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Vol. 6 No. 42

AURORAN, Week of August 22, 2006

905-727-3300

Briefly

Bird tests positive

Of the four dead birds found last week that tested positive for West Nile virus, one was found in Aurora.

A crow was found in the Town of Aurora, close to the intersection of Yonge Street and Industrial Parkway South.

Two birds were found in Newmarket and a fourth was discovered in Markham.

They were picked up through the WNV surveillance program and are the first positive birds reported in York this season.

Last year, the first two positive birds in York Region were reported August 8th and were found in the Town of Markham. In 2005, five human cases, 22 birds and 14 mosquito pools tested positive for the virus in York Region.

To date, there are no reported cases of WNV in humans in York Region.

To report a dead crow or blue jay, and for more information on WNV or any health-related concern, contact York Region Health Services Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653 or visit www.york.ca.

And the winner is...

Milli-seconds after noon Friday, The Auroran's phones began to ring. An hour later, they were still ringing as people attempted to answer the question we posed in last week's Auroran.

Rita Rowen of Aurora was the caller who got through first with the correct answer.

The building - and it's still there - is at 90 Wellington Street East, opposite Larmont Street, but it's no longer a commercial outlet. Today, it's someone's home.

Rita wins dinner for two at Jonathan's Fine Foods Restaurant.

For more information behind the photo in last week's paper, please see Page 14.

Cell phone success

A recent plea by the Aurora Rotary Club for old cell phones has resulted in a huge collection being amassed at The Auroran offices, but officials are convinced there are more out there.

If you have an old cell phone kicking around the house, drop it off at 75 Mary Street, Unit 3, as the Rotary Club is using this idea as a fundraiser.

Writing your life

If you're writing memoirs, family history, creative non-fiction or any other kind of true story, the Aurora Writers' Group can help.

They're presenting a workshop Saturday, Sept. 16, at St. Andrew's Church on Mosley Street from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The workshop will be led by Brian Henry, who has been a book editor for 23 years and currently teaches creative writing at Ryerson University.

For further information, call Susan Stevenson at 905-751-1674 or e-mail Brian at b.henry@3web.net.

The hockey game

Tickets are now available for what is shaping up to be the hockey game of the season early next month.

The Aurora Tigers will meet their arch-rival Newmarket Hurricanes in a pre-season Junior A hockey exhibition game and the winner will be Southlake Regional Health Centre, and particularly the proposed new cancer centre.

Organized by Member of Parliament Belinda Stronach, the game is expected to draw more than 2,000 fans.

Billed as the Battle of Yonge Street, the game will be played in the Ray Twinney Complex in Newmarket, Thursday, Sept. 7 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

But you'll want to go earlier than that, because a tailgate party will take place outside the complex, courtesy of M&M Meats.

Tickets are available at The Auroran offices, 75 Mary Street, Unit 3. They are \$10 for adults; \$6 for seniors and students.

Correction

An error on a York Regional Police press release last week mis-identified the 18-year-old youth who was killed crossing Yonge Street in Aurora recently.

Leif William Koenigs was pronounced dead at hospital.

The Auroran regrets the error.

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Heavy equipment arrived on the Hartman House property last week, and by the weekend, the house in the background had disappeared, but not after several attempts were made to save it. Priestley Demolition held off the work for days while people tried to find a way to save the 180-year-old structure. All efforts failed.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Hartman House is gone...

When push came to shove, shove won.

And Thursday, after efforts of dozens of people to save it, Aurora's historic Hartman House became a pile of rubble.

Not, however, before several pieces of the house were carefully picked from the debris and saved for posterity.

The house, located on the southwest corner of Bayview and Wellington, was not required when Aurora Toyota bought the land to construct a car dealership.

The Auroran, about a year ago, ran a half page ad in the newspaper advising that anyone who wanted the house could have it for a dollar.

All they had to do was move it.

Moving costs have been estimated to be anywhere between \$40,000 and a hundred grand.

There were no takers.

However, recently a descendant of Joseph Hartman, Patricia Hartman, who currently lives in Niagara-On-The-Lake, began asking questions about the possibility of moving the 180-year-old structure.

That brought several players into the picture and ideas of how much it would cost and where the house would go were bandied about.

MP Belinda Stronach was asked about moving the house to Magna lands across the street; developer Michael Rice looked at moving the building to his property on the northwest corner and using the house as a restaurant.

Even Aurora Toyota was asked if there was another location on the property where the house might go.

Priestley Demolition held onto the demolition permit for more than a week while others investigated ways to save the building.

Vic Priestley told The Auroran last week his men would take off the porches Tuesday ("they have to come off even if the building is to be moved") but he would wait until noon Wednesday before continuing with the demolition.

In the time space, no reasonable alternative could be found and by the weekend, the Hartman House had disappeared.

Before the house came down, a family who once lived there, visited it. Read their report on Page 3.

Watch a movie - in the Town Park!

At one time there were no theatres in Aurora.

Now you can watch movies in the Town Park.

The Town of Aurora is taking movie-watching to a new level with a unique change of venue: outside.

All you need is a blanket or a lawn chair.

"Cheaper by the Dozen II", a movie partially filmed in Aurora, will be shown on a jumbo outdoor screen at Town Park Wednesday, August 30, starting at 9 p.m.

Not only will a great movie be shown but M&M Meat Shops will be on hand with a barbecue, complete with popcorn.

Located in the old section of Aurora, the Town Park is surrounded by Mosley, Wells, Metcalfe and Larmont Streets.

Visit www.e-aurora.ca for more details.

In case it rains, an alternate location has been secured.

Call the Special Events Line at 905-726-4762 for regular updates.

COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

Voice is a group of aspiring writers ages 12 to 19 interested in developing writing skills, working on a magazine and embarking on creative adventures with similarly minded people. The group meets in the Marjorie Andrews Room of the Aurora Library on the last Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. Call the Library at 905-727-9493 for more information.

Aurora Seniors present a movie night at the seniors' centre every Tuesday from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. Admission is \$1 for members and \$1.50 for guests, which includes the movie, a frozen treat and a drink.

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 barbecues 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 6.30 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.

York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for members from Aurora and area who would like to volunteer by joining the choir. Men, 16 years of age and older, are invited to visit any Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. in committee room B, York Region Administrative Centre, 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket. For more information, call volunteer chorus supervisor Lowell McCleeny at 905-727-9676.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22

Aurora Council meets in the council chambers of the Town Hall at 7 p.m. Aurora Cable Internet will telecast the council meeting at 6.30 p.m. the following night and at noon on the following Saturday and Sunday. This will be the last council telecast until after the municipal election November 13.

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.

* * * *

Party time at Hillary House, presented by the Aurora Historical Society, for children. 1 to 4 p.m. Admission, at \$7, includes crafts, stories, games and a snack. Call 905-727-8991 for more information.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

Last day to register your child for the 2006-2007 school year for the York Catholic District School Board at the Admissions Office, 320 Bloomington Road West Monday to Thursday from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Slide for Southlake, a 12-hour waterslide-a-thon from 5.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. at the Recreation Complex. Call 905-841-7529, extension 3510, for more information.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

Chuckwagon dinner and dance at the Aurora Legion. 6 p.m. \$12 per person. For further information call 905-727-9932.

Highland Chev-Olds Mixed Pairs Lawn Bowling Tournament begins at 10 a.m. at McMahon Park.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

Community Living Newmarket/Aurora District Annual Barbecue and Corn Roast at Simeon Park at 3.30 p.m. The park is located on Woodbine Avenue just south of Bloomington Road. Call 905-898-3000 for details.

First of three competitions at the Graystone Restaurant at 8 p.m. with the winner singing at the 19th annual Magna Hoedown September 16th plus thousands of dollars worth of gifts. Other competitions are slated for September 6 and 13.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with Aurora Cable Internet, presents "Internet Explorer and Outlook Express", the first of a 10-part monthly series of free computer workshops. Magna Room, 7 p.m. Register on-line, at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

Aurora and Newmarket employees of RBC Financial Group 2nd Annual Golf Tournament of Hope at Carrying Place in King with proceeds to the York Region Abuse Program.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

It's the "Battle of Yonge Street" between the Aurora Tigers and the Newmarket Hurricanes at the Ray Twinney Complex in Newmarket at 7.30 p.m. M & M Meats is sponsoring the tailgate barbecue from 6 to 7 p.m. The event is hosted by Belinda Stronach with proceeds to the proposed Regional Cancer Clinic at Southlake. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for seniors and students and are now on sale at The Auroran, 75 Mary Street, Unit 3.

SEPTEMBER 8 TO 10

Plan to attend Aurora's first annual Ribfest at Machell Park. A beer garden is included.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Aurora Historical Society Candlelight Tour of Homes to celebrate Aurora's first heritage conservation district as half a dozen fine homes in the Spruce/Maple neighbourhood will be open for viewing plus Willow Farm and Hillary House from 6.30 to 9.30 p.m. Tickets are now on sale at The Auroran, 75 Mary Street, Unit 3. Call 905-727-8991 for details.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

The Aurora Film Circuit opens its new season at the Cineplex Odeon Theatre on Bayview Avenue at 6.45 p.m. with the movie "Live and Become" which was a crowd favourite at the 2005 Toronto International Film Festival. Other films will be shown October 2 and November 13. Tickets are available at R & R Revisited on Mary Street and the Aurora Public Library for \$10 each.

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.

Aurora Chamber of Commerce annual barbecue at which the seven playhouses, including that People's Choice Award "The Castle" by Aurora Cable, will be raffled. Tickets are available at the Chamber office and at The Auroran at \$4 each or three for \$10 with proceeds for Habitat for Humanity.

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting - Members' Patio Party at the Chamber office, Yonge and Industrial Parkway South. No cost but pre-registration is necessary. 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Registration opens for classes in Scottish dancing at the Aurora Leisure Complex starting September 28. For more information about the classes call 905-727-1022.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

The 19th annual Magna Hoedown will take place in a huge tent on the grounds of Magna International on Wellington Street East to raise funds for local charities and not-for-profit organizations. Last year the Hoedown raised \$410,000.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Aurora/Newmarket SuperWalk for Parkinson's Disease

takes place at Fairy Lake in Newmarket. Registration, a Taoist Tai Chi demonstration and speeches begin at 9.30 a.m. at the Water Street entrance and the walk begins at 10.30 a.m. For more information call or e-mail Kim Rouse-Parypa at 905-713-0774 kimrouse@accessv.com.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Hike the Aurora Arboretum at 7 p.m. guided by a member of the Aurora Community Arboretum hosted by the Environmental Advisory Committee. Return to the Seniors' Centre for refreshments and a short talk. Pre-register at Info Aurora, 905-727-8214.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Aurora Public Library hosts a free "creative writing workshop" led by local author and instructor, Marnie Maguire. Marjorie Andrews Room. Limited seating. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five takes place at H2O Solutions, Insight Eyeworks and Sherwin-Williams Paints simultaneously, 444 and 446 Hollandview Trail. 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

General meeting of the Aurora Historical Society at 8 p.m. at Hillary House. Guest speaker to be confirmed. Call 905-727-8991 for details.

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".

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Keep Aurora's waterways clean by participating in the Shoreline Clean-up, organized by the Environmental Advisory Committee. Register through Info Aurora, 905-727-8214.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast at Gateway Cafe and Lanes, 210 Edward Street. 7.30 to 8.45 a.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

An evening with Katherine Govier hosted by the Aurora Public Library. She will read from her book "Three Views of Crystal Water", followed by the sale and signing of the book. Magna Room, 7 p.m. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

Official Opening of the State Farm Insurance Canadian Headquarters Office Complex on Wellington Street East, near Highway 404. Entrance off Leslie Street.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

York Regional Police Male Chorus host the 14th annual 'In Harmony With The Community' concert at the St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Newmarket. Concert features police choirs from Halton and Durham Regions and York Regional Police Male Chorus. Guest community choirs will be York Region Children's Chorus and 'Vivace' from Newmarket. Tickets are \$10. Call 905-727-9676 to order.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

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

Aurora's Trinity Anglican Church will feature Rev. Canon Tim Elliott performing "Two by Eight", a selection of inspirational jazz by one of the pioneers of incorporating jazz into sacred space. For ticket information call the church office at 905-727-6101.

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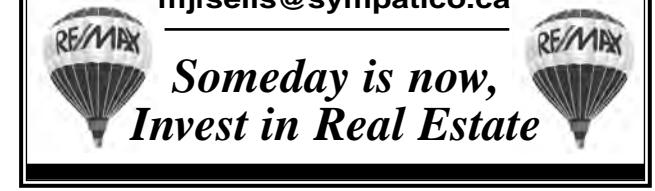
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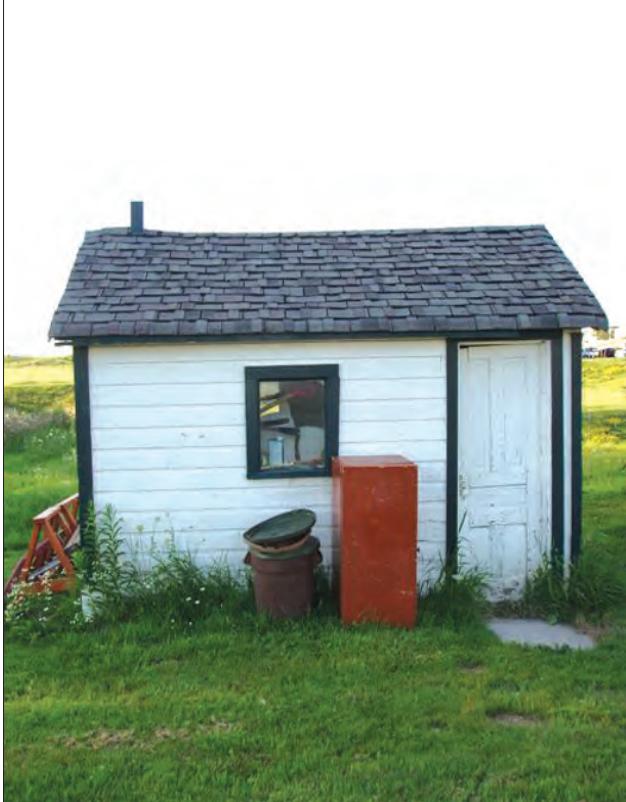
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Members of the Timbers family, left to right, Wayne, Gordon, Darlene and Howard, visited the site where the family once lived and toured the building in the background and milk house, photo at left. Hartman House, one of the oldest houses in York Region, believed to be about 180, was demolished last week.

Last visit to an old Aurora homestead

Members of the Timbers family paid a final visit to their former home, the Hartman Farmhouse, recently.

They were there assisting heritage consultant George Duncan in the documentation of the circa 1826 dwelling, believed to be one of York Region's oldest houses.

The Timbers family lived in the house from the early 1940s to 1969 and at the time was the focal point of a large dairy farm.

Although much of the dairy farm has vanished beneath the adjacent subdivision, a remnant of the dairy operation still exists in the form of a small milkhouse located east of the main dwelling.

Houses as old as the 180-year-old Hartman house often go through

many changes in their lifespan.

The Timbers family were assisting Mr. Duncan in identification of the layout and function of former walls, rooms, staircases, etc. to provide a picture of what the house was like at that point in its history, to help complete the picture of the evolution of this Aurora landmark.

They also shared photos to assist with the documentation project. Interesting discoveries included a former back staircase which had been completely closed off in recent years; the identification of an original fireplace, and remnants of original trim from the 1820s inside a closet which had escaped later renovations.

The Timbers family's association with the

property is commemorated through the name Timbers Park which is adjacent to the Hartman House property.

After two weeks of extensive measuring and documentation of the house, heritage consultant George Duncan painted an interesting verbal picture of how this house must have been perceived by the settlers in this area in the 1820s.

"One could imagine at that time, when most other residents in the area were living in small cottages like the historic Petch House, this grand five-bay, two-storey Georgian house in the middle of what was still largely wilderness, must have seemed like a palace."

Prior to its demolition, the house served as a Montessori school.



While the Hartman House was demolished last week, dozens of pieces of the structure were carefully saved and stockpiled by Priestly Demolition.

Auroran photo
by Ron Wallace



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History of Aurora traffic studies

One of the major problems facing Aurora Council other than rapid growth, traffic gridlock and fiscal management is traffic and parking problems.

At almost every council meeting there are requests for more stop signs, lower speed limits and speed humps.

It's not a new problem as back in 1970 council arranged with the Borough of North York for their Director of Traffic Operations to carry out a study of the town's traffic conditions and make recommendations.

Noting that traffic was heavy on Yonge Street in the downtown core due to parking on both sides of the street, he recommended parking meters be installed to eliminate all day parking and provide short term parking for the benefit of the merchants.

Aurora once had parking meters on Yonge Street which were removed in 1963 after a town-wide controversy and sold to

Newmarket.

The Traffic Operations director also recommended "no parking" restrictions be placed on Yonge Street during peak periods resulting in council adopting a bylaw to prohibit parking on the west side during the morning peak and on the east side during the evening peak.

He also recommended consideration be given to future prohibition of parking on Wellington Street, east and west of Yonge Street.

He noted there was no effective control over the usage of the town parking lots and recommended

more legible, reflecting signs indicating the location of the parking lots.

He also recommended that some of the "yield" signs at intersections be replaced with "stop" signs.

Another recommendation was for traffic signals at Aurora Heights and Yonge Street.

The town had previously applied to the province in 1967 for traffic lights at the intersection with the opening of the Community Centre, but the request was not approved as the intersection didn't meet the provincial warrants.

Finally in 1971, with the

assistance of York North MPP Bill Hodgson, authority was obtained for the traffic lights to be installed at the Aurora Heights intersection on condition they were tied into the traffic lights at Wellington.

Please see page 8

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Poor Richard

Tough for some seniors to survive today's high costs

*Councils should consider seniors,
When their budget, they prepare:
Or taxes will cause a loss of homes
Forcing them to live in the open air!*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Councils love to pass plans of subdivision of luxury homes in gated communities for the building fees, development charges and taxes they bring to the municipality.

What they seem to forget is the luxury homes push up the assessed value of older, smaller homes nearby causing the property taxes to increase and it's hitting some seniors on a fixed income especially hard.

Most of them have worked hard all their life at much lower salaries than the current rate and if they were fortunate enough to have a company pension plan, it was based on their salary and is barely sufficient to meet today's cost-of-living.

High property taxes combined with other increasing costs like insurance, medical and dental bills, drugs and other day-to-day expenses eat up most of their available money resulting in some not eating properly or going without.

As seniors are not likely to sell their home and move to another one, there must be a better way to assess their homes than current market value causing a dramatic increase in taxes in some cases.

Seniors are also required to pay for programs and services they no longer use and are not municipally based, like education, social housing and daycare.

The province has other ways of getting the money such as income tax or sales tax.

Seniors don't want to sell their homes and pay rent somewhere for substandard accommodation at a high cost or move in with their children. They want to retain their pride and their independence.

Granted through the income tax system, the province has created a tax credit of up to \$625 for low-income seniors who own or rent their home, but it's not enough and is a band-aid measure.

Another problem for seniors is transportation as some no longer can drive a car.

While a considerable amount of money has been spent on public transit, little has been given to the needs of the elderly.

There are not enough benches at bus stops and many buses are not equipped with ramps for seniors using walkers to help them get on and off, resulting in many having to use taxis for medical appointments, etc. although efforts are being made to meet these shortfalls.

In 2001, Aurora had a total of 3,875 seniors over 65 and 1,615 over 75 and by 2021 it is predicted the number of seniors over 65 will increase by 199 per cent to 11,588 and the number over 75 up 187 per cent to 4,631.

Back in December, 1967, the province adopted the Municipal and School Tax Credit Act which permitted municipalities to defer up to half of the education portion of the property tax bill for seniors over 65.

The government reimbursed the municipality up to a maximum of \$150 per property and Aurora became the 46th municipality in the province to make the tax credit available to seniors.

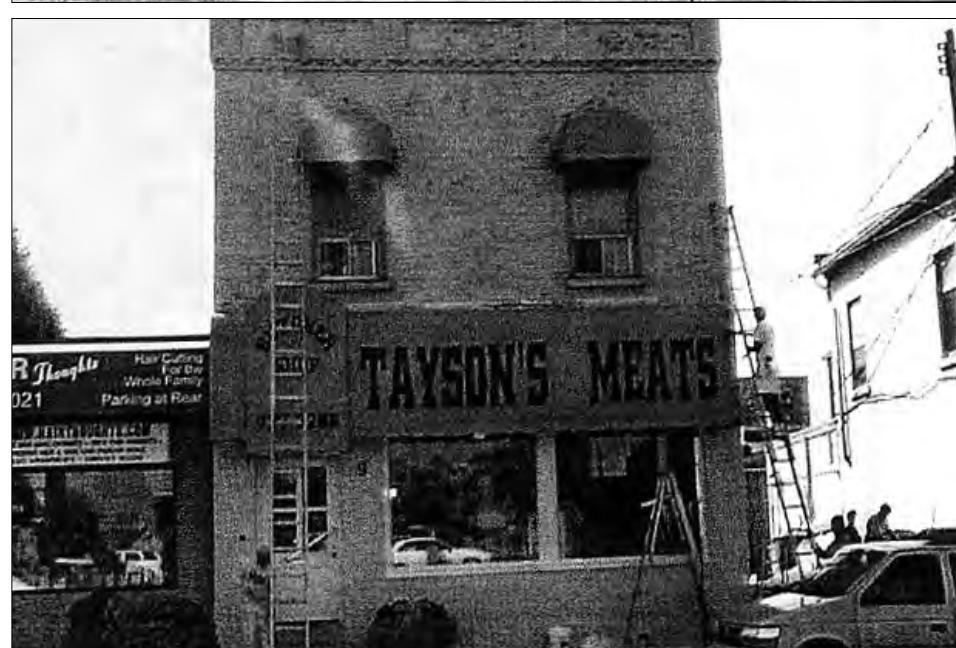
Under the provincial legislation, the total amount of the accumulated tax credit became payable to the government when the property changed hands and because of the lien few seniors took advantage of the legislation.

In 1972, with the assistance of York MPP Bill Hodgson, council made application for a Private Member's Bill to provide \$100 in tax relief to property owners over the age of 70 who had been a resident of the municipality for more than 10 years with a limited income to assist in paying their educational tax.

By May, 1977, it was costing the town \$9,200 to make life a little easier for the 92 seniors who qualified under the town's Elderly Residents' Assistance Program.

Later the Bill Davis Progressive Conservative government announced a plan to reduce the education tax burden on seniors with a tax grant of \$300 to qualified seniors and by 1987 it had been increased to \$600 plus a \$50 Sales Tax Grant.

Where is Bill Davis now when we need him?



This building, located on Wellington Street, just east of Yonge, has been home to many businesses since it was constructed more than 120 years ago. Primarily, it has served as a butcher shop, although today it is home to a law firm. Caldwell, Perkins and Tyson were three such meat shops, but the location is best known as Knowles Butcher Shop. Built by W.J. Knowles, the structure remained in the Knowles' family for more than 90 years.

AURORAN

"Aurora's Community Newspaper"

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Publisher Emeritus Rosemary Schumaker

Editorial Ron Wallace ron@auroran.com

Dick Illingworth dick@auroran.com

Photography David Falconer dfalconer@sympatico.ca

Advertising Bob Ince bob@auroran.com

Diane Buchanan diane@auroran.com

Production Cynthia Proctor cynthia@auroran.com

Main Number 905-727-3300

Classifieds 905-727-7128 classifieds@auroran.com

Facsimile Machine 905-727-2620

Editorial Department rwall9999@aol.com

Editorial policy

Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published. Names may be withheld assuming a compelling reason to do so. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.

Advertising policy

Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.

Letter to the Editor

Doors Open draws huge Aurora crowd

To the editor,

The Doors Open Aurora Committee would like to express its thanks for the time and efforts of the 14 sites, and their staff and volunteers who helped to make Doors Open Aurora 2006 a success.

This event has increased public awareness, interest, and support for the conser-

vation of Aurora's heritage resources.

The willingness of Aurora's businesses, schools, churches and natural heritage sites to open their doors has been greatly appreciated by Aurora's heritage community.

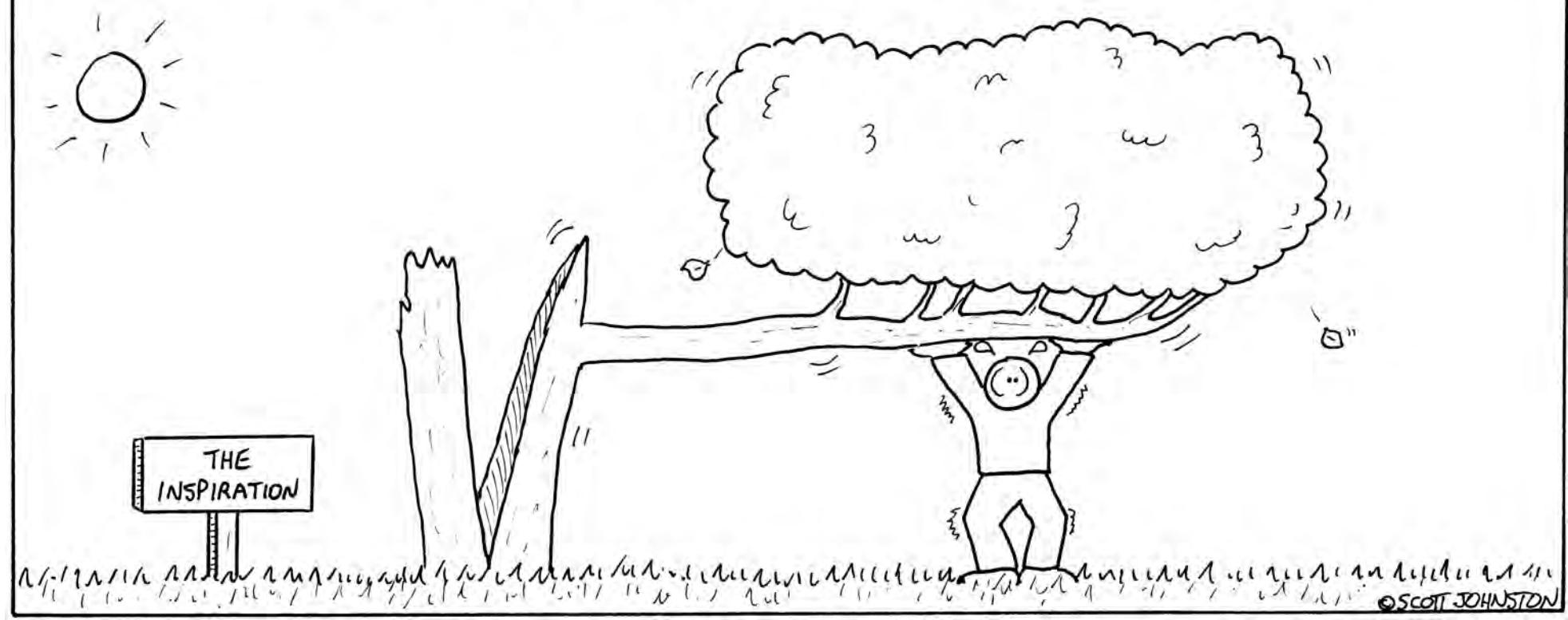
We thank you for providing an interesting and varied experience for our visitors.

We would also like to thank each of our 1,500 visitors.

Education and awareness of our culture and heritage are the keys to civic pride and interest, so thank you for taking pride in Aurora!

Susan Schappert
Doors Open
Aurora Coordinator

IN THE END, BOB REGRETTED HIS HASTY DECISION TO NOT READ THE FINE PRINT IN THE CONTRACT BEFORE ACCEPTING THE "PLANT MANAGER" JOB AT MAGNA



Inside Aurora

By SCOTT JOHNSTON

As you can see on some of the signs as you enter Aurora, our town has been twinned with Leksand, Sweden.

I'm not sure how they chose Leksand, but somehow someone must have determined that Leksand is the Scandinavian equivalent of our town.

Maybe they have a comparable population, or similar values, or a dysfunctional council.

In any case, we're connected. (ED. NOTE: The history behind this twinning is fascinating and involves none of the above).

I'm sure Leksand is a wonderful place.

It certainly has an interesting history, being amongst other things the site of the largest meteor impact in Europe. Fortunately, this occurred some time before the town was established.

But why Sweden?

I should think the last place a Canadian town would want to hook up with is one that's even closer to the Arctic Circle.

And at 61 degrees, or about the latitude of Yellowknife, that's a lot closer to the North Pole.

Couldn't they have found a city in the Bahamas, or Hawaii, or Greece, or somewhere a little warmer, and where the winters aren't quite so...well...wintry?

But then, I guess if the twin city was too attractively located, council members on junkets, and other Aurorans would be fleeing there in droves each winter.

And if they kept up with the goings on in town through regular mailings of The Auroran, they may not want to come back.

I'm not sure what expenses are involved in having a twin city, but if we are to have one, we could have cut down on signage and gone with another "Aurora".

It may be hard to believe, but there are at least 18 other towns in the world called Aurora. (ED. NOTE: In fact, there are more than 18 Auroras in the United States alone).

There's an Aurora in Brazil, one in the Philippines, two in Africa, and over a dozen in the U.S.

There's even an Aurora Island in the South Pacific, although they recently changed its name - hopefully, not to Newmarket Island (insert involuntary shudder here).

An immediate advantage of twinning with another Aurora would be the convenience.

If you were planning a vacation there, you could pick up all your "I Visited Aurora" T-shirts, bumper stickers and other souvenirs before you even left home.

Think how much less luggage you'd have to pack on your way back.

Another advantage of twinning is supposed to be the sharing of culture.

If so, I can hardly wait for Leksand to shed light on the important questions we associate with Swedish society, such as why there is always a suspicious amount of hardware left over, once you finally manage to assemble your

Ikea furniture.

And as if having one twin city isn't enough, council is now talking about twinning (tripletting?) with Hancuhne, China - another town, by the way, whose climate isn't exactly tropical.

Representatives of Hancuhne, including the mayor himself, were here recently to do all those things that Aurorans take for granted; like inhaling large quantities of construction dust, and going "wheeee" as they drive over the speed humps on Golf Links Drive.

I'm not sure if there is a limit to how many towns one can be connected with, but these polygamist municipal relationships could get out of hand.

There's only so much room on our road signs.

But now that we're on a roll, I wouldn't be surprised if the Powers That Be are not already considering some new towns to twin with.

I can see our classified ad now:

"Small, semi-fiscally responsible Ontario town, looking for compatible municipality for exchange of flags and minor hockey teams. Name must be fewer than 12 characters, to fit on road sign. Temperate climate preferred. Send vital statistics, including longitude, latitude, and population, to T. Jones, care of Aurora Town Hall. No weirdos, or other York Region municipalities, please."

Feel free to e-mail Scott at:
machellscorners@gmail.com

Cathy's Corner



What was I thinking?

A week of heaven without paying hell?

Virginia Beach was perfect. It was so perfect that I didn't want to come home. Still wish I hadn't ...

We made it back to Aurora safe and sound - in spite of extraordinary traffic.

Mostly caused by people watching DVD's, entertaining dogs on their laps, and eating bowls of cereal (yes, milk and all!) as they claimed dubious rights to the fast lane.

I'm starting to think people on cell phones are not that bad...

Then, exactly 24 hours later, disaster struck. But before I get to that ...

The week before was one of THOSE weeks - a time when Murphy's Law dictates that all things simple become complex and difficult.

Murphy had me in his crosshairs.

Cheques bounced, leaks sprouted, and I had to turn our whole house upside down looking for our passports.

Finally, I found them - in the basement under a bunch



of old clothes I had cleaned out of my closet...back in February.

I sighed so deeply I'm still feeling a little light-headed.

Or maybe a lot light-headed considering what happened.

It was Sunday night.

We had arrived back on the Saturday night, and I had stayed up late catching up with the kids.

They held the fort down well in our absence - even my hanging baskets showed signs of life!

By Sunday night, I was bagged.

Partly from the long drive, partly from the late night, and partly from the withdrawal.

Did I mention, Virginia Beach has an ocean...and a boardwalk...and a State Park with beautiful bicycle trails...and, well...you get the picture...but I think the thing that really exhausted me was my dreaded "do list".

So I headed up to bed early.

What I didn't fully register was:

a) it could get worse; and b) my daughter, Jennifer, can stockpile a heck of a lot of shoes by the

What was I thinking?

stairs...which is why and how it did get worse.

Yes, those would be the stairs that lead to the second floor of this house where my bedroom happens to be located.

Considering that PowerStream has access to my bank account, I elected to turn off the lights BEFORE I got to the shoes.

Big mistake.

I realized this a little too late.

That would be after my face made contact with ceramic tile.

Oh the irony! In Virginia Beach I navigated countless miles of challenging bike trails all week long...but in Aurora, I couldn't last a day without getting battered by an army of...shoes.

And to add to the irony, guess what I bought Jennifer in Virginia Beach? Yup...shoes!

What was I thinking?

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

Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Debbie Albaum of Aurora for making good on her promise to swim 13 kilometres to raise money for breast cancer in the Sixth Annual Severn Swim recently. She raised \$1,500 for her efforts.

BRICKBATS to the culprits responsible for smashing windows and stealing as much as \$20,000 in computer equipment from the Newmarket Salvation Army Citadel which contains a church, food bank and social services. How low and despicable can you get?

BOUQUETS to Rahul Kothari of Aurora who along with two colleagues won the 2006 Wharton Business Plan Competition Grand Prize of \$20,000 against 400 entries for seeking a way to develop a replacement technology for electrical motors in medical devices.

BRICKBATS to the young punks who bombarded legendary Canadian jazz musician and member of the Order of Canada Oscar Peterson and his family with racial taunts and other obscenities at his Mississauga home recently. When caught they should face criminal charges, not just a slap on the wrist.

BOUQUETS to the Town of Newmarket for opening up the Newmarket Theatre lobby as a local resident cooling station during the recent heat wave during the afternoons Monday to Friday.

BOUQUETS to the Newmarket Downtown Development Committee for their organization and promotion of an International Day for the merchants of Main Street where each store selected a country to feature and issued a passport for the day to be stamped by each merchant visited during the day. Well worth investigating.

BRICKBATS to the federal government for imposing the Goods and Services Tax on the cost for a funeral over the years. It's a tax on the dead and should be repealed!

BOUQUETS to the member of Aurora Council who can convince other council members to change the name of the Traffic Safety Advisory Board to an Advisory Committee like the other Advisory Committees of council. How did the name ever get approved in the first place?

BRICKBATS to the federal Conservative National Council for moving to restrict two-time losing candidates from seeking further nomination as party candidates without seeking special dispensation from the National Council after boasting about their democratic nomination process.

BOUQUETS to those who straightened the street light on the south side of Wellington Street West in the vicinity of the Aurora Senior Public School, which was leaning over the street. The streetscape entering the town from the west looks much better.

BRICKBATS to the large number of people in Toronto who watched a young man beaten and then stabbed to death by his assailants and nobody had the presence of mind to call 911. What was the matter with them?

BOUQUETS to Mike Gough for his letter to The Auroran giving Cheers to those responsible citizens who actually use an in-car litter bag and Jeers to those inconsiderates who toss or dump all types of litter out their car doors into parking lots and local streets. Poor Richard couldn't have said it better.

Letters to the Editor

New town structures "just plain ugly", he says

To the editor,

I hope Bob McRoberts and other members of the future Aurora Council will read this letter.

People in this area are in a panic to find a doctor or dentist and there is a severe shortage of hospital space.

Fortunately, we are not short of lawyers!

We are short, we are told, of water, hydro and natural gas. So what do we do?

We build more homes and more subdivisions!

The new subdivision at Wellington and Bayview on the north east corner is a monstrosity.

Endless townhomes and link homes jammed together without any

thought of planning.

Right at Wellington and Bayview, almost on the roadway itself is a six-ply or eight-ply.

Whatever it is, it is just plain ugly.

Another Hurricane Hazel would wash this "whatever" right onto the roadway!

What about the old Hartman House and the

lovely trees around it - better bulldoze this area down?

Our taxes went up eight per cent (sorry, 7.9 per cent). We are told by council the more homes, the less taxes for the property owner. Want to hear another lie?

What is council going to do with the millions of dollars from the sale of Aurora Hydro. Maybe a football stadium, a theme park, a golf course?

But don't think about giving it back in lower taxes to the property owner.

I would like to commend Frank Stronach for the lovely greenbelt around his property and for saving what is left of the old maple tree along Wellington Street.

I could tell Frank quite a bit about that tree and his present property.

I commend Frank for what he has done for Aurora and for Southlake Regional Health Centre.

As well, I am sorry to see Ron Wallace leaving, but I can't blame him.

I also thank Bill Hogg for his input at council meetings.

I feel sorry for Tim Jones - he was given this council, he certainly didn't hand pick the group.

Finally, to Bob McRoberts and the other hopeful candidates - good luck.

Dalton McGuinty has given you a four-year term which at my age is a long haul.

Setting Baldwin's history record right

To the editor,

Having researched Aurora Historical Society records concerning the "Baldwin's" building at 124 Wellington Street East for the Aurora Inventory of Heritage Buildings, I came up with the front section being built in 1936 and being the only part surviving the 1955 fire.

The newspaper article in the July 25 Auroran gives its 'year built' as 1921.

As I researched AHS records, I determined that

the only part built in 1921 was destroyed in the 1955 fire, along with an addition built in 1932 and a rear part of the 1936 addition.

The following is from the 124 Wellington Street East pages of the Aurora Inventory of Heritage Buildings.

"In 1920, William Baldwin's flour mill (at the SW corner of Wellington West and Mill Streets) burnt down. By 1921 he'd rebuilt a large frame mill behind a house at this location (circa 1931).

"In 1932, a two-bay con-

crete and yellow brick structure with two storeys and a basement was built immediately behind the original house.

"In 1936, the three-storey concrete and red brick office plus a joining two-storey addition were built over the house's location.

"In 1945, six concrete grain silos were built at the rear off Centre Street.

"In 1955, a fire destroyed the frame area between the 1932 concrete and 1945 concrete silos, marking an end to the milling operation."

Some time after 1960, a large concrete block addition was built, filling in the area previously burned out.

Finally around 1995, the six concrete silos were demolished.

Benny is seeking small, friendly dogs

To the editor,

Hi! My name is Benny. I'm a Yorkie/Pomeranian cross and I weigh only 15 pounds.

I love to go to the leash free park on Industrial Parkway but I'm not having as much fun this year as I did last year.

I haven't seen as many of my small doggie friends there lately and it can be a scary place when all the other dogs are five to 10 times your size.

I had lots of fun there a few weeks ago on a Sunday morning when some smaller dogs dropped by (and the big dogs were friendly and



gentle!).

I would like to invite any small, sociable dogs out there to come to the leash free park, the Canine Commons, on Sunday morning at about 10 a.m.

We can run and play and get very, very tired! It'll be great fun. See you there!

Benny
Aurora

Barry Bridgeford
Aurora

W. Devins
Aurora

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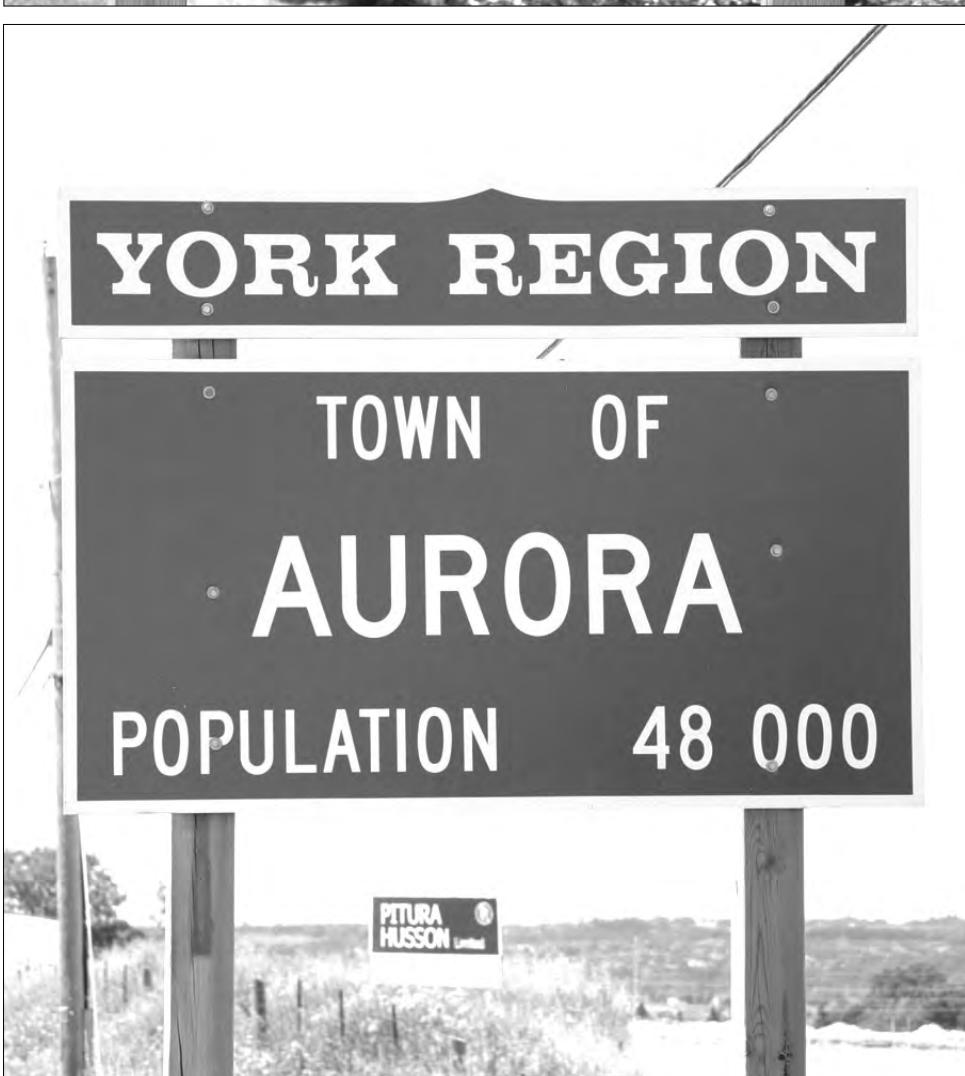
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**TOWN OF
Aurora
POPULATION 41 000**



**TOWN OF
AURORA
POPULATION 46 000**



So, how many people live in Aurora anyhow? You'll never know by reading the entrance signs. Staff photographer, David Falconer, found these three signs indicating population from 41,000 out on Highway 404 to 48,000 on a sign located on the north side of Wellington street, west of Highway 404. The other sign may be found on the west side of Bayview Avenue, north of the St. John's Sideroad. Some believe Aurora's population currently exceeds 50,000.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

York Centre for children and families needs help

The York Centre is a children's mental health centre which annually provides a range of therapeutic and intervention services for approximately 1,500 children, youth and their families who are experiencing social, emotional, behavioural or mental problems.

The main focus of the Centre is day treatment which benefits children and youth whose complex mental health needs cannot be addressed within the school system.

Children and youth receive therapeutic treatment and individualized academic programming during their stay at the Centre and are reintegrated into the school system about a year later.

Noreen Lee, the Centre's Chairperson, appeared before Aurora Council recently to list their problems and a potential solution and asked council to be part of that solution.

She pointed out that day treatment for children and youth from across the region is provided in three sites in Richmond Hill but the accommodation is below the quality found in most mental health centres which creates difficult conditions for staff and clients.

To provide more appropri-

ate facilities the Centre's board of directors developed an expansion/consolidation plan at an estimated cost of \$3.5 million.

The Town of Richmond Hill approved a \$1 million capital grant for this project and the York Centre has pledged \$500,000.

As the children and youth attending the Centre come from all municipalities within the region, the board is appealing to the other eight

municipalities to show their support by collectively donating \$500,000 to the project over three years.

She suggested Aurora's target might be \$35,800 spread over the three-year period.

She noted the Ministry of Children and Youth Services is the main source of operating funding but does not contribute to capital costs.

Council received the presentation.

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Mrs. Cecil Walker lays a wreath at the base of the Altar of Sacrifice, officially opened in Aurora in 1960 by Lieutenant Governor Keiller Mackay, centre. That snappy-looking aide-de-camp, right, is our own Dick Illingworth.

Cenotaph, altar, remind public of war deaths

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

As you enter Aurora on Yonge Street from the south you can't help but be impressed by the tall, straight and proud War Memorial standing as a tribute to those who paid the supreme sacrifice in World War I.

Shortly after the war ended in 1918, Sir William Mulock decided that a memorial should be erected in memory of the 70 brave men from the Town of Aurora and the Townships of King and Whitchurch who gave their lives for their country.

In 1924, Sir William offered to assist the people of Aurora, King and Whitchurch to erect a suitable memorial to the men who fell during the Great War.

The total cost to erect the memorial was \$24,500 of which Mulock contributed \$11,500 with the balance to be raised by the people of the three municipalities, including the purchase of four acres of Whitchurch land

from Walter Wood.

Construction of the Aurora War Memorial was put in the hands of McIntosh Granite Company in Toronto who designed and built the impressive monument, beginning in August, 1925.

The turret and lantern were placed atop the Gothic structure a month later.

Seventy trees were planted on the site by relatives, one for each man who fell during the Great War and they have been replaced as necessary.

On October 3, 1925, Ontario Lieutenant Governor Henry Cockshutt unveiled the War Memorial and a mother of two soldiers who never returned from France pushed the button to light the electric lantern atop the Memorial.

Not as visible to the passing motorist is the Altar of Sacrifice at the foot of the Memorial which was erected to salute the 55 men from the area who died during the

Second World War.

It was built of granite with funds provided jointly by the three municipalities and on a cold, windy November 9, 1960, Lieutenant Governor Keiller Mackay unveiled the Altar of Sacrifice and assisting in the ceremony was Mrs. Cecil Walker.

Following the unveiling and service at the Cenotaph, the Legion hosted a reception in the former Legion Hall on Yonge Street, at that time just south of the Graystones Restaurant.

The Legion building, once the new one on Industrial Parkway North was built, was covered by a car dealership and has since been demolished.

At the reception while meeting members of the Legion, the Lieutenant Governor recognized one of the Legionnaires as his runner from the First World War, who he had seen for more than 40 years.

He was the late Joe Smith

of Aurora.

Originally the War Memorial and later the Altar of Sacrifice were the responsibility of the Aurora War Memorial Board, a non-profit organization incorporated in 1925 with Aurora Hydro and the Parks Department maintaining the grounds and the lantern.

In October, 1992, Aurora joined with 300 municipalities across Canada to dedicate the War Memorial site as a Peace Park to pay tribute to Canada's active role in peacekeeping around the world.

The Peace Park includes a Peace Grove of 12 trees representing the 10 provinces and two territories to symbolize the life, creativity and hope for a peaceful future.

In June, 1997, the Town of Aurora accepted the ownership of the Cenotaph and the surrounding parkland, and the War Memorial Board was disbanded.

Traffic still an Aurora problem

From page 3

Approval was obtained from the region in March, 1972, but it was six months later before they became operational.

In March, 1973, the Gateway Heights Ratepayers Association submitted a brief to council requesting the installation of multi-way stops at certain intersections in the Aurora Heights subdivision, a 25 mile per hour speed limit and a ban on heavy trucks.

Later that year, residents of Regency Acres came to council to express concerns regarding traffic, noise and safety in their area.

They sought a 25-mile-per-hour speed limit on all residential streets, marking centre lines on the streets,

licensing bicycles, the installation of sidewalks, a noise abatement bylaw and the paving of the Subway Sideroad (Henderson Drive).

Residents told councilors about the noise from unmuffled motorcycles operating in the fields south of Henderson, the noise of snowmobiles, car drag racing, kids being careless on bikes and lack of police action on complaints.

In spite of efforts by council to take action, the problems and the complaints continued, especially after the death of a six-year-old girl on Orchard Heights Blvd. in April, 1985.

Ten new multi-way stops were approved by council, the speed limit on Orchard Heights and Aurora Heights was reduced to 40 km/hr

and "Radar Strictly Enforced" and "Children Playing" signs were installed.

Council promised a traffic study for the whole town.

The long awaited traffic study was launched in January, 1987, at an estimated cost of \$30,000 with the town and the Ministry of Transportation sharing the bill.

Another traffic study was

carried out in 1999 with similar recommendations including the need to set criteria for multi-way stop signs as several in the town were not warranted, the proper use of "yield" signs and restrictions for on-street parking based on road width.

In spite of the traffic studies, citizen complaints continue and the problems remain.

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Relatives care for parentless child

By CHRISTINE WOODLEY

On May 27th, the world changed forever for Jeff and Cathy Gray and their niece, Katie Manchester.

Katie's parents, Rob and Lisa, were killed instantly when their car was struck by one of two street racers on Yonge Street at the Stouffville Sideroad.

They were returning home after celebrating their 17th wedding anniversary. Katie was with a baby-sitter that evening.

Robert Manchester was Cathy's only brother.

Now, three months later, Katie is living with the Aurora couple and will begin Grade 2 at an Aurora public school in September.

"My brother and I were very close and our families spent a lot of time together," Cathy said. "Katie even had a room in our home before all this happened, so she just moved right in."

The family's closeness is a Godsend now, as Katie grapples with life without her parents.

"She's doing pretty well," Cathy said. "She talks about them a lot."

Jeff and Cathy, who

have two daughters, Elisa, 20, and Kelly, 19, are considering adopting Katie but don't want to rush the decision.

"The family lawyer working with us thinks it wise to wait and let Katie be part of the decision," says Cathy.

In the meantime, the family has been overwhelmed by the generosity of those around them.

A trust fund was set up - and is still in effect - at the TD/Canada Trust at Yonge and Dunning.

"People have been wonderful. We've had so many anonymous donations that I just didn't know how I would thank people," Cathy said.

As well, the Yellow Orange Spa on Yonge Street (just south of the library) had a fund raiser recently and donated proceeds from any spa service provided that day.

There was also a raffle and all proceeds were directed to Katie's trust fund. Cathy's daughter, Elisa, works at the spa.

Katie's world has changed forever, but the love of her aunt and uncle, and the community, is providing consistency and stability at a time when she needs it the most.

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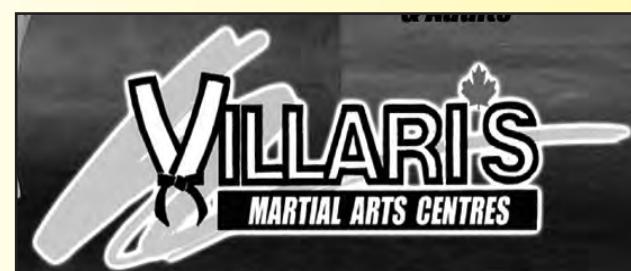
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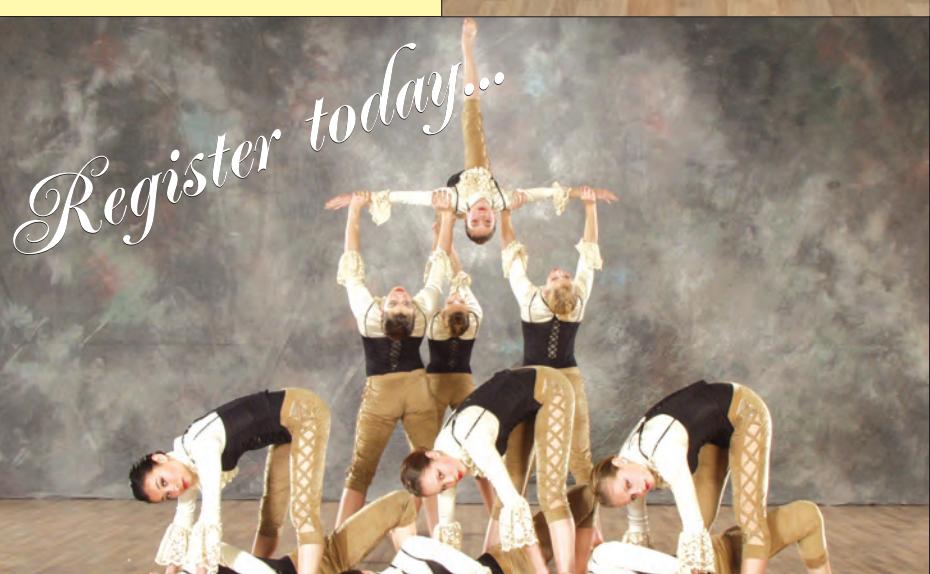


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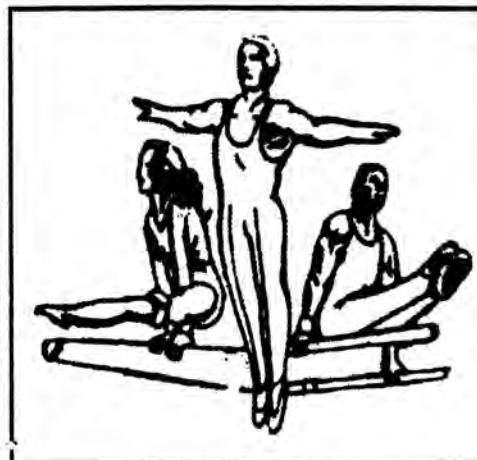
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Santa arrived early at publisher's home

Christmas Eve is the time of the year when children of all ages expect Santa Claus to appear, but back in August, 1971, Santa made a surprise visit to 100 Wells Street in Aurora without his sleigh and reindeer.

However, his transportation problems were solved thanks to the men of the Aurora Fire Department who provided their 1926 International Pumper for the occasion.

Santa Claus - it was really advertising salesman John Lee - received the unusual request to make an August appearance at a summertime Christmas party in Aurora and was about to turn it down when he heard it was for Bob Buchanan and he quickly agreed.

Santa knew that Bob loved Christmas and his Christmas parties for his Aurora Banner staff and friends were the highlight of the season.

But Bob missed Christmas, 1970, as he was suffering from a heart problem and had to go to the hospital for open heart surgery.

Then in August, 1971, it was learned that Bob was leaving the newspaper business and Aurora to join the national headquarters staff of the New Democratic Party in Ottawa as Director of Communications during the period David Lewis was party leader.

Realizing that Bob would be in Ottawa in December and would miss his party with Banner staff and friends, his wife Joan suggested a Christmas party in August and with just two days notice volunteers went to work to turn the Buchanan home into a winter wonderland.

More than 100 strings of Christmas lights shone brightly from trees outside the house, with artificial snow on the branches.

On the porch, a Christmas tree, imported from Bracebridge, twinkled in the warm summer breeze.

Santa in his summer uniform consisting of his red jacket and red hot pants, attracted considerable attention perched atop the fire truck, escorted by two police cruisers from Aurora detachment of the York Regional Police as he made his way from the Fire Hall to Wells Street.

Inside the house, there was another Christmas tree which provided the setting for Santa to present his gifts.

Christmas carols blanketed the neighbourhood and one guest came to the party on a snowmobile.

Following Bob's remarks about how much he would miss Aurora and his Wells Street home, Mayor Dick Illingworth and Councillor Ron Simmons borrowed a stepladder and claw hammer and ripped the Wells Street sign from a corner post and

HERE WE GO AGAIN WITH ANOTHER BOBBY AND DICKY KIDS! — YOU RECALL A WHILE BACK BOBBY ADVOCATED THE IDEA OF A FULL-TIME MAYOR — WELL NOW POOR BOBBY IS IN HOSPITAL (SEND HIM A GET-WELL CARD KIDS) AND AS WE LOOK IN DICKY IS VISITING TO CHEER OUR BOBBY AND TALK OVER THE IDEA...



One of the famous "Bobby and Dicky" cartoons created by Lyle Glover, and included in his book of cartoons that were produced in the Aurora Banner appears here.

presented it to Bob as a permanent reminder of Wells Street and Aurora.

Before coming to the Aurora Banner as publisher and editor in 1965, Bob had worked in the news field with the CBC, the Ottawa Citizen, the Montreal Gazette and the Toronto Telegram.

For almost 10 years he was the executive officer of the 2,000 member Toronto Newspaper Guild conducting bargaining and other union functions with the Toronto dailies and other publications.

When he came to the Banner it was a six to eight page weekly but under his leadership and ability the paper steadily grew in size and content.

He won many provincial and national awards for his efforts, including the Jack Sanderson Award for editorial writing in 1968.

He was instrumental in bringing the people of Aurora closer together as he had a passionate belief in the rights of people to govern themselves and he had a dedicated respect for the influence of the press.

He was an excellent reporter but was at his best in writing editorials. They were thought-provoking, constructive and at times if something displeased him, his editorials had the thrust of a sabre.

He was strongly opposed to regional government claiming its imposition would seriously erode the people's practical freedom and would make more remote the contact between the governed and the governors and leave more power in the hands of

administrators.

During the announcement of regional government in York, Darcy McKeough said something which Bob asked for an elaboration.

"If I wanted to elaborate on it, I would have," McKeough, who designed the new York Region, said.

That didn't help Bob's support for the new government.

In 1969, he hired Ron Wallace as a news editor.

Wallace had worked for papers in Sudbury, Espanola, Elliott Lake, Richmond Hill, Stouffville, and Cranbrook, British Columbia.

When Dick Illingworth was elected Mayor of Aurora in 1969, Bob talked him into writing a weekly Mayor's Report.

In September, 1970, Bob attended a function at the Aurora Armouries at which he thought he was to make a presentation to someone else, only to find it was a surprise party for him.

Attended by more than 100 friends, Banner employees and municipal leaders gathered to honour Bob after the Banner won the best all-round newspaper award in its class in Canada.

He was presented with a full colour drawing of himself

by Lyle Glover, the Banner's resident cartoonist.

Glover drew cartoons of activities in Aurora including the Adventures of Bobby and Dicky portraying Bob as a bearded ragamuffin and Mayor Dick Illingworth as the spoiled little brat in a velvet suit.

The cartoons were later published in a book.

Bob was interested in all aspects of the town as he was a member of the Industrial Commission, the ill-fated Railway Museum Committee and the First of July Committee.

In March, 1973, he returned to the labour movement when he was appointed Public Relations Director for Canada of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers with an office in Ottawa.

His heart troubles returned and he died just before Christmas, 1973.

He was 47.

Bob was a rare and exceptional man who lived in Aurora for a few years and left his mark as a kind, strong and sensitive man and will long be remembered by those fortunate enough to have known him.

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Senior Scape



Cameras and computers: how times have changed

Wednesday afternoon, August 16, and I have just returned from a leisurely visit to the seniors' centre which as always, became a social visit, which is great with me.

A cup of coffee and a chat is always a pleasant way to spend my time.

My first obligation when arriving at the centre is to sign in at the front counter, and I could not help but notice that the names preceding mine had all signed in as bridge players.

The ever popular bridge games go on and on, and is an opportunity to visit friends and meet new ones.

I had a brief conversation with Mamie at the front counter, and then wandered into our small library, which is earmarked for much needed new shelving and new furniture.

As is usual with me, I soon found my way to the computer room, where several members were present and talking about digital photography.

The conversation included downloading from cameras and copying images to DVD's and CD's, which members are able to do now on our new computer equipment.

We remove the memory chip from the camera and insert that into the front of the CPU, and proceed in that manner. Bear in mind, this is new equipment with current technology.

I can find many things to do with a computer, and I can occupy myself for hours.

The conversation was photography, computer maintenance, who to deal with in town and that kind of pleasant and useful conversation, which does well when that is of interest.

Recently, I read about the discovery of early work by Archimedes on mathematics, and this was sufficient to induce me to type in 'Archimedes' into a search engine, which brought up an abundance of information, and to enjoy an excellent read of what he achieved more than 2,000 years ago.

It also gave me a visual view of the insight he was endeavouring to achieve, a quality lacking when I was taught mathematics, unsuccessfully as a youth.

Most of my comments regarding the ASA have been positive ones, of matters on which we agreed and which had gone well.

Well, now we have encountered a strong difference of opinion on whether or not to situate a television in our lounge.

We were unable to achieve agreement at the AGM and consequently we have conducted a referendum on the matter.

I will report the result as soon as it is available.

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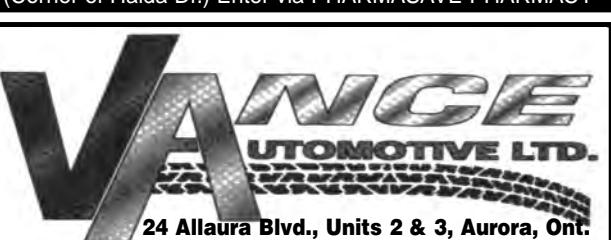
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Tough times for small restaurant

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

The picture of Gabella's Italian Food on Wellington Street East in last week's edition of The Auroran brought back memories in the life of the controversial restaurant.

It was operated by Tony and Rose Metes and was nestled among large residential homes on the busy street.

Although the restaurant had been in operation for more than a year, it wasn't until early 1982 that an application was made for a liquor license.

About the same time, council received petitions from Centre Street residents and delegations to council complaining about the lack of off-street parking, the garbage bins in the restaurant's backyard, and the fear of rats.

The owners of the restaurant refused to move the waste container to a different location on the property despite requests from

the town.

Council requested the region's health department to investigate and asked the town's property standards officer to report on ways to handle the problem.

But the controversy really got underway with the application for the liquor licence and the hearing by the Liquor Licence Board in October 1982.

A 35-member delegation of Aurora citizens, led by former Mayor Clarence Davis, a next door neighbour to the restaurant, attended the hearing and spoke in opposition.

The Town of Aurora also opposed the application based on zoning restrictions.

This resulted in the Hearing Officer deferring a decision on the application with the hearing to be resumed in Aurora at a later date.

The hearing resumed in November in the Aurora Town Hall and was changed from a morning to an

evening hearing in order to provide all citizens an opportunity to express an opinion.

The hearing divided the neighbourhood as some supported the restaurant while others were strongly opposed on the basis it was located in a residential zone and was in close proximity to Wells Street Public School.

Mayor George Timpson came under attack for telling the hearing officer that he was speaking for the whole town in opposing the licence.

After listening to both sides and viewing the site, the hearing officer denied the application.

The restaurant continued in operation for a short period and then closed and was later converted into a residence.



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Monster home policy report in September

Last April, after listening to a delegation from Hillview Drive suggesting zoning changes to prevent monster homes from being constructed as infill or redevelopment housing in established neighbourhoods, Aurora's general committee referred the issue for a report.

A report was received the following month which set out a process for investigating provisions as they relate to monster homes.

The report suggested the process be carried out in two phases.

The first phase was to research monster home bylaws in other municipalities, prepare a preliminary report outlining options, study process, public consultation and preferred options for further research.

The second phase was to include a report on the preferred option, public meeting and enactment of bylaw depending on the outcome of the public meeting.

Town staff contacted several municipalities in order to determine if they had any policies or bylaws specific to monster homes.

The majority of municipalities did not have specific policies or bylaws, but rely on normal zoning provisions to control the impact of infill housing in established neighbourhoods.

For those municipalities with specific bylaws, staff provided a summary of each at the recent council meeting.

It was suggested a working group be established with Building Administration in order to analyze the zoning provisions as they relate to infill housing.

This could lead to the establishment of preferred zoning provisions which would be presented to council as the preferred option.

The working group would also undertake a study of the town in order to determine what geographic areas or areas the infill zoning

provisions would apply which would be approved by council.

A key component to the study would be public involvement and staff suggested a Public Open House to communicate with the public in a less formal setting prior to the statutory public meeting under the Planning Act.

In response to a question as to whether it was possible to put a freeze on applications for monster homes prior to the adoption of the bylaw, staff replied it was through an Interim Control Bylaw but cautioned it should be carefully used.

Although concern was expressed about holding public meetings during the summer, council agreed to accept the report as information, authorized the staff working group in order to determine which infill provisions could be successfully applied to Aurora, seek public involvement and report back in September.



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AURORAN, Week of August 22, 2006



This contingent of swimmers from the Aurora Master Ducks made their presence felt recently at the 11th Annual World Aquatic Masters Championships held recently in Palo Alto, California.

Master Ducks impress at world championship

The Aurora Master Ducks Swim Club was the largest Canadian Swim Team to participate in the 11th Annual World Aquatic Masters Championships held recently in Palo Alto, California.

A total of 72 countries took part in what has been established as the fastest Masters swimming competition ever.

At least 40 former Olympians were involved and almost 180 world records were established in various individual and relay events.

Aurora handled itself admirably, claiming 12 individual medals and establishing a sixth place fine in the relay rankings.

Unlike other teams who represented countries the Ducks represented the

Town of Aurora.

"In other words," said swimmer Nancy Black, "one lane would have a swimmer with Venezuela printed on his or her cap and our lane would have the mighty Aurora Duck proudly emblazoned on it."

For relays, this became an even more important factor as other countries drew upon thousands of eligible swimmers, the Ducks came from a base of 120.

On an individual basis, Julia Freixa brought home three medals.

Her best performance came in the 50 freestyle, women 35-39 years, where she set another Canadian record with a speedy time of 28.15 seconds.

In addition, she claimed sixth place in her

100 freestyle and was just out of the top 10 in the 200M.

More ladies who claimed top 10 finishes were Lori Haws, Susan Allen and Wendy Cimarno.

Lori and Susan ranked in their backstroke events and Wendy placed eighth in the open water 3km swim in the chilly, rough San Francisco Bay.

Dave Wilkin was the top male Duck claiming 6th, 8th and 10th place finishes.

He was initially ranked in the top 15 as per his entry times, and improved in his positioning significantly.

One day was set aside where the only events held were relays and that's where much of the tough action took place.

Once again, it was

Aurora versus Sweden and Aurora versus Brazil, but the small town Ducks prevailed.

Ontario records set included the 200 mixed medley 200+, consisting of Nancy Black, Dave Wilkin, Susan Allen, Jim Talbot who carved more than a full second off the old record; the 200 free women 160+, consisting of Julia Freixa, Nancy Black, Wendy Punchard, Susan Allen; and the 200 medley women 160+ made up by Susan Allen, Nancy Black, Wendy Punchard and Julia Freixa.

Dave Wilkin, Frank Sodoni, Peter Hrdlitschka and Rob Barton set a new Canadian record in the 200 medley men 200+ event.

Skating results

The following members of the Aurora Skating Club successfully completed tests recently at the test day held by Skaters First Skating School:

Preliminary Dance: Canasta Tango - Monica Churchill. **Junior Bronze Dance:** Swing - Katherine Morawetz, Kailee O'Connor; Fiesta Tango - Matthew Warner; Willow Waltz - Savannah Hendy.

Senior Bronze Dance: Fourteen Step - Beckey O'Malley, Samantha Duncan, Marilena Perri, Teija Rom-Coltoff, Sabrina Brochu; European Waltz - Teija Rom-Coltoff.

Junior Silver Dance: Harris Tango - Samantha Galati; American Waltz - Lauren Blanchet, Samantha Galati.

Senior Silver Dance: Paso Doble - Hailey Riggs; Starlight Waltz - Jordana Goldman; Blues - Tayler Sim; Killian - Allie Sutton.

Gold Dance: Viennese Waltz - Emma Slimkovich; Argentine Tango - Garth Miller.

Skills: Preliminary - Stephanie Morawetz, Alicia Saunders; Junior Bronze - Teija Rom-Coltoff.

Free Skate Elements: Preliminary - Katherine Morawetz, MacKenzie Mauder.

Free Skate Solo: Preliminary - Katherine Morawetz.

Following are the results of the Summer Sizzle Invitational held recently in Brampton:

Pre-Novice Women's Freeskate: Maya Goldman (Flight 1) 8th.

Novice Women's Short Program: Carolyn Armstrong (Flight 1) 13th; Lauren Cooper (Flight 2) 6th.

Novice Women's Freeskate: Carolyn Armstrong (Flight 1) 7th; Lauren Cooper (Flight 2) 6th.

Following are the results of the Skate Canada - Central Ontario Summer Skate 2006 held in Thornhill:

Juvenile Men's Freeskate: Alex Woodward 7th.

Pre-Novice Women's Freeskate: Emma Hazelden (Group 6) 10th; Maya Goldman (Group 4) 11th.

Novice Women's Freeskate: Lauren Cooper (Group 5) 5th; Carolyn Armstrong (Group 1) 9th.

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They caught Lt. Col. Bryan Sherman, centre, completely off guard at last week's Concert in the Park. The Royal Canadian Artillery Band and the Air Force 400 Squadron Pipes were doing an "Appreciate Our Canadian Forces" Concert when Captain Gratz Brescasin, left, and W.O. Philip Trow called on former band member Sherman to wish him a happy birthday. Concerts in the Aurora Town Park conclude for this season Wednesday night.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Hardy tree inspired him to write a poem

A photograph in last week's Auroran shows Frank's Tree split in half and raised questions about the future of the tree.

For years, motorists driving along Wellington Street, west of Leslie Street were puzzled by the ragged stump of a Maple tree with one branch surviving, especially after it was fenced in 1998.

Situated in an empty field on the south side of the roadway, the protected piece of natural landscape was hard to miss and many questions were asked about the tree and why anyone would go to the expense of erecting a chain link fence around it to provide protection.

As the stump of the tree was on Magna property, it became known as Frank's tree. Later, Magna boss Frank Stronach admitted the tree was his.

He said at the time that the tree stump with the one remaining living branch symbolized endurance and defiance against all odds.

He added the tree was like life as a person had to hang in and never give up.

He had the fence constructed to ensure the tree did not sustain damage during construction on the Magna property or the reconstruction of Wellington Street East.

Wellington Street East resident Russell Barr was an observer of the tree for the previous 10 years and was so impressed by its endurance he wrote a poem about it called "The Family Tree".

He said his neighbour Eric Liversidge had lived across from the tree since 1963 and told him the tree had been hit by lightning twice, the last time in 1984, and for some time had been tapped for maple sap every spring.

Barr's poem about "The Family Tree" was written in May, 1998.

"It still stands as a landmark
With its jagged severed stem
But only one solitary branch
Of this majestic maple remains.
If it could tell its secrets
What a yarn it would describe
Of the many years of history
Of this grand tree's family tribe.
Of its young life as a sapling
How it held its crown up proud
Protected by the farmer
In the meadow as he ploughed.
How it gave shade to his cattle
And had many nests of birds
Saw the fledglings take their first flights
And was tickled by the squirrels.
How the branches communicated
By the rustling of their leaves
And made their own sign language
By foliage fluttering in the breeze.
Then one dark and stormy night
The heavens roared and flashed
Came one zig zag bolt of lightning
And down the maple crashed.
Its sibling branch perished
And the parent trunk was gone
Only one branch of the family
Remained to carry on.
So when the winter storms depart
Its fresh spring leaves unfurl
They give comfort to God's creatures
And are brilliant in the fall.

Regardless of its future, people will remember the endurance of Frank's tree.



Aurora's Goodyear Jays dominate Sudbury Lakers

The Aurora Goodyear Peewee Select Jays played their best baseball of the summer at a recent tournament in Trenton.

Playing against many of Ontario's best teams, the Jays defeated the Sudbury Lakers 11-4, dominating the game from the first inning onwards.

Campbell Duggan and Andrew Seguin combined for nearly six innings of five-hit ball and Joe Ariganello threw one pitch to earn the final out.

Offensively, Chad MacKay led the attack with a double and single with two RBIs and was awarded the game MVP.

His lead-off single in the first was cashed in by Seguin's single to left field and the Jays never looked back.

Andrew Welsman knocked in two runs in the five-run second inning, with Duggan and Ricky Evans contributing one RBI single each in the final frame.

Defensively, Kurtis Lindner in left field, Mackay at short stop and Seguin at second made fine put outs to snuff out all Laker rallies.

In the Jays' other tournament matches, Amanda Cicchino was named game MVP in the opening game heart-breaking loss to Mississauga West Tigers 9-8.

The Jays had scrambled back from an 8-2 deficit, in large part due to Cicchino's offense and stellar right field catches, to tie the score 8-8 in the top of the final inning on a long double off the centre-field fence by James Harkin.

However, the Tigers squeaked out a run with two out in the bottom of the inning

and were relieved to edge out the scrappy Jays, whom they had soundly defeated earlier in the season by a 15-1 margin.

In their final game, the Jays came up against the Number One ranked Ontario team from Mississauga North and their 35-1 season won-loss record.

Using a unique five-infielder/two-outfielder alignment and "small-ball" offense, the Jays surprised the mighty Reds, tying the game in the third inning at 3-3, behind solid pitching from Welsman, Reid Sisson, Lindner and Gordie Turtle.

Unfortunately for the younger Jays team, they were unable to hold off the Reds and lost 15-5, proud to have given the Reds their toughest game of the tournament.

Billy Ferguson was named game MVP for Aurora, thanks in large part to his charging, shoe-string catch in the fourth inning with two out and the bases loaded.

The Goodyear Jays wrap up their season with a one-day tournament Saturday, August 26, in Georgetown.

Under-age player, Eliot Harkin summed up the season well on behalf of his teammates.

"I can't wait to try out for next season," he said. "We really improved and showed that we can compete with anyone."

Interested Aurora players born in 1994 or 1995 who want to try out for the 2007 squad can call coaches Mike Ariganello at 905-727-5762, or Rob Seguin at 905-726-8859 for more information.

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Greek night: it wasn't a pretty sight

In February, 1992, the Heart and Stroke Foundation hosted a special fundraising "It's All Greek to Me" Dinner at Jonathan's Fine Foods with celebrity waiters Mayor John West, Costa Maglaris, manager of Jonathan's, Aurora School Trustee Ron Wallace and former Mayor Dick Illingworth dressed in traditional Greek tutu and tights costumes.

It was repeated in January, 1995, as "It's All Greek to Me Part II" with repeat performers Ron Wallace and Dick Illingworth and newcomers Mayor Tim Jones and Councillor Chris Sorley dressed in the traditional costumes and, to add some class, former School Trustee Heather Sinclair.

It had to be seen to be believed.

AURORA IN 1967

- Long before regional government, Aurora Council added 100 acres from Whitchurch Township to round off the southeast corner of the municipality in the area where the Cenotaph stands.

- Although only 36 new residential building permits were issued during the year compared with 132 the year before, commercial building permits hit a new high at \$867,000 and real estate broker Earl Stewart claimed the Aurora Planning Board was driving away industry.

- Current council meetings are considered lengthy, but in order to clear up the year's business, council of the day sat as late as 2 a.m.

- The No Parking signs on Yonge Street were hooded to aid Christmas shoppers and merchants.

- The new community centre board was appointed with Bob Hookings as Chairman.

- Harry Jones, Aurora's Fire Chief for 25 years and a firefighter for 42 years was given a civic reception on his retirement.

- The A & W Drive-In Restaurant at Yonge Street and Brookland was demolished to make way for a small plaza where Wimpy's Diner is located today.

THE SINGING TRUMPET OF JIMMY SPRAGG

Born in Aurora in 1953, Jimmy Spragg, a student at

Cool presentation

As Aurora councillors suffered through some of the warmest days of summer recently, there wasn't much interest in a report dealing with Winter Road and Sidewalk Maintenance Programs Review as it was adopted without comment.

The report was submitted because of the growth in the town over the past three years coupled with the need for a new winter sidewalk maintenance contract and changes in the provision of winter services.

With regard to road maintenance, Tri San Construction has just completed year two of a three-year plus one year option contract.

The contract allows for a price increase of three per cent a year based on the Consumer Price Index.

The original contract for sidewalk maintenance was awarded in 2003 and was extended for another three years to 2006 and staff recommended it be re-tendered.

The 2006 budget for winter road maintenance was \$817,975 and to date total actual expenditures were \$596,589.

Based on average use it is expected there will be a shortfall of approximately \$4,000 at the end of the year.

Wells Street Public School, learned to play the trumpet.

He didn't swing with the jazz bands as one might expect but took the classical musical route.

In September, 1969, he was honoured by the Town of Aurora for his musical achievements while on tour with the National Youth Orchestra in Europe and was presented with a set of cufflinks with the town crest.

He won several awards at the Newmarket Lions Musical Festival and played with the York Symphony Orchestra as a teenager.

After graduating from Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School he was a scholarship student at the Royal Conservatory and completed his Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Toronto.

He later played with the Quebec Symphony, the Hamilton Philharmonic and undertook several solo engagements while on the staff of the University of Toronto, Queen's University and the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.

In April, 1980, he returned to Aurora as the featured guest trumpeter with the York Symphony to perform Hayden's Trumpet Concerto at Aurora High School.

By 1984 he was the principal trumpet player with the Stratford Festival Orchestra, but where is Jimmy and his singing trumpet today?

POOR RICHARD HAS AN INN

In Cape May, New Jersey, there is a Poor Richard's Inn, no connection with Aurora's Poor Richard except by name.

It was built in 1882 as the residence of a Cape May hotel owner but since 1977 has been operated by two former New York artists.

Poor Richard's Inn offers rooms and apartments both furnished with antique furniture with a country Victorian décor featuring patchwork quilts, oak and pine furniture, hooked rugs and painted cottage beds.

While the whole of downtown Cape May is on the National Register of Historic Places, Poor Richard's Inn has an individual listing on the register for its interlocking façade of bays and bracketed cornices, porches with arched gingerbread and fretwork balustrades.

Sidewalk maintenance was in much the same condition with a budget of \$212,606 of which \$146,187 has been spent to date leaving a balance of \$66,419 which is expected to cover the remaining winter months in 2006.

But with an expected increase in the price of salt, staff is anticipating a shortfall of \$25,000 in the roads maintenance budget, and recommended this amount be transferred from the discretionary reserve fund to the winter operations account.

A number of concerns have been identified for the coming winter season both from an internal review and citizen complaints. The town has experienced a 20 per cent growth in sidewalks and a 10 per cent road increase.

One of the major complaints received dealt with the length of time it takes to plow roads after a snowfall and with the increase in road infrastructure to maintain.

As an interim solution,

staff suggested the plow level of service completion time from nine to 10 hours which would not require another plow route at least for the 2006/2007 winter season.

Salting/sanding times will remain at the current six-hour level of service.

With regard to sidewalk plowing it was proposed to hire four winter seasonal employees for the 2006/2007 winter and funds are available in the budget.

Council endorsed the staff recommendations that a further report be made after the results of the tender have been received, the plowing level of service for roads be increased to 10 hours and the transfer of \$25,000 be approved.



"I can read, go out for a drive, a walk, or join friends for lunch. I fill my days with what suits me."

 CHARTWELL
SENIORS HOUSING REIT

AURORA CLASSROOM OF THE FUTURE AT CNE

In August, 1997, the classroom of the future was displayed at the Canadian National Exhibition as part of the Ministry of Education display featuring students of Aurora's Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School.

Forget blackboards, overhead projectors and dusty textbooks.

They were replaced by 27" colour TVs and computers with Internet connections and five satellite down-links displaying the latest developments in math, science and technology.

The year before the school had been selected as one of 18 in North America for a five-year pilot project sponsored by a U.S.-based education management group involved in developing interactive curriculum.

Although the firm was based in America, education officials stressed that the information gained would be Canadian.

It was explained that the system was like TVO except it was driven by teacher requests.

The system gave teachers a chance to individualize programs for students and provide practical applications for the theories they teach, but whatever happened to the Classroom of the Future?

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Photo highlights of Aurora's 1st "Doors Open"



THANK YOU!

We are pleased to announce that Origin Retirement Communities Inc. and Daniels Capital Group will be developing a new full-service rental retirement residence on John West Way in the Town of Aurora.

This project was approved thanks in large part to the excellent work and spirit of cooperation of the following groups:

- Mayor Tim Jones, John West & all members of Council
- The Town of Aurora Planning Department
- The Bayview – Wellington Ratepayers Association
- The Aurora Seniors Association
- CHATS
- The Aurora Chamber of Commerce

We look forward to joining the great community of Aurora.

