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Vol. 5 No. 5

Week of November 16, 2004

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Mayor's column violates code, councillor says

Mayor Tim Jones was in the hot seat last week when Councillor Wendy Gaertner said he was in clear violation of council's Code of Ethics as a result of a column he had written for The Auroran.

In his weekly column Jones wrote about how disappointed he was that council had voted to change the address of the Town Hall.

He outlined the history of the debate and was critical of the five members of council who voted in support of the change.

He said he was saddened by the decision and he wanted the public to know how he felt about it.

Gaertner quoted from the Code of Ethics which states: "Members of council will accurately and adequately communicate the attitudes and decisions of Aurora's Council, even if they disagree with a majority decision of council, so there is respect for the decision-making processes of

council".

She suggested the town solicitor be asked to provide a legal opinion on whether the mayor had committed a breach of the Code of Ethics.

Other members of council said such a suggestion was not fair to staff and if a legal opinion was required, an external opinion should be sought.

Councillor Evelyn Buck asked about the legality of the Code of Ethics and what penalties could be imposed.

Councillor Damir Vrancic said he was saddened with the contents of the mayor's column but that he couldn't support getting a legal opinion as it was something that should be dealt with in committee.

Gaertner withdrew the motion as Councillor Phyllis Morris introduced a Notice of Motion dealing with the Code of Ethics.

Please see page 16



Aurora's Santa Claus Parade, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 27, could be the noisiest on record. Special Events Co-ordinator Julie Geering handles a few of more than 10,000 bells that will be sold for a loonie prior to the parade. The bell ornaments, provided by VIA Rail, are part of a promotion for the Warner Bros. movie The Polar Express, now playing in theatres. Girl Guides will start out half an hour prior to the parade and offer the bells to anyone for a dollar. Some proceeds will go to the Guides, some to offset the cost of the parade, and a portion will be donated to the York Region Children Aid Society's "Give A Kid A Christmas" program. Last year, more than 40,000 people lined the route to watch Aurora's "Santa Under The Stars" parade. Parade starts at Yonge and Orchard Heights at 6 p.m. and heads south to Murray Drive before disbanding. This Saturday, Nov. 20th, the Town of Aurora TOAST Committee will also sell the bells at their Fifth Annual Craft Sale and Silent Auction from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Aurora Public Library.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace



Hello, friend. Newmarket-Aurora Member of Parliament Belinda Stronach welcomes former Ontario Premier Mike Harris during a Progressive Conservative fund-raising dinner held at Dinardo's Mansion in Aurora last week. Current Provincial PC leader John Tory also attended the event.

Auroran photo by Rob Schuetze

Round and round it goes...

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Like the Phoenix bird of old which rises from the ashes with renewed vigour, the interminable debate of when a meeting is not a meeting continues to haunt Aurora Council and still is not settled.

There has been considerable controversy since the start of the current term of council about informal working sessions of council, with or without staff, to hammer out interpersonal problems affecting councillors.

In spite of a legal opinion by a respected solicitor in municipal law that such assemblies or retreats were legal under certain

conditions proposed as an amendment to the town's procedural bylaw, Councillors Phyllis Morris, Wendy Gaertner and Nigel Kean continue to oppose it, on the basis that it is taking public business away from the public.

These were the same three councillors who refused to participate in the traditional out-of-town retreat or orientation session last January following the municipal election, claiming such a retreat was not a meeting in accordance with the Municipal Act.

After receiving the solicitor's advice and a draft amendment to the procedural bylaw last June,

Councillor Ron Wallace moved that the draft bylaw be adopted.

In spite of opposition from Councillor Morris, other members of council said the issue had been debated to death and the Wallace motion was adopted with Councillors Morris and Gaertner in opposition.

When the committee report came to council the various suggested amendments to the procedural bylaw were adopted but when the enacting bylaw came to council in July it was defeated and council was back to square one insofar as amendments to the procedural bylaw were concerned.

Please see page 18



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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

Independent Order of Odd Fellow Lodge #148 meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at 15216 Yonge Street (south of Wellington). For more information, call 905-830-0205.

Masons' Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at The Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7.30 p.m.. 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.

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. 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.

Towns of York Toastmasters meetings are free and open to the general public. 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.townsofyourk.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. No pre-registration required. Donations only.

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night. Aurora Legion. 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

Operation Catch-Up presents free "Tutoring and Homework Help" for ages 10 to 18 years every Tuesday and Thursday from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. during the regular school year at the Victoria Street Library. Call 905-773-7024 for details.

NOVEMBER SELECTED DATES

Theatre Aurora Presents "Li'l Abner" at Factory Theatre, Henderson Drive. For tickets, call 905-727-3669.

NOVEMBER 18/19/20

Pine Tree Potters' Guild Winter Sale at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club on St. John's Sideroad. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. For further information call 905-727-1278.

NOVEMBER 19-20

Aurora United Church Annual Fall Rummage Sale, 1 p.m. - 8 p.m., Friday and 9 a.m. - noon Saturday. Church is located at 15186 Yonge Street, south of Wellington. Proceeds allow United Church Women to support the work of local charities.

NOVEMBER 20

Old-fashioned Christmas Crafts. The Aurora Museum presents a stocking-stuffer workshop for adults at Hillary House National Historic Site. 10 a.m. to noon. Fee \$10. Pre-registration necessary: call (905) 727-8991.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of York Region Gala Auction at Dinardo's Mansion, Industrial Parkway South. Call 905-727-1251 for further information.

Town of Aurora Staff Together (TOAST) committee will hold its 5th Annual Craft Sale and Silent Auction from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Aurora Public Library. All proceeds to Children's Aid Society's "Give a Kid a Christmas Program".

NOVEMBER 22/29

Yard waste will be collected on the dates shown providing the waste is placed at the curb by 7 a.m. Yard waste must be in clear plastic bags, open containers or kraft paper bags for visual inspection. For more information as to what is eligible for pick-up call 905-727-1375 extension 3447.

NOVEMBER 23

Local author Dan Bortolotti discusses his new book "Hope In Hell:

Inside the World of Doctors Without Borders" at the Aurora Public Library in the Magna Room. 7 p.m. Pre-register at the adult information desk.

Aurora Council meets at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the Town Hall.

NOVEMBER 24

Opening night for Aurora's Marquee Productions family drama "Christmas Carol" at the Newmarket Theatre at 7:30 p.m. continuing November 25, 26 and 27 with a 2 p.m. matinee on November 27 and 28. Call the theatre box office at 905-953-5122 or Marquee Productions at 905-713-1040.

NOVEMBER 25

Aurora Legion Blood Donor Clinic, 105 Industrial Parkway, 2.30 - 8. p.m. To book an appointment or for eligibility information, call 1-888-236-6283 or 1-888-2 DONATE

NOVEMBER 27

Santa Claus comes to town with the annual Santa Claus Parade starting at 6 p.m. from Orchard Heights Boulevard and Yonge Street proceeding south on Yonge Street. Don't miss the opportunity to purchase Christmas bells from Aurora's Girl Guides prior to the parade. Deadline for float entries is November 19. For details contact 905-727-3123 extension 4762.

NOVEMBER 27/28

Aurora Optimist Club 18th Annual Book Sale at the Aurora Public Library from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. Proceeds for youth activities at the library.

DECEMBER 1

"PC Software Maintenance" - a free seminar co-hosted by Aurora Public Library and Aurora Cable Internet 7 to 8.30 p.m. in the Magna Room, Aurora Public Library. Visit www.aci.on.ca or call the library at 905-727-9493 to register.

DECEMBER 2

Calling all Britons. If you ever worked in the UK, your pension has been frozen. An information meeting will be held at the Aurora Legion, Industrial Parkway North, from 2 to 4 p.m. Representatives of the Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners will be in attendance.

DECEMBER 4

York Chamber Ensemble, with the Festival Chorus, presents "Christmas Rhythms" at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, at 7:30 p.m. Concert offerings include J. S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio, parts I and III; Corelli's Christmas Concerto; Suk's Meditation on an Old Bohemian Carol; and the English melody "Greensleeves." Tickets \$15 and \$10.

DECEMBER 5

Celebrate Christmas at Hillary House. Drop in from 2 to 4 p.m. Adults \$5 and children 12 and under \$3.

DECEMBER 11

Hillary House Players at 7 p.m. \$10 per person. Call 905-727-8991 to reserve.

DECEMBER 13

Aurora Writers Group monthly meeting. Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way. 7.30 p.m. Writers of all genres and levels welcome. Malcolm Watts will discuss the self-publishing process and his novel "Reflections from Shadow."



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Irene Webb and Bill Wilson, both residents of Aurora Resthaven, made history Saturday when they became the first ever to be married in the facility's chapel. The two met at Resthaven and will remain there. Irene is a long-time Aurora resident and Bill's daughter and family live in Aurora.

Photo by Chris Ballard

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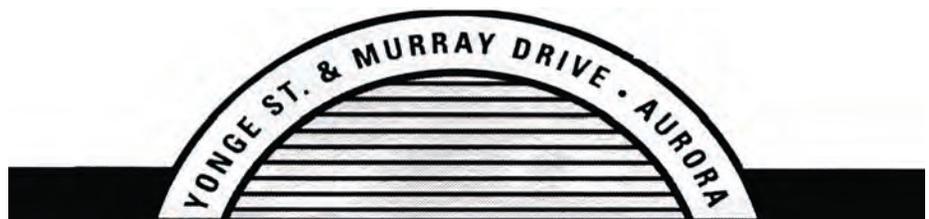
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Poor Richard

Call it whatever, council needs it

*Secret meetings create problems,
Misunderstandings and much more;
But they continue to happen,
As politicians close the door.
-Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

There's a time and place for members of council to go behind closed doors to discuss certain financial, legal, property and personnel issues.

These usually deal with matters where premature release of the information would not be in the best interests of the municipality.

But it appears that more and more business is being conducted at "in-camera" meetings as the classification of finance or personnel can cover almost anything.

Granted the decisions made behind closed doors must be ratified in open council, but that usually means the recommendations are adopted as presented without discussion or debate, so the public has little information as to why or how the decision was made.

Unnecessary "in-camera" meetings is democracy at its worst, but councillors seem quite content to allow it and to rubber stamp the decisions made.

There are other reasons why closed-door meetings are necessary.

One is after a municipal election when the new council, especially newly elected councillors, need to sit down at a retreat to look ahead into the new term and set goals and a vision.

It has been argued that such informal workshops could just as easily be held at the Town Hall. Frankly, it doesn't work.

It's been tried before and it was found that members of council are constantly coming and going to answer phone calls, run messages and carry out other personal commitments.

For a successful, productive retreat it is necessary to get out of town and eat and live together for a weekend to develop a family feeling of belonging, as well as listening to knowledgeable speakers of municipal interest.

The other reason happens when there is a dysfunctional council such as the present Aurora Council, when personalities are dominant and petty bickering interferes with the efficient administration of the municipality.

There is a need for the nine elected representatives to sit down in an informal, closed session to vent their feelings and frustrations and work towards a solution. This can't or shouldn't be done in an open session.

This dispute has been going on since the first of the term.

Last January when arrangements were made for members of council to attend the traditional retreat following the election, Councillors Phyllis Morris, Wendy Gaertner and Nigel Kean boycotted the retreat on the basis it wasn't a meeting in accordance with the Municipal Act.

A legal opinion was obtained from one of the most knowledgeable lawyers in municipal law and he quoted court case after court case which ruled there was nothing wrong with council meeting in such an informal assembly, under certain conditions.

The conditions were listed and the solicitor even prepared a draft amendment to the town's procedural bylaw.

Even with this information, the same three councillors continued to oppose it.

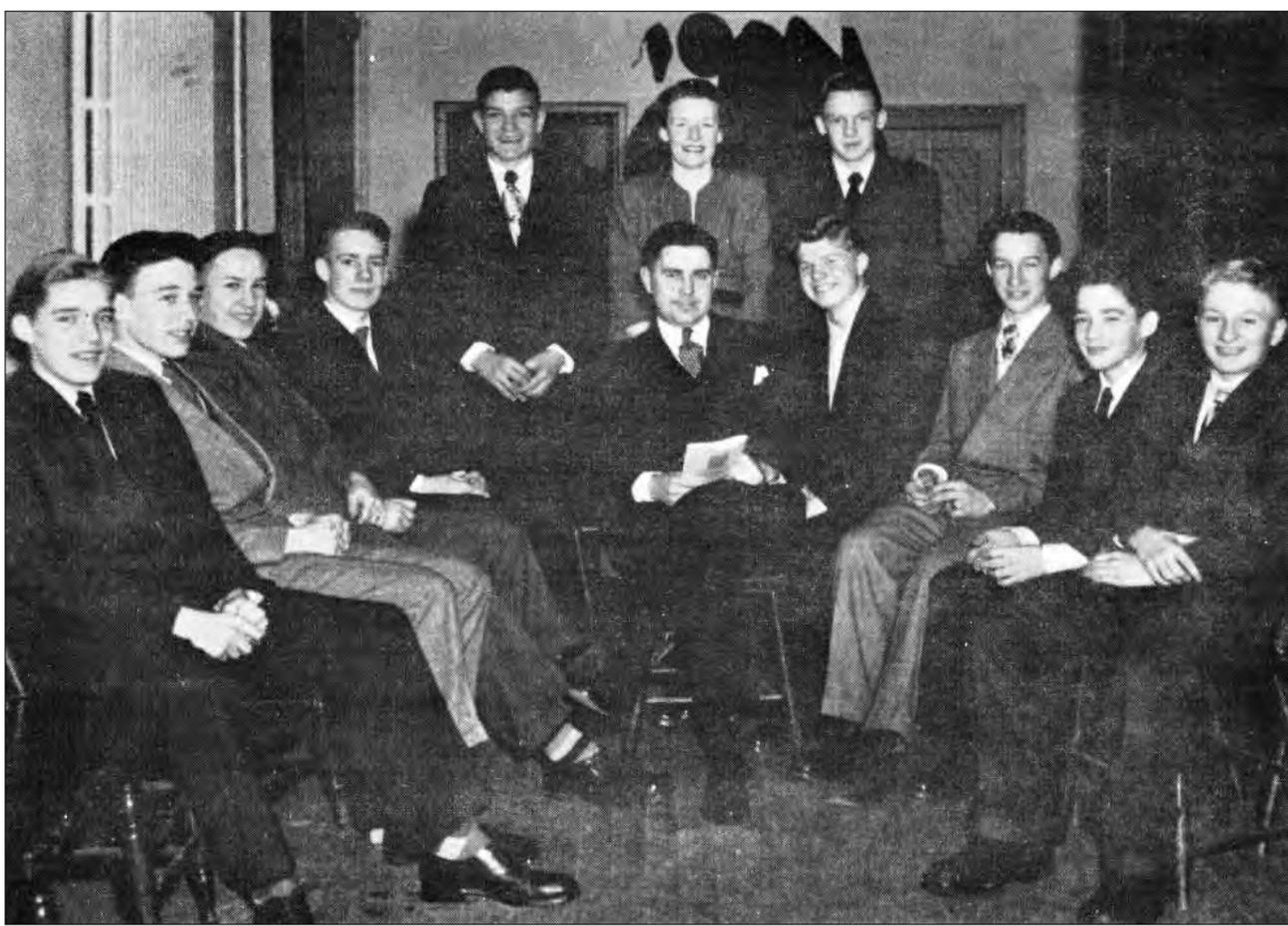
Finally, last September council was stung by citizen criticism of their behaviour and it was agreed to carry out a review of the procedural bylaw in hopes of setting new ground rules for the conduct of members of council and council meetings.

A meeting was arranged and after making a few housekeeping amendments to bring the procedural bylaw into conformity with the Municipal Act and council practices, it was soon realized that it wasn't the procedural bylaw that was at fault, it was the interpersonal relationships of council members.

In order to hold a legal informal workshop session or assembly so that members of council could vent their feelings it was necessary to amend the procedural bylaw accordingly, but Morris, Gaertner and Kean were still opposed.

If this council is ever going to be able to work together in the best interests of the citizens, they must develop a team spirit and to do that they need to get rid of their antagonism and frustrations towards each other.

Whether it's called a meeting, assembly, workshop or whatever, it's badly needed, so let's get on with it in the best interests of the people.



This handsome group of boys was a Sunday School class at Aurora United Church in 1952. Led by George Morrison, seated centre front, and his wife, behind him, the class held a future police officer and a future fire chief. Left to right, seated, are Ron Fortier, Don Morning, Stuart Wilson (Aurora Fire Department chief) Keith Kincaid, Morrison, Bill Case, Ron Geddes, John Urquart and David Bastedo. Flanking Mrs. Morrison are Ted McClenny (former Aurora and York Regional Police Departments) and Bob Cook. This photo was taken from a booklet printed to celebrate the church's 150th anniversary in 1968.

Letters to the Editor

Auroran buried Magna story, reader charges

To the editor,

This letter is written with the utmost respect for Mr. John West and his contributions to our community and Mr. Dick Illingworth, the author of one of the articles in question.

The edition of November 2nd of The Auroran elected to run a front page story which in my opinion was really about how our local elected officials waste taxpayers money by allowing certain issues to carry on far beyond the rational cost of debating them.

It is inexcusable to think that redesignation of a street address has been an on again/off again agenda item for our councillors since,

Police chorus concert sells out for 11th year

To the editor,

On Saturday, November 6th, the York Regional Police Male Chorus held their 12th Annual "In Harmony with the Community" fundraising concert at the St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Newmarket.

We would like to say "thanks" to the audience of 750, (many of whom came from Aurora) who attended the concert, and also a special thanks to The Auroran for placing the information in your newspaper about the concert coming up.

Not only this year, but you have helped us in previous years to make this

according to the article, April, 2004.

To top it all off it appears as though the process led to less than adult-like behaviour on the part of more than one councillor.

Perhaps we should ask for a breakdown of a fully costed hour of a council meeting, so that the councillors themselves can get a sense of how much time, effort and money should be devoted as a discipline to certain issues.

While one may agree with the editorial decision that running such an article as the 'Aurora Council Debacle' is worth the print in a community newspaper, I can hardly agree with the logic or politics of placing the Magna dona-

tion article at the rear of the paper.

At this point, I will state that I am not a Magna employee, nor do I have any professional dealings with the Magna organization.

It is beyond my comprehension how a local community newspaper could relegate the generosity of Mr. Stronach and Magna International to anything other than a front page story. In fact, one could argue that an event such as this could be worthy of several Auroran pages!

"The gift is the largest corporate donation to a hospital outside of an urban area in Canadian history" according to your page 13 article.

The largest in Canadian history!

Say it a few times.

It strikes me that we are very fortunate to have a corporate citizen like Magna amongst us and even more fortunate to have the Stronach family dedicated to support the community through their spirit and generosity.

Shame on you, Auroran.

Jayson Horner
Aurora

ED. NOTE: The earliest The Auroran could handle the Magna story was a full seven days after the event, and it had been covered by every media in the country. There was no disrespect intended, and we believe Frank Stronach and Magna International know that. Besides, The Auroran maintains EVERY page, every week, is Page One.

AURORAN

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Community Newspaper"

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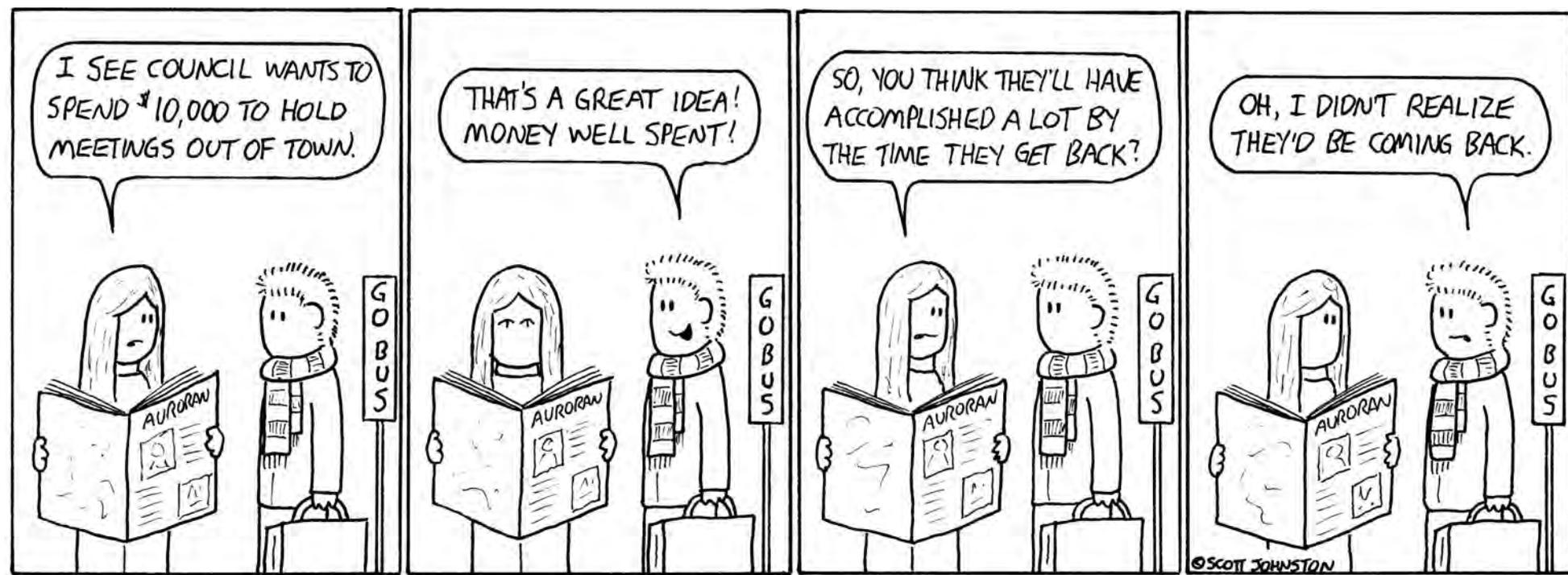
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Editorial policy

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.

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



Mayor's Report By Tim Jones

On being a character business

Recently, the Character Council of York Region approved of a "Character Business" package for distribution to businesses that express an interest in "committing to fostering and demonstrating good character in daily dialogue and discussions, actions and interactions with employees, clients, customers, suppliers, service providers and anyone else with whom business is conducted".

The package contains a leaflet which explains to businesses why they should consider being a character business, as well as how they can become a character business.

It contains quotes, including one from Ralph S. Larsen, CEO of Johnson and Johnson, who states, "Character is a company's most valuable resource and product".

The Region's character attributes are listed and defined and you will also find some general information and methods of contact for the overall character initiative.

Also found in this package is a description of the working group that developed this direction.

Companies and groups such as the Royal Bank of Canada, Adecco, Magna International, Green Acres Day Camp, Chapel Ridge Funeral Home, The Region of York, Character Solutions and the Character Community Council of York Region were all active players.

Their goal is to encourage all businesses in York Region to commit to creating a work environment that supports, recognizes, fosters and demonstrates good character.

That environment includes, among other things, the following definitions of what a Character Business does:

- * Focuses on people, and their behaviors and attitudes, to enhance the bottom line;

- * Builds on the positive as it recognizes the good things that are already happening in the workplace;

- * Uses the attributes as a tool to assess strengths, weaknesses, achievements and as a tool to resolve conflicts.

If you are part of a business, you may wish to compare your business situation to the definitions above.

If you would like to become a character business, I would be glad to assist in facilitating your application.

Or, you can visit www.charactercommunity.com for more information.

You will be asked to attend an introductory session sponsored by the Character Community Council of York Region.

The session includes implementation strategies, additional resource materials and other training opportunities.

And, you will be asked to pledge that you will conduct your business in such a manner as to support the Character Attributes as developed by the Character Community Council.

There is a fee associated with becoming a member and it is on a scale that is proportionate to the employee size of your business.

The fees go towards offsetting the cost of materials and training opportunities offered.

The Character Business Program will be launched at a luncheon at LeParc Conference and Banquet Centre, Thornhill, November 19. Cost: \$50.

The keynote speaker for this event is Jim Hayhurst, Sr., internationally recognized speaker, author, and former owner of one of Canada's largest advertising agencies.

His message is that now, more than ever, people and organizations need to understand the important connection between good character and success.

This luncheon will provide the opportunity to learn more about the Character Business Program.

Working together and supporting this initiative is another step in maintaining the integrity of our business community and ensuring that Aurora and York Region continue to be great places in which to live and work.

For further information about the Character Business Program and the November 19th event, please

refer to the Character Community website, www.charactercommunity.com.

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

Letter to the Editor

Jack might draw a parallel

To the editor,

Herb McKenzie might be insulted - Jack Moore might say "so what else is new?"

If Mr. Moore were able, in

his last days, to follow the goings on over the address for town hall, I wonder if he could draw any parallels to the council of '67 that shot down what this reader feels

could have been a great legacy to Aurora - a railway museum.

When I read what the mayor, and councillors, write in this paper about

each other, I feel the term "dysfunctional council" is extremely accurate.

**Bill Hack
Aurora**



Cathy's Corner

"Hey, I can fix that..."

Back in the days of Tarzan and Jane, life was simple. Jane looked after the boy, the chimp and the tree house, while Tarzan was out chest pounding, vine swinging and lion wrestling.

Today, things are much more complicated. Especially at my house.

Ever since Jennifer and Nadia went off to university, the testosterone levels around here have reached toxic proportions.

And I'm not talking about the gym bags.

It might actually have started much earlier than this past September.

I suspect it started back in 1994, when we moved from one house in Aurora to another house in Aurora...two doors down from the first house.

But that's when I had enough mascara mystique to drive my testosterone-based husband crazy with such estrogen-induced eye batting as it took to convince him to buy a house that required our piano to be relocated via sidewalk.

The house was in move-in condition.

The only room that wasn't done was the cold storage.

And Damir didn't think that it needed to be redecorated. How masculine!

"Of course it does!"

This not-so-subtle insistence came courtesy of my then potently feminine attraction to prettiness.

So I made it pretty. All by myself.

But, in the process, the division of labour (as outlined in "The Tarzan and Jane Guide to Marital Bliss") got destabilized. And so did my estrogen content.

You see, the cold storage required drywall, stucco and painting work.

To make matters worse, it required shelving, which required the use of dangerously empowering power tools.

That did it. I emerged from the cold storage the perfect man.

Every night, I came up from the basement tired and hungry and asked: "What's for dinner?"

Apparently, my body had adjusted to the continuous and excessive use of power tools by pumping out a whole bunch of testosterone.

The mole on my chin began growing a beard of its own. The beard got a life of its own. Curly, even.

Curly and I went to Home Hardware and bought a masonry drill bit.

We finished the job, and we did it like a man who thinks like a woman. Amazing, huh?

The shelves are level, the ceiling is artwork, and the walls don't leak anymore.

I became afflicted with a condition clinically known as "macho bravado".

I found myself saying things like: "I know how to fix that. You need some duct tape."

I couldn't go into a hardware store without helping someone pick out caulking - even if they were trying to buy lumber.

And I started walking like Clint Eastwood packing a piece on each hip - a DeWalt and a Makita...fully charged.

Having two daughters likely saved me for a whole decade. Jennifer corrected my strut so that I could walk in high heels again. Nadia sewed me a frilly apron.

They even offered to paint the cold storage pink.

But it's over now.

I don't paint anything pink anymore - not even my fingernails. I don't have any left.

I haven't plucked anything but slivers lately, and I haven't shaved my legs since...well, since the foam insulation miscalculation ruined my razor.

Because of that, I had to wear pants to The Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business Achievement Awards event.

It was there that I met Gary (the cute one) from Greenham's Distinctive Clothiers.

I had an unnatural desire to ask him if they stock anything in my size.

I resisted it because...well, because I was wearing lipstick at the time.

But only lipstick. Because my daughters weren't here to do my make-up or my hair or lend me a functional razor so that I could wear the classic sexy little black dress they would have made me buy if they were here.

I miss them. Things have gotten a lot worse since they left.

Now Curly wants to go to Greenham's to buy a loin cloth.

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

Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BRICKBATS to Mayor Tim Jones for his column in the November 9th issue of The Auroran regarding the renaming of the Town Hall. A majority of council members decided to vote to change the address, not once, but twice. It was a council decision and it was the duty of the head of council to support the majority decision, regardless of personal feelings or the reason why.

BOUQUETS to the Aurora Seniors Art Group for using part of their money from the Aurora Arts and Cultural Fund to invite international sculptor Brett Davis of Newmarket to provide a video and presentation. Davis has works in Canada, United States, England, China and Vietnam.

BRICKBATS to Councillor Bill Hogg for leaving the council chambers immediately before a recorded vote was called on whether to rescind a previous motion to change the address of the Town Hall and returning shortly afterwards.

BOUQUETS to Newmarket Council for providing a "warming room" for the homeless during the winter months. A similar motion was made last year by an Aurora councillor but nothing happened. Maybe a similar motion should be made this winter.

BRICKBATS to the Ministry of the Environment for failing to respond to Aurora's request for assistance in locating the contamination of Tannery Creek. The request was made last June when a consultant's report was sent to the ministry. In August a ministry spokesman said work was underway but since then silence.

BOUQUETS to Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees, education critic for the Tory opposition, for questioning the Minister of Education as to what he planned to do about the potential health hazards to the students of a Markham school located adjacent to the controversial Hydro One transmission corridor and brickbats to Education Minister Gerrard Kennedy for refusing to answer Klees' question.

BRICKBATS to those in the Royal Canadian Mint or whoever was responsible for arranging for the new Poppy Coin to be initially introduced through U.S.-owned Tim Horton locations throughout Canada. The banks get them in the months following the coin's unveiling.

BOUQUETS to the Supreme Court of Canada for overruling the Ontario Court of Appeal decision that police using helicopters with infrared cameras to locate hydroponic pot-grow operations was a violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

BRICKBATS to all the Canadians who voted for Don Cherry as the Greatest Canadian in the CBC TV poll, especially when such people as Sir John A. Macdonald, Lester Pearson, Pierre Trudeau, Terry Fox, Alexander Graham Bell and Sir Frederick Banting were on the ballot. Cherry should get the Greatest Canadian Boor Award!

BOUQUETS to Guy Fawkes or whoever or whatever was responsible for creating the foul odour in the Ontario Legislature recently, causing an early halt to the proceedings. Possibly, it was the quality of the debate or the broken promises?

BOUQUETS to all the many people in Aurora for helping to raise funds for the Jackson family, which enabled 14-year-old Nathan, who has autism and is deaf, to obtain a specially trained service dog, which when trained will be able to keep Nathan safe at home and in the community.

Letters to the Editor

Surprise coming at Santa's parade

To the editor,

This is just a letter of thanks to all of our customers and friends for all your kind words of support.

As you know, we took a break last year and didn't enter a float in the Santa Claus Parade. (We are still hearing about it!)

It takes a tremendous

amount of time and effort to design and build the quality of floats that the people of Aurora deserve, and last year we just couldn't do it.

We are, however, up to the challenge this year!

We, in partnership with L.H.Lind Realty Ltd., have a very exciting entry planned.

Our preparations are

well underway.

Several times a week someone asks about the float and we remind you that it's "TOP SECRET". Our employees are sworn to secrecy under unmentionable penalties!

They don't even tell their families what it is!

We want you to know that we really appreciate

your enthusiasm, support and best wishes and look forward to seeing you and all the other great entries on November 27th!

It will be "the best day ever"!

**Diane Thomson
Brian Burke
Ballooney
Aurora**

Reader offers a new name for street

To the editor,

Why must the Town Hall address be changed?

I personally do not have a problem with the current address.

I do, however, have a problem with the costs involved in implementing this address change.

I think - according to Mayor Tim Jones' esti-

mates - that \$5,000 or \$10,000 may be better spent on other projects.

I would like to know what the final cost estimate would be.

Mayor Jones specified that there would be 'an incredible amount of staff time to communicate and follow up on this change.'

How much time? Would this be 'volunteer'

time? I doubt it.

I've been a resident of Aurora for only nine years, and I'm not familiar with John West's past accomplishments, but he must have been a good mayor, since a street was named after him.

Wasn't a street also named for another former mayor?

You know - the one who slaps other council-

lors upside the head with literature and regularly bashes other councillors in these editorial pages.

If one street must be renamed, why not go for a two-for-one deal?

I have an idea for the new town hall address.

How about 3 Ring Circus Way?

**Greg Jones
Aurora**

Mayor's column "inexcusable": reader

To the editor,

RE: Mayor's Report (Mayor disappointed with change, The Auroran, Nov. 9 edition)

I read the mayor's column this week in almost disbelief.

I've criticized Councillor Buck for dissing fellow councillors in these pages, and the only thing worse than a councillor doing it is the

mayor doing it.

What you say in private conversation is one thing but to accuse or insinuate fellow councillors of wrong doing in a public forum is inexcusable.

Mr. Mayor, where do you get off questioning any councillor's ethics?

Did you not improperly involve yourself in your wife's contract negotiations with the town?

Did you not blatantly and visibly promote Belinda Stronach's election campaign making no real effort to distance your role as mayor during the campaign?

Did you not vote against a previous motion, made by some of the councillors you are now criticizing, to bring in a stronger code of ethics for council to follow?

And are you not now promoting a procedural bylaw of questionable legality because it tries to draw a legal distinction between 'assembly' and 'meeting' that does not exist in the Municipal Act?

A procedural bylaw that would allow council to meet behind closed doors at will, directly counter to the spirit of the Municipal Act, if not the literal interpretation

of it.

For you, sir, to question anybody's ethics is indeed rich.

Now I apologize.

I do not normally criticize individual councillors or the mayor in public, only the acts of council as a whole.

But I expect the peo-

ple the mayor has slammed have a much higher sense of decency than would allow them to properly respond in this forum, and I did not think the mayor should be let go unchallenged.

**Darryl Moore
Aurora**

Long time to travel in Aurora

To the editor,

This past week, I was making a car trip from the east side of Aurora

(St. John's Sideroad/Bayview Ave.) to the west side of town (Kennedy/Bathurst).

It took 25 MINUTES!

I have a question: Is the person(s) responsible for scheduling road construction still employed?

They shouldn't be. Maybe they could get a job as a construction flag person.

**Paul Riley
Aurora**



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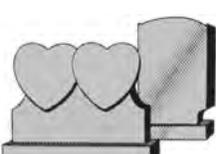
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Letters to the Editor

Resident fights to retain address

ED. NOTE: The following presentation was made at last week's Aurora Council meeting and a copy was submitted to The Auroran for reprint.

My name is Graham Wride, I live at 98 Temperance Street. I have made Aurora my home for 45 years and I have never been more dismayed or concerned for my town as I am now.

At the last council meeting, Councillor Evelyn Buck made a motion to rescind the decision to re-address the Town Hall.

I looked forward to this meeting because, I thought, finally we are going to have some meaningful dialogue and debate, an exchange of ideas, the pros and cons of this motion, democracy in action.

The four proponents spoke eloquently and at length as to why the address of the Town Hall should not be changed, then silence.

Of the five councillors who voted to change the address only one, Councillor Morris, had the decency to share her thoughts and comments and I would like to express my sincere thanks to her for that.

Over the last four or five days a number of people have made comments to me that have really disturbed me.

Basically they all said the same thing, "What terrible thing has West done?"

When I said, "nothing, what do you mean?" the response was, "well he must have done something pretty awful if council wants to remove his name from the address of the Town Hall".

I just cannot imagine how embarrassed, humiliated and hurt he must feel as his name has been bandied about in public over the past seven months while it is argued whether or not he is worthy enough to retain the honour of 100 John West Way that was bestowed on him 14 years ago.

At this time of year particularly, we remember how hard fought and costly it is to retain our democracy and yet I believe five of our councillors have given us the perception that these democratic principles have been compromised.

I and every taxpayer in this town own a part of this building, it's OUR Town Hall, basically it's our Head Office and yet there was no consultation as to whether we wanted the address changed.

There was no referendum, no public meeting, no encouragement for public input. No reason given, no benefit to the town and incredibly nobody even spoke in support of this motion and yet five of you decided this was best for us.

You also reversed the

decision of a previous council.

Councillor Buck was correct when she said it appears you have rendered this council irrelevant, however she didn't go far enough; on this particular issue, you definitely rendered the council of 1990 irrelevant.

What really concerns me and should be of grave importance to every citizen of Aurora is the precedent you have set.

What other decisions of previous councils will you next decide to overrule?

You have shown that you are not only able to do this, but also that you have the will to do so.

In essence what you are saying is that councillors of 14 years ago (Timpson, Jones, McKenzie, Ochalski, Weller, McIntyre, Stewart and Pedersen) were wrong when they voted to bestow this honour on John West.

They were out-of-touch with their constituents and now the responsibility rests on your wise shoulders to overturn their misguided decision.

Councillor Morris stated that her one and only consideration was the address of the new Seniors' Centre.

She does not feel civic buildings should contain the address of a sitting politician. I respect her opinion and I have no doubt that there are some in town who agree with this position.

If the majority of this council wish to create a

new road so the address of the Seniors' Centre is One Civic Square or any other name they choose, they have every democratic right to do so.

If what Councillor Morris says is true, and I have no reason to doubt her, then the solution is simple.

Rescind the motion to readdress the Town Hall and make a motion to address the seniors' building as you choose.

This is your decision to make: the address for the Town Hall was someone else's.

This decision and the animosity, anger and adverse affect it is having on our town is unnecessary and is wrong in so many ways.

There is a letter in today's issue of The Auroran in which the writer makes a very good point.

To paraphrase she states "This isn't about or at least it shouldn't be about politics, it's about an honour given to an individual and then unjustly taken away."

I beg you to reconsider before one more cent of our tax money or one more minute of our staff's time is spent on this proposal.

**Graham Wride
Aurora**

Councillors should resign, reader says

To the editor,

May I take this opportunity to compliment Graham Wride, Peter Healy, Ruth Howard, Jacqueline Campbell, Mayor Tim Jones and others for the letters in reference to the controversial re-addressing of the Town Hall from John West Way to a new name.

It is my understanding that "optics is 90 per cent of politics".

In reference to the politics in Aurora, the optics as I see it and according to the letters as printed and residents I have talked to are as follows:

1. A number of the present members of Aurora Council has proceeded in a spiteful, mean-spirited, vindictive crusade against a fellow councillor.

2. This is led by one self-appointed crusader.

3. The town's real business is secondary to this crusade.

In the Declaration of Office each councillor has to swear that "I will truly, faithfully and impartially exercise this office to the best of my knowledge and ability."

According to the optics, five councillors have broken this oath.

Unfortunately, the Municipal Act does not have an impeachment mechanism that can be used in a case where elected members of council should be recalled.

An honourable person would resign.

To the best of my memory all the councillors were elected on the platform that they were the best to lead and be elected to council as they were of fine character, ethical, principled, objective and fair.

They all pledged to work for the residents of Aurora, to save money and be responsible for their actions.

What are the optics here?

As I understand the facts at present (I would be pleased to be corrected if I have misunderstood) the five councillors who voted for the name change did not debate nor support their position in council.

It was confirmed that the name change would cost about \$10,000 with absolutely no benefit to the Town of Aurora.

What are the optics here with respect to fiscal responsibility?

It is my opinion they should pay for this themselves.

A Greek philosopher said, "politics is the highest level of interaction among men".

That is not the optics that this incident gives of politics in Aurora.

All the wasted time over this issue could have paid for some councillors to attend the off-site workshop to foster a cohesive council as opposed to the dysfunctional one we have now.

This council has stagnated in a quagmire of self-importance and as such is not fulfilling the mandate and trust it has been given by the residents of Aurora.

John West always worked diligently for the Town of Aurora and that is why he was acknowledged by naming the street John West Way.

How does he deserve having that acknowledgement rescinded?

I am ashamed of this council and I wish to put on record that five councillors who voted for the name change DO NOT represent this resident.

This is the time for all who voted for the five to ask if you have been properly served.

**Ferguson A. Mobbs
Aurora**

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Reader wants mayor to explain his ethics

To the editor,

Anyone who has observed Aurora Town Council meetings over the last term and this term has seen a gradual improvement towards openness and transparency and accountability.

That is until you read the Mayor's Report that appeared in The Auroran, last week.

In the last term, many good initiatives were defeated by a 5-4 vote and the mayor headed the five votes.

This term the trend seems to be turning and a few good decisions are making it through by the five councillors named in his article: Nigel Kean, Phyllis Morris, Wendy Gaertner, Damir Vrancic and Ron Wallace.

Now they are called dysfunctional because they don't follow him like lambs.

Supposedly, last term, when the council did his bidding, it was functional. In the last term he called the ones who took a different stand dissenters and disagreeable.

Most people know, democracy works best with honest, open discussions on issues affecting the voting public without a hidden

agenda.

The mayor suggests the five mentioned councillors colluded outside the council chambers to pass a motion he obviously disagrees with.

Indeed a serious accusation. Nigel Kean introduced an ethics bylaw that the mayor felt is not needed. Perhaps he may change his mind and support it.

Regarding the Town Hall address change, at first I had no position on that, however the reason given (not wanting ratepayers paying for free advertisement for a sitting council member) is reasonable and logical. Furthermore the issue of not naming Aurora streets after a sitting council member has been discussed and if not for the costs involved this motion would easily have been adopted.

The electorate, even as quiet as they are on this issue, do not appreciate megalomaniacs.

Nothing stops a member of council from building a community building with their own money and putting their name on it and donating it to the Town of Aurora.

On the other hand, it is quite a different issue when they use the taxpayers' money to put their names on the signs.

If you would hold a referendum, asking if they would like to pay homage to a sitting council member, you could hear them loud and clear: "you are there because you said you want to serve the public rather than yourself".

A solution could have been for John West to resign council and announce he won't be campaigning for the next election; however, obviously that's not in the cards.

Either the mayor is out of touch with the public or he feels he is above the law and can attack the council's decision outside of the council, in clear contravention of the Municipal Act while backing Evelyn Buck's wild accusations made in the same council meeting for which he ejected her after she failed to provide proof for her accusations.

I don't always agree with the decisions made at the council.

However, the mayor's column indicated he agrees with Mrs. Buck, that there was a conspiracy among the five members outside the council chambers, to pass the resolution on the name change and you stated: "This potentially brings into question the ethics of how business is getting

done".

Since this is the first time that you did actually report an item of interest, to an observer it would seem that the mayor has come in possession of some new information about the unethical way that "business is getting done" in the Town Hall.

We all are waiting for you to share your proof or apologize for your wild accusations. Doing neither would bring dishonour to the office of mayor.

Mr. Mayor, could you kindly explain to the people of Aurora, how ethically you conduct the Town's business, and report your methods in your column. For example, do you discuss the issues outside of council?

When certain council members frequent your office do you discuss items on the council agenda? Did you play a role in the resignation of Town's previous CAO, Larry Allison?

Do you ever persuade a council member or a staff member to do something you want them to do?

Do you stay away from the discussions that are of interest to your campaign contributors and abstain from the vote?

Just having you write it

in your column will be reassuring for the public and members of council and would make good reading.

Why does all this surprise you? Did you not say that Aurora Council is not mature enough to have a ward system, that it would be too divisive? And that the members of council couldn't possibly work for Aurora and their own neighbourhood at the same time?

Mr. Mayor, times are changing and your accusations will neither intimidate the five members nor sully them in the eyes of thousands of people who voted for them.

We look forward to you reporting to the people of Aurora. Something Anything.

Homer Farsad
Aurora

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Is the mayor on a power trip?

To the editor,

Where has open government gone?

I see that this week, Aurora Council passed a new bylaw allowing assemblies instead of meetings.

These assemblies will be behind closed doors.

The vote, which was a tie, 3-3, was passed with our mayor voting for it. So we know who voted to stifle democracy. These assemblies can be held out of town.

Party time at the Pig

To the editor,

What does our mayor want to discuss in secret?

Why does our mayor want to spend our tax dollars at some posh resort out of town?

Wining and dining at these assemblies for a weekend, could easily run to \$10,000. What happened to transparency? Why is our mayor wasting our hard earned cash, off premises? Is the skiing better north of Aurora? Is there something wrong with your bed at home, Mr. Mayor?

Our council chambers are supposed to have glass walls, so we can see in. What is going on that must be kept secret?

Meanwhile back at the

council chambers, the lights are still on. The heat is still on. The council chamber is eerie and silent. Guess who is paying for it?

Mr. Mayor, you can run in the next election, but you can't hide from being the last of the big spenders.

We will remember who helped to kill democracy, transparency, and open government, in Aurora.

We will remember who stood up; we will remember who stood out and voted down transparency and open government. Are you on a power trip or what?

Hugh Allen
Aurora

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Town has history of art galleries

A community without artists is like a body without a soul.

But many communities are fast losing their artists and their soul, simply because there was no place for them to exhibit and sell their work.

While there are a number of galleries, many specialize in prints and framing, and very few feature original fine art by local artists.

Every community needs a centre where residents with artistic talents can gather to exchange information, display their art and put on demonstrations for art lovers.

Once upon a time Aurora had such a centre, but it has long gone and left a big hole in Aurora's art scene.

Aurora's Barb Hewitson

had such a dream and decided to do something about it.

In November, 1982, she opened the Artist's Colony in an old building located on the southeast corner of Yonge and Centre Streets.

The original structure has since been torn down and a new building now occupies the site.

She realized that Aurora and area was full of talented people and they had no place to exhibit their art, so she decided to do something about it.

The Artist's Colony was a friendly place where the coffee was always on. The artwork was on consignment and artists were selected monthly.

During the first exhibition and sale from November 16 to December 31, 1982, the participating artists and

crafters sold more than half their work.

She also arranged Saturday workshops for the public to see the artists and artisans at work and to learn more about their art.

The former York Fine Art Gallery was also an exception from the print galleries. It was located in a lovely old home at Kennedy and Yonge Streets and later in the St. Andrew's Village.

Mary Gilbert closed the gallery in 1989 after 13 years of featuring original works by local artists, as she wanted to retire and spend more time with her family.

An underlying reason was the inroad made by the print market into the sale of original works of art. As she closed her gallery, Gilbert expressed the hope that somewhere, there would be

a place for original fine artists to exhibit and sell their art.

Creative Connections helped fill the void. It was a non-profit centre for artists and artisans and originally located in St. Andrew's Village with a gift shop and display area to exhibit members' fine art and crafts as well as to provide an area for instruction and workshops.

It later moved to Wellington Street East, next to the Purple Pig Restaurant, and since April, it has been located in a strip plaza on Yonge Street, just north of Park Place Manor.

The only non-print gallery featuring original fine art exclusively is the newly opened Wellington Gallery on Wellington Street West at Machell Avenue.

Sarah Van Nostrand has converted an old building into a first-class art gallery featuring Toronto and area artists.

The Marjorie Andrews Room in the former Victoria Street Library was often rented to local artists for exhibitions and sales.

Since the library moved to a new building, other than a group show by the Society of York Region Artists, the exhibition rooms are too expensive for an artist to rent for an individual exhibition.

The original concept for the Skylight Gallery in the Town Hall as a venue for local artists to exhibit and sell their original paintings hasn't worked due to its hours of operation.

The gallery is only open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday and is closed on weekends, and there is nothing in the lobby of the Town Hall to indicate the gallery is on the third floor.

Most participating artists arrange a reception from 7 to 9 p.m. on a Tuesday evening when the building is open for a council or committee meeting.

Many people have an interest and an income to collect original fine art, but they sometimes hesitate to go to a gallery as they find some galleries intimidating, or they aren't sure of what they want or how much the painting is worth.

Because there's nothing standard about an original work of art, its worth and beauty are in the eye of the beholder.

If you like it, buy it.

Some original works of art are no more expensive than a print, yet the original is one of a kind, whereas the print may be one of thousands.

If galleries frighten you, visit the annual Aurora Art Show and Sale or the Aurora Seniors Art Show and Sale where original works of art are on sale, without the formality of a gallery.

When mulling the purchase of original art you might want to consider its beauty, medium, subject matter, originality, composition and pleasure that it gives you and will continue to give you.

Art is beauty in the eye of the beholder.



Only a few of some 5,000 toonies are passed from Aurora's Khamissa family to the Stephen Lewis Foundation's "If I Had A Million Dollars" campaign. Receiving the toonies are, left to right, Steve Falk, Rev. Philip Poole and Mayor Tim Jones, while on the other side of the counter, Omar Khamissa, Mae and Raz Khamissa make the contribution. Omar said he wanted to give \$10,000 because the recipients - HIV/AIDS sufferers in Africa - "are my people". The Khamissa family came to Aurora in 1968 from Johannesburg, South Africa. *Auroran photo by Ron Wallace*



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 Wednesday, Dec. 15th, 2004 Networking Breakfast
 Buffet Dinner and Scotch Tasting
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 Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
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To register, call the Chamber at 905-727-7262

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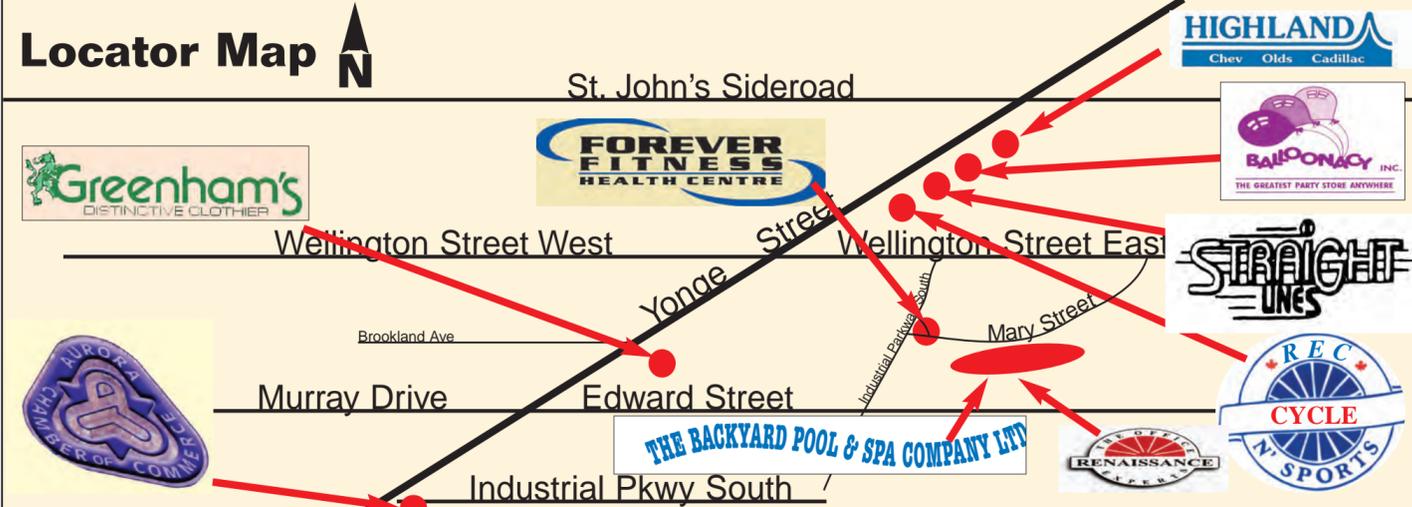
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Tigers keep home stand record alive with 7-2 win

The Aurora Tigers Provincial Junior A hockey team split a pair of games last week, but

managed to keep their incredible home streak alive.

By virtue of a 7-2 victo-

ry over the Oshawa Legionnaires Friday night, Aurora now boasts a home record of 11 wins, compared with only one loss.

Overall, their record stands at 15 and 10, after losing Sunday afternoon to the St. Mike's Buzzers 3-2.

Led by the two goal efforts of Jeric Agosta and Cale Tanaka, Tigers had little trouble with Oshawa before about 500 fans Friday night at the Aurora Community Centre.

They also had an unusual event occur when defenseman Andrew Knobel, helping out while Aurora was two men short, broke from the pack and scored what would have to be billed a double-short-handed goal.

Jake Anderson, son of former Toronto Maple Leaf John Anderson, and Michael Tuomi added singles to the Tiger victory.

Aurora opened up a 3-0 lead in the first period, and added two each in the next two to secure the victory.

"Despite being short handed most of the night, the Tigers managed to battle their way to victory allowing but one short handed goal," said Coach Jerome Dupont.

Oshawa responded with singles in the second and third frames.

Aurora goaltender

Jeramie Dupont registered 32 saves in recording the victory.

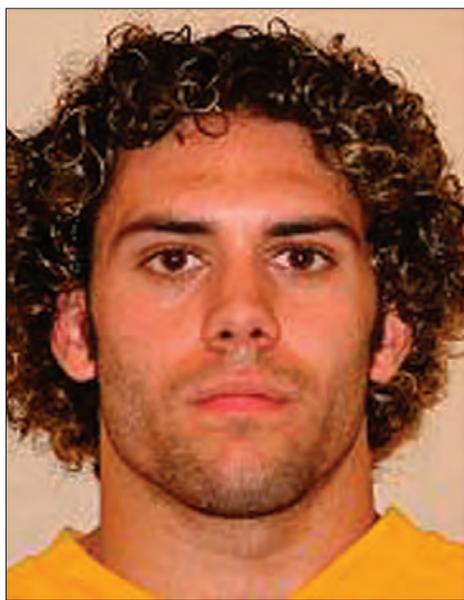
Dupont wasn't quite as fortunate Sunday when the Tigers headed to the big city to meet the St. Mike's Buzzers.

He faced 28 shots.

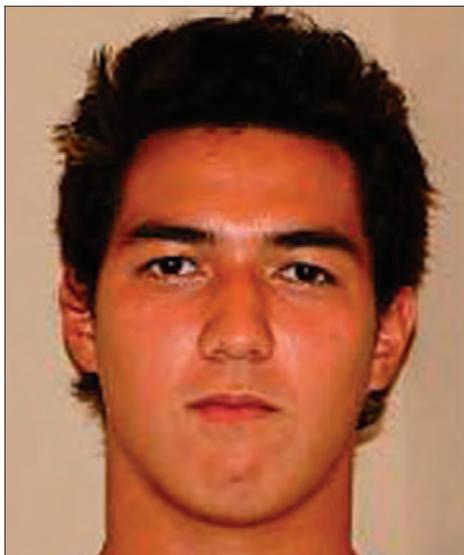
The Buzzers scored singles in the first and second periods, then held on to win a 2-1 squeaker.

Craig Carlyle, from Josh Diamond and Sean Thompson, scored Aurora's only marker of the encounter.

This Friday night, Tigers will entertain the North York Rangers at the Aurora Community Centre, beginning at 8 p.m., then host the Collingwood Blues Sunday afternoon in a 2.30 p.m. matchup.



Jeric Agosta



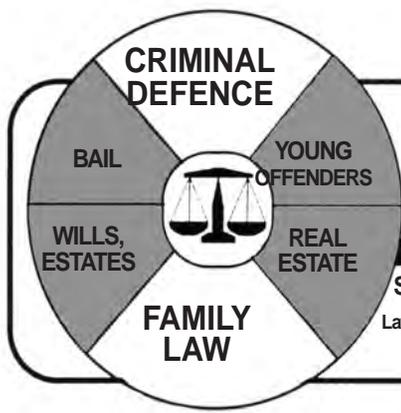
Cale Tanaka

MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY STANDINGS AS OF NOV. 8

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Law Insurance Brokers	6	1	0	33	5	12
J.J. Barron Realty	4	3	0	24	30	8
FPL Aggregates	3	2	2	27	23	8
Priestly Demolition	3	3	1	25	23	7
Tom & Jerry's	3	4	0	20	19	6
Masterclean Contracting	3	4	0	20	21	6
Highland Chev Cadillac	2	4	1	20	27	5
Rec Cycle & Sports	2	5	0	18	27	4

MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY RESULTS NOV. 8

Law Insurance	3	FPL Aggregates	6
Rec Sports	1	Tom & Jerry's	3
Priestly Demolition	3	Highland Chev	6
Masterclean	1	Barron Realty	3



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Probably one of the most entertaining events of all time, The Sound of Music will be presented by Aurora's Marquee Productions, and there are several openings available for children.

Dec. 12 from 1 to 4 p.m. has been set up for children's auditions at the studio, 73 Industrial Parkway North.

Adults wishing to audition may do so Dec. 16 and 17 from 7 to 10.30 p.m. and Dec. 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Children wishing to participate must prepare a song of their choice, recite and poem, nursery rhyme or short story and come prepared for a group dance audition.

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&	&
<i>Mixed Green Salad</i>	<i>Baby Spinach Salad</i>
&	<i>With Raspberry Vinaigrette, Toasted Almonds and Goat Cheese</i>
<i>Prime Rib au Jus</i>	&
<i>Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes</i>	<i>Beef Wellington</i>
<i>Roasted Root Vegetable</i>	<i>With Port Wine Sauce, William Potatoes and Medley of Vegetables</i>
&	&
<i>Yule Log</i>	<i>Chocolate Tortufo</i>
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Another theatre proposal made for Aurora

Aurora may finally get a movie theatre of its own if plans of Morguard Real Estate are realized in the Aurora Centre.

The 30-acre site at the southwest corner of Bayview Avenue and Hollidge Boulevard already includes four buildings, among them Sobeys and Zellers.

A site plan application provides for two new buildings along the western boundary, a third free-standing building near Bayview and an addition to the existing supermarket.

The proposed 41,000-square foot building for the southwest quadrant of the property is to be used for a movie theatre.

It had been hoped the proposal to build the Aurora Gateway Centre on Wellington Street East between Leslie Street and Highway 404 would include a 10-screen cinema.

Ever since the Royal Theatre, located on Centre Street, closed in the mid-1950s, the town has made several attempts to attract a theatre to Aurora without results.

The old Royal was once the livery stable for the former Queen's Hotel that stood at the northeast corner of Yonge and Wellington. The old building was finally demolished to add space to what was then the IGA parking lot.

The Royal was nothing

like the luxury theatres of today but it was well attended by the town's 4,000 citizens until the impact of television took over.

Its closing left a void, especially for young people and the Home and School organizations at both Wells and Regency Acres Public Schools arranged for movies to be shown at the schools.

In December, 1973, council received an application for the construction of an enclosed shopping mall to include a movie theatre, but it failed to materialize.

In 1974, a new organization named Cine-Scene brought movies to the Factory Theatre on the first Saturday of every month

featuring, comedy, dramas and musicals.

Heading up the committee were Harry Shaw, Pat Pierpoint and Barbara McGowan, active Theatre Aurora members, who decided there was a need for top films to be shown in Aurora.

The town also had an opportunity to build a cineplex in the 1980s but a combination of an economic downturn and a small population didn't warrant a theatre and nothing happened.

In January, 1991, the town's planning committee supported the concept of a regional mall on Wellington Street and recommended council request and encourage development proposals for a regional enclosed shopping centre, including a theatre.

Bayview-Wellington Developments, a consortium of Cadillac Fairview, Eatons and Cooperative Insurance, proposed a three-stage shopping centre on 222 acres located on the west side of Bayview Avenue, north of Wellington to include a library and theatre.

Whitwell Developments proposed a regional shopping centre on its property, the site of the current proposal, to include a library, sports centre and cinema.

After several public meetings and considerable controversy, council approved the Bayview/Wellington development.

Shortly after the approval, developer Cadillac Fairview declared

bankruptcy and the development was taken over by the Pen Equity Group.

It was planned that the complex would include a bowling alley, a fitness club with pool and saunas, a pool hall, arcade areas and food outlets. The town encouraged the developer to include a movie theatre.

According to Councillor John West the entertainment complex would go a long way to fulfilling a deal council had made with Bayview-Wellington Developments when he was mayor.

Under the agreement, council fast-tracked housing around the shopping centre in return for a library, a multiplex movie theatre and other facilities, which would be leased to the town for a

nominal annual fee.

Around 1996, council waived the agreement in exchange for a cash settlement, reported to be \$250,000. West, who was a school trustee at the time, was furious.

He was also angry the previous council didn't force the developer to follow through with plans to build an enclosed mall and a theatre.

The proposal for a theatre in the Whitwell development was deleted and the only current hope is the Aurora Centre proposal near Zellers.

Aurora's Economic Development Officer Dino Lombardi has been negotiating with a major Cineplex chain and says it looks positive.



A hot spud luncheon at Aurora's St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church caught people's fancy recently as many showed up to take part. Serving up the meal were, left to right, Brenda Stanbury, Suzanne McDougall and Helen Dion.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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House League Exhibition Games

704 FRESH WATER INDUSTRIES 3: Mike Hay 1G, Colin Moffatt 1G, Dan Mulroy 1G, Jamie Russell 1A, Dave Staueble 1A. **705 SKATERS FIRST 2:** C.J. Melichercik 1G 1A, Daniel Saccetti 1G, Marshal McQuillan 1A.

708 PIZZA PIZZA 4: Tom Gibson 2G, Steve Foss 1G 2A, Kyle Partenan 1G, Jason Nadeau 2A. **704 FRESH WATER INDUSTRIES 1:** Colin Moffatt 1G, Brian Kearns 1A, Kevin Nandlall 1A.

706 OMAR'S SHOES 2: Ben Slimkowich 1G, Derek Isidoro 1G, Alec Mackrell 1A. **705 SKATERS FIRST 2:** Ian Hayzelden 1G, C.J. Melichercik 1G, Daniel Korolnek 1A, Evan Vizzacchero 1A.

802 Black/Gold PIZZA PIZZA 2: Greg Haralampopoulos 2G, Amir Ashan 1A. **804 HIGHLAND CHEVROLET CADILLAC 2:** Matt Wright 1G, Anthony Pusateri 1G, Nick Campoli 1A, Brandon Simon 1A.

804 HIGHLAND CHEVROLET CADILLAC 5: Dan Cress 2G, Brandon Simon 1G 3A, Charlie Teel 1G, Anthony Pusateri 1G 1A, Joe Doucher 1A, Scott Davis 1A. **805 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 5:** Mark McCrudden 2G 1A, Mike Roberts 2G, Mike Sanita 1G, Sean Kipfer 1A, Alex Strapp 1A, Andrew Wilkens 1A, Nick Epworth 2A.

803 SMITTY'S PAINTING & DECORATING 4: Jake Deacon 1G, James Floros 1G 1A, Derek Smith 1G, Geoffrey Harrison 1G 1A, Zachary Ashfield 1A, Zachary Davies 1A, Mohammed Akbar 1A, Brendon Murphy 1A. **802 Black/Gold PIZZA PIZZA 4:** Greg Haralampopoulos 2G, Daniel Puopolo 1G 1A, Alex Gitto 1G 1A, Alex Munn 1A.

801 Green/Gold PIZZA PIZZA 4: Bradley Juffs 1G, Dylan Brennan 2G, Sam Caldwell 1G, David Hilchuk 1A, Ray Mullins 1A. **806 I.O.O.F. AURO-RA LODGE 148 F.L.T. 4:** James Adams 2G, David Crisp 1G, Ryan Van Winckle 1G, Ethan Davenport 2A, Ryan Cassleden 1A, Adam McNellis 1A.

House League League Games

106 White/Royal TIM HORTON'S LEAFS 3: Jesse Weimer 2G, Taylor Lemmon 1G, Jacob Hagias 2A, Sandy Hudson 1A. **102 Black/Gold TIM HORTON'S PENGUINS 2:** Adam Newell 1G, Nathan Romanchych 1G.

108 Grey/Black TIM HORTON'S KINGS 11: Brady Mulhern 2G, Matthew Galajda 4G, Austin Insley 1G, Matthew Brecht 3G, Matthew Bellerby 1G. **101 Green/Gold TIM HORTON'S STARS 6:** Liam Joiner 1G, Ryan Batten 1G, Alex McGovern 2G, Darren Iwai 2G.

107 Maroon/White TIM HORTON'S AVALANCHE 7: Ethan Mills 3G, Tyler Boston 2G 1A, Steven Tsianos 2G, Dylan Pyziak 1A, Michael Hosmer 1A, Joshua Lye 2A, Daniel Middleton 2A, Keenan Nocon-Willatts, shutout. **110 Teal/White TIM HORTON'S SHARKS 0.**

103 Red/White TIM HORTON'S RED WINGS 14: Michael Dilosa 1G, Matthew Leroy 2G, Christopher Baggio 3G 1A, Will Thompson 2G, Michael Boorn 1G 1A, Randy Sutton 2G 1A, Christian Baggio 2G 2A, Garrett Wood 1G 1A, Justin Laird 2A, Tommy Allan 1A. **109 Orange/Black TIM HORTON'S FLYERS 2:** Alex Bernier 2G, Tyler Bundy 1A, David O'Connor 1A.

104 Royal/White TIM HORTON'S BLUES 9: Kyle Bryden 2G 1A, Joseph Battiston 1G, Austin Waites 1G 1A, Graeme McDonald 2G, Connor Rice 1G, James Power 1G, Jack Ellison 1G 1A, Jimmy Abels 4A, David Kangas 1A. **105 Gold/Black TIM HORTON'S BRUINS 1:** Matthew Caicco 1G, Bowen Reid 1A.

201 DELPH & JENKINS SURVEYORS 1: Matthew Heintman 1G, Adrian Ramirez 1A, Harris Riopelle 1A. **202 ALL PRO SPORTS 1:** Brayden Beswick 1G.

206 AURORA HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE 3: David Gonder 1G, Ryan McGoldrick 1G, Russell Johnson 1G 1A, Billy Haddock 1A. **205 DR. STEINER'S DRILLERS 2:** James Powell 1G, Grant Mulholland 1G, Ian Chappell 1A.

207 PHARMASAVE 4: Kevin Siery 2G 1A, Charlie Sandler 1G, Nathan Sinclair 1G, Kristen Grasse 1A, Griffin Stobbs 1A, Adam deRoos 1A, Conner Malbeuf 1A, Tyler Hindley 1A. **208 ORR & FORSTER INSURANCE 2:** Max Brown 1G, Mateo Campea 1G, Brady Wilson 2A, Ian Coschi

1A, Daniel Wochenmarkt 1A.

204 NORTH YORK HEATING & PLUMBING 5: Chris Sanita 2G, Michael Tanel 2G, Mathew Pelkola 1G, Adam Petit 2A, Alexander Gouthro 1A, Cameron Richards 2A, Mathew Sanita 1A, Mitchell Arnold 2A. **203 www.mastermind-toys.com 2:** Robin Creighton 1G, James Johnston 1G, Chris Downs 1A, Jason Glionna 1A, Cameron Staples 1A.

301 TILEMASTER 8: Quinn McGowan 4G, Kevan Cress 1G, David Roberts 1G, Matthew Roach 1G, Thomas Scougall 2A, Trevor Stephans 1A, Evan Sheridan 1G. **302 NACORA INSURANCE BROKERS 4:** Daren Bayan 2G 2A, Connor McQuillan 1G, Chance Rodin 1G 1A.

305 ROTARY CLUB OF AURORA 3: Michael Perryman 1G 1A, Ryan Dowling 2G 1A. **303 DIAMOND GROUNDSKEEPING SERVICES LTD. 2:** Daniel McDonnell 1G 1A, Cody Mulhern 1G 1A.

304 DR. STEINER'S DRILLERS 4: Mark Presacco 1G, Quinn Harris 1G, Curtis Fordyce 1G 1A, Ryan Byerlay 1G, Andrew Staples 2A. **306 CONTINENTAL CUSTOM INGREDIENTS 4:** Christopher Tsianos 2G, Nichols Bertrand 1G, Dylan Sutton 1G, Gavin Matheson 1A.

405 PERMANENT PRESS PRINTING 1: Madison Schaefer 1G, Connor Powel 1A. **402 D-MAC FURNITURE 1:** Cam Whitelaw 1G.

404 SUPREME COLLISION CENTRE 3: James Procher 1G, Micheal David 1G, Ali Akbar 1G, Arun Patridge 2A, JJ White 1A. **401 AURORA CABLE INTERNET 3:** Matthew Hart 1G, David Marsillo 1G, Kasey Piper 1G, Brandon Farr 1A, Breaedon Mackenzie 1A.

403 EMILIO'S PIZZA 5: Evan Collicot 1G, Ty Brochu 2G, Michael Dirosa 1G, Shawn Hoffman 1G, Jordan Caruso 1A, Zachary Seto 1A. **406 AURORA HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE 5:** Austin Fenyes 1G, Andrew Curci 2G, Nick Rienholt 2G, Cameron Greig 1A, Shannon Cross 1A.

704 FRESH WATER INDUSTRIES 5: Mike Grande 2G, Colin Moffatt 1G 1A, Mike Hay 1G, Jamie Russell 1G. **703 CENTRAL YORK FIRE-FIGHTERS 4:** Daniel Filippi 3G, Nathan Weir 1G, Mike Shoesmith 2A, Blair Nemo 1A, Casey Van Ry 1A.

701 COLL AUDIO & ACCURATE ELECTRICAL 5: Jordan Brown 1G, Jeff Knaack 1G, Kyle Ryan 1G, Connor Dellar 1G, Julian Kercz 1G, James Collett 2A, Adrian Clark 1A. **702 RECREATION LEISURE SERVICES LTD. 1:** Trevor Spence 1G.

708 PIZZA PIZZA 5: Jason Durst 1G 1A, Steve Foss 1G 1A, Ryan Hart 1G, Kyle Partanen 1G, Jacob MacDonald 1G 1A, Justin Cheong 1A, Jason Rutledge 1A, Raffel Hajcostis, shutout. **707 ASA ALLOYS 0.**

906 White/Red PIZZA PIZZA 3: Jamie Rundle-Sanderson 2G 1A, Justin Torma 1G, Derek Hurst 1A, Brandon Fitzgerald 1A, Alex Ginther 1A, Courtney Lockhart 1A. **902 OPTIMIST CLUB OF AURORA 1:** Bryan Dunjko 1G, Andrew Rowan 1A.

905 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 6: Ryan Smyth 1G 1A, Steven Horan 1G 1A, Jesse Barker 1G 1A, Jamie Fenyes 2G, Ryan Cain 1G, Andrew Kines 2A, Cameron Spence 1A. **901 AURORA CANADIAN TIRE 1:** Kevin McCreedy 1G, Micheal Perretta 1A.

903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 5: Curtis Robinson 1G, Mike Rowe 1G 2A, Doug Bainbridge 1G 1A, Jason Tuck 1G, Keith Bradford 1G 1A, Jeff Seymore 1A. **904 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 3:** Jesse Gattellero 1G, Bill Spasopolous 1G, Stephen Gray 1G, Ryan Jones 1A, Kevin Michie 1A, Stephen Pitts 1A.

1001 Green/Gold PIZZA PIZZA 4: Mark Neufeld 2G, Shawn Darcy 1G, Craig Murphy 1G, Blair Plewman 1A, Lance Mathews 1A, Craig Murphy 1A, Ritchie Abrich 1A. **1006 White/Royal PIZZA PIZZA 4:** Andrew McGee 2G, Kyle Wilton 1G 2A, Alex Gilliver 1G, Jarret Dennis 1A, Graham Coote 1A.

1009 Orange/Black PIZZA PIZZA 5: Michael Hagerty 1G, John Stinson 1G, Alex Cancelli 1G, Matthew Read 1G, Drew Beal 1G. **1005 AURO-RA OPTICAL 4:** Keon Karamchi 3G, Terry McCourt 1G.

1009 Orange/Black PIZZA PIZZA 3: Graham Gabel 1G, Derek Lynham 1G, Matt Bloom 1G. **1007 SHOPPERS DRUG MART 3:** Danir Tahmizaw 1G, Bradley Fincil 1G, Tim Tutin 1G.

1008 ASTECH SOLUTIONS 7: Rob Buchner 3G, Nelson Weese 3A, Jason Zepanovich 2A, Dale

Ogilvie 2A, Tanner Kinnarinen 1G, Dan Henderson 1G, Mike Cooperthwaite 1G, James Harrison 1G. **1005 AURORA OPTICAL 2:** Sean McCartney 1G, Keon Karamchi 1G, Abbas Akbar 1A.

REP RESULTS

Novice AA 7 Whitby 2
Quentin Campbell 2G, Branden Fennell 1G, Liam Coll 2G, John MacDonald 1A, Ian Dunlop 1A, Connor Graham 1G, Jordan Nanos 1G 1A, Spencer Green 1A.

Novice AA 4 Georgina 2
Sean Foxwell 1G, Liam Coll 1G 2A, Konner McMillan 1G, Jack Caldwell 1G, Ian Dunlop 1A.

Novice A 3 TNT 0
Lucas Pozzebon 2G, Erik Balkovec 1G 1A, Logan Blaser 1A, Scott Kostin 1A.

Barrie Colts 7 Minor Atom AA 1
Burke White 1G, Stefan Lazzer 1A, Eric Ludwig 1A.

Innisfil 3 Minor Atom A 2
Hayden Trask 1G 1A, Peter Sandwell 1G 1A, Eric Bulloch 1A.

Minor Atom AE 5 Pickering Panthers 0
Conner Moody 1A, Sam Steenhorst 2G, Zach Ferry 1G, Ben Hankins 1G, Jimmy Brookes 1A, Matthew Pryse 1A, Bailey Miller 1G, Vincent Ruscica 1A.

Uxbridge 9 Atom AA 3
Andrew Papousek 2G, Johnny Knowles 1G.

Atom AE 1 Clarington 1
Jake Langford 1A, Tyler White 1G.

Pickering 3 Atom AE 2

Minor Pee wee AA 2 Georgina 1
Brandon Pedersen 1G, Eleeza Cox 1A, Brett Matthews 1G, Chris Piron 1A.

Minor Pee wee A 2 Barrie Colts 0
Kyle McCreedy 2G, Tristan Miller 2A, Michael Bar 1A.

Minor Pee wee A 1 Newmarket 1
Michael Bar 1G, Kyle McCreedy 1A, Tristan Miller 1A.

Minor Pee wee A 4 Innisfil 4
Michael Vance 1G, Tristan Miller 1G, Kyle McCreedy 2G 1A, Tyler Jensen 1A, Danny McConnell 1A, Michael Bar 1A, Jack Steffan 1A, Jordan Figueiredo 1A.

Minor Pee wee AE 2 Newmarket 1
Jamie Hawkins 1G, Michael Divincenzo 1G, Brandon Thompson 1A, Brendan Strachan 1A, Daniel Howie 1A, Josh Beaton 1A.

Minor Pee wee AE 3 Ted Reeve 1
Brendan Strachan 1G 2A, Chris Venditelli 1A, Daniel Howie 1A, Jamie Hawkins 2G, Matthew Schmitt 1A.

Mississauga Terriers 3 Pee wee AA 2
James Mildon 1G, Matthew Tuck 1G 1A, Max Lerner 1A, Louis Lamanna 2A.

Pee wee AA 3 Stoney Creek 2
Kevin Zacharuk 1G, Spencer Arkell 1A, Dillon Cappell 1G 1A, Matthew Tuck 1G 1A, Luke Macleod 1A, Luke Stadnyk 1A.

Pee wee AA 2 Georgina 1
Dillon Cappell 1G 1A, Luke Macleod 1A, Jordan Tripp 1G.

Pee wee A 2 Schomberg 1
Paul Keilty 1G, Derrick Hamner 1G, Shawn Clark 1A, Nathan Brown 1A, Justin Brown 1A, Evan Casselden 1A.

Pee wee A 7 NobleKing 0
Derrick Hamner 1G 2A, Taylor Nuttall 1G 1A, Justin Brown 1G, Oliver Boettcher 2G 2A, Dylan Cross 1G, Shawn Clark 1G 1A, Paul Keilty 2A.

Pee wee AE 5 Pickering 3
Sean Agostino 1A, Michael Mgorlick 3G 1A, Aaron Beally 1G 1A, Andrew McKay 1G, Matthew Semeredy 1A, Tyler Tisdale 1A.

Pee wee AE 4 Innisfil 0
Sean Agostino 1A, Matthew Semeredy 1G, Aaron Beally 1G, Andrew McKay 2G, Tyler Tisdale 1A, Michael Mgorlick 2A, Matthew Pellegrini 1A.

Pee wee AE 5 TNT 2
Andrew Mckay 2A, Aaron Beally 1G 1A, Darcy Eveleigh 1G, Michael Mgorlick 3G, Tyler Tisdale 1A, Matthew Pellegrini 1A.

Ottawa 2 Minor Bantam AA 0
Barrie Colts 4 Minor Bantam AA 2
Tyler Persaud 1G, Tyler Hanlon 1A, Marcus Tochetti 1A, Adrian Dirosa 1G, Ryan Besse 1A.

Minor Bantam AA 7 Ajax 3
Tyler Hanlon 3G 1A, Matthew Mikhaili 2A, David Roper 1G 1A, Ryan Besse 1G 1A, Adrian Dirosa 2A, Brandon Galante 1G 1A, Tyler Persaud 1A, Connor McQueston 1G 2A.

Minor Bantam AA 2 Georgina 1
Adrian Dirosa 2G, Tyler Hanlon 1A, Alex Denault 2A, Brandon Galante 1A.

Minor Bantam AE 5 East Gwillimbury 5
Curtis Hough 1G, Brandon Giniotis 1G, Chris Burns 1G 1A, Braun Hause 1G 1A, Nicholas Di Nallo 1G 1A, Ryan Crockett 1A, Cory Blom 1A, Trevor McCartney 1A.

Minor Bantam AE 4 Georgina 3
Trevor Mccartney 1G, Nicholas Di Nallo 2G 1A, Brandon Giniotis 1G 1A, Curtis Hough 1A, Zacharie Roitner 1A.

Minor Bantam AE 7 Markham 0
Chris Burns 3G, Nicholas Di Nallo 1G 2A, Jake Thompson 1G 1A, Andrew Mangialardi 1G, Andrew Storms 1G 1A, Brandon Giniotis 1A, Cory Blom 2A, Braun Hause 1A.

Bantam AA 6 Markham 1
Karl Pelan 3G, Ian Middleton 1A, Johnathan Meikle 1A, Eric Sarracini 1G 1A, Ben Sherritt 1G 1A, Taylor Postill 3A, Steven Donches 1A, Kyle Scott 1A, Steven Keane 1G 1A, Daniel Curci 1A.

Bantam AA 3 Pickering 1
Ian Middleton 1A, Karl Pelan 1A, Taylor Postill 1G, Jordan Koen 1G, Steven Donches 1A, Kevin Kryshka 1A, Eric Sarracini 1G.

Stouffville 5 Bantam A 4
Jeremy Cohen 1G 1A, Josh Meron 1G, Jamie Tuck 1G, Jake Hurlbut 1G, Fraser Kegel 1A, Spencer McCartney 1A, Nick Crain 1A, Jesse Coote 1A, Eric King 1A, Colton Horner 1A.

TNT 2 Bantam A 1
Ross Pizzurro 1G.

Bantam A 10 Markham 1
Jeremy Cohen 3G 1A, Nick Crain 2G, Ross Pizzurro 2G 2A, Chris Finlay 1G 1A, Jamie Tuck 1G 2A, Josh Meron 1G 1A, Jake Hurlbut 2A, Spencer McCartney 2A, Jesse Coote 1A, Colton Horner 2A, Darcy Pelosse 1A, Eric King 1A.

Barrie Colts 4 Bantam AE 1
Cody Offen 1G, Derek Brown 1A, Brandon Wellsbury 1A.

Bantam AE 3 Lawfield 0
Cody Offen 1G, Scott Gray 1G, Jonathan Bince 1G, Derek Brown 1A, Brandon Wellsbury 3A.

Rosedale 2 Bantam AE 1
Cody Bastarache 1G

Bantam AE 2 Mountain 1
Brandon Hamner 1G, Patrick McMurray 1G, Derek Brown 1A, Scott Gray 1A, Harrison Kane 1A, Cody Offen 1A.

Bantam AE 5 Parkdale 1
Cody Offen 2G, Brandon Wellsbury 1G 1A, Derek Brown 1G 1A, Patrick McMurray 1G 1A, Kevin Wheeler 2A, Scott Gray 1A.

Oshawa Polar Bears 5 Bantam AE 1
Jonathan Bince 1G, Keegan Oleary 1A, Chris Hankey 1A.

Minor Midget AA 4 Newmarket 1
Tyler Virgoe 1G, Michael Pantalone 1G 1A, Jonathan Adams 1G, Jake Macdougall 1G 1A, Alex Fodey 2A, Harrison Jones 1A.

Midget AA 9 Uxbridge 2
Michael White 1G 2A, Adam Hankins 2G 3A, Michael Osborne 1G 2A, Michael Jack 1G, Daryl Osborne 1G 1A, Taylor Campbell 1G, Sac Pietila 1G, Sean Mulroy 1G 1A, Kyle Robinson 1A, Tom Hurley 1A, Peter McNeil 1A, Brandon Steffan 1A.

Midget A 3 Innisfil 2
Justin Fabro 1G, Jordan Williams 1G, Dylan MacKinnon 1A, Matt Cleverdon 1G, Mike Parkhill 1A.

Midget A 5 Richmond Hill 4
Craig Waites 2A, Andrew Welch 1A, Dylan MacKinnon 1A, Scott Daly 1A, Matt Cleverdon 3G, Ryan Kines 2G, Chris Statchuk 1A, Frazer Klein 2A.

Midget A 3 TNT 1
Ryan Kines 3A, Jordan Ofield 1G, Matt Cleverdon 1G, Chris Statchuk 1G, Nick Cooke 1A.

RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Cenotaph attack was vandalism at its worst

It's hard to believe but in December, 1986, the stately Aurora Cenotaph, a memorial to the town's volunteers who paid the supreme sacrifice during the world wars, was the target of senseless vandalism.

For three weeks in a row, unknown culprits smashed and ripped apart a row of memorial wreaths, including replacements, left as part of the annual Remembrance Day service.

In addition, the previous October, vandals defaced the tower with graffiti in blue spray paint.

With all the traffic on Yonge Street, it's hard to understand how the vandals carried out their destructive deeds without somebody seeing and reporting them.

WHY DON'T PEOPLE VOTE?

Voter turnout at municipal elections has been traditionally low, usually around 35 per cent, unless there is a strong local issue, which sometimes brings out a few more voters.

The voter turnout in King Township in the last municipal election hit a high of 50 per cent in a closely fought race for mayor over the Big Pipe issue.

But in Aurora and Newmarket, the turnout was 31 per cent.

Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor established a committee of four current or former politicians and about eight citizens to research and attempt to understand the problem of election apathy.

In addition, he challenged other York municipalities to form a similar committee to investigate the reasons for a low voter turnout.

Seems like a good idea, but where is the Aurora committee?

HOW TIMES CHANGE

Today the Ontario Municipal Board appears to favour the developer in urban sprawl and the waste of prime farmland for residential growth.

The Dalton McGuinty Liberal government claims it is going to change that, but other than the release of a discussion paper, nothing has been done.

Back in February, 1986, Agricultural Minister Jack Riddell, in another Liberal government, proposed a set of guidelines to protect Ontario's prime farmland from urban development.

If the municipalities didn't follow the guidelines, the province would take the offending municipality to the Ontario Municipal Board and if the OMB didn't enforce the guidelines strictly enough, the cabinet would step in!

Just another broken promise!

AURORA TEEN NAMED JUNIOR CITIZEN

In December 1995 Aurora's Cory Wright was one of 12 Ontario Junior Citizens named for the year and was honoured by Lieutenant Governor Hal Jackman in February, 1996.

Wright, who suffered from cerebral palsy, was nominated by Barbara Taylor, a guidance counsellor at Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School, who said Wright was special because of the way he dealt with it.

While at Williams, he was president of the student council, a member of both the athletic council and the Ontario Secondary School Students' Association and in 1995 was elected deputy prime minister of the York Region School Presidents' Council.

For the previous four summers Wright was a counsellor at Camp McGovern, a Big Brothers' camp.

He also participated in walkathons and other charity fundraisers in his wheelchair and was described as a role model for young people.

ELECTION PROMISES OF THE PAST

Three members of the current council ran for council seats during the 1980 Aurora municipal election, Mayor Tim Jones and Councillors Evelyn Buck and John West.

Seeking a second term as councillor, Jones promised to work towards the implementation of the new Master Plan for recreation and a reorganization of the recreation department including hiring a leisure services director to coordinate the activities of the department.

He also recommended the establishment of a committee of businessmen, historical persons and councillors to devise ways of stimulating commercial development in the downtown core.

Also seeking a second term on council, West said controlled growth would be his theme for council. He stressed the need for strict guidelines for developers in carrying out the town's regulations involving boulevards, grass, trees and parkland.

He also stressed the need for growth to pay for growth and the need to attract industrial and commercial assessment to balance the rapid growth of residential assessment.

Buck was returning to office after serving two years as councillor (1966-68), two years as reeve (1968-1970) and four years as mayor (1973-1976). She said she was returning to add some experience to the line-up.

She was also concerned that recent councils hadn't produced the raucous debates and full airing of issues that had characterized local political life in Aurora for many years.



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Regardless of how much television one views, high definition television will be popular with all who value the quality of the viewing experience.

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Mayor's column subject upsets councillors

from page 1

It wasn't the first time the mayor

had been challenged over a column he had written. Back in September, 2002, Councillor Nigel Kean was critical of the mayor using his column as a means of criticizing council members.

The Code of Ethics has been a controversial issue since it was first introduced in May, 1997, by Councillor Phyllis Morris and adopted by a reluctant and divided council after about six months of debate.

Some members of council pointed out they were governed by the Municipal Act, the Oath of Office taken by all members of council and the town's procedural bylaw.

The six-page Code

includes rules and obligations, use of information, communications and media relations, relationship with staff and other members of council, gifts and benefits, conflicts of interest, use of property, and transparency and openness in decision-making.

At the beginning of each term, members of council are expected to sign two copies of the Code document, one to be retained and the other for the Clerk's office. The Code was included as part of the orientation workshop for each new council.

In November, 2002, Kean proposed that the Code of Ethics be strengthened by including tough guidelines regarding the acceptance of gifts from companies by members

of council.

He was accused of looking for evil where none existed and his motion was seen as an attack on the integrity of all members of council and the debate deteriorated into a shouting match before being defeated on a 6-3 vote.

In December, 2003, Kean re-introduced the need for a review of the

Code in the hope of improving it and giving it more teeth.

He suggested a review committee be established, which was eventually defeated on a 5-4 vote.

The Code of Ethics is back before council and will likely be considered during an assembly session of council scheduled for sometime in December.

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Want a house? For a buck??

The historical house at 669 Wellington Street East, built sometime between 1832 and 1858, will meet the wrecker's ball, unless someone wants to remove it from the property. The Georgian farmhouse served three generations of the Hartman family, and currently serves as a Montessori School. However, plans for the property do not include the building and the potential owner says he will have to demolish it unless someone is willing to have it removed. So, if you give him a dollar, and take care of the moving expenses, the house is yours.

If you think you could swing such a deal, call John Chapman at Aurora Toyota - 905-727-1948 - and write him a cheque for a buck.



(This ad is presented in the interests of preserving Aurora's history)

Dogpatch comes to Theatre Aurora

By **DICK ILLINGWORTH**

From now until November 27th the Factory Theatre will be Dogpatch, U.S.A. as Theatre Aurora presents the musical "L'il Abner", an original musical comedy based on the characters created by Al Capp in his popular comedy strip.

The theatre itself has been converted into Dogpatch with walls and stage painted to portray the most unnecessary, no account place in the country with scenic design and painting by Shelley Mathieson and set painting by Claire Cianfarani and Erin Bresenhuber.

Visitors to Dogpatch receive a copy of the Dogpatch News which tells its readers about all the Lokal News, Sportz, Rode Construkshun Advizery, and a lovelorn column by Deer Abby Lou. There's even a recipe for Speedy McRabbit Stew.

With a cast of 42 there are plenty of characters including Earthquake

McGoon, Moonbeam McSwine, Evil Eye Fleagle, Senator Phogbound, Lonesome Polecat, and Mayor Dawgmeat with many performers playing double roles.

The curtain opens on a typical day in Dogpatch, where the motley and lovable inhabitants introduce themselves to the audience.

It only takes a moment to realize that leisure time is at the heart of the local economy and drinking Kickapoo Joy Juice, fishing and the popular Sadie Hawkins Day Dance are the favourite pastimes for Dogpatch citizens.

The government needs a place so that atomic testing can take place and a government study found Dogpatch to be the most unnecessary, no account place in the country, so it was selected and the inhabitants ordered to evacuate.

But they decide to fight to defend their territory and set out to prove that

Dogpatch is necessary and useful to the U.S.A. Mammy Yokum demonstrates her secret potion brewed from a special tree on the property, which she has fed to L'il Abner all his life to make him a strong, all-American boy.

The government postpones evacuation until the secret potion can be tested in hopes of developing a super race and the action switches from Dogpatch to a government lab to the President's office to General Bullmoose to Cornpone Square, in Dogpatch.

Director Jeff Burke has selected a very strong cast and with music by Jackie Utting, Craig Collette and Neil Numminen, and choreography by Baiba Senecal, the end result is wonderful, enthusiastic, spirit-lifting entertainment of the highest order. It's Broadway brought to Aurora.

Lead performers include newcomer Joe Adams as L'il Abner, the

lovely Jennifer Mercer as Daisy Mae, Shane Hollan as Marrying Sam, Maureen Lukie as Mammy Yokum and Doug Tardif as Pappy Yokum.

While they all play their roles to perfection, the interaction between Mammy and Pappy Yokum and the rest of the cast is outstanding and well worth a THEA, as the production will be adjudicated for the annual theatre festival.

There are more than 20 original songs with music by Gene de Paul and lyrics by Johnny Mercer. While some may not be too familiar, numbers such as "Jubilation T. Cornpone", "The Matrimonial Stomp" and "In the Very Best of Hands" may be remembered.

Tender ballads between Daisy Mae and L'il Abner such as "Namely You" and "If I Had My Druthers" are a delight. Marrying Sam sings several numbers and the ensemble work by the whole cast is a highlight.

Another highlight is the

"Sadie Hawkins Ballet" in which the young maiden Dogpatchers chase the bachelor Dogpatchers and if they are caught they end up before Marrying Sam. The chase includes the whole theatre.

The finale "Jubilation T. Cornpone" is another highlight that sends the audience home on a high note, knowing that Dogpatch U.S.A. and the loveable Dogpatchers are saved.

"L'il Abner" is one of the best musicals produced by

Theatre Aurora and they have produced many award-winners in the past and it is well worth seeing. The entire cast and backstage technical crew are to be commended for a wonderful night of fun-loving entertainment.

Performances continue November 17 to 20 and 24 to 27 with curtain at 8 p.m. and a 2 p.m. matinee on November 21.

Call the theatre box office at 905-727-3669 for tickets. You won't regret it!

Christmas message clear at dinner theatre play

The current production at the Howard Johnson Queen Elizabeth Dinner Theatre is "Greetings", written by Tom Dudzick, produced by Stellar Productions and directed by Kay Valentine.

It was Christmas Eve at the Gorski homestead in Pittsburgh but it was not entirely peace on earth and goodwill towards mankind.

Andy Gorski brings his Jewish fiancé home to meet his Catholic parents and mentally handicapped brother. Not only is she Jewish, she's an atheist. The play is about interpersonal relationships and learning to respect one another.

The action starts as Gorski and his fiancé Randi Stein are seated in a jetliner flying from New York to Pittsburgh. Randi is curious about his family and Andy is nervous about the reception they might receive.

His nerves are on edge and every time the aircraft captain makes an announcement he includes the words "at this time", which makes Andy even more edgy.

Meanwhile at the Gorski

home mother Emily is getting a meal ready and father Phil is complaining about problems with just about everything. Mickey is helping to decorate the Christmas tree and his two favourite words are "Wow" and "Oh boy."

His mother tries to get him to say the word "Greetings" but without success.

The couple arrives at the homestead and tension mounts as the father, an angry old man, starts an argument about religion and Christmas, while mother tries to smooth things over.

Amid the turmoil, Mickey blurts out the word "Greetings" and assumes a

new personality in which he lectures the family in very profound terms about the world and the need to live in peace and harmony before reverting back to being Mickey.

Stephen Birtles has the difficult role of Mickey and the transformation from being mentally handicapped who can't sit still to the profound philosopher is very well done.

Cam Lund plays the role of Andy Gorski and is torn between his love for his family and putting up with his narrow-minded father and his love for Randi.

Randi is well-played by Laurie Campbell and by the end of the play gains the

family's love and respect.

Frank Johnston is father Phil whose bark is worse than his bite and Denise Zahorodny is the patient mother, Emily, who puts up with her husband's tantrums and in her own way wins the day.

It is a Christmas play with a difference and while it contains a Christmas message, it is light-hearted with lots of laughs and well performed by a talented cast.

"Greetings" continues at the theatre Nov. 19 and 20 and Dec. 9, 10, 12, 17 and 18. Doors open at 6 with a hot and cold buffet commencing at 6:30 and show time at 8:30 p.m. Call 905-727-1312 to reserve.



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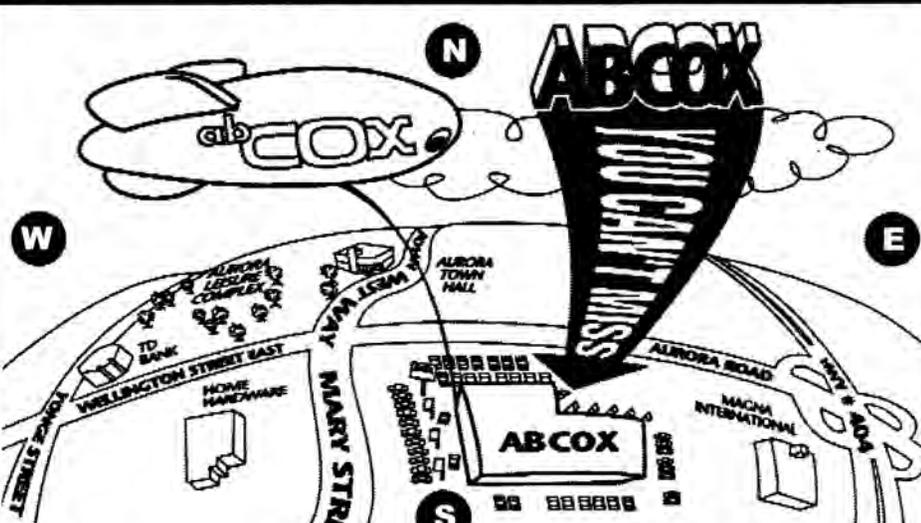
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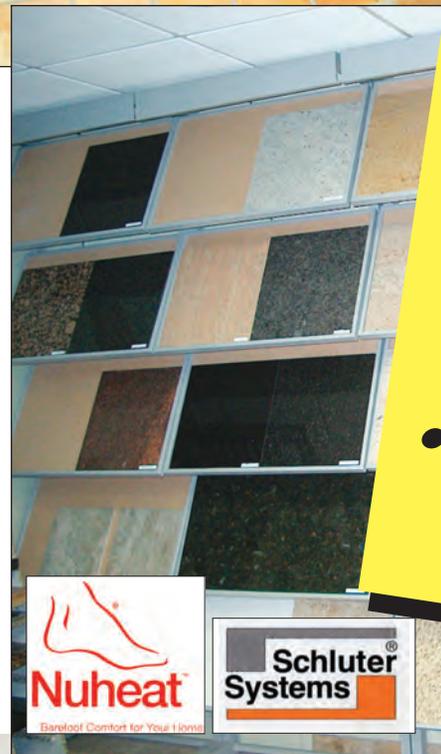
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