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AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



Bikers not wrecking woodlot, rider says

Much has been written recently, pro and con, about the bike trails and jumps in the town-owned Case Woodlot south of Henderson Drive.

Daniel Willcock, one of the teenage bikers, last week appeared before council accompanied by several other teenagers to speak about the bike jumps, problems experienced and possible solutions.

He said they were not responsible for cutting down trees, setting fires or leaving beer bottles, but were having fun making jumps and riding.

He said they had been doing it for five years and there had been no complaints.

He added that he realized there was a liability issue and suggested bikers be registered and sign a waiver form and for the town to post signs "Use at Your Own Risk".

He asked the town to designate a spot in the woodlot for bikers.

In response to questions, he said he was representing about 100 bikers that used Case Woodlot and sometimes Sheppard's Bush.

In a report to council, town staff pointed out that BMX cycling was occurring in many areas throughout the municipality and the courses were most often makeshift.

Please see page 8

Briefly

Splash, splash

It hasn't taken them long to get things going in Aurora's newest swimming pool.

Next Wednesday, July 26, from 4 to 5.30 p.m. the Aurora Lifeguards will host their 6th annual "Watergames" event supporting the Canadian Red Cross.

Held for the first time at Aurora's new Recreation Complex pool, on Wellington Street East, this year's event will include cowboy inspired games, prizes and costumes.

There will be raffle prizes and loot bags for the kids.

For more information contact Becky at 905-726-4770 ext. 3510.

Tomorrow's stars

Aurorans will have a chance to watch the tennis champions of tomorrow next month.

A tournament, called the Metro Label Under 14 Junior National Tennis Championships and organized by Tennis Canada, will be held at Aurora's Timberlane Athletic Club this year.

Forty boys and 40 girls will be coming to Aurora from across the country to compete.

Each province will be represented.

Coaches, family members and local tennis enthusiasts will be at Timberlane throughout the week to support these young athletes.

These rising stars will begin arriving in the area by air, train and family vehicles Thursday, August 17.

A group photo and the tournament draw will take place on Saturday, August 19, with competition beginning Sunday, August 20.

Finals take place Friday, August 25.

Know anyone?

Aurora is seeking people who may qualify for the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship.

The medal, established in 1973, recognizes people who, through exceptional long term efforts, have made outstanding contributions to the well being of their communities.

Nominees must be residents of Ontario but not be a sitting federal, provincial or municipal representative.

The medal is not awarded for acts of bravery and no person shall be awarded the medal posthumously unless death occurs after his or her name has been selected by the Advisory Council.

Deadline for nominations is July 28.

Details are posted on the town's website.

Nomination forms and additional information may be obtained by calling the Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat at 416-314-7526.

Intermingled with Aurora soccer players, a young soccer team from Bermejillo, Mexico, takes time out from its participation in Aurora's fourth annual Can-Am soccer tournament to pose for the photographer. Team members, many who had never been outside Bermejillo, left Canada Tuesday after a successful trip here. More photos and a story appear on Page 10 of your Auroran this week.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Solution may occur in August

What to do with the Library Square has been discussed for years and council seems to be no closer to resolution than when talks first started.

It seemed a decision had been made when the general committee defeated a motion on a 6-3 vote to demolish the former library and seniors centre to create 67 parking spaces.

A subsequent motion to demolish the former seniors' centre to create 15 parking spaces was adopted.

But when the committee report came to council the debate restarted.

A motion was introduced to

demolish both buildings and it was defeated on the same 6-3 vote.

A subsequent motion not to demolish either building and for staff to prepare a list of issues raised at previous meetings was adopted.

Staff prepared a list of 30 items including parking issues, needs of community groups, vision of the square, rejuvenation of the downtown core, master plan for the area, general downtown core study, overall parking study and long term planning for the Church Street School.

Due to the lateness of the hour, council agreed to defer discussion of the list until the August meeting.

Strategic Plan finally updated

Aurora's first Strategic Plan was undertaken in January, 1993, adopted later that year and it has been controversial ever since.

It was updated in 1998 to lead the way into the new century and it has been updated again.

In January, 2004, it was agreed to update the plan including public consultation so as to reflect the views of the broader community, but councillors couldn't agree on a consultant and the review was deferred until council was in a better mood.

A year later, council endorsed a

staff recommendation that the consulting firm of DPRA Canada be engaged to review, develop and update the plan.

After public meetings, meetings with stakeholders and other residents, Joe Pittari of DPRA Canada submitted the final report "Shaping Aurora's Future" at last week's council meeting.

He pointed out that the 2006 updated plan emphasized the development of local assets, which capitalize upon the many strengths and opportunities in the area.

The strategic plan is an umbrella

document that provides guidance and direction for all the town's plans, programs and services.

He explained how the plan was developed, the consultation process, research findings, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

The detailed strategic plan has five main components, a vision statement, goals, objectives, actions and implementation and performance measures.

He also listed the action steps,

Please see page 11

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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 East 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 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 905-727-3123, 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.

THURSDAY, JULY 27

Blood donor clinic at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, from 2.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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, Vandorf 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 Auroran. 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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Aurora Mayor Tim Jones, right, was presented with two Mikeys (defibrillators) last week to be installed in the Town's new seniors centre and the Aurora Recreation Complex. Hugh Heron, President of Heathwood Homes and co-founder of The Mikey Network (centre) and Morty Henkle, Executive Director of The Mikey Network and their team place the units in as many high-risk locations as possible so people affected by sudden cardiac arrest might have a second chance at life. The non-profit organization works to create public awareness and provide education about heart healthy lifestyles. The Mikey network came about in June, 2002, when Heron lost a partner and friend. Michael Hart Salem was playing golf when he had a heart attack and died. He was there with eight friends but there was nothing anyone could do. The defibrillator program became a reality following that tragedy.

Two defibrillators presented to town

It has taken a long time, but Aurora now has two automated external defibrillators courtesy of the

Councillor responsible for Regency's Child Dr.

The man responsible for Child Drive in Aurora's Regency Acres has died.

Town of Aurora flags were lowered last week following the death of Alfred J. Child, a former Town of Aurora Councillor who served from 1955 to 1964 under Mayors Dr. E.J. Henderson and Keith Nisbet.

During his tenure as councillor, Child saw Aurora grow to a population of 10,000 and Sterling Drug open a new factory on Yonge Street.

As a result of that industry, Regency Acres, Aurora's second subdivision, was born and one of the major streets in that development was named after him.

Regency was built to accommodate the influx of people moving from Sterling's Windsor operation

Mikey Network.

The Network was established by Heathwood Homes and the Heron Group of

to work in Aurora.

Following his retirement, Child was a member of the Rising Sun Lodge No. 129, Aurora, and continued his community involvement at Sandy Cove Acres in Innisfil, where he lived, by serving on several committees.

"The Town of Aurora staff are deeply saddened by the passing of this former councillor," said Aurora Mayor Tim Jones. "His contributions to the Town of Aurora in his municipal career are greatly appreciated."

"He was very proud to serve Aurora and very conscientious in his work," added his wife, Edna.

A private service was held at the Aurora Cemetery last Thursday.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Paul F. Kent Funeral Home in Cookstown.

Companies in memory of a business partner.

The building company has previously built homes in Aurora.

Hugh Heron of the Mikey Network came to Aurora last week and prior to a council meeting at the Seniors' Centre presented the two defibrillators to the town, one of which will remain at the centre.

The other will be placed in the new Recreation Complex as requested by the donor.

The town also plans to install automated defibrillators in the Leisure Complex and the Community Centre.

It was in October, 2002, when officials from York Region Health Services demonstrated the equipment to Aurora Council and stressed the importance of its availability in public facilities.

It was pointed out that as many as 40,000 Canadians including 1,000 York Region residents die each year from sudden cardiac arrest, which might have been prevented if a defibrillator had been readily available.

Numerous alternatives suggested for building

Following the sale of Aurora Hydro to PowerStream, Inc. and PowerStream advising the town it no longer needed the hydro building on Industrial Parkway, council directed staff to explore a number of alternative uses for the facility.

Last week, Director of Leisure Services Allan Downey described the various components of the building and the surrounding property.

He pointed out that building and property had been leased to Aurora Hydro and later PowerStream at an annual rate of \$101,000 and the facility is in excellent repair and could be leased immediately for a short or long term.

The site is currently insured at a value of \$2,054,000 and assessed at a value of \$2,144,000 and council could sell it.

Council had previously identified the need for a new animal shelter that could service adjacent municipalities and the building could be converted into an animal shelter with extensive renovations and would produce revenue through the lease of the building to other municipalities.

Another option was to convert the building into a youth centre, but it would be necessary to consider the costs of operation.

Council has also expressed the need for community space and staff point out that the Hydro building presents a unique opportunity to address the present and future needs of the community as it is centrally located and could provide a number of alternative uses.

Staff presented a detailed plan of suggested uses for the building including the transfer of the Parks Department and carpenter from the Works building to free up much needed space for that department.

It was also proposed to move the fitness centre to the former hydro facility.

That move would free up space at the Leisure Complex for a Youth Centre in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club, Aurora Skating Club and town programs.

Councillor Nigel Kean said that while it was an excellent presentation there was a lot of missing information such as an independent appraisal as to the value of the building if sold and the cost of renovations to the various components if

council approved the suggested use.

He suggested the presentation was a wish list and asked where the money was coming from.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said the building was an important asset and the town lost considerable revenue through loss of interest on the loan to Aurora Hydro, the annual rent, and the loss of 34 jobs.

She stressed the need for a fiscal impact study especially with the need to build 400 residential units a year for the next

10 years to pay down the debenture on the recreational complex.

She said there was a need to lease the building to produce revenue and jobs while council took the time to make a decision in the best interests of the taxpayer.

Her motion to refer the item back to staff to lease was lost for lack of a seconder.

It was finally agreed to proceed to the next step and obtain a cost/benefit analysis including the cost of renovations.



**Nigel Kean
for
Mayor**
905-751-0790

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Poor Richard

Town's sign bylaw exemptions are rubber-stamped

*Aurora has a sign bylaw,
Which is seldom enforced;
Why is a bylaw necessary
When all requests are endorsed?
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

Aurora's sign bylaw has created more problems for council over the years than possibly any other bylaw enacted by council. No matter what they do they are caught between the demands of businesspeople who want signs to advertise their businesses and citizens who complain about visual pollution.

At one time every application for an exemption to the sign bylaw was given very careful consideration and in a few cases rejected.

More recently with the number of requests for an exemption, the staff report is rubber-stamped without comment or discussion.

The most recent example was a request from KTI Limited in an industrial park on Isaacson Crescent in the Bayview/St. John's area for a sign variance to permit an illuminated wall sign on the east wall in addition to an existing illuminated wall sign on the north wall.

Currently the sign bylaw stipulates that the number of wall signs per business premise be limited to one.

Staff recommended the request be approved and it was rubber-stamped without question or comment.

This was the most recent of a whole series of exemptions including the United Church in July, 2004, for an increase in size from a maximum four square metres to 5.9 square metres and at the same meeting an exemption was granted to Rogers Video at Dunning Avenue and Yonge Street.

Then in August, 2004, an exemption was made for the Canadian Tire store to increase the size of their signage and at the same meeting Home Depot was given permission to install a wall sign on each exterior building face.

In November, 2004, a similar variance was granted to the Loblaws Superstore on Bayview Avenue.

Then in March, 2006, council granted an exemption to Pizza Pizza on Bayview Avenue to install two illuminated signs having a total area larger than the one sign permitted under the sign bylaw.

The sign bylaw was adopted by council in 1992 and by 2004 due to the number of requests for variances to the bylaw, mainly from large commercial outlets council requested staff to review the bylaw in view of the changing conditions.

By November, 2004, staff reported they had reviewed sign bylaws from several municipalities as they related to shopping centres and wall signs.

Staff also reviewed the various requests for variances granted by council to determine if they would be covered by the proposed changes.

In addition, staff proposed some minor housekeeping items to tidy up the bylaw.

With assurances that the proposed revised bylaw would cover the majority of requests for variances, the general committee endorsed the report as presented and directed staff to prepare the enacting bylaw.

But council was not always willing to grant exemptions.

In January, 2003, Hakim Optical requested a variance to place the company logo, a pair of glasses, on the tower of the shopping complex on the south side of Murray Drive at Yonge Street, which was denied.

Later, the Winners store in the same plaza made a similar request and it was approved.

In June, 2005, the Sormeh Spa on Wellington Street East requested a variance to the sign bylaw, which staff did not recommend resulting in council rejecting the application.

With all the exemptions to the sign bylaw being requested and granted by council, the time has come for a complete review of the bylaw to bring it up to date with current conditions.

Back in July, 1998, due to many complaints from merchants about the restrictive provisions of the sign bylaw, council established a joint council/Chamber of Commerce committee to review the sign bylaw and its enforcement.

The time has come to establish another joint committee to recommend changes to the bylaw or to scrap it altogether.



In front of Mary's Fruit Store back in the 1930s, Anthony Caruso poses. This photo is from the Aurora Historical Society collection, and for a look at the premises today, see Page 13.

Letters to the Editor

This street party may become annual event

To the editor,

Last year a few residences of Calmar Crescent in Aurora hastily organized a street party that turned out to be a huge success, with several hundred people attending throughout the day.

There were hamburgers and hot dogs, cold and hot drinks, snacks and sweets, all donated by our surrounding community businesses.

The children were delighted to play in a jumping castle or trying their best to dunk our area residents in the water dunk tank, while others played basketball or mingled while listening to music.

Raffle tickets were sold throughout the day and at the end of the evening numerous prizes were awarded to the lucky winners, again all donated by surrounding businesses.

This successful event raised nearly \$900, all of which was donated to South Lake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket.

The success of this inaugural event prompted us to hold a second annual street party on Saturday, July 29.

This year's event promises to be bigger and better than the first, with even more children's activities, raffles, prizes and entertainment.

All proceeds raised will again be donated to South Lake Regional Health Centre.

Some of this year's top raffle prizes, so far, include a laptop computer and a game console.

We plan to have an assortment of children's activities including face painting, clowns and balloons, a jumping castle and water dunk tank.

When the sun sets there will be a showing of a select

movie at our outdoor movie area.

As with the previous year, the focus of this event is to raise money for a worthy cause, and, of course, to have lots of fun and share in the community spirit.

With your support, we hope the Calmar Crescent Children's Street Festival will flourish into a spectacular annual event.

If you would like to get involved or wish to make a donations, call Pavel and Claudia Aben at 905-841-3351 or Angelo Cinararie at 905-841-3471.

**Pavel & Claudia Aben
Angelo Cinararie
Aurora**

ED. NOTE: Calmar Crescent is located in Aurora's north end, just south of the St. John's Sideroad, west of Bayview.

Town should consider angle parking, he says

To the editor,

Recently, I watched a replay of an Aurora Council meeting.

The discussion surrounding Library Square and the parking was not only painful but frustrated me.

Pulling down buildings to provide parking spaces I find distasteful and wasteful.

Structures, such as the old library, could be used by numerous organizations within our community.

Here is a suggestion, perhaps it has been considered but I did not hear it during the discussion.

Has anyone suggested

"Angle Parking" on Church Street beside the Library?

If Church Street was made one way from Yonge (going east) to the corner of Victoria Street, then have the system continue north to Mosley Street, there could be angled parking half way around that block.

I'm not a town planner but I bet that would end up with more spaces than pulling down one of the buildings.

Another thought crossed my mind: "why not charge for parking?"

I'm sure there would be a few voices objecting to that, but has it been considered?

Owning and driving a

vehicle is a luxury and parking freely at your destination is not a right granted with a vehicle permit.

Visits to our hospital come with a parking fee; some doctors and dentists charge parking fees; even the staff at Southlake have fees deducted from their salary to use the parking.

It would not be a popular decision but I wonder how many spaces would be freed up?

At 25 cents a visit you would find space to park and create a little revenue to add monies to the Library funding.

**Colin Simpkin
Aurora**

AURORAN

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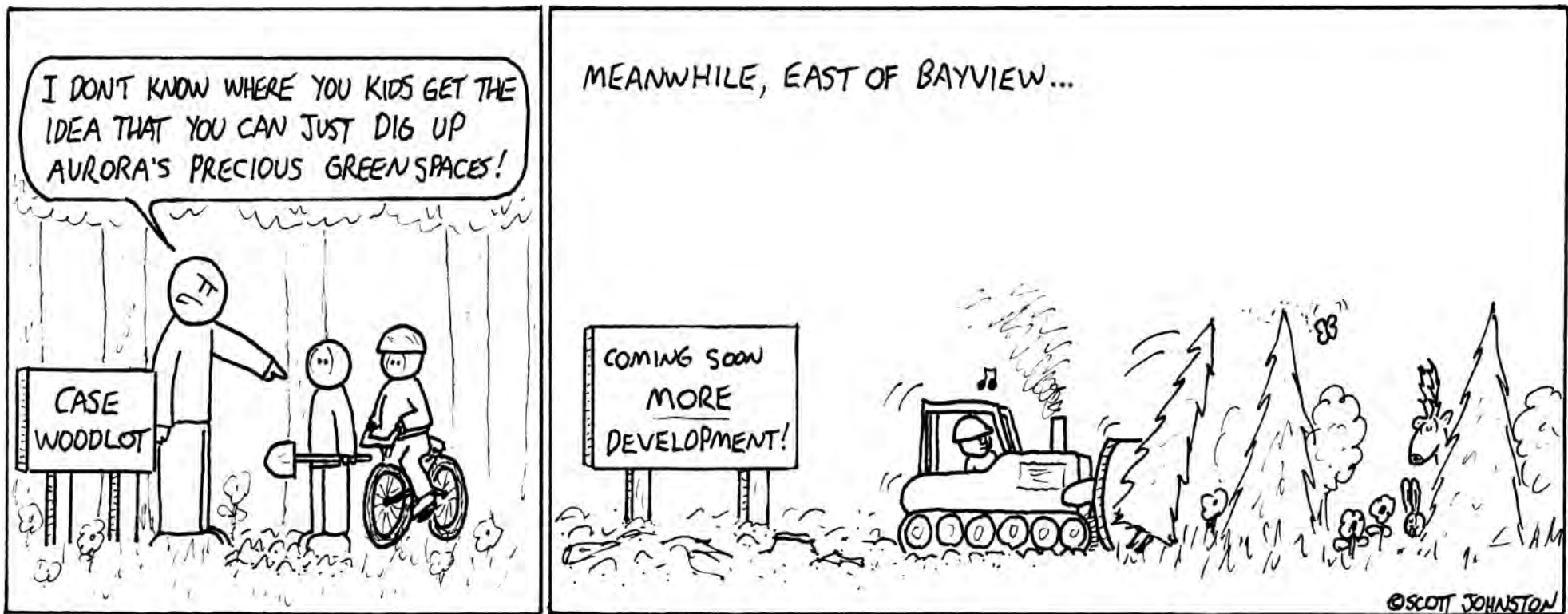
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

She lives 78 feet, three and one-quarter inches directly across the street from me.

She is known by the various nicknames that I have gleefully assigned her over the years: Mrs. "H", Hubby, the Queen Mum, Garden Gnome, Yoda and my personal favourite, Shrek. Only occasionally is she known by her real name.

She is my mother-in-law.

A recent poll of 1,500 Canadian men, aged 25 to 50 years old, was taken.

The men were asked what they were most afraid of. The top responses included: snakes, heights, marriage, dogs, Liberals, New Democrats, and mothers-in-law.

My mother-in-law at least keeps good company.

My own list would have snakes and Liberals tied for first place, as they are both rather slippery and slimy (okay, that was a cheap shot.)

My mother-in-law would be a close second on this list.

Someone once asked me if I was crazy living that close to my mother-in-law. Without hesitation I simply muttered, "Yes, I am!"

I remember my first night in our new home. I was having trouble sleeping so I watched television until two a.m.

The next day my mother-in-law said, "I saw your lights on very late last night, doesn't anyone sleep over there?"

I said to Julie, "I'm putting the house up for sale!"

She has a good sense of humour, even when I have mentioned, on more than one occasion, that she should not come over to our house until it is dark outside so as to preserve the resale value of our home and

those of our neighbours.

She also gives as good as she gets.

I remember, a few minutes prior to my wedding, asking Mrs. H what she would do if I took off and left her daughter standing at the altar.

"I would feel both elated and relieved," was the immediate response! Ouch!

To discourage visits by Shrek, I was hoping to put a moat around the house and fill it with either piranhas or crocodiles, but they tell me the harsh Canadian climate would not permit this.

Building a 12-foot high fence was also considered. Can't do it - something about contravention of local bylaws.

I am now thinking about an electronic force field. I reckon about 25,000 kV should just about do the trick. It gets energized tonight at 6 p.m.

The Queen Mum is not at all averse to sharing her opinions.

Never ever verbally admonish the royal family or you will be getting an earful. And don't even think of trying to watch something else on television when the Queen gives her Christmas day address.

My mother-in-law is, to borrow an expression from Richard Nixon, one of the "silent majority".

Those people who quietly meet the challenges and commitments of everyday life and also find time to volunteer their time to others.

They usually don't garner headlines, trophies or accolades, but their individual contributions are what make our community worth living in.

Across the street is my wife's mother

She has been the volunteer registrar of the Aurora Minor Hockey Association for more than 25 years and she is always at the rink to help with some hockey tournament.

Or else people drop by her home at all times of the day or call her with some registration related question.

A number of years ago, she was even honoured with a plaque by the Town of Aurora.

Typical of her, she did not attend the awards ceremony and did not even mention it. My wife was the one who found out.

She is emblematic of the folks we have in Aurora.

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 like my mother-in-law.

Aurora and this writer are indeed very lucky to have such a person as her in our community and in our lives.

Oh, by the way Mrs. H., how about dropping by for dinner tonight, at say anytime after 6 pm? It should be an electrifying evening!

**Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com**



Cathy's Corner



Don't fall for it!!

If you're like most Aurorans, your windows need to be re-painted and re-caulked...well, a little too often. It's time again.

You're at the top of the tallest ladder in the neighbourhood (the one that all the neighbours borrow) when you hear your cordless phone ringing.

Ring 1: It might be important, so you sprint backwards down the ladder in the greatest athletic feat of your life, leaving your bucket of paint nestled on the window ledge. You glance up at the can nervously and just as you finish telling yourself that it will be okay, the biggest raven you ever saw lands right next to it.

Ring 2: In shock, you take a step back, trip, and fall butt first into the wheelbarrow you borrowed from your neighbour. Your tailbone abruptly relocates...about half way up your spine.

Ring 3: In searing pain, you look up to see cute little birds flying in a circle around your head. Somehow, you suspect they're not real. The raven begins flapping its wings beside your paint can. It is very real. And so is its falcon-like wingspan ...

Ring 4: As adrenaline begins shooting through your veins, you throw all your weight to one side, causing the unstable wheelbarrow to overturn in a miraculous auto-rescue effort. You have now scraped your elbow, twisted your ankle, and dislocated your shoulder! In a

few minutes (when you try to speak), you will discover that you have also sustained a fat lip, so you can no longer speak full sentences. You can only drool them.

Ring 5: You snatch the receiver just in the nick of time. "Hello", you try to say, but it comes out like "blah-ho". Just then, the paint can topples hitting you on the head. You now have a concussion.

"Today is your lucky day!" announces the caller in the most cheerful, enthusiastic, and annoying voice you've ever heard.

"Not really," you think.

The caller continues. It is the Crap Berry Resort. You have been selected to receive a FREE weekend at this luxury establishment!

All you have to do is: sign a waiver that holds the resort harmless for the starvation, sleep deprivation, and budgetary anguish that they intend to inflict on you (and a loved one!) until you break down and buy a time-share.

But while the certified specialist in account depletion wears you down, you get to enjoy the amenities.

Said amenities include the sauna (where you will sweat bullets), the pool (where you will get soaked), and the dining room (where you will be fed generous portions of stuff that's hard to swallow).

Now here's the tough decision: To say or not to say to the telemarketer...the colourful sentences that crowd

your consciousness?

Hmm...it's not her fault she can't find meaningful work.

Or maybe it is...but you really can't debate the issue right now because you have to call 911 in the next five minutes or the Crap Berry Resort will bleed you to death!

Make that 20 minutes. This is Aurora, after all. You have to give the paramedics time to navigate all the speed humps, stop signs, and pylons!

You are about to tell the telemarketer how you really feel when you notice that the cute little birds are back.

You watch them go round and round until...the lights go out.

You wake up in Newmarket. In a body cast.

They're telling you that you fell off a ladder, but you vaguely remember falling out of a wheelbarrow.

You try to explain about the phone call, but all that comes out are moans and groans.

They keep telling you that you shouldn't try to speak until the dental surgeon has a look at you.

Next to your bed, the phone rings.

DON'T FALL FOR IT!

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

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

 **BOUQUETS** to the Newpark Children's Centre on their 20th anniversary in Aurora. They are located on Industrial Parkway North.

 **BRICKBATS** to the media suggesting gas prices are going up and, voila, the very next day...gas prices go up. Perhaps if they suggest the prices are going down, it might stop this insanity at the pumps. Does every service station get a new shipment of gas every time the price increases?

 **BOUQUETS** to Mara Jones of Aurora and her partner Tracy Cameron of Nova Scotia on winning the a gold medal in the lightweight women's double rowing competition at the Lucerne World Cup event.

 **BRICKBATS** to Aurora's Rules of Procedure that permit an issue on which a decision was reached at a general committee meeting being re-introduced at a council meeting without any explanation or reason why, except to try and get members to change their minds and their vote.

 **BOUQUETS** to John Rogers, Aurora's Chief Administrative Officer, on being elected Chairman of the United Way of York Region for the coming year. As if he's not busy enough...

 **BRICKBATS** to those at the Aurora Town Hall for charging citizens \$6 for an extra recycling blue box, while at the same time encouraging people to recycle more.

 **BOUQUETS** to King Mayor Margaret Black, chairperson of the region's Transit Committee, for "walking the talk" by using York Transit and Viva to travel from King City to the Regional building in Newmarket in 38 minutes at a cost of \$3.50. She challenged all members of council to use public transit for the next regional council meeting in September.

 **BOUQUETS** to anyone at York Region or Viva Transit who can explain how passenger ridership is rapidly increasing when most of the articulated Viva buses that travel up and down Yonge Street through Aurora during off-peak hours are almost empty. Drivers must get lonely!

 **BRICKBATS** to those responsible at TVO for cancelling Studio 2, one of the best public affairs programs on TV, for some reason or other which was not clearly stated. After 2,500 shows since its inception in 1994, it was a sad day for journalism.

 **BOUQUETS** to members of the Aurora Storm Volley Ball Club, Community Living for Newmarket/Aurora and the Aurora Legion on being recognized by Aurora Council as Aurora Community Groups who have adopted the Character Community Initiatives.

 **BRICKBATS** to Toronto Police officials who claim there's a big difference in a police chase and a following, yet they were on the scene to witness a motorist speeding away from a RIDE stop who later slammed into a hydro pole putting three people in hospital. A witness noted that three or four other cruisers joined in later. A chase is still a chase!

 **BOUQUETS** to Aurora's Trevor Smith on being presented with the Aurora Canada Day Youth Award by Mayor Tim Jones and Youth Coordinator Chris Catania for his many community activities including the Youth Action Committee, Student Council, Children's Entitlement and Youth Action Forum.

Letters to the Editor

Hunting down Orion

*"We are voyagers on earth through space,
As passengers on a ship,
And many of us have never thought of any part of the vessel
But the cabin where we are quartered"*

S.P. Langley

I used to consider myself somewhat of an authority on star gazing but that inflated opinion ended quite abruptly after attending a seminar at a space observatory.

It came as a bit of a shock to realize I hadn't a clue what the instructor was wittering on about when he insisted on referring to hydrogen and nuclear fusion, and interstellar gas forming nebulae as if every-one present used these words in sentence form every single day!

Perhaps some of them did, however, the minute he asked if there were any questions and a bearded gentleman, arms firmly folded over his chest whispered to no one in particular, "Yes, I wonder if he knows where the nearest pub is?" was the moment I knew I wasn't alone!

Of course if I'd had an ounce of common sense I'd have known that a far better place for me to learn about star formations should have been at an astronomy course geared to novices.

These courses are generally offered at college, and so with this in mind I enrolled at Seneca College, King Campus, for an astronomy course run by an extremely knowledgeable gentleman by the name of Bryan Sansom.

When it was too cloudy for good observation, there was always class time indoors whereby Bryan

would simulate the night skies on a computer and fast forward a mind-boggling couple of thousand years with the mere depression of a computer key.

At every opportunity of a clear sky he enthusiastically hauled us all outside into the chilly night air to the carpark, dragging with us our collective assortment of telescopes which had gathered dust from years of neglect.

I must say there were a few huge and mighty impressive telescopes looking more like land to sea missiles than anything else.

Realistically though, how easy can it be to bolt up the basement stairs lugging one of those babies every time someone yells, "I think Venus is up tonight"?

And, of course, there were those of us who spent ages fiddling around with our telescopes, looking as if we really knew what we

were doing, only to have Bryan stroll past, whip off the cap at the end of the telescope and say "that help any?"

Apparently the transfer of various eye-pieces for use in the telescope is an extremely delicate operation and Bryan stressed great caution when handling them.

I could have sworn he was looking directly at me, or possibly through me, while speaking the words, almost as if he knew that I had a collection of them in my jacket pocket, where they were jingling around together with some old discarded sweet papers, car keys, used Kleenex and of course, loose change!

Seriously though, is it just me or does it seem to put a healthy dose of perspective into our lives by looking upwards to the points of light which shape the constellations of Cassiopeia, Orion or Ursa Major?

Or, if we try hunting down Betelgeuse, Polaris or the seven sisters: the Pleiades in the northern night skies, does it really matter that my grass is a tad longer than the neighbors or that we're all out of milk?

If, on a clear night you are lucky enough to be able to view the rings of Saturn - thought to be made up of ice particles, rocky debris and dust - just try not to hyperventilate when you realize how little space you personally take up in this infinite universe!

Terry & Jan Caffery
Aurora

Barbara Anderson
Aurora

To the editor,

Perhaps you can enlighten us. We moved from Toronto to the Vandorf Sideroad/Bayview area of Aurora in September, 2005.

One May 1, 2006, our energy provider switched from Aurora Hydro to PowerStream.

Since that date, we have been inconvenienced with five outages with no apparent weather-related reason.

Each time, we have phoned to report a failure and left a message stating that we would appreciate a

return call outlining the explanation and/or source of difficulty.

We have yet to receive the courtesy of a follow-up.

I have scoured The Auroran to find published reports of these power failures to no avail.

I sympathize with small or home business owners who must also contend with these power interruptions and shudder to think of the consequences once proposed future developments are underway.

We are paying big city prices, yet receiving

sub-standard service with zero customer regard.

The PowerStream notice in last week's Auroran confirms my suspicions of customer dissatisfaction.

Can your readers comment or offer us recourse?



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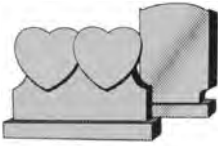
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This isn't the first dysfunctional Aurora Council

The current Aurora Council has set a new record for unparliamentary conduct, flip-flopping on decisions, long meetings and lack of team spirit. It has been called dysfunctional.

But it's not the first council to suffer from infighting as in December, 1987, the council of the day was termed the most divisive in recent memory.

In his second year as mayor, John West found himself under constant attack on various issues from outspoken Councillor Evelyn Buck and later in the year from Councillor Richard Barker.

Councillors Buck and Barker frequently joined Councillors Norm Weller and Martin Paivio to vote in a block against many issues supported by Mayor West and his allies, Councillors George Timpson, Betty Pedersen, Tim Jones and Herb McKenzie.

The major issue of the year for council was the decision to build a new town hall to accommodate the town's growing staff.

In April, the York Region Board of Education had signed a controversial agreement to take over the town's portion of their joint administrative building on Wellington Street West, forcing the town to lease space on Industrial Parkway.

Citizens expressed concerns about the town selling its former accommodation to the school board for \$1.5 million, then spending money to rent accommodation for what could be two or three years.

Aurora then selected the town-owned Jack Woods farm house and surrounding property as the site of the new town hall, but later flip-flopped after complaints about the site's proximity to the industrial park and the demand to keep the town hall downtown.

The town identified 14 potential sites and engaged an architect to review the sites and evaluate them on their merits without consideration of land acquisition costs or legal difficulties so that at year's end no decision had been made.

Council did agree to build an addition to the Edward Street fire hall, an addition to the Scanlon Court Public Works building to accommodate the Parks

Department as it moved out of the former Victoria Street fire hall so that it could be converted into a seniors' centre.

Then there was the ongoing battle between council and the Aurora Cemetery Company which ended when the Cemetery Board washed its hands of any responsibility over the planned expansion of the cemetery.

Council made plans to appoint another Cemetery Board to manage the expansion when the cemetery became full.

Staff changes were frequent during that year with

Fred Horvath resigning in June as Leisure Services Director and there was a heated debate at council as to whether the position was really necessary.

Kelly Cerswell resigned as treasurer to take the same post with York Region.

The town hired its first personnel director, Nancy Voss, and selected Art Meeke as purchasing officer.

After previously disbanding its controversial Business Improvement Area, council voted to cancel its Main Street Canada

program and establish a new business committee chaired by Councillor McKenzie and to hire a full-time coordinator the following year.

Ball diamonds were also a hot issue after a new diamond at the Our Lady of Grace Park was removed after neighbours complained it was too close to their homes.

Another complaint was received over the increased use of the Town Park diamond.

Councillor Buck waged a crusade against the Aurora Fire Department which led

to a ban on the consumption of alcohol at the fire hall and annual mandatory fitness tests for firefighters.

Council was regularly visited by new residents angry with incomplete work

by subdivision developers resulting in council withholding building permits for violations of their agreements with the town.

That was Aurora Council in 1987.



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Famous weather expert David Phillips and his wife, Darlene, welcomed a sell-out crowd to the annual garden tour held last weekend in Aurora. Sponsored by the Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society, the annual event featured more than half a dozen gardens throughout Aurora, including this effort which completely surrounds the Phillips' home. Throughout the garden, several hand-made chimes add to the look and sound of the garden, which is located on Cranberry Lane.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Biker defends activity

From page 1

ramps and jumps built from anything that could be found.

Staff presented nine

Rec vehicle in driveway causes woe

If Angelo Sciaraffa gets his way, the town will change its bylaw to allow recreational vehicle owners to park vehicles in the driveway, at least during the summer months.

He appeared before council last week to request the change in the bylaw after a neighbour complained about his vehicle and he was required to move it to another location.

He showed photos to councillors.

He said he had asked the name of the person who had complained, but was refused the information due to privacy laws.

He pointed out several townspeople have recreational trailers and in a tour of the town he had counted 147 such vehicles in driveways.

He described the problems of having to store his vehicle, picking it up on Friday, using it for the weekend, and then having to store it again.

He pointed out that it is necessary to open up the sides of the box trailer to air it out and this could only be done at his residence.

He suggested that possibly a permit system could be introduced, which would produce revenue for the municipality.

Sciaraffa added that the few people who complain make it difficult for others and he sought relief from the bylaw.

After listening to his presentation, Councillor Nigel Kean suggested the recommendation be forwarded to the Bylaws Department for a report.

Councillors agreed.

possible locations within the town that might be considered as suitable locations, but wanted to obtain direction from legal services on any liability issues.

It was noted that Case Woodlot was not listed as a possible location.

Director of Leisure Services Allan Downey said woodlots were not considered due to the environmental impact.

Councillor Nigel Kean suggested staff meet with biker representatives regarding the suggested locations and report back at the August council meeting.

Councillor Evelyn Buck objected claiming that the teens were not a biker's group but neighbourhood kids who should be able to play in their own neighbourhood.

She suggested they be left alone as their fun was spoiled when others tried to organize them.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner noted that the summer season would be almost over before the August 22 meeting and

asked whether the kids would be able to use Case Woodlot in the meantime.

She also pointed out that some of the proposed locations were quite isolated.

It was then suggested that council and bylaw enforcement officers turn a blind eye to the bikers until the report was presented to council in August, to which CAO John Rogers issued a caution about potential liability claims since council would be aware of possible dangers.

The mayor and town solicitor referred to a case in Brampton in which a claim was launched against the municipality because council was aware of the dangers and the court awarded the claimant \$6.3 million creating a crisis in the municipal insurance industry.

It was finally agreed to refer the report back for a report from Leisure Services as to the most suitable location after meeting with representatives from the bikers and from the Town Solicitor on liability issues.

Hydro bills

Aurora rejects request for \$\$

Newmarket wants money and Aurora won't give it to them.

A year ago March, Newmarket Council directed its staff to identify all expenses related to merger discussions incurred by the Town of Newmarket and Newmarket Hydro with Aurora and Aurora Hydro and to seek recovery from Aurora.

After more than a year of negotiations, Newmarket agreed to a merger of Aurora and Newmarket Hydro utilities and it was expected Aurora would follow suit.

Then without any advance notice and following a private session, Aurora Council announced the sale of Aurora Hydro to PowerStream, Inc.

That resulted in Newmarket accusing Aurora of negotiating in bad faith.

Discussions took place with Aurora officials regarding the outstanding invoice in the amount of \$39,859.49 and an invoice to Aurora Hydro from

Newmarket Hydro in the amount of \$96,715.68.

In February, Newmarket requested the outstanding issue be cleaned up.

The correspondence was never brought to

council's attention in open session, and following a private discussion last week, Aurora rejected the request.

The next move is now up to Newmarket Council.



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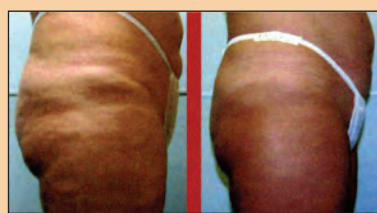
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AURORAN, Week of July 18, 2006



Members of the soccer team from Bermejillo, Mexico, wasted little time last week adjusting to Canadian ways. They found the games room at Seneca College where they spent most of their time. They also met their Canadian opponents.

Auroran photos by Ron Wallace

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Mexicans lose to champs

While they didn't win any games, the soccer team from Bermejillo, Mexico, has the satisfaction of knowing they were beaten by the team which won the championship of the Under 11 Boys division of Aurora's Fourth Annual Can-Am Tournament held here last Friday and Saturday.

London Arsenal White blanked the Mexican visitors 5-0 then went on the win the title of their division.

Meanwhile, Aurora teams figured in five of the final games in the nine-division tournament, and were proclaimed champions in three of them.

The Under 12 boys, Aurora Stingers 1, blanked the Pickering Spitfires 1-0 in their final game and a team by the same name edged the Oak Ridges Knights 2-1 in the Under 13 boys division.

In the third victory, Aurora defeated Aurora, as the Stingers U15 defeated the Stingers U16-1 in the final game of the U15-16 girls divi-

sion. That score was 2-0.

In the Boys Under 9 section, the Aurora Stingers Gold made it to the final game before being edged 2-1 by a squad from Unionville.

The U 11 Girls team - Aurora Stingers 1 - got to the final game before losing 1-0 to the Barrie Spirit.

For the Mexican team, carrying many players who had never been away from home before, the trip was a dream come true.

The group returned home Tuesday morning, after spending nearly a week at

Seneca's King Campus on Dufferin Street, just west of Aurora.

They played in four soccer games, attended a soccer camp, and visited area attractions.

The club was sponsored by Excellon Resources Inc., a Toronto-based silver mining company, whose vice-president and chief financial officer is Robert Brissenden, a member of the Aurora Youth Soccer Club.

He told the visitors plans for the trip began more than a year ago.

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York Simcoe Interlock Baseball Bantam 2006 Standings as of July 6					
Team	P	W	L	T	Pts
Dell Roofing	9	7	1	1	15
Bradford Lions Club	8	6	1	1	13
Georgina - Red	9	6	3	0	12
Royal Wood Shop	6	4	2	0	8
DiSal Contracting & Design	7	4	3	0	8
Showcase Furniture Galleries	8	3	4	1	7
Part Source	10	3	6	1	7
Sutton Legion	5	2	1	2	6
Armstrong Petroleums	8	2	6	0	4
Smith William & Bateman	9	2	7	0	4
Wait's Bathroom Plus	7	1	6	0	2
SCORES					
Dell Roofing	10	Dell Roofing	8		
Bradford Lions Club	8	Showcase Furniture Galleries	8		
Dell Roofing	9	Smith William & Bateman	9		
Smith William & Bateman	4	Armstrong Petroleums	7		
Bradford Lions Club	5	Royal Wood Shop	7		
Part Source	3	Part Source	0		
DiSal Contracting & Design	10				
Wait's Bathroom Plus	6				

York Simcoe Interlock Baseball Midget 2006 Standings as of July 10					
Team	P	W	L	T	Pts
Dixon Medical Pharmacy	11	8	2	1	17
Extreme Pita	7	7	0	0	14
NorthView Collision	11	6	4	1	13
Braywood Services	12	5	5	2	12
Greenham's	9	4	4	1	9
Rowan Hardwood Floors	9	3	6	0	6
McAlpine Ford	9	1	6	2	4
Marlin Travel	8	0	7	1	1
SCORES					
Dixon Medical Pharmacy	4	Dixon Medical Pharmacy	12		
Braywood Services	2	Rowan Hardwood Floors	0		
Dixon Medical Pharmacy	8	McAlpine Ford	3		
Marlin Travel	4	Braywood Services	3		
Dixon Medical Pharmacy	12	NorthView Collision	21		
Marlin Travel	1	Marlin Travel	1		
Rowan Hardwood Floors	12	NorthView Collision	10		
Braywood Services	3	McAlpine Ford	7		
Extreme Pita	14				
Greenham's	7				

York Simcoe Interlock Baseball Mosquito 2006 Standings as of July 6					
Team	P	W	L	T	Pts
RCR Royal LePage	11	10	1	0	20
Rotary Club of Aurora	10	8	2	0	16
AURORAestate.ca	12	7	5	0	14
RONA Cashway	10	6	4	0	12
BMO - Mortgages	10	3	7	0	6
Flex 'n' Gate	11	3	8	0	6
TD Waterhouse					
Wealth Management	12	1	11	0	2
SCORES					
RCR Royal LePage	7	AURORAestate.ca			10
AURORAestate.ca	6	TD Waterhouse Wealth			4
TD Waterhouse Wealt	11	Rotary Club of Aurora			5
BMO - Mortgages	10	BMO - Mortgages			3
Rotary Club of Aurora	17	Flex 'n' Gate			10
RONA Cashway	7	BMO - Mortgages			2
RCR Royal LePage	20				
Flex 'n' Gate	7				

York Simcoe Interlock Baseball Peewee 2006 Standings as of July 14					
Team	P	W	L	T	Pts.
FutureStars Baseball Camp	13	9	3	1	19
Aurora Home Hardware	11	8	2	1	17
FileBank Records	13	8	4	1	17
Phil's Motors	14	7	5	2	16
Mastercut Property Services	11	6	3	2	14
Centre Ice Sports	6	4	1	1	9
Good Year - Aurora	15	3	10	2	8
Gary's Service & Towing	7	2	4	1	5
Pefferlaw Lions Club	7	1	6	0	2
Rhind Electric	7	1	5	1	3
Toronto Star	8	1	7	0	2
York Simcoe Interlock Baseball Rookie 2006 Standings as of July 10					
Team	P	W	L	T	Pts
King 2 (Schomberg IGA)	5	4	0	1	9
Dr. Orschel's Drillers	6	4	1	1	9
Dr. Chan - Bradford	5	2	2	1	5
King 1	4	2	2	0	4
Priestly Demolition	10	1	8	1	3
SCORES					
King 1	21	Dr. Orschel's Drillers	28		
Priestly Demolition	17	Priestly Demolition	15		
Dr. Orschel's Drillers	24				
Dr. Chan - Bradford	13				



It was give and get at Resthaven Nursing Home last week. Resthaven officials honoured Walter Blackman, left, for his community efforts over the year. Making the presentation is Resthaven Administrator Edith Schultz. At the same time, members from the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program presented Resthaven with an award. Above are, left to right, Vivian Hould, Therapy Dog Program co-ordinator; Resthaven's Sylvia Fletcher, and, holding the dog “Teeny”, Diane Purser.

Auroran photos by David Falconer



Strategic plan gets town okay

From page 1

time frame, and responsibility of the various goals and objectives.

He indicated that when council adopts the strategic plan update there would be further work in the development of performance measures based on the actions identified in the plan and requires a leader to ensure the actions are implemented.

It was also suggested that a Strategic Plan Implementation Committee be established to assist in gathering performance measurement data from departments, analyzing the information and providing reports.

Several questions for clarification were asked by councillors including one by Councillor Ron Wallace who asked what would happen to the town when it was fully built out with no more revenue from development charges.

Pittari replied that a limited land base had to be carefully balanced between residential and employment lands to be sustainable. He also pointed out that the provincial Places to Grow policy calls for more intensification.

Resident Klaus Wehrenberg also addressed council to

oppose the plan.

He said the vision statement was "gobbley-gook" and was not inspiring.

He was also critical of the goals which he claimed placed the economy over the environment and they were not satisfactory as far as he was concerned.

He was also critical of the public consultation process as the meetings with stakeholders were held before the public sessions and more consultation was required especially regarding the town's trail system.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said the document was “too wordy and all over the place” and should be brief and to the point.

She added that in the past council had paid little attention to the plan in making decisions especially with regard to fiscal responsibility.

Other councillors said they didn't see the plan as vague and the action plan needed to be wordy.

In response to a comment about the vision statement, Pittari replied that the public preferred the one presented rather than a briefer one that was also discussed.

After further discussion the Strategic Plan as presented was finally adopted.

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U8/9B W - Orange - Netherlands 2 (J. Pecora 1) vs **Forest - Mexico - Brushcut Property Maintenance** 2; **Yellow - Brazil** 8 (J. Ferlito 2, M. Fleck 1, J. Stobo 3, J. Fenchuk 2) vs **Royal - France - Bell World** 3 (M. Da Costa 1, C. Rice 2); **Kelly - Italy - Minuteman Press** 7 (I. Reid 2, J. Moreland 2, P. Bourrie 2, A. Bernier 1) vs **Navy - USA** 0.

U8B T/TH- JUNE 1 - Yellow - Brazil - Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre 8 (C. Theissen 4, J. West 3, N. sansalone 1) vs **Navy - USA - Core Micro Technology** 4 (G. Sanford 1, Z. Razak 1, J. Kleine 1); **Forest - Mexico - Kavanagh Roofing** 4 (T. Kuchar 2, A. Caicco 1, R. Walsh 1) vs **Red - England - Aurora Shopping Centre** 1 (C. Dyer 1); **Kelly - Italy - Flagship Software Ltd.** 7 (C. Zinner 1, M. Heese 2, J. Schachter 2, A. Johnston 1, E. Mina 1) vs **Orange - Netherlands - Pizza Pizza** 2 (J. Picket 1, A. Gismondi 1); **Champagne - Germany - Allstars Courier Service** 3 (E. Cherubine 1, N. Trewern 1, E. Faber 1) vs **Royal - France - Port Royal Mills** 1 (P. Servidio 1).

JUNE 8 - Yellow - Brazil - Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre 4 (C. Theissen 1, J. Chiarenza 1, B. Ramsay 2) vs **Red - England - Aurora Shopping Centre** 4 (C. Dyer 1, T. Murray 1, M. Montessanti 2); **Champagne - Germany - Allstars Courier Service** 4 (J. McKay 1, E. Cherubini 1, J. Braown 1, E. Faber 1) vs **Navy - USA - Core Micro Technology** 2 (Z. Razak 2); **Royal - France - Port Royal Mills** 4 (E. Duarte 1, E. Shennan 2, B. Ramsey 1) vs **Orange - Netherlands - Pizza Pizza** 2 (M. Richard 1, J. Picket 1, H. Jarvis 3); **Forest - Mexico - Kavanagh Roofing** 2 (J. Smith 1, T. Kuchar 1) vs **Kelly - Italy - Flagship Software Ltd** 2 (J. Schachter 1, E. Mina 1).

JUNE 15 - Yellow - Brazil - Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre 4 (C. Theissen 1, J. West 1, J. Chiarenza 1, N. Sansalone 1) vs **Champagne - Germany - Allstars Courier Service** 2 (N. Trewern 2); **Royal - France - Port Royal Mills** 0 vs **Forest - Mexico - Kavanagh Roofing** 2; **Navy - USA - Core Micro Technology Inc.** 5 (A. Seto 1, Z. Razak 3, E. Woodhead 1) vs **Orange - Netherlands - Pizza Pizza** 3 (A. Link 1, J. Pickett 2);**Kelly -Italy - Flagship Software Ltd.** 3 (C. Zinner 2, J. Schachter 1) vs **Red - England - Aurora Shopping Centre** 2.

JUNE 22 - Red - England - Aurora Shopping Centre 4 (M. Menna 1, M. Tyndale 1, J. Salama- Frankes 1, C. Braund 1) vs **Royal - France - Port Royal Mills Ltd.** 0; **Champagne - Germany - Allstars Courier Services** 5 (E. Cherubini, J. McKay, S. Broad, M. Gardner, N. Trewern, Q. Rowden) vs **Orange - Netherlands - Pizza Pizza** 0; **Forest - Mexico - Kavanagh Roofing** 2 (T. Kuchar 1, J. Altomare 1) vs **Navy -** 1 (C. Eby 1); **Yellow - Brazil - Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre** 5 (C. Theissen 1, J. Wyndham 1, L. Verre 1, A. Pringle 1) vs **Kelly - Italy - Flagship Software Ltd.** 5 (J. Schachter 1, C. Zinner 3, C. Reilly 1);

JUNE 29 - Red - England - Aurora Shopping Centre 4 (M. Tyndale 2, C. Dyer 2) vs **Navy - USA - Core Micro Technology Inc.** 2 (A. Sesto 2);

Champagne - Germany - Allstars Courier Service 3 (E. Faber 2, J. McKay 1) vs **Forest - Mexico - Kavanagh Roofing** 0; **Yellow - Brazil - Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre** 4 (J. West 2, A. Kiraly 1, J. West 2, A. Kiraly 1, J. Chiarenza 1) vs **Orange - Netherlands - Pizza Pizza** 2; **Royal - France - Port Royal Mills** 1 vs **Kelly - Italy - Flagship** 5 (J. Schachter, C. Zinner, E. Mina, M. Heese).

JULY 6 - Red - England - Aurora Shopping Centre 3 (M. Monsanti 1, C. Dyer 1, J. Eydt 1) vs **Champagne -** 3 (S. Broad 1, E. Cherubini 2); **Forest - Mexico - Kavanagh Roofing** 3 (T. Kuchar 1, R. Walsh 1, G. Adams 1) vs **Orange - Netherlands - Pizza Pizza** 2 (R. Simmons 1, A. Link 1); **Navy - USA - Core Micro Technology Inc.** 3 (W. Lentze 1, Z. Razau 2) vs **Kelly - Italy - Flagship Software Ltd.** 3 (E.Mina 1, M. Heese 1, A. Johnston 1); **Royal - France - Port Royal Mills** 2 (B. Ramsey 1, E. Shennan 1) vs **Yellow - Brazil - Aurora Home Hardware** 0.

U9B M/W - JULY 5 - Yellow - Brazil 0 vs **Red - England - Priestly Demolition Inc.** 2 (M. Fisher 2); **Orange - Netherlands - Pizza Pizza** 4 (S. Gulessarian 2, M. Neice 1, M. McKerracher 1) vs **Royal - France - Summers & Smith** 4 (T. Davidson 1, T. Foster 1, A. Klinowski 1, J. Haigas 1); **Kelly - Italy - Midrange** 2 (S. Sebast 1, M. Perri 1) vs **Forest - Mexico - Roberts Awnings & Signs** 1 (B. White 1).

U10B - JUNE 29 - Orange - Netherlands 1 (R. Manson 1) vs **Sky - Portugal - Supreme Collision** 2 (J. Powell 1, R. O'Brien 1).

JULY 6 - Kelly - Italy - CIBC 4 (M. Slack 2, V. Chadarov 2) vs **Silver - Argentina - Perfect Moves** 3 (K. McMillan 1, L. Fiedeldey 2); **Navy -USA - Barb Blaser Remax** 4 (C. Adams 3, A. DeRoos 1) vs **Royal - France - Rai Grant Insurance Brokers** 1 (F. Bicego 1); **Red - England - Appliance Canada** 3 (S. Taylor 1, G. Oulahen 1, A. Cicchino 1) vs **Orange - Netherlands** 0.

U10B STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
England	5	0	1	16
Italy	4	1	1	13
USA	4	2	0	12
Argentina	3	3	0	9
Nethrlands	3	3	0	9
Portugal	1	4	0	3
France	1	5	0	3
Brazil	1	4	0	3

U10G STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
England	5	0	1	16
Portugal	4	2	0	12
Brazil	3	1	2	11
Italy	3	2	1	10
USA	3	3	0	9
Mexico	2	3	1	7
Argentina	2	3	0	6
Germany	2	4	0	6
France	1	3	1	4
Nethrlands	1	5	0	3

U11B STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Italy	3	0	1	10
Brazil	3	1	0	9
France	2	0	2	8
USA	1	2	1	4
England	1	3	0	3
Germany	0	4	0	0

U11G STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
USA	5	1	0	15
England	4	1	1	13
Mexico	4	1	1	13
France	3	2	1	10
Nethrlands	3	2	1	10
Germany	1	3	2	5
Brazil	1	5	0	3
Italy	0	6	0	0

U12B - JULY 6 - Navy - USA - Laurion Law Office 6 (M. Hart 3, B. Puskar 1, J. Davis 1, M. Skoulikas 1) vs **Yellow - Brazil - Envirocar Paint & Collision Service** 1 (R. Valvasori 1); **Royal - France - Lukezic Inc.** 6 (L. Driedger 1, C. Lau 1, A. Phipps 1, A. Partridge 3) vs **Champagne - Germany** 1 (M. Tanuta 1); **Kelly - Italy** 5 (Z. Richards 3, L. Varone 1, C. Bamford 1) vs **Red - England** 3 (A. Pitura 2, J. White 1).

U12B STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
USA	3	1	0	9
France	3	1	0	9
Italy	3	1	0	9
Enland	2	2	0	6
Germany	2	3	0	6
Brazil	0	5	0	0

U12G STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Brazil	4	0	2	14
England	4	1	1	13
USA	2	2	2	8
France	2	2	2	8
Germany	2	2	2	8
Italy	2	2	2	8
Mexico	1	4	1	4
Nethrlands	1	5	0	3

U13/14B STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Italy	7	0	0	21
Mexico	5	2	0	15
England	5	2	0	15
France	4	3	0	12
USA	2	4	1	7
WSSC	1	4	2	5
Nethrlands	1	5	1	4
Brazil	1	6	0	3

U13G - JULY 3 - Champagne - Germany - Immersive Media 3 (J. Bever 1, D. Cantarutti 2) vs **Navy - USA - Bank of Montreal** 8 (J. Nerling 1, M. Hulbert 7); **Kelly - Italy - Twist Marketing** 4 (B. Cackirovski 1, R. Kane 1, A. James 2) vs **Yellow - Brazi - Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre** 2 (K. Brown 1, R. Skolud 1); **Red - England - Excellon Resources Inc.** 1 (B. Nealon 1) vs **M & L Fotografics** 1 (D. Doner 1).

U13G STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Italy	6	0	0	18
USA	5	1	0	15
Brazil	3	3	0	9
England	1	3	1	4
Germany	1	4	1	4
France	0	5	0	0

U14/15G - Red - England - SSL Group Chartered Accountants 3 (N. bailey 2, J. Davies 1) vs **Forest - Mexico** 2 (K. Kinzinger 1, S. Smith 1); **Navy - USA - Strategic Technology Consulting Inc.** 4 (S. Dilena 1, Ashlyn Kerr 1, S. Chefro 1, C. Pahal 1) vs **Yellow - Brazil - Izz Popat Royal LePage** 1 (C. Zuber 1); **Kelly - Italy - Hunter Lavigne Communications Inc.** 6 (M. Hilliard, S. Saccone, B. Capobianco, K. Uetz, S.

Burt)) vs **Orange - Netherlands - Pizza Pizza** 1 (A. Nichols 1); **Champagne - Germany** 3 (S. Katanis 1, T. Allison 1, S. DeAlmeida 1) vs **Royal - France - Power Excellence Ltd.** 4 (A. Staniewski 3, A. Malines 1); **Silver - Argentina** 2 (S. Letourneau 1, S. Deacon 1) vs **Sky - Portugal** 7 (P. Sidea 1, C. Smyth 1, L. Boniface 2, C. Romano 2, L. Street 1).

U14/15 GIRLS STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
USA	3	1	0	9
Italy	3	1	0	9
Portugal	3	1	0	9
England	2	1	1	7
France	2	1	1	7
Brazil	2	2	0	6
Germany	2	2	0	6
Mexico	1	2	1	4
Argentina	0	3	1	1
Nethrlands	0	4	0	0

U15/17B - JULY 4 - Royal - France - Omars Shoes 5 (R. Ierfino 1, A. Mangialardi 1, N. Whelan 1, C. Divincenzo 2) vs **Champagne - Germany** 3 (J. Defrietis 1, A. DeRose 1, B. Mulholland 1); **Kelly - Italy** 5 (S. Denotter 1, P. Siguenza 1, D. Evans 1, J. Meron 2) vs **Red - England - Excellon Resources Inc.** 1 (A. Cantarutti 1).

JULY 11 - Yellow - Brazil 6 (B. Roopnaringsingh 1, A. Silaev 2, K. Boettcher 1, N. Malloux 1) vs **Red - England - Excellon Resources** 1 (L. Ghegin 1); **Champagne - Germany** 3 (J. Domanico 2, C. Thompson 1) vs **Kelly - Italy** 3 (P. Siguenza 2, J. Meron 1).

U15/U17B STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Brazil	6	1	0	18
Italy	5	1	1	16
France	4	2	1	13
Argentina	1	3	2	5
Germany	1	4	1	4
England	0	6	1	1
USA	0	0	0	0

U16/U19G T/TH STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
France	5	0	1	16
Germany	4	2	0	12
Argentina	3	1	2	11
Brazil	3	2	1	10
USA	1	3	2	5
England	1	3	2	5
Italy	1	3	1	4
Portugal	0	4	1	1

COMPETITIVE STINGERS RESULTS

U11B - Aurora Stingers Black against **KNSC**, won 3 - 0. Goals scored by A. Dawson, E. Slimkowich and J. Wilcock. **U16G - The Aurora Stingers** captured the championship in the **U17** division of the **Toronto Cup**. The **Stingers** defeated **U17** Premier Whitby 1-0 in the final game as **U15** call-up J. Gowlett split the **Whitby** defence at the mid-way point of the first half and found the corner of the net. The team then played "sting"-y defence the rest of the way, constantly turning away the furious Whitby attack.

GAME OF THE WEEK

One team, one club, one town. Come out and support our players. Enjoy the atmosphere and be a part of the AYSC spirit. **The GAME OF THE WEEK** runs throughout the summer.

Complete listings and the **GAME OF THE WEEK** results can be found on the club's website: www.aysc.ca.

More townhouses coming to Aurora

At a recent public planning meeting, Aurora councillors approved in principle an application from MI (Magna International) Developments for 134 townhouses on 24.5 acres of land on Wellington Street East.

The approval is subject to the resolution of outstanding issues.

The lands are located on the north side of Wellington Street East, just near the town's pumping station and new fire hall.

Lands are currently vacant and are bisected by one of two small tributaries of the East Holland River.

These tributaries have been designated by the Ministry of Natural Resources as components of the provincially significant East Aurora Wetland Complex.

The development block is located to the south and east of the tributaries.

The proposed development is projected to facilitate population growth by 402 people.

The proposed road network comprises a single full turn movement onto Wellington Street East located near the eastern property line which connects to an internal ring road that services the residential lots.

York Region has advised that a second point will be approved for emergency access only near the western boundary.

The four townhouse blocks facing Wellington Street will have their garages facing the street to

the rear with a minimum of one parking space in the garage and two parking spaces in the driveway.

The remaining residential blocks on local roads will have attached garages with the same parking arrangements. In addition there will be 68 on-street parking spaces.

Klaus Wehrenberg questioned the parking options and suggested another option was to negotiate with Magna to obtain a strip of land at the southern boundary of the development to the south of Wellington Street for part of an east/west trail system.

Councillor Ron Wallace noted the many units facing Wellington Street and asked if noise preventive measures were considered due to the traffic on the street.

He was supported by Councillor Nigel Kean who added the noise factor was a major concern.

Director of Planning Sue Seibert replied there had been no suggestion of a noise berm for the development.

Councillor Kean said he couldn't support the cash in lieu option and the purchase of land adjacent to the recreation complex but supported the trail option as suggested by Wehrenberg.

With assurance from staff the various comments would be considered and council approved the application in principle subject to the resolution of outstanding issues.

Susan E. Tucker
Lawyer & Notary Public
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History abounds at Caruso and Commport destinations

By **SUSAN SCHAPPERT**
with material by **ALISON BARLET**
and **MIKE CARUSO**

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.

Sixth in the series are two of Aurora's restored heritage buildings, Caruso's/Mary's Flower Shop, and Commport Communications.

CARUSO'S

Built in 1887, 15210 Yonge Street has been owned and occupied by the Caruso family and business since 1913. Beginning as a fruit and vegetable market, called Mary's Fruit Store, the building has also been home to a barber shop, lawyer's office, and shoe store.

When Mary's Flower Shop opened in the 1950s, these spaces were combined into one store.

Extensive restoration work in 1997 and 2004 created the store we are invited to peek behind-the-scenes on the Doors Open tour.

The building has also been a home to the Caruso family for decades, and the second storey apartment is still occupied by members of the Caruso family.

Ninety-three years after the opening of the original business, the third generation of Caruso's now operates Mary's Flower Shop, making it Aurora's oldest continually operated family business.

Before you enter Mary's Flower Shop from the Yonge Street entrance, notice the concrete patch on the sidewalk.

This is where coal for the original boiler was delivered into the basement.

While inside, take in the tin ceilings, which were installed in the 1930s along with electric light fixtures which are still in use today in the main store.

The wood floors are original to building.

The renovations in 1997 saw the rear portion of the main level store converted from living quarters to shop space.

The building is still using steam as a heat source with the original piping and cast iron radiators.

Feel free to walk down the stairs to the basement

and spot the original walk-in cooler door at the base of the stairs, which now leads to office space.

The crude stone and cement cistern located in the north basement area was once used in the preparation of vegetables for sale.

The south basement area is relatively unchanged from its original state.

The rear portion of lower level was originally a stable area for horses and over the years the original structure has been gradually modernized.

Today it is used as a floral design area, workshop, and shipping/receiving area.

Even regular patrons of Mary's Flower Shop should visit the shop on the Doors Open tour.

Take a rare behind-the-scenes tour of the floral design area, and identify the original and restored features of this living history site!

COMMPORT

Commport Communications International, Inc., completed reconstruction on their historical property at 3 Ross Street in 2004.

This electronic communications company, which offers business-to-business services to customers worldwide, has been operating in the Town of Aurora for more than 15 years.

Visit the home of Commport Communications on the Doors Open Aurora tour to learn about the extensive renovation of the original 1915 house.

The renovation was inspired by the history that surrounds it.

Adjacent to Aurora's historic GO Transit Station (also on the Doors Open Aurora tour), Commport Communications wished to pay tribute to this local landmark that has helped shape the town.

The design of 3 Ross Street incorporates a sensitively restored heritage building, with a new extension that is intended to reflect the architecture of the station.

Old meets new on the exterior of the Commport building with its pillars and peaked roofs.

Much of the original building was preserved, especially in the interior office spaces.

The original train station, constructed in 1853 and rebuilt on the east side of the tracks by 1885, was the first destination ever to be reached from Toronto.

Industries boomed with the increased access to Toronto and surrounding townships as the rail line gave long awaited relief from highly expensive and seasonally impossible travel on Yonge Street.

Aurora quickly became a hub of business and local culture and can credit the arrival of the rail line and station with much of its early growth and prosperity.

Come and tour the interior of this interesting heritage building and its sympathetic addition.

Notice original features remaining in the 1915 building, and learn about the extensive restoration and addition process.

The home of Commport Communications is an excellent example of how to re-use heritage buildings, and adapt them to meet modern needs.



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Area once considered for a regional airport

Back in November, 1971, Aurora and Newmarket Councils were approached by Dr. Peter Levers, representing the York Regional Airport Association, for support in building an airport in the northern part of the region.

He pointed out that one possible site was between Aurora and Newmarket and the other was near Queensville. Approximately 150 acres would be required to build a 5,000-foot runway capable of handling business aircraft.

He added that the King City airport was too small and Buttonville provided service to the south part of the region and northern sections of Toronto.

An airport was needed in the north area of York Region to bring business and jobs and help the tourism industry.

He was hopeful that the region would contribute to the cost of the proposed airport and the association was researching what was required to seek federal and provincial funding.

But it was a dream that never materialized, since such a site was never constructed.

WHEN YONGE STREET WAS RENUMBERED

Prior to September, 1988, street numbers for Yonge Street in Aurora started at Wellington Street and properties were numbered as Yonge Street North or Yonge Street South and it was very easy to identify and find a location.

With the implementation of the 911 emergency system there was the potential danger of duplication for emergency services in not knowing if the Yonge Street address was in Thornhill, Richmond Hill, Newmarket or Aurora.

As a result the decision was made to adopt a uniform numbering system for Yonge Street starting at Lake Ontario, through Toronto into York Region resulting in some cases five-digit addresses and difficulty for the general public in determining where the property was located.

It was not a popular decision as it was necessary for many businesses and residents to assume additional costs in changing the address on their stationery, business cards, etc. and people had, and are still having difficulty finding addresses on Yonge Street.

Some time ago Councillor Ron Wallace conceived the idea of dividing the town into three heritage districts, so that in addition to the address, the district name would be included to narrow the area for searching, but so far no action has been taken.

The five-digit numbering may help the emergency services in finding the correct location, but it's tough for the average citizen.

AURORA NEEDS MORE POLICING

One of the more common complaints at Aurora Council is speeding on residential streets and rather than insisting on better police enforcement, council lowers speed limits, installs more stop signs and builds more speed humps.

It's not a new problem, as back in February, 1984, then Mayor Dick Illingworth threatened to return to a town police force unless Aurora received better police protection.

He said at the time that he was concerned about the safety of children and senior citizens and in his frequent trips around the municipality he seldom saw a York Regional Police cruiser on patrol.

He pointed out that when Aurora had its own police force, there were normally two cruisers on patrol and he requested York Regional Police to have at least one cruiser in the municipality 24 hours a day.

His request was rejected by the Regional Police Commission after a report by Chief Bruce Crawford said the demand for police services in the town was less than average.

Not much has changed, but the force has grown substantially.

AURORA COUNCIL IN 1968

* Long before the region was given the mandate of issuing debentures for its member municipalities, in November, 1968, Aurora Council agreed to issue debentures to raise \$2,950,000 to build a new secondary school on Wellington Street West for the Aurora and District High School Board.

* After a seven-month search for a recreation director, council decided they couldn't hire a qualified person at the salary the town was willing to pay, so they decided to hire a less qualified person as a recreation director assistant.

But council couldn't agree on the Parks and Recreation Committee's recommendation to hire the only applicant for the \$6,217 job.

A full scale argument developed in which councillors accused each other of making a political football out of

the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Community Centre Board.

* There was criticism of appointed citizen committee members making recommendations to council as councillors were the ones who had to answer to the taxpayer, but council finally agreed to meet with both groups before hiring a new assistant director.

* A contract was awarded to International Harvester in Newmarket for a new tractor for the Parks and Recreation Committee for \$3,111, the second lowest of the six bids received.

* And the town engineer, an architect and the Building Committee were directed to conduct a \$500 study of the Old Post Office and the vacant Church Street School before making a decision on the future of the buildings.



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Residents would have Hillary as a neighbour

Some residents may have Aurora's most significant historical building as a neighbour if a small infill development, approved at a recent public planning meeting, becomes a reality.

The development would occur behind a large heritage home on Yonge Street, immediately south of the famous Hillary House.

The purpose of the application is to amend the zoning bylaw to permit the construction of a five-unit residential development to the rear of the existing dwelling.

The five units will face north towards Hillary House and would be more than 2,000 square feet in size.

The proposed sanitary system would connect the existing and proposed residential units north to the Hillary House property, subject to an agreement.

Town staff noted the manoeuvring space for the residential and visitor parking areas is 5.7 metres instead of the 7.4 metres required and there is insufficient space for a 1.5 buffer strip along the north property line.

It was also noted that a substantial amount of technical

information and supporting documentation was lacking for Public Works with respect to sanitary servicing and stormwater management, and comments from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and York Central Fire Services had not been received.

The proposal is consistent with the intensification development provisions of the Provincial Policy Statement although further technical information is required through the site plan process.

Bruce Hall, a planner for the applicant, said there was a demand for the product in the downtown area and the heritage home, although not designated, would be retained as a residence.

In response to the staff comment about the lack of manoeuvring room on the driveway, he said the proposed 5.7 metres was adequate and that a privacy fence would be built along the northern boundary instead of the required buffer strip.

Helen Roberts, President of the Aurora Historical Society which owns Hillary House, said the Society Board approved

the project in principle subject to concerns about drainage and damage due to heavy construction equipment.

John McIntyre, owner of Horton Place to the south, said he supported the project in principle and was sure that agreement could be reached on outstanding issues.

He added the proposal was much better than a previous application for an apartment building which was out of scale for the area.

Gail Novak, representing residents of Irwin Avenue to the south and Machell Avenue to the west expressed concern about drainage and landscaping and asked that disposal of storm water be reviewed.

Councillor Nigel Kean rec-

ommended the proposal be approved in principle and brought back to another public meeting.

Concern was also expressed about traffic trying to make a left turn on Yonge Street to enter or exit the property and the inability of a fire truck to turn around on the property.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said there was no need for the proposal to come back to another public meeting and council should make it happen providing all the outstanding issues were resolved.

It was finally agreed that approval of the zoning bylaw amendment be subject to the comments received and subject to the review of at least the second site plan submission.

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