

**40 Engelhard Dr., Aurora**

## COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

### CONTINUING

To April 15 the Wellington Gallery on Wellington Street West at Machell Avenue presents the artworks of Diana Judith and Biro-Currie in an exhibition entitled "Licked" Finish. Call the gallery at 905-751-0066 for further information.

\*\*\*\*

"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 date: Tuesday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m. 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 29

Public planning meeting in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.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 1

Aurora Skating Club's bi-annual ice show "A Night Of Young Stars" at Aurora Community Centre Rink 1, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$5 for children and seniors. For further information,

call 905-713-1442.

\*\*\*\*

Assemble wild bird nest boxes at the old seniors' centre, 52 Victoria Street, from 2 to 4 p.m.

\*\*\*\*

Square and Round Dancing at the seniors' centre from 7:30 to 11 p.m. with Caller Bill Hands. Fee is \$5 for members and \$6 for non-members.

### APRIL 4

General Committee meeting in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

### APRIL 5

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with Aurora Cable Internet, presents "Creating A Basic Web Page", in the Magna Room, beginning at 7 p.m. Register online, at the adult information desk or phone 905-727-9493, Option 4

### APRIL 8, 9 & 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.

\*\*\*\*

Bid euchre tournament, sponsored by the Seniors' Club, at Aurora Legion, begins at 1 p.m. \$5 a person.

\*\*\*\*

Mixed dart tournament at Aurora Legion. Registration 10 a.m. For further information, call 905-727-9932.

### APRIL 11

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast at Thompson's Funeral Home, 530 Industrial Parkway South, beginning at 7:30 a.m.

\*\*\*\*

Deadline for Community Recognition Award Submissions. For more information, call 905-726-4762 or visit e-aurora.ca.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora Council meets in the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

### APRIL 12

Aurora Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting at King's Riding Golf Club, 14700 Bathurst Street. Guest speaker is artist Edward Spera.

### APRIL 15

Fund-raising dance and silent auction for Devon Brisbane at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, 5 Municipal Drive, beginning at 7 p.m. Host is Elvis impersonator Randy Skelcher. Tickets, at \$20, available at R & R Revisited, 75 Mary Street, Unit 3.

\*\*\*\*

Fifth Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Two hunts planned: 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Cost is \$4 per person. For more information call 905-726-4762 or visit e-aurora.ca.

\*\*\*\*

Students needing community service volunteer hours to graduate from high school are invited to participate in Parks Spring Clean-Up Days from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre. Also May 6 and June 10. Call 905-726-4760 for further information.

### APRIL 18

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with York Region Health Services, presents "Falls Prevention", for seniors and caregivers. No charge. 1 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

### 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 20

The last in a series of Speaker Series sponsored by the Aurora Youth Soccer Club from 7 to 9 p.m. at the soccer club. The subject is "Coaching 101 - Got Coaching Questions - We have the answers". No charge for AYSC members and \$10 for non-members. Call 905-727-0624 for more information.

### APRIL 21-23

Annual Home Show at the Aurora Community Centre celebrating the best of 20 years and featuring Fantasy Gardens, Fantasy Rooms, Money Machine and a Wine and Tea Garden in a Special Caf .

### APRIL 22

Aurora Public Library presents author Maureen Jennings, creator of the Inspector Murdoch mystery series. She will conduct a creative expression workshop beginning at 10 a.m. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, Option 4. Fee is \$30.

### APRIL 23

Park Place Manor hosts a pancake brunch in support of the Easter Seals Society of York Region, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### APRIL 24

Second interim property tax installment is due.

### APRIL 25

The last day for seniors, 55 and over, to register for the York Region Seniors' Games which will take place May 9 to June 14, including golf, tennis, snooker, bocce, darts, horseshoes, euchre, swimming and other related sports. Call the Seniors' Centre to register at 905-727-2861.

### APRIL 26

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

### APRIL 27

Learn more about making a garden more ecologically friendly at the Aurora Public Library from 7 to 9 p.m. You will learn how to plant for low water use, choose plants to attract birds and butterflies, home composting and seed planting from David Tomlinson.

\*\*\*\*

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at Jackryn France, Inc., 89 Wellington Street East beginning at 5:30 p.m.

### APRIL 29

Trinity Aurora presents an evening of Comedy and Canapes with Yuk Yuk's at the Queen Elizabeth Ballroom of Howard Johnson Aurora, plus a live and silent auction. Tickets are \$50 and if bought before April 1st will be entered in a draw to win two bottles of wine for your table.

\*\*\*\*

Mayor's Anti-Litter Day. For more information call 905-726-4741.

### MAY 6

First Aurora Rotary Club frog race in Tannery Creek between the Board of Education office and the Aurora Community Centre. Rent a frog for \$5 at the Aurora

Home Show or R & R Revisited.

\*\*\*\*

York Symphony Orchestra presents A Night At The Proms with guest artist Elke Eble-Streisslberger. 8 p.m., Trinity Anglican Church

### MAY 10-14

Aurora's Marquee Productions presents the musical "Cats" at the Newmarket Theatre. Call the theatre box office at 905-963-5122 for ticket information.

### MAY 13-16

Join the Aurora Seniors for a trip to Auberge Memphre Inn in Magog, Quebec. Trip includes three nights' accommodation, nine meals and snacks, entertainment, dancing, indoor pool. Call the seniors' centre at 905-727-2816 after April 3rd 905-726-4767.

### 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.

### MAY 19

Last day for the public to submit comments on PowerStream's draft "Conditions of Service" pertaining to its operating practices, connection policies and the types and levels of service. Copies of the draft document are available for viewing at the utility's Markham and Vaughan offices, but not Aurora.

### MAY 27

Bike and Board Rodeo at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., free of charge for all skateboarders and bike enthusiasts. For more information contact 905-726-4762 or visit e-aurora.ca.

### MAY 29

Aurora Historical Society fundraising golf tournament at Aurora's Westview Golf Club. The noon hour shotgun event is limited to 96 golfers to play two of the club's three-nine-hole courses for \$150 each including dinner at Dinardo's Mansion.

### JUNE 4

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

### JUNE 7

Civic Appreciation Awards in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7:30 p.m.

### 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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# A World of Films comes to Aurora

By **CHRISTINE WOODLEY**

Aurora film buffs can stay in town and enjoy films featured at the Toronto International Film Festival, thanks to a new initiative by the Aurora Film Circuit, a volunteer initiative in support of the Aurora Public Library.

The Film Circuit, a division of the famous Festival, currently serves 176 communities across Canada.

Now, Aurora will be added to that list.

AFC Chair Jane Taylor is excited about the concept.

"Aurorans get to see top notch films, the type we'd normally have to travel far afield to enjoy. We will run one film a month (Mondays), between September and May," she said. "We've been putting this together ever since the new Cineplex Odeon opened in town, making local screenings possible. Proceeds from the initiative will directly benefit special programs at the Aurora Public Library."

To kick off, the group will be showing "Eve & The Firehorse" at the new Bayview theatre Monday, April 10.

Doors open at 6.30 p.m. and the film will begin at 7 p.m., after a short welcome and door prize drawing.

Tickets, at \$10, are available at R & R Revisited, 75 Mary Street and at the Aurora Public

Library. As well, a limited number of tickets will be available at the door the night of the film.

The Aurora Cineplex Odeon Theatre is located at 15460 Bayview Ave., north of Wellington, near Zellers.

"Eve & The Firehorse" is an independent Canadian film that has garnered some big buzz.

It won a Special Jury Prize at this year's Sundance Film Festival, took Best Canadian First Film at the 2005 Calgary International Film Festival and appeared at the 2005 Toronto International Film Festival.

It explores spiritualism,

family relationships and imagination through the story of Eve, a young Chinese-Canadian girl growing up in Vancouver during the 1970s.

The next film is "Merry Christmas" ("Joyeux Noel") to be screened May 8th.

The film, a French-German-UK collaboration, dramatizes the WWI Christmas cease-fire of 1914 and explores the universal theme of hope and goodwill during times of global conflict.

Interested volunteers can contact Jane Taylor at [afc@library.aurora.on.ca](mailto:afc@library.aurora.on.ca), or visit the link on the Aurora Public Library's website.



Even for Aurora's mayor Tim Jones, this fraktal was a little oversized, but he went after it anyway during the official opening of "Fraktals", on Furbacher Lane last week. Looking on is owner Ingrid Kulbach. A fraktal is chocolate cashew buttercrunch.

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*

## Low bidder wants a second chance

A threat of a possible lawsuit was issued by the solicitor for Eddie Sardo, President of Direct Underground, after that company's low bid for an Aurora project was rejected in favour of a higher one last week.

The contract was for the reconstruction of Fairway Drive, Glenview Drive, Eldon Crescent and Devlin Place.

Originally, it had been planned to carry out the work in 2005 but during the design of the project residents of Fairway sought traffic calming measures resulting in the project being delayed until this year.

Tenders were called and 13 firms responded with Direct Underground the low bidder at \$792,423.40 ranging to a high bid of \$1,235,397.58.

With respect to the low bid, staff advised that Direct Underground had carried out previous projects for the town, and the company's performance on the two most recent projects was of concern.

The Public Works department noted the time taken to complete projects and the fact that there are outstanding items remaining on all of the streets that should have been finalized before the end of the 2005 construction year.

In a report town staff included a number of letters that were sent to the contractor complaining of unfinished work.

Letters were sent in 2004 regarding completion of reconstruction work on Banff Drive and St. Andrew's Court and later concerning reconstruction of Bell Drive, Hammond Drive and George Street.

As a result staff recommended the job be awarded to the second low bidder, Miwell Construction at its tendered price of \$878,239.43 for the mid-town reconstruction.

The solicitor from Direct Underground asked Aurora's general committee not to proceed with the staff recommendation as it was \$86,000 higher and Direct had not been precluded from bidding.

He said the company wanted to be treated fairly on a level playing field and the company hadn't bid on other contracts knowing they were the low bidder for this one.

He said a letter had been distributed to committee members outlining his client's case. Copies of the letter were not available for the media.

Councillor Damir Vrancic noted there was a threat of a lawsuit in the

letter and suggested the issue be referred to the town's solicitor and dealt with in private. The committee agreed.

As part of the 2006 capital budget, council approved the funding for the reconstruction of Hill Drive. Nine tenders were received with Miwell Construction the low bidder with a price of \$1,229,000.

The committee endorsed the staff recommendation which favoured Miwell.

Also awarded at the same meeting was the contract for the maintenance, flushing and closed circuit television inspection of the sanitary and storm sewers to D. M. Robichaud Associates with a low bid of \$108,100.

Sewers are cleaned to ensure trouble free operation to minimize any potential back-ups or environmental spills.

They are inspected to provide a visual library of current structural condition as part of the input for a replacement or rehabilitation program.



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## Poor Richard

# It was simpler collecting waste way back when

*We live in a world of garbage,  
What to do with all the waste?  
It's time to do more recycling,  
And to do so with all haste!*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

During 2005 Aurora residents generated a total of 18,910 tonnes of waste of which 12,800 tonnes went to landfill in Michigan or Southwestern Ontario.

The Blue Box recycling program collected 4,320 tonnes, yard waste 1,600 tonnes, 100 tonnes of hazardous waste, plus scrap metal, tires and electronic waste for a total diversion rate of 32 per cent with a regional average of 34 per cent.

In 2000, Aurora had a diversion rate of 23 per cent.

Newmarket achieved a diversion rate of 38 per cent and East Gwillimbury 36 percent.

Vaughan was low with 20 per cent.

Markham is the only municipality in the region using the three-stream collection as a pilot project and achieved a diversion rate of 52 per cent.

With the closing of Aurora landfill site on Bayview Avenue in 1984, it became necessary to ship garbage to Keele Valley landfill and to stress diversion through recycling.

It was in 1978 when the Ministry of the Environment announced a Divide and Conquer program to reclaim reusable resources through recycling and Aurora was one of the municipalities selected for a pilot project to discover the most effective methods of recycling.

Depots for the collection of newspapers, cans and glass were placed in four locations around the town for a six-month trial period.

The cost was estimated at \$25,000 which was shared by the Ministry.

In the first two weeks, more than two tonnes of paper, a ton of glass and a half-tonne of tin cans had been collected.

At that time any net revenue from the sale of the salvaged materials stayed with the town.

Aurora's Divide and Conquer program cut into the fundraising efforts of local Boy Scouts, who had been collecting newspapers, resulting in the town purchasing the stock of old newspapers they had collected.

By December, 1981, the bottom had dropped out of the newspaper recycling market and Aurora decided to cut its losses and get out of the program.

In 1985 the province and the soft drink industry introduced the Blue Box program as a partnership with the municipalities.

By law, every municipality in Ontario with a population more than 5,000 was required to operate the program.

By December, 1986, Aurora discontinued the collection of newspapers due to falling paper prices and lack of citizen participation.

Aurora introduced a residential composting program in 1990 with Public Works selling home compost units to residents at a cost of \$50 with residents paying \$25 with the Ministry of the Environment picking up the balance.

The struggle to divert more and more waste from landfill has been ongoing over the years.

At one time there was some incentive to recycle as municipalities received a share of the sale of recycled products, but today recycling appears to be a losing proposition.

It used to be so simple.

When I was a kid in York Township, the old junk man made a weekly visit to pick up reclaimable waste.

Like many kids, I earned my spending money gathering junk for the junk man.

It was a learning experience to do business with the junkman as he treated the kids as businessmen.

There was always a little haggling as to the final price, but generally the kids went away happy.

Prices were pretty well established.

Pint beer bottles were worth a cent each with quart bottles at two cents.

Scrap iron and other metals were carefully weighed as was paper and other materials.

An enterprising kid could pick up fifty or sixty cents a week from the junkman, big money in those days.

Of course, we could all be our own junk man and sort our garbage three ways as the residents of Markham are doing.

The green bin collection was scheduled for Aurora in September, 2005, but that was postponed to September, 2006, and now 2007.

Wouldn't it be much simpler to go back to the days of the junk man, but where you find kids today to pick up waste for 50 or 60 cents a week?



That 1942 Ford fire truck that appeared on these pages back in February has a new life. Aurora's only pumper truck at the time is currently being restored by members of the Toronto Fire Department after it was acquired some time earlier by the North York Fire Department. Those restoring the vehicle say it may appear in Aurora parades in the future. One of the firefighters working on the restoration is Aurora's Peter Ross.

## Letters to the Editor

# Lots of good PR but hospital lacks care, this reader maintains

To the editor,

I'm writing in response to the letter from N. Crawley (Auroran, March 21).

I, unfortunately, can sympathize all too well with the experience this senior from our community was put through at Southlake Regional Health Centre.

The name may have changed along with a new mission statement since I last visited the emergency services of this facility more than 10 years ago, however it's unfortunate to hear that

the standard of care has not.

I, too, was put through an agonizing wait which I was prepared for; however, it was the lack of compassion and the complete absence of basic common courtesy from the health professionals on shift that particular day that shocked me and still disgusts me to this day.

My apologies to those staff members at SRHC who do provide wonderful and compassionate care. My message is really to Dan Carriere, President of

SRHC.

I can't help but notice all of the great PR, fund raising efforts and new programs you've championed since assuming the position and I congratulate you and the many partners and volunteers involved as well.

This is a fine legacy, but I believe you've failed on your promise of 10 years ago to also "evolve our services" as evident through the recent experience of N. Crawley.

I believe it's time to put a little more focus on the basics of care by providing excellence in the area of compassion and understanding in the front lines within your emergency services.

It's time to "Honour Your Commitments" and "Walk our Talk" as promised in your PR.

And on the positive side, it shouldn't impact your budget since compassion and understanding as we all know are intrinsic values which won't cost you any hard dollars just like a thank you doesn't in return for service excellence.

For myself and my family, health care comes down to Trust and Respect; and it can only be earned, which is why I'm glad we still have a choice and it's Markham Stouffville Hospital, a true "Community" focused health care centre that for us "Walks its Talk".

road.

The Roads and Transportation Department of York Region wrote back and indicated that these light poles belong to the Town of Aurora and that their staff have informed the Town of Aurora of the potential hazard on several occasions for the past five years.

As community residents, we are very concerned for the safety of the residents of Aurora.

We wonder if you can raise our concern for us, perhaps the town will do something about this.

Edwina Chan  
Aurora

J. MacDonald  
Aurora

## Leaning poles on Wellington

To the editor,

I am a resident of Aurora and noticed for a long time that there are two to three street lights along the south side on Wellington Street West between Yonge and Bathurst (closer to Yonge, near Murray and the high school) that are leaning towards the road.

They are not standing up straight and are almost at a 45-degree angle leaning toward Wellington. They look like they are going to fall and if they do, there is no doubt somebody is going to be hurt.

I have sent my concern to York Region thinking that Wellington is a regional

## AURORAN

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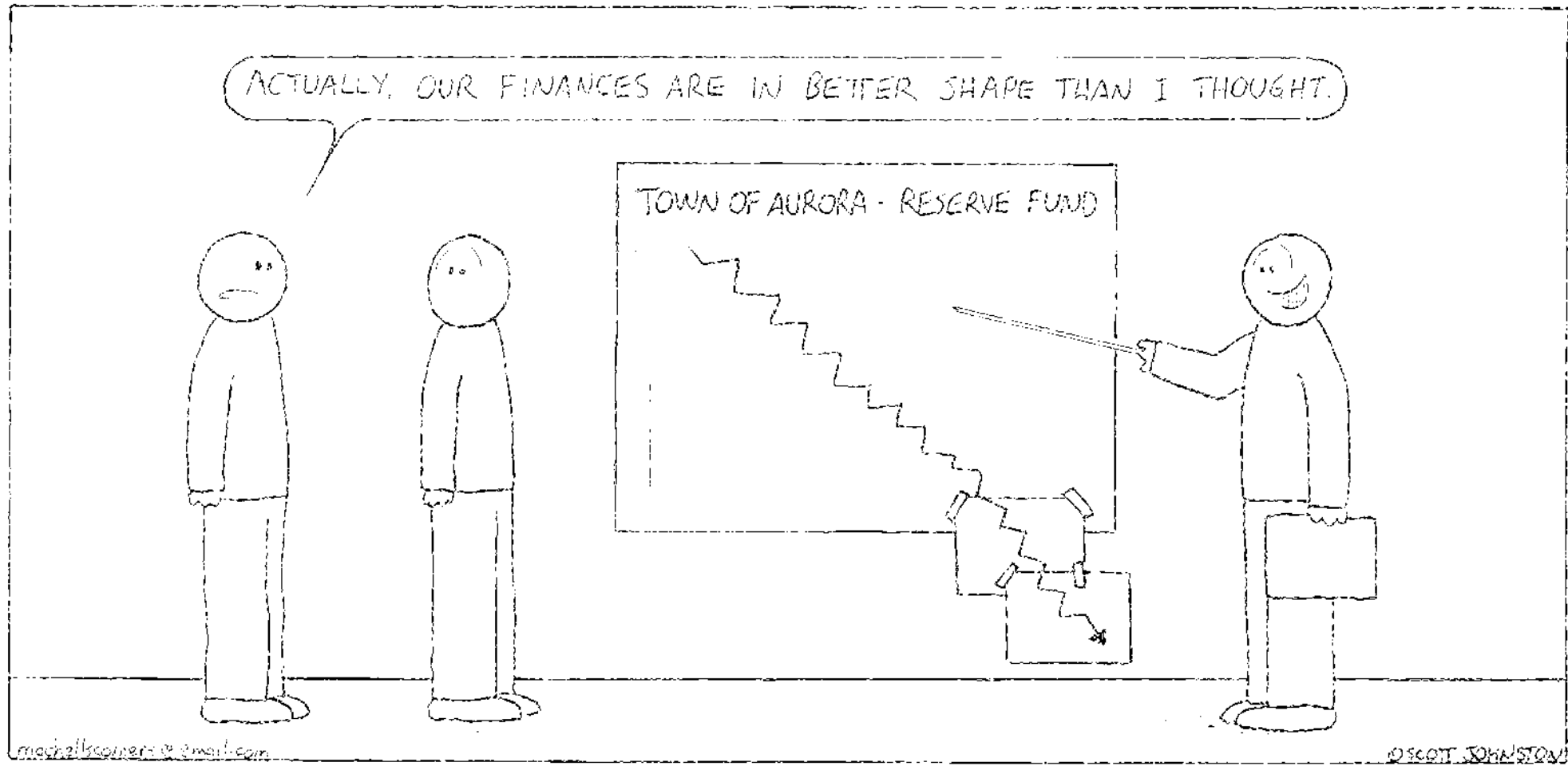
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## Mayor's Report

By Tim Jones

On Saturday, March 4th, the 'Aurora Spirit' fundraising campaign was officially launched with a "Taste of Aurora" kick off at the new Aurora Recreation Complex. For those who attended, there were tours of the facility, the introduction of the fundraising campaign and team members as well as the recognition of some special advance donations.

A big thank you to Reg and Carol Chappell, President and Chairperson of the "Aurora Spirit" fundraising committee, for organizing and launching this huge community fundraising drive and to all the volunteers who are associated with them and this event.

As well, a huge thank you to all the participating restaurants and food service providers.

Aurora is very fortunate to have such a choice of excellent food and beverage options.

I had the pleasure and honour of participating in this kick off and, similar to the successful effort accomplished by our seniors, I would encourage everyone to participate and to support this energetic and ambitious group of volunteers in achieving their goal - TWO MILLION dollars over the next five years!

There are numerous ways you can help.

If you wish to make a donation, there is a Wall of Honour which consists of five categories for individual donors who wish to contribute: \$100-Copper, \$200-Bronze, \$300-Silver, \$400-Gold or \$500-Platinum.

There are also Plaques of Distinction for donors who contribute \$2,000 or more: \$2,000-Copper, \$5,000-Bronze, \$10,000-Silver, \$20,000-Gold, and \$30,000-Platinum.

For those who wish to make a donation exceeding these amounts there will be a suitable recognition made.

At their meeting January 31st, Aurora Council endorsed the fundraising targets proposed for naming rights for various components of this facility.

If you have a business that would like to support this community amenity several opportunities to sponsor various pieces of the complex were made available.

A month later, council received information from the Aurora Spirit of the following sponsorship pledges received:

Swimming Pool - Ducks Swimming & Master Ducks, "The Duck Pond"; Slide and Splash pad - Carol & Reg Chappell, "Carol & Reg Chappell"; Training Pool - Backyard Pool & Spa; Swim Lane 1 Non-Bleacher - Nancy and Bryan Black; Swim Lane 2 - Todd Childerhose; Swim Lane 3 - Eric & Danielle Gordon; Swim Lane 4 - Janet and Andy Mitchell "Kirsten Mitchell"; Swim Lane 5 - Janet and Andy Mitchell, "Graham Mitchell"; Swim Lane 6 - Colin Simpkin; Male Aquatic Dressing Room - Joanne & Jim Talbot, "Mark Tewksbury Change Room"; Family Aquatic Dressing Room - Taina & Frank Sodonis; Female Aquatic Dressing Room - Pete & Susanne Biasutto, "Anne Ottenbrite Change Room"; Pool Observation Lounge - York Synchronized Swimming, "T.B.D"; Arena Dressing Room 1 - Skaters First with Lynn Hayzelden & Associates, "Skaters First".

These sponsorships totalled \$110,000, a good start.

## They're off!

If you or a business you are associated with might be interested any of the sponsorships as outlined in this column, a quick call to Reg Chappell could seal the deal 905-726-3825.

\*\*\*\*\*

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](mailto:tjones@e-aurora.ca)



## Cathy's Corner



## From the councillor's wife

So...you want to run for Aurora Council, huh? Let me tell you how it REALLY is...in the trenches, I mean.

When I was 18 years old, someone convinced me to widen the breadth of my knowledge and enrich my life by contributing my time, skills and experience to a Provincial election campaign.

Strange, I thought...I don't have the time, skills or experience...

I discovered you can make time, get skills, and if the experience doesn't kill you, it will expand your capacity to withstand sleep deprivation, starvation and inclement weather.

As a bonus, my spirit survived unprovoked attacks, barking, and bad breath, and occasionally I had to deal with bad dogs, too.

My feet out-survived multiple pairs of shoes, and I got a free pair of bunions out of the deal.

Sadly, my sanity did not survive.

I know this because, 20 years later, my husband was able to convince me to manage his election campaign.

Strange, I thought, in the perplexed confusion of déjà vu...I don't have the time, skills or experience...

Then, three years later, he talked me into a previously "vued" déjà vu.

In other words, I've been through three election campaigns so I know everything! Listen up.

First, you need some signs. And don't let anybody kid you: size matters.

You need BIG signs for big places and SMALL signs for small places. And it's a really good idea to make friends with the people who own the properties that you pound those signs into...or you might run short a few signs.

And another thing that upsets people is: flying signs.

So you need stakes, fasteners, a sledge hammer - and big biceps!

If you have friends, you might be able to get the sledge hammer, the stapler, and the biceps for free, but the stakes are high! As in: expensive.

Partly because wood is at a premium these days, but mostly because wood breaks when kicked.

And make no mistake: There are too many teenagers in

Aurora enrolled in karate lessons for them not to get kicked!

Then there's the brochure.

Your brochure can cause you to sweat profusely, develop a hair-tearing fetish, and spell out four-letter words to civilized, professional people who have quoting capabilities. Yes, it really is THAT expensive.

Nonetheless, you will put your heart, soul, and line of credit into creating it, printing it and mailing it.

Then, you will learn that 90 per cent of voters chuck it without even a look-see.

"The best argument against democracy," said Winston Churchill, "is a five-minute conversation with the average voter."

You will have such conversations.

Most will be at night, in the rain, on an empty stomach. You will go home exhausted, chilled, soaked, and hungry. And shoeless.

You will have your moments of doubt and fear.

Most of them will come when you realize that you still have to knock on 18,643 doors, and your knuckles are already bleeding.

If you don't get elected, you will cry...but at least you'll have biceps almost as big as your bunions.

Then, when you watch your first council meeting on Aurora Cable, you will laugh.

If you do get elected, you will laugh.

But don't worry, if a few council meetings don't wipe the smile off your face, you can look forward to irate phone calls, scathing letters to the editor, and reporters who print comments that you supposedly made at meetings you did not attend.

Be assured, you will cry.

And if you factor in that the Province wants to increase the term of council from three years to four, you will cry harder.

And so will your spouse, your children, and your mother ...

So...you still want to run for Aurora Council?

Cathy Vrancic welcomes e-mail at: [laughingmatters@aci.on.ca](mailto:laughingmatters@aci.on.ca)

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

**BOUQUETS** to the 15 students at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School for breaking ground by bidding to become the first non-university team to participate in the Formula SAE mechanical engineering competition to be held in May at the Ford Proving Grounds in Michigan.

**BRICKBATS** to Councillor Evelyn Buck for her recent letter to The Auroran following a debate in council, in which she was on the losing side. She should re-read her copy of the Code of Ethics which clearly states that there is to be respect for the decision-making processes of council, even if members disagree with a majority decision of council.

**BOUQUETS** to Omid Salari, the 2005 Ambassador of the Aurora Horse Show and Fair, who at the recent annual convention of the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies was chosen to receive the "Most Congenial Ambassador Award" by a vote from all the fair ambassadors representing about 200 societies in Ontario.

**BRICKBATS** to the "Entitled to my Entitlement" philosophy that is still prevalent in Ottawa. An internal audit reveals that federal justice department employees played fast and loose with travel and hospitality rules and cost taxpayers a bundle. Where are the promised control measures?

**BOUQUETS** to CBC TV for the excellent mini-series on the Tommy Douglas Story "The Prairie Giant" and to Michel Theriault and Kristin Booth who played Tommy and Mrs. Douglas. It was well done and a credit to the CBC.

**BRICKBATS** to those in Ottawa who stuck Canadian taxpayers with a \$70 million bill for the Gomery Inquiry including \$1.3 million in legal fees for Jean Chretien and his two aides, Jean Pelletier and Jean Carle, \$700,000 for Alfonso Gagliano, a total of \$3.89 million for the three commission counsel and \$4.1 million for 27 other lawyers. Who paid for Chretien's golf balls?

**BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AA hockey club on advancing to the Ontario Minor Hockey Association finals after defeating the Richmond Hill Stars, the Newmarket Redmen and the Pickering Panthers.

**BRICKBATS** to those in the Ontario government for failing to fully enforce the recommendations of two exhaustive coroner's inquests in the past decade regarding deaths resulting from domestic disputes. About 30 women die every year in Ontario at the hands of their partners as Aurora recently experienced.

**BOUQUETS** to Scott Johnston for his cartoon depicting the on-going debate on the controversial Library Square redevelopment project, which appeared in The Auroran. He was able to capture in pictures what words could never describe.

**BRICKBATS** to Premier Dalton McGuinty and the Liberal government for failing to take immediate action to legislate the 9,100 college teachers back to work as too many students have too much at stake. Extending the term is not the answer as students have summer jobs lined up to pay their fees, plus the increase imposed by the government.

**BOUQUETS** to Aurora's Elvis impersonator, Randy Skelcher, for organizing a Las Vegas Revue on April 15th to raise funds for the 16-year-old lone survivor of the recent brutal triple murder in Aurora. Also to the Aurora Rotary Club for setting up an account at the T-D Bank to help the youth.

**BRICKBATS** to PowerStream for not making its draft "Conditions of Service" available at its Aurora office, as it did for its Markham and Vaughan offices. The Conditions of Service pertains to its operating practices, connections policy and the types and level of service and public comment is invited until May 19th.

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Letters to the Editor

# Nothing new about game to this reader

To the editor,

Thanks for the pickle ball alert. (Auroran, Senior Scape, March 21) I am flattered you thought to stroke my fragile ego by throwing me into a time-warp and thinking, just for a moment, that pickle ball is a newly-minted sport. It was a fresh sport when I was, well, not yet grown into my front teeth or attitude. I listed a URL for the official rules of Pickle Ball (I had my pick of

websites, really, but this one uses normal fonts in legible colours), which I hope does not get edited out. There is also the easier-to-remember <http://www.usapa.org> - the official United States of America Pickleball Association homepage. You will need Adobe Reader to peruse the official rules, however. It's actually not an indoor sport. At least, not on the US west coast where snow is an "altitude thing". When

I would visit my grandparents in California, we'd sneak (with permission) into the neighbour's back yard pickle ball court and lob the plastic ball around until the neighbours came home. The court is 20' X 44', making it about the right size for a normal suburban back yard (not these new-fangled postage stamps what pass for real estate these days), but we also saw families in bright and sunny California drawing the boundaries on their

driveways and in the quiet suburban road. The best part was that it was impossible to get beaned on the head by a vengeful sister or brother -- the ball just doesn't move that fast. And capping it with lemonade only five minutes off the tree, well, that was pure heaven. Got any lemon trees in that seniors' centre? Do I have to be a senior to play?

**Elfie B. Taylor  
Aurora**

# Construction lags in town, reader says

To the editor,

Is it just me, or does every construction project in Aurora take way too long to complete, is simply not planned properly, or both? The stretch of Wellington Street from Leslie to Bayview was ripped apart, it took ages to rebuild it, only for it to be torn up again and rebuilt so poorly, the east-bound lanes are barely driveable. I've been driving past

the new recreation centre, also on Wellington Street, for months now and the pool area looks no closer to completion than it did when I first began to take notice. The intersection of John West Way and Wellington Street was redone along the pedestrian crossing areas with nice stone tiles about three years ago. I thought it looked great at the time of completion, however the very next spring the tiles started

heaving and sinking. Did the town not learn its lesson from the amateurs who were hired to install very similar tiles in the parking area of the Town Hall, only to have them ripped up a few short years later for the very same reason? Everyone I've spoken to agrees that this is an issue they've only encountered here in Aurora. I have even had visitors from out of town comment on some of these projects using terms like "it still isn't

finished?", or "who hires these builders?". The latter is a good question. Whoever is responsible for hiring the builders, contractors, etc. to complete these projects should consider another line of work. The people of Aurora can certainly do without the aggravation, and are deserving of better quality workmanship from our hard earned tax dollars! **M. Chisholm  
Aurora**

# No one in neighbourhood complained about renovation

To the editor,

Dozens of people in my neighbourhood have lifted the lids of their homes and slid in an extra layer...or extended out to the side or the back to add space and convenience. I myself have tacked on a couple of bits and pieces over the years. Last year my neighbour across the street added to his house. It was a monumental task. He undertook it

himself. Sometimes we wondered if he would manage to enclose it before the first snow fell. He did. It looks great. The only neighbourhood reaction I noticed was an increase in the carriage trade. There were strollers and wagons, tricycles and bicycles, pooches and puppies, noses to the ground pulling people behind them. There were meandering groups of visiting relatives out to see where

the action was. When he stepped back to view his handiwork there was often someone to join him in conference. I and a neighbour occasionally called over an inquiry or encouragement...like we were part of the adventure. I never did hear anyone suggest he had no right to do what he was

doing to his own house on his own property. I doubt there will be any wailing dirges heard from the south-west quadrant. I know for a fact, there are numbers of people in the north-east quadrant who are not joining your chorus, Mark Warburton. **Evelyn Buck  
Aurora**

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Letters to the Editor

# Kroon discusses three local issues

To the editor,

In this letter, there are three issues that need to be addressed.

First of all, I would like to thank everyone, especially those good people of Aurora, who have encouraged me to run for the leader of the Liberal party of Canada.

Seeing as they have lowered the monetary requirements, \$50,000 instead of \$75,000 (now that's more like it), it would not be completely outside the realm of probability, if indeed not wholly feasible. But even in the face of the ringing endorsements I have received from people who have pointed out that I would certainly not be the worst of the bunch currently in the race, I will have to respectfully decline.

Actually it's not that I wouldn't want to be leader of the Liberals (!), it's just that I am more looking forward to the fight between the two current front runners.

A battle that has its home

right here in Aurora, because the two combatants are none other than Belinda (daddy, write me another check...) Stronach, and Martha (hey buddy can you spare a dime) Hall Findlay.

Should be interesting.

Secondly, on behalf of everyone in Stouffville, I would like to express my sincerest condolences to your Aurora Tigers' loss to what must have been a vastly superior and eminently more talented opponent.

Oops, that was Stouffville wasn't it? Oh well. Better luck next year.

On the other hand, allow me to offer some advice. Next season, try entering a team with some real talent.

Maybe your championship peewee girls house team. I know they will in all certainty get creamed by all those other teams in the provincial league, but you might as well send the best Aurora has to offer.

Thirdly, I am somewhat upset by the scoring in the "letter writing contest" I am

apparently entered in.

According to Stewart Ivoll, I have lost this latest round to Evelyn Buck. I am not entirely sure what qualifies Mr. Ivoll as an expert in this competition, seeing as he is no Shakespeare himself.

Indeed, I found two grammatical errors in his offering, one error in syntax, and my dear Mr. Ivoll, we must talk about your brazen dangling participles. My goodness!

At any rate, the parameters he is using to award points, I feel to be patently unfair, as many of them I have no control over.

All letter writers who find themselves published in this or any other newspaper do not have the luxury of suggesting what the length of their title should be, to say nothing of having control over the content of said banner.

If that were the case I am sure most letter writers would have a caption whose length would rival that of the letter itself, or possible say something like, "Read This

Letter Because I Am Right and All You Other Morons Are Wrong!!!!!!!!!!!!", and it would be displayed in the bold type face usually reserved for declaration of a war.

Actually they would probably have a lot more exclamation marks, but you get my drift.

Knowing this, I believe we can agree that judging the title is in fact judging the headline writer, not the author of the letter.

I will also point out that all the letters I present for publication all suffer much heavy handed editing from the esteemed editor of this newspaper, and as such, I have little control over the length of my missives as they are published.

My dear reader allow me to assure you, these tomes are considerably longer when they arrive via the electronic information highway in the offices of this august publication.

As to how lengthy they are, let's just say our good editor is glad he has a high-

speed connection.

In that regard, I believe the over all length of the letter would, in the interest of fairness, be scored as a tie.

In light of the preceding argument the same can be said regarding the score given for number of paragraphs. Once again I, like all submitters, am subject to the whims of the editor, and as such, this too is best scored as a tie.

As for the single point awarded for content, I will grudgingly allow you the subjective nature of your scoring. It is a well known fact that even the most competent of writers both professional and otherwise, those in the print or electronic media, those who

write to entertain or educate, all have their critics. Deservedly or not.

All I can say is, on behalf of both Ms Buck and myself, I am simply glad you are not Simon Cowal.

So in my estimation, we have come to an impasse of sorts, as we have found that the score is in all fairness, a tie.

However, I can see that you will not be satisfied with a tie, and as such, I will make this suggestion as to how to best pick a winner.

Let us award an extra point for who is evidently the most humble writer...

I win.

**Hugo T. Kroon  
Bethesda**

## Resident happy with garbage service

To the editor,

First, I would like to state that I have been a resident of Aurora for the past 28 years.

I am in my late 60s and have some health problems.

I manage to get my garbage to the carport every Friday morning.

Three out of our four garbage days a month these two men pick it up right from my carport and take it to their truck.

I have seen where residents put their garbage on four-foot snow hills.

I have seen and been disgusted with the way people recycle and put their garbage out before the truck even arrives.

Is it their job to reorganize and bag it properly first?

Let's just put the blame on these fellas and not our fellow neighbours.

These fellas work in the sweltering heat, the freezing rain, and the cold of winter.

Perhaps we could blame mother nature as well for the wind she brings when you see garbage strewn along our streets.

Maybe the town should educate us as residents how to properly bag our garbage and recycle.

Maybe the town should SACK us as residents who do not do their part when it comes to their garbage.

Mr. McKenzie, why not try to do their job for a day to see what these guys go through and who is really to blame?

I would like to thank my

two fellas in the south end of Aurora for all their hard work.

I am sure there are more who agree with me.

Keep up the good work!

**J. DeLuca  
Aurora**

## Historical Society hires new curator

To the editor,

The Aurora Historical Society is pleased to announce that Catherine Molloy has accepted the position of Director-Curator.

Cathy has 14 years of experience working at two museums within the GTA.

She brings extensive knowledge of facility management, collection care and exhibit design and

has experience in fundraising and partnership development.

As Director-Curator, Cathy will occupy our senior staff position, holding responsibility for both the Aurora Heritage Centre and Hillary House.

Cathy will assume her position on April 19th shortly before the retirement of our long-time Curator, Jacqueline Stuart.

She will continue to work from the Aurora Historical Society office at Hillary House until the office space at the Heritage Centre is available.

Please join me in welcoming Cathy to Aurora and to the work of the Aurora Historical Society.

**Helen Roberts  
President  
Aurora Historical Society**

## Shame!

To the editor,

I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw that you had used the deaths of this lovely woman and her children to give you a full front page story about other murders in Aurora in your March 14 publication.

This story could definitely have waited until the shock and sadness had waned a bit.

You minimized their deaths by throwing any other ones you could come up with into the pot!

This was a community tragedy and loss and you capitalized on it!

Shame on you!

**Valerie Prosser  
Aurora**



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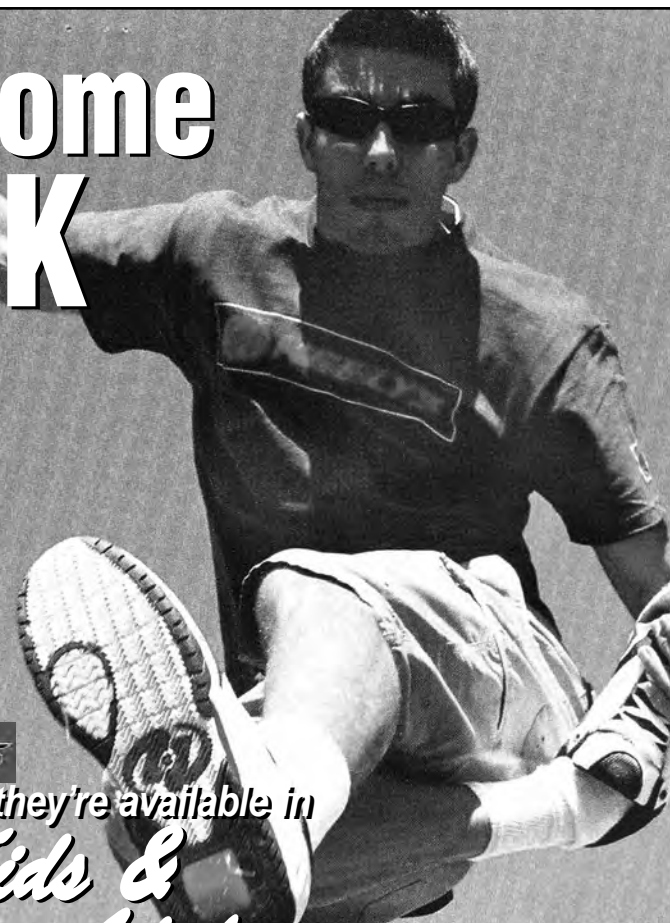
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### Cold Table

Smoked Salmon, Jumbo Shrimp, Marinated Mussels, Assorted Salads, Assorted Cold Cuts, Vegetables and Dip, Assorted Pickles, Deviled Eggs

### Entrée

Carved Prime Rib au Jus, Roasted Turkey with Stuffing, Baked Salmon with a Fine Herb Sauce, Cheese Tortellini with Tomato Sauce, Fresh Grilled Vegetables

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Three successful competitors from the Aurora Skating Club are shown here following recent competitions. Maya Goldman, 13, left, and Garth Miller, 16, centre, were successful in provincial championships, winning the Senior Silver Dance award, while Alex Woodward, 11, right, captured provincial honours in the Junior Bronze Men's category. He won the honours at the recent All-Ontario Trillium STARskate competitions held in Waterloo.

## Skating results

The following skaters, representing the Aurora Skating Club at the 2006 Skate Canada – Central Ontario Spring Festival of Skating Invitational held recently at the Ice Galaxy in Scarborough, had these results:

### Freeskate

Pre-Preliminary Ladies - Savannah Hendy (Group 3) 4th; Molly Oulahan (Group 4) 5th.  
 Preliminary Ladies - Kate Sutton (Group 3) 2nd.  
 Junior Bronze Ladies - Allie Sutton (Group 2) 2nd; Jordana Goldman (Group 3) 3rd.

### Solo Dance

Preliminary Ladies - Samantha Duncan (Group 2) 3rd.  
 Senior Bronze Ladies - Jacqueline Relke (Group 1) 1st.  
 Senior Silver Ladies Solo Dance - Meaghan Jones 1st.

Meanwhile, the 2006 Trillium STARskate Championship was held last weekend in Waterloo.  
 This event is an all-Ontario competition and in order to attend, skaters must qualify through their own section STARskate championships by placing first, second, or third in their respective events.  
 This year, three members of the Aurora Skating Club qualified and competed with the following results:  
 Junior Bronze Men Freeskate - Alex Woodward 1st.  
 Senior Silver Dance - Maya Goldman and Garth Miller 1st.



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The days are getting longer, spring is officially here and sporting fans start switching from hockey to baseball.

Minor baseball has a long history in Aurora but until 1965 it was a man's world.

In 1966, during his remarks on the 1965 season, retiring President Eric Smith reported that the association had provided baseball and softball in the house league and all star level for 250 boys and girls.

He pointed out that it was the first year for the girls' teams and it was most successful.

Howard Heintzman, long associated with Aurora baseball, was elected president with Don Holgate and Jim Weller as vice presidents and Bob Hookings as treasurer.

Betty Young made history when she was elected to the executive as secretary.

By May, 1966, trouble developed as Aurora's bantam all star team suspended operations in town due to the lack of proper facilities.

A second team planning to enter a North York competition also said they would not use Aurora as a home base due to lack of adequate facilities.

Association president Howard Heintzman told council the baseball diamond in Centennial Park was a "white elephant" because it faced directly into the sun.

He had appeared before council previously to

request the direction of the diamond be changed but council stuck to its decision.

In May, 1967, the town's parks committee recommended the direction of the diamond be changed as requested by the association.

This sparked a heated debate between parks chairman Councillor Dick Illingworth and Reeve Jim Murray who argued the diamond should remain as is.

It was later learned that Murray was responsible for the placing of the diamond so that the backstop screen would be at the edge of the park rather than out in the centre.

As council was unable to make a decision, the issue of the proposed park layout was referred to the Centennial Committee as the park was a Centennial project.

The direction of the diamond was eventually changed.

By May, 1968, there was little interest or action in Aurora for either minor ball or adult softball and Recreation Director Ernie Batson decided to do something about it.

He convened a public meeting in an effort to reactivate baseball in Aurora.

Evidently the meeting was successful as baseball returned but by 1970 there were other problems.

The main diamond at the Town Park didn't have a scoreboard and coaches, players and spectators had no idea during the course of

the game what the score was or what inning was being played.

The Aurora Optimist Club and Attridge Lumber came to the rescue and a scoreboard was erected for the 1971 season.

In addition to Minor Ball the Aurora Town Softball League and the Aurora Ladies Softball League planned for a busy 1971 season but problems soon developed.

Aurora Minor Softball Association's Eric Hill appeared before council to complain about what he termed the deplorable conditions of the baseball diamonds during the 1971 playing season.

His attack came as a surprise to members of council who noted they hadn't received any complaints during the playing season.

Hill said the conditions had been reported to staff who promised to take action but nothing was done.

Problems continued and in September, 1973, the town's parks and recreation committee came under fire at the annual meeting of the Minor Softball Association.

Members complained about lack of interest and cooperation from the committee and the recreation department, even though more than 450 children had been registered to play ball.

Parks and recreation committee chairman

Please see page 11

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# Soccer, Town battle over fields

A battle is currently raging in the press between the Town and the Aurora Youth Soccer Club regarding the use of facilities.

Soccer club officials claimed in a press release that the lack of field availability in Aurora was threatening soccer programs and the town had fallen behind its recommendations in the Recreation Master Plan.

The club was also critical of the town for being unable to reach an agreement with the York Region District School Board for the use of its fields resulting in the soccer club trying to negotiate its own deal.

At a general committee meeting last week, Councillor Nigel Kean expressed concern about the ongoing dispute.

He said the Director of Leisure Services Allan Downey had prepared a press release in response to the claims made by the soccer club but for some reason it had not been released.

Kean added that further letters to the editor were printed based on misinformation, which, he said, should be clarified.

In response to questions, Downey replied that the cost to maintain the soccer fields was \$368,000 and he was working on a report for

2004, with the town receiving \$56,000 from the soccer club.

The soccer club membership includes 78 per cent residents and 22 per cent non-residents and the club is subsidized by 72.5 per cent from town revenues.

Councillor Damir Vrancic referred to the number of E-mails received by members of council and that much of the content was based on misinformation.

He said the town did a lot for soccer.

Councillor Evelyn Buck noted the 72.5 per cent subsidy and asked if other youth sporting organizations received the same subsidy.

She said that council may be opening a can of worms as there are a lot of parents without kids and more thought should be given to the issue.

Vrancic replied that a pricing and subsidy policy had been established by council and it was a public document.

In an effort to stop the war of words, it was agreed staff would meet with Youth Soccer Club officials in an attempt to resolve the difference.

Due to what was claimed to be misinformation, the motion was amended to

include the town issuing a public statement of the facts similar to the one issued regarding the sale of Aurora Hydro.

The motion, as amended, was adopted and was expected to receive council ratification this week.

## Election meeting schedule is set

The municipal election in Aurora is scheduled for November 13th and the final nomination day is September 29th.

Historically in Aurora all standing and advisory committees have ceased meeting in an election year after nomination day.

Exceptions are the Aurora Library Board and the Committee of Adjustment as they are mandated by provincial legislation.

Following the November election, it will be up to the new council to establish com-

mittees, provide direction and appoint the membership to the committees.

In order to hold a meeting after September 29th, council approval is required.

Normal council and general committees meetings will be held in September, but in October the last council meeting will be held on October 17th with the next meeting scheduled for November 28th following the election.

Inaugural meeting for the incoming council is December 5th.

### Monday Night League First playoff round March 20

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FPL Aggregates	2	Rec Sports	3

# AMBA history in Aurora

From page 10

Councillor Pete Miller denied the apathy charges.

He pointed out that the association had nine ball diamonds for their use and three more were being prepared.

By April, 1974, with the growth of Aurora, it looked as if the town would experience its biggest softball season as six teams were registered for the all-star league to represent Aurora in competition.

Fleury Park was being established as the new all-star softball centre for the town and lights for the ball diamond were promised.

By July, 1974, neither the promised fence nor the lights had been installed threatening the season.

In 1977, the Aurora Bantam Diggers participated in a 10-day exhibition series in Kansas City and in September, 1977, the team was named all-Ontario champions.

With most of the problems over by 1983 minor ball was alive and well in Aurora with 35 teams in seven divisions.

The Aurora Men's Softball League and the Ladies Softball League also had a busy and successful season with the Aurora Engelhard Senior Diggers winning the 1983 Intermediate Championships at the Grand Nationals.

In May, 1992, officials of the Aurora Minor Softball Association appeared before council to address

concerns regarding the Girls' Rep Softball and the right of the association to field teams that represented the Town of Aurora.

They pointed out that the association provided T-Ball, Softball and Baseball for more than 900 boys and girls in Aurora, but were denied the right to field girls'

rep teams by the Aurora Diggers Softball Association with about 40 members.

Another ball season is rapidly approaching and the Aurora Minor Ball Association is currently in the process of registering players for the 2006 baseball season.



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# Office closes next month

During a discussion on the establishment of a PowerStream Customer Advisory Committee last week, it was learned the utility plans to close the Aurora office next month.

Office staff is being moved to the Richmond Hill office in April with maintenance staff remaining until PowerStream consolidates its operation in a new facility to be located in Vaughan.

Spokesmen said arrangements had been made with the Toronto-Dominion Bank to accept hydro payments.

Part of the agreement of the purchase and sale of Aurora Hydro to PowerStream was the establishment of a Customer Advisory Committee.

Purpose of the committee was described as creat-

ing a communications channel for information exchange with key Aurora stakeholders regarding the utility's activities, initiatives and operations.

Following discussions with PowerStream, staff recommended the composition of the committee as one resident representative, one

Leisure Services facility representative, one administrative representative and two major customer representatives.

Aurora councillors questioned having two major customer representatives and suggested it be amended to one major and one smaller firm representative.

# Financial report appears bleak

**From page 1**  
mature to bring in recommendations.

He suggested developing an operating budget forecast to extend to 2013 so council can develop a long term strategy to meet the town's funding requirements to manage the capital asset management program tied into growth and the ability to pay.

To date, the town has been dependent on development charges to fund some of the capital acquisitions such as the new rec complex.

When the town is completely built-out, develop-

ment charges will come to an end, but the maintenance and rehabilitation of the capital facilities and infrastructure will continue.

In presenting the report the treasurer noted he had not factored in the sale of town-owned land on Leslie Street and other properties on Industrial Parkway.

He stressed members of council and citizens should not be alarmed with the report as many other municipalities, such as Toronto, were in similar circumstances.

The intent of the report was to identify the issues and plan a course of action.



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# Aurora Minor Hockey Association

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## Aurora Minor Hockey Association Results to 9 AM Sunday, March 26, 2006 Website: [www.aci.on.ca/amha](http://www.aci.on.ca/amha)



## House League Midget

**1002 Tw!st Marketing Midget HL 7** - James Connolly 1A, Torry Duckworth 1A, Jamie Fenyes 4G, Alex Kane 1G 1A, Morgan Mittlestaedt 1G, Kevin Scott 3A, Jesse Barker 1G.

**1011 5** - Paul Magliocchi 1A, Jamie Rundle-Sanderson 1G, Chris Clark 3G 1A, Michael Sotoadeh 1G 2A.

## Select

**Aurora Tigers Tyke Select 3** - Andrew Badali 1G 1A, Michael Da Costa 1A, Colin Kostin 1A, Matthew Liscio 1G, Cole Thiessen 1G, Robert Thomas 2A.

**Unionville 3**

**Aurora Tigers Tyke Select 4** - Andrew Badali 1G, Matthew MacDonald 1A, Cole Thiessen 3G 1A, Robert Thomas 2A.

**Unionville 1**

## Rep Games

**Ajax 4**

**Aurora Tigers Novice AA 2** - Nicholas Baxter 1A, Theodora Issaris 1G, Graeme McDonald 1A, Jesse Wiemer 1G.

**Aurora Tigers Novice AA 3** - Jake Appleby 2G, Braeden Kublick 1A, Jesse Wiemer 1G 2A.

**Ajax 2**

**Oakville 3**

**Aurora Tigers Novice AA 1** - Alex Bernier 1G, Theodora Issaris 1A, Nicholas Papousek 1A.

**Schomberg 5**

**Aurora Tigers Novice A 4**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AA 2** - Justin Pirie 1A, Kyle Locke 1A, Jerryd Jensen 1G, Matthew Iwai 1A, Spencer Green 1G, Quentin Campbell 1A.

**Clarington 1**

**Orangeville 3**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AA 2** - Liam Coll 1A, Konner McMillan 1G 1A, Kyle Locke 1A, Branden Fennell 1G.

**Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 1** -Paul Neophytou 1A, Lucas Pozzebon 1A, Brett Thiessen 1G.

**Kanata White Blazers 1**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 2** - Erik Balkovec 1A, Paul Neophytou 1A, Evan Jackson 1G, Scott Kostin 1A, Lucas Pozzebon 1A, Brett Thiessen 1G. Shutout: Matt Heintzman.

**Nepean Red 0**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 3** - Erik Balkovec 1A, Logan Blaser 1A, Evan Jackson 1G, Scott Kostin 1G 1A, Brett Thiessen 1G. Shutout: Brian Langdon.

**Orleans 0**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE 6** - Ben Ashton 1G, Liam Beresford 2A, Shannon Murray 1A, Alex Perez 1G 1A, Graham Robinson 3G 1A, Jordyn Thomson 1A, Nathan Nealon 1G, James Johnston 1A.

**Georgetown 5**

**Georgetown 7**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE 2** - Josh Bell

1G, Alex Perez 1A, Spencer Robb 1A, Graham Robinson 1G.

**Aurora Tigers Atom A 2** - Erik Kimmerer 1A, Hayden Trask 2A, Peter Sandwell 1A, Kiefer McIntosh 2G.

**Barrie 1**

**Aurora Tigers Atom A 5  
Stouffville 2**

**Orillia 5**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee A 2** - Mark Robertson 1G, Ryan St. Germain 1A, Christopher Bull 1G.

**Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee A 6** - Mark Robertson 1A, Ryan St. Germain 1G, Kyle Spicer 1G 1A, Josh Klinowski 1G, Christopher Bull 1G, Tyler White 1A, Daniel Whitley 1A, Daniel Delbello 1A, Rory MacNeil 1G.

**Orillia 4**

**Orillia 5**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Peewee A 4**

**Bradford 2**

**Aurora Tigers Peewee A 0**

**Bradford 3**

**Aurora Tigers Peewee A 2** - Kyle McCreedy 1A, Gavin Forrest 1G, Chris Smith 2A, Danny McConnell 1A, Brendan Strachan 1G.

**Richmond Hill 5**

**Aurora Tigers Peewee AE 1** - Daniel Howie 1G, Alex Thompson 1A, Brandon Thompson 1A.

**Barrie 5**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AA 4** - Nathan Brown 1A, Oliver Boettcher 1G, Justin Brown 2G, Shawn Clark 1G 1A, John-Caleb Ross 1A, Taylor Nuttall 2A.

**Barrie 5**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AA 3** - Oliver Boettcher 1G, Justin Brown 1A, Dylan Cross 1G, Shawn Clark 1A, Taylor Nuttall 1G.

**Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AA 3** - Jeffrey Sanderson 1G 1A, Nathan Brown 1G, Oliver Boettcher 1G, Dylan Cross 1A, Sean Ellison 1A, Louis Lamanna 1A, Peter Axiotis 1A.

**Barrie 2**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam AA 3  
Barrie 2**

**Barrie 3**

**Aurora Tigers Bantam AA 2**

**Barrie 5**

**Aurora Tigers Bantam AA 4**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AA 2  
Burlington 2**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AE 6  
Niagara Falls Tournament 1**

**Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AE 8  
Markham 4**

**Aurora Tigers Juvenile AA 9** - Chris Amato 5G 1A, Matthew Cleverdon 2A, Michael Jack 2G, Morgan Mcgee 1A, Jordan Ofield 1G, Sak Pietila 2A, James Seaward 1G, Derek Smith 1A.

**Pickering 3**

**Aurora Tigers Juvenile AA 7** - Chris Amato 3G 1A, Matthew Cleverdon 1G 3A, Michael Jack 1G 4A, Jordan Ofield 1A, Derek Smith 2A, Justin Ffrench 1G 1A, Mackenzie Kemp 1G.

**Innisfil 5**





**Katherine Oke, a resident in the seniors' building on Orchard Heights Drive, celebrated her 90th birthday recently.**

*Auroran photo by David Falconer*



**By BRIAN WARBURTON**

The prospect of new equipment titillates our imaginations, and promises to impact seriously on all who enjoy the new seniors' centre.

This is for those past the halfway mark in life's marathon, and still looking for more of life's hurrahs. Enough can never be enough, not while the appetite for more lingers.

I caution, negotiations are progressing, we are not there yet.

These are the fresh springtime days in the centre when everything seems possible and nothing impossible, and excitement of what might be is in the air.

Enthusiasm is infectious and all who venture near are sure to be captivated.

There is enough interaction in our rooms and halls and corridors to beguile anybody.

The siren calls of a thousand jubilant senior voices, men and women banish the apprehensions of the crowding years.

The age of seniority is trump in this ASA arena, it dominates the agenda, and it stokes our autumn embers to flame and everybody to participation.

It is so easy to get involved, to find a role, to do something, to be associated with others, to be a player in the game of life, to be part of the scene, in short, to be alive and active again.

An hour of time is an hour of luxury crowded with good friends.

If you have not previously visited the new seniors' centre, you are invited and welcome to drop by any weekday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

If you have an interest and know what you want to do, the volunteers at the front counter will help you.

If you would like a visit of quiet involvement, than every Tuesday morning, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., we have a general presentation given by the computer club, on a wide range of subjects, including computing.

You can ask questions after the presentation, or not, and it gives you a chance to soak up the atmosphere and gain a feel for how you might find your niche in the senior centre.

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# MP REPORT

By Belinda Stronach  
(Newmarket-Aurora)

## Aurora office due to close

As some of you may be aware, several weeks ago I was named the new Official Opposition Critic for Transport.

I look forward to tackling the duties associated with this shadow cabinet position and am fully aware that residents here in Aurora have consistently identified transportation as one of our most important local issues.

As your Member of Parliament, I will work very hard in the upcoming session of Parliament to hold the new Conservative government to account on this and other issues that are important to our community.

Newmarket-Aurora is a riding that has many residents who commute to work in the City of Toronto. Ours is also a riding that feels all of the pressures of the city, including mass transit, and I will make sure that the government does not neglect the needs of Canada's major metropolitan areas.

Here at home, I had the pleasure of taking part in the recent Big Brothers Big Sisters "Bowl for Kids' Sake" event at Gateway Café & Lanes.

It is the biggest fundraising event of the year for Big Brothers Big Sisters, with all funds going toward matching children with carefully screened Big Brother and Big Sister volunteers.

"Team Belinda" raised more than \$1,200 at the Aurora and Newmarket bowling events – many thanks to everyone on our teams who came out and contributed to a good cause.

And hats off to the Aurora Master Ducks team, which raised more than \$2,600!

Please join me in applauding the many local businesses and organizations that entered a team at the "Bowl for Kids Sake" event, including Aurora Resthaven, The Rotary Club of Aurora, Quebecor World, Howard Johnson Hotel, the Optimist Club of Aurora, Unipac, Jonathan's Restaurant, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School.

And finally, if you have not yet had a chance to visit Gateway Café & Lanes, I encourage you to do so.

Victoria Irving and all of the people at the Gathering Place restored an old Aurora landmark and they have created a wonderful place in our community where families can spend a relaxing and enjoyable evening or afternoon.

Finally, I wish to notify residents that as of April 1st we will be closing our Wellington Street constituency office.

Our constituency budget has been significantly reduced and we can no longer afford to operate two offices.

We will continue to serve the needs of residents at our original constituency office, centrally located at the southeast corner of Yonge and Mulock in Newmarket.

And, as always, please call my office if you have any concerns or questions.

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## Councillor spending lower than budget

Prior to the 1970s money paid to town councillors was determined by the province based on the population of the municipality.

As a result of petitions from municipalities and municipal associations, then Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough agreed to let municipalities set the remuneration for members of council on condition that a public statement was issued annually.

For 2005, Treasurer John Gutteridge reported that Mayor Tim Jones received remuneration of \$44,389.50 plus travel allowance of \$7,200 and \$1,711.36 in expenses for a total of \$53,300.86.

In a report to regional council, Commissioner of Finance Lloyd Russell reported that during 2005, Mayor Jones received remuneration of \$41,866,

benefits of \$5,218 and \$3,584 in expenses.

Benefits include the region's share of contributions for OMERS, Canada Pension Plan and premium costs for life insurance and group health and dental coverages.

Members of council receive \$20,422.53 annually plus \$1,000 in travel allowance for a total of \$21,422.53.

In addition, Councillor Phyllis Morris received \$2,112.51 in expenses and Councillor Wendy Gaertner received \$55 in expenses.

Councillor John West received \$1,295.70 plus \$143.94 in mileage for attending meetings of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

The total 2005 budget for the mayor and councillors was \$261,961.00 and actual expenditures totalled \$226,848.61.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

The promotion of healthy and diverse forest cover on Conservation Authority lands has been practiced for many years. Planting, protection, maintenance, thinning, and harvesting have all been utilized to maximize the many benefits associated with these forested areas. The safety of conservation area users is also of utmost importance.

As part of our ongoing activities, and as prescribed within an approved forest management plan, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority will be removing approximately eight(8) hazardous trees within the Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area to maintain safety, and encourage the growth of younger trees.

The prescribed works will be completed in March 2006. For further information, please contact Philip Davies, Manager of Watershed Stewardship at 1-800-465-0437, extension 321.

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## RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

# When the school board acted as censors

Back in November, 1993, Director of Education Bill Hogarth and the York Region Board of Education came under criticism for ruling that teachers and students were banned from attending any performances of the musical "Show Boat" on school-sponsored trips.

Parents were upset about the banning and urged Mr. Hogarth and the trustees to go and see the production, at their own expense, to learn more about the production.

They said it was a classic presentation of a timeless story with no racist inferences.

It was pointed out that of the 71-member cast, about 50 per cent were members of the black community and it was believed these black performers would not participate if they thought it denigrated the modern black community.

Questions were asked if the next production on the board's censorship list would be "The Mikado", which was playing at Stratford at the time, on the basis that it stereotyped the modern Japanese?

Obviously a lesson was learned as banning of theatrical productions ceased.

### WHAT HAPPENED?

In March, 2004, Councillor Evelyn Buck requested a report on the history of the relationship between the

town and the Aurora Soccer Club and the lease arrangements for the town-owned Highland Park property on Industrial Parkway South.

She pointed out that the property was prime industrial land and could be sold for possibly a million dollars, which would help to pay down the new recreational complex. What happened?

In December, 2003, a board member of the Aurora Cornerstone Church appeared before council regarding town-owned property north of the church on Industrial Parkway South.

It was pointed out that the church was built in 1997 and the current facilities were too small to accommodate their growing congregation, particularly the youth ministry.

While various options had been considered and as the church wanted to remain part of the community, the need to acquire additional land made more sense.

It was referred to staff for a report. What happened?

In April, 2001, during a discussion of town-owned property on Allaura Boulevard, council requested that an inventory of town-owned property be prepared.

Again in September, 2004, while discussing financing for the new seniors' centre, Councillor Evelyn Buck requested an inventory of town-owned properties which might be sold to assist in financing. What happened?

### ZONED FOR STRIPPERS

At a public planning meeting held in November, 1993, regarding amendments to the official plan, Aurora Council decided to be prepared and include a section on adult entertainment, body rub parlours, adult video stores and places of amusement.

A council committee had been studying the issue for more than a year and it was recommended that adult entertainment and body rub parlours be allowed only in certain industrial zones and there be a minimum separation of 270 metres from roads, schools, churches, public parks and residential areas.

The location suggested was in the northeast industrial park, but the developer of the park and several businesses objected and council agreed to refer their concerns to the committee.

Other questions were asked as to why the town was even considering allowing this type of business in the municipality.

It was pointed out that the town did not have the authority to prohibit such businesses but could only regulate them and it was thought wise to have an area zoned prior to an application rather than the possible legal challenge of zoning an area retroactively.

It must have worked because to the best of knowledge the town has never received an application for a strip club or a body rub parlour.

# Shortage of servicing hampers developers

The allocation of servicing capacity for new development applications in Aurora has been an ongoing issue as the demand for servicing exceeds the supply available.

York Region has the responsibility of supplying water service and sewage disposal with an allocation to the municipalities and it is up to the municipality to allocate the available services as part of the planning process.

In June, 2005, council directed staff to prepare a matrix describing the various applications relative to the town policy to assist members of council in making a decision on the various applications.

In September last year, Aurora's general committee considered a staff report regarding service allocation including a proposed policy and bylaw that stipulated no building permit would be issued without servicing allocation first having been granted.

The committee directed that the proposed policy and bylaw be presented at a public planning meeting.

It was also noted that several regional major infrastructure projects had undergone additional environmental review resulting in notice that additional servicing capacity will not be available until mid-2010.

On that basis, regional council approved servicing capacity to provide for growth based on population projections for each of the municipalities subject to conditions.

Conditions include prohibiting the issuance

of building permits if servicing is not available and the adoption of a "use it or lose it" policy.

Aurora received an additional capacity of 450 units, but the applications under consideration exceed the available capacity, making it necessary to establish a policy for distribution of allocation, which was adopted in January.

In order to rank each application in accordance with the council approved criteria, a complete review of the status of each application was carried out.

Council had previously granted allocation to several developments and had reserved an allocation of 1015 units for the 2B developments and 200 units for infill development in the downtown area.

Town staff advised the remaining capacity to be allocated over and above the units previously allocated amounts to 562 units and additional capacity is not expected until 2010 or 2011.

Staff also provided a matrix including nine applications in order of ranking leaving 139 units available with an apartment application in 10th place with 184 units but a shortfall of 45 units.

Other applications were not included on the

matrix as in some cases a file closure has been sent due to lack of activity.

Staff recommended the matrix be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that the "use it or lose it" policy was being implemented with a six-month review interval to keep the matrix current.

Planner Richard Harrison representing Clairtree Development, located at the corner of Bayview Avenue and St. John's Sideroad, appeared before the committee last week to request that an allocation for 20 units be included.

He noted that a new developer had taken over and a revised application was being submitted in conformity with the official plan to include a commercial development at the corner, a Salvation Army Citadel and a seniors' building plus residence.

He pointed out that an allocation was not required for the institutional use and the request for 20 units was to get started.

He added the revised application would be submitted in five or six weeks and it was the last of the 2B development.

Planner Claudio Brutto, representing Polsinelli, one of the developments recommended for allocation,

supported the staff report and pointed out that if other units were added as suggested by Harrison, others on the list would lose out and he requested council to adopt the staff report.

Director of Planning Sue Seibert recommended that council allocate the reserved capacity of 1015 units, plus an additional 11 units based on the 2B Landowners calculations of required units, included in the allocation.

In addition to questions for clarification, a question was asked if a three-month review was possible instead of the suggested six-month and with assurance from staff that it was possible, the general committee adopted the recommendations with the amendment of a three-month review.

Council was expected to ratify the decision this week.



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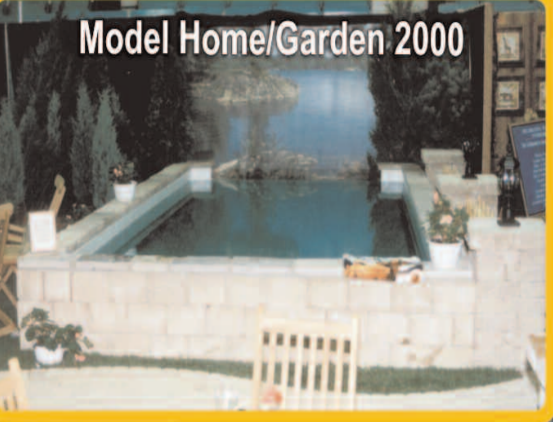
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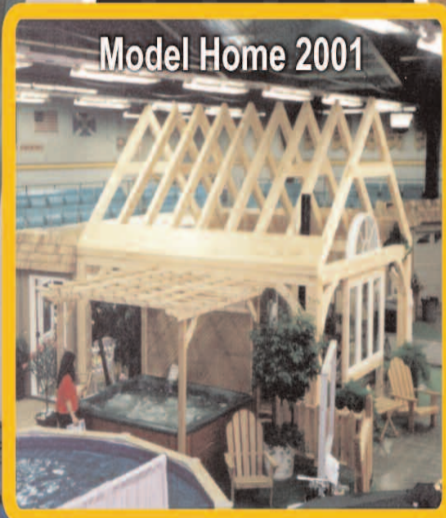
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