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Vol. 4 No. 34

Week of June 15, 2004

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Building approved...

There's a happy group of people in Aurora today.

They're senior citizens, and they're getting a new home.

Last week Aurora Council finally committed to building a one-storey, 14,000 square foot new seniors' centre on town-owned property south of the town hall. Council agreement came after

a lengthy debate and an 8-1 vote to approve the facility at a cost not to exceed \$3.6 million, even though they're unsure of where the additional half-million dollars was to be found.

Originally, the proposal was estimated to cost \$3.1 million.

The debate started with a presentation by Lydia Schuster,

representing the seniors' building committee.

She said the seniors now have a membership of more than 1,000 and asked council members to make the centre a reality.

A fundraising committee has been established to meet a

Please see page 11

...but towers aren't

Hydro lines, houses and people apparently don't mix if the crowd in Aurora's council chambers last week was any indication.

More than 250 residents jammed the room to hear a presentation by Hydro One about a proposed hydro transmission line to replace the existing line in east Aurora.

No one favoured it.

And their efforts may have been worth it.

Hydro One reps said they would have another look at the project.

The public meeting was arranged by Aurora Deputy-Mayor Phyllis Morris who also made sure Hydro One officials were in attendance.

A public notice about the meeting was distributed by concerned citizens during the recent street festival, organized by Richard Johnson, whose property backs onto the transmission corridor.

The notice pointed out that the proposed change was to replace existing 80 foot towers with 135 foot towers in residential areas carrying 230 KV double circuit

Please see page 7

July First committee about ready to party

Aurora's Special Events Committee was late getting organized this year, and members are scrambling to put together activities for the annual July First party.

With the 35th annual party only three weeks away, the committee

is currently working to organize the July First Parade, and things are beginning to come together.

A couple of bands have been booked and float applications are arriving daily.

"The town's committees were late being organized this year," Special Events Chairman Ron Wallace said. "We want to make sure all the July First activities are in place this year and, so far, we appear to be on schedule."

Highlights of the two-day event, in addition to the parade, include Town Park activities Wednesday, June 30, plus entertainment and games in Lambert Willson Park, adjacent to the Leisure Complex Thursday, July 1.

Crowds June 30 will be entertained by the Fab Four while the Hip Kings will play July 1 from noon to 4 p.m. at the beer garden.

Usual activities, such as the Horseshoe Tournament and helicopter rides, are scheduled and set to go.

The July First Parade will begin at the St. Andrew's Shopping Plaza, Yonge and Orchard Heights Drive at 10 a.m. and head south to Murray Drive.

If you wish to enter a float in the parade, you have until June 25 to submit your application. A blank application form is included in this week's Auroran on Page 14 for your convenience.

Election heats up



With the federal election only two weeks away, things are heating up in the Newmarket-Aurora riding. Conservative Party of Canada leader Stephen Harper, top photo centre, was in Aurora last week for a rally, attended by Aurora's Bob Callow who is running in the Markham-Oak Ridges riding, left, and Belinda Stronach, seeking the Newmarket-Aurora nod, next to Harper. Below, Stronach makes final adjustments prior to appearing on Canada AM with host Beverley Thompson, a show that was shown live from the Aurora train station Thursday morning. Also appearing on the show were Martha Hall Findlay, bottom left, representing the Liberals, and Progressive Canadian candidate Dorian Baxter of Newmarket. An all-candidates' meeting for Newmarket-Aurora is scheduled at the Aurora Town Hall Wednesday night.

Auroran photos by David Falconer and Ron Wallace

Briefly

All-Candidates' Meeting

An all-candidates' meeting for federal contenders in the new riding of Newmarket-Aurora will be held Wednesday, June 16, in the council chambers of the Aurora Municipal Building.

All five candidates seeking election in Newmarket-Aurora are expected to attend.

The debate begins at 7.30 p.m. and is being organized by Aurora Councillor John West.

Bird liked it here

During the ceremony to reflect on the 60th anniversary of D-Day held in the Graystone's Restaurant parking lot during Street Festival activities last week, 60 doves were released into the air.

Fifty-nine of them went home. One stayed.

The dove, obviously in love with Aurora, hung around the exterior of the Graystone's all week, electing not to make the trip back to his permanent home near Lake Ontario in Toronto.

Spokesmen for White Wings Worldwide, which provided the birds, said the lagger was almost a newborn and still had not mastered the "homing" art.

It has since been captured and will obviously be sent to obedience school.

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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 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 Legion Ladies Auxiliary Yard Sale. 58 Centre Street, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain or shine.

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. Features music by the Fab Four, a tribute to the Beatles.

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

Concert In The Park: The Robert Davis Snapping Toes Family Music Show. Town Park, 7-9 p.m. weather permitting.

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

Concert In The Park: The Toronto All-Star Big Band. Town Park. 7-9 p.m. weather permitting.

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 21

Concert In The Park: Chicago Tribute Band. Town Park. 7-9 p.m. weather permitting.

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.

JULY 28

Concert In The Park: Dick Smith and Syncona. Town Park. 7-9 p.m. weather permitting.

AUGUST 4

Concert In The Park: Erick Traplin, children's entertainer. Town Park 7-9 p.m. weather permitting.

AUGUST 11

Concert In The Park: Bennie & The Jets. Town Park 7-9 p.m. weather permitting.

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Aurora Pathway of Peace has sister in Scarborough

The Yellow Brick House Pathway of Peace celebrates its fourth anniversary Thursday at the park on the corner of Wellington and Temperance, and officials will use the event to announce a second pathway.

A sister women's shelter to YBH, Juliette's Place, in Scarborough, will be the location for the second pathway, and JP Executive Director Margaret Haynes will be on hand at the ceremony Thursday.

She will join Aurora Mayor Tim Jones, staff from both women's shelters, donors and supporters of the project for the event scheduled for 11 a.m.

The Aurora pathway was officially opened by then Ontario Lieutenant Governor Hilary Weston in the year 2000, with the idea that the pathway would develop into an international network of community initiatives to raise money for and create awareness of the issue of violence against women and children.

The Aurora path has generated about \$120,000 in revenue to date for the Yellow Brick House.

The Pathway of Peace has been built through the centre of Temperance Park, just west of Aurora's busy Yonge and Wellington intersection.

Bricks for the path are sold at various prices, from \$25 for families or individuals up to \$1,000 for corporations.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, Yellow Brick House was founded in 1978 and has been located in Aurora at Wellington and Victoria since 1982.

It is a 21-bed shelter for abused women and their children.

Yellow Brick House also operates an eight-apartment longer-term facility on

George Street, called Reta's Place, and a multi-cultural outreach office and counselling centre in Thornhill.

Of its \$2.5 million annual operation budget, the shelter must raise \$650,000 of this through community support.

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Poor Richard

Reconsideration of council motions is nothing new

*Rules are set to be a guide,
Much like traffic laws;
Councillors try to bend them,
If their arguments have flaws!*

-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Reintroducing a controversial issue once decided by council without a motion of reconsideration is nothing new for Aurora councillors.

In spite of the rules and regulations set out in council's procedural bylaw, the practice has been prevalent over the years.

The purpose of any council meeting is to ascertain the opinion of members of council on a specific issue and to make an intelligent decision.

To arrive at the decision, discussion is necessary, but order must exist and that's the purpose of the procedural bylaw.

If memory is correct, the town's original procedural bylaw was registered as "Bylaw 0" and it must have been adopted shortly after the village was incorporated in 1863.

The bylaw has been amended and updated consolidated versions have been prepared over the years.

Amendments are often proposed when a member of council doesn't get his, or her, way and wants the rules changed.

In December, 1985, council agreed to repurchase the Yermus property in the town's industrial park as he had failed to live up to his agreement to build within a specified period of time.

Yermus appeared before council January 6, 1986, to appeal council's decision.

A debate was permitted without a motion of reconsideration and the repurchase of the property was confirmed on a 5-4 vote with Councillors Evelyn Buck, Betty Pedersen, Martin Paivio, Herb McKenzie and Norm Weller supporting the motion.

At the January 15th council-in-committee meeting a letter was received from Yermus repeating his request to retain the property.

Buck and Weller moved that the letter be received, or in other words, no action.

Councillor Tim Jones said the procedural bylaw should be waived and the letter discussed.

He was supported by Councillor George Timpson who pointed out that if the procedural bylaw could be waived to permit three readings of a bylaw at the same meeting, the same should apply to the letter.

Timpson added that council shouldn't be hamstrung by a set of phony rules.

The vote to receive the letter was lost on a tie 4-4 vote with Councillor Paivio absent.

Buck pointed out that council had made a decision and as there had been no motion of reconsideration the letter died on the council table.

Jones subsequently presented a notice of motion for an amendment to the procedural bylaw.

Although the procedural bylaw stated that no question could be reconsidered more than once, it was sort of an unwritten law that the issue could be reintroduced after 90 days without a motion of reconsideration.

Because of previous actions by Councillor Earl Stewart aided and abetted by Councillor Richard Barker and Jones, the 90-day rule was written into the procedural bylaw.

In February, 1986, Jones presented his proposed amendment to the procedural bylaw.

He suggested that at any subsequent meeting of council any member of council could move reconsideration, rather than a member of the prevailing side, as stipulated in the bylaw.

In other words, if a member of council lost a decision, the amendment would allow the issue to be reintroduced week after week until the right mix of council was in attendance to sneak it through.

Buck was glorious in the defence of democracy and the rule of the majority resulting in Jones and Timpson agreeing to delete the section from the proposed amendment, but in doing so deleted it from the procedural bylaw.

It appeared as the majority of council members were unaware that the deletion was happening as it was adopted with only Buck in opposition.

The change was a regressive step and tended to make the procedural bylaw phony as previously described by Timpson.

Since then there have been other amendments which detract from the original intent of the bylaw, so that the bylaw is primarily ignored resulting in the chaotic council meetings, so prevalent of Aurora Council today.



From Aurora's Shirley Thompson comes this little gem, the class (we don't know what grade) from Room 7 at the Aurora Public School, better known today as the Church Street School. The photo was taken September 9, 1931. In the front row are Don Lawson, Frank Anderson, Alvin Leader and two unidentified students. Second row, left to right, Edwin Simpson, Tommy Trent, Ancen Gilbert, Glenn Murray, Douglas Nisbet, Russel Birchard, Kenneth Harmon, Russell Clubine and Ivan Markle. Third row, left to right, Doris McCallum, Ruth Flintoff, Gladys Stone, Miriam Bolton, Joyce Bird, Gerald Cox, Fred Bray, Bill Thompson, Vaughan Williams and George Morris. Back row, left to right, Marion Southwood, ?, Myra Chubb, ?, Reta Hope, Patsy Bilborough, Margaret Foster, Irene Heath, Iris Bennett, Muriel Cowieson and Helen Sutton. The teacher was Miss Helen Boynton.

Letters to the Editor

How to get the most out of new rec centre

To the editor,

That new rec centre had better be worth it, inside and out.

Yes, we need a new pool. And I need a new washing machine.

Aurora can't afford the pool. I can't afford the washing machine.

What with the cost of living rising, including the projected tax increase to help pay for this rec centre, and a second child starting school this fall (thereby doubling the number of field trips, pizza days, and whatever-athons for charity), it looks like I'll be doing my family's clothes by hand before I get that new washing machine.

And likely, the cost of the new washing machine will have risen by then, as well.

Such is real life, and I remind myself that there are people who live in Aurora who would LOVE to have my washing machine problems - they'd have a washing machine, and not have to shell out \$2 per load at a coin laundry (wash only, no dry).

They'd love to have a mortgage. They'd love to have a telephone bill. They'd love to have to pay car insurance, because that would mean they'd have a house, a telephone, and a car.

However, since I could not be present at that town meeting to have my dissenting voice drowned out, I suppose I must swallow the bile, open my taxpaying wallet, and offer suggestions to reduce the centre's operating costs, and maximize its benefits for every-

one who lives here, and beyond.

If I'm paying for it, I want it to be a good investment, not just in chlorinated bath-water, but all around.

Here's a suggestion for the new rec centre's landscaping: include fruit trees and vegetables. Donate that produce to the food bank. That is NOT sarcasm.

If you're going to take a chunk out of every citizen to accommodate those who actually USE water and ice facilities, you have to give something back that we can ALL use.

In fact, all the town's landscaping should contain edible elements for the benefit of its citizens.

Here's another suggestion: make that rec centre a model of sustainable development, self-sufficiency, and energy efficiency.

Let other municipalities point to Aurora and say: "We gotta get one of those!" GIVE US LOTS OF BIKE PARKING.

Good bike parking, not those bolted-down racks that bend wheels when the bikes fall over on top of each other. Give us room to park the bike trailers that carry small children to and from swimming lessons. People who ride bikes take up less room than people who drive cars.

Put another vegetable garden on the roof, maybe for foods that require a longer growing season, a cold frame, wind shelter, and warmer soil temperatures.

Install a windmill generator to reduce the draw on the grid, and sell the electricity back to the utility if

there's a surplus.

Build passive solar heating into the building, to reduce electrical and natural gas consumption.

Collect rainwater in large cisterns for use in the garden, or flush the toilets with rainwater instead of our scarcer and scarcer drinking water, which we're not allowed to use on even or odd numbered days, depending on which side of the street we live on.

Or install composting toilets and hire, or create, a night-soil service to manage them, and use the compost for gorgeous ornamental gardens. Or sell it. Farmers already spread sewage sludge on their fields.

There shouldn't be anything wrong with composted human manure that DOESN'T have all that other stuff mixed up in it as well.

Use air-scrubbing plants, such as philodendron, indoors to help purify the air.

Use low-emission building supplies so people with multiple chemical sensitivities (here I am!) can use the building the first year it's open, instead of waiting for carpets, tile glue, and paint to finish off-gassing.

Design garbage separation into the building, perhaps including an on-site composter for the gardens.

Demand that vendors and suppliers use reusable shipping materials - and demand that they really do REUSE them.

There are many things that can be built into such a large, public facility to reduce its operating costs,

and generate revenue.

Make that new recreation centre worth it for EVERY-ONE. Hell, you can hire me to turn compost!

Elfie B. Taylor
Aurora

AURORAN

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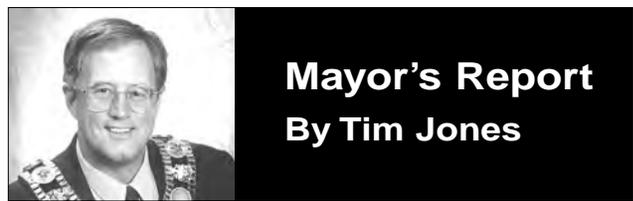
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Mayor's Report
By Tim Jones

Countryside Mayors' Alliance holds second meeting in King

On June 4th, the Countryside Mayors' Alliance met at Kingbridge Conference Centre. This is the second meeting of this group who are comprised of the Mayors of Brock, Uxbridge, Georgina, Milton, East Gwillimbury, Whitchurch-Stouffville, Scugog, Clarington, Halton Hills, Newmarket, Caledon, King and Aurora.

The Countryside Mayors' Alliance was formed to address issues that are in common with the more rural communities that surround the GTA.

On the agenda was a presentation by Bernard Moyle of the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office.

Mr. Moyle is the Ontario Fire Marshal and he acts as the principal advisor to the Provincial Government on public fire protection policy and fire safety issues.

Among the issues of concern to the gathering was the ability to continue to use "double hatters" or firefighters who may work in other municipalities and volunteer in their home municipality.

The presentation resulted in a motion, passed unanimously, requesting the provincial government to enact legislation to protect the employment rights of "double hatters".

This access to trained fire personnel is a valuable resource to smaller rural municipalities who cannot afford full time departments.

Following Mr. Moyle, Bryan Tuckey, the Commissioner of Planning for the Region of York made a presentation on "Farming in the Urban Shadow: The GTA Agricultural Action Plan."

Bryan brought the group up to speed with an overview of agriculture and growth in the GTA and the evolution of the proposed GTA agricultural action plan.

He pointed out that from 1996 to 2001, farm numbers are down 16 per cent; 3870 farms representing 300,000 hectares of land.

The action plan speaks to the economic development benefits of farms and their value to the local economy.

There is a need to raise awareness of agricultural issues as well as identify appropriate land use policies.

And, we need to establish clear accountability and responsibility for advancing the needs of farming.

To this end, the Mayors' Alliance endorsed a resolution asking the provincial government to endorse and support the draft plan in principle and assign ministerial and financial support to implement the plan.

The final presentation was one on securing land for preservation, given by Dr. Stewart Hilts representing the Ontario Farmland Trust.

Mr. Hilts spoke of the greenbelt, smart growth, review of provincial policy, growth management, infrastructure planning and source water protection.

He pointed out that 40 per cent of farmland has been lost over the past 50 years, most of that loss coming from urbanization and re-growth of forest cover on marginal land.

He indicated that 53 per cent of Ontario farmland is within the GTA, 47 per cent of farmland is in Central Ontario.

He clarified that the Farmland Trust can advocate for farmland protection, but it is the government that has the ability to act through policies.

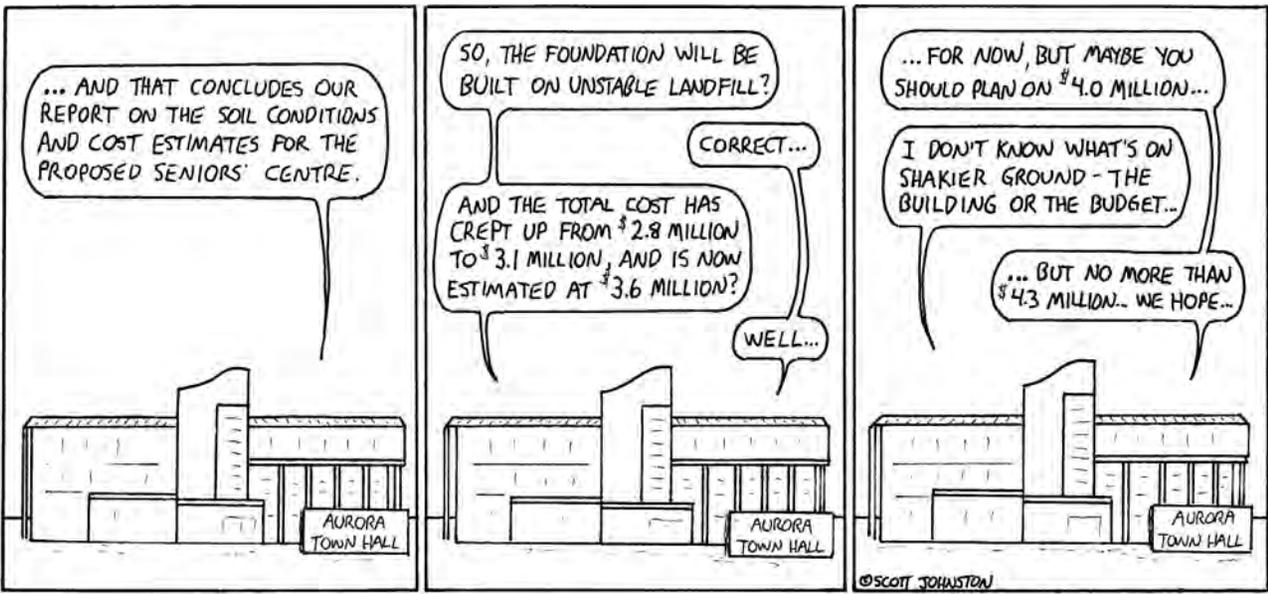
He indicated that investment in land securement does pay dividends and that Canada is behind the United States in open space acquisition.

Incentives, such as tax relief can be important motivators.

More information on the Trust initiatives can be found at www.uoguelph.ca/~farmland.

The meeting concluded with a resolution, adopted unanimously, calling for the provincial and federal governments to commence discussions with all municipalities to share the gas tax and provide long term sustainable funding for all forms of municipal infrastructure in terms of the new deal for municipalities.

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

Sentimental memories for Aurora Burger King

To the editor,

I just finished reading the letter (Auroran, June 1) by Jim Patterson "the guy with the moustache", former manager of the Aurora Burger King.

I was very taken by his letter as I am sure were a number of loyal patrons who will truly miss the Burger King in Aurora.

My husband Frank and I moved up to Aurora from Toronto seven years ago.

We had three small children and another one on the way.

The Burger King was our first "eating experience" in this fine town.

The food was always delicious, the staff was always friendly, and the playroom

entertained my children.

(The playroom also gave my husband and me the opportunity to have a decent conversation with a minimal number of interruptions).

Needless to say, we have a very sentimental memory of the restaurant.

We continued to drop into Burger King over the years with other families after bowling at the Aurora Bowl, or after late afternoon hockey games at the ACC, or as a treat over the March Break.

Every time we dropped in for a quick meal we always came away feeling more than satisfied.

Thank you very much, Jim Patterson, and all of the BK staff.

You didn't know it at the time seven years ago, but you helped to make the transition for the Abels family, uprooting from the city, a smooth and happy one.

We always knew we

would feel at home when we visited your restaurant.

From a true Whopper lover, you will sadly be missed.

Kathy Abels
Aurora

Parachute candidate offends this reader

To the editor,

I just read the poll released today for this riding showing that our own Belinda Stronach has a 29 point lead on her Martin/McGuinty Liberal opponent from Collingwood. Good!

This is a clear message to

Paul Martin that trying to parachute a candidate into Newmarket-Aurora who has done absolutely nothing for our community is offensive! I am confident that Belinda will be a great Member of Parliament.

Terry Sherin
Aurora



Cathy's Corner

Things that go "thump" in the night

I am a hugger.

It is a condition symptomatic of being a winter wonderwuss because it supports my warmth-seeking tendencies.

My husband almost didn't survive our first winter. Every night, I would try to use him as a blanket, burrowing under him. Little by little, he would shimmy on down the bed until he fell out.

He'd get up, walk around the bed and get back in on my side. My heat sensors, being highly evolved, allowed me to quickly change direction and close in on the target once again.

All night long, we danced to the tune of: THUMP! Stagger. Plop. Shimmy, shimmy...THUMP!

After a few months of this beat, he developed dark circles around his eyes, dark bruises on his joints, and a collection of goose eyes.

By Christmas, we were well stocked with hot water bottles. We built a barrier down the middle of the bed to try to save our marriage.

I accepted the surrogate until about 2 a.m. Then it was "thump, thump, thump" as I chucked the water bottles, followed by THUMP! @#%&*! Stagger. Plop. Shimmy, shimmy...THUMP!

One morning, he looked so bad I tried to hug him to make him feel better. He ran into the bathroom and locked the door.

He began making threats - twin beds being his weapon of choice. I suspect he was looking forward to a three foot gap down the middle that might help me go "thump" in the night. Mercifully, the arrival of spring averted war.

When we had children, I read somewhere that they need a minimum of three hugs a day: One to survive, two to grow

and three to thrive. My husband handled that perfectly fine, but then I pulled rank on him and unilaterally imposed "The Hug Rule".

The Hug Rule dictates that any child who requests a hug will get one under any circumstances. It sounds simple, but given that I had scarred him for life, he had some trouble with the "any circumstances" part.

One day, he was out in the garage, staining some deck furniture. As is typical of Aurora subdivisions, a neighbour came by and engaged him in a conversation that lured him out of the garage.

Behind his back, three year old Jennifer decided to "help" daddy. By the time daddy turned around, Princess Paintbrush had stained her face, her hands and her brand new once pink overalls redwood. Let's not talk about the walls, the floor or the car.

There ensued a commotion.

I looked up from my gardening as Jennifer threw up her arms and wailed: "I need a huuuuug!"

My husband shook his head and started backing up in horror.

Have you ever noticed how, when someone hugs someone when they don't want to hug them, they hug them as if they smell bad?

Sometimes, dads have trouble with hugs, hopefully because they've been over-hugged.

But it could be because, all too often, their pride, sanity and wallets have gone missing in the process.

But what the heck, this Father's Day, hug yours anyways!

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

Bouquets & Brickbats

By **DICK ILLINGWORTH**

BOUQUETS to Phil Horsman on being named Aurora's 2004 Citizen of the Year. More **BOUQUETS** to all the other citizens and organizations who received awards at the Aurora Community Recognition Awards Ceremony held at the Town Hall recently.

BRICKBATS to those at the Region of York who prepared the ad for the CAA Leisureways magazine, which lists Canada Day celebrations in Unionville on July 1st, with no mention of Aurora who started the July First celebrations in 1969 when it proclaimed itself as "Canada's Birthday Town!"

BOUQUETS to 12-year-old Samantha Sendel of Aurora who has qualified to represent Canada at the Pan American trampoline championships in Tampa, Florida, after winning the ladies individual category at the Canadian national youth championships. She also won gold in two team events and silver in the novice double-mini trampoline category.

BRICKBATS to the traffic engineers who designed the traffic flow, especially the drive-thru, for Wendy's and Tim Horton's as the line-up impedes the remainder of the traffic using the plaza resulting, at times, with traffic backing up on John West Way at Wellington Street. It's an accident waiting to happen.

BOUQUETS to Shirley and Bob Montgomery on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They celebrated it with family and friends at the Cedarview Community Church in Newmarket on June 5th. They were long time residents of Aurora when Bob was a real estate broker and before that operated the Cousins Dairy Bar, now Wellington's of Aurora. At one time, Bob was co-owner of the Aurora Tigers hockey team.

BRICKBATS for the lack of on-street parking bylaw enforcement, especially in the Gurnett Street and Cousins Drive area. With vehicles parking on both sides of Gurnett Street, south of Kennedy and construction trucks and equipment plus cars on Cousins and Yonge, an emergency vehicle would have problems. Action is required!

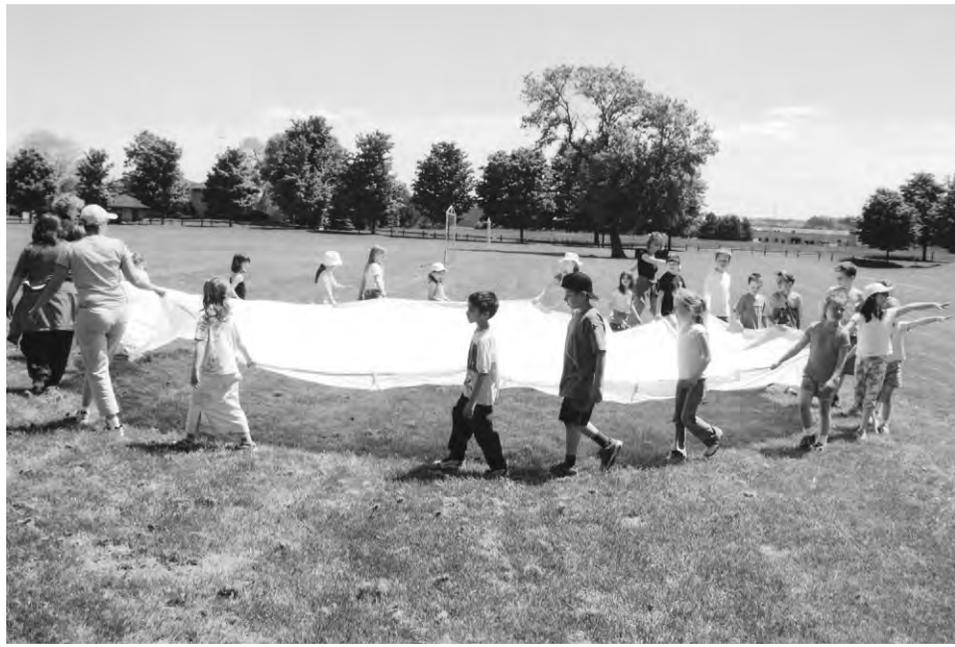
BOUQUETS to Premier Dalton McGuinty for finally apologizing on behalf of the province to the 1,600 survivors of the infamous government-funded St. John's training schools who suffered physical, emotional and sexual abuse from the 1940s to the 1970s. An agreement was reached with the previous NDP government calling for a public apology but former Premier Mike Harris refused.

BRICKBATS to members of Aurora Council if they devote most of their communication plan financial resources to further develop the town's website. While it may be important, a lot of residents are not computer literate and depend on the printed word. As Councillor Evelyn Buck pointed out, remember the Royal Bank!

BOUQUETS to Councillor Buck for making a public apology for her actions the week before, when she swatted Councillor Ron Wallace over the head with a rolled up newspaper when he disagreed with her. She said she intended no harm and had no excuse to offer. Wallace accepted the apology and quipped; "She was trying to cover up my bald spot!"

BRICKBATS to Liberal cabinet ministers John McCallum and Judy Sgro for their planned ambush on Conservative Leader Stephen Harper on his arrival in Markham. It was a premeditated attack planned by Davis Herle, co-chairman of Martin's election campaign. Obviously they're desperate!

Letters to the Editor



It's a "cat & mouse" game called parachute and Wells Street School students played it as part of their fund-raising walkathon recently. Teachers enjoyed coverage from The Auroran. *Auroran photo by David Falconer*

School liked pictures

To the editor,

Our staff would like to extend a wholehearted thank you to The Auroran for its coverage of the Wells Street Public School Kids Walk for Diabetes on June 4.

The prominent photos in your June 8 paper of students taking part in the walk have assuredly raised greater public

awareness of this insidious childhood disease.

Photographer David Falconer was a delight.

He appeared in good time, and asked many interested questions about our fundraiser, even taking part in the actual walk, and joking that he needed the exercise!

His upbeat pictures of the event in your newspaper reflect the cheerful

atmosphere of this school community effort.

The Wells Street School Kids Walk was a heartfelt voice for the need to find a cure for juvenile diabetes.

The Auroran has truly made the most of this opportunity to enlighten citizens on the growing scourge of this deadly disease affecting our vulnerable children in greater numbers than ever before.

Wells Street
Public School Staff
Aurora

Don't blindly follow Toronto, he warns

To the editor,

With regards to the news that Aurora is going to have a committee to look at pesticide use, are we just becoming a mirror for whatever Toronto does?

It's bad enough that all those people leave Toronto to come to Aurora for the small town but insist on bringing the idiocies of Toronto along with them.

Yes some people are going to have allergic reactions to some pesticides but there are also people who have allergic reactions to out of control weeds.

If you are going to try and ban everything that someone is allergic to, then you will have to ban everything, whether it be man-made like a pesticide or just a normal part of nature.

With allergies, you are taught to try and avoid the triggering agents, but that

does not mean you must outright ban that for everyone.

It seems like some in Aurora have the "monkey see, monkey do" approach to things.

The fact that Toronto bans something does not mean that it is evil and must therefore be banned here in Aurora, too.

Can we have a little bit of independent thinking before we blindly follow Toronto down the slope to black hole country?

I am also concerned with the neutrality on this issue of the council members who will be on the committee.

Do they just want to ban pesticide use or do they truly want to look into the matter from both sides of the story?

For the record I do not own nor work for a pesticide using firm but I do have seasonal allergies.

Dave Watson
Aurora

Councillors show humour

To the editor,

At an Aurora Council meeting on June 8th, Councillor Evelyn Buck graciously apologized to fellow Councillor Ron Wallace for hitting him at a recent committee meeting, saying it was supposed to be a swish but turned into a swat.

Equally gracious, Wallace accepted her apology and added that he thought she was trying to cover his bald spot.

Thank goodness these two councillors have a refreshing sense of humour, sadly lacking in some of their peers.

Apparently, the weapon of mass distraction was a rolled-up copy of The Auroran.

It is my belief that Ron would have been far more insulted if he'd been hit with a copy of the Era-Banner.

Flo Murray
Aurora



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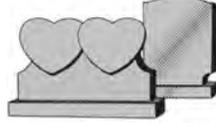
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Hydro proposal upsets Aurora residents

From page 1

lines.

It also noted that the electromagnetic fields (EMF) produced by these hydro lines raise concerns for some people as some scientific studies have linked EMF to childhood leukemia.

The notice also pointed out the lines and towers were incompatible with the community and would reduce both the attractiveness of the neighbourhood and the value of homes.

Councillor Morris introduced Hydro One officials and turned the meeting over to David Hardy.

Irv Klajman of Aurora Hydro advised the audience the town and Aurora Hydro had arranged a public meeting at 7 p.m. June 29, in the town hall and he was there to answer any questions about Aurora Hydro.

Hydro One's Gary Schneider made a presentation of the proposed project and possible route alternatives.

He said Hydro One officials were there to provide information and answer questions.

Based on growth projections the Aurora/Newmarket area needed an increase in

hydro availability for the winter of 2006/2007, he said.

Planning started in July last year after meetings with local utilities.

In March, meetings were held with local councils and public information meetings have been held in Markham, Vaughan, King and Newmarket. It had been hoped to make a recommendation as to the preferred route by June.

He also pointed out that the Armitage transmission station on Mulock Drive in Newmarket, which supplies Newmarket and Aurora, was at capacity and would have to be upgraded.

Originally five routes had been identified to provide power to the Armitage station. That list had been reduced to two but in view of the concern, the other routes would be revisited, plus other alternatives, including the Highway 404 and GO Transit rail corridors.

Routes would be considered on the basis of cost, environmental, technical and local impact, but it would be impossible to make a recommendation by June and it would likely be the fall before a preferred route could be recommended.

Jennifer Cooper, of the Aurora STOP (Stop Transmission lines Over People) made an excellent presentation on behalf of residents commenting on communication, health and fiscal impact.

She was critical of the lack of communication by Hydro One and the local council, as none of the citizens found out from Hydro One and stressed the need for improved communications with the public.

On the health issue she expressed concern about EMS for children and the location of schools adjacent to transmission corridors.

She said when residents purchased their homes they were told the hydro lines would be buried.

Cooper noted Markham Council and the York Region Catholic School Board had gone on record as opposing the upgrade of the transmission line and requested Aurora Council take similar action.

Representing the New Ratepayers Association, Ben Kestey suggested the current hydro system was prehistoric and with new technology such as fuel cells for individual homes, transmission lines would become redundant.

Jim Morrison, represent-

ing the Bayview/Wellington Ratepayers, said it was a complex, emotional issue and noted that homes had been purchased backing on to the hydro line by many young families with children. He stressed the need for an independent peer review and more information.

Schneider replied that Hydro One was a "wires" company and were not involved in power generation.

He suggested that another option to reduce the demand for electricity was a moratorium on growth in

the region, which brought loud applause from the audience.

He also pointed out that the proposed line came about as requests from the local utilities for more power due to growth and had not been initiated by Hydro One.

The meeting was then opened to the audience and many of the same concerns were repeated time and time again, about lack of communication, EMS concerns and loss of property values.

One resident remarked about the rapid growth and

encouraged the audience to become involved in planning issues when they see a development sign on a property.

Citizens were also critical of Aurora Council for approving growth adjacent to power lines, when they must have known the transmission line had to be upgraded.

While no decisions were made at the meeting, citizens were able to express their concerns and Hydro One officials will have a better idea of those concerns when they return for the June 29 meeting.

June belongs to the seniors

Ever since 1970, June has been recognized as Seniors Month in Ontario.

At one time many municipalities recognized the month and arranged special events for seniors.

At one time Aurora Council, led by the late Norm Stewart, chartered buses and took the seniors for a day's picnic to such places as Orillia.

Now, in Aurora, events are planned by the seniors to mark the event and a list of activities is available at the seniors centre on Victoria Street.

During the first celebration in 1970, then Community and Social Services Minister Tom Wells launched the third week in June as Seniors Week in a ceremony in North Bay.

Aurora had the honour of kicking off the 1971 Seniors Week when Lieutenant Governor W. Ross MacDonald and a small army of federal, provincial and municipal officials arrived here to officially

open Aurora's first senior citizens housing units on Orchard Heights Blvd.

MP John Roberts and MPP Bill Hodgson brought greetings from their governments.

Dedication of the building was by the Rev. Fred Hall of Trinity Anglican and Father M.R. Lynett of Our Lady of Grace Church.

The Queen's York Rangers band played during the opening.

Theme of the 1971 Seniors' Week was "Today is the first day of the rest of your life". Over the years the theme changed but the message was the same, keeping seniors active and involved in their communities.

Following an American incentive, a group of seniors encouraged similar action in the province through the United Senior Citizens of Ontario organization.

The Ontario Select Committee on aging took the concept a step further through a recommendation

tabled in the Legislature.

It stated in part: "In order that all our citizens might be more aware of the potentialities of old age and maturity and of the year-round service offered by the government and agencies in the field of Senior Citizen themselves and that the province permit and encourage municipalities to proclaim a Senior Citizens Week each year".

Nothing happened until 1970 when a Private Members' Bill "An Act Respecting Senior Citizens Week" was adopted by the Legislature and has continued to the present day.



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Members of the Midget Diggers ball team got together with the mayor recently for a car wash to raise funds for the club. They are, left to right, Amber Muir, Shannon Bentley, Jessica Mendlowitz, Clara Yan, Aurora Mayor Tim Jones, Kim Morrison, Leah McIntosh and Christine Campbell.

Novice Diggers tighten grasp on league lead

The Aurora Novice Diggers increased their lead in the North York League in the last week and a half winning five games and tying their sixth.

In the first game, Aurora met Markham and pulled out a 6-5 victory.

Aurora held the lead from the first inning when they jumped into a three-run lead.

Kathryn Cribbett, Larisa Weissberger and Jessica Suddes all led off with hits and scored.

Cribbett led the Aurora bats going three for four while Jessica Suddes contributed two hits and scored twice.

Chelsae Lumley pitched the win facing 30 batters over seven innings. She had four strikeouts, allowed four walks and gave up four hits.

In the second game, Aurora thumped Pickering for the first time this season, piling up a 7-1 win.

Kaylee McDonald pitched the winner, striking out 15 in a pretty no-hitter.

Alyson Murphy led the offense with three hits while McDonald contributed two hits of her own.

Murphy and Hayley Davies each crossed the plate twice for four of the seven Aurora runs.

Saturday saw Aurora score 14 runs in each game against Peterborough in back to back wins.

In the opener, Diggers won 14-1, then blanked Peterborough 14-0 in the second match.

Jenn Kates was the winning pitcher in the first game with 11 strikeouts and six hits.

McDonald led the Aurora bats going four for four while Amanda Piron added three hits.

In the second game, Kaylee McDonald, Lumley and Jenn Kates shared the pitching on the mound as they shut down the Peterborough bats.

On Wednesday night it was the battle of the Aurora Novice teams, Senior and Junior in a come-from-behind game that ended in an 8-8 tie.

The Aurora Novice Junior team took the lead early by scoring two in the first inning.

The Aurora seniors scored their first run in the second with a hit from Kates to score Piron.

By the top of the seventh, the Juniors had a com-

manding 8-2 lead but the game was far from over.

In the bottom of the seventh the Seniors scored six runs to tie the game.

It started on an error with Davies getting on base and two batters later, Jamie Doige started the rally with a hard hit ball to left field that scored two runs.

Mandy Ince then scored Doige with a single.

Several batters later, Suddes slammed a triple to bring in two more runs to make the score 8-7.

The tying run was brought in by Piron with a single.

Defensively Davies at third base led the team with five put outs and Suddes at first base had two put outs and eight assists.

Under 20 tournament

Three Barbs shine in 29-29 rugby tie

Three young Aurora Barbarians debuted for the Toronto Rugby Union Wednesday night in their 29-29 tie with the Niagara Rugby Union's Lightning as part of the Rugby Ontario Under 20 Interbranch tournament.

They were scrumhalf Kai Sorenson, flanker David Neilson and Graham Watt.

The Lightning scored first and seemed to be in control of the match throughout the first half, however, with about 10 minutes remaining Sorenson scored a sneaky try from a five-metre penalty that gave the TRU squad some hope.

Down by 15 points with fewer than 20 minutes

remaining, the Barbs mounted a determined comeback.

Neilson's try from the back of a driving maul was the first of three the team needed to even the score.

Wednesday's game was the first of the 2004 Interbranch and the TRU

squad's next game is June 27 at 1:30 p.m. at Crusader Park in Oakville.

Sorenson and Watt played last fall for Queen's University while Neilson was in British Columbia before journeying to South Africa with the Canadian Under 19 team.

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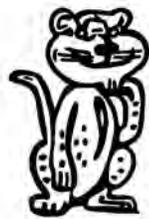
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WEEK 5	August	3, 4, 5, 6
WEEK 8	August	23-27
WEEK 3	July	19-23
WEEK 6	August	9-13
WEEK 9	Aug/Sep	30-3

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Final skating results

The Aurora Skating Club has finally arrived at the end of its season.

Final Test Day results follow:

Dutch Waltz: Jennifer Strathearn, Alicia Alberton.

Canasta: Phoebe Look, Shauna O'Conner, Sierra Thompson, Zahra Rajan.

Baby Blues: Austin Bushell, Shelby Olesovsky.

Swing: Samantha Galati, Kortney Weichel, Robyn Kosmidis, Jackieanne Abbey.

Fiesta: Jihyun Cha, Kaitlin VanWinckle, Teija Rom-Colthoff.

Willow Waltz: Nicole Calvert, Taylor MacDowall, Caylin Butler, Kayla Mete.

Ten Fox: Sophia Perugini, Amanda Alberton.

Fourteenstep: Hugh Babb, Kate Sutton, Emma Dillon, Hailey Riggs, Malysa Tidona, Jacqueline Relke, Amber Cioffe.

European Waltz: Jenna Williams, Emma Laverty, Avery Gagnon, Cierra Snell.

Keats Foxtrot: Stephanie Fonceca, Lauren Bellefeuille, Alana Kelly.

Harris Tango: Meagan Hay, Tavish Armstrong, Allie Sutton, Mackensie Jordan.

American: Tavish Armstrong, Emma Slimkovich, Emma Warburton, Paige Flanagan.

Rocker: Emma Warburton, Julia Ranson, Amy Bellefeuille.

Starlight Waltz: Amber Bowman.

Blues: Maya Goldman, Fayme Cockshutt, Heather Cole, Amy Thompson.

Killian: Emma Hayzelden, Chelsea Kerr.

Viennese: Michelle Wong, Tori Ellis.

Westminster: Brinlee Brown.

Quickstep: Lauren Cooper.

Argentine: Sarah Gray.

Preliminary Skills: Emma Schellingerhoud, Courtney Tidona, Teija Rom-Colthoff.

Sr. Bronze Skills: Mackensie Jordan, Emma Warburton, Jory Goldman, Alysa Nichols, Ariel Kwan.

Jr. Silver Skills: Avery Gagnon.

Gold Skills: Christine MacCallum, Sarah Gray.

Preliminary Freeskate Part I: Amber Cioffe, Emma Dillon, Amanda Alberton, Robyn Kosmidis, Hailey Riggs, Nicole Relke, Emma Laverty.

Preliminary Freeskate Part II: Amanda Alberton, Emma Dillon.

Jr. Bronze Freeskate Part I: Mackensie Jordan.

Senior Bronze Freeskate Part I: Meaghan Jones, Jamie Stephenson, Stephanie Fonceca, Amy Bellefeuille, Paige Flanagan.

Senior Bronze Freeskate Part II: Jamie Stephenson, Amy Bellefeuille, Stephanie Fonceca.

Jr. Silver Freeskate Part I: Jenna Porteous.

Gold Freeskate Part I & II: Carolyn Armstrong.

Juvenile Competitive: Maya Goldman.

Pre-novice Competitive: Amy Thompson.

Novice Competitive: Carolyn Armstrong and Lauren Cooper.

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Thank You Thank You

The Aurora Agricultural Society extends heartfelt thanks to the following individuals, businesses, and organizations for their support of the

83rd Annual Aurora Fair and Horse Show

held in Machell Park on June 11, 12, and 13, and those who supported the Aurora Trillium Horse Show held on June 5th & 6th.

Their support makes it possible to keep these major community family events alive.

Thank you all, and also many thanks to the people who supported the Fair and Horse Show by their attendance and all the competitors in the Aurora Trillium Show. See you next year!

- Aurora's Bingo World • Charley Fitzwhiskey's Tap and Eatery • Gord Sloan Gradall • Hartwell Thayer Insurance and Financial Services Ltd. Henry Equestrian Insurance Brokers • Lenard Lind and L.H. Lind Realty Inc. The Town of Aurora • United Independent Operators (Raji's) Roma Crafts/Arts Studio • Aurora Vacations • Aurora's Creative Connection
- Auroran Community Newspaper • Best Western Voyageur Place Biggs' Gallery & Framing Shop • Country Images Camera Club • Diamond Lawn Care Services
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- Tom & Jerry's Bistro • Turf Care Products • Vandenbosch Jewellers
- Wellington's of Aurora Bar and Grill

The Aurora Agricultural Society is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to organizing the Fair and Horse Show for Aurora and the surrounding communities. For information on volunteer opportunities, please call 905-713-6773.



Maurice Blanchard, left, has joined the Town of Aurora's Quarter-Century Club. He was honoured last week by Aurora Council for serving 25 years with the town. Making the presentation are Mayor Tim Jones and Jim Tree, who also recently celebrated his 25th year working with the Town of Aurora.

Auroran photo by Dick Illingworth

Seniors' building approved

From page 1

target of \$250,000 but the group needed to know the building would be a reality.

Following an earlier general committee meeting, staff had been asked to examine potential sources of funds that could be utilized.

A report was submitted indicating development charges through future growth would contribute a total of \$1,956,150 to the project.

Any additional costs will have to come from existing reserves, tax-based sources of funding or user fees. The staff report listed various reserve funds that might be used.

Treasury staff estimates this year's surplus will be in the vicinity of \$600,000, but the surplus had been previously identified as a means of reducing the tax-supported debt for the recreation centre.

Correspondence from the project manager indicated the increase from \$3.1 million to \$3.6 million was caused by the supply and installation of a commercial kitchen at a cost of \$224,000, the provision of a floor to ceiling height of 18 feet in the multi-purpose room and additional consultants fees.

It was suggested some cost savings could be made by replacing brick with stucco, deleting the cupola from the roof and reducing the landscaping.

Councillor Damir Vrancic expressed concern about the soil analysis and in spite of requests still did not have a complete report on soil conditions of the proposed site.

He asked how staff, the project manager and others had missed the need for a commercial kitchen and the heightened ceiling in the activity room, before planning had got to this stage.

He pointed out that council did not have complete information and he

wondered who was calling the shots.

CAO Larry Allison said a final figure for the building could not be confirmed. Several soil tests had been carried out and staff had been assured that a one-storey building was feasible on the site.

He added that the \$500,000 could be recovered from the sale of about two acres of Leslie Street lands, but interim financing would be necessary until it was serviced.

Vrancic said he had originally supported renovating the old library for the seniors as he believed the seniors should remain in the downtown core, but changed his mind when he was assured that the soil was good and financing was secure for a new building.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner noted that \$500,000 had been set aside for a youth centre and it was necessary to

think of the youth as well as the seniors.

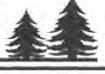
Once again she suggested that a partnership with CHATS should be considered as that group was willing to rent space in the permitted area for \$50,000 per year.

Councillor Bill Hogg also expressed concern about the lack of information about the soil conditions as council had relied on the experts for the information.

An amendment was made for staff to bring back a report as to how to find the additional money. This was adopted on an 8-1 vote with Councillor Hogg in opposition.

The main motion to approve the structure was adopted on an 8-1 vote with Councillor Gaertner in opposition.

The large number of seniors attending the meeting broke into applause and left the building happy.

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School picnic

Parking was at a premium Friday night as hundreds attended Aurora's Lester B. Pearson Public School's annual picnic. In the top photo, the Latin band, Maderaz, returned to entertain the crowd. They have played at the fair for the past five years. In the centre photo, James Stanley gets tattooed by Linda Irwin, while, below, Taylor and Peyton Smith prepare to tuck into some cotton candy. The annual event is organized by the School Supporters Association, better known as parents.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Passport headaches disappear

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Customers may now bring completed application forms, required documentation and fees to that outlet and the staff there will handle all the details.

The application will be reviewed and forwarded to the Passport Office for examination and processing, an exercise that will take about three weeks.

There is a \$15 non-refundable fee payable to Canada Post for the service, on top of the passport fee.

From an applicant's point of view, it's a lot easier driving to Wellington Street in Aurora than Yonge and Sheppard in Toronto.

When the passport is ready, it is sent to the applicant by courier.

Meanwhile, Aurora's post office, once serving only commercial traffic, is now geared up to offer service to everyone in town.

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Truck rammmed building before mural arrived

Long before Brian Larter had the first mural about Aurora's heritage painted on the north wall of his building at Yonge and Wellington Streets, a truck rammmed into the building.

It was in April, 1980, when a three-quarter stake truck crashed through the large plate glass window of what was then a newspaper office, sending the staff scrambling for safety.

Witnesses were amazed to see the truck back up and drive away, leaving a gash in the wall and broken glass scattered all over.

Damage to the building was estimated between \$7,500 and \$10,000.

York Regional Police stopped the truck on the Vandorf Sideroad shortly afterwards and charged the driver with impaired driving and leaving the scene of an accident.

The smashed window was later bricked up.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER COMPENSATION

Long before Aurora had full-time firefighters and merged with Newmarket to establish the Central York Fire Services, the municipality was served by some full-time and some volunteer firefighters.

In May, 1992, council approved the basic rate for a Level 1 volunteer firefighter to be \$30.05 for the first two hours of a call and \$14.06 for each additional hour.

In addition, as volunteers were required to standby on summer weekends, they were paid \$2.91 per hour for standby duty.

This was a one per cent increase over 1991 rates.

STAFF AND COUNCIL TANGLE

Employees of a corporation seldom take on their employees in a ball game and threaten to knock their socks off and make them eat dirt, but that's what happened when the town staff challenged members of council to a baseball game in September, 1995.

It was a lighthearted, fundraising softball game to raise funds for community projects such as park benches or playground equipment.

While the game was free, there was a hamburger and hot dog barbecue with donations accepted.

The town leaders went down to defeat 11-4, but the game raised \$740 for community projects.

It was hoped that the event would become annual, but that never seemed to happen.

TOWNS OF YORK PARK

Although Aurora and Newmarket are rivals in many things, especially hockey, the towns work closely together on other issues, such as merging the two fire departments and a possible merger of the two hydro utilities.

Back in 1970, an addition to the new York Manor was opened and Aurora and Newmarket, along with the County of York, joined together in an attempt to bring a campus of Seneca College to the former York Manor located on a 90-acre site.

There were visions of the college on the front part of the property and a park to the rear to be known as the Towns of York Park. It never happened.

Today the Newmarket Court House occupies the front portion of the property and a Newmarket Fire Station, the Ray Twinney Recreational Complex and a housing development are at the rear of the property.

But the Towns of York name lives on as the local

Toastmasters Club adopted the name for its name.

DREAMS SOMETIMES COME TRUE

It was back in March, 1976, when the Aurora Historical Society was begging for space in the Church Street School so members could start dragging long-stored artifacts out of boxes and barns to be put on permanent display.

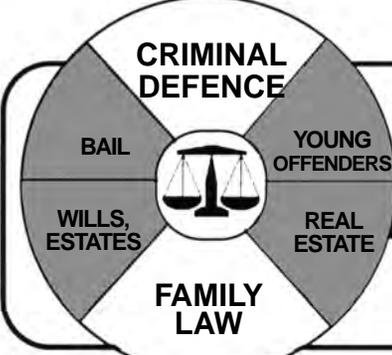
It was pointed out that in the basement of the old water-works building, were rows of school desks, their metal legs rusting in the damp air. A whole classroom was envisaged if they could move into the school.

At the time council had not decided what to do with the school facility when the York Region Board of Education moved out, although it was believed the society would have some part of the old building.

The only commitment that had been made at the time was for the Friendship Circle of senior citizens.

With more space the society hoped to be able to hire a full-time curator for the museum and attract travelling exhibits and become a tourist attraction.

Now that Church Street School has become Aurora's cultural centre, that might still happen.



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Surrounded by colourful inventory, the owners of Gift Baskets & More celebrated the official opening of their new store in the Aurora Shopping Centre recently. Anna Delplavignano, left, and Linda Rustico, moved the popular store from downtown Aurora to the busy plaza. The business is four years old.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

4-lane Bayview planned in 2004

York Region plans to reconstruct Bayview Avenue from Wellington Street to just north of the St. John's Sideroad.

The project was originally scheduled for 2003 but later postponed to this year.

Currently this section of Bayview Avenue is a two-lane paved roadway with gravel shoulders and road-side ditches.

Traffic counts indicate the section of roadway is expected to be beyond the capacity of a two-lane road within the next few years.

Proposed construction includes a five-lane urban road with two through lanes in each direction and a continuous centre left-turn lane with additional turning lanes at key intersections.

The region is scheduled to complete the full reconstruction of Bayview Avenue from the St. John's Sideroad to Mulock Drive in the next year.

The reconstruction project will include the town's portion of completing a sidewalk and illumination on the west side of Bayview Avenue from Wellington Street to the St. John's Sideroad.

A sidewalk/bicycle path and illumination will be constructed on the east side of Bayview Avenue from Wellington Street to Hartwell Way, to be extended to the St. John's Sideroad when the region acquires the necessary land.

Estimated cost to the town for the sidewalks, illumination and watermain north of Hollandview Trail to the St. John's Sideroad is \$58,859 lower than the approved budget of \$1,049,000.

Meanwhile, residents of the west portion of Ridge Road received some good news at the meeting with the award of a \$101,180

contract to reconstruct part of the roadway.

Residents of Ridge Road have appeared before council several times to complain about the poor condition of the road.

There will be no changes to the existing layout of the road, but local drainage will be improved.

The technology being used for this project is relatively new and was used by the region to reconstruct St. John's Sideroad from Bayview Avenue to Leslie Street.

New committee seeks designation

The Aurora Heritage Committee, formerly LACAC, approved a number of projects for consideration during the upcoming term, including the establishment of a heritage conservation district.

This has been a long outstanding project for the Committee.

In May, 1973, the Aurora Historical Society urged the designation of the downtown Yonge core as an historic area.

At the same time it was requested that the area including Hillary House, Horton Place, the Fleury Home and Castle Doan be designated an historic area. The Fleury Home and Castle Doan were later demolished.

In February last year, LACAC discussed various issues relating to

the establishment of a heritage conservation district and options that should be considered in formulating a strategy.

In September, a meeting was held at Hillary House to discuss a heritage conservation district study with the residents of the proposed area.

At the recent meeting of the committee, John McIntyre outlined some

of the progress that has been made with the establishment of a Heritage Study Area.

Other projects being considered include the design and implementation of historic styled street name signs for the historic district of the downtown and creation of a heritage/historical website for the town.

It is also proposed to

designate the only remaining radial railway bridge abutment on the property recently acquired by Thompson Funeral Home on Industrial Parkway South at Yonge Street, compile a detailed report on each of the existing designated properties and review other properties that may be eligible for designation.

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Persons Walking: Yes/No _____ How Many? _____

Music: Yes/No _____ Note: Applications must be received by June 25th

Donations to "Canada Day Parade Fund"

Donations would be greatly appreciated to help cover the estimated \$6,000 expenses for conducting the parade. This is primarily the cost of marching bands which help create the rousing tempo of the parade. Your donation will protect the parade tradition and help make 2004 our biggest parade ever.

It Pays to Advertise

The parade will be televised and re-broadcast several times on Aurora Cable Internet. This is your opportunity to have the broadcasters make helpful comments about your float or business. Just write up to 50 words and attach it to this application and we will provide your comments to the broadcasters.

Parade Information

- * Parade line-up begins at St. Andrew's Shopping Centre at 9 a.m.
- * Parade will leave Orchard Heights & Yonge Street at 10 a.m. and proceed south on Yonge.
- * Parade will disband at Yonge & Murray Drive at 11 a.m.

For more information, call the parade hotline at 905-726-4762.

Drop off Application Forms and Cheques to:

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IN ARTISTS CENTURY HOME STUDIO

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Original Oil Paintings
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MONDAY JUNE 21, 2004 - 6 p.m.
KING CITY COMMUNITY CENTRE - King City, Ontario
Hwy 400 to King Rd. East 3 kms to First St. East of Keele St. South off King Rd.
Vintage Sports Cards, Ltd. Edition Sports Prints, Coins, Stamps, Books & Misc. Sports Collectables

PREVIEW: 5:00 p.m. Day of Sale.
TERMS: Cash or Cheque w/identification

AUCTIONEER DAVID BEASLEY, ICCA, CPPA
Phone/Fax (905)727-6585
Full Details At: www.auctionsfind.com/beasley
e-mail: cbeasley@aci.on.ca

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SATURDAY JUNE 19TH

- 1) **Street Sale** Hollidge Blvd @ John West Way 9 - 2
- 2) **40 Year Sell-off** 84 Golf Links Dr. @ Yonge St. 8 - 2
- 3) **Multi-Family** 96 Cranberry Lane @ Trillium Dr. 8:30
- 4) 129 John West Way @ Wellington St. 8 -
- 5) 116-118 Walton Dr. @ Wellington St. 8 - 1
- 6) 71 Sisman Ave @ Kennedy 8 - 2
- 7) 67 Hammond Dr. @ McDonald 8 - 1



AURORA'S FARMERS' MARKET

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**Every Saturday Until October
For the third year running!**

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Saturday 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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**If you have any questions or wish to be a vendor, please call:
Nigel Kean, Aurora Town Councillor @ 905-841-6776**

