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Tree lighting planned for next Wednesday

The second annual Aurora Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place Wednesday, Nov. 29 at the Aurora Town Hall. Jennifer Buchanan from The A-Channel will host the event, leading the countdown for the official lighting of the tree. Refreshments, caroling and a visit from Santa Claus will make up the bulk of the evening.

Night Sky Tours will be on location with high definition telescopes

for those interested in checking out the current activity in the solar system.

The Town's Christmas Tree will need some trimming, so residents are invited to bring ornaments or make one. Activities start at 6 p.m. with the ceremonial lighting of the tree beginning at 7 p.m.

For further information call the Special Events office at 905-726-4762.

Briefly

George didn't make it

Up north in the Town of Innisfil, former Aurora councillor and mayor George Timpson was seeking to get back into municipal politics. He didn't make it.

Running against five other candidates in Innisfil's Ward 3, Timpson finished last with 236 votes, 400 exactly behind the winner of the ward.

Aurorans may also recall Innisfil is the location where Aurora's Chief Administrative Officer Larry Allison moved to some time ago.

Larry has a similar job in that sprawling town that is on the southern edge of Barrie.

Meanwhile, another former Aurora resident, Heather Sinclair, failed in her bid to gain a seat in Richmond Hill's Ward 1, which is Oak Ridges where she currently lives.

Sinclair is a former member of the York Region District School Board.

Front-page bouquet

Speaking of the recent election, a front page bouquet must go to all Aurora candidates for their quickness in removing signs from the sides of the roads.

There were probably more signs out for this election than had been erected for any election in recent history, and most had disappeared within 48 hours of election night.

Good show, folks.

New award

Former Auroran publisher, Rosemary Schumaker, who died in 2005 from breast cancer, has an award named after her.

Welcome Wagon Ltd., with whom she worked for more than 25 years, instituted the Rosemary Schumaker Award this year.

The award will be given to a Welcome Wagon Area Manager who "exemplifies the Rosemary Schumaker Spirit - giving, caring, kind, enthusiastic and a team player", a press release issued this week said.

It will be presented at Welcome Wagon's annual management conference.

Our money no laughing matter

With names like "loonie" and "toonie", Canada's currency is already the butt of jocular.

But "funny money" is no laughing matter.

The Bank of Canada reports that, since 2001, counterfeiting in this country has exploded and is expected to continue for up to three more years.

Evidently, some people find this method an easier way to make a buck.



For many years Rosalyn Gonsalves served as the only general manager the Aurora Chamber of Commerce ever had. She's retiring this year, and members of the chamber, past and present, honoured the woman with a party last week at the Graystone's Restaurant. Most past presidents of the chamber were on hand for the occasion.

Auroran photo by Rob Schuetze



Mayor-elect Phyllis Morris talks to reporters while Tim Jones, who held the post for four terms, is in the background. Bob McRoberts, a high school teacher at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, led the polls in the council race.

Auroran photos by Rob Schuetze

Only 38% showed up at the polls

Last week, The Auroran, in an attempt to bring up-to-date information to its readers in a timely fashion, said more than 40 per cent of Aurora's voters showed up at the polls this election.

The number was wrong.

The official 2006 Town of Aurora municipal election results, released Thursday, indicate voter turnout was 38 per cent, an increase of five per cent from the election in 2003.

The new term for the mayor and eight councillors is four years, beginning Friday, Dec. 1, 2006, and ending Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010.

Final tallies didn't change much from those reported on election night.

Former councillor Phyllis Morris was elected mayor with 5,208 votes, ousting four term mayor Tim Jones by more than 400 votes.

Third place went to former councillor Nigel Kean who got 2,364 votes.

The eight elected councillors included two incumbents and six newcomers.

Official numbers show Bob McRoberts leading the vote with 7,361 ballots cast; followed, in order by Evelina MacEachern, 5,426; Wendy Gaertner, 4,896; Stephen Granger, 4,611; Grace L. Marsh, 4,441; Alison M. Collins-Mrakas, 4,133; Evelyn Buck, 4,089; and Al Wilson, 3,806.

Finishing out of the money were John Gallo, 3,496; Eric McCartney, 3,384; Norm Weller, 3,328; Bryan Moir, 3,298; Aimé Martin, 2,934; Glyn Jones, 2,892; Alan Dean, 2,780; Keith Munro, 2,348; Michael Thompson, 2,250; Stan Rycombel, 1,723; Kam Q. Sadiq, 1,426; and Miloslav Prikryl, 1,239.

The final meeting of the current council is slated for Tuesday, Nov. 28.

Meanwhile, Gormley resident Gord Kerr will represent Aurora-King as the local York Region District School Board trustee, defeating King City's Christopher Pape, 7,839 to 3,179. Trustee for the York Region Catholic District School Board, Elizabeth Crowe was acclaimed.

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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

Until April 15, 2007, winter parking restrictions are in effect and parking is prohibited on all streets from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. daily.

Aurora Opera Company is seeking 30 choral singers for an April production of the musical "Children of Eden" by Stephen Schwartz. Singers will not have to memorize music. Requirements are adults who love to sing. Stage experience not necessary. Performances will take place at Newmarket Theatre. The group is also looking for a baritone for a leading role. Rehearsals begin in January on Sunday afternoons with an occasional Saturday evening. Contact General Director Sarah Kyle at keepsinging@look.ca if you have any questions or would like to take part.

York Region Food Network is looking for Aurora community groups interested in supplying volunteers for its Christmas Poinsettia Fundraiser at the Upper Canada Mall in Newmarket. Contact Terry O'Brien for details. 905-252-5729 E-mail: terryo@yrfn.ca.

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 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@auro-rafair.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 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.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Aurora's Horse Show is in trouble after 85 years of operation and a public meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. at the Aurora Legion to decide its future.

The Literacy Council of York-Simcoe will host "Share the Light", an Evening to Celebrate Literacy at DiNardo's The Mansion in Aurora. Guest speaker is Lieutenant Governor of Ontario James Bartleman. Tickets are \$65 and can be ordered by calling 905-853-6279.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Santa Claus Parade Under the Stars from 6 to 8 p.m. Deadline for float applications is November 12 and volunteers are needed. Call 905-726-4762.

Aurora Public Library presents "Reader Theatre" for 7 to 10 year-olds from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Library. Participants will learn the dramatic elements of Reader's Theatre in a dramatic presentation of the written word. Call 905-727-9493 for details.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Women's Centre of York Region Holiday Open House, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 15208 Yonge Street, Aurora. A toy, food item, or donation to the Holiday Hamper program would be appreciated. For more information, call Shelley at 905-727-5837.

The York Catholic District School Board Public Consultation Centre from 7 to 9 p.m. at the St. Jerome Catholic Elementary School, 20 Bridgenorth Drive (west of Bayview, north of Hollandview Trail) regarding the new Secondary School on Wellington Street East.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

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

Aurora Public Library, partnering with the York Region District School Board and the Community Action Program for Children, presents The Power of Positive Parenting. Magna Room, 7 to 9 p.m. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Second Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony from 6 to 8 p.m. in the front courtyard of the Town Hall and will include ornament making, caroling and hot chocolate with Santa Claus in attendance.

At the Aurora Town Hall from 6 to 8 p.m. PowerStream, Inc. on a "first come, first served" basis will exchange up to two strings of old incandescent holiday lights with strings that feature the more energy efficient LED lights.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Optimist Club of Aurora 20th annual book sale at the Aurora Public Library, Saturday, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., and Sunday, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Cash and cheques (with ID) only. No credit cards or Interac.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

First Baptist Church Christmas Concert, featuring the Bernard Pears Chorale, beginning at 7 p.m. Church is at 33 Wellington Street East. For further information, call 905-727-4531.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Inaugural council meeting of the newly elected council at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the Town Hall.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with ACI, presents "Norton Antivirus", the fourth of a 10-part monthly series of free computer

workshops. Magna Room, 7 p.m. Register online, at the adult information desk, or phone 905-727-9493, option 4.

DECEMBER 7-10

Aurora Opera Company presents "Kiss Me Kate" at the Newmarket Theatre. Tickets, at \$20 and \$17 are available by calling 905-953-5122.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Aurora Seniors New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance from 6.30 p.m. to 1 p.m. at the Seniors' Centre. Cost is \$55 for members and tickets are available at the reception desk.

Celebrate the New Year at the Town's First Night Party at the Leisure Complex from 6 to 9 p.m. It was in 1994 when Aurora joined with other municipalities across North America to welcome the New Year with a family event.

New Year's Eve Gala in the Queen Elizabeth Ballroom, Howard Johnson Aurora featuring cocktails at 6, buffet dinner at 7, dessert table at 8 and dancing to Fifth Avenue Band until 1 a.m. with complimentary champagne and party favours at midnight. Price \$165 per couple. Call 905-727-1312 to reserve.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

Aurora Film Circuit presents the film "Volver" from acclaimed Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodovar, winner of several awards. Tickets available at R & R Revisited on December 1.

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Oak Ridges Trail hikers - 38 of them to be exact - trekked through Aurora last week using the Nokiidaa Trail. The group helped Aurora business by ordering pizzas and having them delivered to the trail near the Leisure Centre.

Photo by John Fuchs

Lots of history downtown

During the election campaign several candidates mentioned the need for Aurora to retain its small town charm as that was the reason many people moved here.

Politicians continued to approve plans of subdivisions even though they knew growth no longer paid for growth and the infrastructure was falling behind.

Development was needed to pay debt charges on the new recreation complex, they said.

In spite of the actions of some local politicians in promoting more and more growth, some old town merchants were doing everything possible to retain Aurora's small town charm.

An excellent example is Mary's Flower Shop on Yonge Street in downtown Aurora.

Owned and operated by the Caruso family, it dates back to 1913 when Anthony and Salvatore Caruso settled in Aurora and opened a fruit and vegetable business, known as Caruso's of Aurora and they lived above the store.

Make a visit to Mary's Flower Shop today and you'll think you're taking a trip back in time, as the store was restored in 1997 to its original condition with a wooden floor, brick walls and tin ceiling as it was back in 1913.

Tony Caruso's son, Frank and his wife Phyllis, ran the

store for years and it became a community landmark offering personal old-fashioned service.

Their sons Mike and Steve finished renovating the store by taking it back in time and they carry on the family business.

In 1997 the property was designated a heritage building by the Aurora Historical Society and in 1998 the town presented an award from the Business Development Committee to the family as posthumous recognition of the late Frank Caruso.

Another reminder of the past is Paul's Barber Shop on the east side of Yonge Street with its old fashioned chairs and the familiar red and white pole.

On the south wall of the building, now partially hidden by an adjacent building is a large faded Coca Cola sign.

Mike Evan's TruValue Hardware store on the west side of Yonge Street, another reminder of the past, has been serving customers with a personal touch since 1974 and except for a short period has always been a hardware store.

John Ough operated a hardware store at the same location dating back to the early 1920s.

Jim Wilson of Aurora started to work in the store in 1926 and stayed until 1935 before moving to Kitchener.

In the meantime, John Bowser, who had been in charge of construction of the Empire State Building in New York purchased the hardware business from Ough and Wilson returned to Aurora to work for him.

In 1945 Wilson opened his own hardware store on the east side of Yonge Street in a former blacksmith shop.

In 1955 there was a disastrous fire that destroyed several stores of the west side of Yonge including the hardware store.

The hardware store property was purchased by Gordon Reid, then opened as Patterson Hardware and then leased to Lightman's as a clothing and shoe store.

In 1965 when the store he had worked in for so long became available he purchased the property and moved his business across the street.

Another feature on Yonge is Thompson's Fine Furniture which was opened in 1921 by Preston Thompson, who was Mayor of Aurora in 1929 and 1930. He also operated the Thompson Funeral Home on Victoria Street.

In 1946, son Bill joined his father in the business after serving with the RCAF and in 1977 his son, Jamie, joined the business after graduating from the University of Windsor with a

degree in Commerce.

Employees included Reg Whitten, Bruce Baker, Bruce Phillips, James Henry, Bob Sass, Walter Johncox, Randy Paul, Terry MacDonald, Steve Thompson, Judy Scott, Joyce MacMain and Noreen Kerr.

But the oldtimer in downtown Aurora is the Bank of Montreal which opened in 1898 and although the building has changed, the location has remained the same at the northwest corner of Yonge and Wellington Streets.

In May 1973 council approved the construction of the current Bank of Montreal and it was officially opened in February by then Mayor Evelyn Buck.

Times and conditions change but some reminders of the past remain.

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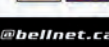
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*The election is finally over,
And many surprises there were;
We have a council of women,
With a heavy burden to bear.
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

Aurora's 2006 municipal election was an election of surprises and it is doubtful if anyone predicted the results, especially for the mayoralty contest.

There were three strong candidates, the incumbent Mayor Tim Jones with 12 years of experience as head of council and challengers Councillors Phyllis Morris and Nigel Kean.

Both Morris and Kean had challenged Jones before with unsuccessful results.

Kean made his debut into municipal politics in 1994 when he challenged Mayor Tim Jones in a three-way race including former Mayor George Timpson and lost.

Morris, after one term as a councillor, challenged Jones in a four-way race including Councillor Bill Hogg and newcomer Gary Sinjakewitsch and finished second in 2000.

Normally with two strong candidates opposing the mayor, they split the vote and the incumbent is returned to office. The theory didn't hold true this time as Morris led the way right from the start with remarkable strength and Kean failed to gain the anticipated support.

The theory didn't hold true in 1985 as I well know.

After an absence of about 10 years from Aurora politics while working with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs at Queen's Park, I retired in 1982 and ran for mayor against incumbent George Timpson and was successful.

In 1985, I sought re-election and got caught in a squeeze play by Councillors John West and Earl Stewart and West was successful.

I didn't think so at the time, but the defeat opened new doors and I got involved in the media and have never been happier.

As my mother used to say, when one door closes another opens and it's so true as Tim Jones will find out.

The major surprise when looking at Aurora Council for the next four years is that council, for the first time in Aurora's history, is dominated by women with six members to three male members, which could make for interesting debates.

With 20 candidates for council, including only two incumbents, electors had a difficult choice.

At the all-candidates meetings they were all knowledgeable, interested and had something to offer.

It was the strongest field of candidates the town has seen for a long time.

With four all-candidate meetings, knocking on doors, putting up signs, etc., it had to be a grueling campaign for the candidates and they should be commended and thanked for their efforts, as they were all worthy.

But in any election there are winners and losers and it is hoped the interest of the losers in their municipality will be maintained and they will run again.

There was a mood for change which helped to defeat Tim Jones but it didn't affect the only other incumbents, Councillors Wendy Gaertner and Evelyn Buck as they finished one spot ahead of their 2003 election totals with Gaertner in third place and Buck in seventh.

There wasn't much surprise in newcomer Bob McRoberts topping the poll for council as he is an Aurora old boy and has impressed residents at the all-candidates meeting with his sincerity.

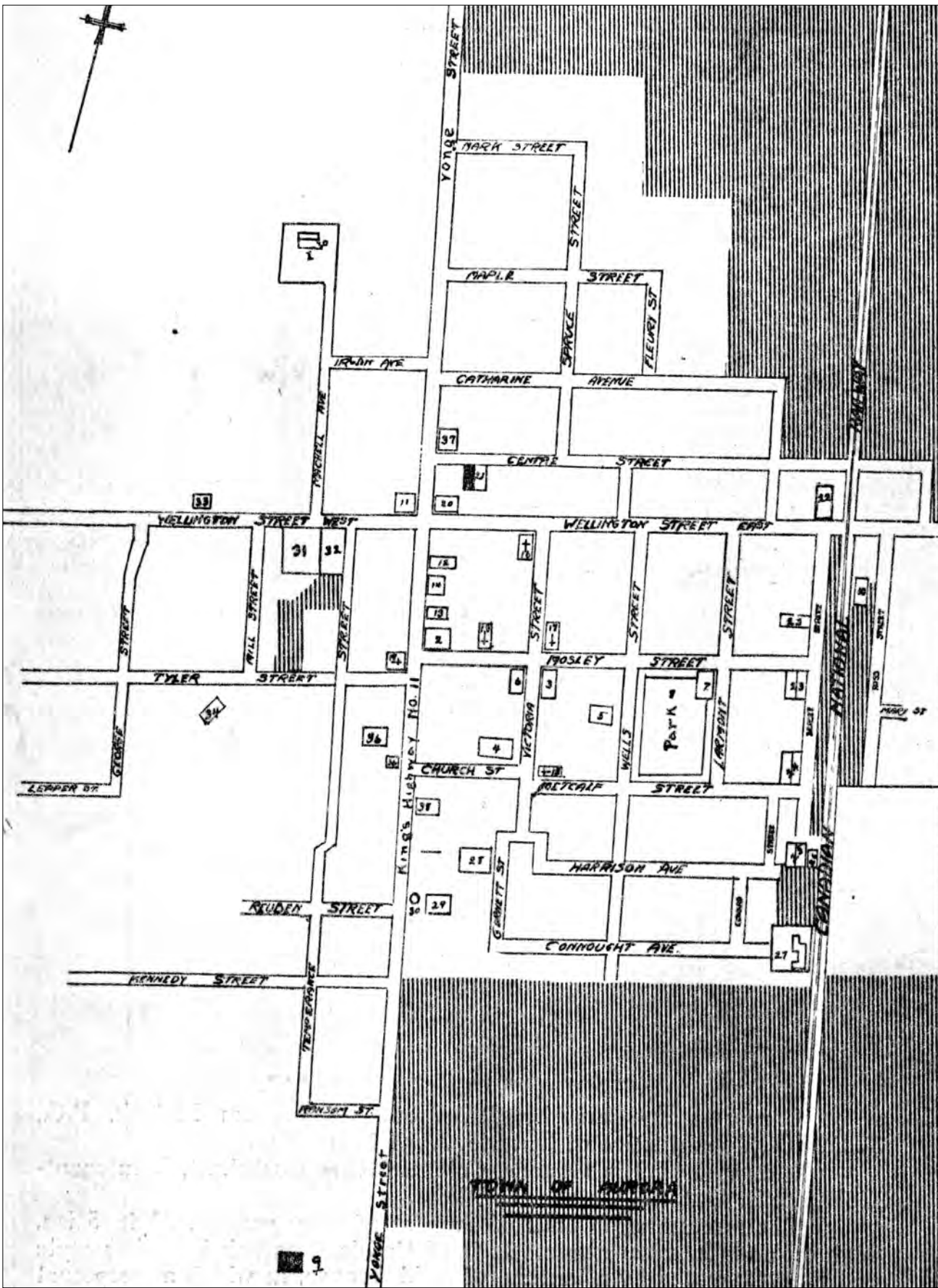
The election of former Councillor Evelina MacEachern, newcomer Stephen Granger and former Aurora tax collector Grace Marsh weren't surprises as their place in the returns never really changed during the 45 minutes it took for the results to be posted to know the winners.

The big surprises were the last three to be elected as their positions kept changing up and down, sometimes in the hallowed eight and sometimes out, but when the dust was settled Alison Collins-Mrakas, Evelyn Buck and Al Wilson were the winners.

For Wilson it was three strikes for a home run as he was defeated in the 2000 and 2003 elections.

It was thought that Alan Dean, Norm Weller and John Gallo would do better.

The team has been voted in, now let the teamwork begin.



This map shows a much smaller Aurora, a community that was barely a hamlet. Old Aurora has been around for many, many years, but we're not sure when this map was drawn. Anyone know?

Letter to the Editor

Bouquets to the winners

To the editor,

Hail to the new mayor of Aurora, Phyllis Morris!

A lady in waiting no longer, today she is queen of all she surveys, figuratively speaking! Congratulations, Phyllis! Aurora loves a winner and you have won Aurora, big time, over two excellently qualified candidates, a matter which makes your victory so much more remarkable and commendable.

Congratulations also to the two fine gentlemen who, while they lost this grindingly tough mayoralty contest, did so with dignity and grace; the admirable Nigel Kean, who would have made an excellent mayor, and Tim Jones who has proved his worth repeatedly as mayor of Aurora.

Losing an election for an office for which one is eminently qualified, must be a cruel disappointment!

Congratulations to all the candidates who gained a plurality in this well fought and

grinding election campaign.

The next chapter for this nascent council will include gelling into a powerful and cooperative team.

Democracy thrives in Aurora, and the new Aurora Town Council appears before us as impressive, awesome in fact, younger overall, and with character, experience, reputation and characterized by a strong feminine component of councillors outnumbering the men, five to three.

Great will be the public interest in how well this council performs and who emerges from the group as capable, proficient and strong in debate.

And special salutes to all who aspired to a seat on municipal council and who dared themselves to stand for election, but did not quite attract enough votes this time.

Without you who offered your candidacy for public election, we would not have had such a robust and well fought contest, and the electoral process would have

been diminished.

But you did challenge, you threw down the gauntlet and proved your worth in debate and well fought campaigns. Thank you for your excellence of purpose, and public minded spirit!

The business of municipal government must now be addressed at the earliest opportunity, and among the first orders of business, will be the important phase that allows the councillors to get acquainted, with each other and with municipal business.

Mayor Morris will organize and manage this sensitive and important matter, with her own brand of sophistication and grace.

The new councillors must now get up to speed with the affairs of the municipality as quickly as possible, and that requires a magnitude of work and diligence, easily surpassing the task of gaining election.

**Brian Warburton
Aurora**

AURORAN

**"Aurora's
Community Newspaper"**

Published weekly by The Auroran
Publications Inc.
At 75 Mary Street, Unit #3
Aurora, L4G 1G3

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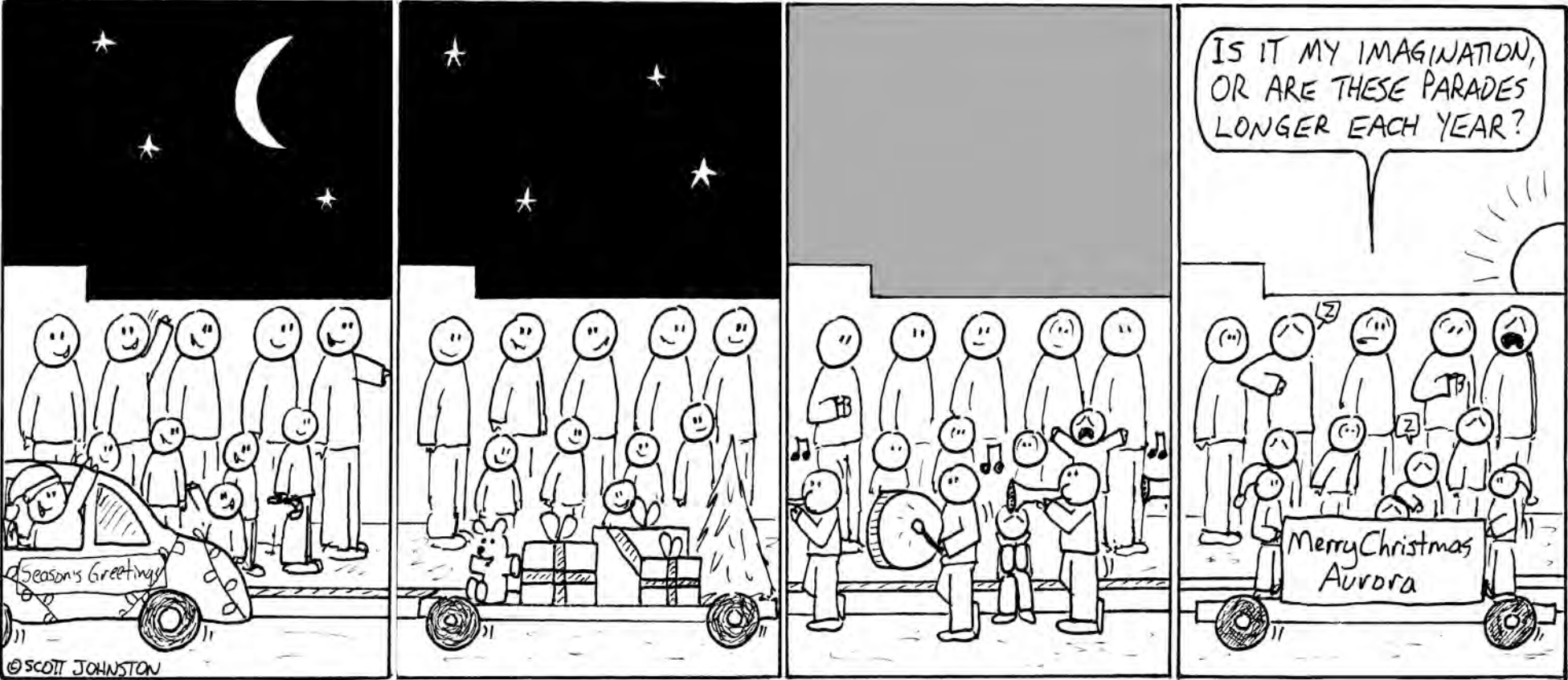
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Machell's Corners



Mayor Jones' final column

Dear residents of Aurora,

What a privilege it has been to serve the Town of Aurora as a councillor and then as your mayor. From my first foray into politics in 1978, having served on the Recreation Board as it was called then, and as President of the Aurora Community Tennis Club, I entered the race for council and was elected with Betty Pedersen and John West to be the rookies of that session serving until 1994. Then, with the shift of then Mayor John West from Council to the School Board, I became your mayor. I have valued every day on the job! For each of the 10 councils I have served with, our staff at the Town has provided the technical expertise and support to facilitate the tough policy decisions we have had to make. My profound appreciation to each and every one of them. To the mayors and members of council I have been honoured to serve with, I thank them for their contribution and dedication for making our Town the best it can possibly be. To the service providers, home builders, businesses and industries that do business in our Town, and that I have had the privilege to work with, thank you for helping to form the fabric of what we are today. And to the many volunteers, coaches, event organizers and community groups that do so much to maintain and enrich the character of Aurora, I have appreciated working with you and participating in your events. Anyone who chooses to enter politics has to do so with the full knowledge that every three, and now four years, you are at the mercy of the will of the electorate. I have had 10 successes and now my first loss. I will leave office Nov. 30th with my head high, knowing that all I did on the job was first and foremost for the betterment of Aurora. I lived the job every hour of every day, my wife can tell you that, and I can truly tell you that I loved it. I would take this opportunity to thank everyone who campaigned with me, placed a sign on their lawn and who voted for me during the past campaign. I would also like to thank all those who have communicated with me since the election. Your words of appreciation and support are very comforting and reassuring. I believe things happen for a reason and I look forward to what the future has to bring. I wish the Town and new Council the very best!

Sincerely,
Mayor Tim Jones

Letter to the Editor

White poppies a scam: reader

To the editor,

I see we now have white poppies being sold for Nov. 11 - white for peace - great idea, but this white poppy sale is a scam. Poppies belong to the Vets. The red poppy came from Flander's Field from World War One. The red poppy belongs to Vets, let white poppies be sold at some other

time of year.

Oh, we could go on and on. Black poppies in memory of past friends and relatives; green poppies in memory of lovely land destroyed by greedy developers; blue poppies in memory of the Toronto Maple Leafs and their last Stanley Cup 40 years ago. Oh yes, the orange poppy. Why? Because orange is my

favourite colour.

I will not do business with any store that sells white poppies. I understand 1,080,000 Canadians served in World War Two. Fewer than 200,000 remain. According to figures, approximately 500 Vets in Canada die each day. Only three Vets are left from World War One. Soon, only a handful of World War Two Vets will

still be alive.

So, give us a break and keep buying red poppies. I was utterly amazed at the number of people at Aurora's Nov. 11 service. It was wet, cold and windy but the huge crowds still turned out. The Vets appreciate the support the people of Aurora have given them. William Devins Aurora



Cathy's Corner

In good company now

The winds of change have blown and feminism, the radical notion that women are people too, has hit small town Aurora...like a tornado! Last week, six women ran for council seats and six women got what they wanted. That would seem to indicate two things: 1. For the first time in Aurora history, the men are outnumbered by a ratio of six to three; and, 2. Aurora's tagline, "In Good Company" is going to take on a whole new meaning! Town Hall will start smelling a lot less like Old Spice and Brut, and a little more like the perfume counters at the mall. And just as overpowering... If women seem to be a little over-represented on council, note that we are severely under-represented among those who failed to secure a seat. The list is 14 long - every last one male. This is starting to look outright revolutionary! Henceforth, council meetings will begin with "I'll be ready in just one more minute" and conclude with "Yes, dear..." Aurora Cable Internet will be scrambling for commercials whenever all the females at the table pick up their purses and leave the room. Hey, the cues should be obvious: no woman has ever been known to go to the powder room without an entourage. It's unthinkable! When the quorum emerges from the Ladies Room, the men must immediately stop cracking Men's Room jokes. I think there's something in the bylaws about that. Because the women might laugh - louder than the men. Dolly Parton said: "I'm not offended by all the dumb blonde jokes because I know I'm not dumb...and I'm also not blonde!" Only her hairdresser knows for sure, gentlemen. So be careful - be VERY careful! If you happen to miss the roots of the matter, immediately don your CSA approved hard hat, safety glasses, and the athletic support that you must henceforth never leave home without. On the softer side, the female influence has been known to bring a heightened capacity to listen and empathize, and

a superior level of efficiency and organization. I can just see them now...sorting the agenda like laundry! Black & White items in one pile...gray matters in another...and issues likely to elicit colourful language in the In Camera pile! Budget talks should become less like pulling teeth and more like...shopping. If it isn't on sale, it isn't happening. It's a woman thing... They might even look at the numbers and make that face - you know, the one that women make when they ask: "Honey, does this look fat to you?" "Yes, dear," would be a very good answer. Six women sinking their teeth into the budget does have its appeal, though. We've been battling cellulite all our lives and we've made up our minds about fat - we hate it! But if the ladies seem a little indecisive, just hand them each a nail file. You may laugh, but not for long. We can do more damage with a nail file than men can do with a chain saw. Why else would they have banned nail files, tweezers, and lip gloss from airplanes? It's because women are resourceful, creative, and persistent...and very good at upsetting the guy who thinks he's got a good grip on the joystick. So keep your focus, boys! I know it's going to be hard to sit in the presence of six bright, educated, outspoken women every week...not being able to get a word in edgewise, and all... But do keep in mind that women have coped with being outnumbered, overpowered, and underpaid by working extra hard, extra long, and extra smart. It will be generations before we break these little habits, so just sit back and expect miracles, okay? Miracles are our specialty. How else would the winds of change have landed three good men in the good company of six women?

Cathy Vrancic welcomes e-mail at: laughingmatters@aci.on.ca or cathyvrancic@hotmail.com

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Grade 10 student Ryan Cole of St. Andrew's College on winning the 25th annual International Independent Schools' Public Speaking Competition hosted by St. Andrew's. He advanced to the next level to represent Canada next March in South Africa.

BRICKBATS to the weatherman for forgetting to remember and providing a rainy day for the Remembrance Parade and Service but the Legionnaires and others didn't forget and marched or attended in spite of the rain.

BRICKBATS to Greater Toronto Airport Authority officials for refusing to allow Legionnaires to sell poppies at Toronto International Airport. Then they changed their minds due to criticism.

BOUQUETS to York Region on being named as one of the top 100 companies to work for in Canada and one of the top 50 companies to work for in the Greater Toronto Area by Mediacorp Canada and the listing appeared in Maclean's magazine.

BRICKBATS to the Highway 407 Consortium for continuing their tough toll tactics after losing a \$50,000 damages judgment over a long running bill dispute with the judge ruling that the consortium had not wielded its monopoly of power responsibly, thanks to the ironclad agreement made by the Mike Harris government.

BOUQUETS to Jim Edwards on being selected top Senior Idol at the Park Place Manor Senior Idol Contest for his singing and yodeling with Bud Switzer second and Neil Pemberton third.

BRICKBATS to the bureaucrats in Ottawa for shafting seniors for late income tax returns by cutting off the old age security payments to about 90,000 impoverished seniors until they filed a tax return or a special form included with the notification letter. Their rough treatment earned the bureaucrats a promotion.

BOUQUETS to Aurora's Zachary Schiller, a former student at Country Day School now attending Queen's University on achieving the Gold Level in the Duke of Edinburgh's Young Canadian Challenge. He will receive his award at a future date from a member of the Royal Family.

BRICKBATS to Liberal Leader candidate Michael Ignatieff for making unproven allegations of fraud against chief rival Bob Rae and being fined \$1,000 by the Liberal Party's appeal committee, and he wants to be a future Prime Minister. Both he and Volpe should be kicked out of the race.

BOUQUETS to the members of Democracy Watch, a citizen's watchdog group, for recommending that all political leaders undergo a lie-detector test during election campaigns after filing a complaint with the Ethics Commissioner over Harper's promise not to touch income tax trusts.

BRICKBATS to the Ontario Film Review Board for failing to take action in restricting the sale of ultra-violent street fighting DVD movies, especially to underage teens.

BOUQUETS to some of the distributors for voluntarily pulling the DVDs from their shelves, as they feature graphic home videos of brawls, gang attacks and street fights.

BRICKBATS to the federal government for authorizing a mining company to dump waste into Newfoundland lakes which environmentalists claim will set a precedent for other mining companies. So much for Harper's commitment to the environment!

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Letters to the Editor

New Act won't guarantee care for those in homes

To the editor,

For decades we have had legislation in this province known as the Nursing Homes Act (NHA).

Through this Act, residents of long-term facilities and their families were led to believe that institutionalized individuals

would be ensured of good care and safety.

But as we are reminded by frequent media accounts, the substandard and subhuman treatment of long-term residents has continued year after year.

News reports also tell us that thousands of calls have been made by the public to the Ministry this

Trailer confuses the issue: reader

To the editor,

Re: "Trailer a building or not?", Auroran, Nov. 14.

One of the biggest challenges facing the past council was its inability to clearly define the problem they were trying to solve.

The issue surrounding the enforcement of the Ontario Municipal Board decision regarding windmills on Ridge Road has absolutely nothing to do with whether the trailer is a building or not.

The OMB decision clearly stated that Aurora Cable Internet must first meet the noise guidelines established by the Ministry of Environment before the equipment housed in the trailer can be placed on site.

ACI violated this condition and not only placed the trailer on site, but made it operational.

Now there is an Ontario Superior Court Order enforcing the conditions set out by the OMB decision.

The issue now is whether the Town of Aurora will enforce the Court Order or risk contempt of court.

The status of the trailer...building or not...is a red herring and used to confuse the situation (and stall the removal of the trailer), rather than clarify it.

Let's hope the future council brings a greater clarity of thought and logic to the situation than the previous one.

Bryan Moir
Aurora

Citizens applauded

To the editor,

This year my family attended Veteran's Day services at Midland, with my father-in-law, a World War Two veteran. The public attendance was excellent despite the weather. At the end of the service, when the pipe band led the formation of veterans, fire, ambulance, police and cadets from the cenotaph, the civilian attendance burst out in applause as they passed by.

This lasted a good minute or two.

I am sure the service in Aurora went as well.

Bill Hack
Aurora

Candidate says thanks

To the editor,

Thank you to all those who supported me on election day. Thanks also to everyone who helped with my campaign, from the button wearers and sign takers

to the good word spreaders.

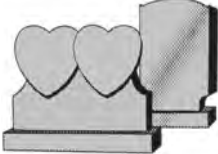
I look forward to working with the new council team for the betterment of Aurora.

Bob McRoberts
Aurora

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year and last, out of concern for resident safety and proper care.

The Ministry's own compliance inspection reports substantiate unacceptable treatment and deplorable conditions in too many of our provincially regulated and licenced facilities.

A proposed Long-Term Care Homes Act was unveiled early in October.

In effect, it confirms what families have been saying for years - there are serious systemic problems with the institutionalization of older persons despite legislation and contrary to comments made by political leaders suggesting they are satisfied that quality care exists for all residents in Ontario nursing homes.

The proposed Act appears to suggest that for the first time there will be a residents' Bill of Rights.

Such a Bill was brought into the NHA in 1986.

With regard to the matter of protection for those (whistleblowers) who are required to report actions of suspected harm, improper treatment or neglect against residents, 'protection of persons reporting' is included in the existing Nursing Homes Act as well.

As the safety and well-being of residents continues to be a serious issue, one might therefore conclude, that the problem lies with the lack of strong enforcement of the legislation, by those who have been entrusted with the protection of the vulnerable and dependent citizens in nursing homes.

When the same players are behind the scenes, one should not expect the care and safety of residents will be ensured just because a new Act is on the way.

Ellen Watson
Aurora



Thank you for your confidence

Wendy Gaertner
Aurora Council



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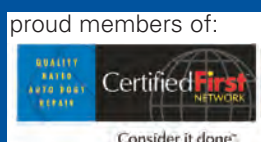
Chris Reddick, Manager of Supreme Collision Centre in Aurora, proudly accepts the 2006 Business of the Year Achievement Award (over 25 employees) from Kimberly Kerr, Chairperson of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business Achievement Awards Committee.

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The Christmas season looms

By BRIAN WARBURTON

A Christmas Bazaar will be held Nov. 25 at the Aurora Seniors' Centre from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The date, you probably realize, is exactly one month before Christmas.

Arrangements are well under way and will feature arts and crafts including sewing work by our talented ladies.

Boutiques and tables will be stocked with a wide assortment of merchandise by many vendors and this arrangement provides a huge variety of quality goods - much of which is hand made - including stocking stuffers, to satisfy everybody.

Baked goods will be featured and are always a huge attraction and this year we will have a tea room with muffins and other mouth-watering baked goods.

Each of the vendors will supply a prize and draws will be held periodically throughout the day until all the prizes have been won.

And that sounds like fun with lots of prizes and all winners' numbers will be posted so nobody misses out.

This year's memorial service held recently in the West McKenzie room at the ASA drew more than 60 participants, including the mayor, councillors and candidates for council. Reverend Alan Ferguson of Trinity Anglican Church conducted the ceremony.

The countdown to Christmas proceeds in earnest from now on.

Christmas parties, dances and other functions will engage our minds until the event arrives.

Christmas gifts are on everybody's mind, whether bought or made or furnished in some other fashion.

With all the war and faults in the world, Christmas is a festival that reaches deep into our hidden private places, and evokes many emotions for loved ones past and present.

For all the commercialization of this holiday season, the true spirit of Christmas ultimately prevails, which is the source of its firm and unwavering hold on so many of us.

The association is busy, members old and new flock to the centre, always with something to do, or someone to see, or just to see what activity is going on that can accept one or more participants.

Pickle ball, badminton, table tennis, the pool room, computer room, the reading room, the card games of euchre, bridge, and canasta all accept new participants with pleasure.

If you are a member, you join in; if you are not a

member, then join and then join in, and you'll find you have delighted everybody with your presence.

You can also volunteer to help at the front counter, or in the kitchen; there is something for everyone, and someone is always needed.

If you have a talent or a natural ability to do something exceptionally well, the association is interested in

you, and will help you to develop whatever it is that makes you what you are, and perhaps make it even better.

Of one thing I am certain. We all need people; we were not made to live our lives in a solitary fashion, and Christmas for all the joy it provides to so many, leaves others in desperate loneliness.

I feel for those lonely in

this world whether it is Christmas time, or any time.

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Aurora youngster Nutcracker dancer

Aurora's Victoria Harding, 14, can hardly wait until her triumphant return to the Winter Garden Theatre in December as Clara in this year's Canadian Ballet Theatre's production of The Nutcracker.

Victoria, according to a press release, is one of the talented, hard working students from the Academy of Ballet and Jazz.

"Like most aspiring ballerinas, Victoria grew up hearing the story of The Nutcracker," the release said. "This year, she is ecstatic to be going on a magical journey with her Nutcracker Prince to battle with the Mouse King and travel to the Land of Sweets to dance with the Sugar Plum Fairy."

The Nutcracker will play three shows at the Winter Garden Theatre, 189 Yonge Street, north of Queen Street, in Toronto, Saturday, Dec. 16 at 3 p.m, and 8 p.m, and Sunday, Dec. 17, at 3 p.m.

A holiday favourite, the story of The Nutcracker begins on Christmas Eve.

Clara, the young heroine, is presented with a one-of-a-kind nutcracker by her godfather Drosselmeyer.

As the clock strikes midnight, Clara falls asleep under the Christmas tree and dreams of being in a winter wonderland. Clara dances with snowflakes, defeats the Mouse King, and takes a magical ride with the Nutcracker Prince.



Michele Landsberg, an award-winning columnist and author, was the guest speaker last week at a regular Aurora Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Michele, married to Stephen Lewis, retired from The Toronto Star in 2003 after winning two national newspaper awards, including the first one ever awarded for column writing. She delighted a full-house of Chamber members and guests at the dinner, held at King's Riding Golf Course on Bathurst Street.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

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Skating results

The following skaters represented the Aurora Skating Club at the Keswick Invitational Skate held recently at the Georgina Ice Palace in Keswick:

Freeskate

Introductory Ladies A - Jasmine Biasi (Flt 2) - 8th.
Introductory Ladies B - Julia Steiner (Flt 1) - 7th; Stephanie Morawietz (Flt 2) -1st; Zahra Rajan (Flt 5) - 1st.
Introductory Men - Mathew Warner - 1st.
Pre-Preliminary I Ladies B - Alessia Chiovitti (Flt 1) - 4th; Savannah Hendy (Flt 5) - 5th; Julia Chiovitti (Flt 8) - 2nd; Samantha Duncan (Flt 9) - 2nd; Shauna O'Connor (Flt 10) - 4th; Molly Oulahan (Flt 10) - 3rd; Marilena Perri (Flt 10) - 9th; Kailee O'Connor (Flt 11) - 6th; Carley Steiner (Flt 12) - 6th; Kaitlin Van Winckle (Flt 12) - 3rd; Becky O'Malley (Flt 13) - 7th.
Preliminary I Ladies A - Katherine Morawietz (Flt 5) - 3rd; Tayler Sim (Flt 4) - 2nd.
Preliminary I Ladies B - Samantha Galati (Flt 5) - 1st; Christina Kubiw-Kalashnik (Flt 5) - 7th; Hailey Riggs (Flt 2) -2nd.
Preliminary II Ladies A - Kate Sutton (Flt 2) - 7th.
Preliminary II Ladies B - Raquel Burgess (Flt 1) - 3rd.

Elements

Pre-Preliminary Ladies C - Samantha Duncan (Flt 1) - 6th.

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Gordon, Henderson lead Tigers in blanking Newmarket Hurricanes

Tyler Gordon made 29 saves to record the shutout and Doug Henderson lead the offensive charge with 2 goals and 2 assists in the Tigers' 6-0 victory over the Hurricanes on Thursday night in Newmarket.

Also scoring for Aurora was Paul Zanette fresh off returning from the World

Junior Challenge with Team Canada East, with a goal and 2 assists while Jordan Watts, Mark Thorburn & Nathaniel Brooks added singles.

Tigers Edge Otters

Despite playing well for 3 periods the Tigers found

themselves tied with the Huntsville-Muskoka Otters after 60 minutes and it wasn't until 24 seconds into overtime that Joey Martin battled for puck possession in the offensive zone and fed Mike Ward at the point who in turn blasted a low shot for a game winning Jamie MacQueen

deflection. The end result a 4-3 well deserved victory for the Aurora squad who outshot the Otters by a 39-23 margin.

Other goal getters were Alain Goulet, Joey Martin and Jordan Watts.

Tigers had a home encounter with the Seguin Bruins on Sunday. Please see next week's Auroran for results.



Jamie MacQueen's deflection of a blistering low shot by Mike Ward carried the Tigers to a 4-3 overtime win over the Otters. Next scheduled game for Aurora was home encounter with the Seguin Bruins on Sunday at 2:30PM at the Aurora Community Centre.

Photo by Andy Brooks

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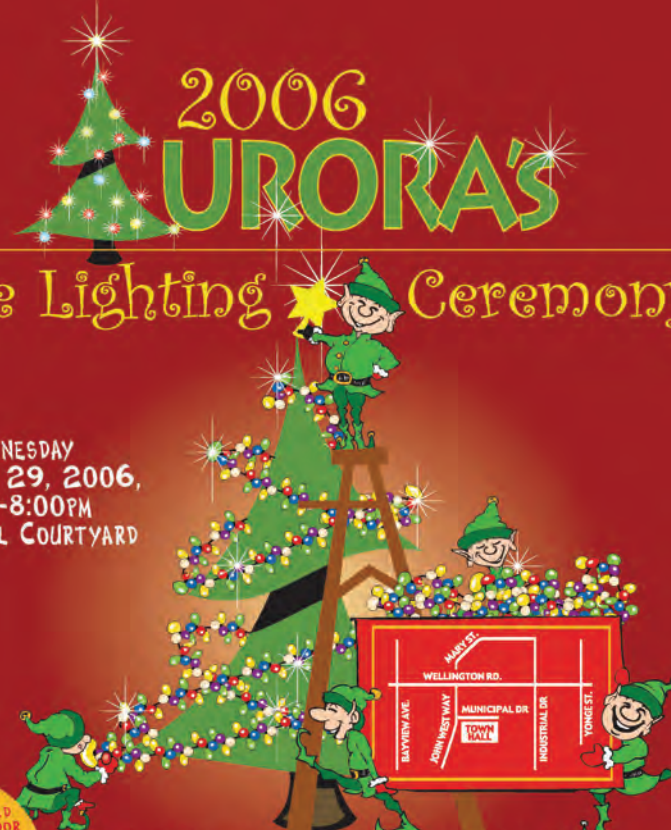


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November 13

TEAM		W	L	T	F	A	Pts.
Law Insurance Brokers		6	0	2	39	16	14
Tom & Jerry's		6	1	1	28	18	13
Priestly Demolition		4	3	1	35	29	9
FPL Aggregates		4	4	0	24	28	8
Masterclean Contracting		3	4	1	24	25	7
Highland Chev-Cad		2	4	2	27	29	6
Rec Cycle N' Sports		2	5	1	25	38	5
Baldwin's		0	6	2	25	34	2
Priestly Demolition	4	Highlands		4			
Tom & Jerry's	2	Rec Sports		2			
Law Insurance	4	FPL Aggregates		4			
Masterclean	1	Baldwin's		2			

Player standings

NAME	TEAM	G	A	P
John Yaremko	Law Insurance	10	5	15
John Anderson	Rec Sports	8	7	15
Ed Kilroy	Rec Sports	5	6	11
Mark Sedore	Priestly	8	2	10
Jason Muise	Priestly	5	5	10
Bruce Chappell	Highlands	5	4	9
Pat Davies	Priestly	2	6	8
Steve McDonald	Law Insurance	4	4	8
Pat O'Mahony	FPL	4	4	8
Jerome Flanigan	Priestly	2	6	8
John Archibauld	Highlands	7	1	8
Ed Jackson	Baldwins	2	5	7
Darren Yaremko	Law Insurance	3	4	7
Bob Ince	FPL	4	3	7
Frank Balkovec	Law Insurance	2	5	7
Mike Dinner	Priestly	2	4	6
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	0	6	6
Mike O'Connor	Priestly	5	1	6
Vince Greco	Tom & Jerry's	2	4	6
Tom Hussey	Masterclean	3	3	6
Jerry Mackrell	Tom & Jerry's	3	3	6
Peter Briand	Baldwins	2	4	6
Darryl Thompson	Tom & Jerry's	5	1	6
Gerald Briand	Baldwins	2	3	5
Dave McQueston	FPL	2	3	5
Colin Leech	Priestly	1	4	5
Kevin Brown	Rec Sports	2	3	5
Dave Holden	Tom & Jerry's	2	3	5
Paul Gibson	Law Insurance	1	4	5
Dave Caverley	FPL	3	2	5
Mike Nisbet	Priestly	2	3	5
Scott Crabb	Highlands	1	4	5
Charlie Steenhorst	Rec Sports	0	4	4
Scott Sheppard	Rec Sports	0	4	4
Darren McDonald	FPL	1	3	4
Angelo Nasato	Masterclean	2	2	4
Mark Cherutti	Rec Sports	2	2	4
Mark English	Masterclean	0	4	4
Doug Adair	Rec Sports	1	3	4
Brad McMillan	Tom & Jerry's	2	2	4
Joel Reeves	Tom & Jerry's	2	2	4
Steve Robinson	Highlands	0	4	4
Brian McCartney	Law Insurance	2	2	4
Mike Kensit	Masterclean	3	1	4
Doug McGrath	Baldwins	3	1	4
Dean Iwai	Tom & Jerry's	0	4	4
Mark Lemmon	Law Insurance	1	2	3
Ron Van Noort	Masterclean	1	2	3
Mike Caicco	Priestly	0	3	3
Scott Pogue	Masterclean	2	1	3
John Leeder	FPL	1	2	3
Chris Neal	Highlands	2	1	3
John Sibner	Law Insurance	1	2	3
Steve Bromley	Masterclean	2	1	3
Doug Hackett	FPL	1	2	3
Mike Slimkowich	Masterclean	0	3	3
Dan Smith	Rec Sports	2	1	3
RonThieson	Tom & Jerry's	0	3	3
Hal Horton	Baldwins	2	1	3
Vincent Rochon	Tom & Jerry's	2	0	2
Kerry Heintzman	FPL	0	2	2
Dennis Tonello	Highlands	0	2	2
Derek Preston	FPL	0	2	2
Ken Kavanaugh	FPL	1	1	2
Phil Podstatsky	Priestly	1	1	2
Brian Horton	Baldwins	0	2	2
Alain Boudreau	Masterclean	2	0	2
Larry Preston	FPL	1	1	2
Mike Ing	Law Insurance	0	2	2
Bob Leeming	Law Insurance	1	1	2
Ryan Priestly	Priestly	0	2	2
Jody Matthews	Highlands	1	1	2
Darryl Iswai	Highlands	0	2	2
Greg Chard	Tom & Jerry's	0	2	2
Scott Thomas	Tom & Jerry's	0	2	2

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New pool responsible for better swimmers

Aurora's new swimming pool is being hailed as a major reason competitive swimmers are doing so well at various swim meets.

Coach of the Ducks Swim Team, Reg Chappell, said his squad did well at a recent inter-national meet held in Brantford.

“The new pool at the Aurora Recreation Complex and the increased training time are beginning to make a big difference especially in the number of swimmers now placing in the top 10,” he said. “Our conditioning is improving, we have more time to work on strokes and we expect to see a big improvement in our performances at future meets.”

Swimmer Sarah Gillis was second in the 11 & 12 Girls 200 Butterfly; Callum Ross finished third in the 15 & 16 Boys 400 Free; and Guido Iannucci was third in the 17 & over 50 Free.

Other swimmers who placed well included Sarah Gillis 5th 100 Butterfly; Alex Kowalski 10th 200 Breast; David Lee 4th 200 Individual Medley; David Ahong 8th 200 Individual Medley; Jake

Silverthorn 10th 200 Individual Medley; Callum Ross 9th 100 Free; Alex Brown 7th 100 Back; and Alex Brown 10th 200 Individual Medley.

“We also have room for new swimmers at all levels,” Coach Chappell said.

AURORA BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

Week of Nov. 5

Tuesday, Nov. 7: N-S 1. Margaret MacFarlane, Paul MacFarlane. 2. Catherine Balant, Ross Jenkinson. 3. Mike MacNeil, Dan MacNeil. E-W 1. M a r g Burt, Victor Bailey. 2. A n n e Richards, John Stewart. 3 and 4 William Graber, Oly Smolak, Doug Farmer, Don Jackson.

Wednesday, Nov 8: N-S 1. Don Jackson, Margaret Farmer. 2. Oly Smolak, Gordon Saul. 3. Bertha King, Margaret Wynarchuk.

Thursday, Nov 9: Novice Game 1. Jeremy Hill, Joan Cor coran. 2. Kris Dontigny, Phil Dontigny.

Friday, Nov. 10: N-S 1. Paul Graves, Shirley Hulbig. 2. Ross Jenkinson, Don Jackson. 3. Gordon Saul, Jane Demers. E-W 1. Margaret Farmer, Paul MacFarlane. 2. Virginia Smereka, Paul Caleb. 3. Doug Farmer, George Jordan.

Celebrating Soccer 2005 - 2006

Players	
Stinger Awards of Merit: House League: Joseph Battiston and Tanya Kizovski ADP: Gaynor McIlraith Rep: Mike Saccone and Jen Agueci	
Coaches	
Stinger Award of Merit: House League: John Aird ADP: Julie Anderson and Christine Schwarze Rep: Rod Lewis	
Referees	
Stinger Award of Merit: HL and Rep: Ramesh Judham	
Rookie of the year – Darrell Evans	
100% Club - Dennis Cook, Darrell Evans, Domenic Faoro, Eric Deroos, Connor Fordyce, Nick Buttazoni, Alyanna James, Ryan Lopez, Matt Mears, Andrew Osmond, Luca Scalise, Dexter Speller-Drew, David Bar, Nevin Sendel and James Sendel	
Builder	
Stinger Award of Merit: Andrian Peetoom	
Volunteers	
Stinger Award of Merit: Karen Fulton (HL) Chris Speller (REP)	

MVV: Thomas Seidel, Alex Rennie, Keith Blinston, Bill Kizovski, Cathy Dias, Grace Andreachhi, Martin Ambrose, Jamie Danziger, Paul Palozzi, Randy Palmer, Louise Dyer, Nadine Raymond, Jamil Mina, Vic Falcone, Christine Falcone, Linda Ireland, Shawwna Relke, Johanne Seguin, Michelle Harrison, Glenn Haywood, Stacey Haywood, Bill Joynt, Susan Joynt, Maureen Crouse, Phil D’Elia, Liz Semkowich, Melanie Eberlin, Sherry Hedden, Nancy Nanos, Nina Dovinous, Sue Masterson, Mary Bar, Kim Downs, Mary Mason, Stan Herschorn, Paul St. Germain, Denise Soucy-Jordan, Peter Tordy, Doug Davis, Scott McBride, Samantha Cawkell, Nadia Lena, Jasmin Collitz, Meagan Hay, Mike Filippo, Scott Phibbs, Sam Dinatale, Carlos Meneses, Judy Janzen, Glemena Bettencourt, Matteo Rustico, Ron Rahim, Alex Douvinos, Jack Zomparelli, Steve Salavatore, Shawn Luddington, Laurie Mueller, Emile Dagher, Omar Villegas, David Robinson, Peter Woodhead, Andy Mascarenhas, Tony Schweinberger, Sam Dinatale, Steve Kavanagh, Ralph Fischer, George Smart, Brent Unger, Nick Palazzo and Eric Poblete

Community Partner

Stinger Award of Merit:
Canadian Tire, Aurora

Fair Play Awards

Christopher Aldis, Joshua Pickett (U8B tue/thur – Netherlands)
Matthew Ferry (U6B Mon – Canada)

STINGER of the Year

Robert Brissenden

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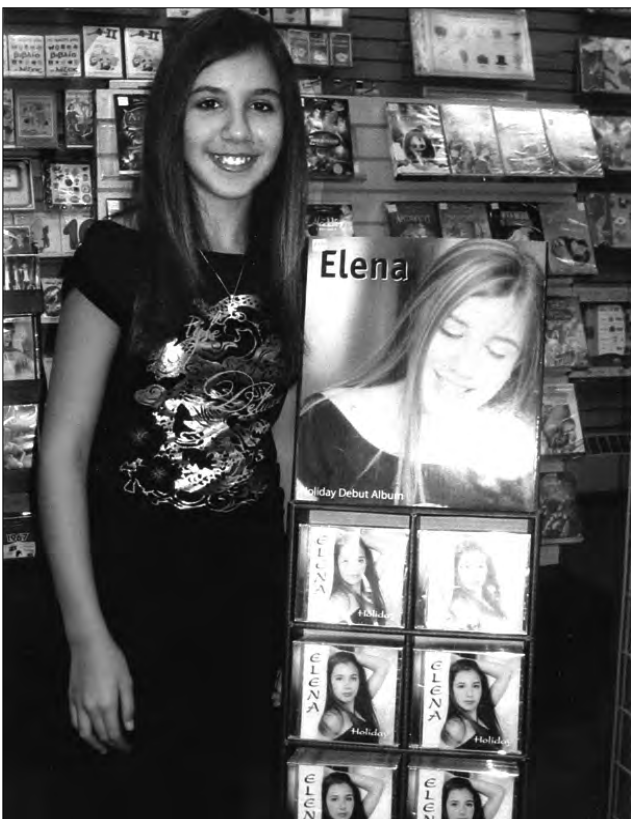
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Elena Tashos at Greek City Video displaying her first CD debut single "Holiday".

Magna 'invades' Russian market

Aurora-based Magna International has agreed to make auto components in partnership with the GAZ Group and its Russskiye Mashiny machine manufacturing holding company to meet the growing demand for vehicles in Russia.

Russia's Industry Agency made the announcement and noted the agreement will become a considerable landmark on the way to creating modern production of car components and parts in Russia.

Russia continues to experience an economic boom that started about eight years ago, causing increased consumer spending, including the demand for automobiles.

Magna is the world's third-largest auto parts manufacturer with annual sales of about \$23 billion U.S. The firm operates 228 manufacturing plants and 64 product development centres in 23 countries but has no presence in Russia.

Open forum at council seen as important part of business

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

According to the Town's revised procedural bylaw, Open Forum shall be considered part of the formal order of business and any ratepayer of the municipality is entitled to make a deputation to council without advance notice on a matter not on the council agenda.

The maximum time allowed per speaker is 5 minutes and Open Forum is restricted to 20 minutes.

Previously, Open Forum was held for 20 minutes prior to the regular council meeting and was not considered as part of the meeting nor was a record kept in the minutes of the meeting, unless a member of council raised the issue under Other Business.

At some meetings no one appears during Open Forum and council proceeds with the council agenda. At other meetings, Open Forum is well used and on occasion, council will agree to extend the time to hear all citizens wishing to make a presentation.

It was back in March 1972 when council of the day adopted an Open Forum policy, which had been introduced to council by Councillor Jack Williamson, after picking up

the idea at a municipal convention.

Council members agreed to convene twenty minutes prior to the scheduled time for the council meeting and allow citizens to make comments, ask questions or express concerns or complaints.

At the first Open Forum six residents came forward and asked questions on such issues as water supply and why the water was brown at times, snow clearing and plugged driveways and hydro rates.

Initially members of council answered questions or referred the question or issue to staff for a report, but a response was later discontinued as Open Forum was more of a courtesy and not part of the regular meeting.

Sometimes the in-camera sessions of council held prior to the council meeting went longer than anticipated resulting in the cancellation of Open Forum in order to proceed with the council meeting.

Later in the 1970s, this procedure was unacceptable to citizens or ratepayer groups who came to a meeting to ask questions only to find Open Forum had been suddenly cancelled for some unannounced reason.

They requested that Open Forum be formalized as part of the meeting by bylaw but no action was taken at that time.

Open Forum was later enshrined in a bylaw and held on a regular basis except after nominations had closed for municipal elections to prevent it from being used for electioneering purposes.

Aurora was one of the

few municipalities to initiate an Open Forum policy and permit citizens to address council without going through the formality of registering with the clerk's office for delegation status.

With all its trials and tribulations over the years, Open Forum is still considered to be an important part of the council meeting in providing citizens to have their say.

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House League Results

Tyke House League

101 Tim Hortons Red Wings 2 - Aydin Metel 1G, Dimitri Mikrogiannakis 1A, Graydon Belgue 1G, Jacob Cann 1A.
107 Tim Hortons Lightning 1 - Jeffrey Crowe 1A, Andrew Lamanna 1G, Evan Knowles 1A.

104 Tim Hortons Flyers 3 - Chris Roche 1G, Mathew MacDougall 1A, Christian Ramirez 1A, Thomas Wilson 2G, Tanner Arnold 1A, Patrick Cruickshank 1A, Anthony Issaris 2A.
108 Tim Hortons Sharks 8 -Matthew Carney 2G 1A, Ryan Lewis 1A, Matthew Minchella 3G, Jayson Perkins 1A, Austin Hendy 1G, Kyle Wulle 1G 3A, Jordan Torres 1A, Clayton Allen 1A, Alexander Simardone 1G 1A, Cameron Bourne 2A.

105 Tim Hortons Leafs 2 - Kyle Rice 1G 1A, David Robertson 1A, Matthew Nitsopoulos 1G, Andrew Sutherland , Evan Coulter 1A. **106 Tim Hortons Penguins 2** - Reid Carpenter 1A, Steele Rodin 1G 1A, Ryan Thornhill 1A, Andrew Sergejewich 1G.

109 Tim Hortons Wild 4 - James Samson 2A, Ben Langlois 1G 1A, Joel Woodcock 1A, Cameron Railton 2G Lucas, Dane 1G, Jackson Clements 1A.
110 Tim Hortons Thrashers 1 - Rhys Perry 1G, Ethan Brooks 1G.

Aurora Minor Hockey Association

Results to 9 AM Sunday, November 19

Website: www.aci.on.ca/amha

Novice House League

204 Hitz 4 - Connor Gonsalves 2G, Kristian Dimitriadis 1A, Jamie Finlay 2G 1A, Michael Jollimore 1A. **206 Chouinard Bros. Home Improvements 1.**

205 Mastermind Toys Novice House League 8 - Max Bruckner 1G 2A, Matthew Barnett 1A, Connor Tripp 3G 3A, Alex Carter 1G 3A, Alex Bicego 1G 2A, Tyler Williams 1G, Matthew Colucci 1A, Devon Hope , Connor Reilly 1G 2A.
201 Diamond Groundskeeping Services 7 - Michael Montesante 2G, Vincent Nguyen 2G 3A, Jordi Severini 1A, Adam Caicco 1G 5A, Brett Diamond 1A, Conor Braund 2G 2A, Riley Callaghan 1A Collin Dyer 1A, Michael Montesante 2G.

Minor Atom House League

304 HS Financial Services Inc. 7 - Patrick Bourrie 1G, Ryan Owroules 2G, Nick Armour 1G, Taylor Simpson 1G, Dylan Pyziak 1A, Connor Kemp 1G 2A, James Power 1G. **306 Danny's Boys 3.**

Atom

402 Orr & Forster Insurance Brokers 4 - Graham Killby 1G 1A, Joey Stel 1A, Morgan Walker 1G 1A, Russell Johnson 1G 1A, Jonathan Caporusso 1A, Mitchell Carter 1G. **407 Dr. Steiners 2** - Andrew Foresi , Nicolas Steiner 1A, Alex Stewart 1G.

403 Delph & Jenkins Surveyors 8 - Alex Cicchino 2G, Johannes Ekstrom 2G, Joseph Veneziano 1A, Luke Gregoris 2A, Nathan Sinclair 1G, Matthew Walker 3A, Max Brown 1G, Joel Gouveia 2G 1A. **406 AB Cox Pontiac Buick GMC Atom 2** - Scott Taylor 1G, Andrew Kaszuba 1G 1A, Eric McMurray 1A.

405 Laurion Law Office Atom House League 7 - Scotty Barker 2A, Tyler Futterer 5G, Jason Glionna 1G, Brendan Elliott 1A . **404 All Pro Source For Sports 7.**

Minor Pee wee House League

501 Millenium Devils 1 - Jamie Pountney 1G Jesse Borin 1A Ryan Byerlay 1A. **505 Nacora Insurance Brokers Ltd. Minor Pee wee 1.**

506 Dr. Steiners Drillers 5 - Paul Louis Steiner 2G 1A, Ryan Dowling 2G, Matthew Iamonaco 1G 1A, Luke Pizzurro 1A. **504 Rotary Club of Aurora 4.**

Bantam House League

801 Supreme Collision Centre 3. 803 I.O.O.F. Aurora Lodge #148 2 - Ian Stock 1A, Daniel Crowther 1G 1A, Eric Seguin 1G 1A.

803 I.O.O.F. Aurora Lodge #148 2 - Michael Orschel , Trevor Smith 1G, James Chappell 1A. **806 Wood Brothers Drywall 1.**

Minor Midget House League

903 4. 901 Emilios Pizza 2 - Trevor McCartney 1G, Jordan Brown 1G.

901 Emilios Pizza 4 - Julian Sbrolla 1A, Jamie Russell 1A, Trevor McCartney 1A, Geoff Knaack 1G, Jordan Brown 1G, Derek Isidoro 1G, Mike Hay 1A, Frank Walker 1G. **902 3.**

904 Pizza Pizza 3 - Kevin Nandlall 1G, Eric Shoosmith 2G. **905 Skaters First 3.**

Rep Games - Novice

TNT Novice A Novice A 1. Aurora Tigers Novice A 0.

Minor Atom

TNT Minor Atom A Minor Atom A 6. Aurora Tigers Minor Atom A 4.

Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AA 1 - Peter Andreakos 1A, Nicholas Baxter 1G. Newmarket Redmen Minor Atom AA 1.

Pee wee

Aurora Tigers Pee wee AE 6. TNT PW AE Pee wee AE 2.

Minor Bantam

TNT Minor Bantam A Minor Bantam A 4. Aurora Tigers Minor Bantam A 1 - James Harkin 1G, Jamie Hawkins 1A.

Part One

High Tor future still doubtful

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Located near the north-east corner of Bloomington Road and Bathurst Street north of the site for a new French Catholic High School is a 97-acre treed and open space property known as High Tor.

Anne Bartley Smith and her husband Matthew spent years of their lives on a significant reforestation project for their High Tor property.

In 1968 they fought an expropriation order to take the frontage of their property, which they appealed to the OMB, and were successful in saving 24 trees.

Then in July, 1978, they entered into a battle with York Region over plans to widen and reconstruct Bathurst Street from the King Road to Aurora's Wellington Street, which could cause the loss of 150-year-old Maple trees that lined the Bathurst Street frontage of the Smith property.

The region held a public hearing and 22 Bathurst Street residents joined the Smiths to oppose the reconstruction proposal but it went ahead.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Smith continued the reforestation project as was evidenced by the MNR Forest Management Plaque from the Ontario government which still remains posted somewhere on the site.

An environmentalist, she held off attempts by the town to rezone the property from rural to residential.

In 1986, council adopted an official plan amendment, the Aurora South West Secondary Plan, which originally included the Smith lands.

The lands to the north were developed and Brookeview Drive and Allandale Drive terminated in temporary turning circles as both streets had been intended to provide access to the Smith lands when developed.

Provision was also provided for water and sewer services.

Due to her objections and her death on December 1, 1987, the town did not seek approval for the part of the plan covering her lands and the lands were designated a Special Study Area.

That meant they would require an official plan amendment prior to any future development.

Her will left her estate to the Ontario Heritage Foundation to be preserved as environmental lands, or to the town as a public park if not accepted by the Foundation.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation is a non-profit provincial government agency, established in 1967, committed to the preservation, protection and promotion of Ontario's cultural, architectural and natural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations of Canadians.

One of the primary ways in which the foundation achieves

this goal is to accept, hold in trust and care for gifts of provincially significant heritage properties and objects.

The OHF accepted the generous offer, and after some legal wrangling, the property was transferred to the Foundation during 1992.

Mrs. Smith felt so strongly that the land was not to be developed she excluded the property in her will from her son and heir due to her concern that he might sell the property for development.

On February 13, 1992, foundation officials appeared before council to introduce a program administered by the Ministry of Culture and Communications.

It was pointed out that this was a new venture for the foundation as it was the first time a municipality had been invited to be involved.

They said the foundation intended to accept the Smith lands, sever and sell the existing house and adjacent property and utilize the remainder as open space parkland.

Foundation officials requested the town assume custodianship of the Smith property, with the foundation assuming the capital costs of a modest public open space development, such as walking trails, park benches, etc. when funds were made available through the sale of surplus land on the property.

The town would be required to assume the ongoing maintenance costs including garbage pickup, grass cutting, snow removal, etc. for the remaining public open space and to provide an answer by May, 1992.

Town staff estimated the annual cost of maintenance at \$3,000 including materials and manpower.

They recommended council approve, in principle, entering into a custodianship agreement with the foundation as presented.

Councillor George Timpson attacked the idea of a citizen being able to donate property to the state and then expect taxpayers to pick up the costs of maintenance and suggested the town not become involved in the prop-

erty.

In April, 1992, council agreed, in principle, to enter into the agreement as recommended, but added the foundation establish a maintenance fund in perpetuity from the proceeds of the sale of the house and a portion of the property in order to pay the maintenance costs of the municipality.

In May, 1992, the foundation agreed to set up a \$50,000 trust fund in the name of Anne Bartley Smith as requested, providing Aurora agreed to pay half the maintenance costs.

The foundation was to retain responsibility for the house and the agricultural lands that were rented to a local farmer, and it was the foundation's intent to dispose of the surplus land at the Smith property as soon as possible following the transfer of title.

The foundation officially took over the property on June 5, 1992, with hopes of opening the park in August with a ceremony to pay tribute to honour Mrs. Smith, but it was an opening that never took place.

Previous efforts by the owner to reforest various blocks of the property resulted in excellent stands of semi-mature white pine plus a mixture of spruce, red pine and maple, with a remnant stand of hardwood species including red oak, sugar maple and beech on other parts of the property.

It was also reported that during a tour of the property there was evidence of white tail deer and other signs of wild life, plus blue jays, cardinals and other wild birds.

The property remained idle and by 1995 local developers began putting pressure on council and the OHF to develop the property.

In September, 1998, the foundation approached the town with a revised proposal that approximately 40 acres of the high land adjacent to an existing subdivision be developed for homes, and the remainder be left to the town as parkland.

It was a similar approach made to the town in 1992.

A staff report noted that a refusal to accept the lands by the town could result in the sale of the entire parcel.

Foundation representatives suggested that prior to any further discussions, residents of the area should be made aware of the proposal, and arranged a public information meeting Oct. 7, 1998.

At the meeting Foundation officials insisted its plans for the 97-acre property would honour the spirit of the will left by Anne Bartley Smith, but they were unable to convince the more than 200 hostile residents attending the meeting.

Officials said the proceeds from the sale of the property would fund conservation projects across Ontario, adding the town would get its parkland and the foundation would fund various projects across the province, which would be a fitting legacy for Mrs. Smith.

A group of Aurora citizens joined together to fight the proposal, as being contrary to the intent of the Smith will.

They questioned the foundation's interpretation of the Smith will and claimed the proposed sale for development was a money grab.

Foundation representatives said they had met with the executor of the Smith estate and he had no objection to the sale of part of the property, but were unable to provide any written proof and the executor had since died.

Citizens pointed out that Smith had planted more than 19,000 trees on the property and was opposed to development.

On her death, her ashes were scattered over the property, something that would not have happened if she had known her property was to be opened up for development.

The citizens also pointed out that the will clearly stated the executor was "to offer my real estate property High Tor to the Ontario Heritage Foundation and if that organization does not accept the gift, then to offer it to the Town of Aurora to be dedicated as a public park and failing acceptance shall form part of the residue of the estate".

Part Two next week



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Aurora people make the news in 1989

Laurie LeBlanc who gave so much of his time to Big Brothers of York Region was appointed executive director of the provincial Big Brother organization.

One of the busiest newsmakers of 1989 was Frank Stronach. After losing his bid to become MP for York Simcoe, he bought control of Metro North News, was touted as a possible successor to federal Liberal leader John Turner, sold his interest in CKAN Radio and saw his horse MiSelecto run and lose in the Breeder's Cup.

Former Mayor Dick Illingworth was named Citizen of the Year during the July First festivities.

On a sad note former Mayor Clarence Davis died at age 81 and Asa Cook, a former Reeve of Aurora, died at age 85.

York North MPP Charles Beer was appointed Minister of Community and Social Services and Clifford Poole retired after 15 years as conductor of the York Symphony Orchestra.

REMEMBERING THE KIWANIS

In May, 1989, the Aurora Kiwanis Club participated in a shinney tournament and won for the first time in ten years. The reason given was that members didn't let long-time Kiwanis member John West play but instead let him referee the game.

The Kiwanis, like other town service clubs, contributed to the overall character of the town by raising funds for non-profit groups, with members contributing thousands of hours of volunteer work.

A FORGERY IN AURORA

Also in 1989 someone was sending letters of complaint to residents of Aurora and were signing Mayor John West's name to the letters requesting citizens to clean up their properties.

The mayor asked the unknown writer to stop writing the letters and send complaints to him and, if there was a problem, staff would follow up on it.

He also drew to the letter writer's attention it was a criminal offence to forge someone's name.

WHEN VR-LAND CAME TO AURORA

It is now "A Channel" but, in October 1999 CKVR-TV in Barrie (Channel 3 in Aurora), known as VR-Land or the New VR, opened a studio in Aurora at Yonge and Wellington Streets.

The building has had many uses since its days as the Whimster general store built in 1889 to Ardill's Ladies Wear, a book store and newspaper office to an advertising business and a regional TV news bureau.

A satellite was installed on the roof of the building to transmit the signals to Barrie and a remotely controlled TV camera on the Yonge Street side of the building at

the second floor level to show the traffic south and north on Yonge Street.

A large number of local and regional politicians, business people and others viewed the official launch of the news bureau observing the 6 p.m. news team in action.

News reporter Anne-Marie Green interviewed Aurora businessman Mike Evans on noisy Yonge Street outside the bureau on the issue of tax bill chaos in the region.

Later in the news, anchor Jane Pritchard described the ribbon cutting ceremony, which was a strip of video tape, by CKRV-TV vice president Doug Garroway and Aurora Mayor Tim Jones.

WHEN THE FAMOUS WENT DOWN TO DEFEAT

Garfield Case was a native of Aurora and became nationally known during World War II when he defeated Minister of Defence Major General A.G. McNaughton who had been in command of Canadian troops overseas.

In 1944 McNaughton was brought home by Prime Minister Mackenzie King and appointed to the cabinet.

He then stood for election in the riding of Grey North and was defeated by Mr. Case, who went on to the House of Commons and later was a candidate for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party in Ontario.

Herb Lennox was another famous Canadian politician from Aurora who served both the Ontario Legislature and the federal House of Commons.

In 1925 he defeated William Lyon Mackenzie King, then Liberal leader, who decided to run in York North. Mr. King then ran for a seat in Saskatchewan and defeated John Diefenbaker. Mr. Diefenbaker's grandparents came from King Township.

CANADA'S POLITICAL BEGINNINGS IN AURORA

In 1874 the rafters of the Aurora Drill Shed shook as the crowd applauded the Honourable Edward Blake, who defined a new nationalist viewpoint for the Liberal Party.

Blake, a member of Alexander Mackenzie's government, called forth the need for a national "feeling" for Canada at a time when the struggling nation was only seven years old and not doing too well.

In a two-hour address, Blake called for a national feeling, a federal system for the British Empire, Senate reform, compulsory voting and proportional representation.

He said the future of Canada depended largely upon the cultivation of a national spirit, the difficult task of welding together seven provinces which have been accustomed to regard themselves as isolated from each other, full of petty jealousies and local interests.

Canada needs an Edward Blake today.

Four defibrillators up and running

Earlier this week, four Town of Aurora facilities: the Aurora Community Centre, the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, the Aurora Recreation Complex and the Aurora Seniors' Centre were armed with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). Two of the defibrillators have been donated by the "Mikey Network" and are in place at the Seniors' Centre and the Aurora Recreation Complex.

The Town has taken steps to increase chances of surviving a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), by placing the AEDs in these facilities.

Every year, sudden cardiac arrest claims the lives of at least 250,000 people.

The only known treatment for sudden cardiac arrest is the use of a defibrillator, which uses a powerful electric shock to stop the abnormal heart rhythm and allow the heart to return to a more normal beating pattern.

Survival rates of sudden

cardiac arrest are less than two per cent when defibrillation is delayed ten minutes or more.

Unlike models of defibrillators intended for use by health care professionals, AEDs do not require extensive medical knowledge to

understand or operate.

The expertise needed to analyze the heart's electrical function is programmed into the device, and enables ordinary people to provide treatment to victims of SCA.

For more information on

sudden cardiac arrest or automated external defibrillators, go to www.aed-help.com.

For more information about the Town of Aurora's AED program contact Melodie McKay at 905-726-4765.



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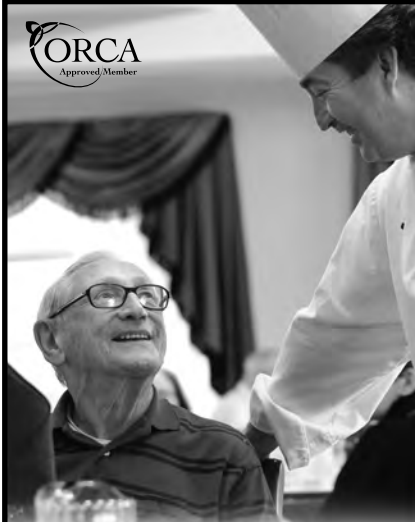
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DEATH NOTICES

Tattrie, Marilyn -- suddenly at her home on Friday, November 10, 2006. Marilyn, beloved wife of the late Earl. Loving mother of Sandra (Ernie); James (Linda); and David (Merle). Grandmother to Kelly, Jamie, Amy, Andrew, Peter, Sarah, Matthew, Jonathan and 7 great grandchildren. Dear sister of Florence Closs and Sam King. Memorial service was held on Thursday November 16 at the Thompson Funeral Home, 530 Industrial Parkway South (North East corner of Yonge and Industrial Parkway South, Aurora). In memory of Marilyn, donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated.



Thompson Funeral Home

SNOW, Edith Eileen (nee Stephenson) – WWII Canadian Women's Army Corp.

Passed away peacefully in her sleep at Southampton Care Centre, early November 11, 2006. Wife, mother, talented seamstress and baker extraordinaire, Eileen began her life in Willowdale, Ontario on March 13, 1923, marrying the love of her life, John A. Snow, Kroy Hodge, Mason, Boy Scouts of Canada and eventually moving to Niagara Falls, Kincardine and Southampton. She will be deeply missed by her daughter Deborah (Frank Feletti), sons Christopher (Nancy) and Greg (Rainy), her six grandchildren Vincent and Aurora Feletti, Jaimee (Dave Stiles), Shelby Snow, Brittany and Sabina Snow and greatgrandson Pearson Stiles. Also survived by her sister Dorothy Gummersall (Alfred-deceased) Aurora her brother in law Harold (Mary) Snow and many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her husband John, parents George and Edith (Wiltshire) Stephenson and three brothers George John William order, John, William, Stephenson. A celebration in honour of the wonderful gift of her life was held quietly Tuesday November 14, 2006. Donations in Eileen's memory to the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated and may be made through the Tannahill Funeral Home 519-376-3710.

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PARENT FORUM

Thursday November 30th
7:00 pm

Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School,
39 Dunning Ave. Aurora, On

How can parents help their teens cope and succeed with the many pressures that they face in schools today?

Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School is presenting a Parent Forum on Thursday November 30th at 7 pm to look at 4 main areas concerning teenagers. The forum topics are: 1) Supporting Math and Literacy at Home, 2) Teenage Depression, Attendance and Stress 3) Internet Safety and 4) Drugs and Alcohol. Besides staff at the school, Dr. Marian Boer and Dr. Ellen Krever, psychologists with the York Region District School Board, representatives from the York Regional Police and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health will be presenting. Parents of all the public elementary & secondary schools in Aurora are invited to this event.

In this increasingly complex world, it is essential that parents have more tools to assist their teens in handling the many pressures today. This Parent Forum will initiate a fresh dialogue amongst the school and parents to benefit our teens.

Tod Dungey – principal 905-727-3131 ext. 156
Les Kerr – guidance counsellor 905-727-3131 ext. 172

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