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Auroran photo by Rob Schuetze

Please see page 3

The Johnson's Cultural Achievement Award was presented to Tony Browning for his work in

Outstanding Achievement for
Please see page 14



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

Aurora Farmers' Market will be held every Saturday morning at the Temperance Street parking lot until Thanksgiving. Free space is available for non-profit groups. Contact Nigel Kean at 905-751-0790.

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.

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.

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.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

A free breakfast seminar will be held in the Magna Room of the Aurora Library from 8 to 10 a.m. regarding a Business Improvement Area for Aurora's downtown. Guest speaker is John Kiru, Executive Director of the Toronto Association of Business Improvements. RSVP to Cindy Janzen at 905-726-4740 by June 9.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five at Sormeh Beauty Spa, Wellington Street East from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

Deadline for applications for the Aurora Arts and Culture Fund. Application forms are available from the Town Hall.

MONDAY, JUNE 19

The Environmental Advisory Committee sponsors a workshop on organic lawn care from 7 to 9 p.m. in the West-McKenzie Room of the Seniors' Centre. Pre-register by calling 905-727-8214.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21

Aurora Public Library in conjunction with the Seniors' Centre presents the Seniors' Matinee Movie "Bewitched" starring Nicole Kidman from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Lebovic Room of the Library. Admission is free. Pre-register at the Library's Adult Information Desk at 905-727-9493, option 4 or the Seniors' Centre at 905-727-2816.

From 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Merlin's Hollow garden at 181 Centre Street will be open to benefit Hillary House. Admission is \$5 per person. David and Deirdre Tomlinson will be on hand to answer questions about gardening.

THURSDAY, 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 23-24

It's "Musical Mayhem", a hilarious musical review at the Factory Theatre with curtain on Friday at 7.30 p.m. and shows on Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. Admission is \$15 and \$10 for seniors. Call 905-727-3669 for tickets.

JUNE 23-25

The 2006 Polo Charity Series to raise funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation will be held at the Gormley Polo Centre on Leslie Street just south of the Bloomington Sideroad. For information call 905-477-8000 ext. 242.

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

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

A Great Curbside Giveaway begins at 7 a.m. Take unwanted items to the curb and post a sign they are free.

MONDAY, JUNE 26

Yard Waste Collection Day. Yard waste in brown kraft bags or open rigid reusable waste containers will be collected if left at the curb by 7 a.m. to ensure pick up. For further information call 905-727-3123 ext. 3447. Also July 24 and August 28.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

Aurora Horticultural Society presents a lecture on "Where Have All The Flowers Gone?" at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 30

Deadline for the sale of only 150 subscriptions at \$30 for three movies on September 11, October 6 and November 6 hosted by the Aurora Film Circuit with all movies shown at the Cineplex Odeon in Aurora. Applications available at the Aurora Library.

SATURDAY, JULY 1

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.

MONDAY, JULY 3

Blood Donor's Clinic, Our Lady of Grace Church, 16

Catherine Avenue, 2.30 to 7.30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 9

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.

Annual garden tour hosted by the Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society from noon to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased at Mary's Flower Shop, Flowers By Terry, Black Forest Garden Centre and R & R Revisited.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

Doors Open Aurora provides an opportunity to visit various buildings and businesses in Aurora including the Railway Station, Baldwin's Mill, Hillary House, St. Andrew's College, Trinity Anglican Church and The Auroran. For more information call 905-726-4762.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Aurora Historical Society Candlelight Tour of Homes.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Theatre Aurora opens its 49th season with the comedy "Educating Rita" at the Factory Theatre. Other productions in the fall/winter line up include "Crazy for You", "Dr. Cook's Garden" and "Blythe Spirit".

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

Celebrate Business Excellence in Aurora hosted by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

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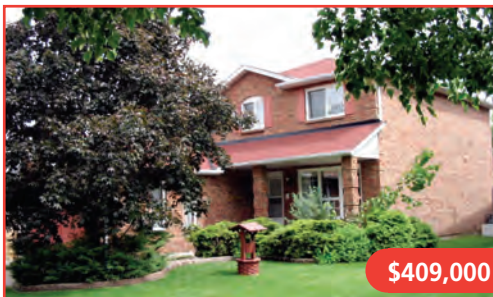
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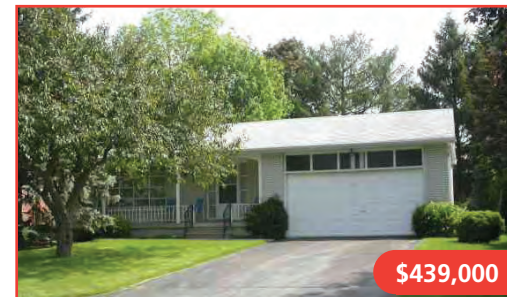
Absolutely Immaculate! Terrific family home in popular neighbourhood! Convenient main floor office! Finished basement has recreation room and 2-pc. bath! Lovely mature lot! Children's play park across the street! Surrounded by Walking Trails!



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PROUD TO BE LIVING AND WORKING IN AURORA

Police chief says we are safe, but outside...

Timing, they say, is everything.

The same night York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge and #1 District Acting Superintendent Mark Tatz were telling Aurora's general committee how safe York is, someone threw a rock through a big window at Trinity Anglican Church and someone else dumped a load of shingles behind Theatre Aurora, killing a tree in the process.

Both incidents are under investigation by police from #1 District, which councillors learned Tuesday night covers Aurora, Newmarket, East Gwillimbury and parts of King and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

During 2005, crimes against persons increased slightly over 2004 with 1,436 reported compared to 1,317, the chief said. Crimes against property decreased from 5,313 to 4,618.

Other Criminal Code offences also decreased from 1,866 to 1,471.

Meanwhile, an increase was noted in drug violations from 395 to 526, weapons violations from 107 to 108 and traffic violations from



Police are still investigating an incident Tuesday night, when a large rock was hurled through two panes of glass in this large window at Trinity Anglican Church. *Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*

657 to 701.

There are three patrol areas in Aurora with one patrol car for each area both day and night, and one extra patrol car in the afternoon to assist. Average response time is 7.4 minutes.

In addition to the patrol cars,

Aurora is home to several specialized units such as traffic, operational support, canine and incident response.

So far this year, the chief said, there have been 41 break and enter crimes, 15 arson crimes, 79 damage to property

crimes, 44 thefts from vehicles 52 thefts under \$5,000, in Aurora.

Chief La Barge told committee members the York Force polices the sixth largest municipality in Canada with a population of 927,000 and a high rate of growth with 1,229 police officers and 422 civilians for a police to population ratio of 1:775 with an annual cost per capita of about \$188.

The five top concerns across the region are traffic safety, youth issues, police visibility, effective communication and violent crime, he said.

Community policing priorities for 2006 include traffic enforcement and education, community policing, renewed emphasis on crime prevention, responding to violent crime, youth programs and drug eradication and education.

Traffic enforcement and education to make roads safe include more than 112,000 tickets issued in 2005, a year-round RIDE program, project ERASE to get rid of street racing, lane changes, Roadwatch and the Safe Streets, Nice Neighbourhoods program.

A few questions were asked

for clarification and concern was expressed that with a total of 1,229 police officers, Aurora was being shortchanged with only three officers on patrol.

Chief La Barge replied that this was the normal patrol complement, but other officers were available if required.



Nigel Kean
for
Mayor
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Province increases hospital grants

From page 1

mitted a resolution which they asked council to adopt.

Tuesday, councillors were reluctant.

A proposed resolution asked that council direct the CAO and Treasurer to work with Southlake to develop an appropriate funding mechanism in keeping with the Municipal Act which would achieve the goal of an equivalency of a five-year, \$80 per year per household and business levy or grant.

Tuesday, a report recommended council support the fundraising initiatives of Southlake to build and equip the centre and council approve the insertion of Southlake fundraising promotional material in 2006 tax billings.

It was also recommended that the CAO work with the other northern CAOs to develop an appropriate funding mechanism to raise approximately \$35 million

over five years with Aurora's share approximately \$6.9 million.

Several councillors said they had received numerous phone calls and E-mails from citizens objecting to the proposal that \$400 be added to their tax bill over five years and that debenturing the amount was the same as a levy.

It was, some said, a tax on a tax.

Suggested was a lottery which is used by some hospitals to raise funds.

Councillor Evelyn Buck objected to the proposed resolution submitted to council by Aurora's former CAO Marc Neeb, now a volunteer with the Hospital Foundation, saying it was a political decision.

Concern was also expressed about not including the south part of the region in the fundraising as examples were provided where residents went to

Southlake for treatment from Thornhill.

Councillor Damir Vrancic questioned whether this was properly a municipal issue as health was not a municipal mandate. He opposed both a tax levy and debenture.

Mayor Tim Jones argued strongly for the need of the cancer centre using statistics supplied during the hospital presentation, claiming that if the hospital didn't get the \$35 million from the municipalities, the cancer centre could be lost. He supported the recommendation.

On a motion from Councillor Bill Hogg it was proposed that council support the fundraising initiatives of Southlake and include promotional materials with tax bills which was adopted without debate.

He also suggested that the CAOs investigate alternative funding mechanisms and delete the \$6.9 million as Aurora's share.

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WE'RE ON YOUR TEAM.





Fun. Family. Freedom.

Soccer season promises fun and excitement for players, family and fans alike. The Dundee Little Chips Soccer Program was founded to bring this camaraderie to our community. As a Dundee advisor, I am as committed to helping build the community, as I am to helping your family achieve financial freedom. On the field, in our community and in your home you can count on my commitment to you.

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John A. Smith, Dundee Advisor.
20 Queen St W. 4th Floor, Toronto, ON. M5H 3R3



Poor Richard

Veterans remember war's end

*Days of the year come and go,
Some remembered, others not;
The public may have forgotten,
But veterans remember the spot.*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

The Second World War came to an end May 8, 1945, and celebrations broke out all over the free world. Businesses came to a halt as employees flooded the street in happiness. Strangers became friends as they united in peace. It was thought that day would be remembered and celebrated year after year as the day that brought peace and restored democracy in the free nations of the world. Now it passes without much of a thought or mention. Although it was labeled "SECRET", the bulletin to front line troops from a Canadian Army brigade headquarters for the troops to lay down their arms soon became news that couldn't be kept under wraps when it was received. The message said that representatives of the German High Command had signed an unconditional surrender of all German land, sea and air forces, but no release was to be made to the media pending announcements by the heads of government. Fat chance, the news was on the wires to the world in minutes. Most service people will recall where they were and what they were doing when they heard the news.

I had flown into Boucherville, on the St. Lawrence River just east of Montreal from Bermuda the night before on Coronado JX 486, "The Botwood" to get ready for the summer season flying priority needs across the North Atlantic for the troops. I was to bring back aircrew to Montreal.

During the winter months we were based in Bermuda and carried out the same function flying across the South Atlantic and bringing back returning aircrew to Nassau. The need had started to slow down as our last trip to Lagos, Nigeria, and return had been in March allowing me an opportunity to hitch a ride to Dorval and get home for a few days before returning to the crew in Bermuda. Because we were always on the move, we very seldom read a newspaper or heard any news about the war and had no idea of the progress the Allies were making on their advance into Germany.

As we flew into Boucherville on that May evening, we had no idea that the war was nearing an end. After making the plane secure on the water, we were taken to Montreal where the skipper, F/Lt. Frank Hart-Lovelace, and I checked into the De La Salle Hotel, our home away from home.

It had been a long, busy day so sleep came easily. I met Frank in the morning and we decided to go out and get some breakfast. Both of us were in uniform as we headed out May 8. Downtown Montreal was a madhouse.

Horns and whistles were blowing, people were spilling out of the buildings milling into the streets, jumping up and down and yelling with joy.

Frank and I stood at the corner of Peel and St. Catherine in amazement and wondered what was going on.

We were draped in ribbons and toilet paper by young ladies and finally the light dawned, the European War was over.

But the war wasn't over for the crew of Coronado JX 486 as on May 17 we flew to Largs, Scotland, via Botwood, Newfoundland, returning to Montreal on May 22, via Reykjavik, Iceland and Botwood.

In early June we were off again this time in Coronado JX 501, "The Bermuda" for a trip to the UK and return.

Then another trip to the UK in mid-June in JX 494 "The Bathurst" and that was the last cross-Atlantic flight for the Coronado Flight.

My last flight with the RAF Ferry Command was in July as for some reason or other we flew Catalina V9712 over to Largs, Scotland, returning to Canada two days later via Iceland and Goose Bay.

I was repatriated to the RCAF and granted 30 days leave before being posted to similar long range trips in the Pacific Theatre, but the big bomb was dropped and that ended the war for me, but that morning in Montreal is still a memory.



The top photo had to be taken prior to November, 1984, because that's when the building - housing three businesses and eight apartments - was gutted by fire. Today we see what replaced the structure that was located on the west side of Yonge Street, south of Tyler. Bottom photo by David Falconer

Letter to the Editor

Sin tax could fund new cancer centre

To the editor,

Re: Regional Cancer Centre Funding

Thinking outside of the box, would it be feasible to suggest York Region Council request the province to allow York Region to create a "Regional SIN Tax Task Force" to determine the possibility of implementing such a tax to fund the Southlake Regional Health Care Cancer Centre?

In this way, the funding burden would be placed on ALL of York Region who in all fairness would use the facility, not just specific municipalities like Aurora and Newmarket.

If allowed, a guarantee from York Regional Council must be made to York residents that the tax would ONLY be temporary and that it will ONLY be used for this one-time purpose.

Once the funds are raised through the tax along with other methods, the tax should be quickly removed.

Since the GST will soon be reduced to six per cent this may be a good time to consider such a tax.

It is also possible that the majority of residents within the region would be acceptable to

such a tax to help quickly fund the centre for our own wellbeing.

The tax would not affect those most vulnerable and only affect those who want specific goods and services.

The one or two per cent SIN tax would be calculated the same as GST. No piggy backing.

Following are examples on what the SIN tax may cover: All Regional and Municipal charged services and documents; spirits; fast food and restaurants; tobacco products; movie rentals; movie theatres; cable/satellite television; internet; fireworks.

Most software allows for such tax to be added but for those businesses that do not have such a system a phantom item number could be added or the GST line could be expanded and to remain at seven per cent, such as GST/RGN.

Within the United States a three tax system is common: federal/state/county.

Back in 1990-1991, I made recommendations to the Hospital Board to consider building a new hospital at the corner of Mulock and Highway 404.

This location allowed for quick access for emergency

vehicles, parking, had the room to expand if required and it is also a gateway to the town. Once the new structure was completed the current hospital had the possibility of becoming a care-facility and/or low cost assisted housing. Obviously my voice was not heard.

With the addition of the Cancer Centre to this location the traffic congestion at Davis Drive and Prospect will become even more of a problem that may affect emergency vehicle response times.

What is Southlake planning on doing in this regard?

Another concern is the cost to run such a facility.

Yearly equipment contracts on just one MRI or CT unit is in the tens of thousands of dollars, not including the radiologist required, supplies, and site overheads.

How are these funds going to be raised to maintain such a facility?

From what I heard operational costs are being anticipated within future provincial funding.

It sounds like everyone pays again.

Eric McCartney
Aurora

AURORAN

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Community Newspaper"

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Battle has just started

In 2004, many citizens of Aurora were furious about the possibility of upgrading the existing 115 kV transmission line to a 230 kV high voltage line that runs through town from Markham to Newmarket.

The redevelopment would have meant taller towers with wider bases, with the end result being that the towers and transmission lines would have been closer to homes.

Many ratepayer associations, led by the Aurora chapter of Stop Transmission Lines Over People ("STOP"), as well as by local council, were against this project and wanted the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) to fully investigate all the alternatives.

According to June 10, 2004, meeting notes taken by representatives of Hardy Stevenson and Associates Limited, there were "three major areas of concern regarding the plans proposed by Hydro One: communications, health and financial issues".

Reviewing these notes the other day, it was readily apparent that residents were not at all happy with the level of communication and transparency displayed by Hydro One.

They were also concerned, from a health and safety perspective, about the link between electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) to childhood leukemia, and they were also worried about the value of their homes.

In the end, the transmission line was not upgraded.

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) decision instructed that a transformer station, to reduce the high level voltage to a more manageable level, be constructed.

The Holland Junction Transmission station in King Township will be built. This should leave Aurora, barring some unforeseen catastrophe, with enough electricity capacity until either 2011 or 2014.

Aurorans may have received a reprieve, but there are other energy issues to ponder.

As everyone knows, York Region is one of the fastest growing regions in Canada, and along with this growth comes a tremendous appetite for power.

The overriding issue is that we do in fact need new sources of power in York to maintain our standard of living and way of life.

Communities cannot and should not grow unless energy needs are part of the equation.

Just as we would not allow homes to be built without adequate provisions for water, sewage, schools and roads, we should not allow development without a real plan for our power needs.

In the transmission line case, a viable alternative was found. But we also need to examine alternatives closer to home.

We are going to have to get comfortable with the concept of distributed generation in our neighborhoods; that is small power plants in close proximity to actual load requirements.

Aurora Cable Internet (ACI) wanted to erect three small wind turbines on its Ridge Road corporate premises, but was opposed by some homeowners because of noise and visibility issues.

The case went to the Ontario Municipal Board, where it was ruled that ACI is allowed to erect the turbines, but it will be up to the Ministry of the Environment to decide if they're too noisy.

Having the generation on site will reduce pressure on the grid, reduce green house gas emissions, and somewhat reduce the volatility of electricity prices for ACI.

Another issue likely to arise is that of the cost of various energy alternatives.

If in the future a generation facility of a reasonable size could not be sited in close proximity to the current Aurora transmission line, who should pay if the ultimate decision is to go with an underground transmission line upgrade?

Should it be Aurora homeowners or York Region ratepayers or provincial taxpayers as a whole?

Individual costs will be reduced the greater the area this concentric cost ring becomes.

But since Aurora doesn't or won't have its own generating station, then I can't see the citizens of Markham or Newmarket paying for our underground lines.

There is also the critical issue of balancing larger community interests against local interests - that is the provincial government mandate of ensuring that the lights stay on vs. local governments' right to say no to a particular power project. It is a delicate balancing act.

The Integrated Power System Plan (IPSP) is due to be released in the summer of 2007.

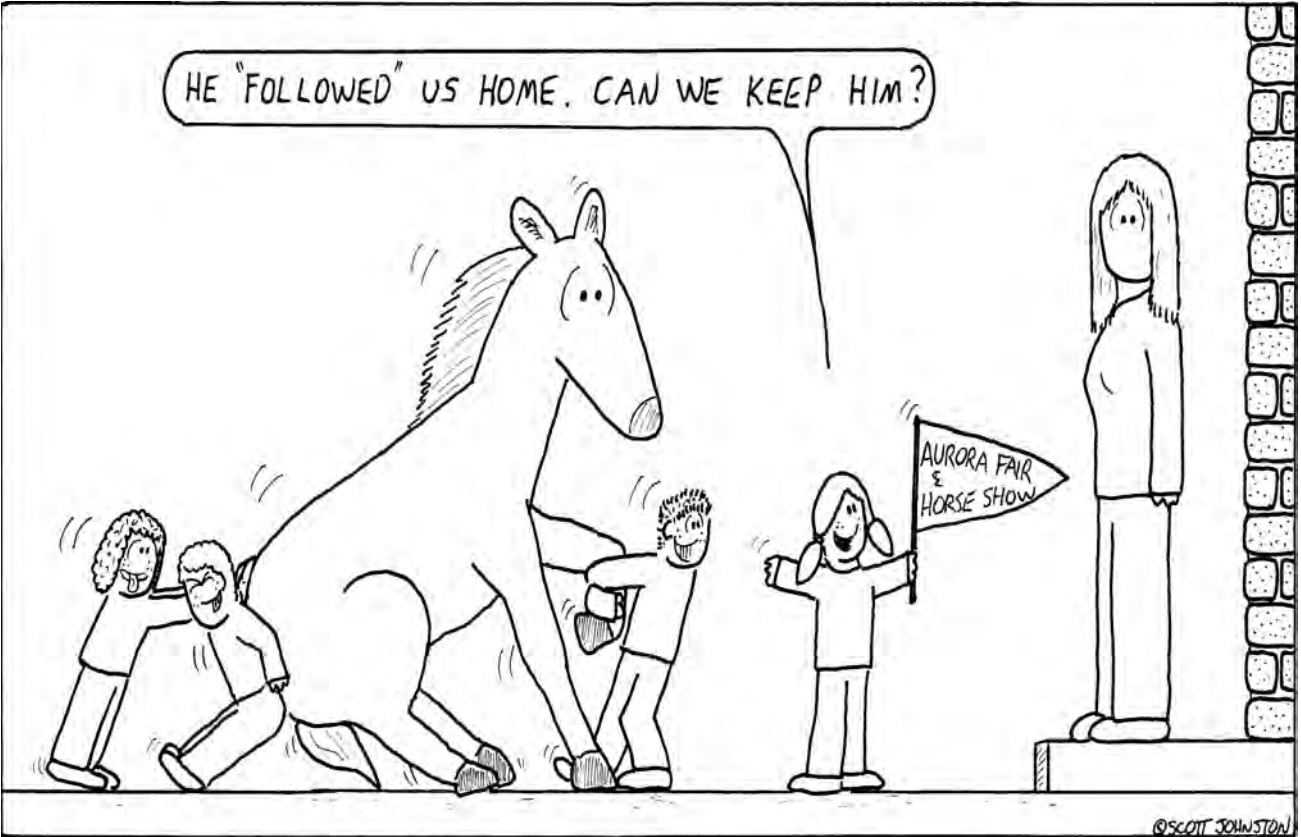
This is the report that ties together all the work done by other energy agencies into one, supposedly coherent, and well thought-out energy framework for Ontario.

The citizens of Aurora and our public officials need to be ready to become actively engaged once this report comes out.

The Aurora transmission line skirmish may have been won, but the energy battle has just begun.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

Machell's Corners



Letter to the Editor

Tough agenda for council

To the editor,

It was Tuesday night and the Heritage District and Catherine/Centre sidewalks were on the General Committee agenda, so I turned up at Council Chambers in time to borrow the hearing aid – it really helps us hearing-challenged folks.

At seven o'clock the seats are filling and I notice there are 22 other items on the agenda and that the backup papers ran more than 400 pages. What a fun weekend

for the members of council.

After a wide range of statistics from the York Regional Police and a problem of 'trespassing light', Council heard delegations in support of the Heritage District.

Then they heard that some folks were unaware of the proposal.

Next they heard that one who was opposed, investigated and recanted. As part of the decision to move forward, a special effort was requested to talk with the

remaining opponents, trying for 100 per cent approval. Council surely went the second mile.

Item 12 - Sidewalk Renovation- passed swiftly in the 11 p.m. rush.

The three hours between contained an impassioned debate over Aurora's funding of a Regional Cancer Centre, a lesson on warm and cold waterways in a Natural Heritage Study, what happens to Junior 'A' rink board advertising money, the next step in

the Wal-Mart saga and MORE.

Whatever is said about a dysfunctional council, and this meeting contained some sharp edges, the result was four hours of serious consideration of many diverse items with Aurora residents winning in every one.

Those who would throw stones should "walk a mile" and then become a candidate for council.

Gordon Barnes
Aurora



Cathy's Corner



All kinds of fathers

There are all kinds of fathers in the world.

There are Stepfathers, Adoptive Fathers and Foster Fathers.

There are Married Fathers, and those you can get by getting married, called Fathers-in-Law.

Then there are Divorced Fathers - not to be confused with Single Fathers, who might not have gotten married enough to get divorced.

If a father doesn't expect news that the mother is expecting, he would be a Surprised Father, and if the news comes from his daughter, he might be a Shell-Shocked Father.

Some kids have a Weekend Father.

This would be the man who shakes them awake at 4 a.m. shouting: "Wake up, it's time for hockey!"

Others have a Stay-at-Home Father (a.k.a. Mr. Mom).

This domestically oriented paternal type has taken housework to a whole new level: he sweeps the kitchen floor with a power-washer, loads all removable auto parts into the dishwasher, and does the dusting with a leaf blower.

My kids have a Sneaky Father.

This is a man who hops out to the grocery store under instructions to bring back a dozen eggs and comes home with a dozen eggs...and freezer burn.

Such injuries are commonly sustained from hiding a dozen ice cream sandwiches under one's coat in order to sneak them into the house undetected.

Unfortunately, I didn't have a Sneaky Father.

I was raised by an Authoritarian Father, which

basically means I was the sneaky one.

I take after my mother.

My mother lets my father wear the pants in the family...even if she has been telling him which ones to wear for the past 50 years.

The best kind of father to have is a Fun Father.

These guys generally go by the name "Dad".

Some of them even get called "Daddy"...even when their kids are over 20.

There are all kinds of Dads in Aurora.

There are Soccer Dads, Hockey Dads and Baseball Dads.

There are Dads who coach, Dads who play, Dads who cheer, and Dads who think that every game should end with ice cream.

There are Cool Dads and there are Old Fashioned Dads, Young Dads and Old Dads.

Sometimes, Old Fashioned Dads think they're cool and sometimes, Old Dads can be hot.

There are Papas, Tatas, Padres and Abbas.

Then there are Papis, Otecs and Apas.

Some people have Patirs, others have Patris.

The thing about your Father, Dad, Daddy is...WHAT you call him doesn't matter as much as THAT you call him.

Don't forget that this Sunday is Father's Day.

Happy Father's Day to all the wonderful Dads in Aurora.

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

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

 **BOUQUETS** to Jennifer Ralph on her appointment as assistant and part-time coordinator at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, with responsibilities for arranging the extended hours program that was announced last week.

 **BOUQUETS** to the Seniors Art Group for a very successful Art Show and Sale at the Seniors' Centre when 37 original paintings were sold, a record, with the Town purchasing a painting of the Queen's Hotel for its permanent collection.

 **BRICKBATS** to Councillor Evelyn Buck for her continual attacks on the Environmental Advisory Committee from the Terms of Reference when the committee was established to the most recent attack by suggesting that committee members needed advice on how a municipality handles its finances, even though the committee report clearly stated the suggested expenditures were to be referred to 2007 budget deliberations.

 **BOUQUETS** and Welcome to Dr. Erica Weir on her appointment as Associate Medical Officer of Health for York Region.

 **BRICKBATS** to the provincial and federal governments for reducing York's settlement funding for new immigrants from \$416.72 per person to just \$179.26 in 2004 while Toronto was receiving \$873, Peel \$558 and Durham \$503 per person. Why?

 **BOUQUETS** and a big Thank You to Shoppers Drug Mart on Aurora Heights Drive for their quick action in listening to Poor Richard's plea about using new pill bottles he had trouble opening, and using the old style bottle for his next prescription. The old style bottles are available on request.

 **BRICKBATS** to Canada Revenue Agency officials for their inefficient handling of collecting tax accounts. According to the Auditor General there is \$18 billion uncollected, of which only \$4.7 billion is doubtful leaving \$13.3 billion still to be collected.

 **BOUQUETS** to Aurora resident Brian Herbinson on the 50th anniversary of his Bronze Medal win on Canada's Three-Day Event Equestrian Team in Stockholm, Sweden, the first in Olympic Equestrian events to be won by Canada. He was also on the Gold Medal Three-Day Event Team at the Pan American Games in Chicago in 1959 and he participated in the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome, Italy.

 **BRICKBATS** to the provincial government for not banning strikes on all essential services such as public transit, such as the recent wildcat strike of TTC workers. How can you encourage commuters to leave their cars at home if they can't depend on public transit?

 **BOUQUETS** to Alex Stewart of Cardinal Carter Catholic High School for placing first in the Senior Boys Javelin at the recent York Region high school track and field finals.

 **BRICKBATS** to the provincial government for including Legion halls in the smoking ban as they are a private club and should be able to set their own rules. If members want to be smoke-free, so be it, but if they want the right to smoke, they should be able to. They fought for freedom, but the government is depriving them of that.

 **BOUQUETS** to Health Minister George Smitherman for listening to the public and backing down on a plan that would have made it tough for Ontario pharmacies to stock high-cost drugs for people with AIDS and other serious diseases. He should have done it before introducing the Bill.

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Letters to the Editor

Cash would be saved if land for cops donated

To the editor,

Re: Town would sell land for big police building, Auroran May 23.

It always amazes me how politicians think once they put on their blinkers and look straight ahead forgetting who is actually paying for their antics.

The land in question was purchased six years ago by the taxpayers of Aurora for \$4.2 million.

Part of the tax money

collected by Aurora Council is remitted to the Region for their spending.

The Region now wants to use some of the Aurora taxpayers money to buy 2.44 acres of the above noted land.

To add further insult to the Aurora taxpayers, should the police not go ahead with their plans to use the land, the council has put a clause in the agreement which will see the Aurora taxpayers buying the land for a third time.

A huge saving to the taxpayers could be achieved by simply giving the land to the police with an agreement that it be returned to Aurora free of charge should the police decide to go elsewhere. This idea of flipping land back and forth has great possibilities if allowed to continue.

On May 16, The Auroran carried a story on the proposal of Southlake to apply a sur-tax on the taxpayers of Aurora to which many of your readers have taken

objection.

Southlake could instead sell their parking lot to York Regional Transit (YRT) as a place to park buses.

YRT could then flip the lot to Parks and Recreation for tennis courts donating the money to Southlake.

Parks could flip to Works as a place to store salt and sand for the coming winter and again donate the money to Southlake.

As soon as Southlake has enough money for its purposes it would only take one more flip to get enough money to buy back the parking lot.

Back in July, 2005, the Department of Finance (Globe & Mail July 5, 2005 - Politicians may join usual suspects) proposed lumping politicians in with terrorists and money launderers whose financial dealings get close scrutiny.

Enough said.

Malcolm Watts
Newmarket

Ed Millar
King City

To the editor,

Ahh, sunny day, not too hot, and a few thousand people having a terrific time sums up this year's Aurora Street Festival.

A carnival atmosphere prevailed featuring a bearded organ grinder in a top hat (plush monkeys only), a man and woman on decorated stilts towering above the crowd tirelessly entertaining and posing for photographs, and other familiar

sounds and smells of summer.

Candy floss, ice cream, hamburgers and home grown music provided by lively local musicians – even a square dance called among the other marvelous mayhem.

Families, lovers, friends of all ages smiling, strolling, enjoying themselves at a leisurely pace checking out the wares of the several hundred tables and booths strung out along Yonge

street.

The crowd, not claustrophobic or intense like those of Toronto events, reminded me that living in not-so-small town Ontario is the best of both worlds – things to do, and just the right number of people to do it with on a wonderful late spring day.

Reader suggests lottery to help Southlake's plan

To the editor,

Re: Southlake tax grab.

If the current Aurora Council submits to the Southlake Regional Medical Centre Chief Executive Officer's tax grab of \$400, the council will be toast in the November elections - which might be a good idea.

Property taxpayers have already been hit by an eight per cent (sorry, 7.9 per cent) increase this year and that is obscene.

What about people living in Aurora who do not own property, or people who will

use Southlake and do not even live in this area?

Why not have a lottery like Sick Kids, etc., but on a smaller scale?

We would not like to do that because that would require work and effort on the part of the CEO and his 20 (?) directors.

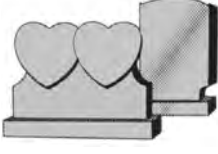
Leave the property owners alone; the whole plan is not legal and if I had the money, I would challenge this proposal in court.

To the property taxpayers of Aurora - wake up and see the light.

W. Devins
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor



Vic Paraninfo and his 25-year-old hibiscus tree.

Vic got his tree back

To the editor,

On Friday, May 26th, I once again put my hibiscus tree outside my store on Yonge Street as there was a nice light rain. In a blink of an eye, it was gone. I could not believe someone would take it. I was upset; I had nurtured it for 25 years and often put it out in the rain. It was always in bloom. Many people stopped to admire it. I put a large sign in the store window asked to "please return my tree". On Wednesday, May 31st, I got a happy phone call: my tree had been found in Newmarket. Thanks to the kindness and joint effort of Kathy Ferrarei of Laidlaw Education Services and Walter Rawlings of Sutton Group - Future Realty Inc., my hibiscus tree is back in my store window. A heartfelt thank you to Kathy and Walter, and to all the many people who were so willing to try and help me locate it.

It is a good feeling to live and work in such a caring community.

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Family thanks services following collision

To the editor,

We sincerely wish to send our heartfelt thanks to the York Regional Police, fire services and paramedics who responded to the horrific accident Saturday night, May 27th, that killed our son and brother and his wife, Robert and Lisa Manchester (nee Cote).

The professional care and comfort that was provided to them and to us will never be forgotten.

We would like to thank Thompson's Funeral Home, Aurora, for all their help, compassion and understanding.

Thank you to all friends and neighbours and to all who have donated to Katie's Trust Fund.

Your kind expression of sympathy and compassion is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

Marian Fraser,
Catherine Gray,
Des & Jack Cote
and families

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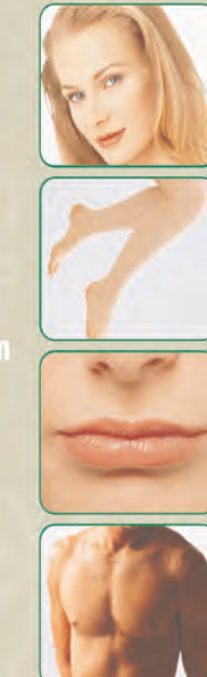
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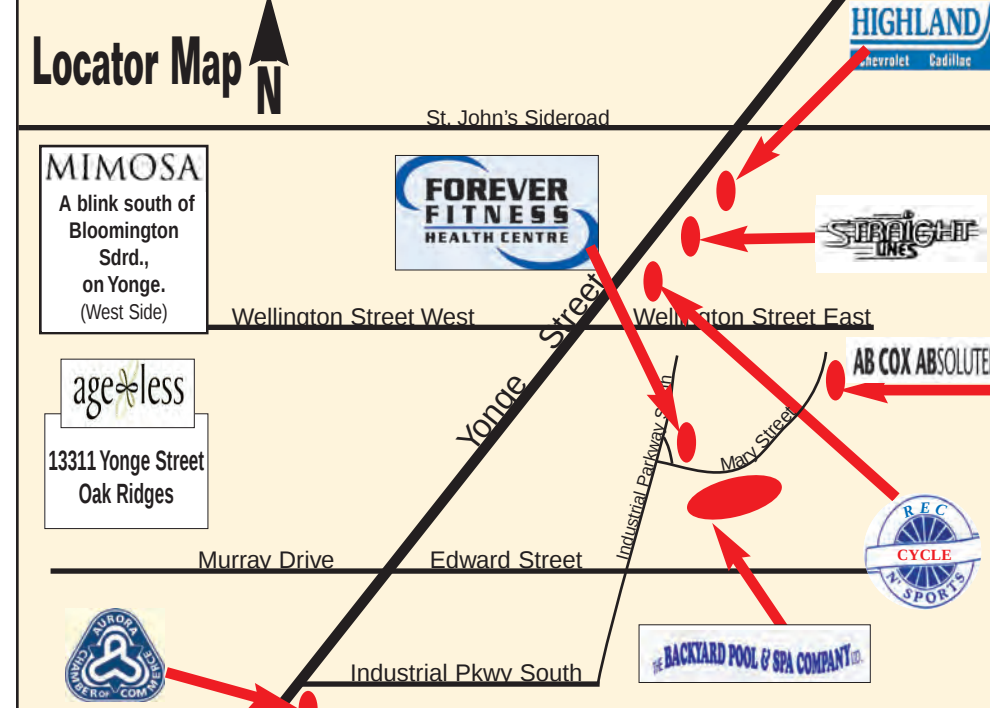
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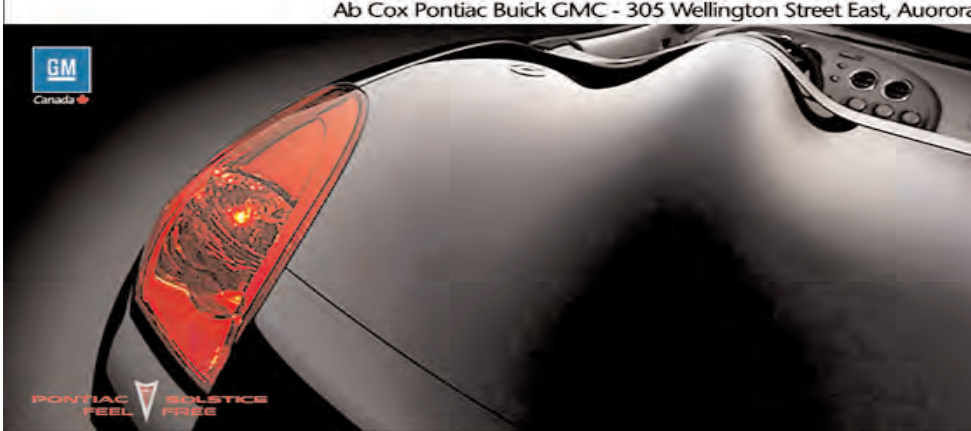
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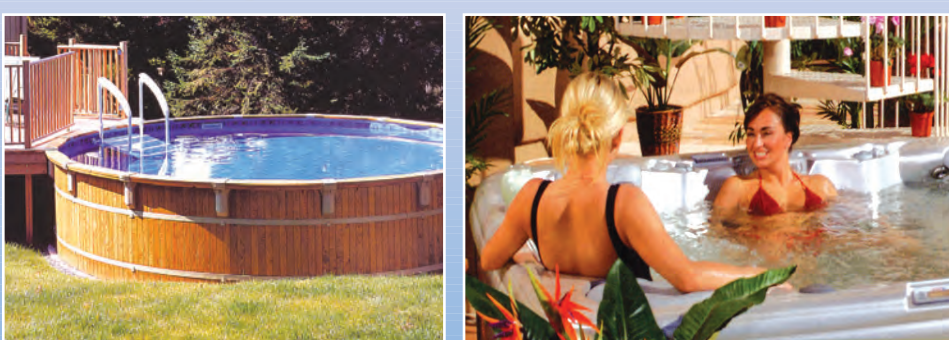
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Doors Open August 12

Hillary House leads parade of historic sites open to you

The first Doors Open Day took place in France more than 20 years ago, and the concept soon spread to neighbouring European countries.

In 2000, the first North American Doors Open was held in Toronto, and in 2002 the Ontario Heritage Trust launched Doors Open Ontario.

More than 45 communities are taking part in Doors Open Ontario 2006, and Aurora is one of them.

On display will be the town's culture, history and environment.

Join in Saturday, August 12, for free tours of Aurora's local landmarks and hidden heritage gems.

No tickets and no pre-registration are needed. Visitors choose their sites and tour at their own pace.

To give you an idea of what you can see, The Auroran will feature eight of the sites on a weekly basis.

First in the series is the famous Hillary House, on Yonge Street.

Built in 1862, Hillary House is owned by the Aurora Historical Society and recognized by the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board as one of Canada's best examples of Gothic Revival architecture, with its intricate barge-board detailing and gothic arched windows.

In 1982 the house was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act for its historical and architectural significance.

It contains a considerable collection of medical instruments, books, papers, household furnishings, and equipment dating from the early nineteenth to the late twentieth century and is open to the public as Hillary House, the Koffler Museum of Medicine.

It is among the foremost historic house museums in North America, combining architectural significance and the personal possessions of three generations of medical doctors who worked and lived there with their families.

It is a window to a time of immense change, from the era of leeches and bleeding to the advent of penicillin, from a time of calling cards and private ballrooms to the arrival of the phonograph.

In addition to the striking architectural features of Hillary House, it also has an extremely interesting history based on the careers of four prominent physicians who lived there and who served the community of Aurora with distinction.

Dr. Walter B. Geikie was the first of the four to live in what was then known as The Manor.

Construction was completed in 1862 and on November 26 that year, Dr. Geikie moved into his new residence.

In 1869, he moved to Toronto where he became famous as a medical educator, serving as Dean of Trinity Medical College for 32 years.



Hillary House

He died in January of 1917.

Because The Manor was conveniently adapted to the home and practice of a physician, Dr. Frederick W. Strange, only 25 at the time, purchased the property and set up his practice in 1869.

But ambition claimed another doctor of The Manor and within seven years, Dr. Strange moved to Toronto. After a long career as pathologist and surgeon, he died in 1897.

In 1876 when Dr. Strange departed for Toronto, Annie Hillary (wife of Dr. Robert William Hillary), purchased The Manor.

Dr. Hillary's arrival in Aurora in 1861 began a long heritage of medical care and service to the community by the Hillary family.

Dr. Robert William Hillary was a prominent member of Aurora society and served on the village council.

In 1891, he brought his son, Dr. Robert Michael Hillary, into partnership. After a prosperous and interesting life, Dr. Robert William Hillary died in 1894, and was buried in the Aurora Cemetery.

The house gets its name from Dr. Robert William Hillary and his son, Dr. Robert Michael Hillary and their descendents.

Dr. Robert Michael Hillary studied medicine at Trinity College under the first owner of The Manor, Dr. Walter Geikie, and as the clinical clerk of Dr. Frederick Strange, the second owner of The Manor.

In 1895 he married Edith Howard Mussen and together

they had nine children.

In 1916 at the age of 53, Dr. Hillary was sent to France.

The horrors of battle and the death of his eldest son Robert Stuart at Vimy in 1917 destroyed his health.

He retired in 1920 and died in 1936. His widow Edith continued to live in the house until her death in 1961.

Their daughter, Edith Nora (known as Nora) also lived in Hillary House until 1992.

To preserve Hillary House for the future, the Aurora Historical Society purchased it and nearly two acres of surrounding land in 1981.

This was made possible through the generosity of the Hillary family and Dr. Murray B. Koffler.

Major renovations have been required to restore and stabilize the house over the past 25 years, and to date, restoration costs have totalled more than \$450,000.

During the first phases of restoration work, Nora continued to live in part of the house as "resident curator". She died in 1993 at 91.

Since then, the Aurora Historical Society has operated Hillary House for casual and group tours, archival research, and a meeting space for local community groups.

Don't miss this opportunity to visit Hillary House on the Doors Open Aurora tour!



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In spite of the Grand Prix being cancelled due to wet fields, the Aurora Fair and Horse Show rebounded on the weekend to become another success. In the top photo, Aurora's Ben Burland entertains, while two alpacas are cared for by Greg Precop, left, and Brooke Harrison, below.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

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Aurora skating results

Following are the Aurora Skating Club's results from its last low and high test days of the season.

Preliminary Dance
 Dutch Waltz: Jasmine Biasi, Monica Churchill, Brittany Blanchard, Sarah Blois, Jessica Jamieson.
 Canasta Tango: Courtney McGrath, Sydney Lambert, Sara Reynolds, Julia Steiner, Nicole McCausland.
 Baby Blues: Erin Forster, Stephanie Morawietz, Arzo Wahab, Stefanie Smylie-Crea, Matthew Warner.

Junior Bronze Dance
 Swing: Alicia Alberton, Alyssa Simon, Stephanie Ng, Ashleigh Calvert.
 Fiesta Tango: Kailee O'Connor.
 Willow Waltz: Alicia Saunders, Mackenzie Maunder.

Senior Bronze Dance
 Ten Fox: Emma Schellingerhoud, Marilena Perri, Melany Noseworthy, Sabrina Brochu.
 Fourteen Step: Katrina Thunem, Melany Noseworthy, Kaitlin VanWinckle.
 European: Caylin Butler.

Junior Silver Dance
 Harris Tango: Julia Chiovitti, Christina Relke, Lauren Blanchet.
 American Waltz: Taylor McDowall, Alysa Nichols, Kendall Mannella.
 Rocker Foxtrot: Katie Sutton, Jacqueline Relke, Stephanie Fonceca, Alana Fabbicino, Lauren Blanchet.

Senior Silver Dance
 Kilian: Julia Ranson, Hailey Riggs.
 Blues: Amy Bellefeuille, Nicole Relke, Emma Lavery, Janet deVries, Jordana Goldman.

Gold Dance
 Viennese Waltz: Fayme Cockshutt, Ariel Kwan.
 Quick Step: Garth Miller.

Skating Skills
 Preliminary: Matthew Warner, Molly Oulahan, Kortney Weichel, Savannah Hendy, Katherine Morawietz, Shauna O'Connor, Melany Noseworthy.
 Junior Bronze: Alessia Chiovitti, Kaitlin VanWinckle.
 Senior Bronze: Christina Relke, Nicole Calvert.
 Junior Silver: Alex Woodward.
 Senior Silver: Stephanie Fonceca, Janet deVries.

Gold: Amanda Jamieson.

Free Skate Elements

Preliminary: Kaitlin VanWinckle, Sabrina Brochu, Caylin Butler, Austin Bushell.
 Junior Bronze: Emma Lavery.
 Senior Silver: Fayme Cockshutt.
 Gold: Jenna Porteous,

Meaghan Jones.

Free Skate Program

Preliminary: Courtney Tidona, Hailey McGrath, Alessia Chiovitti, Zahra Rajan.
 Junior Bronze: Alysa Nichols, Jennine Brunton, Ariel Kwan.

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Dessert

Lemon Parfait \$6

Castle Rock 2004 Lake Country Sauvignon Blanc USA

This elegant, medium-bodied wine is crisp and refreshing, with hints of citrus, apple, honey and melon flavours all blending into a smooth, silky, harmonious finish.

Glass - \$9
 Half Litre - \$22
 Bottle - \$36

Castle Rock 2003 Columbus Valley Cabernet Sauvignon USA

This full-bodied, complex wine offers layers of concentrated flavours of cassis, black cherry, ripe plum and black-berry, with a hint of light oak.

Glass - \$10
 Half Litre - \$25
 Bottle - \$40

Gallery adds Canadian art

Aurora's Wellington Gallery has added of a number of historic Canadian artworks to its permanent collection.

Currently on display at the Wellington Street West gallery are original works by famous Group of Seven artists: A.Y. Jackson, Arthur Lismer, and J.E.H. MacDonald, as well as art created by well-known Canadian artists: David Milne and Robert Wakeham Pilot.

"We are thrilled to bring this art to York Region and especially to the Town of Aurora," said Emil Simon, owner of the gallery. "Thanks to the talent of these historic artists, Canada has an impressive reputation in the international art arena. One of our goals at Wellington is to help build public awareness of our next generation of leading artists."

Included in the current exhibit which runs until July 1st, is a selection of art created by the

gallery's feature artists.

"This exhibit showcases the wide range of art styles that contemporary artists are working in," he said. "No matter what your personal art preference is, there is sure to be a piece in this exhibit that will suit your individual taste."

"We encourage the community to visit the gallery over the summer months. There is no admission and people of all ages are welcome. We want to make it easy for people to spend time enjoying Canadian art so we have added Sunday hours for family visits."

In addition to exhibiting original art, the gallery now offers professional art appraisal services.

Simon is an Accredited Member of the International Society of Appraisers (ISA). The ISA is recognized as being the global leader in professional art appraisals.

The gallery promotes original collection-quality art created by established artists.

It covers 3,000 square feet and is located at 32 Wellington St. West, one block west of Yonge and Wellington.

The gallery is wheelchair accessible and free parking is available.

Its new hours of operation are Wednesday and Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

For more information call 905-751-0066.



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MP REPORT

By Belinda Stronach
(Newmarket-Aurora)

It was great seeing many of you at the annual World's Longest Street Festival last week.

The event continues to get bigger and better every year.

One of the features this year was the Habitat for Humanity York Region playhouse raffle.

I had the honour of serving as one of the judges who selected our favourite playhouse from among the seven on display in front of Park Place Manor.

Congratulations to Chairman Sean Herbinson and the entire Street Festival Committee on a spectacular job.

We had a number of guests the past few weeks from Aurora schools who were visiting Ottawa.

I was delighted to personally meet students from Aurora Heights Public School, Light of Christ Catholic Elementary School and Aurora Montessori School in late May and early June.

It was a pleasure to lend my support to the Scotiabank Women's Charity Challenge that took place here May 29.

The widely publicized national charity fundraiser featured Annika Sorenstam, the number one golfer on the LPGA tour for the last four years and one of the greatest female athletes of all time.

A total of \$250,000 was raised, with part of the funds going to Aurora's Yellow Brick House.

I also had a lot of fun flipping burgers outside the M & M Meat Shops store on Yonge Street Saturday, May 13.

It was all for a good cause - the 18th annual M & M Charity BBQ to raise funds for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of Canada (CCFC).

Googh wins two medals at seniors' competitions

Don't bet against Aurora's Ron Googh if he's standing by a billiard table.

Googh captured two medals in the Seniors Games competitions, as the York event completed its fifth and final week of competitions.

He took the gold medal in 9 Ball Pool, beating out two Richmond Hill competitors, then captured a silver medal in the snooker.

In earlier competition, Aurora's Tom Flanagan and Ray Preston brought home a silver medal in the darts events, while Terry Robinson won gold and Jim Liddy picked up a bronze in the Men's Calloway golf event.

Meanwhile, the competitions wrap up with closing ceremonies at the new Aurora Seniors' Centre Wednesday, June 14, at 11 a.m.

Thousands attend Street Festival

Owner Greg Foster organized a great event with the support of a number of community volunteers.

A \$2 donation got you a hot dog or hamburger, a drink and a snack.

All totaled, the M & M Charity BBQ and the Superstars for CCFC program in Aurora raised \$4,870, while \$1.8 million was raised across Canada, with every penny going toward medical research to find a cure for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

Please join me in congratulating Caitlin Allan, an Aurora High School student, and Aurora resident Michael Taylor, who attends Unionville High School.

Caitlin and Michael were named 2006 recipients of the Millennium Excellence Award, given annually to students "who make positive and significant contributions to the betterment of their communities, demonstrate a capacity for leadership and commit themselves to the pursuit of academic excellence and innovation".

They both received a one-time bursary worth \$4,000.

The Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation provides students with financial support to pursue a post-secondary education.

Established by the Liberal government in 1998, the Foundation has distributed more than \$1.5 billion in bursaries, awards and scholarships.

Finally, I wish to invite everyone to come out for lunch at The Aurora Seniors' Centre Thursday, June 29 for the "*From the Hill to the Grill*" Patio Party.

I'll be joining my team from the Newmarket-Aurora constituency office at the grill and together we'll be cooking up some hamburgers and sausages.

Residents of the Aurora Seniors' Centre will be operating a cash bar serving beer and wine.

The event is only \$10 for a ticket, and you'll get a great lunch as well as a chance to tour the new centre, which is located on Municipal Drive just across from the Town Hall.

All proceeds will go toward supporting The Aurora Seniors' Centre. Hope to see you there!

As your Member of Parliament, I am working hard on your behalf and hope that I can continue to earn your trust, respect and confidence.

I look forward to seeing many of you in town over the summer when the House adjourns.



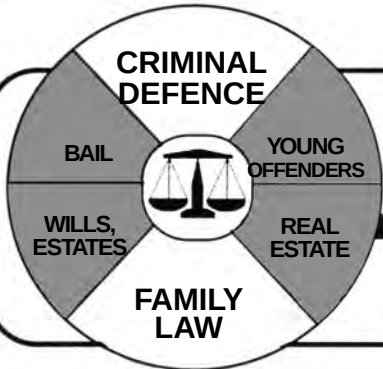
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Two elected to our board

By BRIAN WARBURTON

Last week the ASA added another milestone to an exhilarating year; its Annual General Meeting.

This is a must event and it allows the democratic, peaceful election or acclamation of directors, in an ordered procedure.

I would like to welcome Virginia Bodnar and Betty Moore to the ranks of the Board of Directors [BoD], as director of programming and director of volunteers respectively.

Bob Collard resigned as Director of Programs and was acclaimed as Director of Operations.

Returning to the board are Charles Sequeira, President; Brian Warburton, Vice President; Lydia Schuster, Secretary; Ruth Church, Treasurer; Barbara Stoecklin, Membership; Flo Murray, Fundraising; and Bob Collard, Operations.

Last Sunday I helped man the seniors' booth at the Street Festival.

Our task was to demon-

strate the senior presence and to talk with people, mostly seniors who wended their way, slowly past a long stretch of tables and booths, each offering entertainment or things for sale.

This is my fourth participation in the event and each year I am amazed by the number of visitors from out of town who are always friendly and generally happy and willing to exchange a few words.

It is a fun event for us, and we do it willingly because we endeavour collectively, to turn our senior season of life, into a prosperous, exciting and interesting time for the devotees of self entertainment, and the do-it-yourself aficionados.

Personal engagement cannot be delegated, nor should it be.

Those loath to engage, banish the multitude in favour of solitude.

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Sylvia Gilchrist

From page 1

An Individual Award went to Trevor Smith for his youth initiatives and his work at North Lights Public School.

Outstanding Achievement for a Group Award went to the Aurora Minor Atom AA hockey team for winning several regional and provincial tournaments.

The Community Organization of the Year Award was made to the Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society for their work in beautifying Aurora, while the Quarter Century Award went to the Aurora-Newmarket Canadian Federation of University Women who are now in their 50th year of service.

Adopt-A-Park presentations were made to 17 groups for adopting a town park and keeping it clean and useable for community children and groups.

Gord James, an Aurora resident and a music man with CHUM Radio, was once again Master of Ceremonies and kept the evening moving with his humorous comments.

Newmarket/Aurora MP Belinda Stronach returned from Ottawa for the award ceremony and congratulated the recipients saying they were the heart and soul of the community and the country.

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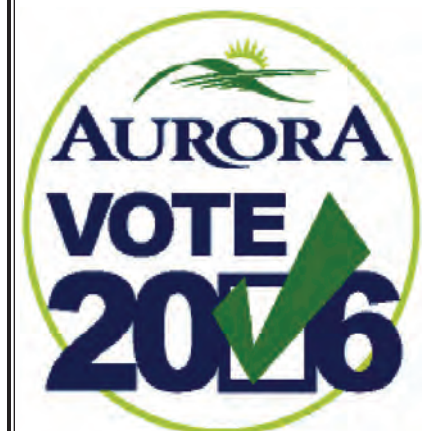
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- Revision Officer (rate of pay \$150).
- Election Constable (rate of pay \$100).

Applications are available from the Town of Aurora, Corporate Services Dept., 2nd floor reception desk. Application forms may also be down loaded from the Town of Aurora website at www.e-aurora.ca.

For further information, please contact Barry Bridgeford at Corporate Services (905)727-3123 ext. 4219 or email elections2006@e-aurora.ca.

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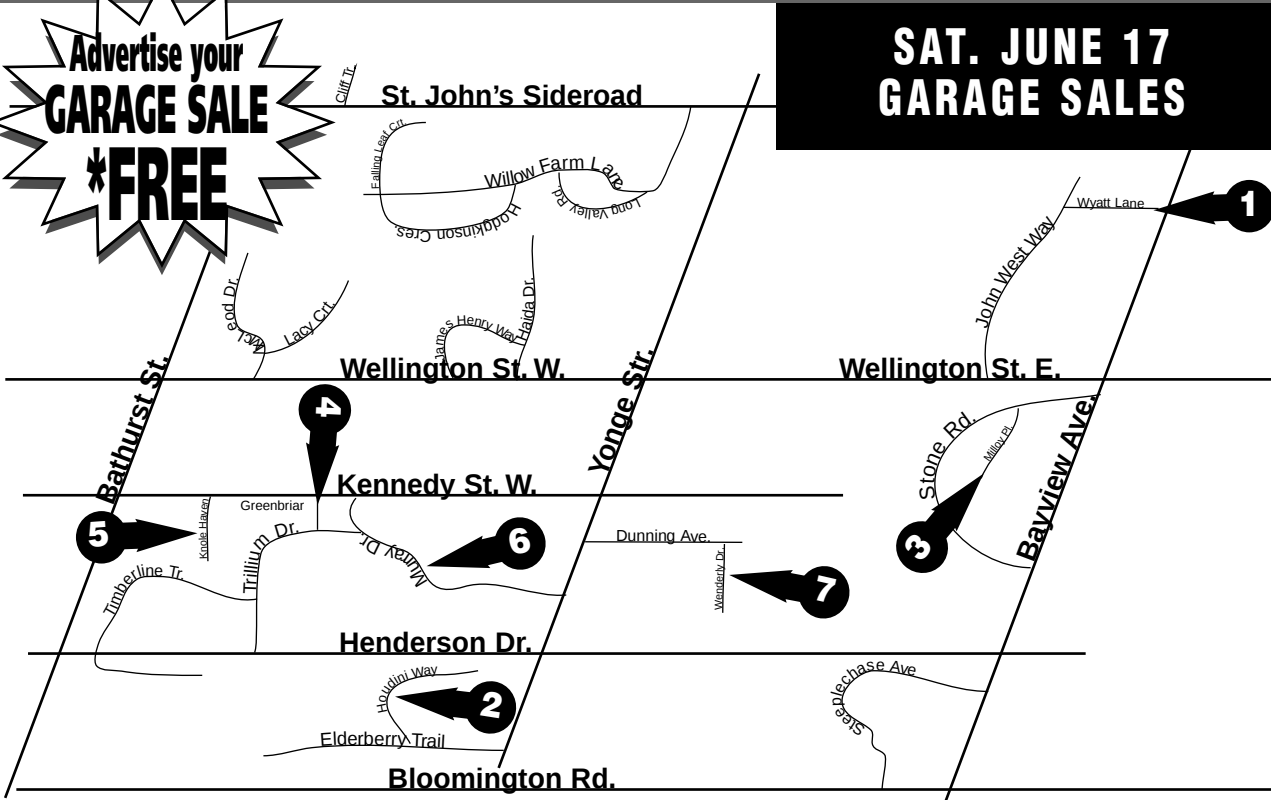
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1) Wyatt Lane STREET SALE 8 - noon
2) 11 Houdini Way 9 - 4
3) 85 Milloy Pl. 8 - noon

4) Greenbriar Crt. 8 - 1 STREET SALE
5) 31 Knole Haven Dr. 8 - noon
6) 95 Murray Dr. 8 - noon
7) 5 Wenderly Dr. 8

This garage sale locator map is sponsored by Sean Herbinson - ReMax Realty • Call Sean at 905-727-1941

RE/MAX