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# AURORAN

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Vol. 5 No. 20

Week of March 8, 2005

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## York's bus service competes with GO

GO Transit is not happy with York Region's decision to begin a rapid transit bus service on Yonge Street, but has accepted the fact and will adjust Yonge Street schedules to accommodate it, according to a GO official.

Last January Aurora Councillor Evelyn Buck asked that a representative from GO Transit be invited to address council regarding the impact of the regional service on GO Transit, the train and bus express service GO Transit provides to downtown Toronto from York Region, and future plans for trains and crossings.

Gary McNeil, CEO and Managing Director of GO Transit, addressed a general committee meeting last week to provide an overview of the impact of the regional operation.

He said GO Transit will adjust its schedules to provide more express bus services to Toronto via Highway 404 or Yonge Street.

Regarding level crossings, he said GO is meeting Canada

Transport regulations but has volunteered to improve safety and expects to have gates installed at Engelhard and Centre Street.

Looking to the future, he noted the line through Aurora was a single track and there was only limited ability to store trains overnight at Bradford for early morning runs to Toronto, and there is a land acquisition problem in Bradford.

An environmental assessment is currently underway to extend the line northward from Bradford to Barrie, where there is more room to store trains overnight.

He said there was consultation with GO Transit regarding the introduction of the regional service, but the region was adamant about proceeding, and although GO "kicked and screamed", there was nothing they could do.

GO Transit is seeking more land to provide parking near the Aurora train station, he said, because lack of it is forcing rail commuters to use residential streets and spaces

Please see page 9



This trio got a head start on March Break activities at Hillary House this year. Allison Kipfer, left, Jessica Brown and Nicole Kipfer start construction of an Easter basket. Events will be held throughout the week at Aurora's most famous house for children as young as three and up to Grade 6, but reservations are essential. Call 905-727-4015 for more information.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Those big white birds harmless Trumpeters

If there's a good thing about those big white birds - which are actually Trumpeter Swans - invading Aurora, it's at least one sign that Spring is on its way.

Aurora's Harry Lumsden, noted authority on Trumpeters, told The Auroran last week the large birds have been spotted all over town.

"They're freeloaders and they come to my place to feed," he said. "It's a definite sign of Spring."



Captured by the camera of Karen Fujiwara, this large Trumpeter Swan spent the night in her front yard on Wellington Street West. Bird has been spotted in several areas of Aurora as letters on Page 6 suggest.

Calls have come in from all parts of Aurora that the birds are landing everywhere.

"They're not aggressive; they won't hurt you," he said. "Mostly they're lost."

One resident caught pictures of one of the swans on her lawn a couple of weeks ago. It bore the number 796.

Harry knew everything about that bird.

"It was born at Landcrest Farm in the Grand Valley area in 2002 and was rejected by its parents," he said. "I brought it to Aurora and released it in July of 2003."

It was on the lawn of Aurora United Church January 29 and police received numerous calls about the bird February 20.

There's nothing unusual about the size of the bird, he said.

"Males usually weigh between 28 and 30 pounds; females are about three or four pounds lighter."

Lumsden, who has received the Order of Canada, has spent his life studying trumpeter swans and provides an oasis for them on his property at the end of Hillview Drive.

## Aurora's Reebok heads to Montreal

Once referred to as a "flagship", one of Aurora's major industries is leaving.

Reebok Canada, operating on Earl Stewart Drive near Bayview Avenue, will move to a new facility early next year.

It all started in September, 1989, when an application was received to rezone 196.2 acres on the west side of Bayview Avenue, midway between Wellington Street and the St. John's Sideroad, from rural to prestige and general industrial.

The lands in question were part of the 376-acre Aurora East Industrial Estates planned to be developed as the Bayview Business Park and by November, 1989, Aurora Council had approved the rezoning in principle.

In early 1991, an application was received to construct a 146,212 square foot building on 6.7 acres of land for the head

office and distribution warehouse centre for Reebok Canada.

Although the servicing of the lands was not yet in place council approved a partial registration of the subdivision agreement so the development could proceed.

Reebok was the first company to build in the proposed Business Park and Mayor John West called it the "flagship" of the Bayview Avenue

industrial area.

With the building under construction, in April, 1991, council approved an application by Reebok Canada to add a retail store to their new warehouse with hopes of having it open for the Christmas trade.

Council approval was given in spite of an objection from the merchants of the Aurora Shopping

Please see page 7

### Briefly

#### Quilt show

Aurora residents may want to visit the library to see a quilt display and information about the Region of York Quilters' Guild's upcoming show April 9th and 10th.

On Saturday, the 9th, the show runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Available will be full size quilts, wall hangings, miniatures, and quilted clothing.

A merchants' mall and tea room will be available.

For further details log onto www.regionofyorkquiltersguild.ca.



Brian



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# COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

## CONTINUING

On the first Wednesday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon, a satellite constituency office for Vaughan/King/Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara will be open in the council lounge at the Town Hall. Call 1-877-880-6770 for information.

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. Call 905-726-4760 for further information.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows 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 a.m. 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.townsofyork.org or phone Roy Bannan 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. Trinity Anglican Church, Aurora.

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.

The Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Aurora Legion, Industrial Parkway North, at 8 p.m. For more information, call 905-727-4946.

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.

## MARCH 11

Mayor's blood donor clinic, Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive, 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

## MARCH 14, 21, 28

Aurora Public Library presents genealogy workshop with Ruth Burkholder. 7 p.m., Lebovic Room. \$10. Limited registration. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

## MARCH 14-18

March Break. Aurora Public Library has scheduled several events during the week. Free tickets available in advance. Also lots of activities for youngsters at Hillary House. Call 905-727-4015 to register. Public Skating at the Leisure Complex.

## MARCH 15

Aurora's Leisure Services Department has arranged a Snowboard and Ski Trip to Mount St. Louis/Moonstone for ages 14 to 18. Bus departs from Leisure Complex at 8 a.m. arriving home about 6 p.m. Cost is \$42. Register at the Leisure Complex. No rentals.

## MARCH 19-20

Aurora resident and artist Herbert Pryke will be displaying his artworks at the Mill Pond Gallery, 314 Mill St., Richmond Hill from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. Herbert's primary subject matter are the landscapes, barns and 'just trees' of the North York Region, a commodity quickly being depleted.

## MARCH 21

Aurora Writers Group meets at the Aurora Community Centre at 7.30 p.m. Note change of date and venue. Writers, 18 and older of all genres and levels welcome. Free. Contact Malcolm at 905-898-5484.

## MARCH 22

Square dancing at Aurora Lions Hall. 1 p.m. Call the Aurora Seniors' Centre at 905-727-2816 or Norm Weller at 905-727-6434 to register.

Applications close at 4:30 p.m. for the five citizen members to participate on a Task Force to review issues surrounding basement apartments in Aurora. Applications must be submitted to the town clerk.

## MARCH 23

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, offers income tax clinic, 6.30 p.m. For more information, call the library.

## MARCH 24

Chamber of Commerce Business After 5 at Almac Conveyor Company, 155 Engelhard Drive. 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.

## MARCH 29

Aurora Opera Company presents its Teen Show "Yesterdays", a contemporary youth musical at the Newmarket Theatre. Call 905-953-5122 for ticket information.

## APRIL 2

Optimist Hockey League registration in the arena lobby at the Leisure Complex from 10 a.m. to noon for girls and boys born in 1999 and 2000. Games played Saturday and Sunday morning from September to April. Bring child's health card. Call Scott Sutherland for further information at 905-726-2998.

## APRIL 6

The annual Bob Hartwell Runner's Challenge has its own challenge, it needs volunteers. A volunteer orientation session will be held at the Town Hall at 7 p.m. For more information call Chris Williams at 905-392-1977.

## \*\*\*\*

From 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Magna Room at the Aurora Public Library in conjunction with Aurora Cable Internet, a general open forum will be held to answer computer related questions. Pre-register at the library information desk, or on line at www.aci.on.ca.

## APRIL 19

Heritage Fairs Program, a new community-based Fair program is being introduced in Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville this year. The Aurora event will be held at Aurora Legion Hall (105 Industrial Parkway North) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## APRIL 22-24

Aurora's Living in Style Home Show sponsored by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

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Cast members of Theatre Aurora's Youth Group go through the paces of "A Run For The Money", a mystery/farce by Pat Cook, currently underway at the Factory Theatre. The show opened on the weekend and continues March 10, 11 and 12 at 8 p.m. and March 13 at 2 p.m. For reservations, call the box office at 905-727-3669.

# Region will control lights

Subject to approval by York Regional Council at its next meeting, a traffic control signal operation and maintenance agreement will be signed with the Town of Aurora.

Currently, the region maintains and operates traffic control signals at regional intersections and local municipalities maintain and operate traffic control signals at intersections under their jurisdiction.

As part of a rapid transit program, Transit Signal Priority (TSP) is being implemented along its routes.

In addition, the region will be monitoring the performance of the signalized inter-

sections through the region's centralized traffic control system.

As many of the signalized intersections along the transit routes are under the control of local municipalities and in order to maintain schedules and take advantage of the TSP system, the region is assuming the operation and maintenance of the local municipality-owned sig-

nals on a cost recovery basis.

The agreement between the region and the town includes equipping the local signals for TSP at no cost to the municipality as well as connecting the local signals to the region's signal control system.

Aurora will reimburse the region for operation and maintenance costs.

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# Aurora-Newmarket hydro merger is still a possibility

By **DICK ILLINGWORTH**

The possibility of a merger between Aurora Hydro and Newmarket Hydro still exists.

Aurora Council met this week prior to its regular council meeting, however no details were released.

A private session regarding the proposal was held last week following the general committee meeting.

It all started with the deregulation of Ontario Hydro by the provincial government and the requirement that local hydro utilities become for-profit corporations, merge with other municipalities or sell the utility to private electric distributors.

The deadline for such action was November, 2000.

Failure to act by that date would result in a 33 per cent transfer tax payable to the province.

The municipalities of Aurora, Newmarket, Markham and Vaughan agreed to merge their utilities into a for-profit corporation to be named Unipower Limited.

It was also agreed to purchase the Richmond Hill utility.

However, in June, 2001, well past the deadline, Vaughan decided to pull out

of the partnership.

The three remaining partners agreed to continue on condition the government would agree to accept the revised application as an amendment to the original and waive the transfer tax.

When no firm answer was forthcoming from the government, local councils had to consider the future of the local utility. It ended up by each utility going it alone.

Then in 2003 the provincial government announced a two-year tax holiday of the 33 per cent transfer tax with a deadline of March 31, 2005, so that any merger had to be approved prior to that date to avoid paying the tax.

After the successful merger of the Aurora and Newmarket fire departments, the two municipalities agreed to investigate merging hydro.

A consultant retained by both municipalities recommended a merger as a means of cutting costs and providing the best return for consumers.

The consultant's report indicated several benefits including lower rates, minimal risk and the potential to increase the value of the amalgamated utility.

In June, 2004, the dis-

cussion paper from Aurora Hydro was presented to council and it pointed out the benefits of a merger and asked council as shareholders to approve moving to the next step in the process.

The executives of both utilities recommended proceeding with the merger, as a larger utility would be better able to focus and commit resources on present and future challenges.

The report also listed incremental savings that could be obtained from current operations, future avoided operating costs, incremental additional costs and projected merger results.

It forecast a potential benefit of \$766,500 on an annual basis, increasing to \$914,500 by 2008.

It was recommended that the two municipalities proceed to the next phase of negotiations, including establishment of a shareholder and amalgamation agreement.

Concern was expressed by some members of council about reliability, customer service, rate setting and control under a merger, noting that Newmarket was a larger municipality.

It was also stressed that the public be involved before a final decision was

made.

Councillor Damir Vrancic stressed the need for a detailed analysis of the benefits of the proposed merger to Aurora taxpayers in a percentage format and what savings could be achieved through a merger.

It was also suggested the next report provide a detailed analysis and comparison of rates charged by the utilities, and what reductions in staff might be expected.

In late October 2004 Newmarket Council decided to explore alternatives for Newmarket's power needs.

Newmarket Hydro and Northland Power, a private company, presented council with a proposal to use local generation.

A similar presentation was made to Aurora Council and in January, 2005, delegates from Aurora, Newmarket and Northland Power met with the Energy Minister to submit their proposal to build two 50-megawatt gas turbine generators connected to Newmarket Hydro's distribution system.

The meeting with the Minister was said to be positive and that he viewed the proposal as a potential alternative to additional transmission lines.

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## Poor Richard

# Politicians rarely deliver on promises

*Words can come back to haunt,  
If a little white lie you should tell;  
Especially for election promises,  
It could cause citizens to yell.*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Some time ago a group of British Columbia citizens attempted to take the New Democratic Party government and elected representatives to court for allegedly lying during the election campaign.

If they had won their case, it could have opened the door for all citizens to challenge a government's credibility and accountability by making a political party and politicians subject to legal standards of truthfulness in campaign promises.

Just imagine Prime Minister Jean Chretien being hauled on the legal carpet for fudging a Liberal promise before and during the 1993 election that he would scrap the GST, get rid of free trade and bring honesty back to government.

Or Premier Mike Harris for his promise in the Common Sense Revolution that there would be no new health user fees and then slapping what he termed a co-payment on prescription drugs for seniors and those receiving social assistance.

Just before the 1995 election, Harris said in Fergus, Ontario, "There is no cost for a municipality to maintain its name and identity. Why destroy our roots and pride? I disagree with restructuring because it believes that bigger is better. Services always cost more in larger municipalities".

Also prior to the election, Municipal Affairs Minister Al Leach promised to abolish regional governments and strengthen local governments.

Long before that in 1981 the Bill Davis Progressive Conservative government was re-elected in a sweeping victory with the slogan "Keep the Promise".

Two years later the Ontario Public Service Employees Union considered taking the government to court in an attempt to close six centres for the mentally ill, including Pine Ridge in Aurora.

The government promised that Pine Ridge wouldn't be closed until adequate other facilities were available for the 147 residents living there, but under the pressures of deadlines and cost restraints, the promise wasn't kept.

In September, 1987, Chris Stockwell, then an Etobicoke councillor was critical of the Ontario Municipal Board saying; "We don't need a group of non-elected political hacks questioning our decisions."

While admitting there was some form of an appeal process open to the public who disagreed with council decisions, he didn't believe "these god-like, no-name figures" should be responsible.

As a very vocal cabinet member in the Ontario Tory government under both Premier Mike Harris and Ernie Eves, his criticism of the OMB was conspicuous by its absence.

And then we have Liberal Premier Dalton McGuinty who made more than 200 election promises and one by one, is doing his best to break everyone of them.

The possibilities are endless at all levels of government, even at the local level, as candidates for all political offices make all kinds of election promises, most of them they can't fulfill.

At almost every election candidates promise to work towards more open, transparent government so that public business is carried out in public. But there seems to be something about getting elected that makes them forget and they rush behind closed doors to conduct public business in private.

Or they promise to control rampant growth until the infrastructure catches up, but after election are among the first to promote bigger is better, even though uncontrolled residential growth is a financial burden on existing taxpayers.

If the British Columbia case had ever gone to trial and the citizens had won, it might have taken all the fun out of elections.

Can you imagine the interest at an all-candidates meeting when all those seeking office responded to questions with "No comment" or "I won't respond on the grounds I may commit myself".

So voters are stuck with election promises and have to decide the lesser of the evils and vote accordingly.



In our continuing series of Yonge Street photos, here's a picture of the east side of the street looking south. Visible in the distance is the old town hall, which once housed the police station and library. Can anyone put a year to this picture? Photo was provided by Leslie Oliver of Aurora.

### Letters to the Editor

# Plan now to attend our 83rd annual Fair

#### To the editor,

Where will you be on the second weekend of June this year?

Well, if you - or your readers - are looking for some local fun for the whole family, in the fresh air, you will probably want to come to the 83rd annual Aurora Fair & Horse Show, on June 10, 11, & 12, in Machell Park.

As you probably know, the annual Fair offers an abundance of amusing activities for fairgoers, with everything from the sensational Superdogs Show, to the awesome Aurora Idol Competition, the heavenly Heavy Horses, the bodacious Ben Show, the marvelous Mutt Show, the professional Police Dogs, Bandaloni-the-One-Man-Band, the fascinating Festival of Arts, promenad-

ing Pony Rides, the breathtaking Birds of Prey, and the fabulous Farm Animal Petting Zoo!

As well, we're planning a fun family BBQ for Saturday evening this year, with the "Finals" for both the Ambassador of the Fair Competition, and the new Aurora Idol Competition.

And, on Sunday afternoon, come out and see some of your friends and neighbours perform, as local community groups take centre stage with a variety of artistic presentations.

If you know someone in Kindergarten to Grade 12, please tell them about our Junior Arts, Crafts, and Photography Competition - they can pick up a booklet, starting in April, at various places in town (including the library, and R & R Revisited), as well as on our

website.

Oh, yes, and we also welcome any high school students who would like to earn some "volunteer hours" by helping at the Fair - we have lots of jobs for you, everything from helping with children's games, to shoveling manure (if you like that sort of thing!)

The Aurora Fair & Horse Show is run each year by the volunteer members of the Aurora Agricultural Society, as part of Aurora's "living heritage".

By the way, the Society always welcomes new members - you can get in touch with us by phone (905-713-6773), e-mail (info@aurorafair.ca), our website (www.aurorafair.ca), or just drop in and say "Hello" at the Fair Secretary's trailer (in Machell Park) at the Fair this June.

The Aurora Fair & Horse Show is a community event run by volunteers, and it can only continue to operate with the help of local residents who can bring in fresh energy and fresh ideas, so that the Fair will continue getting better each year!

**Linda Schneiderei**  
Director  
Aurora Agricultural Society

# Life in Aurora pretty good

#### To the editor,

Last week's Auroran reported that the town's portion of the tax bill will rise 7.9 per cent with a faint hope of further reductions noted in a footnote response to a letter to the editor.

We, as taxpayers, can only hope.

This, together with York Region's six plus per cent increase represents a considerable burden to taxpayers.

This is especially galling as we hear Toronto's mayor whining about a three per cent increase on realty assessments which are pathetically underestimated.

Thank God York Region is subsidizing Toronto's social programs to the tune of millions, or Mayor Miller would have a total meltdown.

We all realize that tax

hikes are inevitable with our growth and demand for services.

That is the downside of growth - pay today so others, hopefully seniors as well, can enjoy future facilities and services tomorrow.

That concludes the bad news rant.

Then I sat back and reflected on my life in Aurora.

I thought of what my municipal tax dollars pay for.

I enjoy excellent snow plowing in the winter, the streets are swept early in the spring, the garbage collection is excellent.

I enjoy concerts in the park in the summer, parks and trails for walking, the library year round, lawn bowling at McMahon Park, bridge and trips through the Seniors' Centre.

Town councillors are

accessible and visible to us all.

Poor souls can hardly make it through a shopping expedition or special event without a question or two and always take the time to answer, explain and sometimes successfully defend a point of view and change a mind.

Anytime I have dealt with town staff on recreation matters or town maintenance issues (trees) I have found them to be extremely pleasant, responsive and efficient.

Taxes are inevitable, but at least I can see and enjoy the local results as opposed to my federal contributions which dissolve into a black hole of mismanagement and patronage.

**Judy Salmon**  
Aurora

## AURORAN

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**Mayor's Report**  
By Tim Jones

# Mayors and chairs meet

Every three to four months, the mayors from across the GTA and Hamilton and the chairpeople of the Regions get together to address various subjects of interest to all.

On Friday, February 18th, we met at the Briars as guests of the Town of Georgina.

Chairperson of this group is Roger Anderson, Chairman of the Region of Durham and he is also the current President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

The agenda included two presentations and some ongoing issues.

Our first presentation was given by Renato Discenza, Chair of the Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance, (GTMA) and Mayor Rob MacIsaac (Burlington) who chaired a sub-group of representatives of the GTMA to review the issues and challenges facing the GTMA and future options.

I served for six years on this Board, (1998-2004) and I can attest to the fact that their work is a collective for all municipalities in the area of economic development on the international scale that otherwise would not be addressed individually by most municipalities.

The GTMA depends on significant municipal funding for its existence and the municipalities wanted to ensure value for this funding.

The GTA mayors and chairs voted to support the continuance of the GTMA based on the recommendations of the sub-committee chaired by Mayor MacIsaac which included the formulation of a three-year plan and associated municipal financial commitment, to be reviewed each new term of council.

We then had a presentation by the GTA Healthcare Alliance.

This Alliance represents all the hospitals and major health facilities in the GTA.

The presenter highlighted the phenomenal growth in the GTA, led by the Region of York.

As well, the seniors' population is also growing and that puts an increasing need on health care.

They spoke to equitable funding, wait times, and the need to work with the Local Health Integrated Networks (LHINs).

The GTA mayors and chairs agreed to increase collaboration and co-ordination with the Alliance, as well as to speak out in order to highlight the health needs that are required from the Province to address our growing needs.

We passed a resolution that demanded that the Province immediately address the 2004/2005 funding shortfalls of \$88 million for the GTA hospitals and to create a funding formula for the LHINs that reflects the current population, future population growing and aging, the increased costs of providing health care in rural areas and the increased costs of multi-site health care organizations.

We also supported the use of development charges for the construction and renovations of hospitals.

Other issues that were on the agenda included support for Oshawa's anti-litter initiative and numerous pieces of correspondence in regard to the allocation of Federal fuel tax revenues.

Also in the correspondence was the confirmation that the Province listened to the request made from the GTA mayors and chairs in regard to allowing the use of photo radar and red light cameras in municipalities.

Finally, the mayors and chairs discussed the ongoing pooling issue with the knowledge that Richmond Hill and Georgina Councils had passed resolutions to collect but withhold their portion of the pooling costs in 2005.

The mayors and chairs passed a resolution indicating their support to the direction taken by these two municipalities stating: "The Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton Mayors and Chairs support in principle the original Town of Richmond Hill resolution" and that, "The GTAH mayors and chairs respectfully request a meeting with the Minister of Community and Social Services, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Minister of Finance to discuss a framework for moving toward a more appropriate method of funding social services costs in the GTA."

It is always good to get together with the GTA mayors and chairs, especially when we can all agree on strategies to take to the Province, for as we act in a united way we may have more effect as it is the Province, through the Municipal Act, that legislates the authority of what municipalities can do.

**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**

## Machell's Corners



### Letter to the Editor

# Otters out-fan Aurora Tigers

To the editor,

My brother came in from Huntsville to join me for game 4 playoff action at the Aurora Community Centre between the Tigers and the Otters

Friday night.

After the first Otters goal, it was obvious that there were as many or more Huntsville fans as there were Aurora fans.

They brought whistles and

horns and cheered Huntsville on to a 4-2 victory to even the series.

I am told that the opposing team arena may hold about 1,000 with about 300 standing room, and it is filled to capacity

when Aurora comes to town.

With that kind of support, our boys are in for a tough series.

**Bill Hack  
Aurora**



## Cathy's Corner



# Aurora's 10 Commandments

As I noted last week, The 10 Commandments for Aurora is the brainchild of a group of highly skilled, professional Aurorans who occasionally dabble in the attitude adjustment business.

Every Friday qualifies as "occasionally".

What you are about to read is a document that has been carefully crafted to not only reflect the unique character of Aurora, but to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that Aurora has characters who are unique.

Some of them even wear red underwear.

On that note, it gives me great pleasure to unveil the long awaited, eagerly anticipated (drum roll please!) 10 Commandments for Aurora!

**1. Thou shalt not read any newspapers other than The Auroran.**

This includes any publication found at the end of the driveway, especially if it has been preserved in ice or mud, and/or subjected to abuse by radial tires.

This also includes pages that are wind delivered to your front door, windshield or face. Notice these pages are never in the right order and are always wet.

**2. Thou shalt not go to Newmarket. Not ever.**

Up until now, it was okay to go to Newmarket because they have a movie theatre.

Not anymore - we're getting one.

We also have our own community swallowing box store build-up and traffic problems. Soon, Aurora will become "Newmarket South", or, as former newspaperman Tony Drew called it "the Sub Hub", so why bother?

**3. Thou shalt "Shop Aurora" exclusively.**

And thou shalt honour the little guy.

One-stop shopping is an over-rated modern convenience, so please don't put Mac Fleming out of business because he doesn't sell red underwear. You can always paint them.

**4. Thou shalt love thy councillors.**

I consider myself a fine, upstanding example of this commandment because I married my councillor. Obviously, we can't all do that - it's illegal. But, Christmas cards, Valentines and the occasional "nice" letter to the editor are highly recommended expressions of love.

Once per week qualifies as "occasional".

**5. Thou shalt whine in moderation.**

But don't name names. Aurora is a small town where everybody knows everybody. We need something to gossip, speculate and guess about.

**6. Thou shalt not steal pylons.**

It is, however, permissible to "borrow" pylons.

For example, when there is no place to park, it is okay to temporarily remove pylons, park the car, then relocate the pylons such that your car is surrounded and thereby protected from other cars, heavy machinery and the by-law officer.

**7. Thou shalt love thy neighbours.**

And help thy neighbours...before thy neighbours help themselves.

Remember to close the garage door. And write your name on your rake.

**8. Thou shalt vote.**

This one is self-explanatory, because look what happened when you didn't.

**9. Thou shalt stoop and scoop after thy canine has caused this to be necessary.**

And please keep in mind that thy garden worshipping neighbour didn't become a chiropractic patient so that thy dog could water the roses.

There is plenty of grass at the curb, rendering thy neighbour's front door too close for comfort!

**10. Thou shalt invite thy neighbours to any and all thy social functions involving music that will go to them if they don't come to you.**

That way, they won't call the police at 11 p.m. They'll be nice and wait till midnight.

So there it is - the most inspired document to be written since the by-law that precipitated the decline of Aurora's chicken population.

We are now petitioning to have this document entrenched in the Canadian Charter of Grievances and Grievances, which will be published the Tuesday before Canada Day, right here in The Auroran.

We thank you for your support.

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

# Bouquets & Brickbats

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

**BOUQUETS** (submitted) to Evelyn Meleta of the Aurora Seniors' Centre for receiving the CIBC Retirees Ambassador Program-Fall 2004 award. This award comes with a \$500 donation from CIBC to the charity of your choice. Evelyn donated the money to the Aurora Seniors Association's buy a brick campaign for the new building fund. The award is in recognition of Evelyn's volunteer work at the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

**BOUQUETS** to Bill Devins for his many years of service as a director of the Aurora Historical Society. He officially retired at a recent general meeting of the society.

**BRICKBATS** to Aurora Council for flip-flopping on a recommendation by the general committee that the contract for sensitivity training for town staff be awarded to the low bidder at \$2,195 instead of the \$3,200 bid by the consultant recommended by the Accessibility Advisory Committee with no valid reasons given for the higher amount. Only Councillors Evelyn Buck and Ron Wallace voted for the low bidder.

**BOUQUETS** to Carol Cooper and Walter Bauer for calling Windfall Ecology Centre for an Energuide evaluation of their 1917 Catherine Avenue home. They got \$1,300 in rebates from the federal government and realized significant reductions in their monthly heating and electricity bills as well as reducing greenhouse gases.

**BRICKBATS** to Aurora Council for being secretive in dealing with public business. Decisions are made in private and the reasons not reported in public session such as awarding a contract to the third lower bidder at an additional cost of \$72,000 after originally awarding it to the low bidder for pre-grading the site for the Seniors' Centre and failing to reveal how a developer got away with building 12 apartment units instead of the 10 approved by council.

**BOUQUETS** to the Cardinal Carter Catholic High School's girls ski team on winning the York Region Athletic Association Ski Championships at Blue Mountain in Collingwood. It is the first time since the school opened in 1989 that the girl's ski team has won this event.

**BRICKBATS** to those responsible for sticking Canadian taxpayers with a \$10 million bill to provide security when U.S. President George Bush visited Ottawa in November. That's in addition to the City of Ottawa's \$4.2 million bill and \$124,000 for the City of Halifax. He should have stayed home!

**BOUQUETS** to seven eating establishments and a school in Aurora on winning the Eat Smart awards this year for excellence in healthy food choices, food safety and smoke-free dining sponsored by York Region Health Services with the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Canadian Cancer Society. They are Festa Ristorante, Gabriel's Café, Mr. Sub, the Great Canadian Bagel and Second Cup, Pure Pizza Company, St. Andrew's College and the two Subway outlets.

**BRICKBATS** to a justice system that takes three years for the case of a Toronto police officer accused of 13 charges, including sexual assault, uttering death threats and common assault, to get to court only to have the Judge stay all charges for what was termed to be an unreasonable trial delay.

**BOUQUETS** to the young seniors' group from York Pines United Church (Kettleby), many of them Aurora residents, for getting together once a month for a Lunch Out. They met recently at the Graystone Restaurant.

## Letters to the Editor

# Trumpeter Swan visited on Wellington Street

To the editor,

I had the opportunity of seeing and photographing the Trumpeter Swan ("huge white bird" - Auroran, March 1) resting at the front of our building the night of February 19th.

He slept there all night and was still asleep when I got up Sunday morning.

After taking photos of him Saturday night, I decided I'd like some daytime shots also.

He allowed me to get fairly close but eventually flew away.

He was as pure white as the snow beneath him.

He was 'tagged' both around his ankle and on his back.

He was absolutely gor-

geous and I'm not sure my photos do him justice.

Some time later that day while I was working on my computer I noticed all of the traffic on Wellington going both directions had stopped.

The swan had returned and was standing in the middle of the road.

A motorist got out of his vehicle and shooed the bird across the road onto the property of the York Region District School Board.

Not long after that a truck pulled up to the curb and a gentleman got out and took a huge net from the back of his truck.

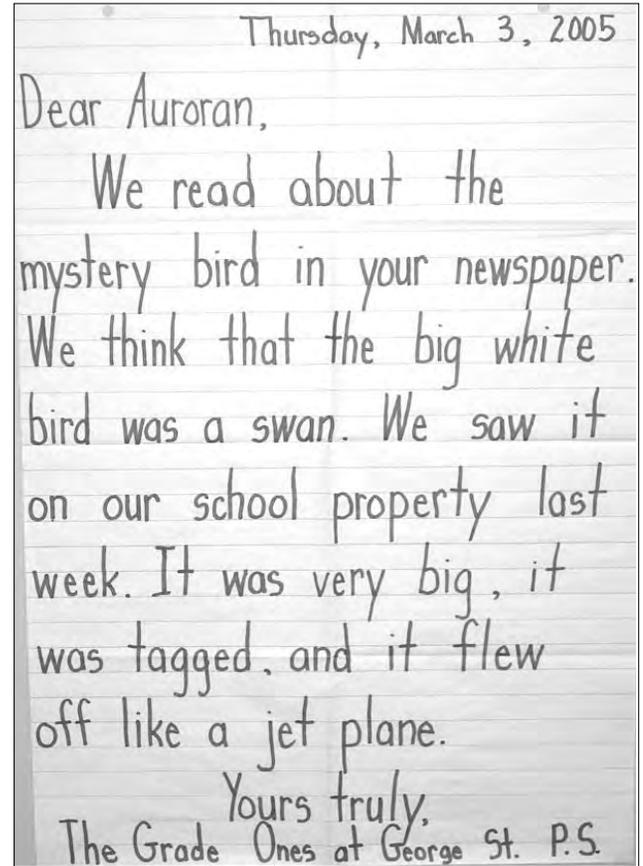
He walked across Wellington towards the swan but before he could

get very close the swan flew away.

It was a rather comical scene as it seemed as if the swan had been through

this before and knew what was coming.

**Karen Fujiwara  
Aurora**



Largest letter ever received at The Auroran (34" x 22") required us to take a photograph of it. Thank you, Grade one students.



## Took off like a jumbo jet

To the editor,

I unfortunately didn't get any pictures of the large bird.

I'm sure it was a swan as it had a long neck, dark beak and a wide wing span.

I also noticed it had yellow tags on its wings like the swans you see in city parks.

I saw it when I was walk-

ing through the St. Jean school yard on Walton Drive last week.

It let out a loud "honk", took a long run and then lifted into the air like a large jumbo jet.

It headed west toward Yonge Street.

**Kevin Paré  
Aurora**

## Ugly duckling a swan

To the editor,

How funny to read your article about the white bird (Auroran, March 1).

We saw it a few weeks ago in front of the United Church on Yonge Street.

It's a white swan with a yellow tag on its wing that

reads the number 796.

We figured that the ugly duckling just chose Aurora to live in...and it turned into a cold, confused, though proud, white swan.

**Kimberley Kerr  
Aurora**

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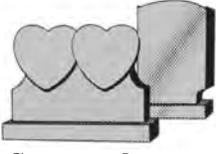
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# Town plan defines lines of communication

At some time or other every municipal council is accused of carrying out public business behind closed doors, or failing to keep citizens informed about the activities of council.

In 1998, Aurora Council established a council/citizen committee to improve communications between the two.

In 1999, council adopted a Corporate Communications Policy, which specified the development of a comprehensive annual communications plan to facilitate the coordination of all communication channels for maximum efficiency, impact and delivery of information.

The first communication plan took effect in 2001 and many initiatives were identified and successfully implemented including the production and distribution of resident guides, and the development of a three-year website strategy.

The 2002 plan was based on the achievements of the previous year and introduced new initiatives including an increased flow of up-to-date information through the town's web site and the creation of Info Aurora as a one-stop source of information.

The plan also provided

for the assessment of the plan's effectiveness through feedback.

Other initiatives included developing and implementing a new corporate logo and identity guide, the introduction of a town newsletter and a training program to teach management staff how to effectively communicate with the media.

The 2004 Communications Plan was presented in April and after a long discussion the plan was referred back to staff to include a budget summary, implementation schedule and a plan overview for each initiative.

A revised plan was sub-

mitted in June setting out the objective to clearly inform Aurora stakeholders about activities, programs and processes of the town.

It was also designed to increase awareness and recognition of the corporate identity and image of the town and to ensure that systems were in place to make staff and council assessable to all.

It also promoted approaches to communications which are non-political, factual, balanced and unbiased.

The revised plan listed ways in which the town departments kept the public informed.

Initiatives planned for 2004 included developing a strategy and implementation schedule for improving and maintaining the town website, developing a town marketing brand, producing a town economic newsletter, a crisis communication plan and an on-line business directory plus a printed and bound copy for the general public.

The 2005 Communication Plan was presented to the general committee last week and was expected to be endorsed by council this week.

It continues to focus on maintaining the goals of the Communications Policy, by sustaining the many procedures already in place.

Providing a central focus for the flow of information between the town and citizens, the plan identifies staff as stakeholders for the first time.

The initiatives that have been identified in the plan are at an estimated cost of \$48,000

The plan lists the existing communication channels for the town and its departments and lists the 2005 initiatives, including implementing web site strategy, management of town brand, re-developing the communication policy, media and crisis communi-

cation training for senior staff and councillors, and implementing emergency preparedness public awareness and education programs.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner noted there was nothing in the plan about the Aurora Library.

Staff replied the document was a town communication plan and the library would have its own, but she argued the library should be included in the plan.

After further discussion, the plan was adopted as presented by staff.

## Four-year term of office proposed for discussion

At the town's general committee meeting last week, Councillor John West presented a Notice of Motion regarding a background paper and a survey prepared by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) regarding the length of council's term of office.

He said the subject of a three or four-year term of office should be discussed publicly at the next council meeting.

As the AMO survey was not made public, there is no indication which term of office is being recommended.

It was in October last year when the City of Toronto Council suggested a four-year term on the basis that federal and provincial governments normally have four-year terms, and the public wouldn't care if the term was three or four years.

It was also pointed out that local councils have had to assume more responsibilities with provincial down-loading.

Five provinces in Canada have four-year terms for municipal councillors.

They include Newfoundland, Prince

Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Manitoba.

In the other five provinces and three territories, the term is three years.

It was in 1982 when the three-year term of office was implemented after a heated debate over the introduction of the longer term over the previous two-year term.

Public opinion was mixed as some said a two-year term was long enough, especially if you had a poor council, and if they were good they would get re-elected, while others favoured the three-year term as a means of reducing the cost of elections.

At the time, Aurora Councillor Evelyn Buck opposed the longer term claiming that it would undermine citizen rights.

She was successful in gaining Aurora Council's opposition to the proposal.

She even suggested a return to the one-year term as a means of overcoming voter apathy.

York Regional council who had voted 8-7 to oppose the three-year term when it was first proposed in January, 1976, welcomed it with open arms in 1981.

The decision of council will be known following the debate when Councillor West introduces his motion, whatever it might be.

Richmond Hill.

While the reconstruction will improve traffic safety and operations for the travelling public, it will support continued growth in Aurora and provide commuters with an alternate route if they can wait until 2008.

The consulting engineering firm of Dillon Consulting has been engaged to undertake the engineering services for the Class Environmental Assessment and preliminary design.

## Leslie Street set to be fixed

York Region is planning to reconstruct Leslie Street from north of Bloomington Road in Aurora to south of the Bethesda Sideroad in

## Reebok moving out of Aurora

From page 1

Centre, who claimed council should be supporting the existing retail sector and assisting in finding retailers to fill the vacant stores.

While the Business Park never developed as planned with the developer filing for bankruptcy, Reebok stood alone on Bayview Avenue.

Now, as the result of a business decision and the takeover of another company, Reebok is leaving Aurora.

It announced last week that its Canadian headquarters will be moving to a new facility in Montreal by early 2006.

About 140 jobs are affected.

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The Nigel Kean team once again led the way in the annual Big Brothers Big Sisters bowlathon held recently in Aurora. Collectively, the team raised nearly \$2,000. They are, front row, Nigel Kean and Tom Beck; back row, left to right, Diane Buchanan, Alycia Beck, Rebecca Beaton and Brenda Snape.  
Auroran photo by David Falconer

# Heritage Fair shaping up for local students

A new Aurora Community Heritage Fair will bring the Historica Fair Program to students in April.

Created in 1995, Historica's Heritage Fairs Program is a showcase for student projects and performances with a Canadian theme. It is designed to bring together students, teachers, business and community partners in a celebration of Canada's unique culture and heritage.

Previously hosted by the York Region District School Board, a new community-based Fair program is being introduced in Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville this year.

The Aurora event will be held at Aurora Legion on Industrial Parkway North Tuesday, April 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Heritage Fair is an open call to all Grade 4 to 8 students in Aurora who have a heritage-themed project they wish to showcase at the community Fair.

The opportunity to participate is extended to all local students in Public, Catholic, Montessori, private and home school environments.

Students are also encouraged to enter projects independently by registering with the Aurora Community Fair Committee.

To date, students from Aurora Senior, Highview and Lester B. Pearson Public

Schools will hold school fairs this spring.

At the Community Fair and at some school fairs, community partners will be invited to conduct hands-on displays and workshops celebrating local and national heritage.

Organizers are initiating a community storytelling corner at this year's fair and are encouraging local community members with a family background and history to share the information.

Aurora's Céline Allen, a student from Aurora Senior Public School, reflected on her memories of participating in the Heritage Fair program.

Céline recalled how "I was assigned a project on the province of Quebec. I enjoyed this because like many francophone Canadians, I am bilingual in French and English. At last I finished my project and presented it at my school fair. Later, I found out that I, among a few others, had been chosen to go to the Regional Fair. I was really

happy. So, there I went, off to present my project to the judges at the Fair. It was tons of fun!"

Céline represented York Region at Historica's National Fair where "165 kids from all across Canada, from Grades 4-9 were gathered that week with two goals: to showcase our projects and to have plain, simple fun."

More than 80 Regional Fairs are held across the country each spring to display outstanding student work.

Students' projects from the Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville Fairs will be evaluated and awarded the opportunity to attend the Provincial and National Fairs, organized and funded by The Historica Foundation.

This year the National Fair is in Saskatoon in July, while the Provincial Fair is in May in Hamilton.

Contact Susan Walmer at [swalmer@aci.on.ca](mailto:swalmer@aci.on.ca) or 905-713-1474 for further information.

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## Street naming policy

Aurora Council adopted a Street Naming Policy in 2001.

The existing policy provides the appropriate framework for street naming, however it was recognized that the administration of the policy needed to be transferred to the Planning Department from Corporate Services.

An amendment to the policy, including some house-keeping items, was presented to the general committee last week.

The policy stipulates the municipality promote the outstanding contributions of Aurorans past and present.

An emphasis is placed upon names of historical persons or families and others within the municipality who have made outstanding contributions to the town.

Street signs may be identified with a professional emblem in recognition of their related service within the community such as fire protection, police or veteran status or others deemed appropriate by council.

Soldiers who are honoured on the Town Cenotaph would have street signs with a poppy emblem after their name.

The policy provides that names for private streets shall generally be determined in accordance with the general street name criteria for public road allowances, a request made by the develop-

er or a theme or promotional name to assist with marketing.

The bank of approved street names in accordance with the policy shall be forwarded to the York Region Planning Department for pre-approval on the basis of municipal consistency for 911 purposes.

The Central York Fire Services is then consulted for

those street names considered acceptable.

Requests for street renaming changes must be made in writing by the owner of the subject property to the Planning Department accompanied by the prescribed fee, currently set at \$500.

The amended policy was adopted as presented and was expected to be endorsed by council this week.

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# Neighbours don't want driveway on Centre

Neighbours of a home at 74 Wellington Street East were expected to be back at council this week in an effort to stop a driveway from being built onto Centre Street.

The property, an historic home known as the Morrison House for its original owner dating back to 1886, faces Wellington.

It was originally owned by Richard Machell who subdivided it in 1853.

The property has been acquired by Andrew Weber and Neal Santin as a business site for their computer business.

They have renovated the home in order to move their business to Aurora.

In their plans is a parking lot for 10 vehicles that would exit onto Centre Street. Neighbours don't care for that idea.

At a public planning meeting last year, neighbours objected to the exit saying it was an intrusion to a residential area.

They wanted parking spaces be reduced to allow for more trees and landscaping.

Council approved the rezoning application in principle to permit the property to be used for business and professional offices.

The application was referred back to staff to resolve the issues.

While several alternatives have been proposed, the exit to Centre still exists and council, at a general committee meeting last week, agreed to allow it to be built.

The final vote would come this week, but results were not available at The Auroran's press time.

At last week's meeting, staff presented six site plans, four submitted by the applicant and two by the residents.

The original site plan includes eight angled parking spaces plus two in the garage with landscaping

## GO, York transit systems compete

From page 1

around the Town Park.

Questions also arose about a regular freight train and citizen complaints about train whistling.

McNeil was asked if any consideration had been given to having the whistle activated at the crossing, rather than the train.

He said Transport Canada was reviewing the possibility of the whistle or horn at the crossing gate.

In response to a question about future rail service, McNeil replied that long range plans were for an all-day service.

He expected one additional train per day when the service is extended to Barrie.



**THE MORRISON HOUSE**

proposed along Centre Street and buffer planting along the property lines adjacent to the parking lot.

With the removal of the access onto Centre Street, vehicles, especially those parked in the garage, would have difficulty exiting onto Wellington.

The two options submitted by the residents eliminated the exit onto Centre Street.

The Public Works department agrees with the applicant's contention that traffic generated from the parking lot would not negatively impact the area.

Planning staff pointed out that the applicant's options with access to Centre Street are better technically because they provide the correct amount of parking and

maneuvering.

It was also pointed out that the residents, applicant and staff have been working toward a resolution for some time, but no clear consensus could be reached.

Staff advised that one option works best from an internal functioning perspective and has the best ability to provide screening and landscaping but it does exit to Centre.

Dan Revington appeared before the general committee to present a petition signed by 25 residents opposing the exit onto Centre Street as it will change the residential character of the street.

Resident David Walker also appeared before the committee to support the residents' proposals.

Richard Harrison, repre-

senting the applicant, noted that Weber was a 35-year resident of Aurora and was coming home to locate his business.

His application fulfilled all the requirements of the official plan, Harrison said.

He said there was no disagreement over the use of the building, only about the exit onto Centre Street.

He pointed out that less than one-half of one per cent of traffic would be added to Centre Street.

Councillor Ron Wallace said there were precedents with exits to Centre Street and noted the property at Centre and Wells Streets.

Councillors John West and Evelyn Buck recommended the staff preference be endorsed as it was also supported by the Heritage Committee.

Councillor Phyllis Morris disagreed and because of the residents' concerns, council should seek a compromise and look for alternatives.

She was supported by Councillor Wendy Gaertner who said council should listen to the residents.

Councillor Buck said there was "no wiggle room" and council had to make a decision.

She added it was a perfect use for the old house and would retain the character of the heritage area.

Councillor Nigel Kean said he was concerned

about the traffic on Centre Street and supported Councillors Morris and Gaertner.

Councillor Damir Vrancic noted council had approved a development at Yonge and Centre Streets, and modern town houses had been constructed on Centre Street recently, so the heritage aspect of the street was changing. He supported the recommendation.

The recommendation passed on a 5-3 vote with Morris, Gaertner and Kean in opposition. Councillor Bill Hogg was absent from the meeting.

Final vote on the subject was expected Tuesday night.

The old house is on the Town of Aurora List of Heritage Properties and was plaqued by the Aurora Heritage Committee and designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1989.

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## Tigers return to driver's seat

By SCOTT ZOLTOK

That foregone conclusion about the Aurora Tiger easily handling the Huntsville Otters hit a wall last week, but seems to be back on track now.

And if it continues, Tigers will be heading to the finals of the Provincial Junior A Hockey North Division.

With Aurora up 3-2 in their Huntsville series, the sixth game was played in Huntsville Tuesday night, and a seventh game, if necessary, would be back in Aurora Wednesday.

Results of the Tuesday encounter were not available at press time.

After taking a two-game lead in the series, Aurora gave both games back last week, but rebounded Sunday following a resounding 9-3 win at the Aurora Community Centre.

Meanwhile, in the other series, Newmarket and Stouffville are deadlocked at two games each, with the winner of that tilt meeting the winner of the Aurora-Huntsville series.

Local fans are still anticipating an Aurora-Newmarket hookup, which should pack each town's arena for every game.

During the week the Tigers showed a definite lack of aggressiveness, but they made up for it Sunday beating the Huntsville Otters 9 - 3.

As for the Newmarket - Stouffville series, it has been back and forth between the two teams, with Newmarket taking a 2-1 series lead only to have it tied up yet again by the Stouffville Spirit.

During Sunday's game it was apparent who was in command right from the start, with Aurora scoring its first goal minutes into the period.

Things continued to get better for the Tigers, with the first, second and third



Aurora's Josh Diamond (19) scores for the Tigers and gets a hockey stick shot to the head for his efforts during Aurora-Huntsville hockey playdown now underway. Aurora, by virtue of a convincing 9-3 victory Sunday, leads the series three games to two.

periods ending 2-1, 5-2, and 9-3 respectively.

Leading the point scoring for the Tigers was Jeric Agosta, who had three goals and two assists.

Small wonder he was named player of the game.

Other contributors included Josh Diamond, who had two goals and an assist, and Clay Costoff, who offered a goal and two assists.

Halfway through the third, with Aurora holding a five-goal bulge, a fight broke out between Brandon Vanderloo of the Tigers and

Matt West of the Otters, which continued for about two minutes, until officials broke it up.

Barely a minute later another fight broke out between Wes Ewer of the Tigers and Ray Nikolai of the Otters.

There were no serious injuries in either sparring match.

This fight was a pleasant surprise to the fans, as the two games prior to Sunday showed a lackadaisical team that wasn't quite in it.

Friday's game in Aurora had the Otters coming out

victorious 4-2, and the Tigers playing well below their abilities.

A large part of the loss, however, can be attributed to unfortunate bounces, as well as the solid goaltending of Huntsville netminder Kevin Magee.

Meanwhile in Huntsville last Tuesday, Tigers dropped a 3-2 decision to the Otters.

Once again Otters goal-

tender Kevin Magee shone, making 30 saves including a leaping save to an open net to preserve the lead.

Both nights the Otters were leading the offensive charge, unlike Sunday when the Tigers were in control throughout.

If the Newmarket-Stouffville series goes the limit, the seventh game will be played in Newmarket Thursday night.

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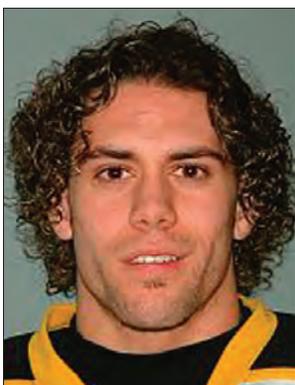
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## MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY STANDINGS AS OF FEB. 28

TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Law Insurance Brokers	17	3	3	90	55	37
Priestly Demolition	12	8	3	97	77	27
Tom & Jerry's	11	9	3	78	64	25
FPL Aggregates	11	9	3	89	72	23
Masterclean Contracting	9	11	3	76	77	21
J.J. Barron Realty	7	10	6	74	89	20
Highland Chev Cadillac	8	13	2	91	106	18
Rec Cycle & Sports	5	16	2	59	110	12

### MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY RESULTS FEB. 28

Masterclean	3	Law Insurance	4
Barron Realty	3	Priestly Demolition	2
Tom & Jerry's	6	FPL Aggregates	6
Highland Chev	1	Rec Sports	1

### MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY PLAYER STANDINGS

PLAYER	TEAM	G	A	Pts.
Jason Muise	Priestly Demolition	36	15	51
Mark Sedore	Priestly Demolition	24	24	48
Pat O'Mahoney	FPL Aggregates	27	16	43
Bruce Chappell	Highlands Chev	13	29	42
Steve Robertson	Highlands Chev	17	23	40
Ralph Berry	Masterclean	13	27	40
Steve Kavanaugh	Barron's Realty	11	29	40
John Yaremko	Law Insurance	19	17	36
Ed Jackson	Barron's Realty	21	15	36
Steven MacDonald	FPL Aggregates	17	17	34
Gerald Briand	Law Insurance	13	19	32
Darren Yaremko	Law Insurance	15	15	30
Ken Rumble	Highlands Chev	12	16	28
Dave Caverley	Law Insurance	12	16	28
Peter Briand	Law Insurance	9	16	25
RJ Farnsworth	Highlands Chev	16	7	23
Mark Lemmon	Tom & Jerry's	11	12	23
Vince Greco	Tom & Jerry's	15	7	22
Mark Swirla	FPL Aggregates	11	11	22
Kevin Brown	Highlands Chev	10	12	22
Jerome Flanagan	Tom & Jerry's	10	12	22
Bruce Ing	Masterclean	10	12	22
Paul Fujiwawa	Highlands Chev	15	6	21
Doug Adair	Rec Sports	7	11	18
Kerry Heintzman	Priestly Demolition	2	16	18
Brad Wilson	Priestly Demolition	8	9	17
Raz Khamissa	Barron's Realty	8	9	17
Dan Smith	FPL Aggregates	4	13	17
Dave Skelcher	Highlands Chev	8	8	16
Pat Davies	Priestly Demolition	7	9	16
Chris Neal	Rec Sports	6	10	16
Mike Caicco	Barron's Realty	4	12	16
Mike Nisbet	FPL Aggregates	3	13	16
Hugh Alcorn	Masterclean	3	13	16
Charlie Steinhorse	FPL Aggregates	3	13	16
Steve Reswick	Masterclean	6	9	15
Doug King	Rec Sports	5	10	15
Ron Theson	Barron's Realty	5	9	14

# Whipper's therapeutic pool needs \$1.8 million upgrade

Many residents of Aurora have enjoyed the benefits of the therapeutic pool at what was then York County Hospital, since it was officially opened by Lieutenant Governor Pauline McGibbon in 1975. Now a \$1.8 million fundraising campaign is underway to upgrade the pool and many of the same organizations who helped raise funds for the original pool are at it again.

The pool has been closed since the summer and is scheduled to be reopened by early 2006. The new pool will include a special pediatric section for children's therapy.

Other renovations include change room facilities and replacement of the mechanical equipment and patient chair lift. When operational, it accommodates more than 500 patients a week.

It was back in March 1973, when Whipper Billy Watson, one of Canada's best known wrestlers, promised to raise \$150,000 to build a therapeutic swimming pool in the new addition to York County Hospital (Southlake).

The Keswick resident had been involved in fundraising work for crippled and handicapped children for more than 25 years.

The pool project was a dream of his since he was confined to hospital following an automobile accident.

He noted there wasn't a

therapeutic pool between Toronto and Thunder Bay and those in the city were badly overcrowded.

He envisioned the Newmarket pool serving a wide community.

It was in November, 1973, when the Whipper Billy Watson Appeal for the York County Hospital Therapeutic Pool was launched.

He planned to recruit more than 700 volunteers to help raise \$250,000.

Watson and his co-chairman Gerry Robertson, decided a major event would be a telethon over the Barrie TV station.

Other events in the planning stage were a 100-mile snowmobile rally (just ask editor Ron Wallace to comment on that someday) and hockey games featuring the NHL Oldtimers.

It was planned that the pool would be equipped with a special hydraulic hoist for handicapped children and adults.

Community support during the appeal was strong but the major fundraiser was the telethon and when all pledges for the various events were totalled there was \$475,000 in the bank.

Ontario Lieutenant Governor Pauline McGibbon officially opened the pool and declined Watson's invitation to try out the hydraulic lift.

It wasn't long before the number of patients being treated at the pool had

climbed steadily from an initial 50 to 300.

Besides a full day schedule, the pool also accommodated an evening program designed to provide recreation for the handicapped and elderly three nights a week with the aid of volunteers.

With the opening of the pool, the Whipper Watson Rehabilitation Foundation was established to ensure funding for the pool's recreational program, which continues to operate alongside the therapeutic pool program.

The resounding success of the fundraising campaign meant that York County Hospital would have the best-equipped therapeutic swimming pool

in Canada.

More than 3,000 volunteers worked on the appeal during its 18-week run. The pool was named the "Whipper Watson Therapeutic Pool".

Watson was not too well known in Aurora at that time but his soft voice and gentle manner became commonplace at the Community Centre where hockey games were organized to help the appeal.

Not only that, he brought people and communities together in a common cause.

Whipper Billy Watson - born in 1915 as William Potts - died in an Orlando, Florida, hospital in 1990, after suffering a heart attack.



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## Skating results

Following are the Aurora Skating Club results from the Spring Festival of Skating held in Scarborough on the weekend.

### FREESKATE

Pre-Preliminary Ladies Freeskate - Group 1: Hailey Riggs, 2nd; Group 2: Tayler Sim, 6th.

Preliminary Ladies Freeskate - Group 3: Emma Slimkowich, 1st; Group 7: Jordana Goldman, 1st.

Preliminary Men's Freeskate: Alex Woodward, 1st. Junior Bronze Ladies Freeskate - Group 3: Julia Ranson, 1st.

### DANCE RESULTS

Junior Bronze Solo Dance - Group 2: Kendall Mannella, 8th; Group 3: Jacqueline Relke, 3rd.

Senior Bronze Solo Dance - Group 1: Jordana Goldman, 1st; Group 2: Emma Slimkowich, 1st.

Junior Silver Solo Dance - Group 1: Maya Goldman, 1st; Group 3: Julia Ranson, 6th.

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**206 AURORA HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE 5:** Billy Haddock 1G, Ryan McGoldrick 2G, David Gonder 2G 1A, Derek Capone 2A, Riley O'Brien 1A, Matthew Walker 2A, Russell Johnson 2A, Johnathan Read 2A, Alexander Cicchinom, shutout. **207 PHAR-MASAVE 0.**

**201 DELPH & JENKINS SURVEYORS 3:** Mitchell Palmer 1G, Michael Liscio 1G 1A, Victor Chadarov 1G, Adrian Ramirez 1A, Tait Snedden 1A. **204 NORTH YORK HEATING & PLUMBING 2:** Neil Duggan 1G, Michael Tanel 1G, Michael DeCesare 1A, Gabriel Oulahan 1A.

**202 ALL PRO SPORTS 4:** Joel Gouveia 1G 2A, Tyler George 1G 1A, Zachary Cowl 2G 1A, Connor Clark 1A, Luke Batulis 1A, Matthew D'Alessandro 1A, Scott Dunlop 1A. **203 www.mastermindtoys.com 2:** Mac Cawfield 1G, Parker Baile 1G 1A, Chris Downs 2A, Cameron Staples 1A.

**205 DR. STEINER'S DRILLERS 4:** Nicholas Scott 1G, Oliver Jones 1G 1A, Calvin Morache 1G, Alex Stewart 1G, James Powell 1A, Callum Forrest 1A, Mitchell Arnew 1A, Nicholas Steiner 1A. **208 ORR & FORSTER INSURANCE 1:** Max Brown 1G, Jake Detoro 1A, Keith Jarvis 1A.

**501 MARY'S FLOWER SHOP 7:** Michael Reilly 5G, Alex Thompson 1G, John Zorzit 1G, Michael Wood 2A, Griffin Slimkowich 1A. **510 THE BACKYARD POOL & SPA COMPANY 3:** Jarret Lennie 1G, Sean Halley 2G, Jay McConnell 1A, Liam Martin 1A.

**505 INFINITY TECHNOLOGIES 3:** Taran McGowan 1G, Kyle Rojas 1G, James Wotherspoon 1G, 1A, Brett Defields 1A. **502 A.D.C. ALUMINUM 3:** Andrew Smitten 1G 2A, Andrew Hunter 2G, Robert Denault 1A.

**503 AB COX PONTIAC BUICK GMC 2:** Christopher Bull 1G 1A, Troy Gouviea 1G 1A, Aaron Nusbaum 1A. **507 COSENTINO PRODUCE 1:** Tyler Lamantia 1G, Jonathon Boehmer 1A.

**509 DOMINION 1:** Stephen Newby 1G, Eric Presacco, shutout. **506 McALPINE FORD LINCOLN 0.**

**601 AURORA CABLE INTERNET 3:** Adam Gitto 1G 1A, Matt Raponi 1G, Julian Biasoni 1G, Graham Cormack 1A. **602 DIAL TONE COMMUNICATIONS INC. 2:** Patrick Che 1G, Marlon Young 1G, Miahael DelPlavignano 1A.

**603 FORMTECH BLOCK-BUSTERS 3:** Brendan Beatty 1G, Grant Wood 1G, Mike Machin 1G, Paul Duggan 1A, Marco Santella 1A, Chris Tillsley 1A. **605 LAURION & ASSOCIATES 3:** George Marshall 1G, Marcel Lamanna 2G, Chris Blumreisinger 1A, Johnny Haralampopoulos 2A, Dylan Teacher 1A.

**606 McALPINE FORD LINCOLN 4:** Anthony Marsillo 1G 1A, Peter Durst 1G 2A, Mattheus Vloet 1G, Michael Wyper 1G, Gianni Episcopo 1A, Adam Colacitti 1A. **604 BARB BLASER - RE/MAX 2:** Chris Dynes 1G, Connor Sheridan 1G, Alex Heintzman 1A.

**606 McALPINE FORD LINCOLN 10:** Michael Wyper 2G, Gianni Episcopo 2G, Nicholas Orsatti 2G, Anthony Marsillo 3G 1A, Brett Weeks 1G, Mattheus Vloet 2A, James Chappell 3A. **605 LAURION & ASSOCIATES 1:** Johnny Haralampopoulos 1G, Caleb Gould 1A, George Marshall 1A.

**603 FORMTECH BLOCK-BUSTERS 5:** Marco Santella 2G, Sheldon Rivard 1G, Grant Wood 1G, Chris Tillsley 1G 1A, Michael Gray 1A, Paul Duggan 1A. **601 AURORA CABLE INTERNET 4:** Justin Killens 2G 1A, Matt Raponi 1G, Matt Desousa 1G, Graham Cormack 1A.

**606 McALPINE FORD LINCOLN 4:** Gianna Episcopo 1G, Anthony Marsillo 3G. **603 FORMTECH BLOCK-BUSTERS 1:** Marco Santella 1G.

**601 AURORA CABLE INTERNET 4:** Adam

Gitto 1G 1A, Justin Killens 2G, Matthew Raponi 1G, Matthew Powell 1A, Adam Gitto 1A, Evan Jones 1A. **604 BARB BLASER - RE/MAX 3:** Nicholas Gundert 1G, Conor Sheridan 1G, Dexter Speller-Drews 1G, Michael VanBekel 1A, Robert Horton 2A.

**605 LAURION & ASSOCIATES 7:** Michael Moody 2G, Marcel Lamanna 1G, Caleb Gould 1G 1A, Colin Munn 1G 1A, George Marshall 2G 1A, David Naccarato 3A, Nicholas Palombo 1A, Johnny Haralampopoulos 1A, Jordan Adams 1A, Chris Blumreisinger 1A, Dylan Teacher 1A. **602 DIAL TONE COMMUNICATIONS INC. 3:** Drew Coley 1G, Patrick Che 1G, Michael Orschel 1G.

**604 BARB BLASER - RE/MAX 4:** Alex Heintzman 1G, Chris Dynes 1G 1A, Michael Coggin 1G, Johnathon Siery 1G, Conor Sheridan 1A, Kyle Blaser 1A. **603 FORMTECH BLOCK-BUSTERS 2:** Chris Tillsley 1G, Sheldon Rivard 1G 1A.

**605 LAURION & ASSOCIATES 3:** Dylan Teacher 1G, Caleb Gould 1G, Johnny Haralampopoulos 1G, Chris Blumreisinger 1A, George Marshall 1A. **601 AURORA CABLE INTERNET 2:** Adam Gitto 1G, Connor Fordyce 1G.

**708 PIZZA PIZZA 2:** Jacob MacDonald 2G, Justin Cheong 1A. **706 OMAR'S SHOES 1:** Derek Isidoro 1G, Scott Denotter 1A.

**705 SKATERS FIRST 6:** C.J. Melichercik 3G 3A, Marshall McQuillan 2G 2A, Ian Hayzelden 1G 1A, Michael Renfer, shutout. **707 ASA ALLOYS 0.**

**704 FRESH WATER INDUSTRIES 6:** Zac Samonas 1G, Jamie Russell 1G 1A, Kevin Nandlal 1G 1A, Ryan Laird 1G 1A, Mike Grande 1G, David Staeuble 1G, Mike Hay 1A, Brian Kearns 1A, Neil Hastie 1A. **702 RECREATION LEISURE SERVICES LTD. 5:** Simon Esposito 2G 1A, Yom Gibson 1G, Julian Sbrola 1G, Michael McGee 1G, Madison Weber 2A, David Yates 1A.

**701 COLL AUDIO & ACCURATE ELECTRICAL 6:** Eric Bevridge 1G 1A, Peter Martin 1G 1A, Jordan Brown 1G, Adrian Clark 1G, A.J. Ciccarelli 1G, James Collett 1G, Connor Dellar 2A, Julian Kercz 1A, Mark Jenkins 1A, Geoffrey Knaack 1A. **703 CENTRAL YORK FIREFIGHTERS 2:** Daniel Fillipi 1G, Devin O'Kelly 1G, Andrew Storms 2A, Eric Shoesmith 1A.

**805 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 4:** Brian Burns 1G 1A, Keith Hannah 1G, Nick Epworth 1G, Mike Sanita 1G 1A, Connor Ryeland 1A, Alex Strapp 1A. **806 I.O.O.F. AURORA LODGE 148 F.L.T. 1:** N. Whelan 1G, M. Holland 1A.

**804 HIGHLAND CHEVROLET CADILLAC 4:** Anthony Pusateri 1G, Brandon Simon 1G, Taylor Tripp 1G, Devin Maule 1G, Joe Doucher 1A, Mike Davis 1A, Scott Davis 1A. **802 Black/Gold PIZZA PIZZA 2:** Alex Gitto 1G, Tyler Flanagan 1G, Alex Hosko 1A.

**904 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 4:** Steve Pitts 1G 1A, Bill Spasopolous 1G, Ian Mulhern 1G, Ryan Jones 1G, Torrey Duckworth 1A, Drew Brown 1A, Jon Aleksich 1A. **905 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 2:** James Weber 2G, Jamie Fenyes 1A.

**901 AURORA CANADIAN TIRE 3:** Dan Kupraty 3G, Luke Muirhead 1A, Chris Torresano 1A, Eric James 1A. **906 White/Red PIZZA PIZZA 2:** Derek Hurst 1G, Phil Saunders 1G, Maegan Bastarache 1A.

**902 OPTIMIST CLUB OF AURORA 3:** Bryan Dunjko 2G, Jason Markovich 1G, Morgan Mittlestaedt 2A, Andrew Rowan 1A, Matt Preston 1A. **903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 1:** Mike Rowe 1G, Nathan Taylor 1A, Peter Walker 1A.

**905 Gold/Black PIZZA PIZZA 3:** Jamie Fenyes 2G 1A, Jesse Barker 1G 1A, Joel Stock 2A. **906 White/Red PIZZA PIZZA 3:** Brad Wilkens 1G, David Petrasovic 1G, Alex Ginther 1G 1A, Maegan Bastarache 1A, Phil Saunders 1A, Patric Tomasso 1A, Jamie Rundle-Sanderson 1A.

**904 HS FINANCIAL SERVICES 5:** Bill

Spasopolous 1G, Ian Munhern 1G 1A, Kiefer McBride 1G 2A, Jon Aleksich 1G, Torrey Duckworth 1G 1A, Ryan Jones 3A, Drew Brown 1A. **902 OPTIMIST CLUB OF AURORA 2:** Morgan Mittlestaedt 1G 1A, Bryan Dunjko 1G, Ryan Joynt 1A, Andrew Rowan 1A.

**903 IZZI POPAT - ROYAL LePAGE 8:** Peter Walker 2G 3A, Jeff Seymore 3G, James Seymore 2G, Nathan Taylor 1G, Doug Bainbridge 1A, Kurtis Wilton 1A, Omar Popat 1A, Keith Bradford 1A, Mike Rowe 1A. **901 AURORA CANADIAN TIRE 6:** Mike Perretta 1G 1A, Braden Bonner 1G, Dan Kupraty 3G 2A, Dale McDonald 1G 1A, Luke Muirhead 1A, Evan Magill 1A, Daniel Lewis 1A, Chris Torresano 1A.

## Rep Results

**Ajax Knights White 2 Tyke Select 0**

**Ajax Knights White 6 Tyke Select 2**

**Novice AA 5 Richmond Hill 1**  
Spencer Green 1G, Connor Graham 1G, Quentin Campbell 2G 1A, Konner McMillan 1G, Jack Caldwell 1A, Kyle Locke 1A, Matthew Iwai 1A, John MacDonald 2A.

**Novice A 4 Bradford 2**  
Erik Balkovec 1G, Lucas Pozzebon 1G 1A, Austin Persaud 1G, Paul Neophytou 1G 1A, Liam Beresford 1A, Connor Cowl 1A.

**Novice AE 3 Richmond Hill 1**  
**Minor Atom AA 2 Richmond Hill 0**  
Jody Nonnewitz 1G, Eric Ludwig 1G, Stefan Lazzar 1A, Brooke Webster 1A, Mackenzie Lemmon 1A.

**Innisfil 3 Minor Atom A 1**  
Eric Damecour 1G, Conor Fennell 1A, Peter Sandwell 1A.

**Atom AA 3 Richmond Hill 1**  
Andrew Papousek 1G, Trevor Best 1G 1A, Johnny Knowles 1A, Marco Ghegin 1G 1A.

**Richmond Hill 1 Atom AA 0**  
**Atom AA 5 Ajax 2**  
Andrew Papousek 3G, Nicholas Heintzman 1G, Marco Ghegin 1G, Brian Puskar 2A, Adam Balaban 1A, Trevor Best 1A.

**Atom A 4 Orillia 0**  
Kyle Spicer 2G, Josh Klinowski 1G 1A, Jesse Bentolila 1G, Taylor Butler 2A, Chris Youtoff 1A, Cooper Riswick 1A.

**Orillia 4 Atom A 1**  
Cooper Riswick 1G.

**Atom A 7 Orillia 0**  
Rory MacNeil 1G 2A, Chris Youtoff 1G 1A, Taylor Butler 1G 1A, Ryan St. Germain 1G, Jesse Bentolila 1G 1A, Kyle Spicer 1G 1A, Cooper Catt 1G, Alex Woodward 1A, Matt Noseworthy 1A, Sean Nishimura 1A.

**Atom AE 4 Markham 0**  
Dylan Woyslaw 3G, Dylan Hussey 1G 1A, Jake Langford 1A, Tyler White 1A, Kevin Lukezic 1A, Brett Wilson 1A, Lukas Leslie 1A, Justin Manweiler, shutout.

**Atom AE 3 Newmarket 1**  
Tyler White 1G 1A, Brett Wilson 2A, Dylan Hussey 1G 1A, Thomas Hagias 1G, Lukas Leslie 1A.

**Oak Ridges 2 Atom AE 1**  
Lukas Leslie 1G, Thomas Hagias 1A.

**Georgina 3 Minor Peewee AA 1**  
Kamran Karamchi 1G, Matthew Mears 1A, Cody Weese 1A.

**Georgina 1 Minor Peewee AA 0**

**Minor Peewee AA 3 Georgina 1**  
Steadman Dinning 1G, Brett Matthews 1A, Matthew Mears 1A, Justin Nice 1G 1A, Matthew Miller 1A, Cody Weese 1G 1A, Eleeza Cox 1A.

**Minor Peewee A 7 Orillia 2**  
James Harkin 2G 1A, Tristan Miller 4G 2A, Stephen Demarco 1G, Kyle McCreeedy 1A, Gavin Forrest 2A, Jack Steffan 1A, Michael

Vance 1A, Jordan Figueiredo 1A.

**Minor Peewee A 7 Orillia 2**  
Stephen DeMarco 2G, Jordan Figueiredo 1G 1A, Tristan Miller 1G 2A, Kyle McCreeedy 2G, Michael Nonnewitz 1G 1A, Michael Bar 2A, Spencer George 1A, Michael Vance 1A, Tyler Jensen 1A, James Harkin 1A, Gavin Forrest 1A.

**Orillia 3 Minor Peewee A 0**

**Minor Peewee AE 3 Barrie Colts 2**  
Dylan Skelton 1G, Daniel Howie 1G, Brandon Thompson 1G, Mitchell Sziraky 1A, Josh Beaton 1A.

**Barrie Colts 5 Minor Peewee AE 1**  
Dylan Skelton 1G, Scott Kimmerer 1A.

**Peewee AA 2 Barrie Colts 2**  
Jordan Tripp 1G, James Mildon 1A, Andrew Whitley 1G, Kevin Zacharuk 1A, Luke Macleod 1A.

**Peewee AA 3 Barrie Colts 2**  
Luke Macleod 1G, Kevin Zacharuk 2A, Louis Lamanna 1G, Max Lerner 1G, Jordan Tripp 1A.

**Peewee AA 1 Oshawa 1**  
Jordan Tripp 1G.

**TNT 4 Peewee A 2**  
Taylor Nuttall 1G, Dylan Cross 1G, Justin Brown 2A.

**TNT 3 Peewee A 2**  
Shawn Clark 1G, Dylan Cross 1G 1A, Paul Keilty 1A.

**Minor Bantam AA 9 Barrie Colts 4**

**Minor Bantam AA 4 Barrie Colts 3**

**Innisfil 7 Minor Bantam A 1**  
Matthew Joynt 1G, David Bar 1A, Adam Bloom 1A.

**Innisfil 4 Minor Bantam A 1**  
Carter Hassard 1G, Gregory Buchner 1A.

**Minor Bantam AE 3 Georgina 2**  
Brendon Stenzol 1G, Curtis Hough 1G, Braun Hause 1G 1A, Brandon Giniotis 1A, Zacharie Roitner 1A, Matthew Scrimas 1A.

**Minor Bantam AE 3 Georgina 2**  
Braun Hause 1G 1A, Matthew Scrimas 2G, Matthew Hillar 1A, Nicholas Di Nallo 1A.

**Pickering 10 Minor Bantam AE 3**  
Braun Hause 2G, Zacharie Roitner 1G, Curtis Hough 1A, Ryan Crockett 1A, Brandon Giniotis 1A.

**Minor Bantam AE 4 Pickering 2**  
Jake Thompson 1G, Andrew Mangialardi 1G, Nicholas Di Nallo 1G, Ethan Shore 1G 1A, Andrew Storms 1A.

**Oshawa 4 Bantam AA 2**  
Karl Pelan 1G, Eric Sarracini 1A, Jordan Koen 1G, Steven Donches 1A, Kevin Kryshka 1A.

**Richmond Hill 4 Minor Midget AA 2**

**Richmond Hill 6 Minor Midget AA 2**

**Minor Midget AA 5 Richmond Hill 2**

**Minor Midget AA 2 Richmond Hill 3**

**Minor Midget A 2 East Gwillimbury 1**  
Memo Nafarrate 1G, Jonathan Adams 1G, Connor O'Grady 1A, Robert Cote 1A.

**Minor Midget A 1 East Gwillimbury 1**  
Neil Kileeg 1G, Jonathan Adams 1A.

**Newmarket 6 Midget AA 5**

**Stouffville 5 Midget A 3**  
Corey Berube 1A, Brent Gallagher 1A, Scott Daly 1G, Keith Mitchell 1A, Andrew Jamieson 1G, Frazer Klein 1G.

**Midget A 6 Stouffville 3**  
Andrew Welch 1A, Jordan Ofeild 1A, Scott Daly 1G, Marc Quagliarini 1G, Keith Mitchell 1G 1A, Ryan Kines 3G, Chris Statchuk 2A, Andrew Jamieson 2A.

# RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

## A few happenings in Aurora during 1968

The Aurora Winter Carnival wound up the Centennial Year with more than 1,000 citizens in attendance.

Mayor Clarence Davis ignited the mammoth Christmas tree bonfire. There was also a beauty pageant, an ice sculpture contest and a torchlight parade.

Council decided to streamline meetings by eliminating the reading of correspondence and copies were made available to members and media.

Council also considered a centralized phone system for all town departments. Bell suggested a 21-phone system with inter-communications and a Toronto line.

Dutch Elm disease forced the removal of 71 trees, representing the number of fallen from World War I at the Aurora Cenotaph from Aurora, King and Whitchurch townships. The three municipalities agreed to replace the trees.

More than 800 students from Aurora, Newmarket and King City high schools walked out of classes in an effort to convince Education Minister Bill Davis to change his mind about extending the school year by 10 days.

### A FREUDIAN SLIP

Back in June, 1983, a slip of the tongue by York Region's Chief Administrative Officer Jack Rettie had council and spectators in uproarious laughter at a regional council meeting.

The comment came during discussions on whether council should make representation at the Canadian Transportation Commission hearing into a Barrie-Toronto commuter rail service scheduled for July.

Chairman Garfield Wright asked Rettie how the time problem involved in compiling the information in time for the hearing could be solved.

"I don't know how we solve it, Mr. Problem", Rettie replied before correcting himself.

### SUSPECTED TERRORISM IN AURORA

It was in October last year when a white powdery substance that fell from an envelope sent many residents of Heathwood Heights Drive into a frenzy until the substance had been officially declared harmless.

The powder was sent to the Ministry of Health for analysis and according to health officials showed no harmful ingredients.

It was believed the powder was used by Canada Post to help large quantities to go through the machinery smoothly.

Police cars, fire trucks and other emergency vehicles converged on the street when a resident opened a package and the powder tumbled out. Fire officials took no chances and cordoned off part of the road and blocked access to some houses.

### MERGED POLICE FORCES

Today, residents of York Region are familiar with being policed by York Regional Police, but prior to 1971, the former county was served by several local police forces.

A typical day on Yonge Street in Aurora saw a bewildering assortment of police cruisers passing by from the adjoining townships, Aurora and the OPP.

In April, 1967, Aurora Council proposed that a merger of the five police departments of King, Whitchurch, East Gwillimbury and the Towns of Aurora and Newmarket be explored.

It was believed a larger police force would allow for specialization, which was not possible with the small forces.

Although some negotiations were carried out, the proposal never really got off the ground until the region was created and one police force was mandated.

### TO THE RESCUE

It was in 1972 when David Priestly of Priestly Bros., Aurora, went to the rescue of a CNR freight train bound from Capreol to Toronto.

The train ran out of fuel between Newmarket and Aurora. York Regional Police called on Priestly just after midnight to help out.

He managed to pour 900 gallons of fuel into the train's empty tank and it travelled to Toronto safely.

### TV BINGO IN AURORA

It was back in September, 1997, when in a move to bolster sagging fundraising efforts, Big Sisters of York, now Girls Incorporated, was granted probationary approval by Aurora Council to host TV bingo on Aurora Cable.

Approval was granted in spite of opposition from officials from the Aurora Bingo Hall who claimed the move would jeopardize the efforts of existing sponsors who were already in tight competition for the community's thinly stretched bingo dollars.

The approval was for a weekly, one-hour show for a 13-week trial period. After nine weeks, the impact of TV bingo on the other charities would be evaluated.

Alan Blenkinsopp, who helped establish a similar venture in Georgina, told council that TV bingo attracts a different clientele, such as seniors and shut-ins and did not impact existing bingo operations and TV bingo went on the air.

# Aurora helped change province's liquor laws

In January the provincial government announced a review of the sale and distribution of alcohol in the province, including the sale of beer and wine in convenience stores.

Liquor stores are now open on Sundays and accept credit cards in payment. Bars are open until 2 a.m. Beer is sold at sporting events.

Almost every restaurant wanting a liquor licence gets one.

Not only that, if a patron wants to take his own wine to participating restaurants, it's quite legal.

With all this freedom, it's hard to believe the silly liquor laws that were in place in Ontario almost 40 years ago and Aurora played a part in changing the laws.

On September 28, 1968, the Town of Aurora held a plebiscite under the Liquor Licence Act in which citizens were asked: "Are you in favour of the sale of liquor under a lounge licence for consumption on licensed premises?"

With only 26.1 per cent of eligible voters going to the polls, a decisive 76.9 per cent voted "Yes".

Of the 1,429 votes cast, 1,052 were in favour, 315 opposed and 62 ballots were spoiled.

The cost of the plebiscite was \$2,252.68

or \$1.65 for every vote cast approving cocktail bars for Aurora.

The poor turnout was attributed to the fact there was no organized campaign on either side of the issue, and the vote was not held during a municipal election.

At that time, licensed restaurants were required to derive no more than 50 per cent of their revenue from liquor sales, with the rest coming from food sales.

During the 1970s, Aurora Council learned the Graystone Restaurant and Upstairs Disco (now part of the Howard Johnson Hotel) were forced to close at 10:30 p.m. because their liquor sales were generating more than 50 per cent of their revenues.

"The regulation has to be updated because it's so far out of whack," Mayor George Timpson said at the time.

On a 4-3 vote, Aurora Council adopted a resolution asking the Liquor Licence Act be amended to permit a 70/30 ratio instead of 50/50.

Some councillors said if the ratio was to be changed, it should be done through another vote of the residents.

Other municipalities and the media supported Aurora's stand.

An editorial in the Toronto Star said Queen's

Park should heed Aurora's request.

"Historically, the 50/50 ratio was an attempt to discourage drinking in restaurants, a holdover from a fanatically puritanical past. But dining out, with the options of drinks before, during and after a meal has long since won acceptance in Ontario as being a civilized experience," the editorial stated.

There was some opposition to the Aurora proposal.

George Boukydis, president of Diana Sweets Restaurants in Toronto, wrote The Star and said without the 50/50 ratio "a good many of the so-called good restaurants would quickly degenerate into bars, pubs and clubs."

Restaurants experiencing difficulty meeting the ratio, or those suspected of cheating on their quarterly beverage/food reports were monitored closely by liquor inspectors

who could recommend a hearing.

Graystone Restaurant had such a hearing in 1980.

Appearing as witnesses on behalf of the restaurant were Aurora Mayor George Timpson and former York Regional Deputy Police Chief Wally Harkness. Harkness said Graystone was a "model" tavern.

The Ontario Restaurant and Foodservice Association carried out a survey of its members, representing more than 2,500 licensed restaurants in the province.

They voted 52 per cent to abolish the ratio system.

Only 20 per cent were satisfied with the 50/50 ratio, with 72 per cent supporting a 65/35 ratio.

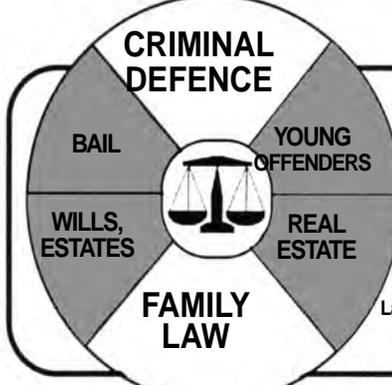
Somewhere along the way, the province got the message and changes were made, and it all started right here in Aurora.

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Last fall the 34th St. John Ambulance Ontario Open Regional First Aid Competition attracted 75 teams. Recently, Kirk Corkery, York Region St. John Ambulance Chairman, and Aurora Mayor Tim Jones handed out certificates of appreciation to representatives from 140 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron, Aurora, (top photo), 2799 Queen's York Rangers Cadet Corps, Aurora, and 94 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron, Newmarket, (bottom photo). Members of 142 St. Andrew's College Cadet Corps, Aurora, also participated in the competition but did not participate in the presentation.

Auroran photos by Dick Illingworth

# Flag debate fiery in Aurora, too

It was on February 15, 1965, when the new Red and White Canadian flag featuring a red Maple Leaf was flown for the first time on Parliament Hill, after a debate that almost brought down the government.

Repercussions filtered all the way to Aurora.

The flag debate resumed for the second and last time on November 30, 1964.

Until adjournment three weeks later, the Liberal government had its darkest hours and its proudest moments.

The battle for the flag was fought and won and an attempt to overthrow the government was fought and lost.

The flag debate closed in the pre-dawn hours of December 15, 1964. The vote was 163 in favour and 79 opposed.

Two months later, Aurora Council matched the House of Commons' controversial national flag debate on a more limited scale.

The new Maple Leaf flag ordered for the municipal offices hadn't been delivered and councillors weren't the least bit upset.

They were quite happy that the Red Ensign was still flying over the Yonge Street municipal building.

Councillor Jack Williamson argued that the town office was not a federal building and the town should be able to fly whatever flag it wanted.

He was supported by Councillor Jim Murray who pointed out that municipalities were wards of the province, not the federal government and should fly the Red Ensign, as the provincial flag.

The only new flag flying in Aurora on February 15, 1965, was atop the Yonge Street Post Office.

It was raised at noon without ceremony and only a few Aurorans saw it.

The Red Ensign had been presented to the town in 1958 by Murray in memory of his father, the late Archie Murray, who also had served on town council.

It was flown from the top of the building and another was displayed in the council chambers.

Councillor Dick Illingworth argued that regardless of personal feelings about the new Canadian flag, the town, as a public body, must fly the new flag.

He pointed out that the Department of Municipal Affairs had asked municipalities to fly the new flag.

Finally the vote to fly the new flag and to arrange a suitable ceremony when it arrived was carried on a 5-2 vote with Murray and Williamson in opposition.

Murray had recommended the Red Ensign be flown over the town hall on Remembrance Day.

Other members of council suggested the motion be tabled for three months to see what the province planned to do about the Red Ensign and this was carried by the same 5-2 vote.

Later in a brief ceremony, Lt. W. L. Wraight of the Salvation Army and head of the Aurora Ministerial Association, gave a prayer of thanksgiving for the ensign, and a prayer of dedication was given for the new flag.

Following the dedication, the ensign was returned to Murray to be held in trust.

The flag which had flown over the municipal building was presented to the Aurora Legion for safekeeping.

Many school children got their first glimpse of the new flag in Aurora through Phil Barth, owner of Barth's

Cleaners. He delivered dry cleaning in plastic bags imprinted with the new Canadian flag.

It was early April before the flag was raised for the first time at the town's public schools, with a brief ceremony and flag-raising at each school.

At Regency Acres Public School, two students, Garnet Wheadon and Greg Blick, raised the flag as the assembled students looked on.

David Ellis and William Wyatt did the honours at Wells Street Public School.

In 1969, when Aurora declared itself to be Canada's Birthday Town and celebrated July First with a giant party, Aurora cartoonist Lyle Glover designed a red and white roundel which became the trade mark of the July First Festival and Aurora's unofficial flag.

In 1988 to commemorate Aurora's 100th birthday as a town and 125 years as a village, council decided an Aurora corporate flag was required.

Designs were invited from flag manufacturers for a flag which included the town crest and motto.

Although some members of council argued the town had a flag, the corporate flag debate didn't have the emotion and division on council as the "Big Flag Debate" in February, 1965.

Finally in 1988 the current blue flag was approved by council as the town's corporate flag and the July First flag retained as a celebration flag, but one hasn't been seen in years, except in pictures.

# Planned YBH rock concert to help Pathway of Peace

Aurora's Yellow Brick House will present a rock concert later this month at the Newmarket Theatre to raise money for its Pathway of Peace project.

Sony BMG artist Liam Titcomb will be joined by Harpoon Dodger, Dala, and Pat Robitaille, who are all donating their time and services to the cause.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and are available at the Newmarket Theatre Box Office. The concert starts at 7.30 p.m. Friday, March 25.

Officially opened by then Ontario Lieutenant Governor Hilary M. Weston in 2000, the Pathway of Peace was created to raise money for and awareness of the issue of violence against women and children.

The Pathway of Peace is built through the centre of Temperance Park, west of Aurora's main intersection of Yonge and Wellington Streets. Bricks are sold for \$25 (families and individuals), \$100 (small business) and \$1,000 (corporate).

Peace will open in Scarborough this year to support women's shelter Juliette's Place.

Founded in 1978, Yellow Brick House (Project Hostel) is a 21-bed emergency shelter offering programs and services to more than 3,000 abused women and their children annually in

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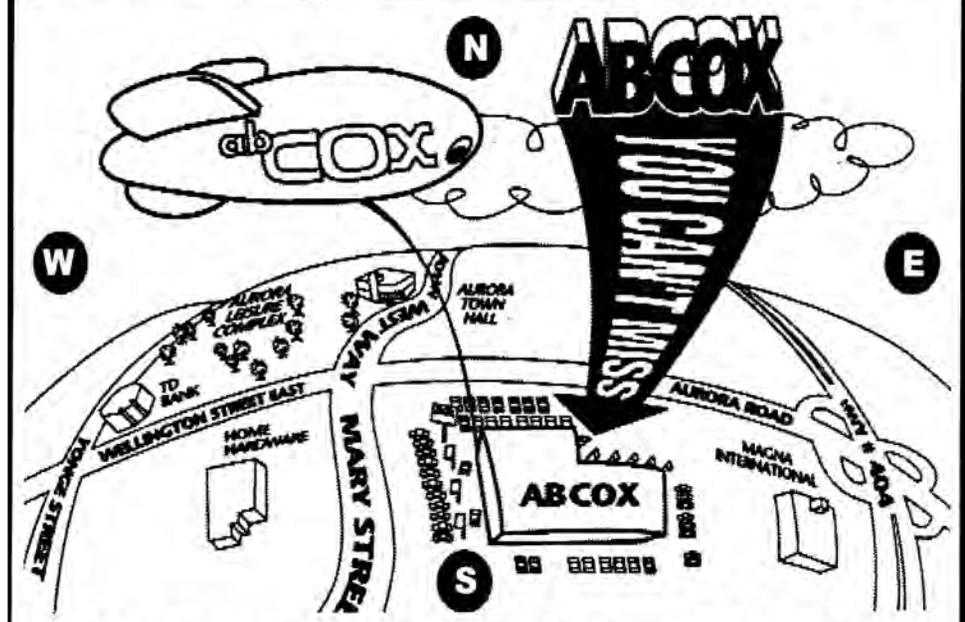
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## DEATH NOTICE

**Gist, Christopher Ian**  
Peacefully with family by his side at Princess Margaret Hospital, on Monday February 28, 2005, in his 20th year. Gist, beloved son of Leslie and Tim. Dear step-son of Ian Richardson and Lee Gist. Loving brother of Fraser, Thomas, and Lenny. Beloved nephew of Gibby. Chris will be deeply missed by many family and friends. A special thank-you to all of the blood and bone marrow donors who have helped Chris through his four year battle with Leukemia. Services were held on Saturday March 5th, 2005. Memorial donations to the Princess Margaret Hospital Leukemia Research would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to the Thompson Funeral Home, Aurora, (905) 727-5421

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS.** All claims against the estate of Jack Frederick Chinell, late of the Town of Aurora in the Regional Municipality of York, who died on or about the 21st day of August, 2004, must be filed with the undersigned Estate Trustees on or before the 24th day of March, 2005; thereafter, the undersigned will distribute the assets of the said estate having regard only to the claims then filed. DATED at Aurora this 24th day of February, 2005. Kathryn Mary Chinell Orsi and Thomas B. McPherson, Estate Trustees, by their Solicitors, THOMAS MCPHERSON ASSOCIATES, 15220 Yonge Street, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 3H4. Attn: Thomas B. McPherson. 905-727-3151

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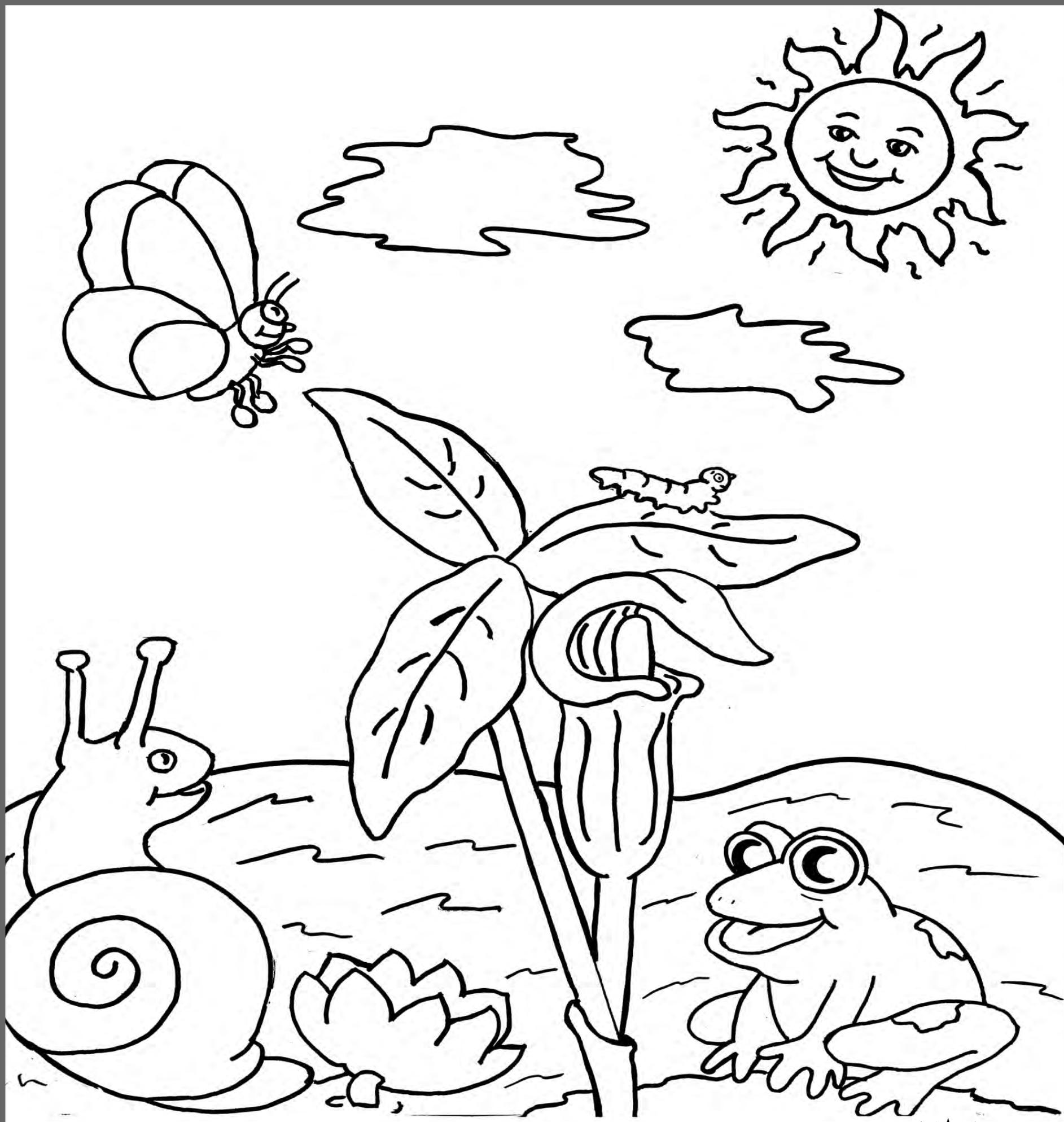
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