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AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 4 No. 33

Week of June 8, 2004

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Best ever!

Crowds, estimated as high as 40,000, poured onto Yonge Street Sunday as Aurora's Ninth Annual Street Festival went into the history books as the "best ever".

"Finally, we got weather," said chairman of this year's event, Kim Kerr. "I pulled every string I could find."

It was apparent the crowds were going to be higher than ever when threatening skies early in the day gave way to heat and sunshine throughout the afternoon.

Those skies, however, frightened away a few vendors who failed to show for the event, leaving a few holes in the 600-vendor site that closed Yonge Street from Wellington to Murray.

Other vendors, however, were quick to snap up some of the vacancies.

"We always measured the crowd by the waves of people passing a certain spot," said former chairman and founder of the event Ron Wallace. "Sunday, the wave never stopped."

Several vendors were gone by mid-afternoon when their product disappeared and many food booths sold out.

Bars, some open for the first time, did a brisk business.

Only the hot-air balloon, operated by Sundance Balloons and leased to Pilot Insurance, did not get inflated, because of winds Sunday afternoon.

The balloon, brought to Aurora by Hartwell Thayer Insurance, did get in a couple of early morning and evening flights when the winds were light over the weekend.

It had been hoped to offer tethered rides from the Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School fields during the street festival, but the wind was too strong during the day.

A sombre moment occurred at 11 a.m. Sunday, when 60 doves were released from the parking lot at Graystone Restaurant to mark the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

Several prominent Legion members attended the event and assisted in releasing the birds.

Aurora Cable Internet provided some lucky visitors the opportunity to drive a Segway, a single-unit computer driven transportation device.

The stand-up unit, which looks like a chariot, can hit speeds of 20 kilometres an hour and it steers from one handlegrip.

Next year, the significant 10th anniversary, has a tough act to follow.



*Some conditions apply



Sixty doves, to mark the 60th anniversary of D-Day, are released by veterans of the Aurora Legion, to start activities for the Ninth Annual Aurora Street Festival Sunday. Doves were released, following a brief ceremony, from the Graystone Restaurant parking lot. The festival, meanwhile, set attendance records as thousands poured onto the street to enjoy perfect weather conditions. More photos of the festival on Pages 8 and 9.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Briefly

A golfer's dream

Imagine playing a round of golf in Scotland. How about five rounds? Such an opportunity exists, courtesy of Aurora-based Big Brothers Big Sisters of York Region.

That group is holding a raffle, only 1,000 tickets are available, and the grand prize is a trip for a foursome to Scotland to play five rounds of golf at St. Andrews (including the renowned St. Andrews Old Course) Accommodation for six nights, of course, is included.

Value of the prize is \$22,417.

Nine other prizes, foursomes playing golf at St. Andrew's in Aurora, will also be drawn.

Ticket sales end Aug. 31 and the draw takes place Sept. 2. The week in Scotland begins April 24 next year. Call 905-727-1251 for details.

Horse Show, Farmers' Market

Just because the Street Festival is over is no reason to think things will quiet down in Aurora.

This weekend, the annual Aurora Horse Show shifts into high gear with events at Machell Park and the Town Park, and for the second year, the Farmer's Market will open this Saturday morning on the Temperance Street parking lot near Yonge and Wellington.

Both activities are worth checking out.



Citizen of the year

A delighted and surprised Phil Horsman was chosen Aurora's Citizen of the Year at last Wednesday night's Civic Awards evening held at the Town Hall. Mayor Tim Jones made the presentation. See story page 12.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

Masons' Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at The Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7:30. For further information contact Bob Butler at h.butler@sympatico.ca or 905-713-3314.

* * *

Entrepreneurs. Network marketing is available in Aurora. Aurora-Business.com meets Wednesdays at 7.15 a.m. Group meets at Timberlane on Vandorf Sideroad east of Yonge. Contact John Patterson at 905-727-1941.

* * *

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.

* * *

During the month of June the Skylight Gallery in the Aurora Town Hall will feature the artwork of Nancy Newman. Regular viewing hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Reception from 7 to 9 p.m. on June 15th.

JUNE 9

York Region Transit will hold a Public Information Centre at the Aurora Public Library from 6 to 9 p.m. Staff will be on hand to answer questions about proposed routing, service expansion plans and general service improvements. For details call 905-762-2100.

JUNE 11

Aurora Grand Prix Horse Jumping Event. Machell Park. The public is invited to walk the course about 5:45 p.m., then watch some of Canada's top horses and riders jump. Followed by a wine and cheese reception.

JUNE 12

Family barbecue, part of the Aurora Horse Show, will be held at the Town Park. Wagon rides, beer garden and entertainment by Haight Ashbury. 5 p.m.

* * *

The Farmer's Market returns to the Temperance Street parking lot from 8 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. every Saturday until Thanksgiving Day.

* * *

Merlin's Hollow Gardens Open House. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 181 Centre Crescent. North of Centre Street, east of the railway tracks.

JUNE 12/13

Calling all students for park clean-up days. If you need volunteer hours to graduate,

here's an opportunity. On Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. the clean-up is at the Community Centre, Fleury and Machell Parks and on Sunday the Leisure Complex and Lambert Willson Park. Call 905-726-4760 for further information.

* * *

Aurora Fair and Horse Show at Machell Park featuring the Superdogs, petting zoo, farm animals, pony rides, Clarol the Clown, and many new and old favourites. Information: 905-713-6773 or www.aurorafair.ca.

JUNE 13

Take a walk in the park in support of the Rick Hansen Wheels of Motion as the action comes to the Town Park. Participants may wheel, bike, skate, run or walk in two proposed marathons to raise money to help support spinal cord injury research and an Aurora accessibility project. For details call Honsberger Physiotherapy at 905-841-0411.

* * *

Aurora Seniors view the famous Hamilton Tattoo in Copp's Coliseum. Cost is \$72 for members and \$77 for non-members. Call the centre at 905-727-2816 to register.

* * *

Opening reception of "One Step at a Time", artwork by Nancy Newman, at the Skylight Gallery, third floor, Aurora Town Hall, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Exhibition and Sale continues through June 30, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

JUNE 16

Open House Day at Merlin's Hollow Gardens on Centre Crescent from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Hillary House will be open for tours and tea from 1 to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for each site with proceeds supporting Hillary House. Call 905-727-4015 for details.

JUNE 18

Deadline for applications by individuals and organizations for the Aurora Arts and Culture Fund. Applications should be in the form of a letter outlining the nature and general activities of the individual or group plus the specific use to be made of the grant. Submit to the Town Hall.

JUNE 19

Aurora Historical Society bus tour to view Ruthven Park, a country estate near Cayuga on the Grand River. Like Hillary House, Ruthven Park is a National Historic Site. All-inclusive cost is \$45. Call 905-727-8991 to register.

* * *

Howard Johnson Aurora presents Yuk Yuks on Tour and Dinner Theatre for a Father's Day Celebration. Call 905-727-1312.

JUNE 19-20

Art exhibit open house. 89 Temperance Street, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Featuring the work of Judy Sherman, Jim Watson and Ester Griffith.

JUNE 25

Mayor's Blood Donor Clinic, Aurora Town Hall.

JUNE 26
It's Litter Pick-Up Day in Aurora. On April 24th the first of four litter pick-up days, volunteers picked up 2.7 tons of litter and roadside debris. Info Aurora is assisting the town and assigning residents to "hot-spot" areas. Call 905-727-3123 extension 4104 for details. Garbage bags and gloves are available.

JUNE 29

Aurora Seniors visit the Canadian Automotive Museum to view historic and famous cars and then visit Cullen Gardens. Call 905-727-2816 to register.

* * *

Join the Yellow Brick House Charity Golf Tournament at Silver Lakes Golf and Country Club for a day of golf, lunch, cocktails, dinner and an auction. For information call Lisa at 905-727-0930.

JUNE 30

Dance In The Park (Canada Day celebrations). 7 p.m. to midnight. Town Park.

JULY 1

Canada Day celebrations continue. Aurora Leisure Complex.

JULY 3

Merlin's Hollow Gardens Open House. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 181 Centre Crescent. North of Centre Street, east of the railway tracks.

JULY 7

Aurora Seniors head to the Orillia Opera House with lunch at the Ossawippi Express and shopping at the Mariposa Market. Cost is \$69 for members and \$74 for non-members. Phone 905-727-2816 to reserve.

JULY 11

Merlin's Hollow Gardens Open House. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 181 Centre Crescent. North of Centre Street, east of the railway tracks.

* * *

Garden Tour, hosted by the Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society. Visit nine gardens between noon and 5 p.m., including a zen retreat, a Trumpeter Swan habitat and traditional perennial gardens. Tickets, at \$10,

available at Black Forest Nurseries, Flowers By Terry, and Mary's Flower Shop.

JULY 14 and 21

Enjoy tea on the verandah of Hillary House with family and friends from 2 to 4 p.m. The cost is \$5 which includes a tour of the house. No reservations required. If the weather doesn't cooperate tea will be served in the ballroom. Also on August 11 and 18.

JULY 27

Seniors visit the historic village of Port Perry, the Great Blue Heron Casino and then cruise Lake Scugog. Call 905-727-2816 to register.

AUGUST 16

Aurora Seniors visit Roy Thompson Hall for the 16th Annual Royal Bank Seniors' Jubilee Concert. Cost is \$64 for members, \$69 for non-members. Call 905-727-2816 to reserve.

SEPTEMBER 8-16

It's an East Coast Adventure for Aurora Seniors where they visit interesting sites in Halifax, Lunenburg, Peggy's Cove, Cabot Trail and the Bay of Fundy. Call the Seniors Centre for details at 905-727-2816.

OCTOBER 20

Aurora Seniors head to the Stratford Festival to see the Cole Porter musical "Anything Goes". Lunch at the Walper Terrace Hotel. Depart the Aurora Community Centre at 9 a.m. returning about 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$93 for members, \$98 for non-members. Call 905-727-2816 to reserve.

OCTOBER 21

Plans are underway at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce for the "Celebrating Business Excellence in Aurora" Awards. Nominate the Business Person of the Year, Extraordinary Business Achievement, Innovation, New Venture and Young Entrepreneur.

- With files from Info Aurora

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Former Aurora resident D. Bruce Sinclair pauses with registered physiotherapist Cindy Salopek prior to entering Joia Restaurant in Aurora, "one of the few places" in town that accommodates his wheelchair. Half the buildings in Aurora don't, he says.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Former resident entering wheelchair in Hansen event

By RON WALLACE

It was a long-awaited winter vacation to the Barbados.

A Chief Executive Officer of Dell Computers in Europe at the time, and a former Aurora resident, needed the break, so the family flew to the "summer-all-the-time" island for a little R & R.

Surfing sounded like a good idea to 43-year-old D. Bruce Sinclair, and off he went to "catch a wave".

But the wave caught him instead, and like a cork, slammed him onto the beach with a broken back and what turned out to be a permanent spine injury.

That was 10 years ago.

D. Bruce Sinclair, now 53, has not walked since.

Notwithstanding, being confined to a wheelchair, D. Bruce Sinclair, now president and CEO of Wave Rider Communications Inc., has not let his disability slow him down much.

In the winter, he skis. Summer, he's on the golf course. He drives his own car. And, he's constantly on the lookout for places he can access.

"Canada's like a third-world country when it comes to the handicapped," he said last week during an interview at Aurora's Joia Restaurant.

"We're meeting here," he said, "because this is one of the few places in Aurora I can get into with a wheelchair."

Saturday, June 13, Sinclair will participate in the Second Annual Rick Hansen Wheels of Motion

event slated for the Town Park and sponsored by Aurora's Honsberger Physiotherapy.

He'll participate in the five-kilometre ride, said organizer Cindy Salopek, a registered physiotherapist with Honsberger. That ride begins at 3 p.m.

And, she's hoping hundreds of others will show up for the event. For those who can't handle the distance, a half-kilometre course has been arranged within the confines of the Town Park, beginning at 2.45 p.m. Registration is at 2 p.m..

Sinclair lived on the Bloomington Sideroad in Aurora for nine years, and now makes his home in Thornbury, near Georgian Peaks Ski Club, where he is an avid member, using a

mono ski to ride, and two smaller skis that take the place of poles.

"Toughest part is getting on a chairlift," he said.

In addition to commuting to Consumers Road in Toronto (he stays in a nearby hotel so he doesn't have to make the trip every day) Sinclair is a board member of the Canadian Paraplegic Association, Ontario Division, and much of his time is spent making people aware of a handicapped person's problems.

"I couldn't take a bus to work," he said. "I'll let anyone ride in this wheelchair, but I bet as soon as they come to an obstacle, they'll get out of it and lift it over the obstacle. I can't do that."

Sinclair said "half the buildings" in Aurora are not

wheelchair accessible.

Fifty per cent of the money raised at the June 13 event will stay in Aurora.

And judging by Sinclair's attitude, he'll raise a lot of it himself.

"Being disabled is a pain in the ass," he said. "but there are lots of worse things."

For further information about Wheels In Motion, call Honsberger at 905-841-0411.



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Poor Richard

More items growing on unfinished business list

*Another long list is growing,
Of referrals not yet replied;
Unless they get answers soon,
Some councillors may have died!*

-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Last month Poor Richard published Chapter One of his list of Unfinished Business items discussed by council, referred to staff or a committee for further information, but never heard of again. Here is Chapter Two.

Away back when funds were being raised for the Family Leisure Complex, the fundraising committee recommended that the complex include the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame.

The goal was to honour and perpetuate the names and deeds of Aurora residents whose athletic prowess brought fame to themselves and their community.

It was proposed that the Sports Hall of Fame include officials, sponsors, members, trainers, coaches, etc. whose work over the years enhanced Aurora's sporting community.

While council pays tribute to award-winning athletes at the Civic Awards ceremony, it would be nice to have a permanent Sports Hall of Fame.

Maybe it could go in the new recreational complex.

In August, 2003, adjacent landowners requested maintenance of the laneway running south from Wellington Street East between the Larter building and the Shugart Holdings building, which is used by both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

According to a staff report, the laneway is town-owned, although it was originally owned by the Machell's and was established as early as 1885.

There are currently rights of way granted in favour of six nearby owners giving them free unimpeded access over the laneway.

Staff report that maintaining the lane was time consuming and labour intensive, especially in the winter months.

In order to protect the municipality from liability, staff suggested that vehicular traffic be banned at all times and pedestrian traffic from November 15 to April 15 annually.

Kenneth Shugart wrote to council to object to the closing and the issue was referred back to staff for clarification, especially as to the rights of the six landowners.

Still waiting to hear if it is to be closed or not.

Last February, Aurora Council was told that unless a good Samaritan came up with a plot of land of one-half to an acre in size, community gardens in Aurora would disappear for 2004 in Aurora.

The York Region Food Network has been operating the community garden in Aurora since 1996 on a plot of land provided by Avant Imaging and Information Management on the Industrial Parkway North, adjacent to Lambert Willson Park.

In late January, AIIM officials notified the Food Network that they planned to expand their building and would no longer be able to offer the use of their land.

Council directed staff to identify available town-owned property and also to invite private property owners to supply land for the gardens.

There was some talk about using the parkland on Dunning Avenue or the Jack Wood's property.

The planting season is over and still no report from staff as to a possible location to be approved by council in open session.

In October, 2003, Councillor Ron Wallace appeared before council's Economic Development Committee to suggest that Yonge Street be divided into three districts, as the five-digit street number meant nothing to most citizens.

He proposed Yonge Street be divided into three districts named Fluery, Museum and Hillary so that retailers would have an easier time explaining the location of their shops. He even displayed appropriate signage for each district.

The committee received the presentation and referred it to staff for a report.

It was a good idea that got lost in the shuffle and citizens are still confused.



We all know the handsome young man at the left is Dick Illingworth, doing his thing as mayor during one of Aurora's incredible Horse Shows. What we don't know is when. And we don't know the rider. And, we don't even know the horse, although it's a safe bet its name is Heritage. Dick thinks it's either 1969 or 1970, in the Town Park, where the Horse Show used to be held. Currently, and we mean that, because it's on this weekend, the Horse Show may be enjoyed in Machell Park between Aurora Heights Drive and Orchard Heights Drive. And, by the way, is that the famous Tely Spasopoulos standing behind the rear of the horse?

Letters to the Editor

Lots of \$\$\$ needed for this special dog

To the editor,

A couple of people have suggested a letter in The Auroran may help my family's fundraising drive to raise money for a service dog for my son.

Our family has lived in Aurora for 25 years. Our 14-year-old son Nathan has autism, is deaf and can't speak.

He has multiple daily seizures that have become so severe he is only able to attend school for one to two hours each afternoon.

In May, he had a unique surgery done at The Hospital for Sick Children where he had a pacemaker for the brain implanted in a final effort to reduce his seizures.

Nathan has been approved for a trained service dog from National Service Dogs which is based in Cambridge, the only organization in North America to train dogs for kids with autism.



Nathan Jackson

The dog, either a Lab or Golden Retriever, will be a best friend for Nathan, and will be specially trained to keep him safe from traffic hazards, from wandering and will alert us when he has a seizure.

Nathan's seizures cause him to be extremely hyperactive, and the dog will be an anchor, helping to keep Nathan focused and making it easier for us to take him on community outings.

It will hopefully also help to "bridge the gap" between Nathan's disabili-

ties and other kids and adults.

National Service Dogs is a non-profit registered charity that depends completely on fundraising to provide families like ourselves with service dogs.

The cost of a puppy, its care by a special puppy-raising family and its six-month training program at National Service Dog's training centre is \$12,000.

Families who are to receive a dog must help National Service Dogs raise this money.

We are asking family, friends and community organizations for help.

We are very appreciative of our first pledge of support which is from the Rotary Club of Aurora who are donating \$500 to National Service Dogs on behalf of Nathan.

**Joanne Scott Jackson
and Alan Jackson
Nathan's parents
Aurora**

ED. NOTE: The Auroran will match the Rotary Club's donation. Anyone else wishing to help should call the Jacksons at 905-727-1732.

AURORAN

"Aurora's Community Newspaper"

Published weekly by The Auroran Publications Inc.
At 75 Mary Street, Unit #3
Aurora, L4G 1G3

Owner & Publisher
Rosemary Schumaker

Editorial
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Dick Illingworth

Photography
David Falconer

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Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.

McGuinty should be charged, reader says

To the editor,

I cannot begin to say how annoyed I have become with the way our political systems appears to be working (or not working).

Why hasn't Dalton McGuinty been charged with fraud?

The Liberals were elected by Ontario voters because of the various promises that they made to us prior to the

election...few of which have been kept.

If companies advertised a product that didn't live up to what their ad promised, wouldn't that company be charged with fraud?

I see no difference.

The government books should be open to all political parties at all levels prior to an election so that they ALL have an understanding of what is possible and what

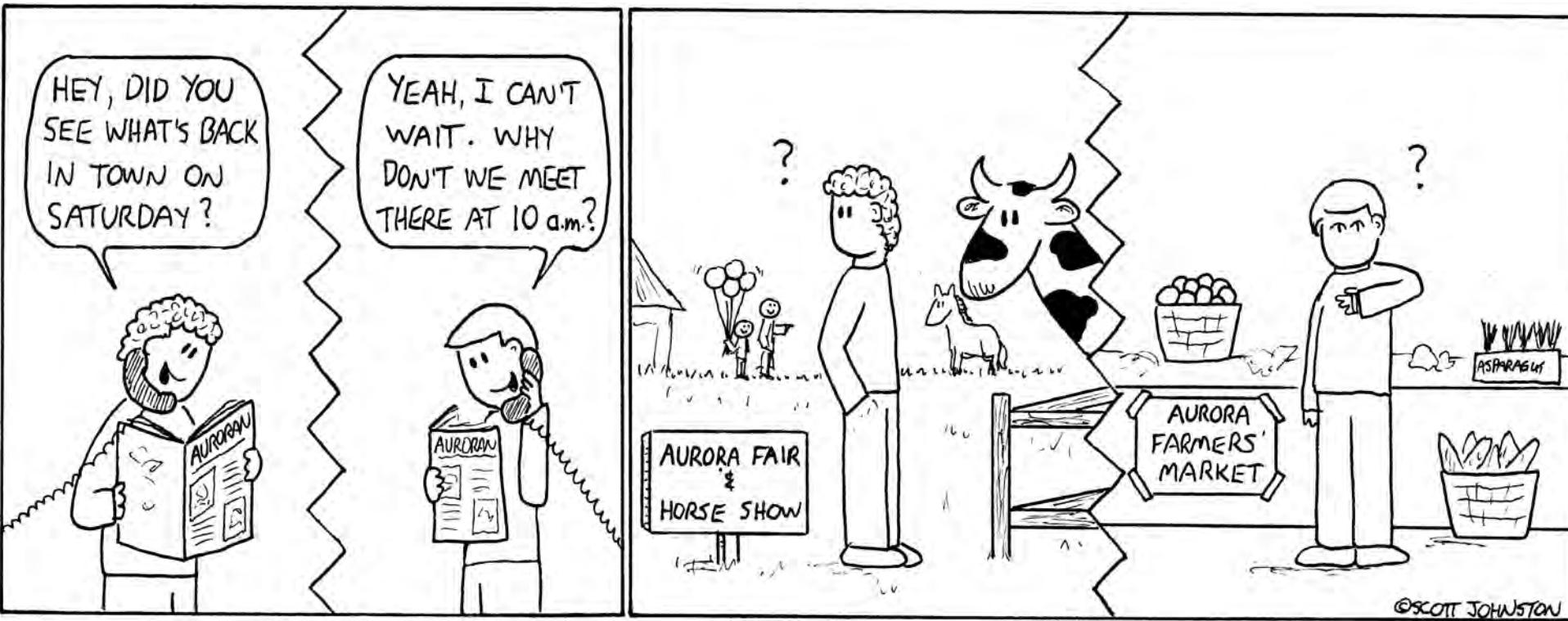
is not.

Please don't interpret this letter as support for the Alliance, oops, Conservative, Party either.

And don't get me started on Jean Cretien and the missing money.

Is it any wonder that so few people take the trouble to vote?

**Diane Schedlich
Aurora**



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Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

FCM weekend in Edmonton

From May 28th to 31st, I attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference in Edmonton, Alberta.

I have been attending this conference for several years now as an opportunity to meet with others from across Canada to see how they are addressing the issues common to us all.

I arrived on Thursday, May 27th late afternoon, registered, picked up the conference information package, reviewed the schedule and confirmed events that I had planned to attend.

Friday morning, after the opening ceremonies, Prime Minister Paul Martin addressed the full room of delegates primarily on the 'New Deal', his campaign platform that he first introduced to the same conference two years ago.

He was commended for removing the GST from municipal purchases, and indicated more to come by way of continued infrastructure funding and the gas tax. The actual dates were open ended.

In the Saturday resolution session, delegates indicated that open ended wasn't good enough. We wanted to see assistance offered by the end of this year.

Following Martin's keynote address, I attended the opening ceremony of the Municipal Expo, with more than 100 exhibitors in all areas of municipal business represented. One of the items I picked up was an organic waste bucket to try out in my kitchen, in preparation for the future three-stream waste collection.

Following this I was invited by the Markham contingent to join them in an excursion to St. Albert, a city outside Edmonton, to explore the function of a 'Special Constable', a position that is working in this municipality.

These positions are enhanced municipal bylaw enforcement officers who also do photo radar, red light camera and other non moving violations.

In attendance were the Mayor and CAO of St. Albert and the head RCMP officer of the area.

The Special Constables actually work out of the RCMP office.

I still have concerns about the potential for these people to find themselves in harm's way without the same training and resources that a police officer would have but that argument will wait for another day.

On Friday night, I had dinner with the CAO of York Region and we took that opportunity to discuss several Regional issues that affected Aurora.

On Saturday, I attended the resolutions session where we considered resolutions involving the control of chemicals, the age of consent, disaster assistance and the federal role in urban forestry.

Emergency resolutions were also tabled including the price of gas and the New Deal required from the federal government for municipalities.

I took a study tour in the afternoon which involved visits to the Emergency Training facilities and operation centre as well as the disaster receiving hospital. As I serve on the 911 committee at the Region, this was very interesting to me.

Saturday night was spent going to various municipal reception areas where at one, I met representatives from Grand Prairie Alberta, the location of the Aurora Canadian Hockey Championship win. They spoke very well of our team!

Sunday morning was spent in F.C.M. business, electing their incoming executive. Our local representative is Brenda Hogg from Richmond Hill. She has been on the Board for several years and serves us well.

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.

Letters to the Editor

Ducks shine in west pool

To the editor,

I just had to write and say how appropriate this is: during the officially proclaimed 'Master Ducks Week' in Aurora, the Aurora Master Ducks placed second at the 2004 Masters National Swimming Championships in Edmonton!

In addition to our excellent performance in the water, we were the best-looking and most organized team by far.

This was made possible because of the ongoing support from our loyal sponsors. Thank you for

believing in us - we are most grateful to you.

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Nancy Black
Head Coach

**More
Letters
Pages
6 & 7**



Cathy's Corner



Honey, do I look fat?

Ever since I got my new kitchen, I've been obsessed with baking.

When Jennifer came home from university, I baked her banana bread and oatmeal spice cake...weekly.

When Tim's math grade improved, I baked him peanut butter chocolate chunk cookies...daily.

When Nadia said my baking was good, I made her brownies...until she screamed at me to stop.

Like any addict, my excuses keep getting lamer.

Yesterday, I woke up and saw that I forgot to put away the mixer. So, I made an apple pie.

Yes, I know you don't need a mixer to make an apple pie. It's the thought that counts.

I am trying not to have thoughts...about baking.

I am trying to go back to the good old days, when I would drink coffee and read The Auroran and drink coffee. But no...suddenly, I can no longer read on coffee alone. I need muffins.

Over the past few months, Auroran letter writers have been terrorizing me more than they have Council!

First, somebody mentions the Salzberg Café, which I remember fondly. I'm thinking strudel. Then a week or two later, somebody else mentions Kessler's Bakery. I'm baking strudel. Next thing I know, I'm eating strudel...twice a day!

If this keeps up, I'm going to look like cellulite enriched strudel! Please stop! I have gained seven pounds! Did I mention cheesecake? I got five pounds that way.

It's all Ted's fault.

Now that we're baking down memory lane, does anybody remember Le Foubourg? It was once a quaint little French Bistro where Filly and Firkin is

today.

Ivan, the owner, got me Lindor chocolate (a.k.a. "the good stuff") long before it was declared legal.

And Ted, the chef, made New York style cheesecake that we would all vote to rename "Aurora Style Cheesecake". Ted called it "Guardian Cheesecake".

The "Guardian Cheesecake" would have been toast, just like Le Foubourg, except my husband knew I preferred cheesecake to toast. He rescued it for...um...me. My knight in shining armour.

One day, Ted needed a lawyer. My husband charged him a fair price...yup, the recipe. He loves me!

Except Ted didn't call it the "Guardian Cheesecake" for nothing. For nearly 15 years, Damir has guarded Ted's secret recipe, just like he promised.

It has brought him fame and popularity among people who occasionally ask: "Honey, do I look fat?"

I am now a card-carrying member of that group.

I hang "skinny clothes" in my pantry instead of in my closet. I use bikini tops as oven mitts.

And I post sticky notes on my mixer that say: "Don't do it!"

My life has changed without warning.

Which is why I found it necessary to look up Treeline Kitchens at the Aurora Home and Lifestyle Show back in April, and let Bruce Linton know that his kitchens should have stickers on them that say:

WARNING: Your new kitchen may cause excessive baking, eating and weight gain.

Cathy welcomes e-mail at: laughingmatters@aci.on.ca

Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to Father Philip Poole of Trinity Anglican Church Aurora on his appointment as Honourary Chaplain for the Central York Fire Service in order to provide spiritual support to the fire service and its members should the need arise.

BRICKBATS to members of council for authorizing a salary increase of three per cent for non-union staff effective April 1, 2004, while negotiations are still underway with CUPE Local 905. Council could live to regret the clause about the possible readjustment when the agreement with CUPE is reached.

BOUQUETS to any member of council who will request a monthly report from the bylaw enforcement department as to the actions taken by bylaw enforcement during the month, the number of violations issued, results, etc.

More **BOUQUETS** to any member of council, especially a member of the Leisure Services Advisory Committee, who will request a report on the 2004 Aurora Art Show and Sale and the Aurora Seniors Art Group including the number of sales, attendance, revenue to the town and town expenditures. After all, it is public business!

BRICKBATS to Councillor Evelyn Buck for her disgraceful conduct at a recent general committee meeting when because one of her colleagues had the audacity to amend one of her proposals, she walked around the table and with a folded agenda whacked him over the head. What happened to the Code of Ethics and Parliamentary Procedure?

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Rotary Club for donating more than \$10,000 for community projects including \$1,000 to the Aurora High School to help produce a musical, \$7,200 to the Community Safety Village and a TV set to the Women's Centre of York Region.

BRICKBATS for continually putting the cart before the horse and approving projects, hiring project managers and architects before having a full discussion as to costs and financing. The Seniors' Centre is following the same path as the rec complex. Councillors have to start taking control!

BOUQUETS to Larry and Liz Sutton of Innisfil for writing to the Auroran and letting Poor Richard know that Frank Szeler is alive and well in Angus. Frank was well-known in Aurora a few years back for his fight against drugs in the high schools.

BRICKBATS to Canada's high-flying cabinet ministers for using the government's \$100 million Challenger jets to fly hither and yon at taxpayers' expense, such as \$64,000 for Sheila Copps to fly to Edmonton. What happened to commercial travel?

BOUQUETS to Liberal Education Minister Gerard Kennedy for rescinding the expensive and inefficient teacher testing program imposed by the Harris Progressive Conservative government.

It cost \$10 million and fewer than 20 per cent of the teachers participated. With parents, principals and supervisors, teachers should get a fair evaluation.

BRICKBATS to those in the federal and provincial governments for doing little to control gas prices. They are placing an undue burden on social agency workers and volunteers who are required to use their cars to carry out their duties of assisting seniors, handicapped and others who need their help.

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Letters to the Editor

Attack unwarranted; she should apologize, this reader maintains

To the editor,

I have attended many, many council meetings over the nearly 20 years I have lived in Aurora.

Some of them have not been all that productive, but the general committee meeting of Tuesday June 1, was the last straw!

Many residents already knew that this council is self admittedly 'dysfunctional', and the personality wars rampant.

The verbal abuse that goes on is very disrespectful to the members and to the role of councillor.

However, Councillor Evelyn Buck has crossed the line.

She ran in the recent election on a slogan of "watch me roar" which was to voice her concern

over many decisions made and the direction that council was taking.

Since then, she has called more 'points of order' during the meetings of the first six months of this term than I believe have ever been called over the previous years.

While she continually reminds others of meeting protocol, it doesn't seem to apply to her.

At another recent meeting Councillor Phyllis Morris raised her concern over graffiti around town, to which Mrs. Buck replied that she was thinking of doing some herself!

That comment wasn't said in humour but rather, I believe, in anger; nevertheless it was ignored.

But at this past meeting

in a fit of obvious frustration and anger when others disagreed with her comments she surprisingly physically attacked another councillor.

This is not the type of role model or representation that we need.

I believe even those who voted for her would NOT approve of this conduct.

The issues that our town faces in the next few years are too important to waste time and energy dealing with members who cannot manage their attitude and emotions.

The councillor she assaulted said he won't disagree with her again.

While I am sure he speaks in jest, no councillor should have to be concerned about physical abuse.

I am proud to call

Aurora my home town and to see this conduct in the council chamber of our town is unconscionable.

Councillor Buck should not only apologize to her assailant but to all the taxpayers of Aurora.

Councilor Buck, please, for the sake of Aurora, STOP THE ROARING!

If we really believe that 'Aurora is a community of character', then the place to demonstrate that includes the council chamber.

Frankly, at this point, this is some character we can do without.

It is not representative of our community and there is no place in our community for such behaviour.

Al Wilson
Aurora

Support for complex didn't come easily, reader states

To the editor,

A week has passed since the vote to continue with the construction of the new Aquatic and Hockey Centre in Aurora.

With reflection on the process, you begin to realize the pressure our councillors have been under.

Our councillors were presented with and had to read volumes of material...material that often made the tax act look like easy reading.

They had to listen to experts, to emotional citizens - some who were not always soft spoken.

They had to answer hundreds of letters and emails, spend hours on the phone or meeting with various individuals or groups.

They were pressed by a deadline that was critical to hockey and even more

urgent to swimming.

Even to the strongest of us, it was an emotional roller coaster.

We are grateful for their positive support, and equally grateful for the time and effort they put in to come up with their decision.

Did I mention that this was only one of many important decisions they had to make in the last month?

We all might have our beefs with individual members of council, but we must all recognize the hard, difficult and often thankless job they do for us.

We would like to thank our Mayor and Council first for their time and effort and second for a recreation facility that will suit the needs of so many citizens of Aurora.

Also, we would like to thank the Chief Administrative Officer,

the Clerk's Department, and the Leisure Services Department, who put in an exemplary effort to meet with the community, and in the planning of an outstanding facility.

The next task is to begin a fundraising campaign and for everyone to continue to show their support.

We also want to contin-

ue to overload our Leisure Services Department as they do the exciting work of programming the facility to fit the needs of all.

Again, thank you to everyone who helped and thank you to Council for your support!

Reg Chappell
Aurora Swim Team

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Letters to the Editor

"Ambitious" council approves rink, pool

To the editor,

It is with great concern that I learned that Aurora Council, on May 25th, on a vote of 6-3 endorsed the new rec complex complete with the swimming pool component.

Those voting for the complex were Tim Jones, Phyllis Morris, Damir Vrancic, Ron Wallace, Bill Hogg and Nigel Kean.

Those opposed were Evelyn Buck, John West and Wendy Gaertner.

This decision represents an incredible financial commitment for taxpayers for many years to come.

I have one simple question and one request.

In the interest of transparency, and fiscal responsibility, what is the projected tax increase for us for the next year alone?

Also, if possible, what are the tax projections for the next three years based on homes, say, for example, \$250,000, \$275,000, \$300,000, \$350,000 and \$400,000?

We also have to remember that tax increases feed on themselves with each year building on last year's increase.

Council has an ambitious agenda.

The seniors' centre, originally forecast at \$2.1 million is now trying to reduce from a \$3.2 million overrun.

With the addition of the new rec centre estimate of \$24 million, we see infrastructure costs of \$26 million.

These figures assume no allowance for unforeseen problems such as soil conditions.

Also, the tax projections are based on an estimated

development plan which calls for 620 new homes to be built each year, up from the original proposal of 400 homes per year.

What happened to the concept of controlled growth on which several councillors campaigned in last November's election?

At this council meeting, Mr. Vrancic and Ms Morris spoke with some passion about the impact of this project on taxpayers.

However during a five-minute recess before the vote, requested by Mr. Vrancic, on their return their positions changed.

What happened in the inter-

im?

It strikes me that Aurora is rapidly becoming an elitist town.

However, we do not all live in exclusive neighbourhoods where incomes rise annually and tax increases are no problem.

It's time for a reality check for the middle and lower income people.

If you are concerned about this issue, call your councillor, or e-mail, write a letter, start a neighbourhood petition.

It's up to us.

Judy Salmon
Aurora

Seniors' art show huge success

To the editor,

Seeing a need in the community, the Aurora Seniors Art Group was organized in 1991 by its instructor, Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure.

Classes are held on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Seniors' Centre at 52 Victoria Street.

All levels of experience are encouraged and residence is not a prerequisite.

New members (55 years and older) are welcome to join.

The next course starts September 14 and you can call 905-727-2816 to register. Space is limited.

This year (2004) the group celebrated its 10th Annual Art Show and Sale at the Centre with a Friday evening opening and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Our sales were \$2,314, including the fourth pur-

chase by the Town for their permanent collection from the "Aurora, Our Kind of Town" (historic) category.

Seventeen paintings were sold, with \$344 in Hasty Notes made by the artists.

We pay a modest commission to the town but the event would not be possible without the great help from Centre Director Kim Hinder; Esther, who volunteers to handle the refreshments; and Brian and Matt who install the stands and

the signs.

Thanks to our suppliers who contributed three draw prizes.

Individual style and subject matter, plus media, are encouraged.

A sense of professionalism in presentation and framing often surprises visitors to the show.

As a group we have a lot of fun and many lasting friendships result.

At the end of each course (spring, fall and winter) we traditionally convene to one of the many fine restaurants in town for lunch.

Kudos to the newspaper staff for assisting us in preparing an ad in the Auroran to celebrate our 10th anniversary.

Sales and attendance were noticeably up as a result.

Nigel Kean
Aurora

Dorothy Clark McClure
Aurora



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Farmers' Market opens Saturday

To the editor,

This Saturday, June 12th at 8 a.m. the Aurora Farmers' Market opens for the third year.

Once again the Market will be held in the Temperance Street parking lot which is located between Tyler Street and Wellington Street on the east side.

All of last year's vendors are returning plus there will be two or three new ones.

We are still looking for more vendors who sell crafts, antiques or produce.

The price of a booth is between \$60 and \$100 for the year and the market will run through the Saturday of the Thanksgiving weekend.

I ask that you please

come out and shop at the market and then perhaps spend time shopping the Downtown Core of Aurora or visit the many historic areas in the downtown area.

This year we will feature a coupon board for many of the downtown retailers and restaurants.

Here shoppers can pick up coupons to save money at the many great stores in the area.

For any non-profit charities you can sell or advertise at the Market free on any Saturday.

I urge you to try the Market which is there to help support the area and hopefully help rejuvenate the downtown.

For further information please call Chris Alexander at the Town Hall or me at

905-841-6776.

Nigel Kean
Aurora

Dorothy Clark McClure
Aurora

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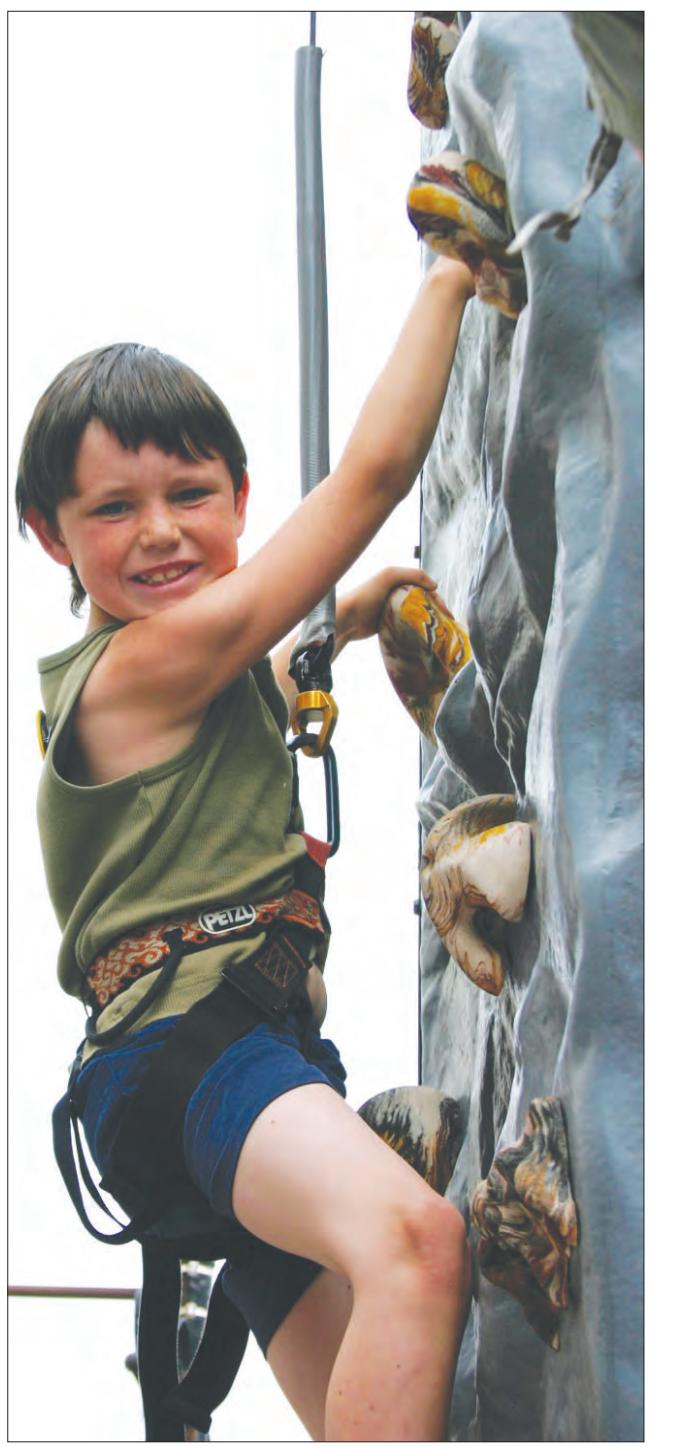
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600 vendors, perfect weather, attract 40,000 to street festival



Crowds, estimated at more than 40,000, took advantage of perfect weather Sunday to attend the 9th annual Aurora Chamber of Commerce Street Festival. And given the upcoming federal election, local candidates took full advantage of the "captive audience" At bottom left, Conservative Belinda Stronach speaks with Aurora Mayor Tim Jones, Liberal Martha Hall Findlay welcomes federal minister Jim Peterson, and NDP Ed Chudak (blue shirt) had his contingent on the street. Above, left, the car show at the south end of the street was another big attraction. Left of that, Nick Kasimos barbecues lunch at Wellington's. On the climbing wall is Sean Graham, while an overall view of the huge crowd is caught by Auroran photographers. The stilts-walkers, at right, again attracted the crowd's eye as they towered over the street. At right is Misty Farrow, better known as Giggles the Clown.

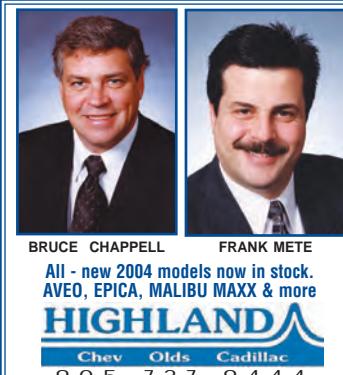
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Week of June 8, 2004

Page 10



Members of the winning Intrigue baton twirling Senior A championship team include Jordan Meron, Kristine Nicolle, Maria Lindgren, Jenna McLeod, Elishia LaRose, Elizabeth Seymour, Emily Suderman, Keara Heyworth, Kelly Furnish and club director/coach Jennifer Meron.

Spectrum twirlers capture medals

The Spectrum Baton Club competed at the Ontario Provincial Baton Twirling Championships last weekend at Humber College in Etobicoke and came away with impressive results.

The Aurora-based club, with 50 members from Aurora, Newmarket, and surrounding areas, had nine teams competing at various age divisions in the Provincial Group Championships, and of these, three captured gold, three won silver, and one brought home the bronze, to cap off one of the most successful Provincial Group Championships in the club's history.

Additionally, the club had approximately 30 athletes competing in various individual events, and once again, Spectrum led the way.

Following are some of the results:

Jordan Meron captured the gold medal in the

Junior Women's Level A Freestyle Championship, while Jordan and partner Keara Heyworth from Tottenham captured the bronze medal in the Senior A Pairs division.

Jordan also brought home two bronze medals in the Junior Medley and Solo Dance Divisions.

Kristine Nicolle captured the gold medal in Senior two-baton division.

Maria Lindgren and Jenna McLeod brought

home the bronze medal in the Senior duet division, and additionally Maria placed fifth in Senior Medley and Jenna was sixth in Senior solo dance.

Many of Spectrum's team members have qualified to represent Aurora and Ontario at the Canadian National Baton Twirling Championships, which take place in Winnipeg Manitoba from July 3 to 11.



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Samantha jumps to another award

The little jumper is at it again.

Last week, Aurora's Samantha Sendel was crowned Canadian National Youth Champion in Ladies Individual Trampoline.

This is a huge accomplishment for a 12-year old competing in her first year in this category.

National Youth represents the country's elite under 18 years of age.

Her surprising victory and score secured Samantha a place on the Canadian

Team, and she will represent Canada next month in Tampa, Florida, at the Pan American Championships.

Prior to that, Samantha will represent our Canada in an Age Group Championship (under 15) at the Indo-Pacific Games hosted in Kelowna, British Columbia.

Samantha also added two Team (Ontario) Gold medals at this year's Nationals, and picked up a Silver medal in the National Novice Double-Mini Tramp category.

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Wells walk

More than 200 students from Wells Street School's Kindergarten to Grade 6 took part in a walkathon Friday afternoon to raise funds to fight juvenile diabetes. The youngsters walked to Sheppard's Bush and back. In the top photo, students head out on their trek, while, below, Janelle Larocque, Alexandra Stehle and Katie Haynes take a breather following the walk. At left, mom Erin Maynard, joined her two children, Ethan, 2, left and Danielle, 6, on the adventure. Students raised more than \$7,000 in the walk organized by teachers Corey Jackson and Christine Nattress.

Auroran photos
by David Falconer

Tomlinsons open Merlin's Hollow gardens for tours

On Wednesday, June 16, from 11a.m. to 7 p.m., Aurora's famous "Merlin's Hollow" gardens will be open to the public as a fundraiser for the Aurora Historical Society.

Thanks once again to David and Dierdre Tomlinson, visitors will have a chance to stroll through the garden at a leisurely pace, without the distractions of the hundreds of visitors who often fill the garden on one of its several "free" days during the year.

An added bonus this year will be the opportunity to take part in two guided tours by David himself at noon or 3 p.m.

This will be an opportune time to ask gardening questions and learn more about the many hundreds of flowers, shrubs and trees on the site. Plants, including many rare and unusual perennials, will be available for sale.

Admission at the gate will be \$5 per person, with all proceeds going toward the continuing restoration

and operation of Hillary House.

For an additional \$5, visitors will be able to enjoy tea and a tour at Hillary House between the hours of 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m..

Merlin's Hollow, on Centre Crescent, is located just north of Centre Street, west of Industrial Parkway. Hillary House is located at 15372 Yonge Street, just north of Wellington.



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Ben Kestein, left, accepts congratulations from Mayor Tim Jones after receiving the Ontario Heritage Foundation's Certificate of Achievement during Civic Awards presentations Wednesday night. Kestein has been a long time fighter to save the McKenzie Marsh on St. John's Sideroad.

Auroran photo by David Falconer.

Aurora citizens honoured

A guy who likes to skip has been named Aurora's newest Citizen of the Year.

Phil Horsman, a long time resident and school teacher, was named during Aurora's annual Civic Awards last Wednesday night.

The idea of the Citizen of the Year came about as a result of a Grade 10 student council project in 1969 and was picked up by Aurora Council.

The late Bob Blick was named as Aurora's first Citizen of the Year in 1970.

Last Wednesday, Aurora Mayor Tim Jones teased the audience as he led up to the announcement.

Horsman has been a teacher for 31 years, 14 of them at Aurora Senior Public School.

Associated with his teaching, he founded the York Region Athletic Association and has been the chairman of the organization for 20 years.

Outside his professional duties at school, he coached the Senior Girls' Volleyball Team as well as hosting evening tournaments for junior and senior boys and girls' basketball and volleyball.

For the past 20 years, Horsman was in charge of the Heart and Stroke Foundation "Jump for Heart" program for all the schools in York Region.

Being in incredible condition from all the skipping left the community speechless when he suffered a heart attack a few years ago.

His promotional efforts made students more heart smart and in doing so raised more than \$5 million for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

In the early days of the award, it was presented as part of the Birthday Ball on June 30th, the eve before the July First celebrations. In 1996, it was included with the Civic Awards ceremony.

Over the years residents selected as Citizens of the Year included Annabelle Black (1971), Dick Buchanan (1972), Don Glass (1973), Jack Wood (1974). Rev. Homer McAvoy (1975), Dr. Crawford Rose (1976), Fred Bolsby (1977), posthumous to Bill Dinsmore (1978), Omar Khamissa (1979), Jack Williamson (1980), Eric Smith (1981), Vic Paraninfo (1982), Leslie Oliver (1983), Lowell McCleeny (1984), Bill Coleman (1985), Fred Conklin (1986), Nora McRoberts (1987), Norm Stewart (1988), Dick Illingworth (1989), Arnold

Miller (1990), Buck McLarty (1991), Jack De Graaf (1992), Wanda McKenzie (1993), Dianne Harrison (1994), Susan Gwilliam (1995), Steve Hinder (1996), Gerry Payne (1997), Ferguson Mobbs (1998), Vic Priestly (1999), Jackie Stubbs (2000), Ken Smith (2001), Bob Hartwell (2002) and John McIntyre (2003).

The Citizen of the Year Award is a fine tradition and it all started as an idea from a student council.

Unfortunately teacher R.K. Smith, responsible for that student council, was transferred to another school and at that time no other teacher was willing to pick up the student project.

Aurora's one and only student council will always be remembered every year as the award is presented to Aurora's Citizen of the Year.



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Aurora councillor hit at committee meeting

For the first time in the history of Aurora Council, one member physically assaulted another in the council chambers.

After council had adopted an amendment by Councillor Ron Wallace proposing changes to the procedural bylaw submitted by Councillor Evelyn Buck, she got up from her chair, walked around the council table and whacked Wallace over the head with a folded agenda.

Councillor Nigel Kean, chairman of the meeting, refused to let Buck resume her seat at the council table until she made a public apology for her actions.

Buck said that for the record she would apologize but Wallace was not in attendance as he left the meeting after the assault saying he'd had enough.

Wallace said he spoke with Buck the following day and quickly accepted her apology.

At a previous meeting Buck gave notice of motion seeking the right for councillors to attend any committee meeting and participate in the discussion of any issue.

Non-committee council members would not be entitled to make motions or vote.

She objected to the wording of the procedural bylaw which stated a non-member of the committee could only speak at the invitation of the chair. Her motion was endorsed by council.

Wallace said that in order to have control of the meeting non-members should only be allowed to speak at the invitation of the chair.

Buck argued that was

the very reason she had brought forward her notice of motion.

While there was general agreement for non-

members to attend committee meetings, the committee supported the Wallace motion resulting in the assault.



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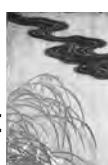
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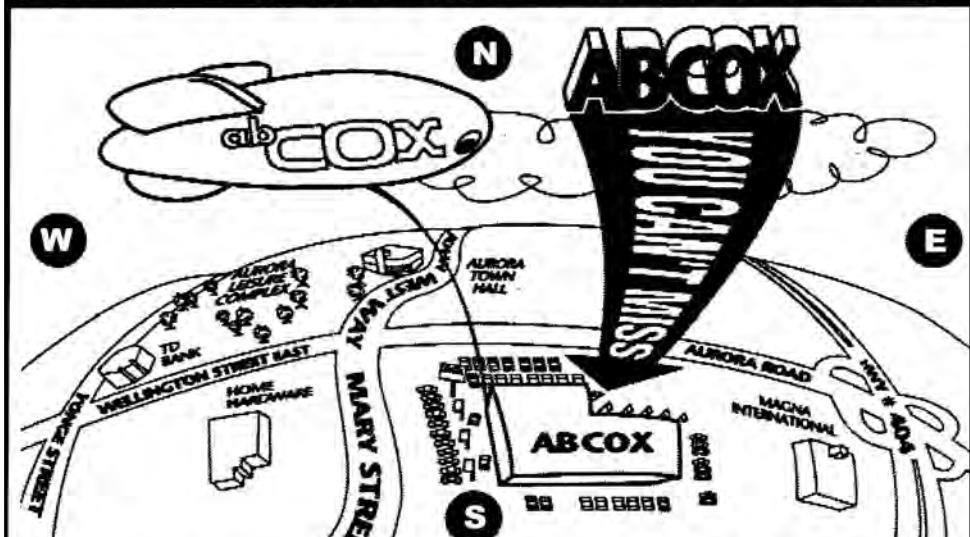
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Seniors' building costs still rising

Aurora councillors have found themselves in the same financial fiasco with the proposed Seniors' Centre as they did with the Recreational Complex, which was given the green light at the last council meeting.

After a lengthy debate the Centre was given a partial green light on condition that staff can find an extra half million dollars to meet revised estimated costs of \$3.6 million for the building that would be constructed in front of the Town Hall.

The controversy dates back to December, 2001, when council approved the designation of the main and upper floors of the Victoria Street Library for use as the Seniors' Centre.

In May, 2003, staff presented three options, including restoring and renovating the old library for \$1.2 million with funds included in the 2004 capital budget.

Other options included replacing the old library and existing centre with a 5-storey building to accommodate seniors' apartments with the centre on the bottom two floors, or relocating the centre into a new facility away from the downtown core.

Staff reported that following meetings with the seniors' steering committee there was agreement to proceed with the public/private 5-storey building complex, and if that was not suitable to council, to go with the renovation option.

The staff report came as a surprise to some councillors, as they claimed it had never been discussed.

Soil tests had been carried out and an architect engaged to prepare prelim-

inary plans without the approval of council.

Council voted 5-4 to proceed with the public/private partnership.

Then on July 15, 2003, council voted 7-2 for the construction of a new 14,000 square foot centre on land south of the Town Hall at an estimated cost of \$2.8 million with occupancy within two years.

Some councillors were critical of the process as the project had been discussed and endorsed by a seniors' steering committee before councillors were made aware of it.

Even a warning by Councillor Ron Wallace that it was doubtful the facility would be available within the two-year time frame, failed to convince his colleagues or the seniors in attendance.

A spokesman for the seniors said they would rather be inconvenienced with their cramped 4,000 square feet space in the old fire hall for two years until the new centre was available than move into the old library.

On October 28, 2003, without comment or discussion council endorsed the schematic design for the proposed centre.

A public meeting was held November 27, 2003, to receive comments to assist staff in the development of a concept plan to be presented to council in January, 2004.

The proposed building was to be one-storey and barrier-free and as the ground dropped off to the south, there could be a walkout from a basement, to provide space for storage and other uses.

Several seniors were in

attendance at the February 3, 2004, general committee meeting in hopes the committee would recommend to council that approval be given to the space allocation and the engagement of an architect, but they were doomed to disappointment.

After almost three hours of presentations and question by committee members the only decision made was to hold a free-wheeling working session.

By this time the estimated price had increased from \$2.8 million to just over \$3 million, without a requested workshop. In addition, due to poor soil conditions the facility had to be moved northward into the town hall parking lot.

After further discussion about the lack of options provided, moving the seniors from the downtown core, the availability of parking for both the seniors and the town hall, it was agreed staff would prepare a summary of the many items discussed for a future meeting.

More than a year ago, council gave the centre the green light and selected WGA Wong Gregersen as architects, with an upper limit of \$3.1 million, with the seniors in the audience applauding and going away happy.

There is some confusion as to what happened at an April council meeting when it was learned the building was over the \$3.1 million limit by \$177,000.

Staff claimed council had directed that the facility be redesigned as a two-storey building with a first floor and a finished basement for program use to bring in the project under \$3.1 million.

Council members agreed staff had been directed to bring the project in on budget but no direction had been given for a re-design or a two-storey building. It was pointed out that the only mention of basement use was for storage.

It was also noted that the seniors had made it clear they wanted a barrier-free one-storey building and if it

was going to be two floors, they might as well have moved into a renovated library.

Representing the seniors' steering committee, Charles Sequeira told committee members last week he had first appeared before council in June, 2003, in support of the 14,000 square foot single-storey building and with council's approval, the seniors were happy.

Now, a year later, the facility had been redesigned as a two-storey building as the previous plan was not within the budget.

He stressed seniors did not support a two-storey building and in order to bring it in on budget they would prefer a reduction in floor space from 14,000 to 12,000 square feet on one floor.

The one-storey option presented in April, 2004, was \$3,329,970 plus the cost of the kitchen for a total of \$3,553,970.

The two-storey option proposed last month was \$3,162,500 plus the cost of the kitchen for a total of \$3,386,500 and the one-storey option of 11,000 square feet including the kitchen was \$3,098,736.

He said to retain the original one-storey proposal it would be necessary to increase the budget, decrease the size of the facility or consider another site.

He added that costs had

increased due to soil conditions as the site was full of building material from the town hall and the cost of construction had increased.

Councillor Damir Vrancic pointed out that council had been assured from day one there was no problem with the soil and council should have been made aware of the problem before discussions reached the present stage.

Councillor Phyllis Morris said if members of council were confused about the various options and costs the public would be even more confused, and the project had developed into

another financial fiasco.

Councillor Ron Wallace, who has always supported the seniors moving into the renovated library, noted that if that option had been accepted, the seniors would now be enjoying larger facilities.

Finally a motion was made by Councillor John West that the original 14,000 square foot, one storey building be approved at a cost of \$3.6 million, subject to a report from council how the additional \$500,000 could be found.

The West motion was eventually adopted, but it is contingent on a further staff report.

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Test trucks banned from neighbourhood

Complaints received about increased truck driving school traffic from residents living in the Berczy/Metcalfe/Edward Street corridor.

Aurora's general committee endorsed the recommendations without comment or discussion.

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It is estimated there are five truck driving schools conducting about 10 lessons per day.

The Drive Test Centre also conducts 10 to 12 driving tests per day in the same area.

The increase in truck traffic is a result of the Drive Test Centre moving its large truck examination centre from the Aurora Community Centre at the town's request.

The new truck testing centre is now located in the parking lot of the Bon-L plant on Edward Street.

The new ruling will not affect current testing or truck access to the Edward Street testing centre as the examiners would use Industrial

RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Everything that goes around, comes around

AURORA LEGEND ENTERS HALL OF FAME

Seven years after his death, Major Fred Tilston, holder of the Victoria Cross, received another honour.

In October, 1999, he was one of eight inaugural members to be inducted into the Canadian Professional Sales Association Hall of Fame.

Tilston was sales manager of Sterling Drug when he enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1940.

Even though he lost both legs during a battle, he was back at work at Sterling a year after the amputation surgery.

He rejoined the company as vice-president of sales before becoming president and chairman of the board when Sterling made the move from Windsor to Aurora in 1958.

Tilston soon became involved in his adopted community and the Aurora Legion was later renamed in his honour.

His family presented his Victoria Cross to the Royal Canadian Institute.

BALLROOM DANCING AT THE GRAYSTONE

Today Aurora's Graystone Restaurant features dancing for the 30-plus crowd on weekends, but back in September, 1985, it was ballroom dancing.

After a popular spring session the restaurant again offered ballroom and Latin American 12-week dance courses starting in September with instructor Jean Jeffery.

There were courses for beginners and intermediate dancers with complimentary after-class dancing, with singles and couples welcome.

While ballroom dancing took over the dance floor on Tuesday evenings, the Graystone's popular disco continued on the other nights of the week.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW AURORA?

In an effort to find out how much Aurorans knew about their community, back in September, 1985, Frank Mete of Gabella Pizzeria hosted the Treasure Hunt of the Century to raise funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada.

The entry fee was \$5 per car with no restriction on the number of occupants. Participants were handed a list of 10 questions with riddles sending them to different places in Aurora.

The first carload to get the correct answers would receive a trophy and Gabella's provided free pizza and pop during the afternoon.

WHEN AURORA STUDENTS WENT ON STRIKE

It was in December, 1968, when about 200 students walked out of their classrooms at Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School to join about 600 high school students from other area schools to protest Education Minister Bill Davis' decision to extend the school year by 10 days to June 13.

At Williams, the students, mostly Grades 9, 10 and 11, marched back and forth in front of the school.

Inside, teachers and students carried on apparently unaware of what was happening outside.

The striking students claimed they were protesting the potential loss of income because of the shortened summer work period.

In order for them to return to class, the striking students had to bring a note from their parents.

Back in November, 1992, the Bob Rae New Democrat government announced a similar plan.

The NDP waste reduction action plan was designed to reduce the amount of garbage going to landfill by 50 per cent by the year 2000.

Municipalities across the province received a total of \$27 million of which Aurora received \$189,200 to support the town's blue box program.

Where's the money under the Liberal program?

TRANSPORTATION A MAJOR ISSUE

Transportation gridlock is a major issue facing politicians at all levels of government at the present time.

The problem isn't new as back in 1905 the politicians of the day also had transportation problems.

At that time an electric train, the Metropolitan Railway or the "Radial" travelled north on Yonge Street from Toronto, through Aurora and ending up at Lake Simcoe.

In February, 1905, it was announced the property south of Banbury's livery stable, later Nixon Fisher's 5 and 10 cent store and Stedman's, now the Laurentian Bank of Canada, had been purchased for the Aurora station.

It was later an Esso service station and is now a fast food outlet.

About the same time a delegation went to Ottawa to see then Prime Minister Sir Wilfred Laurier about extending the Trent Canal system up the Holland River to serve Holland Landing, Newmarket and even Aurora.

The canal was partially built and its remains are still evident in Newmarket and Holland Landing to this day.

Both the canal and the electric railway lost out in later years to the then unknown challenger, the "horseless carriage" or the automobile.

While the canal project may have been a folly due to the lack of water to flood the locks, the electric railway would be a great asset today to overcome the gridlock caused by the automobile.

AHS heads to Ruthven

The Aurora Historical Society is, once again, organizing a bus tour into history.

This year, the group will head out Saturday, June 19, to Ruthven Park, a country estate near Cayuga, on the Grand River.

The tour leaves Church Street School, at Church and Victoria Streets, at 9 a.m. and will return about 5:30 p.m.

Cost, including lunch and admissions, is \$45 per person.

Once the centre of a busy country estate, Ruthven Park's elegant mansion was built between 1845 and 1847 as the family home of David Thompson, soldier, businessman and politician.

Thompson hired John Latshaw to design one of Canada's finest Greek Revival houses.

The Greek Revival style was more common in the United States than in Canada and betrays its architect's American origins.

Visitors to Ruthven Park today marvel at its magnificent three-storey portico and bold detail inspired by classical temples.

The Thompsons built a dam, grist mill and saw mill around which grew the village of Indiana.

Today, remnants of this once thriving community

are visible on the Ruthven Park property. They include the village cemetery and "Hill House," one of Indiana's last remaining buildings.

Five generations of Thompsons owned Ruthven Park. All furnishings in the house were owned and used by the family.

Consisting of about 1,500 acres and stretching along the Grand River,

the property includes a unique cultural and natural landscape with nature trails, farmlands, tracts of Carolinian forest, and historic buildings and ruins.

Included will be a catered lunch on site and a visit to another nearby museum before heading back to Aurora.

To purchase tickets, call the Historical Society at 905-727-8991.

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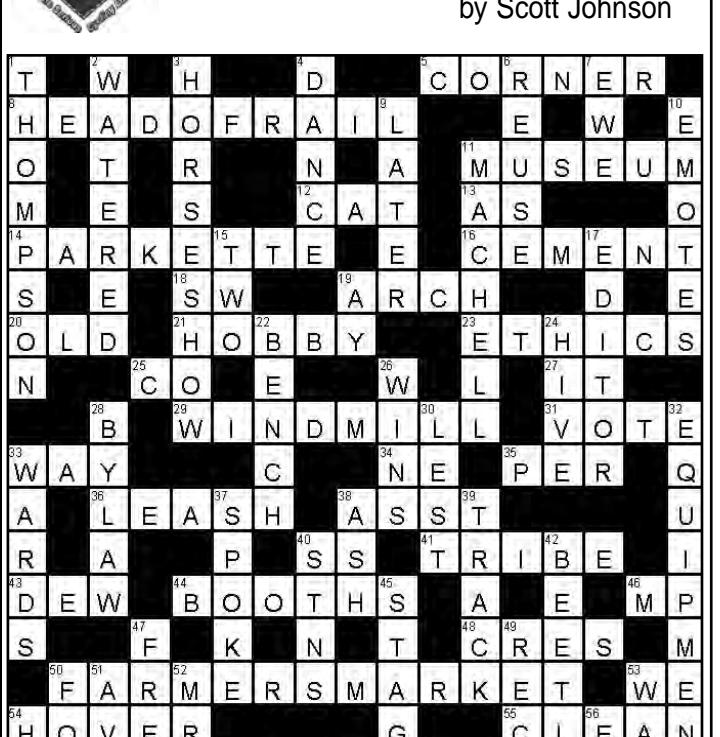
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- 5) Huge Street Sale 88 Catherine Ave. 8 - 3 (Rain date: June 13)
- 6) Multi-Family 99 Brookeview Dr. @ McClellan Way
- 7) Multi-Family Moving Sale Monkman Ct. @ Vandorf Sdrd. 8:30-2 (Rain date June 13)
- 8) Moving Sale 15933 Bayview Ave @ St. John Sdrd. 8 - 5
- 9) Huge Street Sale Anderson Place @ Murray Dr. 8 - 3 (Rain date June 13)

June 19

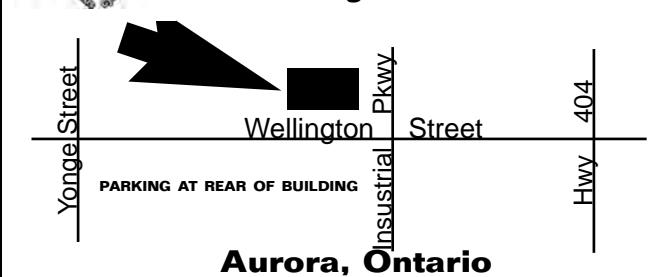
- 10) Street Sale Hollidge Blvd. @ John West Way 9 - 2



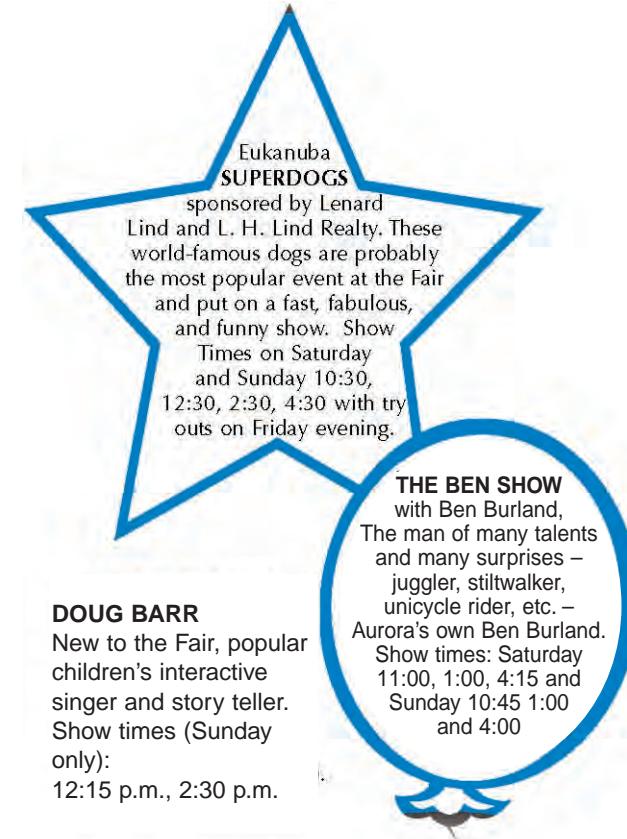
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KenJen's Petting Zoo is back with the kissing Llama and other interesting animals. In addition, and new this year, will be an agricultural display of farm animals, such as cows, horses, goats, sheep, and more. Demonstrations, such as sheep shearing and cow milking will be held. Demonstration times: Saturday, 10:45, 12:45, 3:00 Sunday, 11:00, 12:30, 2:15.

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At the ball diamond. Kids, come out and join in a variety of well-known and popular children's games. Lots of prizes. Game times: Saturday, 12:00 and 2:45 Sunday 11:15 and 1:30

FESTIVAL OF ARTS TENT

This tent provides a venue for local artists — including painters, woodcarvers, fabric artists, spinners, photographers, graphic artists, printmakers, potters, and soapmakers — to display their work. Also, artists and artisans from Aurora's Creative Connection guide children in "make and take" activities.

The Aurora Agricultural Society is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to putting on the Fair and Horse Show for Aurora and the surrounding communities.

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In the north ring. The Toronto police put on this demonstration at no charge but do accept donations for Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto. Show times for both Saturday and Sunday: 11:30, 1:30

BIRDS OF PREY

The popular birds of prey exhibit will be in the big tent near the stage. A talk on their habits, etc. will be given at the following times: Saturday 10:30, 12:15 and 2:15 Sunday 10:30, 12:45, 3:00

PIGMOBILE

So, you thought pork was grown in a supermarket and came pre-wrapped! Now you can come and see the real thing. A great display of pigs large and small. They really are cute! New this year.

FAMILY EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT WITH A BARBECUE

Saturday starting at 5:00 p.m. in the TOWN PARK. There will be a barbecue, beer garden, horse-drawn wagon rides, entertainment by Haight Ashbury, and the crowning of the Ambassador of the Fair for 2004/2005. The splash pad should also be open. Note: This will take place at the TOWN PARK and not Machell Park.

STAGE EVENTS SATURDAY

11:00 a.m. The Ben Show
11:45 a.m. Clarol the Clown
1:00 p.m. The Ben Show
1:45 p.m. Clarol the Clown
3:30 p.m. The Mutt Show
4:15 p.m. The Ben Show

STAGE EVENTS SUNDAY

10:45 a.m. The Ben Show
11:30 a.m. Clarol the Clown
12:15 p.m. Doug Barr
1:00 p.m. The Ben Show
1:45 p.m. Clarol the Clown
2:30 p.m. Doug Barr
3:15 p.m. Clarol the Clown
4:00 p.m. The Ben Show

CHILDREN'S TRACTOR PULL

On the path Children test their strength by riding a miniature tractor and pulling a weight.

Saturday 11:30 and 2:15
Sunday 11:45 and 2:00

AURORA GRAND PRIX

Friday evening from about 5:00 p.m. Enjoy an evening watching some of Canada's elite horses and riders compete, including Olympian Jimmy Elder and the popular Galloping Grandfather, Harry deLeyer. Before the event, walk the course with course designer and Pan Am gold medalist, Danny Foster. After the event, adjourn to the north tent for wine and cheese and an opportunity to meet the riders.

BANDALONI THE ONE-MAN BAND

Bandaloni will be walking around the fairgrounds and putting on a full band performance by himself on both Saturday and Sunday. Wow!

MUTT SHOW

You don't have to be a mutt to enter! Any dog may participate. Prizes donated by Pet Valu, Eukanuba, and medallions by ReYork trophies. Every participant receives a treat! Saturday only. Registration in stage area from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. with the show starting at 3:30. Judge: Mayor Tim Jones.

CAR SHOW

Back this year. The old and antique cars will be on display on Sunday.

JUNIOR ARTS, CRAFTS AND PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

On display Saturday and Sunday in the Festival of Arts tent. Visit the display of work by local children from Grades 8 to 12

PONY SHOW

If you like teeny, weeny horses, don't forget to watch the miniature horses on Saturday. The children perform some fun events on Sunday afternoon.

CELEBRITY RACING PIGS AND HILLBILLY SHOW

A new show by Ken of KenJen's Petting Zoo featuring pig and duck races and a talking parrot.

Show times
Saturday 12:00, 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00, 2:00 and 4:15 p.m.

HEAVY HORSE SHOW

What a great show. The wonderful heavy horses on Saturday are a thing to behold. You can watch them in the ring or visit them by their trailers. Sunday is the Commercial and Roadster Classes. Again, this is a great event to watch.

ONGOING SATURDAY AND SUNDAY:

Petting zoo, midway rides and games, reptile and exotic creatures display, pigmobile, Jaguar Gymnastics demonstrations (children's tent), Festival of Arts with the Junior Arts, Crafts, and Photography competition (Festival tent), Bandaloni, the one-man band, car show (Sunday only), and more.

Schedule subject to change.