

COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

This month, the Skylight Gallery in the Town Hall features the landscape artwork of Wendy Cheung. Regular viewing hours are from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Until September 30, water restrictions are in effect in Aurora. Watering is permitted from 6 to 10 a.m. and 6 to 10 p.m. for even numbered addresses on even numbered days and odd numbered addresses on odd numbered days. For further information call 905-727-3123 ext. 4240.

Aurora Community Garden has plots available to grow fruits and vegetables on Allaura Boulevard. For more information call York Region Food Network at 905-967-0372.

Wellington Gallery features the wildlife artwork of Edward Spera and Les Pomeroy in their Best of Breed exhibit. Gallery hours are from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

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.

MAY 24-JUNE 14

York Region 55+ Summer Games hosted by all regional municipalities with the closing ceremonies held June 14th at the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

MAY 24

Aurora Horticultural Society presents Gardening Workshops on Entertaining With Spring and Summer Tables at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, 8 p.m.

MAY 26

Hospice King-Aurora 23rd Annual General Meeting from 11.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Centre, 14485 Jane Street, King City. Guest speaker is the Rev. Tim Elliott. RSVP to 905-773-0155.

MAY 26/27

Aurora Seniors' Art Group Art Show and Sale will be held in the Seniors' Centre on Friday from 7 to 9.30 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on Saturday with the artists in attendance. Refreshments will be served.

MAY 27

From 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., the Aurora Historical Society will operate a bus tour to Owen Sound, featuring Grey County Museum, antique car show, Billy Bishop National Historic Site, and marine and rail museum. \$50 per person, \$45 for seniors and Aurora Historical Society members, includes lunch. Call 905-727-8991 for information and to reserve.

Bike and Board Rodeo begins at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex at 10.30 a.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.

"Lilac Tyme Lunch," featuring a ham and salad plate, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Mosley at Victoria Streets. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Tickets: \$8; \$4 for children 10 and younger. Sponsored by St. Andrew's Guild.

York Chamber Ensemble, conducted by Aurora's Tony Browning, presents "Crowns of Summer," featuring strings and chorus. Trinity Festival Chorus and Trinity Youth Choir will join the orchestra. Concert will take place at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 or \$10 for students and seniors. Purchase at the door, or call 905-727-6101.

MAY 28

Bernard Pears Chorale and Guests musical presentation, 11 a.m., First Baptist Church, 33 Wellington Street East. For further information call 905-727-4531.

MAY 29

Aurora Heritage Centre 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.

Yard Waste Pick-Up Day, with waste in brown kraft bags or clean, open rigid reusable waste containers, and containing only leaves, weeds, garden plants, shrubs, bushes and flowers, but not grass clippings, sod, or stumps. Waste to be at the curb by 7 a.m. For further information call 905-727-3123 ext. 3447.

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.

MAY 31

From 7 to 8 p.m. in the Town Park, Miriam Goldberger of Wildflower Farms will present a gardening workshop on "Elegant Water Efficient Landscaping". Call 1-888-967-5426 to register.

JUNE 3

An all-new bike clinic covering terminology, bike maintenance, safety skills, equipment, stopping/turning and tricks for ages 7-13 at the Leisure Complex parking lot. Cost is \$16. Call 905-726-4760 for further information.

Yonge Street Dance, between Murray and Henderson, 7 p.m. to midnight. Sponsored by the Optimist Club of Aurora. Advance tickets at \$10 now on sale.

JUNE 4

Eleventh Annual Street Festival on Yonge

Street between Wellington and Murray. Booth space available by calling 905-727-7262.

Hospice King-Aurora presents an English Country Garden Party at the home of Deborah Saadatian 51 Kingscross Dr., King City, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Guest speaker is Marianne Broome, King Township artist. Tickets are \$25 each. For further information, call 905-773-0155.

JUNE 7

Civic Appreciation Awards in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7.30 p.m.

JUNE 8-11

Annual Aurora Fair and Horse Show takes place at Machell Park, featuring midway rides, games, horse shows, performing dogs, arts, photography, stage shows, entertainment, free pony rides, exhibits, the Aurora Idol and Fair Ambassador competitions, food, and craft vendors. Fair opens Thursday night, runs Friday night, day and night Saturday and all day Sunday.

JUNE 9

Grand Prix Horse Show, at Machell Park from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., featuring some of Canada's best horses and riders. Public is invited to walk the course at 5.45 p.m. Event is followed by a reception.

JUNE 10

Merlin's Hollow open to the public today, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Gardens are located at 181 Centre Crescent in the Centre Street/Industrial Parkway North area of Aurora.

JUNE 11

Dick Illingworth turns 90 today. An afternoon with Dick is planned at DiNardo's beginning at 2 p.m. Presentations at 4 p.m. Advance tickets at \$25 are now available at R & R Revisited.

JUNE 15

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five at Sormeh Beauty Spa, Wellington Street East from 5.30 to 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.

JUNE 24

Aurora Legion Strawberry Supper. 6 p.m. \$8 per person.



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Town would sell land for big police building

Six years ago, Aurora Council authorized the purchase of 89 acres of land on Leslie Street running through to Highway 404 at a cost of \$4.2 million.

It was thought a recreational complex might be built there.

Later it was decided to purchase property on Wellington Street East for the complex and fire hall and a plan of development was prepared for the Leslie Street lands in conjunction with Hallgrove Estates to the north.

Earlier this month York Region requested the town to sell 2.44 acres of the Leslie Street lands to the region for \$117,000 an acre.

The lands are to be combined with 5.16 acres to be acquired from Hallgrove Estates and the 7.6 acre site would be used to accommodate certain York Regional Police services currently located in three leased facilities in the area.

It is projected that the facility would be completed in 2008 or 2009 and would eventually accommodate as many as 600 employees.

Staff advised the sum of \$117,000 was the original amount paid for the land in 2000 and it is below the current appraised value, but the incentive for the Police to locate in Aurora should be taken into consideration.

Staff noted that the positive aspects of the sale of land far outweigh the negative aspects and recommended the sale.

The staff report stated it was an opportunity for council to be the catalyst for the development of the prestige business park.

Not only will there be a consolidated Police presence in Aurora with the economic spin-offs, it will provide an impetus to have Hallgrove Estates service its lands that will in turn provide for the servicing of

the town-owned lands, the report noted.

The project was seen as beneficial to the economic prosperity of the town and would set a trend for the nature of the business park development.

Councillor John West said the report was self-explanatory.

Councillor Damir Vrancic pointed out that land had been exchanged with Hallgrove to improve a plan of subdivision and there had been agreement to sell the property at market value.

He was supported by Councillor Wendy Gaertner who pointed out that property was designated as prestige industrial and had been evaluated at \$325,000 an acre.

Staff replied that the evaluation price was based on serviced land and it was still unserviced, but Councillor Gaertner was not satisfied and continued to question the issue.

Councillor Evelyn Buck reminded committee members that the property issue had been discussed in private three or four times and there had been agreement for the CAO to negotiate and this was the first time the issue was being discussed in public.

Councillor Vrancic agreed the proposed purchase had been discussed in camera but noted the sale was being recommended at the cost of the land and as a public building there would be no tax revenue.

He questioned if it was in the best interests of the municipality, as the benefit was to the region, not the

town and he could not support the sale.

Councillor West said he supported the sale as it would provide an incentive to develop the area to the benefit of the town, there would be a police presence in the municipality and there would be economic spin-offs from the 600 employees.

Mayor Tim Jones said the issue was coming down to whether Aurora wanted the police or not and if they didn't come to Aurora, they would go somewhere else. He stressed the economic benefits to the town and the local economy.

With the majority of committee members in support of the sale, Councillor Vrancic said he welcomed the difference of opinion but questioned why the town should subsidize the region.

As a compromise an amendment was proposed to the effect that if the region didn't use the property as originally proposed it would revert to the town at the sale price.

As it was obvious the proposed sale would be approved, Councillor Vrancic referred to the offer to sell and moved an amendment that the section dealing with Inspection and Conditions be removed as it placed too much onus on the town rather than the region.

His amendment was adopted and the motion to sell as amended was adopted with Councillors Vrancic and Gaertner in opposition.

The issue was expected to be ratified by council this week.



Extent of damage to the "Sponge Bob" playhouse, located adjacent to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce building, is seen in this photo taken before the remains were removed last week. It was to be one of seven playhouses being raffled as part of Habitat for Humanity York Region's fundraising efforts this summer. Officials say the structure will be rebuilt. York Regional Police are being credited with spotting last week's fire before it got too far out of hand. Many believe the Chamber of Commerce building would have been destroyed as well had the fire not been discovered. In the photo is Habitat President John Volpe of Aurora.

Meanwhile, police were smashed a number of back on the premises windows in the Chamber building. Monday after vandals



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Property assessment still a messy situation

*Property assessment is in a mess,
But that is something we knew;
The big problem is to fix it,
That has the province in a stew!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Late last year property owners received their 2005 Property Assessment notices for the 2006 taxation year, as prepared by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC).

The current value of the property listed on the notice was used as the basis to establish tax rates for property classes in the municipality.

The average increase for residential properties in Aurora was 12.27 per cent compared with 11.14 per cent in the region and 12.68 per cent across the province.

Aurora Treasurer John Gutteridge noted that an increase in assessment did not automatically equate to an increase in property taxes.

He pointed out that property owners should be advised that if their assessment notice was the same percentage as the town's average, there should not be an increase in taxes due to reassessment.

MPAC is responsible for assessing 4.2 million properties in Ontario with a staff of about 1,500 people in 37 offices across the province.

The agency has come under attack from homeowners and Ontario Ombudsman Andre Marin for being neither fair nor transparent.

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty said the previous Tory government left behind a computer-based market value assessment system that wasn't working and he would work with ratepayers and municipalities to find a solution.

Assessment used to be a municipal responsibility with each municipality using different systems so that assessment was very uneven across the province.

In 1947, the Department of Municipal affairs established the Municipal Assessment Branch to encourage and support improvements in the assessment function.

In 1964 the Department of Municipal Affairs conducted a survey to determine the condition of assessment in each of Ontario's 940 municipalities.

The results of the survey listed a number of deficiencies and in 62.7 per cent of the municipalities there were completely unacceptable deviations from the value norm for certain classes of property.

At a conference of Municipal Assessors the following year, Municipal Affairs Minister Wilf Spooner warned them that unless they cleaned up their act, it would be necessary for the province to take over the assessment function.

The department produced Assessment Manuals and a training course established to assist Municipal Assessors and licensing of municipal assessors was initiated in 1966 to ensure assessors met some minimum qualifications.

Many municipalities refused to listen, but a few took the gamble to reassess using the department manual, based on market value of the property, including York County.

The county's move into the assessment field was not popular with the area municipalities who objected to the increased costs and there was a fear of the unknown.

Properties were assessed in 1967 for the 1969 taxation year, but it didn't work out the way Don Wright, County Assessor, had promised due to the shift between property classes, which had not been predicted.

In Aurora, the ratio between residential and industrial commercial swung from 67/33 to 81/19 with seven industries receiving a total tax reduction of \$250,000 which had to be made up by 2,000 homes over and above their normal taxes.

All hell broke loose and local politicians descended on Queen's Park and Bill 143, a band-aid solution, was quickly adopted to allow municipalities to phase in the differential over a five-year period.

The province assumed the assessment function in January, 1970, with grand plans to reassess all properties at market value by 1975 to achieve equality in property taxation and there have been band-aid solutions ever since.

Hopefully this time our provincial politicians will take their time and develop an assessment system that will be fair and stand the test of time.



They are Grade 10 students from, as it was known then, Aurora High School. Today, you know it as Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School. The school year was 1950-51, and some of these names will be familiar. Front row, left to right, Stuart Wilson, Gordon Houting, Jim Wells, Gordon Peck, Don Hoshel and Alan Cober; second row, left to right, Bud Ingledew, Wes Clarke, Fred Browning, Grant Edwards, Audrey McDonald, Edith Geary, Gladys Middleton, Jill Moffat, Grant Snow and Bob Seaton; third row, left to right, Marion Dion, Mary MacDonald, May Westbrook, Marilyn Comfort, Colleen Bremner, Edna Cole, Ellen Wilson, Joan Robertson, Marianne Nechay, Ruth Hayes, Carol Taylor and Peter Boyd; back row, left to right, Earl Kaake, Jack Mann, Bob Andrews, Shirley Wright, Jackie Seaton, Sheila Attridge, Barb Specht, Dorothy Armstrong, Eva Willemce, Ron Brooks, Bob McGhee and John Loblaw. This photo came from the Bob McRoberts' collection of old photos and postcards.

Letters to the Editor

Wendy's family says thanks for the support

To the editor,

In the early afternoon of Sunday, March 5, our family life as we know it was changed forever.

We were visited by three officers of the York Regional Police - Homicide Division and informed that our daughter, Wendy LaFleche, 41, and her two children, Victoria, 7, and Jesse, 3, who lived in Aurora, were murdered during the night.

Furthermore, her estranged husband, John LaFleche, was arrested after a high speed chase on Highway 400 and charged with three counts of first degree murder.

Wendy's 16-year-old son, Devon Brisbane, from a previous relationship, was staying at a friend's house overnight and was fortunately unharmed.

Our family, as a result of the tragedy, was and is still living in a state of trauma.

Nonetheless, we are so appreciative and grateful for the kind and generous support of a considerable number of organizations and individual people in the Aurora area who have and are helping us cope with the situation.

First, the York Regional Police Officers of the Homicide Division who visited us on that fateful day were very professional and extremely sensitive and caring in what was no doubt a very difficult situation for them.

We have had a number of contacts with York Regional Police since and they have been very helpful and caring which we are very thankful for.

Within a day or two of the tragic event the Rotary Club of Aurora established a Trust Fund for Devon with the TD Bank in Aurora and the contri-

butions from friends and the community of Aurora at large have been very gratifying.

Our daughter Wendy worked at First Choice Haircuts in Aurora and the management and staff of that firm had a Cut-a-thon and a considerable sum was raised for Devon's Trust Fund. Thank you so much.

Accolades and thanks go out to the Chamber of Commerce of Aurora who organized two Silent Auctions and Gala Evenings at the Seniors' Centre and the Legion in Aurora to generate money for Devon's Trust Fund at the TD Bank.

The events for Devon raised a substantial amount of money.

We would like to thank Randy Skelcher and Michelle Passera and all the volunteers and entertainers involved.

The students and their parents and the staff at Aurora High School, the school Devon is attending, have been very supportive and through their kind initiatives Devon's Trust Fund was substantially augmented.

Thanks very much Aurora High School.

The staff and students at Wells Street Public School in Aurora, where our granddaughter, Victoria, attended school have been very caring, comforting and generous to us.

On April 28 we were invited to attend a very moving tree planting ceremony to celebrate the life of Victoria.

A beautiful red oak tree was planted in the school yard and a lovely stone plaque dedicated to the memory of Victoria was placed at the base.

We will always cherish this gesture and we plan to visit the tree periodically to watch it grow. We will never forget 'the

tree for Victoria'.

Finally we would like to thank the people of Aurora which includes many of Wendy's and her children's friends, acquaintances, and other caring people who didn't personally know Wendy's family.

A special mention to The Fleming family, Carol Nerling, Sean Herbinson and Lou Ann Doyle for their assistance, guidance and caring support.

Our daughter, Wendy, loved living in the Town of Aurora where she had made so many friends who will miss her.

Our family has been left with a deep void with the loss of Wendy, Victoria and Jesse.

However, the support we have received from everyone will not be forgotten.

Bob, Jeanette, Scott Brisbane & Heather (Brisbourne) White

Cathy's Corner column "boring"

Open letter to Cathy's Corner re: Roarora Part III

Why do you, as well as others including themselves, continue to put these councillors in the spotlight?

Boring...including your column this week. A lot of bantering about nothing.

You would think that the first time you did a column about this nonsense, you would have got it out of your system.

I realize it must be difficult to come up with fresh material each week, but this is ridiculous.

Yvonne Preston Aurora

AURORAN

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Door-to-door canvassing where the action is

I was speaking to a friend the other day who has registered as a municipal candidate for the upcoming election this fall.

He told me he has ordered brochures and is looking forward to beginning door-to-door canvass within the next few weeks.

As he lives in Aurora, he needs to garner enough votes to be one of the top eight voter-getters.

If he had resided in Newmarket, he would be taking on the others in a particular ward.

There is nothing in a campaign, in my humble estimation, that beats door-to-door canvassing. It is where the action is.

It is that time when the candidate and his emissaries get to meet the jury, one door at a time. Canvassing provides feedback, information on issues, moods and voter priorities.

I personally really enjoy going door-to-door with a candidate and seeing him in action - how he deals with rejection, tough questions, voter anger or the occasional embarrassing situation.

Soon after either federal or provincial leaders' debates, you can tell if things went well by the reception you get at the door.

A solid debate performance will be immediately translated into increased calls for lawn signs and provides momentum to the local campaign.

By the same token, a bad performance by a party leader usually quickly translates into less enthusiasm at the door and disquiet and dejection on the campaign.

Some quick canvass stories come to mind.

I remember reading about John Diefenbaker. During one of his early election campaigns he said that he stopped at a residence in his constituency of Prince Albert and the lady of the house invited him inside for tea.

After a brief chat, he thanked Mrs. X for her support. As he was turning to leave, he enquired: "What about Mr. X - can I count on his support". She said "Support you? He hasn't supported me in seven years!" This was part of his standard stump speech for years.

During the 1999 provincial election I volunteered on behalf of Dave Johnson, the education minister at the time.

On a beautiful Saturday, we were going door-to-door with a large team of people.

One gentleman, and I use the term loosely, was mowing his lawn, and while doing so, proceeded to verbally abuse the minister as he walked by.

The minister, to his credit, kept walking and did not say anything. As we were coming back down the street, the guy started up again. Once we passed his house, I looked at Mr. Johnson and said, "I'll place that guy in the undecided category" - everyone had a good laugh.

On a cold and snowy Saturday in January I was canvassing some polls near where I live on behalf of Lois Brown, the federal Conservative candidate for Newmarket - Aurora.

The results were mixed; a lot of people were not home and several stated they had not yet made up their mind.

I came to one residence and the lady of the house was as abusive and rude as I have ever faced. Sailors had nothing on her! She said, very clearly, that she would never vote for Stephen Harper or Lois Brown, and basically told me to get off her property. I thanked her for her time and complied with her wish.

There was no one home at the next three of four stops. At the next house, an older lady answered the door. I introduced myself and gave my standard pitch. The lady said that although she would not be voting for Lois, "I really appreciate you coming out on such a cold day supporting

your candidate. She is lucky to have people like you".

The words were like ointment on an open wound. I was re-energized and able to go on for another hour of door knocking.

This nice woman gets it!
Political canvassers are part of the wonderful democratic

Letters to the Editor

Film group selling autumn subscriptions

To the editor,

On behalf of the steering committee of the Aurora Film Circuit, I would like to heartily thank everyone involved in getting this worthwhile initiative off the

ground.

Our first two films, Eve and the Firehorse (April) and Merry Christmas (May) proved to be hugely successful, drawing sold-out audiences and rave reviews.

The positive response to these films is an affirmation of our belief that Aurorans are eager for an alternative experience in cinema, through the screening of independent, critically-acclaimed

Canadian and international films.

Very special thanks to R & R Revisited, for printing and selling tickets; to the Aurora Public Library for assisting us with everything from meeting space to promotion and selling; to our door prize sponsors (Box Office Movies, QIC International and Kitchen Accents); to the Aurora Cineplex Odeon for providing screens and the assistance of their excellent staff, and also to the Film Circuit Canada office for their help and advice.

But most of all, thank you to the people of Aurora for supporting great film through the Aurora Film Circuit.

The Aurora Film Circuit has only just begun.

Our fall subscription series promises to bring more wonderful films to Aurora.

To purchase a three-month subscription package (films to be shown September 11th, October 2nd and November 6th), visit R & R Revisited, the Aurora Public Library, or download from www.library.aurora.on.ca and follow the community links.

Hurry, subscriptions are going fast!

There will also be a limited number of individual tickets for these screenings on sale in the fall.

For further information or if you wish to volunteer, email me at afc@library.aurora.on.ca.

Jane Taylor
Director,
Aurora Film Circuit

To the editor,

I read with interest the letter written by Bob McRoberts with the caption "I want to stay in Aurora... is there room? (The Auroran, May 2)

Bob is not alone in his concerns, there are thousands of people all across Canada who have the same concerns.

I serve as a volunteer Chair for the Ontario Abbeyfield Society, which is now celebrating its golden anniversary this year.

Established in England in 1956 the Society has grown to more than 800 Houses to accommodate people such as Mr. McRoberts, in their later years.

We set up houses of 12 to 15 residents on a non-profit basis, with full services to accommodate seniors who no longer wish to live alone or look after keeping a house with all it entails.

Our model Home is in Durham Grey County and is open to all for inspection, but sorry no vacancies.

I am very interested in establishing a home in Aurora and other surrounding municipalities.

We can put an Abbeyfield House in your municipality at no cost to

the municipality or the proponents.

Care, companionship, security, and good food has been our motto for the last 50 years, adding many years to a happy senior's life expectancy.

Most governments and siblings are in denial of the

acuteness of the seniors' plight in this province.

Lets all work together to give the seniors who gave so much to this country, a dignified later life experience.

Dick Stanton
Abbeyfield, Ontario

Dickie: "lighten up"

To the editor,

RE: Bikers cutting trees to build their ramps

Perhaps this is how last week's letter in The Auroran could have been worded:

"The other day while walking my dog (off his leash) through the Aurora south end Case Woodlot, I came across a most inspirational sight. I noticed marvelous bike trails, meandering down two main inclines, adorned with numerous jumps.

"Growing up, I remember the neighborhood kids making and maintaining such trails. What's more, I remember the joy experienced at riding through them."

Brian Barbeito
Aurora

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS and best wishes to Jacqueline Stuart, curator of the Aurora Museum and Hillary House, on her retirement after 25 years of service to the people of Aurora and her dedication in keeping the history of the town alive.

BRICKBATS to Aurora Council for not arranging with PowerStream to have a payment drop-off box at the Town Hall. As the Aurora office closed early in the month, users can pay at a financial institution, or use the internet, telephone banking, pre-authorized payments or mail. It's not good enough!

BOUQUETS to Police Constable Anthony Emanuel on being named York Region Police Officer of the Year for bravery in the line of duty for his quick action in applying first aid to an injured woman motorist and to the other recipients of awards at the 14th Annual Police Appreciation Night.

BRICKBATS to the woman driving a dirty gray van who exited from the Beaver gas station and forced her way into a line of traffic in the curb lane on Mary Street waiting to make a right turn onto Wellington Street East. What nerve!

BOUQUETS to Leslie Ferrier of Aurora for taking pity on a three-month old stray dog she found on a beach in Jamaica who was deadly thin and limping with injured keg and arranged for medical attention and his flight to Canada with Air Canada waiving the fee and Marley's home is now in Aurora.

BRICKBATS to officials of the Southlake Regional Health Centre for even suggesting that all the property owners in the hospital's catchment area pay \$400 towards the costs of the hospital's cancer clinic at the rate of \$80 per year for five years. While there is no doubt the cancer clinic is needed, a lot of seniors on a limited fixed income will be hard hit as they are paying a heavy local and regional tax load now.

BOUQUETS to St. Andrew's College Outreach Committee for donating \$30,000 towards building and furnishing a school in Kenya, Africa, after hearing Marc Kielburger, co-founder of Free the Children. Twenty-nine students and five faculty members will travel to Kenya at their own expense this summer to build the school.

BRICKBATS to Ontario truck owners and drivers for putting themselves and others at risk by driving unsafe vehicles. Thirty-five per cent of the trucks inspected by York Regional Police in a recent blitz were pulled off the road for safety reasons. Officers inspected 527 vehicles of which 187 were taken off the road and a total of 253 tickets issued.

BOUQUETS to Bob McRoberts for his excellent letter to The Auroran about the future housing needs for seniors that they can afford to live in. What is often forgotten is that the pensions for many seniors were based on salaries 20 to 25 years ago, which were about a quarter of the salaries today.

BOUQUETS to Aurora resident Claudine Poong, a graduate of Cardinal Carter Catholic High School and a junior at Gardner Webb University in North Carolina, on being named to the All-Atlantic Sun Conference Second All-Star Golf Team.

BRICKBATS to Premier Dalton McGuinty for sneaking legislation extending the term of office for municipal councils from three to four years into an omnibus budget bill currently before a legislative committee and expected to be law within a few days. Were you asked for your opinion?

Letters to the Editor

I have learned from McIntyre

To the editor,

I learn something from John McIntyre with each letter he writes.

The last one referred to the process whereby the owner of a designated property can obtain a loan for needed maintenance.

John said it would be unlikely loans would be sought because it would have to be registered against the property and re-paid. I did not know that.

In his previous letter John referred to the fact properties in the proposed designated neighbourhood are currently designated and zoned for multiple residential use. I did not know that.

At the presentation of the heritage neighbour-

hood plan, the consultant stated the designation will take precedence over all other zoning.

So whatever zoning exists at the present time will be wiped out when the town approves the plan. I did not know that.

Until February 23, I knew nothing whatsoever about 34 Catherine Avenue.

On that day I received a phone call informing me there would be a bylaw on the agenda of the February 28 meeting which would have the effect of cancelling the legal rights of a new owner to obtain a permit to carry out improvements to the property. I did not know that.

There had been no resolution proposed, no

debate, no decision to direct a bylaw be prepared. Had I not been informed by the owner, had I not read my agenda until the last minute, had I not had those few days to ask questions, the bylaw would have been passed with only the Heritage Advisory committee and staff knowing anything at all about what it entailed.

It passed anyway, but not without the public's attention.

So, I keep learning new things. I found out that 74 Wellington Street obtained a grant to re-roof about 15 years ago.

I noticed the other day, cedar shingles...expensive.

It appears the town paid the grant.

It is said the province

reimbursed the town.

The actual amount is not recalled. The property has changed hands. There appears to be no record of funds re-paid. That would likely be because it was a grant and not a loan.

It is apparent that at least one property owner knew and took advantage of the process.

Can't say I recall reading anything at all about the project.

It was probably not sufficiently lurid to make headlines.

But here's the point.

John McIntyre clearly knows a lot more than I do about the Heritage process; what was before and what is now in the new Heritage Act.

He is a citizen member of the Heritage Advisory Committee.

Has he shared his knowledge with committee members? Do committee members know stuff elected members of council do not?

Since only council members are accountable for the decisions made, is it not appropriate that they should know everything there is to know, prior to making such an important and potentially expensive decision?

I have heard from a reliable source the City of Toronto has no Heritage Designated Neighbourhoods. They are too expensive.

Yes, indeed. That I do know.

Evelyn Buck
Aurora

To the editor,

On Friday, April 28, the Wells Street Public School community in Aurora held a poignant tribute to honour seven-year-old student, Victoria La Fleche, who perished in March with her mother, Wendy, and her little brother, Jesse.

An oak tree was planted in the back yard of the school, and a memorial plaque was unveiled by Victoria's Grade 2 teacher and her classmates. Heartfelt poems of remembrance were read by friends and fellow students.

One class presented a paper chain of remembrance to hang on Wells Street School walls.

A single white balloon imprinted with an angel was released by teachers and friends to commemorate the ceremony for this special and much-loved little girl.

Victoria's devoted grandparents, Bob and Jeanette Brisbane, were in attendance at this occasion.

With their blessing, I would like to submit the

following memory that I read at the tree-planting, as one of Victoria's teachers, to express her special uniqueness.

"One day last spring, I was standing in this yard with the younger Wells Street students.

"I was right over there by the play structure on yard duty at afternoon recess.

"Victoria was in Grade 1, and she came bubbling up to me, so very happy and laughing out loud. As always, her thick, wavy hair was flowing over her shoulders.

"Mrs. Jackson," she cried out, "look who's here for recess, my little brother's having recess with us!"

"Victoria's little brother, Jesse, was just two years old, and he had a shy, broad smile.

"He clutched tightly to her hand the entire recess, and Victoria would not leave his side.

"She proudly led him about this yard, often bending over to hug him, and introducing him to everyone.

"I think Victoria was the youngest, most memo-

Teacher remembers "much-loved" student

orable little Earth Mother I've ever encountered.

"She no longer plays on this Earth with her beloved little brother. Yet I like to feel that she walks just as close to Jesse now with their loving mother, Wendy, all together.

"Good-bye, Victoria, from a teacher who loves you, we all love you, and we will remember you. Our hearts will stay with you forever."

Corey Jackson
Wells Street
Public School
Aurora



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for
Mayor
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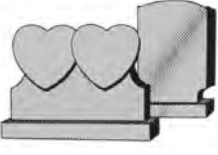
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BBBS sales in Aurora prove to be the ticket

Ticket sales for York's Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) in Aurora have proved rewarding for winners.

In the last two years, Aurora events have brought good luck to winners of the major raffle prizes offered by the group.

In 2004 the winner purchased his ticket at the Aurora Street Festival and last year Elliot Kohn of Toronto won the trip to

Scotland after buying his ticket at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of York is now running its Third Annual Raffle for a Golf Week for Four in St. Andrews, Scotland, in April, 2007, and the grand prize is worth more than \$22,000.

It includes return airfare from Toronto to Scotland, land transfers in Scotland, accommodations at the

Old Course Hotel Golf Resort, meals, five rounds of golf, including one on the Old Course, and \$500 spending money.

Four other secondary prizes include a golf weekend for four at The Briars Resort; a foursome at Wooden Sticks, a \$500 Gift Certificate at Golf Town and a foursome at St. Andrews Valley in Aurora.

All tickets sold prior to July 5 are eligible for an

Early Bird Draw; a foursome at Eagles Nest Golf Club.

The final draw is set for September 7. Tickets are \$100 each and only 1,000 are being sold.

If you believe in fate, Aurora's street festival is Sunday, June 4.

The raffle is one event put on to fund programs offered by Big Brothers Big Sisters of York, an agency that serves boys and girls who need and can benefit from the friendship and mentoring of an adult.

The Agency is always looking for volunteers for its many quality programs.

Not only is the Agency in need of volunteers, it's also looking for boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 14 to become Little Brothers and Little Sisters.

Little Brothers are boys who do not have a father

figure in the home and Little Sisters are girls who need an adult female in their lives.

For more information on the agency, you can visit www.bbbsy.ca or call 905-895-0289.

CFUW group celebrates anniversary

Paula Todd, co-host of Studio Two, was the guest speaker last Wednesday evening at the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) annual May Dinner at Oakview Terrace, on Leslie Street, south of Aurora.

The event launched the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of The Aurora/Newmarket Chapter of CFUW.

As a voluntary, non-profit, self-funded organization, the group's membership, now numbering 225, has been active in the community since 1957. The goal of CFUW is to raise the social, economic and legal status of women.

CFUW has international affiliation and lobbies for human rights, educational opportunities, the environment and the status of women.

This Chapter is one of 122

Skating results

Following are the results of recent testing by the Aurora Skating Club:

Junior Silver Dance

Harris Tango: Stephanie Fonceca, Jacqueline Relke, Kate Sutton, Alana Fabbicino.

American Waltz: Jennine Brunton, Stephanie Fonceca, Jenna Williams, Amber Cioffe, Julia Chiovitti.

Rocker Foxtrot: Samantha Galati.

Senior Silver Dance

Paso Doble: Jordana Goldman.

Starlight Waltz: Emma Laverty, Allie Sutton.

Kilian: Emma Slimkowich, Amber Bowman.

Gold Dance

Viennese Waltz: Emma Hayzelden.

Interpretive

Silver: Jennine Brunton.

Free Skate Elements

Senior Silver – Meaghan Jones.

Free Skate Program

Junior Silver – Stephanie Fonceca.

Men's Soccer

If you're looking for a very casual, low-key men's soccer league, we're looking for 8 more players ranging in age from mid 20's to mid 50's. Games are in Aurora at Highland Field at 7 pm every Friday from June 2 to early-October. This is pure "pickup" soccer, with no referees - everyone brings a dark and a light shirt and we change teams every week. \$100 registration fee.

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Pop-culture icon, Barbie, aka Fay Patterson, was in Aurora last week to promote a new line of fragrance that was being introduced across the country. She took time out to talk to Aurora's Kylie Fisico.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

York's immigrant population grows

Last month York Region released a report on recent immigrants to the region to provide a socio-economic profile of the immigrants in the region.

During the period 1996 and 2001 the region's immigrant population was growing at a faster rate than non-immigrant population so that by 2001 immigrants comprised 40 per cent of the region's population.

The majority of recent immigrants, 98 per cent, live in the five urban municipalities of Aurora, Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Newmarket.

Aurora accounts for two per cent of the region's recent immigrant population with 1,600 immigrants moving to the municipality between 1991 and 2001.

The top five places of birth for recent immigrants to Aurora are

Russia with 15 per cent, United States at 10 per cent, South Korea at eight per cent and with smaller percentages from the United Kingdom and Mexico.

Recent immigrants to Aurora have a larger percentage, or 53 per cent in the under \$30,000 income level than the non-immigrant population at 43 per cent.

Twenty percent fall within the low income cut-off compared with six per cent of the total population, one of the highest among the five municipalities in the region.

A greater percentage of the recent immigrants to Aurora have a university certificate, diploma or degree than the other four municipalities included in the snapshot report.

About two per cent of Aurora's recent immigrant population has no knowledge of either of Canada's official languages and the most common religious affiliation was Roman Catholic at 35 per cent, no religion at 18 per cent and Anglican at eight per cent.

The report was intended to provide background information for advocacy initiatives and to help agencies, organizations and municipalities understand their needs so that programs and services can be arranged to assist them.

The report also indicates that recent immigrants, although highly educated and skilled are economically vulnerable during the first several years after their arrival.

Historic Oakland home survives plan

The historic Oakland Hall, formerly the Red House, located on Old Yonge Street has now been designated as a Historic Site under the Ontario Heritage Act and is open as a popular upscale restaurant.

At a public meeting held in April, 1990, an application was considered for amendments to the official plan and zoning bylaw to join three parcels of land to permit the construction of a 90-suite, six-storey apartment building.

Oakland Hall was the centre of the three parcels totalling 4.4 acres and it was proposed to retain the home for residential use as well as the residence on the south property, with the apartment building to be located on the north parcel of land.

Access to the apartment complex would be available from two points on Old Yonge Street and one from St. John's Sideroad with 135 parking spaces to be provided, 28 on the surface and 108 enclosed spaces on the east portion of the first two storeys of the

building.

A staff report indicated several planning concerns including increasing the height of three storeys as specified in the official plan to the requested six storeys, reduced setbacks, compatibility with neighbouring lands and the precedent nature of the application.

The blank east wall of the parking section for the first two floors was also a concern in respect of the visual impact and relation to the streetscape, plus the safety issues due to the lack of sightlines for vehicles exiting the parking area because of the zero setback from Old Yonge Street.

Because of the many concerns, council endorsed a report that staff continue to work with the applicant in an attempt to resolve the outstanding issues plus the long term preservation of Oakland Hall.

The six-storey apartment never materialized and Oakland Hall remains.

A plan to retain the existing residence on the

south property with the addition of seven townhouses has been approved, but not yet started.

With all the opposition to the application to convert the Red House into the Oakland Hall Inn, one can only imagine the opposition to the application for the proposed six-storey apartment complex if it was submitted today.

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Seniors planning extended hours

We offer an enthusiastic welcome to Jennifer Ralph as a new assistant and part time coordinator at the Aurora Seniors Centre.

Jennifer is an outstanding young lady, and her particular responsibility will be to attend to and staff the extended hours program, which is expected to be announced very shortly.

I expect to confirm with Jennifer, specifically what her plans are when an assessment is completed of what is practical to get evening hours started.

In the meantime the following remarks will provide some information on what might transpire.

This program will extend the hours that the centre is open to some evening hours.

The program will be evaluated over a period of time, and its success will determine its future.

The evening program will enable those still employed to participate, and I note, the age requirement to join the seniors centre is 55 years or older.

Three snooker and billiards tables will be available with a new pool table expected soon.

The computer room will be open with a volunteer available to assist for some of the open hours, but not all of the time.

We will equip this computer room with new equipment very soon.

Badminton, table tennis and pickle ball are expected to be available together with other activities, according to demand.

Later hours will also accommodate the choral group.

A formal announcement will be made as soon as the evening hours have been confirmed together with the activities available.

Among the daytime pastimes and activities that attract a loyal and constant following, is 'Bingo'.

Cliff Davies is our well-known number caller and has an excellent voice for this task.

Cliff is often an announcer for other events, and a singer with the senior choir.

I spoke with Cliff recently, and he said yes, a mention in The Auroran would be very nice and yes, we have room for more participants.

'Bingo' is played Friday afternoons at 1 p.m.

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Wellington-Yonge street parking long-time issue

The problem of parking adjacent to the controversial Yonge/Wellington intersection has been ongoing for years.

By July, 1989, Aurora Council decided to help reduce congestion at the intersection by banning parking for approximately 75 metres from the intersection on both sides of Yonge and Wellington Streets.

Merchants were quick to respond by claiming the parking ban would not only kill local business but encourage drivers to race through the intersection.

They also questioned council's priority as to whether it was to support local businessmen who pay taxes or provide quick movement of traffic through town.

After listening to the businessmen, the town recommended a compromise which was accepted by the York Region.

But the problems continued and in January, 1988, the region imposed parking restrictions on Wellington Street during morning and evening rush hours.

Objections from the businessmen continued and in April, 1998, Aurora Council asked York to kill the restrictions.

The region refused and the problem continued.

Last March, Raymond Nicolini of Hair Thoughts, located on the south side of Wellington east of Yonge appeared before the Traffic Safety Advisory Board to repeat his complaints about the parking restrictions.

He asked the one-hour parking limit on Wellington in front of his business be increased to two hours, as many municipalities permitted two hours parking in the downtown area.

The TSAB asked staff

to submit a report to the next meeting of the TSAB regarding implementation of the two-hour parking limit.

At the council meeting, Mayor Tim Jones advised members that the request was included on the agenda of the next regional Transportation Committee meeting and if council agreed with the two-hour limit, it should be approved and the region advised accordingly.

Council agreed.

At the same meeting the TSAB recommended a letter from Mr. Ugo

Bulgaretti seeking a speed limit on Wellington East go to the region.

In response to a question whether council was supporting the reduction in speed by referring the letter, Director of Public Works Wayne Jackson replied it was simply a referral without comment.

As the referral might be construed as council support it was suggested that in future any requests regarding regional roads would be forwarded directly to the region without going through the TSAB to which council agreed.



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Marquee's "Cats" production great

By MALCOLM WATTS

I have to admit that years ago when first hearing of this Andrew Lloyd Webber Show, I was skeptical that a group of cats could entertain me for two hours.

I learned they certainly could, and the recent Aurora Marquee Production in Markham and Newmarket was no exception.

Although community theatre is often checkered in quality, this particular show was consistently good.

From its understated junkyard set, to airbrushed costumes (each one different) to the expert and cre-

ative choreography of Nancy Dinner and clear soulful singing, this show was great.

Cats is a metaphorical work that has more to do with people than animals.

We see Cats of various personalities and ages, and indeed the story itself is a metaphor of life and its changes celebrated yearly during the Jellicle Ball.

Several members of the troupe contribute their gymnastic and ballet experience to enrich the experience.

Deanna Raffey and

Kayla Ross as well as Rui Imizu as Magical Mr. Mistofelees and Run Tum Tigger were outstanding.

There were many other highlights, noteworthy was the detailed and studied, yet not overacted, movements of the chorus in the background which enhanced the Cat mood and realism of the production.

We feel for aging Deuteronomy, played by David Cardinal, and Munkustrap, played by Maria Vecchiarelli.

Past their prime and ready for the next life, their limelight moments are poignant as is the affection and respect the younger Cats hold for them.

The fact that only five of this cast were trained dancers, and several cast members appeared on stage for the first time in this production, was astonishing given the level of complexity and professionalism of the choreography.

Each member of this cast, and Director Sheryl Amirault, can feel proud to

have delivered a wonderful and touching show that Marquee Productions can boast as one of its finest ever.

Malcolm Watts is a York Region author and photographer. www.authorsden.com/malcolmwatts



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- 2) Cyclists are expected to ride on the right, but they are allowed to use any part of the lane if their safety warrants it, for example, to avoid a pothole, or to avoid being hit by an opening car door.
- 3) Generally, cyclists need a metre on either side of them as a safety zone. Do not pass too close. If the lane is too narrow to share, change lanes to pass.
- 4) Check your blind spot before opening a car door. A cyclist could be there.
- 5) When turning right, check the curb to ensure you do not cut off a cyclist.
- 6) Obey all the traffic rules, including speed limits, especially in places where children might be, such as neighbourhoods, parks, schools, and playgrounds. Give yourself and a cyclist the chance to avoid a collision.
- 7) Remember, children are small and hard to see. Be a safety partner.

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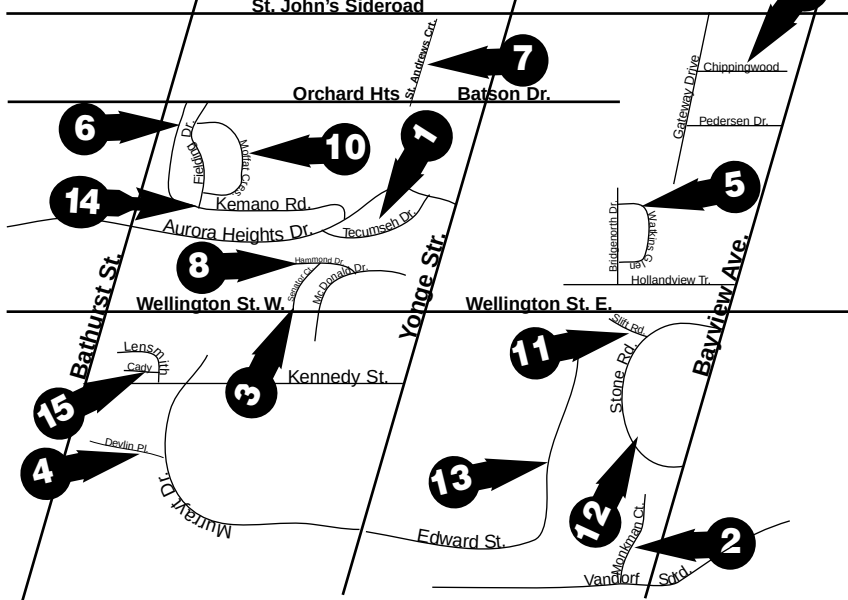
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- 2) Monkman Cr. 8 - 2
- 3) Senator Ct. STREET SALE 8 - 12
- 4) Devlin Place STREET SALE 8 - 1
- 5) 11 Watkins Glen Cres. 7 - 1
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- 7) 49 St. Andrews Cr. 8 - 1
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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

So, what happened to Buck motion?

For a number of years Aurora has recognized the top male and female students from the town who have achieved academic excellence in each of Aurora's three high schools.

In May, 2005, Councillor Evelyn Buck presented a notice of motion regarding monetary support to students in need of assistance.

She introduced the motion in January this year for the year 2006 and henceforth that the Town of Aurora Award be changed to recognize student involvement in school governance as well as academic excellence.

She pointed out there were several awards for academic excellence, but there wasn't an award to recognize excellent and meaningful participation in school governance at the student level.

There was general agreement with the intent of her motion, but there was a need to clarify the criteria.

It was finally agreed that Councillor Buck would work with staff and school officials to establish a criteria for the award.

The school year is just about over, but what happened to the award?

WHERE WILL THEY PARK?

The McKenzie Wetland has been a popular spot over the years for family skating during the winter months, on the south side of St. John's Sideroad and for nature walks and bird-watching during the summer on the north.

Parking was never a problem as cars lined up on the side of St. John's and families enjoyed themselves.

Passing motorists, who had likely parked there at one time or another, were cautious as they drove by.

In spite of strong opposition from Aurora residents, York Region widened and reconstructed the roadway to four lanes through the marshlands.

Mitigation measures included a retaining wall on the south side and a boardwalk on the north side as a lookout over the wetlands, but no provision was made for parking.

As parking was prohibited on St. John's Sideroad, the region suggested that Old Yonge Street be used.

There is a parking prohibition on the east side but parking was permitted on the west side and there was room to park approximately 25 cars.

Although the town participated in the approval process and the payment of the boardwalk, council took no action in public session in follow-up of parking arrangements.

Why?

AURORA'S GO TRAIN VOICE RETIRES

For 11 years Aurora GO Station attendant Cliff Soltau was the friendly GO Train voice wishing commuters a happy Good Morning and wishing them a Good Day.

Most of them, still half asleep, wondered how he could be so pleasant so early in the morning.

But it all came to an end at the end of January, 2003, as Aurora's GO Train Voice retired.

On that last morning the regular commuters held a small reception for him at the station during the morning commute for the commuters to wish their Voice all the best for a happy retirement.

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

Last September Aurora resident Rebecca Beaton attended a meeting of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee to ask that Aurora pursue the popular Communities in Bloom initiative in 2006.

She suggested the program be community driven incorporating residential, industrial and commercial participants.

For a start, she also suggested the town only enter the provincial competition.

The Canadian-based non-profit initiative looks at flower displays, landscapes, urban forests, community involvement and general tidiness.

She added that sponsors had already been approached and had agreed to assume the cost of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place plaques and Howard Johnson had agreed to provide accommodation for the judges.

She asked that a program committee be established as soon as possible.

The advisory committee agreed to recommend council approve participation at an estimated cost of \$750.

In spite of some opposition about potential hidden costs, council approved participation in the Communities In Bloom competition, after Councillor Damir Vrancic offered to use his convention allowance to cover the cost.

The gardening season is now here, but where is the committee and the promotion to encourage citizens to get involved?



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Stephenson offered job

From page 1

25-metre pool, play pool, a new fire hall and a partnership with a sports bubble.

The Church Street School is being developed into a Heritage Centre, a leash-free park was opened, an emergency plan prepared and an Emergency Operations Centre has been included in the seniors' building, he said.

Council lobbied for and was successful in obtaining the installation of safety gates at railway crossings.

There have been improvements to the trail system and parks, he said, and the town's web site is more user friendly

Delegations were welcomed from China and Aurora's twin municipality Leksand, Sweden and Aurora Day was celebrated at Ontario Place, he said.

On the business front several new retailers have been attracted to Aurora including a movie theatre.

At Highway 404 construction is underway on the Canadian headquarters of State Farm Insurance, which is expected to open this year.

From 1998 to 2004 total employment in Aurora has grown 46 per cent accounting for 5,023 new jobs.

Looking to the future, he said the town would have an updated Strategic Plan and council will work with staff to solidify a comprehensive financial plan to accommodate the obligations that lie ahead.

He paid tribute to the Chamber of Commerce with special recognition to Gonsalves, for her energy,

activity and cooperation in enhancing the quality of the town's business community and spirit.

Gonsalves reported that the Chamber has close to 750 corporate members represented by more than 1,000 individuals. By the end of 2006 the Chamber will have hosted 39 functions, a record for the organization.

During her 21 years she has watched the Chamber grow from its humble beginnings with fewer than 114 individual members and very limited financial resources.

She paid tribute to her staff, the many volunteers and the Chamber members for their support and wished the Chamber continued success.

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PowerStream & Home Hardware
want you to make sure that

Every Kilowatt Counts

FREE

Energy Efficient Light Bulb*

with the purchase of any product featured at Home Hardware in the coupons shown below.

Participating stores, dates and times are as follows:

Markham - May 25, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. @ 5762 Highway 7

Aurora - May 29, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. @ 289 Wellington St. East

Richmond Hill - May 31, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. @ 125 King Side Rd.

Woodbridge - June 2, 9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m. @ 7766 Martingrove Rd.



*While quantities last. Offer available for PowerStream customers only. Light bulbs will be distributed on a "first come, first serve" basis.

Every Kilowatt Counts is a program of the Ontario Power Authority's Conservation Bureau

For the latest information, visit us at gmc.canada.com, drop by your local Pontiac • Buick • GMC dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. *With purchase or lease of virtually all 2006 new or demonstrator models delivered from dealer stock between April 20 and June 30, 2006, inclusively and with payment of an additional \$0.01, customers receive a Preferred Price Gas Card. The \$0.20 discount includes applicable taxes. Cards valid as of 72 hours after delivery and until August 31, 2007. Cards are valid only at Petro Canada locations and other approved locations, and are not redeemable for cash. All 2006 vehicles are eligible except the following models: Chevrolet Corvette, Pontiac Solstice, Saturn Sky, Chevrolet Express, GMC Savana, and all Medium Duty Trucks (including GMT560 Family 283 & Tilt and V-Series). GM reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer and/or the program for any season in whole or in part at any time without notice. †Based on a 36/36 month lease of 2006 GMC (Sierra Crew Cab R7A/Canyon Ext. Cab R7A). Annual kilometre limit of 20,000 km. \$0.15 per excess kilometre. Lease APR may vary depending on amount of down payment/trade. A down payment or trade of \$4,315/\$0 and \$0 security deposit is required. Option to purchase at lease end is \$23,246/\$15,691 plus applicable taxes. Other lease options are available. ‡Offer applies to the purchase of 2006 GMC (Sierra Crew Cab R7A/Sierra Reg. Cab R7B) new or demonstrator models. Freight (\$1,200/\$1,200), license, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees and taxes are not included. †Financing approved on GMAC credit only 2006 GMC (Sierra Crew Cab R7A/Canyon Ext. Cab R7A). Based on a 60 month term. Down payment, trade and/or security deposit may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: \$10,000 at 0%, the monthly payment is \$166.67 for 60 months. Cost of borrowing is \$0. Total obligation is \$10,000. Offer is unconditionally interest-free. †Offers apply as indicated to the purchase, lease or finance of 2006 new or demonstrator models of the vehicles equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Pontiac • Buick • GMC Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais and excluding Northwestern Ontario). Dealer order or trade may be required. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offer which may not be combined with other offers. See your dealer for conditions and details. ‡Based on 2006 Fuel Consumption Guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. †Service contract required. OnStar uses existing emergency service providers as well as cellular and satellite technologies. Vehicle electrical systems need to be operating for features to function properly. See dealer for conditions and details. †Registered trademark of General Motors Corporation. TD Canada Trust licensed user of mark. Visa International Service Association/TD Canada Trust and GM licensed user of marks. †Trade-mark of The Canada Trust Company. †For more information, visit gm.xmradio.ca. The XM name and related logos are registered trademarks of XM Satellite Radio Inc. †\$1,000 credit is exclusive of applicable taxes and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Offer applies to 2006 new or demonstrator models. Dealer order (excluding Sierra Nevada Edition trucks). †General Motors will provide a GST rollback incentive (tax inclusive) equal to 1% of the applicable vehicle MSRP (base vehicle plus factory installed options) plus freight. Offer applies only to retail cash/finance customers who take delivery of a new 2006 or 2007 model between May 13, 2006 and June 30, 2006. Lease APR may vary depending on amount of down payment/trade. General Motors reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer for any reason in whole or in part at any time without notice.

**NOW PAY
ONLY 6% GST
ON YOUR PURCHASE****

**DRIVE AWAY IN A GMC
AND SAVE AT THE PUMP.**

HURRY, IT'S A LIMITED TIME OFFER ON VIRTUALLY ALL 2006 MODELS.



**AND GET \$1000 WORTH
OF EXTRAS ON US†**

2006 GMC SIERRA CREW

WELL EQUIPPED WITH:

- Vortec 5300 295 hp V8 Engine
- Automatic Transmission with Overdrive and Tow/Haul Mode
- 4-Wheel ABS
- Autotrac Automatic 4WD
- Locking Differential
- Dual Zone Air Conditioning
- CD Stereo
- Cruise Control

- 17" 6-Spoke Aluminum Wheels
- Deep Tinted Glass
- Fog Lights
- Chromed Tubular Side Steps
- 271 Off-Road Suspension Package
- Trailering Special Equipment Package

HWY: 11.3L/100km • 25mpg
CITY: 15.8L/100km • 15mpg

\$289 | **1.03%**

DOWN	LEASE
\$0	\$910
\$1,500	\$369
\$3,000	\$329

\$37,498*

0%

NOW WITH 0%+ PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 60 MONTHS

2006 GMC SIERRA REG CAB HAULS A TON WITHOUT COSTING ONE.



HWY: 10.1L/100km • 25mpg
CITY: 15.2L/100km • 15mpg

- Vortec 4300 195 hp V6 Engine
- 4-Wheel ABS
- 40/20/40 Split Bench Seat
- Driver Information Centre

\$17,998*

- Vortec 3500 220 hp I5 Engine
- Automatic Transmission with Overdrive
- Air Conditioning
- 4-Wheel ABS
- 60/40 Split Bench

\$262 | **0.97%**

DOWN	LEASE
\$1,000	\$234
\$2,000	\$206
\$3,000	\$178



VISIT YOUR ONTARIO PONTIAC BUICK GMC DEALER TODAY.

**COMPARE
CHECK OUT HOW GMC
STACKS UP. gmc.canada.com**



REWARD YOURSELF BY GIVING UP YOUR OLD CAR.

Get \$1000 off an eligible new GM vehicle when you send your old car to a better place. Visit carheaven.ca or visit your local GM dealer for details.

