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Vol. 3 No. 47 Week of September 23, 2003 905-727-3300



Driver Centre irks neighbours

Legislation transferring the testing of new drivers to the private sector with an aim of reducing lengthy waiting lists is causing trouble in Aurora.

Mayor Tim Jones said last week the private operator, Drive Test, had opened an office in the Aurora Village Plaza on Henderson Drive and citizens were complaining about increased traffic and cars parked all over the place, including in fire routes.

He gained council consent for

staff to investigate the zoning and other aspects pertaining to the location of the examination centre.

Meanwhile, a copy of a letter received by the mayor from the Aurora Village Co-op, located behind the plaza, levels a formal complaint against the plaza because of the operation.

"Since the Driver Examination Centre opened two weeks ago, most of our members have taken to shopping elsewhere because of the many problems they are encountering," the letter, signed by Co-op Manager Colleen Ewart, said.

Pointing out the size of the small plaza, Ewart noted, "to put a Driver Examination Centre in such a location defies understanding".

"There was obviously no thought given to the impact this Driver Exam Centre would have on the residents of this area, nor was any thought given to the store owners and the revenue loss they were sure to incur," she said. "The Co-op is committed to continuing the fight to have the Centre removed to another area of town."



More than 330 Rotarians invaded Aurora Sunday to participate in a highly successful Foundation Walk, which raises funds to fight polio. Above, members of the Toronto Rotary Club take a break in Aurora's Rotary Park on Gurnett St. during their walk through the downtown core. They are Michele Guy and John Andras, seated; and standing, left to right, John Lloyd, James Chubb and Geoffrey Johnson. Inset, members of the Campbellford Rotary Club enjoy lunch in the Town Park. Of the 56 clubs in District 7070, 51 had representatives at the event.

Auroran photos by Ron Wallace

Briefly

Architecture Week

The Aurora Museum will mark Architecture Week in Ontario with a twilight stroll through part of old Aurora.

John McIntyre will lead the walk from the parkette at Yonge and Catherine Streets Friday, Oct. 3, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The walk will end with refreshments at Hillary House.

For more information call (905) 727-8991.

Complex generates ideas

More than 125 enthusiastic sports supporters and interested citizens attended the Public Open House recently to hear details for the proposed recreation complex planned for Wellington Street, west of Leslie Street.

Director of Leisure Services Al Downey said the project had been a lengthy process starting with a review of the recreation and cultural master plan.

Several options were presented

to council both for a new facility and the expansion of existing facilities. Council identified additional ice pads, a pool, youth centre and a senior centre as top priorities.

Council first approved the purchase of an 89-acre property on Leslie Street for \$4.2 million, but as it wasn't serviced, an offer to purchase was made for a 32-acre parcel on Wellington Street East for approximately \$5 million.

While there was general agree-

ment additional facilities were needed, there was a wide difference of opinion as to the facilities the complex should provide, both within the building and on the playing fields in the parkland surrounding the complex.

The differences may prove difficult for council members to decide what facilities can be provided at a price the taxpayers can afford, especially in an election year.

Please see page 8



Hartman building soon to be history

At one time the intersection of Bayview Avenue and Wellington Street East was known as Hartman Corners and the little one-storey building on the northeast corner was known as Hartman Public School in Whitchurch Township.

When the county school board was formed in 1969, the school was closed and the building taken over by the school board as a maintenance depot.

Now with the march of development, the old schoolhouse, which apparently is not the origi-

nal building, is to be demolished.

Aurora historian John McIntyre said some care was taken installing a date stone on the west wall of the building, which verifies the existence of the original school.

"It might be worthwhile saving that," he said, and noted some other original material may be included in the existing building.

Once the developer gets through with the area, no one will ever know where the school was.

Please see page 11



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

Farmers' Market, Temperance Street parking lot, every Saturday through Thanksgiving weekend 8 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. Contact Nigel Kean at 905-841-6776.

Gamblers Anonymous, every Tuesday night, Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street, 7.30 p.m.

Queen's York Rangers Army Cadet Corps camping, canoeing, first aid, orienteering in two to six week camps for males & females 12 to 18. Call 905-726-8600.

Co-Dependents Anonymous, every Tuesday, Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge Street, Aurora. 7.30 p.m.

"Helping Hands" gently used clothing for women and children at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria St. every Mon. Wed. & Fri. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. For more info, call 905-727-6101.

SEPTEMBER 24

Ten-week fall session of Pots & Pins begins. Young people, 10 to 15, can learn how to cook or sew and eat three-course meals once a week at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall, Mosley & Victoria Sts., at 3:45 p.m. Wednesdays. Registration, limited to 25, is \$20. Forms available at the church office Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings. More information, call 905-727-5011.

Young Drivers of Canada seminar, 15213 Yonge Street, Unit 1, Aurora. 7 - 9.30 p.m. To reserve, call 905-726-4132.

Towns of York Toastmasters Club humorous speech contest, Aurora Legion, 7 - 9 p.m. For further information, call Matt Clulow, 905-830-3618 or Roy Bannon, 905-853-0859.

SEPTEMBER 25

Blood Donor Clinic, Aurora Legion, 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 26

Aurora Legion Fish Fry, 6 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 27

Wesley United Church, Woodbine and the Aurora Sideroad, annual Applefest. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Further information, call Jean Stroud, 905-841-1490.

SEPTEMBER 28

The second annual 3 km Pet and People Walk in support of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation starts at 2 p.m. at the Community Centre and walks through the residential area of northwest Aurora ending at Machell Park. To register call 905-713-2323.

Aurora Legion open euchre. Registration, 12.30 p.m. Games begin at 1 p.m.

OCTOBER 17

Aurora Legion hosts "Legends Revisited". 8 p.m.

OCTOBER 24

The Town of Aurora and the Aurora Chamber of Commerce sponsor the Business Achievement Awards "Celebrating Success" at the Kingbridge Centre in King. Guest speaker is former NHL player Dennis Hull. Call the Chamber at 905-727-7262 for ticket and further information.

OCTOBER 24-25

Aurora United Church 19th annual Fall Event & Silent Auction at the church, 15186 Yonge Street. Friday, 11 a.m.

to 9 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

OCTOBER 25

Wells Street School annual Fall Fair. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

OCTOBER 26

Girls Incorporated will hold their 24th annual Thrill on the Hill walk-a-thon fundraiser with a three kilometre hike and a five kilometre and 10 kilometre walk/run. Volunteers are needed to assist in organizing the event. Call 905-727-4897 for further information.

OCTOBER 30

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Electionfest. Tuscany Banquet Centre. 7 p.m.

NOVEMBER 8

Eleventh annual "In Harmony With The Community" music concert, hosted by The York Regional Police Male Chorus, at the St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 17955 Leslie Street, Newmarket, at 7:30 p.m. Music by police choruses from York, Halton, Ontario Provincial Police, Hamilton Police Ladies Choir, and the Harmony Chorale from Newmarket. Tickets \$10. Contact any member of the YRPMC or call (905) 727-9676 to order in advance.

NOVEMBER 10

Municipal election day.

Re-elect



**Damir Vrancic
to
Aurora Council**

Authorized by the C.F.O. to re-elect Damir Vrancic

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The combatants met on Aurora soil Thursday night as the battle for the Vaughan-King-Aurora seat in the provincial government continues. This all-candidates meeting, organized by John West, rear, drew a standing-room only crowd. Participating were, left to right, Carmine Iacono, Progressive Conservative; Adrian Visentin, Green Party; West; Greg Sorbara, Liberal; and Mike Seaward, New Democratic Party. Election is Oct. 2.

Council in circles over street name

When is a circle not a circle?
Aurora Councillor Nigel Kean maintains that a proposed street name - Championship Circle - will be placed on a street that doesn't go in a circle. He introduced the issue at last Tuesday's general committee meeting, and set off a debate over a proposed road that doesn't do what its name implies.

Gate, Jumper Drive and Championship Circle.
Councillor Kean said the report was flawed when he noted Championship Circle was not a circle and may prove confusing to firefighters and others. Other members of council said the names made sense based on the history of the property. However, to avoid any possible confusion it was

suggested that a word be added after Circle such as "Place".
Staff was requested to check with the developer for comments prior to the committee report coming to council this week. A second request for the naming of a street was approved without comment. Magna Drive will become "Stronach Boulevard".

Area in question is the Elderberry Hill Farm development off Yonge Street in the south end of Aurora.
In accordance with a town policy, developers have the option of requesting specific street names for proposed new developments, subject to clearance from the regional planning department, acceptance by the fire department and approval by council, or select names from the town's name bank.
The Elderberry Hill developers rejected the names in the bank and submitted three of their own.
Jim Elder, the original owner of the property and a long-time member of the Canadian Equestrian Team and Gold Medal winner at the Olympics, suggested the names, Gold Medal

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YONGE ST. & MURRAY DRIVE • AURORA



Poor Richard

Letters to the Editor

Musings from a council meeting

To the editor,

I was trying to make sense of what I thought I'd heard at a council meeting. I wasn't sure because the sound system is a hunk-a-junk. I have to sit at the back because my knees press against a carpet-covered concrete wall in the spectator benches. That's what happens when you tell a contractor he has to produce a certain product within a certain price.

He does it, and it looks fine, it's only when you have to use it you discover the shortcomings.

At the meeting a recommendation had been made to award a contract for \$305,000. Councillor Timpson made the recommendation. Somebody asked who was on the committee. That puzzled me. How could council, whose job it is to approve the membership of any committee, not know the membership.

Next comment: how could a tender be called for a consultant without council having approved the terms of reference? This was for a firm to plan the new sports complex on Wellington Street.

Answer: all the information is in the councillor's room.

I didn't think that was an acceptable answer. I had to phone the next day to clarify the situation.

It seems council authorized staff to prepare terms of reference and advertise the contract. Relevant department heads had a meeting and invited councillors to attend. Only one did. And he got to present the recommendation that the contract go to the highest bidder.

This is not like any procedure I am familiar with. In the first place summer is not the time to try to accomplish anything much. Some councillors have families, jobs, businesses. No council I ever knew tried to get a consensus on anything in the summer. That's what's so weird about all this effort to commit the town to these expensive projects, at the last gasp of an outgoing council.

The final decision at that meeting was not to award the contract, but to defer it until there had been some negotiation.

It got me thinking about the new seniors' centre. It now seems the seniors are not going to have exclusive use of the new facility. A couple of weeks ago, Councillor McEachern said she had

heard the seniors were going to be sharing the space. The mayor acknowledged this was true; they would be sharing with groups with "similar interests". The councillor had heard it on the grapevine.

Now, according to Brian Warburton's letter a few weeks ago, the seniors are divided about the merits of waiting years for a larger facility. I'm betting the assurance of exclusive use was an important part of the persuasion to wait.

Like the theatre group, seniors have expensive items to care for, like a billiard table and computers. They cannot be left out to be used or abused by anybody and everybody. And they cannot be locked up in a cupboard for protection.

Seniors use their space mainly in the daytime. There was a time when they closed up shop completely in the summer.

Future generations of seniors do not swell the numbers...they keep them constant. That's the nature of things. Neither can current seniors imagine how future seniors will choose to occupy their leisure hours.

There never was any practicality in the con-

struction of 14,000 square feet of space, three times their current accommodation. That they should be squeezed into their current space for another several years was equally ridiculous. One of the members remarked to me on the night of the first presentation, "I know I won't be alive to see it" It was not a lament. It was just a statement of reality.

On another subject, the library is closed three evenings a week...all day Monday and open four hours on Sunday for six months of the year. We built a \$12 million building for 48.5 hours service in the summer and 52.5 hours from September to May.

How can we justify that expenditure, heat it, cool it, provide care and maintenance for it and use it for those few hours of every week? Council believes we cannot afford to provide additional hours of service at the library, so why are they so sure another building of 14,000 square feet is perfectly within our means?

It's all a mystery to me. And I am not exactly a disinterested observer.

**Evelyn Buck
Aurora**

Why would anyone want to be a trustee?

Why do we elect school trustees, Is a question you might well ask; Is it just to hear all the complaints, To save the province from the task?

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

The municipal election on November 10th is taking a back seat in public interest and press coverage due to the provincial election, especially for school trustees.

For Aurora, both incumbents will be seeking a return to office.

Both King/Aurora Trustee Sue Plamondon of the York Region District School Board and King/Aurora/Whitchurch-Stouffville Trustee Elizabeth Crowe of the York Catholic District School Board have registered.

Although the York Region District School Board seat is being challenged by a King City resident, new candidates are conspicuous by their absence and who can blame them?

They are expected to represent one or more municipalities in a fast-growing region, for the sum of \$5,000 per year, but must deal with class sizes, school boundaries and bus transportation, which receive the most complaints.

Consider their duties to Aurora Hydro commissioners who receive \$5,000 per year plus \$400 per meeting, without having to be elected, and whose duties are much less onerous.

Incumbents and candidates seeking election on November 10th could be in for a rough time, as parents are unhappy with class sizes, school boundaries and transportation, plus other issues.

The question of school boundaries in Aurora was a hot issue in early 2002.

The board was reworking boundaries for the town's elementary schools to best meet school capacity, as some schools were operating above capacity and others below.

Parents claimed they had trouble obtaining information, as the local trustee had not attended the public meetings.

The issue was so hot it was brought to Aurora Council.

In spite of warnings from Councillor George Timpson, a former school teacher, that council should not become involved in school board issues, council asked the board to delay any changes for a year, following full consultation with the parents.

Also of concern for parents was the bussing of students, especially in kindergarten and the junior elementary grades, to a school outside their local area.

Trustees were caught between a rock and a hard place as the province's new funding formula did not provide grants to build new schools or additions to existing schools, if there were vacant pupil places in other schools within the municipality, regardless of location.

One of the major complaints from the parents was the lack of information and consultation, before decisions were made.

As a result of the many complaints, a task force was struck to deal with the parents' concerns.

To the best of memory, a compromise was reached by which some junior grades were moved from Highview and Regency Acres Public Schools to George Street and Aurora Senior Public Schools, which were under utilized.

Parents were assured the move would be in the best interests of the students as they would be in smaller classes, more in keeping with provincial guidelines.

The problem of class sizes has continued over the years and became worse with the Harris government's new funding formula.

Trustees blame the province for lack of adequate funding, while provincial politicians claim class size is a school board responsibility.

In spite of the board's promises of smaller class sizes with the move of the junior classes, when students returned to school this month, some found they were in a class with as many as 36 students.

This, in spite of a provincial ruling of a board-wide maximum class size of 24 at the elementary level.

While school trustees have fewer responsibilities now, they still have a duty to represent their constituents, which doesn't appear to be happening.

With both a provincial and a municipal election, this is a good time to put candidates on the spot to find out who is really responsible for the educational crisis.

Too much negative in Auroran's letters

To the editor,

Just a few more observations, if I may.

Does Kim Brackett (Letter, Auroran, Sept. 9) like anything about Aurora?

It is a shame when people move to this lovely town and can only criticize.

If you have negative things to say, temper them

He seeks poll on hydro issue

To the editor,

A tip of the hat to Norm Weller.

I have enjoyed his letters about our local hydro.

I agree 100 per cent with him that it is time to take back our hydro.

May I suggest, however, that being unaware of the stand of our incumbent and potential new councillors, that each should be polled on their outlook on this issue.

Maybe a simple question of "Do you support not for profit hydro?" could be asked, where a simple "yes" or "no" would be sufficient.

This could eliminate all that political claptrap.

I would ask the Auroran to publish the results in time for me and other voters to know who to cast our vote for.

**Tom van den Elshout
Aurora**

with some positive perspectives.

We can't be ALL bad, can we?

Norm Weller is right (Letter, Auroran, Sept. 16). He DOESN'T have the writing skills of a Wallace or a Poor Richard. Mr. Weller continuously tells us...over and over...what's wrong with hydro, but he offers little in the way of solutions.

And Florence Murray (Letter, Auroran, Sept. 16) missed the point of Nigel Kean's letter.

Nigel wanted people to be

more specific in their criticisms.

He wasn't talking about ethics, he was talking about generalizing.

If Ms. Murray thinks she can do better, she should run for council.

The Auroran is a fine newspaper dealing with the happenings in Aurora. It's free and it's delivered to every home.

It has a vibrant "Letters to the Editor" section where everyone is offered a chance to speak.

That's a good thing, but

sometimes the negativity gets a little depressing.

**Regina Brown
Aurora**

Chorus publicity is appreciated

To the editor,

On behalf of the membership of the York Regional Police Male Chorus, please accept our thanks for the publicity surrounding our 11th annual "In Harmony With the Community" concert, slated for November 8.

The continued assistance provided by announcing chorus events in the Auroran, Aurora's community newspaper, has helped make all of our chorus events a success.

As a resident of Aurora, and on behalf of the many other Aurora residents who are members of the York Regional Police Male Chorus, we sincerely

thank you.

In regards to the Auroran, it is enjoyed by the whole town and also in some cases by those who made the mistake of moving to other communities.

Keep up the great work.

**Lowell McClenny
Aurora**

Please see more letters page 5

AURORAN

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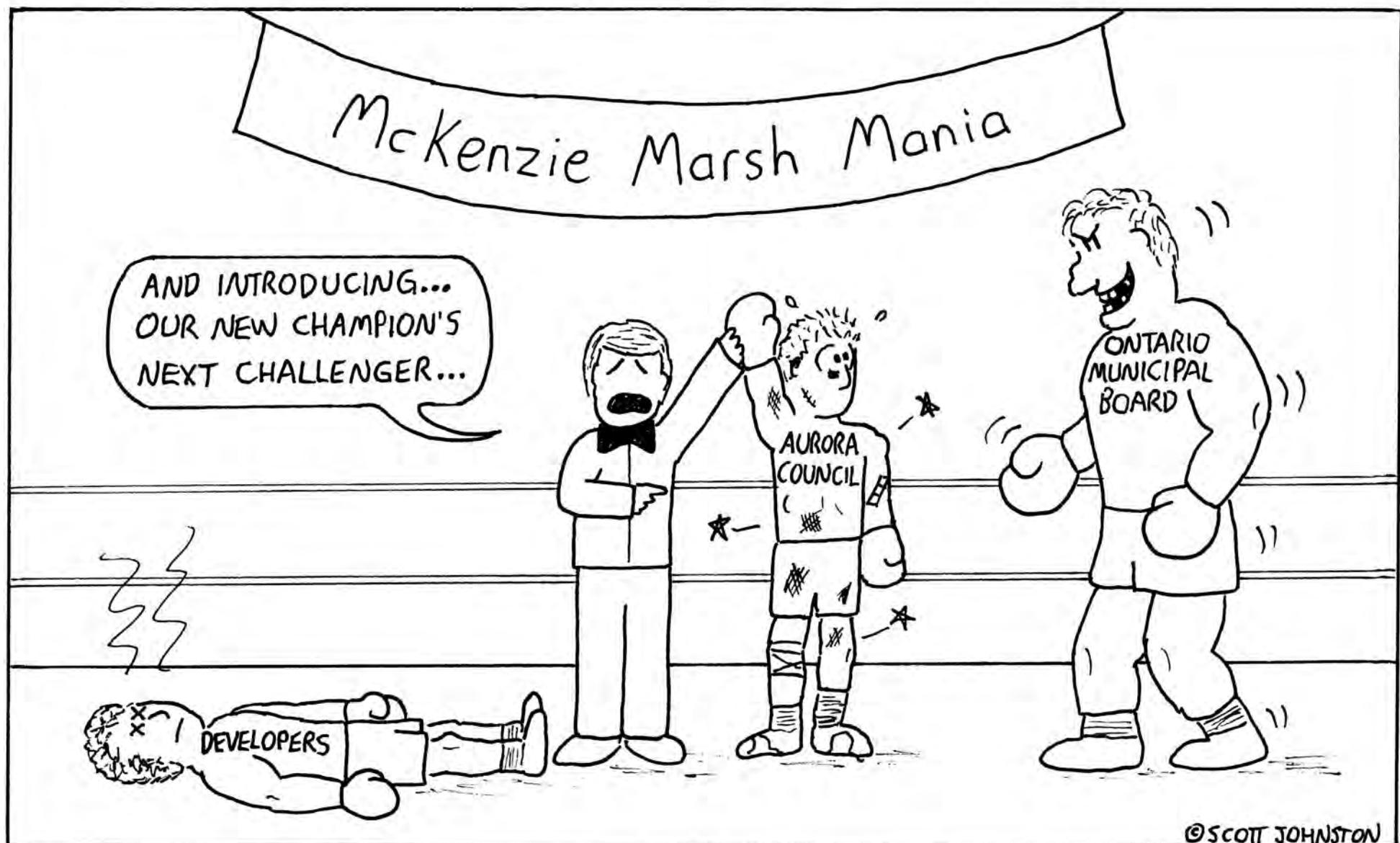
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Letters to the Editor

Farmers' Market seeking to end season with a bang

To the editor,

The Aurora Farmers' Market is winding down for the 2003 season.

We have seen an increase in shoppers since it opened in June but it would be great to end the season with the best three weeks of the year.

The vendors have in most cases been happy but some

are concerned that there hasn't been the same enthusiasm nor the same increased traffic as there has been in Newmarket.

Each week we see the same regular shoppers who always comment how they enjoy the fact that Aurora has a Farmers' Market and that they no longer have to travel to Newmarket.

We also see many new faces each week and hear comments such as "we didn't know that there was a market".

It is great to see people discover the market for the first time and hear their comments. Already we have residents volunteering to help in 2004.

The vendors will decide over

the winter whether to continue supporting this market and without all of these people selling their goods in 2004 the market may not survive another season.

I ask anyone reading this letter to please come out for the next three weeks to show your support.

Again the market is held in the Temperance Street park-

ing lot, on the southwest corner of Yonge and Wellington.

During the market, cars are allowed to park on the west side of Temperance Street.

The hours are 8 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Suggestions are welcome

as are charitable groups that wish to raise money during the market.

Please call me at 905-841-6776.

**Nigel Kean,
Aurora**

Fed. department in a shambles

To the editor,

This letter is really meant as a warning to all those veterans of our various and sundry wars that since our Prime Minister appointed the Hon. Dr. Rey Pagtakhon as Minister of Veteran Affairs and Secretary of State (Science, Research and Development), his V.A. Can. is in a real shambles.

Let me explain. As a partially disabled veteran of WW II (Lieut. Canadian Grenadier Guards), I am on what is called the Veterans Independence Program (VIP).

Because of my disability, V.A.C. provides me with a groundskeeper (grass cutting, leaves in the Fall and snow removal).

In addition, I get home care (house cleaning once a week) and some Meals On Wheels.

Initially, I pay all these providers for their services and at one time submitted my accounts to V.A.C. Kirkland Lake.

I received payment in about a month.

Earlier this year we received a notification from V.A.C. that in the future all our accounts should now be

sent to Blue Cross in Charlottetown, P.E.I.

In retrospect, this was a no-brainer. Kirkland Lake sent 30,000 accounts to Blue Cross and I am told that 3,000 of these are still to be processed.

In my case I sent my account to Blue Cross in May and received payment.

Since then I have submitted two additional accounts and neither have I seen a red cent from V.A.C. three months later. I am probably one of the 3,000 still not paid.

When I called Blue Cross in P.E.I. I was told that the V.A.C. office in New Brunswick handled these matters.

They, in turn, told me to contact my district V.A.C. office in Scarborough.

This I have done on numerous occasions to date and still no one tells me what is the problem with my late payments.

I eventually wrote to the Minister July 22 and all I have received to date was an acknowledgement August 13.

This is so sad, it is shameful.

**J.A. Milne
Aurora.**

Cathy's Corner



What if...?

What if my neighbour waters her driveway so it won't crack, causing a more serious and expensive problem than a pallet of sod?

How do we know that air conditioners are not running overtime to serve the needs of someone with severe asthma? Or an elderly person? Or a newborn baby?

How do we know that lights are not being left on because someone can't sleep until that teenager comes home? Or because their house got egged...again?

We don't really know. And when we don't have enough information to draw a conclusion, the human mind has a way of filling in the blanks with assumptions.

Then we mistake our opinions for fact. It's a very human way to err.

What if both the newcomers and the old timers want what's best for Aurora, but it just doesn't happen to be the same thing because no single solution will please all of the people all of the time?

What if councillors who take time out of their busy days to write responses to letters from residents are not defensive? What if they are just as caring, responsible and frustrated as the rest of us?

Better known as "the benefit of the doubt", these questions ask us to reserve judgment rather than assume the worst of people.

I think my friend, Rita, is onto something. If we choose to embrace the humanness of others rather than condemn it, it might save us from standing around at some point in the near future, scratching our heads and wondering...whatever happened to that small town Aurora feeling?

Funny thing ... it's gone.

Comments and suggestions for Cathy can be e-mailed to laughingmatters@aci.on.ca

My friend, Rita, says she likes my sense of humour because it's just enough "off centre" to match hers. But there was a time when Rita didn't like anything about me.

That was back in the good old days, when I was perfect. Then one night, I tried to make a perfect speech and blew it.

I did everything wrong: I forgot my lines, stuttered, turned beet red, and I think I even had my shoes on the wrong feet. Or maybe it only felt that way.

After the humility generating meeting was over, I found the courage to join some friends for a drink. Being perfect dictated pretending that I was "perfectly fine". Or maybe I just needed something stronger than Tim Horton's.

After everyone else left, Rita and I, who had known each other for years, finally met.

"I'm so delighted to find out that you're human!" said Rita, with warm enthusiasm.

I always thought Rita was perfect and I had to measure up. Funny thing, huh?

Lately, I read a lot of snap judgments being issued in the Auroran: it's Council's fault, it's the developers, the newcomers, the old timers - it's them.

So it holds in reverse, too: we think we're perfect and everybody else has to measure up. Funny thing, huh?

I hear people complaining about their neighbours' air conditioners droning day and night during the power shortage. And lights that were left on, apparently for no good reason at all.

I get a little bent out of shape with one of my neighbours, too. Too many times this summer, I have seen her out with the hose, watering her driveway.

As far as I can tell, it hasn't grown at all!

Meanwhile, I didn't water my lawn and it did grow...everything except grass. Weeds, fungus, and anthills.

But what if there is no "them"? What if there is only "us"?

Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BRICKBATS to Poor Richard for forgetting to submit his Bouquets and Brickbats last week, and missing publication for the first time, and giving the editor a mild case of apoplexy. **BOUQUETS** to Norm Weller in filling the space so adequately.

BOUQUETS to some members of council's general committee for saving taxpayers' money by refusing to authorize staff from hiring external counsel to represent the town at an Ontario Municipal Board hearing in which the town is not taking a position as the appeal is between a landowner and the region.

BRICKBATS to the same council for approving the engagement of a project manager for the proposed recreation complex at a cost of \$304,000 without obtaining any details as to company background or projects carried out, as requested by Councillor Damir Vrancic. More **BRICKBATS** for accepting the highest bidder without asking why?

BOUQUETS to the staff of the Leisure Services Department for the well organized Open House to hear and make comments regarding uses for the proposed recreation complex on Wellington Street East. There were about 125 people in attendance, with lots of comments.

BRICKBATS to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority for approving the landfill of the wetlands surrounding the west section of the South McKenzie Marsh to permit 26 town houses. **BOUQUETS** to Aurora council members for rejecting the application.

BOUQUETS to the neatly-dressed firefighters of the Central York Fire Service for holding their boots at Aurora's plazas recently to raise funds. The firefighters have been a familiar sight for many years raising funds to fight Muscular Dystrophy. This year some of the money will go to building the Fire Safety House at the Community Safety Village, scheduled to open in January, 2004.

BRICKBATS to Canada's free-spending Governor General Adrienne Clarkson who is setting out on a trip to Russia, Finland and Iceland and taking a party of 59, including MPs and Senators at an estimated cost of \$1 million. That's what she spent on a previous trip to Chile. Time to get rid of the office!

BOUQUETS to Tom Mitchinson, assistant commissioner of the province's information and privacy act, for ordering Ontario cabinet ministers to provide a sworn affidavit that they are not withholding any more documents regarding Ipperwash. He also wants to know why they lied in claiming they had a warrant to withhold videotapes when they didn't. A sorry mess!

BRICKBATS to Premier Ernie Eves for washing his hands of the whole affair, like Pontius Pilate, claiming he didn't have anything to do with the Ipperwash affair. If he's not in charge of his cabinet, who is?

BOUQUETS to the York Toastmasters Club of Aurora on winning the President's Distinguished Club Award, the highest honour presented by Toastmasters International.

BOUQUETS to Ultimate Finishes, Faux Finish Decorating and Theatre Aurora member Breta Tower for selecting the colours for the decoration of the lobby of the Factory Theatre and to the Aurora Arts and Cultural Fund for the grant to carry out the project. A vast improvement!

Council salary will increase

The process to establish compensation for members of council varies from municipality to municipality with some using the services of a citizens' advisory committee, others engage a consultant, while others decide among themselves the level of compensation.

Over the years Aurora has traditionally maintained the practice of using the services of a group of Aurora residents, by appointing a Citizens Advisory Committee to develop compensation recommendations for the incoming council.

Council appointed five citizens to the committee in May. They were Jim Hopps, Chairman, and members Rebecca Beaton, Juergen Daurer, Vic Priestly and Freida Rubletz.

The review revealed that compensation for mayor had maintained financial stability with the mid-range of the comparable municipalities, while compensation for councillors had not maintained a competitive level.

As a result the committee recommended an increase of 1.5 per cent for each of the next three years bringing the Mayor's salary from the current \$40,042 to \$40,642 in 2004, \$41,251 in 2005 and \$41,869.

This is in addition to the salary received from York Region and serving as a director on Aurora Hydro.

The committee recommended a six per cent salary increase for members of council from the current \$16,841 to \$17,851 in 2004, \$18,922 in 2005 and \$20,057 in 2006.

Hopps made a brief explanation of the rationale behind the recommended increases, which he said the committee believed to be fair and reasonable, including a catch-up provision for councillors who had fallen well below the mid-range of comparable municipalities.

For example in Newmarket, the mayor received \$52,194 plus benefits in 2003 and members of council received \$24,357 plus benefits.

Aurora councillors do not receive benefits.

Councillor John West moved the report be forwarded to the next council for consideration.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern said she could not support the referral, as she believed a set amount should be approved, not tied into a staff increase, which council approved.

She added that a six per cent salary increase for councillors was not appropriate at

this time with taxpayers facing another tax increase.

Councillor Nigel Kean also said he could not support the referral as he did not agree with a six per cent increase for each of the three years over the salary adjustment.

He said the six per cent increase should cover the three years of the term.

Councillor Damir Vrancic said he could not support the referral, as he believed the increase should not be effective until the following term in 2007.

Councillor George Timpson said setting the salary over the years had always been difficult. He referred to the phone calls and e-mails that councillors received in addition to council and committee meetings and suggested the current council should make the decision rather than referring it to the next council.

Mayor Tim Jones said council had referred the issue to a citizens' committee with terms of reference and committee had recommended what they believed was appropriate and council should adopt it or reduce it.

A recorded vote on the West motion to refer to the incoming council with the recommendation they adopt the report was defeated 7-2. Kean moved that the report be accepted without the salary adjustment the same as for non-union staff, which was defeated 5-4.

Finally the motion was made to accept the report as

presented and this was approved 6-3 with Councillors MacEachern, Kean and Vrancic in opposition.

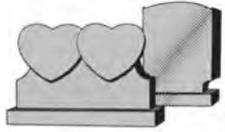
The increase will not

increase the overall compensation for 2003 but the total increase in 2004 is from \$174,770 to \$183,450 or five per cent.

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Week of September 23, 2003

Page 7



A 4-3 penalty kick score in favour of Aurora's Under 16 Barbarians, shown above, sent them to the finals in rugby action last week. They edged out Brock from Uxbridge after the game ended in a 15-15 tie. Aurora met Burlington in the final but results were not available at press time.

Bantam AA Tigers open with two wins

The Aurora Bantam AA Tigers kicked off their new season with two straight victories dumping Ajax and Richmond Hill.

In the team's first game, the Tigers thrashed a penalty-prone Ajax squad 6-1 in Ajax.

Led by Colin McCullough and Michael Pantalone, who scored two goals apiece, and Darren Gwilliam's solid goaltending, the Aurora team dominated from the opening face-off.

Tigers took the lead early in the first period on a goal by Pantalone, set up by newcomer Anthony Simone.

McCullough scored the next two Tiger goals, the second of them assisted by Adam Lebar, before being ejected from the game after an incident along the boards.

Still, the Tigers poured it on, ending the second period up 4-1 on the strength of Aaron Mansbridge's goal, assisted by Tyler Virgoe and team captain Michael Osuszek.

A chippy third period followed, as the home team compiled some 40 minutes of penalties.

The Tigers managed to retain their composure for the most part, adding to their lead with goals from Pantalone, his second of the game, assisted by Osuszek, and Matt Boyd.

At home, the Tigers entertained a lacklustre squad from Richmond Hill and came up with a 5-2 victory.

Jake MacDougall opened the scoring early in the first period, assisted by new blueliner Sam Warden.

In the second, the Tigers extended their lead with two goals from Michael Osuszek and one by Mike Pantalone.

Defenceman Tyler Pettes picked up two assists, including a well-deserved one after an end-to-end rush with the puck.

Goaltender Jonathan Newby's strong bid for a shutout was spoiled in the third, as Richmond Hill got

on the board, but Matt Boyd's goal, assisted by Aaron Mansbridge and Mike Pantalone, put the game well out of reach.

Just prior to the start of the regular season, the Tigers participated in a tournament in Kanata.

Facing a mix of AAA and AA teams from Toronto, Streetsville and Quinte, the Aurora boys handled themselves admirably, winning two games and dropping two, to make it to the semi-finals.

In a 3-1 win over Streetsville, goaltender

Jonathan Newby's play was sharp, and the Tigers had goals from Michael Osuszek, Sam Warden and Jake MacDougall. Picking up assists were Neil Kileeg, Mike Pantalone and MacDougall.

Against Toronto Royals, Aurora coasted to a 4-0 victory, on the strength of Darren Gwilliam's shutout, and goals from Matt Boyd, Jake MacDougall, Adam Lebar and Aaron Mansbridge. Assists came from MacDougall, with two, Lebar, Anthony Simone,

Colin McCullough and

Harrison Jones.

Outgunned in the semi-final by a talented team from Quinte, the Tigers exited the tournament and enjoyed the rest of the weekend in the Ottawa region, which included a visit to the Ottawa Senators' training camp at the Corel Centre.

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Among the guests at last Wednesday's highly successful Alpha dinner at Aurora's Howard Johnson Hotel were Newmarket Councillor Bob Scott and Aurora Councillor Betty Pedersen. They were joined by a full house of people who took advantage of a free dinner to hear the benefits of an Alpha course, endorsed by numerous churches in the Aurora area. Master of Ceremonies for the evening was former radio traffic reporter Henry Shannon, right.

Auroran photos by Dave Falconer

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Ideas abound for complex

From page 1
Downey said more than 260 letters had been mailed to sporting groups, adjacent residents and interested citizens inviting them to the public open house.

A representative of the Aurora Minor Baseball Association asked that a hardball diamond and a clubhouse be included.

A major discussion took place over the proposed swimming pool. A representative of the Aurora Swim Club requested that the pool have six 25 metre lanes.

It was also suggested that a 50-metre pool be considered at minimum rental costs, and that a warm water pool be included for the older generation. In addition, dressing rooms and a fitness centre should be included, as with more users, costs would be lowered, residents said.

It was suggested the pool include facilities for a Masters Swim Club with water polo and a program for seniors.

Former parks superintendent Norm Weller referred to the problems of poor soil conditions when the Community Centre and the Leisure Complex were built, especially the swimming pool.

He suggested the new complex include three ice pads, so the one at the Leisure Complex could be eliminated and the plug be pulled on the existing swimming pool before more money was spent on it.

He added the facilities could be used for other purposes, possibly a youth centre.

A member of the Aurora Rugby Club said the club had 250 members and didn't have a rugby field in Aurora to play on. He said three or four fields were needed.

Representatives of the Aurora Tennis Club wanted to know how long before the proposed tennis courts would be available for use. They were advised the playing fields were a concept only, still open to discussion.

The proposed youth centre also came in for considerable discussion and the general impression left from the

speakers, including Hot Spot founder Wendy Gaertner, was that the youth centre should be in the downtown core.

She suggested the use of the old library or the old fire hall. She also suggested the town acquire the Lions' Hall as an indoor youth facility.

Ron Gibson suggested that when plans were made for the hockey rinks that a curling rink be included, as Aurora did not have a facility for curlers and there was a need for such a facility.

Bruce Stafford, president of the Aurora Storm Volleyball Club, submitted a detailed presentation providing a list of players' needs and suggested the complex be larger.

He suggested adding two double gyms to the indoor facility, a multi-use field house, fitness centre, common area with food services and meeting and classrooms.

He added that eight volleyball courts be added to the outdoor facilities.

Stephen Granger, a member of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee, suggested more community comment be received, especially concerning cost and impact on the budget.

Linda Kenny, vice-chairperson of the 140 Aurora Air Cadet Squadron, reminded the audience that not all young people were interested in sports and that space consideration be given to youth organizations such as the Air Cadets.

A citizen said that as taxpayers paid for the gyms in the schools, they should be made available to various sporting groups needing facilities.

Downey replied there was on-going consultation between Leisure Service staff and school board staff, regarding the use of school facilities for recreational purposes.

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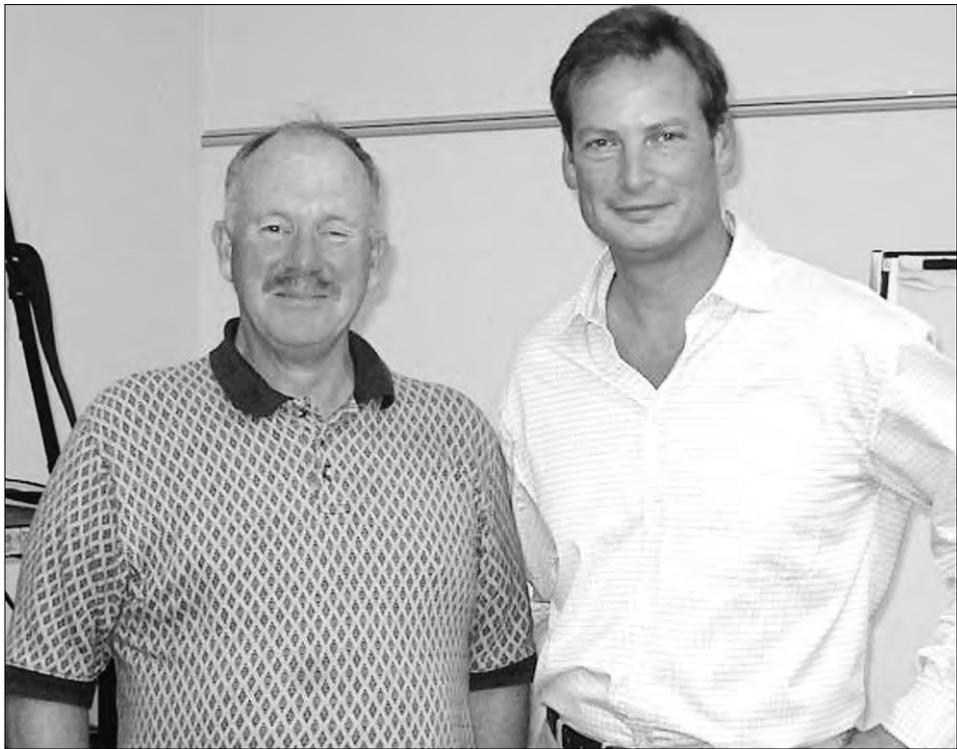
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Former NBC war correspondent Dana Lewis, right, chats with Aurora Optimist President Ken Banks during informal meeting last week at the Aurora Library.

War correspondent shares horror with small audience

Former NBC foreign war correspondent, Dana Lewis, dropped into the Aurora Public Library last week and unfolded an international drama.

Visiting his mom and dad in Kettleby while he pursues other career opportunities, Dana became the guest speaker for the Aurora Optimist Club, but because arrangements were so hasty, no one knew he was coming.

Those who did attend the evening heard just how horrible it is in the war-torn sections of the world as seen through the eyes of a newsman.

Dana is a local boy, made good.

He attended Kettleby Public School, and has the distinction of being one of the first students at Aurora High School when it opened in the early 70s.

He transferred to Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School, and graduated from Thornlea Secondary School in Thornhill.

Upon graduation from York University, Dana attended Fanshawe College in London where he studied Journalism.

During his career, he spent six years as a crime reporter in Toronto.

As a foreign war correspondent, he has covered all major world conflicts.

He spoke, at some length, about his adopted country of Russia. He has lived there for the last five years and married a Russian woman.

"Communism protected a lot of people, but there is emerging a vibrant middle class," he said. "There is a huge trade market, but it will take years to develop."

The crime rate is slowly decreasing but the country as a whole has a long way to go, he said.

The Russian people have learned to be more efficient in food production, but there are still no private land sales. All land is still government owned.

"In Russia you are now able to own your own apartment, but the building is still owned by the government," he said.

Lewis was one of the first Western journalists allowed into Afghanistan, where, he said, there are still some five million refugees.

In Israel, Lewis moved about in a bullet-resistant Jeep. Though it was white with large black markings indicating it carried a TV crew, it was still fired on by the Israeli Army.

There were 20 journalists killed during the Iraqi war, he said.

His job is very hard on his family, he said. His entire time in Iraq was spent wearing a 25-pound bullet-proof vest with a gas mask always at his side. He was told that he would have nine seconds to put on the gas mask, if the need arose.

He believes the people of Iraq deserve a better life than the one imposed on

them by Saddam Hussein.

When asked his most vivid memory of Iraq, without a moment's hesitation, he said "Sandstorms. Mother Nature is worse than any army ever mustered."

Lewis has a great respect for the job the U.S. Army is trying to do in Iraq.

"In general, journalists need to be able to see through the sandstorm," he said. "They try to make a difference without picking sides. They always strive to be as honest as possible, while making no judgment calls. Journalists are not there as cheerleaders for one side or the other, they are there to report the big picture."

The haunting images of war will always remain with him, he said, as he shared the images with his audience.

Eleven share in big pot

Eleven York Region charities, including four directly linked to Aurora, are each \$38,363 richer today thanks to funds raised by last week's Magna Hoedown.

Sharing the \$422,000 pot were the Aurora Minor Ball Association; Aurora Minor Hockey Association; Aurora Skating Club; Aurora Youth Soccer Club; Big Brothers of York; Girls Incorporated of York Region; Newmarket Soccer Club; Pathways for Children, Youth and Families of York Region; Safehaven Project for Community Living; York Region Abuse Program; and the York Region Community Safety Village.

More than 3,000 people attended the 16th annual Hoedown, held inside a 60,000 square foot tent in Magna's front yard on Wellington Street East in Aurora.

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RUMOURS & RUMBLINGS

They graduate and then they seem to disappear

Graduates of Aurora high schools go off to college and seem to disappear insofar as their hometown is concerned. In May, 1972, Ronald Graham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Graham, graduated from a University of Guelph diploma course in agriculture and became a staff member of the Essex Golf Club in Windsor.

In May, 1976, James Browning, son of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Browning, graduated from Queen's University with an honours degree in psychology and carried on at the university doing government research.

At the same time Peter Douglas Bull, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bull, and Edwin O'Mahoney, son of Mr. and Mrs. John O'Mahoney, received their Bachelor of Environmental Studies degree from the University of Waterloo. Where are they today?

SHOELESS PRISONER GETS SHOD

Back in 1966 when members of Aurora Council used to see and approve the monthly expenditures, members got a shock when going over the police accounts. There was a \$5.23 item listed as "shoes for prisoner".

It seems the police had taken into custody a prisoner who didn't have any shoes. A pair of sneakers was purchased to give him something to wear for his court appearance.

WHEN AURORA HAD ITS OWN MONEY

It was in 1992 when the Aurora Chamber of Commerce initiated a retail promotion campaign to encourage Aurora residents to shop in Aurora.

Aurora money was available from participating retailers and given to customers based on the value of their purchases, much like Canadian Tire money.

More than 30 retailers made the money available in denominations of five cents, 10 cents, 50 cents and a dollar.

Customers could use the money as legal tender at any participating merchant. It could also be redeemed for cash at any of the three National Bank branches in Aurora.

Aurora Money presented problems for some members of the business community and one was Aurora Cable, as they had no way to circulate the cash.

They accepted the money as payment of bills, but didn't know what to do with it.

They didn't want to cash it in and looked for ways to keep it in circulation.

As it was just before Christmas, gifts were purchased for the Yellow Brick House.

Rec Cycle N' Sports, where some of the gifts were pur-

chased, matched the cable money dollar for dollar. Aurora dollars never became as famous as the loonie, but the "West Wampum" was more popular than the "Diefenbuck!"

SINCLAIR BLASTS AURORA

Back in 1963, CFRB radio broadcaster Gordon Sinclair heard about Aurora's Centennial celebrations and blasted the town for having a beard-growing contest, which he claimed any hick town could do.

After seeing the full program for the 1963 Centennial, sent to him by Centennial chairman Don Glass, Sinclair told his radio audience that the program was lively and interesting and one of the best thought out celebrations ever held in an Ontario community.

WHEN ELECTIONS WERE EXCITING

Back in 1966, Aurora had its own Public School Board and there was always a race to fill the six seats on the board.

In 1966 there were 12 candidates including Jean Baker-Pearce, Murray Binions, Dick Buchanan, Bill Coleman, George Dawson, Beryl Downing, Rudolph Jansen, Yolande Marshall, Len Ostick, Albert Smalley, Bev Stewart and Bert Turnbull.

There were 10 candidates for the six seats on council including Peter Bailey, Robert Buchanan, Evelyn Buck, Cliff Corbett, Walter Davis, Dick Illingworth, Peter Miller, Norm Perkins, Bill Trent and Charles Wilkinson.

Clarence Davis and Ron Simmons were in the race for mayor and the perennial sparing partners Jim Murray and Stu Patrick were seeking the office of reeve.

Jack Williamson received an amalgamation for deputy reeve. A few of them are still around! There was also a ballot on Sunday sports.

MEAN SPIRITED THIEVES IN AURORA

In February, 1993, thieves took off with a charity box full of donations from the Golden Griddle Restaurant in St. Andrew's Village. Owner Ann Corbitt said the box contained about \$225 and was taken during the restaurant's breakfast rush.

The money had been collected during the past three months and would have been used to send children suffering from cancer to Camp Oochigeas at Rosseau Lake.

The locked box displayed photos of children and pamphlets about the camp. It was located near the cash register but wasn't bolted down.

When the news of the theft became known, generous Aurora residents came to the rescue of the camp kids. The theft turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as residents donated about \$1,000 in three days.

At the same time there was a rash of charity box thefts leaving local volunteers wondering who could be so heartless to steal from disadvantaged children.

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RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

Resident rejects parking restriction

Aurora's Traffic Safety Advisory Board submitted a report to a recent council meeting with several recommendations regarding traffic safety concerns on Gurnett Street.

After reviewing the situation the board recommended parking be prohibited on the east side of Gurnett Street from Connaught Avenue to a point 40 metres north of Gurnett Avenue and that "Children at Play" signs be installed on Gurnett.

Jessie Schormans, a resident of Gurnett Street, appeared before council to oppose the board's recommendation.

She said she and her family lived at the corner of Connaught and the recommendation didn't make any sense, as the proposed parking restriction would cover the complete frontage of their property.

She suggested a three-way stop be implemented at the intersection due to the number of children crossing Gurnett to get to the parkland opposite Connaught.

Timpson said the issues had been before the TSAB for more than a year, and hazards were created by parked cars blocking visibility of children crossing Gurnett to access the parkland.

Because of speeding complaints police had been asked to increase enforcement in the area.

Councillor David Griffith agreed the area was unsafe but blamed the on-street parking due to the lack of

off-street parking for the doctors' offices at Kennedy and Yonge Streets.

As the doctors' offices are open Monday through Friday, he suggested the restrictions be limited to those days, which would

allow visitor parking on the weekends.

Council agreed to implement the "Children at Play" signs, but to refer the parking issue back to the board to consider limited parking restrictions as suggested.

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Alpha Program

The people of Christ Lutheran Church commend the other churches in the Aurora Community who are presenting the Alpha Course. We, unfortunately, were not able to participate in the joint planning, but we wish you God's richest Blessings as you endeavour to share with our community.

The Alpha Course sponsored by Christ Lutheran Church will be held on Tuesday evenings beginning on September 30, and we invite those interested to contact us for details, times, and location. For more about Alpha, please check out <http://alphacanada.org>

Pastor Mel Murray - Christ Lutheran Church
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BUY NORTH AMERICAN

Hartman building to be demolished by developers

From page 1

In late 2000, Preserve Homes purchased the lands from Magna International and submitted an application for an official plan amendment, zoning bylaw and subdivision agreement.

The application was for 657 detached dwellings and 100 townhouse units on the 145-acre parcel of land at the northeast corner.

At that time staff advised council members that the application was incomplete and concern was expressed about the proposal to remove a proposed business park and replace it with medium/high density units on Wellington Street, which was not in keeping with the high quality streetscape for the Wellington Street corridor.

In February, 2001, the applicant submitted a revised application to reflect the land uses approved in the official plan amendment, which included two business parks and medium/high density on the west side of the property instead of along Wellington Street.

A public planning meeting was held March 27, 2002, although the applicant had already appealed the application to the Ontario Municipal Board on the basis of the town not making a decision within

90 days.

Over the next few months the applicant submitted other revised plans taking into consideration the issues and concerns raised by the public, staff and council.

The final revised plan and zoning amendment was submitted early this year and following discussions with staff, council approved the proposal as all the final issues had been resolved.

A half-day OMB hearing was held to advise the board the appeal had been withdrawn.

A representative of

Preserve Homes appeared before the public planning meeting last week to request two minor changes to the zoning bylaw.

One was caused by a surveyor's error resulting in the lot being smaller than originally planned, requiring a zoning amendment from one residential category to another.

The second dealt with the former school board property, which had not been included in the original plan of subdivision. The requested amendment is to permit the lands to be rezoned to permit the completion of

two townhouse blocks, plus a landscaped buffer strip along the north side of Wellington Street.

Council members had no

objections to the proposed amendments on the basis they were primarily house-keeping and referred the issue to staff to work out

the details.

In response to a question, the representative advised the old school building would be demolished.

Children's Personal Safety Seminar

September 27, 2003 2:00 - 6:00

As a parent, it's scary thinking about what can happen to our kids when we aren't around. We can't be with them twenty-four hours a day to protect them. Luckily, we can teach them about the dangers of strangers and what to do if they are approached, just as we teach them what to do in case of a fire or other emergency.

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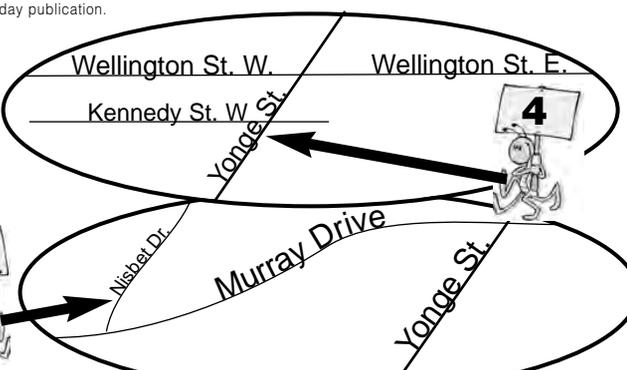
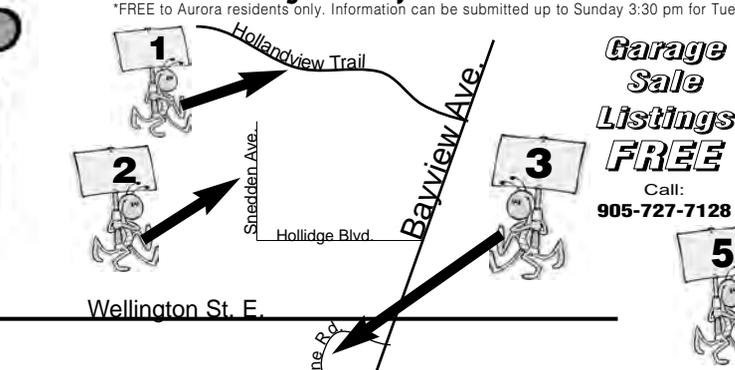
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- 2) 53 Snedden Ave. 8 - 1
- 3) 284 Stone Rd. 9 - 1 (rain or shine)
- 4) 284 Kennedy St. W. 8 - 11
- 5) 55 Nisbet Dr. 8 - 12



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NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

All claims against the Estate of George Robert Black, late of the City of Aurora, in the Province of Ontario who died on or about December 7, 2002, must be filed with the undersigned Estate Trustee before October 17, 2003 after which date the assets of the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims then made.

Dated at Toronto this 17th day of September, 2003.

The Estate Trustees
By their solicitors herein
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