



They might have picked a warmer day. Paul and Greg Foster, the brothers wearing only shorts, flank Aurora Mayor Tim Jones (a little more sensibly dressed) as they try to persuade three-year-old Colton Kenny to eat a "summer barbecue" hamburger during Aurora's M & M Meat Shop's summer in the winter campaign to raise money to fight Crohn's and Colitis diseases Saturday. Even Colton's mother Kim, is having trouble getting her child into the spirit of the celebration. Temperatures Saturday morning at the Yonge Street location were minus 20 Celsius, and no matter what the organizers did to make it seem like summer, it was still bitterly cold. Campaign raised \$460, said Greg, who owns the Aurora M & M outlet, and was ecstatic with the money collected.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Traffic woes on St. John's

Speeding traffic is still a problem on the St. John's Sideroad.

Resident Jeff Allan was back before Aurora council in general committee last week, to complain about speeding the regional road and the traffic safety conditions between Yonge and Bathurst Street.

He appeared before council in November last year in response to a report from the Traffic Safety Advisory Board resulting in the issue being referred back to the Board for further review.

He had requested a reduction of the speed limit to 50 km/hr, installation of steep hill signs, prohibi-

tion of trucks during certain hours and parking restrictions.

Last week, he showed a series of accident photographs he had taken as he travelled the roadway on various days last year.

He pointed out that the current speed limit was 60 km/hr but

Please see page 11

Arctic adventure

Cold snap will be gone by Feb. 7, she predicts

Officials are hoping by the time February 7 gets here, the bitter cold of the past two weeks will have disappeared.

The annual Arctic Adventure, scheduled for that Saturday, promises a day full of outdoor activities, as long as it stays reasonably wintery.

Last year, bitter cold kept the crowds down, but Special Events organizer Julie Geering thinks the cold snap this year will be gone by the 7th.

Set in and around the Aurora Community Centre, the Adventure will offer such activities as tobogganing, face painting, sleigh rides, snow sculptures, public skating, and dog sled rides.

If you'd like to warm up a bit, three hot tubs will be set up in front of ACC.

For a complete list of activities that day, please see Page 9.

Decision tied

If council adopts the recommendation of the general committee this week, the status quo of various town committees will be maintained, but it's not a sure thing.

The vote last week was a tie, with Councillor Phyllis Morris, chairperson of the meeting, breaking the tie in support of the status quo.

Councillors Bill Hogg and Damir Vrancic, however, were absent, but expected back this week for the final decision.

During the orientation session of the new council in January some questions were asked about the committee structure resulting in a report from staff.

Director of Corporate Services

Bob Panizza prepared a comprehensive report on various options based on the basic committee

Please see page 13

Briefly

Second edition

Remember Brooke Harrison, the concerned Aurora youngster who established her own cookbook to raise funds for leukemia research?

Well, she's going to do it again.

Already, the recipes are rolling in for her second cookbook project, and she hopes to have enough by the first week in March, so that she can use the March break for book assembly.

If you have a favourite recipe, send it along to Brooke Harrison at 157 Kemano Road, L4G 4Z5, or drop it off at the Auroran offices, 75 Mary Street, Unit 3, and we'll forward it to Brooke.

Our future looks glum but speaker charming

Deirdre McMurdy was the guest speaker at last week's luncheon meeting of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and while her message was not good news, she delivered it in a most delightful way and charmed a full house.

She is one of Canada's sharpest and most insightful business journalists and with her knowledge she is able to inform and stimulate an audience.

She is currently co-host of MoneyWise on Global TV and a columnist for the Financial Post and Canadian Business.

McMurdy warned Chamber members that it was not going to be an easy year ahead with national elections in the United States and Canada and a new government in Ontario that was just cutting its teeth.

She said that normally if you get six economists together you would get seven opinions, but recently the Ontario Club of Economists agreed that 2004 could be a dismal year and expressed caution as the nation is living with uncertainty.

Please see page 3



Aurora Chamber of Commerce President Brian North presents Business Editor Deirdre McMurdy with a plaque following her talk to chamber members at a regular luncheon Wednesday. McMurdy's take on the business world had the audience captivated.

Photo by Rob Schuetz



Brian

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John



COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

Helping Hands: Gently used clothing for women and children, at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, every Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. For more information, call 905-727-6101.

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.

Until April 15th winter on-street parking restrictions in effect to enable snow plowing crews to clear the roadways.

Marquee Theatrical Productions registration for ages 6-11 Snow White and 12 - 16 Acting and Production workshops. Program starts Feb. 21. For more information call 905-713-1040.

JANUARY 30

For teenagers 14-18 Snowboard and Ski Trip to Mount St. Louis/Moonstone. Bus departs Leisure Complex at 8 a.m. arriving back about 6 p.m. As there are no rentals, participants must provide their own equipment. Cost is \$40. Register at the Leisure Complex.

JANUARY 31/FEBRUARY 1

The Aurora Opera Company presents the musical "Oliver" at the Newmarket Theatre with a cast of 76. The production is the traditional bleak world of Victorian England with the onstage fantasy of a big glitzy musical. Call the theatre box office at 905-953-5122 for tickets.

FEBRUARY 7

Aurora's Arctic Adventure, Aurora Community Centre. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Activities for everyone.

Valentine's Tea fundraiser presented by the Mobility Foundation of York Region, at Aurora United Church, 2 to 4 p.m. Tickets \$10 and seating is limited. For tickets, call 905-727-7274 or 905-713-0832.

FEBRUARY 14

York Symphony Orchestra features "Orchestral Images" at 8 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church Aurora. Program includes works by Chabrier, Khachaturian, Elgar, Debussy and Respighi. Call 416-410-0860 for tickets.

At the Aurora Legion, karaoke, 8 p.m. Tribute artist is Ken Mann. Preceded by a Chinese Valentine's Dinner at 6 p.m. Advance tickets \$10.

FEBRUARY 18

Fizzical Fizzicks, a show on motion, will be presented by the Parents Without Partners Pine Ridge Chapter at Aurora High School at 7 p.m. For further information and tickets, call 1-800-419-7383. All seats \$9.

Aurora Public Library in conjunction with Aurora Cable Internet presents a free seminar on Grissoft AVG Anti-Virus Software. 7-8.30 p.m. in the Lebovic room. Call the APL at 905-727-9493 to reserve a seat.

Aurora Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting at the Tuscany Banquet Centre on Edward Street with

Showcase Tables at 11:45 a.m. and luncheon at 12:30. Guest speaker is David Olive, columnist with the Toronto Star. Call 905-727-7262 to register.

FEBRUARY 23

First payment of the 2004 interim property tax is due. The two interim payments are based on 50 per cent of your 2003 property tax.

FEBRUARY 26

Aurora Seniors guided tour of Toronto's newest attraction The Distillery Historic Tour of the former Gooderham and Worts Distillery, now accommodating art galleries and museums. Cost for members \$58 and \$63 for non-members. Call 905-727-2816 to reserve.

MARCH 5

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church World Day of Prayer service. 7.30 p.m. For further information, call 905-727-5011.

MARCH 24

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Networking Dart Tournament at Charley FitzWhiskey's from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Register by calling the Chamber office at 905-727-7262.

MAY 10/13

Aurora Seniors' return trip to the Memphre Inn in Magog, Quebec. Includes three nights accommodation, nine meals, three late night snacks, entertainment, indoor swimming pool and two local visits with all service charges and taxes included. Double \$387. Call 905-727-2816 to reserve.

JUNE 6

Ninth Annual World's Longest Street Festival. Call the Aurora Chamber of Commerce office at 905-727-7262 to book a spot.

- with files from info Aurora



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\$369,000

LOVELY HOME ON POOL-SIZED LOT IN NORTHEAST AURORA!

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\$379,000

TOTALLY CHARMING CENTURY HOME IN "OLDE AURORA"

Featured on Aurora Historical Society's tour of homes! Large custom addition at rear includes fabulous kitchen with breakfast area & walkout! Wonderful lot with stone patio, gardens, trees & water feature.



\$559,000

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Speaker charms audience

From page 1

Looking back at 2003, she said it was a year of turmoil with the threat of terrorists, SARS and Mad Cow Disease and the uncertainty was ongoing.

Trade and cross-border crossings continue to be a problem, she said.

Referring to the Canadian dollar, she said the upside was imports from the U.S. but the downside was the loss of the export market.

She said the country did not have a road map as to where it was going or whether cuts in the interest rates will have an impact on the stock market and the real estate market.

She indicated people have great expectations in Paul Martin but she could see some tensions down the road in federal/provincial relations over transfer payments, but there were expectations that relationship between Ontario and the federal government would improve.

Referring to the leadership race for the new Conservative Party she said Belinda Stronach would make more of an impact than people might expect, but she wouldn't want to be in Belinda's shoes.

She said the business place was in a funny mood as it was afraid to make big commitments and was turning inward during the insecurity of an election year.

Canada has built a reputation on the international market, and there is the hope that after the election, that confidence will return, she said.

Meanwhile, chamber president Brian North announced the 18th Annual Home and Lifestyle Show will be held at the Community Centre April 23, 24 and 25, featuring more than 150 exhibitors.

New this year is the "Ugliest Room Gets a Makeover". Colour photos of the offending room should be submitted to the Chamber office, he said.

Ten finalists will be selected from all entries received by March 30 and the public will be invited to view the photographs and vote at the Home Show. The contest winner will receive a room makeover valued up

to \$2,000.

The Chamber's next luncheon meeting will be held February 18 at the Tuscany Banquet Centre with David Oliver, Toronto Star columnist, as guest speaker.



Aurora Chamber of Commerce guest speaker Deirdre McMurdy had her audience's attention during her luncheon talk last week on the economy. The business editor said things look a bit bleak, but she still managed to make the attendees feel good about it. *Photo by Rob Schuetze*

AURORA



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- KITCHEN ACCENTS - 841-0885
- KNIT OR KNOT - 713-1818
- KODAK IMAGE CENTRE - 726-4243
- LEGACY JEWELERS - 841-3065
- NOT JUST CARDS (HALLMARK) - 727-1547
- OAKRIDGE OUTFITTERS - 726-4063
- OMAR'S SHOES - 727-9391
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Poor Richard

Unfinished business remains unfinished

*Council transacts a lot of business,
But some unfinished items get lost;
An unfinished business list is needed,
And it can be done at little cost!*

-Richard's Scrapbook

In the old days of Aurora Council an unfinished business list was maintained by some members of council, including this writer, which was produced on a regular basis, as a follow-up to council directions.

At one time I was known as the "Memo Mayor" as every weekend I did a tour of the town (it was smaller then) with a tape recorder to make notes of what I saw and heard.

During the tour I normally met with 30 or 40 residents and listened to their comments, concerns and beefs, so I had a pretty good idea of what was going on in town.

This usually resulted in about 30 memos to members of council and staff every Monday to obtain answers or information to pass along to the citizens or to council for possible action. I also prepared my unfinished business list.

Currently, council will refer an issue to a committee or staff to investigate and to report back so that action might be taken, but quite often the report never seems to appear.

With the consent agenda process used by council in which only those items "lifted" by a member of council are discussed, a lot of public business is rubber-stamped by council, as the result of a staff recommendation, so that it's easy to miss an item.

Not only that but the minutes of the previous meeting are no longer distributed with the agenda, as they used to be, so it's not possible to follow up on the action taken, if any.

Aurora is one of the few municipalities that doesn't distribute copies of minutes of council meetings.

In February last year, as a result of a business breakfast meeting hosted by the Yonge Street Commercial Subcommittee several comments were received from participating businesspeople, which were reviewed by the Economic Development Committee.

The comments included more enforcement of portable signs on Yonge Street in the downtown core, a review of parking including the use of the Temperance Street parking lot for all-day GO Transit commuters, and the clean up of vacant lots.

Council endorsed the report and referred parts of it to the Traffic Safety Advisory Board and Bylaw Enforcement Officers for action.

If a report of the action taken was made, there is no public record of it to my knowledge.

Then in July following a presentation/demonstration of an Automatic External Defibrillation program for use in public facilities, council endorsed the program and directed staff to submit a comprehensive report including the cost to implement the program and if lease options were available.

As of the end of 2003 a report had not been submitted to council. It may be that the report will be included in the 2004 capital budget forecast, but council should make that decision, not staff.

One of the major items of unfinished business is the ongoing problem of unsightly newspaper vending boxes littering the streets, as readers take the newspapers but often dump the enclosed flyers on the street.

By 1969 council received complaints from citizens about the unsightly boxes, usually accompanied by pictures. The complaints continued in 1971, 1984, 1986, 1990, and again in March, 2002, with more photographs.

Once again, staff was requested to investigate and report back on ways and means of regulating the street vending boxes, including financial implications, locations and a draft regulatory bylaw.

To the best of knowledge the report has never been presented to council and not a single member of council ever bothered to follow up as to why.

These are not isolated cases, but unfortunately a regular occurrence.

Staff can't be blamed for not submitting reports when members of council, including the mayor, aren't the least bit interested in following up on unfinished business.

There's more to being a councillor than getting elected and attending meetings!



This photo is a little more recent than what we normally run in this slot, but there are still many question marks regarding youngsters' identities. It was taken of a Grade 2 class in 1955 at Wells Street Public School and the teacher, top right, is Miss Genevieve Fyfe. This is the information available. Back row, left to right, ?, Steven King, Linda Dalton, Barbara Kerr, ?, ?, Dale Scott, Bruce Feirheller, John Ardill, ?, Roy Jones, ?, Nick Haley, ?. Middle row, left to right, Judy Myra, Linda Smith, Linda Burns, Verna Evans, Jill Seaton, Donna Matthews, Linda Bowser, Brian McDonald, ?, ?, Paul Smith. Front row, left to right, Lynn Patrick, Penny ?, Paul Rubin, Pat Watson, Linda Beamish, Cathy Ellis, Linda Rawling, Jeanette Jury, Wayne McDonald, Sherry Pugh, Susan Northwood. The photo was submitted by D.J. Watson.

Letters to the Editor

Actions of three councillors "reprehensible", reader says

ED. NOTE: The following letter was sent to the Era-Banner with a copy forwarded to the Auroran. It appears here in its entirety.

To the editor,

First of all let's get something straight. The vast majority of Aurorans couldn't care less about municipal politics or the people who have chosen to play a role in them. This is certainly borne out by the unsettlingly small numbers of people who came out to vote in the November election.

Secondly, let's also make note that the current council is comprised of two former mayors, and a lawyer, who clearly understand that the concept of off-site "get togethers" is well within the letter of the laws that govern their behaviour, and that this sort of activity has been part of council team building for many years and with many councils of the past.

Thirdly, it would be the folly

of the Era-Banner to in any way show any undue or unjustifiable support of any particular council member, especially if that council member might have worked for the Era-Banner in any capacity, i.e. columnist.

As a tax paying and voting member of this community I find the actions of Councillor Morris and her squad, Councillors Kean and Gaertner reprehensible.

In the case of the latter, Ms. Gaertner would do well to spend time with the veterans on council and take advantage of their experience and insight, as opposed to following Councillor Morris' lead and going against the grain just for the sake of it, and as for Councillor Kean he should be ashamed of himself for continuing to allow Councillor Morris to pull his strings.

Let's face it, this isn't about money and isn't about legality, it's about power, and

specifically about the power that Councillor Morris does not have but craves for.

The concept of our elected officials spending time together away from the council chambers is hardly disdainful to anyone who understands the idea of team building and getting to know one and other as people first and governors second.

The suggestion that this is government working in secrecy just doesn't float; it's not as if the chambers are packed with concerned citizens who just want to see government in action every Tuesday night, and I reiterate my statement that most people in this town just don't care.

Look at the numbers!

I hope this town wakes up in the next three years to Councillor Morris, her so called allies in chambers, and that her agenda is absolutely not in the best interests of anyone but herself and her ego.

Watch out, Aurora.

**Paul Chapley
Aurora**

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Three absent councillors should be commended

To the editor,

How did the question of whether an off-site meeting

was legal or not descend to its current level?

What started off being

Town not charged for rooms

To the editor,

We wish to clarify that there were no expenses incurred for the three councillors who chose not to attend the council retreat earlier this month.

The Town was not charged for their rooms.

We would ask that Mr. Illingworth, author of the "Bouquets & Brickbats" column, also be advised.

**Mayor's Office
Town of Aurora**

called an "off-site meeting" quickly became a "session", a "work-shop", a "gathering", and a "get together". This week, they are calling it a "retreat". What was once called the agenda for the off-site is now called an "itinerary".

Concerns raised by the members who chose not to attend were discarded, only to be reaffirmed at the off-site by the lawyer conducting the session on "Legal

Please see page 14



Mayor's Report
By Tim Jones

Littering a serious problem in Aurora

With all the snow on the ground, one of the last things that we're thinking about at this time of year is litter. Out of sight, out of mind, so to speak.

Not so in Aurora.

Monday night this week, I invited representatives from all the fast food enterprises in town, officials from the major plazas in Aurora, volunteers from the numerous community organizations that are involved in our Adopt a Park program, a representative from our waste pick up service, students from our local high schools, company representatives that are developing Property in Aurora, to a meeting at the town hall.

Our goal was to develop an anti-litter initiative that will see us stay on top of the litter problems we experience throughout most of the year.

Last spring, I became involved in an anti-litter initiative with the City of Mississauga.

At the urging of some community minded residents, we held a few litter clean up days and thanks to local companies including Aurora Home Hardware, Canadian Tire and Tim Horton's we secured garbage bags, gloves and some funds to make it all work.

We also secured the commitment of Mac's Milk and MacDonald's to continue to participate as we developed our program.

The plan Monday was to identify those who are interested in helping us develop a program and to identify what it is that each participant at this meeting can bring to the table.

Some of the things we are looking for are the obvious, supplies like gloves and bags as well as a commitment from those who represent groups to come out and assist with litter pick up on designated days throughout the year.

We are also looking for funds to help us promote our program and initiative as well as to educate the public not to litter in the first place.

For its part, the Town will be considering as part of its budget process additional garbage receptacles for the business areas especially marked with anti-litter messages.

The Region of York has also recognized this issue and is addressing its anti-litter campaign effort with a discussion at the Solid Waste Management Committee at its January meeting.

The Region did a survey during the summer of 2003 which highlighted the need for an increased emphasis in this area and I am hoping a Regional representative will join the group so that we can work together and help each other in our efforts.

The Region identified the following as the major reasons why people litter:

- Litterers feel no sense of ownership - even though parks and roadways are public property funded by their taxes.
 - Litterers feel someone else, i.e. parks staff, will pick up after them.
 - And, if litter has already accumulated in an area, it must be okay to add to it.
- The main sources of litter were:
- Pedestrians not using receptacles.
 - Motorists not using ashtrays or litter bags.
 - Garbage containers used by businesses that are not properly covered.
 - Loading docks which have inadequate waste receptacles.
 - Construction sites without adequate waste receptacles for construction debris.
 - Trucks with uncovered loads.
 - Household garbage scattered prior to or during collection.

Litter is detracting to our Town and can discourage those who visit Aurora.

In some cases litter can cause injury to people or even death to animals through ingesting and choking.

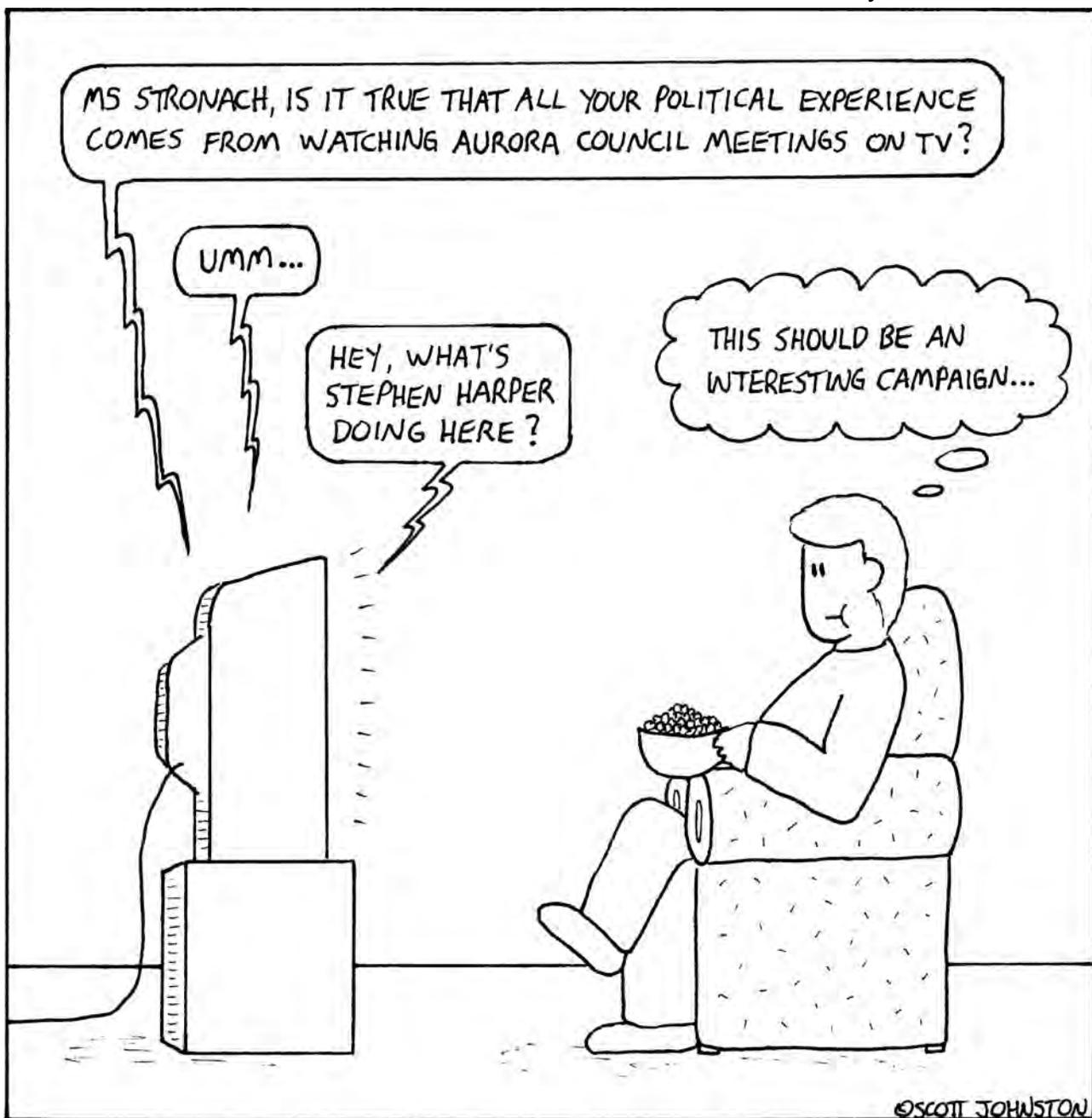
High levels of litter can cause bacteria and rodents.

I will have more to say about our progress on litter in future columns.

If you are willing to help in our initiative, I look forward to hearing from you and adding your name to this cause.

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

Machell's Corners



Cathy's Corner



Computers have a mind of their own

Our computer is possessed.

At first, I thought it was just tired from working too hard and too long - just like me. It slowed down, and then it passed out.

While renovating, passing out and waking up with a paintbrush in my hand was my typical night, so I could relate.

I forgave it, gave it the boot, and forgot...that computers don't get tired. Hmmm...

For a while, everything seemed to be working fine but slow. Except for pop-ups.

They were fast.

These are irritating advertisements that just "pop-up" on your screen, like magic.

If you suffer from this type of marketing assault, read on.

This may seem like just another annoyance, but it is actually a bona fide problem.

Look for CommonName, eZula TopText, n-Case, Wild Tangent, sbar and downloadware - they will have their own directories set up on your hard drive.

Search the net to find out what these programs are.

What most people don't know is that pretty much every computer you buy today comes with its own software "bundle".

You get a lot of freebies - easy internet connection, fast downloads, search tools, free software.

Hidden in these is "spyware" - software that compiles data about your patterns and sends it to people who want to know...for their own profit.

All of the providers of such software claim it is "harmless".

It isn't.

Your personal information in the hands of strangers is about as harmless as a scorpion in your shoe.

All the surfing, downloading, and chatting that goes on provides jackpot opportunities for more spyware to get onto your hard drive - without your knowledge or consent.

You might like seeing "My Web" "My Computer", "My Documents" and get the idea that you're in control. Mine! It sounds like a nice personal touch.

A little too personal.

You could be giving access to credit card, banking and identity information to hackers who have every intention of using it against you.

Which is why it is affectionately dubbed "scumware" by those who know better.

At the very least, scumware can change your settings, diverting you from where you want to go (reputable web-sites) to where they want to take you (their disreputable accomplices). This is known as "hijacking".

You cannot remove or delete the scumware as you would any regular program.

Your computer will tell you that the job is done, but your computer lies - but only to you.

It tells potential hackers the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Next time you boot it up, TA-DA! The party's at your house. Bargain Buddy, Clip Genie, Bonzi Buddy - all your fiends are back. (That is not a typo, by the way. These are not your friends!)

This software has the amazing ability to re-install itself on boot-up. Search your computer for ezstub.exe, or stub.exe. This is the creepiest component of eZula - the supernatural ability to raise itself from the dead.

Don't bother trying to delete it. Remember, this is spyware - it knows exactly what you're doing. It has all sorts of logic-defying self-preservation skills built into it.

Why? Because there are brilliant people in the world who have chosen to use their talents to develop ingenious products for despicable purposes.

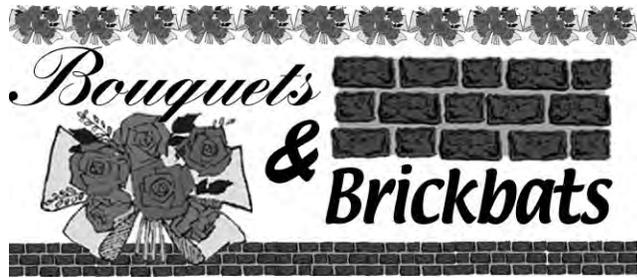
I'm not knowledgeable enough to be giving advice and making recommendations to others.

Which is why, this column's purpose is not only to advise Aurorans of a very real danger, but to ask for help.

I am absolutely certain that Aurora has a few brilliant, talented computer wizards who want to use their skills to make the world a better place. So, I'm sending out an SOS:

HELP!

Brilliant computer wizards can e-mail Cathy at laughingmatters@aci.on.ca, OR get directly in touch with Auroran Editor, Ron Wallace at rwall9999@aol.com.



Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BRICKBATS to Poor Richard for misinterpreting the facts about the recent council retreat. He understood that the taxpayers were stuck with the accommodation costs for the three missing councillors. The BRICKBAT is hereby rescinded as CAO Larry Allison confirmed the town did not incur expenses for absent three.

BOUQUETS to Aurora Legionnaire Don Dempsey for obtaining the first Veterans' licence plate in Ontario "1V0001" with the poppy insignia. The new plate is available on application to all veterans.

BRICKBATS to members of Aurora Council for not taking any follow up action regarding the parking policy for commercial offices following a discussion at a recent council meeting, even after all the problems council is experiencing with a shortage of parking, especially around medical offices. A review is badly needed.

BOUQUETS to Theatre Aurora for inviting Aurora Seniors to attend the dress rehearsal performance at the Factory Theatre for every production over the past several years, at no charge. On January 21, the seniors enjoyed the mystery/thriller "Communicating Doors".

BOUQUETS to Marquee Productions of Aurora for donating \$1 for every ticket sold for their production of the musical "Forever Plaid" at the Newmarket Theatre to the Aurora Seniors.

BRICKBATS to the players and fans from the Michigan AFI Thunder bantam hockey team for their poor sportsmanlike conduct during the 2004 Aurora Bantam/Atom tournament held recently at the Community Centre. Canada/U.S. relations may be at a low political level, but at a hockey game, it's ridiculous.

BOUQUETS to the management of St. Andrew's College for their donation of 50 used computers to the Aurora Seniors Centre. This enabled many seniors to acquire a computer at reasonable cost and brought in \$1,200 for the building fund.

BOUQUETS to the hardy tennis players who participated in the first ever Polar Bear tennis fundraising event at McMahon Park recently to raise funds for the Bounce the Ball program to promote tennis in Aurora's primary schools.

BRICKBATS to the federal and Ontario governments, both screaming about a shortage of funds, for finding \$500,000 each to bring NBC's "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" to Toronto for one week, claiming the million-dollar expenditure is worth every dime. Remember the Rolling Stones concert?

BOUQUETS to Ontario Environment Minister Leona Dombrowsky for arranging a partnership with the packaging industry to cost-share the municipal blue box program, expected to generate an estimated \$3 million per month for municipalities.

BOUQUETS to those at the Aurora Zellers store for selling a colourful T-shirt emblazoned with three pictures and the words "Ontario, Canada" and "Aurora". The fabric was made in the states and assembled in Mexico.

BRICKBATS to Premier Dalton McGuinty if he gives into blackmail by the Highway 407 consortium and reinstitutes the withholding of vehicle licence plates for motorists who failed to pay their toll charges in order to live up to his promise of lower rates. Lower rates, yes, but not through blackmail!

BOUQUETS to Joan and Jack Patterson on being recognized by the Province of Ontario for each contributing 15 years of service to the Aurora Historical Society. More **BOUQUETS** to Angela Grattage, Eileen Mitchell and Helen Roberts for five years each.

Letters to the Editor

No contest between Stronach and Brown, this reader says

To the editor,

As a long-time resident of Newmarket, I understand the contribution Frank Stronach and his daughter, Belinda, have made to this area of Ontario through Magna International.

Ms Stronach may be a perfectly likeable person.

I am, however, bemused that somehow this, along with her vaunted connections with the likes of Bill Clinton (now there's a

"Conservative"), et al, would make Belinda Stronach an effective MP for Newmarket-Aurora, let alone a viable leader of the Conservative Party of Canada.

She was neither a member of the Progressive Conservatives nor the Canadian Alliance.

Through Magna she gave money to David Orchard and Paul Martin - hardly the acts of a true Conservative, but perhaps a pragmatic

business move.

If she were to capture the Conservative nomination in Newmarket-Aurora, but lose her leadership bid, would she be willing to be a backbencher and pay her dues that way?

And just what does she stand for?

Even after watching her press conference on January 20, it's hard to know what she really believes - other than that she wants to be Prime

Minister.

I have this eerie feeling that through wielding her influence as an employer, she'll create an employee army of "Stepford Conservative members", garner the nomination in this riding, supported primarily by uninvolved and uninformed new party members.

I contrast Ms Stronach with Lois Brown, a political veteran, a lifelong resident of the area, who has had a life of service to this community through her volunteering, political activism and networking.

I have had the privilege of meeting Ms Brown and was delighted at her forthrightness, her hard work on behalf of Newmarket-Aurora, and her commitment to service and to the accountability of our public servants.

In listening to Ms Stronach's announcement, it's hard to differentiate her stance from Paul Martin's.

I guess the choice for Conservatives in Newmarket-Aurora will be between Ms Stronach's centrist, Liberal-sounding stance, and Lois Brown's classic Conservative principled one.

That's an easy choice for me.

Jonathan Kramer
Newmarket

*Letters
continue
page 14*

She hasn't tasted real life

To the editor,

Having been a hard working Conservative all of my life, I find it embarrassing to hear that a billionaire "working mother" with a huge staff of servants and a bank account that doesn't quit, could possibly relate to or know what it is really like out there in the real world.

I seriously doubt that Belinda Stronach has ever had to walk several miles in the cold without proper winter clothing taking a child to a babysitter, or has ever

had a budget so finely tuned that she could only afford to eat three times a week in order that her child could eat.

I seriously doubt that Ms. Stronach has had to live pay cheque to pay cheque praying for health good enough to see her through and not have to face living in the street if the pay cheques stop.

I have no problem with anyone seeking public office.

I myself have served as an elected official, but not

before I worked very hard for many years for other candidates and gained much experience.

I do have a problem with the presentation of this particular candidate claiming she can relate to what it's like to have the pressures of being a single working mother just like any other.

If our candidates come out of the starting gate being this deceitful, it can only get worse from there, and quite frankly, we have had enough of deceitful politicians misrepresenting both themselves and the issues.

And the real issues are that we are over governed, overtaxed and the poor working stiffs who pay the freight never have their views or needs represented by their elected officials.

I would strongly suggest that Ms. Stronach may want to rethink the way she is starting out presenting herself as just an ordinary working stiff.

Heather Sinclair
Oak Ridges

Workshop important, could have been here

To the editor,

RE: Councillors who boycotted or did not attend the training/educational off site workshop, Jan. 9-11, 2004

How do our new councillors plan to get 'up to speed' and educate themselves on all the material/information covered at the off site workshop Jan. 9-11? (See AURORAN; Jan. 20, 2004 "Notes from our off site workshop" Mayor Tim Jones' column)

Do our councillors who did not attend think it is better to operate and represent us in ignorance?

Or will they be reading all this material on their own time to get caught up with those who did attend?

Mayor Jones' article explained that this weekend long workshop was very comprehensive and intensive.

Guest and staff speakers covered pertinent information to all councillors, new and returning, to assist them in doing their job for us in the most informed and educated manner possible.

I do, however, feel that this

workshop could have just as effectively been held at a town facility such as the library with cell phones not permitted.

I hope this will be considered next election.

Linda Houser
Aurora

Way to go, Rachel!!

To the editor,

Congratulations to five-year-old Rachel Sanderson, whose happy, smiling little face, appeared on the front page of your January 20th newspaper, holding her just "chopped off" locks!

Rachel must be commended for her thoughtfulness of the less fortunate and hopefully, others may follow her example for a very worthwhile cause.

Way to go, Rachel.

We need more kind little people like you!

Rosalyn A. Gonsalves
Aurora

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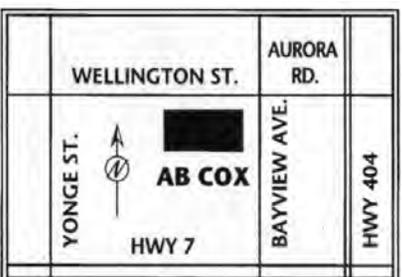
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"Can't talk now, I'm all tied up." Ruella Welles, played by Dalene Flannigan, gets strung up by Julian Goodman, played by Bruce Williamson, in theatre Aurora's current production "Communicating Doors". Show continues into February.



"Is this real or imagined?" Bruce Williamson, playing Julian Goodman, threatens Phoebe, played by Tina McCulloch, but does it happen or is it erased from time and memory? One way to find out. Attend "Communicating Doors" currently being performed at Factory Theatre.

Amazing show presented by Theatre Aurora cast

Theatre Aurora has presented many interesting, challenging and award winning plays since its inception in 1958, but its current production, "Communicating Doors" has to be close to the top of the list.

It has everything, an interesting story, a very strong cast and a set design, including a revolving section that could take its place among the best in theatre anywhere.

This is a professional production in every sense

of the word.

The story, by playwright Alan Ayckbourn, is set in a suite in the Regal Hotel in London and takes place July 2024, October 2004 and May 1984 through the magic of space travel.

It starts in 2024 when a sickly old man named Reece Welles, played by Nic Jackson, who lives in the hotel, wants to confess how he and his partner Julian Goodman, carried out their business dealings and how they had murdered his two wives for their

money to further their business interests.

He has written a long confession and needs a witness to sign it. He orders a dominatrix to come to the suite.

Poopay Dayseer, played by Tina McCulloch in the best of theatrical perfection, arrives and is greeted by the hateful Julian Goodman, played by Bruce Williamson, who warns her to be kind to the old man and threatens her.

Poopay is dressed for the part with a pair of tight fitting

leather pants laced up the sides and a leather halter top with a whip and bag of tricks. But the old man isn't interested. He goes to the fully-equipped bathroom onstage and reaching down into the bidet pulls out the hidden confession.

At first Poopay refuses to sign it but after the pleading of the old man does so and plans to leave.

In the excitement the old man collapses on the floor, she calls Julian and in the madness that follows escapes through a door

supposedly leading to a cupboard, with the confession.

It is actually a space capsule that rotates with flashing lights before your eyes and takes her back to the same hotel suite in 2004 occupied by Ruella Welles, the old man's second wife, played by Dalene Flannigan in a very demanding role, which she carries off to perfection.

After considerable dialogue between the two key players, Ruella finally believes Poopay's story and decides to travel back in time to 1984 to warn Jessica Welles, played by Lucy Carabine, of the dangers that lie ahead.

She arrives in the suite as Jessica and a much younger Reece Welles are on their honeymoon.

During the scenes Harold Parker, a hotel security officer over the years, played by Brian Farrar, plays a role in the lives of the others.

The action takes place during the three time periods and while the audience may get mixed up from time to time as to what period they are in, with the excellence of the acting, it doesn't matter.

It is a play with a difference, part science fiction, part mystery with a nifty and surprising twist at the end.

It is well worth seeing, not only because of the very strong acting by all cast members, the engineering of the stage crew in designing and building the revolving set, and the makeup, especially changing Nic Jackson from a virile young man in 1984 to the doddering old man in 2024.

"Communicating Doors" is directed by Sean Houghton with the assistance of a very large technical crew, all well trained in their assigned tasks. It continues this week and February 4-7 with curtain at 8:15 p.m. Call 905-727-3669 for tickets. You won't regret it!

"Suitehearts" tickles audience at Howard Johnson's Hotel

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

If you are fed up with this long, cold, snowy winter, Stellar Productions and the Queen Elizabeth Dinner Theatre at Howard Johnson Aurora have a cure for you with the current production of "Suitehearts", a hilarious comedy by William Van Zandt and Jane Milmore.

Elizabeth and Timothy Taylor, a sweet, naïve young couple who have just been married, go to New York City for their honeymoon. They are booked into the Honeymoon Suite on the 15th floor of the hotel.

Both are very innocent and are embarrassed being alone in the same room, but excited at being in the big city and seeing the sights from the hotel window.

They are not alone for long as the phone rings and it's Timothy's mother checking up on them and entreating Elizabeth to be gentle with her little boy. Her phone calls continue throughout the play with interesting results.

When Elizabeth goes into the bedroom to change, Timothy is quick to pull out a book, with pictures, about sex, which he hides under

the chesterfield cushions when she returns, but studies it every chance he gets.

But, due to a double booking the hotel also rented the Honeymoon Suite to another couple, Wanda and Frankie, a more mature, worldly couple both in dress and actions.

One of the many hilarious scenes occurs when Elizabeth is in the bedroom and Timothy has been called to the front desk. Enter Frankie and Wanda who make themselves at home, when the bedroom door opens and Elizabeth enters with her eyes closed saying "Take me, Take me!"

Due to a convention in the city there are no other rooms available and after much deliberation, it is decided to share the suite leading to all kinds of interesting situations you have to see to believe.

The witty lines by the playwrights are well delivered by a strong cast and it is one laugh after another as the play proceeds to a happy ending.

The play is well directed by Diane Haskett, a veteran of community theatre in York Region and Toronto, who once played Wanda in an

earlier production of the play.

She selected Jennifer Mercer for the role of Elizabeth and it was an excellent choice. Although she had previously appeared in only one community theatre production, Jennifer performs like a veteran and gives a sparkling rendition of the innocent bride.

Tyler Webb plays the role of Timothy, a mother's boy who grew up in a hurry. A student at Unionville School of the Arts in Dance it was his first experience on stage, but you would never know it, as he handled the role as if it had been written for him.

Also new to the stage was Stephen Birtles, who played the role of Herman, the bellhop, who was on and off

stage during the production, always with his hand out, adding to the hilarity of the play.

Mark Hayward was Frankie and Shelly Mathieson was Wanda. Both have previous community theatre experience and play their roles like the veterans they are.

All in all it was a well produced presentation with stage management by Karen Park and technical operation by David Russell. It's well worth seeing as it's a barrel of laughs.

The play continues on selected Friday and Saturday nights through to February 15 and it would make an excellent Valentine gift. Buffet at 6:30 p.m. with curtain at 8:30 p.m. Phone 905-727-1312 for reservations.

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Would you jump at the chance to go sailing in the Caribbean? These ladies did and had the time of their lives. Twenty-three girls from Aurora's Jaymor Dance School were chosen to perform on a week long Royal Caribbean cruise that set sail from Fort Lauderdale. On the ship, they took time out to pose for the top photo, while their home for a week is shown in bottom photo.

They danced their way into the summer sun

Cold getting you down? Wouldn't it be nice to be on a south seas cruise right now?

So, okay, you can't make it, but you can read about others who did.

Twenty-three girls from Aurora's Jaymor Dance School had the opportunity of a lifetime when they were chosen to perform on a weeklong Royal Caribbean cruise that set sail from Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Included on the dream trip were Cassandra Coulthard, Megan Coll, Vanessa Younes, Samara Tons, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Megan Pilkey, Michelle Krug, Mikhaila Loader, Cynthia Jamieson, Brooke Bornemann, Taylor Bornemann, Nicola Krug,

Alexandra Herrington, Caleigh Rabbior, Jacky Bernier, Tally O'bireck, Laura Durst, Taylor Smart, Seana O'bireck, Serja Molema, Tracy Clark, Siobhan Doyle and Cassandra Iannucci.

All are between the ages of nine and 19.

They were chosen as part of Orlando's Stars at Sea competition.

Audition tapes and pictures were submitted to the company from competitive dance teams all over North America.

Jaymor School Director Nancy Dinner is especially proud of the girls.

"It's a very tough competition and they really shone," she said. "They definitely deserved this honour."

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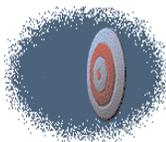
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Late game burst needed for Tiger win

By TYLER NORWOOD

The Aurora Tigers needed a two-goal burst in the last half of the third period to give themselves their 45th win of the season.

The Tigers trailed for just over half the game to the

aggressive but lowly Couchiching Terriers.

"It was a sloppy game," GM and Coach of the Tigers, Marty Williamson said. "When any game ends up 56-44 in shots-on-net that's a wild and woolly game and that's not how we

like to play."

Joel Kitchen and Sean Scully each scored two goals while team captain Jordan Brenner and defenseman Corey LeClair added pairs of assists.

Starting goaltender, Chris Whitley had an off

night...by his standards.

However, his standards are pretty high considering he's ranked as the best goaltender in all of Junior A hockey.

Whitley made 41 saves on 44 shots and matched Mike Thomson save for save

until Thomson let in a shot by Scully with 5:12 to go in the third period.

For more than half of the game, however, Couchiching had to be happy with themselves.

Despite posting 52 points fewer than Aurora this season, they were up a goal on the best team in Canada.

With just more than five minutes left in the game, Scully finally did something about it.

"I got a two-on-one and I just wanted to get the puck on net. I saw an opening and I went for it," he said.

The goal came 33 seconds after his first.

"We didn't come out as well as we wanted to. We didn't want to be down, obviously, but we weren't doing the things that have made us successful," Scully added. "We got back to it in the third after we got the goal."

The Tigers play again this Friday night at the Aurora Community Centre against the Newmarket Hurricanes.

Newmarket is the only team to beat Aurora this season, and they

did it twice.

Game time is 8 p.m.

Aurora's final game of the regular season comes Sunday as they host the Markham Waxers at the ACC.

That one begins at 2:30 p.m.

GAME SUMMARY

Aurora 4 Couchiching 3

1ST PERIOD

A - Joel Kitchen (LeClair, Minchella) 1.08

C - Eric Perrault (Jeremey, Rowe) 8.27

C - Sean Burke (Baccaro, Sample) 18.52

2ND PERIOD

No Scoring

3RD PERIOD

A - Joel Kitchen (Hotham, Minchella) 7.55

C - Peter Dekker (Booth, Clark) 12.44

A - Sean Scully (Brenner, LeClair) 14.15

A - Sean Scully (Bahen, Brenner) 14.48

Aurora Youth Soccer Club names new head coach

The Aurora Youth Soccer Club has a new Head Coach.

Vito Colangelo has been with the Club for the past six years as the Head Coach of the highly successful AYSC Rep Program and this new role expands his responsibilities.

He will be responsible for designing and delivering

Coach, Referee and Player Development Programs for the more than 300 volunteer coaches, the House League referees and almost 4,000 players.

Mr. Colangelo has a long list of soccer credentials that include coaching at both high school and college levels.

He has taken teams to OFSAA finals and he has

coached both Humber College and Seneca College to Ontario Championships.

He has been voted the CCAA coach of the year the last two years and has coached professionally with the York Region Shooters.

Vito is a Physical Education teacher and coach at Marian Academy

and not surprisingly has four children in the AYSC soccer programs.

"I am extremely excited about the opportunity, and will work hard to make this an even better club," he said when notified of his appointment.

"Vito has been a constant source of expertise and motivation to our Rep. coaches and players," said Ron Weese, AYSC President. "The AYSC Board is unanimous in its support for Vito and we are confident of his ability to keep the Club moving and developing. This is very good news for the AYSC."

Minor Ball seeking storage, office space

Carol Walthers, representing the Aurora Minor Ball Association, appeared before council's general committee last week looking for space.

The group's most urgent need is storage space, she said, noting Leisure Services had provided some room at the Community Centre but it could only accommodate about 60 per cent of their needs, and as they were losing space at the Church Street School, their need was greater than ever.

Another required resource is a display case for the association's trophies.

The players are proud of their accomplishments winning trophies, she said, but are disappointed as they have no place to display them.

She showed pictures of bulletin boards and display cases used by other sporting groups in the municipality.

She added that the association needs an office as many documents get lost

without having a permanent place to file them.

Director of Leisure Services Allan Downey said he had tried to locate storage space but was unable to satisfy their needs.

Committee members referred the requests to the Leisure Services Advisory Committee to investigate, as it appeared some groups received assistance and some didn't.



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THE AURORA YOUTH SOCCER CLUB

2004 REP TRYOUT SCHEDULE

GIRLS			BOYS		
U10 1994			U10 1994		
Feb 7	Saturday	1:00pm Cardinal Carter	Feb 1	Sunday	3:00pm Cardinal Carter
Feb 14	Saturday	1:00pm Cardinal Carter	Feb 8	Sunday	3:00pm Cardinal Carter
Feb 21	Saturday	1:00pm Cardinal Carter	Feb 22	Sunday	3:00pm Cardinal Carter
U11 1993			U11 1993		
Feb 7	Saturday	11:30am Cardinal Carter	Feb 7	Saturday	10:00am Cardinal Carter
Feb 14	Saturday	11:30am Cardinal Carter	Feb 14	Saturday	10:00am Cardinal Carter
Feb 21	Saturday	11:30am Cardinal Carter	Feb 21	Saturday	10:00am Cardinal Carter
U12 1992			U12 1992		
Feb 7	Saturday	8:30am Cardinal Carter	Feb 1	Sunday	1:30pm Aurora High
Feb 14	Saturday	8:30am Cardinal Carter	Feb 7	Saturday	2:30pm Cardinal Carter
Feb 21	Saturday	8:30am Cardinal Carter	Feb 8	Sunday	1:30pm Aurora High
U13 1991			U13 1991		
Feb 1	Sunday	9:00am Cardinal Carter	Feb 1	Sunday	12:00noon Aurora High
Feb 8	Sunday	9:00am Cardinal Carter	Feb 8	Sunday	12:00noon Aurora High
Feb 22	Sunday	9:00am Cardinal Carter	Feb 15	Sunday	12:00noon Aurora High
U14 1990			U14 1990		
Feb 1	Sunday	10:30am Cardinal Carter	Feb 1	Sunday	10:30am Aurora High
Feb 8	Sunday	10:30am Cardinal Carter	Feb 8	Sunday	10:30am Aurora High
Feb 22	Sunday	10:30am Cardinal Carter	Feb 15	Sunday	10:30am Aurora High
U15 1989			U15 1989		
Feb 1	Sunday	12:00noon Cardinal Carter	Feb 1	Sunday	9:00am Aurora High
Feb 8	Sunday	12:00noon Cardinal Carter	Feb 8	Sunday	9:00am Aurora High
Feb 22	Sunday	12:00noon Cardinal Carter	Feb 15	Sunday	9:00am Aurora High
U16 1998			U16 1998		
Feb 1	Sunday	1:30pm Cardinal Carter	Feb 14	Saturday	2:30pm Cardinal Carter
Feb 8	Sunday	1:30pm Cardinal Carter	Feb 15	Sunday	1:30pm Aurora High
Feb 22	Sunday	1:30pm Cardinal Carter	Feb 21	Saturday	2:30pm Cardinal Carter

COST \$15 PER PLAYER

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Ducks rule the pool

The Ontario top 10 rankings are in, and the Aurora Master Ducks were anything but all wet.

The group placed an incredible number of swimmers in the rankings.

For short course, 15 women ranked in 64 events, while seven men made it in 24 events, for a total of 88 top ten events by 22 different Aurora Master Ducks.

For combined events (rankings for combined yards/short course/long course), 15 women scored in 61 events, while seven men ranked in 23 events, for a total of four top ten events by 22 different Aurora Master Ducks.

The locals had eight first place rankings, 12 seconds and six thirds.

Following is a list of Aurora Master Ducks Ontario Short Course Rankings for the 2002/2003 season

Women 20-24

Eva Najemnikova 50 free 10th; 50 back 5th; 50 breast 5th; 50 fly 8th; 100 IM 8th.

Women 25-29

Nicole Egan 100 fly 10th; 200 IM 10th; 400 IM 8th.

Women 30-34

Kelly Chester 50 free 4th; 50 back 8th; 50 breast 8th; 50 fly 6th; 100 IM 6th.

Lori Haws 50 back 4th; 100 back 3rd; 200 back 4th; 50 fly 8th; 100 IM 10th.

Women 35-39

Wendy Punchard 50 free 4th; 50 back 5th; 50 breast 6th; 50 fly 6th; 100 IM 9th.

Jennifer Brydges 100 free 8th; 200 free 10th.

Women 40-44

Susan Allen 50 free 7th; 50 back 1st; 100 back 1st; 200 back 2nd; 50 fly 6th; 100 IM 8th.

Janet Mitchell 200 back 9th; 50 fly 9th.

Sue Deacon 50 breast 9th.

Judy Norwell 50 breast 4th; 100 breast 6th.

Taina Sodonis 200 breast 5th.

Karen Bonham 100 fly 8th.

Women 45-49

Judy Iannucci 50 free 8th; 50 back 5th; 50 fly 7th; 100 IM 6th.

Women 50-54

Wendy Cimarno 50 free 6th; 100 free 2nd; 200 free 2nd; 400 free 1st; 800 free 1st; 1500 free 1st; 50 back 6th; 50 breast 5th; 50 fly 5th; 100 IM 4th; 200 IM 2nd; 400 IM 1st.

Women 55-59

Wendy Duck 50 free 4th; 100 free 5th; 400 free 4th; 50 back 2nd; 100 back 3rd; 200 back 2nd; 50 breast 5th; 50 fly 4th; 100 IM 1st; 200 IM 2nd.

Men 20-24

Adam Porteous 50 fly 5th.

Men 30-34

Eric Gordon 200 breast 8th.

Men 40-44

Lloyd Brown 200 fly 5th.

Men 45-49

Frank Sodonis 100 free 9th; 100 back 7th; 200 back 8th; 50 fly 10th.

Bill Jenkins 800 free 9th.

Men 50-54

Dave Wilkins 50 free 2nd; 100 free 3rd; 200 free 2nd; 400 free 1st; 50 back 3rd; 50 breast 3rd; 50 fly 2nd; 100 fly 2nd; 100 IM 3rd.

Men 55-59

Jim Talbot 50 free 4th; 100 free 2nd; 200 free 2nd; 50 back 4th; 50 breast 8th; 50 fly 8th; 100 IM 7th.

Creative Connection plans hobby nights

Aurora's Creative Connection, a non-profit co-operative of local artisans dedicated to promoting and teaching arts and crafts, is onto something new.

The new venture is an opportunity for adults to enjoy a social evening in a warm, creative environment and learn new arts and crafts tips and techniques.

The "Hobby Nights" will feature a craft of the evening.

Those attending can purchase materials and participate in the craft, can bring their own craft to work on,

or can simply come to enjoy the camaraderie.

No experience required to attend.

Hobby Night is an opportunity to learn about new and interesting ideas.

It is also a great opportunity to get together with friends for an inexpensive evening out.

Creative Connections' current offerings include Girl Guides and Cubs programs, and sponsored class programs to adults with disabilities and other non profit organizations.

"The Centre" is a fun and creative place, staffed by volunteer artisans, teach-

ing a variety of arts and crafts to adults and children.

The organization also offers birthday parties, March Break programs and

summer camp.

For more details, call (905) 841-7474.

The centre is located at 155 Wellington St. E., near Industrial Parkway.

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St. John's traffic

From page 1

according to a traffic study the average speed was 75 km/hr.

He noted that parts of St. John's and the Industrial Parkway without homes had a 50 km/hr limit, but St. John's near Bathurst Street, a growing residential area, was still posted at 60.

He requested that council send a letter to the region recommending a 50 km/hr speed limit on the road between Yonge and Bathurst Streets.

In response to a question as to what action was taken

to the previous request to the region, Director of Public Works Wayne Jackson replied that staff had forwarded the previous submission by Allan to the region.

Knowing that Allan was listed on the agenda a check was made with the region and was advised the region was in the process of carrying out a larger study on speed limits.

Mayor Tim Jones agreed to check with regional officials on the previous request and bring back a report to council.

Monday Night Hockey Standings, Jan. 19

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Highland Chev Olds Geo Cad	13	2	1	75	42	27
Law Insurance Brokers	10	6	0	65	59	20
Rec Cycle N' Sports	9	5	2	66	48	20
Tom & Jerry's	9	6	1	61	53	19
Priestly Demolition	8	7	1	58	71	17
J.J. Barron Realty	5	9	2	53	62	12
FPL Aggregates	4	11	1	25	42	9
Masterclean Contracting	2	14	0	38	74	4

Results, Jan. 19

Law Insurance	5	Tom & Jerry's	3
Masterclean	4	FPL Aggregates	2
Highland Chev Olds	9	Rec Sports	4
Priestly Demolition	2	Barron Realty	2

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House League League Games

606 SKATERS FIRST 6: Jay Finch 2G 1A, Michael McGee 2G, Brendan Harrington 1G 1A, Christan Hastings 1G, Eric Beveridge 1A, AJ Cicarelli 1A, Ryan laird 1A, Colin Moffatt 1A, Chris Hall, shutout. **608 SPITFIRES 0.**

607 PERMANENT PRESS PRINTING 2: Michael Grande 1G, Scott McCrae 1G, Ryan Hart 2A. **606 SKATERS FIRST 2:** Andrew Wilkins 2G, Michael Shoesmith 1A.

602 OMAR'S SHOES 4: James Suddes 2G, Madison Weber 1G 1A, Michael Hartman 1G, Aaron Wochenmarket 1A. **603 CHOUINARD BROS. ROOFING 1:** Daniel Schep 1G, Shelby Bastarache 1A, Braun Hause 1A.

601 D-MAC FURNITURE 4: Steven Foss 2G, Adrian Clark 1G 1A, Jordan Brown 1G, David Yates 1A, Mark Jenkins 1A. **603 CHOUINARD BROS. ROOFING 2:** Braun Hause 1G 1A, Mike Hay 1G, Derek Lockhart 1A, Shelby Bastarache 1A.

605 FRESH WATER INDUSTRIES BOTTLED WATER 2: Jay Finch 1G, Christan Hastings 1G. **607 PERMANENT PRESS PRINTING 1:** Michael Grande 1G.

602 OMAR'S SHOES 11: Daniel Filippi 2G 1A, William Burke 2G, Tom Gibson 2G 1A, Madison Weber 1G 3A, Aaron Wochenmarket 1G 1A, James Suddes 1G 1A, Hunter Warden 1G 1A, Michael Hartman 1G. **604 COLL AUDIO & ACCURATE ELECTRICAL 2:** Jacob MacDonald 2G, Trevor Spence 1A, Peter martin 1A, Jason Durst 1A.

605 FRESH WATER INDUSTRIES BOTTLED WATER 11: Derek Isidoro 4G 1A, Jay Finch 2G 1A, Evan Logue 1G, Brendon Harrington 1G, Christan Hastings 1G, John Comeau 1G 1A, AJ Cicarelli 1G, Jeffrey Knaack 2A, Ryan Logue 2A, Eric Beveridge 1A, Andrew Storms 1A. **606 SKATERS FIRST 3:** Devin O'Kelly 1G 1A, Andrew Wilkins 1G 1A, Bruce Phillips 1A, Eric Shoesmith 1A.

606 SKATERS FIRST 6: Michael Shoesmith 1G 2A, Andrew Wilkins 1G 2A, Ian Hayzeldon 2G 1A, Devin O'Kelly 1G 1A, John Merritt 1G, Bruce Phillips 1A, Spenser Freeland 1A. **608 SPITFIRES 4:** Stuart Marsh 1G, Eric Alcorn 1G, Jamie Russell 1G 1A, Kevin Nandlall 1G, Dan Mulroy 2A, Julian Sborra 1A.

602 OMAR'S SHOES 3: Simon Esposito 1G, James Suddes 1G, Dylan Calvert 1G, Madison Weber 2A, Hunter Warden 1A. **607 PERMANENT PRESS PRINTING 1:** Scott Denotter 1G, Ryan Hart 1A, Evan Campbell 1A.

House League Playoff Games

103 TIM HORTON'S - TIMBITS (Red) 10: Jerryd Jensen 6G 1A, Matthew Iwai 2G, Erik Balkovec 1G, Rio Speller-Drews 1G, Tyler Kozak 1A, Nelson Hossack 1A, Tyler Hindley 1A. **110 TIM HORTON'S - TIMBITS (Teal) 7:** Brenden Lukezic 5G 1A, Alex Perez 1G 1A, Matthew Sanita 1G, Annie Johnson 1A.

107 TIM HORTON'S - TIMBITS (Grey) 6: Konner McMillan 3G 2A, John McDonald 2G, Ian Reid 1G. **101 TIM HORTON'S - TIMBITS (Green) 4:** Jack Caldwell 2G, Liam Coll 2G, Derek Capone 1A, Thomas Finley 1A, Luc Martineau 1A, Jonah Blaser 1A.

102 TIM HORTON'S - TIMBITS (Black) 6: Nick Baxter 2G 2A, Spencer Green 2G, Jake McKee 1G 2A, James Johnston 1G 1A, Morgan Walker 1A, Parker Baile 1A, Dakota Stone 1A. **109 TIM HORTON'S - TIMBITS (Orange) 3:** Branden Fennell 3G, Russell

Aurora Minor Hockey Association

Results to 9 AM Sunday, January 25th, 2004

Website: www.aci.on.ca/amha

Johnson 1A, Michael Tanel 1A.

108 TIM HORTON'S - TIMBITS (Maroon) 5: Connor Graham 3G, Scott Dunlop 1A, Connor Cowl 2G, Joshua Wilson 2A, Austin Persaud 1A, Michael Liscio 1A, Alexander Gouthro 1A, Alexander Jonasson 1A, Keith Jarvis 1A, Joshua Bell 1A. **105 TIM HORTON'S - TIMBITS (White) 2:** Ian Dunlop 2G, Spencer Robb 1A.

104 TIM HORTON'S - TIMBITS (Royal) 3: Quentin Campbell 2G, Robin Creighton 1G 1A, Alec Ground 1A, Paul Neophytou 1A. **106 TIM HORTON'S - TIMBITS (Gold) 3:** Jordan Nanos 1G 1A, Alex Remedios 1G 1A, Sean Foxwell 1G, Brett Thiessen 1A.

806 ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION 5: Tyler Cattapan 1G 1A, Alex Ginther 2G 1A, Keith Bradford 1G, Micheal Rowe 1G, Cameron Harris 1A, Morgan Mittlestaedt 1A. **804 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 2:** Jon Aleksich 1G, Kevin Mayne 1G, Harrison Edwards 1A.

801 ALL PRO SPORTS - NEWMARKET 3: Brendan Cooke, shutout, James Seymore 1G, Tyler McGhee 1G, Joel Stock 1G, Ryan Smyth 1A, James Connolly 1A, Eddie McLaughlin 1A. **802 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 0.**

805 RAEDAN FREIGHT SERVICES INC. 2: Phil Saunders, shutout, Daniel Kupraty 1G 1A, Chad Roberts 1G. **803 CHOUINARD BROS. ROOFING 0.**

803 CHOUINARD BROS. ROOFING 0: Brendon Cooke, shutout. **801 ALL PRO SPORTS - NEWMARKET 0:** Andrew Walsh, shutout.

806 ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION 2: Morgan Mittlestaedt 1G, Alex Ginther 1G, Harrison Brook 1A, Cameron Harris 1A, Micheal Rowe 1A. **805 RAEDAN FREIGHT SERVICES INC. 1:** Jamie Fenyes 1G.

804 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 3: Stephen Horan 1G, Bryon Dunjko 2G 1A, Kurtis Wilton 1A, Andrew Rowan 1A. **802 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 1:** Derek Heppler 1G, Paul Magglicchi 1A.

Select Exhibition Games

Novice 1 Georgetown 0
Hayden Trask 1G, Andrew Stobbe & Lucas Hussey, shutout.

Select Tournament Games

Tyke Select sponsors
Tyke: Ricoh / DotCo

Port Credit Storm 5 Tyke 0

Tyke 4 Vaughan (White) Rangers 1
Brenden Lukezic 3G, Connor Graham 1G, Jordyn Thomson 1A, Quentin Campbell 1A, Konner McMillan 1A.

Tyke 5 Duffield Devils 4
Connor Graham 1G, Quentin Campbell 1G, Jordan Nanos 1G, Konner McMillan 1G, Liam Coll 1G, Matthew Iwai 1A.

Rep Tournament Games

Atom Rep Sponsors
AA: Mike & Ike
A: Joriki Inc.

Georgina 2 Atom AA 0

Atom AA 5 Brockville A 2
Dylan Kovacs 2G 1A, Matthew Mears 1G 1A, Steadman Dinning 1G 1A, Cody Weese 1G,

Taran McGowan 2A, Kyle McCreedy 1A, Eleeza Cox 1A, Chris Piron 1A, Stephen DeMarco 1A, Jamie Hawkins 1G.

Atom AA 3 North Toronto 0
Jamie Casey, shutout, Dylan Kovacs 2G, Kyle McCreedy 1G 2A, Jamie Hawkins 1A, Matthew Mears 1A, Taran McGowan 1A, Gavin Forrest 1A.

Atom AA 5 Hillcrest Summits 1
Eleeza Cox 2G, Matthew Mears 1G 1A, Stephen DeMarco 1G, Dylan Kovasc 1G, Kyle McCreedy 2A, Chanelle Hassard 2A, Cody Weese 1A, Jamie Hawkins 1A, Steadman Dinning 1A, Jordan Figueiredo 1A.

Atom AA 4 Peterborough 0
Jamie Casey, shutout, Jamie Hawkins 2G, Taran McGowan 1G, Steadman Dinning 1G, Cody Weese 1A, Jamie Hawkins 1st Star, Jamie Casey 2nd Star.

Rep League Games

Atom Rep Sponsors
AA: Mike & Ike
A: Joriki Inc.

Atom AA 6 Ajax 3
Dylan Kovacs 2G 1A, Cody Weese 1G 1A, Eleeza Cox 1G, Steadman Dinning 1G, Jordan Figueiredo 1G, Jamie Hawkins 2A, Chris Piron 1A, Matthew Mears 1A, Taran McGowan 1A, Kyle McCreedy 1A, Stephen DeMarco 1A.

Minor Pee wee Rep Sponsors
A: FM Window's & Doors Manufacturing / Venture Steel
AE: Pembridge Insurance

Minor Pee wee AE 5 Ajax 1
Andrew McKay 1G, Oliver Boettcher 1G 1A, Sean Agostino 1G, Michael Delplavignano 1G 1A, Shawn Clark 1G, Matthew Pellegrini 2A, Tyler Tisdale 2A, Chris Tillsley 1A, Shawn MacEchern 1A, Conor Sheridan 1A, Patrick Lee 1A.

Minor Pee wee AE 2 Vaughan 0
Myles Fisher, shutout, Oliver Boettcher 1G 1A, Sean Agostino 1G, Tyler Tisdale 1A,

Minor Pee wee AE 0 Newmarket 0
Ryan Ceresino, shutout.

Rep Playoff Games

Novice Rep Sponsors
AA: Rogers/AT&T Wireless
A: Luminart

Bradford 4 Novice A 3

Bradford 2 Novice A 1

Minor Atom Rep Sponsors
A: Telus/ IQON Financial

Minor Atom A 4 Georgina 0
Brian Puskar 2G, Tanner Thiessen 1G, Cooper Riswick 1G, Jesse Bentolila 2A, Trevor Best 1A, Ryan Kaszuba, shutout.

Minor Atom A 3 Georgina 2
Brian Puskar 1G, Reid Sisson 1G, Andrew Papousek 1G, Daniel Delbello 1A, Jesse Bentolila 1A, Nick Heintzman 1A, Matthew Roy 1A. Tigers win the 1st round.

Atom Rep Sponsors
AA: Mike & Ike
A: Joriki Inc.

Atom AA 9 Richmond Hill 1
Dylan Kovacs 3G 1A, Kyle McCreedy 1G 3A, Steadman Dinning 2G, Stephen DeMarco 1G



1A, Ben Hanlon 1G 1A, Eleeza Cox 1G 1A, Chris Piron 2A, Cody Weese 1A, Gavin Forrest 1A, Matthew Mears 1A.

Richmond Hill 5 Atom AA 3
Brett Matthews 1G, Matthew Mears 1G, Taran McGowan 1G, Eleeza Cox 1A, Stephen DeMarco 1A, Steadman Dinning 1A, Gavin Forrest 1A.

Richmond Hill 5 Atom AA 4
Eleeza Cox 1G 1A, Taran McGowan 1G 1A, Steadman Dinning 1G, Matthew Mears 1G, Dylan Kovacs 3A, Kyle McCreedy 1A.

Atom AA 4 Richmond Hill 2
Dylan Kovacs 2G, Stephen DeMarco 1G 1A, Steadman Dinning 1G, Cody Weese 1A, Kyle McCreedy 1A, Jordan Figueiredo 1A.

Minor Pee wee Rep Sponsors
A: FM Window's & Doors Manufacturing / Venture Steel
AE: Pembridge Insurance

Minor Pee wee A 3 Newmarket 2
Derrick Hamner 2G, Taylor Nuttall 1G, Michael McGolrick 1A, Dylan Cross 1A.

Minor Pee wee A 4 Newmarket 3
Michael McGolrick 1G, Paul Keilty 1G 1A, Dylan Cross 2G 1A, Jeffrey Sanderson 1A, Taylor Nuttall 1A, Derrick Hamner 1A, Jake Boyle 1A.

Pee wee Rep Sponsors
AA: Craig Proctor Realtor
A: Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
AE: Crown Food Service Equipment Ltd.

Pee wee A 6 Bradford 0
Cameron Flynn, shutout, Darrell Evans 3G, Carter Hassard 1G, Matthew Joynt 1G 1A, Ryan Finlay 1G, Luca Ghegin 1A, Ben Mulholland 2A, Brandon Galante 1A, Brett Dutchyshen 2A, David Bar 1A.

Pee wee A 9 Newmarket 2
Andrew McDonald 1G 1A, Darrell Evans 2G, Quenton Hunt 1G 2A, Michael Morson 2G, Ryan Finlay 1G, Ben Mulholland 1G, David Bar 1G 1A, Brett Dutchyshen 2A, Matthew Joynt 3A, Carter Hassard 3A, Emilio Nafarrate 1A.

Pee wee AE 6 Innisfil 1
David Iwai 1G, Ethan Shore 1G 1A, Brandon Giniotis 1G, Curtis Hough 2G 1A, Adam Bloom 1G 1A, Greg Buchner 2A, Trevor McCartney 1A, Matthew Scrimis 1A, Chris Burns 1G.

Minor Midget Rep Sponsors
AA: Tricell Communications

Minor Midget AA 7 Georgina 3
Mike White 1G, Tom Keane 3G, Vincent Davenport 2G 1A, Adam Hankins 1G 1A, Andrew Welch 2A, Kelly McGowan 2A, Tim Sotoadeh 1A, Marc Quagliarini 2A.

Minor Midget AA 4 Georgina 2
Sandy Craig 1G 1A, Adam Hankins 1G, Tom Keane 1G, Mike White 1G, Taylor Dinner 2A, Andrew Welch 1A.

Midget Rep Sponsors
A: Greyfield Construction

Stouffville Clippers 5 Midget A 2
PJ Speciale-Plouffe 1G, Michael Jack 1G, Matt Cleverdon 1A, Ryan Kines 1A, Chris Statchuk 1A.

Stouffville Clippers 3 Midget A 2
Matt Cundari 1G, Chris Statchuk 1G, Craig Waites 1A, Michael Jack 1A, Marc Oppedisano 1A.

Stouffville Clippers 4 Midget A 1
Mark Jarman 1G, Peter Nykyforchyn 1A, Mark Johnson 1A.

How to cure fear of public speaking

Nervous speaking in front of people?

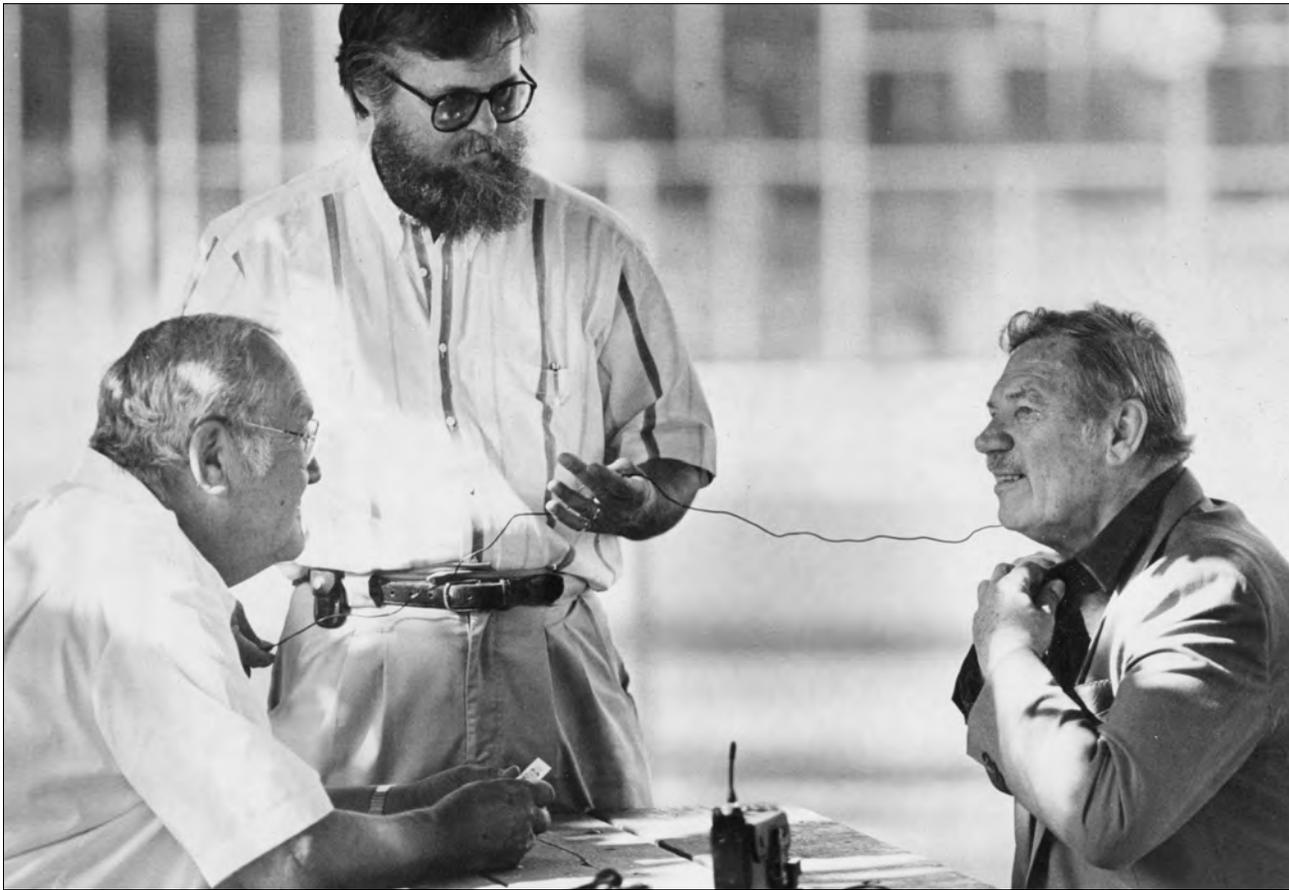
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Meetings are free, open to the public and

held every second and fourth Wednesday of the month, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway N. in Aurora.

For more information phone Matt Clulow at 905-830-3618 or Roy Bannon at 905-853-0859.



CTV newsman Harvey Kirck, left, watches as then Aurora mayor Dick Illingworth is fitted with a microphone during an interview for the television series "Sketches Of Our Town", which aired in 1989. The late Mr. Kirck handled all the interview duties and had an easy time of it when he met his old friend Illingworth. Producer and director of the show Conrad Beaubien prepares for the interview which was held in the middle of Fleury Park.

Popular show featured Aurora and its history

Every once in a while someone will mention they saw a program on television about Aurora called "Sketches of Our Town" featuring the late Harvey Kirck, John McIntyre and Dick Illingworth.

The show does exist and it was taped in Aurora October 5, 1989.

It still appears on some stations, but when the series first appeared on Hamilton's CHCH-TV in 1989, it was a hit.

Aurora was one of 13 municipalities featured on the program and it was picked up by TV stations across the country.

The series was produced by Unionville-based Beaver Creek Pictures with Conrad

Beaubien as director and producer.

The show took a folksy, gentle approach to the communities it featured.

Local organizers were required to raise \$10,000 to assist in the production costs. The town and the Aurora Chamber of Commerce each contributed \$1,000 and local fundraiser Don Constable raised the balance.

Sketches of Our Town focused on Aurora's rural heritage, its churches, schools, but mainly its people.

Aurora Museum Curator Jacqueline Stuart and historian John McIntyre took the viewers on an in-depth look at the history of the town.

Kirck also visited Harry Lumsden, a former employee with the Ministry of Natural Resources, who has a bird sanctuary on his Aurora property and has been primarily responsible for saving the trumpeter swan in Ontario.

He also interviewed former Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth in the Town Park in a wide ranging discussion about Aurora.

Illingworth said he was contacted by Eric Douglas of Beaver Creek Pictures and asked if he was interested in appearing in a TV film to talk about Aurora and he jumped at the opportunity, as a favourite pastime of his was to promote Aurora.

And, in his current capaci-

ty as a writer for the Auroran, Illingworth is still promoting the town.

Kirck wasn't entirely a stranger to Illingworth as they had met during the opening ceremonies of the Whipper Watson telethon held to raise funds for a therapeutic pool for York County Hospital.

They talked about how Aurora got its name, the coming of the first steam train in Upper Canada, the historic rivalry between Aurora and Newmarket, the coming of the Big Pipe and the population growth that followed.

They also discussed the famous "Aurora Speech" delivered by Edward Blake at the Aurora Armouries October 3, 1873, when he was a member of the Canada First Party.

"The future of Canada, I believe, depends very largely upon the cultivation of a national spirit. We must find some common ground on which to unite, some common aspiration to be shared, and I think it can be found alone in the cultivation of the national spirit to which I referred." Blake said.

Both agreed the same spirit was needed in Canada in 1989 as the time when Blake spoke the words.

And, it's still true today.

Committee decision tied

From page 1

structure of council with committee of the whole or general committee or council with standing committees, and outlining the advantages and disadvantages of each.

He also outlined the role of the advisory committees and provided options as to whether they should consist of both council and citizen members, as is the current practice in Aurora, or just citizen members.

Councillor Nigel Kean recommended council continue with the current structure of a general committee.

This brought a quick response from Councillor Evelyn Buck who said the general committee structure gave too much control to staff and she preferred the standing committee

system, which provides for in depth discussion.

She added there was too much confusion with the current system, whereas with the standing committee system members were better informed on the issues facing the municipalities in order to make recommendations to council.

She said the current system was not accountable to the public as in many cases council merely rubber-stamped staff recommendations.

She added that staff was there to provide professional advice, but it was up to council to make the decisions and councillors weren't doing what they were elected to do.

Mayor Tim Jones referred to the advisory committee structure and suggested the committees consist of

citizens only, who would report to the department head, who would then report to council.

Councillor Ron Wallace said the current system was working well and suggested "if it isn't broken, why fix it?"

Kean supported the joint council/citizen advisory committees and said staff could also influence the citizen members. He requested a separate vote on the two issues.

The motion to retain the general committee system was adopted on a 5-2 vote.

The motion to retain the joint council/citizen advisory committees resulted in a tie vote with Councillor Morris, breaking the tie by voting in support of the joint committee.

Results of the council decision were not available at press time.



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Letters to the Editor

Customer not satisfied with cell phone service

To the editor,

I purchased a Sony Ericsson T226 cell phone after seeing an advertisement in a local paper for a boxing week special at a Rogers authorized dealer at 15483 Yonge Street in Aurora (sales rep: Brian) that ended December 31.

I had purchased a cell phone plan in the past from the Rogers in Newmarket and assumed I was dealing with the same franchise - I have since found out that the Aurora location has very different policies and I am left out in the cold.

I purchased the phone December 27. I had called ahead to say I was coming to buy it as I was in quite a

rush and didn't show up until almost closing time.

When I arrived Brian already had the phone out of the box and the battery installed. He then added the SIM card, got all my personal information and activated the new phone.

I had stated on the phone and again in person that I wanted to buy the extended warranty as I have always done in the past.

He strongly recommended that I did not spend the \$50 for the additional year and convinced me not to, mostly because he said that if there were any repairs necessary, they would be known within the first three months.

Also, he promised that if the phone went out for

repair, that he, unlike other dealers, would provide a temporary phone at no cost, and would not charge back the \$25 fee (from Rogers) for shipping if I purchased the phone through his store. I believed him...

It is less than one month since I purchased the phone and it has been back twice.

The first few times the phone was charged on the home charger - everything was fine. I worked late one night and the phone battery was exhausted so I used the car charger while driving home.

When I got home and went to unplug the phone (about an hour ride home), the phone had turned itself off and would not come back

on. The home charger also would not charge the phone and allow me to turn it on.

I noted that on the car charger one of the clips had broken off (first time I had used it), so assumed that it was in the phone and that was the problem.

My husband brought the phone and accessories back to the Aurora store January 13 and explained the problem. Brian opened the phone, removed and reinstalled the battery and was then able to turn the phone on in the usual fashion. He said that we had not charged it properly (in the cold car while driving) and nothing was wrong with the phone or charger.

When the phone once

again discharged about three days later on the way home from work, once again I needed to use the car charger. Once again, the phone displayed that it was charging, but when I returned home and unplugged the charger, the phone had once again turned itself off and would not come on, even after leaving it overnight on the home charger.

On January 17, I brought the phone back to the dealer and Brian once again opened the back, removed and reinstalled the battery, then was able to turn the phone on and asked that I leave it with him for the day to charge.

He again said nothing was wrong with the phone or chargers. I asked about the 30 day exchange/return policy as I am convinced it is a defective battery or phone.

He does not subscribe to this policy even though all the advertisements and other Rogers locations clearly state: "If you are not satisfied with your purchase, you may return the product within 30 days of purchase".

I confirmed with the Newmarket Rogers authorized store that they would have exchanged the battery at least, probably the phone.

Brian stated that if I feel the phone is not working properly I can have him send it in for service that will take up to three weeks.

I would be liable for the \$25 fee that he is billed for ship-

ping and handling. A loaner phone can be arranged - at a cost to me. I now note that the invoice states "no exchange no refund".

I told him that he has misrepresented the warranty through Rogers as well as what he told me when I bought the phone and that I would let Rogers know since he is using that name as an authorized dealer. He said "go ahead and call them - see what they say".

I contacted Sony Ericsson and they confirmed that it sounded like a battery defect and that it is unsafe to continually remove and reinstall the battery as a means of re-activating the phone and that the dealer should replace it - as well as the defective car charger.

I also contacted Rogers via the phone and was given their fax number to send my bill of sale as well as my complaint - which I have done.

I am sending a copy of my concerns to the Auroran to alert other Aurora citizens about the unethical practices at this particular location and encourage them to shop at the Newmarket (or other) Rogers authorized dealers.

Although I normally encourage shopping locally, unfortunately, this store does not uphold Rogers' service standards and agreements.

"Buyer Beware".

**Nancy Brouillard
Aurora**

Councillors commended

From page 4

Landmines". The lawyer was asked whether Council's off-site constituted a meeting and whether it was in contravention of the Ontario Municipal Act. Subsequent to his reply the agenda was altered. One item pulled completely. On the other agenda items members of council were not permitted to openly discuss the topics. They had to stay clear of any policy dis-

cussion. Only questions for clarification were permitted. That meant members of council were left to police themselves at their so called "work-shop" to ensure discussions did not cause a violation of the Act.

When legal concerns were raised it was Mayor Jones' responsibility to have the concerns addressed. Holding out a definition of a meeting, obtained from a Google search, is a lame

attempt at fulfilling his added responsibilities as a mayor which is to uphold the laws of the province and the bylaws of our municipality.

The mayor created the fiasco and did not have the fortitude to put things right. Had the off-site been held in Aurora or in an adjacent municipality or had the agenda entailed true work-shop topics this could have all been avoided. I challenge the mayor to issue a public

apology to the councillors and residents who two weeks prior to the off-site raised concerns.

As for Paul Chapley's letter, purporting to be expressing his opinion on a local issue, it appears to be nothing more than an attempt at character assassination, on three good people. It is not surprising then that he is pictured with the mayor on the mayor's re-election web-site.

I applaud Councillors Gaertner, Morris and Kean for standing firm and upholding the laws that govern council. This will not be the last time they will be called upon, to do so, on our behalf. We need to encourage and support their action. This time it's the "off-site" perhaps next time it will be taking matters behind closed doors. We should commend their strength and commitment for upholding the law while carrying out their duties, as our elected officials.

**Evelina MacEachern
Aurora**

Local travel agent surpasses the web

To the editor,

In this age of technical advancements it is not unusual to see a so-called "brick and mortar" business fret over its future in the face of the internet revolution.

Canvasser questionable

To the editor,

A week before Christmas, a young man named Brett came to the door collecting for "Parkinson's Support & Research Society".

Because my mother has Parkinson's, I pointed out that the legitimate Parkinson Society Canada does not canvass door-to-door. He argued that he had been collecting for 14 years.

He was also at my door in June, 2003. A January, 2003, Toronto Star article has shown this to be a very questionable charity, under review by Revenue Canada, with fewer than three cents on the dollar actually spent on good works and only established just over two years ago by a former

There is one such enterprise here in town, we have discovered, that need not worry.

When planning our annual winter sojourn to the south this year it was easy to surf our way through various

RCMP officer and his daughter in Nova Scotia.

Please be careful. If you wish to support Parkinson Society Canada, you can visit their website at www.parkinson.ca and learn about this disease and how you can contribute.

**Laurie Graham
Aurora**

destinations and acquire the requisite knowledge regarding price, attractions, schedules, etc. but when it came time to actually book our holiday, we put down our mouse and headed straight to our friends at Aurora Vacations.

Once again, they surprisingly managed to beat the price of any of the web deals we had come across and furthermore, the requests they attached to the booking sheet resulted in yet another outstanding room at the resort we had chosen.

Clicking your way towards your holiday may be slightly easier, but Barb, Sherry and the rest of the agents at Aurora Vacations will make it more enjoyable.

**Dave & Lorie Carruthers
Aurora**

Why the Bouquet?

To the editor,

The following is a letter to Dick Illingworth:

I look forward to reading your weekly Bouquets and Brickbats column.

Sometimes it even keeps me up to speed on an issue I may have missed in the news.

This week, however, you have left me wondering.

Why have you bestowed a bouquet to people who deface public road signs?

Is this not vandalism and against the law? Ummm?

**Patty McLaughlin
Aurora**

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BUY NORTH AMERICAN

RUMOURS & RUMBLINGS

Just in case you were wondering...

Today female police officers are quite common, but it was back in January, 1975, when the York Regional Police force hired its first female officer.

She was 27-year-old Joy Dennison, who had served with the Youth Bureau in Metro Toronto for 10 years joining as a police cadet at age 17 on graduating from high school.

Policing was in her blood as her grandfather was the police chief of a small Scottish town and her father and her husband were members of the Metro Toronto force.

Shortly afterwards Linda Doggett was hired as the second female officer and was assigned with Dennison to the Youth Bureau.

She had also served with Metro Toronto.

The first female police cadet was hired in April, 1980.

She was 19-year-old Patricia Maxwell who had previously been engaged by the department as a civilian clerk until she was old enough to be accepted as a cadet.

TOP VOLUNTEER

In September, 1991, Heather McAdam, an 18-year-old Aurora resident, was one of 12 Ontario residents to receive a Community Action Award from the Ontario Minister of Citizenship, Elaine Ziemba.

McAdam, who had severe epilepsy and debilitating low blood sugar, was honoured for her volunteer concerts in hospitals and nursing homes throughout York Region and Toronto as well as peer counselling at Huron Heights Secondary School in Newmarket.

She had been singing with her father, Garry, who played guitar, since she was five, on the Garry Wayne Show. Her disabilities never held her back when it came to music as she loved to entertain and help others.

She was nominated for the Aurora Junior Citizen of the Year in 1989 and in 1990 was awarded the Aurora Volunteer Service Award.

AT LEAST THEY WATCHED

Aurora Cable has been telecasting Aurora municipal election returns live since 1980 when Dick Illingworth talked Jim Irvine into it, with the assistance of Ron Wallace, the editor of the Aurora Banner at the time.

Illingworth had been involved in the Newmarket municipal elections in 1976 and 1978 on Jarmain Cable (now Rogers), but in 1980 decided to stay home and try to bring the Aurora municipal election returns to Aurora viewers.

Prior to the election the two TV neophytes decided to interview all the candidates running for office in hopes of providing information to the electors and encouraging a better voter turnout.

On election night they went on the air live to provide the results to viewers as they were received from the returning officer.

With the ballots hand-counted, they were slow in coming in and the time had to be filled with chit-chat.

Following the telecast, a letter appeared in the local press, "Aurora Cable TV coverage of the municipal election was pathetic. There must be a better political personality in our midst than Dick Illingworth".

No mention was made of Wallace. (ED. NOTE: Maybe Wallace wrote the letter...)

In any case, the duo persevered and continued to host election night coverage when Illingworth wasn't running for office.

Also due to a more favourable response from other viewers, they initiated Our Town in 1980, which still continues with Illingworth as host.

According to Steve Mitchell, community program director for Aurora Cable TV, Our Town is the longest continual volunteer show on cable TV.

HOW STREETS ARE NAMED

Back in April, 1991, the town received requests from citizens to recognize two former mayors of Aurora by naming streets after them. The names were Ross Linton and Preston Thompson.

Ross Linton was mayor from 1944 to 1947 and was a long time resident of Aurora. Preston Thompson was mayor in 1929 and 1930. He was the founder of the Thompson Furniture store established in 1921 and still operated as a family business by his grandson Jamie.

Both names were approved by the York Region planning department and subsequently used. Ross Linton Drive is a small street in the subdivision east of Bathurst Street

and south of McClellan Way. Preston Thompson Place is a crescent north of McClellan Way.

A YMCA FOR AURORA

If Mrs. Donald Wallis had her way back in November, 1965, Aurora could have had a YMCA and YWCA.

She pointed out that the town had many schools with gymnasiums and suggested a Y could be formed to teach and develop teams of volleyball, basketball, calisthenics and judo lessons outside school hours.

Unfortunately, nobody picked up on her suggestion and nothing happened.

Then in January, 1971, the Kiwanis Club suggested a YM-YWCA be established in the Aurora/Newmarket Area and that a survey be carried out as to programs of interest, but there was no follow-up and no Y.



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