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Vol. 6 No. 48

AURORAN, Week of October 3, 2006

905-727-3300

Six - count 'em - six council seats vacant

An unprecedented six council seats will be up for grabs in the next Aurora municipal election. That became a fact last week when Councillor Phyllis Morris announced she would run for the mayor's position, and ailing Councillor John West officially



TIM JONES



NIGEL KEAN



PHYLLIS MORRIS

declared he would not seek re-election. Other vacancies are caused by Nigel Kean, who is also running for mayor, and Councillors Bill Hogg, Damir Vrancic and Ron Wallace, who have decided against seeking re-election. Incumbents, who will join 18 other hopefuls for the eight seats, include Evelyn Buck and Wendy Gaertner, both who will seek re-election. Included in the list of newcomers - those officially registered when nominations closed at 5 p.m. Friday - include: Alison Collins-Mrakas, Alan Dean, John Gallo, Stephen Granger, Glyn Jones, Evelina MacEachern, Grace Marsh, Aimé Martin, Eric McCartney, Bob McRoberts, Bryan Moir, Keith Munro, Miloslav Prikryl, Stan Rycombel, Kam Sadiq, Michael Thompson, Norm Weller, and Al Wilson.

Mayor Tim Jones, if re-elected, will begin his fifth term as Mayor of Aurora, also unprecedented in the history of municipal politics in Aurora. Of the council hopeful list, Evelina MacEachern and Norm Weller have served on council in the past. To read a small bio on each contestant, please see Page 12. You can vote in the municipal election if on voting day you are a resident of Aurora, the owner or tenant of property in the Town or the spouse or same sex partner of such a person, a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years of age and not prohibited from voting by law. Check to see if your name is on the Voters' List at the Municipal Office, the Aurora Public Library during normal business hours, or on the Town's website by clicking on Aurora Vote 2006.

Farmhouse tenant drops a bombshell

Aurora Council Tuesday put the brakes on a proposal to evict a day care centre from the Jack Woods farmhouse when new information, explaining why rent hadn't been paid for more than a year, hit them like a bombshell. Aurora's General Committee heard a week earlier that rent hadn't been paid since the beginning of 2005, and recommended the Crescentbrook Farms Day Care Centre, part of the York Region Neighbourhood Services be evicted. Because of the lack of payment, the committee felt it had no choice but to evict the tenants. However, all that changed last week, when Patricia Robertson, representing the agency, said the facility had been told not to pay rent until council decided on a course of action. The rent money, she said,

was put in a trust fund. About \$26,000 is owed for 2005 alone in back rent. The information sent councillors scurrying into a private meeting to discuss the turn of events. When councillors returned to public session, Councillor Damir Vrancic, who had recommended the eviction a week earlier, suggested town staff meet with agency officials and submit a further report to council and that no action be taken until the report was received. Council agreed. During her talk, Ms Robertson pointed out the high costs of maintaining the house and said the agency had previously appealed to council for changes to the agreement, as more than \$90,000 had been spent in capital costs on the building. She said the agency had worked in good faith with the **Please see page 14**



Her name is Olive (Bostwick) Komar, and she once taught at Church Street School, where she appeared Saturday for the building's Open House. Two of her former students, Mary (Stocks) Gibson, and Gary Gilbert, brother of last year's Citizen of the Year, Bud Gilbert, stand on the steps of the school behind her. Olive taught at the Aurora Public School (Church Street) from 1943 until 1951 and was the first woman teacher to get married while still teaching. But before she could, she needed approval from all of the school board trustees. Want to see Olive when she was a teacher at the school? Please turn to Page 4. Meanwhile, the Open House, organized by members of the Aurora Historical Society, to make people more aware of the historic building, attracted hundreds who enjoyed tours of the building and a barbecue, courtesy of Greg Foster, who operates Aurora's M&M Meats outlet. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

Party for Rosalyn

After 21 years as general manager of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Rosalyn Gonsalves is retiring. But not without a party. So other Chamber staff members have organized a "best wishes only" gathering at the Graystones Restaurant, Thursday, November 16, from 6 to 9 p.m. The problem is capacity. Only 250 people can fit into the room, so if you wish to attend, you need to register now. You can do so on line at www.aurorachamber.on.ca or by calling 905-727-7262. Chamber executives are still interviewing people who have applied for Rosalyn's job.

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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

Until October 13 the Aurora Food Pantry and the York Region's Women are inviting Aurora citizens to donate 1000 pounds of non-perishable food for the Fall Food Drive. Drop your food donation off at R & R Revisted on Mary Street or the Farmers' Market.

The 3rd Aurora Scouting Group has spaces available in Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers. For registration information or to volunteer call 905-726-2393 or 905-841-0556.

Meet at Martha's Table, now in its second season. Every Thursday from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., you will find comfort food and a sense of community at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. A lunch of hot soup, sandwiches, and dessert will be provided.

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.

Aurora Zen Meditation Group meets weekly every Wednesday evening at Healing Hands Wellness Centre on Wellington Street East at 7.30 p.m.

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 look-

ing 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.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

CRFB's Mark Elliott is guest moderator for a community education event focusing on early identification and intervention of psychosis and substance misuse. "When it's more than just being a teen" is an information event scheduled at Trinity Anglican Church from 5.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

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.

Willow Children's Garden, a Waldorf Early Childhood experience for parents and children, open house from 10 to 11.30 a.m., 15040 Yonge Street, above Needles and Knits.

Harvest Fair at Wesley United Church from 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., corner of Woodbine Ave and Aurora Sideroad (Wellington Street East). For further information call Sherry at 905-853-4915.

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.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

140 Royal Canadian Air Cadets hosts an open house for youth ages 12 to 18 at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School (back entrance) from 7 to 9 p.m. Visit www.AuroraAirCadets.ca or call 905-727-4692 for more information.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

Seventh Annual Celebration of Business - Business Achievement Awards at DiNardo's Mansion in Aurora to honour outstanding businesses in the community hosted by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. For ticket information call the Chamber office at 905-727-7262.

Aurora's Trinity Anglican Church will fea-

ture 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.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

All candidates' meeting prior to the November 13 municipal election, presented by the Aurora Community Sport Council, at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, beginning at 7.30 p.m. For more information, visit www.AuroraCommunitySportCouncil.com.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

"Beyond Google". Instruction in advance internet search strategies using electronic data bases 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.

"The Nightmare Before Christmas Charity" for residents of Aurora and surrounding area at DiNardo's "haunted" Mansion.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

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

York Chamber Ensemble presents "Keys of Autumn," a 7.30 p.m. concert, at Trinity Anglican Church. Chamber orchestra, conducted by Aurora's Tony Browning, will present Antonio Vivaldi's "Autumn," G. F. Handel's "Queen of Sheba," Felix Mendelssohn's "String Symphony," and more. Tickets are \$15 or \$10 for students and seniors.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

All Candidates Meeting, sponsored by the Aurora Library Board, at the Aurora Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive, beginning at 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Aurora Chamber of Commerce sponsors an All Candidates Night including a Mayor's Debate at the Howard Johnson Hotel.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Marquee Theatrical Productions annual fundraiser at the Howard Johnson Hotel.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Find treasures, baked goods, and crafts at the St. Andrew's Christmas Bazaar and Hot Lunch. Event will be held from 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church, corner of Mosley and Victoria. Lunch, served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., cost is \$6 for adults; \$3 for children 4 to 9.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Municipal Election Day.

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.

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.

Big Brothers Big Sisters 12th Annual Gala Auction at DiNardo's Mansion in Aurora with dinner at 7.30 p.m., a live and silent auction and a dance. Reserve tickets at \$150 each by calling 905-895-0289, extension 304.

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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Hartwell Thayer Financial Services Group, Hazeldene House, Gift & Home Décor
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Ovation Meeting Solutions Inc., Rebecca's Specialty Sweets,
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For tickets, call the Aurora Chamber at 905-727-7262.



Equipped with its own splint, Frank Stronach's inspiration tree on Magna property in Aurora's east end is being tenderly looked after by Magna personnel. The tree, originally struck by lightning, refused to die, but its own weight after it grew a wing, caused it to split this summer. Inset, Magna golf course employees Norm Crowe, left, and John Vanwijngaarden, collect seeds from the tree for future planting.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Council wants more information before okaying Loblaws' request

Aurora councillors approved one project Wednesday night, but agreed another report would be necessary on another project because of parking woes.

Councillors heard from many residents in the Yonge-Batson area complaining about existing parking problems and arguing a proposed apartment building would only add to the problem, but in approving the five-storey building, agreed one had nothing to do with the other.

Meanwhile, at the other end of town, Loblaws Superstore will have to submit another report before it's allowed to expand its facility to more than 120,000 square feet.

Both issues were presented to a public planning meeting.

Located on the east side of Yonge south of Batson and Craddock Park is the 0.44 acre site currently vacant but once the site of the famous Doll House.

Proposed is an apartment building containing commercial uses on the ground floor, 15 units above, primarily two-bedroom.

A party room is planned on the fifth floor.

The commercial units would include banks or financial establishments, business and professional offices.

The application was first heard at a meeting in May and due to the number of citizen complaints, council agreed it be brought back to another meeting once issues had been resolved.

Complaints included parking, garbage, snow removal, lighting from parking lot, traffic impact and loss of property values.

In a report to the second meeting staff pointed out the apartment building is on a lower grade than the residences, resulting in the roof heights being about the same level.

A parking review was carried out at two comparable sites in Aurora to determine the peak demand for this type of development and it was found the proposed parking spaces will meet the needs of the development.

Staff members said the proposed building will be a positive addition to Yonge Street and recommended the application be approved in principle subject to the resolution of outstanding issues and approval be given with at least the first site plan application.

Several residents repeated many of the same complaints heard at the first public meeting, pointing out there was considerable parking on their residential streets due to the overflow from three pubs in the area and from soccer teams playing at Craddock Park.

Residents continued their arguments about lack of parking until it was later pointed out their major concerns were due to the overflow from area stores, pubs and the park and had nothing to do with the application.

Councillors approved the application in principle, subject to the resolution of outstanding issues.

During the superstore presentation councillors heard that the Loblaws building is located at Bayview and the St. John's Sideroad on 11.5 acres of land and the maximum permitted retail gross floor area is 81,590 square feet, with a mezzanine for non-retail uses.

Parking requirements are 5.5 spaces per 100 square metres of retail floor area and 3.3 spaces per 90 square metres of mezzanine floor area.

The application is for an expansion to the existing supermarket for an increase in the permitted retail area from 61,590 to 124,591 square feet.

The application also asks that the on-site parking requirement be reduced by 180 spaces, or a ratio of 3.17 spaces per 100 square metres.

A peer review by the applicant supplied market demand and impact analysis and found that the proposed expansion was justified based on the market study.

Staff met with the applicant to discuss the parking shortfall but the applicant indicated on-site parking supply of 504 spaces would be adequate.

However it was pointed out that problems may develop in the summer months when 74 parking spaces would be used for a garden centre.

Jonathan Rogers, representing the applicant, said he agreed with the staff report and looked forward to coming back after the peer review.

The owner of an adjacent property argued for the required number of spaces saying the overflow would utilize parking spaces on adjacent properties. A citizen also wrote to council objecting to the expansion.

Councillor Evelyn Buck said it was a large store now and wondered by they would plan such a large addition when there was such limited parking. She did not support the proposal.

Councillor Damir Vrancic noted out that an LCBO store was under construction and he understood the developers had previously agreed to allow the Loblaw overflow to park in LCBO spaces.

Staff replied that the LCBO had an excess of 47 parking spaces, but an easement would be required between the two companies.

Councillors questioned the ability to handle any overflow especially at Christmas time and asked if the superstore would be using parking spaces to sell Christmas trees.

After further discussion council adopted the staff recommendation that a further report be submitted to council after a peer review of the parking demand study had been completed.



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for
Mayor
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Poor Richard

Speeding still a major issue on town roads

*Speeding is the major issue,
As citizens continue to beef;
Where is police enforcement
Is a question to ask the Chief!*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Over the years, one of the major complaints received by Aurora Council is the lack of control over speeding on residential streets.

Delegation after delegation has appeared before council demanding lower speed limits, more stop signs, speed humps or anything to slow down motorists and, in spite of the best efforts of council, the speeding problem remains.

As far back as 1971, Aurora Council requested stricter enforcement of the speed limits in Aurora after York Regional Police took over from the Aurora Police Force.

While the Aurora officers may not have been as well trained in criminal investigations, they were most capable of looking after traffic safety in Aurora and there were few citizen complaints.

In May, 1989, then York Region Police Chief Don Hillock, a former Police Cadet with the Aurora force, told Aurora Council that lowering speed limits and erecting stop signs only created more offenders and contributed to traffic congestion.

In May, 1990, York Regional Police reported that speeding was a contributing factor in 42 per cent of traffic accidents.

As a result they launched their "Speeding Slows You Down" campaign and targeted the roads where accidents occurred and did nothing for residential streets.

In August that year, the province increased the fines for speeding offences based on the philosophy that if motorists were hit in the pocketbook, they would slow down, but it didn't work.

By September, 1995, the problem had reached such epidemic proportions in Aurora that council was besieged by angry citizens demanding action, even to the extent of closing roads to motor vehicles.

Council pointed out that the problem was lack of police enforcement.

This resulted in Aurora Council approaching York Regional Police to request the use of pay duty officers for the express purpose of enforcing speed limits on selected Aurora streets as designated by council.

After considerable discussion at the Police Commission, former Police Chief Bryan Cousineau recommended a month trial which was finally approved in October, 1997.

On the first day of the trial project during a four-hour blitz on Kennedy Street, the pay duty officer ran out of tickets and one speeding motorist was hit with a \$300 ticket.

But the successful pilot project was short lived as Acting Police Chief Peter Scott terminated it claiming the issue of speeding should be dealt with by on-duty police officers.

The speeding complaints continued and council approved more and more stop signs, lower speed limits and the introduction of speed humps to control speeding.

In September, 2003, York Regional Police announced the start of the "Safe Streets, Nice Neighbourhoods" project which was designed to target residential traffic complaint areas and school and community safety zones with a zero tolerance attitude.

Police officials said the project would take enforcement into subdivisions to target aggressive drivers who choose to jeopardize the safety of children and other citizens.

The police promised to target speeding, stop sign and school bus violations and other traffic related laws.

Since then, little or nothing has happened to control speeding in Aurora.

The problem got so bad that council spent \$30,000 to engage a traffic consultant to study the problems of speeding and traffic volume in the northeast quadrant of old Aurora.

To implement the recommendations will cost about \$100,000 of taxpayers' money, when speed enforcement is the responsibility of the police force.

Where are they and what happened to "Safe Streets, Nice Neighbourhoods"?



Letters to the Editor

Now we know birds are cormorants

EDITOR'S NOTE: Well, there's no question what those birds were that appeared on this page last week in two photographs taken by Aurora photographer Rob Schuetze.

They're cormorants, and dozens of people told us so, some in letters, and some in "don't use my name" phone calls.

One such caller said if we see these birds we "should shoot them" because of the damage they will cause to freshwater lakes. An eight-year-old is familiar with the birds and her letter leads off:

Dear Mr. Schuetze,

I am responding to your sights of the mysterious birds. I have seen them, too.

Because of my bird book, I think I know what they are. They are double-crested cormorants.

I know this because they have the same tail feathers, same hook on beak, same colour, they like to be in trees near water, they come to southern Ontario in the summer, and the number of them has increased greatly since 1970.

If you need help with other birds get Birds of North America by Ken Kufman. (That's my bird book!)

I don't know what they eat but, no, you won't be their next meal, and that's for sure!

Samantha Firman, 8

To the editor

What are these feathered critters? - Auroran, Page 4, Sept. 26.

To the reader who sent in the picture: I believe these "critters" are Double-crested Cormorants. From books Roger Tory Peterson "How to Know the Birds" and Audubon Society "Master Guide to Birding" these Pelicaniformes, nicknamed by fishermen as "old black shags" range in North American inland, and are often seen in trees.

That's my best guess.

**Bill Hack
Aurora**

To the editor,

I noticed the picture of the "strange birds" in the Sept. 26 edition of The Auroran.

I live near the McKenzie Marsh and have seen these birds quite often.

I've also seen them at the Leslie Spit, which is a great spot for bird watching. I believe that they are double-crested cormorants.

There are lots of other pretty birds in the McKenzie Marsh, such as terns, great blue herons and kingfishers. Last year I was lucky enough to see a visiting - or lost - American white pelican!

Thank you for your time,

**Jaimie Bortolotti, 12
Aurora**

To the editor,

I am a bird lover from way back and I believe the birds that Rob has captured in his camera are Cormorants, specifically "Double-crested".

There are three types of Cormorants.

These birds are typically around water, and they grunt a lot. When they swim, you can really only see their necks and heads (unlike ducks or geese) and they feed on small fish, and perch upright usually in bald trees.

A cousin of mine lives down in Brighton right on Lake Ontario.

There are several small islands off the shore at Presquile Provincial Park's shore and these birds, as they have huge colonies, have destroyed these islands, due to their poop (which is very acidic) and have defoliated all the vegetation there.

There are thousands of these birds that nest on these islands.

The Ministry of Natural Resources culls the colonies in the spring by removing the eggs.

You can't even get close to these lands for the smell...actually stings your eyes.

**Patty McLaughlin
Aurora**

Olive Bostwick, now Olive Komar, is second from left with this group of teachers taken in front of the Aurora Public School (Church Street School) prior to her marriage. With her are, left to right, Genevieve Robinson, Audrey Webster, Elsie Legge and Marion Jefferson. Olive returned to the school Saturday to see the building soon to become the Aurora Heritage Centre.

AURORAN

*"Aurora's
Community Newspaper"*

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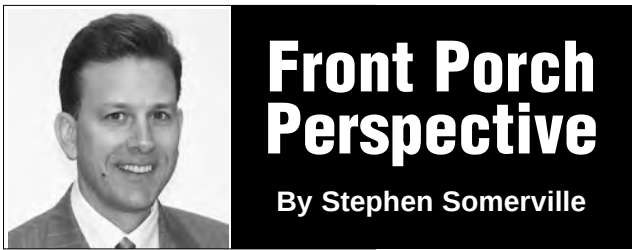
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

With Councillor Phyllis Morris declaring her intention Thursday to seek the mayor's chain of office we now have three in the race.

She joins fellow councillor Nigel Kean and incumbent Tim Jones, so an exciting and close contest is expected.

While Ms Morris and Mr. Kean will no doubt run on a platform of change, all three are veteran members of this council who have been around Town Hall for quite some time.

Past electoral results yield few clues when attempting to handicap this competition.

Mayor Jones received 65 per cent of the vote against relatively unknown challenger Homer Farsad in 2003.

In the same year, Phyllis Morris topped the 15 council candidates with 6,838 votes while Nigel Kean was a close second with 5,758 votes.

Mayor Jones received 51 per cent of the vote defeating Phyllis Morris, Bill Hogg and Mr. Sinjakewitsch in the 2000 mayoralty campaign.

But back then, Ms Morris, who received 34 per cent of the vote, did not have the profile she has now. Same goes for challenger Kean. He won a council seat by finishing fifth in his initial bid for council in 2000 with 5,464 votes as opposed to the top finisher John West who accumulated 7,901 votes.

Each of the three respective candidates garnered more votes in 2003 than they did in 2000 and each has developed a large base of support within Aurora.

It is rather disquieting that voter turnout at the municipal level trails badly that for federal and provincial elections. And this is especially ironic given that the decisions made in the council chamber have such an important, and direct impact on our community.

Three things will motivate people to vote this time.

First, a good, hard fought and respectful campaign being run by the three mayoralty candidates will energize their respective political bases to action.

Each of the candidates is of high profile, and has sufficient depth, experience and knowledge of the issues to mount an effective campaign.

Second, important issues are required that galvanize the electorate. And we do have those.

As part of the Aurora Strategic Planning Process surveys were conducted and stakeholder and public comment had been welcomed over the past 18 months.

Results of interviews with citizens have identified some major issues facing our town over the next few years.

Managing growth while maintaining Aurora's unique "small town feel" is one such issue. Transportation infrastructure and transportation congestion is another as are public safety and security concerns as population increases; the appropriate level of taxation to assist in managing growth challenges; sources of funding for capital projects, service and program delivery when the Town is built out (i.e. loss of development charges). The list goes on.

Third, people are concerned about the way in which council members act in discharging their public duties. The acrimonious and poisonous atmosphere surrounding Town Hall should induce people to the polls.

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. But most people are looking for a mayor who can engender trust, has enthusiasm and energy to burn, and who, although possessing strong opinions, is at the same time a consensus builder, who works hard and get things done in an effective and efficient manner.

As my colleague Dick Illingworth put it so aptly last week in his Poor Richard column: "There is bound to be disagreement among people with strong points of view, but disagreement need

not mean disorder or chaos."

"This is where a strong procedural bylaw is required and a chairman who enforces it fairly and equitably".

And since the winner on November 13 will most certainly be joined by a number of new faces around the council chamber, it is important that our mayor also be someone who can bring the disparate views, concerns, agenda and attitudes of council mem-



Cathy's Corner

Dysfunctional means functioning badly or incorrectly.

Our last council not only brought home this definition, it gave "Reality TV" a whole new meaning.

I can't tell you how many times I was tempted to send an SOS to Dr. Phil.

The term began with members boycotting a retreat that was intended to foster unity, to educate and to orientate. Even after the "illegal meeting" was modified to fit legal parameters, they still opted out, missing a critical opportunity to come together as a team.

A team is a small group of people with complementary skills who are committed to a common purpose, performance goals, and approach for which they hold themselves mutually accountable. (Katzenbach, J.R., and Smith, D.K., 1992. Wisdom of Teams, Harvard Business School Press)

At Harvard - yes. In Aurora...hmm...you would think TEAM was a four-letter word.

I wonder if it would have helped if council meetings had opened with a reading of The Ten Commandments...perhaps even a sprinkling of holy water?

Clearly, the discussion of motions should have begun with: "Put the rolled up newspaper down!" But if they had, shouts of "shut up" and "stupid" might have accosted our tender small town ears even more often than they did - which was quite enough, thanks.

Some members of this council demonstrated not only blatant disrespect for their colleagues, but for the democratic process itself.

We saw Parliamentary Procedure twisted into a defensive tool to prevent those with opposing views from expressing them. We also repeatedly saw both the offensive and defensive misuse of the privilege of free speech.

Any individual who is NOT a member of council may freely express agreement or disagreement with a council decision - before, during or after. Even me!

However, when a sitting member of council uses a column or a letter in our beloved Auroran to criticize his/her colleagues and to argue his/her position after the vote is taken, we have no team. What we have is dysfunction.

We elected nine members to council because we wanted more than one opinion, thanks.

Democracy operates on majority rule, and people who would rather be right than be effective only undermine the team, creating and perpetuating dysfunction.

Personally, I'm inclined to agree with Robin Williams' character in "Man Of The Year". Politicians are like diapers. They should be changed often - and for the same reason!

And haven't things gone from bad to worse as this term of office concludes with the leader of our council publicly announcing a unilateral decision to name Aurora's new recreation centre "The Stronach Centre". Hello?

No discussion, no debate....um, whatever happened to the

bers together for the common benefit of our community.

I don't know who will win on November 13, but our community is fortunate to have three worthy candidates for our consideration.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

Dysfunctional...

other eight votes to which democracy entitles us?

Surely I'm not the only one who can see the difference between leadership and dictatorship?

When I published the three columns in the "Roarora" series, I had hoped to present council members with a caricature of themselves - an obviously exaggerated glimpse of the tragic comedy they were producing.

Trust me, exaggeration was not much of a challenge...

With the exception of one resident who chose to roll up her Auroran and figuratively whack me upside the head with a letter to the editor, the community seemed to appreciate my efforts to provide a brief respite from the pain of our political pathology.

And now, finally, the opportunity for a permanent respite presents itself.

As we turn our attention to electing a new council, let's put all kidding aside and entertain some serious questions in considering whether or not our incumbents deserve another term:

1. Over the past term(s), did the incumbent debate...or simply argue?

2. Did the incumbent's arguments reflect the best interests of the community, or his/her own personal bias/agenda?

3. Did the incumbent listen respectfully and respond respectfully to his/her colleagues, staff, citizens, and volunteers?

4. Did the incumbent express disagreement with others maturely and appropriately?

5. Did he/she ever change his/her mind/position after listening to citizen delegates, staff reports and/or fellow councillors?

6. Did the incumbent speak on every issue at every opportunity, or did he/she speak only when he/she had something to say...that hadn't already been said...ad nauseum?

7. Did the incumbent arrive at the meeting prepared...or armed?

8. Was the incumbent a cohesive, contributing, functional member of council or did he/she merely warm a seat?

9. Overall, was the incumbent's behaviour becoming of one holding public office?

10. Does the incumbent live in Aurora...or "Roarora"?

In the words of Dr. Phil, "the best indicator of future behaviour is past behaviour", so let's hold them accountable, and demand the functional team that we deserve.

After all, we'll be stuck with them for four years this time...and I'd hate to have to stamp the "Roarora" series "To Be Continued"...

We're all pretty tired of dysfunctional, and it stopped being funny a long time ago.

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

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

 **BOUQUETS** to Aurora artist Deborah Campo for being one of 10 Canadian artists selected to produce wine labels for Hildebrand Wines, replacing the former labels painted by the Group of Seven.

 **BRICKBATS** to some members of Aurora Council for lifting an agenda item for discussion only to ask a question which could have been asked from staff prior to the meeting. According to the procedural bylaw, items should only be lifted for comment or to add new information.

 **BOUQUETS** for a bouquet to Mary's Flower Shop of Aurora on being selected by Canadian Gardening magazine to feature a colour photograph of a "Lush-looking, professionally designed centerpiece".

 **BRICKBATS** to the Stephen Harper government for their failure to appoint 47 judges causing frustration and swollen caseloads and delays in the justice system, plus 18 parole board vacancies and 23 refugee board positions. Could it be they are waiting to find candidates who will follow the party line?

 **BOUQUETS** to all the citizens who are going to volunteer to judge the debates and public speaking during the period October 19 to 22 when more than 200 teenagers from 55 schools participate in the International Independent Schools Public Speaking Competition. To volunteer call David Kyle at 905-727-3178.

 **BRICKBATS** to Vaughan Council for amending their municipal election sign bylaw so that candidates can only put up signs three weeks in advance of the election instead of the normal five to six weeks. The bylaw favours the incumbents and could restrict voter participation.

 **BOUQUETS** to the staff of Aurora Cable Internet for sponsoring a fundraiser "The Nightmare Before Christmas Charity" at DiNardo's "haunted" Mansion on October 27 to help local families enjoy a memorable Christmas, and **BOUQUETS** to Joe DiNardo for donating the facilities.

 **BRICKBATS** to Durham Regional Council for defying the provincial Greenbelt plan and including the disputed greenbelt land in the regional official plans. Voters should ask their politicians if they are acting in the interests of residents or powerful developers.

 **BOUQUETS** to Aurora's bylaw enforcement officers for following up on an Accessibility Advisory Committee recommendation that a program similar to Roadwatch be implemented for illegal parking in designated handicapped spaces and issuing 23 Notices of Violation so far this year.

 **BRICKBATS** to the federal governments, past and present, for letting the national debt get out of control with the interest on the debt for 2006 estimated to be \$34.8 billion.

 **BOUQUETS** to the CTCR for its Bill of Rights for local telephone users which includes 16 basic rights, especially the right not to be bothered by telemarketers, which, if enforced, could make it more important than the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

 **BRICKBATS** to the Canadian immigration system for allowing at least 12 underground fugitives to settle in the GTA area and the federal government appears to lack the will to do anything about it in spite of its promises to strengthen the justice system.

Letters to the Editor

John West makes it official; health keeps him out of race

To the editor,

It is with much sadness and regret that due to health problems I will not be seeking reelection on November 13, 2006.

This will be the first time in 29 consecutive years (10 terms) that I will not be elected to represent the citizens of Aurora.

When I first moved to Aurora 50 years ago we had a population of 3,000; when first elected to council in 1978 there were 12,000; my first term as mayor 22,000; and now we are at about 46,000.

Aurora has grown, however, I feel we have been able to maintain a uniqueness and a "small town" atmosphere.

I like to think that over the past three decades I have helped to influence the way our town has grown and make it the enviable place it is to live.

It is extremely difficult to compress about 30 years of public service into a brief letter; however, there are a number

of accomplishments that I was proud to be a part of.

As chairman of the committee to save the Church Street School we were able to save this venerable and historically significant building from demolition; also as chairman of the Aurora train station restoration committee, we not only saved the building, but were able to restore it to its original grandeur.

Another most satisfying and fulfilling experience has been the chairmanship of the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Drive for 16 years and serving on the Board of Directors of York County Hospital (Southlake) and Big Brothers of York for many years.

I was also proud to be a driving force behind attracting MacLean Hunter (now Quebecor) and the York Region Board of Education headquarters to Aurora; the planning and building of the Leisure Centre, the Town Hall,

the new Seniors' Centre, and many other properties and parks throughout our town.

I certainly don't claim to be solely responsible for any of these accomplishments and none would have been possible without the dedicated help and support of our town staff, other council members, volunteers and the general public.

I mention the foregoing not seeking praise but to try and illustrate how Aurora has been such an emotionally, mentally and physically integral part of my life for almost 30 years and how I shall deeply miss serving you in public office.

On each of the past 10 election nights dating back to 1978 as I watched the poll returns I felt humbled and honoured to be given the support and trust of my fellow citizens to represent them in public office.

In eight of these elections I topped the polls and it is hard to express my feelings of gratitude and honour in receiving this overwhelming support.

Although there have been many difficult situations, hours

spent agonizing over decisions, and at times an almost impossible schedule, it has been an extremely gratifying and rewarding experience.

On a more personal note I would like to thank all my many supporters over the years.

The countless nights of knocking on doors and putting up signs in the rain, the freezing cold and many times in sleet and snow.

I can't thank you enough. I have always tried to the best of my ability to represent each and every citizen in a fair, honest and open manner. In my various positions as school trustee, councillor, deputy mayor and mayor, I listened to many different points of view and then worked towards doing what was best for the town as a community.

It has been such a privilege to serve you for so many years and hopefully my legacy is that Aurora is a better place to live because of my endeavours.

Thank you, Aurora.

John West
Aurora

Reader asks questions of potential politicians

To the editor,

Here are some election questions for Aurora's municipal would-be politicians.

Why is there such a rush to develop the last green spaces in Aurora?

Has anyone heard of phased in development over a number of years?

Why not build up the infrastructure first? Such as water, hydro and the road network.

Why would any rational thinking government body allow more development when we were already stressing water and electricity availability?

The single-lane road network is experiencing traffic volumes and speeds the roads were never meant to handle.

As a result some roads are deteriorating more rapidly.

Has all this great development push meant lower or level growth taxation? Obviously, no.

How do existing residents benefit from all this development?

The experience is more dust and dirt, more noise, inconvenience, more traffic.

The quality of life in Aurora has definitely been diminished.

Why hasn't the current council taken a greater leadership role in determining the need for a ward system, rather leaving the decision to a general government committee?

The rationale of maintaining the "small town character" is laughable in light of the kind of uncreative holus-bolus development, housing, big box stores and plazas being built.

If you are going to allow this kind of development, surely there should be better democratic representation to go along with this.

The Town of Aurora uses the motto "A Character Community" but clearly and unfortunately, it is going in the same development direction as so many other soulless commuter communities.

Gary Johnson
Aurora

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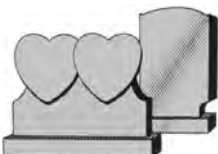
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Summing up the current Aurora councillors, mayor

To the editor,

I would like to say a few words of kindness about our members of the retiring Aurora Council.

Like other councils, these members were thrown together, many unknown to each other.

Sure they hurled barbs, insults and unkind remarks to each other, even a tap on the head by a newspaper once in a while.

The council was certainly entertaining and caught the attention of many Aurora citizens who didn't even know an Aurora Council existed.

How easy it is to criticize from the sidelines.

As far as the upcoming election for mayor, we will lose the service of one of the two good men involved, perhaps both.

SOYRA Art Show opens October 13

To the editor,

There are so many reasons to visit an art show, organized by the Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA).

A few are mentioned here and no doubt you can think of one of your own.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and since SOYRA has a wide variety of artists, who work in various mediums and styles, every visitor will come across some pieces he will admire and find beautiful.

Also, the price is right.

There is no admission fee, there is plenty of parking, which is also free. The building is wheelchair accessible. The prices of the art work are affordable and you can even use your credit card.

It is a peaceful and quiet event to which you can take the family. You can expose your children to the wonderful world of art. Artists are present to talk to the visitors.

There will be close to 200

She liked last column

An open letter to Cathy's Corner

RE: An Auroran prayer

I just want to say how much I enjoyed your column today. Someone read out "Cathy's Corner" today at prayer group and it resulted in goose bumps for all of us.

Thanks for sharing a great story.

I am going to pass it along to my non-Auroran friends.

Val Ashfield
Aurora

That is four years and perhaps forever?

"Dolphin" McGuinty imposed the four-year term without any input from various councils. That's not democracy - that's dictatorship.

As far as drying my clothes on an outside line and Phyllis Morris - please note Pierre Trudeau's Charter of Rights states clothes may be dried any place you wish - read that section of the Charter.

I would like to give you my impression of the councillors:

(ED. NOTE: The Auroran has changed the order submitted by the author and arranged this list alphabetically.)

Evelyn Buck: Many years of service to Aurora. Well read and educated and knows the rules and proce-

dures of Town policy. One of my favourite councillors to talk with, especially about history.

Wendy Gaertner: A rookie off to a slow, cautious, learning start but lately has shown a great deal of interest and progress in debating various subjects. Her potential for the future looks very good.

Bill Hogg: gets right to the point, down to earth and very interesting to listen to his practical thoughts. Sorry to see him leaving.

Nigel Kean: a good speaker who knows his subject and is always approachable. He does a great deal of work to promote Aurora but always in a quiet, behind the scenes, manner.

Phyllis Morris: personality plus and outgoing. Easy to meet and she never forgets a face. Knows all the

ins and outs of Aurora and the comings and goings of council and its various committees.

Damir Vrancic: a valuable councillor for his input on legal and financial matters. He is a very practical man and you always know where he stands. Another member who will be missed.

Ron Wallace: he does not talk for long periods of time but he can say as much or more in his short speeches than any other councillor and what he says makes sense. Ron will be missed.

John West: another person who has served this Town for many years as a councillor and mayor. He is quiet spoken and I love his accent. I hope that his health will improve.

Now, that's not bad. I'll save all my nasty stuff for future letters.

And now the mayor, **Tim Jones.**

Here is a man of action who has held the council together. He represents Aurora very well and attends all of the functions he can.

You can tell he immensely enjoys his job.

To me what is important is that he always has time to talk to you about any problems on a personal basis.

Tim has a great sense of humour and always has a quick answer for any unexpected difficult questions put to him.

William Devins
Aurora



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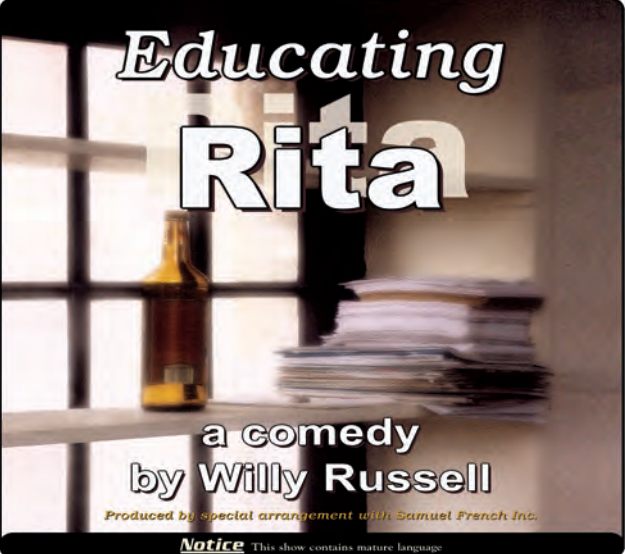
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AURORAN, Week of October 3, 2006

Crush Orangeville 8-0

Aurora Tigers remain unbeaten

Like an unstoppable freight train, the Ontario Provincial Junior A hockey Aurora Tigers continue to mow down anything that stands in front of them.

Friday night at the Aurora Community Centre was no exception. Twenty-four hours later, they did it again.

They used the Orangeville Crushers to extend their unbeaten streak to seven games by virtue of a convincing 8-0 victory and added another victory a night later with a 7-5 win over the Seguin Bruins.

Friday, Aurora started off slowly, leading by only a goal at the end of 20 minutes of play, but added seven more in the final two frames to salt away the win.

Aurora has not been beaten since the season opened a couple of weeks ago.

Rookie Matt Beirnes recorded his first career Junior A shutout and Daniel Michalsky, in his first game back from the Ontario Hockey League, scored two goals, including the game winner, to lead the Tigers.

Also scoring in the Orangeville game were Alain Goulet, who continues to impress, with three points including a goal and two assists.

Two point getters other than Michalsky



MARK THORBURN

were Doug Henderson, Colin Williams, Mark Thorburn, Brandon Walker and Jamie MacQueen, all with a goal and an assist while Andrew Favot added two assists.

"Beirnes made 22 saves including some difficult ones while Daniel was a constant threat every time he hit the ice," said Coach Jerome Dupont who

thought his team came out flat for the third game in a row.

"Seguin will make us look silly if we are not ready to compete from the drop of the puck as they are very tough to play in their building" added Dupont, referring to his team's Saturday night tilt versus the Bruins.

However, that warning was in vain, as Aurora defeated the Bruins 7-5 after splitting goals with the club for the first two periods, then outscoring them 3-1 in the final 20 minutes.

Thorburn, finally healthy after a lengthy rehab stint, proved his worth by scoring three goals in that contest.

Thorburn also recorded two points the night before and would have had three if it wasn't for a disallowed goal on an

"iffy" call by the official.

"Mark has all the ability to be a force in this league and tonight he showed his talents leading us to victory," said Dupont.

Also scoring for the Tigers were Fraser Smith, MacQueen, Daniel Michalsky and Andrew Favot with the game winner.

After meeting Newmarket in that town Thursday night, the Tigers return to the Community Centre Friday to face the Stouffville Spirit.

Game time is 7.30 p.m.

On Sunday, in Aurora, the Tigers will meet second place Collingwood in a battle for first in the North Division.

Game time is 2.30 p.m.

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Thanks to a \$100,000 Trillium grant, the Aurora Legion will be a comfortable place to visit as soon as their new furnace and air conditioning units are installed. They arrived last week. On hand to greet them were, front row, left to right, Angus MacDonald, Ray Preston, Denis Reed, Legion President Len Whines and Frank Young, In the back row, Vesho Chaudhari, left, and Brian Rogerson, right, are with Trillium York Simcoe representative Vijay Lekhi. Funds will also be used for a new kitchen hood and fire safety and roof repairs.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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Town clock keeps on ticking

The Old Post Office on Yonge Street opened on November 24, 1915, and the clock in its prominent tower has been ticking away, except for short periods, for almost 90 years.

The clock was manufactured in Whitchurch, England, by J. B. Joyce and Company and was installed in 1916 and chimed the hours and told the time for generations of Aurora citizens.

It became an Aurora landmark, and played an important part in the life of Aurora.

The steps and broad sidewalk in front of the Old Post Office were the scene of important local events including speeches welcoming soldiers home from the First and Second World Wars.

Before the days of home mail delivery, the Old Post Office was the focal point for meeting and socializing with neighbours and friends.

During the 1960s when the tower clock chimed three o'clock on a Saturday afternoon, Harry Seston, one of town's leading citizens at the time, mounted the steps of the Old Post Office to spin a drum and select a winning ticket.

During the week Aurora shoppers purchasing goods from any of the many downtown retail stores received a raffle ticket which went into the drum for the weekly draw.

The winner won a range of products donated by the local merchants.

The Aurora Police Department stopped all traffic on Yonge Street and the old clock looked down on 400 to 500 citizens gathered in front of the Old Post Office for the weekly draw. It was one of the highlights of the week in downtown Aurora.

In 1966 the federal government decided to build a new federal building, including a Post Office on Wellington Street East to replace the Yonge Street facility.

Moving the post office, even though it was just a short distance, was a major

concern to many old time Aurorans. They liked the central location under the well-known clock tower, but their petitions had no impact and the new facility was opened with suitable fanfare in November, 1967.

The Old Post Office was put on the market with the town having the first right of refusal.

Consideration was given to converting the building into a Town Hall, at that time located in crowded accommodation in a former bank building a few doors to the north.

After reviewing an architect's plans and the estimated cost of conversion, on a 5-4 vote, council rejected the purchase, but that's another story.

In April, 1969, Crown Assets put the building and clock tower on the open market and it was purchased by Aurora-based Model Builders and renovated into an office building.

The inner mechanisms of the clock could be seen from the offices of Dentist Dr. Wilf Black and entertained patients as they waited.

For several years, the late John Dol, owner of Model Builders, helped keep the historic timepiece going by winding the clock once a week.

Automatic winding could

have been installed but Mr. Dol was concerned that such an installation would destroy the inner workings of the tower clock and he chose to wind it every week.

In December, 1993, silence fell over downtown Aurora as the old clock stopped chiming the hours and ticking away the minutes.

Mr. Dol hired David Abernathy of nearby Gormley, one of the only antique and tower clock specialists in Canada, to get the clock ticking again.

Bushings were worn out and had to be replaced and the clock was given a cleaning and a few weeks later at a cost of \$2,500, it was chiming hours and ticking away minutes.

As the town had designated the building under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1993, Mr. Dol was entitled to a government grant for half the cost of fixing the clock.

The former Scanlon Bakery two storey building was located immediately south of the historic clock tower and provided an unrestricted view of the time piece.

Then in May, 1998, an application was received for a five storey mixed use apartment building to replace the Scanlon building.

Members of council and

several citizens expressed concern about the loss of view of the clock tower.

In June, 1998, following a public planning meeting council adopted a site specific bylaw approving a four storey residential commercial building although the official plan permitted five storey buildings in the area.

The developer filed an application with the Committee of Adjustment for a minor variance to permit the fifth floor which was granted.

A citizen filed an appeal with the Ontario Municipal Board which approved the controversial fifth floor, disregarding council's site specific bylaw.

The only redeeming factor was the Board agreed that the fourth and fifth floor be set back from Yonge Street, so the historic clock is not completely blocked from view.

And the historic clock in Aurora's clock tower continues to tick on telling the time for Aurora citizens.

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Briefly, here's who is running

Following is a brief history of those running in the November 13 municipal election in Aurora.

FOR MAYOR

Current Mayor Tim Jones has been a resident of Aurora since 1976 and has been mayor for the past 12 years, being first elected in 1994 after serving six terms as councillor, being first elected in 1978.

Councillor Nigel Kean was first elected to council in 2000 and has just completed his second term. He entered local politics in 1994 when he challenged Mayor Jones in a three-way race including former Mayor George Timpson. He ran was council in 1997 but was unsuccessful, finishing 13th in a field of 17. In the 2000 election he finished in fifth position and in 2003 in second position.

Councillor Phyllis Morris was elected to council in 1997 finishing second in the polls. In 2000 she challenged Mayor Jones in a four way race including Councillor Bill Hogg and newcomer Gary Sinjakewitsch. After an absence of three years she was elected to council in 2003 and topped the poll resulting in her being named Deputy Mayor.

FOR COUNCIL

Running for council are 20 candidates, some are known for their previous attempts and being members of council committees and others are relatively unknown.

Some of the newer candidates include Alison Collins-Mrakas, Bryan Moir, Miloslav Prikrýl, Kam Sadiq and Michael Thompson.

In 2003 Sadiq registered for council but withdrew before the election. He still got 450 votes.

Councillor Evelyn Buck has had a long political career in Aurora politics starting in 1966 when she was elected to council after two defeats. In 1968 she was elected Reeve of Aurora and in 1970 was defeated in her bid for mayor against Dick Illingworth. She returned to council in 1972 and following the resignation of Illingworth in 1973 due to a conflict with his position at Queen's Park, Buck was appointed Mayor, re-elected in 1974 and defeated in 1976 by George Timpson. She lost again in 1978. She returned to council in 1980 and since then has been elected three times returning in 2003.

Alan Dean is taking his first run at council after many years on the sports scene in Aurora including being President of the Aurora Lawn Bowling Club and a member of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner is finishing her first term of office and seeking re-election. She was one of the organizers of a weekly club for young people.

John Gallo is making his first attempt at public office but is no stranger to council due to his many appearances as President of the Wellington/Bayview Ratepayers Association.

Stephen Granger is a member of the Arboretum and Environmental Committees and the Aurora Historical Society and serves on the parent council at Highview Public School. He attends council and general committee meet-

ings and this is his first attempt at public office.

Glyn Jones is making his first attempt at public office but appeared before council several times during the planning and construction of the seniors' centre.

Evelina MacEachern was elected a member of council in 2000 and did not seek re-election in 2003 but has continued to show an interest in town affairs.

Grace Marsh is making her first attempt at public office but is no stranger to Aurora as she has had 15 years of municipal finance experience with Aurora and Vaughan, has served as President of the Municipal Tax Collectors of Ontario and has served as a volunteer on many community organizations.

Aimé Martin is retired and moved to Aurora in 2003 after serving as a councillor in the City of Pointe Claire, Quebec, from 1994 to 2002. After moving to Aurora he became active in many volunteer activities and attends most council and general committee meetings.

Eric McCartney has lived in Aurora for four years and has attended several council and committee meetings. This is his first attempt at seeking public office.

Bob McRoberts is a long time resident of Aurora and is the Head of the Mathematics Department at Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School, is very active with the Aurora Historical Society and attends council and general committee meetings.

Keith Munro is no stranger to running for public office but has been unsuccessful in the past. After running for the NDP

in provincial elections, he ran unsuccessfully for council in 1982, 1985, 1991 and 2003.

Stan Rycombel ran unsuccessfully for council in 2003 but has been active with the Aurora's Heritage Advisory Committee, this year serving as its chairman.

Norm Weller was elected to Aurora Council in 1985 after serving for a decade as the Aurora Trustee on the York Region Board of Education. He was re-elected in 1988 and 1991. He was a town employee for more than 25 years as Superintendent of Parks and has also served on the Aurora Hydro Commission.

Al Wilson ran unsuccessfully for council in 2000 and 2003 but has been a regular attendee at council and committee meetings and is a member of the Aurora Leisure Services Advisory Committee.

SCHOOL BOARDS

Elizabeth Crowe has been acclaimed once again as the Aurora trustee on the York Catholic Separate School Board but Aurora electors will have to choose between Gord Kerr of Gormley and Christopher Pape of King as their trustee on the York Region District School Board.

Pape was unsuccessful in 2003 when he lost to Susan Plamondon. Although she was vice-chair of the board, she is not seeking re-election.

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Magna expands again

Magna International, the world's third largest auto-parts maker with annual sales of more than \$22.8 billion (U.S.), and headquarters in Aurora, is expanding again.

The company will enter the retail market by introducing a child booster seat and promising more products that it wants to sell to chains such as Canadian Tire.

A new consumer product division has been formed to develop other products, expected to generate revenue of at least \$200 million annually within five years.

The company developed the booster seat with a network of Canadian companies and universities that conduct research related to the auto industry.

It is also planned to sell auto parts such as engine and brake components to the retail market as the company currently manufactures them for auto assemblers.

At one time Magna was in the publishing business with a magazine called "York", and "Vista", a business magazine. In May, 1997, Frank Stronach, the man behind Magna, was guest speaker at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Trade Show at the Atrium Ballroom.

He said he had been

trained as a tool and die maker and emigrated from Austria to Canada in 1954 at age 21.

He found it tough at first and ended up working in a Kitchener-Waterloo hospital as a dishwasher.

He later found a job in a small firm as a tool and die maker and moved on to other companies. In 1957 he rented a garage and went into busi-

ness for himself.

The rest is history.

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Senior Scape



Open House a big success

BY BRIAN WARBURTON

Last Thursday was a busy day at the centre, as we presented 'Open House' to a remarkable turnout of prospective members, and also, many of our regular members attended, happy to be present and interested to see what was going on.

Formerly a bone of contention, the Aurora Seniors' Association [ASA] is now a candidate for applause, and continues to develop among the senior population, as a solid pillar of community activities.

The development of the new centre, bordering the Arboretum Park, and close to the town hall has transformed the former seniors' group to the cutting edge of

senior progress, and continues to make progress.

I spent most of my time observing the comings and goings of people, offering help and trying to fathom out what their innermost interests were and how I could help.

I encountered a smorgasbord of interests, and I am happy to say the majority appeared very happy with our presentation, and the prospects of finding interests.

I spent time in the computer room and it was busy. Most of those who tried out the new equipment appeared to be competent operators and impressed with the new computers, particularly the flat panel monitors, while plenty of

help was available for those who needed it.

On Tuesday evening, star gazing seized our imaginations and many of us were entranced by an interest which most of us had not enjoyed previously.

Clouds obscured the sky partly, but we got excellent views intermittently of a sliver of the moon pockmarked with craters, and a view of Jupiter, the largest planet in the solar system, with four moons visible clearly through the excellent telescope belonging to Herb Koller, our resident astronomy expert.

The women were mildly interested and were happy to peek through the telescope at mighty Jupiter, but all of the men marched to

the telescope in determined fashion; this was a view to etch in one's mind permanently, and I will remember the sight of the four moons for the rest of my life.

With sundown and knowing that Mercury is the closest planet to the sun and always nearby, I searched but to no avail. Mercury was below the horizon along with the sun. Saturn, Mars and Venus are not within viewing range at this time of year.

The event happened on the deck at the seniors' centre, and I believe about 40 members might have viewed the night sky, for the hour and a half we had before the clouds rolled in.

Inside the centre other members occupied the lounge, engrossed in a movie while others chatted and enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies.

The pool room was busy for a while and all in all this was a charming and agreeable way to spend an evening with friends, the kind of evening that generates a feeling of amiable, warm-hearted closeness with a group of like minded, spirited seniors.

"Educating Rita" funny but tender

Theatre Aurora's current production is "Educating Rita", a comedy by Willy Russell, directed by Lauren Ecclestone and produced by Anne Currie-O'Brien.

It is the story of Frank, a middle-aged English professor and tutor at a university in England. He has a disillusioned outlook on life that drives him to drink from bottles he hides behind his books in his first floor room at the university.

Enter Rita, a hairdresser who is hungry for education, who is assigned to Frank. On her first visit to his office, she bounces in, talking a mile a minute and wanders around the room inspecting books, pictures and the room in general.

Frank tries to get her to sit down but she continues to wander and talk about her need to receive an education.

He tries to discourage her saying he can't teach her anything and she should seek another tutor, but Rita refuses. He offers her a drink which she accepts and they start to talk about books.

Rita makes weekly visits for her lessons and the act is divided into several sections to indicate the passage of time with a segment for each of Rita's visits.

She gradually wins over the reticent teacher by her outgoing outlook and her refusal to accept second-hand academic opinions, so that Frank starts to look forward to her weekly visits and gets concerned if she is a little late.

As time passes, Rita

gives Frank a new lease on life by making him believe in himself again, but she has trouble stopping him from drinking and the scene when Frank shows up drunk is a highlight.

The playwright's lines come fast and furious and it is a marvel how both performers can remember them and deliver them with perfect timing.

While the play is billed as a comedy and there are plenty of laughs, there are also moments of reflection and tenderness.

Rita is played by Bev Sotropa, in her first production with Theatre Aurora but with considerable stage experience with the Markham Little Theatre.

She has lost none of her skills and is very strong in the role as she changes

from a woman wanting an education into a role reversal as she teaches Frank about life.

Frank is played by Ken Lloyd, a veteran with Theatre Aurora both on stage and as a director. He plays the role in a most believable way as he changes under the influence of Rita.

Set designers are Peter Kelly and Pauline Lloyd and set construction by Peter Kelly and Ray Cousins with the books provided by R & R Revisited.

Educating Rita continues October 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13 and 14 with evening performances at 8 p.m. and the Sunday Matinee October 8 at 2 p.m.

Call 905-727-3669 for ticket information. It is well worth seeing.

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Storm causes revised pay structure

It was in August, 1995, when a violent storm caused the town to revise the pay structure for volunteer firefighters.

The storm cost the town \$15,000 for 17 firefighters who responded to 29 storm-related calls.

Under the old pay system volunteer firefighters were credited two hours for each call they answered, whether they actually spent that much time on the call. If another call came within the two hour period, they were credited with another call.

Under the new payment system when they reported to the station they were considered on duty and required to perform whatever tasks might arise until released by an officer.

The change had no bearing on the work carried out by the volunteer firefighters nor on the important role they played as members of the fire department, but it was the first step towards a full time fire service.

BUSINESS BOOMING IN AURORA

In August, 1979, Aurora Council was advised it had been a good year for economics as several developments were underway.

Canada Law Book was planning to construct a 64,276 square foot building in the town's first industrial park on Edward Street and would be employing 132 people by the following year.

Due to open early in the New Year were the Canada Roller Rink and Canadian Flour Mills Limited and Aurora's first McDonald's.

Electronics Canada planned to begin construction on a one-storey office and showroom on Mary Street; Excel Metalcraft built a 20,000 square foot addition and Bana Steel opened an 8,000 square foot plant on Edward Street.

Two parcels of land were sold on Engelhard Drive with a 20,000 square foot multi-purpose industrial building to be built on the first part of one of the sites.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REPORT?

Last July, Colleen Howard appeared before council on behalf of the Providence Learning Centre to seek temporary space in the former seniors' centre until the group could find a permanent home.

A motion to refer the presentation to staff to arrange a short-term lease, brought objections from some members of council that the town had previously advertised for non-profit organizations to submit an Expression of Interest for space and council couldn't make a decision at that time.

It was pointed out that there may be other community groups in need of space and all groups should be treated equally. The motion to lease the centre to the Learning Centre was defeated on a 5-2 vote.

A subsequent motion to refer the request to staff for a report to council was adopted, but the report was never

presented in open council.

During a recent discussion on the library square and the associated parking problems, staff casually mentioned that the former seniors' facility had been leased to the Learning Centre on a temporary basis for \$1,500 a month, which indicates staff made the decisions, not council!

WHERE'S THE PLAQUE?

Prior to the building of the new library a historic Stevenson double house, built in 1886 was located at 16/18 Church Street. The two-and-a-half storey structure combined Gothic Revival and Italianate architecture.

The house and neighbouring Church Street School and the original Trinity Anglican Church were built with the same locally made buff brick.

The double house was designated as an historic site under the Ontario Heritage Act and was also a recipient of an Aurora Heritage Committee plaque.

In spite of the strong efforts of the Heritage Committee to retain the building and incorporate it into Library Square, council made the decision to demolish the historic home to make room for a parking lot.

Since the house was plaqued under the Heritage Act, where is the plaque?

DID THE WILD BIRD NEST BOXES WORK?

Last spring the Environmental Advisory Committee invited volunteers to help build 100 wild bird nest boxes which were to be placed on town-owned land on Earth Day in April.

It was hoped the best nest boxes would increase the town's population of nesting chickadees, tree swallows, bluebirds, white breasted nuthatches, great crested flycatchers and screech owls.

Volunteers were required to monitor the wild bird population and the impact of human activities on the nest boxes.

The fall season is rapidly approaching and a report on the success of the program would be interesting.

Obviously they worked as before publication a verbal report was received at general committee that of the 75 boxes more than 40 were used with details coming in a future report.

WHEN TRUDEAU VISITED AURORA

It was in 1971 when Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau flew into Aurora by helicopter, landing in Machell Park for a Liberal Rally in support of York North MP John Roberts in the Community Centre.

Then Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth presented a brief on behalf of area mayors recommending a February holiday and made a brave attempt to speak French.

Staffer advises withholding rent

From page 1

town and had been told not to pay rent until council had made a decision on who should handle capital costs.

She said that if the lease was terminated, it would be necessary for the municipality to repay the agency a total of \$126,000 that the agency had invested in the facility.

In 2004, agency officials met with the general committee to discuss options to reduce their maintenance costs due to the age and condition of the old building and the request was referred to staff for a report.

Staff met with agency officials several times in an effort to solve the financial problems and at the general committee submitted five options from terminating the lease and finding alternative sites to selling the property.

Council Nigel Kean, who had been seeking financial information

about the property for some time, heard staff members confirm that the agency had not paid any rent for 2005 or 2006.

At Tuesday's council meeting, several delegations were listed to speak on the issue and many parents and young children were in the audience.

Her comment that she had been told not to pay rent dropped like a bombshell and in response to a question, Ms Robertson confirmed that Director of Leisure Services Allan Downey had told them to hold off making payments until council had made a

decision.

Members of council were caught by surprise and Councillor Vrancic immediately suggested discussions with Mr. Downey be carried out in private, resulting in the public meeting being recessed for about 10 minutes.

When councillors returned Councillor Vrancic made his recommendation.

Mayor Tim Jones advised the remaining delegates that council would hear them if they wished but suggested they wait until the report was received by council.

Most left the building.

The five-acre Jack Woods' farm is located on Edward Street at the corner of Allaura Blvd., and is also home to Aurora's public vegetable gardens.

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YOUR VOTE COUNTS

In order to cast your ballot and make it count in Aurora's upcoming 2006 Municipal Election, there are a few things you should remember.....

1. Determine Your Eligibility!

To vote in Aurora's upcoming Municipal election on Nov. 13, 2006 you must be:

- a Canadian Citizen
- 18 years of age
- a resident of the Town of Aurora on Election Day, or the owner or tenant of land in Aurora, or the spouse of such a person
- not prohibited from voting by any piece of legislation or by a court order

2. Get On The Voters' List!

In order to cast your ballot, you must get on the Voters' List to vote. To check if you're on the List, go to www.e-aurora.ca or call 905-727-3123, ext. 4232.

3. Choose Whether to Vote Election Day or During Advance Voting Day!

ELECTION DAY, November 13, 2006 – Your Assigned Poll

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- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| ▪ Sat. Oct. 28 th , 2006 | 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. |
| ▪ Sun. Oct. 29 th , 2006 | 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. |
| ▪ Sat. Nov. 4 th , 2006 | 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. |
| ▪ Sun. Nov. 5 th , 2006 | 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. |
| ▪ Mon. Nov. 6 th , 2006 | 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. |
| ▪ Tues. Nov. 7 th , 2006 | 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. |
| ▪ Wed. Nov. 8 th , 2006 | 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. |

4. Bring The Proper ID

Whether you choose to vote in Advance **or** on Election Day, you must present the proper identification or you will be denied a ballot:

IF YOU ARE....	Then You MUST Bring....
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NOT On the Voters List	PHOTO ID & Proof of Canadian Citizenship (e.g. Passport, Birth Certificate etc. + Proof of Aurora Residency

5. Voter Card

If you are on the Voters' List, you will be receiving a Voter Card by mid October. The Card will provide you with details on where you vote. You can also obtain these details by going to the Town's Website at www.e-aurora.ca. Click on the Vote Aurora 2006 Logo.

