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Vol. 4 No. 40

Week of July 27, 2004

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SCOTT SOMERVILLE

Town hires interim CAO

Aurora Council has agreed to hire an interim Chief Administrative Officer, until it can locate a full-time person to replace Larry Allison, who resigned a week ago.

Two councillors and the mayor met with former City of Vaughan CAO Scott Somerville, now a private consultant, who has agreed to assist the town four days a week.

The Kleinburg resident, who owns S C Municipal Solutions Inc., is a certified general accountant, a chartered secretary and holds a certificate in Dispute Resolution from York University.

The latter may come in handy since negotiations between the Town and its CUPE outside workers are still ongoing.

The union is currently in a strike position, but employees are continuing to work.

Somerville joined the City of Vaughan in 1978, and led a management team of six with responsibility for a total staff of 850, first as Chief Administrative Officer and later as City Manager.

He met briefly Friday morning with Mayor Tim Jones, Deputy Mayor Phyllis Morris and Councillor Ron Wallace.

Aurora's CAO shocked councillors last week when he announced he was leaving the Town of Aurora, where he has served in numerous positions for 22 years, to take the CAO job in the Town of Innisfil, near Barrie.

Born in Bradford, Allison said the opportunity to work in Innisfil was like "going home".

Somerville said he would need at least one day a week in order to keep his private business going.

Somerville also brings hydro experience with him, another asset that may be useful to Aurora, since it is currently discussing hydro amalgamation plans with the Town of Newmarket.

Somerville served as general manager and president of Hydro Vaughan Distribution Inc.

Controversial St. John's construction begins Aug. 8

It was in 1994 when Aurora Council asked York Region to assume control and costs of maintaining St. John's Sideroad due to the amount of regional traffic on it.

The roadway was seen as an important east/west link of the regional road system and carried a weekday traffic volume of more than 10,000 vehicles.

Little was known at the time of the controversy that such action would have at a later date.

Following a traffic study of the roadway in 1996, regional officials claimed it was not a safe roadway for the level of traffic being carried.

The study included an environmental assessment of the roadway from Yonge Street to Woodbine Avenue including the McKenzie Marsh.

At public meetings in June and October, 1997, several Aurora citizens expressed concerns about regional plans to reconstruct the roadway to four lanes between Yonge Street and Bayview Avenue and the impact that would have on the marshlands.

It became an election issue in November, 1977, when the late Bob Hartwell campaigned on a platform of saving the marshland and having the roadway returned to the town's jurisdiction.

In June, 1998, Aurora Council asked York to investigate the cost of constructing a bridge over the wetlands. According to regional officials the additional cost for a bridge was in the \$11 to \$14 million range.

In 1999 York approved the reconstruction and widening project at an estimated cost of \$4 million with construction to start in 2001. Staff was authorized to begin negotiations to acquire the necessary lands.

In 2002 regional council authorized staff to serve and publish Notice of Application as required by the Expropriations Act with construction planned for 2003.

Early last year, regional council approved the design work for the reconstruction of the St. John's

Please see page 13



When Rob Dyer, above, left Los Angeles, California, in March, to skateboard to Newmarket while raising funds to fight cancer, his schedulers figured he'd complete the trip in October. Some three months early, Rob zoomed into Aurora late Saturday afternoon, noting "we made pretty good time". Probably the understatement of the year. The slim 19-year-old Newmarket resident said the trip was incredible and reported wearing out five skateboards and more than 40 wheels. While final numbers aren't in, Rob believes he raised about \$7,000 in Canada alone. He stayed in the area overnight, then was honoured at several events in Newmarket Sunday.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Time for a break...

In order to make good on things like holidays, The Auroran will take a brief one-week vacation next week.

Scott Johnston's cartoon version below pretty much tells it like it is.

Our next publication will be the week of August 10.

While some of us will disappear next week, others will remain behind to oversee work at our office designed to expand our newspaper facilities.

Already, customers have noticed the book section at the front of the building has been removed and relocated to a newly constructed mezzanine at the rear.

The newspaper office will expand into that vacant space.

Work is not expected to be finished before the middle of August, but it shouldn't affect the production of our next issue.

See you then.



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

Aurora Farmers' Market, Temperance Street and Wellington, every Saturday morning until Thanksgiving. 8 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

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.

AUGUST 4

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

AUGUST 9

Aurora Writers Club Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Aurora Town Hall Cafeteria. Adult writers of every genre and skill level welcome. Contact Malcolm at 905-898-5484.

Lynne Philip Hodgson, author, "Uncovering Secrets at Camp X - the World War II Spy Training Camp on the Shores of Lake Ontario", speaks to Aurora Probus Club, 10 a.m., Aurora Legion.

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 1

Aurora Cable Internet and the Aurora Public Library free internet seminar to learn how to find what you want on the world-wide web. 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Aurora Public Library. Register online www.aci.on.ca or call the library information desk 905-727-9493.

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.

SEPTEMBER 11

From 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. enjoy a Candlelight Tour of Homes to raise funds for Hillary House, sponsored by the Aurora Historical Society. Visit six private homes of the 19th and early 20th centuries, plus the historic Hillary House. Call 905-727-4015 for details.

SEPTEMBER 18

Annual Magna Hoedown. 5 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 19

Terry Fox Run. Sheppard's Bush. Registration (8:30 a.m.) and start of Run (10 a.m.) at Sheppard's Bush Soccer Fields on Industrial Parkway South. Register online for the Aurora Run, Site 2, at www.terryfoxrun.org.

SEPTEMBER 25

It's the Aurora Children's and Youth Fair in the Town Park hosted by the Town and Aurora Family Connections. A Showcase of Community and Talent for Youth starting at 2 p.m. For further information call Info

Aurora at 905-727- 8214.

SEPTEMBER 30

Aurora Seniors visit St. Jacob's Market and visit the picturesque Village of Elora to view the falls and the gorge. Bus leaves Community Centre at 8:30 a.m. returning about 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$49 for members and \$54 for non-members. Call the Seniors Centre at 905-727-2816 to register.

OCTOBER 12

Seniors fall day trip to Ontario's famous Cranberry Harvest in Bala includes a scenic and informative wagon ride around the colourful marsh. Leave the Community Centre at 8:30 a.m. return around 6:30 p.m. Cost for members is \$57 and \$62 for non-members. Call 905-727-2816 to register.

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.

NOVEMBER 13

Trinity Anglican Church holds its annual ACW Christmas Bazaar at the church from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the theme "Sugar-n-Spice". Tables will include attic treasures, jewellery and Christmas gift items. For more information call Laurie McLeod at 905-727-7617.

NOVEMBER 27

Santa Claus Parade, 6 p.m.
- With files from Info Aurora



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Centre well-kept secret

One of the best kept secrets in Aurora is the Housing Help Centre located on the west side of Yonge Street across from the new library.

Unless you were searching for affordable housing, you're probably not aware of its existence.

The centre works region-wide finding tenants for prospective landlords and finding accommodation for people seeking a place to live. Service is free and is run by the Affordable Housing Committee of York Region.

In November, 1989, affordable housing was a crisis situation in the region as it is today. In order to seek answers then, the region's Affordable Housing Committee convened a housing forum.

Affordable housing was defined as the total cost of providing accommodation, whether rental or owned, not exceeding 30 per cent of the gross annual household income.

The help centre was born from that forum.

The Housing Help Centre was launched in Aurora in 1994 with Peter Formica as coordinator. He had been active with the Affordable Housing Committee.

When the province downloaded many of its programs and services to the region, the financial contribution for the Help Centre was also downloaded and funding is now provided by the region.

People wishing to rent housing can drop into the Yonge Street office and view listings on computer, divided into categories such as apartments, rooms, townhouses or houses.

A phone number is available for each listing and there is even a phone available for those wishing to make immediate inquiries.

The one full-time staffer and six volunteers also maintain a housing registry, updated daily, and have a full range of government publications available on rent control, landlord and tenant legislation and anything related to housing.

In June, 1996, the Centre launched a successful drive across Ontario soliciting all 567 Co-op

Housing providers, 614 Non-Profit Housing providers and the 55 Housing Registries to support a heading in the Yellow Pages called Housing Providers.

It was pointed out that there was no common listing so the public, social agencies and other housing providers could locate various housing program facilities.

The Housing Help Centre will celebrate 10 years of service this September.

Formica reports that dur-

ing that time the centre has handled more than 5,600 landlord listings and answered about 41,000 phone calls.

More than 23,000 have walked into the Centre to check the listings or obtain information, and there have been 3,200 referrals to other agencies.

A web site was started in December, 2002.

The Housing Help Centre is located at 15120 Yonge Street and the phone number is 905-713-2696 for further information.

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AURORA



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

Personality plethora on council

For an exposé of municipal councillors,
This may be an appropriate time;
By their actions get to know them,
And for their identity try to define!

-Poor Richard's Scrapbook

For more than 40 years I have been an observer of municipal councils as a participant, a provincial municipal affairs bureaucrat and as a member of the media.

Each provided a different perspective, but some common threads developed.

Members of council are elected as individuals and bring their personal beliefs, prejudices and agendas to the council table.

Some are team players, while others prefer to work on their own, often contrary to the general will of the majority.

After a while it becomes relatively easy to classify some of the individualists into certain traits.

One of the more common is the Nay Sayer who is programmed to oppose new ideas with comments like "it won't work", "it's been tried before", or "we'd look silly to try that".

The Nay Sayer is resistant to change and is the first to say "I told you so" if the new idea doesn't meet expectations.

Then there is the Penny Pincher who wants to impress everybody with his or her knowledge of financial affairs and protection of the public purse, especially at budget time, which is seen as a bloody sport.

Rather than using his or her knowledge to help guide the budget by looking at policy or program expenditures as a whole, this person insists on a line by line approach and vigorously questions every proposed change.

On almost every council there is at least one Would-Be Mayor.

This concept usually evolves from the election.

It may be that a member of council polled more votes than the mayor, or received more applause at an all-candidates meeting.

Whatever the reason the mayor is seen as a pretender to the throne, holding office until the public gets it right at the next election.

This the public seldom does and the Would-Be Mayor fades into political oblivion.

One way to spot the pretender to the throne is he or she tries to rally members of council to support his or her ideas and opinions and in effect becomes the leader of the opposition resulting in close votes and lack of productivity.

Then there is the Talker who believes that if something is worth saying once, it is worth repeating several times.

This person likes to talk before a captive audience, especially a TV audience and believes they are spellbound with his or her knowledge of the language, when, in reality, they are bored to tears.

Most people running for public office in a municipality are well-intentioned.

They campaign on issues which they believe will benefit the community, but some become a chameleon after being elected.

They promote their ideas but soon change and vote the popular way if they believe it to their political advantage.

Or they may vote for the budget, then claim ignorance of the fact that it included a pay increase for members of council.

They loudly oppose money for municipal conventions claiming they are just a vacation at the taxpayers' expense, but are the first to line up for a convention in some far-away place.

Then there is the Fish-Bowl member of council.

They normally campaign on the need for a more open and transparent government, with public business discussed in public.

But after the election and they are required to debate issues in the Fish Bowl of an open council meeting, they are the first to move that the issue be debated behind the closed doors of an in camera meeting.

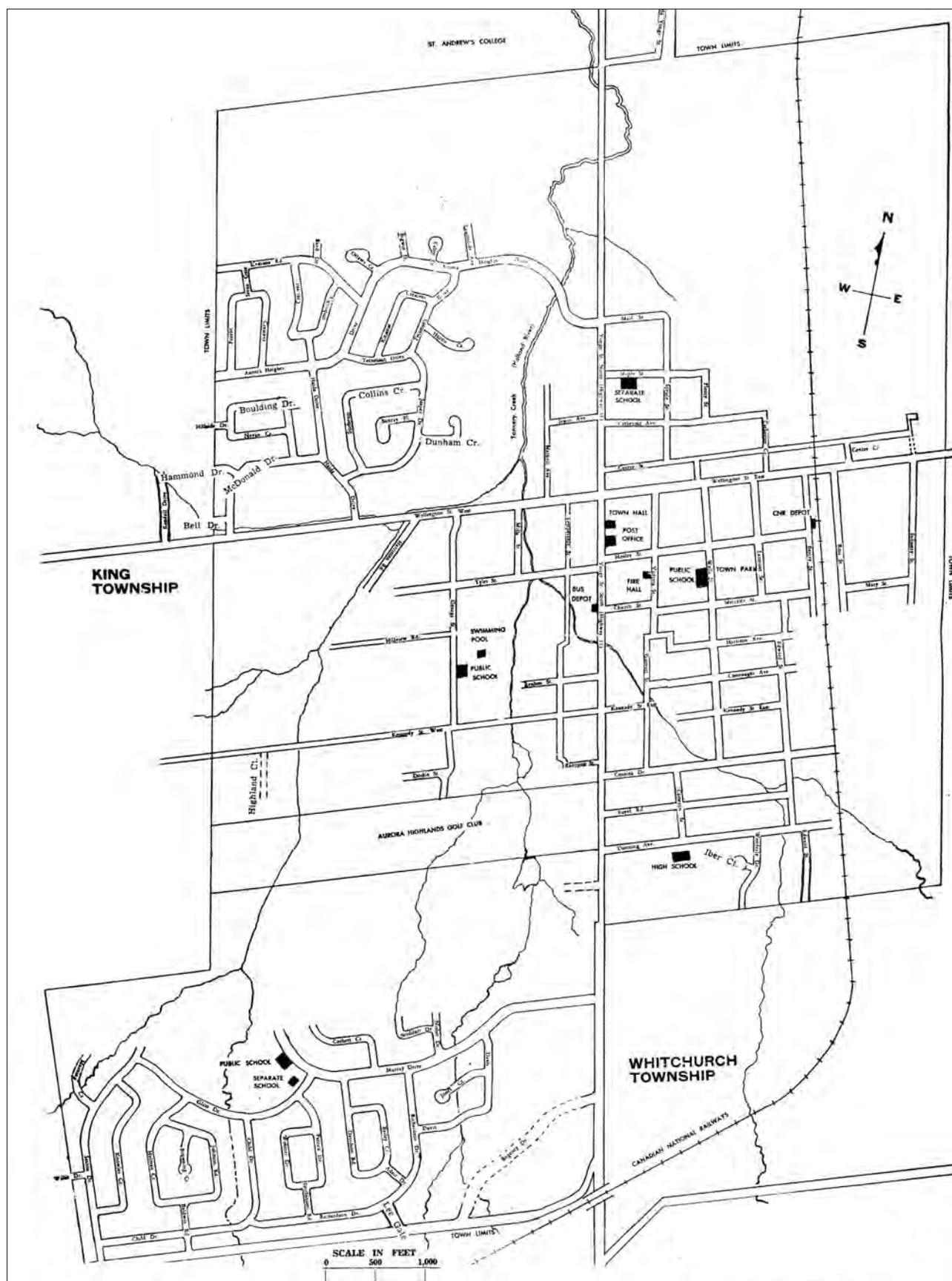
Finally, there is Attila the Hun.

He or she believes that the private sector can do everything better than government and wants to privatize or contract out all essential services.

Attila believes that local government has no role in the soft services such as libraries, museums or recreation facilities.

If you like to read, then go buy a book, or if you want to swim, drive to the lake.

All councils are different but each has its identifiable characters and it's up to the electors to decide who they are.



This fascinating map was taken from the pages of an Aurora booklet, prepared by the Aurora Jaycees (remember them?) in 1962. The Jaycees, of course, was short for the Aurora Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the group was a going concern in the 60s. Notice how tight Aurora's boundaries were. Whitchurch Township (it became the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville in the early 70s) was home to the Aurora Cemetery, and the cenotaph, while King Township was home for St. Andrew's College, and much of the west end of Aurora. Note the proposed road - Regency Drive - from Yonge Street to Henderson (or the town limits) in the south end that was never built. As time goes on, we'll bring you a few other tidbits from the booklet.

Letter to the Editor

York Region police choir off to England and Wales

To the editor,

On behalf of the members of the York Regional Police Male Chorus, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the many residents of Aurora who supported our fundraising events held to support our upcoming "Goodwill Tour" of England and Wales.

The funds raised over the past 18 months will go directly toward chartering a bus to transport the chorus on their third international "goodwill tour".

A special thanks to the Region of York, Madsen's Greenhouse and Crosslands Church for allowing us to use their

facilities.

Your generosity will always be remembered and appreciated.

The chorus leaves Toronto July 29th and returns August 14th.

They will be performing in England at the Kings Theatre in Portsmouth, the Haymarket Theatre in Basingstoke, "All Saints Church" in Maidstone, and St. Austin's Hall in Wakefield.

While in Wales, they will perform in the Canolfan Bethlehem Centre in Ogmore Valley.

Also, during the trip they will perform a short concert in Yorkshire Cathedral in the City of York.

I can assure you that the chorus members will proudly represent each of you who supported us, as well as the residents of York Region, the Province of Ontario and all of Canada.

Hope to see you at the York Regional Police Male Chorus's 12th Annual "In Harmony With The Community" at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Newmarket on November 6th.

Tickets will go on sale after August 20th.

**Lowell McClenny,
Superintendent (Retired)
Volunteer Supervisor
York Regional Police**

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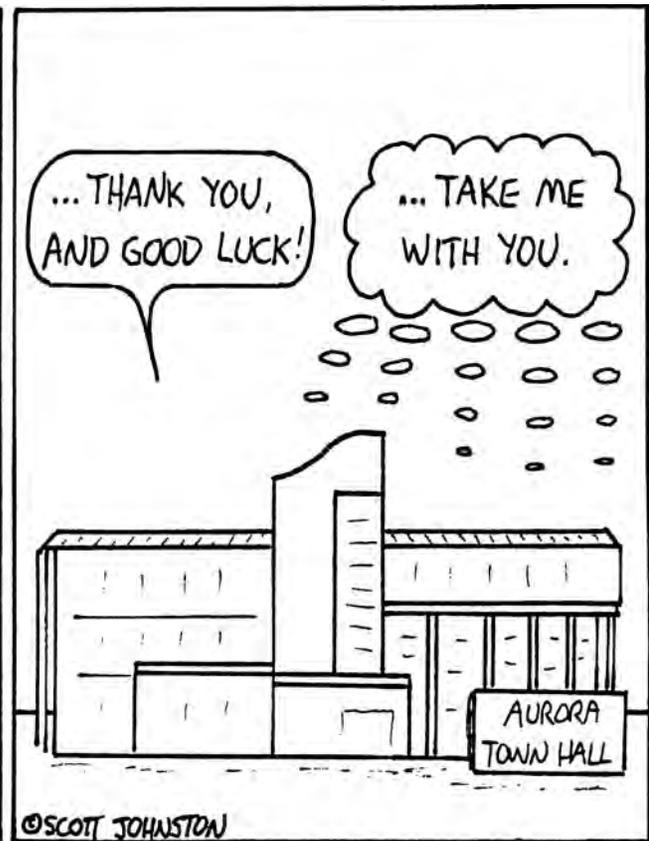
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Mayor's Report
By Tim Jones

Scanning the Region's annual report

In reviewing York Region's 2003 Annual Report, I would bring to your attention the following facts of interest:

Transportation was the number one priority in 2003. To that end, the Region approved the York Region Rapid Transit system with the goal of reducing gridlock. Other improvements were also realized in the Public Transit services as well as in numerous road construction, reconstruction and widenings.

Protection of the environment was another priority addressed through a tri-regional strategy on the Oak Ridges Moraine with Peel and Durham which became the model for the Province's legislation to protect the Moraine.

To address growth requirements, a York-Peel water supply agreement was finalized.

The Region approved a new bylaw to encourage new affordable rental housing as well as developing a housing strategy to refocus on increased rental housing and prevention of homelessness. \$1.3 million was directed to the capital improvement of Regionally owned housing while \$67.2 million was approved for social housing, including 244 additional rent supplement units and 80 additional emergency hostel beds.

The Region became the first Region in Canada to declare itself a Character Community.

An Interim Accessibility Advisory Committee was created to assist with the implementation of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

The year 2003 also saw the challenges of SARS, West Nile virus, as well as the biggest blackout in North American history.

The Region's budget reached \$1.4 billion with major spending in areas of policing and public safety, transportation and transit, waste disposal and diversion.

Other interesting statistics include:

- 62.5 million dollars have been earmarked over the next 5-10 years for Regional hospitals
- the Region demonstrated one of the lowest costs of administration in all of Ontario
- provided \$3.8 million to Conservation Authorities for water improvement, land conservation and education
- 11,141 food premise inspections were completed
- two additional emergency response vehicles were deployed in 2003 for a total of 33 ambulances and response vehicles.
- funding was acquired for an additional 32 long term care beds at the Newmarket Health Centre
- York Region opened the only SARS Assessment Clinic managed by a Public Health Unit in Canada. Approximately 5,000 York Region residents were quarantined at the height of the outbreak.

- More than 6,000 visitors viewed geographic information on-line and downloaded more than 48,930 maps from the web site.
- 146 subdivision and condominium plans were reviewed representing 22,600 housing units
- 2,800 trees were planted in road rights-of-way and approximately 73,000 trees and shrubs were planted through various partnerships in the Region
- 182 acres of property were acquired through the greening strategy.
- Transit passengers overall increased by 9.3 per cent over the 60 regional bus routes.
- the rate of fatal and serious injury collisions

reduced by 31.7 per cent, from 49 in 2002 to 29 in 2003.

• It was estimated that in January, 2003, one in every 100 York Region homes contained an indoor marijuana grow operation. Through police and municipal cooperation, it is estimated that that was reduced to one in 800 homes by year end.

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



Cathy's Corner



Ya gotta love the Bubba kind

When I was a little girl, growing up in the Beaches, we had the best neighbour in the world on the right, and the meanest to the left.

Bubba lived in the house on the right.

Bubba was the best overgrown kid a neighbourhood could want.

All of the kids on the block had entered and lost a wrestling match, a re-match and a re-rematch on Bubba's front lawn because Bubba had a secret weapon: he was a skilled tickler.

So we kept coming back.

And when we did, Bubba would treat us to Kool-Aid, or whatever he could sneak past his wife.

And stories. On hot summer nights, Bubba's ghost stories would chill us to the bone. We loved it.

When Bubba got serious, he threatened to hang us on his clothesline...by our toenails.

I was never sure how it would work, but everything Bubba did was fun, so I grew my toenails just in case.

It was Bubba's fence that I first froze my tongue onto, and it was Bubba who came out to rescue me. He didn't tell my dad.

When my mom got her car stuck trying to back it out of the narrow driveway between our house and Bubba's, it was Bubba who managed to climb in the window and get it unstuck.

He didn't tell my dad about that either.

But, unlike a tongue missing a few layers of skin, it's hard to hide a Buick Century that is missing a few layers of paint - on both sides.

The fact that it made racing stripes on each of our houses made it as impossible as hiding an elephant under the bed.

The house on the left was inhabited by Mr. & Mrs. C. We'll call them by that name because I don't want to get sued.

Mr. & Mrs. C. had the most immaculate house on the

street, and the most beautiful backyard I have never seen, up close and personal.

Many times, however, I hung out my bedroom window as far as I dared, because that garden was the most breathtaking display of colour I had ever seen.

But it was a secret garden.

I don't recall ever seeing anyone in the garden but the two C's. As far as I know, even the squirrels weren't allowed in.

If a ball went over the only tall wood fence in the neighbourhood, it was gone forever.

If we walked too close to the C's front lawn, one of them would come out and yell at us.

If we stepped on it, both of them came out, so we ran like hell!

But in those days, the Beaches was a lot like Aurora - everybody knew everybody else, and the C's could always identify us.

They came over to have a word with my parents far too often.

Sometimes, it was because our apple tree dropped apples on their driveway, but most of the time it was because my friends and I could be seen and heard.

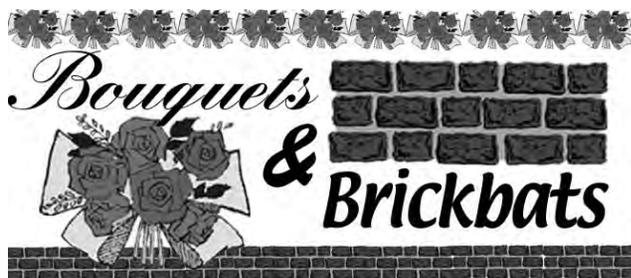
That would be Bubba's fault.

He was the kind who would never tell you to settle down, be quiet, or bring you down when you were up. I liked that about him.

It's been over 30 years, and whenever I get the chance, I still drive down my childhood street, and I still point out my childhood house to my kids...and I still show them where my childhood friend, Bubba, used to live.

And when they ask me where he lives now, I say: "In my heart".

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



By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to 12-year-old Samantha Sendel of Aurora, a student at Lester B. Pearson Public School, for her excellence on the trampoline. In 2002 and 2003 she won a total of 21 World, National and Provincial Championships and nine so far this year. She is a member of Team Canada and will be representing Canada, and Aurora, at the Indo-Pacific Games and the Pan American Championships later this year.

BRICKBATS to the businesspeople and the residents of Aurora who fail to show up at a public planning meeting when plans for a major shopping centre or any large residential development are proposed and then complain later that the small town atmosphere of Aurora is being destroyed.

BOUQUETS to Councillor Wendy Gaertner for attempting to put a hold on residential development until water and sewer services catch up with growth but the damage has been done, as the development plans were previously approved by council. Not only that but the town needs the growth so the development charges will help pay for the rec complex!

BRICKBATS to the unruly citizens who attended the recent Aurora Council meeting, when the proposed Hydro One transmission line was discussed. They were noisy, refused to listen and at times were damn right rude!

Belated BOUQUETS to Aurora Tiger goaltender Chris Whitley on being named the top Junior A player last season in Ontario. He posted a 1.64 goals against average during the regular season and recorded 31 victories in 33 games.

BRICKBATS to Prime Minister Paul Martin for bypassing veteran MP and former cabinet minister Maurizio Bevilacqua in his minority government cabinet and a strong Martin supporter over the years, and appointing a newcomer like Ken Dryden.

BOUQUETS to Aurora CAO Larry Allison for his many years of service to the citizens of Aurora. He is leaving the town staff to assume a similar position with Innisfil. He will be missed!

BRICKBATS to a justice system that fails to mete out strong sentences to dealers in child pornography. Sentences of house arrest are like a slap on the wrist and an insult to the victims of the crime and society. How can any judge be so insensitive to the rights of the victims?

BOUQUETS to Scott Johnston, cartoonist for the Auroran, who can capture the antics of Aurora Council with a few strokes of a pen, much better than the written word.

BRICKBATS to all those people who post garage sale signs, etc., and don't remove them after the event is over. It makes for tattered looking posts, especially near the mail box locations.

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Rotary Club for welcoming and supporting the bike parade from Toronto to Lake Rosseau when they stopped over in Aurora on a recent Saturday afternoon. It was part of a project called "200 Miles for 200 Smiles" to raise funds to send children with cancer to Camp Oochigeas. The local club and members raised enough money to send two kids to camp.

Letters to the Editor

This historian is still looking for material

To the editor,

Even though I am not currently in the country, my pursuit of historic Aurora information continues.

Here are the topics I've covered to date.

1. V.E.Day in Aurora - 1945.
2. The Old Water Tower.
3. Thinking Back to the Forties by Ken Alymer (a description of shops on Yonge Street and the side streets plus paragraphs about his boyhood in Aurora - memories of fishing, delivering papers, W.W.II, etc.).
4. Memories of Aurora's main street in the Forties and Fifties (my account of Yonge Street from the Cenotaph to Doan Castle - rather lengthy as I include memories of Wood's Farm, Bowser's Farm, Dancing at Graystones in the fifties, Aurora Golf Club, Whipper Billy Watson (who lived near Kennedy West), McGinnis's Handy

Store, Bus Station & Dal-Har Restaurant (first commuters to Toronto), Cousin's Dairy and Bowling Alley, Bell Telephone Office (worked there as an older teen), the Fire Hall (after-school craft lessons there), Steadman's Five to a Dollar, Caruso's Fruit Market, the Post Office, Aurora Art School over Maher Shoe Store (learned to paint there with Mr. Tolman), Mr. Hess's Drugstore (memories of working there in Grade 13), Barber Shop with barber pole next to Wilson's Hardware at one time, Moon Gardens (the only exotic place in town), butcher shop with a sawdust floor west side near Wellington (great spot to write your name) Willis Drugstore (Mennonites coming there with horse and buggy), Ardill's, Doan Hall, Queen's Hotel (description and memories), Aurora Dairy, and Doan Castle.

5. Shopping trips (walking to shops with my

mother - dressing for it - tea with Miss Eva Lemon or Mrs. Hillary first then going to shops and returning home - a memory of leisurely afternoons that seemed to last forever).

6. The Ice Man Came (ice wagon and horse - Mr. Case coming before refrigeration).

7. Schools in Aurora - early schools.

8. Memories of School Days (my memories of Aurora Public and both Aurora high schools - buildings, staffs, principals and events of significance).

9. Aurora High School by Edward Griffith.

10. Hallowe'en in Aurora.

11. Mr. Lacey's Store.

12. Aurora Arena by Ed Griffith.

13. Skating and Aurora's Ice Palace (outdoor skating, the first arena and later one on Yonge Street with my memories of skating, hockey games, figure skating lessons).

14. The Only Park in Town - founding of the park and early uses plus my memories.

15. The Town Park by Ed Griffith.

16. Summers in the Parks - two new parks and park programs beginning in the late fifties (I supervised in one park and then oversaw three

parks as a teenager in the summer of 1954).

17. Maude: The last horse in town (Lions Park before it became a park).

18. The Royal Theatre (early theatres in town finally The Royal and talkies - the chaos of Saturday matinees, evening shows - never on Sunday - important place before TV).

19. The Mechanic's Institute, Mechanic's Hall and Aurora's first library (transcription of unknown source plus additions of material and my memories as well as those of Ed Griffith).

20. The Willis Family and their drugstore.

21. Thompson's Furniture Store and Funeral Home (stories of Thompsons, Jim Henry).

22. The Journey Not Taken (contemporaries at school who died young).

23. Aurora Cemetery (land purchase, structures on the property, special graves, etc.).

No matter what I add I will likely end with the last three topics.

Elizabeth Milner

ED. NOTE: Anyone who has more information to add to Elizabeth's project should drop it off at The Auroran offices, 75 Mary Street, and we'll send it to her. This should be quite a book when it's finished.

Nice grass? You are a selfish idiot, reader says

To the editor,

News flash to all of you people who are still using pesticides to ensure a lush lawn...you are social pariahs.

GTA and York Region are working on banning spray because of serious health risks.

That is not news, however, as it has been known to be bad for ages...hence the signs.

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health of my children or yours".

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Anne Allen
Aurora

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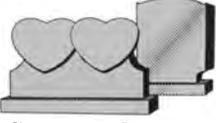


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Pastas

Penne con Salsiccia
 With Italian sausage and tomato sauce 8

Linguine con Cozze
 With mussels, tomato sauce, white wine and fresh herbs 9

Fettuccine Alfredo
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Rowing, kayaking

Aurora sends pair to Summer Olympics

By **CHRISTINE WOOD-LEY**

just amazing. It's one of the greatest things that has ever happened to me," Steve said from Montreal, where he trains at the Olympic Basin. "I'm really looking forward to the games, to learning about the other countries and meeting the other athletes." Steve's kayaking career began during a typical summer in 1997 when, like many kids, he was simply looking for something interesting to do to fill his time. He'd tried kayaking once before, but this time something clicked and Steve was hooked. But how does one get from filling time to wearing the red and white in Athens?

"It's been a lot of hard work and even some doubtful times, since the qualifying standards are so tough," he said. But, Steve said it has been worth it and, with some very impressive races under his belt, he thinks he's got a real chance at making the finals in Athens. But water isn't the only element Steve feels comfortable in. His other love is flying and, once the games have ended, he'll resume his studies to achieve his commercial pilot's license. "I'd love a career flying, but I'll also keep the kayaking up and keep my sights on the next games," he said. Another Aurora hopeful is Mara Jones.

She started to row at the university level, but never devoted enough time to the sport to get to the top levels of competition. During a working year at graduate school, she gave it her all and trained with the team in Victoria, B.C. Fast forward to the present and Mara is off to Athens to represent her country. "It's so exciting and I'm trying to keep myself grounded and to look at it as just another race," she said. Mara, who is a member of the Argonaut Rowing Club in Toronto, graduated from Montreal's McGill University with a B.Sc. in physiology, completed her M.Sc. in vasular pathology and is currently enrolled in medical school at the University of Toronto.



MARA JONES



STEVE JORENS

When Canada's Olympic athletes march proudly into Athens stadium in two weeks, our town will be well represented. Aurora's Steve Jorens will be competing in the Sprint Kayak event. The 22-year-old is a member of the Richmond Hill Canoe Club and placed first in all four pre-Olympic events this year. In May, he won two trials in Montreal and two qualifiers in Brazil. In fact, the 6'3", 205-pound athlete has nine international medals to his name. "Making the Olympics is

Local group signs up for walkathon

Six members of Aurora's Watson Family Karate School are going for a walk in September...a rather significant one.

\$2,000. Joan Watson has set a personal goal of \$3,000. To make a donation, click on www.endcancer.ca.

Over a two-day period, the participants will cover a total of 60 kilometres in the fight to end breast cancer. Signed up for the event are Joan Watson, Denise Beaulne, Linda Collins, Anne Fund, Maureen Bureson and Arlene Weijers. They'll join about 4,000 other men and women for "The Weekend to End Breast Cancer", slated for September 10 to 12 in Toronto, with the benefits going to the Princess Margaret Hospital. This is the second year of the event, which last year raised more than \$12 million. Each walker will cover about 30 kilometres a day and will be supported by about 350 volunteer crew members who will provide meals, water and snack stops, gear transport, hot showers, portable rest-rooms and medical services. Four of the six Aurora walkers have all been directly affected by the disease. In order to participate, each walker must train for the event and commit to raising a minimum of

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Fully Completely 5 : Nature's Emporium 2
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Fully Completely 20 : Dr. Orschel Drillers 2

Peewee

Carstar Collision 19 : ReYork Trophies 4
ReYork Trophies : Mr. Transmission (rainout)
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Carson Catering 10 : ReYork 2

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Bantam

Maple 19 : Master Cut 5
Master Cut 32 : Dial Tone 13
East Gwillimbury 8 : Master Cut 11
Master Cut 18 : Richmond Hill 5



Seven-time Canadian women's figure skating champion Jennifer Robinson, right in photo at right, dropped in on Skaters First last week to offer a few pointers to budding skaters at a special Seminar on Ice. Here she shows a few moves to Amy Thompson. Following the quick lesson, the group got together, above, and Jennifer was invited to appear. They are, front row, left to right, Emma Lohnes, Jordana Goldman, Meaghan Jones, Caden Armstrong and Maya Goldman. Back row, left to right, are Sarah Gray, Caroline Armstrong, Jennifer Robinson, Christine MacCallum, Emma Hayzelden and Amy Thompson.

Auroran photos by David Falconer



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U-16 Barbarians off to strong start

The young Under16 Aurora Barbarians capped off a strong week of practice with a decisive 30-5 victory over the Nomads from Toronto recently.

The Barbs were led on the day by strong performances from Adam Hankins at the number 8 spot, Sandy Craig at Fly half and Rob Egan at Fullback.

Hankins' tackles and powerful running created a

strong platform for the backs to attack and they responded well creating four tries.

Craig counted two tries, a penalty and a conversion and James Hulbert and Mendela Caesar added the other tries.

The try of the match, however, was a 60-metre solo dash by Rob Egan as he returned a kick and ran through the entire Nomads squad to touch down for a

superb score.

The Barbs are now two and one on the season and are poised to make another run at the provincial finals.

They also had some other good news as both Sandy Craig and James Hulbert were selected to the Ontario U-16 team currently preparing for the National Championships.

Craig and Hulbert were selected from a series of try-out camps held province wide which attracted more than 200 of the best players in the province.

Craig will be touring with the team to Indianapolis and both players will represent Aurora and the Barbs well should they be called upon for the Nationals.

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Soccer bubble looks promising near Legion

The rapid growth of the Aurora Youth Soccer Club has created problems for Aurora Council over the years as well as growing pains for itself.

By the summer of 2000 there were more than 3,600 youngsters wanting to play.

At that time town staff informed councillors they had been working with the club and a group of private investors to locate a suitable site for the soccer bubble.

Staff and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority identified a site within Sheppard's Bush, which would only require an application to the Committee of Adjustment for a minor variance.

Council agreed to that approach, but the result

was anything but satisfactory.

The Committee of Adjustment granted approval for the air-supported bubble to enclose an existing soccer field.

However, the proposal brought an immediate response from adjacent residents, who argued Reg Sheppard had left his property to all citizens, not the soccer club. They also expressed concerns about increased traffic, parking, noise and lighting.

The citizens appealed the committee's decision to the Ontario Municipal Board but the hearing officer ruled in favour of the soccer club, allowing construction of the bubble, but it never happened.

Then in September last year soccer officials contacted Leisure Service officials

to advise that two private companies were interested in perusing a public/private partnership with the town to construct a soccer bubble over the soccer field behind the Aurora Legion.

And, it appears that's what will happen.

Representatives from both companies were invited to attend a meeting of the Leisure Advisory Committee.

Richard Doyle representing Sports Centre Design and Management advised that his company had a six-year operating history and manages or owns five sports dome facilities to accommodate tennis, soccer, hockey, golf, football and more.

Ralph Farley of the Farley Group said his company had been providing

this type of service for 35 years and had built a strong base of experience and listed several facilities his company and built over the years.

The committee directed staff to meet with soccer officials and assist in determining which organization would best suit their needs.

Following consultation the Soccer Club indicated the Farley Group was their preferred provider and staff continued discussions with club officials.

In March this year, Ron Weese, representing the Youth Soccer Club, appeared before the general committee to advise the construction of a soccer/multi-purpose air structure on the Legion's field.

He pointed out that such a facility would not

only provide a longer season for the soccer club the facility would be available to other sports organizations and the town.

He added that it was close to the Leisure Complex, there was lots of parking and the site was known as a soccer field.

The committee referred the presentation to staff to develop an appropriate agreement and report back to council.

Last week staff presented a tri-party letter of understanding involving the town, a numbered company and the soccer club.

It was proposed the private partner would be responsible for all capital and operating costs of the facility with the town responsible for providing a serviced parcel of land on

which to erect the bubble.

Staff estimated the cost of providing hydro, water, gas and sanitary sewer to the site to be approximately \$49,000.

Staff advised the facility was a for-profit operation by the Farley Group with the soccer club as the prime tenant and it would be available to other community groups, and that it was also being made available to the town for leisure service activities.

After further discussion of various responsibilities of the three parties listed in the letter of understanding, council endorsed the proposal and directed staff to proceed with the preparation of an agreement including legal input to cover the town's interests and report back in September.



Aurora Youth Soccer Club Scores and Standings



HOUSE LEAGUE RESULTS

U8B M/W-TBA

U8B T/TH- JULY 15- Silver 3 (B. Lukezic 3) vs **Sage** 1 (M. Walker 1); **Forest** 4 (S. McKay 2, N. Nealon 1, J. Nanos 1) vs **Teal** 1 (A. King 1); **Lime** 2 (D. Capone 2) vs **Sky**- Barb Blaser-Remax York 0.

U8G M/W- JULY 19- Royal 0 vs **Gold** 1 (E. Rife 1); **Red**- Laurion & Assoc. 0 vs **Kelly** 2 (M. Minchella 1, E. Baghel 1).

U9B M/W- JULY 14- Champagne 6 (B. Hankins 3, R. Dowling 1, W. Reid 1, S. Wheeler 1) vs **Red**- CPC Healthcare 0.

U9G M/W- JULY 14- White- Wallsavers 1 (S. Pacione 1) vs **Royal** 0; **Champagne** 3 (J. Neudorf 1, R. Razak 1, K. Weller 1) vs **Red**- Priestly Demolition 3 (A. Zaino 1, E. Ciccone 1, A. Alberton 1); **Gold** 3 (D. Tonelli 1, M. Churchill 1, H. Black 1) vs **Kelly** 3 (F. Ruggiero 3).

U9G T/TH- TBA

U10B- JULY 12- White 3 (C. Riswick 1, C. Rundle-Sanderson 1, N. Heintzman 1) vs **Champagne** 2 (N. Gery 1, K. Neice 1); **Yellow** 6 (S. Grabarsky 2, D. Reil 2, L. Niblock 2) vs **Red**- Aurora Shopping Centre 3 (J.P Hudon 3); **Kelly** 3 (J. White 3 vs **Royal** 5 (T. Karjala 2, J. Romano 2, M. Schaefer 1); **Sky** 2 (A. Phipps 1, R. Goessi 1) vs **Gold** 13 (D. Collier 1, L. Driedger 2, D. Dilena 4, E. Foxwell 3, M. Zuber 3); **Forest** 2 (M. Yacoub 1, K. Duvall 1) vs **Teal** 2 (M. Tenuta 1, K. Sampson 1).

JULY 14- Gold 2 (L. Driedger 1, D. Dilena 1) vs **White** 3 (A. Papousek 2, K. McConachie 1); **Champagne** 3 (D. Lashbrook 1, M. Skoulikas 1, R. St. Germain 1) vs **Forest** 3 (M. Yacoub 1, K. Lukezik 1, B. Kirasack 1); **Royal** 3 (L. Beeson 1, P. Hillar 1, J. Langford 1) vs **Yellow** 4 (S. Grabarsky 2, L. Miblock 1, D. Reil 1); **Red**- Aurora Shopping Centre 6 (M. Mundinger 1, J.P Hudon 4, D. Gaudet 1) vs **Sky** 0; **Teal** 4 (J. Schweinberger 1, S. Stevens 1, M. Tenuta 2) vs **Kelly** 1 (A. Bushell 1).

U10B STANDINGS				
TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
White	7	0	0	21
Yellow	6	1	0	18
Forest	4	1	2	14
Red	4	3	0	12
Teal	2	3	2	8
Gold	2	4	1	7
Champagne	1	4	2	5
Royal	1	4	2	5
Sky	1	4	2	5
Kelly	1	5	1	4

U10G- JULY 13- Silver 1 (S. Seaward 1) vs **Kelly** 3 (L. Suominen 2; E.Wood 1); **Champagne** 4 (K. Nice 1, S. Bilotta 1, R. Knetch 2) vs **Gold** ?; **White** 7 (M. Dias 1, S. Kanen 1, M. Malone 1, C. Weatherhead 3, O.

Pink 1) vs **Purple**- Dr. Mark Weeden 6 (R. Boettcher 5, S. Duffy 1); **Orange** 3 (J. Costa 3) vs **Red** 3 (C. Masci 2, L. Rowbottom 1); **Navy**- Dr. Weaver's Driller's 3 (C. Macleod 1, S. Duncan 1, V. Garritano 1) vs **Royal** 1 (A. Barbalinardo 1).

U10G STANDINGS				
TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Navy	6	0	1	19
Red	4	0	3	15
Champagne	3	2	2	11
Royal	3	3	1	10
White	3	4	0	9
Gold	3	4	0	9
Purple	2	3	2	8
Orange	2	3	2	8
Kelly	2	4	1	7
Silver	1	6	0	3

U11B -TBA

U11B STANDINGS				
TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
White	5	0	2	17
Kelly	4	1	2	14
Gold	4	1	1	13
Royal	2	4	0	6
Forest	1	5	1	4
Red	1	6	0	3

U11G -TBA

U11G STANDINGS				
TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Champagne	5	1	1	16
Forest	3	3	0	9
Orange	3	3	0	9
Red	3	3	0	9
Kelly	2	4	1	7
Royal	2	4	0	6

U12B- TBA

U12B STANDINGS				
TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Kelly	4	1	2	14
Gold	4	2	1	13
Royal	4	2	1	13
Orange	3	4	0	9
Purple	2	3	2	8
Red	0	5	2	2

U12G- JULY 1- Orange 2 vs **Sage** 3; **Kelly**- Aurora Cable Internet 1 (D. Jurge 1) vs **Royal**- Power Excellence Ltd. 3 (S. Kastanis 2, C. Kubiw Kalashnik 1); **Red**- SSL Group 0 vs **Maroon** 2 (M. Nicolo 1, T. McKay 1).

JULY 8- Orange 0 vs **Gold**- Hartwell Thayer Financial Services Group 0; **Kelly**- Aurora Cable Internet 1 (L. Wood 1) vs **Maroon** 1 (C. Rizzardo 1); **Champagne** 0 vs **Red**- SSL Group 2 (K. Hagaraty 2).

JULY 15- Orange 2 (S. Dilena 1, H. Luscher 1) vs **Red**- SSL Group 1 (K. Hagarty 1); **Royal**- Power Excellence Ltd. 1 (I. Harrison 1) vs **Maroon** 0; **Kelly**- Aurora Cable Internet

2 (R. Mester 1, J. Pachis 1) vs **Champagne** 1 (K. Courtemanche 1); **Sage** 0 vs **Gold**- Hartwell Thayer Financial Services Group 0.

U12G STANDINGS				
TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Royal	4	2	1	13
Sage	4	2	1	13
Maroon	3	2	2	11
Orange	3	2	2	11
Gold	2	0	4	10
Kelly	2	3	2	8
Red	2	5	0	6
Champagne	1	5	0	3

U13B-JUNE 29-Kelly 8 (J. White 3, B. Henry 1, E. Banuelos 1, A. McDonald 1, S. Searles 1, N. Soave 1) vs **Red**- Summers & Smith 1 (C. Seranescu 1); **Royal**- Magna International 6 (B. Hause 2, D. Evans 1, T. Milne 1, D. Di Pietro 2) vs **Gold** 0.

JULY 6- Royal- Magna International 6 (B. Hause 2, D. Evans 1, T. Milne 1, D. Di Pietro 1, C. Moffatt 1) vs **Forest** 4 (M. Joynt 2, A. Mangialardi 1, A. Siragusa 1); **Red**- Summers & Smith 3 (J. Perry 1, D. Prezio 1, J. Kosciuszko 1) vs **Gold** 3 (R. Ierfino 1, J. McDonald 1, M. Buchanan 1); **Kelly** 5 (J. White 1, B. Henry 1, N. Soave 1, D. Roper 1, J. Gentles 1) vs **White**- Junk? Removal? 1-877-Garbage 2 (S. Denotter 1, C. Dalli 1).

JULY 13- Kelly 7 (A. DiRosa 3, A. McDonald 3, J. White 1) vs **Gold** 5 (W. Harris 1, J. Bentolila 3, C. Spring 1); **Royal**- Magna International 7 (D. DiPietro 3, C. Moffatt 1, B. Hause 3) vs **White**- Junk? Removal? 1-877-Garbage 5 (R. Hajicostis 1, E. Williams 1, M. Freedman 3); **Forest** 10 (A. Magialardi 2, M. Joynt 1, T. Persaud 2, A. Siragusa 2, M. Khamissa 2, S. Park 1) vs **Red**- Summers & Smith 4 (D. Prezio 1, A. Pincipe 1, T. Schmidt 1, A. Buckley 1).

U13B STANDINGS				
TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Kelly	6	1	0	18
Royal	5	2	0	15
White	3	3	1	10
Forest	3	4	0	9
Gold	1	4	2	5
Red	1	5	1	4

U13G- JULY 15- Gold 4 (N. Kondovski 1, V. Auciello 1, T. Allison 1, S. Gamble 1) vs **Red**- Kerron Mechanical 0; **Royal** 2 (K. Smith 1, K. MacDonald 1) vs **Champagne** 2 (S. Champs 1, C. Palmateer 1); **Kelly** 2 vs **Orange** 5.

U13G STANDINGS				
TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Gold	4	1	1	13
Orange	3	1	2	11
Royal	1	1	4	7
Kelly	2	3	1	7
Red	2	4	0	6
Champagne	1	3	2	5

U14/15B- JULY 12- Gold 2 (J. Hansen 1, M. Driedger 1) vs **Red** 5 (C. O'Grady 3, N. Prescott 2); **Ginger** 4 (P. McMurray 1, K. McBride 3) vs **Champagne**- Johnson Financial Group Inc. 3 (B. Roopnarsigh 3); **Kelly** 9 (M. Tacchino 1, C. Wong 1, S. Longhin 2, S. Herschorn 3, J. Bealy 2) vs **Royal** 3 (D. Curc 2, C. Ramsay 1).

U14/15B STANDINGS				
TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Kelly	6	1	0	18
Ginger	6	1	0	18
Red	3	4	0	9
Gold	2	4	1	7
Royal	2	5	0	6
Champagne	1	5	1	4

U14G- TBA

U14G STANDINGS				
TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Ginger	4	2	1	13
Gold	4	2	0	12
Champagne	3	3	1	10
Red	2	3	2	8
Kelly	2	4	1	7
Royal	2	3	1	7

U15/19G- JULY 14- Ginger 2 (D. DiGiacomi 1, M. Annear 1) vs **Red**- Sean Herbinson Remax York Group 0; **Royal**- Dr. Orschel's Drillers 5 (A. Camilleri 2, L. McLean 1, M. Camilleri 2) vs **Champagne**- 5 Below 3 (A. Ross 2, A. Herrington 1); **Gold** 2 (A. Palmateer 1, M. Bedard 1) vs **Purple**- Quality Integrators Corp. 0; **Sage#2** 2 (A. Sackfield 1, E. Bergamin 1) vs **Silver** 0; **Sage#1** 2 (K. Smith 1, N. Mueggler 1) vs **Teal** 1 (J. Bisogno 1).

JULY 19- Maroon 4 (J. Holt 1, E. Devlin 1, A. Hanory 1, B. Covey 1) vs **Sky**- L. Barry 1, N. Murphy 1).

U15/19G STANDINGS				
TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
Sage#2	6	0	0	18
Silver	5	1	0	15
Sky	4	1	0	12
Kelly	3	1	1	10
Gold	3	2	1	10
Royal	3	3	0	9
Red	3	3	0	9
Sage#1	3	3	0	9
Maroon	2	2	1	7
Teal	2	3	1	7
Orange	2	3	0	6
Ginger	1	5	0	3
Purple	1	5	0	3
Champagne	0	6	0	0

U16G CGSL Premiere- JULY 21- Aurora Stingers 6 vs **Glen Shields Sun Devils** 1. Stinger goals scored by D. King 1, M. Goodrow 1, S. Johnston 1, S. Lena 1, L. D'Aguanno 1 and K. Conners 1).

A rocky road for many Aurora CAOs

By now just about everyone in Aurora knows Larry Allison has submitted his resignation as Aurora's chief administrative officer to accept a similar position with Innisfil, a municipality of about 28,000 population.

His announcement came as a complete surprise as he has been an Aurora employee for 22 years. He joined the town staff in 1982 as an administrative assistant and was promoted to deputy clerk in 1986 and town clerk in 1991.

In August, 1994, with the resignation of Jay Currier as CAO, Allison was appointed Acting CAO and he along with 215 other people applied for the top position.

Although he didn't get it, Allison was offered the newly-created position of director of corporate services, which included personnel and legal services, as well as being town clerk.

In November, 1998, CAO Marc Neeb submitted his resignation to join Magna International and once again Allison was appointed Acting CAO.

Then in March, 1999, he was appointed CAO ending a controversial period regarding the position.

With the resignation of Neeb, Mayor Tim Jones wanted an immediate job

search for a replacement but was defeated on a 5-4 vote as council referred the issue to the February general committee meeting to have the opportunity to review the role and responsibilities of the position.

In March, 1999, Allison was appointed CAO by an 8-0 vote with Jones absent. The enacting bylaw was also adopted in Jones' absence.

Allison is the fourth CAO the town has had in its 131-year history as a municipality. During most of those years the town was served by a clerk-treasurer from Charles Yorke, the first, from 1863 to 1868 to Bill Johnson, the last, from 1957 to 1967.

Due to the growth of the municipality it was decided to split the position in 1967 and Johnson selected treasurer, a position he held until he retired in 1984.

It was in October, 1967, when council confirmed the appointment of Johnson as treasurer and K.B. (Bud) Rodger as clerk.

After experience in his home municipality of Weston, he went to Tilbury as clerk-treasurer in 1965 and came to Aurora in 1967.

In May, 1969, council considered a change in administration with the

appointment of a clerk-administrator, a radical concept at that time, as it was, in effect, a town manager system.

Rodger was appointed the first clerk-administrator in May, 1971, at a salary in the \$14,000 to \$15,000 range, up from the clerk's position which was in the \$10,000 range.

In 1986, the town's administration was reorganized once again following a \$35,000 study resulting in Rodger being appointed the town's first CAO.

Deputy clerk Colleen Gowan moved to clerk and Allison was appointed deputy clerk. When Gowan retired in 1990 she was replaced by Allison.

In December, 1987, a split Aurora Council sought the resignation of Rodger without offering any reason for their action and on January 14, 1988, he submitted his resignation as requested rather than resolve it through a Labour Relations Board.

He later admitted that the amount of infighting and animosity exhibited by some members of council made the council the most difficult he had worked with in 31 years.

By February, 1988, a citizen movement petitioned the provincial government into council's action in the wake of Rodger's resignation and

lack of explanation.

The forced resignation cost Aurora taxpayers approximately \$130,000 in severance pay based on his years of service. In addition council paid \$28,175 to an employment consulting firm to find a replacement.

His replacement in 1988 was Jay Currier who was hired on a three-year contract. He had a wide background of experience in municipal affairs and had also experience with a conservation authority.

His work was satisfactory and his contract was extended for another five years. Then changes appeared to be taking place between his relationship with members of council and the public and at times he demonstrated rather irrational behaviour.

Suddenly on August 26, 1994, he submitted his resignation with no reason given, other than he was thinking of establishing his own consulting company.

Once again there was controversy over filling the position and it was into 1995 before it was agreed to engage a recruitment firm. As the town had operated several months without a CAO, a motion not to fill the position was defeated on a 6-2 vote.

In June, 1995, it was announced that Marc Neeb had been hired as the new CAO. He came to

Aurora with 12 years' experience in municipal government in Brampton and Mississauga.

He started July 24, 1995, at a salary between \$90,000 and \$106,000 and also assumed the role of Economic Development Officer in addition to his duties as CAO.

A controversy broke out in April, 1998, when Mayor Tim Jones announced Neeb had been awarded a \$10,000 bonus in recognition of his contribution to the community over the previous three years.

The announcement came as a surprise to many including some councillors as it had never been openly approved. A special council meeting was held May 5, 1998, to ratify the bonus.

For many Aurora residents the original payment of the hidden \$10,000 and the manner in which it was done tarnished the trust they had placed in local councillors and it was called backroom politics at its worst, and once again the province was asked to launch an inquiry.

In July, 1998, council on a 6-3 vote approved a

bonus policy open to all staff members, who submitted ideas to save the town money.

Under the policy council agreed to set aside money in the budget to be shared among employees for suggesting ways to save money. During the 1999 budget debate the item was deleted.

Then on September 17, 1998, Neeb submitted his resignation, effective November 2, to join Magna International as director of corporate administration and another controversy developed.

Some members of council were quite content to let Neeb carry on until the effective date of his resignation, while others argued that as Magna was a major developer and employer in town that Neeb should leave the office immediately.

It was finally agreed that he continue with the town until his retirement date working out of his home on special projects, and Allison was appointed Acting CAO, and then later CAO.

Soon, council will start the whole procedure again.

St. John's Sideroad widening

From page 1

Sideroad from Yonge Street to

Bayview through the marshlands, in spite of all opposition.

The region's preliminary design was to provide a basic four-lane roadway including a retaining wall on the south side to minimize loss of the wetland area and to reduce wildlife fatalities by preventing access to the roadway from the wetland.

Construction on the north side included a steep slope and other measures to minimize loss of wetland and to make it difficult for wildlife to travel from the wetland to the roadway.

It was also proposed to construct a wooden sidewalk on the north side, which could act as an observation lookout for the wetlands.

In addition, it was proposed to install three large culverts, two wet and one dry, to provide wildlife the opportunity to move from one part of the wetland to the other beneath the roadway.

Aurora Council decided to install a watermain, sidewalk, bikeway and illumination at the same time as the regional contract.

Due to various delays, the town's project tender closed in April and no tenders were received. It was re-tendered and four bids were received.

Tendered costs came in significantly over the estimated costs for certain components of the works. For all works, other than the watermain, the estimated cost was \$881,500 of which \$874,000 would be covered by development charges.

The tendered cost was \$931,739 of which 90 per cent or \$838,565 would be covered by development charges. The additional monies would be covered by contributions from the cash-in-lieu of parkland account, and the capital budget levy.

The large diameter watermain between Old Yonge Street and the Industrial Parkway was designed to fill in a missing link in the town's trunk watermain.

The work was originally estimated to cost \$455,000

in the 2001 capital budget and was increased to \$615,500 in 2003.

The tender cost of the watermain was \$1.13 million and although 100 per cent funded by development charges, the DC bylaw only provides for \$462,665, leaving a shortfall of \$671,364.

In looking for options staff suggested the town might want to pull the work from the region's contract and do it as a separate contract at a later date. That would mean a delay until at least 2008 after the warranty period for the reconstruction project was finished.

As the region has approved a \$10.78 million contract for the reconstruction project, which was \$2.34 million over the estimated budget, a final decision on the watermain is required no later than early September.

Due to the wide variance in costs staff suggested council may want to obtain a third opinion, but time was short and the cost could be

as high as \$25,000.

Councillor John West said council had few options as it could cost much more in the future as the region would not allow the town to dig up their new roadway and there were few alternatives in the marsh area.

He proposed the third party review be deleted and proceed as part of the regional project and council, with the exception of Wendy Gaertner, agreed.

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Highlights of the year 1976 in Aurora

George Timpson became Aurora's mayor after winning a landslide victory over incumbent Mayor Evelyn Buck.

He promised to put an end to confrontational politics and open all committee meetings.

Four newcomers, Richard Isaason, Len Ostick, Kel Tonner and Bill Ferguson, were elected to council.

Dr. Crawford Rose, retired physician and former Mayor of Aurora was named Citizen of the Year. He arrived in Aurora to set up his family medical practice in 1942 when the town had a population of 2,800.

The Wellington Street East reconstruction project dragged on, due to citizen opposition and difficulty in locating the antiquated services under the street.

Fire Chief Gord Burling retired after serving the local fire department for 34 years.

Gib Smith, vice-president of Granny's Tarts, was named Big Brother of the Year for York Region after serving four years as a Big Brother.

A Gallup Poll rated people in 12 occupations in terms of honesty and ethical standards. Doctors were the highest with 60 per cent, police officers 49 per cent and in 9th spot with 16 per cent were politicians.

Not much has changed!

The opening of Aurora's new Civic Centre on Wellington Street West brought together six former Mayors of Aurora.

They were Ross Linton (1944-45), Dr. Crawford Rose (1948-49 and 1952-54), Jim Murray (1957-60), Keith Nesbit (1961-63), Dick Illingworth (1969-73) and incumbent Evelyn Buck.

REMEMBERING THE EVES BONUS

It's not likely to happen again but back on May 2, 2000, Finance Minister Ernie Eves presented his budget and announced that he was sending \$1 billion in surplus funds back to Ontarians in the fall.

The estimated 5.2 million taxpayers received tax rebates, ranging from \$25 to \$200 based on 1999 income tax returns.

While the bonus was well received by some on a fixed income, others said the money should have been spent on health and education, as it was just a token gesture in an effort to buy votes.

Others suggested that a reduction in the sales tax would have been preferable as it would benefit everyone equally, but provincial politicians said people wouldn't see it as cash if it was a decrease in the sales or income tax.

Do you remember what you did with your \$200?

SWEET TIMES AT SHEPPARD'S BUSH

In March, 1985, to help welcome spring with the taste of maple syrup the South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (as it was known then) organized a Maple Fest weekend at Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area.

This Jays' team makes history

For the first time in the team's history, the Aurora Jays minor mosquito baseball club advanced through to the semi-finals in tournament action recently.

In the tourney, played in Bolton, the Jays defeated teams from Richmond Hill and Burlington along the way, but were stopped short of the championship game by the Guelph Royals, in a hard fought contest.

Games' most valuable players named throughout the weekend games included Matthew Stuart, Ward Benn, Wes Howe, and Carter Chapley.

The entire team and its coaching staff, it was noted, were congratulated for the achievement and for representing the Town of Aurora with honour and pride.

The boys, and their families, participated in a Niagara Falls tournament

last weekend, but were eliminated.

After a big win against a Niagara Falls select team the first night, they were defeated in back to back games by teams from East York and Barrie.

While not being able to reach their weekend goal of making it to the semi finals, the team and their families had a great weekend in The Falls representing their town.

One of the featured attractions was the arrival of the Buckskinners for their Sapsucker Rendezvous.

Complete in traditional dress the Buckskinners set up their lodges on the site as they recreated a part of the past.

They gave demonstrations with black powder muskets and historical crafts.

There was a log sawing contest for the public and the public was invited to enter a guess on the volume of a woodpile.

Visitors could also walk the trails among the tapped maple trees and visit the sugar shack where a full scale maple evaporator was in operation.

They could also fill up on pancakes with maple syrup, as well as coffee or hot chocolate, served by the Aurora Lions Club. It was a sweet time in Aurora.

Report emphasizes importance of Aurora's employment lands

As part of the five-year review of the official plan, council identified a number of initiatives that were to be undertaken as priorities, including the development of a strategy to retain employment lands.

The main message in the report, which was presented to council recently, was that employment land is a critical land use and as such any changes to lands designated in the official plan as employment uses will not be considered except in unusual circumstances.

The current designated supply of employment land

in the municipality is about 360 acres of which 240 are located in the Wellington/Highway 404 business park area. The balance is distributed throughout the older parts of town.

In addition, there are approximately 200 acres of proposed employment land for the lands northwest of Leslie and Wellington, commonly known as the 2C lands.

At a meeting held in June, the Economic Development Advisory Committee endorsed the employment land retention and considered ways of promoting public awareness

regarding the benefits of the employment lands and their positive impact on the tax base.

A comment was made at the recent council meeting about the committee endorsing the strategy after council had adopted it.

Director of Planning Sue Seibert pointed out that the strategy had not been adopted by council but referred back to staff to continue to work with the consultant as a result of the comments made at the public meeting.

A further report would be submitted to council, she said.

Belinda is named to shadow cabinet

Aurora's Belinda Stronach, Member of Parliament for the new federal riding of Newmarket-Aurora, has been named to the Official Opposition Shadow Cabinet, even though she hasn't yet been sworn in.

At one stage during the election campaign, when the feeling seemed to be the new Conservative Party of Canada would form the next government, Stronach was rumoured as a potential cabinet minister.

Opposition leader Stephen Harper announced last week Stronach would be the Senior Critic for International Trade and would be a member of the party's senior leadership team in the House of Commons.

"I appreciate the confidence shown in me today," she said following the announcement. "I

asked the citizens of Newmarket-Aurora to put their trust in me because I can be a strong voice in Ottawa and I intend to do just that."

Stronach will be sworn in as a Member of Parliament this week.

BEDARD IN SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Aurora's Robert Bedard will likely be best remembered as the Headmaster of St. Andrew's College from 1981 until 1997.

Tennis players, however, will remember him as the winner of three Canadian international singles championship titles in 1955, 1956 and 1958.

He was the top-ranked Canadian singles player from 1956 to 1965 and was among the top three players for 16 years between 1952 and 1970.

He represented Canada in 31 Davis Cup matches.

He also won several world events as a senior and in father-and-son matches with his sons, Peter and Paul.

This incredible career was recognized when he became the second tennis player to be inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame October 22, 1996.



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Special rates : non-commercial word ads: \$20.00 (+g.s.t.) four weeks or, \$15.95 for two weeks +g.s.t., minimum 15 words (Applies to word ads only)
 Commercial: Classes, workshops and course directory starting at \$7/wk. Commercial word ads only: buy 3 get one FREE (July & Aug)
 More than 66,000 copies delivered to Aurora residents each month! Call today.

FOR SALE

CARPET - I have several thousand yards of new Stainmaster and 100% Olefin carpet. I will carpet your living room & hall for \$389. Price includes carpet, pad and installation (30 square yards). Steve 905-898-0127.

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 PowerMac 4400 - 2 gig hard-drive, 112 ram, 200 mg/htz. \$600.00;
 Kurtz Hastings industrial hot-stamp machine, high column, manual \$1200.00;
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USED BOOKS FOR SALE. Thousands of used books, all ages, all categories, filed by author. New mezzanine is now open. Book collection grows every day. Open Mon. to Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 75 Mary Street, Unit 3, 905-727-3300.

FULL-SIZE MAGAZINE RACK would be ideal for store. Free to anyone willing to move it. Call 905-727-3300 or 905-841-3925.

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Advertise for as little as \$5
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HELP WANTED AURORA'S BINGO WORLD snack-bar. Help wanted full-time and part-time available. Call 905-713-1765.

CLEANING SERVICE

TRADITIONAL, METICULOUS and trustworthy Euro cleaning call Eva 905-726-8719 416-737-8795.



CLEAN WITH CARE experienced, efficient, thorough home cleaning with an added personal touch 905-727-2353

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MOMS TO MOMS SALE Aurora Legion. Sat. Sept 12 - to book your table call 905-713-6316.

RETAIL SALES HELP WANTED

FULL-TIME SALES associate wanted Computer skills an asset. Fax resume to: 905-713-1633 or email to: mbe73@mbe.ca

MURALS

MURALS PLAYFUL WHIMSICAL to classical realistic. Any room in your home or office. Classically trained artist in Florence, Italy. On City Line TV - Home Day. Call Judy 905-726-8883.

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Landscaping, lawn cutting, gardening, tree service, painting, yard work, etc. etc. No job too small. YR Handyman Services Call Rob 905-392-2002 705-793-9702.

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Put your **GARAGE/LAWN SALE** on the **MAP - FREE!**
 (FREE TO AURORA RESIDENTS)
 Call **905-727-7128** to advertise your garage/lawn sale

August 7th

- 1) 141 Orchard Hts. Dr. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 2) 41 Hillside Dr. 8 a.m - 1 p.m.
- 3) Moving Sale 96 Temperance St. 9 a.m - 2 p.m. - rain date Aug. 8th.

This garage sale locator map is sponsored by:
Sean Herbinson
 ReMax Realty 905-727-1941

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Directory

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 Morning & Evening Classes
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 Judy Sherman (905)726-8883 / mi.design@sympatico.ca

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 Arts and crafts at Aurora's Creative Connection
TWO SESSIONS PER DAY
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tons of them

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THE ONLY USED BOOK STORE IN AURORA
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OPEN WORKSHOP

ENG Canada and Jim Woodbridge are proud to present **"EFT"**
September 14th, 2004
Old Town Hall in Newmarket
8:30 am - 10:30 am
 Front door main floor

We are pleased to welcome Jim back again on September 14, 2004 for another fascinating workshop.

Jim Woodbridge is a certified practitioner in EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique) and NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming) and has used these techniques to assist people with fears, limiting beliefs, emotional blocks, and to overcome severe traumas like job loss and other personal losses. Guest Tickets \$10.00 at the door. More info at www.engcanada.ca or call 905-841-3925

Jim Woodbridge,
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 Giving wings to human possibilities...

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A Message to Our Community

With the recent opening of Southlake's new six-storey building, and as we move forward with the next planned phase of redevelopment, we wish to notify our community of the following changes:

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Our new Emergency Department is located at street level in the new six-storey building and must be accessed by the public via Davis Drive. Parking is available in the visitors' parking lot located on the north-west corner of the Hospital's property (i.e., corner of Davis Drive and Prospect Street) or in the lot located on the east side of the Hospital's property. Individuals who require assistance to walk should be dropped off in front of the new Emergency Department before their escort parks their car. Additional emergency parking spaces will become available during 2005, following the completion of the Hospital's next phase of redevelopment.

The Fast Track Service is now located within the new Emergency Department. Open daily from 11:00 a.m. to midnight, this service is dedicated to treating patients with less urgent needs on a first-come, first serve basis.

DEPARTMENT AND CLINIC RELOCATIONS

Many departments, patient care units and clinics are in the process of relocating to new or temporary locations within the Hospital. To reduce the risk of confusion or arriving late for an appointment, patients and visitors are urged to confirm their destination point upon arrival at the Hospital. Information personnel are available at the Information Desk located in the East Building or via telephone located in the lobby of the West Building.

Patients who have difficulty walking any distance are advised to call the Information Desk at extension 2118 to confirm their destination point and which parking lot they should use before coming to the Hospital.

VISITING POLICY

Visiting hours are daily from 2:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Only two visitors are permitted at one time. Children under the age of 12 are discouraged from visiting the Hospital. The health care team will consider requests for exceptions if it is deemed to be in the patient's best interest. Individuals who are feeling ill or have been in contact with an infectious disease (e.g., cold, bronchitis, chickenpox, measles, etc.) should not visit patients in the Hospital.

FOR YOUR PROTECTION...

Each time an individual enters and exits the Hospital, they are required to rinse their hands with alcohol gel. These measures, which were put into practice as a result of the devastating effects of SARS, have become the "new normal" for hospitals and must be adhered to for the protection of our patients, staff and visitors. Dispensing stations are available at all entrances.

VISITOR PARKING RATES

To increase effective August 9

	FROM	TO
30 minutes	\$ 1.50	\$ 2.00
60 minutes	\$ 3.00	\$ 4.00
Daily	\$ 6.50	\$10.00
30-Day Pass	\$40.00	\$50.00

A daily pass is recommended for individuals who plan several visits to the Hospital in a single day or who expect their appointment to be longer than 2½ hours. Frequent visitors will find it most economical to purchase a 30-day pass.

30-day passes are available for purchase on Level 1 of the East Building between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm, Monday to Friday. 30-minute, hourly and daily rate passes can be purchased at one of several "pay and display" ticket machines located in the visitors' parking lots.

Ticket machines accept \$0.25, \$1 and \$2 or credit cards only.

All passes must be placed "face up" on the vehicle's dashboard.

Wheelchair accessible parking spaces are located in all visitors' parking lots.

Parking violations are subject to fines that are issued on behalf of the Town of Newmarket. It is the car owner's responsibility to contact the Town of Newmarket if they have any concerns regarding their fine.

Parking revenues are used to offset the rising costs to maintain the Hospital's public lots and grounds throughout the year. Any parking revenue surplus is used by the Hospital to purchase medical equipment.



SOUTHLAKE
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"tradition is cherished, change is welcomed"

596 Davis Drive, Newmarket
905-895-4521
www.southlakeregional.org