member of the town baseball team, much to the discomfort of some of the more proper members of his congregation.

He recalled that his parents, whom he called "saintly, happy and good", were people who gave him a basis of moral principles which guided him throughout his life.

His reminiscences of his five-to-eight-year life in Aurora included many firsts.

He said it was here that he spent the first

Christmas that he could remember and he participated in his first student revolt.

He recalled that he followed the older students when they protested they hadn't been given a holiday on May 24th.

He also recalled it was here that he received his first punishment. His father, making calls by bicycle, caught young Lester and some chums jumping off and on sleigh runners.

He also recalled Aurora as the scene of the first public ceremonial occasion with the viewing of the train carrying the Duke and Duchess of York, later King George and Queen Mary.

He said his days in Aurora were good times, times to enjoy the things that weren't available for sale at any price, family and friends, and how people relied on themselves for their entertainment.

He touched on the changes which had taken place in the world since the early part of the century including the lack of respect for elders and institutions, and how it was a much smaller world.

In his early days the local paper told people what they wanted to know about their world and today the whole world is in the living room on TV.

Rev. T. E. Hancock, minister of the church, presided at the service and introduced the speaker with references to memories of "little Lester" by members of the congregation who remembered him as a boy.

An informal reception was held in the church hall following the service during which Ross Linton and E. H. Clarke presented Mr. Pearson with a sketch of the church by Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure.

Montessori School gets new building

Aurora Council this week was expected to approve a bylaw that would allow the construction of a new Montessori school in Aurora's east end.

La Maison Montessori School is currently located in the historic Hartman house at Wellington Street and Bayview Avenue.

The property has been sold to Aurora Toyota for a new car dealership on the site, forcing the school to relocate.

An application, which went to a public planning meeting last Wednesday, was submitted to construct six teaching classrooms in a one-storey building with a gross floor area of 7,535 square feet, a tot lot at the rear of the proposed building on the west side of the property and 28 parking spaces with access from Stone Road on a 1.1 acre site..

The lands at the northwest corner of Stone Road and Bayview Avenue were previously town-owned but sold last year to Priestly Holdings.

There is currently a house on the property which will be demolished.

The lands are currently zoned Convenience Commercial Centre which would not allow the school proposal.

The commercial designation originally contemplated a

larger land holding for commercial purposes, but some years ago the northern portions of the lands were rezoned and developed for residential purposes.

Town staff pointed out that as the potential for commercial use has been reduced, the proposal provides an appropriate alternate use for the lands.

An alternate option is to leave the commercial designation and add to it by allowing the Montessori school and relate uses.

Staff reviewed the various agency comments received and reported the proposal represents proper and orderly planning.

Comments made were of a minor technical nature and are expected to be addressed through the site plan process.

Howard Freidman, a planner representing the applicant, agreed with the staff report and presented several letters in support of the application.

He noted the need to replace the school in the same area.

He told the audience the plans were for a school for 117 students and a staff of 12 and it was hoped to start construction this spring for a September opening.

He explained the building would only use 15.6 per cent of the property with the school

in the centre and parking and student drop-off to the front with a wide drop-off area.

Approximately 43 per cent of the site would be landscaped and the architecture of the school would be in keeping with the residential area.

He added that the developer would be satisfied with either the rezoning option or keeping the commercial zoning with the institutional.

A resident of the area said she had no objection to the school but was concerned about the change of grade and asked what action would be taken to prevent drainage to other properties.

Mr. Friedman replied that there would be a 1.2 metre retaining wall with lots of landscaping in front of the wall to hide it and the developer would work with town staff to control the drainage.

In response to a question from council about the loss of trees, Mr. Friedman replied that every effort will be made to relocate the trees on the property and the eliminated ones would be replaced four-to-one.

On a motion by Councillor Evelyn Buck the application was approved with the retention of the commercial zoning.

Earlier, Priestly Holdings arranged an open house for the neighbourhood to view the plans, but no one showed up.



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Taste of Aurora

A big crowd was on hand Saturday morning as the "Aurora Spirit!" fundraising campaign for the town's new ice surfaces and swimming pool kicked into high gear. Left, Master Ducks swimming coach Nancy Black helped spearhead the drive which saw visitors enjoy food from several Aurora firms in the event called "A Taste of Aurora". One of the participants was Jennifer Montoni, right, of Aurora's Tickle Your Tummy, who offered cookies to the public. Below, part of the crowd surveys the plethora of food available at the event. People who had purchased swim lanes and change rooms were recognized, and Ms Black announced the major swimming pool would be known as the Duck Pond. The new facility is located on Wellington Street East, just west of Leslie Street. Both arenas have been operating since late last year, and the swimming pools are expected to be ready for the summer season. Fund-raisers have committed to coming up with \$2 million to help pay for the new recreational facility.

Auroran photos by David Falconer



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Win series in five games

Tigers eliminate pesky Blues

After a slight slip-up last week, the Aurora Tigers Junior A hockey team finally disposed of the Collingwood Blues Sunday afternoon, and will advance to the semi-finals, possibly against their arch-rival Newmarket Hurricanes.

Tigers needed five games to eliminate Collingwood, and did so in front of 500 fans in Aurora Sunday, by virtue of a 2-1 victory.

Led by the solid goal-tending of Ryan Dickie who stopped 31 of 32 shots and goals by Austin Corredato and the eventual game winner from Matt McGill, the Tigers advanced to their third playoff round.

Earlier they eliminated a team from Bancroft in four straight games.

Fraser Smith assisted on both Tigers goals Sunday.

It was a poor performance in Collingwood Friday night that resulted in a 5-1 Tiger loss, giving the Blues a little light as they trailed the series three games to zip.

Frank Soscia scored the lone Tiger goal.

In Game 4, played last week at the Aurora Community Centre, Aurora had little trouble defeating Collingwood 5-2, which followed a 4-2 win in Collingwood a day earlier.

Last Wednesday, in Aurora, Tigers defeated

the Blues 5-2 to take a 2-0 lead in the series.

Aurora will now wait for the winner of the Stouffville Spirit-Newmarket Hurricanes series, which Newmarket was expected to win, but currently is trailing three

games to two.

Regardless of the competition, the likely start date for the next series will be this Friday, March 9th at the Aurora Community Centre.

Game time is 7.30 p.m.



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Too expensive to attend conventions, Morris says

Municipal convention expenses have created controversy at Aurora Council and this year is no exception as Councillor Phyllis Morris found out recently when she sought additional funding for her expenses attending meetings of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Some councillors point out that as there isn't a training school for municipal politicians attending conventions is a learning experience.

They agree that while the formal sessions are informative, receptions lunches and dinners are important as delegates meet on a one-to-one basis, which provides an opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Others argue that attending municipal conferences is a waste of time and public money, as the local municipality receives little benefit as a result.

Last November Councillor Morris created controversy when she requested an additional \$300 over and above her \$2,000 convention allowance to attend an FCM committee meeting in Ottawa.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said the \$2,000 allowance should be adequate and as the discussion was a personnel issue, it should be discussed in camera.

The issue was solved when Councillor Damir Vrancic, who had not used all his convention allowance, gained council consent to transfer the necessary funds for Councillor Morris.

At the recent general committee meeting, Councillor Morris submitted a request for additional convention funding.

She pointed out that she had been attending the FCM and the Association of Municipalities conferences

across the country.

Last year, she was selected to serve on an FCM sub-committee and had kept council informed of the work of the committee.

Last year, she discovered the costs of registration, travel and accommodation had risen to the point were it was difficult to attend FCM and AMO conventions without the outlay of personal funds.

She estimated her additional expenses for AMO, FCM and committee work would well exceed the allocated amount and sought an additional \$800 to cover added expenses.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said council shouldn't deal with special consideration for individual members of council and that if the convention allowance wasn't sufficient, it should be reviewed for all members.

Mayor Tim Jones disagreed saying the total convention budget was adequate as some council members didn't use their total amount, but agreed that attending AMO, FCM and committees was beyond the allocation, and he had no problem in supporting the Morris request.

Councillor Bill Hogg said that if special consideration was to be given to one mem-

ber of council, it should be made available for all councillors.

He questioned the value of attendance for the municipality and added he was uncomfortable approving extra funds for one member of council when it was a personal decision to become involved.

Councillor Vrancic noted that several good points had been raised and he suggested the request be referred to staff to bring back a report covering actions taken by other municipalities in similar circumstances.

In support of her request Councillor Morris said she served on three FCM committees and participating at the national level was of benefit to Aurora and she would welcome a review of the policy.

Councillor Buck said that if the allocation didn't cover the costs, members of council shouldn't have to beg for additional funds and there was an immediate need to review the policy.

Mayor Jones encouraged all members of council to attend both conventions and proposed the request be approved and a review carried out for 2007 conventions.

Council agreed.



A bewildered Aurora Councillor John West wonders how he wound up wearing a Newmarket Hurricanes hockey sweater at a council meeting last week, but soon learned Aurora had lost a bet with Newmarket over a Junior A hockey game played earlier in the season. Councils had agreed to wear the sweaters of the winning team should their team lose. Aurora reissued the bet if the Tigers and Newmarket Hurricanes meet in a playoff round.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY

Standings as of Monday, Feb. 27

TEAM	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Masterclean Contracting	17	6	0	109	68	34
Highland Chev Cadillac	16	6	1	127	93	33
Priestly Demolition	13	8	2	99	64	28
Tom & Jerry's	12	8	3	96	83	27
J.J. Barron Realty	10	8	5	93	86	25
Law Insurance Brokers	7	11	5	77	107	19
FPL Aggregates	4	16	3	72	107	11
Rec Cycle N' Sports	3	19	1	64	119	7

Results, Feb. 27

Tom & Jerry's	4	Masterclean	6
Priestly Demolition	2	Law Insurance	0
Highlands Chev	8	Barron Realty	8
Rec Sports	6	FPL Aggregates	2

PLAYER STANDINGS

As of Feb. 27

NAME	TEAM	G	A	TOTAL
John Archibald	Highland	39	24	63
Steve Robertson	Highland	20	36	56
Mark Sedore	Priestly	24	27	51
Tom Hussey	Masterclean	24	18	42
Steve Kavanah	Barron's	13	29	42
Jason Muise	Priestly	17	22	39
Bruce Chappell	Highlands	13	25	38
Steve McDonald	Tom & Jerry's	19	18	37
Ken Rumble	Highland	14	23	37
John Yaremko	Law Insurance	12	23	35
Pat O'Mahony	Barron's	17	15	32
Ralph Berry	Masterclean	16	16	32
Gerry Briand	Masterclean	11	18	29
Scott Thomas	Tom & Gerry's	12	16	28
Darryl Iwai	Highlands	9	19	28
Dean Iwai	Tom & Jerry's	10	16	26
Ed Jackson	Barron's	10	16	26
Frank Balkovec	Law Insurance	4	21	25
Jon Anderson	Rec Sports	15	9	24
Phil Goodenough	Barron's	9	15	24
Darren Yaremko	Law Insurance	9	15	24
John Leeder	Highland	13	10	23
Brad MacMillan	Tom & Jerry's	12	11	23
Cam Mitchell	FPL	11	12	23
Doug Adair	Rec Cycle	9	14	23
Pat Davies	Priestly	7	16	23
Charlie Steenhorst	FPL	7	16	23
Phil Podstatski	Priestly	14	8	22
Darryl Thompson	Tom & Jerry's	9	12	21
Mike Nisbet	Priestly	7	14	21
Les Nip	Barron's	6	15	21
Ron Theisson	Barron's	12	8	20
Ed Kilroy	Rec Cycle	9	11	20
Glen Bince	Law Insurance	8	12	20
Vince Greco	Rec Cycle	9	11	20
Angelo Nasto	Masterclean	7	13	20
Tom Davies	Highland	1	19	20
Jerome Flanigan	Masterclean	9	10	19
Bruce Ing	Priestly	8	11	19
Dave Holden	Law Insurance	10	8	18
Kevin Brown	Highland	5	13	18
Dave Libari	Barrons	7	8	15
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	4	11	15
Larry Preston	FPL	4	11	15

Seniors' Column

Card games provide a chance to strengthen relationships, to make new ones and generally get to know people in a setting both friendly and competitive.

The atmosphere is always relaxed with regular participants and there are always some new friendly faces who are delighted to be present and participating.

The days are still shining brightly in the optimistic atmosphere of the new seniors centre, with new surroundings, new faces and everything seemingly possible and even probable.

Our salad days have become a fond memory; a frolic with friends has morphed to card games which, includes Bid Euchre, Bridge, Practice Bridge and Duplicate Bridge.

Duplicate Bridge is played every Monday afternoon from 12.30 p.m. until 4. p.m. under the direction of Lucille Sequeira, and is a game in which the objective is to play the same or similar hands successively by different partnerships.

Other card games are played under the direction of Robena Reed and take place the 2nd and 4th Fridays in the month from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. Bid Euchre instruction is offered on Mondays from 10 a.m. onwards and is given by an ASA member.

Practice Bridge is offered Fridays, 10 a.m. until noon.

Gambling is strictly prohibited in the centre; however, for those who have developed an interest in poker from watching televised poker games, we have obtained a poker table and equipment.

Card games have a simple but robust constitution, proven by players through hundreds of years of competition; bringing together old and new friends and attracting monarchy and the powerful and wealthy and also those of modest means.

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Catherine house centre of controversy

From page 1

Tuesday night.

At the meeting, Community Planner Michael Seaman made a detailed presentation of the proposal.

He noted that in surveys taken, 73 per cent of the residents within the area supported a heritage district while only two per cent were opposed.

He outlined the history of the property at 34 Catherine and showed a series of pictures of the house as is and drawings to indicate how the house would be changed with the proposed addition.

Sharon Carras, a resident of Aurora and an employee of the new owner, said the new owners followed the rules of the bylaw.

Several residents appeared as delegates to oppose the proposal and support the Heritage Committee recommendation.

A letter was received from Leslie Oliver who wrote that he was appalled and embarrassed by the committee recommendation.

He expressed his opposition to the heritage district plan and was critical of council for their actions in designating a home without the owner's permission.

The final delegation was a solicitor representing the owners, who spoke about the process and how they were told what they could and could not do.

On the closing date, he

said, they learned of the staff report.

The solicitor pointed out that the purpose of the Act was not to allow a few to do an end run around the zoning bylaw.

Ms Harding said the family had lived in Aurora for 10 years and with two children needed a larger home.

They made an offer on the Catherine property and worked with town planning staff,

Council discussion was long and heated.

Councillor Evelyn Buck led off the debate with a spirited defence of the owner's proposal, pointing out that the citizens of the area weren't aware a freeze was being placed on their property for a 12-month

period that would occur with the adoption of the heritage district bylaw.

They had no opportunity to react, she said.

She quoted extensively from the Oliver letter and pointed out that the buyers had purchased the property in good faith, spent hundreds of thousands of dollars and worked with town staff on their plans for the house.

Councillor Nigel Kean accused Councillor Buck of fear-mongering and noted that the Oliver letter was only one person's opinion and that he had divided his property in the heritage district to build another home.

As a member of the Heritage Advisory Committee, Kean said com-

mittee members had agreed on a course of action.

Other members of council argued there were two issues; the property on Catherine and the Heritage District and they should be treated separately.

It was also suggested the issue be deferred for two weeks to let other citizens become aware of the proposed action by council.


In response to a question, staff advised that without the adoption of the report signifying council's intention to designate the Catherine Avenue property, they would be required to issue a building permit if requested.

Councillor Ron Wallace stressed the need to make a decision and referred to the

demolition of the 100-year-old Fleury Works chimney, the homes on Kennedy Street, Doan Hall and the double house on Church Street because council hadn't used the tools to stop the demolitions.

After more than three hours of presentations and debate the committee report to designate 34 Catherine Avenue and to enact the bylaw imposing a six-month freeze, reduced from 12 months, on properties in the Heritage District was adopted on a 4-3 vote with Councillors Buck, John West and Bill Hogg in opposition.

Councillors Phyllis Morris and Damir Vrancic were absent from the meeting.



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House League

Tyke



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Tyke

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Ben McConnell 1G, Ryan Taylor 1G, Zachary Toulouse-Sauve 1A.

Midget

1008 ASA Alloys Midget HL 6

Jon Alexsich 1G 2A, Iznaur Atiev 1A, Sean Brennan 1A, Robert Danis 1G, James Seymore 1G 2A, John Stinson 1G 1A, Nathan Taylor 2G, Brendan McDermott 1A.

1011 4

Select

Pickering - Red 5

Aurora Tigers Tyke Select 1 - Colin Kostin 1A, Patrick Servideo 1G, Robert Thomas 1A.

Pickering - Red 7

Aurora Tigers Tyke Select 4 - Michael Da Costa 1A, Colin Kostin 1G, Matthew MacDonald 1A, Cole Thiessen 3G, Robert Thomas 3A.

Rep Games

Aurora Tigers Novice AA 5

Graydon Gardner 1A, Nicholas Baxter 1G 1A, Matthew Caicco 2G, Graeme McDonald 1A, Austin Riswick 1G, Jesse Wiemer 1G.

Georgina 4

Aurora Tigers Novice AA 3

Jake Appleby 1A, Nicholas Baxter 1G, Braeden Kublick 1A, Nicholas Papousek 1A, Jesse Wiemer 2G.

Georgina 2

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AA 7

Cody Child 2A, Sean Foxwell 2G 1A, Liam Coll 1A, Konner McMillan 1A, Kyle Locke 1A, Jerryd Jensen 1G 1A, Branden Fennell 1G 2A, John MacDonald 1A, Austin Lane 1G 1A, Spencer Green 1G, Quentin Campbell 1G, Jack Caldwell 2A.

Richmond Hill 1

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 5

Paul Neophytou 2G, Parker Baile 1G, Austin Persaud 1A, Logan Blaser 1G, Evan Jackson 1G, Scott Kostin 1A, Ian Dunlop 1A, Brett Thiessen 2A.

Orillia 1

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE 3

Liam Beresford 2G, Eric Middleton 1A, Alex Perez 2A, Graham Robinson 1A, Harrison Smith 1A, Blake Wallace 1A, Nathan Nealon 1G.

Georgina 1

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE 1

Josh Bell 1A, Shannon Murray 1A, Nathan Nealon 1G.

Stouffville 0

Aurora Tigers Atom AA 2

Markham 2

Markham 1

Aurora Tigers Atom AA 0

Aurora Tigers Atom A 2

Hayden Trask 1G 1A, Stefan Lazzer 1G 1A, Kiefer McIntosh 2A.

East Gwillimbury 1

Aurora Tigers Atom A 4

Evan Romano 1A,

Hayden Trask 2A, Graeme Allison 1A, Quincy Ing 1G, Daniel Fiori 1A, Peter Sandwell 1A, Stefan Lazzer 1A, Kiefer McIntosh 2G, Daniel Jones 1A, Eric Damecour 1G. Shutout: Taylor Coveart.

East Gwillimbury 0

Aurora Tigers Atom AE 2

Sammy Steenhorst 1A, Jimmy Brookes 2A, Jack Straw 2G.

Reline Auto Redmen 1

Colin Chappell 1G, Jonathan Andrews 1A.

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AA 5

Reid Sisson 1G, Tanner Thiessen 1A, Cooper Riswick 1G, Jonathan Knowles 1A, Andrew Papousek 2G, Mitchell Harris 1A, Taylor Butler 1G.

Richmond Hill 3

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AA 4

Matthew Roy 1G, Cooper Riswick 1A, Andrew Papousek 1A, Ethan Benson 1G, Brian Puskar 1G, Taylor Butler 1G 1A.

Markham 1

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AA 2

Matthew Roy 1G, Cooper Riswick 1G, Jonathan Knowles 1A, Andrew Papousek 1A.

Markham 1

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AE 5

Lucas Leslie 1G, Graham Loney 1A, Jason Lockhart 1A, Jesse Bentolila 1G 1A, Dylan Hussey 1G, Anthony Selski 2G, Evan Collict 2A, Dylan Woyslaw 2A, Brett Wilson 2A, Justin Manweiler 1A.

Duff's Tires 2

Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee AE 6

Cooper Catt 2A, Lucas Leslie 1G, Dylan Hussey 1G, Anthony Selski 1G 1A, Kevin Lukezic 2A, Dylan Woyslaw 3G, Brett Wilson 2A, Ty Brochu 2A.

Duff's Tires 3

Aurora Tigers Peewee AE 4

Brett Allen 1G 1A, Matthew Bishop 1A, Spencer George 2A, Sean Halley 1G, Tyler Jensen 1A, Nicholas Silverio 1A, Mark Tanel 1A, Brandon Thompson 1A, Michael Di Vincenzo 2G.

Barrie 1

Aurora Tigers Peewee AE 4

Brett Allen 1A, Matthew Bishop 1A, Sean Halley 1G, Daniel Howie 1G 1A, Tyler Jensen 1G, Brendan Strachan 1G, Brandon Thompson 1A, Michael Di Vincenzo 1A.

Barrie 3

Aurora Tigers Peewee AE 3

Brett Allen 1G, Tyler Jensen 1G, Adam Reid 1A, Michael Di Vincenzo 1G.

Barrie 1

Bradford 4

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam A 1 - Aaron Beally 1G, Dillon Cappell 1A.

Bradford 5

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam A 3 - Evan Jones 1A, Ryan Jones 1A, Aaron Beally 1G, Darcy Eveleigh 1G, Max Lerner 1A, Michael McGolrick 1G, Dillon Cappell 2A.

Bradford 2

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam A 1 - Evan Jones 1A, Spencer Arkell 1G.

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE 3

Redmen 2

Redmen 3

Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AE 1

Universal Studios Canada Inc. Redmen 4

Aurora Tigers Bantam AA 1

Aurora Tigers Bantam AA 2

Universal Studios Canada Inc. Redmen 2

Richmond Hill 8

Aurora Tigers Bantam A 5

Aurora Tigers Bantam A 6

Richmond Hill 1

Aurora Tigers Bantam A 6

David Bar 1A, Culp Alex 1A, Ryan Finlay 2G, David Iwai 1G, Andrew McDonald 1A, Ben Mulholland 3A, Conor McQuestion 3G 1A.

Richmond Hill 1

Barrie 4

Aurora Tigers Bantam AE 1 - Brett Dutchyshen 1A, Andrew Mangialardi 1G.

Barrie 2

Aurora Tigers Bantam AE 1 - Chris Burns 1G, Matthew Hillar 1A, Andrew Mangialardi 1A.

Barrie 5

Aurora Tigers Bantam AE 2 - Adam Bloom 1A, Chris Burns 1A, Brett Dutchyshen 1G, Darrel Evans 1A, Michael Grande 1A, Andrew Mangialardi 1G.

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AA 2

Evergreen Lawn Sprinklers Inc. Redmen 1

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AA 3

Evergreen Lawn Sprinklers Inc. Redmen 0

Montreal Tournament 3

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget A 0

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget A 5

Robert Lee 1A, Travis Hooper 1G, Jake Hurlbut 1G, Jeremy Cohen 1G 2A, Spencer McCartney 2A, Greg Gianopoulos 1G 1A, Brendan Hamner 1G.

Markham 4

Markham 5

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget A 3 - Travis Hooper 1A, Patrick McMurray 1G, Jake Hurlbut 2G, Jeremy Cohen 1A.

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AE 7

Orillia 7

Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AE 5

Orillia 2

Ajax 8

Aurora Tigers Juvenile AA 3 - Chris Amato 2A, Matthew Cleverdon 1G, Michael Jack 1G 2A, Andrew Welch 1A, Mark Quagliarini 1G.

Richmond Hill 7

Aurora Tigers Juvenile AA 3 - Matthew Cleverdon 1A, Michael Jack 1G, James Seaward 1G, Derek Smith 1A, Vincent Davenport 1A, Bobby Haralampopoulos 1A, Andrew Welch 1G, Mark Quagliarini 1A.

Things you should know about Aurora

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

What was the name of Aurora prior to its incorporation as a village in 1863?

It was Machell's Corners, named after Richard Machell, the hamlet's first merchant, who had a store at Yonge and Wellington Streets.

In addition to Machell Avenue, the park on the north side of Aurora Heights Drive was named Machell Memorial Park in his honour. The name was suggested in a school naming competition by 11-year-old Laurel De La Haye, a great-granddaughter of Machell.

What happened in Machell's Corners on May 16, 1853?

On that date the first steam engine chugged its way north from Toronto on the newly created Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railway for the two-hour trip to Machell's Corners, then the "Head of Rail" in Ontario.

History was made when the little steam engine "Toronto" pulled three passenger cars and one freight car on the first scheduled trip out of the city.

As the railway was used by farmers to ship their produce to Toronto, it became known as the "Oats, Straw and Hay" railroad.

When was Machell's Corners named Aurora?

Charles Doan, the first postmaster for the area, christened the hamlet Aurora on January 1, 1854, after the Roman Goddess of the Dawn to signify a new era for the hamlet with the coming of the railway.

The rising sun is included in the top half of the town's crest and the motto is "As the Sun is my Witness".

When did Aurora become a village and a town?

Aurora held its first village council meeting on January 19, 1863, and Postmaster Charles Doan was appointed reeve and Charles Yorke, clerk.

With a population of about 1,800 the village gained town status in January, 1888, with J. R. Rutherford as the first mayor and S. H. Lundy as clerk.

Who is Aurora's best-known hometown boy?

The late Rt. Honourable Lester B. Pearson, former Prime Minister of Canada, lived and attended school in Aurora as a boy when his father was minister at the Aurora Methodist Church.

At the old Church Street School, Lester was known as "smarty-pants" because he knew the Roman numerals.

What politician made a speech in Aurora which later became known as the "Aurora Speech"?

Edward Blake, lawyer and politician, said the future of Canada "depends very largely upon the cultivation of a national spirit" on October 3, 1873, in a speech which he delivered in the Aurora Drill Hall or Armouries.

Name the industry that made Aurora known in the agricultural world?

The Fleury Foundry was founded in Aurora in 1859 and continued until 1941 in a building on Wellington Street West, now occupied by Bacon Basketware.

The foundry produced farm equipment including the Fleury Plow, which was shipped to farmers all over Canada and the United States.

The plow was so important to the town's economy it was included in the town crest.

A Fleury Plow is mounted at the entrance to Fleury Park on the south side of Aurora Heights Drive.

Name a military ceremony that started in 1878?

The "Returning of the Colours" by the York Rangers, now the Queen's York Rangers, was started when the Rangers were in camp in Aurora in 1878.

The Warden of York County presented a set of colours to the Regiment as a token of appreciation.

From then on at every inaugural of County Council the Rangers returned the Colours as a symbol that the military is subservient to a civil authority. Then, at a later date, the warden and members of the council returned the colours to the Regiment.

In June, 1989, the Rangers returned the Colours to York Region for the last time officially ending its ceremonial connection with the County and the Region.

Over the years the Regiment evolved from its former artillery role to its current status as a reconnaissance regiment and as such there was no need for colours to be carried into battle.

When was the Freedom of Aurora given to the Queen's York Rangers?

In 1866, the Village of Aurora presented the Volunteer Rangers with a Ceremonial Bugle for their services in the protection of Canada.

The bugle is currently in the Regimental Museum in Toronto.

One hundred years later in February, 1966, the Town of Aurora presented a Ceremonial Sword to the Officer commanding the Aurora squadron located in the Aurora Armouries in recognition of 100 years of friendly relations between the Regiment and the Town.

At the same time Aurora granted the regiment the "Freedom of the Town", which gives the regiment the right to enter the town with bayonets fixed, colours flying and drums beating.

When was Aurora listed as one of Canada's richest communities?

In 1993, Statistics Canada released information on Canada's richest addresses and Aurora was in second place.

Based on 1991 taxpayer rolls, the postal code area of L4G 3G8 in Aurora had 140 residents earning more than \$100,000 per year or 17 per cent compared with Westmount, a suburb of Montreal with 18 per cent.



Ralph and Margarete Brunner, left, owners of Gallery 15516 on Leslie Street in Aurora, join with Chamber of Commerce officials Rozalyn Gonsolves and Mary Lynn Stephenson during an event last week to introduce new chamber members. Activity was held in the old seniors' centre on Victoria Street.

Photo by Rob Schuetze

Mom, 2 kids, murdered in Aurora

From page 1

has traumatized both police and residents of Aurora.

Dead are Wendy LaFleche, 41, her daughter Victoria, 7 and son Jesse, 3.

Victoria was a student at Wells Street Public School.

John LaFleche was arrested by police.

"These things happen," Mayor Tim Jones told The Auroran, "but we never expected it to happen here. It's very sad."

Police were notified by a phone call and made the discovery shortly before 7 a.m. Sunday.

A 16-year-old boy, son of Ms LaFleche through another relationship, survived the attack and it is believed he was responsible for having the police notified.

Police constable Laurie Perks said information from an unidentified caller led police to the Yonge Street home.

When they arrived, police found the front door open and children's toys scattered on the floor inside.

A portion of Yonge was closed for most of the day while police continued the investigation. Monday, the street was open to single-lane traffic only.

Nearby resident Steve Mills said a police officer approached his home early Sunday and "he was visibly shaken although, at the time, I didn't know what was going on."

Other neighbours expressed shock and surprise that a triple murder could take place in Aurora.

Police are still seeking help with the case and ask



that anyone who can add information should call the Homicide Bureau at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7865, by e-mail at homicide@police.york.on.ca, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS, or leave an anonymous tip online at www.crimestoppersyr.ca.

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

A dream that came true

In July, 1980, a dash of women's liberation, a sprinkle of concern and a large helping of experience gave Lila Penttinen the ingredients to make her dream come true.

For more than 20 years she wanted to open a health food store and finally decided it was now or never as she opened Aurora's newest health food store, Nature's Paradise at 220 Yonge Street South.

A former cosmetician, she was fully convinced of the merit of health foods which gave her the impetus to open the health food store.

Nature's Paradise carried a complete line of natural foods, including every conceivable type of grain, natural honey, peanut butter, teas, breads, nuts, fruits and soft drinks.

The store also carried a full line of natural Finnish and Scandinavian products including rye and crisp bread and cheeses, but, after moving and spending several years in the Aurora Shopping Centre, where is Nature's Paradise today?

UNIVERSAL DATING SYSTEM

In January, 2005, the Canadian Payments Association, a central clearing house for the country's financial institutions, said it wanted to start processing cheques electronically.

But for the cheques to be scanned, the dates would have to be written in numbers alone, not a mix of both letters and numbers.

It sounds simple, but the use of just numbers to signify dates is a mixed bag as there doesn't appear to be a standard method of writing dates by numbers.

Just consider 01/02/03.

That could mean February 1, 2003, or January 2, 2003 or even March 2, 2001, or something completely different.

The payment people have come up with two options, the day, month and year or the month, day and year, depending on the style you picked when you ordered your cheques.

In the United States and increasingly in Canada the preferred method is month/day/year, while in Europe it is day/month/year.

The Canadian Payment Association wants the change-over to take place by December 31, 2006, that's 12-31-06 or 31-12-06.

THE PLAY FACTORY

Child care always seems to be a controversial issue whether it's at the national or local level, as Aurora Council found out in November, 1985.

Jean Lawson opened a private nursery school at her Moffat Crescent home. She was fully qualified in early childhood education.

She had hoped to operate a larger nursery school but the necessary rezoning was rejected by council because of widespread opposition from other neighbours in the area.

Neighbours expressed concerns about increased traffic on a quiet residential street, the noise from the children and the effect the business would have on property values.

Lawson pointed out the town allows private home day care up to five children, but she felt she could offer a more effective program with more children because of the increased interaction

Nora McRoberts

Resident active in community

From page 1
United Church.

In his talk about his mother, Bob McRoberts, a long-time teacher at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, said one of her highlights was spending summers in Lanark, the birthplace of Nora's father.

"Both Nora and her big sister Ruth attended the Aurora High School, the original one, as my mom would say," Bob said. "When Joe and I were each growing up, mom and dad would attend all of our 'things' - music nights, track meets, basketball games, graduations."

Nora was the family historian, spending many hours in front of her computer mapping out the family tree and writing anecdotes of many relatives.

Nora belonged to the Aurora United Church,

started singing in the Senior Choir at age 16 and remained an active member of the choir for the next 57 years.

By 1987 she had been a member of the United Church choir for more than 40 years and a member of the women's group for 25 years.

She was also a very active member of the Canadian Cancer Society and received a gold pin for 25 years of service to the society as a canvasser,

between the children.

She noted that the real estate agent had advised her there would be no effect on property values as long as there was no sign advertising the business and no use of the rear yard as a play area.

After listening to all the presentations, council rejected the rezoning request, but permitted Lawson to continue to operate a private home nursery school for up to five children, and nothing much was heard after that about the Play Factory.

THE SHOPPING EXPRESS

By 2002, shopping on the Internet had become popular as customers sat at home and surfed the net for the best bargains, but sometimes there was a wait for the products to arrive and for someone to be home to receive them.

But back in October, 1998, before internet shopping became so popular, a grocery shopping service was available in the Aurora area as Mary Bartells Collins established Grocery Express.

It was a home grocery delivery service designed to make shopping easier, especially for seniors, the disabled and people who hated grocery shopping.

Shopping was done at the customer's favourite store and delivered to the customer's home.

In addition, Grocery Express made other stops for the customer's convenience, such as pick-up and delivery of dry cleaning, prescription drugs and health food items.

The Grocery Express was a blessing for seniors and the handicapped and the delivery truck was a familiar sight on Aurora Streets for a few years but hasn't been seen for some time.

What happened?

BIKE RIDING FOR CHARITY

Aurora's 66-year-old Dennis Paskin, a devoted cyclist, rode 200 miles without leaving Hillcrest Mall. With a strong sense of balance, he used a roller system for his October, 1984, journey to raise funds for the Aurora Lions Club Canine Vision Canada program.

COURTS AND THE GOVERNMENT

Much has been written recently about federal politicians abdicating their legislative powers to the Supreme Court of Canada.

It was quite different in Ontario in July, 1998, when municipalities were told to ignore a Judge's ruling.

Bill 160, the Ontario Education Quality Improvement Act, shifted the taxing powers of school boards as part of the provincial Who Does What restructuring program.

Mr. Justice Cumming ruled the province could not take away the taxing authority of the Separate School Boards as the right to tax was guaranteed by the 1867 Constitution Act.

However municipalities were told by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario that the Education Minister had stated it was business as usual as the province planned to appeal and ask the Judge to suspend his decision pending the appeal.

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