

AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 7 No. 5

AURORAN, Week of November 28, 2006

905-727-3300

Historic horse show in danger

Volunteers will decide event's future

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

After 85 years of promoting agriculture in a growing urban community and providing the best in equestrian sport, the Aurora Agricultural Society, sponsors of the Aurora Horse Show and Fair, is at a crossroads.

The Society is facing three issues; a serious lack of volunteers, the need for other sources of funding, and a need for a volunteer to assume the role of secretary/treasurer due to the retirement of Sue Browne.

The situation is so grave the Society held a public meeting last week at the Aurora Legion to advise the public of the crisis and to receive public comment.

Unfortunately the public generally was conspicuous by its absence, as only some 25 persons were in attendance, along with members of the society, as well as members and members-elect of Aurora council.

Mayor Tim Jones, Mayor-elect Phyllis Morris, Councillors-elect Bob McRoberts, Al Wilson and Evelina MacEachern were in the audience

Exchange to continue

PowerStream still plans to conduct a scheduled seasonal LED light exchange at the Aurora Town Hall on Wednesday between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. despite an earlier recall.

Corporate Communications Manager Eric Fagen told The Auroran the company "has now been able to secure enough new product, that is not subject to the recall, to both replace the LED strings we have already distributed and to still hold the Aurora exchange".

A public safety alert was issued Friday in regard to Greenlight Lighting Corporation's 36-bulb seasonal light strings, handed out at several exchange events by various power distribution companies over the past month. The recall involves this specific Greenlight product, obtained from PowerStream by any means prior to Nov. 24.

An Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) media release notes that there have been no reports of injury or property damage involving the lights.

along with challenger John Gallo.

In opening the meeting, Society President Andy MacPherson provided a brief history of the Society and the horse show dating back to 1922,

stressing the need for volunteers.

He pointed out that the annual meeting of the Society is scheduled for mid-January 2007 and, unless a number of volunteers come forth

before that meeting, the Society will be forced to fold, resulting in the death of the horse show and fair.

First Vice President Rick Browne told the audience the Society is

primarily financed by the revenue from the twice-monthly bingos operated by volunteers, usually members of the Board of Directors, over the

Please see page 7



With Rudolph leading the sleigh, Jolly Old St. Nick once again took the honoured last position in Aurora's annual Santa Claus parade on Saturday. Floats, marching bands, horses and even dogs provided a colourful Christmas spectacle to please the young and young at heart. For more photos, please see page 9.

Auroran photo by Rob Schuetze

Council-in-waiting starts its work

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Mayor-elect Phyllis Morris convened a meeting of the newly-elected council last Thursday night for a pre-orientation or "brain-storming" session. All members of council were present with the exception of Councillor Evelyn Buck who was out of town on a family matter. CAO John Roger was also in attendance.

A full day orientation meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 2, to include presentation by six department heads on the work and the issues facing their departments.

A bus tour is planned to the former Hydro Building, the Parks and Works Department on Scanlon Court, Leisure Complex, Fleury Park, Sheppard's Bush and the

Library Square and adjacent potential parking area, plus the Aurora Heritage Centre.

In addition some of the sites with issues facing council will be visited. Those include the Van Rob property on Vandorf Sideroad, Jack Woods property, Leslie Street lands, Tannery Creek, Petro Canada property and the Losar property.

A discussion took place regarding the process and scheduling of meetings regarding the 2007 budget, with the suggestion that the public be involved earlier in the process rather than later.

A seminar, for "Newly Elected Councillors", arranged by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, is to be held in Lindsay. The possibility of trying to arrange

such a seminar in the GTA is being explored.

Members of council were asked to consider the need for an off-site retreat as has been held in the past.

They were also advised that copies of the Procedural Bylaw, the Municipal Act and Municipal World would be provided to them.

Information was given on several housekeeping items such as the internal telephone system, e-mail system, office accommodation and the allowances and policies for attending training seminars and municipal conferences.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the advisory committees and reporting, as well as appointments to statutory bodies such as the Library Board and the Conservation Authority.

Give blood

The Canadian Blood Services will conduct a blood donor clinic on Friday, Dec. 8, between 11:30am and 2:30pm in the front lobby of the Aurora Town Offices at 1 Municipal Drive. In a media release, the CBS urges local residents to assist in its holiday campaign, which runs from Dec. 4 through Jan. 2.

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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.

On the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month, the Aurora Seniors will hold a plus 55 dance in the West-McKenzie room of the Seniors Centre from 8 to 11 p.m.

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.

Aurora Opera Company is seeking 30 chorral 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@aurorafair.ca, or visit www.aurorafair.ca.

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members welcome. For further information, call 905-841-1352.

On the first Wednesday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon, a satellite constituency office for Vaughan/King/Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara will be open in the councillors' lounge at the Town Hall. Call 1-877-880-6770 for information.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge #148 meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at 15216 Yonge Street (south of Wellington). For more information, call 905-830-9205.

Masons' Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at The Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7:30 p.m.

Robertson Masonic Lodge meets the third Saturday each month at 57 Mosley Street at 10:30 a.m. Coffee club at 9 a.m.,

lunch at noon. Call 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080.

Gamblers Anonymous, every Tuesday night, Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street, 7:30 p.m.

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night. Aurora Legion, 7:30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

Canadian Federation of University Women has monthly meetings at the Aurora Legion with a variety of speakers. There is also a selection of interest groups. Contact Beverley 905-727-2151.

Dancing at the Legion, 8 p.m. every Friday night.

Bid Euchre at the Legion, 1 p.m. every third Sunday.

York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for members from Aurora and area who would like to volunteer by joining the choir. Men, 16 years of age and older, are invited to visit any Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in committee room B, York Region Administrative Centre, 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket. For more information, call volunteer chorus supervisor Lowell McCleary 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.

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. Power Stream on a "first come, first serve" will exchange up to two strings of old incandescent holiday lights with strings that feature the more energy efficient LED lights.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School is presenting a Parent Forum at the school at 7 p.m. to provide parents more tools to assist their teens in handling the many pressures and initiate a fresh dialogue between the school and parents to benefit the teens. Call Les Kerr at 905-727-3131 ext 172.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 to SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

The Wellington Gallery on Wellington Street West will feature the paintings of Olympic Skating star Toller Cranston "The Wonder of Winter".

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

Community Living Newmarket/Aurora District Annual Dinner and Dance at the Roman Palace, 1096 Ringwell Drive in Newmarket with dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for dinner and dance, \$15 for dance only. Call 905-895-2616 for details.

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 credits cards or Interac.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

The Annual Hillary House Family Christmas Event will be held on Sunday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Visitors will be invited to sing familiar carols in the ballroom and may request their favorites. In the parlour the Christmas tree is decorated with authentic 1950's decorations and in the study the tree is decorated for 1914 including real candles on the tree. Candles and oil lamps will be lit illuminating the home in a warm inviting glow. In the workroom children will be able to make a seasonal craft at no extra charge. Enjoy mulled cider and fresh baked goodies cour-

tesy members of the Aurora Historical Society. Any funds that are raised and donated will go directly to the care and restoration of Hillary House, which is a National Historic Site. Admission, including refreshments, is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for accompanied children under twelve.

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.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

Final submission date for the 2007-2010 Aurora Resident's Guide. For more information call 905-727-3123 ext.4218.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Inaugural council meeting of the newly elected Aurora 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 on-line, 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.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

The York Chamber Ensemble and the Trinity Festival Chorus present "Winter Wonder," a Christmas time concert featuring Handel's Messiah (Part 1), as well as Vivaldi's Winter and Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on Christmas Carols. The concert will be held at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, 7:30 p.m. Tickets, available at the door, are \$15; \$10 for seniors and students.

At 7:30 pm, the Aurora Historical Society will host a reading of Charles Dickens' classic, A Christmas Carol. Using the abridged version that Dickens himself used while on tour, visitors will also enjoy a traditional carol sing following the reading. Hillary House will be decorated in the same manner as for the Family Christmas event. As this event is held in the evening the effect of traditional lighting is quite dramatic. Afterwards, we'll enjoy some wonderful



PowerStream Seasonal LED Lights Exchange Events

Exchange your old strings of incandescent holiday lights
for strings of energy-efficient seasonal LED lights at the
locations and times indicated below.*

Vaughan

Sunday, November 12 - 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.
The Sports Village, 2600 Rutherford Road

Saturday, November 18 - 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Al Palladini Community Centre
9201 Islington Avenue

Aurora

Wednesday, November 29 - 6 to 8 p.m.
Aurora Town Hall
1 Municipal Drive

Markham

(for Markham residents only)
November 1 - November 30
Call 905-415-7535 for locations and details

* While quantities last. Maximum two strings per household in Aurora, Richmond Hill and Vaughan.
Maximum one string per household in Markham



The 140 Aurora Air Cadet Squadron Band has entered into a partnership with the Rotary Club of Aurora. The club is assisting in funding the development of a squadron marching band, known as the Aurora Rotary/Air Cadet Band, made up of male and female cadets aged 12 to 18 years. The band made its first public appearance in last weekend's Santa Claus parade.



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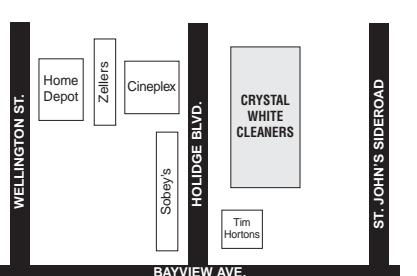
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Poor Richard

No public input for this election

*There's another election coming,
But a vote you do not get;
It's for the regional chairman
To change it is not a good bet!
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

The municipal elections are over but there is another election to be held December 7th and you're not invited to participate. It's for the office of regional chairman and only the newly elected or re-elected regional councillors have that privilege.

At present, Halton Region is the only regional government in the Greater Toronto Area to elect its chairman by popular vote. Durham, York and Peel still elect the regional chairman at the inaugural meeting of the new council, even though voters in Durham voted 80 per cent for direct election of the chair.

Although the actual nomination and vote is taken in open council, it usually entails considerable horse-trading during private meetings.

Other regional governments in Ontario, such as Hamilton, Ottawa and Sudbury, took action some time ago to elect the chairman by popular vote. The merged City of Toronto elects its mayor by popular or unpopular vote.

With the formation of regional government in York in 1971, the provincial government appointed Garfield Wright as regional chairman for a four-year term. He was a former Reeve of East Gwillimbury and Warden of York County.

Under the existing legislation of the day, the next chairman would be elected by the 1975 regional council at its first meeting. Council could elect one of its own members who, if successful, would have to resign as a member of the local council. It could also elect a non-member of council.

There was some opposition to the legislation at that time on the basis it was contradictory to the principles of democratic representation.

It was suggested that the provincial legislation be amended to provide alternatives, such as a region-wide election or election of a member of council, without having to resign from the local council, similar to the warden system of county days.

It was also suggested that the chairman be elected partway through the two-year term of office and, if a sitting member was elected, it would not be necessary to run in the local municipal election for the next term of council; however, no changes were made.

By 1974 a ratepayers' association called CARE (Citizens Advocating a Regional Election) had petitioned the provincial government to elect the regional chairman at large.

The group rejected the contention that election at large would be too expensive and claimed that democracy shouldn't be too expensive for people to enjoy, that it was essential that the most powerful man in the region be under the direct electoral control of the people.

In January, 1975, Wright was unopposed in his bid for re-election and the election by regional council continued over the years.

In February, 1984, regional council proposed that the chairman be elected at large to create more interest in regional government and to satisfy the need to make the position more accountable to the public.

In September, 1984, Municipal Affairs Minister Claude Bennett wrote to regional councils requesting input regarding the method of selecting regional chairmen and the need of electoral reform, but rejecting election at large.

In March, 1987, Richmond Hill Mayor Al Duffy moved that the regional chairman be elected at large, similar to Hamilton Wentworth, but nothing happened.

By November, 1995, the region's governance committee held a wide ranging discussion regarding the election of regional chairmen and recommended that the status quo be retained.

Then, in November, 2003, Markham Mayor Don Cousens suggested the regional chairman be elected by the public, claiming that the present process was undemocratic.

The chairman's position has changed significantly since 1971, as has the role of the regional government, but the election of the regional chairman hasn't and it's time for a public review.



This photo appears to be of a Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps band possibly taken in the late 1950s or early 1960s when high school cadet groups still flourished across Canada, although the uniform tunics seem somewhat more recent. The stylized lettering on the drums (an "H" and an "S" within an "A") suggests Aurora High School cadets. Can anyone tell us when the picture was taken and who these cadets are?

Letters to the Editor

Don't let horse show die, reader pleads

To the editor,

On November 22nd I attended a public meeting of the Aurora Agricultural Society regarding the Aurora Horse Show and Fair.

I'm not directly affiliated with this group but I am a long time resident of Aurora, who is concerned about the viability of the Aurora Horse Show.

As a child I remember the anticipation and excitement of going to the Horse

Show each year.

The midway, animals, craft displays, entertainment, games, just being there in the midst of it all -- and in our own town park.

We even had world class equestrian competitions right in our back yard thanks to the Rothmans Grand Prix.

Now it seems that the future of the horse show is in serious jeopardy. A shortage of volunteers, decreased funding and too

few directors means that there might not be a 2007 event.

After eighty-five consecutive years we may be losing one of our prized venues -- an event that helped make Aurora the unique town that we all love.

My appeal to your readers is "Don't let the Horse Show die".

Think of what our community will be losing if it is cancelled.

The benefits to our local

businesses, the learning opportunities for our youth, the good public relations and exposure for the Town and the sense of "community" it fosters, would be a shame to lose. If you can help, in any way, please contact the society president, Andy MacPherson, at 905-727-5897 or e-mail him at andrewmacpherson@sympatico.ca.

Kathy Banks
Aurora

High Tor facts missing

To the editor,

Re: "High Tor future still doubtful", Auroran, Nov. 21.

While Mr. Illingworth is a renowned scribe and has a memory that would rival that of an elephant, he does not have all the facts regarding High Tor. As one of the founding members of the citizens group that sought to protect High Tor, SWAT, (swat.on.ca) there are a number of facts that need to be added.

1. Evidence was uncovered at the Newmarket Court in papers filed by Mr. Hopper, the executor of the Smith will, that confirmed that there was an understanding between the Estate and the OHF that the proceeds from any sale had to go back into the property for its maintenance.

2. It was the Town of Aurora that approached the OHF with the idea of selling off a portion of High Tor for development, not the other way around as has been suggested. This was confirmed by Alan Gotlieb former chair of the OHF, and

former Ambassador to the US.

3. The Town's interest in development of the High Tor property was further supported by the fact that the developers of the subdivision to the north of High Tor were required to oversize the sewer and water lines running up Allanvale and Brookview to the edge of High Tor to support future development.

4. Not only were Anne Bartley Smith's ashes scattered, but there is strong evidence to suggest that she had her husband Mathew buried somewhere on the property.

5. And on a more ominous note, there is the Anne Bartley Smith Curse. People and organizations who cross Anne and attempt to contravene her wishes meet with very peculiar ends. More on this at a later date.

Recently, the Town of Aurora missed an opportunity to secure \$384,000 in financing for the development of the park when they allowed the Region to apply through the Aurora Committee of Adjustment

for a minor variance after purchasing three acres for a reservoir. It also missed the chance to have a much needed soccer pitch constructed on the roof of the reservoir, as has been done elsewhere in the region.

High Tor will continue to be in jeopardy despite the Oak Ridges Moraine Act so long as the Town Council and staff continue to use the park for political gain rather than having the courage to actually do what is legally and morally right.

The Town of Aurora in 1999 sought a legal opinion as to the legal status of High Tor. Mayor-elect Morris used this opinion to support her request that the proceeds from the sale of the three acres to the Region be put back into the property in September, 2006.

With a fresh new group of players at the council table the time to resolve the future of High Tor is at hand. Securing High Tor's future will bear testimony to their ability and their moral compass.

Bryan Moir
Aurora

AURORAN

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Resident answers questions about soldiers, airmen

I was afforded the opportunity, on behalf of the Newmarket - Aurora federal Conservative riding association, of laying a wreath at the Aurora local war memorial this past November 11th. What made it even more special was that my young son Ryan and my two nephews, Brock and Devan, were with me.

Even though it was raining and cold outside, the boys were troopers. Although they did not really understand the true significance of the ceremony they were nonetheless on their best behavior because of the solemnity of the event. I was proud of them.

As I walked eastbound across Veterans' Lane to lay the wreath, I was struck again by both the magnificence and also the simplicity of the two structures that comprise this edifice.

For this writer, the cenotaph is a place of reflection, solitude and introspection. The valor and selflessness of the fine men memorialized there is most humbling.

In its entirety, the structures are a simple and regal monument to those, as Billy Bishop was once described, who had "the courage of the morning sun".

Back in May I wrote a column about the cenotaph and the questions that come to mind when viewing the names on the two monuments.

There are seventy names listed on the World War One commemorative and fifty-five names engraved on the World War Two granite marker.

I wrote at the time:

"Each of these names had a life, a story. Did these men perish in battle or while training or while serving in another capacity? Which battle? How old were they? Did any or all of these men have a wife? Any children?

"There are two men with the last name Dawson and two with the last name of King. Any relation?"

In response to the column, I received the following letter:

Dear Sir;

Your column is an interesting addition to the best paper in Aurora! In the edition of May 30th, you draw attention to the names of men killed in the Second World War. The two men with the surname of Dawson were brothers, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Dawson who operated Dawson's Grill, which was on Yonge Street, opposite the Library. Angus was the oldest of the family and I didn't know him personally, but Charlie was a friend of both my husband and myself. He died in 1943, about November or December, in the invasion of Italy and he was in some special service corps.

The Kings were also brothers, and their father was a bank manager with our Bank of Montreal. Twin brothers, Dale and Perry, were in the Air Force, and another brother, Bill, was in the army and I do not remember which one survived. Mrs. King (mother) lived in Aurora, after her husband died, in the red brick house just south of where Shoppers Drug Store is.

Hope this information is of some interest.

Yours truly,
Doris M. Pringle
Aurora

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

Letter to the Editor

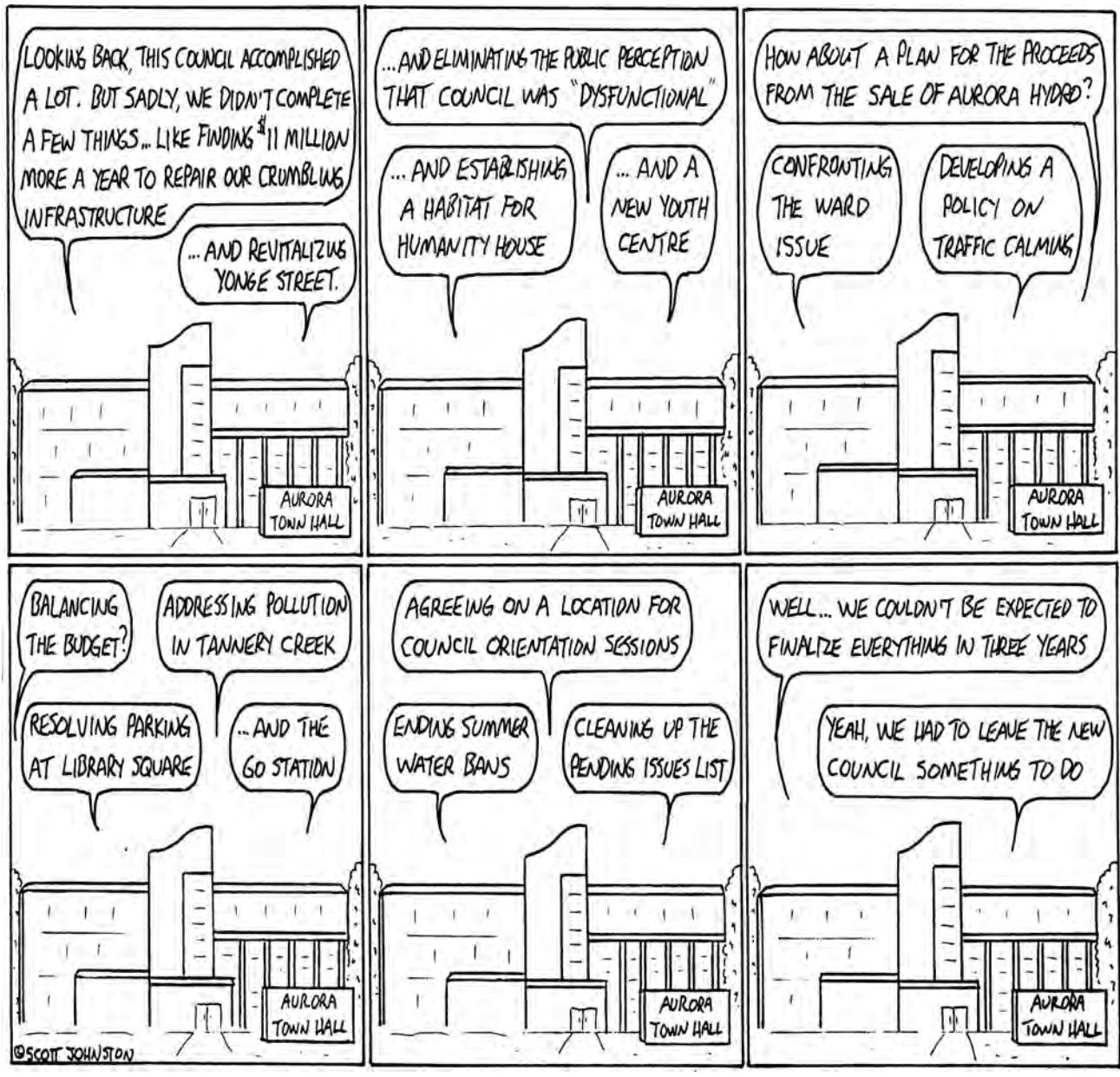
Ten commandments for our politicians

To the editor,

- (1) Thou shall not stay longer than two terms.
- (2) Thou shall not over tax.
- (3) Thou shall always remember; the government has no money.
- (4) Thou shall be aware money comes from taxpayers.
- (5) Thou shall not forget who gave you your position.
- (6) Thou shall not forget to be honest.
- (7) Thou shall not lie to taxpayers.
- (8) Thou shall not hold secret meetings.
- (9) Thou shall remember a surplus is over-taxation.
- (10) Thou shall remember you can be replaced.

Hugh Allen
Aurora

Machell's Corners



Cathy's Corner

Goodbye, Rosalyn

"Goodbye" is the hardest word to say.

If Rosalyn Gonsalves, the retiring General Manager of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce didn't know this before, she certainly does now.

Earlier this month, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce honoured Rosalyn with a retirement party.

It was an evening that unfolded much like a family photo album, evoking both laughter and tears as the pages were turned back 21 years.

"How," she asked, "in a brief speech, does one capture the past 21 years? Especially, when those years have been so meaningful."

A tall order, indeed.

But the past presidents tried, lining up in sequence of reign to share memories of Rosalyn - treasured snapshots of an unforgettable year under the tutelage of a woman none of us ever dared under-estimate!

It all began in 1985, when Brian Butler awarded Rosalyn the plumb job with the glorious title: part-time receptionist. It paid a whopping \$4 per hour, and included a few perks...things like basking in the prolific oratory of such illustrious board members as John West and Dick Illingworth.

Needless to say, Rosalyn made it through the trials and tribulations of telephone duty and spent the next two decades screaming: "The Aurora Chamber Of Commerce is NOT a department of the Town of Aurora!"

Anyone who mentioned the two organizations in the same...um, paragraph...was likely to put Rosalyn into a mood.

Some women get PMS. Rosalyn gets HSM - "Home Show Mood".

Since 1987, when then President Barbara Stoecklin organized the first Home Show, HSM has come into full bloom every spring, flaring in the final frantic frenzy of setting up what has become the finest Home & Garden Show in the region.

Some say that Past President Caroline Rowan had a magic calming influence on Rosalyn, and it must be true.

Over the years, Caroline survived the equivalent of 13 24-hour days in the ticket booth with Rosalyn - and lived to tell about it!

Others say that Rosalyn's three-day confinement in the booth itself was therapeutic, but all of us agree: that was the only time we ever saw the lady in a container with a lid on it.

Occasionally, Rosalyn got HSM out of season.

Like when David Griffith suggested the Chamber

of Commerce take over Aurora's postal service.

Immediately, the Chamber's colours went from blue to red!

Later, when Ron Wallace's idea of holding a Street Sale to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Yonge Street became an annual event, the "Home Show Mood" became a semi-annual event.

And, of course, rodents have always been able to get the fur flying.

Once, a raccoon climbed onto the roof of the old Chamber building and fell through one of the skylights.

Rosalyn could always be counted on to handle all sorts of unexpected upsets and emergencies on a daily basis, but she drew the line at masked intruders.

Then President Robin Tidd was immediately called in to perform his presidential duty, which, Rosalyn insisted, included rodent removal responsibility.

In the years that followed, a new (rodent-resistant) building for the Chamber made its way from Rosalyn's wish list onto the Board's do list.

Since the Aurora Chamber of Commerce was revitalized by Eric Smith and Vic Priestly in the early 1980s, it has grown into one of the most active, vibrant, prosperous trade associations in Ontario.

And after 21 years, most of us can't imagine the Aurora Chamber of Commerce without Rosalyn's passionate dedication and contagious commitment.

She has been the spirited leader, motivator, coach and inspiration that the Chamber has needed, and it is widely agreed that whatever Rosalyn may have lacked in subtlety, she more than made up in integrity.

Thus, Rosalyn has earned the admiration, respect and affection of her staff, past and present Board members, and the business community at large.

She will be missed.

We wish her all the best as she heads for Barbados to be met with such onerous daily challenges as deciding what time to go the beach, which bathing suit to wear, and how often to reapply sunscreen.

In parting, Rosalyn leaves us with 21 meaningful years ... and the realization that "Goodbye" really is the hardest word to say.

Especially when it looks like we will miss her more than she will miss us!

Cathy Vrancic welcomes e-mail at:
cathyvrancic@hotmail.com
[or laughingmatters@aci.on.ca](mailto:laughingmatters@aci.on.ca)

Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Newmarket/Aurora MP Belinda Stronach for co-chairing the landmark Montreal Millennium Promise Conference designed as a call to action about child poverty and social justice issues.

BOUQUETS to Belinda for launching the Spread the Net campaign to stem the spread of malaria in Africa, the #1 killer of children in Liberia and Rwanda, with the nets, sold for \$10 each, protecting more than two million people from disease carrying mosquitoes.

BRICKBATS for the voting arrangements at the Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School as the walk from the parking lot through the school to the gym where the voting took place was too long, especially for seniors with walkers and the gym was very cold for election workers. There must be better places!

BOUQUETS to Mattamy Homes for donating \$1 million to the recently renovated YMCA in Oakville. As Mattamy Homes will soon be building in Aurora, hopefully a member of council will remember the Oakville gift and arrange something similar for Aurora, maybe a Youth Centre.

BRICKBATS to the Ontario Heritage Society for allowing the childhood home of Sir Frederick Banting in Alliston, bequeathed to the Society in 1999, to fall into disrepair and near collapse. Now the Ontario Heritage Foundation is negotiating with the municipality to purchase the property and transfer it to Mattamy Homes. Sounds familiar as it's like the High Tor property in Aurora. This is Heritage, Ontario style!

BOUQUETS to David Peirce for his letter to the Auroran pointing out the lack of a sidewalk from Bayview Avenue to Leslie Street to provide pedestrian access to the new recreation complex. Add in a bicycle path for cyclists and include these items in the town's 2007 capital budget.

BRICKBATS to the federal Liberal Party for inviting U.S. former presidential candidate Howard Dean, the Screamer, to be the keynote speaker at the Leadership Convention in Montreal, when there must be many Canadians more suitable, but far away fields seem to look greener.

BOUQUETS to the Dalton McGuinty Liberal government for flip-flopping on their controversial provision in their anti-dropout legislation that would have required teens up to 18 years of age to prove they were still in school to get a driver's licence. With an election in the offing, they have to listen.

BRICKBATS to a justice system which believes the death of two people, by two motorcycle drivers, in a road race, who were charged with a crash that killed their motorcycle friend and a passenger in a car, was worth six months of house arrest, 18 months of probation and a two-year driving ban. Obviously life is cheap in the justice system.

BOUQUETS to the "Posties" of York Region and other areas for marching in front of local Santa Claus parades gathering letters from children on the parade route addressed to Santa Claus at his address North Pole HOH OHO.

BRICKBATS to the Ontario Power Authority for paying twenty-eight pre-approved stakeholders \$1,500 a day, plus expenses, to participate in its consultations on a new Integrated Power System, while at the same time sending an 83-year-old woman a rebate cheque for 26 cents.

BOUQUETS to a member of regional council who will initiate a debate for the direct election of the regional chairman, in an attempt to convince regional council to hold a referendum to obtain input during the next municipal election, which is to come in four years.

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04/02

Letters to the Editor

White poppies are not a scam, says reader

To the editor,

Re: "White poppies a scam", letter to the editor, Auroran, Nov. 21.

According to William Devins, white poppies are a scam. I would like to clarify a few things with regard to the white poppy before everyone takes what Mr. Devins has to say at face value.

I have been wearing the white poppy along side the red poppy for several years now.

This is not a dis against our veterans and I am sorry that Mr. Devins and possibly others see it that way. I have been to every Remembrance Day parade since I moved to Aurora in 1997.

I think what Canadian soldiers have done and continue to do is extremely heroic.

In the memory of all those who fought in wars I proudly wear the red poppy.

The white poppy, Mr. Devin may not be aware, has been around since 1933, though perhaps not as well known in this country.

There is a saying around Remembrance Day: "Lest we forget". I

do not think this refers only to the soldiers who died in war.

It refers to the total cost of war which is tremendous. Indeed if it only referred to the loss of military lives then we might be led to believe that the cost of war is drastically diminishing.

While WWII saw the loss of 24 million soldiers lives on all sides, it also saw the loss of over 32 million civilians (not including the victims of the Holocaust).

The Korean War saw 132,000 soldiers die, but (also) several hundred thousand civilians.

In the first Gulf war only 345 soldiers died (none Canadian) but there were many thousand civilians.

In an age when military force is so strong, to not consider the other significant costs could easily lead us to forget what Remembrance Day is all about.

Indeed I strongly believe that is exactly what happened in the United States, and that conceit was a direct cause of the American second Gulf War.

You are right Mr. Devin. The Red Poppy does belong to the veter-

ans, and I wear it proudly in their memory.

But with fewer and fewer of these veterans around to remind us of the cost of war, we need the white poppy which reminds us of all the other, and now signifi-

cantly greater, costs of war. It is Remembrance Day.

Let us not forget anything or anyone that this day memorializes.

Darryl Moore
Aurora



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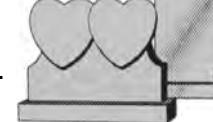
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Aurora - there's more to the name

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

If you're from Aurora and travelling anywhere in the world, it is quite possible that someone will ask you where Aurora is located. The normal answer is, "Just north of Toronto".

Another answer might be that Aurora is located on Yonge Street, the longest street in the world, which was completed through Aurora to Holland Landing in 1796.

Or you might say that Aurora was in the centre of Rebel Country during the uprising of 1837. Many early settlers of the little hamlet, then called Machell's Corners, took up

arms and followed William Lyon Mackenzie in his abortive attempt to bring responsible government to Upper Canada.

McLeod's Tavern, at the north end of Aurora, was seized by Loyalist forces during the skirmish. Several years later, Mackenzie's supporters held a testimonial dinner for him in Aurora's Temperance Hall and presented him with a gold medal.

One of his supporters was Charles Doan who is credited with naming Aurora and becoming the village's first Reeve, in 1863. Doan was arrested and, during his period in jail, carved a little wooden box that was later presented to

the Aurora Museum by his descendants.

Or you might want to brag about Aurora being the Head of Rail in 1853 when the first steam engine in Upper Canada chugged its way from Toronto to Aurora. There is a provincial plaque at the Aurora railway station to mark the event.

Aurora was also the site of George Brown's famous "Rep by Pop" speech in the Temperance Hall in the 1850s, which helped lay the groundwork for Canadian Confederation in 1867.

Then, in 1874, Edward Blake, later the leader of the federal Liberal Party, used the Aurora Drill Hall as the location

for what is now known as his "Aurora Speech", which spelled out the basic principles of the Canada First Party, a nationalist movement aimed at widening Canada's self-government.

Aurora was also the boyhood home of former Canadian Prime Minister and Nobel Prize winner Lester B. Pearson. His father, Edwin Pearson, was minister of the Aurora United Church.

Young Pearson attended the historic Church Street School where, it is understood, the other kids called him "Smart pants" because he knew the Roman numerals.

Mazo de la Roche, author of the Jalta books, knew Aurora

well as she often visited relatives here as a child.

As Aurora was one of the first municipalities in the area to celebrate July 1st as a community civic party, it became

known as "Canada's Birthday Town".

So, instead of answering "just north of Toronto", tell the questioner a little bit about Aurora.

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Agricultural Society at crossroads, volunteers desperately needed

From page 1
past 15 years.

Average revenue from the bingo has been \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year, used solely for the operation of the show and fair. Revenue is down in 2006 due to the no-smoking bylaw, but the proceeds are still needed to finance the event because sponsorship money is also down.

Now the provincial Alcohol and Gaming Commission (AGCO) has ruled the Agricultural Society does not qualify to use bingo proceeds for the operation of the fair.

Secretary/Treasurer Sue Browne told the audience that in the past the Town had designated the Society under the Heritage and Culture category of the legislation, which permitted the Society to spend the bingo revenue on various fair events.

In 2005 the AGCO re-classified the Aurora Fair and placed it in the Enhancement of Youth category which would limit the Society from using the proceeds as required. Instead, the Society is required to use the funds for direct sponsorship of youth, such as donating the proceeds to a 4H Club, which was one of the reasons for holding the public meeting.

Second Vice-President Lori Doerner provided an explanation of the expenses incurred in putting on the show and fair including the rental of

tents, an on-site medical officer, security, town permits, toilet rentals, entertainment and horse show, totalling about \$50,000.

Director David Blanchard stressed the need for volunteers. Because of the shortage of manpower, members of the board of directors have been running one or two events by themselves and many are becoming burned out as the workload is too heavy for one person.

While some volunteers, especially the youth, are available during the days of the event, the need exists for volunteers to be available during the year for the planning and organizing the events for the coming Fair.

Associate Director Richard Ruddock spoke about sponsors and pointed out that, compared to other fairs in Ontario, the Society's sponsorship income is a much smaller percentage of total income and it is becoming more and more difficult to get a monetary commitment from local businesses.

He listed some long time supporters of the Society and pointed out the list was provided in the annual Horse Show and Fair program.

Society members and directors provided an overview of the many activities and programs that are carried out during the event, with several responsible for two or

more events.

In response to a question as to the benefit of the show and fair to the town, Mr. MacPherson said that while such information as to the Aurora event was not known, studies of similar events indicate that for every dollar spent, about five dollars are returned to the economy of the town through such things as meals and accommodation.

It was suggested that applications be submitted to the Trillium Foundation and the Ontario Cultural Attraction Fund. In response it was noted that a Trillium Grant had been previously received and the Attraction Fund would be investigated.

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Part Two

High Tor future is still in doubt

By DICK ILLING-WORTH

There was standing room only at the Oct. 14, 1998, council meeting with most of the people in attendance there to hear about a development proposal that wasn't on the agenda. Thirteen citizens had arranged delegation status to speak on the proposed development for the High Tor property.

Prior to hearing the delegations, Mayor Tim Jones advised them that no formal application had been received from the Heritage Foundation.

He added the Foundation was reviewing comments made at the public meeting before developing a proposal to present to the town.

Presentations were made by Susan Walmer, Stephen Granger, Gary Fernandes, Lisa Philpot, Walter Mestrinaro, Bryan Moir, Anthony Gabriele, Brian MacEachern, Guy Poppe, Mario Paolucci, Leonard Vanspall, Robert Fraser and Peter Broughton.

Their stories were much the same and similar to the comments made at the public meeting.

Some asked council to be proactive and establish a public committee to explore options and send a strong message to the Foundation.

Others requested that council oppose any development on the property.

While some members of council were prepared to merely receive the presentations as information, one councillor was successful in having all presentations referred to staff to investigate what options might be available when a development application was received.

In November, 1998, council was asked to take a more active stand in the High Tor controversy and place a heritage easement on the property to block development in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act.

As a result of the public opposition to the most recent proposal the foundation delayed submitting a development proposal and by the end of 1998 the fate of the heritage lands was still unknown.

On Jan. 27, 1999, an Ontario Heritage Foundation representative appeared before council to present the foundation's latest proposal for the Smith High Tor property.

The proposal included a gift to the town of a significant portion of the land for a park, and to sell the remainder of the property.

Proceeds from the sale of the property would be used to support the park and other heritage properties in Aurora and across Ontario in memory of Anne Bartley Smith.

Several residents, includ-

ing Richard Himel, Mrs. Smith's only son, objected to the proposed development of a portion of the property, as being contrary to the wishes of the donor.

As a result in February, 1999, council appointed an ad hoc committee with three members of council and three citizens, two representatives from the foundation and the town's planning director in an attempt to reach a mutual agreeable solution.

The mandate for the committee was to investigate the dedication of the lands, funds and other details pertaining to the foundation's proposal.

Council appointed Councillors John West, Bill Hogg and Phyllis Morris to represent council on the committee and advertised to request applications for citizen membership, of which one member was to represent environmental issues.

The committee engaged an independent legal firm on behalf of the town to provide an opinion as to the legal right of the foundation to dispose of part of the land for development.

The solicitor was also asked to provide an opinion regarding the utilization of the proceeds from the sale if completed.

In her presentation to council, solicitor Kimberly Morris said she had applied the rules of interpretation of wills to the Smith's will.

As a result, it was her opinion that it was Smith's intention that the gift of High Tor was to be held in trust for a purpose beneficial to the community as a whole.

She added a court would most likely find that the gift would be deemed to be a charitable trust.

Such a finding would restrain the ability of the foundation to deal freely with High Tor and would confine the foundation to its objects and powers stated in the legislation.

She also noted that if the foundation were able to sell the lands, it was her opinion that the funds should be used to maintain and preserve the remainder of HighTor.

In May, 1999, Darren Poncelet appeared before council to ask a series of questions about the work and the process of the council/citizen committee reviewing the will of the late Anne Bartley Smith.

He expressed concern about the committee meeting in private for what was claimed to be sensitive issues and asked that the so-called sensitive issues be clarified.

He also asked why the town was even considering an agreement with the OHR to develop a portion of the Smith lands especially as they were located on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

His presentation was referred to the council/citi-

zen committee.

At the June 23, 1999, council meeting Councillor John West said a copy of the legal opinion had been forwarded to the foundation and the committee was waiting for a response.

By the end of August, 1999, it appeared a legal battle was brewing over the Smith property.

Heritage foundation spokesman Alexis Mantell insisted the development proposal would never have been submitted, if the foundation's lawyers hadn't believed it would stand up to a legal challenge.

She added the foundation lawyers were still studying the town's legal opinion.

While she didn't elaborate, it appeared as if the foundation planned to proceed with the proposed development.

In late September, 1999, foundation solicitor David Steele advised that he disagreed with the town's legal opinion.

He said there were no provisions or other restrictions, expressed or implied, contained in the will that would constrain the ability of the foundation to deal freely with High Tor.

After several meetings of the High Tor committee, a report was endorsed at the May 9, 2000, council meeting that the offer of the gift of parkland to be declined.

The reason given was that the committee and the foundation representatives were unable to establish common ground regarding the proposal.

In February, 2001, the foundation advised the town that it had no plans to sell any of the land at that time.

Due to extensive vandalism to the Smith home, the foundation requested a demolition permit, as the condition of the home presented a public safety hazard.

The request brought a heated response from Richard Himel, Mrs. Smith's only son.

He said he could not understand the foundation's cold and cruel history of dealing with his mother's property, and how the foundation, dedicated to preservation, would not consider alternatives to saving the home.

At the same time, Councillor West suggested staff investigate the possibility of leasing the flat land of the property for recreational purposes from the foundation for a 10 to 15 year period.

Staff wrote to the foundation as directed and Jeremy Collins of the foundation agreed to meet with Aurora representatives in May, 2001. Meetings were held but no records were kept.

It is understood the foundation told the town it would lease the property for an annual rental, but no one seems to recall the amounts

discussed, which seemed to range from about \$75,000 to \$200,000 a year.

The town wrote again to the foundation Aug. 20, 2001, enclosing a proposed concept of playing fields, soccer pitches and a parking lot.

As the cost of constructing the recreational facilities was estimated to be \$708,000 the town wanted a lease of 25 to 30 years.

By July, 2002, the town was still waiting for a reply.

In February, 2003, Councillor George Timpson noted that all the negotiations regarding the Smith property had been carried out at the stall level for the previous two years and suggested it was time to bring it back to the political level.

He was successful in obtaining council's support for the mayor to arrange a meeting with the Ontario Heritage Board of Directors so that members of council could ensure planning was being carried out in accordance with council's recommendations.

In November, 2003, Richard Himel wrote to the local press to express his concern about the actions of Mayor Tim Jones and Councillors John West and Bill Hogg to sell off his mother's property, which she had wanted to give to the citizens of Aurora.

In March, 2006, the Heritage Advisory Committee asked staff to contact the Ontario Heritage Foundation and request that a copy of Anne Bartley Smith's will regarding the Bathurst Street property be forwarded to the committee.

When the committee report came to council, it was pointed out that the town had previously received a copy and it should be available in the files.

The future of the High Tor property was also discussed as a possible site for providing badly needed soccer fields and it was agreed that the Foundation be asked to respond to the

town's previous request.

The awakened interest in the High Tor property was the recent sale of three acres of the property to York Region for an in-ground reservoir and pump house as part of the project to bring Lake Ontario water to the region at a cost of \$384,375.

In May, this year, town officials once again asked the Ontario Heritage Trust to lease part of High Tor to be used for recreational lands.

According to Himel, the property was the site of an Indian village and archeologists have found evidence of 19th century farming.

According to Trust officials the resources will continue to be protected and the integrity of the property

maintained.

Then last September the issue was before council again when questions were asked of the Foundation officials and the region as to the future use of the \$384,375 purchase price and if it would be used exclusively to maintain the remainder of the property.

Foundation officials made it clear that the trust would fulfill its mandate to ensure the conservation of the property, but the board of directors, under the Ontario Heritage Act has full authority over the lands, including its sale and use of the proceeds.

The future of the High Tor lands is still in doubt and the land remains vacant in the southwest part of Aurora.

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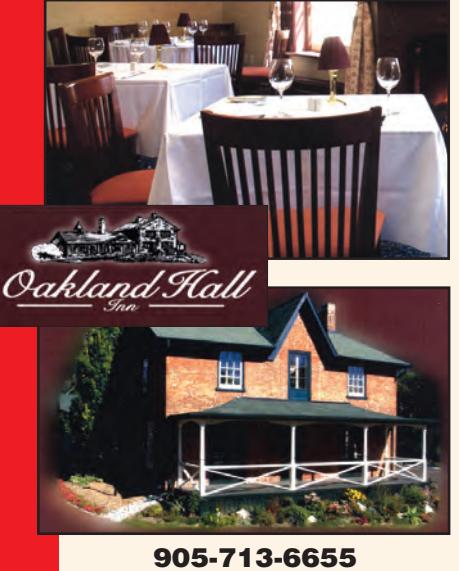
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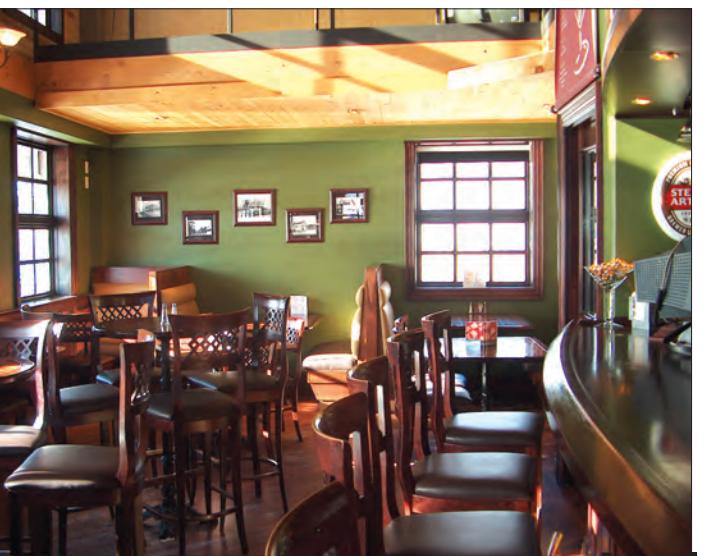
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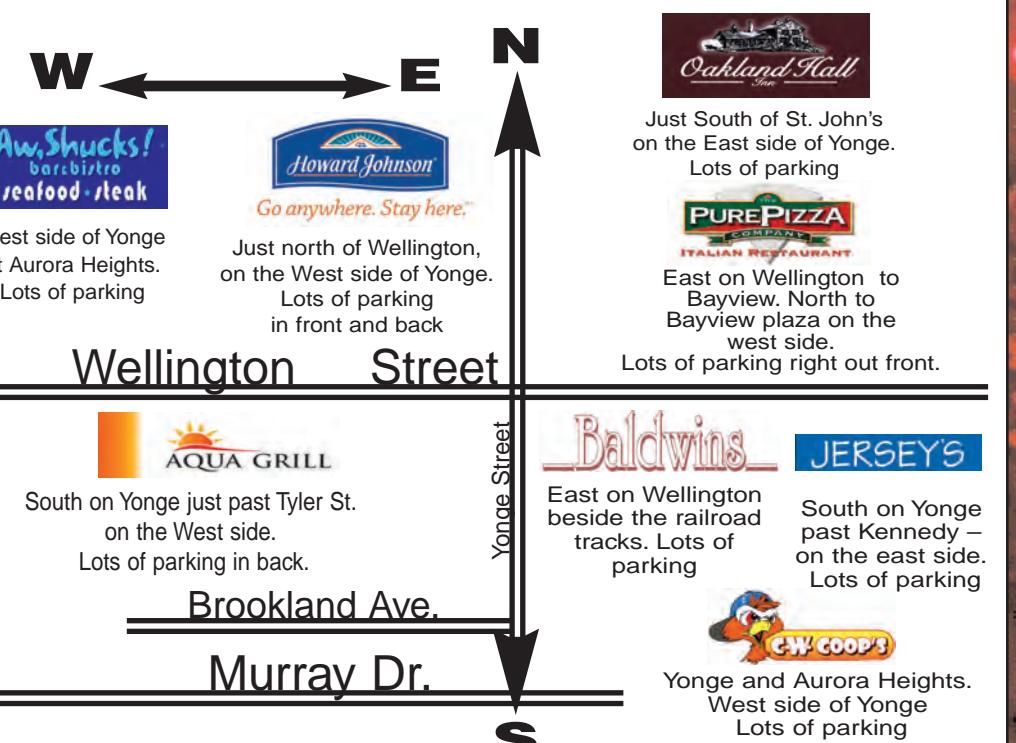


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AURORAN, Week of November 28, 2006



Tiger Centre Joey Martin, No. 9, led the Aurora scoring with two goals and one assist, while team mate Mike Dahlinger, No.19, contributed a goal to help blank the Toronto Junior Canadians 7-0.

Photo by Andy Brooks

Gordon's stellar goaltending gives Aurora fifth straight victory

Led by the stellar goaltending of Tyler Gordon, who stopped 32 of 32 shots to record the shutout, good penalty killing and an energetic team effort from start to finish, the Aurora Tigers made it five straight victories with their 7-0 win

over the Toronto Junior Canadiens (formerly the Wexford Raiders) before a partisan crowd of over 400 fans at the Aurora Community Centre.

The penalty kill was very effective, stopping 9 of 9, while the power play went one for two.

Leading the scorers were Joey Martin (2 goals & 1 assist), Alain Goulet (1 goal & 1 assist), Doug Henderson (1 goal & 1 assist), while Captain Quinn Waller recorded 2 assists. Other goal scorers were Daniel Michalsky, Mike

Dahlinger & Jordan Watts.

In their November 19 game Aurora defeated the Seguin Bruins by a 7-1 score

On Saturday the Tigers played Ajax before returning home to participate in the Aurora Santa Claus Parade.

Tigers roll over Attack with 9-0 trouncing

A good first period that included four goals propelled the Aurora Tigers to a 9-0 victory over the Attack in Ajax Saturday afternoon.

Jordan Watts and Mark Thorburn.

Next up for the Tigers is the Spirit in Stouffville on Thursday while on Friday and

Sunday at home they play the Newmarket Hurricanes and Collingwood Blues. Game times are 7.30 p.m. & 2.30 p.m. respectively.



Matt Beirnes, above, recorded the shutout stopping all 20 shots sent his way while Joey Martin and Doug Henderson continued their torrid scoring pace each collecting two goals with Henderson adding an assist. Paul Zanette also had a big outing recording 4 points (1 goal and 3 assists) while the back end made their scoring contribution with Joey Pell and Connor McGarry each collecting a goal. Other markers were

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Tiger Centre Joey Martin, No. 9, led the Aurora scoring with two goals and one assist, while team mate Mike Dahlinger, No.19, contributed a goal to help blank the Toronto Junior Canadians 7-0.

Photo by Andy Brooks

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As at November 21



Seniors Centre is a house of laughter

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Tom & Jerry's	7	1	1	32	19	15
LAW Insurance	6	1	2	41	20	14
Priestly Demolition	5	3	1	39	31	11
FPL Aggregates	4	5	0	25	36	8
Highland Chev	3	4	2	35	30	8
Masterclean	3	5	1	25	29	7
Rec Cycle N' Sports	2	6	1	28	46	5
Baldwin's	1	6	2	33	37	4

Monday Night Hockey Results November 20

Baldwins Steakhouse	8	Rec Sports	3
Highlands Chev	8	FPL Aggregates	1
Priestly Demolition	4	Law Insurance	2
Tom & Jerry's	4	Masterclean	1

Player standings

Player	Team	G	A	T
John Yaremko	Law Insurance	9	4	13
John Anderson	Rec Sports	7	6	13
Ed Kilroy	Rec Sports	5	7	12
Mark Sedore	Priestly	10	2	12
Kevin O'Keefe	Baldwin's	6	5	11
John Archibald	Highland	8	3	11
Scott Crabb	Highland	4	6	10
Steve McDonald	Law Insurance	5	4	9
Mike Nesbitt	Priestly	4	5	9
Bob Ince	FPL	4	4	8
Gerald Briand	Baldwin's	4	4	8
Bruce Chappell	Highland	3	5	8
Charlie Steenhorse	Rec Sports	1	7	8
Colin Leech	Priestly	3	5	8
Ed Jackson	Baldwin's	2	5	7
Brad McMillan	Tom & Jerry's	4	3	7
Darryl Thompson	Tom & Jerry's	6	1	7
Pat Davies	Priestly	3	4	7
Jerome Flanigan	Priestly	2	5	7
Pat O'Mahony	FPL	3	3	6
Brian Horton	Baldwin's	1	5	6
Peter Briand	Baldwin's	2	4	6
Darren Yaremko	Law Insurance	3	3	6
Frank Balkovec	Law Insurance	2	4	6
Doug Adair	Rec Sports	3	3	6
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	0	6	6
Tom Hussey	Masterclean	3	3	6
Dave McQuestion	FPL	2	3	5
Chris Neal	Highlands	3	2	5
Les Nip	Highlands	0	5	5
Dave Holden	Tom & Jerry's	2	3	5
Vince Greco	Tom & Jerry's	1	4	5
Jerry Mackrell	Tom & Jerry's	2	3	5

By BRIAN WARBURTON

In the stage of progress upon which the seniors of Aurora are now embarked, new liberties of mind and support of community are embedded.

Now we are incorporated as a not-for-profit association, and govern ourselves independently to a greater extent than before.

Support of community has been gratifying and, in concert with our own efforts, we have reached a stage of excellence in managing our affairs, which is very satisfying and adequate to our needs in our senior years. Many new members have been attracted and continue to be attracted.

The new year is the commencement of our membership year and the next few weeks are the time to renew or to join the Aurora Seniors Association and get the biggest bang for your membership bucks. A membership at Christmas, would make an excellent stocking stuffer for any senior and would help keep him or her healthy and busy with others!

We celebrate throughout the year the feast days and holidays, the days of commemoration and the special event days during the year; little escapes our attention and the opportunities to enjoy a good time are seized with gusto. Few can escape the merriment or the rejoicing which promotes companionship while enjoying good times, and the relaxing atmosphere which pervades the seniors centre wins everybody over to join in the fun.

At this time we are busy with dances, dinners, Christmas luncheons and the myriad of ongoing events which sustain our interest and curiosity all year long. The Christmas luncheons are almost sold out and plans are afoot for the New Years dance and for the Cabaret Show planned for February.

And all the time the activities and programs continue, while others with minds blossoming with delightful, pleasure-filled frivolities, are gleeful in concocting an assortment of novel amusements to persuade the most discriminating to let down their hair. Anybody would need a serious bout of melancholy to resist the fun and games in this seniors centre!

I like to believe that everybody is a portal to the enchantments of this life; sometimes the portal needs opening, just a little. The amusements and satisfactions, the laughter, the pleasure we take in each other, echo the many hearts beating quietly in rhythm, wishing to gratify their longings for purpose in life with others. Some achieve happiness seemingly effortlessly, while others need uplifting to some degree. No matter! When everybody is laughing, everybody is happy and that is what we treasure, and this seniors centre has become a house of laughter.

In concluding this article, and on behalf of myself and senior colleagues, I would like to extend warm greetings to the members of the new Aurora Town Council, our very close neighbours.

The new Aurora Town Council will hold its inaugural meeting on the December 5th and, at 4:00 p.m. will walk across the parking lot and hold an inaugural ceremony reception in the Seniors Centre. To

accommodate the reception, the ASA has cancelled all senior activities for this time period and we wish the new council a very pleasant inaugural ceremony reception.

Their political campaigns were long and arduous, complete with sleepless nights pondering whether everything was done well that could be done. Uneasy sleeps the candidate seeking election, or re-election. The election results, when announced, were devastating or sheer jubilation, depending on success or not and with no half measures of emotion for winners or losers.

But life goes on and the winners take their council seats and the losers lick their wounds.

Hail to the triumphant! Hurrah for the winners!

And for those who did not win this time, other doors will open and other opportunities will appear, and with the fortitude and perseverance you displayed seeking a council seat, you will find success in a new venture. I wish you well!



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Praise for Mayor Tim Jones

Outgoing Regional Council bids goodbye to departing members

In its final meeting outgoing York Regional council has said farewell to seven departing members, four of whom are retiring and three who were defeated at the recent polls.

Before the goodbyes, Regional Chairman Bill

Fisch listed council's achievements of the past term of office, including public transit, waste management, new paramedic stations, increased police services, low crime rate, water and sewer projects and protection of the Oak

Ridges Moraine. He praised Aurora Mayor Tim Jones for the latter's 12 years on regional council and his prudent financial management as chairman or vice chairman of the Finance Committee, as well as his work as Co-

Chairman of the Character Community Committee.

In response, Mayor Jones introduced Mayor-elect Phyllis Morris who was in the audience and said he was leaving with two requests.

One was that, as Aurora

is close to the 50,000 population mark, regional council consider granting Aurora a second representative and, the second, that a member of the incoming council become the Character Community Champion as both he and

Mayor Cousins were leaving.

Council members unanimously adopted a resolution thanking the seven members for their service to the region and assuring that the minutes would record their years as members.

TOAST committee raises over \$8,000 for York Region Children's Aid Society

The Town of Aurora Staff Together (TOAST) Committee has raised \$8,241 at its Annual Silent Auction and Bake Sale held at the new Aurora recreation complex on Nov. 18. The figure represents a considerable increase from last year's amount of \$3,500.

TOAST is a small group

of volunteers, from various offices within the Corporation of the Town of Aurora, who organize fundraising events in order to raise money for various local charitable causes.

Proceeds will be donated to the York Region Children's Aid Society "Holiday Gift Program" which selects various local

families who are unable to afford a Christmas celebration for their kids. Participating organizations or individuals are then assigned "Wish Lists" for a selected number of families.

Committee members have been assigned their wish lists and, with the money raised from the craft

table rentals and silent auction, will purchase gifts and food for identified families.

For more information, please contact Ann Clarke at 905-727-3123, ext. 4370.

AURORA BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

Week of Nov. 12

Tuesday Nov. 14: N-S 1. Margaret MacFarlane, Paul MacFarlane. 2. Ata Amiri, Zahra Jafroudi. 3. V. Smereka, V. Whitworth. E-W 1. Paula Priestly, Peter Donnelly. 2. Marg Burt, Victor Bailey 3. Linda Lord, Paul Caleb.

Wednesday Nov. 15: N-S 1. George Jordan, Paul Standbury. 2. Nan McLean, Richard Beetham.

3. Hans Jacobs, Linda Lord. E-W 1. Paul MacFarlane, Paul Graves 2. Ross Jenkinson, Wallace Browne. 3. Rose Morrell, Doug Farmer

Thursday Nov. 16: Novice Game 1. Nancy Martin, Roxy Zurbrigg. 2. Rosemary Nichols, Jeannine Mackie. 3. Phyllis Thompson, Paul Brochu.

Friday Nov. 17: N-S 1. George Payment, Ross Jenkinson. 2. Bob Hull, Peter Blakemore. 3. Gerald Heath, Margaret Farmer. Section C 1. Pat Leeson, Tom Keates. E-W 1. Mike MacNeil, Dan MacNeil. 2. Ata Amiri, Zahra Jafroudi. 3. Shirley Hulbig, Paul Graves. Section C 1. Joseph Chan, Bernie Johnston.

Aurora
Seniors Centre
York Region 55+

Winter Games Duplicate Bridge Results

Nov. 15

1st Eve Dickie, Audrey Robertson Lucille Sequeira, Judy Salmon. 2nd Gloria Smith, Rose White Carole Bell, Marg Farmer. 3rd Sue Scott, Ruth Rea, Anne White, Barbara Wittmer.

First place winners will advance to the All Ontario Senior Games to be held at Gananoque in February.

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MORE THAN JUST TIRES

Aurora Minor Hockey Association

Results to 9 AM Sunday, November 26

Website: www.aci.on.ca/amha



House League

Results to 9 a.m. Sunday, November

Atom

401 Shoppers Drug Mart Aurora 5.
406 AB Cox Pontiac Buick GMC Atom
House League 1 - Andrew Kaszuba 1G.

402 Orr & Forster Insurance Brokers
4 - Hussain Akbar 1A, Keith Jarvis 3A,
Graham Killby 1G 1A, Joey Stel 1G,
Morgan Walker 1G, Russell Johnson 1G
1A. 405 Laurion Law Office 2 - Tyler
Futterer 1G 1A, Owen Nisbet 1G.

404 All Pro Source For Sports 2. 403
Delph & Jenkins Surveyors 0.

408 Greenpoint Laser Products 4 -
Landon Kirby 1G, Neil Duggan 1G 1A,
Declan Johnston 1G, Andrew Walter 1A,
Corey Young 1G. 407 Dr. Steiners

Drillers 2.

Minor Bantam

701 Pharmasave 4 - Tanner
Brewer 3G 1A, James Forrester 1A,
Dylan Jolivet 1A, Matthew Bishop 1A,
Christian Davies 1G. 703 A.D.C.
Aluminum 4 - Michael Vance 2A,
Mark Tanel 1G, Christian Avolio 1G,
Paul Tuck 2G 1A, Wesley Seminara
1A.

706 Cosentino Produce 6 -
Cameron Annear 1G, Trystan Nelson
1A, Jonathon Behmer 2G, Lucas
Cristillo 3G, Andrew Cosentino 1A,
Zach Andrews 1A, Alexander Payne
2A, Logan Weber 1A. 704 Mary's
Flower Shop 1 - Curtis Stobo 1G.

708 Perfect Moves 3 - Quinn
Tessarolo 1G 1A, TJ Ground 1G,
Sean Takahashi 1G. 710 2 - Griffin
Slimkovich 1G, Kamran Karamchi 1G.

James Phillips 1A.

Bantam

801 Supreme Collision Centre 5 -
Scott Parry 1A, Adam Stubbs 2G,
Marco Santella 2G, Neil Gaston 1G
1A. 806 Wood Brothers Drywall 1 -
Adam Gitto 1G.

802 Aurora Home Hardware
Building Centre 2 - Anthony Marsillo
2G. 805 Barb Blaser Re/Max 1 -
Scott MacNeil 1G.

Minor Midget

906 Omars Shoes 6. 901 Emilio's
Pizza 1 - Trevor McCartney 1A, Derek
Isidoro 1G.

904 Pizza Pizza 5 - Ethan Shore
3G, Jason Nadeau 1G, Kevin Nandall
1G 1A, James Collett 1A, Michael
Shoesmith 1A. 903 3.

James Phillips 1A.

Bantam

801 Supreme Collision Centre 5 -
Scott Parry 1A, Adam Stubbs 2G,
Marco Santella 2G, Neil Gaston 1G
1A. 806 Wood Brothers Drywall 1 -
Adam Gitto 1G.

802 Aurora Home Hardware
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2G. 805 Barb Blaser Re/Max 1 -
Scott MacNeil 1G.

Minor Midget

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Isidoro 1G.

904 Pizza Pizza 5 - Ethan Shore
3G, Jason Nadeau 1G, Kevin Nandall
1G 1A, James Collett 1A, Michael
Shoesmith 1A. 903 3.

Rep Games

Novice

Aurora Tigers Novice A 3 - Bryan
Manweiler 1A, Cameron Zinner 3G, Sarah
Bellerby 2A, Ethan Cox 1A. TNT Novice A
Novice A 3.

Newmarket Redmen Novice AA 6.
Aurora Tigers Novice AA 1 - Jared Brown
1A, Taylor Kauffeldt 1G.

Aurora Tigers Novice AE 2 - Jake
Schachter 1G, Morgan Frost 1G.
Newmarket Redmen Novice AE 0.

Aurora Tigers Novice AE 6 - Connor
Downs 1G 1A, Brady Futterer 1G 1A, Jake
Schachter 1G, Mathew Tyndall 1A, Morgan
Frost 2G Joshua Brecht 1G. TNT Novice
AE Novice AE 6.

Minor Atom

TNT Minor Atom AE Minor Atom AE
1. Aurora Tigers Minor Atom AE 0.

Skating Results

Following are the results of the 2006 Amherst Invitational held Nov.18 to 19 at Amherst, NY:

Freeskate

Pre-Preliminary A Ladies - Samantha Duncan (Group C) 1st. Badge - Courtney McGrath (Group C) 3rd.

Preliminary A Ladies - Hailey McGrath (Group A) 1st. Courtney Tidona (Group B) 4th.

Preliminary B Ladies - Jihyun Cha 3rd. Alana Fabbricino 5th. Kendall Mannella 4th, Taylor McDowell 6th.

Compulsory Spins: Pre-Preliminary - Samantha Duncan (Group B) 6th. Preliminary - Jihyun Cha 2nd., Courtney Tidona 5th.

Compulsory Jumps: Pre-Preliminary - Samantha Duncan (Group B) 4th.

Compulsory Moves: Badge - Courtney McGrath (Group C) 1st. Pre-Preliminary - Samantha

Duncan (Group C) 2nd. Preliminary - Jihyun Cha (Group B) 1st, Hailey McGrath (Group A) 4th, Courtney Tidona (Group B) 6th.

Basic Skills Level 4: Caroline Kewley 3rd.

Showcase: Preliminary Alana Fabbricino 1st, Taylor McDowell 2nd, Kendall Mannella 3rd.

Following are the results of the 2007 BMO Financial Group Skate Canada Central Ontario Sectional Championships held Nov.16 to 19 at the Tom Graham Sports Complex in Richmond Hill:

Pre-Juvenile Women's Freeskate: Sierra Chovanec 11th.

Juvenile Men's Freeskate: Alex Woodward 2nd.

Pre-Novice Women's Freeskate: Maya Goldman 38th.

Novice Women's Freeskate: Lauren Cooper 14th, Sarah Gray 33rd.



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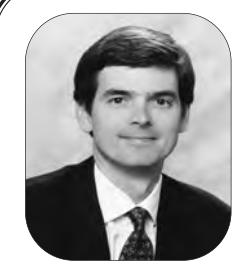
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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

WINEMAKING FLOURISHED IN AURORA

By August, 1981, tucked away in basements around Aurora were the fruits of a hobby enjoyed by many Aurorans as they watched their wines mellow and mature.

Home wine making was a popular pastime and most wine-makers were members of the Aurora Wine Circle started by Werner and Ursala Roesener in 1974.

The local winemakers often gathered together for wine tasting to determine what was good and not so good and to attend the annual Amateur Winemakers of Ontario Association conference at which contests were held.

Members of the Wine Circle were happy to help new enthusiasts to the wonders of winemaking.

EMILIOS PIZZA RUNS INTO PLANNING PROBLEMS

Old timers will recall back in May 1990 when Emilio's Pizza was located in a big house on the east side of Yonge Street, just north of Centre Street. The Pizzeria is now located on Wellington Street East near Mary Street but it was rough trip to get there.

It looked as if the popular pizza shop would be forced to close at the end of June that year as the lease on the shop was to expire and the building demolished for a new development at Yonge and Centre Streets. The site is still vacant.

The Pizza owner hoped to move into a shop on the north side of Wellington Street just east of Yonge Street but council rejected the application on the basis there was not enough parking and the proposed location would worsen traffic problems on Wellington Street.

The new Emilio's was to be part of a commercial complex just west of the Post Office, but council wasn't interested and the move was made further east and Emilio's is still selling pizzas from its current location.

AURORA IN 1968

By a 5-4 vote, Aurora council rejected a proposal that the Town purchase the Old Post Office on Yonge Street as a Town Hall, following a spirited but business-like debate, on the basis that it would cost too much to renovate. It is now a commercial building producing property taxes.

Newmarket Mayor Tom Surgeoner and Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth addressed a joint meeting of the Newmarket and Aurora Rotary Clubs on Industrial Development.

More than 800 sports fans attended Minor Hockey Night at the Community Centre and at the same time said good bye and thanks to Walt and Joan Fies on their move from Aurora.

In November, Aurora's newest citizen arrived and was named Aurora by proud father Ron Wallace.

Many of Aurora's young people participated in the Bafra Starve-In at the Presbyterian Church.

WHEN AURORA SET A COURT PRECEDENT

Looking at the success of the Howard Johnson Aurora today and the capable management and hard working staff, it's hard to believe that at one time the hotel was in dire financial difficulties.

By January, 1991, the hotel was \$6 million in debt and, while still owned by Dave and Steve Cha, a hotel management company was appointed by the bank to run it.

In 1992 a legal battle between the Town and the hotel started when the former tried to collect \$100,000 in unpaid taxes from A. Sung Holdings who were operating the hotel at the time.

The Town hired a bailiff to seize moveable assets to cover the outstanding taxes. When the bank heard about this action, a receiver was called in to take over the hotel.

In February, 1995, the Ontario Court of Appeal upheld a provincial court decision which gave municipalities top priority over secured creditors, whereas previously they had to write off unpaid taxes when a business owed money,

because the financial institutions had first call on available assets.

With this unprecedented court ruling that municipalities can secure unpaid taxes if they place a lien on the moveable assets, it put millions of dollars back into the hands of Ontario municipalities.

AURORANS RALLIED TO OPPOSE PROBLEMS

During 1986, Bonnie Fleischaker founded the Aurora Citizens Group for Home Mail Delivery in order to fight Canada Post's controversial plan to serve more than 2,600 new homes in Aurora with community mail boxes.

She secured support for her cause from Aurora council, regional council and York Peel MP Sinclair Stevens but Canada Post would not be swayed.

Despite the futility of her campaign, she let Canada Post officials know her group would not rollover without a fight but unfortunately too few municipalities and citizens joined the effort.

Terry Rooney took up the cause of frustrated Aurora new home buyers who endured late closings and poor building workmanship, going beyond complaining and instead fighting for the rights of all homebuyers.

He was slapped with a \$1.25 million lawsuit which resulted in him forming Home Aid, a consumer protection group to push the province and the Toronto Home Builders' Association for tougher controls. His lobbying brought about important changes to provincial legislation.

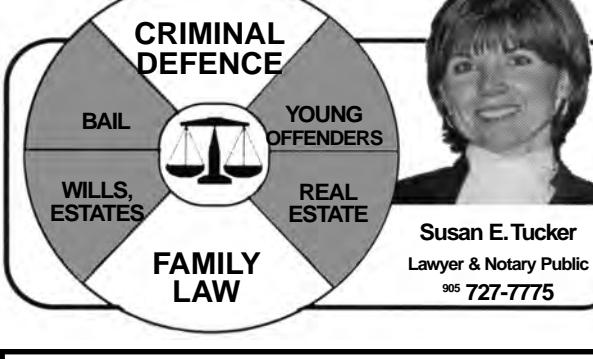
Due to several complaints from residents about speeding on residential streets council launched a town-wide traffic study.



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Shelley Lundquist of the Women's Centre of York Region in Aurora, accepts a cheque from Aurora resident and Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees, after Klees won an Auroran-sponsored pool for the recent municipal election. Having to pick the correct order of 23 candidates, Klees won the pot by picking five. He immediately donated the money - \$500 - to the Women's Centre.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

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Lieutenant Governor visits Aurora Library

The Honourable James K. Bartleman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, visited the Aurora Public Library last week and charmed the audience with his humour.

He is visiting as many libraries as possible in Ontario to encourage library users to enter a personal story-writing contest that celebrates the positive impact of libraries on its citizens and their communities.

Born in Orillia, the Lieutenant Governor grew up in Port Carling and is a member of the Mnjikaning First Nation.

He told the audience that due to the poor economy at the time his mother and father left school after grades 3 or 4 and were on relief. His father finally got a job as a labourer in Port Carling and the only place they had to live was in a tent beside the village garbage dump.

The dump was to become his first library as he and his brother, Bob, used to scrounge daily for books thrown away by cottagers. At that time there were no garage sales and the dump was used to get rid of all unwanted items.

The lieutenant governor said he learned to read from the books, mostly comic books, found at the dump which, being home to raccoons, porcupines and other small animals, was also their private zoo.

Along with his father, he went to the Port Carling library where the friendly librarian gave him a library card and allowed him to take three books home to read. It was an entry to a wider world.

He spoke highly of the



Ontario Lieutenant Governor James K. Bartleman was in town last week to address a gathering at the Aurora Library.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

library service in Ontario but added there are several black holes, especially in the First Nation Reserves in Northern Ontario where the youth suicide rate is high.

As lieutenant governor, he appealed for books and was able to arrange the delivery of more than a million to the reserves. He plans to make another appeal in January to prove that Ontario cares.

He also met with members of the audience, including Mayor Tim Jones and Councillor Evelyn Buck, before departing for a meeting with the York-Simcoe Literacy Society at DiNardo's Mansion.

Sworn in as Ontario's 27th vice regal in March, 2002, following his retirement after 35 years in Canada's Foreign Service, Lieutenant Governor

Bartleman has pursued three priorities: eliminating the stigma of mental illness; supporting anti-racism initiatives; and encouraging aboriginal young people.

He holds eight honorary degrees and is the recipient of a number of honours and awards, including the National Aboriginal Achievement Award for public service in 1999 and the Phi Delta Kappa Educator of the Year Award in 2004.

If you need help with a government matter, please drop by and visit our office or call us. We will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Belinda Stronach



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