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# AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



Vol. 4 No. 46

Week of September 14, 2004

905-727-3300

## Briefly

### Can you sew?

Theatre Aurora is looking for volunteers who know how to sew.

The Producers of "Lil Abner", an upcoming Theatre Aurora production, need volunteers who are handy with a sewing machine, to work on various challenges.

If you would like to volunteer a few hours to help out call Richard or Holly Lee at 905-830-9227.

### Therapy Dog is attacked

On Labour Day, Aurora's Vivian Hould, her dog Ruby, and a seven-year-old were out walking near their Deerglen Terrace home.

Out of nowhere came an off-leash dog, which pounced on top of the 10 lb. Papillon, bit it, and took off.

At first, Vivian didn't realize that Ruby had been bitten.

She felt the blood while carrying the little dog home.

Ruby, a trained Therapy Dog who has visited Park Place Manor weekly for the past six years, is now in the care of veterinarians and had surgery during which her breathing stopped.

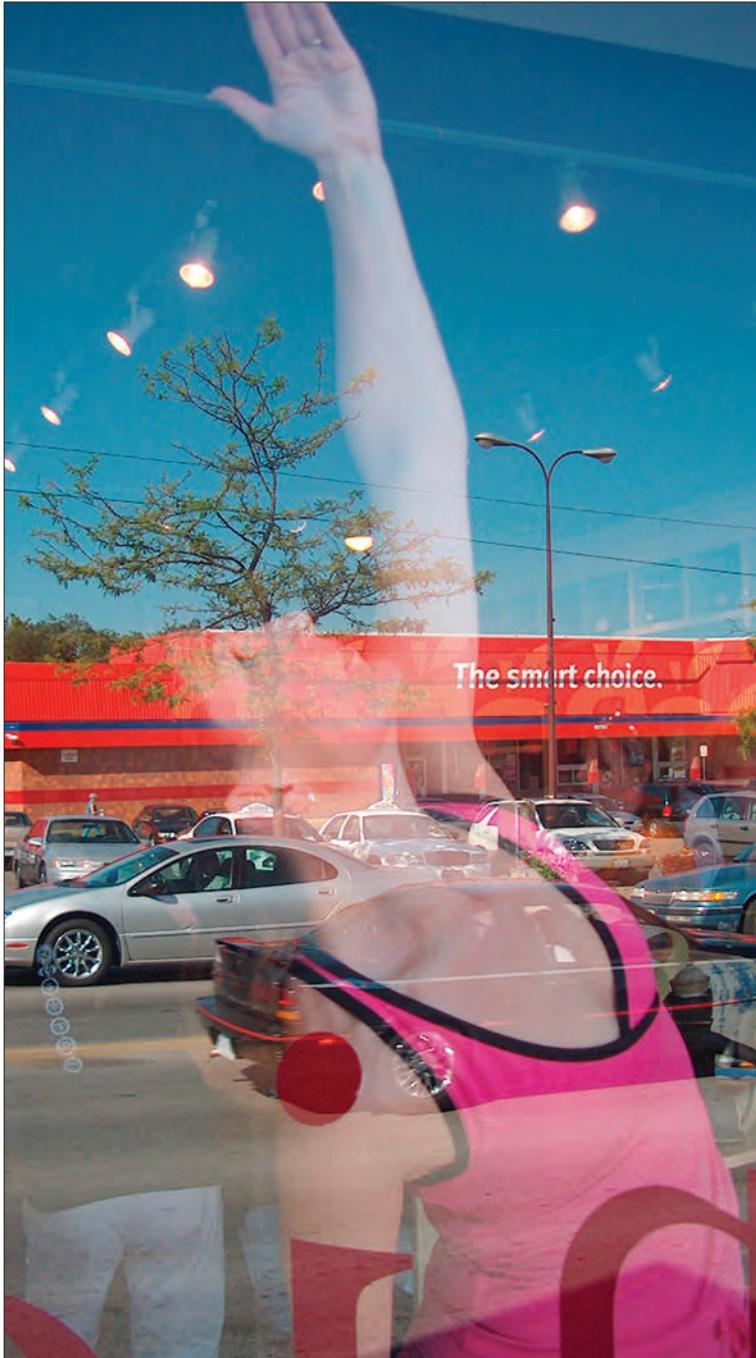
Her condition is still serious.

The incident has once again brought the issue of dogs, leashing and compliance to the forefront.

Vivian Hould's letter, another from her husband, and the Mayor's Column, all on Page 5, discuss the problem.



RUBY



What's going on here? Aurora's Lisa Sproul was demonstrating yoga techniques in the window of newly-opened Injoy Yoga and Activewear on Yonge Street Saturday when our photographer captured this picture from the street. But something's wrong with it. What? Non-alcoholic dinner for two at Jonathan's for the first correct answer after noon Friday. To see why Lisa was in the window Saturday, turn to page 13.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

### Three open houses at school

Since The Auroran's photo-essay about the gutting of Church Street School, requests to see inside the building have steadily been coming in.

The Aurora Historical Society (AHS) has decided to do something about that.

Three tour dates have been arranged to accommodate as many people as possible.

The first - for Historical Society members only - is set for Sunday, Sept. 19, from 2 to 4 p.m., while

town councillors, politicians and other invited dignitaries, will tour the premises Tuesday, Sept. 21, from 4.30 to 6.30 p.m.

An open house for the general public has been set for Sunday, Oct. 3, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Executive members of the Aurora Historical Society were thrilled when workers removed false ceilings, partitions, walls and other add-ons to return the building to its original schoolhouse look.

High tin ceilings, huge windows,

## Klees will win in two ballots, Timpson says

Former Aurora Councillor George Timpson says Aurora's Frank Klees will be the new leader of the Provincial Progressive Conservative Party next week, but the victory won't come easily.

Timpson, one-time Mayor of Aurora, says Klees will finish second to John Tory in the first ballot after polls close this Saturday, but will be close enough to force a second vote.

Klees, currently MPP of the Oak Ridges Riding, will win the second vote, when the "preferential ballot" is counted a second time, and the third place finisher is removed from the count.

"In a preferential ballot, a voter may choose two candidates," Timpson said, "first choice and second. There is no need to vote twice."

People who voted for the third-place finisher as their first choice would have their ballots recounted and the second choice would be applied to the count.

This means residents in the north end of the unwieldy riding of Vaughan-King-Aurora won't have to return to the polls if a second vote is required.

However, The Auroran has learned it is not necessary to vote for two candidates.

The ballots are set up in such a way that if you elect to vote for only one candidate, you may do so.

At the end of the first ballot, a candidate with the lowest number of ballots or less than 10 per cent of the electoral votes, gets the heave.

A winner needs more than 50 per cent of the vote.

It was revealed last week that only one polling station had been set up in the riding and it was in Woodbridge in the riding's south end.

Timpson, who attended a Frank Klees social in Markham last week, said he's impressed with the effort coming from the Klees campaign.

"He may not win it on the first ballot, but he has a good chance of winning it all, if he's close enough to force a second vote," Timpson said.

Klees is feeling the same thing.

"George is right, and his analysis is consistent with our experience on the ground," Klees told The Auroran Thursday.

"There is strong support for my commitment to restoring integrity to government, to starting that process within our own Party by taking decision-making out of the hands of backroom advisers and respecting the opinions of grass-roots people."

Please see page 7



FRANK KLEES



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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.

\*\*\*\*

Robertson Masonic Lodge meets the third Saturday each month at 57 Mosley Street at 10:30 a.m. Coffee club at 9 a.m., lunch at noon. Contact 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080.

\*\*\*\*

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 Hand: Gently used clothing for women and children, at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, every Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays 5:30 - 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, Oct. 16 and 30, 9 a.m. to noon. 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 Aurora squadron meets every Friday. For more information call 905-726-8600, Tuesday evenings between 7 and 9 p.m..

\*\*\*\*

Co-Dependents Anonymous, every Tuesday, Aurora United Church, 15186 Yonge Street, Aurora. 7:30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*

Probus Club of Aurora meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of every month at the Aurora Legion. Club is for retired or soon to-be-retired business and professional people and guests are welcome.

\*\*\*\*

Women's Centre of York Region is offering a program called Enterprising Women, which helps women successfully start their own business. Orientation sessions will be held September 14, 16, 21 and 23, with classes starting on October 12. For more information and to register for an orientation session, call 905-727-5837.

\*\*\*\*

Towns of York Toastmasters meetings are free and open to the general public. The meetings are held every second and fourth Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway N. Aurora. For more information see the club's web site at [www.townsofYork.org](http://www.townsofYork.org) or phone Roy Bannon at 905-853-0859.

\*\*\*\*

Meditation classes in Aurora Wednesday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m. to

Dec. 15. Above Needles & Knits Wool Shop, 15040 Yonge St., just north of Kennedy St. Further information, 416-762-8033 or [info@meditationintoronto.org](mailto:info@meditationintoronto.org). No pre-registration required. Donations only.

\*\*\*\*

Month of September, HOT SPOT Youth Club celebrates "Back To School" with prizes from Silver City.

\*\*\*\*

Network marketing for entrepreneurs in Aurora. Aurora-Business.com meets Wednesdays at 7:15 a.m. at Timberlane on the Vandorf Sideroad. For further information call John Patterson at 905-727-1941.

### SEPTEMBER 17

Queen's York Rangers Cadet Corps will hold an Open House at the Aurora Armouries from 7-9 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER 18-19

Fourth annual Candlelight Vigil at Aurora Cemetery. Late Saturday, lighting of candles. Sunday, 2 p.m., Tribute Service.

### SEPTEMBER 18

Magna Hoedown. A night of entertainment and food with proceeds to 11 local non-profit organizations. It starts at 5 p.m. and goes to 1 a.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](http://www.terryfoxrun.org).

### SEPTEMBER 20

Aurora Public Library, partnering with York Region Health Services, presents "Kids Have Stress, Too" in the library's Lebovic Room from 7-9 p.m. Pre-register at the adult information desk, or call 905-727-9493, Option 4.

### SEPTEMBER 22

Cruise and Travelogue Presentation at the Seniors Centre from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. It's free, but registration is required.

### SEPTEMBER 24

Queen Elizabeth Dinner Theatre at Howard Johnson Aurora presents the female version of "The Odd Couple". It continues Friday and Saturday nights with some Sunday buffets until October 30. Call 905-727-1312 to reserve.

### SEPTEMBER 25

It's the Aurora Children 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 27

Aurora Public Library presents "Analyzing A Series Of Dreams" with Stephen Crowther, an Anglican minister and candidate-in-training at the Ontario Assn. of Jungian Analysts Training Program. Limited to 20 participants. 7-9 p.m. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, Option 4.

### SEPTEMBER 28

Hospice King-Aurora hosts a trip to Stratford to attend the performance of King Henry VIII. Tickets, at \$150, available by calling

905-773-0155. Lunch is included.

### 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 2

Women's Day Benefit in support of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. Limited booth spaces available. Call Bruna to reserve, 905-713-3189 or 416-999-6289.

### OCTOBER 6

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with Aurora Cable Internet, presents SPAM, the second of a 10-part monthly series of free computer workshops. 7 to 8:30 p.m., Magna Room. Phone 905-727-9493, Option 4.

### OCTOBER 13

Cameron Hastings, President of Magna Services speaks to the Aurora Probus Club on "Fair Enterprise - The Magna Story" at 10 a.m. at the Aurora Legion.

### OCTOBER 19

Aurora Public Library presents Linwood Barclay, reading from his new novel "Bad Move". Admission free with ticket. 7 p.m., Magna Room. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk.

### 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

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

### OCTOBER 23

Wells Street Public School annual fall fair. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Games, prizes, music, food and fun for the whole family.



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**Blitz nets 21**

While it has not been publicized that much, it's a known fact Aurora is a major target when it comes to house break-ins.

York Regional Police reported last week they have investigated 121 reports of break and enter, thefts from vehicles and property damage in Aurora since the third week of June.

Last week, they got serious about putting the brakes on that trend.

After targeting the area in a three-night blitz, police arrested 21 people and charged them with various offences.

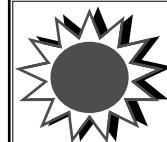
During the blitz, police officers focused their attention on the south end of town in response to community concerns and complaints.

While on patrol in a plain-clothes capacity, the officers concentrated on individuals loitering in and around the numerous parks and plazas in the area.

In total, 42 people were investigated which resulted in 21 being arrested and charged with 13 offences under the Criminal Code of Canada, including Break and Enter, Possession of Stolen Property and Breach of Recognizance.

An additional six charges were laid under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.

Six charges were laid under the Liquor Licence Act and seven youths were released with verbal warnings, as permitted under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

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## Poor Richard

# Councillors must follow procedure

*Councillors are getting the message,  
That council's image needs repair;  
A workshop is badly needed,  
But much more than just hot air!*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

How council meetings are conducted and how effective they are depends to a great extent on the established rules of procedure, how the rules are enforced and the personalities involved.

While the procedural bylaw may vary from municipality to municipality, it is designed to control the conduct of council and committee meetings and members of council.

The bylaw is not drafted by outsiders or mandated by the province, although a model bylaw was available.

It was a bylaw drafted by the local council and it was essential that members of council were aware of the ground rules.

Aurora has had a procedural bylaw for years and it has been amended from time to time as required.

One of the problems with the current council is the complete lack of knowledge or observance of the procedural bylaw.

The duties of the chairman include restraining members within the rules of procedure when engaged in debate, to enforce on all occasions the observance of order and to maintain decorum among the members.

The bylaw also states, or used to, that no member would use offensive words or unparliamentary language against another member, to speak on any subject other than the issue under debate, nor criticize any decision of council approved by the majority of members.

If a member persists in disobeying the rules of procedure after being called to order by the chairperson, the chairperson could order that member to leave his or her seat for the duration of the meeting.

In spite of requests by members of council early in the term that a free-wheeling workshop discussion take place to update the procedural bylaw to today's conditions, the majority of members indicated that they didn't have the time or interest in doing so.

Instead it was suggested that members submit any comments or suggestions they may have for amendments to the procedural bylaw to staff to compile for a report to council.

Some worthwhile suggestions were submitted and approved by council, but when the enacting bylaw was presented to council at a subsequent meeting it was defeated and council went back to square one.

If this council wants to regain public confidence and trust, members have to clean up their act. Even some members of council have finally started to realize that the public is ashamed and disgusted with their actions.

A free-wheeling workshop is urgently needed for a frank and honest discussion as to what should be in the procedural bylaw and how they want their meetings conducted. Once they have decided, prepare the procedural bylaw accordingly and enforce it.

Some lessons might be learned from previous councils when debates were just as hot and heavy, but common courtesy and the rules of procedure were obeyed and once the decision was made it was a council decision and supported by all members whether they agreed with it or not.

Members of council were required to do their homework on all agenda items and prepare their comments ahead of time.

Once the issue was introduced, each member of council had one opportunity to speak in support or in opposition to the issue and the vote was taken.

If an amendment was introduced each member of council was allowed to speak once on the amendment and the vote was taken.

Across the table comments and personal remarks were not permitted, as it was the issue, and only the issue, that was debated.

At the end of the meeting there was an agenda item called New Business in which members could ask questions as to the status of certain projects or introduce new ideas for future discussion.

There was some pleasure in serving on council back in the 1960s and 70s as council worked as a team, rather than as nine independent individuals, and council members were respected by the public.

It was a case of Stand Up, Speak Up and Shut Up!



**The huge pharmaceutical plant - Sterling Drug Ltd. - sat for more than three decades at the corner of Yonge and Murray Drive, before being torn down and replaced by a shopping centre. Sterling, makers of Aspirin and numerous other drugs, was responsible for the birth of Regency Acres subdivision, when the head office relocated here from Windsor. When the company closed the operation in the 1980s, the building and land were put on the real estate market, and were, for a time, considered by the York Region Board of Education. That idea failed to materialize and the huge plant was demolished. Front yard parking lot was used during the July First celebrations as a parade marshalling area.**

## Letters to the Editor

# Pesticide issue continues...

To the editor,

**Re: Two letters:  
"Pesticides ARE unhealthy: writer" and  
"Lawns survived without pesticides".**

This argument seems to go on and on and on...

Janet B., congratulations on moving from that respected neighbourhood in Toronto to the quiet suburb of Aurora, but please, leave that holier than thou attitude back in the brown lawns of Toronto.

Don't tell us about a lawyer in the fight against pesticides.

A lawyer is hired to convince people of one side of an argument.

If I said, 'I know someone who met somebody who had a friend who said pesticides when used correctly might not harm the environment in the manner that you and Anne Allen prescribe to' doesn't add validity to my argument.

Janet B., you went on to write, "Pesticides are on their way out in Toronto and for good reason".

Janet B., please do not tell us about Toronto. Just because Toronto goes on a tangent about one cause or another doesn't mean the rest of us, yes, York Region in particular, has to follow

suit.

If you and your friends jump on the bandwagon, Toronto will try to make sure that the 905 region WILL pay for that bandwagon, the driver, insurance, the maintenance of that wagon, plus a replacement every two years.

We all know that every homeowner in York Region is lucky enough to contribute almost \$200 every year for Toronto's social welfare cost. Yippee.

If we, the taxpayers in York Region, were given a vote in Toronto the political map of that city would be much different than today.

And, Janet B., why is the City of Toronto allowing golf courses to ignore this "ban"?

The golf courses in the city are known to be the biggest users and those who are the greatest offenders in the overuse of those chemicals that you are so against.

Why is there a double standard in the city of Toronto?

As you travel into work, on the train, bus, and heaven forbid, the car, you will see that great cloud of PESTICIDES hanging over Hogtown.

Why that cloud is green? It must be pesticides because it causes the grass

to turn green.

Come on, Janet B. and Anne Allen, there are other environmental issues that cannot be ignored and if your starting point is pesticides do not take it up with those who properly apply these chemicals.

No one should confuse pesticides with fertilizer or herbicides, the application is much different and for different reasons.

Pesticides are to be used for extreme cases of bug infestation such as grubs, locust, or moths that may destroy plant life.

Another point, there exists a great deal of illegal dumping, many people are not co-operating with programs such as proper disposal of toxic waste.

Where do you go to dispose leftover paint cans? What about your hairspray? Varsol? Tires? Batteries? When is the last time you had your car tuned-up?

How is the air conditioning running in your home? Look at industry; are they doing everything possible for the environment?

What about those who are not properly disposing of their trash? Oh ya, follow Toronto's lead, ship your garbage to Michigan, now that IS being responsible.

Thank you Anne and Janet for your helpfulness in

this regard.

Sign me green and loving it in Aurora.

**John  
Aurora**

**AURORAN**

**"Aurora's Community Newspaper"**

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**Editorial policy**

Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of the Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published. Names may be withheld assuming a compelling reason to do so. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.

**Advertising policy**

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

## Error causing some confusion

To the editor,

The York Regional Police Male Chorus will be holding their 12th Annual "In Harmony With the Community" fundraising concert on Saturday, November 6th at the St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 17,955 Leslie Street in Newmarket.

Unfortunately, there has been some confusion

regarding this as the Big Brothers Big Sisters of York, for whom the Male Chorus did a fundraising concert with a Police Choir from Germany on September 13th, listed that concert as the 12th Annual Music For A September Evening.

Bottom line, York Regional Police Male Chorus are still holding their November 6th event.

Tickets can be purchased for (still \$10) from any chorus member or by calling (905) 727-9676 or sending an email to [mcclenny@aci.on.ca](mailto:mcclenny@aci.on.ca) to place your order.

Sorry for the confusion!

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



**Mayor's Report**  
By Tim Jones

# Ruby attacked by second dog

At the time of preparing this column, Ruby is at the emergency clinic.

"She has fluid on the lungs and may need more procedures. Her incision may need to be re-stapled as the staples aren't all staying in place. They still don't know if she has any kidney damage but hopefully there is no brain damage."

Ruby is clinging to life as a faithful pup will do.

Ruby has been a St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog for more than six years.

She visits Park Place Manor with her owner every Thursday night and has missed very few nights over the six years.

She also has visited almost every nursing home and retirement home, community living and hospital in the Aurora and Newmarket area.

Ruby also has been involved in the Bite Prevention Program for the past four years.

The Town of Aurora and our bylaw staff were recently honoured for starting this program through our schools by St. John Ambulance at a council meeting. Ruby attended the ceremony.

Ruby has completed more than 500 visits to date. Very few dogs accomplish this.

Ruby has also been to most public schools in Aurora.

In order for Ruby to do all this, she had to be evaluated to visit seniors and then go through another evaluation to visit with children.

On Labour Day, at about 11 a.m., Ruby was being walked at the north end of Deerglen Terrace on a path by the water management pond, by her owner and a seven-year-old child.

The seven-year-old, as well as her sister, were friends of the owner and had learned not to be terrified by dogs as a result of Ruby's companionship.

Without warning, a dog, believed to be a yellow lab or a yellow lab mix, came flying up a path and attacked Ruby. This dog was accompanied by people, to whom Ruby's handler told them to call their dog, that it should be on a leash, who replied 'sorry' and disappeared.

It was only after they left that the owner discovered Ruby was bleeding and seriously hurt.

Ruby was taken to the Aurora Emergency Animal Clinic where she underwent surgery during which time she stopped breathing and her heart rate dropped to dangerously low levels.

I relate this story with the hope that whoever owns the dog that attacked Ruby will see this and take responsibility for this occurrence.

You can call me at 905-727-3123-ext 4746, I will assist.

It is because of events like this that the Town has a bylaw making it mandatory for all dogs to be on a leash.

If you know anything about this that will help to identify the dog who attacked Ruby, and/or the dog's handler's, I implore you to call me right away.

Ruby has given so much enjoyment and support to others, it's time to show our support to her and her owner.

### Letter to the Editor

## Unleashed animal bites Therapy Dog

### To the editor,

As I write this letter, my dog Ruby, a St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog, is at the Emergency Clinic in Aurora.

At about 11.15 a.m. today, Monday, September 6, I was out walking with Ruby, a 10 lb. Papillon and with Cinders, a 5 lb Papillon, both on a leash.

A young friend of about seven years old was also with us.

We entered the path off Deerglen Terrace into the park at the north end of the street.

We had not gone very far when a mid-size dog, off leash, came charging at Ruby and bit her.

All the people said was "sorry" and took off in the opposite direction.

Ruby had surgery today to repair the damage but her breathing stopped during surgery so they were not able to determine the

full extent of the damage.

It is now the next day.

Ruby is on oxygen and IV. She is not doing very well.

I am hoping and praying she will survive.

As a Therapy Dog, Ruby has been part of a program where we go into schools and teach children how not to get bitten by a dog.

Ruby was bitten by a dog that was off leash.

What is wrong with people?

The law states that all dogs MUST be on a leash.

The dog that attacked Ruby may next time attack your dog or even worse, your child.

I beg all of you, do not take your dog off their leash.

If you do, you are breaking the law and putting children, adults and other dogs at risk.

Vivian Hould  
Aurora

### Machell's Corners



### Letter to the Editor

## Attack gets little sympathy

### To the editor,

It was Labour Day, and my wife was alone at home.

When the doorbell sounded, at 11 a.m., she opened the door to greet seven-year-old Lucy (not her real name), a neighbour's child, who wanted to go on a walk with my wife and our two Papillon dogs, a 10-pound female, named Ruby, and a five-pound male, named Cinders.

Lucy, with an innate fear of dogs, had over the course of months, developed an affection for the tiny animals.

Both dogs are Therapy Dogs, and Ruby regularly visited a local retirement home.

Both are well-known to

younger neighbourhood children after a number of appearances in local schools in the Anti Dog-Bite program.

And so, my wife was soon heading down the street to the pathway which snaked past the water management pond, with the two dogs and Lucy in tow.

Barely 50 yards from the end of the street, an unfamiliar dog came racing towards them.

And then it happened--an attack, so savage, so swift, so unprovoked, our dogs caught so completely off-guard that neither barked, Ruby the luckless target, on the ground, the larger dog on top, and Ruby, not fighting, totally submissive, and my wife

frantically screaming for the owners who had appeared at the top of a knoll to call off their dog.

One of them, a woman, called the dog; the dog responded; the woman called out a cheery "sorry", and then in a unfathomable display of indifference, turned her back, leaving my wife to tend to her wounded pet.

The injuries sustained by Ruby were severe, and she nearly died on the operating table that afternoon.

Her prognosis remains hopeful but unknown.

One can only wonder, when the next attack will come, and who will be the victim.

In retrospect, we should not have been surprised.

I have had more than my share of uneasy encounters with unleashed and unmuzzled dogs, whose apologetic owners, parrot the two most over-used cliches in dogdom: "He just likes to play" and "Don't worry, he won't hurt your dog".

We no longer walk in Sheppard's Bush; we simply don't feel safe there.

And that's our story, and in the grand scheme of things, it's only a dog, just a dog named Ruby.

It could have been worse, I suppose; it could have been a story about a girl named Lucy.

**Robert W. Thompson**  
Aurora



## Cathy's Corner



## Be careful what you wish for...

Be careful what you wish for. You might get it.

I wished for peace on earth...or at least peace in my house...and Presto! I am down to one teenager!

No more fighting over the telephone, wrestling over the remote control, or screaming over who ate the last Pop Tart.

None of this can happen with only one teenager in the house.

Which is not what I wished for, but that's how I happened to get what I wished for.

Last Saturday, we shipped Jennifer off to school in London, which reduced the Aurora teenage population by one.

On Monday, she turned 20, which makes the reduction permanent.

That same day, we navigated a vanload of dorm gear through Aurora's maze of Cat-In-The-Hat style pylons, and managed to deliver Nadia to Waterloo without squashing any.

Too bad, huh?

The Vran-Clan is now down to a single teenager.

And Super-She-Dragon-Mom is starting to feel like the Maytag Repairman: Lonely.

Definitely not what I wished for.

I only wanted some peace and quiet...oh, and the house could be a little cleaner.

Now, I wake up in the morning, and the house is too quiet.

It's been a week, and I haven't had to run down to the basement to fix the breaker that can't handle two blow dryers at the same time.

Did you know that two blow dryers going at the same time can drown out two teenagers going at the same time? It's a miracle.

A miracle I miss praying for, now that things have become unbearably quiet. Not to mention, intolerably clean!

I haven't had to bring out my "weapons of mass destruction" all week!

I feel like I have entered the twilight zone.

Even the dog looks scared.

Maybe I went too far.

After the girls left, I told Tim: "Seeing that you are the only teenager in this house, any and all dog-licked Pop Tart packages found under beds, on sofas or stuck to bottoms of shoes, will be blamed on you!"

He crunched the rest of his Pop Tart and tossed the wrapper in the garbage.

Darn! I used to wish he'd behave himself and now...I wish the girls were here to make him mad enough to slam a door!

But I'll get that wish soon enough.

Before you know it, May will be here.

The girls will come home for the summer, and their laundry will sneak in behind them, crawl into the laundry room, curl up, and die of neglect on the floor.

When it's dirty, the laundry will be nobody's, but when it's clean, they will fight over it, and...I'd better be careful what I wish for.

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

# Bouquets & Brickbats

**By DICK ILLINGWORTH**

**BOUQUETS** to Aurora teenager Simon Ahmadi who was recently accepted to the National Ballet School where entrance is through audition only. He became interested in dance about two years ago when he was a member of the Main Street Theatre Company and gained a role in the company's production of "West Side Story".

**BRICKBATS** to Hydro One officials for sending out mixed signals. After strong opposition by Markham and Aurora citizens and councils about the preferred route being from Markham to Newmarket through Aurora, it was agreed to reconsider alternative routes. At a recent meeting in Newmarket the audience was told the Markham to Newmarket route had been picked, while other Hydro officials assured Markham that no decision had yet been made. Who do you believe?

**BOUQUETS** to District 60 of Toastmasters International, which includes the Towns of York Toastmasters Club of Aurora/Newmarket on being judged the most accomplished in North America and the third best in the world. There are more than 8,800 clubs with more than 175,000 members in 80 countries around the world.

**BRICKBATS** to those in the Department of National Defence for allowing an alleged multi-million dollar fraud ring to operate for up to 10 years before anyone noticed. Finally one employee was fired, but not charged, after auditors discovered the department had paid \$160 million for military computer hardware and support services it never received.

**BOUQUETS** to the staff and volunteer members of the Aurora Senior's Centre for the very successful Open House they held recently. Many of the clubs and activities at the Centre had tables outlining their programs with sign-up sheets. The Open House was well attended as visiting seniors learned about the many programs and activities available.

**BRICKBATS** to those in the federal and provincial governments for telling motorists to pay more and get less at the gas pumps. A recent CAA gasoline tax study reveals that government revenue from motorists continues to increase. More than 82 per cent of every motor-related tax dollar is spent on things other than roads.

**BOUQUETS** to Darryl Moore for the many interesting letters on a wide variety of issues involving the town printed in The Auroran. You may not always agree with him, but he makes you think. It should be mandatory reading for all politicians.

**BOUQUETS** to the Aurora Jays Major Mosquito Rep Baseball Team on winning the York Simcoe Championship recently. After going winless in 2002, they finished the 2003 season with a .500 record. This year they finished the regular season in 5th place and went on to win the championship.

**BRICKBATS** to those at Canada Post, VIA Rail and other federal Crown Corporations for objecting to the need to comply with the country's Access to Information legislation following the sponsorship scandal in which they were involved. If everything is above board, what are they hiding? CBC may be a little different in protecting news sources.

**BOUQUETS** to the staff and volunteers of Abbotsford Animal Hospital for washing 85 dogs and raising \$1,590 at its 7th Annual Dog Wash for charity.

## Letter to the Editor

# Need to make it before it's spent

To the editor,

I don't remember every election in Aurora since I became a denizen but I remember one thing about the first.

A veteran politician walked smartly round the houses on my street.

He knocked on doors and handed out the business cards issued to him by the town. His slogan was "A tree on every lot".

After the election a homeowner could apply to the town and for \$5 have a maple planted on the right spot on the front lawn.

Maple trees on both sides of Murray Drive were planted with money raised by the Regency Acres school choir.

The town has a tree-planting budget. Every year we plant trees on boulevards and parks. This year 400 will be planted by the town.

The numbers planted by new home-owners will no doubt exceed that many times.

When Golf Glen was being developed (40 years ago) the town made the developer plot every tree on the property.

Even scabby old apple trees were required to stay put, much to the disgust of at least one homeowner.

One time, when I was mayor, Jerry Copeland, a real estate salesman, told me Aurora had the worst reputation among developers for being difficult.

I wasn't sure it was a compliment but that's how I took it.

Came a time when the province said, "no more permits for you, Aurora".

Though we had just recently added a million dollar expansion to our treatment plant, the Ontario Water Resources ruled it was at capacity.

We could issue 24 permits and that was it.

The town divided them between the Henderson Drive town house development and the subdivision backing onto the railway tracks in the north east.

I remember standing in that field and wondering why anyone would buy a house backing on to a railway.

So, while mayor, the only major development I recall was the Hunter's Glen subdivision in the south end of town.

The lots had to be in excess of two acres in order to accommodate a septic tank and a well at a sufficient distance from each other.

It was a heavily wooded area. I remember the uproar when word reached us, there had been a swath of trees cut down. Those responsible said it was a "fire break". They didn't cut any more.

Hunter's Glen is stunningly beautiful. The roads sweep and curve and rise and dip.

Jack Reid, our town engineer, expressed concern about how people would drive up those slopes in icy winter.

Never heard any complaints.

Many of the lots are densely wooded and the landscaping by the owners is equally impressive.

If you are taking visitors around the town to show off,

Hunter's Glen is a must see.

At our last council meeting, an architect appeared on behalf of a property owner in Hunter's Glen.

There is a plan to demolish an existing house and build a new one. To re-site the house there is a need to remove 13 trees.

We have a tree bylaw. It prohibits the cutting down or "injury" of more than five trees on private property in a year. Applicants are required to come to council to receive permission.

They are also required to pay a fee. In this instance the fee was more than \$700.

Properties in Hunter's Glen are worth anything up from a million and a half dollars. To demolish the house and build a new one, the owners had to go to the committee of adjustment to obtain relief from that noxious October 23rd resolution passed by last year's council in the middle of an election campaign to "Save the Moraine".

Hunter's Glen is in the Moraine as is most of the western edge of town right up to Newmarket's Highway 9.

The application to the Committee of Adjustment cost \$700 plus professional fees for representation.

The application to remove trees from their own property

to create a site for the house cost more than \$700.

The assessment value to the town will be closer to \$2 million than \$1 million.

I went down last Saturday to take look at 8 Hunter's Glen. The existing house is perched on top of a small knoll. The woods around it are so dense no light penetrates.

After debate, council agreed to the request to remove the trees.

But not before Councillor Kean moved to refuse.

In four years, we have spent and committed \$51 million.

The new library, land at Leslie, land on Wellington, the new seniors' centre, the new rec complex.

Some of that money comes from reserves, some of it will be borrowed and a charge on the property tax. The deficit in operating costs will also be a charge on property tax.

Every business person, every housewife, knows there has to be money coming in to balance the money going out.

To be voting against every potential for increasing income while tossing money about as if it grows on trees is a recipe for disaster.

**Evelyn Buck**  
**Aurora**

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**Letters to the Editor**

# We won't go without a fight: reader

**To the editor,**

zens, Jim Wilson, have taken.

The wrong approach.

Yes, hydro has the right of way of the land, but does it have the right to negatively affect the lives of so many people?

Since when should we, as

a democratic society, just accept what is handed down to us?

Isn't that why we vote our representatives into power, to represent our beliefs and concerns?

This is not about stopping development, this is about developing with a bit of foresight.

There is always a better way of doing things if you take the time to look and listen.

Oh, and if you think for a minute that it's not in your back yard, you're mistaken.

If the lines go in as proposed, we will all pay.

First with the health issues, proven or not.

Second, the houses and land around the lines will

depreciate, it will affect the entire area.

Simple math will tell you, a lot of property tax dollars will no longer be.

I remember Councillor Buck saying "hell no, we won't go", to the suggestion that if you couldn't afford your tax bill, move.

Where is her support now?

A great number of people stand to lose a lot of money on the single biggest investment of their lives, and all she can say is, it's futile.

Well, Councillor Buck, "hell no, we won't go without a fight."

**Vince Piron**  
Aurora

## Unnecessary to snipe at those who disagree

**To the editor,**

standing bylaw as being "arbitrary".

Remember she was a former councillor and even mayor. (I wonder if she supported the bylaw then or whether she ever moved to change it.)

Councillor Kean opposes it because "there were young children in the homes nearby who needed to be asleep early". (That's Buck's quote).

It matters not who we agree with.

It matters that our councillors debate the issues in council, and not indulge in a sniping and condescending attack at their colleagues who may have voiced a different opinion.

If that's not acceptable, Ms. Buck, I suggest you take your ball and go home.

**Guy L. Poppe**  
Aurora

## Klees in two: Timpson

**From page 1**  
roots members, and dealing with issues in an honest and forthright manner," he said.

"That approach is resonating with our membership who are tired of the 'all things to all people' approach to politics on the one hand, and the confrontational, heavy-handed approach on the other," Klees added. "Ontarians identify with the balance of

fiscal and social responsibility that my vision for our Party and our Province represents. I have been consistent over the years in representing those values, and I am confident that my reputation and experience in our Party and in government will translate into broad-based support in the leadership vote."

An advance poll was held at the same location Monday.

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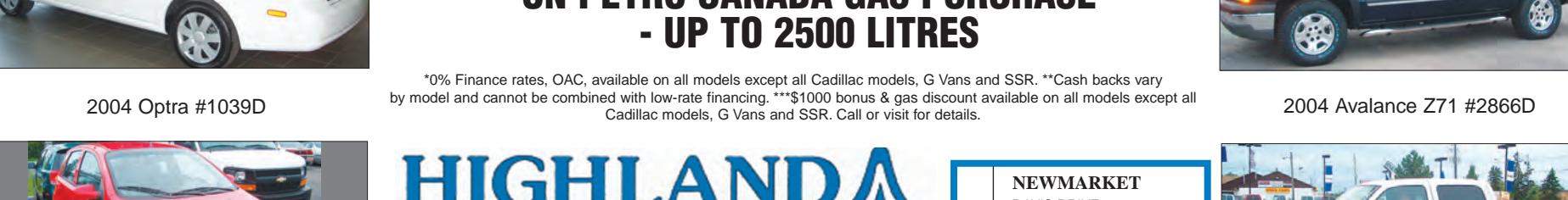


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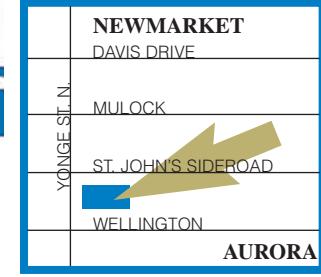
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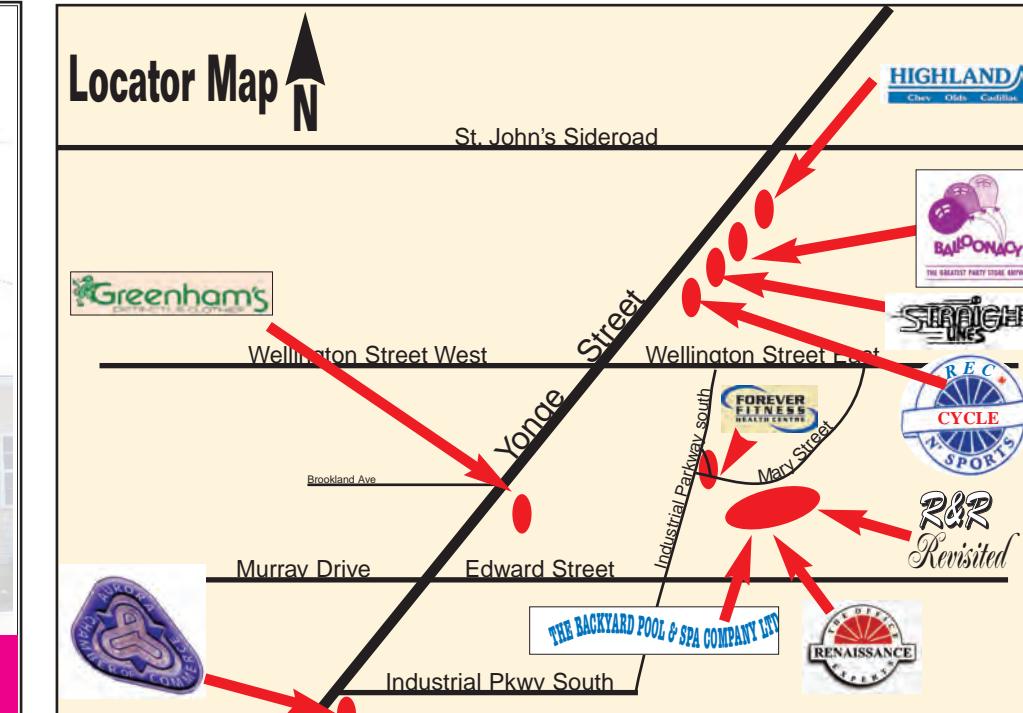
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# AURORAN SPORTS



Page 10

Week of September 14, 2004



Captains from the Aurora Tigers and the St. Mike's Buzzers line up for the official opening of Aurora's home season Friday at the Aurora Community Centre. Mayor Tim Jones did the honours. Aurora, coming off a national championship last year, but losing many of its players, battled back from two deficits to beat St. Mike's 5-4 in a lively game. More than 400 watched the contest. Aurora visits Couchiching Thursday night, then hosts the Vaughan Vipers Friday at 8 p.m. A new Tiger Den lounge will open at 7 p.m.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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# "Painting Churches" has nothing to do with buildings

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Theatre Aurora's current production is a light drama called "Painting Churches", as the community theatre group launches its 47th season of providing excellent entertainment to Aurora residents and beyond.

It's the story of an artist named Margaret Church, or Mags, and the Churches she wants to paint are her mother and father named Fanny and Gardner Church.

She is just about to open an exhibition of her work at a prestigious New York Gallery, but makes time to come home to Boston to help her aging parents move from their Beacon Hill home to their Cape Cod cottage to live out their lives.

But she has another reason for coming home as she wants to paint their portrait to include in her New York art show. However, she had no warning of what to expect when she got there.

Her gentle father, a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, is in the early stages of dementia, and her mother, overbearing at the best of times, is having a rough time trying to cope with his forgetful memory and actions.

The packing adds some hilarious moments to the play such as when Fanny starts to pack some of his clothes and

as soon as she puts them in the box, he takes them out and puts them on.

Packing his books was another experience. As the books were packed, he'd take them out and read poetry. But the most hilarious incident was packing his current manuscript, which ended up scattered all over the floor.

There was a message in the play about the relationship between children and their aging parents, which required strong acting abilities on the part of the three-member cast, and they met the challenge.

Director Dalene Flannigan selected an experienced cast for her first venture into directing and together they produced a play that is well worth seeing.

Kay Valentine, last seen on the Aurora stage as Margaret in "Waiting for the Parade", has the role of Fanny. Anyone who has seen Kay perform knows her talent and professionalism in portraying her role in the play.

Chuck Therrien is also familiar to York Region theatre-goers. He has the demanding role of Gardner, the father, as he switches from one mood to another.

Mags is played by Tammie Van Dyk, who previously

played in Theatre Aurora's productions of "Run for Your Wife", "Lend Me a Tenor" and "Forty Carrots".

The set, designed by Eric Glynwilliams, who also designed the lighting, was well done with three large windows overlooking the garden.

He was also stage manager for the production. The backstage crew had their work cut out for them as they had to move furniture off the stage as the packing progressed. A nice touch was the piano music during the set changes.

Prior to the opening of the play, Theatre Aurora president Anne Currie-O'Brien welcomed the opening night audience to the new air-conditioned Factory Theatre and paid tribute to the many volunteers who assisted.

"Painting Churches" continues at the Factory Theatre Sept. 15 to 18 and 22 to 25 with curtain at 8 p.m. Call the box office at 905-727-3669 for ticket information.



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## Second Chinese delegation visits

Fifteen representatives from The Chinese Ministry of State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission under the State Council visited Aurora last Tuesday.

It was the second Chinese visit to Aurora in the last two months.

This delegation was in town meeting with senior management members to discuss Canadian budgeting and procurement procedures, financial management systems and ethics codes as they relate to municipal purchasing.

"This was a great opportunity for the Town of Aurora to share ideas and information about our Canadian municipal practices with our peers in another nation," Mayor Tim Jones said.

In late August, George Xu, the Director of Sino-Canada Technology Exchange, approached Mayor Jones about the visit.

Sino-Canada is Markham-based with offices in China, and is mandated to promote the professional and business exchange between Canada and China.

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### Minor Atom AA 7 Pickering Panthers 1

Kiefer McIntosh 1G, Jody Nonnewitz 2G, Stefan Lazzer 1G, Mackenzie Lemmon 2G, William Reid 1G, Burke White 2A, Kevin Casey 1A, Brooke Webster 1A, Liam MacKichan 1A.

### Milton Winterhawks 4 Minor Peewee AA 1

Kamaran Karamchi 1G, Justin Nice 1A.

### Barrie 3 Minor Peewee AA 0

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Eleeza Cox 1G, Cody Weese 1G, Justin Nice 1G, Matthew Miller 1A.

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Chris Piron 1G, Kamaran Karamchi 1G, Steadman Dinning 1A, Eleeza Cox 1A.

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JBB Memorial event Director Shawn Burt (left) is joined by, left to right, Mike Tamburro of Investor's Group, former Toronto Maple Leaf Mark Osborne, Carlton The Bear, and Cleve Mortelliti for the ceremonial face-off kicking off the 2nd Annual James and Barbara Burt (JBB) Memorial Fundraiser in support of Camp Oochigeas. The hugely successful event raised approximately \$22,000 for the camp at the Aurora Community Centre. In the two years of the fundraiser's existence, more than \$40,000 has been raised for Camp Oochigeas.

*Photo by Ice Photo Studios*

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Threatening to dethrone Aurora Mayor Tim Jones as the guru of official openings, newly-elected Member of Parliament for Newmarket-Aurora, Belinda Stronach, appeared at two official openings in Aurora last week. In the top photo, she teamed up with the mayor to open Injoy Yoga & Activewear on Yonge Street. The lady in the front page photograph is barely visible in the window. Co-owners Annette Munro, left, and Gayle Goebel were front and centre for the event. Last Thursday night, (lower photo) a VIP party was attended by hundreds as East Side Mario's officially opened its newest location on Bayview Avenue, just north of Wellington. Again, Belinda was on hand for the event. Here she joins Mayor Jones and franchise owner Jeff Campbell in the ceremonial ribbon-cutting.

Auroran photos by Ron Wallace and David Falconer

## Seniors benefit from restaurant opening

East Side Mario's, officially opened last week in Aurora, lives up to its name.

It's on the east side of town.

The popular restaurant has already established itself as a destination on Bayview Avenue, north of Wellington, and scores took advantage of a VIP open house early Thursday evening.

And while New York City might not be around the corner, Aurorans can go there to enjoy a little bit of Manhattan's Lower East Side.

"East Side Mario's appeals to both adults and families by offering great food, value and atmosphere, so I am sure the restaurant will be a huge hit in Aurora," said Franchisees Jeff Campbell and Catherine Hamilton. "We are proud to open an East Side Mario's in Aurora and we look forward to providing Aurorans with the unique East Side Mario's experience that keeps guests coming back for more."

Among the dignitaries at the VIP party Thursday were Aurora Mayor Tim Jones and Newmarket-Aurora Member of Parliament Belinda Stronach.

They participated in the official ribbon cutting cere-

monies.

But the real benefactors of the event were the Aurora senior citizens, who received a \$1,000 cheque from East Side Mario's to go towards the building of a new seniors' centre in Aurora.

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# Residential plan heading to OMB

This is almost like a story from Ripley's Believe It or Not, resulting in Councillor Ron Wallace asking how it could happen.

Last December, unknown to members of council, an application was submitted by Lebovic Enterprises and Revilis Limited for the rezoning of 12.5 acres of land from industrial to residential on the east side of Industrial Parkway north of the Leisure Complex.

Before members of council even became aware of the application for a seven-storey apartment building and 191 condominium townhouses, it had been appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

Director of Planning Sue Seibert said the application had not come to council at that time as it was incomplete and staff had difficulty in obtaining the required information.

By the time the information had been obtained, the 90-day limit had expired and the appeal was made to the OMB.

Council approved the engagement of outside legal council and consultants to represent the town at the OMB hearing and to fight the application.

"How much will that cost?" Councillor Wallace asked, and was told "expensive", since the issue has been alive since last December and the hearing has yet to be held.

Staff members did not believe it was possible to recover any costs as the OMB normally only awarded costs if it was judged to be a "frivolous appeal", and with two pre-hearings, this was not considered to be frivolous.

Staff advised council members at a recent general committee meeting that two pre-hearing conferences had been held to

define the issues and set a date for the hearing.

The Board set November 29 for the hearing to begin and to run through December as the hearing time required was estimated to be four weeks.

For an unknown reason the hearing was adjourned to a later date at the request of the applicant.

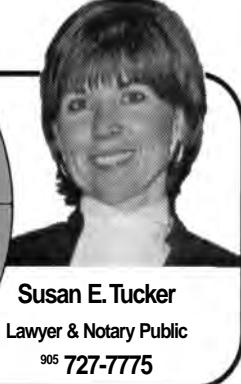
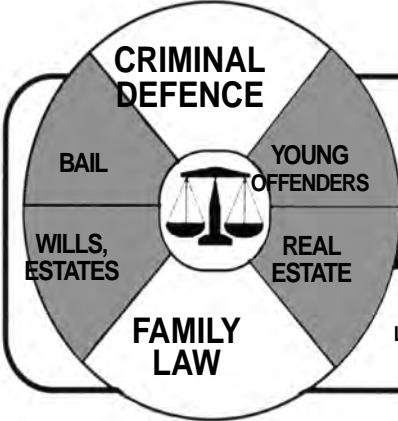
Since the appeal was launched before a public hearing could be scheduled, staff recommended a public meeting be scheduled to receive input from the community concerning

the application.

Council was expected to deal with a recommendation this week that the meeting, controlled by town staff, replace the planning meeting this month, scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 29.

It was also pointed out that council is not obligated to hold any type of meeting as the application is before the OMB and residents have the right to make their views known to the Board.

Wallace wondered what residents would care, since the application sits in the middle of an industrial zone.



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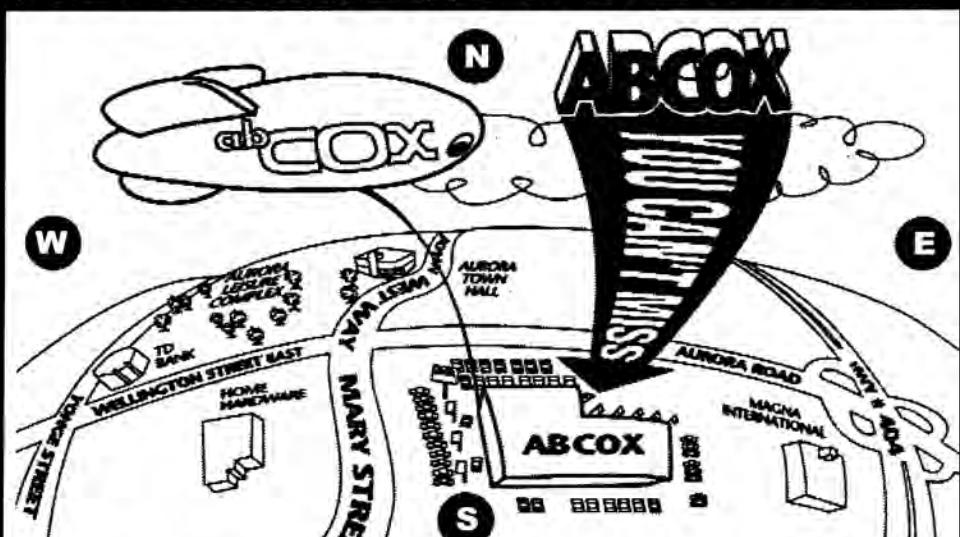


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## RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

# Was it a coincidence?

During the fall of 1985 Burger King launched an advertising campaign looking for Herb, supposedly the only person in the world who hadn't tasted a Whopper.

The advertisement was arranged by Kevin Brady of the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency.

It so happened that before the ad appeared on TV, Aurora's Herb and Wanda McKenzie had spent some time with Brady in Kansas City.

They had won a free trip through a contest run by Champion Spark Plugs, another of Brady's advertising clients. On his return home, McKenzie wondered if he was the Herb in the Burger King advertisement.

He became even more intrigued when he saw a commercial for Honda, which used the slogan "Wanda wants a Honda", which appeared to be too much of a coincidence for Herb and Wanda.

But it seems it was a coincidence, as it was learned that the Herb commercial had been dreamed up by a New York agency and Brady's firm did not handle the advertising for Honda.

The late Herb McKenzie, however, has not gone unrecognized.

The park on Murray Drive has been named after him. That was no coincidence, that was acknowledgement of a man who truly loved Aurora.

### TEEN IN THE RUNNING

In September, 1995, 14-year-old Krissy Chrisztopoulosz, an Aurora High School honours student, hoped to one day play with Canada's national ladies softball team.

She was one of 24 finalists for TEEN magazine's Sportsgirl of the Year award. The prize was a \$10,000 scholarship.

She was among 10,000 entries required to meet such criteria as showing leadership and displaying high academic and athletic skills.

In 1994, she was Aurora High's volleyball MVP and most promising athlete. She also helped the Aurora Diggers Bantam softball team bring home a silver medal from the provincial finals.

Other sports of interest included badminton, basketball, track and field, skiing, swimming and fitness. On top of all that she maintained a 92 per cent academic average in 1994.

### GIVING AWAY LOCAL ROADS

Aurora Council has come under considerable criticism for transferring St. John's Sideroad to York Region in 1995 due to the region's plan to reconstruct the roadway to four lanes, especially through the McKenzie Marsh.

But back in November, 1971, the town transferred two major roads to the region and there wasn't a single citizen complaint. The two roadways were Bayview Avenue and Leslie Street, which the town assumed with regional government.

The roads required considerable maintenance and the town was glad to get rid of them.

In addition, by assuming the extra roads, it increased the mileage of regional roads and put the region in a higher grant category.

### NO HORSES ON SIDEWALKS

Back in 1974 it could cost people up to \$1,000 if they were caught riding a horse on a sidewalk or a park in Aurora. Council unanimously adopted the bylaw as a result of citizen complaints.

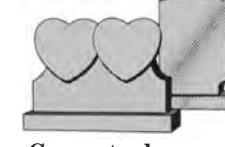
The bylaw allows council to permit horses in parks for specific occasions such as the Aurora Horse Show.

It was even suggested that York Regional Police Chief Bruce Crawford would want to form Crawford's Cavalry to enforce the bylaw.

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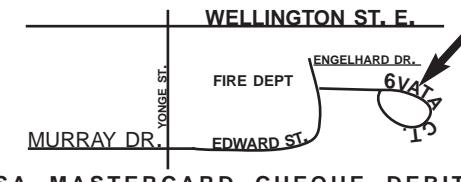
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