

AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Vol. 3 No. 48

Week of September 30, 2003

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Mayor: two Council: 17

Aurora voters will have plenty to decide when they go to the polls Nov. 10.

They will get to select a mayor from two candidates; eight councillors from 17 hopefuls; and a public school board trustee.

Separate school supporters, meanwhile, get Elizabeth Crowe back as their representative, since she went unchallenged when nominations closed Friday at 5 p.m.

Mayor Tim Jones, unopposed until last week, will tangle with Homer Farsad, who originally put his name forth for council, then bumped up to the mayor's race.

The congestion occurs for the eight available council positions.

Seven incumbents have registered to seek re-election.

Only veteran Betty Pedersen declined to seek another term on Aurora Council.

Incumbent John West waited until the last minute before filing his papers.

In order of when they registered, here is the list of candidates. Incumbents have an (I) following their names:

Dave Griffith (I), Nigel Kean (I), Phyllis Morris, Paul Santoro, George Timpson (I), Damir Vrancic (I), Evelina MacEachern (I), Kam Qamar Sadiq, Wendy Gaertner, Vince Piron, Ron Wallace (I), Stan Rycombel, Evelyn Buck, Keith Munro, John West (I), Bill Hogg, and Al Wilson.

Of the non-incumbents, Morris, Buck and Hogg have served on past councils.

Buck has served as mayor, reeve and councillor.

Meanwhile, Aurora's representative on the York Region District School Board, Susan Plamondon will face challenger Christopher Pape in the election.

Plamondon's jurisdiction covers Aurora and King Township, and both candidates are from King City.



Gutted shells of 35 power golf carts are all that remains after a late night blaze Friday at the Aurora Highlands Golf Club. Also damaged in the fire was the starter's shack (inset). While employees are convinced the fire was started by vandals, fire and police officials are continuing their investigation.

Auroran photos by Ron Wallace

Flames ruin 35 golf carts

Golfers expecting to use power carts at the Aurora Highlands Golf Club got a rude surprise over the weekend.

Late Friday night, vandals torched the temporary starter's

shack of the course and, in the process, destroyed 35 power carts.

Damage is estimated at \$250,000.

Fire was so intense, nearby

neighbours could not stand in their back yards, witnesses said.

One neighbour said the noise was so loud he thought a plane had crashed.

Each cart is gas powered and small explosions were continuous as each caught fire.

Trees were also damaged by the flames.

While it is not known how the blaze was set, it was thorough, frying the golf carts to their metal frames, eating off tires and covers.

Brian Beemer, ClubLink superintendent at the King's Riding Course on the other side of Bathurst Street, across the road from the Highlands, said vandalism at the public Highlands course has been ongoing for some time.

"This is the worst," he said. "We have had the carts stolen, used for joy rides, then dumped in the ponds. Flags and greens have been destroyed. Even an outhouse was dumped in a pond."

Beemer agreed the location of the temporary shack is an invitation to vandalism.

It's at the end of a path from a parking lot off Golf Links Drive and is hidden from neighbours by heavy tree cover.

Currently, owners are hoping to

Please see page 12

Murder returns to Hillary House

Murder and mayhem will once again engulf Aurora's historic Hillary House on Yonge Street as the Aurora Historical Society presents its second annual Murder Mystery Dinner Saturday, November 1.

Last year's dinner sold out practically before the tickets were printed.

This year's event will take guests back to the year 1927.

According to the script, the Hillarys are away and have rented their house to the famous Hollywood movie producer, Oscar Warner Mayer, and his lovely wife, Lulu Paramount.

The Canadian-born Mayer has decided to return to his homeland to film a feature-length talking picture based on the Rebellion of 1837.

It will star Toronto's Mary Pickford, the most famous actress of her day. Miss Pickford is expected to be the guest of honour at Hillary House as Oscar and Lulu invite a select group of Aurorans to join them at dinner.

Of course, many will want to attend

since it is expected the movie will be made in and around Aurora and local people will be needed to play some of the smaller roles.

Rumour has it that, if this venture is successful, Aurora could become Hollywood North, property values would rise, and the whole community might change overnight.

Not everyone is happy with this prospect, however. There are people in town who think the Starland Theatre on Wellington Street is a sink of depravity and the moviemakers will only serve to corrupt Aurora's youth with their Hollywood ways.

Participants will have a chance to step back in time, test their sleuthing skills, and enjoy a five-course dinner served by maids and footmen in an historic setting.

Tickets are \$60 per person, with all profits going toward the operation and restoration of Hillary House. They can be ordered by calling Hillary House at 905-727-4015.



The Robins family of Aurora was out in full force Sunday for the second annual three kilometer Pet and People Walk to support the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. The walk began at the Aurora Community Centre and wound its way through the residential areas of northwest Aurora. Brad, Andria, Sierra and Molly Robins brought along their dogs, Oz, Francois and Fabien, and raised \$120 toward the cause. Officials believe more than 200 people took part in the event, and raised upwards of \$20,000.

Photo by Rob Schuetze



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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.

OCTOBER 5

CIBC Run for the Cure of Breast Cancer at 10 a.m., Nathan Phillips Square. Free bus service leaving Aurora No Frills (Yonge and Murray) at 8:40 a.m. and returning from downtown Toronto at noon. To reserve your spot contact Anna Searles at 905-471-7499 or asearles@rogers.com.

OCTOBER 15

Computer workshop in conjunction with Aurora Cable Internet "Raising an Internet Ready Child", Aurora Public Library, 7 - 8.30 p.m. Lebovic Room. Register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493.

OCTOBER 17

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

OCTOBER 21

Workshop for parents of school aged children "Discipline That Teaches", Aurora Public Library, 10 a.m. to noon. Register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493.

OCTOBER 23

Crime writing author Giles Blunt will read in the Aurora Public Library Magna Room from 7 to 8.30 p.m. as part of Ontario Public Library Week. Register at the Library's adult information desk or call 905-727-9493.

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 1

Hillary House Murder Mystery Dinner. For tickets, call 905-727-4015.

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.

NOVEMBER 15

"Olde Tyme Christmas Bazaar" at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria St., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Further information 905-727-6101.

NOVEMBER 20-22

St. Andrew's College presentation of Shakespeare's Henry V. Tickets \$15. To reserve, call 905-727-3178, extension 434.

NOVEMBER 21

The Canadian Blood Services will hold the Mayor's Blood Donor Clinic in the Aurora Town Hall from 1 to 4 p.m.

NOVEMBER 22

Aurora Santa Claus Parade.
- With files from Info Aurora

Re-elect



Damir Vrancic
to
Aurora Council

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

DECORATING WORKS! INC

Memo

To: The Residents of Aurora

From: Terry Eckert

In this our eighth year of business, I've found consumer demand greater than ever for decorating services and consulting right in the home.

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Terry Eckert



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Road reconstruction costs are fluctuating

York Region has scheduled the reconstruction of Aurora's St. John's Sideroad this year.

When complete, the section of road, from Yonge Street to Bayview Avenue will be a four-lane street.

St. John's, an east-west artery, is the closest major road to Aurora's northern boundary.

Last January, Aurora Council authorized the engagement of a consultant for the design of certain town works to be included in the reconstruction at a cost not to exceed \$70,900.

Works included installation of a watermain, sidewalk, illumination and boardwalk.

During the design for the watermain, additional geotechnical work was identified at a cost of \$4,910 bringing the total cost to \$75,810.

However, for various reasons the consultant submitted a request for a fee increase.

Town staff told council members that due to soil conditions, changes in design work were necessary, and an additional valve chamber was required, plus additional

design work at the railroad tracks at an additional cost of \$19,354.13, which was approved by council last week.

The region has not yet called tenders for the project so the actual cost to the town for its share of the work is not known.

The approved budget for the watermain was \$455,000 but the tender cost estimate is \$608,785 or a variance of \$153,285.

The tender cost estimate for the sidewalk, bikeway and illumination is \$70,855 less than the budget amount, but the boardwalk is estimated to be \$80,000 over budget for a total overage of \$162,930.

Council approved another \$160,000 for the project subject to the region returning any difference in cost between the town's budgeted amount and final construction costs.



Three veteran Aurora Legion members combine to light a candle at the Aurora Cemetery last week, during the second annual candlelighting ceremony honouring war veterans who are buried there. More than 300 candles were lit. Legion members are, left to right, immediate past president Ken White; Jack DeGraaf; and immediate past president of Ontario Command, John Alger. Event culminated with a drumhead service at the cemetery.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Water tower land returned to town

The town has its land back.

Last December, Aurora's 40-year-old water tower located south off Davis Road was demolished.

Prior to the formation of the Region of York in 1971, the one-acre block of land on which the tower was located was owned by the town.

The Region took over the land at that time and in March this year, Aurora council asked the region for the return of the land for possible use as a park or as a site for a Habitat for Humanity house.

In July, the region indicated it was willing to exchange the former water tower site for town owned

lands south of Aurora Heights Drive, adjacent to Wells #1 and #4, where the town's former sewage plant was located.

The lands are required by the region for the construction of a new water treatment facility required as part of the two wells. When the sewage plant was decommissioned and demolished, the region

returned the lands to the town.

At a recent regional council meeting, approval was given for the land exchange for the nominal sum of \$2.

In the event either property is not used for municipal or non-profit purposes, in whole or in part, the lands are to be offered back to the respective municipality for \$2.

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**Poor
Richard**

Your vote is very important

*The winds of change are blowing,
As more taxpayers lose than win;
With an election in the offing,
Politicians are hearing the din!*

-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

There's an old saying that for want of a nail the shoe was lost, for the loss of the shoe the horse was lost, for want of a horse the rider was lost and for the loss of the rider, the battle was lost.

The same might be said for elections, as for want of a vote the election was lost. It's amazing what a single vote can accomplish.

It is said that back in 1645, Oliver Cromwell gained control of England by a single vote and in 1876 France voted out the monarchy to become a republic by the same margin.

In 1923, Adolf Hitler gained control of the Nazi Party by a single vote and in 1960, John F. Kennedy defeated Richard Nixon for the U.S. presidency by less than a single vote per precinct on average.

Every vote is important and for the past several years voter turnout has been declining.

It is quite normal at municipal elections to experience a percentage voter turnout in the low thirties. A much higher turnout is normally experienced at federal and provincial elections.

But Canadians are voting consistently in smaller numbers, so much so that in federal elections the voter turnout is among the lowest in all Western democracies.

Only 61 per cent voted in the 2000 federal election and the figure would have been lower if the 10 to 15 per cent of eligible voters had not been left off the voters' list.

Ontario isn't much better with a reported 68 per cent voter turnout in the 1999 provincial election

Theories about the tumbling participation rates are a dime a dozen including the one that Canadians are so satisfied with government and its programs that they signal their approval by not voting.

Others argue that Canadians are not voting because they have lost all faith in the electoral process and the government and have given up voting in disgust.

One of the big problems facing electors in a federal or provincial election is whether to vote the man or the party.

Once upon a time when we were young and foolish, we believed Canadian politicians functioned in a democracy, where the local member represented the majority wishes of his constituents.

It was believed that by voting a strong local member and after vigorous and informed debate, the member would vote for what was best for the people, not the party.

Now voters are bewitched, bothered and bewildered by what happens in Ottawa or Queen's Park as the Prime Minister or Premier runs the show with one-person government, making voters question the importance of electing a local member.

Most people believe they have a responsibility to vote but often find it difficult to vote for the person or the party and as a result don't bother going to the polls.

The lack of voting is usually termed apathy, but it may be that the political parties seeking their vote have not convinced or excited them, due to negative campaigning and throwing mud, rather than stressing the party's record.

It may not be apathy, but frustration. In order to gain some idea of the number of frustrated and alienated voters, they should register and then decline their ballot.

The declined ballots should be counted and published separately so party leaders could get the message, before it is too late.

Canadians have gained the right to vote, yet they stay home in droves.

Every vote counts for the future of the people and the country.

Make time to vote - you won't regret it.



Our changing town

Taking photos from the book "Aurora: A History In Pictures" by John McIntyre and running photos of the same area, in some cases more than a century later, will be the subject of this feature for the next several weeks. In this set, we see Yonge Street in 1888 looking north from what was then called "Hutchinson's Hill". Below, a photo of Yonge Street today from the same spot, looking north to Murray Drive and Edward Street. Yonge Street, now more than 200 years old, was started in 1794 as a route linking York (Toronto) with Holland Landing. The year the top photo was taken, the village of Aurora officially became a town.

Letter to the Editor

Cancer victim in need of help

To the editor,

I am writing this letter in hopes of getting some community support for an 18-year-old who has been fighting cancer since he was 15.

He attended Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School and his lived in Aurora all of his life.

Christopher Gist, 22 Glenview Dr., was "luckily" diagnosed with T cell lymphoblastic lymphoma stage 3 in January, 2001. I say "luckily" because if had not been caught when it was the extremely large tumor would have collapsed Chris's lung during sleep causing suffocation and most likely death.

Chris has had three years of gruelling chemotherapy and long and short stays in the hospital.

His mother had to quit her job to be able to run him down to Sick Kids on a daily basis for the chemo and also be there in case of any emergencies as Chris has virtually no immune system.

About three months ago Chris was given a clean

slate - cancer free!

Two weeks after that he found a lump and when they did a biopsy they discovered that the whole thing was a tumor and removed it immediately.

Chris was put back on chemo and was told that he needs a bone marrow transplant to live.

Luckily three donors were found and Princess Margaret Hospital called to say Chris will be admitted Oct. 8 - have one week of chemo and radiation - then an operation Oct 18.

Lots of things have to be done to Chris before that and after the operation he will be in isolation for up to two months.

I am a friend of the family and am trying desperately to generate community support for Christopher.

So far nothing has been done for him or his family and I think we need to address this.

His family is having financial problems due to his mother having to quit her job

and the outlay of money on a daily basis (when required) at Sick Kids for parking - which is at a reduced rate of \$9 a day - but over the past three years it probably adds up to about \$4,000 with a lot more to come.

Mother, of course, will be at Princess Margaret for the duration of Chris's stay, even though he will be in isolation.

She will need help at home with house cleaning, preparing meals for her husband and two other sons (none can cook), laundry, etc.

Chris himself will be scared and, maybe, bored stiff while in isolation and in the hospital and it would be nice to generate some money for him to buy a laptop, games, etc. and anything else he might need while he is in there.

Please, please, let me know if you can help me with this quest. We have to work very quickly.

**Julie Cox
905-737-4721 (w)
905-787-9347 (h)**

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E-Mail
Advertising Department
auroran@neptune.on.ca

Editorial Department
rwall9999@aol.com

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Letter to the Editor

Letter writer missed my point

To the editor,

I am replying to Regina Brown's letter in last week's Auroran wherein she criticizes me for my comments regarding Councillor Nigel Kean in my letter to the editor, Sept. 16.

She writes, "Nigel wanted people to be more specific in their criticisms. He wasn't talking about ethics, he was talking about generalizing".

Ms. Brown could not have read my letter carefully. In my letter, I wrote, "Some time ago in a council discussion about the Code of Ethics, Mr. Kean defended the business sector, indicating that business would not allow unscrupulous behaviour".

This amused me because, as I pointed out, CEOs of big corporations were dropping like flies because of corrupt business dealings. This observation was due to his remarks at a council meeting.

I then proceeded to comment on his letter of Sept. 9, in which he makes a list of his accomplishments and a plea, "please do not paint all councillors with the same brush".

I think it was the fact that in his letter he put quotation marks around the word

"experienced" when describing the older councillors that prompted me to write my letter.

Aurora has been my home for a long time and I am quite interested in the role of council.

In watching the proceedings on television and seeing council in action, one is able to get an idea of the characters of the elected officials.

There is no need for Mr. Kean to use quotation marks.

The councillors to whom

he refers are indeed quite experienced, have learned from their past mistakes and have no need to dwell on what they have accomplished.

The record speaks for itself.

So, Ms. Brown, you yourself have missed the point of my letter, and I cannot suggest that you run for council, as you advised me to do, until you learn to read more carefully.

**Florence Murray
Aurora**

Reader looking for CIBC runners

To the Editor,

Sunday, October 5, marks the date for the annual Canadian Breast Cancer Research CIBC Run for the Cure.

This is a one kilometre or five kilometre walk or run

starting at Nathan Phillips Square in downtown Toronto.

This is the 12th year of the run and for years I have known about the run but passed as the thought of traveling downtown was just too much.

Terry Fox was local and easy.

Then one of my closest friends at 34 years of age was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Breast cancer was no longer something that struck ladies over 50.

In between her chemo and radiation treatment she did the walk.

Many of her family and friends showed interest in going, too.

Before the run, my friend contacted Laidlaw and they agreed to donate a bus and one of their driver's mother had died from breast cancer and she volunteered to drive.

The bus was full going to the 2001 run as friends and family gathered in support.

The word spread and for the 2002 run there were three buses.

Laidlaw has agreed to donate as many buses and

drivers that are needed.

To participate in the Run for the Cure you can register online at www.cbcr.org/cibcrun-forthecure/ or visit any CIBC branch. You can collect pledges or pay a flat registration fee. This group of runners collected \$10,000 in pledges in 2002. The 2002 Toronto location had 28,000 participants. It was the most amazing feeling being part of something so big trying to make a difference.

Free bus transportation to and from Nathan Phillips Square generously donated by Laidlaw Transit with an Aurora pickup at Gerry's No Frills (Yonge and Murray) at 8:40 a.m. and leaving downtown at noon.

To reserve a spot on the bus contact me at nancy-nanos@hotmail.com.

**Nancy Nanos
Aurora**

Cathy's Corner



Small town Aurora: warm, fuzzy feeling

When we first moved here, I headed south for everything. Even my family doctor was in Toronto.

Dr. Wilkens had been there for me since I was four, and being the loyal type, I couldn't desert the man who prescribed sedatives to my overprotective immigrant parents whenever I wanted to do bad, culturally shocking things like go to the movies.

I used to drive to the Danforth for feta cheese and black olives because my mother convinced me I couldn't live without them. I might become anemic or something.

This probably sounds Greek to you, but cheese and olive anxieties are actually a Macedonian thing. It's just that the Greeks always seem to outnumber us.

I figure the Macedonian population of Aurora is in the low double digits.

Including my parents and sister, and Bill, who plays soccer with my husband, I count only 12. That's not enough to start changing any street signs to Cyrillic.

The number rises if I count half breeds like my kids, who only know three words in Macedonian: Tea towel, donkey and bone head. Don't ask.

It's hard to peg the Macedonians because we're like the Borg. We've become assimilated.

In North America, we speak fluent Macedenglish - any English word with OT on the end of it, like computer-ot, fridge-ot, garage-ot...so it's hard to tell if a person is authentically Macedonian or if the collective just has the hiccups.

Which is why I bought a T-shirt that says: "Proud to be Macedonian!"

Unfortunately, rather than attracting my own kind, all it ever did was get me into arguments with people who confused me with the dodo bird.

For the record, I am NOT extinct!

So when my daughter won a blue "Shop Aurora!" T-shirt in the money machine at the Home Show, I started wear-

ing it in an effort to adapt to my new, low Macedonian voltage environment.

I don't think the new T-shirt had the effect I was striving for.

My kids refused to be seen with me, and my husband started standing in front of me like he was willing to take a bullet for me. I had no idea I was in so much danger.

But then again, I did wear it to Upper Canada Mall.

When I accused him of not liking my T-shirt, he said he liked it better than the one I wore to the Law Society picnic. It quotes Shakespeare: "First thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers!"

Being a lawyer, he much preferred "Proud to be Macedonian!"

It gave him plenty of evidence to point to me and say "I rest my case".

Needless to say, all of the T-shirts have become victims of forced retirement. But I do practice the principles.

I am proud to be Macedonian, and I have the buckets of cheese and olives to prove it.

I buy them locally now, and since my Visa bill looks like the national debt, I'm killing one lawyer for sure!

But it's good for Aurora.

There are stores that I can walk into, having forgotten my Visa, and still be trusted with purchases as small as a cup of coffee, or as big as a sofa, or even a flower arrangement the size of a sofa.

This is the beauty of a small town.

People care more about what's on the inside than what you wear on the outside.

It gives me that warm and fuzzy feeling - just like the Macedonian village where I was born.

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

Is Aurora getting ugly?

To the editor,

I could not believe the beautiful and architecturally pleasing buildings in the photos on page 4 of the Auroran dated September 16, 2003.

These were the original Bank of Montreal buildings.

Can you imagine if one of them still graced our four corners? Aurora

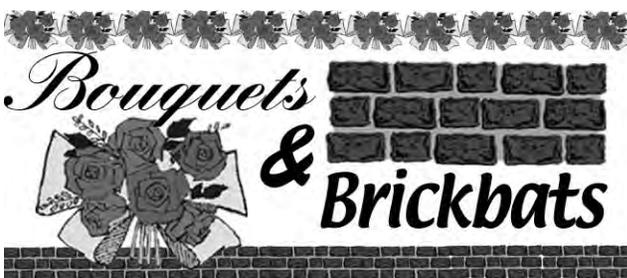
would have some character.

Instead the two buildings were replaced with the present day Bank of Montreal building.

It is not architecturally pleasing or demonstrative of quaint bygone days.

Is it just me or is Aurora getting uglier and uglier?

**Marianne Mandryk
Aurora**



Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH



BOUQUETS to the organizers and all the participants in the Aurora Terry Fox Run for the 23rd year of keeping Terry's dream of beating cancer alive. More **BOUQUETS** to Magna International, Belinda Stronach and all 3,500 participants for raising \$422,000 at the annual hoedown. The money will be distributed to 11 local charities.



BOUQUETS to NHL Alumni Dave Gardner, Steve Vickers, Stan Weir and Terry Clancy who participated with 50 Aurora residents in the 7th Turtle Open golf tourney and BBQ which raised funds and awareness for the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Ontario SPCA). Also to local sponsors Tom & Jerry's Bistro, Aurora Jr. A Tigers, Aurora Home Hardware and the Old English Cookie & Fudge Co. for their contributions.



BOUQUETS to Tony van den Elshout for his letter to the Auroran about the elimination of the seniors discount at the Family Leisure Complex. If council was involved in the decision it could only have been by rubber-stamping a report, as it was never discussed in open council. Staff sometimes has problems deciding the difference between policy and administration.



BOUQUETS to Teresa Cook of Cupid and Psyche in the St. Andrew's Centre for bringing CITY-TV to Aurora for a show on ladies' accessories. Good free publicity for the town.



BOUQUETS to the Purple Pig Smokehouse on winning 30 ribfest awards in competitions against teams from all over North America. Making Aurora proud!



BOUQUETS to the Aurora-based Ontario Command of the Royal Canadian Legion for arranging for war veterans to have their own special licence plates. Legion officials are working with Ontario Ministry of Transportation to establish who will qualify and to assist in the application process.



BOUQUETS to the Newmarket Hydro for establishing a draft policy for the declaration of dividends to its shareholders and the public is invited to submit comments. How different from the secrecy that pervades Aurora Hydro! What are they hiding and why?



BOUQUETS to Mara Jones of Aurora on her ambition to represent Canada on the Canadian rowing team for the 2004 Olympics in Athens. She has taken a leave of absence from her medical studies at the University of Toronto to commit herself to training.

Letter to the Editor

Local Terry Fox Run nets nearly \$27,000

To the editor,

The organizing committee of the Aurora Terry Fox Run would like to thank all participants at this year's Run who ignored the rain and came out (all 399 of you!) to help us raise close to \$27,000 for cancer research.

We hope to see you all next year with your friends.

This year, for the first time since 1999, we held a Corporate Challenge as

part of the Aurora Run and we would like to thank the following companies for participating:

Chamber Of Commerce - Aurora; Mastermind Educational - Aurora; Park Place Manor; Royal LePage; Solid Financial Solutions Inc.

The Run would not have been possible without the help of the following companies or organizations who contributed in some way to the success of the event:

Air Cadets, Central York Fire Services, Aurora Hydro, Brigitte Carpenter, Chevalier Chrysler, Country Style Donuts, Dominion, Don Valley REACT, Hallmark Canada, Highland Chev Olds Cadillac, Jerome Flanagan, Terry's Team Member, No Frills, Aurora, No Frills, Oak Ridges, Price Chopper, ReYork Trophies (Bill Ferguson), Rotary Club of Aurora, Shoppers' Drug Mart, South Yonge, Aurora, Sobey's, St. Andrew's IGA, St. John Ambulance, Sundance Signs/ Dave Courtemanche, The Town of Aurora, Tim Horton's, Trademark Safety, Wayne Jones DJ Services, York Regional Police, North Core Unit.

Also, a very special thank

you to the Auroran and Aurora Cable Internet for helping us to publicize the event.

The organizing committee operates without a budget of any kind as all money raised goes to the Terry Fox Foundation.

We, therefore, have to rely on the generosity of people like Ron Wallace and the Auroran to let people in the community know when and where the Run will be held.

And last, but by no means least, a huge thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped us on the day.

**Sylvia Gilchrist
Rolf Fischer
Co-Chairs,
Aurora Terry Fox
Run Committee**

All-way stops everywhere?

To the editor;

Ever since the town decided to allow parking on both sides of Gurnett, and the ever-increasing overflow from the lack of parking at the medical offices at Yonge-Kennedy, traffic on Gurnett has gotten worse. It is bad enough that the town dropped the speed limit without even consulting the residents of Gurnett, now they want to add another probably unnecessary stop sign to the mix.

You had an article in the

Who paid for cancer ad?

To the editor,

Who paid for the full page colour advertisement in the Sept. 7 edition of the Auroran, regarding the future Regional Cancer Centre at Southlake Regional Health Centre?

Was it the hospital or the Ontario Government or a political party, and also was it published in the other papers in the district?

It was published on the same day the Premier announced the next election and also opposite an interest-

Auroran that stated that back in the 70s over 70% of the multi-way stops were unnecessary, and that over the years the town has added many more, yet not gotten rid of the useless ones.

Being afraid that the town would actually do it makes me leery of suggesting that town council just get it all over in one fell swoop and make EVERY intersection in the entire town an all-way stop.

**Dave Watson
Aurora**

**Byron Gohn
Aurora**

ing news item with a picture of the honourable gentlemen mentioned with the ad.

ED. NOTE: Frankly, no one has paid for the ad...yet. The addition of a cancer centre is an extremely valid news story for the Aurora-Newmarket area; the timing is perhaps a tad suspect. Yes, the ad appeared in other district newspapers.

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RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

Letters to the Editor

"Silly stuff" list hits many targets

To the editor,
In Ontario we have three major political events overlapping at present - a federal, a provincial and a municipal election - only one of which, the municipal election, is held on a set date.

The other two elections have dates chosen by political leaders who either want more, or less, attention, paid to their election pro-

gram.
Silly Stuff!
The federal Liberals are hosting a "leadership" convention to elect a new leader. Historically, the election of a new party leader by the party forming the government means the appointment of a new Prime Minister. But not this time!

This time, when Parliament reconvenes, the Prime Minister in Parliament, won't be the

leader of the party. Because of the selfishness and crassness of Jean Chretien, the actual leader of the party, and the person calling the "shots" for the caucus will be a "backbencher", in all likelihood Mr. Martin.

Silly Stuff!
When the Minister of Defence wants to determine what troops go where, who does he talk to? The Prime Minister or the party leader? When the Minister of

Justice tries to decide what to do about "Shawinigate" (now that the President of Business Development Bank of Canada admits that Mr. Chretien pressured him into granting a loan to a hotel that did not qualify for the loan) will the Minister discuss the matter with the Prime Minister (Mr. Chretien); the MP for Shawinigan (Mr. Chretien); or the party leader and next Prime Minister (Mr. Martin)?

Will it matter that the hotel getting the loan abuts the golf course (held in a "blind trust" for the Prime Minister) and the loan allowed the golf course to be sold so Mr. Chretien got his investment money back, and more?
Silly Stuff!

The Premier of Ontario called an election about four weeks prior to the municipal elections in Ontario.

Almost coincidentally the sitting MPP for Aurora, Greg Sorbara, went on at great length demanding the resignations of several cabinet ministers because the "Aylmer" meat situation should have been prevented.

Mr. Sorbara knows, or should know with any modicum of common sense, it doesn't matter how many inspectors or rules there are

if someone decides to break them.

That does not make the government who made the rules, or the inspectors, at fault. The person who broke the rules is blameworthy or at fault - regardless of how loudly Mr. Sorbara explains his "spin" on events.

The "word on the street" in south-western Ontario is that two abattoirs, one servicing old and diseased cattle, and one servicing "deadstock" and several kilometres apart, decide to work their abattoirs at night to avoid inspectors - mix the meat products so the meat can't be traced easily - stamp certain meat with federal stamps or stickers so it could be sold over the bor-

der - and help out the truckers who can't get paid for stock dying in transit.

One cannot tell if the word on the street is true in whole or in part, but I for one cannot see how a minister in Toronto would know about the "scam"; or how a Minister's resignation would prevent the "scam"; or after 11 violations of both federal and provincial rules why the inspectors are still not sure what is or was happening.

Maybe one should wait for the police report and charges are laid?

Besides, being a seasoned politician, Mr. Sorbara knows the electors will forget asinine statements made before the election by

Please see page 15

Burnett site wrong place for town's youth centre

To the editor,
Re: The use of the Burnett lands for a proposed youth centre.

For the past 12 years I have been involved with Hot Spot Youth Club, a Friday evening non-profit social project for Grade 6, 7 and 8 students.

I am making the following comments because I believe that the health of our community necessitates that we value our youth, and be committed, by our actions, to their growth as responsible and contributing members of our community.

I believe the following proposal makes sense if we look to our future as a strong and vibrant community.

Now that our seniors no longer require the old library, let us make use of this venue as a combination youth/community group centre for the present.

When the seniors move to their new home the community groups could take over their vacated space.

Let's complete this equation with the acquisition of the affordable Lions Hall. With its high ceilings and wooden floor this would make a great, not perfect, indoor youth recreation facility.

The added benefit to this plan would be providing our youth the opportunity to be actively and productively

involved in fixing up an older space.

Involve them also in the maintenance and have them therefore take ownership for their place.

I am in favour of placing a recreation facility in the northeastern quadrant of our town.

I am completely against placing a youth centre in this location.

In my opinion this important addition to Aurora must be in a location that would afford accessibility, as equally as possible, to all of our youth.

The proposed location would necessitate parental involvement to achieve safe access.

I know from my personal experience that many of our parents are unable to provide this involvement for their children.

To achieve a healthy, safe community we cannot afford to ignore any children who could have great benefit from being part of a community youth initiative.

I think the only way to get around the safe access and accessibility issues would involve a transportation plan, preferably free, and the building of a pedestrian/bicycle access route and this would be costly to our taxpayers.

The important issue of maintaining the health of our downtown core must also be considered.

The location of a vibrant youth centre here would go a long way to achieving this

goal.

I had the opportunity last weekend to ask the past Governor of the State of Maine what advice he would give to an aspiring politician.

He said "Don't be afraid to take bold actions. That is how great things are achieved."

His advice is equally instructive to a town that aspires to be the best there is. Let's achieve something great for our town and our youth.

**Wendy Gaertner
Aurora**

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AURORAN RESTAURANT GUIDE

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Loyal customers and new patrons will now enjoy classic favourites from the "Old Country" like Braised Lamb Shank, Chicken Cacciatore, Veal Parmesan, Stuffed Portabellinos and yes, even Spaghetti and Meatballs...a dish Tom says you don't see at many restaurants anymore!

"I've revamped my menu to satisfy my many loyal customers. People want a place to call home," said Tom. "a place to be comfortable in and enjoy a wonderful meal. The atmosphere here is very intimate and family-like. It feels just like home."

Tom promises no less than 5 new specials every single day.

Tom added, "When I first opened my restaurant in 1992, I had many supporters. I've always stayed true to my loyal clientele and will continue to offer them the finest dining experience around."

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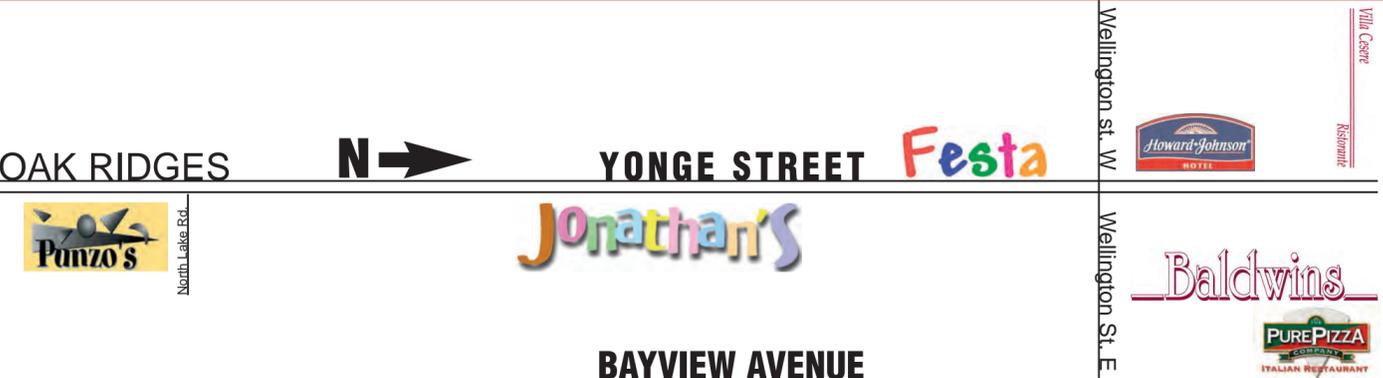
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After seven games, Aurora still undefeated

Merrily, they sail along. The Aurora Tigers Junior A hockey squad is now on a seven-game winning streak, thanks to two more victories last week.

In Markham Saturday night, they handed the Waxers a 5-2 defeat, after thrilling a home town crowd Friday night with a 6-3 win over Vaughan.

That followed three straight wins the week before, preceded by two opening season victories.

In other words, they're undefeated.

Two late third period goals gave Aurora a convincing win Saturday in Markham, but it was once again the fine play of goaltender Chris Whitley that kept the Tigers in the game.

The Waxers opened the scoring on a power play goal, but that lasted only 20 seconds when Matt Bahen's goal set up by Francis Walker and Jordan Brenner tied the game.

The Tigers seemed a little hungrier in the second period with a number of great scoring chances. But the strong play of the Markham goaltender allowed the Waxers to stay in the game.

Francis Walker broke the tie early in the second and Sam Skwarchuk's power play goal gave Aurora a 3-1 lead.

Markham would strike back with their second goal of the game with 10 seconds left in the period to close the gap to 3-2.

While Aurora controlled the third period, solid goaltending kept the game close.

Francis Walker's second goal of the game with 35 seconds left in the period gave the Tigers a little more breathing room.

An empty net goal by Jesse Olden, in which goaltender Chris Whitley got an assist, finished the scoring and gave Aurora the victory.

At home Friday, Tigers shook off a sluggish start to defeat the Vaughan Vipers 6-3. It became the club's sixth straight victory in the young hockey season.

Aurora hit the scoreboard first on a goal by Joel Kitchen, but the Vipers responded on a power play goal of their own to tie the game going into the second period.

The second period seemed to belong to Aurora where they out shot Vaughan 23-15.

Vipers took the early lead and that seemed to wake

up the Tigers who responded with four straight goals.

Sam Skwarchuk tied the game and Darren Salmon gave Aurora the lead for good on a goal set up by Sean Scully and Jesse Olden.

Joel Kitchen's power play goal and second of the game increased the Tiger lead to 4-1.

Jesse Olden added another power play before Vaughan scored a short handed goal, closing the gap to 5-3 before the end of the period.

The third period was evenly played between the two teams as Aurora out shot Vaughan 10-8.

The only goal of the period came early and was scored

by Francis Walker.

Both goaltenders came up with some big saves to keep the game close.

Earlier, the Tigers racked up wins three, four and five, with two away and one home victory.

In Stouffville, they scored an incredible four short-handed goals, to defeat the Spirit 7-3, and gave that

team its third straight loss in the season.

At home to the St. Mike's Buzzers, Aurora presented the hometown crowd with an 8-2 drubbing of the visitors.

A week ago Sunday, Aurora dumped Brampton 6-1, as they had their first look at a western division team.

The Tigers now head into a very busy week where they will travel to Newmarket for their first battle with the Hurricanes Thursday night, before returning home on Friday night to play host to Oshawa.

Sunday afternoon, Aurora will host the Huntsville Wildcats.

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Swimmer nails two records

A member of the Aurora Master Ducks swimming club swam her way to two Canadian records recently.

Participating in the 2003 U.S. Masters National Swimming Championships in New Jersey, Wendy Cimarno set the records in the

400 Individual Medley and the 1500 metre freestyle events.

The meet was a Long Course Meet (50 metre pool), and her efforts won her a pair of bronze medals.

Wendy competes in the women 50-56 age group.



Getting ready for the highly successful Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament last week are, left to right, CFTO's Lance Brown, who was the master of ceremonies, Bruce Heffer, Wendel Clarke, honorary chairman of the Community Safety Village, which received \$50,000 from the event, Mayor Tim Jones and Paul Chapley.

Photo by Rob Schuetze

Mayor's tourney boosts safety village

The Community Safety Village of York Region was the big winner at this year's Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic held Thursday.

Thanks to the generosity and support of a full field of golfers and sponsors, Aurora Mayor Tim Jones presented a \$50,000 cheque to Richard Boyne (Chairman of the Board of Directors) and Wendel Clark (Honourary Chairman) following the tournament at Silver Lakes Golf Club, located north of Newmarket in the Town of East Gwillimbury.

The other recipient of funding this year was CHATS who received

another \$10,000 bringing their six-year total to more than \$60,000.

Executive Director Debra Egan was on hand to receive the cheque.

The money will continue to support the Aurora day program for seniors.



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Dalton McGuinty,
Globe and Mail,
September 10, 2003 -Page A6

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The Khamissa family got together recently to join Aurora Mayor Tim Jones in a ribbon cutting to mark the opening of 5 Below, a clothing store in the Aurora Shopping Centre. Omar's Shoes has been a landmark in the plaza for decades, and this new store occupies basement space in the Omar complex. Omar and his son, Raz, are left of the mayor.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Houses soon to replace Aurora's chicken plant

Back in 1948 a chicken processing plant known as Choice Cut-Up Chicken was established on the east side of Yonge Street, just north of Aurora.

It was a supplier to chain stores and take out operations and had a processing capacity of 3,000 chickens a day.

In 1962, Ralston Purina purchased the plant and the capacity was increased to 40,000 chickens per day, with chicken parts distributed all over southern Ontario.

Late most nights, huge trucks made their way up Yonge Street carrying the squawking chickens to the plant.

At the time the Aurora's Jaycees adopted the chicken as their club logo and their jackets sported a large rooster on the back with the words "Aurora - Chicken Capital of Canada".

In 1986, Canada Packers purchased the operation and a few years later closed the plant.

It was in early 1992 when

the Town of Aurora received an application to amend the official plan and zoning bylaw for the former chicken processing plant on North Yonge Street for a 42-unit row house development.

A public planning meeting was held in April that year and council approved the application in principle subject to the resolution of issues including decommissioning, traffic, affordable housing and road closure.

By October, 1992, plans were underway to demolish the processing plant and the wastewater treatment plant.

In January, 1993, the Ministry of the Environment approved the decommissioning and demolition plans subject to conditions, such as site clean-up.

In February, 1993, staff reported that many of the issues identified at the public meeting had been resolved and requested further direction from council.

The report noted that an environmental noise impact study of adjacent commercial uses recommended berming and other measures to quiet things down.

As a result of the study, the applicant wished to alter the original concept plan including a decrease of the number of units to 35 with a mixture of residential housing forms and proceed by way of a plan of subdivision. Council deferred action pending another public planning meeting.

On September 13, 1995, council gave draft approval to the plan and the region gave draft approval three months later.

In February, 2001, council authorized an agreement between the town and Nordcraft Homes for the

lands, subject to the applicant paying the fees and charges outlined in the agreement.

In addition council allocated the servicing capacity necessary to provide water and sanitary sewers for the development of 36 units and approved access off Old Yonge Street, just north of Batson Drive.

The applicant did not finalize the agreement and after an extended period in which the property was under Power of Sale, Sierra Homes became the owners February 5 this year and the subdivision documentation was reactivated.

The Sierra draft plan of subdivision has not changed and continues to contain three units in a mix of semi-detached and townhouse

units situated in a cul de sac with a centre landscaped island.

In early 2003 Sierra Homes, developers of the property, requested the issuance of building permits for the construction of two model homes on the site which council granted on February 18.

At an August council meeting, staff reported the new applicant had addressed all the requirements of the town, paid \$155,724.36 in fees and charges and recommended that council give final approval to the plan of subdivision.

Building will start in the near future and houses will replace the chicken processing plant that made Aurora, The Chicken Capital of Canada.

Political meeting had no price tag

Two weeks ago, candidates for the Vaughan/King/Aurora riding for the October 2 provincial election were invited to participate in a meeting in the council chambers of the Aurora Town Hall, free of charge.

No one opposed the recommendation.

It was quite different in May, 1997.

The town's administrative committee recommended that the town's policy of charging for the use of the council chambers be upheld, but it was

defeated 5-3.

A motion by then-Councillor Norm Weller that the chambers be provided free of charge for a federal all candidates meeting to be hosted by former Mayor John West was adopted after a lengthy debate.

There was concern a precedent would be set by not charging.

West, then a school trustee, appeared before council to advise he had hosted an all-candidates meeting in the council chambers in 1993.

He added that the Town

Hall was, or should be, the political centre of Aurora.

Mayor Tim Jones argued that the town's policy called for a fee of \$50 per hour for Aurora groups and \$75 per hour for non-Aurora groups.

He said if the policy was to be waived for some events, then it should be reviewed and amended if necessary.

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INTERIOR-EXTERIOR

Fire destroys carts

From page 1
convert the 18-hole golf course into a private facility, with a permanent clubhouse being constructed closer to Bathurst Street.

But that project is still a long way off.

"In the meantime, we still have to run a business here," Beemer said.

Central York Fire Services Chief John Molyneaux said York Regional Police and the Ontario Fire Marshal's office are investigating the blaze.

A crew from the Edward Street station was dispatched first and was reinforced by the McCaffrey Street station in Newmarket.

Some 13 firefighters fought the blaze for two hours.

Police and firefighters are continuing their investigation this week, the chief said.

Starter Al Fisher had set up a table and chair at the

first tee-box to keep golfers moving onto the course Monday morning.

But all of them had to walk.

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Thompson funeral director for 35 years, Johncox dies

Walter Johncox was as familiar to Thompson Funeral Home as the Thompson family itself.

Thirty-five years as funeral director, he had been there in the days when a funeral home employee not only worked at Thompson Furniture but also drove the ambulance that was also operated by the Thompson family.

What follows is a part of a eulogy given at his funeral recently by his grandson-in-law Randy Jones.

A committal service will be held next week at the Nipissing Village Cemetery, the area where he had retired to prior to his death.

Services were held recently at Aurora United Church where the eulogy was given.

"Today we have gathered here to celebrate the life of Walt Johncox. It is evident from the number of friends and family gathered here today, just how many people were touched by Walt over the years.

"Walt was born in North Bay in 1918. He was raised in the North Bay area, and was fortunate enough to meet Doris Floyd, a young lady residing in the town of Nipissing. Following their courtship Doris and Walt were married. They first lived in the Barrie area where they gave birth to their first child Clarke. Following this the family moved to Aurora, and their second boy, Kent, was born.

Walt was a good father, the best father, as I have been told, and treated his children with much respect and love. Clarke and Kent have both grown into wonderful fathers, good businessmen and caring individuals which I believe is a testament to their upbringing.

In addition to his children, Walt was blessed with a strong and caring wife, Doris. His marriage to Doris extended more than 60 years, an accomplishment all of us married folk can strive for.

Walt and Doris have been blessed with grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and Walt had the special treat of his third grandchild, Kale, being born on his 70th birthday.

Not only did Walt have dedication to his family, his career was of upmost



WALTER JOHNCOX

importance. Although initially Walt's career started in Barrie, the majority of his career was with Thompson Funeral Home in Aurora. He was funeral director there for over 35 years.

Walt served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during WWII. As well, he was a dedicated member of the Masons and believed strongly in that organization.

One of the strongest connections for the Johncox family, is the area surrounding the south shore of Lake Nipissing. There is a family cottage there that was openly shared by Walt and Doris to the rest of their family. The cottage was purchased by them from a close uncle and aunt.

The cottage is on an island and it's no wonder it was

one of Walt's favourite spots in the world.

Walter Johncox was a proud, compassionate man who was dedicated to his community.

He volunteered at the church, at the Lodge, at the food bank, and contributed to society any way he could.

Walt was one of the finest men I have had the pleasure to know. He spent his life dedicated to his family, his career and humanity. As so often happens in situations like these, it is only the positive aspects of a person that are revealed following their passing.

I believe with Walt we see the true picture. There was not much negative to be said about Walt Johncox. He was an exceptional human being."

Residents push to have driver test centre moved

The controversial driving testing centre issue at Yonge and Henderson won't go away quietly if neighbours have their way.

John Moyer, a resident in the Henderson Drive area, appeared before council last week to complain about problems associated with the private sector centre located in the plaza at Yonge and Henderson.

He said it was a poor location for the centre due to the heavy traffic associated with it and the shoppers at the plaza.

He suggested the testing centre should be located in an industrial area.

Mayor Tim Jones said the complaint had been previously brought to council's attention and staff was investigating.

Ontario introduced a graduated drivers' licensing system in April, 1994, which includes three stages, G1, G2 and a full-fledged G licence.

By August, 1999, there was a huge backlog of young drivers waiting for driving tests under the graduated system.

On October 24, 2001, the provincial govern-

ment adopted legislation transferring the responsibility of testing new drivers to the private sector, which government officials said would reduce the lengthy waiting lists.

Liberals opposed the legislation claiming public safety and privacy of information, which could be jeopardized by profit-driven contractors.

Prior to the move to the shopping centre, all driver testing was carried out by government officials at the government facility at Yonge and Bloomington.

Back in October, 1985, council received a number of citizen complaints about traffic problems created by student drivers and instructors and Ministry of Transportation driver examiners using

the same streets.

Anthony Taylor, then a ministry driver examiner at the driver testing centre in Aurora, said most of the problems were created by out-of-town driving instructors who brought their students to Aurora because it was a drive testing area.

He said some instructors follow the examiners' test routes and only teach their students the driving skills necessary for the test.

As a result, some students are not taught all the rudiments of driving.

Council, at that time, decided not to proceed with a recommendation that regulations be drafted to govern the streets driving instructors could use for instruction and testing.

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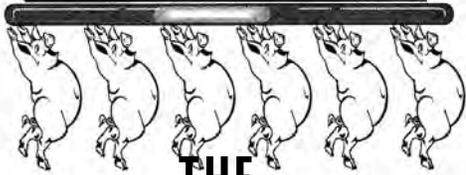
"The appropriate thing for the government to do is simply to register the marriages and get on with it."
Greg Sorbara,
The Toronto Star, July 13, 2002

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RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

Letter

Kids win

To the editor,

Thanks to all who participated in Kappa Chi Chapter of Aurora Beta Sigma Phi Sorority's garage sale in May.

Due to your generosity, adequate funds were raised to send two Blue Hills Academy children to summer camp.

Thank you very much.

**Kappa Chi Chapter
Beta Sigma Phi Sorority
Aurora**

RUMOURS & RUMBLINGS

A bulldozer is not an easy thing to steal

A backhoe isn't the type of toy anyone would pick up, put in their pocket, and walk away.

Yet on July 24, 1992, a 14,000-pound backhoe was taken from a construction site in the area of McClelland Way and Spence Road in south Aurora.

Owners of the equipment said the backhoe cost \$68,000 new and could easily bring \$40,000 on a used equipment lot.

The company offered a \$2,000 reward but the missing bulldozer was never recovered

ONE FOR RIPLEY'S BELIEVE-IT-OR-NOT

Most Canadians say today that Canada is over governed. But believe-it-or-not, back in April, 1982, an independent study ranked Canada first among 21 countries as the least controlled by government regulation.

The European Management Forum, a non-profit foundation under the auspices of the Swiss Federal Council, conducted the study.

What happened over the years?

WHEN THE ROTARIANS WATCHED A NAVAL EXERCISE

It's traditional that the Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday night for an evening of

good fellowship, committee reports, planning, and to hear a guest speaker.

Late in July, 1985, however, the chair at the head table usually reserved for the guest speaker was empty and remained empty during the dinner causing members to wonder what was going on.

When the dinner was over and the business of the evening concluded the Rotarians finally got to see the guest speaker, but she spoke with her body.

The guest speaker was a belly dancer and most of the members approved.

WHEN MILL STREET ALMOST HAD A HIGH RISE

In January, 1971, Aurora Council received a revised application for the construction of a 10-storey condominium apartment building on Mill Street between Wellington and Tyler Streets opposite the Resthaven Nursing Home.

The original application submitted the previous month was rejected because of the shape of the building and lack of side yards.

Council agreed to pass the revised application on to the planning committee for further study.

The building, to be located on 1.3 acres of land, was slightly over the density provided with 81 units.

At that time council permitted 60 apartment units to the acre, and the application was three units over.

The building would sit on a two-level podium, with parking on the two levels underneath. The adjacent creek would be rechanneled at the developer's expense.

It was another development that never saw the light of day and the land is still vacant.

WHY LARRY GROSSMAN BECAME A POLITICIAN

Back in the early 1970s when Larry Grossman was a young lawyer, he made many visits to Aurora Council representing the development plans of Mrs. Dody Herskovitz, especially the plans for an apartment condominium and hotel complex, where the Dominion Store plaza on Henderson Drive is now located.

In a much later TV interview on Aurora Cable during his run for the Progressive

Conservative leadership, Grossman said the Aurora Council of the day gave him such a rough time that he decided to give up law and go into politics.

RADAR TRAPS CAN BE ANNOYING

Hidden police radar traps can be annoying to motorists, especially when the motorist gets caught speeding.

But sometimes their location can be annoying, even when you're not driving.

That was the case back in August, 1998, when an unidentified York Regional Police officer was accused of showing disrespect for Canada's war dead by setting up his radar trap behind Aurora's war memorial.

The citizen was so upset he contacted Aurora Council. Council agreed with his concerns and dispatched a letter to Police Chief Bruce Crawford requesting that the site be respected and not used again.

To the best of knowledge, it never has.

TA performers headline Hotel's dinner theatre

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

It is quite normal for a happily married man in his mid-40s to catch the Seven-Year Itch. It's a feeling that the world is passing you by and you are missing out on life.

Barney Cashman, the owner of a seafood restaurant, and happily married for 23 years, decides to have an extra-martial romantic fling before life passes him by.

The story of Barney and his mid-age fling is currently being presented at the Queen Elizabeth Dinner Theatre at the Aurora Howard Johnson Hotel in Neil Simon's hilarious comedy "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers".

It is Simon at his best with fast-moving, clever dialogue and situations that bring out the best of the four-member cast.

The dinner theatre and members of Theatre Aurora have created a partnership so that local theatre-goers will recognize many of the performers.

Barney uses his mother's apartment for his love trysts. She is absent from 3 to 5 p.m. doing volunteer work, so time is of the essence. He enters the apartment, closes the blind, tests the pullout bed and empties his brief case of a bottle of scotch and two glasses to be ready for her arrival.

Barney is performed by well-known local performer Frank Srebot, as he faces different challenges with each encounter and portrays Barney in a most believable way.

The first conquest is Elaine Navazio, a hard-drinking liberated lady of the world,

performed by Flo McLellan.

Barney meets her in his restaurant and invites her to the apartment. She is a relatively newcomer to the stage, but performs the role to perfection.

Theatre Aurora patrons may remember her as the German lady in "The Parade" and her singing of Lili Marlene.

The second encounter is with Bobbi Michelle, a pot-smoking hippie and unemployed nightclub singer, who he meets in the park and, after lending her \$20, invites her to the apartment on the pretext of paying it back.

She is well played by Laura Halley, who has appeared in several local productions.

The final encounter is a highlight with Jeanette

Fisher, a next-door neighbour and friend of his wife, Thelma, played by the talented Julie Wood.

She believes she is being neglected by her husband, Mel, and decides to do something about it. The scene with Barney over her handbag is a highlight.

Kay Valentine directs, assisted by a most capable backstage crew, with set construction by Peter Kelly. The scenes are hilarious but always in good taste. It's a production you will enjoy from start to finish.

Competing with the performance is the hot and cold buffet and dessert table. The Last of The Red Hot Lovers continues every Friday and Saturday until the end of October.

Call 905-727-1312 for reservations.



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Letter to the Editor

"Silly stuff" list hits many targets

From page 7
the time a report is made - and the election will be over. Silly Stuff!

One is reminded of the Walkerton fiasco - when many, and particularly politicians attempted to lay blame on a party leader for an extremely heart-wrenching and terrible catastrophe. Although there were hints that the Province could have prevented Walkerton by doing its own testing of drinking water, that was not a finding of the inquiry.

When the superintendent of the waterworks, with a drinking problem and not of water, lies or otherwise covers his mistakes and ineptitude with false and "made up" testing results, and a relative in a higher position in the town bureaucracy helps cover up the false reports, some catastrophe can occur, and it did.

As noted in one report, some 40% of the municipal workers were related in fact or by marriage in Walkerton.

What does a politician working in Toronto, and representing a northern Ontario riding, have to do with the resulting catastrophe?

As well, it was 1993 when the cutbacks in inspectors

was made, and that wasn't the Harris' government!

Silly Stuff!
After the hydro "blackout" of August, the provincial political parties keep trying to lay blame on "privatization" of hydro in Ontario, which I don't believe has occurred. Since the costs of hydro were out of control, and some 70% of costs were salaries or wages, downsize. Even although HEPC is a separate crown corporation with its own Board, etc.

Premier Bob Rae down-sized hydro and terminated or laid off a great many managers and supervisors who ran and understood the Ontario electrical services, power plants and the grid.

He had to do so because the government was broke, and hydro needed more money. He could not politically afford to lay off the unionized workers as he was leader of the NDP, but the managers and supervisors were fair game, and besides with the "spin" it looked like more savings because of higher salaries for managers (not that it mattered since there were 15 workers per manager).

By the time the Harris government was in power, the

men and women who knew the system best because they had helped build it, had been out of the "loop" for some three years or more, but the problem was caused by the Harris Government?
Silly Stuff!

For whatever reason by 1997, HEPC began contracting American managers and supervisors to come to Ontario to repair, maintain and upgrade Ontario hydro installations.

Perhaps the grid could be linked more easily to America that way?

Right to today, the American contractors, employ or contract other Americans to look after the Ontario system, although Ontario was a world leader in developing power and grids for 50 years.

Despite the fact most of the terminated or laid off managers in Ontario, who know, built and designed the grid and power plants still reside in Ontario no one asks their advice.

They might even accept

payment in Canadian rather than American dollars, which could save money. But what is most galling about the hydro situation is the performance and statements of all three political parties in Ontario. Each of the parties uses HEPC as a "whipping boy" and suppresses report after report about what to do.
Silly Stuff!

The nuclear plants in Ontario use or are based on the "CANDU" reactor, a Canadian system and nuclear plant developed by Canadians and sold throughout the world by Canada, to produce cheap hydro power.

Why do we continue to hire Americans to do a job for which many Canadians are trained?

What is real scary is that I know of only one "western" country that has had a nuclear accident or mishap in a hydro plant, and it wasn't Canada! In fact it wasn't even a CANDU reactor at Three Mile!
Silly Stuff.

The hydro system problems also affect the municipal situation, particularly in Aurora, which established its own system management.

As I understand it, although it is difficult to get an answer, Aurora Hydro had the choice of incorporating a "non-share" or "share" company.

The first has only customer - members; the second has shareholders.

Aurora chose the "share" structure, with the only shareholder being the Town of Aurora.

Thus anything that happens with Aurora Hydro is controlled by the Town, which is fine that far.

The province puts a limit on how a Town raises money and how much by taxes. That is, they require a referendum to raise taxes.

But the Town of Aurora has another way to raise revenue without a referendum. Raise the cost of hydro!

That way, when Aurora Hydro makes money or a profit, the money is paid out by dividends to the company shareholders.

But hold it! Aurora Hydro only has one shareholder, the Town of Aurora.

So why raise taxes? Just raise the cost of hydro, and the Town still gets money, without seeming to raise taxes. Who needs a referendum to increase Town revenues?

Silly Stuff!
With two other political events to occur within 10 weeks, there can only be more Silly Stuff forced on us! But why?

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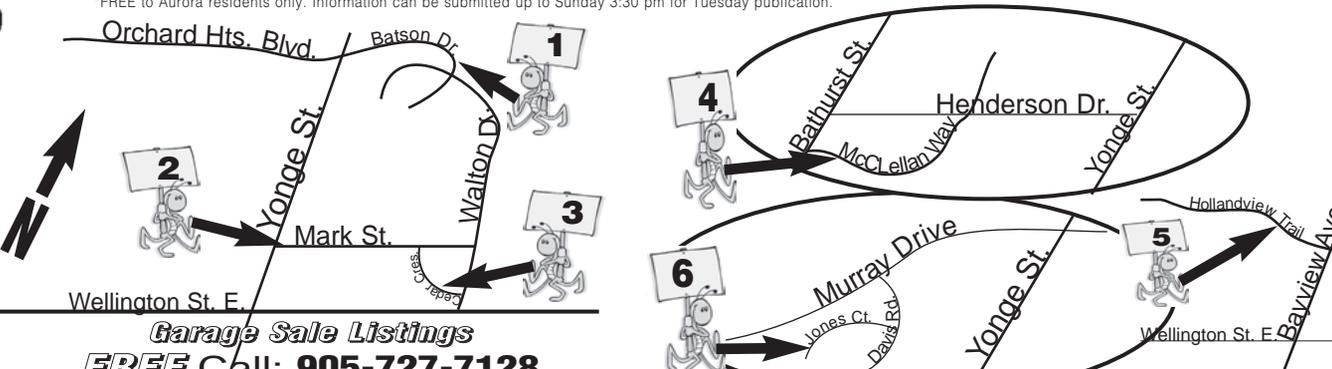
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All claims against the Estate of George Robert Black, late of the City of Aurora, in the Province of Ontario who died on or about December 7, 2002, must be filed with the undersigned Estate Trustee before October 17, 2003 after which date the assets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

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