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It was June in January again Saturday as the M & M Meat Shop held its second annual fundraiser to battle Colitis and Crohn's Disease. In their shorts, store owner Greg Foster and Aurora Mayor Tim Jones, attend to young Alexandra Godson and her hot dog. Last year's Charity BBQ raised \$450 and Foster managed to top that mark this season, raising \$482.
 Auroran photo by David Falconer

History and business link on Yonge Street

Two historic homes within the town's Heritage Resource Area on the east side of Yonge Street between Mark and Maple Streets have been operated as separate businesses for the past several years, but have not been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. To support Aurora's heritage, limited commercial uses, such as small scale professional or business offices which are compatible with residential uses, are permitted in the area. The two properties have recently changed hands and the new owners have applied for

changes in the zoning bylaw to permit additional commercial uses. For one property, the applicant plans a business office with limited retail, and has asked the requirement of a planting strip along the north property line be deleted. The second structure would become a personal service shop. Also requested is a shared driveway and a minimum of 16 shared parking spaces to serve both properties. As a result of staff and resi-
Please see page 13



Town gets a new logo

For the past several years the Town Crest has been used as Aurora's identification on all documents.

While the crest will continue to serve its purpose, a new logo was rolled out to the public last week.

It was a year ago when the Economic Development Advisory Committee recommended a town logo be created for marketing and development.

The logo was seen to be needed as a visual symbol to differentiate Aurora from other municipalities and for easy recognition and a means of supporting the economic development strategy.

To assist the committee in its work a consultant was engaged to develop the logo.

The consultant and the committee prepared a series of options for review by the committee and the committee revealed its choice to council.

In addition, the committee has been working on a tagline and a list of seven options was prepared, which was short-listed to four.

The committee will review the four options at its February meeting.

As a preliminary step in developing a marketing logo for Aurora, the consultant conducted a series of interviews and focus group sessions to gather perceptions about the municipality.

There was general agreement about the kind of place Aurora is.

The municipality was perceived to have a small town feel and wanted to maintain its small town character.

Due to its small town character and accessibility to big city amenities, Aurora was seen as a great place to live, work and play.

But there was some concern about the town's future and its ability to maintain its distinctive small town character in the face of the population growth, inside and outside its boundaries.

Research indicated many GTA residents think of Aurora being up north somewhere, but have little sense of what kind of a place it is.

It was also noted big business was happy with municipal servic-

es, but small business was concerned about too many barriers.

Building on its rich past, preserved natural landscapes, vibrant businesses and active community spirit, the logo was developed to include the sunrise and a symbolic representation of the hills around the municipality with the word Aurora underneath.

Dino Lombardi, economic development officer; Kristen Yemm, marketing/communications coordinator; and consultant Rick Sikorski of Communications That Work made the presentation to council.

Lombardi provided a brief history of events leading up to the preparation of the logo and noted there had been little change to the town crest over the years, except that in 1993 the words "Town of Aurora" were added.

He suggested the crest continue to be used on legal and official documents, but the logo be used on signs, marketing and development.

Sikorski outlined the process carried out in developing the logo.

Other than a comment by Councillor Evelyn Buck that she was impressed with the hills and the sun in the logo, the presentation was received.

Briefly

Mardi Gras

Rapidly becoming one of the highlights of the Aurora social season, the annual Mardi Gras is preparing for another successful evening.

Set for Saturday, February 19, beginning at 5.30 p.m., the Mardi Gras will be held at DiNardo's Mansion on Industrial Parkway South.

The event features a multi-course dinner, silent auction, and dancing to a 15-piece orchestra.

Open to adults only, the event is semi-formal; however, costumes and masks are encouraged.

Tickets at \$100 each are available at www.auroramardigras.com or from Front Row Centre, 15 Furbacher Lane.

Proceeds support the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and will also be used to help fund training, performances and travel for the Aurora Aerials.

Arctic Adventure

The weather is expected to be a little warmer this weekend as Aurora holds its annual Arctic Adventure in and around the Aurora Community Centre, Saturday February 5th.

Activities have been planned throughout the day, including dog sled rides, sleigh rides, tobogganing, skating, snow sculpting and other events.

The day gets underway at 10 a.m. and continues until 4 p.m.



Norm Weller, former Town employee and Aurora Town Councillor, suffered a stroke last week while wintering in Florida. Following a stay in hospital, he has returned to Aurora.

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COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

During the month of February, the Skylight Gallery in the Town Hall features the art of Pete Herlihy. Regular viewing hours are from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Every Friday night from 8.15 to 10.15 p.m. at the Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School gym there will be a Basketball and Volleyball Drop-In for ages 14 to 18. Shoot hoops or dig for volleyballs for only a Toonie. Call 905-726-4760 for further information.

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. Call 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.

Overnight parking restrictions in effect until April 15th from 2 to 6 a.m. on all town streets.

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.townsof-york.org or phone Roy Bannon at 905-853-0859.

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 old Victoria Street library building. Call 905-773-7024 for details.

Canadian Federation of University Women Aurora/Newmarket welcomes new

members throughout the year for monthly meetings and special interest groups. Contact Barb at 905-713-3587.

Cooking and Sewing Classes for kids ages 10 to 14 years - every Wednesday 3:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church corner Mosley and Victoria Streets. Classes end March 30th. Cost \$20 for materials only.

FEBRUARY 2 - 5

Theatre Aurora's production of the mystery/thriller "Wait Until Dark" by Frederick Knott. The plot involves a blind woman, a con man and a doll full of heroin. Call 905-727-3669 for tickets.

FEBRUARY 3

Join the Aurora Seniors for a day of fun in Toronto with a visit to the CBC Museum and learn first hand about your favourite TV and Radio shows and personalities. Enjoy a dinner at Joe Bedal's and return to the CBC studio for an evening of laughter with the Royal Canadian Air Farce. Cost is \$57 for members and \$62 for non-members. Call 905-727-2816 to register.

FEBRUARY 4, 5, 6

One hundred player Lan Party at the Old Aurora Library, 56 Victoria Street. \$15 per day or \$35 for three days. Visit www.zeropingevents.com for further information.

FEBRUARY 5

Aurora's annual Arctic Adventure will take place around the Aurora Community Centre with events from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., including dog sled rides, sleigh rides, tobogganing, skating, snow sculpting and more. Also a winter craft sale and face painting in the community centre.

Dinner and a Movie for 11 to 14 year olds at the Aurora Public Library from 7 to 9 p.m. The featured film is "Stuck on You" starring Matt Damon and Greg Kinnear. Cost is \$3 per person.

FEBRUARY 6

Benefit concert, featuring the York Regional Police Male Chorus, for Wells Street School student. Trinity Anglican Church. 7 p.m. Tickets \$10 each or \$30 for a family. Call the school, 905-727-4722 or Erina Kelly, 905-727-5206, to purchase.

FEBRUARY 7, 11, 14, 18

Refresher driving course for seniors under the auspices of the Aurora Seniors' Centre, in the Leksand Room of the Aurora Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive. Each session runs from 9.30 a.m. to noon. To register, call Kim Hinder at the Aurora Senior Centre 905-727-2816.

FEBRUARY 9

Enjoy a mysterious fun-filled day at the Old Mill Restaurant, starting with their famous buffet lunch, followed by a new hilarious Sherlock Holmes spoof "CSI: Baker Street". Prizes to guests who correctly solve the mystery. Cost is \$66 for Aurora Senior Centre members and \$71 for non-members. Call 905-727-2816 to reserve.

FEBRUARY 12

Valentine's Dance at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Live music by the Newmarket Citizens' Band. 8 to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Third Annual Red & White Gala in support of the Palliative Care Network for York Region, at Tuscany's on Edward Street. Dinner, dancing, live entertainment, silent and live auctions. \$160 per couple. For more information, call 905-895-3628 ex. 270.

FEBRUARY 14

Oak Ridges Trail Association hike from

Seneca College King Campus on Dufferin Street to Yonge Street in Aurora taking the new length of trail adjoining the Case Woodlot on Henderson. The 9-km walk will take about 3½ hours to complete and it starts at 2 p.m. Call Stan Butcher at 905-773-3960 for further information.

FEBRUARY 15

Writers' Workshop with local author and instructor, Marnie Maguire. Aurora Public Library, Marjorie Andrews Room, 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. Register at the Adult Information Desk or call 905-727-9493, Option 4.

FEBRUARY 16-20

Aurora's Marquee Productions presents "The Wizard of Oz" at the Newmarket Theatre. Call 905-953-5122 for tickets.

FEBRUARY 19

Registration for Aurora Minor Ball Association's 2005 season at the Aurora Community Centre from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Winter clinics currently underway. More information from www.auroraminorball.ca or Gary Drodge at 905-727-8461.

FEBRUARY 21-25

To celebrate "Canada Reads Week", the Aurora Public Library presents The Great Canadian Book Quiz. Answer questions at the Adult Information Desk for a chance to win a book prize package.

FEBRUARY 22

First installment of the interim tax levy is due. The interim levy is based on 50 per cent of last year's property tax, with the second installment due on April 15.

FEBRUARY 27

The Oak Ridges Trail Association hike starts in Sheppard's Bush heading for the Vandorf Sideroad. The 4-km walk should take about 90 minutes. Call Harold Sellers at 905-853-3518 for further information.

FEBRUARY 28

Enjoy a walk on the new elevated roadway over the McKenzie Wetlands with the Oak Ridges Trail Association. Call Stan Butcher at 905-773-3960 for further information.

MARCH 5

Registration for Aurora Minor Ball Association's 2005 season at the Aurora Community Centre from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Winter clinics currently underway. More information from www.auroraminorball.ca or Gary Drodge at 905-727-8461.

MARCH 7-12

Canadian Children's Theatre Company presents "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Newmarket Theatre, directed by Jennifer Martin of Aurora. Call 905-726-4486 for ticket information.

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Cheryl Walker, left, owner of Flipside, presented Lorna Rummenie, with mitts and thermos kits Friday as the York Region Food Network Winter Needs program began. Zellers Aurora also participated in the program. Looking on is the Network's Executive Director Elizabeth Brims, right.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Mitts, thermos kits provided for youth

More than 400 thermos kits and 500 pairs of high quality mitts and gloves were front and centre Friday as the York Region Food

Network continued its battle to keep children of low income families warm throughout the winter.

Kicking off the project,

officials from the Network met at Flipside in Aurora to launch the campaign.

Cheryl Walker, owner of Flipside, presented Lorna Rummenie of the Aurora Food Pantry, with the items to officially kick off the project.

"We are pleased to support such a worthwhile endeavour," Walker said.

The project, known as Winter Needs, came about when officials realized money needed to keep underprivileged children warm was required to purchase food.

Also participating in the campaign was the Zellers store in Aurora.

Spokesman for the Food Network, Rosanne Rodgers, said it's necessary to provide items such as these to food banks.

"Sadly, the Winter Needs program is much needed," she said. "Food banks no longer provide just food, but as the working poor struggle to carry on, food banks are also providing basic necessities, such as mitts and gloves to support low-income families."

Day-care centre seeks \$\$ break

The farmhouse of the former Jack Wood Crescentbrook Farm property on Edward Street is too expensive and the tenants want a break.

The building has been rented to the York Region Neighbourhood Services for the past three years as a child care centre.

Last April, Chief Executive Director Patricia Robertson advised town general committee members the financial problems experienced by the agency.

During the period the centre has been open it has expanded its capacity to 30 child care spaces. The program serves 36 children, 29 of them from Aurora.

Despite challenges with the facility and a poor reputation left by a previous operator, the agency provides much needed child care spaces to the town's residents.

But after three years of operation the agency continues to incur an operating loss.

The fee structure was created to meet the needs of general income level families and to provide service to families who are being supported by the regional subsidy program.

As a result it had become necessary to reduce overhead costs to maintain solvency.

The agency was paying \$2,150 per month for the use of the town-owned building, and under the terms of the lease, the rent is to increase to \$2,500 per month by 2011.

At the time she asked the committee to direct staff to work with the agency to explore ways of reducing costs by increasing capacity or by sharing space with

other community groups.

The committee agreed and directed staff to bring back a report.

No action, however, was taken by staff and in early January, Robertson appeared before the Leisure Services Advisory Committee and advised that the agency was running into continuous monetary shortfalls with the rent at market value.

Staff said the farmhouse was a heritage building which required ongoing repairs.

The town is responsible for capital repairs and the agency for upgrades. Robertson asked that the town take back some of the costs or discuss some type of partnership model, in an effort to eliminate losses.



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Students' art displayed at Wellington til Feb. 12

It was a proud night for grandparents, parents and art teachers as Aurora's Wellington Gallery opened a students' exhibition of art in various media and sculpture in "Class Act" which continues to February 12.

The artwork is from art students at Aurora High School, Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School and from three private schools, St. Andrew's College, Pickering College and Country Day School.

It is a very diverse exhibition of large and small works ranging from oil on canvas, black and white drawings, digital photography, masks and wood block prints.

It is not what would normally be expected at a students' art exhibition as the works are quite professional in content and framing.

"Class Act" is available for viewing at the Wellington Gallery, 32 Wellington Street West, Tuesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment.

Call 905-751-0066 for details.

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Poor Richard

Aurora Annie answer to Willie

*Groundhog Day comes once again,
To provide the weather news;
What they find on waking up,
Gives everyone the winter blues!
-Poor Richard's Scrapbook*

On February 2nd, as they have done over the years, Punxsutawney Phil and Wiarton Willie will come out of their burrows to look for their shadows. If they see them, six more weeks of winter will follow.

They appear to be the last survivors of the groundhog weather forecasters.

Once upon a time there was Woodrow Charlie of Peterborough, Xavier Henry VI of Old Fort Henry in Kingston and Gary the Groundhog at the Kortright Centre in Kleinburg.

Not too many people know it, but there was also Aurora Annie.

She claimed she wasn't a groundhog, but a woodchuck and woodchucks were related to the marmot clan.

She said the only weather a groundhog could predict was whether or not the farmer's dog was loose, while as a marmot, she could look into a man's eyes and tell "whether"!

When she was asked about her qualifications, she replied that she depended on women's intuition, but that she was considering giving up weather forecasting for two reasons.

When asked what they were, she thought a moment and said she was being forced to move out of town.

She explained that her burrow used to be beneath the hallway that joined the town's former municipal offices with the school board on Wellington Street West and she enjoyed it there, because she could listen to what members of council and board trustees were saying.

But with the town's move to the high point of land off John West Way the only suitable place for a burrow was between the Town Hall and the Leisure Complex in Lambert Willson Park and it was lonely there.

She said she had tried it, but didn't like it.

When asked for her second reason for wanting to leave, she hesitated and then blurted out that it was because of political pressure.

When asked to explain, Aurora Annie said that Councillor Ron Wallace wanted her to say that she saw her shadow so he could have six more weeks of winter for a longer skiing season, while Councillor Nigel Kean didn't want her to see her shadow so he could open the Farmers' Market earlier.

Leisure Services Director Allan Downey wanted a longer winter so that the outdoor skating rinks would get greater use and take the pressure off the need for ice at the Community Centre and Leisure Complex until the new rec centre was ready to open.

On the other hand Director of Public Works Wayne Jackson wanted a shorter winter so his department wouldn't have to spend as much in snow clearing and snow removal.

He was supported by your new Treasurer Jim Carey who wants to get off to a good start by showing a surplus.

Aurora Annie also said that she was sick and tired of the endless bickering and nit-picking among council members and suggested they should re-read the procedural bylaw, the Code of Ethics and the various points of being a Character Community.

Aurora Annie said she was also being pressured by Premier Dalton McGuinty and Finance Minister Greg Sorbara for a shorter winter in hopes it would reduce the demand on medicare so they could balance the budget and stop breaking election promises.

Meanwhile Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees and the other Progressive Conservative members were trying to convince Annie to forecast a longer winter to make it tougher for the government to carry out some of the promises that haven't been broken yet.

Even Prime Minister Paul Martin was included.

Annie said he didn't care whether the winter was long or short as he didn't plan to spend much of it in Canada, but preferred travelling to other countries at taxpayers' expense.

Annie forecast a bright future for Newmarket/Aurora MP Belinda Stronach saying it was time that women started to take over the reins of government, as men were making such a mess of it.



Celebrating its 120th birthday this year, the "Medical Hall" on Yonge Street was once known as Aurora's skyscraper. It was built in 1885 by druggist Henry J. Hartman who died soon after it was completed. A year later it was purchased by Dr. John Rutherford and managed by Charles Willis. We're not sure what everyone in front of the building is waiting for. Perhaps they'd never seen a camera before.

Letter to the Editor

Seniors' dinner a success

To the editor,

The Aurora Seniors' Association organized a splendid dinner event as a fundraiser for the survivors of the recent catastrophic tsunami in the Indian Ocean.

The event, Sunday, January 23rd, which was organized at short notice by a caring and dedicated seniors' group of volunteers, raised \$1,320 and this total should increase as accounting continues, and will be donated through UNICEF-Canada.

As many as 90 members and friends attended this event.

Also in attendance were Councillor Evelyn Buck, Councillor John West and his wife.

Dave Phillips, who is a 'Senior Climatologist with Environment Canada', graciously attended the function and gave a knowledgeable account of how, why and what happened, although as he pointed out, a tsunami is not a weather event.

A nine-piece band entertained the capacity crowd with well chosen music and was very well received.

Perhaps we will see this group again when the new centre opens!

Our volunteer group gathered money and food donations, and also donated food and money as well as their time to a cause, which clearly impacted everybody deeply.

The seniors prepared the hall, prepared the food,

and presented a very capable and competent fundraising event.

Charles Sequeira, who is the seniors' president, on behalf of the Aurora Seniors Association, offers his deepest sympathy to the survivors of this tragedy, and thanks the seniors community for the wholehearted way in which they rallied to assist others in faraway lands.

"To the Town of Aurora, Seniors' Centre Town staff, all the volunteers, the presenter, musicians and all in attendance....your thoughtfulness has made a difference," he said. "We thank you."

**Brian Warburton
Aurora**

AURORAN

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David Falconer

Display Advertising
Bob Ince
Diane Buchanan

Production
Cynthia Proctor
auroran@neptune.on.ca

All Departments
905-727-3300

Classifieds
905-727-7128
auroran@neptune.on.ca

Facsimile Machine
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E-Mail
Advertising Department
auroran@aci.on.ca

Editorial Department
rwall9999@aol.com

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Mayor's Report
By Tim Jones

Hydro update

With all the interest and work being done in respect to the concerns expressed relating to new hydro lines proposed through the existing hydro corridor, I felt it important to ensure that residents were also aware of a critical component to our hydro supply that is being affected by the issue at hand.

As mayor of Aurora and as member of the Aurora Hydro Board, I have two roles to play.

As mayor, I must consider our hydro requirements alongside the community needs of our residents.

As a member of the Aurora Hydro Board, I must represent Aurora Hydro and respect the legislated and regulatory obligation the Aurora Hydro Board has to the Ontario Energy Board now that Hydro is a private company and subject to The Electricity Act, 1998.

This Act places all responsibility for electricity supply on the industry's participants and regulatory agencies.

Neither York Region, Markham nor Aurora has any direct authority in this matter.

The Board's responsibilities are quite separate from those of council.

Currently, (not meant to be a pun), our hydro supply is transmitted from the Armitage hydro transformer station in Newmarket and distributed out to our communities.

This transformer station is now at capacity and we need new transformation facilities now to efficiently handle our present power that is transmitted to our area and distributed out to the community.

If a worst case scenario was to occur in late 2005 or 2006, i.e. extremely hot summer, Aurora could experience brownouts without this new facility. This transformer station was to have been built for 2005-2006 and situated as to take best advantage of the location of the additional power source to this area.

It will require an environmental assessment before being finally located and approved.

However, as long as the issue about the proposed transmission lines remains ongoing, it is effectively deferring the implementation of the new transformer station and all of Aurora will be at risk.

The Town of Aurora has taken a position similar to Markham and the Region, and the Markham/Aurora task force requesting methods by which the concerns and issues that have been identified through the public process should be dealt with.

The Minister of the Environment must review all that has been submitted and make a decision as to approving the full environmental assessment, recommend mediation or proceed with the project as recommended by Hydro One.

Add to this mix the option that the mayor of Newmarket has been advocating, and that I have joined with him, on our ability to work with private enterprise to develop a distributed generation facility that would be planned to provide us with 300 megawatts of power on an 'as required' basis, thus deferring the need for new transmission lines for 10 years or more.

And perhaps over those 10 years, improving technology or newer processes would eliminate the new line requirement altogether.

With positions having been taken, and given the urgency of Aurora's requirement for a transformer station, the priorities we should all have at this point in my mind are:

1. Encourage the Minister of Energy to facilitate, through the new Ontario Power Authority, the potential to

build a generating facility in our area.

2. Get a commitment from Health Canada to set a standard for transmission electromagnetic fields and their application to new hydro corridors.

3. With this information, the Province and associated Ministries must review and act on the numerous submissions emanating from this situation and identify how we will go forward.

The municipal positions have been taken.

Until we have a decision on the transmission lines and/or our independent generating ability, our power resources are diminishing, and our immediate need for a transformer station exists, while our ability to move forward remains on hold.

This situation is worrisome for our residents who are at risk of brownouts in extreme situations within a year or two and to businesses, especially our major industries

who could face having to shut down for lack of power.

I can report that I attended a positive meeting with the mayor of Newmarket and the Minister of Energy last week to advocate for the ability to establish a generating facility and to impress upon the minister as a member of our provincial government on the urgency of our situation. And further, I am keeping our local MPP Greg Sorbara in the loop on this and appreciate his efforts.

I am also pleased to report that our local Member of Federal government, Belinda Stronach, is actively pursuing our case with Health Canada.

If you see something in this column that you wish to respond to, I welcome your comments, either through the paper, to the Town Hall by mail - Box 1000, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 6J1 or e-mail at tjones@town.aurora.on.ca



Cathy's Corner



It was nice to get away

Thank you, Fred. And thank you, Ron. It was nice to get away.

Every year, I get the January blahs.

And every year, I wonder why they call them the "January blahs", because I get them in November. And they don't go away until April.

Which is why I do. Go away.

Every year, I try to be a good daughter and spend some time with my mom. In Florida. I feel it's my duty.

It's hard, you know. She keeps me up late, talking and sipping fine California wines.

Then, she lets me sleep in and makes me a hot Macedonian breakfast. And worst of all, she takes me shopping and we buy good things that make bad things happen when I try to check my luggage.

"Your suitcase is overweight," says the lady at the counter. I smile my best cute little girl smile, and say: "But I'm not. Does that count?"

It worked for years, but last year I had to pay double for that, so now I know that it matters whether the clerk is a man or a woman.

This year, both clerks were women, so I tried on a pair of puppy dog eyes. Apparently they didn't fit.

These people just don't understand.

It isn't my fault that my baggage packs on the extra pounds.

It's the weather. Really! I can explain!

Day 1: After two weeks of 28 degrees Celsius, the weather is becoming "cooler" ...dropping about 10 degrees...per minute.

The wind is picking up at the rate of, um...was there a hurricane warning I missed?

We decide to do the only thing left to do: go shopping.

Day 2: Wind Chill Warning!

I check my airline ticket, just in case they made a mistake and deposited me in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The weatherman begins explaining what "Wind Chill

Warning" means, because Floridians wouldn't have a clue about such things.

I don't need to hear this because I live in Aurora, Ontario, Canada. I already know too much. I turn off the TV and start layering my clothing...so we can go shopping.

Day 3: We go shopping. I buy a coat. I ask them to clip the price tags at the store, then proceed to wear it non-stop for the next five days.

Day 4: My husband calls. I tell him the BIG NEWS! For the first time in Florida history, the stores are sold out of gloves!

He listens sympathetically before comforting me with the news that it's -21 degrees Celsius in Aurora. I need gloves. I go shopping.

Day 5: I wake up to glorious sunshine pouring through the bedroom window, warming my face.

I jump out of bed and run to the balcony door and throw it open...and scream.

Good thing I was wearing my new coat nonstop or I might have died of hypothermia...or exposure...or whatever it's called when a person suddenly becomes flash frozen.

We bundle up and go shopping.

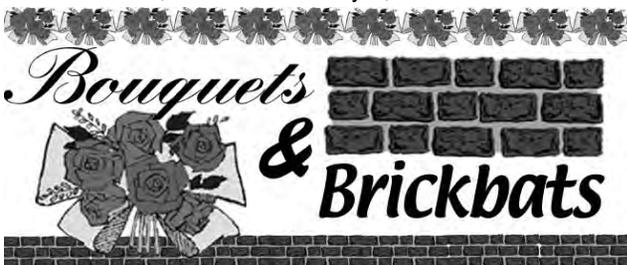
Day 6: I wake up to glorious sunshine pouring through the bedroom window, warming my face. This time, I don't fall for it. I listen first.

Did you know you can hear gale force winds? They say: "go shopping".

Day 7: We are going home tonight. The flight will be delayed because the plane will need to be de-iced. There's time to go shopping before we pack. I need a bigger suitcase.

But it was nice to get away.

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



By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to all the guys and gals at Aurora Cable Internet and the Aurora Town Hall for the well organized disaster relief telethon and to all the people who made pledges bringing the total to more than \$77,000.

BRICKBATS to York Regional Police for including a bonus of \$6,227 in the total cost of \$108,471 to keep a first class constable on the job, as a retention allowance to encourage officers to stay in York rather than move to another police department. It shouldn't be necessary to bribe officers. Either they want to stay here or they don't!

BOUQUETS to members of Aurora Council for one of the best debates to take place in the council chambers for some time, as members debated funds for Tsunami Relief from the town and region. It was a touchy subject but members of council spoke honestly and from the heart.

BRICKBATS to Canada Post for starting 2005 off in the same way they did in 2004 with a price increase. As of January 17th the price of a stamp for mail in Canada went up to 50 cents, 85 cents to the U.S. and \$1.45 for other foreign destinations. Whatever happened to Penny Post?

BOUQUETS to the members of the St. Andrew's College Saints for winning the final hockey game against Lake Placid's Northwood School 4-3 to win the MacPherson Cup at the Aurora Community Centre and keep the trophy in Aurora.

BRICKBATS to those responsible for designing and approving the reconstruction of the St. John's Sideroad. The damage to the wetlands is bad enough, but somebody should have thought about leaving openings along the roadway for the families who like to skate on the ponds.

BOUQUETS to the Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School Science Club for organizing their fourth annual Elementary Science Olympics for Grade 6 students. Twelve classes from Aurora elementary schools participated in the event and students from Aurora Grove Public School were the winners.

BRICKBATS to a federal justice system for providing deluxe medical treatment behind bars, with costs per prisoner roughly double what the average Canadian costs the health care system on the outside. Taxpayers spent \$81.5 million to keep 12,500 offenders healthy last year, up 26 per cent in five years. Treat them humanely, but not better than taxpaying Canadians.

More **BRICKBATS** to the federal government's Foreign Affairs Department for sparing no expense as it spruces up Canada's embassies with pricy carpets, tables and fine art, such as two area rugs worth \$25,000 each, a \$27,845 dining table and a bronze and glass sculpture at \$13,500.

BOUQUETS to Aurora Councillor Evelyn Buck for the courage of her convictions in opposing the way the \$500,000 grant made by York Region to the Tsunami disaster relief fund was made, with the money being sent prior to consent at a public council meeting.

BRICKBATS to York Regional Council for refusing to grant the Aurora councillor delegation status at a recent council meeting. An e-mail seeking such status did not arrive at the regional office, according to officials, but, according to people at Aurora Cable Internet, the e-mail did arrive.

BOUQUETS to the performers of Theatre Aurora, Marquee Productions and Stellar Productions/Howard Johnson for the excellent theatrical productions staged locally, so there's no need to face the frustrations of heading south to Toronto.

Letters to the Editor

Resident is incensed by Region donation

ED. NOTE: The following letter was sent to Regional Chairman Bill Fisch and a copy forwarded to The Auroran.

Subject: Region's donation of \$500,000

I, along with most Ontarians, was shocked and saddened by the disaster brought on by the December 26, 2004, tsunami.

Many of us chose to make individual donations to aid relief efforts.

Donate if you like but don't use my money, he says

To the editor,

I really do wish that people/governments would stop being so free with my tax dollars, like the region giving \$500,000 to the tsunami relief.

When three out of the four levels of government that we are stuck with are crying the poor man's blues (and the fourth maintains an obscenely large surplus), I do not think it is proper that any level of government other than the feds give out charitable donations of our tax dollars, no matter what the good of the cause is.

Foreign aid is the responsibility of the feds, not the region or the town.

Local church coverage unbalanced: readers

To the editor,

Why do the local newspapers provide so much coverage on Trinity Anglican Church, its clergy and activities?

Perhaps, 1) there are no other places of worship, leaders of faith, and outreach programs in Aurora worthy of similar coverage; 2) the long serving outgoing priest claims Trinity Aurora is the "model church"; or 3) other places of worship and leaders of faith go about their good work and acknowledge their achieve-

Does that mean that the Region of York had or has a mandate or the authority to make donations on our behalf? Absolutely not!

I could not believe my eyes and ears when I learned that the Region (read "me" and countless other long-suffering taxpayers) had made a donation of \$500,000 with absolutely no public consultation or approval.

Regional governments were forced on the citizens of portions of Ontario by the provincial government in

order to consolidate certain services, avoid duplication of effort and streamline service delivery.

Whether this has been accomplished as planned and moneys have been saved we will never know but certain things are known.

Firstly, Regional Government is neither loved nor particularly respected, it is only tolerated.

Secondly it is not a shadow federal government with a mandate to dole out foreign aid. It is meant to fix potholes, lay sewer lines, clean snow off the highways and provide public transport and police and fire services.

The Region is to provide public service, end of story.

If I want money donated to tsunami relief I have and will do it myself or look to the federal government, which has done an admirable job in this regard and this particular case.

For you and the Region to have done this without seeking public input and approval is arrogant, disgraceful and bordering on malfeasance.

What's next, a York Region Peace-Keeping Force?

I also note with interest your letter to the editor in which you attempt to justify the donation by arrogantly belittling Mr. Annan who dared to criticize it (in what was a well worded and thoughtful column).

To quote, you say "Regional council has worked hard to build healthy reserve

funds to assist with our organization's future," and go on to suggest he has "...a lack of business acumen..."

Clearly, Mr. Annan was spot on in calling into question our use of these funds for other than designated purposes.

These reserve funds belong to the taxpayers of the Region, not to you and your fellow politicians.

They are to be used for our benefit, not as you see fit.

In addition, I noted that you are quoted as stating the \$500,000 is 40 cents per household. I presume you meant that this is peanuts.

The proper use or the misuse of public funds is not measured by the amount in question.

Mismanagement of, and/or the unmandated spending of public funds is the same whether the amount is \$50 or \$500,00 or four cents per household or \$4 per household.

The fact that the federal government was matching funds is another red herring and of no consequence in assessing your inappropriate action.

I suggest very strongly that you take steps to retrieve the \$500,000 and prepare your resignation letter.

In the meantime, I will be writing the Premier and Attorney General requesting that an investigation be undertaken.

John Sullivan
Aurora

How many nurses could we keep at the hospitals with that \$500,000?

If you want to donate to any charity, go ahead, but don't presume to use my tax dollars to do it with.

We get to keep little enough as it is, and we keep paying higher taxes and getting fewer services for it every year.

Maybe if all levels of government could control their wasteful spending they could drop the tax rates or maintain the services they are supposed to provide before the whole system totally falls apart from neglect.

Dave Watson
Aurora

ments in a much quieter way?

While Trinity may do some good work, where is the balance in reporting?

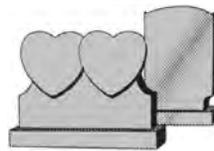
Stuart & Mary Swan
Aurora

ED. NOTE: We can't speak for other local media, but The Auroran covers Trinity because Trinity keeps The Auroran posted on its activities. Other churches that do the same are covered as well.

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Letters to the Editor

Maybe I'm glad I don't live in Aurora: Kroon

To the editor,
A lot of folks in Aurora seem to be irked these days; for instance, cabbies are irked about less than neighbourly neighbouring interlopers; newspaper

readers are irked by letters from people who write about less than neighbourly neighbouring interlopers and the reasons why they feel they need to be so less than neighbourly; some councillors are irked by the region

throwing around taxpayers' money willy-nilly, while other councillors are similarly irked that the town doesn't throw taxpayers' money around either willy or nilly. HmMMM.
Maybe I am glad I don't

live there.
Anyway, I did appreciate the response from yet another of the multiple surname crowd, Ms. McLennan Coil, who while fuming about my "baseless assumptions" about welfare

recipients, manages to justify labeling me "hateful", without any justifiable cause.
Talk about yer basic baselessness. (Is that even a word? I hope so, sure rolls off the tongue nice.)
Guess she supposes welfare and the people who are on it are something to be held up as a noble institution in our country.

"Anaconda" too many times.)
Having a story in the local paper with the words "snake" and "councillors" in the headline was like a gift from heaven.
Boy, all of us local pundits had a field day with that one.
So if anything juicy is coming down the pipe, hurry it up. I am starting to get cabin fever over here.

Car insurance exceeded \$5,000 from State Farm

To the editor,
What happened to the days when customer loyalty was rewarded by auto insurance companies?
I have maintained a relationship with State Farm for more than 26 years purchasing home, cottage, boat and auto insurance.

would cost \$5,053.20.
I had an immediate need therefore had no choice but to purchase a policy with State Farm, but threaten that when time permitted I would shop around.
I am going to be 43 this month, I have been with State Farm since I was 16 and I have not made any claim against my insurance in more than 20 years.

mit rules they will follow providing consumers insurance that is fair and equitable.
I later found out these rules vary by insurance company.
Therefore I decided to shop around and I received many quotes that were at a minimum half of the State Farm's quote.

when new players are offering equal if not better products with substantial savings.
Kudos to the Weston/Loblaws Group of Companies for continuing to provide their customers solutions to everyday needs.
State Farm brags of being the number one insurer of cars, and of their nearly 76,000 employees North American wide. Perhaps this will be a wake up call, that to protect these jobs and to remain in a leadership position they focus on retaining customers as opposed to churning them.

Maybe so if you are on welfare.
Or your job depends on it. Or a Liberal. Or a socialist. (time to stop, redundancy alert.)
But in all seriousness, if I was her and I needed to be so appalled at something, I would start with how the heck I managed to get through this life so long without any discernable sense of humour.
Finally, throw me a bone will ya? I need some more news from your paper that I can comment on.

By the way, Councillor Evelyn Buck is right.
The towns and the region have no business making donations to anyone outside their boundaries, let alone to a foreign country, no matter how great the need is.
That is the job of the feds, through foreign affairs.
As for "It's a way of putting our money where our mouth is" ... That's the whole point. It's not your money.
It belongs to the taxpayers.
Elected representatives would do well to remember that, including Bill Fisch, Chairman of the Region of York, who is not elected.

Periodically I have cancelled car insurance because of having a company car and being covered by a fleet policy.
Fact is, I, like my parents, have never really shopped around because we assumed our best interest was always being addressed.

Furthermore in 2002 when I was last auto insured with State Farm I paid just under \$1,200 a year. What could have gone wrong?
Well, I have had two speeding tickets in the last three years; both minor infractions (no points lost). I had had a ticket when I took out my 2002 policy.
My State Farm agent was kind enough to investigate and at my request sent me a letter responding "to the best of my knowledge that quote is accurate".
He later explained that State Farm is government regulated and it has to sub-

Then I heard that President's Choice Financial was offering auto and home insurance. I contacted them and was pleased to obtain auto insurance for \$1,818.96 (a savings of \$3,234.24, after tax money).
I simply needed to provide letters of insurance experience coverage from my previous insurance which State Farm was supportive in providing.
In addition I signed up for home insurance and saved 28 per cent.

When will large corporations realize size no longer matters as many large troubled companies have recently demonstrated.
I encourage everyone to shop around and don't assume you are getting the best value for your hard earned dollar.

The Stouffville cabbies connection was a great angle to capitalize on.
It was almost as good as the debate we had here in Stouffville regarding a proposed snake hibernaculum that some local environmental types wanted to build.
The local councillor went into convulsions about the mere thought of it. (Guess he had seen the movie

Hugo T. Kroon
Bethesda

Aurora's Creative Connection thanks community for auction

To the editor,
On December 7, 2004, Aurora's Creative Connection held a silent auction fund-raiser for Chris Gist and his family.
Chris is a courageous young man who was diagnosed with Lymphoblastic Lymphoma at the age of 15.

making our evening a success.
We wish to send our best wishes out to Chris and his family.
Here's hoping that the long winding road ahead will soon straighten out and finally come to a glorious end.
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Letter to veterinarian "one-sided", reader says

To the editor,

Re "Vet Refused Treatment" letter to the editor, The Auroran, Jan. 25.

I was very disappointed to see you run such a one-sided letter against a pri-

vately operated business in Aurora.

You did state that this had been submitted to the College of Veterinarians of Ontario for review and perhaps you should have waited for its decision.

Did you contact the Emergency Clinic to deter-

mine 1) the attitude of Mr. Edward, 2) were they dealing with an emergency crisis at the clinic, 3) was this a true emergency, 4) had they had negative dealings before with Mr. Edward?

I run a house call practice in York Region and

have owned three clinics in the past.

I can't tell you the thousands of dollars I am owed over the years by the people who expect service but don't pay.

Clinics have had to take a stand so that equipment can be updated, continu-

ing education of all staff is attained and the doors can stay open by paying for staff and utilities.

Most now only take Interac or Visa and no cheques because of the countless bad debts they have incurred.

How do human doctors get to turn patients away when they are supported by public money whereas veterinarians, at all times, must support the public's pets or be deemed uncaring?

The article said this

occurred "following a checkup and monitoring" so there was advanced warning to gather the essentials of going to any business in the area - identification and a method of payment.

Next time please wait until all the facts are in.

Dr. B. McLeod
Aurora.

ED. NOTE: The "article" in question was not an article; it was a letter to the editor.

Resident seeking "entrance" to town

To the editor,

The commercial development of the 404/Wellington area will not only serve our growing community but also provide important tax dollars to help fund new services in our Town.

As this development is situated at the entrance to our community, I recently asked Council what had been included in the design plans at this intersection to ensure that the entrance to the Town of Aurora was appropriately marked.

Council didn't acknowl-

edge that this had been addressed or the opportunity that existed to have developers fund our 'Gateway Identity'.

As I did not attend the public planning open house to approve this development, I have since met with Jim Kyle in the town plan-

ning department to understand what will be included in the site development that will identify this area as a key entrance, or 'gateway' to our town.

I want to commend our Director of Planning and her staff who have worked with the developer, First Pro, to address this issue.

And, I wanted to acknowledge John MacNeil and his staff at First Pro who have co-operated to ensure that a first class entrance to our community will exist.

I understand that the motto of First Pro is 'bringing value to Canadian communities', and from the plans that have been proposed that should be true.

While no one likes to see urban sprawl, if it must be, let's do everything we can to ensure the best for our Town.

Al Wilson
Aurora

Chris Gist back in hospital

To the editor,

Just wanted to give all the great people of Aurora an update on Chris Gist.

He has been back in hospital, Mt. Sinai, for the last three weeks.

Leslie, his mom, and

Chris spent two days in emergency waiting for a bed and room. Chris had a couple of bacterial infections that they had to get rid of.

Leslie stayed with him throughout this ordeal in his isolated room.

He was not allowed to

eat but they are now allowing him to have soft, mushy food. He was transferred yesterday into a semi-private room and Leslie is not allowed to stay.

It has been a harrowing experience for them both.

Chris is feeling okay and would love some visitors. It is pretty boring and lonely when in the hospital and he would love to see his friends. He is in Mt. Sinai on University Ave beside Princess Margaret, Room number 1705.

Thanks to all of you for your support, wishes and donations.

Heritage Aurora Inc.

Since the resolution was not approved by the required two thirds majority vote, the name of the organization will remain Aurora Historical Society.

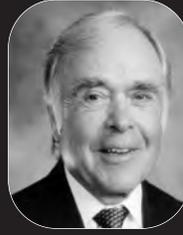
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A name is a name

ED. NOTE: No one called about identifying the people in the editorial page photo last week, but we certainly struck a nerve trying to identify the source of the photo, Helen Roberts. As president of the Aurora Historical Society, Helen is in the middle of discussions over a legal name change for the group. While Heritage Aurora, Inc. was the chosen title, apparently the vote wasn't sufficient to make it legal. Helen explains:

To the editor,

I'm not sure how you want to respond to the photograph, but this might help set the record straight.

At a recent meeting of the Aurora Historical Society the membership voted on changing the name of the organization to



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Buck wants investigation of \$500,000 York donation

If Aurora Council gets its way, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs will launch an investigation of York Region's method of conducting public business including an audit of the region's accounts and financial procedures.

Councillor Evelyn Buck presented a motion last week after the region donated \$500,000 to the Red Cross for the tsunami disaster.

In her motion Buck

claimed no legal authority had been given for the donation and no notice was given to the community that the region was contemplating such action.

She noted the region had taken funds from a 2004 budget surplus, and according to legislation all money raised in excess from taxation in any given year must be applied to the benefit of the community which in effect overpaid taxes in that year.

She referred to a statement that Regional Chairman Bill Fisch had made indicating decision support was obtained from regional councillors through a canvassed poll.

She said the only course of redress was through the province and sought council support to send the request to the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and local MPPs.

Councillor Nigel Kean questioned Mayor Tim

Jones, Aurora's representative on regional council, as to the legality of the donation. Jones replied that regional council was assured the region's action was legal.

Kean said that while the amount may be excessive, the region was to be commended for being first off the block in making the donation and that the amount worked out to about 40 cents per resident.

Councillor John West said it didn't matter about how worthy the cause, a committee could not make the decision.

Councillor Damir Vrancic expressed his concern about Councillor Buck not being able to express her concerns at regional council after being denied delegation status after sending an e-mail requesting it.

He noted she could not get the support of regional council to present her comments and said he was disappointed that Mayor Jones had not supported her request to speak.

Jones replied that he wasn't aware Buck was going to attend the meeting and the region has a procedure dealing with delegations and he was following that procedure.

He said he didn't know what happened to Buck's e-mail and would try to find out.

Councillor Bill Hogg said he found it strange the region had a procedure for delegations but not for giving away half-a-million dol-

lars and it was important for Aurora council to take a position.

The vote was 5-2 in support of the Buck motion to seek an investigation with Mayor Jones and Councillor Kean in opposition.

It's an almost painless way to pay your taxes

The Municipal Act authorizes municipal councils to pass a bylaw before the adoption of the year's budget to levy a separate tax rate on the assessment of each property class, which shall not exceed 50 per cent of the total taxes paid on the property for the previous year.

Aurora Council has established an interim tax levy for 2005 to be paid in two installments with the first payment due February 22 and the second installment on April 15.

The timing of the property tax billing has a significant impact on the cash flow for the municipality, so that the revenue stream coincides with the timing of general and operating costs and the town's legislated payments on March 31 to the school boards.

Nobody likes to pay taxes, but if they can be withdrawn from your bank account without going through the painful process of writing a cheque, it doesn't hurt as much.

Pre-authorized tax payments solved the problem, but in the initial stages there were several concerns, such as legality, tax penalties, cash flow and bank charges.

Back in 1971 when Aurora installed its own in-house computer there were three tax payments per year, one interim and two

final.

Prior to that only one tax bill had been issued for the year.

Some citizens, especially seniors, liked the concept of multiple payments and asked for more frequency.

Finally a schedule of six payments was agreed to, three interim and three final. This was later changed to two interim and two final.

In 1983, the City of St. Albert, Alberta, introduced an innovative plan of permitting taxpayers to authorize automatic monthly payments toward their property taxes, through a pre-authorized tax payment plan.

It was seen as a convenient way for taxpayers to break their tax bill into manageable monthly installments.

The system involved an arrangement between the city's bank and the ratepayer's bank, which automatically deducted the pre-authorized payments.

In September, 1983, Aurora Treasurer Bill Johnson suggested that at first glance, the pre-authorized payment plan may be the way to go, but expressed concern that the banks involved would charge a fee for their services.

He was directed by council to carry out further investigations.

In November, 1983, Georgina Council approved a pre-authorized tax payment plan with monthly payments to be one-twelfth of the previous year's tax bill plus six per cent.

At the end of the year when the final tax was calculated, any difference between the amount paid and the amount due was charged to the homeowner or refunded.

Johnson met with Georgina officials to obtain further information and reported to council in December 1983.

In 1984, Johnson advised council that Richmond Hill had introduced a plan for the payment of taxes by way of nine post-dated cheques for each month from January to September.

The nine payments were calculated on the previous year's levy plus 10 per cent.

On July 16, 1984 Aurora's finance and administration committee reviewed the Richmond Hill plan and recommended a similar plan be adopted for Aurora.

So if you want to forget about writing cheques for interim and regular property tax payments, check out the preauthorized payment method by contacting the town's treasury department.

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Aurora student gets scholarship

An Aurora girl is one of four high school students who will receive a scholarship to an American school this September.

Kristin Smith, currently a Grade 12 student at Cardinal Carter High School, will be part of ceremonies to acknowledge the event.

The Richmond Hill Soccer Club will hold an official "Signing Ceremony" this week to mark the acceptance of the scholarship offer from a major U.S. College or University for September, 2005.

Each student will play soccer for their respective post-secondary institutions south of the border this fall.

All four girls are graduates from the inaugural year of the Richmond Hill Soccer Club's Advanced Training Program initiated

in April last year.

The program stresses skill development and academic success while preparing students for the S.A.T. requirements and challenges that face student athletes trying to achieve a scholarship to a Canadian or American University.

The Advanced Training Scholarship Program is open to all male and female athletes aged 15 and up registered with the Richmond Hill Soccer Club who have their sights set on a post-secondary scholarship.

The Richmond Hill Soccer Club is a non-profit organization providing organized soccer programs at recreational and competitive levels for more than 5,000 youth and adults.

Lose to Newmarket

Tigers take two of three games

The Aurora Tigers wanted to beat the Newmarket Hurricanes so badly last week, their website said they did.

Tigers and Newmarket are locked in a battle for first place and with Aurora moving into enemy territory Thursday night, it was important to come out of there with a pair of points.

The next day, the Tiger website announced Aurora had defeated Newmarket 5-3.

Just one catch...it was the other way around.

While the website said Aurora won the game 5-3, only three goal scorers were recorded, and goaltender Ryan Dickie was pegged for the loss.

Aurora got singles from Craig Carlyle, Daniel Michaelsky and Sean Thompson in the losing effort.

However, things quickly changed as Aurora returned to the friendly confines of the Aurora Community Centre Friday

then headed out Sunday, and pasted four more points to their record while increasing their unbeaten home stand to 22 games.

Friday night, Cale Tanaka, formerly a Stouffville Spirit and recently acquired by the Tigers, put it to his former team mates and led Aurora to a 4-1 victory.

Tanaka scored a critical goal and added an assist to set the pace for the winners.

"Every time he hit the ice it seemed like he had something to prove," Tiger coach Jerome Dupont said.

Aurora's other goals came from Josh Diamond, Sean Thompson and Curtis Vickers.

Sunday, Diamond was the hero as he scored with less than a minute remaining in the overtime period to give Aurora a 3-2 squeaker win over the Pickering Panthers.

Jake Anderson and

Chad Kennedy scored singles for the winners.

Dickie, in goal for Aurora, faced 30 shots to record the victory.

Aurora gets another chance at Newmarket

this Friday night when the Hurricanes visit for a game at 8 p.m.

Thursday night, Aurora visits Stouffville

and Sunday, the team is off to Thornhill.

MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY STANDINGS AS OF JAN. 24

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Law Insurance Brokers	13	2	3	76	45	29
Priestly Demolition	10	6	2	79	63	22
FPL Aggregates	9	7	2	67	57	20
Tom & Jerry's	8	9	1	58	58	17
J.J. Barron Realty	6	8	4	58	69	16
Highland Chev Cadillac	7	10	1	72	80	15
Masterclean Contracting	7	10	1	59	64	15
Rec Cycle & Sports	5	11	2	52	82	12

MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY RESULTS JAN. 24

Law Insurance	2	Masterclean	2
Barron Realty	2	Tom & Jerry's	1
Highland Chev	12	Priestly Demolition	5
Rec Sports	1	FPL Aggregates	2

MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY PLAYER STANDINGS

PLAYER	TEAM	G	A	Pts.
Mark Sedore	Priestly Demolition	24	17	41
Jason Muise	Priestly Demolition	25	14	39
Pat O'Mahoney	FPL Aggregates	22	12	34
Bruce Chappell	Highlands Chev	9	24	33
John Yaremko	Law Insurance	18	14	32
Ed Jackson	Barron's Realty	18	14	32
Steven MacDonald	FPL Aggregates	13	10	23
Steve Robertson	Highlands Chev	14	15	29
Gerald Briand	Law Insurance	12	17	29
Ralph Berry	Masterclean	8	21	29
Steve Kavanaugh	Barron's Realty	8	21	29
Darren Yaremko	Law Insurance	11	14	25
Peter Briand	Law Insurance	9	15	24
Ken Rumble	Highlands Chev	10	13	23
Mark Lemmon	Tom & Jerry's	10	11	21
Kevin Brown	Highlands Chev	9	12	21
Dave Caverley	Law Insurance	8	13	21
Paul Fujiwawa	Highlands Chev	14	5	19
Jerome Flanagan	Tom & Jerry's	8	11	19
RJ Farnsworth	Masterclean	13	5	18
Brad Wilson	Priestly Demolition	8	9	17
Raz Khamissa	Barron's Realty	8	9	17
Vince Greco	Tom & Jerry's	9	7	16
Doug Adair	Rec Sports	7	9	16
Bruce Ing	Masterclean	5	11	16
Chris Neal	Rec Sports	6	8	14
Steve Reswick	Masterclean	5	9	14
Pat Davies	Priestly Demolition	5	9	14
Dan Smith	FPL Aggregates	3	11	14
Mike Nisbet	FPL Aggregates	3	11	14
Alain Boudreau	Masterclean	7	6	13
Doug King	Rec Sports	4	9	13
Kerry Heintzman	Priestly Demolition	2	11	13
Mark Swirla	FPL Aggregates	5	7	12
Jerry Mackrell	Rec Sports	5	7	12
Mark Swirla	FPL Aggregates	5	7	12

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A long controversial road for this town condominium

By DICK ILLINGWORTH
 Today regular travellers along Wellington Street East or the Industrial Parkway are familiar with the residential/commercial complex located on the northwest corner of the intersection.

The property has a long history and applications for development presented many problems for Aurora Council due to changes and controversy.

Oldtimers will remember that the 1.4 acre site originally accommodated a garden centre and two houses.

The first application was received in September, 1988, for an amendment to the official plan to permit development for office and retail uses.

Staff expressed concern about the ability of the market to absorb additional commercial floor space in view of the number of commercial developments already approved and coming on stream.

A revised application was submitted four years later for a co-operative apartment building and commercial building.

The proposed five-storey building was to have 14,000 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor and 70 apartments on the upper floors.

In view of the location of the site at the entrance of the town's historic core, the official plan required the site plan to ensure high standards in the design of the building. Aurora Council

granted site plan approval in October, 1999.

The proposed building was originally intended as a non-profit housing project to be funded by the province and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs had identified the proposal as an affordable housing project.

Later plans were changed as the developer changed the project from non-profit housing and applied for registration as a condominium.

In 1998, purchasers started buying the condo units with a closing date of May, 2000.

By June, 2000, purchasers were still waiting for their units to be completed and picketed the construction site.

The developer said he expected to start moving people in by the end of that month on a floor-by-floor basis.

Purchasers established a committee to deal with their various concerns. It was found that sub-contractors had trouble getting paid and four liens had been registered against the property, which were later discharged.

By September, 2000, purchasers were still waiting as only a few units had been inspected and occupied, and at that time the elevator wasn't working.

Over the months as work continued on the building, more and more purchasers moved in on a floor-by-floor basis.

In February, 2003, the

developer applied to council to register the condominium and while seeking releases from town departments, staff became aware of certain changes/deficiencies in the building from what was approved in the original site plan.

It was noted that planters for the rooftop terrace and the 1.2 metre masonry wall with decorative metal fencing along the parking lot and south part of the building had not been completed.

Information was received from the project's consulting engineer that the planting pots for the rooftop terrace were too heavy, and for security reasons, the masonry wall had not been provided.

The developer presented letters from some of the tenants requesting the town to preclude him from completion of the outstanding works so registration could take place, which council refused to do.

The developer said he was running out of time and could go into receivership if there was a delay in registration and that 70 per cent of

the tenants were willing to waive the roof top garden and retaining wall for speedy registration.

Council agreed the developer and staff should meet to resolve the outstanding issues.

While councillors had sympathy for the occupants, required information had not been received from staff and registration was again refused.

Finally in May, 2003, agreement was reached on the outstanding issues and council approved registration for the condominium.

For awhile it looked as if that may not be the end of the controversy as some residents, who preferred to remain anonymous, complained about poor workmanship in the construction of the building.

However, the complaints have never come to council and the controversial condo building is no longer controversial.

And even the main floor commercial section is active with tenants.



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House League Exhibition Games

206 AURORA HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE 3: Matthew Walker 2G, Luc Martineau 1G, Joey Stel 1A, Billy Haddock 1A, Russell Johnson 1A, Alex Jonasson, shutout. **203 www.mastermindtoys.com 0.**

204 NORTH YORK HEATING & PLUMBING 7: Neil Duggan 1G, Christopher Sanita 2G, Cameron Richard 1G, Joseph Veneziano 1G 1A, Adam Petit 1G, Gabriel Oulahan 1G 1A, Matthew Sanita 2A, Robert Ruscica 1A, Mitchell Arnold 1A. **208 ORR & FORSTER INSURANCE 2:** Jamie Wilson 1G, Blake Wallace 1G, Jake Anderson 1A, Ian Coschi 1A.

205 DR. STEINER'S DRILLERS 1: Callum Forrest 1G, Calvin Morache 1A. **202 ALL PRO SPORTS 0.**

207 PHARMASAVE 6: Kevin Siery 4G, Charlie Sandler 1G 1A, Adam DeRoos 2A, Erica Barnes 1A, Kristin Grasse 1A, Nathan Sinclair 1G 1A. **201 DELPH & JENKINS SURVEYORS 5:** Michael Liscio 1G, Morgan Walker 1G, Matthew Heintzman 3G.

201 DELPH & JENKINS SURVEYORS 5: Tait Snedden 1G, Matthew Heintzman 2G, Morgan Walker 2G, Harris Riopelle 2A. **208 ORR & FORSTER INSURANCE 2:** Alexander McDonald 1G, Maxwell Brown 1G, Mitchell Carter 3A.

House League League Games

805 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 4: Alex Strapp 1G, Sean Kipfer 1G, Mark McCrudden 2G, Connor Ryeland 1A, Mike Sanita 1A, Nick Epworth 2A, Brooke Dickie 1A. **803 SMITTY'S PAINTING & DECORATING 2:** Zachary Ashfield 1G, Geoffrey Harrison 1G, Mohammed Akbar 1A, Jake Deacon 1A, Brendan Murphy 1A.

801 Green/Gold PIZZA PIZZA 6: Dylan Brennan 3G 2A, David Hilchuk 1G, Ray Mullins 1G, Darren Giroux 1G, Chris Wong 5A, Jordan Streigler 1A, Mike Damecour 1A. **802 Black/Gold PIZZA PIZZA 1:** Alex Gitto 1G, Garrett Kerkkamp 1A.

804 HIGHLAND CHEVROLET CADILLAC 6: Joe Doucher 1G 3A, Devin Maule 1G, Brandon Simon 1G, Charlie Teel 1G 1A, Anthony Pusateri 1G, Mike Davis 1G 1A, Scott Davis 2A. **806 I.O.O.F. AURORA LODGE 148 F.L.T. 1:** E. Davenport 1G, R. Rojas 1A.

805 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 5: Nick Epworth 2G 1A, Alex Strapp 1G, Mark McCrudden 1G, Connor Ryeland 1G, Meaghan Keslick 1A. **806 I.O.O.F. AURORA LODGE 148 F.L.T. 1:** R. Rojas 1G, R. Casselden 1A.

903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 7: Peter Walker 1G, Keith Bradford 3G 1A, Jeff Seymore 2G 2A, Nathan Taylor 1G 2A, Tyler Cappell 3A, Omar Popat 1A, Doug Bainbridge 3A, Curtis Wilton 1A. **906 White/Red PIZZA PIZZA 4:** Alex Ginther 1G 1A, Cam Harris 1G 1A, Phill Saunders 2G, Courtney Lockhart 1A, Justin Torma 1A, Maegan Bastarache 1A, Jamie Rundle Sanderson 1A, Taylor Jeffery 1A.

904 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 3: Ryan Jones 2G, Kyle Apps 1G 1A, Jesse Gattellerro 1A, Kiefer McBride 1A, Drew Brown 1A. **901 AURORA CANADIAN TIRE 2:** Micheal Perratta 1G, Evan Magill 1G, Dan Coates 2A.

904 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 8: Kyle

Apps 2G 1A, Ryan Jones 1G, Jesse Gattellerro 1G 4A, Alex Smith 2G 2A, Steve Pitts 1G 1A, Torrey Duckworth 1A. **903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 4:** Curtis Wilton 1G, Tyler Cappell 1G, Keith Bradford 1G 1A, Jason Tuck 1G 1A, Erin Devlin 1A.

902 OPTIMIST CLUB OF AURORA 7: Bryan Dunjko 3G 1A, Andrew Rowan 2G 2A, Matt Preston 1G 2A, Ryan Joynt 1G 1A, Morgan Mittlestaedt 2A, Jason Markovich 2A, Chris O'Conner 1A. **906 White/Red PIZZA PIZZA 1:** Brad Wilkins 1G, Cam Harris 1A.

905 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 7: Jesse Barker 2G, Tom Horner 1G 1A, Steve Horan 1G 2A, Ryan Cane 1G, Jamie Fenyess 2G 2A, Andrew Kines 2A, Cam Spense 2A, Joel Stock 1A. **901 AURORA CANADIAN TIRE 3:** Dan Coates 1G 1A, Rob Kaptyn 1G, Dan Kupraty 1G, Dale McDonald 1A.

1006 White/Royal PIZZA PIZZA 5: Erik Burrow 1G, Devin Andrews 1G, Robert Juffs 1G 3A, Andrew McGee 1G, Kyle Wilton 1G, Sean Devlin 1A, Brandon Morton 1A. **1007 SHOPPERS DRUG MART 4:** #9 2G, Michael Dinallo 1G 1A, Tim Tutton 1G, Michael Durist 1A, Chad Coley 1A, Michael Neilson 1A, Daniel Tahmizian 1A.

House League Playoff Games

102 Black/Gold TIM HORTON'S PENGUINS 8: Nicholas Baxter 5G 1A, Graydon Gardner 2G, Alexander Popa 1G, Connor Cann 1A, Ryan Ouwroules 1A, Nathan Romanchych 1A, Riley Weller 1A, Cameron Pyle 1A, Brenda Bilotta 1A. **107 Maroon/White TIM HORTON'S AVALANCHE 2:** Tyler Boston 1G, Steven Tsianos 1G, Johnny Sherwood 1A.

106 White/Royal TIM HORTON'S LEAFS 8: Jesse Weimer 6G, Jacob Hagias 1G, Peter Andreakos 1G, Adam Hofmann 2A, Samantha Hussey 2A, Kory Wansborough 1A, Christopher Klinowski 2A, Sandy Hudson 1A, Jennifer Smitten 1A. **101 Green/Gold TIM HORTON'S STARS 2:** Liam Joiner 2G, Ryan Batten 1A.

109 Orange/Black TIM HORTON'S FLYERS 12: David O'Connor 5G 1A, Brendan Ruuskanen 2G, Alex Bernier 1G 1A, Cameron Screech 2G, Husein Akbar 2G 2A. **105 Gold/Black TIM HORTON'S BRUINS 3:** Austin Riswick 2G 1A, Jeffrey Stobo 1G, Denzel Speller-Drews 2A.

104 Royal/White TIM HORTON'S BLUES 5: Emerson Cepelak 1G, Ross Benn 1G, Graeme McDonald 2G, Jimmy Abels 1G, David Kangas 1A, Connor Rice 1A, Tyler Coleta 1A. **110 Teal/White TIM HORTON'S SHARKS 3:** Jake Appleby 3G, Cameron Brown 1A.

103 Red/White TIM HORTON'S RED WINGS 12: Cole Thiessen 5G, Will Thompson 2G, Matthew Leroy 3G 2A, Garrett Wood 1G 1A, Michael Boorn 1A, Christian Baggio 1A. **108 Grey/Black TIM HORTON'S KINGS 4:** Matthew Galajda 2G, Matthew Bellerby 1G, Eddie Duffy 1G, Josh Copadaglia 1A, Nick Armour 1A, Micheal Walsh 1A, Matthew Iezzi 1A.

Rep Results

Novice AA 3 Applewood 2
Liam Coll 1G 1A, Austin Lane 1G, Konner McMillan 1G, Sean Foxwell 1A, Jordan Nanos 1A, Connor Graham 1A, Branden Fennell 1A, Matthew Iwai 1A.

Novice A 4 Innisfil 1
Scott Kostin 1G 1A, Lucas Pozzebon 1A,

Brett Thiessen 1G, Paul Neophytou 1G 1A, Austin Persaud 1G 1A.

Innisfil 5 Novice A 1
Brett Thiessen 1G, Nathan Nealon 1A, Lucas Pozzebon 1A.

Newmarket 3 Novice AE 2
Ben Ashton 1G 1A, Andrew Kaszuba 1G, Graham Robinson 1A.

Novice AE 2 Newmarket 2
Ben Ashton 2G, Ben Goldman 1A.

Georgina 3 Minor Atom AA 1
Trevor George 1G, Jody Nonnewitz 1A.

Minor Atom AA 5 Richmond Hill 0
Cameron Nuttall 1G, Stefan Lazzar 2G, Trevor George 1G, Burke White 1G, Kiefer McIntosh 1A, Jody Nonnewitz 1A, Liam Mackichan 1A, Mackenzie Lemmon 1A, Brooke Webster 1A, William Reid 1A.

Minor Atom AA 8 Peterborough 2
Brooke Webster 1G 1A, Kiefer McIntosh 1G 1A, Jody Nonnewitz 1G 1A, Mackenzie Lemmon 2G, Eric Ludwig 1G, Kevin Casey 1G, Graeme Allison 1A, Stefan Lazzar 1G 1A, Burke White 2A, Trevor George 3A, Liam Mackichan 1A, Cameron Nuttall 1A.

Minor Atom A 3 NobleKing 2
Conor Fennell 1G 2A, Andrew McDonald 1G 1A, Eric Damecour 1A, Quincy Ing 1A, Peter Sandwell 1G.

Minor Atom A 5 NobleKing 2
Andrew McDonald 2A, Conor Fennell 1G, Daniel Fiori 1G, Peter Sandwell 1G 1A, Eric Damecour 1G, Eric Bulloch 1G, Stuart Mattila 1A, Quincy Ing 1A.

NobleKing 2 Minor Atom A 0

Minor Atom AE 6 Stouffville 1
Ben Hankins 2G, Ryan Baskin 2G, Vincent Ruscica 1G, Liam Devlin 1G, Matthew Pryse 1A, Bailey Miller 1A.

Minor Atom AE 5 Stouffville 2
Christopher Tsianos 3G, Bailey Miller 1G, Vincent Ruscica 1G 1A, Matthew Pryse 3A, Daniel Antoneil 2A, Ben Hankins 1A, Zach Ferry 1A, Ryan Baskin 1A.

Atom AA 3 Markham 2
Trevor Best 1G, Andrew Papousek 1G, Brian Puskar 1G, Marco Ghegin 1A, Nicholas Heintzman 1A.

Atom AA 3 Georgina 1
Andrew Papousek 2G, Trevor Best 1A, Sean Nishimura 1G 1A.

TNT 3 Atom A 1
Matt Noseworthy 1G, Sean Nishimura 1A, Rory Macneil 1A.

TNT 2 Atom A 1
Taylor Butler 1G, Cooper Riswick 1A, Rory Macneil 1A.

Minor Peewee AA 1 Richmond Hill 0
Justin Nice 1G, Brandon Pedersen 1A, Chanelle Hassard 1A.

Minor Peewee A 5 East Gwillimbury 2
Kyle McCreedy 2G 1A, Michael Vance 1G 1A, Tristan Miller 1G, Michael Nonnewitz 1G, Ryan Antoniel 1A, Jordan Figueiredo 1A.

East Gwillimbury 4 Minor Peewee A 3
Tristan Miller 1G, Spencer George 2G, Tyler Jensen 1A, James Harkin 1A, Kyle McCreedy 1A, Stephen Demarco 2A, Jack Steffan 1A.

East Gwillimbury 3 Minor

Peewee A 2
Michael Vance 1G, Gavin Forrest 1G, Stephen Demarco 2A.

East Gwillimbury 6 Minor Peewee A 3
Michael Vance 1G, Tyler Jensen 1G, Stephen Demarco 1G 2A, Kyle McCreedy 2A, Michael Bar 1A, Spencer George 1A.

Peewee A 3 Newmarket 1
Derrick Hamner 1G, Jeffrey Sanderson 1A, Justin Brown 1G, Evan Casselden 1G 1A, Paul Keilty 1A.

Peewee A 2 Newmarket 0
Jake Boyle 1G, J.J. Lam 1G, Wesley O'beirne 1A, Derrick Hamner 1A, Taylor Nuttall 1A.

Semi-finals 3 Peewee AE 0

Peewee AE 7 Stouffville 2
Michael McGorlick 1G, Matthew Semeredy 1A, Geoff Gianopoulos 1G 1A, Andrew McKay 1G, Darcy Eveleigh 1G 1A, Aaron Beally 1G 1A, Sean Agostino 1G 1A, Tyler Tisdale 1G 1A, Jakub Sykora 1A.

Minor Bantam AE 4 Richmond Hill 3
Nicholas Di Nallo 1G, Zacharie Roitner 1G 1A, Chris Burns 2A, Ethan Shore 2A, Curtis Hough 1G, Braun Hause 1G, Brendon Stenzol 1A.

Bantam A 5 NobleKing 2
Jake Hurlbut 1G, Jeremy Cohen 1G, Ross Pizzurro 1G, Jamie Tuck 2G, Nick Crain 3A, Josh Meron 1A, Fraser Kegel 1A, Darcy Pelosse 2A, Chris Finlay 1A, Jesse Coote 1A.

NobleKing 5 Bantam A 2
Jeremy Cohen 1G, Ross Pizzurro 1G, Chris Finlay 1A, Spencer McCartney 1A, Eric King 1A, Fraser Kegel 1A.

Bantam A 3 NobleKing 2
Fraser Kegel 1G, Jeremy Cohen 1G, Jamie Tuck 1G, Ross Pizzurro 1A, Chris Finlay 1A, Jesse Coote 1A, Jake Hurlbut 1A.

Minor Midget AA 3 Georgina 1

Minor Midget AA 4 Georgina 0

Minor Midget A 4 Stouffville 2
Connor O'Grady 1G, Ryan Fennell 1G, Chad Roberts 1G 1A, Bryan Sturges 1G, Damian McGovern 1A, Neil Kileeg 1A, Chris Blom 1A, Alex Rabindranath 1A.

Minor Midget A 2 Stouffville 0
Iznaur Atiev 1G, Drew Jenkins 1G, Ryan Fennell 1A.

Midget AA 4 Barrie Colts 2
Tom Keane 2G 1A, Peter McNeil 1G, Adam Hankins 2A, Michael Osborne 1A, Tom Hurlley 1G, Taylor Campbell 1A, Vinnie Davenport 1A, Brandon Steffan 2A.

Midget A 3 Newmarket 2
Jordan Williams 1G, Corey Berube 1G, Andrew Welch 1G 1A, Jordan Ofeild 1A, Matt Cleverdon 1A.

Midget A 6 Newmarket 3
Ryan Kines 1G 2A, Jordan Ofeild 1G 2A, Matt Cleverdon 1G, Corey Berube 1G, Andrew Jamieson 1G 2A, Scott Daly 1G, Craig Waites 1A, Patrick Bowie 1A.

Midget A 6 Newmarket 3
Craig Waites 1G 1A, Ryan Kines 2G, Jordan Ofeild 1G 1A, Chris Statchuk 1G 2A, Patrick Bowie 1G 1A, Andrew Welch 1A, Matt Cundari 1A, Matt Cleverdon 1A.

Yonge Street businesses to continue

From page 1
light pollution from the park-
dents' comments, the appli-
cant

made several modifica-
tions to the site plan and
the landscape plan.

Several exceptions to
the bylaw have been with-
drawn.

Town Staff advised that
as the properties are adja-
cent to residences, care
has been taken to ensure
the parking lot is screened.

Gary Templeton, a plan-
ner representing the appli-
cant, agreed with the staff
overview and with modifica-
tions to the plan.

Steve Mills, a neighbour,
told council that many of his
concerns had been
addressed and the applica-
tion was heading in the right
direction.

He noted that two front
windows of one of the
homes had been modified
which was not appropriate
to the architecture or the
streetscape.

His other concerns
regarded mobile signs and

light pollution from the park-
dents' comments, the appli-
cant

Templeton advised that
lights in the parking lot
would be turned inward and
downward and the façade
of the building would be
fixed up to meet town stan-
dards.

Councillor Evelyn Buck
agreed with Mills' com-
ments regarding the mobile
signs saying they were not
appropriate for the area.

Councillor Bill Hogg
questioned what would
happen to the shared drive-
way and parking if one of
the properties changed
hands and was assured by
staff that an easement was
in place.

It was also pointed out
that while the two proper-
ties were owned by one
couple, it was planned to
keep them as two separate
properties.

Council approved the
application in principle
subject to a site plan
agreement.



Sometimes the assignments are really pleasant for Aurora Mayor Tim Jones who found himself in the enviable position of officially opening Aqua Salon and Spa at Yonge and Murray in Aurora recently. The four in the background are, left to right, Brenda Bayly, salon co-ordinator; Caroline and James Arniotis, owners of the business; and Francesca Tocci, a partner in the Aurora operation.

Three stream garbage collection here in Sept.

Following a lengthy
discussion at the last gen-
eral committee meeting
regarding three stream
waste collection, the com-
mittee recommended a
tender be issued for the
town's waste collection
and sought a report back
on the results.

It was also requested
that staff investigate and
report back on how best
to address the issue of
renovation and construc-
tion debris which occa-
sionally gets put out with
garbage.

The three stream
waste collection was back
before council last week.

Klaus Wehrenberg, a
member of the
Environmental Advisory
Committee, appeared
before council and told
members that while com-
mittee members had
some informal talks about
the new system, he
requested the issue be

referred to the advisory
committee for a more
complete review.

He expressed concern
about the region shipping
waste to a landfill site in
the United States and
said there should be land
within the municipality to
handle local waste.

He noted that the
town's strategic plan
called for a well-managed
fiscal responsibility and
suggested it should also
include an environmental
responsibility.

He also pointed out no
draft bylaws were in place
and no arrangements had
been made for industrial
and commercial waste.

He suggested yard
waste be handled inter-
nally and asked for the
region to arrange a mobile
unit for hazardous waste.

It was pointed out the
staff report had been
referred to the advisory
sub-committee, but

Wehrenberg replied it was
an ad hoc session and not
a formal meeting, which
he believed was required.

During the discussion
of the staff report,
Councillor Evelyn Buck
said that all kinds of
money had been spent in
the past to find a suitable
landfill site in the region
and the Interim Waste
Authority had identified a
site, but with a change of
government nothing hap-
pened.

While some members
of council agreed the
report should be referred
to the advisory commit-
tee, others expressed
concern about the time
frame, with the system to
be implemented this
September.

Director of Public
Works Wayne Jackson
said he hoped to have the
results of the tender by
late March.

After further discus-
sion, it was agreed to
refer the issue to the advi-
sory committee for com-
ments and to proceed

with the calling of the
tender.

Councillors take shots from citizen

Aurora Council
launched its new year
recently and got some
advice from a con-
stituent.

Al Wilson, a former
candidate for council,
offered comments hoping
it would help councillors.

For Councillor John
West, Wilson suggested
he lose his temper only
once during a council
meeting, Councillor Ron
Wallace should talk more
and start off each ses-
sion with a joke and
Councillor Damir Vrancic
should smile more often.

He told Councillor
Phyllis Morris to cut back
her workload, Councillor
Nigel Kean to cut back
his letter writing and
advised Councillor
Wendy Gaertner not to
be afraid to ask ques-
tions.

He suggested

Councillor Bill Hogg
attend more committee
meetings and be on time
for meetings, and
Councillor Evelyn Buck
ensure her accusations
are valid before making
them.

Mayor Tim Jones wise-
ly cut off any responses
from members of council.

How come I don't know rates increasing: resident

At Tuesday's council
meeting, Aurora resident
Ben Kestein asked why a
potential Aurora Hydro
rate increase was noted in
the Toronto press but not
reported locally.

"I'm bewitched, both-
ered and bewildered
about what's going on," he
said.

Aurora Mayor Tim
Jones agreed Aurora
Hydro was seeking a rate
increase and information
would be made available.

Meanwhile, The
Auroran's Dick Illingworth
has arranged an interview
with Aurora Hydro officials
this month and his report
will be in a future issue.



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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Local breeder wins top cattle awards

Today Aurora is seen as an urban community with all of its agricultural land developed or slated for development.

But back in 1980 a local cattle breeder put Aurora on the breeding map with awards at Canada's two largest agricultural shows.

Dave Sleigh, managing partner at Ellanvannin Farms, and his cattle captured the top Aberdeen Angus awards for premier breeder and premier exhibitor at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto and the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina.

In addition, heifers and bulls bred and raised at the Aurora farm won several top individual awards in the two shows.

The farm is located on Leslie Street, south of the Vandorf Sideroad and is owned by the family of the late Senator Wallace McCutcheon.

FLQ WAS ACTIVE IN AURORA

Most Canadians are aware of the separatist work of the FLQ in Quebec with blowing up mailboxes and other malicious acts of terrorism.

Believe it or not there was a cell of the FLQ right here in Aurora in June, 1981.

But it was a different FLQ as the Aurora cell consisted of Fellows Who Left Quebec.

Alan Warren, who operated Sunshine Travel in Aurora, was a native of Quebec and organized a dinner meeting of former Quebec residents living in York Region at the Aurora Highlands Golf Course.

He said the group was not political and was strictly for having fun.

They ate French food, wore toques and sang a song which was a blend of "Alouette" and "Ontario-o-o".

The only requirement to join was for the person to have been born in Quebec or lived there a minimum of two years.

AURORA COUNCIL GETS PREPARED

On a hot humid day in July, 1991, Gwen Jacobs of Guelph, was arrested for walking bare-breasted on the streets of that city.

She was fined \$75 after a high-profile trial.

In December, 1996, the Ontario Court of Appeal overturned the lower court's decision and ruled women could go topless in public.

Concerned that the topless craze might come to Aurora, a huge petition was presented to council in July, 1997, with the request that action be taken to prevent this from happening in Aurora.

Staff was directed to investigate what action, if any at the local level, could be taken.

In addition the petition was forwarded to MP Maurizio Bevilacqua to take to Ottawa.

The topless craze never took hold in Aurora and

council never had to face up to the issue.

OBSCENE ART IN AURORA

Censorship of art is usually a hot issue and it happened right here in Aurora in November, 1968.

In response to protests from a few parents, Arnold Miller, principal of Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, removed four paintings, which the parents termed obscene, from an art display at the school.

The paintings were part of a travelling art exhibition from the Art Gallery of Ontario.

The removed paintings titled "Lovers" Numbers 3, 4, 5 and 6, were by artist Joe Rosenthal and depicted a naked male and female with their arms and legs entwined.

The exhibit had been hanging in the school for several days and reviewed without alarm by the students before it was removed.

The students started petitions stating the paintings weren't obscene and requested they be replaced but the wall remained empty.

One adult who had viewed the paintings prior to their removal said he saw nothing obscene and that he had seen worse on corn flake boxes.

A spokesman for the AGO said it was the first time a complaint had been received about the paintings.

BLAME THE GST

Back in January, 1991, taxi fares in Aurora increased by nine per cent and the reason given was the controversial goods and service tax.

It was decided to build the GST into the fare to avoid disputes between driver and customers over additional charges and to prevent miscalculations of the tax.

The new fare was \$2 for the first 300 metres instead of the previous \$1.80 and 20 cents for each additional 160 metres instead of 20 cents for each 175 metres.

Taxi operators complained that while the increase covered the GST, it did little to offset the 30 per cent increase in gas prices during the previous six months.

When was the last time you heard a complaint about the GST?

VITAL LINK IS FORGED

It's hard to believe but it wasn't until 1967/68 that Aurora Council performed a monumental task in the dying moments of the term by enacting a zoning bylaw to give teeth to the official plan approved earlier in the term.

It seems unbelievable that a town so close to Toronto, with the pressures of development, was so long without planning controls and it was fortunate that thoroughly undesirable development hadn't taken place.

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Susan Hanna, right, of Aurora, was the winner of the Aurora Shopping Centre's gift basket draw held recently. Making the presentation is the Centre's Promotions Manager Marjorie Saunders.

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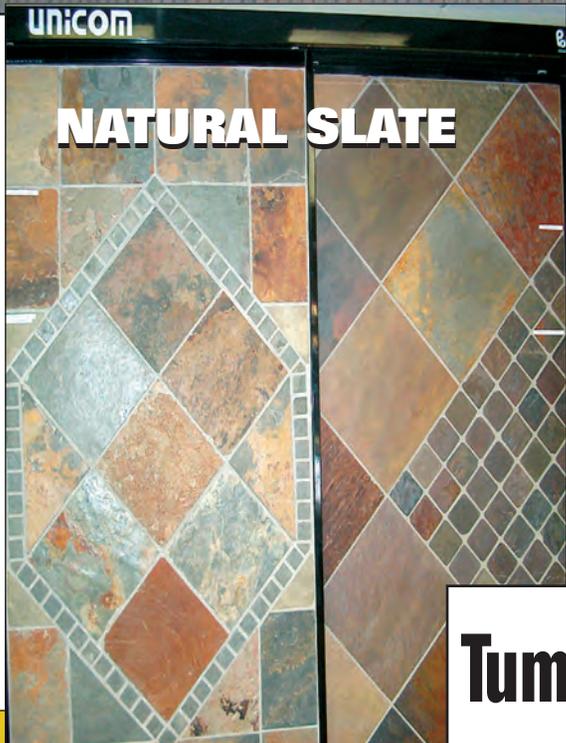
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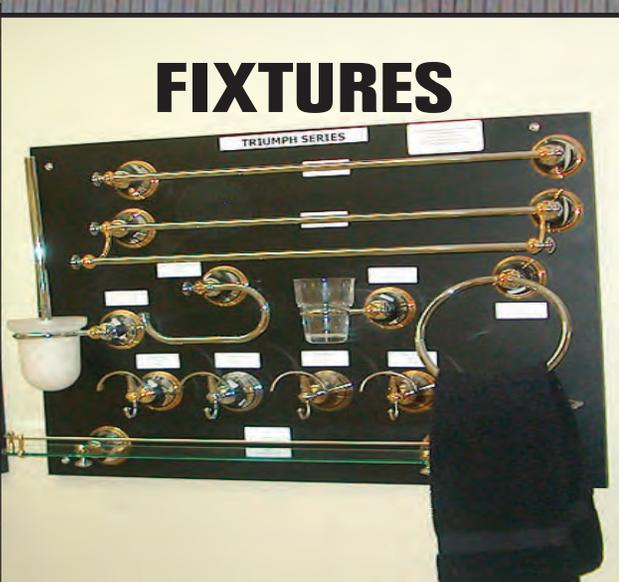
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