

COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

During the month of July the Skylight Gallery in the Town Hall will feature the artwork of Elizabeth Gibson with the theme of "What's in the Garden". Regular viewing hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Aurora Farmers' Market 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 regulations 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.

Aurora Zen Meditation Group has resumed sitting every Monday evening at Healing Hands Wellness Centre on Wellington Street at 7.30 p.m.

Weekly barbeques will be held from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Thursday 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, JULY 12

Probus Club of Aurora's guest speaker at this month's meeting is Jennifer Pereira, an acupuncure practitioner. Club meets at the Aurora Legion the second Wednesday of every month, beginning at 10 a.m.

Town of Aurora 2006 Summer Concerts in the Town Park presents Fleetwood Nicks, a night of great music by a great pop rock band that has all the sounds, moves and look of Fleetwood Mac. 7 to 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

Town of Aurora 2006 Summer Concerts in the Town Park presents Cadence, a Juno award nominated "a cappella" group of top quality! Whether you're into jazz, doo-wop, classical, funk, or something in between, Cadence delivers. 7 to 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 21

Town of Aurora Mayor's Blood Donor's Clinic from 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. at the Town Office, 1 Municipal Drive.

SATURDAY, JULY 22

Beach Party at the Aurora Legion, Industrial Parkway North. Begins at 7 p.m. Admission is \$12 per person.

MONDAY, JULY 24

Yard waste collection in brown kraft paper bags or clean, open rigid, reusable waste containers clearly identified as yard waste. Stickers are available at the Works Department. Call 905-727-3132, ext. 3447, for more information.

TUESDAY, JULY 25

Christmas In July luncheon at the Aurora Legion, Industrial Parkway North. Lunch, with reservations only, is served from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person.

The Gathering Place, located in the Edward Street bowling alley, will feature Christmas in July with karaoke singing of Christmas carols with special prizes and the first game of bowling free for families who bring a non-perishable food item for the food drive.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

Town of Aurora 2006 Summer Concerts in the Town Park presents Broadway Showstoppers, a great summer evening of Broadway hits including songs from West Side Story, South Pacific, Sound of Music and Oklahoma, with quality Opera York Stars led by the fabulous Andrew Tees.

FRIDAY, JULY 28

Aurora Seniors will join the Bradford Seniors for a boat cruise in Orillia with lunch at the Ossawippi Express following the cruise. A visit to the Old Colony Candle Factory and afternoon tea follow. Fee for members is \$70, non-members \$75. Call 905-726-4767 to register.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

Town of Aurora 2006 Summer Concerts in the Town Park presents Swing Street. Enjoy big band favourites, featuring the gorgeous voice of Danielle Bouree, with a band that can "swing"! 7 to 9 p.m.

AUGUST 5-6

Cyclissimo Grand Prix Cycling Event sanctioned by the Ontario Cycling Association as the only OCA race in the GTA this year. Takes

place around the Magna property from Wellington Street East to Leslie Street, Vondorf Road and Bayview Avenue. Call 905-727-2064 for details.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

Probus Club of Aurora's guest speaker at this month's meeting is Steven Falk, representing the Steven Lewis Foundation. He will speak on "Easing the Pain of HIV/AIDS in Africa". Club meets at the Aurora Legion the second Wednesday of every month, beginning at 10 a.m.

Town of Aurora 2006 Summer Concerts in the Town Park presents Dick Smith. Syncona Caribana is in the air! Experience the warm, sway of music from the Caribbean with Dick Smith, one of the founders of Caribana and lead drummer from Toronto's Lion King. 7 to 9 p.m.

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 Auran. For more information call 905-726-4762.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

Town of Aurora 2006 Summer Concerts in the Town Park presents "Appreciate our Canadian Forces" Concert. Hear the Royal Canadian Artillery Band and the Air Force 400 Squadron Pipes, in a military show you won't forget. 7 to 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

Town of Aurora 2006 Summer Concerts in the Town Park presents the ultimate Janis Joplin tribute experience. Join the party at this final

summer concert, with a tribute to this great singer. 7 to 9 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 28

The last yard waste collection for the season. Yard waste must be put out to the curb by 7 a.m. and be in brown kraft paper bags or clean, open, rigid, reusable containers clearly identified as yard waste. For more information call 905-727-3123 ext.3447.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Aurora Historical Society Candlelight Tour of Homes.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Probus Club of Aurora's guest speaker at this month's meeting is Diana Baggett. Club meets at the Aurora Legion the second Wednesday of every month, beginning at 10 a.m.

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.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

Aurora Seniors travel to the Stratford Festival for the Rogers and Hammerstein musical "South Pacific" with lunch included for \$107 for members and \$112 for non-members. Call 905-726-4767 to register.

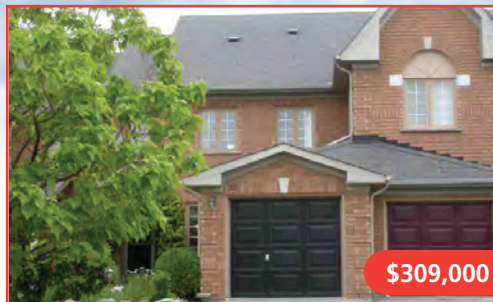
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Enjoy "High Society" at the Shaw Festival with lunch at Betty's Restaurant with the Aurora Seniors. Cost is \$96 for members and \$101 for non-members. Call 905-726-4767 to register.

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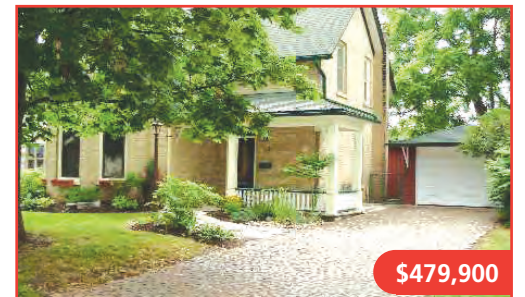
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HOME OF THE WEEK

presented by



WEST AURORA - 3400 + SQ. FT. - AMAZING VIEWS!



\$689,000

Stunning Augusta Model with wonderful views front & back over ClubLink Golf Course! Terrific floor plan with big kitchen open to family rm.! Great layout on 2nd floor with 4 bedrms., 3 bathrms! Fin. walkout basement adds great space! Pool-sized lot!

PROUD TO BE LIVING AND WORKING IN AURORA



Hordes of youngsters showed up Wednesday night as the Town of Aurora launched its annual summer Concerts in The Park series. Erick Traplin, above, had the children dancing in front of the bandshell in the Town Park. The event was sponsored by the Aurora Nursery School. Concerts will continue every Wednesday evening at the park until well into August.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

All-way stop approved in front of high school

In November, 1994, as a result of a student being injured, residents requested a crosswalk or a multi-way stop at Dunning Avenue and Cameron Avenue in front of Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School.

That request resulted in a traffic study.

During the traffic count it was noted that the intersection became congested at times with school buses pulling into the school driveway and with cars stopped on the north side of Dunning Avenue.

As the intersection didn't meet the provincial warrants, council endorsed a staff recommendation that the request be denied.

In November, 2004, council imposed new stopping and bus loading restrictions on Dunning Avenue as recommended by the Traffic Safety Advisory Board.

Motorists were prohibited from stopping on the south side of Dunning Avenue from a point east of Cameron Avenue to east of Yonge Street and on the north side of Dunning Avenue from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

A school bus loading zone was implemented from 2.30 to 3.30 p.m. Monday to Friday during the school year on the south side of Dunning where the no-stopping zone was in effect.

Then, last month, council endorsed a TSAB recommendation that a multi-way stop be implemented at the intersection of Cameron and Dunning, the request for traffic calming on Dunning Avenue be

denied and that funds in capital budget to modify the amount of \$10,000 the bus loop at the be included in the 2007 school.



Nigel Kean
for
Mayor
905-751-0790

Kean for change

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Omar's Shoes
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Regency Variety
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Staples/Business Depot
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The Source by Circuit City
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in participating stores

before July 21st

for your chance to

Win

a **Gift Basket** courtesy of

Aurora Shopping Centre Merchants

and tickets to the

Draw date Saturday July 22nd

RED BARN

Draw date Saturday July 22nd

theatre's

production of

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the **RED BARN** theatre

2006 Gift Basket DRAW Ballot

Name: _____

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Town: _____

Home Phone: _____

Bus. Phone: _____



We need something to increase voter turnout at the polls

*Party politics at the local level,
Is a suggestion often made;
To increase the voter turnout,
But to rest it should be laid!*
-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

In a recent column in The Auroran, Stephen Somerville in his Front Porch Perspective suggested party politics at the local level might increase voter turnout.

There's no doubt that voting has declined at all levels of government with the lowest turnout at the municipal level, normally averaging around the 33 per cent mark.

It has often been pointed out that confusion exists in the minds of voters at municipal elections due to the complexity of the several ballots with one for mayor, one to vote for up to eight councillors plus a school trustee depending on language and religion.

This is compared with voting at the provincial or federal elections where the ballot is quite simple, with just the political party candidates listed.

There is no doubt that any measure that would interest and educate citizens to get out and vote in elections at all levels, especially the municipal level, should be thoroughly examined.

Although it was never discussed in an open session of Aurora council, it has been learned that Aurora is the first municipality to take up the Newmarket challenge to other GTA municipalities to implement new initiatives that will help increase voter turnout for the Monday, November 13 municipal election.

In the 2003 municipal election only 33 per cent of Aurora residents took the time to vote, even though there were more advanced polls to make it easier for citizens to cast a ballot.

Council has established an Elections Task Force, although the membership was not announced, to implement several tactics in the coming election campaign.

They include the introduction of a slogan to vote, the development of a user-friendly Vote 2006 website, focusing on youth by promoting the importance of voting through local youth groups, a communication strategy and training sessions to familiarize electors with the electronic equipment now in use.

The general apathy at municipal elections is not a new phenomenon.

As far back as 1970 Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough pointed out that often elected representatives had to be assisted, inspired and sometimes prodded by public opinion to provide the conditions for the lifestyle the people want.

He said at the time that "Democracy needs to be lived by every citizen so as to create the moral and spiritual atmosphere in which the government must operate".

Hopefully the Elections Task Force will come up with some ideas of how to improve the voter turnout, which is so badly needed.

Mandatory voting isn't the answer.

People shouldn't be forced to exercise their democratic right as they should be given some reason why they should vote.

Responsible politicians should make it his or her business to know what issues are bothering or pleasing constituents and initiate action accordingly.

Reading letters to the editor is a good way to start. This is difficult to do with councillors elected at large so hopefully the Task Force will recommend a ward system for Aurora.

Not only will it allow for a ward councillor to get to know the constituents, the voter will have a less complicated ballot.

What is needed is a return to a two-year term of office so the citizens feel they have some control and open nomination meetings, where a citizen had to move and another second a candidate's nomination in public.

When electors feel their votes are meaningless and their voices not heard, they cease to vote as a waste of time and politicians at all levels, as individuals, need to prove they are worthy of the citizens' trust and vote.



Located on Yonge Street, between Tyler and Wellington, this was the radial railway station that served Aurora. The radial line ran north from Toronto to Sutton and in Aurora, had a spur that went west on Wellington Street to the former Collis Leather plant on Tyler Street. The above building was constructed in 1906, enlarged to two stories in 1912, then closed in 1930. At that time, the building was turned around and became a gas station. Today, a submarine shop and a fish and burgers outlet occupies the site.

Letters to the Editor

If you were born here you are a native: reader

To the editor,

T. Smithson (Letter to the Editor, The Auroran, June 27) has made a fairly common mistake.

It is something that our teachers should have picked up on, and corrected years ago.

Smithson said "unless you are an aboriginal person, then you are an immigrant..."

I am a native, and I have no Skraeling blood in my veins!

The first Europeans to arrive in North America, the Vikings, (who were immigrants), called the natives Skraelings.

Five hundred years later, Columbus did not think he had reached India, because the name India had not been invented in his time.

He referred to the people he met as 'los

indeganos', which means the indigenous (native) people.

Let's get our terms right, and stop down-grading Canadians to "immigrants".

Am I opposed to immigrants?

If I was I wouldn't have brought my wife here.

I met, and married her while I was living in Europe. No, her basic language is not English.

There are two categories of people in Canada: natives, i.e., people who were born here; and immigrants - people who were born in some other country.

My family came to this country in 1818, and all of us born here since were and are, by definition, natives.

I am a native, my parents were natives, three of my grandparents were

native Canadians, the fourth was a native American, who was brought here as a child more than 130 years ago.

Absolutely everybody in both North and South America is descended from immigrants.

Fifty thousand years ago there were no humans living in either of the Americas.

So why make a big difference between the Skraelings (many of whom have mixed blood) and the rest of us natives?

The term 'second generation (or higher) immigrant' is an oxymoron.

You can be a second generation Canadian, but you cannot be a second generation immigrant.

**W.W. Hastings
Aurora**

Candidate's "roar" is hollow, he says

To the editor,

To belittle the numerous citizen volunteers, as did Councillor Buck did in her subject letter (Auroran, June 27), is unjustified and offensive.

These kind folks gratuitously spend their time trying to assist council. Even though Councillor Buck recognizes that the committees on which

these volunteers serve, have no decision making authority, yet, referring to the mayor, she states, "having a hundred non-elected citizens making decisions that shouldn't be challenged is quite acceptable in his books".

Councillors are well aware that they have no obligation to agree with the committee's recommendations and if she laments

that fellow councillors do not agree with her views, that's democracy.

It's rather ironic that she wants to lead Aurora to a "return of civility" but blasts the volunteers, mayor and fellow councillors.

Her proud "roar" is rather hollow.

**Guy L. Poppe
Aurora**

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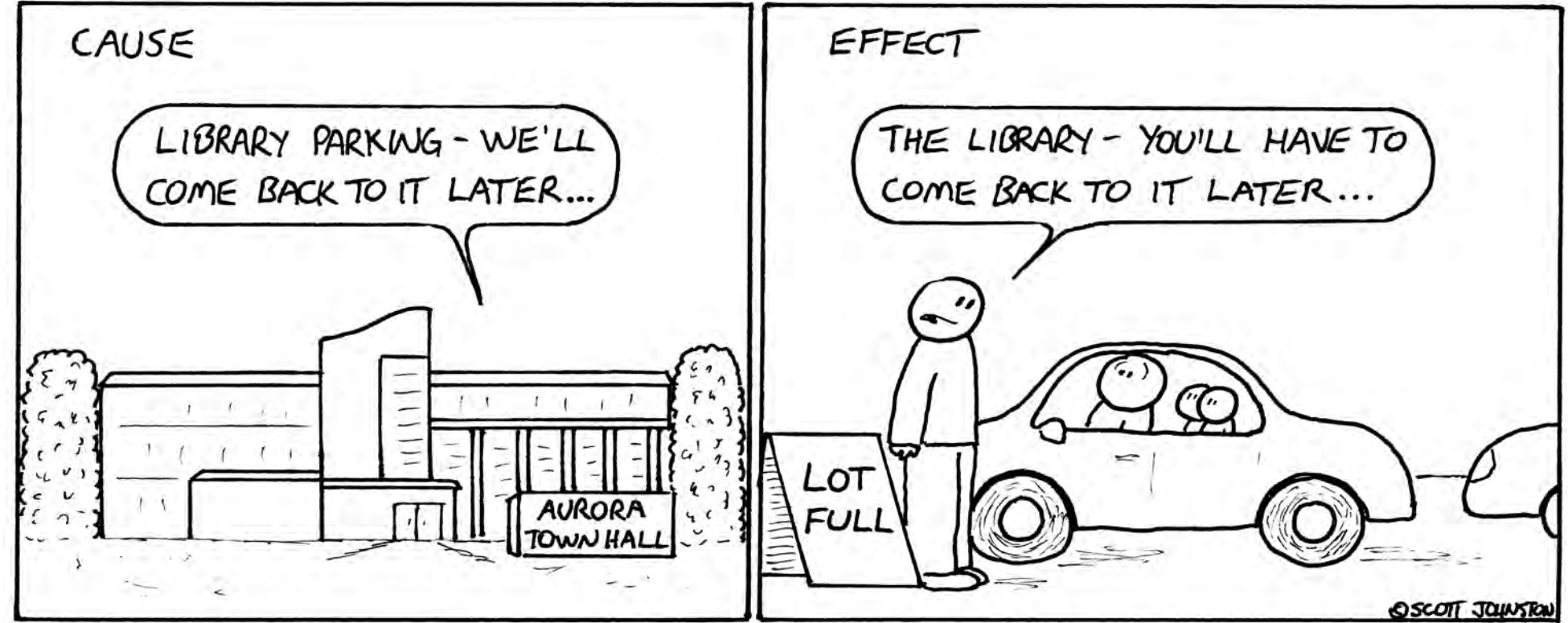
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

With all due apologies to David Letterman, here are the Top 10 reasons why I love Aurora:

10) Aurora has an abundance of parks and green spaces. There are also some magnificent trails that our family uses.

9) World's Longest Street Festival - the combination of 40,000 people, the atmosphere, the food plus usually fantastic weather is a great way to spend a June afternoon.

8) Our family is blessed with having fantastic neighbours (even after accounting for the fact that my mother-in-law happens to be one of them). We have also developed many friendships with fellow members of the Aurora Leisure Complex.

7) The size of Aurora and its proximity to other communities is just about right. We are close enough to Toronto for those of us who travel to work but also far enough away to maintain that "small town" feel. Aurora is also not so small that it is a "one horse town", as there are plenty of things to do.

6) Volunteers - I was struck by, after watching the civic awards ceremony on the local cable television channel, the impressive nature of volunteerism that goes on around us here in Aurora. Many local groups support events such as the World's Longest Street Festival, the Aurora Home Show and the Aurora Fair and Horse Show. It is also great to see the number of children playing organized soccer, baseball and hockey in Aurora and they would not be doing so if not for the volunteer coaches and administrators.

5) The Auroran - It is important that we have a newspaper that is dedicated to our community by dealing with only local issues. The community events calendar contained within The Auroran is an important piece keeping us informed on local activities. I also like the fact that a lot of editorial space is reserved for reader feedback; this is one of the key reasons for the success of the newspaper. I have changed my mind on some issues as a result of various letters to the editor.

4) The mural on the wall of the building located at the corner of Yonge and Wellington is something unique to our community. I would like to see something similar done, but showing people, places or events that are either unique or originated in Aurora, at other locations as you enter or exit the town.

3) War Memorial - for your writer, the cenotaph is a place of reflection, solitude and introspection. The valor and selflessness of the fine men memorialized there is most humbling. In its entirety, the two structures are a simple and regal monument to the fallen.

2) The Santa Claus parade is for me symbolic of our small town nature. Nothing beats having the parade at night, even better if there is a light dusting of snow on the ground and if the air is not too cold. It is an absolute joy seeing all the families lined up along Yonge Street waiting patiently for Santa. It is a "must attend" event for our family.

And the number one reason why I love Aurora is...my wife, Julie. She was raised and has lived most of her life in Aurora. And besides, if I don't install Julie as the number one reason, I will never

Reasons why I love Aurora

hear the end of it! Additionally, I would have to equip the tool shed in the backyard (which would henceforth become known as my new sleeping quarters) with carpeting, cable television (including the Golf

Channel and CPAC) bar fridge and a shower!

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner



It hurts to be beautiful

I have bad hair karma. It started when I was 12 years old.

It was 7 a.m. on the day of my cousin's wedding, and I woke up to the commotion of females in the final stages of haute coiffure.

I rubbed my eyes, but the scene didn't change.

My mother's kitchen had been converted into a makeshift torture chamber for hair.

Several of my older cousins looked up at me from under hair dryers that looked like shower caps with vacuum hoses sticking out the back.

It looked like their brains were being sucked out.

I screamed and ran.

My mother lifted her shower cap off to come after me and I saw what lies beneath: bigger than life rollers held in place by pink plastic picks.

I knew right then and there it was going to hurt to be beautiful.

Since I was not only the youngest, but the shortest bridesmaid in the wedding party, two height compensating mechanisms were about to be inflicted upon my little frame.

My mother had taken the bottom-up approach to addressing the shortage, supplying the four-inch heels that I would later clamp to my feet.

All the hairdresser had to do was supply another eight inches - courtesy of my hair.

My waist-length tresses gave her plenty of raw material with which to transform me into a teeny bopper version of Marge Simpson.

At the end of it, I even sounded just like Marge, having screamed my throat raw as bobby pins were lodged deep into my skull.

My cousins couldn't believe my howling.

"Don't you want to be beautiful?" they asked.

"Yes," I bawled, "but I didn't know it was going to hurt this much!"

They laughed.

"You'll get used to it," they said.

I never did. I've had bad hair karma ever since.

In my teens, I took a friend's advice.

"You'd look great with some blonde highlights," she said.

All I had to do was spray some stuff in my hair and sit out in the sun.

My hair turned orange.

In my 20's, I decided to go curly.

My hair turned green, but that wasn't the worst part.

Nobody told me that "perm" was another word for "afro".

Thankfully, it wasn't permanent.

All I had to do to fix it was shave my head!

Over the past two decades, I think I have been to every hair stylist in Aurora.

But because of my bad hair karma, I always catch them on a bad day.

Several of them cut my hair too short, one gave me a bald spot, and another managed to make my head look perfectly flat.

Every time I turned sideways, my head disappeared. Well, except for my nose.

It was so bad that when my father saw me, he asked, "Who did that to you?"

"If you're talking about the nose," I shot at him, "it was you!"

My husband tried not to laugh, but he didn't succeed.

"I think Paul can fix that," he suggested.

Damir still goes to Paul's Barber Shop. It's an old habit, left over from when he had hair.

"What a great idea!" I said sarcastically, "And maybe I could get him to trim my nose, too!"

Next, my sister looked me over.

She walked around me a few times, shook her head and said: "You should ask for your money back."

When they were all done laughing at me, I locked myself in the bathroom.

Jennifer knocked, offering a solution.

"I brought you some product, mom".

She opened a jar and stuck her fingers into the slimy blue goop.

I started to back away slowly.

I was afraid I would end up looking like "the swamp thing" on a blue hair day, but I know better now.

"Product" is to bad hair karma what garlic is to vampires.

There's product to stop the frizzies, product to make hair shine, and product to give it volume.

Then there's product to make hair silky, product to untangle it, product to thicken it, product to straighten it, and product to make it stay where you put it.

There's even product to get the product out of your hair. Unfortunately, there is no single product that will do it all.

That's why I want to renovate the bathroom.

I need more cupboards, counters and shelves to keep all my tubes, bottles, and jars of "product".

I told Damir what I want, and he began tearing out his remaining few tufts of hair.

"Don't you want me to be beautiful?" I asked.

"Yes," he gulped. "But I didn't know it was going to hurt this much!"

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

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BRICKBATS to the person riding northbound on York Region Transit Bus #9801, just south of Aurora Thursday afternoon, who threw a partially filled coffee cup from the bus window onto busy Yonge Street. Too bad the driver didn't see his passenger do it...or, maybe, he did.

BOUQUETS to Mayor Tim Jones for challenging Poor Richard for a previous BRICKBAT because the Mayor of Aurora had not written a letter of support for inclusion in the program for the "If I Had A Million Dollars" Gala Dinner to ease the pain of HIV/AIDS in Africa. His answer was simple, he was never asked so the BRICKBAT is cancelled.

BRICKBATS to whoever is responsible for enforcing the bylaw about monster transport trucks using residential streets in spite of "No Heavy Truck" signs. Cousins Drive has signs at both ends of the street but there is no enforcement in spite of complaints.

BOUQUETS and an Aurora Welcome to the Reverend Canon Dawn Davis, the newly appointed Incumbent of Trinity Anglican Church, Aurora to be effective in January, 2007.

BRICKBATS to the CBC whose mandate is to be predominantly Canadian for dumping the 10 p.m. national news with Peter Mansbridge and replacing it with an American reality show "Making a Music Star". Shame!

BOUQUETS to Elizabeth Milner, a former resident of Aurora, who is writing a book about Aurora after World War II and the first period of growth in the post-war years. James Johnston wrote about the early history of Aurora, but the pre-war years are missing.

BRICKBATS to the major food stores that remained open on July First, Canada's National Birthday, in defiance of Ontario law, which only permits stores in designated tourist areas to remain open on statutory holidays. Store operators say Saturday is one of the busiest shopping days of the week.

BOUQUETS to Brian Larter and Bryan Black for organizing the Rogers Southlake Partners in Health 2006 Golf Tournament and the nearly 300 golfers who participated and raised \$395,000 to help build the cancer facility at the hospital.

BRICKBATS to the McGuinty Liberal government for spending \$219,000 with a Liberal-friendly advertising firm and quietly replacing the traditional Ontario Trillium logo with a version of the flower similar to the party's trademark. Bring back the old one!

BOUQUETS to Frank Stronach on being named as a charter member of the new Canadian Manufacturing Hall of Fame, established in 2005, with an induction ceremony in Windsor, Ontario, in October. The location of the Hall of Fame will be announced at that time.

BRICKBATS to those in the federal government for purchasing \$50,000 worth of designer office furniture which was shipped to Turin for the Winter Olympics, then shipped back to Toronto at a cost of \$8,375 and sold on a website for about \$4,000. It's only money, the taxpayers!

BOUQUETS to Jordan Meron, Aurora's pride in the world of baton twirling, who has earned the right to represent Canada at the World Baton Twirling Championships in Italy in August.

Letter to the Editor



Members of Aurora's Master Ducks swim team were the first to use Aurora's new swimming pool which opened last week at the new Recreation Complex on Wellington Street East. Below, one of the swimmers offers her impressions of the new facility.

Reflections after trying new pool

To the editor,

It is an unusual privilege and joy to have a new pool available to us. Although no champagne was popped on deck, and no bottles were bashed over the starters' blocks, it did seem as though we should recognize the enormity of this occasion in some way.

The fact that it is now open - albeit a tad later than wished - is testimony to the undeterred vision of many folks to whom we owe a debt of gratitude.

My heartfelt thanks go out to a host of people who fought the good fight to create this facility against many odds.

Walking on deck the morning of July 2nd for the inaugural Duck swim was a bit surreal.

In the dead calm of a brilliant summer's morning, a small cache of Ducks hovered on deck (can ducks hover?) waiting for clearance to claim the water.

After being read the 'riot act' about new pool rules, we took our places on the blocks - and 'broke the ice'.

What a grand experi-

ence it was!

New water!

Can seasoned swimmers have a visceral response to virgin water? This swimmer says yes!

There is something innately satisfying about acquainting yourself with a facility that is destined to become an old, familiar friend to many of us.

With that in mind, I suggest we take the time to record some of our primary thoughts and reactions to our new home.

Think of this as creating a record for history.

My thoughts so far:

1. The bottom of the pool - at least in the shallow end - is spongy to the touch. Delight in walking sloooooowly over it, dragging your feet and sinking your toes into the forgiving crust. This may pose a problem to a few, though! This now presents 'yet another' compelling reason to spend time 'hanging out in the shallows'!

2. The rafters are solid, heavy, oiled timbers that are beautiful to behold (think backstroke), straight as an arrow (think backstroke)

and add a real sense of material warmth to the place.

3. The water presents an unexpected opportunity for us all to train for open water swims. It has been pointed out that the lane ropes are not quite as heavy or robust as those we are familiar with from the Aurora Leisure Complex or St. Andrew's College. Consequently, you are going to experience quite a lot of churn in the water - especially if you are swimming next to some real 'kick-ass' kick-

ers! Think of it as an opportunity to do a little more resistance training.

4. Wider lanes! The extra space feels luxurious! Does this mean more 'Fly' sets?

5. New showers! And these ones do not exfoliate the top two layers of skin off your hide. Lovin' it!

6. Windows, windows everywhere! Natural light and vistas surround you on two sides. Kudos to the architect.

Catherine Gissing
Aurora



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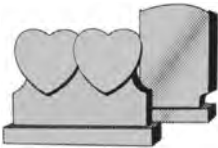
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Letters to the Editor

Nature not merely a playground: reader

To the editor,

The Buckleys, father and son, do have a point ("Parent implores cooperation..." "From a biker's perspective", Letters, The Auroran).

Times change and so does recreation.

Buckley, Sr., argues for meeting this "demand" (a word he uses six times) by setting aside a designated area for a bike jump in the Case Woodlot.

To lend credence to his views he cites environmental credentials and weaves in terms such as "integrated resource planning" while scolding "uneducated and uninformed so-called environmentalists who lack the basic understanding of how our ecosystems work".

His "win-win" approach

would bring together representatives of the Town with Aurora's youth to design and implement his solution to this so-called problem.

An open forum is a good idea but it needs to encompass all the stakeholders, including walkers/seniors like me and others concerned with maintaining this special area as close to natural as possible.

Such a process ought to begin, not with Mr. Buckley's premise that a demand exists and therefore must be met in the Woodlot, but with an open examination of what this unique piece of our town, a relatively unspoiled bit of the Oak Ridges Moraine, means to us and what we want to pass on to future generations for whom such a slice of Nature will be even more precious.

I doubt that can be said for a bike jump.

From my perspective – 30 plus years as a professor in environmental studies, former civil engineer, retired professional planner – conservation does not always imply mixed use.

And I see no evidence to support Mr. Buckley's contention that "conservation wins above all," in fact, it's just the opposite. Witness the dramatic loss of forest cover and environmentally sensitive areas in York region over recent decades.

The foregoing process should be grounded in a thorough analysis of the Woodlot's ecosystem, well beyond Mr. Buckley's cursory account, and the extent of damage that has already occurred.

In the 25 years since I've

been here and have regularly enjoyed the Woodlot, it has declined, not just in the bike-jump area (where there is also evidence of fires and fireworks, both extremely hazardous to the forest in a dry season) but as well on various trails that have become hard-packed by intensive use, especially by mountain bikes.

In addition, the bike-jump proposal deserves careful critical scrutiny.

Two aspects of it bother me.

First, bike jumping is hardly compatible with the experience of enjoying Nature.

The Woodlot, a rare respite from its urban surround, ought not to be compromised.

Sanctioning an active recreation use would fundamentally change the character of this natural area and open the door to more of the same (note that Mr. Buckley is already calling for bike jumps in Sheppard's Bush).

Second, if you build it they will come.

A dedicated bike-jump in the Woodlot is sure to attract more bikers who in turn can be expected to capitalize on the precedent that will have been set and demand more space for their activities.

Plus, does anyone really expect that its use would be strictly enforced, as Mr. Buckley claims?

Maybe Mr. Buckley and the "youth of today who are more demanding of our resources" need to learn that not every demand justifies being met and that Nature is not merely a playground.

With the Case Woodlot, Aurorans have something uniquely beautiful and

important in their midst.

As a jewel that few other towns can boast, it's entitled to protection.

Those who frequent the Woodlot, now and in the future, deserve to do so without fear of encroachment by the latest fad and they will be forever grateful to the Town for preventing this from happening.

Reg Lang
Aurora

Belinda enamours columnists

To the editor,

In your July 4 edition, columnists Dick Illingworth and Brian Warburton both sing the praises of Belinda Stronach and how she is an up and comer in the Liberal Party.

Perhaps if these two columnists were more objective they would ask why Ms. Stronach who vowed to fight hard for Democratic Renewal within the Liberal Party was strangely silent given the actions of Leadership Candidate Joe Volpe who tried to circumvent fund-

raising rules in a rather offensive manner.

Fellow ex-cabinet member Carolyn Bennett wasn't afraid to call out Mr. Volpe in strong terms.

Where was Belinda given her promise?

As for "a rising star", during debate on the Softwood Lumber deal one must question why the Liberal Critic on International Trade (Ms. Stronach) was reduced to sitting in her seat with a frown on her face while Bill Graham launched the Liberal counterattack.

As for her pointed questions to the Environment Minister, perhaps Dick Illingworth should read former LIBERAL Environment Minister Stephane Dion's

(July 1, National Post) admission that the Liberal targets for Kyoto had no chance of ever being met, and the cost to meet were wildly underestimated.

This article really diminishes Ms. Stronach's understanding of the whole Kyoto Accord and renders her questions to Rona Ambrose as obtuse if not disingenuous.

It really looks like your columnists are more enamoured with the Paris Hilton persona of Ms. Stronach and not her political acumen because once you get past the pizzazz, there is not much there.

Alan Cairns
Aurora

Several helped wrap-up concert

To the editor,

The VOJ Voices of Joy Community Choir would like to thank the communities of Aurora, Newmarket and East Gwillimbury for their participation in our "Wrap-Up Fun Night" Concert.

We had outstanding participation from the Upper Canada Chordsmen, Bells of Joy, guitar playing of Andrew Walker and a wonderful sing-a-long that everyone participated in.

Special thanks to Keith Profit and The Christian Baptist Church, Main Street, Newmarket, for the use of their facilities, and Jackie Playter for looking after the refreshments for us.

It is wonderful when communities pull together to make something magical happen.

Jo-anne Spitzer
Publicity
VOJ Voices of Joy



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Without the support of major sponsors and a multitude of businesses and individuals in the community who contribute their money, expertise or products, some of these events would never come to pass.

Congratulations to the winning team at our recent golf tournament held at Westview Golf Club - Tad Gacich, Matthew O'Dwyer, Brendon O'Dwyer and Bruce Bundy.

Some projects and signature events of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce:

- Annual Aurora Home Show
- Annual Golf Tournament
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Mexican soccer team to play in Can-Am tourney

A group of 13 boys and two girls arrive in Aurora this week from Bermejillo, Mexico, to participate in the upcoming Can-Am Soccer

Challenge.

The soccer team consists of players 11 and 12 years of age, who have been slated to play in the A

group with clubs from Aurora (Stingers Black), Georgetown, London and Woodbridge.

The club is here as

guest of Excellon Resources Inc., a Toronto-based silver mining company.

Excellon's chief financial officer and vice-president Robert Brissenden is a long-time member of the Aurora Youth Soccer Club, and has worked with the AYSC executive and staff for several months to make the trip a reality.

For many of the Mexican players, this will be a first opportunity to visit outside their own community of Bermejillo.

The squad will stay at Seneca's King Campus on Dufferin Street, just west of Aurora.

To see the club play, they will meet London in their first game Friday, July 14, at noon at Sheppard's Bush; then tangle with the Georgetown Mustangs at 5 p.m. that day at Sheppard's.

On Saturday, they will meet their hosts, the Aurora Stingers Black in a

contest at the Legion, beginning at 9 a.m.

Two hours later, they will meet the Woodbridge Strikers on the same field.

While in the area, the

Mexican visitors will visit downtown Toronto, spend a day at the Aurora Youth Soccer Club camp, do some shopping and participate in the tournament.

Senior Scape

Colourful seniors

By BRIAN WARBURTON

The Canada Day Parade, July 1st, was a fine day for parading down Yonge Street on a float loaned by Diamond Groundskeeping Services, with friends from the seniors' centre.

We were towed by our driver, Steve and escorted by Lorne, both from Diamond Groundskeeping Services.

The float was decorated very colourfully, for and by the Aurora Seniors in many red and white Canadian flags, garlands of flowers, and many balloons and manned by a group of seniors about a dozen strong, dressed partly in the choir garb, and the rest of us dressed mostly in red and white.

We were colourful!

We comprised a mixed group, Canadian by birth or by choice and proud and thankful for it.

We were filled with energy and in good spirits, ready to sing our way down Yonge Street which is what we did.

We sang 'Oh Canada' frequently and old favourites as fancy took us, and I am proud that on occasion, the spectators lining Yonge, rose to our rendering of 'Oh Canada', and sang with us.

We all felt really proud to be part of that scene, and the Canadian pins, flags and book markers we handed out, were accepted eagerly.

A group of colourful West Indian style dancers whirled and twirled ahead of us; behind us, just far enough, a marching band provided great marching music.

Other floats and performers plus parading or dancing groups, completed a satisfying and colourful pageant, to create for Aurora, a spectacle signifying our pride in our glorious Canada.

Oh Canada, how good life is, and I sincerely hope and believe, we will leave it better for those who follow.

The Canada Day Parade is also an occasion for the presence of our civic leaders, and those I saw included Phyllis Morris, Wendy Gaertner, Lois Brown and Ron Wallace, who true to form, captured much of the procession on camera.

To be sure, all civic leaders were present somewhere on this day as other celebratory functions observed Canada Day also.

I should add, I waved to

Charles Sequeira and wife Lucille, and Lydia Schuster and husband Tony, my colleagues on the Aurora Seniors' board of directors, and many others, as we paraded past them.

Other activities and festivities were attracting crowds and other civic leaders at the Leisure Complex on Industrial Parkway North, which I had planned to attend, and badly wanted to visit since many of my friends were there.

However, I was in process of developing a nasty infection, from which I am recovering, courtesy of our excellent Southlake Regional Health Centre and an intravenous pump.

I felt fine on Saturday morning and during the parade, but shortly after the parade, I got hit hard and fast.

Southlake equipped me with the intravenous injection device, which I wore for four days and which treated my infection aggressively and successfully.

The infection appeared to originate with a root canal on one of my molars two days earlier, and I was aware of a risk of infection in my mouth.

That did not lessen the pain and discomfort one bit, and I still have to go back to the dentist for more dental work. Owwww!!!

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MP REPORT

By Belinda Stronach
(Newmarket-Aurora)

Aurora knows how it's done

It was great meeting and talking to so many people at this year's Canada Day festivities and parade.

I had the honour of taking part in the Canada Day Cake Cutting ceremony at Lambert Willson Park, and I also enjoyed riding once again in the Canada Day Parade, which took place earlier in the morning.

When it comes to celebrating Canada's birthday, Aurora knows how to do it right!

Last month, I was appointed Official Opposition Critic for Competitiveness and the New Economy.

It's a role I am eager to assume on behalf of my party and constituents. Improving Canada's competitiveness is vital to maintaining our standard of living and providing continued job opportunities.

Although last month was very busy in Parliament, I made a special flight back from Ottawa so I could attend the Town of Aurora Civic Appreciation Awards Night in early June.

Congratulations to 2006 Citizen of the Year Sylvia Gilchrist, a worthy recipient and a dynamic volunteer.

Sylvia has been a key player with a number of community events and organizations, including the Aurora Agricultural Society Fair and Horse Show and the Terry Fox Run.

Congratulations as well to all of the award winners - they are individuals and organizations who truly make our community a better place.

Susan Walmer did a tremendous job as chief organizer of this year's Aurora Community Fair and I took the opportunity to sponsor the Canada Day Award, which is given in recognition of outstanding achievement in the presentation of Canadian political history.

I am pleased to announce that this year's winner of the Canada Day Award is Ilia Lebedev, a Grade 5 student at Aurora Senior Public School. Ilia did a project on the life and accomplishments of Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. McDonald.

I was able to meet Ilia and his parents on Canada Day and personally pass on my congratulations.

We had a good turnout at The Aurora Seniors' Centre June 29 for the "Hill to the Grill" barbeque.

I joined my team from the Newmarket-Aurora constituency office at the grill and together with the guidance and support of Greg Foster from M&M Meats we barbecued some tasty sausages and hamburgers to go along with the great salads prepared by the Seniors.

All proceeds went toward The Aurora Seniors' Centre, which officially opened earlier this year.

Hats off to Flo Murray and Charles Sequeira for all their hard work in helping to organize the event.

Hats off, as well, to six-year-old Aurora resident Stephanie Palombi, who recently won the Emergency Preparedness essay contest sponsored by the Town of Aurora and Central York Fire Services.

On the subject of emergency preparedness, the Regional Municipality of York has published a helpful and comprehensive Emergency Preparedness Guide that provides tips and suggestions on how to prepare for an emergency.

If you did not receive the guide in the mail, visit the region's website (www.region.york.on.ca) and download the PDF files for the guide.

Now that Parliament has adjourned for the summer, I look forward to coming home and working here in our riding.

Have a great summer - and be sure to enjoy some of the many festivities and fun community events taking place in Aurora!

Big crowd attends fire station opening

From page 1

The Saturday afternoon opening made the new hall officially operational even though it has been staffed for several months.

Fred's son, Jim, currently a member of the Central York Fire Services, and Aurora Mayor Tim Jones, took nearly two dozen whacks with an axe, attempting to sever a fire hose to officially open the structure.

Both claimed the axe was dull.

More than 100 people were on hand for the opening, including former fire chief Stu Wilson, former Aurora mayors George Timpson and Dick Illingworth, and Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor.

Several former volunteers from the now-defunct Aurora Fire Department, including Joe DeGeer, Don Patrick and Ron Wallace, attended.

Fred's wife, Doreen, accepted a framed colour photo of Fred, a copy of which remains on the wall

of the new \$1.6 million structure.

Doreen also took part in the official unveiling of the name on the front wall of the building, along with Jim, Lesley and current CYFS Chief John Molyneaux, who acted as Master of Ceremonies.

The new building brings to two the number of fire stations in Aurora. The existing one on Edward Street will continue to serve the community.

In total there are now four stations utilized by CYFS. Two others are in Newmarket.

The Joint Council Committee, made up of three councillors from each of the two communities, agreed a number of months ago the new hall would be named after Fred Bolsby.

He served many years as a volunteer, and was Aurora's first full-time fire prevention officer, before succumbing to cancer four years ago.

"Naming this building after him was simply a no-brainer," Wallace said.



Central York Fire Services officers, Jim Davis, left, and Art Bellar, right, listen to instructions from Fire Chief John Molyneaux prior to the official opening of Aurora's new fire station - the Fred Bolsby Fire Hall - on Wellington Street East, near Leslie. The station, which has been operational for a number of months, was officially opened when Aurora Mayor Tim Jones and Fred Bolsby's son Jim chopped through a hose with an axe.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace



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Wilton barn

Barn, atrium have “doors open”

By **SUSAN SCHAPPERT**
and **IRENE CLEMENT**
Research by **MICHAEL SEAMAN**

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 some of the sites on a weekly basis.

Fifth in the series are two of Aurora's unique heritage landscapes, the Wilton Barn and the Aurora Community Arboretum.

THE WILTON BARN

When you visit the Wilton Barn on the Doors Open Aurora tour, you will get a glimpse into a way of life that is quickly disappearing from our landscape.

The Wilton Barn is an excellent and increasingly rare example of a 19th Century English Style Barn.

Built circa 1840 on land occupied by Samuel Wilton, an English immigrant farmer, the Wilton barn would have been erected through a community barn raising.

Likely starting with a pre-made frame made by travelling professional barn builders, the role of the community barn raising was to put all the pieces together.

Samuel Wilton was married to Elizabeth Mauder, who was also from England. Together they had seven children and were active members of the community of White Rose, which was located at Vandorf Road and Leslie Street.

The community featured a number of homes, post office, general store, saw mill, temperance hall, church and a grist mill which produced the renowned White Rose Flour that gave the community its name.

The community declined in the late 19th Century, and all that remains today are a few farmhouses and barns.

The Wilton Barn was originally built at ground level, but a raised stone foundation was added later to create stable space for livestock underneath.

In 1905, upheaval occurred on the Wilton farm, then owned by Samuel Wilton, when the James Bay Railway purchased land for a right of way through the property.

Construction continued for several years and a station was built at Vandorf. This line was later taken over by Canadian National Railway.

When inside the barn, look up to notice the size of the wooden beams in the barn frame - especially the immense swing beam that supports the hay loft.

These large beams are products of the gigantic virgin forests of the early 19th Century Moraine landscape.

The Wilton Barn also has an interesting history, linked to the area's early pioneers.

The Wilton property passed through a number of owners in the 20th Century, during which the barn was used as a horse barn. In the 1980s, the farm was subdivided to create a residential subdivision.

In the early 2000s, the remnant of the former Wilton farm was acquired by Tibor and Margit Schuller who have worked to preserve it as a rare and important reminder of early barns and agriculture in York County.

The Schuller family has generously opened the Wilton Barn for public tours on the Doors Open Aurora tour.

It's worth the drive to see this heritage gem, one of only a few remaining well-preserved English Style Barns in York County.

AURORA ARBORETUM

Another interesting heritage landscape on the Doors Open Aurora tour is the Aurora Community Arboretum (ACA).

Since its beginnings in 1995, the Aurora Community Arboretum Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, has been dedicated to the education and promotion of the values of Aurora's natural environment and heritage.

The Aurora Community Arboretum is a living, growing tree museum, a natural area, a place for quiet enjoyment of Aurora's outdoors, a place to commemorate important people and events, and a means to learn more about trees, so important in our quality of life.

The area is large, the plans are large, and the ACA has worked with the Town of Aurora, the Region of York and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority in this ambitious project encompassing the whole river valley.

On its way northward to Lake Simcoe, the East Holland River wanders through a 100-acre flood plain between the Aurora Sideroad and St. John's Sideroad.

Like much of the land in York Region, this was forested land before the settlers came.

It is one of the objectives of the Aurora Community Arboretum to help restore areas of natural heritage through the planting of native trees and plants.

Part of the arboretum has seen incredible progress. For a preview visit: www.auroraarboretum.ca

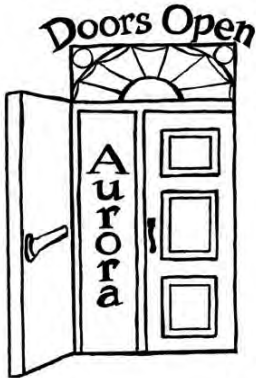
The Aurora Arboretum encompasses the river valley between the Town Hall and the Leisure Complex, and extends from Wellington Street to St. John's Sideroad.

One of the objectives of ACA is dedicated to sports facilities, part is to help restore areas of natural heritage through areas reserved for planting of trees and shrubs suited to this area.

The remainder is shared with existing sports facilities and a leash-free dog area.

Visit the Aurora Community Arboretum on the Doors Open Aurora tour to learn more about the trees, flowers and wildlife of the landscape.

Meet at the gazebo by the Leisure Centre for a self-guided walking tour, a display of the Arboretum Master plans, a family scavenger hunt, and discussion with members of the Board of Directors.



PowerStream tells you why you're in the dark

PowerStream, Inc., Aurora's new hydro service, has experienced so many local blackouts since it purchased Aurora Hydro, it wanted to explain what was going on to its customers.

Officials maintain the power outages are no greater than they were before the purchase, but some residents see the disruptions as poorer service.

To that end, PowerStream has launched a service designed to provide customers with a quick way of accessing and reporting information on power outages.

By calling 1-877-777-3810 or visiting the company's website at www.powerstream.ca, customers can now get real-time information on outages in their neighbourhood or business area.

PowerStream's new Power Outage Communications Service creates an automated message that announces areas affected by outages and estimated restoration times that can be updated within seconds.

When the automated message is completed, the system will also give customers an opportunity to speak directly to a Customer Service Agent or System Controller to report additional outages or provide information on the cause of a known outage.

"The new Power Outage Communication Service will improve our ability to handle the call volumes associated with major outages and reduce the likelihood of customers getting a busy signal," said Ed Benvenuto, Director, Customer Service. "The new service will not only handle the call volumes but will also facilitate the communication of information on outages to and from our customers."

The new service is specifically designed to manage incoming calls relating to power outages based on a customer's calling area.

Once the system identifies the calling area, it will provide detailed information about known outages in the

vicinity or automatically transfer callers who still want to reach a Customer Service Agent or System Controller.

PowerStream Inc. provides service to more than 220,000 residential and busi-

ness customers in Aurora, Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan.

It is an incorporated entity, jointly owned by the City of Vaughan, and the Town of Markham.



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Historic homes demolished for parking

There has been considerable debate in council recently about the lack of parking for the new library and the controversy whether the former library and seniors' centre on Victoria Street should be demolished to create an additional 57 parking spaces.

Forgotten in the debate was that a Stevenson double-house, built around 1886, located at 16/18 Church Street was sacrificed to provide parking for the library.

LACAC hoped to retain the home as it had been designated as a historic site under the Ontario Heritage Act.

The house also received an Aurora Heritage Committee Plaque.

The two-and-a-half storey structure combined Gothic Revival and Italianate architecture but in spite of LACAC's best effort to retain the building, council authorized its demolition to create a parking lot.

So much for heritage!

SENIORS GET TRILLIUM GRANT

In May, Charles Sequeria, President of the Aurora Seniors' Association, appeared before Aurora Council to advise councillors that the group's application for a Trillium Foundation grant had been approved in the amount of \$44,000.

He said the grant would be used to purchase new computers for the seniors' computer room, equipment for the senior's workshop, patio furniture and a pool table.

He pointed out that the grant could be in doubt as the operating agreement with the town, which had been prepared some time before and sent to the town for signing and had not been returned.

Staff was directed to investigate and report to council members at the next general committee meeting.

A report was never received in open session, but obviously action was taken as in a recent Senior Scape column in The Auroran it was reported the new computers were up and running.

Now you know!

HOW IT ALL GOT STARTED

In 1996, when Ontario celebrated the 200th birthday of Yonge Street, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce on the

suggestion of Ron Wallace decided to hold the "Longest Street Sale on the Longest Street in the World".

It was considered as a first.

But back in August, 1993, during the second year of Heritage Days in Aurora, the town was the scene of the "Longest Sidewalk Sale on the Longest Street in the World" as part of the event's activities.

On Saturday, August 21, Yonge Street was closed from St. Andrew's Village on the north to the Aurora Shopping Centre on the south from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and merchants and vendors sold their merchandise to passing pedestrians.

In June, council endorsed a recommendation of the Economic Development Advisory Committee that Councillor Ron Wallace be recognized for initiating the annual World's Longest Street Festival.

WHEN BETTY AND ROLLY FOX VISITED

It was in August, 1990, when Betty and Rolly Fox, Terry Fox's parents, visited Aurora as they traced his footsteps on his Marathon of Hope to celebrate its 10th anniversary.

A reception was arranged in Fleury Park and many town residents turned out for the occasion.

Prior to their visit, Renee Lawrie, tour coordinator for King, Aurora and Newmarket, had requested pictures of the original run or subsequent runs and comments from people involved for a book to be presented to Mr. and Mrs. Fox.

They were amazed to hear that Aurora had staged the first Terry Fox Run in September, 1980, one year before the National Run was organized.

In order to keep Terry's dream alive, students of Aurora High School, under the direction of physical education teacher Rod Leonard, organized a run-a-thon in September, 1980.

More than 450 people, mostly students, participated and raised \$16,693 for cancer research, in the first ever Terry Fox Run.

In a talk to the students over the school's public address system, Vice-Principal Wayne Houston told the students about his battle with cancer some 11 years earlier.

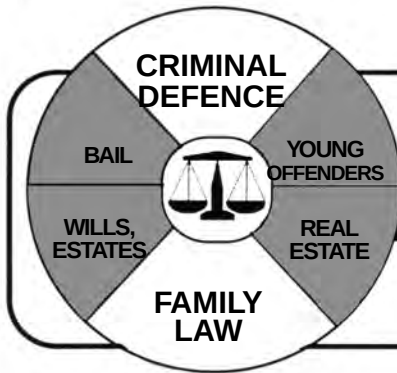
His speech galvanized the students into action and for five years, Leonard and the students of Aurora High organized the annual Terry Fox Run in Aurora before passing it on to others.

AURORA ACCESS BUS

In March, 1992, it was reported that Aurora's new Access Bus carried more than 2,500 disabled or elderly passengers during its first eight months of service.

The door-to-door service, now operated by York Transit, began in April, 1991, and soon had 186 registered users.

Funds for the \$50,000 bus came from the Timberlane Charity Classic Tennis Tournament, which was held annually for several years to raise funds to maintain the bus and put aside funds in reserve to purchase a second bus.




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Road saga may be near end

From page 1

Works including all correspondence with Bando saying that staff was rehashing old arguments and accusations.

Council members received the report as information and agreed Bando would never be satisfied and recommended the issue be dropped and staff should move on to other priorities.

But it wasn't dropped as far as Bando was concerned as he appeared before council again to point out the report contained several

errors and omissions and full consideration had not been given to safety issues.

He said the report had not dealt with damage done to private property by the contractor and that some homeowners had 40 to 50 feet of lawn and driveway downloaded on them without any compensation for extra expenses.

In January this year, Bando appeared before council again to show several photographs of places behind the curb where topsoil and sodding had not been completed claiming the

topsoil was faulty.

Town staff was directed to investigate and fix the problem.

In response to a question as to who would pay for the needed work, staff replied that some money had been held back from the contractor but it may not be enough to fix the problem.

It was also agreed to engage Guelph Turfgrass Institute to investigate and report to council, although some members of council argued the money should be spent on fixing the problem as the homeowners had a

right to be frustrated and angry.

In May, it was reported the estimated cost to replace the sod and topsoil was \$16,200.

Council agreed the work should proceed and staff should go after the contractor for the cost.

Recommendations from the Turfgrass Institute were adopted and a contract let to replace the topsoil and sod.

That project was recently completed and, with any luck, the saga of Collins Crescent is over.

York approves purchase of Aurora land for police

Regional Council has approved the purchase of land on Leslie Street for the combined Police Services Investigative and Support Services facility in Aurora.

The purchase includes 5.1 acres of Hallgrove Estates and 2.4 acres from the Town of Aurora for a total price of \$1,935,960.

The new facility will replace three leased properties and will provide employment for up to 600 employees.

Last month the regional offer to purchase the town-owned property generated considerable debate at the Aurora's general

committee meeting.

Although the price offered was the same as when the town purchased the property in 2000 and as a public building would not pay taxes, staff recommended that the sale proceed on the basis the positive aspects outweighed the negative.

Committee members had difficulty trying to decide as some members opposed the sale on the basis the town should receive full market value for the property with tax revenue.

Others argued for the sale on the basis it was short term loss for long term gain

pointing out the improved economy with an additional 600 employees and the police facility would act as a beacon for further development of the business park.

The committee debate followed several private meetings regarding the proposed sale and directions to staff to proceed with the negotiations.

The committee finally agreed to sell the property on condition that if it was not used as planned it would revert to the town at the same price.

There was no indication in the regional report when construction would begin.



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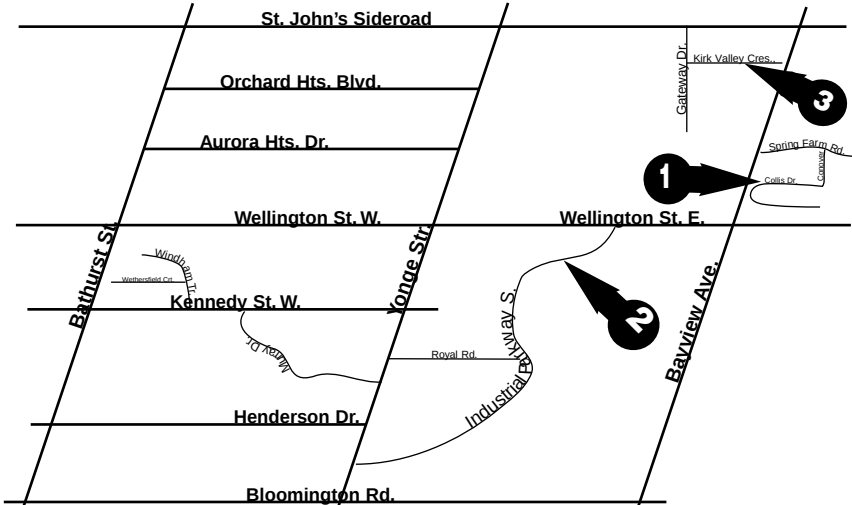
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The Salhani Clan is Growing!



Matthew and Sherry Salhani are very proud and happy to welcome their newest addition to the family clan. William Matthew Dixon Salhani was born June 26, 2006, weighing 6 lbs. 15 oz. Ben and Emma are very excited to welcome him home. Many thanks to Dr. Joutsis and nurse Sheila in NICU at Southlake.

Robert and Jane Salhani are proud grandparents of all four grandchildren.



Jeff and Gail Salhani had their first son Kole Jonathan Robert Salhani on December 31, 2005 at York Central Hospital. He was a very healthy 8 lbs. Their thanks go to midwives Edie and Maureen.

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