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Best of Breed April 18 - May 27
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Wildlife Exhibit

Mike Weir
See
Page 2

AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 6 No. 25

AURORAN, Week of April 18, 2006

905-727-3300

Open house planned for Aurora watermain

York Region will hold a public information meeting April 27 in Committee Room "B" of the Regional building in Newmarket regarding a class environmental assessment for the construction of watermain in Aurora.

The three-hour session will begin at 6 p.m.

The southern section of the proposed 600 millimetre diameter watermain is planned on Yonge Street from St. John's Sideroad to Aurora Heights Drive and from Aurora Heights Drive to Wellington Street through Aurora Wells pump houses #1 to #4 and through Machell Avenue.

The environmental study includes public and review agency consultation, an evaluation of alternatives, an assessment of the impacts of the proposed improve-

ments and identification of measures to mitigate any adverse impacts.

The study will review the need and justification for construction of new watermain within the corridor and will show the preferred alignment for the watermain route, including an evaluation of impacts on the natural and social environment.

Upon completion of the study, the environmental report will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment and will be available for public review.

To provide comments or to request additional information concerning the project, contact Martin Fischer, Project Manager for York Region, at 905-895-1200, extension 3035.



Parents and children alike seek Easter eggs Sunday during annual hunt at Leisure Complex.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Be aware of hydro lines: Council

At a general committee meeting earlier this month, a staff report was presented regarding the Kylemore subdivision on 3.7 acres of formerly landlocked town-owned land adjacent

to the hydro corridor south of Wellington Street and west of Bayview Avenue.

Town staff recommended draft approval subject to conditions as out-

lined prior to final approval.

It was pointed out there was still an unresolved issue with a bridge and trail connection to the town's trail system.

However, Councillor Nigel Kean wondered whether a warning clause to potential purchasers had been included in the conditions because of the adjacent hydro corridor.

He also questioned some of the recommended exceptions such as the rear yard setback including one lot where it went from 7.5 metres to 2.7 metres.

Staff advised they were end units and what was lost in the rear yard was made up for in the larger side yard.

The general committee directed staff to address the outstanding issues and report to the subsequent council meeting.

The staff report came back to council Tuesday with an explanation of the three outstanding issues, including a proposed warning clause.

Councillor Phyllis Morris was critical of the clause and sought a review from a technical viewpoint, claiming there were errors in the draft.

Other members of council disagreed claiming the proposed Morris wording was too technical and complex and all that was required was a simple warning to the fact there was an adjacent hydro corridor and it was



What's this?

To find out what this device is attached to, turn to Page 8.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Please see page 13

Briefly

Try curbside "shopping"

This idea gives new meaning to the term "garage sale".

And, it shouldn't cost you more than a little gas...which, of course, is today, priced out of sight.

Using the philosophy that one Auroran's trash is another's treasure, a sub-committee of the town's Environmental Advisory Committee is working on an idea that would circulate "unwants" throughout Aurora.

Instead of throwing out the results of spring cleaning, residents would take the items to the street Saturday, April 29 beginning at 7 a.m.

Put up a big FREE sign and let others help themselves. Or, do a little curbside "shopping" yourself.

All articles must be removed by 6 p.m.

For more information, check the mayor's column on Page 5 or call public works at 905-727-3123 ext. 3447.

Perhaps you'd want to rent a truck.

Letters

It's no secret The Auroran loves to get Letters to the Editor.

We firmly believe you'd rather read what your neighbours say than what we say.

To that end The Auroran has allowed letters that some say simply go on too long.

Two lengthy letters appear in your Auroran this week, and both are worthy of your complete attention.

While they may seem lengthy, letters from Klaus Wehrenberg and John McIntyre offer some pretty good reading.

Enjoy them...and the other half dozen letters that accompany them.

Birds bug neighbours

For more than 10 years, an Aurora senior citizen - she's now about 85 - has been feeding birds in her feeder and enjoying the various species as they come and go.

She's in an Aurora apartment building - we won't say where - and some newer neighbours are complaining because the feeder is attracting Canada Geese, and the neighbours don't like the noise.

She now fears the feeder will, because of the complaints, have to be removed.

Is there anything left that doesn't bug us anymore?



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

During the month of April the Skylight Gallery in the Town Hall will feature the photography of Julia Spittel, entitled "Voyage En Provence" capturing the rural landscape of this region of France. Regular viewing hours are from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Weekly lunches will be held from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Wednesday in the Norma Jean Legge Room of the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Call 905-726-4767 for more 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. 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 has monthly meetings at Aurora's Trinity Anglican Church with a variety of speakers. There is also a selection of interest groups. Contact Beverley 905-727-2151.

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

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

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

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

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.

Public Information Meeting regarding the Northeast Old Aurora Heritage Conservation District Study will be held at the Seniors' Centre from 7 to 9 p.m. For further information contact 905-727-3123 ext.4351.

APRIL 20

The last in a series of Speaker Series sponsored by the Aurora Youth Soccer Club from 7 to 9 p.m. at a location to be announced. 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.

Amnesty International group meets at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street for information, discussion and letter writing about human rights issues. New members welcome. For more information, call 905-713-6713.

APRIL 20-23

Aurora Opera Company performs "The Sound of Music" at Newmarket Theatre. Call the Box Office at 905-953-5122 for further 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 Café.

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.

Environmental Advisory Committee seeks volunteers to attend the Earth Day Nest Box Placement from 10 a.m. to noon. Meet at the south parking lot of the Leisure Complex. If possible, bring a portable drill with a long bit to fit #8 square head screws or long-handle square headed screwdriver.

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.

First in a series of Yard Waste Collections occurs. Items to be collected as yard waste include leaves, weeds, garden plants, shrubs, bushes and flowers. For more information call 905-727-3123 ext.3447.

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.

Second Annual Aurora Community Heritage Fair from 6 to 8 p.m. at St. Andrew's College. The evening program will include a Citizen Reaffirmation ceremony, an awards presentation and a showcase of students' projects that celebrates the unique Canadian culture.

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 JackKryn 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.

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

Aurora Legion Cribbage Tournament. Register at 12.30 p.m. \$5 per person.

APRIL 30

Reception and Open House for retiring curator Jackie Stuart from 2 to 4 p.m. at Hillary House, 15372 Yonge Street.

MAY 4

Aurora-based Kerry's Place Autism Services is hosting its 12th Golf Invitational at Angus Glen Golf Course. Event features 18 holes of golf with a 1.30 p.m. shotgun start, barbecue lunch and gourmet dinner. Lots of prizes. Call Nancy at 905-841-6611 ext. 333.

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 6-7

Susan MacDonald, great niece of renowned Group of Seven artist, J.E.H. MacDonald and Sunrise of Aurora senior residence present an art show and sale at the residence, from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, 3 Golf Links Drive. Admission is free.

MAY 8

Aurora Film Council presents its second film night at the new Aurora Cinema on Bayview Avenue at 6.45 p.m. featuring "Merry Christmas", a French-German-UK collaboration dramatizing the WWI Christmas cease-fire of 1914. Tickets available at R & R Revisited and the Aurora Public Library. Only a limited number will be available at the door the

night of the screening.

The Aurora Public Library, in partnership with York Regional Police presents "Personal Safety", a free presentation for seniors, 1 to 3 p.m. in the Lebovic Room, Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

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

Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society annual plant sale at the Aurora Public Library, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

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 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 17

Election and induction of Aurora Chamber of Commerce officers and directors at St. Andrew's Golf Club, 368 St. John's Sideroad East, at noon. To register call 905-727-7262.

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with Addiction Services for York Region, presents a free information seminar "Exploring Responsible Gambling", 7 to 9 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the adult information desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

MAY 18

Amnesty International group meets at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street for information, discussion and letter writing about human rights issues. New members welcome. For more information, call 905-713-6713.

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,

Vaughan and Aurora offices.

MAY 23

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with the Oak Ridges Trail Association, presents "Hiking On The Oak Ridges Moraine Trail" with Harold Sellers from the ORTA. Event occurs in the Magna Room between 7 and 8 p.m. Pre-register at the adult information desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

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.

Aurora Farmer's Market opens at 8 a.m. in the Temperance Street parking lot for the fourth year and continues every Saturday through Thanksgiving weekend.

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. Contact Sharon Nisbet at 905-727-0446 for further information.

MAY 30

Business after 5, sponsored by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, presents dart night at the Aurora Legion, Industrial Parkway North, from 6 to 8.30 p.m. To register call 905-727-7262.

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 11

Dick Illingworth turns 90 (do you believe it?) today. An afternoon with Dick is planned at DiNardo's beginning at 2 p.m. Presentations at 4 p.m. Advance tickets are now available at R & R Revisited.

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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Students were on hand last week to make sure Regency Acres Public School principal and vice-principal made good their claim that they would camp out on the schoolgrounds if student-generated funds were raised. The school surpassed its \$9,500 goal, forcing the two leaders into the Murray Drive darkness. At left, John Lester and Laurie Wileman make good on their promise.

*Auroran photos
by David Falconer*

Spruce house renovations receive committee okay

Last March Aurora's Heritage Advisory Committee heard presentations from neighbouring residents regarding proposed renovations to 52 Spruce Street.

While there was some agreement about the heritage home being restored, there were concerns about the height and massing of the proposed addition and the proximity to the property line.

It was requested that the committee work towards a compromise by downsizing the addition.

When the committee report came to council, there were similar presentations and as the residence was within the proposed Heritage District, it was referred back to the committee in an attempt to resolve the issues.

Aurora's Community Planner, Michael Seaman, suggested six revisions to the proposal which the owner John Elisio agreed to implement.

The committee also requested that a historical window detail be replicated in the final design to which the owner agreed.

As the revised proposal was consistent with the goals and objectives of the draft Heritage District Plan, the committee had no objection to the addition and restoration of the home subject to the incorporation of the suggested revisions.

The committee also supported the proposal for a new front verandah in the event that a minor variance for reduction of the front yard setback was required.

Council endorsed the

committee report without comment or discussion last week other than to express appreciation to the committee and the owner for being able to resolve the outstanding issues.

Buck, Morris battle again

Another personal, bitter debate took place at Aurora Council last week between Councillors Evelyn Buck and Phyllis Morris regarding an Environmental Advisory Committee report.

Morris is a member of the committee.

Buck was critical of several items in the report including a recommendation that staff prepare a report on the dollar cost benefits of "Bullfrog Power" claiming the report was uninformative.

Last November the town's general committee received a presentation from Bullfrog Power described as clean, reliable electricity from renewable resources. Councillor Buck asked a series of questions as to cost, reliability and the process.

The committee referred the presentation to the Environmental Advisory Committee for review and a report to council and it was pointed out that this was the committee's interim report.

Buck also questioned why the committee will be holding working groups rather than sub-committees and asked what it meant.

Morris replied that the committee had several members and after consulting with staff decided on the action and that all actions and activities would continue to be made as recommendations through the Environmental Advisory Committee and ratified by council.

Buck, who had questioned the terms of reference in the past, said the committee was originally established with 11 members and now had 32 and the working groups were taking up space in the Town Hall which could be rented out to community groups.

She also questioned the

committee approving a draft brochure which would be forwarded to staff for comment and subsequently to council for approval to purchase 1,000 copies at an estimated cost of \$1,175 plus tax and the purchase of a banner and canopy for an estimated cost of \$700 plus tax.

She wanted to know what was in the brochure and why a banner and canopy was needed and where the money was coming from.

Due to what she claimed was a lack of information in the report, she moved it be referred back to the committee.

Morris came to the defense of the committee and said she was shocked at Buck's comments.

She pointed out that the canopy was needed as the volunteer committee members worked outside in all kinds of weather and council had approved a \$5,000 budget for the committee.

Councillor Damir Vrancic said he was disappointed with Buck's comments as council had supported the work of the Environmental Advisory Committee as it complemented what council stood for.

He said Buck could have had her questions answered by contacting staff or a committee member and the council meeting was not the place for criticism.

The committee report was adopted by council with Councillor Buck in opposition.



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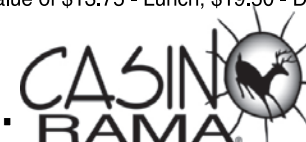
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Poor Richard

Still too much going on behind closed doors

*Council has its little secrets,
Which they refuse to tell;
Taxpayers have a right to know,
But they can't do much but yell!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

One of the oddities of public life is the willingness of local politicians to rush behind closed doors to discuss public business.

It is a rare exception when an in camera, or private, session isn't called after every council and general committee meeting.

There are certain issues which require in camera sessions such as personnel matters where an individual may be named, property issues and litigation where premature release may not be in the best interest of the municipality.

This is understood, even by the media.

But often the general term of personnel or legal items is used to convene an in camera session which could hide a multitude of issues that don't qualify.

Electors have a right to know how their elected representatives debate the issues and make their decisions especially where tax dollars are concerned and they can't do this if it's done behind closed doors.

By 1983 after many citizen and media complaints about closed door meetings of council across the province the government established a provincial/municipal committee to study the whole issue of open and closed meetings and access to information.

As Mayor of Aurora at the time, I was selected as the municipal co-chairman of the committee.

The committee met for more than a year before submitting its report.

It was recommended that all council and committee meetings be open, except for clearly defined issues which could be discussed in camera, such as personnel issues, contract negotiations, property and litigation.

The report was met with hostile opposition from several municipalities, resulting in its shelving, as the government got cold feet.

Complaints continued and finally in January, 1995, the Municipal Act was amended to require all council and committee meetings to be open to the public, unless the meeting met the strict criteria set out in the Act to be closed.

In spite of the legislation, there hasn't been much improvement over past practices.

The terms "legal" and "personnel" are frequently used to retire into private session without any clue as to the reason.

In addition, any decision made at an in camera session must be ratified in open council and that seldom happens with Aurora Council.

Back in February, 2005, questions were asked about a developer reducing the amount of commercial space and building 12 apartments when only 10 were approved by council.

A legal opinion was requested as to what action was available to council as there was a concern that such action could set a precedent for other developers and there was the question of service allocation.

The legal opinion was subsequently provided to members of council at an in camera session, but was not available to the public or the media.

Councillor Evelyn Buck argued that as the request was made in public, the answer should come back to a public session, but Mayor Tim Jones ruled it was solicitor/client advice and would remain secret to council members and the two additional units were legalized.

There was also the case of the tender contract for the pre-grading of the new Seniors' Centre.

The contract was awarded to the low bidder but later following an in camera session, the tender was re-awarded to the third low bidder at an additional cost to the taxpayers of \$73,000.

There was no report in open session and no explanation to the taxpaying public as it was claimed to be a legal matter.

In addition to not reporting in public session, public business information is now being circulated internally by E-mail to councillors without coming to the council table.

The public has a right to know and public business should be dealt with in public.



The incredible, historic, and quite demolished Queen's Hotel was the subject of an Aurora postcard many years ago. Situated on the northeast corner of Yonge and Wellington, the hotel was built around 1860 as The Machell House...given that the town was called Machell's Corners. It was the hamlet's largest and most elegant hotel. The Queen's may be responsible for the first shuttle service, since it used a horse-drawn omnibus to meet every train at the station and lure travellers to the hotel. The building, regrettably, was demolished in 1971, to make way for a bank, which still occupies the corner. This photo came from the postcard collection of Aurora's Bob McRoberts.

Letters to the Editor

Group seeks rummage sale donations

To the editor,

The Catholic Women's League of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Aurora, is sponsoring its annual spring rummage sale to be held Friday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Lynett Hall, 16 Catherine Avenue.

We will be happy to receive any donations of

clothing, clean, usable and in good condition, but no underclothing; books and videos, in good condition; jewelry, children's toys, in good working order; electrical equipment, with cords; furniture in good condition; linens, material and wool, clean and usable; and musical instruments in good condition.

We cannot accept items which are under govern-

ment regulation, such as car seats.

Items may be dropped off at Lynett Hall, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, May 2 to 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This event is open to the community of Aurora and surrounding area and we look forward to making our seventh annual Rummage Sale successful and pleasant for everyone.

Funds derived from this sale will be used by the CWL for parish endeavours.

Refreshments will be served throughout the sale days.

Deborah Campo
President
CWL
Aurora

Left unattended at hospital

To the editor,

This is for your information on conditions at Southlake Regional Health Centre's emergency department.

I too, had an agonizing experience there.

Without going into detail, in terrible pain, I was placed in a room and was left there.

My husband was taken in by a volunteer and he knew which room I was in by the sound of me calling for help.

He went out to get help, but there were only a few people encountered by him and when he pleaded for help they would not even give him eye contact.

He went to the only person who said she would call the doctor. (No doctor in emergency?)

It took the doctor only a few minutes to relieve the pain.

It seemed to me that it was a method that a fully-trained nurse could have

done.

But I understand that only a doctor was allowed to do it.

I sincerely hope that no one else will need to go through this unforgiveable experience.

Money won't do it. Compassion and well-trained and caring personnel will do it.

Thanks for the podium.

H. Lindsay
Aurora

Garbage spoils Marsh area

To the editor,

My husband and I had a lovely walk down the length of new boardwalk on St. John's Sideroad recently.

As one who was concerned for the wildlife and eco-system of McKenzie Marsh during this project from the start, I have to say, it has turned out quite lovely (if you don't try and cross the road).

We were serenaded by red-winged blackbirds, witnessed the vigorous and noisy defense of a nest of goose eggs by their watchful parents, and watched fish jump up out of the water with such incredible frequency that if each one was a note, it would have been a symphony.

We watched all this from the outlook section in the middle of the north side.

It appears that many others have enjoyed the same sight as the only garbage can there was

overflowing and in danger of spilling into the Marsh.

Could someone have this checked and emptied more frequently?

Patricia Stade
Aurora

Read the signs

To the editor,

Drivers Beware!

Southbound drivers on Yonge Street (just past Aurora Heights Drive) may be tempted to turn right onto Irwin Avenue to avoid the Wellington-Yonge mess and come out on Machell Avenue, thence to Wellington Street West between 6.30 and 9.30 a.m.

Don't do it!
There's a polite young cop

there (sometimes) who will stop you and point out two signs forbidding such turns off Yonge Street.

It can cost you \$110, he says.

"I've been doing it for years," I protested.

"Then you owe Aurora a lot of money," he said, with a grin and let me go in tribute to my silver hair, I guess.

Lew Gloin
Aurora

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Publisher Emeritus
Rosemary Schumaker

Editorial
Ron Wallace
ron@auroran.com

Dick Illingworth
dick@auroran.com

Photography
David Falconer

Advertising
Bob Ince
bob@auroran.com

Diane Buchanan
diane@auroran.com

Production
Cynthia Proctor
cynthia@auroran.com

Main Number
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Classifieds
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classifieds@auroran.com
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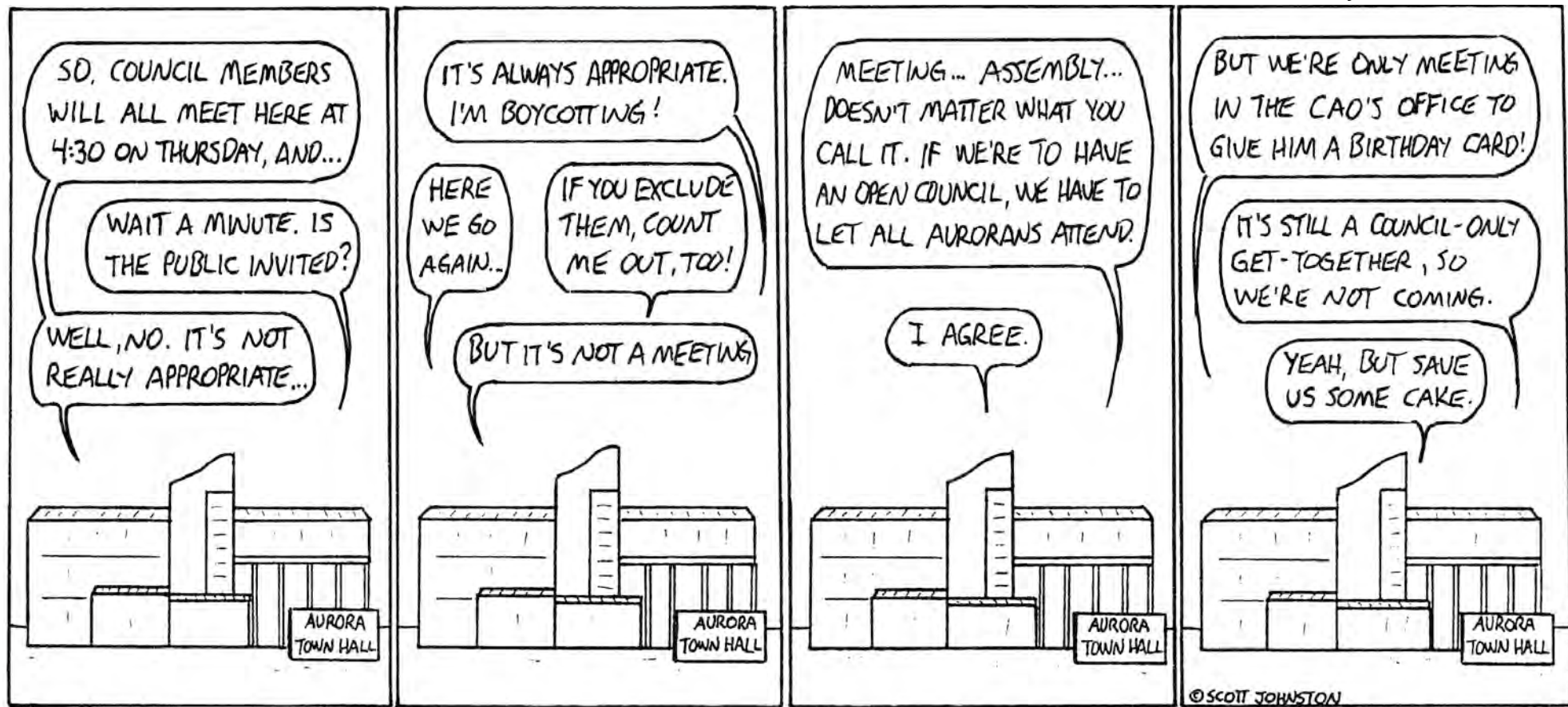
Editorial Department
rwall9999@aol.com

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Mayor's Report

By Tim Jones

Over the past couple of years, residents of Aurora have shown remarkable compassion towards those affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa.

It is no coincidence that residents have taken up this cause.

The York Region effort has been spearheaded by Aurora resident Steve Falk and Newmarket resident Anna Beer.

They have worked tirelessly with numerous groups and individuals in educating and motivating residents in Aurora and throughout York Region to this cause.

Three years ago, a dedicated committee co-founded by Trinity Anglican's own Father Philip Poole (soon afterword to become Bishop Poole) developed a strategy to raise awareness about the AIDS pandemic.

The plan was to tell residents about the suffering endured by the most vulnerable in Africa as a result of the disease, then set up a speakers' bureau and an awareness raising campaign.

In other words, inform and then inspire residents to respond.

The organizers approached the fledgling Stephen Lewis Foundation to see if they could direct support to the African grassroots projects they had identified.

Mr. Lewis, whose UN job took him on monthly trips to Africa to report back to world leaders on the AIDS crisis, had just begun the Foundation with the help of some Rotary Club seed money.

The goal, supporting some of the most needy projects he had seen that were assisting women and children, orphans and the unrecognized heroes of Africa, the grandmothers affected by the disease that is killing their families.

Aurora residents just seemed to understand the issue.

Stephen Lewis, speaking recently in Victoria, B.C., commented on the unparalleled support that is coming from York Region.

I cannot possibly make a full accounting here of the projects that have assisted with awareness raising and fundraising in Aurora.

A highlight, though, was during a coin box drive in retail stores around town.

Omar's Shoes had a box on the counter and owner Omar Khamissa generously dropped \$10,000 into the fund.

The list of participants ranges from service clubs to churches to school boards, teachers and students.

The Foundation reports more than \$200,000 received from school children in York Region.

The town seems to have expanded its borders of compassion and has sent a caring message to a continent that is losing 6,000 lives a day to AIDS.

In just a few weeks, we get a chance to help wrap up the If I Had A Million Dollars campaign at a unforgettable Gala Dinner hosted by Steve Paikin (TVO) and featuring guests Stephen Lewis, and Steven Page, of the Barenaked Ladies.

I had the pleasure to attend the first gala dinner held in December, 2004.

It is hoped this gala dinner May 3rd, will wrap up this caring initiative.

I plan on attending and would encourage you to consider supporting this worthwhile cause by calling Steve Falk for ticket information at 905-726-2608.

Aurorans help ease the pain of African AIDS pandemic

And on a separate note - I would like to remind residents to prepare for another event planned by Aurora's Environment Committee and sanctioned through council for the same day as the "Mayor's Anti-Litter Day" pick up: April 29: Aurora Great Curbside Giveaway Day.

Since one Auroran's trash is another's treasure, the committee suggests instead of throwing out the results of spring cleaning, take it to the street Saturday, April 29, beginning at 7 a.m.

Put up a big FREE sign and let others help themselves.

Or, do a little curbside "shopping" yourself.

All articles must be removed by 6 p.m.

For more information, call public works at 905-727-3123 ext. 3447. Visit the EAC website for additional event information at <http://www.town.aurora.on.ca/eac/>.

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



Cathy's Corner



Tarzan and Jane: the remake

Remember Tarzan?

He used to be a macho legend, but ever since Jane convinced him that a vacuum cleaner is a power tool, his jungle call has gone up a few too many octaves for Hollywood to get excited about remakes.

Seems Tarzan has already been remade...by advertisers.

Since television commercials were invented, they have been showing beaming women dancing around the house with their sexy new mops. What's that about?

If a mop can stir Jane's passion to tango through the kitchen with a rose clenched between her teeth, triple blade action isn't going to be enough for Tarzan.

He is going to have to start waxing his five o'clock shadow.

According to advertisers, he should lose that tight little loin cloth and get himself a decent apron, or he might hurt himself doing the dusting.

Yup, commercials have evolved to the point of showing Tarzan getting so pumped about his new duster that he calls Jane at work to talk dirty to her - breathing heavily as he gives graphic details of utter filth...trapped in microfibre!

If this keeps up, she's going to have to start locking up her control top panty hose.

Okay, so Jane has been begging Tarzan to cut down on the vine swinging and help with the dishes once in a while, but this is ridiculous!

I can't understand why the men of Aurora aren't marching united on Town Hall, carrying signs that say "Maid of Testosterone!" and burning their boxers in protest. It's gone too far!

Ever since Jane muscled in on Tarzan's bar of Irish Spring soap, Tarzan stopped showering altogether.

Rumour has it he prefers a bubble bath.

"I like it, too," he says with a cute little leprechaun smile.

It took a few years, but Jane finally got tired of smelling like a coniferous forest and got herself some flowery shower gel, a puff, and a deodorant stick that is "strong enough

for a man, but made for a woman".

Of course, Tarzan wasn't allowed to use any of it because Jane didn't want him smelling like a pansy.

But one day, he ran out of Brut and borrowed the anti-perspirant that doesn't make white streaks on little black dresses.

His armpit hair dissolved on contact and his testosterone levels plummeted to the point where he could apply mascara without poking out an eye.

He has developed an irrational fear of breaking a fingernail ever since, so he's sworn off vine swinging completely. Besides, it gives him blisters.

That's why Jane drives the elephant now.

Poor Tarzan! A car commercial shows him running down the steps of the tree-house at lightning speed to call shot-gun, and Jane simply jumps down in front of him Batman style and holds out her hand for the keys.

These commercials are ruining Tarzan's macho image.

Not only do they show the part where he hands over the keys, but in the latest episode, Tarzan has the nerve to play with Jane's toys.

He ends up buckled into the passenger seat cowering beneath her warlock glare.


If this keeps up, Tarzan will be so whipped that Super Bowl half time will feature him wearing a pink tuxedo complete with frilly shirt and surgically enhanced smile as he waltzes across the kitchen with his beloved miracle mop...euphorically wiping up after the muddy chimp.


But even as I chuckle at Tarzan's tragic makeover, I can't help but wonder if Jane isn't doing a little too much chest pounding at Tarzan's expense.


As women continue to struggle with the very real and serious issue of gender equality, I wonder if the cause isn't taking just as much of a beating as the men when advertisers present it as a mere battle over who gets to wear the panty hose in the family.


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


By DICK ILLINGWORTH


 **BOUQUETS** to Maya Goldman and Garth Miller of the Aurora Skating Club on winning the Senior Silver Dance Award in the provincial championships and Alex Woodward captured provincial honours in the Junior Bronze Men's category at the All-Ontario Starskate competition.


 **BRICKBATS** to Aurora Council for failing to make adequate arrangements at the Town Hall for a drop-off for hydro payments after PowerStream closes its Aurora office. Town staff assured council and residents that arrangements had been made with TD Canada Trust Bank as a drop-off, but according to PowerStream's Eric Fagen, negotiations are only underway.


 **BOUQUETS** to York Region Transit for providing a convenient way for commuters to leave their cars at home with their 50 cent to GO which lets Viva or YRT buses to carry passengers to GO stations for only 50 cents. Using it would certainly help the parking situation around the Aurora station.


 **BRICKBATS** to Aurora Council for continuing to approve variances to the town's sign bylaw. One week it was a variance for Pizza Pizza on Hollandview Trail at Bayview Avenue and this week it was Dollarama in the former Shoppers Drug Mart Doane Hall building. Either amend the bylaw to make it more acceptable or rescind it, but don't keep bending it.


 **BOUQUETS** to Markham Mayor Don Cousens for his letter to the province requesting needed revisions to the development charges to include development charges for hospitals for growth-related costs, to eliminate the 10 per cent mandatory discount on growth related soft services and be able to include museums, theatres and art galleries. Well worth supporting!


 **BRICKBATS** to the McGuinty Liberal government for wasting \$1.2 million in legal fees to a law firm it hired in 2005 in its fruitless fight against rising tolls on Highway 407 and the 99-year ironclad lease that Mike Harris imposed on the people. Much cheaper to erect a sign proclaiming "Mike Harris did this to you!"


 **BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Seniors for raising more than \$500 for the Aurora Rotary Club's Devon Brisbane Trust Fund. Also to Anna Cianfarani who won the contest to name the Seniors column in The Auroran and donating the prize for the silent auction to raise funds for Devon.

 **BOUQUETS** to the operators, staff and customers of First Choice Hair Cutters in Aurora and Newmarket on raising \$7,200 for Devon's Fund. Customers were lined up to participate.

 **BRICKBATS** to the federal government for failing to take action to control the retail price of a litre of gasoline. While the gas companies are making enormous profits and for no rhyme or reason the cost of a litre of gas jumped to over a dollar recently. It's highway robbery!

 **BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Tigers Minor Midget AA Hockey Club on capturing the Glen Irwin Memorial Trophy in Burlington. This is the second time the team has won the OMHA title and both wins were against a strong Burlington team.

 **BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Minor Atom AE Tigers on winning a Silver Medal in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association, and to the Novice AE Tigers on winning the Stouffville Clippers 2006 Tournament.

 **BOUQUETS** to the Town of Aurora, for the third successive year, for placing first in winning the Lifesaving Society's "Scarborough Cup" and for four years in a row placed first to win the "Single-Facility Fundraising " award.

Letter to the Editor

Heritage Conservation District would have prevented Catherine controversy

To the editor,

It is unfortunate that two prominent voices in our town seem bent on opposing the work of the Town of Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee and a large number of citizens and homeowners in the northeastern part of old Aurora as they study the possibility of creating a Heritage Conservation District.

In two letters, Evelyn Buck has misrepresented the work of Aurora's Community Planner, Michael Seaman, spread nonsense about heritage designation lowering property values, tried to pit new neighbourhoods against old, and even suggested that municipal funding which supports the work of our committee comes at the expense of programs for low income families.

Now Leslie Oliver has joined the fray.

It's odd that he accuses us of turning his neighbourhood, the area where the District study is being done, into "a kind of conflict zone."

Where has he been throughout the two-year process that preceded the formal initiation of this study?

This process began with informal meetings of neighbours, hosted first by the Aurora Historical Society at Hillary House, and then led by the local ratepayers association to make sure there was significant neighbourhood support before the town's Heritage Advisory Committee became officially involved.

Throughout this process there has been a great deal of consensus and cooperation.

At the same time, opposing voices have been heard and their influence has been felt through the adjustment of the proposed District boundaries and an emphasis on establishing widely supported guidelines, rather than narrow restrictions.

Bylaws in force throughout most of our neighbourhood of

detached single-family homes envision an area which can easily be transformed into streets of "triplexes" and "double duplexes".

In other parts of our neighbourhood, we have high density commercial zoning and institutional zoning.

On paper, this makes sense since we are right in the centre of Aurora, close to or on Yonge Street.

Without Heritage Conservation District status, however, what now gives these streets much of their current character and beauty can easily be lost as the town grows and pressure for redevelopment of Aurora's historic core intensifies.

Heritage Conservation District status will not affect zoning, but it can help ensure that change is carefully managed.

I make no apologies for taking pride in Aurora's architectural heritage and the need to preserve it.

My own house has been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act for years, and I hope that I may soon say that I will be part of a Heritage Conservation District.

I hope, too, that the success of this first attempt will inspire other Aurora neighbourhoods to follow suit.

Wherever I travel in Ontario I find that the most interesting and dynamic towns and cities are places which take pride in their buildings and have made use of the tools which are available to them through the Ontario Heritage Act.

At present, there are more than 70 Heritage Conservation Districts in our province. They have worked well and provide models for us to follow.

Dr. Oliver notes that he was part of a group which reviewed provincial heritage policy in the 1990s, but neglects to say that the result of that review was broad agreement that the Ontario Heritage Act needed to be strengthened, not weakened, in order to bring it more into line with widely accepted

practice elsewhere in Canada and the United States.

What we are hoping is that Aurora will finally make use of the tools which are available if it really is to fulfill the goals of our Official Plan and ensure that our built heritage is protected amidst rapid growth and change.

Public education, as Dr. Oliver notes, will always be essential to preserving and maintaining the cultural heritage of communities.

That is why the Town of Aurora sponsored its highly successful House Restoration Workshop this winter and why we look forward to similar events in future.

But education must go hand-in-hand with widely accepted principles of municipal planning.

The harshness of his letter seems out of character and I can only wonder where all his anger is coming from.

I suspect some of it comes from the controversy which surrounded proposed changes and additions to 34 Catherine

Avenue, widely reported in the press and discussed at the Council table.

Had the Heritage Conservation District Study area been formally recognized by Council previously, this controversy would not have arisen.

As it is, the Heritage Advisory Committee, property owners and neighbours have come up with a solution which seems to satisfy most concerns.

At the same meeting when all this was worked out, renovations and additions to two important houses on Spruce Street were also approved with cooperation and good will on all sides.

Please, let us put the misinformation and rhetoric aside.

Let's look at the success of Heritage Conservation Districts across Ontario and hope that Aurora will finally catch up with other historic Canadian towns that take their architectural heritage seriously.


**John McIntyre
Aurora**



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Letters to the Editor

Use hydro funds to improve network

To the editor,

In the 1980s Aurora Council accepted in principle my widely supported proposal to implement a "Trails Network Plan".

By 1991, the essential elements of that plan had been adopted into the goals, objectives, and a schedule of Aurora's official plan.

My proposal for a trails network was born out of concerns for Aurora's country atmosphere, recreational opportunities, and the safety of non-motorized traffic, all contained in a document entitled, "Aurora's Trails Network Plan".

Under country atmosphere, I stated that initiative must be taken to incorporate Aurora's "natural environments into the active and cultural, as well as the visual fabric of life of this community".

Under safety concerns, I stated that "parents who fear that their tots will run into the road traffic, or older people who do not feel safe when they have to cross one street after another, are finding strolls in town too much of an exercise in stress tolerance".

I called for a "network of trails that is substantially separated from motorized traffic and that leads through the parks, open space and natural environments, as well as the residential, commercial and industrial neighbourhoods".

In short, corridors for non-motorized traffic away from motorized traffic, and facilitating the appreciation of our natural environment at the same time.

Later in the eighties, the parks and recreation master plan embodied the concept of a "comprehensive system (of trails)...throughout Aurora".

As part of my network plan I had proposed that the eventual incorporation of the trails network plan into the official plan of Aurora "is not only desirable but is essential to assure that the long-term phasing-in of the trails network enjoys ongoing political support".

The trails network plan did become part of Aurora's

official plan all right, but political support has been another story.

To have a quality trails network, or "trails system", is not to be equated with a quality sidewalk system.

For a trails network, the trails corridors should not be alongside motorized traffic, and should not intersect with motorized traffic arteries at the same level, if at all possible.

Trail loops and interconnections with regional and other local trail systems are also very desirable.

Trails typically lead through natural environments, while avoiding ecologically sensitive areas. They cross over or under motorized traffic arteries.

If those two conditions are met, the public will use the trails for utilitarian and recreational purposes, and trails can become a major asset of Aurora, our community.

At this time Aurora's official plan is full of objectives that could achieve the ideal layout of a trails network, but over the last decade our councils have chosen not to implement some key objectives.

For instance, council voted not to incorporate an underpass during the Wellington Street East reconstruction; to block two railroad underpasses in Aurora's north and south; and not diligently pursue the formalization of a level railroad crossing from Cousins Drive to Sheppard's Bush.

Yes, there are costs.

But you have to spend some dollars to build a quality community. It is the capital costs that scared our then councillors and mayor out of building the key Wellington underpass.

That the ongoing maintenance costs of trails are negligible compared to the costs of other recreational facilities like swimming pools and ice pads didn't enter the discussions.

Nor did the fact that trails are for Aurorans of all ages and abilities, and year round. And if that was discussed, no comprehensive costing was being performed.

A lot of Aurorans are enjoying the trails we do have, as truncated as they are.

It is because they are in nature settings (the Sheppard's Bush/Vandorf woodlot trails are especially pleasant).

But imagine if these types of trails could be looped all around Aurora and beyond, and could be used to commute to and from shopping and work!

And with no need to cross streets and four-lane arterial roads, and away from exhaust fumes and noise!

In order to make real progress we need to be more focused and committed.

In the current planning context, the municipalities can expect to be given five per cent of the developable land, as part of the development conditions.

In Aurora, this land dedication has generally been used for playing fields and playgrounds, but almost never for linear open space, such as rights-of-way for trails corridors, or trail connectors. Also, no capital budget has been made available for the purchase of trail lands.

Current laws governing community planning are not

very supportive when it comes to achieving public interests.

When local planners and politicians do resolve to try to protect a public interest they can expect a fight at The Ontario Municipal Board, Ontario's effective land use planning court.

And they generally expect to come out at the short end of the stick. So most often they don't even try, for fear of wasting taxpayers' money (legal costs).

I have a suggestion on how to get around this deplorable situation - we have to get pro-active: we should follow a two-pronged course of action:

1. Draft a document in which we set out all public interest conditions that we hope to have met during the land development process, regardless of whether they are achievable. In other words, a dream list of public interest conditions.

2. Approach land owners who own, currently or in future, developable lands, and explore to what degree they are willing to accommodate the public interest conditions. If the owner is not willing to substantively go along with the conditions, then offer to buy his lands, with the intentions to resell the lands, at some time in

the future, with conditions attached. In this manner the public interest in the lands coming for development in Aurora will be safeguarded.

The purchase of the first piece of land could be seed funded from the proceeds of the sale of Aurora Hydro. Subsequent purchases would keep reusing the same funding source, likely after lands from the first purchase have been resold.

Initially the town might be concerned that the sale price will not cover the purchase price, but that may only be the case initially. Soon after the public realizes that Aurora is building a quality community, real estate prices will rise.

Lands are no longer being created. In no person's lifetime have long-term real estate prices dropped. So we would not be gambling.

Also, Aurora has previously bought and sold development lands, to make sure more industrial and employment lands are available. We achieved those goals, and did not end up with a deficit on the buy-sell equation.

At this time we have a \$34 million funding source. Who knows whether such opportunity will ever come along again?

The conditions could include how the lands could be bulldozed, what type of housing could be built, to what degree houses and industrial and commercial buildings would have to adopt energy efficiency and water saving methods and naturally, where trails corridors have to be accommodated.

The conditions would be in the form of a contractual arrangement, and some would be registered against the title of the property.

Now, I realize that this would be considered a radical approach, in terms of today's planning environment. But it is time that we stop griping about how developers always get their way - it is time to put our money on the table.

Can you imagine - Aurora with a comprehensive trails network, surrounded by nature - and with land contours left in place, and vistas; maybe green roofs on our homes; energy efficiency, with lower than average heating bills - the list could go on and on.

How we could assure ourselves of a quality community! For us, and for the generations after us!

Klaus Wehrenberg
Aurora

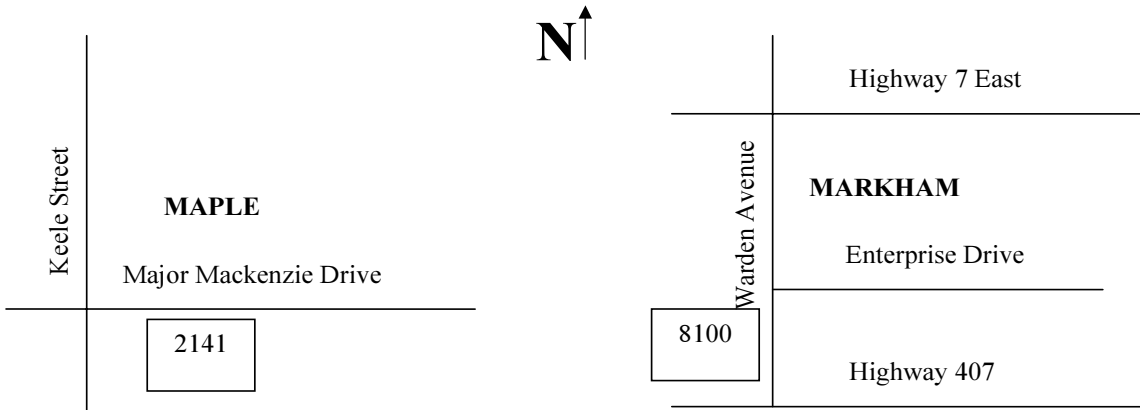
A Notice to Hydro Customers in Aurora

Please be advised that effective **May 1, 2006** the PowerStream (formerly Aurora Hydro) office at 215 Industrial Parkway South will be closed permanently and bill payments will no longer be accepted at this location.

Future payments for hydro bill accounts may be made through most financial institutions, through internet and telephone banking, by mail, with pre-authorized chequing or at the PowerStream office locations shown below. If you have any questions, please call 905-727-4612.

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PowerStream East
8100 Warden Avenue
Markham



Area needs rapid transit, reader says

An open letter to Greg Sorbara, MPP for Vaughan-King-Aurora.

I am e-mailing to say as a resident of Aurora and one of your supporters, I am displeased with the decision of the 404 expansion.

More roads equal more cars equal less farm land equal more urban sprawl equals more pollution.

I think the cost of this project is better spent elsewhere.

We are a society too reliant on our automobiles.

The plans for expansion of the subway system are long overdue.

We need rapid transit.

Not the Viva that takes me two hours to get downtown stopping at with what seems like every traffic light.

Let's show we are a province that has innovative ideas and make better use of land we have already destroyed before moving north.

Robert Preston
Aurora



It showed up last week, Central York Fire Services newest piece of firefighting equipment, and it's worth almost \$1 million. The American LaFrance Eagle aerial platform can stretch to a height of almost 100 feet and can deliver about 8,000 litres of water a minute. Firefighters are delighted with what they have, a huge truck that sets up and operates faster than anything already in their Aurora and Newmarket inventory. *Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

Do you remember the Artists Colony?

Every community needs a centre where residents with artistic talents can gather to exchange information, display their work and put on demonstrations for art lovers.

Once upon a time Aurora had such a centre but it is long gone and it left a big hole in Aurora's art scene, which has never been replaced.

Back in the early 1980s, Aurora's Barbara Hewitson had such a dream and decided to do something about it.

She was a member of the Pine Tree Potters and had recently started to paint with the newly formed Valley Artists in Holland Landing.

After 11 years as an executive secretary plus personnel experience with advertising agencies, she switched to temporary secretarial work so that she could devote more time for her artistic and cultural activities.

She was a member of Theatre Aurora and looked after their publicity.

Her vision was a place where artists could exhibit and sell their works. She got the idea while travelling in Massachusetts where such artist groupings were quite common.

Her vision became a reality in November, 1982, when she found the building on Yonge Street at the corner of Centre Street for rent and leased it.

The Artist's Colony was officially opened November 19, 1982, with a reception.

In addition to art lovers dropping in to browse and enjoy a cup of coffee, they could watch a different artist demonstrate his or her craft every Saturday.

Artwork was on consignment and artists were selected monthly.

The old building had a long history and served

in many ways as the York Humane Guild's Odds and Togs Thrift Shop, Dr. Dart's Emporium, Decadence Dessert Shop, a law office, a taxi dispatch office and originally was the livery stable for the old Queen's Hotel.

The Artist's Colony and the building are long gone.

It was demolished and replaced with a more modern structure. Vandebosche Jewellers is now located in the new building where the Artist's Colony was previously located.

If you want to see what the Artist's Colony used to look like visit the Aurora Town Hall as the town purchased a painting of the building for its permanent collection from the Preserve Aurora in Paint category at the annual Town of Aurora Art Show.

It was painted by Bette Jenkins.

The permanent collec-

tion is located on the side wall of the second floor and viewing hours are from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

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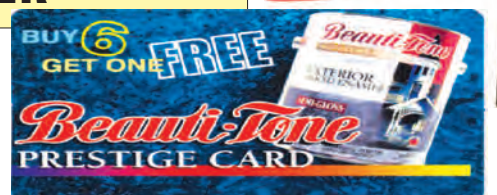


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Rotarians Frank Newell, left, and Eric Smith, third from left, and two of Eric's sons, Paul and Don, were among a group of Aurora Rotarians touring Magna's golf course last week.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Aurora Tigers Bantam A squad wins title at SEDMHA Tourney

The Aurora Tigers Bantam A hockey team finished their 2005-2006 season with a trip to Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, for the 29th Annual SEDMHA (Shearwater East Dartmouth Minor Hockey Association) Tournament last week.

Aurora wound up capturing top honours in the Bantam "A" division.

This huge tournament involves teams from several provinces.

The Bantam-aged group included 21 teams from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario, giving players a good sample of hockey talent from many regions.

Tigers started the tournament by overwhelming their first opponent.

They continued to play strong hockey throughout the preliminary round, showing

great

scoring potential and team play.

Goaltending duo, Josh Bentolila and Mikhail Khamissa, played solidly in net, allowing few goals and instilling confidence in team-mates.

Tigers kept cool heads and showed great sportsmanship against tough and physical opposition.

Losing in Game Five to Sackville, New Brunswick, gave Sackville a bye to the finals Sunday afternoon and forced the Tigers to play in the semi-finals early Sunday morning.

The contest, against a team from Oromocto, New Brunswick, was a display of great skill and discipline from both teams, and at the end of regulation time they

were tied 3-3.

Seven minutes into a 10-minute, three on three sudden death overtime, Andrew McDonald blasted a rocket from the blue line past the net-keeper to give Aurora a 4 -3 victory.

That set the scene for the Tigers to meet up with the well rested Sackville club.

The match was still close

early in the second period with the clubs deadlocked at three.

Tigers continued to display good sportsmanship and discipline in a physical and chippy game allowing them to add markers on the board on numerous power plays.

The Tigers secured the title with an 8 -3 victory, as Sackville had exhausted itself killing penalties.

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Master Ducks get wet to raise funds Sunday

Some 45 swimmers from the Aurora Master Ducks Swim Club will take part in the Foresters BIG Swim for Arthritis this Sunday at St. Andrew's College pool.

The event will raise awareness and money for the Canadian Arthritis Society, a group that deals with the disease that affects four million Canadians.

Aquatic exercise is a low-impact activity that takes the pressure off bones, joints and muscles and swimming is an excellent way to stay fit at any age, said Taina Sodonis, a

member of the Aurora swim group.

The Master Ducks will swim either the 1.5K (60 lengths), 2.5K (100 lengths) or the 5K (200 lengths) in the two-hour time period.

To highlight the event within the adult swimming community, the Aurora club has issued a challenge to a Toronto team of similar size.

Both teams are going to track mileage, average times and other fun criteria to make the day accessible for both beginners and elite swimmers.

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While searching for signs of spring, photographer David Falconer found the Easter Bunny helping children cross the road at Aurora Heights and Crawford Rose, last week. Getting assistance are Bailey Giacomazzo, left, and her brother, Jacob.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Aurora Skating Club Results

The following skaters from the Aurora Skating Club attended the Skate Canada - Central Ontario Fun Competition recently in Thornhill.

Following is a list of results:

FREESKATE

CanSkate - Red: Isabella Greco Danells (Flt 2), 5th.

CanSkate - Purple: Taylor Pearson (Flt 3), 5th.

CanSkate - Burgundy: Sarah Blois (Flt 4), 7th.

Pre-Preliminary I Ladies: MacKenzie Maunder (Flt 4), 1st; Jasmine Biasi (Flt 8), 6th; Rachel Glynn (Flt 10), 6th; Ashleigh Calvert (Flt 16), 5th; Emma Smith (Flt 19), 5th; Nicole McCausland (Flt 24), 8th; Zahra Rajan (Flt 10), 1st; Kailee O'Connor (Flt 32), 5th; Jackieanne Abbey (Flt 35), 2nd.

Pre-Preliminary I Men: Mathew Warner (Flt 3), 1st.

Pre-Preliminary II Ladies: Alessia Chiovitti (Flt 3), 3rd; Sabrina Brochu (Flt 4), 2nd; Savannah Hendy (Flt 9), 2nd; Marilena Perri (Flt 11), 3rd; Shauna O'Connor (Flt 15), 3rd; Julia Chiovitti (Flt 19), 4th; Samantha Duncan (Flt 20), 6th; Molly Oulahan (Flt 20), 5th; Kaitlin Vanwinckle (Flt 23), 6th; Courtney

Tidona (Flt 24), 4th; Shauna O'Connor (Flt 4), 2nd; Rebecca O'Malley (Flt 6), 3rd. 2nd; Nina Malek (Flt 30), 4th.

SOLO DANCE

Pre-Preliminary Solo: Dylann Miller (Flt 5), 6th. Preliminary Solo: 11), 4th.

SHOWCASE

Pre-Preliminary: Samantha Duncan (Flt 11), 4th.



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Minister of Education left a mess, Klees says

In the wake of Gerard Kennedy's resignation as Minister of Education to seek the federal Liberal leadership, Oak Ridges MPP, Progressive Conservative Education Critic and Aurora resident Frank Klees says Sandra Pupatello inherits Kennedy's legacy of under-funded program announcements and policy commitments.

After two and a half years, Kennedy left the Ontario education system burdened with policy and contractual commitments beyond the fiscal ability of school boards leading inevitably to deficits in every school board in the coming year, Klees said.

He pointed out that Kennedy has left a multi-million dollar funding shortfall that school boards will have to deal with as the result of his "peace at any cost" labour deals.

His only major piece of legislation in the two and a half years, Bill 78, robs school boards of any meaningful role, undermines the authority of school board trustees, strips away the independence of the College of Teachers and

downloads numerous responsibilities to school boards without any commitment of resources, Klees said.

He added that rather than delivering on his promise to provide services to autistic children, Kennedy fought autistic children in the courts.

Klees also pointed out that Kennedy had failed to deliver on the promised funding to keep rural and small schools open and deflected any responsi-

bility for the imminent closing of many of these schools.

He said the minister had mastered the art of the announcement, but lost sight of his mandate to serve the public interest.

Klees told The Auroran last week he would seek the nomination for the PC party to represent the riding of Newmarket-Aurora in the next provincial election, slated for the fall of 2007.

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What are you doing after work?

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Six-year-old Kassidy Yaeck, of Aurora, had her first haircut last week and will donate her hair to "Locks of Love", a group that will fashion a wig for children with cancer. Kassidy agreed instantly with the concept and after viewing the website showing some recipients of the wig, noted, "I'm going to grow my hair again so I can make another wig".

Street tree cutting upsets neighbours

Tree cutting on Bathurst Street has neighbouring residents fuming.

At a recent Aurora general committee meeting, questions were asked about tree cutting on Bathurst Street and the number of resident complaints about the destruction, with what they claimed was lack of notification or warning.

It was noted that when the town plans to cut trees on a road allowance, the trees are marked so that residents can ask questions, but with the destruction of trees on Bathurst Street, a regional road, nobody seemed to know about it.

Staff replied that the region had previously held an Open House for the residents regarding the road reconstruction and all the trees to be destroyed where clearly marked on the plans.

In March, 2002, the region placed a notification of construction in the press to advise that a contract had been awarded to Mardave Construction to install a large diameter watermain from the King/Vaughan Road to Wellington Street along Bathurst Street.

In addition, the roadway between the King Road and Wellington Street is being reconstructed and widened from two to four lanes, with construction completion scheduled for June, 2007.

Prior to the commencement of construction, officials of the contracting firm on behalf of the region conducted a pre-construction survey of properties adjacent to the site and contacted homes that were within limits of the survey.

Any questions during construction may be directed to John Ranta, construc-

tion administrator for the region at 905-895-1200 ext. 5928.

The widening and reconstruction of Bathurst Street has been an issue since April, 1973.

York Regional Council, with the support of Aurora Council, petitioned the province to build a Newmarket-to-Toronto bypass west of Yonge Street to eliminate traffic congestion along the region's central corridor and suggested Bathurst Street. King Township Council opposed the proposal.

Residents also opposed the proposed bypass as they expressed concerns about the destruction of trees, loss of the property frontage, urban sprawl and increased traffic with loss of

property values.

In June, 2000, the region proposed widening and reconstructing Bathurst Street from Gamble Road in Richmond Hill to Highway 9 in Newmarket.

Once again the residents opposed the proposal claiming traffic noise, truck traffic, safety, speed limit, access and drainage, plus reduction in property values.

The region scheduled the reconstruction of Bathurst Street between King Road and Wellington Street in 2004 and from Wellington Street to Mulock Drive in 2006.

While the proposed construction schedule was delayed, it is now underway.

Volpe gets Habitat nod

Aurora's John Volpe has been named president of the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity, York Region, and his wife, Danielle, will also serve on the board.

The group held its first regularly scheduled meeting this week.

"In the coming year we will be moving in a new direction to structure our organization so that we can expand our building schedule in the future to include building more than one house per year, Volpe said. "To achieve this goal we will place an increased emphasis on attaining sustainable funding.

"Each member of the board has been empowered to seek out funding

sources that will assist us with achieving our goal."

Also elected at the Annual General Meeting were Mike Springford, Past President; Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor, 1st Vice President; Bunny Godman, 2nd Vice President, and board members Charles Scott, Geoff Taylor, Per Nielson,

Mary Ann Proulx, Councillor Marlene Johnston, George Oldreive, Peter Tetley, Ernie Crossland, Ray Ashby, Danielle Volpe, Nanci Bodi, and Pat Birch.

For further information on Habitat for Humanity, York Region, visit www.hfhyr.ca.



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Rep Games

Game # 2 3

Aurora Tigers Minor
Atom AE 2
Brampton Bombers 1

Aurora Tigers Atom AE 5
- Connor Moody 2A, Jimmy Brookes 1A, Matthew Pryse 2G, Eric Bulloch 2G 1A, Ryan Baskin 1A, Liam Devlin 1G.
Milton Winterhawks 1

Pickering Tournament
Game #1 4
Aurora Tigers Novice A 1

Aurora Tigers Minor
Atom AE 4
Meadowvale 0

SF Westwood 5
Aurora Tigers Pee wee
AA 4 - Cody Weese 1G, Matthew Miller 2G, Matthew Mears 1G, James Harkin 1A.

Aurora Tigers Novice A 3
Pickering Tournament

Aurora Tigers Minor
Atom AE 3
North London Nationals 1



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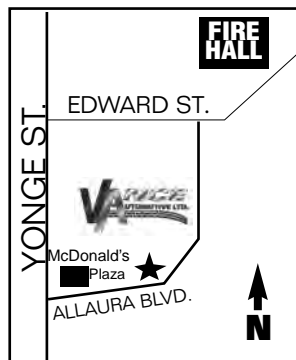
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Fundraiser

He may not look like Elvis, but there are few impersonators in the area who sound as much like Elvis Presley as Randy Skelcher. He was the brains behind Saturday's Las Vegas Revue that saw a sold out crowd entertained by several performers at the new Aurora Seniors' Centre. Money raised from the show and silent auction - they're still counting it - will go to the Devon Brisbane fund.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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This corner could become gas haven

The intersection of Leslie Street and Wellington Street East could become a gasoline alley instead of the Gateway to Aurora if all the plans of major oil companies proceed and there may not be much Aurora Council can do about it.

At the March meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee a request was received to demolish the house located on the north-west corner.

The committee sought a meeting with Imperial Oil representatives to discuss the moving and relocation to another site if another party expresses interest.

A Shell service station and convenience store already operate on a 10-acre site on the southeast corner of the intersection.

The company acquired the property in 1991 and submitted an application for

development at that time, but could not proceed due to lack of servicing.

A small, white heritage home was demolished to make way for the proposed service station.

Petro Canada acquired the property on the north-east corner of the intersection and had previously submitted an application for a service station, convenience store and car wash, which is still pending.

The southwest corner is owned by Magna International and as yet an application for development has not been officially received.

The subject lands were designated commercial in the official plan, as amended, which permits service stations and accessory car washes subject to conditions.

Council wants warning

From page 1

up to the purchaser or solicitor to investigate and to decide whether to proceed with the purchase.

It was agreed to refer the wording back to the solicitor for review and possible rewording based on the comments received.

Councillor Bill Hogg pointed out there was a mixed message as Councillor Morris had suggested a stronger, more technical warning clause and the majority of council supported a more simple wording.

It was finally agreed that the primary intent of the warning clause was to alert would-be purchasers to the hydro corridor and that council had no control over what might happen to the corridor in the future.

The property was sold to Kylemore for \$1.4 million in 2004 and the town purchased a right of way across the hydro corridor for an extension of

Chapman Court to provide access to the property.

The developer proposed a total of 48 townhouses with 34 units having a 23-foot frontage with two garages and 14 units having a 20-foot frontage with a single garage with an overall density of 12 units to the acre and a projected population of 144 persons.

The development was designed as a Common Elements Condominium with the common elements including the future extension of Chapman Court and the internal streets as private roads.

A public planning meeting was held last November with no members of the public in attendance in support or opposition to the application.

With the approval of the warning clause at a future council meeting, the development should receive final approval to proceed.



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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

At one time, Aurora Bus Lines served town

With all the buses travelling up and down Yonge Street today operated by Viva, YRT and GO Transit, it's hard to believe that during a period in the late 1960s and early 1970s Aurora was served by Aurora Bus Lines, owned and operated by Ronald Farquharson.

Following several attempts to persuade council to grant him a town-wide franchise, he requested the town to take over the ownership of the bus line with himself as operator.

Council voted unanimously to conduct a detailed financial study of a possible takeover as provided in the Municipal Act.

Under the Act, the town would assume complete control, including approval of fares and routes, with the provincial government paying 50 per cent of any operating deficit, and the Aurora Bus Lines became a municipal operation.

NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED

It was in November, 1969, when Aurora's first and only Youth Council took over the municipality for the day.

The Youth Council was the brainchild of R.K. Smith, a



Pool tables very popular at centre

By BRIAN WARBURTON

One of the mainstays of men's activities is games, including snooker, pool and billiards.

We have a fine snooker room at the new centre which, at present, is equipped with two full size tables and one nine-foot sized table, all for billiards and snooker.

We anticipate the addition of another nine-foot sized table for pool, in the not-too-distant future.

George Woolley advises me that competition pool is, in fact, played on a nine-foot table, and that there are differences in the table design.

The "rails" or cushions are slightly higher on the pool table, because the balls are slightly larger in diameter than snooker/billiard balls, and the pocket openings are noticeably wider.

The cues are different also - snooker/billiard cues have a finer tip than pool cues.

You will be aware also, that pool balls are numbered.

With the three tables we have, we can accommodate more players, men and women, and so if this is your game, join the seniors and make your presence felt with the magic of your game.

Darts and a variety of card games are also played in the snooker room; in fact, a fully-equipped poker table is available temporarily in the snooker room which will be relocated once

the new pool table arrives.

Please note, gambling is strictly prohibited anywhere in the seniors' centre.

While I am on the subject of games, an effort is in process to start chess and checkers, so if this is among your interests we look forward to meeting you.

The snooker room is open 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. five days a week and we anticipate extended hours later this year.

At this time, we have a solid nucleus of snooker players, and time and equipment to accommodate more, both men and women.

In addition, the centre boasts many other activities, and the badminton, table tennis and pickle ball scene may be just what you need for physical activity.

teacher at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, who talked Aurora Council into holding a mock election for his Grade 10 class.

Town staff conducted the election in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act and the youth council consisted of Mayor Steve Ostick, Reeve Sharon Brown, Deputy Reeve Jamie Thompson and Councillors Ted Cousins, Susan Dawson, Trish Hutchins, Alan Pekola, Kim Miller and Dave van Nostrand.

After sitting with their adult counterparts for three council meetings, they held their own council meeting at the school, with parents, town council members and citizens in attendance.

The youth council dealt with a wide variety of issues including the need for a youth drop-in centre (still waiting), a movie theatre and an indoor swimming pool (both finally came), and a cheaper drivers' education course.

They also discussed regional government, the water problem in Aurora, senior citizen housing, snow removal and the difficulty of attracting industry to Aurora for a balanced assessment.

The youth council adopted a resolution that the town should select a Citizen of the Year, resulting in town council picking up the idea and the late Bob Blick was named the first Citizen of the Year in 1970.

AURORA'S LOITERING BYLAW

Few Aurora oldtimers will ever forget the controversial anti-loitering bylaw adopted by Aurora Council in August, 1966.

Several complaints had been received about gangs of young people gathering on Yonge Street, usually in front of Ray's Café, now Moon Garden Restaurant, causing citizens to cross the street to get by.

When the local police failed to take action, council adopted the bylaw based on a Town of Georgetown model which stipulated that no person shall lounge, loaf, loiter or stand as an idler on any public sidewalk or street or in any public place.

It was well known that Police Chief Bill Langman was not in favour of the bylaw, claiming the Criminal Code was all the authority needed.

Shortly after the adoption of the bylaw, a fire broke out on Yonge Street, attracting a large crowd including Lorraine Davis, the wife of then Mayor Clarence Davis.

The police moved in to clear the crowd, in accordance with the bylaw, with the incident making news in every major newspaper across Canada, including an editorial cartoon in the Globe and Mail about "Aurora-A-Go-Go!"

Following the incident, town council met with the Police Chief and according to the mayor in a brief one paragraph report stated that a "mutual understanding" had been reached, without elaboration from either side.

WHAT HAPPENED?

In November, 2005, Councillor Nigel Kean asked about the status of the Defibrillation Program in public facilities.

He pointed out that money had been included in the budget to purchase the defibrillators and a training program and questioned why they had not been purchased as directed.

Staff replied that the previous October the Mikey Network had agreed to donate two Automated External Lifepak Defibrillators to the municipality and requested they be placed in the Seniors' Centre and the Recreation Complex.

Heathwood Homes and the Heron Group established the Mikey Network in memory of a business partner.

Staff noted the defibrillators and a training program would be established before Christmas as it was a high priority program.

That was the last that was heard of it at council in public session. What happened?

Last October Aurora council endorsed a recommendation from the Aurora Heritage Committee to recommend that certain sites and people had been nominated for awards under the Heritage Community Recognition Program.

What happened?

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CHATS selected

CHATS (Community Home Assistance to Seniors) has been hand-picked to take the lead in co-ordinating a new Ministry-funded health initiative called the Cardiovascular Health Awareness Program (CHAP) in Aurora.

The goal is to raise awareness of health problems associated with high blood pressure, the importance of regular blood pressure monitoring, and ultimately, to help prevent cardiovascular disease and stroke in seniors age 65 and older.

Blood pressure monitoring and cardiovascular risk assessment sessions will take place at pharmacies

over a 10-week period in the fall beginning September 18.

In the meantime, CHATS is gearing up by recruiting community members who will volunteer to help measure participants' blood pressure.

The program relies on volunteers who will be trained by a community health nurse.

Volunteers will help out for a few hours a week during the period. Training sessions take place in June.

If you're interested, contact Hillary Richardson, Local CHAP Coordinator, at 905-713-3373, ext. 7004. For more information about CHAP, go to www.chaprogram.ca.



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