

These photo-ops are so boing: Newborns Zachary Enticknap, left, and Cale Holmes apparently don't care what kind of commotion they caused by being born only hours apart to moms who are sisters. Grandpa, Bob Callow, seems pleased, though.

Sisters make history

Visitation becomes a quick admission

Imagine this...one pregnant sister goes to the hospital to visit the other pregnant sister who has been admitted because...it's time.

But both sisters have babies...within hours of each other.

And Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket acknowledges it is the first time in history they have recorded the births of two babies belonging to two sisters at virtually the same time.

Let's start at the beginning.

Stephanie Holmes was in the hospital and her sister Samantha Callow went visiting.

Both are daughters of Aurora's Bob Callow, who also happens to be Chairman of the York Regional Police

Services Board.

During the visitation, Samantha's water broke, and she was quickly admitted into the room next to Stephanie.

No need to race to the hospital.

Within hours of each other, Stephanie gave birth to Cale Harrison Holmes while Samantha welcomed Zachary James Enticknap. Only eight ounces separated the weights of the newborns.

Doctors had estimated the sisters would have their babies three days apart.

Lest you think the excitement has died down in the Callow residence, think again.

Bob and Olga's third daughter, Debbie Gust, is also pregnant and expecting later this month.

THE AURORAN

"If it's good for Aurora, it's good for us"

Vol. 2 No. 26

Week of April 16, 2002

905-726-2892

They came...they ran

By RON WALLACE

Six hundred runners...another couple of hundred walkers...

Looks like the Town of Aurora is about to become the location for yet another annual event.

And a dedicated group of Aurora athletes today can take a well-deserved bow, (while a pleased Bob Hartwell gives them a standing ovation).

They are responsible for the overwhelmingly successful Bob Hartwell Runner's Challenge that went off without a hitch Sunday morning from Aurora's Town Park.

It was always Hartwell's dream to host a marathon run in his own town.

And he was thinking about the organization of such a project while competing in a race himself, when he suffered a fatal heart



DIANNE PEARSON
Tears of delight...

attack, sending the running world into shock and a community into disbelief.

"Bob would like this," organizer Christine Gardner said Sunday

morning as hundreds of people jammed onto Wells Street prior to the start of the race.

It was a cold, clammy and foggy morning, but that mattered little. Runners were pleased they weren't competing in dripping heat, and only the media seemed a tad miffed they couldn't get pictures in bright sunlight.

The Bob Hartwell Runner's Challenge was about to become a reality.

The half marathon and half marathon relay (the course around half of Aurora's perimeter was 21.1 kilometers long...about 12.5 miles) would require hundreds of volunteers, and scores of police, fire and ambulance officials

story continues,
picture coverage, see page 9

Mayor's roast overshadowed; hockey sweater brings \$2,300

Would you pay \$2,300 for a hockey sweater?

Joe DiNardo - owner of DiNardo's Banquet Hall - did, Wednesday night, as a roast for Mayor Tim Jones was almost overshadowed by a bidding war over Wendel Clark's autographed Toronto Maple Leaf sweater.

Clark was in attendance at the event and was amazed at the price the sweater brought.

More than 250 people showed up at DiNardo's lavish Industrial Parkway building to watch seven so-called friends take Aurora Mayor Tim Jones apart in a good-natured roast, and were treated to the bidding war after the roast was over.

But while the mayor was being fried, the planned community Safety Village was getting another shot in the arm.

Upwards of \$15,000 was raised during the four-hour event staged by the Aurora Optimist Club, a group that has already invested \$30,000 into the Safety Village.

Wednesday was a night few will forget. Especially the mayor.

During his rebuttal, Jones looked over the large crowd and said he couldn't understand why people would pay money to see him get roasted, when they could watch it happen every week in the local media.

He added that if it appeared he was a bit uneasy, it was because he was used to talking to council,

not a live audience.

Lance Brown, sports director of CFTO, got the evening got off to a rousing start as the Master of Ceremonies.

Brown is a great supporter of Aurora, participating in the Mayor's Golf Tournament and helping to promote the Bob Hartwell Runner's Challenge which took place Sunday morning.

Clark, honorary chairman of

the Safety Village, accepted the \$30,000 cheque for the Village from club president Tom McGhee. Funds from the roast will be presented at a later date.

Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees got the roast underway saying Tim wasn't strong on policy as he had only one issue in 20 years. He added that Tim didn't belong to a political party and had his

see page 13

Briefly...

CASE OUT THIS WOODLOT

One of the nicest passive areas in Aurora needs your help to stay that way.

Aurora's Case Woodlot, located off Henderson Avenue, near Bathurst Street, is destined for a cleanup.

This forest, consisting of 23 species of trees and more than 100 different plants, will get the sprucing up courtesy of the Oak Ridges Trail Association and the Town of Aurora.

But they're seeking volunteers who can pick up garbage along the trails.

Cleanup day is set for this Saturday, from 9 a.m. to noon. You can collect garbage bags and gloves at the playground behind Highview School on McClellan Way.

COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR

For the third time, the Town of Aurora has been selected by Welcome Wagon Ltd., as the "Community of the Year" in the 35,000 to 60,000 population category.

The award was presented last week at the annual Welcome Wagon Conference held in Richmond Hill.

The plaque will hang in Aurora's Town Hall

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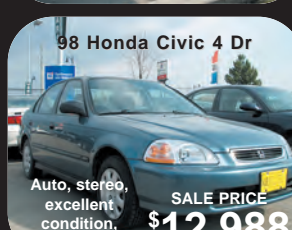
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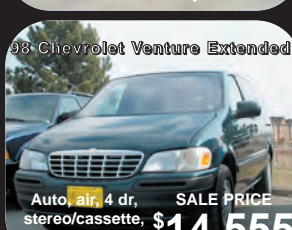
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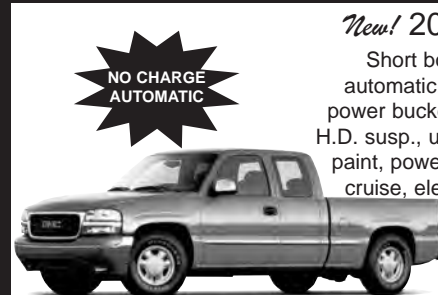
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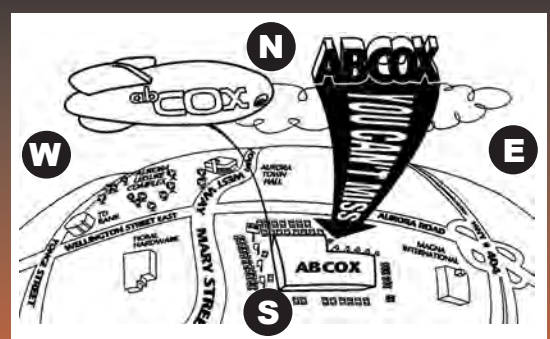


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**AURORA PEEWEE AA TIGERS
won series in six**

Six games required in best of five round

It's not often six games are needed in a best of five series. But it happened in Aurora. And Aurora came out on the right side of it.

The Aurora Tesma Peewee AA Tigers defeated the Caledon Hawks in game six of a best of five series to take the Ontario Minor Hockey Association Peewee AA Championship.

This exciting championship series was hotly contested between the two teams with each team winning two games in addition to an overtime tie which forced a sixth and deciding game in Aurora.

The Hawks won the first game with a convincing 6-4 victory over the Tesma Tigers.

Calen Simmons led the Tigers with two goals with singles from Matt Kerr and Daniel Michalsky.

Game 2 was played in Caledon and the Tesma Tigers were victorious posting a score of 5-4 with Adam Hankins, Matt Kerr, Patrick Bowie, Calen Simmons and Vincent Davenport scoring for the winners.

Michel Saccone was solid in the net for the Tigers.

In the third game Caledon

bounced back with a 3-1 win.

Daniel Michalsky posted the only marker for Aurora.

Game 4, back on Aurora ice was a convincing win by the Tigers.

Daniel Michalsky led the winners with two goals and Nolan Rundle, Patrick Bowie and Vincent Davenport added singles.

Daniel Battiston provided solid goaltending for the Tigers.

With the series squared at two games each, the five and supposedly deciding game was played in Caledon.

But it wasn't to be as the clubs battled to a 1-1 overtime draw.

The single marker was from Nolan Rundle and Daniel Battiston played another strong game between the pipes.

The final championship game saw solid performance from all Tesma Tigers players resulting in a convincing 4-1 victory for Aurora.

Nolan Rundle led the scoring with two goals with Daniel Michalsky and Brandon Donches adding singles.

Daniel Battiston played

another superb game in goal.

The 16 players on this championship team include Daniel Battiston, Michel Saccone, Brandon Steffan, Johnathon Stephan, Andrew Welch, Daniel Michalsky, Brandon Donches, Mathew Rae, Calen Simmons, Derek Meyers, Sean Devlin, Nolan Rundle, Patrick Bowie, Vincent Davenport, Adam Hankins and Mathew Kerr.

Coaching staff includes Mike Rundle as Head Coach, Jim Donches and Glen Simmonds as Assistant Coaches, Rod Bowie as Trainer and Paul Devlin, Manager.

The OMHA Championship Tesma Tigers now move on to play in the Ontario Hockey Federation Cup Finals in West Nipissing from this week.

Minor Atom AA wins third OMHA championship

Leave it to Aurora to set new heights.

The Aurora Minor Atom AA Tigers won their third consecutive Ontario Minor Hockey Association championship last week, the first time any team has achieved such a feat in double A minor atom hockey.

While enduring a loss of six players to Triple A over the past two years, the team - boys born in 1991 - has kept together a core of skilled talent as well as added talent to maintain their championship calibre.

Tigers can look to the play of their two goaltenders - Jake Sanita and Ryan Carlisle - as a main reason for success. The pair, throughout five playoff rounds, turned in an amazing 1.05 goals against average.

"This team just always found a way to win the big games," said Coach Dan Tocchet, who has been with the club for all three titles.

In the final analysis, the team finished the season with a record of 64 wins, 12 losses and four ties.

To gain the OMHA title, Aurora put Oakville away in three games - two victories and a tie.

The winners opened the series with a 5-0 victory, with goals from Ryan Finlay, Brent Waites, Chris Thompson, Sean Fennell and Matt Joynt.

In game two, Tyler Hanlon scored twice and Waites added a single as the clubs clawed to a 3-3 tie.

Marcus Tocchet led the way with two goals in the final game which ensured the title for the locals.

Meanwhile, the squad entered the Markham Islanders Tournament and

defeated the Scarborough Stallions 4-2 in the championship game to capture that event with five straight victories.

Earlier they edged the same Scarborough team 4-3, pounded TNT 12-3, blanked Vaughan 5-0 and defeated the Mississauga Hornets 6-1 to set up the championship final.

Sean Fennell, Marcus Tocchet, Brent Waites, and Ty Hanlon scored to give Aurora the tournament title in the final game.

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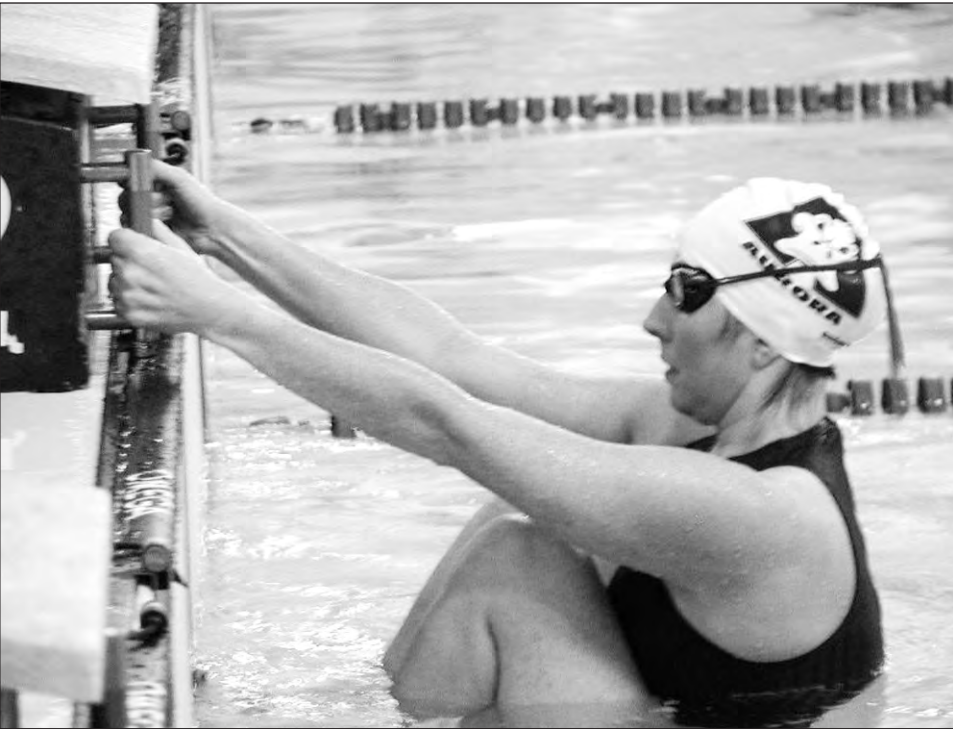
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Susan Allen, competing in the 40-44 women's category, prepares to launch for a backstroke race at recent Ontario Masters Swimming Championships in Etobicoke. A member of the 17-contingent Aurora Masters Swim Club known as the Ducks, Susan won gold medals in both the 50 and 100 metre backstroke categories. In the 50, competing for the first time, she set a new Ontario record. In all, the Aurora group brought home a total of 33 individual medals, including seven golds. They're now preparing for the National Championships in Saskatoon in May. A total of 27 swimmers are expected to attend that event.

Swimmers excel at Ontario meet

The Aurora Masters Swim Club outdid itself at last week's 2002 Ontario Masters Swimming Championships held in Etobicoke.

Known as the Ducks, the club sent 17 swimmers, placed second out of 22 medium sized (11-25 swimmers) clubs, and fourth overall, their best showing at a provincial championship in four years of competing.

In total, 576 swimmers (243 female and 333 male) represented 67 clubs from across the province.

The Ducks set a Canadian record in the 4 X 50 freestyle relay men 200+ with a time of 1:52.4 (breaking the old record by one full second).

The record setting team was comprised of Frank Sodonis, Jim Talbot, Russ Farquhar and Dave Wilkin.

Wilkin, competing in the category of men 50-54 years, won four individual gold medals.

In one of his gold medal performances, he set an Ontario record in the 100M backstroke with a time of 1:10.57.

Additionally, he won a silver medal in the 50M butterfly, where he broke the existing Canadian record with a time of 28.7, but laid claim to it for only minutes before the time was eclipsed by another athlete with a time of 28.3.

Another gold medal performance was handed in by Susan Allen, competing in the women 40-44 year category. Susan won the 50 and 100 meter backstroke.

In winning the 50 she broke the existing Ontario record in her first competition in this age category.

In addition to the record-breaking performances, all 17 swimmers swam personal bests and most placed in the top ten in all of their performances.

The competition was held six weeks before the team heads to Saskatoon for the

National Championships May 17-20.

At that event, 27 swimmers from the Aurora area will be attempting to break as many as six Canadian and nine Provincial records and possibly win the entire meet.

In total, the team won 33 individual medals, including seven gold, 13 silver and 13 bronze.

Also winning medals were Wendy Duck, Russ Farquhar, Wendy Punchard, Frank Sodonis, Jane Glueckler, Christina Templeton, Sue Warren, Michelle Campese, Janet Mitchell and Mike Rockwood,

The club entered 17 various relay teams (freestyle and medley) and placed all teams in the top ten and of those finishes, won 10 medals.

Canucks find a gold medal at Lake Placid

The Aurora Minor Peewee "AA" Tigers recently travelled to the former Olympic site of Lake Placid, New York, in search of a Gold Medal.

Aurora was the lone Canadian team in their division as they set out to bring home the Gold.

And bring home the Gold they did.

Aurora went a perfect 4-0 in round robin play, to finish in first place and earn a berth in the Gold Medal Championship.

In game 1, the Tigers defeated the Salem Saints from New Hampshire, 4-1. Kevin Shetler led the offense with two goals and an assist, with singles going to Ryan Jones and Jordan Blaser.

Aurora dominated the next three games, outscoring their opponents 23-1.

As they beat the Medford Mustangs 9-1, Michael Pantalone, Anthony D'Agostino and Shetler

each scored twice while Matt Boyd, Ryan Fennell and Blaser chipped in with singles.

Aurora then defeated the Nashua Panthers 8-0 and the Hollydell Hurricanes 6-0.

Goaltenders Darren Gwilliam and Byran Dunkjo each earned shutouts in these matches.

Against the Panthers, Matt Boyd notched a hat trick with singles going to Ryan Fennell, Michael Pantalone, Aaron Mansbridge, Anthony D'Agostino and Chris Blom.

In the final game of round robin action, Ryan Fennell scored twice and Matt Boyd, Kevin Shetler, Connor O'Grady and Anthony D'Agostino helped out with singles.

The Gold medal championship game was to be a rematch between the Tigers and the Salem Saints.

The confident Cats found themselves down 2-0 at the end of the first period before taking over with four unanswered goals to win the Gold 4-2.

Matt Boyd got the Tigers on the board early in the second and Aurora never looked back.

Ryan Jones tied the game less than a minute later and the Tigers were on track.

Connor O'Grady scored what would be the winner from Harrison Jones while Kevin Shetler added the insurance marker on a play from Matt Boyd and Anthony D'Agostino.

The roster for Aurora Minor Peewee "AA" Tigers includes Darren Gwilliam, Harrison Jones, Kyle Apps, Tyler Virgoe, Chris Blom, Kevin Shetler, Michael Pantalone, Michael Englehutt, Ryan Fennell, Aaron Mansbridge, Anthony D'Agostino, Matt Boyd, Jordan Blaser, Connor O'Grady, Jake MacDougall, Ryan Jones and Bryan Dunjko.

Head Coach is Pat Fennell and Assistant Coaches are Warren Jones and Dave St. John.

The trainer is Luch D'Agostino and manager is Deb D'Agostino



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Roasting

Every Hair In Place - Aurora Mayor Tim Jones demonstrates how MPP Frank Klees takes care of his hair during a Mayor's Roast last week at DeNardo's Banquet Hall. Roast, sponsored by the Aurora Optimist Club, drew nearly 300 people. The proposed Community Village of York Region will add another \$15,000 to its coffers as a result of the evening.

Auroran photo by Matt Haggerty

Mayor fried by "friends" at successful Optimist roast

from page 1

feet in both camps. He also referred to Tim's column in The Auroran and said Tim believed his own press clippings.

Next up was Councillor Ron Wallace who lived a day in the life of the mayor fielding phone calls from neighbouring mayors who wanted to annex Aurora.

York Regional Chairman Bill Fisch spoke about Tim at regional council and chairman of the regional finance committee and how he brings his lunch in a bag.

The roast continued with former Aurora CAO Marc Neeb referring to Tim's career and how he couldn't hold a job. Area newspaper editor, Brenda Larson, said Tim never answers a question.

Father Philip Poole of Trinity Anglican Church told stories about Tim during his 14 years in Aurora and the roast ended with Councillor John West telling little secrets about

Tim and council meetings.

Then it was Tim's turn. He made fun of Klees' slicked back hair by putting on a wig and trying to smooth it out.

He called Wallace the "Lou Grant" of Aurora.

He said Neeb took a lot of pride in having a photographic memory, but after working with him, it was evident he had forgotten to put the film in.

He responded to Fisch by telling the audience about Bill's actions at the region, and how when the roast was first discussed Larson's name was at the top of the list as a roaster.

For Father Poole, Jones had a prayer, and said every day for John West is a dress down day, and that on the information highway, West is considered as road kill.

The Optimists added a silent auction to the evening's proceedings, but the highlight was the auctioning off of the hockey sweater.

Back in the late 1960s, Aurora council received a continuous stream of complaints about rusty water coming from the taps.

At one council meeting an irate citizen threw a basketful of washed clothes stained by rust onto the council table.

Because of the high iron content in the water, rusty water was quite common.

At that time the conventional cleaning method involved flushing water through the mains at high pressure, to dislodge the particles of rust clinging to the pipes with limited success.

The buildup of rust in the pipes not only affected the quality of the water but the water pressure due to reduction of the carrying capacity of the pipe.

In 1969, the town, in cooperation with the Ontario Water Resources Commission, held a successful trial of a new technique for cleaning water mains with representatives from several municipalities in attendance.

The new method, which was developed in England, consisted of introducing a cylindrical foam swab, called a "pig," into the section of the water main to be cleaned via a hydrant and flushing it to the next hydrant where it was recovered.

As the pig passed through the main it executed a mild scouring action, purging rust and other internal debris from the pipe. While swab cleaning was not a permanent solution, it was more effective than the previous flushing method.

WHAT HAPPENED TO SNOW FENCES?

It wasn't that long ago when works department staff of town, village and township municipalities erected snow fences along rural roadways to protect the roadway from drifting snow. Remember?

Granted this year was an exception with little snow, but last year there was lots of snow, but snow fences were noticeable by their absence.

Was the fencing discontinued because it was not effective in preventing drifting snow across roadways, or a matter of cost?

There is no doubt that erecting, dismantling and storage of snow fencing is expensive as it is very labour intensive.

Sometime in the early 1980s, the Ministry of Transportation discontinued subsidies for material and labour costs, which likely caused many municipalities to reconsider the use of fencing.

STRONACH ENTERS THE POLITICAL ARENA

It was April 18, 1988, when Frank Stronach announced he was seeking the Liberal nomination in the new federal riding of York-Simcoe.

The chief executive of Magna International said his opposition to the Canada-U.S. free trade agreement prompted him to seek political office.

He predicted the agreement would be an extremely bad deal for Canada, would have a disastrous effect on the residents of York-Simcoe and all Canadians, and would cost the country hundreds of thousands of jobs.

He said the decision to step down as chief operating officer for Magna was not an easy one, as he had started out 30 years earlier as the only employee. Although he won the Liberal nomination, he was defeated in the election by Tory John Cole.

STUDENTS MISS PING-PONG RECORD

Back in April, 1977, hallucinations and delirious fatigue forced four Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School to stop short of a world ping-pong endurance record.

After 68 hours of continuous ping-pong, Mike Williams, Bill Crossland, John McKague and Greg Perry gave up their attempt to break the 72-hour record, listed in the Guinness Book of Records.

They started battling ping-pong balls at the Aurora Highlands Golf Club at 8 a.m. on a Friday.

The first crisis came early morning Saturday when they realized they had gone only 24 hours and had another 50 hours to go.

Coached by their friends, Mark Setter, Doug Hackett, Bill Dewan and a number of parents, the players managed to weather the storm and carry on.

Sunday the players were examined by a doctor who told them to eat high-energy food and not the hamburgers they had been living on.

By 4 a.m. Monday the players realized their chances of breaking the record had vanished. They continued to play

Rumours & Rumblings

When Aurora had a little pig

after a fashion until 5:30 a.m. when the parents of one player took him home. Two of the players continued until 7:30 a.m. when they packed it in.

Their efforts didn't get them into the Book of Records but they did raise \$1,200 for Crippled Children.

TOUCH-TONE PHONES

Aurora telephone users were envious of Newmarket users in June, 1972, when Newmarket initiated touch-tone phones, which were not available in Aurora.

According to Bell officials the Newmarket exchange was sophisticated enough to permit the use of touch-tone phones.

At that time the Newmarket exchange was the toll centre for the region, and handled all long distance calls coming in or going out of the region.

Bell Canada announced they were acquiring land on Wellington Street in Aurora to build a new modernized exchange, which would be available by 1975 and enable Aurora Bell-users to use touch-tone phones.

Also in 1972, Bell Canada agreed to introduce a single telephone book for York Region as requested by regional council.

Then in 1978 Bell suggested that listings by municipalities within the region be dropped and it be one list for the whole region.

This was too much for some municipalities and strong objections were registered with Bell Canada. Today, it's one regional phone directory listed by municipalities or municipal groupings.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

The title didn't come with a badge, but the position of deputy mayor of Aurora had all guns blazing in April, 1998.

Way back when Aurora first adopted the position of a deputy mayor, the spot was traditionally filled by the councillor who received the most votes at the polls

In 1997, council of the day changed the procedure and adopted a bylaw that permitted the mayor to appoint any member of council to the position of deputy mayor.

Following the November, 1997, municipal election, Councillor John West topped the polls. He introduced a motion to amend the bylaw and return to the traditional procedure where the councillor topping the polls was named deputy mayor.

He was opposed by former Councillor Peter Healy,

Healy claimed that as all councillors ran at large, the councillor obtaining the most votes was not necessarily the people's choice as deputy mayor.

The Municipal Act does not recognize the office of deputy mayor. The legislation states that when the head of council is absent from the municipality or absent through illness or the office is vacant, council may appoint one of its members to act, and while so acting has all the rights of the head of council.

It was much ado about nothing!



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DEATH NOTICE



FRED WALLACE CONKLIN 1922 - 2002 passed away on April 7th, 2002, at South Lake Regional Health Centre. Loved husband of Joyce Morris, Father of Ben (Newmarket), Gerry (Collingwood), and Debbie (Edmonton). Grandfather to David (Orillia), Catherine and Allan (Edmonton), and Great-Grandfather of two little girls (Orillia). Lifetime friend of Clarence and Eleanor (Priceville). A legion service was held at the Thompsen Funeral Home, Aurora, and a funeral service was held at Trinity Anglican church on Thursday April 11th at 11:00 a.m. Cremation. His family would like to express their thanks to Drs. Burstein, W. Wilkes, and Roberts, and the nursing staff at S.L.R.H.C. In Fred's memory, donations made to the Trinity Anglican Church memorial fund would be appreciated by his family.

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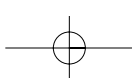
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PLACES OF WORSHIP



COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

APRIL 17

Spring Fashion Show, presented by Creative Colours Fashions. Dinardo's Banquet Hall. 6 p.m. Ticket information 905-727-0552

APRIL 18

The Big Sisters of York 21st Annual Meeting at the Aurora Town Hall. For details call 905-727-4897.

APRIL 19-20

Aurora United Church spring rummage sale. Friday from 1 to 8 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. At the church, Yonge & Tyler.

APRIL 19-21

Aurora Chamber of Commerce 16th annual Home Show, Aurora Community Centre. Further information 905-727-7262.

APRIL 23

Aurora council meets at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. If you are unable to attend the council meeting, but want to know what's going on, Aurora Cable Internet telecasts the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 24th following First Local news.

APRIL 26

Final day for nominations for Aurora's annual Community Recognition Awards. There are awards for sports, volunteerism, historical building preservation, and more. Nomination forms available at the Town Hall. Award ceremonies take place on June 6.

APRIL 27

Our Lady of Grace Parish Rummage Sale at Lynett Hall on Catherine Avenue from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you wish to donate or want more information, call Sheelagh Reynolds at 905-727-7761.

MAY 3

Deadline for nominations for Aurora's Citizen of the Year. Award is open to all citizens of the town 16 years of age and over, with the exception of members of council. Provide a brief, but detailed synopsis of the activities of the candidate that would qualify the applicant for consideration as Citizen of the Year. Mail to Citizen of the Year Award, Town of Aurora, Box 1000, Aurora, L4G 6J1.

MAY 3-5

The 40th Annual Town of Aurora Art Show and Sale takes place at the Town Hall. It's a juried show with more than 100 artists displaying about 300 artworks.

MAY 5

More than 100 clowns will entertain from 1 to 3 p.m. at Aurora Community Centre, Rink 2, courtesy of Clowns Canada. Watch for details.

MAY 8

Welcome Wagon seeks Aurora moms to attend a Baby Shower this evening. For a free invitation call 905-727-8072.

MAY 25

The Aurora Seniors' Art Group will hold their 8th Annual Art Show and Sale at the Seniors Centre from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The art exhibition is the culmination of the artists' paintings completed during the year.

SEPTEMBER 15

Long way off but this is the date for the 20th Annual Aurora Terry Fox Run. Mark this on your 2002 Calendar now. If you have questions, call Ferguson Mobbs at 905-727-8987.

Final show at theatre set to go May 3

Theatre Aurora is only weeks away from the opening of its last production of the 2001-2002 season.

"Dearly Departed" a side-splitting comedy by David Bottrell and Jessie Jones, opens Friday, May 3 for a 10-day run.

The production is directed by Bill White and Cy Buck and is produced by Norma Busby.

Following its opening, the show will run May 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, and 18.

For tickets and/or information, call the box office at 905-727-3669



Claire Rose, who plays "Dorothy" and Beau, who is "Toto", get advice from Lenard Lind during rehearsal break of The Wizard Of Oz, being presented by Elite Productions Youth Group of Aurora. The show opens at the Newmarket Theatre May 3. Lenard, owner of L.H. Lind Realty Inc. of Aurora, is a sponsor of the show that features youngsters, eight to 18, from Aurora and Newmarket. For tickets, call 905-953-5122.

YMCA may be coming to Aurora/Newmarket

A Newmarket resolution regarding the location of a YMCA in the area has been endorsed by Aurora's Leisure Services Advisory Committee.

Newmarket is willing to support the establishment of a YMCA in Aurora in a shared use facility such as a youth recreation cen-

tre or a family care centre, but would not be supportive of a full-scale facility as proposed by the YMCA.

An official from the Glenway Country Club attended the committee meeting and expressed his concerns with the YMCA moving to the

Aurora/Newmarket area.

He said Glenway is famous for its family club and is concerned that the YMCA will initiate a fundraising campaign, which will take from the public to build the facility, and all fitness clubs will lose to the YMCA.

An Aurora resident also attended the committee meeting to express her support for the YMCA

coming to the Aurora/Newmarket area as it would be beneficial to the community.

It was suggested public input be obtained and the town proceed with the proposal.

Aurora Council adopted the committee report recommending endorsement of the Newmarket resolution, on condition that no public funds be used.

George St. will have watermain replaced

The watermain replacement on George Street, south of Kennedy and Dodie, was originally tendered last year.

Only one tender was opened and the price was \$67,000 over budget. It was withdrawn and re-tendered as part of the Wenderly Drive/Iber Court project.

Although the bid from

Esposito Construction was almost \$19,000 over budget, it was still about \$41,000 less than last year's tendered price.

Council endorsed a staff recommendation that the surplus funds from the Wenderly Drive/Iber Court project be applied to the George Street project and both projects proceed.



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Traffic stopper - Members of the Aurora Legion took over part of Yonge Street last weekend for a parade as part of an Aurora-hosted District 'E' Spring Convention. Musicians and marchers paraded from Canada Law Book on Edward Street to the cenotaph on Yonge Street South, forcing traffic to squeeze into the southbound lanes.

Auroran photo by Matt Haggerty

Jasper Drive reconstruction could become election issue

Wayne Bando, a long time resident of Aurora and a former municipal engineer with York Region and other area municipalities appeared before council for the sixth time last week to oppose the construction of the Tecumseh Drive/Jasper Drive intersection and the design for Jasper reconstruction.

He listed the various meetings he had attended dating

back to January 22 and said he was disappointed no action had been taken.

He added that the proposed design was neither feasible nor economical.

At one of the previous meetings, Bando told council members there were turning conflicts at the intersection.

However, in a staff review, consultants reported that the design meets all appli-

cable codes and standards in terms of roadway geometry and safety, and the design had been developed to be both economical and functional.

Bando noted that the report admitted a safety concern existed at the intersection with vehicles cutting the corner because of the angle of the intersection between the two roads, "possibly creating a safety concern for a vehicle sitting at the stop sign on Jasper".

When advised by Mayor Tim Jones that the issue was closed as the tender for the reconstruction had been awarded, Bando replied that the dispute could become an election issue.

Two more streets to be reconstructed

Residents of Wenderly Drive and Iber Court can expect some inconvenience in the coming months as a tender has been awarded for the reconstruction of both roadways.

The project consists of complete reconstruction including the removal of existing ditches and the construction of curbs, storm sewers and the installation of a new water-main.

Residents were provided with three options, including full urban design (curbs and sidewalks), semi-urban design (curbs without sidewalks), and semi-rural design (ditches without curb or sidewalk).

In a survey as to the preferable option, 62 per cent of the residents selected the semi-urban design. An open house for residents was also held.

Staff reported to council that the public consultation process led to a design that is both functional and responsive to the wishes of the residents.

The roadways will be eight metres or 26.2 feet wide, which will provide on-street parking on one side of the road. The existing road width is 6.7 metres or 22 feet.

Seven bids were received for the project ranging from a low of \$556,340.40 to a high of \$718,486.80 with the contract being awarded to Esposito Brothers

Construction, the low bidder.

The project is below the estimated budget by \$18,244.81.

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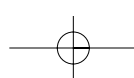
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Poor Richard

People should be more important than automobiles

*Putting people before cars,
Is an objective for which to aim;
But it doesn't seem to happen,
Causing pedestrians much pain!*

Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Wide swaths of Aurora have been lost to urban sprawl, dating back to the late 1950s and early 1960s when Aurora's population doubled almost overnight with the development of Regency Acres and Aurora Heights subdivisions.

There was little or no planning at that time.

Like Topsy, neighbourhoods just grew.

Houses were selling for \$12,999 and \$13,999 and as it was the days of the Cold War; you could have a bomb shelter built in the basement for another \$1,000.

Today, even with sophisticated planning available, Aurora is still losing wide swaths of land to urban sprawl.

Just look at the rape of the land and the density of the residential development in the Bayview Wellington area.

Bayview Avenue at one time was the urban boundary for development. The area east of Bayview was to be left rural and for agricultural purposes.

The boundary was breached due to the Magna head office development for "economic reasons".

Once breached, it was impossible to hold back the torrent of development

Currently the planning department is dealing with 69 applications for various types of commercial, industrial and residential development.

These include about 25 applications for almost 5,000 residential units and four applications to rezone rural land for urban uses.

In spite of council's desire to make neighbourhoods more pedestrian friendly little is achieved, as the developer calls the shots.

In some cases, such as Bayview Wellington, council gave the store away, even rezoning scarce industrial land to residential to please the developer.

In other cases, it's the threat of an expensive Ontario Municipal Board hearing if council should fail to accede to the developer's requests.

With the Harris Tory government's amendment to the Planning Act, a developer can go directly to the OMB if the council fails to make a decision within 90 days.

In a perfect world, municipalities wouldn't have to consider the classic type subdivision of dead-end streets and thrust garages, so that the first thing a person saw wasn't the garage.

Wouldn't it be nice if garages had to be set back flush with the face wall of the house and not cover more than 50 per cent of the width of the house, but developers had difficulty selling units with one-car garages, so they often got their way.

Let's face it, the compelling reason the development industry does things the way they do is because it's easiest and most profitable for them.

They also resist mixed usage zoning where people live, work and play in the same area.

The traditional approach to subdivision development, as a costly and unsustainable arrangement that suits no one but the developer must be abandoned and planners must be creative in developing pedestrian friendly neighbourhoods that put people before cars.

On the car float

We knew it would be difficult and several callers agreed.

Any three of the five ladies making up the Aurora Centennial automobile float on these pages two weeks ago could not be identified.

Oh sure, everyone knew Betty Pedersen and Annabel Black, but the other three, all since moved away, were a little more difficult to identify.

So, for your information, they were Hazel Horlock, standing on the running board; Dilly Lambert, beside Annabel, and Pat Melhuish, sitting on the fender.



CASE'S ACES

We can only assume that because there are nine guys representing Case's Aces that the team is either baseball or softball. And we know they've won something because the guy in the middle is holding a trophy. Making up the team, according to the back of the photograph are, left to right,

Pete Preston, Dube Dennis, Morley Cook, Harold Botham, Charlie Case (holding the trophy), Andy Lloyd, Art Kerr, Roy Smith and Ewart Jennings. The photo was taken in the Town Park in the early 1940s, and any additional information would be welcomed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

Will someone please explain hydro to me?

To the editor,

I need this hydro sell-off explained to me.

Let me see if I have some of the facts straight. I hear that Ontario Hydro is in debt.

I am sure that somebody has explained this somewhere, but I just cannot remember exactly what was said.

It seems that this public utility, owned by us, was not charging us enough money for the privilege of reliable, cheap electricity. So now the government is selling off our public utility.

Hydro will be sold off to competing providers to create competition. Because competition, they tell me, will lower prices. Why? How does that happen?

Something will have to be cut to be cheaper! Will it be safety measures that cost much to monitor and keep current and viable? Will it be the workers who will not be paid as much and therefore most likely less qualified? Will it be the amount of electricity that is delivered?

But that still does not address the issue of the debt. It will still be there. Or does it just go away? Not likely.

So these companies are going to up the rates to pay off the debt. To which they must be significantly adding already as each company tries to lure us to them.

So it seems that no mat-

ter what, we are going to have to pay the piper at the end of the day.

So why can we not just pay the higher prices to Ontario Hydro until we are out of debt? Why does it need to be sold off to accomplish this?

We need to hire a high-priced CEO to fix the problems, pay off the debt and then run the company to

benefit the shareholders, not private companies.

And if we want to run the company at a deficit and give us cut-rates on our electricity then I think we should have that privilege.

And if we want to use any profits for development and research for cleaner and more efficient sources of energy then that is what we should do, not give divi-

dends to private companies.

So there lies the challenge. Who can explain how this privatization is really going to benefit us?

Maybe someone in the government could take on this task.

I look forward to a decent reply.

Ildi Connor
Aurora

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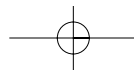
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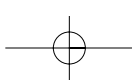
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Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number (phone number will not be published). Requests that a name be withheld will be honoured only if there is a compelling reason to do so. Errors will be corrected if brought to the editor's attention. We reserve the right to edit or refuse publication of any material submitted. All letters to the editor not to exceed 300 words. All contents protected by copyright.

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Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

Go ahead, ask them anything

Here's a bit more about a new service in town located just through the front doors of the Aurora Town Hall.

INFO AURORA is a non-profit volunteer group that assists residents from the front counter on the main floor of the Town Hall.

Led by the enthusiasm of Rosemary Park of Aurora Family Connections, a presentation was made to Aurora Council late last year regarding the merits of such a service.

Aurora Family Connections - INFO AURORA - came into being through a resolution passed at the December 11 Council meeting.

The resolution read, "that the Town enter into an agreement with Aurora Family Connections to establish a reception centre at the Town Hall entitled 'Aurora Community Information', in order to provide a community information and referral service to all residents of the Town."

Council has signed a voluntary services contract with Aurora Family Connections to be a one stop source of up to date information through their volunteers who are trained and prepared to find the answers to all your questions.

Whether inquiries have to do with Aurora community activities, town services, regional events or services, social services, health or general government, these volunteers are ready to assist.

They will give assistance in person or over the phone and have access to on line data.

They will also assist those in need of a blue box for recycling and they ensure that all information flyers on all local services are kept up to date and in good supply.

Their hours of operation are similar to the Town Hall, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

As this is a new service, new volunteers are always welcome.

Recently, I was approached by one of the volunteers who was telling me about some of the more unusual questions that they have had to address so far.

They included:

- "does the Town have any shredded paper that the inquirer could use for their cat litter box?" (the answer was we did not)
- "Do residents have to crush cans for the recycle bin?" (No, you don't have to)
- "I need to be fingerprinted - where do I go?"
- "Do you have a knife to cut a cake?" (One was found)
- "I'm looking for a sewing class in Aurora" (options were given out)
- "Can I hang my paintings at the Town Hall?" (Currently the Town has an agreement with the Society of York Region Artists)
- "Who owns the caboose at Bayview and Wellington?" (the property owner does)
- "could you please suggest a place in Aurora to get married other than a church?"
- My car was not repaired properly, who can I complain to?"

Other questions ranged from employment opportunities, paying tickets, lost and found, dog training and dog licenses, housing, garbage pick up for large items, maps, the list seemed endless.

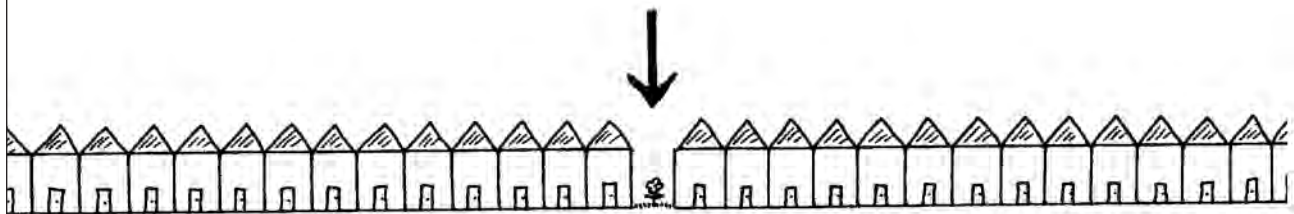
In visiting these volunteers for just a short time, I can see they are kept busy.

INFO AURORA keeps all residents up to speed with all that goes on in our Town - it's a great partnership and we thank all the volunteers for the great work they do.

If you see something in this column that you wish to respond to, I welcome your comments, either through the paper, to the Town Hall by mail - Box 1000, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 6J1 or e-mail at tjones@town.aurora.on.ca

Machell's Corners

An "Auroran" Quiz



This is:

- (A) The site of the first flower of spring
- (B) A developer's definition of "buffer space"
- (C) Soon to be rezoned to "residential: multi-unit"
- (D) All of the above

©SCOTT JOHNSTON

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

Memories of a coronation

To the editor,

When I watched the television coverage of the preparations and then the funeral for the Queen Mother in England this week, it reminded me of when I (age 10) went with my cousin and Great Aunt Renee to camp on the sidewalk overnight for the coronation of her daughter, Elizabeth II.

We took the bus to the mall that leads down to Buckingham Palace, armed with egg sandwiches and a flask of coffee, and staked out our spot on

the sidewalk.

There were no hot dog stands or fast foods in those days.

We chatted with the people around us who were gathering fast.

It became quite crowded and you had to position yourself carefully.

There was a group of scouts beside us and one of them offered to sit back to back with me for support that I shyly accepted.

There was an incredible feeling of excitement and solidarity amongst the crowd.

A road sweeper pushing a

cart along that grand road for the final cleanup was cheered enthusiastically, as was anyone who ventured down the mall that night.

In the park alongside, vast tents were set up for toilets with mere flaps of canvas for privacy.

If you took too long, two huge Eastenders would tip the flap back to see what you were up to.

At 11 p.m., a policeman came along to tell us we would have to stand to make room for more people.

At midnight he came back with reinforcements to

make sure we did.

Never having been able to stand for any length of time we had to leave the throng and journey back to my cousin's where, after a fitful few hours sharing her narrow bed, we watched the ceremony on a small back and white television set.

In spite of missing the procession live, I still would choose to spend those six hours in the crowd, aware even at that young age of being a part of history in the making.

Dierdre Tomlinson
Aurora

Advertising is evident in this Auroran column

The following letter was addressed to Auroran writer Dick Illingworth.

Thanks for taking a moment to listen to my concern re advertising in your column. I spoke with you at the Oak Ridges Market.

For you to run, two weeks in a row, mention of certain Royal LePage agents who received company awards for sales is very close to you and The Auroran endorsing Royal LePage above all other agents in town.

The mention is so close to being a free advertisement that I wonder if any company in town could ask for a similar reference.

Your B & B column is on safer ground when it commends charities and volunteer workers, or retailers/manufacturers who contribute a service/product to a worthy cause.

If you are going to single out one specific commer-

cial venture because its employees just happened to do their job well then every business in town should have the same chance.

You say you 'just happened to pick up the news' and passed it on.

How would you react if you heard that Madame Fifi's House of Lust in Aurora has commended Agile Angie who simultaneously pleased four men while reading Hansard at the same time? Would you print this commendation from Fifi's House of Lust, or would you criticize Agile Angie for her choice of Canadian fiction?

Extreme, perhaps.

Please draw a clear line between giving credit to community members where credit is due, and crass commercial advertising.

Enjoy your column.

Douglas Higgins
Aurora

ED. NOTE: The author is shooting at the wrong target. Everything submitted to The Auroran is subject to the editor's discretion. The editor decides whether it stays or goes. However, the author makes a good point, and it is a tough call. In one form or another, everything comes down to "crass commercial adver-

tising", (even Letters to the Editor, because Royal LePage gets another free plug). If we held strictly to the rule, there would be no community news. Interesting that the author considers Hansard to be Canadian fiction; on the other hand, after watching some parliamentary proceedings, he could be right.

Students lose but Bill wins

To the editor,

It is nice to see Bill Hogarth doing so well with an increase of \$32,000 over the last two years.

Perhaps he would like to donate some of this to the students who lost \$200 each because of his policy of no school trips involving flying until next September.

These trips could have been rebooked up until August of this year but the board will not allow any until September.


It is interesting to note that Wellington County school trips went ahead as usual for the March Break.


Keith Wolfe
Aurora


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Bouquets & Brickbats


BY DICK ILLINGWORTH


 BOUQUETS to Eugenie's Hair Care of Aurora for pampering their clients with proceeds going to the Canadian Diabetes Association, York Region Branch. A unique skin analysis clinic was held recently with trained technicians introducing a new European magnifying machine, which uses special lighting to detect signs of premature aging and a variety of other skin conditions.

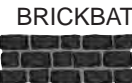
 BOUQUETS to Aurora artists Mary Cromarty, Vera Worling and Dorothy Clark McClure on being successful in having their work accepted in the juried Colour and Form Society 50th Anniversary Exhibition at the Art Gallery of Mississauga until May 24th. McClure was also accepted in the Latham Public Gallery Juried Exhibition in Stouffville until May 5th.


 BOUQUETS to Bill Hogarth, Director of Education for the York Region District School Board, on being named 2002 Educator of the Year by the University of Toronto chapter of Phi Delta Kappa International. Hogarth has worked in education for more than 30 years, the past seven with the York board.


 BOUQUETS to the management and staff of Aurora's Hock Shop on Allaura Blvd. on making a donation of a new television/VCR combo to the Yellow Brick House.


 BRICKBATS to those in Canada's prison system for paying out \$60 million a year to a jailhouse industry that pays inmates up to \$700 a week, more than some of the guards earn. The private sector agency is supposed to help prepare offenders for release. It's a worthy objective, but \$700 a week? Almost worth committing a crime!

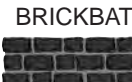
 BOUQUETS to Bill van Oorschot, an Aurora SOYRA member for taking the time and trouble to respond to some of Poor Richard's comments about SOYRA and the Aurora Art Show and Sale. A couple of corrections, Poor Richard has always advocated the pictures of former reeves and mayors remain outside the council chambers and the town's permanent art collection be on display in a prominent place in the Town Hall. We disagree on who made the decision regarding the location of the 2002 Art Show, but then it would be a dull world if we all agreed.

 BRICKBATS to those in the automotive and TV advertising industries for continually showing cars travelling at tremendous speeds and doing things that safe drivers would never do. The ads set a bad example for youthful drivers. It may be safe in TV ads, but car engines are much too powerful for Canadian highways!

 BRICKBATS to the petroleum industry, especially the Petro Canada station at Yonge and Aurora Heights Drive for raising the price of gasoline five cents a litre at 8 p.m. on a Monday, in the time it took a motorist to drive from Yonge Street to the pumps. When the motorist entered the lot, the price was 64.9 cents per litre. When he turned on the pump, it was 69.9. Definitely false advertising that borders on fraud.

 BOUQUETS to the Pine Tree Potters of Aurora for their donation of \$600 to the Aurora Food Pantry. The Potters raises funds at their spring and fall sales to support local charities. The town has recognized the group for more than 25 years of community service

 BOUQUETS to Jonathan's Fine Foods on their 13th anniversary in Aurora. Citizens were invited to drop in for a customer appreciation event featuring hospitality and entertainment including Spanish guitar music with the two musicians circulating among the tables.

 BRICKBATS to some members of York Regional council, especially Vaughan Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio who refused to shut up after the regional chairman had ruled her out of order. Regional council needs a Sergeant-At-Arms to evict unruly members.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

Coach Mike made me a better person, young player says

To the editor,

Four years ago I met coach Mike. My first impression of coach Mike was a happy, go lucky man who had a great passion for the game of hockey.

Two years ago I heard that coach Mike was going to be coaching the Select team for my age. I tried out for the team and was lucky enough to be picked.

We had a very successful year, but that is not what I remember most. It was the big slap on the back at the end of each game, win or lose.

He never loses his temper with the team, and

always talks it out with both the player and the parents.

The following year the new players who joined our team were welcomed and made to feel that they were part of it right from the start

The season is now over and we had a great year.

I wanted to write this article about Coach Mike Souminen, not to brag, but to let everyone know that any kid growing up could not ask for a nicer, more fun and understanding person than Coach Mike.

He has not only made us better players but he has made me a better person.

Thank you, coach, for all your time and energy that you have put into my self-development and I will always have a special

place in my heart for you.

Ryan Crockett
Aurora Minor
Select Team player



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Valhalla Plaza - Across from the Howard Johnson Hotel
905-841-8097

Don't
Forget,
We Cater

Everyone pitched in to help my daughter

To the editor,

I would like to sincerely thank all the people who came to our assistance when my three-year-old daughter was having a seizure at Sobey's at Yonge and Wellington, Friday, April 12, at 5.30 p.m.

Needless to say, it was an urgent emergency and I was panicked.

I would like to especially thank the kind woman who was a nurse and came forward to help until the paramedics arrived.

I don't remember your name and I can't even remember your kind face - it was all such a blur.

But I do remember you helping my daughter and telling me to calm down.

I would also like to thank Margaret who helped me contact my husband.

You came forward when I needed your help so that I could focus on my daughter instead of the phone.

Thank you also to the kind woman who stayed with my six-year-old daughter during the confusion. Your gentle words comforted her when she was scared.

Thanks to the store manager, Mr. Fellin, and his staff.

Thank you to the paramedics and the ambulance driver who joked with my six-year-old during the time to the hospital.

I'm pleased to report that our little one is feeling better and under the doctor's care.

The citizens of Aurora and others really came forward to help. Your concern and empathy are greatly appreciated.

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank you all from the bottom

of my heart.

Helen Sgromo
Aurora

We Were Wrong!!!

For months, we have been telling our customers that Jean Auel would never write the fifth book in the Earth's Children series.

We Were Wrong!!!

At the end of April, Shelters of Stone - Book 5 - will arrive in our store. It will continue the series, which has been dormant for more than a decade.

Just to refresh your, memory, the first four titles in the series are Clan of the Cave Bear, Valley of the Horses, Mammoth Hunters and Plains of Passage.

We're Sorry!!!

And to make it up to you, we'll offer a 20% discount off the \$44.95 list price if you order the book in advance. Drop in or give us a call.

R&R Book Bar
Aurora Shopping Centre
905-727-3300



Eye To Eye: In order for Aurora Chamber of Commerce president Ian Johnson to look into the eye of 6 foot, 8 inch Glen Grunwald, he needed to launch himself up a foot or two. So that's what he did and was able to thank the vice president and general manager of the Toronto Raptors for being guest speaker at a Chamber luncheon last week.

Auroran photo by Matt Haggerty

Thompsons Monuments
paste-up
2x35

Graystones
Aurora

Saturday Night Fever
The Hottest Hits of the
70'S 80'S 90'S

OPENING NIGHT
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9 p.m.

York Region's
Only 30 + Dance Club
Every Saturday Night

14889 YONGE STREET, AURORA

Tigers don't need ice deck, but next year, who knows?

Back in 1997 the Aurora Tigers Junior A hockey team had a very successful year and required the ice at the Community Centre for a series of play-off games, well past the normal season.

There was a problem at the Community Centre as the Aurora Chamber of Commerce had booked it for their annual Home Show, which required the

ice to be removed.

Staff was directed to report on alternate means to cover the ice.

At that time ice decks to fit the ice surface of the Community Centre could not be located and there wasn't enough time to build an ice deck.

It resulted in the Tigers having to play their home games in other locations.

This year, it appeared the

same problem might occur as the Tigers defeated the Newmarket Hurricanes in the Northern Division and advanced to the next series against Brampton.

If the Tigers had won that series to advance to the next level, a conflict with the Home Show would have existed.

Staff prepared contingency plans and made arrangements with


Newmarket to rent an ice deck, which is two layers of plywood with insulation sandwiched between the layers.

The floor is assembled like a jigsaw puzzle and fits snug to the rink boards.

The deck wasn't required as Brampton defeated the Tigers. However, staff was directed to come up with a permanent solution for future years.

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8 - The AURORAN, Week of April 16, 2002

Aurora Rotary Club &

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present

An afternoon of laughs

Sunday, May 5

Aurora Community Centre

1 to 3 p.m.

Hey kids!!: More than 100 clowns will entertain you for two hours, with a special show and free face painting. If you take the coupon below to the R & R Book Bar you will receive 50% off the \$2 price of admission. Adult admission - Aurora Food Pantry donation



Save \$1 with this coupon

Take it to the R & R Book Bar and have it authorized. You'll save a buck and see the funniest show in town



Runners, hundreds of them, take off from the starting line in front of Wells Street School early

Sunday morning for the start of the first Bob Hartwell Runner's Challenge. Organizers hint

the highly-successful half marathon could become an annual event.

First runner's challenge draws huge crowd

from page 1

Organization of the project was immense, and if there were any problems, organizers weren't sharing them with the public. Behind the success of the event were these people: Dr. David Ashley, John Cappelletti, Fred Defina,

Tony Demeis, Christine Gardner, Dianne and David Pearson and John Posca. And the Community Safety Village of York Region will be the benefactor when the final tallies are in. While the event attracted runners from as far away as

British Columbia, Aurora competitors shone in the final analysis. Aurora's Nick Tsiorus, a teacher at St. Andrew's College, won the half marathon in 1:14:43, while Aurora's Patty Davidson was the top female in the same event with a time of

1:31:37. In the two-person relay, Aurorans Chris Williams and Matt Cameron were second, across the finish line in 1:21:46. Even Aurora Mayor Tim Jones did well. He started out leading the large group of competitors in the three-kilometer Friendship Walk, and finished "among the first", according to organizers.

Organizers brought in celebrities, including Canada's top marathon runner in the 1990s, Peter Fonseca, who acted as guest announcer. Ed Whitlock was there. He has three official world

track records. And Canadian Sports Hall of Famer, Marnie McBean, from Canada's national rowing team, was also in attendance. Second Annual? We await the announcement.



Armed with a map to show the way, Aurora Mayor Tim Jones, (white sweater) reads his troops prior to the start of the three kilometer Friendship Walk, as part of the Bob Hartwell Runner's Challenge.



Soup's On - It was a chilly Sunday morning, so the people from Pure Pizza took care of that...they served soup. Sue Blasaik, left, Patrick Galante and Derek Piffer prepare the broth prior to the start of the marathon.



Part of the huge crowd of competitors listens intently as race instructions are given by guest announcer Peter Fonseca, Canada's top marathon runner during the 1990s. He was one of several special guests in attendance.

Carrying a map so he wouldn't get lost, Jones led his contingent through the streets of Aurora, and back to the Town Park, setting up times for others in the future to break. "Shouldn't be too difficult," he conceded. The overwhelming emotion as the event finally got to the starting line was too much for Dianne Pearson - herself a Boston Marathon veteran - who broke down in tears when she realized how successful Aurora's race was going to be. "Bob Hartwell would definitely be pleased with this," she said. "What a wonderful tribute to Bob and to this town. "It's a day like today that makes me, personally, appreciate how lucky I've been, able to live and raise a family in Aurora."

The organization was covered down to the last detail. A night earlier, a pasta dinner had been arranged at Trinity Anglican Church, and it sold out. On race day, registration desks had been set up inside Wells Street Public School, several commercial enterprises had displays on the street, and an Aurora based band - Soul Grind - entertained from the stage of Aurora's brand new bandshell. Members of the band - all from Cardinal Carter High School - are A.J. Sanderson, Dan Roth, Adrian Vanelli and Andrew Rosalowsky.

Auroran photos by Matt Haggerty and Ron Wallace



Flashing the victory sign even before he started running, Wilson Hoo limbers up using a post on Wells Street.



Pasta Preparation - Enjoying a pasta dinner the night before the big race, Aurora's Chris Williams ties into his meal. Obviously it worked. He was second in the two-person relay.