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AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Briefly

Terry Fox Run

Aurora is but one of numerous locations that will host a Terry Fox Run for cancer research this week-end.

Hundreds are expected to participate Sunday, Sept. 17, when the run leaves Sheppard's Bush at 9 a.m.

For further information, call Tim Moses at 905-727-3420.

School name

The Auroran has learned that the York Region District School Board recently passed a motion to name a new public school in the Conover Avenue and River Ridge Boulevard area of Aurora, the Hartman School. It keeps alive the family name that once flourished in a hamlet known as Hartman Corners.

Barbecue

Officials from the Aurora Historical Society, the Town and Central York Fire Services were meeting this week in an attempt to clear the way for tours of Church Street School Saturday, Sept. 30.

Regardless of whether tours happen, the barbecue, set for the school's front yard, will go ahead as planned, said organizer Nigel Kean.

"It's important that as many people as possible know as much as possible about this historic site," he said. "If we can't take them inside, we'll show them the outside."

The school is currently undergoing renovations with the idea it will become Aurora's cultural centre and museum.

The barbecue, arranged by M&M Meats, is slated to begin at 11.30 a.m., and everyone is invited.

While there is no admission to the event, it would be nice if organizers knew who was planning to attend.

If you are, please call 905-727-8991 and let them know.

Church Street School is located on the corner of Church and Victoria Streets, a block east of Yonge Street in downtown Aurora.



After three days of gum-smacking good ribs, it became evident that Aurora's first Ribfest, held at Machell Memorial Park, was destined to become an annual event. If that's the case, next year's Ribfest will likely be held in August, said Special Events Co-ordinator Shelley Ware, who organized this year's activity. Friday night, the place was a zoo, until the rains came; Saturday's cold weather kept the crowds down, but Sunday was a great day to eat ribs and hundreds showed up. Three American and two Canadian teams kept the crowds full serving thousands of racks of ribs, and the Aurora Rotary Club took care of the thirst end, by operating a beer garden.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Vrancic drops out, Buck drops back

As one councillor changes her mind, another has dropped out of the race.

Two-term veteran Damir Vrancic said this week he will not seek re-election to Aurora Town Council, after serving six years with that group.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, Councillor Evelyn Buck, who had said she would run for the mayor's job, officially withdrew from that race and said she would seek re-election as a councillor.

Buck finished in final spot for council in the election three years ago.

Saturday, rookie Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who finished fourth three years ago to gain a seat on council, told The Auroran she filed for re-election Friday.

With a field, so far, of 10 newcomers seeking election Nov. 13, at this moment there will be three seats available on council, and possibly more.

Councillor Nigel Kean is seeking the mayor's job, Councillors

Vrancic and Ron Wallace are dropping out and there has been no word of the plans of Councillors Phyllis Morris, Bill Hogg or John West.

Rumours suggest West, a former Aurora mayor, will not seek re-election due to health, but he has made no official announcement.

Speculation is also running high about Councillor Morris, who is

rumoured to be eyeing the mayor's chair.

Councillor Hogg offered no comment when asked his intentions two weeks ago.

Councillor Wallace made his decision not to seek re-election following the death of his partner, Rosemary Schumaker, a year ago.

"Rosemary owned The Auroran, and when she died, the newspaper

went into trust," the newspaper's editor said. "As long as I am on council, I have a conflict of interest and cannot own the paper."

Councillor Vrancic, meanwhile, submitted a letter to the residents of Aurora announcing his intentions.

His letter and another from a former councillor, Norm Weller, appear in this issue.

Lack of downtown parking frustrates council members

What to do with the library square and the parking problems around the new library and Church Street School has been a controversial issue for council for years.

Back in the late 70s, council voted 4-3 to postpone a special meeting of council which had been called to discuss the future of the various-town owned properties in the library square until more infor-

mation was available, especially for the Church Street School.

Then in June, 1985, council authorized staff to prepare an estimate of the cost for professional services to report on the maximum efficient uses of all the properties in the square.

Three firms submitted proposals and the consulting firm of Townpride was selected to study

the library square including the Browning property which had recently been purchased to provide a Yonge Street entrance to the Victoria Street Library.

Over the years, several other studies were carried out but none resulted in a decision or action.

In April, 2001, council established a joint council/citizen

Please see page 12



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

Until the end of September in the Skylight Gallery at the municipal building is a display of black and white photographs entitled "Life Through An Open Window" by Andy Brooks. Open during office hours.

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 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 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, e-mail at 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 the Aurora Legion 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 McClenny at 905-727-9676.

Queen's York Rangers free summer camps for boys and girls, 12 to 18. Aurora Squadron runs Friday evenings at the Aurora Armoury. For further information, call 905-726-8600 any Tuesday evening between 7 and 9 p.m.

Aurora Therapeutic Touch Practice group meets the second Monday of the month, September to June at Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge Street. Further information: 905-841-6059.

UNTIL NOVEMBER 17

CHATS (Community Home Assistance to Seniors) and CHAP (Cardiovascular Health Awareness Program) are conducting free blood pressure clinics daily at pharmacies throughout Aurora, (except holidays), between 9 a.m. and noon. For details, visit your local pharmacy.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Probus Club of Aurora's guest speaker at this month's meeting is Jennifer Pereira, an acupuncturist. 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 six remaining 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.

SEPTEMBER 16-17

Sixth annual Candlelight Vigil in Aurora Cemetery. Candles lit and flags placed at 4 p.m. on the 16th; tribute service at 2 p.m. on the 17th.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

26th Annual Terry Fox Run. Registration, 9 a.m., run begins at 10 a.m. Register at the pavilion in Sheppard's Bush. For further information, call Tim Moses at 905-727-3420.

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 or 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 advised. 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 23

TD Canada Trust Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup includes Tannery Creek where it runs through Fleury and Machell parks. Meet at the Aurora Community Centre parking lot on the south side of Aurora Heights Drive at 10 a.m. If possible, wear rubber boots. Hip waders will be provided by the town. To register, call Info Aurora at 905-727-8214.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Aurora Horticultural Society presents Four Season Containers at the Royal Canadian Legion, 8 p.m., 105 Industrial Parkway North.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Barbecue and tours at the Church Street School, from 11.30 a.m. Church and Victoria.

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.

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with York Regional Health Services presents a child car seat safety information session, from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Lebovic Room. Pre-register at the adult information desk, or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

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.

OCTOBER 12-15

The Aurora Opera Company will produce a version of Hansel and Gretel at the Newmarket Theatre. The two-act opera will be performed by the Singers

of Opera Zone. Tickets, at \$16 each, are available by calling the Newmarket Theatre Box Office at 905-953-5122.

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.

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.

Aurora Horticultural Society presents lecture on What Plants Teach Us About Life at the Royal Canadian Legion, 8 p.m., 105 Industrial Parkway North.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

"Beyond Google". Instruction in advance internet search strategies using electronic databases and web directories at the Aurora Library. Class limited to four participants per session. 10.30 to 11.30 a.m. Pre-register at the adult information desk.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

The Aurora History Society presents its Annual Murder Mystery Dinner at Hillary House. Call 905-727-8991 for ticket information.

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.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five at Chinook Restaurant, 302 Wellington Street East. 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Municipal Election Day.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

The Anglican Church Women will hold their Christmas Bazaar at Aurora's Trinity Anglican Church from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a knitting table, sewing table, kitchen cupboard, attic treasures and granny's treasures. For more information call Marilyn Cartmill at 905-737-3337.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Aurora Santa Claus Parade.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five at HSBC Bank, 150 Hollidge Blvd. 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.

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Finalists - It has come down to these five people in the Hoedown Showdown, which moves into its final night at the Graystones Restaurant Wednesday night. The five, left to right, are Sarah Cripps, Kirsten Jones, Fred Lewis, Aaron Shane and Anique Robitaille. Five other singers were eliminated by judges which included famous Sylvia Tyson and John McDermott. One of the above will win cash, a guitar, and will sing at the 19th Annual Magna Hoedown, slated for Saturday, September 16 on the Magna lands, Wellington Street East in Aurora.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Local singer thwarted in “Showdown” effort

The local talent couldn't convince the local judge.

And as a result, Aurora's Nathalie Niesing did not make it past round two in the “Hoedown Showdown” held Wednesday at the Graystones Restaurant.

Third round is this Wednesday, when one of five finalists will be chosen to perform next weekend at

the 19th annual Wild Wild West Magna Hoedown...as well as win some nifty prizes.

Among the panel of judges was Aurora Mayor Tim Jones.

He was accompanied by well-known singers John McDermott and Sylvia Tyson, and Canadian Music Industry Hall of Fame

inductee Heather Ostertag.

The five selected Wednesday included Aaron Shane, Anique Robitaille, Fred Lewis, Kirsten Jones and Sarah Cripps.

Wednesday's final begins at 8 p.m., but if turnout is like it has been the past two weeks, it would be advisable to arrive early.

Bylaw rule trips Morris

During the approval of the agenda at last Tuesday's general committee meeting, Councillor Phyllis Morris asked that a certain item dealing with an application for site plan approval for the Bathurst Street Reservoir by York Region be discussed in public.

When the agenda item came before councillors, the staff report indicated the item was for information only and no council action was required.

Last May when it was learned that the region was acquiring part of the Anne Bartley Smith property (HighTor) for the water reservoir, questions were asked if any recent discussions had been held with the Ontario Heritage Foundation regarding the use of the lands and the reply was in the negative.

At the general committee meeting Councillor Morris asked if word had been received from the Foundation as to whether the money from the sale would be used to improve the property and said she wanted an answer.

Her question was ruled out of order in accordance with the new procedural bylaw which stipulates that items cannot be pulled from the agenda just to ask questions that could have been asked of staff prior to the meeting.

While Councillor Morris did not get her question answered she was successful in having the report received for information and clarification as to the use of the funds.

Her comment about the new procedural bylaw ruling: “that sucks.”



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Poor Richard

Town bylaws should be handled fairly or abolish enforcement

*Bylaws are adopted to solve problems,
And by council they are passed;
But if they are not fairly enforced,
Time and money is wasted on the task!*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

At the recent council meeting, a bylaw was adopted to appoint a new bylaw enforcement officer to join those already on the town staff.

Under the Police Services Act, municipal bylaw enforcement officers are peace officers for enforcing the bylaws of the municipality.

Councils spend a great deal of time and effort in adopting bylaws, mainly at the request of residents who complain to council and demand action.

Many of the traffic complaint problems deal with traffic safety, including parking and poor sightlines at intersections due to a clutter of portable signs or news vending boxes.

It was pointed out that bylaw enforcement officers do not have the authority to deal with moving vehicle offences as that was a police responsibility.

In September, 2004, staff presented a 104-page report consolidating all the parking and traffic controls previously adopted by council over the years and replacing the 1992 bylaw.

In addition to updating the bylaw, staff included 61 existing traffic bylaws dealing with stop signs, heavy truck routes and restricting heavy loads.

Councillor Nigel Kean questioned why the consolidated bylaw was needed as the bylaws were seldom enforced.

He referred to comments made previously by Councillor Bill Hogg about the lack of enforcement and he suggested additional bylaw enforcement staff was needed.

In June, 2004, Councillor Hogg had expressed concern about on-street parking on weekends when bylaw enforcement officers were not available and besides, he said, they only acted on a complaint basis.

He suggested the municipality take a more pro-active approach in enforcing parking control bylaws.

Staff replied that the current complement within the licensing and bylaw enforcement section at that time was two part-time parking control officers and the hiring of a third officer had been proposed but was delayed by council.

But as a result of the concerns expressed by Councillor Hogg, staff agreed to provide greater focus on parking problems at various summer events, but gaps would occur on weekends when only limited patrols were provided.

Bylaw enforcement in Aurora has had its ups and downs over the years.

Back in the 1960s, Aurora had a bylaw officer who worked full-time during the summer months but spent the winter months in Mexico.

In February, 1971, it was recommended that a bylaw enforcement officer be hired full-time but council failed to take action.

In the mid-1980s the province adopted the Provincial Offences Act which stated that effective September, 1987, municipalities would be responsible for parking violations.

Until that point, the town relied on the town police and later the regional police to enforce the parking bylaws.

By September, 1989, it no longer paid to illegally park in Aurora as two uniformed bylaw enforcement officers patrolled the town 14 hours a day, six days a week.

The cost to the town to enforce the legislation was estimated to be \$97,800 a year and it was expected they would produce revenues of approximately \$130,000 a year.

Complaint driven enforcement of bylaws came under considerable criticism at a recent council meeting from citizens and council members.

Two citizens appeared before council to complain that they had received notices of violation from the bylaw enforcement section about parking recreational vehicles based on the complaints of an unknown neighbour.

It was pointed out that they had toured the town and found 147 recreational vehicles in driveways and no action had been taken because no one had complained.

Enforce the bylaws equitably and fairly or get rid of bylaw enforcement.



This shot, taken from a postcard that appears on the internet's e-bay shows the building on the north-west corner of Yonge Street and Bloomington Sideroad, today owned by the Province of Ontario. However, when this photo was taken, the building was a Roman Catholic boys' school known as De la Salle College. The school moved to Aurora from downtown Toronto in 1916, when the building was finished. Thirty-three years later De la Salle returned to Toronto. Thanks to Bob Cooke of Orillia for sending us this postcard.

Letters to the Editor

Vrancic says no to another term

An Open Letter to the residents of Aurora

For the last six years, it has been my privilege to have represented you on Aurora Council.

As another election approaches, I have given serious consideration to another term, but as enjoyable and rewarding as the past two terms have been I have decided not to seek re-election this fall.

Over the years I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet many of you, to get to know your values and concerns, and to have a

direct involvement in the decisions that have shaped our town.

I wish to express to all of you my deep appreciation for the support and encouragement you have given me.

I have also been fortunate to work with some very capable, dedicated and caring individuals at staff, volunteer and council levels.

During the last six years we have been faced with many difficult and challenging issues, and despite divergent opinions that have at times received some negative publicity, I am

proud of the many accomplishments we have made.

Your new council will be faced with continuing challenges to deliver a variety of new services in a fiscally responsible manner, while fending off those who wish to make Aurora like any other GTA municipality.

I am hopeful that our new council will be mindful of our past while steering us in a new direction, and I wish them all the best.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of you to take an active role in our

community - whether it be involvement on committees or simply going out to vote.

It really does make a positive difference.

**Councillor Damir Vrancic
Aurora**

AURORAN

*"Aurora's
Community Newspaper"*

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Some seniors are receiving sub-standard care: reader

To the editor,

Throughout the month of June, articles appeared in newspapers and special events were held in honour of seniors' month.

While various functions were held for those who were fortunate enough to enjoy such events, the plight of many institutionalized seniors continued.

Residents of long-term facilities who receive substandard care are not being honoured -- they are being neglected. When provincial standards and regulations are not strenuously enforced, the number of unmet standards can be expected to rise compromising the safety and well-being of residents.

One should question why nursing homes with a history of repeatedly failing to meet ministry quality standards continue to have their licences renewed, why admissions to such facilities are not ceased, and why they are allowed to continue to operate when the lives of vulnerable and frail seniors are at risk.

A review of compliance inspection reports describes residents who "did not receive treatment and medication as

ordered by physicians", "identifying the whereabouts of (missing residents) were not effective", "insulin dosage was given in excess of Dr.'s order," and incidents of sexual and physical assaults.

Other examples of neglect and abuse include residents not being turned, toiletted or changed for many hours and unsanitary food and hygiene practices.

In May, a helpless stroke resident sustained two broken legs through a lift incident in a nursing home, yet the resident was not sent to hospital until two days after the incident occurred.

Far too many families with parents in nursing homes and those who had parents in long-term facilities, are more than painfully aware of the neglectful practices and the tragic outcomes.

Institutional systemic issues have been going on for decades.

Without strong enforcement of the legislation, by those who have the power to hold accountable those who are responsible for the abusive and neglectful actions against institutionalized vulnerable and dependent residents, the safety of long-term residents will never be

ensured.

While the over-50 population makes plans for retirement such as down-sizing to smaller homes or moving into retirement residences, one should not overlook the possibility of an unexpected downturn in health.

Retirement residences are limited with the level of care they can provide, home care services are increasingly difficult to receive, there is a shortage of experienced, well-trained home support workers, and private care is costly.

The province has continued to fund the escalation of the for-profit nursing home industry while there is a serious lack of non-profit, affordable community-based supportive accommodations, and appropriate home care services integrated with primary physician in-home care.

Without such alternatives, thousands of Ontarians will be faced with no other choice but be forced into a life of institutionalization.

Something to think about when candidates for the next provincial election come looking for your support.

**Ellen Watson
Aurora**



Cathy's Corner

Walk...don't run

By now, word is getting out: Damir isn't running for re-election to Aurora Council.

It's tragic, you know?

No brochure to design...no signs to pound into frozen ground...no doors to knock on in the pouring rain. Whatever will I do?

I guess I'll just have to curl up by the fireplace in the company of my honey...with a glass of wine...after a quiet dinner that I had time to make.

Then we'll leisurely walk the dog and we'll talk about taking up ballroom dancing...or inviting friends to dinner...or going away for the weekend, even!

Omigod! We're going to get us a life!

With only one child at home, the house is so strangely quiet that I can hear myself think, so I won't have to talk to myself anymore.

It was getting scary. Sometimes I had to shout to be heard!

"Mom, who are you yelling at?" the kids would ask, as if they never heard me shout before. Ha!

"Ummm...the dog," I'd lie. "I was just...um, yelling at the dog!"

They didn't buy it.

They would walk away shaking their heads - and muttering to themselves! Oh, the irony!

"There's something wrong with mom," they would whisper to Damir as soon as he came home from work...or council...or some committee meeting. The nerve!

"What makes you think that?" Damir would ask.

"Well, today she was yelling at Jake."

"So?"

Nothing wrong there. Sometimes I even bark at Jake - he's a dog, for heaven's sake! Sometimes I even have to growl to make myself clear! Anybody who has a dog knows you've got to know the lingo. So?

"So?" The kids would recoil in shock. "So? Dad! She was yelling: Don't forget to pay the Visa bill!"

"Oh," Damir would nod, trying not to laugh.

I always think he suspects. But when he pours me a glass of wine and starts rubbing my shoulders, I strongly suspect that he suspects.

Then, if he asks, "How was your day?" I know for sure that he knows for sure.

So, why pretend? Hey, good relationships are built on honesty, aren't they?

"Bad," I would confess, "Very bad!"

He'd give me a sympathetic frown, so I'd gush forth the rest of the truth.

"I forgot to pay the Visa bill!"

Damir would consider this unfortunate...um...recurrence for a moment, and then ask: "Did Jake forget to remind you again?"

I'd make a face. "Funny! Very funny!" Then I'd stomp off.

But, a couple of weeks ago, I started to stomp off when Damir said: "You should fire him and get a new helper," and stopped stomping off when he said: "Can I apply for the job?"

"I don't know" I mused, trying not to blind him with my hopeful beaming. "This is a position of tremendous responsibility! You have to remember to remind me to remember! And there's a lot to remember!"

"Hmmm...maybe if I'm not running, we can start by trying to remember what it feels like to walk," he chuckled.

Walk? Did you say WALK???

Anybody who has a dog knows the power of the word WALK! And, like I said, I do a pretty good dog imitation...uh-huh, that's right!

I jumped up and pranced excitedly in front of my prodigal husband that returneth, pushing Jake out of the way. "You're not running? Really?"

"Really," he nodded.

I let out a decidedly delighted howl. Jake joined in, but I beat him again. I howled louder and held my note longer.

"Omigod," I panted. "You're not running! That means we're not running! That means I can stop running! We're going for a walk! We're going for a bike ride! We can take up ballroom dancing...invite friends to dinner...go away for the weekend...clean out the garage, even!"

Hallelujah! We're going to get us a life!

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

Machell's Corners



Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

By now, you may have received a knock on the door from one of the mayoralty or council candidates or you may have received a pamphlet from one of them in your mailbox.

The municipal campaign will gear up over the next two months for the November 13 election. Part of this process will involve public forums and debates where those seeking council seats or the mayor's chair can discuss their respective visions for the Town.

I have attended a number of the federal, provincial and municipal debates in our community over the years, and for the most part I have found them wanting.

That is not to say they have not been entertaining or interesting. But as a way to impart knowledge and subject candidates to a thoughtful and respectful inspection and evaluation of their views, not a chance.

The reason that the local public forums have not been overtly successful has nothing to do with the candidates themselves or their supporters.

The hall is usually jammed, and the atmosphere is electric and tense, similar to that prior to a big prize-fight.

It has to do with two things; the number of aspirants for the positions and also the format of the debates themselves.

Let's take a brief look at recent federal and provincial leader debates.

These debates are held in a television studio, without an audience. Usually, the party leaders are asked questions by a panel of eminent journalists. Sometimes questions are asked of the leaders directly from the voters; this is done via a video clip.

The debate format has been modified a few times over the years, depending upon the number of party leaders invited to take part. As there were only three party leaders involved in the 1984 and 1988 debates, each of the prime ministerial aspirants had a number of one-on-one sessions with the others.

This led to the memorable and electric Mulroney and Turner exchanges in both 1984 and 1988.

You may recall that the 1993, 1997 and 2000 federal debates were marked by each of the party leaders talking over one another.

No one-on-one debates were held, as there were too many party leaders; the addition of Reform Leader Mr. Manning and Bloc leader Mr. Bouchard made for five on the stage.

The format was altered again for the federal debates held during the most recent election.

Each of the party leaders was not allowed to directly engage the other leaders. It was therefore really a case of the leaders delivering prepared statements.

There was some verbal inter-play, but nothing extraordinary took place, no real fireworks or proverbial "knock-out" punch occurred.

According to published reports, lots of viewers liked the fact that this format allowed for a more respectful tone of communication and they really had a chance to hear - uninterrupted - the party positions enunciated by the leaders.

Not me, I like the confrontational aspect of the debates. I agree that the format does not work with five people speaking over one another and I also very much agree that a more respectful tone is required. A great moderator is also a must.

However, I think they should bring back the one-on-

Debate format needs changing

one engagement. The leaders need to have their opinions subjected to the scrutiny of the harshest light - and aside from news media reports of the party platforms, debate night is the only night of un-filtered focus.

I want to see how a party leader defends his platform position under cross-examination and I also want to see party leaders pick logical holes in their opponents' arguments.

At the local level, the introduction of the one-on-one format could be done for the mayoralty debates.

The problem is that the council debate could include up to 20 candidates, which can be a logistical and thematic nightmare.

I remember witnessing the same thing in Etobicoke in the early 90's - the council election debates were a disaster.

If memory serves, there were about 15 candidates. Each was given a minute or two for an opening statement, then a question would be asked and each candidate had a limited time to answer.

The answers were getting pretty stale by the time the tenth candidate answered the initial question. I didn't really learn anything of substance about any of the candidates.

For argument sake, let's assume there are 20 Aurora Council candidates. I humbly suggest that each candidate should be given an opportunity for a one to two-minute opening statement.

Then, why not place (via a random draw) the candidates into groups of five. Make each "bear pit" session either 15 or 20 minutes. A question is then posed to the group. After a suitable amount of time has been spent on the question, another question is then put forward. Four to six questions should get dealt with during this time.

Each candidate can offer an opinion or challenge the assertions/policies of the others.

This format can work if you have a very strong moderator who lays out the ground rules, and makes sure the candidates follow them.

It also works if the candidates respect fellow candidates and give their competitors the time to finish sentences before interrupting!

Another suggestion is that, while the event should be held as an open forum, there should not be public questions.

Verbal questions from the audience are rarely asked with the sincere intention of seeking an answer.

They are usually asked, after a suitably healthy and highly partisan pre-amble, only in order to embarrass one particular candidate.

Allow members of the media only to ask the questions or, prior to the event, have a panel choose from audience submitted written questions. Or have a mix of media and public questions, but have the moderator read out the questions.

The citizens of Aurora deserve a vigorous and respectful debate this fall on the issues of growth, the level, quality and costs of services, and the appropriate level of taxation.

Revamping the debate format could lead to an interesting, engaging and thoughtful discussion of Aurora's future.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Bill Devins for his recent letter to The Auroran about the new home monstrosities going up east of Bayview Avenue, with endless town homes and link houses jammed together without any thought of planning. It is just another example of planning being out of control in Aurora. Bigger isn't always better!

BRICKBATS to those at York Region and the province for not getting together on Aurora's population on the highway entrance signs to the municipality. One signs shows the population as 41,000, another 46,000 and still another 48,000. The correct figure may be closer to 50,000.

BOUQUETS to nine-year-old Isabel Brims of Aurora for having her lovely long locks cut to make wigs for children suffering from cancer. She grew her hair from age five.

BRICKBATS to those responsible for blocking one lane of northbound Yonge Street as a result of damage caused by the August thunderstorm that created havoc in other parts of the region. It is still closed with no workers on site.

BOUQUETS to Marie and Gordon Barnes for raising \$760 at their unique Tomato Tasting event and donating the money to the Aurora Community Arboretum.

BRICKBATS to a justice system in which it takes more than a year for a trial to take place. Jane Creba was shot on Yonge Street on Boxing Day, 2005, but the trial for the shooting is not likely to take place until 2008. Why?

BOUQUETS to the Town of Aurora staff team who participated in the recent Dragon Boat Race as the kick-off for the United Way of York Region fundraising event and raised \$9,300 for the United Way.

BRICKBATS to Aurora Council for not getting to the root of the speeding problem on residential streets in Aurora. Before spending some \$100,000 on speed humps, chicanes, diagonal diverters and curb expansions take a trip to meet with Police Chief Armand Labarge and the Police Service Board and demand more police enforcement of speeding which is their responsibility!

BOUQUETS to the Leisure Services Advisory Committee for their excellent suggestion that staff investigate the feasibility and potential cost of establishing a policy for the installation of plaques in town parks to provide a brief history of the name of each park.

BRICKBATS to the CNIB for the TV commercial depicting a young man waving his arms in front of a blind man to show off to his girlfriend and when his back is turned the blind man repeating his hand waving. Not a very good example for young people.

BOUQUETS to Councillor Bill Hogg for suggesting an amendment to the procedural bylaw for the chairman to poll the audience for items of specific interest so that the order of the items can be prioritized for discussion.

BRICKBATS to the provincial politicians who decide to run at the federal level during their term of office creating a vacancy and a by-election. Five by-elections were necessary in less than a year costing Ontario taxpayers more than \$2.3 million, which might have been used for health or education.

Letters to the Editor

He disagrees with Camaro view

To the editor,

This is a response to Jim Jackson's letter, "Government Wrong on Camaro Support" (Auroran, Aug. 29).

In light of Jim's letter, Jim's background cannot be in the automotive industry.

First off, Jim says that it is a step in the wrong direction to build the Camaro in Oshawa.

I think it's a step in the right direction because of GM's history of producing a quality product from Oshawa's plant. Also with today's new production line technology, more than one model can be built from the same line. The Camaro would be the first step.

The name Camaro is an icon for General Motors. The previous model stopped production in 2002.

Many Camaro Clubs in North America contacted them at that time to ask that they keep building this car.

In today's competitive market, remember Ford is still producing the Mustang. I think GM has to offer this car to the public.

I believe that many people have already contacted GM to put down a deposit on the vehicle. They want to be first in line.

I look at it this way...Ontario builds cars, the Ontario government helps out, period. The peo-

ple assembling this car are happy with the government's help.

I am a retired mechanic. Most of my career was spent in the airline industry. We all know the Federal Government helped the airlines out from time to time.

Jim talked about the good old days and I guess he means the sixties and seventies when the Camaro was first introduced and very popular.

I remember servicing these cars back then and they all didn't have 400 HP engines.

Jim mentions about energy conservation and public transportation. I lived in Aurora but worked at Pearson Airport. Over my career, I had shifts that started at 0400 hrs, 0500 hrs, and 0600 hrs. I could not use public transportation therefore I had to drive to work.

There were and are more motorists in the same situation now.

I don't know what laws were or were not passed to protect the environment from pollution.

However, I do know that all of today's vehicles operate cleaner and more fuel efficient than the vehicles from the sixties and seventies.

Jim states that more tax money should be spent on better public transportation

methods. Here in York Region we have GO Transit and York Region Transit, now they have added Viva. What more do we need?

The Auto Industry is researching methods to move forward with batteries, hydrogen, and hybrid vehicles, but it takes time and money -- some from the government to accomplish this.

I didn't understand what Jim meant by the Ministry of Education teaching courses on sulphur emissions and global warming and the ozone layer. I do know that today's air conditioned cars are more ozone friendly.

I believe the automobile is going to be around in the future and by the time we run out of fossil fuel the industry will have developed new ways to energize vehicles.

I don't believe all the Camaro's coming from Oshawa will be gas guzzlers as only a few "Car Guys" will order the vehicle with 400 HP engines.

Most consumers will be

happy with the more fuel efficient smaller engines.

Remember most other manufacturers offer 400 HP engines as well and not everybody buys them. With today's technology, they are more fuel efficient than 40 years ago.

Whether this is a wrong turn the Liberal Government is taking remains to be seen. At least they made a turn.

This new vehicle will attract only certain buyers, but, like I said earlier, this is a first step in the multifunctional production line of today.

Can GM stand by and watch Ford keep selling the Mustang?

Let me finish this letter by saying that Jim Jackson had his views on this subject.

I appreciate his views, however, from my blue collar experience of getting my hands dirty in this Ontario of ours, I just cannot agree!

Raymond Noble
Aurora



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Why I decided not to run for top job

To the editor,

It has been a long, hot and glorious summer. I was cool and calm, in the shade of a spreading maple tree in the corner of my yard. But I was not idle.

I was reflecting on everything I have heard, read and know from experience. I was picking up on what people are saying about my proposed bid for the mayor's chair.

Early in my task, I considered stuff I had read in this august journal: Dick Illingworth's idea that candidates should have to take a course...and presumably pass it; Cathy Vrancic's

regular comments about councillors who should not be there, while in the meantime her spouse, who should be there...regularly is not; your most recent correspondent offers advice to voters about what they should look for in a candidate. His first priority would be post-secondary education.

That was the last straw. It set me off on a tangent.

I knew about centuries of bloodshed, tears and abject degradation before ordinary people obtained the right to vote. It is in my bones.

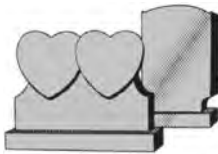
My grandfather told me

Please see page 9

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Letters to the Editor

Graffiti, vandalism annoy resident

To the editor,

While out and about Aurora recently, enjoying the Doors Open Aurora event and the Farmers' Market, my jaunt around our lovely town was marred by the all too frequent sight of graffiti and other signs of vandalism.

At first I was just mildly annoyed; however, after walking approximately six blocks and counting more than 20 visible signs of graffiti and damage, I began to become concerned.

I first noticed the problem this past winter while walking my dog through our interconnected nature trails - every single trash can, wooden stair railing and even the snow on the pathway on one occasion, was spray painted and splattered with a litany of vulgar though often, thankfully, illegible writing.

The property damage is not limited to secluded locations.

For example, the stop sign at Crawford Rose and Aurora Heights was painted with a rude word and stayed that way for 10 days until it was replaced; the illuminated sign for Our Lady of Grace elementary school

was similarly painted with a vulgar expression which has thankfully been removed.

Every mailbox in the neighbourhood is coated in spray-painted scrawling.

Numerous planters have been knocked over; tradesmen's signs are defaced or destroyed - I could go on and on.

The destruction and damage to public and private property is becoming, in my opinion, a significant problem in Aurora and one that warrants immediate attention.

Aurora is a beautiful town with many amenities both natural and built.

It is a community with a wonderful mix of history and heritage alongside vibrant diversity - and it is worth preserving and protecting.

There are a number of helpful graffiti-eradication programs that are currently running in Ontario that can provide assistance in creating a program to address the vandalism concerns specific to our community.

The City of Toronto, for example, has the "5 E's Program - Eradication, Education, Empowerment, Enforcement, and Economic Development" that has proven successful

in mitigating the impact of graffiti in targeted areas.

I am currently researching the Toronto program and others with a purpose towards developing a plan to address the serious issue of property damage in my community.

Like the successful Neighbourhood Watch and Block Parent programs, we need a similar program expressly devoted to eradicating graffiti and other signs of vandalism.

If you have similar concerns and/or are interested in working together to address this serious issue, please feel free to email me at: am_collins@yahoo.com.

Alison M. Collins-Mrakas
Aurora



Nothing escapes the hand of the graffiti artist. This postal truck was recently struck while parked behind the Aurora Post Office.

Cell phones distract drivers, reader claims

To the editor,

Day after day I read in my daily paper of the slaughter on our roads and sure enough some stories reflect on the mother and her child killed when their car left the road near Bradford.

I suppose not even governments want to take on the giants in the industry like Bell and Rogers and Telus, et al, but sooner or later the insurance industry will put the pressure on.

Surely they recognize the scope of the cost.

For all the years of driving in Toronto the rule was simple: both hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road.

All of a sudden, well, for the last ten years at least, people roar past me, coffee on the dashboard, a phone in one ear and one hand on the steering wheel.

You don't have to be a mind reader to know people were not intended to drive in this manner, or we would all be born with a cell phone in one ear.

Eventually the OPP's

Cam Wooley will have another mainline chore added to his library.

Of course that will mean another army of the boys in blue, but, hey, everybody needs a job.

On the brighter side, how sweet it was when we could do 100 clicks down the highway and enjoy the flowers.

Maybe some politician will read this and tackle this very serious issue.

Why spend all our money on cameras and pulling cars over if, in fact, we are going to ignore the scores of tragedies caused by drivers who aren't paying attention?

Ben Kestein
Aurora

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Cat's wondering where it belongs

To the editor,

Please help me!

I am in a total state of distress!

I am either lost or my owner didn't want me and dropped me off.

I need help and am hoping that perhaps someone who reads this letter to the editor will know me and help me find my owners, or if they didn't want me, a new home with someone who cares.

I am currently living under a bush in the garden of two wonderful human beings.

They saw me about a week ago when I was frail and losing weight.

They have taken pity on me and have given me food and water every day.

They have two beautiful house cats, who I envy. They can't take me in because two is company but three is a crowd.

One of the hardest things for me to understand is why no one wants me.

I am friendly and when

someone picks me up I love to cuddle between a neck and shoulders.

I am gaining my strength back because of the wonderful food and water but I am getting a little worried as the nights are getting colder and I heard there was a fox seen in the area recently.

I am a mature cat, with a large white patch on my chest and around my neck.

I have long legs which are mostly white in colour and my paws are white as well. My body is brownish and grey and I am not declawed. I can't send a photo as the good folks here don't have a digital camera.

Right now, I temporarily reside in the back yard of a home located on Hillview Road just west of George Street.

If you think you know me, or if you would like me to come and be your pet, please call 905-727-9676.

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Letters to the Editor

Weller explains reasons for not running

To the editor,

The best decision in my lifetime was back in 1954 when Shirley and I moved from Toronto to Aurora.

Aurora offered everything we wanted in life, a small friendly community with opportunity.

Since that time it has been a pleasure to work and serve the residents of Aurora in various capacities.

The most important and most satisfying position was with our Town Parks Department, where I supervised the maintenance of the different sports fields, quiet areas and buildings for 25 years.

Great pride was taken by my department to create the best parks system that the budget would allow.

When I retired Jim Tree assumed the duties and our parks are still maintained to the highest standards.

In 1959 Harry Jones, our fire chief at the time, phoned my home and asked if I would like to fill a

vacancy on our fire brigade.

The pay was great, \$2.60 a call at that time, whether the response lasted 10 minutes or 10 hours. It took me 30 seconds to say yes. After 20 years fighting fires with a great crew of 24 men it was time to call it quits.

In 1962 an invitation came to join the Aurora Lions Club. I'm still a member and still love working for and with our community.

I served as a member of the War Memorial Board for 34 years, until the work load got too great and I convinced the board to deed the War Memorial and the six acres of land to our town and have our parks department take control. Still having a little spare time to fill, I served 12 years as an elected member of our Aurora Council, 10 years a member of the York Region School Board, nine years on the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority Board and 16 years as a member of the Aurora Agricultural Society.

To round out my career with our town I spent my final three years as an elected member of your Aurora Hydro Commission.

Great times have been spent in the last 10 years travelling and vacationing with Shirley, but, the time has come to purchase a condo and settle down for some quiet time.

A few weeks ago the phone rang, "Hi, Norm, we need you back on council." "No thanks," was my response.

That phone call remained with me. After spending a few weeks consulting with residents of Aurora and taking stock of the activities in the current council, the wheels started to turn and I thought that my career and knowledge of our town made me a candidate again for Aurora Council.

There have been decisions made by our council in past that I could not agree with as I don't believe that they were in the best interest of taxpayers.

I'm not suggesting that our council made decisions that were wrong; it's that I cannot agree with them.

My way has always been to talk with our citizens, research the pros and cons, and listen to the debate before making my final decisions.

Well, Ron, a few years ago with hardly a laugh I said to you that if the time comes to make a run for council that The Auroran will be the first to know.

I will be filing a nomination paper to run for the position of councillor in our next municipal election.

If our citizens in Aurora figure my past experiences would allow me to take a seat on Aurora Council for a sixth time they will let it be known on election day.

The above thoughts were penned a year ago but time changes many things.

The thoughts have been on my mind ever since council sold our Aurora Hydro utility.

However, recent changes in my health would

make it impossible for me to attend council meetings for the first few months of the new term.

This would not be how I would want to represent our town. My motto has followed me all my life: Be there on time, every time, and give 100 per cent.

To the citizens of Aurora who have phoned me and stopped me on the street

expressing their care, concerns and asking me to run for one more term on council, thank you.

Unfortunately, it's not going to happen.

By the way, a note to all seniors: Don't forget our next square dance at the Seniors' Centre Nov. 4!

Norm Weller
Aurora



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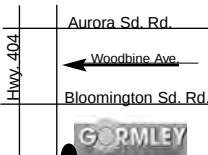
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To the editor,

The Candlelight Tribute committee and the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion is proud to announce that it will be holding its sixth annual “Candlelight Tribute” ceremony on Saturday, September 16, and Sunday, September 17, at the Aurora Cemetery.

The “Candlelight Tribute” is to honour all

veterans who have served our country in the many wars of the last century right up to and including today's peacekeepers.

Late in the afternoon of Saturday, September 16, a small candle will be placed on all known veterans' grave sites.

We will be placing approximately 320 candles which are in red plastic containers and will remain burning overnight

in silent tribute.

If you get an opportunity to walk or drive through the cemetery on Saturday evening, you will be awed by the tranquility the lighted candles create and in all probability will find yourself offering a silent prayer for the veterans who are buried there.

The Legion will be conducting a drum-head service in the cemetery on Sunday, September 17th, which will be preceded by a parade of Legion members and the various youth groups who assisted Legionnaires in placing the flags and candles.

The service will begin at 2 p.m.
All members of the pub-

lic are invited to attend the Sunday service whether or not they are related to any ex-serviceman or ex-servicewoman.

Remember they were willing to risk their lives so that we may enjoy the type of life we live today and I'm sure most of us can spare an hour to attend the service and say “thank you”.

We look forward to seeing you there as we know you will find it a touching and moving experience.

If you require further information, please call me at 905-868-9455.

Rick Preston
Committee Chair
Aurora Legion

He’s fed up with the “status quo”

To the editor,

Re: Sept. 5, Letter to the Editor: “Councillors need to work as a team”.

Marten Mol makes a very good point about the Town of Aurora's council working more harmoniously.

It is indeed “time for people to put our time and energy in what we can do well in Aurora”.

Instead of bickering, name calling and finding new ways to be just outright dysfunctional, councillors need to get their act together and be more responsible.

Over the past term, the council, led by Mayor Tim Jones, has been acting like a group of children, wasting valuable meeting

time arguing about names for streets and other issues which involve the egos of our past and present councillors.

With the next municipal election in a couple of months, it is time for the citizens of Aurora to evaluate our present leadership and vote for change.

I have had it with the status quo.

It is time to clean house, including the mayor's office, and elect some new members for the council.

We need to find a new direction for the Town of Aurora.

Hopefully, our new council will then act in a mature, responsible and positive way.

Jim Jackson
Aurora



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House tour

The Aurora Historical Society hit on a clever fund-raiser several years ago when it introduced a tour of homes in Aurora. Residents could purchase a single ticket which would entitle them to visit numerous historic homes, usually in the downtown core. Saturday night - now that the event has become a "Candlelight Tour of Homes" - was no exception, as hundreds of people took advantage of the opportunity. Five of the seven locations this year were on Spruce Street, and in the top photo, residents line up to gain access to the house at 56 Spruce. Out of the core, but still a favourite, is Willow Farm, owned by Beth and Mike Egan. They are shown in the bottom photo standing in one of their home's elegant rooms. This is the second year Willow Farm - once the Canadian headquarters for Kwik Kopy - has been included in the tour. Also part of the tour, as it is every year, was historic Hillary House, located on Yonge Street in Aurora, and it, as usual, attracted numerous people.

Auroran photos by David Falconer



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Buck withdraws from mayor's race

From page 6
about police breaking into people's homes, flailing clubs, to scatter as few as five, because they might be talking about why, in a 10-hour work day in the blackness and wetness of a coal-mine, they were not paid enough to feed their children.
That was the time of Queen Victoria when Canada was being governed along the lines of British aristocracy.
Like all of her kind, the lady apparently loathed the idea of the unwashed masses having the right to vote...and perish the thought...the right to be elected.
I knew universal suffrage did not happen until the Twentieth century. I just didn't know the year.
So, I spent the summer with my nose in books from various universities, courtesy of the great people at Aurora library.
As the summer wore on, I realized I was doing what I most enjoy: pursuing a quest. But the summer ended and I had to decide.
So, why did I make a bid for the mayor's chair? I knew other people were seeing the same thing I was, because they were telling me that after three

years on the current council, I believe people's rights are being disrespected.
The mayor's office has the greatest potential for making a difference.
But the reality is the mayor's office has a ton of other stuff that goes along with it.
One could argue it is not the most important, but it is essential.
Having to be in three or more different places at once takes enormous

physical stamina, if not the magical power of illusion.
My summer has not demonstrated any inclination in that direction.
So after rigorous self-examination, I decided to register as a council candidate.
In the end mine is not the decision that matters.
By the way, for the benefit of anyone who might be contemplating a bid for a council seat, please note that when I was first a can-

didate I had no claims to any expertise or accomplishment. I just knew I could do as well as any of the people who were there at the time....and I was right.

**Evelyn Buck
Aurora**



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Page 10

AURORAN, Week of September 12, 2006

1,800 attend Yonge St. hockey battle



The puck is in the net (top photo) as the Aurora Tigers opened a first period lead over the Newmarket Hurricanes Thursday night in the first ever "Battle of Yonge Street" exhibition hockey game. In the middle photo, Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor shows his form as he narrowly won a shootout over Aurora Mayor Tim Jones between the second and third periods. Below, Aurora's Brian Larter, who once played the organ for the Toronto Maple Leafs at Maple Leaf Gardens, was right at home at the game providing the musical entertainment. Top right, Member of Parliament Belinda Stronach, who came up with the idea, is flanked by a couple of mascots. Prior to the game a "tailgate party" was held in the parking lot in front of the recreation complex. Party, which was attended by hundreds of hockey fans, was hosted by M&M Meats of Aurora.



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Auroran photos by
David Falconer
and Rob Schuetze

Imagine a shootout going into overtime.

It happened Thursday night when the first "Battle of Yonge Street" between the Junior A hockey Aurora Tigers and the Newmarket Hurricanes took place at the Ray Twinney Recreation Complex in Newmarket.

Between the second and third periods, Aurora Mayor Tim Jones and Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor were slated to hold a puck shootout, and whoever put the puck in the net the most times would win. After four tries, neither mayor had scored, although Jones hit the goalpost twice.

On the fifth and final attempt, both scored, sending the shootout into "overtime".

The pair matched shots on the sixth and seventh attempts, but on the eighth try, Taylor scored and Jones missed.

More than 1,800 people attended the fund-raising event, the brainchild of MP Belinda Stronach. An estimated \$20,000 was raised toward the construction of a cancer centre at Southlake Regional Health Centre.

Oh yeah, Aurora won the game 4-1.



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Season opener

Tigers off to a flying start with 8-2 win

The Aurora Tigers opened their 2006-07 provincial Junior A hockey season Saturday night with a convincing 8-2 victory over the Huntsville-Muskoka Otters.

The game was played in Huntsville.

The victory came on the heels of a 4-1 exhibition win over their arch-rival Newmarket Hurricanes in a fund-raising match held at the Ray

Twinney Recreation Complex in Newmarket Thursday night.

That penalty-filled con-

test saw a third period dust-up where all players involved in the frey were tossed from the game.

Tigers opened a 3-0 first period lead then protected it for the rest of the game.

Scoring for Aurora were Colin Williams, Brandon Walker and newcomers Mike Ward and Mike

Dahlinger.

King City's Andrew Favot added two assists while Tyler Gordon, rock solid in the cage, stopped 19 of 20 shots that came his way.

And, guess what?

Aurora opens its regular home season Friday, September 15th, against you guessed it - Newmarket.

Game time is 7.30 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre.

Aurora Tigers hockey coach, Jerome Dupont, has been named head coach for Canada's Eastern Team representative for the inaugural World Junior A

Challenge to be held in Yorkton, Saskatchewan in November.

Paul Currie, Director of Operations for the Eastern Team, said the former

National Hockey League player and current coach of the Aurora Junior "A" Tigers, of the OPJHL was his choice to handle the reins for the Eastern entry.

Dupont, a Thornhill resident, was a first round pick (15th overall) of the Chicago Black Hawks in the 1980 NHL draft.

The former Toronto Marlboros Junior played with the Black Hawks from 1981 to 1986, and then with the Toronto Maple Leafs in the 1986-87 campaign.

After leaving professional hockey, Dupont remained active coaching youth hockey in the Toronto area.

His current team, the Aurora Junior A Tigers, have been one of the best teams in the country for several seasons.

Dupont said the World Junior A Hockey Challenge is a huge step in the recognition of the positive environment Junior A hockey has to offer within the Hockey Canada umbrella.

"I am looking forward to assembling a winning team

Aurora Minor Ball Association

Standings for MIDGET 2006 final

Team Name	W	L	T	GB	Points	%
Greenham's Distinctive Clothiers	9	4	1	2	19	0.679
Extreme Pita -	8	1	1	-	17	0.85
Dixon Medical Pharmacy	8	3	1	1	17	0.708
NorthView Collision	6	8	1	4.5	13	0.433
Braywood Services	5	6	2	4	12	0.462
McAlpine Ford	4	6	4	4.5	12	0.429
Rowan Hardwood Floors	4	7	1	5	9	0.375
Marlin Travel	0	9	1	8	1	0.05

Greenham's Distinctive Clothiers of Aurora, are winners of the 2006 Interlock Championship

Standings for MOSQUITO 2006 final

Team Name	W	L	T	GB	Points	%
RCR Royal LePage	16	1	0	-	32	0.941
Rotary Club of Aurora	12	3	2	3	26	0.765
Auroraestate.ca	10	7	1	6	21	0.583
Rona Cashway	8	6	0	6.5	16	0.571
Flex 'n' Gate	4	11	1	11	9	0.281
BMO - Mortgages	4	12	0	11.5	8	0.25
TD Waterhouse Wealth Mgmt.	1	15	0	14.5	2	0.063

The Rotary Club of Aurora wins the 2006 Interlock Championship

Standings for ROOKIE 2006 final

Team Name	W	L	T	GB	Points	%
King 2 (Schomberg I.G.A.)	7	3	3	-	17	0.654
Dr. Chan - Bradford	6	3	2	0.5	14	0.636
Dr. Orschel's Drillers	5	4	3	1.5	13	0.542
King 1	4	6	3	3	11	0.423
Priestly Demolition	3	9	1	5	7	0.269

Priestly Demolition of Aurora wins the 2006 Interlock Championship

Standings for BANTAM 2006 final

Team Name	W	L	T	GB	Points	%
Bradford Lions Club	13	1	2	-	28	0.875
Georgina - Red	11	6	0	3.5	22	0.647
Sutton Legion	9	3	3	3	21	0.7
Dell Roofing	8	3	1	3.5	17	0.708
Royal Wood Shop	8	4	0	4	16	0.667
Showcase Furniture Galleries	7	6	1	5.5	15	0.536
DiSal Contracting & Design	7	7	0	6	14	0.5
PartSource	5	9	1	8	11	0.367
Armstrong Petroleums	4	13	0	10.5	8	0.235
Smith William & Bateman	2	12	0	11	4	0.143
Wait's Bathroom Plus	2	12	0	11	4	0.143

Standings for Peewee 2006

Team Name	W	L	T	GB	Points	%
Aurora Home Hardware	14	2	1	-	29	0.853
Centre Ice Sports	13	5	1	2	27	0.711
FileBank Records	12	5	1	2.5	25	0.694
FutureStars Baseball Camp	10	6	2	4	22	0.611
Mastercut Property Services	10	7	2	4.5	22	0.579
Phil's Motors	10	7	2	4.5	22	0.579
Gary's Service & Towing	6	6	1	6	13	0.5
Good Year - Aurora	3	13	3	11	9	0.237
Pefferlaw Lions Club	2	10	1	10	5	0.192
Toronto Star	2	10	1	10	5	0.192
Rhind Electric	2	13	1	11.5	5	0.156

Centre Ice Sports of Bradford wins the 2006 Interlock Championship

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CBS officials set goal for mayor's blood clinic

Canadian Blood Services (CBS) is looking for 32 units of blood from Aurorans, and officials are convinced it will happen later this month.

To that end, the Town of Aurora Mayor's Clinic will be set up in the Town Hall Friday, September 22 from 11.30 a.m. until 2.30 p.m. and when it's over, officials

expect to have hit their goal.

In addition, Canadian Blood Services is encouraging all Aurora healthcare professions to participate in the "Blood: Your Health Care Connection" blood donor awareness campaign.

They are inviting local healthcare employees, family members and friends to

take an hour from their schedules and head to the town hall.

"Canadians have always relied on the healthcare community for leadership and guidance when their personal health is concerned," said Tami Clark, Clinic Recruitment Coordinator, Canadian

Blood Services. "Observing the everyday use of blood products gives healthcare professionals a unique perspective of the ongoing need. They understand needs must be met to continue quality patient care.

"One of the constant challenges that we face at Canadian Blood Services is the recruitment and retention of blood donors," she said. "Over the coming year we will need to recruit 80,000 new donors to meet patient needs. Canadian Blood Services is very pleased the healthcare community along with other community and corporate partners, are helping us reach this goal so we can maintain the level of service to our hospitals."

The campaign started September 1st and continues until October 31, and will mark the first year Canadian Blood Services has urged local healthcare institutions, providers and support companies to work together in saving lives through blood donation.

The public is also encouraged to support this campaign by calling 1-888-2-DONATE to make an appointment. Sign-in sheets for healthcare members and supporters will be at the clinic.

Parking woes continue

From page 1

committee to carry out a study with a mandate of making recommendations for the allocation of space in the library square meetings.

After meeting all summer and not being able to reach any recommendations, the committee was disbanded.

The debate started all over again and when agreement couldn't be reached about hiring a consultant, the whole issue was referred to staff.

Discussions have since taken place about demolishing the former library and seniors centre to provide more parking, but council was unable to reach agreement.

Finally two months ago it was agreed staff investigate and report back on alternate parking solutions such as metered or timed parking, initiation of a parking study in the downtown core area, and negotiations with Trinity Anglican Church regarding a parking agreement.

Later staff members reported that to carry out a parking study of the downtown core would require considerable field work and analysis and the estimated cost of a study was \$30,000.

As no funds had been allocated in the 2006 budget, direction was requested as to whether to use contingency funds for an immediate start or whether the issue should be discussed in 2007.

Councillor Nigel Kean asked if a report was available from Trinity Church and staff replied they had no success in obtaining information but would keep trying.

It was finally decided to refer the issue to a general committee meeting when more information was available.

At Tuesday's general committee meeting the same report was resubmitted with the request that council provide direction as to whether they wished to use contingency funds for

the immediate start of the work or to discuss it during 2007 budget deliberations.

Councillor Kean noted that no answers had been provided especially with regards to availability of parking during the week at Trinity Anglican Church. He recommended the \$30,000 be included in 2007 budget discussions but failed to obtain a seconder.

With the decision made by council not to demolish either the former library or seniors centre, and with the leasing of the former seniors centre on a temporary basis to a social agency for \$1,500 a month, council agreed a solution must be found.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner suggested vacant properties on Yonge Street be included in the study.

After further discussion it was decided by a 4-2 vote to proceed with the study with a \$30,000 limit.

Councillors Buck and Gaertner opposed the recommendation.

Business program set for ninth year

The Women's Centre of York Region is launching the ninth year of its Enterprising Women program.

The program provides women with the opportunity to start their own businesses and use their skills and talents, while having the flexibility to raise a family and build a solid future.

The Women's Centre is located at 15208 Yonge Street in Aurora, just south of Wellington Street.

The program includes five months of in-class sessions facilitated by an experienced entrepreneur, as well as one-on-one business coaching.

It starts with the basics – self and business assessment, choosing a name, conducting market research, cash flow analysis and legal issues, and then offers specialized sessions such as web marketing, networking, commercial real estate, bookkeeping, and work-life balance.

Guest speakers are brought in for specific ses-

sions to offer additional expertise on particular subjects.

Enterprising Women is open to women 18 years and older, living in York Region.

They must have a viable business idea and be able to commit to attending all sessions of the program, which runs from November 2, 2006 to April 3, 2007 at Trinity Anglican Church in Aurora.

Course fee is \$50.

Enterprising Women has graduated many women starting up successful businesses including Fraktals Chocolates, Cathy's Crawly Composters, Spanish to Go, Café on the Lake, and Invite Me! cards.

Women in the program credit the support, encouragement, and networking as key to their success.

For more than 20 years, Women's Centre of York Region, a community based not-for-profit agency, has been providing support and services for women across

this region.

Enterprising Women will be launched in November 2006 with orientation sessions September 19 and 21 in Aurora.

For further information, call 905-727-5837, extension 203.



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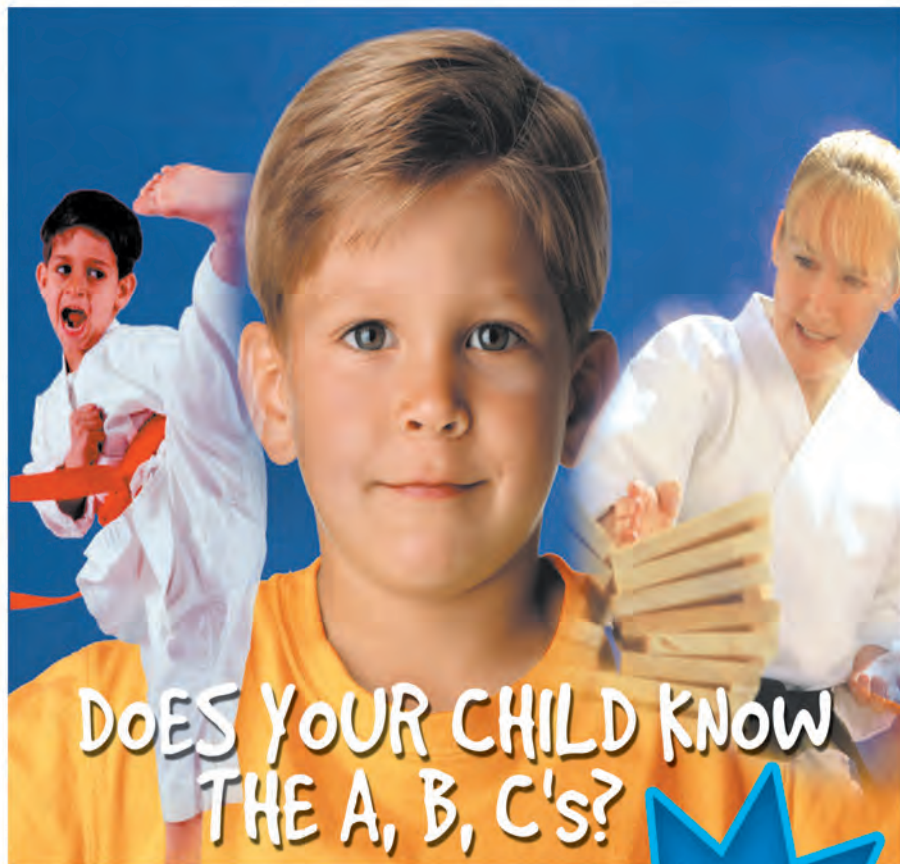


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Proposed split for sign bylaw

Currently Aurora's sign bylaw governs both temporary and permanent signs and the responsibility is shared between the Building Administration Department and Bylaw Services.

The Building Administration Department is responsible for the regulation and enforcement of permanent signs, such as wall signs, pylon or ground signs, while Bylaw Services is responsible for temporary signs such as mobile/trailer signs, A-frame signs and special event signs.

Due to the overlap of responsibilities that currently exists as well as the confusion that sometimes occurs communicating responsibility levels to the public, staff members recommended the existing sign bylaw be segregated into two distinct bylaws, one for permanent signs and the other for temporary.

It was proposed that certain changes be made to the permanent sign bylaw including a heritage review for any proposed signs in the Heritage District and also the number of signs permitted.

It was also proposed that the request for sign variance fee be increased from \$150 to \$450 as a cost recovery measure. Staff researched other municipalities and found sign variances fees ranging from \$350 to \$650.

With regard to temporary signs, one A-frame sign is permitted for each business provided the sign is located on private property and is removed at the close of each business day.

Staff has continued to receive complaints about various types of temporary signs particularly around new retail properties as the signs have remained on the boulevards continuously.

Last week, general committee directed that an Open House meeting be convened to receive public comment on the proposed bylaws and that copies of the proposed bylaws be circulated to the Economic Development Advisory Committee and the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

The general committee also directed that the proposed bylaws including any amendments be presented to the new council in 2007.



Former home of Knowles Butchers

Century+-old butcher shop has become a law office

Aurora continues to change and a major change took place in May, 2002, when a long time butcher shop in the downtown core was converted into a modern law office, and this was shown in pictures in a recent edition of The Auroran.

Located on the south side of Wellington Street East just east of Yonge Street is the law office of Shugart and Associates, but until the change the building had been a butcher shop since 1885 and it still retains its Boomtown front.

It was back in 1854, after the arrival of the first train the year before, that John Mosley and Richard Machell subdivided their land holdings on either side of Wellington Street.

In 1885, William J. Knowles acquired the property and opened his butcher shop.

It had large shop windows on the main floor and tall round-headed windows on the second floor.

The height of the building was emphasized by the extension of a parapet wall with cornice detail worked into the brick with brackets and frieze.

The building also demonstrated a change in commercial use as the residential section was moved from beside or behind the shop to the second floor over the store.

Farmers in the Aurora area brought their cattle along Wellington Street to be butchered nearby and sold in the shop which was operated by W.J. Knowles and his sons and grandsons for almost a century.

He served as mayor of Aurora in 1906.

It was later operated as Caldwell Meats and Tayson Meats.

But in May, 2002, Dave Taylor, who operated Tayson's, had to close the doors of the butcher shop due to illness in his

family.

His 32-year-old daughter required full-time care after a horseback riding accident in British Columbia nearly four years before which left her with permanent brain damage.

He had no choice and after 17 years he had to sell his business in May, 2002, and after 117 years Aurora's oldest butcher business closed forever and the building was renovated into a legal office.

It was the end of another Aurora tradition.

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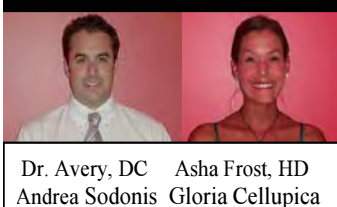
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Board meetings

By BRIAN WARBURTON

As a director with the Aurora Seniors Association [ASA], I attend board meetings at which a considerable amount of important business is conducted.

And I think it appropriate to write a few words pertaining to this matter, taking care naturally, to preserve directors' confidentiality.

I note that small matters of business can occupy time as completely as more important matters, and often do.

Nevertheless, the ASA is a vibrant, growing community of seniors with a profusion of business items big and small demanding time and attention.

And each director has a report to make and a right to the attention of fellow directors while making it, and I hasten to say, we listen and pay attention, with respect.

The last directors' meeting held in August received a report from Bill and Mary Higgins who operate our kitchen in the centre; a kitchen which is new like the centre, and which is in process of fine tuning.

I will spare the details except to say that every function and event has gone well; the volunteers are very interested in providing a high quality product and that is what they do, consistently.

I mention this kitchen because it is a big undertaking, occupying donated time of a lot of willing volunteers.

We discussed the Christmas lunch which will be held over two days, Dec. 6 and 7, with a maximum of 150 patrons for each day.

The ASA Showcase was mentioned, which I expect to write about next week, and which will showcase the centre.

I have already written about the TV in the lounge and the 'Canadian Flags' backdrop for the stage, which I wrote about last week, and is in fact a wall hanging.

The directors were each required to make a report which concerned the Trillium Foundation.

The computer club director's report concerned improvements of equipment and the installation and set up of the equipment, which is technologically demanding and well deserving of recognition.

The ultimate thrust of the effort by these volunteer ASA directors, is to provide quality operation of the ASA in a close cooperative partnership with the Town of Aurora, through the Town Coordinator, Kelly Elliott.

And quality operation translates into a fine seniors' centre, which I believe is true of the ASA which is in a positive state of evolution to excellence.

We have a way to go but we have also progressed a long way to a condition, which I describe conservatively as a modern, handsome edifice to seniority.

I speak also to, of, the seniors who have not yet visited the centre.

Everybody has something to gain or to offer the centre be it the welcome company of a smiling face, or somebody imbued with a gift or talent that could be shared with others.

Members possessed of leadership emerge in any group of people and we have many leaders, with room for more, since new projects emerge constantly and always require somebody to step forward to assume the mantle of leadership.

RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Remembering Slater's pool

WHEN EAST AURORA WENT WET

With the coming of regional government in 1971, Aurora assumed the area south of the St. John's Sideroad, west of Highway 404, north of Bloomington Road and east end Aurora from Whitchurch Township, but it wasn't part of Aurora when the liquor plebiscite was taken.

It wasn't until November, 1980, when the town voted to make the area officially wet although liquor licenses had been granted to the Westview Golf Club, Timberlane Tennis and Country Club and Beacon Hall Golf Club.

In the November 1980 vote, 77 per cent of residents in the affected area voted in favour of dining rooms selling beer and wine and 64 per cent voted in favour of selling spirits in licensed lounges and now they are legal.

Long before Aurora had an indoor swimming pool, many Aurorans visited the Slater Lumber Company Pool in Vandorf after its opening in November, 1968, following the destruction by fire of the previous mill in 1966.

Because fire insurance for sawmills cost 60 per cent less if there was a large body of water nearby, instead of installing a water tower, Mr. Slater found out that a pool was comparable in cost and a lot more fun.

While the basic purpose of the pool was to provide an emergency water supply of 150,000 gallons for fire fighting, it also provided Whitchurch and area residents with an Olympic-sized swimming pool for their year-round use.

The pool was 82 feet long, 42 feet wide, 10.5 feet at the deep end, three feet at the shallow end and was lighted and heated.

The fully insulated building was 124 feet by 60 feet which allowed a wide apron around the pool plus two change rooms, shower rooms and a common room.

In February, 1975, pool owner Tom Slater cancelled his public swimming program and offered the use of the pool to Aurora citizens free of charge on Saturday mornings.

While the use of the pool was free it was necessary for the town to provide lifeguards and arrange bus transportation so there was a nominal charge for adults of 75 cents with children free, according to Mr. Slater's wish.

ANOTHER POOL STORY

In April, 1969, Aurora Council approved spending up to \$1,000 for a feasibility study of a Olympic-sized swimming pool to be built as part of the new Aurora High School.

The concept of the pool which would be paid for by the town and maintained on a cost-sharing basis with the school board was to provide pool facilities for the students during the day and for the community in the evening and on weekends.

The feasibility study was to determine the exact costs of the pool and enable council to decide whether to proceed or not. When the cost came in at around \$400,000 no further action was taken.

In January, 1973, on a 6-2 vote, council rejected a request to renew discussion with the school board regarding an indoor swimming pool at Aurora High School

It was pointed out that in addition to the outdoor pool on George Street there were large pools at St. Andrew's College and Slater's Lumber Mill as well as a private pool at the Aurora Highlands Golf Club and there had been no demand from the public for a new pool.

Carol and Kate Cunnison, fully qualified instructors, were also providing swimming lessons in the family private pool, especially for tiny tots in July 1976 as they had been doing for the past four years.

SHOP AURORA

In January, 1983, several merchants on Yonge Street in downtown Aurora got together to sponsor The Giant Aurora Yonge Street Sale with fabulous savings.

Participating merchants displayed "Giant Aurora Yonge Street Sale" signs.

Participating merchants included the Artists Colony, Aurora Radio Hospital, Aurora Typewriter, Brasstique Sleepshop, Country House Restaurant, DeeMac Furniture, Heritage Carpets, H.A. McLean Chev Olds, Leslie Appliances, Lynn's Stained Glass, Molyneux Shoes, Mac Fleming Paint, Nature's Paradise, Southdown Travel, Tratina Bakery and Waterbeds of York.

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Parking lot paving delayed

Patrons of Theatre Aurora will be disappointed to learn paving of the Factory Theatre parking lot will not be carried out this year but will be re-rendered in 2007.

In reviewing sub-soil conditions it was found a mixture of wood, brick, concrete and steel at several locations and depths did not meet Ministry of Environment standards.

Without knowledge of the soil conditions the sum of \$30,000 was included in the 2006 capital budget but when the tenders closed the prices from six bidders ranged

from \$82,748 to \$311,500.

Discovery of contaminated soil conditions would add to the length of time to carry out the project which would interfere with the theatre schedule.

Last Tuesday the general committee agreed to reconsider the project during the 2007 budget deliberations. Council was expected to endorse the recommendation this week.

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3) 29 Avondale Cres. 8 - noon
4) 27 Timpson Dr. 8 - noon
5) 54 Moffat Cres. 8
6) 57 Royal Rd. 8 - 2
7) 34 Child Dr. 8.30 - noon
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\$1,000	\$234
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